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THE TELEGRAPH OR CONN

The Telegraph.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

CASTLEBAR:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1847.

THE FAMINE WAS SORE IN THE LAND

No doubt at the time the above words were uttered famine was sore in the land of Egypt, as recorded in I writ: but a Pharaoh ruled in those days: a man, tho stern and haughty as a monarch, thought it not beneath his high dignity to adopt the advice of his captive slave the imprisoned Joseph — by which he laid up stores of grain and meal for the seven years of famine which God had tured to him in his dream.

The famine is now sore felt in our land, but alas have no Pharaohs or Josephs to adopt proper remedies its suppression. Oh, no — while the Monarch, who v the Sceptre of this great realm, is making retrenchment her household economy, (for which there would be no necessity had her advisers a *Joseph* among them in Sept last) the poor of Ireland are falling in thousands — complete the tragedy — the landlords (with some few notable exceptions) are driving and persecuting their tenants for rent.

While the landlords are acting thus the tillage fields, or the pride and the hope of the husbandman, are left to grow wild weeds: and the cabbage plots, hitherto the first care of the farmers, are now rearing dockings and nettles. Is it necessary we should tell our Mayo readers why this is the case? No—every well thinking man will at once divine the cause, and will exclaim, landlord persecution, which has banished from house and room home the industrious hard-working peasantry, to seek in another and far distant land, a means of subsistence, is the sole cause of the failure of Mayo being now producing weeds *instead of wheat, clover, flax, &c.* Landlord oppression has left the houses in country and towns uninhabited; the doors, in many instances, built up with stones, while the heaps of manure and those once happy dwellings, are left to grow weeds and grass. We are not dealing in fiction: we have seen hundred such instances within the last week. We have talked with some villages with the poor creatures whose miserable condition rendered it impossible for them to fly the country; they told us that the landlords (men who pride in an aristocratic family name) had seized all they had, and notwithstanding their famishing condition, never allowed them a farthing for the poor rates they had paid. They knew and still know, their starving condition, yet they made no effort to get them seed of any kind for the ground. They did not stand in need of this latter part of the information for the fields and dung pits bore convincing proofs of the truth of what was stated. We may be told "a few swallows make no summer." Ah! it is swallow and summer

dren into town, or they may go to bed foodless. We have now these three classes before us. How are they treated?— They are compelled to stand in cold and wet, among the brawling and sturdy professional beggars whom they themselves were wont to supply with food, exposed to the fever and other infectious diseases which those mendicants carry about them. Is not this disgraceful to the managers of this food depot? Have they lost all sense of feeling for those tradesmen, once their boat and pride when public demonstrations required them to make a display? Have they forgotten that many of those housekeepers and farmers, now forced to herd with the strolling beggars, waiting to be called to obtain their scanty meal, were often waited on by the members of this government relief committee, with hat in hand, soliciting their votes at contested elections? Oh, how we grieve at witnessing the neglected state of our people and the shameful conduct pursued towards them, while unprincipled spies and understrappers, the favored followers of committee-men, are plentifully supplied with the best the stores can afford.

Now as to the food supplied to those persons we shudder to mention it as much as they do who (to prolong their fast sinking existence) eat it. It consists of a lb. of half-bailed peas or beans, in the *four-and twenty hours!* without the luxury of salt, and some boiled river or bog water! unchanged in colour by the process of boiling. This is the food given to our people by the government of England— *not out of their own funds, but derived from the purses of the benevolent English public.* THE COOKING, HOWEVER, IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON M. SOYER'S PROCESS, and we hope, when the committees are about to dissolve themselves from further business, they will present their Mayo *Soyers*, as in Dublin, with gold or silver snuff boxes, with suitable inscriptions, in token of their approval of the *bog-water soup!* Should they adopt our suggestion we would recommend the following inscription for the boxes, with the Russell Arms at top and a *boiler underneath:*—

“ PEAS UPON A TRENCHER!
 PEAS UPON A TRENCHER!
 THE SWEETEST MEAL THAT E’ER WAS EAT!
 IS PEAS UPON A TRENCHER!”

At either corner of the lid we would also recommend the words—

POLITICAL
 ECONOMY.

GO AND
 EAT GRASS.

CURRY
 POWDER

SEA WEED,
 DEELISK.

RIGHT RANGER—CASTLEBAR, WED

THE "GRAVE-FILLING" SYSTEM.

In another column we published the resolutions of the Clergy of the Deanery of Castlebar agreed to at their conference held in this town on Monday last, and to which we direct particular attention. Some of those able resolutions fully bear out our views as to the demoralizing system adopted by her Majesty's Government for the FEEDING OF OUR GRAVE YARDS! Who can deny what we state? We challenge the Government officials in Mayo to disprove it. They dare not do so: and some of them have already declared that the people, for want of food, and a proper management of the distribution of the pittance given out by the so-called "government committees"—are dying and contracting disease, by thousands per day.

It is needless here at present to go over the same ground traversed by us last week, when we can see no hope for any amendment in this out-door relief: when we see the patients labouring in fever, obliged to leave their straw couch to mingle in the throng around the committee store, to obtain some scanty pittance for their families; and while so engaged conveying their pestilential disease among the crowd.

Why is this system longer persisted in? Why have the Government (who have not yet given a farthing to support the people) been allowed to make this change in the constitution of the relief committees of Mayo? Was it doubted that the two millions deaths calculated on by the officials of the ministry would not be fully realized if stimulants were not applied? This would seem to be the prevailing opinion from the system now adhered to.

Would it not be better for the British Relief Association, if they desire to uphold their characters as men and christians, to give up their connection, in the relief of Ireland, with a government who know not how to draw one proper conclusion on the subject? The former system (tho' imperfect) gave some sustenance to the needy: but now, since the Randolph and Sayer devious folk were privileged to dip their fingers into the charity of foreigners and others, without expending a farthing of Treasury money, the people are falling beyond counting.

Our announcement of no Government Money having been yet expended here in feeding the poor, may startle many—it is nevertheless true: a few of the poor, thrown idle by the mandate of the Government, are economically fed by our parental statesmen, with private subscriptions, while thousands are left to die!! At the meeting of the Poor Law Guardians on Saturday Captain Parren stated that the relief at present given to the poor had nothing to do with the Government. He was borne out in this assertion by Mr. Conry who said, "that to the British Association and the private subscriptions of individuals they were alone indebted for their supplies of food."