

Dublin Notes.

(From the National papers.)

LADY BUTLER'S picture of "An Irish Eviction" is attracting general attention. It is the work of one who sympathises deeply with the peasantry, as her husband, the soldier biographer of Gordon, also does.

The decline in the number of emigrants which last year's statistics of the exodus exhibited continues, we are happy to see. A Queens-town correspondent notes that there was a falling-off in the number who left in the week ending Sunday. The decrease amounted to no less than 876 in the number as compared with 1889. This is a cheerful turn, and we hope no artificial stimulus will change the condition of things.

Mr. John Roche is Member for East Galway. We congratulate both representative and constituency—the one on the proof he has had that his countrymen are not forgetful of his bravery and self-sacrifice; the other on securing the services as representative of a man who will not only preserve its trust unimpaired, but give it the lead when hard work has been done in the cause. We sympathise with Mr. Balfour deeply in his affliction. He found Mr. John Roche a quiet shopkeeper in Woodford. He has raised him by his persecution into the position of a member of the House of Commons, in which all Mr. Balfour's ambition is, according to himself, centred. This is another evidence of success.

The Coercionists are salting their whips. On Monday, May 5, Miss Mary Cullinane, of Ballydine, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for refusing to enter into bail of £10 to be of good behaviour, and submit to an aspersion which the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer declared no well-conducted person ought to submit to. Miss Cullinane could have committed no offence. The web of a Resident Magistrate's conspiratorial net could not be spun for her. So she was charged with being a generally-dangerous and evil-disposed vagabond, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment by a single magistrate for not subscribing to the impeachment.

On the same day at Gorey seven Wexford peasants, who, as Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., their fellow-countyman, declared at the meeting of the National League, would as soon think of blowing up their own homes and families as of perpetrating an act really criminal, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from three to nine months. Their crime practically amounted to a refusal to enter into business and social relations with the gang who murdered John Kinsella. When being conveyed to gaol the prisoners were handcuffed in pairs, though there was no more chance of an escape or a rescue being attempted than there is of their buying emergency pigs at Gorey fair when they come out, or of their friends doing so while they are in prison. "The 'criminals' held up their manacled hands to the cheering hundreds who thronged the streets in their honour." The manacled hands will have more effect on the political situation in Wexford than the Land Purchase Bill will be able to counteract.

With the salting of the lash have come new brutalities in the way of eviction. All over the country, in Galway, Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Kildare—everywhere that there is an eviction writ in existence or an extra gale of rent due—the evictors are at work, either actually or in preparation. The campaign is too general not to be without plan. The word has evidently been passed from the Castle, in order to dry up, if possible, the resources of the Tenants' Defence Association. But those who calculate on the exhaustion of the Tenants' Defence know little of the spirit of the nation. The resources are not represented by the £60,000 subscribed by the Irish people for the defence of the peasants, nor by the £35,000 which their kindred in Australia have sent within the past year, nor by the £16,500 mentioned in the balance-sheet of the treasurer of the Irish National League in America. Whence these sums came more will come, if needed. The spirit to which we owe them is kindled by such outrages as have been perpetrated on our peasantry during the week that has gone.

Among those evicted during the week ending May 10 was the father of the young man Larkin, who was let die in Kilkenny Gaol. The eviction is the crown to a piece of infamy. The law had not done enough to make itself respected by the Woodford peasantry in killing this poor lad; it was necessary also to tear the roof from over the poor old father's head, and this, not for rent, but for law costs. So he was flung upon the roadside on Saturday because he was not able to make up £5 ls for the Marquis's attorneys. It is hard to speak in measured language of cruel ruffianism like this. The only consolation to those who bear it and to those who are forced to witness it quietly, is that it is too bad to last. No people could approve and sanction such deeds without sacrificing their own liberties and denying their own titles to comfort and freedom. The British nation is not ignorant or besotted enough for that surrender, and it must put a stop to these things or be sacrificed itself.

Of course the Commission that inquired into the charges that were made as to the treatment of John Daly and the other treason-felony prisoners have found that they had nothing to complain of. They are treated like the other prisoners, or, if anything, better. We could have foretold that that would have been the report. But it is a curious circumstance that their treatment should be driving them insane. The chaplain, whom the report warmly commends for his zeal and fairness, declares that they must be removed from Chatham or they will go mad. This is certainly an unexpected result of "ordinary convict discipline." The evidence will be closely scrutinised to see whether it throws any light on the unbinging of the prisoners' minds. The men whom the treatment of their country have driven to crime should not be inhumanely treated by the authority that is the direct cause of their crime.

The *Dundalk Democrat* informs us that the boycott of the Great Northern Railway at Carrickmacross is still steadily maintained. Notwithstanding the ridicule of the judge who sentenced the man to be hanged for stealing a goat, County Court Judge Barron, and the

brutal sentences of the judge who often more effectually sentenced men who committed no crime at all, Judge O'Brien, the people of Carrickmacross, Ashbourne purchasers and all, will have nothing to do with the carrying company whose servant has grabbed Mr. Phelan's house. So the Company, whose revenue is being absorbed in the damages given to the sufferers in the Armagh catastrophe, continues to lose its profit of £100 a week out of loyalty to the cause of the rack-rents. Possibly, the Directors may be only fighting their own battle in this use of the shareholders' money. Some of them are members of the Land Corporation, and they find it cheaper to do battle indirectly than directly. But what have the shareholders to say? Meantime, we congratulate the men of Carrickmacross on the amendment they are putting to the strange tale of Arthur James's successes.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Oxford on Wednesday, May 7, declared it as his belief that the Government cannot pass their Land Bill this session unless either they drop a large and an important part of the measure, and so lighten the ship by throwing valuable cargo overboard, or use the closure as it has never been used before and carry the rest of the measure after a certain time had been passed in discussing without amendment or further debate. Either of these contingencies would, he declared, be a national calamity; and he suggested as a way of escape from them that Lord Salisbury should invite Mr. Gladstone to a conference, and that the question should be settled by a general agreement of all parties. The author of the amiable proposal, later on in his speech amiably described the party which he invited to conference as having "joined the party of plunder and disintegration." The proposal could not have been made seriously, under the circumstances. But the encouragement which his candid confession of the dangers that beset the Purchase Bill will give to its opponents will not be damped by his abuse. The party of disintegration may be able to accomplish their policy to the extent of disintegrating this measure.

An official statement is issued that under the Ashbourne Act the Land Purchase Court has completed 12,645 sales, and advanced payments to the amount of £5,274,000. There remains nearly £5,000,000 to be disposed of, therefore. As it has taken nearly five years to dispose of five and a quarter millions, the four and three-quarter millions is amply sufficient for the period between this and the General Election, and there is no reason why the judgment of the country should not be taken on the proposal to hypothecate Irish taxes without Irish consent. The Home Rule Bill was defeated on the cry "no taxation without representation;" those who voted for the measure may stick to their belief in its wisdom.

The Rev. Mr. Anderson, Protestant Rector of Drinagh, county Cork, speaking last week (ending May 3), at the meeting of the Protestant Home Rule Association in the ancient Concert Rooms, compared the plan of operations contemplated by the Land Purchase Bill to that used by the thimble-riggers, trick-of-the-loop men, and men with the lucky-bag. The only difference between it and the highway robbery, which was the game three or four years ago, was that it now became a business of passing bad paper. The rev. gentleman told his audience how Smith-Barry, at a recent meeting of the Protestant Synod in the city of Cork, endeavoured to get the clergymen assembled to become agents of the Cork Defence Union. He offered to supply them with all the requisites for Emergency farming. A number of the clergymen, who were at first timid, plucked up courage after the Rev. Mr. Anderson had told Mr. Smith-Barry some plain facts on the question of landlord and tenant with which he was acquainted, and, in a very decisive manner, they declined to accept the generous offer.

The humiliation of the Government in the division on Wednesday afternoon, (May 7), on the Irish Labourers Bill—which passed its second reading despite the opposition of Mr. Balfour and the tricks of Mr. T. W. Russell—has a moral for politicians. It proves what can be done by the Irish party, when alert, and in force. The absence of the Tory rank and file shows that the period of weariness is setting in, and that the opportunity has come for the work of the compact fighting party which cannot tire as long as it represents the Nationalist spirit in Ireland. A good response to the whip which had been issued on Monday gave the Irish party their chance, and the consequence is a defeat to the Government most injurious to them on the eve of a prolonged struggle on the Tithes Bill and the Land Bill.

The Irish labourers, too, will take this victory as an earnest of the practical determination of the Irish party to force their interests on the attention of Parliament. If effective legislation on behalf of the labourers had not appeared upon the Irish Statute-book, it is not for want of will among the Irish members, every one of whom is a friend of the cause of labour. The Irish workingman, like every other Irishman, is a victim of the evil Westminster system and the Castle maladministration. The Labourers Cottage Act was spoiled by the Privy Council even more completely than the Land Act by the Land Commission. The speediest way to the relief of the labourer is the speediest way to the relief of every other interest opposed under the present system of government, by making an end of that system.

The evidence of John Daly before the Commission of Inquiry appointed to examine into his treatment puts the climax to the story of the conspiracy between the Tories and the *Times*. It amounts to this, that the agents of the *Times* had free entrance to the prison, that they suggested to Daly, between whom and Mr. Parnell there was, he declared, no love lost, that he should give evidence, no matter of what character—Pigott was the bearer of the invitation—evidence connecting Mr. Parnell with murder and outrage. Daly refused, though he was offered the "protection" of the Government. The Commissioners pretend to understand this offer as an offer of protection against attacks on his life. Daly himself understood it as an offer of freedom for, if he were not released, the stone walls of his prison were strong enough to protect him, and the offer was meaningless. There can be no doubt which is the more reasonable view. Not satisfied with putting this temptation in the way of a man suffering under an imprisonment which the chaplain declares is slowly driving Daly's fellow-prisoners insane, the Government went further. Their agents