

But an over-whelming majority of the County electors do wish for the abolition of these laws, and it is therefore vitally essential that they should clearly understand that this can only be accomplished ultimately by their votes, and that it is therefore their first duty to vote for the candidate who represents their views on those questions of paramount importance to them.

The old watchwords, Whig and Tory, have of late years ceased to have any very definite meaning, and are entirely without significance on the Land Question, for whatever their professions, Whig and Tory landlords in dealing with their land differ little in practice.

Tenant farmers must therefore try their candidates by a new standard, and for the present that standard may be briefly defined, as (1) Total Abolition of the Law of Hypothec. (2) Modification of the Game Laws, at least to the extent of exempting the occupier of land from prosecution for trespass on his own farm; and (3) Abolition of the Laws of Entail and Primogeniture. These are the laws which strike directly at the independence of tenant farmers, and it is on the abolition of these laws that their energies should be concentrated.

To those who object that this standard is too narrow for the selection of a member of Parliament who has to care for the interests of the nation generally, as well as those of his own constituents, we reply that the standard embraces questions of social politics and economy which, although directly affecting tenant farmers in the first instance, are in their consequences of the highest interest and importance to the whole nation, and that the candidate who entertains liberal and enlightened convictions on these subjects, may be safely trusted to consider imperial questions in a similarly liberal and enlightened spirit.

But, in applying this standard, it is not enough that the candidate agree to the tenant's views in a vague, general sort of fashion—for, judging from the past, promises will be made signifying

nothing, and honourable candidates will profess to speak from the heart when speaking from the teeth outwards only. The electors ought to be satisfied that the candidate they approve will exert his best energies to accomplish the abolition of these laws, urged thereto by an honest conviction of their injustice and inexpediency. Such he can scarcely be expected to have unless he has smarted under their oppression. It is not to be looked for that a landlord will be deeply impressed by the hardships these laws inflict on others, when, as regards himself, their immediate effect has been agreeably to support his pleasure or increase his profit. Constituted by nature as we are, so apt to be blinded by interest or class feelings, it is hardly to be expected that tenant farmers will find a landlord possessed of sufficient strength of mind and disinterestedness of purpose honestly to support and vigorously struggle to vindicate the rights of tenant farmers, apparently in opposition to the interests of himself and his class.

For these and other reasons, it is evident that the tenant farmer has little—very little hope of finding a true representative of his wants and wishes, and an honest exponent of his grievances, except in his own class, amongst those who have either experienced or witnessed the pernicious effects of those laws on the abolition of which he is now resolved.

Unfortunately, the exigencies of parliamentary life limit the selection, for although the class of farmers can provide men who could soon take their place in point of talent and business capacity with those from other classes, few farmers have both the time and means necessary to permit their discharging the duties of a member of Parliament. But unless such men be found, we confess we have little hope of an early settlement of the questions affecting land; and should farmers, who are the first sufferers, not bestir themselves to find out and encourage such men to come forward, they can hardly—indeed, they cannot reasonably—expect others to