

in January, 1884, and since interpreted and commentated by the editor of the *Mail*—has drawn from the Archbishop of Dublin the following declaration as to the claims of Catholics in the matter of university education:—"What is claimed on behalf of the Catholics of Ireland is justice. An essential element of justice is equality; and in this matter of university education equality can be attained on the most absolutely satisfactory lines, without even an approach to the policy of distinction. Not one penny of the endowment of Trinity College need be interfered with. Not one stone of its buildings need be transferred from its present owners. No shadow of change need fall upon its teaching. One thing only need, and, I will add, must, disappear—its present monopoly—a monopoly which I should be surprised to learn that any of those most deeply interested in the welfare of the college would now struggle to maintain. "This definite statement will explode once and for all a floating slander which has done duty on thousands of platforms; and it makes still more clear the fact that even those most determined to have even-handed justice done to Catholics in Ireland, are also determined that their Protestant fellow-countrymen shall lose none of their just rights thereby. If Trinity College did not exist, it would be the duty of an Irish Parliament to provide an Irish university for Irish Protestants. We do not complain that our Protestant fellow-countrymen are well-equipped in the matter of education. Our complaint is that we ourselves have not been treated with a like measure of generosity; and, perhaps, we might also in justice add the reproach that we have not been helped to gain our rights by them as we should have been. Would it be too much to ask them at this late hour of the day, when their minds are set to rest by this frank declaration of our Archbishop, to come forward and declare that the maintenance of this inequality is an injustice that must be remedied? If they did so we would treat as more important their own unprovoked outcries.

We learn that extensive preparations had been made by the authorities to carry out the evictions on the O'Grady estate in the county of Limerick. Large bodies of police and military had been drafted into Kibballyowen, the O'Grady's residence, where they were held in readiness to accompany Mr. Sub-Sheriff Hobson on the work of extermination. On their side the tenants had not been idle, and are said to have so effectually barricaded their houses that the expedition against them is likely to prove considerably more than a mere military promenade. On Tuesday, August 30, active operations began with an attack on the house of Mr. John Carroll, where an entrance was easily effected. A more vigorous resistance was, however, offered at the house of Honora Crimmins, where the bailiffs were for some time prevented from entering by the roof, and were eventually indebted for admission to the frailty of the back wall, which fell before the strokes of the invaders. The conduct of the parties in charge of the police and military was characterised by the usual stupid brutality, which grievously shocked some English visitors who chanced to be present. The reporters, or clergymen, or members of Parliament, were not permitted to witness the enormities that were perpetrated by the burglars. We may suspect that their demeanour was not much improved by the attempt of the authorities to conceal their conduct. On the strength of a silly complaint, orders were given by one of the B.M.'s to "baton the people like the devil." We suppose the fellow, in issuing this shameful order in the fitting language of brutal coarseness, was acting under the instructions of Balfour and Co.; and, if so, the attempt to exasperate and provoke the people by wanton brutality of speech and act, throws a lurid light on the purposes for which the Coercion Act is to be employed. On Wednesday the eviction campaign was renewed, when Captain Plunkett found himself obliged to abandon as untenable the position of screen to the misconduct of the Emergency men. A poor old Widow Moloney, aged seventy, had to be removed in a bed. Many of the soldiers who were present are Irishmen, and no doubt felt heartily ashamed of the work at which they were called on to assist. The English, Scotch, and American visitors who were present expressed great surprise and indignation at the uncalled-for conduct of the officials, and some of them bear back to their own countries marks of the rowdiness that in Ireland passes under the name of Government. Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., Mr. Condon, M.P., Father Sheehy, and Father Ryan were present to assist and comfort the poor evicted families. After the evictions a meeting was held at which in addition to the gentlemen named, Mr. Congressman O'Neill, of St. Louis, and Mr. Harry Smith, the candidate for Falkirk, Scotland, delivered addresses.

Elections have now been held in almost every district of England, and in one and all there is the same tale to tell. The Liberals who were frightened away in 1886 by Mr. Gladstone's proposals as interpreted by Chamberlain and Company have now returned to their party; and the Liberals are as strong to-day in England as they were when they triumphed over Irish and Tory opposition in 1886. That is the situation.

The fight that is on foot between the Government and the League for the championship of Ireland is not exciting so much interest as might be expected. It is not a fair handicap. It is the whole world to a China orange against the challenger. To begin with the records. The Government has got badly beaten every time it tried. The League has a clean sheet of unbroken victories. The Government is a wild, blind biter. The League is cool and calm, and every blow tells. The Government is rickety on its pins, walks and fights with a crutch. The League stands solid and steady as a pyramid, but moves quick and resistless as a steam engine. There seems little reality about a fight against such odds; so much so that the public are coming to the conclusion, that it is a cross, a mere piece of empty bounce, to give the Orangemen a show for their money. The Government, it is generally believed, will never come regularly to the scratch. It may, it is possible, show some loose play about the ring. But it never will dare to close in downright earnest with so formidable an opponent. In any event the victory is not doubtful.

Now and then there are spasmodic outbreaks of Orange ruffianism in the North of Ireland which, though not of any great importance, yet as the outcome of some of the old spirit of black bigotry, are sufficient "to show that still it lives." On Saturday evening at Ballymena a patrol of police came across a body of disorderly Orangemen who

were engaged in the idle, but apparently pleasing work of cursing the Pope. The gang of disturbers refused to disperse on being ordered to do so by the police, and even pelted the policemen with stones and drove them into their barracks. The men threw a volley of stones at the barracks, seven windows of which they demolished. They persisted in their attacks until the police were compelled to discharge a volley of blank cartridge at their assailants. Bullets and buckshot would have been employed on a National crowd under less provoking circumstances. Can it be that it is only blank cartridge that is supplied to the constabulary in Ulster? If the fact should become generally known in Orange quarters we should not be at all surprised if there were an immediate outbreak of that peculiar Orange bravery that revels in manifestations of rowdiness that can be indulged in with impunity. If gross attacks on the police are to be resisted only with blank cartridge, then surely the time has come when the Orangemen of Ulster can safely gratify their military proclivities by "waving all their banners and charging with all their chivalry."

The Balbriggan frame work knitters have given notice that they intend, for the protection of their hosiery, to prevent, as far as possible, under the new Merchandise Act, the present system of stamping English hosiery with the name "Balbriggan." The statute provides that if any manufacturer continues to use the mark Balbriggan the name of the place where the hosiery has been manufactured must be stamped also.

On Friday, August 26, there assembled at the Leinster Hall, Molesworth street, one of those meetings of Irish landlords which have been so common of late years—a meeting to take steps to safeguard the interests of the so-called land-owners. It differed from all its predecessors in some noteworthy particulars. First, it was not by any means a fighting meeting. The Orange Duke who took the chair deprecated even political references, and the tone throughout was despondent in the deepest degree. Second, it proclaimed its intention of seeking a settlement in the interest of landlord, tenant, and incumbent alike. We do not set much store by this profession; but the necessity that compelled it is something to be recognised. Finally, the meeting concluded by the appointment of an executive committee with large powers of negotiation.

ENGLAND'S TREATMENT OF IRELAND.

(A paper read before the Irish National League at Wanganui, by Mr. W. BUNTING.)

ACCORDINGLY we read in Haverty's "History of Ireland" that at this period "the Parliamentary Commissioners in Dublin published a proclamation, by which and other edicts any Catholic priest found in Ireland after twenty days, was guilty of high treason, and liable to be hanged, drawn, and quartered and any person harbouring such clergymen was liable to the penalty of death and loss of goods and chattels; and any person knowing the place of concealment of a priest and not disclosing it to the authorities, might be publicly whipped, and further punished with amputation of ears." "Any person absent from the parish church on a Sunday was liable to a fine of thirty pence; Magistrates might take away the children of Catholics and send them to England for education, and might tender the oath of abjuration to all persons at the age of twenty-one years, who on refusal were liable to imprisonment during pleasure, and the forfeiture of two-thirds of their real and personal estate. The same price of five pounds was set on the head of a priest as on that of a wolf, and the production of either head was a sufficient claim for the reward." "The military being distributed in small parties over the country, and their vigilance kept alive by sectarian rancour and the promise of reward, it must have been difficult for a priest to escape detection, but many of them nevertheless, braved the danger for their poor scattered flocks, and residing in caverns in the mountains, or in lonely hovels in the bogs, they issued forth at night to carry the consolations of religion to the huts of their oppressed and suffering countrymen." Ludlow relates in his Memoirs (vol. I, page 422, de Vevay, 1691.) how, when marching from Dundalk to Castleblayney, probably near the close of 1652, he discovered a few of the Irish in a cave, and how his party spent two days in endeavouring to smother them by smoke. It appears that the poor fugitives preserved themselves from suffocation during this operation by holding their faces close to the surface of some running water in the cavern, and that one of this party was armed with a pistol with which he shot the foremost of the troopers, who were entering the mouth of the cave after the first day's smoking. Ludlow caused the trial to be repeated and the crevices through which the smoke escaped having been closed, "another smoke was made." The next time the soldiers entered with helmets and breastplates, but they found the only armed man dead, inside the entrance where he was suffocated at his post; while the fugitives still preserved life at the little brook. Fifteen were put to the sword within the cave, and four dragged out alive; but Ludlow does not mention whether he hanged these or not, but one at least of the original number was a Catholic priest, for the soldiers found a crucifix, obalice and priest's robes in the cavern. Mr. A. M. Sullivan, in his valuable work, "The Story of Ireland," referring to this mournful tragedy of history, so graphically described by Mr. Preudergast, pathetically writes as follows:—"Of our kindred, old or young, sold into slavery in the 'tobacco islands,' we hear no more in history, and shall hear no more until the last great accounting day of those little ones, just old enough to feel all the pangs of such a ruthless and eternal severance from loving mother, from fond father from brothers and playmates, from all happiness on earth, no record tells the fate. We only know that a few years subsequently, there survived of them in the islands, barely the remembrance that they came in shiploads and perished soon—too young to stand the climate or endure the toil. But at home in the rifted nest of the the parents' heart what a memory of them was kept! There the image of each little victim was enshrined; and father and mother, bowed with years and suffering, went down to the grave; still thinking, ever thinking, of the absent, the cherished one, whom they were