

IRISH LANDLORDISM. [From Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper, March 25.]

If further evidence had been necessary in proof of the utter selfishness and shortsightedness of the Irish landlords, it would be furnished in the opposition they are offering to the measure by which it is proposed to relieve some of the overburdened and bankrupt unions of Ireland, by a rate-in-aid, to the extent of sixpence in the pound. Ready as this class are to give their aid in the suppression of agitation, when employed on behalf of popular objects, and to assist in those who may perchance overstep the strict limits of the act for watching over and punishing "open and advised speaking," wherever the speakers are identified with the oppressed and prostrated classes 'of their unfortunate country, they are by no means fastidious in the language they use - by no means nice in the means they employ, whenever they fancy they discover that the obligations they owe their country in general, and their depressed tenantry in particular, are about to be enforced.

What a spectacle does Ireland present to the civilised world! Her people are either dying of starvation, or devouring the food that belong of right to others. And it is not, as might and would be imagined by any one who knows not the fact, that the Irish character is thus moulded and matured from the influence of tendencies of the lowest class of her people. No. The process by which it is produced comes in the opposite direction. As fast as the poorer classes of Ireland can escape from their own soil, and enter other fields of industry, they give satisfactory proof that they are neither indolent nor improvident. No matter whether they make their way to England, to the United States, to Canada, or to the Cape in any of these places they are found to be as industrious, as energetic, as sober, as self relying, and as independent as either Scotchmen or Englishmen.

The Irish landlords as a body, seem to think that they were sent into the world ready booted and spurred, to ride the rest of their countrymen to death, excepting in so far as they may be sustained under the exhausting and destroying process by external aid and support. They can look upon themselves in no other light than as a favoured race, whose only business is to receive rent, and revel in the luxuries which the receipt of rent will command. It is for them to take, as it is for all else to give. Other men are ready enough - even the most selfish and grasping of them - to give trifles, if they receive treasures - they'll "give a sprat to catch a herring." But Irish landlords are an exception to the rest of the species. Like the horse-leech, their unvarying cry is, "Give, give !" And they will part with nothing that they can get. Would any other set of men in the civilised world have taken the course which they have upon the question of this rate-in aid? Remember that it is to help - only to help! to help to feed the starving poor of their own country.

England has just sent them another £50,000 to aid in keeping death from the Irish cabins that are scattered over the aristocracy's estates; but that will not suffice. Irish landlordism demands that England should not aid them in driving famine from the land, but that she should drive the fiend forth single-handed, and alone, while those whose exactions and oppressions have exposed the people to its visitation and ravages, may continue uninterrupted in the pursuit of their pleasures. At a meeting held at Ballymena, the other day, under the presidency of the high sheriff, Lord Massarene said, " Let men of all parties and creeds unite, and if they cannot prevent the passing of the present measure, or the levying of the tax, let them take care that the intruder shall never go back with the supply.....He believed that twice or three times 50,000 soldiers would not, in the north, be able to collect this unjust rate in-aid. He would dare the government to collect it." The Honorable George Handcock, a son of Lord Castlemaine's took up the note, and called upon the people of Ulster, if the rate should be laid upon them, to adopt the Quaker policy and say to the Government, "Help yourselves - we will not, pay!"

At a meeting held at Downpatrick the Marquis of Downshire not only protested against " this most rascally" rate, but pledged himself, though at the risk of incurring the odium of being a rebel, to " oppose the stupid law" by every means in his power. Such is the tone and temper in which the proposition for a small rate-in-aid of the poor fund is received by the Irish landlords, who for the most part, as we have said, exact all they can, and protest against any opposition for alleviating the frightful condition of the thousands whom their exactions and ill treatment have made paupers, if that proposition threatens to make a call upon their purses, in even the most moderate way. What is it to them that famine is decimating the population ? Let England look to it and let England supply the funds necessary to stay the ravages of the destroyer like she has done before. Irish landlords have quite enough to do to look after their rents, and to enjoy the luxuries those rents afford.

The rebuke which one of their own countrymen a Catholic clergyman-administered to them, a few days since, should mantle their cheeks with shame.-" It appeared strange," he observed, " that in the various counties of Ireland the landlords were violent in their opposition to the small amount which the Government called upon them to pay to save the people from the most terrific of all deaths -death from starvation (cheers)." There were other rates falling upon the people far more: grievous than the trilling sum required for the rate-in-aid.' He asked the landlords were they aware that there was any snob thing as a rack-rent, and arrears of rent held over their tenantry; which oppressed and paralysed them, almost beyond their power of endurance. He contended that until they should blot out the arrears, and let their lands at a fair and moderate rent, they would always have their tenantry, whether Protestant or Catholic, dispirited; and do, not say what they would, when the tenantry fell, the landlords would fall along with them.

In England, the value of land was arranged in three divisions - one-third for the landlord's rent, one-third for labour and cultivation, and one-third for the farmer's

profits; but the Irish landlord, in most cases, was not satisfied with that - he would have almost the entire; but if the rent-roll was not brought down, and the arrears blotted out, there was nothing could save them from falling into the same state as the south and west of Ireland. In former years, the county cess [local tax] was only about £400,000 and it had lately increased to upwards of a million, which pressed heavily upon the industrious classes. He had heard a great deal said that day by the landlords of Carlow about the errors of their own class in the south and west, but many of those things might be applied to themselves. That they had difficulties to contend against he did not deny; but in order to escape from the difficulties under which they laboured they should put their shoulders to the wheel and act like humane men. He looked with compassion upon the state of the landlords of the south and west; but great as their calamities were, the condition of the farmers was still more lamentable, many of whom from a state of comfort and comparative independence had been of late reduced to the rank of paupers, and the labouring classes were fading away, perishing by hunger, or pestilence, or flying from the land to the emigrant ship, almost reckless as to where they would be borne. England had told the Irish people that they should do something for themselves, and England was right. England in addition to the enormous sums she had given in public grants, loans, and private contributions of the most lavish and bountiful description, had paid in poor-rates, in addition to their own, £800,000 to feed the Irish paupers that had been sent over from this country last year. There was no niggard grumbling, nor ostentatious display on the part of the English people in dispensing from their abundance those large sums of money for the relief of their fellow-creatures in this country. No, the benevolence of the people of England arose from the innate generosity of their disposition. They were not compelled by law to pay for the support of Irish paupers in England; the British people gave hundreds of thousands of pounds for the relief of the suffering poor in this country. The simple question of the rate-in-aid resolved itself into this - if the landlords of Ireland would make up their minds to oppose it, the people of Connaught alone would not be the only place in which human misery would prevail. He implored of the landlords to pause before they consigned the poor to the deplorable death of starvation. Their countrymen were falling by thousands, and instead of opposing the trifling tax to be imposed for their preservation, he conjured the landlords, while they yet possessed the little power they enjoyed, to give their hearty support to the measure proposed by the Government for the support of their fellow-creatures in distress, and save them from starvation." That is as full of sense as it is full of spirit, and when we find such appeals to the better sense of the farmers and labourers responded to and cheered as this was, at Carlow, and a resolution in accordance with it, carried as an amendment upon a proposition denunciatory of the rate-in-aid, we begin to hope, in spite of landlords, and law made parsons, and grinding middle-men, and other of the locust tribe with which Ireland abounds, that the time is not far distant when Irishmen will "do something for themselves," and render all appeals to commiseration and charity unnecessary.

Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser, 22 September 1849.

FAMINE AND PLAGUE.-The accounts of the plague and famine are more rife than ever, and horrors appear to be accumulating throughout that doomed land. The 'Sunday Times,' of the 3rd June says - "It is utterly impossible for language to describe, or imagination to picture, the frightful condition of Ireland. It undoubtedly appears to be " the land of wrath," the object of heaven's vengeance - a plague spot shunned by all who have either the means or the power to escape from it." With desolation is the whole land laid desolate - by starvation, pestilence, and death. The phial of God's wrath is, as it were poured out on the devoted land, and his angel of destruction is exterminating its panic-struck, palsied, powerless people. Who can understand - who can interpret? where is the Daniel to explain the mysterious hand that is thus decimating a whole nation? Well has it been said that it would require a Milton, a Dante, to describe those fearful realities, which fling into the shade the darkest and the most terrible scenes which their inspired imaginations have painted. Whole towns with their inhabitants have been destroyed, - child hood, womanhood, and manhood are falling crushed to the dust by hunger. There they lie, unkennelled, unburied, the food of ravenous dogs and birds of prey. The Dublin Evening Packet, thus describes the condition of Ireland: - Thousands upon thousands of a once stalwart race are skeletons now. Districts once peopled with the life and joy, are filled with desolation and mourning. Childhood fights with childhood for that rare luxury - a patch of nettles; or else glares at the passer-by from the ditch side with an awful look of withered age and hopeless idiotcy which we contemplate with a shudder of the frame, an icy chilling of the blood. Diseased entrails of diseased brutes - all kinds of offal the most loathsome - are eagerly devoured. The gaols heretofore shunned by the moral and the virtuous - as, let their traducers say what they may, the great masses of the Irish people are - are now sought as refuge places. Crime has become a saviour of life, and hunger, trampling shame under foot, has grown a wholesale demoraliser In the world's history - upon the broad face of the fruitful earth-such a spectacle as Ireland presented, and presents, never appalled civilisation. A gentleman who has just passed through the west, gives the subjoined horrifying evidence of the busy operations of death in that quarter: - "On my way here I called at Ballinasloe, Loughrea, and Galway. The first mentioned town I found a vast hospital, having twelve or fourteen auxiliary poor houses, They are situated in every part of the town, consequently you can't go to any district without coming in contact with a cholera hospital. A person from Ahaseraph, applying of coffins for that union, and such has been the demand for the last month, that he employed forty men sawing boards and twenty men nailing them together. Notwithstanding that number constantly at work (even on Sunday), the guardian had to engage an additional contractor. With their united exertions, and the numerous staff employed by them, they are scarcely able to keep a sufficient number ready. Many of your readers can have no idea of the description of cof fins they are. In order to give them information, I shall describe them as well as I can. The boards are nailed together just in the same way boxes containing yellow soap are sent to the country by the Liverpool manufacturer, but not

with as much care (without planing or painting)-You can judge what number seventy or eighty men would prepare daily." In Clare Island destitution is making awful ravages. In three years the inhabitants have been reduced from 1700 to 1202. In Kilrush, James Cox and his child died on the roadside from starvation. Cox's winding sheet was the only rag of a petticoat that his wife had." Many in Mahon also died on the roadside from starvation. John Moloney died in the grave yard, where his mangled remains were found - his head severed from the body by dogs and gnawed bare, his bowels torn out and partly devoured, and his thigh bone denuded of flesh. The Irish provincial journals give the most cheering accounts of the progress of the crops of all kinds. The potatoes in all directions, present a healthy and luxurious appearance, and those early planted are far advanced in growth.