

wounded to the death. Deeply dejected, torn, maimed and exhausted, the survivors got them back to their desolate forest homes; and, maybe, the God that sees fit to let them live provided an adequate meal before the moon had set.

For, mark you, those wolves, without exactly appreciating the fact, had achieved a great and splendid work. They had brought to the surface much that is noble in human hearts; they had in two short minutes done that which years of time might not have done; they had destroyed a bitter feud and built upon its ruins a friendship which will stand while the friends have life.

THE LAND QUESTION.

We have been requested to publish the following as bearing on an interesting question of the day:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY TIMES."

Sir,—With your permission I would like to place before your readers a few ideas suggested by reading several of your leaders on or in relation to the land question, published during the last few weeks. I have less diffidence in addressing you on this subject, as I am satisfied that you thoroughly appreciate its importance in regard to the influence which a wise adjustment of the difficulties which at present exist between owners and occupiers of land is certain to have on our future prosperity, and that the adjustment in the public interests of these difficulties must soon be one of the most important matters for Parliament to deal with; and it is with the hope that others possessed of more leisure, knowledge, and ability may devote these useful qualities to the service of the public by thoroughly discussing this subject, so that a just and efficient means may be found to remove the present and prevent future deadlocks arising between owners and occupiers of land that I address you. In your leader of the 8th dealing with this question, you conclude that because one of our largest money lending institutions has decided to cut its losses all our difficulties will work right by the force of circumstances. In this I cannot agree with you. Your idea presupposes that outside capitalists, induced by low prices, will come in and purchase the properties of bankrupt occupiers in the hands of money lenders. You overlook the fact that the same causes which have produced the collapse here have had the same effects elsewhere, and that bargains, or what would have been considered such in times past, are now to be had all over the world, in such localities as have been depending on the British markets to consume their surplus produce. Outside of the difficulty of obtaining the parties with the necessary means to purchase these properties, you are apparently unconcerned. The fact that present occupiers have in many cases invested the labours of a lifetime in making a home for themselves and families, and which they will lose, should your idea of new men be carried out, is perhaps too sentimental in its nature to be worthy of consideration; but it is well worth the public's while to consider whether they will not more speedily put an end to the difficulty by granting present occupiers a secure tenure at reasonable rents, than by taking their chance of capturing stray capitalists who may wander to our shores.

Judging from one portion of your leader in your issue of October 8, where you say, referring to mortgages, "It is patent they have the right to do what they please with their own," you are evidently of the opinion that there would be an injustice in compelling them to accept such arrangements with the occupiers of their properties as Parliament might direct. I do not think that the question of justice or injustice to landlords in compelling them to take a fair rent is worth while discussing, with the fact staring us in the face that the British Parliament has passed laws giving to tenants, both in Ireland and Scotland, power to compel landlords to reduce their rents to fair sums, ignoring any previous contract. Our Parliament, in passing a Tenants' and Mortgage Relief Bill, would have an unquestionable precedent to justify them, and as matters now stand, the only questions to be debated are—would such an act be a benefit to the general public; and, if so, what form should it take. That the excessive sums paid in many cases by the occupiers of land, either in the shape of rent or interest, are acting as a restriction on trade is undeniable; and that a reduction on such payments would act as a stimulant to the agricultural interests, I think you will admit. Why, then, should we not have a measure to grant such relief as is required? Those, you will say, who have lent us money would not like it. Very likely not; but can we afford to sacrifice the public interest, considering the heavy public obligations we have incurred, and which must be fulfilled at all costs, in the interests of a few private firms or individuals? Nor can I see why they should object. The Bank of New Zealand has set an example of straightforwardness to be commended, in appointing commissioners to ascertain the true value of their securities, which action many institutions in our midst would do well to imitate. A public Land Court would do that for others, which the bank will doubtless find to its advantage to have done for itself. That the public welfare is at present being sacrificed in the interest of split milk there is not a doubt. Your strongest argument against the Fair Rent and Price of Land Bill passed by the House of Representatives last session was that it would be too expensive, in support of which object on you quote Mr. Courtney—an authority well worthy of respect; but there is one feature which the practical working of this act in Ireland has shown, even under the very unfavourable circumstances which exist there. This is the large number of cases in which landlords and tenants have come to an arrangement without the assistance of the court. That this would be the case here in most cases is certain were occupiers of lands put in a position to meet their landlords on equal terms.

During the late discussion on the question of Free-trade v. Protection you strongly opposed Protection on the grounds that it would raise the cost of productions to farmers of their produce, thereby handicapping them in competing in the British markets. In this matter, no doubt, you were correct, but to judge by your action in reference to the Fair Rent and Price of Land Bill, one would be inclined to conclude that you did not think rent a factor of any consequence in affecting the cost of production.

A high price for land has always been looked upon by the New Zealand press as cause to rejoice. Why this should be so, from a public point of view, I cannot understand. That in the past our land has been over-valued is undeniable, and that there is anything at present to justify the hope that in the near future high prices will be justified I cannot see, and I think it is the duty of everyone who has the welfare of the Colony at heart to deprecate anything in the shape of a boom in land, however anxious money lenders may be to bring such about.—I am, etc.,

October 30.

NATIVE.

BOOK NOTICES.

Dunmore; or, The Days of the Land League, by Louisiana Murphy
Dublin: M. H. Gill and Son.

THIS is the libretto of an opera written on the subject named in the title. The idea of the work is a happy one and it has been well carried out. The plot which centres in the return of an absentee landlord to his estate and his perplexity and disgust at finding the altered condition of things there is interesting and diverting, and the dialogue is bright and humorous in the extreme. The verses, especially, of which the greater part of the opera necessarily consists, are clever in a marked degree and many witty points are made in them. The writer, however, has had a higher object in view than that of giving an hour's amusement to a reader or an audience, and has undertaken her task with the intention of adding her mite to the contributions due by every Irish man and Irish woman in aid of the National cause. This she has succeeded in doing in a manner as racy as it is original and which only requires to be made sufficiently prominent to meet with the admiration it deserves.

"Ireland's Wrongs Righted or the Present against the Past" is a pamphlet which contains a lecture delivered at Invercargill by Mr. Thomas Denniston in reply to a lecture delivered there previously by the Rev. F. W. Isitt. If this lecture be an answer to Mr. Isitt, however, Mr. Isitt must be easily answered. It is simply a feebly attempted rehash of arguments that have been exposed and refuted a hundred times over when put forward in their full force by people capable of dealing with them. In Mr. Denniston as a lecturer on Irish affairs we have evidently a man who does not understand his own feelings talking about matters of which he is incapable of being anything but ignorant—which, in fact, he has not faculties to comprehend much less to explain, and the result is what might be expected. Mr. Denniston may attempt to answer Mr. Isitt, but to answer Mr. Denniston we could hardly call on any one out of long clothes who might not be offended at the summons.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

It is stated that the Empress of Brazil has gone on a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Lourdes to offer thanks for the restoration of Dom Pedro's health.

We see it stated in several journals that the Sisters of Charity are better treated than any other of the Mahdi's European prisoners at present in Khartoum. Pious and noble women, their labours everywhere command respect and admiration.

Dr. Foley, the grandson of an Irish rebel who fought at Vinegar Hill, and the son of a later day patriot, has been appointed by his Holiness to the see of Detroit, and Rev. J. J. Hennessey, a sterling Irishman, has been selected as Bishop of Wichita.

Lady Florence Dixie's husband, Sir Beaumont Dixie, has been received into the Catholic Church.

General Sherman's son, who is a member of the Society of Jesus, will next year be ordained priest.

Reports of the plague-stricken metropolis of Florida state that the Priests and Sisters remain nobly at their posts, ever ready to care for the sick and comfort the dying. Such reports do not awaken surprise.

It may not be generally known that Miss Mary Stauley, sister of the famous Dean Stanley of Westminster, became a Catholic, and devoted herself to work among the London poor.

It is stated in the *Times* of Philadelphia, that the Catholic Church has, in that City, by its last directory sixty-eight schools, and in these education is given to 25,000 boys and girls, or almost one quarter the number received in the public schools.

The Patriarch of the Catholic Armenians, Moneigneur Azarian, has had astonishing success in inducing the schismatics of his country to return to the one fold. During the last six months thirty thousand have become converts to the Church, including entire villages.

The Pope has instructed the Papal Nuncio at Brussels to aid Cardinal Lavigerie to convolve an international conference on the suppression of slave trading. His Holiness promises to send delegates to the conference.

The Catholic Bishops of Germany assembled at Fulda have signed an address to the Pope, in which they severely attack the clauses in the new Italian penal code regarding abuses by the clergy. The Archbishops of Cologne and Posen are among the signers.

Luke Cardinal Manning, the Bishop of Madrid has publicly condemned the attitude of the Italian Government towards the Pope and the articles of the new Penal Law referring to the clergy.

A committee of illustrious Catholics in Brussels receive every day numerous subscriptions in aid of Cardinal Lavigerie's crusade against slavery. His Eminence has repaired to Maestricht to give his blessing to fifteen young ladies on their entrance into the Convent of Missions for Equatorial Africa.

The "Vraie France" says that his Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, in receiving a number of Catholic students from the French faculties, said that in England, the Catholic religion enjoyed a liberty that France must envy, but that English Catholics were far from being able to carry out such magnificent undertakings.