

A PROUD RECORD FOR IRELAND.

THE 'London Echo' of Oct. 22, says:—"Every Irishman should, without loss of time inform himself of the contents of Dr. Hancock's report on the criminal statistics of the sister island. He will be able to boast of nothing more to the honor of his country than what is mentioned by this eminent authority. He will there learn that the number of indictable offences is diminishing in Ireland steadily and marvellously. There were in 1873, 9642 such offences—that is, 774 fewer than the year before, 1789 fewer than the average of the last five years, and 3923 fewer than the number ten years ago. These figures indicate 32 per cent. fewer crimes than those committed by an equal population in England, and 16 per cent. below the average for Great Britain during five years; and further it is to be observed that the excess in the English average is in the more serious sort of crimes. Dr. Hancock compares the province of Ulster with Scotland, and, while he admits that the murders and attempts to murder preponderate in the former, he shows that the preponderance exists in the latter if culpable homi-

cide and manslaughter be taken into account, the Ulster offences being 74 and the Scotch 94. Dr. Hancock is able to record the fact that treasonable offences have almost disappeared, that agrarian outrages have declined from 356 in 1862 to 255, and that while the total decline of indictable offences within counties not subject to the Peace Preservation Act is 21 per cent., in the counties subject to it the decline is 56 per cent. It is true there are more prosecutions for drunkenness in Ireland than here, but Dr. Hancock seeks to prove from these statistics that there are more habitual drunkards on our side of the Channel. Startling as the figures are, we have not given them their full importance until we have stated that there exists a system of public prosecution in Ireland which ensures the detection and punishment of offenders, and that the Irish employ more than twice as many police as we do, so that the probabilities of escape are rendered still smaller than where the prosecution of offenders is left to chance."

Admiral Sir H. Prescott, one of the oldest officers upon the Navy List, died on Nov. 1, aged 92.

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