

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

THE judges have decided to adjourn the Commission until the 15th of January for the Christmas holidays. At the opening of Friday's (December 14) sitting, an application was made by the Attorney-General to have Mr. William O'Brien committed for a contempt arising out of the article entitled "Somewhat too much of this" in the current issue of *United Ireland*. As a reprisal, Mr. Reid, Q.C., made a similar application against Mr. Broderick, Warden of Merton College, Oxford, for a speech reported in the *Times*, wherein he appeared to compare Mr. Davitt and Mr. Henry George to the White-chapel murderer. The judges decided that in the latter case a notice must be served on the Warden, but that Mr. O'Brien should appear before the Court on the following day. Later on, however, Mr. Reid declared that his client, Mr. O'Brien, could not personally attend at that time, and the Judges, to secure their vacation intact, decided to let the matter stand over till the next sitting. The remainder of the day was chiefly devoted to the cross-examination of the informer, O'Connor, by Sir Charles Russell, in the course of which he elicited that the witness had undertaken to give evidence to earn some money and to consult a doctor at the expense of the *Times*; he acknowledged also the genuineness of a letter from Mr. Harrington, which flatly contradicted in its most essential points, the evidence he had already given respecting it. Mr. Harrington, the fact is, had refused grants to branches in districts where outrages had been committed, whereas, according to O'Connor, he grounded his refusal on the peaceful character of the district in question.

The brave and indomitable Campaigner is at last at liberty. Judge Boyd fondly imagined that Tom Moroney would, through his friends, humbly kneel at his lordship's feet and humbly beg his lordship's pardon; but the autocrat of the Bankruptcy Court was denied such self-flattering delights, for it was no Nationalist, but Moroney's own landlord, the O'Grady, by whom the bankruptcy proceedings had been first instituted, who came forward on Thursday, December 13, and asked for his release. Mr. Beauchamp, the O'Grady's solicitor, waited on Judge Boyd at his residence the previous evening and asked him to hold a special sitting of the court to hear an application in the Moroney case. Next day it was discovered that Mr. Maurice Brooks—formerly M.P. for the city—had filed an affidavit asking to be permitted to move for Moroney's release. Judge Boyd having refused the application made by Mr. Brooks, consented to accede to the request made by the O'Grady, and signed an order for Moroney's liberation. Much satisfaction has been felt throughout the country at this tardy act of reparation on the part of Judge Boyd. Serious apprehensions had been felt regarding the prisoner's health, and it was admitted on all sides that a few more months incarceration might prove fatal to the Campaigner. His reception in Dublin after his release was enthusiastic—several of the city bands turning out in his honour. We are glad to note that the Lord Mayor of Dublin has convened a meeting of the citizens to be held at the Mansion House on next Friday, for the purpose of testifying public feeling in regard to the long suffering and heavy loss inflicted on the brave Tom Moroney.

Mr. Dillon received a magnificent welcome on his arrival on Tuesday, December 18, in the *Urbs Intacta*. Among those who greeted the hon. gentleman at the railway station were the Mayors of Waterford and Kilkenny, attended by a large concourse of people. Later on Mr. Dillon entered the City Hall, where a convention of the branches of the National League of the county was held—two hundred duly accredited delegates being present on the occasion. After resolutions had been unanimously passed condoling with Mrs. Pyne and expressing confidence in Mr. Parnell and his colleagues, the proceedings were adjourned till the evening, when Mr. Dillon addressed a large gathering of the citizens in the theatre. After a brilliant arraignment of Balfourism in Ireland, the hon. speaker proceeded to discuss the base and contemptible attempts made by the Tory Government to separate the Irish priests from the Irish people. He attributed the vitality of the Catholic Church in Ireland to the fact that the Irish priests were found in the national ranks. Mr. Dillon said that it was a sign of the greatest possible weakness on the part of the Tory Government to go crying and whining to Rome; for it shows that they do not trust much to coercion. He believed that these intriguers will come back from the Eternal City with their fingers in their mouths, and they will find, in spite of the Duke of Norfolk and all the other dignitaries who are besieging Rome with their representations, the people and priesthood of Ireland will march together to the goal of Irish freedom, united in the future as they have been in the past. Mr. Dillon's remarks, needless to add, were vociferously cheered. After a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor, the proceedings terminated.

For the fourth time since its desertion of Liberalism the constituency of Maidstone has been won by the Conservatives. This result, however, they can hardly regard as an unqualified victory. Mr. Cornwallis, their candidate, had unusual advantages; he is a local landlord, popular and esteemed, and he had in his favour all the influence—and it is no little influence—that the Baroness Burdett-Connors could command. The case of Mr. Barker, his adversary, on the other hand, apart altogether from the main principle of Home Rule, was prejudiced by his views on the licensing question. Yet, notwithstanding all this, on a rather full poll of 3,915, he was not able to secure the same number of votes as was accorded the Conservative at the previous election. His majority was slightly more than half that secured by the late member, Major Ross. The Gladstonian made a stubborn fight, and won a partial victory by increasing the Liberal vote. The Liberal vote this time was the largest ever scored in Maidstone by a Liberal.

Our Roman correspondent informs us that the Irish bishops have addressed the Pope on the question of his independence in the same sense as all the other episcopates of Europe have addressed him. The,

intolerable position in which the Pope finds himself—unable as he is to exercise his authority or receive the homage to which he is entitled without exasperating interference from the Italian Government, which has again and again broken its engagements to secure him in the exercise of his sovereign rights—is one that excites lively sympathy in Ireland. It not only excites our sympathy, but it involves our interests. The relations of Ireland and the Vatican would be much more satisfactory if the Pope were free. There would be less disposition to exaggerate the importance of diplomatic recognition from any quarter, and the officials of the Vatican would be less anxious to conciliate the European Powers and to hamper the constitutional action of their subjects. When Irishmen were defending the independence of the Pope at the cost of their lives, they were defending the independence of their own Church and the interests of their own people as well.

Gallant little Wales is not very anxious to pay the tithe tax—for the very good reason that it considers such an impost an odious imposition. The authorities, however, are equally determined to extract support for the alien Church from the Cymric farmers. It is announced that on the termination of the Christmas holidays the collection of the tithe arrears will be resumed with the utmost vigour in the little Principality. The peasants of Flintshire, Denbighshire, Carnarvonshire, and Cardiganshire have combined to resist the tax-gatherers, just as the Irish farmer resists the *Shylocks* who would compass his ruin. Wales is evidently finding out that passive resistance is a very useful and efficacious instrument against all kinds of tyranny. Ireland has in this instance set an example which Wales is only too anxious to follow. Every Irishman will wish the Principality success in its efforts to rid itself of such a scandalous impost as the tithe charges.

The Stockton election was a substantial success for the Home Rulers and a bitter disappointment to the Unionists. The latter had felt cocksure of capturing the seat. Their candidate was a "local man" and a large employer of labour; he had twice previously contested the seat, and he had unceasingly and diligently "nursed" the constituency, in the fond hope that he would win it at last. On this recent occasion he thought the happy time had come, and so seemed to think all his party. The Liberal candidate, Sir Horace Davey, was a stranger to the constituency—a fact which was dwelt upon by the Unionist party with almost as much indignation as if he had been Lord Salisbury's "black man." He was a "London lawyer," and this was urged against him by "Unionist" orators in a strain that might cause one to think London was away somewhere in the Himalaya mountains. And there can be no doubt that the points just mentioned told against him to some extent among the working classes. But the bulk of the electors were too enlightened and too independent to be either bamboozled or intimidated by the seductive whisperings or the scarcely disguised messages of the Primrose Leaguers, and they gave to the Home Rule candidate a triumphant majority. A very cheering circumstance noticeable throughout the contest at Stockton was that the Irish members of Parliament who spoke for the Home Rule candidate were always most cordially welcomed. Mr. John O'Connor, Mr. William Abraham, and Mr. T. D. Sullivan, wherever they appeared, whether at large or small meetings, were listened to with evident sympathy and enthusiastically cheered; and this notwithstanding the most vigorous and persistent efforts of the Unionists to excite ill-feeling against them. This fact is a sure indication that when the masses of the English people next get the chance they will end once and for ever more the reign of tyranny and coercion in Ireland.

Mr. Manning, the active secretary of the Waterford National League, has published a telling pamphlet, entitled "An Irish Murder." It is written *apropos* of an inquiry from a friendly-intentioned Englishman with reference to the murder of Fitzmaurice. Mr. Manning does not confine himself to the details of these terrible occurrences, but he boldly attacks the system that has produced them. His argument is a good one, and should never be forgotten. These crimes are paraded as a guide to Irish character, while in truth they form the most damning indictment against the system of government under which we live. The account stands thus—The aliens have made out of sections of the most peaceable peasantry in the world men who despair of securing justice except through the most dreadful methods. The moral is plain, and it is the merit of Mr. Manning's pamphlet to enforce it with considerable power.

Lord Salisbury was in Scarborough on Thursday, December 20, and his speeches affected great good humour. Colchester has been as a fall of dew in the desert to the Tories, and Lord Salisbury expanded upon the signs of Tory revival in a manner that shows the value of the long list of Liberal victories since the general election. Referring to Ireland, he declares that the way to peace lies through the Ashbourne Act; that it is the only experiment in purchase that has proved successful; and he prophesies that the experiment will be repeated again and again until the desire for purchase is exhausted. This is just what Mr. Gladstone foretold. The Tories will go on with their small doses until the British taxpayer becomes the direct landlord of nearly the whole of Ireland. What will Mr. Chamberlain say to this? With regard to Home Rule, he stated that Mr. Gladstone's measure conceded more than Grattan's Parliament, because it gave an executive; that Grattan's Parliament had brought the country to rebellion; and that if Home Rule was granted the Irish ports would soon become the harbours for every enemy at war with England. Lord Salisbury shows his insincerity in no way more clearly than in the absurd arguments he advances against the Home Rule cause. In this case he deliberately falsifies history; because it is a matter of history, acknowledged by every historian, except, perhaps, such fictionists as Dr. Ingram, that it was the English Executive provoked the Irish Rebellion out of sheer heartless policy. It was the element in the ante-Union system which Lord Salisbury directly approves that caused the dire failure of the system. The other argument does not bear examination. How an Ireland, self-governed under the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament, and with the defences of Ireland in Imperial charge, could afford greater facilities to an enemy of England than Ireland in its present condition, Lord Salisbury did