

# Dublin Notes.

(From the National Papers.)

MR. GLADSTONE has often astonished the world by phenomenal literary and oratorical feats, but what we behold him now doing is the most marvellous achievement of his life. He has started on his electoral campaign in Midlothian, where, in addition to the fatigue incidental to a very long journey, he will make a progress through the whole large constituency and speak at many public meetings. For a man in the prime of life such an undertaking as this would mean much arduous work; but to see a man of over eighty facing it lightly, and presenting all the marks and tokens of fitness for the task, is truly astonishing. The aged statesman, accompanied by his devoted wife and a couple of nephews, set out on his mission last Monday, making Liverpool his starting point. A great concourse of Liberal Englishmen and Irish Nationalists assembled at the station to see him depart and if possible to hear him speak, but Mr. Gladstone only spoke a few words of acknowledgment, explaining that he wanted to husband his physical powers for the great task before him. At the chief stations en route Mr. Gladstone was warmly welcomed by cheering crowds, but it was when the great old orator reached the city of Edinburgh that the real triumph of his reception was manifested. The preparations for his advent in the Scottish capital were truly splendid and imposing in their picturesqueness and magnitude.

The first great address of the Midlothian campaign was delivered by Mr. Gladstone on Tuesday, October 21, in the vast hall of the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh, which contained between four and five thousand of an audience, including a great number of ladies. The oration was a fine achievement even for Mr. Gladstone. It was an indictment on a grand scale of the whole policy of the Government, especially as regards their course in Ireland, which amounted to a philippic; yet its language was not in the style of that class of accusation. It was noble, high-toned, and solemn. He loftily denounced the perfidy which, getting into power on the promise of no coercion and a measure of Local Self-Government for Ireland, as well as the principle that no British credit should be pledged to buy out Irish landlords, abused that power to coerce more savagely than any previous rule had done, to pledge British credit very largely for the purpose so repudiated, and to relegate Local Self-Government to the Greek Kalends. Then taking up the atrocities of Coercion more in detail, he referred once more to the murders and illegalities of Mitchelstown, and went on to scurry the mockery of justice now going on in Tipperary, denouncing the appointment of Mr. Shannon as one of the judges in the case, taking into account his own personal connection with branches of it, as a great scandal. Mr. Gladstone also referred at considerable length to the shooting outrage by the police at Charleville, to the persecution of Father Kennedy, of Meelin, and other leading incidents in the history of Coercion, and dealt crushingly with some of Mr. Balfour's latest flippancies regarding the principles on which the government of Ireland should be conducted.

Two notable political champions also addressed large English audiences on the Irish question within the same week. Mr. Balfour spoke at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and revealed how much nature had done for him as a despot, and how much remained to art to do to complete the work. The Chief Secretary threw off all disguise, and showed how little difference there is between the type of Tory and the plantation slave-owner pure and simple. After attacking Mr. Morley's eye-witness history of the Tipperary outrage, he referred to him as an unscrupulous orator, and roundly went in for upholding the veracity of the incriminated police and Colonel Caddell as against the testimony of everyone else, including Mr. Morley. Then his usual form revealed itself in sneers at the broken heads, the handiwork of his brutal hirelings in Tipperary. His own reputation for consistent logic he gravely assails, in first charging the Irish Parliamentary Party that they had not brought forward any legislative proposals to assist the Government of late years, and then in terms declaring that their opinions should have no consideration from the Government because many of them were nominated by Mr. Parnell. The whole speech was that of a desperate and detected blackleg or welsheer—full of foul Billingsgate, flippancy, untruths, insolence, and utter disregard for consistent reasoning even in support of the speaker's own arguments.

The task of pulverising this monstrous farrago was at once essayed, in the same city, by Mr. Morley. Out of his own favourite's mouth, Colonel Caddell never said—of his (Mr. Balfour's) ignorance of his own brief. Mr. Morley has already given the world the true story of the events in Tipperary as seen by himself and other impartial onlookers; but his reply to Mr. Balfour's flippant nonsense was more than an analytical examination of inaccuracies; it was a dignified but solemn impeachment of his action in a high and responsible official position. But Mr. Morley is not content with this. He is ready to testify the truth before a Parliamentary Commission or any other tribunal that his adversary may dare him to, and he has given practical effect to this challenge by telegraphing to Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P., his readiness to come over to Tipperary and give evidence at the hearing of the summonses brought by the police against Mr. Harrison, M.P., Mr. O'Brien Dalton, Mr. Gill, Mr. Keating, and others, as a corollary to their brutal attacks upon these gentlemen.

The effect of this announcement is funk on Mr. Balfour's part. He declines the challenge. The summonses by the police have been withdrawn. Notice to that effect was served on Wednesday morning on Mr. V. B. Dillon, solicitor for the defendants. To the rider intimating that "other proceedings" will be taken by the Crown against the defendants, Mr. Dillon retorts that he has taken care that "other proceedings" shall be instituted without delay on their behalf against the Executive, which opens up the prospect of a true version of the case being given at last upon oath and letting the world know who are the liars.

There is but one possible meaning to be found in the sudden withdrawal of the Coercion prosecutions which have been more than a fortnight pending on the suit of Removable Cad against Mr. Harrison, Mr. Keating, and others for riot and assault at Tipperary. They were withdrawn the moment it was ascertained that Mr. Morley was prepared to attend as a witness. Ingenuity cannot disguise the plain motive and meaning of the proceeding, nor audacity deny it. If Mr. Goulfour walked publicly through the streets with a white sheet and candle proclaiming his model gentleman and officer, Removable Cad, a liar, and himself an accomplice after the act, the declaration would not be one whit more explicit, or the humiliation more complete.

The dilemma, it must be confessed, was a nasty one. The brace of Removables were, of course, ready to convict, evidence or no evidence, if so desired; but the mischief of it was that the Removables themselves were on their trial. They could not convict Mr. Harrison and Mr. Keating and the other defendants of riot or assault without also convicting Mr. John Morley of wilful and corrupt perjury. This was a big order for the credulity of the English public. Such a proceeding was not likely to restore the damaged reputation of coercion Courts. On the other hand, an acquittal would mean a conviction of Goulfour and his subordinate, Cad, out of the mouth of his own creatures—the one of uttering, the other of retailing, deliberate falsehoods. So the brave Mr. Goulfour considered discretion the better part of valour, and ran away helter-skelter from the prosecutions when he heard Mr. Morley was coming over. On the whole, we think his discretion was sound.

Mr. Morley was somewhat unreasonable to expect any answer from Mr. Goulfour to the charge he founded on the proceeding of District-Commissioner Byrne at Mr. Dillon's meeting with his constituents at Swinford. Mr. Goulfour is very wise to hold his tongue on the subject. Mr. Byrne there laconically informed Mr. Dillon that if anything illegal was said at the meeting (that is, if anything was said which he, Mr. Byrne, in his great wisdom and learning, regarded as illegal), he would forthwith forcibly disperse the people with the batons, bayonets, and rifles of the enormous force of police and soldiers at his command. Of such a proceeding no defence or palliation was possible even for the audacity of the Brave Mr. Goulfour. But, though the proceedings could not be defended, it was repeated. At a recent meeting of the Tenants' Defence Association, addressed by Mr. P. O'Brien, M.P., at Nenagh, exactly the same performance was gone through. On this occasion a common police sergeant was appointed irresponsible censor of free speech, with authority to baton a member of Parliament and his constituents if a word dropped from any one of them by which his nicely-discriminating legal ear was offended. No wonder Mr. Goulfour thinks it prudent to sing dumb when this question is exposed. The least said on the subject the soonest mended.

The screw is being squeezed savagely on the Olphert estate to try and extort the money which the unfortunate tenants have brought back as the wages of their toil in the harvest fields of England before the pinch of hunger and the potato failure induce them to spend it "disonestly" in buying Indian meal to keep their wives and families alive during the coming winter. Two hundred and fifty evictions are on hand. Soon the batoning ram will be in full swing. The troops and police will be marched in hundreds on the desolate scene, and the public money will be lavished like water in the attempt to carry out this leached plunder, compared with which highway robbery were honest and humane. Of course there is the customary rumour of the "collapse of the Plan of Campaign." The business would not be complete without that. The wish is father to the thought and to the report. Never, surely, did wish have a more numerous progeny. The boy who cried "Wo!" so incessantly in the tale is not in it with the gentleman who does the "Olphert collapse" for the *Daily Express*. This time the foundation of the rumour appears to be that Mr. Olphert has written a conciliatory letter to an anonymous and imaginary tenant, forgiving him a half year's rent in consideration of prompt payment of the rest. Before this deadly shot from the landlord's popgun the Plan of Campaign has collapsed.

The Removables by whom Ireland are governed are a truly charming class. They are forcible illustration of the rule that you must get dirty men to do dirty work. Here are some facts about another charming specimen whose valuable services are still retained in sending priests and members of Parliament to prison in the interest of law and order. Colonel Removable Forbes was sued by a servant girl for wages and by his wife for necessaries provided for her and his children and for herself. All these claims he manfully disputed. We take a sample specimen from the evidence of his wife, whom the gallant colonel has succeeded for some years in defrauding of her allowance.—"Mrs. Forbes said that if she had got her allowance from her husband she would have paid all these bills, and there would be none of this trouble. She had frequently shown these bills to her husband and spoken to him about them, but his reply was he would not give her money or credit. She had engaged the servant at £18 a year, and she was a good, honest girl, and the only reason for her discharge was because she had taken her (witness's) part on an occasion when Colonel Forbes' coachman was abusing and threatening her (witness). The majority of the goods from Price Jones were for the children, and whenever she went to her husband's study to speak to him about these bills, the lamp was always put out, and sometimes she was struck and knocked down."

The well-deserving pillar of law and order of course denied everything with the courageous swearing of a constabulary not-taker. But so palpable were the facts that courageous swearing was of no avail, and the staunch little Coercionist County Court Judge Darley felt constrained to grant decrees against him in all cases with costs. To-morrow or next day when Colonel Removable Forbes heads a baton-charge and breaks the people's heads, in sheer wanton devilment, we will have the brave Mr. Goulfour declaring he is an officer and a gentleman, and his own statements must be taken as conclusive in his own justification. If he happens to contradict an eye-witness like Mr. John Morley, by the mere fact of the contradiction, without further inquiry, Mr. John Morley must be branded as a liar in the eyes of the English people.