

have been had the Faure cell not been available, because in the circumstances the surgical electrician, with his paraphernalia of voltaic battery to be set up beforehand, would not have been practically admissible." The *Times* in a leader commenting on this letter says:—"That which Sir William Thompson regards as likely to be the first, at least in point of time, is the use of Faure's batteries in private houses, as reservoirs of electricity for domestic purposes: such a lighting, heating, working sewing-machines, so that no interruption of action would be produced by a temporary interruption of the electric supply given by any main engine from which it was derived." And, again, in concluding his article he writes as follows:—"It is possible that (persons now living) may see electricity brought by electric railways from the coast, or from the estuaries of tidal rivers, and delivered in the great towns for the fulfilment of all the purposes for which coal is at present either directly or indirectly employed; and it would not be easy to exaggerate the benefits, from many points of view, which such a substitution of electricity for coal would afford. If we can imagine the atmosphere of London smokeless and clean, uncontaminated either by the solid or by the gaseous products of combustion; with flowers and fruit flourishing in town gardens; with our rooms, and especially our public rooms and places of assembly, freed from the heat which gas occasions; and with nature and art manifest in their true colours by night as well as by day; our pictures uninjured, our precious metals uncorroded; and, indeed, with many of the chief features of unwholesomeness which now arise from the aggregation of masses of people so much alleviated as to be scarcely perceptible, we shall be able to form some estimate of the advantages which the displacement of coal, its congeners and its products, by electricity, would be not only likely, but sure to accomplish. Such is the future which can be foreshadowed with some certainty for our descendants, even if not for ourselves; and a great step in the direction of its being brought about, a great step towards lifting it from the region of mere hypothesis into that of high probability, was taken when the little box, with its stored million of foot pounds of electric energy, was conveyed by our correspondent from Paris to Glasgow."

### THE ARRESTS IN IRELAND.

ON Friday, June 3, the adjourned debate on Mr. McCarthy's motion on the subject of the arrest was resumed. We abridge as follows the report of the debate which appeared in the *Times*:—

Mr. T. O'Connor, in the course of an eloquent and able speech, said the recent return of evictions proved that the total number of threatened evictions reached an appalling total. At the Easter sessions alone the number of decrees obtained was, according to this return, 3000. There were besides 91 decrees of ejectments from the superior courts; that made a total of about 12,000 people threatened with evictions. But as he understood that return, it took no account of the actions against tenants brought for the recovery of debt—that was to say, the actions which enabled the landlord to sell out the interest of the tenant, and thereby to deprive him of all benefits from the Act of 1870 or the Land Bill that was now before the House. These actions, as the collisions between the emergency men and the Land Leaguers showed, had become one of the most common forms of proceeding against the tenant. Putting all these things together, he was within the limit in saying that 15,000 people in Ireland were now threatened with becoming what the Prime Minister described as "houseless and homeless, without hope and without remedy." The Government told them that the Land Bill would better their position as tenants. They would have ceased to be tenants by the time this Bill had become law. Could anything be more cruel mockery than to bid these people hope with the bailiff at the door and the crowbar already on the roof-tree, while the Government measure crept along and the Conservative and Whig Obstructionists proposed frivolous and dilatory amendments, and the Ministerial position was that of leading in this work of destruction by soldiers, sailors, and police, charges of cavalry, threatened bombardment, and by gunboats, and by the way of making the cause of the tenants still more hopeless they imprisoned everyone who dared to raise his voice on behalf of the oppressed? The future was dark and dangerous, but was made so by the relentless avarice of many landlords and the criminal neglect of the Government. (Hear, hear.)

The Speaker said that the question before the House was the adjournment of the debate. He would suggest that the motion of the adjournment of the debate should be withdrawn in order that the debate should be carried on upon the main question.

Mr. Parnell asked, on behalf of the hon. member for Limerick, who was not present, to be allowed to withdraw the motion for the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Solicitor-General for Ireland and Mr. Moore having spoken, Mr. Cowen said it could not be too strongly or repeatedly impressed upon the minds of the public that a Liberal Government and a Liberal Parliament had placed the liberties of Irishmen at the mercy of an arbitrary magistracy, of a paid police, of the vilest and meanest of all created things, a political spy. (Hear, hear.) And what had been the result of the enforcement of the powers which the Government had obtained? The Irish executive themselves admitted that Ireland was in a more disturbed condition than ever—a more disturbed state than she had been in during the last half century. (Hear, hear.) Coercion had failed—it had failed disastrously; and, speaking as an English democrat, he said it had failed deservedly. (Hear, hear.) It had been justly observed that there was not a single

class in Ireland who had not lost faith in the Irish executive. (Hear, hear.) It had been replied that there was less demonstration of discontent in Ireland; but it was not because the people were sullen and silent that they were satisfied. (Hear, hear.) Distrust, discontent, disaffection, were the only terms that could describe the state of Irish feeling at the present moment. The simple recital of these facts was the most eloquent condemnation of the conduct of the Government that could be offered. (Hear, hear.) They might take possession of a man's body, but it was impossible to conquer the goodwill of the Irishman by coercion. (Hear, hear.) The Government should learn by experience that contentment was the best and safest basis of loyalty. (Hear, hear.) Fifty-four persons had been arrested under the Coercion Acts, but of what class did those persons consist? It had been pressed upon Parliament during the passing of the Coercion Bill that it was the practice in Ireland to maim cattle and commit arson; but, as a matter of fact, only one wretched creature who could not speak a word of English, and who did not know the names of the Prime Minister or of the members of the Land League, had been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the maiming of cattle, and only three had been arrested on suspicion of arson. The bulk of those who had been arrested under the Coercion Acts had been charged with having made possibly unjust charges against the Government and against the landlords, but it was the characteristic of all agitation that it should lead to exaggeration, and in the present case the agitation was being conducted against a state of things which the Government themselves had declared was unjust and illegal. The men engaged in conducting the land agitation in Ireland had the same end in view as Her Majesty's Government, only they were seeking to arrive at that end by different means. One thing could not be denied—namely, that the Land League had created a public feeling in favour of land reform in Ireland. If there had been no Land League there would have been no Land Bill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. M. Sullivan said:—Under the benevolent and amiable member for Bradford Ireland was being subjected to a despotism more mean and despicable than any the country had experienced since the days of Castlereagh. The secret confidential circular was to be kept under lock and key and to be communicated to subordinates only by word of mouth. With such instructions, in what shape would it be likely to reach the village policeman? By the time that circular reached the village policeman, it would have assumed this form—"We have orders from Mr. Forster in the Castle to suspect more criminals and we must send up more prisoners to Dublin." But who were the men arrested under the Act? There were many among them whom he was proud to claim as friends. If hon. members were to go over the list and test the matter by social respectability and personal character, they would find that it was not "village ruffians," but men deserving and possessing the confidence of their fellow-countrymen who were now filling the cells of Kilmainham prison. There was, for instance, young Mr. Higgins, there was in his own country young Mr. Flood, who had been taken to prison as persons "reasonably suspected." Now, the Irish members "reasonably suspected" the Chief Secretary for being the dupe of the police, and for being a lamentable failure in the Irish Office. (Hear, hear.) The last arrest was that of Mr. M'Sweeney, in Donegal. In the barony from which that gentleman had been taken there was no man of better position or greater social influence among his co-religionists. He was a man worthy of public respect, and he enjoyed it; and yet he had been torn from his home, not because he was a village ruffian, but because he was president of the local branch of the Land League. As to Father Sheehy, the hon. and learned gentleman asked, was a man to be allowed to go scot-free because he was a clergyman of some denomination? Now, it was his intention to circulate a hand-bill in Ireland to show what a Protestant clergyman was allowed to say and what a Catholic priest was imprisoned for saying. Father Sheehy, being asked his advice as to the course to be pursued by a man named Connor, told him to fight the battle to the bitter end, and asked the neighbours to support Connor by their presence, and to save him from the effects of his stand against eviction. Let them contrast that with the language of Parson Kane, who suggested to his hearers to form clubs and purchase arms in order that they might shoot a Catholic priest in every parish where a Protestant had been murdered; indeed, Mr. Kane said that six Catholic priests ought to be shot for each. His bishop called his attention to the matter. In reply, the rev. gentleman did not retract his words, but said, on the contrary, that they were deliberately uttered and intended. Yet, while the Protestant clergyman walked free, the Catholic priest was thrown into prison. He could not, therefore, but regret greatly that the Chief Secretary should have filled up the measure of his lamentable incompetency by insulting the sacred body of men who had been throughout the whole of Ireland the best and surest guardians of peace, liberty, and order.

Mr. Parnell said that if the Government had introduced a clause into their Coercion Act giving courts an equitable jurisdiction with regard to claims made by landlords for rent they would have avoided the present position of affairs. Undoubtedly, if they would go on as they were going on, giving the aid of armed forces of the Crown to landlords for the purpose of evicting tenants, there would be extensive bloodshed in Ireland during the next two months and before the Land Bill could be passed. Many tenants thought they had only to continue their struggle. (Hear, hear.) With reference to the suggestion of the hon. member for Clonmel that the hon. member for Tipperary should be released on parole, it would be quite impossible for his hon. friend to be party to an arrangement of that sort, because it would subject him to the condition that he should not continue the agitation in which he had been engaged. An explanation had been offered by the Government of the reason that had led the hon. member to return to his cell instead of remaining in the gaol infirmary; but what the hon. member himself said was that he had been compelled to return to his cell in consequence of the insulting and offensive conduct of the doctor, who appeared to have received a commission from the landlords to insult and to annoy him. The hon. member further declared that the statement that imprison-