

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

NEW TIPPERARY will be honoured by the presence of some distinguished visitors in Easter week, among others the Hon. Bernard Coleridge, son of Mr. Justice Coleridge, Mr. George Leveson Gower, who is a nephew of Lord Granville's, and Mr. Spencer Balfour. There will also be a contingent from the Eighty Club. No more suitable spot could be found in all Ireland in which to see both sides of the question—on the one hand, the indomitable spirit and heroic self-sacrifice of the people; on the other, the fiendish work of ruthless destruction carried on in the name of British law by Irish landlordism.

The Dublin Poor Law elections this year have been signalled by a great increase in the Nationalist and Catholic vote. No fewer than five seats have been won; and two Nationalists are to sit for the forthcoming year as the representatives of the Fitzwilliam Ward at the South Dublin Board of Guardians. Neither a Nationalist nor a Catholic, since the Poor Law Act was passed, ever represented the Fitzwilliam Ward before. The victory represents the high tide of national feeling among the Dublin ratepayers. It is another sign of Mr. Balfour's success.

An old Irish prophecy, says the *Daily News*, declares that when an O'Doherty rules in Derry and an O'Donnell in Raphoe, Ireland will be free. Old Irish prophecies have before now been verified by events, and it is certainly curious that Dr. O'Doherty has just been consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Derry, in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Londonderry, and that the preacher on the occasion was Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe.

Trial by jury—even when it is a trial of Catholics by a Protestant jury and of Nationalists by an Orange jury—is not as bad as trial by Removables. So the Carrickmacross boycotters, who were brought all the way from Monaghan to Derry to be tried by their political foes, inspired, exhilarated, and encouraged by Mr. Justice O'Brien, have found. Notwithstanding the ingenuity of Solicitor-General Atkinson and the harangues of Judge O'Brien, the packed jury who tried the Carrickmacross men disagreed on Tuesday. A conviction may yet be secured by the methods known to jury-packers and jury bullies, but the significance of "a mere change in the administration of the law and not in the law itself" is made plain to all men.

The devastation of Donegal is an expression of the sentiments and opinions of the Cabinet that has framed the Land Purchase Bill. Those evictions have confiscated the property of the tenant in the soil. That is the aim of the Purchase Bill also. The evictions would, if the landlord had his way, put the cost of maintaining the people on their richer neighbours. That is the object of the Purchase Bill also. Up to the present Mr. Olphert has pocketed the charitable offerings of the people of Ireland and America for the relief of his tenantry as rent. The object of the Land Purchase Bill is to make the offerings not voluntary, but compulsory, to make the Viceroy and the tax-gatherer the collectors of them. So there is no inconsistency in Mr. Balfour's championship of the Purchase Bill and his support of Mr. Olphert.

On Friday March 28 the House of Lords adopted the Judges' Report. Let them be excused. They have reason to be angry with us, poor doomed impotents. There were just a couple of sentences in Lord Salisbury's speech that deserve notice on this side of the Channel. Speaking of the answer made by the Parliamentary party to those who charged them with complicity with crime Lord Salisbury said: "We have some scepticism on this. We did not charge them with complicity in crime, we charged them with using crime. We said there was a communication between the two parties which enabled the Parliamentary party to allow crime to go forward or restrain it in proportion as their political interests might require. As has been well expressed, they had their hands on the throttle-valve of crime. When they allowed crime to go forward it acted; when they pressed it, crime retreated. We were unable to admit, then, that no alliance of a tacit character existed between the bodies connected with such phenomena." That "we" is most material to the understanding of the conspiracy. It is the first confession of the Tories that it was they who were behind "Farnellism and Crime." It is the first public association of the Government with the *Times*. The "we" of the Forger and the "we" of her Majesty's First Minister are at length proclaimed to be one. This is the only thing worth remembering about the debate.

The two vacant Ulster seats were filled without a contest. Down is not the county on which our hopes are built for the increase of the Home Rule majority. Tyrone and Londonderry have first to be won before we make the final assault on the stronghold of suspicion and bigotry in the north-east. Dr. Kentoul, the new member, though he is a barrister and an LL.D., plays the raw-head-and-bloody-bones as well as ever Sanderson did. He swore before high heavens at the polling-booth that there will be a Golgotha ere Ulster submits. If there be, his cranium will not be among "dead men's skulls" that will strew the plain. This valiant County Councillor is described by the *Pall Mall Gazette* as "a fairly regular attendant at the meetings of the London Council, but he never—or hardly ever—takes part in the debates. He has an amiable weakness for appearing resplendent in a gorgeous sealskin-trimmed overcoat, and from the depths of that wondrous garment he blandly smiles upon his fellow councilors what time they fight the battles of Bettefremet, Blackwall Tunnels, and the like." We dare say he will wear his gorgeous sealskin and his bland smile at the promised charge of Ulster's chivalry.

Mr. Verey Knox is now "the hon. member for West Cavan." So passes the title of the trusty Joseph Biggar. Well, his successor promises to wear it worthily. He is the eleventh Protestant elected for an Irish constituency where the bigoted Catholics are in the majority. By the way, when will the Catholic Unionists get a chance. Is there no corner of the small domain of Unionism where

a place might be found for those uneasy Unionist spirits, Messrs. Quill and Sherlock? Still we cannot lay the blame for this exclusiveness wholly on the rampant Orangeism of the Irish Coercionists. They have enough of deadheads already—*vide* T. W. Russell *passim*; and any addition from the ranks of the Catholics would increase the number. Two other contests will shortly be decided in Great Britain—in the constituencies of Carnarvon and Windsor. The former being situated in gallant little Wales should send the Unionist to the right about, although up to the present the vote of its representative has been cast for coercion. Windsor, on the other hand, ought, as Mr. T. D. Sullivan said of the Isle of Wight, to grow nothing but primroses. Not so thinks the Liberal candidate, Mr. Grenfell, who is fighting to win, and deserving victory. Even in Windsor the tide is said to be sweeping for Home Rule.

If there was any danger of the constituencies forgetting the atrocities that form the staple record of Mr. Balfour during his reign they are not to be permitted to do so. Clongorey came in time for North St. Pancras; Glasserchoo affords the cruel object-lesson to the electors of Carnarvon and Windsor. Still, there is a sign of wavering in the dealings of the brave champion of the exterminators in Donegal. Twenty-five families were evicted on Wednesday, but it was not until the last moment that "the forces of the Crown" were placed at the service of the evictor. The writs on two other estates were allowed to lapse, and for the first time Mr. Balfour imitated the humane policy of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. This is a sign of the times.

In the meanwhile that wonderful Tenants' Defence Fund continues to grow. When we prophesied that it would reach £50,000, we may confess it now, we mistrusted our rashness. However, there it stands at more than £54,000, and it is quite apparent the only rash statement we could make about it is a statement that would place a limit to the self-sacrifice and determination of the people. In view of the proposal to impound a quarter of a million a year in order to create an insurance fund for the repayment of the landlord's arrears, the money is well invested by the ratepayers. It is the best "contingent guarantee" for the national credit that could be created.

The law has received another magnificent vindication. On Friday, March 28, an old woman of eighty, one of the Clongorey tenants, her niece and her niece's husband and infant child, were seized by the agents of the law and hauled to prison for the crime of refusing to demolish the shelter erected on the old woman's farm for her fellow-tenants who had been evicted from their homes. The arrest was accomplished under a warrant issued by the County Court Judge in conformity with the law as expounded by Vice-Chancellor Chatterton. Judge Darley did not conceal his doubts as to the correctness of the judgment, for which no reason was alleged except the fact that the sheltered tenants were Campaign tenants. The warrant, moreover, has lain by since January, as its indecent cruelty was too conspicuous. Now, however, it is produced before the disgust excited by the proceedings connected with the arrest of Father Kinsella has had time to subside. Under what extraordinary plea the tenants' relatives, who were merely living with her, have been arrested we cannot discern. It looks as if the illegality of the previous proceedings was being repeated. Legal or illegal, the indecency and cruelty are the same, and they are both perpetrated at a timely moment to remind us of the character of the constructors and commanders of the new Land Bill.

Sir Thomas Esmonde is coming back by a French port. He was due there on Tuesday, April 1, and in London on Thursday. Both the delegates deserve the heartiest of Irish welcomes after the work they have done during the past year.

The decision which was delivered by Mr. Meldon, R.M., in Cashel court-house on Thursday, March 27, is the most extraordinary and most scandalous yet delivered in a Coercion Court, and that is saying a good deal. There was not a particle of evidence against Mr. Kelly. He was proved to have visited certain tenants of Mr. Smith-Barry, and to have asked one of them what he served with a writ; and on this he is found guilty of conspiracy to compel the tenants not to pay their rents, and a sentence of four months' imprisonment with hard labour is imposed. It is an outrage—a violent outrage. The Chief Baron has to test Mr. Meldon's law, but even if his law be correct his construction of the facts is a scandal.

A Coercion Court was erected for the first time in the County Carlow, week ending March 29. The cause of the appearance of two Removables in the model county is not without instruction at the present moment, when the credit of the taxpayers is about to be pledged over their heads for the carrying out of other agreements. The "criminals" were charged with resisting seizures made for a levy in aid of a railway guarantee which the unrepresentative Grand Jury sanctioned. Carlow has no rent trouble. It has been panegyricised by both Pether the Packer and Mr. Justice William O'Brien. But the infliction of a tax for the purpose of inflating the dividend of the Great Southern and Western Railway is more than the peaceable county can stomach. What is likely, we may ask, to be their attitude to a tax levied by the Viceregal order for the purpose of making good the bad debts of some tenant who has enabled his landlord to walk off with one and a-half times the value of his property? The Removables will have something to do in Carlow in that event, and their work there will, judging from experience, be but a faint reflection of the work cut out for them in other parts of Ireland. This Carlow prosecution is a most seasonable incident.

Mr. Sexton brought an ardent Pigottist to book on Friday, March 28, in the House of Commons. Sir W. Marriott, who has been rewarded by the Tory Government for his desertion from the Liberal ranks with the post of Judge Advocate-General, made a most malignant attack upon the Irish party in the United Club, in the course of which, referring to the Forgeries Commission, he had the cool audacity to state that, on the whole, the *Times* had substantiated the points with which they started, and that the letters were not charges against the Irish members; that they were only evidences of charges. This coming from one holding an official position in the Government was certainly cool; but the shuffling way in which the