

The princess entered. "Your highness best knows," said Julius, "how far I am from desiring the approval of my sovereign in this matter. I should ask the lady of Haldenbach in marriage, so that she may bear the name of Wildeck, even before we marry."

"You are just what I expected," replied the noble princess, "and a beam of pure delight shone from her maidenly eye upon the young knight. The prince is informed of all, and he leaves the decision to you. I have written also to Rosaura's aunt. The hour of the dreadful malady has gone by. Hold yourself ready, therefore, to set out at the hour of nine to-morrow morning. My chamberlain has orders to call for an accompany you; and I will myself be witness to the marriage-rite."

A gracious nod dismissed him. Overjoyed in his pure soul, Julius hastened to arrange everything for the solemn occasion. In the mild glimmer of the evening hour Julius halted next day before Rosaura's castle. The chamberlain entered, in order to prepare all for the reception of the solemn bridegroom. Julius dismounted slowly from his carriage. Already he perceived in the distance the six dapple greys of the lady Alwina's carriage trotting through the valley. He knew not whether he should speak to Rosaura before the arrival of the princess; he scarcely dared to think of it.

Then the chamberlain motioned to him to come within the gate, and silently pointed to the castle chapel which stood close by, under a shade of lime-trees. The aunt of the bride was within, quite alone. With deep emotion the venerable lady took hold of the young man's hand, saying, "You bring hither a noble sacrifice, Count Wildeck, if you persevere in your resolution. You doubtless feel that it is only in virtue of marriage that it is in your power to bestow upon your spouse the noble name of Wildeck, and thereby provide for her honor and peace."

"Oh! is not this beyond measure enough?" whispered the glowing Julius. "Here I solemnly promise to you to perform whatever you may impose upon me, and, next to God, to keep Rosaura purely and faithfully before my eyes, even in the hour of death."

In sweet sorrow he knelt down before her. The pious widow breathed a holy kiss on his forehead, and disappeared.

Presently Rosaura entered, pale and beautiful as a saintly alabaster image, wearing a garland of myrtle in her hair, accompanied on one side by the princess, and on the other by her venerable nurse.

The holy abbot pronounced the marriage-blessing over the wonderful pair, according to the prescribed ritual, visibly moved in all the features of his aged venerable countenance; for he had been made aware of all that had happened here.

Scarcely audible, but in a silvery, pure, and firm tone, the "Yes" flew over Rosaura's lips. And now, as Julius turned, with a reverential greeting, towards the door, she beckoned him once more back: "Thou art an angel, Julius," whispered she, and sank weeping into his arms. Then she hid herself in the bosom of the princess, and more blessed, and yet more agitated with sorrowful emotion, than ever was bridegroom before, Julius hastened home through the mist of a calm autumnal night.

(To be Continued.)

LETTER FROM HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

St. Jarlath's, Tuam, Feb. 18th, 1862. My Lord—The obstinate indifference of the Government officials to the increasing destitution of the people, combined with their own helpless condition resulting from the general subservience of their representatives, left but little room for hope from the recent assembling of the Parliament. Still it could not be imagined that distress so severe, so extensive, and so incontestable, would be entirely overlooked by Her Majesty's Ministers. It was, indeed, naturally expected that the Royal grief would receive the assurance of a dutiful condolence; but it was expected, too, from the reciprocal relations between the Sovereign and the subject, that whilst the sorrows of the people were respectfully commiserated, the sufferings of the people, for whose welfare monarchs reign, and ministers are employed to give council, should not on the important occasion be so cruelly unheeded. There was, indeed, a passing allusion to distress existing somewhere; but it was too vague to be identified with the appalling misery existing in Ireland, and too slight to bring out an echo from those who are trained to respond to the least significant sound of the Royal, or rather Ministerial, manifesto. And that the passage was not intended for Ireland is pretty clearly proved by the observation which the member for Dungarvan, commenting on the speech from the throne, drew forth from the Irish Secretary. Seldom has the utter prostration of the Irish patriots in that house been so sadly exhibited, as in those first days of the Session. And since the triumphs of the tricolor that dissolved the Irish party ten years ago, never were its fatal effects on Irish interests so signally illustrated, as in the almost solitary and unassisted position of the honorable member for Dungarvan. It was not thus that he or any Irish member should have stood after the open and magnificent meeting held then in the Rotunda, each one supported by fifty of his fellow-members, and resolved by as many votes to convince the stubborn incredulity of the most unbelieving Minister of the palpable injustice with which Catholic Ireland continued to be treated. It was said by one of the Hutchinsons that instead of laboring to persuade the Minister by his eloquence, he adopted the more summary method of showing him nine figures expressive of the nine votes which were at his command in any doubtful debate. The argument was so forcible that it convinced the Prime Minister of the superior capacity and fitness of every member of the family for lucrative situations. It is high time that the Irish members should try once more what virtue there is in their combined vote. Surely it must be as efficient in the cause of the country and its people as in upholding oppression and corruption. Had the Irish members—I mean those who still affect to be popular members—held on the eye of Parliament, a public meeting such as the one I have alluded to, from which the light of truth and the spirit of Christian sympathy for the famishing people would be sent forth in all directions, instead of meeting in holes and corners, or not meeting at all, far different would have been the result of the eloquent member's appeal. And even now, at the eleventh hour, could he not awaken the Irish representatives from their slumber, and persuade them all to cast away the Ministerial collars, which they have so ignominiously put on themselves, and so injuriously to several sacred interests, been wearing for the last ten years, it would not still be too late to save the Irish people from starvation, and the Pope from a second expulsion from the centre of his temporal and spiritual

dominion. Let the honorable member only thus in rise into the hearts a feeling of their responsibility to the constituents who returned them at such a sacrifice, and the British Secretary will begin to see this country through a different medium, he will cease to be like so many others, the flippant apostle of exterminating landlords, and instead of trifling with the starvation of God's creatures, as if it were a phantom, the fear of God's justice and the voice of His will making a willing convert to its formidable reality.

Now, what are the grounds on which your Government functionaries persist in denying the depths of the people's suffering, and impeaching the combined testimony of all classes to its existence, as if they conspired to propagate a common delusion? None else, but that the workhouses are not filled, and that there is still room for more. This argument would be assuredly conclusive if it were certain that all suffering the pangs of hunger would enter them at once rather than be tortured for days and months with an inadequate supply of food amounting to slow famine. This, however, so far from being the case, it is most certain that of those who are already feeling the privation of food, and revealing it, thro' their emaciated countenances, all the workhouses in the famishing districts could not, however ample their capacity, contain half the number. This latter fact is as much beyond the reach of contradiction as the other, that the workhouse are not full. And, if so, what becomes of the boasted contradiction of the distress, founded on the remark that there is room yet in the workhouses? It proves nothing, but that your remedy is a complete failure, and that you have not adopted the proper method of relieving, or what would be better, of preventing, such famishing destitution. As it is then beyond doubt that the famine is already raging in extensive localities, notwithstanding the official fastidiousness to use the proper phrase—as if famine could not exist unless it swept a whole country—it is surely worth while to enquire why the workhouses are not filled, and why remain un-filled, though death from hunger and cold is already choking the churchyards. As the Irish people cannot be reconciled to the workhouse, the next question that arises is—Whether it is good policy or beneficial to the interests of the State to consign in seasons of transient scarcity, virtuous and industrious small farmers to the sad alternatives of death, or exile, or perpetual incarceration? To look the question in the face, to one or other of those dooms, the workhouses in Ireland in the present state of the law, are inexorably associated. Your Lordship will not consider that those are inviting associations. The workhouse system still bears the taint of the infidelity, the inhumanity, and the immorality of the origin from which they spring. You may reform and re-form their laws and regulations; there is a viciousness in their constitution which cannot be eradicated, and like those who are broken down by inveterate bad habits, all that can be done by the physicians of the one, and the legislators of the other, is to be perpetually shifting the disease from one part of the system until it breaks out in another with still more destructive virulence.

The experience of fifteen years affords a proof that the workhouse is neither a fair test, nor a proper remedy for destitution. It has not been so in England. Her favored children have had out-door relief, those of Ireland shall have none, unless they enter the prison house, and yet because the privilege of out-door relief multiplies its recipients in England, and because its refusal reduces them in Ireland, our prosperity-mongers, with a candour and a logic worthy of such a cause, have been arguing in favour of the superior wealth and affluence of the latter country! I am inclined to think that neither the Government nor the Parliament have leisure to consider the melancholy consequences of insisting rigorously on the workhouse test, rather than relieve destitution by any other remedy. Who is there in any grade of society laboring under temporary difficulties soon to pass over, would not deem it most cruel, if he were to be relieved solely on condition that the surrender of his house and farm, the breaking up of his establishment, the dispersion of his family, and the complete wreck of all those home affections, that have ever formed, and shall continue to form, the strongest support of every well regulated society?—I wonder that those who really cherish such feelings cannot sympathise with the humble farmer to whom the porch of the workhouse becomes a bridge of sighs and tears—taking an eternal farewell of his cottage and all its holy endearments, and loosened for ever from the secure anchorage of social life. But passing over for a moment this Christian view of the subject, allow me to ask, is it sound policy on any social principle which should govern a statesman to refuse relief to the robust young farmers, unless they consent to be immured within the walls of a workhouse? What—at the very dawn of the spring, whilst the land is yet a waste—bind up and paralyse in idleness the brawny arms and sinewy hands that can effectually work the soil and extend its cultivation! Instead, then, of imprisoning labour and industry, you find that it is far more beneficial policy not only to free them from restraint, but to stimulate them by just remuneration. It cannot be denied that whilst the present famine is partly the result of a bad season, it is chiefly attributable to the state of the laws which are crushing every agricultural enterprise. Try, then, a very simple remedy. I do not advise you for the present to waste the time of the parliament with long and angry debates about the rights of property, by preparing measures which landlords might appear coercive. Leave them free; only restore the connection between the franchise and the secure tenure of land as it was first formed. Bring in a bill that no one be entitled to vote at elections unless he has a lease of some lives or years. You will find that an impulse will be given to agriculture which will be equally beneficial to both. Instead of the tenant folding his arms in fear of a notice to quit, or of being subjected to a yearly increase of rent if he enhances its value, he will then apply himself with increased energy to his cultivation. The fields that are now flooded with stagnant rains would be cleared, the fences that have fallen neglect would be raised, and the people who had not have to look to the workhouse as their last refuge would feel a lively interest in improving their farms, thus secured on equitable terms, and affording them the prospect of not being a public burden in their old age.

The Irish Secretary is reported to be exceedingly distressed that this continual Irish misery is as continually paraded throughout Europe and America. It would afford some hopes of its abatement if similar feelings were shared by Her Majesty's Government; and, no doubt, it is a just source of distressing feelings to both those who inflict and to those who are doomed to endure it, and I will add, of common humiliation to us all. To parade imaginary oppression, few in this age could venture, and, if they did the means of detecting such imposture are now too patent to fail. The Irish Secretary then need not apprehend that the nations of Europe or America will be deluded by the reports of Irish destitution, which has no existence. It is painful, no doubt, to be parading our periodical famines; but the next painful thing would be if, from a false delicacy of parading it, the people should be left to die. It would, no doubt, be another painful feature, in this Irish famine, that it was left unrelieved and unaided by its near neighbour, the wealthiest nation upon earth. And perhaps the most painful of all would be the knowledge of the immediate juxtaposition of a country so plethoric in its wealth, with a people so attenuated in its misery. Nor are these the representations of agitators and demagogues. Whatever opinion may be formed of the people of the United States, your lordship will not accuse those of Canada of any disaffection to Her Majesty's Government. They have lately—all orders of the Hierarchy and people—come forward to express their fidelity to the British Government, and their firm determination to defend their country against all hostile invasion. To behold the salutary fruits of justice, however tardy,

to a people, however long and cruelly oppressed. The unworthy conduct of the people of Canada has earned the grateful recognition of Her Majesty's Government. Your lordship recollects the mutual relations of both some twenty years ago, and from that recollection will I trust draw wise lessons for the future good government of Ireland. That noble people have expressed their sympathy for the sufferings of Ireland, and whilst the organs of that Government to which they are faithful have been denying the existence of the famine in Ireland, the Clergy and people of Canada have sent their munificent contributions for the relief of the famishing. It is a refreshing spectacle in such times—that of the Hierarchy and people of Canada. With a just appreciation of the benefits which they derive from the national institutions given them by the Government, they hesitate not to complain of its injustice to Ireland, and whilst they rejoice that to them is always shown the fair side of the British Constitution, they lament that to Ireland it is the reverse, exhibiting, like the capricious luminary of the night, its dark phases in a different region of the heavens.

I have the honor to be, your lordship's very obedient servant,
JOHN, Archbishop of Tuam.

ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES.

How, it has been asked, is the connexion between England and her Colonies to be defended for the future? The overtaxed population of the old country can never continue to support the charge of colonial garrisons, or undertake the protection of remote settlements against all possible enemies. The obligation will be not only overwhelming, but without recompense or consideration. Time was when we not only defended our colonies, but ruled them too. We appointed their officers, we dictated their laws, we framed their tariffs, and we poured our criminal population on to their shores. If, therefore, the Imperial property had its duties, it had its rights also. The arrangement might be based on mistaken principles, but still there was a seeming fairness about it. It was a bargain in which profit and loss were shared, to all appearance, by both sides. The Colonies relied on us to fight their battles for them, and we relied on them for exclusive custom and other services, social as well as commercial.

One-half, however, of this bargain has now been well-nigh cancelled. The Colonies have vindicated the rights of adolescence by demanding self-government, and they have even carried the principles of self-government to excess. The consequence is, that they look to their own interests, and pay no great heed to ours. They refuse to be contaminated by our convicts; they tax our manufacturers; and they do, in short, apparently little more for us than is done in time of peace by independent nations. This part of the argument was fully established at the Australian dinner by the confessions of the Colonial Minister himself. The Duke of Newcastle observed that he could do nothing by way of dictation or order, that the old "rule" of the Mother Country was gone, that he was liable to be a passive witness of legislation which he could not approve, and, by way of a climax, that if any Colony wished to separate from us and set up for itself, it could certainly do so. We should never think of maintaining the integrity of the Empire, as the Americans are doing, by force of arms. The day had passed for such assertions of sovereignty, and the Minister frankly added that he hoped it might never return. There can be no question, therefore, about the dissolution of the old partnership. If Australia takes our emigrants, it is because population is a source of strength to her; if she sends us her gold, it is because she has no better market for it. As a Colony, it cannot be said that she pays the Mother Country much tribute, either in one kind of coin or another.

But how stands the account on the other side?—Not quite so advantageous, it must be confessed. Lord Clarence Paget took credit at the banquet for the "ample precautions" taken by the Admiralty for "the defence of our magnificent dependencies" during the American crisis, and, though the assurance was gratifying in itself, and naturally elicited the cheers of the meeting, it is too probable that we shall discern the effects of this solicitude in the figures of the forthcoming Estimates. As to what the recent defence of Canada cost us, that will be remembered, was the text of the whole controversy. So, if we have to spend millions for a Colony, while the Colony sacrifices nothing for us, how is the bargain to be justified? We answer, first, by the gradual assimilation of the conditions. That work is now going on. The Colonies are comprehending the duties of self-defence, and the Secretary of the Admiralty recommended on this very occasion that the Australians, "from their ample maritime resources," should establish a naval reserve for the defence of their own coasts. If, in short, things go on in their present course, it may be confidently assumed that the lapse of a few more years will see the obligations of the Mother Country brought pretty nearly to the level of those of the colony.

Here, however, arises what is considered the finishing question of all. If all the obligations of the colonists on one side and the Mother Country, on the other are thus to be successively cancelled, what remains of the connexion itself? If Canada and Australia do nothing for us and we do nothing for them, why not recognize the fact at once, and acknowledge that the whole system has tumbled to pieces? If the dependency is released from all dependence, and we from all liability, what are the relations still subsisting between us? To these inquiries also an answer was returned at the Australian Banquet. The Colonial Minister explained how real and intimate a connection might subsist between England and her Colonies without absolute authority on the one side or absolute subordination on the other. The Australians govern themselves; but, though they receive no orders, they willingly receive advice. By prudence, by tact, and by patience a Minister can do as much as in old days was done by dictation and command. Lord Stanley followed with a similar statement, and remarked that the representative of the Crown in the Colony could always exercise, if qualified for his office, a judicious and temperate control. If no peculiar interests are created between Colonists and Imperialists, there must always be those interests at least which lie between any two countries, and these can be the more readily cultivated by the aid of a mutual affection. This affection is not a mere idea; it is a strong reality. The Duke of Newcastle declared that from none of the numerous dependencies of Great Britain did there now arise "a single word of serious complaint, or a murmur of disloyalty," and that, "not because disloyalty was suppressed, but because it nowhere existed." Left to themselves, as we leave them, the Colonies are animated by a sense of loyalty which in Canada, it was said, "amounted to a passion."—Would that passion subsided if material interests were withdrawn from the question? Would Canada for instance have been less loyal if she had been less dependent upon us for protection? We do not think so. As it was, the Canadians had a hard share of the bargain, for, though they looked to England for troops, and their homes must have borne the actual shock of war: For the future they will be better prepared, and we shall be under lighter obligations, but we do not expect that the change will affect their loyalty. The truth is that such Colonies as ours, where not alienated by misrule, entertain an affection for the Mother Country which it would not be very difficult to analyze. They look with pride not only to their descent, but to their actual affiliation. They glory in their connexion with an old home and a great Power. They cheerfully defer to councils discreetly given; and it was observed by the Duke of Newcastle that the disposition on their part to listen to the Colonial Secretary was distinctly on the increase. They have no desire for se-

paration; but, on the contrary, are more anxious than ever that the connexion should be maintained. It is a connexion on such terms an advantage to be thrown away. We think not. If we can limit our Imperial liabilities as we are now doing, without offence to the colonists, and if they for all their rights of self-government, are anxious to receive some political impulse at our hands, is not such an alliance both a substantial and a desirable one? To us it appears, not that the day has come for repudiating our Colonies, but that the time is indisposably arriving when the Colonies and the Mother Country will be linked together by a new connexion. It is no slight thing to have attached all our Colonies to us so closely and completely as we have done, and we have no fear that, when they have accustomed themselves to the duties of self-defence, they will be any the more ready to discard a connexion which they look so fondly at present.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND—IS IT REAL, OR ONLY IMAGINARY?

I thought it my duty to avail myself of the earliest opportunity of which the forms of the house admitted, to call attention to the fact, that very great and general distress prevailed in Ireland, such as demanded the active interposition of government, and the serious consideration of parliament. A brief passage in the speech afforded me the desired opportunity—indeed, rendered it imperative that I should say something in refutation of its consolatory assurance, that "the general condition of the country was sound and satisfactory." Reserving to myself the right of formally bringing the subject before the house, I made a general statement in denial of this assurance; and I gave one instance, and that a very striking one, of the condition to which the very indifferent harvest of 1860 and the disastrous harvest of 1861 had reduced the great bulk of the population. The appeal made by the Very Rev. Mr. O'Regan, P.P. of Kanturk, to the board of guardians of that union, not more than a week previously, was surely a striking instance of "appalling destitution," inasmuch as it shewed that more than half the population of that recently flourishing town, the centre of an admittedly rich and thriving district, were considered fit subjects for the timely aid of the relief committee—and that, too, after a searching inquiry as to their real condition, I asserted, what I believe to be the fact, that the case of Kanturk was that of many towns in the South of Ireland. I could, with truth, have said, that it was the same in many towns in every province of Ireland. I, however, confined myself to the statement that the harvest was one of the worst which we have had since the famine years, and that, as a consequence, trade languished, employment was scarce, and misery and distress were daily on the increase. I did not ask for alms for my countrymen; but I did look for such assistance as a wise and prudent government ought to afford in a time of great pressure on the resources of the people—assistance, in the shape of well secured loans of public money, to such works as would afford extensive employment, and while preserving the labouring population from the degradation of the workhouse, relieve the industrious taxpayers of the country from the fearful burden of their support in unproductive idleness. Loans to railways, I thought, would afford one admirable means of usefully employing the people in many districts of the country, and thus diminishing the number of destitute. And anticipating the ready official reply, which may now be expected to every appeal addressed to the Irish government, I asserted that which I know to be the fact, and to which I am convinced I shall have the assent of the vast majority of those who know anything of the feeling of the Irish poor—namely, that, inasmuch as the humbler classes in Ireland abhorred the notion of looking for or accepting workhouse relief, and as they were willing to endure the direst privation rather than seek that last of asylums, the number of poor persons in the workhouses of Ireland formed no safe or accurate test of the real condition of the country and its people. I could not help alluding to the strange incredulity with which the Irish Government have hitherto treated every statement as to the existence of such distress as would entitle the country to a claim on their practical sympathy and useful intervention. With his rambling from subject to subject, his frequent self-contradictions, and his angry allusion to matters that he thought it wise to voluntarily introduce, I have nothing to do. If, in one sentence, he combined a happy sneer at the misery of Ireland and the embarrassing and lamentable difficulties of a friendly power, the merit is entirely his own. I am in no wise responsible for the bad taste of the Irish Secretary; I am alone concerned with the statements which he makes in his official character, and in the name of the Irish Government. To a few of these statements I would respectfully and earnestly call the attention of those who may happen to read my words; and I do so with no idle purpose, but in order to elicit such information from various districts as may enable me to speak on an early occasion as to the actual condition of the country at the present moment. I quote these passages from the speech of the Irish Secretary, as reported in the Times, which passages, in one form or other, give a general denial to the existence of severe or wide-spread distress.—The passages are as follow:—

"I believe that his mind is not closed to conviction, and, were there now an opportunity, that he would accept the facts which I could adduce, in complete refutation of the statements he has made. At all events, it is certain that there is a superabundance of breadstuffs in all parts of Ireland, and I am told, on competent authority, that there are funds and money adequate for the purpose of purchasing food. The honorable gentleman has referred to statements made by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and also by myself, as tending to mislead the country. Of course, I cannot venture to enter into details, but we have received from almost all parts of Ireland petitions setting forth the extreme destitution of those localities; but, on the other hand, we have received in almost every case a contrary statement, declaring that the cry of famine has been exaggerated, that there are abundance of breadstuffs for the relief of the people, and that the contrary statements made in each instance to the government were in reality without foundation."

I may remark that I never stated that there was not a large supply of breadstuffs in the country; but I now express my deliberate belief that, notwithstanding the "competent authority" relied on by our Secretary, there are not "funds and money adequate for the purpose of purchasing food"—speaking, as I do, for the small farmers, and the working classes generally. I should be delighted that Sir Robert Peel were right, and that all who differed from him were in error, on that point; but I regret to say I cannot delude myself with such a hope. An official statement has at all times great weight with parliament; still parliament is not an unfair tribunal to which to appeal; and if it see reason to reverse a hasty judgment, founded upon imperfect information, it will do so. It is now a matter of pressing necessity that the repeated assurances of the Irish government, that the poor law and the benevolence of individuals were fully adequate to the relief of any distress which existed in Ireland, should be refuted, if they can be refuted; and it is with the object of eliciting authentic information from reliable sources, as to the actual condition of the country and people, that I have written the above, and that I again request immediate attention to the statement so confidently made by the Chief Secretary.

JOHN FRANCIS MAQUIE.

House of Commons, Friday, Feb. 7th, 1862. STATE OF THE POOR.—The Most Rev. Dr. Gilooly, Bishop of Elphin, has addressed a Pastoral to the Faithful of his Diocese, in which his Lordship makes the following reference to the "progress of distress

and destitution. The potatoes, on which, unwholesome as they were, the poor have been hitherto able to subsist, are now, in a great number of families, entirely consumed, and in a few weeks more the poorer class of farmers and cottiers will have none remaining. What is then to become of those thousands of families, without food, without money, without credit for employment? How are they to live during the next five months of increasing hard frosts? Will their landlords supply them with food? Will they give them; in loan or by employment, wherewith to purchase it? Will the Government interpose to save the lives of our people, and to check the further depopulation of our country? Or shall there be no alternative for the poor householders between starvation and eviction? Must they pine away and die in their cabins, or give them up for the hated precincts of the workhouse. Are the inhuman provisions of the present poor law, with its alien administration, to be continued? Is this poor law system, which for the last twenty years has done so much to demoralise and depopulate our country, and whose horrors are more dreadful to our poor than starvation and death itself, the only aid and protection we are to expect from her Majesty's Ministers? These are questions full of deep and mournful interest; they reply rests with the Government and with the landlords. God grant it may be dictated with justice and humanity. To judge from the heartless and ingenious statements lately made by certain Government officials—from their affected disbelief of the prevailing and approaching distress, and from the systematic disregard evinced by Ministers for the tenant class of this country—judging from the haste and severity with which rents have in many cases been exacted, and decrees and ejectments for the non-payment of rent obtained by some of our landlords within the last few months—and from the absence of concert and organisation amongst the landlord class for employment and relief of their tenants, we should fear, beloved brethren, that from the rich and powerful you have little, either of sympathy or assistance, to expect. But, raising our thoughts to the God of infinite charity, who holds in his hands the hearts of kings, and considering the beneficence and charity displayed throughout our diocese within the last two months by men of every class and creed—by several landlords and agents, as well as by merchants and farmers—in providing fuel for the poor, we are encouraged to look forward with confidence to the future. We have a strong hope that God, who has kindled this fire of charity amongst us, will not suffer it to be extinguished; that the example of the kind Christian landlords, who are now engaged in supplying the poor with fuel and food, and laying out for them works of remunerative employment, will be imitated by others of their class; and that all of them alike will earn for themselves, by the same timely and provident sympathy, your grateful love and fervent prayer.—*Freeman's Journal.*

MANSION HOUSE MEETING IN DUBLIN FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR.—The meeting was addressed by his Grace, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, who moved that a committee be appointed to take up the great question which had brought them together. Every one present knew that the quantities of rain which fell last autumn were quite sufficient to destroy the fruits of the earth, and that as an actual result the potato crop had been almost entirely destroyed. An extensive landowner to whom he was speaking that morning—a wealthy landowner—told him that he had sown last year, in the neighbourhood of Dublin, thirty acres of potatoes, and out of that he had scarcely as much as would pay for the seed and the labor of planting, and that he had lost £600; that he was a rich man, and the loss did not affect him much, but if it had fallen on ten or twelve small farmers they would have been utterly ruined. But besides the potato crop, the cereals were injured to a large extent, and the loss had principally fallen upon the small farmers. Even in the city of Dublin, where they were far better off than the people in the West and South of Ireland, the evil results of the bad harvest was felt, as might be seen by those who would take the trouble of visiting the Liberties. There were clergymen present who could prove the distress of the poor, even in Dublin. The gentlemen to whom he had already alluded told him that they had seen men making drains in the County Dublin working up to their knees in water, and yet subsisting upon one meal of cold potatoes in the day, although they had to work from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening. From Galway and Oughterard he had also received accounts of the most terrible and intolerable distress. The answer given to them was, that if there were real distress the people could go into the workhouses. In 1847, when the workhouses were not so well known as they are now, the poor famishing people preferred dying by disease and starvation upon the roadside to entering them; and what must be the case now, when their objections were increased by the actual knowledge of the poor law system? A poor man, when asked why he left the workhouse, graphically said that he got nothing there but "a bellyful of starvation and idleness." If a poor man entered one of these houses he was separated from his wife and his children, and his family was at once broken up. The objection of the poor was easily understood. Their children were classed and associated with bastards. The workhouses contained 10,000 illegitimate children for 12,000 legitimate children. When they considered the high feelings of honor which the Irish people possessed they would not be surprised that they would never consent to have their children treated in this way, and that they would rather suffer the direst distress than submit to it. They were likewise deprived of the comforts of religion which they had outside. When they are outside they can visit their churches, they can spend a part of the day before the altar of God, but in the workhouse there is no place where they can relieve their miseries by communion with their Creator. The fact of the poor people not entering a workhouse was no proof whatever that there was no destitution; but the destitution was now so great that they were forced to go into the workhouse. There were at present 11,000 or 12,000 more in the workhouses than there were at this period last year. He had come there to co-operate as far as he could in this work. He considered it to be a work of charity, and he knew that charity was the noblest of all virtues. He knew that charity distinguished in an especial manner all the disciples of Jesus Christ. He was sure that the call of the Lord Jesus would be answered by the citizens of Dublin. When they looked around them and saw such proofs of the charity of the people in providing hospitals and schools, and every means of alleviating the poverty of the people, they must expect that they will contribute generously towards the support of the poor, wherever they should be found. He begged to propose that a committee be appointed of the citizens of Dublin, under the direction of the Lord Mayor, to provide for the relief of the poor in the West, South, and in any other district of Ireland in which dire destitution may prevail. Dr. Gray, in seconding the motion, said that the poor of Ireland had another objection to entering workhouses besides those mentioned. They knew if they once entered they were branded as paupers, and could never return to industry and independence. He hoped the system of out-door relief would be more extensively adopted, and he believed it was greatly in the power of the poor law guardians to take this most useful step, and that the Poor Law Commissioners should be pressed to give their sanction. He suggested that the committee, when formed, should have power to add to their number, for many were absent who would willingly act upon it. The resolution was put and carried.

THE DISTRESS IN SLIGO.—If proof were required of the distress in Sligo, we have it in the reports of the large additional number receiving relief from the St. Vincent de Paul Society—whose funds, we regret to say, are nearly exhausted—and in the detail of the disbursements by the Pauper Relief Committee. The total amount of cash subscriptions received by the committee up to the present time is £250; besides dona-