THROSBY COUNTRY

Lack of space compels us to hold over a fuller account of the Society's excursion on 16th November to "Throsby Park", Moss Vale, and "Hopewood", alias "Bailey House" Bowral (built by an Osborne who married a Throsby). Despite cold, wet weather, it was a great success.

We noted with particular pleasure the admirable restoration work being carried out on "Throsby Park" by the National Trust, and on "Hopewood" by the Brothers of the Society of St. Gerard Majella. We particularly congratulate the Brothers on the excellent work they are performing with their own hands.

Our thanks for an interesting and enjoyable day are due to Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Pezzutto for organisation and management, to our guides, particularly Brother John for his entertaining and informative talk, and to the Brothers for a truly sumptuous Devonshire tea.

P.S. - Mention must also be made of the new Church of St. Thomas Aquinas at Bowral, which we were unexpectedly given the opportunity to see. It was a complete contrast to the other places visited, and was all the more interesting for that.

LANDLORD AND TENANT, 1869

The following letter may be of interest on the age-old relationship of landlord and tenant, with sidelights on farming methods, housing conditions, and population movements. It is included (irrelevantly) among some papers of Charles Throsby Smith, sent to him perhaps as trustee for the estate of a Shellharbour landowner; the farm, I believe, was not his own, because I am not aware that he owned any property in that locality. As always, there are two sides to the question; though the farm is described as being virtually not worth having, the tenant had held it for many years and still wanted a renewal of lease. But the letter speaks for itself:

"Shell Harbour" Oct. 21 1869

"Dear Sir,

In consequence of My lease being so far run and so much improvements wanting to be done that I wish to make application for the renewal of the lease but not at the same Rent as I finde it is imposible for me to Pay that Rent. I am willing to give 30 year for Mrs Darley and I am sory to say that I cannot give more oing to the ground being so Poor it will not Grase Cattle (word illegible) according to the Rent and it is imposable to try to Grow Crops I have 16 Acres of Wheat and Oats and I am a fraid i shall los it all as the Rust is in my Wheat and the Oats as got the blite and this makes the Seventh year I have lost my Crop and I have tryed all sorts of Grass Seeds and non will grow oing to the Poornes of the land. Every winter I am losing Cattle for the want of Grass and I am not able to replace them and I am not able to keep my Family they are all leaving me and I have got only one Boy left at Home to help me and if he leaves me I will not be able to keep the Farme as I am not able to pay Labour. Dear Sir I hope you will take this in to consideration as it is very harde to think that after Seventeen years hard Larbour on one Farme I should now be oblight to leave it Penyless Dear Sir Remain Your obt. Servt. Thomas Gray"

Then follows a postscript:

"Dear Sir,

I wrote to you too Months a go and you did not answer my Letter will you be so kind as to answer this as soon as you Can make it Conveinent as I want to Repear my House as it will not keep the Raine out."

Edgar Beale