

# Written from the Record.

**Ireland.**

The clouds are gathering, gathering,  
And the famine is at hand,  
There are tears and sighs and sorrow  
God help the dear old land.

Ah! me! the wall of sorrow looms  
With a sad and death-like toll.  
Dear Erin's heart is how'd again  
The breath of want sweeps on,  
In pain and anguish suffering still,  
How long, O Lord how long!

Al! the poor and lowly cot  
Dear Erin, stand in this hour,  
Ever hoping but through fear,  
Only smiling through a tear.

God of mercy! deign to look  
On a people robbed and spoiled,  
Who are suffering in a land,  
Who are gasping where they toiled.  
Can we hope, can we pray  
For a brighter, brighter day,  
When her psalm of woes we sing,  
And her day of life begin.

Shall I ever be but thus,  
In that sainted life beyond;  
When will rise her glorious sun,  
Rise a cherub's nation fond,  
God of justice, God of power,  
Help dear Erin in this hour,  
May she live but through Thy love,  
May she reign with Thee above.

Belleville, Jan. 12th, 1880. T. O'HAGAN.

## NEWS FROM IRELAND.

### DUBLIN.

On Dec. 23d, and inquest was held at Milltown, near Lucan, on the body of a young man named James Leonard, aged about 20 years. It appeared that the deceased was out shooting, when his gun burst, blowing off part of his nose, and inflicting a terrible wound on his forehead. Having suffered for some time, he expired in great agony. A verdict was returned in accordance with the facts.

Mr. Alexander Thom, the Queen's Printer in Ireland, and quite as widely known as the originator of *Tom's Almanac* and *Official Directory*, died on Dec. 23d. For a period of nearly fifty years Mr. Thom had held the Government contracts, and procured for Dublin during that long interval a very large amount of profitable employment for printers, bookbinders, machinists, and others, which had not exhibited conspicuous enterprise and a painstaking amounting to genius, would have gone to London. He died in his 79th year at his residence, Donnybrook House, after an illness of some duration, retaining to the last his extreme quickness and force of mind, and his cheerful disposition. The *Almanac* with which his name had been identified almost the whole world over passed, three years ago, into the hands of Mr. Frederick Pilkington, his son-in-law, by whom it has been since produced.

### KILKENNY.

Mr. Thomas Dowling of Dublin, announces that he will, in consequence of Mr. R. Whitworth's intention of retiring at the next election, seek the representation of Kilkenny city as a Nationalist Home Ruler.

### WEXFORD.

The wife of a laborer, residing at Monageer, in the neighborhood of Enniscothy, has recently been safely delivered of three sons. Mother and children are doing well.

### KILDARE.

On Dec. 21st, a man named Richard Keogh was fired at, at a place called Kilkoy, near Athy. He is not hit. No arrests have been made as yet. The crime is supposed to be agrarian.

### KING'S COUNTY.

William Parker, Esq., Parsonstown King's County, instructed his agent, Mr. R. Harpur, to make an abatement in the rents of his tenants of 10 per cent, provided November rent was paid before Jan. 12th.

### KERRY.

A lecture in connection with the distress in Ireland was delivered in Liverpool, Dec. 23d. It was attended by Mr. Mathew, M. P., A. M. Sullivan, M. P., and Mr. Blennerhassett, M. P. The lecture was by Rev. M. O'Connor, of Ballyvaughan, county Kerry, who described the Irish Land Act as a quackery upon a deep-rooted disease. He said that the people were passing through a more serious crisis than that of 1847. He referred to the Harland tenantry, as also did Mr. Rathbone, M. P., and Mr. Sullivan. The former said the Harland tenantry were but aiming at what the Legislature intended to do last session. They resolved that steps should be taken to increase the facilities proposed by the Bright Clause of the Irish Land Act of 1870 by securing to the tenantry opportunities of purchasing consistent with the interests of the owners. Mr. Sullivan said the Harland tenantry were now in the grip of the law owing to their placing faith in an Act of Parliament which in black and white laid it down that the tenantry were entitled to make an offer for their plots of land, and that the Government would advance them a certain amount of the purchase money. A committee was appointed to receive subscriptions of the Harland tenantry.

### CLARE.

The Clare County Court Judge, Charles Kelly, Esq., Q. C., has remitted one half-year's rent due last May, to his tenants on the Ballyvaughan estate. He has also given permission to all the poor people of the locality to cut any quantity of firewood during the winter months.

### TIPPERARY.

Mr. Patrick O'Mahony, Main street, Clonmel, has allowed an abatement of 15 per cent, to his tenants on the lands of Husseytown and Killeigh who have paid their rents, and intends doing so to the remainder who shall have paid their rents within a specified time.

A dwellinghouse, a large stock of oats, and out-offices, the property of John O'Halloran, Redland near Clonmel, were maliciously set fire to on Dec. 22nd. Owing to the exertions of the neighbors the house was saved, but the rest of the property, to the value of about £1,000, was completely destroyed. The cause of the outrage is that Mr. O'Halloran paid his rent. He intends claiming compensation for damages.

### WATERFORD.

On Dec. 21st, whilst some lads playing "pitch and toss" at Milward's Field, situated within a short distance of Waterford, the cry of police was raised, when the lads

ran, but, after going a short distance, one of them, named Peter Brennan, dropped dead. Dr. Arthur was examined at the inquest, and deposed that death resulted from heart disease.

Mr. Power, county constable for Waterford, held an inquest at Knockavillish Lodge, near Dunmore, on Dec. 20th, on the body of a gentleman named Patten, who committed suicide on the previous day by shooting himself. Mr. Patten, who was a gentleman of middle age, owned property in Waterford, and at Ballybrack, in the County Dublin, reported to be valued at two thousand pounds a year. He had been long resident in the East Indies, where he got a sunstroke, from the effects of which he frequently suffered. Late in the year he was attacked by a severe cold, as if suffering from softening. The jury, without any hesitation, returned a verdict to the effect that deceased committed suicide by shooting himself while laboring under temporary insanity.

### ANTRIM.

Sir Richard Wallace, Bart., M. P., has sent a large quantity of warm clothing for distribution to the poor women of Lisburn. The local clergy of all denominations are supplied with recomendatory tickets, and the distribution takes place at the office, under the superintendence of R. H. Bland, Esq.

A fire broke out in the premises of Edward Gilman, plumber and gas-fitter, Churchlane, on Dec. 20th. The fire brigade immediately turned out, and on their arrival found that a portion of the flooring over the shop was burned away, and that the flames were extending to the upper part of the house. By their strenuous exertions the fire was extinguished in half an hour.

The improvement of the noxious and far-famed Blackstaff has been a subject long talked of. The Belfast Town Council, among the other local improvements, have a project on hand for diverting over the offensive stream. In connection therewith an arbitration court was held in the Recorder's Court, for the purpose of inquiring into the claims for compensation of those who own property adjoining the Blackstaff. Mr. Edmund Murphy, Government Arbitrator, presided. The largest claims were those of Richard Bell and John Wallace, amounting to £150 4s. 6d. for the removal of a stone yard; and Joseph Macaulay and Rev. Hugh Macaulay, £4,135, for premises at corner of Connaught street and Waterford. Evidence having been given, the arbitrator reserved his decision.

### DONEGAL.

The distress among the poorer classes in the western districts of Donegal is already intense, and unless some relief outside local sources is afforded, the consequences may be deplorable. The cause of this destitution is the want of fuel; the almost total destruction of the potato crop; and the stoppage of credit by which in previous years advances of meal have been obtained. It would be difficult to find a more patient and well-disposed population than that among which this suffering exists.

### GALWAY.

The *Irish Times* of December 24th, says: "The tenants of the localities surrounding Tuam have taken a firm stand against paying any rent till the landlords give a reasonable reduction. Many of the agents have held office during the week, but in every instance in which a satisfactory concession was not made the tenants refused to pay. A number of men in disguise went a few nights ago to the tenants, or a neighboring property, and swore them all to pay no rent till they be granted 25 per cent. abatement. The tenants, a Captain O'Hara's (Ballymote) estate, near Tuam, have received a warning in writing bearing the Dublin postmark, that any of them who pays rent before the landlord concedes a fair reduction will get two ounces of lead as a reward."

At Kellebure, near Tuam, on December 23d, an old woman named Coleman was found dead in a hovel, covered with a few sticks and some straw. No person having seen her for a fortnight and decomposition having set in, she must have been several days dead, and might have remained there for weeks to come, had not a man from Tuam gone to the place with a letter addressed to her from England. Evidently death was caused by cold and privation, for no food or clothing was found where the body lay. Mr. J. D. McDonagh, coroner, held an inquest, and a verdict according to the circumstances was returned.

Delegates from the various estates of the extensive districts of Milltown met recently and inaugurated a Tenants' Defence Association. A committee, secretary, and treasurer having been appointed, a subscription list was then opened, and before the meeting adjourned the subscriptions handed in amounted to a considerable sum.

### MAYO.

A man named Kennedy, while executing a deed near Westport, on December 20th, was killed by a man named Hanley. The process officers throughout Mayo are now actively engaged serving ejectment notices and processes on several extensive estates. Their work is sought to be performed with fear and trembling, being in many instances compelled to hastily retreat. Mr. George P. Louden, Killeangan House, near Westport, who is owner of several extensive properties in the western part of the county Mayo, was, on December 22nd, whilst engaged in serving ejectment notices on some of his Killeangan tenantry who have refused to pay him any rent, attacked by them, and obliged to seek safety in flight. Being hotly pursued, he took refuge in a roadside hut and defended himself with his rifle, firing three shots, but without inflicting any injury. He remained in the hut until a force of constabulary came and rescued him, and escorted him home. Mr. Louden is brother of J. J. Louden, president of the National Land League of Mayo, and one of the strongest advocates of the land agitation. It was owing to Mr. Louden's inability to procure anyone to serve the ejectment notices that he was obliged to do it himself.

### LEITRIM.

Major-General Hutchinson, inspector to the Board of trade, has just inspected the new section of the Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway line from Belle to Glenfarne, and announced it as fit for traffic. The section was to have been opened on New Year's Day.

## WHAT IRISH FAMINE MEANS.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ENGLISH LORD.

"S. G. O." are the initials of Rev. Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, a well-known correspondent of the *London Times*.

"I have read with great satisfaction the letter of the Duchess of Marlborough in your yesterday's paper. I have with pleasure sent her a contribution toward the fund she proposes to promote. In the two years—now a long time since—in which famine and cholera had produced an amount of suffering and distress in Ireland which could hardly be surpassed, I—the readers of the *Times* had perhaps painful experience of the fact—occupied for some months a considerable space in its columns, giving the result of personal inquiry into the condition of the peasantry over a large part—the most afflicted part—of the unhappy country. In that inquiry I not only had the kind support of the then Lord Lieutenant, but also letters to use as I might think fit, from some of the highest and most respected of the Roman Catholic Church authorities. I met with a good deal of kind assistance from almost every local authority with whom I came in contact. In my many published letters I endeavored to give a true and impartial narrative of what I saw with my own eyes—my own ears heard; BUT NO PEN-POWER COULD REALLY WORK OUT

to fully exhibit, a true picture of the awful condition in which the friend who accompanied me the second time found many thousands of the peasantry from the effects of famine. In what I saw on the first occasion of the work of cholera, it was simply the work of a visitation of a well-known disease coming on a low-fed, ill-housed population. It killed its thousands as it will always kill under such circumstances. I must say here that, considering the appalling nature of this death-dealing visitation, the officials in every department did all that they had the means of doing to save life, but the means were necessarily limited, and the very nature of the work to be done made it difficult to obtain all the agency required. It was to me not surprising that the food of a low supporting nature at best, at that time, if not at the present, under the best of conditions, we have not yet discovered any really effective treatment of a disease which in a few hours will prostrate the strongest, and with death blast sweeps off the face of the earth those who are weak.

### FROM MY EXPERIENCE OF THE WORK OF

### FAMINE.

I am satisfied the time to save is that which first threatens famishing. As I saw it I am satisfied no amount of food or clothing, or shelter could have saved the large majority of those who died without or without the gigantic workhouses; scanty food of a low supporting nature at best, had become more scarce, the constitution was undermined; so to speak, the animal had become debilitated, its life flickers in the flame for want of all that could give it support; the swollen ankles, the patchy hair on the head, told the tale to any close observer that food had come too late. The patience with which the weak endured was to me a fearful symptom for it betrayed the fact that

### ALL MENTAL ENERGY

had succumbed under physical depression. How far the causes which led to this state of things may now exist I am not able to say. The Duchess of Marlborough may well, from her position, be held as a trustworthy authority in the matter, and that position appears to me all the guarantee the public need to secure that what is given to her fund will be prudently expended. I therefore hope that her appeal may meet with all success, but I am satisfied that the good she can do will in the main depend on the speed with which she can commence.

PEACE MAY ARREST THE HORRORS OF WAR. Pestilence has its course to run, departs as it came at its own time; having gathered its dead, it leaves the living unscathed. Famine has no limit so long as there are the famishing, and when at last resigned within some bounds, the dead may be counted, but the hunger-wounded are many of them, for life, but partly healed. The great end, then, at which the charitable should aim is to meet the enemy at the first threatening, not to wait until the awful horrors of starvation have become apparent, and then to try to cure the disease, but at the same time, when all the compassion can effect. The Government, as such will, I have no fear, do its duty. Had there been a poor law including the road to Jericho, I don't think the good Samaritan would have jogged on his way to send out a relieving officer.

Sidmouth, Dec. 19. S. G. O.

### WHY MR. PARNELL IS POPULAR IN IRELAND.

The *Spectator* is not so blind as some of its London contemporaries pretend to be. The great popularity of Mr. Parnell in Ireland. That journal says in a recent issue:

To the English, who know Mr. Parnell best as a kind of political sapper to whom nothing is sacred, it seems at first sight hard to understand how such a man should succeed in supplanting a political leader of the approved type like Mr. Butt. But the matter is easy enough of explanation. The Home-Rule party, when it began its career in the House of Commons, well organized and admirably led as it appeared to be, was in reality composed of the most incongruous elements. The majority of its members were ordinary Irish Liberals who had "accepted Home Rule," and remained in all other respects what they had always been. Side by side with these were a few, like Mr. Butt himself, who on every subject but one were genuine Conservatives. The remainder, with an exception here and there, such as Mr. Sullivan, were "dark" men, of whom little was known and perhaps not very much expected. Once every session Mr. Butt was wont to deliver a melodramatic dissertation on the advantages of Home Rule, and to receive the congratulations of the leaders of both parties on the excellent taste and moderation which marked his characterizing his language. But beyond this annual display Ireland derived no appreciable benefit from the existence and exertions of the Irish party. It was not until Mr. Parnell and Mr. Biggar maintained and began their independent guerilla campaign that anything worthy

battling for was won. Even if nothing had come of it, Irishmen would at any rate have had the inspiring feeling, to which they had for so long been strangers, that some real fighting was going on in which their representatives were contending courageously against overwhelming odds. But the results have been substantial enough, to justify a far more desperate enterprise. The Intermediate Education Act, the repeal of the Convention Act, and the University Act bear witness to the vigor of onset and the collapse of the defence. Mr. Parnell may well contrast the fruits of two sessions of the "active policy" with the barrenness of the four which preceded them. Nor can we be surprised that under the circumstances he is at present the most popular man in Ireland.

### Meetings.

**CATHOLIC MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.**—The next regular meeting of London Branch No. 4, of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, will be held in our new Lodge Rooms, Castle Hill, Albion Road, Richmond, street, on first and third Saturdays of each month at 8 o'clock p. m. A full attendance of members requested. ALEX. WILSON, Secretary.

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