

"He was about the middle size, slight and not graceful; his eyes, large, dark and penetrating, betrayed some of the boldest traits of his uncommon character; his countenance, could deceive the physiognomist into an opinion of his magnanimity, or call forth an eulogium of his virtues."

Grattan supported Fitzgibbon's appointment to the Attorney-Generalship, but soon found out his mistake. In 1784, he joined the Government side, and from then on he opposed every measure of reform or emancipation that was introduced. In 1789, as a result of a heated argument in Parliament, Curran and himself fought a duel near Ball's Bridge in Dublin. While the Sheriff's officer was held down in a ditch they exchanged shots but these were ineffective. As Lord Plunkett said:—"Curran and Fitzgibbon fought, but, unluckily, they missed each other." Fitzgibbon carried his animosity of Curran so far after the duel that Curran is said to have lost £30,000 in practice as a result."

In 1789 he was created Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Baron Fitzgibbon of Lower Connello; in 1793 he became Viscount Fitzgibbon; in 1795 Earl of Clare, and in 1799 Lord Fitzgibbon of Sidbury, Devonshire.

When the Union of Great Britain and Ireland came to a head, Fitzgibbon's final speech was aimed at preventing the inclusion of Catholic Emancipation in the Bill.

Although Fitzgibbon was no friend of Ireland, there can be no doubt of either his ability or bravery. Before Lord Edward Fitzgerald's insurrection, he besought his friends to persuade Lord Edward to escape, as all his plans were known; and when Lord Edward lay wounded in Thomas Street Fitzgibbon brought his brother and aunt to his side, and waited for three hours in an outward apartment in spite of the great personal danger in which he must have known he was.

When Hamilton Rowan was convicted of high treason, Fitzgibbon assisted his wife in preventing the confiscation of all his property. As a judge, he did away with the sale of offices, and removed many of the abuses which attached to the court during the reign of the Irish Parliament.

He died, after a brief illness, on 28th of January, 1802, and his funeral was followed by a Dublin mob, "whose curses violently expressed the hate with which a great part of his fellow-countrymen regarded him." Froude, who admired his statesmanship, says:—"Fitzgibbon is the object of a no less intense national execration. He was followed to his grave with curses, and dead cats were flung upon his coffin."

HARRY DEAN GRADY

Harry Dean Grady, Barrister and member of Parliament for Limerick City at the passing of the Union, was born in the County Limerick in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

A cousin of Thomas Grady, the satirist, his language was as crude, and his wit as savage, as was the latter's. His vote for the Union was bought by Castlereagh with an appointment as commissioner of revenue at a salary of £1,200 a year. Grady had the good grace to put neither cap or cloak on this dishonourable transaction, and when tackled by a constituent with the words:—"What! do you mean to sell your country?" he is said to have replied:—"Thank God that I have a country to sell."

He cared nothing for his constituents and did not hesitate to say so. "I get nothing good from them," he said. "Begad, if I only shake hands with them they give me the itch." After the Union, the Limerick electors met and appointed a deputation of three to wait on Grady and express disapproval of his act. He listened with patience as they accused him of injuring his country, deserting his duty, and betraying his constituents. "Nonsense, gentlemen—rank nonsense," he shouted to the deputation, which consisted of a Protestant Bishop, an eminent doctor and a general who had served in China, "you come between me and my constituents, and induce them to condemn me on the ipse dixit of a republican parson, a quack doctor, and a battered old mandarin." The deputation, feeling Harry was getting personal, bowed and withdrew.

Grady's career at the Bar was successful and full of amusing incidents. His coarse manner and ready wit, as well as his "jury-eye," with which he used to wink at the jury whenever he wanted to stress a point, kept the Munster Circuit in constant good spirits. The best court story told of him is one in which his cousin figured as a witness on the opposite side. Grady, when addressing the jury, referred to him as "this wretched creature for whom I can find no fitter appellation than a miserable jackal." Meeting his maligned cousin a few days later, Grady invited himself to dinner and would not allow his cousin's offended feelings to put him off.

The Bar suffered a loss by Castlereagh's bribery, for Harry Grady retired on obtaining his new appointment and lived in comparative obscurity in a beautiful residence near Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. His house was called "The House of Lords," because his three lovely daughters attracted so many peers there. Three of them were annexed and Grady had the old man's pleasure of being father to a Lady Muskerry, a Lady Masserene, and a Lady Roche.

JOHN HIGGINS

John Higgins, physician, was the son of Doctor Patrick Higgins, of Limerick City, and his wife, Mary Loftus, of Annacotty. He was born about the year 1678, and probably