

Commercial.

PRODUCE MARKET—FEBRUARY 24, 1881.

MESSRS. MERCER AND McDONALD, Rattray street, report:—Fresh butter is still very plentiful, best and favourite brands (in 1lb. and ½lb. prints), 8d per lb.; good ordinary butter can be procured at 6d per lb.; Eggs, 1s 3d per dozen. Roll bacon, 8d per lb. Good salt butter, in kegs, none selling.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices: Oats, 1s 5d to 1s 8d per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 0d to 4s 8d per bushel; new wheat, 3s 9d to 4s—are quoted none in market; fowls' feed, 2s to 3s; barley, malting, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; feed, 1s 9d to 2s 6d per bushel; hay, £3 per ton; chaff, £2 15s per ton; straw, £2 per ton; bran, £3 per ton; pollard, £4 per ton; flour, £10 10s to £11 per ton; oatmeal, £9 per ton; butter, fresh, 6d to 8d; salt, very unsaleable, 6d to 8d; eggs, 1s 2d; bacon in rolls, 8d; side, 8½d; hams, 10½d; fresh pork, 4½d per lb.; potatoes, new, 3s to 4s per cwt.

"CHINESE" GORDON ON THE LAND QUESTION.

THE following letters have appeared in the *Times*:—

Sir,—The Irish question deeply interests all classes of people at the present moment. Among others, Colonel Gordon has been lately investigating it on the spot. He has written me the following brief remarks, and as may be imagined from his previous career, he goes to the root of the matter.

The vast interest of the subject must be my excuse for sending this private letter for publication, which I do on my own responsibility.

Whether the public will agree in his conclusions or not, at least they offer a new departure for consideration, and they are those of a man who has wielded autocratic power over millions of human beings, and who knows the responsibilities of government.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

December 1.

J.

My Dear J.—You are aware how interested I am in the welfare of this country, and having known you for 26 years I am sure I may say the same of you.

I have lately been over to the South-West of Ireland in the hope of discovering how some settlement could be made of the Irish question, which, like a fretting cancer, eats away our vitals as a nation.

I have come to the conclusion that—

1. A gulf of antipathy exists between the landlords and tenants of the North-West and West and South-West of Ireland. It is a gulf which is not caused alone by the question of rent; there is a complete lack of sympathy between the two classes. It is useless to inquire how such a state of things has come to pass. I call your attention to the pamphlets, letters, and speeches of the landlord class as a proof of how little sympathy or kindness there exists among them for the tenantry, and I am sure that the tenantry feel in the same way towards the landlords.

2. No half-measure Acts which left the landlords with any thing to say to the tenantry of these portions of Ireland will be of any use. They would be rendered, as past land acts in Ireland have been, quite abortive; for the landlords will insert clauses to do away with their force. Any half measures will only place the Government face to face with the people of Ireland as the champions of the landlord interest. The Government would be bound to enforce their decision, and with a result which none can foresee, but which certainly would be disastrous to the common weal.

3. My idea is that, seeing—through this cause or that it is immaterial to examine—a deadlock has occurred between the present landlords and tenants, the Government should purchase up the rights of the landlords over the whole or greater part of Longford, Westmeath, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Cavan, and Donegal. The yearly rental of these districts is some four millions; if the Government give the landlords 20 years' purchase, it would cost 80 millions, which at 3½ per cent. would give a yearly interest of £2,800,000, of which £2,500,000 could be recovered; the lands would be Crown lands; they would be administered by a land commission which might for a short time need £100,000. This would not injure the landlords, and so far as it is an interference with proprietary rights, it is as just as is the law which forces Lord A to allow a railway to run through his park for the public benefit. I would restrain the landlords from any power or control in these Crown land districts. Poor-law, roads, schools, &c., should be under the Land Commission.

4. For the rest of Ireland I would pass an Act allowing free sale of leases, fair rents, and a Government valuation.

In conclusion, I must say, from all accounts and my own observation, that the state of our fellow-countrymen in the parts I have named is worse than that of any people in the world, let alone Europe. I believe that these people are made as we are, that they are patient beyond belief, loyal, but, at the same time, broken-spirited and desperate, living on the verge of starvation in places in which we would not keep our cattle.

The Bulgarians, Anatolians, Chinese, and Indians, are better off than many of them are. The priests alone have any sympathy with their sufferings, and naturally alone have a hold over them. In these days, in common justice, if we endow a Protestant university, why should we not endow a Catholic university in a Catholic country? Is it not as difficult to get a £5 note from a Protestant as from a Catholic or a Jew? Read the letters of — and of — and tell me

if you see in them any particle of kind feeling towards the tenantry; and if you have any doubts about this, investigate the manner in which the relief fund was administered, and in which the sums of money for improvements of estates by landlords were expended.

In 1833 England gave freedom to the West Indian slaves at a cost of 20 millions—worth now 30 millions. This money left the country. England got nothing for it. By an expenditure of 80 millions she may free her own people. She would have the hold over the land, and she would cure a cancer. I am not well off, but I would offer — or his agent £1000 if either of them would live one week in one of the poor devils' places, and feed as these people do. Our comic prints do an infinity of harm by their caricatures—firstly, the caricatures are not true, for the crime in Ireland is not greater than that in England; and, secondly, they exasperate the people on both sides of the Channel, and they do no good.

It is ill to laugh and scoff at a question which affects our existence.—Yours sincerely,
C. G. GORDON.

PROHIBITING THE KILDARE DEMONSTRATION.

THE *Irish Times* reporter writes from Kildare on Monday night, December 27:

A torchlight procession was announced to take place here to-night, to be followed by a demonstration on a large scale, on the part of the Land Leaguers of Kildare and the surrounding districts, and in consequence from an early hour in the afternoon the town was crowded by farmers and others interested in the proceedings. As soon as darkness set in, an universal illumination of the town of Kildare occurred, the windows in every house being ablaze with lighted candles. Shortly before the hour determined on for starting the procession, the people became aware that the authorities meant to forbid it, and a deputation, of whom Mr. Lalor, M.P. for Queen's County, was one, waited on Colonel Forbes, R.M., for the purpose of ascertaining the intention of the authorities with respect to the procession. They were told by that gentleman that, from information they had received, they were determined to prohibit it, but the Colonel added that his instructions did not go the length of forbidding the meeting, which might be held. Some cavalry and infantry were brought over from the Curragh to the town of Kildare, and the usual police force of the place was strongly reinforced from outlying districts, but neither during the evening nor night were their services brought into requisition. They patrolled the streets and hung about the skirts of the meeting while the speakers addressed the people, but did not interfere with the proceedings in any way. About seven o'clock at night, and under a drizzling, misty rain, the meeting was held in the market square, the necessary light being supplied by torches. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Lalor, M.P., Mr. Boyton, and others, and resolutions passed endorsing and affirming the principles of the Land League. The people cheerfully underwent the discomforts attendant on a thorough wetting, and throughout the whole proceedings of the evening and night their conduct was of the most orderly kind. The Monasterevan fife and drum band and another from New-bridge marched into the town, accompanied by a great concourse of country people, and enlivened the proceedings, both before and at the conclusion of the meeting, by playing a number of national airs. During the progress of the meeting a copy of the Leinster lease was burned, it being recommended that the ashes should be presented to the Leinster family. At the conclusion of the proceedings the crowd quietly dispersed, cheering lustily for Mr. Parnell and the Land League.

MR T. BLACK, Princes street, Dunedin, has received a stock of the famous Waltham watches, which he is able to dispose of on most reasonable terms.

MESSRS H. J. BACON & Co., Dunedin, have decided on bi-weekly sales of farm produce. This should be a matter of great convenience to farmers within reach of the city.

A Protestant lady named Ross, who was lately evicted from a holding in the County Limerick under a Protestant clergyman, took shelter in a disused police barrack, near Askeaton road. She was visited by a body of one hundred armed men, who took her from her house, and placing her in a carriage, drove her to her former residence. They lighted a fire in every grate and warmed the place thoroughly, and told another tenant who had taken the farm since her eviction to have all his cattle removed before 6 next morning, which he did.

One cannot walk the streets, or travel in the cars, or stop at public places, and not be sadly touched by the amount of profanity he hears. Boys hardly old enough to talk plainly; young men just stepping over the threshold into active life; gray-haired men bending over the grave, all are in fetters to this degrading habit. It matters little what the place or occasion, your ears are filled with profanity. We can understand how a man under severe provocation might give utterance to an oath. We understand if we cannot sympathise with, a passionate man, beset with little difficulties, when he snaps out a too energetic word. But for a man in common, every-day conversation, calmly, even stupidly, to mix in a dozen or more profane expressions, there is no excuse; and yet it is the result of a habit which has grown upon the American people, and deserves the most severe censure. No boy utters his first oath without something of a shudder. No man with any regard to the proprieties of society, ever swears in the presence of ladies. It is more a matter of habit than almost any vice to which people are given. Now, if those who have this wretched habit will break it, if only for a few days, and listen to others, they will see how senseless, how unmanly it is, and how little necessity there is for it. It is the most gratuitous and uncomensating of all sins. It neither gives force to a remark, dignity to speech, nor impressiveness to thought. And it is a habit as easily broken as formed. Friends, do not swear. Everybody will think more of you.—*Golden Rule.*