matter of life or death; and its possession and use on fair terms is a matter most intimately connected with the welfare and prosperity of the country; for while fair terms or a fair rent would stimulate the industry of the farmer, and develope all his energies in the improvement of the soil, unfair terms, or a rack rent, would paralise his industry, and deprive him of all energy and of all hope (hear, hear). Therefore, as society has the deepest interest in its own prosperity, and as that prosperity can alone be accomplished or preserved by the position in which the tiller of the soil is placed, it is not only not unreasonable, but it is essential, that society should interfere, and decide by a fair and impartial tribunal the most important question of rent—that which the landlord claims to demand, and that which the tenant ought to pay (cheers). It should be the first care of the legislature to provide for the social well-being of the people, for they are the base of the social edifice; and if the base be not broad, and firm, and strong, the superstructure must be unsafe; and from it, rank after rank, and grade after grade, even to its culminating point, must be shaky and insecure, and will certainly topple to ruin and destruction (cheers). Now, it is said, As they are, the people of Ireland, are the telling masses of this country, form no secure foundation upon which any great or mighty institution or interest may safely repose; they are therefore exposed to every blast of adverse fortune, and have neither hope nor confidence, and are demoralised, while they should be independent and self-respected, while they should be freemen, and not serfs and bondsmen, when they should be sturdy and prosperous yeomen, the strength of the nation, and the bulwark of its liberties (cheers). Now, it is said, they are self-dependent—It is in effect them the opportunity of taking their destiny into the social scale, that we demand the direct interference of the legislature, which we ask to stand between the people and the oppressive and rack-renting proprietors (cheers). The legislature interferes in various ways with the rights and with the property of the subject, and does so in the most arbitrary manner without anything like the justification of that necessity which plead as a reason for the interference with the subject; and if it interfere in matters of minor importance, surely it ought to interfere in a case which, without the slightest exaggeration, is one of life and death (cheers). Valuation of tribute in the Ottoman Empire, has arrived at, whether by the assent of the proprietors, or by the act of the legislature. In the south, rack rents have reduced the tenant-farmer to the lowest state of social degradation. Is this wonderful? If rack rents have struck a blow at the prosperity of the north, is it to be wondered at that they have prostrated the feeble spirit of the south? Some seven years ago Lord Devon and his fellow-commissioners paid an investigation into the wrongs and condition of the tenant-right, which, however, was rather too much for their aristocratic stomachs (laughter), and they were compelled to declare that in those places where tenant-right was marked in its presence it was manifest over those places where it did not exist. Well, what is your case now? You say that rack rents have not only diminished the value of, but almost annihilated your property in, this tenant-right, which is a peculiar growth of your province, and the mainstay of your prosperity (cheers). You say that the landlords of the north have so twisted the screw as to raise the rents of your farms to such a point that your tenant-right has sunk in value, and is most wofully lost sight of.