

DOCUMENT 7



"The fearful system of wholesale ejection, of which we daily hear, and which we daily behold, is a mockery of the eternal laws of God-- a flagrant outrage on the principles of nature. Whole districts are cleared. Not a roof-tree is to be seen where the happy cottage of the labourer or the snug homestead of the farmer at no distant day cheered the landscape."

Source: *Ejection*, Illustrated London News, Dec 16, 1848

One important qualification of the right to relief, however, was outlined in the Gregory clause of the Poor Law. The tax that paid for the poor law already fell heavily on the landlord . . . Now faced with an increase in tax at a time when famine was severely affecting rents, many landlords chose to eliminate the taxable holdings altogether by evicting their occupiers and destroying their dwellings. The Gregory clause facilitated these clearances; it forced tenants to part with almost all their land in order to obtain relief, but in practice, landlords often refused to accept surrenders unless the entire holding was yielded, with the dwelling. Many tenants starved to death rather than surrender their land, because entitlement to relief was no guarantee of its availability. Not surprisingly, the evictions that it facilitated and the abuses to which it led lent the Gregory clause a notoriety unique in the history of British legislation for Ireland.

Source: http://www.novelguide.com/a/discover/eich_02/eich_02_00331.html

7A. Review the picture above and identify the event.

7B. In an essay, describe the event, why are the military there, why is the roof being caved in, what will become of the family and their possessions?
