

faction by the necessity laid upon her of defending herself against the jealousy of the world. "If ever England must form a united and strongly consolidated body" he says, "it is now, for she has attracted the envy of many nations of the world; she is a thorn in the eyes of her neighbours, she will have to face great dangers, and she must rally her forces for the hour of need; she cannot allow herself any experiments of doubtful issue." But even without much knowledge of the subject, M. Vamberg might, at least understand that a disaffected or hostile Ireland on her flank, demanding a garrison of far greater strength than in time of war she could afford, and exercising a disturbing influence throughout the empire would hardly tend to promote a united and strong consolidation. Even a doubtful experiment might surely be preferable to a certainty of evil and an experience of ill acquired through the course of ages. It is well M. Vamberg has acknowledged his incapacity in the matter, or there might be room for suspicion that on his own ground in Central Asia he was also but a weak authority. But we all know the old saying—*ne sutor ultra crepidam*.

**PRETTY
FELLOWS.**

MR. T. M. HEALY, who has a habit of speech very offensive to some people, and who when he chooses to speak out is found very disagreeably irrepressible by them, has been telling a tale as to the antecedents of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Colonel King-Harman.

As to the doings at the present time of another of Ireland's governors, we learn them from another source, and they also help to show us the nature of the men by whose means and in whose favour the country is being coerced, as they vainly hope, into a condition of enduring subjection. Colonel King-Harman, Mr. Healy tells us, fitted himself for the position of a guardian of law and order on the time-honoured principle that adopts the setting of a thief to catch a thief. He was, it seems, at one time a *habitué* of a notorious haunt of London debauchery, where he distinguished himself among the disorderly frequenters of the place by pre-eminence in disorder, and even conducted himself so violently as to undergo a sentence of a considerable period on the tread-mill, assuming for the occasion the pseudonym of Wilkinson. Mr. Healy adds, however, that owing to the influence he could command his term of imprisonment was cut short. The other member of the legislature to whom we have alluded is Colonel Hughes-Hallett, a shining light among the Tory party, and one most desirous of seeing law and order preserved in Ireland. Colonel Hughes-Hallett, we are given to understand, has just been pardoned and received into renewed favour with his party because an offence of which he was guilty proved to some slight degree less revolting than it was at first supposed to be. A young lady, 26 years his junior, and whose guardian he had been, or who had at least been on the terms of a near connection with his family, on being seduced by him turned out, not, as it was at first reported, to be his step-daughter, but the step-daughter of his first wife. The Colonel, moreover, when the matter had been placed in the hands of a solicitor, and exposure was certain, returned a sum of £5000, which, on some pretence or another, he had obtained from the young lady in question—whom he had also induced to make a will in his favour. And, besides, to prove the complete chivalry of his soul, he proposed that, on his wife's obtaining a divorce from him, he would marry the young lady whose ruin he had accomplished, she being a young lady of considerable beauty and possessed of a fortune of £40,000, and he an old soldier 48 years of age. All these extenuating circumstances being considered, it turns out that the offence committed by Colonel Hughes-Hallett was a mere peccadillo. It was adultery of an especially aggravated and disgusting kind; but then it was not incest as well. It was a loan or a gift obtained surreptitiously and by grossly unfair means, but it was not a direct theft, and the Colonel paid it back when he found he could not do otherwise. What, therefore, would you have? Mr. Smith, the Tory leader in the house of Commons, we are told, professes himself fully satisfied, and Mrs. Hughes-Hallett has forgiven her husband, and no doubt considers the inexperienced girl, whom this elderly libertine betrayed, as solely in fault. Is there not abundant reason that the peccadillo should be condoned by everyone? Colonel King-Harman spent but a short time in prison. Colonel Hughes-Hallett was not quite as infamous as he might have been. The matter is as clear as the day-light, and both legislators are honourable men. Who, if not they, should be fit to control the fate and fortunes of a nation? Who, if not they, should have the privilege of throwing honourable, honest, and cleanly-living men into gaol, and of forcing innocent girls into the companionship of prostitutes? Perhaps it would not be quite fair to go the length of quoting in this instance the motto *ad uno discit omnes*, but we certainly have an illustration of a great deal that prevails among the classes in the interest of whose ascendancy Ireland is being dragooned, and we see that the Tory party recognise as among their honourable and trust-worthy members men who have graduated in all that is base and disgraceful.

**TOO CANDID
BY HALF.**

A MARKED improvement attended by slow progress is rather a singular phenomenon. But as, according to Lord Salisbury, speaking the other day at the London Mansion House, it has occurred in Ireland it may, perhaps, be allotted a place among Hibernianisms or practical Irish bulls, or something else of the kind that is looked upon as half silly, half humorous, but, under the circumstances, wholly allowable. Lord Salisbury, no doubt, for the moment was playing the part of a Paddy, and felt that he must do honour to the traditional stage. Her Majesty's Government, said the Marquis again, were more determined than ever to subordinate everything to the enforcement of law and order in Ireland—and we may readily believe him. A subordination of the kind has, in fact, been just revealed to us, and, even if it goes a little further than Lord Salisbury's words would seem to imply, there is not much to surprise us, knowing as we do the history of the dealings with Ireland of Governments such as that over which his Lordship presides. Surely it is not in accordance with law and order, even as the Government openly pretends to enforce or observe them in Ireland, that conspiracies should be formed, outrages committed, and murders perpetrated for the sake of betraying into the hands of the police criminals wanted to prove the necessity for coercion? Yet that is what has been done in the case of the moonlighting affray at Lisdoonvarna, in Clare. The Irish national Press, indeed, had already, from the first, declared that the matter seemed very suspicious. And what there was, as the report would have it, to move the "Fenian fraternity" in any unusual manner it is difficult to explain. The "Fenian fraternity," as they are called, have always been aware that the Government in Ireland was in the habit of getting up conspiracies and plots in order that they might govern the country in accordance with their chosen methods. There can be nothing new or unusually moving in the revelations now made, unless it be that the informer has told the truth much more openly than men of his class have hitherto done. But that must rather checkmate the Government than the Fenians—and now more particularly when Irish affairs are so narrowly watched in England. The case alluded to is that in which an attack was made by moonlighters on a family named Sexton, near Lisdoonvarna, and where while the body of the policemen were engaged in a fight inside the house the head-constable, who had remained without, was murdered by some party unknown, and only discovered lying dead when the fight had ended. Was the man's death part of the programme arranged beforehand, and whose expenses the Government have paid? We are told now that a man named Callinan, an informer, has testified that he had planned the whole affair for the purpose of handing over his companions to the police, and that the Government had paid all the expenses. But a well-arranged conspiracy like that, provided at the order of the Government, would be nothing without a murder, and the mysterious fate of Head-Constable Whelehan is thus most naturally accounted for. To those, however, who are accustomed to the methods used by Dublin Castle in administering the Government of the country there is nothing new or startling in all this. To them it has always been known, as a matter of course, that such conspiracies, such outrages and murders are among the ordinary business of the day. Whenever the necessity arose for them they were forthcoming. Indeed the suspicion has never been set at rest that the Phoenix Park murders themselves were the outcome of an undertaking of the kind. The identity of the Number One from whom James Carey took his instructions has never been discovered, and the possibilities are that he was an employee of the Castle—making arrangements for a plot that only differed from many others so organised in striking by misadventure at higher victims than those intended, and by going somewhat further than the requirements of the times demanded. When Lord Salisbury tells us, therefore, that the Government are determined to subordinate everything to the enforcement of law and order in Ireland we can readily believe him—that is, understanding, as we are authorised in doing, that the enforcement of what is called law and order in Ireland involves the breach and transgression of law and order in every way found expedient—even, as we see, by the commission of outrage and murder—regularly organised for the purpose by a paid Government employee. But now, while all England and well nigh all the world look on, it may be questioned as to whether the ancient methods will still serve a useful purpose. As to Lord Salisbury's declaration at the Mansion House touching the slow progress of a remarkable improvement, that Hibernianism, or Irish Bull, or contradiction in terms, or whatever you like to call it, may be taken for the brag of a man driven to extremes, and knowing only that he was bound to say something altogether out of keeping with the truth. His capping the falsehood with a threat of increased violence and rigour was as characteristic of the man as of the situation.

If any justification for resistance to the unjust laws imposed upon the Irish people were still wanting, it might be found in the example given by those employed to administer the law among them. At Mitchelstown, for example, in the first place, the Government