

have much pleasure in revisiting your County on this occasion, as it is now some years since I presided as judge in this court, and on my return I am very glad to say, that, so far, at all events, as the number of cases to go before you for investigation is concerned, of a criminal nature, they are fewer than in my experience I have known in any other county of the large extent of Wexford. There are only two cases to go before you, one a case of burglary and larceny, which is not at all of a serious nature, and another is a Post-office prosecution.

The opposition to the payment of the poor rates in New Ross Union continues with unabated zeal by the Nationalist ratepayers. A force of police under command of Head-Constable John Twiss, New Ross, have been engaged in protecting the rate collector, A. F. Barden, and a number of bailiffs, while making seizures for rates, but owing to the opposition and obstruction of the people not more than a few pounds have been collected. The people in this union have in operation what is called the Plan of Campaign against the Vice-Guardians, by which when the rate collector is seen approaching, the cattle, etc., are driven off the lands, the doors of the dwelling and outhouses shut, and as the collector is seizing under the Guardians' warrant he cannot open any doors and seize on the lands for which the rent is due. On July 22, at Arthurstown, about 9 miles from New Ross, the stock seized, including a horse and van full of bread belonging to James Neill, Arthurstown, were put up for auction, and after putting the collector to the very last push, they were bought in by the owners, Canon Thomas Doyle, P.P., Ramsgrange, and a large concourse of people attended. At a meeting of the New Ross Town Commissioners, held on July 22, the bill for poor rates due, the Vice-Guardians was laid before them. An amendment was moved, seconded, and adopted, that no rates be paid as long as the Castle Vice-Guardians remain in office.

WICKLOW:—Baron Dowse opened the Wicklow Assizes and was very jocular over the crimeless state of the County. There was verily so little to do in the shape of punishing crime, that the Baron "looked with a sympathetic air upon his friends, the Crown Council." The number of offences specially reported to the constabulary, he said, had decreased from 13 to 7. In minor cases there was an increase in the number, but why there should be an increase one time and a decrease another, Baron Dowse could not say—it was "just like one day being wet and another dry." So far as covert acts of crime were concerned the County, said the Baron, was in a satisfactory condition. "He was there to discharge the gaol, and there was no one in it."

## American Notes.

THE Hon. P. A. Collins on his return the other day from his visit to Ireland was given a public reception in Boston Theatre—which was also intended to serve as a demonstration in aid of the Irish cause. Mr. Collins made a spirited and hopeful speech as to the state of the national movement. He spoke defiantly of the proclamation of the League, and hailed the meeting which he addressed as the first shot fired in America in the first battle of the last war for Home Rule. He professed his belief that as the League had formed the real Government of Ireland for the past seven years, so it would continue within the years immediately to come. But he added that the next general election would return a House of Commons prepared to grant all that Gladstone and Parnell demanded. Mr. Collins went on to express his opinion that not only was Ireland making good social and political progress, but that she was also doing so from an industrial point of view—and in this, he said, she was grateful for the encouragement given her by the people of the United States. He concluded by deprecating all fears for Ireland, who laughed at coercion, and gave such an example as justified all her friends in saying to her "Where you lead we follow."

The *New York World* has revealed a conspiracy that, if every thing were not lawful which is undertaken in opposition to the Irish cause should bring into contempt and lasting ignominy those engaged in it. The *London Times* and a number of its Tory supporters are responsible for the trick. It seems that something was wanted to renew the sensation caused by the publication of the Parnell letter, whether, like that epistle, it should be a forgery or an original document. To promote such an end, therefore, a certain Mr. Moser, by trade a detective, was despatched to New York under instructions to obtain letters in the handwriting, or in characters closely resembling the handwriting of the Irish leaders, and addressed to leading members of the extreme party in America. Mr. Moser took up his abode in New York by the name of Mr. H. L. Walters, but had the misfortune to fall in with a sharp reporter of the *World*, who out-detected the detective. The emissary managed to purchase the letters he wanted, namely, five written to Mr. P. J. Tynan, the supposed No. 1, by Messrs. Dillon Healy, O'Brien, and Quinn; and two written to P. J. Sheridan, by Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien, charging his principal, the *London Times*, for these letters, which he had been sent out to purchase, more than three times the price he himself paid for them. The letters, as a matter of course, were rank forgeries, every one of them. But the exposure thus made of the methods by which the *London Times* carries on its antagonism is valuable, and should secure for the *World* due recognition and gratitude.

The *Times* has caused offence by the nature of its comments on the assurance given it by a special correspondent, and that another civil war must ere long occur—this time between the Eastern and Western States. In this instance the wish is taken as father to the thought, and the manner in which the prediction is made is looked upon as betraying a spirit of hostility under the disguise of a friendly exterior. Such publications are not likely to increase that friendship for England which is supposed to be the chief characteristic of all genuine Americans. On the other hand

they may be likely to dispose such Americans to give even a greater share of their sympathies than ever to Ireland.

The first convention of the German Catholics of the United States was held at Chicago on September 6. A chief feature of the assembly was the resolution manifested to hold firmly by the use of the German tongue. Bishop Wigger, of Newar, N. J. delivered an eloquent address on Catholic education, to which the Germans are very steadfast. An important resolution was passed dealing with the labour question, in which Catholic working-men were warned against pernicious agitation, and recommended to be confident that by following the religious and moral principles of the Catholic Church the most suitable remedies would be discovered. Catholic employers, also, were exhorted to give due assistance to the moral and material welfare of their employees. Resolutions of congratulation to the Holy Father on the attainment of his sacerdotal jubilee were also passed.

Mr. Gladstone has declined the invitation to attend the celebration of the centennial of the adoption of the American Constitution at Philadelphia, to which he was invited, especially in recognition of the historical ties that bound Great Britain and America before the Declaration of Independence. His reply, although a refusal, is extremely gracious and cordial, and shows a lively sense of the importance of the event, and the honour conferred upon him personally. He pronounces the Constitution "the most remarkable work known to modern times to have been produced by human intellect at a single stroke, so to speak in its application to political affairs." He pleads as his excuse, limitation of strength and time, and the incessant pressure of engagements, expressing, also a belief that all the activity that still remains to him will be dedicated to the great work at home. "I regard," he says, the Irish question as the most urgent and most full of promise of beneficial results to my country that I have ever been engaged in."

At the eighth annual convention of the Catholic Order of Forersters, held in Boston on September 3, the High Chief Ranger called attention to the fact that the only coloured man who had ever applied for admission into the Society had been willingly received, and was now an honoured member. "We care nothing," he said, "about race distinctions, and I sincerely trust that the time will never come when our fellow-citizens will be denied the privilege of the Order because of their colour or anything else for which they are not responsible."

The dispute between Manitoba and the Canadian Government, about the construction of a railway to the American frontier, has attracted a good deal of attention. In an interview with a reporter of the *New York Herald*, the Hon. Mr. Norquay, Premier of Manitoba, now in the city referred to, expressed himself confident of a successful issue. He affirmed that the Manitobans are determined to obtain their object, but he does not expect that any blood will be spilled over the matter, as might be the case were British troops, according to Sir John Macdonald's threat, called in to settle it. Mr. Norquay evidently believes that the Dominion Government will give way.

The *New York World* has not only secured a distinction by the extreme smartness of one of its reporters in detecting the dirty work of a London detective, but a member of its staff has also gained additional laurels for it by devices that were no less ingenious. It being impossible to obtain any details as to the lines of the Scotch yacht, *Thistle*, owing to the unexplained objection of the owners or persons in charge of her to give them, a reporter undertook to act on his own inspirations. He, therefore, procured the services of a diver, and, setting to work after nightfall, obtained a diagram below the water-line. None of those who were on board the yacht had the remotest idea of what was taking place, and their surprise must have been great when published particulars of the adventure met their eyes. But American smartness has clearly found its climax in all that relates to journalism, and there is no shame to the ordinary intellect in being outwitted by its inventions.

## THE BISHOP OF DUNEDIN ON FAITH AND FATHERLAND.

(Melbourne *Advocate*, October 1.)

As a representative organ of the Catholic laity we have no hesitation in saying that among the visiting prelates who were lately assembled here there is not one who is held in higher esteem than the venerable Bishop of Dunedin. Of his Lordship it may be said, in the words of the inspired writer, that he has "estimation among the multitude and honour with the elders." No bishop could be more beloved by his own people than Dr. Moran is, and we know of not one who merits in a higher degree the confidence and affection of his flock. There are spheres in which an Irish bishop is called upon to display his sagacity and courage more conspicuously than has ever been demanded of the Bishop of Dunedin. There are circumstances in which a performance of the duties appertaining to the episcopal office is surrounded with more difficulties and attended with more peril than he has experienced; but none of those great ecclesiastics whose fortitude and wisdom were put most severely to test in times of political disquietude were previously distinguished by higher qualities than those of which there is abundant proof in the long missionary career of the Most Rev. Dr. Moran. The day on which a panegyric of his Lordship's life may be fitly written is, we hope, far distant, but we may venture to make a few brief allusions to its distinguishing characteristics. He followed the people of his race to their new home in a distant land. His love of them, though a secondary consideration, strongly influenced him in favour of that course. As in the case of almost every Irish priest, religion and