

The Telegraph.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

CASTLEBAR:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1850.

DESTITUTION IN KILMEENA PARISH—WEST-PORT AND NEWPORT UNIONS.

We refer our readers to a letter published in our present number, addressed to the Poor Law Commissioners, from the Rev. Thomas Hardiman, Roman Catholic Rector of the Parish of Kilmeena, drawing a melancholy, but true, picture of a vast number of his parishioners who are sinking under starvation, with little hopes of relief. It appears they applied for relief to the Guardians of Newport Union, and from thence some of them were ordered to the Westport workhouse, there being, as yet, no workhouse in Newport. On their application, they were refused either in or out-door relief, the house being full, and the Guardians having no lands at their disposal. It appears some of the most extensive landlords in those unions, of the highest rank, who assume the power of acting as *guardians of the poor*, have heretofore refused to pay the rates they, by the law they have taken upon themselves to administer, are liable to and bound to pay; and while they contumacious, they suffer the poor to linger a painful life, and eventually to die of starvation. The rev. writer whose letter we refer to concludes in the words following:—

"I am informed the guardian of the Westport and Newport unions are crying out that they have no money, and I believe them. Yet it is a fact that large sums of poor rate are due by most of the LARGE proprietors of said unions. Why are not these paid up? Why is it that these men, who have made the paupers, or at least mercilessly banished them from their cabins and sent them forth starving outcasts—why, I say, in the name of justice and humanity are these, with hundreds of pounds of rate due, allowed to escape, while the poor man who, perhaps, over but a few shillings is taxed, and persecuted, without pity? Is this fair play? Or does even this poor law partake of the vice of all other laws. I indulge herein no theory; I state facts, as can be seen from the books of the union. I would, then, respectfully suggest that at least the names of these defaulters should be published that the public may know them, and estimate them as they deserve."

Common humanity calls for a more prompt and rigid exaction of the rates due. We have published in the TELEGRAPH lists of the defaulting rate-payers in the Union of Castlebar, copied from the returns of the Rate Collectors to the Guardians. We have done so gratuitously; and we here offer the Guardians of Westport and Newport Unions to publish similar lists on the same terms. For the information, and, we may add, the instruction of these gentlemen, we subjoin resolutions passed at a special meeting of