

struck back, and away ran the police to their barrack, and as at Mitchelstown, opened fire on the unarmed people. Fortunately they hit nobody, but the houses opposite bore marks of their good intention. Then they sallied forth from their barracks and made four or five arrests.

Mr. Denis Kilbride, Lord Lansdowne's victim, is now M.P. for South Kerry. He was elected without opposition for that division on Wednesday. It will be some *solatium* for the injury and loss he has sustained at Lord Lansdowne's hands that he will in future, in all likelihood, be enabled to take part in legislation for clipping the wings of noble predators, like the Governor-General of the Canadas. In this connection it is highly interesting to note that the Liberals of Lord Hartington's division, Rossendale, are actively taking measures for an effort to win the seat in case the halting Marquis joins the Ministry. Mr. Arthur Arnold is generally spoken of as the most likely candidate.

The great meeting in the Rotundo on Wednesday night, Sept. 14, was a magnificent inauguration of the latest phase of the Saxon invasion—the visit of the deputation of the Home Rule Union, North and South these ladies and gentlemen propose to travel, studying and seeing for themselves the ghastly work of English rule. This is the sort of thing that should go on all the autumn and winter. No week should pass without a representative of the English democracy placing himself in evidence in Ireland. There can be no greater encouragement, or even protection, to the Irish people than the presence of those "lookers-on in Vienna," before whose eyes the most hardened coercionist will feel uncomfortable in carrying out his atrocities. Let them come and be a symbol of the co-operation and sympathy that has begun between the two democracies, and learn by actual observation on the spot more sound knowledge on the Irish question than they could by years of reading.

English eyes can never be taught to regard evictions, with their attendant horrors, as proper and ordinary incidents in the firm and impartial administration of the law. We Irish, who have grown half callous to these enormities—used to them, no doubt, as eels are to be flayed—are often startled at the fresh and lively amazement and indignation which they excite in the breasts of English spectators. W. R. Gould, M.D., for instance, in a recent letter to the *Freeman*, wastes as much honest and wholesome indignation over the Herbertstown evictions as if the savage brutalities were not legal:—"On Wednesday," he wrote, "we were amongst the favoured half-dozen who were allowed inside the cordon of soldiers and police, and witnessed that almost unparalleled scene where the old woman—Mrs. Moloney—close on four score years old, was dragged on her chaff mattress through the doorway and deposited on a dung-heap. Some idea may be formed of the nature of her resting-place when I mention that, being curious to ascertain whether she was shamming or not, I went to examine her and sank to my ankles in the slush. She was huddled up in a lump, and the poor old soul could scarcely speak." He is sufficiently ill-bred to threaten to tell tales out of school when he returns to London.

There is special wrath in the coercion Press of England and Ireland against the English Democrats who have committed the unpardonable sin of coming over to see with their own eyes and hear with their own ears the condition of Ireland, and what is worse still, have dared to tell with free English tongues what they have seen and heard. All the foul language, of which Irish Nationalists usually enjoyed the monopoly, are now lavished upon them. "Agitators," "incendiaries," "loobers," "rebels," and "inciters to assassination," are amongst the choice epithets with which Mr. Stanhope, Mr. Brunner, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Labouchere are pelted. The *Liarish Times* especially ruffles up its feathers like a Cochinchina hen in a rage at this "Saxon invasion." To speak plain truth, the invaders deserve the coercionist indignation. Compared with Mr. Stanhope, Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Brunner, the language of Mr. Dillon may be described as mild, and of Mr. Davitt as guarded. But when the coercionists have spent their breath in foul language perhaps they will vouchsafe us some explanation of the extraordinary fact that every honest Englishman who comes once to view the condition of our country with unprejudiced eyes ends by becoming more Nationalist than the Nationalists themselves.

A Mr. Paul, R.M., who has been serving his "Queen and country" for some time past as the commander of small armies detailed for the protection of Galway sheriffs' bailiffs on eviction bent, was summoned before the Ballinasloe justices sitting as an "ordinary" court for having trespassed with forty policemen on the lands of a farmer whilst engaged in assisting at the eviction of the tenant Barrett. The trespass was proved beyond yea or nay—in fact there was no defence—and the Bench mulcted the defendant in the crushing penalty of sixpence! Then Mr. Paul, like the law-abiding R.M. that he is, blandly informed the Bench that he would "act in the same way again" when it suited him.

General Buller's retirement is a suspicious coincidence, Mr. Balfour's explanation to the contrary notwithstanding. Even the General's strong military stomach could hardly digest the utter contempt for his sworn statements displayed in the latest savage vagaries of Mr. Balfour. General Buller declared on oath that the people regarded the League as their salvation. Mr. Balfour proceeds to suppress the League on the ground that the people are groaning under its tyranny. General Buller declared that until the League arose the law, what little law there was, was entirely on the side of the rich. In the name of equal laws the League suppresses is to be accomplished. Mr. Balfour was very sensitive about any allusion to the political opinions of permanent officials. The same delicacy was not displayed in regard to the political opinions of General Buller's predecessor in the post. He denied that General Buller had resigned, but on pressure he confessed that he had intimated his desire to retire. There was no difference of opinion or policy, he explained, between them. In the face of the sworn evidence of the Under-Secretary at the Land Commission, this truly was a startling statement. Without attaching any superstitious value to the oath of General Buller, we prefer it to the word of Mr. Balfour.

Mr. O'Brien's resolution will bring the question of the treatment of political prisoners into the foremost place amongst the controversies

of the autumn. In no country in the world, save this, are political prisoners regarded in the light of common criminals. Naples and Austria stood alone many years ago in their savage treatment of political prisoners, and it was these atrocities which, at the call of Mr. Gladstone, aroused the indignation of the whole civilised world against their rule. Mr. Balfour may double bolt his prison gates, but the story of what transpires behind them will not be kept from the public pen; and we are much mistaken, should the brutalities which he contemplates be carried out, if that story does not arouse in the British people a fury of indignation which will sweep him from power like a tornado.

Some of the popular journals in England are using very plain language in reference to the tyrannical policy of Mr. Balfour and the murderous deeds of his police in Ireland. A Norwich paper entitled *Daylight* quite equals in that respect anything that can be found in the speeches of Irish orators or the writings of the Irish Press. In addition to several editorial paragraphs on the subject, it prints in large type an article over the signature of "Junius, Junior," in which our Tory rulers are handled without gloves. The following is an extract:—"The history of Great Britain and Ireland is a record, to a lamentable extent, of deeds of violence, of cruel oppression, and of bloodshed in murderous revenge. Its pages are stained with human blood through every century. Unhappily, history of this dark character is in process of making at the present time. In all the records of British rule in Ireland few events have brought greater disgrace upon the national character than those which happened at Mitchelstown on Friday, September 9, 1887. The Tory Government, supported by a traitorous band of Liberal dissentients, is responsible for the foul and unnatural murders at Mitchelstown." Further on in the same article we read:—"The Tory Government has not hesitated to accept the responsibility in the House of Commons and before the world of the deeds of blood perpetrated by its agents in Ireland, and by defending their cowardly conduct and cruel murders has earned to itself everlasting infamy. Henceforth—for all time—throughout the civilised world this Government will be known in history—a history of its own making—as the bloody Tory Government of 1887!" When organs of the English working-classes take to writing in this strain, it needs no prophet to say that the days of Tory rule in England are numbered.

Another mad plunge down the Averna slope of tyranny! Balfour paid a flying visit to Dublin last week ending September 17. A meeting of the Privy Council was held, and as a result a proclamation appears in the *Dublin Gazette* suppressing at a stroke of the pen every branch of the League in the County Clare, all branches in the baronies of Leitrim and Loughrea in the County Galway, the barony of Corkaguiny in County Kerry, the baronies of Condons, Clongibbon, and Duhallow in County Cork; and the barony of Shelburne in County Wexford. These baronies embrace the areas wherein the struggles against Clanricarde, Webber, and Brooke are being fought out; hence the proclamation of the League is an open and shameless effort to help the landlords to get the rents which the Government by their own legislation have in effect declared to be unjust. But it is highly probable that class partisanship will have precisely the opposite effect from that intended, and that before the fight is over the landlords in whose interest it is exercised will have good reason to exclaim "Save us from our friends!"

Perhaps the most significant commentary that could be made upon the monstrosity of this proclamation is that furnished in the action of the Lord Lieutenant's own tenantry. On the very same day that the newspapers announced what the Privy Council had done they contained also a report of a meeting of the County Down tenants of Little Castlereagh, at which a memorial was unanimously adopted asking for such a reduction in their rents as would enable them to live. The past season has been so disastrous a one for the farmers of County Down, they point out that in many cases the produce of the fields would not do more than meet the landlord's claims—in other words, that economic rent has almost entirely disappeared from the county! Where, then, they ask, are they to look for means to pay the landlord's tribute.

While the future Proclamation-writer was concocting his coup in the Castle, he was pounced upon by a limb of the law, in the shape of a process-server, and handed a writ at the suit of Mrs. Peggy Dillon, the Galway midwife, who has taken an action against him for defamation. The thug was a complete surprise, and the rage and astonishment of the skulking aristocrat when the document was thrust upon him made him for a moment seem to forget the respect due to that law about whose sanctity he is so fond of prating. He made a movement as though he would imitate Mr. Davitt's example in the matter of Castle Proclamations and wipe his patent pumps with the Lord Chancellor's summons; but, on second consideration, he ordered that the Under-Secretary, Sir William Kaye, should look after the matter. Eventually Mr. Coll accepted service of the writ, and "appearance" to it has in due form been entered in the law courts. Hence we may in a very short time expect some pleasant distractions from the more serious business with which the slanderer of Peggy Dillon has furnished the country, and which is certain, eventuate how it may, to cover his name with ridicule as it is already covered with infamy.

Our English visitors of the Home Rule Union seem to be profoundly impressed with the universality and the heartiness of the reception which they have met, north, south, and centre. In Limerick, Tralee, Derry, Bandon, Toomebridge, Maginifal, and sundry other places, they have been received by the people as men who come with the olive branch and an honest desire to help the people's cause deserv'd to be received. They express the astonishment which they feel at the system of rule which prevails in Ireland, so totally at variance with the belief which has been long impressed upon English minds, that people in Ireland are governed in the same way as people in England. They now see what the rule of the Castle, the landlords, and the police is like for the first time; and their testimony, when they go back to narrate their experiences, must be a revelation to their fellow-countrymen. One of our visitors, Mr. Brunner M.P., has shown his sympathy with Ireland in the splendidly-practical way of subscribing a thousand pounds towards the Evicted