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G O R E A R T U N I O N

The Rev. Father O'Donnell, Gore, acknowledges with many thanks, receipt of blocks and remittances from the following persons:—Mrs. Horan, Rev. J. O'Donnell (2), Mr. Jeremiah Finn, Mr. Arthur Cockroft (2), Mrs. W. Cooper, Miss H. Fraser (2), Miss B. Holland, Mr. P. McNamee, Miss K. Heffernan (2), Mrs. M. Carr, Mr. John Morris, Mrs. M. Caldwell, Mrs. H. Donaldson, Miss C. Macdonald, Mrs. T. Carmody, Mr. T. Carmody, Miss B. O'Neill, Miss D. Fleming, Miss P. Fleming, Mrs. W. Day, Mr. M. Hoffman, Mrs. E. Ward (2), Mr. M. Dillon, Miss M. Black, Mr. D. O'Callaghan (2), Miss Jennie Robins, Mr. M. Collins, Miss M. J. Mulvey, Mrs. J. Ford, Miss M. Flanigan, Mrs. M. Carmody, Miss M. Day, Miss E. Malqueen, Mr. P. Deegan, Miss Annie Kavanagh (2), Mr. P. Mallon, Mrs. J. Johnson, Miss Mary A. Booth.

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ART-UNION IN AID OF GORE CONVENT SCHOOL.

RESULT OF DRAWING:

Prize.	No.	Prize.	No.	Prize.	No.	Prize.	No.
1	8732	2	11830	3	585	4	2548
5	9830	6	2852	7	2942	8	2485
9	4452	10	1257	11	3151	12	10179
13	2236	14	351	15	1080	16	13722
17	2312	18	2665	19	2337	20	9033
21	4797.						

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THE FAMINE IN IRELAND.

DIRE DISTRESS—URGENT NEED OF AID.

THE 'TABLET' RELIEF FUND.

ONCE more we tender our heartfelt thanks to the subscribers who have come forward with such a generous measure of help for the stricken poor of the West and South of Ireland. His Lordship, Bishop Verdon, hon. treasurer of the Fund, has forwarded two instalments of money for distribution, the first a draft for £53 2s 6d, the second for £117 9s; total, £170 11s 6d. Instructions have been forwarded by his Lordship to have the moneys distributed in the districts of the West and South where the need is most urgent, and many a hungry child and many a stricken home will bless the generosity of their friends in far-off New Zealand.

Our Irish files give a sad account of the distress. Father Farragher, P.P. of the Arran Islands, tells of some of his people who months ago sold to procure Indian meal, the last sheep and calf that were to have met the demands of the landlord and to have kept the roofs over their heads. Writing to the *Nation*, he says:—

'On yesterday I went to a house where I had reason to fear provisions were short, and the sight that met me was more than painful. There, at the hearth, I saw the wife and seven or eight children huddled together, I could not say round the fire (as only a few dying embers of dried cowdung were there), looking pinched and wan; and going to the room I found the poor husband in bed, unable to be about, and in the bottom of a meal bag there was hardly one stone of Indian meal. It was a pitiable sight, and moved me not a little, more especially as I know that the poor man would not wish one of his neighbours to know his condition.'

The *Nation's* correspondent reports 900 families in the parish of Carraroe depending wholly on charitable funds. In fact, he says, 'a special famine fund is needed for Carraroe.' 'It is not a question of destitution' (he writes) 'we have now to deal with, but the graver and more awful question of life and death. Destitution we have here at the best of times. Man or woman, who has to go to work in the morning without a breakfast, and who has no certainty of getting a dinner at the close of the day's work is in a state of destitution to call it by its mildest name. Yet, unfortunately, this is the present position of most of those employed on the Government works. A simple calculation enables any one to see that when 14lbs of Indian meal, the present equivalent of a day's wages on these works is divided by 10 or 12, the usual number in a family in this district, it gives a quantity which will not bear sub-division into the orthodox number of meals, but must, of necessity, be consumed together at one meal if it is to have no nourishing effect.'

Significantly enough, as one of our exchanges states, not a single farthing has been sent to the Mansion House Relief Fund by any Mayo evictor. Instead of aiding the poor people on whose toil they live, the landsharks are pressing them for their rack-rents, and eviction notices accompany the dolos of Indian meal which are being provided for the unhappy people by public charity. Most of the distressed families are of the cottier or small tenant class, with holdings—many of them of bog or reclaimed mountain—averaging a yearly valuation of £4. Yet, says Mr. Davitt, 'the rents extorted from these cottiers are as high even in these days of Land Acts and Land Commissions, as the rents which are paid for some Essex farms, within thirty miles of London.'

The urgent need will ere long be over, except for the many small farmers who have not been able to put in any crops, and for the evicted. We entreat intending subscribers to send their amounts without delay.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

We have just learned by telegram that the Catholics of Palmerston North have sent £10 towards the Irish Distress Fund, and that Archbishop Croke has sent a very kind letter to Father Patterson acknowledging same and thanking all donors for their generosity.

We desire to express our special thanks to the school-children who have responded so splendidly to our appeal.

We beg to acknowledge, with deep thanks, the following additional subscriptions:—