

Correspondence.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE KERRY SENTINEL.

Castleisland, 28th June, 1886.

SIR,—In reply to the letter in your issue of the 25th inst., over the signature of "Richard Harold," I beg to call the special attention of the readers of your highly esteemed journal to the following truthful statement of real facts:—I was served with a writ for £30 by Dr. Harold, £15 of which sum has been paid to him by cheque for rent, due up to and ending the 29th September, 1885, leaving only one gale £15 due on the 23rd March, 1886. He has included the former gale in this £30 writ, which I defended in the Dublin courts, and got a victory over the doctor in spite of his tyrannical attempt to mark judgement against me. It was providential for me that it was a cheque payment I made, as I got neither copy of agreement or receipt for the cash paid. I consider that any tenant who offers a fair rent in those depressed times, and is prepared to pay it regularly when due is worthy of respect, and ought not to be treated as I am by Dr. Harold. I asked the doctor for the amount of my bill £60 10s., less a gale's rent, at a fair reduction. He said he wouldn't make a farthing abatement, but told me to take a gale from my account, and leave a balance stand against future rent. He after came to me for a sack of flour and sack of meal. I refused supplying him, his account being entirely overdue, and never made a payment out of it. At the time I refused him for goods he had upwards of £75 of mine both in value and cash, and being then only nine months in his house. I may mention that I was in no hurry with Mr. Prendeville out of the house, which he can tell. With reference to that part of his letter in which he states but for the pressure of Mr. P. H. Leahy he wouldn't have given me the house, having refused others. He readily consented to give me the house on the first application I made; I didn't accept on his terms until I fasted in getting lower than £25. I only required of Mr. Leahy to endeavour to get him to let me the house at £22, which he didn't succeed in doing. I may also mention that he let me an acre field adjoining the house, and agreed to give me an acre field adjoining the house, and agreed to give me an abatement of 20 per cent., which I knew to be too little from the same landlord for two farms I hold. I surrendered the field, and he camouflaged the benefit of my contract with him. It is a well-known fact that Dr. Harold never parted any tenant in this town without taking some narrow advantages, and giving them trouble, annoyance, and law, which I never see him to get well out of, save the poor industrious tenant at Milltown whom he evicted after tendering him £9 out of £10. The law and brigade in this case secured for him the grasp of Mr. Foley's house, and time alone will tell what benefit he may derive from such cruel action towards an old and respectable tenant. The doctor recklessly blunders in stating in a public letter that £40 of said account being a trumped-up bill of superfluous repairs. He ought know well that he cannot deceive the public in making such a purely intentional falsehood. Whereas in one of the civil bill processes issued by me there is only £29 4s 6d, which includes all building materials and workmanship I now challenge the doctor to get a skilled architect to examine and value my outlay, both in work and materials, that my estimate and charge is extremely moderate, notwithstanding the apparent increased value and permanent improvements made by me, which he authorized me to do, and consented to allow for. He states that he put the house in tenable repair, but every tenable house is not a business house, as I have made it so, at enormous cost to myself. He doesn't forget to mentioned a few items of car hire, which every body knows is the customary charge, for instance one item to Tralee fair. He states, I invited him. He came to me on the previous evening and said he wanted to buy some dry cattle, and asked me to go with him to buy them as he wasn't well acquainted with the prices of cattle; I accordingly arranged to go with him, and he told me to take my car as the train wouldn't be early. I had no business at the fair, but went at his request, and if five shillings be an exorbitant charge for my horse and man, the doctor must have a very cheap idea of locomotion. The other items which he has reference to are just as reasonable. His allusion to a Christmas present of turnips is indeed very ludicrous. Whoever heard of such a present at such a festive time.

Whenever I make a present it is not of vegetable matter, and I never charged for the like, or never wish such matters to be spoken of. The doctor's servant frequently came for turnips, I presume for table use which I never charged for, but always told the servant go to the pit and take as much as she liked. I sold several tons of turnips last season, and only charged the doctor the same as everybody else at the rate of a shilling per cwt. He also mentions a bicycle which I charged £6 for. This machine at the time the doctor's son got it was neatly painted, and newly done up in the establishment of Mr. John G. Hodgins, Tralee. He is correct in calling it an old cast away bicycle now, as it is lying smashed in the doctor's car house, and why not, when the son made some attempts to jump with the machine, same as if he were riding a horse. In connection with this bicycle he has again the hardihood to make another of the usual false statements that it was given directly against his expressed wish. In answer to this he expressed the greatest gratitude and thanks towards me for giving the bicycle to his son. He repeatedly told me how strong and healthy he was getting from the riding exercise, and he said he could strongly recommend such exercise to any similar invalid. He also thanked me for giving it on account of saving him £18, which a new one would cost him in Tralee, and which he should purchase for him owing to the condition of his health. In reply to that part of his letter in which he states that my backers got such a castigation from the Ven. Archdeacon Irwin in his presence that they won't soon forget. The men whom he calls my backers are some of the most respectable business men of the town, and are only supporters of justice and honesty—not tyranny or intolerance—and I deny that the Ven. Archdeacon has used any castigation towards them. I am, indeed, sincerely proud to find out that such a christian change has taken hold of the doctor, and that he is commencing to admire such edifying sermons. Again he mentions, in conclusion, that the Archdeacon did not enter into the settlement of the case, and that it must be imaginary of the self-constituted committee. He consented, in presence of three members of the committee, to write a letter to his solicitor to stay proceedings until the day fixed for arbitration was passed. At the appointed day he backed out of his promise and refused to leave the matter to the Archdeacon, but said to Mr. J. P. Sullivan that the law courts should settle. He is perfectly correct in stating that he is too well known to the respectable portion of the people of Castleisland. I tell him his career from manhood is widely known throughout the county, and he has now become as famous and notorious in character in this and in the Milltown district as ever Sam Hussey or George Sandes were in their exterminating districts. I have extensive business transactions with the public, and I defy any man to point out if I have ever furnished a single person with an exorbitant or trumped-up bill as Dr. Harold calls it. This I verily assert cannot be applied to himself in his dealings with the people, as I have known a case where he processed Mrs. Moynihan, Ballyaull, for £60 odd, and only got a decree for £3, also several others of the same nature, too numerous to mention. He has also tried to stop the townspeople of getting fresh water from a public well by getting nuisance thrown into it, to prevent the people from walking through a passage on his land, which passage and well are used for several generations. In conclusion I wish to call your attention again to the best and worst of all his transactions with me. He has a vacant outhouse in the yard, and he told me some months ago to use it free of any charge whatever. I told him I did not want it. However I put some calves into it for a few severe weeks in the winter. After leaving out the calves I put some hay into it for a few more weeks. Now, he has served me on last Saturday evening for £3 10s for rent of it for six months. Now, you can see what his intentions are, and how he has shaved the mark at the eleventh hour. I never saw this old outhouse from him, and those who saw it say it is worth only 6d per week, and he could not even get a tenant at that low figure for it. I am extremely thankful, Mr. Editor, for your patience in allowing me such space in your precious columns.—I am, sir, your faithful servant.

C. D. O'CONNOR.

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