

English administrators have pretended to govern there; and as a result we saw in the last winter the miserable Irish people sending their emissaries, hat in hand, round the globe, to beg for sixpences for God's sake, to save them from starving. The Irish soil, if it were decently cultivated, would feed twice the population which now occupies it; but in every garden there grow a hundred weeds for one potato."

He thanked Mr. Froude for the facts which he had so pithily stated, but could not agree with the remedy he suggested, which was to send another Cromwellian army of Puritans and replant the country with good Protestants, taking care that no Catholics remained this time. The Irish, thank God, out of Ireland, were strong enough to see that no such remedy would be permitted. (Loud cheers.) The present Imperial Government, after assuming office, took some steps to alleviate the present state of things, which showed they had some feelings of humanity towards the suffering people of Ireland. Mr. Gladstone, whom he regarded with the utmost possible respect as a statesman, who would, if permitted, grant the fullest freedom and equality to the Irish people, introduced a measure called the Compensation for Disturbance Bill, and in moving its second reading, said:

"The two bad harvests of 1877 and 1878 were succeeded in 1879 by a harvest, which in parts of Ireland, was the very worst known since the great Irish famine. With these bad harvests the number of evictions increased. In truth, the act of God in the failure of the crops had replaced the Irish occupier in that condition in which he stood before the Land Act, because he was deprived of his usual means, and had to contemplate eviction for non-payment of rent, and, as a consequence of eviction, starvation. It is no great exaggeration to say, that in a country where agricultural pursuits are the only pursuits, and where the means of the payment of the rent are entirely destroyed for the time by the visitation of Providence, the occupier may regard the sentence of eviction as coming very near to a sentence of starvation."

This extract was from an article in the *Contemporary Review*, and the article went on to say:—

"And in the same speech, on the Disturbance Bill, from which I have already quoted, he summed the meaning of the eviction figures as showing that 15,000 individuals would be "ejected from their homes, without hope and without remedy, in the course of the present year." In other words, the Irish landlords—in the year following that in which there had been the worst potato crop since the great famine—the Irish landlords decreed 15,000 sentences of eviction; or, to use Mr. Gladstone's words, 15,000 sentences of starvation."

These were the words of the Premier of the Empire, and his statement of the case was not at all exaggerated. They had heard a great deal about outrages in Ireland. Five murders had unhappily been committed there during the past year, and he was quite sure there was not a man present who did not regret them because of the discredit they brought upon our country. But did those, he would ask, who were commenting so freely upon these disorders, ever think of the atrocities being daily perpetrated under the sanction of law upon the unhappy people. To him it was perfectly amazing the indifference with which these were regarded. Englishmen were lavish in their expressions of sympathy for suffering of the kind in other countries. But here in the very heart of the Empire, we have the words of the Premier that landlord law had doomed 15,000 of our race to await death during this past year, and death too of the most fearful kind it is possible to contemplate, and yet men stand by and witness it as they did thirty years ago with the most perfect *sang froid* and indifference—whilst they will tell us that the men thus coolly handed over to slaughter are the same race who constitute the flower of their army and are at this moment lavishly shedding their blood in different quarters of the world for the defence of the great Empire that so cruelly ill-treated them. (Shame, shame.) Thank God, this slaughter did not occur, and we have to thank Charles Stewart Parnell and the Land League that it did not. (Loud cheers.) As was the case thirty years ago, so it was to-day, the Government did nothing, and the Land League had to step in and save the lives of the people. (Tremendous applause.) Gentlemen, he fully believed the leading men of the present Government were heartily desirous of doing justice to our people. Nobody who read the speeches of John Bright and Mr. Chamberlain lately delivered can doubt their deep sympathy with their sufferings; and Mr. Gladstone has ever been consistent—whether in or out of office, in endeavouring to allay their distress. He awaited, therefore, with eager hopefulness, this great land act they have promised, and sincerely wished it would be all that John Bright has predicted—a full and final settlement of the question. But, whether it be so or not, he had no hesitation in emphatically declaring, that the passing of such a measure, whenever it receives the sanction of both Houses of Parliament, will be the act of Charles Stewart Parnell and his Land League. (Loud cheers.) Now, gentlemen, who is this Parnell we hear and read so much of? Is he, as some will have it, a needy political adventurer seeking an ephemeral reputation by pandering to the passions of the mob? Or is he, as many respectable people think, so great a criminal as to be fit only to be hanged? Is he in fine, as you will be told by many honest folk, an inciter to assassination, and the rest of it? (Laughter.) O'Connell used to consider himself the best abused man of his day, and certainly in this respect there can be no doubt the great man's mantle has fallen upon the shoulders of Mr. Parnell. He should like to disabuse the minds of those who entertained these erroneous opinions about him. Now, he had no hesitation in saying there were not twelve men in the House of Commons who could claim a nobler lineage than he could, at all events in the estimation of Irishmen. About the period of the Restoration, Thomas Parnell came over from Cheshire and settled in Ireland, purchasing an estate there. His sons, John and Thomas, were both distinguished, John becoming Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, and Thomas a distinguished poet and literature—the friend of Johnson, Pope, and Swift, amongst whom he was highly regarded. From the Chief Justice descended another John, who became a member of the Irish Parliament. His name is engraved upon the hearts of his countrymen as "Honest John Parnell." He was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Government

of Lord Castlereagh when the latter sought to bring about the fatal Union. But no amount of argument, nor yet of bribery, could swerve him from his duty. He had already received the honour of a baronetcy, and a peerage was now placed at his disposal, if he would, like so many others, betray his country. His answer was to throw up his post as minister, and, taking his son, Henry, with him, who was at the time also a member of the Irish House of Commons, both father and son ranged themselves on the side of the Opposition, and stoutly resisted the Act of Union to the end, prophetically declaring it to be fraught with ruin to their country. After the Union both father and son became members of the English House of Commons, representing their old constituencies. Honest John survived but a short time the ruin of Irish Independence, but his son, who received the title, laboured for many years in the Imperial House, rising step by step until he became Cabinet Minister in the Government of Lord Grey, and afterwards in that of Lord Melbourne, finally closing his distinguished career in the House of Lords as Baron Congleton, where his son sits to-day. He was especially distinguished during his career in Parliament for his advocacy of the Catholic claims, and prepared the way, both by his writings and speeches for O'Connell in his great struggle for Catholic emancipation. He was the granduncle of our hero, who, as if the more to endear him to the Irish heart, can boast of a strain of other blood directly derived from the Irish soil quite as distinguished. His mother is the daughter of Admiral Stewart, the first admiral of the American navy—a most gallant fellow, the son of a Belfast man who emigrated to Boston some hundred years ago, and acquired in America a handsome fortune. Mr. Parnell's mother is still alive, like the mother of the Gracchi of old, taking the liveliest interest in his political work, spurring him up whenever a spur is needed. I ask you is it any wonder, with such ancestors, that this young man carries with him the hearts of the people wherever he goes—(loud cheers)—especially when he has proved himself so worthy a scion of his house. His political career has as yet extended over the short space of five years, during which time he has acquired almost undisputed sway over the Irish people both in Ireland and America; a truly tremendous power, holding as he does in his hands the will of at least ten millions of our race—a power which, if exercised wisely and moderately, yet with unbending determination, will undoubtedly result by-and-by in making our country the happiest and most prosperous portion of this great empire. (Loud cheers.) The secret of the influence which he had acquired he considered lay in his intimate knowledge of the forms of Parliament, and his great ability to use them so as to meet the ends he had in view. It was amusing to notice the conflict between the anxiety of Englishmen to maintain that liberty of speech which they loved so much and their desire to kick Parnell and his followers out of the house. But he had been a match for them so far, and he (Dr. O'Doherty) sincerely hoped he might continue his obstructiveness until he accomplished the great object of his life which was to redeem their unfortunate fellow-countrymen. (Prolonged applause.)

THE IRISH NATIONAL LAND LEAGUE.

Inangahua Herald, Feb. 18th.

A PUBLIC meeting was held on Sunday evening, the 30th January at James M'Neil's Hotel, Caples Creek, Boatman's. Mr. J. Farley occupied the chair. After a very eloquent address from the Chairman, in explanation of the object for which the meeting was convened, it was resolved—"That a branch of the Irish National Land League be established at Boatman's, to be called 'The Boatman's Branch of the Irish National Land League.'"

Resolved—"That this meeting approves of the principles of the Irish Land League, and pledges itself to extend its organisation by all legitimate means."

Resolved—"That this meeting condemns the action of the Imperial Government in bringing before a criminal bar the leaders of the Irish National Land League as most unconstitutional, subversive of the rights of speech, and thereby calculated to shake the confidence of every true lover of liberty."

Resolved—"That this meeting recommends every true lover of the cause of Ireland, in all centres of population, to form branches of the Irish National Land League, thereby showing sympathy with the illustrious Parnell and other labourers in the cause of Ireland's social regeneration."

As the responses to the several resolutions were occupying too much of the night, it was deemed advisable to decline any more resolutions, but to proceed with the enrolment of members. About 60 joined in the room, after which a Committee was elected, when it was resolved that a subscription list be opened, each member to pay not less than ten shillings (10s.), and that the treasurer, Mr. James Fitzgerald, and other members canvass the district for subscriptions and names for enrolment. The full amount collected to be forwarded not later than the 1st March to the Irish National Land League and Defence Fund. A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the proceedings.

Nine flying "columns" are, it is said, to be despatched to different parts of Ireland—two going from Dublin, two from the Curragh, one from Belfast, one from Cork, one from Limerick, one from Fermoy, and one from Athlone.

The *New York Star* of December 19, 1880, says:—Mrs Delia T. S. Parnell and John H. Parnell, the mother and brother of C. Stewart Parnell, the Irish agitator, were in Albany on Monday, and by talking with various women in the city, Mrs Parnell has formed a branch of the Women's Land League of New York in that city. The movement among women has been started principally by Miss Fanny Parnell, a sister, and though it is but a few months ago it has been the means of sending 1000 dols. to Ireland, The League in Troy, which is growing fast in strength, has invited Mrs Parnell to form a women's ranch there.