

been honored with the circular of the Provisional Committee, though it might be supposed that they as well as others had some interest in the peace and prosperity of the country. We respectfully invite those who object to political agitation, and wish to rely absolutely on the wisdom of the legislature and the good feeling of the dominant classes, to behold the fruits of even a temporary cessation of that outspoken demand for justice, which at times rose higher and sounded more loudly than might be agreeable to ears polite. On one side we behold the rise of secret confederacies, the fruits of political despair, and on the other this atrocious attempt to revive the spirit of the penal days. The peaceful agitation for tenant justice slumbers, seeming to have died out, and immediately an attempt is made to fix the yoke of slavery and degradation more firmly than ever on the shoulders of the peasantry. Tipperary protests against the judicial murder of the unhappy Cornicks, and the reply is an organised conspiracy to effect judicial murders by wholesale.—The slander against the wretched peasantry of Gweedore is exposed and refuted, and the charge of connivance at the impunity of accused criminals flung back in the teeth of those who made it; but instead of the serfs of Gweedore, the whole Irish people are summoned to the bar of public opinion, and their reputation, which should be dear to them as life itself, is most foully murdered.

We appeal to every honorable and impartial mind, of whatever sect or party, to say whether this should be the reward for the superhuman patience the Irish people have shown in sustaining so many heavy calamities and grievous wrongs. At every assize for years past the judges have borne unanimous testimony to the peacefulness and virtue of the people—a people the most oppressed, socially and religiously, of any in Europe, not excepting Russian Serfs, or the Christians bearing the yoke of Mahomedan despotism. A few isolated crimes have been committed, and charged, in some cases most wrongfully, on the peasantry. Under the false pretence of ensuring punishment for such crimes, a moment of political apathy and weakness is seized on to make a stealthy stab at the character and the liberties of the people. Let us not deceive ourselves. It is a time of trial, when we may be called upon to choose whether we shall basely surrender the foundations of liberty our fathers bravely won, or whether we shall prove to the world that we are still the undegenerate sons of the men of Ninety-three and of Twenty-nine.—Evening News.

THE IRISH LANDLORD DEMONSTRATION.—The following is a copy of the characteristic reply of Mr. Pernal Osborne to the invitation to join the landlord congress on the 27th instant:—

Clonmel, County Tipperary, Jan. 17. Sir,—I have received this day a printed circular, dated January 12th, inviting my attendance in Dublin on the 27th instant, to a meeting of the nobility and others interested in the peace and prosperity of Ireland, together with an enclosure containing ten resolutions, or propositions, to be submitted by the provisional committee for the consideration of the meeting. In the absence of any information as to the construction of this committee the names of the two Honorary Secretaries being alone attached to the circular, it is material the public should be informed whether any noblemen or gentlemen, connected with the South or West of Ireland, has been consulted as to the correctness of the facts assumed in these extraordinary propositions? How far is it true that the 'Riband system' has been recently revived, and is the law really inefficient for the protection of life and property? A resident in the south of Ireland, I venture to question the grounds on which such views are entertained, while altogether denying that the law as at present administered, needs any amendment, so as to render it more effective for the security of landlords who wish to improve their estates, &c.

Whatever may be the state of the counties of Down and Donegal, there is no sufficient evidence of 'revival of Ribband Societies' in this country in general. No one acquainted with Ireland will confound the Republican aspirations of the so-called Phoenix Clubs with the revival of Ribband Societies and agrarian outrage. Unfortunately for the credit of the provisional committee, there never was a period when the county of Tipperary was so free from the 'illegal combinations' mentioned in resolution No. 1. Mr. Sergeant Hawley, who, from his ability and long experience of 23 years as assistant-barrister, and chairman of this county, is looked up to and respected by men of all sects and parties, lately congratulated the grand jury at Cashel, 'on the very tranquil and orderly state of the county'; he added, 'I quote his own words'—'It is most satisfactory to find there is a growing disposition to show obedience to the laws, and refrain from acts of violence. In past time, year after year, when the calendar was laid before the Court, there were between 300 and 400 indictments at a single session; at present there are only 25 cases for trial, a very extraordinary difference; there is not a single symptom of any one being misled, or any person entering into 'illegal combinations.' Nor is this freedom from crime confined to the county Tipperary; the adjoining counties of Waterford and Cork enjoy the same advantages.—The provisional committee, however, not content with suggesting measures alike unnecessary and unconstitutional to the Government, propose to submit a resolution, No. 2, thereby offering a gratuitous affront to the middle-class population of the towns. In No. 2 it is seriously proposed altogether to set aside the present lists from which jurors are drawn, and to enact a 'higher standard of jurors' qualification,' as if the small shopkeepers, publicans, and others were not equally interested in the peace and prosperity of Ireland with the 'nobility, gentry, and others' who are solicited to assemble in Dublin. Before submitting No. 2 for consideration it would be well if the committee were to name precise cases where a jury has refused to convict a criminal in the teeth of conclusive evidence. It will be time enough to discuss the suggestions contained in Nos. 6, 7, and 8, when they are adopted by the Government. One word as to resolution No. 9. 'The necessity of improving the social condition and habits of the humbler classes' is a subject on which all are agreed, but 'an improvement of the dwellings of the labouring population' is more likely to be advanced by individual action on the part of the landed proprietors in their respective counties than by moving vague resolutions in the metropolis. In thus mixing up suggestions of coercive restriction with nostrums of social improvement, 'landed proprietors will themselves counteract every effort towards amelioration.' For those reasons, and because I am strongly impressed with the conviction that an exclusive meeting of the nobility and gentry, &c., will not conduce to the peace and prosperity of Ireland, I must most respectfully decline to attend the meeting in the Rotunda of Dublin on the 27th inst. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"J. O'Connell, Esq."

"D. OSBORNE."

THE LANDLORDS' MEETING.—The impunity which attended Ribband outrages, and the revival of the society of late are taken as proofs that the laws regarding them require to be amended. But we may be excused for doubting this until such time as it has been made manifest that the existing laws are carried out vigorously. We see the name of Mr. J. W. L. Napier subscribed to the circular, and we ask him where he is—a guardian of the law—during the days that Richard Connell lay in his death agony within half-a-dozen miles of the magisterial residence at Loughcrew. The murder of that young man was the first renewed effort of Ribbandism; and we charge now, as we charged before, the magistrates of this county as being accessory to the development of Ribbandism by not taking steps to check it in its first stage. None of them attended to take Connell's dying declaration; when prisoners were in charge and an investigation was to take place at Crossakill into their guilt or innocence, the magistrates thought it better to be pre-

sent at a meet of the Meath for hounds. Mr. Napier was absent to, though he lives within four miles of the place, and professes himself to be so great a stickler for the majesty of law. He ought to be ashamed to come forward in the circumstance; one that was so wanting to his duty than should be repudiated when he comes forward to ask for enthusiasm of the law now.—Meath People.

MR. CONWAY R. DOBBS AND HIS TENANCY.—We are not aware that any rustic Thyrus has ever undertaken on sylvan reed to celebrate the 'Lays of the Landlords'; but, if such an individual could be found we should say he ought not to be allowed to pine in his Mantuan obscurity. Though there is nothing very poetical in writs, and bailiffs, and ejections, and other appliances of territorial proprietorship, we should not be surprised if some rural poet should some day start up into immortal fame by singing in tuneful verse the 'whims and oddities of the landlords.' It is a remarkable circumstance that the personages in question had no existence in the model Republic of Plato any more than the poets themselves—an exclusion which is a remarkable tribute to the benevolence of the philosopher.

It is tolerably well known that there exists, at this moment, in the county of Antrim, a landlord named Mr. Conway Richard Dobbs, who some years ago ejected a respectable gentleman, named Mr. Andrew Kirk, from his holding in Ballynure, under circumstances that led the Assistant-Barrister of this county to express his strong sympathy with the tenant. This legal outrage was accountable for the manufacture of a proverb, which now very popular in the Castle Dobbs Estate, 'Leave it to Dobbs.' Only a few days ago this same gentleman obtained, at quarter sessions, a decree for the possession of a farm which has been held for nearly two centuries by a family named Forsythe, in the parish of Ballynure. The modern representatives of this ancient stock were tenants-at-will, and inherited as their rightful possession the improvements made by their ancestors which have now past into the capacious pockets of Mr. Dobbs. Mr. Stewart, the agent of this *sic rolo, sic jubeo* gentleman, made no charge against the Forsythes for non-payment of rent; the real fact of the matter being, that he just wanted possession of the farm, together with its improvements, which the landlord-made law has accordingly given him.—We understand that the improvements in question were so far recognised by those who had a good right to understand their value, that the Forsythes were offered between £100 and £200 for their good-will of the farm. If this really be the case, it would appear strange that neither the landlord nor his agent should be cognisant of the fact, and if Mr. Dobbs has really been in the habit of allowing, as his agent asserts, compensation in some cases for improvements, why should he have withheld it in this case? If it be true that he has admitted the value of improvements in any one case, thus acknowledging the validity of the principle of tenant-right, which is everything, why not carry out the principle and *quodam calceat* allow it in all? The owner of Castle Dobbs may possibly have something to do with Mr. Longfield and the Encumbered Estates Court; but, even if this be the case, it should offer no reason for his refusing to recognise the just claims of improving tenants.—Banner of Ulster.

THE LANDLORD CONSPIRACY.—The audacious proceedings contemplated by the new-made organisation of Orange landlords, and the atrocious designs against the public safety, which they have openly avowed, have raised a shout of execration and defiance from end to end of the land. Letters have appeared in various journals, many of them from landlords themselves, condemning the false pretences on which the proposed meeting has been summoned, and suggesting that the resolutions which are to be brought forward by the Orange conspirators be met by certain amendments and counter-resolutions.—Mr. Napier, one of the 'Hon. Secs.' of the new organisation, has thought fit to explain how it is that he has allowed his name to appear in conjunction with that of Lord George Hill. Mr. Napier, it appears, has some ideas in connection with the improvement of 'cottage property,' and while these ideas were germinating in his brain and causing him much trouble, he received from Lord George Hill a prospectus of a set of resolutions to be proposed at a general meeting of Landed Proprietors, for the better securing of life and property. Mr. Napier sent a reply to his 'lordship' saying that he could not join in such a movement. We dare say, in this reply, some allusion was made to the 'improved cottage' idea, for his lordship wrote again, offering to modify his former propositions—they must have been astounding propositions indeed of which the present ones are modifications—and offering to drag in one way or other some 'modification' of the ameliorative idea of his correspondent. With this offer Mr. Napier expressed himself satisfied, and so we have at the foot of a series of proposals aimed at the ruin, banishment, or death of the people, an announcement that the improvement of their dwellings would be taken into consideration! We can fancy how 'Downshire' and 'Hill' winked at one another, and tittered as they tacked on Mr. Napier's bit of 'amelioration' to the tail of their atrocious resolutions.—But we can assure the exterminators that if they allow the meeting they are about getting up in Dublin to bear the least resemblance to a fair and open proceeding, if they do not pack it as closely as a first-class Castle jury, they will go home howling, disappointed, and defeated, in which case God help the poor serfs on the 'properties' to which they will return. We can tell them further, as we told them before, and shall tell them again, that even should the result of their proposed gathering in Dublin quite come up to their expectations, the designs they cherish shall never be put into practice in Ireland. We at the same time tell the people to be awake, vigilant, and resolute. Their danger will not have passed away when the landlord conspiracy in its present shape shall have been defeated.—Nation.

As pointing to the real grievance in the laws affecting the relation of landlord and tenant—to the removal of which it were well the landlord body in earnest applied itself—we have an instance in a case lately before Lord Chancellor Napier, and Lord Justice Blackburn, in Ireland—that of Father O'Fay against Major Burke. The simple point in question was whether the Priest should get by judgment of the law the benefit of some £400 odd, which he had expended on 'his farm honestly, and with reasonable expectation of being sufficiently secured,' to give the words used in the final judgment delivered in the case. The Master of the Rolls, before whom the matter originally came, commented on his inability to do justice because of the state of the law on the subject, fully admitting that the claim of the Priest was most equitable, and should be recognised by the landlord. But the gallant Major was inexorable: he would spend every penny of his fortune rather than admit the claim. The Lords' Justices on appeal, endorse the opinion of the Master of the Rolls: they desire to do justice, but they are bound by the law, and the law refuses its assistance in the recognition of a claim which three of the most important, and we may add, most conservative judges of the Irish Bench from the judgment seat declare to be based on equity. The *Daily News* thus comments on the case:—'Here then we have an Irish Landlord instructing his counsel to state in the Court of Chancery that he will spend his whole fortune if necessary sooner than give the Parish Priest one of his tenants the benefit of £470 expended in permanent improvements which the Lord Chancellor says were honestly made with the reasonable expectation of being sufficiently secured. What effect is such a case likely to have on the poor peasantry? When they see their Priest so treated, what safety is there for them? They cannot afford to bring their grievances into the Court of Chancery to get even judicial sympathy for their sufferings. What a strong condemnation it is of the present state of the Law of Landlord and Tenant in Ireland, when the highest judges in the land,

instead of securing peace and good order, by enforcing what they consider to be just, have to humble themselves and the Courts in which they preside by asking the suitors not to insist upon what the Court has to award to them as their legal rights!'

This year promises to be prolific of Reform schemes. Mr. Bright is with great power and eloquence developing his plan; Lord John Russell is supposed to be cudgelling his brain to bring out a Bill that may retrieve his somewhat shattered political fortunes; the Derby-Dizzy Government, too, are cogitating Reform moves by which they may check-mate opponents at the same game. The Conservative landlords of Ireland are resolved not to be behind hand in the matter, they have inaugurated a movement which will, if persisted in, gain them bitter notoriety in this year of grace. Their pet scheme of Reform fairly distances all competitors in the line: true, its operation is intended to be confined to Ireland, but then in Ireland it threatens changes wholesale. In fact we must say, notwithstanding its Conservative parentage, the reform bantling has got a great deal of the root-and-branch character about it. It is perfectly *sui generis*—we know of no parallel to it. It differs, and on a very essential point from the reform contemplated by the honorable and noble persons indicated.—For inasmuch as each one of the latter aims at an extension of political power and rights of citizenship to classes which now possess them not, the former, on the contrary, would curtail, not add to those rights. The landlords, in fine, address themselves to the whole administration of criminal law in Ireland, and propose changes which, if carried into effect, would render ineffectual in practice those safe-guards of public and private liberty which the constitution of the country provides in theory.—For the real ills of Ireland they offer no remedy—to its sores, instead of oil and balm, they would apply an irritant. Amongst their desired changes they propose to place the constabulary under the entire control of the magistrates, as to appointment and otherwise; to exclude from the jury panel, in all agrarian cases, large classes now entitled to be on it; they recommend only active and able magistrates to be appointed. The translation of this specious language is not difficult. The effect of such alterations in the law would clearly and inevitably be to place the people in every case, where landlord prejudices intervened, wholly at the mercy of Orange landlords. A more unflattering proposal has probably never seen the light, and we are glad to find that in many quarters it has been received with open and complete condemnation. Well may the *Times* say: "that these proceedings would establish the most vexatious oligarchy that ever existed in these isles." All honor to those who like Mr. Levinge, Mr. Bernad Osborne, and Mr. Morgan Tuile formerly member for Westmeath, have repudiated these proceedings and refused to take part in them. We should add that Mr. Bagwell, and Mr. Loftus Bland purpose to attend the meeting and to propose amendments.—All these gentlemen unanimously deny the premises on which the Tory landlord party base their propositions for change; they deny that agrarian outrages to any considerable extent have taken place, that any peculiar impunity has attended the commission of such offences of that class as have occurred; they assert that measures of amelioration, rather than coercion should be pursued, and add that the laws, as at present existing, are amply sufficient for any exigency which has yet arisen for the repression of crime. A mild statement, no doubt, of the case between the Irish nation and the Orange landlords.—Weekly Register.

THE BELFAST INVESTIGATION.—The evidence given at the secret investigation into the case of the men arrested at Belfast, charged with being members of a Ribbon Society, has been published by the *Northern Whig* and copied into all the journals. The evidence is that of approvers, and even supposing it all to be true, it goes to establish one fact—the strictly defensive nature of the Ribbon Society. The form of oath said to be administered to the members was evidently formed for men who expected to be attacked, and who believed their only chance of safety to lie in fraternal combination. The society was always intended as a counterpoise to the Orange organisation. But the Orangemen have been wiser in their generation than the Ribbonmen. The former, finding that the notorious illegality of their organisation left it open to the peace-loving public to call on the Government for their suppression, procured high legal advice, got a legal constitution and a legal set of rules framed for their body and adopted them. The latter knowing that the law and the authorities were less favourable to them, held on the old courses, and the consequence is that the Orangemen can meet and sport their insignia, and drink and plot when and where they please, while the Ribbonmen, who have combined from motives of self-defence, are obliged to meet in holes and corners, and are liable to be hunted down like vermin. Certainly they might with advantage follow the wise example set them by the Orange confederacy. They might dissolve, and re-form under sound legal advice, on such principles and with such rules and regulations as would ensure their perfect freedom and safety; with still greater advantage might they abandon all attempts at merely anti-Orange organisations, and found a society with larger and better views—a society, the chief aim of which would be National Independence—that happy state of things in which Orangemen in its present monstrous shape would perish, to re-appear, perhaps, in a better shape, cleansed, and purified, and filled with a noble desire to earn the name of Patriotism.—Nation.

It is stated that in consequence of directions from Dublin Castle, any of the fifteen prisoners now in custody, who can procure bail, will be permitted to stand out on recognisances to take their trial at the assizes. The amount will probably be the same as in the case of Hughes—themselves in £100 each, and two sureties in £50 each.—Belfast News-Letter.

RIBBANDISM.—The *Tyrone Constitution* contains the subjoined statement:—"We are compelled to make public the fact, of the certainty of which we do not any longer entertain a doubt, that a Ribband lodge is at present fully organized in the village of Beragh, within five miles of this town. The stated meetings are held on the premises of a publican, and the members, chiefly servants and workmen, are just of that class which we would least desire to elect as the legislators and rulers of our social affairs. These circumstances have been for some time known to us, but we did not feel justified in making any statement concerning them until we had ascertained their accuracy.

The *Spectator* of Saturday states, *propos* of the Irish Secret Societies, 'since the first arrests, no fewer than five hundred young men have quitted Belfast, in consequence of having been more or less implicated in illegal proceedings.' Our contemporary has evidently been sadly hoaxed by a correspondent who wished to try the extent of the gullibility of Cockneydom.—*Northern Whig*.

When, some little time since, the good people of these countries were startled by the announcement that Ireland was 'proclaimed,' many condemned the step, while many believed that, perhaps, it had its justification in important evidence in the hands of the Government, the immediate publication of which reasons of State policy forbade. Nor was this latter feeling unnatural, seeing that the suspension of the regular action of the known constitutional laws is a proceeding of some gravity—requiring some consideration; it was, moreover, sedulously cultivated by the Tory organs who solemnly pointed to the inchoate enquiries in the south and at Belfast as likely to reveal something startling indeed. The whole executive body in Ireland were roused into alarming activity, from the plain constable who hoped for extra stripes, to the zealous paid magistrates who aspired to ease and a large retiring pension—all hoped great things from the ardour to be manifested in the detection of the conspirators against the peace of our Lady the Queen, her crown,

and dignity. Arrests on a large scale took place, for which untimely hours were selected, and youths with headless chains found themselves transformed into public characters from the pomp and array of force which attended their capture. The law, in fine as put in force under the presidency of our Tory Government in Ireland, assumed its sternest front and struck terror into many hearts. At length the enquiry takes place in the south; but then it must be secret—it will never do to noise abroad the wickedness and vastness of the great conspiracy—therefore gloomy jails are transformed into courts of justice, and there evidence is extracted from most worthy approvers. Secrecy is a great magnifying agent, and under its influence men at length came to believe that it must be something very fearful indeed which was thus withheld from the public eye. But as the ill-luck of our Irish Governors would have it, the evidence leaked out, and finally our able contemporary the *Cork Examiner*, gave it *verbatim et literatim*, for which the public owe it a debt. And such evidence! Well, our readers have read it, and formed their own opinion. We shift the scene. No longer able to point to the southern conspiracy as suggestive of any danger whatever, to justify the vice-regal proclamation, the Government and its organs trust hopefully to the result of the Belfast Inquiry into the alleged 'Secret Societies' there, between which, and that in the south, they alleged there existed a mysterious connection. The Government had had two strings to its bow, and only one of them is yet snapped! Again the inquiry is conducted within the jail precincts, the zealous stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Tracey, blandly intimating, in the benevolence of his heart, that it would be unfair to the prisoners to prejudice the public mind against them by the publication of their atrocious doings and designs. Was ever government official, with a keen eye to his own duty, and his future advancement, so merciful before in such a strait? The inquiry is at length consummated, and for its result—a result brought about in the absence of the public, and of any legal adviser for the accused—we point to the report in our columns, which the public have derived from the *Northern Whig*. The mountain in labour has at length brought forth the veriest mouse that ever was seen. First it is made manifest that the Belfast Society—whatever it is—is perfectly local and has no manner of connection with that spoken of in the south. It is, in fact, what we were aptly prepared to expect—one of those combinations which have always been found to spring up where Orangism is rife, and which will probably continue to exist with more or less vigour, in the north of Ireland, so long as it forms, as it now does, the bulwark of Orangism. But let us see what the evidence is. The arrests took place on the 12th of December, which certainly seemed suspicious to the authorities. It was Sunday, and under cover of its repose the hypocritical conspirators assembled in great force—to the number of about fifteen—at the tavern of a lady who rejoices in the name of *Emily McKay*. The police have notice of the meeting, and, confident in the perfection of their plan, the officers quietly wait until the plotters should be deep in debate and consultation. It is probable this great council will be found discussing some treasonable propositions of the President of the United States at least, or maybe of Louis Napoleon. They enter, but no papers are found. The prisoners are caught in the fact of discussing—whisky toddy. Oh! conclusion most lame and impotent; and now, after a month's delay, we have the whole body of evidence against the accused, evidence which in every particle of importance comes to us united with the breath of two approvers—each deposing to distinct statements of facts; evidence, too, which (so far as yet appears) is wholly uncorroborated by proof of any overt acts and uncorroborated by any concurring circumstances. It would seem that this body of most foolish young men have occasionally met to do nothing—a feat they have performed to admiration—for beyond the appointment of a secretary, and the arrangement of signs by which to recognise friends out of doors, there is no evidence of any organisation, end, or agency. In all these respects it is vastly inferior to its antitype the Orange Society, from which body it seems to borrow the very shadowy character it possesses. It is remarkable that no single external illegal act is charged against this Society—not even a trifling breach of the peace is laid at its door, and therefore we are bound in truth to say, low utterly disreputable and senseless, and however to be condemned the Society in question may be, it is perhaps the most innocuous of its class ever made public. It does not seem in the least to have intruded itself on public notice not given any external noticeable sign of its existence. Now and then, indeed, one may have had his ear greeted in the public way by public question and response, given by one passer-by to another, or have laughed at some grotesque pushings out of feet and fingering of noses going on between chance meeters; but the innocent man dwelt not on these things, they disturbed him not at all, and he may readily be excused for not recognising the poetry which marked the former, or for not considering the latter as an occurrence of that rare and marked character to call for special notice.—Weekly Register.

BOARD ROOM PROCEEDINGS.—FOUNDINGS.—The Poor Law system is a precious inheritance left to the Catholics of the Empire by the Reformation. If we had no other evidence of the spirit from which that so-called glorious change emanated, we would not need to pass the Poor Law Act and its operation.—The severance of the family tie, described by Mrs. Beecher Stowe, in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' is not more complete in the Slave than in the Protestant Poor Law system. Sagacious and humane men long opposed its introduction into Catholic Ireland, as unopposed to the social habits and religious feelings of the people. Every day's experience only tends to confirm the force of their misgivings; and we only need point to the discussions of the last two meetings of our Board of Guardians, and the cause from which they originated, as evidence of the religious evils of which the Poor Law is productive. In a Union like this, where ninety-nine per cent. of the population is Catholic, can there be a more glaring persecution of creed than, by a mere fiction of law, to insist that every such child deserted by its unhappy parents, must be brought up in the Protestant faith? We are not sufficiently skilled in the law on this head to give an opinion. All we can say is, if it be the law, of which we entertain very serious doubts, the sooner Poor Law Boards and the Catholics of Ireland seek a remedy the better. It was not the law till very lately, or it was, it was never sought to be put in force until now. There is no amount of resistance in the power of the Guardians that they ought not to exert to baffle such an iniquitous attempt on the part of proselytisers, who are perpetually fanning the flame of sectarian animosity in this neighborhood. A law more penal in its operation was never devised even by the ingenuity of our Saxon persecutors.—*Tuan Herald*.

The next meeting of the Kilkenny County Club will take place on next fair day. The tenant farmers will do well to rally round it, the only organisation which opposes the tyranny of landlordism, and strives for the rights of the people. If the tenantry of the country come forward manfully now, the success of their cause is certain. They should remember that Heaven helps those who help themselves.—*Kilkenny Journal*.

We rejoice to find that Carlow, like most other places in which quarter sessions are held, presents an exceedingly light calendar, only eleven criminal cases one of which only was of a grave character. We have also to report the peaceable state of the Queen's County; the grand jury of the Graigue Quarter Sessions presented the barrister with a pair of white kid gloves, thus showing the absence of any criminal cases. Ireland is almost uniformly in an anomalous position; or rather she is placed in one. The prisoners are gradually deprived of offenders, the poor-house of inmates, and everything, so far as appear-

ances go, bespeak happiness and tolerable contentment whilst it is at the same time under a species of espionage which renders the people uneasy and unfitted for their daily avocations.—*Carlow Post*.

We understand that a branch of the community of Jesuits from the parent house in Dublin, are about to be permanently located in Galway, and that they have already purchased and paid for St. Patrick's Chapel, all the arrangements for the site having been completed before the death of the Rev. Mr. Leonard. It is stated that they purpose opening a College here, after the plan of their establishment at Stonehurst, with a diocesan school.—*Galway Vindicator*.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY TO THE REV. PETER DALY, P. P.—A meeting of a few of the many friends of the Rev. Peter Daly, was held at Joseph Roche's Esq., the 6th of January, 1859, for the purpose of considering the fitting means of enabling the town of Galway and general public to evince the grateful appreciation universally felt of the untiring, disinterested, and successful exertions of the Reverend gentleman for the benefit of his native town, and of the country generally.—*Tuan Herald*.

PROFESSION OF RELIGIONS AT THE SIENNA CONVENT, DROGHEDA.—On the 13th inst the interesting ceremony of the profession of two nuns took place in the chapel of the Sienna Convent in this town. The ladies, whose happy lot is cast in a life of solitude, and whose, in their joyful reception we have to record, are Miss O'Hagan, sister to John O'Hagan, Esq., Barrister-at-law, and Miss Dunne of Dublin. After the first part of the ceremony had concluded the Rev. Mr. Murphy, O.P., of Dublin, ascended the altar, and delivered a beautiful sermon suitable to the occasion, at the conclusion of which the ceremony of profession was proceeded with. The Primate, Bishop Leahy, the clergy and the lady were entertained at a splendid *dejeuner* by the ladies of the convent, of which upwards of a hundred partook.—*Argus*.

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.—Our distinguished and honourable countryman William Smith O'Brien, will leave Ireland for America via Galway in a few weeks. His stay on the American Continent will probably last a few months, during which time it is his intention to visit every place of interest in the States. Thoroughly acquainted as Mr. O'Brien is with the countries of the Old World he will probably enjoy the more completely the grand and peculiar features of the New, and we confidently expect his trip will afford him much pleasure. His countrymen in the great Republic will no doubt be anxious to do honour to the noble and high-hearted patriot; we cannot at present say whether he wishes to travel in perfect privacy, but we can say, and it may be fit that we should say distinctly, that his visit has not the most remote connection with politics. This fact we have on the assurance of an authority which is beyond question, the authority of Mr. O'Brien himself. We wish our noble countryman, and the whole Irish people will wish him a prosperous voyage, a pleasant tour, and a safe return.

The Irish Bench has undergone several changes within the past week. Judge Craufurd has resigned his seat as Senior-judge Judge of the Queen's Bench and been succeeded by Mr. Hayes, the Derby Solicitor-General, Mr. George Q. C., succeeding that gentleman in the latter office. Baron Cusack, who, after a judicial reign of some forty years, has retired from his position of Senior Palace Baron in the Exchequer, Mr. Francis Fitzgerald, Q. C., the admitted and very able leader of the Chancery Bar in Ireland, stepping into his place.—*Weekly Register*.

AN IRISH MERCHANT PRIMER.—This will, with one exception, of Joseph Malcolms, son of Mayfield in the county of Waterford, who died on the 15th of April last has been proved in the Court of Probate, Dublin, by the oath of Robert Malcolms (a brother of the testator), one of the executors who swore the personal estate to be under the value of £200,000, and paid probate duty £750. The other executors named in the will are the testator's brothers, John and William Malcolms, whose rights to probate have been reserved. After a jointure of £5,000 a year, together with his furniture, plate, carriages, horses, wines, books, house linen, and other domestic effects to his wife, Charles Malcolms, the testator bequeathed the remainder of this vast property amongst his children in certain proportions.

DISSENTION IN PARISH.—The pressure on our space prevents us from giving this week the details of an attempt made by those hireling emissaries of mischief, to annoy the pious and indefatigable Father Lavelle of Parry. We can well understand how these self-appointed religious guides feel vexed and mad with rage, at the successful results of the good priest's labours in emptying the 'sinner's' schools established in that remote and mountainous region. In the frenzy of their folly or fanaticism, they have sought to make it appear, that Father Lavelle used means capable of disturbing the public peace of the neighborhood. The case came for trial in Ballinrobe on Monday last, when a large bench of magistrates attended. We are obliged to hold over the report of proceedings to next week. Meanwhile, Father Lavelle may rest satisfied that he has the entire sympathy of the Catholic public and even of all good and respectable Protestants who hate as cordially as Catholics do, the miscellaneous meetings of men, who, under the guise of fanaticism, are disturbing the good feeling that ought to prevail amongst all classes of the community. It appears that the well directed shafts of Father Lavelle have struck home.—*Herald Extraordinary*. We hope he will follow so zealous and manly course.—*Tuan Herald*.

The Irish landlords have taken care to impart to the world the lamentable fact that Ireland has lately seen one successful and one unsuccessful attempt to murder. In connection with this a contemporary points out that in England twenty-seven persons are now awaiting their trial for murder. We will not undertake to say how many years have passed since a murderer was executed in Dublin, nor how many such executions there have been each year in London.—*Weekly Register*.

We are gratified to learn that petitions are being numerously signed in several parts of this county in favor of the Ballot, in anticipation of the approaching Session of Parliament.—*Tuan Herald*.

The fifteen prisoners in custody in Belfast on the charge of being connected with an illegal society were discharged on security on Tuesday, to appear at the next assizes. Bail was given, themselves in £100 and two securities in £50 each.

A PAINFUL SCENE.—Tuesday last, a scene of peculiarly distressing character was witnessed by our reporter, and several other persons, at the gate of the Thurler's workhouse. Shortly after the board had adjourned, a donkey cart, driven by a little boy, arrived at the gate of the establishment. In the cart, seated on a piece of miserable bedding, and supported by a young girl, who used every endeavor to console her, sat an aged and wretched looking woman, rocking herself to and fro on the cart and rending the air with her cries. Her son, the only staff of her infirm age, had been obliged a few weeks before by an attack of fever, to leave his home and seek in the union hospital the necessary nourishment his poverty denied him. On Thursday morning he died, and his miserable mother and sister had travelled some miles to gain the sad consolation of looking at his wasted frame lying in the dead house of the union. Seeing the clerk of the establishment coming out, the old woman stretched her hands towards him, exclaiming, 'Mr. Fogarty, what will I do?—my life and soul is in him!' Neither mother nor daughter had tickets of admission, and the poor law regulations obliged them to sit at the gate in the sharp January air, until those important essentials were procured.—*Tipperary Examiner*.