

# Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

MR. BALFOUR has confessed himself beaten, worsted, and driven to the wall by his stupid course of conduct on Monday, August 27. The arrests of a priest, a journalist, and two members, happening as they did simultaneously, were meant evidently to strike terror into the hitherto incorrigible Irish. Balfour's thunderbolts have not, however, any particular virtue save that of adding to the courage and determination of the men against whom they were hurled. The latest spurt of terrorism on his part is proof patent that he is conscious of his policy, up to the present, being a complete failure. He finds that the instrument in his hands has become ridiculously rusty, and he is now trying to give the blade something like a crystalline sheen. Failure, however, will dog his every effort in this direction. Coercion must remain a *fiasco* throughout the future as it has been a *fiasco* in the past. Arthur James Balfour would do well to take the flattering unctious of such a maxim to his soul, and act in conformity with its principles.

A large number of police proceeded on cars on Monday, August 27, to Rosslare, for the purpose of arresting Messrs. W. and J. E. Redmond, M.P., the latter of whom is "accused" of having unlawfully taken part in a conspiracy to compel a certain Captain Thomas J. Walker not to let certain lands formerly in the hands of James Clinch, District-Inspector Tottenham having duly served the warrants, both hon. gentlemen were conveyed to Wexford, escorted by the flower of the Royal Irish of the neighbouring barracks. When the Messrs. Redmond appeared before the court shortly afterwards, their solicitor applied that they should be admitted to bail. Mr. Kennedy, R.M., had no objection that they should be allowed their provisional liberty by entering each into recognisances of £500 and two sureties of £200. Mr. William Redmond, we may add, is charged with having at Coolroe, on August 16, incited Thomas Somers, James Somers, and others to resist and obstruct James P. Connors, deputy-Sheriff, in the execution of his duty. Mr. Redmond, addressing the court, said that he felt the highest satisfaction on finding himself prosecuted by Balfour; but he protested against being arrested and dragged through the country like a criminal by policemen when a summons was all that was necessary for the purpose of his appearing before the magistrates.

On Sunday, August 26, a large assemblage of people took place at Meelin for the purpose of protesting against the incarceration of Father Kennedy, the P.P. of Meelin. The Rev. T. O'Keefe presided, and the Members of Parliament present were Mr. J. C. Flynn and Dr. Tanner—both gentlemen having hoodwinked the police authorities and evaded their vigilance by taking one of those circuitous routes known only to campaigners and their friends. While the big-wigs of the constabulary barracks fancied that the contemplated meeting would be held in Kanturk, the demonstration was actually taking place in Meelin, where the alien garrison—five in number, did not, of course, dare to interfere with the proceedings. Father O'Keefe, in the course of an eloquent and impassioned speech, gave it as his belief, before God and man, that Balfour intended to murder Father Kennedy in Cork Gaol. Mr. Flynn said that Father Kennedy was incarcerated because he had championed the cause of the people, and because he had stood between them and the hereditary enemies of their race. It was, continued the hon. gentleman, incumbent on Nationalists to maintain the attitude they had taken up. In Father Kennedy's enforced absence they would still face such men as Leader and Co. Dr. Tanner observed that he hoped on the next occasion he came to Meelin it would be not only to welcome Father Kennedy on his release, but also to congratulate the rev. gentleman on the triumph of the cause with which his name is associated.

Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*, lets in some startling light on the position of Mr. Smith, one of Mr. Parnell's future judges. The following information relative to that personage will, we are sure, be perused with interest by our readers:—"When only a week or two ago I advised the other two Parnell Commissioners to 'keep an eye on Brother Smith,' Brother Smith merely presented himself to my mind as an English judge, with no worse fault than a possible infection of the current prejudices of the very best 'society.' I am afraid, however, that things are a good deal worse than I supposed. Here is an extract from the Irish Land Commission returns for 1883, which seems to show 'Brother Smith' in an entirely new and disagreeable light: Romney Foley, Legal Sub-Commissioner. (Date of decision, May, 1883. Co. Tyrone. No. 2,002). Tenant, John Donnelly; landlord, A. L. Smith. Townland, Derrynascobe. Old rent, £22 3s 10d; judicial rent, £17 10s. G. H. Garland, Legal Sub-Commissioner. (Date of decision, October, 1883. Co. Tyrone. No. 3,197). Tenant, John Dooris; landlord, A. L. Smith. Townland, Derrynascobe. Old rent, £8 5s; judicial rent, £6 15s. Now, the surname of Smith, I am aware, is not altogether an uncommon one; but the Christian names, 'Archibald' and 'Lewin,' in conjunction with it are not of every-day occurrence, and I confess it will be a surprise to me to learn that there are two A. L. Smiths—one the rack-renting Tyrone landlord, who in 1883 was taken into the Land Court by two of his tenants, who obtained reductions respectively about 18 and 20 per cent.; the other the Hon. Sir Archibald Lewin Smith, a Justice of the Queen's Bench Division, and one of the Commissioners now appointed to try the merits of the life and death struggle between Irish landlord and Irish tenant.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Bantry Branch of the Irish National League, Mr. Gilhooly, M.P., expressed himself certain that meetings of the suppressed and unsuppressed branches would be held in every part of the country notwithstanding the terrorism of Balfour and his infamous Government. Whenever the Plan of Campaign had been adopted, said Mr. Gilhooly, it had not in one single instance failed to defeat the combination of the landlords. If the people were only united and remained true to one another they would, before the lapse of a few years, see this country in a happy and

prosperous condition. In conclusion the hon. gentleman impressed upon his audience the necessity that existed at the present time for combination, in order to show to Balfour that they were determined to keep the banner of the National League flying until Ire and was conceded all her just rights to national self-government. Resolutions sympathising with John Dillon, and Father Kennedy brought the proceedings to a close.

The address which Mr. Shaftoe, as chairman, delivered at the Trades Union Congress in Bradford is one well worthy of consideration not only by workmen merely, but by all classes of the community. He referred to the improvements wrought since the Congress first met in Manchester, and attributed them to the power the trades had secured by proper combination, and to the consequent influence therefrom derived over public opinion. With the latest mechanical inventions in the way of labour-saving machinery he expressed much dissatisfaction. The labour population is continually increasing. Yet the machines by which two men do the work of three, or even four, are daily being devised, so that the number of unemployed must all the more increase, unless, which is impossible, the consumption of manufactured goods should keep pace with the production. Mr. Shaftoe recommends as a temporary remedy for the many grievances, the reduction of the working day to eight hours—a reduction which is demanded not as a favour but as a right. How this would benefit the English tradesmen he leaves unexplained. The manufacturer has to compete in Continental markets with foreign rivals whose employees work nine or ten hours at a low rate of wages. Any such change as that advocated would only handicap him the more, and the trade would suffer in consequence. What is needed is a combination of Continental and English workmen to bring the hour and pay to a uniform level everywhere. Mr. Shaftoe denounced Parliament as an assembly of capitalists and landowners, of its nature opposed to the drastic legislation required; and advocates the election of labour representatives who "are attached to the workers by training, association, and duty," so that the labour party may no longer be "the city of refuge for every political outcast."

Mr. William O'Brien's article on the late W. E. Forster, which appears in the *Westminster Review*, is attracting considerable attention. It is a powerful analysis of the causes of that statesman's failure, by one possessed of that knowledge, the lack of which was the grand secret of Mr. Forster's collapse—namely, knowledge of the Irish people. Mr. O'Brien remarks on the evidence of Mr. Forster's ignorance of the Irish nature, even at the moment when he was working to relieve the wants of the Irish people. "His incapacity for understanding the Irish nature," writes Mr. O'Brien, "no matter with what dogged determination he puzzled over it and persuaded himself he had mastered it, is revealed at a glimpse in his estimate of O'Connell. He found 'the Liberator' among his mountains, with his pretty grandchild and his dogs clustering around him; and the charmed guest does full justice to O'Connell's hospitality and courtesy as that of a 'gentleman of the old school'; yet in the next breath honest Mr. Forster proceeds to remark, with a comic air of generosity: 'I do not believe the man to be in the least conscious to himself of insincerity'; and again: 'from several incidental expressions he made use of, I do believe he deeply feels the distress of the people! I will be bound that Mr. Forster was 'not in the least conscious to himself' of how deep an affront was implied in his dubious verdict, that the appalling famine scenes which wrung the heart of a young stranger from Yorkshire, were not altogether matters of indifference to the tottering old chieftain whose life had been one long passionate struggle for his people, and whose heart-stings broke a few months later at their sufferings! Is it wonderful that he who with the best intentions in the world barely acquitted O'Connell of being the monster of callousness the *Times* charged him to be, should have lived to doubt whether the Irish leader of another generation is 'not the Master-Moonlighter the never-changing *Times* paints him!' The passage has a moral for more Englishmen than one, we fear. The incident reveals Mr. Forster in an attitude often assumed by even well-meaning Englishmen.

Another lesson that Mr. O'Brien's article discovers is the enormous and cruel absurdity of which Dublin Castle is again and again the inspirer in our governors. The "Life of Forster" contains a story of curious pathos. The diary of his daughter runs on May 8th:—"Father read to us Mr. Robinson's report of the reception of the seed-potatoes in County Mayo. This has been an altogether delightful incident, and it was a pleasure to hear the Chief Secretary reading anything so different from an outrage report. 'I wonder whether they would call me Bucksfoot Forster if I went down there?' pondered father." "Alas for the sequel of this melting little incident," writes Mr. O'Brien. "Mr. Forster did not go down among the poor Errismea; but a battalion of armed police did, to collect poor-rate off the unhappy wretches whom Mr. Forster had saved from starvation; and the result of their visit was that a poor young girl was transfixed through the bosom with a bayonet, and brought home to her mother—dead!" Incidents like this arise again and again out of the absurd theory that at all cost "the law" must be carried out. In fulfilment of this maxim, poor-rate is levied off the famine-stricken, and tenants who have offered the last farthing of rent that their farm can make are evicted at the bayonet point. And yet people wonder that the system of government is not a success.

The man, Joseph Lloyd, who was found guilty upon the fourth count in the charge brought against him, which was to the effect that he did shoot at one Henry Thompson with intent to do bodily harm, at Templemore, has got off very easily, owing to certain inconsistencies in the evidence brought against him. The Attorney-General, in opening the case, said that but for the fact that Tompson's evidence had not been consistent throughout, the prisoner would have stood at the bar charged with the willful murder of Kennedy, who had been shot dead by Sweeney, who was in reality the tool and instrument of Lloyd. Thompson, who was wounded previously to Kennedy's being shot dead, had sworn before the magistrates that he heard Lloyd call to Sweeney to give the murdered man the "same" as he had given himself, and that immediately afterwards the unfortunate man Kennedy was shot dead. But the worst and most heinous part of it all was the language indulged in afterwards by