

Thomas, Bishop of Limerick. Nicholas himself was Mayor seven times, and for a long period held the custodianship of the Castle of Limerick, and with it, the military control of the city.

In return for these royal favours—or in expectation of them—he sent Henry gifts “suitable to his rank, falcons and large dogs fit for hunting, black marble sculptured with a team of leopards, Spanish steeds ambling with equal steps, pearls which Eleaunius had produced.

“At length, yielding to fatal necessity, having made his will on the vigil of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, A.D., 1465, and having received the Holy Viaticum of Our Lord’s Body, and being fortified by the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, he fell asleep in the Lord. Katherine survived him full ten years and seven days, devoted to works of piety and mercy, and at length departed this life for a better on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, on the 13th Kalends of October in the year of Our Lord’s Incarnation, 1475; and her body was laid with that of her husband in the ancestral monument at the left wing of the altar of St. Catherine, Virgin and Martyr, in the Church of St. Mary’s, Limerick.”

### **EDMOND SEXTON PERY.**

Edmond Sexton Pery, Speaker in the Irish House of Commons, was born in Limerick on 9th of April, 1719, the son of Rev. Stackpole Pery, of Stackpole Court, County Clare. Through his grandmother, he was descended from Edmund Sexton, who was granted so much religious property in Limerick by Henry VIII, and through him, Pery inherited the Prior’s land, outside the Walls of Limerick, now known as Newtown Pery.

Pery was a barrister by profession and was elected Member of Parliament for Limerick City in

the year 1761. He had previously represented Wicklow. From 1771 to 1786 he was Speaker, and when he resigned from this post he was granted a pension of £3,000 a year, and was created a Peer, choosing the title Viscount Pery of Newtown Pery, near Limerick. Grattan wrote of him:—"He was more or less a party to all those measures of free trade and Irish liberation, and, indeed, in every great statute and measure that took place in Ireland for the past fifty years; a man of the most legislative capacity I ever knew, and the most comprehensive reach of understanding; with a deep engraven expression of public care, accompanied by a temper which was adamant. In his train is every private virtue which can adorn human nature."

In Limerick, however, Sexton Pery is best remembered for his liberality and his work in improving the city. In 1760 he gave the land for building the County Hospital at a rent of a peppercorn a year. He gave land for the building of the old Workhouse. He gave a large contribution to the founding of the Fever Hospital, and his wife was mainly responsible for the running of a Charitable Loan Society, which assisted about 300 tradesmen each year with a loan of three guineas, repaid at 1/4 per week. He was responsible for the passing of a law limiting the power and corruption of the Irish Corporations, a law from which Limerick benefitted considerably. Most important of all, perhaps, in 1765 he obtained the services of Davis (or Daniel) Duckart, designer of the Custom House, Limerick's most beautiful and most ill-used building, in laying out Newtown Pery. To him, therefore, may be attributed the first serious attempt in Ireland at town planning, an attempt which, unfortunately, was not repeated for close on 200 years.

Sexton Pery was twice married. His first wife died without issue, and his second wife gave him four daughters, but no heir. When this good Irishman and estimable Limerick citizen died in 1806, aged 87, his title expired, and his property went to his nephew, Edmond Henry Pery, son of Baron Glentworth, Bishop of Limerick. Sexton Pery was buried at Pelham in Herefordshire, in the vault of his second wife's family.

### **DOCTOR THOMAS ARTHUR.**

Dr. Thomas Arthur, scion of an ancient Limerick family, was born in that city in 1593. He went to Bordeaux for his early education, from thence proceeded to Paris for his medical training, and took his final degree at the University of Rheims.

Arthur returned to his native city to practice and soon acquired nation-wide fame for his medical skill. For a while he practised in Dublin and attended Archbishop Usher whom he calls "pseudo-primas Ardmachanus." Usher was suffering from a disease which had baffled all the doctors in England, but Arthur cured him and received £51 for his pains.

Although Arthur remained a staunch Catholic, he was anti-national in outlook and was driven from Limerick in 1641. During the Cromwellian siege he returned to the city and among his patients was Colonel Henry Ingoldsby who paid him £5 for curing him of a scorbutic disease.

His loyalty to the Government earned for him a large fortune in money, with which he speculated heavily in buying the lands which had been confiscated by Cromwell and distributed among the soldiers.

Arthur died in 1674, aged eighty-one. He left behind him his "Fee-book" which contains a com-