

The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

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POLITICS AND NEWS.

Fifth English Mail for September.

The English Mail up to the 30th September, reached town on Tuesday last, having been brought via Georgetown by the Hon. George Coles. On that day we issued a short Supplement of the news for the information of our town readers, which, not having been seen by many of our country subscribers, we insert below, together with many further selections from papers by this Mail.

IRELAND.

The south of Ireland continues tranquil, and even the parties who have lately been seen on the hills appear to have withdrawn to their homes. Several more arrests have taken place since the last Mail. Some of the inferior instruments in the late movement, whose conduct has not been of a heinous character, have been set at liberty on bail, and will not perhaps be brought to trial.

The society for promoting periodical sittings of the Imperial parliament in Dublin continue to hold their sittings. They have put forth an address. Upon a careful perusal it seems like the production of some one who wished to see himself in print; but if there are any persons who imagine that the whole affair can have any other result than a subscription, amongst the worthy members, to defray the expenses of the society, they are more sanguine than we are.

A bolder scheme of pacification has been propounded by the Hon. Gonville Ffrench, brother of Lord Ffrench. He calls upon all Irishmen to forget their differences, and to ask for £10,000,000 more money for drainage, &c. The English begin to think their purses tolerably well drained already. But, however, this scheme is to embrace a tenant right, and "no mistake;" one hundred and fifty members for Ireland; a £6 franchise bill; an endowment of the Catholic clergy; provisions for church buildings, &c.; dockyards to be erected in Ireland; an absentee tax for twenty-five years; and a variety of other beautiful schemes on paper; and, finally, an act of Parliament for declaring an agitation, in any shape or form, for compassing the repeal of the legislative union, to be a treasonable offence! This gentleman is not the only writer who proposes the adoption of tyrannical measures for the future government of Ireland. But the art of Government is easy enough under a despotism. The aim of all good men is to establish such a form of Government in Ireland as shall unite complete personal liberty and equal laws, with an effective administration of those laws, so as to secure obedience from all classes. This is the end in view, and not the erection of a republican anarchy or an imperial despotism.

We are positively assured that Mr. Duffy, the great literary support of the *Nation* newspaper, has made an unqualified submission to the Government, and intends to plead guilty and throw himself upon the mercy of the Crown.

We have no accounts from Clonmel respecting the progress of the State Trials, which had commenced, we believe, only a day or two before the Steamer left Liverpool.

The counsel engaged for the defence of Smith O'Brien have, after a long consultation, held in Dublin, decided that it will not be expedient to summon Lord John Russell as a witness.

The Lord-Lieutenant has issued a proclamation, offering a reward of £100 for the apprehension of John Mahony, leader of the last insurgent movements at Portlaw and Glenbower.

Reports are current that Mr. T. D. McGee is in the county of Donegal, where the officers of justice are in search of him.

On the 23rd inst., at eleven o'clock, a bill for high treason against J. Cormack, E. Egan, W. Peach, T. Stack, was sent to the grand jury, who in about a couple of hours, returned a true bill against all the accused, excepting Cormack and Cunningham. All the judges having taken their seats, the other prisoners were placed at the bar. They were all men of the lowest class, dressed in rags, and most dejected in their appearance, with the exception of Stack, a peasant of great stature and strength, apparently cut out by nature for a bandit or guerilla chief. The prisoners were asked whether they wished for copies of the indictment. They seemed at a loss to understand what was meant, but ultimately, being prompted by an attorney's clerk, answered in the affirmative. They seemed equally at a

loss when told that the Court would assign them counsel and attorney, staring helplessly at the gaoler, who had great difficulty in making them understand. One of them at last mentioned Mr. Vere Lane as his attorney, and all the rest then did the same. The appointment of counsel was postponed, and the prisoners were told that they would be required to plead on Saturday, the 30th inst. The prisoners left the dock saying, 'Thank your lordships. We humbly thank you.' The grand jury were then discharged till ten o'clock on the 28th, and the court adjourned.

The case of Egan, one of the prisoners, is rather peculiar. Having been out with his fellow-prisoners at Ballingarry, he became evidence for the crown, and swore informations against his present companions. Subsequently, however, he repented of this course, and resolutely denied everything he had previously sworn, alleging that his head was affected at the time by the violence of a fever, and that his delirious wanderings were the only evidence he could offer for the crown. The crown officers instantly resolved on prosecuting him, and it remains to be seen which version of his tale was true.

Mr. Smith O'Brien is visited daily by his wife and mother. His agent, Mr. Potter, is actively engaged in preparing for the defence of his client. A notice has been served by him on Mr. Hodges, the Government reporter, calling on him to produce on Mr. O'Brien's trial the notes of all his speeches, which Mr. Hodges has reported, or the transcripts of them, as it is Mr. O'Brien's intention to examine him with respect to them. The agent has also informed Mr. Hodges, that it is his intention to serve him with a *subpoena duces tecum* to produce the documents, and that the notice was served to enable Mr. Hodges to have the speeches ready for production.

The *Freeman's Journal*, of Thursday, contains the following from Clonmel:—

'Several persons of rank and position will, it is understood, attend from England to give evidence on behalf of Mr. Smith O'Brien, in reference to the matters on which it was originally contemplated that Lord John Russell should be examined, but whose testimony will equally apply to the matters referred to, and thus obviate the necessity for requiring the personal attendance of the Premier.

'The prisoners from Ballingarry and the collieries will be defended by Mr. Stoney O'Callaghan, barrister, who has especially arrived on their behalf.

'Major General McDonald, with his aide-de-camp, Captain McKenzie, arrived from Kilkenny at three o'clock, and will remain in town during the sittings of the commission.

'Lord Dudley Stuart has arrived in town, and has taken his apartment in the Globe Hotel. It is said that his arrival is in reference to the State trials.'

A Cork paper, of the 26th, contains the following sketch of a scene in the Commission Court at Clonmel on Friday, and also mentions some interesting gossip connected with the trials:—

'A little before the sitting of the court, a fresh, good-looking woman, dressed in black, and apparently about 40 years of age, mounted the steps to the witness table, and placing a seat in front of the bench, coolly seated herself thereon, to the astonishment of those in court. Justice Moore came in, assumed his place, and immediately perceived the lady in black. The judge looked at her, she at the judge; his lordship grew puzzled, she more easy and familiar. One of the officials of the court solved the riddle. It was widow Cormack, one of the principal witnesses, who must have mistaken her way, and taken the court for the apartment in which the witnesses are generally assembled, or it might be for the grand jury room. The old saying, 'Tis an ill-wind that blows nobody good,' has been verified in this good woman's case. Though she and her children had been pretty well terrified by the occupation of her house by the police, and the attack made upon it by the insurgents, she had been amply compensated for her alarm, and the damage done during the conflict, by the extraordinary interest which has since attached to her place: an interest which has brought vast numbers to visit it, as the principal scene of the insurrection; and who have not failed to leave some pecuniary token of their presence and curiosity in the palm of the garrulous and now important Widow Cormack of Farrinory.'

The same paper, in alluding to the charge of Mr. Smith O'Brien, remarks:—

'Divest the indictment against Smith O'Brien and McManus of its legal jargon and verbal balderdash, and you will find the charge of high treason is rested upon three overt acts—the erection of barricades at Killenaule, the demand made upon the police at Mullanahone, and the attack on Inspector Trant's party in the house of widow Cormack. To connect the prisoners with these al-

leged overt acts, a long list of witnesses will be examined. Little hope is entertained by those who indulge in conjectures about the trials, that the leaders, especially Smith O'Brien and McManus, will be acquitted. The contrary is the belief.'

The charge against Mr. Gavan Duffy, of the *Nation* for high treason, is grounded mainly upon a letter said to have been addressed by him to Mr. Smith O'Brien, and which was discovered by the police in the travelling bag of the latter gentleman subsequent to his arrest. Yesterday it transpired that the individual, a person formerly employed in the *Nation*-office, who was to have proved Mr. Duffy's handwriting in this letter, had suddenly decamped, and the crown will now find it necessary to establish the proof by other means. It is stated that a gentleman who had been connected with the *Nation*, and who now holds an office in a public department, has been served with a *subpoena* by the Crown, to prove the handwriting of Mr. Duffy.

If we are to credit reports, it is evident that Mr. C. G. Duffy has at last shown symptoms of cowardice.

A Dublin correspondent, in his letter of the 28th, makes the following announcement:—

'My information is this. Formal notice has been this forenoon given to the Government, that the great literary leader of the confederate movement—the great concoctor of its plans—the great architect of its organisation—he who was the life and soul of the party—the organiser of the clubs—the suggester of ambassadorships and of solicitations of foreign aid—in fact, the head and front of the *Nation*, has this day caused it to be announced to the Government, through his solicitor, that he does not intend to put the Government to the labour of a prosecution in his case, but that he is prepared to plead guilty to whatever indictment the crown may prefer against him, throwing himself on the mercy of the Executive to dispose of him as may seem fitting in the case of one who does not even question its authority, much less offer any opposition to its paramount operation.'

The correspondent of the *Southern Reporter*, Cork paper, supplies the following gossip respecting the coming trials for treason.

I have already apprised you there are not less than 48 witnesses ready to be produced by the crown in sustenance of the prosecution. I have seen the list of witnesses, and read several of their depositions, the nature of which confirms my previous statement, that the charge would be for conspiracy to commit high treason, and that certain alleged overt acts in furtherance of that purpose would be adduced in evidence against some of the parties. For instance, one of the first witnesses will be Captain Longmore, of the 8th Hussars, with the sergeant-major and two of the troop, who were impeded on their march from Cork to Newbridge by the erection of a barricade at Killenaule. Then come a number of persons who style themselves 'shopkeepers' from Ballingarry, and the clerks and other servants of the Mining Company at the collieries. There are policemen in abundance from the constabulary, and metropolitan detectives, and some persons who are dubbed esquires, residing in this county. Mr. Hodges, the government reporter, will be one of the witnesses. There is also an old woman, named Margaret Keenan, who commences her deposition by stating that she knew Mr. Meagher for several years, and identified him as one of the party who arrived at Ballingarry the night before the affair at Boulagh Common. She deposes that she went up and shook hands with him, saying, 'Mr. Meagher, you're heartily welcome to the Commons of Ballingarry.' The 'heartily welcome' of the old haridan amounted to this, that she was among the very first to swear against him and his associates. She deposes that Smith O'Brien addressed the people from off a long wall, and that some of those who accompanied him wore belts with pistols in them. The depositions of Mr. Thomas Trant, the police officer, who commanded the party at the Widow Cormack's house, are very long, and contain minute details of the transaction. Those of head constable John Crowley, of Cork, refer merely to the arrest of Mr. McManus, which in point of fact was the only 'capture' made during the whole proceedings, for the arrests of Mr. Smith O'Brien and Messrs. Meagher, Leyne, &c., resulted more from the fact of their being worn out and harassed, and vexed and disappointed by the treatment they received from those whom they expected to have shown a different feeling towards them, than from any great skill or enterprise on the part of their captors.

Sir Lucius O'Brien, M. P., has arrived at Clonmel, where he will remain, it is expected, until after the trial of his brother.

Mr. Meagher, M. P., has also reached Clonmel, and is frequently admitted to visit his son, Thomas F. Mea-