

the past. \* \* \* Owing to your generous contributions we have been enabled from time to time to extend relief to over 200 families who were dependent upon us; but, as grants from all sources failed us for the past month, the poor people are now reduced to the sorest straits of destitution. They tell us they have no food in their houses for themselves and their families, and no means to procure it, for there is no employment whatever in the parish. For the past year not one sixpence in the way of public works has been earned, hence the poor people are now reduced to the last extremity. We cannot see how they can tide over the next seven or eight weeks.

A Catholic administrator is the parish priest whose parish is the residence of his bishop. The views of the administrators, therefore, are always in harmony with the views of their bishops. The administrator (Father Bodkin) adds:—

"The Irish National Land League is a noble institution, and has effected incalculable good in this unfortunate country. Therefore we say, with all our heart, God bless and prosper it."

The parish priest of Ballyglunin, a great friend of Mr. Davitt, asking for a final grant, uses a phrase that only Ireland could have invented:—"We are almost in sight of the promised land—new potatoes!"

The Secretary of the Killartan Relief Committee writes:—"The distress in our district continues to be severely felt—1,402 persons need relief. We have not a single penny left. Unless assistance be given the poor people will be obliged to dig out the potatoes while yet unripe."

The Secretary of the Craughwell Committee writes:—

"There is no decrease worth noting in the number of applicants. There are some public works in our neighborhood at which a comparatively small number are employed. The employment given relieves our local committee very infinitesimally. The small farmers are the most important element in the community, and they cannot avail themselves of such employment, as they must attend to the crops sown—weeding and tilling. Should they neglect to attend to their crops the result would be disastrous. They must be helped to work for themselves—the most important employment for them. We are

very much beholden to the Land League for the aid hitherto given us. I regret to inform you that fever has broken out."

The fever is what is known as famine fever, which, in 1817, proved as dreadful a scourge among the emaciated people as the yellow fever in our Gulf States. It has broken out in three counties, and, if it is not arrested, it may send thousands into their graves. Gladstone's government, to its credit be it recorded, is taking prompt measures to arrest it.

The Relief Committee at Ballyjamesduff, County Cavan, writes:—

"For the sake of Heaven, consider us. If you do not do so, may the great God look to our poor, suffering people. When we tell you that we relieve (if relief it can be called, where the highest grant amounted to only 2½ stones [thirty-five pounds] Indian meal to families averaging from four to seventeen persons) to 466 families, and 173 of these farmers, it speaks more forcibly to our charity than any words we might use."

Clumsily worded, but pathetic enough.

Rev. John Brady, the parish priest of Crosskeys, writes: "Some of our families have lived during this month for days together on green cabbages boiled and seasoned with salt. Though they are in that state, both Mansion House and New York *Herald* funds have struck off our committee from their list."

Rev. J. D. Green, the curate of Newmarket, County Cork, writes: "My house and that of other members of the local committee is daily besieged by numbers of children crying for bread and clothes. The distress here is lamentable, as there is little work, and the district is very poor."

The parish priest of Castletown Bere, writes that the funds sent to the Bishop of Kerry are exhausted. "I appeal to you for assistance for my poor people. Some of them are served with writs by their landlords; more of them are threatened with writs; all of them are suffering from want. I'm much afraid the potato crop will commence too soon (from the hunger of the people), and, if so, sickness is sure to follow."

The parish priest of Eyeries writes that there are 600 families, numbering 4,100 persons, still in distress there.

The parish priest of Clonmeen writes: "No money remains in the hands of the committee in this extensive parish."