

Colonel Turner should pay £500 for the benefit of the evicted tenants on the Vandeleur estate." Referring to the officials who are at present governing Ireland Mr. O'Brien branded them as bad, unprincipled and unscrupulous. "I am not speaking idly," said Mr. O'Brien; "I have this moment in my possession evidence condemning an official even more powerful than Col. Turner, and if I were to publish that evidence the wretch would be hunted from the society of decent men and women like a beast of prey." The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Byles, Rev. Mr. Harley, Oxford; and the Rev. Father M'Kenn.

Mr. Balfour, with his mean spirit of revenge, is still determined not to be done with Denis MacNamara, the brave news-vendor who laughed to scorn all his thunderbolts some short time ago. Mr. MacNamara, being a publican as well as a news-vendor, has been served with a notice of objection to the renewal of his license. The ground is alleged in this veracious official document are that Mr. MacNamara is not, forsooth, a person of good character and has not conducted his premises in a proper and orderly manner! Mr. MacNamara owes his bad character to the fact that despite, the pains and penalties of the Coercion Act, he dared to sell national newspapers containing reports of the "suppressed" branches of the League. This is the head and front of his offending. To the Irish people at large it is a certificate of his sterling honesty and patriotism. This objection to a renewal of his license throws a very lurid light indeed on the dark ways of Mr. Balfour's administration in this country.

The Unionist papers which recently so enthusiastically belauded the Pope and called upon all good citizens and faithful Christians to obey his mandate will now have an opportunity for proving the sincerity of their respect for, and obedience to, the Holy See. There is reliable authority for stating that the Pope, disgusted at the present treatment of political prisoners in Ireland, has addressed to the Government a strong remonstrance on that and other subjects connected with the administration of the Coercion Act. Thanks to the many sterling friends of Ireland at Rome, the Vatican is kept informed of the true condition of affairs. The utter lack of humanity displayed by the landlords and their chief bailiffs at the Castle, the refusal of even the slightest conciliatory measures to the people, in short the harsh tyranny of Balfourism, has not been unnoticed there. 'His Holiness dwells chiefly on the fact that the last session has been barren of results so far as remedial legislation for this country is concerned. The news, the truth of which cannot be doubted, should cause Irishmen intense satisfaction. Whether the Government pay attention to the letter or do not the national cause will be benefitted. If they ignore the letter their real attitude will stand revealed to the world. If they hearken to it the disgrace will be theirs that only pressure from without could move them to justice. In either case the fatality of ruling Ireland by a foreign Parliament is clearly demonstrated.

With regard to Ireland, the case is very plain. She is in the position of a patient who is dying, not because doctors differ, but because help delays. There is no difference of opinion among Liberals. The nature of the wound has been ascertained, the character of the remedy agreed upon. It is known that an amputation will be necessary, that the severed and lacerated arteries will have to be scientifically taken up and tied. All this is settled. But in the meantime the patient is bleeding to death for want of a rough-and-ready tourniquet improvised with a walking-stick and a pocket-handkerchief. It is all nonsense to talk of "Home Rule" and the "good time coming" when there are fifty thousand tenants in Ireland whom Home Rule will find homeless, and for whom the "good time" will come too late—fifty thousand men—nay, fifty thousand families between whom and roofless ruin there now stands nothing but the difficulty of getting enough Emergency men to do the dirty work of putting them out of their homes. Surely, without any disparagement to the high and mighty medical authorities, here, if ever there was, is a case for the rough-and-ready tourniquet. It is the plain and obvious duty (and, indeed, interest) of all English Liberals to see about stopping this shocking hemorrhage without delay.

Mr. Balfour has been at last compelled to open the prison doors to John Dillon. His captive's health was becoming so precarious that our very wise and calculating Chief Secretary determined to avert a possible and probable catastrophe which might cost him and his colleagues their seats on the Treasury benches. If John Dillon had died in Dundalk Gaol his death would have sounded the knell of the Salisbury regime in Ireland. This Mr. Balfour well knew, and such a contingency he took very good care to avoid. The unconditional release of Mr. Dillon is another proof of the growing weakness and infirmities of the Tory Cabinet. Surely, though slowly, is Mr. Balfour being compelled to come down from his high horse and give up his notion of governing the country with an iron hand. Even in his own camp murmurs are beginning to be heard condemning his Irish policy. Mr. Dillon's liberation will open the eyes of many English Tories to the utter fatality of continuing to carry out the provisions of the Coercion Act. A coach and four has already been driven times without number through its provisions. It has not attained any of the objects which were so ardently desired by its authors. It has crushed nothing that it was meant to crush, and has induced nobody to abandon the national cause.

On Tuesday morning, September 18, to the general surprise of the public, Mr. John Dillon was unconditionally released from Dundalk Gaol. Shortly afterwards the hon. gentleman arrived in Dublin and received a warm welcome at the Amiens street station from several of his colleagues and friends. It was noticed that Mr. Balfour's ex-captive looked extremely pale and careworn, and the general opinion was that he was released not a day too soon. Mr. Dillon drove immediately with his friend, Dr. Kenny, M.P., to his own residence in North Great George street, having been cheered very enthusiastically en route. During the evening a large number of city bands paraded the streets, playing national airs, and serenaded the hon. gentleman, who, after repeated calls, made his appearance and addressed the assemblage, thanking them for the kindness with which they had welcomed him out of prison. Mr. Dillon said that he had no intention of altering the policy he had adopted before he was committed to

gaol. He would carry on the struggle with the same determination as formerly. Short as the time had been since he was released, it had been long enough to convince him that, though many men had been sent to prison, the Government had not broken down the spirit of the people. The cause, he continued, is gathering force and strength day by day and hour by hour, and its ultimate triumph was now near at hand. Mr. Dillon's remarks were greeted with the most enthusiastic applause. Mr. Dillon purposes recruiting his strength in some healthy resort until the Parnell Commission resumes its inquiry in October.

GREYMOUTH.

RAIN, hail and stormy weather! Such has been our lot during the last fortnight; it surpasses anything like it during the winter months. We could well afford half our moisture to the parched and sandy wastes of the neighbouring colonies and then have plenty for our wants; but Providence decrees it otherwise, and therefore, we must be contented to bear with the natural laws of our humid climate. This weather indeed is exceptional, just on the eve of summer; cold sleety rain, showers of hail, accompanied by furious gusts of wind, scarcely gives an adequate description of it. For the first week, though there was a considerable fresh in the river, it did not interfere with the movements of shipping to and from the port, but this week the nor'-wester has put a stop to all shipping movements, there being a considerable sea on the bar and a strong current in the river. Three large colliers are laying here bar-bound; some more are in the roadstead, waiting to come in, but so far there is no sign of the stormy weather moderating.

Up to the present week the coal export trade has maintained its proportion of over 5000 tons per week, and preparations are being made at the mines for increasing the output, so that with milder weather we may see the coal trade, which is destined to be one of the principal staple industries of the West Coast, gradually increased.

The harbour works are being pushed ahead rather slower than with the old Harbour Board, but now that the Government have consented to raise the balance of the authorised loans, £50,000 for this and £100,000 for the Westport Harbour, better progress will doubtless be made after the floating of the required capital. Price and O'Connor's contract for the south break-water is all but finished, and it is to be hoped the present Board will lose no time in inviting fresh tenders, unless they agree with the present contractors to carry on the work, so that no time may be lost. They are doing the work at a very low price, and are notably qualified to carry out all their engagements to the satisfaction of government. Messrs Hungerford and McKay are pushing on the north break-water as fast as circumstances will permit them, and indeed circumstances have been pretty well against them all the time; what between floods, fire, and the damage done by the s.s. Gerda, it may be said that they are continually contending with adversities. Pile-driving has been resumed by them to replace those destroyed by the Gerda, and when this is completed they have an enormous body of stone ready to be sent down; the last big shot in their quarry having dislodged about 3000 tons of stone. This quarry is eminently superior to that in use for the south break-water, both in quality and quantity of stone, which can be procured at a far smaller cost per ton; in the other quarry it is hard to get sufficient stone of 20 ton blocks which are necessary to withstand the action of the waves at the tip-head. The two break-waters, only some 400 feet apart at the entrance, are a source of great danger to shipping with anything of a sea or heavy swell on the bar, owing to aprons forming on the south breakwater, thus considerably narrowing this already narrow channel. Over three years ago the first apron formed, when smaller stones were used, and on this stood the wrecks the steam tug Lioness, and the s.s. Star of the South. A considerable sum of money was expended by the late Harbour Board in lifting this apron and only partially succeeded; now it seems as they progress seaward, another apron is being formed, and that, too, of stones which, when laid down, were calculated to withstand the heaviest seas. Some are of the opinion that these large stones are thrown back with the action of the waves, such as happened to the smaller stones constituting the first apron, but a little consideration would show them that this shifting about of large stones must be also due to the scour of the river in heavy floods. When the river is capable of scouring a shingly bar from a depth of from 10ft to that of 23 ft, it undoubtedly must scour from underneath the breakwaters, and consequently between the scour of the river and heavy seas, broader bases are formed. This leads one to expect that this contingency should have been taken into consideration when determining the width of the channel. The sooner these defects are remedied by those in charge, the better for the port; it suffers enough already in its being unworkable either in heavy floods or heavy seas, not to have a narrow and dangerous rock-bound entrance to contend with.

The great event of this month at the port has been the sailing of the passenger ship, s.s. Rotorua, from the wharf direct for Melbourne. The steam collier, Pukaki, of larger tonnage, sailed before direct for Melbourne, but this is not half so acceptable as a passenger service. Greymouth people are always looking forward to the time when they will have a direct passenger and mail service to Melbourne, and this trip of the Rotorua showed the ease with which it can be accomplished. Considerable interest was manifested in the departure of this steamer, as a great number of the citizens were to take a holiday tour to see the great International Exhibition; others to recuperate their failing health, and a good many to try their fortunes in the sunny lands of Australia. The Rotorua arrived here on the morning of the 17th October, took in some 400 tons of coal, with a large quantity of coke, and sailed hence on the following day with 112 passengers, being only about 24 hours in port. Over 500 spectators lined the wharf on the morning of her departure. A second trip was to be made on the 30th October, but owing to the agents not getting sufficient passenger inducement it was abandoned.

There is nothing of importance to record of our alluvial gold fields, Ford's Creek is not so far proving up to the expectations held