

ing was disturbed by the opening of the door, and Mr. Montague stood before him, holding in his hand the card of Herr Von Sulper.

'I am not aware to what cause I am to attribute the honor of this visit, sir,' Mr. Montague said, bowing as he spoke, 'though, if rumor speak rightly, the sudden illness of my wife, at the court, this morning, is attributed to her previous knowledge of Herr Von Sulper though she herself denies it.'

A stern, grave look spread itself over the face of the German, and he replied,

'Mrs. Montague and I knew each other well, Mein Herr, much better than you think; for she is also more deeply interested in the fate of the unfortunate German lady she has so cruelly persecuted, than she herself imagines.'

'For Heaven's sake tell me what you mean,' exclaimed Mr. Montague, in whose mind a thousand conflicting and barrowing doubts, whirled with the rapidity of lightning, 'and do me the credit,' he added, 'of believing me when I say I was truly rejoiced at hearing of the acquittal of that much injured lady; truly grieved to think that her residence in my family has been the cause of such suffering to herself, whilst the guilty person so narrowly escaped unpunished.'

'I do believe you Mr. Montague,' replied the German, 'but your wife, Mein Herr, your wife would have persecuted, even to death, that innocent girl; that hard, unfeeling woman would—'

'Hold, sir,' said Mr. Montague, 'remember, if you please, that the lady to whom you apply such ignominious terms, is my wife, and—'

'Calm your indignation, Mr. Montague, or direct it at its right object,' said the German. 'I would, nay, I must speak to your wife, in your presence before I leave the house.'

'Mrs. Montague cannot see you, sir; she is still ill, and even were this not the case, I should insist on knowing, ere I granted you an interview, what the real nature of that interview is to be.'

For a moment the German stood as if irresolute, then advancing closely to Mr. Montague, he said, 'To tell her that Fraulein Flohrberg, whom she prosecuted for theft, is her own child!'

George Montague pressed his hands before his eyes, and reeled like some drunken man, as Von Sulper uttered these words; then after a moment's pause, as if to gather strength to hear some new and equally terrific announcement, he exclaimed, 'And her father.'

'Her father, my twin brother, for whom she evidently mistook me, when in court, and the husband whose home she forsook, is no more,' said the German, with a countenance full of sadness, 'far not, Mein Herr, I have told you the worst, but in justice to her child, and my most unfortunate niece, whose relationship to myself I knew not till within this few days past, and whom I saw this day in the felon's dock, I must see your wife before I leave this house.'

Not one word did George Montague utter; but with compressed lips, expressive of determination and a resolute will, he rang the bell, and desired the servant who entered, to tell his mistress he wished to speak with her immediately.

A pause of some few minutes elapsed, neither of the men breaking the silence that ensued; then the rustle of a silk dress, without, was heard; the door opened, and the unsuspecting Mrs. Montague entered the room.

Herr Von Sulper's back was to the door, but as it closed he turned round, and confronted Mrs. Montague; her husband stood by, an observant but still silent spectator of the scene. He saw her start, change colour, and cling for support to a couch near which she stood; then, as if rendered desperate, she exclaimed—

'Fritz! Fritz! I heard that you were dead: tell me, in mercy, how it is you are here?'

'Not Fritz, madame, but Heinrich. Nay, look again,' he said, 'for the lapse of well nigh thirty years, has not quite effaced the features of either, from mutual remembrance, and the strange likeness between poor Fritz and myself, which has wrongly misled you, has not, you see, faded away with time. But, madam, it is not of myself, or of the dead, of whom I wish to speak, but of the living. Woman! cold, heartless woman,' he said, 'have you ever thought of the child whom you abandoned, solely to the care of a father, stricken with sickness and poverty, and then to the angelic, amiable Ida. Know you that she lives, and lives in the person of the Fraulein Flohrberg, whom you have so cruelly dragged forth as a common thief?'

The last words of Von Sulper were lost upon the wretched being to whom they were addressed, for her eyes had met those of her husband, and she could read pity, sorrow, indignation, all combined together; horror and fear took possession of her soul, and she sank senseless at her husband's feet.

George Montague recoiled from the helpless form before him, but he rang the bell, sent for Mrs. Somers, and stood coldly by while she used the ordinary restoratives employed on such occasions, then dismissed her, telling her to remain within call. And then enquired of his wife if she had any questions to put to the gentleman with whom he found she had been so nearly connected.

'It is not true, what you have told me; it cannot be true,' she exclaimed, springing to her feet. 'I will not believe that the Fraulein Flohrberg is a child of mine; in mercy do not tell me this.'

'I will refresh your memory, madam. Do you remember, madam, a certain night, the last you ever spent in your own home; your husband my poor Fritz, was sick, even to death; he had received the last rites of our church but three days before; he had rallied, it is true, yet his life hung upon a thread. You remember this, do you not, madam?' continued the pitiless catechist. But a visible shudder was her only reply.

'Well, the funds were at a very low ebb; in short, there was no cash about, but that which my sister, and your sister-in-law, Ida, now the Frau Flohrberg, madam, could give to yourself

and the half-dying Fritz. Your little girl, poor Maria, whom, to-day, you have brought witnesses against, in a crowded court, lay wailing in the cradle, an infant scarce two years and a half old.'

Here the words, 'spare me, spare me,' smote on the ear of her husband, and he saw that his guilty wife had clasped her hands over her face, and heard the stifled sobs which broke from her lips. But Von Sulper had no idea of sparing his guilty sister-in-law, just then, and he continued in the same cold, pitiless tone of voice,

'And so, madam, you will remember, that you chose such a time as that to carry out the threat you had made to your husband in a moment of mutual recrimination. Your lives had been of discord, it was true, as must always be the case when beauty, or money is the object looked for by man or woman; and thus it came to pass, that you left your babe and your husband, reckless whether they lived or died. My gentle Ida, madam, took your deserted child, and, when one year later, she became the wife of Frederick Flohrberg, my brother being then dead, she and her worthy husband agreed to rear this little waif, thus cast upon their hands as if it were their own, sparing her the knowledge of her mother's cruel desertion. But, madam, I had lost all clue to my gentle sister's whereabouts, in my long years of absence from my native land; I had never heard the name of Flohrberg; and thus, when I met my poor niece, and your daughter, in my visits to General O'Donnell, at Coblenz, I was all unconscious of the connection that subsisted between us, and probably would have remained so to this day, but that I providentially met your child, that evening, madam, on which you charged her with having stolen your bracelet. She was hurrying, full of grief, to raise money on a miniature she showed me, set with pearls, for the relief of those whom she wrongfully supposed to be her parents, but who had nobly supplied your place; I gave her ten pounds, to send to them; the possession of this money was distorted by you into a fresh proof of her guilt. But Providence has not allowed that in every sense, her own mother should be the murderess of her own child's happiness. I was absent, who could swear to giving her that money. Miss O'Donnell, too, had left for Ireland, early the next morning, whose evidence has been so all-important; but, at last, a letter summoning me to England, reached my hand, through General O'Donnell, and the chance mention of my sister's maiden name, revealed to me the truth. As Herr Von Sulper, only had your child known me, and that name, madam, which I have borne these fifteen years, and without which I could not have inherited the fortune, which, at my death, will revert to your child, has served to keep my family in ignorance of our mutual connection, even since circumstances have thrown us together: but, rest assured, had I recognized Maria Von Alstein, my brother's child, in the General's protegee, she would never, as Maria Flohrberg, have sought the bread of dependence beneath her mother's roof. I go, madam, added Von Sulper, 'is there any questions you would wish to ask me, or any message that you would desire that I should bear to the unfortunate young woman who is not, as yet, conscious of the close affinity that exists between you?'

Mrs. Montague raised her face, bedewed with tears, and for the first time during the long conversation of her brother-in-law, ventured to meet her husband's gaze. She rose, laid her hand on Von Sulper's arm, and looked in his face, and said,

'Each word you have uttered, has pierced me to the very soul. I know not what to say—How can I face my deserted and much injured child?'

Then tottering across the room, she stood by her husband's side, looked up in a face that had ever beamed with kindness to her, and said,

'George, I cannot face this child, whom I have injured; in mercy to me, do not cast me off without a word; what would you that I should do?'

'Catherine,' he replied, gently placing the unhappy woman on a couch, beside him, 'I marvel not that you should say you cannot meet Maria, after the deadly injury you, her mother, have inflicted; yet my wife, I leave the decision to yourself; but let me not be here—Not till some little time has passed away could I meet your injured daughter. Much cause, too, have I for bitter reproach, unconscious as I was of the existence of any living tie: above all, of your most cruel desertion of Maria. I would recommend you, now, to seek that quiet and seclusion in the country which you cannot find in London. Return to Fairview, in at least two days from the present time, and at the expiration of a week, I will join you with Millicent and Alice. And I would advise you to be guided by Herr Von Sulper, as to whether Maria shall be left in ignorance of the relationship that exists between you or not. Perhaps she may the more readily forgive you the public disgrace you have inflicted, whilst deeming you almost a stranger, than if she knew herself to be your child. However, be guided, as I have already said, by Von Sulper. I shall not see you again, probably, till we meet in Manchester, at the time I have mentioned. I wish you farewell, Herr Von Sulper,' he said, 'hereafter I shall be glad to see you, and also the injured lady, whom, though I judge it wise that the truth be concealed from her, I shall always regard as my daughter; too happy if, in any way, I can benefit either her or yourself.'

As Mr. Montague spoke thus, he turned to leave the room, deaf to the voice of the broken-hearted woman, who so earnestly conjured him to stay. His sense of honor, pity, justice, all had been violated in the person of his wife, and, with his feelings deeply wounded, he hurried away to the solitude of his own room, for thought and reflection.

(To be Continued.)

If an invalid, too weak for out-of-door exercise run up and down stairs very rapidly all day long.

To be thought rich—do nothing: 'tis is money, and you will have plenty to spare.

LECTURE ON THE LATE CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER BY MR. HENNESSY, M.P.

On last Monday evening a lecture was delivered by John Poye Hennessy, Esq., M.P., in the large room at the Hanover-square Rooms on the Life of His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman, the object of the lecture being to assist in the completion of a church in the Diocese of Ardagh, in Ireland. The attendance in the reserved seats was by no means so good as we desired to see, but as Holy Week had commenced, the Clergy were engaged in ecclesiastical duties, and as the Easter recess had begun, the Members of Parliament were mostly out of town. In the other parts of the room the attendance was much better, and the audience throughout the entire evening evidently felt the deepest interest in the subject of the lecture.

Soon after eight o'clock Mr. Hennessy, accompanied by The O'Donoghue, M.P., and other friends, came upon the platform and was loudly cheered.

The Chair was taken amidst great applause by The O'Donoghue, who stated that he was very proud to occupy the chair on that occasion, and that he would not, by offering any remarks of his own, keep the audience from hearing without delay the lecture which his friend, Mr. Hennessy, had consented to deliver.

Mr. Hennessy then came forward amidst loud cheers, and commenced by observing that there were many who had heard in that room a voice which they would hear no more. The bright intellect of Cardinal Wiseman which had from that spot unfolded many of the glories of art was gone from amongst them, but the name of Nicholas Wiseman would live for ever. [Cheers.] It is not for me, [continued Mr. Hennessy] to enter into the consideration of these subjects, I mean ecclesiastical themes, in which he was greatest. Eloquent dignitaries have already told from pulpits how well the late Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster discharged the solemn duties of his high and holy office. It is not for me to presume to enter upon that ground, but as a layman, and as the least worthy of the honor, I shall endeavor to perform the duty which I have ventured to undertake, and to speak of the social and literary merits of the great Cardinal. Now in the first place, to what country did Cardinal Wiseman belong? I answer, to that nation which is so close to this wealthy nation, and yet which is so poor; to that nation which, in the fifth century, sustained a great Papal aggression in the person of St. Patrick. [Loud cheers.] That aggression, however, was not met by a Durham Letter and an Ecclesiastical Titles Bill—[hisses]—for Earl Russell and Viscount Palmerston, though they are old, are not old enough to have lived in the time of St. Patrick. [A laugh.] I claim the Cardinal for Ireland. His father, James Wiseman, was a merchant of Waterford, and his mother, Xaviera Wiseman, by birth a member of the old Irish family of the Stranges, of Aylwardstown, in the County of Kilkenny. But the Cardinal was born in Spain, and you know that between Spain and Ireland there are old historical links. It was a Spanish King who came to Ireland that called our country Hibernia after the river Iberus in Spain, and it was near that river that Cardinal Wiseman was born. We may therefore safely call him a Hibernian. [Cheers.] At the early age of four years Nicholas Wiseman was sent to England, but at that time he did not remain here, but was taken to Waterford, where he received the first rudiments of his education. At the age of ten he was placed in Gahaw and passed six years in that great seminary under very distinguished masters. When he was sixteen he was sent to Rome, and we find in the Cardinal's works an interesting account of his voyage from Liverpool to Rome. Arrived at Rome he was, with his companions, received most kindly by the Pope who then ruled over the Church, Pope Pius VII. [Cheers.] He devoted himself closely to the study of Oriental languages, and wrote his work the *Horæ Syriacæ*. He soon gave evidence of such extensive learning that he was made a Doctor of Divinity even before he was ordained a Priest. [Cheers.] You know that to be a Priest in full orders a student must have arrived at the age of twenty-three years. In Rome Dr. Wiseman was soon called upon to deliver several important courses of lectures, which he did with great success. He studied men as well as books and travelled through many parts of Italy and of Sicily. One of the greatest of his courses of lectures was his memorable course on 'The Connection between Science and Revealed Religion,' and yet these lectures were at first delivered before a circle of private friends. Respecting these, the Pope said to him that he had robbed the Egyptians, and strengthened the believers. This is a most appropriate time for reference to the great work which I have mentioned, when infidelity is so rife in the land, and when scepticism abounds in Oxford and Cambridge, and even amongst those who wear the mitre. The best answer to the 'Essays and Reviews' and to the Bishop Colenso will be found in these truly learned lectures of our great Cardinal. [Loud cheers.] In 1838, Dr. Wiseman came to London and acted as one of the Priests of the church in Lincoln's Inn-fields. It is probable that there are some here to-night who remember him discharging missionary duties. He also at that time delivered several important courses of lectures. It was in 1836 that he founded the *Dublin Review*, in company with another illustrious Catholic, Daniel O'Connell. [Loud Cheers.] In the pages of that *Review* he wrote the memorable articles on the great religious change then progressing to those distinguished members of the High Church party who then began to come over to the true faith, and encouraged them in affectionate though uncompromising language. [Cheers.] In 1837 he preached the funeral oration on Cardinal Weld. In 1838 or 1839 he undertook many long journeys and preached more than a hundred sermons, such was his great industry. [Cheers.] In 1840 he was appointed coadjutor of the Midland District and President of Oscott College, and in 1847 he was removed to London, where he soon succeeded the Bishop of this district. We now come to 1850, a most important date, not only in the Cardinal's life, but in the annals of the Church in England. [Cheers.] In that year he left London for Rome in obedience to a summons from His Holiness Pope Pius IX. [Loud cheers.] It was well known that the Hierarchy was about to be restored in England, and it is a fact that Lord Minto, then at Rome, actually saw the Bull relating thereto. We ought all to know the correct history of what was called the Papal Aggression, and yet there are few who are fully conversant with the particulars. We recollect the anger of the *Times* and of the Protestant Bishops and of the Minister, then Lord John Russell. [Hisses.] Now, I have it on the highest authority that before Bishop Wiseman left England he called upon Lord John Russell, and told him that he was about to be created a Cardinal, and that Lord John Russell replied in the words: 'I congratulate you on the event.' The Bishop did not then know that he was to come back to reside in England as Archbishop of Westminster but when he reached Rome he found that it had been so ordered by the Pope, and, therefore, in obedience he came back to London, having first issued his famous letter, 'from outside the Flaminian Gate.' [Loud cheers.] When he came he found all England in anger in consequence of the conduct of the Ministry of the day. He was, however, much consoled by many kind addresses from the Catholics of all parts of the kingdom. The address which was considered the best which was presented came from Oscott College. It was composed by a friend and countryman of mine who is here to-night, and who is called The O'Donoghue. [Loud and enthusiastic cheers.] The students competed for the honor of writing the address, and the fact that The O'Donoghue was chosen constitutes, I think, a very good claim to the chairmanship here to-night. [Cheers.] I have mentioned that the Cardinalate was not assumed without notice to the English Ministry. The same course had been adopted by Cardinal Weld and by Cardinal Acton; in compliance with a rule of the Church that those who are created Cardinals shall announce the circumstance to the Prime Minister of the country in which they may have been residing. I now come to the subject of the titles of the Bishops. Now, we know from history that Catholic Bishops have long used territorial titles; for instance, Mr. Pitt presented to King George III. an address which bears the signatures of Dr. Troy, Archbishop of Dublin, and Dr. Moyland, Bishop of Cork. Lord John Russell himself, in 1844 and in 1845 gave his opinion in favor of the same course. In 1847 Lord Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed a well-known circular to colonial governors, directing that Catholic Bishops should be episcopally addressed in all official documents. Lord O'Connell, in Dublin, in 1847, addressed Dr. Murray who the archiepiscopal primate of 'Your Grace,' when he wanted that Prelate to procure certain statutes from Rome. Nay, more, in 1848, when the Queen visited Ireland, a list was made out of those who were to have the honor of what is called the 'dresses,' and very high on the list stood 'The Roman Catholic Primate,' and 'The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin.' Now, can it be doubted that this course of conduct made it only consistent that the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England should be received without Ministerial anger in England. [Cheers.] The Queen's Government ought to have been the last to find any cause of offence in the course taken by the Pope, and yet the head of that Government wrote the following sentence. [Here the honorable member read portions of the Durham Letter and continued.] 'Now, why is the conduct of Catholics called in this letter "insidious"? If anything, it was too public, for there was not the least approach in it to anything sly or insidious. There is one sentence in the Durham Letter very applicable to the present time. It is where the writer refers to the dangers to the Church of England from within, and it seems almost a prophecy of the writings of certain professors in Oxford and Cambridge, not forgetting Dr. Colenso. Then you remember we had the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, against which I need not say much, as it is a rule of charity to say nothing but what is good respecting the dead. [A laugh.] That Act got a strain often, but never so great a one as when the great Dr. McHale was one day in 1858 under examination before a Parliamentary Committee and he was asked 'Who are you?' to which his Grace with calm dignity replied, 'I am the Archbishop of Tuam.' [Loud cheers.] In 1859 Mr. Newdegate—[hisses]—accused the Cardinal of exercising temporal power here, and we all remember how clearly His Eminence refuted the statement. In December, 1850, and afterwards, the Cardinal stood his ground manfully, without any fear and without any bravado, and though he was advised to fly, for that his life was in danger, yet it so turned out in the lapse of time that I believe I am quite right in saying that to many thousands of Protestants who never saw the Archbishop of Canterbury, the genial presence of Cardinal Wiseman was quite familiar. The versatility of the Cardinal's mind was something wonderful. It is an interesting fact with reference to the Main Drainage, of which we have heard so much of late, that it appears by an article in the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' that it was Cardinal Wiseman who first suggested the system which has been adopted. [Cheers.] I had the honor of going through the British Museum one day with Cardinal Wiseman and Mr. Nardi, and I recollect well that in every department of art, science, and literature the Cardinal was able to give full and instructive information. He took down the difficult 'Codex Alexandrinus,' and read it with perfect ease. I am happy to learn that Mr. Nardi is about to deliver a lecture in Rome of our great Cardinal. [Cheers.] In 1858 Cardinal Wiseman, as you all know, visited Ireland, where he received a most enthusiastic reception. In his speech in Waterford he gloried in being a citizen of that truly Catholic city. [Cheers.] I have heard it said that the Cardinalate was never offered to an Irishman. This is wrong, for, not to speak of others, that honor was offered to another great man connected with Waterford, the famous Luke Wadding—[cheers]—who, however, declined the distinction. In 1801 Cardinal Wiseman founded the 'Academia of the Catholic Religion,' at which he read many papers which showed that though not robust in his bodily health, his mental powers were still unimpaired. [Cheers.] The honorable member then spoke of the Cardinal's last illness, reading out with much feeling the Cardinal's letter to Father Bowden and other passages from the valuable book, by Canon Morris, which we reviewed last week. He then referred to the Cardinal's charities, stating that His Eminence had contributed £3,000 to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Great Ormond street, and £200 to the adjoining church. The lecturer then proceeded to quote some brilliant passages from Cardinal Wiseman's recently published *Essays on Shakespeare*, which elicited great applause. Cardinal Wiseman (said the honorable member, in conclusion) will ever live amongst us in honor; his way was not earthly, but was linked with that Church which is universal, immortal and Divine. May his example be to us a sustenance under difficulties, and may the day never come when Catholics shall fail to remember him with grateful and loving memory, Nicholas Wiseman, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. The honorable and learned gentleman sat down amidst loud and enthusiastic applause.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

April 15.—With sincere regret we announce the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Killmore, which took place at his Lordship's residence, Farnham street, O'Connell, on Tuesday evening last. His Lordship was in the 68th year of his age at the time of his demise. The deceased Prelate is succeeded by the Right Rev. Dr. Conaty—a divine remarkable for his eminent virtues and learning.

I do not know how it may be after Easter, but up to the present Ireland has had the lion's share of the attention of Parliament. It is not wise, it is said, to look at a gift-horse in the mouth; but if one were tempted to the folly in this instance a few reasons might be given in justification of it. With peace in Europe and little to excite at home, there is a possible dearth of debatable subjects; and while on the one hand, therefore, we should rejoice that Irish topics occupy so prominent a position this season, in the House of Commons, on the other hand, we should give thanks that there is one subject which may always be discussed by it, if not with pleasure, at all events with profit. Before proceeding to refer to Mr. Monsell's motion on Irish Railways I may mention that Mr. Whitehead's question *propos* Fenianism in America created something like a sensation. Owing to Mr. Cobden's funeral, which was attended by several members, the attendance in the House at the time when questions are usually put was somewhat small, but the cries of 'order,' and the sudden rush which followed as Mr. Whitehead rose indicated the interest which was felt in the inquiry which he was about to address to the Government. It had reference to statements which appeared in the *Times* American correspondence on Thursday, and which were to the effect that encouragement had been given by eminent political individuals in the United States to the so-called Fenians, whose confederacy, it was stated, was designed to attack Canada, to invade Ireland, and to make war, when required, upon England.

Our American friends are fond of large 'platforms.' The largest and most comprehensive I ever heard of was that which proposes to 'chaw up' the universal world outside the 'Stars and Stripes.' The platform of the American Fenians is mild in comparison with that, but it must be confessed that it is sufficiently great to satisfy modest ambition. Mr. Layard's reply was brief, but it admitted that the Government considered the matter of sufficient im-

portance to warrant an inquiry in reference to it to be addressed to the Government at Washington.—Under the ordinary circumstances it is probable that the matter would have passed without exciting the least attention or if remarked upon, would have simply offered food for laughter. But the present are not ordinary circumstances. The two last objects in the programme of the Fenians may be left to fate, but the first is within the possibilities. And it may so happen that, impelled by the encouragement of designing politicians, who have their own interests to serve, and who look to them and not to the welfare of the Irish people, our countrymen in America will be made the means of precipitating that collision in Canada which all fear, but which all hope may be avoided. This it was which imparted interest to Mr. Whitehead's question. But as good occasionally comes out of evil, it may be that the 'talk talk on the other side of the Atlantic will impel her Majesty's Government to bestir themselves in the matter of Irish grievances, and endeavor to create in Ireland, by a generous policy, that best defence of all nations—a prosperous and contented people.

Mr. Monsell then brought forward his motion that an address be presented to her Majesty, praying 'that the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Railway System of the United Kingdom may be instructed to direct their inquiries, in the first instance, to the Irish Railway System, with a view of ascertaining, with as little delay as possible, such facts as may enable the house to determine whether the provisions of the second clause of the general Railway Act of 1844, should be applied to such Irish Railways as are subject to its provision.' You are aware that under the Act of 1844, it is in the power of government to take the railways of the kingdom into its own hands, or to make such other arrangements as would place them more directly under the government control than at present. In the course of his speech, in which he placed his case in a very clear and practical light before the house, Mr. Monsell instanced several circumstances in connection with the management of Irish railways which went far to justify his plea that in the case of Ireland at least the provisions of the Act of 1844 might advantageously be put in force. He showed, taking the Belgian railways by way of illustration, how low rates were beneficial both to the companies and the public, but admitted that as directors were trustees who are properly bound to abstain from anything in the nature of speculation with the property entrusted to their management, the experiment which he advocated—a large reduction of the fares and charges on Irish railways—could only be attempted by the government. He submitted a calculation, supplied by Mr. Dargan, to prove that this experiment might be worked by a body with the authority and means of a government, not only without loss, but with considerable gain.

According to Mr. Dargan, as much as £200,000 a year might be saved in expense of management by a proper system of arbitration. It is calculated that £200,000 or £150,000 might be saved in the difference of interest at which the Government would borrow money under that which is now paid on Irish railway bonds and debentures; and that at the outset there would be a margin of nearly £400,000 a year within which railway charges might be reduced.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, indeed, took exception with the calculation as over sanguine; but it appears to be of a character to allow of a large deduction on that head, and yet frame the case sought to be established. There was one fact stated by Mr. Monsell than which there could be no more forcible illustration of our backwardness in the rise of national prosperity as compared with England.—According to the last week's returns the total receipt of all the Irish railways were a little over £26,000; in England, those of the Lancashire and Yorkshire line alone were £26,000! A volume could not be more conclusive than these figures. They describe the condition of the country within the compass of a sentence. The motion was supported by Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Scully, Dickson, and Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Ennis, Chairman of the Midland Great Western of Ireland, alone taking exception to some of Mr. Monsell's statements.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer emphatically disclaimed all idea of the Government taking the actual management of the Irish railways into their hands, but admitted that it was possible to deal with them in some such manner as that proposed, and also the advantage of a low system of fares. He promised to expedite the inquiry of the commissioners as much as possible, and allowed it to be inferred from his tone that the bait thrown out by Mr. Monsell was too tempting to be altogether discarded by a Financial Minister.—*Cork Examiner*.

FAILURE.—The prosecution of the prisoners charged with being implicated in the late riots has ended in a very unexpected, and we fear, very discrediting way. The course adopted by the Crown—although it was, in the peculiar circumstances of the case, not only well advised, but in some degree necessary, amounted to an acknowledgement that the law was baffled, and justice balked of its legitimate prey. Nor is this consideration altered even by the supposition of the innocence of the accused. For, if those who were arraigned were guiltless of the crimes laid to their charge, it is painful to think that the real criminals escaped detection while the lives and liberties of innocent men were imperilled. The result of the trials is on public grounds, greatly to be deplored. The enormities committed in August last—the outrages inflicted upon society—the terrible shock given to the peace and prosperity of the town—required that the offenders should be punished, and that their fate should stand out as a useful and solemn warning to all evil-doers for the time to come. And yet, although the crimes committed ranged over an entire fortnight, and were perpetrated in the open streets—although their authors must have been visible to many an eye—although the town was filled with military and police, not one wholesale conviction has taken place, nor has one of the real culprits been punished. The thing appears to be incredible, and to those unacquainted with Belfast must prove inexplicable. The parties who concocted and fomented the riots, who day after day, hung lighted brands upon the burning pile, may now chuckle over their misdeeds and plot another outburst of popular fury. If we are to rely on the proof furnished by the late Assizes, it seems that in Belfast thousands of people may, with perfect safety to themselves, burn effigies in the public thoroughfares, march in mock and real funeral processions through the streets—carry arms openly and use them with deadly effect—wreck houses—plunder shops, and take the lives of unoffending men. In fact, it would appear that the more numerous the offenders are, and the more audacious their crimes, the more certain is their chance of escape from punishment. A solitary criminal in a remote country district is sure to be hunted down by the officers of the law, and the blood of murdered men cries in vain for vengeance. It is a melancholy and disquieting reflection. There can be no peace in the community, no respect for the laws, no security for life and property where such anomalies prevail; and should the town ever again become the scene of disorder and strife, the failure of justice at the late Assizes may be safely regarded as one of its primary causes.—*Ulster Observer*.

Mr. Hennessy has laid before the House of Commons a Bill for repealing the law under which people in Ireland may be sentenced to penal servitude for the offence of vagrancy.

THE SEASON.—The season, thanks to a benignant Providence, is all that we could wish. Dry and warm sunshine, and an atmosphere not less bright than genial have been ours for many days. We rejoice to know that these advantages have been available to the utmost, and that our spring work—our seeding and planting—were never at this period of the year more advanced. The same may happily be said of all Kerry.—*Triluce Chronicle*.