

## O'BRIEN OFF FOR CANADA.

The Editor of United Ireland Starts on His Provincial Tour.

### WHAT HE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH

The True State of Affairs on Lord Lansdowne's Luggacurran Estate to be Shown Up—An Interview.

After the Governor General. QUEBEC, May 1.—[New York Herald Cable.]—Special to the BEEL.—William O'Brien sailed today on the Unbrish-Bishop Ireland, of Minnesota, and Mr. O'Brien both arrived here at half past 11 this morning from Dublin. Demonstrations of approval greeted Mr. O'Brien on the entire route. At Thurles, the president of St. John's college, welcomed him, and at the same time an address was made by Archbishop Croke to wish you success. A tremendous gathering of people and priests were there. When he arrived here several bands met him and addresses were presented from the mayor of the corporation of Cork, the Queenstown commissioners and five other public bodies, all wishing him success on his mission.

HE DOES NOT GO ALONE. Mr. O'Brien, in the course of a long speech, said: "These addresses and this magnificent welcome prove that I do not go alone on my mission, and that I carry the hearty good wishes and full approval of the Irish priests and people. Nothing has been left undone by the people to affect an amicable settlement, but the tenants and those acting for them have been treated most shamefully, and it now only remains for me to place the whole case before the bar of public opinion in Canada and the United States. I feel assured that when the liberty loving Canadians have heard the true account of Lord Lansdowne's cruelty to the tenants they will not permit themselves to be governed by such a man."

STRAIGHT TO CANADA. Your correspondent subsequently interviewed Mr. O'Brien regarding his intentions towards the marquis.

"Do you, as has been reported, on your arrival in New York, intend proceeding immediately to Canada?" asked the correspondent.

"Yes, I shall go directly through," was the reply. "I shall be ready every day I spend out of Ireland at its present critical pass, and I am bound not to waste one single unnecessary day until I return. It seems to me by far the best way through the United States to express speed, although it would be a pleasant way for one to daily while among my big-hearted countrymen there. But mine is not a pleasure trip."

### THE PROGRAMME.

"What will be your programme in Canada and do you think the authorities there will try to molest you?"

"Meetings have been arranged in the four principal Canadian cities—Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa and Toronto. Those I intend to pass, if possible, within eight days, by which time I trust Canadian public opinion will have sufficient material to judge between Lord Lansdowne and the people. I have left home in Luggacurran. I have no information as to the intentions of the Canadian government. I decline point blank to assume that it is friendly to the people whose parliament has just protested against freedom of speech being smothered in Ireland. The Canadians would not tolerate any attempt to refuse me fair play in pleading our poor people's cause. If Lord Lansdowne has no better answer to make me than a warrant of arrest, it would be a more crushing condemnation than I could pass upon him."

### THE RESULTS HOPED FOR.

"What good do you hope will result from an exposure of Lord Lansdowne's treatment of his Luggacurran tenants?"

"I am very certain that the people of Canada hold the fate of that whole humble community at Luggacurran in the hollow of their hands. The mere apprehension of Canadian opinion being appealed to has already induced Lord Lansdowne's representative to solicit a settlement with his tenants. That settlement would have been, without doubt, ratified by Lord Lansdowne if he had not misconstrued certain manifestations of disapproval of my visit into signs of sympathy with him. Lord Lansdowne is carrying out the first systematic clearances attempted in Ireland since the years following the great famine. He now proposes to sweep his estate here of its whole population. I don't believe the Canadian people will allow that if they can prevent it, and they seem to have the moral power to do so. Lord Lansdowne was selected as the one landlord to carry out the first eviction under the plan of campaign, because he was supposed to be beyond the reach of Irish public opinion. I propose to show that this is not so, and even at so great a distance and even in his situation, no man is exempt from the responsibility of the cruel sufferings inflicted upon his poor Irish tenants. If I can get the Canadian people to agree with me Luggacurran is saved."

### PROBABLY A MISUNDERSTANDING.

"What do you think of Archbishop Lynch's action, and the views expressed by certain Irish-Canadian politicians with reference to your visit to Canada?"

"I will carefully abstain from expressing any judgment on Irishmen's actions from the reports cabled to the London press," said Mr. O'Brien. "I am perfectly understanding that Mr. O'Brien is in the midst of our friends in regard to my visit. It was doubtless founded upon equally erroneous information with that which the anti-Irish press at home has habituated us. The return which Lord Lansdowne has made to Irish forbearance, has probably already saved me the trouble of dispelling any misunderstanding in the matter. I am pretty sanguine that Mr. O'Brien and myself will be able to convince our countrymen and all others who may doubt, and will do us the honor of coming to listen to us, that in going to Canada we have taken the sole means of saving an unoffending Irish community from total destruction, upon the most unjust and inhuman excuses."

### ALL CONCESSIONS REFUSED.

"Is it a fact that Lord Lansdowne absolutely refused to make any concessions on judicial rents to the Irish Luggacurran tenants, and that the abatements offered on non-judicial rents were only from 10 to 30 per cent?"

"Yes. He refuses any abatement to judicial tenants to this hour. They were willing to accept 15 per cent. Lord Lansdowne's own arbitrator, Mr. Denning, suggested and recommended that figure, but Lord Lansdowne would not yield a farthing. The Cowper commission reported that the prices of all produce had fallen 15 per cent since these judicial rents were fixed. Mr. Knipe, one of the royal commissioners, reported that judicial rents ought to be reduced 40 per cent if the Irish farmers are to live and thrive. Lord Lansdowne's tenants sought a reduction of only 30 per cent, and would have paid even at 15, but Lord

## Lansdowne prefers to depopulate Luggacurran rather than make them the smallest concession.

He offers less holders the privilege of having their leases broken, a privilege which the tory land bill now before parliament gives them despite him."

### FIGHT OR STARVE.

"I suppose the tenants are now more than ever determined to stand by the plan of campaign, owing to the treatment which Father Maher received in negotiating for a settlement of only 30 per cent is asked?"

"They never wavered," said Mr. O'Brien. "In fact the battle of the Irish farmers is not a matter of choice. It is a matter of strong necessity. They must fight or starve. But, of course, the gross duplicity practiced by Lord Lansdowne's representatives in the negotiations with Father Maher has still further embittered the struggle."

### THE QUESTION OF RENTS.

"Am I correct in saying that if the principle sketched in paragraph 40 of the Cowper commission with reference to the reduction of rents were acted on, the farmers would be entitled to a reduction of 30 per cent on judicial rents, whereas, under the plan of campaign, only 30 per cent is asked?"

"So I have already stated," was the reply. "But Lord Lansdowne resists the recommendation even of the tory landlords' commission."

"It is true that the non-judicial rents of the Luggacurran tenants vary from 25 to 30 per cent over the valuation."

"That is so, and the reduction made by the land commissioners week after week on similar holidays on surrounding estates amount to 40, 50 and even 60 per cent, when the non-judicial tenants on the Lansdowne estate were willing to accept 30 per cent if 15 per cent had been conceded to the judicial tenants."

### "A HANGING GALE."

"Is the statement correct which appeared in the Dublin papers that most of the tenants evicted and being evicted only owed one year's rent?"

"Technically they owed one year's rent, but really they owed one-half year's rent. The other half year's rent—which must be payable to make evictions legal—is what is called a hanging gale—that is, an arrear of a half year's rent, which has been kept suspended over the Irish tenants' heads since the famine time, in order to leave them liable to eviction at the landlords' mere caprice. This Americans doubtless have not fully understood."

### PROPHESYING THE RESULT.

"Do you feel confident that the governor-general of Canada will be brought to terms with his tenants?"

"That," said Mr. O'Brien, "rather trespasses into the region of prophecy. I do not discuss from myself the fact that Lord Lansdowne has evicted, and is evicting, tenants, but I am as certain as I am of my own existence that we have justice and truth upon our side, with all the determination and resources of our race, and I am firmly persuaded that Lord Lansdowne will not long resist the tremendous force of American and English public opinion which is now aroused upon the question of the matter in which he stands condemned even by his own arbitrator. In fact, Lord Lansdowne is only prevented from settling by the landlords and conspirators, who are using him as their champion."

### AMERICAN OPINION EFFICACIOUS.

"You attach no importance to the manifestation of sympathy by the American press and people toward Ireland in the present crisis, as well as their protest against coercion?"

"My journey is the sincere testimony to my belief in the efficacy, I might rather say the omnipotence of American opinion."

### "Do you anticipate any increase of outrages in Ireland as the result of the manner in which the provisions of the coercion act will be enforced."

"That will depend upon how his provisions are enforced. I believe that we will be quite a legal match for Mr. Balfour and his act, if we get a show for Ireland in the matter of coercion. That being so, until we are struck down, I am confident that our people will be guided absolutely by the solemn injunction of our incomparable leader, Mr. Parnell. Beyond that neither I nor anybody else can answer."

### IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion Mr. O'Brien said that the Irish people, especially the homeless Luggacurran tenants, were indebted to the American press for its sympathy and support and its enterprise in laying the case so fully before the American people."

### THE PARTING SCENES.

The Young Ireland society of Cork presented an address to O'Brien in the saloon cabin of the Umbria. Among those who came to see off the great man were Messrs. Denny and Lane, all members of parliament. Hearty cheers were also given for Mr. Killbride, Mr. O'Brien's companion de voyage, an evicted tenant of Lansdowne, who has a true tale to tell the Canadians.

### A JUBILEE OFFERING.

English Catholics Called on For a Gift to the Pope.

[Copyright 1887 by James Gordon Bennett.]

LONDON, May 1.—[New York Herald Cable.]—Special to the BEEL.—The Tablet issued today to the churches a proposal which is influential supported for a jubilee offering from English Catholics to Leo XIII.

It suggests that the gift should take the form of a library consisting of the books written by English Catholics during the fifty years.

The Tablet will open its columns to the subscriptions and itself offers a contribution of 100 guineas. In giving its reasons for this offering in the prospectus it says: "These rows of silent books will tell the story of the long struggle in the nation, the high courage, the many disappointments, the checks, the setbacks, the triumphs, the progress of Catholicism in this country as it broke away out of the shadow and twilight of persecution into the perfect daylight of unfettered freedom. They will reveal the history of that gradual living down of prejudice and that ampler and subtler work and the first of which is still carried on in our own day. The poetry, fiction, science, history and stories of every kind of achievement found upon its shelves will tell eloquently of the awakened life of Catholics in the land, and not least surely of the gradual giving way of the bonds that fettered our fathers—the bonds of superstition and of the first of which is still carried on in our own day. 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