

ANSWER TO MR MORLEY—MURDERS IN KERRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE IRISH TIMES.

SIR—Mr Morley having said my "statement is without a particle of foundation" as to five Kerry murders since Mr Gladstone came into office, allow me space for details of each case.

August 15th, 1892—Dillane assaulted at Ballybunion; died following Wednesday. Several men arrested. Brought up for trial at Cork Winter Assizes. One man pleaded guilty to striking the fatal blow which resulted in Dillane's death. There was no trial. The man who pleaded guilty got a few months' imprisonment; the others were dismissed. This murder is described as "manslaughter," although it is well known in the county, and evidence would have been produced at the trial to show, that the case was an agrarian murder. No doubt the trial did not take place.

November 14, 1892—Early in September half a dozen disguised moonlighters visited Dan Connor at Caherbaggis, near Abbeyfeale. He was warned against paying his rent, and the warning emphasized by "shooting him in the leg." He died of the effects on 14th November.

November, 1892—An old man of eighty years, named Foley, was found hanging to a beam in his own cabin. He had been several days dead. Coroner's inquest—Verdict, "Willful murder against some persons unknown." Foley's head was fractured, and there were several bullet wounds in his body. The supposed reason for this murder, "landgrabbing." No arrests. No information.

7th January, 1893—John and Pat McCarthy when returning from a funeral at Caberciveen, were attacked by two Shens. John McCarthy was killed on the spot; Pat so seriously injured that he is not likely to recover. One Shen disappeared, the other is in custody.

18th January, 1893—William Whelan, "found dead" near Listowel. Coroner's inquest—Verdict, "Died of exposure." After Whelan's death a whisper of "foul play" caused a man named Enright to be arrested, and the body to be exhumed.

Contrasting the former state of my native county with its present blood-stained history I said, at a Liverpool meeting, that from 1840 to 1880 there had only been two such murders, that from 1880 to 1890 there were twenty-two undoubted agrarian murders in Kerry, and that these five others since 15th August, pointed to the fact that the Gladstonian legislation and administration did not conduce to the peace and prosperity of my native county. If these things are done in the land, when "hampering the Government" is to be avoided, what will be the state of the country if Mr Gladstone is allowed to carry his Home Rule measure for Ireland? I ask the people of Liverpool were the five "facts" which I put before them compatible with the "peaceful picture" of Ireland portrayed in the Queen's Speech? I said Mr Morley did not call these agrarian murders. I charged Mr Morley with seeing Ireland through "party" glasses of the illiterate voters who had placed him in power, or of being entirely ignorant of the state of the country, and I asked the Liverpool audience to judge for themselves whether or not it were wise to support a measure put before the country with such misleading half-truths—Yours, &c., A M BOWEN.

Dublin, 1st March, 1893.