

THE FAMINE IN IRELAND!

The following details of the famine now existing in Ireland, we clipped mainly from the Dublin Freeman's Journal of the 16th and 23d. They were read at the Meeting on Monday :

Mayo.—The Correspondent of the Freeman's Journal, writing from Clairmorris, says :

'A horse belonging to a poor man named Maekum, residing in this town, died a few days since, and the animal having been skinned, the carcass was left for dogs and birds to prey and feed on ; but before much of it had been consumed, it was discovered that a portion of it had been carried away by a poor starving family named Kelly, who resides at a villago called Kilbeg-wills, within a few perches of the town, and by them salted and used as food !

'Doubting the statement, I visited the village. On approaching it I met the wife—a horrible, famine stricken spectacle, with the bones almost protruding through her skin. She returned with me to her cabin, in which nothing could be seen but a wad of half-rotten straw, which seemed as a bed for the whole family, without any night covering whatever, save the tattered rags which they wore during the day. On asking if the story I heard were true, she did not hesitate to tell me all about it. 'Sir,' said she, as the tears rolled down her worn cheeks, 'look here,' pointing to six helpless children. 'These did not taste a morsel of food for four days. Three of them, we thought, were dying of hunger ; but my husband hearing that Maekum's horse died, brought home a basket full of it, which was all the dogs had left, and on this alone we have lived the whole week, and the Lord only knows what I will now do for my starving children since it is gone.'

The same correspondent notices the deaths of ten others—one of the victims remaining five days unburied for want of a coffin.

The Rev. Mr. Curren, writing from Westport, says :

'At this moment I am after beholding a scene of distress, at which obdurate nature herself must recoil, the eyes and nose of a poor man, who died of starvation, eaten away by rats in a wretched hovel where he lay dead two days.'

The Mayo Constitution gives a list of eight deaths from starvation in that County, within four days.

The same paper notices the death from starvation of an old woman, who, when discovered in her hut, (the husband having gone two days before to beg) her arms and face were found mangled and eaten by the rats.

A Correspondent of the Dublin Freeman of the 16th, writing from the same county, says :

'In one parish of the county, Cong, it appears from the statement of the Rev. Dr. Waldron, quoted by you from a local paper, that *twenty seven deaths from starvation* have occurred within the past week !

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Henry, Parish Priest of another parish of same county, addressed to yourself, alluding to a late communication, in which, about a fortnight since, he had announced *eleven deaths by starvation*, says—'Since my last communication I regret to inform you that *at least twenty deaths have occurred in my parish*, Islanderry, county of Mayo, *from starvation*, and I fear that unless, immediate and extensive employment be given, I will have to record deaths not by units but by dozens. Day and night my residence is beset by thousands crying for food or labour tickets.'

The Rev. Patrick M'Manus, Parish Priest of another parish of that county, the same clergyman who, in a former communication to you dated about ten days back, gave you a list of *twenty seven persons* that had died of starvation in his parish in three weeks, now announces that death is about to ~~dent~~ no longer with single victims, but with whole battalions. Speaking of the consequences of further delay in opening up new and extensive works, he says—'I am convinced that, *ere another month, half the population of my parish will be swept away.*'

The Rev. Patrick Fitzgerald, Roman Catholic curate of Kilgeever, another parish in Mayo, in a communication, addressed to you, says:—'My whole time and that of my co-operator, the Rev. Mr. M'Hale, is unceasingly occupied in administering the last comforts of religion to the victims of starvation. It would be an endless, and I fear useless task to record them.' He proceeds to give you the following instance of the harrowing scene with which he and his co-operator are now not merely familiar, but so grossingly occupied, that with difficulty he finds time to address you a letter of thirty lines:—

'I shall never forget the impression made on my mind a few days ago by a most heart-rending case of starvation. I have witnessed the poor mother of five in family sending her little children, almost lifeless for hunger, to bed, and, despairing of ever again seeing them alive, she took her last leave of them. In the morning her first act was to touch their lips with her hand to see if the breath of life still remained ; but the poor mother's fears were not groundless, for not a breath could she feel from some of her dear little children ; that night buried them in the night of eternity.'

The distress in other parts of Ireland is equally heart-rending.

Nine persons died on one day, in the town of Newry, from fever, caused by destitution, and destitution itself.

The Tipperary Vindicator mentions several deaths, on the public highway, from starvation.

The Rev. Mr. Maloney, Parish Priest of Ros-carbery, writing to the Cork Examiner on the 13th January, says :

'My parish contains a population of nine thou