

A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN LIMERICK



ould any past-pupil of the Christian Brothers imagine a different kind of education from that given him by the 'Brothers'? Although there maybe some ifs, buts or maybes, most of us would, I believe, remember our school-days as an innocent and relatively happy time – a time when time itself seemed to remain still.

Of course, some will recall the hard work and long hours of study, that went into the preparation for examinations, the homework (exercises) and the learning of lessons, especially poetry, by memory, the prayers every hour, the hard slaps on the upturned palms with the heavy leather straps and the tedium of trying to learn boring and useless information. But, above all, what comes to mind for most of us are memories of our fellow pupils, their personalities and peculiarities, including the bullies, the rowdies, and the teacher's pets.

It is also difficult to forget the teachers and their nicknames, the retreats and the missions, the lavatories and bicycle sheds and the 'Bhfuil cead agam dul amach' routine when nature called.

Although it was a time of poverty and hardship for many people, the drudgery of schooldays was occasionally broken by visits to the corner shop, by hurling and football games, by Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and by carefree, sunny summer days on the banks of the Shannon.

But for past-pupils of the C.B.S. there is one enduring memory: the long, continuous line of black-garbed Brothers and the lingering images of their faces and names, buried deep in the recesses of the mind. One way or another, for most Limerick and Irish men, the Christian Brothers have had a powerful, formative influence on our lives and have also left an indelible impression on the character of our society.

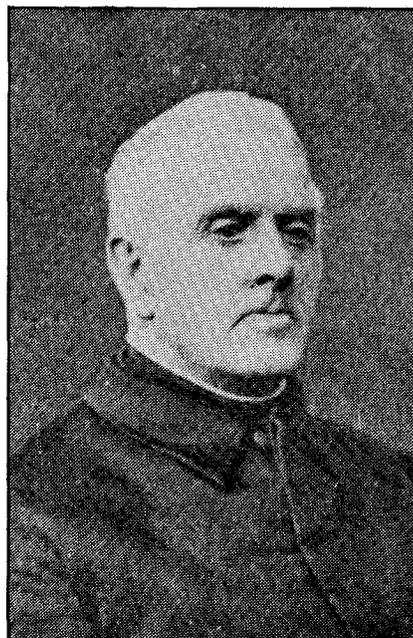
by *Richard Ahern*
Part One



dmund Ignatius Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers, was born in Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, in June 1762. In 1780,

he moved to Waterford as an apprentice to his uncle who carried on a thriving import and export trade of which eventually Edmund became sole proprietor. Before long he became a wealthy man. In 1802, he sold his ship chandler's business, his house and lands, to found an order of Brothers to give a Christian education to poor, under-privileged boys. His first school was in New Street, Waterford, and in that year (1802) he submitted his proposed association plan to Pope Pius VII and this was eventually approved and confirmed in 1820. He had adopted the rules and regulations of the institute founded by Blessed John de la Salle. His first school was successful, and soon the Christian Brothers were established in other cities.

Prior to the coming of the Christian Brothers to Limerick, there was a large school in Clare Street. This was at the rear of what is now the chapel of the Good Shepherd Convent. It was known as the Lancastrian School (hence the origin of the street known as the Long Can). This school was run on the Lancaster principle and was filled with boys of different religions, mostly Catholics. The founder was Joseph



Br. James Patrick Welsh.

Lancaster, a Quaker, born in London in 1788, who had devoted himself to the education of the poor. His system was to employ the more advanced boys as monitors, or assistant teachers, to enable a few masters to teach a large

number of boys. Spelling and reading were taught from charts hung on the walls, thereby dispensing with the need for books for the poor. Slates were used to write on, to save paper. He sought to educate members of all religions together and the bible was read regularly. His first school was in London in 1801 and his school in Limerick was probably founded around 1806.

During these decades, there was extreme poverty in the city, especially in the Irishtown district. There was an acute need for a vast improvement in education standards and, more importantly, the standard of teaching. There were 17,000 illiterate people over the age of five, out of a population of 45,000. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, Rev. Dr. Charles Tuohy (Bishop from 1814-28, born in Nicholas Street, died on 13th March 1828, and is buried in St. Patrick's churchyard) was fully aware of the desperate state of affairs, and influenced by what he had heard and seen of the Brothers' labours, applied, in 1816, to Br. Edmund Ignatius Rice, Mount Sion, Waterford, for a few members of his institute to establish the order in the city.

On 26th June 1816, three Christian



A Christian Brother and his pupils at Sexton Street, circa 1892.

Brothers arrived in Limerick; they were Brothers Aloysius Kelly, Francis Grace and Austin Dunphy, the superior. To their dismay, nothing had been done to provide them with either lodgings or a school. Two businessmen, James Ryan, linen draper, 34 Patrick Street, and Francis Mahoney, a cousin of the Mahoney family of Blarney Mills, Co. Cork, were instrumental in having the Brothers established. A house of residence was rented for them in Hill's Lane, a back lane in the Irishtown (Hill's Lane, is to the north of Curry Lane and leads east from Sullivan's Lane, behind Costello's public house). It was 'a filthy place', with an exorbitant annual rent of seventeen guineas, and taxes amounted to £22. For some time they had to endure serious hardship, and the conditions under which they lived and worked would now be considered utterly intolerable. They stayed here for twelve months and, in June 1817, took temporary lodgings in Denmark Street, until November 1817. Then they moved to 44 Clare Street (this house was probably no more than 60 yards from St. Patrick's church in the direction of Upper Clare Street) and the annual rent was twenty guineas.

On 1st September 1816, the parochial schools of St. Mary's and St. John's parishes were formed into one establishment, under the title, 'United Schools'. The Brothers commenced

teaching in the Assembly Rooms, Charlotte Quay. The Assembly Rooms were built in 1770 at a cost of £3,208.2.11 and opened on 11th September as a large public hall. It was here that the gentry of Limerick and the surrounding counties met. In 1790, the principal room was converted into a theatre. This was the type of place where 'The older citizens look back to agreeable evenings spent in happier days'. The school opened in the upper rooms at an annual rent of £75.

Within six months, there were 648 boys in attendance, 200 of whom had come from the Lancastrian school. The funds belonging to the two parochial schools were appropriated from then on for use by the 'United Schools'. These funds consisted of £40 per annum left by the late Miss White, £600 lent at int. to Mr. Ryan of New Garden, £400 at int. to Allan O'Niele and £850 funded by and in the names of Bishop Tuohy and Rev. Dr. Charles Hanrahan, trustees. Annual subscriptions for this year were £95.6.8. The school and its pupils were in dire financial circumstances and every Saturday the Brothers begged from door to door for clothes for the worst off boys. In 1817, Rev. Kenny SJ preached a charity sermon and £67 was donated.

By this time, the Lancastrian School had fallen into disrepair and the number of pupils had declined. In

November 1821, the Brothers purchased the school for £200, subject to a yearly rent of £20.7.6 (British rates, £18.16.2), and it re-opened with 400 boys. This school remained in their possession until 1888, when it was given to the Good Shepherd Convent 'for a consideration' (£200). The annual subscriptions in 1821 totalled £94.14.10.

The schools at Clare Street and the Assembly Rooms continued to develop until the latter was closed by the proprietors. They asked the Brothers to vacate the premises, as it was to revert to a theatre on 13th September 1824. In 1825, a Mechanics' Institute opened in the building and it, too, continued as a theatre until 1836. The structure was finally demolished in 1838 because of its dangerous condition. This set-back brought home to all the necessity for a permanent foundation for the Christian Brothers.

On 28th September 1824, the Brothers left 44 Clare Street and settled temporarily in the diocesan college at Corbally. Bishop Tuohy had placed part of the college at their disposal and they opened their school there on 18th October, 1824. In this year they also founded a house and school in Ennistymon.

For many years the Brothers had been looking for a suitable site on which to build a monastery and school.

On 1st September 1825, a half acre of ground at Sexton Street, part of South Prior's land, and at the rear of what was then the Artillery Barracks was rented from Mr. Samuel Dixon at the (British) rate of £15.15.0 per annum. This is the site on which the present house (monastery) and schools are built. Sexton Street was named in 1797 after Edmund Sexton Pery, the Limerick man who represented the city as a member of parliament from 1771-1785 and who was the moving force behind the building of Newtown Pery.

On 21st September 1825, the foundation stone of the new monastery was laid by Dr. Tuohy and 648 boys attended the ceremony. It was built at a cost of £859.16.2, was two storeys high and formed the central part of the present structure, which was subsequently remodelled and enlarged. On 13th June 1827, the Brothers left the college at Corbally and moved to their new monastery at Sexton Street.

The foundation stone of the new school was laid by Bishop Ryan, on 2nd July 1828, and the building was completed on 20th May 1829 at a cost of £562.5.8. It was opened for admission of boys on 16th June the same year and 408 attended. This building consisted of an upper and lower floor, i.e. the present building less the two wings. There was one large classroom upstairs and another downstairs, with over 200 boys in each. Weekly collections in 1830 amounted to £72.12.8.

In 1832, the Asiatic Cholera was raging in Asia and Europe, and when it reached Limerick thousands were caught in its grip. Cholera is a highly infectious and usually fatal disease and its symptoms are violent vomiting and severe abdominal pain. The disease is transmitted through contaminated food, poor sanitation, lack of personal hygiene, unsafe water supply and an inefficient sewage disposal system.

Barrington's and other smaller hospitals could not cope with the number of cases. In May 1832, at the request of Mayor J.P. Vereker and the Health Board, the Brothers placed themselves and their schools at the disposal of the cholera victims. In that month, the pupils were sent home and the new school at Sexton Street was fitted out as a hospital and the Clare Street school was used as a convalescent home. In the *Limerick Chronicle* of 19th May 1832, the Health Board thanked the Christian Brothers for allowing their schools to be used as cholera hospitals. The Brothers also worked with the doctors and attended the patients. In the mornings when they were passing from their house to the 'hospital' they had to step over coffins containing the bodies of those who had died during the night.

During this period, there was a total suspension of business and the only vehicles to be seen were the funeral

carriages. Fuel and food were scarce and country people were reluctant to approach the city.

There were six Brothers in Limerick at this time. Although there were no nuns in the city to help, two women, Miss Reddan and Miss Bridgeman, were specially mentioned for their good work. Both later entered a convent and Miss Bridgeman was heard of again as a Sister of Mercy during the Crimean War of 1854.

The cholera lasted until October and, during the six months, the Brothers received and treated 525 patients, of which 225 died. The numbers were, of course, much higher in Barrington's Hospital.

Br. Baptist Green, the first Brother to die in Limerick was buried in a small cemetery which was opened on 27th April 1835 in the grounds.

After the passing of the cholera epidemic, the Brothers began to expand their operations. They took charge of the school in Thomondgate, belonging to Rev. Richard Walsh PP., on 23rd April 1838 at the request of Bishop Ryan. In December, they received a donation of £200 and the interest (£6.18.4), at 3 per cent, was spent on clothing for the poorer boys of St. John's parish.

On 6th January 1839, 'there was a terrific storm from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. this morning. It broke doors and swept through corridors to knock partitions inside and broke tables and chairs. There was much damage to the roof of Clare Street School. Broken windows in Sexton Street, Clare Street and Thomondgate. Shipping in the river injured and many houses un-roofed and some blown down'. Despite this damage, the schools at Sexton Street and Clare Street continued to be well attended.

During these decades, the Brothers were travelling to and from Dublin and other places by canal and mail coach; the fare to or from Waterford was ten shillings and six pence.

Summer of 1840 saw the arrival of Brother Edmund Rice and he stayed in Limerick for three days. He made another visit on 23rd April 1841 with Thomas Power, serving Brother, and he stayed for almost a month. On 21st May, he went to Ennistymon for eight days, before returning to Limerick. He left for Waterford in the evening of 2nd June and arrived there at 5 a.m. the next morning.

Francis Mahoney, who helped the Brothers establish themselves here in 1816, died at his home in St. John's Square on 18th June 1841.

A statement of 24th August 1841 showed that the funds of the Brothers totalled £823.16.0. This sum had been accumulated by the late James Ryan of Patrick Street by means of subscriptions and collections at charity sermons. Some of the receipts from this

period are as follows:

- (1) Paid to Mr. Jose Darrec 13/6d for one pair of new shoes and repair of old pair.
- (2) Mr. Raleigh's bill for medicine £1.4.9.
- (3) Mr. Kelly's bill for meat £2.12.5.
- (4) Mr. H. Lawrence for a hat 15/-.

It appears that at this point (September 1841) all their debts on the buildings etc. had been paid off as 'there is not so much as a shilling owing to anybody'. The annual sermon by Rev. Murrane produced £114.8.7.

In the 171 years of the Brothers' presence in Limerick one man stands out above all others: he was Brother James Patrick Welsh. He was a native of the city, born in 1808, the son of a jeweller and watchmaker in Patrick Street. He had already served as superior in London from 1837. On 22nd August 1842, while he was serving at Mount Sion, Waterford, he was appointed superior of Limerick. On the following day, he arrived in the city and began what was to be the longest term as superior (1842-1882). When he arrived, the two classes in Sexton Street were unusually large, with 240 boys in the upper and 280 in the lower classroom. His first task was to divide each classroom into two. On 17th September 1843, a collection was held at all churches in the city to help to defray the expenses incurred in altering the schools in Sexton Street and Clare Street and the sum of £60.7.4 was realised.

In September 1844, the Brothers opened a school in Thomondgate and Rev. Richard Walsh gave £20 towards the venture.

Another school was set up, on 3rd September 1845 at Creagh Lane/Bridge Street, with four Brothers and 560 boys and it was officially opened on 2nd February 1846. This school was purchased by Rev. Brahan, PP, St. Mary's for £200 and a further £500 was spent on renovations. This building had been erected in 1764 as the city courthouse, and many a man, innocent and guilty alike, received the sentence of death within its walls. The trial which suggested to a young reporter, Gerald Griffin, his celebrated novel, *The Collegians*, was held in this building. The chair used by the judge at that trial is now in Sexton Street.

Gerald Griffin was born on 12th December 1803, in a three storey house that stood on the corner of Old Dominic Street and Love Lane. In 1838, he decided to become a Christian Brother and joined the Dublin novitiate. He was transferred to Cork in the following year and died of typhoid on 12th June 1840. He is buried in the monastery grounds there. A street in the city commemorates his name and a bust to his memory can be seen in Bridge Street, on the upper storey of what was the Gerald Griffin Memorial School, which is now a community centre.

Brother Edmund Ignatius Rice died



Group at Sexton Street, with the monastery on the left and the orphanage in the background, circa 1892.

on 29th August 1844, aged eighty-two, and was buried in Mount Sion, Waterford.

Br. J.P. Welsh started Sunday school in February 1846, but it lasted only one year when the horrors of the famine struck. In 1852, there were four Christian Brothers schools in the city, Sexton Street, Clare Street, St. Mary's and St. Munchin's, and twenty Brothers.

It became evident that enlargement of the monastery at Sexton Street was an absolute necessity. However, there were no funds available for this purpose, as the new schools, St. Mary's and St. Munchin's, had eaten away at the resources of the community. Brother Welsh turned to his good friend, William Monsell of Tervoe, Co. Limerick, who promised to donate £100 if nine others were found to do the same. This proposal found acceptance and the foundation stone of the new wing of the monastery was laid on 9th August 1852. The extension was completed in April 1853.

About this time, a young boy, John Phillip Holland, moved to Limerick with his family from Liscannor, Co. Clare. He had been a pupil of the Brothers in Ennistymon and continued his education in Sexton Street. J.P. Holland had a strong interest in scientific experiments from a young age. He became a Christian Brother on 15th June 1858 and, while training, was encouraged in his submarine designs by Brother Dominic Burke, who was a native of St. Mary's Parish and had attended Sexton

Street as a pupil in the 1840s. In 1859, Holland completed his first drafts of a design which he never basically changed. Through ill-health, he left the Brothers, in 1873, and went to the New Jersey/Boston area to continue his submarine experiments. He submitted a design to the US Navy but the secretary rejected it as 'a fantastic scheme of a civilian landsman'. After twenty years of experiments and failures, the US Government finally bought the 'Holland No. 6', on 12th April 1900, for \$150,000. He had spent nearly twice that amount in producing it. The submarine was commissioned on 12th October of that year and was the US Navy's first craft of its kind. He sold his designs to the British Navy in 1901 and, in October, it launched its first Holland-designed sub. He built two more for the Japanese Navy and these were used against Russia in the war of 1904/5. For his contribution to the Japanese Naval victory he received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan.

Br. J.P. Welsh was of great assistance to the Redemptorist Fathers when they first came to Limerick from Belgium in 1853. He accommodated them in the Sexton Street monastery and taught them the English language. He secured the grounds of their present church and also acted as clerk of works during its construction.

Mother D'Hovet found him most helpful in establishing a branch of her institute, the Faithful Companions of

Jesus, here, and in 1854, he procured for them the land for their school at Laurel Hill, beyond the Crescent.

The Earl of Dunraven, a friend of Brother Welsh, established a house and school on his property in Adare. These were built and fully furnished when the Brothers moved in on 24th April 1854. The Earl charged a nominal annual rent of one shilling but gave £60 annually towards their upkeep. The school was extended in 1857 at a cost of £400 and the Earl increased his annual subvention to £80.

The 1st May 1856 saw the laying of the foundation stone for St. John's Cathedral. Many organisations attended the ceremony, including the Brothers and their pupils.

On 17th October 1857 the Brothers discontinued the weekly collections their principal means of support, and substituted half-yearly collections. These were held, in May and November, at all Masses in all churches in the city. This arrangement met with the approval of Bishop Ryan. It was a successful change and also released the Brothers from the duty of weekly collections.

On 6th March 1858, Brother Welsh agreed to let portion of the garden at their Clare Street School (formerly the Lancastrian School) to Madame De Beligond, Superioress of the Good Shepherd Convent, at an annual rent of ten pounds sterling.

Newcastle West was next in the

progress of the Brothers. They took possession of the old national school, which had been built in 1826, at a cost of £278, on part of the estate of the Earl of Devon. It opened for admission on 5th August 1858. They now had six schools in Limerick and 1,458 pupils.

Br. Francis Grace, who came to Limerick with two others, on 26th June 1816, died, aged seventy-seven, on 8th June, 1859. He had spent fifty-seven years in the order.

In 1859, the savings of the Brothers and donations amounted to £1,360.18.7. They invested this sum and other monies in The Great Southern and Western Railway Co. of Ireland. This investment produced £100 each year towards their maintenance.

The 28th December 1859 saw their arrival in Rathkeale, at the request, the previous year, of Archdeacon Fitzgerald, PP. He gave the Brothers his house, the use of his garden and a donation of £50. The school opened on 9th January 1860, with three Brothers and 200 boys.

From 1825 there was a considerable number of Brothers coming and going from Sexton Street to start new schools or to replace colleagues in such places as Ennis, Dingle, Tralee, Clonmel, Drogheda, Liverpool, London, Omagh, Kilrush, Tuam etc. There was also a relatively high proportion who died at a young age (19 to 30 years) from consumption, fever and bronchitis.

On 16th April 1860, Brothers Slattery and Deylin and Healy (from Rathkeale) arrived at Sexton Street; their mission was to open, in a few days, the Bruff establishment. This had been at the request of the Bruff PP, Dean Cussen. On 24th April, the three arrived in Bruff. On the 30th they opened their school and 300 boys attended.

Through the influence of Br. Welsh, the directors of the Waterford and Limerick Railway gave a portion of their land to the Brothers. This portion of land had been adjoining their plot next to the monastery and it was added to their garden. A boundary wall, enclosing the whole property, was commenced on 22nd September 1862 and completed on 16th March 1863 at a cost of £220.15.8. During the next few years, two wings were added to the school opposite the monastery.

The next task was to build a small chapel for private devotion. Bishop Ryan died in 1864 and left £1,000 to the Brothers. With this bequest and donations from the public, Br. Welsh made the necessary arrangements. On 6th January 1865, Bishop George Butler, accompanied by 22 priests, blessed and laid the foundation stone. Materials from the old college in Corbally were taken to Sexton Street and used in the building. As a result of this arrangement, the new chapel cost a moderate £1,163.14.1. On 5th January 1870 Brother Welsh selected two acres in

Doon, Co. Limerick, as a site for a school. On 11th August 1874 Br. Bruno and two others opened a monastery there, and, six weeks later, the school was set up. As well as taking an active part in establishing schools in Newcastle West, Adare, Bruff, Rathkeale and Doon Br. Welsh also regularly visited these centres.

On 27th September 1871, the house belonging to John Russell, City Place, South Prior's Land (beside Sexton Street monastery and school) went up for sale and Br. Welsh bought it for £700. He then set about planning and building of what was to become St. Joseph's Male Orphanage. Work commenced on 17th May 1872 on the massive limestone block, including a basement and three storeys. The architect was Mr. Browne and the building contractor was Mr. Wallace.

On 13th July 1878, Br. Welsh gave Br. Martin £200 from the house funds and £1,300 of James Tuthill's bequest to purchase Rathbane farm. The Brothers also received a cheque for £125 on 6th September 1879 from Mortimer O'Brien of Charlotte Quay; this had been bequested by Doctor Robert Frith and was to be spent on clothing for the poor boys attending the Christian schools in the city. During the winter of 1879, £25 of this was spent for that purpose.

Dr. Frith came from Nenagh in 1835 and his medical hall was in Charlotte Quay. He was a kind, charitable doctor, especially to the poor people of the Irishtown and Garryowen. He died on 21st November 1867.

By 1879 there were 672 pupils in Sexton Street. In 1880, the Brothers left Rathkeale and Newcastle West. The main reason for this move was that between 1875-80 the order had gone through a crucial period - 'The numbers in the novitiate were small and there were a number of defections'. There was a shortage of Brothers and those who were eligible could not be spared from the work they were engaged in or were destined for new foundations. For the same reasons the order left Manchester and Chelsea.

In 1881, the school fees were raised from 4d per annum to 6d 'for such as could afford it and willing to pay'.

The schools were visited, from time to time, by some distinguished educationalists and by members of the various Royal Commissions. The schools and Brother J.P. Welsh were highly praised by these visitors.

During Br. Welsh's term (1842-1882), all the boys making their first communion were given breakfast on that morning. This was no small matter considering the population of the city. On these occasions, the Brothers waited on the boys and Br. Welsh entertained them on the harmonica. During his time, destitution kept many poor boys from attending school and to remedy this

situation, he set up a clothing department. With this arrangement, he managed to cloth about one hundred boys each year.

However, his work was coming to an end. On Sunday morning, 11th June 1882, he retired to his room and at one o'clock he got a stroke. Doctors Keane and Bourke attended to him but to no avail. He died the following Wednesday morning (14th) at ten o'clock. **The Munster News and Limerick and Clare Advocate** of the same day carried a lengthy report on his death. He was aged seventy-four years, of which 57 had been spent in the religious life. During his long period as head of the Limerick order, nearly every adult native came under his influence, in one way or another. It was estimated that 16,000 boys passed under his care while he was in Sexton Street. The high esteem in which he was held was manifested on Thursday and Friday by the thousands who came to the monastery to see his remains and pray beside it. Mayor Jereome Counihan convened a special meeting of the Corporation to express regret at the sad event. On Saturday morning, Office and High Mass were celebrated by Bishop Butler and twenty-seven priests. The Superior General of the order, about seventy Brothers, the Mayor, attended by mace bearers, the Town Council, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, pupils and citizens of Limerick - Catholic and Protestant - were present. Every shop in the city put up its shutters. Great expectations were entertained that a memorial would be built in honour of Br. Welsh but no further action was then taken in the matter. Perhaps the most fitting epitaph was spoken by one of his fellow Brothers '... he was not only a teacher but a father to his pupils'.

Br. P. Ryan was appointed superior on the death of Br. Welsh and, in September, 1884, was succeeded by Br. J.P. Slattery, who had been superior in Belfast for many years. Br. Slattery concentrated on his educational role and the school's pupils successfully competed in the intermediate examinations for a number of years.

In 1884, there were twenty-four Brothers in the Limerick community. By now the school in Clare Street was in a very bad condition and the out-offices were worse.

In 1887, several children in the orphanage were laid up with fever, which had assumed epidemic proportions. Bishop Edward Thomas O'Dwyer requested the closure of the orphanage, as its insanitary state had caused the fever. It may be interesting to note that Dr. O'Dwyer received his primary education in Sexton Street and his secondary at the CBS, Doon. In 1888, the Bishop gave £80 to enable the Brothers to buy land, at £100, from Crehan McMahon. The land was in John Street and it was here, on 12th September 1888, that

Bishop O'Dwyer laid the foundation stone for the Br. Welsh Memorial School. He said: 'We are discharging a debt of gratitude to the memory of one of the greatest men that ever lived in this old city of ours'. The school was built by Messrs. Ryan Contractors and cost £1,520, plus £180 for furniture and desks. These amounts were paid off from the following:- £800, collections; £200, Good Shepherd Convent, and the balance from the funds of the house.

By 1892, the Brothers were dealing with a variety of business premises in the city. Here is a list of some of these merchants:

Grocers: Patrick Egan and Begley's of William Street, Lloyd's of O'Connell Street and Boyd's (Mr. Ralph Holliday).

Butchers: O'Malley, Roche's Street and J. Liddy, Catherine Street.

Bakers: Harris and Troy.

Drapers: Cannock & Co. and Clune & Co.

Footwear: Kelly, Herbert and Todd & Co.

Printers: City Printing, Mr. Dalton and the *Limerick Leader*.

Bacon: R. Ray (O'Mara's), Roche's Street.

Hardware: Spaight & Co.

In March 1892, a gardener was employed at eighteen shillings per week, having convinced the superior that the cultivation and sale of vegetables from the garden would pay his wages. Alas, he appears to have fallen down on the job, because, over a year later, he was 'sent away'.

The first mention of a holiday was in June 1892, when the Brothers occupied the last house on the West End in Killee, Aran View Lodge. This cost £20.00 for the month and covered the cost of accommodation for Brothers from Limerick, Nenagh, Galway and Thurles. In this year, there was also an orphanage band in full swing under the bandmaster, Mr. Brady. In October, T.J. O'Reilly, from Cape Town, South Africa, visited Sexton Street. He was a native of Limerick and a Sexton Street pupil in 1857. A few years after leaving school, he went to South Africa and became the first Catholic Mayor of Cape Town and a member of the legislature there. He gave a donation of two guineas to his alma mater.

In 1893 Vicar General, Dr. Moloney, and several clergy examined all the Christian Brothers' schools in the city in the programme of Christian Doctrine, and out of 1,269 boys there were 819 honours, 427 passes and 23 failed. Other subjects being taught at this time were German, Celtic, English, French, Arithmetic, Drawing, Algebra, Book-keeping, Latin, Chemistry, Commerce, French and Italian.

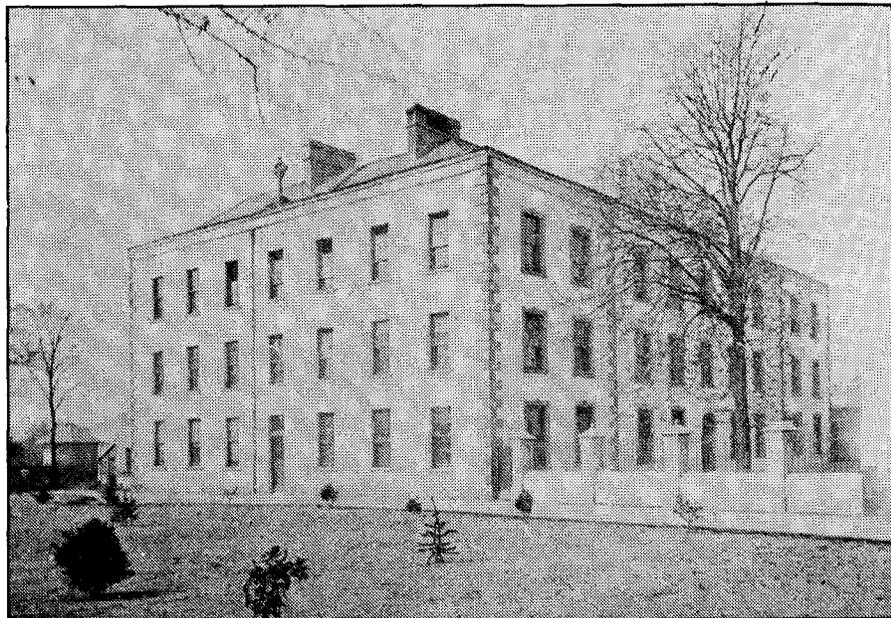
In June 1894, Cardinal Logue, Primate of All Ireland, visited Sexton Street. During this year, the Brothers bought a plot in Mount St. Laurence for

£40, as they had decided against any further interments in the school cemetery.

As we know, a large part of the Brothers' income came from collections at all churches, twice a year, and from the weekly contributions from the various industries and places of employ-

Br. J.B. Welsh then asked if he 'could call to our friends and collectors in town and tell them his Lordship would not allow collections?' The Bishop's reply was, 'Do you want to raise a row in the town. Tell them that you don't need the collections'.

(To be continued).



The monastery and garden in the late nineteenth century.

ment in Limerick. Among the contributors were the Waterford and Limerick Railway, Todd's, McBirney's, Cannock's, the Workhouse and the Asylum and many more. From 1873 to '85 the average income from this source ranged from £4 to £8 per week, to £11 in 1886 and £12 in 1887.

From 1892 to 1901, the superior was Br. J.B. Welsh – not to be confused with J.P. Welsh (1842-1882).

In August 1895, Br. J.B. Welsh called on Bishop O'Dwyer. The Bishop told him that the Br. Superior in Dublin had 'negotiated a certain matter relating to the Glin School with the local Govt. Board without consulting him and contrary to what he had made known were his wishes in the matter'. Because of this action the Bishop refused to allow any more collections for the Brothers. It has not been possible to ascertain what the 'certain matter' might have been.

In January 1896, the superior called again to see Bishop O'Dwyer in Corbally. The Bishop said that his clergy 'have not the power to walk into CB schools with the same freedom as national schools'. He went on to say that he intended opening national schools in St. Mary's and St. Munchin's parishes and, because of this decision, fewer Brothers would be required. He then insisted that the half-yearly church collections and weekly contributions from industry must stop and because there would be fewer Brothers, as he thought, the loss of weekly collections would be less felt.

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