

# Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

WILL the Government suppress the National League? That is the problem of the hour; or rather, we should say, will they try to suppress it? We doubt very much if the most rabid Tory who urges this suicidal course on the Government has in his heart of hearts any very confident hopes of success for the experiment. The strongest Government that ever ruled in England would have its work cut out for it in the suppression of the League. Will one of the weakest Governments that ever ruled in England accomplish it? Will Lord Salisbury and Messrs. Smith and Balfour tackle a task for which another Cromwell would be powerless. The Government has quite enough to do to keep on its legs, let alone fighting. If the League would good-naturedly efface itself on the appearance of the special proclamation the thing might be done. But that is a little too much to be hoped for. The Government have, perhaps, in their recollection Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar's voluminous proclamation suppressing the Plan of Campaign, and its result. The Plan thrived and flourished wonderfully under suppression—the would-be extinguishers only burned their fingers. The Government was compelled to make restitution of the money plundered under its proclamation at Loughrea and at Frenchpark, and has taken nothing by its flaming posters but two civil actions for false imprisonment. Yet it is as likely as not that the clamorous madmen behind them will push the Government over this precipice from which they are at present holding back.

A report from Falcarragh, County Donegal, states that Mr. Swiney, the agent on the Nixon estate, accompanied by bailiffs, recently proceeded to the Oldtown bog to dispossess a poor woman named Coyle from a scraw hut. The hut was a most miserable habitation, being merely a hole scooped out of the turf bank, and covered over with sods. The woman and her sister got on the top, and with the help of loose sticks and sods, kept the bailiffs for some time at bay. After a severe struggle both women were knocked down. Then was perpetrated an act or the greatest cruelty. One of the evicting party wielded his stick ferociously, causing a deep wound in the head of one of the women from which the blood flowed freely. When he saw the blood flowing, it is alleged, he cried out, "Hal! I like to see Papist blood." The hut was then levelled.

Perhaps the only thoroughly boycotted man in all Monaghan is the Rev. Matthew Macaulay, Presbyterian minister. He was obliged to resign the pastoral charge of the congregation of Castleblayney, as he has himself repeatedly declared, because of a combination among certain of the members to boycott him, and he sustains an annual loss in consequence of the sum of £50. This is the penalty that Mr. Macaulay pays for, first, fighting the battle of a robbed tenantry, when to espouse their cause was to make deadly enemies of the whole landlord class, and next, taking rank amongst the earnest supporters of Mr. Gladstone in his Home Rule policy for Ireland. Yet, the Rev. Matthew Macaulay is not counted as a boycotted member of Monaghan society among the 136 persons whom the police have reported as more or less banned by their fellows; nor is he considered by the Government to require police protection, though nine of the 136 have bodyguards at the public expense. Col. King-Harman says he is not aware of the existence of any law to compel loyal Presbyterians to attend the ministrations of a Parnellite Minister. *Ergo*, Parnellite Ministers may "go hang"—if we may be pardoned the use of a phrase more popular than polite.

The pleasant-looking gentleman with the pointed grey beard and the bright eyes who so unostentatiously arrived in Dublin on Monday August 8, may, if all goes well with the Republicans at the next election, find his place on the most glorious throne the world holds, the presidential chair of the United States. Truly the position to which Mr. Blaine aspires with good hope of success is—

"A nobler office upon earth

Than arms or power of brain or birth

Could give the warrior kings of old."

Does it seem a paradox to state that an American president is the only real king. The lines that old Johnson ridiculed had their meaning—

"Who rules o'er freemen must himself be free."

The converse is true also—

"Who rules o'er bondsmen is himself a slave."

Friends of the Campaigners of Luggacurran and those who sympathise with the plucky tenants in the grand struggle in which they are engaged with their pitiless landlord for the right to live in their father's home, will be glad to hear that the good work of providing shelter for the homeless tenants is proceeding apace, and that the square which Mr. William O'Brien predicted would never be broken, is forming rapidly and becoming more impregnable day by day. A dozen cottages are expected to be completed and fit for habitation at the end of the week, and it need scarcely be said that the sight of them has already inspired the evicted with renewed courage and confidence in the ultimate success of the struggle, and filled them with a closed-fist and set-teeth determination to persevere even for years, if needs be, in a fight which they look upon as sacred. These at present being constructed are rectangular in shape, both wings facing the rent office, sacred to the presiding genius of the place—Townsend Trench. Each cottage consists of three bedrooms, a parlour and a kitchen, the latter being provided with a comfortable cooking-range. The comfort of the houses is usually good as they are all slated, with two layers of boards inside and outside, and have each a sheet of inodorously felt in addition, and are entirely air and water tight, being carefully secured in this respect with asphalt of the best quality.

Mr. John Dillon, M.P., has received the following letter from Uruguayana (*via* Monte Video). The writer, Mr. P. O'Mara, says—Owing to our communication having been cut off by quarantine rules for about six months, it is but a short time ago that I heard the gallant struggle which our people have been making against the jubilee

Coercion outrage, and of the success of the tenants. It is both a duty and a pleasure to me to send you another small contribution to the League Fund as an expression of my sympathy with our people both in their success and in their sufferings, the more so because, in common with every Irishman, I feel and deeply lament the uncalled for insults lately offered to us by the English jingoes and disunionists. Owing to the admirable unity of the people, Protestant and Catholic, the great cause seems to us outsiders to be within "a measurable distance of realisation."

The *Times* is in a frantic condition of mind owing to the hesitation of the Government about proclaiming the National League. It prints one of those precious concoctions with which it is periodically supplied by the "loyalist" party in proof of the terrible pictures they paint of the state of Ireland. However, nothing better than some resolutions passed at League branches in the beginning of the year can be fished up to afford the Government a pretext for interfering with the organisation. In fact, the letter is itself the best evidence that there is no shadow of a case for any such tyrannical and dangerous step. The *Times* appears to have only one backer in the Press in its efforts to force the hand of the Government. This is the *St. James's Gazette*, which is in an especial manner the organ of the Irish landlords and of the ascendancy party. Its leader of Monday, August 8, concludes as follows:—"The cause of justice and civilisation is entrusted to the Government. Their own chosen weapon is in their hand. The facts which justify a vigorous blow are patent to all mankind. If that blow is not struck Ireland will continue to suffer the incalculable evils of dual government, and the English Prime Minister will be responsible for her misfortunes. Lord Salisbury if he has any saving Common sense in his composition at all must be vastly more concerned to hear what the electors of Northwich may say to his policy than what the ultra anti-Irish organisations may rave."

Lord Mayo's tenants have again mustered up courage to ask for an abatement, and under the experienced leadership of the Rev. Dr. Goings, P.P., they have demanded "a reduction commensurate with the prevailing agricultural depression." We think it scarcely likely that his lordship will recognise the depression. Last year he agreed to allow 15 per cent., but Mr. Fleetwood Bynd, his agent, declined to give the tenants the benefit of his master's clemency and made them, with one exception, pay in full. A landlord's view of the "agricultural depression" is formed by the pluck and determination of his tenants, and when these qualities are absent he frequently is unable to see any depression at all.

The foundations are being laid of a new democratic movement having for its objects the more energetic pressing forward in Great Britain of large social and economic changes. An informal conference was held the other day at the chambers of a barrister well-known in literary and political circles for his sympathies with the wants of the working classes, and an understanding was arrived at as to a general line of action. The intention of the promoters of the movement is, I understand, to follow as nearly as possible the principles of organisation so successfully developed by the Irish National League of Great Britain. Mr. H. H. Champion is prominently identified with the new movement, which in its present phase had its origin in letters which appeared in the *Bradford Press*, and were afterwards given extended circulation, from a working man (an Irishman by the way), who is strongly dissatisfied with the partial introduction of politics into trade unionism effected by the action of the Trades Union Congress at its meeting in Hull last year. The promoters hope to receive the assistance of Mr. Davitt in the task of organising the workers in England.

With reference to the impending evictions on the O'Grady estate at Herbertstown, the divisional magistrate, Captain Plunkett, has addressed a further communication to the sub-Sheriff asking to have them postponed as he will be engaged on duties elsewhere at the date originally fixed, and, therefore, cannot supply the protection force required. It is anticipated that the landlord's representatives will not consent to do this, but insist on the Sheriff returning the writs. This step being taken, the Sheriff will call on Captain Plunkett for a protective force considered necessary, and under the law the magistrate will be bound to supply the men required.

It is hard to trust the rumour that evictions are about to break out on the Kingstown estates at Mitchelstown. The infatuation that would prompt such proceedings at the present crisis seems to be incredible, but who dare set a limit to the imbecility and brutality of the landlords or the Government? In a week or so the landlord will be able to evict with secrecy and despatch by means of a registered letter; and if this rumour be true the Government are aiding and abetting. The most reckless landlord will not enter upon an eviction unless "Barkiss is willing." For Barkiss read Balfour. The only possible explanation of this policy of insane exasperation is an attempt to create some disturbance which will justify the more active application of the Coercion Act, at present hanging up rusty for want of use in the Castle. If the evictions be proceeded with the tenants' marvellous moderation will give them an enormous advantage. Their demands are but twenty per cent. reduction on the old unreduced rents, or about half what they would be fairly entitled to under the Government Land Bill. We may trust the Irish party to make these facts patent to the English public. Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., spoke with his accustomed point and spirit on Tuesday on the subject, when down among his constituents.

The attacks made at Coleraine, Portrush, Ballymena, and other places in County Antrim upon an excursion party of the National Foresters from Belfast, formed the subject of questions by Mr. Sexton in the House of Commons. As an exemplification of the impartiality with which Irish affairs are managed nowadays, it is sufficient to remark that Colonel King-Harman, himself an old Orangeman, was charged with the duty of giving an official answer on behalf of the Government to accusations against the Orange rowdies. Of course he endeavoured to shield the brethren and to throw the whole blame upon the other party. A telegram from a divisional magistrate furnished his text. Mr. Sexton, however, pressed the member for Thanet with further questions designed to pin him to his allegations or to compel a withdrawal of them, whereupon Mr. Balfour's bottle