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LONDON PRESS.

IRISH LANDLORDS AND THE POOR.

Accounts from Ireland represent the poor and labouring classes of that country to be at present suffering the utmost distress, through the scarcity of food, and want of employment. The deficient supply of last year is nearly exhausted; and, owing to the inclemency of the weather, not only is an immediate relief from the growing crop out of the question, but most gloomy forebodings are entertained as to the remoter prospects of the harvest. In the mean time, those "natural protectors" of the people, the Tory landlords, continue to exult in their successful opposition to the only measure which could have ensured bread to those who are now starving—we mean the importation of foreign flour into Ireland; and they crow over the government, which vainly endeavoured to provide that alleviation of the present suffering. All this while the tranquillity of the country is truly amazing. The judges are making their periodical visitations with scarcely a criminal in the goals to justify the expense of the circuits. The crown lawyers revel in all the luxury and affluence of sinecure appointments; and but for the squabbles between landlord and tenant, the one striving to hold, and the other to eject from possession of land, by all the arts and devices which the law abounds in, discord herself should follow in the train of vengeance, and leave the courts clear for policemen and attorney's clerks to play at marbles.

Our Dublin letter of this day contains an extract from the *Evening Post*, illustrative of the sort of warfare which is carried on amongst the proprietors and tillers of the soil, and of the aid which some of the former class are disposed to lend towards the distribution of food amongst the peasantry. The case to which we allude is an action of ejectment brought by the Marquis of Westmeath against a substantial farmer for an illegal breach of covenant under the Subletting Act. The purport and object of that measure, as our readers probably are aware, was to prevent the subdivision of lands, and the location of a greater number of tenants or inhabitants upon them than might be agreeable to the lessor. A substantive offence against that provision invalidates the lease, and is a sufficient ground for an ejectment; but it could scarcely have been contemplated by the Parliament which passed this highly penal law, that its enactments should be construed so as to punish a tenant with ejectment for merely delegating to another person, without giving absolute possession and dominion over his land, the privilege of cropping a portion of it for the passing season.

If that were the law, the whole pauper population of Ireland would be wholly at the mercy of the landlords for their daily food; for there is scarcely a labourer or an artisan in the rural districts who is not paid for his labour by a rod or two of potato-land, or a patch of a field, whereon to raise a supply of oats or flax for the use of his family. This system of con-acre husbandry (as it is called) is established by universal and immemorial usage; to attempt to stem it by the terrors of the Subletting Act is an exploit which could only have suggested itself to such an original genius as that of the noble marquis.—Should he succeed in it by the congenial crookedness of the law, the people of Ireland will be indeed reduced to a state of Hellism surpassing all the degradation they ever suffered at any precedent period, and must hold the licence to move their jaws at the nod of the aristocracy. How long that would be allowed to last is another question; but we have a great reliance on the wisdom

of "the court above," that the affair will be terminated in favour of the Marquis of Westmeath, by gently obliging him to put the rent he has been offered into his pocket. If we were his lordship's enemies of his order, we might wish it to go the other way.—*Morning Chronicle*.

EDUCATION—THE PRIVY COUNCIL—THE BISHOPS—THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.

The compact between the Privy Council and the Bishops will soon become the subject of discussion in the House of Lords, upon the presentation of the minutes in the House of Commons in the committee of supply.—We have reason to know that the Archbishop's negotiations with the Lord President were seriously embarrassed by the applications which had resulted from the preposterous assumptions of the National Society, and we thought it not too much to expect that the society should abstain from interfering to defeat those arrangements which the Archbishop and Lord Lansdown have declared to be mutually satisfactory. We had intended to avoid any further discussion of the subject until after the debates in Parliament, but the National Society is pursuing a course of conduct at once so unreasonable and mischievous, that we are compelled to revert to the subject, and to declare our opinions.

The National Society, dissatisfied with those arrangements which are satisfactory to the Archbishops and Bishops, is labouring, through the medium of our contemporary the *Herald*, to rekindle the animosities and jealousies which the bishops had with difficulty extinguished. It has the effrontery to proclaim, that the Archbishop's arrangement will be in the highest degree dangerous to the church, unless all the schools in the kingdom be placed in union with the National Society! "The inspectors of church schools are still to be appointed by the Queen, on the recommendation of the Committee of Council, and therefore there is danger that the inspectors may be Papists or Socinians." "It is true that the Committee of Council will recommend no one to her Majesty for these appointments without the concurrence of the two Archbishops, and they may at any time obtain from her Majesty the revocation of these appointments; but the Archbishops themselves may become unfriendly to the church, and dangers innumerable lurk within the scheme of archiepiscopal concurrence."

For these evils and dangers the panacea is union with the National Society!! "The only security for the principles of church schools is to place them in connexion with the National Society—to moor them on the imperishable charter of the National Society." Imperishable wax and pen-strokes!—The power that granted can revoke the charter. The writer in the *Herald* is an imperishable blockhead. We can tell the National Society that it plays a game which shall not succeed. We will fight the battles of church against its false, because selfish, friends, as well as against its open foes.—We will not permit the Society to exercise a bastard episcopal authority in the matter of elementary education; we have determined to seize the present occasion to rescue the education question from the hands of party; and we adopt the basis upon which the Bishops and Privy Council are agreed.—*Times*.

ENGLAND—HER NAVY AND HER ENEMIES.

The question not yet closed (far from it) with the United States—the wound so recently widened with some of our own North American provinces, under the preposterous affectation of "uniting" them—the quarrels in the east of Europe unadjusted, and seemingly interminable—the ever-burning south match of Ireland—the new-born Chartism of this country, the child of Lord Melbourne's age and the fair illustration of his principles of government—all these team with "coming events," and forbid us to place confidence in the duration of the present outward tranquillity, even for a single twelvemonth. Under such circumstances, does it seem unseasonable to demand that public attention should be withdrawn for a little while from party objects, and fixed upon the capacity of the empire to defend itself, when so liable to danger from within and from without?

The progress of the French, American, and Russian navies, has long been rousing the honest jealousy of professional Englishmen, the best qualified to judge upon the fitness and maturity of our defensive preparations. They have invariably pronounced the naval armaments of England inferior in some important branches to those of rival powers. Inferior in the number of ships at sea—in the number of ships capable of being fitted for service within a given period—in the size and force of vessels of the line and frigates—in the number of men allotted to ships of an equal class—in pay and encouragement to seamen. When ministers are taxed with the inferiority of our maritime force to that of the three contemporary maritime powers—viz. France, America, and Russia—it has been their practice to allege that England could not, by any possibility, construct and maintain a naval armament equal to that of all those powers united. To which we reply, that in such case she is bound to resign the sceptre of the ocean. Suppose that a possibility should arise of the above three states being one and all engaged in hostilities against the British empire, would it or ought it to be taken as an excuse by the country that we "are unable to meet the combined enemy with an adequate force?"

But we go further, and allege that the hypothesis is one of no strained or fanciful nature. If England be compelled to arm against a single naval power, her statesmen ought to be alive to the certainty that she will have them all upon her hands at once. If the war of the American revolution, she had not merely the United States, but France, and Spain, and Holland, and Russia, (the latter in the guise of an armed neutral) for her simultaneous enemies. During the war of the French revolution she had France, and

Spain, and Holland, and Russia, and the United States for her enemies. Until her pretensions as the first single naval power be abandoned, and her substantial force reduced, it is in the nature of things that let her have to contend with any single state, no matter on what cause of quarrel, every other government which fears and therefore hates her, will seize the opportunity of joining in the attack, and smiting the beleaguered lion.—*Times*.

CAUSES OF CRIME IN IRELAND—THE RODEN COMMITTEE AND THE POWERSCOURT PAMPHLET.

After the mass of evidence which we have adduced upon the condition of the class by which all crimes are committed in Ireland, we imagine that no reader can doubt in the smallest degree, by far the greatest part of the outrages committed in that country arise from the oppression of the criminals by the higher classes of the landed proprietors; that the state of society induced by those classes is so horrible, as to cause the commission of crime to be considered as one method of self-preservation; and that the causes and objects of all crime in Ireland are local, personal, and material; and that, generally speaking, they have no connexion whatever with religion or politics. Amongst the witnesses we have cited in support of this statement, are the crown prosecutors of the six circuits in Ireland namely, Mr. Barrington (Munster)—Mr. Kemmis (Leinster)—Mr. Hickman (Connaught)—Mr. Gale (Home)—Mr. Tierney (of the North-west)—and Mr. Hamilton (of the North-eastern circuit). Of these gentlemen, Mr. Tierney has been in office twelve years, Mr. Hamilton sixteen, Mr. Gale and Mr. Barrington each twenty-five, whilst Mr. Kemmis' experience extends over eight and thirty years, during which he states that he has never missed a circuit. It is evident from the date of their appointments that they were all promoted by Conservative administrations; and some of them, we believe, are tolerably staunch Tories. Yet every one of these gentlemen affirms concerning his own district, that all the crime therein committed was the result of destitution and oppression, and of causes purely animal and territorial, without any admixture of religious or political inducements. Lord Powerscourt however, has another way of accounting for the matter, and lays it at the door of narrow-minded clergymen and agitating demagogues. The consequence of this agitation, laical and clerical, is, according to Lord Powerscourt, that "the ignorant and credulous are induced to suppose grievances where none really exist, and where they would have discovered none if they had not been put into their heads by others." If we had not read this passage we should certainly have ventured to think that an Irish peasant or small farmer, did not require the assistance of a narrow-minded clergyman, or of a long-tongued agitator, to show him that he, the peasant or farmer aforesaid, had very little and very bad food,—that he had very little and very bad clothing,—that he had little or no bedding,—that his cabin was burnt or levelled with the ground,—that he himself, with his wife and children, was hunted like a wild beast out of the residence which he had himself erected; and was reduced to the hideous condition, which left him no choice except that of perishing by hunger in submission to the laws, or of dying upon the scaffold for the violation of them.—*Monthly Chronicle*.

STATE OF SPAIN.

Atheism is not as yet the prevailing epidemic in Biscay; I say Atheism—for, if Spaniards have ceased to be Romanists, what have they become? There is, there can be but one answer. No one can wish more heartily than I do that noble, chivalric Spain may profess a purer and more primitive rule of faith, and no one would hail with more sincere joy the first appearance of such a change; but if it is to be wrought by foreign bayonets, if its handmaids are to be Lawlessness and infidelity, and its first fruits Madrid massacres and Barcelona football-matches; if the reign of the monastic orders in that kingdom is to close in blood, and the churches are to be deserted; then I say, better far had the Inquisition resume its tremendous powers—better far had the pride, and intellect, and knowledge of man be subjected once more to its mysterious tribunal, and the people be content to worship as of yore, albeit darkly, in their old churches, and in their old ways, the God of their forefathers.—*Frazier's Magazine*.

The Spirit of the Age in Colonization.

This age is full of the seeds of things, and we trust that it will not sow sparingly from them, either at home or abroad; and that we shall see Australian wilds giving forth, not simply gain in the shape of wealth, but a visible intellectual advance, a growth of mind as well as matter, a cosmopolitan enlargement; and that the southern cross shall match in brilliancy in its own hemisphere the northern constellations, and the present unequally balanced condition of the world gain that just preponderance by which the increase of the south may be as the north, and not remain, like its pole, chilled in the ice of centuries in deadly torpor to all wholesome animation.

CHURCH AND STATE.

It is obligatory, we will say, upon Christian governments, to adopt and cherish the most approved form of true religion. How does this obligation imply the right to change this most approved form of worship for any other that may be less approved? If the change should be from a form less approved to a form which, upon fuller and more enlightened consideration, commands the assent of the national judgment, as more in accordance with the divine word, it would not imply any capricious exercise of a legislative right, but a solemn performance of bounden duty, and would be justified by the very same principle which originally enjoins as of a paramount importance, the maintenance of an established Church. No one has ever denied that the state, with reference to such a body, may be abused, as they may with respect to any other matters over which they exercise a control; but no reasonable or honest man would conclude from such abuse that the state had any right to trample upon the spiritual independence of the church; or that a system which had been adopted only because of its conformity with divine truth, might, because of that very adoption, be altered or fashioned to pur-

poses of mere human policy or convenience. Undoubtedly we are right to take the best precautions that can be taken that such abuses should take place; but not to argue from their occurrence, the essential incompatibility between a state provision, and, in all matters doctrinal or theological, the church's perfect freedom.—*Dublin University Magazine*.

MONTREAL, August 24.

"This morning, at an early hour, the barns of Mrs. De Salaberry, Chamblly, situated a short distance from the barracks of the King's Dragoon Guards, were discovered to be on fire, and were soon after burned down. The noise on the occasion had scarcely subsided, when a second alarm was given, that the barn of the Rev. Mr. Meunier, parish priest, was enveloped in flames. On Tuesday night the barn and stables of Mr. Charles Roy, Grande Ligne, L'Acadie, were burned down. These buildings were all full of the new crops, and there is little doubt but that they were all set on fire intentionally."

From the Toronto Examiner. IMPORTANT DESPATCH.

The following highly important despatch was addressed by His Excellency the Governor General to Lord John Russell a few days after his departure from Upper Canada in February last. It will, we feel assured, give very general satisfaction and strengthen public confidence in His Excellency's repeated declarations. We entertain no doubt that the extreme democratic party to whom His Excellency has alluded, as being desirous of subverting order, will very soon become as peaceable and loyal as any other portion of Her Majesty's subjects provided only His Excellency carries out the policy to which he has pledged himself.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Montreal, February 20, 1840.

My Lord—I have the honor to report that I left Toronto on Monday last and arrived in this city on the following day. Sir George Arthur will have resumed the Government of the Upper Province upon my quitting its limits, and I have undertaken the immediate superintendence of the affairs of Lower Canada, administered during my absence by the Commander of the Forces.

It is my duty to state, especially with reference to my despatch of December, that I have great satisfaction in believing that the most marked improvement in the state of feeling has been produced in Upper Canada during the last three months, and I feel confident if the course of policy which I have pursued be steadily followed up, tranquillity will continue throughout that province, and the excitement which I had occasion to deplore will not again be found to prevail.

I have endeavoured to inspire the people with the belief, and have convinced them when the opportunity enabled me to do so, that the government would be administered with firmness and impartiality, and at the same time with vigour; that claims to exclusive loyalty, too often the cloak to personal ambition or private vengeance, should not be made the means of insulting and oppressing those whose loyalty they do not so loudly profess; that the colonial government should not become a mere instrument in the hands of a small faction for the benefit of themselves and their adherents; on the other hand, I have convinced the extreme democratic party that their efforts to subvert order, or to put forward demands incompatible with the nature of Colonial administration would be promptly and steadily met, and that their power when deprived of the support and assistance of those who had only joined their ranks from despair of obtaining justice and protection from the government is very small indeed.

There are naturally a certain number of persons in both extremes dissatisfied with this course of policy; but I may appeal with confidence as a proof of its having been successful to the measures and proceedings of the Legislature, and to the general tone of feeling universally admitted in the colony to be widely different from that which prevailed some months ago.

It will be my endeavour, though absent from the Province and no longer charged with the immediate management of its affairs, to promote this feeling; and from communications which I shall maintain with the Lieutenant Governor, and the desire which I feel satisfied he entertains to assist me in carrying out my views, I hope to be able to do so. At the same time I must repeat my conviction that the most urgent necessity exists for as little delay as possible in the settlement by the Imperial Parliament of the future system of government in the two provinces, because until that is decided it is impossible to carry into effect any general plan of improvement, or fix the minds of the people steadily and earnestly on their real and practical interests. I have, &c.

C. POULETT THOMSON.

The R't Hon. Lord J. Russell, &c. &c. It will be observed that the sentiments expressed by His Excellency in the foregoing despatch relative to Colonial parties are very similar to those contained in the Report of the Earl of Durham.—These eminent British statesmen, despite all the dust which the Family Compact have endeavoured to throw in their eyes, have been perfectly satisfied that the great grievance under which this Province has so long laboured has been a mere instrument in the hands of a small faction for the benefit of themselves and their adherents." To shew how different the opinions of the baneful Compact are from those of His Excellency, we shall quote two short extracts on this very subject. The first is from a report signed by Mr. Henry Sherwood, in which the writer alluding to the administration of the government says, that Governors should be sent out—

"To whom the Minister is to extend a liberal and generous share of confidence, to rely on their honour and follow their suggestions, and not deprive them of office so soon as they are found to differ with or are unreasonably complained against by the faction that happens to be in the ascendant in the Assembly or out of it." The next extract is from the *Toronto Patriot*, the organ of the Compact:

"One party alone should be deemed entitled to the care and solicitude of the mother country, and that is the loyal party; which is abund-

* Meaning those who, as His Excellency says, lay claims "to exclusive loyalty, as a cloak to personal ambition or private vengeance."—*Ed. EXAM.*

antly strong with but reasonable aid, to defend this region against all enemies, foreign or domestic. If that party be not preserved in the ascendant, there will soon be no such party at all."

We quite concur in opinion with our contemporary, that the moment the faction of which he is the appropriate organ, finds that the British government will no longer maintain them in an ascendancy over their fellow subjects, at the expense of the peace of the Colony, it will cease to exist. It is at present fast decaying away, although we apprehend its death struggle will be a vigorous one. We repeat our opinion that the Despatch of His Excellency, which is the subject of these remarks, will meet with the general approbation of the great mass of the people of this Province.

From the Hampshire Independent.

ECCLESIASTICAL DUTIES AND REVENUES.

One of the very best Bills that have been presented to Parliament since the Reform era has just been read a second time in the House of Lords, by a majority of fifty; having previously been carried successfully through the Commons. It is intitled "The Ecclesiastical Duties and Revenues Bill," the aim of it being to better proportion pay to service, and to create new funds for the augmentation of impoverished livings and the extension of the Established form of worship, in places where spiritual destitution at present prevails. There cannot be more patriotic or philanthropic objects than these, when carried out in the harmless and unobtrusive spirit which characterizes this measure. There is no grabbing of other men's goods—no interference with the consciences, the opinions or the property of those not of the church. It is Church Extension of a high and honourable order, and will do more to rekindle the Establishment in the affections of the people, than all the silly and sordid motions of the Ingles, Goulbourns, and Glanstones—the worst councillors and friends she has ever yet known. The Bill is founded on the second and fourth reports of the Ecclesiastical Commission, appointed in 1835, whose recommendations respecting the Episcopal revenues, and in regard also to pluralities and sinecures, have already been carried into effect, by other bills which have the sanction of Parliament. This Bill, founded as we have stated on the second and fourth reports of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, deals with the Cathedral establishments only, but in its dealings it is so just and so judicious that we think the public ought to become thoroughly intimate with them.

It may not be known to all that the Cathedral Establishments of this country are divided into the old and the new foundations. The old foundations consist of prebendaries both residential and non-residential; the new foundations contain only prebendaries residential. The residential of the various cathedrals vary in point of number—some pinning with the small number of four, others glorying in the more respectable phalanx of twelve. In the aggregate, the residential amount to two hundred and four; and the non-residential to between three and four hundred. The former have some little work to do, by turns, but little indeed it is; while the sole duty of the latter is to preach one or, at the most, two sermons each, every year. The Bill we now allude to absolutely and entirely does away with the last-mentioned lumber—every non-residential prebend is to be suppressed. A good riddance of bad rubbish! The prebendaries residential are very properly not suppressed, but they are (somewhat severely) reduced, work and wages sympathize together. One or two Cathedrals are from peculiar circumstances, allowed five prebends each; but every other Cathedral is limited to four. The Bill also dissolves all the corporations of minor canons, thus completely clearing the sacred edifices of some very ill-conditioned birds indeed. The Bill further alienates generally the separate estates belonging to Deans and the members of Chapters, so that even the Lords at last agree in an "appropriation" principle. Yes; at one fell swoop this Bill—approved by the Commons and read a second time in the Lords—abolishes no fewer than seventy-two residential, and upwards of three hundred non-residential prebendaries, reducing this class of church dignitaries from six hundred in number to very little more than one hundred.

These are excellent points in the Bill, but there is one other better than all.—It is this.—The Bill provides for the appropriation of all the property, derivable from the reductions here stated, for the augmentation of small livings, and the erection and endowment of new churches in districts where they may most be wanted. Forty thousand pounds a year will be applicable to these purposes! Why, here in Church Extension beginning at the right end. *Aide toi et le ciel t'aidera*, says the French proverb; but we would carry it further, if the *animus* displayed in this bill be energetically acted upon, and spiritual destitution still afflict the land. Let the Church help herself, and not only will Heaven bless and forward the effort, but man will liberally and lustily support and advance it. When the Church has shewn that she has been faithful to her high behests; that she has been self-denying, that out of her own superabundance she has "lent unto the Lord;" then we know not but that even our sturdy spirit may yield something to her cry for help. Let it be made clear that the Church, by a proper distribution of the vast property already belonging to it, has done as much as it fairly can do, to remedy the destitution and evils of which it complains, and then there will be at least decency, if not duty, in the appeal she may make for funds to the representatives of the people. We repeat it, that if this Bill becomes law, as there is now no reasonable doubt of its doing—Church Extension will have commenced in earnest in the right quarter. A better rebuke to Sir R. Ingles and his co-escurients could not be administered.

Before leaving the subject we must direct the attention of our readers to an exceedingly manly and discreet declaration, made by the Duke of Wellington in presenting a petition from the University of Oxford (of which he is Chancellor) against this Bill. The noble Duke said,— "He entirely differed from the petitioners, who indeed showed by some of their own statements, the necessity there was for such a measure. They complained of the parochial deficiency of the church of England at this time.— (But said the noble Duke with very great warmth) it is in vain for any man in those times to expect the deficiency will be made up out of the public money, whilst the church has in itself resources that may be applied to the purpose. I say my lords, that all the resources