

which made the informer shudder—was one of our oldest acquaintances. It was Palæstrion, the slave porter of the divine Aurelia. He was accompanied by his huge dog, so well fed upon cooked frogs, and which he had sworn to set upon Regulus, the first day he should meet him.

Yes, it was Palæstrion, in person, no longer chained by the waist to the wall of his lodge; but Palæstrion triumphant, honored, obeyed; Palæstrion wearing the insignia of the urban pretor and sitting upon his chair, commanding to letors, and giving orders which were as promptly carried out as the magistrate's.

He had hardly spoken when the victors seized the informer amidst the joyful acclamations of the multitude. This Regulus, whose name made so many tremble, now stood, abashed and humbled, at the feet of the slave whose disdainful and ironical looks increased his anxiety.

But how came Palæstrion to obtain this power and to preside over the tribunal of the pretor. One word will suffice to explain this mystery: Palæstrion was the hero of the feast of Saturnalia.

On the evening of the sixteenth day of the Kalends of January, a pontiff had appeared, according to long established custom, under the portico of the temple of Saturn, situated in the centre of the Forum, and had cried thrice in a loud and solemn voice: Saturnalia! Saturnalia! Saturnalia!

At this proclamation, long expected by the impatient and tumultuous multitude, cries of joy rent the air, and a thousand voices replied to the priest by repeating the consecrated exclamation; Io! Io! Saturnalia! Io! Saturnalia!

In answer to this signal, gangs of slaves rush from every direction, invading the Forum with an impetuosity which the current of the Tiber would have scarcely attained had it suddenly broken through its dikes. All these slaves wear the cap of liberty, as though they had just been set free. Their joy is delirious and the air is filled with their songs and shouts. The last comers find no room in the crowded Forum, and they spread in every direction over the city which will remain during seven entire days the theatre of their wild revels and of licentious excesses authorized on this occasion by both law and custom.

Such was the inauguration of the Saturnalia; such the first outburst of the popular intoxication whose increasing manifestations ended only after every pleasure had been exhausted.

This season of liberty for the slave was also one of rejoicing for the master. It was the time for making friendly calls and sending presents. This ancient custom was generally observed by the poor and the rich, the humble and the great. Nobody would have liked to neglect it, and everything, from the precious jewel to the toy of trifling value, or even the bunch of onions from the little garden plot, was received with gratitude, as a memento of good omen for the coming year.

There is nothing better than this annual exchange of little gifts. We cannot, after eighteen hundred years, criticize a custom from which we have derived our own practice of New Year's gifts, and even our letters of congratulation and compliment, for at the time of the Saturnalia, people who could write exercised themselves in the flowery style of composition, sending graceful or pleasant epistles to their friends.

The Saturnalia were instituted in the remotest period of antiquity, in commemoration of that fabulous reign of Saturn, during which there was neither master nor slave; when everything was held in common, and piety, justice and concord reigned upon the earth. Succeeding generations had sought to perpetuate the memory of that happy time which the poets styled the Golden Age, by annual festivities which should recall that primitive equality, that peace and happiness, now flown forever.

In the principle, this feast was celebrated in one single day—on the fourteenth of the Kalends of January (December 19th) Julius Cæsar when he reformed the calendar, added two days to the month of December, which were claimed as belonging to the Saturnalia, and this was confirmed by a subsequent edict which fixed their legal duration to three days. Subsequently, the celebration of the Sigillaria, also in honor of Saturn, and of the feast of his wife Ops, the goddess of the earth, were added to the Saturnalia, extending their duration to seven days.

The male slaves alone enjoyed this short period of liberty in December; the women had their turn on the Kalends of March, when the year formerly commenced. The servants then became the mistresses, and the proudest matrons of the aristocracy had to submit to their exigencies. This feast, which lasted but one day, was styled Matronalia.

Banqueting was the principal source of enjoyment during the Saturnalia, and custom required that it should be at the expense of the masters. The latter were sometimes admitted to partake of their servants' banquet, and then in the midst of the general confusion and unrestrained license, they had to suffer at the hands of their drunken slaves, the violent reproaches, the offensive railing and harsh truths inspired by a revengeful recollection of evils suffered, or by a simple desire to debase those who were condemned to bear temporarily these trials. At other times, the slaves were even more exacting, and they compelled citizens of the highest rank to wait on them. In this case, the most ridiculous commands, orders the most difficult to execute, and submission to the most fantastic whims were added as a bitter derision to the necessity of this temporary slavery.

The law authorized everything short of bodily violence, and the masters had to submit tamely. It was even expressly forbidden to exercise reprisals upon the slave, when, after using to its full extent his vexatious privilege, he resumed the yoke of servitude.

These were not, however, the only joys to which these wretches aspired during these few days of interruption to their habitual condition of suffering. After the intemperance of the table, they must try the intemperance of honors. Having copied the vices of their masters, they must ape them in their dignities.

The Forum became necessarily the theatre upon which were given these grotesque representations of social organization. The slaves assumed the functions and privileges of the magistrates and civil functionaries. All this was done seriously, with comic importance, and with due regard for all the accessories appertaining to each different dignity such as the costumes, the lectern, the curule chair, and even the rostrum for improvised orators. The functions of pretor were the most sought after in these satirical and often humorous mummeries of the 'life in the open air' of the Forum, because they gave occasion to the most amusing decisions.

On this occasion, Palæstrion had been designated by the votes of his fellow slaves, in the mock election held for the office of urban pretor.

Palæstrion, the slave porter of the divine Aurelia—the niece of Domitian and future Empress of the Romans, had immediately acquired a consideration and importance proportionate to the supreme destinies of that young and noble matron. The servant reflects the greatness of his master, and this reflection had thrown around Palæstrion a sort of halo, the brightness of which he did not suspect.

No other slave had better enjoyed the liberty of the Saturnalia; never had such pomp decorated his humble person. Quicker than any on else, he had rid himself of the chains which held him captive in his lodge, and had rushed to the Forum, followed by his faithful dog. He had been one of the first to bear the proclamation of the Saturnalia.

To relate everything worthy of note that Palæstrion and his dog had accomplished during the first six days would require a volume.

He had plunged headlong into all the ardent pleasures of the Saturnalia; he had left far behind all who attempted to follow him; he had particularly distinguished himself in those huge banquets worthy of Homer's heroes.

(To be Continued.)

THE LAND QUESTION OF IRELAND.

(FROM TIMES SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

No. 17.

CORK, Oct. 8.

The line from Waterford to Limerick Junction runs through the noble country of mountain and valley divided by the Bait and its affluents, which I have briefly described in previous letters. At the Limerick Junction the train to Cork, speeds along the outlying spurs of the Galtees through a fertile tract of exuberant pastures, until the station near Oberville is passed, and thence it proceeds through range of hills by Butevant and Mallow, on its way southwards. It was raining as it only rains in Ireland when I was hurried along this part of the route, and dense masses of cloud and mist obscured the landscape and blurred out its features. At Mallow I caught a passing glimpse of the Blackwater, rolling in turbid flood through rich fests of the brightest green, and thence to Cork we seemed to go through a series of tame and poor uplands, as far as I could see, through the drift, their outline. The morning brought sunshine, and disclosed the ancient and famous capital of Munster, rising tier over tier along the sloping cliffs that shelve down to the banks of the Lee and overlooked by an amphitheatre of hills that hem it in with their green eminences. As it thence with all cities in a hollow, the fine public buildings of Cork are seen at a disadvantage from the heights above, and the dense lines of its closely-packed streets seldom open spaces to display their proportions. Some, however, are of remarkable beauty and several of the Churches of either faith, more than one of the principal institutions, and above all the same graceful and sumptuous College, are deserving of more than passing attention. As for the city itself, the old "egg-shaped town," described by Spenser in graphic verse, has expanded into a vast circle of broad ways, surrounded by narrow streets that now cover all the "islands" of the Lee, and stretch eastward to a rich plain, formed by the drainage of the river "marshes" and gay shops, extensive warehouses, big breweries, distilleries, and mills, and crowds of shipping along its quays, show that Cork is a seat of long-settled opulence. The most interesting feature of the place, however, and the one that most clearly indicates its wealth, is the long succession of magnificent villas that extends for miles along the shores of the Lee, as it winds slowly on its way to the sea through irregular terraces of wooded hills. This spectacle combines in the highest degree all that the charms of nature and the art of man can effect to make an exquisite scene; and the panorama of mansion and park, stretching down the grassy and tree-crowned slopes in continuous beauty to the waters below is one that is not easily forgotten. After admiring this landscape for a time you see the river gradually widen, the meads on it rapidly increase as the roadstead of Passage is approached; and at last you reach a superb estuary where, fenced in by hills and protecting islets, the navies of many nations might ride at anchor near the crescents of Queenstown. Cork has lately vindicated in a signal manner the device upon the municipal arms "Stille benefida carinis." More than once during the gales of September five hundred ships were seen at a time, seeking shelter in this grand natural haven, from the tempests of the neighbouring Atlantic.

Cork calls itself the Premier County of Ireland, and is a region of no little interest to the historical and geographical student. This vast tract, which extends from the verge of the Galtees to the capes of Bantry Bay, and from the waters that flow to the Shannon, through Kerry, to the far distant bays of Waterford, has at all times been singularly affected by any foreign influences that have penetrated Ireland. Its capital in a remote age was occupied by a colony of Danes, who spread over many spots on the seaboard; in a later century it was divided between Anglo-Norman nobles and their dependents, who, however, not being strong enough to subdue or expel the native race, became gradually amalgamated with it. During the great crisis of the sixteenth century the fine harbours of Cork and its proximity to Spain made it a point of vantage to the enemies of England; and more than one fleet of Philip II. sailed from its coast to support the risings of Tyrone and the lordly rebels of Desmond. Having been re-conquered, and settled from England under circumstances, it is said, of frightful severity it felt the fury of the arms of Cromwell, who confiscated a very large part of it; and, in the Jacobite wars that followed, it became the theatre of a fierce and doubtful conflict. In the ensuing century it gave an asylum for a brief space of time to the ships of Hoche; and, in our day, it has been the headquarters of the Fenian organization and movement. Society, accordingly, in this district has been repeatedly disturbed by violence; and its structure and tendencies have, no doubt, felt the effects of numerous invasions and conquests. As regards the external features of the county, it may be described as an alternation of lowlands and hills in parallel lines, divided in the midst by a well-defined range, and enclosed, for a great part of its space, between lofty mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. The soil to the north—where Cork runs into the pastures of Tipperary and Limerick partakes of their admirable fertility, and it is usually rich in the valleys of the Blackwater, the Lee, and the Bandon, that flow west to east through a large breadth of the county. As a rule, however, it is not

good; on the uplands and the sides of the shales of hills it is, for the most part, light and thin, and in many places it forms mere rough wastes of little value as an area for tillage. Cork exhibits distinctly the varieties of husbandry and the different and opposite types of cultivation that are so commonly seen in Ireland, and, speaking generally, its fine grass lands are occupied by wealthy tenant farmers, while the inferior are held by a poor peasantry, in some districts, especially towards the west, tried often by want and severe privation. Taken altogether, and excluding the capital, which has flourished greatly since Free trade has made it a large entrepot for corn, Cork cannot be called a prosperous county; its agricultural area has diminished at the rate of 5 per cent. in the last 15 years, while its live stock had increased one-third only in value between 1841 and 1861.

Having travelled over a large part of this county, and received, most courteously, a great deal of information, I shall briefly describe its social position, reserving for a subsequent letter an account of its western highland districts. The state of the classes connected with the soil is, taken altogether, less prosperous, even in a material point of view, than it is in several of the counties I have visited, especially Tipperary and Wexford. The wages of the agricultural labourer, excluding of course, spots near this city, vary from 6s. to 9s. a week; but, as I hear, they are not very constant; and even at this rate they excite the envy of a good many of the very small holders. The rent of land in the days of Arthur Young varied from 50s. to 6s. the Irish acre, and may range now from 75s. to 12s.; and though it is moderate on the fine pastures, it seemed to me on a very high average over many tracts of inferior soil. Arthur Young in his time made the same remark; and the fact, I think hardly admits of doubt, whether the cause be that, in some places, there are considerable facilities for getting manure, or that the bad lands are better than they seem under the influence of the southern climate, or that the competition of the peasantry is excessive, or that, as a most thoughtful gentleman observed, "the spirit of emulation had become traditional in this part of Munster." I do not hesitate to say that many estates in this county are rack-rented in a manner uncommon in those parts of Ireland respecting which I have before written. I have before me an instance of a property under the superintendence of the Court of Chancery, the tenants of which have been so ground down by the raising of rents from 1854, that they are at this moment hopelessly in arrears, and that the Master I wish to do justice to the equitable boldness of Mr. Fitz-Gibbon—has, all but outstepping his jurisdiction, directed the receiver to be satisfied with what he thinks can be reasonably collected. Such cases, I fear, are not rare in this county; and, having ridden some 30 miles over one barony near the sea coast, and inquired into the circumstanced of a great number of farms, I thought them, with few exceptions, over-rented. One of the worst examples in this respect was that of the property of an American gentleman, who, though fresh from the land of freedom, and I have little doubt an admirable Democrat, has the smartness to see that tenancy at will can, under the existing system of law, be made a good instrument for screwing down his dependents. I was extremely sorry to find too much of this rack-renting in the county of Cork; for how is it possible directly to remedy this evil?

The general result of this state of things is that while the large graziers and dairy farmers who possess, for the most part, the good lands, as a rule, are wealthy in this district, the numerous class of small occupiers, who are usually spread over the inferior soils, are in a backward and depressed condition. This is written as it were, on the face of the country; a few fine farms are occasionally seen, but the habitations of the peasantry are generally bad, a small neat farmstead is not often met, while estates have nothing but mud cabins on them; and though the common people seem less miserable and devoid of hope than those of Meath, they are evidently a struggling and poor race. As for the landed system of the county, as a whole, it is, in its broad outlines, essentially the same as that which I have so often speaking, except that its vices are very prominent. Speaking generally, the same religious differences divide the owners and occupiers of the soil; the same absenteeism is too prevalent; there is the same widespread insecurity of tenure; law in the same way upholds the power of the landlord, and disregards the just claims of the tenant; there is the same creation of vast rights of property in the form of improvements by the peasantry, unprotected by the least legal sanction, and liable, nay, exposed, to confiscation; vague usage similarly is the only safeguard against frequent and intolerable injustices. If we realize to ourselves the number of manors that flow inevitably from this state of things, we shall, perhaps, cease to wonder that discontent, agrarianism, Fenianism, or any other form of dissatisfaction with existing arrangements has such a hold on the Irish people. How fierce and bitter may be the antagonism between the superior and the dependant, brought together in a social relation especially requiring mutual goodwill, but belonging to creeds irreconcilably at feud; what a want of sympathy must exist between them! How harsh must be the pressure of proprietary rights, and how unmitigated by gracious influences, when the presence of the landlord is felt only in the demands of the agent or bailiff, and when, as too commonly is the case in Ireland, the non-residence of the territorial magnate enables petty Squire Kites to prey on the poor free from the restraint of more noble examples! What must be the peasant's notion of a law which at best keeps him in absolute dependence, which limits him, like a savage, to "an annual culture," which in the actual state of society in Ireland compels him frequently to invest his all in the possession which he receives from another, and which, when he has so laid it out, permits it to be flogged away or transferred for the benefit, perhaps, of a harsh taskmaster! And how idle it is to say that law is, in this particular, worse than fact; that wrongs of the kind are of rare occurrence; as if the possibility of their existence, not to speak of instances but too numerous, were not in itself a crying shame and grievance! If we put fairly these things together, let us not be surprised that the occupiers of the soil in Ireland, and the classes connected with them, are dissatisfied, and ready for violent change, it is to be feared, in too many districts; and let us not suppose that, even though their material condition were to improve, this dissatisfaction would not increase. Let us recollect the pregnant wisdom of De Tocqueville's remarks on this very subject:—"The evils which are endured with patience as long as they are inevitable, seem intolerable as soon as a hope can be entertained of escaping from them."

I have written thus much because the relation of landlord and tenant in this county are too often of an ungracious character. Not that excellent landlords do not exist; I have much pleasure in mentioning the names of Lord Cork and the Duke of Devonshire, who redress the evils of absenteeism, as far as it is possible to redress them, by managing their estates on enlightened principles. Lord Cork and his family have always given leases; the Duke of Devonshire, to some extent at least, allows a qualified tenant-right, and enjoys the full confidence of his tenants; and thus, in both cases, the great result of security of tenure is obtained. I have heard, too, of several good resident landlords; and the landlords of this county, as a class, I am sure; do not exercise harshly extreme rights, and do not exhibit the evil spectacle of manners combining with law in injustice. Nevertheless, "landlordism" as it is called, wears not seldom here an unkindly aspect. I have heard of several remarkable instances in which even considerable portions until very lately preferred Protestants to Catholic tenants as a matter of course; and I have reason to believe that the gradual disannulment of this offensive and irritating practice has been due rather to the pernicious results to the rent-roll of this monopoly of sect than to any peculiar

moral improvement. I have been told of several cases in which agents have been cruelly oppressive, or have administered property with corrupt tyranny; and, until quite recently, some landlords have been accused of many kinds of coercion in order to influence votes at elections. Leases, too, as elsewhere, are very uncommon, except on a few well-known estates; and I have listened to several complaints of evictions, apparently without just cause, of sudden and capricious rising of rents, and, above all, of disregarding unfaithfully the equity of the tenant in respect of improvements. On the whole, the 'system' in this county bears more than commonly in the case the marks of severity and disunion of class; and I can hardly doubt that the ultimate cause is that society was repeatedly broken up by violence and aggressive conquests. As a persons eminent in rank and birth and singularly well fitted to form an opinion, observed to me, "the later colonists have never really settled in this district; they have few associations with the country; they dislike the people and are disliked by them; and the result is that they think only of getting all that they can from their lands and they would not care if they sold them tomorrow." It is impossible that the relations of landlord and tenant could generally be happy in such a state of things.

As a proof of the wrong which has been done by a severe exercise of legal rights upon an estate in this county I give an instance which I casually found out, and which, I doubt not, might be multiplied. I happened to see a new slated house standing almost alone on a fair sized tract, and I asked the occupier how he came to be in possession of such a good dwelling. "Oh!" he replied, "it was not built by me, but by the tenant who was here before me and he, poor man, is gone to America." I then asked why he had left this country, and the answer given with a look combining suspicion and hatred in no common degree, was that he had been ejected for a year's rent, a sum of about £28, and that he had lost his house which cost him £100! I made inquiries in the next village, and I am satisfied that this tale is in substance true, that this eviction really occurred, and that no compensation was given to the tenant for this absolute loss of, perhaps his whole property. It is but fair to say that the present landlord had nothing to do with this business; but conceive what must have been the feelings of this ruined peasant, driven from his home, by thought over this shameful injustice. A distinguished Minister has lately branded such acts with a remarkable epithet, and has asked, what is to be said of those who commit them? Lord Clarendon must excuse me for saying that, whatever may be thought of this matter, this spoliation was in no sense 'felonious.' Law enabled that landlord to evict that tenant; law armed the sheriff with a writ of execution; law possibly was found to send the police to assist at that scene of righteous justice; law warranted that equitable confiscation; law looked on while that broken man was exonerated after a sanctioned robbery. It is putting the question on a wrong issue to lay the blame on any individual person; it is the law, in this instance, that convicted at 'felony.' And if this may be occasionally its working, can we feel astonished that it has no hold on those who may be sufferers from it, or that they transfer their allegiance to another law which thwarts the operation of its antagonist? Condemn agrarianism by all means, pursue with whatever rigour you can those who commit or abet its crimes; if possible extirpate the disease, but recollect that it has a vital force as long as a conviction exists that the laws relating to land are unjust, and that it is sustained by a real principle in whatever degree it may be ascribed to vindictive passion or extravagant hope, or however it may in its excesses run into atrocious violence and outrage. At least purge the law of injustice before you denounce all those who have no reverence for it, and do not imagine that the widespread feeling which unhappily exists against the law can be confounded with more criminal licence. He is a bad physician who merely skins and flims over the ulcerous part, and a social inquirer is not worthy of the name who, while he has no excuses for crime, fails to indicate the causes of the sentiments which create too much sympathy with it.

The practice of sanctioning the sale of the good will of farms does not prevail in this county as I have observed to be sometimes the case in districts where there is considerable distrust between the owners and occupiers of the soil. Large tracts, however, have been enclosed and brought into their present state by the unaided industry of the peasantry, and their equitable claims in this respect are more than ordinarily great and undoubted. I have seen whole estates in which everything that has been done for the land for ages has been evidently done by the tenantry alone, yet from which they, being tenants at will, may be extruded at a six months' notice without receiving the smallest equivalent. It is really melancholy—for it shows how usage may deaden the sense of justice—to hear the apologies that are made by many upright men of the landlord class for this most unfortunate condition of things. It is urged, in the first place, that the tenants are actually compensated, because their rents are exceedingly low during all the time they are bringing the land into cultivation, as if rents received on tenancies at will had not necessarily a tendency to rise to the highest point that such land could bear, or as if this excuse applied to the case of whole masses of tenants' improvements. It is said, in the next place, that when land has been reclaimed and put in order, when a tenant has built a house on it, and, in a word, has converted it into a farm, a certain duration of occupation is in itself a sufficient recompense; and, no doubt, this argument is well-founded, under certain conditions of rent and tenure. But have these apologists ever considered the length of occupation, at an unchanged rent, that would be necessary to repay the Irish peasant in numberless instances for his additions to the soil, or do they reflect in how many cases his occupation has been cut short, and he has been left without any return? Are they aware what, upon this point, is the testimony of an agent of great experience in the management of estates in England and Ireland, with reference to the compensating periods of occupation required for different improvements? "I think," said Mr. Ouzling to a Parliamentary Committee, "that 31 years would be a quite sufficient duration of lease for (the reclaiming) of lowlands; but I recommended to Lord Devon that leases of 60 years should be granted to tenants of mountain land. . . . I consider that if a tenant, with the full sanction and approval of his landlord has erected such a house" (i.e. a house suitable to a farm as described) "at his own sole cost, he is at least entitled to a lease for 99 years, such as would, without hesitation, be granted on a building lease in town." In how many cases, I should like to know, have such compensating periods been even thought of in the case of ordinary tenancies at will, without such an increase of rent as would practically nullify all compensation? Is it not plain when the Legislature finds such a state of things unhappily existing, that the law must be made to speak in the words addressed by Turgot, alas! too late, to a class that would not acknowledge their truth:—"The King will not allow one part of his subjects to be sacrificed to the possible avidity of another."

The agrarian spirit prevails in this county with great intensity in many places, though there has been no agrarian crime for some years. It would be, however, as idle to infer from this that agrarianism did not exist as it would be to argue that a powder magazine must necessarily be in a state of explosion. The true test of the force of the agrarian spirit is the dissatisfaction which is its symptom, the feelings it spreads throughout the community, and, taking this test, it seemed to me to be very active in this district. I heard numerous complaints of landlord oppression, and boasted that the time was at hand at last when the tenant-farmers would have their own, and demands for fifty years of tenure as the means of existence.

And whatever may be thought about agrarianism, unquestionably Fenianism was and is in no contemptible strength in this county. A personage of the highest official authority told me that even now it was not easy to estimate the depth of its movement, or to calculate the extent of its influence. It is interesting to compare these two forms of discontent, distinct, and of which it may be truly said—

"Facies non una scortorum, Nec diversa tamen"

Fenianism, as an agent of disturbance, was chiefly supported in the towns, was hatched and nurtured in the East West, and had for its object open insurrection. Agrarianism, on the other hand, is rather a local law of opinion, originating with and confined to the peasantry, not necessarily showing itself in crime, but not shrinking from crime to compass its ends, and having as its paramount object the retaining the tenant farmer in possession of his holding under certain conditions. But both may be traced to the same source, a deep sense in the hearts of thousands of Irishmen that the laws under which they live are unjust in many particulars to large classes, this sense being of course quickened by passion, by evil memories and traditions, by ignorance, by the contagion of sympathy, by bad counsels, by the temptations of poverty. In this county, as in other parts of Ireland, the farmers stood aloof from the Fenians because not generally associated with them, and because they felt that the cause was hopeless; but it is not the less true that they sympathized with them, and it is difficult to say what the result might have been had even a transient success been obtained. It is not improbable that in that event the Fenian and agrarian elements of disorder would have blended together, and taken the form of a wild rising against the upper landed classes, this sense being of course quickened by passion, by evil memories and traditions, by ignorance, by the contagion of sympathy, by bad counsels, by the temptations of poverty.

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IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. O'Mahony, Bishop designate of Armidale was consecrated in the Cathedral, Cork, on Tuesday, by the Most Rev. Dr. Delany, assisted by the Most Rev. Dr. Whelan, Bishop of Bombay, and the Most Rev. Dr. Lynch, Co-adjutor Bishop of Kildare.

The Fenians, it is said, intend to nominate Obesley J. Kickham for Mallow.

In the sheriff's return from Tipperary, O'Donovan Rossa is described as "Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, of Pentonville, or Portland Prison, England."

The Liberal members of the Cork municipal council have decided on re-electing Mr. Hegarty, a moderate Liberal to the majority.

At O'Connell's petty sessions, on Monday, two men, M'Manus and O'Brien, were remanded on a charge of conspiring to murder the Rev. Mr. Jebb, Protestant rector of the parish of Stradons. Constable Griffith has been fired at in the same locality. The ball passed through his cap without injuring him.

A tenant-right meeting was held at Longford, the High Sheriff presiding. Over 5000 persons attended. Lords Granard and Greville, Captain Davys, and others spoke. Resolutions were passed for fifty years of tenure at fair rents. There was no disturbance.

In a letter to the land meeting held at Dundalk on Monday, Mr. O'Connell Fortescue says: "A satisfactory and speedy settlement of the land question can only be accomplished under the guidance of that spirit of equity and moderation which is perfectly consistent with courageous and effective legislation."

A rumor is prevalent in Londonderry that the Royal Commission appointed some time ago to inquire into the cause of the riots there on the occasion of Prince Arthur's visit have urged Her Majesty to put a stop to the Derry celebrations.

An information was sworn, a day or two since, before the resident magistrate in Bray, by Mrs. Pennefather, owner, to a considerable extent, of landed property in the county Tipperary, to the effect that she had received an anonymous threatening letter from the locality in which her property was situated, declared that "if her agent residing there did not decrease the rents on the estate, he would get an increase, not of money, but of bullets."

FLAX.—To show what a profitable crop flax is, if properly handled, we may state that Mr. John Kieran of Tullycohan, sold 200 cwt of flax in Kerry on Thursday, at 12s per stone. He refused a similar price for 400 stone, the produce of eight acres of land. This shows that flax is the most profitable crop the farmer can cultivate—far in advance of wheat, barley or oats.

TROOPS FOR DROGHEDA.—On Thursday afternoon a meeting of magistrates convened by circular was held in the Tholsel, Drogheda, for the purpose of considering the propriety of memorializing the Lord Lieutenant to order a detachment of troops to be stationed in that town. There were present Edward M'Donogh (Mayor), Thomas Carty, James Mathew, John O'Sullivan, George Harper, and Peter Verdon, Esqrs. The proceedings were private, but I understand that it was unanimously resolved to memorialize the executive for the purpose above stated.

BEAUTIFUL IRELAND.—A correspondent of the New York Examiner and Chronicle writes: "I began by saying Ireland is beautiful; I continue by saying Ireland is beautiful; and I shall end by saying Ireland is beautiful. And among the 'wonders of Ireland' must be the neglect of her beautiful flora. She is as much neglected by the poet as she is by the statesman. The tourist is as ignorant of her charms as the legislator is indifferent to her claims. Where have the poets been, and the artists, and the tourists, and the travelling writers, that this peerlessly beautiful island should be a sealed book—nay, a concealed book to those of us who were reared on books, and have nothing to do but read them?"

The Dublin 'Evening Post' states that the conduct of the supporters of O'Donovan Rossa with respect to the clergy in Tipperary had produced a strong reaction against the candidature of Thomas Clarke Luby in the Queen's County, and that should Fenian agents venture to canvass the county they will meet with a warm reception.