

A SCIENTIST'S VIEW OF IRISH EMIGRATION.

PROFESSOR BALDWIN, a distinguished scientist and an English Government official, who has been studying the Irish question, writes as follows:—

"In the present state of Irish affairs no true statesman should countenance any gentleman, or committee of gentlemen, who would rob the country of its life's blood, and send to the wilds of Canada or the prairies of the United States men and women who ought to be employed in producing wealth in the land of their birth, and who would bequeath to Ireland drones and the descendants of drones. Let there be no parleying with visionary and inexperienced men, who, perhaps without knowing what they are doing, would lower us as a people for all practical purposes.

"The utter failure of these apostles of social reform is clearly evidenced by the fact that emigration, even though encouraged and aided by them, has not been most brisk, where, according to them, it is most needed. In the ten years ended March 31, 1881, the percentage of the population who emigrated from Mayo was a fraction less than from Down. [The figures—Mayo, 10.6 per 1000 of the population; Down, 10.9; Tipperary, 18.5; Limerick, 19.0; Longford, 20.4.]

"There is another species of emigration which has been attempted of late, namely emigration in families. Mr. Tuke is the apostle of the school which is working out this system.

"I have recently read Mr. Tuke's report of 'A Visit to Connaught in the Autumn of 1847,' and extracts from reports he made in 1846, and afterwards published in the 'Transactions of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends.' I do not find in these reports any indication of the policy of family emigration. It will, I believe, be found that I was the first to give shape to this species of emigration as a means of permanently relieving congestion. With additional knowledge and experience I now repeat that emigration in families, with rigid rules for the consolidation of vacated holdings, is the only species of emigration which can relieve congestion. But it never occurred to me that any humane gentleman, or committee of gentlemen, would undertake the awful responsibility of transplanting entire families to Canada or the United States without making adequate provisions for settling these families in new homes on the other side of the Atlantic. Before those gentlemen proceed any further I implore them to consider carefully and seriously the responsibilities of their position. They thoroughly believe they are doing a great service to the State. According to my experience, they are, unintentionally, the most active abettors of disloyalty who have of late taken part in Irish affairs."

PROTECT OUR BOYS.

(From the *Free Press*.)

THE Hartford boy of 12, who stole 2,000 dollars out of his father's pockets, and filled the house with the most absurd purchases without exciting his parents' suspicions, was a comedian in the precocious boy line compared with a tragedian of that kind and age on the Hudson River, who has been noted for his addiction to dime novels. He read at the rate of fifteen five-cent ones in less than one month. His whole frame would be in a tremor of excitement and his eyes would glisten while holding one of the Jesse James series in his hand.

He made the acquaintance of two cousins, both named Charles Crosby, whom he infected with this terrible nonsense. He murdered his employer in cold blood, and in accordance with deliberate plans, borrowed the clothes and took the name of the Crosby boys, and so evaded the officers for some time. He had long boasted that "you could bet your life" he would have a nobby suit of clothes, a gold watch and chain, and considerable "chink."

This evil is as of quite as much importance as many which receive far more attention. Scarcely a day passes in which the police do not report the arrest or discovery of youthful criminals, whose criminality has been born of this vicious literature, which in illustrated papers, dime novels, and Jesse James dramas is quite as worthy of being stamped out as the pleuro-pneumonia, or of being proscribed as diseased pork. Those whom it does not make criminals, it often converts into vagabonds or dreamers, who imagine that a living got by fraud or violence is easier and more delightful than that wrought out by industry and honesty. In summing up the faults of the Southern brethren, it might be well to remember that in their treatment of this evil they have shown more alacrity and earnestness than the North.

Still at it! The following telegram, dated Boyle, Tuesday, has appeared in the *Freeman*:—Mr. George James, sub-sheriff for Roscommon, accompanied by a large force of constabulary, was engaged to-day and yesterday in carrying out a number of evictions for non-payment of rent on the estate of Colonel King-Harman, M.P. Yesterday four families named Killelea Ganly, Battle, and M'Grath, who reside on a bleak portion of the Curlew Mountains, were evicted for a year and a half's rent, which they owed to November last. These unfortunate people slept last night on the roadside, and in all the cases they offered a year's rent, which was refused, and they are unable to make up the balance on account of the prohibition of fairs and markets. To-day the evictions on the same property were continued at Camlin. As a rack-renter and evictor "Colonel" King-Harman is, assuredly, coming to the front with a rush. A landlord who is convicted, as the "Colonel" was the other day, by one of her Majesty's courts, of having extorted for years exorbitant rents from some of his tenants, and who is vigorously engaged in throwing out others of them on the roadside in mid-Winter for practically half a year's rent, which is itself probably not due in equity, bids fair to become entitled to special distinction even in these days of plundering and murderous landlordism.—*Nation*, Jan. 19.

PLANK-BED VICTIMS.

(To the Editor of the *Freeman*.)

Dublin, Jan. 25.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of yesterday appears a brief report of an inquest held in the county gaol at Cork on Wednesday. This is the second inquest within, I believe, a week, held in that gaol on the bodies of prisoners who have fallen victims to the murderous system of prison discipline which the "resources of civilisation" have supplied in Ireland. The first victim was a young man about 21 years of age, son of a respectable farmer named Mahony, residing near Tralee. At the Winter Assizes of '82 this young man was convicted of an attempt to post up a threatening notice offering "£1,000 to discover anyone who paid rent," and he was sentenced by Mr. Justice Barry to 18 months' imprisonment. It is now unnecessary to touch upon the character of the evidence or the composition of the "special" jury that convicted him. Just as one year of his imprisonment had expired his coffin remains were last week transmitted by rail to his parents at Tralee. An inquest was held at the gaol in Cork, and there the Governor and the doctor both deposed that the man had been kept in his cell until a day or two before his death, and was actually so far gone in his fatal illness that he was unconscious when removed to hospital—even such a hospital as a prison affords.

The inquest on Wednesday was held on the body of a man named John Horgan, who, on the 28th of December, was convicted of an assault and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. He, too, was a young man, 26 years of age, and according to the evidence of Dr. Moriarty, the medical officer of the prison, "he was a hearty, active, pretty muscular little man when he was committed to prison." Yet, little more than three weeks of the plank-bed, and the wretched, insufficient food which is supplied to a prisoner during his first months' imprisonment, brought this young "hearty, active, muscular" man to his grave. At the inquest Dr. Moriarty admitted that the man complained of illness on the 9th instant, but he was not removed to hospital. On the contrary, he was kept on the plank bed until Sunday evening, and then removed to hospital, where death came to his rescue on Monday at three o'clock. Dr. Moriarty appears to be a model prison doctor. Though the unfortunate man Horgan complained on the 9th inst., all the doctor prescribed for him was simply the "plank bed." "On the 18th," says Dr. Moriarty at the inquest, "he was excused from the treadmill. On the 20th (Sunday), while in the chapel, he complained of weakness and sickness in his stomach. He was weak and cold, and had cramps when I saw him immediately afterwards in his cell, but there were no signs of any specific disease. I took the proper remedies to treat his complaint, which, I think, was incipient peritonitis." The confidence with which the doctor swears that he took the "proper remedies" to treat a complaint which he did not know, leaves us no room for doubt. It appears, at all events, to have satisfied the jury for they, by their verdict, stated that death *did* result from peritonitis. The coroner, however, asked a few questions which may well set the public thinking upon our system of prison discipline in general administration in Cork gaol in particular. I quote from a report in the local papers—

"Coroner—Isn't it a fact that he was kept on the plank bed from the 9th, when he first complained, until Sunday last?"

"Dr. Moriarty—Yes.

"Coroner—Don't you think that was rather hard for a man in his condition of health?"

"Dr. Moriarty—He had no specific disease at all. I took his temperature on Sunday last, and it was 97.2.

"Coroner—What was his temperature on the 9th?"

"Dr. Moriarty—I did not take it on the 9th.

"Coroner—My experience from holding inquests here is that prisoners when they are ill, are invariably removed to hospital a day before they die."

Comment upon the above passage is scarcely necessary, but there are just one or two words of explanation needed to strengthen the observation of Mr. Horgan, the coroner. A prisoner is not considered ill and is not treated as such until he is removed to the hospital. Consequently, from the 9th, when this unfortunate man first complained, until Monday, the day of his death, he had as his only food and nourishment five ounces of brown bread given to him three times a day, with a half pint or so, twice out of the three, of a decoction dignified in the prison rules by the name of cocoa. He had also the additional luxury of the plank bed to lie on at night, and the treadmill to work during the day.

T. HARRINGTON.

Those who predicted that the principles of the Irish Land Act would soon find their way into legislation for England will probably see some confirmation of their fears in the Compensation for Disturbance Bill which Mr. A. Cohen, Q.C., has agreed to draft for the Southwark Committee on the Dwellings of the Poor. The facts on which the bill is based is familiar enough; the poor are constantly being ejected *en masse* from neighbourhoods contiguous to their places of labour, which they have inhabited for years, while the small property holders—whose tenants they are—or equally small leaseholders, are compensated at the expense of the public. Mr. Cohen's bill proposes, therefore, that weekly tenants shall be compensated in accordance with the duration of their tenancy, and that for the purposes of inquiry and assessment a board of commissioners, consisting of three members holding office for three years, shall be constituted, with the power to assess the measure of compensation, without any right of appeal against their decision. The proposal is chiefly significant as a sign of the times; but one thing should not be forgotten. As we have more than once noted in these columns, a species of tenant-right is already largely recognised in the form of "selling the key," in many of the poor quarters of London.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.