

NOTICE TO ALL RECEIVING RELIEF.

The **RELIEF COMMISSIONERS** in **DUBLIN**, call upon the *Inspecting Officers* to cease the issue of **FOOD** under the Relief Act on the 15th of August, especially in this fine *Agricultural Union of Rathkeale*.

The **Helpless Poor** must then be provided for under the **New Poor Law Bill**.

The **Able-Bodied** must seek **Labour** wherever to be obtained.

In the mean time, the supplies of **Money**, and **Food** from the **Commissariat Stores** will be decreased week by week.

All **Holders of Land** will first be struck off the **Lists** by the 1st of August, and those above **5 Acres** sooner.

The **Able-Bodied Labourers** will come next, and they are called on to assist **Relief Committees** to strike off week by week those who can soonest shift for themselves.

By order of the

RELIEF COMMISSIONERS, Dublin Castle.

Fig. 5 Notice from the Relief Commissioners in Dublin calling upon the inspecting officers to cease the issue of food. In July 1847 over three million people were collecting rations from the Government's soup kitchens. Under the provisions of the Poor Law Extension Act passed in June 1847, the burden of relief would eventually fall on a Poor Law system, which was singularly ill-equipped to deal with a crisis on the scale of the Famine. The result was a humanitarian disaster. [Source: National Gallery of Ireland]

BURIAL OF WORKHOUSE PAUPERS.—Considerable annoyance and disgust has been felt by the inhabitants of this town, by the conveyance of the lifeless remains of paupers who may have died of fever and dysentery, through the principal streets; and in many cases the creatures carrying the remains have left down their burden to rest. We are certain the following resolution—entered into by the magistrates—will induce the present board to alter this regulation, and have the paupers buried in the grave-yard attached to the workhouse:—

“ Resolved—That it having been represented to the bench of magistrates this day that a very great grievance exists in the mode of carrying the bodies of paupers who have died of fever and other diseases, in the union workhouse. In many instances the few persons employed on this duty are observed to loiter in the streets, and deposit the coffins on the ground for some time, which coffins are so imperfectly finished as to scarcely cover the bodies. We, therefore request the vice-guardians will be pleased to regulate the burial of the dead with more order and decency, and, when practicable, to have them buried in the poorhouse ground that has been consecrated, and not permit them, to the annoyance of the inhabitants, to be carried through this town.

“ **THOMAS DILLON, M D**

“ **WILLIAM KEARNEY.**

“ **29th July, 1847.**

Fig. 6 Given the increasing rates of mortality during 1847, the burial of the dead became a contentious issue especially in workhouse towns like Castlebar. The report in the *Mayo Constitution*, 3 August 1847, points to the fear of contagion amongst the town's inhabitants. [Source: Mayo County Library]