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NOT SO CONFIDENT.

A great change has come over the Tory press since the suit of Mr. Parnell & the Crown was entered in the court at Edinburgh.

Mr. Parnell has kept his head cool to all appearance, but now it seems, under the sense of humiliation and resentment of the terrible years of 1881 and 1882, the honorable gentleman committed the fatal little indiscretion—first of writing the letters, and then of making deadly enemies of men who vowed they would never forget or forgive, whatever the consequence.

This decided view of the case was constantly taken also in the editorial columns of the same journal, which, in its issue of August 2nd, concluded a long by article with the words, "Innocent men do not plead in the jurisdiction of the court."

The terms of the Express become quite ingenuous after the passing of the Forgeries Bill, and the entry of Mr. Parnell's suit for libel, as will be seen from the following, taken from the same journal of 13th August:

"It may be that the member for Cork fancies that he will put a spoke in the Commission by his appeal on a part of the indictment laid against him to a Scottish court. If he is so, he will, we apprehend, be disappointed. Parliament, having put its hand in solemn manner to the business, cannot go back; and important to Mr. Parnell as it may be to prove the Times letters are forgeries, the country will hardly allow him to trifle with it and dictate his own terms."

The confidence that the letters will be proved authentic by overwhelming evidence, evaporated very suddenly. That which the Express calls now "part of the indictment," was, in the beginning, the whole indictment. It is the Government which changed its base by making the object of inquiry to be the conduct of every member of the National League, in fact of every Irishman, in Great Britain and America, leaving the accusations against Mr. Parnell altogether in the background. This change of tactics was certainly not adopted until they found their position in the matter entirely indefensible; but Mr. Parnell would have been very simple if, to use the words of the Express, he had allowed the hostile Government "to trifle with him and to dictate its own terms." He was powerless, in Parliament, to keep the Government to the real issue, for had they not a servile majority at their back? But the case which is brought up for adjudication in the Scotch Court is the issue to which public attention was called from the first, and as the Government shrank this, Mr. Parnell did wisely to bring this issue to the tribunal before the shuffling of the Government could bar him from it. The evident repugnance of the Times and its backers to this Scotch suit is easily understood by ordinarily intelligent observers. It arises from the fact that they feel that Mr. Parnell's case is now in the hands of a court which will deal with it on its own merits, and which will do justice without implicating the case by mixing with it the affairs of O'Donovan Rossa, or other outsiders with whom Mr. Parnell has no connection whatsoever.

A DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

A most desperate fight "for hearth and home" took place at Coolree, in the County of Wexford, on the 23rd ult. A tenant named Thomas Somers was to be evicted from the estate of Mr. Colclough, of Tintern Abbey. Mr. Colclough was represented by his middleman, Mr. Byrne, who was accompanied by a force of 200 police and a large body of Emergency men, bearing with them the battering-ram, which is now the principal engine of assault at Irish evictions. Efforts were made by the tenant to effect a settlement, but the middleman would listen to no terms. The tenant must go out. Several clergymen assisted in the endeavor to reach a settlement, but without success. Somers' house was fortified in really formidable style. A large breastwork had been erected twenty feet in height, trees were placed in the best positions, trenches were dug to aid in the work of defence, and other obstacles were placed in the way of the attacking party. When the battering-ram was brought into play, the besieged rendered it powerless by means of grappling-hooks, and after a long struggle the Emergency men gave up. Forty policemen were then ordered to charge, and fixed bayonets were used in the assault, but many of them were badly hurt and they were driven back covered with tar and mud.

At this crisis a number of clergymen, who witnessed the proceedings, together with Messrs. J. and W. Redmond, members of Parliament, and some other prominent men, advised the besieged party to give up the contest, and avert bloodshed. They yielded to this advice, and were handcuffed and sent to prison, hall being refused.

The defenders of the home were twelve in number, including some relatives and friends of the evicted tenant. These twelve men four times repulsed the attack of the police, armed as they were, at first with batons, and in the last attack with fixed bayonets.

The resistance now so frequently made to the evictions of course always ends in the triumph of might; but this good result from it that evictions cannot be carried on to the same extent when resistance is offered such as this at Coolree. If everything went smoothly for the evictors, it is frightful to contemplate the horrible consequences which would be the result of landlord tyranny; but as matters go, large as the police force is, one or two hundred policemen cannot be spared by the Government every day to every intending exterminator. Hence such resistance as was offered at Coolree, under the eviction-made-easy process of the law as it stands at present, gives so much time gained by the hundreds of neighbors who are to be evicted when their turn comes; whereas, if there were no resistance the evictions would take place with a rapidity which would depopulate the country in an incredibly short time. The twelve men who defended the home of Thomas Somers deserve honor for the heroic stand they made for the cause of tenant right in Ireland, especially as the siege which they withstood so bravely will assist in bringing the case of the tenantry in general more prominently before the eyes of the British public.

MR. DILLON'S PRISON TREATMENT.

In spite of the terrible fate of Mr. John Mandeville, the Government are treating Mr. Dillon still worse, so that during the short time he has been imprisoned he has already lost seven pounds in weight, and he is daily falling in health. In spite of Balfour's professions of innocence of intent to murder the leading Nationalists, every day is making it more plain that Mr. Blunt's statement of the conversation between him and Mr. Balfour is correct. It will be remembered that the Secretary specified Mr. Dillon in the alleged conversation, as one of the Nationalist leaders whom prison treatment would kill, but whom nevertheless he would imprison for a period sufficient to attain this purpose. He is now carrying out his proposed plan, having caused Mr. Dillon's arrest for no other reason than that he persists in asking redress of Ireland's grievances. Mr. Dillon is, certainly, after Mr. Parnell, the leader of the National cause, and Mr. Balfour, by following the barbarous policy indicated to Mr. Blunt seems desirous of weakening the cause by making him the next victim to his despotic measures. While Mr. Dillon remains incarcerated, there will be one vote less against the Government in Parliament, but if he be murdered by ill treatment, as Mr. Mandeville was, even Englishmen will be found ready to avenge his death by indignantly inflicting a well-merited punishment on the heads of the Government who cause it. Already in England indignation is freely expressed against Mr. Dillon's persecutors, while in Ireland the resentment against the intolerable tyranny knows no bounds.

It is not in accordance with the spirit of English law to detain even criminals in prison when it is found that their health is being impaired by their confinement. If they have been condemned to death, there is some reason in detaining them under such circumstances,

but those who have been sentenced to imprisonment, merely, are not to be killed by degrees. This was done in the case of Mr. Mandeville, and a precedent was perhaps thus established, but no such precedent can justify the continuance of like barbarity. The moment a temporary prisoner is found to be losing his health in prison, he should be released. He should not be detained, so that when the term of his imprisonment is ended, he may be sent forth to die. Mr. Balfour is responsible in this matter. He is literally the Prison Board. Every matter which concerns the treatment of a prisoner must be referred to him; and in the case of the Irish political prisoners, it has been proved that he interests himself more especially. It is therefore his duty to see that the law be not stretched against a prisoner to inflict death upon him, when he has not been sentenced to death. Mr. Dillon's release should therefore be made out at once, otherwise Mr. Balfour should be held responsible for any disastrous result which may arise out of his tyrannical detention in jail.

THE INQUEST ON DR. RIDLEY.

It is now certain that the jury which sat at the Coroner's inquest at Fermoy on Dr. Ridley's suicide was literally packed by the police so as to secure a verdict exonerating the Government, or at least so that there might be no verdict at all owing to disagreement. It is only a short time since the verdict was given in the case of John Mandeville. This verdict fixed the cause of his death on the prison officials who inflicted on him such punishment while he was ill as must and did terminate in his death. Mr. Balfour is the chief prison official. He is the chief of the Prison Board, and it was proved to demonstration that he directed the physicians as to the character of the reports they should give as to the fitness of the prisoners to endure punishment. The verdict of the jury, therefore, clearly inculcates him as the primary cause of Mr. Mandeville's death; and Mr. Blunt's revelations show that he was deliberately so. Indeed Mr. Balfour's own declaration in Parliament, that he is responsible for the treatment of the Irish political prisoners, would of itself suffice to convict him before the bar of public opinion, if there were no other evidence in the case; yet other evidence there is, sufficient for his condemnation, had he repudiated the responsibility with a thousand tongues. The justice of the verdict is, therefore, clear and evident. Yet, with all the love of law and order which Mr. Balfour and his Government profess, there is no move to bring to justice the men who stand before the public charged with the wilful murder of John Mandeville.

Mr. Balfour had the effrontery to say in Parliament that the verdict was not justified by the evidence! Yet only the other day at a picnic given by the Primrose League he declared his great admiration of the principles of trial by jury. It is to be supposed that his admiration is confined to trial by jury in England. For the application of this principle in Ireland he has no respect. In fact he has almost entirely abolished trial by jury in Ireland. There is no jury in the cases which come under the Coercion Act. Such cases are tried by magistrates who are removable at will; and of course such magistrates decide, not according to the evidence, but according to what will be most agreeable to the masters who exercise such power over them. We have, indeed, Baron Dowse's deliberate judgment that if there is one of these learned judges able to fulfil the most important part of his duty, he ought to be sent to the British Museum as a curiosity. Such is law and justice in Ireland.

But Coroners' juries still exist for some purpose; and as it is rather an awkward thing for the Chief Executive officer of the land to have a series of verdicts all finding him guilty; practically, of wilful murder, Mr. Balfour and his subordinates left no stone unturned, no means neglected, to secure a favorable verdict at the inquest on Dr. Ridley.

Fermoy is almost exclusively Catholic; so much so that a jury of thirteen men, selected in any way bordering on fair dealing, would be a certainty, be composed almost entirely of Catholics and these would be Nationalists too. All the people of respectability there are not only Nationalists, but members of the National League. Yet, with the powers possessed by Government, jury-packing is quite possible, and it was by this means that the Irish Executive expected to evade a reiteration of the verdict which was recorded by Mr. Mandeville's jury. Dublin Castle has an unlimited power of selection, and here was the composition of the jury it succeeded in getting, with the aid of the police: four jurors were Protestant Conservatives; two were Catholic Anti-Nationalists; two were Catholic Nationalists; and the other five were of political opinions "unknown." This, however, was known, that they were not members of the National League. This, of course, would indicate that they were Anti-Nationalists too, and as there were two Nationalists on the jury, it would appear that these were selected because

there were no more Anti-Nationalists to be fished out of the whole town.

With a jury so constituted the clever officials had certainly reason to expect that the verdict would not be adverse to them; for it is well-known that party feeling is now running very high. Yet, with all the packing, the verdict rendered was unanimous. It was as follows: "That Dr. James Ridley died on the 20th July, 1888, at Fermoy, from wounds inflicted by his own hand with a razor on the same day, whilst laboring under temporary insanity produced by the apprehension of disclosure at the Mitchelstown inquest, and that he was compelled to act in his official capacity in contravention of his own humane and considerate views. We beg to add our expressions of deep sympathy with Mrs. Ridley and Mrs. Mandeville in their affliction. We condemn the reckless and unfounded charges made by Dr. Barr against the medical men and poor Mr. Mandeville. We are of opinion that the charges made against Dr. Moorhead are absolutely unfounded, and that his reports and visits had a beneficial effect."

This verdict is as scathing a condemnation of the Irish Executive as that rendered at Mr. Mandeville's inquest, and from the complexion of the jury which rendered it, it is evident that it was drawn from them by the force of truth, not by prejudices against the Government; and be it remembered, this verdict was unanimous. The jurors would have preferred themselves if they had come to any other conclusion.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien stated in his speech at Barrow that there were three Nationalists on the jury. It makes no serious difference whether there were three, or two. At all events the supporters of the Government were in a large majority, secured by the shameful method of jury-packing which the law renders possible, only in Ireland.

Of course the Government will not prosecute, or allow to be prosecuted, the parties who have been found guilty, virtually, of wilful murder. They will shield the murderers, they will affect to despise the verdict of the coroner's jury. Mr. Balfour has already done this, just as he did after the police were found guilty of the Mitchelstown massacre twelve months ago, and just as the prison officials were inculcated by the Mitchelstown jury at Mr. Mandeville's inquest, but there the matter ended. But will the people of England endorse the Government's conduct? Up to the present time Irishmen could never get justice from any English Government, and the same is to be expected just now; though there is every reason to believe that the day has dawned when all this will be changed; and what has occurred in these cases ought to be a sufficient reason for fair-minded English men to join the followers of Mr. Gladstone in demanding justice, Home Rule and redress of grievances for the Sister Nation.

The Conservative press have bitterly attacked Mr. Gladstone within the last few days because he lately compared the treatment which Ireland has received from England, to the merciful manner in which Russia has governed Poland. A vase which was presented to the Grand Old Man by the Bureau Liberal Association represents Ireland dejected with bowed head, and Poland with mournful look and hair unbound. Mr. Gladstone said: "The artist very naturally sought to find a parallel in the whole breadth of Europe to the English treatment of Ireland, and in order to find such a parallel he had to travel all the way to St. Petersburg, from a free country, from a country in which I think there are no less than six million voters. He had to travel to a land where the absolute will of the Sovereign is the main spring of government. He did not find in Italy, he could not find in France, he could not find in Spain, he could not find in Germany or in Austria—none of those countries could he find a parallel to the case of Ireland. He had to go to Russia—aye, gentlemen, I must tell you this: I am not sure that he found a perfect parallel even there." "The sufferings of Poland," he explained, "are, as the Russian says, chiefly confined to the upper classes, and the bulk of the people are happy. Besides the Poles fought with the Russians, and fought desperately, and even threatened Russia herself with destruction. The Russians had this excuse; but that is not the case with England and Ireland. Ireland was never hostile to you. Ireland did not invade you. You invaded Ireland. Besides, Russia's oppression of Poland is a modern thing; but yours of Ireland is a story of seven hundred years."

The transactions of the past year alone, from the Mitchelstown massacre to John Mandeville's being done to death, are a sufficient justification for Mr. Gladstone's indignant yet mournful words.

A SLANDER REBUTTED.

Dorchester's "Christianity in the United States" has given currency to an old slander against the Catholic Church, by stating that the Most Reverend Archbishop Ryan advocated the persecution of heretics as Catholics will be numerous in the country to do this. Many American journals have circulated this slander in their columns, and a reporter of the Philadelphia Press called on the Archbishop to ascertain whether or not the quotation is correct,

and received the following reply, which is published in the Press:

"This is a greatly enlarged and newly-edited version of an old and often-exploited slander. Nearly forty years ago a newspaper was published at St. Louis by a Catholic gentleman, Mr. Bakewell, called the Shepherd of the Valley. Mr. Bakewell was until quite recently a judge of the Court of Appeals. This gentleman once wrote: "If Catholics ever attain, which they surely will, though at a distant day, the immense numerical majority in the United States, religious liberty, as at present understood, will be at an end—to say our enemies!" "By leaving out the words italicized the expression was published in anti-Catholic papers against Judge Bakewell. The misrepresentation was soon exposed. A short time after it was reproduced, as if spoken by Archbishop Kenrick, of St. Louis. Again it was exposed. Then it travelled to Australia and was attributed to me. I contradicted and exposed it again. It travelled to Ireland and was again shown up. It has now come back in Mr. Dorchester's book. The present statement is a distinct forgery, even the original quotation having been misrepresented and added to in an untrue manner."

Judge Bakewell was, forty years ago, an eminent Catholic jurist of St. Louis, and the publisher of a paper called The Shepherd of the Valley. By leaving out the clause "so say our enemies" the Know-Nothing made it appear that the Judge advocated the persecution of Protestants. It is a common thing with bigots to thus misrepresent the sayings of eminent Catholics, and when once the misrepresentation is made public, it is quoted over and over again by anti-Catholic orators and writers as if it were never refuted, but it is as he all the same. A similar false quotation, made in the article from "Mgr. Bouland's pea, which appeared lately in the Forum, had a similar history with this one attributed to Archbishop Ryan. Mgr. Bouland undoubtedly picked up from some lying polemicist's newspaper article a quotation which made Lafayette say that the only danger which threatened the welfare of the new and free nation which American independence established, would arise from the (Roman) Catholic clergy when they would attain power and influence. Lafayette said in reality that, if any danger of this kind was to be apprehended, it would not come from the Catholic clergy. Thus polemical bigots, to suit their purpose, make eminent authorities say quite the opposite of what they have really stated. It is a safe rule to suspect the authenticity of such quotations, as they are almost always spurious, as in both these cases.

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Commencing on Monday, 3rd, of September, the ladies of London were afforded the special privilege of partaking of the inestimable benefits to be derived from a week of recollection and special devotion. This happiness was afforded them by the good Religious of the Sacred Heart Academy, whose holy ambition, it is scarcely necessary to state, is to work energetically, at all times, for the greater honor and glory of our Divine Redeemer, by directing souls in the path that leads to eternal life and glory. The distinguished Jesuit, Father Denny, of New York, conducted the exercises, and about six hundred ladies, many of them from a distance, were each day in attendance. The holy sacrifice was offered up each morning at seven o'clock. At 9.30, a.m., 3.30 and 7.30 p.m. instructions were given by the reverend father. They were of working out the plan of salvation laid down by our Blessed Lord, and were delivered in the sweet persuasive and impressive manner which sits the heart to its innermost depths and brings forth resolutions, firm as they are sincere, in the minds of his auditors, to go forth and follow as near as our weak human nature will allow, in the footsteps of Him who died that we may live. The amount of good that has been accomplished in our midst by the mission just brought to a close it were indeed impossible to calculate. The gratitude of the ladies of London has indeed been well earned by the Religious of the distinguished order whose convent it is the proud boast of our people to have in our midst, and surely God will bless them abundantly for their noble endeavor in His behalf. For the first time the beautiful new chapel lately erected had been used. It is, in all its appointments, a perfect gem. This circumstance it may be added, served somewhat to contribute to the very great success which attended the spiritual retreat.

THE HOLY ROSARY.

The Holy Father has issued a decree, dated 5th August, Feast of our Lady of the Snow, 1888, in which he urges anew the sacred duty of all Catholics to have recourse to Mary the Mother of God for the purpose of obtaining through her intercession those graces and favors of heaven of which we stand in need personally, as well as those which are required for the peace of the Church and for furthering the propagation of the Gospel.

The Holy Rosary is a form of prayer admirably adapted for the obtaining of the Blessed Virgin's powerful intercession with God. Hence His Holiness particu-

larly insists on the importance of practicing this devotion. In his first Encyclical on the Rosary he points out the object with which the illustrious St. Dominic instituted this devotion. There cannot be conceived a more sure method of applying a remedy to the evils of this age, than "meditation on the mysteries of that salvation which Jesus Christ won for us, and recourse to that Virgin to whom is given power over all heresies as man's intercessor to God."

Want of faith is the great and crying evil of the nineteenth century, which has been called the age of skepticism. It is this evil which has armed so great a portion of mankind to wage war against God, and God's Church on earth. It is because Faith has grown weak among men that princes and potentates have ignored God in their legislation, and have maintained, both in theory and practice, the monstrous doctrine that God does not control, and has no right to control, the political issues of the day. As a consequence of this, all thought of submitting to the laws of God and morality has been set aside, and rulers, for the most part, imagine that, not being subject to moral law, they have only to seek their own aggrandizement; or that of their State. Thus, even the sacred patriarchy of St. Peter did not escape the cupidity of a robber king, and Victor Emmanuel, even on his death bed, appeared to think that he was not amenable to the law of God for his rapacious political course.

The Holy Father, with a wisdom imparted from on high, from Him who is the Giver of all that is good and perfect, points out the remedy for this want of faith. The remedy is prayer, fervent and persevering, and among the forms of prayer which are acceptable to God, none is more efficacious than the Rosary, as is evident from its nature. The Rosary consists of an earnest prayer to God, and, notwithstanding the supercilious contempt with which prayer is regarded by open and disguised infidels, there is still faith on earth, among Catholics, at least, in the efficacy of prayer. The petitions of the Rosary are accompanied by meditations on the fifteen principal events in the life of our Saviour, which have relation to the work of man's Redemption, such as the Annunciation by the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin, that of her Saviour of mankind should be born, the birth of our Lord, His sufferings and death, His triumphant and glorious Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, with other mysteries intimately connected with our Saviour. The number of these mysteries is fifteen. The first five are called Joyful mysteries, which relate to the early part of our Lord's life on earth. The next five are the Sorrowful mysteries, because they relate to His sufferings and death, the last five, relating to our Lord's triumph over death and sin, beginning with His Resurrection from the dead, are called "Glorious mysteries." Meditation on these subjects is calculated to augment our love for God, and God's love for us, and prayer offered under such circumstances must be very efficacious.

Hence the Pope expresses his firm conviction, that the admirable faith and filial affection which all nations manifested on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of the Holy Father, was the result of the Blessed Virgin's patronage, specially extended to the Christian world in response to the millions of Rosary prayers which have been recited fervently through the Christian world during the last few years. It has been the special care of Leo XIII. to cultivate and recommend the devotion of the Rosary, and the Catholic world has responded to his earnest recommendations with one accord. Thus has an acceptable act of expiation been offered to God for the want of faith which is the great evil of the day. "All classes from the uttermost parts of the earth have hastened to do honor in every kind of way to the High Priest, his successor of St. Peter; by embassies, by letters, by long and arduous pilgrimages, and by an immense number of splendid presents, of which it has been truly said that they have surpassed the ideals of their donors."

The prayers, also, which are recited in the Rosary, are those which, of all the prayers of the Church, are of the greatest efficacy. The Lord's prayer, taught us by Christ Himself, must be regarded as the best of prayers. The Hail Mary, especially commended to us for the purpose of fixing our minds on the contemplation of the Incarnation of Jesus, has always been regarded as second in excellence only to the Lord's prayer. The first part of the Hail Mary was inspired by God and repeated by the Angel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth. The concluding portion of this prayer was made by the Church, especially to obtain the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Her intercession is undoubtedly powerful beyond that of any other saint in heaven or on earth; and we are assured that the continual prayer of the just availeth much with God. The other prayers which help to form the Rosary are also of special excellence, the Apostle's Creed, and the Doxology.

The practice of the Catholic world in reciting the Rosary shows that the recommendations of the Holy Father are universally appreciated, and as we are told that where even two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ, He is Himself in their midst, we have every reason for confidence that the Rosary, recited with special fervor during the month of October, by hundreds of millions of Catholics, will be irresistible, according to the throne of grace and mercy. A special mass has been composed by direction of Our Holy Father for the first Sunday of October, the Solemnity of the Rosary, which will be recited for the first time on the occasion which is now approaching. There can be no doubt that special fervor will characterize the celebration of the feast this year, and great graces may be looked for as the result.

EVICTIION STATISTICS.

The official list gives the following as the number of evictions which took place during the quarter ending 10th June. It is a fearful commentary on the nature of the prosperity which Ireland enjoys under the benign influence of British rule, and it will be remarked that "happy and loyal Ulster" does not come at the tail end of the list—the Province in which as Mr. Russell takes pride that there "are no arrears in his constituency."

"Ulster, 1,236; Connaught, 1,040; Munster, 654; Leinster, 450."

The very "loyal and prosperous" County of Monaghan had the highest total, 368. Donegal is second with 174, Cavan third with 160. Tyrone had 122. Yet Ulster, strange to say, is the one Province of Ireland which gives any countenance to the eviction supporting Government, the one Province whose sentiments are any way doubtful as to the maintenance of National rights; for though there is from Ulster a majority of one in Parliament for the National cause, such a majority is too precarious for us to regard it as a decisive expression of the sentiments of the Province. Ulster lets the South bear the hard blows which are dealt out to those who are directing the battle which is to win for her suffering people their rights as human beings.

Since the 30th of June the daily average of evictions has increased. The law gives every facility for making eviction an easy process. It is only the stubborn resistance of many tenants which prevents the average number from increasing still more rapidly.

THE LAST STATE PRIEST.

The last of the State priests in Germany is Ignaz Talaczynski, in the diocese of Breslau. The State priests were those of the clergy who, at the time when the State made war upon the Church, took pay from the Government, and renouncing their obedience to the Church, sided with the State. Ignaz Talaczynski has been a State priest for eleven years, but the people refused to have anything to do with him, built a small church of their own, and obtained a faithful priest to administer to their spiritual wants, while some walked six or seven miles to the neighboring parish, when they could not find room in their own temporary church. Now the Governor of Silesia has been directed to bring about the removal of the State priest, who wants £300 annually, and a bonus of £900 to withdraw. It is expected, however, that he will be obliged to withdraw, and this will end the evil of State priests in Germany, as Talaczynski is the last of the breed.

BACKRENTING IN IRELAND AND AMERICA.

The favorite contention of the Tory party in Great Britain is that Irish landlords have vested rights and proprietorship which should not be interfered with, because such interference would lay a foundation for anarchy and communism. Hence they maintained that there should be no legislation which would deprive the landlord of his absolute title to the land in Ireland. This has been constantly the theme of all opponents of Irish tenant right, and it is still regarded by some as a conclusive argument. Lord Palmerston gave utterance to the terse expression which contains this argument in a nutshell: "Tenant right is landlord wrong." In reply to this it may be properly answered: "In the first place, it is not proposed by the Nationalist party to deprive the Irish landlords of all rights in their lands." But it is right to maintain that the law of nature, which is above all human law, gives the first right, the right to live, and to derive sustenance from the soil, to the population of the country. The Government of every country not only has the power and the right to modify the land laws so as to secure to the people a means of living, but it is under the obligation of so doing. This is recognized in all countries of the world, and has been acted upon everywhere, except in Ireland. Landlord rights are everywhere subordinate to this first principle of natural law; and if a Government fails to recognize this principle, and to act upon it, it falls in its first duty to the public. Here, then, is a point in which every English Government hitherto, which