

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

By the 7th section of the Coercion Act it is made unlawful to publish the proceedings of any association which the Lord Lieutenant, having proclaimed it, may choose to prohibit or suppress by his mere order; and by the 11th section any person so publishing such proceedings renders himself liable to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. This is so gross an infringement of the liberty of the Press that it must be grappled with from the very beginning. We (*Nation*), therefore, give notice to all whom it may concern that if any branch of the National League be ordered out of existence by the Viceroy, and its committee or members in general continue to meet, as we are satisfied they ought to do, we shall publish reports from them, sent to us by their secretaries or other authorised officers, precisely as if no Coercion Act ever existed. We advise that no branch should seek for suppression, and that no speeches should be made or resolutions passed for the mere purpose of provoking Governmental action; but we most strenuously recommend that the branches hold together and carry on their work of patriotism just as they have been doing heretofore. If the right of public meeting be denied to them, they must meet in private; then let them, as we have already said, send us their reports and resolutions in the usual way; we shall be happy to publish them, and face the consequences.

The point of Monsignor Persico's addresses to the priests and people wherever he has occasion to speak would be missed by most people not in possession of an item of information that has reached us on good authority. It appears that the latest effort of the English faction at Rome had for its object to impress upon the Pope the belief that the root of Irish Catholicity was a mere political sentiment, that it had no existence as a religion, and that Catholic practices and observances had been forgotten and given up by the mass of the people. Sound evidence was tendered on the other side, and Mr. Persico's mission is the result. Bearing in mind the purpose of the English faction, the following statement in his Excellency's address to the priests of Tuam has its significance:—"I have seen that lively faith, I have seen that practical religion, which you have expressed in your addresses, that that faith which was imported by St. Patrick, and which has been preserved with such persistency, has never been so bright as in our day." Manifestly, this is one more failure for some "eminent English Catholics."

The first stroke of the Tories at the right of public meeting has been struck. The Clare County meeting has been proclaimed. There is only one way of meeting such a proceeding, and that is by holding monster meetings all over the country on the day appointed. Once more the Castle hirelings must be taught that public rights in Ireland are not to be limited by their proclamations.

The Irish landlords are—after the manner of the National League—holding county meetings and electing delegates to a convention to be held on an early day in Dublin. The design of this movement is to influence the Government in the framing of the Purchase Bill which they are to bring into Parliament next session. The keynote of the convention is to be "Compensation." But compensation for what, and compensation from whom? Do these gentlemen expect to be compensated for the reductions they have been forced to make in rack-rents which they should never have exacted? And are they mad enough to suppose that the taxpayers, either English or Irish, will ever consent to their receiving such compensation from the public funds? This intended convention of theirs is altogether a foolish proceeding. What they should assemble for is to consider a scheme of Home Rule for Ireland, and offer terms of peace and union to their fellow-countrymen. It seems they have not heart or brains enough to take up such an idea. They are a played-out and lost class.

The *New York Tribune* contains the report of an interview which Mr. T. P. Gill, M.P., had with Mr. Parnell on the evening of the proclamation of the National League. There is no statesman in the United Kingdom whose words are so well worth pondering on as the Irish leader's on matters affecting this country, and the confidence of the people of Ireland will gain strength—though, perhaps, that is not much needed—from his opinion that "it is the last time such a spectacle—a proclaimed and coerced country—will be witnessed." Mr. Parnell regards the latest action of the Government "as a proof that the Tories have grown desperate and have ceased to rely on the irritating support of the Liberal Unionists." He believes that if the Coercion Act is administered in the reckless manner favoured by previous administrations under similar circumstances "the next half-year will be a trying time for Ireland"; but with the "genuine and political sympathy" of English Liberals and the support of friends in America "this threatened tyranny may prove a real blessing in disguise, and be the means of fostering instead of retarding the return of Mr. Gladstone and a Home Rule Government to power."

The Rev. Thomas Ellis and the *Irish Times* have sat down crushingly on Mr. T. W. Russell because he happened to blurt out in the House of Commons his real feelings in regard to the effect on Ulster of the wretched tinkering of the Tories at agrarian legislation. Ulster, said Mr. Russell, has gone over to the Parnellites, and in so saying he has sounded his own political death-knell. The Tories will have him no longer, and without their aid he is in South Tyrone a nonentity. Mr. Russell paid a delicate compliment to the artist of the *Weekly Freeman* in the course of his speech, when he spoke of the switchback railway leading Heaven knows where. Clearly, he had the magnificent cartoon in his mind's eye, and was conjuring up visions of the fall pictorially forecasted for him. Mr. Parnell is not of the stuff of which diplomatists are made. He has demonstrated that fact in the House.

The Archbishop of Dublin seized the opportunity afforded by the appointment of the Executive Committee to come forward with the suggestion of a "Round Table Conference," consisting of representatives of the tenants and landlords, "to sketch out at all events the broad outlines of a plan for the equitable and final settlement of the Irish land question." By a section of the Tory press the letter was

hailed with delight; but by the *Times* and the *St. James's Gazette* it was treated as a flag of truce hung out by an "officious" representative of the coercion-frightened National League; and the *Gazette* patted Mr. Balfour on the back for the first grand result of his policy, and told him to persevere and the field would be won. We have here an indication of what English Toryism is bent on securing. Certainly it is not peace. We need scarcely say that the placing of such a construction on the Archbishop's action—a construction also advanced by an anonymous Orange "Observer" amongst the *Mail's* correspondents—has dangerously injured the chances of a parley.

The meeting of County Carlow landlords, held on Wednesday, August 31, was explicit enough as to what they deem their rights. They passed a series of resolutions preliminary to the election of delegates to the National Committee. The following is the most important of them:—"That we have been deprived of our right to obtain the best price that can be got for our property by open competition and free contract—a right reserved by constitutional law to every other class in the empire, including the land owners of England and Scotland. That we have been encumbered against our will with the acknowledged evils of a dual ownership of our lands. That the contracts under hand and seal entered into deliberately and *bona fide* by which the enjoyment of our property was secured, have been summarily annulled, as far as they protected us, while they have been kept intact so far as they protected the other parties to those contracts." This resolution was followed by another to give it point:—"That, all our interests have been sacrificed to meet an alleged national emergency, we claim, as a measure of justice, that national compensation should be given to us." Here we have put forward again the unmistakable demand for compensation because of their being compelled to justice. If it means anything it means that somebody is to pay the landlords for the tenants' improvements which were always, in justice to the tenants, property, but have only recently been recognised as such by law; and that they ought also be paid because their rents have been brought down to a level with the rents of English tenants, who enjoy the advantage of "open competition and free contract," through the free competition of living industries.

The death of Lord Doneraile on August 26, at his residence in County Cork, is a very melancholy one. Seven months ago he and his coachman were bitten by a tame fox which became rabid, and both the nobleman and his servant went to Paris, where they underwent a course of treatment at the hands of M. Pasteur. They returned home in a month's time apparently quite recovered, and until Monday, August 22, it was believed that Pasteur's treatment had effected a complete cure. But on that day Lord Doneraile was attacked with illness, which speedily developed the dreaded symptoms of hydrophobia, and these continued to increase in intensity until death terminated the sufferings of the patient. There is something exceedingly childish in citing Lord Doneraile's case to prove that M. Pasteur's treatment is a sham. It failed in this particular instance, as the most skilful treatment will fail in any disease where fatal effects have set in, and that is all that can be fairly said of it. The coachman has not succumbed, and is, we are glad to learn, to all appearance quite recovered. Besides, it is something further to be said for M. Pasteur, that his treatment of Lord Doneraile had the effect of alleviating much of the agony which accompanies the terrible malady. Probably the deceased nobleman's age had something to do with the failure of the great Parisian scientist's operations, Lord Doneraile was born in 1818, and was therefore entering on his 70th year. He succeeded to the title in 1854, and the following year was elected a representative peer of Ireland. He had only one child, a daughter, wife of Lord Castletown, who, with her husband, was at the bedside of her father for a couple of days before his death. The title descends to Richard Arthur St. Leger, who was born in 1825.

The North Hunts election is another Northwich. The Tories profess to be jubilant over it because they returned their man by a smaller majority than that by which they triumphed in 1885. But the features of this election are identical with those of the Northwich election, which threw them into such dismay. The Liberal vote was in both instances slightly increased over the 1885 figure, the Tory vote slightly reduced. In both cases—and that is the moral of nearly all the by-elections—there is no trace of a Liberal Unionist party. The advocacy of Home Rule has not cost the Liberals a vote, while association with the Unionists has cost the Tories many.

If the policy of the Nationalists and the tenants of Ireland is directed, as Mr. Gladstone puts it, by strong, vivid, and buoyant hope the action of their opponents is dictated by puerile, cowardly, and unreasoning despair. Anyone who would fathom the lowest depths of imbecility has but to read the proceedings of the "Landlords' and Incumbrancers' Association" in the Leinster Lecture Hall, Molesworth-street. The association is said to be non-political, but we did not observe that there were any Nationalists in attendance. Nor have we heard that there were any invited. Lord Abercorn, chairman, set the ball rolling by a splendid initial absurdity. The landlords, the incumbrancers, and the tenants, he claimed, "had a common interest, because they all got their living out of the land." Why, this is the very reason why their interests are conflicting. Each wants to get the best share for himself. Lord Abercorn's argument would go to show that it is the incumbrancer's interest to have his claim kept up, and the tenant's interest to have his rent kept up. Which are the two objects at present nearest to the landlord's heart, and for which he invites the co-operation of the incumbrancer and the tenant? It would not seem, however, that the proclamation of the League to which the Government look for the creation of an Arcadia in Ireland, has brought much hope to the hearts of the landlords. Captain Cosby, apparently with general approval, limited their expectations to a soft spot to be wrecked on, for their wreck, he declared, was inevitable, and their only business was to save as much as they could from the pressing waves of the "flowing tide." Anyone who studies the proceedings must come to the conclusion that the spot on which the landlords are to be wrecked must be a very soft spot indeed if it is softer than themselves.

A reference of the Dublin *Evening Mail* to Archbishop Walsh's remarks on the position of Trinity College—remarks made at Thurles