

PETITION from Poor Persons in Tyree for Aid to Emigrate.

Unto Sir JOHN McNEILL

The Petition of the undersigned Cottars and small Crofters on the  
Island of Tyree,

*Humbly sheweth,*

That since the making of the kelp ceased, and particularly since the failure of the potato crop, the inhabitants of this island have been in a state of great destitution; and, were it not for the benevolence of the proprietor, and the aid afforded by the relief board, they would inevitably have starved. That hitherto they have been employed by the proprietor at drainage and other works, during the winter and spring months, before the land was cropped, and during the summer months they were supported by the funds of the relief board. That this latter resource being now at an end, your petitioners' prospects, on looking forward to the ensuing summer, are in the extreme dismal, and the more so, as the only prospect of ultimate relief to which they so fondly cling is denied them—that of emigration—which your petitioners neglected to take advantage of while in their power, probably supposing that relief funds were to last, or that the potato would be restored. That, to add to their further grievance, your petitioners are led to understand that those adverse to emigration from the West Highlands are using every possible means to prevent it, and that statements are made publicly that the poor can be supported by employing them in the improvement of waste land. Those who advocate such are certainly actuated by other motives save that of philanthropy, and display the grossest ignorance as to the resources of the country, particularly as regards this isolated island, where there is no fuel, and not an inch of waste land, which the inhabitants could not drain and trench in a few months. That your petitioners would now most earnestly request, that if possessed of the bowels of compassion, such as were your forefathers, or value the lives of your countrymen, you will not credit the statement of those inimical to our best interest, but examine individually into our circumstances, and the condition of the island, when they have no doubt you will have sufficient proof afforded of the fallacy of such statements, and the injury and cruelty done us by such misrepresentations, which may perhaps be the means of the Duke's withholding of his bounty, and depriving us of the power of participating in the enjoyments and comforts, they are from day to day informed, their friends in Canada enjoy to such an extent.

May it therefore please your honour to take the miserable condition of your petitioners into consideration, and use your influence with Her Majesty's Government or His Grace the Duke of Argyll, to provide for them the means of emigrating; and your petitioners shall ever pray.

Residence	Name	Crofter or Cottar	Rent			Number of Family
			£	s.	d.	
Balinoe	Donald M'Donald	Crofter	3	12	0	8
Barapoll	A. M'Innes	do.	12	0	0	14
Balephuill	C. M'Millan	Cottar		...		9
Balemartin	H. M'Donald	do.		...		8
Balephuill	J. Campbell	do.		...		13
Balemartin	A. M'Lean	do.		...		6
Moss	Hugh Lamont	do.		...		7
do.	A. M'Donald	do.		...		8
Barapoll	J. Carmichael	do.		...		3
do.	P. Carmichael	do.		...		7
do.	N. M'Innes	do.		...		4
Moss	J. M'Donald	do.		...		8
Barapoll	D. Burrer	do.		...		9
Balimeanach	Mary Brown	do.		...		3
do.	J. M'Lean	Crofter	5	10	0	6
Baliphuill	A. M'Kinnon	do.	1	12	6	9
do.	A. Campbell	Cottar		...		10
Barapoll	A. Lamont	do.		...		8
Hilipoll	A. M'Arthur	Crofter	2	10	0	11
Cornaig-beg	L. M'Kinnon	do.	5	2	0	9
do.	L M'Lean	Cottar		...		2
Kennovy	A. M'Donald	do.		...		1
do.	John M'Donald	do.		...		7
Moss	C. M'Lean	do.		...		8
do.	J. M'Donald	do.		...		4
do.	J. Ferguson	do.		...		8
Hilipoll	H. M'Lean	Crofter	1	11	0	3
Cornaig-beg	H. M'Lean	Cottar		...		2
Mannal	A. M'Neill	do.		...		6
do.	D. Brown	do.		...		2
Baliphuill	D. M'Lean	Crofter	7	18	0	10
do.	J. M'Donald	do.	6	0	0	2
do.	M. M'Donald	do.	2	0	0	6
Moss	Mary M'Lean	Cottar		...		2*
Baliphuill	A. M'Kinnon	Crofter	4	16	0	13
do.	D. M'Millan	Cottar		...		4
do.	M. M'Millan	Crofter	2	10	6	11
do.	M. Black	Cottar		...		4
do.	Cne. Black	do.		...		3
do.	D. M'Lean	Crofter	3	0	0	8
do.	J. M'Lean	Cottar		...		3
do.	J. M'Lean	Crofter	1	0	0	2
Balimartin	N. M'Millan	Cottar		...		7
do.	J. M'Donald	do.		...		7
Cornaig-more	D. M'Farlane	do.		...		4
Hilipoll	A. M'Donald	Cottar		...		1
do.	N. M'Intyre	do.		...		2
Ruaig	J. M'Lean	do.		...		8
Cornaig-more	H. Lamont	do.		...		4

Residence	Name	Crofter or Cottar	Rent			Number of Family
			£	s.	d.	
Moss	D. Cameron	Cottar		...		8
Kilmoluaig	L. Cameron	do.		...		6
do.	J. M'Lean	do.		...		5
Balivullin	A. Kennedy	do.		...		4
do.	L. Black	do.		...		3
do.	Christ <sup>n</sup> M'Lean	do.		...		2
Baliphuil	D. Brown	Crofter	3	0	0	4
Salem	F. M'Kinnon	Cottar		...		9
Vaul	S. M'Phaden	Crofter	3	15	0	6
Baliphuil	A. Kay	Cottar		...		10
Gott	D. M'Kinnon	do.		...		6
do.	H. M'Lean	do.		...		12
do.	A. Brotton	do.		...		5
Mannal	N. M'Lean	Crofter	1	7	6	7
Cornaig-more	N. M'Phail	do.	6	0	0	6
do.	J. M'Phail	do.	4	14	0	9
Cornaig-more	A. M'Phail	Crofter	6	0	0	4*
Balimartin	J. M'Arthur	Cottar		...		8
do.	A. M'Donald	do.		...		3
Kilmoluaig	M. M'Donald	Crofter	4	0	0	9
do.	C. M'Intyre	Cottar		...		8*
do.	C. Cameron	do.		...		5
do.	N. M'Lean	do.		...		6
do..	D. Cameron	Crofter	4	0	0	8
Gott	N. M'Lean	Cottar		...		8
Baliphuil	H. M'Phaden	do.		...		11
Vaul	D. M'Kinnon	Crofter	9	0	0	6
Gott	H. M'Kinnon	do.	2	0	0	9
Kirkapoll	A. M'Lean	Cottar		...		7
do.	Christian M'Lean	do.		...		3
Coales	N. Clark	Crofter	13	0	0	9
Ruaig	D. Clark	do.	12	0	0	8
Caoles	D. M'Phaden	Cottar		...		8
Balivullin	M. M'Kinnon	do.		...		6
Caoles	H. M'Arthur	do.		...		5
do.	L. M'Donald	do.		...		3
Vaul	N. M'Donald	do.		...		4
Caoles	J. M'Donald	do.		...		6
do.	N. M'Phaden	do.		...		3
do.	A. M'Donald	Crofter	12	13	0	8
do.	D. Brown	Cottar		...		7
do.	H. M'Donald	do.		...		5
do.	N. M'Dougail	Crofter	10	0	0	8
Gott	H. M'Millan	do.	4	4	0	11
Baugh	Christian M'Kinnon	Cottar		...		6
Vaul	J. M'Donald	do.		...		4
Ruaig	J. M'Lean	Crofter	10	0	0	4
do.	H. M'Lean	Cottar		...		3

Residence	Name	Crofter or Cottar	Rent			Number of Family
			£	s.	d.	
Vaul	J. M'Kinnon	Cottar		...		2
Heanish	D. Sinclair	do.		...		5
Salem	D. M'Phaden	do.		...		4
Heanish	C. M'Donald	do.		...		9
Caoles	J. M'Lean	Crofter	6	0	0	9
Heanish	M. M'Donald	Cottar		...		7
Scarinish	A. M'Lean	do.		...		5
Cornaig-more	D. Campbell	do.		...		1
Kilkenneth	M. M'Kinnon	Crofter	3	18	0	9
Baliphuil	N. M'Donald	Cottar		...		8
Balimartin	H. M'Lean	do.		...		7
Caoles	R. M'Annail	Crofter	9	0	0	11
Cornaig-more	Marion Campbell	Cottar		...		4
Moss	Effy M'Lean	do.		...		2
Kilmoluaig	D. M'Phail	do.		...		5
Balimartin	Flora M'Phail	do.		...		3*
Caoles	D. M'Phaden	do.		...		4
do.	D. M'Larty	do.		...		6
do.	A. M'Donald	do.		...		5
do.	Mary M'Larty	do.		...		4
Greenhill	M. M'Cail	do.		...		5
Baliphuil	C. M'Donald	Crofter	3	0	0	8
do.	M. M'Phaden	do.	3	0	0	6
Moss	J. Cameron	Cottar		...		5
Baugh	C. M'Phail	do.		...		8
do.	D. Durach	do.		...		6
Hilipoll	N. M'Kinnon	Crofter	1	10	0	8
Heanish	N. M'Donald	Pauper		...		1*
Cornaig-more	A. M'Phail	Cottar		...		3
Kilmoluaig	C. M'Lean	do.		...		5
Cornaig-beg	H. Brown	do.		...		1
Hilipoll	D. Cameron	do.		...		1
do.	M. Brown	do.		...		2
Kilkenneth	Mary Cameron	Crofter	0	18	0	8
Balimartin	N. M'Phaden	Cottar		...		7
Heanish	N. Sinclair	do.		...		8
do.	D. M'Intyre	do.		...		6
do.	N. M'Donald	do.		...		7
Ruaig	N. M'Innes	do.		...		<u>11</u>
						825

\* Pauper

(Signed)

JAMES MACFARLANE,

*Witness to the above signatures and marks.*

Extract from *Crofts and Farms in the Hebrides* by the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll, published in Edinburgh by David Douglas in 1883.

(Obvious errors in the transcription of names and townships in the original petition have been corrected)