

The True Witness

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SWEEPING COERCION.

ANOTHER STEP TO SUPPRESS THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

The Irish Anti-Rent Campaign Declared Illegal—Trial by Jury Likely to be Suspended—Cent Nationalist Demonstration in Kilkenny—Parnell on the Situation.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—The Executive has formally proclaimed the anti-rent campaign. This is accepted by the leaders of the National League as a step on the Government's part to ward off the suppression of the league. The funds of the league have already been transferred to France in order to prevent their seizure by the authorities, and the rent money deposited with trustees will also be secured. The proclamation warns all persons that inciting tenants to refuse to pay or to withhold rent is an illegal act, and that the anti-rent movement, by whatever means carried out, is a criminal conspiracy. In addition it says that all moneys, receipts or documents given or received for the purpose of such conspiracy are liable to seizure, and that persons in whose possession the same are found shall be arrested. This sweeping measure is the production of Lord Ashbourne, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and assent to its promulgation was obtained at yesterday's Cabinet council. It is hoped that the English and Irish Home Rulers will now rest until the meeting of Parliament, when early action can be taken in opposition to evictions, and to restrain the Government's coercive activity. In the meantime, however, the Unionist papers clamor for the immediate suppression of the National League, and even demand that trial by jury be suspended in Ireland if juries refuse to convict the advocates of the anti-rent movement.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES.

DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—The *Gazette* proclamation in reference to the anti-rent campaign has been posted throughout the city of Dublin, and parcels of the same have been sent to the provinces for distribution. The proprietors of *United Ireland* have had their books, papers, &c., removed to a place of safety, in view of the possible seizure of the paper by the Government. If suppressed, the publication will be continued just as when the *Land League* was suppressed.

WHAT THE LEADERS SAY ABOUT IT.

Mr. Tanner, M.P., speaking at Coachfield, Cork, to-day proposed the downfall of the Government within three months. Mr. Hooper, M.P., declared that tenants were capable of offering an honest combination with or without the plan of campaign. There were no arrests at the meeting. Messrs. Deasy, H. W. H. and Sheehan, M.P.'s, spoke at Kilkenny to-day, denouncing the action of the Government. Mr. Harrington condemned the use of priests from the meeting. Mr. O'Brien was unable to attend any meetings to-day. Mr. McLane, presiding at an anti-rent campaign meeting at Knockmanna to-day, said if all the Nationalist leaders were arrested Catholic priests would take their places and continue the campaign.

PARNELL AND THE "PLAN."

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Mr. Parnell, who has just arrived in London, said to-day that he was slowly but firmly recovering from his recent gastric attack. His doctor will permit him to resume his Parliamentary duties on the opening of the session if he promises to be careful. Mr. Parnell does not intend at present to express an opinion on the "plan of campaign," wishing first to go to Ireland to consult with the promoters of the plan, whom he has not seen since the end of the last session of Parliament. He also desired to obtain fuller knowledge in regard to various matters before he speaks on the subject. He declares that he was not aware that the "plan of campaign" had been devised or even proposed until it had been published. Mr. Parnell will go to Ireland shortly.

MORE PARNELLITES ARRESTED.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—William O'Brien, who is in Dublin, received a summons similar to one served on him at Loughrea, to appear here and answer to another charge of "conspiracy to defraud." Similar summonses were served upon John Dillon, William Redmond, Daniel Crilly, David Sheehy and Matthew Harris, all Parnellite members of Parliament. The summonses are returnable on Wednesday, on which day Mr. O'Brien is required to appear at the Dublin police court. The alleged conspiracy to defraud consists in accepting as trustees for tenants reduced rents refused by the landlords. The summons upon Mr. Crilly was served at Ballyhanis, where he was visiting. The new summonses served on Messrs. Dillon, O'Brien, Harris and Sheehy are to secure the Government against any information that may have occurred at Loughrea.

O'BRIEN ON THE PROSECUTIONS.

DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—Mr. O'Brien, presiding at a National League meeting held at Longford, to-day, denounced the Government in violent terms for conspiring with Judge O'Brien to usurp the functions of the jury and manufacture a verdict by illegal means. The pretence of bringing Mr. Dillon and himself to trial, he said, was a sham. The Government never hoped to bring them to trial, but did hope that before a verdict could be obtained from a jury they would succeed in suppressing the anti-rent movement by proclamations and arbitrary conduct. He warned them that they would have to adopt a still more drastic measure than the present "plan of campaign" to stay the arms of evicting landlords. The Irish would not die in ditches. The promoters of the plan would have to exercise their ingenuity and circumstances in order to outwit the Castle officials.

THE GOVERNMENT DEFIED.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—At a demonstration last night in Kilkenny in favor of the "plan of campaign," Jeremiah Jordan, Parnellite, M.P., for West-Clare, and Joseph K. Cox, Parnellite, M.P., for East-Clare, both defied

the Government to do its worst by arrests and coercion against the plan. The gentlemen openly declared that the "plan of campaign" would be relentlessly enforced against the Vandeleur estate in County Clare upon which the rents are due to-day. "We will bring Vandeleur to his senses to-morrow," Mr. Kenny, M.P., said the Vandeleurs had been murderers since 1846. Mr. Cox, in his speech, said that the Irish members of Parliament now relied upon the people, who, UNITED IN ONE SOLID BAND

FROM THE GOLDEN GATE OF SAN FRANCISCO TO THE SEABOARD OF NEW YORK, FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS OF AUSTRALIA TO THE MOST NORTHERN PART OF CANADA, WERE RESOLVED TO ABOLISH LANDLORDS AND TO GAIN HOME RULE. THIS AZIATION, HE CLAIMED, WOULD CRASH COERCION. WITH THEIR POWERFUL ORGANIZATION THE IRISH PARTY SAW THE FREEDOM OF IRELAND BEFORE THEM IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. MR. JORDAN DECLARED THAT HE HAD FORMERLY BEEN PAID BY REMITTANCES FROM AMERICA. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE RESOLVED THAT NO MORE OF THEIR MONEY SHOULD GO INTO THE POCKETS OF IRISH LANDLORDS. HE EXHORTED THE PEOPLE TO BE FIRM AND URGED THEM TO ONLY PAY RENTS BASED ON THE YIELD OF THEIR HOLDING. MR. COX HAD A PRIVATE CONFERENCE TO-DAY WITH THE TENANTS ON THE VANDELEUR ESTATE AND ARRANGED A METHOD TO LODGE THE RENTS IN THE HANDS OF A PRIVATE TRUSTEE, WHICH THE TENANTS ARE NOW DOING.

THEY PAID THEIR RENTS—TO THE TRUSTEES.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—During the past two days every penny of the rent owing by tenants to the Fossbury estate at Lowell, minus the amount of the reduction demanded by the tenants and refused by the landlord, has been collected under the "plan of campaign" and quietly deposited with trustees unknown to the authorities.

AN APPEAL TO KILDARE.

DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—A meeting is to be held at Kilkenny to protest against Vandeleur's evictions. The call for the meeting is printed on handbills, and concludes as follows:—

People of Kildare!!! At the most important crisis in our country's history you are invited to become soldiers of Ireland under the banners of the National League.

HE ONLY DEFENDS HIS HOME.

CORK, Dec. 18.—Tom Harley, the tenant who, on October 20th last, with a band of neighbors successfully defended his hut at Clankilly from a force of constables and police who attempted to evict him, and who, with his friends, was subsequently arrested while on their way to the tavern to celebrate the victory, was to-day acquitted and set at liberty at the Munster assizes.

A PATHETIC BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—The New Ross Board of Guardians, which was recently dissolved for placing a wing of the poor house at the National League's disposal and for giving special privileges to evicted tenants, has held a meeting in defiance of the Government and resolved that no rate be paid to a new board of guardians and that the treasurer be ordered not to pay cheques.

THE RENTS REDUCED.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The yearly report of the Irish Land Commission shows that the commission has granted an average reduction in the price of land of 24 per cent. In Connaught the reduction amounted to 28 per cent.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—Joseph Richard Cox, Jeremiah Jordan and Joseph Edward Kenny, Parnellite members for East and West-Clare and South-Cork respectively, succeeded yesterday in hoodwinking the police and in collecting and escaping with all the rents due from tenants on the Vandeleur estate in County Clare. They went to Kilkenny on Friday. It was known to the police that they went there to act as trustees under the "plan of campaign," to collect from the tenants of the Vandeleur estate the reduced rents refused by the proprietors. The authorities, however, could not ascertain the nature of the arrangement to be carried out between the tenants and the trustees, and were led to believe that the tenants were to assemble at Kilkenny on Sunday and hand in the rents. Police accordingly were kept on the alert, and were instructed to watch for the arrival of the tenants and to arrest the trustees and secure the money when it had all been handed in. The trustees, after having put the police on their track, appointed three places of rendezvous in the town of Kilkenny and managed to have all rebellious tenants instructed to go to proper places. On Sunday it snowed very hard in Kilkenny. The trustees left their hotel separately, collected each to his appointed rendezvous, collected the rents, returned unobserved by the police, closed up their business without attracting any suspicion on the part of the authorities, who continued to watch for the assembling of the tenants at Kilkenny and finally concluded that either the rigor of the police arrangements or the severity of the storm had prevented the plan from being carried out. As a result the trustees were enabled to get away unmolested with all the rents and some of the county Clare authorities are yet in doubt as to whether the Vandeleur rents, were certainly collected yesterday or whether this statement that they were not part of a stratagem to throw the police off their guard against a postponed collection.

FATHER FAHY RELEASED.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—Father Fahy, who early in September was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for refusing to give bail for good behavior, was to-day released unconditionally from the Galway jail. Father Fahy interceded with a land agent named Lewis for a number of tenants, who were threatened with eviction, and Lewis accused him of having threatened his life. The magistrates ordered Father Fahy to give bail for his good behavior or go to jail. He refused to furnish bail for the reason that it would be regarded as an admission that the charge against him was true. He was accordingly imprisoned. The priest met with an ovation on his release.

The city of Galway will be illuminated to-night in his honor.

REDMOND ALSO ARRESTED.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—Mr. Wm. Redmond, Parnellite, M.P. for North-Fermanagh, was to-day served with a summons to answer a charge of conspiracy for serving as trustee of rents under the "plan of campaign."

PARNELL SERIOUSLY ILL.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—Mr. Parnell is at Euston Station hotel. He is ill and confined to his room. He is unable to receive visitors, and is obliged to avoid the transaction of business, and is even prohibited by his physicians from taking any part in political discussion.

ABANDONED BY THE CROWN.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—The proceedings against David Sheehy, Parnellite M.P. for South Galway, for accepting rents as a trustee under the plan of campaign at Templemore, county Tipperary, have been abandoned.

PRECAUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—The lessees are taking precautions to prevent another coup like that at Loughrea. In some instances they are appointing fresh trustees.

UNABLE TO AGREE.

CORK, Dec. 20.—In the hearing of Inspector Milling's summons against Messrs. Tanner and O'Connor to-day the magistrates were unable to reach an agreement. Lessees claim that trustees are still collecting rents of tenants and evicting the police.

GLADSTONE AND IRELAND.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Mr. Gladstone, in a letter to Prof. James Stuart, M.P., says he thinks the Home Rule measures are conservative in the true sense of the term. He adds that if... help in some measure to settle the affairs of Ireland he will confer upon Great Britain a service greater than any he has as yet wrought.

WHAT THE NATIONALISTS CHARGE.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—Mr. Healey will represent Messrs. Dillon, Redmond, Crilly and Harris at their trial here on Thursday next, when they will be called upon to answer to the charge of conspiracy in receiving tenants' rents, reduced rents which had been refused by landlords Mr. P. A. Chance, Nationalist member of Parliament for South Kilkenny, writing to a prominent Nationalist concerning the arrests and seizures at Loughrea, charges the executive with conspiracy, false imprisonment, assault and battery, trespass, trover and robbery.

PRESENTATION.

Last week at Owen Sound, in the parish church, Father F. X. Grantier was presented by his parishioners with an address on the occasion of his departure from that town, in which he has long ministered. The address, among other touching sentences, said:—

The esteem, respect and love you flock at Owen Sound hold toward you we cannot express in words; our grief overcomes us. For nearly a quarter of a century you have labored amongst us, having come here when the place was almost a wilderness; having undergone every privation and hardship that can befall a zealous priest in promoting the work of God and seeing to the wants and welfare of his children; and the churches you have built, the schools you have founded, and the rest of the good works you have done in this Mission, will always remain lasting monuments of your zeal, energy and piety. The Decease of Providence being what it is, we feel assured that your removal is for the best, and that it will be for your own advancement and good. Wherever it may be the Divine will to send you, dear Father, we wish you God-speed; and be assured the prayers and good wishes of your children will be always with you; and that health and happiness may attend you in whatever part of the globe you may be, in reply to one of the many wishes we extend towards you.

SENT ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OWEN SOUND.

M. FORHAN, ROBT. HATTON, M. SCULLY, A. GUFFIN, GEO. SPENCER, WM. MCLARTY, A. F. J. SPENCER.

A purse accompanied the address. The Rev. Father was surprised, and returned thanks in a feeling manner.

CHOIR CONCERT, GRAFTON.

The concert under the auspices of St. Mary's Choir, given on Thursday evening, 9th inst., was a success in every particular. The hall was well filled with an appreciative audience, who expressed their appreciation by the many encores called for. Dr. Coughlin, by his rendering of the songs "Newfoundland Dog" and "Postillions," shows that he is a trained voice. Prof. McNaughton's club swinging held the audience in rapt silence. Too much cannot be said for Miss Begley, the accomplished organist, in her endeavors to make the concert a success, and in her painstaking with the children and young people, who did their part so admirably. The recitations of Miss Minnie Begley, and singing of Miss Lizzie McCabe, made a very favorable impression on the audience. Father Larkin contributed no small share to the success of the evening by his fine rendering of some fine violin solos. We are pleased to learn that the affair was such a success, and, by the way, we believe it is the intention of the choir to arrange for another concert some time next month. Good luck attend it.

It was his first dinner at which he found a programme printed in French, and, after examining the bill of fare intently, and pointing to the word "menu" at the top, said, "Fetch me a dish of that for a starter."

MEN OF MARK.

Herod and John.

The following is a summary of the lecture delivered by the Rev. Bernard Vaughan, S.J., on these two characters:—

The text was taken from the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, and related the story of the murder of John the Baptist by Antipas Herod, the Tetrarch of Galilee, at the request of Herodias' daughter. After some beautiful and important remarks of the city of Tiberias, on the lake of Gennesareth in Palestine, the Rev. preacher proceeded to explain how at that time Herod had been living for some years in a magnificent palace of his own construction in that city, with the wife of his half-brother, Philip, his adultery being made more outrageous before God and scandalous to the people by a pretended marriage, which gave to the partner of his sin the position of queen. While this miserable unprincipled princeling was living in the midst of the splendid luxuries of his court, and satisfying his passions in a most cruelly unjust fashion—having robbed his own half-brother of the affections of his lawfully-wedded wife and turned them to himself—John the Baptist, clothed in a camel's skin, and with a leathern girdle about his loins, was living in the desert about the Jordan, preaching those conservative truths—the necessity of penance, and the near approach of the Kingdom of God. These were the two things most wanting to men's minds, then as now, for without them no real amendment of life can take place. To be pleasing to God we must first of all recognize that we were sinners; and must be penetrated with the thought of nearness to that day when we should have to give a most minute and exact account of the whole story of our life to the coming King. To the just and holy man, who called himself "The voice of one crying in the desert," men and women and even children went forth from cities, towns, and villages, and God gave efficacy to the word of the austere ascetic, who found a ready echo in the hearts of his hearers, so that they confessed their sins with a deep contrition, and from his hands received baptism as a mark of their public profession of penance and faith in his mission.

"Then," said St. Luke, "these went forth to him all the country of Judæa and all the people of Jerusalem, and all their region about the Jordan, confessing their sins." It must have been a strange and most wonderful sight to have seen this just and holy man who described himself as the friend of the Bridegroom and Our Lord, "Who take away the sins of the world," standing up in the midst of this motley throng and lifting up his voice in language so clear and strong that it thrilled them through and through. "Ye brood of vipers, who hate to be born, ye to flee from the wrath to come! Bring forth fruit worthy of penance. How great and simple, manly and straight was the teaching of this just and holy Baptist. He did not wait to reflect how he might please his hearers, but how he should please his God. He knew what lessons he had to drive home into their hearts and, regardless of what the consequences might be, he entered them with all the power of the rugged eloquence which his so well known how to command. God was with him, and God was preparing the hearts of his people, so that the word of the Baptist fell upon good soil which produced a rich harvest of souls. The fame of the Baptist soon reached the ears of Herod, and the Tetrarch invited him to his palace. What did they suppose could have been his motive in asking a man so wholly opposed to him in life and manner to come to the Golden House. No doubt Herod thought it good policy to send the Baptist to the palace. The Baptist was a man in favor with the people, and the Tetrarch felt that by letting it be known that he thought well of the Baptist he might win popular applause, and pass for a liberal-minded man. Besides, no doubt, he hoped by patronizing this bold and fearless preacher he might, if not win his friendship, at any rate purchase his silence, and that he felt sure that were the Baptist to arouse the popular feeling against him, the people, already disgusted with his criminal state of life, might rise up in rebellion against him, and drive him from the land. The Baptist did accept the invitation to eat; he was glad to have the opportunity to tell the Tetrarch to his face what he thought about him. The Baptist was not the sort of man to have one set of principles for the desert and another for the court; what he had told the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the publicans and the soldiers so plainly in the desert, he would have no opportunity of putting to Herod in his own house. And accordingly, as soon as he came across the Tetrarch he drew him aside, and in language that could not be misunderstood he said to him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." Observe the studied gentleness and yet the rigid firmness of the admonition. Following his own advice to the publicans, to do nothing more than what he felt sure that were the Baptist to arouse the popular feeling against him, the people, already disgusted with his criminal state of life, might rise up in rebellion against him, and drive him from the land. The Baptist did accept the invitation to eat; he was glad to have the opportunity to tell the Tetrarch to his face what he thought about him. The Baptist was not the sort of man to have one set of principles for the desert and another for the court; what he had told the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the publicans and the soldiers so plainly in the desert, he would have no opportunity of putting to Herod in his own house. And accordingly, as soon as he came across the Tetrarch he drew him aside, and in language that could not be misunderstood he said to him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." 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