

Victims of the Famine Children

Before

Irish peasant girl
Watercolour
by
Frederick Goodall
1845
British Museum, London



After

Left:
Starving child
Anonymous watercolour
c. 1850
National Library of Ireland



Right:
Orphan girl
at Crossmolina
Co. Mayo
Anonymous drawing
c. 1850
National Library of Ireland



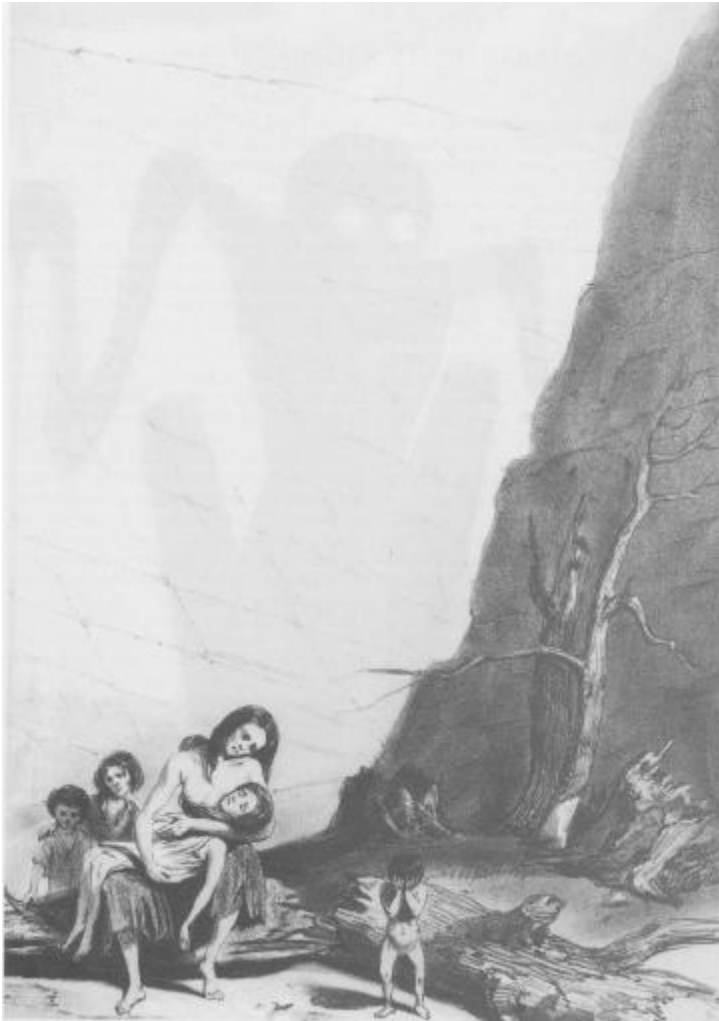
Workhouse orphanage
Anonymous drawing
c. 1850
National Library of Ireland

The Quakers and other groups provided soup and relief in a spirit of Christian charity, irrespective of the religious denomination of the recipients and with no claims on their allegiance. However, a number of evangelical missionary groups made relief conditional on conversion to the Protestant faith. One of the most controversial proselytisers was Rev. Alexander Dallas who established schools in Connemara during the Famine, including this one, Ballinaboy, Co. Galway. Such missionaries attracted hundreds of converts, but their strident propaganda caused great resentment among the Catholic clergy. 'Soupierism' remains an abiding image in popular folklore.



Famine in Ireland
The Spectre

'H.D.', London 1851



Far West a grim shadow was seen, as 'tis said,
Like a Spectre from Famine and Pestilence bred;
His gaunt giant-form, with pale Poverty wed.

The fell Spectre advanc'd - who the horrors shall tell
Oh his galloping stride, as he sounded the knell
Of thousands on thousands who 'neath his eye fell?

