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CHARLES H. ALLEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
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# THE BANNER.

[WEEKLY.]

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## Sixteen Days Later from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE

### STEAMER SARAH SANDS.

The steam ship Sarah Sands arrived at New York on the 10th inst. She sailed on the 20th January, and brings sixteen days later intelligence from Liverpool. The news is only important in a commercial point of view—the political intelligence is of little importance.

She brought out $600,000 in coin.

There had been a farther advance in breadstuffs—but at last dates a part of it was lost.

Cotton had suffered a slight decline.

The distress continued and increased in Ireland—many deaths had occurred from absolute starvation. Public and private charity was doing much to alleviate it.

The steamer Sirius, the first steamer that crossed the ocean, had been wrecked and 20 persons drowned.

The Bank of England had raised the rate of interest to 3 and 1-2 per cent.

Parliament opened on the 1[illegible]ary—the Queen read her sp[illegible]son. The distressed condi[illegible]land and her people was the principle topic.

It was in contemplation to suspend the navigation laws, to admit vessels of all nations with provisions—free of duties—to prohibit the use of grain in breweries, and to occupy all the British navy in bringing food.

Not a single county in Ireland is without severe suffering.

The French Chambers were open on the 11th January.

The Bank of France has been relieved by a loan from the Bank of England.

The English funds are depressed and consols falling.

The civil war in Portugal is turning in favor of the Queen.

The Session of the Spanish Cortes was opened on the 31st December. The Queen's speech recommends liberal provision for the clergy and church.

The distress in Ireland continues to [illegible] starving population. In addition to the famine which is working death and misery in all sections of the land, a new fatal disease, superinduced by the scarcity and bad quality of the food, called the plague, is also increasing the number of deaths.

The New York [illegible] remarks that the measures proposed by the English government are of the utmost importance. The ports are [illegible] opened for the free admission of foreign corn of every kind by [illegible] the duty of four shillings sterling will be abolished. The navigation laws are to be suspended, by which ships will be admitted [illegible], and sugar is to be allowed in distilleries. These measures will be carried, the protectionists have promised them their support. They have [illegible] from the government by the [illegible] of the people of Ireland. [illegible] Scotland, (says the [illegible]) [illegible]

Most of the mills were working short time, on account of the very high price of cotton.

## IRELAND.

THE FAMINE.—John Coughlan, Parish Priest of Kilkelly, County Dayo, has addressed a letter to the London Times, in which he says:

"Two months ago my parishioners exceeded 6000 souls; they are now reduced considerably below that number—death, by starvation, has made its fearful ravages. This week two persons have died of hunger, one a girl named Mary Dodd, of Barcoll, aged 16 years, the other a man named James O'Donnell, of Sownaclane, aged 53 years. I attended another last night, named William Fallan, dying of starvation. Of the entire number of about 5,950 now living, I solemnly declare, to the best of my opinion, that not more than 200 of them have more to support nature than half a meal in the 24 hours. The corn is all gone; not even the seed for the ensuing year remains. The turnips [illegible] used. We have no Indian meal. [illegible] very small quantity of oatmeal to [illegible]ound is selling at 28s. per 112 lbs. Indian meal is not to be had in Sligo for less than 19 pounds per ton. The people on the public works are not permitted to earn more than 3s. per week. They could earn more if permitted to bring their families. Such a rational course the Board of Works will not permit. Oh, Sir, if ever suffering humanity commanded your sympathy, the dying destitution of my parishioners loudly does so. Day and night I am importuned for food."

The accounts from Mayo given in the Freeman's Journal are very painful. In the Parish of Cong, 97 deaths occured within a week; in a neighboring parish, a like number in three weeks. Rev. Patrick Fitzgerald, Roman Catholic curate of Kilgeever, thus illustrates the intensity of the famine:

"I shall never forget the impression made upon my mind a few days ago by a most heartrending case of starvation. I have witnessed the poor mother of five in family, sending her little children, almost lifeless from hunger, to bed, and despairing of ever seeing them alive, she took her last leave of them. In the morning, her first act was to touching their lips with her hand to see if the breath of life still remained; but the poor mothers fears were not groundless, for not a breath could she feel from some of her dear little children, that night buried them in the height of eternity."

The Cork Examiner sums up the state of things in the neighborhood of Skibbereen:

"In the parish of [illegible], 14 died on Sunday; three of them were buried without other covering than the rags they wore when alive. One gentleman, a good and charitable man, speaking of the case says—"The disease is [illegible] feelings of decency [illegible] says—"I would rather give 1s. to a starving man than 4s. 6d. for a coffin."

"140 died in the Skibbereen work house in one month. 8 have died to [illegible]. And M[illegible] [illegible]

CROOKHAVEN.—A correspondent writing to us from this locality says—"There have been fifteen deaths of starvation in this locality these last seven days, all leaving widows and orphans."

TRACTION.—Rev. Mr. Corkran, P. P. informs us that sixteen deaths from starvation have occured in ten days. This within a dozen miles of the Southern capital of Ireland!—Stretched on a bed of straw, lies a dying husband and father; and grouped around that couch are a wretched wife and children, who devour wild weeds, that they might leave the only remaing morsel of food to the dying man.

DEATH FROM DESTITUTION—EVICTIONS.—*Dungarian, Jan. 4.* There are 800 persons in the poor house at present. Every available corner of it is crammed, even the coach houses and stables are filled with paupers. In its hospital there are over 200; six persons died there on Friday night last, and the master says that the poor creatures are quite exhausted with hunger before they are taken into the house at all—so much so that they are not able to bear the food—and that on being admitted, some of them drop down senseless in the hall from exhaustion, having been fasting one and two days previous. It is feared the over-crowded state of the house will endanger the lives of all the inmates and bring pestilence among them. There are now in the house two hundred paupers more than it was originally intended to accommodate; but, in fact, if it was four times as large as it is, it would not contain the vast number seeking for admission. Last week twenty-four persons died in Dungarvan and Abbeyside, after three or four days illness. Subscriptions were obliged to be collected to provide coffins for them. On Monday night there were five more died in the poor house, making the number of deaths here within the last six or seven days, thirty-five.

APPALLING DISTRESS IN C[illegible].—[illegible] communication to you, a few days past a circumstance has occurred here which of itself shows the utter destitution to which the people in this neighborhood are reduced.

A horse belonging to a poor man named Mackum, [illegible] in this town, died a few days since, and the animal having been skinned, the carcass was left for the dogs and birds of prey to feed on, but [illegible] Although the [illegible] good description, I doubted the truth of this horrible statement when I heard it; but having been told the [illegible] of the wretched family, I went at once to their miserable abode, in order to ascertain the accuracy of the statement.

In approaching a [illegible] horrible famine [illegible] hearing that Mackums horse died, brought home a basket full of it which was all the dogs had left, and on this alone we have lived the whole week, and the Lord only knows what I will now do for my starving children since it is gone.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION—MOHILL.—Within a brief period, six persons have died, starvation is in the barony of Mohill, county of Leitrim. Inquests were held upon their bodies by the coroner, Alexander Purcival, Esq., assisted by J. Duke, Esq., M. D., and most intelligent jurors. Our condition is appalling. The people, to an alarming extent, exhibit awful symptoms of a want of food.

George Byng, Esq., M. P., died on the 10th ult. He was called [illegible]ther of the House of Commons, having sat as a member 56 years.

An office has been opened in London to grant letters of marque and reprisal, according to degrees of the Mexican government against the United States. Three privateers have, it is said, already been despatched. The rates of insurance by American vessels have in consequence been increased.

The Sirius steamer was lost on the Irish coast on the 15th ult. Twelve of the crew and passengers were drowned in attempting to get on shore.

H. M. steam ship Sphynx, of 1,056 tons, and 500 horse power, was totally lost on the 15th ult. on a reef of rocks near the Isle of Wight.

Forty-four vessels and 3,700 men are employed by the Government in affording relief to the starving poor of Ireland and Scotland.

It is discovered that the city of London has been sinking gradually for some years. The water in the Thames is rising in the same ratio.

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The European Correspondent of the Union after expending much learning on the history of the discovery and use of Gunpowder, [illegible] contributions to [illegible]

[illegible] the belief, that [illegible], already, is more effective, for all explosive purposes, than gunpowder was for the first five hundred years after it became generally known. The genius of science which distinguishes our times, and by which it was discovered, will naturally remedy any [illegible] in its properties, which may be an obstacle to its extended adoption for sporting and [illegible]

[illegible] mechanism are making, that from day to day some new cause of amazement is developed to the world. Nothing that does not come in direct opposition to the immutable laws of nature seems impossible. There is no stopping place. Incredulity is disarmed of its weapons as the fiend of old was by the spell of the sorceress. Sir Humphrey Davy, the great philosopher of his day, when it was proposed to illuminate the streets of London with gas, asserted that such a measure was as impracticable as to cut a slice from the moon and use it as an illuminating power. Now, you behold fourth-rate cities in the United States, remote from coal fields brilliantly lighted up with this uncongulating spirit, while it is in use in every respectable town in Europe. It is estimated that, on an average, eight hundred tons of coals are used by the London gas companies daily. It is scarcely ten years since the learned Doctor Lardner asserted, in the most positive manner, that vessels propelled by steam would never succeed in navigating the Atlantic; an opinion in which most of the English merchants coincided. Now, you behold steamships running weekly between England and America, making their passages with the regularity of a stage, and triumphantly encountering the most frightful hurricanes and storms. Francis Fortune, who predicted that a run from London to Bristol would be made upon a rail in four hours, was shunned as a maniac. Now behold the distance travelled over in a little more than two hours, and from London to Exeter, via Bristol, 220 miles, in four hours and a half, including stoppages. It is but as yesterday that we heard of the magnetic telegraph. Now, you behold in the United States lines in various directions, according to the statement of Mr. Kendall, of the length of 1,300 miles. It is not improbable but that this lightning news-conveyer will yet make the circuit of the Globe. An experiment with the sub-marine telegraph, at Portsmouth, England, a few days since, encourages a belief of the kind. The account given of it states:—"The fact of the water acting as a ready return conductor was established beyond question; for to the then most thoroughly repeated experiments were made in the presence of [illegible]