

where she used to pray. The maidens of the valley renewed their mourning, and the children hung garlands over the grave of their lost Margarita.

THE END.

LETTER OF HIS GRACE THE ARCH-BISHOP OF TUAM.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

St. Jarlath's, Tuam, Jan. 22, 1863.

MY LORD—In despite of the elaborate and long-continued efforts to conceal the severe destitution of the people, and to divert attention from their sufferings, the truth has fearfully broken out through all these artificial obstructions. Nay, more, its consequences are now becoming more alarming in proportion to the length of time the fact has been denied or unheeded, since the most incredulous to the warnings of growing distress have at length been awakened to its reality by the instincts of self-preservation. It is no longer confined to the less favored districts along the coasts and the mountains; it is not now felt exclusively in the humble cottages by their neglected inmates; it has reached all the middle classes of society—the shopkeepers in the towns, as well as the farmers of the country—nay, it is ascending faster than they could imagine to those classes in society who are slow to believe in any ungrateful visitation that is unseen or unfeared by themselves until it is heard to knock at their own doors. It is astonishing what a sudden and complete conviction, not only of the existence, but of the extent of the calamity, the lapse of some few weeks has brought to the minds of all, so that now, so far from there being any controversy on the subject, there is a melancholy rivalry regarding the relative depths of the present destitution—all, however, more forcibly showing the utterly prostrate condition of the Irish people.

During the prevalence of destitution, more limited in its range, though not less severe in its endurance, such as took place last year, it becomes necessary to state the peculiar influences to which such local destitution can be traced, as well as to describe facts of family and individual suffering, which could not well be understood by distant people more favorably circumstanced.—But, in the present desperate state of Irish destitution, without bounds in its extent, save the shores of our island, to select any one case, or any number of cases, exhibiting the utter want of food and raiment, and particularly of bed covering, would be only repeating a too-familiar tale, which every district, and every town, and every village could exhibit in numberless instances; so that the wonder is, how human patience, however injured to suffering, does not yield under such terrible privations. And how your lordship may ask, account for such a hideous amount of destitution, beyond the example of even those latter years? The pawn, the pawn, now a popular phrase, that brings more numerous and painful associations of distress than any other word in common use, save the crowbar and the workhouse. This ominous phrase, repeated in the petitions of every applicant for relief, points to those miscellaneous receptacles of misery, in which not only articles of comparative comfort, but those of absolute necessity for the protection of decency or life, are buried to the value of thousands, with scarcely a hope of redemption.

But, as this vortex of the pawn-office, swallowing up all the comforts of the people, is only an effect or indication, and not the chief cause of the squalid wretchedness that overspreads the country, it becomes the duty of a statesman to inquire what is the source to which it is to be traced, in order to ascertain and apply a seasonable remedy. The inquiry can no longer be deferred with safety to the nation. Nor can any remedy, short of comprehensive measures settling the long-aggitated land question, be effectual in healing or even in mitigating to any considerable degree the public evils. It is high time for the advisers of the crown to take counsel to rescue Ireland from ruin, by providing for the safety of its people, and of that people there is no portion that requires their solicitude more than the landed proprietors themselves. It would have been their salvation that the land question had been placed on a just foundation ten years ago. Had the strong party that was then sent to Parliament, to advocate this measure, received the support of the administration in carrying it into law, instead of being diverted from its prosecution by seductive favors, and finally broken up, the Government would have spared the deep anxiety which the present condition of all the classes is calculated to inspire.

It is difficult to convince them of a truth which the experience of each successive year confirms, that the interests of the landlords and tenants are so interwoven that the destruction of the latter must likewise involve the former in their ruin. If the proprietors persist in the old and hostile policy of sweeping the inhabitants from the land, let them recollect that it was never tried without recoiling on themselves. Let them contrast the depressed state of the Protestant proprietors, when the Catholics could not hold the tenure of land, with the sudden flow of prosperity by which they were raised at the close of the last century, when the right of tenure and a stimulus to industry were restored to the down-trodden mass of the people; and the contrast must impress them with the conviction that their interests are reciprocal. You will not find a period in Irish history in which the encouragement of agriculture, and the consequent encouragement of the tenant class, whose brave arms cultivated the soil, did not go hand in hand with the prosperity of the country.

Ireland affords no exception to the established maxim that agriculture is in every state the securest basis of the public weal. On the contrary, it forcibly illustrates the truth of that maxim. Yet, as if to gainsay it, a pernicious fallacy has been lately industriously propagated, that the moisture of our climate is unfavorable to agricultural prosperity. The average fall of rain in latter times will scarcely be found to exceed that which, from the earliest ages, gave to the country the name of the "Green Island." Whether those who are appointed to watch the

hydrometers in different localities have been making any recent calculations from the excessive fall of rain, to sustain the theory of Ireland's being destined exclusively for cattle breeding, I have not learned. But should a registry on that interesting subject be published, marking the averages between recent and former floods, I have no doubt but it will be as effectual in upsetting the delusive and injurious theories about cattle feeding, as are the important publications of the Registrar General regarding the growth of corn and cattle in Ireland.

Having as yet no data to justify the conclusion of any national change of climate injurious to husbandry, I am ready to admit that there have been serious artificial changes through which this element of moisture, which might be useful by proper management, has been rendered destructive to agriculture. Thus, instead of securing an outlay of labour and capital on the land by beneficial leases of a certain duration of tenure in connection with the elective franchise, the landlords now refuse to give such encouragement to their tenants, who, in their turn, are discouraged from bestowing on the land that industry and care which would abate the inconveniences of its excessive moisture and increase its productiveness. During the wars of the First Napoleon, or the prevalence of the corn laws subsequently, there was little heard of the parrot cry of atmospheric influences resulting from the moisture of our climate, now supposed to be so fatal to the growth of corn. The swamps and marshes were then cleared by the number and vigour of the hands employed in the cultivation of the small farms, and Ireland exported such a quantity of grain that it was considered the granary of England. Two years before the famine, the export of wheat and wheat flour was more than six times the amount of a similar export last year, and even during the famine years, Ireland exported food to the amount of several millions—a remarkable fact, which, whilst it speaks but little for the humanity of the Government, is standing evidence both of the continued fertility of the soil and the strenuous industry of the people. Of late, however, this productiveness has so fallen off that food is now imported to an enormous amount, causing such a drain on the country as to deprive the middle classes of means to give employment to the poorer population.

Such is the deplorable state of Ireland at this moment, with less of resources than at any former period, with the exception of '47, and still sinking deeper in helpless destitution, so that the prospect of the coming spring and summer cannot be contemplated without dismay. Your lordship must, at length, be put in possession of the real posture of our affairs, nor be suffered to labour under further misapprehension. No amount of individual or aggregate charities can arrest the downward tendency of the country, or appease the importunities of the hungry, become already so clamorous for relief. They are not gratuitous mendicants. They would prefer earning their bread with the sweat of their brow in the bosom of their families to being the recipients of eleemosynary bounty, or paralyzed by the demoralizing indolence of a workhouse. Let it suffice that the cry of Irish distress was disregarded last year by the government—a cry which is now ascertained to have been too true, since the unrelieved destitution of the last is brought forward to swell the mass which this year brings with it, and forms by their accumulation an amount of misery with which no resources short of those of the United Kingdom can effectually cope. Ireland has been united to the Empire, and one of the most frequent arguments used to win her compliance was the assurance of sharing in the prosperity of England. That hope, if entertained by any, has not been realised nor has the promise been yet fulfilled; whether it ever can be fulfilled is a question on which different opinions can be entertained. But, at all events, as we have been deprived of our own, it is the duty of the incorporated legislatures of Great Britain and Ireland to convince the people of a sincere disposition to fill its place, and to adopt, at the coming session of parliament, such measures for the relief of the destitution in Ireland as it would not fail to adopt, if required for similar destitution in England.

I have the honor to be, your lordship's faithful servant,

† JOHN, Archbishop of Tuam.

ADDRESS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN IRELAND. (a)

Forced, last spring, by the deep and general distress which then prevailed in most of the western and in some of the south-western districts in Ireland, we ventured to lay before you, in an address from this Committee, a brief outline of the sad condition of the poor in those localities. That appeal was generously responded to by munificent subscriptions contributed by benevolent persons at home, and also in England, France, Rome, Belgium, Canada, the United States, and Australia. Grateful for those seasonable subscriptions, which amounted to £8,000, of which £6,000 was allocated by this Committee—upwards of five times that sum having been allocated by local parties engaged in the same humane duty—we regret that stern necessity again compels us to submit to you the following statement of facts, quoted from official returns, evidencing the present deplorable position and prospects of the poorer classes in Ireland.

Unchecked by the disturbed state of America—the favorite resort of the Irish exile—emigration increased (b) last year to the extent, in the aggregate, of 64,314 persons, or 16 per cent. above that for 1861, the emigrants being chiefly of an age and a class whose removal diminished the ranks of industrial production, and, at the same time, threw a greater residue of the population upon a proportionably less effective means of support. The population thus diminished (c) and enfeebled, the diminution in the means of support, of the industrious and the poorer classes—in capital, in profits, and in wages—has also been very remarkable. In Agriculture, the staple industry of the kingdom, there was a material decrease last year, in both branches of produce. The report of the Registrar-General shows that a less breadth of land, to the extent of 138,841 acres was under cultivation in 1862 than in 1861 (d), and that the decrease in the number of live stock represents, at an admittedly low estimate, £1,564,710 (e). Having thus shown that population and agricultural production were largely on the increase last year, we turn in vain to any branch of industry, trade, or commerce, which would indicate a result less discouraging. The savings banks (f), the loan offices (g), the pawn offices (h)—querring tests of popular comfort or depression—the county courts (i)—where

ejunctions and civil bills, for small sums, are tried—the bankruptcy courts (j), personal and real property (k), the funded property (l), our ranks (m), our railways (n) our few branches of manufacture (o), our trade, our commerce, the condition, singly as well as cumulatively, of every industrial and mercantile interest in the country, indicates a depression such as had not been reached in Ireland since the close of the famine period. One important element, however, has considerably increased, and this is taxation; the imperial burdens imposed upon the industrial classes being inversely proportional to their ability to bear them (p).

Destitution, as tested by the number in receipt of Poor-law relief, in-door or out-door, is the only standard of acute distress that some of our statesmen recognise; yet, even under this most erroneous estimate, we obtain similar evidence of the lamentable increase of popular suffering. Pauperism, which, from 1850 to 1859, had been declining in extent, has from 1860 to 1862, been increasing in extent, and, at present, there are more persons in receipt of legal relief in Ireland, than there had been, at any one time, for the past seven years. From returns that have been furnished by the Committee of the Poor-law Commissioners, we find that while the number of persons in receipt of Poor-law relief, for the week ending 21st September last, was only 45,201 the number rapidly rose, although the season was unusually mild, until it attained 65,844 in the week ending 3rd instant. Thus, in about three months, we have an increase of forty-six per cent in the number of recipients of legal relief; and, following the usual law of increase, the maximum will not be reached until some time in March, when, we apprehend, there may be 90,000 persons, or even more, receiving Poor-law relief. The deep significance of these facts cannot be understood beyond our shores, unless in connexion with the following accurate testimony, borne by the Poor-law Commissioners themselves, in a report laid before Parliament, as to the deep abhorrence of some of the poor to enter the workhouse:—

'In localities,' says the Commissioners, 'where destitution prevailed, the unwillingness of some poor persons to avail themselves of this mode of relief has been so great, that they have sacrificed their own lives, or the lives of their children, to postponing acceptance too long, or by refusing such relief altogether.' (q)

The Poor-law, if administered to the extent of its provisions, could, no doubt, be made to afford a considerable mode of relief, in their own homes, to many of the destitute poor (r). Our appeal, however, is mainly on behalf of the yet unpauperised classes, the industrious and independent labourer and tradesman, and the tens of thousands of persons now out of employment, that we may be able to mitigate their present misery, and, by a little timely relief, save them from permanent pauperism. Composed, as the Committee is, of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, all the Municipal Council, several of the city magistrates, the clergy of all denominations, in the metropolis and suburbs, and all the medical men connected with dispensaries in the city, there is the amplest security that no feeling, save that of common benevolence, shall influence its operations; nor does the Committee ever allocate aid, without having first obtained full local information, upon which a just claim there-to is founded. The main object of the Central Committee is to encourage the formation and the efficient working of Local Committees, composed of persons of all creeds and parties, whose efforts they stimulate, by supplementing their contributions, as far as means permit, with grants in-aid. Preferring this simple statement of facts to any exciting appeal, the Committee implores the subscriptions and support of the humane, at home and abroad.

By order of the Committee, (Signed)

JOHN P. VEREKER, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Chairman of Committee, R. J. DEVITT, T.C., Hon. Sec.

Treasurers—Right Hon. John P. Vereker, Lord Mayor, His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, Laurence P. Knox, Esq., T.C., Peter Paul McSwiney, Esq., T.C. City Assembly Hall, Dublin, 15th Jan. 1863

(a) The title of the Committee, up to January, 1863, was 'The Mansion House Committee for the Relief of Distress in Ireland,' when, on changing its place of meeting to the City Assembly Hall, and also as a more precise indication of its National object and operation, it assumed the above designation of 'The Central Committee for the Relief of Distress in Ireland.'

(b) The emigration from Ireland, in the fifteen years, from 1846 to 1861, was 2,203,770 persons, or a population somewhat less than that of Portugal, about equal to that of Switzerland or Saxony, little less than that of Denmark or Holland, greatly exceeding that of Wurtemberg, Hanover, Baden, or Greece, and below the population of 16 only of the 54 Independent States into which Europe is now divided. The amount of emigration from Ireland, from 1st May, 1851, to 31st Dec., 1861 was—males, 526,755; females, 600,955; total, 1,127,710 persons.

(c) The following is a decennial summary of the population since 1841:—

Table with 4 columns: Year, Population, Decrease from 1841, Percentage Decrease from 1841. Rows for 1841, 1851, 1861.

(d) This decrease extended to wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and other staple crops. In 1847 there were 3,313,503 acres under cereal crops in Ireland; and in 1861, only 2,624,957 acres, the produce of the former being estimated by the Registrars General at 10,248,334 quarters, and of the latter at 9,018,008 quarters. The excess of cereal imports above exports, increasing every year, amounted in 1860 to 758,064 quarters, representing a national drain from Ireland of £3,295,053, in one year, for breadstuffs.

(e) The capital withdrawn from tillage, and invested in cattle, rose from the year 1847 to 1859, since which, to 1862, there has been a decrease in the number of live stock, estimated as equivalent to £4,163,934, which also indicates the vast decrease, for same period, in green crops, amounting to about 4,000,000 tons.

(f) In 1845 there were 96,422 depositors, and a savings of £2,921,581, whilst, in 1860, there were only 69,294 depositors, and an aggregate savings of £2,143,082. In 1861 there was received £551,394, against £600,407, paid.

(g) The amount of fines inflicted for irregularity of payment has been increasing, though the capital lent, as well as the profit, has been rapidly diminishing the last few years, and the amount of fines for each of the past two years has not been equalled since the famine year, 1847.

(h) The number of tickets, and the aggregate amount lent, in all the Irish pawn-offices has been increasing within the last few years. These two items stood, in 1860, in somewhat the same position that they did in 1846, when the population was more than 50 per cent. greater.

(i) The vast increase of business in these courts, chiefly in ejectments and civil bills, has been such as to render many of the chairmen unable to hear all the cases within the time prescribed for the session.

(j) The number of bankruptcies in 1853 was 230; in 1861, 414; while the number in 1862 was still greater.

(k) The total personal and real property, upon which probate or administration duty, or legacy or succession duties were paid, in Ireland, in the three years, ending 31st March, 1861, shows a decrease of nearly 10 per cent.

(l) The amount of funded property held in Ireland has decreased more than £4,000,000 since 1858.

(m) The Irish bank note circulation decreased £670,966 from the year 1859 to 1861, while that for 1862 shows a further reduction, bringing the circulation lower than has been since 1854.

(n) In one year only, since 1851, have the total

average receipts, per mile, upon Irish railways, been so low as last year, owing to the depressed state of the country. The whole of the paid-up capital of the Irish railways is about £13,000,000, but a considerable portion of the shareholders are English.

(o) The province of Ulster, the seat of our chief manufactures, is now suffering severely, from the effects of the American civil war. The heretofore flourishing county of Armagh, where an extensive linen manufacture was carried on, exhibited the greatest relative increase of pauperism, 46 per cent. in Feb, 1862, compared with Feb, 1861. Referring to this, the Poor Law Commissioners justly observe in their last report:—'In some parts of Ireland the causes of distress have been cumulative for two or three years, tending to an exhaustion of resources; and in other districts trade is suffering much from the continuance of the civil war in America. After Connaught, the province of Ulster, has suffered most in degree; and the county Armagh, the seat of an extensive linen manufacture, by hand-loom, shows the largest per centage of increased pauperism in Ireland, amounting to no less than 45 per cent.'

Table with 3 columns: Year, Ireland, Great Britain. Rows for 1853, 1862. Net Payment into Exchequer.

The increase, in nine years, of British taxation was 294, and of Irish taxation 844 per cent, or nearly three-fold greater. Great Britain paid the above sum, in 1862, upon a total assessed income of £278,599,525, or a poundage rate of 4s 6d; whilst Ireland, upon an assessed income of £22,746,342, paid 6s. in the £1, or one-third more. Neither the expense of collection nor large amount of revenue paid in England for articles consumed in Ireland is included in the above statement. Local taxation has also increased in Ireland, both county rates and poor rates, the latter by more than 25 per cent., within the past three years.

(p) The Irish Census Commissioners for 1851 report that, in the ten years, 1841-51, there occurred 21,770 deaths from starvation alone, apart from 292,573 deaths from extraordinary causes—fever, cholera, and dysentery—a large portion of which must have been owing to the influences above stated by the Poor Law Commissioners.

(r) Of the 65,844 persons, who were in receipt of poor relief in Ireland, on the 3rd instant, only 5,812, or one in eleven, got out-door relief, whereas, in England, in ordinary years, out-door relief is given to six persons for one who in-door relief is given, whilst, in cases like the Lancashire distress, the proportion is many times greater.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE REV. THOMAS WARREN.—January, 8, about three o'clock, the soul of the Rev. Thomas Warren, C.C., Wexford, after a short but severe illness from violent fever, winged its way on the road to eternal bliss. The town in its deep mourning over the loss of the good priest, the sincere friend of the poor and the delight of the children of the poor. In season and out of season, with a constitution scarcely equal to the onerous duties of the ministry, he was to be found pouring the balm of consolation at the bedside of the poor, or administering the Sacraments in the house of God. His short life may, indeed, be truly said to be one of labor and of love, and he had only reached to some four or five and thirty years.—Morning News.

His Grace the Primate has promoted the Rev. Jas Campbell first curate of the parish of Armagh to the parish of Clogher, county Louth.

On Monday night, the 12th ult., intelligence arrived in Dundalk of the death of Rev. John Leady, C.C. Father Leady had been residing in this town for the three years preceding his death, and during that time, by his dignified conduct and truly Christian example, endeared himself to all who came in contact with him, either as a minister of God or as an acquaintance in the social circle.—Dundalk Examiner.

KILBARRY (Co. MEATH), Jan. 19.—Through the exertions of the Rev. R. J. Keha, C.C., of this parish a vast amount of charity has been dispensed in the district. The committee appointed at a late meeting, of which the worthy clergyman named is the honorary secretary, have met during the week, and set no less than sixty poor men to work, who will thus be enabled, during the remainder of this severe season, to secure an honorable means of livelihood for themselves and their children. Father Keha promises, from the liberal donations already received that, ere many days elapse, very few in the entire parish will be left without the means of earning their bread.

MULLINGAR, Jan. 18.—A meeting was held here today to adopt measures, at once, for the relief of the unemployed poor of this town, who are suffering very great privations. Notwithstanding the very depressed state of trade, the noble people of this place, who are ever ready to second any good movement for religion or country, contributed most liberally on the occasion.

At an adjourned meeting of the Maryborough Town Commissioners, held on yesterday (Friday), there were present—John Jacob, Esq., M.D., Chairman; Messrs James Vanston, Henry Atkinson, Edward Mulhail, Peter Byrne, and John Gaze. It was proposed by Mr. Gaze, seconded by Mr. Byrne, and resolved:—

'That in consequence of the present severe distress of the occupiers of the small farms a distress which is greater than at any period since the famine of 1846-7—there is little or no employment for the laboring classes, and that the latter are consequently approaching to a state of utter destitution, and that we, therefore, set a subscription on foot to enable them to pass over the present crisis, and that we call upon all the humane and charitable, especially those connected by property with the town and neighborhood, to aid in relieving them.'

Proposed by Mr. Gaze; seconded by Mr. Byrne, and resolved:—

'That the clergy of all denominations be solicited to appeal to the inhabitants for the purpose of obtaining those subscriptions, and to apply by letter to parties not thus accessible, the Commissioners undertaking to assist in the same.'

Proposed by Mr. Mulhail; seconded by Mr. Atkinson, and resolved:—

'That Mr. Craven be requested to act as a treasurer and secretary to the fund.'—Leinster Express.

We feel sure that if the nature and amount of the distress which is now pressing on the poorer classes in various parts of Ireland, could be fully brought to the knowledge of the public, nothing could check the impulse of charity which would at once send a large and weekly subvention to the Central Committee in Dublin.—London Tablet.

Authentic statements by persons of well-known name and recognised position, who speak of facts within their own knowledge, and witnessed by their own eyes, are of course, and must be, more effectual than general descriptions printed anonymously in local newspapers, and copied from one newspaper to another. But of these authentic statements there is no lack, and we trust the belief which they cannot fail to inspire in those who see them will call forth prompt and liberal aid.—Jb.

The Dublin Freeman's Journal has sent a special correspondent to the West of Ireland, whose letters prove the pressing need of large and generous help. The correspondent of the Freeman is especially instructed to understate rather than overstate the case, but no one can read his letters without the internal conviction that a case for a public effort of charity is established beyond all doubt.—Jb.

It is a lamentable fact that the country is in an exceedingly bad state, and little doing to improve it. Speaking generally, it may be said that from Askeaton to Newbridge, and thence to Ardagh, comparatively few occupiers have any provisions of their own. Imported meat, that is, pork, being now so cheap, those who heretofore profited by the rearing of swine, only sustain a loss at present, and the failure of the grain crops, altogether leaves agriculturalists minus money and property. It is to be feared starvation will follow. In truth, '47 had better prospects than '62 has left. It is gratifying, however, to know that some landlords (such as J. B. Lyons, Esq.) have taken the condition of the country into account, and made their tenants abatement. Indeed, there is no more liberal landlord than that gentleman, and to this I know his tenants warmly and gratefully testify.—Munster News.

The working men of Tralee have laid aside the black flag, which they have been parading as a symbol of their distress. The gentry have looked to their wants. But an unexpected relief has come in the way of employment. The Dominicans have an establishment in that town, and it appears they have got funds to build an abbey. Seeing the people in distress, Dr. Goodman, the Provincial, has determined to commence the erection of the structure at once, and so to afford employment to the operative classes.

Referring to the distress in Ireland, the Freeman's Journal says:—'The details given by our correspondents show that there is much pressure and much suffering. From all quarters of the country the accounts we daily receive confirm these views, and we have in the letter of the Attorney-General for Ireland, addressed to the Lord Mayor, enclosing £25 to the Central Relief Fund, the most conclusive evidence that this conviction has reached the highest quarters, and that as there is no longer doubt as to the reality of distress, there will be no longer any hesitancy in assisting to relieve it.'

It is possible that writers for the London Times may believe the statements they publish regarding the prosperous condition of Ireland; but the calm dispassionate statement of facts by the government officials of this country, must bring more conviction to the mind of any reasoning man than all the high-sounding double-headed evidence to the contrary, which the Thunderer of Priory House Square could publish in a month. The chairman of the county, at the quarter sessions held this week in Kilkish, is a much truer exponent of the condition of the farming classes of this county, than any well-fed London writer, who seeks to pander to the well-known prejudices of his countrymen. Our readers can judge the frightfully depressed, yet peaceable state of the country, not alone from the barrister's charge to the grand jury, but to the overwhelming fact of 593 un-deferred cases being heard, and 43 ejectments, arising from non-payment of rent, while the criminal calendar was almost nil. Decees have been taken out—but where is the property to seize on? The prospect of the present moment is about as gloomy as can be well conceived, for there is no employment, and the credit system is done up. Many farmers in the west of this county are unable to hold their land at any price. It is difficult to conjecture how vast numbers will be able to procure seed for the land. Delicacy for respectable gentle folk living in the neighborhood of Kilkree forbids us to make a more direct appeal than a passing allusion to the squalid misery they are suffering—farmers are equally distressed. The charitably disposed can find them out easily in Kilkish and Kilkree—parties who loathe the workhouse and are ashamed to beg.—Care Advertiser.

Irish Distress.—We do not wonder that out of Ireland and even within it, an indignation exists to credit reports of Irish distress. By a singular reversal of mental habits, the prosperity of this country has become a fixed article of English belief. The popular imagination delights in contrasts and extremes. Having long pictured Ireland as the Lazarus lying at the gate of its rich neighbour, fed on the crumbs from his table and tended only by the dogs which might lick his sores, the English are pleased now to fancy it as a Diva clothed in purple and fine linen and facing sumptuously every day. The land which was conceived as wildly barren from Dan to Beersheba, is now imagined as flowing with milk and honey. During the last ten or twelve years 'Irish progress' and 'Irish prosperity' have been so incessantly insisted on—in parliament and through the press, these phrases have been so unweariedly dinned into the public ear—that it would have seemed a gratuitous scepticism to question their correspondence with reality. Men forgot however, that the prosperity of which they heard so much was relative to a precarious condition of hardship and suffering almost without parallel in modern history; that the 'rapid progress' of which the signs were recounted was progress from a starting-point far behind that of other nations; that Ireland had much lost ground to recover, long arrears to make up; and that, at best, its recent advance has but placed her on a level with other nations, in which still the miserable and destitute classes, and those who stand on the verge of misery and destitution to be precipitated over it by the slightest impulse, are counted by thousands and tens of thousands in every great town and extensive district.—Northern Whig.

Wm. Bunscombe, who died in the early part of January, aged 103 years, was born in the county Dublin, in July 1760. At an early age he entered the royal navy, in which he served till 1820, when he was pensioned off. He engaged in the series of naval engagements of his time, having served under Rodney, Howe, and Nelson. Within a few days of his death he might be seen walking the streets of Skibbereen, without a stick, with a steady and upright form, and conversing cheerfully with his friends about 'the wooden walls of old England.—Skibbereen Eagle.

An important fishery meeting was held a few days since (says the Dublin News of the 20th ult.) at Piltown, county Kilkenny. The meeting was held with reference to the new Fishery Bill about to be introduced into Parliament by Mr. Mahon, M.P. A great number of the local gentry were present, and some four or five hundred fishermen, who seemed to take a deep interest in the proceedings. The meeting was addressed at great length by Mr. Blake, M.P., who insisted that stake nets, fixed engines, &c., in rivers, were destructive to the growth of salmon, and ought to be abolished by a legislative act. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Philip Maguire, J.P.; Mr. Thomas Finneil; Mr. Joseph Fisher (Waterford Mail); Mr. Carr, Rev. Mr. Gregory, Dr. Martin, Portlaoigh, Mr. Joseph Greene, Mr. T. Butler, Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, Mr. Lysaght, Mr. William Malcomson, and by the second chairman, the Earl of Beaufort, who declared, amid loud applause, that he was totally opposed to the fixed engines complained of, and would support any measure introduced for their abolition.

Mr. Whiteside delivered a lecture to the Young Men's Christian Association in Dublin on Monday, on the Irish Parliament, the restoration of which, however, he neither advocated nor suggested, and his history of which may therefore be taken as a tribute paid to the account of his own eloquence. The Irish Times, eulogising the orator, goes so far as to say that of that which should be his object, and would be a worthy one worthy of any Irishman of any rank or creed, the repeal of the legislative union, than to speak in the optimistic mood of periodical sittings of the British Parliament in the Irish metropolises.—Munster News.

A young man named Croke, from a place called Ballynally, in the county Tipperary, was arrested on Thursday, by Detective Kilduff, on board the Ballynally, outward bound steamer for New York, to which place he intended proceeding. The cause of his being arrested was that he had not answered a summons to the Ballynally Sessions last Friday, for having committed a very serious assault on a person living in his neighbourhood. He was sent off to Tipperary.