

MY FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN,

MY ANCESTORS have all lived amongst you, as resident Landlords—from TERNAN O'RUARK, the last Prince of *Bresni*, down to my lamented Father, HUGH M'TERNAN, Esq., of *Mount-Allen*: they have all been your warm and sincere friends, not only in assisting to Redress your Wrongs and Grievances, and seeing Justice done to you; but in seasons of Distress and Famine, their Purses have been, upon all occasions, as open as their hearts to relieve your wants. I do not exaggerate when I assert, that in many such seasons of distress and want, for the last 50 years, my Father gave £500 worth of Provisions to the Poor, at *Mount-Allen*.

I was the first Landlord in this part of Ireland who commenced and established the New Principle and Precedent of *only receiving Rents once a Year*, (the 29th of September,) and giving each Tenant an allowance in his Rent, for *Building comfortable Farm-houses*; and also giving the Tenants a substantial Dinner of Beef and Mutton, according as they come in to pay their Rents. When first I commenced this, it was considered by some that my object was to *court mob popularity*; but upon reflection, when they (the Landlords) saw the benefit derived by *leaving the November Gale in the Tenant's hands*, (and not stripping him bare in March,) which enables him to put a good Crop of Seed in his Ground, and good Milch Cows on his Grass, to make Butter, *Lard*, *Bacon*, and many other good men, have adopted, and are now acting upon, a similar principle. And I appeal to the Gentleman Attorneys who practise at the Quarter Sessions Courts, in the four Counties, (*Cavan, Leitrim, Roscommon, and Sligo*), to say whether they ever knew or heard of my Father or I having taken out any Ejectment Decrees, or of turning out Tenants: our motto being, "to live, and let live," and to make those over whom Providence placed us (Catholic and Protestant) comfortable and happy. In support of this assertion, I challenge some of the first Peers of the realm to produce, upon their Estates, Three Hundred Tenants better fed, better clothed, or more comfortable, than I can upon mine.

As a Grand Juror, by opposing job after job, at each Assizes, I have assisted to reduce your Grand Jury Cess from Four Shillings per acre, to less than one-half: and if I can induce the Government to throw the entire of this Cess upon the Landlords—*or even one-half*, in order to relieve you—I will most cheerfully pay my portion of it.

My Purse has been, upon all occasions, as ready and open as my person to relieve your wants; and I shall only remind you of the late General Failure in the Potato Crop, in this country, *when Meal got up to the startling price of Thirty Shillings per Cwt.*; did I not send to the Scotch Mills, near *Sligo*, and had Carts of Meal sent to the different Market Towns, with directions to my men to *sell same in small quantities*, at fair prices, by which means I brought down the price of Provisions to *one-half*, in this County?

It had always been my constant pride and boast, that you were the best conducted and most orderly people in Her Majesty's dominions. But, alas, that Pride and Boast have now been changed (upon my part) into Sorrow and Grief, when I see You Branded as Murderers and Assassins—who have by your mad, reckless conduct, brought your hitherto Peaceable Country into a state of Anarchy and Disorder—by which Hundreds of you will be either Shot or Hanged, or Transported to NORFOLK ISLAND, to be Chained to a Barrow, for life; where, it is well known, Hundreds of the Transports jump into the Sea, with the barrows chained to their wrists, in order to put an end to their sufferings in this world.

Then I implore you to take the advice of one who has, upon every occasion, proved himself to be your best Friend; and if any of you had the misfortune to join Illegal Societies, renounce them forthwith, and give them up for ever. And I call upon every Father, who has the happiness or welfare of his Son at heart, not to allow him out of his House after Sunset, and make him pray to his God, to direct him and keep him in the state of Grace—which is the Blessing and Prayer of

Your devoted Countryman and Friend,

JAMES M'TERNAN.

Mount-Allen, 1st July, 1845.

Brennan, Printer, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Below is the typed version of the Pamphlet above

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Your devoted Countryman and Friend

James M'Ternan,

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