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Homan
to
Col.
McC
Mahon

Amesfield, Kilkullen

23^d June 1817

Dear Sir

As you expressed a wish to hear from me the last time I was in England when any thing occurred respecting Ireland. I think the subject I am now going to enter on sufficiently important to claim the attention of a man so high in the confidence of the Prince Regent as the Gentleman I have the honor of addressing - when that man is also an Irishman a warm hearted Patriotic Irishman whose feelings will I am certain stimulate him to use his influence with his Royal Master for the relief of his native country I need make no apology for thus trespassing on your attention - I shall therefore submit to you my observations on the three Counties with which I happen to be connected, & I am confident from the report of other Counties it may be taken as the general state of Ireland.

I have in past communicated on this subject to Mr Peel on the 10th Instant, but as I did not ascertain whether you had mentioned me to Mr Peel as you once gave me reason to hope - I think if you did not, my statement will not perhaps be attended to, & that it is my duty as an Irishman to state to you what I firmly believe to be the disease & to suggest what I am certain every

To
The M^o Hon
John McCMahon
Gentleman
He, He, He.

Gentlemen in Ireland will agree with me in holding as an
adequate remedy — Having been the first person
to volunteer my services as Special Constable for the
Counties of Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow & my example
being followed by most of the Gentlemen & Farmers for
an extent of Forty Miles round I have had an oppor-
-tunity of observing the real state of these Counties & the
extreme distress bordering on famine which prevails —

They are certainly very much distressed but want of
employment for the labouring poor is the principal cause
of it — In many places the people are living on boiled
nettles & other substitutes for food totally unfit for human
sustenance — I have formed an association in my neigh-
-bourhood which has spread over a great part of the
three Counties & which has done much in the protection
of property & the preservation of the peace, but if something
be not speedily done to relieve the distress of the people
I fear our efforts will become ineffectual — I have
myself taken up persons charged with robbery & found
that want had driven them to desperation & that they were
willing to work if they could get employment — In fact
they have no resource but plunder, and to this they
are encouraged by the humanity of some who will not
and the fears of others who dare not come forward to
prosecute

It were to be found that want of
employment & the consequent distress is general
throughout the country — To remedy these evils

not a moment should be lost for six weeks at least must elapse before we can expect a supply of food & our private subscriptions are not sufficient to support them without employment — Might not part of that sum of £250,000 which was granted by Parliament for the relief of Ireland be applied generally to the improvement of the roads or other public works so as to employ the people in their own neighbourhoods — if this should be granted it ought to be distinctly understood that the County Treasurers should distribute the money intrusted to them equally to each barony — otherwise no good can result as the system of County Jobbing will continue & the great object that of employing the honest & industrious poor in their own neighbourhoods will be completely defeated —

I should perhaps apologise for presuming to mention the means that might be made use of for this most desirable end — I shall however not trespass further on your time than to remark that let relief come in what shape it may, it will be most welcome to a starving suffering people

My dear Sir, with the utmost respect
& gratitude your obedient humble servant,

J. Romane

1802

Mr. Lowman
23rd June 1817