

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

MR. MOLLOY, M.P., has brought back from New Zealand a piece of information which ought to attract the attention of the Secretary of the Irish National League or the director of the Irish Agency in London. The coercionists, Mr. Molloy declares, are industriously circulating their libels in the different colonies, and the *Times* reprints are to be met everywhere, but Home Rule pamphlets are not to be had, although there is a great demand for them. The first available steamer ought to bring out to New Zealand a good supply of the best Home Rule literature which Mr. J. J. Clancy can get together.

Coercion under Mr. Balfour has as many phases as the moon. Now it is newavendors, now it is boycotters, now it is Campaigners that are being sent to gaol wholesale. Each of these expedients fails in turn, but hope springs eternal in the human heart, and he tries the next. The Star-Chamber clause is his craze at present. There is a Star-Chamber Court perambulating each week in half-a-dozen counties, and men, women, and children are being hurried off to prison for refusing to give such evidence as will satisfy the corrupt and degraded Removables who conduct the inquiries, and will convict their relatives and friends of imaginary crimes. Away down in Castlereagh we have already got a sudden peep into the secret working of these abominable tribunals. It is no wonder the Crown are at such pains to shut them up in impenetrable darkness. A plot was hatched to accuse a number of respectable inhabitants of Castlereagh of criminal conspiracy. Forthwith a battalion of witnesses were gathered in from the highways and byways, including some of the most disreputable characters in the neighbourhood to justify the charge. The accused, before the cases were called, were furnished with what purported to be the evidence of these witnesses made before the Star-Chamber inquiry. A brief examination showed that these documents, such as they were, had been deliberately mutilated by cutting off the latter portion, including the name of the official torturer. Counsel for the accused indignantly denounced the trick, and next day, "in consequence," as was confessed in the accompanying letter, "of his observations" the mutilated fragments of the depositions, all loose like a pack of cards, were furnished to the accused. But the shorthand writer's notes of question and answer, the one implement by which fraud at those inquisition courts could be detected, and to which the accused were clearly entitled under the statute, were still persistently denied.

The reason of all this trickery was made manifest in the statement counsel for the prisoners made while protesting vehemently against the fraud sought to be put upon his clients. His instructions, he said, warranted him in declaring, and there was a witness ready to declare it upon his oath, that in the course of the inquiry, while he was in the midst of the examination, a number of sovereigns were furtively produced by the presiding Removable, Mr. Townsend, and displayed to the witness in such a way as could have no doubt on any impartial man's mind, and certainly left no doubt on the mind of the witness that they were intended as a bribe for him if his evidence was satisfactory to the court. Under these circumstances it is hardly to be wondered at that a desperate effort was made to conceal the name of this worthy Removable by mutilating the depositions. The Crown met this grave charge by forthwith applying for a week's adjournment, on the frivolous pretext that the Sessional Crown Solicitor was obliged to go elsewhere, and despite the earnest protest of the counsel for the accused, whose wishes or convenience are never considered in those matters, the request of the Crown was readily acceded to. It may be that the Removables were willing to give their brother Removable, whose zeal in the sacred cause of law and order carried him just a little too far, a chance of escape. But the case cannot be postponed for ever. All this time the Crown are holding on like grim death to the copy of the shorthand-writer's notes, which the statute expressly commands shall be forthwith furnished to the prisoners or their representative.

By a slow process of extraction the truth has been dragged from Mr. Balfour concerning the official attempt to make Mr. Dillon's visit to the Lord Lieutenant's tenantry at Newtownards a failure. When the details of this attempt were first introduced to the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour, in his contemptuous and summary style, declared there was not a particle of foundation for them. But subsequent cross-examination forced him to admit that there was a good deal of truth in several of the details, but he continued to deny that the constabulary had induced the landlady of the Ulster Hotel in Newtownards to refuse that house to the meeting. But inquiry was pursued a little further on Tuesday night by Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Balfour's reply was that "the landlady, after some conversation with the officers, announced, of her own accord, that she would not allow the meeting." What splotchons Mr. Balfour must suppose the public to be, and what a notorious prevaricator he has become himself!

Evicted tenants are an equitable nuisance. This is what the Master of Rolls and the Vice-Chancellor, by a double-barrelled application, are simultaneously called upon to decide. The evicted tenant is to be ranked with a pariah or a leper. There is a contagion in his presence. It is a crime to harbour him as it was a crime to harbour a runaway slave in the old days, as it is a crime to keep a dangerous wild beast loose upon one's premises. We have not one whit exaggerated the proposition which Chief Emergencyman Hamilton, calls upon the Master of the Rolls and the Vice-Chancellor to lay down regarding the evicted tenants of Coolgreany. Captain Hamilton evicted those poor people; a charitable unevicted neighbour afforded them shelter. Huts were erected for their accommodation. So far, it is admitted the tenant was within her legal rights. But the interposition of equity—bless the mark!—is invoked on the sole ground that those evicted tenants and their homes are a nuisance to Captain Hamilton. There is a reproach in their presence there is an unfriendly look, he swears, in their eyes, as he walks

abroad amongst the fields from which he banished them. He calls them

"Untrought knaves, unmannerly,
That bring their slovenly and unhandsome corpses
Betwixt the wind and his nobility."

There was a more practical reason. Intending land-grabbers, he swore, objected to evicted tenants on the premises. Poor sensitive beings, their nerves could not stand it. So he called upon the Master of the Rolls and the Vice-Chancellor to judicially pronounce them a nuisance—to order their huts to be pulled down, and they themselves to be carted like rubbish off the holding. An injunction to restrain Dora Kavargis and other tenants from continuing to shelter them was sought by Captain Hamilton, on behalf of his principal, Brooke; and the *fiat* was given by the Master of the Rolls.

A curious correspondent writes:—"I have been expecting you to remark on a very interesting historical parallel. Are you not aware that at another great crisis in our National history, another Bishop of Limerick, whose name was also O'Dwyer, Edmund O'Dwyer, behaved a renegade and traitor to his country's cause? It was at the period of the Kilkenny Confederation. The parallelism is very striking. That O'Dwyer, like the present one, was made a bishop without having been a parish priest. He was a native of Limerick, too. As a priest he had shown much promise, and was taken up by Archbishop O'Keely, of Tuam, who sent him to Rome as his proctor and got him entrusted with a memorial from the Confederation praying the Pope to bestow a cardinal's hat on Father Luke Wadding. On his way back he was made Coadjutor Bishop of Limerick; He was an ardent supporter of the Old Catholic party and of the Nuncio's policy in the Supreme Council of the Confederation in which he sat as a spiritual peer. You will find him described in Rinuccini's despatches in all his glory as a confederate celebrating with other prelates in his cathedral Owen Roe's victory at Benburb.

As Rinuccini's description gives a brilliant impression of the National situation at the time perhaps you will allow me to quote it in parenthesis—"At four o'clock," he writes, "the procession moved from the Church of St. Francis where the thirty-two stands of colours taken from the Scotch had been deposited. The garrison of Limerick led the van, and the captured colours were carried by the nobility of the city. Then followed the Nuncio, the Archbishop of Cashel, the Bishops of Limerick, Clonfert and Ardara, and after them the Supreme Council, the mayor and magistrates in their official robes. The people crowded the streets and windows; and as soon as the procession reached the cathedral *Te Deum* was sung by the Nuncio's choir, and the latter pronounced the usual prayers, concluding the ceremony with solemn benedictions. Next morning Mass *pro gratiarum actione*, was sung by the Dean of Fermo in presence of the aforesaid bishops and magistrates."

But a darker hour came for the Confederate cause, and when the fair weather appeared to have departed finally, Bishop O'Dwyer of Limerick (to adopt a style of language which Bishop O'Dwyer of Limerick to-day affects) promptly "rattled." Father Meehan, in his "Irish Hierarchy in the 17th Century," remarks that "it might have been fortunate for O'Dwyer to have died in that hour of his country's transient triumph, but he was doomed to taste bitterness and sorrow at home and abroad, and to find his last resting-place far away from the old cathedral where his predecessors were entombed." Here is how Father Meehan records his conduct:—"Instead of adopting Rinuccini's bold and honest policy, which spurned mere toleration of the Catholic religion, he allowed himself to be duped by the artifices of the lay members of the Supreme Council, most of whom were identified either by blood or partisanship with the crafty enemy of their creed and race—James, Marquis of Ormond. In fact, the Bishop, with several others of his own order, allied himself to Ormond's faction, signed the fatal truce with Lord Inchiquin, and thus deserted the straightforward cause which Rinuccini and the old Irish strove to maintain."

But Rinuccini's description of his behaviour is particularly striking. "For the last eighteen months," he writes in 1648, "the Bishop of Limerick, to my utter amazement, and that of everyone else, has devoted himself to the party of Lord Ormond; and this, indeed, is a sorry return for the benefits bestowed on him by the Holy See; but he has had his reward, for he is now the object of universal odium, and has separated himself from the sound politics of the rest of the clergy."

After the capitulation of Limerick to Ireton, Bishop O'Dwyer made his escape by one of the city gates, having disguised himself as a peasant and smeared his face with gunpowder. His end was miserable. He lived in Brussels till 1654, "eating the salty bread of exile, and regretting with his latest sigh the fatal error that helped to bring ruin on his unfortunate country." He was buried at midnight, almost furtively, in a foreign grave, and no epitaph was placed upon his tomb.

Some unknown correspondent, to whom our thanks are hereby proffered, sends us a copy of the *Barnsley Independent*. It contains an article, headed "A Farnellite Slander." On looking it down it is seen that a Mr. Wills, of Stainbro', recently sent to Mr. Balfour a paragraph which appeared in these columns commenting on the inhumanity of Removables Warburton and Caddell in sentencing poor old Samuel Kingston and his wife to gaol for having sheltered in the outhouse of the holding from which they had been evicted. Mr. Balfour's reply refers his correspondent to the answer given by him in the House of Commons when questioned on the subject. That reply is the justification of our comments; for it shows that the case was so awfully cruel that even the Chief Secretary, callous as he has shown himself, felt obliged to interfere for the old people's release. The only portion of the story which he ventured to deny was the statement that the old man was eighty years of age. Mr. Balfour said that he found Kingston to be "about 75 years." We make him a present of the difference. We repeat our statement that the landlord himself pleaded that the prisoners be let off, and that despite his appeal Removables Warburton and Caddell mercilessly sent them to gaol. Our comments were based on the ample reports published in