

THE ARREST OF FATHER SHEEHY.

THE correspondent of the *Freeman*, writing from Kilmallock, gives full particulars of the arrest of the reverend gentleman. After describing the arrest of Messrs. Giblerson, Collins, and M'Carthy, which had been effected by a large force of constabulary under the special command of Mr. Clifford Lloyd, R.M., the correspondent says:—

The whole force then proceeded to the house of the Very Rev. Dr. Downes, P.P., with whom the Rev. Mr. Sheehy lived, and reached there about six o'clock. Mr. Lloyd had the house surrounded by a strong guard of police, and then summoned the inmates by pulling loudly at the bell, which was answered by the Rev. Dr. Downes himself. He asked, "What's wanted?" The answer he got was, "Father Sheehy." He then called the Rev. Mr. Sheehy downstairs, who immediately on appearing was handed the warrant for his arrest by Sub-inspector Jennings. The Rev. Father Sheehy did not appear to be the least put out, and, saying that he would be back soon, returned upstairs to get ready to depart with the constables. On re-appearing, Mr. Lloyd asked him to speak to the people later on, and tell them to keep quiet, and not to shout, to which the Rev. Mr. Sheehy did not make a reply. Dr. Downes then asked Mr. Lloyd whether he intended keeping Father Sheehy until the train started, and Mr. Lloyd said they would have a room for him at the barracks. "Would it not be better if he stayed here for the time," said Dr. Downes, "and prevent some confusion afterward with the police?" Mr. Lloyd, hesitating, answered that he did not think he could allow that. The Rev. Mr. Sheehy then left the house in company with the Very Rev. Dr. Downes and the Rev. J. G. Fitzgerald, the other curate of the town, and in a few minutes after the Rev. Mr. Sheehy found himself in company in the bridewell with his fellow "suspects," Mr. Giblerson and Mr. Collins. Immediately afterwards Mr. M'Carthy came in to inquire why the police were visiting his place, and whether they wanted him. The matter was quickly explained to him by the production of the warrant for his arrest, and by his being told that he should henceforth consider himself in custody. As may be naturally supposed, the news of the arrest spread with extraordinary rapidity through the town, and by seven o'clock there was scarcely a man, woman, or child in the place that had not turned out into the streets cheering for the Rev. Mr. Sheehy and his companions. Hooting for the police has been kept up continuously, and the most intense excitement prevails. The soldiers and police were lined across the street near the police barrack to prevent the people from passing or coming at all near it. At about twenty minutes to eight the four prisoners, accompanied by the Very Rev. Dr. Downes and the Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald, left for the railway station under a very strong guard; a large body of police marching in front and rear, while a dozen policemen (under Sub-inspector Jennings), who were to form the escort to Naas, walked in close proximity to the suspects. On arriving at the stationhouse the excitement of the people became greater, and the cheering was kept up without ceasing, the response to each call being more vociferous, if possible, than to the previous one. As each of the prisoners entered the compartment which had been selected for them he was enthusiastically cheered. Neither the Rev. Mr. Sheehy, Mr. Giblerson, nor Mr. Collins made any remarks to the people, but as Mr. M'Carthy stepped into the carriage he turned round and called out, "Stick to your colours, boys; don't flinch; pay no unjust rents; down with landlordism;" each sentiment being received with a fresh burst of cheering. Mr. Lloyd immediately rushed to the crowd, and, speaking to the sub-inspector, said, "Don't allow any more remarks of that kind to be made at this or any other station. Our orders are such, and I want you to obey them." A clergyman who happened to be travelling in the train then joined the Rev. Mr. Sheehy, and he was allowed to travel with him in the same compartment along with the other prisoners. In the same compartment three policemen and Sub-inspector Jennings also took up their seats, and the next compartment was also filled with half-a-dozen constables with loaded rifles. As the train moved off the crowd cheered vehemently for each of the prisoners in succession, and for Davitt, Parnell, and Dillon. In a few minutes after the majority of the people dispersed quietly and returned to their homes.

Subsequently a representative of the *Freeman* had an interview with Father Sheehy in the Naas gaol, and the following passages are taken from the report of the interview:—

Referring to his arrest, the rev. gentleman said that "the police rang the bell door bell furiously and unceasingly from the first." He had no expectation of arrest, and the ringing of the bell was so urgent and strong that he concluded it was a dying call, and, jumping out of bed, dressed himself in great haste and ran down, when the sub-inspector tendered him the warrant and without any appreciable delay he accompanied them.

I spoke about the nature of the warrant, which the rev. gentleman immediately drew from his pocket. The only word the warden spoke was an affirmative of my supposition—that he would not allow it to be interchanged. However, the main portion of it was read by Rev. Father Sheehy, and it ran thus:—"Reasonably suspected of having since the 30th September, 1879, been guilty, as principal, of a crime punishable by law—that is to say, assembling with others, and unlawfully attempting, by threats and menaces, to compel divers of her Majesty's subjects to quit their lawful employment." The "reasonably suspected" clergyman made no immediate comment upon the nature of the charge, but an indignant smile upon his face conveyed to me as intelligibly as any words could the esteem in which he held it, and the credibility which he thought should attach to it. Sub-inspector Jennings (Father Sheehy further stated) accompanied him and the three other prisoners to Naas; the other persons "suspected" being H. J. Giblerson auctioneer in Kilmallock; Michael M'Carthy, farmer; and John Collins, farmer. They had been arrested on precisely the same charge. They had not held any office in the local Land League. To this the rev. gentleman voluntarily added: "It seems to me that this charge is simply a revival of the charge upon which they brought us to trial some

months ago. Mr. M'Carthy, who was at the same time placed under arrest, was the only person then prosecuted." Answering further inquiries of mine, Father Sheehy said he and the other prisoners were in agreement about stating that Sub-inspector Jennings was disposed to be particularly courteous; and, judging by present experiences, the prison officials, from the governor down, seemed disposed to treat them with respect and consideration. He considered it important to add this—that Captain Barlow, vice-chairman of the prison board, had (he thought) come up specially to see him, with the object of ascertaining in what way he (Rev. Father Sheehy) could best be accommodated in matters appertaining to his sacred profession, and Captain Barlow had consented to permit him to say Mass daily. Of course he regarded this as a very high privilege, and Captain Barlow coming specially to provide him with that privilege he regarded as a kindness.

I had asked the Rev. Father Sheehy if, at this rapidly developing political crisis, and seeing that the Government had removed him from his private and public sphere, and might also act similarly towards others, he desired to state anything to the public through me.

Later on, after some consideration, he entrusted his views to me in the following words:—"I think I might say this—Naturally from my sacred character any person might expect my influence would be directed against outrage or crime of any kind; and I can say that all the influence I possessed was on every occasion, both privately and publicly, exerted in that direction. Now that I am away, my gravest concern arises from the fear that my arrest will only complicate matters in Kilmallock and the neighbourhood. At the same time I have left it as a legacy with my friends that they will bend all their efforts to the preservation of order, and to fighting out the issues of this crisis strictly on the lines laid down by the Land League, and by the employment only of passive resistance as their means."

SHAKESPEARE IMPROVED.

THE nationally gratifying fact that Edwin Booth has just made so palpable a hit in London in "Othello" calls to mind a little story told by him to the writer one Sunday during his last visit here:

"Once, during the days of my early struggles in the profession," said Booth, "and while we were barn-storming down in Virginia, an odd thing happened, which illustrates the shifts to which the 'poor player' was then put in order to get along. We were playing—'showing' they called it then—one night at a little place named Lee's Landing, and the tobacco warehouse we had improvised into a theatre was crowded by the planters for miles around. We had arranged to take the weekly steamer which they expected would touch there late that night, and between the acts were all busy packing up. The play was 'The Merchant of Venice,' and we were just going on for the court scene, where the Jew insists on his pound of flesh, when we heard a whistle blow, and the manager came running in to say that the steamer had arrived ahead of time and would leave again in ten minutes.

"As that was our only chance of getting down to the Chesapeake, we were naturally in a terrible quandary. 'If we stop right here and explain,' said the manager, 'the audience will think they are being cheated, and go in for a free fight. The only thing we can do is for you fellows to get up some sort of a natural-like impromptu ending for the piece and ring down the drop. Go right ahead, ladies and gentlemen, and take your cue from Ned here,' and he hurried away to get the luggage on board.

"If it had been in another quarter of the country I wouldn't have had the assurance to do as he said, but the ignorance of the clay-eaters or ordinary Virginians of those days was something marvellous; so when old George Ruggles, who was doing *Shylock*, got to where he sharpens his knife on his shoes, I walked solemnly up to him and said:

"You're bound to have the flesh, are you?"

"You bet your life," said George, under the impression that he was improvising very skilfully indeed.

"Now I'll make you one more dicker," I continued. 'In addition to this bag of ducats, I'll throw in two kegs of niggerhead terback, a shot-gun, and a couple of the best coon dogs in the State.'

"I'm blamed if I don't do it," said *Shylock*, much to the approbation of the audience, who were tobacco raisers and coon hunters from the ground up.

"And to show that there is no hard feeling," said Portia, tucking up her legal gown, "we'll wind up with a Virginny reel."

"And as the prompter struck up 'Money Musk' on his fiddle we danced a couple of figures and made a break for the boat as the curtain fell, amid thunders of applause.

"When we got on board, the steamer's captain, who had witnessed the conclusion of the play with great delight, tendered the troupe the compliment of a hot supper, and remarked as we sat down to what was a rare treat in those 'palmy days of the drama':

"I'd like to see the whole of that play some time, gentlemen. I'm blamed if I thought that fellow Shakespeare had so much snap to him."—American paper.

Pope Leo XIII. writing to Mgr. Dauphin, Director of the Schools of the East, gives his reasons for showing particular interest in the prosperity of these schools:—"The Orient," he says, "separated for so long a time from the Apostolic See, that is, from the fundamental Rock upon which Jesus Christ has built His Church, appears at this moment to awaken from its sleep, at the noise made around her by the enemies of truth, by those who do not fear to teach her a gospel different from that of the Apostles, and by those who have raised the standard of revolt against the divine and supreme rights of the Apostolic See. By the false eclat of science and human institutions, heretics seek to make their destructive doctrines more acceptable and thus more particularly in their schools. What is most deplorable and most dangerous, they give to the ignorant and simple the instruction of which they are greedy, mingled with the poison of heresy and error."