

Offaly Archives OHS87

NOTES OF SALE

under

LAND ACTS

and other

MISCELLANEOUS

NOTES

BELLAIR ESTATE

W.B. Homan Mulock.  
1816.

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INCOME OF THE ESTATE  
BEFORE SALE TO THE TENANTS  
UNDER THE LAND ACTS  
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The rents paid by 63 tenants for ten years (1897-1907) previous to my sale under the Land Purchase Act averaged annually £770 - see appended Statement -

From the above £770 the following had to be deducted :-

|                                                                              |      |    |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----|---|
| 5 Annuitants                                                                 | £310 | 0  | 0 |
| Head Rent, Knockdominy.                                                      | 100  | 0  | 0 |
| " " Bellair                                                                  | 75   | 0  | 0 |
| Tithe Rent Charge                                                            | 35   | 0  | 0 |
| Quit Rent, Drainage Charges,<br>Lay Tithes of King, Marlay<br>and Downshire. | 12   | 0  | 0 |
| Income Tax allowed to Tenants                                                | 10   | 13 | 0 |
| " " paid on Farm                                                             | 20   | 8  | 5 |
| Railway (Banagher) Cess                                                      | 4    | 5  | 7 |
| Agent's Commission                                                           | 38   | 10 | 0 |
| Abatement 2/- in Pound allowed<br>to Tenants by Agent                        | 28   | 0  | 0 |
| Arrears abandoned yearly average                                             | 7    | 0  | 0 |
| Solicitors' Costs annual average                                             | 5    | 0  | 0 |
|                                                                              | £645 | 17 | 0 |

|         |     |      |    |   |
|---------|-----|------|----|---|
| Rent    | ... | £770 | 0  | 0 |
| Less    | ... | £645 | 17 | 0 |
| Balance | ... | £124 | 3  | 0 |

INCOME OF THE ESTATE (1914)

AFTER SALE TO THE TENANTS

- UNDER THE LAND ACTS. -

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The first sale to tenants was in 1908 in Kings County under the Wyndham Act 1903, and the agreements were lodged on 29th. of October 1908 with the Land Commission.

The Westmeath Agreements were lodged 5th. February 1909.

After all the Estate charges had been paid off by the Estate Commissioners, with the exception of the annuity of R. Mulock (£50) the rental for 1914 stood as under :-

|                                |     |    |   |    |      |    |   |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|---|----|------|----|---|
| Head Rent paid by five Tenants |     |    |   |    | 285  | 10 | 5 |
| <u>Deduct :-</u>               |     |    |   |    |      |    |   |
| Income Tax ...                 | £11 | 15 | 2 |    |      |    |   |
| Abatement allowed ...          | 3   | 17 | 0 |    |      |    |   |
| Railway Cess. ...              | 1   | 5  | 3 |    |      |    |   |
| Agent's Fees. ...              | 15  | 0  | 0 | 31 | 17   | 5  |   |
|                                |     |    |   |    | £253 | 13 | 0 |

Dividends and Interest on Stock acquired by sale to Estates Commissioners :-

With Public Trustee

|                                     |      |    |    |
|-------------------------------------|------|----|----|
| £5,207. 1. 3 Land Stock 3% Dividend | £147 | 1  | 10 |
| £656. 0. 0 " " 2½% "                | 16   | 19 | 8  |
|                                     | £164 | 1  | 6  |

In Trust with me

|                                      |     |    |   |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|---|
| £878. Canadian Ry. Co. 4% Divd.      | £35 | 16 | 6 |
| £307. 9. 5 India 3½% Stock Dividend. | £10 | 2  | 8 |
|                                      | £45 | 19 | 2 |

Total Present Income of Estate :-

|                                            |      |    |   |
|--------------------------------------------|------|----|---|
| Rents as above ...                         | 253  | 13 | 0 |
| Stock Public Trustee as above ...          | 164  | 1  | 6 |
| Stock with me as above ...                 | 45   | 19 | 2 |
|                                            | £463 | 13 | 8 |
| Deduct Richard's Annuity and Allowance ... | £110 | 0  | 0 |
| Balance...                                 | £353 | 13 | 8 |
|                                            | £124 | 3  | 0 |
| Annual profit from Sale ...                | £229 | 10 | 8 |

In King's County (Record No. E. C. 8099) the Originating applications and agreements were lodged with Land Commission on 29th. October 1908 under Wyndham's Act 1903.

The Westmeath (Record No. E.C.8692) Agreements were lodged on 5th. February 1909.

I forgave the hanging gale on both Estates, but in Bellair only on condition I was to enjoy the shooting rights in perpetuity.

The price I got by the sale was as under :-

| <u>WESTMEATH</u>                                   |     |     |        |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Farms (untenanted) 3% Stock                        | ... | ... | £7023  |
| Tenanted land 3% Stock October 1909                | ... | ... | £1088  |
| Tenanted land 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock October 1903 | ... | ... | £2113  |
| Tenanted " Cash " "                                | ... | ... | £1944  |
|                                                    |     |     | £12168 |

| <u>KING'S COUNTY</u>                 |     |     |       |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Tenanted land Bellair Cash           | ... | ... | £2924 |
| Untenanted " Castle Street 3% Stock  |     |     | £866  |
| Tenanted " Fermagh Cash Octr. 1903.  |     |     | £601  |
| Tenanted " " 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock | ... | ... | £653  |
|                                      |     |     | £5044 |

| <u>TOTAL</u> |     |        |
|--------------|-----|--------|
| Westmeath    |     | £12168 |
| King's Co.   |     | 5044   |
|              |     | £17212 |
| Bonus        | ... | 1863   |
| Total        | ... | £19075 |

To one whose boyhood recollections run back, as mine do, to the years of scarcity and potatoe disease 1845-6, the famine of 1847, and the Black 1848, it seems little less than a fairy tale, or dream, that the sixty small tenants of the Estate have disappeared for all time, I remember when tenants were breaking, surrendering their holdings, and leases, and flocking to America. In most of these cases my father forgave all arrears of rent, and paid a fair sum to the tenant, always sufficient to pay for his passage to America. He never evicted. As an instance, Balfe had a fairly sized farm on Knock - dominy Hill, on which he broke. Father took up the farm, gave Balfe £69 (endorsed on the lease) and placed James Murray his herd in the house.

There was no doubt a certain amount of rancour and bitterness and I well remember how anxiously Mother listened when footsteps were heard on the hall door steps, for father's voice in the dark winter evenings when he returned with Quin, the Bailiff, or Revington, the Steward, on the outside Car after a long day in Moate.

His Steward, Cathcart, had been fired at twice while standing at his door in the Village.

These were the days when the dining, drawing and morning rooms at Bellair had iron shutters, which I found still in existence in 1932, when doing up the house with my Architect Mr. Reginald Blomfield, on my retirement from the Indian Service.

There were in 1845-6 some sixty tenants in Westmeath and thirty or forty in King's County, roughly one hundred altogether.

The starving Forties in Bellair, as, indeed, throughout Ireland, were not a happy time.

In 1843, our Grand Uncle Thomas Homan Mulock died.

In 1844 Homan (Our Father's eldest son) died

In 1845 Catherine Frances Grand Uncles widow died.

Then followed the years of potatoe disease and famine 1845-6-7 and the black '48.

In 1846 we went to Dublin (7 Rutland Square) traveling by the Canal Flyboat from Kilbeggan. We subsequently returned to Bellair where in 1849 our eldest sister and our Parents first-born child Fanny, died of consumption. The family then began to break up and separate. In 1851 Thomas Lawrence went to Sydney, Australia, and entered Challis's Bank there.

In 1852 our brothers John and Richard ( the latter having previously been in business houses in Glasgow and Liverpool) also left for Melbourne, Australia, to try their luck at the Gold diggings and our brother Lawrence went to Stackpoole's School Kingstown.

In 1853 we went to Dublin a second time, for the Dublin Exhibition, staying at 17 Blessington Street.

In 1854 we practically left Ireland for good, and went to the Continent, arriving at 91 Champs Elysee, Paris, on the 15th October 1854.

"and not let a week pass by before you write a polite letter  
"to the gentleman to recall your having voted for him to his  
"recollection and to request him to procure your son a writer-  
"ship if he be intended for the Civil or i.e. Cadetship if for  
"the Military Service. This is the proper regular process and  
"this method is sure of success and the request always com-  
"plied with".

The £5000 stock qualification put the matter beyond  
the reach of any of us. Had our mother who died in 1863  
lived six years longer she would have seen three of her sons  
in the Indian Civil Service who all ultimately retired on  
pensions of a thousand a year, and possessed country houses  
within a couple of miles of the old home Bellair.

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During our absence, Bellair House and Demesne were let successively to Robert Holmes, Honorable Captain Henry Ward (afterwards Lord Bangor) Revd. R.H. Dunne, Richard Goodbody, (for his honeymoon in the Summer of 1871) and Robert Mooney.

During the nine years from 1854 to 1863 (when my Mother died at Monte Nero, Leghorn) our movements on the Continent were briefly as follows :-

After the Paris Exhibition of 1855, we went in May to Fontainebleau, 42 Rue St. Honore', (Mons. Bouvard our Landlord ). We left in November of that year for Rome, via Marseilles and Civita' Vecchia. At Rome we stayed at 22 Via del Bab uino, and in May 1857 we went, by diligence, to Florence stayed the month of May in Casa Grazzini, Via Maggio (Madame Grazzini our Landlady). We spent the Summer at Casa Moni, Baths of Lucca, returning for Winter 1857-8 to Via Cerritani, Florence. We spent the summer of 1858 also at Casa Moni, Baths of Lucca, whence my sister Lizzie was married to Captain Syme R.B.A. on

*During this summer (1858) Donati's comet (so called from its having been first seen by Dr. Donati at Florence) made its appearance and from its great size and reflexion reflection as it set in the evening over the Mediterranean afforded a gorgeous spectacle while we were at Ardenza*

and Final Examination in 1862, and sailed for India on the 27th. October of that year, after a short visit to Villa Nicolini, Florence, where our Parents and family were spending the Summer and Autumn.

In 1872, when I was home, on Furlough from India, my Father expressed a wish to leave Bellair to me as he thought my elder Brother John would not care to live there owing to his religious views. I refused however to supplant or disinherit my elder brother without his consent. On the 27th. June 1872, there was held, in Bentinck St. London, a family meeting, consisting of our Father, John our brother, Mary Cockerell, and Nina Kennard, our sisters, who all urged me to consent to the succession to Bellair being changed in my favor. John declared he did not wish to succeed to the property, as he would never live at Bellair. Although I foresaw it would entail long years of constant saving, self denial, and economy, to do justice to the old place, I finally consented. John was to get an annuity, the amount I forget, but as he died in August 1885, before my Father, this provision was unnecessary.

This letter I showed to my Father and Revington and persuaded the former to sign a joint Power of Attorney. I could now, assert myself. I found Revington's perquisites numerous. He claimed permission to run his flock of ewes with my Father's, when with the ram, during the tupping season. He took one of all the twin lambs born in my Father's flock, and the calf of every Milch cow. He had made a road between Bellair and Holywell, his own farm, across Spring Park Bog, along which he drew dung from the Stalls at Bellair. One of my father's horses, dragging a heavy load on this bog road, injured its back, and had to be destroyed. The fact was that Mr. Eyre, Agent for the Holywell Farm, leased it to Revington, who, in return, got my Father to back Eyre's bills at the Bank for a loan of £800. I fortunately got Eyre to mortgage to me a large farm at Tinamuck and I handed the Mortgage Deed to the Bank, which let me off with a loss of £90 on the transaction. Mr. Paul Fawcett, Agent for Spring Park, insisted on the road across the bog being closed. I therefore destroyed a bridge, constructed by Revington, on it, and thus severed the communication between Holywell and Bellair.

There were sixteen labourers on the Bellair, and three on the Moate Farm, beside two Carpenters, (the brothers Cunningham) The men were getting seven shillings and six pence, and the two Carpenters ten shillings a week, respectively. The Bellair labour bill amounted to about four pounds ten shillings, and the Moate ditto. to one pound, weekly, and for this £300 annual labour bill, there were only from 4 to 8 acres of very inferior tillage in the Watch House field.

# THE STATE OF THE DWELLING HOUSE

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As regards Bellair House, I got Maguire and Gatchell, in 1889, to carry out the necessary sanitary work £174. I then got Mr. Reginald Blomfield R.A. Architect, to draw up a specification for the re-roofing and doing up of the house generally. He gave (1889-90) the contract to Mellon and Co. of Dublin, and I, subsequently (in 1892) got Sir Thomas Deane, with Bower & Co, Contractors of Dublin, to raise the walls, construct dormer windows, and re-floor and re-roof the return wing of the house. In the upper storey of this wing, Revington had stored two year's wool clip, the two carpenters (Cunninghams) worked and smoked below, in the kitchen, up to their knees in wood shavings, while the house was uninsured. On all the above works I spent some £4,000, selling my Indian Mill shares for the purpose.

In 1893 I got Sir Thomas Deane Architect (Contractors Messrs Bower and Co. Killiney) to repair <sup>the</sup> the base - ment of Bellair House with red deal blocks and Woolecroft red tiles, and to supply new doors, fire grates, etc, for the sum of £253.

To all the above must be added the heavy item incurred in the purchase of furniture.

# STATE OF THE FARM

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It is hard to describe the farm as I found it, From the high road on the south, to the Mill race in the bog on the North, there was not a building ( with the exception of the dwelling house ) a field, a wall, a fence, a road or a gate deserving of the name.

The stable and farm buildings were in a wretchedly dilapidated state. The roof of the main Stable buildings had partly fallen in, and flooring of the loft was unsafe. I re-roofed and re-floored this large building for £600 (Thompson Bros. Wexford ) in 1892, and practically re-built the harness room, loose box, and work shop wing for £200.

I saw it was impossible to re-build the farm buildings without a heavy expenditure necessitating a loan from the Government. In 1893 therefore I drew up plans aided by my friend General Maquay, for new cattle byres, covered yard, hay-barn, and implements shed, and, getting a Government loan of £800, I gave the contract to Thompson Bros. who completed all in 1894.

I subsequently re-roofed and re-floored the old Turf-house, in 1899, ( the roof having fallen in after a heavy snow storm ) for £148, and made it into a second covered yard. In 1901 I built the large double-storied engine and feeding house for £566, Thompson Bros. being, again, my contractors and these, like the Stable works, were carried out independently of the Government loan, as was also a cart shed for £60

As I found the carting of building materials from Moate, on the Midland Railway, and from Clara on G.S. & W.R. (both stations being five or six miles from Bellair) a heavy item, I got the G.S. & Western Railway, after much correspondence, to open a Goods Station at Ballycumber, and on 15th. October 1890, Mr. Croker, Goods Manager, informed me, by letter, that the station had been opened for goods and general

traffic. This, with the Telegraph Office which I got opened in Ballycumber, in June 1894, on an annual guarantee of £33, for seven years ( of which I paid the final balance £10.11.2 in 1898 ) materially assisted in working the farm.

The agreement of my Kings County tenants to purchase, had all been lodged with the Estate Commissioners in October 1908 and, in spite of difficulties raised by both Agent and tenants, I got my tenants in Westmeath to agree to purchase in February 1909.

The following year, on Monday 16th. May 1910, at 7-30 a.m. I was told the police wanted to see me downstairs at Bellair. I hurried down, in my dressing gown, to find a Sergeant, and five or six policemen, in charge of ten or fifteen men and boys, whom they declared they had found driving my cattle (92 head) on the road from Moate to Bellair, and that they had left the cattle in the cattle-yard with 112 sheep and lambs which they had found being driven from Castle Street. The Police Sergeant asked me for orders, and I told him I would prosecute all whom they had arrested. I wired to my Solicitor Mr. Goodbody, and we went together into Athlone that afternoon, to lay sworn information for compensation, and to prosecute the offenders. The Resident Magistrate Mr. Byrne simply bound over the accused to keep the peace for 12 months. The following day, Tuesday, I went to Tullamore with my Solicitor, to lay a claim for compensation for the Castle Street drive of sheep, and to prosecute accused before Col. Dunsterville, the Resident Magistrate. He bound them over in a similar manner to the Athlone Magistrate. On the Wednesday, 18th. May, my cattle were again driven on my Westmeath farms, and, on 19th. May, I went with Mr. Crane, Police Inspector, and my Solicitor Mr. Goodbody, to Athlone, to prosecute these new cattle Drivers. The Magistrate, as on the former occasion, would only bind over the accused to keep the peace. I urged how inadequate such proceedings were

and that a fresh lot, who were not bound over, would drive the cattle next time, but he would not award either imprisonment, or fine, as I recommended.

As I left the Magistrate's Court, there was a large crowd outside that "booed" me. I could not get a car to take me to where my outside car was put up, and, escorted by a Police guard, I ultimately got to my trap, when it was hinted to me I would be wiser to go home by train. I told the police I had come on my car, and would go back on it notwithstanding the demeanour of the blackguards.

I wrote to Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary, that it was a disgrace to his administration, and that the scenes enacted to my farms in Westmeath, would have been impossible on the Indian frontier, where I had been employed. Lord Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant, replied that the matter was having attention, but little was done beyond sending Sir Neville Chamberlain two or three times to Moate, where he told me he had appointed efficient police officers who would prevent a recurrence of the driving.

On the 6th. June I attended the Court in Tullamore and was awarded one shilling per head for the sheep driven at Bellair and the price of two lambs that died after the drive, a total of some £10 or £15 exclusive of costs. On the 16th. June, I attended at Quarter Sessions, Athlone, with my Solicitor, when Judge Curran awarded me £128, and costs, for the Westmeath drives. The Police, and the Veterinary Surgeon whom I employed gave very half-hearted evidence to the effect that they did not think the cattle much injured by the drives, and I saw it was quite hopeless to expect police, or Magistrates, to take firm action. Judge Curran was the only Official who, by the heavy compensation he awarded, succeeded in stopping such grossly illegal proceedings. After his awards, the "drivers" asserted it was useless to drive my cattle, as I made money by it !

I told them in fact that they might continue

driving as I found that the compensation £1 to 30/- a head, awarded me by the Court) paid me far better than grazing the stock, and I would get them a lot of old "sturks" that they could drive to their heart's content, not only without injury, but with positive profit to me !

They then dropped the game, and I am glad to say the ringleaders, Eugene Robbins and John Farrell, got none of the land of the three farms when it was divided by the Estate Commissioners.

I corresponded with Sir.J.B.Lonsdale M.P. for Mid. Armagh, re my cattle drives, and he asked several questions in Parliament on the subject, but without much result

I believe his interest in the matter, however, made Government push on the purchase of my tenanted and untenanted land in both Kings Co. and Westmeath, while Mr. Ginnell M.P. for Westmeath ( a regular firebrand) preached his Crusade for the use of the Blackthorn to keep the cattle on the road, until the people got the land.

The following extract from the Reminiscences of Judge John Adye Curran published in 1915 referring to all these incidents on my estate will be of interest. I therefore insert it here. The "Gentleman of property" was myself. "Cattle driving continued very prevalent up to a late date "in County Westmeath. A gentleman of property in that County "had his cattle driven off his land on seven separate occasions. There had been previous drives of which he took no "notice, but he brought seven different applications for "compensation, one for each drive. I gave him damages and "costs in each case, the total amounting to a considerable "sum"

Subsequently I found it practically impossible to work the 328 statute acres of Knockdominy, Killenboylegan and Balnagarbry, at a profit. Appended is a statement showing that on my 25 years' farming my profit was £6.13.10 without debiting the farms with either rent, or interest, on the money

employed. The position was wholly uneconomic. These farms were six or more miles from Bellair. They entailed the employing of three Shepherds, a steward, and frequent labour to maintain walls, gates, and fences, and to keep down furze, fern, and thistles.

Hay could not be made on them until the end of September and in October after the harvest was completed at Bellair. My labourers lost half their day on the road, and had to run the gauntlet of half-a-dozen Public Houses in Moate. Revington, the Steward, was locally known as "Black Fodder" owing to the vile description of hay made, and to avoid the chaff to which he was subjected going through Moate with the hay-making machinery, he used to go round the town to get to Knockdominy.

The Joseph Revington so often mentioned had succeeded Cathcart, about 1848. I see from the Parish Register that, when 29 years of age, he married Anne Daly, our mother's Maid, at Liss Church in October 1849. Thus he had been forty years steward at Bellair by the time I returned from India. During the nine years (1889-1897) while he was under me, I lost £1,282 as can be seen from my printed farm accounts.

The Stocking of the farms necessitated the purchase of a large number of cattle in the October fairs of Moate, and their subsequent sale in the April Fairs. I had to be in the Fairs about four o'clock in the morning often entailing a cold, long, and possibly wet day's exposure. The bargaining was to me most disagreeable, the more so, as many of one's small tenants begged one to buy their very inferior, and half-starved stock, asserting they could not pay their rent unless they sold their beasts. I thus often felt I must help the unfortunate creatures.

## RESULT OF BELLAIR FARM ACCOUNT

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Revington

|      |     |   |      |    |    |
|------|-----|---|------|----|----|
| 1889 | ... | - | £140 | 13 | 9  |
| 1890 | ... | + | £180 | 3  | 3  |
| 1891 | ... | - | 34   | 15 | 8  |
| 1892 | ... | - | 68   | 13 | 0  |
| 1893 | ... | - | 137  | 2  | 0  |
| 1894 | ... | - | 261  | 6  | 10 |
| 1895 | ... | - | 535  | 2  | 11 |
| 1896 | ... | - | 531  | 14 | 11 |
| 1897 | ... | + | 294  | 8  | 11 |
| 1898 | ... | - | 182  | 12 | 9  |
| 1899 | ... | + | 21   | 3  | 8  |
| 1900 | ... | + | 199  | 10 | 6  |
| 1901 | ... | - | 239  | 11 | 3  |
| 1902 | ... | - | 234  | 16 | 11 |
| 1903 | ... | - | 316  | 3  | 7  |
| 1904 | ... | + | 135  | 16 | 2  |
| 1905 | ... | + | 48   | 13 | 3  |
| 1906 | ... | + | 216  | 3  | 1  |
| 1907 | ... | + | 211  | 6  | 2  |
| 1908 | ... | + | 355  | 1  | 2  |
| 1909 | ... | + | 231  | 13 | 7  |
| 1910 | ... | + | 133  | 17 | 2  |
| 1911 | ... | + | 645  | 14 | 8  |
| 1912 | ... | - | 72   | 5  | 2  |
| 1913 | ... | + | 87   | 5  | 0  |

+ £2761. 2. 7

- £2754. 8. 9

£ 6.13.10

The result of twenty-five years farming £6. 13. 10 profit !

1914 . . . . . + 14-15-8  
 1915 . . . . . + 506-3-1  
 1916 . . . . . + 406-5-3

As I looked back on all this, I realised that my successors would never incur the bother and trouble of attending these Fairs and supervising these distant out-lying farms in Westmeath.

In fact my two brothers, Harry and Frank wrote informing me they would never farm the Westmeath untenanted lands, which in consequence I sold to the Land Commission.

I cannot believe that my father made a profit on the working of his farms after 1880, when farming became a struggling and unprofitable business. It is, however, impossible to form a definite opinion as Revington never kept any regular accounts, and he lumped rent, and farm receipts, in the general account at the Bank, while all Bank Pass Books, and Rent Rolls, had disappeared when I took charge. In any case what with Revington perquisites in lambs, and calves, and his laxity in supplying returns of the stock, (of which my father complained to me on several occasions) profit would seem to have been most improbable.

One may well wonder how, under the circumstances, the estate pulled along at all. But it should be borne in mind that father had £250 a year as interest on his portion (5,000) as a younger son, on Clonbela. £4,000 of this had been paid off, and spent by him, no doubt, on his children. Bellair House and Demesne was let for £100 a year, and his rents had been much higher, until the Land Act of 1881, (fixing rents in Court) and voluntary allowances to tenants had reduced them.

In 1887, just before my return from India, a number of the Westmeath tenants had applied to have their rents fixed in Court under this Land Act, (1881) and material reductions were given, as may be seen from the following cases-

| <u>Tenant</u>   |     | <u>Old Rent</u> |    |   | <u>Judicial Rent</u> |    |   |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|----|---|----------------------|----|---|
| Michael Walsh   | ... | £20             | 0  | 0 | £14                  | 0  | 0 |
| Michael Farrell | ... | £19             | 0  | 0 | £10                  | 0  | 0 |
| James Farrell   | ... | £10             | 10 | 0 | £7                   | 10 | 0 |
| Garrett Farrell | ... | £4              | 2  | 0 | £3                   | 0  | 0 |
| Robert Hilliard | ... | £3              | 5  | 9 | £2                   | 5  | 0 |
| Christy Many    | ... | £2              | 0  | 0 | £1                   | 0  | 0 |
|                 |     | £59             | 4  | 3 | £38                  | 1  | 6 |

As our father was then close on ninety years of age, he told me, he had not appealed against these reductions.

In June 1882, the following Bellair Tenants S. Quin, Pat Daly, John Claffy, Rose Digan, John Digan, Pat. Murray and Bridget Herbert, refused to pay their rents unless they got a reduction, and the Labourers on the farm "riz out" as they call it, and left. Ejectment processes were taken out against them, and in October 1882, the Sheriff with an Inspector, and twelve Policemen evicted Claffy, Williams, and John Larkin. All the others paid their rents before eviction. Emergency men were placed in the houses of those evicted.

After this my father gave a voluntary allowance of two shillings in the pound to all tenants.

Our relative Sir E. Bewley, who had been a Land Judge, told me that, as a rule, Landlords never gave rebutting evidence in Court when the tenants sought reductions and consequently, decisions were always adverse to their (Landlords) interests.

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When Flanagan, Egan, and Hugh Farrell went into Court in October 1898 about their rents, I attended with my Solicitor, Agent, Steward, and herds etc, and the tenants' applications were invariably rejected.

This caused a bitter feeling, the tenants declaring they could not better me in the Courts.

to my Ferbane tenants that I would give them the same terms as the Bellair tenants, along with the game rights, as I had never shot a rabbit or partridge on their holdings. They told me of one difficult case they had of a tenant, Maria Flanagan, who was bed-ridden, and whose nephew Rafferty had worked the farm for her for some years. This nephew had declared that if any one, but him, signed the agreement he would cut off his head with a scythe which he kept ready for the event. I ordered them to refer the matter to the Parish Priest for settlement. The Priest got Maria Flanagan to pass an agreement handing over her farm to Rafferty. The latter then signed the agreement on 2nd November, and I got all the agreements signed and forwarded to the Land Commission before the reduced bonus came into force.

I may add that on 29th September 1908, my Agent, Mr Browne, wrote to tell me that my tenant, Henry, had been to his office, and had proposed taking twenty acres in Castle Street at any rent fixed by him (Browne) who asked for my instructions. I replied that Michael Henry had been the principal driver of my sheep in Castle Street, and that he would not get a foot of my land. It was fortunate I retained all this land otherwise I might have imperilled the subsequent sale of the King's County Estate to the Land Commission.

After the numerous cattle drives, I went with my brother Frank, on 20th July 1910 to see Mr Finucane, Estate Commissioner, and handed him a letter offering to sell my three Westmeath farms. On the 6th December, the Estates Commissioners offered me £6,473 for them. I gave Mr Finucane a letter asking for an additional £550. He, however, showed me in confidence an Order passed by his brother Commissioners that they were not prepared to reconsider their offer and if I did not accept the sum I might keep the farms.

Mr Finucane, who refused to see my Agent, Mr Browne, on the subject, directed me, however, to put all the

Both my successors in title, my brothers Harry and Frank strongly urged me to sell the farms.

On 22nd November, 1910, my brother Harry wrote:-

"I strongly approve of the acceptance of the offer of £6,473 + £647 bonus for the Westmeath farms, and I think Bill should accept at once."

On the same date my brother Frank wrote :-

"I am strongly of opinion you should accept forthwith the offer made by the Land Commission of £6,473, and a bonus of £647 for the lands of Killenboylegan, Knockdominy and Balnagorney. You will get about £7,000 or 'practically twenty-five years' purchase of the Government valuation."

"This offer, as a pure business transaction, is a most favorable one, and should be accepted without demur, if only on that ground."

Others who advised me strongly to sell were my relative Sir Edmund Bewley, who had been Judicial Chief of the Land Commission, Sir Robert Holmes, Treasury Remembrancer, and legal adviser of Government on the Land Acts, who had sold his own property, Moycashel, in Westmeath, and the Honble. Richard Nugent, Manager of the Bank of Ireland, who made me promise to sell, when we would celebrate the event by a dinner at the Kildare Street Club. Poor fellow, he died before the matter was disposed of, owing to my refusal to sell until the Commissioners had increased their offer by £550.

Mr. Finucane, Estate Commissioner, who died on 4th February 1911, by, almost, his last official act, on 3rd Feb. granted me this additional sum, and in the following July 1911, I finally accepted.

In 1907, the Rural Councils had begun harassing me about labourers' cottages on all my farms.

The Athlone Council drew up scheme after scheme with the object of infesting my most valuable land in -----

To clear the estate of all the above charges before taking it over the Commissioners had to pay :-

|                                     | £.     | s.  | d |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|---|
| For my charges                      | 7161.  | 15. | 0 |
| Redemption Mrs. Cockerell's Annuity | 1225.  | 0.  | 0 |
| Redemption Mrs. Austin's Annuity    | 423.   | 0.  | 0 |
| Mr. Browne, Agent's Commission      | 447.   | 12. | 0 |
| Mr. Goodbody, Solicitor's do.       | 298.   | 8.  | 0 |
| Redemption of Quit Rents Tithes. )  | 118.   | 15. | 0 |
| etc., etc. )                        |        |     |   |
|                                     | £9674. | 10. | 0 |

My brother Richard's Annuity has not been redeemed and for it the property is still liable. *He died 31/10/16*

The tenanted land which I had sold to the Commissioners amounted to only £9323, so it was a nice question whether the property would be looked on as solvent and I would be considered entitled to the bonus of £1,863. 10. 1 or not. The sale of the untenanted land i.e. the Westmeath farms settled the question for good and all in my favour.

I had difficulties regarding my steward, herds, and workmen. More than one steward left my service, Geo. Cran, who had been under-steward to Lord Ashtown (whom they had recently tried to blow up), was mobbed and badly beaten on the road to Knockdominy. He told me Lord Ashtown's service was not half as bad as mine.

Shots at night time were constantly fired outside the house of my old herd Nelson, at Knockdominy, and, fearing his house might be fired into, the Police recommended me to get him a revolver, which I did.

They tried to persuade my workmen to leave my service, but in this they were unsuccessful. The farrier in Moate certainly did refuse to shoe my horses, and Jennet, and Lawler, who usually threshed my oats, refused to do so; but I got Mr Hackett to thresh it, and with his men helping I did the work cheaper than ever before. They, however, took some wheels off Mr Hackett's threshing machine, and set fire to the straw of the next man, (Lowe of Boston) whom he threshed for. The barbed wire on the wall of the Killenboylegan farm was also cut in several places, but for this I got good compensation awarded to me by the County Court Judge.

Some tenants in Knockdominy served me with notices in May 1908, that they had applied to the Land Court to fix fair rents on their holdings, and, seeing the heavy reductions obtained by those who had gone into Court in 1887 in my father's time, I thought it advisable to push on the sales under the Land Purchase Act. The Land Courts could scarcely I thought, refuse to give reductions somewhat equivalent to those previously granted to the neighbouring tenants, as all of them on the Hill complained of want of water and turbary.

Several of my cows in Knockdominy aborted, or slipped their calves, whether owing to their having been driven when in calf or not, I can't say; but, fearing contagion, I had to get all my cows home to Bellair, causing inconvenience & crowding, until I gradually disposed of them as "springers"

I have thought it due to myself, and my successors to place these notes on record concerning the sale of tenanted and untenanted land in Kings County and Westmeath, as it was a critical time in the history of the estate. Memories are short nowadays, and facts are forgotten, or get distorted, of such transactions, and some future owner of Bellair may think I sold the Westmeath farms at a sacrifice.

After reading these notes he will see :-

- 1st. That I obtained £8,000, inclusive of bonus, for the three farms in Westmeath, on which, with the assistance of different stewards, good and bad, after twenty-five years of much trouble and expense, I made a profit of only six or seven pounds.
- 2nd. That I was worried with frequent cattle drives.
- 3rd. That there was a probability of the two estates being thrown back on my hands owing to insufficiency of security and their congested condition, with the possible alternative of my being left with the smaller tenants, while the Land Commission took over the larger ones, if I refused to part with the farms.
- 4th. That my brothers, my successors in title, were both anxious that I should sell at the lower and first price offered, of £6,473, with a bonus of £647, but that I held out for eight months for £550 additional and an enhanced bonus, which I ultimately succeeded in getting.
- 5th. That I might possibly have lost the bonus on the estates, owing to the heavy charges on it, while I would not have recovered the sums I had laid out in the purchase of many of these said charges

unless I had sold the untenanted land.

6th, That I was harrassed with schemes for labourers' cottages, designed apparently with the object of ruining the farms.

I feel convinced that nothing could have been luckier or more timely than the whole transaction. The Birrell Act of 1909 came into force a few months later, under which the landlords were to be paid in 3 % stock, instead of cash, with a graduated bonus in place of the 12% ditto, while the rate of purchase annuity which the tenant had to pay for  $68\frac{1}{2}$  years, was raised from £3. 5. 0d. to £3. 10. 0d.

This Act (1909) has proved unworkable. The tenants refuse to purchase at the enhanced purchase annuity and the landlords shy at a 3% stock which is quite unsaleable with a War Loan stock of  $4\frac{1}{2}$ % below par.

We are not half grateful enough to the Right Hon. George Wyndham for his Act of 1903, the best ever passed regarding Irish land; and if landlords had only come to terms with their tenants under its provisions, there would no longer have been an Irish question.

TENANTS KING'S COUNTY BELLAIR

TO WHOM I SOLD

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| NAME              | AREA STATUTE |   |    | ADVANCE  | ANNUITY<br>3 1/2% |    |    | RENT |    |    |     |
|-------------------|--------------|---|----|----------|-------------------|----|----|------|----|----|-----|
| Anne Daly         | 2            | 3 | 34 | £18.0. 0 | 11                | 8  |    | 18   | 0  | 8  | gs  |
| Frank Claffy      | 27           | 2 | 2  | 234.     | 7                 | 12 | 2  | 11   | 16 | 10 | ue  |
| James Lambe       | 23           | 3 | 20 | 204.     | 6                 | 12 | 8  | 9    | 14 | 5  | 903 |
| John Digan        | 19           | 2 | 19 | 139.     | 4                 | 10 | 4  | 7    | 1  | 0  | s   |
| Patrick Galvin    | 13           | 1 | 0  | £30.     | 19                | 6  |    | 2    | 0  | 0  | ot  |
| Thomas Williams   | 15           | 1 | 33 | 108.     | 3                 | 10 | 2  | 5    | 12 | 6  |     |
| Joseph Murray     | 11           | 3 | 17 | 100.     | 3                 | 5  | 0  | 4    | 19 | 0  | ed  |
| Kieran Larken     | 33           | 3 | 30 | £10.     | 7                 | 16 | 0  | 12   | 2  | 6  |     |
| Farrell Connally  | 2            | 2 | 6  | £8.      | 5                 | 2  |    | 8    | 0  |    |     |
| Thomas Daly       | 5            | 0 | 31 |          |                   |    |    | 1    | 0  |    |     |
| Margt. Larken     | 3            | 1 | 7  | £31.     | 1                 | 0  | 2  | 1    | 12 | 0  |     |
| Patrick Digan     | 1            | 2 | 6  | £13.     | 8                 | 6  |    | 11   | 0  |    |     |
| Rose Larken       | 11           | 3 | 5  | £91.     | 2                 | 19 | 2  | 4    | 9  | 6  |     |
| Patrick Daly      | 48           | 2 | 21 | 441      | 16                | 6  | 8  | 22   | 9  | 6  |     |
| Jeremiah Guinan   | 20           | 1 | 38 | 177.     | 5                 | 15 | 2  | 9    | 4  | 6  | t   |
| Stephen Quin      | 48           | 0 | 11 | 421      | 13                | 13 | 8  | 20   | 11 | 3  | en  |
| Patrick Murray    | 5            | 0 | 36 | £56      | 1                 | 16 | 6  | 2    | 17 | 9  | s   |
| James Reamsbottom | 99           | 0 | 32 | 612.     | 19                | 17 | 10 | 24   | 17 | 6  | i-  |
| Michael Henry     | 18           | 1 | 30 | £140     | 4                 | 18 | 0  | 6    | 16 | 6  | t   |

TENANTS KING'S COUNTY FERBANE

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|                   |      |    |    |   |    |    |   |   |
|-------------------|------|----|----|---|----|----|---|---|
| Hugh Gleeson      | 294. | 11 | 0  | 6 | 15 | 3  | 8 | m |
| James Fox         | £70. | 2  | 12 | 6 | 3  | 12 | 0 | y |
| James Chapman     | 194. | 7  | 5  | 6 | 10 | 0  | 0 |   |
| Standish O'Connor | 193. | 7  | 4  | 8 | 9  | 19 | 6 | s |
| Michael Donlon    | 197. | 7  | 7  | 8 | 9  | 7  | 0 |   |
| Patrick Rafferty  | 159  | 5  | 19 | 2 | 7  | 19 | 6 |   |
| James Fox         | £68  | 2  | 11 | 0 | 3  | 10 | 6 |   |
| John Molloy       | £32. | 1  | 4  | 0 | 1  | 14 | 6 |   |

## TENANTS WESTMEATH

## TO WHOM I SOLD

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| NAME                | TOWNLAND       | ADVANCE | ANNUITY<br>3½% | RENT      |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|-----------|
| John Farrell        | Knockdominy    | £322    | £12. 1. 6      | £14.19. 0 |
| Ellen Dunbar        | "              | 22      | 16. 6          | 1. 0. 0   |
| Michael Ganly       | "              | 173     | 6. 9.10        | 9. 0. 0   |
| Christopher Many    | "              | 43      | 1.12. 4        | 2. 0. 0   |
| Wm. Geraghty        | "              | 348     | 13. 1. 0       | 17.19. 0  |
| Patrick Coughlan    | "              | 129     | 4.16.10        | 6.10. 0   |
| Garrett Farrell     | "              | 126     | 4.14. 6        | 6.10. 0   |
| James Moran         | "              | 416     | 13.13. 8       | 18.19. 0  |
| Hugh Farrell        | "              | 206     | 7.16. 0        | 10. 5. 0  |
| Michael Murray      | "              | 129     | 4.16.10        | 6. 0. 0   |
| Garrett Farrell Sr. | "              | 118     | 4. 7. 0        | 5.19. 6   |
| Kate King           | "              | 147     | 4.18. 0        | 8. 5. 0   |
| Patk.Flanagan       | Killenboylegan | 271     | 10. 3. 2       | 12.15. 9  |
| John Duffy.         | "              | 280     | 10.10. 0       | 12.15. 9  |
| Margt. Cuddy.       | "              | 116     | 4. 7. 0        | 5.18. 2   |
| Bl. McLoughlin      | "              | 108     | 4. 1. 0        | 5.10. 0   |
| Patk.Flanagan Sr.   | "              | 220     | 8. 5. 0        | 10. 4. 6  |
| Jane Lyndon         | "              | 280     | 10.10. 0       | 13. 0. 0  |
| Michael Fallon      | "              | 121     | 4.10. 8        | 6. 5. 2   |
| Patrick Johnston    | "              | 81      | 3. 0. 4        | 4. 3. 6   |
| Anne Byrne          | "              | 142     | 5. 6. 6        | 7. 7. 0   |
| Michael Walsh       | "              | 601     | 22.10. 8       | 27.18. 6  |
| James Flynn         | Balnagarbry    | 310     | 11.12. 6       | 16. 0. 0  |
| Robert Hilliard     | "              | 97      | 3.12. 8        | 4.10. 0   |

On the 10th November, 1911, Mr. J. T. Drennan, Secretary of the Estate Commissioners, wrote to my Solicitor that the tenants holdings on the Bellair Townland formed a Congested Estate within the meaning of Section 20 of the Act of 1909 and they proposed improving the condition of the holdings by enlargement and rearrangement they therefore would continue the proceedings for the sale under Section 6 of the Act of 1903. On the 27th February, 1912, my Solicitor wrote to me that "as regards the Bellair holdings the Estate Commissioners will not sanction a sale to the tenants under Section 1 but will buy these holdings themselves for cash at the price already agreed on namely £2924 under Section 6."

I believe the Commissioners were anxious to improve the tenants holdings by constructing a good road round the back of the hill admitting a threshing machine and engine to the furthest end and by digging a wide drain to dry their turf banks.

This new arrangement invalidated the old agreements passed by the tenants to me, in October 1908, and to get new agreements under Section 6, Messrs Hoey and Denning the tenants Solicitors, came to Ballycumber where they met my tenants who all refused to sign until they had consulted me. The Solicitors pointed out that they were their legal advisers and not their Landlord. They however still refused when the Solicitors threatened to leave by the next train. "Go if you like" they said, "we don't sign until we have consulted Mr. Mulock". They all came to Bellair and told me the Government wanted them to sign new agreements but as it was the worst Government they had ever had, they did not trust them! Astonished I said "You don't mean to say you don't trust the Government that gave you Home Rule." They said "no, your honour, we don't trust them. Should we sign." I replied "Certainly. You will get your annual payments materially reduced below the old rents, and after the 68 years you will hold your farms rent free." The

principal tenant, Stephen Quin then came forward and holding out his hand said "Give me your fist". "There it is" I replied giving him my hand. Clasping it, he said, "now we will go and sign," so off they went and signed the new agreements. We are, verily, a strange people !

A few days subsequently I met old Stephen Quin on the road with his donkey car and I said "Well, Stephen, I was glad to see you still believed in the old landlord," Raising my hand to his lips he said, "And why shouldn't we ? Neither you, nor your father, nor your grandfather ever did us a bad turn."

This was a pleasing and gratifying ending to all the turmoil of cattle drives, trouble about cottages, and the difficulties and anxieties incidental to selling to all the tenants, under the Land Acts, in the six townlands of Bellair, Ferbane, Knockdominy, Killenboylegan, Curries and Balnagarbry.

After my father's death in 1889 I collected the rents of the estate for nine years, until 1898, when I appointed Mr. Tom Mulock of Kilnagarna as my Agent.

I had some strange experiences during these nine years, I will give a couple of them.

The second year of my collection William Wilson, a tenant in Balnagarbry with some ten acres for which he paid me an annual rent of £16, had let his holding to a neighbour, James Flynn, for eleven months. When this term had expired Flynn refused to surrender the land, and Revington had advanced £30 to Wilson to recover his land in the Civil Court. He won his case with costs. Flynn drove out to see me, and ostentatiously banging his heavy driving whip on my office table asked me what I intended doing about the holding which Wilson was quite incapable of working. (It was quite true Wilson was a wretchedly delicate creature, almost crippled). I quietly replied that Wilson had recovered his land in the Court and it was for him to decide what he would do with it.

The land was all under meadow, and poor Wilson requested me to have the meadow auctioned for him. So I got Mr. English from Athlone, to make all necessary arrangements for the auction. On the day fixed for the sale, I met English at Wilson's farm in Balnagarbry. A number of young fellows were sitting on the wall of the high road, adjoining the farm who as we were passing, in a low tone, under their breath, "dared us to sell the meadow", English who realised the position at once said to me "Those fellows on the wall are not bidders they are here to prevent a sale". Remarking it was useless his remaining, he left me. I accordingly interviewed Wilson and told him as he could not work the farm he had better have it sold by auction, when he could pay me the advanced £30, and arrears of rent due, and I would secure him in his little house and an acre of potato garden. He consented, and I told Flynn of the arrangement. Flynn refused to allow Wilson house or garden. I said he would lose the farm then, as I would have nothing to do with putting a poor cripple on the road side. Ultimately matters were arranged. English (Auctioneer) valued the holding at some £200 which Flynn paid. I got my £40, Wilson got the balance, and his house and potato patch for his life, and Flynn got the holding. A few months later Wilson was found with his head on his table, his throat cut, and a scribbled note on the table, "God help the man who has driven me to this" Flynn, being an influential man, the matter was hushed up, but Nemesis overtook him a few years later. He was badly beaten, and left on the roadside for dead. He had again overheld land. Two young lads were found guilty, at the Assizes, and sentenced to four or five months each, for the assault. Flynn did not, however, long survive a serious injury to his head, the result of the beating.

Another of my experiences was the following: - Garrett Farrell, a tenant in Knockdominy, had paid no rent for a couple of years, and hearing from Revington, and my

herd, Nelson that he was a rather bad lot. I instructed my solicitor to take eviction proceedings against him. In Ireland one cannot allow a tenant to default without good reason as other tenants on the Estate think they can do likewise, -- and avoid the rent office.

Shortly after Farrell had been served with the notice of eviction proceedings a rather good fellow from Tinimuck, who had burnt many a kiln of lime for me, when rebuilding and repairing houses and walls at Bellair, came to see me, and asking me to accompany him down the pathway from my house to the stables, he told me to let what he was going to say be "dead between us". The expression struck me as peculiar, so I became interested. He then enquired, "Have you ever heard of Lord Leitrim"? I said "Yes, he was shot" and have you ever heard of Lord Mountmorres?" "Yes" I replied, "he was shot also." "Well," he said "I hear you are hard on a poor man". I said "I suppose you are referring to Garrett Farrell" "I don't know, nor do I say, who I refer to", he said. (The old man dreaded being an informer) "but don't be hard on a poor man, Sir". I then said in a determined way, "Now you go to Farrell, if it is to him you are referring, and tell him that unless he comes to me, and makes some satisfactory arrangement about his rent, out he will be put." My car just then drove up to my hall door and he inquired where I was going. I told him to Petty Sessions in Clara. In a very pointed way he remarked, "Well, safe home, Sir, safe home".

Two or three days after this interview Garrett Farrell came driving a milch cow to my hall door. I asked him what he had brought the cow for, he replied, "To pay the rent". I said, "You are married and have a couple of young children". He said he had, so I told him I was not going to deprive his young children of their milk, but he should come from time to time, and tell me how he proposed paying his rent.

Without professing any extra amount of rectitude in the matter, I hold very strong views regarding the sale under the Land Purchase Acts to tenants of their holdings in Ireland. No Landlord or agent in my opinion has a right to deny their tenants the substantial advantages conferred by the Ashbourne Acts, 1885 and 1889, the Wyndham Act of 1903, and the Birrell Act, of 1909, if the landlord can obtain a price approaching twenty years purchase by the sale.

The benefits to the landlord by sale, are freedom from rates, agents' fees, and Solicitors' bills and from liability to having their rents reduced by the rent Courts under the Act of 1881, while the tenants' benefits are very great. This annuity payable to Government is two thirds, and in some cases one half, the rent formerly paid to his landlord, and at the end of  $68\frac{1}{2}$  years, he holds his land rent free.

Putting aside the economic or constitutional advantages to the country of abolishing dual ownership, what can justify a landlord's or agent's refusal of these advantages to their tenants ?

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20 ALBERT HALL MANSIONS

KENSINGTON GORE

LONDON, S.W.

11. Jan. 1916.

Dearest Willie,

Your to me most interesting and enlightening document came yesterday. I have read it twice marked learned and inwardly digested it ! It is a perfectly unmistakeable account of the past and present condition of all you have done for the whole property. I think there ought to be another copy made and given into the care of Frank - fire or other mishap would destroy it - I always say that you are the only person I have known who setting out as a young man with a definite object have realized it and seen its full fruition. Of course your Indian Official training backed up by character has been quite invaluable to you. I think it would be amusing (if you have got it) a printed duplicate of the account in Burke's Landed Gentry of the family.

I am always delighted to think that I was a witness of the cattle drives. It was a memorable and most lucky day for you and taken such full advantage of by you. I think it would be also amusing if you told how you were offered and refused police protection. I shall never forget my excitement when I drove to Frank's in your brougham and saw police hiding behind trees in the "Old Avenue" I have often told the story in England as a proof of Irish life and of how you ultimately weathered on them. Just fancy if dear old father could know it and see the Bellair farm and house. He would think it a dream and how proud mother would be.

It must be a weight off your mind having made these notes but do have a duplicate made Frank ought to have one for his successor. But what an awful picture of misery with sixpence and four pence a day paid to laborers and the turnip field guarded against the starving creatures. I

remember every detail of the Ferbane tenants and was with  
you at Bellair during part of the struggle and the clever  
way you got out of an apparent "impasse"

Your fond sister,

Mary.

*Wm F. P. Cockerell*

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18 CHURCH St.

KENSINGTON W.

27. Jan. 1916.

Dearest Bill,

Your notes are most interesting and a wonderful account of what "dogged" can do ! What an intensely interesting if anxious business it must have been. Dont you think the notes interest would be increased by prefacing them with the names, dates of births and deaths and places of burial and marriages of all our family ? What a labor the sale entailed and the clearing of the land and building all the walls!! But it was a labour of love and prevented you fossilizing like so many retired public servants.

I know and admire your untiring energy in redeeming Bellair both house and land. It is a monument of what can be done by industry and endurance, and not spending five shillings when one has only four and six pence.

Your loving sister,

Hester.

*Wm Alfred Austin*

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KENSINGTON W.

27. Jan. 1916.

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Your loving sister,

Hester.

*Wm. Alfred Austin*  
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NORTHMEAD  
FARNHAM ROYAL,  
SLOUGH,  
May 15. 1916.

Dearest old Bill,

I spent yesterday ( Sunday ) reading these  
"Notes of yours on Sale under the Land Acts and reasons for  
sale of the Westmeath Farms" Most interesting quite and  
family documents.

How lucky you were to get rid of the whole  
boiling and retire comfortable within the park gates of the  
Demesne. It was certainly most opportune - No one seems  
to know quite what the upshot of Asquith's visit will be.  
He is certainly a most wonderful old gentleman to soft  
sawder and smooth over things.

Your devoted sister,

Nina H. Kennard.

*Nina H. Kennard*

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In the foregoing pages I have recorded the opinion of the members of the family interested in the sale of the tenanted and untenanted lands of the Estate all my sisters Mrs Frederick Cockerell, Mrs Alfred Austin, and Mrs Arthur Kennard and my brothers Harry and Frank are unanimous in their approval of my action.

That it was opportune - as Mrs Kennard states there can be little doubt The purchase money as stock were all paid by the Land Commission in May 1914 and the sale of the estate wound up two or three months before war had been declared or the Rebellion had taken place. To pay off the annuitants and charges I had to sell  $2\frac{3}{4}\%$  land stock at  $74\frac{1}{16}$  and  $3\%$  at  $83\frac{9}{16}$ . The former is now quoted as low as  $55\frac{1}{2}$  and the latter at  $59\frac{3}{4}$  while Judge Wylie of the Land Court stated recently (July 1916) that the Land Commission had purchased twenty millions worth of land and had no money with which to pay for it.

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20 ALBERT HALL MANSIONS,  
LONDON, S.W.

12th August 1915.

Dearest Willie,

This being the anniversary of our Mother's death the spirit moves me to write and talk about it. The years are upon us all when no one will remain who can recall all she was and did for us by her unflinching self-denial and sacrifice of all that she loved in life and surroundings. She was the "greatest lady" I have ever known, and had been surrounded from childhood by refinement, well being, and tradition, all of which to her proud and sensitive nature were the breath of her nostrils; but without a thought of self she gave them all up for our benefit, and as I see her now those last weeks at Monte Nero Leghorn, suffering in the overpowering heat of that summer of 1863, her skin burning and dry, and longing for the soft damp of Ireland and for home, she is a touching figure. Then on the evening of the 9th August came between her and me that bat or black bird the "nottola", and she said she wished she had not seen it. She got up from her seat on the terrace and went to bed, never to leave it. Three days followed of intense mental and bodily suffering for those surrounding her, owing to the heat and insects, and she was gone.

Except for your success, which was a source of the greatest joy and pride to her, she did not live to see any result of her sacrifice, and as I have sat in later years in what was her bedroom I have longed with a great longing that she could see Bellair redeemed, beautified, and inhabited, and then go for a drive and see Harry's and Frank's homes, and their happiness and position. What joy it would have been to her. With all her attachment to George Price

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I know that my engagement to him was a source of great anxiety and pain to her, for which I grieve; but if she had seen the sequel I think she would have been pleased, and in my long years of strain and stress her example has been my chief support.

Surely no children have ever had so easy a command to obey as we when we repeat the 5th Commandment, and I desire nothing more from my own children than that they should feel likewise.

Too Too and I are here and will not leave London at all this Autumn, though people have been very kind in asking us to go to them. She is so engrossed in her work in Devonshire House that though it closes down for a fortnight next Saturday she will bring back work to do at home, She is head of the dressmaking section, and so many poor officer's wives expect babies that the demand for maternity dresses is endless. She may go on Saturday for two days to Catmose if Henry, who is now quartered at Epsom, can get week end leave.

Your loving sister,

MARY.

Mrs F. R. Cockrell

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Mother is buried in the Cimitero Vecchio at Leghorn.

Extract from letter

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All we are and all we have are the result of our Father's and Mother's noble self devotion and wisdom in straining every nerve for our education and one of the greatest blessings that we have reaped is our love of reading - a love that grows every year as age comes on. For my Mother my veneration and admiration is unbounded in her reticence and shy dignity we children saw aloofness but her burning desire for our welfare made her give up all she loved and prized in her habits and surroundings. I sometimes feel as if a chance must somewhere and somehow be given to me of telling her that I now realise it all and how in my own hours of struggle the memory and thought of her noble sacrifice has braced and helped me to go on, God bless them both.

How terribly pitious is your description of Laurence and Clonbela. How different from Bellair. In thinking of our Mother I always feel that your success was really the first and practically ( as her death came so soon after ) the only reward she had for all her sacrifice. George Price was a great inspirer.

Your loving sister,

Mary.

19/6/'18

CHRISTOPHER GUINAN'S REMINISCENCES OF BELLAIR.

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Kennedy of Kennedy's Hill lived in my house in Bellair Village and kept a public house there. He left it sometime in the 18th century, went to Grogan and enlisted in, or joined, the Black Horse, i.e., Ballycumber Corps of mounted Kilcoursey Yeomanry. When the ruction took place in 1798 in Kilbeggan they got orders to go to battle there. Captain Fuller of Woodfield commanded the Yeomanry and they shot a street full of people from the windows in the town. Kennedy began chopping the dead bodies in the street with his sword and Captain Fuller remonstrating said "Damn it Kennedy, don't be houghing the dead flesh". On his return to Bellair Village, Kennedy boastingly showed his bloody sword which he said was the result of the battle in Kilbeggan.

The Wetheralls gave the Kennedies 160 acres in the Island which they had to walk out of, starving, in the black /47.

After Kennedy left, Flynn came to live in Christy's house. Flynn was called "Dodem" because he made wigs. In those days everyone with social pretensions wore a wig just as they all have bicycles now !!

Thomas Lowe came to teach the people how to weave linen, and he lived in the Gate Lodge of Bellair. He ultimately put Flynn out of Christy Guinan's house in the Village and he put Da out of the Lowe house at the back of Bellair Hill.

When the Rev. John Mulock died (1803), Tom Lowe went to live at Broomhill, taking a lot of money with him. His sons John and Edmond remained in Bellair, one in the Lowe holding in the Village, the other at the back of the hill. Michael Lowe, who was killed by a fall from his horse, used to dine with the old parson, the Rev. John Mulock, at the big house. Cartan, the butler, had charge of the house and

for three days after the death of the old parson he kept Lowe out of it, until the parson's son Thomas Homan Mulock arrived. If Lowe had got hold of the Will he would have had Bellair. Tom Lowe was the Agent and his wife was Housekeeper.

Most of the above was told to me by old Stephen Quin, father of the present Stephen Quin, and Bailiff to the late Thomas Homan Mulock, your father.

Given before me June 1908.

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I find Edward Cartan was the witness to the Will of the Revd. J. Mulock, dated 17th November 1800.

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MICHAEL DALY'S REMINISCENCES OF BELLAIR

I live in Boher, I was born in 1821, and I am 87 years of age. I drew turf for the late Dr. Thomas Homan Mulock for a couple of years. I was then about 18. When the turf drawing was over the Doctor had Michael Brazil, his ploughman, uncle to Pat Galvin's wife, plough the Lime Kiln field in six yard setts. The men then dug the furrows a spit deep about 12 inches and all stones were thrown on the top of the furrow. There were 18 or 20 men at this work which was done by task in the bad times. Sixpence was given for digging a furrow about 24 perches long from the wall between the Lime Kiln and Watch House fields and the ditch of the Middle Hill. The men got about fourpence a day. There were so many at work that it took only about a week. The stones were removed in a four-wheeled truck drawn by a dangerous fine mare and were thrown on the breast of the wood. When cleared a crop of oats was grown I don't remember a crop of wheat on it, but I never travelled the land much. In the bad times the people ate Prasha, i.e. Charlock boiled like cabbage; no spuds (potatoes) for two years grew bigger than a thimble, all the fine fellows went away to America.

Cathcart was steward at the time and a great steward he was.

Revington who succeeded him as steward was only a nuisance and a blatherer. He never knew anything. When clearing the Lime Kiln field they had two large crow-bars. The largest, which took two men to carry it, was called the "Manager". The other was called the "Bachelor"

I have four acres of land in Boher. My landlord was Lambkin who purchased from Mrs. Bride. I have bought my holding under the Land Purchase Acts. I formerly paid £5. 7. 6d. rent, I now pay only £2. 16. 0d.

July 1908.

PADDY DIGAN'S REMINISCENCES OF BELLAIR ( JULY 1908 )

I, Paddy Digan, ploughman at Bellair, am the son of Pat Digan. I was born three years before the Big Wind of 6th Jan. 1839. I came when twelve years of age to weed on Bellair farm and to draw turf. James Cathcart was Steward. I got four pence a day wages. There were over 20 men constantly employed and 30 men on job works such as stubbing the Lime Kiln or Woodfield. There were also 20 or 30 girls employed. The men got eight pence and the women four pence a day.

The southern face of Bellair hill is called Kennedy's hill and in the bad times 1847 when there was a turnip crop on it Revington the steward had to have the crop guarded to prevent the starving people stealing the turnips.

A man named Kennedy who lived in Christy Guinan's house had Kennedy's hill and he must have been a rich man as he had Castle Armstrong, Parkaree, (Spring Park) and Grogan all as a sheep run. He had a peculiarly loud whistle which when he blew all his sheep came up on Bellair hill and lay there the night. Nine successive crops of oats were taken off this hill by the Revd. John Mulock and the ninth crop was so luxuriant that it lodged.

Thomas Homan Mulock son of Revd. John Mulock set the hill in conacre and those who took the land in conacre skimmed off the sod or scraws with a plough and burnt them and then planted potatoes in ridges. I have seen the scraws "footed" i.e. put on end and then burnt. I have seen forty men at work on the hill.

The Lowes came to Bellair to teach the people how to prepare flax and weave linen. Some thirty or more slated houses were built by your grand-uncle Thomas Homan Mulock for the weavers in Bellair Village. It was known as the "Slate Row" as most cottages were then thatched. Lowe had

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a lot of weavers under him. He had also a bleaching green for flax near his house and a Calendar House down by the bog at a place known as the Bucking House, where Tom Daly now lives. Michael Lowe when a young lad was thrown from his horse racing home from a funeral at Lemanaghan and broke his neck. The tradition ran that constantly after dark a horse was heard galloping in the distance and gradually approaching the Bucking House when Michael Lowe was seen to look in at an upper window and suddenly disappear when he was heard to ride away.

In the time of the Revd. John Mulock the Coachman was Nicholas Carthy, and Mrs. Carthy was Housekeeper.

When the Revd. John Mulock was on his death-bed he called frequently for Lowe (great-grandfather of the present Thomas Lowe) but Carthy had the door locked against him (Lowe) and would not allow him into the house. If it were not for this the Lowes would have had Bellair as the Reverend John would have willed it to them.

Farrell Rigney was land Steward for some time under your grand-uncle Thomas Homan Mulock. He lived by the Course Park in the Wood near the Cattle Pass under the Railway at Milestone No. 70. He afterwards came to live where Pat Manion's house stood in Bellair village. Pat Manion's father, John, was a mason, he married Farrell Rigney's daughter, and he was at the building at Bellair House and went on from it to build the old Glynwood House.

I remember when flax was grown everywhere in Bellair in those days and land was given in conacre, for its growth, With reference to Paddy Digan's remarks about the Village in Bellair I find the following under General Subjects in the Statistical Survey of Kings County by Sir Charles Coote, Bart. printed in 1801.

"This country is thickly inhabited on the eastern

side but towards the Shannon it is wild and barren and not  
populous. Very few gentry reside here and their numbers  
have been diminished since the Rebellion. The Rev. Doctor  
Mulock has improved a large track at Bellair where he re-  
sides, he has literally speaking planted with his own hands  
every tree in his demesne which consists of foreign trees  
of all kinds. They had long to combat with a very bleak  
and exposed situation but they are now naturalised and in  
good vigour, lying every high they give a great appearance  
of wood to this part of the country. Thomas Mulock Esq.,  
son of this gentleman, is now building a very neat village  
adjoining Bellair; this word is only a modern modification  
of Ballyard, its true name, which signifies the "High Town"  
it consists of about fifty houses built with stone and mor-  
tar and all slated roofs which will be only inhabited by  
linen manufacturers to whom this gentleman gives employment  
The plan of this little Village is very correct and in its  
intended police neatness and cleanliness must be strictly  
observed. The whole model is not inferior to the small  
manufacturing English villages.

Regarding the Lowe family I find the remark. "Thomas  
Lowe Esq., near Bellair has within these four years reclaim-  
ed about thirty acres of bog and intends to bring in a con-  
siderable tract. This gentleman has also built a bleach  
mill and established a bleach yard in the midst of the moor.  
He is extending his manufacture very considerably and has  
planted a great deal of young timber"

The Famine of /48 and steam driven mechanical machin-  
ery played havoc with the hand loom industry of Bellair. Not  
one of the fifty slated houses of the village now remain; the  
two last I purchased, one from John Clancy the herd (£35), the  
other from the farm laborer Pat Mannion (£25). The roofs of  
both were falling in and unsafe.

St. Helens,

County Dublin,

4th. Jan.

Dearest Uncle Bill, Offaly Archives OHS87

Thank you a thousand times for sending me that most most interesting roll of Bellair traditions - I would give worlds to have a copy for myself - as I would like John, later on to read it - as after all, he is half a Mulock ! - If this is the only copy you have may I have it copied up here in Dublin ? I am ever so glad so much has been put down on paper for good and all, at last, for, as you say, people have short memories - but Uncle Bill - believe me, no one with a spark of tradition in their hearts or of feeling for the old place could ever forget what you have done for it - how you saved and denied yourself, to build it all up again - It was just superb of you - May you spend many many more happy years there, is the wish of -

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Your ever loving,

Enid.

**LAND PURCHASE CRUX**  
**MEATH LANDLORD AND ESTATES**  
**COMMISSIONERS**

An application was made before the Estates' Commissioners at Upper Merrion street to give to consider the reasonableness of their refusal to declare the lands and estate of J. H. Nicholson, in County Meath, for the purpose of sale.

Mr. Jellett K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Montgomery and Chaytor, solrs.) appeared for the vendor, Mr. Nicholson.

Messrs. Murphy and Mooney, solrs., Kells, appeared for the tenants on the estate.

The Commissioners, it was stated, wanted certain untenanted lands of the vendor, to add to uneconomic holdings for the purpose of increasing the size of those holdings. The vendor agreed to give them 369 acres for this purpose, but declined their request to give a home farm in his own occupation. A long correspondence ensued and the Estates Commissioners refused to declare the lands and estate for the purpose of sale.

Mr. Jellett argued the legal position at some length. He urged that the Commissioners were bound to exercise their admitted discretion in a judicial manner, and maintained that they were not entitled to refuse to declare the estate because the vendor did not see his way to give the additional lands. He argued that under the section of the Act they were bound to take into consideration the circumstances of the estate, but that this meant the estate as comprised in the originating application for sale, and not in outside lands of the vendor or other persons.

The Commissioners reserved their decision.

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## CLANRICARDE ESTATE PURCHASE.

### LOW RENTED ESTATES.

In the Land Commission Court yesterday, Mr. Justice Wylie resumed the hearing of a motion to fix the price of seven estates, the property of the Marquis of Clanricarde, situate in Co. Galway, proposed to be purchased by the Congested Districts Board under the compulsory clauses of the Land Act of 1909. The Board made a final offer of £228,080, and Lord Clanricarde appealed against this offer to the Judicial Commissioner in order that the price might be fixed by him.

Mr. S. L. Brown, K.C.; Mr. Jellett, B. 2, and Mr. J. E. Walsh (instructed by Mr. Muldoon) appeared for Lord Clanricarde; and Mr. D. Henry, K.C., and Mr. John Muldoon, K.C., M.P. (instructed by Mr. J. O'Connor) for the Congested Districts Board.

Evidence as to value was given on behalf of Lord Clanricarde with regard to the Woodford estate.

Mr. Jellett mentioned that there were 217 holdings on this schedule. Out of that number there were 24 cases in which fair rents had been fixed, leaving 193 cases in which the tenants never went into Court at all, and of the cases where they did go into Court there were five cases in which the rents were raised, and in the others they were confirmed. In most, if not all, the cases the rents were considerably below the valuation.

Mr. Garvey was examined by Mr. Jellett, and gave details of valuations and calculations made by him as a result of his inspection of this estate.

As to the rents generally, what have you to say to them? The majority I consider very low.

Is it your opinion that these exceptionally low rents could, in a large number of cases, be increased without any injustice to the tenants? I think so.

Mr. Henry—Did you ever know 25 years' purchase being got for holdings of this description on an existing non-judicial rent since 1909? In 1903 I did.

But since 1909? No.

Mr. Philip Grierson, examined by Mr. J. E. Walsh, gave evidence of the valuations which he arrived at, and replying to questions put by counsel, said he considered the part he had inspected the cheapest rented estate he had ever been on.

Cross-examined by Mr. Muldoon—Are you aware that the market town for this district is Limerick? How about Scariff?

Are you aware that the market town for this district is Limerick, and that the tenants go there with their farm produce and cattle—can you contradict that? I cannot contradict that.

Counsel then put some questions as to whether witness was aware that some of the holdings were held in intermixed plots; that, for instance, 20 holdings were held in 120 plots, and in other cases there were 22 holdings held in 128 plots.

Witness replied that he heard there were some intermixed plots.

Mr. James Martin, examined by Mr. Brown, said he did not think it was right, as stated by Mr. Muldoon, that the nearest market town was Limerick. He thought Portumna was an excellent market. Woodford also was a good little town, and they had Loughrea further on.

Mr. Henry—What is the nearest railway station to Woodford? I think the nearest is Birr, about twenty miles; Loughrea is about twenty-four.

Mr. Brown remarked that the tenants were not entirely dependent on the railways, as there were steamer services on the river.

Mr. Ring, a bailiff on the Woodford estate, stated in reply to Mr. Jellett that the tenants sent their produce to Woodford, Scariff, and Portumna.

Do they send any produce to Limerick? Nothing but pigs.

### CASE FOR THE BOARD.

Mr. Henry, in stating the case for the Congested Districts Board, said that under the 63rd Section, under which his lordship was sitting, the price was to be fixed according to Sub-Section 2 on the basis that regard should be had to the fair value to the owner. That was recognised as the principle applicable to cases where property was taken under compulsory powers at all times. The view put forward here as to price by the valuers who had been examined was grossly excessive. Take, for instance, 25 years' purchase on second term judicial rents, and taking the estate as it stood, no man would purchase on these principles. It would be perfectly impossible to get any man to give the price suggested. Counsel went on to say that Lord Clanricarde, on the final offer being made, served notice in April, 1912, to restrain the Board from proceeding to acquire the estate. That notice remained pending until December, 1914, when it was withdrawn as untenable. Lord Clanricarde also proceeded for an injunction, which he obtained in the Court of the Master of the Rolls, but which was subsequently reversed. The whole question now before his lordship was to fix the fair value considering all the circumstances, and he had the advantage of knowing what had taken place in the two years since the final offer.

Mr. Justice Wylie inquired if there was any question of change in the value of money.

Mr. Henry said, supposing his lordship were fixing in 1912, he would have to consider what was likely to happen in the next few years. He knew it now, and instead of speculation his lordship had information as to the course of events in the intervening period, and he was entitled to use it. The value of stock had depreciated since 1912.

Mr. Henry said, supposing his lordship were fixing in 1912, he would have to consider what was likely to happen in the next few years. He knew it now, and instead of speculation his lordship had information as to the course of events in the intervening period, and he was entitled to use it. The value of stock had depreciated since 1912. The Congested Districts Board had dealt with the matter was, they applied, before making any consideration as to price, to Lord Clanricarde for a rental of all the estates. As he was entitled to do, he did not give it, but he threw down seven figures which were the gross rental of each of the estates. He gave no particulars, and the officials of the Board had, without any assistance from the landlord, to construct a rental, value the estate, and ascertain everything that had to be ascertained. There were 55 estates in the Co. Galway purchased by the Board under the Act of 1909, and the average number of years' purchase was 16.9. With regard to the position of the Clanricarde Estate, he said that counsel on the other side had almost made a virtue of the fact that rent had not been paid, and they said the Plan of Campaign came in. He could understand a temporary suspension of rent, but it seemed to him that here it was chronic. Years and years of arrears had been swept out, and years and years of arrears were outstanding.

Sir Henry Doran, one of the permanent members of the Congested Districts Board, and who deals with all the land business of the Board, was examined by Mr. Muldoon, and, explaining the instructions given to valuers, said they must have regard to what an estate could be sold for, because the Board did not purchase estates for the purpose of holding them, and the valuers must have regard to what three-fourths of the tenants could pay, and the fair value of the estate to the owner. As evidence of the work and efficiency of the Board, witness mentioned that they had already made offers for 747 estates at a value of £6,437,815, and of these, 675 offers were accepted, amounting to £6,264,655, only 72 small estates having refused. With regard to the Clanricarde estate, the agent declined to give them any particulars of the estate, and the Board had no other way of getting materials except by applying to the Valuation Office, and having got certificates and maps, they sent valuers on the estate. The Board had purchased 55 estates in County Galway under the Act of 1909 by voluntary agreement, the average number of years' purchase being 16.9.

Questioned as to the custom of the Board with regard to arrears of rent that may be due by tenants, witness said they never attempted to collect more than one year, no matter how much a man owed.

Mr. Muldoon—Do you think the valuation of the estate could be fairly done by valuing the holdings as they stood? I think so; it is the only way to do it. With regard to the history of this estate, witness said it had been admitted that for twenty-five or thirty years it had been, more or less, in a state of lawlessness, and the agent had to discharge his duties under protection, and people paid rent in some cases when they liked. They had come across cases where tenants paid no rent for over twenty years; their holdings were very cheap at the rent in the rental, but they were worth nothing, and the Board excluded them from their offer because they came to the conclusion that they had a prescriptive title. If a man did not pay rent for twenty years they believed he had a prescriptive title to it, and they did not include it in their offer.

At the conclusion of the direct evidence of the witness, the further hearing was adjourned till Tuesday.

From the "King's County Chronicle,"  
31st July, 1850.

**THE LATE MURDER.**—The murder of Mr Pyke, perpetrated a few weeks ago, was of a most revolting nature, committed in the broad daylight, and witnessed by a large number of passantry; and, notwithstanding a large Government reward, the murderers still remain at large in apparent security. One may fairly ask—Are we in a civilised county, under laws to protect life and property? What has been the effect of this murder? The fact is that every tenant, disinclined to pay his rent, looks upon this successful murder as a protection to himself; and he will act accordingly in dealing with his landlord. The object of Mr Pyke's murder was to deter Mr Cassidy from executing certain ejectments, and we are glad that the conspirators have not attained their object; for on Tuesday morning last these processes were carried into execution by Wm. Cuffe, Esq., Sub-sheriff, accompanied by a large party of police, under the command of Sub-Inspector Duncan, attended in the neighbourhood of Killyon, when eleven families were evicted, but seven of them were readmitted into possession. If there is to be any protection in the country, the people must be taught to respect and obey the law. In having these ejectments carried into effect Mr Cassidy has acted properly; and if he had declined to do so, he would have set a bad example in the country.

**MALICIOUS BURNING.**—At an early hour on Monday morning, the 2nd inst., a large dwelling house (thatched) upon the lands of Ballinacrah, in the Parish of Lusmagh, in this county, the property of James Enraght, Esq., was discovered on fire, and before assistance could be procured the entire building was consumed. Mr Enraght had been making use of this house as a barn, and during the preceding week had stored therein a quantity of Bere corn, which he had taken from a refractory tenant upon a process, or order from the Court of General Quarter Sessions, on account of non-payment of rent. The corn was all threshed upon Saturday evening, and the intention was to have it winnowed on Monday, but some unknown hand frustrated that object by placing coals of fire in the thatch, and the result is that a quantity of corn has been consumed, because Mr Enraght presumed to assert his rights as a landlord. It is only a few months ago since a barn and cow-house belonging to this gentleman was fired in this notorious locality of Lusmagh, and upon that occasion two of his cows perished in the conflagration. Mr Enraght has suffered many species of annoyances since he succeeded in possession of this property; several of the tenants setting up a claim superior to that under which this gentleman derives, and had actually the temerity to go into court at the last assizes for this county, and defend an ejectment upon the title which Mr Enraght was compelled to resort to in order to establish his rights. Will the Tenant Leaguer adjust such disputes as have in this case arisen between owner and occupier?

**DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.**—Birth.—At High Park, Parsonstown, the Lady of Wm. Woods, Esq., of a daughter. Marriage.—On the 30th inst., in Birr Church, by the Rev. W. H. McCausland, Mr Wm. Wallace, of Killanbrogh House, Parsonstown, to Anna Boland, eldest daughter of the late James Wallace, Esq., Parsonstown.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**—An accident, which terminated fatally, occurred to a very decent woman, the wife of Mr Connolly, farrier, in Tuillamore. She and her husband left that town on Sunday week to see some friends in Rahau, and when coming home in the evening, and only a few yards from her relative's house, the dog of the house, seeing two goats in the ditch, ran and pursued them. As they were chained together they ran each side of the woman, and the chain, coming with such force against her legs, she fell backwards, her head coming in contact with the ground. She was taken up senseless, and never spoke after. She was brought into the County Infirmary, and died on Sunday morning, where an inquest was held on the body by James Dillon, Esq., Coroner.

## 67 YEARS AGO.

From the "King's County Chronicle,"  
29th AUGUST, 1850.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**—A fine young lad, aged 15, son of Thomas M'Whitty, a rail layer on the line of rail road extending to Galway, and in the employment of Mr. Dargin, contractor, on Wednesday last, casually fell between two lorries, one of which passed over him, crushed in and broke all the ribs of the left side, left leg above the ankle, and the right one at the knee. The father carried the boy in this mutilated state to his lodgings, in the King's Co., as the works where they were were on the borders of the County, but the lad expired next day from the effects of the injuries he received. On Friday J. Dillon, Esq., senr., Coroner, King's Co., was called on to have an inquest on the body. After the examination of the father, who is a native of Fermanagh, the police, and Dr. Walsh, of Clara, a verdict in accordance was recorded.

**NEW POSTAL DELIVERY.**—A mid-day mail has been established to Tuillamore and Athlone, via Portarlinton. But for some time there was no delivery of the letters, to obtain which the inhabitants were about to forward a statement to the *Chronicle*, but the Postmaster sent a representation to the proper authorities at the General Post Office, which has been attended to. An order has been issued to have the letters delivered immediately after their arrival by the half-past two o'clock coach. This is a great convenience to the traders of the town, but it is thought unjust to impose the additional duty on the letter-carrier without compensating him, the more so when that officer's salary since the present arrangements were commenced the letter-carrier has 19 deliveries each week, when he formerly had but 13; and he has to do all for 7s. a week, a common labourer's hire. It is unjust where such small pittance is given to a hard-worked official to compel him with a threat of dismissal to do nearly double duty for his wages.

**RIVERA MARKET.**—Barley, 10s per brl.; oats, 9s to 10s per do.; flour (firsts), 12s 6d per cwt.; seconds, 10s 6d; thirds, 8s 6d; bran, 4s per cwt.; oatmeal, 26s per 20 stone; pollard, 4s per cwt.; beef, 4d per lb.; mutton, 4d to 5d per lb.; whiskey (old), 7s per gallon; potatoes, 3d per stone.

**HOUCHING.**—A brutal outrage was committed near Dunkerrin, on the farm of Mr. Lyndal on Monday night, 3 valuable Horses, belonging to farmers of the name of Hayes, were found so disabled as to be useless, some of their legs being nearly severed from the body, besides being wounded in the body. The supposed cause was that these persons assisted Mr. Garvice, their landlord, in drawing back some corn which was taken away while under seizure, and was afterwards found under a search warrant by Meara, Mr. Garvice's bailiff, and brought back.

## 67 YEARS AGO.

From the "King's County Chronicle,"  
October 2nd, 1850.

**TERMINATION OF BANAGHER FAIR.**—In our last publication we were enabled to detail an account of this fair up to the hour of 12 o'clock on Wednesday, the third day, when the sales of black cattle were proceeding with. Out of a stock of about 2,300 head only about 800 changed owners. With the exception of a lot of 50 fat heifers belonging to Mr Charles Atkinson, of Southpark (which was sold at £12 16s each) it was observed that the stock on the green were not in what might be called a "prime condition" according to their different classifications. Milch cows were scarce and of a very inferior description. In the sales made the following list of prices may be deemed authentic:—3 years old bullocks from £9 to £11; 2 years old, £6 to £8; 3 years old heifers from £7 10s to £9 10s; 2 years old ditto from £4 to £6 10s; yearlings from £5 to £3; milch cows from £6 to £8.

Thursday (last day) was devoted for such general purposes as may be implied in the term "country fair," and the stock for sale is hardware and native crockery, woodenware and tinware, cutlery and haberdashery was fully equal to any former year; and notwithstanding that for a great portion of the day it rained very freely, yet the country folk continued to pour into town to make bargains in wares and renew their dalliances. The supply in donkeys and ballad-singers, thimble-riggers and fellows dealing out "combs of cards," averaged any former year, while there was a very pleasing decrease in those innocent and always guiltless gentry known by the ugly name of "pick pockets." In the pig department, it was remarked, although the supply fell far short of the numbers previous to the commencing of the potato blight in 1845, that the condition of all was excellent, and that a great improvement had taken place in the breeds of several lots of young ones, of which the fair was not by any means deficient. Fat pigs rated from 36s to 41s per cwt, and young ones, according to size and age, from 10s upwards.

Towards the hour of three o'clock in the afternoon business commenced somewhat briskly with fruiterers and dealers in sweetmeats, spiced pastry, variegated sugar canes, and as evening approached wearisome "gallops" through the moist unevenly-paved streets were placed under ban, to the great delight of sellers in liquors, pop, ginger beer, and the native, called in Kerry "the mountain dew." The "merry men" at the show boxes in attendance from Donnybrook fair vociferated lustily "to hold hard by the fiddle," and at the same time the musical performers at the houses of entertainment encouraged the votaries of the gay dance to slip in and join in the merry jig to the air of "The wind that shakes the barley." Such places of amusement became filled to excess on every floor in every house where the sound of a fiddle and piper was to be found. The good drop and the good music enjoyed a preference. Still no complaints were heard, as each appeared to be deriving a good trade of it too. The people were all of orderly behaviour throughout, and by far the greatest dearth of business prevailed amongst the "Peace-preservation-force-trade." It was pleasing to notice a return to old innocent habits as enjoyed by the humble classes in life at the present fair, and in a spirit of good humour and good nature with each other. They all felt as if thieves and banditti, picaroons and robbers, ruffians and murderers, raw heads and bloody-bones had been banished from the country, and that in peace they could join in chorus singing—

"While jolly companions carouse it together  
A fig for the storm, it gives way to good  
weather."