

heartfelt sympathy and pledge ourselves to support them in every way possible.

**Queen's County.**—The Sheriff of the Queen's County and a force of 50 police were at Stradbally and evicted three poor women for Major Cosby. One woman was blind, and the houses which the Major wants so badly were not fit to shelter cattle.

**Roscommon.**—Bridget Coleman was recently evicted by The O'Connor Don. Not men but brutes performed the "devil's work." Whilst the poor girl, who is an orphan, was bidding farewell to a neighbouring farmer going to America the barbarous agent and his emergency hirelings broke into the dwelling. The provisions were scattered about, her clothes were destroyed, and a goat, the only animal the poor girl possessed, was buried alive by those demons, who laughed and danced during the hellish work. An eviction in daylight is bad enough, but at night it is doubly horrible. When the poor girl arrived at her home she found it in ruins and herself an outcast on the bleak mountain-side. When the power of the landlords is broken, then, and not till then, will the people of Ireland be contented and happy.

A resolution was passed at Kikcorkey League on May 20, condemning The O'Connor Don for evicting Bridget Coleman, of Knockroe. They also passed a resolution conveying their detestation of the person who grabbed Miss Coleman's farm.

**Tipperary.**—Mr. Wm. O'Brien, M.P., has been presented with a beautiful locket with monogram by the children of the Clonmel Presentation Convent.

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Croke paid a visit to the Christian schools, Thurles, May 21, and was pleased with the recent improvements. Before leaving he placed a £50 note in the hands of the Superior.

Miss Cusack, Michael Russell and his wife, Margaret, Jane Connors, and Maria Feely, all of Drangan, were before the Removables, May 23, charged with conspiring to induce a man named Patrick Lacy not to work for P. A. M. Moore, of Kyle. Miss Cusack is not only prosecuted but persecuted, and is in failing health from the treatment received from the police. The case was adjourned.

The Carrick-on-Suir rate payers protest against £6 being paid for an old tunic, and held a meeting to denounce those who voted their money away for such a purpose. John Quirke presided. The protest was as follows: James Power said he had much pleasure in proposing the following resolution:—That we, the rate payers of Carrick-on-Suir, protest against the action of Colonel V. Stuart, J. H. Power, and Weldin Walshe, in voting £6 of the rate payers' money to Inspector Stephens for a slight tear in his jacket, and for which he himself was to blame, as he caused in our peaceable town a disturbance which, but for the forbearance of the people, would have led to a serious breach of the peace, and perhaps loss of life. John Hearne seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

**Tyrone.**—Over 150 ejection notices have been served on the tenants of Caledon estate, and all on Catholic tenants alone. At the same time a circular was received asking subscriptions to erect a memorial window to the Dowager Countess of Caledon. This is intimidation, but the authorities take no notice.

**Wexford.**—One of the first greetings Mr. O'Brien received on his release from gaol came in the shape of a cheque for £500 in aid of the Plan of Campaign from the men of Wexford. This gave Mr. O'Brien intense pleasure.

The Dereel Land Trust, formed for working evicted farms, met in London, May 21, and it was decided to commence on Coolreaney, and the meeting was informed that all the people necessary to work would be forthcoming in Wexford.

The "Devil's Work" was fully carried out by Mr. Maher, of Ballinakeene, May 23, who evicted an old woman on crutches, together with another and her child. It was heartrending to see the poor woman dragged out and dropped into the ditch, the black wide world before them.

**Wicklow.**—Mr. Parnell addressed a meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation, London, May 21. Mrs. Gladstone was present.

Mrs. Eliza Dixbury, of Wilkes, who died recently, left Mr. Parnell £2,000 for his private use. The deceased was a Conservative and Wesleyan.

The presenting of the freedom of Edinburgh to Mr. Parnell was discussed again on May 21, and a vote taken, when 22 voted for and 16 against.

Right Rev. James Murray, Bishop of Maitland, Australia, arrived at Queenstown in the City of Paris. His Lordship was secretary to the late Cardinal Cullen, and is a native of Wicklow.

Mr. Parnell, May 23, was presented with addresses congratulating him on his victory over the *Times* and other enemies by the Corporations of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Clonmel, Sligo, Drogheda, and Wexford.

A curious story is told in the columns of *Vanity Fair*, from Berlin, that the Emperor of Austria has only been prevented from abdicating by the "paternal command of the Pope." A month ago the Emperor had quite made up his mind to surrender the reins to his nephew—for whom it is currently believed that he entertains neither affection nor respect—and both Taaffe and Kalnoky tried in vain to turn him from his resolve. They applied, therefore, to the Pope, who at once wrote a letter, which had the desired effect. This is the story, and it certainly has an air of probability about it. For Franz Josef has aged greatly since his son's death, and has lost all the zest he formerly had, even in the mere drudgery of government. Once the most hearty and zealous of rulers, he is now languid and indifferent. As a consequence, ministerial troubles are multiplying, and intrigue is flourishing. The state of the health of the Empress, too, is deplorable. The symptoms of mental derangement have become very pronounced since her son's death, and the doctors say that if there is not a change for the better soon in her general physical condition permanent insanity will be assured.

## CHARACTER SKETCHES.

THE Parnell Commission Court (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, June 6) has sat for the ninetieth time, and the judges have now adjourned until the 18th of June, and there are some hopes that when the court reassembles the remaining business may be gone through before the Recess. May I offer you a few reflections? To begin. The President has impressed the court throughout with a sense of perfect impartiality. Whatever Sir James Hannen's personal views may be, he has sunk them. As President of the Parnell Commission Court, he is pre-eminently just: he allows no feeling—political, personal, or otherwise—to affect a decision. But it is not to be denied that Sir James has recently exhibited an irritability which I once thought entirely foreign to his character. What was caused this, I am unable to say. He is a martyr to a very painful disease—one which, by the way, tortured a judge even more infamous—perhaps unjustly infamous—than Sir James Hannen is famous. Great allowances are to be made for a man under such circumstances. Moreover, I have been assured by a gentleman who certainly ought to know that the President has not seemed the same man since his complimentary note to Sir Charles Russell. That note, it appears, has been absurdly held by many to be an approval and endorsement of Sir Charles Russell's arguments. This impression, though absurd, has been removed by the President's recent attitude. Out of doors—"off the stage," one is tempted to say—the President is a notable figure. In face he much resembles Thackeray, and in costume he carries one back to the fifties. He stoops markedly, and the hat he wears is of a kind now seldom seen in this country. The brim is thin but very wide, and the hat itself is so large that it presses upon his ears. His clothes are cut in present-day fashion, and he has a scholarly stoop. I trust he will pardon the pair of hero worshippers who one day dogged his footsteps up the Strand.

Mr. Justice Day is a sort of version of Justice Stareleigh. He closes his eyes often; whether to think the more effectively or for some darker purpose, I do not pretend to determine. It is generally believed that he has not spoken yet during the inquiry; indeed pressmen have decided that when he does join in a discussion the fact shall be noted in a large head-line—"Day Breaks" or "The Dawn." Mr. Justice Day had the reputation of being a wag at the Bar; he has not ceased to afford genuine amusement since he was translated to the bench. Out of doors he is the quaintest figure one can ever meet. He wears a vest cut low enough for a dress waistcoat, and the tails of his frock-coat at once attract attention. But it is his walk that is most noteworthy. According to physiologists walking is merely the act of falling forward, one foot always being put out to prevent an absolute fall. In the case of Mr. Justice Day, the saving clause—or more correctly the saving foot—is always a moment late. He is a kindly man, is very fond of sweet drinks at Sainsbury's; and in point of ability a very worthy ornament of the English bench.

Of Sir Archibald Smith it is not so easy to speak. "Rightly or wrongly"—if I may use Sir Charles Russell's phrase—"Mr. Justice Smith has conveyed the impression that he holds a 'watching brief' for the *Times*. Probably to say so much in so many words is a gross contempt of court; and I therefore hasten to qualify the expression. Mr. Justice Smith has shown himself as wide-awake as Mr. Justice Day has seemed somnolent. He takes few notes—the task of summary-writing is reserved for Sir James Hannen—but there is scarcely a point that escapes him. It is not impossible that his opinion of the case may find expression in a rider to the Report. In the street Mr. Justice Smith appears as a faultlessly-attired gentleman. He wears the shiniest of top hats, and generally smokes a daintily-held cheroot.

From judges to counsel—judges in embryo some of them are—is but a step. In point of ability and eloquence Sir Charles Russell stands easily first. As to his eloquence, it is not necessary to say a word; the burning sentences of his speech for the defence still ring in our ears. No man who had the rare good fortune to be present can ever forget the noble peroration, and the scene which followed when the great advocate sank down upon his seat and burst into tears that might not be restrained. There have been several regrettable conflicts between Sir Charles Russell and the President. Sir Charles presumes a little upon the strength of the unique position which he has attained at the Bar, and to Sir James Hannen, who also is eminent in a still higher sphere, such presumption is intolerable. But Sir Charles forgets only for the moment the deference that is due to so distinguished a judge as President Hannen. Next to Sir Charles Russell comes Sir Henry James. I cannot refrain from expressing my great admiration for the distinguished constitutional lawyer who has thrown in his lot with the *Times*. Sir Henry James is pre-eminently a scholar and a gentleman. He is a man of culture, and his diction is scholarly; he never offends against good taste or good manners. If the *Times* case had been entrusted solely to him it would have been much more skilfully conducted—or, perhaps, we might never have heard of it at all.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is responsible for the following:—"The Rev. Lord Archibald Douglas, the founder of a Roman Catholic Boys' Home, whose name was mentioned a few days ago in connection with the romantic career of the priest who succeeded him, is about to undertake a remarkable crusade in Scotland. He has, the Exchange Telegraph Company is informed, hired a caravan, which he will fit up with all the accessories for worship and for his own residence; and he will travel about the country in his four-wheeled chapel, preaching to the scattered populations whom he meets with. His mission will be commenced in Galloway, where the Douglasses are well known." We cannot vouch for the authenticity of the above information, but if Father Douglas thought he could save souls thereby he would not hesitate to tramp the whole of Scotland or anywhere else, either on foot or by the more comfortable means of "a caravan." If he is really going upon any such gipsy tour, we hope he will send us particulars of his journey from time to time.