

CHAPTER XLVII.

STATE OF THE CATHOLIC CAUSE.—A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR LIMERICK DIOCESE.
 —AGITATION OF THE VETO.—NOBLE CONDUCT OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOP AND
 CLERGY OF LIMERICK, &c.—STATE OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK.—
 WELLINGTON.—DR. MILNER.—O'CONNELL.—GALLANT LIMERICK MEN
 ABROAD.—ROCHE.—DE LACY.—GOUGH—PROGRESS OF EVENTS, &c. &c.

WE have to go back a little to take a retrospect of the conduct and of the struggles of the Catholics of Limerick, soon after the series of events with which our preceding chapter has been so largely occupied. The rebellion of '98, the attempt of Emmett in 1803, the insolent bigotry and exclusive monopoly of the Orange party inside and outside the Corporation, the decay of trade, which to a great extent was influenced by the Act of Union and other causes, had clouded but not destroyed the dawning hopes of the Catholics. The Right Rev. John Young, though a firm loyalist, and an anxious supporter of order, was at the same time thoroughly devoted to the best interests of his country, and the Catholic religion possessed in him a fearless and accomplished defender and advocate in all times and seasons. Learned, indefatigable, devoted to study, and to the exacting duties of his exalted station, he was an example of piety and self-denial, and exercised an influence, by the unostentatious performance of his duty, which was widely felt beyond the confines of his extensive diocese. There was no diocesan seminary or college, at this period, in Munster, except the small one at Peter's Cell, Limerick, and that of St. John's, Waterford, which continues to flourish up to this our own day, when Dr. Young conceived the idea of founding a college, suited to the increasing requirements of the diocese. In this he was aided not only by the clergy, but by the Catholic citizens, who in 1805, had entered into large subscriptions for the purpose: the site was at Park, within the demesne of Park House, which Dr. Young had purchased for £1800, as a residence for the Bishops of the diocese; he presided over the college, which sent out many distinguished clergymen.² In the agitation which now grew up, connected with the Catholic claims, nothing became of more absorbing and intense interest than the question of the VETO—in other words, the permission of government interference in the appointment of Catholic Bishops—a proposal against which, the Catholic Hierarchy of Ireland had protested, and not one of them with more simpleness of purpose and directness of aim, than Dr. Young in 1808, when a solemn synod was held in Dublin, and when their sentiments were expressed in language not to be mistaken or

¹ Dr. Young possessed the Black Book of Limerick, which bears the marks of his industry in his chronological division of its contents. He had a school for the poor in Newgate-lane, which was attended by his sister, Miss Young, with careful assiduity; he had the catechism translated into Irish, and the English and Irish version published together by M'Auliff the printer in Quay lane, and several editions of it went through the press. He published the Diocesan Statutes before the close of the last century, and in the commencement of them he gave a succinct account of the state of religion in the diocese, from the time of the Right Rev. Dr. O'Keefe, in 1721, who was the first Catholic Bishop who resided in the city after the last siege. He was a scholar and a divine of the highest order of talent, a great mathematician, an accomplished linguist, an excellent historian; and in love of country he was never excelled.

² This college existed until 1830, when the students were drafted to Waterford, Carlow, Maynooth, &c., but the building was not removed till the year 1864.

misunderstood. Certain Catholic citizens of Limerick conceived that they had a right to enter the arena on this occasion, and at a public meeting subsequently held in Limerick, William Roche, Esq., in the chair, a series of ambiguous resolutions were adopted, and the chairman, together with John Howley, Jun., Esq., (the present excellent Mr. Sergeant Howley, Q.C., chairman of Tipperary), Henry Lyons and Michael Arthur, Esqrs. were requested to prepare petitions to the legislature in accordance with those resolutions, which gave anything but satisfaction to the public, and which were strongly inveighed against at the time in a periodical which represented the views of the Hierarchy, clergy, and the overwhelming majority of the people. Dr. Young met every objection with consummate skill and mastery. In a series of powerful letters to the Most Rev. Dr. Bray, Catholic Archbishop of Cashel, he manifested his apostolic spirit and noble bearing throughout a contest in which the malcontents were aided by what had been designated the rescript of J. B. Quarantotti, vice-president of the college of the Propaganda, Rome, which rescript was denounced by the Irish Hierarchy, almost without exception, and had also in the Right Rev. Dr. Milner, in England, a staunch and able opponent. The question continued to be agitated for a short time after Dr. Young's death, but there can be no doubt that his exertions had been of great use in organising the successful opposition to it.

The state of the county and city of Limerick in these years was otherwise extremely disturbed. In several parts of the country a spirit of resistance had arisen, which threatened the very worst consequences. Sir Arthur Wellesley, afterwards the great Duke of Wellington, on his departure for the Peninsula in 1808, wrote a letter in reference to the state of the county of Limerick at the time, which is eminently characteristic of the great man. The ability with which he condenses the wide range of his ideas—the attention which he nevertheless pays to the minutest trifles—and the extraordinary knowledge he displays of the secret springs of action in Ireland, are really surprising. Even if not unqualified admirers we can hardly help wondering at the character of the man who could enter with such minuteness and deliberation into these matters connected with an Irish county, at the moment when he was preparing to meet the mighty Napoleon Buonaparte face to face in the most terrible of struggles. No record exists of the then state of the county of Limerick, which could for an instant be compared for forcible illustration and accuracy to this:—

TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL LEE, AT LIMERICK.

Cork, 7th July, 1808.

“My Dear Sir,—According to the desire which you expressed in the conversation, which I had with you at Lord Harrington's on Wednesday, I proceed to give you my opinion on the nature and circumstances of the command which you are about to exercise in the County of Limerick. In the first place I must point out to you, that the situation of a general officer commanding in a district in Ireland, is very much of the nature of a deputy-governor of a county or a province. He becomes necessarily charged with the preservation of the peace of the district placed under his command; and the Government must confide in his reports and opinions, for the adoption of many measures relating solely to the civil administration of the country. From these circumstances it is obvious, that it is the duty of every general officer to make himself acquainted with the local circumstances of his district, and with the characters of the different individuals residing within it, in order that he may

decide for himself according to the best of his judgment and information, and that he may not be misled by others.

"This duty will be still more obvious, by a consideration of certain circumstances which exist in nearly all parts of Ireland. It frequently happens that disturbances exist **only** in a very small degree, and probably only partially, and that the civil power is **fully** adequate to get the better of them. At the same time the desire to let a building to Government for a barrack—the desire to have **troops** in the **county**, either on account of the increased consumption of the necessaries of life, or because of the increased security which they **would** give to that **particular** part of the country—would occasion a general rise in the **value** and rent of land, which probably at that moment might be out of lease,—or in some **instances** the desire to **have** the yeomen called **out** on permanent duty—occasions a representation that the **disturbances** are much more serious than the facts would warrant. Upon these occasions letter after letter is written to the commanding officer and to the Government; the same fact is repeated through many different channels; and the **result** of an enquiry is, generally, that the outrage complained of, is by no means of the nature or of the extent which has been stated. The obvious remedy for this evil, and that which is generally resorted to, is to call for informations on oath of the transactions which are complained of. **But** this remedy is not certain, for it frequently happens that the informations on oath are equally false with the original representations. The general officer then has no remedy, excepting **by** his **acquaintance** and **communication** with the magistrates and gentlemen of the county to **acquire** a knowledge of characters, and to become **acquainted** with all the circumstances which **occur**.

"It frequently happens that the people who do commit outrages and disturbances have reason to **complain**; but in **my** opinion that is not a **subject** for the consideration of a general officer; **He** must aid in the preservation of **the** peace of the **county**, and in the support of the law: and he who breaks the law **must** be considered in the wrong, whatever may have been the nature of **the** provocation he may have received.

"It is possible that grievances may exist in the County of Limerick; **provisions** may be too dear, or too high a rent may be demanded for land, and there may be no poor-laws, and the magistrates may not do their duty as they ought by the poor. **But** these circumstances **afford** no reason why the general officer should not give the military aid he may have at his command to preserve **the** peace, to **repress** disturbance, and to bring those to justice who may have been **guilty** of a violation of the law.

"In respect of the gentlemen of the **county** in which you are posted, I recommend you to attend particularly to the Lord Chief Baron **O'Grady**; you will find him well informed of the transactions in the **County** of **Limerick**, and well acquainted with the characters, and disposed to assist your judgment. I also recommend to your attention Mr. **Dickson**, the late High Sheriff of the County, and Colonel **Vereker**, the member for the City of Limerick.' There may be, and certainly are, other gentlemen in the County of Limerick on whose information you may depend. **But** I have **requested** Mr. Trail, through whom I send **this** letter, to apprise you confidentially of the names of those whom you **ought** to **consult**. Believe me, &c.

"ARTHUR WELLESLEY."

Just about the time that this letter was written by one who became so famous for all time, the County and City of Limerick were visited by another very remarkable and accomplished man; not a soldier or a warrior, but an ecclesiastic and a prelate, the Right Rev. Dr. John Milner, D.D.F.S.A.,

¹ Of these three men, particularly selected by Wellington, in Limerick, the son of one (the present Lord Gort) married the daughter of another (Chief Baron O'Grady and first Viscount Guiltmore) by whom Lord Gort has a numerous family.

who was then making a second tour through Ireland. Dr. Milner had opportunities of estimating the state of the population, and the condition of the land. He states that the fertility of the County of Limerick, both in corn and pasturage, must strike the eye of every traveller; but that this fertility is of no avail to its crowded population, who never taste the grain they reap, nor the beeves which they tend, as the same insipid root, the potato, if they can get even that, is their only food from one end of the year to the other. He adds, that in no part of the **country** had he seen the cabins, or the clothes and food of the people, more **wretched** than in the rich county of Limerick; that their condition, in this respect, instead of exciting the scorn and ridicule of the reflecting stranger, who acknowledges a common nature with these suffering beings, calls for his commiseration, nay for his **tears**.¹ This may give a clue to the causes of those lamentable disturbances which prevailed; and to which, it would appear, even he who was called the Iron Duke, could not close his eyes. In his visit to Limerick, Dr. Milner speaks of certain curiosities which particularly struck him—viz. what was shown to him as the Treaty Stone; and the mitre, crozier, and register (the Black Book) of the ancient Catholic Bishops of Limerick.²

This state of society continued for some time longer to give much **uncasiness** to the Government, but no movement was made to **mitigate** the **miseries** of the people. In the years 1809³ and 1810, the same causes produced the same effects. In this last mentioned year, the citizens conceived the idea of building a theatre in the **New-town**, and they selected a site for the **purpose**, in that portion of **George's-street**,⁴ which in some years afterwards became the centre of the street, and the principal portion of it for business.

¹ An Inquiry into Certain Vulgar Opinions concerning the Catholic Inhabitants and Antiquities of Ireland, by the Right Rev. J. Milner, D.D. Second Edition, London, 1809.

² These are described in their proper places.

³ 1809. In this year died in London, Sir John Macnamara Hayes, a native of this city, first physician to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence, Inspector-General of Ordnance Hospitals, &c. He was created a Baronet in the year 1797. He was a very skilful practitioner, and always was attentive to his countrymen, for many of whom he provided handsomely by his interest at Court. He raised himself by his personal merit.

⁴ 1810. On the 56th of March, Thomas Sullivan, John Cronen, and Thomas Malloran, were executed at Gallows Green, for the murder of John O'Neill on the 21st of October instant, at Wightfield. The Grand Jury presented the Mayor, Francis Lloyd with £60, being at the rate of £20 per head for the three men above named convicted, for his expenses, incurred in making the arrest and procuring informations.

On the 10th of September, 1810, a Charitable Society was formed for the relief of indigent manufacturers and families in distress, much on the plan of the Strangers' Friendly Society in Dublin. This excellent Charity was begun on the 2nd of November; several gentlemen went about in the different parishes, and collected Subscriptions for raising a charitable fund for the relief of the poor; and it was designated the Jubilee Charitable Fund, in consequence of the time in which it was initiated. The following sums were collected:—

In St. Michael's Parish	...	...	...	...	£554	6	8
In St. Mary's Do.	...	...	...	...	143	0	9½
In St. John's Do.	...	...	...	...	191	17	8½
In St. Munchin's	43	4	7½
By two Gentlemen not resident in these parishes	79	12	6

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A public dinner was given to celebrate the event, on the same day; and on the 26th, 27th, and 28th instant, there were the most extensive and brilliant illuminations ever known, in this kingdom. The Jubilee Loan Fund continues to flourish, and in 1865 it has its office at No. 36 Roche's-street.

⁵ This theatre was in length 100 feet, in breadth 58 feet, total area 5800 feet; it exceeded the area of the old theatre by 2608 feet; the depth of the stage was 40 feet. For some time the theatre took pretty well, and several stars appeared on the boards; but it fell off subsequently, and in 1822, the Rev. Mr. Cronin, of the Augustinian Order, purchased the theatre,

The fisheries of the great Lax and salmon weirs which the Corporation continued to let to tenants, had not ceased to be a source of litigation and annoyance; while between the people and citizens generally and the tenants and Corporation, feuds prevailed to a serious extent. On the 21st of August, this year, (1810), three large gaps were broken down in the Lax-weir, to the great joy of the public; the centre gap was fourteen feet, which was to be constantly kept open; stones, to the amount of one hundred tons which had been placed there, to prevent any advantage to the public from the gap, were removed in the presence of a crowded assemblage of people. This was effected through the zed and determination of William Byves, Esq. of New Garden, near Castle Connell, who at his own expense, instituted a suit against Thomas and John Burke, who rented and monopolised the weir, against whom he obtained a verdict with costs and damages £200, at Cork Assizes, August, 1809.¹

By way of contrast with these serious matters we shall here introduce a literary trifle for the sake of the associations with which it is connected. The "garden" of Mr. William Carr,² was famous at this period for its beauty, and was cultivated in the first style by an experienced gardener. Mr. Carr had three sisters who generally walled each day in the garden dressed in white in the fashion of the time, with large gold watches displayed. Mr. Francis Wheeler the father of the present Lady Lytton Bulwer, composed a song on the Garden, which became very popular, but which appears to be now almost entirely forgotten. The following is a copy of it:—

BILLY CARES GARDEN IN 1809.

To the tune of Murtoogh Delaney.

You may travel the nation all over,
From Dublin to Sweet Mullingar,
And a garden you will not discover
Like the garden of sweet Billy Carr;
'Tis there that the tall trees were planted
In the days of the old Tommy Parr;
And the soft winding Shannon is flowing
Round the garden of Sweet Billy Carr.

'Tis there the big praties are growing,
Enough to supply all Dunbar,
Where the soft winding Shannon is flowing,
'Round the gardens of Sweet Billy Carr;
His sisters like sweet pretty posies,
More beauteous than roses by far,
They bloom like carnations and roses
In the gardens of sweet Billy Carr.

which, by an outlay of about £600, he converted into a very beautiful Catholic Chapel, which continues in the possession of the Augustinian Fathers. In this Church the picture of the Ascension by Timothy Collopy, as already referred to, is placed over the altar.

¹ Another trial was to have taken place at Cork at the Summer assizes of 1810, when the Burkes knowing the injustice of the cause submitted, and the above opening was made.

² Mr. Carr's house was that in which the successive Parish Priests of St. Mary's Parish have resided for several years.

O! may they be happily married,
To a mayor, and a lawyer, and tar,
How blest will they be when they're wed,
With the sisters of Sweet Billy Carr!

Now if you have a mind to live frisky,
And trouble and grief would you see—
I'd advise you to go and drink whisky,
Along with the Sweet Billy Carr!
In a room, Sir, he keeps a big bottle,
Without either crack, flaw, or star,
Which is often applied to the throttle,
Of that thirsty gay soul Billy Carr.

At this time Daniel O'Connell had become a great favourite on the Munster Circuit, and was highly popular in Limerick: a pencil sketch taken of him while sitting in the City Court-House, Quay-lane, shows that he was then full of life and vigor, and equal to any contest physical or intellectual.¹

The gallant conduct of several distinguished Limerick men serving in the Peninsula at this period, under Generals Lord Viscount Wellington and Marshal Beresford, was attracting immense attention. Colonel Roche was one of these: General Sir William Parker Carroll of Tulla, near Nenagh, may be ranked as a near neighbour, but not a citizen; John De Lacy of the 48th regiment, a descendant of the illustrious warrior Pierce De Lacy, who did wonders at the battle of Albuera, was another gallant citizen of Limerick.

The year 1811, was rendered memorable in the annals of Limerick, by several incidents, among others the result of a very important law-suit, which had been pending between the Rev. Archdeacon Hill, as incumbent, and the parishioners of St. Michael's, relative to ministers' money, levied by an act passed in the reign of Charles II, in walled cities and towns. Judgment, on this occasion, was given against the incumbent and his successors, so that the rapid progress of the Newtown was not impeded by an imposition which was as hateful as it was tyrannical, and which a more enlightened spirit in the legislature more recently abolished, when, indeed, the incumbent himself, the Rev. John Elmes, joined in the popular clamour against its continued existence. It would have been a bold stroke of the incumbent in 1811, had he been able to saddle the Newtown with so heavy and intolerable a burden, which would have added enormously to his revenues, and checked the growth of that portion of the city, which, for this reason among others well nigh equally strong, had become the favourite residence of every citizen who was able to build or to rent a house—and house rent now was exceedingly high in the Newtown. On this occasion important evidence was given in sustanment of the opposition of the citizens by the Right Rev. Dr. Young, who produced an ancient manuscript which showed that the Church of St. Michael was outside the walls, and near the water-gate, and that in the

¹ This pencil sketch which was taken by Mr. John Gubbins, portrait painter, in 1810, represents O'Connell to the life, and is in the possession of the author.

² Sir Philip Roche, K.C.B., the son of Philip Roche, Esq., of Limerick, related to the Howley family of Rich Hill, &c. &c. Sir Philip realized a large sum of money in the Peninsula. He left all this money to two nieces, provided they took the name of Roche, and did not marry an Irishman or a Spaniard; and in the event of their so doing, the money was to go to the Duke of Wellington. One of them married Colonel Fane, and the other married Captain George Vaughan, of the 9th Lancers, father of Captain Vaughan, R. N., A.D.C. to the late Earl of Carlisle.

time of Cromwell it had been thrown down.' As it stood outside the walls, it is more than probable that it was demolished by the citizens themselves before Ireton's siege, that it should not afford shelter to the enemy, and allow him to approach the walls under cover of it.

The want of a gaol was now seriously felt for the city, the old gaol in Mary-street, having become a public nuisance;² and accordingly, at the spring assizes of this year, (1811), on the 18th of March, the Grand Jury presented a sum £6123 4s. 3d., for the purpose, to be assessed off the city and the county of the city at the rate of £1000 per annum, and appointed twelve commissioners to carry out the object.

A long contest had been going on in the county for the representation, between William Thomas Monsell, Esq., and Colonel O'Dell; in these contests Colonel O'Dell had been successful; and Mr. Monsell had been three times defeated. In this year he lodged a petition against Colonel O'Dell; the petition having been tried, Colonel O'Dell was declared duly elected in April.

It was at this time that Sir Hugh Gough, a distinguished Limerick man, was achieving heroic deeds at the head of the gallant Fauz-a-Bolla, the 87th Regiment in Spain: Barrossa had been fought, and in the achievement the 87th and its gallant Colonel, under General Graham, behaved with extraordinary bravery. A meeting of the Common Council was held on the 5th of April, when Sir Hugh Gough was admitted to the freedom at large of the city, and an order was made to present him with a silver box ornamented with an eagle, an emblem of the eagle which was taken by him from the French in that battle. The career of this illustrious warrior in India, which he may be said to have saved by what the *Times* with little foresight styled his "Tipperary tactics," is too well known to require repetition. He was born at Woodstown, county of Limerick, on the 3rd of November, 1779, and is now Field Marshal Lord Viscount Gough.

We are reminded of Richard Talbot, Earl of Tyrconnel, whose connexion with Limerick is spoken of in the history of the sieges by an incident that took place this year, by the death at Wilna, in Russia, of George Carpenter, Earl of Tyrconnel. He followed the Russian armies as a volunteer. According to his letters to his friends, the instant the French left Smolensko the average number of human beings found frozen to death on the roads was 1500 daily. Lord Cathcart, in his despatches from Petersburg, dated 31st December, says, "His Lordship served with the army under Admiral T. Chichagoff, especially during the pursuit of the French from the Beryzina to Wilna; a pulmonic complaint brought on the fatal effects of the disease

¹ From a plate in Sir George Carew's *Hibernia Pacata* it appears that St. Michael's Church was outside the walls; there are other and palpable evidences of the fact, even at this day, when it may be seen that the walls run off Carr-street, leaving a considerable distance between them and St. Michael's Churchyard. Such another instance of a church outside the walls having been demolished by the inhabitants for this cause, took place in Galway about the same period. The ground, except the Cemetery, was the property of the late Walter Joyce, Esq., Banker of Galway, who in 1809, eradicated the foundations of the Church, which was situated on the South side of the Castle Barrack opposite to a bastion, on which workmen were employed to demolish the bastion and the curtain on the Town wall in that year, (1809).

² The plans were perfected by Mr. Nash, Architect, and the place selected was the Dean's close, near the Cathedral of St. Mary's in Bow-lane, and washed by the river to the north and west. In this year the commissioners of St. Michael's Parish, directed that the houses should be numbered. In many streets were vacant spaces for building, and 24 or 25 feet of frontage were allowed to each house intended to be built; and the existing houses numbered as though the street was perfect. Labels with name of the street were also fixed up.

with great rapidity—he first found himself to be ill on the 11th December, the day after his arrival at Wilna. Field Marshal Kutusoff Smolensko ordered all military honours to be paid to his remains, and a monument to his memory in the Church of the reformed Religion.

For the first time for a great number of years, a convent of ladies of the order of St. Clara, or St. Clare, was opened at Limerick on the 1st of April, 1812, Mrs. Naughton being the first prioress. The house was situated in Barrack-street, and the gardens were bounded by the Eastern curtain of the Town wall. This house was built by Henry Rose, Esq., on part of the ground which had once belonged to the Dominican Convent.¹

In this year, through the liberality of Miss White a Catholic lady, who gave largely for the endowment of many charitable institutions in her native city, and of Mrs. Banks a Protestant lady, each having contributed £1000, a Lying-in Hospital was opened for the reception of patients in Nelson-street. In some years afterwards this Hospital was removed to Henry-street, where it has continued to be of great advantage to all who stand in need of its services.

The efforts of the citizens at this period to free themselves from the incubus of the Corporation were extraordinary. A contested election took place this year; the election lasted five days, and ended on the 21st of August. The independent interest was supported by young Lord Glentworth, whilst Charles Vereker, Esq. championed the cause of the Corporation. The Sheriffs declared Mr. Vereker elected; but one of the most magnificent ovations ever remembered was given to Lord Glentworth by the citizens—he was chaired through the city with a magnificence hitherto unknown. At least fifty thousand persons preceded and followed the chair in which the young

¹ This Convent continued for some years—but ultimately it was given up, and near its site the magnificent Convent, &c. of the Sisters of Mercy was subsequently founded.

1813, April 19th.—A Coach commenced running between Limerick and the Grand Canal, through Nenagh, Birr, Tullamore, meeting the boat at Gallen, five miles from Shannon harbour, and 58 from Dublin.

April 28th.—An elephant, the first of the genus, brought to Limerick, and exhibited. Surgeon John Wilkinson performed the wonderful operation of taking off the whole upper part of the skull of a woman named Rourke, aged about 30 years, living in Creagh-lane; the arches over the eyes, extending not in a direct line, but jagged, and as low on each side and the back, also came off. The woman retained her health and good spirits afterwards, and was the mother of children. A callous substance was growing very fast over the brain in place of the skull; but Dr. Wilkinson did not think it would ossify. The Doctor declared the case to be unexampled in his experience or reading.

May 27th.—The mail from Dublin to arrive this day at 50 minutes after 2, p.m., and to leave Limerick every morning at 11 o'clock. The Ennis mail coach began to run, leaves Limerick at half-past three o'clock, p.m., each afternoon; and returns at half-past ten o'clock, a.m. each morning.

May 29th.—News received in Limerick of the loss of the great Roman Catholic Bill in Parliament. For the Bill, 247—against it, 251—majority against it, 4. 498 members voted—the greatest house remembered.

The analysis:—				Members
England	...	...	...	489
Wales	...	...	...	24
Scotland	...	...	...	45
Ireland	...	...	...	100
				658
Voted	...	...	...	498
				160
Absent	...	...	...

Lord was carried. Not an accident occurred to mar the proceedings of a joyous day.

The local affairs of these years of the deepest interest and importance were confined for the greater part to the struggle of the independent citizens with the Corporation. On the 6th of August, 1813, in consequence of the application of the Independents, the Court of King's Bench granted a *mandamus* to try the several rights of the petitioners to the freedom of the city, which had been contemptuously denied them by the Corporation. The suit cost the Independents a sum of £1200: the venue was laid in Clare, and as the jury was about to be struck at the assizes for that county in Ennis, the Judge (Day) who was remarkable for his charges, thought proper not to bring on the trial, no cause being assigned. The struggle, however, went on, as we shall see, and though the Corporation sustained itself by the public revenue, the citizens proved their spirit and resolution by liberal subscriptions which were freely given and judiciously applied.

The want of a new bridge across the Shannon, to supply the requirements of the Newtown, was now generally felt. A meeting accordingly was held on the 11th of August at the Chamber of Commerce in Limerick—the Marquis of Lansdowne in the Chair. The meeting consisted of land owners,

June 28th.—George Smyth, Esq., recorder of Limerick, resigned that office, which he held 32 years (elected in 1781); in his room was elected Henry D'Este, mayor in the years 1793 and 1794.

July 8th.—The city brilliantly illuminated in consequence of the Marquis Wellesley's victory over the French army commanded by King Joseph, at Vittoria, in Spain.

About June 10th of this year, a large new school house, to be conducted on the Lancasterian plan, began to be built on the north side of old Clare street, intended to be opened for the reception of children on the 10th September following—opened Nov. 1st, 1814. Fund subscribed to August, 1813:—£950.

Ground Rent,	...	...	...	620	per year.
Carpenter's Estimate,	...	...	...	£280	
Mason's do.	...	...	...	190	
Slater's do.	...	...	...	88	
Law agent's charge,	—	...	...	12	
				£570	

Dimensions—80 feet long—32 wide—14 high. In the clear, 2560 square feet.

August 25th.—Two or three hundred swallows gathered on the rigging of a vessel at Lang's Quay. This is the first rendezvous of that bird in this neighbourhood that has been remarked.

September 9th.—About nine o'clock in the morning of this day, a very loud report was heard in the air, like rapid volleys of artillery, accompanied by a long and rumbling noise, like the fire of musketry, the wind being at the time S.W., nearly calm, and the mercury in the Barometer standing at 29 in. 8-10ths; several stones were discharged from above, and fell in the village of Adare, and Patrick's Well. One remains in the possession of Mr. Tubhill, of Faba, weighing four stones weight.

September 17th.—Account received of the death of the Hon. Wm. Cecil Pery, Lieutenant of H.M.'s 59th Regiment of Infantry, and son of the Earl of Limerick, at the storming of St. Sebastian, in Spain.

Sunday, 28th.—A public form of prayer for H.R.H. Prince Regent of the Empire of Great Britain, read for the first time in St. Mary's Cathedral.

October 1st.—Form of thanksgiving read for abundant harvest and plenty of this year.

November 8th.—The city brilliantly illuminated, in consequence of a victory gained by the allies (Russians, Swedes, and Prussians) over Bonaparte at Dresden and Leipsic on the 19th of October.

November 21st.—A house in May's Lane, outside Thomond Gate, blown up by gunpowder incautiously dried in an iron pot—four persons were so miserably burnt that they all died in the County Hospital soon after; the owner of the house worked in the quarries, and used powder in blasting—he was one of the sufferers.

The new city gaol, with a stage in front, for the execution of criminals, finished in the latter end of this month; the drop, or stage, has not been as yet used.

merchants, &c., of the first respectability in the counties of Limerick and Clare, and City of Limerick. A committee was appointed; resolutions were entered into; subscriptions, to the amount of £16000 were taken down—and a site, that part of the Custom-house quay adjoining the new bridge was selected—the bridge to be called the Wellington Bridge. This project was soon abandoned, and it was not until some years after that the question was revived, when another site was chosen, and carried to completion by an enormous expenditure of money borrowed from the government.

The death of the Right Rev. Dr. Young occurred this year on the 23rd of September, mourned by every class and party. We shall speak of the revered Prelate's life and services in another part of our history. The Right Rev. Dr. Charles Tuohy, who had been dean of the diocese, was elected vicar capitular on the 29th of the same month.

The fight between the Independents and the Corporation was brought to an issue at Clare assizes before Baron Smith in 1814, when on the 11th of March, a verdict was given in favour of the Independents, by which they asserted their chartered rights to the franchise and freedom of the city, by birth, by servitude, and by marriage. Before this, no person whatever had been admitted to freedom, no matter their rights, who were not of the Smyth and

December 1st.—The Mayor, with Alderman Watson, and some other gentlemen, went through the town, and solicited the subscriptions of the citizens for the poor and indigent, in place of illuminations for recent victories over the French by the Allies. £80 was raised.

In this month the new Gothic gateway in Bow Lane was finished; it opens a communication for carriages to the great western door of the cathedral, which had been long since disused as a passage. Opened December 25th (Christmas day).

Dec. 21st.—At an early hour this morning, the Rev. George Studdert, Rector of Kilpeacon, died at his house in the new Crescent. He accidentally fell into the unprotected area of a new building, on the S.W. corner of Glentworth street, on the dark night of the 18th instant; and lost his life by the bruises he received in the fall.

1814—January 11th.—The Dublin Mail Coach, in its progress to Limerick, arrested for two days on the road, in consequence of a fall of snow. Reports state that the snow was ten feet deep in the Curragh of Kildare; and the Dublin mail coach abandoned in it.

Jan. 13th.—Public thanksgiving in the Protestant churches for the successes of the allied arms over the French.

The thermometer during these days was unprecedentedly low.

Jan. 23rd.—The Abbey Ever frozen over, a circumstance that had not happened for thirty years before. Great numbers of people on the ice; the Mayor active in inducing them to walk on the land, lest the ice should break under their weight.

Jan. 25th.—The garrison so weak by the removal of the 71st Regiment, that dragoons were mounted with the infantry in the several guards—the 13th dragoons doing duty dismounted, and the succeeding day the drummers and fifers of the 84th Regiment, able to bear arms, put on guard duty.

Jan. 29th.—The mail coach from Dublin arrived in Limerick for the first time since 11th inst. being impeded by the snow, and severity of the weather.

Jan. 31st.—On the night of this day, eleven felons, confined in the new city gaol, broke a passage through the roof, and escaped by a rope on the side next the river.

Feb. 1st.—A fatal duel between Daniel O'Connell, Esq., and John Norcott D'Este, Esq., a native of this city—the latter, mortally wounded, died on the 3rd instant. The duel took place at Bishop's Court, Co. Kildare.

Feb. 2nd.—Died at Parteen, near O'Brien's Bridge, Martin Hartigan, aged 102, he kept his faculties and worked as a labourer till within a few months of his death—Limerick Chronicle.

In this month Thomas F. Wilkinson, Brewer, and Mayor, was declared a bankrupt. This is mentioned as the first instance of the kind happening to a chief magistrate in Limerick. All his property seized and sold by his creditors in the ensuing month (March).

In this month an American female named Mrs. Bragshaw, without arms, legs, &c., exhibited, and displayed great ingenuity in embroidery, drawing, cutting cyphers in paper, &c.

March 13th.—Forcing engine to supply water to the city gaol, put up—cost £420—and put up by Mr. Paine, architect, the builder of the city gaol.

At Cork assizes Miss Cluston, of Cork, got £4,000 damages against the Hon. J. P. Vereker, eldest son of Colonel Vereker, M.P. for this city, for breach of promise of marriage—set aside in Dublin afterwards.

Vereker party. The names of the jurors who gave this verdict deserve to be recorded:—

John Bridgeman, foreman,	Daniel Lysaght,
Charles Brew,	Nicholas Clarke,
Tomkins Brew,	Robert Ivers,
Francis M'Namara, jun.	John Lucas,
Thomas Keane,	Henry Butler,
Francis Sweeny,	Robert Parkinson.

The Law Agents for the Independents were Mr. John Boyse and Mr. Matthew Barrington.

Notwithstanding the march of liberalism thus far, it was not until the month of March in this year (1814,) that a second bell was placed in a Catholic Church in the City of Limerick; when one being put up in the Parochial Chapel of St. John at this time. It is extraordinary, indeed, to look back, and view the humiliating position of the Catholics of Ireland at this rather advanced period of the nineteenth century. The veto had been universally condemned by the united voice of Hierarchy, clergy, and laity; there never perhaps was more unanimity on any question, and union was synonymous with success to those who joined like brothers for a common cause, while it was disaster and ruin to their oppressors. A spirit had been at length aroused, which could not be subdued; the Catholic cause had been making headway from the issuing of a celebrated circular of Mr. Secretary Pole to this period; meetings had been held in several parts of Ireland, to

March 30th.—The Brig *Alice*, owner F. A. O'Neill, Esq. foundered at *Foynes* Island, laden with wheat and provisions, on her voyage to England.

Bow Lane made an inclined plane, and paved.

April 9th.—Troops in garrison fired a *feu de joie* consequent on the news that the victorious allies had entered Paris, after a severe conflict, on the 30th instant.

April 14th.—The city splendidly illuminated in consequence of a general peace on the Continent by the abdication of the throne of France by Buonaparte on the 3rd instant.

May 10th.—The *Fanny Hulk*, already mentioned, paid off, and put out of commission.

June 1st.—The Inland Navigation re-opened this day, after having repaired the bursting of its banks, on 5th of February. The Directors of the Inland Navigation purchased the property of this branch from the proprietors for the sum of £17,666 13s. 4d., two-thirds of the original stock; each share consisted of £250, for which the Directors-General paid two-thirds, £176 13s. 4d.—original stock 100 shares, at £250 each, £25,500.

June 7th.—A luggage boat arrived from Dublin by the canal—the first that had come nearer to Limerick than O'Brien's Bridge since February, 1809, (when the banks burst.)

June 8th.—The Mayor and Corporate body obliged to admit the following persons to the freedom of the city, in consequence of a mandamus from the King's Bench, founded on the verdict of the jury at Ennis on the 11th of March previous;—John Tuttil, Esq., and James O'Sullivan, merchant. Lord Glentworth was likewise entitled, but did not attend to make his claim. Several new claims made.

June 12th.—Major *Stoddart*, of the 10th Enniskillen Dragoons, killed by a fall over his horse's head on the Castle Connell road—was interred at St. Munchin's church with great honor. He had come to Limerick to assist at a general Court Martial, of which he was judge.

June 20th.—Peace proclaimed in London—in Dublin on the 24th—27th in Limerick,—prices daily falling in consequence of the peace.

Definitive articles of peace were signed and ratified between Great Britain and the several sovereigns of the Continent on the 30th ult.

The following were the extravagant prices provisions bore in Limerick, in the commencement of the present year:—Mutton, 11d. per lb., Beef, 10d. per lb., Pork, 7d. and 8d. per lb., Wheat, 8s. 8d. per stone; and almost everything else in the same proportion. The gold coin had entirely vanished, the silver very scarce, and paper money universal; all the effects of a war of 20 years' duration with France, happily terminated by the banishment (for a short time only) to Elba of Buonaparte.

July 1st.—The Shannon so low, that the inland navigation has ceased. A luggage boat from Dublin grounded at Annabeg. Flour scarce—country millers without means of turning their mills—wheat thii day down to 1s. per stone!

vindicate the rights of petition, and to denounce the conduct of the government. Mr. John Howley, jun.¹ had presided at the Limerick meeting which took place on the 24th of August, 1812, and which was attended by Daniel O'Connell, Counsellor Casey, Counsellor O'Gorman, &c., and which was a noble meeting, where resolutions were adopted proclaiming the right of petition, thanking the most noble the Earl of Fingal for having taken his proper place at the head of the Catholics of Ireland, thanking the honest Protestant, George Lidwell, Esq., and declaring their determination to cooperate with the general committee of the Catholics of Ireland for a redress of grievances.² The fight was carried on nobly, unflinchingly, and resolutely. The Catholic Board was formed by Daniel O'Connell, and continued to work zealously; but on the 4th of June, 1814, the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council issued a proclamation by which they declared the Catholic Board an unlawful assembly, and ordered all to abstain from its proceedings! This did not damp the ardour of the Catholics. To add to the troubles of the times, an unexpected peace with France was proclaimed, by the banishment of Bonaparte to Elba. The peace was proclaimed on the 27th of June in Limerick, when prices which the month before had been unprecedentedly high, fell, to the ruin of many speculators. Among the militia regiments disembodied in the month after, was the county of Limerick regiment, when a mutiny had nearly resulted, owing to the fact

¹ The present Mr. Sergeant Howley, Q.C.

² State of the Catholic Cause, Dublin, 1512.

July 7th.—General thanksgiving for peace.

In this month, a wooden gallery built on the west wall of the City gaol over the river, and another on the north wall at the end of Newgate-lane, to prevent the escape of prisoners. A sentinel walks on the galleries.

July 22nd.—Archdeacon Hill died in Dublin, and was buried on the 27th in St. Munchin's.

July 26th.—The portico to the County Court House finished. Cost £700.

July 29th.—The new Theatre in George's-street, opened. It was intended to open it with "Othello," but some of the tragedians not coming, the play was changed to the "Inconstant." Complaints of the gallery occupants was made of the old Theatre. Prices in the new:—boxes and lattices, 4s. 2d.—gallery, 3s. 4d.—pit, 1s. 8d.

In this month many failures in the different country banks; credit at a low ebb; the Limerick banks as yet stand safe, but refuse to discount any paper. So great and general is the demand for Bank of Ireland paper, that people will take nothing else. How changed, in everything since 1797, when the annexed advertisement appeared in the public newspaper, the *Limerick Chronicle*:—

"Pursuant to a requisition made for a meeting on Monday next, the 13th inst., several of the gentlemen, merchants, and traders, met for the purpose of taking into consideration the present state of the notes of the Bank of Ireland. Limerick, March 11th. 1797.

John Harrison, Mayor."

August.—The latter end of last month and what has passed of this, uncommonly stormy, wet, and inclement—though in the dog days, the thermometer did not rise above 60 degrees. On the 16th a vessel arrived at the Quay, *dismasted* and almost a wreck; a Welsh brig loaded with slates, which sailed from Cardigan, and was bound to Sligo, met a dreadful gale off Slieve head, and put into the Shannon in distress.

In this month a new fire engine for St. Mary's parish, was purchased by the inhabitants; it was made by Charles and Thomas Lee, smiths, and was the first ever made in Limerick; it cost £40, and the materials of the old engine, which was purchased in London, in 1768.

The malt liquor so bad and debased, that what has been long sold as beer, scarcely possessed any of the qualities of that article, except those produced by chemical compounds.

The conclusion of the month of August and the month of September, perfectly dry, and most favorable for saving a most luxurious harvest.

September 11th.—About 9 p.m., the atmosphere over the city, stretching east and west, was a luminous vapour, arched like a rainbow—but the moon did not rise that night till 40 minutes after 1 o'clock; and there was no rain at the time. One end of it dissipated into various fantastical shapes, like northern lights; it was a belt of white light, similar to the tail of a comet—the height of the extremities of the arch above the horizon about 20 degrees of a circle, of which it was a segment; its breadth that of a rainbow—it rose in the west, appearing first in

that the men were not permitted to take their great coats, which the government alleged they required to clothe the naked soldiers who were coming home from the Peninsula—and thereby effect a saving of £30,000.—Miserable economy!¹

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The state of the country this year and the following year was deplorable in the extreme: the people were in the greatest distress and misery, and crime consequently prevailed to a lamentable extent. In September, 1815, the several regiments that composed the garrison of Limerick marched under arms to their different places of worship: the County and Liberties of the City had been for a long time disturbed by nightly insurgents, who robbed, flogged, and deprived of their arms, many of the peaceable inhabitants. On the 26th of the month, an extraordinary Sessions of the Peace was held, and the Magistrates of the County assembled by public advertisement. The County

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the constellation of Hercules, near to the Corona Borealis; its motion to the east very perceptible, and as far as the eye could guide, uniformly accelerated; it shot from the place where it originated, through the milky way, entering it in Beta eygon, passing through epsilon Cygani, through the south of Lacura, through Andromeda, between Beta and Gamma of that Constellation, through the bright star of Caput Medusæ, and terminating in Persæus near Auriga; all of which stars were obscurely seen through its radiance; it receded slowly to the south, and disappeared about two degrees further from the Zenith, than where it was first observed.

Sept. 28th—A large bird of the Heron species alighted, and remained half an hour on one of the pinnacles of the tower of the Cathedral, and drew some attention.

In the Autumn of this year, the small pox very fatal in the city and neighbourhood, particularly to infants.

In the latter end of the month of October, died at Bnnnahow, in the Co. of Clare, Mrs. Butler, aged 105 years.—*Limerick Advertiser*, November 4th, 1814.

In the Summer of this year, the old city Brewery, long since a ruin, began to undergo an entire repair; a new mill wheel, and all necessary machinery erected, by Mr. Michael Rochford, the proprietor.

Died at Killaloe, John O'Meally, aged 104; he worked as a labourer till a short time before his death.—*Limerick Chronicle*, November 9th.

November.—In this month, mile stones were erected on the canal and track ways between Limerick and Killaloe, with a double inscription, marking on two sides, the relative distances from each place.

In this month, died, Miss White, a young lady of considerable fortune, who left the following charitable bequests to her native city:—

£1000 for building a Magdalen asylum, in this city, and after the death of an old lady, £100 a year for its support for 20 years; £50 per year for 60 years to the Fever Hospital; £40 per year for 21 years to the House of Industry; £80 per year to the Roman Catholic Schools; £30 each per year for 20 years, to the poor of the Parishes of St. Mary's, St. Munchin's, St. John's and St. Michael's; £10 per year for 50 years to the Lying-in Hospital; \$50 per year for 35 years to St. Michael's Chapel; £5 a year for 20 years to the Dispensary; £50 for the purchase of books for the poor. She has been the greatest benefactress to the poor since the time of Dr. Jeremiah Hall,—she was a Catholic—most pious—most devoted.

of Limerick, and the Liberties of the City were declared to be out of His Majesty's peace. Forty-three Magistrates attended. The County was proclaimed on the 20th of September—the proclamation to begin to be in force from the 5th of October. The Liberties were also proclaimed. Sergeants Johnson and Joy were sent down by Government to hold Special Sessions in the City and County. A Special Commission of general gaol delivery was held at Limerick on the 1st of November, Chief Baron O'Grady presided as Judge in the County, and Mr. Sergeant Joy in the city. In the County were confined seven charged with murder, nineteen for assembling at night, and taking arms, nine for robbery on the highway, twenty for burglary and felony, five for flogging at night, two firing with intent to kill, one for abduction, one for assault on a magistrate, four for cow-stealing, nine for minor offences—total, 79. In the city one was charged with murder, four for taking up arms, four for assaulting with intent to kill, four for robbery, two for burglary, two for sheep-stealing, one minor offence—total, 18. Out of those there were eight executed at the places where their several crimes were alleged to have been committed; some were transported to Botany Bay for seven years; some were flogged, and some were confined and obliged to give bail.

While these lamentable proceedings were taking place, it was a relief to

December.—A monument erected in the Cathedral of St. Mary's, near the burial place of the bishops, on the south side of the Communion Table, with the following inscription:—

To the Memory of
LIEUT.-COL. RICKARD LLOYD,
Who fell on the 10th December, 1813,
While engaged in a successful contest
Against superior numbers,
Near the City of Bayonne, in the South of France.
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED,
By the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers,
And Privates,
Of the 2nd Battalion, 84th Regiment of Infantry;
As a testimony of respect for his valour
AS A SOLDIER,
And of affection for his virtues
AS A MAN.

This cenotaph was opened for the public on the 10th, the anniversary of Colonel Lloyd's death, when the 84th Regiment, then in this garrison, attended divine service, in grand funeral procession at the Cathedral. It was executed at Dublin, and cost the Regiment £103 10s. 3d.—has the family arms, with the motto *vi virtute*—and on the top a pyramid of black marble—with an urn and military trophies.

December 16th—At a very early hour this morning, a tremendous storm arose from the S.W. quarter, and blew a hurricane more furious than any remembered by the oldest person living here; it threw down several chimneys, and unroofed houses—it threw down a new house in Glentworth-street. About 7 o'clock, a Norway ship of about 200 tons, drifted from her fastenings at Spannon-quay, and was driven up to the lower end of Newgate-lane, abreast of the old Golden Mills; a brig and a sloop, both laden, were driven completely over the weir of Curragower, and grounded under the S.W. tower of the Castle Barrack. The tide rose up to the houses on Merchants'-quay; the lanes and passages were strewn with bricks, tiles and slates, which had fallen from the houses; the flag-staff, erected on St. Mary's Cathedral at the close of A.D. 1800, was broken and carried away; and the new wooden gallery erected in July last, on the west side of the City gaol, over the river, was totally destroyed. A new Scotch sloop, with rock salt, thrown on her beam ends, at O'Neill's-quay, and sunk. Great damage on the North-strand, and most of a new parapet wall, erected only last summer, swept clear away. Many of the river craft totally lost, together with many lives. The leads on the Custom House rolled up, and partly carried off. This storm very general throughout the kingdom, upwards of 530 large trees torn up from the roots at Adare; 130 gross trees at Tervoe; 200 ditto at Castletown waller; 150 ditto at Hollypark (Mr. Taylor's); twenty farmers' houses were levelled to the ground on Kilgenny common, about 3 miles beyond Adare. An overgrown elm tree at Clonmacken, in the N. Liberties, blown down—it had stood upwards of 150 years; at Kibballyowen, 133 trees—all in this county. The damage at sea was dreadful. At Liverpool, 4 vessels were

observe the exertions which the Catholics of Limerick continued to make, in order to provide themselves with commodious churches. Early in the year, the foundations of the new Chapel of St. Patrick's were laid in Clare-street, under the directions of the Rev. Patrick Magrath, P.P.; and the Dominicans, who had been for many years confined to their small chapel in Fish Lane, undertook the building of a noble church in Glentworth-street, which, for a long period, was the largest in the city; the Rev. Patrick Harrogan, O.P. was prior at the time; and many of the principal Catholic citizens aided him in the project.

The mills on the north bank of the canal, which were built by Messrs. Welsh and Uzuld, having become almost a ruin, were fitted up as a brewery by Messrs. Walker and Co. of Cork, at an expense of \$25,000. This now became one of the first establishments of the kind in Munster; but it did not prosper for any length of time.

The Corporation, meanwhile, true to its instincts, persevered not only in opposing the legitimate rights of the citizens, but in plundering them remorselessly.

On the 26th of June, 1815, the following accounts were submitted by the

lost, at Newcome 1, at Falmouth 6, at Dover 8, at Cowes 5, at Greenock 3, at Leith Roads 4, on the Goodwin Sands 6, at Ramsgate 2, New Castle and Bristol 2, off Calais 8, Bologne 10, Dieppe 5, Hill 8, Scarborough 3. The mercury in the barometer, during the tremendous gale, stood at Limerick, so high as 28 inches eight-tenths.

1815, July 10th.—Fire first square-rigged vessel ever built in Limerick, was launched from the Dry Dock, at Newtown, this day—tonnage 156 tons—Messrs. Mullock and Graham, owners.

July 13th.—The City of Limerick Militia re-embodied—the same day the County Limerick Regiment of Militia was re-embodied.

At the conclusion of the month of August, the roofing of the Cathedral, from the western tower or steeple to the eastern gable was finished. It was begun in the month of April, the roof at the time, being in a very tottering state, was partially stripped. The rafters were all of oak, ten inches square, and much decayed and rotted, for about two feet from the bottom—by lowering the pitch of the roof, most of them were of great utility. The roof supposed to be coeval with the Cathedral.

November 24th.—Peter Hehir, died in the Poor House, aged 102 years—he had the full exercise of his mental faculties to the last moment.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

In this year, the lire arms of all the Regiments of Infantry were coloured brown.

In this year a tower, a beacon, began to be erected on the Beeve's Rocks, near Askeaton, to guide vessels at night.

1816, January.—Early in this month, a very fine organ, built by Evans of London, erected in the Parish Chapel of St. Michael, it cost £1000, and is certainly the finest ever seen in this city; the Chapel has been recently very much ornamented, enlarged and beautified by the Rev. Patrick Hogan, P.P.

In this month, an American screw arrived in Limerick from New York, having the figure head of an Indian chief, with his pipe of peace, string of wampum and other pacific emblems of his nation. The history of this vessel is interesting; it appears that the owner had sometime since lost a vessel on a remote coast of America, where a chief named Samopett ruled; this chief afforded every kind of protection to the shipwrecked crew, and used his utmost efforts in preserving their property, and sending them safe back to their own port. The owner built this new vessel, and in gratitude for favours received, named her the Samopett.

The weather at this period was so severe that during the last ten or twelve days of the month, the setting out of the Dublin mail for Limerick from Dublin was altered for two nights from eight o'clock, p.m., to seven o'clock next morning, to avoid losing way in the snow, which covered the Curragh of Kildare.

March 3rd and 4th.—The city was visited with another of those terrible storms which are of such frequent occurrence, and which have been noted, from the very earliest times, in our annals. Several vessels in the harbour drifted from their moorings. An old uninhabited house, opposite the old market house in the Irishtown, fell, and crushed to death a poor old woman of the name of Dairs.

The severity of the past winter is said to be greater than was experienced for the twenty preceding years.

On this day (5th of April) also, all the officers of the Assessed Tax Department are off duty, and their future services dispensed with. The assessed taxes comprised hearths, windows, male servants, horses, carriages, and sporting dogs. The duty on hearths and windows was abolished

Chamberlain, (which we give as a small specimen of the way in which the public money was scattered broadcast in bootless litigation):—

	£	s.	d.
Ordered—NO. 1. The Prosecutor's taxed costs in the Cause—The Ring at the Prosecution of John Tuthill, Esq., against the Corporation of Limerick, per Boyse and Barrington's Bill, ...	840	10	1
Ordered—No. 2 The Prosecutor's Taxed Costs in the Cause—The King at the Prosecution of James Sullivan, against the Corporation of Limerick, per same Attorney's Bill, ...	524	10	4
Ordered—No. 3. The Prosecutor's Taxed Costs in the Cause—The King at the Prosecution of Lord Glentworth, and the Mayor, Sheriff, and Citizens of Limerick, per same Attorney's Bill, ...	581	6	7
No. 4. Postage paid on the foregoing Costs, received in a Packet from Mr. Barrington, ...	...	...	1 7 9

The manufacture of freemen still went on in the most barefaced manner, in order to swamp the liberal interest; but while their 'honours' were going on after this scandalous fashion, sealing their inevitable doom, dividing the loaves and fishes, dressing up Sergeants-at-Mace at enormous figures, and acting throughout on the exclusive system, the Catholics who had passed through a fiery ordeal, but who were not as yet emancipated from the fetters of the penal laws, were up and stirring, and making their voices heard in every direction.

in 1822; the other duties not until March, 1823. The Chancellor of the Exchequer declared that the last mentioned duties, viz. those on servants, &c., produced £1,000,000 a-year, and that the hearths and windows netted only £250,000. The expense attending the collection left the produce very little.

In this month the fish and fowl markets were removed from Ellen-street, and the street opened and continued in a straight line towards the Corn Market, the cupola of which makes a pleasing termination to this vista.

April 17th.—The Catholic Emancipation Bill lost in the House of Commons—the adjournment of the House was carried as follows:—

For the adjournment	...	...	...	813
Against	...	...	...	111
Majority	...	...	...	202

An address was presented by the Protestant Bishops expressing their objections to the alterations in the Tithe Bill: the address bears the signatures of the Archbishops of Dublin and Tuam; the Bishop of Limerick, and thirteen other Bishops. The other Protestant Bishops who signed are:—Kildare, Kilmore, Down and Connor, Clogher, Cork and Ross, Elphin, Ossory, Waterford, Dromore, Killaloe, Ferns, and Raphoe.

May 10th.—The City Sheriffs received an order from Government to transmit five men and three women, under sentence of transportation, to the Penitentiary House, Cork.

May 14th.—Mr. Thomas P. Vokes, appointed Police Magistrate for the County of Limerick—vice Richard Wilcocks resigned. Mr. Wilcocks retains his appointment as Inspector-General of the Munster Police.

It is deemed worthy of observation, and a proof of the change in the time, that the Mayor, on the 10th of May, actually and publicly advertised for estimates for the repair of the parapet wall on George's quay, and the three water slips on the same—two of them—the one near the new (now Mathew) bridge—and the other near Ball's bridge, were in a most deplorable and truly dangerous state, having probably, no attention paid them, since their erection in 1763; the slip at the end of Creagh-lane was well repaired in the Mayoralty of Andrew Watson, Esq. in 1812.

June 6th.—In the King's Bench, William Taylor, one of the City Sheriffs, sentenced to one month's imprisonment, in Kilmainham Gaol, from the first day of term, for using and writing provoking expressions to John Norris Russell—inducing him to break the peace; this matter arose out of the disputes between the Corporation and the Independents, of whom Mr. J. N. Russell was an efficient member.

The Linen Board has granted 200 spinning wheels and 12 reels, to enable the unemployed females in this County to earn a subsistence. The grant to the several Counties in the Province

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The state of the country this year and the following year was deplorable in the extreme: the people were in the greatest distress and misery, and crime consequently prevailed to a lamentable extent. In September, 1815, the several regiments that composed the garrison of Limerick marched under arms to their different places of worship: the County and Liberties of the City had been for a long time disturbed by nightly insurgents, who robbed, flogged, and deprived of their arms, many of the peaceable inhabitants. On the 26th of the month, an extraordinary Sessions of the Peace was held, and the Magistrates of the County assembled by public advertisement. The County

¹ In more recent years, a mutiny absolutely took place in the North Tipperary Regiment of militia in Nenagh, on the disembodiment of that regiment, when the men were refused their clothes, through a miserable economy also. On this occasion the mutiny was quelled by Major-General Chntterton, Commander of the Limerick Garrison.

the constellation of Hercules, near to the Corona Borealis; its motion to the east very perceptible, and as far as the eye could guide, uniformly accelerated; it shot from the place where it originated, through the milky way, entering it in Beta eygon, passing through epsilon Cygani, through the south of Lacura, through Andromeda, between Beta and Gamma of that Constellation, through the bright star of Caput Medusæ, and terminating in Persæus near Auriga; all of which stars were obscurely seen through its radiance; it receded slowly to the south, and disappeared about two degrees further from the Zenith, than where it was first observed.

Sept. 28th.—A large bird of the Heron species alighted, and remained half an hour on one of the pinnacles of the tower of the Cathedral, and drew some attention.

In the Autumn of this year, the small pox very fatal in the city and neighbourhood, particularly to infants.

In the latter end of the month of October, died at Bnnahow, in the Co. of Clare, Mrs. Butler, aged 105 years.—*Limerick Advertiser*, November 4th, 1814.

In the Summer of this year, the old city Brewery, long since a ruin, began to undergo an entire repair; a new mill wheel, and all necessary machinery erected, by Mr. Michael Rochford, the proprietor.

Died at Killaloe, John O'Meally, aged 104; he worked as a labourer till a short time before his death.—*Limerick Chronicle*, November 9th.

November.—In this month, mile stones were erected on the canal and track ways between Limerick and Killaloe, with a double inscription, marking on two sides, the relative distances from each place.

In this month, died, Miss White, a young lady of considerable fortune, who left the following charitable bequests to her native city:—

£1000 for building a Mngdalen asylum, in this city, and after the death of an old lady, £100 a year for its support for 20 years; £50 per year for 60 years to the Fever Hospital; 640 per year for 21 years to the House of Industry; 680 per year to the Roman Catholic Schools; £30 each per year for 20 years, to the poor of the Parishes of St. Mary's, St. Munchin's, St. John's and St. Michael's; £10 per year for 50 years to the Lying-in Hospital; £50 per year for 35 years to St. Michael's Chapel; £5 a year for 20 years to the Dispensary; £50 for the purchase of books for the poor, she has been the greatest benefactress to the poor since the time of Dr. Jeremiah Hall,—she was a Catholic—most pious—most devoted.

of Limerick, and the Liberties of the City were declared to be out of His Majesty's peace. Forty-three Magistrates attended. The County was proclaimed on the 20th of September—the proclamation to begin to be in force from the 5th of October. The Liberties were also proclaimed. Sergeants Johnson and Joy were sent down by Government to hold Special Sessions in the City and County. A Special Commission of general gaol delivery was held at Limerick on the 1st of November, Chief Baron O'Grady presided as Judge in the County, and Mr. Sergeant Joy in the city. In the County were confined seven charged with murder, nineteen for assembling at night, and taking arms, nine for robbery on the highway, twenty for burglary and felony, five for flogging at night, two firing with intent to kill, one for abduction, one for assault on a magistrate, four for cow-stealing, nine for minor offences—total, 79. In the city one was charged with murder, four for taking up arms, four for assaulting with intent to kill, four for robbery, two for burglary, two for sheep-stealing, one minor offence—total, 18. Out of those there were eight executed at the places where their several crimes were alleged to have been committed; some were transported to Botany Bay for seven years; some were flogged, and some were confined and obliged to give bail.

While these lamentable proceedings were taking place, it was a relief to

December.—A monument erected in the Cathedral of St. Mary's, near the burial place of the bishops, on the south side of the Communion Table, with the following inscription:—

To the Memory of
LIEUT.-COL. RICKARD LLOYD,
Who fell on the 10th December, 1813,
While engaged in a successful contest
Against superior numbers,
Near the City of Bayonne, in the South of France.
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED,
By the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers,
And Privates,
Of the 2nd Battalion, 84th Regiment of Infantry;
As a testimony of respect for his valour
AS A SOLDIER,
And of affection for his virtues
AS A MAN.

This cenotaph was opened for the public on the 10th, the anniversary of Colonel Lloyd's death, when the 84th Regiment, then in this garrison, attended divine service, in grand funeral procession at the Cathedral. It was executed at Dublin, and cost the Regiment £103 10s. 3d.—has the family arms, with the motto *vi virtute*—and on the top a pyramid of black marble—with an urn and military trophies.

December 16th.—At a very early hour this morning, a tremendous storm arose from the S.W. quarter, and blew a hurricane more furious than any remembered by the oldest person living here; it threw down several chimneys, and unroofed houses—it threw down a new house in Glentworth-street. About 7 o'clock, a Norway ship of about 200 tons, drifted from her fastening at Shannon-quay, and was driven up to the lower end of Newgate-lane, abreast of the old Golden Mills; a brig and a sloop, both laden, were driven completely over the weir of Curragower, and grounded under the S.W. tower of the Castle Barrack. The tide rose up to the houses on Merchants'-quay; the lanes and passages were strewn with bricks, tiles and slates, which had fallen from the houses; the flag-staff, erected on St. Mary's Cathedral at the close of A.D. 1800, was broken and carried away; and the new wooden gallery erected in July last, on the west side of the City gaol, over the river, was totally destroyed. A new Scotch sloop, with rock salt, thrown on her beam ends, at O'Neill's-quay, and sunk. Great damage on the North-strand, and most of a new parapet wall, erected only last summer, swept clear away. Many of the river craft totally lost, together with many lives. The leads on the Custom House rolled up, and partly carried off. This storm very general throughout the kingdom, upwards of 530 large trees torn up from the roots at Adare; 130 gross trees at Tervoe; 200 ditto at Castletown waller; 150 ditto at Hollypark (Mr. Taylor's); twenty farmers' houses were levelled to the ground on Kilgenny common, about 3 miles beyond Adare. An overgrown elm tree at Clonmacken, in the N. Liberties, blown down—it had stood upwards of 150 years; at Kilballyowen, 130 trees—all in this county. The damage at sea was dreadful. At Liverpool, 4 vessels were

observe the exertions which the Catholics of Limerick continued to make, in order to provide themselves with commodious churches. Early in the year, the foundations of the new Chapel of St. Patrick's were laid in Clare-street, under the directions of the Rev. Patrick Magrath, P.P.; and the Dominicans, who had been for many years confined to their small chapel in Fish Lane, undertook the building of a noble church in Glentworth-street, which, for a long period, was the largest in the city; the Rev. Patrick Harrogan, O.P. was prior at the time; and many of the principal Catholic citizens aided him in the project.

The mills on the north bank of the canal, which were built by Messrs. Welsh and Uzuld, having become almost a ruin, were fitted up as a brewery by Messrs. Walker and Co. of Cork, at an expense of £25,000. This now became one of the first establishments of the kind in Munster; but it did not prosper for any length of time.

The Corporation, meanwhile, true to its instincts, persevered not only in opposing the legitimate rights of the citizens, but in plundering them remorselessly.

On the 26th of June, 1815, the following accounts were submitted by the

lost, at Newcome 1, at Falmouth 6, at Dover 5, at Cowes 5, at Greenock 3, at Leith Roads 4, on the Goodwin Sands 6, at Ramsgate 2, New Castle and Bristol 2, off Calais 8, Bologne 10, Dieppe 5, Hill 8, Scarborough 3. The mercury in the barometer, during the tremendous gale, stood at Liucrick, so high as 28 inches eight-tenths.

1815, July 10th.—The first square-rigged vessel ever built in Limerick, was launched from the Dry Dock, at Newtown, this day—tonnage 156 tons—Messrs. Mullock and Graham, owners.

July 13th.—The City of Limerick Militia re-embodied—the same day the County Limerick Regiment of Militia was re-embodied.

At the conclusion of the month of August, the roofing of the Cathedral, from the western tower or steeple to the eastern gable was finished. It was begun in the month of April, the roof at the time, being in a very tottering state, was partially stripped. The rafters were all of oak, ten inches square, and much decayed and rotted, for about two feet from the bottom—by lowering the pitch of the roof, most of them were of great utility. The roof supposed to be coeval with the Cathedral.

November 24th.—Peter Hehir, died in the Poor House, aged 102 years—he had the full exercise of his mental faculties to the last moment.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

In this year, the fire arms of all the Regiments of Infantry were coloured brown.

In this year a tower, a beacon, began to be erected on the Beeve's Rocks, near Askeaton, to guide vessels at night.

1816, January.—Early in this month, a very fine organ, built by Evans of London, erected in the Parish Chapel of St. Michael, it cost £1000, and is certainly the finest ever seen in this city; the Chapel has been recently very much ornamented, enlarged and beautified by the Rev. Patrick Hogan, P.P.

In this month, an American screw arrived in Limerick from New York, having the figure head of an Indian chief, with his pipe of peace, string of wampum and other pacific emblems of his nation. The history of this vessel is interesting; it appears that the owner had sometime since lost a vessel on a remote coast of America, where a chief named Samopett ruled; this chief afforded every kind of protection to the shipwrecked crew, and used his utmost efforts in preserving their property, and sending them safe back to their own port. The owner built this new vessel, and in gratitude for favours received, named her the Samopett.

The weather at this period was so severe that during the last ten or twelve days of the month, the setting out of the Dublin mail for Limerick from Dublin was altered for two nights from eight o'clock, p.m., to seven o'clock next morning, to avoid losing way in the snow, which covered the Curragh of Kildare.

March 3rd and 4th.—The city was visited with another of those terrible storms which are of such frequent occurrence, and which have been noted, from the very earliest times, in our annals. Several vessels in the harbour drifted from their moorings. An old uninhabited house, opposite the old market house in the Irishtown, fell, and crushed to death a poor old woman of the name of Dairs.

The severity of the past winter is said to be greater than was experienced for the twenty preceding years.

On this day (5th of April) also, all the officers of the Assessed Tax Department are off duty, and their future services dispensed with. The assessed taxes comprised hearths, windows, male servants, horses, carriages, and sporting dogs. The duty on hearths and windows was abolished

Chamberlain, (which we give as a small specimen of the way in which the public money was scattered broadcast in bootless litigation):—

	£	a.	d.
Ordered—NO. 1. The Prosecutor's taxed costs in the Cause—The Ring at the Prosecution of John Tutill, Esq., against the Corporation of Limerick, per Roysse and Barrington's Bill, ...	840	10	1
Ordered—No. 2. The Prosecutor's Taxed Costs in the Cause—The King at the Prosecution of James Sullivan, against the Corporation of Limerick, per same Attorney's Bill, ...	524	10	4
Ordered—No. 3. The Prosecutor's Taxed Costs in the Cause—The King at the Prosecution of Lord Glentworth, and the Mayor, Sheriff, and Citizens of Limerick, per same Attorney's Bill, ...	581	6	7
No. 4. Postage paid on the foregoing Costs, received in a Packet from Mr. Barrington, ...	1	7	9

The manufacture of freemen still went on in the most barefaced manner, in order to swamp the liberal interest; but while their 'honours' were going on after this scandalous fashion, sealing their inevitable doom, dividing the loaves and fishes, dressing up Sergeants-at-Mace at enormous figures, and acting throughout on the exclusive system, the Catholics who had passed through a fiery ordeal, but who were not as yet emancipated from the fetters of the penal laws, were up and stirring, and making their voices heard in every direction.

in 1822; the other duties not until March, 1823. The Chancellor of the Exchequer declared that the last mentioned duties, viz. those on servants, &c., produced £1,000,000 a-year, and that the hearths and windows netted only £250,000. The expence attending the collection left the produce very little.

In this month the fish and fowl markets were removed from Ellen-street, and the street opened and continued in a straight line towards the Corn Market, the cupola of which makes a pleasing termination to this vista.

April 17th.—The Catholic Emancipation Bill lost in the House of Commons—the adjournment of the House was carried as follows:—

For the adjournment	...	...	...	813
Against	...	...	...	111
a j o r i . .	...	...	...	202

An address was presented by the Protestant Bishops expressing their objections to the alterations in the Tithe Bill: the address bears the signatures of the Archbishops of Dublin and Tuam; the Bishop of Limerick, and thirteen other Bishops. The other Protestant Bishops who signed are:—Kildare, Kilmore, Down and Connor, Clogher, Cork and Ross, Elphin, Ossory, Waterford, Dromore, Killaloe, Ferns, and Raphoe.

May 10th.—The City Sheriffs received an order from Government to transmit five men and three women, under sentence of transportation, to the Penitentiary House, Cork.

May 14th.—Mr. Thomas P. Vokes, appointed Police Magistrate for the County of Limerick—*vice* Richard Wilcocks resigned. Mr. Wilcocks retains his appointment as Inspector-General of the Munster Police.

It is deemed worthy of observation, and a proof of the change in the time, that the Mayor, on the 10th of May, actually and publicly advertised for estimates for the repair of the parapet wall on George's quay, and the three water slips on the same—two of them—the one near the new (now Mathew) bridge—and the other near Ball's bridge, were in a most deplorable and truly dangerous state, having probably, no attention paid them, since their erection in 1763; the slip at the end of Creagh-lane was well repaired in the Mayoralty of Andrew Watson, Esq. in 1812.

June 6th.—In the King's Bench, William Taylor, one of the City Sheriffs, sentenced to one month's imprisonment, in Kilmainham Gaol, from the first day of term, for using and writing provoking expressions to John Norris Russell—inducing him to break the peace; this matter arose out of the disputes between the Corporation and the Independents, of whom Mr. J. N. Russell was an efficient member.

The Linen Board has granted 200 spinning wheels and 12 reels, to enable the unemployed females in this County to earn a subsistence. The grant to the several Counties in the Province

Another great suit was tried at Cork Spring Assizes, in the year after (1816), in which John Tuthill, Esq., on behalf of the independents, was plaintiff, and the Corporation defendants. The jury remained in two days and one night—they gave no verdict—eleven were for the plaintiff. One only, a Mr. William Taylor, for the defendants. Mr. Taylor was presented with the freedom of the city for this act, in a gold box, and was made Sheriff in the years 1819, 1820, 1821, and 1822.

On the 23rd of March, another trial took place, with the same plaintiff and defendants, on other grounds, in which the plaintiff was non-suited.

At the commencement of this century one of the most ancient families in the County of Limerick, could lay claim to three distinguished individuals whose names are interwoven with the history of the time. We refer to Standish O'Grady, afterwards Chief Baron O'Grady, afterwards Viscount Guillamore. Harry Dean Grady, and Thomas Grady of Belmont, better known by the soubriquet of Spectacle Grady.

We have already referred to the Rt. Hon. Standish O'Grady, far the most distinguished of the three.

Harry Dean Grady was a barrister of great and rising talents. He represented Limerick in Parliament in conjunction with Colonel Vereker, and supported the fatal Union, against which his colleague voted on every

of Munster, including Limerick, amounts to 1798 wheels and 383 reels, at the total expense of £1000.

Ball's Bridge, Mary-street, Nicholas-street, Castle-street, and part of Thomond Bridge, newly paved since the commencement of this year.

In the Summer Assizes of this year, a change in the route of the Munster Circuit took place—since the Summer Assizes of 1706, when Tipperary and Waterford were added to the Leinster circuit, the judges began at Ennis, thence to Limerick, thence to Tralee, and finished the judicial career at Cork. This year, they commenced at Cork, thence to Ennis, thence to Limerick, thence to Tralee; and in consequence of the weight of the criminal business, return again to Cork after all the other business of the Circuit is finished.

Messrs. Williams and Cockburn of Dublin, have contracted for the new Lunatic Asylum about to be built in this City, at a sum not much exceeding £20,000. This work will give employment to the numerous distressed tradesmen at this period.

July 4th.—Two Dutch Boers or farmers have been brought by the Linen Board from Holland, to instruct the peasantry of this county in the cultivation and management of flax, which is a source of national wealth to Holland. Their tour will be the Counties of Cork, Limerick, Clare, and Galway. A great number of linen wheels and reels have, within a short period, been distributed among poor young females here to encourage them to industry.

Diary of the weather for June:—

Thermometer—Highest, 70. Lowest, 45.

Barometer— Highest, 30, 40. Lowest, 29, 30.

Days of rain—10. Cloudy—6. Sunshine—13. Thunder—1.

Wind, in general, N.E., N.W., and S.W. Quantity of rain—1 inch six-tenths.

July 12th.—The following will show the great depression in the articles of life. A boat load of potatoes was this day sold at the Poor House at three farthings per stone.

July 26th.—At the Summer Assizes £4000 to be presented in the County for the Insurrection Act to the Judges; £2000 to the Police

In the month of July a new Butter Weigh-house built in Carr-street, closely adjoining the new Linen Hall. The former Weigh-house outside Mungret Gate ejected for want of title.

August 4th.—A man named Daniel O'Connell, who had been tried at the Assizes, was executed in front of the new County Jail for murder. He acknowledged that he was one of the party who broke into the house of Dennis Morrissey, on the 22nd of February, 1822; but he denied that he fired the shot by which Morrissey was killed.

August 7th.—Labourers commenced digging the foundations for the New Lunatic Asylum on the Waterford and Tipperary road, Uppq William-street.

State of the weather for July:—

Thermometer—Highest, 69. Lowest, 50.

Barometer— Highest, 29. Lowest, 0.

Weather—Days with rain—27. Cloudy and no rain—3. Sunshine—1.

Wind in general W.S.W. and N.W.

Quantity of rain upon each square foot of surface—3 Inches.

occasion. He was rewarded with the office of "first Counsel to the Commons," after which he slowly sunk into obscurity. Two of his daughters, Lady Muskerry and Lady Roche, were married to members of their native County. Mr. Thomas Grady's first appearance in public was at the meeting of the bar convened to discuss the Union on the 9th of December, 1799. Of course the Father of the Bar occupied the chair, and Saurin, Plunket, Bushe, Jonah Barrington, Peter Burrowes, and all the most distinguished members of the bar attended. St. George Ddy was the first to speak in favor of the Union. Of him it was wittily observed, that the Union was the first brief he spoke out of. Thomas Grady was Fitzgibbon's spokesman. "The Irish," said Mr. Grady, following Daly, "are only the rump of an aristocracy. Shall I visit posterity with a system of war, pestilence and famine? No! Give me a Union. Unite me to that country where all is peace, order and prosperity. Without a Union we shall see embryo chief justices, attorneys-general in perspective, and animalculi sergeants? &c. &c." Mr. John Beresford, Lord Clare's pursebearer, followed in the same strain, and Thomas Gould, another Limerick man, practically closed the debate with the declaration, that "the Almighty has in majestic characters signed the great charter of our independence. The great Creator of the world has given our beloved country the gigantic outlines of a kingdom. The God of nature never intended that Ireland should be a province, and by — she never shall!"

Loud applause followed, and the division being taken there appeared

Against the Union,	...	...	166
For it	...	...	32
			134
Majority	...	...	134

For his vote on this occasion, Thomas Grady was made a county Judge, worth £600 a year.

August 16th.—A wooden portico of four Doric columns with its entablature, erected at the entrance of the new Augustinian Chapel (lately a Theatre) in George's-street.

August 16th.—Patrick Ivis executed at the New Gaol, pursuant to sentence at the last Assizes. He acknowledged his guilt; he was sixty years of age.

August 22nd.—James Connell and John Dundon executed at the New Gaol, pursuant to sentence at the last Assizes. Daniel Nunan, under similar circumstances, received a reprieve, a few minutes before his associates were led to execution.

The vulgar tradition, "that if St. Swithin's day (15th July) is wet, it will rain for forty days after," was most completely exemplified this year; probably a wetter autumn has not been remembered. Turf was taken by the country people from the Quays to Charlerille, Bruff, Tipperary, Rathkeale, and all around in the County of Limerick, to the extent of twenty miles, the bogs being under water and inaccessible. At this period (August 26th) the crops are very luxuriant and promising; but the heat is only 61 on Fahrenheit scale, whereas summer, or ripening heat is always 76.

August 30th.—Henry Rose, Esq. elected to serve the office of sheriff for the ensuing year, in the room of John Cripps, Esq. Jun. who was appointed to that situation on Monday after the 24th of June.

From returns made to the House of Commons in the course of the last Sessions, it appears that the following Protestant Parochial Schools are in the sees of Limerick and Kerry:—

Fifteen Parochial Schools which are attended by about twelve hundred children. The greater part of the population are Roman Catholics, and stoutly persist in refusing to permit their children to receive any instruction from a Protestant Establishment.

Sept. 6th.—A Special Session of the Insurrection Act held at the Court-house; a man sent off from the dock for transportation.

Diary of the weather for August:—

Thermometer—Highest, 72. Lowest, 41.

Barometer— Highest, 30-10. Lowest, 29.

Weather—Sunshine, cloudy, and rain more or less every day; wind in general S.W., W.N.W. Quantity of rain—1 inch.

Although possessed of great talents he practically failed at the bar. He was eaten up with the green-eyed monster, and if surpassed by any one, he cherished for him the most undying hatred, being totally incapable of understanding, that sooner or later we all meet our masters. Even his relative, Standish O'Grady, was not exempt from this jealousy, and many were the satires directed against him by his kinsman. Sick at heart and soured in disposition, Grady ultimately left the bar, and devoted much time to his pen.¹

¹ The character of this extraordinary man may be thus epitomised.—He was a gentleman of independent property, a good lawyer, but without judgment, an amatory poet, a severe and scarcely decent satirist, and an indefatigable tuft-hunter. He wrote the "Flesh-brush" for Lady Clare; the "West Briton" for the Union, "The Barrister" for the Bar, and the "Nosegay" for Mr. Bruce the banker at Limerick, who it is said, refused to appreciate the value of some accommodation bills tendered to him in exchange for cash. The following extract from the "Nosegay" will show the characteristics of the poem. It represents Bruco tortured by his own conscience and reflections in the solitude of night:

Yet in the dark and dreadful midnight hour,
Oh God! this caitiff owns thy sovereign pow'r ;
It happen'd once, by some unlucky doom,
I lay (not slept) in his adjoining room ;
'Twas then I witness'd of his soul the pangs,
The stripes of conscience, and of guilt the fangs ;
Scar'd by fierce visions from his fev'rish rest,
He saw ten thousand daggers at his breast ;
"Murder! ye villains! murder!" he exclaim'd,
And of his many victims some he named ;
Now seem'd the pistol's muzzle to evade,
And parried now the visionary blade.
Now roar'd and bellow'd like one mad or drunk,
And now to abject supplication sunk ;
Now the most hellish imprecations utter'd ;
Now, half suppressed, the Litany he mutter'd ;
And nos, confounding blessed spirits with evil,
Invok'd, at once, our Saviour and the Devil.
Thus passed a night, which fear and fury share,
A sad mélange of blasphemy and pray'r ;
And while his groans and suspirations rattle,
I thought of RICHARD on the eve of battle!

Oh! Heav'nly Father I merciful and kind,
Subdue my passions, grant me peace of mind !
Peace with good men on earth to me be given,
And glory be to Thee, on high in Heav'n !
And if this world one Atheist shall disclose,
Thy sacred balm of mercy interpose ;
Place him by night where he mny fairly hear
The ravings of this wretch's guilt and fear ;
Atheist no more—reform'd, he'll bend the knee
To truth and grace, to Majesty and thee.

It is to be regretted that many passages in his works render them unfit for general perusal. In the year 1816 he published a second edition of the "Nosegay," upon which an action for libel was brought against him at Spring assizes, 1817, and £500 damages given to Bruce, though £20,000 were sought. The following are the names of the jury before whom the case was tried:—Hon. George Eyre Massy, Foreman; Edmard Croker; Stephen Edward Rice; The Knight of Glin; De Courcy O'Grady; Thomas Rice; Michael Scanlan; Edward Villiers; George Tuthill; John Greene; Robert Cripps; Alexander Rose, Esqrs. The local papers suppressed the trial, but portions of it were printed by A. J. Watson, Limerick, for the Editor, which caused much litigation afterwards. The damages Grady would never pay, and voluntarily expatriated himself for life. He died some few years ago at Boulogne. His works abound in curious anecdotes about Limerick people. The following anecdote about Bernard, Bishop of Limerick, in 1799, will afford a fair specimen of his dry humour:

CHAPTER XLVIII.

LOCOMOTION.—MR. BIANCONI.—EDUCATIONAL REFORM.—INTRODUCTION OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TO LIMERICK.—THOMAS SPRING RICE, ESQ.—CHAIRING OF MR. TUTHILL.—DISTURBANCES AFTER VISIT OF GEORGE IV.—TERMS OFFERED BY THE INSURGENTS, &c. &c.

It was in the same year (1815), that Mr. Charles Bianconi, an Italian by birth, but an Irishman in heart, and of wonderful energy and ability, applied his active mind to the promotion of means for the public accommodation of passengers in the South of Ireland, which had been hitherto confined to a few mail and day coaches, which travelled with comparative leisure on the great lines of road between Munster and Dublin.

From his peculiar position in the country, he had ample opportunities of reflecting on many things, and nothing struck him more forcibly than the great vacuum that existed in travelling accommodation between the different orders of society.

"I never will forget the impression this accomplished man (the Bishop) made upon me, the first day I sat in his company. It was at Lord Gort's—after dinner the conversation took a stupid turn upon our taxes, and particularly upon the window tax, then lately laid on this country, and I threw in some stupid observations, reprobating the tax and lamenting the miserable five or six pounds a-year I had to pay for my house in Dublin—'Sir,' saps he, 'you have no taxes, it is idle to talk of taxes in this country. Sir, I had a house once in London that lay at the angle of two great streets. By consequence it had two fronts—each very extensive, and with more than the ordinary proportion of windows to each front—and sir, I had to pay for the window tax of that house (I think he said) £80.' This struck me with horror—*proximus ardet*. I had a prophetic anticipation of what had since happened, and in the state of despair arising from the *coup d'œil*, I burst forth into the vulgar and indecent ejaculation of 'oh blood and 'ounds!' I saw in an instant the lawn sleeves present themselves to my confounded imagination. I was sensible of the vulgarity and grossness I had committed, and I most humbly asked his pardon. He saw I was degraded and humbled in my own feelings, and fixing his eyes upon me, which sparkled when he was going to be playful, and gave notice of the coming flash—'Well—you may say 'blood and 'ounds,' sir! It was enough to make any honest man say 'blood and 'ounds,' sir! I can tell you, sir, it has made a bishop say 'blood and 'ounds,' sir.' The whole table was convulsed, and I was redeemed by the wit, the pleasantry, and good nature of this admirable man."

O'Grady also wrote "Sir Phelim O'Shaughnessy," the "Two-penny Post-Bag," &c.

September 29th.—Pursuant to Act 4th Geo. IV. the Freemen of the City assembled in the Tolsel Court, to elect a Common Speaker for the Court of D'Oyer Hundred; John Barclay Westropp, Esq. was elected. There is no mention in the existing books of the Corporation of a Common Speaker being chosen since the 3rd of April, 1680, when Robert Smyth, Burgess, was chosen to that office. Mr. Westropp and Mr. Hughes Russell were the only Candidates for the office of Common Speaker, the former on the Corporation interest, the latter on the independent interest. The Rev. Henry Ivers Ingram, the oldest resident freeman, presided in the Chair. Numbers for Westropp, 132; for Russell, 20.

In this summer Rutland-street, George's-street, and Patrick-street, were newly paved.

In this year the 29th Regiment quartered here; they paraded to church every Sunday twenty boys and twenty girls. Captain Bridges was remarkable in the Regiment as a very wealthy man; he drove a bang-up coach and four-in-hand, the first seen in Limerick—he always drove, and was accompanied by several of his brother officers seated on the roof, with one or more servants in the hinder seat, blowing horns.

October 3rd.—Ten men tried in Rathkeale, under the Insurrection Act, and sentenced to raven years' transportation; and on the 4th, three more met a similar fate.

The inconvenience felt for the want of more extended means of intercourse, particularly from the interior of the country to the different market towns, gave great advantage to the few at the expense of the many; and, above all, a great loss of time.

In July, 1815, he started a car for the conveyance of passengers from Clonmel to Caher, which he subsequently extended to Tipperary and Limerick; at the end of the same year, he started similar cars from Clonmel to Cashel and Thurles, and from Clonmel to Carrick and Waterford, and he subsequently extended this establishment, including the most insulated localities, and numbering in 1843, 100 vehicles, including mail coaches and different sized cars, capable of carrying from four to twenty passengers each, and travelling eight or nine miles an hour, at an average of one penny farthing per mile for each passenger, and performing daily 3,800 miles, passing through over 140 stations for the change of horses, consuming 3 to 4,000 tons of hay, and from 30 to 40,000 barrels of oats, annually, all of which were purchased in their respective localities.

His establishment originated immediately after the peace of 1815, having then had the advantage of a supply of first class horses intended for the army, and rating in price from ten to twenty pounds each, one of which drew a car and six persons with ease seven miles an hour. The demand for such horses having ceased, the breeding of them naturally diminished, and, after some time, he found it necessary to put two inferior horses to do the work of one. Finding he thus had extra horse power, he increased the size of the car, which held six passengers—three on each side—to one capable of carrying eight, and in proportion as the breed of horses improved, he continued to increase the size of the cars for summer work, and to add to the number of horses in winter, for the conveyance of the same number of passengers, until he converted the two-wheeled two-horse cars into four-wheeled cars, drawn by two, three, or four horses, according to the traffic on the respective roads, and the wants of the public.

Oct. 6th.—New mayor and sheriffs sworn to office; the sergeants-at-mace, bailiffs, and constables, appeared in new and hitherto uncommonly fine uniforms. Before this time it was not the custom to clothe them till the ensuing spring assizes.

The toll on corn and grain this year is one penny per bushel.

The decadence of theatricals throughout Ireland is instanced this year, not only by the change of the Theatre of Limerick into an admirable Catholic Church, but that at Kilkenny, so famous some years ago for its theatricals, has been changed into a hay market and corn store. The Patrick-street theatre, Cork, is appropriated to the fine arts, and the Wexford theatre converted into a dissenting meeting house.

October 29th.—At a special sessions in the City Court House, under the Insurrection Act, a man sentenced to seven years' transportation, and sent out of the dock.

October 30th and 31st.—Dreadful storms and shipwrecks on the English coast. This city, and Ireland generally, have escaped.

December 3rd.—A great depression in the mercury, but no storm.

Viscount Gort elected a sitting peer of the Realm in the room of the late Viscount Powerscourt.

Dec. 6th.—This day the Cork coach from this city leaves the Post Office at half-past eleven o'clock, A.M., and arrives in Cork at eight, P.M.; leaves Cork at six, A.M., and arrives here at half-past two, P.M., performing the journey of fifty miles, Irish, in eight hours and a-half.

Dec. 10th and 11th.—Special sessions at Rathkeale, under the Insurrection Act; one man, a country schoolmaster, an alleged writer of Captain Rock's orders, transported.

In the summer of this year a vestibule or portico, supported by four wooden columns of the Ionic order, erected over the entrance into the new Augustinian Chapel, George's-street.

Dec. 12th.—In the Court of King's Bench the will of the late Mrs. Hannah Villiers, of this city, fully established; among many charitable bequests, she has left the sum of £288 per year for the support of twelve poor widows at £24 each. By this will an Alms House was built at her expense for their reception on a piece of ground adjoining St. Munchin's churchyard, and known by the name of the Bishop's Garden, which she had purchased several years before for this purpose. This Alms House is admirably built, and is beautifully situated in view of the Shannon, the Clare mountains, &c.

The progress of the establishment was wonderful. Mr. Bianconi became one of the men of mark of his time. He has been also always prominent in the political movements of his time as a staunch and earnest friend of O'Connell, and his policy. He threw heart and soul and money into the movement for Catholic Emancipation; he realised a noble fortune, portion of which he has invested in the purchase of estates in his adopted County of Tipperary, of which he is a Magistrate, a Grand Juror, and Deputy Lieutenant. The late Sir Robert Peel recognised his public services by a complimentary reference to them in the House of Commons, when the naturalization of Mr. Bianconi was granted. He relates himself that in 1807-'8 he was located at Carrick-on-Suir, distant from Waterford, by road sixteen, and by the River Suir about thirty miles; and the only public mode of conveyance for passengers between these two places, containing a population of between thirty and forty thousand inhabitants, was "Tom Morrissey's boat," which carried from eight to ten passengers, and which, besides being obliged to await the tide, took from four to five hours to perform the journey, at a fare of sixpence-halfpenny of the then currency. At the time the railway opened between Cork and Waterford, in 1853, there was between the two towns horse-power capable of conveying by cars and coaches one hundred passengers daily, performing the journey in less than two hours, at a fare of two shillings, thus showing that the people not only began to understand the value of time, but also appreciated it. He subsequently became a contractor for the conveyance of several cross mails, at a price not exceeding half the amount which the Government had paid the postmasters for doing this duty; and it was not until Lord O'Neill and Lord Ross had ceased to be Postmasters-General of Ireland, and that the Duke of Richmond became Postmaster General of the United Kingdom, under the Government of Lord Grey, and that the local postmasters were no longer appointed exclusively from one section of the community, that the conveyance of all the cross mails was set up to public competition, to be carried on the principle of his establishment.

Notwithstanding the inroads made on his establishment by railways, and which displaced over 1,000 horses, and obliged him to direct his attention to such portions of the country as had not before the benefit of his conveyances, he still in 1865 employs about 900 horses, travelling over 4,000 miles daily,

¹ The following interesting particulars as to the extension of the great locomotive establishment of Mr. Bianconi, show that this establishment has at least been fifty years connected with Limerick!

Clonmel to Limerick	Commenced	1815
Clonmel to Thurles,		1815
Clonmel to Waterford,	10 o'Clock, A.M.	1818
" " "	6 o'Clock, A.M.	1820
" " "	3 o'Clock, P.M.	1821
" to Cork,		1821
" to Kilkenny,		1820
Kilkenny to Waterford,		1822
Thurles to Kilkenny,		1833
Clonmel to Roscrea,		1822
" to Tipperary,	3 o'clock, P.M.	1828
Limerick to Cork,		1830
Clonmel to Youghal,		1831
Limerick to Tralee, (Coach.)		1833
" " " (Car.)		1833
Tralee to Caherciveen,		1834
Kilarny to "		1836
Limerick to Galway,		1837
Galway to Tuam,		1833

passing through twenty-three counties, having 137 stations, and working twelve mail and day coaches 672 miles; fifty four-wheel cars, with two and more horses, travelling 1,930 miles; and sixty-six two-wheel one-horse ears, travelling 1,604 miles.¹

Almost contemporaneously with the introduction of this great locomotive improvement, the extension of the Schools of the Christian Brothers to Limerick in 1816, took place. The institute which has conferred wonderful good on Society, was projected by Mr. Edmond Rice of Waterford, who in the year 1802, had submitted the plan of the proposed association to Pope Pius VII. by whom he was encouraged to proceed with it, and by whom it was eventually approved of and confirmed in 1820. Since that time the schools have rapidly extended, and continued to extend—and when the Commissioners who were appointed to enquire into the endowed schools in Ireland in 1858, made their examination, they visited the Christian Schools, though not endowed by the State, on the contrary, entirely separated from any state endowment whatever, and at that time there were 15,000 pupils in these schools in Ireland, and 3,000 in England. In Limerick the schools have gone on in the most successful manner: there are no less than six of those schools in the City of Limerick, while there are schools also in Bruff, Adare, Rathkeale, &c. In 1858, there were 1,458 pupils in those schools. The Commissioners, of whom the Earl of Kildare was Chairman, reported that "the state of education is noticed as excellent. Several of the pupils could draw well; their writing was generally unexceptionable; and the answering in Euclid, mechanics, arithmetic, and all the ordinary departments of English education, including dictation, was of a very superior order." No greater blessing could be conferred on a community than that which has been extended through the influence and operations of these admirable schools, which in 1865 contain nearly 1800 pupils, in seventeen school-rooms, some of which contain over one hundred pupils each, and which are every day proving their superiority over all that has been done to check their growth, or win their pupils to other and more showy establishments on which the state has been lavishing enormous funds.

The battle of independence was nobly fought in Limerick, nor could it ever have been fought so well, were it not for the wanton plunder of the Corporation, which, stimulated by the apprehension that its days were numbered, left no stone unturned to make the most of the time of respite, from a doom which all honest men heartily desired to see it receive. Daniel O'Connell had already denounced the misdeeds of the Corporation, the annals of which, at this time, were nothing more than malversation of the public funds, outrageous infringements on public liberty, corruption of the worst character, manufacture of freemen, &c. For some time Thomas Spring Rice, Esq., who had attained a prominent place in the public eye, by energy and attention to public business, had identified himself with the popular struggles. This gentleman, connected with the city by family ties of ancient duration, and born in Mungret-street,² threw himself heart and soul into the ranks of the independents; and well did he advance his own interests by the part he took, in promoting those of the citizens against the conspiracies of an un-

scrupulous faction. A Protestant, Mr. Spring Rice carried with him his influential connexions and friends of that persuasion. Early in 1815, he wrote a pamphlet, in which he vehemently denounced the Grand Jury Laws. The Corporation had become rank in the nostrils of all classes, and every man wished to see an end to its ignominious reign of audacity and spoliation. Mr. Tuthill had fought the good fight, but was defeated by a combination of the most discordant elements. A great blow to the interests of all parties was struck at the declaration of peace, after the battle of Waterloo; and as history repeats itself, we have to record the fact, that in the years following 1815 the country fell from comparative prosperity to the very abyss of misery and woe; bankruptcies in country and town were rife; farmers and landlords, shopkeepers and merchants, brokers and money-changers, all fell in promiscuous ruin; and no where was the visitation more severely experienced than in the city and county of Limerick. Of the several banks in the city, the bank of Messrs. Thomas and William Roche, was the only private bank that withstood the shock and braved the storm in Limerick. To the everlasting honour of the Roches be it said, they paid every penny to every holder of their notes; and, whilst others succumbed beneath an unexampled and unforeseen pressure, they kept their credit and proved that confidence was well placed in their honor.

At this time, Mr. Thomas Grady, of Belmont, wooed the Muses in the shape of an Ode to Peace, a remarkable production; and just when the country was convulsed by a social revolution, resulting from a sudden fall in prices, and its heart-breaking effects on society, the poet manifested a spirit capable of feeling for the miseries of the people, however bitter and unscrupulous his satire was against Mr. Bruce.

Mr. Grady complimented several of the resident landlords of the county; but it should be stated, that the social condition of the people had given the greatest pain and diction, even before the peace of 1815, to the well-thinking and reflecting amongst the highest in the land—some few of whom were an exception to the overwhelming majority. If Judge Day wrote himself down as a truculent upholder of the state of things that existed, and went about charging, in a manner of which his friend Toler might well approve, there were other judges on the bench who saw the evil in its true features, and who did not hesitate to denounce the causes and the results with noble firmness, and the eloquence of truth and sincerity. Among those judges, Judge Fletcher stood in the loftiest grade—he was bold, honest, firm, and unflinching.³ Would that the lofty bearing, the sterling honesty, the dignified power of Judge Fletcher, had those to imitate his judicial virtues and admirable character at this day! Would that from the high seat of the judge, were poured into the ears of men in authority, words fraught with wholesome admonition, and lessons which, for the sake of the country, it would be well that landlords and others would take to heart, and profit by. If Mr. Thomas Grady wrote powerfully in reference to the multitudinous evils against which even he did not shut his eyes, Judge Fletcher about the same time, gave warning to those who should listen to his admonitions

¹ Papers Read before the British Association Meeting at Cork 1843. Before the same at Dublin 1857, and before the Social Science Congress in Dublin 1861.

² Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners on the endowments, &c. &c. of all the schools endowed for the purposes of education in Ireland in 1858.

³ In the house occupied by Mr. Parker, No. 1, Mungret-street.

¹ His charge to the Grand Jury of the County of Wexford, edited by the late Frederick Wm. Conway, of the *Dublin Evening Post*, and given to the world at a moment when the iron had entered into the souls of the people, was an expression of opinion from the judgment seat, on the wrongs of Ireland, which deserves an everlasting place in the grateful memory of all faithful Irishmen!

to put the house in order, and prepare for the evil time which so soon came upon them. He denounced, in terms not to be mistaken, the system which to this hour has acted like an anthrax in eating up the vitals of native prosperity, in oppressing and overloading the poor with an insufferable weight of wretchedness, in setting up land to the highest bidder, who, when he obtains it, tires of his bargain, and again becomes himself the victim of the same system which annihilated his predecessor.

The battle of independence continued to wage in the city. Mr. Rice already the champion of the popular cause, was looked upon as the future representative in parliament of Limerick. At every meeting of the Independents he took a prominent part.—He aided all who stood forth against the irresponsible iniquity of the Corporation. As each sum was doled out by that body for corrupt purposes, he, and the Independents took note, and exerted themselves to check the wrong doings of their honors, but it was all in vain for a time; the manufacture of freemen by the Corporation was such, that nothing could resist its bad effects in interfering with the exertions of the citizens, who, nothing daunted—persevered, knowing that truth and justice were on their side. “*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*”

Mr. Tuthill was chaired after a contest between him and Major Vereker, in which, however, the gallant Major was victorious. The local Tory organ did not publish a report of the popular ovation, because it had been always ranged on the opposite side; but in a Dublin paper of the day, the charring was described as an unparalleled popular triumph, during which Mr. Tuthill was surrounded by at least 30,000 people.

On the chair were four labels in letters of gold; the first was, God save the King; the second, the Man of the People; the third, the Champion of our Rights; and the fourth, Tuthill and Independence. He was presented with favours from the several trades: with a beautiful sash from the clothiers. What heightened the scene, and excited the greatest enthusiasm, was the presenting him with a branch of laurel, the leaves of which were edged with gold, by Mrs. Russell, of Glentworth-street. This was done amidst loud huzzas, waving of handkerchiefs and hats. The procession, in the following order, then moved on: first, the different tradesmen with cockades and favours, amounting to some thousands, their respective banners in front, and walking arm in arm, indiscriminately united. Next came a square car, with high railing, interwoven with shrubs and flowers; in the middle was planted the tree of knowledge, representing the garden of Eden; two children were standing at the step of the garden, dressed in buff to represent Adam and Eve in their innocent state; a large eel was twined round the tree, in imitation of the serpent who alights on it, and was anxiously expecting Adam would take the apple from Eve that she was presenting him with. Then came the chair, preceded by gentlemen bearing banners, on which were inscribed, ‘Our Music is the Voice of the People:’ and now our longing eyes beheld Mr. Tuthill surrounded with nearly all the wealth, talent, and respectability of Limerick. On the platform were Mr. William Roche, the banker, Mr. Mathew Barrington, and other respectable gentlemen; and the chair was followed by about 800 respectable citizens with wands, to which branches of laurel were bound. The procession was closed by an innumerable concourse of people, and proceeded through every quarter of the city, even to the liberties; but in going through George’s-street, Major Vereker stepped out on the balcony at the Club-house, respectfully bowed

to Mr. Tuthill, and remained uncovered until the procession passed by.¹ Returning, the procession stopped at the prison to pay a token of respect to Mr. Bryan M’Mahon, who had been sheriff in 1808, with Mr. Abraham Colclough Stretch, and who became legally liable for the defalcations incurred by his colleague, was arrested and incarcerated after having voted for Mr. Tuthill, and hence the demonstration in his favor.

Such was a charring in the times at which our history has arrived, and such was the enthusiasm of the citizens, though success did not smile on their exertions. The Corporation, in the face of these demonstrations, proceeded in its iniquitous and spoliating courses. Hundreds of freemen continued to be manufactured. And about this time, it having been proposed by Lord Viscount Gort to become tenant to the several lots of ground, houses and premises, then just out of lease, at Thomondgate, Carr-street, Limekiln concern, West Watergate, Crotagh or Garryowen, John-street, Pennywell, Diocesan School and elsewhere, on a lease of lives renewable for ever, at a rent to be valued and ascertained by a committee of the Council to be appointed for the purpose, it was resolved that “the said houses, plots and concerns, to Lord Viscount Gort be let at the rent which shall be ascertained by the said committee, and that leases of lives renewable for ever be perfected to him of the same.” The committee was appointed; it consisted of creatures of Lord Gort; the leases were perfected; and the public property was dealt with as if it were a valueless nuisance. No wonder that the “rising star” of Thomas Spring Rice should be regarded under auspices so favourable to the interests he undertook to promote.

On the 17th December, 1817, the Corporation moved an address of condolence to the Prince Regent on the melancholy and sudden death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, Consort of His Highness Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. An address was passed to the Lord Lieutenant, through whom the former address was transmitted.²

On the 4th of January, 1817, the Corporation presented, through the Lord Lieutenant, an address of condolence to the Prince Regent on the death of his mother, the Queen, and on the same day it resolved to defend a petition against Major Vereker, which was presented to Parliament, and to defray the expenses.³

On the 19th of June, 1818, the Mayor’s salary, which had been £365 per annum, was increased to £500 per annum; the Recorder’s salary was increased to £200 per annum; and the payment to the Mayor was ordered to be made in advance by the considerate Corporators.

It is no wonder that legalised vengeance should have befallen the Corporation. In the history of the world there has been seldom heard of such malversation, spoliation, and unblushing plunder.

About this time, viz. in 1817, the County Gaol, on the Cork road, was commenced. At Spring assizes 1816, the Grand Jury had granted a sum of

¹ This mark of respect was certainly felt as it ought to be: it was of a piece with his conduct all through the election, which was highly honourable and praiseworthy; and which we have no hesitation in saying, made a good many friends for himself.

² Yr. Tuthill, who had been the man of the people, fell, in some short time afterwards, from his high estate, and went over to the enemy, which he had expended such enormous sums, and so much energy and determination in opposing.

³ By what means the Princess Charlotte died, history is silent, though the busy tongue of rumour has it that Her Royal Highness was put out of the way by the foulest means imaginable.

⁴ The petition referred to the manufacture of non-resident freemen, and to the fact that multitudes of men were not granted their freedom who had the right.

223,000 to be invested ⁵id Commissioners for the purpose of building this Gaol. The Government in the first instance, advanced the money, to be repaid by instalments at the rate of £1,916 13s. 4d. each assizes: there had been a fund of 5,000 on hands for this purpose.' In 1821 it was finished at an expense of £23,000.

Andrew Fletcher, of Saltoun, says he knew a wise man who believed it mattered not who made the laws if he had the making of the ballads.—These times were rife in ballads and poetical pamphlets. Mr. Thomas Grady, as we have seen, wrote from his retreat at Belmont, where it is said, when a happy thought struck him, it was his custom, at dead of night, to ring the bell, to ask the servant to strike a light, proceed to the library, and there sit up, perhaps, till morning, throwing off in verse the sentiments by which he was actuated, lest by postponement he should forget them.² There were other and not bad poets too, and ballad rhymers, at the time³.

Just about the very time when the courtiers and flatterers of George the Fourth, and some sanguine Irish patriots, who believed in the reality of his favorable intentions towards Ireland, were calculating upon the happy results of the Royal visit, in August, 1821, disturbances of a very serious character again broke out in the County Limerick, and parts of Cork and Tipperary, as if in mockery of the predictions of the tranquillising effects of that visit which were made by Mr. W. Conyngham Plunket, and other admirers and beneficiaries of that deceitful and profligate Sovereign. Mr. Plunket, indeed, who had always acted with the small, but noble and energetic party who represented Irish national interests in the English House of Commons, the friends and followers of Grattan, Ponsonby Shaw, and Sir John Newport, had been appointed his Majesty's Attorney-General, at the King's particular

¹ Messrs. Pain and Harman's proposals for building the new gaol was accepted by the Commissioners on the 27th of March—their estimate was \$21,250, which did not amount to more than 1½d. an acre on the county at each assizes. The whole was repaid in six years. It was built on the modern model, similar to which nearly all the gaols in the country were afterwards erected. A sum of £2,000 was expended on a tread mill, kitchen, laundry, &c. It contains 22 apartments for debtors, and 103 cells for criminals and convicts. There are five solitary, or what were denominated "condemned" cells. Immediately after its completion, it was thronged with prisoners, as it was just at this period that those disturbances commenced in the county, on which we shall have much to say, and which originated in the unsettled relations of landlord and tenant, and gave occasion for the greatest possible amount of irritation, &c., for a lengthened period. The former County Gaol was the one anciently adjoining the present City Prison, with an entrance from Crosby Row. The cost on the County and Liberties of the Insurrection Act in 1816, was

£	s.	d.	
1160	0	0	on the County.
766	13	6	on the Liberties.
<hr/>			
£1926	13	6	Total.

² I have this on the authority of a domestic who had lived with him for a long period.

³ "Martin Farrel, Philomath," was a very powerful rhymers at the time. He published a long poem in four cantos, in 1820, which he "most respectfully dedicated to the Independence of Limerick"—and which has a vignette, very well engraved, of Mr. Thomas Spring Rice, in top boots, with wand in hand, trampling on the hydra of corruption. Mr. Rice holds the charter of "the rights of the city of Limerick restored," whilst a citizen, in top boots, is handing the keys of the city to him—and the angel of independence is crowning him with laurels. In the back ground is the temple of justice, and the arms of the city—the Castles, flag, &c. The poem describes the state to which the country was reduced after the fall of Bonaparte—the crushing of banks, the ruin of the farmers, &c., and it pays to the Messrs. Roche a tribute of praise which they well deserved

desire; and hence it was not unnatural to expect that this eminent man had abated somewhat of the zeal which had distinguished him five or six years before when supporting the motion made by that able and patriotic statesman, Sir John Newport, in 1816, for a change in the coercive measures pursued towards Ireland, he declared that the state of the country indisputably showed that some intrinsic vice was in the Government, which must be removed before tranquillity was restored. Civil disabilities, the brutal and offensive assertion of superiority by the Orange societies over the whole Catholic body, and the offering of designed offence to the Catholic Priesthood by the government of the day, were amongst the reasons assigned by Mr. Plunket for the evils which afflicted Ireland in those days—and, as one instance of the latter fault, he mentioned the case of a Priest in the county Limerick, who had been instrumental in quelling a disturbance, for which a letter of thanks had been sent him by the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, at that time Chief Secretary; but, before it could reach his hands, it was published in the newspapers, in consequence of which this clergyman was held up to the suspicion of his fraternity and his flock, as a person aiding the tyrannical purposes of government.' He advised ministers to retrace the steps as exactly as possible which they had pursued in the government of Ireland, and to adopt, instead of the narrow principles of Protestant exclusion, measures calculated to secure the happiness of all classes.

Such was Plunket in 1816. But when Sir John Newport brought forward his motion in April, 1822, to enquire into the state of Ireland, Plunket justified the government, of which he was so able and energetic an official, in conferring additional power on the Irish government to arrest the prevailing outrages.²

While Mr. C. Hutchinson, Sir John Newport, Sir F. Burdett, Sir Lucius O'Brien, Mr. Spring Rice, and other members of Parliament of liberal tendencies, mere recommending a policy of conciliation as a remedy for the prevailing disturbances, the aggravation, if not the commencement, of these agrarian troubles, in the county Limerick at least, was generally ascribed to the oppressive treatment of the tenants on the Courtenay estates, which were at this time under the management of an exceedingly unpopular agent. These immense and beautiful estates, granted to the ancestors of the Earl of Devon by Queen Elizabeth, had been in the hands of English trustees, the then owner, Lord Viscount Courtenay, residing in some part of America. He had been selling this old forfeiture for some years, the sales amounting to some £200,000; but he had still remaining 42,000 Irish plantation acres—from which fact it will easily be inferred what great influence for good or evil one individual possessed in a country where all depended on agriculture for their support. The agent was a Mr. Hoskins, whose son was murdered by the followers of Captain Rock, and who was succeeded by a gentleman of a very different character, Albert Furlong, Esq., of Dublin. We shall mention a few others of the outrages which disgraced the country at this unhappy period. At the commencement of the disturbances, Major Going, a county magistrate, had been shot on the Commons of Bathkeale, and shortly afterwards, Mr. Christopher Sparling, a

¹ Plunket's Speeches. Duffy, Dublin, 1859.

² It was on this occasion that he alluded to the happy effects of the King's visit, of which Lord Byron, with the instinct of genius, took much more correct views in his poem called the *Avatar*; and on this occasion also he suggested the advisability of placing the landlords, whom he censured, between the people and the Protestant clergy, of whom he spoke in favourable terms.

respectable Palatine farmer, as he was riding towards the town of Newcastle from a farm called Rourka, on which he had become tenant on the ejection of the late occupier. At a previous attack made upon his house in Patrickswell, he had made a spirited resistance, assisted by a respectable young man named Samuel Cross, from the city of Limerick, who was resident in the house at the time, and unfortunately killed in the attack. Three men were hanged for the offence, and one, who contrived to escape to America, was accidentally burned in his adopted country.

It does not enter into our plan to describe the progress of Rockite insurrection at any length, but as a clue to the objects proposed to themselves by the insurrectionists, we may mention that after severe fighting at Churchtown, county Cork, to which county the insurrection had extended, in which 1500 insurgents were engaged,

The following were the terms offered by the insurgents, on condition of their giving up their arms, and swearing allegiance to his Majesty :

1st. A discharge of all prisoners taken.

2nd. No Tithes or Taxes on Windows.

3rd. All arrears of rent to be forgiven.

4th. Lands to be lowered to a third of the present rents.

The peasantry had previously arisen in arms in 1815 and 1817. But the failure of the crops in 1823, added to Special Commissions, &c. completely broke down the spirit of outrage, though the predisposing cause, the suffering of the people, was still unremoved.

CHAPTER XLIX.

ATROCIOUS MURDER OF ELLEN SCANLAN, ALIAS HANLY, IN THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK.—CONVICTION AND EXECUTION OF JOHN SCANLAN, HER HUSBAND, THE MURDERER.—PROGRESS OF EVENTS.—THE INSURRECTION ACT.—LOCAL ACTS, &c..

In the spring of the year 1820, a trial as remarkable as any that has since taken place, occupied the attention of the public. Romances have been written and dramas enacted on the groundwork furnished by this terribly tragic event, which became the subject of judicial enquiry before the Right Hon. Richard Jebb (fourth Justice of the King's Bench), who, with the Hon. Henry Joy (first Sergeant), went the Munster Circuit at that assizes. A fearful murder had been perpetrated on the 4th, of the previous July, in the River Shannon, within the jurisdiction of the city, and under circumstances of the most revolting atrocity—circumstances which have awakened the indignation of every individual to whom they have become known in all parts of the world. The principal in that murder was a person

¹ A pamphlet called the "Old Bailey Solicitor," in which the most dreadful imputations are cast on Mr. Hosking and in which "Captain Rock" is described, appeared about this time. It enters into many details as to the alleged misconduct of Mr. Hoskins, and mismanagement of the Courtenay Estate by oppression, &c., and gives a statement respecting the trials and conviction of leaders of the Rockites. The original Captain Rock, whose name was Fitzmaurice, was tried in Limerick in 1822, and executed.

who had served in the Royal Navy as an officer, and who had moved in the highest ranks of society; the victim was his wife. The wife, no doubt, belonged to a grade much lower than that which the murderer had occupied, and hence he was inclined to get rid of her. Search had been ineffectually made for a long time for the murderer; but it was not till the following November, (1819) that he was arrested whilst enjoying himself in the house of a friend in the west of the county, conducted to the city gaol on the warrant of the Mayor, and brought to trial at the City of Limerick Spring assizes, which were opened on the 11th of March, 1820, before the Judges above named.

Probably no murder ever committed has excited more attention than that of Ellen Scanlan, a fact which is chiefly owing to the treatment her melancholy story has met with at the hands of the authors of "The Poor Man's Daughter," a narrative in a serial entitled "Tales of Irish Life," another in the *New Monthly*, the beautiful novel of the truly gifted Gerald Griffin, the Collegians, and the extraordinarily successful drama of Mr. Boucicault, the *Colleen Bawn*. Captain Addison has also given a version of it in his adventures of Mr. Thomas Vokes, the Police Magistrate, who, he says, arrested Scanlan. She was living with her uncle, one John Connery, a ropemaker, others say a shoemaker, in a small town in the County Limerick, who had adopted her, when she contracted her ill-omened marriage. Scanlan was defended by Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator, and Mr. George Bennett. Messrs Pennefather and Quin were Counsel for the prosecution. Scanlan is misrepresented in one of the fictions as having been a Catholic. He was a Protestant, and attended by the Rev. Henry Gubbins, who raised the cap from his face just before he was turned off, imploring him to make his peace with God by telling the truth. His answer was, 'I suffer for a crime in which I did not participate. If Sullivan be found my innocence will appear.' He thus died with a lie in his mouth. Scanlan's family were connected with some of the highest names in the county and city of Limerick. One of his relatives rode from

¹ This, however, has been contradicted, as the gentleman by whom Scanlan was arrested was Gerald Blennerhasset, Esq. J.P. of Riddlestown.

² The following are copies of the original depositions and indictments on which Scanlan was found guilty at the assizes above mentioned, and executed on the 16th March, forty-eight hours after he was convicted. Sullivan was tried before the Right Hon. Charles Kendal Bushe in the year after, when he also was found guilty and executed, after confessing her guilt:—

County of Limerick, } The Information of Michael Hanly, of Ballyclan, in said County, farmer,
to wit. } taken by me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for said
County.

Informant being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists and examined, deposes that on the night between the 13th and 14th of July last, informant's daughter, Ellen Hanly, between 16 and 16 years of age, was seduced to go with John Scanlan and Stephen Sullivan in a boat to cross the river Shannon, from Carrigafoyle to the county Clare, as informant is credibly informed by several persons, who will prove the same on being summoned in a proper manner; and informant sayeth that said daughter was on the aforesaid night stripped of the clothes she then wore in said boat to her shift, and then tied her with a rope by binding her legs, thighs, and neck together, and did then and there barbarously and feloniously break her arm, and throw her into the said river Shannon, west of Tarbert, and drowned her; informant sayeth, one Catherine Hogan, who is kept as a reputed concubine by said Scanlan, had devised, prompted, and put up the said Scanlan and Sullivan to murder and drown said Ellen Hanly as aforesaid, and that the said Catherine Hogan, alter the aforesaid murder, had a pair of ear-rings, a locket, a silver thimble, and a gown, and other articles, the property of the said Ellen Hanly, which she was robbed of on the aforesaid night, and that there are several articles of her property distributed among several persons in Glin, Tarbert, and Ballylongford, and the neighbourhood thereof; who were privy to the aforesaid murder, a part of said articles being put and offered for sale by some of the aforesaid persons who sanctioned and encouraged said murder to be committed the day before the aforesaid night the horrid act was perpetrated.

the Court House, **immediately** on his conviction, through the country with a memorial for a respite to the judge. The memorial was influentially signed, and presented by a number of **influential** persons; but the judge **inflexibly** refused its **prayer**, stating that he had left for execution a poor man who **was** found guilty of a minor offence, and asking, how could he interfere in a case of such undoubted **magnitude** as Scanlan's. Scanlan was about 23 years of age, and of fair and prepossessing appearance.

In the year 1821, **Thomas Westropp, Esq.**, left several bequests for the **charities** of the city; and in the same year Mrs. Bridget **Honan** left **considerable** bequests also for the poor of Limerick.

Informant bound to our Sovereign Lord the King, in the sum of **£20 sterling** to prosecute this information-at the next General Assizes.

MICHAEL HANLY,

Sworn and acknowledged before me this 20th day of September, 1819.

THOMAS ODELL.

THE INQUEST.

County of Clare, } An inquisition indented, taken at **Carndotta**, in the Parish of **Killinna**, and
To Wit. } Barony of **Moyart**, in said County, in the 69th year of Our Lord, George the
Third. } Third.

Before us:—

JOHN F. FITZGERALD,
Knight of Glin.

GEORGE WARBURTON, and
THOMAS ODELL,

Magistrates—upon the view of the body of
then and there found dead. Upon the Oaths of

PATRICK KELLY,

Michael Mangane,
Michael Connell,
Michael M'Donnell,
Pat. Connell,
John Driscoll,
Thos. Bennett.

Timothy Inerheny,
John Flanagan,
Michael Foran.
Matthew O'Connor,
Richard Cavanagh,

Ellen Walsh sworn—States that a person, a woman named **Ellen Hanly**, whom they saw about **seven weeks since** in company with **certain** men, at the Quay of **Kilrush**, in this county, and also at **Carrigafoyle**, in the county of Kerry—whose names will be hereafter stated—and which woman was **supposed** to have been murdered, had remarkable teeth on each side of her **upper jaw**.

Patrick Keys, of Glin, sworn.

Patrick Connell, jun., of Carndotta, sworn.

Thomas Odell sworn.

When the following verdict was returned:—

We find, on a view of the body buried on the shore at **Carndotta**, that the woman exposed to our view **was** murdered.

We find that such murder **was** committed on the River Shannon.

We find that such murder **was** effected by **strangling** the body, with the rope found about her neck.

We find that such murder was committed by **John Scanlan** or **Stephen Sullivan**, or by both.
Pat. Kelly.

Michael Mangan,
Timothy M'Inerheny,
Michael W Foran,
Pat W Connell,
Thos. W Bennett,

Michael Cusack,
John W Flanagan,
Matthew O'Connor,
John W Driscoll,
Richard W Cavanagh,

Michael M'Donnell.

Taken before us this Tenth day of September, 1819, nineteen.

J. F. FITZGERALD, bight of Glin.
GEORGE WARBURTON, Clerk.
THOMAS ODELL.

Present when acknowledged,
HENRY SMITH.

Early in the summer of 1822, there was great scarcity of potatoes and **other** provisions for the poor, in consequence of the very wet weather during

FURTHER INFORMATIONS.

County of Limerick, } The information of Ellen Welsh, of Glin, taken before John F. Fitz-
to wit. } gerald, bight of Glin, and **Thomas O'Dell, Esq.**, Magistrate of said
County. Informant being **duly** sworn on the Holy **Evangelists**, and **ex-**
amined, deposed—That on or about the Thirteenth of July last, she left the town of **Kilrush**, in
the County of Clare, in a boat, the property of John Scanlan, son of **William Scanlan, Esq.**, of
Ballycaghane, in the county of Limerick, in which boat were aaid John Scanlan, a young woman
named **Ellen Hanley**, the reputed wife of said Scanlan, **Patrick Caze, Stephen Sullivan**, the
boatman of aaid Scanlan, **James Mitchell** and **Jack Mangan**, intending to go to Glin. Deponent
further saith that all said party put into **Carrigafoyle**, in the county of Kerry, from bad weather
and contrary tide, all said party remained that night in Carrigafoyle, during some part of which
time **Stephen Sullivan** forced a gold ring off the finger of the aforesaid **Ellen Hanley**; early the
next morning **Patrick Caze, James Mitchell**, and **Jack Mangan**, went by land to Glin, leaving
deponent on Carrigafoyle Island with the aforesaid **John Scanlan, Stephen Sullivan**, and **Ellen**
Hanley. Deponent further saith that said Scanlan requested her to remain on the Island until
he returned for her, during which time he said he would get rid of the said **Ellen Hanley**; that
deponent insisted on being put over the Creek, to enable her to walk to Glin, upon which **Scanlan**
and **Sullivan**, accompanied by **Ellen Hanley** and deponent, went across the creek. Deponent
then set out on her way to **Glin**, and aaw the boat depart with the aforesaid **John Scanlan** and
Stephen Sullivan and **Ellen Hanley**. Deponent further saith that said **Ellen Hanley** showed her
several articles of wearing apparel which were in a trunk in said boat, and some on her person,
and a gold ring. Deponent further saith that **John Scanlan** and **Sullivan** came very early into
Glin the next morning, not having with them **Ellen Hanley**, saying that they left her at **Kilkee**;
that the aforesaid ring was on Scanlan's finger. In a few days after deponent saw a silk
handkerchief, a grey mantle, a frock, a skirt, two silk spencers, together with several other **arti-**
cles, in the possession of **Mary Sullivan**, sister of **Stephen Sullivan** aforesaid, and several other
persons. All which articles now produced to deponent, she swears ere the same she saw in the
possession of **Ellen Hanley** the night they were at Carrigafoyle— Deponent further saith not.

Informant bound to our Sovereign Lord the King in the sum of **£5** to prosecute this infor-
mation at the next general assizes to be held at Limerick.

her
ELLEN W WELSH.
mark.

Taken, sworn, and acknowledged before us this 10th day of September.

J. F. FITZGERALD, Knight of Glin.
THOMAS ODELL.

Glin, Nov. 12, 1819.

Mary Sullivan sworn—Deposed that she got the grey cloak now produced from her brother,
Stephen Sullivan, who told her he bought it; cloak was taken out of a round hair trunk in the
possession of **John Scanlan**; **Nelly Welsh** told deponent that was the trunk she saw in the boat
with the woman who lived with **John Scanlan**; **John Scanlan** gave deponent a shift, a pair of
shoes, and apocket, a cap and ribbon; deponent saw a plain gold ring on **Sullivan's** finger; saw a
ring on **Scanlan's** finger; it was a figured gold ring; **Scanlan** had money; saw four gold guineas
and a red leather pocket; never saw any woman's clothes with **Sullivan** or **Scanlan** till the last
time they came to Glin; heard that **Pat Scanlan's** wife had silk stockings and a silk handkerchief;
Sullivan told deponent that **Scanlan, Nelly Welsh, Paddy Case, Mitchell, Jack Mangan**, and the
young woman, arrived at **Carig Island** the night before he came to Glin; the hair trunk was
brought by **Sullivan** the morning after they said they were in **Carrig Island**.

Some days after deponent asked **Scanlan** where the young woman was; he said he left her at
Kilrush; in about a week after he told deponent that he left the young woman at **Kilkee** with
his sister; **Scanlan** sent a letter to **Ballycaghane** by deponent; saw **Scanlan's** sister at **Ballycaghane**; on
deponent's return from **Ballycaghane** she told **Scanlan** that his sister was there, but did not see
the young woman there; he immediately aaid that she went off with a captain of a ship.

Signed,

her
MARY W SULLIVAN.
mark.

Sworn before us this 12th day of September, 1819.

J. F. FITZGERALD, Knight of Glin.

Grace Scanlan sworn—Deposeth that **Stephen Sullivan** gave her a yellow silk spencer, a
sprigged skirt, a pair of silk stockings, a silk handkerchief, and a pink handkerchief. Deponent
saw a trunk with a round lid; saw ten guineas in the possession of **John Scanlan**, and a five

the last harvest. The sum of 81122 *ls. 6d.* was collected in the city for their relief. The people of England subscribed over £100,000 in aid of the Irish poor at this crisis. Limerick, Clare, and Kerry, suffered most severely. In Ulster and Leinster, matters were far and away better. Several cargoes of potatoes were imported to Limerick from Scotland. Three soup kitchens were opened in the city, capable of feeding 6000 people gratuitously each day. On the 23rd of May, a vessel arrived at the Quay from London, laden with 45 tons of potatoes, 38 barrels of Scotch herrings, and 26 cwt. of dried ling, the gift of a benevolent lady in England, to the poor of the city.¹ On the 21st of the same month, the Mayor received from the Mayor of Carlisle £200 collected there for the use of the poor of Limerick. To give employment to the wretched labourers, who were in the utmost misery, the pavement of the new Bridge was torn up, and a powdered pavement was substituted. Breaking stones to mend the roads was generally resorted to, and the new road from the Crescent, leading to the new Barracks, was thus much improved.

The war between the citizens and the corporation continued. On the 23rd of May, the House of Commons appointed the following 28 members to form a committee to take into consideration the petitions of the citizens of Limerick, complaining of the Corporation taxation, and the misapplication thereof: Mr. T. Rice, Mr. Goulburne, Sir John Newport, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Edward Wodehouse, Mr. Beecher, Mr. Butler Clarke, Mr. Buxton, Sir Nicholas Colthurst, Mr. Evans, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Grattan, Mr. John Smyth, Mr. Wellesley, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Forde, Dr. Philimore, Mr. Geo. Lamb, Sir Lowry Cole, Mr. Paris, Mr. Rumbold, Mr. White, Mr. Thomas Ellis, Sir Robert Shaw, Mr. Leonard, and Sir Arthur Chichester. Five of these gentlemen, viz. Mr. Wodehouse, Sir Lowry Cole, Mr. Paris, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. Buxton, were members of the first committee who tried Mr. Rice's petition, when the opinions of the entire, except Mr. Daly,

¹ This excellent lady would not allow her name to be made known.

pound Bank of Ireland note, and some small notes, a red leather pocket book; saw a gold ring on Sullivan's finger and a gold ring on Scanlan's finger. Deponent asked Scanlan if he should ever see his lady; said he left her at Kilkee with his sister; expressed her surprise that Scanlan should permit Sullivan to make so free with the clothes. Scanlan then said that the young woman misbehaved with a captain of a ship; once or twice Sullivan wanted Scanlan to give him money, and on Scanlan's refusing it, said, I have as much right to it as you have. Deponent further saith not. All this happened since the beginning of July.

Signed,

her
GRACE SCANLAN.
mark.

Sworn before us.

J. F. FITZGERALD, Knight of Glin.
THOMAS ODELL.

Witnesses were—Ellen Welsh, Patrick Keyes, Grace Scanlan, Patrick Connell, John Driscoll, Catherine Collins, John Connery, Mary Sullivan, Thomas Odell, John Fitzgerald, Knight of Glin; Thomas Spring Rice.

The indictment was a very lengthy document, entering fully into all the particulars of the case; and ends thus:—

I bind to the jurors aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do say that the said John Scanlan and Stephen Sullivan, the said Ellen Hanly, otherwise called Ellen Scanlan, &c. &c., in manner and form aforesaid, feloniously, wilfully, and of their malice prepensed, did kill and murder, against the peace of our said Lord the King, his crown and dignity, and against the statute in such case made and provided.

The bill is endorsed—

ELLEN WALSH,
E F C. NO. G.

True bill for self and fellow jurors,

J. P. VEREKER.

(who was the nominee of Colonel Vereker) were in favor of Mr. Rice; and Dr. Philimore and Sir Lowry Cole were members of the committee on Colonel Vereker's counter petition, when he lost his cause by a majority of eleven to four; these gentlemen established the claims of the citizens, and secured Mr. Rice in his seat.

On the 10th of June a jury assembled at the Tholsel Court to examine the site of a new Lunatic Asylum, for the counties of Limerick, Clare, Kerry, and the city of Limerick; it is near Mr. Connell's brewery, and contains 7 acres, 2 roods, and 26 perches, valued at 20 guineas per acre, and allowing 20 years' purchase for same. The several claimants to be paid as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To John Coull, part tenant, ...	1841	9	3
Daniel Gabbett, lessee, ...	708	19	6
Corporation, for reversion, ...	935	19	6
Mr. Connell, in lieu of water course ...	358	14	7
	£3,845	2	10

The heat was excessive in June. On the 19th (June) £6,000 granted by Government to employ the distressed poor in the Co. Limerick.

June 15th and 24th.—Men transported from special sessions held in Rathkeale and in city of Limerick.

July 5th.—On this day the hearth and window taxes expired in Ireland—the former took place in 1662, 14th K. Chas. II., the latter in 1806, 42nd K. Geo. III.

The several streets of the city, with very few exceptions, were repaired, the pavement taken up, and powdered pavement substituted. All done by the committee for the relief of the poor. The greatest improvement was effected by the levelling of activities of the new bridge (now Mathew Bridge.) Before this, the pavement of this bridge rendered the passage for horses, &c. extremely dangerous in frosty weather, and at all times the passage was difficult. "King William's Road" was also repaired—this road led to Park before the canal was cut.

July 31st.—The report of the Committee of the House of Commons, on the petition of the citizens of Limerick, presented May 23rd, complaining of undue influence and unjust abuse of public money, printed by order of the House.

August 3rd.—William Walsh, Edward Dooherty, Laurence Walsh, and William Martin, were executed at the new County Gaol for the murder of Thomas Hoskins, Esq., on the 27th of July, 1821. It is rather a singular circumstance that the unfortunate youth died of his wounds August 1st, 1821, and these wretched murderers were convicted August 1st, 1822, when they confessed their guilt. At this assizes upwards of forty persons had been convicted of capital offences, and awaited the sentence of the law. Mr. Thos. P. Vokes is said to have brought to justice the men for the murder of Mr. Torrence and Mr. Hoskins.

August 5th.—Five men were executed in front of the new Co. Gaol, for the murder and robbery of Henry Shechan, a post-boy, conveying the mail between Rathkeale and Shanagolden; they acknowledged their guilt; the crime was committed on the 1st of March.

August 10th.—Jeremiah Rourke executed at the new gaol, for firing at Robert H. Ivers, Esq., a magistrate of this county.

Commissioner Parsons held a Court on the 4th and 5th days of August, at Limerick, when 45 insolvents were discharged.

The assizes ended for the present this day, and adjourned to the 4th of September.

The following appeared in the public prints at this time, illustrating the cause of the present agricultural distress—but only one of them:—

In 1722.

The men to the plough,
The wife to the cow,
The girl to the sow,
The boy to the mow,
And your rents will be netted.

In 1822.

Best man—Tallyhoe.
And Miss—Piano,
The wife—silks and satin.
The boy—Greek and Latin,
And pull all be gazzeted.

August 17th.—Two men executed in front of the new gaol, pursuant to sentences at the assizes, for burglary and taking arms.

August 22.—A chimney erected in the distillery concerns of Messrs. Stein and Browne, 115 feet high—the first of its kind ever seen here.

The improvement in Thomond Bridge finished; it consists in the opening the E. end of the Bridge at the bottom of Castle-street, by enlarging three of the arches on the N. side, and by throwing down an old house that projected into the street; this passage had been long only eight feet ten inches width; it is now increased nearly sixteen feet—it is much to be wished that the improvement be continued to the centre of the bridge. The road to the North Strand, at the S. end of the bridge, widened and much improved.

On the 23rd of July, the Co. Limerick Central Relief Committee published their report:—

the slightest compunction or remorse on the part of its members. To mark the appreciation of his public services, the Chamber of Commerce had a full length portrait of Mr. Rice painted by Sir Martin Archer Shee, President of the R.A. at a cost of \$300, which was placed in their Reading-room on the 19th of December, 1822.

Just about this time, too, the Catholics of Ireland were up and stirring to obtain Emancipation, led by the illustrious Daniel O'Connell, who, by the fire and impetuosity of his character, infused vigor and courage into ranks which contained, hitherto, too many who were pusillanimous and cowardly—too many who were wavering between the temptations of government and the stern behests of duty. Some relaxations had been made in a partial shape in the penal code. Catholics filled the office of grand jurors in cities and counties—they had long been in the first place as merchants and as traders—they had pushed the old monopolists and task masters off their stools in various cities, and no where more than in Limerick, where they now numbered amongst them some of the first merchants, &c., in Ireland. No where had the Liberator more influential friends than among his supporters in Limerick, and these supporters always sustained his cause to the fullest extent. The Catholic rent was collected with the utmost regularity, and whenever O'Connell addressed his hearers in the old rooms at the Corn Exchange, Dublin, he never forgot the aid he received from the patriotic men of Limerick.

Liberal opinions, in the midst of the events that were passing, were making steady headway and beating down the malignity and oppression of the old Corporate system. Mr. Rice, the popular member, who had proceeded to Dublin, in December 1822, with the Mayor and Sheriffs of Limerick, in order to present an address to the Marquis of Wellesley, on his escape from the bottle-throwing Orangemen in the Theatre Royal, was waited upon, on the 1st of January, 1823, by the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, Town Clerks, and Common Councilmen, in full costume, and with sword-bearer, mace-bearer, &c. \$ congratulate him, in a complimentary address, on his Parliamentary conduct. This address and the freedom of Dublin had been voted to Mr. Rice on the 18th of October, previously, but there was no means until now of presenting it in due form. The Lord Lieutenant, incapable from indisposition of attending to public business, did not receive the address of the Corporation of Limerick on this occasion, but he appointed the 30th of the same month, when Mr. Rice and the Mayor again proceeded to Dublin, when the address was read, and a suitable reply was returned by His Excellency.

At this particular juncture a serious check had been given to the prosperity of Limerick, which, in its trade and commerce, had been falling away from the high ground which it had for so many years occupied. Foreign shipping had almost deserted the quays; there was a diminished trade with England. The revenue of the port was little over that of Newry, and not near the revenue of the port of Waterford. The old rival, Galway, had gone down in this respect, many years before; and Limerick threatened to follow to a similar level. While the revenue of Cork was \$234,010—and that of Waterford 3294,643—and Londonderry \$72,137—Limerick was but \$60,437—Belfast, at this time, was not near Newry, the revenue of the former being, but \$302,762. A contemporaneous writer ascribes the decay of Limerick to the prevalence of too much showiness and idleness on the part of those classes who ought to have been engaged in business pursuits; but the real

cause of the temporary decline may be discerned in the overwhelming miseries which befel the agricultural classes, on whom, in a great measure, the prosperity of the city had always depended. These classes, at this time, were suffering from various causes, and particularly from the fall in prices, the exactions of the tithe system, the oppressions of middle-men who were dying out, and the great changes which had come over the country since the declaration of peace. The Corporation, too, was rapidly on the wane. At the Spring assizes of this year (1823) there were only nineteen names on the City Grand Jury; and among those was the name of Denis O'Brien, Esq. of Newcastle, a Catholic gentleman of fortune, for the first time. At the County of Limerick assizes, a trial of considerable importance and of deep interest took place, that of Patrick Neville and James Fitzgibbon for the murder of Richard Going, Esq. They were ably defended by Daniel O'Connell and other leading Counsel. They were, however, found guilty, and on the 14th of March were executed. Fitzgibbon, who is represented to have been a hardened culprit, suffered much owing to the inexpertness of the executioner. The north liberties of Limerick continued to be greatly disturbed by nightly insurgents: houses were set on fire, among others the house of one Allen, a respectable farmer, who lost fourteen cows on this occasion, and the blaze of incendiarism was seen to arise from many other rooftrees during some months. A return to Parliament was now made of the yeomanry corps in the four Provinces,—an inefficient and at all periods a partizan force. The total was 30,753, thus distributed:—

In Leinster, 5,915.

In Ulster, 20,131.

In Connaught, 2,356.

In Munster, 2,351.

Sir Robert Peel's police force had not as yet done much towards proving their activity; both country and town were subjected to multitudinous evils, owing to the distracted state of society.

On the 27th of March, in consequence of these outrages, a special sessions was held under the Insurrection Act, when John Halloran was indicted for being absent from his house after prescribed hours—he was arrested by the police on the night of the 22nd of that month, when Mr. Allen's cowhouse and cows were burned. Halloran was sentenced to seven years transportation and conveyed to Cork at seven o'clock on the same evening—he was the son of an industrious and respectable father, an independent farmer, and neighbour to Allen. A short time before he had been tried for the murder of Allen's son and was found guilty of manslaughter. The prosecution being carried on by the deceased's father, it was generally believed that he owed Allen what they called in this country "Sweet's revenge;" but he was not tried for the burning. He was rather in a better class of life, and well educated; his example, it was considered, would strike terror into others. The disturbances, however, not only continued in and about the liberties and in the counties of Limerick and Clare, but spread to those parts of the County of Cork, which adjoin Limerick, where there was a great deal of agrarian suffering and outrage.

In April and early in May, special sessions under the Insurrection Act were held at the County Court House of Limerick, and at Rathkeale, when one man was sentenced to seven years transportation at the former, and two men to the same measure of punishment at the latter place. The Palatines had been about this time subjected to nightly attacks, their cattle slain or houghed, and their houses burned. The result was that many of them

emigrated. Sessions were held in Bruff on the 16th of the same month, at which two men were sentenced to seven years transportation for setting fire to the village of **Glenasheen** in the preceding April. On the 20th of the month, an adjourned sessions were held at Rathkeale, at which thirty men were charged with being absent from their dwellings on two nights previously. Their defence was, that they had been at the wake of a deceased friend; nine of them were relatives of the deceased; these were acquitted, twenty-one were committed and received sentence of transportation for seven years. Such was the severity of the times. On the 20th of June following, a sessions was also held in the County of Limerick Court House, under the Insurrection Act, when two men were sent off from the dock for Cork, to be transported for seven years. Early in July another sessions was held at Rathkeale and in Limerick with similar result; and a few nights after—viz. on the 9th, Gerald Blenerhasset, Esq. and Chief Constable Keilly of the Constabulary, discovered sixty-eight pike-heads concealed in a wall on the most remote part of **Knockfierna Hill**, in the County of Limerick.

Whilst the country continued thus disturbed, and the wail of sorrow was heard in many an humble homestead; whilst the hulks were crowded with the victims of the law, and the gibbet groaned under its human burdens, there was a most active movement drawing to a successful issue, between the independent citizens and the city member, Mr. Rice, and the Corporation and its abettors. On the 6th of May, in the House of Commons, Mr. Rice's Bill for the better regulation of the city of Limerick¹ was read a second time. Captain O'Grady,² one of the County representatives, had stood up in his place, and moved that the bill be read that day six months; when Mr. O'Grady having sat down, and the Speaker asked who seconded the motion? there was a dead silence, in the midst of which Mr. Rice again stood up, and made many animadversions on the conduct of the hon. and gallant member. Meantime, the Wellesley Bridge Act^a had received the Royal assent, and public notice was given to that effect by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce. A meeting of the forty-eight commissioners named in the Bill, was convened for the purpose of electing additional new commissioners. The Corporation now began to set its house in order—in other words, to distribute among its members, the remnant of the property of the citizens which had survived up to this period the almost general plunder and spoliation of the public revenue. The Regulation Act was passed in the teeth of an insolent opposition; but two days before it came into operation, the Corporators made a lease for ever to Sir Christopher Marrett, Knight and Alderman, and one of the Committee of Accounts, at the rent of £34 2s. 6d. Irish, of the ancient island of **Scattery**, which had been granted to the Corporation by Queen Elizabeth. The island contains 103 acres, of which four are in possession of the Government, having been purchased from the Corporation in 1810 for the Ordnance Service.⁴ For some lengthened period, the Chamber of Commerce, anxious to free the city from the intolerable nuisance and oppression to which farmers had been subjected heretofore, had carried out an agreement to pay the Corporation £1500 a-year for all their claim on tolls on corn and potatoes, with the intention of relieving potatoes from any charge, which they did accordingly.⁵ This bargain was annually renewed from 1808 to 1823; the

¹ The Limerick Regulation Act, 4 Geo. IV. cap. 126.

² Son of the Chief Baron O'Grady.

³ 4th Geo. IV. cap. 94.

⁴ Report of the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Ireland.

Chamber of Commerce profited from \$400 to £1000 a-year by the arrangement; but the war against the Corporation lost none of its bitterness notwithstanding; and the year at which we have arrived, witnessed, to a great extent, the realization of the hopes of the citizens, by a curb being applied to the overgrown licentiousness and irresponsible malversation of the public funds by the Corporation. During the prosecution of the suit in Parliament, serious charges were brought by Mr. Rice against Chief Baron O'Grady. These charges became the subject of investigation: the principal charge against the Chief Baron being for alleged instituting and receiving exorbitant fees, not warranted by law, in the matters brought before his court. It was decided by a majority of the House on the 11th of July, that it was not necessary to proceed farther with the investigation. Captain O'Grady, on this occasion, made a defence for his father which elicited general approbation manifesting as it did fine natural feeling, and noble self-possession. The Royal assent, however, was given to the Regulation Act on the 18th of July; it having passed the House of Lords on the 14th without a division. Universal joy prevailed throughout the city. The principal source of income of the Corporation was from the tolls and customs, which had been rapidly increasing every year, and which for the year ending 1833, were let for £3,706. The gross annual produce of them under favorable circumstances, had been estimated at £5,000 per annum.¹ This money was not expended in improving the city, or in relieving the citizens in any shape or form. The enormous sum of £10,393 19s. 10½d. was spent before 1821 in the political contest between the Corporation and the Independents; while to sustain the tottering power of the spoliators, a sum of £1011 14s. 7½d. was laid out for stamps provided for the admission of honorary and non-resident freemen alone.² This expenditure entailed embarrasments of so serious a nature on the Corporation, that bonds were passed in 1824; and the discharge of those bonds, until 1833, and indeed during the term of its existence until 1841, not only deprived the Corporation of any surplus available to the public uses and charities of the city, but plunged it into debt. The Independents, in this long contest for their rights, did not spare their purses, but with open hand gave freely of their money to the good cause; and it has been estimated that it cost them £30,000 in the prosecution of the contest against the Corporation.³

Never did a body of men act with a truer sense of what they owed to themselves and to the important interests of which they were the guardians, than the Limerick Independents, composed of Protestants and Catholics; a feeling of liberality prevailed between them, arising from the fact that they were engaged in a common cause, and that mutual co-operation was essential for the success of the paramount objects on which they had set their hearts. They went on hand in hand, setting an example of perseverance and energy, while, though the Corporation continued to drag on a miserable existence for some few years, and expended annually a sum of £3,000 in the payment of the Mayor, Chamberlain, Corporate Staff, &c. it held no place in the estimation of the citizens, but on the contrary was pronounced to be a disgrace and an abuse even by

¹ Report of the Commissioners, &c.

² Ibid.

³ As an instance of the generosity of the citizens, we have the fact on the best authority, that the firm of Edmond Ryan and Son, merchants, gave no less than £1500 to the cause of the Independents in subscriptions. Edmond Ryan, the venerable patriot and friend of O'Connell, was grandfather of E. F. G. Ryan, Esq., R.M., Middleton, Co. Cork, and of Michael R. Ryan, Esq. J.P., Templemungret, Limerick. Mr. Creagh gave a subscription of £500.

those who in social life were on terms of intimacy and friendship with its members.¹ For several years before it was dissolved by the Municipal Reform Bill, it had permitted the guilds of trade, which in the last century exercised such influence at Municipal and Parliamentary Elections, and which were designated "the fifteen Corporations," to dissolve their connexion with it, simply because those guilds had ceased to be composed of Orangemen, and could no more control the votes of Tory partizans in favor of a particular candidate. It possessed scarcely a trace of the forty ploughlands which King John granted to the City, and of which there was an *inspeximus* by Henry VI.² and which we must confess were spoliated, to a considerable extent, a long time before. It made away with or scattered to the winds the records of its proceedings and misdeeds, so that except in the Birmingham Tower and the British Museum, where a few of its old books have found their way, there would be but little to tell of the evils it perpetrated, except in Law Courts, where true to its instincts, it has left its trace in a series of bootless, but to the citizens, ruinous law suits.

An effort being made in 1824, to revive the Merchants of the Staple, who had been created by charter of James I., and who had become extinct, by order of the Lord Lieutenant in Council, on the 14th of August, 1824, thirty-two members of the guild were named, one of whom only was a member of the Common Council, though several of them were freemen. That effort faded—the guild became inoperative. The Chamber of Commerce, on the other hand, went on steadily and well. Their funds were at first derived from rateable subscriptions paid by each member according to the extent of his export trade in the port of Limerick, and a schedule of

¹ In 1833 the Corporation proposed to borrow from the Commissioners of public works £9,000 on the security of the surplus revenues of £1,000, for the purpose of rebuilding Thomond Bridge. The bridge was built, but the money was never paid by the Corporation.

² Report of the Commissioners, &c.

The noticeable events of this year were:—

1824, January 31st.—The warrants appointing six magistrates under the Limerick Regulation Act issued; the names of these gentlemen are as follows:—The Hon. John Massy, City of Limerick; Rev. Josiah Crampton, Rector of Sradbally; Alderman Joseph Gabbett, City of Limerick; Major-General Richard Bourke, Thornville, South Liberties, William Roche and John Kelly, Esqrs.—Before this time the justices were constituted by Charter Jas. I., March 3rd, 1609, and limited to six, the Mayor and Recorder for the time being always two of them. The remaining four were elected the second Monday after Michaelmas day, and it was usual to appoint the late Mayor when he had served his office, a charter justice for the succeeding year.

February 7th.—Great joy prevailed in Limerick, on the arrival of the news that Mr. Rice had obtained the Lord Lieutenant's approbation of a grant of £60,000 for building the Wellesley Bridge.

February 17th.—On the evening of this day a very unusual circumstance occurred at the funeral of a Mr. Laurence Durack, in St. John's Churchyard. The Rev. Mr. McCarthy, a Catholic Clergyman, in stole and surplice, recited the usual prayers, &c., and was resisted by the Rev. John Fitzgibbon, Protestant Vicar, who remonstrated to no purpose. The surrounding crowd pushed and jostled Mr. Fitzgibbon and called him bard names. The ultra Protestants were annoyed; but the affair did not create a feeling beyond them.

March 3rd.—From a Parliamentary document just issued, the value of silver and copper coins now in circulation is estimated according to the market price of silver and copper:—

lver—the Crown or 5s. piece, at	4s. 6d.
Half-Crown or 2s. 6d.	2s. 3d.
The Shilling,	10d.
The Penny,	one Farthing.

March 12th.—The Excise district of Ennis, annexed to Limerick, by which one Chief collector, one surveyor, and some subalterns are out of office.

March 22nd.—James Bridgeman, aged 2½ years, executed in front of the county gaol for the murder of Richard Going, Esq., late Chief Magistrate of Police of the County of Limerick,

these rates was fixed by a bye-law of the Chamber; but this becoming too heavy on individuals, some of whom paid a contribution so high as £40, a maximum subscription of £12 was fixed, which, about forty years ago, was reduced to a subscription of £5 annually from each member. They first undertook the management of the butter trade of Limerick, by which they increased the export trade in that article wonderfully, and derived a good income. They applied their funds to the improvement of the port and harbour of Limerick, by clearing away rocks and shoals in the river, and mooring buoys; in encouraging the linen trade; in expending £1500 in one season of distress by purchasing provisions for the poor, and selling them at a reduced rate; and about £1200 in opposition to the Corporation before the Committee of Appeal in 1820, on the rights of freedom.

The population returns of the County of the City of Limerick in 1821 was 59,045, and in 1831 according to the population returns printed by order of the House of Commons, it was 66,554 showing an increase in ten years of 7,509. The population of the parishes forming the city as built upon, was estimated in 1831, at 49,769. The number of inhabited houses in the county of the city by the returns of 1831, was 7,820. The number building 138. The number uninhabited 427. The number of families 11,953—of which there were chiefly employed in agriculture 2,798—in trade, manufactures and handicraft 4,057—all other families not comprised in the two preceding classes 5,098. The proportion of females to males as 6 to 5. The number of males over twenty years of age 15,663—labourers employed in agriculture 2,561; ditto not employed in agriculture 3,618. Persons employed in retail trade or handicraft as masters or workmen 5,106—capitalists, bankers, professional and other educated men 1323—occupiers

14th October, 1821. The culprit acknowledged to be at the murders of Major Hare, and Mr. Bushe. It appeared from the declaration, that the murder of Mr. Going was in contemplation for three months, before an opportunity for executing it presented itself. Mr. Going, on the night previous, slept at Castletown, the residence of John Waller, Esq. He had choice of three roads which led to Rathkeale, on each of which four ruffians were posted, so that escape was impossible. Bridgeman appeared to have been the chief planner of all the mischief. He had been discharged at Spring Assizes, 1823, for want of prosecution.

March 26th.—A Mr. Porter of London, on the part of the United General Gas Company, has agreed to light the Parish of St. Michael, from the first October next, with gas—oil being hitherto used in the public lamps. Mr. Porter promises to do so at a saving of £30 a year to the Parish Commissioners, and to furnish the requisite apparatus, &c. at his own cost. He anticipates an expenditure of £4000 before the work is completed.

March 31st.—Ten convicts embarked on board the convict ship at Cove, Co. Cork: they pleaded guilty at last assizes for an attack on Glensheen barracks, in the County of Limerick, and received sentence of transportation.

April 6th.—For the first time in Limerick, a Columbian printing press, introduced by Messrs. Watson.

April 10th.—Thomas Shehan executed in front of the county gaol, pursuant to sentence at last assizes, he being an accomplice in the crime of cutting Mr. Nagle's throat at Kilmallock.

April 14th.—Labourers employed this day in clearing quarries from which stones are to be raised for the Wellesley Bridge.

April 37th.—Three men executed at the county gaol pursuant to sentence at the last assizes.

In the house of Lords, Earl Darnley states that the population of Ireland is 7,000,000, and that 50,000 of the number only are of the Established Church.

April 24th.—Donovan and Russell executed in front of the county gaol for attacking Glensheen barracks. They neither denied nor acknowledged guilt.

St. George's Day. (April 23rd), the newly appointed time for celebrating the King's birth-day, happening in Easter week, firing of troops, &c., did not take place till the 29th inst.

May 2nd.—The Emigrant Brig, Maria of Pembroke, from New Ross to Quebec, put into the harbour of Limerick in distress; 89 passengers on board, in the utmost want. A subscription raised of £72 11s. 3d. for them. The Rev. P. Hogan, P.P., St. Michael's, realized £20 additional for them by a charity sermon.

and others not included in the foregoing 3,055. The quantity of corn bought in Limerick in 1830 and 1831—was:—

	1830.	1831.
Wheat,	147,400.	169,993.
Barley,	85,558.	85,560.
Oats,	296,070.	315,732.

The increase of the grain trade in the forty years preceding, appears from a petition on the subject of tolls, presented to the Irish House of Commons in 1790, which states in the past year 1789, there were exported from Limerick:—

21,693 Barrels of Wheat.
24,906 „ „ Oats.
568 „ „ Beans,
526 „ „ Barley.
1360 cwt. of Flour.
714 tons of Oatmeal.

The tonnage too of vessels had increased in the same ratio, and Limerick was giving evidence of its progress in every respect notwithstanding a partial check to its prosperity a few years before this period.

Concurrently with these improvements and projects, the Catholics of Limerick began to take energetic measures to join in the struggle for Emancipation: O'Connell had already established the Catholic Association, and projected the Catholic Rent. Limerick immediately threw its weight into the scale. On the 21st of June, 1824, a meeting of the Catholic parishioners of St. Michael's was held in the Parish Church; resolutions were unanimously adopted to sustain the collection of the Catholic Rent, which was set on foot and pushed with vigorous alacrity. The parish was divided into districts; the subscription was not less than one penny, or more than two shillings per month, from each contributor. A few days after the establishment of the Association in Limerick, a solemn service was celebrated in the same parish church for the repose of the soul of Francis Arthur, Esq., who had lately died at Dunkirk, in France, and of whose trial and sufferings, and escape from an imminent death at the hands of military executioners and civic plotters, we have given an account in a preceding chapter.

The Protestants of Limerick were, generally speaking, in favor of an adjustment of the Catholic claims; there was, they said, but little use in

May 13th.—A diving bell imported from Waterford, to be employed in the erection of the Wellesley Bridge—the first ever seen here.

May 14th.—The first stone of the central building of the new Lunatic Asylum laid with much ceremony by Stephen Edward Rice, Esq., (as proxy for his son, Thomas Spring Rice, Esq., M.P. now attending his Parliamentary duties), in presence of the directors and several gentlemen. Johnson and Murray; Williams and Cockburn, architects.

May 14th.—A young gentleman of the name of Barnes, shot himself at the mail-coach hotel in George's-street—he languished in great agony till the morning of the 17th. Disappointed love was the cause.

May 30th.—Keeper Hill covered with snow.

The revenue establishment at Kilrush and Scattery Island done away with.

The Castle Barracks ordered to be taken down and rebuilt in the most perfect manner.

June 1st.—Great drought: a boy forded the Shannon from Custom House Quay to the House of Industry on the North Strand.

May 30th.—Died in Dublin, Richard E. Crosbie, Esq., aged 68 years; the first who ascended in a balloon at Dublin or any where else. He ascended from the roof of the House of Industry, on the North Strand, on the 27th of April, 1786, of which the Hibernian Magazine gives a lengthened account.

A woman aged 60, named Catherine Glynn, gave birth to a daughter at the Lying-in Hospital.

June 14th.—A sum of £300,000 per annum said to be drained out of Ireland by absentees.

resisting the rapid progress of liberality. A statement had been just made in the House of Commons which showed that in Ulster there were only five-eighths of the whole population, or 1,250,000 Protestants—in Leinster, one-fifth; in Munster, one-twelfth; in Connaught, one in twenty-five; in all, 1,840,000 Protestants to six millions of Catholics. The question of Emancipation was simply one of time. A return was published of the resident and non-resident Protestant clergy throughout Ireland; and from this return it appeared that, while there was a very large proportion of non-resident clergymen elsewhere, the diocese of Limerick showed a larger aggregate in this respect than any other, there being no less than 47 non-resident clergymen to 95 benefices. By another return it also appeared that the estates of the Protestant Bishop of Limerick consisted of 6,720 acres, and the reserved rent £2,102 18s. 11d., and the customary renewal fines an equal profit. The total amount of acres in Ireland owned by Archbishops and Bishops (Protestant) 427,365 acres.

One of those trials of deep interest between the Corporation and the Independents took place at Cork assizes this year; it was of great importance to Limerick. Denis Lyons, Esq., merchant, represented the plaintiffs—the Chamber of Commerce. A verdict was given for the defendants. The trial occupied three days, and a vast deal of old and new matter was produced, which it was thought would prove to be the forerunner of future litigation. It was alleged that the Corporation was possessed of immense estates. The charters of John, of Edward I., of Henry V., the two charters of Elizabeth, and the charter of James I., were referred to fully. Nothing practical, however, eventuated from the trial for the citizens.

Lord Combermere, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Ireland, arrived in Limerick on the 9th of September, and inspected the troops in garrison on the parade of the New Barracks. Immediately after, his Lordship left Limerick for Rockbarton, the residence of the Chief Baron O'Grady.

These Barracks were built in 1798, and occupy about a square mile. They are capable of containing about 1000 men, including officers' quarters. They are on an elevation to the southwest of the city. In 1845 a district Military Prison was added, which in 1865 contains 87 prisoners, and a staff consisting of chief warden and seven warders and servants. The prison consists of three corridors and fifty-nine cells.

July 27th.—Prospectus of an Irish Provincial Banking Company issued; local committees have been formed in different towns and cities. The following committee formed in Limerick:—John M'Namara, President, and J. N. Russell, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce; Joseph M. Harvey, John Kelly, Martin Creagh, John Hill, Michael Ryan, Ralph Westropp, and William White, directors of the Chamber of Commerce for the current year.

August 20th.—The sentinel at the Excise Office door made an attempt to break it open; there were £1200 in an iron safe in the office. The sentinel, whose name was Wm. M'Kenny, a native of Ballyshannon, deserted.

September 13th.—The Assembly Rouse on Charlotte's Quay, having been again fitted up as a theatre, opened this evening with Shakspeare's tragedy of King Richard III. The celebrated actor, Kean, played Richard. Kean left Limerick on the morning of the 18th of September, displeased at his reception—he had engaged with Mr. Clarke, the manager, to play twelve successive nights—he only played five nights, and those to almost empty houses. It is supposed his receipts did not cover his expenses. He returned for the races, and fulfilled his engagement, playing alternately tragedy and comedy. Country families attended the plays.

Major Hedges Maunsell built the flour mills at Plassy, within two miles of Limerick—mills probably inferior to none in Ireland. They were afterwards occupied for several years by Mr. Reuben Harvey. Mr. Richard Russell, J.P., rebuilt Plassy House in a superb style in 1863, and has added to the power of the mills considerably.

September 29th.—The coach between Limerick and Tralee commenced running this day. Leaves Limerick at 11½, a.m., and arrives at Tralee at 11, p. m.: returns from Tralee at 3, a.m.,

The country continued very much disturbed; and the expense of the old Constabulary was excessive: for the half year, on the county of Limerick, it amounted to £1,846 12s., and the new police for the same time was £1,941 8s. 9d.

The Corporation on the 11th of October this year, let the Lax weir, in Court, of D'Oyer Hundred, to a Mr. Thomas Little, at £450 per annum: the weir had been for some years wholly neglected, and abandoned, and had become altogether unproductive of any revenue. A Mr. Kelly had been for some months previously, engaged on the part of the Government in suppressing all private weirs and obstructions, both in the river Shannon and in the small rivers that run into it. From this it was conjectured that the take of salmon would prove to be abundant. Forty years before this time, salmon sold in Limerick for one penny and three halfpence per lb. It is stated that in old apprentices' indentures, masters were bound not to give apprentices salmon more than three times a week for dinner.¹

In this year a return to Parliament was made of the number of magistrates in Ireland: 4507 is the total number; 1932, acting and resident; 266, acting though not resident,—187 attached to Limerick.

Manufactures a few years after this time began to appear again in Limerick, which is largely indebted to one firm for sustained and persevering efforts to locate manufactures in the city.² Messrs. J. N. Russell and Sons, one of

¹ In 1865, the price of salmon early in the season is 3s. and 2s. 6d. per lb., and throughout the season it is seldom below the sum of 1s. 8d. per lb. William Malcomson, Esq. of the firm of Malcomson Brothers, Portlaw, county of Waterford, the tenant of the great Lax weir, sends off enormous quantities each day to the London, Dublin, and other markets in England and elsewhere. The take is fully as large, if it be not larger, than it ever had been. The trade in it realizes a vast revenue. Besides the fishery at the Lax weir, there are several boats employed by Mr. Malcomson in the fishery, and many fishermen who had been on their own account, are at present in the employment of Mr. Malcomson. Ice is used in preserving the fish fresh, and ice houses have been built near the weir, and at the Terminus of the Waterford and Limerick Railway, for the purpose.

² The Russells of Limerick (who were once numerous) are an old Protestant family that can clearly be traced to the time of Cromwell, though further trace of them is here lost, it is probable that their progenitors were citizens of Limerick at a period much more remote. The 9th Mayor of Limerick was John Russell, (styled John Russell, alias Creagh), and the 56th Mayor of Limerick was John Russell. Since then several of the name have filled the office of Bailiff and Sheriff. By inscription on front of the Old Exchange it appears it was rebuilt in 1777, Walter Widenham being Mayor, and Francis Russell and Charles Sargent, Sheriffs. This Francis Russell was grandfather to Francis William Russell, the present Representative in Parliament for the City of Limerick, and the last member of the family that filled the office of Sheriff, was his brother, Thompson Russell. Hughes Russell was Sheriff for the city in 1837, and took part as a public officer: in the civil and military procession through the streets of Limerick on the occasion of proclaiming Victoria Queen

and reaches Limerick at 2½, p.m.—route through Patrick's Well, Adnre, Crough, Rathkeale, New Bridge, Foynes, Loughill, Glin, Tarbert, Listowell, and O'Dorney—performing a journey of 60 miles and 3 furlongs in 11½ hours.

The expense of the mill house, tread mill, and machinery for scutching flax, at the County of Limerick Gaol amounts to £806 2s. 5d.

About the commencement of September, the foundation of a new Convent and Chapel for the Franciscan Friars laid in Henry-street.

Nov. 3rd.—John Collins, aged 114 years, died at Manister, in this county.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

The Limerick Jubilee Loan gave on loans up to the end of this year (1824) £81,563.

Bryan Salmon; a shoemaker, died in Mungret-street, aged 104 years. He retained his faculties to the day of his death.

The Catholic rent collected in Limerick from May until the end of December (1824) amounts to £314 lie. 1d.

the oldest, and for many years the largest merchants and manufacturers in the south-west of Ireland, in 1827, for the first time, added flour milling to their previously extensive business. They were the first in the city to see the advantage of steam power applied to manufactures, and in this year fitted up the Newtown Pery mills with steam machinery, much to the surprise and wonder of the people, as no one considered the plan either rational or feasible.¹ It is idle now to say that the new power did succeed, and as the business grew and enlarged itself under the upright, liberal, and

of Great Britain and Ireland, and the first stone of the new Church of St. John's was laid by John Norris Russell, the year that he filled the office of Sheriff. In former days there was a branch of the Russells in Limerick who were of *Lais* family, but the connection was remote, having descended from the brother of one of the progenitors of the present family (Philip Russell, born in 1650). They have long since left Limerick, and are at present represented by the Venerable John Russell, Archdeacon of Clogher, whose sister Elizabeth was married to the late Right Rev. Charles Dickinson, Protestant Lord Bishop of Meath. There have been from time to time, and are at present, several of the name residing in Limerick, unconnected with this family. The burial place of the Russells is St. John's in Limerick, where for many years they used to inter in the interior of the old Church, until such interments were prohibited by Act of Parliament. The last person whose remains were interred in the interior of the old Church, was the widow of a Philip Russell (Miss Fosbery, of Clorane, in the County Limerick). Consequent on her decease having taken place a short time after the passing of this Act, her remains were interred outside the Church in the morning, and at night, with the sanction of the Vicar of the parish, who was a particular friend of the family, they were secretly removed, and placed in the tomb near the remains of her late husband. The tomb was situated near the passage leading from the communion table to the vestry room in the old Church, on the site of which the new one has been raised.

There are now three vaults in the burial ground outside the Church, belonging to different branches of the family, one of which has lately become extinct by the decease of Francis Philip Russell, of St. Thomas's Island. Over the organ loft, in the new church, is a handsome wheel window with richly stained glass, in the centre of which are the arms of the family.

The name of Russell is identified with the ancient Cathedral of Limerick so far back as the year 1272, Henry Russell being one of the Canons of the Cathedral at that period.

Mayors of Limerick of the Name of Russell.

John Russell, (styled John Russell, alias Creagh).
John Russell.

Bailiffs of Limerick of the Name of Russell.

Pierce Russell.				
David Russell,	..	...	...	twice.
Philip Russell,	...	...	...	twice.

Sheriffs of Limerick of the Name of Russell.

Francis Russell.	Bughes Russell.
William Russell.	John Norris Russell.
Philip Russell.	Richard Russell.
Abraham Russell.	Thompson Russell.*
Francis Philip Russell.	

¹ In front of the Newtown Pery store, in Henry Street, built in addition to the mills in 1837, is inserted a stone, which was formerly in front of the old Mayoralty house in Quay Lane, and was purchased by Mr. J. N. Russell, when that building was taken down. On either side of the stone is the date of the erection of the store, 1837; over this stone, cut in relief also, are the Russell arms, with the name underneath—

JOHN NORRIS RUSSELL.

In addition to the Newtown Pery Mills, the machinery of which was already—so rapid have been the improvements in steam machinery since its erection—old fashioned—and comparatively expensive to work—the Messrs. Russell hold Lock Mills, situate where the canal joins the

prudent course always before and since pursued by the firm, other mills fell from time to time into their hands, until they are now, in 1865, the largest millers in Ireland, if not in Great Britain.

Abbey River; the large mills at **Corbally**, just above the last regulating weir on the **Shannon**; **Plassy Mills**, farther up the river; Garryowen Mills, a large steam concern; and extensive mills at **Askeaton**, situate several miles below the city, one of which is also driven by steam. These concerns give large employment to the people, and largely contribute to the commerce of the port, both by imports of grain, coals, etc., and by exports of Flour and other commodities. A great portion of this is done by the sailing vessels of the firm, and by the line of steamers which they have largely contributed to maintain. The public benefits at all times resulting from these enterprises need not be enlarged upon; but the advantage to the community was especially found, during the disastrous years of the famine, when the Messrs. Russell were enabled to provide breadstuffs to an enormous and unprecedented extent for the consumption of the neighbouring unions, then dependent on almost instant supplies to prevent famine taking possession inside the workhouses. At one period, in 1858, it was in contemplation by the guardians to apply for advances from the imperial treasury, in anticipation of the poor rates, for payment of the supplies provided, which their funds were unable to meet. Before the era of steam navigation the English and Scotch trade with the port was carried on by a line of sailing packets, of which Messrs. Russell were large proprietors; but in 1850, when steam vessels became necessary to supersede the liners, they did not hesitate to take a very leading part in establishing the Steam Ship Company.* In 1858, when the Company was suffering from the opposition of railway competition, and the general depression of Irish public enterprise, Messrs. Russell took the shares of those whose confidence was shaken, and devoted themselves largely to restore the line. The success of these efforts is seen in the prosperity of the undertaking now, and the river vessels of larger size and power added to the fleet, which now can boast of having as fine vessels of their class as any port of Great Britain or Ireland. In addition to ample accommodation for the general import and export trade of the city, this line is now enabled to provide large supplies of coals, and thus keep a wholesome check on the enormous prices and extreme fluctuations which always existed when the supply of coals was entirely dependent on sailing vessels. In 1851, Messrs. Russell commenced the erection of **Lansdowne** flax spinning and weaving factories at **North Strand**, and such was the energy devoted to this entirely new branch of manufacture here by them, that the buildings and machinery of the spinning factory were erected and started in October, 1853, and shortly afterwards the power loom factory was erected, giving further large employment in the manufacture of the yarns into lines. These fine, well proportioned buildings, all built of dressed limestone, are, in a mere architectural sense, an ornament to the city, and the advantages of the steady employment both factories have since given to large numbers, chiefly of the younger portion of the population, otherwise utterly unprovided with well-paid work, are not easily overestimated. The firm has regularly engaged, in all their various enterprises, about 2,000 people. The founder of the firm, the late Mr. John Norris Russell, died at a ripe old age in 1859, having lived to see his sons successfully carry into operation all the enterprises which he with them had originated. His eldest son, Mr. Francis William Russell, was returned one of the members for the city in 1852, and has since worthily represented it in the House of Commons. The contributions of the firm to the local charities, without distinction of creed or party, have always been in liberal keeping with their other acts.

* Previous to 1817, the only mode of river conveyance between Limerick and **Kilrush**, was by turf boats. About that period three sailing packets, the **Royal George**, **Lady Frances**, and **Vandeleur**, were established for the conveyance of goods and passengers; and in some years after a steamer, called the **Lady of the Shannon**, commenced to ply—(she was the property of a Limerick Company)—but having proved a failure in some time after was broken up. Consequent on want of steam power, she was not alone slow in movement, but unable to proceed against the tide when there was a strong head wind.

In 1829 the Dublin Steam Packet Company placed a powerful boat on the station, called the **Mona**, and have since continued to run steamers between Limerick and **Kilrush**; a new route is also now opened by the **Foynes** Railway.

CHAPTER L.

NEW AND OLD BRIDGES OF LIMERICK.—WELLESLEY BRIDGE.—ATHLUNKARD BRIDGE.—PARK BRIDGE.—BALLS BRIDGE.—THOMOND BRIDGE.—NEW AND MATHEW BRIDGE.—PROJECTED RAILROADS.—WATERWORKS.—BARRINGTON'S HOSPITAL.—STATISTICS OF TRAVELLING, &c. &c.

WITH the growth of the New Town and the augmentation of trade and commerce, the necessity arose for new bridges to span the Shannon, and docks to protect the shipping frequenting the port. In 1759, a grant was made of £3,500 to the Ball's Bridge Commissioners for enlarging the quay, building a bridge to **Mardyke**, and clearing the river of rocks from the quay to the pool. In 1765, a further grant of \$2,500 to the Ball's Bridge Commissioners was made for continuing the new quays; but the requirements of the port and harbour at the period at which we have arrived were larger and more imperative in this respect; and accordingly, as we have seen in the previous chapter, the Wellesley Bridge Act was passed in 1823; in 1825, the Athlunkard Bridge Act was passed. In the same year, an act was passed for supplying the city and suburbs of Limerick with water. In 1826, an act was passed to make a railroad from the city of Limerick to **Carrick-on-Suir**, in the county of Tipperary—the first project of this kind in the South of Ireland. In 1830, **Barrington's Hospital Act** was passed; and in the same year was passed an act for rebuilding **Ball's Bridge**. It was a time of enterprise and action, and several of the projects, though numerous and of great magnitude, were carried out to successful completion, not only with speed, but with skill and science which could not be surpassed, if equalled, in any other city in the British Empire. The preamble of the act for the erection of the Wellesley Bridge—one of the noblest structures in the kingdom—set out the fact of the wealth and importance of the city of Limerick, the extension of its commerce, and the likelihood of the increase of that commerce—the want of a direct communication or passage from the west side of the Liberties, and from the counties of Clare and Galway, except by the one very old and narrow bridge—**Thomond Bridge**¹—which was “inconveniently remote from the new and trading parts of the city”—the necessity of a canal for the passage of ships and boats above and below the projected bridge—the want of a floating dock for shipping of a sharp form, or copper-bottomed, commonly used in the trade of the Atlantic, which could not now be safely brought to the quays of the city. The act appointed the following commissioners for erecting the bridge, &c.:—viz, the **Right Hon. Wm. Vesey Fitzgerald**, **Sir Edward O'Brien, Bart.**; the **Hon. Richard Fitzgibbon**, **Thomas Spring Rice**, **Bolton Waller**, **Thomas Fitzgibbon**, the elder; **Joseph Massey Harvey**, **Richard Bourke**, **George Gough the younger**; **John Kelly**, **Edward Croker**, **William Gabbett**, **Thomas Roche**, **William Roche**, **John Vereker**, **John Mark**, **William Monsell**, the younger, **Thomas Gibbon Fitzgibbon**, **John Brown**, **John MacNamara**, **John**

¹ The Old Thomond Bridge stood exactly on the site of the present one. It was inconveniently narrow, and there was no flagway for foot passengers. It was provided with small chambers or recesses over each of the piers, that people stood in when two vehicles were passing each other, and by their means accidents were prevented.

Hartigan, Daniel Leahy, Joseph Gabbett, William Howley, Ralph Westropp, Richard Kenny, Robert O'Callaghan Newenham, Michael Furnell, John Perrott, Edward Villiers, John Connell, Robert Maunsell, the elder; Martin Creagh, James Fisher, John Staunton, John Green, John Norris Russell, Michael Ryan, Daniel Gabbett, Martin Arthur, Michael Gavin, William White, John Stephenson, Reuben Harvey, Stephen Dickson, Daniel Barrington, and Robert Keane Charles, and their successors. The place selected was from Brunswick-street across the river to the North Strand. Extensive powers were granted to the Commissioners, and among other powers given them, was one by which they were enabled to borrow a sum of one hundred thousand pounds for the purposes in question, on the credit of the tolls, rates and duties to be levied. No one applied himself more zealously to the successful realization of this project than Mr. Thomas Spring Rice, M.P. Several objections had been raised to the advance of money for the proposed Bridge; but on the 6th of February, 1824, Mr. Rice addressed a letter to the Yresicent of the Chamber of Commerce, announcing that the Marquis of Wellesley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, had approved of the report of the Commissioners, recommending a grant of £60,000 for the intended Bridge and Docks at Limerick; and expressing his assurance that no further doubts or difficulties could arise, nor could any new obstacles be interposed to defeat a measure which would be found no less important to the unemployed tradesmen and labourers of Limerick, than to the commercial interests of the city and the adjacent counties. It was thought, in fact, that the tolls would considerably exceed the estimate of the Commissioners, and bring in a revenue of over \$5,000 a year. Mr. Rice anticipated a reduction in the tolls in consequence of the revenue, and eventually the opening of a free port. In these anticipations he and the public have been completely deceived. The revenue from the tolls never arrived at anything whatever even remotely approaching to the estimate. Year after year the tolls have been decreasing, until in 1865 they are rented at 32400 per annum to the eminent firm of Messrs. John Norris Russell and Sons, who have rented them for several years for about the same sum. The laying the foundation stone of this bridge on the 25th of October, 1824, was attended with all possible ceremony and eclat. The plans were drawn by Mr. Alexander Nimmo, the eminent engineer, on the plan exactly of the beautiful Pont Neuilly over the Seine above Paris, and they were carried out with faultless precision by Messrs. Clements and Son, the contractors. The bridge has five river arches, with a swivel bridge and two quay arches. The Earl of Clare laid the foundation stone, in the absence of the Marquis of Wellesley. The entire garrison were under arms on the North Strand, where the stone was laid—the artillery firing, &c. On a stone in the middle of the western parapet of the bridge is the following inscription:—

THIS BRIDGE WAS ERECTED A.D. 1831,
UNDER AN ACT OF THE IV. OF GEORGE IV.,
INTRODUCED INTO PARLIAMENT BY THE
RIGHT HONORABLE THOMAS S. RICE, N.P.
FOR THE CITY OF LIMERICK.

This Bridge is a noble ornament to Limerick; and if it has not realised the expectations of its projectors, it must be admitted to be a structure beautifully planned and executed.

The Bridge took eleven years to build, and the Commissioners spent no less a sum than £89,061 in its completion. It was opened by the Earl of Mulgrave, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on the 5th of August, 1835. A sum of £30,000 would have sufficed for an excellent suitable bridge.

During the years that were occupied in building the bridge, the promised dock lay in abeyance, and the commercial community were compelled to pay exorbitant dues for an unfinished bridge, which inconveniently interfered with the traffic of the port. They viewed the proceedings of the Commissioners with dissatisfaction, more particularly as the bridge and the port were different undertakings; the bridge to benefit the landed interest, while the port was for trade and commerce.

A memorial, signed by the principal merchants and others, was presented to the commissioners in 1833 in which complaint was further made of the dangerous condition of the harbour, caused by the bridge encroachments, and of the misapprobation of the revenues of the port, which ought solely to have been applied to the construction of the promised docks.

In the year 1834¹ a new act was procured, under which a sum of £45,000 was raised by loan from government, and was expended upon an engineering project, which was subsequently abandoned as impracticable. This project had for its end the construction of a dam across the river, and the conversion of the stream into a large floating dock. Engineers, however, of eminence reported that such a dock would occasionally lay a great part of the city under water. The advantage derived by the city from the 3245,000 thus expended was the construction of a noble line of quays. In 1847, a third act was procured; and an additional sum of £54,000 was advanced, which was expended in the construction of the existing dock, which was opened, as we have stated in the first chapter of this work, in 1853. The dock covers a space of eight acres, and was constructed by John Long, Esq., C.E. The dock is capable of accommodating eighty sea-going vessels, large and small, and is entered by dock gates seventy feet wide. The depth is from twenty to twenty-five feet. The total cost was £54,000, a moderate expenditure on a work of such extent and depth.

When the original act of 1824 was procured, the estimate was that the income of the port would be £1,025, and of the bridge about £6,000 a year. The income from the bridge is almost nothing, but that from the port has risen from £1100 in 1825 to over £9,900 in 1856.

The Board of Public Works which has had possession of the bridge tolls and harbour dues, has kept one general account of their receipts without

¹ Under the powers of this Act the ancient office of Water Bailiff, with a revenue of about £1100 a year was abolished. The Water Bailiff was appointed by the Corporation, and collected his own charges off the vessels, and of which he rendered no account. His badge of office was a silver oar. He enforced all magisterial and judicial warrants against the shipping and seamen frequenting the port. £5000 was awarded him by way of compensation.

discriminating between the sources from which they were derived. On 31st December, 1862, the following is their statement of the account:—

Date of Loan.	Princ. £	Principal Repaid. £	Principal now Due. £	Interest. £	Interest Repaid. £	Interest now Due. £	Total remaining Due. £
1824. 25th May,.....	55,384	...	55,384	71,816	71,816	...	55,384
1832. 24th October,...	25,000	5,722	19,278	24,709	23,937	772	20,050
1837. 31st May,.....	40,000	...	40,000	40,482	27,062	13,420	53,420
1839. 21st August,...	6,000	...	6,000	5,722	2,344	3,378	8,378
1848. 23rd June,.....	64,000	...	4,000	31,214	181	31,033	85,033

By the last account rendered it would appear that the commissioners then owed the government the sum of £222,365, and this amount has not been lessened.

The merchants of Limerick have been for sometime energetically engaged, and with every prospect of success, in demanding a readjustment of this account. It was never the intention of the government or the merchants to prejudice the port at the expense of the bridge—the only thing to be said is, that the advances for the bridge had been made on an estimate that has proved completely illusory. In 1864, a movement begun by the Harbour Board and Chamber of Commerce, and which has been sustained by the representatives of the city and by the municipal corporation, was set on foot for the purpose of pressing on government the absolute necessity of readjusting the accounts. A few years previously a proposition was laid before the Corporation to make the bridge debt a liability on the rates of the city, the amount due to be in the first instance diminished very considerably by the Lords of the Treasury. The Corporation rejected the proposition by a considerable majority.

On the 26th of April, 1824, labourers were employed in opening the street from the end of Park Bridge, to communicate in a line from thence, and cross Mary-street to Quay-lane. The labourers could work only in the Abbey, (then part of the county of Limerick by charter) as the houses in Mary-street which mere to be taken down had not been at the time presented for by the City Grand Jury. Ultimately the presentments were made, and Athlunkard-street was formed. James Kennedy, Esq., a banker, about twelve years before, projected a bridge from Corbally across the Shannon to Allan Court, cleared a passage through a pit at great expense, and laid a solid abutment. The project, however, was not carried through, though it had obtained general concurrence. It was at the conclusion of the session of Parliament this year that St. Francis's Abbey, theretofore in the county, by charter of James I., March 3rd, 1609, was attached to the city, and placed under the control of the city magistrates. Mr. Nimmo, the engineer, gave his opinion that a chain bridge could be thrown across the river at Allan Court for a sum not exceeding £2,000, but the idea of a chain bridge was abandoned.

The Bill for the erection of a bridge across the Shannon at Athlunkard, to make a direct communication or passage from the northern parts of the counties of Clare and Galway, into Limerick, thus became law in 1825. Before

this period there had been no means of communication between the northern and eastern parts of these counties and the city of Limerick; and Park Bridge, a plain structure of three arches, which crosses the Abbey river a short distance above the Abbey slip, and leads to the beautifully improved suburban townland of Corbally, the greater portion of which was purchased by the late Alderman Pierce Shannon, in 1833, for £22,000, from Colonel William Thomas Monsell,² of Tervoe—led only to Corbally, where the

¹ Park is a townland within the municipal boundary of Limerick. Park House is the residence of the Catholic Bishop of Limerick. The inhabitants of Park are among the most thrifty and industrious in any part of Ireland. They pay from £8 to £10 an acre for their patches of land, the largest holders not renting more than from three to four acres. They cultivate vegetables, with which they supply the citizens; they rear cattle and pigs, and grow potatoes and turnips to feed their cattle and pigs, and for their own use also. They manure the land very highly, and beag within the Borough they are subject to high rates and taxes. There has been much emigration from Park in recent years, of young men and young women especially. The names generally of the residents are Cunneen, or O'Cunneen, one of the most ancient names in the South of Ireland, tradition having it that it was with a chieftain of that name Saint Patrick dwelt when he visited Singland, which forms part of the parish of St. Patrick in which Park is situated; Rannan, or Hanneen, Quilligan, Clancy, and MacNamara, or by abbreviation Mac. of which there are a great number in Park. The MacNamaras are said to have settled in Park since they were Criven from Clare in the wars of the seventeenth century. It was through the old road of Park that King William is said to have passed to the Shannon in 1690, when he made his inspection of the river, in order to obtain a knowledge of the passage of it, which was effected so successfully the year afterwards by Ginkle. The site of the *3at an pree*, or the King's gate, which divided Park from Corbally, and from which William passed, is yet pointed out, within a short distance of the river. There are several very handsome residences at Corbally, including the beautiful one of Pierce Shannon, Esq., grandson of Alderman Pierce Shannon. The ancient cemetery of Killeen, is situated in the "Killeen field," at Corbally. It has ceased for many years to be a burying place. Recently fragments of cannon balls and human bones have been found in this field.

² Monsell of Tervoe. The name of Monsel or Moncel occurs in some of the earliest MSS. documents connected with the city and diocese of Limerick: "Dominus Robertus Moncel" is the name of one whose signature appears to a lease of certain Church lands set forth in the *Liber Niger*, or Black Book of Limerick in the thirteenth century. Sir Bernard Burke, however, states that the Trevoe branch of the family settled in Ireland early in the reign of Charles I. Monsell and Maunsell is the same name—and in a detailed pedigree of the Maunsell family* which is in existence, a branch of the arms of that family are given in the pedigree, and they are the same as those borne by the Monsells of Tervoe. changes of spelling have frequently taken place in Ireland from the pronunciation of English names by the Irish tongue. The name had been evidently known in Limerick, as appears above, many ages before the period stated for the settlement of the family in Ireland, by the great authority on Irish Genealogy;† but the first mention of the Monsells in more recent ages in the neighbourhood of Limerick occurs in a history of the Siege of Ballyally Castle, near Ennis, in 1641, against the O'Grady's, to which Siege we have referred in our note on the O'Grady family,‡ the Seneshal being William Monsell. Thomas the son of Samuel Monsell of Tervoe, married first the daughter of William Burgh, of the ancient Dromkeen family—by whom he had a son who d. unm.—He married secondly in 1751, Dvmpbna, sister of Edmond Viscount Pery, and speaker of the Irish House of Commons—and by her was

The Maunsell family has been also one of high respectability in Limerick. Richard Maunsell, Esq., represented the City of Limerick in Parliament in 1741, and died in 1770—he was grandson of Colonel Thomas Maunsell, who so gallantly defended the Castle of Maccollop, in the County of Waterford against Cromwell's forces in 1650, as mentioned in the inscription on his tombstone in the Churchyard there. This family is descended from William Bfaunsell, the third and youngest son of the celebrated John Maunsell, Chief Justice and Chancellor of England. Provost of Beverley, &c., temp. Henry III. Walter Maunsell held, while he lived, the Capital Serjeancy of the County of Limerick, temp. Edward II. Thomas Maunsell of Chicheley, (England), son of Thomas Maunsell who died A.D. 1582, was ancestor of all the Maccollop family and of different other branches of the family who now reside in Ireland as well as of the Maunsells of Thorpe-Bfalsor, in the County of Northampton. Thomas was born 17th April, 1577, and early entered the Navy, in which he distinguished himself against the Spanish Armada, he retired from active service in 1609, for in the summer of that year he received an order from the Privy Council to the Lord Deputy to all Governors, Captains &c., to furnish him with every protection and assistance in selecting a place in which to reside. The following is a copy of the order; the

† Sir Bernard Burke's *Landed Gentry* of Ireland.

‡ See pp. 59–60.

§ Ferrar in his *History of Limerick* erroneously states that it was Colonel Richard Maunsell.

Shannon divided it from Athlunkard, in the county of Clare. Park Bridge was built about the year 1798.¹ The building of Athlunkard Bridge, which

father of Colonel William Thomas Monsell of Tervoe who sat in the Irish Parliament, born in 1755, who married in 1776, **Hannah**, daughter of Amos **Strettle**, Esq., and by her had, with four daughters, Dymphna, married to Thomas **Ellis**, Esq. M.P. for Dublin; **Hannah**, married to Thomas Wilson, Esq., Diana, died unmarried, and **Frances**, married to Sir **Hunt** Walsh, Bart., William, **El** heir, Amos died unmarried, Thomas in holy orders and Archdeacon of Derry, married Jane Rae, and had a daughter Diana, and three sons, John, married to Miss Anne **Waller** of Castletown; William; and Charles Henry, married to **the Hon.** Harriet **O'Brien**, sister of Lord **Inchiquin**; **William** Monsell, Esq., of Tervoe, born in 1778, married in 1810, **Olivia**, eldest daughter of Sir John **Allen** Johuson Walsh, Bart., and died in 1822, leaving an only son, the present Right Hon. William Monsell of Tervoe, a member of the Privy Council, Colonel of the County of Limerick Regiment of Militia—Vice-Lieutenant and Member of Parliament for the County of Limerick, High Sheriff in 1835—Late Clerk of the **Ordnance**, when he reorganised the war department in conjunction with Lord **Panmure**, and President of the Board of Health, born 21st September, 1812, married 11th August, 1836, Lady Anna Maria Charlotte **Wyndham** Quin, only daughter 2nd Earl of **Dunraven**, and by her (who died 7th January, 1855), had issue a son and heir, William, born in **March**, 1841, died 1845. Mr. Monsell married secondly, 1867, **Berthe**, youngest daughter of the Count de Montigny, younger brother of the Marquis de **Montigny**, and has a son born 5th March, 1848, and daughter **Margt.** Tervoe desmesne contains about 600 acres, and adjoins the famous Castle of Carrigounnell, which is also on the estate of Mr. Monsell, is about three miles from Limerick, and is beautifully situated on the river Shannon below the city, from which there is a fine view of its picturesque woods, and of the excellent family mansion, of one of the most estimable of gentlemen, who in every relation of life, public and private, has won and retains the very best affections of every class and party.

original was destroyed when Joseph **Maunsell's** house was burned down, who resided in the County of Galway:—

Copy of Document given to Captain Thorns *Maunsell*, R.N.

ARTHUR CHICHESTER,

By THE LORD DEPUTIE.

Wee greete you well, whereas this gent. **Captaine** Thomas Maunsell, is come into this **Kingdome** wth. entent to take a **viewe** and enforme **himsel**fe of the porta and most convenient places for him to settle in, and especially in the Province of Ulster and some ptes. of Connaught, to wch. ende he brought unto us **leres.** of recomendatons in **his** hehalfe from the **lls.** of **his** **Matie.** most honorable **Privie** Councell wch. wee received **this** day **signefinge** **his** **Matie.** and **theire** pleasures in that hehalfe. These are, therefore, to **wille** and require you and every of you his **Maties.** officers, mynisters, to take notice hereof and not only to suffer and p'mitt the said **Cap-taine** above named, **wth.** his servanta peaceable and **quietlie** to pass **by** you and fro as he shall have occasion to veowe, searche, and enquire as aforesaid; but also to bee aydinge, com-portyng, and assistinge unto him wth. post horses and guydes from place to place in his **travell**, and if neede require to give **hime** the best knowledge and furtherance **you** may in **you** owne mons for effectinge his desire according to his **Matie.** and the **lls.** pleasure unto a **signed** as aforesaid whereof you and every of you may not fayle as you will answer the contrary at **your** p'rls., given at **Melefant**, this 28th of July, 1809.

To all Governors, **Captaines**, Maiors, Sherefes, Justices of Peace, Headborowes, Constables, and to all other his **Mats.** officers and **lovinge** subjects to **whome** it shall or may **app'aine.**

GEO. SEXTEN.

He nettled in the County of Cork, at Derrivillane. John, a fourth son of his a Captain in the Life Guards and settled first in **Ireland**, was ancestor to the **Maunsells** of **Ballybrood** and **Thorpe-Malsor**. Mrs. **Alphra Maunsell**, the **mother** of a **numerous** family, having resided for some time in England, returned to Ireland and resided with her son John at Ballyvorreen, near **Caherconlish**, where she died prior to 1662. She was buried in the Church of **Caherconlish** where the following memorial was erected to her by her son:—

Here lyeth the Bodye of ALPHRA MAUNSELL,
My dear Mother, daughter of Sir **William Cragford** of Kent;

Here also lyeth my dear Wife, **MARY MAUNSELL**,
Daughter of **George** Booth, Esq., of Cheshire;

And of my sister ALPHRA PEACOCK; and of her
Daughter ANNE PEACOCK.

Erected by me JOHN MAUNSELL, ESQ., and
Intended for myself and rest of my family

Tbis 12th October, 1662.

The **Maunsells** fought throughout for the **Royalist** cause in the person of Charles I. and on the restoration obtained grants of land in the counties and liberties of Limerick, Galway, and City and County of Waterford. Thomas Bfaunsell of Annaghrostin, County Limerick, was one of the **Commissioners** of the **Peace** for Limerick, and appointed May 10th, 1688. He died

is of five arches, was commenced in June, 1826, and finished in December, 1830 at a cost of £7000. It has a toll gate at the city side, but the income from the tolls, which are set up each year to auction produces in the year 1865 about £200, a **sum** not at all equal to **dis** charge the interest on the money advanced for the structure. There never was a toll on Park Bridge.' On a stone on the west side of the bridge is this inscription:—

THIS BRIDGE
WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT
BY
JAMES AND GEO. **RICHD.** PAINE,
ARCHITECTS.
Commenced,
June, 1826. Finished,
Decr. 1830.

In the year 1830 an Act of Parliament (11 Geo. IV., c. 126) was passed for rebuilding **Ball's** Bridge, than which there have been few, if any, more ancient bridges in Ireland. This bridge, for which there had been three or four proposals, was given to Messrs. **Paine** to build at a cost of £600. It has one arch of 70 feet span, with a rise of 15 feet. It bears the following inscription on one of the parapets:—

THIS BRIDGE WAS ERECTED BY VIRTUE OF AN
ACT OF THE XI. OF GEO. IV.
THE RT. HON. THOMAS SPRING RICE, M.P.
FOR THE CITY OF LIMERICK.
COMMENCED TAKING DOWN THE OLD BRIDGE, NOVEMBER, 1830.
THE NEW BRIDGE FINISHED, NOVEMBER, 1831.
JAS. AND G. PAINE, ARCHITECTS.

unmarried and was the first of **hi** family who was buried in St. John's Church in the City of Limerick, where the family vault has continued. He served the office of Sheriff of the County Limerick in 1697.

Richard Maunsell, Esq., who was **M.P.** for Limerick from 1740 to 1761, represented **the** family after the death of his brother, Joseph, of **Cahir**, Co. Galway. Richard Maunsell left several sons; **hi** eldest son, Thomas, was senior King's Counsel, was **M.P.** for **Kilmallock**, and he left three sons, Thomas Maunsell, Esq., of **Plassy**, who was **M.P.** for Edwardstown, Co. Kilkenny, for 16 years; and Robert Maunsell, Esq. of Bank **Place**, whose two sons, living in 1865, Henry **Maunsell**, Esq., J.P., and Lieut.-General Frederick **Maunsell**, represent the families in both county and city of Limerick. The late Archdeacon Maunsell of Limerick is represented by Lieutenant-Colonel William **Maunsell**, East Kent Militia, of Northamptonshire family, where his brother, Colonel Thomas Maunsell, represented Northamptonshire for several years, and retired in consequence of old age.

¹ A curious clause in all the old leases of the **Corbally** tenants states that they shall have an abatement of £2 per acre in the rental of their lands should Park Bridge at any time go out of repair. The rents were raised when the Bridge was erected, and the landlord was obliged to keep the Bridge in repair, &c. The rental of **Corbally** in 1865 is 86:16:6 an acre. Since the passing of the Athlunkard Bridge Act, Park Bridge has been one of the approaches to **Athlunkard** Bridge, and has ceased to be a private bridge, and the roadway over it is maintained by the **Athlunkard** Bridge Commissionera

² The locality of **Ball's** Bridge was celebrated in old times for a hard fought conflict between the **O'Briens** and John de Burgo, commonly called John of Galway; and less than a century ago was a fashionable promenade.

³ There is no bridge the origin of which, as far as I am aware, so little is known as of **Ball's** Bridge—even the name itself of the bridge is uncertain; in Irish it is called **Ongho meal lmevezh**, viz. "the Bald Bridge of Limerick." In White's MSS. it is written, **the** Bald Bridge, (**bald** meaning without parapets, which it probably was), and in White's **MSS** it is written in

On a stone tablet on the other parapet of the bridge, is the following inscription :—

THE ANCIENT BRIDGE OF FOUR ARCHES
WHICH OCCUPIED THIS **SITE**, WAS TAKEN DOWN,
AND THIS BRIDGE ERECTED AT THE EXPENSE OF
THE NEW LIMERICK NAVIGATION **COMPANY**,
INCORPORATED 1830.

CHAS. WYE WILLIAMS, ESQ., CHIEF DIRECTOR.
JAS. AND G. R. PAINE, ARCHITECTS.

Old Ball's Bridge was a structure of four arches, the land ones having sprung from the Quay walls, Where the abutments of the present arch stand was formerly part of the water course. During the time that Limerick was a fortress within the limit of the town wall, (it then having consisted of the English and Irish towns only) the inconvenience of the limit of ground to build on was much experienced. To meet this difficulty in part, the Earl of Shannon to whom the bridge belonged permitted the building of two ranges of houses on it, which so contracted the roadway that it was almost impassable. After the Siege and surrender of the City to King William's troops, the houses on the east side were purchased and taken down by Act of Parliament, which was a great improvement. The range on the west side, which were a good class of shops in their day, remained until the bridge was removed in 1830. The New Bridge, now Mathew Bridge crosses the Abbey river also.'

One of the great wants which the New Town continued to suffer from was that of a sufficient supply of water for domestic use, &c. Though in the immediate proximity of a superabundance of the vivifying stream, there was no means hitherto of bringing it to the houses of the citizens. Mr. R. Leadbetter, an engineer made an estimate for supplying the desideratum by means of subterranean pipes. The estimate was lodged in the office of the Clerk of the Peace on the 9th of January, in 1825, and it amounted to the sum of

Latin Pons Calvus. It is also written Baal's Bridge. It was known in the fourteenth century, and is quartered, as already stated, on the Galway arms, in reference to the battle that was fought on it in 1361, in which John of Galway was the victor. It is mentioned in the *Hibernia Pacata* as the Ye Bridge, and in old maps printed in Lepden in the seventeenth century, as the Thye Bridge. It was a quaint old structure—a sort of old London Bridge in miniature—with its old-fashioned houses on both sides, its shops, &c. Tradition speaks of it as having been originally built, in far distant time, by one Bad, whom St. Patrick converted to Christianity when at Singland. It has been frequently the subject of legislative enactment, and in the Acts of Parliament it is called Baal's Bridge.

† It should be remarked of the "New Bride," where the Mathew bridge now stands, of which we have already treated in a previous chapter, that what was formerly called the New Bridge stood on the site of what is now called the Mathew bridge, forming a direct communication between Quay-lane and Bank-place. Previous to its erection in 1762 for some years, there was a ferry established. It was a bridge of three arches, the centre one forty-one feet wide, being so much larger than the other two particularly in height, that it was found from the steep incline of the road-way at both sides of the centre, or crown of the middle arch, not alone to be inconvenient for traffic, but in frosty weather actually dangerous. It was for this reason, (though quite sound in preservation, as the year-it was finished), taken down and rebuilt. Like the old Ball's bridge, the land arches sprung from the Quay walls, so that what now forms the abutments of Mathew bridge, was formerly part of the water course of the New bridge. There were two iron lamp-posts set opposite each other on the centre of this bridge, which were made fast to the parapets. From their construction they were found to answer the purpose of a gallows, and were used by the authorities in the rebellion of 1798, for hanging purposes.

£43,333 6s. It was proposed to have two reservoirs of masonry, containing 600,000 gallons of water, with an engine of 40 horse power, (or 200 men) for filling the reservoir from the Shannon. The Water Works Company which undertook this gigantic work, obtained an Act of Parliament (6 Geo. IV. c. 172), in the course of the same year, and the project was speedily completed to the entire satisfaction of the citizens. The reservoir was made on the place traditionally known as CromweU's Fort, and close by those remarkable localities which in the civil wars, from the time of the Danes and downwards, have been famous as the field of sanguinary battles.'

This was an age of speculation and improvement, as well as of political excitement caused by the intense struggle for the obtainment of civil and religious liberty. An Act was obtained for the purpose of accomplishing the Railway from Limerick to Carrick-on-Suir, in the year 1826, (7 Geo. IV. c. 139). The project was not realized at this time; nor was it perfected until the year 1848, when the line of railway was opened between Limerick and Tipperary, and afterwards to Waterford in October, 1854.. The opening of this railway has been followed within very few years by the extension of several other important lines of communication between Limerick and Dublin, also Cork, and and more recently nearly every one of the intermediate towns, to Castle Connell, opened 28th of August, 1858—Ennis, opened viz. :— 17th of January, 1859, to Clare Castle and afterwards to Ennis—total length to Ennis 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles.—Foynes, opened October, 1859, total length, 26 one-eighth miles.—Cork direct, opened 1st of August, 1862.—Dublin by Nenagh, opened October 5th, 1863, and to Bird Hill Junction, joining the Castle Connell and Killaloe line, in June, 1864.—Rathkeale and Newcastle, length 10 miles, opened in 1865; an extension of this line is proposed to Listowel in the county Kerry, length 22 miles. The amount of capital invested in these lines of Railway is enormous.

Waterford and Limerick line	...	...	...	81,237,759
Castle Connell	...	...	...	82,333
Ennis	...	...	...	225,000
Foynes	...	...	...	175,000
Cork direct	...	...	...	133,000
Rathkeale and Newcastle	...	...	...	66,000

Not including the Nenagh line, the amount of capital invested in these lines represents a figure of

... 81,919,092

An extension of the Ennis line to Galway, joining the Midland line at Athenry, is in course of construction this year 1865, capital, 266,000, length, 36 miles. The traffic between Limerick and Dublin by Railway was opened on the 4th of May, 1848. The effect of these railways on traffic is worthy of notice.²

¹ In 1859 these works were further extended under the inspection of R.W. Mylan, Esq., Engineer, of London, up to which year the city had but a supply of water every alternate day, when the works were placed under the local direction of M. R. Ryan, Esq. J.P. Limerick is at present (1865) well supplied with water, as besides the Corporation street fountains, others have been erected by private gentlemen at the railway terminus, on the Quay and in Athlunkard street, by M. B. Ryan, Esq. William Malcomson, Esq. &c.

² Some particulars as to travelling will be of interest here:—Until about the year 1760 there was no public mode of conveyance between Dublin and Limerick or any other two cities in Ireland. The Country was then much under wood, the roads few and indifferent, and travelling on them very dangerous, consequent on their being infested with highwaymen who lived by plunder, and were totally reckless of life when it suited their purpose. To meet these difficulties it was a fixed arrangement for persons going to Dublin from Limerick to travel in company, a particular day being decided on to leave, it was posted on a sheet which was placed over the mantel-piece in the coffee room in Quay-lane, and those who intended travelling affixed their

Sir Joseph Barrington, Bart., a name inseparably interwoven with the history of these times in Limerick undertook in 1829, with his sons Matthew (afterwards Sir Matthew), Daniel, Croker, and Samuel to found a charitable institution for the relief of the poor of their native city. An Act of the legislature was obtained in the year after, (11th Geo. IV. c. 72), constituting the Hospital for the County and City of Limerick. By this Act the Mayor is an *ex-officio* governor of the hospital, which is otherwise unconnected with the Corporation, though for a period commencing in 1854, a certain number of the Corporation were appointed on the Committee or board of Directors, the Corporation at this time and afterwards until 1864, contributing to its funds; but as the Corporators could not vote at any of the meetings of the Committee or Board, they declined to act on the Committee; they deemed their presence at the Board useless and nugatory. The hospital was opened for the reception of patients on the 5th of November, 1831. It is situated on George's-quay, on the site of the old main guard house, is of cut stone, presenting a handsome front, surmounted by an illuminated clock, and for a long time the only one of the kind to be seen the south of

names to it. On the day appointed they all set out well armed, and provided with the best means they could travel by. The journey being then performed in five days, (the same horses being used all through), unless the weather proved very unfavourable. About this time a stage coach was started which left weekly, taking its departure from what was called the Head Inn in Cornwallis street. This house is still standing, and is situated at the left hand side as one walks from William street to John's Church, about midways in the street, and will be easily known from its having a hall door in the centre and windows at either sides of it, and it was here as already stated that Mrs. Siddons and the actresses and actors who, frequented Limerick, lodged. The coach then proceeded by John's-square, through the Irish town, over Ball's bridge, through the English town, over Thomond bridge, and thence by Killaloe, passing over part of Keperhill in its route to Dublin.

This Coach which was called the Fly accomplished the journey with punctuality in four days. In some years after the travelling was greatly improved by using a lighter built coach, and having the relays of horses ready harnessed when it arrived at the different stages, instead of using the same set of harness all through, which was attended with great loss of time and inconvenience; with these and other improvements the journey was made in three days, the coach that performed it being called the Balloon, from what was then considered its rapid movement. An experience of twenty years having pointed out much that was wrong with both the Fly and Balloon, resulted in further alterations and improvements amongst them the route was changed, and the road newly constructed. Instead of going over Thomond bridge and by Killaloe, the coach proceeded by Clare-street, and direct to the town of Nenagh, changes so happy in the result that the journey to Dublin was then performed in two days, and ultimately in one, but to accomplish this, there was an early start and a late arrival. In the present days of comfortable and expeditious travelling by rail this sketch of the past may appear exaggerated, but this is not the case; about the period referred to, 1760, the roads in Ireland were very few and badly engineered (if this term be at all applicable) no care having been taken to avoid hills or cut through them; they were also indifferently constructed and so ill cared that in bad weather parts of them were almost impassable.

The coach first started (the Fly) was very large and heavy in construction, great strength being necessary for the work it had to go through. The horses too were harnessed after the same style, many unnecessary straps and buckles being used, which were afterwards dispensed with. When stage coaches were first established, and for some years after, the mails were conveyed from Limerick to Dublin three times a week, being small (usually letters only and comparatively few); they were carried in saddle bags placed at either side of a horse which was ridden by a courier who travelled a fixed distance, usually ten miles; the charge was then handed over to a fresh man and horse, and so on until they reach their destination, which however could not always be relied on, as highwaymen sometimes interfered, the great preventative to which was avoiding to enclose anything of value that could be made available. The application of steam power for propelling ships being at this time unknown, the mails between England and Ireland were conveyed in sloops, the sailing of which being controlled by the wind made their arrival very irregular. The gentleman who started the Fly between Limerick and Dublin was a Mr. Buchanan of Thomond Gate.

I have already given in Chapter XLVIII. some particulars relative to the rise and progress of the great car establishment of Charles Bianconi, Esq., D.L. The further and fuller particulars of the state of that establishment, which had its first connection with Limerick, have been furnished to me by Mr. Bianconi, cannot fail to be of deep interest to the readers of this History:—

Ireland.—The Barrington family expended £10,000 on it. By the Act of

	Established.	Distance.	Miles worked Daily.	Discontinued.		Established.	Distance.	Miles worked Daily.	Discontinued.
Clonmel & Limerick	1815	50	100	1849	Longford & Ballina	1840	71	142	1851
Do. and Thurles	1816	31	62	1849	Clonmel & Roscrea	1842	56	112	1849
Do. & Waterford,					Ennis & Ballinasloe	1844	38	76	1849
10 o'clock	1816	32	64	1853	Ballina & Belmullet	1844	41	82	—
Do. and Ross	1818	15	30	1836	Mullingar and				
Waterford and					Longford	1848	26	52	1855
Wexford	1819	40	80	1839	Westport Mail				
Do. & Ennis	1819	36	72	—	Coach	1849	62	124	—
Clonmel & Waterford					Sligo Nail	1849	82	164	1862
Regulator	1820	32	64	1853	Sligo Day	1849	82	164	1862
Do. & Do.					Longford & Ballina				
Telegraph	1821	32	64	1853	Mail Caach	1849	71	142	1862
Do. and Cork	1821	65	130	1853	Mullingar and Gal-				
Do. & Kilkenny	1821	33	66	1854	way Mail	1849	70	140	1852
Kilkenny & Water-					Do. and Do. Day	1849	70	140	1852
ford	1832	32	64	1851	Waterford & Goold's				
Clonmel & Thurles	1822	31	62	1841	Cross	1849	51	102	1862
Thurles B Kilkenny	1822	31	62	—	Templemore and				
Roscrea & Portumna	1822	28	56	1857	Athlone	1849	51	102	1857
Tipperary & Cashel	1824	13	26	1847	Clonmel & Goold's				
Waterford and					Cross	1849	21	42	—
Dungarvan	1824	28	56	—	Athlone & Ballina	1851	70	140	1859
Wexford Mail	1825	40	80	1846	Galway and Boyle	1851	50	100	1861
Thurles and Roscrea	1826	23	46	1842	Athlone and Ros-				
Tipperary and Clon-					common	1851	19	38	1859
mel, 3 o'Clock	1828	30	60	1852	Galway & Westport	1851	52	104	1851
Do. Do. Night					Limerick & Tipper-				
Mail	1828	30	60	1849	ary	1851	23	46	1861
Limerick and Cork	1830	40	80	1849	Galway and Clifden				
Clonmel and Dun-					Mail	1851	50	100	—
garvan	1831	26	52	—	Limerick and Ennis				
Athlone & Longford	1831	24	48	—	Mail	1852	22	44	—
Waterford and					Sligo and Stabane	1852	71	142	—
Kilkenny	1831	32	64	1853	Sligo & Enniskillen	1852	30	60	—
Birr and Ballinasloe	1831	26	52	—	Sligo and Westport	1852	62	124	—
Sligo and Longford	1832	56	112	1861	Kilkenny & Durrow	1853	16	32	—
Limerick and Tralee	1833	62	124	—	Athenry and West-				
Do. & Do. Coach	1833	60	120	1853	port, Car	1853	61	122	1861
Ross and Carlow	1833	30	60	1847	Waterford and				
Galway and Tuam	1833	22	44	1860	Maryborough	1853	62	124	1862
Limerick & Galway	1834	64	128	—	Day id Ennis,				
Kilkenny and					Killarney &	1854	22	44	1859
Mountmellick	1835	37	74	1852	Killarney and	1854	41	82	1864
Killarney and					Mallow	1854	51	102	1864
Caherciveen	1836	37	74	—	Longford & Ballina				
Tralee and Do.	1836	16	32	—	Strabane and Let-				
Ballinasloe and					terkenney	1836	13	26	—
Westport	1836	75	150	1853	Bandon and Skib-				
Do. and Galway	1836	34	68	1853	berreen, Mail	1857	33	66	—
Mitchelstown and					Bandon and Skib-				
Mallow	1837	21	42	1858	berreen, Day	1857	33	66	—
Longford and					Ballinasloe and				
Castlereagh	1837	27	54	1851	Ballybrophy	1858	48	96	—
Galway and Clifden,					Oranmore and Ennis	1859	36	72	—
9 30 o'Clock	1837	50	100	—	Enniskillen and				
Limerick and Kil-					Omagh	1860	64	128	—
larney	1839	15	30	1853	Do. and Bundoan	1861	30	60	—
Ballinasloe and					Castlereagh & Ballina	1864	43	86	—
Athlone	1839	15	30	1851	Westport and Swin-				
Ross and Fethard	1840	20	40	1856	ford	1864	27	54	—

The total number of miles traversed daily, was 6324.

— This mark shows where the cars or coaches continue to ply in 1865.

Parliament all donors of a sum not less than twenty guineas are constituted Governors for life; and every person who shall subscribe and pay any sum not less than three guineas annually, to be an annual Governor. Subscribers of two guineas to have power to recommend two patients, and of five guineas, five patients annually. The hospital contains in 1865, 45 beds; patients are only admitted on the ticket of a Governor, unless in case of persons accidentally injured, who are always immediately received. A Committee of Management is elected annually from among the Governors, on the second Monday in the month of January.

The Hospital is capable of containing 120 beds; it has an annual income of £100 from rents of houses in *Mary-street*, from the city Dispensary, which is accommodated with a portion of the hospital, and from the Mont de Piète,¹ Subscriptions from Government, and others, £45 a year; Anne Bankes's Bequest £30 a year; the Bequest of the late Marquis of Lansdowne, the interest of £3000: in all about £300 a year.

In seasons of severe epidemic, as at the outbreak of the cholera morbus in 1832, the hospital was of incalculable benefit to the citizens, as it has been also in all cases of accidents, whenever immediate relief is demanded by the sufferer. It is supplied with a large broad room in which there is a well painted portrait of the founder, surrounded by his sons, projecting the charity. The Board Room is furnished with surgical apparatus, a library for medical reference, and a remarkably well-executed picture of the *Barrington* family, founders of the Hospital, which was painted by Cregan, President of the Royal Hibernian Academy. There are two other pictures in the Hospital, one, of the Good Samaritan, and the other, of Christ healing the Sick, which were painted by John Murphy, a young Limerick artist, and protegee of Sir Matthew Barrington, in London. It would be a great pity that so deserving an institution should decay or fail from want of spirited support. In addition to the hospital, the late Sir Matthew Barrington projected, and in 1837, built a Mont de Piète or charitable Pawn office, which while it existed gave relief by way of loan or pledge at a very moderate rate of interest. The Mont de Piète which was founded on the plan of those of the same name in Italy, France, Belgium, &c., has ceased since 1845, to have an existence as such; it is built in close proximity to the hospital, and is an object of architectural ornament to the city. Since 1847 it has been converted into a police barrack. Sir Matthew Barrington's intention in building the Mont de Piète was that the profits which he anticipated would arise from it, should be allocated to the exigencies of the hospital, which even in its incipiency did not meet with the support which it merited. He placed an active manager over the Mont de Piète, but though debentures varying from £5 to £500, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent were freely taken, by which its capital was created; it did not realise the sanguine expectations of its benevolent and enterprising founder. From 1837 to 1840, the gross profit was £3940 10s. 2½d. The total number of pledges received since the opening of the establishment up to March 19th, 1841, was 460,895; the amount lent on pledges in the four years above stated was £78,595 9s. ¼d.—the amount received for released articles, \$71,005 8s. 7d. Sir Matthew Barrington had another design in establishing this institution, namely that the humbler classes who have been in the habit of frequenting pawn offices should not pay the higher rate of interest on loans which are charged in private establishments. In the *palmiest* days, however, of the Mont de Piète there

¹ Now and since November, 1847, George's Quay Police Barrack.

were twenty licensed *pawn offices* in Limerick, and the business in such establishments has not declined, nor has the number of them lessened, on the contrary it has gone on increasing since then. The Mont de Piète like other useful local institutes, fell from its original purposes in consequence of gross neglect. It forms rather a remarkable object, even yet, with its cupola, pillars, railing, and small grass enclosure.

CHAPTER LI.

THE STRUGGLE FOR EMANCIPATION.—THE CLARE ELECTION.—EMANCIPATION.—REMARKABLE EVENTS.—GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.—PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.—MUNICIPAL REFORM.—DEATH OF WILLIAM IV.—PROCLAMATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA.—A GENERAL ELECTION.

THE limits to which we are necessarily confined will not permit us to do more than take a rapid glance over a wide field of events, commencing with 1825, in the last month of which year the Right Rev. Dr. John Ryan was consecrated Catholic Bishop of Limerick in St. John's old Chapel, by the Most Rev. Dr. Laffan, Archbishop of Cashel and Emlý; and passing on through the struggle for Catholic Emancipation—the glorious victory in Clare in 1828—the remarkable contemporaneous events, and those which followed—the agitation for a repeal of the denationalising act of Union, for Parliamentary and for Corporate reform—the triumph of the popular cause, the temperance movement, the growth of manufactures, &c., until we arrive at the last portion of our work, intended to illustrate the civil and military history of Limerick. In a subsequent part of the History, devoted to the Bishops, the Churches, the Religious Houses, the list of Mayors, and the enumeration of the charters, &c., granted to the Corporation, we shall supply what may possibly be omitted in these chapters. It is true that the history of the three great movements for Emancipation, Reform, and Free Trade, is still to be written in formal book shape, but the leading circumstances connected with these movements are so much identified with the general history of Ireland, that a mere passing reference to them is all that will be expected in this History.

There was no city in Ireland for which O'Connell had entertained more affection than for Limerick: it was in Limerick, in 1821, that he issued two of his most remarkable letters in reference to the controversy which he then had with Mr. Sheil on the subject of Mr. Plunket's Bill in reference to the Catholic Clergy. These letters appeared in a local journal, which has long since ceased to exist. It was in Limerick that he ordered the waiter of the bar mess to take the shoes of Mr. M'Mahon (afterwards Sir William M'Mahon, Master of the Rolls,) from the fire-place, where they had been put inside the fender to air by an obsequious barrister, O'Connell stating, in the presence

¹ The Limerick Herald.

of **M'Mahon**,¹ that they ought to be kicked out of the room, an expression for which **M'Mahon** applauded him.² Some of his best speeches were delivered at Catholic meetings held in **Limerick**,³ and at the Court House in the defence of prisoners. He lodged, during his periodical visits, at the house No. 6, **Patrick-street**, then occupied by **Mr. Sheeha**, a saddler, where he was constantly besieged by attorneys and clients; and his appearance, as he walked with a thorough air of complete independence, "kicking the world before him,"⁴ to and from Court, or through the city, always attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd of admirers. Going to or returning from his beloved mountain home in Kerry, he usually rested for a night in Limerick; and it was his usual habit on these occasions to address the throngs by whom his carriage was ever surrounded, when he never began a speech without, in the first place, attacking the local Tory journal, and asking, "How is **Andy Watson**?" its proprietor. He retained a strong hold on the affections of the citizens up to the very last visit which he paid to Limerick, which was towards the close of the summer of 1846, when, breaking down in health, and sorely disappointed in hope, he was no longer the eloquent and enthusiastic orator that he had been. During the Clare election, in 1828, Limerick was as it were the centre of operations of **O'Connell** and his friends. The citizens were absolutely wild with excitement. As **O'Connell** proceeded to Clare, to open that great county, and strike the final blow for Catholic freedom, the entire population of Limerick became well nigh frantic in their demonstrations in favor of the cause in which the nation and its avowed leader had embarked.

The return of **O'Connell** for Clare was an achievement hitherto unparalleled in history—it was the cutting of the **gordian knot** which could not be untied, and the cutting of that knot with the sword of the constitution. The immense military force with which Limerick had been filled, and which occupied every village and hamlet in Clare, had no effect in controlling the feelings of the people: it no more overawed them than did the frowns and threats of a baffled and beaten aristocracy. Every barony in Clare gave a majority to the Man of the People, over the nominee of the aristocracy, **Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald**; and when, at the close of the poll on the 2nd of July, 1828, the High Sheriff declared that there were 2027 votes recorded for **Daniel O'Connell**, and only 936 votes for his opponent, giving to the former

¹ The late Sir William M'Mahon, Master of the Rolls, was brother of Major-General Sir Thomas M'Mahon, Bart. K.C.B. commanding at Portsmouth. Sir William was born 12th July, 1776, and married in May 1807, Frances, daughter of Beresford Burston, Esq. King's Counsel, by whom he had issue two sons, and having married again in 1814, Charlotte, sister of Sir Robert Shaw, Bart. has had issue four sons and three daughters. He was created a Baronet, 6th May, 1815, with the rank of Privy Councillor, and the office of Master of the Rolls, in which he succeeded John Philpot Curran. The deceased Baronet was succeeded in his title and estates by his eldest son, Sir Beresford Burston M'Mahon, Bart. The father of Sir William M'Mahon was Comptroller of the port of Limerick.

² Fagan's Life of O'Connell.

³ See O'Connell's Life, by his Son, John O'Connell.

⁴ Grattan's Sketch of O'Connell.

* *Comptrollers of Customs of Limerick.*

James I.—Samuel Johnson.

Charles I.—Pierce Arthur.

Will. III.—Humphrey May.

Geo. I.—William Westby.

Geo. II.—John M'Mahon, Sen. and Jun.

Elgar Pagden was the last Comptroller of the Customs of Limerick, the office having been established in 1858.

Jas. I.—Francis Cave.

Chas. II.—Mountford Westropp.

Anne.—Benjamin Chetwode.

Geo. II.—Daniel Carrington.

Geo. III.—Wm. M'Mahon, 23rd Sept. 1801.

a majority of 1091, after a contest unequalled since the commencement of Parliamentary elections, the joy that diffused itself everywhere knew no bounds. On his return to Limerick from Clare on the Monday after his victory, **O'Connell** was escorted into the city by the congregated trades, with banners and heralds bearing wands wreathed with laurel. A vast concourse of people swelled to thousands the crowds by which his triumphal car was surrounded. He arrived at his hotel in **George's-street**,¹ where he addressed the assembled myriads, demanding of them if ever before they had seen a Catholic member of Parliament? He bestowed lavish abuse on the ministry, on the corporation of Limerick, as well as on that of Dublin; he denounced the local Tory press in unmeasured terms. He left town on the 8th of July in a green barouche and four, loudly cheered, and accompanied by "honest Jack Lawless." To shew the extent of the preparations made to quell the people by the Government at this time, there were brought into the Limerick district a brigade of Artillery from Athlone, three troops of the Bays from Carlow, three troops of the third Dragoon Guards from Mayo and Galway, two companies of the 5th Foot from Athlone, three companies of the 64th from Galway, 62nd Regiment from Templemore, 75th ditto from Mullingar, in addition to an enormous strength of military that had been before this in Limerick and Clare. Many of these soldiers sympathised heartily with **O'Connell** and his cause, and declared their feelings in terms not to be mistaken.

As a counterpoise to this victory, Brunswick Clubs were now established everywhere throughout the country by the ascendancy party. At Rathkeale, a great meeting of the gentry of the county of Limerick took place, at which a Brunswick Club was initiated, and of which Lord Muskerry became the President. At Charleville a club was likewise initiated. At Nenagh, the Tories of the Ormonds established a Club.² A Protestant declaration, drawn up in Limerick in favor of Catholic claims, lay for a fortnight at the Commercial Buildings, and had not received a dozen signatures during that time. Liberal and Independent Clubs started up side by side with the Brunswick Clubs. It was action and counter action—plot and counter plot. The Order of Liberators, which had been established by **O'Connell**, who first spoke of his intention to that effect at the great Waterford election in 1826, between Villiers Stuart and Lord George Beresford, received new accessions every day to its members. In the Catholic Association Richard Sheil thundered with Demosthenic fire, while "Bully Boyton"³ fired from behind some "Constitutional" Club, in sustainment of principles which had already become exploded. The faction feuds which had hitherto divided and destroyed the people, ceased in general reconciliations, particularly, between the factions in Limerick and in Tipperary, where on one occasion, during this year, 50,000 men assembled, and swore on the altar of their country that they never would fight again among themselves, an event which more than any other struck terror into the hitherto dominant faction.

¹ Then Moriarty's—afterwards Cruise's Royal Hotel, which he never left without calling for Mrs. Cruise and thanking her for her elegant hospitality. This hotel is now (1865) rented by Mr. John Joseph Cleary, and retains its high character.

² A powerful satire was composed on this club, and sung to the air of "Tally-i-ho in the morning."

³ The Rev. Charles Boyton, F.T.C.D., a powerful speaker on the Protestant side.

⁴ Such a reconciliation, which is well described in a contemporary ballad by John Banim, occurred again at Emly in the winter of 1862, when the Three Years Old and the Four Tears Old Factions were reconciled by the Archbishop of Cashel, the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy, after a mission given in that parish by the Redemptorist Fathers of Limerick.

Emancipation could be no longer postponed; and though O'Connell could not take his seat in the House of Commons without an oath which he rejected with utter scorn, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel discovered that it would be better policy to repeal that oath and concede Catholic claims, than risk a civil war. On Wednesday, the 18th of March, 1829, the Relief Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons by a majority of 180, and contemporaneously with the vote a bill for the disfranchisement of the forty-shilling freeholders. It is not our purpose to depict the state of things by which this great victory was surrounded. The Clare election continued to be a thorn in the side of the Tories, and of the aristocracy. Mr. William Smith O'Brien, at the time, issued a manifesto, which gave mortal offence to the friends of O'Connell, and which was followed by a hostile meeting between Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Steele, the confidential follower of the Liberator. The local memorabilia during these days of gigantic agitation, were few and unimportant, absorbed, as the people appear to have been, in the vortex which drew within its gaping jaws nearly every other consideration.

One of the fiercest contests that had taken place after the Clare election, was that which occurred in the county of Limerick in 1830, when the candidates were Colonel O'Grady and Mr. Massy Dawson. The contest, as usual, lasted several days; and at the conclusion Colonel O'Grady had a majority of 215 votes on the gross poll. In two years afterwards—viz. in December, 1832, a contested election took place in the county of Limerick, when there voted for Colonel Fitzgibbon, 1056; Colonel O'Grady, 1040; Godfrey Massy, 760; Alexander M'Carthy, 751.

¹ The particulars of this extraordinary election, the names, &c., of the parties who were mixed up with it, together with a number of songs and ballads, which were sung in the interest of Colonel O'Grady, appeared in a brochure printed in Limerick in this year, and being dedicated to Daniel O'Connell, it is called *Qinibus Mestrum—the Man-Mountain*.² Some of the ballads were piquant. The following stanza of a jeu d'esprit is a fair specimen of the entire.

THE COALITION OF THE PEERS.

ATR—"Old Erin's Native Shamrock."

"Lords KINGSTON tall—and CLARE quite small,

With MASSY, cold and hollow,
Together came—a man to name,
Their plots and schemes to follow.—

Says MASSY, 'see, our choice must be
'Where talent's not expected,

'For oh! the light of Genius bright,
'I always have rejected.'

Oh! the Blockheads, the proud and senseless Blockheads,
To think again, that Free-born men
Would bow to titled Blockheads."

Lieutenant-Colonel S. O'Grady, who represented the county of Limerick in several parliaments, was the eldest son of Chief Baron O'Grady. He joined the 7th Hussars early in life, and on the return of Buonaparte from Elba, he sailed, having then the rank of Lieutenant, with his regiment for Brussels, to take part in the brilliant series of manoeuvres in which Wellington was then engaged; and which ultimately resulted in the total downfall of the Emperor, and in his banishment to St. Helena. There were few officers of the age and rank of O'Grady whose conduct was so conspicuous at so early a period, and so marked by the approbation of his superiors. When Lieutenant Standish O'Grady, he was placed in command of the 7th Hussars at the desperate enterprise at Genappe,† the result of which was to secure a safe counter-march for the British troops to the plains of Waterloo, where they were destined so shortly afterwards to win by their valour imperishable fame. At Waterloo, Lieut.-Colonel O'Grady again distinguished himself, but nearly thirty years elapsed before a tardy recognition of his services promoted him to the

It is scarcely necessary to give details of these events, or of the misdeeds of the Corporation of Limerick, during the years that elapsed between the

position of Aide-de-camp to the Queen, with the consequent rank of full Colonel. A singular circumstance occurred at Genappe. The French soldiery charged the 7th Hussars with an irresistible and powerful body of lancers. Opposition on the part of O'Grady and his war-worn followers was evidently useless, and the only chance of safety lay in getting into a field at the side of the road, from which it was separated by a ditch full of mud and water, nearly three feet wide, and a bank at the other side, four feet high. O'Grady rode a beautiful white charger, steady in battle as a rock, and implicitly obedient to his master's voice. But never since the horse was foaled had threat or bribe been sufficient to make him cross the most footy fence. Meanwhile, the French lancers approached rapidly; a rush was made at the fence. Most of the horses took the leap in good English style; and O'Grady's horse took it the most gallantly of all! Those who failed to cross the fence were butchered by the French. Colonel O'Grady, after the occupation of Paris, brought over the charger to whom he owed his life to Cahir-Guillamore, where a rich paddock was allotted to him for life. Efforts were often made by the young men of the family to compel the charger to jump some trifling thing, such as a stump of a tree, &c. But all to no purpose—the faithful charger made but the one leap in his life, and thereby saved his gallant master from a French lance—a second leap he never tried, either before or after. Lieut.-Colonel O'Grady shortly afterwards retired on half-pay, as the forty years' peace opened but few prospects for military promotion. He married in the year 1828 Gertrude, daughter of the Hon. Berkeley Paget, and niece of the Marquis of Anglesea, the Uxbridge of Waterloo, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, by whom he had a numerous family. On the death, in 1840, of his father, the Chief Baron, who had been created a Viscount in 1831, Lieut.-Col. O'Grady succeeded to the title and estates as second Viscount Guillamore.

Lieut.-Colonel O'Grady was engaged in a great number of contested elections, and his family had the reputation (for good or for evil) of being the best electioneers in Ireland. Standish, second Viscount Guillamore, died in the year 1843, and was succeeded by his eldest son as third Viscount.

CAPTAIN THE HONORABLE ADOLPHUS VEXEKER.—In the above brief biographical sketch, we have referred to the brilliant services with which Lieut.-Colonel O'Grady commenced his military career. Captain Vereker commenced his military life with services yet more brilliant; but alas! while the highest honours were opening before him, the cold hand of death was laid upon one who would have added another glorious name to—

"Limerick—the nurse of heroes; honor's crest;
By beauty gem'd; Circassia of the West!"

Captain Vereker was nephew of Colonel O'Grady, grandson of Colonel Vereker, of Coloony, and fifth son of the present Viscount Gort. He was born at Roxborough, near Limerick, in the year 1833. In March, 1855, he was appointed to an ensigncy in the 20th Regiment, and resigned, as a necessary consequence, an office he held in the Ordnance Department, and a lieutenant's commission in the 6th West York Militia. He shortly afterwards sailed for the Crimea, and was ordered to assist in the combined attack by the sea and land forces of the British and French against the Russian fortress of Kinburn. He took his turn with the other officers in the fatigues and dangers of the trenches at Sebastopol, while he held at the same time the position of Captain in the land transport service. Of his services at this time, Harte states, in the Official Army List, "Captain Vereker, at the siege and fall of Sebastopol, from 3rd Sept. 1855, and also at the capture of Kinburn, Medal and Clas)—a Turkish medal." At the close of the Crimean War he returned to England, where he was not destined to remain long, in consequence of the Indian revolt and mutiny. On landing in India, he was embodied with the "Selected Marksmen" of his regiment, who were generally employed on all occasions where a small European force was intended to operate with crushing effect against the hosts of the mutineers. The first serious engagement in which he took part was at Chauda where Brigadier Frankes* defeated a body of mutineers, 33,000 strong, with twenty-five guns. He took an active part in the battles of Umceerpore and Sultempore, and the storming of the fort of Dhowraha, and a vast number of minor operations. He bore a distinguished part in many other important and perilous operations. In the despatches giving accounts of this long series of brilliant operations, Vereker's name will often be found mentioned in terms of the highest praise—a very rare thing in the case of a lieutenant. The following is the official statement in Harte's Army List of Vereker's services in the Indian insurrection:—"Served in the Indian Campaign of 1857—1859, with the selected marksmen of the regiment, in the actions of Chauda, Umceerpore, Sultempore, fort Dhowmha, siege and capture of Lucknow, subsequent operations in Oude, and affairs at Churda; fort of Musjeedia and Baukee, as adjutant to a detachment. Served as orderly officer to Colonel Cormick, commanding Gonda Column, in the operations in the trans-Gogra, in March and April, 1855, and was present at the

* Query, a Limerick man?

• See Gulliver's Travels.

† For the full particulars of this action, and of the gallant conduct of O'Grady, see Captain Siborne's History of Waterloo.

period at which we have arrived and the dissolution of that body by the measure of Municipal Reform in 1841. The same names, with very few exceptions, constituted the common council; the same spoliation of the public revenues marked their proceedings; the same reckless admission of freemen was practised. The Mayor was largely reimbursed for "expenses: of which there does not appear to have been ever a clear account given.

At Adare, in October, 1830,¹ the Duke of Northumberland, then on a visit to Lord Dunraven, was addressed by the Corporation, who proceeded to Adare Manor, headed by the Mayor, when the freedom of the city was unanimously awarded to his Excellency, as also to Sir Edward Blakeney, General Sir Charles Doyle, &c. Early in 1831, the Corporation addressed the Marquis of Anglesea on his accession to the Viceroyalty.

In the latter part of the year 1832, an interesting event occurred which ought not to be omitted: an address, numerous and respectfully signed, was at this time forwarded to Thomas Moore, Esq., the National Bard,

¹ This year (1830) saw the last of the sedan chairs. Bringing the judges fully robed to court in sedan chairs was an old custom in Limerick, only given up about the year 1809. Sedan chairs were much used by ladies going to balls, and were found a great convenience by day in bad weather. A sedan chair was an upholstered seat, completely covered in, with a door in front about five feet high, with glass in it; outwardly it was covered with leather,* and was carried by two men between poles, who moved at a tolerable pace, in a kind of trot, equal to perhaps four miles an hour. They continued in use until 1830, their stand being in George's street, near William-street, where there were generally eight or ten of them ranged. Forty years before their stand was at the Exchange, in Mary-street.

affair of Muchlegawn, attack on Cawnpore mutineers in Kookee jungle, and pursuit to Nagowar—mentioned in despatches—modal and clasp."

At the conclusion of the Indian revolt, Verelc returned to England, and in Nov. 1860, obtained his company. In 1863, he was again ordered to India; from whence he proceeded to China, and shortly afterwards, in consequence of the threatening aspect of affairs in Japan, he proceeded with his regiment to that Island. Captain Vereker was quartered at Pokohama, where his health, which had suffered very much in China, rapidly improved. Late in September, he dined with the Governor, Sir R. Aleock, and before he retired to rest he finished a letter to his relatives in England, written in the highest spirits, and under the influence of the brightest prospects. He doubtless felt, as he glanced at the brilliant staff by whom the Governor was surrounded, that few of his standing in the army had shared the glories of more well-won fields, and that the time was not far off when his seniority and services would entitle him to a separate command, and thus enable him to display that coolness, judgment, and military capacity, which he so eminently possessed. Meantime, Destiny, with her iron pen had traced a stern and cruel decree. Captain Vereker was attacked with small-pox; but already worn out physically and mentally by the severe military labors he had gone through, the disease rapidly gained ground, and in a few days he surrendered to illness that life which had been so often and so freely exposed in the cause of duty. Near Yokohama, but far from his native land and all he loved, Captain Vereker sleeps a soldier's sleep, and the affectionate regards of his companions in arms have erected a monument to mark the place. But few will read this sketch without regretting that one whose morning of life was glorious beyond his fellows, should have been cut off by inexorable fate, just as the brightest prospects were beginning to open to his view. But—

When future bards shall sing of life,
Its loves, its cares, and all its strife,
The grace and moral of the song,
Shall to their checker'd fate belong,
Whose wayward fortune will supply
The brightest tint and deepest dye:—
These, soldiers yet unborn, in pride shall raise;
Relate their triumphs and renew their praise."?

* At present this description of a sedan chair can be of little interest, but in fifty years' time, few will be living in all probability that ever saw one, and they may then be numbered with the curious things of by-gone days.

† From an unpublished poem, of singular beauty and merit, by the Rt. Hon. Chief Baron O'Grady.

inviting him to stand for the representation of the city. The address embodied the wishes of the most influential of the electors, and had the additional recommendation of being presented by a distinguished citizen of Limerick, of European celebrity, Gerald Griffin, the novelist, who, however, failed in his mission, of which he has left a very pleasant account. Mr. Moore's engagements not permitting him to take advantage of the offer.

Nothing continued to prosper under the corrupt corporation system of the day. The city revenues became worthless for the public good. The great Lax weir had fallen away. Mr. Poole Gabbett having been declared the highest bidder for it, at a meeting of the Corporation on the 6th of January, 1834, it was resolved that his proposal of £300 a-year be accepted, and a lease granted to him for 99 years, on the same terms as heretofore held by Mr. Little. The works of Corporate corruption, however, had become fully laid bare, in consequence of the Commission of Inquiry which was held in Limerick from the 26th of September to the 11th of October, 1833.

O'Connell was now stirring the popular mind to its very depths, and nowhere was he more ardently responded to than in Limerick. Early in the year 1834, he published a manifesto to the people of Ireland in favor of a Repeal of the Union—and thus "nailed his colours to the mast"; the anti-tithe movement, which embraced the greater portion of the country in its immense proportions, went hand in hand with a demand for a Parliament in College Green; the minister trembled, and Irishmen showed that they were in earnest by a quick response to the call of the great Leader. Mr. William Roche and Mr. David Roche, members for the city, declared in favor of the great national question. The popularity of Mr. Spring Rice, to whom a colossal pillar and life-like statue had been a few years previously erected in Pery Square by his appreciative fellow-citizens, had been for some time on the wane, and was now completely forfeited by the decided opposition which he offered to the cause of Repeal, and he fell rapidly in the esteem of even those ardent admirers of his who for several years had followed his chariot wheels as they rolled in triumph over the prostrate faction of the corruptionists in Limerick. The debate on O'Connell's motion in the House of Commons in April this year (1834) for a Committee of Enquiry on the

¹ See the Life of Gerald Griffin, p. 311, by his brother, of which the author of this history possesses the MSS. This gifted son of genius was born in the city of Limerick, December 12th, 1803, and died in April, 1840, at the Monastery of the Christian Brothers, Cork, of which religions order he was a member, and in whose little cemetery he lies interred, with the simple inscription, "Brother Gerald Griffin."

1834—January 18.—Mr. Steele writes "To the Limerick Chapter of Liberators," resigning the office of Patron and President of that Society. A transient misunderstanding between him and the Liberator is avowed.

Prospectus of the *Limerick Star* and *Evening Post* published—to appear on Tuesday, 4th February, 1834.

March 6th.—At the Assizes this month a libel case was tried, of Samuel Dickson, Esq. v. W. R. Yeilding, Esq. proprietor of the *Limerick Herald*—damages were laid at £5,000. Mr. Dickson was held up to ridicule, not only by writings but by woodcuts, in the *Herald*. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff with comparatively small damages. Mr. Dickson was a gentleman of high position, and an active politician with rather liberal tendencies.

April 19th.—A new Catholic chapel projected by the Rev. Denis Bnckley, P.P. for the mountainous Parish of Glenroe, Co. Limerick.

April 23rd.—John Dempsey and Denis Cahill fined £10 at Petty Sessions for selling one copy of the *Dublin Satirist*, unstamped paper, in the public streets.

May 4th.—Mr. Sheridan Knowles and Miss Jarman visited Limerick.

Mr. Lawless publishes a letter in the *True Sun*, in which he disapproves of U. O'Connell's proposition to grant glebe-houses to the Catholic Clergy of Ireland.

Repeal, in which Mr. Spring Rice championed the cause and originated the phrase of "West Britain," topped the climax of his unpopularity. O'Connell's motion was rejected by a majority of 523, which pronounced in favor of an amendment of Mr. Rice, whilst 38 members voted for enquiry. In the minority the names of the two Roches of Limerick were prominent.

Just as the great debate was going on, one of those fatal tithe affrays which were not uncommon at this time, occurred at **Mahoonagh**, in the vicinity of Newcastle West, county of Limerick, where three men, named Browne, Griffin, and Sullivan, were shot dead by the soldiery, then collecting for the Rev. Mr. Locke, of Newcastle. O'Connell made the most of the catastrophe in the House of Commons; nevertheless, even after this event, Major Miller, with a detachment of military and police, scoured the country to enforce payment of the impost. Mr. David Roche, M.P., proposed a plan for the settlement of the tithe difficulty, which plan met the approval of O'Connell.

Ministers, however, took up the tithe question on their own account; and in August the Church Temporalities Bill, and the Irish Tithe Bill went through their stages in both Houses of Parliament, and received the royal assent in due course next summer.

It was now that O'Connell gave the aid of his powerful influence to the establishment of a National Bank for Ireland, pronouncing the Agricultural and Commercial Bank, which had a strong party of supporters in Limerick, "a mild scheme." In Limerick the project of the National Bank was taken up with spirit. In the month of October the Mayor (William Piercey, Esq.) presided at a meeting in the Commercial Buildings, when resolutions were adopted in its favor—the capital of the Limerick Branch was proposed to be £250,000. A committee was formed,¹ and everything went on favorably.

¹ The Bank was established in the house in Brunswick-street, which had been the residence of Mr. David Roche, M.P., and from it removed to the more spacious premises in George's street in 1856. This house in Brunswick-street is now (1868) the Union Bank.

June 11th.—The *Astrea*, filled with emigrants, hound from Limerick to Quebec, reported to be lost, with 240 lives. Supposed that she got upon the ice off Halifax in a fog.

September 13th.—A branch of the Agricultural and Commercial Bank established at a public meeting in Limerick—John Dobbs, Esq., in the chair.

September 27th.—The Rev. Thomas Enraght, C.C., St. Mary's, writes a public letter, in which he states that not less than 25 families are living in one house in that parish, where misery and destitution prevail to a woful extent.

Mr. Rhodes, Government engineer, who recently surveyed the port and harbor, in order to extend improvements, was this week in Limerick, with a view to acting upon the specifications detailed in his report, under the Wellesley Bridge Amendment Act.

The Provincial Bank propose to transfer the business of their establishment to a more commodious and suitable concern in George's-street, having purchased the site of the "Round Church," as St. George's Church, in George's-street, was called. This Church was built by the Pery family in the last century as a chapel of ease. Near it a terrible murder was perpetrated, long before houses had been built in George's-street, and when the church was in the fields. Though called the "Round Church," it was a plain square building, with the gable to the front of George's-street, and a stone ball topped with a weather-cock on it.

The Provincial Bank of Ireland was established in Limerick before any other Joint Stock Bank, and eighteen months before the branch office of the Bank of Ireland.

October 3rd.—John Vercker, Esq., Mayor, obtains the unanimous thanks of the city magistrates, at Petty Sessions assembled, on the motion of William Roche, Esq., N.P., on his retiring from the mayoralty. Mr. Vercker left a few days after to join his regiment, the 7th Fusiliers, at Malta.

October 18th.—Mr. Cobbett, the celebrated public writer, visited Limerick. He lectured in Limerick; and dined and slept at the residence of the very Rev. T. O. B. Costello, P.P., Murroe. Signor de Bagnis, the celebrated vocalist, visits Limerick.

A new era was brightly dawning on Ireland. Earl Mulgrave, the most popular Viceroy that Ireland had ever seen, was, to use O'Connell's own words, "mulgravising" Ireland. His Excellency visited Limerick in August, 1835, and was feted, caressed, cheered, and lauded, as no Viceroy had ever been before. It was on this occasion that he opened Wellesley Bridge, as we have stated in the preceding chapter.

The depression, however, among the working classes of Limerick at this period was unexampled. English competition had completely annihilated the weaving trade, which had flourished in Garryowen, in Thomond Gate, at Park, &c., where weavers had been numerous. Hundreds of these poor operatives were now thrown out of employment, and in this year (1835) a memorial from them was presented to the Corporation, signed by no less than 259 weavers, when a vote of £50 was passed by that body to enable the Mayor to send as many as he could of the number to England, whither several of them went.

Though this depression was great, the amount of exports had been nearly doubled since 1822; yet a distinguished traveller, who had visited the city this year, admits that no where did he meet with more destitution; he states that he entered forty abodes of poverty, and that to the latest hour of his existence, he never could forget the scenes of utter and hopeless wretchedness that presented themselves. Commissioners of Poor Enquiry had been sent down the year before, and had sat for several days, obtaining facts as to the distressed state of the people, and public works had been going on, were it not for which the misery would be intensified beyond bearing; and a system of poor laws was now advocated by many as the grand remedy, though private charity had been constantly put in requisition to mitigate the suffering of the poor. That system of Poor Laws, which had been supported by Dr. Doyle and opposed by O'Connell, came soon afterwards; but with what permanent advantage to the poor is a question on which there are conflicting opinions. The blight of the Union had long been felt in the annihilation of manufactures, in the decay of trade, in the exhaustion of the artizan and the labourer; and though in the march of events, men beloved by the people had become recognised for their worth and merit, and had obtained the guerdon of their deserts at the hands of a now liberal Government, which for the first time sympathised with the masses, the permanent prosperity of the country was not materially affected by legislative improvements.

On the 3rd of January, 1887, a catastrophe of a most lamentable charac-

¹ A Journey throughout Ireland in 1834, by Henry D. Inglis, 2 vols. London, 1835.

Dec. 17.—Monday, the Parish Priests of the diocese of Killaloe assembled at Newmarket-on-Fergus to elect a Coadjutor Bishop to the Rt. Rev. Dr. M'Mahon. The three candidates returned by the Clergy for the choice of the Pope, were the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, P.P., of Birr, *dignissimus*; Rev. Mr. Fahy, P.P. of Tulla, *dignior*; and Rev. Mr. Vaughan, P.P., of Killaloe, *dignus*. The Prelates present were—the Most Rev. Dr. Slattery of Cashel, Right Revs. Dr. Murphy of Cork, Dr. Egan of Kerry, Dr. Ryan of Limerick, and Dr. M'Mahon of Killaloe.

February 8th, 1837.—Influenza most prevalent in Limerick.

1837—March 25th.—The Postmaster-General acceded to the request of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, to run the mail hence to Dublin at the rate of nine and a-half British miles per hour, after the 5th July next.

Custom duties received at the port of Limerick last year, 2126,291, being an increase of £3,858 over the preceding year's amount.

April 4th.—Mr. Craven, son of Puller Craven, Esq., of Gloucester, drowned in a cot at the fall of the Leap, Doonass, while fishing. Near the same place, six years before, the Honorable

ter occurred in Limerick, by an explosion of gunpowder in the premises of one William Richardson, a gun-maker and vendor of gunpowder, No. 1, George's-street. Eleven persons were killed by this explosion, viz. Margaret M'Mahon, John M'Mahon, Bridget O'Donohoe, John O'Brien, Patrick Doolan, Mary Barry, John Enright, Bridget Doolan, John M'Mahon, and Michael O'Neill, a watch-man. The cause of the catastrophe could never be clearly ascertained, as the only person in the part of the house where the gunpowder lay was blown up, and his body torn in pieces. The terrific details of this dreadful affair¹ cause a shudder of horror whenever they are brought to memory, while the miraculous escape which some respectable families had from being involved in the worst consequences of the explosion, is referred to the special agency of Providence. Every effort was made by the Mayor and magistrates to mitigate the sufferings of the survivors. A deputation laid the matter before the Lord Lieutenant, who gave his active

¹ There were four persons under the roof at the time, three of whom were killed, while a young man named Teskey, an apprentice, escaped with his life, though he had been blown to a great height, and came down senseless in the street, at a considerable distance. At the house No. 2, George's-street, the widow of Michael Ryan, Esq., one of the most extensive and esteemed merchants in the city, resided with her family, two sons,* a daughter and a sister-in-law; they were all in bed, being instantly stunned after lying unconscious under the ruins for an hour, the first recital or perception that Mrs. Ryan remembered was bearing her daughter, Barbara, a child of eight years old, who slept with her, crying, "Mamma, where are we?" they were at the time buried amid the debris. A long and fruitless search had been made for them—it was suggested that they had gone to the country; further exertions were about being relinquished when the almost inaudible cries of the child were heard under the ruins. Efforts were again made, and the child was heard to cry "to take care of Mamma!—whose collar bona had been broken—their persons having been overwhelmed in rubbish between the shop and the underground apartment yet supported by two doors having come together, in their fall, so as to form an arch over them—the legs and feet, however, were so crushed that they could not change their position. One of the sons, William, was blown up in the air on the mattress where he was sleeping and came down in the street with it blazing about him—he asleep all the while! He sustained no injury. The elder brother Edmond was not blown up—but the corner of the floor whereon his bed stood could be seen for days after from the street, like a shelf without support attached to the tottering wall. Mrs. Catherine Ryan, the sister-in-law of Mrs. Ryan, had no perception of anything having happened until the next morning when she found herself in a public house on Arthur's Quay—having been blown out, so stunned as to be senseless, buried under a heap of rubbish, and lying for an hour in the street with a beam of timber over her. A servant who slept in the room next to Mrs. Catherine Ryan's was blown into the hall of the house No. 3, belonging to Mr. William Wilson. Mr. Ellard who resided near the corner of Denmark-street, opposite to Richardson's, was lifted off the ground and with a whirling motion dashed across the street and buried under a heap of rubbish, from which he was dug out. His respectable family had a most narrow escape—as had also the family of Mr. Thomas Tracy, who lived in No. 13, of Mr. J. Hallowell, No. 10; of Mr. J. Burke, No. 18, &c. &c. The gas throughout the city was on this occasion extinguished, and windows were broken on the North-strand at the opposite side of the Shannon. The verdict of the Coroner's jury threw blame on the incautious manner in which Richardson had exposed the gunpowder for sale.

Mrs. William Massy, of Belmont, while passing over in a cot to Hermitage, at Christmaa, in a fog, was drowned.

May 24th.—Universal sorrow in the city of Limerick, consequent on the death of John Vereker, Esq., brother of Lord Gort.

June 7th.—Considerable sums raised by public subscription in the city for the relief of the poor.

June 26th.—The Masters and Wardens, and the great body of the Congregated Trades of Limerick, in full dress, bearing the standards and insignia of each craft, waited upon the Mayor, at Cruise's Hotel, George's-street, with a complimentary address, in which they manifested the most anxious desire for his re-election to office.

* Edmond, afterwards Mayor of Limerick in 1846, and, now (1865) R. M. of Middleton, County Cork, and William, afterwards drowned.

sympathies, and a public subscription was raised, to which every one contributed.

We turn from this appalling scene to the state of local politics and parties. Between O'Connell and William Smith O'Brien, a strong feeling of antagonism had prevailed since the Clare Election—and in this year an interchange of lengthened letters showed that their differences on public questions were widening, and that there was but little hope of reconciling them. The popular party was gaining strength. Baron O'Loughlen was elevated to the proud position of Master of the Rolls, with a Baronetcy—and never did a public man better deserve the honor than Sir Michael O'Loughlen. Mr. Woulfe, afterwards Chief Baron, was appointed Attorney General—and re-elected for Cashel—Mr. Brady, (now Lord Chancellor Brady), Solicitor General, and Mr. Pigot, (now Chief Baron Pigot), law adviser to the Castle.

Parallel with these events, went the Irish Municipal Reform Bill in Parliament, and the motion for the expulsion of the Bishops from the House of Lords for which the two "Limerick Roches" gave their votes, but which was rejected by a majority of 197 to 92. Grand Jury Reform, title adjustment—though with the abandonment of the appropriation clause on which the Whig party had got into power—Poor Laws, &c., now became the order of the day; in the midst of agitation, King William IV. died; and Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria—a maiden queen, radiant with youth, and of highest promise, ascended the throne in the month of June this year (1837), amid the acclamations of Her Majesty's Irish subjects. Limerick was full of animation, to witness the customary pomp and pageantry of proclaiming a new Sovereign. The Union Flag floated from the Commercial Buildings; the ships in harbour hung out their ensigns; the Cathedral Bells exchanged a peal of joy for the mournful toll at the King's death. The streets were gay, crowds having come in from the country. A procession formed at the Exchange, according to programme. General L'Estrange gave the military force to the civic authorities. The various Trades mustered in great numbers, with insignia descriptive of each Guild. The Mayor, Sheriff, Aldermen, and Civic Officers, in full Corporate robes, occupied the centre of the procession. Archdeacon Maunsell and the Protestant Clergy; the Very Rev. Dr. Hogan and the Catholic Clergy; John Kelly and William Howly, Esqrs. Deputy Lieutenants; the President and members of the Chamber of Commerce, citizens, &c. were present at the ceremonial. Having traversed the principal streets, repeating the proclamation at stated places, the procession finally separated in Bank Place. The windows along the route were occupied by elegantly dressed ladies. The Mayor entertained the military Officers, Clergy, Gentry, Freemasons, and heads of all the trades at the Council Chamber of the Exchange. A general election followed the immediate dissolution of Parliament by the

July 6th.—Change in the dispatch of Mails, by the Post Office Department, commencing Thursday, 6th inst., at 6 P.M., when the mail coach leaves this for Dublin, and arrives here on the morning of Friday, the 7th instant, at 30 minutes past seven. The Ennis and Galway mail leaves this every morning at 45 minutes past 7—the Cork and Tralee mail coaches at eight every morning.

July 18th.—Judge Crampton repaired to Court this morning, at nine o'clock, to try Mary Cooney for the wilful murder of Mrs. Anne Anderson, widow, of Harstonge-street, on the evening of Monday, the 6th of March last, by inflicting a mortal wound with a knife on that lady's neck, of which she instantaneously died. The Jury, after a short consultation, found a verdict of guilty. Hanged on Monday, the 7th August.

Queen—and Limerick, county and city, became again the vortex of the political excitement. In the month of July O'Connell arrived from Dublin, on his way to Cork, and held a public meeting, John O'Brien, Esq. of Elm Vale, afterwards M.P. for the city, in the chair; when O'Connell delivered with characteristic freedom his opinion of certain members of the aristocracy, who happened at the time, or whom he believed to be opposed to the popular cause, denouncing as usual the Corporation in the most unmeasured terms of reproach. He extolled the Messrs. Roche as friends of the people, and adherents of a liberal Government.

The election for the city commenced on the 1st of August, it was marked by the utmost excitement. The windows and doors of the houses in Francis-street of the anti-popular candidates had been smashed the night before. The candidates were William and David Roche, Esqrs. on the popular interest; and William Monsell, Esq. and Mr. Wilson on the Tory interest. The following was the result of the gross poll:—W. Roche, 563; David Boche, 555; W. Monsell, 176. The Court rung with acclamations from the friends of Messrs. Roche, who having returned thanks, the Sheriff adjourned to next morning. There was no chairing of the City members.'

CHAPTER LII.

FOUNDATION OF TWO CONVENTS IN LIMERICK.—THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

—TRIUMPHANT VISIT OF FATHER MATHEW.—GREAT REPEAL DEMONSTRATION.

THE year 1837 was rendered remarkable by the introduction into the city of the nuns of the Presentation Order from Cork, whose admirable convent was founded that year in Sexton-street, chiefly through the instrumentality and zeal of the Very Rev. Patrick Hogan, P.P., V.G., St. Michael's, who gave the ground, at a moderate rent, on which the Convent and Schools were built, and who built the spacious Schools at his own expense for the instruction of poor female children by the nuns. Mrs. King, a native of Waterford, who had joined the order some time before in Cork, brought a considerable fortune to the new establishment which was speedily joined by ladies from the City and County of Limerick. This noble establishment soon gave evidence of its strength and usefulness—its schools became fre-

In October following a grand banquet was given in the Northumberland Building, to the city members, when 150 citizens were present.

William Hawkins Bourne, Esq. of Tereure, near Dublin, died in September this year in London. He it was that first established a Mail Coach between this city and Dublin; while by pushing the sphere of his operations, he also opened new and explored sources of profit to the merchant and agriculturist throughout the South of Ireland, by forming splendid roads, and providing safe and expeditious conveyances on various lines of route. His large establishment gave employment to a vast number of persons, who deeply deplored the loss of their benefactor.

quented by hundreds of children, and the great work in which the nuns were engaged prospered admirably. James F. Carroll, Esq., M.D., an eminent physician of Limerick, and a devoted Catholic, contributed a sum of £500 to build the beautiful chapel of cut limestone which is attached to the Convent, and to his memory, a white marble tablet is erected in the chapel with this inscription:—

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF
JAMES F. CARROLL, ESQ., M.D.,
WHO BEQUEATHED
THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS
TO BUILD THIS CHAPEL.
HE DIED SEPTEMBER 17th, 1837.
REQUIESCAT IN PACE,
AMEN.

The Schools having been found incapable of containing the great numbers of children who frequent them, the foundation stone of a new school-house was laid on the 4th of August, 1864, at a cost to the nuns of £400. These additional schools are now (1865) also in operation, and afford a moral, religious and industrial education to nearly 1,000 children who should otherwise be destitute of so great a blessing. The late Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, Catholic Bishop of Limerick, was a munificent benefactor of these schools and of this truly excellent establishment.

The progress which religion and religious institutions were making throughout the city was really marvellous. On the 24th of September, 1848, the convent of the Sisters of Mercy on the site of a convent of the Order of Poor Clares, who had been there some years previously, and in a locality famed in ancient days for the great convent of the Friars preachers or Dominicans. Mrs. Macauley, from the Parent House, Baggot-street, Dublin, was the foundress of the new convent; and was accompanied by Mrs. Moore, a native of Dublin, who became superioress, and who for several years has presided over the laborious duties of her office, with incalculable benefit to the interests of religion and of the poor. In the old convent of the Poor Clares were two lay sisters when Mrs. Macauley arrived in Limerick; and these, with pious solicitude, she admitted into her establishment. The house which was prepared for the accommodation of the Sisters of Mercy was small; four or five ladies joined during the first year. The growth of the establishment became vigorous, fostered as it was by the constant vigilance and munificence of the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, who encouraged the pious sisterhood in their unwearied labours, and who gave them the most substantial proofs of the deep interest which he took in their successful progress. The grounds occupied an acre, with room sufficient for building purposes and extended accommodation. School-houses, a Refuge for Servants, an Orphanage, &c., were soon erected, and brought within the reach of the destitute and the forlorn. Thousands of pounds were expended by the community in increasing the accommodation for these merciful objects; the Refuge of Servants was at once prepared and occupied, and in 1865, there are no less than forty servants out of place in the Refuge.

In 1844 the Orphanage was founded, within the Convent grounds; but not having been spacious enough for the accumulating numbers who were

daily offering themselves for admission, the **Sisters** of Mercy founded a new Orphanage, Mount St. Vincent, on the 3rd of April, 1850. On the 5th of July, 1851, the foundation stone of the present really ornamental and commodious building was laid at Mount St. Vincent by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ryan, who was attended on the occasion by a large number of clergymen connected with the city. The Limerick Convent has established several foundations, including **Kinsale**, 15th April, 1844; **Killarney**, 30th April, same year; **Mallow**, 13th October, 1845; **Glasgow**, August, 1849; and **Edinburgh**, 7th July, 1858. The branch convents in immediate connection with the **Limerick** house, are, **St. Catherine's** (Newcastle West), 24th October, 1849; **Rathkeale**, opened 19th August, 1850; **Roscommon**, 1853; **Ennis**, 1851; **Adare**, 1854. The handsome Convent of **Adare** has been built near the Catholic parochial church, at the sole expense of the Earl of **Dunraven**. The Sisters of Mercy were introduced to the Union Workhouse Hospital on the 4th of January, 1861. A Widows' Asylum, founded by the Very Rev. W. A. O'Meara, O.S.F., for 18 widows, was begun near the Orphanage of Mt. St. Vincent, in 1861. The Tipperary branch house was opened on the 6th of October, 1864. The community now (1865) numbers 60 nuns, who devote their time to the instruction of the children of the poor, to the visiting of the sick, &c. During his life-time, the Right Rev. Dr. **Ryan** gave very large sums to the Orphanage, to the Convents of Newcastle, Rathkeale, &c. The following is a list of the schools under the care of the Sisters of Mercy :—

Convent Schools	Teachers.	Average on rolls for 12 months.
St. Mary's.....	Sisters of Mercy.	... 788
St. John's-square.. ..	do.	... 475
St. John's.....	do.	... 372
Pery-square.....	do.	... 457

Over the portico of the convent, in large letters, are these words :—

AD MAJORAM DEI GLORIAM.

On the 20th of December, 1838, the Limerick Poor Lam Union, which ranks as the first, was declared. It lies partly in the county Clare and partly in the county Limerick, and embraces the entire city of Limerick. It comprehends an area of 125,055 acres.

Feb. 21st, 1838. — At the reform dinner given to O'Connell, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, London, on the 18th evening—a dinner celebrated for the speech in which O'Connell charged the Tory Parliamentary Committees with perjury, for which a vote of **censure** was passed against him—the chair was taken by a very distinguished Limerick man—namely, Sir de Lacy **Evans**—who pronounced O'Connell "the object of the attention of the whole empire, and the admiration of the best and most enlightened men, not only of England, but of the world."

January 6th, 1839. — One of the most terrific storms ever remembered visited Limerick; several lives were lost.

July 12th, 1839. — On this day the first number of the *Limerick Reporter* was published.

July 22nd. — A great meeting was held, presided over by General Sir **Richard Bourke**, to address Earl **Fortescue**, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on his way through Limerick to visit his brother-in-law, Lord Courtenay, at Newcastle.

At Cork Spring Assizes, was called the case of the Rev. James Raleigh, falsely charged with having struck a lady in St. **Michael's** Church, versus **Dartnell**, the proprietor of the *Limerick Standard*, and **Massy**, Rector of **Bruff**, for libel. On the suggestion of Judge **Jackson**, the case was settled out of court, the defendants paying full costs, and making a most ample apology to the Rev. James **Raleigh**.

Sunday the 3rd of December, 1839, was rendered for ever memorable in the city by the arrival of the Apostle of Temperance, and the greatest excess which popular enthusiasm ever reached in this country has hardly ever exceeded the curiosity and intense admiration manifested by the people towards him, from his arrival to his departure. On Friday and Saturday streams of people flowed in from all directions to get themselves enrolled beneath the Temperance Banner, and on those days there could not have been less than 5000 in the city without the luxury of a bed—the lodging houses being crammed to excess. As it was known that the Rev. Gentleman was to arrive by the mail from Cork, the concourse flowed in that direction. His friends had a car in waiting for him, but still he was obliged to show himself to the crowds, and then proceeded to the residence of his brother-in-law Mr. **Dunbar**, in Mallow-street. Sunday was peculiarly fine, and never a morning broke on a more glorious scene than Limerick presented. The entire length of George's-street was a mass of beings at an early hour. The quays and bridges were thickly peopled, yet the utmost order prevailed. At the sermon vast crowds assisted, the Church being crowded to excess; Col. **Maunsell**, and Capt. **Fitzgerald**, and many liberal Protestants were present, were present. Half-past two was the hour for the sermon. When the Rev. Gentleman appeared he was a little flushed, but recovered his self-possession. He read the text of the day—asked the congregation whether the practice of charity was not the true road to blessedness in heaven. The drift of his discourse which continued nearly an hour, was in advocacy of a collection for the Convent Schools. The giving of pledges was begun at the Court House on Monday. The rush at Mr. **Dunbar's** house was fearful, and one pregnant poor woman was precipitated into the area, by the falling in of the rails. She died from the injuries inflicted on her chest. About nine o'clock Father **Mathew** proceeded to the Court House, and received pledges till three o'clock. At least 10,000 people knelt down in **Mallow-street**, and received the pledge. He then proceeded to the Steam boat quay, and administered it to 700 men from **Kilrush**, not allowing them to disembark. The concourse in fact was now so great in the city, that the prices of provisions rose greatly. He continued to receive people from the four adjoining counties on Tuesday. He now became so hoarse, that the **Rev.** Gentlemen with him had to call out the words of the pledge. He left for Cork on Wednesday. †

† The results of drinking may be inferred from the quantity of spirits consumed in England and Ireland in 1839, viz:—

England,	... ..	12,341,469 gallons,
Ireland,	... ..	12,293,464 gallons,

seven pints one-ninth per head in **England**—more than **thirteen** pints per head in Ireland.

Sept. 4th.—On this day several net fishermen were put in jail, for fishing in the **Abbey** river. £30,000 per annum said to be laid out at this time in Limerick for Scotch herrings.

Sept. 30th.—At the swearing in of the civic officers, the Mayor and the Mayor's Sergeants wore the usual orange and blue lock of wool in their cocked hats—Sir R. **Franklin**, Mayor.

Great numbers of people proceed to Father **Mathew** to Cork to take the pledge of Temperance at his hands.

150 citizens petition the Lord Lieutenant against **Ministers' Money**.

October 14th.—Mr. W. S. **O'Brien** publishes his annual address to his constituents of the Co. **Limerick**, in which he passes in review the great national events of the year.

December 17th, 1839.—Account of the death of Lady **Monteagle**, received in Limerick with much regret.

January 10th, 1840.—Seizure of gunpowder at **Richardson's**, gun maker and powder vendor. Penny postage rate comes into operation this date.

On Wednesday, the 7th October, 1840, the congregated trades of Limerick, attended by a host of other repealers including many from the neighbouring towns, who altogether, according to Mr. O'Connell himself, amounted to some 60,000 persons, marched in grand procession to welcome the Liberator, who drove amidst enthusiastic multitudes to the Treaty Stone, when he was presented by the trades with an address, and made one of his celebrated Repeal speeches. On this occasion the trades deplored the distressed condition of the citizens and manufacturers, concurring with O'Connell in the declaration, that the only resource was a domestic Legislature. O'Connell pointing to Thomond Bridge, said that he remembered seeing eleven men who were taken out on it together, for execution, under martial law, on which occasion a lieutenant of militia struck Father Hogan, a friar who went to give them spiritual assistance, but who was promptly revenged by some one behind the lieutenant who killed him dead with a blow from a "Clealpeen." One of the most noticeable objects in this procession was a large and highly decorated boat, moved by men on the stern, on which, beneath a richly festooned canopy, sat one of the strand fishermen who personated Neptune the god of the water. The day's proceedings finished with a grand dinner at the Theatre, at which over 1,000 persons were present. Limerick thus effectually belied the assertion which had been some time made as to its being cold and apathetic in the cause of Repeal. On this occasion as usual, honest Tom Steele was a conspicuous actor and speaker. He identified himself in a particular manner with the congregated trades, associating himself with the coopers. The spectacle was one of the most remarkable ever witnessed in Limerick.

CHAPTER LIII.

LIMERICK UNDER THE REFORMED CORPORATION.

AFTER the success of the magnificent Parliamentary campaign under Earl Grey and Lord Russell, backed by the "Imperial Guard" of 1832, and so well maintained and supported by Brougham and by O'Connell, and the other popular leaders, the question of municipal reform had been only a question of time, and was in fact ceded a few years after the carriage of the Reform Bill; but the reader would be greatly mistaken if he imagined that it was won without a severe struggle, or that champions of corporate corruption were wanting to enact the same part in the municipal agitation as Peel, and Lyndhurst, and Inglis, and Wetherell had played in the struggle against the measure of Parliamentary reform. It is true that the old Corporators were eventually betrayed by some of their oldest friends, or as O'Connell humorously adopting the words of Dryden expressed it, were—

"Deserted in their utmost need,
By those their former bounty fed."

Death and funeral of the late Alderman John Vereker, died on Wednesday, 8th of January, in Dublin. Trades attended.—Catholic and Protestant Bishops were in the procession. January 20th.—A terrible storm visited Limerick, nearly equal in its destructive effects to the storm of 6th January, 1839.

But in the case of the Corporation of Limerick there was no lack of sturdy defenders of corruption up to the very last moment, and the tenacious grasp which the Corporators still endeavoured to retain of the many good things which were, however, rapidly slipping from them, resembled the last desperate clutch with which the drowning man holds out to the last. It seems almost incredible at the present time, that men having the same blood in their veins as the men of the present generation, could ever have been such uncompromising champions of the old Corporations. But place, pelf, and power, will effect wonders, and the old habits engendered by ascendancy had become so inveterate from long prescription, we can only wonder that the same feelings were not transmitted to their children with the rest of the family possessions, by many more than the ancestors of the would-be ascendancy party of the present day, who, however, are still numerous enough to stand in the way of many useful and even necessary reforms. But the reformed municipality went to work at once and with a will; and the Corporation of Limerick, which was once so notorious for its illiberality, soon became equally celebrated for the opposite quality, and established a character which it has never yet forfeited.

Corporate reform was now an accomplished fact. On the 10th of August, 1841, a proclamation was issued by the Lord Lieutenant, in which Limerick was declared within the operation of the Municipal Reform Act. Unbounded joy prevailed when the glad tidings were diffused throughout the city. On the evening of that glorious and welcome day, a procession of unparalleled magnitude went through the city, following as it were the remains of the old Corporation, which were borne on a funeral car in a coffin of enormous magnitude; bands of music playing the funeral march accompanied the procession, with a vast array of mourners. The cortege passed along, amid myriads of people, through the principal streets, until its arrival opposite the office in Rutland Street, of the Tory newspaper which had so long upheld the reign of corporate monopoly and spoliation. Here the procession halted; the coffin was brought from its car, laid on the pavement, and with loud shouts of exultation, consigned to the flames.

Proceedings were at once adopted to place the city under the operation of the new Act. Aldermen and Town Councillors were elected. On the 11th of November, the newly-constituted body assembled to elect a Mayor; two candidates for the honour presented themselves, viz., Alderman John Boyse and Martin Honan, Esq. The former withdrew, when the latter was elected by acclamation to an office which he filled with dignity, prudence, and justice. John F. Raleigh, Esq., was elected Town Clerk in open court. There were two other candidates for the office.

The Lord Lieutenant's proclamation, however, had fixed the day for the Act to come into operation in Limerick prematurely, as twelve months had not elapsed from the certificate of the Poor Law Commissioners of the making of a rate for the relief of the poor. In consequence of this error, the Court of Queen's Bench, at the prosecution of the Hon. Charles Smyth Vereker, the Mayor elected by the old Corporation, declared all the proceedings connected with the introduction of the Municipal Reform Act null and void, including the making of the Burgess roll, the acts of the Revision Court, the election of Aldermen and Town Councillors, and elec-

¹ Under the Act of 3 and 4 Victoria, cap. 108.

tion of Mayor. In order to prevent the confusion that would arise from this state of things, Lord Elliot, the then Secretary for Ireland, introduced an act which got the royal assent in July, 1842, legalizing all these proceedings, and settling the new Corporation in office as elected under the Lord Lieutenant's proclamation. Pending these events there were two mayors in the city—the one *de jure*, and the other *de facto*,—and a considerable degree of annoyance resulted. A deputation waited on the Hon. Mr. Vereker, to give up possession of the Exchange, the books, records, and corporate property. Mr. Vereker gave a direct refusal to this request, stating he was advised that all the proceedings taken under the Municipal Reform Act were illegal, null, and void, and warning them from exercising any authority or jurisdiction within the limits. The old Corporation placed on record an account of their liabilities, which amounted to over £12,000, and which was left as a burden on the new Corporation.

The last official act of the old Corporation was to present Lord Gort with his portrait, which had graced the Council Chamber for many years.

During the confusion which prevailed under the two mayors, resistance was offered by the people to the collection of the tolls, the lessee of which waited on the new Mayor and Corporation for protection whilst he endeavoured to collect them; the consideration of his petition was postponed. One of the earliest acts of the new Corporation was to select the names of twelve gentlemen of the council to be presented to the Lord Lieutenant, from whom to choose magistrates, as the term of the Charter Justices was to expire on the 12th of the following December (1841). Six Catholics and six Protestants were chosen by the council, which in this instance manifested the liberality for which it has subsequently been distinguished, as the great majority of the members were Catholics. The gentlemen who had filled the offices of Town Clerk and Chamberlain of the old Corporation were formally removed by vote of the new. A code of bye-laws was prepared and adopted. The birth of the Princess Royal afforded the new body an occasion for the exhibition of loyalty in addresses of congratulation to the Queen and Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent. An attempt to continue the office of Recorder for the city was resisted successfully; and after some time the jurisdiction was transferred to the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, in whom it has continued to repose. The collection and lodgment of the public funds became a matter of importance; a treasurer was appointed in the person of Francis John O'Neill, Esq., who held the office until his death in 1860. Early attention was directed to the neglected condition of the streets, etc., of the old town, which the old Corporation had

¹ From this statement, it appears that they owed Messrs. Furlong and L3 Touche,

Attorneys,	£212	10	3
Board of Works mortgage, for erecting Thomond Bridge,	9000	0	0
Mr. Paine, Architect, for erecting approaches to the Bridge,	1855	0	0
The Sheriffs,	120	0	0
For lighting the old Town,	109	15	0
To Chamberlain,	85	4	10

And miscellaneous items, nine in number, varying from £68 15s. 6d. to £22.

In June, 1841, Mr. Joseph Fogerty, an enterprising citizen, after having taken down a circus which he had built in Queen Street, built a theatre—the present Theatre Royal—in Henry Street, on a plot of ground which he took from the Earl of Limerick. The theatre is 110 feet long, 66 feet wide, and 30 feet high, and has sitting accommodation for 1,800 persons. With the exception of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, it is considered the best building of the kind in Ireland, and cost £1,300.

abandoned to utter ruin. The separation of the ancient liberties from the city by the Municipal Bill, at once became a subject of deep interest to the public. In this year (1841) the Limerick Union Workhouse, which had been formed under the Poor Law Act, was opened on the 18th of May for the reception of paupers. Early in 1842, a memorial was presented to the Lord Lieutenant, in which the Corporation stated, that whereas the liberties, comprising 14,825 acres, were separated from the city, the city now comprised but 816 acres, and taxation should be curtailed as much as possible. There had been a constabulary force of 46 in number, including an inspector, a sub-inspector, and a head constable; and the memorial prayed, among other things, owing to the wonderful decrease in drunkenness, in consequence of the temperance movement, and the general diminution of crime, that twenty sub-constables, with an inspector and sub-inspector, be allocated, as quite sufficient, to the city. Deep distress was suffered during the spring and summer of this year by the working classes, who had no employment; provisions, too, rated very high; and a meeting was held early in June for the purpose of applying remedies. In that month an attempt having been made on the life of the Queen in London, the Corporation met and presented an address to her Majesty, to which a gracious reply was returned. Up to 1842, as we have just seen, the reformed Corporation had been placed in an awkward position; but the Act of Parliament which was passed by the influence of the government, effectually removed the difficulties that legal technicality had opposed to the free and immediate introduction of the Municipal Act into Limerick; and from this date the old Corporation may be regarded as extinct, and the reformed body proceeded in its course unfettered by the obstacles which had been thrown in its way for no other object than to subserve a disreputable purpose. Mr. Vereker, the Mayor, submitted; the Chamberlain, Town Clerk, and Common Speaker, however, continued obstinate; and it was not until they were forced by law to give

¹ LIMERICK UNION.—Land under Workhouse, 9a. 2r. 5p.

Rent of do. per annum, £70.

Total number of inmates in Workhouse, April 8th, 1865, 2,099.

Number in Fever Hospital, 72.—Number in Infirmary, 760.—Total, 832.

Date of appointment of Sisters of Mercy to the Hospitals, November, 1860.

Electoral Divisions since change of Boundry in 1850.34.

Valuation of Union in 1865, £189,526 15s.

Population do. in 1861, 90,728.

Electoral divisions previous to change in 1850.—19 as follows:—Abington, Ballybricken, Cappamore, Caherconlish, Costleconnell, Creora, Derrygnlvin, Doon, Fedamore, Killockenedy, Kiltannonley, Kilsely, Kilfeenaghta, Kileely, Kilmurry, Limerick, Murroe, Mungret, and Patrickswell.

Date of declaring Workhouse fit for the reception of paupers, 18th May, 1841.

Date of first admission of paupers, 19th May, 1841.

Number for which House was originally built, 1000.

Average number of paupers maintained for quarter ending 24th June, 1842, embracing nine weeks, 1302.

Date of declaration of first rate, 5th September, 1840.

Date of declaration of Union, 20th December, 1838.

Date of order to borrow for providing a Workhouse, 23rd September, 1839.

Amount borrowed, £12,900.

Amount of contract, £10,000.

² Mr. Cripps, in August, 1842, handed to Mr. Potter, Law Agent of the Corporation, one hundred and twenty-one parchment documents; twelve unimportant parcels of proposals and other papers connected with the tolls, as also twelve parcels of papers relative to the lax weir—Corporation Tenants' account Book, expired leases, only four leases made since 1800, none of the original charters, old maps, rentals, or contracts for leases, nor any document referring to the leases given up, under which the rents now appearing to be payable are reserved—Minuter of the Reformed Corporation, A.D. 1842.

up the record, leases, charters, etc., etc., that they did so. Among the property that survived the general spoliation was the advowson, or perpetual right of presentation to the living of St. Laurence, in the gift of the Corporation. One of the early acts of the Corporation was to dispose of this advowson, for which purpose an advertisement was published; and in February, 1843, it was sold to the Trustees of the Asylum Episcopal chapel.

In their incipient condition and early struggles to meet the demands which were left unliquidated by their predecessors, and to discharge accumulating claims and liabilities, the new Corporation experienced very great difficulty: already a sum of over 510,000 was required to pay debts and meet current requirements. The Mayor (Mr. Honan), on his own responsibility, advanced a sum of 51,500 to enable the Corporation to take up the property which had been mortgaged to the Board of Works, for which and for other equally admirable acts during his mayoralty, a requisition was presented to him, to which he acceded, and he was appointed Mayor for 1843.

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Michael O'Loughlen, Bart., having died in Dublin in October, regretted by every class and party, as a mark of public sympathy and respect, the Mayor and Corporation of Limerick attended his funeral in mourning costume, as it passed through the city on its way to Clare.

An object of very great importance for the citizens was to obtain possession of the King's Island. The influence of the city and county representatives was enlisted in the cause; but there were serious obstacles thrown in the way, and a treaty with the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the sale ended without any result.¹

As a mark of appreciation of the services of brave Limerick men abroad, a vote of thanks was passed by the Council, on the 2nd of January, 1843, to Sir Hugh Gough, his aide-de-camp, Captain Gabbett,² Major John Sargent,³ and his son, Ensign Sargent,⁴ of the Royal Irish Regiment, and Captain Thomas Bouchier, R.N. five Limerick heroes, for their distinguished and noble conduct in China, but without expressing any opinion on the character of the war in China.

Certain leases, of which we have already spoken, had been given of corporate property to favourites of the old corporators, and to the corporators themselves, and it became an object of importance to the new Corporation to

¹ By an inquisition taken 33rd Henry VIII., and preserved in the Birmingham Tower, it appears that "the pasture and grassing of the said island—the King's Island—appertaining to the said King's castle, and that the inhabitants of the said citty, had their ingress for their pasture without any interruption".

² Gabbett, this is an old and influential name in Limerick. The first of the family who settled in Ireland was Robert Gubbett, of Acton Burnell, Shropshire, Exon of the guard of Henry VII. His descendant Robert died at Cashel, A.D. 1652. William Gabbett, who was married to Alicia England, of Lifford, Co. Clare, acquired the estates of Caherline and Rathjordan, in the county of Limerick, A.D. 1685, and from him have descended the Caherline and Rathjordan, Castletlake and High Park families, who intermarried with the ancient family of the Burghs of Dromkeen, the Cores of Bilynoe (who claim descent through the Plantagenet Kings from William the Conqueror), the Wallers of Castle Waller, the Studderts of Bunratty, the Lanes of Lane's Park, Co. Tipperary, the Lloyds of Castle Lloyd, the Joneses of Mullinabroo, the Riches, and many other families of distinction in the counties of Limerick, Tipperary, and Clare. Several of the family filled the office of High Sheriff of the county of Limerick. The late William Smith O'Brien, Esq., was married to Miss Gabbett, daughter of the late Alderman Joseph Gabbett of Limerick. Edmund Gabbett, Esq., who died deeply regretted, on the 24th of February, 1865, filled the office of Mayor of Limerick in 1858.

³ In some old documents the name is written O'Sargent. The Sargents have filled the office of mayor, bailiff, sheriff, etc.

⁴ Now Colonel John Sargent, C.B., late of 3rd Buffs,

break those leases. A resolution was adopted to that effect. Expensive litigation resulted in no corresponding advantage to the citizens, the lands and rentals remaining as follows, with the exception of the Lime Kilns, the lease of which was broken:—

Gortaklins, ...	£100	0	0
Part of Clino bog, ...	92	6	2
Corkanree, ...	160	0	0
Rhebogue Island, ...	130	15	4
Scattery Island, ...	31	10	0
Lime Kilns, ...	62	3	8
The Lax Weir, ...	300	0	0

£876 15 2

Additional rents received by the Corporation, 146 0 0

Making a total rental of ... £1022 15 2,

the small remnant of the enormous property in land, etc., which the Corporation once enjoyed, and even this rental, some few years afterwards, was mortgaged for a loan of £20,000.

The great question of a Repeal of the legislative Union, being now paramount, a petition to parliament in favour of Repeal was adopted by the Corporation, by a majority of 28 to 6. Six members were absent. The Corporation adopted a petition also against certain proposed amendments in the Poor Law, and against Electoral Divisions. On this occasion Mr. W. S. O'Brien, M.P., wrote a long letter, refusing to support the petition of the Corporation for Repeal. Sir David Roche, Y.P., presented the petition to the House of Commons, and supported its prayer.

In June, 1843, the Law agent reported that, having had an interview with the Earl of Lincoln, one of the Lords Commissioners of Woods and Forests, relative to the King's Island and the claims made by the Corporation on behalf of the citizens for the restoration of certain rights granted by the charter of Queen Elizabeth, he had stated that he was informed by the legal authorities that no legal right was vested in the citizens whereby they could establish the title claimed under the charter of Elizabeth, and that consequently the Lords Commissioners could not feel war-

Feb. 6th, 1843—The Corporation adopted a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, asking leave to borrow £11,000 for the purchase of the King's Island.

In June this year the new Potato Market at the Long Dock, was made at a cost of 61200. The following is on a stone tablet near the Mathew Bridge:

<p>A.D. 1843. THIS MARKET WAS ERECTED BY THE REFORMED CORPORATION, During the Mayoralty of The Right Worshipful MARTIN HONAN, IN THE SECOND YEAR OF HIS OFFICE.</p>	
<p>W. H. Owens, Arch. John Duggan; Builder.</p>	<p>John F. Raleigh, Esq., Town Clerk. Francis John O'Neil, Esq., Treasurer.</p>

October 3rd, 1843—A memorial adopted to the Treasury to borrow £15,000

ranted in assenting to a restoration of the claim. Lord Lincoln at the same **time** stated that the Commissioners were willing to afford the citizens an opportunity of recreation in a small portion of the island, and that they were prepared to apply to the Treasury for a certain sum of money for an **embankment**, provided the Corporation would make a suitable passage or road thereto. This was ultimately agreed to, and a noble public promenade was made.

The question of **Repeal** continued to agitate the country from the centre to the sea. The greatest meetings that had ever been known in Ireland, not exceeded by those that had taken place during the anti-tithe campaign, were held in various places in **Munster**, **Leinster**, and **Connaught**. Limerick gave its weight and strength in the national movement. It was emphatically "the **Repeal year**", but in the autumn of the year, Government, which had already fortified the barracks, and indicated its intention to deal with the question with a strong hand, prepared to take legal measures against **O'Connell** and the popular leaders. The Corporation of Limerick met at this crisis, and an earnest resolution was adopted on the motion of Alderman **Geary**, seconded by Alderman Shannon, to the effect that they considered the proceedings adopted within the year by **O'Connell** for procuring the **Repeal** of the legislative Union, and the meetings held in various parts of the country for that purpose, were strictly legal and constitutional, and did not call for or warrant the intervention of the executive. On the part of the people, they disclaimed the least intention of violating the laws or endangering the public peace, and solemnly protested against any infringement of their legal rights to meet and petition Parliament, upon the mere assumption that the public peace would be disturbed. The Corporation went further, and declared their deliberate intention to continue their support to **O'Connell** in the same constitutional course that had characterised the **Repeal** movement under his guidance. A copy of this resolution was forwarded to the **Liberator**, with the Corporation seal affixed. A grand banquet was also given to him in the new theatre.

Intense dissatisfaction and great political excitement characterised the opening of the year 1844. **O'Connell** and the **Repeal** leaders who had been arrested, were now standing their trial in Dublin, and the intelligence of the proceedings of each day, as they were received in Limerick, created an extraordinary amount of excitement. Alderman **Pierce Shannon** was sworn into the **Mayoralty** on the 1st of January, and one of the first movements of the Corporation was the adoption of a memorial to the Queen to dismiss from office Her Majesty's **Tory Ministers**; at the same time the Corporation voted their undiminished and unlimited confidence in **O'Connell**, whom persecution was making dearer to the hearts of his countrymen. A demonstration in sustinment of **O'Connell** was made soon afterwards in Cork, when a grand banquet was given to him, and on this occasion the Corporation of Limerick, headed by the Mayor, proceeded there to compliment the man of the people. **Mr. Smith O'Brien**, who had hitherto

On the 6th of February, 1844, it was resolved to lay out 8,1090 on the approaches and walks around the King's Island—one of the approaches at Thomond Bridge; the other at Park Bridge. Negotiations were entered into for the purchase of or letting of the Commercial Buildings in Rutland Street, for a Town Hall.

Memorials were forwarded by the Corporation in favour of floating docks, the King's Island embankment, and on the subject of the great distress of the people, owing to the want of that employment which the embankment would furnish. All these measures were carried.

opposed repeal, now threw himself into the movement with enthusiastic devotion.

Amid this state of political exacerbation, the condition of the working classes of Limerick was so extremely wretched, that in a petition to Parliament in favour of the Dublin and Cashel (Great Southern and Western) Railway, the Corporation set forth the astounding fact, that it had been the opinion of all travellers from **Inglis** to **Köhl**, that there was more wretchedness among the poor of Limerick than among those of any other town of equal population in Ireland—that this arose from want of regular employment—that there were 1215 journeymen of trades, and only 407 in regular employment, and 5003 labourers equally destitute.

Alderman **Shannon**, who had been an energetic benefactor, a liberal and active politician, a warm friend of **O'Connell**, and an earnest advocate of a domestic legislature for Ireland, died rather suddenly, during his mayoralty, in the month of June, when proceeding to take the chair at a public meeting to address **O'Connell**, then in prison in Dublin, and was buried with great ceremony in the church-yard of **St. Munchin's**, the Catholic Bishop and all the city clergy walking in procession. Alderman **W. J. Geary**, M.D., J.P., was chosen for the mayoralty in succession, and he was reelected for the following year (1845), when he and the Corporation attended a levee to and addressed **O'Connell** in Dublin. Almost contemporaneously with these events was the appointment of a committee to prepare a memorial to Government, praying that one of the new collegiate institutions (Queen's Colleges) which were now projected, be placed in the city of Limerick, and to report on the propriety of having a deputation proceed to London to present the memorial to the ministers of the crown. The influence of the **Marquis of Lansdowne**, the **Earl of Clare**, **Lord Monteagle**, the **Earl of Dunraven**, the **Earl of Limerick**, **Viscount Adare**, the county and city members, **Augustus Stafford O'Brien**, Esq., M.P., **William Monsell**, Esq., and **Sir Matthew Barrington**, Bart., was sought for and obtained. An interview was had with **Sir Robert Peel** and **Sir James Graham**, to whom the memorial was presented by the Mayor. **Sir James Graham** paid every attention to the statements that were made, and dismissed the deputation with an assurance that the claims of Limerick to a collegiate institution would receive attention. These claims were, however, ignored in favour of **Cork**; but on the question of these colleges, public opinion soon afterwards underwent a complete revolution, and the often expressed resolutions of the Catholic Prelates about them, as well as the opposition of the Catholic body in general, have vindicated the estimation in which they have been held by the friends and supporters of free, tolerant, and enlightened education.

An incident of a remarkable character took place in the summer of this year, when **O'Connell**, who arrived in Limerick on his way to **Derrynane**, accompanied by his friend, "honest **Tom Steele**", and others, was waited on by the mayor, who solicited the honour of his company at dinner to meet the Corporation. **O'Connell** accepted the invitation; but an awkwardness arose which led to unpleasant results: the judges at the moment on circuit being in the city, they too were invited to the mayor's banquet, which was given in the Exchange in **Mary Street**. One of these judges had not only tried **O'Connell** and the **State Prisoners**, but had pronounced sentence of incarceration on the **Liberator**. When the facts were told to **O'Connell**, he at once left the city, with an intimation to the mayor that it was impossible for

him to dine with him. Steele and others took fire. The Corporation became inflamed with excitement. A meeting was convened, and a resolution, which was proposed by James Kelly, Esq., M.P. for the city, who at the time was a member of the Corporation, and seconded by Martin Honan, Esq., was to the effect, that

"This council having heard with surprise that the Liberator is under the impression that the invitation he received from the Mayor on last Wednesday had emanated from this body, resolved, that though on this, as on all other occasions, we would feel highly proud of the presence of the Liberator, yet we deem it right to communicate to him, that if the Mayor used the name of the Corporation, he did so without authority, and that the Town Clerk be instructed to apprise the Liberator, that we feel too high a respect for him to allow him for a moment to remain under such an impression'.

An amendment was carried "that no further proceedings be taken in the matter till Mr. O'Connell's reply be received".

On the 11th of August a meeting of the Corporation was held, when the Mayor read the following remarkable letter from O'Connell:—

"Derrynane Abbey,
7th August, 1845.

"MY DEAR MAYOR,

I am very much afraid that out of my anxiety to prevent disunion in the Corporation of Limerick, I have fallen into the opposite error, and have been the means of creating something like confusion, instead of that conciliation which it was my anxious desire to promote, and which of course continues to be so.

I certainly did understand you to invite me in the name of the Corporation, of which you are the head, and I communicated that fact to my friend Martin Honan, who was so kind as to undeceive me and to set the matter right.

I need not say that I am now perfectly convinced that the mistake was mine, and that you did no more than intimate that the Corporation would dine with you to meet me; I do not know how to account for my mistake, and I am now exceedingly anxious to apologize to you and to my friend Honan, and indeed to the entire Corporation, for having created any uneasy feeling on this subject.

I wish to heaven it were in my power to put an end to the jealousies that unhappily prevail, and to have anything that has passed buried in oblivion. Let by-gones be by-gones, and let us all combine for the forwarding of the Repeal in future.

I was the more anxious to reconcile the popular party in Limerick to each other, because the result of existing feuds is, that the connection with the Repeal Association is not kept as it ought to be.

I am personally very grateful to you for your individual invitation. I am exceedingly obliged to the Corporation for the cordial kindness which they have exhibited towards me; and it is to me a source of consolation to find so much of what deserves to be called affectionate attention from so truly patriotic and respectable a body as the Corporation of Limerick.

With respect to a public dinner to myself—that is a subject upon the originating of which I could not possibly take any part or express any opinion. There are so many local circumstances that must belong to a meeting of that kind, that all I could say is, that those who are on the spot are alone competent to judge of the fitness of any such proceeding.

The last public dinner in Limerick was so brilliantly successful that any diminution of its splendour would be deemed a failure. I throw this out as the only hint I can give on the subject; our sole object should be how to advance the cause of Repeal, quite independently of any compliment to any individual.

Will you be so good as to convey my gratitude to your brother Corporators, and be assured that I am,

My dear Mayor,

Yours faithfully and sincerely,

"The Right Worshipful the
Mayor of Limerick".

DANIEL O'CONNELL.

The matter ended here; but it left some bitterness, which time, however, eradicated.

The affairs of the Corporation were not in a flourishing condition, and at a meeting of that body, held on the 1st of September, a motion was made by Alderman Mulcahy to the effect that the salary of the Mayor be fixed at £300 per annum. There was very great distress too throughout the city, as had been shown to the Government by several memorials. The Treasury permitted the Corporation to raise a sum of £5,942 17s. 6d., by loan; and employment to some extent was given, when on the 29th of November the first arch stone of the Mathew Bridge was laid by the Mayor.

A movement had been going on in the Corporation and among the citizens for a statue of Sarsfield, Earl of Lucan, and models were sought for by public advertisement. Mr. Kirk of Dublin forwarded a model, which, however, was not approved of, and the question was not revived.

E. P. G. Ryan, Esq., was sworn in Mayor of Limerick on the 1st of January, 1846, a year rendered remarkable not only by continued political excitement, but by the secession from the Repeal Association of the Young Ireland party, and the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Association in Limerick. At the banquet of this Association given in the theatre the Mayor presided. The year was more remarkable, perhaps, for the potato failure and its terrific consequences.

A sum of £5,000 was collected in the city to meet the exigencies of the dreadful case, which was thought so little of, however, by some of the agricultural philosophers at the dinner just referred to, that Mr. Smith, of Deanstown, expressed himself to the effect that the blackening of the potato would be attended with no danger, and that its effect would pass away speedily, and leave no injurious result to deplore.

A demonstration in sustenance of Mr. W. S. O'Brien, M.P., took place on Thursday the 6th of June, when a magnificent reception was given to him on his first visit to Limerick after his confinement by order of the House of Commons. On this occasion there was a procession of the congregated trades, the temperance societies, the Corporation, including the Mayor, the Aldermen, and Councillors, a long line of pedestrians and equestrians to the number of 20,000. Trees were brought from the country to form triumphal arches. The neighbouring towns furnished addi-

April, 1846.—The sum of £600 was offered to Mr. O'Hara, as assignee of Mr. Arthur, for his interest in the Commercial Buildings, and accepted, for a Town Hall for the meetings of the Corporation, etc., instead of the Exchange in the English town.

April 21st.—£682 were advanced to credit of Public Works as the contribution of Corporation to make the roadway around the King's Island.

Sept. 21st.—A movement was got up for a cemetery on portion of King's Island. This cemetery is now used by the military only.

October 30th.—Memorial for a loan of £10,000 to Lords of Treasury for embankment of Arthur's Quay, and erection of places for public corn markets, etc.

April 22nd, 1847.—The New Beading Rooms established at the Town Hall. Joseph Murphy, Esq., appointed Town Clerk, in the room of the late John F. Raleigh, Esq., deceased.

tional numbers, and the music of several bands gave further life to the proceedings of the day. Next the trades rode Smith O'Brien himself in a triumphal chair, a fine piece of workmanship made by Mr. Owens, of Mallow Street, and in this chair, accompanied by the mayor in his robes, he passed amidst the cheers of thousands along a route embracing all the chief parts of the city, except the lanes and alleys. The procession was followed by a monster meeting, which was held in a field in the north Liberties.

The Corporation had already adopted a resolution, which Alderman Geary proposed, fully sustaining the course that had been adopted in Parliament by Mr. Smith O'Brien. On this occasion the expediency of the course adopted by Mr. O'Brien was not approved of by O'Connell; and a wide difference of opinion arose between them, which led to that disruption of the great repeal party and the break up of the greatest political organization which Ireland had ever witnessed.

The following year, 1847, was remarkable for events of the most thrilling importance, including the ever-to-be-lamented death of the Liberator at Genoa, on his way to Rome, on the 15th of May; a general election, and the continuance of the decimating famine. On the 1st of January, Thomas Wallnutt, Esq., was sworn into the office of Mayor. A strong feeling prevailed at this time in reference to the expenditure of the Corporation on improvements in the old town, over and above the ordinary sums applied under the Act of Parliament, to discharge the interest of the debt due by that body, the salaries to officers, etc. It was complained that a sum of £11,937 2s. 4d. had been expended in this way since the New Corporation had been formed, in addition to a sum of from £1,000 to £1,500 a year in paving, watching, and cleansing for the six years previously. The St. Michael's Commissioners continued to discharge their duties with benefit to the interests over which they presided in the capacity of a taxing and watching, lighting and cleansing body; and it now became a serious matter of debate whether the revenues of the Corporation and the loans should go to the requirements of the old town, rather than to an equal and impartial distribution of them over the city at large. The matter was brought before the Corporation by Dr. Griffin, a member of that body, and a resolution which was proposed by him, embodying his views, was carried. The Commissioners and the Corporation had serious discussions on the subject, which had its result in a few years subsequently in the introduction of the Limerick Oorporate Reform Act, which gave the control of the entire city to the Corporation, and which annihilated the Commissioners. The Corporation during these proceedings adopted a petition to Parliament against Ministers' money. The subject of a Repeal of the Union was again mooted, and a petition to the legislature in its favour was carried by an overwhelming majority of the council. The Corporation also expressed its sympathy and concurrence with an ineffectual movement begun in the House of Commons by Lord George Bentinck, M.P., for the advancement of a loan from the Imperial Treasury of £20,000,000 to Ireland for public works, in order to meet and repel the ravages which the famine had been making on the people.

On the 27th of May the intelligence was received in Limerick of the death of O'Connell at Genoa. The city at once assumed the garb of mourning. The foremost man of his age had died on a foreign shore, sore at heart at the situation of his country, the frustration of his hopes, and the

ingratitude with which a section at least of his countrymen had treated a patriot who had laboured with indefatigable perseverance and unparalleled zeal for over half a century, in the service of Ireland. To every shop in the city the shutters were put up. The vessels in the harbour had their flags half mast high. The newspapers throughout the country put their columns in deep mourning. The voice of political schism was silenced for a time; and all felt the heavy blow that had been inflicted on society and on liberty throughout the world by the loss of the mighty leader. A special meeting of the Corporation was convened to express public feeling on the lamentable event which caused the tears of millions of people to flow. A resolution was adopted.

"That the intelligence of the death of O'Connell, justly styled the Liberator of Ireland, has filled the members of this council with the deepest grief—impressed as we are with the vivid recollection of the manifold services conferred by him upon his native country. Whilst we bow with submission to the decree of Providence, which has snatched him from a people who loved him and from a world filled with the fame of his peaceful victories, we offer our sympathy and condolence to our now doubly afflicted countrymen for the loss sustained by his death, the loss of a leader of so much energy and genius, of a patriot so pure and unsullied, of a Christian statesman, whose principles led to the infraction of no laws, divine or human. On his grave when dead, as on the altar of peace, we would desire to place the tribute, which would be so grateful to him when living, an oblivion of all differences among ourselves, and a determination to work together for the land of his affection.

"That this Council will join in any tribute which may hereafter be adopted by the Irish nation, testifying our feeling of respect for the memory of O'Connell, and that the Mayor be requested to convene a special meeting when the occasion shall arise".

On the 8th of June there was a solemn Office and High Mass at St. Michael's Parochial Church, for the repose of the soul of O'Connell. The Mayor, though a Protestant—to show his respect for the memory of the Illustrious Dead, with a large majority of the members of the council, etc., went in procession to the Church, which was crowded with citizens. There never was more heart-felt sorrow than on this occasion. It must, however, be stated, that among a small section of the people, feelings antagonistic to the policy and principles of the Liberator had been finding expression in various forms. In July of this year, a resolution was brought forward in the Corporation, to the effect that it was contrary to the honest advocacy of Repeal to seek for place under any government. This proposition was regarded in the light of a slur on the memory of the deceased patriot, and an insidious attack on his family and the admirers of his policy; yet at the general election John O'Brien, Esq., and John O'Connell, Esq. (the beloved son of the Liberator), were returned for the city as Members of Parliament. An amendment to the resolution, moreover, was adopted by the Council to the effect

"That the charge ungratefully made against the late illustrious Liberator and his patriotic family, of having abandoned the honest advocacy of repeal by the solicitation or acceptance of favours from the Government, is unjust and unfounded—a slander upon the memory of the dead and the character of the living; and believing the resolution now proposed to be indirectly a repetition of that charge, we reject it".

The strong sense of the people also not only rejected the proposition, but a general subscription commenced throughout the city and county of Limerick, in sustaiment of a National Testimonial to the memory of

O'Connell. A large sum was subscribed, and forwarded to a National Committee then formed in Dublin for that grateful purpose; but as the sums raised by the Parishes of St. Michael, Parteen, St. Patrick, and Monaleen, amounting to £151, were retained by the merest chance in Limerick, and were subsequently lodged in the Provincial Bank of Ireland by the Treasurer of the fund, William Roche, Esq., the money formed the nucleus of a much larger and more general subscription, which some few years subsequently was raised by the city and county, and by the counties of Tipperary and Clare, for the magnificent statue in bronze to O'Connell, which graces the Crescent in Limerick, and of which we shall have to treat in due course.

An action was brought this year, by Mr. Joseph Robinson, merchant, against the tenant of that portion of the Tolls and Customs comprised under the head "Tolls and Customs on river and water carriage", as heretofore collected. The action arose from the seizure of a portion of a cargo of Indian corn, imported into Limerick from Kilrush by a trading vessel during the previous year, after toll had been demanded and refused. Defence was taken by the Corporation. The action involved the whole question of that portion of the revenue of the citizens of Limerick, which went under the head of Tolls and Customs—nearly four-fifths of the Borough Fund—a fund from time immemorial collected, as in Liverpool, Cork, Glasgow, Bristol, etc. The right had been before challenged, but without effect. In 1823 an action had been brought against the then existing Corporation, to test their right to levy tolls and customs. It was tried in Cork, and a verdict found for the Corporation. The case embracing the greater portion of the Borough Fund, out of which the public markets were maintained, the public charities contributed to, the cleansing, watering, lighting of the old town, etc., defrayed, the local courts supported, and the general improvement of the city advanced, it was unanimously resolved to defend the action, which was done successfully.

This, however, was but the commencement of a more concentrated and powerful attack on the tolls and customs of the Corporation, in a word, on the principal revenue of that body, which eventuated, in 1850, in the loss of the tolls and a verdict in favour of the Great Southern and Western Railway, which disputed the legal right of the Corporation to levy them.

Michael Quin, Esq., was sworn Mayor of Limerick on the 1st of January, 1848. On the 4th of May railway communication was opened up for the first time between Limerick and Dublin; and possession was obtained of the Island Bank, or road-way around the King's Island, for the recreation of the citizens. The Corporation agreed with the eminent artist, the late

¹ On a stone at the walk at the Thomond Bridge side of the embankment is the following inscription:—

PUBLIC WALK
TO THE KING'S ISLAND EMBANKMENT,
EXECUTED UNDER THE DIRECTIONS OF THE
CORPORATION OF LIMERICK AND THE
COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S WOODS
AND FORESTS, COMPLETED IN OCTOBER, 1848.
MICHAEL BOYLAN, CIVIL ENGINEER
MICHAEL QUINN, MAYOR OF LIMERICK.

Mr. Haverty, to paint the well-known picture of the Liberator, which has been suspended in the Council Chamber, and which a few years after narrowly escaped the ravages of a fire which broke out in the Town Hall. Mr. Haverty got 150 guineas for the picture.

This was an era of revolution abroad and of unexampled excitement at home. The Corporation voted an address to the French people "on their victorious achievement of liberty". The unhappy events which occurred in Ireland in 1848 are written on a sad page of her chequered history, and can only be referred to in the language of unavailing indignation and grief. The grand national organization was broken up. Thousands of troops filled the country. The people continued to fall beneath famine and cholera, and the workhouses were crowded beyond endurance. Never yet was there a more gloomy crisis in the fortunes of Ireland. A soiree, which was given to Mr. Smith O'Brien, Mr. John Mitchell, Mr. Thomas Francis Mcagher, etc., at a store in Thomas Street, ended in a disagreeable manner, fire having been set to the windows and shutters, and the lives of those within placed in jeopardy. In the autumn of this year the trial of the State Prisoners, viz., Mr. Smith O'Brien, M.P., Thomas F. Meagher, Mr. T. B. Mac Manus, and Mr. O'Donoghue, took place in Clonmel before the Lord Chief Justice Blackburne, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (Doherty), and Mr. Justice Moore, when those "who loved their country not wisely but too well", were sentenced to the death of traitors, a sentence which was commuted to transportation for life, from which only one of them returned, viz., Mr. Smith O'Brien.

In the beginning of the year a Special Commission sat in Limerick, when several prisoners were tried, including William Ryan (commonly called Ryan Puck), who was hanged in front of the county Limerick jail on the 7th of February, for the murder of John Kelly at Knockscentry in the previous September. Other prisoners were sentenced to transportation, among whom was William Prewen, who was transported for life for harbouring Ryan Puck. The Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Chief Baron presided. Sir David Roche was High Sheriff of the county.²

Alderman John Boyse filled the office of Mayor in 1849; he presented an address of the Corporation to her Majesty the Queen, at a levee which was held in Dublin in August.³ He laid the foundation of the new floating docks, for which he was presented with a silver trowel. He was a thorough liberal, a solicitor of eminence, and an energetic member of the independents. He died during his mayoralty about November, and was succeeded for the remainder of the term by Laurence Quinlivan, Esq.

January 1st, 1850, Laurence Quinlivan, Esq., was chosen Mayor. He presided at a banquet given by the citizens to General Lord Gough on his Lordship's return from India, 16th May.⁴ He also attended the Lord

1848.—1st Dec.—A sum of £120 a year, which had been granted out of the corporate funds to the "Philosophical Society", was now discontinued by a vote of the Corporation.

¹ THACKERAY, who more than once expended his gall on Limerick, wrote a ludicrous ballad on the subject for *Punch*.

² The Chief Baron Pigott had sentenced Ryan to be hanged on the 6th of February, which being Sunday, the day was changed to the 7th of the month.

³ On the 3rd of September Mr. Hampton, the aeronaut, accompanied by Hampden Russell, Esq., and Mr. Townsend, C.E., made a successful ascent in the magnificent balloon, Erin-Go-Bragh, from a yard in Cecil Street.

⁴ Hugh Viscount Gough was born at Woodstown, in the county of Limerick, in 1779. His father was Lieutenant-Colonel of the City of Limerick Militia for many years, and was present

Mayor of London's banquet to Prince Albert with the Mayors of the United Kingdom, in furtherance of the great industrial exhibition of all nations.

1851.—Thaddeus McDonnell, Esq., was sworn Mayor on the 1st of January.

This year was particularly remarkable for the great excitement caused by the attempt to get up a new persecution against Catholics, under pretence of repelling "papal aggression", consequent on a foolish and inflammatory letter of Lord John Russell. The subject caused the greatest indignation in Limerick, in which meetings were now held supporting Mr. J. O'Connell, for tenant right, and to memorial the Queen in favour of Mr. W. S. O'Brien. At a stormy gathering of the Corporation, an attempt had been made to get a vote of censure passed against the city members, but in vain. Mr. O'Connell's resignation was afterwards reluctantly accepted, and he was succeeded in the representation by the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, who was received by the Catholic bishop and clergy and a great number of citizens on his arrival, and who for the short time he continued representative, contributed largely to the local charities.

1852, January 1st, Thomas Kane, Esq., M.D., J.P., Mayor.

January 27th, a great banquet was given in Limerick in honour of Lord Arundel, who, however, was unavoidably absent.

There was a general election this year. Robert Potter and Francis Wm. Russell, Esqrs., were returned members for the city. Mr. Sergeant O'Brien was the third candidate, and lost his election by a small majority. The excitement consequent on his defeat was tremendous.

The requirements of the city demanding improved market accommoda-

1851.—Richard L. Shiel died at Florence, in the May of this year.

Sunday, 5th October.—A most extraordinary tornado, which caused several singular accidents, and considerable damage to property, took place in Limerick. One man, Thomas Ryan, was blown down and killed. It was exactly like a West Indian hurricane, and had been preindicated by a small cloud.

in command of that regiment, at the brilliant action of Colooney. At the early age of 13, young Gough was appointed by Colonel Vereker to a commission in the City of Limerick Regiment, whence he was transferred by the influence of his kind patron to the line. After a short time he joined the 87th Regiment, with which he proceeded to the West Indies, and was present at the attack upon Port Rico and the taking of Surinam. But events of greater importance were occurring elsewhere, and Gough, with the gallant 87th, were ordered to the Peninsula.

Whilst Napoleon was making himself master of Vienna, and gathering fresh laurels at Wagram, Sir Arthur Wellesley, with a force including the 87th Regiment, then under the temporary command of Gough, was engaged in a series of brilliant operations before Oporto, from which he ultimately drove Soult, and delivered Portugal from the enemy. Gough, then Major, accompanied Sir Arthur in his advance into Spain, and distinguished himself in the glorious action of Talavera. Here he was severely wounded, and had a horse shot under him. Gough obtained his brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy. At Barossa, his regiment again covered itself with glory. Gough led the gallant charge of the 87th, and captured the first French eagle taken during the war.

Again we meet the gallant Gough and the 87th on the blood stained field of Vittoria (June, 1813), where his regiment captured the baton of Marshal Jourdan, which procured the baton of a Field Marshal of England to Lord Wellington. But Lord Gough's day had not yet arrived. From thence it may shortly be said, that Gough always did his duty—that he was severely wounded at the battle of the Nivelle (November, 1814)—that he received from the king of Spain the honour of knighthood, as a special mark of his Majesty's admiration of his conduct during the war, and that he then retired into a comparatively private state till the year 1837, when he was appointed to the command of the Mysore division in India, having previously (in 1830) obtained the rank of Major-General.

England having become involved in war with the Celestial Empire, Gough was selected in

tion, an act of parliament was passed this year for establishing public markets in Limerick, by which all agricultural produce, cattle, etc., must be sold in the public market-places alone; and all corn, butter, etc., must be weighed by the Markets' Trustees previous to sale, a system which has given much satisfaction to buyers and sellers; and a sum of about £1,500 a year is paid to the Corporation out of the revenues of the markets in lieu of their former tolls.

The question of the O'Connell monument again arose during the mayoralty of Dr. Kane; and there being no appearance of the national monument in Dublin, the propriety of renewed local exertion was mooted to commemorate the fame of the illustrious chieftain in "the city of the violated treaty". Through the exertions of the Mayor and the Rev. R. J. O'Higgin, O.S.F., a meeting was convened on Wednesday the 2nd of November, when the chair was taken by the Mayor; the Town Clerk, Joseph Murphy, Esq., was requested to act as Secretary. It was proposed by Maurice Lenihan, Esq., seconded by Rev. J. O'Higgin, O.S.F., and unanimously resolved—

"That we hereby agree to retain the O'Connell Fund at present in the Provincial Bank of Ireland for the purpose of erecting a local monument to the memory of the illustrious Liberator".

It was further resolved, on the motion of Eugene O'Callaghan, Esq., seconded by Joseph Murphy, Esq.—

"That this committee devise the most appropriate mode of applying the fund in bank, and any additional sums that may be subscribed, in commemoration of the memory and fame of O'Connell, having regard to the original object for which the fund was subscribed, and that this committee report accordingly the result to a future meeting".

A subscription list was opened among those present, and a sum of £30 was laid down. It was further resolved that the Mayor should communicate with John Hogan, the eminent Irish sculptor, on the subject; and a stirring article in the "Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator" gave further impetus to a movement, which, in the estimation of the public at large, had already made great progress, but which required a few years more to develop into the fullest and most perfect proportions.

1840, to command the British. Conquests in remote parts of the Empire having proved quite useless, General Gough determined to strike some blow which would really be felt at the seat of empire, and a peace for which the emperor paid twenty-one millions of dollars was the immediate result.

In 1842 General Gough was created a baronet, as a reward for his conduct in China, and in August, 1843, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief in India—shortly after which, the victories of Maharaghpoor and Juniar showed that the position he filled was not an honorary one. The first campaign against the Seiks terminated after the battles of Moodkee and Ferozeshah, in the decisive victory of Sabraon; and Gough was rewarded by being elevated to the peerage. In 1849 he was further elevated to a Viscounty.

But the Seiks were not yet subjugated. Lord Gough was recalled, and Sir Charles Napier was appointed to succeed him. But before his successor arrived, the veteran had met the enemy enormously reinforced, at Googerat. The British arms triumphed, and Gough terminated his career in India only with the complete termination of the war.

Lord Gough shortly afterwards returned to Ireland covered with glory, having been successively created a Baronet, Baron, and Viscount, a Field Marshal, and having thrice received the thanks of Parliament for his gallant achievements.

In the land of his birth, surrounded by retainers who love him, this venerable warrior devotes the evening of his days to the social improvement of his fellow countrymen.

1853, January 1st, **William Henry Hall, Esq.**, Mayor.

Limerick exhibited in this year some cheering signs of remunerative employment and commercial advancement. At the lace factory in Upper Glentworth Street, 740 hands were employed, and in Messrs. **Forrest's** in Abbey Court, 420, besides establishments in Clare Street, **Patrick Street**, and from 200 to 300 small job houses throughout the city, altogether employing some 8,500 females. The Messrs. **Russell's** spinning mill on the North Strand was also rapidly being prepared. The **Poynes Railway** was projected; and the Sisterhood of the **Good Shepherd** instructed a number of young women at their convent in making Valenciennes lace. **Ornamental art** also received a great impetus in the government school of design.

January 1st, 1854, **Henry Watson, Esq.**, who had been Mayor under the old corporate regime in 1823-'24-'65, was elected Mayor, under the provisions of the Limerick Corporate Reform Act, which, while it abolished the Commissioners of **St. Michael's Parish**, gave the Corporation increased powers of taxation, etc., changed the boundaries of the wards, limited the number of Aldermen to eight, and gave four Councillors to each of the eight wards. It was a strange sight to witness the exploded system of corporate misdeeds chosen as the first Mayor of what may be termed the second reformed Corporation; but the liberals of that body not being able to agree among themselves on a candidate of their own party, they chose **Alderman Watson**, who fell into their ranks and acted with that section of the council. During his mayoralty, **Alderman Watson** traversed, according to ancient usage, the land and water boundaries of the municipality. In **July**, accompanied by the Corporation, he

1853.—Sept. 2.—The Commissioners reported in favour of the **Shannon** as compared with Galway, as a transatlantic packet station.

September 28th.—The Lord Lieutenant and the Countess of **St. Germans** visited **Messrs. Russell's** factory on the North Strand. The great Munsterfair was established, to which an extra fair was added in 1865. The Floating Docks, the finest work of the kind in Ireland, were opened by the Earl of **St. Germans**, who was entertained on this occasion at a great banquet in the theatre. On the previous day his Excellency turned the first sod of the **Foynes Railway**, on the estate of **Lord Montague**, at **Foynes**.

War proclaimed against **Russia**. The Irish Militia embodied.

Terms agreed to for telegraphic communication between Limerick and London.

Wm. Smith O'Brien released by the "spontaneous act of Government". The spontaneity is believed to have received considerable stimulus from the real of his former parliamentary colleague, **Mr. Monsell**.

April 17th.—A great meeting was held in **St. Michael's Church**, Limerick, to adopt a petition against the new measures for the invasion of nunneries. The Mayor presided. The **Right Rev. Dr. Ryan** made a powerful speech on the occasion. The petition was signed by upwards of 10,000 persons. **Mr. Whiteside's** hill was shelved by a count out.

Young Men's Societies established by the **Rev. R. B. O'Brien, C.C.**, of **St. Mary's**. The **Very Rev. Dr. Cahill** delivered the third of his course of scientific lectures to this Society, in the July of this year, at the **Theatre Royal**, Limerick.

1884.—August 6th.—**Dr. Geary** reported that a great number of cases of cholera had appeared of late in the city.

September 28th.—Death of one of the city representatives, **Xobert Potter, Esq.** The funeral procession to **Mount St. Laurence Cemetery** was attended by the Corporation and other public bodies.

October 26th.—A meeting was held at the **Town Hall**, the Mayor presiding, for the purpose of opening a subscription for the widows and orphans of soldiers, lately fallen in action in the Crimea. The Earl of **Clare** and the **Right Rev. Dr. Ryan**, the Catholic Bishop, attended.

October 28th.—**Sergeant O'Brien** was returned without opposition **M.P.** for the city.

November.—**Scattery Island** was annexed, by order of Privy Council, to the barony of **Moyarta**, in the county **Clare**.

December.—**S. E. de Vere, Esq.**, canvassed the county of Limerick successfully; **Mr. Barrington**, less so; **Colonel Dickson**, a candidate, withdrew from the field.

exercised the rights of **Admiralty** on the **Shannon**; he entertained the members of the Corporation sumptuously on board the river steamer, which, when off **Scattery Island**, grounded for a short time, to the alarm of all on board. **Alderman Watson** was an active chief magistrate, and went loyally with the party to which he had newly allied himself.

January 1st, 1855, **Henry O'Shea, Esq.**, Mayor.

It was in this year that, at a meeting of the Corporation, on the **17th of May**, the Mayor (**Henry O'Shea, Esq.**) in the chair, an announcement was made by him which took the citizens by surprise, viz., that a sum of **£1,040** had been subscribed for the erection of a statue in Limerick to the memory of **Lord Viscount Fitzgibbon**, who fell at the battle of **Balaklava**; and **Mr. O'Shea** proposed that the centre of the **Crescent** should be allocated by the Corporation as a site for the intended monument. Five members of the Council who had taken an active and earnest interest in the **O'Connell** monument movement, did not permit this intimation to pass without an expression on their part of strong disapproval that any site for the **Fitzgibbon** monument should be set apart without first consulting the Council. Among the citizens generally there was marked disapprobation. The subject was taken up with warmth and energy by them, and by the **Reporter and Vindicator** newspaper; meetings were held; and at a subsequent meeting of the Council, a resolution was adopted refusing the site at the **Crescent** for the **Fitzgibbon** monument, and affirming a proposition that it should be given to the projected one to the **Liberator**. A committee was appointed to collect additional subscriptions. **Thomas Roche, Esq.**, **Thomas Kane, Esq., M.D., J.P.**, and **Michael Quin, Esq.**, were named as treasurers; and the **Rev. R. J. O'Higgin, O.S.F.**, and **Maurice Lenihan, Esq.**, secretaries. An impassioned appeal was printed and circulated, which called upon the people generally to vindicate the memory of **O'Connell** by largely contributing to a monument destined to perpetuate his memory in **Limerick**. Contributions poured in from every quarter. The committee advertised for sculptors to send in estimates for a bronze statue and pedestal, which resulted in an agreement with **Hogan** for the work, which was carried through with complete success, as we shall see as we proceed. The **Fitzgibbon** monument, which we have already described, was completed within a short time; and the **Wellesley Bridge**, as we have seen, was chosen by its projectors, where it was duly inaugurated.

An important inquiry was held this year by the **Queen's Commissioners** who were appointed to inquire into the endowments, funds, and actual condition of the schools endowed for the purposes of education in Ireland. The Commissioners opened the proceedings on the 1st of September in the grand jury room of the County of Limerick Courthouse. A large amount of evidence was given, in relation particularly to the Protestant Endowed Schools, on which, in general, they reported unfavourably; indeed well nigh with unreserved hostility, showing that a great change should be made in their constitution and management? The Commissioners bestowed

1855. Fountains were in this year erected for the use of the poorer classes of the city.

¹ **Mr. Roche**, owing to advanced age; did not act, upon which **Eugene O'Callaghan, Esq.**, was substituted.

² The schools inquired into on this occasion by the Commissioners, viz. the **Marquis of Kildare**, **Rev. Dr. Charles Graves**, **Robert Andrews, LL.D.**, **George Henry Hughes, Esq., Q.C.**, now one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, and **Archibald John Stephens, Esq.**, were:—

1. The Diocesan Free School for the Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora. It

the highest possible praise on the Catholic schools, and particularly on the schools of the Christian Brothers.

The year 1856 was destined to witness other remarkable movements on the part of the citizens of Limerick. James Spaight, Esq., was elected to the mayoralty on the 1st of January. On the 27th of the same month an influential meeting of the parishioners of St. John's was held in the old chapel of that parish, the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan in the chair. The meeting was called for the purpose of devising means of raising subscriptions towards the erection of a new church or cathedral in that historic parish. The attendance of clergy and laity proved the interest which was taken in the movement. The venerable bishop spoke in liberal terms, expressing himself certain that the good work would be aided and encouraged not only by the Catholics of the diocese, but by those Protestant friends who had given the benefit of a generous cooperation on other occasions to Catholic projects. A subscription was then and there opened for the parish itself, which realized a sum of £615 7s. The Rev. William Bourke stated that the idea of holding the meeting that day had been suggested by Mr. Richard Raleigh, one of their energetic and intelligent parishioners. The enthusiasm spread. Money poured in. The site chosen for the new church was within a few yards of the famous gate of St. John's, where so many patriots had suffered death at the hands of Ircton, and in immediate proximity to the spot from which the legions of William had been hurled with defeat and disaster in 1690. The Bishop then proceeded to the parishes adjoining the city, where he was received with equal warmth and generosity; and after some time he went through the several parishes of the diocese, where he was heartily welcomed, and where large sums were contributed by clergy and people.

appears from the report* that there had been a school in Limerick in 1788, with a house in bad condition; there were twenty-six boys, but none free. There was at the same time a school in Killaloe, with nineteen boys, of whom two were free, but no schoolhouse. In 1809 there was no available schoolhouse in Limerick, the old one being in ruins; but there was a schoolhouse with a garden at Killaloe, and twenty-eight boys, but no free scholars. The Grand Juries of the county and city of Limerick were the first to exercise the enlarged powers conferred on them in 1813 to present for schoolhouses, and they began to create a fund for the purpose in 1816. In 1823 the fund amounted to £1640; but it was not until 1837 that they were able to realize it, owing to the fact that it remained in the hands of the county treasurer, when at length it was handed over to a committee of management for the building of a schoolhouse. A memorial from the bishop and clergy of the dioceses of Killaloe and Kilfenora was presented to the commissioners, in which they complained that since the annexation of their school to Limerick, they paid a yearly sum of £75, from which they received no benefit, and they prayed that the money should be given for the establishment of Exhibitions in Trinity College, or in any other way that might be approved of. The commissioners disapproved of the way in which the school was conducted, there being but five scholars there on their visit, whereas there had been seventy-four in 1838. The school in this year (1865) is under the management of the Rev. Dr. Hall, and contains eleven pupils, of whom four are free.

2. Pallasgrene (Erasmus Smith's) School, which has been connected with the Church Education Society, and which the Commissioners pronounced defective in the extreme, though enjoying large endowment. Erasmus Smith's estates in the county Limerick are worth £3,000 a year.

3. Christian Brothers' Schools, of which we have spoken in reference to the favourable report in a previous chapter, and which have added wonderfully to the moral and intellectual advancement of the children of the Catholic artizans, etc., in Limerick.

4. Limerick Bow Lane Charity Blue School, founded on Mrs. Alice Craven's charity, on which the Commissioners reported unfavourably. The annual revenue of the charity amounted to a sum of £59 10s. 4d. of which £27 is the rent of the property or part of the property granted by Mrs. Craven; £11 1s 6d. the interest off 200 lent by the Trustees to the dean and chapter; and £21 8s. 10d., the dividend on a sum which had been recovered by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, after having been lent on private security by the Trustees.

* Report of the Queen's Commissioners, et al. A.D. 1868.

The first of May was chosen for the laying of the foundation stone of the new cathedral. The congregated trades took part in a ceremony which had not been exemplified for ages in Limerick. The Temperance Societies, the Young Men's Societies, the Christian Brothers and their numerous pupils, the Religious Confraternities, with banners and emblems entwined with laurels, the Committee of the Cathedral, with wands and rosettes, mustered in considerable numbers. The secular and regular clergy of the city assembled, and many from the country, as did the mayor and several members of the Corporation.

The Town Clerk, the Treasurer and the City Surveyor, were present; the mayor and members of the Corporation robed in their scarlet mantles in the Town Hall, from which they issued to join the procession. The following was the order of the procession:—

Cathedral Committee, with white roses.

Banners of the Church.
Boys of the Christian Brothers' Schools.
Christian Brothers.
Young Men's Society.

Temperance Societies—St. Michael's, St. Mary's,
St. Munchin's, St. John's.

Congregated Trades.

Each Trade with its banner.

Citizens.

Clergymen.

The Bishop's Carriage containing
The Bishop,
The Mayor,
and
Sir Vere de Vere, Bart.

Trades with banners.

Cathedral Committee, with white roses.

February (1866)—Death of John O'Brien, Esq., late M.P. for many years for the city of which he was a native, and which he represented with honour to himself and credit to the city.

Electric Telegraph Company completed their arrangements for communication with Limerick.

The bakers of Limerick commence an agitation for the abolition of night work, which in the following year was done away with by some of the proprietors for a short time only.

September 8th.—Thomond Estates advertised for sale.

October 23.—A deputation from all the conferences of St. Vincent de Paul waited upon the Right Worshipful Robert Tighe, Esq., chairman of the county and city, to secure his assistance in checking the multiplication of public houses throughout the city.

October 31st.—Smith O'Brien addressed a letter to the Rev. Dr. O'Connor on the grievances of the Limerick fishermen.

November.—County Limerick magistrates met to distribute the police force. Death of Augustus Stafford, Esq., M.P.

The school was confined for a long time to the education of the choir boys of St. Mary's Cathedral, many of whom were natives of England. It is now (1865) merely a sinecure of the master's.

6. Villiers's endowments:—The schools in Nicholas Street under these endowments are placed in connection with the National Board of Education. Those in Henry Street remain on their original footing. The Charity Estate applicable for these purposes consists of f47 19s. 1d. a year, derived from a rent-charge, and £666 4s. from personal estate in the funds, amounting

The streets and windows were densely lined throughout with admiring groups, as the well arranged procession moved to the Crescent, where it passed around the site of the intended monument to O'Connell; it then went on the Military Road, and through the streets in that part of the city, to St. John's Square, where some thousands of spectators awaited its appearance, and where the Bishop proceeded with the ceremony accompanied and surrounded by the clergy, the Mayor and members of the Corporation, the public bodies, the trades, etc. In a cavity in the stone, coins and records were placed, with an inscription in Irish, Greek, Latin, Italian, French, German, Flemish, and English, written on vellum and enclosed in a phial. The following is the inscription in Latin:—

AMDG. S.I.B
AD FUTURAM REI MEMORIAM.
Anno Sal. Mun. MDCCCLVI.
Pio IX. Sum Pont.
Dom. Jacobo Spaight Urb. Praef.
Rev. Gulielmo Bourke Par.
Per. Ascen. D.N.I.C.
Kal. Maii.
Reverendissimus Joannes Ryan Ep. Lim.
Anno 9ui Ep. XXXI.
Huj. Eccla. Cath.
D. O. M.
Sub. Invoc. S. Joan. Rap. : Et Patro.
B. ac Immac. Mariæ Semp. Virg. Sumpt.
fid. Ædific. lap. primar. adstant. et
favent. Urb. Præf. Magistrat. cor. mun.
Ord. cler. tum reg. tum sec. ingentique.
Om. gen. civ. mult. rite ac solen. collocavit.
P. C. HARDWICK, Arch.
GULIELMO WALLACE, Edif.
Fundamenta ejus in montibus sanctis: Diligit
Dominus Portas Sion super omnia tabernacula
Jacob.—*Psalm* lxxxvi.

to £21,837 2s. 3d. There has been now over a sum of £7,507 18s. 1d. expended by the trustees on the purchase of a site, and on building the Schoolhouses in Henry Street and Nicholas Street, and the Villiers Alms House. The Commissioners report rather well of the Henry Street school, in which the average attendance is 50 boys and 44 girls. In Nicholas Street the numbers are less.

6. Dr. Jeremiah Hall's Schools (St. Mary's), to which we have referred at length, page 272. The Commissioners report favourably of the boys' school. The property is worth £200 a year. A sum of £379 in 3 per cent. stock, belongs to the institution independently of the property.

7. Harstonge Street Leamy Free Schools:—William Leamy, Esq., in 1814, left 613,300 for the education of the children of the poor in Ireland, especially those in the neighbourhood of the city of Limerick. A decree of the Court of Chancery in England enabled the Commissioners of Charitable Bequests to recover the endowment. In 1841, the Court of Chancery in Ireland settled the way in which the endowment should be made. The pupils were to be taught gratuitously, and to receive a good English education; members of the Church of England to be instructed in the Scriptures, and Roman Catholics in the Scripture lessons in the National School books. A sum of £3,040 was expended on the schools and site in Harstonge Street, a brick building in the Elizabethan style. In latter years no Roman Catholics whatever attend this school which is supported by the interest of the balance of £10,000, which was transferred to this country after the obtaining of the decree from the English Court of Chancery. The Catholic bishop was one of the governors of this institution after its establishment, but we do not believe he ever acted, and the school now (1865) is exclusively Protestant.

The day was brought to a close by an entertainment which was given by the Rev. William Bourke to the Bishop, Mayor, Corporation, etc. The collection for this church began in 1840, when Mr. S. Hastings was secretary.

The Mayor, in July, laid the foundation stone of a building intended for a Sailor's Home, in Frederick Street, but never used for that purpose; and presided at a grand banquet which was given to the Viceroy, the Earl of Carlisle, in the theatre, on the same night.

For the year after (1857) Dr. Thomas Kane was elected, a second time, to the Mayoralty; and on this occasion a proceeding was taken by the Corporation, which deserves notice, from the fact that it was found inoperative almost immediately after its adoption. To insure the return of Dr. Kane, a majority of the Corporation, consisting of twenty-seven members, carried a resolution by which what is termed "the rotatory system" was adopted. By this resolution it was decided that a Catholic and Protestant should fill the office of Mayor each alternate year; a stretch of liberality on the part of the Catholic majority of the Council which has been rarely paralleled in other places, and of which there is no record, or anything approaching to it, where the Protestant party are numerically the stronger. But though the resolution was rescinded the following year, on the ground that it produced anything but harmony in the council, it was not until the year 1864 that it was practically abolished.

The project of the O'Connell monument was brought to a successful termination during Dr. Kane's mayoralty; and the 15th of August—Lady Day—witnessed one of the most gorgeous and solemn demonstrations of which Limerick has been the scene; Hogan's bronze statue of the Liberator being then inaugurated with all the pomp and civic ceremonial befitting the great event, and in the presence of several thousands of the citizens, as well as of the people of the neighbouring counties. There was a procession, in which the clergy were fully represented; the Mayor and Corporation appeared dressed in civic costume; the trades were active and energetic in doing honour to the occasion; the public bodies of the city were all present. At the monument a platform was raised, and was occupied by the leading Catholics of city and county, including the Earl of Dunraven, the city member, Sergeant O'Brien, etc. The Mayor presided; and the secretaries, viz., the Rev. R. J. O'Higgin, O.S.F., and Maurice Lenihan, Esq., occupied their places near him. Flags and streamers were thrown across the streets; trees were transplanted to positions near the carriage way, and triumphal arches were formed, on which patriotic devices were exhibited; the people never appeared more enthusiastic. The Earl of Dunraven, who took part in the procession and the proceedings, made a remarkable speech, in which he bestowed a deserved amount of praise on the memory of the illustrious Irishman in whose honour they had assembled to unveil his statue. In referring to the mighty changes wrought by O'Connell, the noble earl spoke of the fact that an ancestor of his (the Earl of Dunraven's) had changed from the Catholic to the Protestant creed, a century before, in order to retain his property—an act which he said deserved his strongest reprobation. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Sergeant O'Brien, M.P. and other gentlemen. The statue is eight feet high, and forms a conspicuous object in the middle of the Crescent—a noble likeness of the immortal O'Connell. It is raised on a granite pedestal, thirteen feet high; in front of which is cut, in gilt letters:—

O'CONNELL.

THOMAS KANE,
MAYOR.

On the western side is the date of its erection—

MDCCLVII.

Thus Limerick may boast that it was the **first** city in Ireland **practically** to recognize the claims and support the memory of Daniel O'Connell. The monument cost £1000; and the gifted sculptor admitted that he had never before been so generously treated. The entire expense amounted to £1,300, which was promptly paid.

In November this year **disputes** arose in the Corporation respecting the **compromise** just referred to. The Protestant party, moreover, did not agree among themselves as to the choice of a mayor. Mr. Edmund Gabbett, a Protestant, was put in nomination for the coming year—Mr. W. L. Joynt, a Protestant also, had been already in the field with every prospect of success. The members of the Council who did not sign the "rotatory" resolution of the 1st of December, 1856, and some of those who did sign it, deemed themselves, under the circumstances, free to vote for either **candidate**. At a meeting of the Council on the 10th of December, the compromising document was ordered to be erased from the records of the **Council**.¹

¹ MONDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 1856.

A document signed by twenty-seven members of the Council, to secure a Rotatory Election of Mayor for the future, was handed to the Mayor. And on motion of Alderman Fitzgerald, It was ordered,

That the annexed Document be inserted on the minutes

We the undersigned members of the Corporation, anxious to promote good feeling and harmony in that body (in the event of Dr. Kane being this day elected), do adopt the Rotatory System in the annual election for the Mayoralty, as practised with so much satisfaction in the city of Dublin.

Dated this 1st day of December, 1866.

It is understood by the above that the party now opposed to Dr. Kane shall have the selection for the year 1868.

Thomas Kane,
William Sheehy,
Michael Dawson,
Henry Watson,
Robert MacMahon,
John Thomas Devitt,
Eugene O'Callaghan,
David Garvey,
Stephen Hastings,

John Barry,
Patrick Mulcahy,
John McDonnell,
John Fitzgerald,
Francis Ward,
Robert Keyes,
James Spaight, Mayor
William O'Hara,
Robert Rodger,

W. L. Joynt,
Edmond Gabbett,
S. Bonrcher,
Arthur Russell,
William Fitzgerald,
Henry O'Shea,
William Spaight,
William Phayer,
Francis Spaight.

A meeting was held on the 10th December, 1857. The following were present:—
Thomas Kane, Mayor, in the Chair.

Ald. Watson,
Ald. Tinsley,
Ald. Fitzgerald,
Ald. Mulcahy,
T. C. Sheehy,
" M. Kelly,
" Detitt,
" Ellard,
" Boyse,

T. C. Barrington,
" J. Spaight,
" Purcell,
" M'Mahon,
" Lenihan,
" Barry,
" Keyes,
" Ward,
" M'Sheehy,

T. C. Fitzgerald,
" O'Callaghan,
" Garvey,
" Cullen,
" Ryan,
" Hastings,
" Russell,
" Phayer.

The resolution and document of the 1st December, 1858, "which has been found to produce anything but harmony in the council", were unanimously rescinded and cancelled.

The election having gone in favour of Mr. Gabbett, he was sworn into the mayoralty on the 1st of January, 1858.

Mr. Sergeant O'Brien, M.P. for the city, being this year appointed one of the Judges of the Queen's Bench, his seat was vacated; and an active canvass was instituted by Major George Gavin, of Kilpeacon, and John Ball, Esq., son of the late Right Hon. Nicholas Ball, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, for the vacancy; both gentlemen being liberals, and of the same religious persuasion, Catholics. Strong feelings were aroused, and influential sections of the liberal party became divided into adverse camps. The result of the election, which ended on the 7th of February, favoured Major Gavin, who had a majority of 49 votes. On a petition instituted by Mr. Ball, however, a new election was ordered by the House of Commons. Major Gavin having been disqualified on this occasion on a charge of bribery, for which it was admitted he was morally, though not legally, irresponsible, Mr. James Spaight was taken up by Major Gavin's supporters to oppose Mr. Ball, who again entered the arena. At this election Mr. Spaight was returned, Mr. Ball, on the 3rd of May, having withdrawn without going to the poll. Several election rioters were incarcerated, but were liberated by the Lord Lieutenant on the 27th of May.

On the 24th of May, John O'Connell, Esq., "the beloved son" of the Liberator, died at Kingstown. He had been some few years before member for Limerick. He was a man of distinguished abilities, an able writer and debater, and of the highest character in public and private life.

Meantime the progress of Catholic institutions, schools, and churches in Limerick, had become one of the most remarkable phases of the year at which we have arrived. An event of great interest, and one that attracted an immense concourse, was the laying of the foundation stone, on the 30th of May, of the new and beautiful church of St. Alphonsus by the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, who was surrounded by the clergy of the city, secular and regular. The Redemptorist Fathers, who follow the rule of their founder, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, had their first residence in Limerick at Bank Place, where they opened a small oratory on the Feast of Saint Andrew (November 28), 1853. In the May following they had built on the South Circular Road a comparatively small church, which adjoined the site of the present one; and during the years 1856 and 1857, at a cost of £6,000, a conventual establishment, which is one of the architectural ornaments of the city. The walls of the church had been already raised some feet above the surface, and these having been flagged, boarded over, and carpeted, formed a suitable course for this grand religious procession. The transept of the church is 73 feet—the nave and side aisles 70 feet wide—the length 176 feet—the height 76 feet from the nave floor to the apex of the ceiling. All the religious orders of the city, and the representatives of every public body, were present. The arrangements were admirable, and the day was brilliant. Two episcopal thrones were placed in suitable positions, one for the bishop of Limerick and the other for the Bishop of Kerry, who, however, was unavoidably absent; these thrones were canopied over with crimson velvet, and were gilded and festooned. The procession left the sanctuary of the small temporary church of the fathers at half-past two o'clock, preceded by cross-bearer, acolytes, standard-bearers, boys in surplices and soutanes, boys bearing the rule and square, the trowel and hod; lay brothers bearing the banner of

St. Alphonsus; bands of music; Christian Brothers, two and two; boys in the picturesque habits of the Dominican order; the Dominican Fathers in their white habits; the Redemptorist Fathers; the Franciscan and Augustinian Fathers; the secular clergy. The venerable Bishop followed in magnificent cloth-of-gold pontifical robes, with mitre and crozier, accompanied by the Very Rev. Dean Butler and the General of the Redemptorist Order for the provinces of Holland and England. The Earl and Countess of Fingall, father and mother of the Hon. and Rev. William Matthew Plunkett, one of the Redemptorist Fathers of Mount St. Alphonsus; Lord Killeen, Lady Killeen, Hon. Lady H. Ridell, Mr. Ridell, the Ladies Plunkett, Mr. Corbally, M.P., Major Cruise, etc., were among the distinguished laity present. The ceremonial having been gone through, the Earl of Fingall placed a phial in the stone, containing a medal commemorative of the National Synod of Thurles, and pieces of the current English, French, and Roman coins. The phial was sealed with the episcopal seal of Limerick, and the following inscription on vellum was placed in it also:—

Pio IX. Pontifice Maximo
 feliciter regnante,
 Victoria Britanniarum Regina,
 Nostræ Congregationis anno CXVII.,
 Nicolò Mauron, rectore majore,
 Joanne Bapt. Swinkels, Provinciæ Hollandiæ et Angliæ
 Præsule,
 Joanne Bapt. Roes, Hujus Domus Limericensis Rectore,
 Hunc Lapidem angularem
 Ecclesiæ Scti. Alphonsi,
 Posuit
 Joannes Ryan, Episcopus Limericensis :
 Die XXX Maii, Anno Domini
 MDCCCLVIII.

William E. Corbett, Contractor. P. C. Hardwick, Architectus.

The ceremony was in every respect creditable to all who took part in it. Mr. Hardwick was architect to the convent and church: the convent and foundations of the church were built by Mr. W. E. Corbett, C.E., and the superstructure of the church by Messrs. Wallace and Sons. Convent and church cost about £20,000.

Thus religion was gaining new conquests by the erection of a church which is justly regarded as a model of architectural skill and good taste; and the spirit for which Limerick was famous in other days was developing itself irresistibly.

An energetic movement was made this year in favour of obtaining a Packet Station on the River Shannon: a large and influential meeting was

Dec. 15.—Inaugural Address delivered at the Mechanics' Institute by W. S. O'Brien, Esq.
 The Anniversary of New Year's Day was celebrated in Ballinacorney by a ball given in the fine old ruin of Delacy's Castle.

held in the Town Hall, on the 7th of October, at which resolutions in favour of the project were adopted by acclamation, and a memorial to the Treasury agreed on.

Michael Robert Ryan, Esq., J.P., was elected Mayor for 1859. A general election took place in the month of May. F. W. Russell, Esq., was elected M.P. for the third time, and Major Gavin was elected N.P. the second time for the city. Mr. James Spaight was the unsuccessful candidate. In the county of Limerick the Right Hon. William Monsell headed the poll by an overwhelming majority. Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson and E. J. Synan, Esq., J.P., were the other candidates. Mr. Synan lost his election by a trifling majority in favour of Colonel Dickson. At the city election a most disastrous occurrence took place. In the evening of the 4th of May, after the close of the proceedings, in consequence of some stones having been thrown at the windows of a shopkeeper in Broad Street, the police fired on the people, when Wm. Clohessy, J. Phelan, J. McNamara, John O'Brien, and another lad, named Meskill, were shot, and the three former died of their wounds. The police, who were commanded by Sub-Inspector Milling and Edward Gonne Bell, Esq., R.M., were acquitted after a lengthened investigation, though a verdict of manslaughter had been returned at the coroner's inquest against the stipendiary magistrate and 26 policemen. k

William Fitzgerald, Esq., was sworn into the Mayoralty on the 1st of January, 1860. Energetic and of much promise and ability, he exerted himself perseveringly for the benefit of the city. He died during his Mayoralty, on the 26th of October, aged 34 years, and was buried in St. Munchin's churchyard; his remains were accompanied to the grave by the Corporation and a large concourse of citizens. In compliment to his memory, the Corporation had his portrait painted by Mr. Catterson Smith, and placed in the Council Chamber.

At a meeting of the Corporation, on the 23rd of March, Mr. R. Russell made a statement in reference to the financial position of the Harbour and Bridge Commissioners, and proposed a plan for liquidating the liabilities of the Harbour Commissioners. It was epitomised in the following motion of Mr. Barrington, Town Councillor :¹

“To appoint a Committee for the purpose of inquiring into the propriety of promoting a Bill for transferring of the Harbour Commission to the Corpora-

Movement in favour of a monument to Sarsfield.

April 26.—Mr. Monsell's motion in favour of competitive examinations for the Artillery, carried against the Government.

June 18.—Meeting in the Council Chamber to sustain the collection of the O'Connell fund.

June 26.—Visit of Prince Alfred.

July.—The Harbour Board resolves on the removal of ruins of Carragower Mill, North Strand, which had been built by William Joynt, Burgess, A.D. 1672.

Nov. 23.—Funeral of Lady Barrington, who was buried in the family vault at St. Mary's Cathedral.

1859.—Silver cradle presented at Temple Mungret to Mrs. Ryan, wife of the Mayor, by the Council and Corporate Officers, in accordance with ancient custom of the City, to commemorate the birth of a son and heir, on the 30th of January, in the year of his mayoralty.

January 9, 1860.—Great fire at Mr. William Delany's pawn-office, in Broad Street.

Lord Derby withdraws and declines acting on his notice to quit, served on his Doon tenants on account of the murder of Mr. Crowe.

Jan. 28.—The body of Mr. Hugh Massy O'Grady, of Castlegarde, found floating in the Dead River, County Limerick, near the Railway. Verdict—accidental death.

¹ This question has been taken up, in 1865, with renewed energy, by Mr. Russell and the Harbour Commissioners.

tion, on the understanding that the Government accept in full for the debt and interest due to the Treasury by the Harbour Commissioners, the sum of £4,000 a-year for fifty years, and this Couccil guaranteeing this sum out of the rates of the Borough or tolls of the Harbour".

This motion was rejected after a long debate.

A movement of surpassing interest and importance went on during the greater portion of this year, which marked the deep sympathy of the Catholic hierarchy, clergy, and people, with Pope Pius IX., who had been suffering at the hands of the King of Italy and the Emperor of the French. Meetings were held throughout Ireland to sustain the Pope; but no where was there more enthusiasm in the cause than in Limerick, where not only large sums were contributed to the Papal exchequer, but where many brave young fellows volunteered for enlistment in the Irish Papal Brigade, which was formed in Rome, and which distinguished itself in many hard-fought fields in Italy, viz.: Perugia, Spoleto, Castel Fidardo, and Ancona. The Government sought to prevent this enlistment, but young men enrolled themselves rapidly notwithstanding; and as detachments of the recruits left the Limerick station by train, en route to their destination, they were loudly applauded for their chivalrous resolution. The Right Rev. Dr. Ryan presided, on the 5th of June, at a meeting in St. John's old chapel, at which resolutions expressive of active and warm sympathy with the Pope were adopted, and a subscription list to aid his Holiness was opened. The city of Limerick contributed more largely than any other in Ireland in men and money, towards the cause. On the 17th of October, a solemn requiem High Mass was celebrated in St. Michael's church for the repose of the souls of the soldiers of the Irish Brigade who were slain in Italy, and their companions-in-arms; and on the return home of the surviving Brigaders, on the conclusion of the Italian war, an ovation awaited them in Limerick, whilst on the 3rd of December a grand banquet was given to them at the Theatre. Limerick diocese contributed a sum of £6,000 towards the Papal exchequer this year.

The Mayoralty for the year 1861 was well and ably filled by John

March 10.—Death of Alderman Henry Watson, caused by the excision of a fish bone, which he had swallowed in Dublin.

March 29.—Major Excommunication pronounced at Rome against the Invaders' usurpation of the Romagna, etc., etc.

Mr. Hyde, master of the diocesan school, publishes letters against the managers of that establishment.

May.—Terrible fire at Messrs. Boyd's, Seed Merchants, William Street.

Movement in favour of the night-working bakers.

May 5.—Telegraphic communication with Ennis.

October 22.—Alderman Sheehy found burned to death in his country house in Clare, but whether accidentally or otherwise has not yet been clearly proved, though public opinion appears to incline to the latter view.

December 17.—A Government investigation wnducted in the Limerick Asylum into certain charges brought forward by one of the governors, David John Wilson, Esq., respecting the alleged tampering with a number of entries relating to the meat wnttracts of the institution. The decision was that the charges were not made out by evidence, yet that Mr. Wilson was justified in what he did.

The Sisters of Mercy were admitted, after a smart contest, as hospital nurses to the Limerick Workhouse.

1861.—Civil war broke out this year in the hitherto United States of America.

Prince Consort died 14th December in this year.

Important meeting at the Town Hall to secure the advantages of the port and harbour, which are rendered unavailing by their being mortgaged to the Board of Works for upwards of £200,000.

Thomas M'Sheehy, Esq., J.P., of Shannon Lawn, who was sworn into office on the 1st of January, and who, by his vigilant discharge of duty, and the earnestness with which he interested himself on behalf of the unemployed labourers and artizans, merited well of the citizens. Mr. M'Sheehy was presented with a valuable silver testimonial on his leaving office. The exertions he made for the embankment of Corkanree, as a promenade and park for the citizens, were of the most energetic character. A sum of £1100 was collected during his year of officeto provide fuel for the poor.

On the 25th of July this year the consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Butler, as coadjutor Bishop of Limerick, took place in the new Cathedral of St. John's, which was opened for the first time. It was an event worthy of remembrance. The cathedral was crowded with the hierarchy of Munster, headed by his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Cashel, the clergy of the diocese of Limerick, and a vast congregation of the laity. The grandeur and solemnity of the sacred occasion impressed every beholder. The Bishop of Kerry preached the consecration sermon.

Alderman William Lane Joynt was sworn into the office of Mayor on the 1st of January, 1862.

The important local movements of this year were connected with the earnest support which the Catholics of Limerick gave to the Catholic University of Ireland: in this movement the Corporation took a creditable lead. The question of a charter to the Catholic University was introduced into the Corporation by Mr. Maurice Lenihan, who proposed the adoption of a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant in its favour, which passed unanimously, every Protestant in the Council supporting it by his vote. A deputation from the Corporation proceeded to Dublin on the 24th of March, where they were entertained at a banquet by Monsignore Woodlock, Rector of the Catholic University, the Catholic Lord Archbishop of Dublin being

January 24.—Meeting at Newcastle West of the Earl of Devon's tenantry, praying him to lower their rents.

The Limerick National Petition Committee obtains numerous signatures.

February 12.—The Mayor and law agent proceed to Dublin to sea the Lord Lieutenant about the Corkanree embankment, and employment for the poor.

Meeting of the Shannon Conservators to consider the new fishery bill, and to support the decision of the Commissioners relative to the removal of the Queen's Gap in the Lax Weir.

Feb. 18.—Meeting for the relief of the poor of the city.

March 25.—A branch of the Provincial Bank was opened at Newcastle. Same day, the distressed labourers of Bruff assembled in a threatening manner.

April 1.—Death in Dublin of Sir Matthew Barrington, Crown Solicitor of Munster, one of the most active and energetic professional men of his time, and one of the most useful and remarkable of the citizens of Limerick.

Market Trustees decide there shall be no local inspection in the Butter Market this year.

April 2.—The Mayor of Limerick went to Dublin to attend the Cattle Show and banquet.

May 17.—The Mayor places the royal arms sculptured in stone, which had been placed over the old Exchange in Mary Street, over the Town Hall, after being repainted and regilt.

May 27.—Great meeting at the Town Hall in favour of a transatlantic packet station for Ireland.

May 31.—The Harbour Board convened to petition in favour of the Galway subsidy.

June 7th.—The Secretary of the Trades receives a letter from the Bishop of Orleans (France) in reply to one thanking him for his advocacy of the poor of Partry.

June 13.—Souper riots at Pallaskenry.

July 4.—Council meet to address the Prince of Wales on his visit to Ireland.

1862.—January 14.—Mr. W. S. O'Brien publishes a letter respecting the affairs of his property.

January 20.—Mr. Monsell lecture8 on the education of Catholics.

Address to the Protestant Bishop thanking him for removing the "Symbols of Puseyism" out of the Cathedral on Christmas Day.

one of the guests. On the following day, by appointment, the deputation, who were joined by the Mayor, proceeded in their robes to present the memorial to his Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, who, however, gave anything but a favourable reply. Indeed the conduct of the Viceroy was quite contrary to what was expected at his hands, when free education was all that the memorialists demanded.

The education question, which has been at all times regarded by the citizens of Limerick with an unflinching interest, had been for some time before the public in reference to the Model Schools under the National Board of Education, all of which, built on an expensive plan, and furnished with every requirement, had been in existence since the 4th of September, 1855.¹ Those schools were attended up to the next year (1863), in which Robert M'Mahon, Esq., J.P., was elected Mayor, by large numbers of Catholic children; but a speech having been made by one of the inspectors, which not only elicited public attention, but which threw down the gauntlet to the conscientious opponents of the system, action was taken by the Right Rev. Dr. Butler and the clergy against the Model School system, and a decisive and emphatic condemnation of the Limerick Model Schools was the result. On the first day of the new year, from the altar of every Catholic church in the city, the schools were denounced, and Catholic parents were cautioned against permitting their children to frequent them. Pulpit and altar rang with warning voices against a system which the government had adopted, and to which it appeared determined to adhere, in opposition to the frequently expressed hostility to it of the Catholic hierarchy. These efforts on the part of the bishop and clergy were successful; the children were withdrawn. The establishment of an intermediate school, under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers, supplied a want which had been for a long period experienced. The schools of the Christian Brothers were also brought into, if possible, more vigorous

Feb. 1.—Meeting at Right Rev. Dr. Butler's, in sustinment of the Catholic University.

Feb. 11.—Numerous protests against the Queen's Colleges.

Feb. 19.—Public meeting at Limerick, to sympathize with the Queen on the death of Prince Albert.

The Lord Lieutenant is presented with an immense salmon taken at the Lax Weir on his return from Adare Manor, where he had been on a visit.

Feb.—Last week Rev. Dr. Anderdon lectures on the Catacombs, and Capitals of Europe.

March 16.—The Archiandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Issa, delivers palm branches from the Holy Land, to the Cathedral of St. John.

March 2.—Petitions against the Church and Convent Taxing Bill of the Irish Chief Secretary were signed at all the Catholic Churches of Limerick on Sunday.

April 6.—New Catholic Church consecrated at Ballysteen. Death of Colonel Doheny. Murders of Gustave Thiebault and Maguire in Tipperary.

May 6th.—Murder of Francis Fitzgerald, Esq., of Kilmallock, for which Beckham and Walsh were hung at the Special Commission which opened June 16. Dillane suffered death for the same crime afterwards.

Sept. 11.—Robbery of Castlepark by burglars.

Oct. 13.—Meeting to organize a collection for the National Monument to O'Connell.

Nov. 30.—Reconciliation of the "Three and Four years old", in Emly, by the Archbishop of Cashel and the Redemptorist Fathers

Jan. 24, 1863.—A meeting was convened by the High Sheriff for the county to adopt a petition to parliament in order to support Colonel Dickson's drainage bill.

Feb. 14.—Mr. W. Cooper announces that the late Marquis of Landsdowne had bequeathed to Lord Monteaigle and the governors of Barrington's Hospital £3000, provided it be opened at all times to the natives of the County Kerry.

Feb. 24.—Judgment given by the House of lords in favour of Mr. Malcomson in the great Fishery question, Malcomson v. O'Dea.

¹ These schools are on the Military Road, and were begun in 1853.

operation for the requirements of the children of the poor. The nuns of the Faithful Companions, who had established an admirable boarding and day school at Laurel Hill, in 1854, for first-class education—a school second to none other in the kingdom for every advantage—these religious ladies also met the difficulty by forming an intermediate school, to which large numbers of Catholic children who had frequented the Model Schools were now sent. The latest official return of the number of pupils attending the Model Schools shows that, with the exception of the children of teachers and those connected with the schools, and a few dependents on ultra zealot families, those who attended them are chiefly Protestants, Presbyterians, and Dissenters'. It is impossible that a government which pretends to have at heart the peace and well-being of the people, can continue to force a system which wars with the convictions and feelings of the overwhelming majority of her Majesty's loyal subjects—the Catholics of Ireland.

On the 6th of June this year, the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, Catholic Bishop, who had governed the diocese of Limerick for so many eventful years with prudence, wisdom, and justice, expired at his residence, Park House, at the age of eighty-three years. The remains of the venerable prelate were conveyed in grand funeral procession from Park House to the cathedral of St. John's; in the procession were the clergy of the city and many of the county, in soutane and surplice; the religious societies, the Christian Brothers, the pupils of their numerous schools, the citizens in crape, a long line of carriages, etc., were also the funeral cortege.

In the same month, at Bangor, North Wales, Mr. William Smith O'Brien died after a rather short illness. He had suffered much and long

Feb. 19.—At a meeting of the Trades, James Spaight, Esq. in the Chair, resolutions were adopted against the closing of Barrington's Hospital. A meeting of Ratepayers was convened next evening, to sustain the Corporation vote in reference to Barrington's and the Fever Hospitals.

March.—The marriage of the Prince of Wales took place.

The Right Rev. Dr. Butler initiates a movement at the Limerick diocesan conferences, held in the last week of March, in favour of Mr. Dillwyn's motion against the Church Establishment.

April 4.—Fishery Commission opened in Limerick.

April 8.—Awful calamity and loss of seven lives by a fire in Denmark Street, among the rest Mr. P. Ryan, foreman in the Reporter and Vindicator Office.

Excessive emigration continues.

May 9.—A meeting to petition Parliament against punishment by death, convened by the Mayor.

May 16.—Opening of the new organ at St. John's Cathedral with a grand oratorio.

June 1.—Railway to Nenagh opened.

June 11.—Borough rounds perambulated by the Mayor, Town Clerk, City Treasurer, City Surveyor, and four mace bearers.

Waterford and Limerick Railway run no trains on Sundays, thereby causing material inconvenience. Sir Colman O'Loughlin's bill falls through.

April 12.—In a meeting held in Thomond Gate it is resolved to enclose the "Treaty Stone".

¹ The pupils in the Model Schools are in the following religious persuasions:

Denominations.	Boys' School.	Girls' School.	Infants' School.	Total
Established Church	78	73	77	228
Roman Catholic.....	17	18	10	45
Presbyterians.....	11	17	18	46
Dissenters.....	21	14	12	47
Total.....	127	122	117	366

The subjoined Tabular Statement indicates the position of the Customs for the financial year, ending March 1865:—

Year ending 31st March, 1864.	1863. Imports.	Warehoused.		Total.	Monies not Duties.	Shipping.	Excise.	Total.
		Direct.	Removed.					
June,	£4,126 10 9	£2,059 5 9	£30,495 15 1	£36,681 11 7	£58 16 0	£0 0 0	£0 0 0	£36,740 7
September,	5,428 3 0	1,246 14 6	31,153 0 4	37,827 17 10	69 14 4	0 1 0	0 0 0	37,897 1 2
December,	4,029 10 8	2,518 19 8	33,665 14 5	40,209 4 4	81 13 6	0 1 0	0 0 0	40,290 1 10
March, 8 th 6,	2,357 10 4	1,009 16 11	31,938 7 6	35,805 14 9	96 5 1	0 1 0	0 0 0	35,402 1 10
Year 1863.	£15,941 14 9	£8,829 16 5	£127,252 17 4	£150,024 8 6	£306 8 11	0 3 0	£0 0 0	£150,331 0 5
Year ending 1st March, 1865.	Year 1864.							
June,	£1,938 17 0	£708 17 5	30,698 5 8	£33,341 0 1	£48 7 9	0 1 0	£0 0 0	£33,389 8 10
September,	3,027 6 1	592 7 6	30,446 10 10	34,066 4 5	47 12 10	0 0 0	121 12 0	34,285 9 3
December,	3,186 11 8	343 17 4	31,520 9 6	35,550 18 6	50 9 7	0 1 0	690 4 9	36,291 13 10
March, 8 th 1865,	2,431 16 0	202 6 11	28,429 1 3	31,063 4 2	89 3 0	0 2 0	1,481 19 3	32,684 8 5
Year 1.1864.	£10,579 10 9	£2,347 9 2	£121,094 7 3	£134,021 7 2	£235 13 2	0 4 0	£2,293 16 0	£136,551 0 4
Area ac,	£5,362 4 0	£4,482 7 3	£3,158 10 1	£16,008 1 4	£70 15 9	0 0 0		£16,780 0 7

The principal deficiency arises from tobacco and sugar, owing, in some respects, to non-consumption, in other respects, to the introduction by railway of some of those articles duty paid. There are symptoms, indeed, of a revival. Factories are syringing up in the city, in addition to those of which the Messrs. J. M. Russell and Sons are proprietors, and to which we have referred in a previous chapter. Alderman Peter Tait, of Limerick, an energetic and enterprising citizen, has given an impetus to the industrial movement, not only by his indefatigable exertions in reference to flax manufacture, but by his employment of some hundreds of persons at his great army clothing establishment—the first and most important of the kind in these kingdoms—and one in which Limerick has reason to experience the utmost pride. Milling is largely carried on, manufacturing all the home-grown and large quantities of foreign wheat. Wool-combing and paper-making, have well nigh altogether disappeared. In 1800 there were twenty tanneries, and but one pawnbroker's office in Limerick. In 1865, there are at least twenty pawnbroker's offices, and only two tanneries. In 1841, the number of breweries was four. In 1865, there are three—one, the old established one at Garryowen, of which "Johnny Connell,"¹ celebrated in song, was the owner, and which now belongs to a lady of his family; the second, that of Messrs. Fitts, at the Newgate Lane;² the third, that of Messrs. Stein, in Clare Street. In brogue-making, which had been an important branch of trade, there has been a great decline. Other branches of trade have died out altogether, such as cloth-finishers, wool-staplers, woollen-wenvers, etc. The manufacture of gloves, for which Limerick was famous a century ago, and which owed its superiority to a secret which was said to be in the exclusive possession of a glover named Lyons and his family, has declined also. Lyons frequently got orders for his gloves from the Court of Russia and other European courts. Mr. Tait endeavoured to revive the manufacture, but was not successful. The proverbial celebrity which the fishing hooks of Limerick have won, is nearly gone³—every fishing hook was said to be worth a salmon; their form, lightness, and temper could not be imitated. Limerick lace, which has won a world-wide reputation, does not quite retain its old place: yet Spanish donnas have had their mantillas made in Limerick, while magnificent robes fashioned of it, have won the patronage of royalty.

¹ John O'Connell, Esq., see page 402.

² Brewing is one of the most ancient of domestic arts; and breweries in Limerick have been known for many generations. The earliest, however, of which we have an authentic record, is the city brewery, near the Golden Mills, and in the most historic part of the city, close by King John's Castle, with the river Shannon bounding it to the north. The Danes possessed the secret of brewing the heather—and Danes' ale continues to be remembered in tradition—but the secret has departed. The story of the secret of making heather ale, known only to the Danes, is told by Lady (Gardner) Wilkinson in her little work on *Weeds and Wild Flowers*—(Vide "Heather", p. 172.) The anecdote of the putting to death of the two sons and the father for refusal to betray the secret, is related as having taken place on the final expulsion of the Danes from Ireland, at Ballyportery Castle in west Clare, taken, it is supposed, from the wild Celtic legends of southern Scotland, as related by Mr. R. Chambers in his *Pictures of Scotland*, or those of the county Clare in *Notes and Queries*. The inhabitants of the Isle of Skye still brew an ale of two parts of heather tops and one of malt.

The city brewery has the following inscription on a stone with the city arms:—

THE CITY BREWERY.
1739.

³ The Limerick fishing hooks were celebrated all over the world. Daniel O'Shaughnessy, about sixty years ago, was one of the most famous—if not the most famous fishing hook maker

It was equal, if not superior, to that manufactured in Brussels and Valenciennes. Mr. Walker introduced the manufacture in 1829. At first he employed but a few hands. In 1841, there were 1700 females engaged in the manufacture of lace. In 1865, the numbers have fallen off considerably. At the convent of the Good Shepherd, in Clare Street, the manufacture of Brussels lace was carried on for a long period under the inspection of one of the nuns, a lady from Belgium, and such was the extraordinary progress made in the manufacture, that the lace was fully equal to the best Brussels. The provision and coopering trades, which, towards the close of the last century and the beginning of the present, flourished, owing to large army and navy contracts during, and subsequent to, the European war, and subsequently until competition was opened to foreign countries, have declined. This trade was revived about 1826, by Mr. John Russell, an Englishman, whose establishment was the largest in Ireland, and who spent £200,000 a-year in the purchase of pigs and the manufacture of bacon. The principal houses in the trade in 1865, are the Messrs. Matterson, Oak, Shaw, Hogan, and M'Donnell, famous for the manufacture of Limerick hams, which retain their unapproachable celebrity.

As to the trade of Limerick from the foundation of the Chamber of Commerce in 1818, it is best indicated by their record of exports until the year 1848, but from that period the operation of railways in conveying a large proportion of merchandize and produce, both inwards and outwards, renders this source of information necessarily incomplete. The table at page 531 shows the principal exports every fifth year during the period named. From this period also the effects of free trade are strongly marked by the almost total cessation of the exports of wheat, flour, meal, beef, and pork; the land being converted largely into pasture, and grain food imported largely, instead of shipped.

Under the influence of an enterprising spirit we would hope that Limerick may soon rival its ancient fame as a manufacturing city, when it gave robes of finest cloth to the kings of England, and exported some of the choicest articles of dress, etc., to that country, from which it now imports too many articles which could be better and far cheaper made at home.

in his day. He was succeeded by his son John, who died without issue; and though the "Shaughnessy" hooks have been sold until very recently, there has been no person of the name in the manufacture of them since the death of Mr. Robert O'Shaughnessy of George's Street, who employed hook-makers, and who continued to sell the "Shaughnessy" hooks. William Selles, or Lascelles, succeeded the second of the O'Shaughnessys in the manufacture, and was an adept. Michael Selles of Quay Lane, his son, succeeded William, and is now (1865) living, and is the last of the manufacturers of these celebrated articles; he is poor though industrious. The material of which these hooks are made is cast-steel, which is given out to nailers in the country, who heat the steel in a turf fire to a certain peculiar temperature, taking great care that it must not be over-heated. It is then beaten out by the nailer, and in that condition it is brought to the hook-maker. Sellers of Croom was justly prized for his success in preparing the cast steel. The hook-maker then did his part. He formed the hook out of the solid, gave it the symmetrical form while the steel continued soft, and then tempered it, producing an article unrivalled. English manufacture of a kind imitation has nearly extinguished the make; but whilst Michael Selles of Quay Lane lives, the disciple of Isaac Walton can obtain first class salmon hook for 2d. and a trout hook for a lesser sum.

¹ See pp. 367-8, in which, in the account given of Nicholas Arthur, it will be seen that he freighted a ship from Limerick in 1428, with cloth, furs, etc., as a present to King Henry. Irish cloth was so valued in these times, and before then, that we find in a MS. in the British Museum the prosecution of a man for stealing a piece of Irish cloth at Winchester, England, temp. Henry III. Conviction and hanging, duel or "wager of battle" in consequence.—Ex. Rol. Mad.

Year.	Beef.		Pork.		Butter. cwt.	Bacon. cwt.	Lard. cwt.	Barrels of				Flour. cwt.	Oatmeal. cwt.	Number of Vessels.	Total Value.	
	Tierces.	Barrels.	Tierces.	Barrels.				Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Beans.				£	s. d.
1808	7,798	1,898	11,688	14,692	24,365	9,171	1,657	22,487	149,325	17,627	614	272	13,671		649,487	0 0
1813	6,097	2,449	7,575	12,074	24,101	13,827	1,103	47,569	140,830	65,718	169	9,394	15,524		821,724	0 0
1818	4,157	786	6,547	13,291	17,076	8,022	831	20,806	201,542	11,027	251	200	6,042		506,271	0 0
1823	2,366	289	3,627	8,999	29,720	4,316	258	92,758	172,280	2,545		1,412	1,270		499,160	0 0
1828	1,376	146	5,965	4,198	83,038	39,030	4,260	150,385	446,290	8,671	4,070	6,923	77		844,691	0 0
1833	1,338		6,879	5,718	75,159	76,526	6,760	218,915	345,016	11,774	2,913	37,664	31,978	451	936,995	0 0
1838	102		5,657	8,400	59,965	77,992	13,967	112,751	537,286	14,067	4,149	113,489	49,550	411	1,014,681	0 0
1843	11	50	4,781	8	39,087	33,556	1,942	116,352	371,309	8,534	1,411	23,437	17,580	337		
1848	419	5	5,086	5,783	68,345	3,600	2,410	11,781	293,155		430	6,180	150	299		

The following table indicates the existence of an enormous produce in the districts of which Limerick is the market, and in which so vast a trade is carried on as to lead us to hope that at no distant day it will assert its proper position among the great commercial cities of the empire:—

In 1853 the Limerick Markets' Act was passed, and the records of the Trustees enable us to give the following valuable Table:—
Total Quantities of Produce, etc., received since the opening of the Markets under the Trustees in 1853.

Year ending 1st September	Barrels of Home Grown			Butter		Loads of		Number of					Qrs. of Imported Corn.		Amount of Tolls received each year.				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Firkins.	Lumps.	Hay.	Straw.	Potatoes.	Hides and Skins.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep	Dead.	Alive.		Suckling Pigs.	Lambs.	Wheat.	Other Grain.
1854	36,908	421,067	146,705	44,287	10,902	6,858	16,774	50,986	1,013	1,124	3,159	22,429					94,985	88,087	£6,069
1855	64,723	387,329	110,342	60,580	9,697	3,644	2,857	56,793	1,123	2,040	3,664	42,065	6,705	5,217	626	626	81,715	66,359	6,048
1856	73,476	846,917	94,811	64,555	10,874	3,619	2,787	42,842	708	2,042	6,508	39,170	3,300	3,213	1,232	1,232	50,086	62,016	5,906
1857	122,253	320,672	76,009	60,153	11,370	4,116	2,619	23,945	671	1,882	4,698	26,580	2,419	4,288	824	824	74,967	41,268	5,707
1858	100,141	261,610	94,928	56,450	14,288	3,781	3,034	18,748	1,041	2,721	3,754	38,457	5,077	9,195	399	399	97,735	58,461	5,708
1859	118,018	292,376	71,377	49,940	16,224	4,248	3,144	19,986	738	1,866	2,325	70,219	6,286	5,922	213	213	78,349	40,944	5,909
1860	73,582	250,553	47,814	42,166	18,606	5,042	2,719	16,747	1,624	2,408	3,679	53,635	5,255	2,432	472	472	109,745	112,964	5,473
1861	72,169	266,185	42,713	33,417	17,070	4,382	3,126	11,992	952	2,475	2,436	51,631	5,222	219	315	315	111,918	106,512	5,397
1862	46,278	255,672	32,130	35,885	17,911	5,439	2,921	10,337	2,980	4,803	6,406	45,978	3,632	* 20	923	923	110,096	126,934	5,618
1863	33,416	243,922	38,302	39,376	15,651	5,380	3,925	11,683	2,688	5,234	5,614	44,069	2,387	5	820	820	191,467	152,921	6,292
1864	22,012	483,437	40,554	38,279	16,653	5,213	3,613	17,660	2,449	3,31	5,077	37,129	3,843	0	614	614	168,289	72,499	7,046

We omit barrels of Beans, Peas, and Rye, Rapeseed, Tons of Flax, Wool, Feathers, and Bark, as well as Loads of Green Feeding, Mangold Wurtzel, Turnips, Vegetables, Fruit, Native Coal, Iron, and other Minerals, in order not to encumber the Table with too lengthy details.

* Included for last three years with other pigs.

In 1823, the Bridge and Docks Act was passed, and duties were imposed on ships and cargoes, and the following is a Table of the principal statistics of the Port, every fifth year, since 1825:

Year.	Vessels Arrived.	Registered Tonnage Vessels.	Harbour Duties Collected.			Amount of H. M. Customs' Duties.			Register of Vessels belonging to the Port.
			£	s.	d.	£	#	d.	Tons.
1825	440	46,983	1,211	12	1	58,138	19	8	663
1830	437	45,005	1,483	1	2	86,090	3	8	3,230
1835	476	60,724	1,755	2	8	136,949	8	6	4,173
1840	545	71,218	3,900	8	0	148,802	10	0	12,214
1845	585	76,558	4,204	10	7	192,975	15	2	14,395
1850	572	82,779	5,852	17	11				12,291
1855	554	78,847	6,741	16	11	168,780	17	1	12,121
1860	521	99,017	8,236	3	4	172,403	0	0	8,287
1864	446	91,052	8,208	8	4	136,551	0	4 ¹	5,519

The largest amount of shipping that ever entered the port was in the year 1847, when 1013 vessels arrived, registering 149,867 tons—a striking evidence of the effect of the potato failure, which necessitated the repeal of the Navigation Laws, and an immense importation of foreign grain. As we have already observed, the coasting trade was some years ago carried on by a large fleet of fine clipper schooners, which in latter years have been superseded by first-class steamers; and large ships, by which the emigration and timber trades had been formerly carried on, have been considerably reduced in latter years, as well on account of the great stringency of the emigration laws, as of the extraordinary facilities which have been provided by the transatlantic steamers from Queenstown, Liverpool, etc.

There is every reason, notwithstanding a partial decline in trade, and commerce and manufactures, to hope that Limerick, situated in the midst of the most fertile and beautiful part of Ireland, at the head of the tidal Shannon, "the queen of Irish rivers", with railway communication to every part of the country—with a population only anxious for work, and with men of enterprise and ability giving an impetus to manufactures, will soon witness a revival, such as must realise the fondest anticipations of all who wish well to her historic fame and proud and invincible reputation.

The suburbs of Limerick have been very greatly improved within the last thirty or forty years. The townland of Corbally contains many handsome villas and residences, which range at a short distance parallel with the Abbey river, and from which the views of the city and river, the Clare and Tipperary mountains, and the scenery generally, are extremely beautiful. The North Strand, and the townland of Little Kilrush, the property of Thomas Revington, Esq., have become a favourite place for building,

¹ This return is up to 31st of March, 1865, and includes whiskey £2,293 16s.

and contain several excellent residences, including Eden Terrace, which Mr. Revington has erected. In the North Liberty Barony, on the Townland of Ballygrennan, is Castle Park, the handsome seat of John Christopher Delmege, Esq., J.P. for the counties of Clare and Limerick. The residence is commodious, and formerly belonged to the Ormsby family. There were several fine mansions on this estate, called the townland of Ballygrennan—viz., Ballygrennan House and demesne, the residence of the Smyth family; Pcterville, of the Monsells; Creaghville, Violet Hill, and Summerhill, in one of which the first Lord Kiltarton was born. This estate of over three hundred acres was formerly in the North Liberty of the city of Limerick, but now forms part of the North Liberty Barony of the county Limerick. All the fine mansions have been entirely swept away, either by time or neglect, the only residence on the Ballygrennan estate being Castle Park, which was also a ruin, when it and the whole estate came into the possession of the Delmege family by purchase several years ago. The house has been considerably enlarged and improved in every way, but strictly preserves its ancient appearance. The demesne is well planted, the only old plantation left being stately rows of fine oldlimes. This house now ranks amongst the best of the second-class residences of the county. Its situation possesses the advantage of being within half an hour's drive of the city, and a similar distance from the Clare mountains, which are well supplied with grouse and other sorts of game. Mr. Delmege is the largest landed proprietor in the North Liberty Barony, and gives much employment on a considerable portion of his estates in his own hands in the counties of Clare and Limerick. James Sexton, Esq., J.P., is also a resident landed proprietor in this barony, and is the owner of some very rich corcass lands called Coonagh Sexton, lying along the banks of the Shannon, and which have been for a long time in the possession of the Sexton family.

Adjoining the North Liberty Barony is the Barony of Lower Bunratty, county Clare, within fifteen minutes walk of the city, where there are also several beautiful residences, including Quinpool, the property of Mrs. Honan; Whitehall, the property of Thomas Keane, Esq., M.D., J.P.; Parteen, the property of George Gloster, J.P., who has an excellent residence adjoining the Church of Parteen, and close by the great Lax Weir. Some few miles to the north is Trough House, the castellated residence of General Sir Charles Routledge O'Donnell, colonel of the 18th Hussars; Blackwater, the residence of Samuel Caspell, Esq., J.P., etc. On the South Circular Road there are many commodious residences also; and here is situated the convent of the Faithful Companions already alluded to, which is one of the noblest educational establishments in the south of Ireland. Tervoe House, the residence of the Right Hon. William Monsell, M.P., embosomed in foliage, etc., lies west of the city, and has a picturesque appearance. New and tasteful blocks of buildings are rapidly rising in this direction, which has many claims to architectural beauty from its churches, convents, and schools.

At Park there was a chalybeate spa, which about sixty years ago was much frequented, but which has not only fallen into disuse, but has been completely forgotten in latter years. This most likely is the spa which is commemorated in the sang of Garryowen. This spa is not mentioned by

¹ Near Blackwater is the Trooper's Busk.

Rutter in his history of Irish spas, who received his information of Castleconnell spa from his contemporary Dr. O'Halloran.

It has been observed that there are few cities in Europe more delightfully situated than Limerick. In the midst of a country teeming with agricultural and mineral riches, and surrounded by one of the most abundant salmon fisheries in the world,¹ with all the advantages of navigation, etc., it requires only the hand of industry and enterprise, to constitute it all that it was intended by Providence it should be. Seen from the towers of St Mary's cathedral, it presents a view that cannot be surpassed for picturesque beauty and antiquarian interest. North and south, east and west, the country about it, bounded in the distance by ranges of lofty mountains, is fertile to a proverb, constituting a portion of the "golden vein". The broad Shannon winds its course above the city, and expands into an estuary below on its way to the Atlantic Ocean, after traversing 240 miles from its source in Leitrim, where, flowing out of Lough Allen—imbedded in lofty hills abounding in iron and coal—it washes the county of Roscommon, expands into the great Lough Ree, twenty miles long and four broad; going on by the counties of Tipperary and Galway to Portumna, in a more confined channel for thirty-seven miles; then through Lough Derg to Killaloe, and thence by the Doonas, with a fall of ninety-seven feet to Limerick—the scenes of ancient battles, and of more modern sieges: the old castles, the bridges—the quaint streets of the Englishtown, with their fading and falling Dutch gables—the Irishtown, with its historic places—the handsome and regular streets of the new town, with its churches, public buildings, shops, private residences, etc.—these objects all group together into a panorama on which the eye loves to dwell, suggesting the thought that a city so well circumstanced, must eventually rise superior to any combination of adverse circumstances by which it may be encumbered, and that as it has been "the fairest city of Munster", so it will not only preserve its reputation in that respect, but become the busy seat of manufacturing and commercial enterprise—the home of prosperity—as it has always been the pride of Irishmen in whatever part of the world they may dwell. The Shannon is well described in a beautiful sonnet by Sir Aubrey de Vere:

"River of billows! to whose mighty heart
The tide wave rushes to the Atlantic sea—
River of quiet depths by cultured lea,
Romantic wood or city's crowded mart—
River of old poetic founts! that start
From their old mountain cradles, wild and free,
Nursed with the fawns, lulled by the woodlark's glee,
And cushats' hymeneal song apart!—
River of chieftains whose baronial halls,
Like veteran warders, watch each wave worn steep,
Portumna's towers, Bunratty's regal walls,
Carrick's stem rock, the Geraldine's grey keep—
River of dark mementoes—must I close
My lips with Limerick's wrongs—with Aughrim's woes?"

About two miles south from Limerick, at a place called Newcastle, is a very fine race ground, with a permanent stand, where the sporting events celebrated in a well-known ballad are generally held. These races have latterly attracted a great deal of attention even in England. About a

¹ An inquiry was held by the commissioners of Fisheries in March, 1865, into the legality of the great Lax weir, which ended in an unanimous judgment on the part of the Commissioners in favour of the weir.

mile farther on, and in nearly the same direction, but nearer the Shannon, are situated the picturesque ruins of Castle Troy, once the seat of the K'Eogh family, of whom Mahony K'Eogh forfeited in the time of Cromwell, for his loyalty to the Stuarts. Dr. John K'Eogh, D.D., author of several learned works, and father of the author of the *Botanologia Universalis Hibernica*, the *Zoonomia Hibernica*, etc., was a member of this family. Further on in the same direction, is Mount Shannon, the beautiful demesne and residence of the late Earl of Clare, remarkable for its fine classical library, on which John, second Earl of Clare, expended a large sum of money. Near Mount Shannon are Rich Hill, the handsome residence of William Howley, Esq., D.L., Woodstown, where Field Marshal Lord Cough was born, which is now in the occupation of W. G. Gubbins, Esq., J.P., and which is divided from Annacotty Mills, etc., by the river Mulcair. A few miles east of Mount Shannon is Glacstal Castle, the magnificent residence of Sir William Hartigan Barrington, Bart., and Clonshavoy, the tasteful residence of Caleb Powell, Esq., ex-R.I.P. for the county Limerick. In the vicinity of Limerick there are several attractive localities which merit attention, and to which excursions can be made by rail or boat, or by road, at a comparatively small cost, some of which may be noticed in a subsequent portion of this work.

The picturesque village of Kilkee, romantically situated upon the Clare coast, is the favourite bathing-place of the citizens of Limerick, who generally repair thither in considerable numbers when the season arrives. There are many other places within a few miles distance, which will well repay a visit, from the beauty of their scenery and their antiquarian and historical interest. Such are Carrig-o'-Gunnell, Adare, Castleconnell, Bunratty, Killaloe, Lough Gur, etc. For those, indeed, who are fond of exploring Druidic, military, and ecclesiastical antiquities, there is no county in Ireland which supplies more ample materials than Limerick, which possesses likewise numerous attractions for the lovers of sporting.

The last act of parliament passed in reference to Limerick, is that which empowers the Corporation to make an embankment at Corkanree, and to add to the city a certain portion of Corkanree which had been in the county. This act passed the committee of the House of Lords on Thursday, the 4th of May, and received the royal assent soon afterwards. Thus the citizens will be soon provided with a healthful and much-needed park and promenade.¹

CHAPTER LIV.

EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF LIMERICK.—DESCRIPTION AND ANNALS OF MUNGRET.—ST. NESSAN AND HIS COXTEJIPORARIES AND SUCCESSORS.—ST. MUNCHIN, OR MANCHENUS.—ST. MUNCHIN'S CHURCH.—KING DONALD'S CHARTEJ, ETC.

WE come now to that portion of our history which brings us back to events of remote ecclesiastical antiquity, being that period at and before St. Patrick's visit, on which so much discussion has arisen. The chronicles

¹ From this park the quays and shipping will be seen to advantage. Two other fine views may be obtained from the Corbally Road outside, and the Military Road inside the city. The Crescent with the O'Connell monument, Pery Square with the Rice monument, the Kedemp

of some of our religious houses, especially their interior history, are necessarily meagre. Most of the records which the ravages of the barbarous Dane had spared, perished at the time of the Norman invasion, of the dissolution of monasteries under Henry VIII., and subsequently in the Cromwellian and even Williamite wars. But it is certain that a knowledge of Grecian and Roman literature and art, including a superior style of architecture, was known in Ireland long before the invasion, and that the Gospel was diffused abroad, and the blessings of education were known at home anterior to that disastrous event. Limerick appears to have been one of the first places in Ireland to attract the attention of the early Christian missionaries, the antiquity of its religious foundations ascending so high as the beginning of the sixth century, if not still higher.¹

About the year 549, the holy Comin founded the churches and towers of Inniscalthra, on the Shannon. After the bloody battle of Cuildrheinne, which was fought between Dermot and Cuorrane Mac Aoala, in which the latter was aided by St. Columba, whose asylum he sought, which was invaded by Diarmuid—the victory being attributed more to the prayers of the saint than to the valour of the soldiery—Dermot had scarcely recruited the loss of the battle, when he commenced a war against the gallant Guare, King of Connaught. It is believed that he refused to pay the provincial tax, crowning Dermot as a monarch, who marched his army along the Shannon, probably to a little above Killaloe. The mediation of the holy Comin proved fruitless, as all remonstrances were rejected by Guare, who was foretold by the saint that his troops would be routed. The monarch's horse and foot plunged into the Shannon, forcibly gained the opposite bank, routed the enemy, who fled precipitately, yet rallied the following day. Guare, dreading to make his country a scene of war, surrendered himself to the monarch.

Before St. Columba established his celebrated monastic institution in the Scotch Island of Iona, an institution which remained undisturbed for two hundred years, an abbey had been founded at Mungret, the ancient Mungairit, about two miles south-west of Limerick, by St. Nessan² surnamed the Leper, who was confirmed by St. Patrick himself in the abbacy, and who died in 551, according to the *Annals of the Four Masters*, but according to the *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, in 561.

Mungret is even at this day a ruin of considerable size, and exhibits many tokens of high antiquity. The doors and windows of the church have either horizontal stone lintels, or that sort of round arch-head which denoted the Romanesque, less correctly, we think, called Norman architectural period which preceded the introduction of the pointed style.

The detached building on the road side bears marks of fire on its square lintel stones; and the roof, which, judging from the shape of the gables,

torist Church and Convent, the Convent and Orphanage of Mount St. Vincent, St. Michael's Protestant Church, built A.D. 1843-4-5, the Model Schools, the Turkish Baths with their minarets and other oriental features, etc., are all visible from the Military Road.

¹ De hac regione (says O'Flaherty) et Corcoichs plebe fuit S. Molua divo Bernardo (S. Bernard in vita Malachia, S. Luanus), Luannus clarus, S. Comgalli discipulus, ejus monasterium celebre Cluanfertense in Reginali agro, et Lagisia ad radicem montis Smoil, qui mons Bladma dicitur—(*Ogygia*, p. iii p. 381.)

² The festival of this saint is celebrated on the 25th July, and as a coincidence with his surname we may mention that near the eastern borders of the parish, opposite Ballinacurra, are the ruins of an ancient hermitage, which was afterward said to have been an hospital for lepers.

must have been built somewhat in the style of **Columbkil's** House at **Kells**, **St. Molua's** at Killaloe, and **St. Kevin's** at **Glendalough**, was like these venerable structures, probably covered with large slate-like stones, several of which have been turned up in the field immediately adjacent to the building. The well known legend of the "wise women of Mungret", monks who disguised themselves in female attire, and who frightened away by their extraordinary learning certain professors from Lismore, who had come to test it, is familiar to every person in the vicinage. It is illustrative too of the admiration always felt for martial prowess by the Irish, that those soldier monks, the Knights Templars, who occupied the old Castle of Mungret, are still spoken of with great reverence in the neighbourhood, not only for their piety but their waxlike spirit. If tradition can be relied on, they occasionally did garrison duty at **Carrig-o-gunnell**, and were well disposed, if not actually bound by engagement, to render military service when called on.

The traditions about the abbey itself are not numerous. That Mungret was a famous religious house, formed by **St. Patrick**, that its students and monks were most numerous after it became a great college as well as a monastery, that there were of one name alone, one hundred and forty of the inmates called "John Loftus",² and that the monastery and college were burned by the Danes, and afterwards by **Cromwell's** forces, or probably by General Scravenmore, who blew up **Carrig-o-gunnell** in the **Williamite** wars, who are stated in the local traditions to have shelled it from the Shannon, on which occasion, whenever it happened, they are said to have set fire to the then thatched roof of the monastery; these are about the whole of the existing local traditions that refer to the history of this celebrated establishment. The great eastern window was some time ago quite covered with ivy externally, but some treasure-seekers removed it without doing any further mischief. Internally on the right side of the same window, which is broken into two lights by a mullion, there stood, until within the last few years, a fine specimen of a *piscina*, the bottom resembling the impress of a human face, which some Vandal, or dishonest antiquarian visitor, has lately destroyed if not removed. The people for miles around, were, in our memory, in the habit of applying their faces to this stone as a supposed remedy for headache. The venerable ash trees which occupied the northern side have also disappeared. And indeed even the very walls of this truly venerable house would have long ago been destroyed, had the builder of the new church been permitted to construct the new edifice on the site of the old. But the people of the neighbourhood firmly opposed it, and fortunately carried their point.

The *Psalter of Cashel* states that the **Monastery of Mungret** had within its walls six churches, and, exclusively of numerous scholars, 1,500 monks,

¹ Those who think we have assigned too high an antiquity to the existing walls of Mungret, will see that Dr. Petrie thought them still older. The ruined Church in the *Inis Aua*, near Killaloe, does not look much older than the detached Church of Mungret. The former, however, is one of our oldest stone churches.—(See *Petrie's Round Towers*, p. 183.) It is the belief of the peasantry near Mungret that a subterraneous passage connected the house of the Knights Templars, if not the Monastery, with the Castle of Carrig-o-gunnell. In proof of the truth of this opinion they point out a part of the road where there is a sort of hollow sound as if it closed a vault or archway. They also show the pond where the professors, disguised as women, pretended to be washing, and addressed their visitors in Greek, etc., like the story told in *Rabelais*.

² Loftus's Rood received its name from three brothers.

of whom 500 were learned preachers, 500 psalmists, and 500 wholly employed in spiritual exercises. The ruins of the abbey, which was situated on the south side of the Shannon, consist of the walls of a church which by no means bespeak their former splendour. The west end is 47 feet long by 16 broad, with a plain narrow window. The centre or nave is 33 feet by 28½; and the communication from this to the east end is by a small arch. On the north side of the nave is a small porch or entrance. The west end is 12 feet by 22, on the north side of which is a small square tower, with ruined battlements. There are no ancient tombs to be found there. To the east of this are the ruins of another church, and about 300 yards distant from it, the remains of a tower and gateway. About 150 yards north of the church is a solidly built house, which we have spoken of as bearing marks of fire. It is of considerable extent, with lofty walls and jointed gables, with a narrow circular-headed window at the east end, and entered by a square ladder doorway on the west. In the adjoining fields extensive foundations are frequently found by the plough, and are also met with at Temple Mungret, which stands about half a mile north of the Protestant church, which was originally the hospital of the Knights Templars, and afterwards the manor house of the Bishop of Limerick.

The bell of Mungret—one of those ancient objects so interesting to the Christian archæologist—was dug up at Louhmore, in the same parish, near the abbey of Mungret; it is described in a popular periodical, in which it is also pictorially represented, as of a square form, as a specimen of very rude workmanship, much corroded by time, and composed of a mixed metal, hammered and riveted together. The bell of Mungret is alluded to by Keating.

The early history of **St. Nessan**, who was a contemporary of **St. Senan** and **Carthage**, is involved in obscurity. We cannot admit, according to **Lanigan**, who remarks that it is strange that **Ware** says nothing of Mungret, the story of his having become a disciple of **St. Patrick**, when in **Munster**. He may have been at least in part a disciple of **St. Ailbe**, in **Emly**, with whom he was in the habit of conversing on theological subjects. At the time of these conversations he could not have been very young, as it may fairly be inferred he was born before the sixth century. He was then probably at that time, or before **Ailbe's** death, abbot of Mungret. He never rose higher in the Church than the rank of deacon, by which title he was known during his life and ever since. Yet his reputation was so great, that he has been considered as one of the Fathers of the Irish Church, and therefore it can scarcely be doubted that he was that **Nessan** named in the second chapter of the saints. **St. Neassan** or **Nessan**, is thus spoken of in the *Martyrology of Tallaght*, by **Cumin of Connor**, who flourished, according to **Colgan**, about the year 635:—"Neassan, the holy deacon, loved an angelic pure mortification. There never came past his lips anything that was false or deceitful".

The following are the leading events in the history of the abbey which we find in the ancient chronicles:²—**St. Neassan** was succeeded in the abbey by **St. Munchin**, son of **Seadna**, grandson of **Cas**, and great grandson of **Conall** of the **Dalgais**, and nephew of **Bloid**, King of

¹ *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. iv. p. 237.

² Our authorities are **M'Curtin**, **Lanigan**, *Annals of the Four Masters*, **Colgan**, *Trias Thaumaturga*, et *Vit. Sii. Acta Sanctorum*, Keating, etc.

Thomond, who, on account of his unexampled piety and great learning, was ordered by St. Patrick to undertake the instruction of his converts in Connaught, and afterwards became the first bishop of Limerick.'

A.D. 760. Died the Abbot Ailioll, the son of Creabachain.²

820. This abbey was plundered and destroyed by the Danes.

834. This year the abbey, together with several other churches in Munster, was burnt and destroyed by the Danes.'

840. The Danes repeated their depredations.⁵

908. Cormac M'Cullenan, Archbishop of Cashel and king of Munster, did, by his last will, bequeath to this abbey three ounces of gold, an embroidered vest, and his blessing.⁶

909. Died the Abbot Maoileasil.⁷

934. The abbey was again consumed by fire.⁸

993. Died the Abbot Muirgheas, the son of Muireadhy.⁹

994. Died Rebechan, the son of Domchudha, the Archdeacon.'@

1006. Died the Abbot Caithair, the son of Maony.¹¹

1033. Died Constans, he was Archidnach of this abbey, and also of the Abbey of Derest Aenguis.¹²

1080. The abbey suffered much this year from a general conflagration.¹³

1088. Donal M'Lochloin, with the forces of Ulster, destroyed this abbey.'

1102. On the 5th of October, died in this abbey the blessed Mugron O'Morgair, principal professor of Divinity at Armagh, and in the west of all Europe.¹⁵

A.D. 731. According to the *Annals of the Four Masters*, the death of Molua, of the monastery of Mungret occurred.

In 751 the death of Astell, Abbot, took place.

In 752, death of Bodhbhghal, Abbot [756, *Annals of Ulster*.]

And according to the *Annals of Innisfallen*, Cuind Mac Cirerain died in 951.

In 965 Conn, son of Cercran, Abbot, and "head of all Munster", as the *Annals of the Four Masters* call him, died.

* 975 Death of Muirg Mac Muirdoch, Provost of Mungret.

• 989 Death of Caher, son of Moenach, Abbot.

[Thus marked * are taken from the *Annals of Innisfallen*.]

The *Annals of the Four Masters* mention the following :—

994. Death of Rebechan, son of Dunchad, Airchinneach.

1011. Death of Art O'Donogh, Abbot.

1014. (recte 1015) Niali, son of Dearrgan, Airchinneach of Mungret, killed.

1028. Death of Art Ua Dunchada, Airchinneach.

1033. Death (*quievit*) of Con Mac Maelpatrick, do.

1070. Death of Cathasach, son of Cairbre, Abbot.

1171. Mungret burned by Murtagh O'Brien.

1107. Mungret devastated by Murtagh O'Brien.

1179. Donald O'Brien, king of Limerick, granted the lands of Mungret and the lands of Ivamnach to Briccius, Bishop of Limerick, successor of Turgesius (who assisted at the Council of Lateran with other Irish bishops in 1179-80), and his successors, and to the clergy of St. Mary's, Limerick.

¹ Lanigan, *Eccles. Hist.*, vol. ii. p. 103. etc.

² *Annals of the Four Masters*. ³ *Annals of the Four Masters*.

⁴ *Ibid.* ⁵ M'Curtin, p. 193, 184.

⁶ *Annals of the Four Masters*. ⁷ *Tr. Th.* p. 638.

⁸ *Annals of the Four Masters*. ⁹ *Idem*.

¹⁰ *Act. SS.*, p. 582. ¹¹ *Annals of the Four Masters*.

¹² *Ann. Idem*. ¹³ *Ibid.* ¹⁴ *Ibid.* ¹⁵ *Ibid.*

The Black Book of Limerick contains a copy of this charter, from which it was taken by Sir James Ware. In the Sloane MSS. (British Museum) there is a copy of the charter also copied. The following is the charter:—

Charts Donaldi, Regis Limericensis.

[The date of this Charter was about 1194; the Archbishop of Cashel was Mathew O'Heney. Ware.]

Donaldus Rex Limericensis universis Dei fidelibus tam presentibus quam futuris Salutem. Non lateat universitatem vestram me donasse Briccio Lumnicano Episcopo, suisque successoribus cleroque Sancta Mariæ Limericensi in liberam ac perpetuam elemosynam terram Mungram [terras Imungram WARE and ERCK] et terras Ivamnachani ab arcu viz. ? Immungram usque ad terras Imolin; et a vado Ceinu usque ad flumen Sinan cum omnibus appendentibus, [al. appendicibus] Ut autem valida fiat hæc elemosyna, sigilli mei impressione eam confirm-. Teste Domino Mathæo Cassellensi et Ruadri Ugradei.

Which is thus translated :

Charter of Donald King of Limerick.

Domnaldus, or Domnald, king of Lumneach, to all the faithful of God, as well present as to come, greeting. Know ye all that I have granted to Briccius, Bishop of Lumneach, and to his successors, and to the clergy of St. Mary's of Limerick, in free and perpetual alms, the lands of Immungram, (now Mungret) and the lands of Ivamnach; that is, from the arch of Imungram to the lands of Imalin, and from the ford of Cein to the River Sinan, with all their appendances. And in ratification of this my grant in frankalmoigne, I confirm it with the impression of my seal. Witness, Lord Mathew, Archbishop of Cashel, and Roger O'Gradei.

1630, In this year, April 22, the Vicarage of Mungret was taxed at £142. The taxation and boundaries of this as well as of other vicarages of Ireland were made by Francis, Bishop of Limerick, and other commissioners, on October 5th, and fifth of Charles I. The taxation is quoted in Seward's *Tip. Hib.*, ap. p. 22.

The *Erenach* or *Aircinneach*, as well as the similar but superior officer *Comharba* (Coarb), corruptly written *Corba* or *Corbe*, was in ancient times the manager of church lands. By degrees the office of the erenach fell into the hands of laymen, who consequently assumed the title of archdeacons. In fact, the erenachs were the actual possessors of old church lands, out of which they paid in money or kind certain contributions for ecclesiastical purposes. The monks of Mungret were Canons Regular of the order of Augustine. It is still church land, and went into the possession of the Protestant Church in the reign of Elizabeth.

Dr. Lanigan does not hold some of the popular opinions about St. Nesan or St. Patrick. We give those opinions, with the authorities on which they rest. Dr. Lanigan, v. ii., 104, says that it is undeniable that St. Nesan was abbot, and most probably of Mungret, but that he cannot mark the precise time. He died, he says, in 552 (*Tr. Th.*, 186), and therefore could not have been placed over Mungret by St. Patrick, unless he (?) had lived about 140 years. It is to be observed, however, that in making St. Patrick's death occur in his seventh or eighth year, anno 465, Lanigan goes against the joint authority of the *Annals of Ulster* and the *Annals of the*

Four **Masters**, who are followed by Usher, Ware, Colgan, etc., in assigning the date A.D. 493 for that event. Lanigan's reasoning is very ingenious; he uses very scant ceremony with O'Halloran, Archdall, and Ferrar, whom he describes as nonsensical and ridiculous, the two first for stating that the Monastery of Mungret existed in the fourth century; the latter, for assigning its foundation to the year 433.¹

St. Munchin or Manchenns, above referred to, son of Sedna,² is said by a continued tradition, which has been followed by the ancient writers, and by Sir James Ware and his authorities, etc., to have been the first Bishop of Limerick, and to have founded a cathedral there, which, until the foundation of St. Mary's cathedral by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, about the time of the arrival of the English in Ireland, was the cathedral of the see of Limerick. The Ostmen are stated to have restored St. Munchin's Church. The festival of the saint, who is the patron of the diocese, is observed in the Catholic ritual on the 2nd of January. It is a matter of no small controversy who this Munchin was. We are of opinion that he was that Manchenus, whom Jocelyn (*Vit. Pat.*, cap. 69) calls "a religious man and one of complete knowledge of the Scriptures", "and whom", as he affirms, "St. Patrick placed over the subjects of Amalgaid, King of Connaught, then recently converted to the Christian faith". Others confound him with Manchenus, whom the Annals of Ulster call abbot of Menedrochid, and say that he died in 651 or 652. This, however, is improbable. To St. Munchin's sister, St. Lelia, the church of Killeely, in the parish of Killeely, was dedicated. Tradition ascribes to Rose, another

Until the year 1860 the Castle of Mungret was in good preservation. It stands on the lands of Castle Mungret, and in that year lost some ten or twelve feet of its original proportions, the tenant who took the lauds from the Protestant bishop, wishing to make it available for a mansion house. This act spoiled the venerable beauty of this ancient structure, which stands close by the Tervoe Road, near the hill of the Cross of Mungret, and not far from Temple Mungret, a fee property of hi. R. Ryan, Esq., J.P.

The Rev. Michael Casey, P.P., Nungret and Crecora, and his Parishioners, have recently erected in the churchyard of Mungret, a tabular monument fixed to the south wall of the old Church, and made of cut lime stone, to the memory of the Parish Priests who were interred from time to time in that ancient cemetery: it bears the following inscriptions with the sacred monogram I.H.S., chalices, etc.:-

Erected by the Rev. Michael Casey and his Parishioners of Mungret and Crecora, to ask prayers of the faithful.

Rev. Michael Mac Namara,
who served these parishes about 40 years, and died 11th April, 1822.

Rev. Denis McCarthy,
who served about 30 years, and died about 1792.

Rev. John Heynes,
who served 26 years, and died 1756.

And other priests whose remains lie beneath, and whose names and date are not remembered.

Requiescant in Pace.
A.D. 1862.

¹ St. Munchin, son of Sedna, son of Cassius Tail, the Dalcassian—Colgan, p. 540.

² Ware's Bishops.

sister of the saint, the building of Little Kilrush,¹ and to St. Covanus, the abbot, the historic church of Kilquane, all of which, tradition further has it, were built near the time of St. Patrick. The commemoration of the death of Manchenus is pointed out under the name of Manicheus, "the wise Irishman", in the books *De mirabilibus Scripturæ*, by some erroneously ascribed to St. Augustine (*Opera St. August.*, tom. 3, lib. 2, cap. 4). The ancient church of St. Munchin was situated on the south side of the river Shannon. Tradition has it that when St. Munchin was building his church the inhabitants of Limerick were very unwilling to contribute thereto, which so provoked the saint that he gave this curse to them, viz.: "that the natives of Limerick should never prosper therein".² On the site is built a Protestant church, a comparatively modern building seven hundred feet in circumference, bounded on the north or river side by the old town wall. In 1711, a year of very great excitement in Limerick, the Right Rev. Dr. Smyth, Protestant bishop, expended a considerable sum of money in repairing this church. His sons, Charles Smyth, Esq., M.P., and the Rev. John Smyth, set on foot in 1734 a subscription by which a sum of \$150 was raised to build a vestry room.³

¹ The residence of the Hon. Robert O'Brien, brother of Lord Inchiquin, is close by this ancient church, which is in many respects similar to that of Mungret.

² White's MSS.

³ There are many remarkable monuments in and about St. Munchin's Church, which deserve notice, as in ancient as well as in modern times it has been a favourite burial place with the citizens of Limerick. The oldest monument within the church, and that which claims first notice on account of the beauty of its design and the finish of its construction, is that which at a cost of £147 1s. 7.* the Right Rev. Dr. Smyth raised to the memory of his wife in 1717, which lady was daughter of the Right Rev. Ulysses Burgh, Protestant Bishop of Ardagh, who had been promoted to that see from the Deanery of Emly by William III. about 1693.

The monument, which is raised at the south side of the Communion Table, over the family vault of the Smyths and their successors the Verekers, is made of fine black and white marble, and supported by two cherubim. The following is the inscription:—

"Conditum est hoc monumentum a Thoma Smyth S. T. p. episcopo Limericensi, in piam memoriam nuperae sus uxoris charissimae Dorotheae, qua obiit, sexto die Augusti, A. D. 1711, ætatis 43, cujus reliquum hic sita sunt. Filia erit Ulysses Burgh S. T. P. non ita pridem Episcopi Ardachadensis, ex Maria Nata Gulie'mi Kingsmill armigeri.

"In eodem tumulo juxta jacent Maria Mater, et Elizabetha filia præfati Thomæ Smyth, quarum prior obiit septimo die Septembris, 1704; altera vero 15 die Novembris 1709, cum jam decimum sextum ætatis annum compleverat".

Near the north door of the church the Right Rev. Dr. Leslie and his wife are interred. Outside are a few ancient monuments, the most remarkable of which is one of the Creagh family, now represented by Pierce Creagh, Esq., of Ralahine, county Clare. On this monument the name

Andreas Creagh

is cut on a stone moulding, placed over three arches, which appear to have formed portion of a larger monument. Flat on the ground is a slab, with this curious inscription.

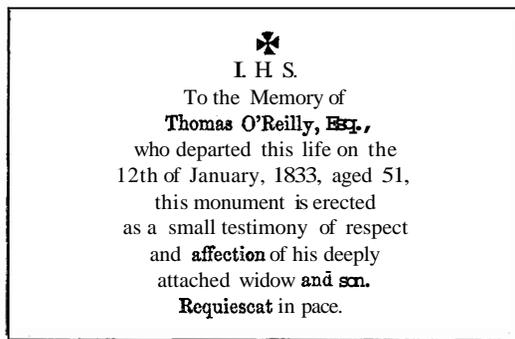
Armorial
bearings of the
MacMahons.

This monument was erected by
Thomas M'Mahon his spouse
Bright, in memory of his father in
law Kennedy M'Mahon died 9br.
27 1722 aged 103 years.

Also (defaced) his (defaced) children Bridget
Kennedy 7 years and Brien 4 years.
Also (defaced).

It is remarkable that of the bishops who followed 'St. Munchin, or Manchin, there is no record before the conversion of the Danes to Christianity, though there can be no question that the Church of Limerick had always enjoyed the continued succession of its episcopacy. Gille or Gilbert (said to be a Dane), first Apostolic Legate to Ireland, was Bishop of Limerick A.D. 1110, and flourished until 1140, when he died. He convened a synod at Rathbreasail, which twenty-five bishops attended, and at this synod, according to Ware, the limits of the Irish bishoprics were laid down.' He assisted at the consecration of Bernard, Bishop of Menevia, (St. David's) in 1115, which was performed at Westminster by Ralph, Archbishop of Canterbury, according to Eadernus. Growing old and infirm, in 1139, he voluntarily divested himself of the legatine authority, when the Pope raised Malachy Morgair, Bishop of Down, to that office.² He wrote epistles to Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, a book *de Statu Ecclesiae* or *de Usu Ecclesiastico*, which contains the different forms of liturgies and the various ways of celebrating divine service in the Church of Ireland, which he reforms to the Roman custom.' He is said to have insisted, with Malchus, Bishop of Lismore," on St. Malachi accepting the Archbishopric of Armagh, in virtue of his legatine authority, when he assembled the bishops and great men of the island, threatening St. Malachi with excommunication if he persevered in his refusal. According to Keating he was called *Giclla Eapruic* (bishop)—was Abbot of Bangor,

A short distance from the gate which leads to the cemetery, surrounded by an iron railing, is the tomb of the late Thomas O'Reilly, Esq., father of the Very Rev. Dr. O'Reilly, S. J. It has the following inscription on white marble:—



In the same tomb repose the mortal remains of Mrs. O'Reilly, a munificent benefactress to the poor.

In the cemetery are monuments to the late Alderman Pierce Shannon, who died during his mayoralty, and to the late Charles O'Hara, Esq., etc. There are vaults of the Bannatyne, Gelston,

¹ Keating gives an account of the boundaries of the various bishoprics of Ireland as they were then determined; but the names he mentions are so worn out of knowledge that I must be content, for want of information, to pass them over and refer the reader to him.—(*Harris's Ware*.)

² St. Bernard, *Via Malach*, cap. ii.

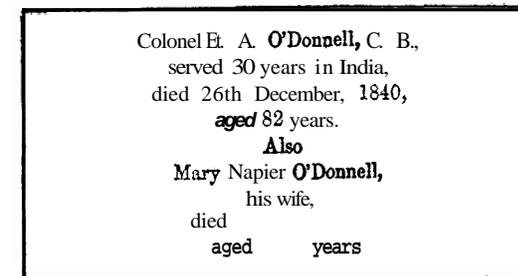
³ Dr. Thomas James, in his Catalogue of the MSS. of Benet College, Cambridge, and from him to John Pitts, have ascribed this book to a counterfeit Gille, Bishop of Lincoln.—(*Harris, Ware*).

⁴ *Britannia Sancta*, p. 238, vol. ii.

and flourished in the reign of Murtagh O'Brien, the pious king who bestowed Cashel on the clergy. The national council which he assembled at Uisneach, in Meath, consisted of fifty bishops, of whom he was president, three hundred priests and three thousand other ecclesiastics. The Archbishops of Armagh and Cashel took places next to him. His second synod, or rather the second session of the first, was held at Fiadhmac Naongusa, at which the Archbishop of Cashel, the Vicar of Armagh, eight other bishops, three hundred and sixty priests, and one hundred and forty deacons attended. Many excellent laws for the observance of clergy and laity were enacted at this synod. At the synod of Rath-breasail twelve bishops were appointed in Munster and Leinster, ten in Ulster and Connaught, and two in Meath. The lands of the bishops and clergy were settled. In Munster, under the Archbishop of Cashel, were appointed the dioceses of Waterford and Lismore, Cork, Rathmoigh, Deisgirt, Limerick, Killaloe, and Emloch-Jobhair (Emly).¹ The boundaries of the diocese of Limerick were thus regulated, viz.: the diocese of Limerick extended from Maolcarn² westward to Ath-an-Coinne Lodain, and to Lough Guhr, and to Rathachmore, and from Aidhne westwards, and Ard-Patnck southwards, and Beallach-Feabhra, and Tullach inclusive; Feil and Tarbert westwards, and Cuinic in Thomond, Cross in Mount-Uidhe an Riogh, and Dubh Abhain.³ The journal of that convention adds this sanction in this place: "Whoever exceeds these boundaries acts contrary to the will of God, and the intention of St. Peter and St. Patrick, and all the Christian Churches". St. Bernard, in his life of St. Malachy, gives high praise to the illustrious Gilbert. He says that St. Malachy came into Munster to make interest with the Irish Princes against Mauricc, the usurper of the see of Armagh, who by them was accordingly expelled. "Instabant", adds St. Bernard, "tam sancto operi omnes, duo potissimum episcopi Malchus et Gilbertus, quorum prior ipse est senior Lismorensis, alter senior Limericensis, etc."

Patrick, in 1140, succeeded Gilbert, having been elected bishop by the Ostmen, who were then masters of the country; he was consecrated in

Phayer, Frazer, Lloyd, and other families. A monument to Colonel H. A. O'Donnell, C. B., father of General Sir Charles O'Donnell, has the following inscription:—



The curious story of this monument is, that the surviving widow married some years afterwards, and thus cheated the sculptor of his anticipation.

¹ Keating.

² The name of the stream which runs through Six-Mile-Bridge, in the county of Clare, southwards to the Shannon.

³ Keating.

England by Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom, as Primate of Great Britain, he took an oath of canonical obedience.¹ Patrick sat but a short time; and during his episcopacy, Limerick, unquestionably, was in a state of great confusion on account of the different invasions from Connaught. The Danes showed an inveterate hatred not only to the Irish people, but to the Irish Church—for wherever they had influence or command, as in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and Limerick, their bishops swore canonical obedience to the Archbishop of Canterbury.²

Harold, an Ostman (by the Irish called Erolb), succeeded, and died in 1151. Turgesius, a Dane also, followed. He assisted at the synod of Kells, which was convened by Cardinal Paparo. Briccius, an Ostman, was next in succession. He was one of the Irish bishops who assisted at the Council of Lateran, in the years 1179 and 1180. His companions to Rome were Laurence, Archbishop of Cashel; Constantine, bishop of Killaloe; Felix, Bishop of Lismore; and Augustine, Bishop of Waterford; who first went over to England, took an oath not in any way to act prejudicially to the king's interest while in Rome, and were then permitted to proceed on their journey. Donald O'Brien, king of Limerick, as we have already seen, granted the lands of Imungran, (now Mungret) and the lands of Ivamnach to Briccius and his successors, and to the clergy of St. Mary's of Limerick.

Indeed the royal O'Briens were the most generous and munificent friends of the Church in these early times. They founded monasteries and churches all over Thomond, and in Limerick their donations and grants partook of the most princely proportions.

CHAPTER LV.

THE SUCCESSION OF BISHOPS—DONAT O'BRIEN—ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL—DONAT'S ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHAPTER—THE BLACK BOOK OF LIMERICK—TAXATION OF MEYLER FITZHENRY—DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CHAPTER, ETC., ETC.

DONAT O'BRIEN, AD. 1207, who descended from the royal stock, was the next Bishop after Briccius. He was a prelate in high repute for learning, wisdom, and liberality, in which he was more illustrious even than in birth. He stood high in favour with king John, when that unprincipled monarch had begun to learn to respect the rights of the Church, and to restore those possessions which he had at first unscrupulously alienated from their legitimate owners. Donat internally arranged St. Mary's Church, which was built on the site of the palace of the O'Briens, the first stone being laid in 1172 by Donald O'Brien, and which was largely endowed by his son, Donagh Carbragh O'Brien, who consolidated the work. St. Mary's

¹ The following is the profession of obedience as given in Usher's *Sylloge*, pp. 93, 93:—"1, Patrick, being elected to the government of the Church of Limerick, and being now, by the grace of God, about to be consecrated bishop by you, Reverend Father, Theobald, Archbishop of the Holy Church of Canterbury, and Primate of all Britain, do promise, in all things, to pay my bounden subjection to you, and to all your successors, canonically succeeding you". This profession may be seen in the ancient book in the Cotton Library, which formerly belonged to the Church of Canterbury. Ware did not know how long Patrick sat in this see.

² White's MSS.

cathedral, indeed, has very strong claims upon the citizens of Limerick, the antiquarian, and the lover of art; and a brief account of it may be introduced here. To the Catholic, St. Mary's is a trophy, not of victory, but of the taste and refinement of ages foully slandered. By Catholics it was planned, executed, endowed, and to them it owes all that it is. With them its fondest associations are connected. A few bishops, De Burgh, D'Eau, or Waters, and O'Dea, before the Reformation, and Adams after it, took a deep interest in the Cathedral; but their additions can be discerned from the original structure, and exhibit more zeal than judgment or architectural taste. Around the church in days of yore stood the Chapter House—the Divinity School—the Consistorial Court—the *Schola* Cantorum—the Cloisters with residences of Canons, Vicars Choral, and Dean, hence called the Dean's close, of which many interesting remains are still traceable to the north and south of the church. Some years ago a passage was discovered leading under Bow Lane, from the west side of the north transept, to the ruins of the Minor Canon's college, founded by Bishop Hubert de Burgh, and lately a smithy. With the exception of the sacristy, nothing is now wanting of the old edifice. The chancel must have been a little curtailed of its original length. The old edifice, disencumbered of its modern additions, was a pure basilica, consisting of nave, two aisles parallel with nave, transepts, chancel, the east side of which was not an apsis, but a straight wall in which was a three-light window. This deviation from the lay basilica was universal before the introduction of choirs. The sacristy, placed of necessity near the high altar, was another common deviation from the strict basilica shape. The nave was 170 feet long—formerly it is believed it was 180—by 27 wide; yet, from the circumstance of each triforium ending in a spiral staircase (which was discovered about the year 1861) leading to the roof, it may be asked if the original church did not terminate at the present intersection with the transepts; and there is strong reason for believing that the chancel was a subsequent addition of Bishop Donat, whose armorial bearings, carved in grit-stone, are inserted in the west end of the north chancel wall, and may be seen over the present pulpit. The transept was 93 feet long, by 30. The aisles are, or rather were, very narrow—only 12 feet wide. The pillars which separate the nave from the aisles are mere square piles of masonry, chamfered or rounded off on the edges, the base and cap only being of cut stone—being 36 feet square, and some, those of the transept, still grosser. On both sides of the wall which formed the aisles are still seen the corbels or brackets for receiving the beams on which rested the heels and heads of the rafters of the former penthons roof. These aisles terminated at the transept in an altar, the piscina of one of which is still seen in the northern aisle. A southern porch existed formerly, which has been replaced by a plainer and longer modern one. The tower attracts our attention for many reasons. Its situation is peculiar; its form a subject of controversy. In some of the older maps of Limerick there is a spire where the tower now stands. Nevertheless, we are inclined to think that no spire crowned St. Mary's cathedral in the twelfth century, and equally certain does it appear to us that the present tower has not the full

¹ Such it appears in the old maps published by the commissioners of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth—in the maps of the *Hibernia Pacata*, and in Speed's, etc.

dimensions of the one first erected. The position of this tower on a pillared archway right over the entrance into the church and in the middle of the façade, was a new and bold idea in the twelfth century. In almost all Saxon churches, and early English, the tower was at the end, either right or left of the façade, and disfiguring the building: hence the idea of erecting two, one at each end, to remedy the defect and introduce uniformity. It would seem as if the O'Brien architect, after many an anxious debate with the wise men of the day, contended that a tower should not rest on solid walls down to the foundation—that a well-constructed arch possessed all the strength and durability of the thickest wall; and he boldly placed his in the centre of the façade—its natural position,—dispensing with the heavy, unsightly walls which would have darkened the entrance into the cathedral. This appears one of the most interesting portions of the entire building, and perhaps to this are we to attribute the unnecessary heaviness and clumsiness of the other pillars in the cathedral,—the architect would have uniformity throughout.

This is the first instance of a tower placed in the façade in Ireland, or perhaps in England, and is supposed by Wilkinson to be a portion of the original palace of Donald O'Brien.¹ The grand church at Manister, built by an O'Brien, twenty-four years before, also had a tower, now no more, on the south side of the western front, and was larger than St. Mary's cathedral, far more ornate, and altogether more carefully got up. We take it, then, that this unsightliness was permitted because the architect, the first of his day, knew no better. The sacristy of St. Mary's opened on the transept and chancel. The battery in the King's Island demolished it at the first siege. It was rebuilt, as the spear-headed doorway, an undying monument of perverted taste, shows. After the second siege, which was as fatal to it as was the first, it was not rebuilt. Then it was that the eastern wall of the cathedral, probably, was moved back, and the sacristy too was sacrificed to public convenience. On its site the present Blue School was partly erected.

No substantial change was made in the cathedral from its first erection. In 1311, Bishop Eustace de l'Eau, or Waters, repaired and beautified it. A change was indeed made in the fifteenth century, perhaps by Bishop Cornelius O'Dea, which pervades the entire church, and gives it unhappily a comparatively modern appearance. The style of the church at the commencement was pure Saxon, the semicircular arch of which was often retained in the Norman doorway, which is remarkable for its recessed concentric arches and richly decorated pillars, both styles being varieties of the Romanesque, reminding one of some of the churches of Canterbury. This is visible in the western doorway recently cleared away, and in all the clerestory windows—in all the moldings, few as they are—in the clumsiness of the pillars and lowness of the arches, and in the red sandstone jamb lining of the doors and windows. At this time arose some innovator, who could see beauty only in the pointed arch, and he declared fierce war upon the round one; and so effectually had this idea been acted upon, that the pointed arch is everywhere to be seen—in the large windows, in the transept, in the nave, even in the arches under the tower. In the clerestory windows alone does the round arch appear; but the innovator, while leaving these untouched, with an extreme consistency,

¹ Wilkinson's Ancient Architecture of Ireland.

put them out of view by the many additions then made to the cathedral. The real fact seems to be, that the successive architects followed each the prevailing style of his own day. We should call it the Hiberno-Romanesque transition style.

Wilkinson¹ states that the three distinct features which the Norman architecture of Ireland is said to possess, is recognizable in the door of this cathedral, as it is equally in that of the cathedral of Killaloe, in which the ornament resembles the sculptured foliage of the latter Roman remains. Limerick cathedral ranks in importance as to structure next to St. Patrick's and Christ Church of Dublin, and those of St. Canice (Kilkenny), and Cashel.

The additions made to the original edifice are some of ancient, others of modern date. The latter became indispensable when the Dean's close was diverted from its original purpose. A Consistorial Court, a Chapter Room, a Sacristy or Vestry Room, had to be provided, and convenience alone was consulted in the few additions then made; but, before the reformation, much was added, principally by private citizens, who founded chantries in the cathedral, and erected the chapels at their own expense. Of these chapels there were many. The additions made by Bishops D'Eau, or Waters, or by the great prelate O'Dea, at a later period, aided by some families, such as the Arthurs in particular, claim some notice. They harmonize not with the style of the original building; they bespeak a later style and more modern taste; but are not without some compensating advantages. They do away with the narrow aisles and low exterior walls; they give massiveness and elevation to the whole, internally and externally, which it did not previously possess, and such evidently was the object of those who planned them. No addition appears to have been made to the chancel or transept; from this point down they commence. On the north side rises a chapel, higher, wider, and longer than the transept parallel to which it runs; and as it juts out six feet beyond the north transept, it appears at first sight, to a person viewing the church from the river, to be the northern extremity of the real transept. This must have been the work of some distinguished family, most probably the Arthurs, as we shall see as we proceed. A less pretentious chapel lies alongside it. On the southern side, parallel also with the transept, and at right angles also with the nave, are two side chapels, in all four. The eastern wall is entirely bare. The altars, which had been in that place, being peculiarly obnoxious to Republican levellers and Puritanical hate, have been totally defaced, not a vestige remaining. In the side walls are the mutilated remains of several private monuments. Some mutilated statues were found at different times, clear indications of what formerly existed; and we learn from the Arthur MSS. that St. Mary's formerly contained a series of noble monuments. A battlement runs along the aisles externally, and the angles of the tower, the top of which is 120 feet from the ground, are finished off with Irish stepped turrets.

To the O'Briens the honour is unquestionably due of patronising the style of architecture of the cathedral, and erecting some of the fairest monuments in that style. The style itself is attributed by some to Bishop Gilbert, a learned and accomplished ecclesiastic, who lived to see and

¹ Wilkinson's Ancient Architecture of Ireland.

² Essay of the late Very Rev. Dean Cussen, PP., V.G., on St. Nary's Cathedral, mitted the Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator.

direct the architect of **Manister Nenay**, in 1148, when a colony from **Mellifont** established themselves at that place, at the invitation of King **Turlough O'Brien**, who endowed magnificently the new establishment, and built their church at his own expense. We may add, that in the same style and exactly on the same plan was erected by King **Donald** and his son **Donagh Carbrac O'Brien**, the cathedral of **Cashel**, in 1176 (in the same year as that of Limerick), or that to which **Cormac's** chapel was but the chapter house, and monasteries without number at **Corcomroe**, **Holycross**, etc.: this last was so often restored and improved, that all trace of the first **Saxon** erection has vanished: at **Kilcooly**, **Canon Island** on the **Shannon**, **Peter's Cell** in Limerick, also the grand **Dominican Convent**, and the **Augustinian Nunnery**; the **Franciscan Convent** in **Ennis**, and in many other places: and in truth, it must be added, that as these are some of the oldest, so are they the finest in **Munster**. **Athassel Abbey** may alone be compared with them; but all the erections of the **Geraldines**, **Earls of Kildare**, at **Adare**, **Desmond** at **Askeaton** and **Lislachtin**, **Clan Gibbons** at **Ballinegall** and **Killmallock**. and of so many others who founded religious houses in latter times, fall immeasurably behind those of the **O'Briens**. The **O'Briens** were worthy of the distinguished architect, and he was worthy of them. In the cathedrals of **Cashel** and **Limerick**, particularly in the latter, limestone is the chief material employed.

It is not our intention to dwell on the transactions between King **John** and the **English Church**, or the struggles between the hierarchy and the crown for precedence.' One of the very earliest acts of **Bishop Donat** was

¹ King **John's** dealings with the Church forms a long and most important chapter in history. **Magna Charta**, dated June 15, 1215, recites as present among the Archbishops, **Henry**, Arch bishop of **Dublin**, **John De Lacy**, **Constable of Chester**, and others.

Twenty-four baronies named by it for government.

The "freedom of the English Church" is the subject of the first chapter. At its original in-diting the Kingdom of Ireland had no share (says **Lord Cope**) in this liberty, but by a law enacted in 1405, 2 c. **Hy. vii.**, it was decreed that all previous statutes of England should be extended into that country.

Copies of **Magna Charta** were sent to Ireland, and in the **Patent Rolls**, **Record Office**, **Tower**, **London**, is a copy of the king's letter sent with it. The following are extracts:

"The king to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, knights, and to all his faithful subjects who are now throughout Ireland, greeting.

"Commending your faith in the Lord, which ye have always shown unto the lord our father and unto us, we will give in token of your fidelity so manifest and so famous to our kingdom of Ireland, the liberties of our kingdom of England, granted by our father and ourselves, and which liberties distinctly reduced by writing we now send to you, signed with the seal of our lord **Gualo**, **Legate of the Apostolic See**", etc., etc.—**6th February, 1216**.

After the granting of **Magna Charta** at **Runnymede** he passed a season of so much seclusion that "his subjects knew not where he was, whether he had turned pirate or fisherman, until he appeared at **Dover** in September to meet the ambassadors from the Pope". His interview with **Pope Innocent** embraces a long series of instruments wherein the great charter was annulled by the **Pontiff**, and ended with a special excommunication of thirty-two English barons, dated **December 16, 1215**.

The French under **Louis** continued preparations to invade England. In vain did **Cardinal Gualo** forbid it, foreseeing that, if successful, the Pope would lose his interest in England, so that he forbade it, upon the penalty of excommunication, as belonging to the Holy See. The French persisted, and landed at **Sandwich** in **1216**.

John died **October 19, 1216**. One of his last acts was to write to the Pope, **Honorius III.**, recommending his children to his protection, and by his will making "satisfaction to the Holy Church for damages and injuries", and "in making distribution of alms to the poor and religious houses for the health of my soul. Constituting as managers for me a certain cardinal priest, several bishops, and **Walter De Lacy**, and others".

A translation of the deed by which England was consigned to the Pope by **King John**, says: "We have freely given unto God and his Holy Apostles **Peter** and **Paul**, and our Mother the

to call together his clergy, to establish secular canons in his cathedral church of **St. Mary**, to deliberate on the subject of the statutes for canonical observance, and not only to adorn but to enlarge the house of the Lord. He proceeded, according to the English custom; he laid down a special regulation that the Mass of the Blessed **Virgin** should be constantly celebrated in the cathedral; and he advanced this as one of the reasons which induced him to establish the canons, on whom he bestowed benefices, (which are set out by name at page 11 of the **Black Book**), for their maintenance. The dignitaries were the **Dean**, the **Archdeacon**, the **Cantor**, the **Treasurer**, in addition to whom there were six canons. He gave first to **P.** the dean, the Church of **St. Nicholas**, with its appurtenances in prebend.

To **M.** the archdeacon, the Church of **St. John**, below the city of **Limerick**, with its appurtenances; the Church of **Kildecolum** and the Church of **Kildimo**, with lands and other appurtenances, and all the spiritual benefices of **Ardagh**, with its appurtenances.

To **M. Omelinus**, chantor of the same church, the Church of **Sengola (Shanagolden)**, and of **Ardmia**, and of **Rathnasa**, in prebend.

To **William de Kardiff**, treasurer, the Church of **Sengol (Singland)**, with the land of **Rathgarellein**, with its appurtenances, and with all spiritual benefices; **Drummoluba**² and its appurtenances, as well of fishes as of all other benefices, in prebend.

To **Oolimiregan**, canon, the Church of **Mungret** (now part of the deanery) with its appurtenances, in prebend.

To **Ricollus**, chaplain, canon, the Church of **St. Manchin**, with its appurtenances, in prebend.

To **Oolimiregan**, canon, the Church of **St. Michael**, and all spiritual benefices of **Kathadufduh** and of **Killonchon**, in prebend.

To **M. O. Conyng**, canon, all spiritual benefices of **Ballimacada** (now **Ballycahane**), and of **Mividita**, and of **Formiliaries**, and of **Ardchatlin** (now **Ardcanny**), and of **Ballicovan** (now **Kilpeacon**).

He further assigned, for the sustentation of the canons, the Church of the **Virgin Mary** of **Limerick**, and the sanctuary of the same church, the fruits to be raised in oblations, etc., etc., and half the tithes of all kinds of fishes of **Limerick**, and the tithes of **Cotheim** (now **St. Lawrence**), outside the city, and the Church of **St. Mary Magdalen**, and the Church of **St. Martin**, with its appurtenances, and the Church of **Donenthmore** (now **Donoughmore**), and the Church of **Killiedely**.

To **O. O'Mally**, canon, portion of the common fund.

To **Doncuen O'Conregan**, canon, portion of the common fund.

To **T. Maccreanachani**, canon, portion of the common fund.

To **Paulinus**, chaplain, canon, portion of the common fund.

Holy Church of **Rome**, and our lord **Pope Innocent**, with his Catholic successors, the whole Kingdom of **England** and the whole Kingdom of **Ireland**, with, etc., saving always the blessed **Peter's** pence.

"The words of fealty by **John** to the Pope.

"The patrimony of **St. Peter** and the kingdoms of **England** and **Ireland** I shall endeavour myself to defend".

John was the first to adopt the title of **Lord of Ireland**; his possessions there had been conquered by his father, who in **1176** created him **King of Ireland**, but that title was not assumed (as now used) until **1531** by **Henry VIII.** In the *Liber Niger* he is always styled **John FitzJohn**.

¹ *Black Book*

² This is believed to be **Curragower**.

The deed by which he constituted the dignitaries and canons was witnessed by the Lord Archbishop of Cashel, by the Lord Bishops of Cork, Cloyne, Ross, Ardfer, Emly, Kilfenora, and Waterford, and three abbots, viz., the Abbot of Maggio, the Abbot of Suirey, the Abbot of Furness, the Archdeacons of Waterford, Killaloe, and Magfenin; the Priors of the Monasteries of St. Catherine and St. Edmond, and the Dean of Cashel.¹ In page 114 of the *Black Book* is the confirmation of the act of Bishop Donat, made by a successor, Edmund, Bishop of Limerick, but it bears no date. In the time of Donat, who died A.D. 1207, the ancient see of Iniscathay was united to Limerick. King John showed the greatest anxiety to conciliate the bishop and clergy of Limerick, not only by making restitution, but by conceding and confirming by royal charter further grants to the Church. The king employed Bishop Donat much in his affairs in Ireland, and he became very dear to him. On the 13th July, in the eighteenth year of his reign, John granted ten plough lands in *terris de Omayle*, or, as it is in another place stated, *de terris de Omayle*, and in both places styled "*prope Mungarett*."² King John continued to interfere with the appointment of the bishops. We find that in 1207, Geoffrey, rector of Dungaman, was strongly recommended by him to the dean and chapter of Limerick. The king wrote to Meyler Fitzhenry, Lord Justice of Ireland, who made an inquisition respecting the property of the church of Limerick,³ with instructions to procure Geoffrey to be elected bishop. There is little doubt that the royal missive was complied with.⁴ By a MS. in the margin of Sir James Ware's original Latin manuscript, mention is made that Geoffrey was Bishop of Limerick in 1217. (White's MSS.) By Myler Fitzhenry's inquisition (1201) it appears that the churches in the city of Limerick at the time were St. Munchin's, St. Bridget's, St. John's, St. Peter's, St. Martin's, St. Michael's, St. Mary Rotundus (supposed to be St. Mary Magdalen's), and St. Nicholas's. Edmund, the successor of Geoffrey, sat but a short time, having died in 1222. Hubert de Burgo, who had been Prior of the Monastery of St. Edmund king and martyr, at Athassell, county Tipperary, which was founded by his relative William de Burgh, about A.D. 1200, was the next bishop in succession to Edmund. He was consecrated in 1222. He had been deprived of the temporalities of his see, but the king restored them to him on the 11th March, 1222. (English style.) Hubert was a great benefactor to the cathedral, and its canons and vicars-choral. He built the College of the Minor Canons, north of the cathedral. He augmented the number of prebends. He granted the church of St. Mary of Iniskesty to the Abbey of the Blessed Virgin at Keynsham, in Somersetshire, in England; and dying on the 4th of September, 1250, he was buried in the Monastery of the Dominican Fathers at Limerick. A little before his death, according to Sir James Ware, the bishops of Ireland had formed

¹ *Black Book*.

² Bishop Bernard Adams, when he held the See of Kilfenora in commendam, A.D. 1606 and 1617, made an abstract from the *Black Book* of the property of the See of Limerick, which is in the registrar's office. The assignation made to the bishop of these ten plough lands is mentioned fol. 60 p. 1. and see Charter of the Corporation of Limerick in reference to ten carucates of land in Omayle, fo. 48, p. 1, in *Black Book*.

³ The Regal Visitation Book in the Prerogative Office, Dublin, contains a copy of this inquisition, which also appears in the report of the Commissioners of Public Records in Ireland. It is also in the *Black Book* of Limerick.

⁴ Sir James Ware was unable with absolute certainty to state the fact, but it is believed nevertheless that Geoffrey was Bishop of Limerick.

the project of depriving the king of the custody of the temporalities of all sees during vacancies; they intended also to obstruct their tenants from suing in the king's courts without the Pope's assent. Hubert was employed by the bishops to solicit from the court of Rome this extension of privilege. The king became alarmed; he wrote to the Pope to prevent the design of the bishops, but the death of Hubert put an end to the projected journey; and from all that has come down to us, relative to the affair, it was not successful.

On the death of Hubert, Robert (O'Neill) of Emly was elected in succession by the dean and chapter, the king having granted him his *conge d'elire*. He succeeded in 1250, and died in 1472. He gave to Thomas Wodeford, dean of Limerick, and his successors, the ecclesiastical benefices of Carnarthy (Cahirnarry) and Rathsiward in 1253 (and also the Church of St. Nicholas, in Limerick, Mungaret, Brury, Ballysiward, and two others). A copy of the Act of Donation is in the *Black Book* of the Bishops of Limerick, page 73. King Henry III. in 1250, also made a grant to the Canons of St. Mary's, which is set out in the *Black Book*?

On the death of Robert (O'Neill) of Emly, A.D. 1272, the chapter of the cathedral, consisting of Thomas of Wodeford—(we suppose) dean; Thomas, precentor; G. Y. T., chancellor; Richard Brice, treasurer; Gerald, arch-deacon; David of Cornwall, Henry Russell, Richard of Limerick, Nicholas of Wodeford, and John FitzHugh, canons—*assembled together*, on the 3rd of November, 1272, in St. Nicholas's Church, in Limerick, and previously to their proceeding to elect a bishop, drew up a declaration of the rights and liberties of the chapter of Limerick, which they confirmed by oath on the Holy Evangelists, and bound each one of them himself in the same oath, that if he chanced to be chosen Bishop of Limerick he would confirm the same rights and liberties by his authority, and procure the confirmation of them also, at the joint expense of himself and the chapter, by the Pope, which if the bishop delayed to comply with, he was to be branded with the infamy of perjury, and the dean and canons who abided by their oath were to be released from obedience to him. The articles of this declaration are as follows:—

I. That when the Bishop visited the diocese either by himself or by his office—~~they~~ *they should not*

¹ *Ware's Bishops*.

² "Grant of our lord the king, made to the canons of the church of Limerick, in reference to repairing its buildings towards the sea, and their courts (curiis).

Edward, eldest son of the illustrious king of England, to the sheriffs and bailiffs of Limerick, greeting, wishing to do a special favour to our beloved master Thomas, treasurer of Limerick, and to the other canons, and especially to his just petitions when they appertain to the promotion and honour of the Church, we order you to incline benevolent ears, whereas they wish to build the same house towards the sea (river), and to enlarge their courts, as Thomas Cropp and Walter Brim have done, that you freely permit them, provided the same can be done without prejudice to us or to the city aforesaid. With a view to your doing this more securely, we extend these our letters patent to you. Given at Westminster on the 11th day of March, in the 22nd year of the reign of our father."

We find, in page 1 and 2 of the *Black Book*, the copy of a deed, by which Robert, Bishop of Limerick, granted, by the advice and consent of the chapter, the town and burgage of Mungaret, under a yearly rent of twelve marks of silver and five pounds of wax, to the Church of St. Mary's, Limerick.

The grant bears no date, and the copy is hardly legible from age, and follows the memorandum of William Creagh, Bishop of Limerick, by which he notices that he received the lands of Donoughmore, which were not in the possession of his predecessor. I do not find this Robert's name among the Bishops of Limerick (for I hardly believe him to be Robert of Emly), if he be not Robert of Dondonill. [Note by Dr. Young, in White's MSS.]

receive any **procurations** or extort anything by exactions in the places visited, as they had houses of their own in every part of the diocese to which they could conveniently resort.

2. That when the deanery became vacant, the dean was to be chosen by the common clection of the whole, or the greater or better part of the chapter, which election, when made according to the canons, the bishop should ratify and confirm without any contradiction.

3. That the bishop should not confer, by any means, the other dignities of the chapter on strangers, when they should appear to fall vacant, but upon such of the canons of the chapter who were conspicuous for the regularity of their morals, and that by the advice of the canons, or the greater or better part of them.

4. When the lesser prebends become vacant, they may be conferred by the bishop, by the advice of the canons, or the greater or better part of them, on strangers, but such only as were willing and able to relieve the Church in its necessities and defend it from unjust grievances.

6. That no future bishop was to alienate in any manner or transfer the lands of the Church or its possessions to any persons whatsoever, without a previous treaty with the whole chapter, or the greater or better part of it, to see how far it may be expedient for the utility of the Church.

6. That no future bishop was to claim to himself the whole or any part of the commons granted by the preceding bishops, or any others, to the dean and chapter of the Church of Limerick, nor lessen them, his authority at the same time remaining in full force of admonishing the dean, and that he should endeavour by all possible means to enlarge the commons, dignities, and prebends, and their liberties.

7. That ten chaplains at least be maintained in the aforesaid cathedral church henceforward, who besides discharging the due service of the said church, shall be bound to say Mass daily for the living and deceased benefactors of said church, for whom a competent provision be given, according to their said merits, out of the commons due to the chapter and canons by certain persons appointed by the said chapter for that purpose, and that what remains be deposited in the treasury of said church for the purpose of defending the rights of said church, and what share of said commons may remain over and above is to be reserved to be disposed of by the canons, to their own use and advantage. But that the liberty granted to the dean and chapter by Hubert of happy memory, heretofore bishop of that church, and which was enjoyed in his days and the days of his successor Robert for forty years and upwards, without contradiction, should seem to be lapsed by any dissimulation, we have thought right to insert it in this present writ, viz:— That the dean of the cathedral may be enabled freely to visit all the prebends belonging to the aforesaid church by his own authority at the times appointed by the law, so that no bishop may claim a right of visiting them, neither by himself nor by his officers.

A copy of the above deed is in the Black Book of the Bishops of Limerick, pag. 53, et seq., and a confirmation of it by Bishop Gerald in all points in pag. 54. So much has been said of this book in this work, and it is so important in illustrating the history of the Church of Limerick at this period, that we give in the note¹ a brief description of it, with further specimens of its contents.

¹ The *Liber Niger*, or Black Book of the Bishops of Limerick, is so frequently referred to, that the reader will not be displeased at our translating a few specimens of the entries in that very curious volume of MSS., which is at present among the O'Renehan MSS. in the library of the Royal College, Maynooth, and which is a remarkable compilation of charters, statutes, agreements, and transactions between bishops, tenants, and abbots, as well as of grants, etc., etc., connected with the cathedral Church of St. Mary's, Limerick. It appears that the *Liber Niger* was lent to the late Very Rev. Dr. O'Renehan, President of Maynooth College, by the late Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, Catholic Bishop of Limerick; and being amongst Dr. O'Renehan's books at the time of his death, it passed into Maynooth Library, where, by permission of the Right Rev. Dr. Butler, Catholic Bishop of Limerick, it is at present, but it is the property of the diocese of Limerick. The "Little Black Book" is preserved in the Protestant Registrar's office of the diocese. [A legible and exact copy of the *Liber Niger* has been made for the library of Trinity College, Dublin, by permission of the Very Rev. President of Maynooth.] The *Liber Niger* contains an ancient taxation of the diocese and other matters not in the index, of which the following are specimens in Latin with a translation:

TABULA INSTRUMENTORUM ECCLESIAE LYM. IN PRESENTI VOLUMINE CENTENTORUM.

I. "Finalis Concordia inter Gerd. Epm. Lymer. petentem et Rogerum filium David et Isabellam ux. ejus tenentes de xxiiii. acris tre cum pertinenciis in Kidcach".

[Final agreement between Gerd., Bishop of Limerick, plaintiff, and Roger Fitz-David and Isabella his wife, tenants of xxiv. acres of land with the appurtenances thereof in Kidcach.]

III. "Inter David de Barry et Epm. Lymer de feria Kyllociae".

[Between David de Barry and the Bishop of Limerick about a fair at Kilmalloe.]

X. "Inter Henricu. Motyng querent et Robertu. Epm. Lymer. impediendum de presentatione Eccle. de Nantenan.

CHAPTER LVI.

DEALINGS WITH THE CHURCH POSSESSIONS — TAXATION OF POPE NICHOLAS — THE TAXATION ATTRIBUTED TO BISHOP O'DEA, PARISHES AND PATRONS, ETC., PRESERVED IN WHITE'S MSS., ETC., ETC.—THE SUCCESSION OF BISHOPS, ETC.

On the 11th January, A. D. 1272, Gerald or Geoffrey le Maxeschal, Arch-deacon of Limerick, was raised by royal license to the bishopric, the Arch-bishop of Cashel having received a mandate to consecrate him. Previously to his election the king granted the custody of the temporalities to him for one year, saving knights fees, advowsons, wards, reliefs, and escheats, which he reserved to himself. He governed the see for twenty-nine years, and recovered some usurped or forcibly alienated possessions, and in particular certain lands and woods which Bishop Robert, his predecessor, without the assent of the chapter, had granted to Richard Mejjagh (May). Gerald made certain constitutions which are extant in the *Black Book*—constitutions, it need not be added, strictly in conformity with the Roman ritual. The kings of England continued, indeed, to exercise their influence in the

[Between Henry Motyng, plaintiff, and Robert Bishop of Limerick, defendant, respecting the presentation to the Church of Nantenan.]

XIII. Inter Gerd. Epm. querent et Johem. Dundon et Johanna ux. ejus, is impediendum de uno messuagio cum pertin. in Lymer."

[Between Gerd. Bishop of Limerick, pl. and John Dundon and Johanna his wife, defendants, respecting one messuage with its appurtenances in Limerick.]

XX. "Instrumenta de Kylmechaloc et aliis trs. ad Ecc. in Lym. spectantibus".

[Deeds respecting Kilmallock and other lands belonging to the Church in Limerick.]

XXI. "Inquisitio capta per Mylerii fil. Hen. super terras predic."

[Inquisition held by Myler FitzHenry of the lands aforesaid.]

XXVIII. "Carta Donaldi Regis Lymer."

[Charter of Donald King of Limerick.]

XXVII. Quia clamantia Epi. Laonensis super tra. de Divenathinor".

[Quit-claim (release) of the Bishop of Killaloe for the land of Divennthinor.]

XXXIX. "Concessio et confirmatio Episc. Lymer. super beneficiis de Glynecorby".

[Grant and confirmation of the Bishop of Limerick of the benefices of Glynecorby.]

LIV. "Assignatio decimarum et oblationum fca. canonicis Lymer per Epos. ejusdem loci".

[Assignment of the tithes and offerings made to the canons of Limerick by the bishop of the same place.]

LIX. "Inquisitio capta mandto Domni Regis super decimas piscarum et molendinorum utrumque pertineant ad Thesauriam Lymer. vel ad capellam castri regis de Lymer".

[Inquisition hold by order of our lord the king into the tithes of fisheries—[Until about sixty years ago, the first take of salmon and oysters belonged to the Minor Canons of the cathedral, as may be seen from their books. The Corporation at present enjoy this privilege.]—and mills, and whether they belong to the treasury of Limerick, or to the chapel of the king's castle of Limerick.]

LXIII. "Canonica obedientia fca. Epo Lymer. per Malachiam rectore eccle. de Ardpatrick".

[Canonical obedience paid to the Bishop of Limerick by the rector of the church of Ardpatrick.]

I.V. "Solutio facta in curia Romana per Episc. Lymer".

[Payment made in the Roman Court by the Bishop of Limerick.]

LXXI. Obligatio quietis clamantia Maur le Marescal super tra. de Ardach.

[Bond and release of Maur le Marescal of the lands of Ardagh.]

LXXIII. "Libertates concessæ Eccle. Lymer. et ab Episc. et canonicis ejusdem loci.

[Liberties granted to the church of Limerick and to the abbots, bishops, and canons of the same place.]

Between 1204 and 1207 we have the "ordinance of Donat, Bishop of Limerick, on the divine office to be performed in the church of Limerick", containing regulations respecting masses, benefices, etc., etc. And "the charter of Thomas de Wodford of the land and buildings contained within the precincts of the Dean's Close". And "the ancient statutes of the Church and Chapter of Limerick". Dated 1298. [This is a confirmation of preceding conventions.]