

THE EARL OF CORK said, he was not surprised that the noble Earl connected with Ireland should have called attention to those outrages which had lately occurred in Ireland, but doubted whether the present was the most fitting time to enter upon a discussion of the subject. He denied that the Roman Catholic clergy were in any way chargeable with sympathy for the crimes or the criminals, but, on the contrary, was satisfied that they detested them as much as the noble Earl or any one else, and were as anxious to bring the perpetrators of such diabolical acts to justice. He (the Earl of Cork) had in his pocket an address delivered from the altar by the parish priest of Brandon, in which he called upon his parishioners to give every information they could to the authorities, and to aid the ends of justice in every way in their power. He could assure the House that the great majority of the Roman Catholic clergy by no means shared in those views of religious hostility which the noble Earl attributed to them. The late outrages, as those in former years, were attributable to the misplaced attachment of the Irish people to the land. In Ireland the idea was generally entertained that the occupiers had as much right to the land as the owners, and that no person was entitled to eject them. This feeling was encouraged, and revengeful feelings stimulated, by Ribbon societies and other secret and illegal combinations. He believed, however, that in a comparatively short time, as the condition of the country was improved and confidence was established between the owners and tenants of the soil, that erroneous and dangerous notion would disappear. In other respects the country was unquestionably improving, and he earnestly entreated the Government to make some determined effort to put a stop to a system by which these agrarian offences were rendered comparatively easy of perpetration, and at the same time difficult of detection. He regretted to say that that system was approaching very near to the county with which he was connected, and which up to the present time had been free from it. A neighbour of his, one of the best landlords in that part of the country, or indeed in Ireland, had recently received a threatening notice, and the brother of his own agent had also received a notice simply for having endeavoured to enforce payment of a debt due to him.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

COPYRIGHT (WORKS OF ART) BILL.

COMMITTEE PUT OFF.

Order of the Day for the House to be put into a Committee on the Copyright (Works of Art) Bill read.

EARL GRANVILLE proposed that the Committee should be postponed till Thursday next, with the view to the consideration of the suggestions offered for its amendment.

LORD OVERSTONE trusted that the postponement of the Bill might be taken as an indication that the Government were alive to the full force of the objections which had recently been urged against it. It was not his intention to propose any amendments in Committee, because the vices of the Bill were so numerous, and so interwoven in its texture, that it would be impossible to bring the measure into a state in which it could be passed with satisfaction to the country; but, nevertheless, he might throw out one or two suggestions for the consideration of the Government. In the first place, he thought it was reasonable and proper that the words "new and original" should be introduced before the word "picture" in the first clause. Secondly, he thought, that if Parliament were prepared to grant a copyright, it ought at once and absolutely, without any necessity for negotiation or arrangement between the parties, to vest that right in the employer, and not in the artist. Such was the law in France, and in the discussion upon the Bill the other night the Lord Chancellor rested his argument upon the expediency and necessity of making our law correspond with that of our neighbours on the Continent. His third suggestion had reference to the question of registration. Not a single word had yet been said in explanation of that extraordinary clause in the Bill, which provided that copyright was to be obtained without the necessity of registration, except after the lapse of a twelvemonth. An arrangement more inexpedient, more impolitic, and more inconsistent with justice, could not well have been devised. He trusted the objections which had been raised against the Bill would lead his noble Friend the President of the Council more carefully to consider its provisions, and introduce into it those modifications of which it stood in need.

He thought, however, that the more the provisions of the Bill were examined, the more they would be found impracticable or disadvantageous.

EARL GRANVILLE said, that as the Committee was to be postponed, he would not now enter into these questions. It appeared to him that the noble Lord was attempting to rediscuss the second reading of the Bill, which had been agreed to last night.

LORD TAUNTON observed, that under the operation of the Bill, as it stood, an artist in Australia who happened to make a copy of a work sent out to the colony, might do so without knowing that the work had been registered in this country; and might, in consequence, unwittingly be subjected to all the inconvenience which the penal operation of the Bill would entail.

LORD CHELMSFORD reminded the noble Earl (Earl Granville) that next Thursday was Ascension Day, when the House would not sit.

EARL GRANVILLE agreed to fix Friday for the Committee.

Committee put off to Friday next.

House adjourned at a quarter before
Six o'clock, to Monday next,
half-past Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Friday, May 23, 1862.

MINUTES.]—PUBLIC BILLS.—1° Liverpool Fire Prevention Acts Amendment.

3° Universities (Scotland) Act Amendment (No. 2).

LUNATICS (IRELAND).—QUESTION.

SIR EDWARD GROGAN said, he wished to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland, If he received a statement from the Lord Mayor and Municipal Council of Dublin on the 29th of September, 1861, praying that the Citizens of Dublin might be relieved from the support of Lunatics not belonging to the Dublin District, and that additional Governors for the Richmond Lunatic Asylum might be selected from the Municipal Council?

SIR ROBERT PEEL in reply said, he had received a statement from the Lord Mayor and Municipal Council of Dublin at the time mentioned, but the hon. Baronet must know that the law as regarded Dublin was the same as was in force all

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over Ireland, and the Government had no intention of exempting Dublin from the general law with respect to the chargeability of lunatics. As to the request that additional Governors for the Richmond Lunatic Asylum might be selected from the Municipal Council, there were some difficulties in the way of such an arrangement, but the subject was under the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—MR. JUSTICE BOOTHBY.—QUESTION.

MR. CHILDERS said, he would beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, What action Her Majesty's Government have taken in regard to the Petitions from both Houses of Parliament in South Australia, praying Her Majesty to remove Mr. Justice Boothby from the Bench of South Australia; and whether there will be any objection to produce the correspondence between Governor M'Donnell and the Duke of Newcastle on the subject of those Petitions?

MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE said, that his noble Friend the Colonial Secretary had not thought it his duty to advise the Crown to accede to the Address voted by both Houses of Parliament in South Australia, praying Her Majesty to remove Mr. Justice Boothby from the Bench. As to the correspondence between Governor M'Donnell and the Duke of Newcastle on the subject of this address, the only objection to print it was its great bulk, if all the voluminous enclosures were given. But if the hon. Gentleman would be satisfied with such a selection as would be fair to all parties, he would lay the correspondence on the table.

MR. CHILDERS said, he should be quite satisfied with this arrangement.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION—THE NAVY.—QUESTION.

MR. BAILLIE COCHRANE said, he rose to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, Whether the same privilege will be conferred on Officers serving in Her Majesty's Navy as has been conferred on Officers serving in the Army—namely, ten days' leave of absence to visit the Exhibition?

LORD CLARENCE PAGET said, he was afraid that he could not pledge the Admiralty to give every Officer ten days' leave to visit the Exhibition, but they were desirous of affording every possible facility to Officers who wished to do so.