

The Kerry Evening Post, TRALEE, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1882.

The last evening in Parliament before the recess was spent, as so many others have been of late years, in a discussion on Irish affairs, but there have been comparatively few occasions where the topic specially debated has been either of such urgency as of such importance. We have had Coercion Acts, Arms Acts, remedial legislation, attacks on Mr. Forster for carrying out too stringently the powers placed in the hands of the Government, and now we gain counter attack from others who were of opinion that there was a lack of decision and of firmness in dealing with the authors of the outrages and crimes which disgrace Ireland. Mr. Gorst took a more moderate and a wiser course than to make a direct attack upon the Government, though his speech was perhaps the most damaging statement that could possibly have been made against those who are responsible for law and order. He restricted his observations to the condition of this country, not from the point of view of a prominent member of the Opposition, but from the impartial and independent statements of the judges at the recent assizes in the various counties. The advantages of thus bringing the evidence of neutral witnesses, men whose position affords them the greatest opportunities of knowing the state of crime and public feeling, is obvious. Reports from such quarters cannot be suspected of being tinged with a political bias, or of being exaggerated to meet the political exigencies of a party. The plain, unvarnished statements thus narrated by Mr. Gorst had their effect upon the House, which was increased by the report in the previous morning's papers of the unfortunate death of Mrs. Smythe. It is now evident what has been suspected from the numerous cases of serious crimes which have appeared in the Press, that outrages are not only on the increase in all the counties where they have previously been committed, but that the disease is spreading to what might have been termed the non-affected districts. Not only is the general character of the offences more serious, but owing to the terror which is brought to bear upon the popular mind it is in almost every case impossible to get evidence. In Galway, out of 360 outrages which had come to the knowledge of the police, in only 30 cases had the offenders been made amenable. In Limerick, 800 persons refused to give evidence; and out of 315 criminal offences in only 65 instances were persons charged. When brought to trial it rarely that a jury convicts. At the late Assizes for our own county of Kerry, Mr. A. E. Herbert, who stated that a juryman had declared that he would not convict if they were to sit a week, was shot a few days afterwards, his flocks slaughtered and mutilated, and some fear was felt that even his remains would not be allowed to rest in peace. At many of the assizes the number of agrarian crimes were double those of the preceding year. In the North Riding of Tipperary were 150 cases against 75 the preceding year, and in the South Riding 230 against 108; in Queen's county 62 against a former total of 21; in Roscommon 84 against a previous 30; and in Donegal 105 against 45. These are fair specimens, and speak eloquently as to the condition into which the policy of coercion and confiscation has brought Ireland. So far it has most signally failed, as might have been anticipated, and Ireland, instead of improving, has been growing worse and worse. Mr. Gorst, having collected and stated his facts, did not press the Government as to their intentions, but he trusted that after Easter they would bring forward some clear and definite measures to cope with the terrible state of affairs he had depicted. "No one can accuse the hon. and learned member of having overrated his case. He was as studiously moderate in his statements as he was in his first request. The narrative related to us of the blood of honest and loyal men and women barbarously murdered in cold blood gave to the picture its true colours, and appealed to Parliament for justice and vengeance.

Mr. Gladstone's speech in reply was to use Sir Stafford Northcote's words, "not only disappointing, but, to some extent, alarming." The impression produced from his personal words was that the Premier was fully aware of the gravity of the subject, but despaired of being able to effect a remedy. Distinguishing the present as a social revolution rather than a political one, he quoted the Duke of Wellington to prove that the former was exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to grapple with. The propriety of this acknowledging that the Land League had adopted a course of action which it was next to impossible for the Government to counteract or efficiently oppose is very questionable, and is a direct encouragement to the leaders to persevere in their present course. The Government has ten times the resources necessary, Mr. Gladstone tells us, to quell a political, but no means of reducing a social revolution. He appears to forget that the social is but a step towards the political; that the leaders of the former have declared that if their object had not been the latter they would never have taken of their coats to commence the work. But the question arises—Is the Government so powerless as is represented in the face of the difficulty of to-day? In Mr. Gladstone, because he draws a metaphysical distinction between different kinds of revolution, to be excused for the disgraceful condition into which Ireland has been allowed to fall? Every sane man knows that a determined Government could very soon enter and defeat the elements of disorder, and restore confidence where at present none exists. But the way to do it is certainly not to proclaim that so long as it is only landlords and their friends that are shot, or the tenants that are suspected of having paid their rent; or the cattle of those parties that are mutilated, Government can do nothing. Such a confession of weakness is unworthy of any minister, and must tend to prolong the period of anarchy. If a more stringent Coercion Act is necessary, let it be brought forward; and if trial by jury is of no effect in bringing the guilty parties to justice, let it be possible to suspend it for a time, and let all agrarian offences be tried by the judges. Many courses are open to the Government which, if carried out with as much decision, firmness, and persistence as are shown by the agents of revolution, would answer the desired end.

THE MURDER OF MR. A. E. HERBERT, J.P. CASTLEBLAIN, THURSDAY.—At the fortnightly sittings held here to-day, before Messrs. A. J. M. Dermott, R.M., in the chair; and H. Roche, the chairman said—It is the wish of my brother magistrates that this case should be adjourned to-day out of respect to the memory of Mr. Herbert, who was fatally murdered on the evening of the 12th of March, at his own town. Unfortunately, such a course is now only too prevalent in the country. As a magistrate on the bench I have had but little opportunity of knowing Mr. Herbert; but my experience of him is that he was courteous, kind and considerate. I hope this very sad case will be accepted by Mrs. Herbert, his respected mother, and that she will be able to leave her home in tranquillity, as a mark of the very high respect in which Mr. Herbert was held by his brother magistrates. As an honest man I cannot leave this bench without condemning this act of violence, this heinous crime.

TRALEE QUARTER SESSIONS. On Thursday Mr. O'Connor Morris, County Court Judge, entered court at ten o'clock, and opened the Easter Sessions for the division of Tralee. The business for disposal is unusually heavy, there being 329 ordinary civil bills, 120 of which are defended; 103 judgments, 13 defended; 13 applications for spirit licences; 10 for licences to sell; 10 for licences to sell; and 30 land claims under the Land Act (1881).

THE RELEASE OF MR. PARNELL—FURTHER RAIDS. (FROM A CORRESPONDENT.) BALLYBUNNION, APRIL 12.—On Monday night this village was a focus of gladness at the release of the "Commander-in-Chief," of the real "Executive of Green Erin" was illuminated on a grand scale, as also the hills and valleys of the country all around. A regular "wild fire" spread in a few seconds over the land. The burning zeal of the loyalists is indescribable. The houses of the doors of evil deeds opened up the whole line until morning. As one said "The Moonlighters will be out all night," and this actually turned out to be a fact, for a large gang called at several farmers' houses between 11 p.m. and 2 o'clock a.m. in Leannachina, the property of Blacker Douglas, Esq. The house of Cornelius Mulvihill—"Young Con," was attacked, and a bomb was fired into it, the bullet passed through a thick shutter which had been closed and struck the stairs close to where Mulvihill was ascending to deliver up his gun and ammunition to the raiders. Mulvihill, who is a powerful looking man, and his son a young man about twenty years of age, were in the house at the time and offered no resistance but handed over the gun and ammunition freely, which no doubt will be useful in depriving some innocent person whose name is written and marked to "Give him or her a powder hee betraying his country." If Mulvihill's house were a thatched one an excuse for delivering up the deadly weapon might be accepted, but being strongly built of stone and mortar and slated, no attack could effect it or its occupants if any place were shown in self-defence. Here is a case of "You are a nice man to have a license. A farmer had a license for a gun, and he wanted to take out of his bed, put on his knee, and a double barrel gun presented at his head by one, and a revolver to his heart by another of the rulers of Ireland, threatening him with death if he paid his rent—he is a tenant to the Earl of Listowel—or deal in any "Boycotted house." I did not hear that he had a gun in his house. Another case, a man named James O'Connell, who had his gun taken from him without any refusal on his part; this man's house is also well adapted for defensive purposes, but no defence was made; he is a tenant of the Earl of Listowel, as well as Quane. Thomas Wolfe, of Beale Hill, another of the Earl's tenants, had a visit on the same business; he also gave up his gun, and he did not call at the police station to defend himself. He was taken to the police station on Thursday night—the house of five different parties in Kilmulhann, Serahan, Ahims and Ballysheg were visited and two guns taken; these places are south of Ballybunnon and quite convenient. The five places called at on Monday night are to the north, and nearly at the same distance from the village of Tralee. The houses were visited by the rulers of the "Love of those Christians" each other. Fifteen hours later have passed their father from "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father, which is in Heaven as a perfect."

THE DARK RED STAIN. TO THE EDITOR OF THE KERRY EVENING POST. Tipperary, April 15th, 1882. DEAR SIR:—I crave your kindness for the publication of the following few lines—Feeling deeply concerned on reading the account given by your contemporary of the murder of Mr. A. E. Herbert, and at the circumstances surrounding that and other dire deeds, which have branded a dark red stain upon our country, I wrote a letter to the Kerry Sentinel on Palm Sunday, which I hoped might have, some good effect in rousing the people of my native county to a true sense of the moral and material mischief, at such a time especially, of these shocking outrages against God and man. I posted the letter with my own hand, having interrupted other pressing duties to complete it. The letter was temperately worded, was couched in the spirit of the utterances of the Archbishop of Cashel, and I collected in it all the arguments I could command to show that refraining from outrage and implicit obedience to the eternal command: "Thou shalt not kill," was the only righteous course for the "justice" seeking people. Knowing that the proprietor of the Sentinel is confined in a distant prison, under a hateful and mistaken coercion policy, I wished to treat his representative in Tralee as reasonably as possible, and I therefore wrote over my own name. Strange to say, the letter has been suppressed, and I have not been consulted in the matter. I have no objection to my name being used to support this acknowledgment on this occasion—Your obedient servant, JAMES J. LONG.

DEATHS.

PARKES—14th April, at Tralee, William G. Parkes, fourth son of R. A. Parkes, Tralee, aged 25 years.

FRY—At his residence, Bridge Street, on Thursday, the 4th day of April, Miss, Mrs. Thomas Ryan. He leaves a wife and large family to mourn his loss.

THE LAND LEAGUE CONVENTION IN AMERICA. A Times Philadelphia telegram of Thursday says—The Washington Land League Convention yesterday, after appointing committees on platforms and organization, considered the long preamble and resolutions introduced by John Boyle O'Reilly, regarding the failure of the Government to act promptly on behalf of the American in his place who understands the rights of his countrymen abroad, and who has the will, the courage, and the energy to do so.

THE LAND COMMISSION FOR KERRY. Mr. George Handley, Legal Commissioner, with Messrs. James Haughton and John J. O'Shaughnessy, will open the new Circuit of the Land Commission in Listowel, on Tuesday next, at 10 o'clock a.m.

THE IRISH EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT. The Standard says—At the moment that the chief of the Conservative party is leading the attack upon the policy of the Government at Liverpool, Dublin is distinguished by the presence of no fewer than three prominent members of the Cabinet. Mr. Forster is in Ireland in his official capacity. He has been joined by Lord Hartington and Lord Cairns. No one supposes that the Government are in any danger of being overthrown. Mr. Gladstone is in London, and is expected to return to Ireland in a few days. It is generally supposed that the Government are in a position to meet all the exigencies of the hour.

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