

LISMORE—BALLYDUFF PARISH



Extracts from a Report printed
in the *Cork Examiner* in 1847
concerning the Ballysagart and
other Estates during the Famine
years.



Compiled, with a few added notes
by

An SAZARÉ PARÓIRTE,

BALLYDUFF

1946

FOREWORD.

So great was the demand for copies of the "Dungarvan Leader" while the series of articles concerning the Ballysagart and other Estates in the famine years were being published, many regular readers of the "Leader" were unable to secure the paper during the seven weeks in which these articles appeared. Feeling these items of local history should be more widely known, and put into handy form for preservation in family homes, it has been decided to issue them in booklet form. We feel assured the booklet will be of interest to many besides the residents of the Parishes of Lismore, Ballyduff and Co. Waterford generally, and if a copy be sent by their home friends to exiles from the County—and they are not a few—it may prove an acceptable reminder of old times and memories. Though many sad incidents are narrated in this graphic report taken from a copy of the "Cork Examiner," printed just 99 years ago, the present happier lot of the farmers and workmen living on these lands, where once petty tyrants ruled with a rod of iron, will dispel the gloom that otherwise might arise from their narration. With this hope we are offering the booklet to the public.

PARISH OF LISMORE AND BALLYDUFF

Graphic Story Of Famine Period

The present Parishes of Lismore and Ballyduff formed one united Parish for many years before Ballyduff was created a distinct parish in the year 1866. The last Parish Priest of the united Parishes was the Rev. Dr. Fogarty, who died in that year, and whose memory is still held in benediction.

A few days ago the writer of this note was favoured with a very interesting old copy of the "Cork Examiner" bearing the date 3rd May, 1847, which was carefully kept in an old family in Ballyduff for the past 99 years! It contains a five-page account of the "Examiner's" Special Reporter, sent to make local inquiries in the Lismore-Ballyduff Parish, in that calamitous year of the Famine, and in particular to report what action was being taken locally by the Landlords to alleviate the sad condition of their poorer tenants who, as was well-known, were unable to pay their rent that year on account of the failure for two years previously of the potato crop, which at the time was their main support.

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I feel sure it will be of interest to readers of the "Leader" to see some extracts from the Reporter's article, which while bringing some sad memories to mind should make them admire

the courage, the faith, and the heroic endurance of the older generations in these Parishes of Lismore and Ballyduff in the famine time.

As the account of the "Examiner's" visit to the district could not be condensed into one or even two instalments, I propose, with the kind permission of the Editor, to give the substance of the report in three or four extracts, during the next three or four weeks' publications of the "**Dungarvan Leader.**"

All the world knows what a dreadful calamity happened in the famine years in our country when over a million people died of disease brought on by hunger, and more than a million were forced to leave their homes and land, to be carried over the seas in the coffin-ships, while the Government, under the control of England, allowed the food of the starving people to be sent to England in payment mostly for the landlords rents. But even with those sad memories before us this reporter's graphic account of the state of the Lismore-Ballyduff Parish in 1847 has gleams of light that show up instances of glowing charity and evidence of a Faith that can conquer, under appalling conditions, even death itself.

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The reporter commences by

giving the population of the parish, Lismore-Ballyduff, as 12,000 and the extent of the land as 75,000 acres. His first notice is of the destitution, disease and daily mortality among the labouring classes and poorer farmers in the district. The roads leading into Lismore saw daily hundreds of starving, badly clothed men, women and children, on their way to get some meal or bread in the shops. At times some of these poor people died on the road or in the fields on their way to town, where forty burials took place weekly in local graveyards. While in Lismore he saw a pit being opened in a newly acquired graveyard, and forty bodies were buried in this pit within a week.

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A body called the Lismore Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Richard Musgrave, had been active for some time in trying to help the afflicted people. Both he and Father Fogarty get very high praise for their charitable and exhausting work—Dr. Fogarty and his curates, Father O'Donnell and Father Hickey, attending to the spiritual, and as far as they were able, to the temporal wants of their parishioners. At this time the "Poorhouse" had been provided by the "step-mother Government" for the victims of landlordism and famine. The Lismore building was to accommodate 400 persons but in the year 1847 it was overcrowded by hundreds, and the Fever Hospital, built for 40 patients, had then 150 inmates, and temporary sheds had to be provided for other fever-stricken patients who could not be accommodated there. Truly the three priests had a busy and very sad time in

Lismore during these dreadful years.

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With Sir Richard Musgrave as Chairman, we find the names of the Lismore Committee for the Relief of the poor in the reporter's article. They are:—Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty, P.P., Mr. Curry (agent for the Duke of Devonshire), John Bowen Gumblestown, Mr. Burchell, Sir Barry Drew and Lord Stuart of Dromana. The "Examiner" reports that thousands were saved from starvation by this energetic Lismore committee.

In reading this we must not forget that the same, and even worse, conditions, prevailed in many other parts of Ireland as well as in the Parish of Lismore-Ballyduff.

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SECOND ARTICLE

In the first extracts from a report of the Special Correspondent of the "Cork Examiner" published in that Journal, 3rd May, 1847, we saw the pitiable condition of hundreds of families in the districts around Lismore in that second year of the "Great Hunger," as it was named, and of the charity of the Lismore-Ballyduff Committee set up to help and save the afflicted people from starvation. The writer gives due praise to Sir Richard Musgrave as well as to the energetic, kindly Parish Priest Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty. He has also due praise for a Mr. Chanley, whose descendants still happily survive in Cappoquin Parish. These two esteemed gentlemen were generously kind-hearted to their tenants. On the Chanley estate the custom was to apportion tracts of mountain unclaimed land free of rent to

their first twenty years of occupation, and in the famine years the poorer tenants were supplied with seed oats and rye for their cultivated land, which otherwise they could not get. Also no rents were demanded in these unhappy years. We read a very different story in relation to some of their near estate owners graphically described by the "Examiner" Correspondent.

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He has nothing good to report of a Captain Barry, or of Mr. Benjamin Wood, in relation to their tenants before, and during the famine years. True they never evicted the tenants who were unable to meet the rent, but they cleared many off their holdings by buying them out with offers of ready money which the starving people had to accept. Mr. Wood's estate in Ballyduff comprised 5,000 acres, and although his name was on the Lismore Relief Committee he never attended their meetings in Ballyduff. In some justice to his memory I gladly acknowledge that Mr. Wood gave a lease of the land on which St. Michael's Church in Ballyduff is built, to its second Parish Priest Rev. Patrick Slatery, at one shilling a year, in perpetuity.

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The Ballysaggart Estate

No extracts from the Report of the Special Correspondent of the "Cork Examiner," as published in that Journal to Ireland, and to the world, and vouched for by the Rev. Dr. Fogarty, P.P., Lismore, on the 3rd May, 1847, concerning the Ballysaggart Estate, could do it justice except by quoting his own printed remarks.

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The correspondent writes:—
 "On Friday last I visited the district of Ballysagartmore, the property of Arthur Ussher, Esq., formerly known as Arthur Kiely. His estate, including turbary and mountain land, contains 8,000 acres. Scarcely thirty years have elapsed since the property, of which I now write, consisted of sterile, barren and completely uncultivated land, bringing no rent or revenue to the owner. About this same time Mr. Ussher came into possession of this land, and commenced to convert this bare and barren tract into useful and productive ground. A system was then brought into operation by which he removed a portion of his tenantry from the better-cultivated districts to reclaim the extensive waste and unproductive tracts of mountain. With these farmers an agreement was concluded, greatly no doubt to their inconvenience and disadvantage. Waste lands, varying from ten to fifty acres, were let to solvent and comfortable tenants; for the first seven years no rent to be charged, because it was considered no benefit to the holders would be derived. For the succeeding term of seven years five shillings an acre was agreed upon, and for the following seven, twelve and sixpence." (A loop-hole was evidently left to enable the landlord to raise rents after the expiration of twenty-one years).

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"Such were the terms upon which these people entered on the cultivation of Ballysagartmore, and such were the terms that induced them to invest their capital and expend their labour. By hard continuous work, with determined perseverance in tilling, and lime applica-

tion, and manuring, large tracts were brought under cultivation, and what had been black and barren soil was made into food-producing land in the preceding 30 years. Houses and cattle sheds were built by these hard-working farmers and their families who were now, before these late years of calamity, able to live in frugal comfort in their mountain homes. The potato crop being their main support for all the years past yielded a return for their expenses and labour, the rents were paid regularly and punctually, but barely enough was left to provide for the needs of their families. The two years when this crop failed brought poverty, eviction disease and death to many people on the Ballysagart, Kiely-Ussher, Estate.

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THIRD ARTICLE

"A short time after leaving Lismore I met groups of intelligent and apparently once-comfortable men, the holders of from twenty to fifty acres of land, coming into town for the purpose of procuring a little meal to support their starving families. From these I learned that the work of extermination was proceeding a short distance further on, and that the demolition of houses was daily occurring. Some of these very men told me, with tears in their eyes, that their houses had been razed to the ground, and themselves and their families compelled to sleep during the night under the open sky! Others mentioned that they had been induced by the promise of a few pounds, to assist in the work of demolition, and when the house had been destroyed the money was withheld. Arriving at Bally-

sagartmore an awful sight was before my eyes. I found twelve to fourteen houses levelled to the ground. The walls of a few were still standing but the roofs were torn off, the windows broken in, and the doors removed. Groups of famished women and crying children still hovered round the place of their birth, endeavouring to find shelter from the piercing cold of the mountain blast, cowering near the ruins, or seeking refuge beneath the chimneys."

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"I entered the dismantled house of a man named **John Walsh**, a man who farmed 32 acres of mountain, and who had been ejected for arrears of rent. About three weeks since the steward of Mr. Ussher demanded rent, but through the late famine years he was unable to meet the demand. He begged for a little time but the agent was inexorable, and down the house must come! Walsh told me the agent promised him £5 if he unroofed his own house, and assisted in levelling the walls. Neither submission nor entreaty could avert the decree of the landlord, and the poor farmer at last consented to destroy the only shelter that his family possessed, and the only refuge in the neighbourhood they could hope to obtain, for the landlord. I was informed, has threatened his heaviest displeasure on any of his dependent tenants who would afford shelter, even for one night to any family evicted from their own homes. Driven by cold and hunger this poor family, consisting of Walsh and his sister, and the orphan children of a brother, who died a short time before in the Workhouse in Lismore, were obliged to spend the previous night in

the miserable shelter of the chimney corner of the ruined house. Such is the brief history of the man I visited. Walsh had gone to the town, a distance of five miles to procure some meal for the children. His sister had applied to Mr. Ussher, a week before, for the promised £5, but that gentleman had indignantly repudiated the obligation until they would clear themselves altogether from his property."

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During the extent of my journey, taking in over twenty miles, the principal portion of which lay through Ballysagartmore, the whole country appeared as if entirely deserted by its inhabitants. As far as the eye could reach there was no sign of activity, neither man nor horse, neither sowing nor previous preparation, was to be observed. The only life to be seen were famished children and women around the ruins of their cabins, and men wending their lonely way daily on the roads to Lismore, seeking what food they could get for their dependents. I enquired of a man who was leaning idly against a hedge how did it happen that he was not working. He told me he had a few fields cultivated but could get no seed. He had applied to the landlord to help him to get seed, but the answer he received was : ' give up the land and go about your business ' !

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" Such is the case with hundreds of tenants on the mountain lands of Ballysagart and adjoining districts at the present time. If the poor farmers could be supplied with seed oats, wheat or rye, were they able to keep a cow, a horse, or some

sheep, by their industry they would have been able to meet the demand for rent, and support their families. But now all are gone. The cow, the horse, the wearing apparel, the furniture, and even in extreme cases the bed-clothes, were pawned to support existence. Fifteen or sixteen, once fairly comfortable homes, have been levelled, and while I am writing I hear the steward and his bailiffs are on Monday next preparing the same fate for all tenants unable to meet the demand for rent."

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" As I have been informed the whole tenantry, amounting, with their families to over 700 persons, on the Ballysagart Estate are proscribed. The land which the tenants got when it was not worth taking, when according to the evidence, given before the Land Commission by the Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty, though having it rent-free, they found it difficult even to produce the common necessities of life—the land that now, by hard labour had been brought under production, and which in these three years of scarcity and famine made little return for the labour expended, must revert to the landlord. The producers of that fertility must be cleared off the Estate and from their humble but happy homes. But to ensure the impossibility of their making a living, this very year of suffering, hunger and sickness, the landlord issued an order taking from his tenants all right to the turf lands on their holdings. By this decree many of them, lost a valuable source of their small incomes, as they were prevented from selling turf which was not needed for their own use."

FOURTH ARTICLE

"The requisition of the turbaries (turf lands) by the landlord, Mr. Kiely-Ussher, was the crowning blow to the tenants. The portions of their farms on which turf could be cut, and dried for fuel, with the surplus sold to those who needed it, were included in the original allotments made to the tenants, and now, since 25th March last, they were forced to give up these turbaries. This was an irreparable loss to the hard-pressed tenants, for without their right to the turf land, which almost alone helped them to make a living on their allotments, and reconciled them to the cultivation of the farms, they could not make any profit, or even a decent living from the rest of the reclaimed mountain land. The farms were now becoming valuable—their stubborn barrenness has at length yielded to energy and perseverance, so the landlord steps in by this decree to force the tenants to surrender their farms, and of course the labourers, the producers of that fertility, are not to be considered for a moment."

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"At the first baronial sessions held in Lismore the Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty, P.P., through his representations to the magistrates, obtained a grant of £1,400 for the purpose of completing a road through the mountain district of Ballysagart. The details of misery and desolation adduced by Father Fogarty, as well as the utility of the contemplated work, inclined the magistrates to grant the application, and at the Sessions the presentment was unanimously passed. But such work did not coincide with the views of Mr. Kiely-Ussher, and his influence was

exerted, and successfully used, in defeating this project and rendering useless the exertions and anxiety of the Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty. I give this statement on the authority of Dr. Fogarty, for personally I had no means of becoming acquainted with this business."

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I now give statements of individual tenants given in the presence of Dr. Fogarty:—

"Tim Hallahan (a feeble old man upwards of 80) said:—"I am upwards of forty years in Ballysagart; about thirty years ago, when Mr. Ussher came in for the property, my lease ran out. I had twelve cows, a pair of horses, and forty sheep, when I first came to the place. The landlord took the best of the land from me, and planted it with trees. He left me a plot towards the mountain, and put me to the cost of building a house there. He then promised me a lease, **but did not give it to me.** In about nine years after, he removed me out to the mountain altogether, and made an agreement to give it to me for the first seven years free—for the next seven years for five shillings an acre, and for the last seven years at twelve and sixpence. I owe one year's rent and am expecting every day to get notice to quit. Mr. Ussher walked out to me last Lady-day—'Well,' said he, 'It is not possession I want but the turf bog to prevent you selling turf.' I took him at his word and gave up eight acres of the bog, which left me with eleven acres of mountain. I have about ten acres of middling land, but it was all black mountain turf and heath when I went there. I have about an acre of corn set but can't get

seed for the rest of it. I met Mr. Ussher today (Saturday) and followed him down the walk. 'What do you want?' says he. 'After spending my whole life on your property,' says I, 'will you let me die of hunger?' 'Have you not land?' he then asked. 'What good is it to me, sir, says I, when it has failed on me and on the world.' **Give it up, says he, and go into the Workhouse.'**

The recital of this dialogue is given as the poor old man spoke it. He then turned to the Rev. Dr. Fogarty and said: 'if I don't get a little meal I and my family must starve, I have not a morsel to give them.'

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David Keane, another tenant on the Ballysagart Estate, made to me the following statement: "I have about 40 acres of mountain at the yearly rent of £10 7s. 6d. I got the land about nine years ago. My father had land at Glenmore alongside the demesne, about 20 acres of good land. It was taken by the landlord and turned into a sheep-walk, and the family sent out to the mountain. I owed a year and a half's rent on last Lady-day, and on Thursday last bailiffs were sent in on me. Mr. Ussher promised to forgive me the rent if I left the place. I agreed if he would give me leave to stop a month longer until I could sell whatever I had, but the landlord said he would not, and that the house would be tumbled down. I asked the agent, Mr. Smith, if I might get lodging for a short time in a neighbour's house, but he refused me. I am expecting the house will be thrown down in a day or father, and ancestors lived in this neighbourhood for hundreds of years back and now myself

and my family have to leave it all."

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Thomas Doran said: "I hold 30 acres of mountain, out of which I gave half to my father-in-law. I got the land about nine years ago, and after the first four years free I agreed to pay five and sixpence an acre. I had to pay an entry fine of £10. I had about £40 of my own when I got that land. My wife brought me £30, all of which by our hard labour we spent in improving that place. I got notice to quit last Lady-day, although I owe to the landlord only £4 11s. Mr. Ussher told me, last Thursday, in Lismore he would give me £5 if I left the place altogether, and he would be better pleased if I went the **day before tomorrow**. I have five acres fit but I have not seed even for one acre. I have now neither sheep nor cows nor pigs. I had to sell my two cows and a horse last winter and I was obliged to sell my best clothes to buy some food to keep my family from starving."

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FIFTH ARTICLE

Ballysagartmore Estate

"I interviewed a tenant named **Thomas Fitzgerald** who stated he held 13½ acres. He had been seventeen years on the mountain, and before that he had the best part of the land on the lawn where Mr. Kiely-Ussher has now his house and demesne. He and his brother and two more were the first that commenced to build houses on the mountain, seventeen years ago. He owed a year's rent last Lady-day, and on Thursday last the landlord demanded possession. Ussher took his stock and furniture for

the rent twelve months ago, and since that time he had not given any account as to what they realized, or giving him any receipt for the money. He had neither cow, no sheep left, nothing but an old horse. He set 13 barrels of potatoes last year, and did not dig one of them. When Mr. Ussher demanded possession. Fitzgerald said—"Now, sir, pay me for my expenses last year and I will leave the place, or send any two gentlemen there to value what I have done, and I will be satisfied with their valuation. Mr. Ussher gave no answer. I sold my last cow in order to feed the family." He could get no work during the year. When he got the land it was a barren mountain. He had put 110 barrels of lime in the ground, he planted 13 barrels of potatoes. The only offer he got since from the landlord was an offer of £2 10s. to give up his house and the land. He has his wife and four children and now nothing in the world to support them."

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Maurice Murphy, another tenant said:—I have been in Ballysagart all my life; my mother and grand-mother were born there. I was living in Glenmore on part of the estate where the demense is now, and about twelve years ago myself and my family were turned out to the mountain. I agreed with the landlord that I should get a load of turf on the turf hill for my own use for every barrel of lime I put into the ground. I put in 91 barrels of lime last year but when I went to cut the turf I was stopped by the Steward. Last August my cattle and everything I had were seized for twelve months rent due in March before. By borrowing money I

redeemed the cattle and paid up the rents to March, and last Lady-day I owed another year's rent. I got notice in September to quit, though in that month I owed only six months rent. I have neither cow nor sheep at present as I had to sell them to pay what I borrowed before from friends and to support my family. I have a wife and five young children. The Mrs. had to bring a blanket to town and pledge it for 4/6 — that was the first time she went to such a place, and I was as much ashamed as if I stole it. I was bred and born in Ballysagart, and if Mr. Ussher can say I ever defrauded him of a ha'penny I am willing to give it all up to him. Last August after paying up to March he said he would throw me out of the place altogether. I asked him to pay me for my labour, but he said he would not give me one fraction!

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Denis Lawton, tenant of Mr. Ussher said—I hold 26 acres of mountain, and I am there about ten years last Lady-day. I was called up last March to give up the bog or my ground. I refused. My yearly rent is £6 9s. 7½d. On March 25th I got notice to quit, and last week two bailiffs were put in on me, and the landlord was charging me **three shillings a day for them**. I took him £5 to Ballysagartmore House but he refused to take it. Ere yesterday, having sold my horse, I brought £9 to Mr. Smith, the agent. Mr. Smith said he could not settle until he saw his master, and then Mr. Ussher told Smith to keep the £9 until he could get £3 more the cant day. He seized my cow, and two cows belonging to my sister, who lives with me. In eight days more he will cant the

cows for £3, the balance due up to last March. The land was all bog and mountain when I went there, now there are four acres fit for seed, but I have nothing to put in them.

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Thomas Keffe said he held, jointly with his brothers, 42 acres of mountain land. They were there upwards of fourteen years. When they got the land they had three cows, fourteen sheep, and about fifty pounds between them. After all his work last year he had to sell his stock to feed the family, and had not now a grain of seed for the ploughed fields. He expected as he could not pay the rent he would soon be on the road.

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John Landers said—He had 25 acres of mountain at Ballysagart which he reclaimed and worked for past eleven years. On account of the crops failing these hard years he now owes one and half year's rent. Mr. Ussher and his Steward came and demanded possession, but he refused to go with his helpless family, who, he said, were satisfied for a long while back to live on one meal in the twenty-four hours.

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William Whelan told me he had forty-five acres of land, but fifteen acres of turf ground were taken off him by the landlord, and now that he was unable to meet the rent he had got notice to quit. **Pat Bennett** also told me he had fifty-two acres from Mr. Ussher, but had to give up 22 acres of turf ground and now that he was in arrears for some rent all he had was seized by the

bailliffs, pigs, cows and almost all he had. He was eleven years working the mountain land. He had good arable land before he was driven out there.

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James Fitzgerald said: He held 20 acres, good and bad, and was on the holding for nearly twelve years past. When he got it it was all barren mountain. He owed Mr. Ussher 2½ years' rent last March which he was unable to pay from his losses in the last two years. A few weeks ago Mr. Ussher came and took all he had—oats and rye, and did not leave him and his family as much as would get their supper that night. Mr. Ussher canted his horse for himself, and took him to his farm-yard. Afterwards he sent his steward, Smith, to get possession of the house, but he did not obtain it. He had now neither horse, nor sheep, nor goat, and had been tilling that mountain for the last twelve years. There were six in family, and his wife had to pawn her cloak last week to buy a little meal to keep them from starvation.

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I met two labouring men named **Lee** and **Coffey** who were living in a cabin on a tenant's farm whom they paid by labour. By direction of the landlord this tenant was ordered to pull down the cabin, and these men with large young families had to seek shelter elsewhere. They erected two sheds alongside a ditch into which they and their children crept and remained during the night. Mr. Ussher's steward came and tore down the sheds and compelled the poor wretched creatures to leave the place. They tried again to make a shel-

ter of a like kind in another place next day but it speedily met the same fate at the hands of the watchful Mr. Smith.

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I spoke to upwards of thirty of the tenants of Mr. Kiely-Ussher, and in every case the same sad history, the same melancholy details of unrelenting severity and determined extermination were elicited. Yet I found no thought of resistance, no expression of hatred or ill-feeling towards this individual was manifested during the long and painful recital of their sorrows and their sufferings. It is undoubtedly to the Very Rev. Dr. Fogarty that Mr. Ussher is indebted for this peaceable and Christian-like feeling, displayed under circumstances most gall-ing. In public and in private, from the Altar and in their homes has he counselled his flock to patience and trust in God, Who, in His own good time, will give them the reward of peace and comfort as He has promised to all who obey His holy Commandments, and seek not revenge, even for cruel injustice.

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SIXTH ARTICLE

In concluding his report of his visit to the Ballysagartmore Estate the "Examiner" Correspondent writes:—"During the last three weeks sixteen farmers have had their houses destroyed, and their families rendered destitute, on the property of Mr. Kiely-Ussher. Names are appended, with the number in each case of their dependents.

	family
John Walsh	... 5
Edward Daniel	... 8
John Fitzgerald	... 6
David Kearns	... 4
John Kearns	... 4
James Lee	... 8
Larry Cooney	... 4
Michael Coffey	... 5
Thomas Cooney	... 5
Owen Parker	... 8
Thomas Nugent	... 7
Patrick Kearns	... 3
Thomas Linihan	... 3
Patrick Mangan	... 5
Michael Sweeney	... 6
Denis Linihan	... 6

Total, as yet, 16 families, 87 individuals."

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He continues: "It would be superfluous for me to make further reference to the system pursued by Mr. Ussher, as the evidence of his tenantry graphically details the policy he has adopted for some time, and is at present more actively than ever carrying out. Anyone who reads that evidence will see how gradually he removed them from the good and valuable land where they had been located thirty years ago, to the bleak and barren mountain, from which they were now being ejected. An intermediate spot, not near so valuable as the ground they had been obliged to resign, nor quite so unproductive as the mountain, was first selected, and when they had brought that into cultivation suitable for the landlord, they were then transferred to the mountain. There by years of energy, of activity, of toil and patient industry, they made a precarious living, removing from the mountain-surface the black and barren coating that covered it, often to the depth of several feet, and now in the awful years

of famine and disease with dying people around them on every side. their last transfer is being taken from them, their few remaining cattle and goods seized for rent, their humble cabins pulled down, and nothing left to the destitute people but the Workhouse or the emigrant ships. Surely it should be a heart of stone that would not show pity and charity, not to say justice, in these present dreadful times, to poor families like those in the Ballysagartmore estate whom I have visited lately there, and whose sad history of their present plight has been testified to me by their revered and sorrow-stricken Parish Priest, the Rev. Dr. Fogarty."

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Some very old residents in Ballyduff Parish, now gone to their eternity, had vivid recollections of the zeal and charity, and priestly care for his Flock, of the Rev. Dr. Fogarty. They remembered when, unsuccessfully he tried to get a site for a School at Ballysagart from the lord of the soil, he said from the Altar at Lismore that there would yet be a school (and a Church?) there when no Kiely-Ussher should be in Ballysagartmore. Events have proved the truth of the good priest's prophesy. The lordly-mansion house built in 1856, which should survive centuries, has lately been dismantled—the roof is gone, the doors have disappeared, the gaunt walls alone are standing, and now, instead of famishing families seeking shelter under the ruined chimneys, the only visitants there are the rooks and crows that flit in and out through the skeleton door-ways and glass-less window-opes.

Truly "the mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small." Today there are many happy, contented and comfortable families, owners of their land without fear of transfer or eviction, living on what was one time the absolute property of the petty tyrant, Mr. Kiely-Ussher. His name is now nearly forgotten by the descendants and successors of the generation that felt his tyranny, and they, moved by the charity of their hearts, would rather express the hope that by the great mercy of God, he may have had the grace of repentance before his eternity began.

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These extracts from the graphic impeachment published to the world in the "Cork Examiner" in 1847, are not made in an uncharitable spirit, or merely to revive unhappy memories of "dark and evil deeds," but rather to remind all readers of the hard struggles of our forefathers under landlordism in the years that are gone, and how grateful we should be to God that family life in Ireland is now so happy and secure.

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SEVENTH ARTICLE

CAPTAIN BARRY'S ESTATE.

"On the property of Captain Barry the same poverty and destitution prevail as that among the tenantry of Mr. Ussher. It is true no houses have been tumbled down, but a system, instituted by the Cap-

tain, nearly as bad, has been put into operation. The difficulties and losses of his tenants, specially of late months, made them part with their stock, house-hold furniture, and everything that could be converted into money, in order to buy food for their households. Many finding themselves unable to buy seed for the land they had prepared, applied to the Captain. His answer, they told me, was—"give up the land." He offered each a trifling, and, in many cases, a miserable sum in compensation for giving up possession, which numbers of them were obliged to accept, to supply the present cravings of their hungry families. Numbers are being quietly got rid of in this way, with nothing before them later but beggary and destitution."

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MR. WOOD'S ESTATE

The tenantry of Benjamin Wood and Brothers, of Cork City, who own some 5,000 acres, which include the village of Ballyduff, are in no better, or worse, state than those on the Ballysagartmore Estate. Not prevented by the destitution and absolute hunger of many poor tenants on his estate Mr. Wood sent his agent, about a fortnight since, when the relief act came into operation, to ask the Lismore-Ballyduff Committee that they should not afford relief to any of his tenants who were in possession of houses and land. This suggestion was scouted by the kind-hearted Chairman, Sir Richard Musgrave, who said it would directly controvene the Act of Parliament, and effectually annihilate these poor people. Such a system if carried out

would undoubtedly be an excellent plan for Mr. Ussher, and similarly disposed landlords, to get rid of their tenants, who are now considered but as mere incumbrances. Mr. Wood was unfortunate that his scheme came before Sir Richard Musgrave and the Very Rev. Parish Priest at the Ballyduff Committee Board.

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The Chanley Estate—The report continues—"There is another landlord in this neighbourhood, Mr. Chanley, whose conduct of his estate deserves the highest praise. Besides giving land on his mountain property free of rent for the first twenty years to his tenantry, he has this year supplied several hundred barrels of oats and barley to all whose poverty prevented them from purchasing seed. What a contrast this is to the action of other landlords, details of which I have already given. The generosity and kindly charity of Mr. Chanley is here recorded, and should be remembered."

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We read in the report of the "Examiner" Correspondent how rightly he praised the humanity and earnest co-operation of Sir Richard Musgrave in every way in his power to bring help and relief to afflicted families in the Lismore-Ballyduff district in the famine years, and with this second example of another good estate owner, Mr. Chanley, is concluded what is hoped may have been to readers of the "Dungarvan Leader," interesting extracts from the report printed in the "Cork Examiner" in the year 1847.

POPE PIUS IX—HIS HELP
FOR IRELAND IN THE
FAMINE YEARS
CONCLUDING ARTICLE

In the same issue of the "Cork Examiner" from which extracts from its special Correspondent's Report have been re-published in the "Leader," we find an Encyclical Letter from Pope Pius IX, of holy memory. It was sent to "All Patriarchs, Primate, Archbishops, and Bishops of the Catholic Church, to implore the Divine Assistance and the charity of the world for the Kingdom of Ireland." These words form the title of the Holy Father's historic Letter. (History repeats itself this year of awful calamity over Europe, when we see the successor of Pius IX, our present Holy Father Pius XII, appealing to the whole Catholic world for the starving victims of the second disastrous war).

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The Encyclical Letter continues:—"Grace and Apostolic Benediction. It is well known to you, Venerable Brethern to whom the history of the Church is familiar, that Our Predecessors, the Roman Pontiffs, always displayed a diligent and anxious care to assist all Christian Nations in whatever manner they could. You are aware that their zeal did not merely embrace spiritual blessings, but it was employed in alleviating those public calamities by which each Christian Nation was at any time afflicted. The records of ancient and modern times confirm this. Indeed it is, and has ever been, the duty of those whom the Catholic faith points

out as the 'Fathers and Teachers of all Christians' to have constantly before them a paternal solicitude for the Flock of Christ."

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"Being moved by this example of our Predecessors, and at the same time by the inclination of our own will, when first we learned that the Kingdom of Ireland was involved in a great dearth of corn, and a scarcity of other provisions, and that the Nation was suffering from disease through lack of food, We instantly applied every means, as far as in us lay, to help that afflicted people. Therefore, We proclaimed that in this, our City of Rome, prayers should be poured forth, and We encouraged the Clergy, the Roman people, and all sojourning in our City, to send assistance to Ireland. By which means it was arranged that, partly by money cheerfully sent by ourselves, and partly by that which was collected in Rome, assistance was forwarded to Our Venerable Brethern, the Archbishops of Ireland, which they may distribute where most needed among their suffering people. But letters are still brought to Us that calamities are continuing, and even increasing there. Our mind being moved with sorrow and grief for the afflicted people of Ireland We are compelled again, urged by the Charity of Christ, to beg further assistance for that Nation now suffering under disaster."

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"We know how great the fidelity of the clergy and people of Ireland is, and always has been, towards the Apostolic See—how in the most dangerous