

# The Evictions at Carrowmenagh, 1881

As reported by The Derry Journal and Other Newspapers of the Day  
With Supplemental Material from The Irish National Folklore Collection



Compiled by Dan McFeeley

## Introduction

Growing up with an Irish surname in New Jersey USA meant little at the time. The name itself had no meaning to me and there was no sense of history behind it. In my public school years I was aware that you didn't wear orange on St. Patrick's day but I had no idea why. And of course, God forbid you should take a drink without someone commenting "Oh, he's Irish."

That all changed when I made a decision to search for the roots of my Irish heritage and teamed up with my cousin Bernadette Mary McCann Stone, who happened to be the family historian. It was an ideal combination of strengths and resources and amazingly, given the difficulty old Irish records can sometimes present, we were able to locate the village where our Irish ancestor great grandfather Michael McFeeley had been born within eight months. Carrowmenagh, located in county Donegal, on the Inishowen peninsula.

In the process we uncovered a historical story that occupied a small place in Irish history. A mass eviction had taken place in 1881, the cruelty of which drew comparisons with the Derryveagh evictions in county Donegal, twenty years earlier. Not long after the Carrowmenagh evictions many of the people began emigrating elsewhere, feeling there was little future for them in the village of their birth. Great grandfather Michael and many of his siblings were among them, settling in New Jersey over a period of some 15 years.

Newspaper coverage of the 1881 evictions was extensive and continued through 1885. The articles themselves form a compelling narrative that tells the story of the evictions from the viewpoint of the reporters of the day who covered it. This book is a compilation of those articles.

The events that occurred during this period took place over 140 years ago, but the drama and intensity of the conflict come alive in the reporter's setting down of what was unfolding in front of them, and in the stories of the evictees lives afterwards. They found support from friends and neighbors, and financial support from the Irish Land League. Eventually, with the passing of Land Acts in Ireland they were able to become independent landowners themselves in Carrowmenagh.

It's also a testimony to the spirit of the people of Carrowmenagh. In the words of one reporter: "A village has been exterminated." Yet, the people

survived the calamity of the evictions and reestablished the village. I'm proud to number myself among their descendants.

Along with the newspaper articles I've included follow up stories on the lives of some of the people involved with the evictions. Also included is material from the National Folklore Collection, records taken by schoolchildren who interviewed older people in order to preserve their memories of older times, describing the everyday life in Carrowmenagh. These stories also include more stories of the 1881 evictions, which was still a living memory for many of the older people living there. A first hand account of the evictions by Neil McFeely, born in Carrowmenagh in 1869 to John McFeely, the postmaster and Public House owner, is also included.

The newspaper articles are from a British archive site at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). The folklore material is from the National Folklore site at [Duchas.ie](http://Duchas.ie).

A word about the process of compiling the articles – the archive site used an artificial intelligence algorithm to translate the text images of the article to text that could be copied to a document. Because of poor image quality there are occasional errors and areas that were too indistinct to be transferred to text. Some of the words and phrases may appear to be due to errors from the algorithm but are expressions of the time.

I wish to acknowledge the work of Carrowmenagh historian, the late John A. McLaughlin, author of the book Carrowmenagh: History of a Donegal Village and Townland. John's work was invaluable in preserving the heritage of Carrowmenagh and without it, our own search for our Irish roots would not have been possible. I felt privileged to have met and visited with him.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 08 November 1876**

THE WEEKLY JOURNAL may now be had at CARROWMENA, CULDAFF, from Mr. John M, Feely, every morning of Publication. Price- One Penny.

(18 R.S.)

## **Belfast Morning News - Saturday 09 April 1881**

EVICTIONS IN THE COUNTY DONEGAL. [by telegraph.] (From our Correspondent.)

Yesterday the Sheriff, accompanied by some 65 constabulary under arms, proceeded to the districts of Gleneely and Carrowmenagh in a mountainous part of Inishowen, Co. Donegal, to put ejectment decrees in force by eviction.— The affair caused immense excitement, especially as the Land League was in active operation in this part of the peninsula. Great crowds of the people gathered, but beyond interminable groaning of the agent, the police, and a bailiff there was no hostile demonstration. The tenants to whom the proceedings applied are of the more comfortable class, and were not in arrears save for the rent due at November, but they demurred to pay on the ground that they alone of all the country around had not received an abatement. The entire brunt of the indignation was against the agent, a Mr. James Harvey, and all spoke well of the landlords. The Sheriff presented the statutable form of acknowledgment to the tenant for signature, and explained that under it they would remain in possession for the next six months without molestation. The signature in each case was forthcoming, and the sad scene of eviction was avoided. Mr. J. R. Cox, of the Land League, Dublin, attended, and in every instance inquired into the circumstances, and advised the steps to be taken. No violence was resorted to by the people. Two Land League meetings were held and addressed by Mr. Cox and the local clergy. Great enthusiasm prevailed, the young women being amongst the most active in all the proceedings. Mr. MacLeod, R.M. and Sub-Inspector Smith had charge of the police.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 11 April 1881**

EVICTIONS IN INISHOWEN—THE SHERIFF AND THE LAND LEAGUE.

[from our reporter] In Friday's issue of the Journal the painful announcement was made that on the morning of that day the sheriff, backed by a powerful

force, would visit the peaceful homes of the good people of Inishowen, to discharge the obnoxious duty of ejection. The proceedings are more familiar to us under the name of eviction, a word which in the mind of the Irish peasant stirs up memories as sad as can be found in social history, and brings with it terrors sufficient to chill the heart of the bravest. Bold spirits there are by the thousand in Ireland, who would flinch under no personal suffering, but with the sympathetic nature of the Celt in them, few there are who will not quail under the desolation which the thought of eviction brings before their view. It blasts at a blow whatever happiness was known to their domestic life, rudely sunders ties which bind them in tenderness to their native soil, and brings in its train not irreparable wrongs. In the face of such considerations as these, it is no exaggeration to say that the advent of the officers of the law was awaited all by thoughtful people with grave anxiety. What were the anticipations of the occupants of the dozen homesteads marked out for visitation, our readers who have hearts to feel can imagine. It is sufficient in this brief chronicle of the time, to state that the excitement in the district had reached a pitch which perhaps could not well bear further strain. There was a good deal of suppressed indignation, still more found its utterance in every form of demonstration, but all seemed to await, and accept the guidance of association whose rule here is omnipotent. The conduct of the people, so remarkable for their allegiance to the Land League, was watched on all sides with peculiar interest. Some dozen tenants were to be evicted. The majority out of the twelve or thirteen who were in the critical position, held under the Rev. Wm. Crawford and Mrs. Doherty, Redcastle, and the remainder (two or three) dwelt on the property of the Hon. Ernest Cochrane and Mr. H. S. M'Neill, an Edinburgh gentleman. They are of the more comfortable class peasants and were not beyond a year in arrears. On this head, however, each one visited told his own story, and note of it will be found further on. The sheriff, (Mr. J. S. M'Cay)—and it may at once be said that no one could approach a disagreeable task with more delicacy of feeling—accompanied by his bailiffs left Derry about five o'clock in the morning. The agent (Mr. J. G. M. Harvey) followed on another car. Small bodies of police, under arms, joined the party each station all along the road to Moville, where Mr. Macleod, R.M., and a detachment under Sub-Inspector Smith were in waiting. The representative of the Land League, Mr. J. R. Cox, Dublin, who had come through from Omagh by the night rail, posted direct, and with the representatives of the local press crossed the mountain by Grouse Hall. Early was the hour there was a vigilant look out from the hillsides, and the blowing horns indicated that somebody was on the way to Gleneely, the scene of operations. Our identity was amusingly confounded probably from the prodigality of driving a double horsed team—with the majesty of the law,

and the few people met along the way showed a charming simplicity when interrogated as to the route we should follow. Having reached the perplexity of cross-roads a cart was hailed, but the chief occupant a venerable cripple, shunned us as he would a leper. Mr. Cox, however, with considerable naivete and the advantage of a rich Connaught brogue, brought the man over, and the brilliance which lit up the till now rather glum countenance of the individual, and the alacrity with which he mastered his infirmity of limbs, were such as could only be expected from miraculous intervention. There was no further difficulty in keeping the direct road, and in a short time the place was reached. Awaiting at the cross, Gleneely, was Mr. Patrick Crampsey, Land League Secretary, Carndonagh, and a number of friends. To the left came a string of vehicles from Carn, with police, and good many had already arrived. Shortly afterwards the Sheriff's party with the main body of the Constabulary, Mr. Smith, S.I., and Mr. Macleod, R.M., drove up. A large crowd had by this time assembled, and there were a few cries of "Groans for the tyrants." The Constabulary, 65 in number, were at once drawn up in array. They were put through a minute process of drill, including fixing bayonets, examination of gun breeches, cartridge boxes, &c., the people meanwhile ridiculing with banter the formal display, which, however justifiable as a piece of discipline had a lot of the theatre in its aspect. It certainly failed to cause any indication of fear amongst the onlookers. The order for march was given, and it so happened that the sheriff, the bailiffs, the resident magistrate, and the press were left on one road, whilst the protecting phalanx was striding out on another, so that it was humorously hinted that a coup could be made by boldly galloping off with the worthy official and his documentary authority. The sheriff as a hostage would have been a refreshing feature in the history of the question. The party, however, arrived safely at their destination, the crowd groaning and hooting all the way. The first house called at was that of William M'Callion, of Ourt, townland of Aghaglasson, the property of Rev. William G. Crawford. The police were filed before the door, and grounded arms. (The people assembled around the dwelling, and the family and some sympathisers stood within the doorway. The Sheriff at once entered, and simultaneously true to the tradition, the Soggarth Aroon (the Rev. Wm. Bradley) to befriend with advice, and cheer with sympathy. He was accompanied by Mr. James M'Glinchey, Poor Law Guardian, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Crampsey, representing the Land League, and the newspaper reporters. With the native courtesy of the Irish race, the Sheriff and visitors were kindly received, and shewn into a tidily arranged room off the kitchen. As soon as Mr. M'Cay had seated himself at the table, Mr. Cox assured M'Callion publicly that if he were turned out he would bear no loss. The following then took place: Mr. Cox—What is your name? The Tenant—Wm. M'Callion. How

many of a family have you here? There are six, my wife, myself, and four. How many acres of land do you hold? Eighteen. What is your rent? For this place (the particular holding in question) £14 6s. My entire rent is £24 6s. The Government valuation (including buildings) is £20. The Sheriff—You are not able to pay? Mr. M'Glinchey—Would you pay if you got the ordinary reduction, or the Government valuation? The Tenant—I would do that—I would strive to do it. The Sheriff—You are not able to pay? No. The Sheriff then explained that he would, on the tenant signing the statutable acknowledgment, allow him to remain undisturbed for six months. Mr. M'Glinchey replied—In plain English the reason of this is that the owner of this estate, as we believe through the action of his agent, refuses to grant the ordinary reduction given by the majority of our landlords. And we are perfectly satisfied that the landlord would give the reduction if left to himself. This is the cause for you, Mr. Sheriff, being here to-day. The tenants are refused what elsewhere in the barony is conceded. Father Bradley—They are the single exception. Mr. M'Glinchey—And the most industrious and law-abiding people have been selected. Mr. Cox—The people have been looking out for a land bill, but it is a humbug, and a farce, and I tell them they will get their rights, not from any Government, but by their own united exertions. A Voice—We will get our own bill. The Sheriff—These are not matters for me. The only question is this : Is the tenant to remain in possession by signing this document, or is he to be put out ? If he go out the land will lie for six months. A Voice—It will lie for eternity. The Sheriff—You (M'Callion) may as well have your crop. Mr. M'Glinchey—We are not here to refuse the demand of a fair rent. The Sheriff—Perhaps before the six months some arrangement may be made. Mr. M'Glinchey—Let it be understood we are counselling them to obey the law, and pay fair, honest rent. Father Bradley—They object to a rack-rent. Mr. M'Glinchey—The landlord is a clergyman of a Christian church, and I am convinced that he is inclined to act generously now as he did in the famine year without being asked. The Sheriff—If this document is signed the tenant's position at the end of six months won't be any worse than now. Father Bradley—You can do this without his consent— in fact, of your own act? The Sheriff —Without Mr. Harvey's consent. Mr. M'Glinchey—I think this is worthy of consideration. As I understand the arrangement, it prevents the tenant being disturbed now. Matters will remain as they are for six months, and if no arrangement is made in the meantime the Sheriff will come back then as does today. I must confess I recommend that to the people. I attend here in my capacity of guardian of the poor, and it is in my capacity such I presume to address the Sheriff as I have done. I think it right to add that the Sheriff has done his duty here in a manner that we cannot say a word against. The tenant then signed the following document—" I, whose name is hereunder subscribed

upon the execution of the civil bill ejectment decree in this cause, with the assent of the solicitor for the plaintiff in said cause, testified by said solicitor signing these presents hereby acknowledge that I occupy the lands by the licence and at the will of the said plaintiff ; and that I will, when required by the said plaintiff, or his authorised agent or receiver, deliver to the said plaintiff or his authorised agent or receiver, the possession of the said lands and premises in my occupation, as set opposite to name in the schedule hereunder written, provided always that if the said lands and premises shall in due course of law be redeemed, in pursuance the statutes in such ease made and provided, these presents shall thenceforth be void. As witness our hands, &c.”

The tenant, therefore, as already remarked, remains in possession for six months. The Rev. William Bradley, C. C., who seemed take the liveliest interest in the proceedings. remarked that the farmers would be in better position by that arrangement than for some time past, and that probably by November some means would be devised to enable them to tide over the difficulties of the position. He trusted that the sheriff would not have occasion to come and dispossess them when the time came. This terminated this part of the proceedings, and an adjournment was made to the house of James M’Caulay situated some little distance from the residence of M’Callion, under the same land lord, and held at a rental of £10. The circumstances appeared identical in every detail, and a similar preceding to the former case was adopted. M’Cauley remarked that he had built the houses, and was to get consideration for so doing, but it never had reached him. He, in giving his signature, apologized for his writing, but a quick witted member of the crowd came to his relief with the observation that if he had quarried less rocks he would be able to write better.”

The sheriff —I hope I will never have to come back. The Tenant—There might come worse. The sheriff then proceeded to the house of John Carruthers, the crowd keeping up a continuous display of resentment towards the agent, and one particular bailiff. They appeared to derive immense amusement from associating the latter with some enterprise in the vegetable kingdom. The residence of Carruthers is above the average dwelling in the district, a substantially built slated house of two stories. The owner of it is a man of some character, and at once strikes you as person of quick intelligence and practical common sense. He received the sheriff politely, but in a somewhat business like way. Mr. Cox asked—Do I understand that the reason the sheriff is here to-day is because you object to pay an unjust rent on principle? The tenant—Well I do consider the rent too high, but I have no money at present to pay it. Mr. M’Glinchey—Are you living on a mountain farm, and rack-rented? The tenant—I cut turf off the ground (the floor) you are now standing on. I reclaimed it all. I had the bad years of the potato rot to contend with, and other things. I slated



this house, as the thatch did not stand the storm, and I did the slating piece by piece, as I was able. About thirteen years ago I put up a mill. The fact is, I sunk too much in buildings. I owe Mr. M'Dowell, Moville, for two barrels of seed, and he never asked for the money, knowing I would pay if I could. Mr. M'Glinchey—Would you pay the rent if you were treated as the people under other landlords? The tenant—I would make a struggle, should I borrow from some one. But the people are nigh borrowed out. Mr. M'Glinchey—The striking feature is the disposition of the people to pay if they were treated like others. The tenant—If we were treated like neighbouring estates Mr. M'Cay would not have much errand from Derry today. A Voice—Mr. Lepper would not call on him in such case. Mr. Glinchey—Mr. Lepper is a humane man, and has sympathy with the poor. Mr. Crampsey—There is no eviction where he is agent. The Sheriff—I have one case. Mr. Crampsey —The circumstances are very different. The Tenant—If I got a shadow of fair play I would struggle on. I asked for sparance, and the agent said he would promise none in this room. I said I would send it (the rent) in five weeks. He said he would see if he could overlook it when he got home, and what was my astonishment when I saw Doran coming in with a process? The Sheriff then explained the nature of the document which having signed, the tenant said—No blame to you sir. It is a great boon—to be in for six months, and always gives a chance. Mr. Crampsey—It has been said that we taught the people to pay no rents, but this day manifests that the people are taught moral doctrines. The tenant (to the sheriff)—You might not care you hadn't a man with you. The wife—No one would touch you in Inishowen. The tenant —Mickey Doran can go on his own errands without police, and so far as I am concerned he has no need for them. The proceedings here wound up as in the former instance, and three cheers were given for the Land League and John Carruthers. The rent in this case is £10 ; the valuation including the houses built by the tenant, £10 5s. The next holding visited was that of Denis and Owen Quigley, who hold jointly at £6 6s. The valuation, the former said, is £4 10s, and added he refused to pay what he thought an exorbitant rent, and that he was in due no back rent except since November. Last Summer they built the room they were now in, and it was money sent from America that enabled them to do it. A good deal of reference was here made to the agent, whose conduct was not in accordance evidently with their views, and one individual playfully informed the Sheriff that “they would swap him with big boot.” One of the brothers merely said—Mr. Harvey should not have gone so rapid at the people. The excitement culminated at Quigley's dwelling, where the president of the Lady's Land League appeared on the scene. The enthusiasm of the people at this point was something extraordinary, and it is needless to add the feelings of the onlookers did not lack lingual expression. The return

journey then commenced, the Quigleys having gone through a similar form to the others, and a short halt was made at Gleneely for refreshment. An indignation meeting was held, and a report of it, and a similar one later on, will found below. The Sheriff and his party, the reporters of the Press, the Land League officials and others, then started for Carrowmenagh, lying some miles off the Merville road. Shortly after the outset, there was a break down with the car driven by a policeman, whose early career was spent in jarveying. It was stated that traces were cut in one case, but there is doubt about it, and it is not clear why one car would be selected. All the vehicles were supposed in the charge of the drivers, and were in their view all the time. This little mishap having been got over, all went well, and Carrowmenagh was reached. The popular demonstration here was greater alike in number and vigorous display. An incident worthy of note occurred at the house of Patrick M'Gonigle, tenant to be evicted on the property of Mr. M'Neill. His daughter, Mary M'Gonigle—a rather handsome girl of true Celtic type—launched out into a tirade against the police, whom she at times roundly rated, at times subjected to ironical remarks that were positively scathing, and again turned them with no little point into ridicule. The constabulary received all in fairly good humour, but the laughter of one seemed to her to have a sneer in it, and she immediately flamed up into the most remarkable power of speech. “Aye,” said she, laugh away under your Coercion hat. You can laugh, but you can't give back breath to the bodies of the people killed the other day by policemen's bullets.” The girl was embraced by women and chaired by men. The osculation was confined to the former. M'Gonigle made the same terms as the rest. His rent is £22 3s for thirty acres, “rough and smooth.” The valuation, including houses, is £18 10s. Cornelius M'Laughlin, Meenletterbale, (Mr. Lepper was plaintiff in this cause), also signed the acknowledgment. No hard word was said against Mr. Lepper by the tenant or anybody else. Quite a character was met in the person of Harry Farren, “the village blacksmith,” who displayed an amount of dry humour and satirical resources that freshened the proceedings wonderfully. He studied Mr. M'Cay's face for moment, and then asked, with assumed timidity—“ And are you the sheriff from Derry?” “Yes,” said Mr. M'Cay, “I am the sheriff.” “ Well,” said he, with sigh of relief, “ You are not so bad looking as I thought you'd be.” A friend in the crowd improved on the remark by adding, “Harry, I didn't think so good a looking man could be a sheriff.” Indeed the popular notion of sheriff appeared to be something very different from what Mr. M'Cay proved to be. Probably after the day's doing, few people will be safer in Inishowen than the sub-sheriff of Donegal. Farren and Anne Browne, cottiers of M'Gonagle, having subscribed the terms, the official proceedings terminated in this district, and the sheriff proceeded to Carndonagh to begin there the following day. It is worthy of

record, that the whole country side had turned out a few days ago and cropped the entire lands affected by the ejectments. The incidents of the affair throughout were remarkable, and by urban reared people, many of them have only been seen in the mimic representation of the stage. The day which began with dismal foreboding, ended with display the unconquerable spirit of humour which the saddest circumstances will not quench in the Irish character.

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## INDIGNATION MEETINGS

### Gleneely

As soon as the Sherrif had returned, and before he proceeded to another district, the people hastily constructed a rude platform and formed themselves into a meeting. The Rev. Wm. Bradley presided, and was accompanied by Mr. James M'Glinchey, Mr. P. J. Madonagh, Mr. Crampsey, Mr. Cox, and the newspaper representatives. The greatest possible enthusiasm prevailed.

The rev. chairman, addressing the meeting, said—I must congratulate you all in the first place for the peaceable manner in which have witnessed the proceedings of the day. These proceedings are of a character calculated to arouse the indignation of the most phlegmatic people. They have brought down upon you, a harmless and law-abiding people, the vengeance of the law to the extent that they are furnished with it. (Groans.) An array of police is drawn up before your eyes to add terror to the scene ; and all the circumstances of the case are of the most aggravating character. You know, as I do, that here you have gone in for no unreasonable proposition. (Hear, hear.) You made your approach to the agent in an orderly and conciliatory manner, and urged the claims which the exceptional circumstances of the time justified you in urging. But this agent turned a deaf ear to your appeals. But you have shown him to-day, and the military power with which he has surrounded himself, that whilst you still maintained your claims with honest consistency, you can at the same time abide by the law, and keep your action within its reasonable limits. (Applause.) Now it is right I should state that the rents on the estate over which we traversed to-day in a procession that would have stirred a feeling of sorrow in the stoniest of hearts, and brought tears to eyes little used to weeping, are far in excess of the rents on the surrounding properties and are in excess, too, of what I know the capabilities of the holdings can in fair play afford. But this notwithstanding, and added to it the draining influence of successive bad seasons, you have striven to scrape

together the exorbitant demand made upon you. Now, however, relying upon the new spirit which has sprung up in the country, you are determined to stand firm for your rights—(cheers)—and the day is dawning in Ireland, when it is certain your rights will be respected and your cause vindicated. (Cheers.)

A Voice—Three cheers for Parnell. (Cheers.)

Another Voice—Groans for the new Land Bill. (Groans and laughter.)

The Chairman—My friends, we are not here for any political, any specific political object. We are here, knowing our own circumstances, to vindicate our own case—(hear, hear)—and we are here to proclaim to landlords and agents, and to all whom it may concern, that the rack-rented tenantry of Ireland, especially of Inishowen, are prepared to use all constitutional means for the abatement of their many grievances. And we are favored to-day with a gentleman who has come all the way from Dublin, as the representative of a body well known to you as the Land League. (Cheers.) I shall stand no longer between him and your anxiety to hear him. I have to introduce you to Mr. Cox, of the Dublin Land League (“ Cheers for him”, and cheers.)

Mr. Cox said—Men of Inishowen, and women too—for I am glad to see that to-day as it has ever been in the history of Ireland, in all her dark and troubled epochs the daughters of Erin were never found wanting when it became necessary to stand in the gap of a danger—I am very sorry indeed that I am not in a condition to address you at any length at present. Other evictions are threatened, and are about to take place, and it is my duty to attend to them. I am sorry also for another reason, that having travelled through all last night, reaching Derry at four o'clock, and coming on here direct, it is physically out of my power at this hour in the day to address you at any great length, or as I would wish to do ; for I have seen here what will fix itself on my memory as a proud testimony of the spirit which is in Ireland. I feel sure that spirit will not grow feeble in the hearts of the people of Inishowen. (Cheers.) You have a proud history to fall back upon ; Inishowen has stirring memories, her name is well known throughout the whole of the land, and I am here now to say that her sons of to-day have not disgraced her reputation. Your action to-day has been looked forward to with some anxiety, and the answer will go back through the press to the people throughout Ireland that you have not failed when the hour of trial came to your doors. The passive resistance to landlordism, as you know it, which you have this day manifested will ring with clarion note the Irish race among. (Applause.) It is a significant fact that this very day one of the so called Liberal Government—(“boo”)—liberal no doubt in chains and coercion—(groans)—has introduced its so-called measure of land reform, it is a significant fact that the day after its introduction we should have as in '46 the power of armed forces brought to hurl the Irish people from their homes. It is not to any

mercy from landlordism that you to-day outcasts on the roadside ; it is not to any feeling of that sort you may attribute your victory to-day, but it is to your own determined, united organization under the Land League (Cheers.) Landlordism is not one whit more merciful to-day than ever, and if you keep banded together in one phalanx as you have been, you will carry your cause, and I will say this much more—if you had not been banded together, your hill sides to day would not be re-echoing with cheers, but with the wail of evicted families. It is a lesson to you and the country ; hold fast to your programme, persevere in the work so nobly begun. No measure that any Government will bring in will meet the requirements that fails to give peasant proprietary. Keep you banded together and pledge yourselves never to desist until the hill sides around you are in your own hands, not at the mercy of anyone, but as your own unfettered property. (Cheers.)

A Voice—That was a funeral of landlordism to-day. (Laughter.)

Mr. James M’Glinchey, P.L.G., next delivered a short address. He said—after the eloquent and able address, as well from our chairman as from the representative of the Land League, it will be perhaps unnecessary for me to trouble you with many words. [A Voice—” You are a friend of the people,” and cheers.] I have been exceedingly proud to see you assembled to day in such numbers doing nothing beyond the law, and showing by your passive resistance, as Mr. Cox has said, that you are determined to yield nothing of your rights. And, my friends, bear this in mind, you have no mean foe to fight. It certainly requires you to be remarkably cautious in what you say or do. Passive resistance! You want to be treated like the tenants on the neighboring estates. If you get the ordinary reduction you will be prepared to settle and pay your rents. I don’t think it necessary to say anything further to you except to warn you to be cautious and to keep within the law. Don’t be tempted ; keep your own counsel, and banding yourselves together, you must ultimately succeed. (Cheers.)

The chairman (on a vote of thanks being passed) said—Now after the wise counsel you have received, it is only necessary for me to impress upon you the propriety of returning peaceably to your homes, having done what was your duty for your rights and principles. You have scored a victory on which I have may fairly congratulate you ; you have for the nonce, by your united action, stayed the hand of the evictor, and it may be that never again will you be troubled with these unwelcome missiles which have been poured into you with such continuous succession for the last number of months ; and I think I am not over sanguine in stating that you have to-day sounded the death knell of such landlordism in Inishowen. Return peaceable to your homes and a blessing will rest upon your heads. (Cheers.)

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## Carrowmenagh

A much larger meeting assembled at Carrowmenagh in view of the dwellings visited by the sheriff.

The Rev. J. O’Kane, C.C., having taken the chair, said—My friends, you have already endured too much fatigue for me at this hour of the day to indict a speech upon you. This dread day is now over, and I think I may congratulate you upon allowing it to pass over without disturbance. The circumstances were aggravating in an extreme degree, and they derive this aggravation from the action of one thing. Now, the Land League has been levelled chiefly against landlordism, but from practical observation I am in a position to reiterate the remark made by Mr. M’Glinchey, that its operations would be very much in place against the agents. In our own remote locality we see by contrast a broad distinction between the action of one agent and another. Some have shown sympathy with the people during the extreme depression of the last few years; others possessing power seem to wield it not in sympathy with the people, but in desire to exterminate them from the soil to which they cling so tenderly. There is instance not unknown to you of some who have adopted an individual course, carrying out the rigour of the law so far as in their power lay. (Groans.) However, it is not with such I am here to deal; I am here to offer to you my warm congratulations on the law-abiding spirit you to-day manifested. You have given strength to the cause with which you are so heartily identified; you have added tenfold power to it by your conduct to-day. Had you done violence to the law you would have afforded opportunity to those anxious to get a handle by which they could seize upon you, and make you amenable to prosecution; then, instead of assembling to strengthen the cause, you would have weakened it beyond the power of anything that could be done to promote its advancement. It is no mere presumption on my part to say that those who threatened the rigour of the law, did not deem the day would ever come when they would be required to carry it out. But they seemed to pause, and seemed to fear that their conduct was not then right. You have shown landlords and agents that your heart is earnest in this cause. You have a power, far greater than the power of landlords to combat it, and you have shown that you will maintain that power, but by peaceful and lawful means, and under the Constitution of the realm you will struggle to secure those rights which by the laws of eternal justice you believe to be yours. As you have begun a peaceful spirit, so continue. It is my capacity as a priest chiefly that I attend here, and I ask you that as the day has begun so well, be careful that it end well. Let me hope that

there will be no one amongst you who will by word or act do anything in virtue of which you would become amenable to prosecution. [A voice—"No fear."] I then understand that all present individually pledge themselves publicly to me that neither in word or act calculated to compromise the cause, bring dishonor upon it, or bring themselves before a tribunal justice. (Cries of "assent.") I accept the trust of your word of honor with a confidence founded on 8 years living amongst you, knowing that in you the principles of virtue and justice, and all the attributes which bring honour on our common country are exemplified. All that we see, and all that we read and hear spoken of what redounds to the glory of the Irish people and characteristic of the race, their good qualities and their virtues prevail in an uncommon degree amongst you. I pronounce you to be amongst the most industrious, the most peaceful, and the most virtuous people to be found in the land. As was said in the beginning when an armed force was brought amongst you to infuse terror into your minds, you refused to allow the spirit of fear enter your breasts, and you manifested a feeling of determined opposition, though in a legal and peaceable way. The time will come when by such spirit you will see accomplished the hope that has so often been expressed of living an industrious and prosperous people on the land that you can call your own. (Cheers.) The rev. gentleman concluded by counselling unity of action.

Mr. Cox briefly addressed the meeting, observing that it should fully be recognised that the people of Ireland should be made the owners of the soil they tilled. Since Michael Davitt first broached that subject, nearly two years ago, he (the speaker) had been very proud to stand side by side with him as long as he had his liberty. It was at that time said that the land agitation would never penetrate to Ulster. Any person present there that day could be in a position to refute that false statement. The tenant farmers of Inishowen stood side by side in the front rank of the agitation for trampling down that system of feudalism which has been so long the curse of this unfortunate country. He would tell them sincerely and honestly that he was proud of them on that occasion, and it would be a great stimulus to the rest of Ireland, and it would, he need not say, cheer the hearts of the imprisoned few who were suffering for the cause, nobly suffering for their fearless exposure of an iniquitous system of land laws, and in Kilmainham and Dartmoor it would bring cheer to the hearts of those who counselled them to strike a blow at the chains of slavery.

Mr. P. J. MacDonagh was the next speaker. He said—In the words of the immortal O'Connell, "this is a great day for Ireland." It is a particularly great day for the men of Inishowen. Ireland has had many things under the land system to complain of, but I question much if we know of anything more worthy of our condemnation than the proceedings such as we have witnessed to-day,

backed up, so to speak, with horse, foot, and artillery." To-day, out in the neighbourhood of Ourt, "the funeral procession" passed the ruined homestead of a once happy family, and that man who owned it was the victim of a system which the country condemns. Fellow - countrymen, you have proved here the great power of the Land League. The agent came here to-day surrounded by the power of England, in the shape of armed constabulary, and the result is that in the eleventh hour you have what it is called a draw. You have heard, no doubt, of the French general who marched his men up the hill, and marched them down again. Well, we have had a performance of that sort to-day. (Laughter.) They marched up the hill and down again, and just left things as they got them. (Cheers.) We have fearlessly, under the power of the Land League, defeated them. It is not likely they will visit you for some time again. I have no doubt, from their experience, from the reception accorded them even by the ladies of Inishowen to day—(cheers)—this day will long keep green in their memories. It is a day they will never forget, and I am satisfied they won't be burdened with desire to repeat it. I say to you, therefore, be of good cheer, you shall see them no more." (Cheers)

A vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the meeting separated with cheers for the Land League.

### **Derry Journal - Monday 06 June 1881**

SERVICE OF WRITS IN INISHOWEN.—Yesterday (Friday) the bailiff, Michael Doran, under the protection of a large police force, made a farther service of writs on the tenants of Mrs. Torrens, in Ballybreen and Carrowmena. On this day the two failures of 27th ult. were effected by nailing the writs on the doors of the owners. It is believed that the service of writs on this property is owing to a number of the tenants having behind the backs of their neighbours paid their rents, notwithstanding that they with the others entered into an agreement not to pay rent without a certain reduction. —Correspondent.



The New York Times October 21, 1881

THE "NO RENT" MANIFESTO.

TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE LAND LEAGUE.

The Irish World prints the text of the Land League manifesto, as follows:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The hour to try your souls and to redeem your pledges has arrived. The executive of the National Land League, forced to abandon its police of testing the Land act, feels bound to advise the tenant farmers of Ireland from this day forth to pay no rents under any circumstances to their landlords until Government relinquishes the existing system of terrorism and restores the constitutional rights of the people. Do not be daunted by the removal of your leaders. Do not let yourselves be intimidate by threats of military violence. It is as unlawful to refuse to pay rents as it is to receive them. Against the passive resistance of the entire population military power has no weapon. Funds will be poured out unstintedly for the support of all who may endure eviction in the course of the struggle. Our exiled brothers in America may be relied upon to contribute, if necessary, as many millions of money as they have contributed thousands to starve out landlordism and bring English tyranny its knees. You have only to show that you are not unworthy of their boundless sacrifices. One more crowning struggle for your land, your homes, your lives—a struggle in which you have all the memories of your race, all the hopes of your kindred and all the sacrifices of your imprisoned brothers.

One more struggle in which you have the hope of happy homes and national freedom to inspire you, one more heroic effort to destroy landlordism, and the system which was and is the curse of your race will have disappeared forever. Stand together in the face of the brutal, cowardly enemies of your race! Pay no rent under any pretext! Stand passively, firmly, fearlessly by, while the armies of England may be engaged in their hopeless struggle against the spirit which their weapons cannot touch, and the Government, with its bayonets, will learn in a single Winter how powerless are armed forces against the will of a united, determined, self-reliant nation.

Charles S. Parnell. Thomas Brennan.  
A. J. Kettle. Thomas Sexton.  
Michael Davitt. Patrick Eagen.  
John Dillon

## New York Times October 21 1881

### THE LAND LEAGUE'S FIGHT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING IT ILLEGAL AND CRIMINAL.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—A proclamation has been issued in Dublin, by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, declaring the Land League to be an illegal and criminal organization. It warns all persons that the Irish National Land League, or by what other name it may be called, is an unlawful and criminal association, and that all meetings to carry out or promote its designs or purposes are unlawful and criminal, and will be prevented and dispersed by force. The proclamation the Queen's subjects connected with the League to disconnect from it and abstain from giving further countenance to it. All the powers and resources at the Government's command, the proclamation says, will be employed to protect the Queen's subjects in the free exercise of their lawful callings and occupations, to enforce the fulfillment of all lawful obligations, and to save the process of law and the execution of the Queen's writs from hinderance or obstruction. It calls upon all loyal subjects to uphold and maintain the authority of the law and the supremacy of the Queen in Ireland.

Archbishop Croke has published a letter protesting against the manifesto of the Land League. He says: "I have read the manifesto with the utmost pain; indeed, with absolute dismay. Against the committal of the people of Ireland, even under more exciting circumstances, to such doctrine I enter a solemn protest. I have been a steadfast and uncompromising supporter of the public policy of the League, believing it constitutional, and calculated to effect great national results, but I have always unequivocally stated that I stand out for fair rents as the safe foothold of agriculturists on the soil. The absolute repudiation of rent would meet no sympathy from me. There is no more reason now for abandoning the original platform of the League than there was when Mr. Davitt was sent to Portland and Mr. Dillon was first imprisoned. Its original policy was righteous, and, tested by experience, the results welded clergy and laymen in one loving brotherhood. I believe the new policy can lead to nothing but disintegration and defeat."

Mr. Mitchell Henry, Home Rule member of Parliament for County Galway, has issued a circular to his tenants pointing out that if any of them think they can get better terms from the Land Court he has neither the power nor the wish to prevent them ; but he also points to the unequaled lowness of the present rents and other advantages. He says he is willing to allow a reduction of from 15 to 20 per cent. on the half year's rent due in May last, that hereafter the old

rents will be expected. He says he hopes the rents will be cheerfully paid, and that the tenants will not, at the bidding of false friends and teachers, reverse the relations which have hitherto existed, but that they will maintain their self-respect and character as honest men.

The *Standard* publishes a letter calling attention to the fact that "suspects" are allowed to write in prison what they would have spoken on the platform had then not been arrested. The prisoners in Kilmainham Jail have been informed that they can only see physicians with a warder present.

Two hundred tenants of a large estate near Nenagh, County Tipperary, paid their rents today.

The police tear down "no rent" notices whenever posted.

Michael Power, a member of the Tralee (County Kerry) branch of the Land League, has been arrested on the charge of intimidation and for treasonable practices. He has been taken to Limerick. Mr. Godsell, a publican, has also been arrested under the Coercion act.

The Right Hon. Sir John Mowbray, Conservative member of Parliament for Oxford University, writes to the *Times* confirming Prof. Goldwin Smith's opinion concerning the kindly feelings of Americans for England. He that during an extended tour of the Union he heard the most affectionate expressions toward England from all classes, and he believes the unreasonableness of the Irish agitation and the character of its leaders are as thoroughly appreciated in America as in England. The Thirty-first Regiment left Dover for Ireland to-day. It was loudly cheered.

The Irish Parliamentary party held a meeting in London to-day to arrange the details of the Hyde Park meeting on Sunday. The party denounced the British Government, and pledged Irishmen in England to carry out the Land League principles with increased vigor.

Mr. Arthur O'Connor has left Holyhead for London.

It is stated that nothing has been decided upon regarding the moving of the offices of the League.

Many farmers in the counties of Westmeath and Roscommon have lodged claims for the readjustment of their rents.

## **Derry Journal - Friday 28 October 1881**

THE CASE OF EVICTED TENANTS. There is not perhaps in the country any class of tenants more requiring assistance and sympathy than those who were evicted for non-payment of rent, and who were re-admitted as caretakers with six months' power of redemption. We more than once previously pointed out, but think it useful repeat it, that all such tenants who have been evicted since

the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February last have the right under the new Land Act to sell their holdings. Moreover, if they apply to the Land Commission to have their rents reduced, the Commissioners can give them a longer period for redemption than the six months. We are especially anxious to have this matter properly attended to, as we regret to hear that the screw is being applied to some of these tenant-caretakers, to compel them to pay up “immediately” or they shall be at once dispossessed. If what we hear is true, the conduct complained of is an undoubted violation of the spirit as well as the letter of recent legislation. But if these tenants permit themselves to be sharply treated, it is their own fault—the Land Commission is open for them, and their application to have their rents reduced, if posted this day, Friday, to the Secretary the Commission, Merrion street, Dublin, should operate in preventing any harsh interference with their rights. Or, better than risk forwarding their applications directly themselves, they should at once consult a good solicitor, who would be able even to-morrow to telegraph their applications the Commissioners. No time, however, is to be lost in taking action if these poor evicted tenants are to have their interests properly preserved to them.

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TENANTS’ DEFENSE ASSOCIATION.— It is in contemplation to hold a meeting in this city early next week for the purpose of forming a tenants’ defence association. The objects of the intended organisation are, to be equal footing with the counter societies of the landlord party, facilitate the efforts of the tenants to advance their claims, and generally take advantage of the rights acquired by statute.

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THE LAND COURT AND THE TENANTRY IN THE NORTH-WEST. —The tenantry over the North West appear to be largely availing themselves of their rights under the new Land Act. Several hundred originating notices for applications to fix fair rents have been already filed, and it is expected before the end of next week, these will probably be augmented very considerably. The districts represented are chiefly in Tyrone and Donegal, and include the baronies of Inishowen, Kilmacrenan, Strabane, Omagh, and Newtownstewart districts.

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## THE "NO RENT" MANIFESTO.

[By telegraph]

Dublin, Thursday.—Mr. James Cormack, president of the county Kilkenny Central Land League, was arrested to-day under the Coercion Act. Numerous other arrests of less importance were made in different parts of Ireland to-day. The suspects in Galway gaol have passed resolution approving of the Land League manifesto, and calling upon their countrymen to obey its instructions.

### **Dublin Daily Express - Wednesday 21 December 1881**

#### THE EVICTIONS IN DONEGAL.

The Lord Lieutenant, by proclamation in last night's *Dublin Gazette*, prohibits any attempt to hold a meeting at or *in* the neighbourhood of the townlands of Carrowmenagh, Drumaville, Gort, Cloncha, and Laraghirril, in the barony East, and county of Donegal, for the purpose of obstructing the sheriff in the execution of writs.

### **Derry Journal - Friday 30 December 1881**

EVICTIONS IN ENNISHOWEN. Mr. John B. M'Cay, Sub-Sheriff for County Donegal, accompanied Mr. James G. M. Harvey, agent for Colonel M'Neill for property situate in the Barony of East Ennishowen, proceeded to Moville on Wednesday morning, and from thence to the townland of Carrowmonagh, about five miles distant, for the purpose of executing ejectment decrees for non-payment of rent. The sheriff and his bailiffs were escorted by Mr. John S. Macleod, R.M., in charge of about one hundred men of the 15th Regiment, and over eighty men of the constabulary force of the county, under Sub-Inspectors Smith (Moville), Hyde (Carndonagh), and Davis (Rathmullan). There were also two waggons belonging to the Army Service Corps in attendance for the purpose of conveying the necessary provisions, &c. The soldiers, in command of Captains Oddie and Brown, and Lieutenants Ogle and Begnal, and Surgeon Dormen were conveyed from Derry to Moville by her Majesty's gunboats

Redwing and Britomart on the previous day. The party left Movice in the morning about eight o'clock. The military were placed in the front. The rear was brought up by the Army Service waggons, and the constabulary on cars. On arriving in the townland of Carrowmenagh the constabulary exchanged places with the military, took up their position in front of a one-storey thatched dwelling house, the property of Patrick M'Gonigle, which stood about the centre of what might be termed a small village on the roadside. The house, which was in good repair and comfortable of its class, consisted of three apartments, kitchen and two bed-rooms, one of which was temporarily occupied as a store-room, and was well stocked with potatoes. M'Gonigle, it appears, was originally owner of a small farm, which he held at the yearly rent of £6 16s. Subsequently he purchased three small holdings adjoining, which increased his farm to 43a. 2r. 15p., and his rent to £22 3s—the Government valuation being £19 5s. In the month of February last a writ of ejectment for arrears of rent was served on him, and in April he signed the statutable acknowledgement, and was left in occupation during the ensuing six months allowed by law for redemption. On the 8th October last the six months expired, but he did not redeem, nor did he subsequently avail himself of the privileges afforded the section of the new Land Act, under which he could have applied for an extension of time for the purposes of redemption. Accordingly, on the 5th of December Mr. Harvey, the agent, demanded possession, and the 10th of the same month a writ of ejectment on the title was served in the usual way, under which the sheriff now appeared to demand possession of the house and premises. It was evident that the people in the surrounding neighbourhood were well aware of what was about to take place, as they could be seen all along the route standing in small groups on some elevated spots, wending their way towards M'Gonigle's residence. At the time of the sheriff's arrival there were about two dozen men and women assembled, but in less than an hour the crowd had increased to over one hundred. The Rev. Mr. Farren, P.P., and Rev. Mr. O'Kane, C. C., Movice, were early in attendance, and had a consultation with the agent with a view to a settlement. There was three years' rent due, and the only offer M'Gonigle would make was give 13s 4d in the pound in respect of the entire amount. This Mr. Harvey absolutely refused to take. He said he had no desire to press the tenants unduly, or deal harshly with them in any way, but could not agree to any compromise in one case which would afterwards be applicable to others in a similar position. He was willing take one year's rent and the costs in M'Gonigle's case, and restore him to the same position as occupied before he allowed the time for redemption to expire, provided all the other tenants came forward and paid a year's rent and costs. In reply to Rev. Mr. O'Kane he said he would not press for payment of

remainder until the tenants could bring their claims before the Land Commission, and have a fair rent fixed. M'Gonigle said he would pay no costs whatever, as he thought they should never have been incurred. Mr. Macleod said there was no use quarrelling about that now. It would be far better, in his opinion, if some amicable arrangement could be come to. Mr. Harvey said that the rents on the estate had not been increased within the past forty years, so that the tenants had the full advantage of any benefits arising out of their own improvements. Rev. Mr. Farren suggested that the settlement of the matter be left to two arbitrators to say what was fair between landlord and tenant. Mr. Harvey said, so far as the three years' rent already due was concerned, there was no use of appointing arbitrators, as he would not feel disposed to give any reduction. The tenants were holding out on principle against a certain thing, and certainly would not be coerced into giving the reduction demanded. As to the future rents, it would just be as cheap for the tenants to go into Court as to have their rents fixed by arbitrators, as valuers and solicitors would have to be employed on both sides, and ultimately the award would have to come before the Commission, to be entered as an order by the Court. Some further discussion took place, and ultimately M'Gonigle said the sheriff might proceed with the work, as there was no probability of any agreement being come to. The furniture and other effects were then carried out by the sheriff's bailiffs, assisted by the members of the family and others present. When all had been cleared out, the sheriff formally gave possession to the agent, who directed the bailiffs render the dwelling houses and out-offices uninhabitable, which was soon accomplished. Three cottier tenants, holding under M'Gonigle, were subsequently accepted, under agreement, as caretakers, which concluded the business of the day. The circumstances of this and other cases in the district were fully detailed when first the Sheriff visited the tenants some months ago.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 02 January 1882**

EVICCTIONS IN THE PARISH OF MOVILLE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL

Dear Sir— The Sentinel of Thursday gives an *erparte*, and therefore, unfair account of the cruel evictions that took place here this week. The interview between the priests, the agent, sheriff, and Captain Macleod is not correctly given. The agent was asked would he make any concession to these poor people, who were quite willing to pay what they were able? His reply was, no

concession —no abatement of any kind. The Parish Priest said in consequence of the severe agricultural depression the past year, nearly all the surrounding proprietors had allowed a small abatement and these poor people only asked to be dealt with in a similar manner. They were no advocates of the “No Rent” manifesto. They always paid the rent as it came due and were willing this year to pay what they could. But the stern reply again came—no abatement. Captain Macleod and the sherriff asked to sign a six mouths’ redemption, but the people saw this put them in a worse condition—to put down crops, and in June, when money could not be had, their crops might be seized, and their houses unroofed by the crowbar brigade, as we saw done yesterday in P. M’Gonigle’s case, it was stated in the *Sentinel* that P. M’Gonigle bought lands until his rent became £22 10s instead of £6 per year. This is not true. Whatever was done in the way of increasing the farm was done by his predecessor. Every effort was made by the priests to effect an amiable settlement before the dire work of eviction began, but all to no purpose, the agent vociferating he would have no terms, but rent without reduction, not even a penny, and all costs. 15s, 17s, and 18s in the £ were offered by the priests, but all in vain. The order was given—the furniture was roughly torn out, and broken in the street. The poor helpless children, barefooted, and all but bare backed, and hunger depicted on their faces, had to leave the old house. The crowbar brigade was ordered to unroof the house. They set willingly to work, and the sickening sight may well be imagined—it certainly could not be described. This was the work of Wednesday, but it is bearable compared with the work of Thursday and Friday. I really imagined some of the poor old creatures would have died before they were dragged from the old cabins. John Beatty, 99 years old, had to be armed or carried out. Robert Beatty, a cripple, aged 86, was the next victim. His wife fainted different times when she saw the fire extinguished. The families of Hugh M’Gonigle and Charles M’Feely got the same bad treatment. During all these heart touching scenes the agent looked on apparently unmoved. I saw the constabulary, who are obliged to witness these scenes, occasionally shedding tears. Let the public remember that these poor people all offered 18s in the £, but as often as they said it came back with the stern reply—no terms, no abatement on principle, out they must go, dilapidated must be their old homes. I saw there was no use in reasoning with this man ; all I could do was express my sympathy with the poor people. It is needless to speak of those whom the agent was surrounded in this work of devastation—the emergency men—two of whom, it is alleged, were caught stealing, and one of whom is actually under arrest. This, Mr. Editor, is no *exparte* statement, such as appeared in the *Sentinel* – this is the treatment the poor people of Carrowmenagh received for the last three days, people who are neither



clothed, nor in any other temporal way cared for, but who gave all they could to the landlord. When it is remembered that their holdings, even at what they offered to pay, 18s in the £1, will be far above Griffith's Valuation, and when it is remembered that the Sub Commissioners as far as they have gone have made the rent above Griffith's Valuation, I think the public will admit that the treatment these poor people have received this week was most ungenerous and harsh, and deserves, at least in my opinion, the censure of every right thinking man. And the Government that supplies such men with such a parade of military, about 100 of the R. I. Constabulary, and a company of soldiers, at, of course, immense expense is indeed a Liberal Government, liberal especially in inflicting unnecessary torture. There is no doubt that the work of the last three days will produce sad effects. I have no hesitation in saying that the lives of John Beatty, 99 years, Robert Beatty, 86, and his wife, 84, will be cut short by exposure to cold, and their being dragged from what was to them a sort of comfortable home. I never before witnessed an eviction, and I trust I shall never see another. When it is remembered that a large number of families have the same fate before them for the next few weeks, it may easily be imagined what suffering, misery, and desolation, will be made in homes that, although poor and wretched, still were for the people happy homes.—Truly yours,

Michael Farnan, P. P.

Moville, December 30 1881

## **THE DERRY JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1882**

### **THE EVICTIONS IN INISHOWEN**

The evictions continue daily at Carrowmenagh, Inishowen. Our representative has attended the scene, and will give an account of the proceedings in our next publication. Up to the date of his visit the families turned out numbered in the aggregate between forty and fifty individuals, including one centenarian and a good many children. A strong force of military and police are on the ground under Mr. Macleod, R. M., and their respective officers. Evictions are likely to take place in other neighbouring districts, amongst others that are known as the Churchlands.

## Derry Journal - Friday 06 January 1882

THE EVICTIONS IN INNISHOWEN, (From our Reporter).

In all the sad record of Ireland's story there is no word which carries more painful suggestiveness than Eviction. Under this denomination is comprehended so much that humanity shudders at, that the memories it has left behind can scarcely ever be "sugared o'er" by any legislation however ameliorative. The history of any country can produce no picture darkened by wrong and sorrow than the scene of an Irish Eviction. It was the living eloquence of it, "speaking unutterable things," that touched the heart of Bradlaugh years ago, and gave under his hand a description which were enough to make civilization step in that it might be no more ; it was influence of the same sort that perhaps more than anything else, provides that marvellous interest which belongs to Mr. A. M. Sullivan's "New Ireland," and it was the conviction of the truth of what voice and pen has been so frequently portrayed that the world might know, that forced the consciousness its terrible nature on the Premier, when he said the notice-to-quit meant message of death. For a time men's minds had been turned off the by consideration of such things. A new generation growing up, the worst features eviction faded out somewhat, because the thing was not of their day, and they had not like their fathers been eye-witness to the period of black famine, ruined homesteads, fever stricken people, and the coffin ships. The lapse of years had veiled these things, and they lived in brighter days. But it would seem after all that the past is not so far away from us. The veil may be torn off, and the face of the country branded anew. And so to-day the ring of the crow-bar can be heard in far South, and the roof tree sawn in the mountains of Donegal. The attendant circumstances which made eviction in the past so dire a calamity are happily now wanting reason of power which the people have inquired in their community of suffering, the power of systematically aiding each other for the common good. The horrors of the other time are, if not altogether neutralised, largely mitigated, but much still remains to touch the heart of the onlooker in appeal for redress ; and there is behind all, what in case of a people of delicate sensibility and fine-strung sentiment must be seriously considered, the clinging affection for the homes of their fathers. If the more substantial evils were compensated this feeling would still abide ineradicably, any rude disregard for it will ever bring bitterness and trouble ; and to deal with the case in the spirit which guides a transaction on the block Exchange, will tend to aggravate a difficulty, but effect a satisfactory result never. It is idle to try to manage in this way, it has failed always before, and will succeed no better now.

But to pass from generalities let us endeavour to sketch briefly the particular proceedings indicated in the heading. The news of evictions in Inishowen brought us to Moville the other morning. On reaching that pretty little town the prospect was slightly gloomed by the presence of several of those unsightly, lumbering vehicles, recently made familiar to the eyes of the people, and known to them as “ambulance waggons,” but which are part of the train of the Army service corps. On inquiry we were informed that “the soldiers had gone out,” which meant that a small army of military and armed police were already on the march, not to meet some foreign invader, but to discharge a miserable duty—see the law carried out, or in other words a number of poor peasantry turned out of their homes. The instincts of the “English Occupation” are seemingly unchangeable. It is some four score years and more since the Irish rebellion, and here again today the bayonets of the redcoats gleam in the passes of Inishowen—a commentary on the advancement of good relations between the governing and the governed. But to do the redcoats justice they come in another spirit than that of '98. The soldiery of '82 can read and form opinions which in turn beget feelings. In the olden time it was their part to effect a riddance. To-day there is a riddance of another form, of which they are the passive spectators. Why they were brought to the place at all no doubt puzzles them, as it does everybody else who does not appreciate their presence in the light of a *coup du theatre*. Whether the idea was to parade them *in terrorem*, or their presence is attributable to an ungovernable passion for ornamentation is not very clear, but it is a fact that the people and soldiers get on well together. There is a martial spirit inherent in the Irish race, and they admire the soldiery ; in the soldiery there is the distaste of an ignoble thing and given the military a residence for time amongst the peasants of Donegal, the people might willingly accept them as a jury in their case. They would have no cause to quarrel with the verdict, although perhaps it would have more of the heroic in it than the niceties of a hard and fast business adjustment. Following the road in the direction indicated the march, an hour's drive brought us to the scene of the evictions— Carrowmenagh, a hamlet of about a dozen houses overlooking the sea. The downpour of rain gave the place a wretched aspect. The people for the most part were huddled together in the houses, or crowded at the entrance. The constabulary were under arms on the street in knots, or sheltered from the weather under the gables of some of the cabins. The soldiers bivouacked in the premises of evicted tenants, and the presence of policemen and sniders at the doors marked the places where the majesty of the law had been upheld. The military officers, the Resident magistrate (Mr. Macleod). and the police Sub-Inspectors took occasional shelter in accommodation afforded by “the premises licensed to sell,” looking little

enamoured with the situation. The Sheriff and his men were already at work, made all the more dreary looking by the state of the weather. The agent of the property, Mr. James G. M. Harvey, stood by in fulfilment of the law's requirement. The priests (Father Farnan and Father O'Kane) were exercising their good offices with the characteristic solicitude of the *soggarth aroon*. The holdings are the estate of a Mr. Hector M'Neil, an Edinburgh gentleman, who is little known personally in the place. The earlier part of the day was occupied in completing what the sheriff had engaged in on the previous Saturday. Sunday intervening—a ?? in law—there was a brief respite, and the accident of date allowed New Year's Day to pass in quietness, but in view of the work already done, and the foreboding of what was to come, the New Year in Carrowmenagh was hapless in the extreme. At the lower end of the village, if it may be so styled, the house of Patrick M'Gonigal first commands attention. The time for redemption having expired, and the tenant not having made terms, the eviction was carried out in its most rigorous form. In April last on the first visit the sheriff—the tenant then remained in as a caretaker—it was a snug, decently furnished home; today it is ruin. The family are without home, the house is cleared of all its contents, and its roof tree sawn in two. In the other cases the premises are intact, but cleared of people and furniture. At the time of our visit the aggregate number of individuals thrown on the charity of their neighbours was considerably over forty, and every day will have largely added to the list. How the case stands between agent and people is not easily put in words. Both are intensely impressed with the feeling of being in the right. The people claim to be treated as their neighbours under other agents have been treated, generously in a period of distress ; the agent seems to think he is justified "in principle"—other men may think it a crotchet—and feeling so he is unfortunately very earnest in the business. The people want a reduction and freedom from costs ; the agent thinks under all the circumstances he is bound to have his rights. The costs in short form the great bone of contention, and it may be observed that in some in-stances they far exceed rent. Altogether, it is eminently a case where a couple of unprejudiced men having no direct interest in the affair should settle the dispute in a very few minutes. It is stated on part of the owner that the rents have not been raised for many years, but the people held that this proves nothing for the landlord, as all the rent was too much. They say that in the time of the uncle of the present owner the rents payable form no true index of what rent the land should now bear. In that time barley, which was the main crop, had a peculiar local value by reason of the prevalence of stilling to which in those days there was an immunity from seizure in remarkable contrast with the exactitude our time. "The rent, sir," said an octogenarian tenant, "was arranged by the still head;" so that applying

the same now when the tenant's income is derivable from ordinary agricultural pursuits might be anything but an equitable arrangement, and the tenants believe that it is not. With the departure of "Old Inishowen" as a rent-payer, the value has depreciated, and the tenants say the land won't bear the rent. At one period the property went into rundale, the allotments failed to give satisfaction, and portions were allowed to lie waste. After a time these portions were taken over by tenants. Arrears had accumulated and made chargeable to them. The agent alleges these were forgiven, but the tenants maintain they had to discharge this extra liability by instalments and are prepared to produce receipts showing an increment which they hold went to clear the arrears. The strong point of the tenantry is in the fact that on the adjoining properties with a soil equal in all respect to that of Carrowmenagh district, reductions were granted, varying from twenty to fifty percent.; abatements were given even where the rents are below Griffith. One gentleman (Mr. James M'Glinchey) in speaking to the Resident Magistrate, who, it is right to say, evinced a desire to have the difficulty bridged over, offered to hand in a check for the entire rent of the townland less twenty per cent., the habitations to be restored to the same condition as before the visit of the sheriff, but nothing came of it. Added to this is the statement given over the authority of Father Farnan's name in Monday's Journal, "that 15s, 17s, and 18s in the pound were offered" on part of the people, but the evictions proceeded. From another quarter came a generous proposal—the men of the combined forces, it stated, desired to make good the remaining 2s in the rents, and make an end of it, but the people, met as their offers were, would not give their assent. The statement of the Parish Priest remains uncontradicted that the rents at 18s in the pound would "far be above Griffith's valuation." On this subject, the following table will be useful. It has reference to tenants evicted up to Saturday night.

Tenant's names	Number of family	Griffith's Valuation	Annual Rent of land
Patrick M'Gonagle	7	£16 15d	£22 3d
Hugh M'Gonagle	6	£13 10d	£17 12d
Robert Beattie	4	£9 5s 5d	£12 10s
John Beatie	11	£7 10s	£10
Henry Harkin	2	£8 5s	£12 13s 3d
Patrick M'Laughlin	8	£7	£9 5s 3d

The tenants built the houses, which are not included in the foregoing valuation. One of the tenants mentioned above, Robert Beattie, over 80 years of age, has a clear recollection of the affairs of the estate for a long way back. The tradition of the place was that the property was acquired during "the big wars." He himself came from America, and with money made there, settled in Carrowmenagh. At that time the holding he had ever since occupied till the eviction was in the hands of a woman whose husband was in gaol for debt. He "wrote down" that he could not get out till he squared what was against the place, and Beatty then gave £20 for the good will, and £4 for the wife's blessing." His understanding of the position of things at present was to the effect that the tenants wanted an abatement of 6s 8d, and the agent conveyed to them it would be best to let the matter stand til the Government arbitration would adjust it, no steps to be taken in the meantime. The latter condition if agreed to was not borne out. The tenants, therefore, think the costs should not now be exacted. One of the tenants (Hugh M'Gonegal) took us through his premises, now occupied by soldiers. He had to ask permission to enter, and remarked, with a sigh, that it was hard he could not ask a friend into the house, every stone of which he had built, and under whose roof he had found his home. This tenant states that he was present when a deputation met the agent, and that request was made for 6s 8d reduction, that before leaving the tenants would have taken two shillings in the £, but no settlement was effected. It is right that Mr. Harvey should be heard at this point. In January of '81 he wrote a letter to the tenantry to the following effect- "I have now waited patiently for the entire month since the rent day, hoping that many things would have induced you to come forward and pay your rents . . . but I must tell you plainly if they are not paid next week I must bring ejectments in the superior courts, and thus put you to heavy costs. You should remember Mr. M'Neill has not raised his rent for 40 years"—the tenants say the rent were from the first too high—" that at one time he gave up a large amount of arrears altogether" the tenants dispute this—" that he has never been harsh with any tenants"—the tenants agree to this, and express an anxiety to be brought face to face with the landlord—" that he has for the last three years helped his tenants with seed and meal"—the tenants say his help was only in the form of going security, and they must pay—" and that in May last he made great sacrifices in order to give them a large abatement of 5 per cent., and in some cases 7s 6d in the £." The letter further states that after a good harvest the tenantry had allowed themselves to be led away into making an unreasonable and unjust demand, which would not be granted, and the time had now come when they must make up their minds to be on good terms with their landlord, or force him (Mr. Harvey) to bring ejectments." He proceeds to define the costs,

and warns them that all who refuse to pay “will have no right to sparings or other favours in the future.” He then discusses the Land League, and further on says —“Some of you have not yet got any abatement, and have forfeited your right to such, but if such tenants pay a full year’s rent *without any trouble* I shall ask Mr. M’Neill to give them back the amount of the abatement.”

Our readers will form their own conclusions, but meanwhile there is the misfortune of an irreconcilable difference between the parties, and much hardship and suffering must inevitably follow. The responsibility is a heavy one, wheresoever it must rest. During our visit three evictions were completed, one we had an opportunity of witnessing from beginning to end. In one instance a most amusing incident relieved the dreary monotony. The sheriff’s men—the emergency contingent—having cleared the house proceeded to a stable and one of the aids of the law went forward to bring out a mare. The animal was of “no surrender” quality, and banged all round her. The sheriff sought out the owner in great wrath, and railed at the occurrence as a “plant.” Several persons gathered round to see the sheriff of Donegal angry – a thing that had never been seen before and might never occur again. A bystander bade him not “blame the poor beast for showing feeling when it was so scarce among its betters;” another observed that “the parish should buy it” and never let it yield to the yoke, “for the way it had argued the question,” and the result of it all was that the sheriff went away in a condition which demonstrated that it is harder to put him out of temper than him into good humour. It is a significant fact that Mr. M’Cay could any day in the week walk with no other weapon than his fishing rod and tackle—he is a devotee of Walt ?? through all the proclaimed districts Donegal, and notwithstanding that he is “the man who puts out the people,” would receive nothing but courtesy and respect. It speaks well for his character and that of the people. Amongst the evicted in Carrowmenagh is a man who has passed his hundredth year. Father O’Kane was called hurriedly to his bed in a neighbour’s house, he having as it was said taken a turn for the worse.” The eviction of M’Dermott was a touching scene. The furniture having been got out to the street the family were turned out. The women and children wept bitterly, and the husband with sad look at the house turned gloomily away. The straw was then pulled from the roof and “sold from the street” and possession by these given to the agent. The Emergency men then nailed up the doors. The members of the Merville Ladies Aid Society were present rendering their timely assistance to the women and children. Such is the pitiable record of a New Year’s Day, to be succeeded by other days of an equally lamentable character. The people fear they must be prepared for a sore endurance, as their fellows elsewhere in Ireland have undergone, but

They must not hope to be reapers,  
And gather the bright gold years  
Till first they have sown in sorrow,  
And watered the ????

## **Derry Journal Monday 09 January 1882**

THE EVICTIONS AT CARROWMENAGH, MOVILLE .

TO THE EDITOR THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir —Permit me to make a few remarks on the evictions in Carrowmenagh. The dispute between Mr. Harvey and the tenants seems to involve two questions, one of rent, the other of costs. The tenants think they had a right—not in law viewed in its strict letter, but under the circumstances reasonable, a just title to a reduction in their rent. England and Scotland, they say, fully recognized the necessity for a change in land rent during the past two years, for which they claim a reduction. The agents of almost all surrounding properties felt the same necessity, and freely, generously granted a reduction. One gentleman of great experience, who has charge of some £8,000 of a rental, whose townlands, and these cheaper rented, are immediately adjoining Carrowmenagh, gave, not from a sense of prudence, but of justice, an abatement from 15 to 20 per cent for the past three years. Further, they think reduction was due to them on the grounds of necessity—they no longer could pay the former rent and live. Clearly, therefore, the right contended for, is not a sentimental right of coercing landlord, but that of being treated like others -not dealt with exceptionally. Mr. Harvey, on the other hand, claims the rent in full without one shilling of abatement, as his right, and he assigns the reasons upon which he rests his claim in letter written in January, 1881 : — (1). That the rents were not raised for forty years. (2). That arrears were altogether forgiven at a time. (3). That seed, &c , were given in '79 to tenants. To the first reason the tenants reply—our rents were fixed at the highest possible figure, owing to the well known local value of barley, so high that farms were for years waste because there was one to undertake the rent put upon them; that our rents are far above Griffith's valuation of the land; and the houses are entirely the work of our own skill and labour. To the second reason they reply—we paid all arrears, even some we thought never would have to pay. To the third reason they reply— the seed, etc., we had to pay for, and, from his knowledge of the matter, Mr. Harvey himself should know well we are exceedingly pressed in



circumstances. These are the particular reasons Mr. Harvey assigns for refusing reduction in Carrowmenagh. There is the general one, also, which has made him, in all the estates he happens to have charge over, adopt, amongst local agents, an individual course, namely, avowed hostility to that powerful organization—the Land League, which engendered such boldness in tenants as to think they had rights—tenants to speak of terms to an agent! Now to the question of costs. The tenants say—We paid our rent regularly as long as we were able; we were not much in arrears, most of us only one year, when the dispute about rent arose; Government was going to deal with the land question ; we besought you not to impose costs till there would be some settlement. Mr. Harvey, however, accumulated costs, till the costs exceed in some instances the rent. The tenants, therefore, dispute Mr. Harvey’s right to the costs under the circumstances, altogether apart from the question of the rent. The consequence of this dispute is, that an entire townland of a people, most sober, industrious, and peaceloving, is now a dreary wilderness by the will of the agent, who has least, amongst local agents, adopted exceptional course in thus pressing for the claims of the landlord. Mr. Harvey takes his determined stand on “principle.” But it might well be asked, what in clear words is this principle? Not that of justice, for that is the disputed ground, if, indeed, it admits of dispute. Not of law, at least law in the spirit of recent legislation. Not that he could not recognise the cry of the people, else Mr. Harvey would be above the enlightened mind of the three kingdoms which recognized it, whether it came through organization like the Land League, or any such organization, which circumstances but create. Attempts were made to effect a settlement, to reconcile for the general good those holding opposite opinions, and determined to push the bitter extreme those opinions. Two proposals I myself made on the part of tenants on the morning of the first eviction. 1. To leave the two questions above to arbitration, and let the arbitrators be taken ballot or otherwise, from gentlemen even holding same office as Mr. Harvey (agent), or let the arbitrators be a few intelligent business men in Derry or elsewhere. 2, Let some cases go to Court and let the rent fixed by Court be the rent also during the period in dispute. Mr. Harvey would agree to neither, would concede nothing which would involve that he was by possibility in error in the points disputed. He has the power of the law to enforce his opinion, the tenants have the power of public opinion to enforce theirs. His appeal is to the will, his own will. The tenants’ appeal is to the intelligence of the enlightened community, confident that ultimately a cause supported by intellect must triumph over one supported by will.—I am, yours truly,

J. O’Kane, CC

Moville, January 7, 1882.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 09 January 1882**

ALLEGED THEFT BY EMERGENCY MEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir—Allow me to contradict the statement in Monday's Journal that one of the Emergency men, sent by me to Moville by the Orange Emergency Committee, was accused of theft. The man so accused was never in the employment of the Emergency Committee, whose men have given every satisfaction, but had been accidentally and temporarily employed to act as sheriff's bailiff when Colonel M'Neill's tenants unexpectedly refused to sign acknowledgments or caretaker's agreements, and thus forced me to evict them. —Your obedient servant,

James G.  
M. Harvey.

12, Queen-street, Derry, 3rd Jan., 1882.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 09 January 1882**

EVICCTIONS ON COLONEL M'NEILLS ESTATE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir—I do not wish to enter upon newspaper controversy, but I cannot allow the letter of the Rev. Michael Farnan, P.P., in Monday's Journal to pass unnoticed, as he states that I would make no terms or concessions whatever. My best answer I think will be to simply say that Patrick M'Gonigle, who owed three years' rent, who had deliberately allowed his six months for redemption to expire, and who had thrown away all his rights under the Land Act 1881, without making any proposal whatever, was offered reinstatement in his position as tenant if he would pay one year's rent and costs, and if the other tenants would do the same, but the offer was promptly refused in presence of Mr. Farnan, M'Gonigle declaring vehemently that he would never again pay the rent fixed more than forty years ago. Then, as regards the tenants in general, I have made two distinct offers—viz., 1st, that they should pay one year's rent and costs, upon which I would abandon ejectment, and in event of their thinking right to apply to have judicial rents fixed, would allow such rents to

date back to November, 1881 ; or, 2nd, that they should remain in possession as caretakers, pending redemption, and that upon their paying one year's rent, without costs, would allow them nine months for redemption, instead of the statutable six months, their alleged objection to remaining in possession being that if they did not redeem I might seize and sell their crops in summer. Both offers have been, however, refused, and it is a matter of notoriety in the district that what the tenants are contending for is their right to coerce their landlord into giving an abatement, but because they have not been yielded to on that point it does not follow that no "concessions" have been made. On the contrary I have told the tenants and Mr. Farnan himself that short of making an abatement, I would meet them in every possible way, and afford them every facility for taking advantage of the new Land Act. As regards the relation of the rent to Griffith's valuation Mr Farnan must be misinformed, as the rental only exceeds the valuation between 6 and 7 per cent., so that a very small reduction in the rental would bring the latter below the valuation, instead of having it far above it. I will not discuss the poverty of the people—there were impartial witnesses present who were struck by their well-fed, well-clothed appearance, and by the comfort of their houses, and Mr. Farnan must know that the rents would have been paid long ago but for the action the Land League, which has either deluded, or, which is compelling the tenants to *evict themselves*, all of them being offered leave to remain in possession pending redemption, so that it was not necessary to "drag" any person from his or her home ; nor was there to my knowledge any "furniture broken on the street," and, if any small breakage did occur, it was a matter of accident. In conclusion I will just say that the rents have not been raised for upwards of forty years ; that they are very little in excess of the Government valuation ; that an abatement of 25 per cent. was allowed on the November 1879 rents ; that none of the evicted tenants paid *any* rent in 1881; that none of them now owe less than two years' rent, and yet that one year's rent would have been taken in every case, and the tenants afforded every facility for getting judicial rents fixed, as if they had applied during the first sitting of the Land Commissioners. Your obedient servant,

James G. M. Harvey.

12, Queen-street, Londonderry, 3rd January, 1882.

## Derry Journal - Monday 09 January 1882

EVICCTIONS AT CARROMENAGH, MOVILLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Dear Sir—I read with sorrow in your issue of Monday last the letter of the rev. Father Farnan about the treatment the poor people met with last week at Carromenagh. For families to be thrown out of the houses their ancestors built, is hard, but is made more so when the like happens in the cold of winter. It happened to be my lot to be curate in the parish of Moville for 14 1/2 years. It would naturally follow that I should know well the character of the evicted. I do. I am able to state (1) that I knew the evicted to be the most industrious, (2) that they lived economically in order to meet their bills, (3) that during that time I never heard of any legal proceedings being taken against them for the recovery of rent, for a good reason—that the rent had always been well paid. I am now more than eleven years out of the parish, and the rent has been paid as usual, I hear, if we except the last year or two when times became bad. One would think that, payments being so good, and being made for so long a time, the landlord would have had some feeling for the tenants if they ran a little behind, especially when it was not their fault. I say it was not their fault. Why? I answer, the inability to meet the demands of the landlords is not local. It is not confined to Carromenagh, nor to Inishowen. I believe that the parish from which I write is five times poorer today than it was on my arrival therein. Some landlords imagine (I suppose Mr. Hector M'Neill is one of them) that they should get their rents no matter what the difficulties, by adverse times, the tenants encounter. Let me draw the attention of such gentlemen to a fact that every schoolboy knows. People investing money in any speculation are as liable to lose as to gain. Such is the case with all merchants. Then are landlords to be the exception to the general rule? Are they always to gain? It appears from their mode of action that they think so. From Mr. Hector M'Neill's conduct last week one would conclude that he, at least, is convinced that they should always gain. I think it appeared in your issue of Monday last that this Mr. Hector is a Scotchman or the descendant of a Scotchman. If so, the M'Neills should have stopped at home. They should have bought land in Scotland. But they were too wise to know that. They knew, to recover their rents from the "canny Scotch," they would need the aid of the "Emergency

men." But could they have not put their money in other things? With the money that bought Carrowmenagh they might have bought shares in the City of Glasgow Bank. They did not do so, because Scotchmen know each other. Had they done so, where would their capital be today, or where would be Mr. Hector's home? The money would be gone, and the home too. He would be like to those he evicted, suffering cold and want. Some one, I think, told me that Mr. Hector is a brother to a gentleman who owns a townland in my parish. If so, who knows but they are twins. Whether they are twins or brothers, or neither, one thing is certain, they are both M'Neill. The "Siamese Twins," seem to have had but one will—when they walked, they walked together ; when they stood, they stood together. These two gentlemen resemble them very much. They have but one will, and that is, to have their rents and their law costs without one penny of deduction. Some landlords think that oppression on their part will not beget opposition—will not lead to revenge. I differ much with them, and therefore trace to the doors of the oppressive landlords a great deal of the crimes of Ireland. I read of a person much greater than a landlord, and what I read was a fact. This person had such mighty power that a great part of the world trembled for fear of him. He thought he would do as he liked and he tried to do so. He crushed—he oppressed the people. But at last he met with an opponent who captured him and put him in chains. The victor, after doing so, thought it well to give him, during life, some employment about his own person, taking good care that he would not escape. He gave him a job. It was this: when the victor wished to ascend his chariot the captive had to stoop his neck for the master's foot, that he might ascend aloft. What a change! What a come-down! Might not Mr. Hector M'Neill meet a reverse of fortune? I am under the impression, Mr. Editor, that it will be some time before there will be on the vacant farms as good paying tenants as those evicted. I know Mr. M'Neil will have residents on them. But will you permit me to tell in advance who those residents will be—they are known by the name of larks.—I am, Mr. Editor, yours sincerely,

G. M'Donagh, P. P.

Tanlaght O'Crilly, county Derry,

4<sup>th</sup> January 1882

## Derry Journal - Monday 09 January 1882

GRIFFITH'S TWO VALUATIONS OF DONEGAL AND THE FIXING OF FAIR RENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir—In October last several letters appeared in your columns on the above subject, which is one deserving notice just now. Since the publication of those letters. I have got some useful information about the matter from a rev. gentleman of great intelligence, who has a thorough acquaintance with the history of the country. The following is the substance of the information :— When the Poor Laws were first introduced into Donegal, the law was, that the rates for the maintenance of the poor, &g., were to be levied on the then existing valuation as follows—(1) Where the valuation and rent were equal, the landlord and tenant bore equal parts of the rate. (2) Where the rent was under the valuation, the landlord paid only on the rent, as at present. (3) Where the rent exceeded the valuation the landlord had to pay the poundage rate full for the excess. Thus, if the valuation of a holding were £10, the rent £15, and the rate one shilling in the pound, the landlord would have had to pay 5s on the £5, excess of the rent over the valuation, in addition to paying the half of the rate on the remainder, which would be 2s 6d ; so that the landlord would have been liable in all for 7s 6d, and the tenant only for 2s 6d. Now, when Griffith's Valuation was made, the greater portion of the rate fell on the landlords, as the rents in almost all cases exceeded the valuation. The landlords, of course, expressed much dissatisfaction, and clamoured for a new valuation (the existing one) which was made in 1858, and which, as one of the valuers told my rev. informant, is 25 per cent higher than the first. The second valuation was so high that only in very few cases was the rent under the valuation, and consequently the excess rate which the landlords had to pay was a mere trifle compared with what it was before. Also, I should say that the landlords loudly clamoured for a change in the law for exportioning the rate, and they obtained the expired reform in 1852—a reform which was entirely in their own favour, for by it, the landlord, no matter how high the rent may be, is only liable to pay half the entire rate, and if his rent happens to be under the valuation, he has only to pay on the rent. The Sub Commission for Donegal is to sit at Lifford on Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., in order to hear cases from districts where Griffith's existing land valuation is monstrously high, it is to be hoped that substantial reductions will made, which will bring the rents down twenty five per cent. at

least under the valuation. Trifling reductions in the present high rents, when farm produce, especially flax, oats, and potatoes, is selling so low, will not enable the struggling tenant-farmers to enter on a career of prosperity and comfort. Half cures are worse than useless ; and unless sweeping reductions are made, unless the Commissioners fix rents under which the tenants can “live and thrive” (to use the memorable words of Mr. Justice O’Hagan, memorable, because they have not as yet been acted on, though loudly proclaimed at the time), unless the tenants get some substantial encouragement, and feel that they will have, so to speak, a fair day’s wages for a fair and hard day’s work, the Act will be of no service, and fresh agitation, in which Ulster will undoubtedly take a leading, vigorous, and determined part, unequalled in her history, will be the result. Let the Commissioners not be intimidated by landlord Tory combinations ; if they give substantial justice they will have the people with them, though they may gain ill will from an insignificant feudal minority. To promote “the great happiness of the greatest number,” without doing injustice to anyone, should be the object of the Donegal Commission, as well of all the other Commissions. Let the Commissioners remember to be bold is to be wise.”

–Yours truly,

A Donegal Farmer.

January 5th, 1882.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 11 January 1882**

### **IN THE LAND COURTS.**

The Land Commission and the Sub-Commissions—thirteen Courts in all—are now in full operation throughout the country. Mr. Justice O’Hagan and his two colleagues began the hearing of appeals in Belfast on Monday. They have fifty-two cases to dispose of, and as it is announced they will bear full evidence in every instance, and as they were unable to go through even one case on Monday, it is not impossible it may take them nearly a couple of months before they have gone over the sheet in Belfast, although they are expected at Limerick in a fortnight. This is rather a disheartening prospect for the poor farmers, who in their innocence believed they had the difficulty settled the moment their fair rents were declared by the Sub-Commissioners. Nothing of the sort unfortunately. The number of appeals entered is alarming, and in every

one a most desperate struggle may be expected on behalf of the landlord. It must be recollected that, publicly, landlordism has declared a "war to the knife" campaign against the occupiers. The latter, having made a beginning, must either fight it out unflinchingly, or be worsted. Not only their rents, but very heavy costs, depend upon the determined stand they make in the Court of Appeal. Let them remember, moreover, and they should be strengthened invincibly by the recollection, that they have double right on their side—they have right of justice inherent in their cause, and they have the right springing from their having law on their side. They are acting in harmony with the spirit and letter of the Land Act, but the landlords are endeavouring to destroy that Act, they applaud the man who shouts that he did not acquiesce in it, and would not accept it. What their future action may be, they say, depends upon the decisions of the Head-Commissioners, whose judgments will undoubtedly be watched with intense anxiety, not so much because that they might shape the future agitation of the proprietors, whether they will respect tenants, improvements in the way the Assistant-Commissioners are blamed for not having done. In other words, it is hoped the appeals will result increasing the amount of the reductions already ordered. That such increase is requisite before it can be contended that the tenants have been accorded full justice has been shown over and over. A case in proof has just occurred at Carrick-on-Shannon. Mr. Roche, the Chairman of the Sub Commission there, delivered on Saturday a number of rulings. In the cases, he said—" We are met at the outset with the startling fact that these rents are, on average, nearly 100 per cent, above the Government valuation," Then the lands are of a wet, swampy character, badly in want of drainage, and insufficiently supplied with road accommodation.' Moreover, in two of the cases the rent had been materially raised either by an addition being made to the rent, or by being taken away and the rent left as before." It would be rare find a combination of circumstances so strongly pleading for a sweeping reduction. Yet in every one of the farms the "fair" rent is left considerably above the valuation. No doubt the actual decrease is certainly substantial. The aggregate old rent on four of the holdings was £73 3s, the corresponding new or fair rent is £46 15s, but the Government valuation is only £38 5s. No mention is made as to having the land of which the tenants had been deprived restored to them, nor of their being compensated for the excessive rent so long paid them. In none of the cases decided on Saturday at Carrick-on-Shannon was the judicial rent fixed lower than the valuation, except one, and regarding this holding which was honoured being made the exception the Commissioners say—" The land is the worst we have seen in this neighbourhood." A little incident which occurred at Carrick-on-Shannon will indicate one of the disappointments experienced



almost every day in the Land Act. A tenant named Clarke expressed his desire to borrow under the Act about £40 for the purpose of drainage. The Commissioners informed him they had no power in this matter, and intimated their belief that the rules issued the Board of Works precluded him from getting the loan he wished. The Commissioners were quite right. It is not to them applications for money are to be made, and the Board of Works have announced that “No loan will be granted for a less sum than £100, nor will any loan be granted for greater sum than five years of the annual value of the holding to be charged with the repayment of the loan, as determined by the Poor-Law Valuation, such gross amount to include each and every purpose for which such loan may granted.” It is clear that this rule will exclude large numbers of tenant farmers from obtaining loans. No farmer, for example, whose Poor-Law Valuation is less than £20 a year can procure a loan. For, he cannot get less than £100, which is above the maximum five times his valuation (being less than £20). In Clarke’s case, for instance, the valuation of his holding being £16, he is prohibited by the rules of the Board of Works from borrowing any sum whatever from them. Thus, another of the anticipated benefits under the Act of 1881 has melted into thin air. We learn, moreover, that even when a loan is conceded it is hampered with most unsatisfactory conditions. Thus, the full sum of £100 is never received the tenant, as £5 are retained for costs out of the first instalment—for the money is advanced by instalments only, although the farmer is charged full interest on the £100 from the commencement. He has thus to repay something like £143 for his £95, excluding any estimate for the length of time which must elapse before he receives the whole of the £95. It may be added that his repayments extend over 22 years, and that the interest he has to pay is £6 10s. At the end of 22 years his indebtedness to the Board of Works ceases. To return, however. In Kilkenny the Sub-Commissioners have announced some fair abatements. On one estate they reduced the old rental from £143 5s to £107 5s, the valuation being only £87 15s ; on another the reduction was from £132 18s 5d to £98 15s, the valuation being £80 15s ; and on a third property, valued at £100 10s, the old rental of £161 12s was brought down to £117 13s 6d. In none of these, it may be observed, has the “judicial” rent come to a level of the Government valuation. The decisions delivered at Lifford on Monday principally affect Mr. Colquhoun’s property. They reduce the rental from a total of £218 9s to £188 15s, the valuation being £100.

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The Evictions at Carrowmenagh, and the Standard and Sentinel. —Our Pump street contemporaries in their issues of yesterday return to the questions of

“Evictions on Colonel M'Neill’s Estate,” and “Alleged Theft by Emergency Men at Moville.” The Standard says:—“ We are requested by that gentleman (Mr. James G. M. Harvey,) to state that the letters were posted in Derry, at two o’clock on Wednesday, at Great James street pillar,” and the Sentinel bravely manages, in the course of half column of an Editorial, in which it rambles from Colonel M'Neill’s estate to the notorious Gavazzi, to announce that it had received a telegram from Mr. Harvey, stating that the letters to the Journal were posted before two o’clock on Wednesday, in Great James street pillar-box.” So far so good. When Mr. Harvey proves that the letters were posted as he alleges, it will then be for the Post Office authorities clear up the matter, for, as we stated, the letters did not reach us until Friday, the 6th.

## **Derry Journal - Friday 13 January 1882**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1882, VALUATORS AND THE VALUE OF LAND.

It has frequently been the source of much comment and wonder that the rents of holdings as estimated by valuers for landlords are generally considerably higher than the rents of the same holdings as made out by the valuers for the tenants. It would not of course occasion much surprise that different valuers should arrive at results differing merely in amount. They might not calculate on similar bases. They might in fact work on wholly dissimilar lines, and might, consequently, lay on rents not by any means the same. Yet probably it might in the long run be found that the grand total of number of rents, as fixed by one valuator on a corresponding number of buildings, might not differ very materially from the aggregate of the same number of rents as found by another valuator for the same holdings, always provided, that is, that they were acting purely and simply as skilled valuers, uninfluenced by any collateral considerations. One valuator, high his estimate to-day, might have a low one to-morrow, and vice versa. Another valuator would vary in the same way, and so on. Hence it is, that the aggregate of the results might approach very closely. But unfortunately no such approximation occurs in everyday experience, when the values fixed for the landlord and those fixed for the tenant are considered. It appears to us that the cause of this diversity is not difficult to find. It will be recollected that, as has been said, the landlords’ valuers arrive at figures usually very considerably higher than those found by the tenants’ valuers. This is the fact. It arises, we believe, because the improvements effected by the occupier are not fully, if at all, taken into account by the professionals sent over the farms on behalf of the proprietors. They just value the holding as they

find it, and do not by any means trouble themselves to comply with the Act of Parliament, especially that troublesome Section of a certain measure known as "Healy's Clause." The outcome is that they declare land, which a quarter a century ago was not worth five shillings an acre, but which has in the interim been improved and made good by almost infinite toil and heavy expenditure of the tenant, to be now excellent value for twenty or twenty-five shillings an acre, which, consequently, they quite cavalierly pronounce to be a fair rent for the poor industrious farmer to pay for that land. Could there be a more monstrous injustice perpetrated, particularly in face of last year's Act, which ordered that the tenants' improvements were not to form an element in adjusting rents. When a witness was asked the other day at Lifford how much of the increased value of a farm which its occupier had improved from being worth five to being worth twenty shillings acre, he would allow to the landlord, he answered—nothing at all. He was quite right, notwithstanding that his reply seemed startling to some present. But would you not allow something for the land, he was further asked, since a tailor could not make a suit of clothes without the cloth? But sure the tenant had paid for the cloth, was paying five shillings a year for the land. It is ridiculous that farmers should be taxed for their hard work and outlay, it is a cruel injustice, one which if applied to the landlords themselves would raise amongst them a hullabaloo to which their present agitation for compensation would be but a storm in a tea-kettle. The truth is, tenant farmers have been literally overburdened by the galling imposts placed upon them because they improved. No one but themselves, or one who will have the patience and sympathy to examine minutely into their cases, can realise all they suffered from this system, or could fairly estimate the amount of relief which should now at last be ordered them. How can strange valuers, merely inspecting the holdings, and even also making due allowance for current prices farm produce, fix fair rent, unless they learn every other circumstance which might have, or have had, influence on the value of land. Many farms, whose occupiers some years ago drew large receipts from flax-growing, have depreciated considerably because the price of flax has fallen away so much latterly. The crop is not now much grown, and consequently scutch mills, which to the farmers who owned them were such a means of income, are rapidly disappearing, and therefore the holdings to which they gave special importance have ceased to as valuable they were, and cannot sometimes produce enough to pay the rent laid on in the more favourable times. Then labour is much dearer than it was some time since. This is particularly in the neighbourhood of towns or cities, so that, after all, a farmer residing in proximity to one of these business centres, does not thereby derive so many advantages as is generally supposed inasmuch as he must pay so

much proportionately more in wages of all kinds. And besides, he must cultivate on a much more expensive scale, or be left behind in the brisk competition of the age. There are various other local matters which should also borne in mind. The Carrowmenagh tenants state, as is well-known, that their rents were fixed at a time when barley was largely grown amongst them, because of the great value it had for the purpose of distillation, and that now, as this source of profit no longer remains to them, the old rents are in justice too high. Spinning and weaving were in numerous localities the chief remunerative flourished, rose to exceptionally high value because of them. As they decayed there was a corresponding decrease in the value of the holdings. Then there were dye-works, and bleacheries, and other local industries, all of which sent rents in their respective neighbourhoods to extreme pitch, but as those dwindled away the value of the laud became also diminished. How could strangers become acquainted with all these matters, and how could they make legitimate and necessary deductions because of them, in ordinary cursory or even field-to-field inspection of holdings. And surely the influences of such vicissitudes as we have mentioned have as valid right to be considered in connexion with the rents they may have helped to fix, with the much-needed generous reductions of those rents, and with the undoubted change that has been taking place in the value of land, as foreign competition, unfavourable seasons, &c., have to be included in arranging rents for the future. Now, local valuers, or resident experienced intelligent farmers, conversant with the incidents detailed above so briefly and of course practically acquainted with because observant of, all improvements and changes going on in their districts, are more likely to fix what would be a fair, a "live and thrive" rent, than any ordinary imported expert would. They would not, as he might, refuse to made reduction for change and adversity of seasons; they would not, as he might, decline to allow for depreciation in value through four or five hundred feet of elevation of position ; they would not, as might, hold that in a certain number of years tenants were recouped for their improvements, which should, therefore, become the property of the landlord ; they would not, as he might, receive and obey orders from "the office" to raise rents to a particular figure ; they would not, as might, pronounce that the value of a farm would be best estimated a "mechanical analysis" of its soil; nor would they by any chance, might, fix a "fair" rent merely by valuing the farm as it stands. It is no wonder, therefore, there is often wide difference between the results presented by the landlords' experts and those made out by the tenants' witnesses. The cause is clearly seen and to our mind it is equally plain that the real justice and fairness are on the side of the farmers. We elsewhere this morning publish the valuation of a farm made by Mr. Joseph Alexander, Imlick. Mr. Alexander obviously speaks as

a practical farmer, thoroughly educated in the business a lengthened experience. He states what is within his own knowledge, and does not depend upon fanciful theories. He fixes £39 16s as the fair rent of Mr. Scott's holding, which since 1876 has been under a rent of £71 8s 4d, an amount then laid upon Mr. Scott under terror of notice to quit. Mr. Alexander's valuable paper deserves to be perused with careful attention. It will doubtless assist many tenants to keep accurate accounts of their receipts and expenditure. Such accounts every farmer should keep, as it is the only means by which he can at any time realise how he stands, and whether he is gaining or losing.

The Evictions at Carrowmenagh. —These evictions were concluded on Wednesday. On that day six tenants were turned out at Drumaville.

## **The Irishman - Saturday 14 January 1882**

Patrick M'Gougle, [sic] tenant of Colonel M'Neill, whose property is situate in Carrowmenagh, East Inishshowen, has been evicted. A large force of police and military were present. The agent, Mr. Harvey, has a bad reputation.

Concerning the wholesale extermination going on in Donegal the Freeman has the following comment: In the Ulster Examiner of yesterday there is a graphic account of the evictions near Inishowen, on the property of Mr. Hector M'Neill, absentee. The agent is a Mr. Harvey, and as he regards the matter at issue as a fight between himself and the Land League, he has determined to let no mawkish question of humanity stand in the way. Not a penny reduction would he grant, although offered by some of the tenants as much as 18s in the pound. The land is for the most part miserably poor, being situated on the wild Atlantic littoral. It is let about 25 per cent. above the Government valuation, at which figure has remained for the past 40 years or so. There is a perfect army of soldiers and police assisting the crowbar brigade—who appear to be ragamuffin Emergency men—in carrying out the work of extermination. So extensive is the property that a month will, it is thought, be required for the performance of the task of clearance. Thirteen families, numbering about eighty persons, were unhoused on the first day, their cabins pulled down and their fires stamped out. Pitiably beyond all description were some of the scenes. An old man of 99, an old woman of 90, and several others were among the victims of this inglorious war. Barefooted and half-naked children faced with these the wintry blast of the Atlantic, and watched with streaming eyes the demolition of their wretched homes and the flinging forth of their humble household goods. Some of the police and soldiers, albeit men unused to the

melting mood, could not look with dry eyes at the inhuman scenes. The clergymen of the neighbourhood vainly endeavoured to soften Mr. Harvey's heart. This is the mode in which the land war in the North is being carried out, and we commend the facts to the notice of all people who say that the Irish are a murderous and outrageous race. We do not believe there is a people on the broad world's surface who would have borne meekly so long the cruelties of the landlord system ; and it is little wonder that at length the trampled worm should turn and that the best men of Ireland should vow that the infamous system should come to an end.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 18 January 1882**

EVICCTIONS CARRICMAQUIGLEY, ENNISHOWEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Dear Sir —Under above heading a letter appears in Monday's Journal from Hon. Ernest Cochrane. In any dispute it is well that the point exactly in dispute should first be clearly understood. The public think he was indifferent in these evictions, he asserts he was not, but powerless. Evictions, now well known, were going in Carrowmena. Evictions were afterwards to take place in Carrickmaquigley. Before any evictions took place Captain Cochrane expressed an anxiety to the priests that some settlement should be made to prevent them, and professed a willingness do anything in his power to effect this settlement. Partly owing to this profession, and partly owing to an interest in the family, he was asked to see—not to make a settlement—the sad scenes that were being enacted that witnessing them in person he might not permit a repetition of them on any property with which he was connected. When at Carrowmena the public understood him to strongly condemn what he had seen. Afterwards, in all fairness, he undertook a great deal of trouble to effect settlement with Col M'Neil. From these circumstances, from the fact that Cochrane lives with, and was supposed to share the counsels of, Mrs. Dougherty, from the fact that he has power to dictate to the agent (for he is his own agent), if he wishes, the report became public, as given in Friday's Journal, that evictions in Carrickmaquigley were unexpected—a report every word of which I would endorse, except the remark which accounts for his absence being due to anxiety about Mrs. Dougherty's illness. Amidst the general disappointment, in which the very officials carrying out the law I think shared, it

is at least strange that Captain Cochrane did not even seem to know that day that families were being turned out from homes to which they had devoted the labour and skill of long, virtuous, honourable lives. Captain Cochrane, however, candidly acknowledges that he was powerless in this matter, and seems to appeal to what he will do when the agent comes to deal with the tenants over which the Captain has absolute control. In his letter the Capt. gives upon one or two other points, an opinion which requires some argument to sustain. He intimates that it was altogether through fear of violating of Land League rules the evicted tenants refused to pay rent. I stated the case as well as my judgment enabled me in last week's Journal, and so far I have seen nothing to make me change that judgment of it. There are about forty townlands in this parish, and he who would show clear reasons, comparative cheapness of rent or like, why four of these, Carrowmena, Churchlands, and Carrickmaquigley, should receive a different kind of treatment, because Mr. Harvey is the agent, from the treatment received by the other 36 townlands, would more for its peace than the proclamation of the barony, the army of military, and the standing staff of Constabulary. There has been a good deal of feeling excited by the exceptional action of Mr. Harvey—there has not been the smallest outrage in word or act part of the people. The authorities must bear testimony, those late evictions did frequently bear it, that the people of Merville are the most sober, virtuous, peace loving people on the face of the earth. These remarks are made in the interests of the poor tenants—they are not directed against the Hon. Ernest Cochrane personally. Let himself deal more directly with his tenants, less through his present agent, and he will be first to bear the people the same testimony I feel in conscience I can justly bear to them.—Yours,

James O'Kane, C.C,

Merville, Tuesday, 17th January

Boston USA

## The Pilot, Volume 45, Number 52, Saturday 30 December 1882

### THE SPEECH FOR WHICH MR. HEALY, M.P., IS TO BE TRIED.

A magnificent demonstration was held at St. Mullins County Carlow, on Sunday, Nov. 26, in support of the principles of the Irish National League. There were at least between 4 000 and 5,000 persons present at the meeting which was thoroughly representative, not only of the County Carlow, but of the adjoining districts of Wexford and Kilkenny. The platform was gaily decorated, and all the roads converging on the village were arched over at intervals, with green boughs. Influential contingents attended from Bagenalstown, Borris, Graiguenamanna, Goresbridge, New Loss, Innistiogue, Ballywilliam, Thomastown, The Rower, &c., &c. The clergy present were—Rev. Joseph Ferris, P. P.; Rev. Patrick McDonald, P. P., Graiguenamanna; Rev. Richard Byrne, C. C., do; Rev. J. E. Dilaney, C. C., Clonegal; Rev. P. J. Ryan, St. Mullins; Rev. John J. Kelly, Borris; Rev. James Carey, Graiguenamanna; Rev. James Klrwan, Bagenalstown, etc., etc. The Borris contingent was very large and was accompanied by the brass band, in a break, in which were also seated Mr. Flood, and Mr. Breen, ex-suspect, the latter carrying a beautiful green silk standard. Mr. Healy, Mr. P. Cahill, L. L. B., Editor Leinster Leader, and the gentlemen comprising the Bagenalstown deputation, viz: —Mr. P. J. Kearney, Mr. P. J. Kehoe, and Mr. C. J. Magrath on passing through Borris, were loudly cheered.

The Rev. P. J. Ryan, C.C., St. Mullins took the chair. Speeches were made by several clergymen and others. Mr. Healy, who received an enthusiastic welcome, opened his speech by alluding to the recent work of Landlord Kavanagh, the head of the eviction organization, whose estates at Borris were close to the site of the meeting. He also alluded to the hunting system. He said:—

Men of Carlow: you have seen the spirit in which these men propose to assert their rights. You have had an instance of it here in this country, where a man on his own farm attempted to check an intruder. His answer was a cut of the riding whip (groans for “Bunbury ”). I call upon the farmers of Carlow to avenge the insult offered to one of their own number, by refusing in the future to allow any comrade of this man to ride over their land (cheers).



The laborers of the country have been appealed to intimidate the farmers into allowing hunting to continue, and have been told that hunting has been the means of spreading money amongst them. Now, I am not going to deny that hunters require grooms and stable boys: these are the glorious positions that the landlords offer the laborers in the hierarchy of landlordism. It is true that money is spent in this country by hunting, and it is true that some people on that account have a vested interest in hunting; but there never was a nuisance in any country that people had not a vested interest in preserving it. You cannot remove any nuisance—you cannot remove even a dung-heap from before a door, but somebody may say he is money out of pocket by it, though his neighbors ail round may be spared from typhoid fever. The allegation that hunting keeps money in the country is simply throwing dust in your eyes. Whose money is it? Where does it come from? Where do they get it? Do they find it on the roads? Has Mr. Kavanagh got a gold mine at Borris? My friends, the money comes from the sweat and toil of the farmer, and of the laborer and I would suggest to you that if the landlords are so very anxious to keep the money in the country that the best way to do it is to tell them to lower the rents (hear, hear). There is no royal road, no patent plan for keeping money in the country. Keep it yourselves, my friends, and if you keep it yourselves, you need not be a bit afraid that if hunting is stopped you will be very much the losers by it.

The people of Ireland should, especially at the present time, put a stop to this pastime, while the cry of distress is going up from amongst the laborers of the West; while famine is showing its gaunt and haggard front, it is not seemly that gentlemen clothed in purple and fine linen, who feast sumptuously every day, should be making a pastime and play-ground of the farms upon which the blight has appeared. I trust the distress may not prove as serious as is expected in some places; but this I do know, that the laborers all over Ireland will feel keenly the pinch of this present winter. Winter at best of times is a dreary and miserable season for the unfortunate laborers, but this year especially, when potatoes have failed, when any little crop they have put in con-acre is gone, and when there is little industry in the country, I grieve to think that the laborers in many parts of Ireland will suffer keenly and severely; but I don't anticipate that the farmers of Ireland have been so foolish that a single season of distress, a single season—a bad harvest will bring them again back to the black days of '47, because we have been warning the farmers that if they pay the rents which they had hitherto been paying, that if they do not save up against a bad season and a rainy day, the loss of that season's crop would reduce them to hunger and starvation. I cannot believe that they have

forgotten the lesson (no). We told them that they were paying rents calculated upon the best season's harvests, and that if they continued to pay them, one single bad season would bring them to starvation; so that if any farmer in future, owing to his own payment of rack rent, should perish of starvation, I am here to say that it is his own fault, and, further, I am here to say that if any farmer, by the payment of a rack rent, perishes of starvation, the verdict of the coroner's jury upon him ought to be, "served him very well right." This season will undoubtedly prove very disastrous for many of you farmers, and therefore I would advise you to continue the struggle as you struggled in the past, and not only to struggle but to insist upon further abatements in your rents (cheers). And I would tell the landlords of Ireland that they had just better take what they get now, because in consequence of the season that has occurred, and the effort that many of you are making to scrape together a year's rent to take the benefit of the Arrears Act, very likely when next year comes round there will be very little left for them. That, then, would be my advice to the landlords (cheers).

I would, therefore, advise you, my fellow-countrymen. If you want to make anything out of this Land Act, if you want to make it an act which will really do you some little benefit before you obtain, as you shortly must obtain, the ownership of your holdings (cheers), I would advise you to continue the struggle, and if the rents that the Land Commission fix upon you are rents that you are unable to pay, simply to tell the Land Commission that if they were ten times as big men as they are that they won't get them out of you (cheers). There is no more sacredness in a judicial rent fixed by the landlord in his back office. A judicial rent has nothing in it of a sacramental character. You are not bound to a judicial rent as you are to the Ten Commandments for instance (laughter), and therefore my advice to you would be to get what good you can out of judicial rents, but that if it gives you a good deal of trouble to pay them well, give yourselves less trouble (laughter and cheers), and continue the struggle in the future as you have done in the past by organization, and by effort and by combination to compel the landlords to give you something like a decent settlement (cheers). And while doing this you must not forget the men who have suffered in your cause. You are all aware that in the heat of the struggle of the past two or three years, scores and hundreds of your fellow tenants, by whose sufferings you have gained victory, have been turned out upon the roadside. These evicted tenants, are now being supported by the Mansion House Fund, and the funds of the Land League. I would just like to read for you the names of these tenants, and the average monthly grants which they receive, so that you may know what it is costing to keep them in

sight of their farm:- —Lord Hawarden's tenants at Clonoulty, Cashel, £24; Claud Cole Hamilton's tenants at Moynalty, Meath, £20; the Cochrane and Loughrey tenants, Carrownena, Donegal, £65; Hector McNeill's tenants, Clonmany and Dromaville, County Donegal, £35; Lord De Vassci's tenants, Abbeyleix, £20; the Cloncurry tenants, Murroe, £140; the Conyngham Eilis tenants, Abbeyfeale, £40; Major Leslie's tenants, Pallasgreen, £16: Col. Toit??? Tenants ?iltyclogher, £100; Thomas Dowling's tenants, Cappawhite, Tipperary, £40; Captain Creagh's tenants, Cloughleigh, Cashel £25; Sir Henry Lynges Keatinge's tenants, Laggenstown, Cashel, £15; 'Mrs. Moroney's tenants, Milltown-Malbay, £10; Den Keating's tenants, Urlingford, £15; making a total sum per year of £6,780. Now, in addition to those, there are a few evicted tenants, whose evictions have not occurred directly through the agitation, but to whom, as a matter of charity, the farmers of Ireland are bound to stand. There are, for instance, the recently evicted tenants, numbering fifty families, on Isidore Burke's property in the County Mayo, Lord Kenmire's, Lord Granard's, Colonel King-Harman's, the Clifden tenants, Archdeacon Bland's, Dr Ireland's, and several others. There are, all over Ireland, at the present time 218 wooden houses, in which many families are living, and the League has to pay lodging, money for a great number of other families, and has given grants to build houses to a great many others. In my calculation, the least sum which will be required to sustain the evicted tenants of Ireland every year, so long as the fight continues, would be from £12,000 to £14,000. Well if every farmer in Ireland only paid 1s. a year, or some small sum of that description, they could be very easily supported. The Land League has got a balance of £30 000, which it intends to use for the benefit of those tenants who have suffered in the cause and by the movement. Many applications are being now made on this land for various purposes, and unless the tenant-farmers of Ireland come to the rescue of their evicted brethren, in a year, or two, or three, the Land League surplus will be entirely gone, and if the landlords are able to hold out that length of time, the landlords will have won the victory, and the entire fruit of the toll and sacrifices and expenditure on behalf of these men will have been lost to the movement (hear, hear). It rests with you by your efforts to see that this fruit and sacrifice and expenditure are not lost, and I am sure you will not be called upon in vain (cheers).

It may be said what is the good of organization. It maybe said what is the good of these large meetings. What is organization, my friends? The British Government in this country, which is simply a land piracy, is upheld by organization. The respectable and handsome-looking policemen that you see here are simply the officers of what you may call the Government League. They

have them in every parish and district to look after you and see what you are doing, and report to Dublin Castle (groans). They tax you to pay them, and they have the whole thing organized, although, as I have said, the Government of this country, being as it is an organization against the will of the people, is simply an organization of so many pirates and brigands. It is entitled to the same moral respect as would be the wishes of a man—of a cut-purse who had a revolver at your head and said to you, “your money or your life.” Of course, while the bayonet of the British Government is at your throat, you may pretend to be mighty civil, but you have your own opinion about the gentlemen of the bayonet. How has the Government managed to keep a grip on Ireland? Simply by organization and by main force. You will never find disunion among the police for instance. If there is a question of arresting a land leaguer or taking a “suspect” to prison, two policemen get the word to do it, and it is done in a minute. They don’t go quarrelling about it; they don’t go and say it is a cold night and I don’t want to go out. That is the result of organization, of discipline. They get the word, and they obey orders, and unless the people who are without weapons, and without arms, and who have nothing to sustain them but their own moral strength, their principles, and the justice of the cause—unless the people are equally organized and determined, the landlords whom the police are here to support, being as they are, an organization of brigands, will get the better of you. The landlords may think these words harsh, and in return they fling in your face the words firebrand and agitator. We may be firebrands and we may be agitators, but at least we have not been pronounced by courts of justice to be thieves (cheers). I may be a fire-brand and an agitator, but nobody has ever said that I put my hand into anybody’s pocket, and stole his money. I may have to live in a poor way, and those like me, by writing for newspapers, and we may be sneered at upon that account, but at least we are not living upon the sweat and blood of miserable tenant-farmers (cheers). And, therefore, you, poor as you may be, downtrodden as you may be, you are honest men, but the men who ride by you on splendid horses, who spatter you along the roadside with the dirt of their carriage wheels, have been branded in the courts of justice in this country, in the courts organized and kept up in their own interest—have been branded as thieves and swindlers (cheers). Continue then, fellow countrymen, to meet in mass meetings, listen to and look each other in the face. It may be said meetings are no good, that it is no good listening to speeches. The wisest organization in this country thinks it necessary, in a much greater interest than a temporal interest, to assemble you Sunday after Sunday, to listen again to the same well known lessons that are taught you by your priests; and if this great organization finds it necessary to remind the people Sunday after Sunday of what they owe to their spiritual

interest, is it not also necessary for you to have your feelings quickened and your minds enlightened at meetings of a character such as this.

In conclusion, I would advise you, each man in his own way, however small that way may be—I would advise you earnestly and unfailingly to continue to do something for this movement. In the southern seas the beautiful coral islands are uplifted above the deep by the labor going on for countless ages of infinitesimal insects, not one of whom has ever lived to see the completion of the work in which they are all engaged. We, too, puny actors as we are in the great drama of Irish regeneration, we may pass away without seeing the end; but we have at least this proud memory to sustain us—that if we contribute by our own efforts something to the end, if we do that, we may be assured that as the coral island rears its verdant front above the waves of the Pacific, so, too, the glorious fabric of Irish nationhood will emerge over storm and sea, and raise itself aloft, glorious, indestructible: and eternal (loud and prolonged applause, amid which the hon. member retired.)

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday Morning 22 March 1882**

### **EVICCTIONS IN DONEGAL.**

Moville, Thursday. The question asked in the House of Commons the other night by Mr. O'Donnell has directed attention to the evictions that have fallen like snowflakes on the tenants in Donegal. According even to the answer given the Chief Secretary it would appear that since the 1st of January—little over two months—there had been fewer than 339 evictions, and I have been informed that this figure gives as a matter of fact no notion whatever of the actual number of individuals who within that short period in this county have been turned out of their homesteads. To any person anxious to inquire into the circumstances of the Donegal evictions, past and pending, the first difficulty that presents itself is what district to select with a view to investigation, for turn what way you will the same pitiable story confronts you. The occurrences which took place at Moville within the time mentioned by Mr. Forster have created a very remarkable impression in the district, and are still a general subject of conversation with all manner of people. For this reason I to-day drove from Derry to the scene of these Moville evictions. It is very difficult for anyone, having witnessed the spectacle that now presents itself at Carrowmenagh (for that is the name of the townland I refer to), and having heard from the priests of the parish and other reliable sources of information the tale of which the scene is the sequel, to write in terms of moderation. A village has been

exterminated—a village where, a few short months ago, there lived close on a hundred peasants, on land which they and their fathers had forced from a condition of utter barrenness to something like productiveness, and from which they have now been chased by the process of law. Anything more appallingly desolate it has never been my lot to witness, and his must be a hard and unfeeling heart indeed that could remain unmoved in the contemplation of the site of that little village. The landlord of the holdings with which I am dealing is Mr. Hector M'Neil, of Edinburgh—his agent is Mr. James George Harvey, of Londonderry. The total rental of the farms at Carrowmenagh (and the smallness of the amount will indicate the character of the holdings) amounts to £228 11s 5d ; the Government valuation, excluding, of course, the houses, is £180 10s. The occupants comprized about 19 families, and as to their character I cannot do better than quote the words of their beloved parish priest, Father Farnan, “a warm-hearted, more industrious, or more deserving people never lived.” That they were industrious is evident to anyone who takes the trouble to look at the land they tilled. There is probably not to be found on the coast a more wild or more unpromising prospect than that presented by the situation of their holdings, and notwithstanding all the difficulties of the task, those hardy peasants have, with the characteristic firmness and determination of their northern nature, brought the farms around their humble homesteads to a degree of cultivation such as those who saw the place even fifty years ago could never have anticipated. They managed to pay their rents—high as those rents were, having regard to the conditions of the holdings—until there came those recent bad years that struck down so many and forced attention to the cry for justice to the Irish tenant farmer. In no part of the country, perhaps, did the tenants suffer by these bad years more bitterly than here, and one can well imagine what hardships they must have endured living in pinching poverty on land exposed to the full force of Atlantic winds. They fell into arrears. It is impossible to imagine it could have been otherwise. All were, I believe, least two years in arrear, and in March, '81, Mr. Harvey, the agent, wrote a letter in which he said, amongst other things, “I have now waited patiently for the entire month since the rent day, hoping that many things would have induced you to come forward and pay your rents. But, I must tell you plainly, if they are not paid next week, I must bring ejectments and put you to heavy costs. You should remember that Mr. M'Neill has not raised his rents for forty years, that at one time he gave up a large amount of arrears altogether, and that for the past three years he has helped his tenants with seed and meal.” Now, the tenants

admit that the rents had not been raised for a considerable number of years, but they contend that they were always too high, that formerly they had sources other than the land by which to earn some money to help to pay the high rent, that distress had left them absolutely without the means of meeting the present rent, that the district was scheduled a “distressed district,” and that the “seed and meal” referred to was supplied no doubt upon the security of the landlord or his agent, but that they had to pay for it. The rest of the story is soon told. The agent took proceedings against all the tenants (eighteen families.) Their parish priest informs me that every offer within the power of the tenants to comply with was made and sternly refused, that offer was made on their behalf to pay the full rent at reduction of 2s in the pound, which was refused ; that an offer was made to leave the disputed points to arbitration, the arbitrators to be if he choose land agents, which was refused ; and the question should be left to the Land Court, the rent fixed by it to be applicable to the two past years, which was refused. It is right to mention that replying to an able letter by Father Farnan, P.P., Mr. Harvey wrote : As regards the tenants in general, I have made two distinct offers —viz., 1st, that they should pay one year’s rent and costs, upon which I would abandon ejectments, and in event of their thinking right to apply to have judicial rents fixed, would allow such rents to date back to November, 1881 ; or, 2nd, that they should remain in possession as caretakers, pending redemption, and that upon their paying one year’s rent, without costs, I would allow them nine months for redemption, instead of the statutable six months, their alleged objection to remaining in possession being that if they did not redeem I might seize and sell their crops in summer. Both offers have been, however, refused, and it is a matter of notoriety in the district that what the tenants are contending for is their right to coerce their landlord into giving abatement, but because they have not been yielded to on that point does not follow that no “conclusions” have been made. On the contrary, I have told the tenants and Mr. Farnan himself that short of making an abatement, I would meet them in every possible way, and afford them every facility for taking advantage the new Land Act. I may here mention the names of the tenants, with their rents and the Government Valuation, promising by saying that from those best acquainted with the locality I have been informed that in no part of Ireland is the Government valuation proportionately so high, having regard to the holdings. Patrick M’Gonagle (seven in family), rent, £2l 3s; valuation, £l7 5s. This was one of the most comfortable of the holdings. M’Gonagle’s father, I understand, had originally

held a small farm a rent of £6 16s, but it was subsequently enlarged by the addition of some adjoining land and the rent increased. A writ of ejectment was served on the tenant, he signed the suitable acknowledgment, and was left in occupation, the ensuing six months being allowed for redemption. He did not, however, redeem, nor did he avail himself of the section of the Land Act under which he could have obtained an extension of time. Possession was thereupon demanded, a writ of ejectment on the title served, and the sheriff appeared to demand possession. There were three years' rent due ; M'Gonagle offered 13s 4d in the £ in respect of the amount. This was refused, but Mr. Harvey offered to take a years' rent and the costs, on condition that all the other tenants came forward and paid a years' rent and the costs. This concession, if it can be so termed (and it should be observed that the costs in some cases exceeded the rent), was not accepted, the crowbar was applied to the house, and it is now a shapeless ruin. John Boyle (seven in family), rent, £3 ; valuation, £2 5s. John M'Dermott (four in family), rent, £12 ; valuation, £9 10s. Hugh M'Dermott (six in family), rent, £10; valuation, £8. Patrick M'Sheffery, rent, £2; valuation, £2. Patrick Betagh (three in family), • rent, £13; valuation, £11. Henry Horken, rent, £12 13s 3d ; valuation, £8 5s. John M'Loughlin (two in family), rent, £4 10s; valuation, £3 10s. Thomas Carrell [nine in family], rent, £3. John M'Gettigan [ten in family], rent, £5 6s ; valuation £4 13s. Patrick M'Laughlin [nine in family], rent, £9 5s 3d ; valuation, £7. Hugh M'Shefferey, senior and junior [four in family], rent, £4. Henry M'Dermott [four in family], rent, £14; valuation, £13 5s. John M'Gettigan [eleven in family], rent, £6 19s valuation, £4 10s. , Robert Betagh [four in family], rent, £11 12s; valuation, 9 5s. John Betagh (12 in family), rent, £10 ; valuation, £7 10s. Charles Feeley (11 in family). The total rental in this case was £19 11s, the Government valuation being £14 but the holding was divided between Charles and John Feeley. Hugh M'Gonnagle, rent, £17 10s; valuation, £13 10s. As a farther indication of the character borne by these poor people I may be permitted to quote the following from a letter written by one who knew them in all their relations of life, The Rev. J. M. M'Donagh P.P M of Tamlaght O'Crilly:— “I read with sorrow the letter of the Rev. Father Farnan about the treatment the poor people met with last week at Carrowmenagh. For families to be thrown out of the houses their ancestors built, is hard, but is made more so when the like happens in the cold of winter. It happened to be my lot to be curate in the parish of Moville for 14 1/2 years. It would naturally follow that I should know well the character of the evicted. I do. I am able to state (1) that I knew the evicted to be most industrious ; (2)



that they lived economically in order to meet their bills; (3) that during that time he never heard of any legal proceedings being taken against them for the recovery of rent, for good reason—that the rent had been always well paid. I am now more than eleven years out of the parish, and the rent has been paid as usual, I hear, if we except the last year or two, when times became bad. One would think that, payments being so good and being made for so long a time, the landlord would have had some feeling for the tenants if they ran a little behind, especially when it was not their fault. I say it was not their fault. Why? I answer, the inability to meet the demands of the landlords is not local. It is not confined to Carrowmenagh nor to Inishowen. I believe that the parish from which I write is five times poorer to-day than it was on my arrival therein. As might well be imagined, the eviction of all these unfortunate people was a bitter blow, not only to themselves but to their pastors; and I have it from the lips of the Rev. Mr. Farnan, P.P. ; the Rev. Mr. O’Kane, C.C., and the Rev. Mr. M’Glinchy (although, indeed, it needed no assurance that it was so), that they exerted themselves to the last in putting forward every form of appeal on behalf of their unhappy people. They made every overture within what they considered the bounds of reason, but in vain. Father Farnan offered to pay 18s in the £, but, to use his own expression, he might as well be talking to a stone. A Mr. J. M’Glinchey, of Kindroyhed, offered a cheque for the entire rental due, minus 20 per cent, (the reduction he had himself obtained from his landlord), but it too was declined. The soldiers were brought down to aid the emergency men and police to carry out the law, and in a few hours a little village, the creation of a century, the home of honest men and virtuous women, the place wherein their hearts were centred, where all the little history of their humble lives was written, where all their joys and sorrows were cradled, a village in which the peace which comes of honesty and purity prevailed—was swept away by the agent of Mr. M’Neill, of Edinburgh. In describing what I have seen, and stating what I have heard of this wholesale clearance, I have endeavoured to speak in the mildest possible terms, and to use no harsh adjectives. I have done so because there may, perhaps, be some extenuating circumstances hidden away unknown to all save the landlord and his representatives, and I would fain hope even yet that at this the twelfth hour, something might be done to restore on fair terms some at least of those poor people who, whatever be their faults, have suffered long and bitterly. The district has been not only free from outrage of any kind, but it is hardly too much to say that it has been a model of quietness and good order. Already I hear that some of the youngest

and strongest of the evicted are leaving for America, others are being provided with shelter in houses erected by the Ladies' Land League, and are otherwise assisted. The scene and story suggested to the traveller who passes Merville and nears Carrowmenagh are such as might blacken the reputation of any civilised country. Again I express the hope that even yet it is not too late, by concessions however great, to remove this reproach from the fair fame of Innishowen. Before closing this despatch I may add that on a neighbouring property—at Drumaville, under the same landlord and agent—eleven families have been evicted :—Neil M'Laughlin (three in family), James Beattie (four in family), Daniel M'Laughlin (eight in family), Roger Farna (six in family), Patrick Kelly (two in family), James Kelly (five in family), Owen M'Laughlin (five in family), James M'Laughlin (two in family), James Duffy (four in family), Edward Duffy (four in family). At Redcastle, Carrickmaquigley, the property of the representatives of the late Mrs. Doherty, and of which the agent is Mr. Harvey, there has been a further series of very harsh evictions, and in every case ; the tenant—in some instances numbering seven and nine in family—have earned the character of peaceable, industrious, and law-abiding people. —*Special Correspondent of Freeman's Journal.*

## **Freeman's Journal - Monday 27 March 1882**

EVICIONS IN INISHOWEN.  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN.  
Merville, March 24.

SIR—I read with much pleasure the able article in the "Freeman" of last Saturday, regarding the cruel evictions we had in this parish some three months ago. The article was given by your special correspondent ; and what your correspondent states about the Agent not allowing one penny of abatement is literally correct. He describes eloquently and truthfully the scenes of eviction. He could have expatiated at even greater length on the barrenness of the soil—its situation and exposure to the Northern blasts. It would be a difficult task to convince a person who now examined the uninhabited village that so many people could find means of subsistence in such a place. The traveller's eye meets nothing but grey rocks, heather, cut-out bog, pools of water—a fine place, the sportsman would say, for wild duck and snipe shooting. And this is the land for which the hardy peasantry of Carrowmenagh offered to pay more than they were able, 12s in the pound. They were so attached to the old homesteads, the old hearths had for them so many sacred

associations and recollections, that they were willing to dispose of their last cow and give away the last penny to meet the agent and pay the rack rent. But, alas, owing to circumstances over which that industrious, economic people had no control—bad seasons, failure of crops, general agricultural depression—they were unable to pay the full rent. Not one penny of abatement would be given. The agent's words, "The rents were not raised for the last 40 years," therefore no reduction—a curious and strange conclusion. The agent said often enough he would do anything "short of abatement," We think he is not to be thanked for that—the law does this for the people independent of any agent. Reduction in rack-rent was all the people asked, and this was sternly refused. That the rents on this wretched property were exorbitant nearly all here admit, and the following fact more than proves it : —On an estate immediately adjoining there was a valuation some days ago. Both landlord and agent came to the place (not Mr. Hector M'Neill and Mr. James Harvey, the landlord and agent of the evicted families). Landlord and agent chose two practical farmers to name fair rent. What was the result of the valuation of the chosen by landlord and agent? What was the fair rent? I should mention that this land is admittedly better than the land of Mr. M'Neill. I saw by a Derry newspaper the result was a reduction of 40 per cent. ; and the tenants of the absentee landlord before expulsion from their homes only asked 10 per cent. Further, they offered to submit to any tribunal of arbitration—even to the decision of two land agents. They offered to do any possible thing rather than be thrown on the roadside on a winter day. But, unfortunately, no abatement for them; but pay full rent, with enormous costs, or out they must go. It is to be regretted your correspondent did not see the actual eviction. Had he seen it—the suffering of young and old, the destruction of property—I know not what conclusion he would have drawn. I would not attempt to describe the effects of the evictions for the past three months. The young and the strong—the bread-earners—are gone, or are going, to the land of the free, the old and the helpless are left behind. To see men verging on 100 years—men that had toiled their whole life to pay a rack-rent—to see and to hear them bemoaning their sad fate, that they would be obliged to close life in the cold walls of a workhouse, was, I think, enough to touch even a hard heart. If your correspondent had seen the evictions, he could bear testimony to the peaceful habits of this fine people, and let the readers of the "Freeman" know how little need there was for such a display of military, about 80 of the royal Irish Constabulary, with a fair number of sub-inspectors, and a company of soldiers, costing, likely, the Government more each day than the entire rental of Mr. H. M'Neill, the absentee landlord of 30 evicted families, upwards of 200 individuals.

MICHAEL FARNAN, P. P. Merville.

## **Derry Journal - Friday 31 March 1882**

### **EVICCTIONS IN INISHOWEN.**

On Wednesday the Sub Sheriff, with his usual accompaniments, now unfortunately so familiar in the hills and valleys of the peninsula, paid a visit to the property of a Mr. Ferguson, in the neighbourhood of Carndonagh, for the purpose of carrying out ejection decrees. The proceedings were of a formal character, ten farmers signing the statutory agreement accepting six months' redemption, and thereby remaining in possession in the meantime. Yesterday (Thursday) the sheriff proceeded to Mr. Young's property near Culdaff where a large number of evictions were to take place. A party of military, fifty six in number, were on special duty for the occasion in addition to the police force. The presence of the military was probably owing to the recent minatory notice in the Gazette but the proceedings, so far as we have ascertained, were of a pacific character.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 10 April 1882**

### **EVICCTIONS IN DONEGAL.**

Carndonagh, Monday.—On Saturday the series of evictions on the property of Mr. Geo. Young, of Culdaff, were brought to a conclusion. I have already spoken in general terms of the condition of affairs on this estate, and pointed out as well as the limits of space would permit some of the features that have characterised the proceedings. It would be impossible to exaggerate the interest—the melancholy interest—which these events have created throughout Donegal, and they certainly form a strange and striking commentary to the answers given by the Chief Secretary recently to the questions asked Mr. O'Donnell in the House of Commons. In a comparatively large number of cases to which I have not referred in any detail settlements have been made with the landlord. No one who has not actually seen an eviction can form any notion of the miserable and melancholy surroundings of each scene. It will have been noticed that in every case the tenants were several years in arrears—some of them I would say hopelessly in arrear. In those cases where “settlements” were made it is really hard to imagine how the question will in the end be solved. The terms of the settlement in almost every case involved the imposition upon the tenant of a liability from which it is difficult to imagine how he will ultimately clear himself. When a man is placed in this position, that his rent is unreasonably high, that arrears have accumulated, that the means of meeting his liabilities are far less than they have been in former years, and that in his anxiety to hold on to the old home he incurs farther responsibilities, it is a

grave and serious question how he is to free himself from the incubus that drags him down, after he has made a “settlement” which brings with it no reduction of rent. In only one case that has yet come under my notice has the slightest concession been made by the landlord in the direction of lowering of the rent. I may say in passing that the experience of the past few days prove beyond the possibility of doubt that unless the Government takes some action, give some relief and makes some satisfactory provision in favour of the tenants the question of arrears, a settlement with landlords like Mr. George Young can be productive of little if any advantage. I have spoken of the condition of the people living on Mr. Young’s estate, but really it would be impossible to convey in words any notion of the actual state of wretchedness which many of them exists. The testimony of an impartial English writer on the subject may be taken of at least some weight such a subject, and it may not be out of place to quote the words a correspondent for the Daily Telegraph, describing what said in a visit to Glengad. He said in effect—

“ It must be understood that the people whose condition I about to describe are not such as we should look for in the worst cottages of Great Britain. They are not labourers, dependent on regular or casual employment for daily bread, but rather men who in ordinary years derive living from the produce of the few acres they rent. As such they stand outside the operation of the Poor-law. . . . . All the cabins I visited at Glengad were those of farmers belonging this class. Many of them do not know where to look for a week’s provisions of meat, yet till they throw up their little holdings, the money officially raised for the relief of the poor in the union of Inishowen is as inaccessible as are the mines of Golconda. The first cabin to which I was conducted on reaching the height of the townland belongs to an orphan family, four of whom —two boys and two girls—are old enough to work upon the eight acres they rent, for which, with a cheerless hovel, an annual sum of £8 is—or just now is supposed to be paid. When the father and mother were living the circumstances of this household were comfortable, but death and bad seasons have now brought them very low. The one horse has gone, and the family cow with it; the younger children I found in rags, while the clothes of the two working lads defied conjecture as to the original of so many patches. Outside the cabin was a stack of oats, long since its full value, and not a single potato remained of the miserable few spared rain, frost, or disease. The two young women seemed diffident, and answered questions with reluctance ; but it was clear that, beyond the relief given through the local committee and the amount earned shirt making by

hand—there is a shirt factory in Carndonagh—they had no resources whatever, nor the smallest prospect of being able to plant and sow their land for a future crop.”

I am tempted to quote this, because it has reference to a case with which I have already dealt, and in which the final process of eviction has just been consummated. I quote it to show what an English correspondent saw at a time when the burdens upon the people were less than they are now, when everything looked better in this district than it does to-day. It will hardly be believed, but I have the statement from a priest whose eminence, whose high character, and whose saintly devotion his people makes his word his bond—Father Philip O Doherty, C.C., Carndonagh—that on this estate the practice at one time prevailed that when the tenants were in debt to the landlord, the representative of the latter, without any legal formality or process, went round and took possession even of “relief seed” which had been supplied. That debt should accumulate upon people subject to this and to the pressure of the bad times through which they passed, was merely inevitable, and yet the landlord, who himself admits the condition of the tenants, refuses to concede a reduction in their rents. Describing another “holding,” this English writer, whose national prejudices certainly would not have induced him to lean very much on the side of the tenant, said that one of the cabins visited belonged to a widow whose husband with six others perished in 1876 while fishing off the dangerous, because shelterless, coast. A subscription raised at the time granted an annuity of £8 to each of the bereaved women. Upon that £8, with the produce of her little holding, the widow contrived to support herself and three children. But she did more. It was strikingly suggestive of the way in which poor Irish families cling together, that the sorry hovel of this woman housed her late husband’s father, an aged man past work, and his brother, who was crippled, who should have gone to the workhouse long ago if only for medical treatment. What is to be the fate of those families who have been put out I know not. In one case Saturday the poor people sat looking at their miserable furniture being dragged out, and as their houses was in a very lonely place, and their neighbours almost as badly off as themselves—where are they to go? What are they to do? In some cases a temporary shelter from the piercing cold blasts and drilling rains is given, with a welcome that makes it doubly grateful, by the poor cottiers on the hill. In one case the aged mother of an evicted family has been taken under the sheltering roof of Mr. James M’Glinchey, of Kindroyhead, a gentleman of whose influence for good I have already made mention, and whose voice has ever been raised to shield these poor tenants, and who, if any intervention could possibly save them, would

have succeeded in averting the danger that hung around them. Mentioning Mr. M'Glinchy's name suggests to me that it may not be out of place to observe that he gave very important evidence before the Bessborough Commission, important, in fact, that, as I am aware, the Commission devoted special and particular care to its consideration. In his evidence he gave very graphic and powerful description of the condition of affairs on this estate, showing that the legalised custom gave the landlord the opportunity of pocketing money which of right belonged clearly to the tenant. In his evidence he said, speaking of the rents on the property—" In Glengad the valuation of the land is £263; of the houses, £33; total valuation, £296. The rental is £486. Of Carthage, the valuation is—land, £297 ; houses, £56 ; total, £353 ; rental, £583." But apart altogether from this the simple fact remains that the tenantry have really been reduced to a condition that seems utterly inconsistent with the payment of the rents demanded. Bits have here and there been cut off their holdings to make other farms, whilst the same high rent continues, notwithstanding the curtailment of the area, and in this way was perpetuated a system under which men paid ostensibly for a holding which in reality was certainly very much reduced from its original capability. There is no doubt whatever that if careful, or even a casual or superficial, valuation by impartial judges were made of this property, the result would be to reduce by considerably over one-half the rents of a great mass of the holdings. The first house visited on Saturday by Mr. Young, accompanied by the sheriff, the resident magistrates, the military, the police, and the " Defence Men," was that of William Toland, whose rent is £7 10s, whose valuation is £3 15s or £4, and who was certainly some years in arrear. The family consisted of eight people, and after a prolonged consultation a settlement was ultimately arrived at, one element of which was the remarkable one of a reduction of rent on the part of the landlord, who agreed to take off £1. The settlement involved the payment of £13 odd by a friend of the family, who in return received a mortgage over one-half the farm, I should have mentioned that the district visited was again Culdaff, and I will not weary readers by again describing the farms held by the tenants in this parish. Indeed, seems a perfect mockery to call them farms—they are mere strips of land most unpromising, and to an ordinary spectator quite incapable of productiveness. This applies with peculiar force to the next holding visited, that of James Logan. There was, I believe, £7 due. There were seven in a family and they simply were in a condition of the most utter helplessness. I never saw a more pitiable spectacle, and the scene of their eviction I shall not attempt to describe. I pass over some cases in which "settlements," they are called, were made, and come to the case of the brothers James and Charles Harkin. Their rent was £10, the valuation was £8, and the ejection process for two years'

rent and costs. No settlement could be made in this instance, from the simple fact that the tenant was really not in a position to give anything. In the struggle to keep his head over water he had exhausted all his resources, and the result has been that his home is to-day made desolate. As indicating the character of the "settlements" made I may mention that I heard one man say, "there is the money, but you get it thanks to my neighbours' goodness, and you never would get it but that the poor child within is sick and dying." It struck me as very suggestive that in many instances the charity of well to friends had to be called on to stave off the bitter day, and the settlements thus made can only be regarded as singular, and, I may add, insecure, so far as permanency is concerned ; having regard to the important fact that the landlord on his part yields practically nothing in the way of future reduction. Saturday's work concluded, as I have said, the business of eviction on Mr. Young's estate, in conclusion I can only express a regret that some member of the Government, Mr. Forster for instance, instead of making speeches from the window of hotel or in the atmosphere of the House of Commons, could not see what I have, I fear, but too inadequately endeavoured to describe, amongst the now common incidents of the evictions in Inishowen. —Special Correspondent of Freeman.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 12 April 1882**

### **EVICCTIONS IN DONEGAL.**

Carndonagh, Wednesday.—The military and civil forces still occupy Carndonagh as the headquarters from which they each morning proceed to aid in the evictions over Innishowen. As I have already intimated, a large number of cases have been "settled" during the week, and it is to be hoped that the Land Court will hear more of many of these cases. I cannot too strongly emphasise the fact to which I have before directed attention, that the inconvenience arising from the distance at which the Sub Commissioners sit in this district is almost prohibitive to a very large number of the tenants in Innishowen. If the court sat, say, at Carndonagh, much benefit would result, and I feel certain that many who now hesitate to journey to Buncrana would be glad to come here to have their cases promptly disposed of. An early start was made this morning, the military being under the command of Lieutenant Ogle, and the police under Mr, Smith, of Moville, both forces being directed by Mr. Macleod, R.M. The road was taken to the townland of Drumleigh Upper, on the property of Mrs. Torrens. The first visit was paid to the holdings of John and Rose M'Dermott, whose rent is £7 10s, and whose valuation is about £1 less. The Sheriff having entered the house and made some preliminary preparations, it was found that a



serious mistake was made. The process had been served in the name of a woman who had been dead for some time, and the evicting party had to retire in a decidedly undignified manner. I pass over the case of a tenant named M'Candless, who intends going into the court, and in which a temporary settlement was effected. The property of Mrs. Maria E. Hazlitt was then reached. The agent on this property is Mr. James Harvey, of Londonderry, whose name has already become so widely known in connection with the Carrowmena evictions. A halt was made on the road facing the farms of Bernard Lafferty and Michael Bradley—the rent of the joint holdings is £10. The condition of affairs here seemed to be somewhat peculiar. I was informed that Lafferty's father originally took the entire farm—then comprising the two holdings now in question, at a rent of 30s. This was raised to £3, under the former landlord. When the latter died, the present proprietor purchased the property, and the rent here was raised from £3 to £5. It stood at this sum for a considerable number of years, but was ultimately raised to £10. This is Lafferty's statement, and I have no reason to disbelieve it. His sister got married to Bradley, who now holds half the original farm. I have been told—and I let the statement on for what it is worth—that between two and three acres were actually taken from the farm between some of these increases of rent. The land appears to have been reclaimed with much difficulty. Even yet there is a good deal of it that looks poor enough, and, as an indication of its productive qualities, the tenant tells me that some time ago he sowed a hundred stone of oats, the crop from which did not bring him sufficient profit to give a feed to his horse. By dint of constant and persistent labour the farm was improved to its present condition, and the rent is now, having regard all to the circumstances, an obviously unreasonable one. Efforts were made to effect settlement—I believe 2 1/2 years' rent was the amount in the writ. I heard that the landlord offered to allow the man in on payment of one year's rent and costs (£4), but I failed to hear that any proposition was made on his behalf in the direction of a reduction of the future rent. Of course it must naturally be asked why did not the tenant agree to put himself in a position to go into the court. Into the discussion of this question, which, indeed, arose in many that have occurred during the week, I do not intend to go. Suffice it to say no arrangement could be come to, and the eviction was carried out in due form. Amongst the articles thrown out was a spinning wheel, an instrument from which in bygone days the women of the household were able materially to assist to pay the rent, but which has become more interesting as a relic of the past than as a source of profit. It may be mentioned that when the sheriff arrived the land was being ploughed, but the operation was quickly stopped personally by Mr. Harvey. The doors were all nailed up with one exception. The

door of the barn or outhouse could not found, and the "Property Defence" men had literally to build up the aperture with stones and sods. Bradley's house had already been deserted, so that nothing remained but to enter it, take possession by pulling a straw out of the thatch, and other curious formalities, and shut and bar the doors. The party then retook their seats on the cars, and the cavalcade proceeded to Carrowmena, which will henceforth be known as the "evicted village." In one of my first letters some weeks ago from Donegal I dealt with the proceedings connected with the partial extermination of this village. It is probably unnecessary again to mention the fact that the landlord is Mr. Hector M'Neill, of Edinburgh, and the agent, Mr. James Harvey, of Derry. It is sometimes the habit to regard the statements, of a correspondent—whose unpleasant duty it is to describe the scene of an eviction—as exaggerated, sensational, and high-coloured. In my former letter touching Carrowmena, I undoubtedly did speak very strongly on the subject, and I am glad to observe that my statements have been more than confirmed and sustained by the letter which appeared in the "Freeman" the other day over the name of Father Farnan, the parish priest of Moville. I can well imagine what must be the sensation of a stranger to the realities of Irish landlordism, who would witness the scene that presented itself to-day. The village, once the home of happy, contented, and good, if not particularly prosperous people, had already been nearly swept away so far as inhabitants are concerned. To-day the long cavalcade stopped on the outskirts of what is in truth a deserted village, and the soldiers and police took up their positions by the roadside to see the majesty of the law vindicated. I walked through the streets of the village, accompanied by an Irish gentleman who had long lived in England, and who had driven over from Carndonagh to see for himself the work at which such enormous force was assisting. His amazement was unbounded, and his natural observation was that he could not have believed, had it not been thus proved to him, that such wholesale desolation could have been brought about at the instance even of an Irish landlord. It was, in truth, a spectacle calculated to make man marvel how in a civilised country such a state of things could be permitted or be possible. Each door we passed had its staple and chain across ; one at least of the roofs had been thrown down ; all were vacant, save two or three, and those were soon to be shut up. There was, indeed, the post-office, and it still remains, and is tenanted; its occupation is gone. Pointing to that post-office to-day a man said to me, 'Tis there that many and many notes came with good news from America ; but 'twas often and often we had to pay it to the landlord, just to keep a roof over our heads." Every step that one takes discloses some fresh scene of sorrow. One amongst the many sad incidents connected with wholesale evictions struck me with peculiar force and

significance. Amongst those who had been turned adrift when Mr. James Harvey and the Sheriff were last here, James Beatty, who has ten in a family, many of them young and helpless. He has nothing before him but the workhouse or America ; and he is going to America. A temporary shelter has been charitably made for him on the holding of a neighbouring farmer named M'Laughlin, I can hardly trust myself to describe the scene I witnessed to-day under that roof. The place had been, I think, a barn or out-house of some sort; but a few boards, a dash of whitewash, and the neat and clean, though miserably poor, scraps of furniture, gave an air of some little comfort to the place. A small turf fire burned at one end of the room —there was but one. On a low pallet beside the fire sat the father of James Beatty, an old man over a hundred years of age, but still able to use his limbs and in possession of his faculties. He was rocking a queer home-made wooden cradle when I entered with Father Farnan and Father O'Kane. In the cradle there slept and smiled the tiniest and prettiest little child I have ever seen. The old fellow was humming a lullaby in a soft low voice. Sitting opposite to him was James Beatty's wife, and around her were little children "like steps of stairs," as she said to herself. When James told us he was going to America with the wife and such of the "wee ones" that could come, the poor old fellow started up and in a voice of pent up misery cried "God help me, but I'll be the lonely man." The priest comforted him and told him he would be well cared for, that he should not fret, but bow to the will of Providence. He said in a voice I can never forget, "Ah, Father, but they're going to leave me," and he looked at the young family around him as if his very heart would break. He then told us a long and miserable story of the sorrows of his own life, for he had been a tenant himself ; and whenever he returned to speak of what was before him - his boy and his children going to America—he broke down. I cannot further describe the scene, and will say no more about it than this—that apart altogether from mere sentiment, the fact that these evictions could bring about such spectacle was enough to stamp the business as a disgrace to our common humanity.

I have mentioned that shelter was given on Neil M'Laughlin's holding —as I understand is the case on some others further removed—to some of those who were evicted. Mrs. Laughlin informed in the presence of the priests that "they had got a letter from Mr. Harvey to the effect that they were not to sublet any of their holdings or allow any of the evicted families to get places on their holdings, or he would adopt measures that they would find more difficult to meet than anything that had yet been done." I do not vouch for this statement, and simply give it as I took it down ; but even remembering all I saw and heard I do hope and trust it is not accurate. I have little more to add. Edward M'Conway and John M'Conway—I may almost say the last remaining inhabitants of the

village—were turned out, and I won't attempt to repeat the story of what an eviction really means. I sincerely regret that some of those eloquent Ministers who in glowing periods discuss in Westminster the State of Ireland," had not seen even some few of the incidents that have signalised with such unhappy notoriety the "Evictions at Carrowmena."

Again, I have to add, with regret, that the work will be continued in other parts of Innishowen, and seems likely to last for some days.—*Special Correspondent of Freeman's Journal.*

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 02 August 1882**

### **EJECTION OF A CARETAKER.**

Hector J. M'Neill summoned Harry Diarmud, Carrowmenagh, to show cause why possession of part of the lands of Carrowmenagh with the houses thereon, held by him as caretaker, should not be delivered up.

Mr. Harvey, the agent of the complainant, proved an agreement in writing dated the 30th June, 1879, under which the defendant took the lands as caretaker, and he also proved the demand of possession.

Mr. Maxwell, for the defendant, said his defence would raise question of title, and, that being so, there was no use in occupying the time of the Court in going into it.

Mr. Lepper—We should hear the facts of the case.

Mr. Maxwell—Very well ; I will read some letters which show that the defendant is a yearly tenant, and not a caretaker. The agreement signed by Diarmud was wiped out by the transactions since between the parties, when the defendant was negotiating for the purchase of the place.

Mr. Maxwell then read very many letters sent by Mr. Harvey to the defendant, and commented on them. He submitted that a question of title being bona fide raised, the Court had no jurisdiction.

Mr. Harvey asked leave of the Court to reply.

Mr. Maxwell objected that Mr. Harvey was not the complainant; he was a witness only, and had no claim to be advocate as well.

Mr. Harvey stated that the Law Adviser was of opinion that an agent had a right to be heard, and the Bench agreed with this view, Mr. Maxwell protesting.

Mr. Harvey then argued that the agreement he found was the only binding document in the case, and that all the rest were negotiations which fell through on account of the defendant's own fault. He asked leave to examine the defendant and his son, and he was allowed to do so, but no farther light was thrown on the case.

Mr. Maxwell then said that Mr. Harvey had proved his contention, there was a question of title, a debatable question, admitted by Mr. Harvey, who spent twenty minutes in arguing it. If then there was a serious question of law in the case the magistrates would not be right in touching it at all. They would not drive the poor old man from the only shelter he had in their district, so long as the law was doubtful and there was a court of law to decide it.

The Magistrates retired to consult, and afterwards decided to make a decree for possession.

Mr. Harvey was understood to be making some friendly offer, when Mr. Maxwell objected, and said the case was over. He protested against the decision, and would advise his client disregard it. They wanted no platitudes from the landlord.

Later on Mr. Maxwell lodged notice of appeal and applied to the Court to fix the amount of security, which would be required from the defendant to prosecute his appeal. The Court fixed the amount at £10.

## **Dublin Daily Express - Saturday 19 August 1882**

PROHIBITED MEETINGS.) By proclamation in last night's *Dublin Gazette* the Lord Lieutenant prohibits meetings from being held for the purpose of intimidating or obstructing the sheriff at evictions in 16 townlands in the barony of Inishowen East, and county of Donegal.

## Freeman's Journal - Saturday 26 August 1882

### EVICCTIONS IN DONEGAL. (FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Carndonagh, Thursday. To anyone unacquainted with the place the constant repetition of the heading "Evictions in Donegal " might very naturally seem suggestive of a periodical clearance in this country. Whilst I fully admit the reasonableness of this, I am strongly in hopes that the present season will see the last of such spectacles. It is to be observed that one reason for this hope is a strange and suggestive one, namely, that further transactions of the same kind can scarcely take place, having regard to the comparatively limited population of the district, but there is an additional element, I do, most sincerely trust that landlords and tenants in Inishowen will see their way to effecting an amicable settlement. To-day the evicting party had before them a programme that involved the traversing, I regret to say, of old ground. Their way led to Malin Head—a district with which the crowbar brigade unfortunately have become too familiar. It is at least to be said, as a comforting element in to-day's proceedings, that the force used by the officers of the law was not by any means as great as that demanded for the Clonmany cases, and that the spectacle of actual eviction was not amongst the incidents of the occasion, Wave in one case, which I shall hereafter further allude to. It is at least agreeable to observe that in what has come before my observation a great improvement is noticeable in the conduct of the persons to whom is entrusted the carrying out of the law at these evictions. So far as I have been able to find out, there has been no case, so far, in which more roughness was used than duty made inevitable.

So far each of the cases of to-day are concerned, I do not know that any special good can be served by going with any minuteness into the various details of each. Anyone who visits the district around Malin Head must be impressed with this one fact, that the rents are too high. In many instances they are not only too high, but, as the best authorities on the point maintain, they are impossible, having regard to the changes that have taken place in the seasons, and the unfavourable situation of the holdings. As I think I mentioned when last I visited this part of the county, on the best land to be had here a farmer would be obliged to use much more seed, more labour, and yet be satisfied with a smaller crop, than in almost any other part of the county. As I then pointed out, the circumstances of to-day as compared with those of long ago are not only very different, but they establish a strong reason why the rents payable now should be reduced very much below what they have been in the past. Sources of industry, fishing and the like, existed at one time of such a

character as to tempt a man to take a holding for the accommodation it afforded him, and to pay a rent for it in respect of the advantage which the actual value of the place as a farm would never suggest. These sources of industry have of late, I regret to say, almost disappeared, but they had the effect of producing a false standard of rent, which many of the people have been quite unable to meet. As I think I observed before many of the farmers here are almost hopelessly involved in debt to the shopkeeper, who often advanced the rent to the tenant to stave off the bitter day. Incidentally I may say that a more wild, barren, and, unkindly soil is not to be seen. Exposed to the Atlantic breeze its productive powers are much reduced, and anyone who traverses its rugged slopes must wonder how the people who inherit it have been able to pay with any apherach at punctuality the rents demanded. There were only three farms visited to-day by the sheriff's party on the estate of Mr James Doherty. One was that of a man named John Doherty, He had offered to refer his case to arbitration; he was perfectly willing, apparently, to pay what he considered a fair rent, and, in point of fact, Mr. Patrick O'Doherty. of Malin Head, a man held in universal respect, had appealed to the landlord and agent (Mr. Harvey), but the negotiations fell through. Some four and a half years' rent were due. When the sheriff came he offered to take three years' rent and costs, £33 odd. A negotiation took place on the ground, and rather than see the family turned out, Mr. Patrick O'Doherty, with a humanity that did him credit, offered to give a cheque, I believe, for £20 and to go security for the payment of £10 more. This was accepted, and the tenant remains. In another case, that of Michael Deely, a compromise was also effected through the intervention and help of Mr. Patrick O'Doherty; and in a case of Patrick M'Keeny, the tenant, an old man, " went out," as they say; but I have since been informed that a settlement in his cass was come to. There is little more to add, save that I believe and hope we have seen the last of the evictions at Malin Head, and that a friendly relationship has been re-established there. To- morrow the sheriffs party proceed to Glenealy, where numerous evictions are expected to take place.

Boston USA

## The Pilot, Volume 45, Number 52, Saturday 30 December 1882

### THE SPEECH FOR WHICH MR. HEALY, M.P., IS TO BE TRIED.

A magnificent demonstration was held at St. Mullins County Carlow, on Sunday, Nov. 26, in support of the principles of the Irish National League. There were at least between 4 000 and 5,000 persons present at the meeting which was thoroughly representative, not only of the County Carlow, but of the adjoining districts of Wexford and Kilkenny. The platform was gaily decorated, and all the roads converging on the village were arched over at intervals, with green boughs. Influential contingents attended from Bagenalstown, Borris, Graiguenamanna, Goresbridge, New Loss, Innistiogue, Ballywilliam, Thomastown, The Rower, &c., &c. The clergy present were—Rev. Joseph Ferris, P. P.; Rev. Patrick McDonald, P. P., Graiguenamanna; Rev. Richard Byrne, C. C., do; Rev. J. E. Dilaney, C. C., Clonegal; Rev. P. J. Ryan, St. Mullins; Rev. John J. Kelly, Borris; Rev. James Carey, Graiguenamanna; Rev. James Klrwan, Bagenalstown, etc., etc. The Borris contingent was very large and was accompanied by the brass band, in a break, in which were also seated Mr. Flood, and Mr. Breen, ex-suspect, the latter carrying a beautiful green silk standard. Mr. Healy, Mr. P. Cahill, L. L. B., Editor Leinster Leader, and the gentlemen comprising the Bagenalstown deputation, viz: —Mr. P. J. Kearney, Mr. P. J. Kehoe, and Mr. C. J. Magrath on passing through Borris, were loudly cheered.

The Rev. P. J. Ryan, C.C., St. Mullins took the chair. Speeches were made by several clergymen and others. Mr. Healy, who received an enthusiastic welcome, opened his speech by alluding to the recent work of Landlord Kavanagh, the head of the eviction organization, whose estates at Borris were close to the site of the meeting. He also alluded to the hunting system. He said:—

Men of Carlow: you have seen the spirit in which these men propose to assert their rights. You have had an instance of it here in this country, where a man on his own farm attempted to check an intruder. His answer was a cut of the riding whip (groans for “Bunbury ”). I call upon the farmers of Carlow to avenge the insult offered to one of their own number, by refusing in the future to allow any comrade of this man to ride over their land (cheers).



The laborers of the country have been appealed to intimidate the farmers into allowing hunting to continue, and have been told that hunting has been the means of spreading money amongst them. Now, I am not going to deny that hunters require grooms and stable boys: these are the glorious positions that the landlords offer the laborers in the hierarchy of landlordism. It is true that money is spent in this country by hunting, and it is true that some people on that account have a vested interest in hunting; but there never was a nuisance in any country that people had not a vested interest in preserving it. You cannot remove any nuisance—you cannot remove even a dung-heap from before a door, but somebody may say he is money out of pocket by it, though his neighbors ail round may be spared from typhoid fever. The allegation that hunting keeps money in the country is simply throwing dust in your eyes. Whose money is it? Where does it come from? Where do they get it? Do they find it on the roads? Has Mr. Kavanagh got a gold mine at Borris? My friends, the money comes from the sweat and toil of the farmer, and of the laborer and I would suggest to you that if the landlords are so very anxious to keep the money in the country that the best way to do it is to tell them to lower the rents (hear, hear). There is no royal road, no patent plan for keeping money in the country. Keep it yourselves, my friends, and if you keep it yourselves, you need not be a bit afraid that if hunting is stopped you will be very much the losers by it.

The people of Ireland should, especially at the present time, put a stop to this pastime, while the cry of distress is going up from amongst the laborers of the West; while famine is showing its gaunt and haggard front, it is not seemly that gentlemen clothed in purple and fine linen, who feast sumptuously every day, should be making a pastime and play-ground of the farms upon which the blight has appeared. I trust the distress may not prove as serious as is expected in some places; but this I do know, that the laborers all over Ireland will feel keenly the pinch of this present winter. Winter at best of times is a dreary and miserable season for the unfortunate laborers, but this year especially, when potatoes have failed, when any little crop they have put in con-acre is gone, and when there is little industry in the country, I grieve to think that the laborers in many parts of Ireland will suffer keenly and severely; but I don't anticipate that the farmers of Ireland have been so foolish that a single season of distress, a single season—a bad harvest will bring them again back to the black days of '47, because we have been warning the farmers that if they pay the rents which they had hitherto been paying, that if they do not save up against a bad season and a rainy day, the loss of that season's crop would reduce them to hunger and starvation. I cannot believe that they have

forgotten the lesson (no). We told them that they were paying rents calculated upon the best season's harvests, and that if they continued to pay them, one single bad season would bring them to starvation; so that if any farmer in future, owing to his own payment of rack rent, should perish of starvation, I am here to say that it is his own fault, and, further, I am here to say that if any farmer, by the payment of a rack rent, perishes of starvation, the verdict of the coroner's jury upon him ought to be, "served him very well right." This season will undoubtedly prove very disastrous for many of you farmers, and therefore I would advise you to continue the struggle as you struggled in the past, and not only to struggle but to insist upon further abatements in your rents (cheers). And I would tell the landlords of Ireland that they had just better take what they get now, because in consequence of the season that has occurred, and the effort that many of you are making to scrape together a year's rent to take the benefit of the Arrears Act, very likely when next year comes round there will be very little left for them. That, then, would be my advice to the landlords (cheers).

I would, therefore, advise you, my fellow-countrymen. If you want to make anything out of this Land Act, if you want to make it an act which will really do you some little benefit before you obtain, as you shortly must obtain, the ownership of your holdings (cheers), I would advise you to continue the struggle, and if the rents that the Land Commission fix upon you are rents that you are unable to pay, simply to tell the Land Commission that if they were ten times as big men as they are that they won't get them out of you (cheers). There is no more sacredness in a judicial rent fixed by the landlord in his back office. A judicial rent has nothing in it of a sacramental character. You are not bound to a judicial rent as you are to the Ten Commandments for instance (laughter), and therefore my advice to you would be to get what good you can out of judicial rents, but that if it gives you a good deal of trouble to pay them well, give yourselves less trouble (laughter and cheers), and continue the struggle in the future as you have done in the past by organization, and by effort and by combination to compel the landlords to give you something like a decent settlement (cheers). And while doing this you must not forget the men who have suffered in your cause. You are all aware that in the heat of the struggle of the past two or three years, scores and hundreds of your fellow tenants, by whose sufferings you have gained victory, have been turned out upon the roadside. These evicted tenants, are now being supported by the Mansion House Fund, and the funds of the Land League. I would just like to read for you the names of these tenants, and the average monthly grants which they receive, so that you may know what it is costing to keep them in

sight of their farm:- —Lord Hawarden's tenants at Clonoulty, Cashel, £24; Claud Cole Hamilton's tenants at Moynalty, Meath, £20; the Cochrane and Loughrey tenants, Carrownena, Donegal, £65; Hector McNeill's tenants, Clonmany and Dromaville, County Donegal, £35; Lord De Vassci's tenants, Abbeyleix, £20; the Cloncurry tenants, Murroe, £140; the Conyngham Eilis tenants, Abbeyfeale, £40; Major Leslie's tenants, Pallasgreen, £16; Col. Toit??? Tenants ?iltyclogher, £100; Thomas Dowling's tenants, Cappawhite, Tipperary, £40; Captain Creagh's tenants, Cloughleigh, Cashel £25; Sir Henry Lynges Keatinge's tenants, Laggenstown, Cashel, £15; 'Mrs. Moroney's tenants, Milltown-Malbay, £10; Den Keating's tenants, Urlingford, £15; making a total sum per year of £6,780. Now, in addition to those, there are a few evicted tenants, whose evictions have not occurred directly through the agitation, but to whom, as a matter of charity, the farmers of Ireland are bound to stand. There are, for instance, the recently evicted tenants, numbering fifty families, on Isidore Burke's property in the County Mayo, Lord Kenmire's, Lord Granard's, Colonel King-Harman's, the Clifden tenants, Archdeacon Bland's, Dr Ireland's, and several others. There are, all over Ireland, at the present time 218 wooden houses, in which many families are living, and the League has to pay lodging, money for a great number of other families, and has given grants to build houses to a great many others. In my calculation, the least sum which will be required to sustain the evicted tenants of Ireland every year, so long as the fight continues, would be from £12,000 to £14,000. Well if every farmer in Ireland only paid 1s. a year, or some small sum of that description, they could be very easily supported. The Land League has got a balance of £30 000, which it intends to use for the benefit of those tenants who have suffered in the cause and by the movement. Many applications are being now made on this land for various purposes, and unless the tenant-farmers of Ireland come to the rescue of their evicted brethren, in a year, or two, or three, the Land League surplus will be entirely gone, and if the landlords are able to hold out that length of time, the landlords will have won the victory, and the entire fruit of the toll and sacrifices and expenditure on behalf of these men will have been lost to the movement (hear, hear). It rests with you by your efforts to see that this fruit and sacrifice and expenditure are not lost, and I am sure you will not be called upon in vain (cheers).

It may be said what is the good of organization. It maybe said what is the good of these large meetings. What is organization, my friends? The British Government in this country, which is simply a land piracy, is upheld by organization. The respectable and handsome-looking policemen that you see here are simply the officers of what you may call the Government League. They

have them in every parish and district to look after you and see what you are doing, and report to Dublin Castle (groans). They tax you to pay them, and they have the whole thing organized, although, as I have said, the Government of this country, being as it is an organization against the will of the people, is simply an organization of so many pirates and brigands. It is entitled to the same moral respect as would be the wishes of a man—of a cut-purse who had a revolver at your head and said to you, “your money or your life.” Of course, while the bayonet of the British Government is at your throat, you may pretend to be mighty civil, but you have your own opinion about the gentlemen of the bayonet. How has the Government managed to keep a grip on Ireland? Simply by organization and by main force. You will never find disunion among the police for instance. If there is a question of arresting a land leaguer or taking a “suspect” to prison, two policemen get the word to do it, and it is done in a minute. They don’t go quarrelling about it; they don’t go and say it is a cold night and I don’t want to go out. That is the result of organization, of discipline. They get the word, and they obey orders, and unless the people who are without weapons, and without arms, and who have nothing to sustain them but their own moral strength, their principles, and the justice of the cause—unless the people are equally organized and determined, the landlords whom the police are here to support, being as they are, an organization of brigands, will get the better of you. The landlords may think these words harsh, and in return they fling in your face the words firebrand and agitator. We may be firebrands and we may be agitators, but at least we have not been pronounced by courts of justice to be thieves (cheers). I may be a fire-brand and an agitator, but nobody has ever said that I put my hand into anybody’s pocket, and stole his money. I may have to live in a poor way, and those like me, by writing for newspapers, and we may be sneered at upon that account, but at least we are not living upon the sweat and blood of miserable tenant-farmers (cheers). And, therefore, you, poor as you may be, downtrodden as you may be, you are honest men, but the men who ride by you on splendid horses, who spatter you along the roadside with the dirt of their carriage wheels, have been branded in the courts of justice in this country, in the courts organized and kept up in their own interest—have been branded as thieves and swindlers (cheers). Continue then, fellow countrymen, to meet in mass meetings, listen to and look each other in the face. It may be said meetings are no good, that it is no good listening to speeches. The wisest organization in this country thinks it necessary, in a much greater interest than a temporal interest, to assemble you Sunday after Sunday, to listen again to the same well known lessons that are taught you by your priests; and if this great organization finds it necessary to remind the people Sunday after Sunday of what they owe to their spiritual

interest, is it not also necessary for you to have your feelings quickened and your minds enlightened at meetings of a character such as this.

In conclusion, I would advise you, each man in his own way, however small that way may be—I would advise you earnestly and unfailingly to continue to do something for this movement. In the southern seas the beautiful coral islands are uplifted above the deep by the labor going on for countless ages of infinitesimal insects, not one of whom has ever lived to see the completion of the work in which they are all engaged. We, too, puny actors as we are in the great drama of Irish regeneration, we may pass away without seeing the end; but we have at least this proud memory to sustain us—that if we contribute by our own efforts something to the end, if we do that, we may be assured that as the coral island rears its verdant front above the waves of the Pacific, so, too, the glorious fabric of Irish nationhood will emerge over storm and sea, and raise itself aloft, glorious, indestructible: and eternal (loud and prolonged applause, amid which the hon. member retired.)

## **Derry Journal - Monday 05 February 1883**

THE LAND ACT.

THE LAND COMMISSION COURT— Dublin, Thursday

(Before Mr. Justice O'Hagan. Mr. Commissioner Litton, Q.C.. and Mr. Commissioner Vernon.)

Neil M'Laughlin, tenant ; Hector S. M'Neill, landlord

In this case which is an application by the tenant to fix fair rent, the holding is situate at Carrowmenagh, near Moville, County Donegal, and the court was moved by Mr. Chance on the affidavit of Mr. Patrick Maxwell, solicitor, to have the case listed for hearing before the Sub-Commission at Carndonagh, on the '26th of February instant. The facts read from the affidavit are as follows :—On the 20th of last October the tenant filed his originating notice, but previous to the first of May last the landlord had served a notice to quit under the act of 1876, and not recognizing any person as tenant but the representative of Mary M'Laughlin, deceased, the notice to quit required possession on the 1st of November last, and on the 1st of December the landlord applied to dismiss the originating notice, inasmuch as the applicant was not the tenant, but the court refused to do so and gave costs against the landlord. On the 27th of December

the landlord issued a civil bill ejectment for overholding grounds on the notice to quit, and on the 18th of January last a decree was pronounced at Lifford by county court judge of Donegal. That decree was appealed from, and the execution of it was stayed till the 1st of April next. By letters of administration dated the 16th of January, the tenant had become administrator of Wm. M'Laughlin, deceased, who he alleges was the tenant of the holding, and that Mary M'Laughlin, his widow, though in possession for some time with the other members of the family, was merely an intermeddler. It was necessary that a decision in the Land Court should had be before the first of April.

An order was made to put the case in the list for hearing at Carndonagh, the 26th February inst.

Messrs. O'Doherty and Maxwell were solicitors for the tenant.

### **Derry Journal - Wednesday 21 March 1883**

Very important and curious points affecting tenants in the Land Court, arose at Lifford, on Saturday, the hearing of an appeal from an ejectment decree granted by the County Court Judge of Donegal against Neil M'Laughlin, of Carrowmena, on notice to quit. The 13th Section of the Land Act empowers the Court hearing the ejectment to postpone or suspend the proceedings pending any application to the Land Court. Mr. Carson would only stay to 1st April the execution of the decree. The result of that would have been that if the tenant's application had not been specially heard by the Land Commission he would have been evicted, and lost his rights under the Land Act of 1881, for once a decree is pronounced in the Civil Bill Court that Court at subsequent sessions has, it appears to us, no power over it. It is obvious that 90,000 cases could not be specially heard, and, if the judge was right, almost all tenants in the Land Courts might be evicted before their cases were heard. Another nice point arises. The tenant, since the decree, got a statutory term at last sittings of the Donegal sub-Commission. If the judge affirms the decree the sheriff may evict the tenant. The tenant, by virtue of his statutory term, may instantly proceed to evict the landlord, and an immediate conflict would arise between the Land Court and the Civil Bill Court decisions. The Judge of Appeal has reserved his decision.

## Derry Journal - Friday 18 May 1883

THE DERRY JOURNAL, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 1883.

JOTTINGS ABOUT MOVILLE,

Last week's jottings were confined to matters connected with the town of Moville, its pier, its baths, &c. This week's shall be given chiefly to matters connected with its country. It is pre-eminently one of farmers, not of graziers. The soil upon which they have to act the geologist would infer from its natural situation. Undulating headlands of great romantic beauty slope around from one thousand feet high to sea level. The traveller going by Shrove Head by Glengivney and Ballymagarry has the eye filled with most enrapturing scenery. Nature when settling down from her convulsed state, placed, by God's Providence, the rocks that underlie these headlands as a barrier to the ocean's power. The land that covers these rocks is, of course, very light and exceedingly hard to till, owing to its great declivity, still a numerous population, to whom more fertile tracts were denied, managed to find here a home. The land might be looked upon as yielding less than half the support of this home, the sea more than half. And yet, under existing laws as was natural, though unjust, this land became exceedingly highly valued both by Government and by landlords. Hence Griffith's valuation made as in many cases it was on previously existing rent is so high, viewed in contrast with some land and houses, for example, along Finn Valley. The landlords took advantage of the dense population and consequent demand for land, and exacted for it an exorbitant rent. They acted on a fallacious principle, one which is too commonly acted on in life, because they had the power of doing a certain thing, therefore they had the right of doing it. They persuaded themselves that getting the highest rent they possibly could get, they only acted like those who take the highest price they can obtain for an article they expose in market for free sale. They forget that the foundation of justice is a certain relationship—that the land had its value from the population. They never questioned did God intend that land for the poor people, who by His Providence were placed on it, as much at least, as He did for the few who had money representation in it. And when these landlords did come into court, their proofs were not consistent with their assumptions, since not even one, as far as I know, attempted to prove that such rent is fair; for I claim the land as mine, and my own management of it I could make it pay that amount annually. Talking of court proceedings—they are not looked upon as a very serious affair, the whole thing is a kind of compromise. A valuator will give his evidence for a landlord. He is no experienced farmer, but one who has got

principles from books. The opinion of the boy on sea affairs who learned navigation at school, would not be highly valued by old seamen. Just one case as an example. At Carndonagh a farm was in Court, old rent £12, offer of reduction made by the landlord himself before trial £10, the valuator (and he still continues to value,) put it down at £20 and the court fix it at £9 10s. The land agitation took deep hold in the locality, for the farmers were so oppressed that they willingly espoused a cause that promised to free them from their galling oppression. The landlords, who entering into the spirit of the times, sought to meet the people in the measurable change, are now spoken of with highest praise. The exceptions are locally public, and those who adopted the exceptional course should be prepared to defend their position before the general public. In one case it is understood that the course was pursued against the will of the highly respectable agent, in the others by the agent's direct will. The evictions in Carrowmena will be a long recollection. Only a few of these poor tenants have yet been restored to the old homes to which their hearts so fondly cling. One case alone, after the most extreme opposition, was adjudicated on, and the verdict given was that the tenant had a right to three-fold the reduction he was willing in settlement of dispute to accept. The Land League partially collapsed because the tenants were unfaithful to themselves. It left behind a lesson, taught the people that they have within themselves the power of redressing grievance. This power is now, after the shock it received in a state of slumber, but it may awaken in the assertion of right. A day in a Land Court, where different agents had cases before it, would strikingly bring out the contrast between the agent who had at heart the interests of his tenants as well as of his landlord, and the agent who to promote his landlord's interest, or rather carry out his own will, would persecute the poor simple tenants. Owing to the failure of last year's crops and the efforts to qualify themselves for the Arrears Court, this has been a very trying spring on the poorer class of farmers. It was a year that money that should be converted to its natural purpose—the source from which it came should be freely drawn on. The Culdaff Loan Fund, it seems, gave generous assistance to the energetic gentlemen who have devoted so much valuable time to the relief of the distress in that district. The one in Moville is more extensive in its working, but it is a matter of complaint that so far the committee in charge of it have not deemed it necessary to distribute a portion of its large surplus to tide over the crisis of the poorer farmers. These jottings, rather plaintive in their strain, strike the ear of any casual visitor to Moville. Summer is at hand, and prospect of better times appears in view ; perhaps, then, after my next ramble, I may have more pleasant subjects to speak upon.

Viator



## Flag of Ireland - Saturday 11 April 1885

CULDAFF, CO. DONEGAL.

As a tourist, provided he come unattended by Castle flunkeys, we will show him through the untenanted village of Carrowmena, where a large number of families are left homeless by his gracious mother's Crowbar Brigade.

## Derry Journal - Wednesday 27 May 1885

Evictions in Inishowen

Touching Scenes

(from our reporter)

It would seem as if large number of Donegal landlords were only waiting for the example set them short time ago in Gweedore, to begin put in force ejectment decrees which they had obtained against their unfortunate tenants. On Monday the sub-sheriff for county Donegal, Mr. John S. M'Cay, accompanied by Mr. Harvey, R.M., and a force of sixty police under District Inspectors White (Moville), and Winder (Buncrana), proceeded to Inishowen to commence the work of executing ejectment decrees. The district where the evictions are to take place is principally in the Northern portion of the peninsula of Inishowen, from Carndonagh to Malin Head. The decrees have been obtained by the following landlords :—Sir Robert Bateson Harvey, H. G. Laird, David G. Gilliland, James O'Doherty, Hector S. M'Neil, Andrew Crawford, Samuel Thompson, Rev. Garner Young, Hon. Ernest Cochrane, Barbara U. Torrens, William Rankin, Lady Ashley, Richard M. Carey, Hugh Holmes, Q.C., Susan Doherty, Samuel Lawther, James S. Nicholson, W. J. Foster, and Thompson M'Clintock. From the large number of decrees the sheriff anticipates being occupied for at least ten days in this bleak and sterile tract of country. On Wednesday, about eleven o'clock, the sheriff, accompanied the eviction party, left Carndonagh, and proceeded on the way to Carrowreagh, on the estate of Susan Doherty, where the first evictions were to be carried out. He had not, however, proceeded more than half way when was met by the agent, Mr. Lepper, who informed him that he had settled with the persons in Carrowreagh who were to be evicted. It is but just to remark here that if the agents of Donegal were all like Mr. Lepper the record of landlordism in that county would not be so black as it is. After being informed the arrangement made in Carrowreagh the sheriff proceeded to Gortyarron, where a man named James

Connor was be evicted. On arriving at the place it was found that Connor was unable to make any settlement. This poor man, who appears to be very despondent and in delicate health, has only himself and his wife also advanced in years in the house, his family being all emigrated. He replied, when asked by the agent whether he had any money to pay the rent, that if he would get time he could pay it, as his sons in America would send the money ; he had written, he said, but had not time to have received a reply. The agent said he would have to remain as a caretaker until the money was paid. This man's farm is fairly fertile, and the crops that are coming up look well, but the old man is unable to work it properly alone, and cannot manage to make the rent out of it. He appears, however, to have the greatest confidence in his family remitting him the necessary amount to stave off the eviction. The yearly rent in this case was £8 9s 0d, and the costs amounted to £8 11s 4d, these heavy costs being occasioned by the fact that two ejectment decrees were obtained against the tenant. A decree had been obtained about a year ago, and through the intervention of Mr. Lepper he was allowed six months for redemption on that decree. The tenant, however, failed to redeem, and another decree was obtained, thus bringing the costs up to nearly double what they were before. Similar proceedings took place in the cases of all those who were visited today, and in each case the costs were the same as in that of Connor. After, Gortyarron, the cavalcade started along the rocky base of historic Cruckaughrim in the direction of a place called Carrowmore, where a man named John Crampsey was to be evicted. Crampsey's yearly rent was £2 17s 6d, and he owed three and a-half years' rent. The landlord is Mr. Hugh Holmes. Q.C. This man had nothing to meet the decree, and could only protest his willingness to pay if he were able ; finally Mr. Lepper I agreed to accept the man's brother-in-law as security for the amount of the decree and costs, which together amounted to within a few shillings of £20. The sheriff after leaving Crampsey's went to the house of Thomas M'Laughlin, Lower Bellaghren, a distance of about three miles right across the peninsula to near Culdaff. On entering the house the family was found to consist of an old man scarcely fit for any work; his wife who was administered the last rights of the Catholic Church short time ago, and whose death is daily nay hourly expected, and a daughter of near thirty years of age, who has been paralytic from her birth. This man has been in receipt of out-door relief for the last two months, and is utterly unable to pay a single penny of either rent or costs. As the agent considered that it would be dangerous to remove the old woman in her present condition, he went through the formality of obtaining possession, and reinstated M'Laughlin as caretaker. M'Laughlin's yearly rent was £1 12s, three years' rent being due, amounting to £4 16s, and the costs were £8 10s, nearly twice the

total amount of three years' rent. The next place visited was the house of Denis M'Dade, in the same townland. M'Dade's rent was £4 10s, and he owed two and a-half years' rent, costs the same as in the preceding case. This tenant was also put in as a caretaker. The sheriff then proceeded to Thomas Doherty's, where the only persons in the family were the tenant, an old man confined to bed, and his wife. Doherty's case was the saddest that came under my observation today. He is a very old man, without anyone to attend him but his wife, almost as old and helpless himself, and what renders his the more touching the old man is suffering from a frightful cancer near the jugular vein, which is being gradually eaten through the terrible malady, and may at any moment terminate the man's wretched existence. The house is very small, and only a few miserable sticks of furniture are in it. While the eviction party were here the Rev. Father Morris, C.C., Malin, arrived, and urged on the agent, Mr. Lepper, to not disturb the poor man. Mr. Lepper at once made an agreement with Doherty, allowing him to remain as caretaker. This poor man need not be very anxious about the terms of agreement, because a very few weeks most will determine his tenancy in a manner which admits of no agreement but one, and which will place him for ever beyond the reach of eviction or disturbance in the land beyond the grave. On leaving this abode of pain and wretchedness, the eviction party proceeded to Upper Bellaghren, about a half mile distant, on the steep slopes of a rather high hill near Glengad, where we arrived after hard climb of half hour. On reaching the place where the tenant's houses are situated, a magnificent view is obtained of the greater part of Innishowen. To the east the wide expanse of the North Channel stretches out, decked with foam topped wavelets, and dotted with passing sails, while on the distant horizon, sometimes partially obscured by the smoke of a steamer, rise faint and indistinct through the haze the Scottish mountains. To the south appear the Innishowen hills, with Cruckaughrim rising in front and Carndonagh nestling almost its feet, with its roofs gleaming in the bright sunshine, and away to the west stretches out to the sky the Atlantic ocean, and, frowning out upon the blue waters, Dunaff head rises keeping guard, as it were, over the entrance to the Lake of Shadows ; and close at our feet almost lies the little village of Malin, on the shores of Strabega Bay. But little time is given for enjoying the scene or the healthful breezes of the ocean, for the sheriff is in a hurry to get through with the last case to be taken up to-day—that of Catherine Doherty, who with a family of seven children, occupies a hut which has only one single room, and for furniture a bed, a chest, dresser, and one chair. The poor owner of this miserable habitation could not pay a single farthing of the three and half years' rent due, much less costs, amounting to more than her three years rent combined. The yearly rent of her holding was £2 16s, while the costs were

nearly £9. Here again the humanity of the agent prevailed, and the tenant was allowed to retain possession of her poor shelter on the bleak wind-swept mountain. This concluded the evictions for the day, and we drove back to Carndonagh about half past four. The people of the districts visited have no means of making up their rents, except what they make out of little holdings. They live too great a distance from the shore to be able to pursue fishing as an industry, and there are no other means by which they can make a single penny. They have not sufficient grazing land enable them to keep sheep ; there is no weaving of flannel, consequently, to carried on ; and except when some friend or relation in America or other foreign country is able to send them some help, their farms, if their little holdings be worthy of the name, are the only means of support which they possess and when a bad or wet season occurs how precarious a means they are is proved to demonstration by the privations and wants suffered by these patient and long-enduring people.

[special telegram.]

Carndonagh, Tuesday.— To-day the Sub-Sheriff, Mr. M'Cay, accompanied by Mr. Harvey, R.M., and Mr. White, D. I., Merville, and a force of police, proceeded to Aughayglasson, about six miles from Carndonagh, to continue the execution of ejectment decrees. The first house visited was that Anne M'Keague, Mrs. Torrens, owner; Mr. J. Sinclair, Coleraine, agent. This tenant's yearly rent was £7 6s 8d, and she owed seven and half years' rent. The woman had no to money pay the amount of the decree, and the bailiffs proceeded to clear out the furniture. When a few things had been cleared out Mr. Sinclair said he was sorry to be obliged to go to extremes, and if the tenant could ; procure security for the payment of year's rent, and half the costs at November he would allow her to remain. Fortunately this was forthcoming and the eviction was averted. The sheriff then visited the house of Denis Doherty, whose yearly rent was £4 10s 0d; and the costs £7. Six years' rent were due. This man had no money whatever, nor could he produce any bail, and accordingly the few sticks of furniture belonging to him were thrown out in the rain, which was falling heavily at the time. Doherty and his family stood looking on in an apathetic way as their house was being cleared, and seemed hardly to realise what was being done. The next place we proceeded to was the house of Rose Carney, old woman of 96 years of age, who is nearly blind. This woman has a son living with her who is a widower, his wife having died a few weeks ago, leaving a family of three children, one of whom, aged about seven years, has never been able to walk. The old woman was sitting in the corner nursing this child, and on the other side of the fire was the other two little girls, crying bitterly. The interior

of the house was most wretched. The only furniture to be seen was an old dresser, and a few stools, while on one side stood what was intended for a bed, but was hardly worthy the name. The agent, in consideration of the poor man's miserable condition, and the recent death of his wife permitted him to remain caretaker. This was all the decrees to be executed on the estate of Mrs. Torrens, and the agent proceeded the townland of Moneydarragh, on the estate of Samuel Thompson, Mr. James G. M. Harvey, Clarendon-street, Derry, being agent. The first house visited here was that of James M'Gonagle, an old man, whose family consists of a son and daughter. M'Gonagle's rent was £3 4s, three and a half years rent being due, which with costs amounted to £18 5s 4d, and to meet which M'Gonagle had not a single shilling. The old man's daughter piteously begged the agent to give them time, and they would be able to pay him, but the only terms he would grant were that they would pay a year's rent in a month, and another year's rent and half the costs at November, or get solvent security that these terms would be fulfilled. This the unfortunate people were unable to do, and the eviction proceeded, the inmates of the house themselves carrying out occasionally with the tears running down their cheeks some little article of furniture which they prized, lest the rough hands of the bailiff would injure it. The grief of the girl was really distressing, and when the house had to be cleared of people she took her father by the hand and walked out of the door, which was immediately nailed up behind them by the bailiffs, the sound of whose hammers could not apparently have affected the evicted family more had it resounded from the coffin of their dearest friend.

John Falkner's was next visited. This man lived alone in a wretched one-roomed hut, in which there was not vestige of furniture but a box for seat, an old dresser, and table, his cooking apparatus consisting of one tin pan, a plate, and a bowl, A heap of rotten straw lay in a corner near the fire and served him for a bed. The window was built up with sods, one at the top being pulled out to admit the light when the door was shut. Here in this the most wretched habitation I have ever seen a human being lived a tenant who owed a total rent and costs of £46 4s 2d. There was not much time lost in this case, the place being cleared out in five minutes. The door being nailed up, we proceeded about a mile up a mountain overlooking the sea to the house of Patrick Falkner. We had a rough walk to reach the place, as there is no road nor even a regular path that I could see to it. On entering the house, which is fully a quarter of a mile from any other habitation, we found the tenant, his wife, mother, and a small and helpless family of six or eight almost naked children in

a state of despairing grief. This holding is situated on the slope of a mountain facing the sea, and exposed without a single particle of shelter to the fierce Atlantic gales which sweep across the mountain. The soil of the scraps of arable land is only peat, and when this is harrowed into mould to cover the seed it is dried up by the summer sun, and blows away into the hollow parts of the field, and leaves the crop almost without a grain of soil to cover the roots. Falkner had a small piece of land down in the valley, which another tenant named Lafferty wanted to buy some time ago, but which he did not wish to sell, despite the wish of the agent to give it to another man. The agent, Mr. J. G. M. Harvey, refused to grant a redaction for that part of the holding, though he granted it on the other portions, and told him if he would sell it to Lafferty he would give good reduction of the rent on it. Still Falkner refused to give up the land, and as he owed three and a half years' rent an ejectment decree was obtained. The sheriff having heard of this, with his usual kind heartedness, endeavoured to bring about a settlement by letting Lafferty have the land for the amount of arrears and costs, Falkner having offered to let him have it for that amount in hopes of saving the remainder of his holding. Lafferty, however, living at a considerable distance off the agent, insisted on having the house cleared before leaving, and said the people could go back again if the matter was settled. When the unfortunate people saw they were really going to be evicted their grief became absolutely distressing, and many of those present were visibly affected. The little children ran in and out of the house crying in a most piteous manner, and sometimes clinging to their mother, who was convulsed with sobs as if afraid of the bailiffs who were breaking up their home, while their father stood gazing on the scene with a face as white as marble and drawn as if in intense agony. The old woman who said she was over eighty years of age was sitting at the back of the house raising her voice now and again in that most melancholy of cries, "an Irish caoine," in a manner that would affect the most callous. A short time sufficed to clear out the little bits of furniture, amongst which was a pot that was lifted off the fire evidently containing the potatoes for the dinner of these poor wretches. The door was then nailed up, and we proceeded down the mountain, leaving behind us the evicted family crouched round a fire they had kindled, while the cries and lamentations of the children at being turned from their home, however comfortless, followed us far down the steep hillsides. On reaching Lafferty's place he refused to take the piece of land he was so anxious before to secure, and the last hope of the evicted family being reinstated was gone, and unless

some kind neighbour gives them shelter they will have to pass the night in the open air. The next case, which was nearly as affecting as the one I have just described, was that of Catherine Doherty and her sister, Ann Doherty, two old women about 60 or 70 years of age, who occupied a house the roof of which was held up with sticks, and through it the sunshine was streaming in a dozen places. These old creatures offered to give up the lands occupied if they would only be allowed to occupy the house until their death. This was refused, and the old pair were flung out on the street, where they sat down in helpless manner, weeping and wringing their hands. The rent of this holding was £4 14s, and there was six years' rent owing. Another decree was put in effect against a man named James Doherty, but the house had been evacuated and the door built up with stones, and as the easiest mode of effecting an entrance, a bailiff knocked a hole in the roof and entered in that way. These were all the decrees executed to-day, and the party returned to Carndonagh. The townland of Moneydarragh, the scene of the last three or four evictions, was, within the memory of a man now living, only £80, while the year before last the rental was £526 6s 6d. The whole townland was broken in by the tenants, the landlord only contributing exactly half of which was paid to the agent for superintending the. The money was granted for draining some portion of land, the price paid for the work being 7d per perch, while the agent this received 3 1/2d for overseeing. It is only fair to add that it was not the present agent who got this money. To-day Mr. Lepper proceeded to Ballycharry, accompanied by District- Inspector Winder and ten men, to make arrangements with the tenants in that district, and after arranging there he went on to Glenagiveny, where he also arranged with the tenants without evicting a single tenant. Mr. Lepper's conduct in dealing with the unfortunate peasantry deserves the highest praise, and will long be remembered with gratitude in this part of Inishowen. To-morrow the evictions will be continued at Gleneely, Glentogher, and Malin Head.

## **Derry Journal - Friday 29 May 1885**

### **THE EVICTIONS IN INNISHOWEN.**

**[FROM OUR REPORTER.]**

Carndonagh, Wednesday —To-day the evictions in Inishowen were resumed by Mr. J. S. M'Cay, Sub- Sheriff for Donegal, accompanied by the same force as on the preceding days. The scene of to-day's evictions was in the townland of

Moneydarragh, where the clearances were made on Tuesday. The morning was very dark and stormy, with some rain, which rendered the scene peculiarly dull and depressing. James Moohan's house was the first visited. This holding is on the estate of Mr. Andrew Crawford, Nenagh, Tipperary; the yearly rent was £9 4s. Some time ago a judicial rent was fixed at £7 7s, but this reduction the tenant was unable to take advantage of, and consequently the arrears accumulated until there was six and a half years rent owing. The house occupied by this tenant was fairly comfortable, and presented very little appearance of extreme poverty. The family consisted of Moohan, his wife, and two children. After some delay the agent, Mr. Harvey, agreed to allow this family to remain caretakers. The next case was a peculiarly distressing one. The family consisted of the tenant, Neal Coyle, his wife, and a family of eight children, the eldest of which was only ten years old, and the youngest a babe of a few weeks old. The rent in this case was £6 9s, three and half years being due, while the costs amounted to over £8. The house itself was a miserable hut with hardly a stick of furniture in it, and not a single mouthful of food was within the walls for the starving and half-naked children. When the evicting party arrived, the whole family were sitting weeping round a small fire, the parents endeavouring to hide their grief, though they could not keep back the tears that coursed down their cheeks as they gazed at their helpless family who were crying bitterly, as much, perhaps with hunger, as with the dread of eviction, for their mother said that they had no breakfast that morning, because she had none give them, nor money to procure them any. The agent would consent to no settlement in this most wretched case, and the bailiffs proceeded to clear out whatever little things were in the house. The grief expressed by the helpless little children, as they saw the house being cleared, was sufficient to touch a heart of stone. The morning was cold and windy, and these poor little creatures with hardly enough clothing on to cover them, ran out of the house, and stood looking on with tears streaming down their pale little faces, while they shivered in the cold pitiless blast that swept down from the mountains. When the last article was carried out, the door was nailed up, and the heart-broken looking parents and their wretched family went off across the fields to the shelter of a fence, the mother carrying one child, while the eldest, a girl of about ten years, staggered along with a baby in her arms, whose puny little limbs were blue and pinched with cold. A more sorrowful sight it would be hard imagine than that presented at this eviction, and could it be witnessed by some of those who believe in the almost divine righteousness of the land laws that allows such scenes to be possible, it would, perhaps, tend to make them feel compassion for the unfortunate victims of landlordism, who are wandering cold and shelterless on the bleak hills of Innishowen. The



prospect before Moohan and his family is really distressing ; their neighbours are as poor themselves, and their small huts can barely accommodate the occupants belonging to them, that it is impossible for the evicted family to obtain any assistance from them. There was no appearance of a relieving officer at any of the evictions, and what these poor people can do in their present deplorable condition I am unable to say and, as is usually the case, they would almost prefer death to the workhouse. I feel bound to mention that a gentleman who was with the escorting force gave a sum of money to Mrs. Moohan to assist her for a time to get some necessaries of life for her starving family. This case concluded the evictions in Moneydarragh, and the Sheriff proceeded to Glentogher, about twelve miles distant, to execute decrees on the estate of Lady Ashley. Glentogher is a rocky and romantic pass over the mountains, through which runs the mail car road to Carndonagh. The sides of the glen in many places are almost perpendicular, and covered with dwarf birch trees, bracken, and bramble. Along the foot of hills stretching upwards from the road are the little holdings of the tenants, steep and rocky, on which almost all the labour must be done without the aid of horses. In this district the Sheriff has a large number of decrees to execute, but the only ones put through today were three. The first house visited was that of Daniel Kerrigan. This wretched abode consisted of only one room, in which, when I entered I was almost suffocated with smoke. There is no fireplace or chimney in the place, the fire being built several feet out in the middle of the floor, and a hole in the roof emits whatever little smoke that does not remain inside or go out of the door. The roof, which is covered with soot, hanging down in sort of festoons, is supported by five or six props, which render it almost impossible to walk through the floor. A bed, a dresser, a chest, and a few stools form the entire furniture in this miserable dwelling to which light is admitted one window, certainly not a foot square, and here live a family of five people, two men and three women, all well advanced in years. The circumstances of this case are somewhat peculiar. It appears that another man claims a portion of the holding and will neither pay rent for it, occupy it, or allow Kerrigan to occupy it. Kerrigan is quite willing to pay the rent for the portion that he is in occupation of, but not the other part. But as he is nominally the tenant for the whole farm, the agent could not accept this, and he was obliged to procure a decree. The rent of the place was formerly £5 10s 2d, but in '81 a judicial rent was fixed £3 7s 6d, none of which has been paid. Mr. Lepper, the agent, who throughout these last few days showed but one desire, and that was not to evict any person if at all possible to avoid, agreed to accept the rent of the portion that the tenant laboured, and put him in as caretaker of the whole holding, with the right to labour the whole of it. The next case taken up was

that of William Ruddy, whose yearly rent was £1 14s, four and a half being due, the costs amounting to £8. This man's family appeared to be in fair circumstances, though evidently alarmed the prospect of eviction. This case was settled by a year's rent being paid, another year, and half the costs to be paid at November. The last case to-day was that of George Doherty, who, it is said, is quite able to pay, but the poor man has been several times insane, and has taken notion that he should pay no rent. His mother would pay the rent but is afraid to do so. She says she has a ticket for America where the purposes going, leaving Doherty who is her only relative in Ireland behind her. The decree in this case was carried out, the house being cleared, the tenant doing that himself, as for some eccentric reason he refused to allow the bailiffs to carry out anything. This man and his mother are not by any means destitute, and will be able to support themselves for a time well enough. The amount of arrears and costs in this case was £55 2s. This concluded the evictions for to-day, and the sheriff returned to Carndonagh. To-morrow he will be engaged in the same district.

Carndonagh, Thursday. —To-day the Sheriff resumed the evictions in Inishowen, in Glentogher. The farms are situated on the estate of the Hon. Captain Cochrane, which is at present in Chancery. The first house visited was that of Ellen Diver, whose yearly rent was £8 18s 6d. Eight years rent were due, which amounted, with costs, to £75 17s 3d. This case was a rather hard one. It appears that the tenant has rebuilt some office houses, and put a new roof on the dwelling-house. This put her in some debt, at this juncture her husband died, and a daughter who had been in America came home, and died in a short time, leaving four daughters to be supported by their grandmother. This series of losses prevented any rent being paid for a number of years, and when the Arrears Bill became law, somehow Mrs. Diver could not avail herself of it, and none of the arrears were cleared off. To-day a year's rent was offered, but the agent refused to accept less than two years' rent and half the costs. This the tenant could not pay, and the bailiffs began to clear out the house. The cries of the old woman's granddaughters was very distressing, when this began. Finally, however, an arrangement was made through the efforts of the sheriff, by which £13 was to be paid at once, and £23 at November. Neal Diver, who lives near the last tenant, rent £5 6s 11d, six and a half years being due. This man, arranged paying a years' rent and half the costs in hand, and another year's rent in four months. This concluded the evictions in Glentogher, and we went up a steep road over the mountains, for about half an hour, until we came to a little oasis in the midst of sterile and barren mountains. This place is fully a thousand feet above the level of the sea, and is as desolate and lonely as could be imagined. The tenant, against whom the decree was to be executed, was

named Bryan M'Laughlin. His yearly rent was £3 2s, and he owed seven and a half years' rent. This case was also settled by the tenant paying £3 at once, £5 in month, and the remaining £16 at November. After leaving this place we went to the house of Daniel M'Garrigle, about half mile distant. This man's rent is £3 2s, nine and half years' rent being due. This is wretched a case as any I have yet seen. The family consists of the father and mother, and a family of nine children, the eldest of which is eleven years, and the youngest five months; the eldest boy had his back broken about two years ago with some persons he was hired with, and is since a helpless cripple. The appearance of their home was wretched in the extreme. In what may be termed the kitchen was a dresser and table and few stools, and semblance of a bed, while the other apartment there was not a vestige of furniture of any kind. The father pleaded hard with the agent, Mr. J. G. M. Harvey, for a little respite, but that gentleman was inexorable, and the bailiffs were directed to clear out the house, which they did, amid the cries of the poor mother and her helpless little ones. When the clearance was completed, and the fire quenched on the hearth, the door was about to be fastened up, but a little boy about of three years dashed into the home from which he had been a few moments before expelled, and refused to come out, until a bailiff went in and carried out the poor little fellow by force. The door having been nailed the sheriff and his assistants left the scene of misery and wretchedness behind them, and started for Ballyloskery, where there were also evictions be carried out. The miserable condition of M'Garrigle and his family can hardly be described. The total crop that is the holding is one half acre of oats, and one half acre of potatoes, and out of this was to have been paid a rent of £3 2s, and £29 9s of arrears. The scene of the next eviction was at Neal Bradley's, Ballyloskery, whose house presented a very comfortable appearance, being filled with good substantial furniture, and plenty of food. This tenant complains that he never was asked for any rent by the agent Mr. Harvey, who instead of looking for the rent sent a writ for the amount with costs, and when that writ was not paid sold the farm in the Landed Estates Court, Dublin, for the nominal sum of £20, and for this same farm Bradley was offered £300. Bradley informed me that he remembered when there was only about an acre of arable land on the whole place, the rent being £3 12s, since then he reclaimed land, and as he reclaimed the rent was raised until it was now almost £8. The amount of rent due was £22 15s 6d, and the costs amounted to £18 16s 6d. The only terms that the agent would accept were £20 16s once, and the same sum November. Bradley said he would be able to pay £20 in a month, and the other instalment at November. The agent peremptorily refused to allow him a day, and the house was cleared out. This tenant at night was in position to settle, and he was reinstated.

Decrees were also put in execution against Patrick Doherty and Neal M'Laughlin in the same townland, but were settled without any difficulty. These two concluded the evictions day, tomorrow (Friday) they will be resumed either in Clonmanyor the Isle of Doagh.

One of the owners of property in Inishowen, Mrs. Susan Doherty, writes to say that "James Connor, the only tenant on my property to be evicted, by the statements of Mr. Robert Lepper got the benefits of the Arrears Act for the amount rent then due £94 19s 10d. Since that time he has not paid any rent."

## Derry Journal - Monday 01 June 1885

### THE EVICTIONS IN INNISHOWEN. TO THE EDITOR THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir—Your lengthy reports in Wednesday's and yesterday's Journals of the evictions in Inishowen dwell to such extent upon the hardships to the evicted tenants and their families, as to almost entirely obscure the hardships of the cases to the landlords, and in justice therefore to those of the landlords concerned, for whom I am agent, I trust you will allow me space to show in clear tabular form the great arrears of rent due by all the tenants in question, and the extent which some of them had benefitted by the Arrears Act.

Tenant's Name.	Eviictions Actually Carried Out.								
	Yearly Rent.			Arrears now due.			Tenant's gain by Arrears Act		
MR. SAMUEL THOMPSON'S ESTATE.									
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jas. M'Gonigle	3	4	0	11	4	0	3	18	8
John Falkner	7	12	10	41	0	8	None		
Peggy Falkner	5	1	10	17	16	5	13	18	8
Catherine Doherty	5	0	8	34	16	11	None		
James Doherty	6	7	4	38	4	0	do.		
Neil Coyle	6	9	0	21	9	9	19	10	0
LATE MRS. DOHERTY'S ESTATE.									
Daniel M'Gonigle	3	2	0	29	9	0	None		
Neil Bradley	7	18	6	27	14	9	15	17	0

EVICCTIONS AVERTED BY SETTLEMENTS WITH TENANTS.

LATE MRS. DOHERT'S ESTATE.

Ellen Diver	8 18 6	75 17 3	None.
Neil Diver	5 6 10	36 1 3	do.
Brian M'Laughlin	3 13 5	27 10 7 ½	do.
Patrick Doherty	5 18 7	38 10 9 1/2	do.
Neil McLaughlin	7 4 2	25 4 7	21 12 6
Mary M'Laughlin	2 3 4	27 1 8	None.

MR. ANDREW CEAWFORD'S ESTATE.

James Mohan	7 7 0	46 18 0	None
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MR. JAMES ESTATE.

Michael Deery	4 17 4	4 17 0	8 11 5
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By the above figures it will be seen that all the tenants concerned (except James Mohan, who paid one half year's rent two years ago), may be placed in one or other of two classes, viz :—1st—Tenants who obtained a clear receipt November, 1881, by the operation of the Arrears Act, and have paid nothing since then, and 2nd—Tenants who did not even pay the year's rent to qualify for Arrears Act, and who have paid no rent whatever for periods ranging from three to ten years, and in only one case within the last five years. Several of the tenants have had judicial rents fixed, but the reduction in rent has led to improvement in payments, Daniel M'Gonigle and Neil Bradley have now, I am glad say, been reinstated, the latter, on payment of my full demand the very day after his eviction, as your reporter admitted there was no question of poverty in his case, and to his alleged statement that I had never applied to him for his rent, his son admitted to the sheriff that I had written them specially three times, and that they had taken no notice whatever of my letters. Mr. Samuel Thompson's estate is, therefore, the only one for which I am agent which on tenants remain evicted, and with a few words on each of Mr. Thompson's six cases I conclude:—In James M'Gonigle's case the eviction was notoriously brought about by the conduct of the tenant's son, who was publicly reproached in my presence with having been the ruin of his father and sister. John Falkner could have secured the benefits of the Arrears Act and could have had a Judicial Rent fixed, but for his generous determination not to allow a sub tenant named Hugh M'Gonigle share with him the advantages of either. Your reporter's version of the circumstances connected with Patrick or Peggy Falkner's second holding are not accurate. Patrick Falkner succeeded to this little holding, in sight of his wife, whose late father, John Maragay

had formerly not been recognized as a tenant at all, but who had contributed a small proportion of the rent of an adjoining tenant named Charles Lafferty. Some years since, however, and Lafferty not agreeing very well an arrangement was made to the effect that Maragay should get a distinct rent receipt, but that his after his death his daughter and her husband, Patrick Falkner, should surrender the little holding to Lafferty, price to be fixed by arbitration. Upon the old man's death I called upon the parties to carry out their agreement, and leave the matter to arbitration, and Lafferty was willing to do so, but Falkner and his wife refused. It is not true that I refused to reduce the rent of the small holding. I offered to have its tenant-right value submitted to arbitration, subject to a reduced rent, and thus give Falkner the benefit of the enhanced tenant-right, but I certainly refused to settle a judicial rent, so long as Falkner refused to carry out his father-in-law's agreement with Lafferty. In Catherine Doherty's case, your reporter says that the two old sisters offered to give up possession of their farm, if they would only be allowed to retain their house during their lifetimes, but they should have told him that I have for years past been urging them to sell their land and keep their house, and that they would not do so. They have paid no rent for more than six years, and they told me plainly last year, that they would never pay rent again. In James Doherty's case, the tenant did not live on the farm, the tenant right of which he would have sold, but inability to deal with a cotter named Collins, and the latter being now got rid of, Doherty will be allowed to deal with the farm as if there had been no eviction. Neal Coyle gained enormously by the Arrears Act, and then after getting judicial rent fixed made no further payments. He owed Mr. Thompson some £6 or £7 for seed and meal, for which the latter went security for him a few years ago. Upon his offering me a half-year's rent on last rent day, I said I would take the money in discharge of the personal debt, and let the rent stand over, whereupon (he Coyle) put back the money into his pocket, and walked out of the room thinking evidently that I had no legal remedy of any effect.

In conclusion, I wish to say that while I must regard your reporter's descriptions of these evictions as very highly coloured, I do not for moment wish to attempt to minimise the hardships and distress necessarily attendant upon the eviction of old persons and young children from their homes, but I claim that these evictions could not be avoided unless the landlords were abandon their rights altogether, and allow examples to be set to other tenants which would ultimately probably cause evictions upon much more extended scale.—Your obedient servant,

James G. M. Harvey.

23, Clarendon street, Londonderry, May, 1885.

## Derry Journal - Wednesday 03 June 1885

### ALLEGED TRESPASS ON EVICTED FARMS.

Hector S. M'Neill summoned Charles M'Feely under the Summary Jurisdiction Act for willfully trespassing on the lands and in the houses of the complainant Carrowmenagh, on the 15th May, and neglected and refused to leave said lands and houses after being warned off by the agent of the complainant.

Mr. J. E. O'Doherty appeared for the defendant, and Mr. D. R. Babington for the complainant.

Mr. Babington said that the defendant in this case had been evicted by the sheriff in 1882, and possession given to Mr. Harvey, the agent of the property. Mr. Harvey had since been in occupation of the lands and houses. On the 15<sup>th</sup> May he visited the place, and found the defendant, M'Feely, in occupation of one of the houses on the farm from which he had been evicted.

James G. M. Harvey, examined by Mr. Babington, deposed he was the agent of Mr. H. S. M'Neill. He knew the defendant M'Feely, who had been a tenant of Mr. M'Neill's. Ejectment proceedings were taken against him, and in consequence of these proceedings he recovered possession of Mr. M'Feely's holding.

Mr. O'Doherty—I object. This is giving evidence of the ejectment.

Mr. Babington—It is surely right for me to give evidence, that Mr. Harvey received possession from the Sheriff.

Mr. Harvey said in consequence of the ejectment decree, he got possession of the lands and premises mentioned from the sheriff in January, 1882, and kept possession of them since, on behalf of the landlord. He was there on 15<sup>th</sup> May last, and saw Charles M'Feely in an office house belonging to the holding, and using it as a dwelling-house. He did not see M'Feely the first time he was there, on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He forced open the door, and came back again the same day and found M'Feely in the house. He warned him, and told him that he was acting improperly. Defendant asked him where he could go.

Mr. O'Doherty—What did you say?

I warned him that he was wrong in taking possession of the house, and told him that I did not know where he could go. He did not leave the place.

Cross examined by Mr. O'Doherty—He had no authority, except as agent, to manage the estate. He had not the power of an attorney. He was appointed to the agency at his father's death. Mr. M'Neill owned the lands of Carrowmenagh, subject to a small head rent. He had got possession from the sheriff in 1882, and was in possession since.

Mr. O'Doherty—As owner ?

Witness—As owner.

Mr. O'Doherty—Has he paid all the rates and taxes since?

Witness—No, he has not paid the rates and taxes on the evicted farms.

Mr. O'Doherty —Am I to understand he does not pay the county cess or poor-rates ?           No, he does not.

Mr. O'Doherty—And you order the man to leave a place that is practically lying waste? Certainly.

Mr. O'Doherty—The possession you referred to, is it actual physical possession or legal possession?

It is the possession I got from the sheriff.

Mr. O'Doherty here produced an agreement which M'Feely had been put in as caretaker of the houses and lands referred to, and asked the witness if he was present when that was signed. Witness said he was.

Mr. O'Doherty—So M'Feely entered as caretaker?

Witness—I allowed M'Feely in again as caretaker.

And John M'Feely has been in possession of this house since?

Yes.

Did you take any crops off these lands since?

I did not.

Mr. Babington—Was it not in this house that you allowed John M'Feely back as caretaker, that you found Charles M'Feely.

Mr. O'Doherty objected.



Mr. Babington—I can surely examine as to the written document.

Mr. O'Doherty—You can't dispute the written document. Nothing that Mr. Harvey can say will break that; read it and see if John M'Feely should not been put in as caretaker. If so there is no trespass. And in this case there can be no trespass in the house at all.

Mr. Harvey had no authority on the part of Mr. M'Neill to warn off trespassers, and the summons would fail on that point alone. Continuing. Mr. O'Doherty argued that the landlord had denied occupation for the purpose of getting rid of the rates. There was, he said, a distinction in cases of trespass. In the case of criminal trespass it must be on enclosed field, wood, or plantation, demesne or other place. In this case it was in a house and not on the lands of Carrowmenagh at all, and he contended that it was not an offence within the meaning of the act, as the place was a waste. The landlord had not remained in actual possession, and the tenant had been ejected from it.

Mr. Babington replied, and argued that the offence was one within the meaning of the act.

The Chairman—Could you refer us to any authority; to any decided case on the point.

Mr. O'Doherty—There is no authority only the criminal statute.

Mr. Harvey—In the absence of any settled law on the point, we must exercise our own judgment.

Mr. Babington—Surely houses are part of the lands.

Mr. Harvey—What we want to know is can either of you refer us to any case bearing on the subject.

Mr. Loughrey—These eviction proceedings took place in 1882?

Mr. Babington—Yes.

Mr. Loughrey—And the people have been remaining there since, and paid the rates and cesses?

Mr. Babington—I don't know who paid them.

The bench having consulted, the Chairman said they were of opinion that the case must be dismissed. They held that the act did not apply to houses in the absence of any legal decision to the contrary.

There were a very large number of cases entered for hearing similar to the foregoing, in which tenants were summoned for entering houses they had been evicted from, but owing to the decision of the bench they were withdrawn.

### **Derry Journal - Friday 05 June 1885**

Father O’Kane, of Moville, writes us a timely and able letter on the subject of the recent evictions in Inishowen. Father O’Kane does not interfere unnecessarily. He was content to allow the testimony of the Press reporters to go to the judgment of the public. Not so Mr. J. G. M. Harvey, agent of some for the properties on which the evictions took place. Mr. Harvey, stepping out from the other agents, who have not complained, thought the report in this paper somewhat “highly colored,” and with no little ability he arrayed column after column of figures to demonstrate the sufferings” of the landlords. It is here Father O’Kane intervenes, and he grapples the case in masterful way. We commend his letter to careful perusal. It is a revelation on the subject of arrears. All very well, it is, to pile up figures showing the non-payment of rent; how it became impossible to pay is another matter which the agent left out, and the priest has filled in. On the whole it were as well the reporters and their “colouring” had been allowed to pass.

### **Derry Journal - Friday 05 June 1885**

JAMES G. HARVEY AND LATE EVICTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir— Mr. Harvey, in your issue of Monday, complains that the account given by your reporter of the late evictions, for which he was responsible, was slightly overdrawn, and puts before the public a “clear tabular form,” which he thinks must immediately convince the public that the landlords in the cases suffered clearly a great injustice and that the evictions were absolutely necessary for

justice sake. A few facts founded on testimony given on oath at the Bessboro' Commission, 1880, and repeated in your journal, May 1881 (without being contradicted), might modify the view of those who think with Mr. Harvey the landlord has much to complain of on the grounds of justice. We will first confine our remarks to the Monedaragh Estate, as with it chiefly deals.

Now, about the year 1807 Monedaragh, then held by one of the Carey family, paid a rental of £48. About 1812 its tenants refused to guarantee to Captain Hart at the expiration of a lease a rental of £80, as above its letting value. About 1810 Mr. Thompson, father of present landlord, came over Monedarragh, and from that date rise followed rise till a rental of £48 in 1807 became a rental of some £526 in 1880 ; that is, after the valuation made by Mr. Nolan in 1874 the increase of rental was about 1,000 per cent. The entire outlay on part the landlord for this enormous increase was about £40—£20 to tenants for drainage, and superintendent whilst work was being carried on. How privileges were from time to time encroached on might be seen from being exacted for what till 1840 was looked upon as mountain grazing in common, and from some £21 being exacted for 424 acres at 1s acre for special grazing, from what till 1870 formed part of the general commons. A few tenants this estate could not in late years of depression meet their rents. Still, considering the number of years that those same tenants did pay an exorbitant rent, and considering the number of others that still do manage to pay an exorbitant rent, the injustice to the landlord does not appear great. He gets still instead of £80 annually, some £400 ; his investment in the meantime was £40—the tenants' investment the skill and work of their lives, and that on places reclaimed from mountain land which all practical farmers say are for the past few years absolutely worthless. This much rests substantially on the evidence before the Commission.

The individual cases we will not follow minutely, but give on them a few remarks on reliable local authority. John Falkender now evicted, sold his farm about 15 years ago. A custom was introduced into the management of this estate by Mr. Harvey, father of present agent, (of whose long agency to speak mildly nothing pleasant is handed down by tenantry) a custom was introduced of putting on increase of rent on change of tenancy, and of allowing only five years' purchase money. Two pounds was in this case the increase, and so the purchaser refused to take the farm, and the payment since of the £2 had to be made by poor Falkender.

It is mentioned that Peggy Falkender's husband carried on his back almost half a mile the stones with which he put the little fabric on the barren tract he took at 6d an acre (some twenty acres). is now evicted for not paying £5 for same. Mr. Harvey did not deny the harrowing tales of woe at evictions as recorded by your reporter. He seems to regard these as trifles, for evictions were just and unavoidable as he thinks. It said in the district that in 1847 arrears greater than exist at present existed under the brother of the present landlord, and still by a more prudent course of management all these arrears were cleared off, and no eviction took place, and no costs accumulated. It should be known that, notwithstanding the great increase of rent, the tenants speak softly of the Thompson family, and think Mr. Harvey is chiefly the person responsible for any extreme course. He speaks of judicial rents, but by these are meant judicial rents fixed in all except some four cases by himself, for the simple reason that the tenants had not the means to go to Court; or, still more, feared to go to Court, owing to Mr. Harvey's well-known character. Such as the Court did fix were less than those settled by him. His facility for heaping costs on costs, and making settlements so difficult - taking away, in fact, all hope of settlement—has become a characteristic of his, to the ruin of the tenant and the injury of the landlord. This was painfully evident to any person present at last Petty Sessions in Moville, when summons followed summons, or to any person who knows his dealing with the famous Carrowmenagh cases. He gives a clear tabular form to justify his action in regard to the Monedaragh tenantry. His position would be still clearer, and the public could better judge its justice, if he gave also, in addition to the three columns given, one—the rent when Mr. Thompson came into possession of the holdings; another, the amount of costs incurred in each case. As he claims the right to evict, owing to rent so many years unpaid, it is only consistent that he should in the other cases where he carried out evictions—particularly Carrowmenagh, where reduction of ten per cent, would have satisfied—he should show, as his character stands before the public impeached for the harshness of those evictions, a similar clear tabular form. Till then, the public judgment is that the poor people of Carrowmenagh are an evicted, homeless people, simply because Mr. Harvey was, unfortunately, their agent; that, under an agent of prudence, they would be in their neat homes, an industrious, happy people; on the other hand, that the form given to the public regarding the evicted tenants in Monedaragh is given for a gloss, to suit a purpose, and that it is not pure justice—the fair relationship

between landlord and tenant—that is the great broad principle which Mr. Harvey bases his conduct as agent.

James O’Kane, C.C.     Parochial House, Moville, June 2, '85.

## **Derry Journal June 10th 1885**

THE RECENT EVICTIONS IN INNISHOWEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir— The letter of the Rev. James O’Kane, C.C., : which appears in your issue of yesterday, is plainly directed so much more against me personally than towards the rights or wrongs of the recent evictions, that I would much rather pass it over in silence were it not that it contains some statements so misleading that I cannot, in justice to myself and others, leave them without reply. 1st—With reference to Mr. Thompson’s estate, Father O Kane states, with apparently the utmost confidence, that in 1807 the rental was only £48, and says that this was given in evidence before the Bessborough Commission, and was not contradicted. Now, it certainly was given in evidence that the rental had been £80 within living memory, but this evidence was given by a person whose memory could not, I fancy, carry him back beyond 1840, if so far, and the evidence was contradicted by Mr. Thompson himself, and his reply was printed and published as well the evidence, and to the best of recollection was substantially to the effect that the property had been purchased by his father about 1825 ; that the rental was then close on £400 (say about £380); that he had no knowledge whatever of the previous history of the property, but that he left it to the Commission and to the public to judge for themselves of the probability of the rental of a townland, the Government valuation of which is some £400, and out of which there is payable a head rent of £44. and tithe rent charge of £29, having been raised from £80 to £380 within the first twenty-five years of the present century. Of course the credulous can believe the story if they please, but even, if it were true, the Thompson family would not be responsible. It is, I believe, quite true that there was a slight increase made in the rental in 1840, and it is also true that there was an increase of about 25 per cent, made on Mr. Nolan’s valuation of 1874, but it is equally true that at least three-fourths of the increases in rents paid the tenants after 1874 were regained by them by the operation of the Arrears Act. Next, as to the present judicial rents. Father O’Kane states that with four exceptions, they are all fixed

by myself, and that in those four cases the reductions made by the sub-commissioners exceeded the reductions offered me, but he is not quite accurate in this, as in one of the four cases the reduction made by the court was less than that offered me, and as he evidently means to imply that offers were not bona-fide efforts to settle the rents out of court on the basis of the average rents fixed by the courts, it is, I think, fairly to the point for me to remark that upon the adjoining estate of Mrs. Haslett, which Father O’Kane should know better than Mr. Thompson’s (as it is in Moville parish which the latter is not), out of over a hundred tenants only seven refused to settle with me out of court, and of those seven six obtained smaller reductions in court than what I had offered them out of court; and, moreover, with regard to Mr. Thompson’s estate, it is the case that after the passing of the Land Act of 1881, but before Mr. Thompson had consented to make any settlements out of court, I suggested to two of the most intelligent and respectable tenants — Messrs. Neil M’Laughlin and Michael M’Laughlin (the latter brother of the late respected Rev. William M’Laughlin, P.P., Malin)—that the rent question might perhaps be amicably arranged by the selection by the tenants of two or three test cases for submission to the court, a like selection to be made by the landlord, and the average result form the basis of a general settlement. The Messrs. M’Laughlin and few others were, however, the only parties who would listen to this proposal, and the great majority of the tenants intimated that they would make no terms until all the “suspects” should have been released from prison. Next, as to the recent evictions on this estate, Father O’Kane implies that the costs were high, but, with one exception, they were in all cases the minimum legal costs of ordinary civil bill ejectments, and in the one exceptional case there was a personal debt of several years standing due Mr. Thompson as well the rent. Then Father O’Kane states that on the occasion of John Falkner, one of the evicted tenants, trying to sell his farm at one time, my late father raised his rent £2 ; but this is not the case. Falkner originally had small holding of which the rent was £2 4s, but he afterwards succeeded in right of his wife to another holding of which the rent was £3 11s. My father consolidated the two holdings at £5 15s, and this was the only change made from the time of my father’s appointment as agent in 1854 till the valuation by Mr. Nolan in 1874, when Falkner’s rent was raised from £5 15s to £7 5s 6d. I shall say nothing as to the good taste and charity of Father O’Kane’s other irrelevant references to my father, who has been in his grave for 12 years past, and to his referring back to the Carrowmenagh evictions of 1882, which were more than fully discussed in your columns at the time, he is well aware that those were evictions of tenants well able to pay their rents, but who wisely or unwisely (if that be really open to a doubt) deliberately decided to ignore the advantages of

the Land Act of 1881, to even refuse to remain in possession during the six months allowed by law for redemption, and to thus compel me to evict them rather than pay without an abatement even one half-year's rent of rent which they had paid punctually for forty years. Rightly or wrongly (rightly as we think) the landlord and I determined not to allow ourselves to be coerced into giving an abatement under such circumstances, but let have us have been right or wrong, I can tell Father O'Kane that there are in Inishowen many men, both priests and laymen, with little sympathy with landlords, who yet do not hesitate to express a very decided opinion that the Carrowmenagh tenants adopted a suicidal course for themselves, and that they should have been strongly advised of its folly by any persons having influence over them, nor is it fair to say that an abatement of 10 per cent, or 2s in the £ would have satisfied these tenants, for their original demand was 6s 8d in the £, and so far as their offer to take 2s was made at all, it was made after the evictions had actually begun, and conditionally upon the cancelling of the costs then incurred. In conclusion, I am glad to say that I am now upon excellent and friendly terms with hundreds of the tenants to whose demands I refused to yield at the time of the Land League agitation, and numbers whom now admit openly that they were misled and deceived, but I am well aware that the stand I made at that time is regarded in some quarters as an unpardonable sin, and that no opportunity is lost of keeping up and intensifying the popular odium which I then incurred. Those who think such a line of action right or fair are welcome for my part to pursue it to the end, and their worst.—Your obedient servant,

James G. M. Harvey

23 Clarendon-street, Derry,  
6<sup>th</sup> June 1885

## **Derry Journal Friday June 12, 1885**

THE LATE EVICTIONS IN INISHOWEN

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir—Mr. Harvey says in his letter of Wednesday's issue that the remarks I made on his previous letter were plainly directed against him personally. My feelings towards him arise solely from the impressions I form regarding his mode of acting as agent. Other agents in the district with whom I have no more

relationship in life's duties than with Mr. Harvey, I deeply respect. As a priest I have been brought into close contact with the people of Inishowen, and have learned to love them for their many virtues. I will not, then, as far as in my power, allow with impunity any person to come before the public as the advocate of simple justice whose position as such cannot, as I think, be sustained. I adhere to the facts I stated notwithstanding his reply. The statement sent by Mr. Thompson in reply to evidence given before the Bessboro Commission was publicly denied in the Journal, 1st June, '81, and the denial was not contradicted. Mr. Thompson did not become landlord of Monedaragh, in 1825, the rental was not about £380, when he did become its landlord. Mr. Harvey may not know facts in connection with the history of the Monedaragh property. The records which might tell them may, Mr. Thompson wrote to Commissioners, have been burned in a fire at Muckamore Abbey, but still there are facts that have a connection with it, facts which are engraved in the hearts of its oppressed people, and from their very nature, are such that they cannot be got rid of with any impartial minds, by a vague random statement of Mr. Harvey's. One of these is, that Mr. Thompson must, beyond the possibility of doubt, have been landlord of Monedaragh before the year 1816. On the 9th of June of that year Mr. Butler of notoriety was shot at Grousehall, and Mr. Butler at that date was agent for Mr. Thompson. This is not an ordinary epoch in the locality; it is one whose history and associations are kept vividly in the minds of the people. Some old men of 70 or 80 years of age yet living, evidently very intelligent and very observant, are prepared to swear to all the facts that were when they were young so fresh in the public mind regarding Mr. Butler, and his connection with Monedaragh. Their testimony is just as reliable in the circumstances as any we could have without the direct evidence of our senses. The refusal on part of tenantry to guarantee £80 as a rental to Cary, showing the likelihood of a £48 rental, the 50 per cent, put on by Mr. Butler without a valuator, the rises in 1818, 1840, 1874 —on these at present no remarks are required. The enormous increase of 1,000 per cent. Mr. Harvey may treat as a fact suited only to the credulous. The statement indeed sounds exceedingly strange (1,000 per cent, increase), but still the fact stands there a real one, and the poor tenants have had by their payments to make their acts of faith in it. Mr. Harvey would have the public believe that he in no wise objected to tenants having their rents fixed in Court. It is notorious that where a tenant owed back rent, and accepted the judicial rent fixed by Mr. Harvey, he would take for payment one year's rent; that where a tenant owed back rent and went to Court for judicial rent he would receive different treatment, one year's rent would not be accepted. The case of John M'Geoghan who would not accept the reduction offered, 10s, and who in court got some



£9, is locally too well known. A writ followed immediately his daring act. A kind friend lent the poor man the money to save costs. He went to America to endeavour to raise it, and died leaving a small family to bless Mr. Harvey for his kind treatment. The public testimony is that Mr. Harvey resorted to every legal scheme to frustrate the benefits of the Land Act, that he showed an animus against those going to Court, gave in court to poor creatures who could not make up well their own case, the most determined opposition. And he showed afterwards what clemency they might expect his hands. The custom of having increase of rent at change of sale, did exist under the late Mr. Harvey. This course made changes very infrequent. Dan M'Geoghan, who had purchased the farm of John Falkender, refused to pay purchase money owing to the rise that would follow of £2. An increase, it is true, was not exacted from Falkender between this date and the few years that followed before the rise of '74. Michael Lafferty, however, sold his tenancy, and the transfer was effected, and the rise was actually imposed. No ease has been mentioned to illustrate that change of tenancy did take place, and that on it there was no increase made. The Carrowmenagh cases must be briefly disposed of. The tenants, Mr. Harvey says, I should know were well able to pay their rents. I know that eleven families of them received for one of the years the rent for which they were evicted, the food with which they were supported, the seed with which they cropped the land, chiefly from public funds. They deliberately, Mr. Harvey says, ignored the Land Act. Rather he deliberately excluded them from its operation. Neil M'Laughlin, who could go and did go, he harassed in every conceivable form. And the court when it pronounced a judgment practically said, Mr. Harvey, if the Carrowmenagh cases are all like that of Neil M'Laughlin, even though they ask you to reduce their rental 6s 8d, they do not make a very unjust proposal. In a passing way it might be recalled to show that they did not ignore the court, the fact that one of the proposals I myself publicly made, drew the attention of Canon Scott to, as Mr. Harvey, I take it, knows, was that the rent for the time in dispute settled the cases going to court, and the court decisions accepted for the rent in dispute. He knows well further that if he had wished to give his tenantry the benefit of the Arrears Act he could have got all his costs. I agree with Mr. Harvey that some think the action of the tenants was unwise, but I challenge him to name a layman of popular sympathies, or single priest in all Inishowen who would say his action was mild, merciful, or wise.

Moville, June 10th. 1885. J. O'Kane, C.C.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 30 September 1885**

EVICTIONS AND EMERGENCE IN DONEGAL—"FROM BALLYBOFFEY TO LETTERKENNY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir-A writer who does not give his name has treated the public to some truly graphic and interesting papers on a journey from Ballybofey via Gweedore to Letterkenny. In the last of these particularly he makes frequent allusion to police barracks as the appendage of landlord oppressors, and scenes of eviction he describes with feelings of utter abhorrence. At present there is at Carrowmenagh, of notoriety, a police barracks for the protection men, not while they reap the crop the poor people put into the ground, but until the crop is allowed to destruction, and becomes useless to them. Mr. Harvey, who, in his way, has done in Inishowen what the writer shrinks from describing as done in Glenveagh by John George Adair, is, of course, responsible for the presence of this barracks. Kindly gratify a curious local public by saying if the writer of these papers himself has, as his own agent, this same Mr. Harvey—Yours,

Inishowen, September 28th, 1885.

## **Freeman's Journal - Thursday 08 October 1885**

EMERGENCY MEN IN THE NORTH.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Derry, Tuesday. To-day six Emergency men and a bailiff left this city, on cars, for Carrowmena, a short distance from Moville, where they were engaged during the remainder of the day in digging the potato crop on farms of land the property of Hector O'Neill, from which the previous tenants had been evicted. Several policemen, armed with rifles, were present while the work was proceeding, but no action on the part of the peasantry of the district called for their intervention.

## Northern Whig - Thursday 08 October 1885

### BOYCOTTING IN DONEGAL.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Londonderry, Wednesday

There is authority for stating that the Government have under serious consideration the advisability of instituting a prosecution against a County Donegal priest for alleged incitement to crime. The incitement is stated to have been conveyed in a discourse after mass on Sunday recently. It created a good deal of excitement in the district, and boycotting is now flourishing in parts of the county where up to the present it was unknown. Six Emergency men who could be spared from Lord Clonourry's estate have arrived at Carrowmenagh, four miles from Moville, where they have joined four others in holding possession of several farms which have lain idle for the last three years. The tenants were evicted for non-payment of rent, and the farmers around were afraid to take the land. This season one of the tenants had the temerity not only to put down corn in the ground, but to sub let a portion of his former holding to a man who put in potatoes. The case is one of the first League "test" cases known in the North, and the evicted tenants have been partly maintained by small grants from the League funds. The agent waited until the crop appeared, and then applied to the Emergency Committee for the men, and the former tenant and his neighbours have now the satisfaction of seeing the crops rotting in the ground. The agent had arranged for the shipment of the potatoes to London. A significant phase of the League in Donegal is that in one or two instances in which Protestants have joined the organization, although they were allowed to attend the ordinary meetings, yet in their absence they invariably found that the real business was transacted. This has had the effect of creating a widespread feeling of distrust in the bona fides of the League's doings. In one Donegal town the owner of a small hotel managed to get the owner of a larger one boycotted. This was the signal for the Protestants to flock to the large hotel, and its proprietor lost nothing in the end. In another town the principal hotel was boycotted for the purpose of enabling a second hotel proprietor to start. At one branch of the League two local bakers proposed and seconded a resolution boycotting Derry bread, and, to show the superiority of their own manufacture, brought loaves apiece under their arms. It is believed that the case against the priest referred to is so dear that the Government cannot refuse to act.

## Derry Journal - Friday 09 October 1885

THE CARROWMENAGH EVICTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DERRY JOURNAL.

Sir—There is now daily to read in many English and also in many Irish papers a whole of acts of lawlessness which are supposed to occur in this country. The enemies of the people's rights have clear object in view in thus circulating reports of outrages. They mean in doing so to evoke the coercive power of the Government to their aid in a fruitless effort at repressing that giant power for self redressing wrong of whose possession union has awakened the people to full consciousness. Although sectarian or national prejudice may open to such reports some willing ears, still the enlightened public will not as a body brand them simply acts of disregard for law and order, except all the circumstances under which they take place are testified to by impartial authority. The frequent repetition of these reports might, however, obtain for them some undeserved credibility. It might serve then as a kind of set off to such representations—as a means of convincing weaker minds that disorder is not prevalent in Ireland—to bring before the public, as could be so easily found, cases in which the respect paid to those abused sacred names, law, order, has been of the most extreme kind, cases, which if met with in any part the civilized world out of this country, the press which would tell their history would have to record in connection with it far, far different scenes. One such case for example could easily be had in that of the poor evicted people of Carrowmenagh. Its history has been already in part before the public, but still it can easily afford repetition. The dispute between Mr. Harvey and the tenants began some five years ago. It began in the year that followed two of great depression to farmers, in one the seed for whose crops was got by many of same tenants out of public funds. The depression was so generally acknowledged throughout Ireland that the reduction in rent became almost universal. There are in Moville parish some thirty-four townlands, and all of these it might be said got the benefit of a reduction except two—that is the two of which Mr. Harvey was the agent. The Carrowmenagh people were models of taste, sobriety, and industry, and for forty years they had managed to pay regularly a rent which was always an exorbitant one, for it was put on by reason of the well known local value of barley, then 3s a stone. Their desire for a reduction under such circumstances was not unnatural. Mr. Harvey, however, would give none—not one sixpence. He has often stated that he would not be coerced—whatever relation that has

with the justice of the case—but he has never stated any reasonable cause why the Carrowmenagh people should get no reduction, why they should meet and be satisfied with exceptional treatment. His friends publicly on several occasions during evictions explained Mr. Harvey's adopting an individual course on the ground that he was a young man, and that wished to acquire a character for efficiency as agent. He saw in the state of the country an opportunity to extend his agency, and he resolved to seize it. He has succeeded in this. It is not a great success. The Legislature was dealing with the land question, and courts were about to be established for settlement of land cases, but Mr. Harvey frustrated Mr. Gladstone's mild views. He heaped costs on the tenants, and so, when the courts were opened, the tenants could not avail themselves of them without, in the first instance, paying all the costs so wantonly incurred; in cases twice the rental. He would give no reduction. He heaped on costs; and so, when the sad day of eviction came, even though the courts were soon to be established, the question with the people was, not of going or not going to court, but of paying all the rent for the term in dispute in full, and all the costs unnecessarily incurred for the privilege of being free to go to untried courts—that or eviction. The people might have taken redemption, but still there was not much to incline them to sign redemption papers on the day they were asked to do so. That was the very day on which they saw how Mr. Harvey dealt with Patrick M'Gonnagle, who had taken redemption, and whose term of it had expired. An array of military, never engaged in less manly service, were drawn up before Patrick M'Gonnagle's house. The roof of a once comfortable cottage was pulled down, and James G. Harvey himself with his own hands wielded the saw on the occasion. It was a hard sight. I witnessed it, and I would not now trust myself to witness another like it. There are scenes in life that make an indelible impression on the mind, that was one such. The evictions then of the entire townland with a few exceptions were carried through. It would be beside the purpose of the present letter to go into details these. Passingly it might be remarked that during them I myself made to Mr. Harvey, through Canon Scott, two suggestions for a settlement, for the carrying out of which I was willing to become personally responsible. (1) That the entire question be left to arbitration, the arbitrators be selected from men of his own class—other agents. (2) That the cases go to the Land Court when opened, and that the rent there fixed regarded as the rent for the term in dispute. The evictions of more than one hundred people who felt that despotism and injustice is the cause of their outgoing, evictions carried out in the depth of the

winter were well calculated to arouse the worst passions of human nature, and yet all these evictions were earned out, and one word, one act that could bring the individual under the censure of the law, never took place. From that date to the present, some four years have almost passed, and during these the poor evicted have had much to endure, much to bitterly complain of. Mr. Harvey never abandoned his persecution of the evicted. He never reinstated some who got money from friends to pay costs, etc., but then they had to go on the humiliating terms of acknowledging on back of receipt that the land belonged absolutely to the landlord, and that they will pay the old rent for 15 years. He had the Petty Sessions Courts filled with cases of trespass. The few who found shelter in little out-houses with some kind friends he forced to leave entirely the property. He had the land for his account; but then he took out civil bill decrees to enable him to seize the cattle—that is, to prevent the evicted keeping such at all. For the past month he has a number of emergency men stationed in Carrowmena to prevent the people getting any benefit from some little crop they managed to put into the land, for which they had to pay the taxes, and which even still every right-minded man would say was theirs, though accidentally the law does not make it so. He has a number of police protecting these creatures. The law accidentally did not take cognizance of their case owing to time, just as would not the case of a promissory note or other bill after a certain date, though still the relationship of justice was unchanged. He has to-day quite a contingent of emergency fellows, horses, carts, &c., engaged in taking away, likely for Saturday to Derry, the potato crop, or rather has them engaged in destroying actually the crop. All this is taking place at the dictation of Mr. Harvey, from his comfortable office in Derry, and the poor people bear it all patiently through respect for the law. The point to be kept in view is that all that has happened has happened without a single outrage. Mr. Harvey freely goes through these same people unmolested; the bailiff and the carman at his disposal does likewise. The shopkeepers, who are the greatest friends of Harvey's, are not by any means boycotted. The outcasts of emergency men endeavored direction it was supposed to provoke words of anger in Moville when passing through. Their effort was vain. This district has thus set before the eyes of the impartial world a noble example of patient endurance of the deepest respect for law and order. Behind that law which man administers in the name of justice, these poor people feel that there is an eternal law of justice not subject to man's abuse, that in God's good time He will inevitably assert it. They have a strong confidence founded in the justice of

their case, that in the near future they shall again possess their once comfortable homes in happiness and security under a local government. They hope that then the name even of Mr. Harvey shall not be mentioned their midst. Should it be mentioned with a blessing, Irish charity alone would be capable of such heroism.

James O'Kane, C.C.

Moville, October 7th, 1885.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 21 October 1885**

### **MEETING AT CARROWMENA. SYMPATHY WITH EVICTED TENANTS.**

Yesterday a very successful meeting was held at Carrowmena, about six miles from Moville, for the purpose of making arrangements to help the evicted tenants on the estate of Mr. Hector S. M'Neil, of which Mr. James M. Harvey is agent. The tenants in Carrowmena were evicted in December, '81. Of the number evicted a good many settled with the agent, and were re-admitted to their holdings, but eleven families are still living as best they can. These poor people's humble dwellings present a very sad spectacle. They have not been inhabited those four years, and as no repairs have been executed, many of them are on the point of falling. The thatch has been blown off them by winter storms, and the doors and windows in nearly every instance are gone ; the rain has run down the walls, and altogether they present a sad and desolate spectacle. Some of the evicted tenants last spring sowed a quantity of potatoes and oats. As soon as the crops were ripe the agent, Mr. Harvey, procured fourteen emergency men, ostensibly for the purpose of securing the crop for the landlord, but in reality they destroyed it, so that it would be of no avail to who ventured to plant on the farms from which they had been evicted. The emergency men simply cut the tops of the oats, and trampled it under foot, whatever little quantity they did gather up being thrown in heaps exposed to the weather. The potatoes have been somewhat similarly treated. The object of yesterday's meeting was to make some provision for the support of the tenants who planted the crops on the farms. The promoters of the meeting intended that only persons from the parishes Moville and Culdaff should present, they did not intend the meeting to be the nature of a general meeting. From the number present those two parishes must have turned out to a man. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

Amongst those present were—The Rev. William M'Glinchey, C.C., Moville ; Rev. Jas. O'Kane, C.C., Moville ; Rev. Philip O'Doherty, C.C., Carndonagh ; Rev. Father Devine, C.C., Carndonagh; Messrs. Henry M'Cauley, P.L.G., Patrick J. M'Donagh, Moville; Michael M'Gruddy, Patrick Malian, Denis Diver, James M'Donagh, Carndonagh ; Daniel M'Carron, Joseph M'Kinney, James M'Cauley, Patrick M'Laughlin. Daniel Doohan, Edward Quigg, James Campbell, William Laflerty, John Kearney, John Smith, Patrick M'Dermott, &c. Mr. Harvey. R.M., and sixty police, under District Inspectors White (Moville), and Winder (Buncrana), were present.

On the motion of Mr. Michael M'Gruddy, seconded by Mr. Henry M'Cauley, the chair was taken by the Rev. W. M'Glinchey, C. C., Moville.

The rev. chairman, on coming forward, was warmly received. He thanked them for calling upon him to preside on that important occasion, and had to tell them that the meeting had the full approval and sanction of the parish priest, Father Farnan. (Cheers.) His duty would be to explain the object of that meeting, and how that object was to be attained. The object of the meeting was to show their sympathies on behalf of the oppressed and persecuted. They would show their sympathies, by their presence there that day, with those who were suffering from landlord injustice. They saw the ruined homes around them, and they could compare these homes, which were once cheerful and happy, but which they were compelled to leave to ruin and desolation. The evictor's hand was stamped as indelibly on Carrowmena as it is on Glenveigh. Carrowmena had become over the world almost as notorious as Glenveigh. It was to a great extent depopulated. What sufferings did the poor people of Carrowmena endure for now nearly four years? What struggles did they not make to try and secure a home for their families? And many of them had to undergo second eviction. Some of them had to leave the country altogether. They, then, were there to sympathise with these people in their sufferings. They were not met for an illegal purpose ; they were met for charity, and they would practise it on behalf of the poor people of Carrowmena. (Cheers.) The speaker at considerable length detailed the struggle between the people and the agent in the Carrowmena district, and told how they only asked the same reduction as was given on neighboring estates, and for this they were evicted. He said that a reduction of ten shillings in the £ would be little enough on the rents which the poor people paid. He concluded by urging upon those present to assist those who were deprived of their crops by the agent, and to make them as well off as if there had never come an emergency man to Carrowmena. They should sympathise with them not only in person but in purse. He himself would begin the subscription with £1, and if twenty more were required from him he would subscribe to his last penny. (Cheers.) He had been authorised to say that



his brother would also give £1. (Cheers.) He then called on Father O'Kane, C. C., to read the resolutions.

The Rev. James O'Kane, Movice, then read the following resolutions:-

1st.—That we, the tenant-farmers of the parishes of Movice, Culdaff, Malin, and Carndonagh, assembled here in public meeting, pledge ourselves to assist and sustain the “Carrowmena evicted tenants” by every constitutional means within our power, until they are restored to their homes.

2nd.—That for every sheaf of oats and every potato destroyed by Mr. Harvey's Orange Emergency men, we shall give them two, collectors to be appointed in the different parishes for that purpose.

3rd.—That, as the Carrowmena evictions prove to the world that landlordism cannot be improved, we pledge ourselves to aid and assist the Irish Parliamentary Party in having it abolished.

4th.—That we express our determination never to rest satisfied until our native parliament is restored.

5th.—That this meeting tenders to Mr. Parnell and the Irish Parliamentary Party their unbounded confidence in their guidance, and we further pledge ourselves to support them, and return to Parliament, for North Donegal, only the man approved of by Mr. Parnell.

The rev. gentleman said—Rev. Chairman, tenant farmers of Inishowen, and sympathizers with the cause of tenant-farmers, we have assembled here today, primarily for a very practical and very charitable object. We have met to give practical proof to evicted tenant-farmers that they have our sympathies with them in the sufferings to which they are in our opinion unmercifully and unjustly subjected. Our meeting is a perfectly legitimate one, and equally so, I trust, shall every act in connection with it. We profess to follow in matters about which we are today concerned the doctrine taught by the great intellectual leaders of that eminently successful institution, the National League.

(Cheers.) That doctrine so frequently and so clearly laid by these leaders is, that the greatest enemy to the cause of the people is the individual who in the name of the cause does an act which would unquestionably bring down their censure, an act which would make him amenable to the law of country. The resolutions which have been put before you, and which you seemed so warmly to endorse, contain nothing approaching to illegality. It would only be repeating facts quite familiar to each of you to recount those that remotely have given cause for most of these resolutions—the facts which would tell how a once neat, happy, and industrious village has become a sight to sadden the heart or weary the eye of the most unfeeling individual. Mr. Harvey, acting as if on an idea (his motives cannot be clearly known though circumstances strongly suggest selfish ones), that there was more intelligence in his mind, or perhaps

more courage in his heart, than in that of all the landlords and agents of Inishowen, refused to do what practically all they were doing, what the circumstances of the times demanded, and refused to give a reduction, one six pence of a redaction on the rent of a season, when twenty per cent. was, an almost universal reduction. The reason assigned for giving no reduction is the existence the Land League. Other agents have failed to see the connexion between the existence of a Land League, or even a Land League demand and question of justice, the establishment of a fair relationship. Government could not see it, else we should never have had Land Courts, never an Arrears Act—(cheers)—for the members of the Land League demanded these enactments. Mr. Harvey's argument —(groans)—on the matter, as far as I could ever follow it, is that because there was no positive law to compel to give a reduction, therefore he had no right to give it. He would scarcely stake his character on this logic. The evicted tenants, now out of their homes, had surely an interest, the tenant right ten times more than the amount for which Mr. Harvey got legal possession of the places. There is no law to compel him to pay this claim of justice, and yet who would say if they were leaving for ever these places that such a claim is not theirs. That their demand was only a just one all the subsequent decisions of the Land Court went to prove—the few cases tried in Carrowmena did convincingly prove. The simple matter, then, is that they had a right to a reduction, though the law did not in letter apply to the case, though it did apply to it in spirit. The cry “resistance to Land League dictation” sounds well, but still its immediate appeal to class prejudice comes almost too late for this advanced age. (Cheers.) These tenants have suffered, and their suffering was in part our suffering, for it was for our class, and so we, assembled in such large numbers from all parts of Inishowen, promise that we will with our cash enable them to suffer yet longer. We say we will not be satisfied until landlordism is abolished. (Cheers.) Now, speaking of any class we must always keep view that there are in it honourable exceptions. Let us look around in our little sphere and contrast the action of Mr. Nicholson—(cheers for him)—and his honourable representative with the action M'Neil and his. The one gave a large reduction, five shillings to the pound for the year's rent. The other gave, and frequently alludes to it, 5s in a few cases, of a small rent a little more, but only on a half-year's rent, and then the vast difference in subsequent treatment. In a word, had the Carrowmena tenants been under any agent in Inishowen except Mr. Harvey, they would never have had to leave their homes. (Applause.) As a class, however, the landlords have become totally useless. They have no motive; there is no confidence in them, and so they are legitimately to be got rid of. We see by a letter of Mr. Harvey's that he represents sixteen landlords, and that he has the approbation of all these on conduct. The mildest of them,

therefore, who does not publicly disapprove of any particular course of his, is in the eyes of the public responsible for it, and taken as endorsing it. What have the landlords done for our people. (Cries of “nothing.”) If we look to our villages—Moville or Cardnonagh—what interest have they, who had absolute power, shown. Moville is by nature adapted for an extensive watering-place; Carndonagh for business. As to native Parliament—we go to England, Scotland, or any country—all is prosperity. In Ireland alone there is on all sides decay. A native parliament gives to a country the blood of active life in free circulation. Our villages will become seats of industry, our fishery accommodation developed, the seeds of discontent will be taken away from the nation and the individual, and any capability for ill will be up-rooted. (Cheers.) We send to be approved by our illustrious leader the individual who is to represent us in Parliament. Three names—Jas. E. O’Doherty, Jas. M’Glinchey, and William James Doherty. The most efficacious co-operator with Mr. Parnell in the work, in work to which he has devoted all the earnestness of his towering talent and diplomatic powers. A word on the evictions from a philosophic point of view. Mr. Harvey, brings the law into contempt. The police are taken for most part from the best portion of our community—middle class farmers. My public testimony is, that I have always found them a well conducted body. It would tend to their efficiency that they should have the respect of the community. The Land League teaching is that it never requires a person not to do an act which by law he is bound to do. They must then assist at these unpleasant duties, but they do so I feel unwillingly as a body. Mr. Harvey, though professing to raise the dignity of the law, brings actually the law into contempt, and forfeits the social status of its representative. Referring to boycotting, the speaker said it was a dangerous weapon, and should be cautiously handled. The leaders of the Irish Party did not look favourably upon it, owing to the facility with which it might be abused. However, where an individual acted against the social interest, they were not bound to endorse his conduct, and could show their disapproval of it. They could legitimately make him feel that he was opposed to their interests. He urged his hearers, in conclusion, to observe the law, assist their oppressed fellow-tenants, and work with all their might for a native parliament, and in the near future the sons and daughters who, owing to eviction had to go abroad, would again return and see their parents in their old home, and as they saw Carrowmena they would exclaim in the joy of their hearts, “Thank God there is no longer an agent to deprive us of our homes” (Loud cheers.)

Mr. P. J. M’Donough, Moville, in proposing the adoption of the resolutions, said—fellow-countrymen, as you are already aware, our object in coming here to-day is to defend the weak, and shield the poor persecuted Carrowmena

evicted tenants, who were driven ruthlessly from their humble homes, now almost four years ago. What these poor people have suffered during that time shall never be known till the great recording day, when the scales of eternal justice shall prove the oppressors of the poor, destitute of everything but their evil deeds. It is a long and sad story these evictions. This Carrowmena property belongs to a Scotch absentee landlord, named Hector M'Neill, who lives in Edinburgh; the oldest tenants on the estate have seen him twice in their lives for about an hour each time ; every penny of the rack-rents rung out of those poor people is spent in Scotland by Hector, less the few pounds Mr. Harvey receives as agent. Most landlords admit that property has its duties well as its rights. How has Mr. M'Neill performed his duties? Look round and see Paddy M'Gonigal's once happy home now a mass of ruins (the roof tree was cut by a Derry celebrity named Shepherd), his young family scattered far and wide, some in America, himself compelled to live in a miserable little hut not fit for a pig—that is the history of every evicted tenant on the estate. Mr. Gladstone truly describes eviction as a “death sentence,” but what does this hard-headed and hard-hearted Scotchman care how many death sentences he inflicts on the “mere Irish.” Have you not seen the “writing on the wall” yet, Hector. Landlordism, as represented by you, has had its day. I feel almost inclined to propose a vote of thanks to both landlord and agent, because they have proved to you, men of Inishowen, that landlordism cannot be improved, that it has forgot nothing and learned nothing. This struggle, I have no doubt, will go on. I am very sorry for it. But I don't object, now we can afford to wait and see how landlordism will thrive twelve months from now. (Hear, hear.) By that time the people will have convinced them that if eviction must take place it is foul landlordism that shall be evicted. Mr. Harvey has written to one of the Derry papers lately that these evicted tenants were able to pay their rack-rents only for the dictation of Land League. As a proof of his statement, he mentioned that a number of the tenants settled and paid all the rent and costs, but took care not to state where they got the money. I shall take the liberty of telling him now, though he knows it. Well, the priests and people belonging to the parishes of Moville and Culdaff subscribed out of their poverty about £300, which was given to his evicted tenants, that put some of them in position to pay him all. How did he treat them? He compelled them, I am informed, to sign an agreement that they were not to enter the land court, but continue to pay the rack rents for the next fifteen years. He is also aware that those tenants whom he represents as so able to pay were in receipt of relief meal the year before he evicted them, as he had a personal friend on that relief committee. Now those tenants, eleven in number, only accepted it, because they were in starvation, and were it not for their little ones they would starve before accepting it. He

processed those tenants for the rent for which evicted he them, though he had their houses and land in his possession for one and half years' rent some cases. When the Arrears Act passed he was offered all his costs on condition that he would give them the benefit of the law of the land, and he refused. He had one of the tenants fined in £1 at the Moville Petty Sessions for walking his own land. There is not a legal point known to the law and their name is legion, that he has not given them the full benefit of, and yet they are not happy. It must be then want education that they not see nor appreciate what can be done in the name of the law. Go on, Mr. Harvey, you are worth all the National League Branches in Inishowen ; you are looked upon as representing the institution, and if you not succeed in it driving out of Inishowen in the same length of time that the Carrowmena tenants are evicted I am far mistaken.

The Rev. Philip O'Doherty, C.C., in seconding the adoption of the resolutions, said when he came there that day he did not expect he would have to address the meeting. He only came to show by his presence that he sympathised with them; and as "clerical agitators" were latterly coming for a good deal of spattering in the columns of the Derry Sentinel—(groans for the Sentinel, and a voice, "It is not worth groaning")—he wanted to take his share with his fellow priests. The speaker said that for the eighty years succeeding the Union the course of landlords had been a downward one. Formerly, no matter how bad they were they still considered themselves Irishmen, but they were now the most anti-Irish people to be found. Judge Fletcher Wexford had characterised landlords as murderers and abettors of murder clearing off their tenants, and sending them to America in ships not fit to go on an ocean voyage until, as the speaker had said at Strabane, there was a pathway marked across the bottom of the ocean by the bones of exiled Irish people. The speaker concluded referring to the former rental which the townland of Carrowmena paid, which was only few pounds.

Mr. Denis Diver proposed, and Mr. P. Mullan seconded a vote of thanks the chairman, which was passed unanimously.

The Chairman returned thanks, and the meeting concluded.

A Government shorthand writer occupied a seat on the platform.

## **LONDONDERRY SENTINEL. THURSDAY OCTOBER 22. 1885.**

Notwithstanding the denials of lay and clerical agitators. whose interest it is to carry on the boycotting operations with as much secrecy as possible, we have the most reliable authority for repeating what we have already asserted—that in many in parts of Inishowen boycotting is being prosecuted with virulence. It is not alone confined to landlords, and those connected with them. It is resorted

to for other purposes, and many of the people are subjected to the pressure of boycotting from motives of private spite and trading rivalry. Clonmany, Merville, and Culdaff are the chief centres of the organisation of oppression and intimidation. We observe that a meeting was held at Carrowmena Tuesday "for the purpose of making arrangements to help the evicted tenants on the estate of Mr. H. S. M'Neil." As the tenants were evicted so long ago in 1881, it will naturally be thought that the sympathy of their neighbours has been somewhat tardy in finding expression. The tenant's question, as Mr. Healy admitted, did not submit to eviction through the force of poverty or helplessness, but from a determination to obey the order of the Land League rather than meet their legal obligations. It is reflection on the disinterested sympathy of their friends that such of them as refused to come to a reasonable arrangement with the landlord's representative have been allowed to shift for themselves for four or five years. The sudden manifestation of interest in the tenants is at least open to suspicion. We suspect the object of the meeting was not so much to offer sympathy and to provide assistance for these so-called victims of landlordism"—but really victims of their own obstinacy and of the bad advice of the local agitators—as to afford an opportunity for propagating sedition, for preaching the doctrine of public robbery, which was actually done by more than one of the speakers. The chair was taken by the Roman Catholic curate from Merville, who showed his knowledge of what he was speaking about by declaring that "the evictor's hand was stamped indelibly on Carrowmena as it is on Glenveigh." Perhaps Rev. Mr. Glinchey will be surprised to hear that no evictions ever took place in Glenveigh for the very good reason that there was never anybody in Glenveigh to evict. We suppose he has been misled by the tissue of falsehoods in "New Ireland," and that he meant the Derryveigh evictions, which took place miles away from Glenveigh. He would he as accurate in speaking of the Carrowmena evictions as the Merville evictions as in confounding Derryveagh with Glenveigh. Rev. James O'Kane, Merville, informed his hearers that landlords must "legitimately be got rid of." The qualifying expression "legitimately" is no doubt intended take the edge off the declaration in case anyone should interpret it too literally, but it was dangerous phrase to use to such assemblage. He went on to assert that it was the want of native Parliament that caused the decay and desolation in Ireland. In other countries all was prosperity. Perhaps the rev. gentleman has never heard of the depression of trade in England and Scotland, of the semi-starvation on the Clyde, thousands of unemployed in all the large towns, of the poverty, misery, and distress everywhere existing, even where there is no such thing as alien rule. The cry about distress and decay in Ireland is sham and delusion. Last week over £1,000 was contributed by the Irish branches to the funds of the

National League, and National testimonials are constantly swelling out by the contributions of the “oppressed and poverty stricken people.” As the more respectable classes have nothing do with these patriotic funds it follows that they are mainly contributed by the classes on whom so much sympathy is expended by Nationalist orators. How can people be either comfortable or prosperous when they spend their time in fruitless agitation, and their money keeping up a band of political adventurers ? Rev. Mr. O’Kane undertook to look at evictions “from a philosophic point of view,” but we cannot say that his remarks were either very lucid or very logical. Mr. P. J. M’Donough, M’ville, with unconscious irony, loudly expressed his sympathy with “the poor persecuted Carrowmena evicted tenants, who were ruthlessly driven from their homes, now *almost four years ago*.” It is a pity Mr. M’Donough has not had his charitable feelings stimulated for the space of four years. Of course Rev. Phillip O’Doherty figured at the meeting, but as his presence on such occasions is more to be dreaded by his friends than by those whom he regards as his foes, it may well be thought that there was much anxiety and trepidation manifested when he opened his mouth. However, he hardly sustained his former record in the matter of violent speaking, a fact which must have somewhat relieved the apprehension of those responsible for the conduct of the meeting.

## **Derry Journal - Friday 23 October 1885**

### **IMPROVED SYSTEM FARMING AT CARROWMENA.**

Times are likely soon to be better in Inishowen. The folks there are getting some instructions, some useful hints on farming. Up in Dublin there is going on an artisan exhibition, to give an impulse to industry of that class. But there are people whose interests are altogether bound up with land, and so they are not just likely to let art have all improvements and tillage none. For the present the thing is merely an experiment, but in the hands of one so powerful, and of so tender feelings for poor tenants, it is hard to say what proportions the little trial might develop into. It cannot entail much of a loss, for the crops upon which the trial is made was not altogether this individual’s own, and any rate it is at present worthless. It is not the art of tillage as whole that is being experimented on. It is only the art of saving crops. Now, in old times when people used to be cutting corn, they always cut the head and stalk together. That must have been wrong, for the new process in Carrowmena is to

cut off first the heads of one row, and then to tramp down the next to show that there is absolute power over it. If then after a fortnight or so it seemed good, a foot or two could be taken off the stalk where it could afford it, but it is right always to leave still a foot or so. The principles of the system are not too clear, but by them as practised the corn can be cut down and right away stacked, that is stacked not as people used to do for keeping purposes, but in such a way it can conveniently become a manure heap without the bother of cattle, which now does not pay. Pigs have always manifested a natural aptitude for getting potatoes out of the earth. Philosophers have drawn many speculative lessons of wisdom from examples set by swine, but the new system of Carrowmena farming has made practical the example swine afford, and has actually produced a most perfect imitation of it. There is a great deal in the cut of a farmer, the way he sets about his work. The whole style up to this has been wrong, for the style of the farmers at present in Carrowmena is entirely opposed to anything of the kind that was ever seen in the locality. Now, is it not kind of the Carrowmena agent to take such an interest in his tenantry, and to teach them a way to make the payment of their rent ever so easy. This was likely the reason for his desire to take so much land into his own hands. He knew the farmers of the old school could not work hard enough to scrape together rent in these depressed seasons, for they did not take good enough food. Potatoes and fish and Indian meal, and occasional wash-down of tea, and meat three or four times a year. The farmers could not on that food do as much work as would produce rent. Why, an agent who does not sweat an hour the whole year round, and who has not at all every interest dear in life bound with that village, who is only in fact connected with it through his little percentage on its rental, he would likely expect for himself better. He then sends a set of boys who will not confine themselves to that class of food. It is little enough to have meat every day, and tea is a good enough wash-down for women, but couple of glasses daily for a man is the right article. This system is only on trial, and whether it will pay or not has yet to be proved. If it does, a little dispute that has been going on there will be easily settled. The agent can then establish a proof (not confine himself to the expression of his omnipotent will) that he alone in the dispute is right, that the land can well pay for labour, and after doing so afford a substantial rent. He will be consistent in this with his usual actions, for he will be adopting an individual course. There has not yet, in all the cases that have passed through the courts, turned up one where an agent proved from his own experience, or that even of his landlord, that the rent he claimed to have determined was only a just one. That is, no agent proved that he or the landlord he represented, managed a farm, and that under his own management yielded such a profit, after expenses of labour,



that judging by his own case, with its surrounding circumstances, he swears the rent claimed for his tenant's holding is fair and just one. No case in Inishowen up to this would bear the test. However, Carrowmena may furnish proof of this nature. It may, in truth, under the agent's own management, soon yield so much profit that he can pay from it all his landlord's claim, and then give it back to former tenants. And when handing it over he is likely to take into account how many years they have been deprived of their means of life, and make ample compensation for the loss in this respect, as also for the loss caused to their dwellings. Whether the system succeeds or not, the failure will not be due any interference, everything is so quiet at Carrowmena.

#### A VISITOR TO CARROWMENAGH

### Derry Journal October 23 1885

#### CARROWMENAGH

Mr. James G. Harvey is a young gentleman of some ability, and is possessed of undoubted energy and determination. We wish we could say that the latter qualities are always exercised with prudence, not to say with feeling. On the whole, when all comes to all, do not think Mr. Harvey—that is if his is of the class of mind, as we would hope it is, that will mature with years—is likely to feel proud of the work which, with a stubborn will, he now seems anxious to accomplish. It is not a reputation that many men would care to acquire, that being amongst the fiercest of land agents. But to this end Mr. Harvey seems to be driving. The dispute between Mr. Harvey and the Carrowmenagh tenants has extended over years and it was never bitterer than now. There are sawn roof-trees and desolate hearths on the lands of Carrowmenagh. Mr. Harvey will tell us it is the people's fault, or the fault of the advisers of the people. Mr. Harvey of course is not in fault. He has committed no error of judgment. He is righteously self-willed. He could do no wrong. Possibly he thinks he is in the right. He is too young a man to reflect that there is such thing as being terribly in the right. Of course we do not say he is in the right. We hold him to be very much in the wrong. But we will assume that he thinks he is right, that he believes he is justified in applying all the terrors of the law. Suppose we grant all that for argument's sake. There still remains something as to which no man may say he is justified. We ask the public to read the following extract from our report—a report that Mr. Harvey or his newspaper organ does not attempt to challenge:—

These poor people's humble dwellings present a sad spectacle. They have not been inhabited for years, and as no repairs have been executed, many of them are on the point of falling, thatch has been blown off them by winter storms, and the doors and windows in nearly every instance are gone, the rain has run down the walls, altogether they present a sad and desolate spectacle. Some of the evicted tenants last spring sowed a quantity of potatoes and oats. As soon as these crops were ripe the agent, Mr. Harvey, procured fourteen emergency men, ostensibly for the purpose of securing the crop for the landlord, but in reality they destroyed it, so that it would be of no avail to those who ventured to plant it on the farms from which they had been evicted. The emergency men simply cut the tops of the oats, and under foot, whatever little quantity they did gather up being thrown in heaps exposed to the weather. The potatoes have been somewhat similarly treated.

Now, we ask, can this be paralleled? We do not say that legally the tenants can claim the crops. We do say it is crying outrage to destroy the fruits which the earth in the good providence of God has yielded in an impoverished land. The apology for the employment of the emergency horde heretofore had been that they gave their services to save crops. Here, we believe for the first time, since the devastating wars of Ulster, men occupied themselves in the destruction of the gifts of bounteous Nature. There the report. There has been no attempt to challenge its accuracy. The ears of the ripened grain were chopped and cast on the ground, "trampled underfoot," the potatoes have been "somewhat similarly treated." If this statement is true—and two days have passed without contradiction—we say it is a sad sight in a Christian country; it is a terrible thing to do in a land where before Christmas day men and women and children may starve. Could any commentary be more eloquent than this strange deed to the spirit in which the case of the evicted tenants of Carrowmengah be considered.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 28 October 1885**

### **IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**CULDAFF BRANCH.** The usual fortnightly meeting of this branch was held in the League Rooms, Gleneely, the other evening, Mr. John M'Cauley in the chair. All the other members of committee were present. Four delegates were elected by ballot to attend the county Convention at Letterkenny on 10th November, viz—D. Diver, N. M'Laughlin, J. M'Cauley, B. M'Conalogue. A collection which was

taken up in this parish during the past week for the Carrowmena evicted tenants was supported very generously by the people. A vote of thanks to the collectors, and also to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.—*Cor.*

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 25 November 1885**

### **LANDLORD CANDIDATE FOR INISHOWEN**

A meeting of electors of North Donegal was held in the Corporation Hall, Derry, Monday, noon, for the purpose of endeavouring to secure a landlord candidate contest the division against Mr. J. E. O'Doherty, Nationalist. The names of three gentlemen came before the meeting, and while they were being discussed a telegram was received from Colonel Stewart making what was described as a "splendid and patriotic offer" to contest the seat. Colonel Stewart was unanimously asked to stand, and subscription list having been opened, over £400 was subscribed. A committee was appointed to wait on a number of local Liberals and Conservatives from whom support is expected. Mr. J. C. White, conducting agent on behalf of Mr. Thomas Lea, attended, and gave the meeting every information with reference to the cost of the contest. The meeting of Monday was attended the Rev. Edward George Dougherty, Hon. Ernest Cochrane (who had convened it), Mr. Harte, Menville; J. G. Harvey, agent for Colonel Hector M'Neil of Carrowmenagh; Captain Dopping, ex-agent to the Earl of Leitrim; Captain Norman, Fahan; Colonel Knox, Mr. Thomas Lindsay, City Coroner; Captain Lecky, Foyle Hall; Mr. Thomas Colquhoun, Buncrana; Captain Allen.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 16 September 1891**

### **FATHER O'KANE, OF MOVILLE, IN AMERICA**

A WARM WELCOME. The Rev. James O'Kane, of Menville, county Donegal, presented with handsome gold watch chain and a cane by some of his old parishioners St. Paul's T. A. B. Hall, Carpenter-street, below Tenth, Philadelphia, the other evening. There was large gathering of the priest's old friends the hall to welcome him. Father O'Kane is on three months' pleasure trip to the United States, and, as the majority of his old parishioners and their children in this city are in St. Paul's parish, it was there those who took charge of the welcome observed it. Luke Dillon presided, and made few remarks in presenting the

gifts to the priest. He mentioned that Father O’Kane would find the Irish as well housed here “ as even an Englishman would care to be.” When you go home.” he continued, addressing the priest, “tell your people how you were received; tell them that even in Philadelphia you had a good sized parish, as well as in sweet Inishowen. In order that you would not forget them—even priests forget things occasionally—they have purchased this watch and chain for you so that when you look at the time of day you will think of the time you received this timepiece. They say you are not as young as you used to be, and the people at home are occasionally a little rough, so they have also given you this gold headed cane.” After the Chairman had presented the articles to the clergyman, and mentioned that they were not to be weighed by their intrinsic value, but as an expression of their love for him, Father O’Kane replied. He thanked them, and told them how pleased he was to meet so many old friends; it seemed like reunion. He was pleased to find that they were succeeding so well in the New World. Most of those present, he went on, he taught their catechism and fitted them for their first Communion, during the eighteen years he had ministered in the parish of Merville. He called to mind the evictions of fifty or sixty families on one Christmas Eve some years ago, and when these families set out for America. Philadelphia, he added, is pre-eminently fitted for the Irish, because of its homes of comfort. There is a well founded belief, he went on, that there will soon be realised in Ireland the hopes for home government inside of another year. “We have more patronage for our schools in Ireland than you have in America,” he continued. “The English Government gives money the priests to educate their children in their own manner. This year a law was passed that will enable the Irish farmer to own his land and be sole proprietor. The present state of Ireland is better than for years. There is promise of fine potato and corn crops, and there has been a decided change for the better during the last four or five years. There is well-founded belief that when you return to visit those scenes you will find things better than when you left.” In conclusion he again attempted to express his gratitude for his kind reception. Other addresses were made the Rev. Francis Quinn and the Rev. Richard F. Hannigan. Songs were sung by Michael Orady, John O’Callahan, and Cornelius Quigg, and Luke Dillon gave recitation. The Committee on Subscription included Patrick Faulkner, Patrick Harkins, John Haggerty, Hugh Quigg, James Canning, and Peter Farman, and the Committee on Purchase comprised Mr. Haggerty, James C. Magee and Bernard Keenan. At the conclusion of the entertainment the priest shook hands with his old friends, and fourteen men renewed the pledge they had taken with father O’Kane in Ireland. — Philadelphia Ledger\*

## Derry Journal - Wednesday 06 January 1892

THREE MONTHS AMONGST THE IRISH IN AMERICA.

LECTURE BY FATHER O'KANE, MOVILLE.

On New Year's night Father O'Kane, C.C., Moville, gave his promised lecture on his "Three Months' Tour in America" in the Courthouse, Carndonagh. There was a large and appreciative audience present on the occasion, attracted both by their interest in the subject and their desire to hear again a lecturer who has been before them some seven times on the first of a New Year. Father John Doherty, Adm., Carndonagh, occupied the chair, and on the platform were also: Rev. John M'Laughlin, C.C., Carndonagh ; Rev. James M'Guire, C.C., and Rev. Wm. M'Laughlin, C.C., Clonmany. Father O'Kane, after expressing the pleasure it always afforded him to be permitted to address people so kind, so faithful, so generous to their priests as the people of Carn were well known to be, said he proposed to entertain them to-night with a subject which differed somewhat from the subjects which he had previously treated them to. He had allowed them to remain in Ireland, safe and secure, on other New Years' nights, for his subject was some abstract one, or one that had its foundation on Irish soil; but to-night he would have to ask them to leave, at least in spirit, the land of old Erin, to brave the dangers the deep, and to visit old friends and new scenes in the greater Ireland beyond the sea—the glorious land of freedom and of plenty. On the 1st of August, then, we start from Derry quay on the steam tug Albatross, a vessel which is under the control of captain and crew, who for steadiness and efficiency have on water no superiors. There was to be seen at the quay that sad sight which is common at Irish quays, and which is never to be seen at those in America—friends with eyes weeping and hearts manifestly broken because they are to separate, and, that probably forever, from those who are to them dear as life. Soon the tug comes in sight of the State of Nebraska, she lies beautiful in her outlines at anchor opposite Moville. By the thoughtful kindness of the extremely obliging and courteous agent of the line, Mr. Turner, the tug is permitted to call at Moville Pier. The brass band, the people of the town in a body, and several clergymen are assembled to say a farewell word, to express sentiments that breathe regret and hope. After an inspection of the steamer and its curious medley of passengers, representatives of all nationalities, particularly returning Americans and exiled Jews, the anchor is weighed, the tug makes for shore, and handshaking is all over ; waving of handkerchiefs and hats is the last expression of mutual feeling. On such occasion a feeling of sadness steals imperceptibly over the

mind and casts its darkening shadow over a picture otherwise the brightest. Land is no more under foot; 2,700 miles of an ocean is to be traversed on which waves may arise to the height of 40 feet, as before they have done, and between their crests chasm intervenes of 500 feet, whilst in their rapid course they are careering some 30 miles an hour, and over a depth of 23,000 feet. As the steamer is yet gently floating down the Foyle the eye rests with delight on familiar scenes. Magilligan, Portrush, and Giant's Causeway on the right, and on the left Greencastle, with its ivy mantled castle dating back some 700 years; Shrove, Glenagivney Bay, Tramone, Redford, and those other headlands where nature shows so profusely her commingling of the sublime and beautiful. Whilst you yourself gaze with rapturous delight on those striking scenes that stud our coast, it is pleasant to hear those who have viewed what is most highly spoken of in every land express their feelings about what they now behold—that nature has dealt more richly with Ireland than she has done with any other country. But few hours some six—and Tory Island, or land of any kind, is no longer in view. Gaze around, and the blue vault of heaven above and water on all sides meet the eye. A printed list, supplied by purser, gives you the names of fellow-travellers, of whom there are about 130 cabin and 500 steerage. It is said that social life is most pleasant at sea, and truly it does seem to be the desire of all to consult for the happiness of each. If my experience is the rule, a priest as such is treated with the utmost kindness and courtesy. There is a law that prohibits cabin passengers visiting steerage departments, but though it is supposed to effect even clergymen, still I paid a visit daily, to the great delight of the sick, and I was never questioned on my right. There is no provision for any service on board except that which is conducted according to the Church of England, and over which, by right, the captain is supposed to preside. I believe on Spanish vessels there is always a little chapel provided for the priest's use. On Sunday, however, the amiable and courteous captain for he and all the officials were both amiable and courteous—placed at my disposal the deck saloon for my meeting with the Catholics on board, about 30 cabin and 40 steerage. Time, when weather is even fairly calm, passes very quickly at sea. There was a circle of us together from Derry—Rev. J. O'Kane, deacon, Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell, Mr. P. O'Kane, Drumquin—sufficiently large to be independent of the society of others, but soon this circle regarded as part of it quite a number of strangers. There is singing the day long, and games of every description. A mock trial lends to the life the charm of novelty, for it was ably and humorously carried out—ably it might be inferred for Mr. Maxwell was specially engaged on the case, and showed a depth of richest wit and skill in his management of it. A stroke of humour truly Irish was infused into the entire case. A young Scotchman was

accused of stealing from a real go ahead American, called popularly Kansas, some whiskey. A very dignified Judge from Philadelphia presided over the trial, and twelve intelligent and steady jurymen sat upon it. It was an intellectual treat to ... advocates and to see the witnesses. A ... Irish jurymen suggested that Kansas should produce the gallon of whiskey he really had, and which he said had been interfered with. The whiskey produced, it was deemed necessary that the jury should know its quality, and should taste it before they could come to any decision. After being tasted once the jury had some doubt about its exact properties, and so had to try it again, and the tasting process went on till Kansas heard with astonishment that there was no more to taste ; and though the jury had difficulty in coming to a judgment on the merit of the case they were at least unanimous on this point—that the whiskey was the best they ever tasted, and that it was no wonder poor Scotchie tried to steal a little of it. A funeral occurred on the voyage, and it is a hard sight to behold a funeral at sea. The steamer is not stopped, but slowed ; the officers all gather around; the captain, by right, reads, or permits to be read, a service—in this case gave charge to an Unitarian minister—a long plank is extended over the bulwark of the vessel; the corpse, three hours after death, sewed in coarse canvas, with several pounds of lead attached, is placed on the end of the plank, and in few moments is unseemingly cast, like an animal, into the ocean. A change in such a state of things is necessary for sake of the feelings of friends. At twelve o'clock noon each day a log is put up to show the number of miles run during the past twenty-four hours. This is daily anxiously looked out for, and soon becomes for sporting men a matter for speculating upon. There is a marked change of temperature in passing through the Gulf Stream. The banks of Newfoundland make their presence known by the ship's tossing. You have a feeling that land is near. You know Cape Race is not more than 170 miles distant. In two days speculation is afloat about meeting a pilot, for he is often found as far out as 500 miles. When a pilot does appear, as the one that boarded the Nebraska did about sixty miles from shore, you see a pilot-boat that differs widely from those used on the Foyle. On the evening of the tenth day it was manifest that land was soon to be reached, for steamers are plying in every direction. Sandy Hook is quickly passed. Long Island appears on the east, and Staten Island on the west, and a truly brilliant sight feasts the eye in the thousand lights that illuminates the shore on each side for miles, and in the myriad lights that are reflected on the placid waters from New York, Brooklyn, &c., in the distance as the steamer is forced to come to anchor. It is after eight o'clock, and, as Custom House officers do not then examine goods till after eight next morning, the Nebraska and her jolly cargo have to spend another night on water. The Americans remain on deck during the entire night ;

they keep up singing with the utmost enthusiasm; all join, and the burden of every song is something that reflects the glory or the greatness of America — the land of freedom. Next morning quite a new set of passengers appear on deck, some scarcely discernible in their new attire. The steamer is brought alongside the pier for the cabin passengers to disembark. The steerage and intermediate passengers have all to pass through Castle Garden some hours later—but of this again. The contrast between the dullness and decay that hangs around everything in the old country, and the activity and life that is daily increasing in New York becomes immediately and strikingly manifest. The Nebraska is berthed in Brooklyn, and in a few moments are in the Fulton ferry boat for New York. A ferry boat on the Hudson! What does it mean? A floating bridge, some five hundred feet long, having, like a bridge, its centre track for vehicles of every description and size, its side path for passengers. , its male and female cabins, and capable of carrying 70 carriages and two thousand passengers. These run every five minutes and are always well laden. We arose, paying three cents, and find our way to a hotel; it is the Ashland House, Fourth-avenue. If there is anything in America that is perfect in its kind, it is a hotel. You book with a clerk at the counter, get a key which you keep during your stay or leave in charge with same clerk, and then the hotel is responsible for things left in room. Do you want a ticket for any place in the world? a telegram sent? or almost any conceivable thing a traveller requires? Well, in the large entrance hall, where some hundreds are daily smoking at ease their finest havannas, where there is no necessity for matches, for continually there hangs the lighted Jet for convenience of smokers, you can have every possible want easily supplied. All you require on your part is a little supply of the mighty dollars—about five for each day—though you see many hotels advertised, as two and a half dollar houses. As a rule people are more inclined to live in hotels in America than in any other country, and hence the great development of the system. From one judge others. Servants employed, 180; beef daily consumed, one ton; eggs, 100 dozen, vegetables, 14 barrels ; oysters, 14 barrels ; fish 5 cwt. 5 cwt. ; milk, 320 quarts ; butter, 150 lbs. This is the daily supply of say the Parker House, Boston, whose daily fixed guests are about 250, and whose casual visitors number some 2,300. You can enter either on the European or American plan, that is pay for what exactly you call upon or pay so much per day and attend all meals and take from the bill of fare as you choose. When you travel in the city you have every facility you can desire for going from one place to another; you have street cars drawn by horses; you have electric cars running at the rate of 6 or 8 miles per hour through thronged thoroughfares; you have overhead railway cars running every four minutes, and you can go the full length of a New York street, sixteen and half miles, for 5 cents. Your



difficulty at first is to know how to reach a particular place; you can not easily find a policeman; and if you happen to ask for information you meet an expression of wonder that you are so ignorant not to know all about it. After spending a few very pleasant days in New York, enjoying a drive through the magnificent new park, astonished at the number of the vehicles and horsemen that turn out there every evening, and the rapidity at which they pace, admiring the beauty and brightness of the fire flies that like little stars twinkle and depart, after meeting number of very kind, lay and clerical friends, we start for Philadelphia. Travelling by train is extremely pleasant. Properly speaking there is no distinction of classes. The carriages are so constructed that you can pass from one to another throughout the longest train. There is more display of officialism about tickets between Derry and say Enniskillen station than you would see in a three days run in the States. There so many rival companies running between the great centres that agents press earnestly their respective interests. You can get tickets at many places other than depot, hotels, town offices, brokers, &c. A skillful traveller can go long journeys very cheaply, though the fixed rate is about 1d per mile. On the train you can get served before you, wherever you have your seat, refreshments—meat or drink of any kind. You get a bed for a dollar or two or so above the ordinary fare. Many business men live by night on rail, and so save time for business purposes. Philadelphia is a city that would make a very favorable impression on the mind of a stranger. It is called the “Quaker City.” Statistics prove that Catholicity has a great hold in it. At present there are in course of erection about sixteen new churches. It is customary to put a new church up one story, cover it in, and use it till funds increase. The building area is unlimited, and hence the housing of the working classes is much better provided for than it can possibly be in a crowded city with limited building area like New York. A stranger would like Philadelphia as a home. Boston, originally named Butolph’s town, is popularly called the “hub” of America. The “hub” is that part of a wheel from which the spokes radiate. It is also called the Athens of America. It is a great business city, and has truly beautiful surroundings. From Boston we go Montreal, and so pass through part of Canada. Immediately on crossing the frontier a change becomes perceptible. There is apparent at the railway depots nothing of the same life as is seen at those in the States. There is apparent a display of military such as is not seen in the States. Montreal is a charming city. Churches, convents, and schools are to be met with in almost every street. It would strike a stranger that Dublin is not half so Catholic as is Montreal. The south of Canada is largely, and in places, entirely Catholic ; and the north has a stronger Protestant element. Near Montreal is the Indian village, Kaw a na Wauga, whose inhabitants are all Catholic, and who have kept the faith they

received nearly 300 years ago. Near Montreal too, at Point St. Charles, there is a mortuary monument that tells eloquently points in Irish history. It is an imposing boulder taken from the bed of the St. Lawrence river, and having on it this touching, though simple inscription : to preserve from desecration the remains of 6,000 immigrants, who died of ship fever, ad. 1847 8. This stone is erected by the working men of Messrs. Peto, Brassey and Betes, employed in the construction of the Victoria Bridge, A. D. 1859. Such is one record that tells the sad fate of the poor famine stricken exiles who were forced in the dark days at '47 to leave their homes in Ireland, to be carried in death-bringing vessels across the Atlantic, to perish in thousands like plague-stricken cattle, with none to nurse them save the well known Gray Sisters of Montreal, under their Irish Mother Forbes. Returning from Montreal, a hurried visit is paid to the Falls, of world wide fame, at Niagara. The Fall proper must be seen to be truly conceived in its natural beauty and sublimity. The waters of this mighty cataract fall down 180 feet, and strange sounds and partial harmony are produced by the conflict underneath between the power of water and that of rocks. Some five hundred daily gaze with awe this wonder of nature. A passing visit to Toronto, town of rapid growth and great activity; a night in Buffalo, which has clearly many of attraction for its residents, and our way is towards Detroit. Buffalo, it might be remarked, is the centre in which annually there is held a large meeting of German clerics—bishops and priests to consult for the interests of the German Church, as such in America. Such a meeting is not looked upon approvingly by Catholics of other nationalities. This year there were assembled 750 the night we spent in Buffalo, and they seemed to be excellent types of the priesthood—refined and dignified. In crossing the St. Lawrence from Canada to Detroit, an Irish traveller has a peculiar experience—a whole train, divided into parts, put board a steamer, brought over, and rejoining its line on the other side. Detroit is a rapidly rising city—one that has in it many flourishing and exceedingly kind Irishmen. Its priests are a very social and hard-working body, and its bishop. Dr. Foley, meets an Irish priest with warmth of feeling and a gracefulness of manner which he is never likely to meet with again in an ecclesiastic in authority. Chicago is our next point, and its greatness and marvelous growth is the wonder of the age and the boast of its inhabitants. They have the greatest saints, they say, and also the greatest sinners in Chicago to be found in the world; they have the greatest pig curing establishments, the greatest grain elevators, the largest houses—some 14 stories, some 33, and foundations laid for some 32. The system of elevators is well understood, and so perfect in their kind that business is conducted freely in any upper department of a house in Chicago as in one on the street level. The site on which the World's Fair is to be held is already worth visiting, tracks

for trains being formed in every direction, canals on which steamers are to be run being cut through the centre in many places. A glance at Washington, with its network of huge public buildings, its Whitehouse, which the humblest in the States may call and demand, at fixed hours, an interview with the President, its mighty Parliament House of polished marble, its streets radiating from here as regularly did the streets of old from the Roman Forum, and our way is to Baltimore. This, too, is a city of great commercial importance, and is still rapidly growing. A second visit to Philadelphia and it becomes more interesting, more difficult to separate from than when we first left it. Friends are, if possible, more demonstratively kind, and are daily becoming more numerous. A long promised visit to a dear and worthy priest in Columbia gives us a great opportunity of seeing and of knowing much of life out of the larger cities. Farming in that rich country, Lancaster, is of a very advanced kind. You see two, four, and even six horses attached to the farm cart in the carrying on of the ordinary farming operations. You find that an acre of the tobacco plant, of which two crops can be gathered in the year, is worth from £40 to £60. We are again in New York ; time bids us make haste, and the impressions left by all we have seen or heard can only be touched upon. Education on the whole is in a very advanced state. Government does less for denominational education than it does in Ireland. Catholics have to pay for the public schools, and support, as generously as they do, their own. The nuns teach boys at some schools up till they well grown. Protestants are freely admitted to board in convents; Jews are not so permitted. When Protestant children do become pupils in a convent school they have to comply with the general rules of the house—attend at Mass, at prayers, at religious instruction—though not asked to take part in them. The Church is growing rapidly and firmly in all parts of America ; there is still a dearth of priests and nuns. A few statistics prove this growth. Fifty years ago, and there was one archbishop, 15 bishops, and 500 priests, 518 churches, and a Catholic population of 1,300 in the States. There are now 1 cardinal, 14 archbishops, 73 bishops, 8,332 priests, and a probable Catholic population of 10,000,000. That is for every one priest then there are now 15, for every church there are now 18, for every child at a Catholic school there are now 120, and for every school there are now 100. There is an Indian Catholic population of 90,000, and a negro one of 130,000 ; a negro priesthood is being trained. Already there have been a few negroes ordained, and sisters of the coloured class are being admitted to several convents. Cemeteries are to be seen in every townland in passing through the country. In the cities there is too much expense attending a death. The tide of immigration into America is something astonishing, even if we only take it as coming from Ireland. For example, Irish immigrants in 1853 numbered 173,000 ; 1863,

117,000; 1873, 90,000; and in 1883, 109,000. We find that last year the number of immigrants was in all 126,738, and that 60,000 of these were Irish—10,000 having embarked at Londonderry. Owing to this great tide of immigration no wonder we find such a rapid increase in cities. For example, New York, taking in Brooklyn and surroundings, has above 3,000,000 in population ; Brooklyn itself has some 860,000; Chicago and Philadelphia have each above 1,000,000 ; Boston above half a million. That is each of these cities in twenty years have increased four fold. We see cities that had no existence at all some twenty years ago and that have now a population many thousands— Kansas scarcely known in 1870 has now population of 88,000—larger than Derry; Ashland, Demueon, and Fortworth respectively, 16,000, 10,000, and 20,000. St. Louis in 1810 had only 2,000 inhabitants, and in 1890 it had 120 times more—240,000. Castle Garden is a spot that should be dear to every Irishman. At present the priest chiefly in charge of it is a very amiable and efficient man, Father O'Callaghan. He has associated with him a lay gentleman from Derry, Mr. M'Cool. All steerage passengers since '75 pass through this place at landing, and the spiritual director of Castle Garden takes charge of all English speaking females who are not in charge of some responsible friend. Those at the house of the Holy Rosary try to get situations for all such, and they say they have no difficulty in finding places for them, as application to their offices are very numerous. A complaint is made that at the Irish ports enough attention is not shown to the poor emigrants. Those at the Garden express gratitude to Father M'Menamin and the people of Derry, who sent out a generous contribution to the fair lately held in the interests of the mission. They also speak warmly of the interest manifested by the C.C. of Larme. It is generally admitted by all classes that there is not as much connection between the Church in Ireland and that in America as it would be desirable to have for sake of following to their new homes the Irish exiles. It is even regretted by warm-hearted Irish ecclesiastics that some of the young Irish bishops do not attend conventions in the States, where the spiritual interests of the Irish are so deeply involved. Newspapers are in the bands of every reader in the States. The Yankee might want his breakfast, but would not want his newspaper more than he would want his cigar. Newspapers are looked upon differently from how they are looked upon in Ireland. They are supposed to furnish facts, they are not supposed to lead public opinion —readers judge for themselves. Their advertisements are often of humorous kind. A barber's shop is a tensorial palace; a restaurant keeps best cock-tails, morning glories, tangle-legs, pomies, gin slings, eye-openers, pick-me-ups, &c. Births, marriages, and deaths are spoken of as hatohes, matehes, and despatches. The Church is going to progress in America; it is more free in its action than in any country in

the world. No wonder that Pius V. said that in no land was he so much Pope as in the States. The Irish, too, will soon be a great power in America. They have brain power, and they have physical power above the people of any other nationality. One curse always stood in their way to success, that is the curse of drink ; but this would require a special lecture. One fact may be mentioned to excite sympathy—the number of persons before the Courts of New York for drunkenness during the year 1890 was 90,000; of these two-thirds were Irish, and one-half, perhaps, of this number were females. There is a home of comfort and independence for every person who goes to America with a spirit of self reliance, with a power to keep from drink, and with a determination to succeed. Everywhere one travels there are to be seen thousands of the Irish occupying positions they could never have hoped to occupy in Inland, and still the question, “Should the Irish emigrate?” you hear answered by all representatives in America in the negative. Let those who can remain at home remain, for the dangers here are many. They advise those who have made up their minds to emigrate, first to write to some responsible friend in America ; then they advise men to take a pledge, and they advise females to be very circumspect, as yet there is a great necessity for improvement in the way female steerage passengers are provided for ; and, farther, they advise females to get, at any sacrifice, into a respectable place for a beginning, and not to look simply to highest wages. They should bring with them a certificate from their priest at home.

Soon we are to leave America, and, no doubt, it is with regret we must do so. The Irish there were so delighted to meet a priest they knew; their children were, in feeling, more Irish than their parents. The kindness shown in a public way in Philadelphia, in Boston, in Brooklyn, and by so many kind and generous friends in a private way, wherever we visited, have left impressions which, in gratitude, most suggest a remembrance as long as one is permitted to stand at God’s altar. I have kept you, my friends too long, but I hope you will extend to me a kind indulgence, and that, when writing to those of your families whom I met from Carn, Clonmany, Culdaff, or Malin, you will wish them for me, as I now wish you all from my heart, a happy and Holy New Year.

Father Maguire, in proposing a vote of thanks to Father O’Kane for his eloquent and instructive lecture, said that he had been present at many lectures, but none had he enjoyed so much as the one just delivered. (Cheers.) He was glad Father O’Kane, after his experience in the States, advised the people not to emigrate. In a few years, he trusted, there would be as much freedom and industry in this country as they possessed at present in America. (Loud applause.) Though the political horizon looked somewhat dark at present, yet there was a white streak among the darkness. (Load cheers) He was glad to

see that the people of Carndonagh took such deep interest in the evicted tenants, the crowded house to-night proved. (Applause.) These gallant men, who had borne the brunt of the battle, would not be allowed to starve (Cheers.) He. therefore, had great pleasure in proposing the vote of thanks to the rev. lecturer. (Loud cheer.)

Mr. William O'Doherty, Carndonagh, in seconding the vote of thanks, said that this was not the first time Father O'Kane had placed the people of Carndonagh under a deep debt of gratitude. (Cheers.) For years past Father O'Kane's New Year's night lecture had come to be regarded by the people as an annual event. He believed this was the eighth occasion upon which they had the pleasure and advantage of listening to Father O'Kane's eloquent and instructive lectures, but the lecture delivered tonight had far surpassed any of the preceding ones. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Chairman, in putting the vote of thanks, said that he had never listened to such an eloquent and entertaining lecture. (Cheers.) He had great pleasure, therefore, in asking them to pass the vote of thanks. The vote of thanks was passed by acclamation, and Father O' Kane suitably responded.

Mr. Patrick Doherty (hotel), Carndonagh, proposed, and the Rev. William M'Laughlin, C.C., Clonmany, seconded, a vote of thanks to the Rev. Chairman for his dignified and graceful conduct in the chair that evening. Father O'Doherty having responded, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close.—Cor.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 11 April 1894**

THE REV. JAMES O'KANE, P.P. A shadow has been cast over Drung parish by the loss of the respected priest, Father O'Kane, who was a great favorite with every person. The rev. gentleman is transferred to another place to be parish priest. On his leaving he went by the road to Derry, so that he would see all his old friends. He called to see all the sick and old people as he passed through the villages. The parting with his friends was touching in the extreme, the old and young could not hide their grief. Father O'Kane has been twenty two years in Moville parish, and he had not a single enemy among all denominations. As he passed on his way to Derry the people could be seen running from their work in the fields to get his last shake hands and blessing. When he came as far as Quigley's Point he broke down completely, this being the last village in the parish he was leaving. We all pray that he may have a long and peaceful life in his new parish.—Cor.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 31 July 1895**

### **THE DONEGAL MAGISTRACY.**

Yesterday Mr. W. H. M'Cormick, J.P., and Mr. Bernard Hannigan, J.P., were sworn in magistrates for the county Donegal, before Mr. Edwd. M'Dowell, J.P., Moville.

The numerous friends of Mr. Edward Elkin, Lekemy House, Carrowmena, Moville, will be pleased to learn that he has been appointed a magistrate for county Donegal. His appointment is certain to give satisfaction, as Mr. Elkin is a popular, intelligent, and respectable man.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 23 September 1896**

### **PUBLICAN'S NOTICE.**

I INTEND to apply at the Quarter Sessions to be holden at Letterkenny, in the county of Donegal, on the 19th of October, 1896, for a Certificate for a Retail Licence to sell Beer and Spirits at my residence at Carrowmena, Parish Moville, Half- Barony Innishowen East, and County of Donegal, on the left-hand side of the road from Moville to Turmone Shore.

Dated this 31st day of August, 1896.

JOHN M'FEELY. Applicant.

JAMES E. O'DOHERTY & Co.,

Solicitors for Applicant, 5,  
East Wall. Londonderry.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 23 January 1901**

M'Neill v. M'Laughlin and others.

This was ejectment action to recover possession of a house and lands situate at Carrowmenagh, near Moville, for breach of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, in opening a house for the sale of spirits without the landlady's consent.

Mr. James G. M. Harvey, agent of the plaintiff, proved the contract of tenancy, and that defendant had obtained a spirit's grocer's licence at Moville Petty Sessions, under which trading was carried on.

The defence was that the landlady had verbally given her consent, but after hearing the defendant's evidence, His Honour gave decree, holding, after reading correspondence that had passed between the parties, that the consent

had never been obtained. Mr. H. Babington (C. M'Cay & Co.) appeared for the plaintiff, and Dr. Walsh (instructed by Mr. P. Maxwell) for the defendants.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 24 April 1901**

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE.

MOVILLE BRANCH.

A meeting of the Movice Branch U.I.L. was held on Sunday evening, 21st Inst., in the Temperance Hall, Mr. D. M'Cauley in the chair. Subscriptions towards the Parliamentary fund were handed in from Mossyglan, Glenagiveny, Druma. wier, and from the members of the Movice Young Ireland Club, which contains in its membership all that is manly amongst the youth of the town. The Chairman informed the meeting that the men of Meenletterbale had nearly all Joined the League, and he said he hoped within a short time to see the brave men of Carrowmena, who had made such heroic struggle in the days of the Land League, also join in with their fellow Nationalists, and then the men of the entire parish would stand solidly united under the banner of the National organization. Continuing, the Chairman said he would like to impress on the collectors for the lower portion of the parish the necessity of their being in a position to hand in their subscriptions at once, as the committee had decided to forward the amount collected next week, when it is hoped a sum of twenty pounds would be available. Subscriptions towards the funds of the branch wore handed in from Meenletterbale, and after transacting some routine business the meeting adjourned.—*Cor.*

## **Derry Journal - Monday 12 August 1901**

DEATH OF THE REV. MICHAEL FARNAN P.P.

The news of the death of the Rev. Michael Faran, P.P., Movice, who passed to his reward at the Parochial residence yesterday (Sunday), will be received with genuine and wide-spread regret. Deceased was richly endowed with those Christian qualities and virtues which mark the perfect gentleman and ideal priest of God. The death of Father Farnan will come as a shock, not alone to the members of his flock, not alone to the Bishops, priests, and people of the diocese of Derry, but to all who had the privilege of being acquainted with him. No doubt to those who knew him intimately death was not unexpected.



Nevertheless only one year since the magnificent physique and hearty healthiness of the popular priest would have marked him anywhere as a most unlikely victim of Death's dread call, but only a short time ago a malignant internal disease set in, and, despite the efforts of the most eminent physicians, reduced the once vigorous constitution to a state of utter feebleness, and the end came just as was expected. The edifying death of Father Farnan was in harmony with his saintly life. Concerned only with the work he had at heart, indifferent to the symptoms of failing health, and resigned to God's holy will he passed to his reward. Father Farnan was nephew to the late Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Derry, and to the Rev. John Farnan, P.P., Cappagh. Descended from an ancient and highly-respected family, he was born in the townland of Drumshanly, parish of Omagh, in the year 1833. When a youth he studied classics under the distinguished teacher, Master Campbell, Bunrana, and under the Very Rev. Francis M'Hugh, P.P., V.F., Drumquin. Having completed the usual preparatory training he entered Carlow College in the year 1856, where he was beloved by his fellow students and highly commended by his professors. The following year he entered Maynooth College and matriculated for the Philosophy Class. And after a course distinguished alike for ability and sanctity, he was ordained priest in 1862. His first appointment was to the curacy of Termonamongan, where he laboured for six years with energy and zeal amongst that faithful people by whom his memory is still held in benediction. In 1868 Father Farnan was appointed an assistant priest in Moville, which was to mark the scene of his future zealous labours. Later in 1873 he became administrator, and in 1881 he was appointed pastor of the parish, where for the past 33 years he has laboured with untiring energy for the glory of God and the salvation of the flock entrusted to his care. Even to the last, though much enfeebled in health, he continued to direct the affairs of his parish, taking the deepest interest in all that concerned his churches, his schools, and his people. In a brief sketch like this we cannot enter into detailed account of his works, but the great secret of his success and charm over souls was the unaffected style of his language and simplicity of his discourse. Despising flowers of rhetoric and ornaments of style, his language was simple, clear and intelligent even to the most unlettered of his audience and illustrated by homely examples after the manner of Our Lord Himself. Besides his effective language the deceased possessed other qualities which called for admiration. You saw his heart in his face and felt it in the warm grasp of his hand; you saw it in the flash of the eye, where you saw also loyalty to his God,

his country, and his fellow-man. He has left to the world an example of how a joyous man and social man can at the same time be a religious man and ideal friend. Father Farnan was in every sense of the word a priest after God's own heart, ever ready with voice, pen and purse to help any movement for the amelioration of the condition of his people, and his spiritual children, especially the poor, to whom he was ever generous, will long mourn his loss. Now those who have loved their generous and benevolent priest life should not forget him in death, but fervently pray that through the mercy of God his soul may rest in peace.

### **Montrose Standard - Friday 13 October 1911**

THE LATE MR JOHN S. M'CAY.

IRISH UNDER SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATIONS WITH MONTROSE.

The death of Mr. John B. M'Cay, Solicitor and Under Sheriff of county Donegal, Ireland, will be learned with profound regret in the Montrose district where he was held in high esteem among a select circle of friends. Mrs. M'Cay is a native of Montrose, being a daughter of the late Mr. Adam Burnes—a relative of the Poet Burns—and it was through his wife's connection with the Burgh that Mr. M'Cay became a frequent visitor to the town. Mr M'Cay was an expert angler, and spent many happy hours with rod and line by the North Esk where his fine presence made him a notable figure among the devotees of the pastime. The marriage was an ideally happy one, the only cloud in all their forty-five years of married life being the death of their one little son at the tender age of eleven years.

To Mrs M'Cay in her irreparable loss the heartfelt sympathy of her "ain folks " will be extended, and those amongst whom she has lived for so many years will not be behindhand in showing their sympathy with the sorrowing lady who has lost a beloved husband in one of their own countrymen.

"The Londonderry Sentinel" thus refers to the sad event in its last issue:—

The community in Londonderry was greatly shocked on Tuesday when the sad intelligence spread that Mr John S. M'Cay, the highly-respected Under-Sheriff of county Donegal, had suddenly expired in Foyle Street. Mr M'Cay had had an interview with the Town Clerk in the Municipal Offices, and was walking to the offices of Messrs M'Crea & M'Farlancl when, without a moment's sign of heart

trouble, he suddenly sank to the ground. He was gently borne into the nearest establishment, the Foyle Ropeworks, and laid on an improvised couch, and Dr MacCarthy, medical inspector of the Local Government Board, who happened to be passing, went to his assistance, but the seizure was at once seen to be fatal. The City Ambulance was summoned, but before the remains were removed to deceased's residence, Rev. Canon Hayes, rector of Derry Cathedral, and Mr Hardress Waller thoughtfully drove to Troy Hall to break the intelligence to Mrs M'Cay. Mr M'Cay's death was the occasion of very general regret in Londonderry, and not less in county Donegal, with which was associated his official lifework as Under-Sheriff continuously, except for one year. since the year 1865. The deceased's family belonged to Letterkenny. His father, the late Mr Henry M'Cay, LL.D., was an influential solicitor in Londonderry, and Mr John S. M'Cay, who served his apprenticeship with his father, was the last of three brothers. having been predeceased by Mr Crawford M'Cay, formerly City Solicitor, and Mr William S. M'Cay, a distinguished Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. Admitted a solicitor in 1861, the deceased four years later received the appointment of Under-Sheriff for county Donegal. His death, which has taken place at the age of seventy-one years, removes probably the oldest Under-Sheriff in Ireland, and leaves Londonderry the poorer by the loss of a genial professional gentleman, esteemed by all who knew him for his kindliness of heart, his amiability of disposition, and his high integrity. Although the last decade or so of his life were years of peace, so far as his official duties were concerned, he held office during the most stirring times of the agrarian war in county Donegal, and was in some of the highly exciting scenes of that war. He carried out the Carrowmena evictions in Inishowen, which have become little more than a memory, and in later years was through the Gweedore campaign, organised under Land League auspices, and the subsequent Cloughaneely evictions, which followed as the result of the adoption of the "Plan." It was characteristic of him that he was always able to discharge his duties without adding to the bitterness of the occasion and without losing any of his widespread popularity. Whenever a settlement was found possible his efforts were directed towards bringing it about, and it has long passed into a tradition, by way of illustrating the good feeling entertained for him, that at one eviction, a sudden flood having cut off the means of reaching a house, the men against whom the warrant was in force facilitated the Sheriff by carrying him across the swollen stream. That he was a highly efficient official and splendid organiser the record of his work testifies. He received the compliments of a long

succession of Judges for the smoothness with which his arrangements invariably worked out, and it can be said with absolute certainty that, numerous as were the elections for which he had full responsibility, there never was the slightest hitch in connection with any of them. He conducted elections under the old system, when the county was an undivided constituency. He witnessed the inauguration of the Ballot Act and the subsequent reduction of the franchise, and the cutting up of Donegal into four divisions, and on the passing of the Local Government Act he had superintendence of the array of elections in all parts of the county which ensued, a really stupendous task, which he carried through with that pleasant ease of manner that people will long remember. His recreations were angling and shooting, and his hobby was mechanics. He had a power lathe fitted up in his residence both when he lived in Bishop Street and afterwards at Troy, and his handicraftmanship was of the highest order. With Mrs M'Cay, who belongs to an old Scottish family, there is the deepest sympathy.

## Appendix I

### **The Carrowmenagh Evictions, As Told By Neil McFeely**

This section from the memoirs of Neil McFeely recalling the Carrowmenagh evictions is printed with the permission of Maueve Murphy, great granddaughter to Neil McFeely. They had been preserved by the late Ann Murphy ni McFeely, who was close to her grandfather Neil. Neil served with the Dublin Metropolitan Police and later joined the Garda Siochana in 1922, retiring with the rank of Superintendent.

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The next thing of importance in my memory was the agitation caused by the start of the Land League, and the meetings held in connection with same, particularly the huge gathering at Cruckaughrin, a hill within two miles of Carndonagh. Local meetings of the tenant farmers of our townland were held to agitate for reductions in rent.

The neighboring farmers used to come to our house for the purpose of getting my father to write petitions or demands to the landlord's agent for a reduction

in rent. These petitions had no effect with the result that, acting on instructions from the officials of the Land League, the tenants refused to pay any rent. The next move was on the part of the landlord writs and ejectments on the tenants in default and for possession of their holdings. Decrees were obtained in the Courts and handed to the Sheriff for execution. The landlord was Hector S. McNeill, of Edinburgh, and the agent was James G. M. Harvey of Derry. McNeill's estate included the Townlands of Carrowmena and Drumaville. The evictions started a couple of days after Christmas 1881 and continued for a fortnight into the New Year 1882.

My father kept the Post Office in Carrowmena at the time and one of us youngsters used to go out every morning at 8:40 am to meet the Movable-Culdaff mail car, at what is now known as Noon's Bridge, a point 2 ½ miles from our house, for the purpose of receiving the incoming mail bag and hand up the outgoing one.

On the morning the evictions started I was sent on this mission being then about 12 years old. While waiting for the mail car I beheld a sight never before witnessed by me. A company of the West Yorkshire Regiment, dressed in red coats, wearing helmets and fully armed and equipped, on their way from Movable to Carrowmena, came marching along accompanied by horse drawn transport wagons. The soldiers were followed by between 30 and 40 outside cars, carrying nearly 100 members of the R.I.C. and the eviction party. The R.I.C. were in charge of three District Inspectors (these were called sub-Inspectors), viz:- Smith, Movable, Hyde, Carndonagh; and Davies Rathmullan. The soldiers were in charge of a Captain and 3 or 4 lieutenants, also a medical officer. The entire forces were under the control of the late J. S. McLeod, R. M. Mr. McLeod serving in Derry at the time but he afterwards served in Co. Cork where he came under notice favorably of the late Wm. O'Brien, M.P. vide the latter's "Recollections" written years afterwards. The sub-Sheriff of Co. Donegal at the time was the late J. S. McCay. He was accompanied by the land agent Mr. Harvey and a staff of bailiffs.

When I returned on with the mail bag the whole force already arrived in Carrowmena. The P.P. of Movable, the late Rev. M. Farnan drove ahead of the party and warned the people, particularly the young women, not to make free with the soldiers. The first house the Sheriff visited was that of Patrick McGonagle, Lower Town. After cleaning out all the furniture and a large quantity of potatoes, crowbars were brought into play and the roof of the house

demolished. This house occupied the whole of the first day. The forces returned to Moville each night coming out again next morning. The second house visited was that of Hugh McGonigle Lower Town. Everything was cleaned out but there was no further attempt to destroy the houses. This house was used as a day billet by the military for the remainder of the time. Every house in the village of Carrowmena was cleaned with the exception of 4 or 5 in these cases the occupiers were re-instated as caretakers. Our house was one of these and it being a public house, the R. M. Sheriff, agent, military and Police Officers visited it daily to partake of their lunch. The house was crowded daily by the Police, the bailiffs and members of the public partaking of refreshments. The soldiers were not permitted to leave their billet but abundance of refreshments including poteen, was carried to them by young men of the locality.

The people evicted found shelter in makeshift houses on neighboring estates, some of them got comfortably fixed up but many of them were the reverse. They were assisted from the Land League funds and a number of them remained out of their homes for ten years. The tenants had still the benefit of their land and after a year or two started to sow crops. In the year 1885 some of them had their land fully cropped when in the month of August of that year, the landlord, with the assistance of the Property Defense Association, sent bailiffs from Dublin, who got assistance from former house owners in Derry, and who cut down and dug up all the crops and destroyed what they could not carry away.

The emergency men, as they were called, worked under the protection of a Sergeant and 5 or 6 Constables of the R.I.C. and remained in the place for over a month. The R.I.C. used the house of my uncle Charles McFeely as a barrack and the bailiffs slept and fed in the two remaining houses of Henry Hawkin and Patrick McLaughlin.

After ten years the last of the tenants were reinstated to their holdings on, I think, payment of two years rent and cost.

After this all took advantage of the Land Courts and had their rents considerably reduced. The descendants of these tenants are now living on their father's farms as owners having acquired them under the Land Purchase Acts, and paying only 20% of the original rent in annuities to the Land Commission.

## Appendix II

### The Land League in Inishowen

Of special note – there was land league activity in Carrowmenagh at the time of the evictions. Rodger Reddin was president of the Culdaff branch of the Land League and resided in Carrowmenagh. According to family tradition supplied by Anthony McGonigle, his great grandfather Patrick McGonigle was also active in the Land League. It can be seen in the newspaper coverage of the evictions that the land agent James Harvey had a special vendetta against the Land League.

#### The Irishman - Saturday 10 July 1880

DEMONSTRATION AT INNISHOWEN, Sunday being the anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence, a meeting of the tenant farmers of Innishowen was convened for the purpose of commemorating the anniversary and demonstrating their gratitude for the sympathy shown to this country by America, and also for the establishment of a branch of the Land League. The meeting was convened by placards, few of which could be seen in the district. It was alleged that they had all been taken down by the constabulary. A procession was formed at Carndonagh shortly after one o'clock. It was headed by an American flag, the stars and stripes surmounted by a representation of the spread eagle. Other banners were carried in the procession, which was accompanied by the O'Connell flute band. Owing to the fact that the parish priest and curate were not in sympathy with the movement, and had that day taken occasion to discountenance the proceedings on various grounds, but chiefly on account of the day being Sunday, the procession which left the town did not number more than from three to four hundred men. However, it received large augmentations before it reached the summit of the hill, which, by the way is a most picturesque spot. Here they were met by fifty armed police in uniform, with considerable number in disguise, the county inspector of police, several sub-inspectors, and the stipendiary magistrate of the district, Mr. M'Leod, R.M. A platform had been erected for the speakers, in front of which there were assembled from two to three thousand people.

On the motion of Mr. Crampscy, seconded by Mr. John Barr, Buncrana, the chair was taken, amid cheers, by

Mr. Owen Doherty, of Clogheruey.

Mr. Michael Boyton attended a deputation from the Land League.

Mr. Patrick Crampsey, Carndonagh, proposed the first resolution as follows : That we, the men of Donegal, assembled in our thousands on the heights of Cruckaughrim, demonstrate the glorious anniversary of American independence and the birth of that mighty Republic in which the exiled millions of our ancient race enjoy the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and while expressing our deep sense of gratitude for the magnanimous aid so timely and so generously extended to our starving people, we desire to convey to the freemen of America the knowledge that the spirit of liberty, unchanged by oppression and unquenched by long suffering, awakes with newborn hope this glorious 4th of July in many an Irish bosom, amid the mountains and valleys of dark Donegal.”

Mr. John Barr, Buncrana, seconded the resolution.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Boyton, of the Land League, and an American citizen (loud cheers). Mr. Michael Boyton came forward, and was received with great enthusiasm. He said—They met to-day to pass a vote of thanks to the American people for what they had sent to keep the Irish from starvation. They conveyed to the freemen of America that the spirit of liberty had not yet died out. Unquenched by oppression and long suffering, it awakes with a new-born hope this glorious 4th of July in many an Irish bosom amid the mountains and valleys of dark Donegal (cheers). There was some significance in their act of raising for the first time in their history this flag of a free nation—a flag that the power that rules you has been compelled to honour, for under it they thrashed the power three times (cheers). It is raised to-day on that rugged peak of Donegal mountain, and with Gods help it will inspire new-born hope that comes from the sight of it, and one day or another when there will be another meeting on Cruckaughrim (cheers) you will recall the event which brought you now together. So sure as God has written His history on the hills, so sure will the raising of that flag in the land of the O'Donel and the O'Doherty become historic (cheers). The speaker continued—Irishmen in striking to-day constitutionally at the system of Irish landlordism were striking at the greatest weapon that had ever been held in the hand of the power that ruled them, and if there be a just God—and they were told there was a limit to God's justice—so surely would they reap the harvest they had sown in this unhappy island. The speaker next referred to the Volunteer movement in 1782. One of the rights of freemen in England was the right to carry arms, and they now possessed that power, except that they required a 10s. licence, and if they had the power to give those licenses by the blue vault of heaven they would come down like snow (cheers). A bill had been passed which gave the people the right to kill ground game. Well, the ground game had not been defined. He thought they



were hares and rabbits, but they might guess themselves (laughter) ; but they had the right to bear arms, to carry them, and the right to use them (cheers). He counseled them to stand together, and if they only know the one-tenth power they would be a different race of men in twelve months. He wanted all to be in truth, word, and deed, united Irishmen (cheers). He wished every young man would go over to the hills yonder and learn to shoot, and when a team came from America there would be more riflemen in Ireland than at present. He wished to see side by side with every police barracks a good rifle club. His advice was at first to keep their crops, next to their farms until the sheriff, backed by the soldiers—for they were not policemen—until the army of occupation in Ireland (to use the words of Isaac Butt) —but he always believed the landlords were the army of occupation—came to dispossess them. Had they the knowledge of its misuse that Isaac Butt had, they would be free in a week by constitutional means (cheers). The speaker concluded by thanking the meeting for the reception accorded him.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. James Collins proposed the next resolution—

“That this meeting desires to record its deep sense of the gross sense of the injustice and of the infringement of the rights of peaceable assembly perpetuated by the unnecessary and unwarranted presence of a large armed force in its midst ; that the intrusion of such an armed force, accompanied by spies and detectives, seems calculated to terrorise over and intimidate an orderly and law abiding community, and we regard the statement that they are sent to preserve the peace as a miserable subterfuge and pretence.”

Mr. Barr seconded the resolution, which passed.

Mr. P. M’Devitt proposed—

“That, in view of the wholesale evictions being carried out and threatened by the landlords in consequence of the poverty of our people, created by a famine brought on by misgovernment and infamous land laws, we hereby enter our solemn against such outrageous humanity at such a time ; we firmly pledge ourselves not to bid for, take, hold, or occupy any farm from which a tenant has been ruthlessly evicted, and to oppose and resist by every lawful means in our power the exercise of such base and unchristian terrorism.

Mr. John Barr seconded the resolution.

Mr. Boyton supported the resolution, giving Mr. Parnell’s advice, and, on his authority, to keep a grip of the land. The resolution was adopted.

Votes of thanks were afterwards passed to the chairman and Mr. Boyton, after which the proceedings concluded.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 11 October 1880**

LAND FOR THE PEOPLE.

A MONSTER LAND MEETING

Will be held on the heights of heights  
CRUCKAUGHRIM,

On TUESDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER,

FOR the purpose of denouncing the evils of the existing system of Landlordism in Ireland, and demanding back the Owert-hip of the Soil for the man who tills it.

Men of the North! Men of the land of the O'Neill and the O'Donnell! We call upon you in the name of humanity to come forward and unite that day in the procession which will start from Carndonagh at Eleven o'clock, and in the Branch of the League which will established on that day, and which, in unison with the Irish National Land League, will never cease to work until the last vestige of Landlordism is swept from the land.

The following Members of Parliament will attend: —Chas. Stewart Parnell, John Dillon, and James O'Kell.

The Irish National Land League will be represented Thomas Brennan.

GOD SAVE IRELAND!

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 20 October 1880**

THE LAND LEAGUE IN INISHOWEN.

GREAT MEETING AT CRUCKAUGHRIM YESTERDAY.

(From our Reporter.)

An enthusiastic meeting in connexion with the Land League was held yesterday (Tuesday) on the summit of the mountain peak locally known as Cruckaughrim, about two miles from the town of Carndonagh. According to the public announcement which heralded the event, the meeting was convened for the purpose of denouncing the evils of the existing system of landlordism in Ireland, and demanding back the ownership of the soil to the man who tills it." The place of rendezvous was Carndonagh, and the hour for the marshalling of the procession eleven in the forenoon. From that hour contingents began pour

in from various quarters accompanied by banners and music. A great number came from Moville and the district as far as Shrove-Head. Malin, near at hand, sent a strong body, and Iskakeen, Fahan, Bunrana, and Clonmany were represented in great force. The procession was got into line about one o'clock, displaying seven magnificent green banners, and the "stars and stripes" flag, memorable from its association with the first public declaration of the League in Inishowen on the 4<sup>th</sup> July last. The ranks were struck off into divisions, and headed respectively by the following bands—Culmore, Carudonagh, Malin, and St. Mura's, Fahan. The bands were all well appointed, and played some stirring airs suitable to the occasion, in an admirable way. Viewing the procession as it came along the highway, it had a very picturesque effect. It numbered over 6,000, and with the augmentation it received on its march, and those assembled to meet it at Cruccaughrim, the aggregate number must have reached pretty near 10,000 persons. A great number of persons wore green and white favors, a greater number displayed scarfs of green richly decorated and embossed in gold, and one of the party mounted on a grey horse, and wearing a cockade rode in advance. The proceedings were very orderly throughout. Mr. Young, S. I., Mr. Smyth, S. I., and some fifty men of the Constabulary were on the ground for special duty. The latter part of the meeting was carried out in a driving storm of snow, which, however, did not seem to damp the ardour of the people. When all had assembled around the platform on the mountain top,

Mr. Patrick Crampsey, Local Secretary of the League, moved, and Mr. John Barr, Bunrana, seconded the motion, that Mr. Patrick J. Macdonagh, Moville, take the chair."

Mr. Macdonagh on coming forward was warmly received. He said—Fellow countrymen, at the eleventh hour I have been asked by Mr. Crampsey to take the chair, and preside over this large and influential assemblage. You will be addressed to-day by Mr. Dillon, the member for Tipperary. ("Hurrah for him," and "cheers for Tipperary.") His father was a '48 man. (Great cheering.)

A Voice—A cheer again for '48—such a one as Inishowen can give. (Renewed cheers.)

A Voice—And for the memory of his father. (Cheers.)

The Chairman—I have to return sincere thanks for the honor that has been conferred upon me. I hope you will hear the speakers attentively, and not only that but you will take care to make no remark calculated to bring discredit on the cause, because it is a good one, and requires no observation like "shoot landlords"—(cries of Hear, hear" and "that's good advice,")—or anything of that sort. Our agitation is one carried on in the light of day, not in the darkness, and it is in the presence of the Government reporter, and no one by an ill-

considered remark should bring discredit upon it. Some people say that it is the enemy sends persons to utter these cries for the very purpose of discrediting the proceedings. I don't know whether it is true or not, but I hope no Inishowen man will be guilty of anything of the kind.

Mr. Patrick Farren proposed, and Mr. Daniel Bonar seconded, the following resolution:—

Resolved—" That we, the men of Inishowen, do pledge ourselves never to be satisfied with settlement of the Land Question except upon the basis of an occupying proprietary, which we regard as the only means by which all classes of the nation can ever be prosperous."

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Dillon, the representative of the League, who was received with great enthusiasm. He said— Men of Inishowen and Ulster, we have listened too long in the South of Ireland to the statement that the Land League of Ireland dare not show its face in Ulster. Here I am to-day to speak in behalf of the National Land League of Ireland in the very extreme North of Ulster, and I have got ten thousand Ulstermen to back my words. (Cheers.) And after this meeting to-day in the North of Ulster, who will say that the men of Ulster are not going to back the League in their attempts to secure for the people of Ireland the homes of their fathers, and to rescue them from the oppression and the tyranny of landlords. (Applause.) I will not waste your time replying to language which has been made use of in this province of Ulster, men whose profession ought to teach them to devote their time and attention to some better and more charitable discourses. (Hear, hear.) The language which was made use of the other day at Donacloney, in the county Armagh, is disgraceful to any man who calls himself a Christian, much less the minister of a Christian Church. And I will only say in reference to it that the man who says the Land League is hostile to Protestants, or to any man on account of his religion, is a liar! (Cheers.) We have hardly a meeting in the West South where Protestants don't stand side side with Catholics our platforms. (A voice— It is so here to-day.) Some of them are as forward in the cause as any Catholic amongst us. It well is known in the South and West where a Protestant takes his stand in the cause of Irishmen he is as much respected and looked up to as any Catholic could be. (Cheers ) I challenge any man to-day in Ulster to point out during the whole year since the National Land League was established when uttered one single word hostile or insulting to our Protestant fellow countrymen, or did anything that would indicate that we made any distinction between Catholic and Protestant. And I believe this movement will not stop in Ulster until we see the Protestant farmer and the Catholic farmer marching side by side and shoulder to shoulder to resist landlordism, and win for the farmer the right to sit down under his own roof without being afraid of the

evictor, or of rack rent; for I have yet to learn that a Protestant cares less for his home than a Catholic, or cares in any particular way to pay a high rent more than a Catholic. Now, what does the Land League call the people together to do? Do we call on them to commit murder or rob anyone? We call on the Irish people to protect themselves from murder and robbery practised upon them wholesale in the years gone by. We call on the Irish people to band together, and by peaceable but resolute determined effort secure the possession of their own farms, and to secure that it shall not be in the power of any man to raise their rent, or indeed to charge them any rent at all. (Applause.) The programme of the Land League is this, and it is a very simple programme—First of all we shall not stop till we have placed it within the power of every farmer in Ireland, great or small, Catholic or Protestant or Presbyterian, to buy his own farm at a reasonable price, and be the owner of it. (Applause.) Secondly, our programme is that until we succeed in bringing about that change the people must band themselves together to put a stop to rack-renting eviction, and every other form of landlord oppression. Now the landlords of Ireland are very tame and quiet, and are endeavouring to show in the public press that they were never guilty of any sort of oppression. This is a great change that has come over the Irish landlords, and the National Land League has a right to take some credit to itself, for lowering their high tone and getting them off their high horse. (Laughter.) If I am asked to give an instance of landlord oppression, I will mention some cases that came under my notice within the last two months. The first case is that of a farmer of Tipperary, a respectable man, paying the sum of two or three hundred a year. It was the rule of the estate that no farmer was to keep a goat on the estate. Now this man had a sick child, and it was ordered by the medical man that the child should get goats' milk. He wrote to the agent, having bought the goat, and explained the exceptional circumstances and asked the ordinary rule to be remitted. Well, what was the answer to that? The agent came down and shot the goat in the farmer's own yard. (Groans.) If you don't call that oppression, I would call it that. Now, here is another case. There was a poor family in one of the hard winters gone by who had burned up all their fuel. There was not much firing as would warm water for household purposes. There were two old ash trees on the farm, and in their dire need they lopped off some withered branches. Well, £1 a year was added to their rent for that. (Cries of Shame.) That was the practice and the rule on the estate. Another case is this, over whole estates in the South—if a widow should happen to get her son married, and wished to have his name put on the rent-roll, 2s 6d—as I have known it to be—is added the rent. I think it would be much more reasonable to reduce it by 2s 6d when a man was going to be married, for it is not supposed that a man has less expenses when he has

taken a wife unto himself. (Laughter.) The League wants to get the people free from such rules. We would allow a man to do what he likes on his own farm, and sell it to the best bidder when he feels disposed to part with it. Let the tenants of each estate form a land league, come together, and talk the question over amongst themselves. Let them say what is a reasonable rent for this year, and let them pledge themselves that no one of them will pay more than what is agreed upon, and going in a body to the office say this much we pay, and no more.” (Cheers) Mr. Dillon then proceeded to give the usual directions in case of eviction, and gave instances of oppressive actions in Tipperary. [A Voice, Glorious Tipperary—Cheers.] The speaker commended Griffith’s valuation as worth accepting, as it was important to get so much at a blow, and stated he knew of land rented at £5 and £6 an acre. That was in the county Clare, one of the most rack-rented counties in Ireland. In consequence of the League meetings the tenants had refused to pay more than Griffith’s valuation. Now it was a very interesting thing to find the landlords creeping up the back stairs of the castle of Dublin, asking for help. He remembered a day when they were not afraid of the Irish people, but the people had taken a step in advance, and brought them up the back stairs of the Castle. The next desirable thing was to get the landlord over to London to ask Parliament to give the Irish tenantry justice. He cautioned the people against the idea that they would get justice by sending members to Parliament. If they wanted justice they must cut off the supplies as the Commons do in the English Parliament when they want to carry a measure of justice. They repudiated the cases of shooting, and he said the policy of the League is a defensive policy. They did not want to attack anyone. They wanted to hold for the people what is their own, and if landlords would go bullying about, he thought the people would be able to give an account of themselves. The people would be peaceable, but determined to have their rights. There was no need for violence of any kind—combination and organization would carry the day. They must organize determinedly, resolutely. Every farmer in every townland must be asked to join the League. The more branches the better. When there was any case of oppression they were to report it, and above all things truthfully and accurately, and the League would advise. In this way the people would succeed in defending themselves, and protecting their property and their lives; and it was his belief that before very long the farmers of other parts of Ulster, of Monaghan and other counties, would come to see how successful was the policy which was being adopted in the Western provinces, and in the county Donegal, and they would also join their ranks. It would not be very distant, he thought, when they would see the farmers of Ireland united as a people in one

great league pledged never to stop til they would put down landlordism and make the people of Ireland owners of the soil. (Great cheering.)

The Chairman then put the resolution which, like the subsequent motions, passed unanimously.

Mr. Daniel Diver moved, and Mr. John M'Canley seconded the next motion: Resolved—" That we are thoroughly aware of the great necessity of the combined power and strength of our countrymen in one grand and universal organization, we hereby declare that we believe the Irish National Land League to be wholly adequate for that purpose, and we pledge ourselves faithfully to it, and to carry out the principles which it enunciates."

Mr, Patrick Crampsey, supported the resolution. He was glad to see them in their thousands to-day, attesting as they did their presence that they were responsive to the call the League had given out over the land. It proved that it was no vain boast that the movement is a success in Inishowen. They were there united—Protestant, Catholic, Presbyterian. [A Voice—" Union for ever."] He believed neither in Whig nor Tory—he did believe in the union of the people of Ireland. When interests were identical all should meet to promote the common good. Were they to forsake the path of duty because another man of a different religious belief trod it? Let them in future be not divided as they had been by the advice of men who were traitor to the true interests of the country. In the past they had division, and were kept asunder for a purpose that meant no good to them. It was no wonder their own National poet exclaimed—

" 'Twas fate, they say, wayward fate,  
The web of discord wove,  
But when your tyrants joined in hate  
You never joined in love."

(Cheers.) If they stood together they would get their rights—

A Voice—" They are too long coming." (Cheers.)

Mr. Crampsey—Yes, they are too long coming but we are going to bring them. (Cheers.) The speaker then went on to show how England had crippled Irish industry, and he counselled them to do all in their power to bring about not merely reform in the land laws, but the revival and prosperity of Irish manufactures.

Mr. Grant, then moved the third resolution, viz. : —  
Resolved—" That hereby we pledge our sacred honour that we shall neither take, hold, nor occupy any land from which a tenant has been ruthlessly evicted; neither shall we purchase any goods seized for the non-payment of an

unjust rent, and that we will faithfully shun with disgust the base and perfidious wretch who would dare to violate this resolution.”

Mr. Owen Doherty, Clougha-ney, seconded the motion.

Mr. James Collins, Malin, in supporting the resolution, said he was proud to see them gathered in such numbers and displaying such enthusiasm. He would rather their state was other than it really is. They are slaves; he would wish to see them freemen. (Laughter.) He hoped they would all sturdily back the League, for thereby they would be able to banish a tyrant system of landlordism which was the curse, and destruction of the country for centuries. He hoped they would never abate their efforts till that system would be banished from the Irish shore. (Cheers.) There was a snow storm on them now, but they had warm hearts to meet that, and hearts that knew there was a worse storm—landlord oppression. The great Creator made the land for the purpose that man could raise his support out of it. And He stated that man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Did any one of them ever see a landlord earn his bread by the sweat of his brow? (Laughter and cheers.) No, they lived on the product of the poor man’s labour, and the tiller of the soil was robbed of his industry. The tenant laboured from morning to night, mid the fruit of that labour went into the pocket infamy—the landlords. He would like to see the idle and the lazy earning honest livelihood as every man was intended to do. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close. The large assemblage then quietly dispersed. The storm of snow and driving sleet continued for some time afterwards.

Mr. Dillon and some friends of the cause were entertained by the local representatives of the League in the excellent hotel of Mr. P. Doherty, Carndonagh.



Derry Journal - Wednesday 10 November 1880

**THE VATICAN AND THE IRISH LAND LEAGUE.**

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

ROME, TUESDAY.—The *Aurora*, the organ of the Vatican, publishes an article favourable to the Irish Land League, declaring that without radical reform Ireland will have to choose between anarchy and starvation.

**THE LAND LEAGUE IN INISHOWEN.**

*(From a Correspondent.)*

MOVILLE, TUESDAY.—Where branches of the Land League are not already established in Inishowen arrangements are being made to organise them.

People's Advocate and Monaghan, Fermanagh, and Tyrone News - Saturday 04 December 1880

A GOOD EXAMPLE TO LANDLORDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

Dear Sir —I wish through the medium of your journal to give publicity to the generosity Mr. O'Hanlon, of Derry, who, about twelve months ago, became the owner of some property in this locality. When he became the proprietor, he very kindly gave a handsome present to each of his tenants. Now, he is still more generous—he has, unsolicited, given a reduction of 20 per cent, on the year's rent due 1st November, to all the tenants on his property ; besides, he has

offered them a lease in perpetuity at fair rents. I believe, such kind liberality, at the present time, should not pass unnoticed. Mr. O'Hanlon has set a good example which I hope will soon be followed by other landowners. He seems to understand that the present year (though supplying the tenants with a fair crop) is totally inadequate to heal the wounds inflicted by past seasons. It comes as a salve to alleviate the pain, but cannot effect an immediate cure. Other years like that which we have passed through will be required, and other landlords should do as Mr. O'Hanlon has done.—Yours &c.

An Advocate of Tenant-Right.

Ballygawley, 30th November, 1880.

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Landlord Liberality In County Tyrone.—Mr. Augustus G. West, Cheltenham, England, has granted to his tenants on his Tyrone estate 20 per cent, reduction in their rents. He has also, with kindly generosity, allowed them a fair remuneration for all their improvements in fencing, draining, subsoiling, &c. If such an example were followed by other landlords, it would, indeed, be a great boon to the tenant farmers of Ireland.— *Correspondent*.

## **Derry Journal - Monday 06 December 1880**

The Land League in Inishowen and  
The Rev. X. L. Scott, Moville.

Subjoined is a copy of a correspondence which has taken place between the Rev. T. L. Scott, Moville and Mr. Patrick Crampsey, Honorary Secretary to the Carndonagh Branch of the Irish National Land League :—

“Carndonagh, 26th November, 1880.

“Rev. Sirs—The State prosecutions now instituted against our political leaders urgently demand our immediate recognition of their services to our country, opening a fund here at once for their defence. A meeting will, therefore, be held in Carndonagh on Monday first, the 29th instant, at twelve o'clock noon, to appoint a committee, and make any other preliminary arrangement necessary.

“It is hoped you will kindly attend and give the movement your valuable assistance.

(Signed)

“Patrick Crampsey, Hon. Sec. Land League.

“Bev. Canon Scott, Moville.

P.S.—Canney's Hotel is the place meeting.”

(reply)

“The Parsonage, Moville, November, 27, 1880.

“Dear Sir—Were I able to leave home on Monday 1 should accept your invitation to attend at your meeting for the Parnell Defence Fund, and express my opinion in person, I am quite sure that, however the majority might differ from me, they would at least listen to an Irishman who is ready say frankly to any one what he thinks.

“If I believed that either the Land League or Mr. Parnell were likely to effect any permanent good for Ireland, or that he had done nothing to justify the present action of the Government in testing whether or not he is acting illegally, I should gladly join you. But as Mr. Parnell has himself declared that the present movement is intended to lead to our separation from British Government, and I see that an island so small as ours, lying close under the wing of that great and wealthy country, would be absolutely ruined by a separation which would eventually necessitate our supporting an army and navy equal to hers out of our own resources, I cannot for a moment countenance anything so disastrous.

“Again, if I believed that the Land League was merely a combination of farmers uniting to check the unwise competition for land, which has injured the land market increasing both the first cost and annual rent of farms, and which has also diverted attention from trade and other means of acquiring wealth, I should not have a word say against it. But there is one peculiar and exceptional feature in the present movement. Trade unions, when they call upon their members to strike work, have never yet demanded the continuance wages for labour that they refuse to give. But the Land League pledges its members still to hold fast to the advantages while they refuse the equivalent. According to it farmers who have been entrusted with land on a distinct promise to pay a certain rent for it, are still to hold that land first, while they refuse the promised rent not only for the future, but even for the past. I am persuaded that, under the Providence of a just God, no movement founded upon such covenant-breaking can ever bring a blessing upon country.

“Again, I see that even in this neighbourhood the members of the Land League are not content to rely upon argument, but both spoken and written threats of ruin, and even death, are urged against those who show any unwillingness to join it, and this with the full knowledge that similar threats have not proved empty words in other places, but have led to the cowardly assassinations and brutal outrages that are this moment staining our country with bloodshed, and making the very name of Ireland a by-word among the nations. Even if a man could believe that God Himself will not avenge these, he might recognise the folly of a violence which has enabled us to tell England

that the Land League's shillings and lists of members do not show how many are heartily with it, but only how many are too frightened to resist, and thus it has brought discredit upon the whole reality of the movement. I, for my part, am so sure that good cannot come out of evil that I gladly embrace the opportunity your courteous invitation has given me; and I call upon every true lover of our unhappy country to believe that no violations of law, of honesty, of humanity, can ever bring happiness.

“Of course you may say that I think thus because so many of my own associations are connected with the landlords; but on this very account I ask a hearing for the assertion that the landlords, as a class, are not what they are now represented to be. They have cared—they do care—for the trials and difficulties of the farmers, who not understand their real motives, or how often they are hampered and hindered from doing what they would like do. Tenants think them hard, just as every buyer is tempted to think the sellers hard and grasping when they are only trying to test the market value of their commodities.

“Yet if this movement ever could succeed in driving the present landlords from the country, it would not be they that would be the chief sufferers. They would have with them the value of their lands, undiminished local demands or deductions, free to spend it in a drier climate, safe from unfriendly looks, or even personal danger. The chiefest sufferer would be our own country, where landlord absenteeism would then be made universal, and from which three hundred millions of capital would have been diverted. And one generation would not pass without Ireland finding that she had not got rid of landlordism, but only substituted money lenders and hard-fisted men of lower education, and with smaller capital, for the present letters-out of fields be tilled by others.

“Thanking you for the courtesy which has provided with this opportunity of explaining myself on this subject, and trusting that you will add the favour of reading this to the meeting, as the frank opinion of one who (with all his faults) does care for his native country, and did try work for the poor in their late distress—I remain, your obedient servant,

“Thomas Lucas Scott.

“To Mr. Patrick Crampsey, hon. secretary Land League.”

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## Derry Journal - Wednesday 06 July 1881

The Land League In Inishowen

ANNIVERSARY DEMONSTRATION AT CRUCKAUGHRIM.

[FROM OUR REPORTER]

On Monday evening an immense gathering assembled on the heights of Cruckaughrim to celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of the Land League in Inishowen. Twelve months before, Sunday, the 4th of July, Mr. Michael Boyton, representing the Central Executive of the League, expounded the principles of the organisation, and pledged the people to join its ranks and put its programme in force in their peninsula. Mr. Patrick Crampsey was then appointed the secretary and general organiser, and from that day forward the movement spread amongst the people with rapidity and success not surpassed in any part of Ireland. The advent of Mr. Boyton opened the crusade in Donegal, and it is unnecessary here to say how vigorously the agitation has been maintained. Mr. Boyton and Mr. Crampsey are now in prison, and a third active agent (Mr. Diver) is also incarcerated. The barony was proclaimed, and subsequently, the Coercion Act coming into operation, the parish in which Cruckaughrim is situated was gazetted as coming under its operation. The anniversary meeting was therefore held in a proscribed district. The number of people in attendance was vastly greater than at any former meetings in the district, and the enthusiasm was of the wildest description. There were some ten or twelve thousand persons present, and these represented the various branches and localities over the peninsula. The Rev. Harold Rylett, Mr. J. C. MacLoughlin, Mr. Denis F. M'Closkey, organiser, and the representative of the Journal arrived by special conveyance from Londonderry in the afternoon. They were met a short distance from Carndonagh by the O'Connell flute band, with two banners, one the Stars and Stripes, and the other handsome one of the national colour. Cruckaughrim was reached shortly before five o'clock, and on its summit a spacious structure was erected to serve a platform. The American and Green flags were here fixed and had a pretty effect on the mountain top. The people formed a semi circle around, a dense mass of anxious expectants for what was to follow. A body of police, in charge of Mr. Hyde, S.I, took up position on a neighbouring knoll. The Government reporter (Stringer) was in attendance, his presence and that of the police apparently being the cause of much irritation. An incident in the day's proceedings was the presence on the platform of Mr. Nelson, recently evicted at Ludden, and he was hailed with a perfect storm of cheering mingled with various approving cries. The following list of those present was handed to the reporter, viz: —The Rev. Harold Rylett,

Mr. J. C. MacLoughlin, Mr. D. F. M'Closkey, Mr. P. J. Macdonagh, Merville; Mr. James M'Candless, pre of the united branches of Inishowen; Mr. Edward Crampsey, secretary of the united branches; Mrs. Moore, Merville; Mrs. O'Donnell, president of the Carndonagh branch of Ladies' Land League, and the ladies of the committee; Mrs. Crampsey, Miss Diver, Mrs. P. J. MacDonagh, Miss Agnes MacDonagh, Miss M'Laughlin, Miss M'Monagle, the Misers M'Monagle, Uovills . Miss O'Donnell, Messrs. Edward M'Laughlin, ' Drimley; Philip Gibbons, Urris; James Wilkie, Culdaff; Denis M'Laughlin, Carrick; Henry Whittington, Foden; James Gibbons, Leighter ; Owen Doherty, Clocherne; James Doherty, Carndonagh; James Collins, Malin, Manasses, Clonmany, Philip Doherty, Foden; John M'Cauley, ?????; James Diver, Fernerry; Michael Doherty, Carndonagh; Patrick M'Laughlin, Dunross; John O'Neill, Culdaff; James M'Auley, Ourt; Michael Doherty, Cashel; Edward M'Colgan, Isle of Doagh ; Owen Doherty, Anagh; Philip Doherty, Giblins; Patk. Doherty, Knockerna; P. Coyle, Monedaragh ; Patrick M'Faul, Clonmany; Alexander Nelson, ?????; ??? Baker, Carndonagh; John Barr, ?????; John M'Colgan, Isle of Doagh; Patrick O'Donnell, Carndonagh; James M'Gready, Merville; Rodger Reddin, Carrowmena; James Coyle, Moneydarragh; Wm. Diver, Urris; Patrick Harkin, Culdaff. A large contingent represented the Culdaff branch, and it was marshalled by the president, Mr. Rodger Reddin, vice-president, John Farren, secretary, Patrick Harkin, assistant secretary, Patrick M'Laughlin, treasurer, B. M'Conalogue, and the following members of committee—Patrick Coyle, Patrick Farren, Mickey Lynch, Denis M'Laughlin, Thos. M'Candless, John J. M'Gonagle, John M Cauley, Patrick Smyth, Patrick M'Daid, Dan M'Daid, Edward M'Daid, M'Laughlin, Thomas Kearney, Robert M'Candless. &c., &c.

On the motion of Mr, Crampsey, seconded by Mr. Philip Doherty, the chair was taken by Mr. Jamas M'Candless.

The Chairman said he thought was consulting the feelings of that vast multitude, which were fully in consonance with his own, when he said that before proceeding farther they should pay tribute to the memory of two men (Crampsey and Diver) now incarcerated in Kilmainham dungeon. (Enthusiastic cheering and waving of hats.) They did great service in their time, and never associated themselves with any movement which did not tend to the social and moral well-being of the people. And what was their crime that they should lie in a British prison? [A voice —"Loving their country." ] It was for none other than raising the standard of justice to Ireland on the now historic heights of Cruckaughrim. (Cheers.) When he looked abroad over the vast multitude before him, he could not help thinking they were a noble specimen of their race, and he felt the work of the men in prison would not go unrequited. Clouds had darkened the political horizon, but who quailed before the impending storm!

(Cheers, and cries of “Never.”) Coercion was threatened, and coercion came to overshadow their homes, but Inishowen never cowed before it. (Cheers.) Twelve months ago, on this mountain top the Land League movement was inaugurated in Inishowen, and they were there to-day to show they were true to their covenant, and were prepared to renew the pact. (Cheers.) Were they prepared again to pledge their allegiance to the Land League? (Great cheering, which continued for some minutes.) Now in the autumn of '79 the scourge of famine visited Ireland, and the people were stricken with a grievous sorrow. Where were the Irish landlords then? [A Voice—“ In Rotten Row.”] Where was the English Government! [A Voice —“They could not be got at all.”] Who stood the people's' friends in that crisis? It was the indomitable Parnell, and the courageous Dillon—(cheers) —who came to the rescue. They knew the story of '47, and they determined it would not be repeated. They crossed the Atlantic to the great Republic of the West and told the state of the country and the degradation of the people. It went not unheeded there, for it was heard by the kith of their kith, and the bone of their bone. They generously responded, and a suffering people were saved. (Cheers.) If the people were now true to themselves no power could defeat them, and they would abide in the land of their forefathers. They could defeat the foe and stand invulnerable, saying, “We stand united, we have courage in our union, and we will persevere in our union till victory crowns our efforts.” (Cheers.)

Mr. P. J. moved the following resolutions, viz.:—1. “That we, the men of Donegal, assembled in our thousands, on the first anniversary of the establishment of the Land League in our county, do pledge ourselves to raise the Land League banner still higher, and keep it floating until full justice is done the tenant farmers of Ireland by making every man the owner, on fair terms, of the land he tills. 2. That we indignantly protest against the action of the so-called Liberal Government in casting into prison our local leaders, Crampsey and Diver, and all the other noble and true friends of the Irish tenant farmers, who, by constitutional means, were endeavouring to emancipate their long-suffering fellow-countrymen from the oppressive yoke of landlordism. 3. That, as landlordism is the fruitful source of all the evils we labour under, we pledge ourselves never to relax our efforts until it is entirely abolished. 4. That we condemn the Land Bill of the Government entirely, because it does not meet the requirements of the Irish nation, and we condemn the action of the Irish Chief Secretary, and call upon him to resign at once.” Mr. Macdonagh, in moving the resolution, said they were engaged in a great constitutional struggle to emancipate a people “the worst fed, the worst clothed, the worst housed” in Europe. [a voice—“ M'Neil says our rags on a windy day would flog us to death.”] (Groans.) If the people had a good system of land tenure they would have their

mountain slopes cultivated as a garden, but when they did attempt to improve bailiff noted the fact for the “office,” and on went a raise of rent, in some cases of 50 and 60 percent. voice—“ I can swear that on the Holy Book.”] They knew of instances of the rent being 250 per cent, over the Government valuation. (Groans.) If the people would show how they are terribly in earnest they would win the fight. They were offered a Land Bill, but they would not accept the half-loaf, they wanted complete satisfaction. [A Voice—“We put up with the crust too long.”] An emigration clause was in the Bill. There was great anxiety to get the people to go, but he maintained it should be applied to the great useless class—the landlords. (Cheers.) The men who never dig and delve have least claim to remain; the labourer on the soil had a title to abide there. [A Voice—“I paid £55 of rack-rent in twelve years.”] The men of Inishowen knew what they wanted, and they intended to get it. They had got a sample of Coercion, but in Inishowen was there any man afraid of Coercion ? (Cheers, and cries of “Never.”) The Government, professing a regard for peace and order, were removing one by one the men who, of all others, could keep the people within the lines of peace and order. Men were taken to prison who could do more than a thousand constables to maintain the peace, as they did maintain it in Inishowen. (Cheers.) Mr. Macdonagh concluded by warmly commending the resolutions.

Mr. John H. Doherty seconded the resolutions.

Mr. D. F. M'Closkey; supported the resolutions, and in course of his observations said it was his pleasure and privilege some time ago to visit Mr. Crampsey and Mr. Diver in prison, and could assure the people their hearts were as warm and their spirits as light ever they were in sight of their native hills. (Cheers.) These were men of sterling metal, whose hearts were in the right place, and it was true of their case that “stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage.” When he saw Mr. Diver he gave him the impression of being a caged lion—(cheers)—and when gets out he would not fail to give a good account of himself, (“Cheers for Diver.”) He saw Mr. Crampsey himself, and although he was in hospital he was happy to say he was not suffering from ill-health—he was removed to the hospital owing to the air of the prison being rather confined. He (Mr. M'Closkey) thought it desirable to make this statement that any misapprehension which existed might be allayed. Crampsey and Diver were well, and they sent the message that they were with the people of Inishowen in spirit, and bade them never abandon the principles inculcated from Cruckaughrim's hill. (Cheers.) Some people would tell them of the good intentions of a Government that introduced a Land Bill, but they would note the Government that introduced that bill, fearing the light of freedom would beam too radiantly upon the eyes of people little used to it, decided that it was better



they should look at it through the smoked gales of coercion. (Cheers.) That was always the way.

“Repeated is the old old tale,  
Exile for all, or else the prison,  
But with the help of God ’twill fail  
To rend the power that's now arisen.”

(Cheers.) They had returned some shoddy representatives to Parliament, but the next General Election they would know better. (A Voice” They’ll hook it sure.”) The question of registration required to be thoroughly looked to; every man entitled to vote should get on the register, and thus build power which would be able to cope with the difficulty. They must keep the banner flying till they would see the system against which they straggled brought down to the dust, and when they got it there, he would advise them to give it a final kick out of the kingdom. (Loud Cheers.)

The Rev. Harold Rylett next addressed the meeting. On presenting himself he was loudly cheered. The reverend gentleman said—Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am very glad to be with you to-day, on this the first anniversary of the establishment the Land League in Inishowen. (Cheers.) I am glad to see that you are strong in spirit as ever, that ???? and ???? have not dampened your ardor, and that are you to-day able to show that you have well learned the lessons which Michael Boyton and Patrick Crompsey taught you. (Cheers.) These men this day twelve months ago stood in your midst; they now lie in Kilmainham prison, but they are with you in spirit and truth. And if Michael Boyton were here today—I know very well it was the desire of his heart to be here today—he would tell you that it would be a stronger stone wall, and a stouter iron bar than any Government on earth possesses that could chain or tame the soul of the Irishman who loves his liberty, and all the might of Britain he would tell you is powerless to prevent him being with you to-day in heart and soul and spirit. (Cheers.) If Michael Boyton were here to-day what would say to you? He would say, Our duty lies before us, but with courage and with hope go on with the good work of education and organisation; landlordism, he would tell you, is the outwork of British tyranny, and he would tell you it must be swept away from our path once and for all. (Loud cheers.) On the occasion of one of my voluntary visits to Kilmainham—I hope the involuntary visit is a long way off—(laughter)— I have seen Michael Boyton and Patk. Grampsey. I know what are their sentiments, and I can assure you they are thinking now what sort of a demonstration we are having to day, and it will cheer their hearts when they read of the magnificent manner in which you bear yourselves to-day. Now, the Land League gospel is a gospel I am always proud to preach, and which I am never tired of preaching. (Hear, hear.) The text of my sermon always is that the

husbandman who laboreth must partake of the fruits. (Cheers.) Now always remember that it is the object of the League to prevent rack-renting, and we know there is plenty of it, and we also wish to put a stop to eviction. Is not that a good thing to do? Why, every homestead I see lying in these valleys is the result in many cases of many generations of earnest labor, and toil and suffering. What then is to be said of the man who unroofs one of these homesteads or puts out the fire on the hearth? We brand him as a criminal in the sight of God, and denounce the Government that permits that act as a Government that abandons its principle function—the protection of the people. (Groans.) Now, the landlords are collecting rack-rents by means of armed force (groans)—and I would like to know what Dr. Kinnear has to say to it. I deal with Dr. Kinnear as a public man, and one who has done grant service in the past, but he has, I do not hesitate to say, betrayed the cause he was sent to Parliament to defend. (Groans.) In the House of Commons Dr. Kinnear told them the landlords had robbed their tenantry. Well, when another member made a proposal, which if accepted would have compelled some landlords to give back some of their ill-gotten gains, where was Dr. Kinnear? He voted not for that proposal. (Groans.) I believe, that there is much rack renting in the country, and that eviction without compensation is robbery, and are also satisfied that the condition of the country is sufficient evidence of landlord oppression. (Cheers.) Trade is bad; the farmers are for the most part poor, and the people are leaving the country in great numbers. Yet the condition of those that remain behind is not in the least improved. (Hear, hear.) There are two schemes before the country proposing to deal with the existing state of things. The first is the scheme of her Majesty's Government in the shape of a Land Bill now before the House of Commons. Now, I will tell you what I think of the Land Bill. It is a measure to perpetuate the existing state of things, slightly modified. (Hear, hear.) If you want to get any modification under the bill you will have to pay dearly for it—by going through the law courts in the first instance. The Bill proposes to offer certain facilities, as they are called, for the creation of a peasant proprietary; but it must be borne in mind that those facilities are not by any means so great as they are generally supposed to be. In the first place the landlord must be willing to sell. Well, all I can say with regard to that is this—that if the bill, as Mr. John Bright it says will improve the value of the landlord's property in land, it is not very likely he will be willing to sell. (Hear, hear.) In that case it will not be much use offering the tenant easy terms of purchase. (Hear, hear.) In the next place, the tenant must be able to buy; and I say that in the present condition of things, the tenants having been so robbed in the past, they are not in position to buy without very great assistance. (Cheers ) But as Mr. Shaw Lefevre, a member of the Government, writing

recently, said, it was desirable that some slight immediate burden should be placed upon those who wished to become peasant proprietors, in order to prevent a universal application of that method—that is say, they want to make the business so difficult that it will scarcely be worth the people's while to make the attempt to become peasant proprietors. Under these circumstances the bill does not afford very great hope that the condition the farmer under it will be altered for the better. (Hear, hear.) I will now refer to the Land League scheme, and at greater length, because it does give hopes that if sufficiently supported the condition of the farmer will be very greatly improved. It proposes actually to carry out that which Mr. Shaw Lefevre is anxious to prevent—a universal application peasant proprietary in the land. We want to make every farmer the owner on fair terms of the land he tills. I do not hesitate in the least to say that the landlords should be compelled to sell. Some people are filled with horror at the idea of forcing the landlords to sell against their will; but you may have observed that if, for instance, a railway is desired in any part of the country the landlord, if willing to sell his property in the land for the purposes of it, does not take much account of the tenant's willingness to part with his property in his farm. There was an instance of that at Castlefin, they heard of not very long ago. The usual way was to sell the land, and allow the tenant to whistle for his profit, the rent being kept all the same. (Groans.) Some people call this Land Bill a great measure of justice. I say it is no such thing. It is a measure drawn up, not so much in reference to the necessities of the case, as with reference to the chance of its passing through the House of Lords. We want a bill not such as will satisfy the House of Lords, but such as will satisfy the people of this country. Even, however, supposing that it were a measure of justice, I contend that it should be something more, because something more is wanted. We want a generous measure—a measure that will secure to substantial redress for centuries of robbery and wrong. (Cheers.) Why do we ask for an universal establishment of peasant proprietary? Why do we ask that every farmer shall be made the owner, on fair terms, of the land he tills? Because, wherever such has been tried, it has proved a great success ; wherever any established system of peasant proprietary exists, there you have peace, prosperity, and contentment. It encourages manufactories by increasing the population of the country and by spreading wealth amongst its people; and the natural result of this is that towns spring in up all directions and that trade flourishes. (Cheers.) Again, it has been found that wherever it exists there the farm labourers are better paid, better housed, better fed, and better clothed. (Cheers.) One of my reasons for wishing peasant proprietary established in Ireland is that the condition of the agricultural labourers may be improved. Peasant proprietary also secures better education for the people, enables the

farmer to bring up his children properly and give them a fair start in life. It encourages thrift, because every man farming his own land knows that it is his own, and that everything he does to it will be for his own benefit and his own good. (Cheers.) It also leads to increase of the producing powers of the land. (Cheers.) A man farming his own land can keep more cattle and do everything in a better way than if farming another man's land. He is also enabled to meet foreign competition better. How can farmers here pay 35s or £3 per statute acre for land, as I am informed the rent is about here, and expect to compete with their friends in America, who have got to pay no rent at all. Before we can expect to compete with them we must be placed on the same terms. On the whole, the scheme I advocate would work for the good of the whole country. (Cheers.) This is a great enterprise upon which we are engaged, and the question is, can succeed? ("We can.") I remember once reading story about John Bright, who, when going along the road at the time he was engaged in the Corn Law agitation, asked himself the question "Can we succeed?" Going on little further Mr. Bright saw a stonebreaker attempting to break a very big stone with a very wee hammer. Why don't you take a big hammer and smash the stone at once?" said Mr. Bright to the man who kept hitting away, and at last the stone was broken into a thousand pieces. (Cheers.) So they went on with the Corn Law agitation, keeping hitting away until those laws were abolished. There is a lesson in that for us. We purpose to go on hitting and hitting until the system of landlordism is utterly abolished. (Cheers.) What are the conditions necessary to success? In the first instance we must put away once and for all religious strife, and abolish sectarian differences. I am a Protestant of the Protestants. (Cheers.) Not in all Ulster is there a greater Protestant than I am—"You're nothing the worse for that!"—but I appeal to all Protestants and all Orangemen to assume now in this great crisis of their country's fate an attitude of peace and good-will towards all. (Cheers.) The Catholics, by abstaining from demonstrations on St. Patrick's Day last set an example which might well be followed by the Orangemen of the North, and I venture to say that the Catholics will again abstain from demonstrations, and will maintain that peaceful and conciliatory attitude necessary to the success of our movement. (Cheers.) Let us all remember that our common Master, Christ, has told us, "This command I give unto you—that you love one another." Let all join hands, then, for the common good, and if we do, venture to say that the blessing of Almighty God will rest upon our efforts. Peace shall then once more reign throughout this land; the country shall then go forward in the path of progress, and hold its rightful place in the great family of nations. (Cheers.) Let me give you the Land League pledge. It is simply this—that we are resolved to have the land, the whole land, and nothing but the land. (Cheers.) We do not want it on other than

fair terms, however; but we are determined to have it on those terms, and I tell you that there is no enterprise now before this country that I know of that so much deserves the efforts of the people—the united efforts of the people—as this. And let us labour without violence and break no law, for I assure you nothing is so much desired by your enemies that you should break the law, because if they once got into a position such as desired for by those opposed to them the people would be shot like dogs. (Groans.) A great statesman not long ago taunted me and said, “Why don’t you rebel ?” “ Coward,” I said, “ you deprive us of our arms and then ask us to rebel—(cheers)—we don’t need to rebel, we don’t intend to rebel, one drop of blood we don’t intend to lose, one life we don’t intend to lose, for your rotten government and your foul landlordism are not worth the sacrifice.” (Cheers.) Now the people should stand true to the lines laid down by Davitt. (Cheers.) If you bear that noble patriot, and stand by it firmly and peacefully, aloft and higher than ever the banner unfurled by you will yet see peace and prosperity rest upon this land. The country then shall advance in the path of progress, and come to hold her rightful place amongst the nations of the earth. (Cheers.) The reverend gentleman having given the Land League pledge amidst great enthusiasm, quoted the following lines, vis.:—

"Where Frank and Tuscan shed their sweat  
the goodly crop is theirs,—  
If Norway’s toil make rich the son, she eats the  
fruit she rears—  
O'er Maine's green sward there rules no lord, saving  
the Lord on high;  
But we are slaves in our own land—proud masters,  
tell why?  
The German burgher and his men, brother with  
brothers live,  
While toil must wait without your gate what gracious  
crusts you give.  
Long in your sight, for our own right, we’ve bent,  
and still we bend—  
Why did we bow? why do we now? proud masters  
this must end.”

(Cheers.) The Chairman then called upon

Mr. J. Coll MacLonghlin, who was received with cheers. He said—Men of Donegal, to-day you assemble here for two great purposes. One is to celebrate the anniversary of American independence (cheers)—and the other to celebrate

the anniversary of the planting of the League's banner on the heights of Cruccaughrim. (Cheers.) It is only twelve months ago when, proclaiming the truths of the League to the assembled people, two brave Irishmen—Michael Boyton and Patrick Crampsey—(cheers)—stood here, and to-day both are imprisoned in Kilmainham. Men of Donegal, although Boyton and Crampsey have been taken away from us, still you have got leaders left behind them; and the flag which they planted here, of "the land for the people" inscribed on it, we are determined never to lower until we have accomplished our undertaking, and succeeded in or every wish. We stand here to-day, and to-day the same eternal truths we will proclaim, that nothing short of the land of Ireland for the cultivators will satisfy us. (Cheers.) We stand here today in this proclaimed district—(cheers)—as they call it, and ask for that which Crampsey asked for; for there never was a nation which, like the nation whose independence we celebrate to-day, did not strike to be emancipated that was not emancipated, or led from bondage. We are a nation of slaves, and until we burst our fetters which bind us down, we cannot expect to be treated other than slaves. "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, when taken at the flood, leads to fortune." This tide has been taken by us at the flood, and we are determined that we shall make all the use we possibly can of it, for until the hated nightmare of landlordism has been thrown from us, we cannot possibly expect to be ever happy or content in this country. Now Forster has arrested the principal men of the League in Ireland, and sent them to Dartmoor, Galway, Dundalk, Kilmainham, and still has not succeeded in destroying the Land League, nor in the slightest interfering with its success. And yet this miserable old Buckshot thinks that by the Land Bill passing through Parliament we will all be content. Men of Donegal, we are not to be terrified in this fight by the thunders of England, whose power every nation the world can so thoroughly despise at the present moment. They wish to keep landlordism here to fatten on your toil, but we will have it no longer; and I tell you this tax called rent must be disputed all along the line, for it will become necessary for you to only pay it when you are compelled to do so, when they send their buckshot warriors to your farms to collect it with the bayonet at your throats then pay it, but not till then—(cheers)—for tax collecting, or rent collecting, they call it, must be made as difficult for them as it possibly can be made. (Cheers.) The landlords can only be sent out of this country by your united and determined efforts. All the power of England is against you—all the power of the Irish landlords is against you at the present time, and every son of Ireland must gird himself for the combat, and dispute the matter to the death. We are awaking now from our trance, and for so far we have done our duty like fearless men—men who have proved themselves to be worthy of the name of Irishmen—men who are a credit and

honour to the land which bore them. Donegal leads the North in this great struggle, and for so far the heroic sons of Tyrconnell have shown to Ireland a noble and praiseworthy example. Gladstone is only a quack legislator, because he has prescribed for us a certain kind of pill known as a Land Bill, which the Irish people don't wish to swallow. The disease is far too great to be cured by such mild remedy. If the landlords had been sensible men for themselves they would have surrendered when they had got so well beaten in the first struggle which they had with the Land League ; but they have shown that they are not worthy of being treated with any consideration, and I tell you here to say that if they still persist in their mad course, and do not speedily come to terms, they will be placed in a much worse position than that which they now occupy, and God knows they are bad enough already. I question much if they hold out very longer against this torrent of opinion which is carrying them with it; whether or not the people will not be as kind in their treatment towards them when it comes to a settlement with them they would have been year or so ago; It has been said that property has its duties as well as its rights ; but the fellows called landlords adhered too closely to their "rights," and ignored altogether their "duties." The landlords never seemed to imagine that they had any duties to perform towards the poor serfs whose very existence, whose life, in fact, all depended on the success of their crops, and when a bad year came the landlords stuck to their rights and forgot their duties, for then, instead of assisting the straggling people over famine, they tried hurry them on to destruction by compelling them to pay a tax which was utterly impossible for them to pay. (Cheers.) Had it not been for the noble men of the land of the "stars and stripes," that free and glorious republic, where slavery reigns not, and where coercion darkens not, had it not been for that people assisting Charles Stewart Parnell—(loud cheers)—when he went over there to ask for assistance history would have repeated itself, and the same fearful scenes would have been witnessed in this country which were witnessed in 47. But America saved Ireland from starvation, and America is to-day again lending us a helping hand to save us from that which brings us periodical starvation—landlordism. America to-day whose anniversary of freedom we celebrate among the heathery clad hills of historic Tyrconnell is to-day giving all the assistance which men can give to emancipate ourselves from the basest serfdom in which ever a nation was plunged in. We thank America from our souls, and we look to America to stand by us in this great struggle. Here beneath the stars and stripes which wave proudly over our heads—(cheers)—we promise as men, and Irishmen, that if they stand by us, we will win our freedom, though England with gunboats and troops and bayonets may stand between us. (Cheers.) Now I have always advised the people to act in as

peaceable manner as they possibly can when agitating for this great overthrow of the tyrant's power. It is not necessary we should act in any other way but by calm determined united firm action. We are not able, we are too weak of ourselves to do that which is impossible, we wish to have our rights, but in the gaining of them, prudence must dictate the steps we are to take. Follow the lines laid down by the Land League. See that the enemies of your cause will recognise your power. Let them understand that every man who in not with is against us ; that it is the duty of every tenant farmer in this country to be a member of an organisation which aims at such a purpose as we have in view. In the history of the world there never has been organisation like unto ours, for it is not confined by the boundaries of Ireland. It is like a network cast over the world, and wherever Irishman is to be found his heart beats in sympathy with us. (Cheers.) Landlordism in the past sent to the far distant lands of America men who are now determined to give them back blow for blow and stab for stab. Under the flag of a free land they have succeeded in life, and now they are aiding and assisting, their voices and their purses, their pauperised brethren in this country, who have been made paupers by a system which has ruined, demoralised, and almost annihilated our country. Read that dismal tale which is told by the census, see there in unmistakeable language the condemnation of feudalism. See how even within these last ten years a quarter million more of our people have been sent to earn their bread in the land of the stranger. Oh, it is a dismal tale, even the rights which it was said was conferred upon our people by the Land Bill of '70 have not decreased this tide of emigration. No Land Bill which the British Government ever introduced will decrease it so long as a single land shark holds the lives of our people in his hand. It is a millstone which has been placed about our necks, and until we get it away we can never nor will we ever be prosperous. Now, my advice to you here to-day is to keep on as Mr. Rylett once said, "pegging" away at the landlords; do not give them a single moment's peace or contentment; let them collect their rents only under compulsion. Let them do as Napoleon did when he found the Crown of France lying in the mud, pick it up with the sword. " I found," said Napoleon, "the Crown of Francs in the dust, and I picked it up with the sword." Let the landlords lift their rents with the sword—(cheers)—let it be taken with the bayonet at your throat, and until they put their bayonets there and demand it, do not pay them one single sixpence of the tax. This battle must be won at all hazards, at all sacrifices, and the landlords must be put to all the trouble they possibly can in collecting it. Organise your strength, and here under the waving flag of the United States, whose stars, Boyton said, "were got from the eternal firmament, and whose stripes came from the setting sun;" raise up your bands in solemn promise to the God of heaven and make



vow— [Every hand in the multitude was here raised—that you will never cease in this struggle, that you will daily and hourly, and incessantly agitate until the last barrier of feudalism has fallen, and a nation’s regeneration has been effected by the untiring energy of her devoted sons. (Loud ebeers.)

The Chairmen then said he had to introduce a distinguished lady; who had done great service to the cause—Mrs. Moore. (Cheers.)

Mrs. Moore, on coming forward, was received with each enthusiasm that for several minutes she could not proceed with her address. She said for a long time their country had been sick and suffering, and they who loved her scarcely knew what relief to afford.

They wept till their faces were pallid and wan,  
They knelt at the throne till their strength was  
gone.

They prayed to their masters, but one by one  
They laughed to scorn who suffered on.”

Then came forward two young doctors, Davitt and Parnell, and they said the patient was suffering from inward irritation; they treated it accordingly, and then there broke out the eruption of the Land League branches. But two quack doctors came along, said they knew better, they drove away the two who were doing so much good, they said they had done something tantamount to manslaughter, and put one of them in a convict cell. They then stuck the black leeches all over the body, and in that part the body called Merville they placed a particularly nasty blister. (Groans and laughter.) Then Ireland began to struggle in her pain, and the quack doctors said the patient was growing delirious, and the straightwaistcoat must be put on at once. But the children of Ireland thought it was time to come to the rescue, and said they would do away with those fellows and their quack remedies, take the cure in their own hands, and would effect the cure. (Cheers.) Mrs. Moore then described her tour through North-West Donegal, and proceeded to discuss the policy—a policy great in promise and barren in results, for

“As bees on flowers alighting cease their hum,  
So, on coming into office, Whigs grow dumb.”

The Land Bill of Mr. Gladstone had cost that statesman considerable trouble; it was quite a petted child of his, and dressed it up in such a mass of finery in the shape of big words, that the baby underneath was scarcely discernible. (Laughter.) A worse fate awaited it, it was changing so rapidly, that when it

would come back from the House Lords—if it did not meet violent death being thrown out altogether—its own father would know it not. (Cheers.) An English paper called *Fun*, slated the other day that Michael Davitt was gardening, cultivating leeks for the Irish to eat. It would be the English Government would eat the leek, and Irish landlordism would assist them at humble pie. (Laughter and cheers.) Referring to the use made of the ambulance van, she recommended the Government to supply them in the future, for the wounded feelings of the police. (Laughter.) Mrs. Moore having expressed her gratification seeing such a splendid gathering on proclaimed ground, concluded by pointing out the utility of a Ladies' Land League, and counselling union of all sections of the people.

The resolutions were then put and carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings. The vast gathering then broke up. A large crowd followed in the wake of the police and the Government shorthand writer, and kept up an incessant groaning and hooting. No disturbance took place, Land League deputation were entertained at a dinner served in excellent style in Canny's hotel.

The deputation left Carndonagh at nine o'clock, and were accompanied by the band and a numerous following some distance from the town.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 16 March 1881**

THE LAND AGITATION IN INISHOWEN.

GREAT BARONIAL MEETING IN CARNDONAGH.

(From our Reporter.)

Yesterday, in pursuance of the terms a placard announcing a "monster baronial Land League Meeting," some thousand persons of the agricultural class assembled in the town of Carndonagh. The following is the wording of the invitation, which was issued by order of the committee of the Inishowen branch of the association, viz :-

"Fellow-countrymen! Men of Inishowen! regenerated toilers from serfdom and the iniquitous power of Landlordism, the important and supreme moment of test in the movement of your constitutional organization has arrived. Your enemy, backed by a Foreign legislature, now threatens to compel you to yield to injustice and to rob you and your families of the means of subsistence, and drive you from the homes your hands have made. Be not discouraged, the Land League is still triumphant. The civilized world, through its noble work, is

watching earnestly your heroic struggle to achieve your Godmade rights; let it see your determination and courage assembling in your thousands, from Malin Road to Culmore Fort, and from Shrove Head to Fort Dunroe on that day. Mr. P. S. Sheridan, and other eloquent speakers, as representatives of the Dublin Executive of the Land League, will attend, and address you as to your future course." The hour of assembling was fixed for one o'clock, but the meeting did not commence till an hour later. Representatives attended from Clonmany, Malm, Merville, and Culdaff, whilst the bulk of the people were from the immediate neighbourhood. The Carndonagh Flute band met the several contingents, and playing congenial music, preceded them to the place of rendezvous. Shortly before the hour appointed for the meeting, there was rumour that Mr. Sheridan had been arrested, and it was found that a telegram had been received from Mr. John Dillon, M.P., confirmatory of the fact. The telegram further intimated that if the proceedings would be postponed for a fortnight, care would be taken that some good speakers would attend." It was decided without bar to a future demonstration, to go on with the meeting, and were at once summoned around the platform, which was erected in the Market square. Amongst those present were—Messrs. Anthony Canny, P. L. G. John M. Doherty, Anagh; Patrick Crampsey, Philip Doherty, Patrick O'Donnell, Carn; Philip Doherty, Octubul; Owen Hartin, Anagh; Cornelius M'Laughlin, Michael Harkin, Daniel Doherty, Owen Doherty, Clogherua; Owen Doherty, Boherna; Joseph Doherty, Ros heny; Daniel Doherty, do.; Edward M'Colgan, Isle of Doagh; John M'Coglan, do.; John Carny, Koxtown; Roger Ruden, Culdaff; Patrick Harkin, do. Denis M'Laughlin, do.; Thomas Kearney, Mondarragh; Patrick Coyle, William Monagle, Ballyhilly; James Collins, Drenagh; Patrick M'Laughlin, Patrick Anagh; John Gill, do.: John Mj'Aleny, do.; Denis Quigley, John Gamble, Tulnaree; Daniel Doherty, Leenan; M'Eldowney, Glebe, Culdaff; Jas. M'Donagh, Carn; Michael White, Carn; Denis Diver, Terannery, &c., &Ac. As soon as those who were known leaders in the movement had made their appearance, numbers of persons in the crowd who had heard of the arrest began to shout out, and amongst ether cries was that of "Down with tyrants."

Mr. Crampsey, the Secretary of the local branch of the League, came forward and said—Fellow countrymen, we are extremely sorry of the inability of who was announced to fulfil his undertaking to speak you to day. That indeed is not on account of any failure his or our part; it arises from the act of the authorities. P. S. Sheridan who was here to-day, is now, for having advocated your cause, confined within the jails of Kilmainham. (Groans.) Thank God there are plenty in Ireland to-day to take his place. We are here to tell you that though incarceration is the penalty, even if it were life itself, we are not afraid. (Cheers)

I have great pleasure in proposing to you that Anthony Canny, Poor Law Guardian, take the chair. (Applause.)

Mr. J. M. Doherty, seconded the motion.

Mr. Canny, who was received with cheers, briefly thanked the meeting.

Mr. P. Harkin then proposed the first resolution as follows:—" Resolved—That we again renew our allegiance to the National Land League, and promise that neither coercion nor any other unjust British law shall ever compel us to desist in our allegiance to its principle until the cursed power of landlordism be abolished, the Irish farmer to his rightful and God made position of which the English plunderers robbed him—complete ownership of the soil he tills."

The motion was seconded by Mr. P. O'Donnell, Carndonagh.

Mr. Crampsey supported it. He said it devolved upon him, under the circumstances, to speak in advocacy of that resolution. They were deprived of the representative of the Land League, as he had already informed them. [A Voice—"We are deprived of a good deal else besides."] They were there to-day in their own humble way to record their opinion of that action. It was of a piece with the manner in which all along they had been treated and it showed them, the tenant farmers of Ireland, that they might not expect justice at the hands of an alien parliament; it furthermore demonstrated that the rule in England was today what it had been known to be for seven hundred years—a rule that brought coercion chains, and famine. On the way they were determined to act depended the successful attainment of the object in view. The Land League had done much for them, but they must now be true to themselves. The Land League had achieved more for them than any other organisation or any party, Whig or Tory ; and the Land League would yet do more for them if only they themselves were true and acted firmly, observing law and order, and keeping within the bounds of what is legitimate. Any one who wilfully broke the law should be esteemed a traitor to the cause. (Hear, hear.) They had all before now received instructions how to secure a reduction in rents that were too high. They were aware that good many, acting upon those instructions, had already received liberal consideration, and if they were only staunch to one another they would everyone receive abatement or rent ; for the farmers to-day are in a better position in Inishowen than some of their landlords are. (Cheers.)

A Voice—" No reductions, no rents, no Griffith's Valuation."

Another Voice—" That is an enemy."

Mr. Crampsey continued to say if some would decline grant their claim, or consider it, let them stand firm till they would be turned out, and the League would come to rescue them, their wives and children. (Cheers.) [A Voice Hold while there is a wattle on the roof."] It was said that when the Coercion Act would be passed the leaders of this movement would be fleeing from the land.

The result showed they were not the cowards their enemies represented them to be ; they had an honest cause, and they pursued it by honourable means, and they would die or triumph with it. (Cheers.)

A Voice “Let die all together.”

Mr. Crampsey—A great deal has been done for you in the past by your leaders. A great number of them were now being incarcerated, and it devolves upon you to the part that remains for you manfully. Would they shrink from their duty? (“ No.”) If they did, they would be fit for nothing but slavery. [A voice—“ Never ; we will fight first.”] Men who had no personal interest under heaven, men who didn’t own a perch of land, had sacrificed liberty, perhaps life, for the people; for the advocacy of their rights they were now immured in dungeons, and would they add to their troubles by falling away from the lessons they had been taught? (“No.”) Whoever would so, if any, he did not think that story would ever be recorded against the name of the young men of Inishowen. (Cheers.)

A Voice—“ We will stand till the blood is running in streams.”

Another Voice—“ Let that be taken down correctly.”

Another Voice “We protest against the arrest of Michael Davitt.” (Cheers.)

Mr. Crampsey then read the telegram from Mr. Dillon (whose name was received with great enthusiasm, as was also that Mr. Boyton), and next submitted the following letter from a respected Catholic clergyman, viz .

Clonmany. March 14th, 1880.

Dear Sir—I regret exceedingly that it will not be in my power to be at your meeting tomorrow. I need scarcely assure you of my warm sympathy and earnest hope for success, the more so as it is the first opportunity the people in this part. I scarcely need assure you of my warm sympathy and earnest hope for its success, the more so as it is the first opportunity the people in the part have of showing their spirit since the passing of the most earnest of the most cruel and unjust coercion law. I think it most judicious at the present moment that the people should speak out, and declare most unmistakably that no amount of terror will make them shrink from their allegiance to the League. The Government and the landlords are sure now to make a great demonstration of force, and they have already begun in this locality, where, I hear, the ejections are as thick as snowflakes, and served on the points of the bayonets of the R.I.C. The people are not intimidated ; they know that no coercion can make them act unjustly to themselves ; they have experience already of what is to be gained by combination, and are determined to persevere in their united demands for justice, and not suffer themselves to be crushed individually. They were always, I believe, ready to listen to reason and justice, and are so still, but if they now yield up one of the just claims that they

have been making, this will not make the enemy more reasonable, but encourage him, and lead to the defeat of the cause along the whole line.

—Yours faithfully,

“J. Maguire C.C.

“Mr. Paul J. Crampsey, Carndonagh.”

Mr. Crampsey continued to say that eviction proceedings had been carried out wholesale in a certain district, not by the landlord, but by an agent in the name of the landlord, who was going behind the landlord's back because the old man was in his dotage. [A voice—“Let them evict away.”] A few weeks ago a person had stated in the columns of the press that he was afraid of his life of intimidation in Carndonagh. Well, he had met the gentleman walking on the roads in the dark of night, and yet they were told he was afraid of his life. He was well known in the district, and thank God he could—that was largely owing to the healthy teaching and restraining influence of the League—walk out at midnight in Inishowen unharmed, unmolested and unprotected. Passing from this subject, the speaker said he had in his possession a letter from Mr. Sheridan, who had written him with all promptness on his journey northward, that he was summoned hastily to the death bed of his dying wife. But Mr. Sheridan must leave his dying wife and go to prison. (Groans) Who was to blame for this? The landlords of Ireland. (Groans) The people had now walked abroad in the light of freedom, and they might rest assured they never, no matter what happened, would be brought back to the state in which the Land League found them. There were good landlords in Inishowen—a great many, and good agents too, and they knew how much depended on the agent. He was only doing his duty in naming one—Mr. Robert Leper. (Cheers.) There was another, Mr. Doherty, of Malin. (Cheers.) Men had been found who, in violation of solemn pledges, had proved untrue to the cause by going behind their neighbor's backs and paying rents where a reduction was sought. These men were Judases of the deepest dye. He counseled the secretaries to avoid calling on them in their future rounds. He had heard that even so late as yesterday the hills of Clonmany were made white with some sort of documents. Let the people not be discouraged. If they were put out the Land League would stand by them. (Applause.) For himself, much as he felt for the people, he would sooner before God see them out by the wayside by the thousand, than that they would given to the system against which the League was pledged. (Cheers.) Having eulogized the *Freeman* and *Derry Journal*, he proceeded to caution the people against persons who were industriously spreading untruthful stories—the emanations of agents and bailiffs. Some of these people were getting rent free by this practice. He concluded by counseling

energetic action, and he ventured to say the day of Ireland's redemption was not long distant. (Cheers.)

Mr. Patrick Farren moved, and Mr. Roger Edmonds seconded, the following resolution, viz:—"Resolved—That we the men of Inishowen in our thousands, have assembled to tender our grateful thanks to our friends and fellow countrymen, and women in the free and glorious Republic of America, for their patriotic assistance and powerful exertions in our cause, and promise them we shall continue, despite imprisonment, eviction, and death, to carry on the good work until its ends are completely accomplished.

Mr. Collins, jun., Malin, supported the resolution with considerable ability.

The resolution, like the proceeding one, passed unanimously.

It was then resolved, on the motion of Mr. Patrick Coyle, seconded by Mr. Hugh O'Neill, Carrowkeel—"That in view of the probable arrests of the leaders of organization here, and in order the better to carry out the relief to the evicted, we declare it to be of the utmost necessity to have branches of the Ladies Irish National Land League established in all the surrounding parishes."

Mr. Denis Diver supported this resolution, and referred with much point and humour to the power the ladies could exercise by avoiding the association of those who did the work of the enemies of their country. They might be here in splendor and array, and armed to the teeth these men, but the people had only the arms that God gave them, and they would require none other to accomplish their purpose. He called on the people to stand firm till the day the system they were opposed to would be swept away root and branch.

On the motion of Mr. Patrick M'Laughlin, seconded by Mr. Patrick M'Devitt, it was unanimously resolved—"That we hereby condemn the action of the Irish Executive of the Government in its arbitrary arrest of our leaders, and in particular, that of our speaker from the League to-day—P. S. Sheridan—of whose arrest we extremely regret to learn; that such conduct, instead of intimidating, will only nerve us to persevere in our noble struggle.

Mr. Crampsey then announced that it was decided to hold a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, and it was expected Mr. Dilion and Miss Fanny Parnell would attend. It was further determined to establish a branch of the Ladies Land League in that district. (Cheers.) In the course of further remarks the speaker said he knew some fine young men in the Constabulary, and six or seven of them, owing to the service of ejections in Glentogher, did what was tantamount to down their belts. (Cries of "More power.") They never joined the Irish Constabulary to be bailiffs. (Cheers.) He concluded by advising the people to return peaceably to their homes.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

A number of police under Sub-Inspector Hyde and Head-Constable Reilly were in attendance. A Government shorthand writer occupied a seat on the platform.

## Freeman's Journal - Thursday 23 November 1882

### MANSION HOUSE EVICTED TENANTS FUND.

A meeting of the above committee was held yesterday in the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor in the chair. The others present Were—Alfred Webb, T C; William O'Brien, E Leamy, M P; and T. M. Healy, M P. The following subscriptions and contributions were acknowledged since last meeting: —

Blyth, Bobside, and Pedlington Branch Ladies' Land League, Northumberland, per Mary Clare Flynn, sec . . . . .	£1 0 0		
Local Committee, Drormard, Arva, county Cavan, per Rev F Duffy, C C, Treasurer . . . . .	3 10 0		
James M'Mahon, Lower English street, Amagh, per William O'Brian, "United Ireland" . . .	1 0 0		
Maort Branch, Land League, New Zealand, Jeremiah O'Connel, treasurer, per Dr J E. Kenny . . .	25 0 0		
Woodfield, Kilkelly, county Mayo, per John Martagh . . . . .	4 0 0		
Kiltkeedy, Gort, county Clare per Patrick Taafe . . . . .	2 0 0		
Local Coniudttee, Duagh, Listowel. county Kerry, per Thos Costello and John O'Regan . . .	16 0 0		
"A Friend o' the Tenants," per John Dillon, M P . . . . .	3 0 0		
		<hr/>	55 10 0
Remitted since last acknowledgement by tenants applying for the benefits of the Arrears Act . . . . .			34 3 6
		<hr/>	£89 13 6
Total . . . . .			



Grants were then made as follows—

Martin Farrell, Bushfield, Borris in Ossory, evicted September, 1882: number in family, 3; and John Farrell, sub tenant of the former. Grant, £5.

David Walsh, Charleville, 8 in family, evicted November, 1879 ; valuation, £200; rent, £300; landlord, Lord Egmont. Grant. £4.

John Kavanagh and William Harrigan, Clondarrig. Maryborough, were granted £2 18s for court costs, They were served with an ejectment by Christopher Meredith, a farmer.

Peter Cooney, Goweh, Kilclare, county Leitrim ; evicted March, 1882 ; valuation, £4 15s ; rent, £5 12s 4d; landlord, Sir Gilbert King. Grant, £3.

Jobu Leahy, Coclhangane, Ennis; valuation, £20 5s; rent, £27; 7 in family; evicted 28th March, 1882, by Dr Patrick Cullinan, Ennis. Grant, £3.

MI Mullins, valuation, £8; rent, £11 10s; landlord, John C Delmege, J. P. Grant, £5

10 families, 59 persons; evicted in Drumaville, county Donegal on 11th January, by Hector M'Neill, of Edinburgh. Granted £7 10s for lodging money.

18 families, 943 persons; evicted in Carrowmena, county Donegal, on 28th December, 1881, by Hector M'Neill. Granted £15, same purpose.

A man named Dermott, recently evicted in same place by M'Neill. 15s for lodging.

40 families, 209 persons; evicted on the Cochrane and Loughrey estates, in Clonmanny, county Donegal. Granted £10 16s for same purpose.

Owen Sweeny, 4 in family; evicted 30th June, 1881; valuation, nil; rent, £2 10s. James Price, 5 in family; same date; same valuation and rent. P Sweeny, 4 in family; Same date; same valuation and rent. J Hannon, 5 in family; same date; same valuation and rent. B11 Hannon, 7 in family: same date, same valuation and rent. W M Donough, 4 in family; same date; same valuation and rent. Mrs Ward; same date, same valuation and rent, £3 10s; M1 Sweeny, 4 in family; valuation, nil; rent, £3 10s. Tenants of Mrs Suffield, Dublin; George Robinson, Roundstone, Galway.

M1 Bary, evicted 18th April, 1881; valuation, £3; rent, £6. J M'Donough, evicted 12th May, 1882 ; valuation, not known, rent, £4 5s. Thomas Joyce, evicted 13th April 1881, valuation, £2 5s; rent, £4 10s; landlord, Dr Gibbons of Trinity College, Dublin.

P Mullins, evicted 29th March 1882 ; valuation, not known: rent, £4 10s. P Mulloy, 10 in family; valuation, £1; rent, £4 10s. P Conroy, 7 in family; valuation, £1; rent, £2 8s 4d. M Dundas ; valuation, £1, rent, £4. J Cahill, 8 in family; valuation, nil; rent, £1 3s 6d. T M M'Donagh, 6 in family, rent, £1 10s, T Nee, 8 in family; rent, £3 10s. J Cong, 6 in family; rent, £3; landlord, M Lynch,

of Clifden. To the foregoing tenants, evicted at Clifden by the landlords named, a grant of £29.

P Fitzpatrick, Ballycloven, Callan, 2 in family; evicted 24th July, 1879, by Wm Percival, MD, Stradbally, Queen's County. Grant, £1.

Mr Joseph Kelly, Thomas street, for materials, &c. of wooden houses supplied by the Ladies' Land League to evicted tenants, £570.

Mr John Duggan. Beggarsbush, similar account, £130.

Total of grants, &c, £780 19s.

The consideration of other grants was deferred, and the committees adjourned to Saturday next, 25th instant, at four o'clock p m.

## **The Irishman - Saturday 02 December 1882**

### **The Work of the Evicted Tenants Fund.**

Nor must they forget the men who had suffered in the cause. Hundreds of their fellow-tenants, by whose sufferings they had gained the victory, had been turned out on the roadside. These evicted tenants were now being supported by the Mansion House Fund and the Funds of the Land League, and he would just like to read for them the names of the estates and the average monthly grants to the tenants—

“ Lord Hawwarden’s tenants at Clonoulty, Cashel, £24; Claude Cole Hamilton's tenants at Moynalty, Meath, £20 : the Coeleane and Loughrey tenants, Carrowmena, Donegal, £65; Hector M’Neill’s tenants, Clonmanny and Dromaville, county Donegal, £35; Lord De Vesci’s tenants, Abbeyleix, £20 ; The Clonenry tenants. Murroe, £140; the Conyngham-Ellis tenants, Abbeyfeale, £40; Major Leslie’s tenants, Pallasgreen, £16; Colonel Tottenham’s tenants, Kiltyclogher, £100; Thos. Dowling’s tenants, Cappawhite, Tipperary £40 ; Capt. Creagh’s tenants, Cloughleigh, Cashel, £25; Sir Henry Lynges Keatinge’s tenants, Cashel, £15; Mrs. Moroney’s tenants, Miltown-Malbay, £10 ; Denis Keating’s tenants. Urlingford, £15; making a total annually of £6,780.

Besides these there were many cases where the individual action of the evicted tenants gave them a claim upon the funds ; and many estates on which evictions have taken place wholesale and for which something must be done. Among these were Lord Kenmare’s, Lord Granard's, Colonel King-Harman’s, Isidore Burke’s, the Clifden tenants, the Drumlish and Ballinamuck, Archdeacon Bland’s, Dr. Ireland’s, and several others. In his calculation, the lowest sum which would be required to sustain the evicted tenants so long as this fight continued would be from £12,000 to £14,000 a

year. A sum of 1s. a year or some small sum from each tenant farmer would very easily support the evicted tenants. The Land League had got balance of £30,000, which it is intended to use for the benefit of those tenants who had suffered in the cause. Many applications were being now made on this fund for various purposes, and unless the tenant farmers of Ireland came to the rescue of their evicted brothers, in a year or two or three the Land League surplus would be entirely gone ; and if the landlords were able to hold out that length of time the landlords would have won the victory.

### **The Question of Costs.**

While he was on the subject he would like to say a word on another point. Up to the last month or two, not being member of the Land League Executive, he knew absolutely nothing its expenditure or of the claims that had been made on it; but since he became secretary to the Mansion House Evicted Tenants' Fund he had been at times astonished at the exorbitant demands that had been made by men who were largely in pocket by this movement, for the payment of costs. It was a shameful thing. An instance came before him lately of a farmer who was, he was told, worth couple of thousand pounds, and who, although he had been largely benefited by the movement, claimed a sum of £3 10s. for costs. If the farmers of Ireland expected that they were to gain everything and to lose nothing, that they were not only to get reductions of their rents but to be paid for getting them, they were very much mistaken. So far as he has any voice in the dispensing of this money, his voice would be raised to keep it, not for the men who were in their holdings, because they might have suffered a little in costs, but for the evicted tenants, who had gone out upon principle in refusing pay exorbitant rents.

### **The Virtue of Organisation.—The Landless Resolutes.**

He impressed on them the necessity of organisation. The British Government in Ireland, which was simply a system of land piracy, was upheld simply by organisation. The police they saw there were simply the officers of what they might call the Government league. The Government planted them in every parish and in every district to look at the people, to see what they were doing, and report it to Dublin Castle. The Government of this country, being, as it was, an organisation against the will of the people, was simply an organisation of so many pirates and so many brigands. It was entitled to the same moral respect as would be the wishes a man —of a cutpurse who held a revolver at your head, and said to you, “Your money or your life.” And, of course, while the bayonet of British Government was at their throat, they might pretend to very civil, but they had their own opinion about the gentleman with the bayonet

(laughter). How had the Government managed to keep a grip on the country? Simply by organisation and by main force. Unless the people were equally determined, the landlords, whom the police were there to support—the landlords being, as they were, an association of brigands—would get the better of them. Let them continue these meetings, listening each other, and looking each other in the face. It might be said that the meetings in the past had done little good. Well, the organisation, small as were funds at its disposal, and humble as were the men who conducted it— “ landless resolute,” as Shakespeare said—Had put the tenant farmers in position such as twenty years ago they never expected they would live to see. Let them contrast it with the education question. The bishops of Ireland had spent in the last 30 years nearly double the sum which the Laud League had spent. They had spent this to advance the cause of Catholic University education. And what had been the end of it all? These wise men had left the question of Catholic University education no further advanced than they found it; and in the end they had to take down the banner of the “Catholic University” —to erase the word “Catholic” and put the word Royal” in its stead. Contrast the progress that been made with a much smaller expenditure in the space of two or three years. In conclusion, he advised them earnestly and individually to continue to do something for the movement (cheers).

After several resolutions had been adopted *in globo*, the meeting terminated.

## **Derry Journal - Wednesday 22 November 1911**

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE

CULDAFF BRANCH.

The monthly meeting of the Culdaff branch United Irish League was held on Sunday evening, the president, Mr. Denis Diver, D.C., in the chair. The following members were also present—Messrs. Hugh M’Granaghan, vice-president, James Greene, Manus Harkin, Bernard M’Grenaghan, Edward Doherty, Charles M’Colgan, Edward James M’Daid, hon. secretary, &c. Minutes of previous meeting were read and signed. This being the first meeting of the branch since the sad and unexpected death of the esteemed and patriotic treasurer, Mr. Michael Lynch, the following resolution was proposed by the secretary Mr. James M’Daid, seconded by Mr. Manus Harkin and passed in silence: —“That we deplore the great loss our branch has sustained, and the national cause in general, through the death in prime of manhood of Mr

Michael Lynch, treasurer of this branch, and also of the North Donegal Divisional Executive ; and we desire to express our most sincere sympathy with his sorrowing wife and family in their sad bereavement; and as tribute of respect to his memory we adjourn this meeting.” Speaking to the resolution, the Chairman said it was his lot to witness the departure by death from amongst them of a large number of Culdaff men who took an earnest and most active part in righting the wrongs of our country, particularly in crushing the evil system of landlordism, the most cruel and accursed system that ever infested any country. So deep-rooted was it, that under it the people were the most degraded , and plundered slaves in the world. The landlords made and administered the laws for their own personal benefit, regardless of the rights of others. The history of landlordism and its wanton cruelty should be installed into the minds of the present and future generations as a reminder of the sad sufferings our forefathers had endure under it. But will it have to be said that there is no gratitude in the young generation for the many useful benefits that have been gained for them? Where are the men who will now come forward to fill the ranks that were so nobly filled by the brave men who are now gone? Men who cheerfully sacrificed their time in stress and storm when their liberty was stake. Mr. Lynch was a most punctual and regular attendant at all branch and executive meetings. His absence from such meetings in future will be sorely missed. His purse was ever ready to respond to any call made upon it to further the cause he had so much at heart. He and the following men of Cudaff have gone to reap the reward that a good God has in store for them for their long and earnest struggle in helping the poor and oppressed—Roger Reddin of Ballyharry, who was the last of our old fighting guard to be called away ; Owen Doherty of Clogherna, who was Chairman of the first meeting the of Land League held on Cruckaughrim’s historic heights ; Patrick Crampsey, of Gooray, who did a lion’s share in reorganising the Land League in Inishowen, and for which was rewarded by “Buckshot” Foster with a term Kilmainham Jail ; Michael M’Laughlin of Moneydarragh ; Bernard M’Conalogue, J.P. ; Edward Mahon J.P. ; and James Harkin, of Disteran and Patrick Coyle of Gleneely. - who also did a term in Dundalk Jail. Each of these did his share in bringing about the times that are now fast approaching when we will have the extreme pleasure of seeing our own Parliament once again in College Green. Our late treasurer has been in the fight ever since the establishment of the Land League. Whenever a meeting was called to further the interests of the tenant farmers, Michael Lynch was amongst the first to be there. When the United Irish League was established in the parish in 1900, Mr. Lynch was one of the first to enroll under its banner. He succeeded the late Mr. Edward Mahon as treasurer of this branch, which position he held till his death. He was also

treasurer of the North Donegal Divisional Executive for a number of years past, and had the satisfaction of being always elected to that post unanimously. When the Ancient Order of Hibernians was established in the parish he was one the first members to be initiated in the Order. He was elected treasurer of that body at its first meeting, and has been elected to that position every year since. The deceased was a strong advocate of temperance, and was always found at the head his Guild at the monthly meetings of the society. May the green sod lie lightly on his breast, and may his name go down to future generations as one who did his part nobly in emancipating his fatherland.—Cor.

## Appendix III

### Local Landlords (James G. Harvey is included)

From the Irish National Folklore collection

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4493785/4420091>

dúchas.ie The Schools' Collection, Volume 1118, Co. Donegal Star of the Sea, Glenagivney

#### Local Landlords

**COLLECTOR** Charles Gillen **Gender** male **Address** Meenletterbale, Co. Donegal  
**INFORMANT** Patrick Gillen **Relation** parent **Gender** male **Age** 56  
**Address** Meenletterbale, Co. Donegal

About twenty two years ago there was one landlord in this Parish. He lived in Merville. In olden times there was a landlord for Glenagivney another for Mossyglan and another for Meenletterbale.

All the farmers of Ireland could hold their farms except for those who would not pay their rent.

Around this district there was no people evicted but in the year 1881 there was thirty-two families evicted between Carrowmeana and Drumaville. They went to their friends or neighbours and remained there until they got new houses built. This was called the "Carrowmeana Eviction". Those people were evicted because they would not pay their rent.

The landlords got the rents in olden times. Now the rent is paid to the Irish Land Commissioners who live in Dublin. If we do not pay our rent nowadays the "Sheriff" would come and take the cattle off the land and sell them and with this money the rent is paid.

Montgommery collected the rent for Glenagivney. Harvey was the Mossyglan Landlord for a while but he was changed to Carrowmeana. After he left Nickelson came and took his place then it was he that collected that rent. Nickelson was not liked by the people because he was very hard on them. The other two Landlords were very much liked by the people. Harvey was never liked by the people he never had any evictions in Mossylen during his time there but it was him that made the Carrowmeana Evictions. After the evictions the other inhabitants turned spiteful against him for being so cruel.

The Rev. Bishop Montgomery was the Landlord of the town-land of Glenagivney. The tenants considered him to be a fair enough Landlord he would always give them a few extra months after the appointed day for paying the rents. He never evicted any of his tenants. He would allow them to divide their farms to suit the family. He visited his tenants almost on every summer and seemed to be anxious about their well-fare. He was very charitable. He was known to give the rents to people who had any misfortune such as cattle dying or such.

Mr. Lepper was the Landlord for Meenletterbale. The people of this district considered him to be a fair Landlord. When the land was bought out Lepper only owned the land that was under cultivation and the mountain and bog belonged to the Earl of Shaffs Borragh. Mr. Lepper bought the bog off him and made a present of it to the tenants of Meenletterbale which leaves them with an ever lasting supply of peat. Every year they are able to let moss to two or three other of their neighbouring town-lands. Mr. Lepper put a fixed rent on the farms which the tenants could easily pay. All the Landlords before him had the farms so heavily rented that the people stand on the land for a year and a raised their yearly crops and then took a "moonlight flitting" and left without paying any rent. This means that they left unknown to the Landlords.

Mr. Nicklson was the Landlord for Mossyglan, Ballymagarhy, Breadaglen, and Falmore. He was a good man to his tenants and he never evicted any person. He gave an acre of land for Church property, and he also built a school in Falmore free of charge.

In olden times when the father of a house died his land was divided among his sons no matter how small the farm was and each one received an equal share. This is the reason there are so many small farms around this districts.

In olden times the people of this district had to pay for the up keep of the Protestant Church. No one can tell how this was stopped or what tithe they

used to pay. Over forty years ago the people of this district used to give of the priest of this parish a few lumps of straw at the harvest. In those times every priest had a pony and trap of his own. Nowadays money is collected at the harvest instead of straw. Every one left their straw at a certain place and then the priest appointed a few carts to leave it at his premises. The priest thought it was better to collect money because when there was a bad harvest the corn was destroyed before it reached them. One man valued the straw to be worth two shillings. Every one paid two shillings at the harvest instead of giving them straw until times got better. There is a man appointed for every town-land to go around the houses in the harvest to collect this money. Nowadays people pay from half a crown to ten shillings.

In olden times the people always gave their money to their Landlords and whenever they wanted it they asked the Landlords for it.

Very often the Landlords left the country whenever they got the money from the people and never gave it back. This was their money the people had left after they bought their goods every week. Any money that they had left they gave it to the Landlords to keep for them. The people thought that the Landlords were the safest to give it because when they came round every half year they could get the money from them if they wanted it. Montgomery and Leeper always gave back the money but Harvey kept most of it. Harvey was not liked by the people because he never gave back all the money to the people.

## **Appendix IV**

### **Carrowmenagh, And Related Material**

#### **From The Irish Folklore Collection**

dúchas.ie The Schools' Collection Co. Donegal Naomh Pádraig, Carrowmena

#### **Stories 29. 10. '37**

##### **a) The Fairy Fort**

There is a place in the townland of Ballymagaraghy, in the parish of Culdaff, known as the fairy chairs. A man from Ballymagaraghy was watching cattle grazing around this place. All of a sudden a flint stone was fired at one of the cows. She got very sick and the owner had to send for a vet, and he said she



was shot by one of the fairies. He gave her gunpowder with an egg mixed through it and she was well in a few days.

Michael Farren Ballymagaraghy Merville, Co. Donegal

Author: Robert Cambell, age 85. Ballymagaraghy Merville, Co. Donegal

b) The Wicked Fairies 3. 11. 37 (335)

One night a man was coming home from his cèilidh. He heard the fairies talking, and stopped to listen and they were talking about his own wife. They planned to steal her when the cows would roar. The man went home and said nothing about it to his own wife. When they were in bed awhile the cows started to roar. His wife got up and said she was that she was going out to see what was wrong, but her husband would not let her. When he rose in the morning and opened the door the image of his wife fell on the doorstep. This was the image that the fairies would have left in her place if she had gone out in the night.

Mary Rose Breslin Lecamy Merville, Co. Donegal

Author: - John Mac Conway, age 42 Lecamy Merville, Co. Donegal

c) The Weaver 3. 11. 37 (335)

Once upon a time there lived in Lecamy a man named Jimmy Nevenue and he was a weaver. He used to go to Coleraine for the yarn and he always crossed at the Greencastle Point. He had to travel seven miles on the strand before he would get to Coleraine and he had to carry the yarn on his back. One day he was coming home from the Point and he saw three big waves coming toward him. He knew he could not get out of their way in time, and he heard it said that if it was the fairies, you could lift up a handful of sand from under your right foot and throw it at them and that they would have to turn. He did so and the waves went back the way they came. So the next time he was coming down with his yarn a young gentleman came to him and said "I will carry your burden." He refused and said "I would not want a young gentleman like you to carry my burden." The young gentleman said, "you did more than that for me the last time you came down here. Do you remember the three big waves you turned back? That was the Scotch fairies whom we were fighting and only for you they would have hunted us out of Benevenue." So the young gentleman carried Jimmy's burden and took him to his house in the rocks in Benevenue.

That night they were singing and dancing till the morning. The young gentleman said that Jimmy could go to bed now for he should be sleeping and he told him when he would rise in the morning he would be lying on the green in front of the fairies' house with moss under his head. He also told Jimmy he would also get him a good day's wages; that there was a gentleman living down along the Benevenue road and he had an entire horse that was lame and he told Jimmy that he could cure him when he would tell him what was wrong. "There is a white stone in the frog of his foot and you will see it, but no one else will see it." So Jimmy went down and cured the horse and the man gave him £ 10.

Patrick Mac Feely Carrowmena, Moville, Co. Donegal

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Moville , Co. Donegal

d) The Wicked Fairies 15. 11. 37 (337)

There was a man lived in Terryvone named James Gillespie. He was out digging potatoes on Halloweve in a very hilly field and his wife was gathering the potatoes after him. He saw a big potatoe rolling down the field and he saw what he thought was his wife lying dead on the field in front of him. He took her in and waked her like anyone else. A year later he was digging potatoes in the same field and saw what he thought was his wife coming towards him. She came to him and told him that the fairies had her and that he could take her back on that night. She told him to get two strong men to help him and that she would be riding with a lot of fairies. They were to catch her and not to let her go, or the fairies would kill her. She said they would turn her into all shapes to frighten them, but not to be afraid, because the fairies could not do them any harm. The man told the two men, but one of the men's wife to let him go, so the other two men could not go themselves. The next morning the man found the door stones covered with his wife's blood.

Michael Breslin Lecamy Moville, Co. Donegal

Author:- John Mac Conway, age 42 Lecamy Moville, Co. Donegal

e) The Fairy Half-Crowns 16. 11. '37 (339)

Once upon a time there came a wee woman into James Elkin's house. She asked James' granny for money, and she gave her a sixpence. The fairy told her that if she would rise early the next morning before the sun would rise she

would be well paid for it, but she wasn't to tell anybody. So when she rose the next morning there were three half-crowns lying on the hearthstone. She did not know whether it was right to lift them or not and she said, "God direct me." As soon as she said this the coins disappeared and left a mark behind them on the fireside the same as a hot lid would leave.

Mary Doherty, Carrowmena, Merville

Author:- Joseph Mac Conway, age 30 Lecamy Merville, Co. Donegal

f) The Man and the Devil. 16. 11. '37 (340)

One time George Campbell of Lecamy was hired with Tom Mooney of Meenletterbale and he was in league with the devil and no matter how much he spent he had always a half-crown in his pocket. One Halloweve Night the devil used to come for him and he had to go around the house with the rosary beads in his hand all that night until the morning came.

Dan Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville, Co. Donegal

Author:- Dan Mac Laughlin, age 45 Meenletterbale, Merville, Co. Donegal

g) The Magic Helper. 16. 11. '37 (341)

There was a man in the district of Lecamy sowing corn in a field. He ran short of corn and went home and told his wife he had not as much seed as would finish the field, but that he would put turnips in it. He went back the next morning to the field and there was a bag of corn sitting on a rock in the field. The man said "Thank you, good people, and I will pay you back." The corn grew, and he cut it and threshed it. He went back with a bag of corn, left it on the rock, and said, there is your corn back." A voice spoke out of the rock and said, "Lea land corn I gave to thee and lea land corn you must give back." So the man threshed his lea land corn, filled the bag and went and left it on the rock. The bag disappeared and the voice spoke again out of the rock and said "Thank you."

Michael Mac Laughlin, Carrowmena P. O., Merville, Co. Donegal

Author Michael Lafferty, age 87 Lecamy P. O., Merville, Co. Donegal

(h) The Fairy Shot 16. 11. '37 (342)

One Sunday morning 78 years ago Pat Mac Colgan of Ballymagaraghy was just six years old at that time. He was herding his father's cows in the townland of Carrowbeg. Close by there was an old ruin covered over with ivy. Suddenly he heard a noise as of someone rattling iron. The cows ran home and he ran home also. At night the best cow was swollen and moaning. His father told him that she was shot by the fairies. His father gave her gunpowder with an egg mixed through it and she was well in a few days.

John Lafferty, Ballymagaraghy, Merville, Co. Donegal

Author:- Patrick Mac Colgan, Ballymagaraghy, Merville, Co. Donegal.

(i) The Fairies Revenge 17. 11. '37 (343)

There was a woman in the village of Carrowbeg long ago to whom the fairies used to come for loans, and asking her for meal, money and anything they wanted. One day they came in and she refused them a loan and they told her she would lose twice as much. That day her horse broke his leg at her own door.

Daniel Farren, Ballymagaraghy, Merville, Co. Donegal

Author:- James Mac Feely, age 66 Ballymagaraghy, Merville, Co. Donegal

(j) The Fairy Half-Crown. (344)

Once upon a time a man had a lamb tethered in a field. Every day when he went to move the lamb to fresh pasture there was a half-crown lying on the ground. This morning he went to the field and the fairy told him he would make him rich if he would tell no man. The people were wondering where he was getting all the money and they asked him and he told them. Then all his money left him and he was as poor as ever.

Hugh Mac Gettigan Carrowmena, Merville, Co. Donegal

Author:- Michael Lafferty, age 87 Lecamy, Merville, Co. Donegal

## Potatoes

Preparation of the ground.

Potatoes are grown on our farm at home in Carrowbeg. We set one acre every year. The amount never varies. James Faulkner prepares the ground for us. The ground is not manured before being turned up. The ground is manured when the drills are made. The potatoes are set in drills. The land is first ploughed in December with a swing plough. In January it is harrowed with a harrow to make it fine. In March we grub it and lift off the weeds. After that it is drilled with a drill-plough. We use a plough instead of spades. Then the manure is spread in the trenches with grapes, and the cuts are dropped on top of the manure about a foot apart.

A Wooden plough is used on our farm, and we have it for ten years.

Michael Lafferty, age 14 Carrowmena, Merville, Co. Donegal

(a) Preparation of the ground (bottom 345)

Potatoes are grown on our farm at home in Carrowbeg. We sow three acres every year and the amount never varies. My father prepares the ground and the ground is not manured before being torn up. The potatoes are sown in drills. First the land is plowed with a swing-plough and then it is harrowed with a harrow to make it fine. After that it is drilled with a drill-plough. We use a plough instead of spades. When the drills are made we spread the manure with grapes and scatter guano and sulphur by hand on top of the manure. Wooden ploughs were used on our farm thirty years ago. There is one wooden drill-plough left on our farm and we still use it.

Charles Faulkner, age 12 Carrowbeg, Merville, Co. Donegal

(b) Preparation of the Ground. (bottom of 346)

Potatoes are grown on our farm at home in Carrowmena. We sow two acres each year in the field where the oatcrop was the previous year. The amount never varies. My brothers prepare the grounds. They manure it with kelp in November, and a week after, they plough the kelp into the soil with a swing-plough. The ground is ploughed again in March and then harrowed to make it fine. It is then grubbed to take off the weeds, after which it is harrowed again. Then the drills are opened with a drill-plough and manure is spread in the

trenches with grapes. After that we scatter guano on top of the manure. The ground is now ready for the cuts, which are dropped about a foot apart. The drills are then closed with the drill plough. Wooden ploughs were never used on our farm.

Hugh Mac Gettigan, age 13 Carrowmena, Moville, Co. Donegal

(c) Preparation of the Ground. (348)

Potatoes are grown on our farm at home in Ballymagaraghy. We set one and a half acres of potatoes usually, but in some years we set two acres. My uncle prepares the ground. Sometimes if the land is lea wet topdress it with clay a week before it is ploughed. The ground is manured with farmyard and artificial manure when the drills are opened. The artificial manures we use are guano and sulphur. The ground is first ploughed with a swing-plough in November. It is harrowed in March and then ploughed again with a swing-plough. After that it is harrowed again and we lift off the weeds by hand. Then the cultivator is run over the soil to make it fine, after which the drills are opened with a drill-plough. The farmyard manure is then spread in the trenches with grapes, and the guano and sulphur are scattered on top of it by hand, after which the cuts are dropped in the trenches, about nine inches being between each cut. The drills are then closed with the drill-plough.

Wooden drill ploughs were used on our farm about forty years ago. There is a wooden drill-plough left on our farm yet and we still use it.

Daniel Farren, age 13 Ballymagaraghy, Moville

## Weather Lore

In our district the old people can tell the kind of weather to be expected by observing the signs. A red sky at sunset, a halo near the moon, a rainbow in the evening, fleecy clouds, a clear sky at evening, are signs of good weather. A watery sunset, dark clouds in the sky, a distant halo around the moon, a rainbow in the morning, dim stars, are signs of bad weather.

Very bright stars and shooting stars are signs of frost, as also blue flames in the fire and a big roar in the sea.

The south-west winds bring most rain to our district and blows about four or five days in the week. The east wind is a harsh wind. As the old people say, The wind from the East is neither good for man nor beast. The north wind is a very cold wind and when it blows, people say, "That wind is coming off snow."

When the swallows fly high and the crows fly straight good weather may be expected, but when the swallows fly low and the crows tumble in the air and the seagulls come inland, rain will soon come. When the cat washes her face over her ears, or sits with her back to the fire, and when the dog eats grass, bad weather may be expected. When the ducks quack loudly and sheep huddle together near the ditches and donkeys bray, rain is likely to follow. People say, "The ducks are calling for rain," and "The donkey is braying for rain." A sound in the chimney is a sign of rain, as also blue flames in the fire, or too much heat from the fire.

Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy Menville

## Local Cures

### (a) Local Cures

In our district in former times there were many cures for various ailments. A cobweb placed on a cut was supposed to be a good cure for it.

Carron mixed with lime and water was said to be good for a burn. The mixture was placed on a cloth which was laid on the burn.

The roots of daisies, pounded, and mixed with the white of an egg, was a good cure for sore eyes. A sty was said to be cured by aiming the thorn of a gooseberry bush at it nine times, and saying each time, "Go away, or I'll stab you."

A snail put on a wart was supposed to remove the wart, as also if the juice St. Patrick's Distaff applied to it. The water out of St. Colmcille's Well in Menville is also said to cure warts.

To smoke dried coldfoot is said to cure asthma.

The old people say that flour mixed with the buttermilk will cure nettle stings.

Boiled dock roots, mixed with sugar was a cure for a cold, as also camphor cut into whiskey was said to be another cure for a cold.

Patrick Mac Feely, age 15 Carrowmena, Merville, Co. Donegal

(b) In our district in former times there were many local cures for various ailments. Methylated spirits, or mustard, or paraffin oil, placed in the mouth, was a cure for toothache, as also heated salt placed in a cloth and applied to the aching spot. A horseworm found by chance on the road and rubbed on the tooth, would also cure a toothache. To kiss a frog's toe would cure the toothache, as also to take three sups out of a trout's mouth.

If a child had the whooping cough it could be cured by putting it between a donkey's legs three times. Another cure for whooping cough was to put a frog in a pan and cover it. When the frog would die, the whooping cough would disappear.

In former time if a child had the mumps a horse's branks was put on its head and it was led to a river between two townlands and given three sups of water out of the river. It was said that this would cure mumps. Cobwebs and ashes mixed together was supposed to stop a flow of blood from a wound.

Mary Rose Breslin, age 13 Lecamy, Merville, Co. Donegal

(c) In our district the old people can tell of many cures which were formerly used for certain ailments. An old cure for German measles was to bury the child underground for ten minutes.

A seventh son or daughter was said to have the power to cure erysipelas or sprain, by touching the affected part with their hands and mutter certain prayers.

It was said that if a horse with the thrush ate food left behind by a ferret, he would be cured.

A snail put on a wart was supposed to remove the wart, as also if the juice of St. Patrick's Distaff were applied to it. The water of St. Colmcille's Well in Merville is also said to cure warts.

Michael Breslin, age 14 Lecamy, Merville



## **My Home District**

I live in the townland of Carrowmena, in the parish of Moville, Inishowen, Co. Donegal. There are twenty one families in my district. There are one hundred and eight people in it. Mac Laughlin is the most common family name in the district. There are twelve thatched houses and ten slate houses in it. Carrowmenagh means "the middle-quarter land." There are ten old people over seventy years of age in the district. They do not know any Irish. They can tell stories in English. Their names are Brigid Mac Gonagle, Anne Beatty, Annie Friel, Mary Mac Laughlin, Leslie Mac Cann, Annie Mac Laughlin, Mary Mac Laughlin, John Mac Laughlin, William Mac Laughlin, and Mary Doherty. Their address is Carrowmena, Moville, Co. Donegal.

Houses were more numerous long ago in my district. There are seven houses in ruins now. They belonged respectively to the Mac Laughlins, the Brownes, the Mac Sheffreys, the Beattys, the Carlins, the Mac Laughlins, the Magees, and the Mac Conways.

There are three songs about Carrowmena, two dealing with the evictions of 1881 and the third being about the Black and Tans.

The land is fairly level in our district with a slope towards the sea. It has a sandy bottom. There are no woods in Carrowmena. The Bun Dearg stream rises in the Bun Dearg hill in Lecamy and flows between Carrowmena and Drumaville into Termone bay.

Dan Mac Gettigan, age 15 Carrowmena, Moville, Co. Donegal

## **The Local Forge**

There are five forges in the parish. The smiths are:- Henry Farren, John Mac Daid, Neil Mac Daid, James Montgomery, and Tomas Kavanagh. Their people were smiths for over a hundred years. There is a forge in Carrowmena, two in Moville, one in Ballymagaraghy, and one in Shrove. The five of them are on the road side, near cross roads, and there is a stream close by each of them.

The local forge has a thatched roof and a square folding door. There is one fireplace in it. The bellow were bought. The smith uses the following implements in his work, an anvil, sledges, hammers, punches, tongs, rasps, pincers, ironcutters, a vice, a knife, a shovel, a trough of water, a watering brush, files, a grindstone, wrenches, swedges, a fuller, a threading machine, a

prichel, mandrills, a stamp, a vertical, an auger, a hacksaw, a clinchcutter, a square, a rule, a hoopbender, a hooping plate, and a poker.

He shoes horses and donkeys.

He makes tongs, harrow pins, branding irons, horseshoes, cart whoopings, grates, gates, picks, cranes, crooks, hinges, swingletrees, and foottrees.

He makes harrow pins by cutting a 3/8 inch square bar of iron into twenty four pieces each a foot long. He puts them into fire to heat and when they are hot enough he takes them out one by one and points them on the anvil. Then he cools them in the trough. To make a branding iron he takes an inch square iron bar, about eighteen inches long, and heats it in the fire. He beats one end into a knob shape and beats the other end into a flat surface six inches long and two inches wide. He heats the flat surface and then cuts out the initials on it with a cold chisel. To make tongs he cuts a 3/8 inch round iron bar, about four feet long, into two equal parts with a cold chisel. He heats the two pieces in the fire, takes them out separately and flattens one end of each to make the toes. He bends the other end of each to make the head, cuts a slit through one end with a chisel, shoves the other end into the slit, bores a hole through both ends with a punch, and fastens them with a rivet through the hole.

Dan Mac Gettigan, Carrowmenagh, Moville, Co. Donegal

Given by Henry Farren, age 39 Carrowmena, Moville

Given by Mary Doherty, age 76

Carrowmena, Moville

A is the army that covers the ground,

B is the buckshot they're getting all round,

C is the crowbar of cruelest fame,

D is our Davitt, a right glorious name,

E is the English who robbed us of bread,

F is the famine they left us instead,

G is for Gladstone, whose life is a lie,  
H is the harvest we'll hold or we'll die,  
I is the Inspector, who when drunk is bold,  
J is the jarvey, we'll drive him for gold,  
K is Kilmmainham where our true men abide,  
L is the Land League, our hope and our pride,  
M is the Magistrate who makes the black of white,  
N is no rent that will make our wrongs right,  
O is Old Ireland that yet shall be freed,  
P is the peelers who sold her for greed,  
Q is the Queen whose use is not known,  
R is the rifles that keep up her thrown,  
S is the sheriff with woe in his train,  
T is the toil that others may gain,  
U is the Union that worked bitter harm,  
V is the villain who grabs up a farm,  
W is the warrant for death or for chains,  
X is the express, all eyes and no brains,  
Y is Young Ireland spreading the light,  
Z is the zeal that won the great fight.

Daniel Mac Gettigan

Poem. The Rogers'.

Come all you brave fellows, come  
listen to what I say,  
Till I tell you of these lovers who met  
On Casson Bay  
The time being late, no time to trade  
Nor yet become acquaint,  
John says to his Mary, "this country's  
poor with rent,  
But if you agree and come with me,  
1800 miles away,  
You'll live content and pay no  
rent, neither holiday nor May."  
Mary smiled and seemed beguiled, and  
thought the offer grand,  
That a man from so far, like a  
blooming star,  
Would visit Termone strand.

This poem was given me by:- Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmenag, Merville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville.

Pat O'Donnell's Vision. (Fragments).

One night as O'Donnell in prison lay sleeping,  
He had a grand vision which filled him with joy,  
A grave looking queen to his bedside came weeping,  
Saying "Cheer up O'Donnell, my brave Irish boy,  
For I'm Granuaile and I'll liberate you,  
I'll gain your release if there's blood in your veins,  
For the shooting of Carey I congratulate you,  
But I'm grieved to see you in prison chains."  
O'Donnell rose in a great consternation,  
He eagerly gazed on that emblem clad queen,  
Saying "Madam, you give me such grand consolation,  
You must be a friend to old Erin the Queen."  
Given me by Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Merville

## **The Evictions of 1881**

The Evictions of 1881

On the Friday after Christmas in 1881 my grandfather and grandmother, my uncle Henry and myself were evicted, because we refused to pay the rackrent of 6/8 in the £. Harvey the agent, James Mac Cay the sheriff, police and soldiers came to turn us out in the afternoon. They put out the fire, threw out all the furniture in the street, secured the door and left us to go where we liked. Then they went back to Derry again. We were the last put out in Carrowmena that day. We put on a fire beside a ditch and sat around it and the neighbours

came to see us. There was tea and poteen and we spent the night telling stories and singing and the toast was, "Here's to the eagle the golden wings, Ireland free and a Papish King." We stayed out two nights and on Sunday morning we went over to John Norris's barn in Carrowbeg and took our clothes with us. Later on we took our furniture over. We stayed nine months in the barn,

"The straw and chaff were flying into our beds,  
The first opportunity we determined to flit,  
We went into an old sheep house where we couldn't stand straight,  
It's walls like a riddle and its roof wanting thatch,  
For the blackbird or snipe it was more than a match."

Then we went to Ballymagaraghy and got a room and kitchen there. We stayed six months there and then we got back to our old place and had to pay rent and taxes for the whole time we were out. The bailiff was at the door every day and we had to sell a farm and give the proceeds, £40, to Harvey.

COLLECTOR Patrick Mac Feely Gender male Address Carrowmenagh, Co. Donegal

INFORMANT Mary Doherty Gender female Age 76 Address Carrowmenagh, Co. Donegal

### **My Home District.**

I live in the townland of Carrowbeg, in the parish of Moville, in Inishowen, Co. Donegal. There are six families in Carrowbeg and fifty five people. Lafferty is the most common family name in it. There are six slate houses and one thatched house. Carrowbeg means "the small quarter-land." There is one old woman over seventy years of age in Carrowbeg. She can tell stories in English, but not in Irish and her name and address is:- Mrs. Sarah Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Moville, Co. Donegal.

Houses were more numerous locally in former times. There are eleven houses in ruins and they belonged respectively to the Hamiltons, the Vickys, the Boyles, the Dohertys, the Baxters, the Banns, the Mac Eldowneys, the Longs, the Mac Laughlins, the Baskills, and the Mac Colgans. The Hamiltons emigrated to Australia about thirty years ago and the others emigrated to America about the same time. The land is fairly level in our district with a slope toward the sea. It has a sandy bottom. There are no woods in Carrowbeg. There is a stream called the Sweat House River, rising in the Glen Hill, which

flows between Carrowbeg and Carrowmena, and meets the sea at Termone Bay.

Peter Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Movice, Co. Donegal  
Author:- James Faulkner, age 54 Carrowbeg, Movice

### **Remarks about the Local Forge.**

The smith shoes cross horses and bends cart hoopings outside the forge door. He shoes cart wheels at a stream about a hundred yards above the forge. This stream is called the Forge Hole. Forge water, put on hacks, is supposed to cure them. The sparks that fly from the hot iron, put on boils or blisters, are supposed to cure them. The local smiths have always been regarded as strong men.

Pikes for an army were made in the Carrowmena forge long ago, according to Henry Farren, the smith, but he does not know how long ago or for what army. The Carrowmena forge has always been a center for story telling and the people gather into it at night to discuss local events.

Peter Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Movice, Co. Donegal  
Author:- Henry Farren, age 39, Carrowmena, Movice

### **My Home District.**

I live in the townland of Lecamy, in the parish of Movice, in Inishowen, Co. Donegal. There are seventeen families in the townland. There are ninety people in the townland. The most common family name in the townland is Mac Laughlin. There are ten thatched houses and seven slate ones. Lecamy means "the stone outside." There are five old people over seventy years of age in our district who can tell stories in English, but not in Irish. Their names are Patrick Mac Conway, Mary Mac Conway, Grace Breslin, Mick Lafferty and Anne Lafferty, and their address is Lecamy P. O., Movice, Co. Donegal.

Houses were more numerous in former times in our district. There are no houses in ruins in it. The Mac Gruddys emigrated to America about 1888, because they were not able to pay the rack rents. Two other families, the

Dohertys and the Mac Laughlins, also emigrated about the same time and for similar reason.

The townland is not mentioned in any song or saying.

It is not very good land for farming, because it is stony and rocky. Lecamy is nicknamed "the rocks and water." There are no woods in it. There is a stream called the Bun Dearg, rising at the foot of the Bun Dearg hill, which flows through Lecamy. In the western side of Lecamy there is a Lough called Log na Sracan. There is said to be a giant's grave at the northern extremity of the Lough.

Michael Breslin, age 14 Lecamy, Movice

## The Carrowmena Evictions

The soldiers and police came to Carrowmena at 9 a.m. on the 28th December, 1881. Harvey, the agent, and James McCay, the sheriff, were in charge. The Beattys, the MacFeelys, the Brennans, The MacGonagles, the MacGonagles, the MacCanns and the Dohertys were turned out because they refused to pay the rackrents. They put the families out on the street and threw the furniture out after them. They extinguished the fire in each house and fastened the doors with steeples.

The MacGonagles who live beside Leslie MacCann's house refused to leave the house. One of the soldiers pointed a revolver at them and threatened to shoot them if they wouldn't go out. So then they went out. Neil, Daniel, Mary, Annie, John and the father and mother were there at the time. The parish priest, Father Tom Farren, was on the scene also. He told the soldiers not to cut the 'couple', but they wouldn't listen to him and cut it in the middle. Strange to say the house did not fall for a few days. They cut the 'couple' in MacGonagles' house because they had refused to go out when ordered.

The soldiers and police remained in the district for a week. At night they stayed in Movice and came out around Carrowmena in the daytime. After a week they all went back to Derry. None of the people went back to their houses, but they worked on their land by stealth. For a while the sheriff used to come out every day in the forenoon to see that no one would go back again to the houses.

COLLECTOR Mary Rose Breslin Gender female Address Carrowblagh or Leckemy, Co. Donegal



INFORMANT Neil Mac Gonagle Gender male Age 66 Address Carrowmenagh, Co. Donegal

## Holy Wells

There are four holy wells in the district, one in Falmore, one in Movice, one in Greencastle, and one in Shrove. The well in Falmore is in 'rough ground' belonging to George Mac Candless, Mick Doherty, Patrick Harkin, and Cornelius Harkin. The well in Movice is on the green near the shore. The well in Greencastle is about half a mile below the town, along the shore. The well in Shrove is about a hundred yards below the light house along the shore. The well in Shrove is the only one which is visited on a certain day. On the Sunday before the 15<sup>th</sup> August crowds of people from all parts visit the well and say prayers.

When Colmcille was leaving Ireland he called at the well in Shrove for water and when he was leaving he blessed the well. When Colmcille was passing through Inishowen he drank out of the well in Movice and prayed beside it. The track of his knees can be seen in a rock beside the well.

St. Ultan is supposed to have lived near the Falmore Well and to have said Mass on Carraic Ultain. He went to Meath and became Bishop of it. He erected a stone cross at the well on the right bank. In 1860, Mr. Nicholson, of Leitrim and Falmore, erected a new stone cross on the left bank. St. Ultan's name is written on the north side of the new cross. Long ago, the Leitrim people, if they could not get to Mass on Sunday morning, used to visit the well in the afternoon and recite the Rosary. Sometimes the Falmore people went to the Carraic Ultain to pray. Long ago, people used to make a turas to the well on the first Monday of each quarter. Later on they used to go on any day. When people wanted a cure they went round the cross and well three times saying five Paters and Aves each time. When lifting the water they say the Creed. Paralyzed children and children with a stoppage in their speech were cured at the well, and, later on, adults got cures for sores, toothache, neuralgia, warts, etc.

When Patrick Mac Laughlin and Mary Mac Laughlin of Carrowmena were babies they were not able to walk. The mother took Patrick to the Falmore well twice and Mary once and bathed them in it. Then they could walk alright. Mrs. Leslie Mac Cann of Carrowmena has a baby which was practically dying. She

gave it water out of the Falmore Well and it has started to improve. Fanny Breslin, of Falmore, had a bad wart on her hand. She bathed her hands in the Movice Well and the wart disappeared after a while. John Mac Dermott of Glenagivney was deaf until he eighteen. He went to the well in Greencastle and prayed at it to get cured. He left a pair of beads at the well. When he reached home he was able to hear well. Some invalids drink the well water, some bathe in it and some rub it to their affected part.

There are relics left at the wells in Falmore, Greencastle and Shrove, viz., pieces of cloth and bits of beads.

There are no fish in any of the wells. I never heard any stories of people trying to desecrate the wells. There are no bushes at any of the wells.

Author:- Patrick Harkin, age 70 Falmore, Movice  
Mary Rose Breslin Lecamy, Movice

### **Fragment of Poem referring to the eviction of the Doherty family of Carrowmena. (bottom of 373)**

With two flails and a threshing board  
    aching my head,  
the straw and the chaff flying into  
    my bed,  
A hole in the corner: I was a sad  
    sight,  
I couldn't distinguish the day from  
    the night,  
And if I desired it and said it  
    wasn't much,  
They said it was better than back  
    of a ditch.  
The first opportunity I determined  
    to flit,  
*Act mo céile is mo muinntir, I was no  
    better yet,*  
*I neared civilization, the odds wasn't*

great,  
I got into an old sheephouse where  
I couldn't stand straight,  
Its walls like a riddle and the roof  
wanting thatch ,  
For a blackbird or snipe it was more  
than a match.  
I done all in my power here her life  
for to save,  
But alas, my poor mother has come  
to the grave,  
She little thought in her time in an  
ould sheephouse she would die,  
for a cold-blooded country and forgotten  
Would lie.

*Author:- Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Moville  
Michael Breslin Lecamy, Moville*

### ***The Black and Tans (373)***

The curse upon the military: in 1921 they  
formed a noble band,  
They employed three motor lorries and drivers  
of great skill,  
They took their way by Derry Quay and  
steered straight through Moville,  
Here goes the cursed military: they're for a  
raid today,  
I wasn't there, but I heard it at my abode,  
But they soon got an informer who pointed  
them out the road.

II

They came down through Carrowmena and  
stopped at Tess's door,  
They took her husband to the street while  
standing on the floor,  
With scarce any clothes on him and no  
shoes upon his feet,

And they kept him trembling for a full  
half hour on Carrowmena street.

III

They went over to Mrs. Mac Laughlin's window:  
You know her better by the 'Head,'  
And they cocked a loaded revolver over  
her sons in bed,  
When Mrs. Mac Gonagle saw them she  
began to moan,  
Run up for Mac Fadden and tell him to  
come home,  
But when Mac Fadden heard the news he  
made no delay,  
But when he came, to his surprise Mac  
Keeve had his safe broken and his gold all away,

IV

They proceeded their way to Ballymagaraghy  
like huntsmen after grouse,  
And put every individual out of the station  
house,  
And took them down to Micky Billy's gable  
and placed them in a row,  
And poor little John Breslin little thought that  
he would have to go,  
But when the Day of Judgment comes and  
they stand at God's Left Hand,  
There'll be little 'meas' on soldiers and a d-sight  
less on the Black and Tans.

Author:- John Doherty, age 26 Carrowmena, Moville  
Patrick Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Moville

## Churning

We have a churn at home and it is three feet and a half high. It is two feet and a half wide at the top and two feet nine inches wide at the bottom. The sides are round. It is about twenty years old. The various parts are, the crib, the hoops, the body and the lagan. There are no marks on the side or bottom of the churn.

We make butter twice a week in summer and once a week in Winter.

My mother and sister do the churning. If people drop in during the churning they 'give the churn a bash,' because people say it is unlucky to leave without 'giving the churn a bash.' The churning takes an hour and a half in Winter and an hour in Summer and it is done by hand. The churn-dash is moved upwards and downwards until till the butter starts to "break" and then it is given a rolling motion from side to side to "gather the butter."

When the little lumps of butter come on top of the milk people know the butter is made. A panful of fairly hot water is poured into the churn when the butter starts to 'break,' which it usually does after three quarters of an hour. This is done to make the butter soft. The butter is lifted out by hand and put into a butter-dish. A panful of cold water is poured on the butter. Then the dish is held sideways over the churn and any buttermilk in the butter is squeezed out of it by hand into the churn. After that a handful of salt is put into the butter to keep it fresh and to give it a flavor. It is then ready for eating.

Some of the buttermilk is used by ourselves either for drinking or for making bread. We give the rest of it to the cows and the pigs, mixed with feeding-stuff.

Author:- Miss Margaret Mac Feely, age 55 Carrowmena, Moville  
Patrick Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Moville

## **A Collection of Riddles**

Big Red Tom with a big red nose, the quicker he runs, the shorter he grows.

Ans. A candle.

Everything has it and a needle has it too.

Ans. A name.

What kind of hair had Moses' dog?

Ans. Dog hair.

Elizabeth, Lizzie, Betty and Bess went over the river to rob a bird's nest,  
There were in it and each too one, so how many were left?

Ans. Four.

Patch upon patch without any stitches,  
Riddle me that and I'll buy you a pair of breeches.

Ans. A cabbage.

Why is a black hen smarter than a white hen?

Ans. Because a black hen can lay a white egg, but a white hen can't lay a black egg.

Long legs, short thighs, wee head and no eyes.

Ans. The tongs.

What makes a duck cross the road?

Ans. To get to the other side.

What can go up the chimney down but won't come down the chimney up?

Ans. An umbrella

What goes under the water, on top of the water and never touches the water.

Ans. A duck with an egg.

A head like a thimble, a tail like a rat, you may guess forever but you couldn't guess that.

Ans. A pipe.

Author:- John Mac Conway, age 46 Lecamy, Merville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## **A Collection of Riddles**

What goes round the house and round the house with a harrow after it!

Ans. A hen with a clutch of birds.

Why is a black hen smarter than a white hen?

Ans. Because a black hen can lay a white egg, but a white hen can't lay a black egg.

What has an eye but cannot see?

Ans. A needle.

What has eyes and cannot see, a friend to you and a friend to me?

Ans. A potato.

Two ms two rs two as two and a g spele you that to me?

Ans. Grammar

As round as an apple, as plumb as a ball, can climb the church over steeple and all?

Ans. The sun.

What goes up when the rain comes down?

Ans. An umbrella.

Where was Moses when the light went out?

Ans. In the dark.

Which side of a bun do you eat first?

Ans. The outside.

Why does a bull slaver?

Ans. Because he cannot spit.

White and black and red (read) all over?

Ans. A book.

What side of the jug is the handle on?

Ans. The outside.

As I went up Derry Street I met a gentleman,  
He drew off his hat and he drew off his gloves, and tell me the  
name of the man?

Ans. Andrew.

What goes round the house and round the house with a hundred feet after it?

Ans. A broom.

Author:- Mrs. Anna Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Moville  
George Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Moville

## Churning

We have a churn at home. It is two feet and nine inches tall. It is two and a half feet wide round the mouth and it is three feet wide round the bottom. The sides are round. It is eight years old. The various parts are called the crib, the mouth, the sides, the hooping and the bottom.

We make butter twice a week in Winter and three times a week in Summer.

My mother and sister do the churning. If people drop in during the churning they “give the churn a bash,” because people say it is unlucky to leave without “giving the churn a bash.” The churning takes an hour in Summer and an hour and a half in Winter and it is done by hand. The churn-dash is moved upwards and downwards till the butter starts to ‘cut’ and then it is given a rolling motion from side to side to gather up the butter.

When the little lumps of butter come on top of the milk the people know the butter is made. A panful of fairly hot water is poured into the churn when the butter starts to ‘cut’, which it usually does after three quarters of an hour. This is done to make the butter soft. The butter is lifted out by hand and put into a butter dish. A handful of cold water is poured on the butter. Then the dish is held sideways over the churn and the buttermilk in the butter is squeezed out of it by hand into the churn. After that a handful of salt is put into the butter to keep it fresh and to give it flavor. It is then ready for eating.

Some of the buttermilk is used by ourselves, either for drinking or for making bread. We give the rest of it to the cows and pigs, mixed with the feeding stuff.

Author:- Mrs. Brigid Mac Gettigan Carrowmena, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan Carrowmena, Moville

## Song

Come all ye rakish swell young men that coorts a blooming maid,  
Nivir tell your saycret friends or comrade.  
For like Judas they’ll desave you, and that right well know,  
I’ve proved it by experience and now I find it so.



II

And I courted a blooming girl, the darling of my heart,  
Not a time that ever we met I thought we never would part,  
Until simple tales of love I told to a younger man,  
I thought I might depend on him as I oftimes stood his friend,  
He went unto my own true love and this to her did say,  
I would have you quit his company and from him stay away,  
For he said he would desave you and that would happen soon,  
If you do not quit his company he will spoil your youthful bloom.

III

When she heard these stories it grieved her heart full sore,  
Thinking on her own true love grieved her ten times more,  
The next time she met her true love she thus to him did say,  
I would have you quit my company and from me stay away,  
For you said you would desave me and that would happen soon,  
If I would not quit your company you would spoil my youthful bloom.

IV

Who is he the false young man that proved so false to me,  
As soon as she made mention, the same I very well know,  
This night you will go with me in spite of all your foes.

V

For to conclude and finish I mean to end my song,  
Here's a health to every young man, likewise a trusty friend,  
That he may gain the victory that courts a blooming maid,  
When people learn to keep their own secrets, they need not be afraid.

Author:- Miss Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Moville  
Michael Breslin, Lecamy, Moville

## A Collection of Riddles

Headed like a thimble, tailed like a rat, you may guess forever, but you will never guess that?

Ans. A pipe.

Twenty-four white cows tied to a stake, round comes the red bull and gives them all a shake?

Ans. Your teeth and tongue.

What runs on one wheel?

Ans. A wheelbarrow.

Why does a duck cross the road?

Ans. To get to the other side.

What has wings and cannot fly?

Ans. A cart.

I have a wee horse with an iron throat and the harder he goes he swallows the rope?

Ans. A spinning wheel.

Which part of the cow goes in the byre first?

Ans. Her breath.

Two ducks before a duck, two ducks behind a duck and a duck in the middle?

Ans. Three ducks.

Author:- John Mac Conway, age 42 Lecamy, Merville

Michael Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## **The Care of the Feet (388)**

Patrick Mac Conway of Lecamy says that in former times people did not wear shoes until they were in the man age and girl age. He says there was one man he knew who never wore shoes at all. He also says that at one time there were tanning pits in Lecamy. Molly Mac Laughlin of Carrowmena says that in her father's time the people went barefoot to the fairs carrying under their arms and put them on when they were going into the town and took them off when they left the town to go home, to save shoe leather, as they said.

Long ago shoes were so scarce and dear that some people when going to a party or a wedding used to get the loan of shoes from neighbors who had them to wear for the occasion.

Children at present go barefoot in summer but not in winter.

Boots are repaired but not made locally. There are five shoemakers in the district, and none of their families ever worked at shoemaking before. There are more shoemakers now than in former times because long ago the shoes were too dear and there was no great demand for them, so there was no great need for many shoemakers.

Clogs were worn by a few in our district about fifty years ago. They are not worn now. There is an old saying that if you put on one shoe and lace it before putting on the other, you will have St. Colmcille's curse on you.

Patrick Mac Conway of Lecamy says that long ago in his district people wore shoes made of calfskin which were tanned in tanning pits in Lecamy, and that when going to a dance people wore clogs.

Molly Mac Laughlin of Carrowmena says that when she was small there would be one pair of shoes between every two or three of a family and they used to wear them Sunday about' to the chapel. She only had one proverb about shoes:- "If the shoe doesn't fit you, you needn't wear it."

Authors:- Mrs. Molly Mac Laughlin, age 76 Carrowmena, Merville  
Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Merville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## **A Collection of Riddles**

Twenty four white cows tied to a stake, Round comes the bull and gives them all a shake.

Ans. Your teeth and tongue.

What works all day and sleeps at night?

Ans. A man's shoe.

What sleeps with its head down?

Ans. A nail in a shoe.

What goes round the house and round the house and lays an egg in every hole?

Ans. Hailstones.

As I went up London Street I met a London scholar, I hit him a lick with a lump of a stick,

And what was the name of the scholar?

Ans. A lick.

Why does a pipe smoke?

Ans. Because it cannot chew.

What has eyes but cannot see, a friend to you and a friend to me?

Ans. A potato.

Why does a cow look over a hill?

Ans. Because she cannot look through it.

Why is a black hen smarter than a white hen?

Ans. Because a black hen can lay a white egg but a white hen cannot lay a black egg.

What word spells the same backwards and forward?

Ans. Reviver

What kind of hair had Moses' dog?

Ans. Dog hair.

If you had five apples, which of them would you eat first?

Ans. The odd one.

The King of Morocco built a ship an(d) in the ship his daughter sits an(d) I'll be blamed for telling her name an(d) that's three times I named her name?

Ans. Ann

What has wings and cannot fly?

Ans. A cart.

Mrs. Rose Farren, age 45 Carrowmena, Merville

Patrick Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Merville

## **The Care of Our Farm Animals**

We keep cows, horses, sheep, pigs, hens and calves. The cows have no names. When driving the cows home, if they tend to wander, we say Chay! Chay! or How! How!

When driving the calves home, if they tend to wander, we say Soogy! Soogy! or Proogy! Proogy!

The cow house is called a byre. The cows are tied by the neck to stakes. The tyings are made of chains. We buy the chains and make them into tyings.

There is a luck stone and St. Brigid's Cross hung in the byre to bring luck.

The horses are fed on hay, straw and corn. They are shod every three months and are clipped once a year. The horsehouse is called a stable. The

horses are tied by the head with halters made of leather which are bought. A St. Brigid's cross is hung in the stable to bring the luck on the stock. Pigs are supposed to see the wind. When calling the chickens to their food we say Birdy! Birdy! To the hens we say Tuk! Tuk! To the pigs we say Tirry! Tirry! Hen eggs are not supposed to be set after sunset or people say they will not hatch.

Author:- Mrs. Annie Mac Feely, age 46 Carrowmena, Moville  
Patrick Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Moville

## **Famine Times**

Only a few people died in Lecamy in the time of the famine. In the time of the famine the people pulled grass, praiseach, boiled it and ate it. There is a place along the road between Lecamy and Moville near a water tank on the roadside, which is called Tull na Praiseach. Men used to work planting trees for Mr. Nicholson, landlord of Leitrim and Falmore, for 4 ½ D. a day. He gave them their meals free. Others worked for him for a shilling a day to pay the rent, but they had to eat at home. There were two women who used to go round spinning yarn in the houses and they got turnips for food. There was a man called Shinoor who napped stones for his food on Shinoor Bray, which lies between Lecamy and Falmore. After the famine the people used Indian meal instead of oatmeal. Some of the potatoes did not rot and left for seed for the next year.

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Moville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Moville

## **The Pride of Sligo Town**

As I roved out one evening in the springtime of the year,  
To take walk by Rudden's Grove my course I chanced to steer,  
The bright sun had cast his glittering rays the verdant plains around,  
There I saw that virgin the pride of Sligo town.

II

With courage bold I did advance, unto this charming fair,  
Said I "thy swain I have become your lover I declare,  
My heart will break all for your sake,

If you do not on me frown,  
Don't decline but say your mind,  
Sweet pride of Sligo town.

III

"I'm not an equal match for you,"  
This lovely maid did say,  
"For you possess great property and  
I'm a servant maid,  
Besides, you are a Protestant your  
love I must disdain,  
For riches I will never deny the  
Holy Church of Rome."

IV

"Fair maid you make a gross mistake,  
I care not what you say,  
We only worship one true God,  
To saints we never pray,  
We read the Scripture for our guide,  
Good rules they are laid down,  
Now join this fold and save your soul  
Sweet pride of Sligo town."

V

Young man you speak ironically  
But yet you'd imitate,  
You know that cursed Luther your  
Church did first create,  
With Calvin and old Crammer  
sure very well it's Known,  
You fell like rotten branches from  
the Holy Church of Rome.

Author:- Miss Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Moville.  
Peter Faulkner, Carrowmena, Moville

## A Collection of Riddles

How does a shoemaker's corner resemble Hell?

Ans. Because there are so many condemned soles (souls) in it.

The man that made it never wore it and the that wore it never saw it.

Ans. A coffin.

When was beef the highest?

Ans. When the cow jumped over the moon.

I shaved his head and pared his face,  
And brought his body to disgrace,  
With wearied men and tired horses  
I brought him to his dwelling place.

Ans. Turf.

Twenty sick (six) sheep went in a slap,  
One of them died, how many is that?

Ans. 19 sheep.

What's in the middle of you that's not in the middle of me?

Ans. O.

What four letters guard a thief?

Ans. Oh I see you. O.I.C.U.

Two ms, two rs, two as, and a g, put that together and spell it to me.

Ans. Grammar.

Londonderry, Cork and Kerry spell me that without a k.

Ans. That.

Author:- Peter Canning, age 60 Ballymagaraghy, Moville

Peter Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Moville

## **The Care of Our Farm Animals**

We keep cows, horses, a donkey, sheep, pigs, hens, ducks and geese. The cows have no names. When driven home the cows, if they tend to wander we say Chay! Chay! or How! How! When driving home the calves, if they tend to stray, we say Soogy! Soogy! or Proogy! Proogy!

The cowhouse is called a byre. The cows are tied by the neck to stakes. The tyings are made of ropes and are home made. The tyings are called 'borahs.'

A bottle of holy water and a St. Brigid's cross are hung in the byre to bring luck on the stock.

We feed the horses with hay, straw and corn. The horses are called Tom, Paddy, Pellie, Lily, Prince and Peggy and the donkey is called Ned. The horses are shod once a quarter and clipped twice a year. The horsehouse is called the stable. The horses are tied by the head with halters made of ropes which are homemade.

A bottle of holy water and a St. Brigid's cross are hung in the stable to bring luck on the stock.

Pigs are supposed to see the wind.

When calling the chickens to their food we say Birdy! Birdy! To the hens we say Tuk! Tuk! To the ducks we say Wheet! Wheet! To the geese we say Leg! Leg! To the pigs we say Tirry! Tirry! Hen eggs are set in February and are not to be set after sunset or people say they would rot. Duck eggs are set in April.

Author:- James Faulkner, age 54 Carrowbeg, Moville  
Peter Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Moville

## **Famine Times**

Only a few people died in Lecamy in the time of the famine. In the time of the famine the people pulled grass, praiseach, boiled it and ate it. There is a place along the road between Lecamy and Moville near a water tank on the roadside, which is called Tull na Praiseach. Men used to work planting trees for Mr. Nicholson, landlord of Leitrim and Falmore, for 4 ½ D. a day. He gave them their meals free. Others worked for him for a shilling a day to pay the rent, but they had to eat at home. There were two women who used to go round spinning yarn in the houses and they got turnips for food. There was a man called Shinoor who napped stones for his food on Shinoor Bray, which lies between Lecamy and Falmore. After the famine the people used Indian meal instead of oatmeal. Some of the potatoes did not rot and left for seed for the next year.

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Moville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Moville



## Emblems and Objects of Value

Saint Brigid's Crosses are made in our district. The crosses are made of rushes and are made by the people of the house. They are made a foot long and a foot broad and are made on St. Brigid's Eve. When made they are left aside till next day and are blessed when the people come home from Mass. They are placed one in each outhouse and one in each room of the house.

Holly is hung in the house at Christmas. Long ago people used to put up a Maypole on May Day. The people carry palm branches, laurel, and palm rods to Mass on Palm Sunday to get them blessed. This is done to commemorate the first Palm Sunday. A bunch is placed above the door in each room of the house and a bunch in each outhouse.

We keep a font of holy water above each bed and bless ourselves with it when we rise and when we are going on a journey.

Author:- Peter Faulkner, age 14 Carrowbeg, Merville  
Peter Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Merville

## Storing the Potatoes

The potatoes for seed are stored in pits and those for eating are put into the barn. When the potatoes for seed are dug and gathered they are put in long triangular-shaped heaps, about eight bags in each heap. Each heap is covered with a layer of rushes and then a layer of clay to protect the potatoes from rain and frost. These heaps are called pits.

The potatoes that are not pitted are put in bags and carted home to feed ourselves and the animals during the year. They are left in a loose heap at one end of the barn.

The potatoes we use are Aran Banners, Kerr Pinks, Aran Vitors, Irish Whites and Champions. The potatoes that grow in our district are Aran Banners, Aran Vitors and Kerr Pinks.

Author:- Mrs. Brigid Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## Weather Lore

In our district the old people can tell the kind of weather to be expected by observing the signs. A red sky at night, a halo near the moon, fleecy clouds, a rainbow in the evening, a clear sky at evening, are signs of good weather. A watery sunset, dark clouds in the sky, a distant halo around the moon, a rainbow in the morning, dim stars, are signs of bad weather.

Very bright stars and shooting stars are signs of frost, as also blue flames in the fire and a big roar in the sea.

The south-west winds bring the most rain to our district and blows about four or five days each week. The east wind is a harsh wind. As the old people say, "The wind from the East is good for neither man nor beast." The north wind is a very cold wind and when it blows, people say, "That wind is coming off snow."

When the swallows fly high and the crows fly straight, good weather can be expected, but when the swallows fly low and the crows tumble in the air and the seagulls come inland, rain will soon come. When the cat washes her face over her ears, or sits with her back to the fire, and when the dog eats grass, bad weather may be expected. When ducks quack loudly and when sheep huddle near the ditches and donkeys bray, rain is likely to come. People say, "The ducks are calling for rain," and "The donkey is braying for rain."

A sheen on the rocks, dust flying along the roadway, apparent nearness of hills, a moaning in the sea, are signs of bad weather. People say, "When the waves round Inishtrahull are white, rain is likely to come." When there is a sound up the river it is a sign of rain, and when the sound is down the river it is a sign of good weather.

If the crickets chirp very loudly it is a sign of rain. In summer, if midges are very plentiful in the evening, rain is likely to come, as also if horseworms are seen creeping on the road.

If the smoke goes up straight from the chimney it is a sign of good weather, but if it goes up crooked it is a sign of rain. A sound in the chimney is a sign of rain, as also blue flames in the fire, or too much heat from the fire.

Author:- Michael Mac Laughlin, age 80 Meenletterbale, Merville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## Local Cures

In our district the old people can tell of many cures which were formerly used for certain ailments. An old cure for German measles was to bury the child under the ground for ten minutes.

A seventh son or daughter was said to have the power to cure erysipelas or sprains, by touching the affected part with their hands and muttering certain prayers.

It was said that if a horse had the thrush he would be cured by eating the food left behind by a ferret.

A snail put on a wart was supposed to remove it, as also if the juice of St. Patrick's Distaff were applied to it. The water out of St. Colmcille's Well in Moville is also said to cure warts.

Author:- Mrs. Brigid Mac Laughlin, age 45 Meenletterbale, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Moville

## The Carrowmena Evictions

Come all ye true-hearted Irishmen of  
high and low degree,  
I would have ye pay attention and  
listen unto me,  
Carrowmenagh, the evictions, were in  
Carrowmena town,  
Where Harvey and his loopmen came  
to pull the houses down.  
On the 28<sup>th</sup> December, in the year of '81,  
Harvey and his loopmen  
Formed a loyal band and straight to  
Carrowmena, as plain as you shall hear,  
Where they joined their cruel work  
without either dread or fear.  
There was a royal constable and Gaffey  
was his name,  
Was I to sound his praises sure no one  
could me blame,  
His honesty in bygone days was far  
exceeding all,  
He must be much regretted in the  
barracks at Grouse Hall.  
As for No. 12 in Queen St., James Harvey  
is his name,

His forefathers were tyrants, you all  
do know the same,  
His tender-hearted father lent a helping  
hand,  
To banish honest Irishmen far from  
their native land.  
Now Drumaville and Banlaugh, Ture and  
Carrowmena to feel,  
With hearts like steel, they stood the fields  
as Irishmen should do,  
Was I possessed of riches great, of  
banners bright,  
Truly I would bestow it on Carrowmena's  
quarter-land.  
Now to conclude and finish I will  
lay down my pen,  
Their names shall be recorded by  
every loyal friend,  
For when the times were at their worst  
how nobly they did stand,  
They're the terror of the landlords  
and the friends of Paddy's land.

Author Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Moville

## Collection of Riddles

Twenty four white cows tied to a stake, round comes the red cow and gives them all a shake?

Ans. Your teeth and tongue.

If a man put up ten stakes of corn in a dry year, what would he put up in a wet year?

Ans. He would put up an umbrella.

Why does a train smoke?

Ans. Because it cannot chew.

Why does a cow look over a hill?

Ans. Because she cannot see through it.

What goes up when the rain comes down?

Ans. An umbrella.

Why does a donkey eat thistles?

Ans. Because he is an ass.

Why is a black hen smarter than a white hen?

Ans. Because a black hen can lay a white egg but a white hen cannot lay a black egg.

Long legs, short thighs, wee head and no eyes?

Ans. The tongs.

Author:- Miss Sarah Mac Gettigan, age 63 Carrowmena, Merville

Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## Care of Our Farm Animals

We keep cows, horses, pigs, sheep, hens, ducks, geese and turkeys. The cows have no names. When driving the cows home, if they tend to wander we say Chay! Chay! or How! How! When driving the calves home we say Soogy! Soggy! or Proogy! Proogy!

The cowhouse is called a byre. The cows are tied by the neck to stakes. The tyings are made of chains. We buy the chains and then make them into tyings. We call the tyings 'borach.'

There is a horseshoe and a St. Brigid's Cross hung in the byre to bring luck.

The horses are fed on hay, straw and corn. Their names are Vera and Fanny. They are shod every four months and are clipped twice a year. The horsehouse is called a stable. The horses are tied by the head with halters made of ropes which are homemade. A bottle of holy water and a St. Brigid's Cross are hung in the stable to bring luck on the stock.

Pigs are supposed to see the wind. When calling the chickens to their food we say, Tuk! Tuk! To the ducks we say Wheet! Wheet! To the geese we say, Leg! Leg! To the pigs, Tirry! Tirry! Hen eggs are set for hatching in February and are not to be set after sunset or people say the eggs would rot. Duck eggs are set in April.

Author:- Michael Mac Laughlin, age 80 Meenletterbale, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Moville

## The Care of the Feet

In our district in former times the people began to wear shoes when they were about eighteen years old. Children at present go barefoot in summer but not in winter.

Boots are repaired locally. There are four shoemakers in the district. None of their families ever worked at shoemaking before. There are more shoemakers now than in former times because the shoes were scarce and dear and there was not much demand for them.

Clogs were worn fifty years ago. The clogs were worn in winter. Some people in Ballymagaraghy still wear clogs in winter because they are warmer than boots.

Patrick Mac Gonagle of Carrowmena used to make leather about twenty years ago.

Mary Doherty of Carrowmena says, the people of Glennagivney, when going to Mass used to carry their shoes as far as the gravel pit at Doherty's Height and put them on there. When coming home again they took them off at the same place. The Carrowmena people used to carry their shoes as far as Hutchisons of Lecamy.

It is said that if you put on one shoe and lace it before putting on the other you will have St. Colmcille's curse on you.

Author:- Mrs. Brigid Mac Gettigan, age 95 Carrowmena, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena , Moville

## A Prayer

When the old people saw the new moon they said,  
"God sees the new moon  
the new moon sees me  
Good [sic] bless the new moon  
And God bless me,"

Author:- Miss Sarah Mac Gettigan, age 63 Carrowmena, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Moville

## Bread

The kind of bread the old people made in our district was oatmeal bread, boxty-bread and potato-bread. Some of the bread was made from oats grown locally. The people in our district querns which consisted of two flat stones with a hole in the lower one. The grain was put into the hole and ground by the other stone.

The bread the people used was boxty-bread, potato-bread and oatmeal bread. Boxty bread was made from potatoes, flour, milk, soda and salt mixed together. Potato-bread was made from oatmeal, milk and flour. Milk and water were added in kneading. Some people made bread every day and some enough to last for a few days. There were no marks cut on the bread in olden times. In olden times bread was baked in ovens and in pots.

Oatmeal-bread was baked in front of the fire standing against a griddle. The griddles were made of iron. Pancakes were made on Shrove Tuesday. A scone of flour bread was made for Christmas Day, New Year's Day and May Day.

Author:- Miss Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Merville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## Food in Olden Times

In olden times they ate three meals a day. The meals were breakfast, dinner and supper. These meals were eaten at morning, noon and night. Long ago the people used to rise at five o'clock and take one bowl of porridge. They would go out and work till eight o'clock and then come into the house for a meal of potatoes.

The breakfast consisted of potatoes, sweet milk, salt and pepper and the dinner consisted of buttermilk, salt and pepper. They had sweet milk and porridge to their supper. They ate the supper at ten o'clock and they sat around a basket in the middle of the floor.

Tea was used in my district 1863. Fish were eaten on Easter Sunday and New Year's Day and meat on Christmas Day. On Easter Sunday the people had eggs and bacon fried. Mary Doherty says that long ago the smiths would not drive a nail till after twelve noon on Good Friday.

Noggins were used instead of cups long ago.

Author:- Miss Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Merville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## Local Place Names

The names of the fields on our farm at home are the Long Field, the Bushy Field, the Park, the Big Field. There are no hollows, heights, streams, rocks nor bushes on the farm. The Long Field gets its name because it is a long field. The Bushy Field is so called because it is full of rushes. The Big Field gets its name because of its size. The Park is so called because the cows graze in it.

Author:- James Mac Gettigan, age 23 Carrowmena, Merville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## My Home District

I live in the townland of Carrowbeg in the parish of Merville, in Inishowen. There are six families in the townland. There are fifty-five people in it. Lafferty is the most common family name in the townland. There are six slate houses and one thatched house in the townland. Carrowbeg means "the small quarter-land ." There is one old woman over seventy in it whose name is Sarah Faulkner. She does not know any Irish. She can tell stories in English.

Houses were more numerous in my district in former times. There are eleven houses in ruins now which respectively belonged to the Hamiltons, the Vickys, the Boyles, the Dohertys, the Baxters, the Banns, the Mac Eldowneys, the Baskills, the Longs, the Mac Laughlins, and the Mac Colgans. The Hamiltons emigrated to Australia about thirty years ago and the others went to America about the same time. The land is fairly level with a slope towards the sea. It has a sandy bottom. There are no woods in Carrowbeg. There is a stream called the Sweat House River, rising on the top of the Glen Hill, which flows between Carrowbeg and Carrowmena and enters the sea at Termone Bay.

Author:- James Faulkner, age 54 Carrowbeg, Merville  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Merville

## A Collection of Riddles

As round as an apple, as flat as a pan. Once side a woman and the other side a man?

Ans. A Penny.



Which side of a donkey is the most hair on?

Ans. The outside.

What makes a pair of shoes?

Ans. Two.

How many jags in an acre of whins?

Ans. One, and all the rest.

Black and white and red (read) all over?

Ans. A book.

What goes round the house and round the house and leaves one track after it?

Ans. A wheelbarrow.

Long and round and hard to fodder?

Ans. A pike.

What has eyes and cannot see, A friend to you and a friend to me?

Ans. A potato.

Where was Moses when the lights went out?

Ans. In the dark.

Spell tumble-down ditch with three letters?

Ans. A gap.

The full of the house and the full of the room and you couldn't lift a spoonful?

Ans. Smoke.

What is the difference between a stamp and a schoolmaster

Ans. The stamp sticks with a lick and the schoolmaster licks with a stick.

Here is a guess you must confess, Jack and Jenny in the press?

Ans. A bottle and a glass.

Why does a train smoke?

Ans. Because it cannot chew.

As I went in Slickery Slak I met a dunty bull, He kicked and I flung if you had been there to see the fun?

Ans. A jag in your foot.

Why does a dog drink water?

Ans. Because he cannot eat it.

All flesh and no bones and when it stands it stands on stones?

Ans. A Star Mara.

As I went under the lane I met my sister Eliza Jane, With an iron nose and timber toes, and upon my word she would scare the crows.

Ans. A gun.

Why does a donkey eat thistles?

Ans. Because he is an ass.

Author:- James Faulkner, age 54  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Moville

## **The Care of the Feet.**

In former times the people in my district wore no shoes till they were twelve. Some people wore no shoes till they were thirty-three. The children in our district go barefoot in summer. The children never went barefoot the whole year round.

Boots are repaired but not made locally. There are four shoemakers in the district. Their people had never been shoemakers in former times. There are more shoemakers now than in former times because long ago shoes were scarce and dearer and the shoemakers did not get so much business. Clogs were worn about fifty years ago. The clogs were worn in winter. Leather was made in Carrowmena about forty years ago by Patrick Mac Gonagle. Foot coverings were worn in my district in former times according to Patrick Mac Colgan of Ballymagaraghy and were made of canvas tarred on the outside. There is an old saying that if you put on one shoe and lace it before putting on the other shoe, you will have St. Columcille's curse on you.

Author:- Patrick Mac Colgan, age 84 Ballymagaraghy, Merville  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Merville

## **Famine Times**

The famine affected the district very much. The district was very thickly populated before the famine. There are four houses now in ruins in Ballymagaraghy which belonged to the Mays, the Mac Laughlins, the Shoemakers and the Manus, who died during the famine. The potatoes failed with the storm and rotted. The potatoes rotted in the ground. The American Government gave them the seed potatoes for the following year. The potatoes were sown in ridges. The people's food was oatbread, potato bread, porridge and milk. The Government sent oatmeal and relief' (Indian) meal to the Glen and the people of Ballymagaraghy, Carrowbeg, Carrowmena, Ballyharry and the Glen got it to make porridge. The quarter of the people of my district died of the hunger and another quarter died of the fever which followed the famine. It was said that if the people went out to dig a sack of potatoes they would be digging from morning morning to fill the bag. There were other periods of famine in 1817 and 1818 and the potatoes failed, but so badly as during the first famine.

Author:- Charles Canning, age 69, Ballymagaraghy, Merville.  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Merville.

## Food in Olden Times

The people in olden times ate three meals a day. The meals were breakfast, dinner and supper. They were eaten morning, noon and night. The people worked in the morning until the potatoes were ready for breakfast.

Potatoes and porridge were eaten to their breakfast and dinner. Potatoes were eaten at most of the meals. Water was drunk at every meal. People sat round the table placed near the wall and there were hinges on the table and it was put into the space when not used.

Oatmeal bread was made long ago, and it was made of oatmeal, flour and water. Then it was put over a griddle to harden.

Fish was eaten on Christmas and New Year's Day.

People ate no later than ten o'clock at night.

Eggs were eaten on Easter Sunday.

Tea was first used in my district in the year 1863.

Tin pans were first used instead of cups for drinking out of. Later on, wooden bowls were used and afterwards delph bowls.

Author:- Charles Canning, age 69, Ballymagaraghy, Merville  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Merville

## Bird Lore

The cuckoo, the crane, the corncrake, the robin, the crow, the seagull, the blackbird, the lark, the thrush, the pigeon, the hawk, the raven, the bat, the swallow, the heather bleat, the wagtail, the wren, the magpie, and the sparrow are commonly found in my district. The swallow, the cuckoo, the corncrake, the thrush, the rook, and the crane migrate to other countries. When the swallows are leaving they fly up to the housetops and look around them and then fly away. When the cuckoo is leaving she sits on top of a bush, whistles a tune and then flies away.

The robin builds its nest in a fence or a wall. A corncrake builds its nest in a hay field in a hollow in the ground. The wren's nest is made of old grass, leaves and twigs interwoven, and lined in the inside with horsehair and wool. The magpie builds her nest at the top of a high tree. She makes it of twigs, leaves and moss plastered with mud on the outside and protected with thorns and briars. She lines it with wool feathers in the inside. The cuckoo builds no nest at all but lays eggs in other bird's nests, one in each. The crow builds her nest in a tall tree. The swallow builds her nest under house eaves.

Boys are told that God will curse them if they rob bird's nests.

Some small birds pursue the cuckoo because it is said they are angry because they don't want her to go near their nests.

When birds are calling to each other they are supposed to keep praising God and his works.

Author:- Charles Canning, age 69 Ballymagarghy, Merville  
John Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Merville

## Old Houses

Long ago most of the houses had thatched roofs and some slate ones. The thatch consisted of rushes got in the bog and the slates were bought in Derry. There was a bed in every kitchen. The bed was in the corner beside the kitchen fire and it was called the outshot bed. The fireplace was always at the gable wall. The fireplace was built with stones and clashed with mortar. At the time of the evictions there were very few of the houses had chimneys. The floors were made of clay and gravel, pounded with spades until it was hard. Most of the houses had half-doors to keep out the poultry. The people used turf for the fire and fir splinters to give light at night.

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Merville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## A Funny Story

Once upon a time in this district a priest was putting the blessed ashes on the people's foreheads. A man thought that he was very slow and told the priest that if he would tell him that he would help. The priest said "you were born a clown you'll live a clown and you'll die a clown." The man went into the sacristy and put some of the blessed ashes on a plate and began putting them on people's foreheads, saying "you were born a clown, you'll live a clown and you'll die a clown."

Author:- Patrick mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Merville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## Buying and Selling

Long ago there were as many shops as there are now. The people went to Derry for tea and sugar. After Mass they examined the goods but did not buy them till Monday. Sometimes money was given for goods and sometimes they were bartered. Labour was given also for goods. The people did not buy cloth, but spun the wool into yarn and made it into cloth on looms.

The words when buying were 'boot,' 'tick,' 'change' 'can't,' 'luckpenny.'

People thought it unlucky to buy or sell on Friday.

The markets were held in Merville, Carndonagh, Gleneely, Greencastle and Cashel.

In former times hucksters, pedlars, tinkers, dealers in feathers and rags and men looking for rabbit skins and horsehair came around this district.

The various coins gone out of use are, the fourpenny bit, the tenpenny bit and the double-florin.

The names given to the different coins in the district are a make, a tanner, a bob, a quid and a banker.

Author:- Miss Mary Mac Conway, age 80 Lecamy, Merville

Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## The Local Roads

The names given to the local roads are the Lecamy Road, the Shesgin Road, the Drumnagessan Road and the Mount Scourge Road.

The Lecamy Road leads from Noone's Bridge to Drumaville Bridge. The Shesgin Road leads from Noone's Bridge to Gleneely. The Drumnagessan Road leads from Lecamy to Culdaff. The Mount Scourge Road leads from Lecamy to Mount Scourge.

The old roads in the district are the Glacan Road, and Elkin's Road. They are not used now. The Glacan Road leads from Moglass to the main road at Gleneely near Dristernan School. Elkin's Road leads from the Lecamy Road through James Elkin's field, John Breslin's field, Edward O'Kane's field, John Mac Laughlin's field and William Mac Laughlin's field and ends at Hutchinson's of Lecamy.

Landlords employed men to work on the roads during the famine times. The rates of pay were fourpence and a shilling a day. Those who got a shilling a day had to go home for their meals. The majority of those who got fourpence a day who lived far from the roads got their dinner and evening meal from the landlord, but those who lived near the roads had to go home for their dinner

and evening meal. Mr. Nicholson of Leitrim and Falmore paid all his workers 4 ½ D. a day and all had to get their own meals whether they lived near the roads or not. The womenfolk used to bring a dinner of Indian porridge and buttermilk to their menfolk who lived far from the roads. Mr. Nicholson had a large bell which he used to summon back to work those who went from home for their dinner. The men worked from dawn to dark.

Before bridges were made there were large stones called stepping stones and planks for the people to cross over the river. Three of the local fords were The Ath Adhmaid Ford, The Lecamy Footstones and the Ath an Gleanna Ford. The Ath Adhmaid is between Tremone and Ballymagaraghy. The Lecamy Footstones is between Lecamy and Mount Scourge. The Ath an Gleanna Ford is between Carrowmena and Meenletterbale.

There is a giant's in Lecamy and there is a stone at the head and foot. There is another grave in Lecamy Hill and there is a heap of stones on top of it. I do not know who is buried there. There is a Mass green in Lecamy and there were Mass paths leading to it.

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Movice  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Movice

## **The Local Fairs**

The local fairs are held in Movice, Carndonagh and Culdaff. They are always held in these towns. In former times buyers used to the farmer's houses to buy and they still do so occasionally. There used to be fairs held in Gleneely, Cashel, and Greencastle, but these have been discontinued for about ninety years because they occurred within the same week and were held only a week after the Carndonagh fair. Therefore few people attended them. The fair in Greencastle used to be held near a fort and the fair in Gleneely near a graveyard.

The Movice fair for cattle is held in a special fair-place called the Cow-park. The horses, ponies and donkeys are bought and sold in the Market Square and pigs, sheep and poultry in the Market House. No toll is paid on cattle sold.

When an animal is sold luck money, called luck-penny, is given. It is calculated at an average of 6 D. in the £.

When a bargain has been made the parties show agreement by striking hands and by spitting on the money.

When cows are sold they are marked by clipping the hair at the left side with scissors. Sheep and pigs are marked on the rump with a solid red paint locally called 'Keel.'

When an animal is sold the halter or rope is not given away.

The great fair of the year locally is held in Carndonagh on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. There is a special fair for horses held in Carndonagh on the 26<sup>th</sup> December, called the Christmas Market.

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Moville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Moville

## **A Funny Story**

An Irishman and a Jew made a bet as to which knew the names of most saints. Each was to pull a hair out of the other's whisker for each saint he could name. The Irishman said St. Patrick and pulled a hair out of the Jew's whisker. The Jew said St. Peter and pulled a hair out of the Irishman's whisker. Paddy said the Holy Trinity and took three from the Jew. The Jew said the Twelve Apostles and pulled twelve hairs out of Paddy's whisker. Paddy says "The Dublin Fusiliers" and pulled the whole whisker off the Jew.

Author:- Michael Lafferty, age 17 Lecamy, Moville  
Michael Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Moville

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time a man was going from Donegal to Dublin and he had a donkey with him. He asked the guard where would he put the donkey. The guard said to put him in behind, but instead of putting him in the van the man tied him to the end of the last carriage. When the train was a while on its journey the man asked a passenger in the compartment at what rate the train was going. "About forty miles an hour," was the answer. By Jingo, Neddy is fairly stepping it now," says the man.

Author:- Brigid Mac Gonagle, age 73 Carrowmena, Moville  
Peter Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Moville



## The Local Graveyards

There are three churchyards in the parish, Ballinacreagh churchyard, Ballybrack churchyard and Cooley churchyard. Ballinacreagh churchyard is situated in Lecamy, Ballybrack churchyard is situated in Ballybrack and Cooley churchyard is situated in Cooley. Ballinacreagh and Ballybrack churchyards are still in use but Cooley churchyard has fallen into disuse. Neither Ballinacreagh nor Ballybrack is round in shape. The Ballinacreagh church yard slopes to the east. The Ballybrack churchyard slopes to the north. The Cooley churchyard slopes to the south. There are palm trees growing at the east side of Ballinacreagh churchyard. There are no trees growing in the Ballybrack or Cooley churchyards.

In Cooley graveyard there is an old tombstone dated 1756 over Father Henry Crilly's grave, another dated 1707 over Mary Carey's grave. This tombstone is ornamented with flowers. There is another dated 1745 over Marino Porter's grave, another dated 1880 over Rebecca Park's grave. This latter is ornamented with a bird above a circle of flowers. There is another tombstone dated 1816 over Mary Renwick's grave. She was a lieutenant's wife. There is another dated 1799 over William Barnett's grave. There is a small house called a skull house to the east side of the graveyard and there are bones and skulls in it. These had come above the ground after burial and this house was built to hold them all. There are old walls still to be seen in the graveyard. These are the ruins of the monastery which stood there long ago. All the graves mentioned previously lie within the ruins. There is a stone Celtic cross outside the graveyard gate and it is said if a person succeeds in throwing a pebble three times in succession through the topmost hole in the cross that any wish he or she desires will be fulfilled. Colmcille is said to have visited the graveyard once. Protestants and Catholics were buried in Cooley graveyard.

In Ballinacreagh graveyard there is a tombstone dated 1809 over Neil Mac Laughlin's grave, another dated 1807 over James Crumlishs' grave and another dated 1834 over Margaret Lafferty's grave.

Author:- Mary Rose Breslin, age 13 Lecamy, Merville  
Mary Rose Breslin, Lecamy, Merville

## A Funny Story

Once upon a time an Irishman had a butcher's shop in Scotland and a Scotchman came in and asked for three feet of pork. The Irishman pulled out

three pig's feet and gave them to him. The Scotchman asked for a yard of buttermilk and the Irishman put his finger in the buttermilk and then drew his finger along a piece of paper and told the Scotchman to tie it up and take it with him.

COLLECTOR Michael Breslin Gender male Address Carrowblagh or Leckemy, Co. Donegal

INFORMANT John Mac Conway Gender male Age 42 Address Carrowblagh or Leckemy, Co. Donegal

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time there was a shop on Tess' Bray. One day a man came in and asked "what do you sell here?" The shopkeeper said, "I sell spools." The man thought he said, "I sell fools." The man said "you must have had a bad sale for there is one left yet."

Author:- Michael Mac Laughlin, age 80 Meenletterbale, Movice  
Daniel Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Movice

## **A Funny Story**

Scotch people used to tie their cows and calves tight to the stakes. This man came home from Scotland and he bought a farm and he had a lot of cows and calves. This night he tied his cows and calves very tight to the stakes and the next morning his brother went out and saw the cows and calves all lying dead. "Come out, you idiot," says he, and see your Scotch way of tying now.

Author:- Hugh Doherty, age 62 Carrowmena, Movice  
Patrick Doherty, Carrowmena, Movice

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time there lived three men named Paddy the Irishman, Paddy the Englishman and Paddy the Scotchman. They left a loaf sitting on the table and they said whoever would dream the best dream would eat the loaf. Paddy the Irishman dreamt that he was killed in a motor accident. Paddy the

Englishman dreamt that he had to go to the war and Paddy the Scotchman dreamt he rose in the middle of the night and ate the loaf and so he had done.

Author:- Charles Farren age 46 Carrowmena, Merville  
George Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Merville

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time an Irish girl went to America and she went into a house to work. The people of the house told her to sit on a chair but she said, "I will on that little chest over there." She went over and sat on the stove and burned herself.

Author:- Michael Mac Laughlin, age 80 Meenletterbale, Merville.  
Hugh Mac Gettigan, Carrowmena, Merville

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time a man and a woman went to Moneydarragh on their *céillidhe*. It rained very heavily and there was a river running across the road when they were coming home again. The woman was barefooted and she said she would carry him over. When she got to the deepest part of the river she said, "I think you are getting too weighty and I think I'll throw you down," and she threw him in the river.

Author:- Charles Canning, age 69 Ballymagaraghy, Merville  
Charles Faulkner, Carrowbeg, Merville

## **A Funny Story**

There was a man in Carrowmena had a bull and he was going to kill him. The man put a rope on him and another man called Patrick Mac Feely took the sledge to kill the bull. "Ah!" said the man "if you are going to hit where you are looking I am long enough here."

Author:- James Mac Feely, age 65 Ballymagarghy, Merville  
Daniel Farren, Ballymagaraghy, Merville

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time a man was carting through another man's land with a donkey and cart. The man wanted to prosecute for trespass. The man knew he would meet him this time so he had put the donkey and harness into the cart and started to pull it himself. The man came to look for the trespass money. The man who was pulling the cart says, "I know nothing about it. Ask the driver himself."

Author:- James Mac Feely, Ballymagarghy, Moville  
Hugh Lafferty, Carrowbeg, Moville

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time an Irishman went to Scotland to look for work. He got work with a farmer and one day they were cutting corn. He said to the farmer, "this scythe is vey blunt." The farmer sharpened the scythe for him, and said, "It is sharp now it would cut the corn itself." Then the farmer went into the house. The man left the scythe in the field and went up a tree. When the farmer came out again the man called to him. "Don't go near it, it's ready to start."

Author:- Miss Mary Doherty, age 76 Carrowmena, Moville  
Celia Carey, Carrowbeg, Moville

## **A Funny Story**

Once upon a time a priest was about to go round the Stations of the Cross with the people and a message came to him to go on an urgent sick call. The priest told the sacristant to give out the Stations till he would come back. When he came back the sacristant was just saying, "Nineteenth Station, Peter rides mule to Jerusalem."

Author:- Miss Margaret Mac Feely, age 55 Carrowmena, Moville  
Anna Mac Feely, Carrowmena, Moville

## A Funny Story

Once upon a time a man was coming home from his céilidhe and he was whistling a tune that would do for a victory waltz and when he came to Shinoor Rock he started to dance it and he said to himself, "to hell with that for a dance it will not be danced here tonight." There were two people behind the ditch who heard it all.

Author:- Joseph Mac Conway, age 30 Lecamy, Moville  
Mary Farren, Lecamy, Moville

## Local Happenings

There were four ships wrecked in my district, the Mary Snow, the Cambrian, the Heckla, and the Twilight,

The Mary Snow was wrecked a few days before Christmas in the year 1769. She left Virginia heavily laden with tobacco, rum, gin and brandy, bound for Derry. The captain's name was Wallace.

The Glenagivney men knew of the ship's coming and planned to wreck her and then plunder her. They sent Barney Duffy down to Shrove Head to pretend he was a pilot and so lead the ship to destruction on the rocky Glen shore. There was a thick fog that night and the pilot cast anchor in Glennagivney (Kinnegoe) Bay. Messages were sent ashore in bottles asking the people to light bonfires to show the safest part of the port, but the Glen men let them at the rockiest part. The ship was wrecked on the rocks. The sailors swam ashore and were murdered as they landed. The graves are still to be seen. One sailor was taken to Derry by two men less bloodthirsty than the others and the Derry people would have killed these two had they not got away in the nick of time.

The Glen men plundered the ship and took the cargo ashore. They got as much tobacco and rum as kept them smoking and drinking for six months. Some of them spilt rum in the sand thinking it would keep better. The natives broke the captain's watch to bits because they imagined it was saying "I'll tell, I'll tell."

There was a warning of the disaster beforehand. There were fowls aboard and the cock crew awhile before the ship foundered on the rocks. The cock that crew upon the deck, he proved a warning of the wreck.

Relics of the Mary Snow are still to be found in the Glen. In Charlie Hegarty's house there is a pot with the ship's name on it.

The Cambria was wrecked about sixty years ago off Malin Head. She sprang a leak and sank. There were 179 souls aboard and only one survived. He, a sailor, reached shore on an oar. Father Brennan was the chaplain on the ship.

The Hecla was lost in Tremone Bay about seventy-six years ago. She was from Scotland and sprang a leak. The crew lowered the boats and came ashore at Tremone. When fully recovered they walked to Derry. There was butter, cheese and cloth in the Hecla's cargo. The people found Hecla pans with two lids on them along the shore. The Twilight was sunk by a German submarine in Tremone bay in the summer of 1918. She was attacked at Inishtrahull, but sailed on into the bay till stopped by a shell in her side. The crew went off in the boats to Culdaff, taking with them gold and frozen meat. The submarine then sank the ship by shelling her. The windows of the houses in the district were shaken by the force of the explosions. On calm days her masts can be seen above the water.

Author:- Patrick Mac Conway, age 83 Lecamy, Moville  
Daniel Mac Gettigan. Carrowmena, Moville

## Appendix V

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/1914-04-08/debates/b45c871d-b81c-46c0-abfe-ab4393d11537/LandPurchase>

### Land Purchase (Ireland)

#### Volume 60: debated on Wednesday 8 April 1914

Mr. O'DOHERTY

asked the Chief Secretary whether the Congested Districts Board has taken any steps or instituted any negotiations for the purchase and sale of the following estates, the tenants of which have applied several years ago, namely: the estate of Major Torrens, Lecamy and Carrowblagh, the estate of the trustees of the Reverend Thomas MacLellan, Tar-drum, Balleighan, Ballymacarthur, the estate of George Gilliland, Carrichue, and the estate of MacNeill, Carrowmena, all in the county Donegal; and will he say what, if any, progress has been made?

Mr. BIRRELL

The Congested Districts Board have communicated with the owners of the properties referred to, but none of the estates have been offered for sale through the Board. The estate of John Smyth and another, trustees of the Reverend Thomas McClellan is the subject of sale proceedings

before the Estates Commissioners by the owners direct to the tenants under the Irish Land Act, 1903. Having regard to its position on the principal register of direct sales (all cash), the Commissioners are unable to state when it may be reached.

Mr. FLAVIN

asked the Chief Secretary when the untenanted lands at Moyvane, Newtownsands, North Kerry, purchased by the Estates Commissioners, will be divided and distributed amongst the poor people of the district?

Mr. BIRRELL

The Estates Commissioners hope to be in a position to distribute the untenanted lands on this estate at an early date.

Mr. FLAVIN

asked the Chief Secretary whether he will bring before the Estates Commissioners the case of Mr. P. Kirby, of Gortnaminch, North Kerry, an evicted tenant, who claims reinstatement in his holding, or an equivalent holding of untenanted land; and whether his application will receive favourable and immediate consideration?

Column 1971 is located here

Mr. BIRRELL

The hon. Member I presume refers to the application of Patrick Kirby for reinstatement in a holding at one time in the possession of his father on the Listowel estate. This estate has been purchased by the occupiers under the Land Purchase Acts, and the Estates Commissioners have no power to interfere with the present occupier of the holding in question. Kirby's application was not lodged within the period prescribed by the Evicted Tenants Act, 1907, and it cannot, therefore, be dealt with under that Act.

Mr. FLAVIN

asked the Chief Secretary whether he is aware that Thomas M'Namara, senior, of Guhard, Liselton, North Kerry, signed his agreement to purchase his holding on the Huggard estate; can he say whether the agreement to purchase, which was signed in the presence of Mr. P. O'Carroll, J.P., Ballybunion, was lodged with the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, whether he can state why the landlord has not carried out the conditions of the purchase agreement?

Mr. BIRRELL

The Estates Commissioners understand from the solicitor for the vendor that this tenant is a second term tenant, and that when filling up the forms of purchase agreement a mistake was made in the agent's office by filling into the form prepared for McNamara the terms of purchase applicable to a first term tenant. The agent, on discovering the mistake, returned the form to

McNamara, pointing out the error, and stating that the document could not be accepted. McNamara was also informed of the terms upon which a purchase agreement could be accepted from him. Up to the present no purchase agreement in respect of this holding has been lodged with the Estates Commissioners.