

**NARRATIVE OF A RECENT JOURNEY OF SIX  
WEEKS IN IRELAND, IN CONNEXION WITH  
THE SUBJECT OF SUPPLYING SMALL  
SEED TO SOME OF THE REMOTER DISTRICTS:  
WITH CURRENT OBSERVATIONS ON THE  
DEPRESSED CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PEOPLE**

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Narrative of a Recent Journey of Six Weeks in Ireland, in Connexion with the Subject of Supplying Small Seed to Some of the Remoter Districts: With Current Observations on the Depressed Circumstances of the People by William Bennett

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**WILLIAM BENNETT**

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CURRENT OBSERVATIONS ON THE DEPRESSED  
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PEOPLE,  
AND THE  
MEANS PRESENTED FOR THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT  
OF THEIR SOCIAL CONDITION.

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'Nor will I give the slightest countenance to any consideration of Ireland as  
a thing separate and apart from ourselves.'—OLD MS.

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BY  
WILLIAM BENNETT.

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**“ In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold  
not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper,  
either this or that.”—ECCLESIASTES xi. 6.**



## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE following record of a simple individual effort is from memoranda and letters written principally to my sister, one of the working members of the Ladies' Irish Clothing Committee of London. It is not that an additional testimony is needed to the depth and extent of the visitation which has been permitted to desolate our sister-isle; nor to their patient endurance of sufferings, which it is believed are unparalleled among any other people, at least in Europe and in modern times. It is simply, that in a protracted period of such severe and wide-spread calamity, the field is open to every variety and extent of labour, while the humblest contribution is kindly received. In the prosecution of the object, likewise, some spots have been visited which had not before obtained



the same degree of personal investigation. Some account is also felt to be due to those who have lent their aid and sympathy, and to the general interest and inquiry which have now been awakened in the way of information on whatever may concern the present state or more permanent welfare of Ireland; and which is disposed to look with indulgence on every practical effort to mitigate one pang of her accumulated and varied sufferings, to counteract in any degree those causes which have left her peasantry without resource on the constant verge of famine, or to grapple with the evils resulting from her social condition.

Should these notes and observations, which the writer feels have been crudely put together under much difficulty, create any additional interest in the state of some of the remote and neglected corners of the sister-land—in the wide field there offered for humanity and usefulness—in the means of her permanent improvement—in the features of her attractive and magnificent scenery,—should they have any effect in abating one prejudice—in

awakening any fresh sympathy, or in keeping up any warmth of feeling and affection, he will be amply repaid and his object answered. They have been written out rather as a debt; and, the journey having extended from north to south, and twice from east to the extreme west of the island, over a distance of not less than 1,500 miles, much beyond what was at first anticipated, they have unconsciously swollen under his hands. Having often enjoyed her simple and social hospitality, it is felt as a tribute not less due in this her hour of deep tribulation and anguish, of humility and woe. The whole journey has been a painful, but now upon the retrospect, a most deeply interesting one. He has endeavoured to confine these Letters to such details only as are characteristic of something in the state and circumstances of the people, or otherwise closely connected with his subject; and it was never his intention to have written a BOOK.

The proceeds will be devoted to Irish relief.

*London, 1st of 7th mo. 1847.*

