

Our contemporary, again, says that Ireland has no longer a grievance, but this statement we should say comes also from a heated condition of blood or brain.—A man in his sober senses, and of his ordinary temperature—unless, indeed it would be at all times advisable for those at supper with him to make use of “long spoons”—could not possibly make such a statement. No man certainly could make it who had read much concerning the matter on the Irish side.—And if our contemporary despises Irish sources of information, we do not see how he can treat with an equal contempt those that are American. We published, for example, a letter the other day written by Mr. HENRY GEORGE, and in which it was most clearly shown that Ireland had still a grievance and a heavy one.

But here is a charge that absolutely out-herods Herod :—“It is after everything has been done to render justice and more than justice to the Irish tenant that he comes forward with the impudent demand that he shall hold the land without rent—in short, that the land shall virtually be made over to him in fee simple; and the penalty for refusal is the fire and the bullet and the houghing knife that we have described.” This is wholly false; a gross and arbitrary assertion without one word of proof, and impossible of proof. The Land Act has not done justice, much less more than justice, to the Irish tenant. It is a most defective measure, that provides indeed some relief for the future—taking off the forty or sixty or even cent per cent over the just rent for land that the tenants had themselves in many instances reclaimed from the wilderness, but leaving them liable still for the arrears due of the unjust rent,—a rent impossible to pay without the grinding out of life—and allowing the cry of the outcast still to go up to heaven. If our contemporary has indeed read SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY’S finely written eulogium on the Act, as it would seem he has, let him also read CANON DOYLE’S answer to it. The style is much less polished and the language less admirable. It has not, in short, been written by a literary man of the highest standing, but it contains the plain truth, and plainly shows SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY to have been over-jubilant in his feelings, and mistaken as to the benefits Ireland could derive from the Act. It shows the Act, as we said, to be wholly defective.

Neither is it true that the people demand the land to be handed over to them in fee simple, or refuse to pay fair rents. They retain their rents only until the matter is finally and equitably settled, and the men imprisoned for making a stand in their cause released.

Nor is there the “penalty for refusal” that our contemporary shamelessly describes. Wherever there has been oppression and tyranny, the spirit of revenge has been bred.—Under such a condition of things wild natures must of necessity abound, and when the opportunity offers, they will break out and leave their marks behind them. But this is no reason that justice should not be sought after. The root of the evil must be brought to light, and eradicated, even though the attempt to do so must also bring its fruits into prominence.—Otherwise the crop will be everlasting and, in the long run, much greater mischief must result.—A whole nation cannot remain plunged in misery lest their agitation for redress should afford an opportunity for those on whom the effect of misery has been to produce recklessness, and the coarser disposition of Judge LYNCH, to break out into the commission of crime. But our contemporary confounds the lawful agitation of a people, whose patience is established, with the lawless doings—and those very much exaggerated—of a handful of degraded beings here and there.

Our contemporary, moreover, would go further and confound the whole nation in one indiscriminate massacre—the innocent and guilty alike. Nothing will content his boiling blood, it seems, but “some tremendous example,” and the “extremity of force.” Besides he has maintained already, in his cold-blooded days perhaps, that the “evils of Ireland are moral, and not material,” and how can moral evils be better overcome than by brute force? Our contemporary, in short, would do as it has been so often done before by men like-minded with him, starve, degrade, plunder the people, and all the while cry aloud to the world that materially they needed nothing, but morally they were sunk in midnight darkness!—He who says this now, however, lies palpably to the world, for there is undeniable evidence published to the four winds that such is notably not the case. But if the people by chance arose to cast their misery off them—still, by

reason of their high moral condition, retaining the spirits of men that otherwise must in the course of ages have been turned into the grovelling dispositions of beasts, under the iron heel of the tyrant, then he would bring in the cannon and bayonets of England—the argument that, to her everlasting shame, she has so often and horribly used in Ireland.—Shame on such reasoning as this, and on the hand that would engrave upon the minds of men in this new land the hideous blot that has disgraced those of many in the old world—murderous tyranny or sympathy with it.

THE Dominican Sisters acknowledge the receipt of remittances for their Invercargill Art Union from the following :—Mesdames Carroll, Sharp, Haydon, Conway, Munson, Roche, and Hayes (per Rev. Father O’Leary), Misses Marlow, Ryan, and Murray, Messrs. Flannery and Frost.

THE Wellington *Evening Post* reports that numbers of the men who went recently from New Zealand to New South Wales are most anxious to get back to this colony. “In New South Wales,” says our contemporary, “the men were only getting 7s and 7s 6d a day, and had to work 9 hours a day as against 8 hours in New Zealand. Added to this it often happened, so we are informed, that they were only able to work three or four days a week on account of the heat.”

THE local papers assert that, so widespread has the fame of Reefton become, strangers from all parts of the colony are flocking in there.

A DEPLORABLE fire occurred in Dunedin on Monday morning, by which four children, aged respectively twelve, eight, six, and four, lost their lives. It broke out in the house of a man named Bischefsky, residing in Smith street, who with his wife and a little boy of two years old was asleep in an upper front room, a back room opening from it being occupied by his three other children, two girls and a boy, as well as his nephew, a boy named Krefts, whose parents live at Pine Hill, but who had remained at Bischefsky’s on this night instead of returning home as usual from the Christian Brothers’ School, where with one of his cousins he attended daily, and where he was known very favourably. Bischefsky was awakened by his little boy’s calling from the back room and complaining of smoke, but on opening the door he was encountered by a burst of flame that forced him to retreat. He, nevertheless, wrapped himself in a blanket and again tried to save the children, but was again prevented by the flame, and it was only with extreme difficulty that he at last managed to get his wife and the little boy who was with her out of the window in time to save them from being burned also. The poor woman was much injured in the fall, and the child rescued also received a severe hurt.

THE Wairarapa *Standard* mentions the case of a gentleman who the other night mistook a black stump for a highwayman, and showed the white feather in rather a marked degree. “The gentleman,” adds our contemporary, “has gone back to the Empire City, vowing he would never return to the Wairarapa if a word was said about it.”—And consequently, it would appear, they set to work and published the whole affair in the newspapers.

TYPHOID fever has for some month been prevalent in the Dunedin Industrial School. Four deaths have occurred owing to it, the last being that of a son of the Superintendent, who was engaged as schoolmaster in the institution in question.

MR. FORSTER is reported to have treated with contempt 400 threats of murder conveyed to him, throughout the course of the past year, and his contemptuous treatment of them has been justified by the fact that not a hand has been stretched out to injure him. This is a powerful illustration of the importance to be attached to threatening letters and notices generally, of which, nevertheless, the list of outrages in Ireland largely consists.

THE Most Rev. Dr. Crane, Bishop of Sandhurst, Victoria, on leaving his diocese for a visit to Rome, has been presented with a purse of one thousand sovereigns.

It is reported that the crops in Southland, with some few exceptions, are very indifferent.

MR. GLADSTONE has denied that he intended to give any encouragement for a continuance of Home Rule agitation. He is reported to have added that he was not prepared to give self-government to Ireland in a greater degree than to England and Scotland. If, however, he will give it in an equal degree with that enjoyed by England the Irish people will be quite content. They can hardly look for anything more.

THE *Wanganui Herald* states that on the portion of a certain farm where linseed was grown last year the land is free of weeds, and the wheat crop exceptionally heavy.

A DISCOVERY of hematite has been made near Reefton.

THE *West Coast Times* says that mining matters are improving in the neighbourhood of Sunday Gully, Woodstock, and that probably within the next six months 200 miners will be on the ground.