

# Dublin Notes.

(From the National Papers.)

No one denies the failure of Mr Balfour's Land Act, though some, like Mr Bedmond and Mr Jackson, are ready with explanations of that failure. Let anyone, if he can, get over these figures:—Out of 9,000 landlords only 43 have applied under the Act to the Land Commission, and out of half a million tenants only 175. These figures are taken from Mr Sexton's speech, and they are not contested.

The *Galway Pilot* states that the last survivor of Waterloo is dragging out a miserable existence in the town on ninepence a day. Our contemporary observed the announcement some weeks ago that the last of those who had taken part in the famous battle had passed away, and then investigated the case of an old soldier who, according to reports, had served under the Iron Duke. The case of Patrick O'Hara would now appear to be made out. His statement is that he was born in Spain, and was reared up as a soldier boy in the 87th Regiment: He was a bugler at Waterloo, and was shot in the neck. O'Hara is able to give a good account of himself. He is living in extreme poverty.

Mr Sexton elicited from Mr Balfour on Tuesday, February 16, the fact that the Government does not expect an unchallenged passage for the promised Education Bill through the House of Commons; and, that, therefore, they could hold out no hope of disposing of the measure before the end of the financial year. The Bill, Mr Balfour says, "not only deals with assisted education, but is also a Bill which deals with other questions, such as a modified system of compulsion." Mr Balfour has, therefore, not taken Mr T. W. Russell's advice and left compulsion alone. The "awkward question" is to be raised. We hope the authors of the Bill have, accordingly, pondered the points put to their consideration by the Bishop of Limerick. Will they compel children to go to schools denied religious liberty? And will they refuse to pay for the education of the compulsory school-goers in schools where the crucifix holds a place on the walls and the prayer of the Angelus is heard?

A decision of surpassing importance to Irish leaseholders has just been made by Judge Bewley and Mr Commissioner Fitzgerald in the Land Commission Court. The point decided was that the mere service of the prescribed notice constitutes the leaseholder a present tenant, and not merely secures against eviction on expiration of the lease but also avoids any restrictions inconsistent with the rights of a present tenant which the lease may contain. The case in question was from the County Kildare—Henry Smith tenant, Fletcher Moore, landlord. The tenant having served his notice, proceeded to sell his interest. The landlord contested the validity of the sale, on the strength of a strict clause against alienation in the lease. The Court held with the tenant that this clause was made abortive by the notice. The general result seems to be that the mere service of a notice is sufficient to change the status of leaseholder or ordinary tenant, and create at once the rights and liabilities of a present tenancy.

Considerable curiosity, says a Dublin journal, has been excited in Trinity College by the alleged appearance of a ghost in the College Park. A few days ago, between five and six p.m. a member of the University Harriers, well known for his athletic prowess, was returning from the Pavilion, when he was surprised to see the figure of a man running swiftly round the Park. He immediately gave chase, but to his astonishment the figure easily outdistanced him, and disappeared, apparently through the closed door leading to the dissecting room. He at once examined the building, but could find no trace of the mysterious athlete. He told the circumstances to a friend, and they determined to watch at the same hour on the following evening. Stationing themselves behind a clump of trees they waited for some little time, when suddenly they became aware of a shadowy figure gliding swiftly by. They both pursued at full speed, but were quite unable to get close enough to make out anything of the strange visitant but a mere outline of his form which made for the anatomy portion of the Medical School Buildings, and there disappeared as before, leaving no trace behind him. Much perplexed both returned to College, and the subject has been much discussed since, both gentlemen being positive as to the evidence of their senses. It has, at all events, suggested a subject for an essay to be read at the Philosophical Society at their next meeting, when some interesting experiences tending to elucidate the subject will probably be related.

The *Weekly Register* makes a courageous and outspoken protest against the dumbness of the English Tory Catholics in face of the Prime Minister's attack on their Irish co-religionists. Irish Catholics have never since O'Connell's experience of the men to whom he gave liberty expected much from the people to whom the Earl of Shrewsbury of that day, and the Duke of Norfolk of this, were representatives. But Lord Salisbury's remarks were as insulting to themselves as to the Catholics of Ireland, and they show that they are party men before all. The *Tablet*, for example, has a leading article on

the debate on the address, and does not even mention Sir William Harcourt's denunciation, Lord Salisbury's appeal to bigotry, or Sir Charles Russell's indignant protest as an Irish Catholic. In a note, however, it charges Sir William Harcourt with "twisting, contorting, and perverting" Lord Salisbury's venomous and calumnious utterance, "in order that he might embitter, for political purposes, the feelings of the Catholic population of Ireland." Frederick Lucas's journal has become a mere Primrose League sheet. The degradation is not to be accomplished without protest, however. Mr John G. Kenyon makes one against this silent endorsement of Lord Salisbury's heavy attempt to burlesque Gambetta.

Wales deserves a good turn from Ireland. We owe it something for the help it has given our cause, and on Thursday next the representatives of Ireland will have an opportunity of requiring the gallant little principality for its services. The motive for the Disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales is down for that day. Last year it would have been carried had the Irish members turned up in force. They would have done a good work for religious liberty, and the liberty of Ireland as well, had they been at their post on that occasion. Whatever may be said for the establishment of Anglicanism in England, its establishment in Wales is a religious ascendancy as baneful and hurtful to true religion as its establishment in Ireland. The Welsh people regard the State recognition of Anglicanism there as an intolerable grievance. They have sent a relatively larger number of advocates of Irish freedom to the House of Commons than Ireland itself. Their service gives them a title to the help of the Irish members in their effort to end a wrong. We are certain the Irish people recognise the title, and that the National representatives will be conforming to the wish of their constituents in responding to the whip which has been issued by the Irish whips for the division. It is a duty to Wales and to Ireland that ought to be discharged.

## THE RIGHT REV DR GRIMES AT GERALDINE.

(From our Temuka Correspondent.)

I WAS waiting for the report *re* the Right Rev Dr Grimes' visit to Geraldine, to appear in your paper, but, as none has appeared, the one appended may suit all purposes.

The visit of his Lordship the Right Rev Dr Grimes was looked forward to by our Catholic friends of Geraldine with keen interest, the good prelate being no less beloved by them than by us here. Great preparations were made for his reception, and on Saturday, March 11, Geraldine presented an extremely lively appearance. Marvellous outward signs of faith were shown by the good people. In due time the people made their way to the Orari Railway Station, and his Lordship, on arriving there by the express train, was met by a large procession to escort him to Geraldine. The *cortege* consisted of fully thirty vehicles, besides horsemen. His Lordship was driven in a carriage with a pair of greys, lent by Mr A. White, and with him were Fathers Le Peti (Temuka), Tnpman (Timaru), and Treacy. Half an hour after his arrival in Geraldine his Lordship made his episcopal visitation to the church, and on the threshold of the door was met by members of the Church, the following address of welcome being read to him by Mr James Kalaugher:—

"To the Right Rev Dr Grimes, S.M., Bishop of Christchurch.

"My Lord,—We, the priest and people of Geraldine, extend our hearty welcome to you on this your second episcopal visitation to our parish. We recognise in your Lordship the representative of our Most Holy Father the Pope and our spiritual father in God. We, in common with the other members of your diocese, felt regret at your forced absence from our midst, and have now to express our great joy at your return in good health, and hope that your Lordship may long continue to enjoy that blessing. We followed your movements at Home, and noted with pleasure the result of your visit to His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. Since your return we have had further proof of your solicitude for the welfare of your flock in the fact of your visits to the different parishes. We regret that, owing to the improvements which have been made in the church, we have been unable to invite you to our parish before. Your Lordship will be pleased to learn that, since the arrival of the Rev Father Treacy, a long-standing debt has been paid off, and extensive additions made to the church. In the collecting of money for these objects our priest has been obliged to make considerable pecuniary sacrifices, and has been put to a great deal of trouble. In conclusion, we hope that your Lordship may long be spared health and strength to carry on the work in your diocese, and to enable you to perform the arduous duties connected with your episcopal position, and ask your blessing on ourselves and our families. Signed on behalf of the parish, Patrick Treacy, Kyran Brophy, Timothy Sugrue, Jeremiah Connolly, Edmund Burke, Michael Connolly, P. H. McShane, Timothy Herlihy."

After ascending to the sanctuary, his Lordship thanked the members of the church for the right royal, or, more correctly speaking, Catholic welcome which they had given him when he crossed the threshold of their parish church on his episcopal visitation. They had met him at the door of the church and spoken to him in words