

## THE MONTH.

**M**R. PARNELL and several leaders of the Land League have been arrested, and on the 20th the League was proclaimed.<sup>1</sup> The only feeling in Great Britain is regret that such measures were not taken before. The *Telegraph* writes :—

At length the Government have struck home. Yesterday the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland issued a Proclamation declaring the Land League to be an illegal and criminal organization, and notifying to all concerned that any future attempts to hold meetings will be, if necessary, dispersed by force. Although late in the day, the strong and just measure adopted by her Majesty's advisers will be heartily welcomed as a distinct indication that the period of vacillation or forbearance is at an end, and that henceforth the course indicated will be followed to its legitimate conclusions.

Riots in Dublin and Limerick have been serious; and the condition of the country is such that more troops have been called for.

Mr. Goldwin Smith, who has just returned from Ireland, says :—

There can be no doubt that, as far as the people are concerned, the movement is almost purely agrarian. Herein lies its strength. Political movements have appealed to the fancy, this appeals to the pocket. But, while the motives of the people are agrarian, those of the leaders are political. The objects of the chiefs is to prevent the people from taking advantage of the Land Bill, and to keep the agrarian agitation boiling, for the purpose of overturning the Government. The speeches and the actions of the chiefs are directed not so much against the landlords as against British rule, and the foremost organs in the Press take the same line. Every cent which is drawn from the Fenians of the United States is drawn for the purpose of rebellion.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Proclamation appeared in the *Dublin Gazette* on the evening of the 20th. It begins thus :—“By the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a Proclamation. Cowper.—Whereas, an association styling itself ‘The Irish National Land League’ has existed for some time past, assuming to interfere with the Queen’s subjects in the free exercise of their lawful rights, and especially to control the relations of landlords and tenants in Ireland; and whereas the designs of the said association have been sought to be effected by an organized system of intimidation, attempting to obstruct the service of process and execution of the Queen’s writs, and seeking to deter the Queen’s subjects from fulfilling their contracts and following their lawful callings and occupations; and whereas the said association has now avowed its purpose to be to prevent the payment of rent . . . .” It is signed by Mr. Forster.

<sup>2</sup> Archbishop Croke, so prominently identified with the Land League, has deemed it necessary to issue a sort of protest against the manifesto issued by the leaders now in gaol. He writes :—“I have just read with

The first sitting of the new Land Court was held in Dublin on the 20th.

At the Manchester Diocesan Conference the Bishop gave the facts concerning Mr. Green's case.

At Peterborough,<sup>1</sup> Manchester, and St. Albans, representatives were chosen for the Central Council. At Bath, on the proposal of Archdeacon Denison, the subject was shelved; and at Gloucester it was decided to watch, and a committee was elected to report.

The Sunday Closing Movement, we note with thankfulness, is steadily growing stronger.

The Prime Minister was received in Leeds with great enthusiasm. The Marquis of Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote have made vigorous speeches at Conservative gatherings.

The state of affairs in Tunis and in Egypt is serious.

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### THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

The Newcastle Congress has been a very large gathering. Of "full members" tickets, it is said, there were 3,500; and the proportion of other tickets has been great. The series of meetings to which working-men and working-women were invited seems to have been a success. At every Congress, perhaps, the Working Men's Meeting has been a hopeful feature and the plan received a considerable development this year.

According to the *Guardian*, "a characteristic of this Congress was the marked boldness which set the assembly face to face with the most anxious and exciting ecclesiastical problems of the day. And the result has abundantly justified the enterprise of the Newcastle Committee. There was, perhaps, less heat and temper shown on their platforms than have ever elsewhere been exhibited. The President's authority was never for a moment strained, hardly ever called into exercise. And the speakers on either side showed a conciliatory disposition towards each other,

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the utmost pain, and, indeed, with absolute dismay, the manifesto issued yesterday by the leading incarcerated patriots in Kilmainham Gaol, and publicly proclaimed to the country at large on their behalf from the Land League Rooms in Sackville Street. Against the committal of the people of this country, even under still more exciting and critical circumstances than the present, to the doctrine of the non-payment of rent, though but for a certain specified time, I must, and hereby do enter my solemn protest."

<sup>1</sup> The Bishop of Peterborough would have preferred a Lay Council. But "the majority of the dioceses had sent up representatives to the Council, and he should be sorry if they seemed to throw anything like cold water upon a movement which was promoted in the interests of the Church."