

FAMOUS AUTHOR

Visit To Limerick Recalled

CARLYLE AND GAVAN DUFFY

JUST over 100 years ago Limerick had a visit from Thomas Carlyle, one of the famous men of letters of his time. This was his second visit to Ireland, but before proceeding to set out his impressions of Limerick City and its neighbourhood it is, perhaps, well to recall that Carlyle was born in Scotland in 1795 in humble circumstances. His father was a stone mason, and literary success came to him slowly. At the time of Carlyle's second visit to Ireland he was over 50 and had met with success in his works on "The French Revolution" and on "Cromwell." His first book, "Sartor Resartus," was recognised only by two men as anything out of the ordinary when it appeared in Fraser's Magazine. They were Emerson, the American Unitarian divine, and Father O'Shea of Cork. Carlyle was particularly anxious to meet the latter, which he did at the house of Denny Lane, the Young Irelander, in 1849.

CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY.  
For the greater part of his second visit, Carlyle was accompanied by Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, who first got to know him while a law student in London. Duffy remained a close friend of Carlyle up to his death in 1881 and particularly during the time Duffy was a member of Parliament at Westminster. He resigned from there in 1885 and went to Australia.

Carlyle's impressions of Ireland are recorded in a book entitled "My Irish Journey in 1849," which was not published until the year after his death and then against the advice of Duffy who, in "Conversations with Carlyle" (1892), described it as made up of hasty notes in which Carlyle allowed himself a licence of language which he himself would not have justified or sanctioned had he lived to see his notes in print. It is fortunate, from the historian's point of view, that these notes were published, however disjointed and otherwise unsatisfactory they are.

**THE VISIT TO LIMERICK.**  
To return to his visit to Limerick, the country through which the train passed from Limerick Junction is described as green and commonplace. Duffy was waiting for Carlyle on the platform at Limerick Station and accompanied him to Cruise's Hotel. For some strange reason Limerick's wide and well laid out streets did not impress him, and the river is described as not very beautiful. Amongst his callers at the hotel was Richard Bourke, then a Poor Law Inspector. They had met in London and on Bourke's invitation Carlyle went to Thornfields, Lisnagry, the home of Bourke's father, Major General Sir Richard Bourke, to which he proceeded along what is described as a broad open road, with some miserable little peat carts on it, and nearly nothing else. One of Carlyle's minor disappointments was his inability to purchase gloves of a type for which Limerick was once famous.

Thornfields had been laid out by Major General Sir Richard Bourke, who after a distinguished career as a soldier in Spain and elsewhere became Governor of New South Wales. He returned to spend the last 20 odd years of his life in Thornfields.

**A FINE OLD SOLDIER.**  
Sir Richard Bourke is described as a fine old soldier, lean, clean face hacked with sabre scars and bullet marks, inextinguishably lively grey, hard eyes, head snow white and low voice, who bought the place 30 years previously and beautifully improved what was a black bog then, planted with a good wood, neat walks and fields flourishing. Carlyle's visits to nearby places included one to Lord Clare's place where Sir Richard drove him where the gardens and the green lawns impressed him. Another visit was to Scotchman Mealls farm (I fancy Raheen House) where good crops are produced provided you keep the ditches scoured. All this region is described by nature execrable drowned bog. Castleconnell is described as consisting of a hungry single street. Carlyle commented on the bareness of the Clare Hills. The same is true to-day—A country, as he says, that might all be very beautiful, if it were not so bare, gnarled and craggy. The slate quarries at Killaloe are also referred to.

JOHN MITCHELL'S PROSE STYLE.

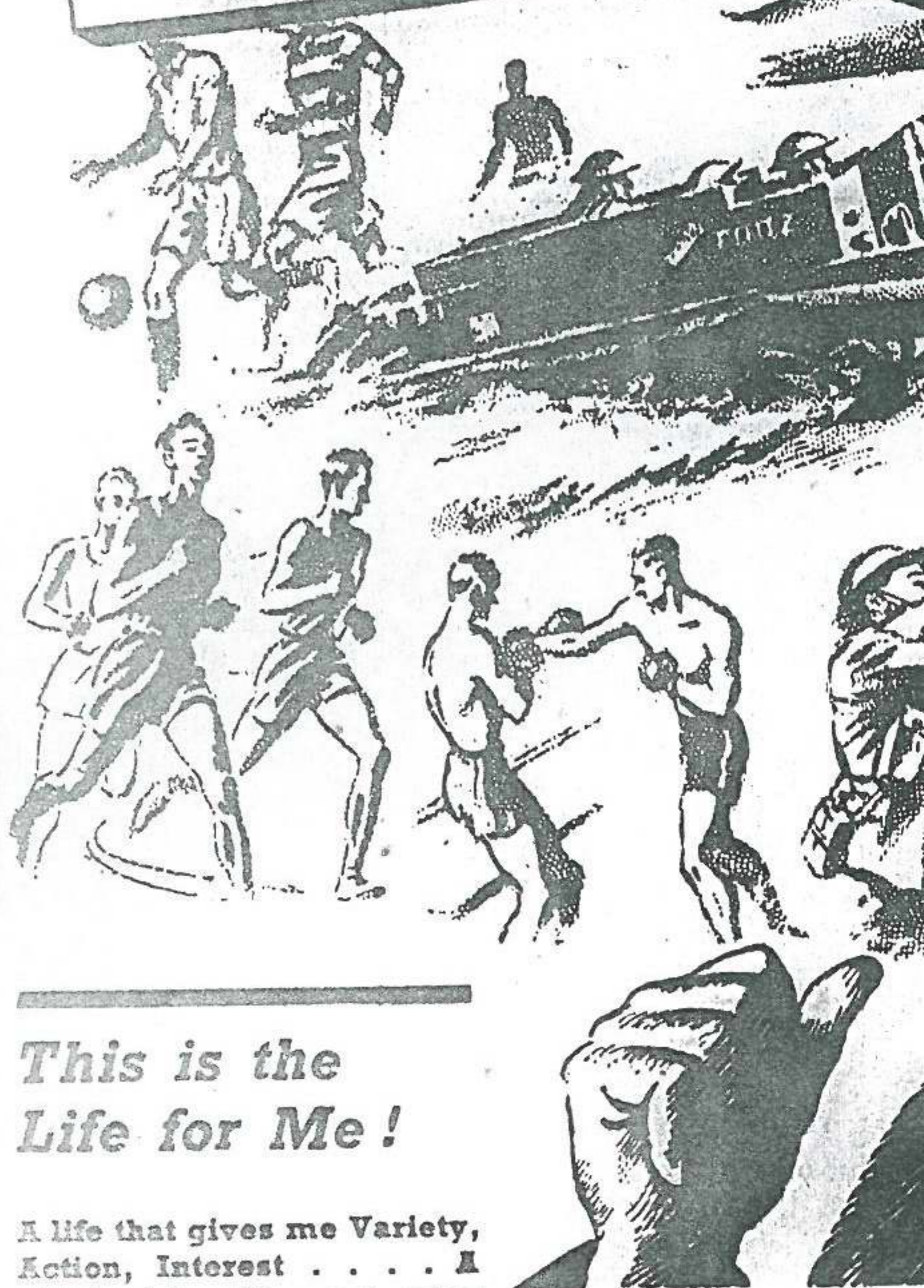
John Mitchell is popularly believed to have modelled his fine prose style on Carlyle's writings, but when it comes to describing the countryside or towns visited, Mitchell is much superior and if Carlyle's book on his 1849 visit has nothing profound to say of Limerick it has much of interest on other parts.

P.C.

CONCERT AT BALLYSTEEN

Ballysteen Pioneers held a very fine concert in the Library on Sunday night, February 26th (writes our Pallaskeyny correspondent). Artists from Limerick and Rathkeale contributed extensively, and very effectively, to a well-balanced programme supplemented by local

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VOCATIONAL

City Committee

PROMOTION OF FATHER O'BRIEN

MR. P. J. DONNELLAN, B.C., Chairman, presided at the meeting of the City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee on Tuesday night.

Other members present were—Very Rev. P. J. Lee, P.P., St. Mary's; Ven. Archdeacon Hewetson-Jones; Ald. M. Hartney, Mr. P. J. Cusack, B.C.; Mr. P. Whelan, B.C.; Mr. J. C. Hickey, B.C.; Mr. M. B. O'Malley, solicitor, B.C.; Mr. P. O'Connell, B.C.; Mr. M. O Tuathaigh, B.A., N.T.; Mr. T. J. Loughrey, Mr. J. McQuane, with the officials—Mr. P. V. Twomey, C.E.O., and Miss B. Murphy, clerk.

An apology for non-attendance was received from Very Rev. D. O'Brien, B.Sc., President St. Munchin's College.

MEMBER CONGRATULATED.

The Chairman said it was fitting that they should pay tribute to Father O'Brien on his promotion as President of St. Munchin's College. He was a very useful member of the committee and they were all very gratified to learn of his appointment to the presidency of the college. They extended to him their very best wishes.

Mr. O Tuathaigh said he would also join with the Chairman in extending best wishes to Father O'Brien. He had been associated with Father O'Brien for the last 20 years in the Gaelic revival.

The C.E.O. on his own behalf and on behalf of the Committee's staff, also associated himself with the previous speakers.

HOTEL COOKERY COURSE.

A letter was read from the Department stating that a special course in hotel cookery would be held in Dublin. The Tourist Board would give 8 scholarships, and Vocational Committees were allowed to nominate 2 candidates if

ANNUAL MEETING

Kilmallock Clann na Poblachta

QUESTION OF FACTORY

AT the annual general meeting of the Kilmallock Branch of Clann na Poblachta, held at the People's Hall, Kilmallock, the following officers and Committee were elected—Chairman, Mr. John Scanlan; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Rd. O'Donnell; Secretary, Mr. Wm. Naughton; Treasurer, Mr. J. Sheehy, Committee—Messrs. O. Barry Walsh, C. Carroll, P. T. Liston, P. J. Connell, Ml. Murphy, W. Hennessy, J. MacNamara, John Cronin, P. Connolly, John O'Grady, P. O'Keefe, E. McCann, J. Ryan, P. Biggane, J. Moloney, T. Quinn, C. Earls, D. Walsh, P. Fitzgerald and J. Foley. Mr. J. Scanlan reported to the meeting that during the past year the Branch had done much good work locally, through the efforts of Mr. G. E. Russell, B.C., Limerick, and he enumerated many matters that had been attended to in the district.

A resolution was passed condemning the action of the County Council in removing two water fountains in Orr Street and at Lord Edward Street, Kilmallock, and asking to have these replaced immediately and to provide proper water facilities in the town and other areas, including the Hill, Kilmallock.

It was also decided to ask the County Council to attend to the repair of cottages in the area, many of which are, it was stated, in a bad way.

The meeting also passed a resolution acclaiming the action of Mr. Sean MacBride and Dr. Noel Browne in going to the North recently and taking some positive action in helping the people in the North to end Partition.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that during the year, the Branch had made many efforts to have a factory of some description established at Kilmallock, and he considered that