

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—On September 16, while the yacht *Hyleen*, belonging to Mr. Brown, Greypoint, was coming into Belfast under sail, she came into collision with the steamer *Dudgeon*, outward bound for Maryport. The steamer struck the yacht on the starboard side, and caused such damage to her that she sank a few minutes afterwards. The only person on board the yacht at the time was William McCully, who had a very narrow escape from drowning.

On Sep. 15 the two central arches of the Albert bridge (crossing the Lagan), which had recently been discovered to be in an insecure condition, suddenly collapsed. Fortunately, comparatively few persons were on the bridge at the time. One life only was lost—a watchman, John Mathews, who had been on duty there since the condition of the bridge was reported to the Council. A little child, named Emma Withers, who was crossing at the time of the catastrophe, had a very narrow escape, being carried by the falling bridge into the river, and rescued with much difficulty. It was believed that others were buried in the debris, but no enquiries after missing persons have been made of the police, and Mathews' is probably the only life lost. The Council is severely censured for not having closed the bridge to traffic when its insecure condition was first reported to them.

CARLOW.—Harvest prospects are very unsatisfactory all over the country, the continuous bad weather of the past month having more or less injured all the crops.

CAVAN.—Eleven ejectment processes have been served on the tenants of Sir Ralph Cusack, in the townland of Raleagh, parish of Kildallen. The land is of the poorest description, and the tenants are utterly unable to pay the sums that are against them. The case is more remarkable from the fact that a short time before the service of the ejectments the bailiff on the property called on the tenants to inform them that the landlord was preparing to sell them their holdings. The tenants replied that they were willing to buy, and this reply they sent through the hands of the agent, John Faris, of Carr. The batch of ejectments was the only answer they got.

CORK.—Rev. P. A. Walsh, of St. Vincent's, Cork, writes to *The Irish World* that "The Imitation of Christ," which was translated into Irish in 1822 by Father O'Sullivan, of Inniskean, an eminent Gaelic scholar, and had become a rare work, has been republished with many corrections and additions. Its republication is a gratifying indication of the interest taken in the movement for the revival of the Irish language.

At the meeting of the Middleton Guardians on September 11 the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—That we deeply regret to observe, from every appearance, that the harvest of 1886 will be the worst and most disastrous to the country for many years, the corn and potato crops being in a wretched condition, and rotting on the land; that prompt and energetic action by Her Majesty's Government is now more than ever necessary at this severe crisis to alleviate the sufferings of the Irish farmers, whose homes will be rapidly broken up if evictions are not stayed and the solution of the land question not accomplished on the lines laid down by the great and illustrious Archbishop of Dublin and Mr. Davitt. At the same time we wish to reiterate our opinion that self-government is the only remedy for the terrible evils that afflict the country, which now stands before the world as a land of destitution and misery under British rule, clearly demonstrating that the miscalled Union between Ireland and her rich and powerful neighbour was a mockery, a delusion, and a fraud on the Irish people.

A great Nationalist demonstration took place at Middleton, on September 12, under the auspices of the National League. From every corner of the barony people came to join the protest made by the inhabitants of Middleton against the attempt of Lord Middleton to monopolise the revenues derived from the fairs held in the town—fairs established by the people themselves. Every centre from Ballycotton to the confines of the County Waterford sent representatives to swell the immense assemblage. There were numerous musical bands with banners, followed by strong contingents. The different speakers advised the people to hold their fairs at their own convenience, and not to mind the Vice-Chancellor's injunction, which Wm. O'Brien, M.P., said would be just as potent as his injunction to restrain the Dublin Corporation from changing Sackville street to O'Connell street. The National Fair was held next day, and, notwithstanding the judicial injunction, from an early hour the fair thronged into the town, some coming from considerable distances, and all bringing what stock they could. A great many who did not require to buy or sell, and who, if the fair were an ordinary one, would not attend, were present with a pig or a sheep to show what they thought of the Vice-Chancellor's decree. The cattle-dealers and pig-buyers of Cork were present, some at considerable inconvenience, and the purchases made by them left a very small amount of stock indeed that was not disposed of. From an early hour Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald, escorted by two armed constables, patrolled the streets, taking the names of those who were taking part in the fair. Some on being asked their names gave them readily enough, but others dismissed Mr. Fitzgerald's kind inquiries with remarks not quite Parliamentary.

From every part of the County reports give a depressing account of the weather and its effect upon the corn, uncut and in stock. What might have proved an excellent harvest under favourable circumstances has now been ruined beyond any hope of recovery. The corn not ready for the sickle is lodged and rotten, and any that was left in stock awaiting an opportunity to save is completely destroyed. The outlook is truly disheartening. In Bantry district every crop is a failure. Round Ballycotton potatoes are small and will barely average a half-crop, while every kind of grain is almost destroyed. The harvest in Clonakaty district is almost a complete failure; very little has been saved or will be of any value. Owing to the continuous wet weather for the past month the corn is lying in all conditions

in the fields. It is no exaggeration to say that three-fourths of the corn is utterly useless and valueless. The condition of the crops round Bandon has not been worse since 1879, and probably not as bad then. The corn crop is a general failure in Cloyne, and potatoes little better. Crosshaven will have no corn crop to speak of, and blight has set in among the potatoes. Barley and oats look wretched and potatoes are blighted round Aghada. Charleville reports the wheat destroyed. "One-third to one-half the crops lost," is the report from Doneraile. "Crops could not be worse, the oats are rotting, potatoes black and rotten, and the hay fit for nothing but manure," writes a Glountane correspondent. Prospects very gloomy in Glanworth. "The weather has been disastrous, nay ruinous," is the report from Innishannon. Everything looks bad in Fermoy district. Glamire claims to be the worst off of all the districts in the County, for besides suffering from bad crops the landlords are clamouring for their pound of flesh. Killeagh will be lucky if the farmers gather half the average harvest. Killavullen expects a two-third yield. Other reports are:—Castlemarty—Harvest prospects deplorable. Killinardish—Impossible to save corn; hay will be almost all lost. Kilbrittain—Barley turned black; farmers will not be able to pay for labour out of this year's harvest. Kinsale—Crops were never so bad; will not pay for labour. Kinsale Old Head—The principal crop, barley, irretrievably ruined. The loss this year will amount to at least £80,000. Lisacrol—Not a half crop of anything; Mitchelstown—Potatoes bad, hay and oats completely lost; Macroom—Very scanty harvest. Middleton—Most disastrous harvest that can be remembered. Nothing can be saved but turnips and mangolds. Passage West—Crops never were worse. Queenstown—The crops in this district, which comprises 29 townlands, are in a most unsatisfactory state. The prospects of the harvest have not looked so gloomy for the farmer for many years. Skibbereen—Not such a disastrous harvest since the Famine of '47. Timoleague—Positively bad. Youghal alone reports a "middling" harvest, but much injury done by rain.

DERRY.—The legal formalities connected with the purchase by the tenants of the Saltor's Company, in this County, of a tract of 20,000 acres, are now all but completed. This will create no less than 1,000 peasant proprietors.

In the beginning of September harvesting operations were in full swing in this County, and the prospects of the farmers were very encouraging. The crops on the whole looked splendid, the heads of oats being large, well-filled, and remarkably free from "blacks," and the straw clean and lengthy. On Sep. 4 the weather, which had inspired reapers with hope of a happy Autumn season, suddenly changed, and rain poured incessantly for several hours. From that date up till September 17 the weather was most unsettled, and greatly retarded harvest operations. On Sept. 18 a severe storm of wind and rain drove over the district and raged with considerable violence for hours, doing great damage to standing grain, as well as to that which was cut, also to the flax and fruit crops. Oats on high-lying ground suffered great injury. The very best of the grain has been shaken off and covers the ground in some places almost as thickly as seed would be sown. The straw is also badly broken and tossed about. Oats in stooks were blown down, and the sheaves scattered about the fields in all directions. Flax spread on the grass has also been badly tossed. Fruit trees in exposed gardens have been almost completely stripped.

DONEGAL.—Fishery inquiries were held by Major Hayes and Mr. Hornsby at Glenties and Dunfanaghy on September 15 and 16. The evidence shows that on this coast for some years past no fishing of importance was carried on save that of lobsters, which were exported to England. There were plenty of herring, cod, whiting, glassan, and other fish in the bay, and good trawling ground, but absence of harbour accommodation, want of proper boats and gear, and the difficulty of transit prevented the fisheries being developed.

DOWN.—Heavy rains from September 4 to September 16 have badly damaged the crops all through this County. The prospects were very favourable until this bad weather set in. The potatoes have suffered most and are decaying very fast. The yield of tubers was one of the best ever seen and the quality all that could be desired. In some instances the tubers were of immense size. Specimens were dug on the farm of Rev. S. R. Lindsay, Drumbauagher, which weighed no less than 30 ounces, and flounders were also dug on the farm of Mr. Shannon, Killeel, weighing 27½ ounces.

On Sept 14, in the townland of Ballykina, near Ballynahinch, a labourer named John Hall was engaged at his work for a farmer named Anderson. His absence caused inquiries to be made as to his whereabouts, and on proceeding to the place where Hall had last been working blood was discovered but no trace of Hall could be found. Since then a large force of police has been engaged in searching the neighbourhood, but beyond finding a lock of hair close to where blood was found no trace of Hall has been discovered. It is rumoured that the authorities contemplate getting the assistance of bloodhounds in tracing Hall. The greatest excitement prevails in the neighbourhood. No suspicion, however, is attached to anyone and no arrests have been made.

The Banbridge Guardians, though Tory by a large majority, on September 13, passed the following resolution: "That we respectfully call on Mr. Parrell and the Irish Parliamentary party, pending the land settlement, to endeavour to impress on the present Government the necessity, wisdom, and justice of preventing heartless landlords about to take advantage of the law as it at presents stands from confiscating and robbing unfortunate tenants of the property that they and their forefathers have created by their industry in each of their respective holdings. . . . We believe if something be not done in this respect the tenants in most cases must become paupers, and consequently a burden on the country. They will naturally feel they are robbed of their lawful property in consequence of a depression over which they have no control, and we feel such extremes will be calculated to drive to disaffection the most loyal subjects of Her Majesty; and if a long and bitter struggle must ensue, it may be difficult to forecast who will get the best of it—the Government, the landlords, or the tenants." It was further