

CONNEMARA.

A Galway landlord, Mr Robert Martin, of Ross, has an article on Connemara in the current number of *Macmillan*. While he maintains that the landlords have been systematically maligned by persons who, while wicked and cowardly, were careful to keep themselves within the law, he devotes attention in a special manner to the case of the small tenant farmer, who, he says, has been left altogether out of the controversy. To be peasant proprietor of a holding which, even though it were possessed rent free, could not by any possibility support a man and his family, Mr Martin thinks no very desirable thing. And there can be no doubt that in many districts of Galway and Mayo, and in other parts of Ireland also; there are miserable little farms of this kind. The annual journey to "reap the harvest in England," the remittances from friends in America, and the field labour of the members of the family, including the tenant himself, were more important considerations in the account than the potato patch, the cow, or the pig. "In 1871," says Mr Martin, "there were in Connaught over thirty-four thousand mud cabins, which contained each but one room. In each of these cabins a family lived. . . . I want those thirty-four thousand mud cabins to be made fit for human habitation. I want those wretched families to be free from the possibilities of famine, and without emigration I cannot see how this can be done." We scarcely think the writer fully makes out his case for emigration. His suggestion of public works for Connemara is a wise one; but, as he remarks, in effect must to some extent be done with Governmental aid. The poor-rate is already high, and the country cannot bear much further taxation.