

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

(From the Limerick Chronicle of Saturday.)

On Wednesday, as seven cart loads of flour, from the concerns of Sir David Roche, at Carass, and four loads of Indian meal, from the mills of James D. Lyons, Esq., Croom, were being conveyed to Ballingarry under an escort of four police, a mob of near 500 men and woman attacked the carriers near Kilmacow, and despite the exertions of the Constabulary in charge, carried off the entire of Sir David Roche's property; but on being told that the other carts were the medium of transmitting provisions for the use of the Relief Committee of Ballingarry, the marauders were content with relieving only one horse of its load. It had been arranged that a detachment of military from Ballingarry would meet the carriers at Kilmacow, to escort them into the village, and were actually in waiting for two hours after the time appointed for the carts to arrive, when, conceiving the provisions would not be forwarded that day, the officers in charge marched back the party to Ballingarry, not observing any assemblage of people, or disposition to plunder. We understand the signal of the military having been drawn off was given from Knockfierna hill, and gladly availed of by those who lay in wait to plunder the provision carts. Three weeks ago we recorded the plunder of provisions at this same spot, Kilmacow, where a Police station is badly wanted.

On Thursday 26 cars, laden with meal, when proceeding from Brurce mills to Rathkeale, were stopped on the road by an immense mob, and plundered of their contents. The property belonged to Mr. Michael Ryan, proprietor of the Brúree mills. The Police were pelted with stones and badly injured, notwithstanding which they made prisoners of some of the rioters, when the crowd expressed their determination to rescue their associates. The military having come up at the time, with Mr. Goold, S. M. at their head, the rioters refused to disperse unless the prisoners were liberated, and sooner than risk the consequences of a conflict between the force under his command and the peasantry, Mr. Goold bailed the offenders upon the spot.

Last night, a numerous mob broke into the mills of Mr. Thadens Enright, of Croagh, in this county, and carried off 26 bags of flour and meal.

VIOLENT OUTRAGE IN BALLINGARRY.—From an early hour on Thursday morning, the sounding of horns in every direction of the districts of Croom and Ballingarry, denoted symptoms of a general rising of the peasantry, which was subsequently demonstrated to the fullest extent, as, by twelve o'clock, over 1,000 persons had collected on Knockfierna hill, where a flag of distress was hoisted from the top of a high pole. From thence they proceeded in a body through the country, and were reinforced by numbers in their route, compelling such as were employed at Drainage work to join in the display. Ballingarry was appointed as the rallying point, and by the time this formidable multitude reached the village, there could be no less than 3,000 collected, well armed with guns and blunderbusses, evidently prepared to resist any force, either military or police, that may be called out to aid the civil authorities. The scene was appalling, and enough to terrify the peaceable inhabitants. The military and police were stationed at the entrance of the village, the Magistrates in charge being John Cox, Esq., of Ballynoe, and Hamo De Massy, Esq., who exhorted the peasantry to peace, promising that in a few days measures would be in progress to give them employment, which the multitude exclaimed was all they required, as they would not submit to out-door relief, or accept either porridge or meal from the relief committee. Mr. Cox appeared to be a favourite with the crowds, who paid much attention to his observations. They then divided themselves into parties, and having departed for awhile again came into Ballingarry, driving before them about 50 head of cattle, which had been taken from Mr. Gubbins, Mr. H. de Massy, Mr. Dickson Power, and farmers in the district. The Rev. Mr. O'Donnell, R.C.C., who is entitled to much praise for his extraordinary efforts on this occasion, went amongst the rude assemblage, and with the greatest persuasion prevailed upon them to give up the stock, which they did with much reluctance, observing that they "had demonstrated what they could do, and unless they all got employment in a few days, they would carry out their determination." During the day several shots were fired by the peasantry in Ballingarry, and the discharge of fire-arms all about the neighbourhood was kept up until a late hour of the night. Many of the countrywomen were seen carrying guns and pistols under their aprons. It would be difficult to describe the fear and apprehensions of respectable families in the country, particularly females, not knowing the moment the tumultuous mob may commence a general onslaught. The police and military were ready to act, had their services been called for to disperse the rioters, and if they had not returned the cattle, it is probable a desperate conflict with loss of blood and life would have ensued.

Crowds of country people congregated in the town of Askeaton, threatening to clear all the stock off the lands of the resident gentry and farmers, if they did not obtain employment and food. It was only by the most earnest entreaty and supplication of the local magistrates and clergymen that the malcontents were induced to depart without committing violence.

About two thousand persons from the surrounding district, entered the town of Ennis, on Thursday, and paraded the streets shouting and yelling to the fear and terror of the inhabitants, many of whom closed their shops apprehensive of a general attack. The majority of the peasantry were armed with spades and bludgeons, while the disorderly demeanour of the entire multitude, who vowed vengeance if they did not get employment, created general alarm. The authorities were compelled to call in the 55th from Clare Castle, together with the constabulary force, and order was not restored until the Riot Act was read, and the intruders threatened with the fatal consequences that would ensue if they did not disperse. The Roman Catholic clergymen strenuously exerted themselves to dissuade the peasantry from offering any opposition to the magistracy, and ultimately the multitude quitted the town, expressing a determination not to submit to the operation of out-door relief.

Connected with the slaughter and robbery of cattle, belonging to country gentlemen and farmers, a curious incident became recently known. The near relative of a gentleman who keeps a pack of hounds in Clare, rode up to the meet, and informed the owner of a loss of a valuable cow the night before from a field adjoining his residence. One of the sportsmen playfully suggested to lay on the dogs, and no sooner said than done, for the pack having got to the spot where the beast was killed, immediately went off at full cry, upon the trail, and followed the scent at a furious pace for five miles, followed by the horsemen, and without a check, until they ran down upon a village, where the dogs come to a set, and soon found part of the slaughtered cow thrown behind cabins, and stuffed into dung-hills, some of the beef partly boiled, and partly roast, having been thus thrown away in the most precipitate haste, to avoid discovery.

DIABOLICAL OUTRAGE—MOST AUDACIOUS ATTEMPT AT MURDER.

(From a Correspondent of the Mail.)

Yesterday, (Sunday,) between the hours of half-past twelve and one o'clock, while the family were at church, three armed ruffians entered the residence of Smith Blood, Esq., Castlefergus, county Clare, immediately adjoining the demesne of Dromoland, Sir Lucius O'Brien's residence, and proceeded to the back parlour, a small room at the rear of the house, wherein Mr. Blood usually sits, especially when the family are out, and demanded of Blood Smith Esq., second son of Mr. Blood, where his father was—which he declined to state; whereon one of the villains discharged a blunderbuss at Mr. Blood Smith, a slug from which entered his side, another shattered his right hand, holding a book that he was reading, and a third grazed his head immediately over the left temple. The three then left the house by the back door, which was so far fortunate, as Mr. Blood, then accompanied by a Mr. Wallplate, were advancing up the avenue, and within a short distance of the house. On Mr. Wallplate hearing the shot, he directed Mr. Blood's attention thereto; the latter remarking that Jem was, he supposed, firing at crows from the yard. On discovering Mr. Blood Smith's situation, Mr. Wallplate immediately mounted a horse and galloped off to Newmarket-on-Fergus for medical assistance, and to report same to the police. Doctor Evans was instantly called out of church, and proceeded as fast as possible to Castlefergus, to aid the sufferer. Mr. B. Smith was enabled, in the meantime, to get to bed, and Mr. Wallplate came on to Limerick with the mail, to report the occurrence to the magistrates, and Mr. Barron, S.M., happened to be, on the arrival of the mail, at Cruise's Hotel. Mr. Wallplate reports that he left the Doctor examining and probing the sufferer's wounds, and can only hope they may not prove dangerous.

FURTHER ATTEMPT AT MURDER.

Mr. Barron, S.M., received also at Limerick, a short time before the starting of the mail for Dublin, word that a pay officer of the Board of Works, belonging to the Scariff district, was shot at on Saturday, in open day, but the name of the sufferer was not stated.

ANOTHER PAY CLERK SHOT AND ROBBED.—On Thursday morning last a most audacious attack was made on Mr. Slack, of Annadale, as he was passing through the plantations near Driney House, county Leitrim, the residence of Mr. Peyton. It appears that Mr. Slack was going his accustomed rounds, accompanied by police, on Monday afternoon, when a violent pain and sickness compelled him to halt within a short distance of his own residence. He remained for the night in the house where he had alighted, and unfortunately dismissed the policemen. At an early hour on Tuesday morning, he started again for his own house, and had proceeded as far as Anna Plantation, when, as he relates, six men with blackened faces, jumped out on the road, and seized his horse's head, firing a pistol at the same time without effect; they then dragged him down from his seat, and after seizing the bag containing money to the amount of 350l., they were about to depart, when one of them called out—"You shant follow us," and deliberately shot him through the leg, having previously gagged him by trying his driving-whip in his mouth, twisting the lash round his head.

Mr. Slack was assisted shortly afterwards (about five o'clock) by a labouring man, and reached his house, where he remains under medical care. The men are said to have instantly taken the route to Scotland, and the police are on the alert. The scene of this outrage is near Keshicatrigan, about six miles from Ballinamore.—*Anglo Celt.*