

MR. BRIGHT ON THE SITUATION.

Monarchs and Statesmen the Immediate Cause of all Historical Crimes. — The Judgement of an Intelligent People. — The Fathers have eaten Sour Grapes, and the Children's Teeth are set on Edge. — Dragooning Ireland. — Disorder, Anarchy, and Disaster the Inevitable Consequence. — Wise Land Legislation.

In his recent speech before his constituents in Birmingham, on the occasion of the opening of the Junior Liberal Association's Club, the Right Hon. John Bright said:— I am of opinion that there is scarcely anything that can be more useful to a young man than to have himself occupy his time at some portion of the day, or of the week, with the consideration of public questions. (Cheers.)

THE VICTORY OF HISTORY. For my part I don't learn from history that everything has been wisely done that has been done by monarchs and by statesmen. On the contrary, almost all the greatest crimes of history have been committed, and all the greatest calamities in history have been brought upon mankind through the instrumentality of monarchs and statesmen. (Cheers.)

A NATION'S DEMAND. How, when a nation, or a considerable portion of a nation, or the population of several countries, can fairly, or do generally, make a statement of this kind, it appears to me to be one of those things which demand the earnest consideration and attention of statesmen and legislators. (Cheers.)

THE CURSE OF REALTY. No, but there was a system of law and of custom, custom created by law and based upon it, by which these great estates were handed down from father to eldest son, and from eldest son, when he became father, to his eldest son; these were systems of entail and settlement by which a man was only a life-owner of the property. He was not able to sell it; he had not the will himself to improve it.

THE IRISH PROPRIETARY AND THE TENANTRY. The proprietors of land in Ireland are few in number for a country so large, and those who hold estates, properties under which, or a part of which, they let—mean estates eighty or one hundred acres (over that, I suppose, there are not more than 12,000 or 14,000 owners in Ireland)—one-third of Ireland is possessed by 292 persons; one-half of Ireland is possessed by 744 persons.

RESULTS OF THE PRESENT RENT SYSTEM. Now, I do not believe that the rent all over Ireland is an excessive rent if the land were farmed with a full security by an instructed tenant, and with an adequate capital. (Cheers.)

English garrison in a conquered country. There was no attempt ever made to win over the conquered to contentment with their new political relations with England—no attempt whatsoever to make them feel that the English power, even though it was dominant, still that it was just, and equal, and merciful in the treatment of the Irish people. They were an uncivilized people in those days, and they were treated with a barbarity of which we feel ashamed when we know that our fathers were in some way connected with it; and we all regret— I trust every man in England, I hope the most obtuse and conservative, will now regret, that there ever existed in Ireland a code which we call the penal laws, by which a system of unmitigated and cruel persecution was practised upon the Catholic native population of that island. (Cheers.)

WAR AND ITS MILLIONS. We hear that the Afghan war certainly has cost twenty, and good authorities say before all the accounts are made up and everything is settled that it will cost thirty millions. (Cheers.) I will assume it is twenty millions. That is a large sum; a sum that trips glibly off the tongue, but of which none of us has the slightest idea how much it is if there be anything to be done in Afghanistan or in Zululand.

LANDLORDS MAKE NO SIGN. Now, then, what is the condition of these landed proprietors? They hear the demand of the tenants, and it seems to me time that they should put into some shape any propositions which they have for delivering themselves and their tenantry from the present unfortunate condition of things. (Cheers.)

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GLADSTONE'S LAND ACT. The Land Act passed by Mr. Gladstone's Government was a great measure for a great object. It did not go to the root of the evil. It exhorted to prevent eviction, but the penalty for eviction was not sufficient to prevent the sufferings which people have endured in that way.

CONTUMPTIOUS PEERS. The House of Lords did as the House of Commons generally does—it threw out the Bill, absolutely with contempt—contempt, I say, shown by the number who voted against it, and shown by the manner in which these peers, many of them men of great obscurity (laughter), rushed up from all parts of the country, crowded into the gilded palace at Westminster, there to give their vote against a measure which the Irish Government, which the Irish Secretary, which the Cabinet of the United Kingdom, believed to be necessary, and which, after all, was only a measure that would have suspended the eviction of these poor tenants, and the turning of them out homeless, for a year and a half after the time the bill should have passed. (Shame.) I recollect some years ago making an observation— I believe on this very platform—about the House of Lords. I said, in my opinion, a hereditary House of Legislation could not be a permanent institution in a free country.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE ADMINISTRATION. That if everyone would use Hop Bitters freely, there would be much less sickness and misery in the world; and people are fast finding this out, while families keep well at a trifling cost by its use. We advise all to try it. — U. Y. A. Rochester, N. Y. [From the "Miner" of the 23rd Nov., 1880.] LECTURE OF THE UNION CATHOLIQUE. The lecture given yesterday at the meeting of the Catholic Union by Mr. F. A. Quinn, was the introduction to a series of lectures upon one of the most important questions of the day, the cause of Ireland. Mr. Quinn reminded his hearers that though conquered and despite the loss of their native language, the Irish have ever kept the treasure of their nationality. We must see in this extraordinary preservation of their national spirit, a proof that Providence watches with particular care over the destinies of the Irish race and reserves for it a special mission, the same as that given to the French Canadian people, which is the propagation of the Catholic faith. The lecturer then sketched the various persecutions which England had inflicted upon unhappy Ireland. He showed that it was not the English people, nor individuals of that nation, who should be held responsible for the infamous measures taken against a nation whose only fault was its attachment to the faith, but that the responsibility fell upon the English Government, carried out by the great Whig and Tory families and their adherents, who alone profited by the repeated confiscations which were enacted against the people of Ireland.

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WIT AND HUMOR.

Nor long ago a Yorkshire woman gave birth to triplets. Her husband rushed at once to the river and jumped in to drown himself, but was rescued. He was not wrought upon by anxiety for the new comers—only fears for their own comfort, as his wife had fitter provided for his wants by taking in washing. Some men don't know what blessings are when they see—not one only—but three all at once. CHIEF-JUSTICE MANSFIELD, probably with a view to prolong his own days, was always anxious when old witnesses were in Court to know their customary bits of life. It so happened that two very old men by the name of Elm were one day the objects of his inquiry. "You are a very old man," said his Lordship to the elder brother, "I suppose you have lived a very temperate life?" "Never drank anything but water, my Lord," said Elm. "Nor you neither, I suppose," said the Judge, addressing himself to the younger brother. "When I could get nothing else, my Lord," was the reply. "I always took my glass with my friend." "Well, then," replied his Lordship, "let us see, my friend, how you will flourish yet or dry?" A MOST POWERFUL DRINKER.—Did you ever hear of Sir Andrew Wallace seizing a man that was drunk and putting him up at auction? I must tell you this story. Squire Wallace was a captain in the militia; and one day, after the training was over, and just before the man were dismissed from parade, he took a guard with him, and made a prisoner of Pat Sweeney, who was a powerful drinker—drank as much as a cat almost. "Pat," says he, "I seize you in the King's name." "Me," says Pat, scratching his head, and looking about bewildered like, "I'm not a smuggler! Touch me if you dare." "I seize you," says he, "for a violation of excise law, for carrying about you more than a gallon of rum without a permit, and to-morrow I shall sell you by auction to the highest bidder. You are a forfeited article, and I could knock you on the head and let it out, if I liked; so no nonsense, man." And he sent him off to jail, screaming and scratching like mad, he was so frightened. The next day Pat was put up for auction and knocked down to his wife, who bid for him 40s. It's generally considered the greatest rise ever taken out of man in this country. Cure that Cough! You can do it speedily, safely, and surely with Haysgard's Pectoral Balsam. Now is the season to guard against colds. If you would prevent Consumption, neglect not the most trifling symptoms. Haysgard's Pectoral Balsam will never fail you. It cures Croup, Asthma, Bronchitis, Whooping-Cough and all pulmonary complaints. Obtain it of your druggists. B.