

holder sought time for continued inquiries. It is time that an end was put to these regularly-arranged disturbances in the North. Not to mince matters, we have every reason to think that the authorities nearly always know when an attack is to be made upon Catholics, and that they do not prevent it. Sometimes, as at Ballymoney on this occasion, the police are entirely withdrawn, and the Orangemen left to do as they please. If there is any prospect of the "loyal" rowdies getting the worst of the encounter the police are held in reserve until the assailed retaliate, whereupon the forces of law and order are employed not against the original assailants, but against the Catholics. The dodge is an old one, and it is about time to have it dropped.

The intentions of the Government with respect to the National League are still eagerly canvassed in Parliamentary circles. There is no doubt that no class of members except the Orangemen are disappointed by the alleged decision of the Government to let the League alone. They are going about complaining of a double betrayal at the hands of their English colleagues. In the first place they point to the Land Bill as a death blow to the landlords, and in the second they declare that non-proclamation of the League after their unceasing narration of its abuses and illegalities is an abandonment and a repudiation of the whole "Loyalist" policy in Parliament. The Government can be left to settle this difference with its Orange following as best it may. They do not appear to be very desperate in their anger at any time. Among the bulk of the English Tories anything that promises to add to the session is obnoxious, and by the irony of fate the proclamation of the National League is found in that category. There are also some among them who hold the opinion that the less the Coercion Act is used the better, and that its whole policy was a gross and hideous blunder. These gentlemen have been taught wisdom by the recent bye-elections. With Mr. Balfour and the rest of the Cabinet a decision to abstain from proclamation must be set down to the same uncomfortable belief.

The custom of referring Parliamentary quarrels to the arbitration of the fist or the pistol had happily fallen into disuse until the return of the fire-eating member for North Armagh to the political arena. He is reputed to be a person of great physical strength, and his appearance does not belie his reputation. But unfortunately muscle and mettle are evidently not combined in his person. He is so fond of bragging about the vengeance he will wreak on any member who insults him it is easy to credit the statement that his acquaintances find considerable enjoyment in drawing him out on this subject. In public speeches and in interviews with congenial newspaper editors Colonel Sanderson has repeatedly conveyed the impression that he has thrown down a general challenge to the Irish party, and that no one of them has taken it up. This, in fact, is his political stock-in-trade since prudential considerations had caused him to cease disseminating the exploded slanders of the *Times*. Now, though the Irish party can afford to treat the vapouring of Colonel Sanderson with complete contempt, and can make allowance for the desperate circumstances of a discredited partisan fighting a losing cause, still, should the necessity arise—which Colonel Sanderson, with true Gallic valour, is careful not to provoke—a member of the Irish party will be perfectly willing to meet the member for North Armagh at any place with any weapons, and at any time. If this method of squaring political differences may seem scarcely worthy of a deliberative assembly, it should be borne in mind that the hon. and gallant gentleman is responsible for its revival.

Really English police officials appear to be suffering from dynamite on the brain. On Saturday, August 18, a lady was arrested at Cowes, Isle of Wight, on a suspicion of having dynamite in her possession, and detectives were despatched here, there, and everywhere to trace out her antecedents. The cause of all the suspicion and commotion was a black bag filled with a red clayey substance. To a police inspector eager of promotion "trifles light as air are confirmation strong as proof of Holy Writ." Here were all the materials for the first act of a melodramatic tragedy. An unknown woman with a black bag filled with an unknown substance. The poor lady was forthwith seized on, and thrust into gaol, where she was detained for a couple of days. Before the emissaries who were sent to find out who she was or whence she came had time to report, the red clayey substance was examined by Colonel Majendie, who discovered that it was modelling clay, and nothing else. The colonel's examination tallied exactly with the account of the young lady herself, whose story was extremely simple. She was a governess, who, being in delicate health, had been ordered a sea voyage by her doctor, and had accordingly taken a trip to Cowes. Certainly some compensation is due to the young lady who has been thus made the victim of gross stupidity and excessive eagerness on the part of the police.

The Northwich election has resulted in by far the greatest victory that Home Rule has yet won in England. By a majority of 1129, Mr. J. H. T. Brunner, the Home Rule candidate, has defeated his Liberal Unionist opponent, Lord Henry Grosvenor, the son of the Duke of Westminster. There is no explaining away the force or meaning of the victory on local or personal grounds. Mr. Brunner was the candidate who was defeated in the same constituency twelve months ago by 458 votes. The numbers then were:—

For Liberal	...	...	3958
For Unionist	...	...	4416

Majority for Unionist ... 458

On Saturday that decision was reversed completely, and when the votes were counted on Monday the figures stood:—

For Brunner	...	...	5112
For Grosvenor	...	...	3983

The Home Ruler received 1154 votes more than he had got at the '86 election, and the Unionist got 433 less than on the previous occasion.

It is not often that the landlord faction use their position on the magisterial bench to revenge themselves on opponents in the popular ranks after so flagrant a fashion as some members of the garrison occupying seats on the Tarbert (county Kerry) petty sessions bench would seem to have done the other day when adjudicating in the case of a respectable old man named Scanlan, who was summoned before them for assault. The alleged assault consisted in a "wiggling,"

which old Scanlan had administered to a youngster whom he found tampering with the village pump, of which he had charge, and great was the astonishment of the people of the district when it became known that the defendant was summarily sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment, and to a further term of three months should he fail to give security for good behaviour at the end of that period. An application to have the term of imprisonment increased to four weeks was refused, and this old man of seventy years was hurried off to the county gaol at Tralee with all speed. It is openly alleged that the explanation of the magisterial action in this matter is to be found in the fact that Mr. Scanlan's son, who is a prominent member of the local branch of the National League, was mainly instrumental in having the name of the village in which he lives changed from that of Newtownsandes to Newtowndillon, in compliment to the member for East Mayo. This change has, it seems, incensed the landlord party down there beyond measure, and it is pointed out as a remarkable coincidence that one of the magistrates presiding—a Mr. Sandes, whose family name the village formerly bore—should have turned up to adjudicate in old Scanlan's case, though he had not attended petty sessions more than twice for the past two years. Mr. Dillon has been requested to bring the conduct of the Tarbert law-givers in this matter under the notice of the House of Commons, and it will be interesting to hear what defence can be made for it.

By the Northwich victory, the net gain to Home Rule in the House of Commons, since the general election twelve months ago, has been brought up to eight, which, on a division, counts sixteen. There have been in all twenty vacancies since the general election, and of these four seats have been uncontested, the character of the representation being unaltered. Of the remaining sixteen constituencies in which elections took place eleven were formerly held by Tories, and the remaining five by Liberals. But in the late elections the Liberals succeeded, not only in holding their own five, but in snatching four seats from the Tories. The constituencies thus won to Home Rule are Northwich, Burnley, Spalding, and Coventry. There have been in addition four secessionists from the Liberal Unionists to the Home Rule ranks, making a total of eight, which are equal to sixteen votes in a division. The following shows the strength of parties now as compared with twelve months ago:—

	1886.	1887.	
Liberals	191	198	284
Parnellites	85	86	
Dissentient Liberals	78	72	386
Conservatives	316	314	
	670	670	

By these figures it will be seen that the Liberal Unionists are the principal losers. If there were a general election in the morning they would be beaten hip and thigh. The English people have no heart or love for these half-and-half politicians. The Tories they can understand as sticklers for hereditary privilege and plunder. But the political Joseph Surfaces who seek to hide their Tory proclivities under fine Radical and Liberal sentiments are despised as hypocrites and hum-bugs. The days of the Liberal Unionists' power are now over, and nobody can say that while they occupied the strong position which chance assigned to them they employed their opportunities for any but the basest purposes. They were bitterer coercionists than the most venomous Tories, and when they might have compelled the Government to make their Land Bill a really good one they tried rather to throw dust in the eyes of the Ulster tenants than to gain for them any substantial advantages.

The fact that the leaders of the renegade Liberals are even now almost entirely without a following in the constituencies, is admitted to the fullest extent in a recent article appearing in the *St. James's Gazette*. In addition to other significant admissions as to the rapidity with which the Liberal party are regaining the ground lost at the general elections, the Tory organ is found confessing that "a large part of the Liberal Unionist vote has gone back to Mr. Gladstone," that "Liberal abstentions from voting for Gladstonian candidates are diminishing every day," and that "whatever assistance the Tory party had from the Liberal Unionist vote in 1886 can no longer be reckoned on." Nor is this all. It is further confessed that Conservative voters do not love the renegades any more than the Liberals who have returned to their allegiance. "It has been demonstrated," says the *St. James's* in a rare burst of candour, "that many Conservatives will not vote for Liberals; that to send them a Liberal Unionist checks their enthusiasm, and that to pursue the policy of reckoning upon the Unionist vote we had in 1886, or of catching both Conservatives and Liberals by Unionist candidates will only lead to further disappointments." Looks as if the Disunionist conspiracy was nearing an ignominious end.

Never was a better or sturdier spirit displayed by the people of this country than at present. They are absolutely peaceable, yet not one whit less resolute in their determination on that account. Whenever their enemies make a move they are met with a stolid organised resistance that makes the capture of a farm by a sheriff and his satellites a work of as great difficulty as the taking of a fortified town by an army. Indeed, a little army is generally required to protect those outcasts of society, the bailiffs, whom the *Daily Express* so unkindly denounced in the most scathing terms a few days ago. The *St. James's Gazette* informed its readers the other day that "most extraordinary precautions are being made by the Ponsonby tenants to resist the expected eviction." All the houses are barricaded with trees and strengthened with iron bars, while trenches are thrown up on all the approaches. A civil engineer has been employed to superintend the work. The windows have been made into loopholes, through which water and meal can be thrown from the inside. Drains have been constructed from a large bog in the vicinity, for the purpose of flooding the houses if necessary, and other defensive preparations have been made. At Inchiquin a trench 25 feet deep has been cut to defend a house." We are so delighted to hear this good news, which is truly a sign of the times, that we feel grateful to the *Tory Gazette* for publishing it. We do not think that the prospects of obtaining rent on the Ponsonby estate have been much improved by