

Admiral Sir E. Freemantle, Commander-in-Chief of the China Station, has ordered the first-class screw gunboat Plover to proceed to Bangkok, where she will join the cruiser Pallas, which is lying outside the bar of the Menam, and the gun-vessels Swift and Linnet. It is announced that the effective blockade of the coast will commence on Saturday or Sunday next, when all the Powers will have received the notifications issued by the French Government. The question came under the notice of the House of Commons this evening, when Mr Curzon asked if the blockade was a pacific step, or what might be regarded as an act of war, and if so how it would affect British interests. Sir E. Grey, in his reply, stated that the Paris Ambassador of the British Government had no information as to the precise date on which the blockade would be enforced, or as to its geographical extent, which is a point of serious consequence. It is satisfactory to read the announcement that sufficient time will be given by the French for such ships as might have loaded their cargoes previously to the day of the blockade to leave. Sir E. Grey assured the House that the Government were alive to the interests of this country in Siam, and they regretted, he said, that a blockade by the French authorities should become necessary, but it might not be too much to hope that the necessity for it would yet be averted. The discussion in the House this evening does not throw much additional light on the situation, further developments of which must be looked forward to with considerable anxiety.

The Annual Congress of the British Institute of Public Health opened to-day at Edinburgh, and will continue to the 1st August, under the auspices of the Lord Provost and the magistrates of the city. The capital cities of England and Ireland are represented in the persons of the Lord Mayor of London and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and they are thus identifying their high offices with the aims of the Congress—the promotion of sanitary science and the preservation of the public health. The Congress will deal with, amongst other things, the public health aspects of the housing of the working classes; the water supply of the urban and rural populations; pollution of rivers, treatments of sewage, registration of plumbers, etc. The requirements of sanitary legislation will be specially considered, and it will be particularly interesting to all connected with the plumbers' trade.

REFERRING to our leader on the coal crisis, we have since received from reliable sources information which fully bears out our remarks that the strike being fully anticipated by large consumers, is not likely to last long if it actually occurs at all. Everything goes to show that a settlement will be arrived at, and that it would be injudicious to buy in very large stocks at the present high prices.

Clara Lady Fitzgerald has returned to Carrigoran for the autumn.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A HORSE AND CART.—Only one case was disposed of at the County

DEATH OF MR JOHN C. DELMEGE, J.P.

The above news which we announced with much regret in our obituary this evening, will be received in a large and widely extended circle of friends with sorrow none the less genuine that it has been for some time expected. His decease closes the record of an active and eventful life, and snaps another link between the past and the present generations, and removes from society a prominent and respected personage, Mr Delmege's family have been connected with Limerick for generations, and hold property in the counties of Limerick, Clare, and Cork, for which counties he held the Commission of the Peace. Mr Delmege was educated in Trinity College, Dublin, studied for, and was called to the Bar in 1841, but in consequence of the duties devolving upon him in connection with his large landed interests, never practised. His long life was devoted to the discharge of those public duties consequent on his position and influence, and his high intelligence, clearness of judgment, and manly independence of opinion were largely used in the service of the public. He was for many years a Poor Law Guardian for Newcastle, Rathkeale and Limerick Unions. His keen and intimate knowledge of Poor Law affairs was recognised by his brother guardians, and who ever mindful of the interests of the ratepayers, every project for the benefit of the poor received his sympathy and support, and even in the most heated debates he always preserved that affable and courteous manner, which was one of the chief charms of his character. He served the office of High Sheriff with all the dignity that high office demands, and was about the oldest member of the County Limerick Grand Jury, and represented that body for several years on the Board of the Limerick Market Trustees, where his long experience in agricultural matters was of much advantage. He was also a Governor of the Limerick District Lunatic Asylum. As a member of the Diocesan Synod, he took a deep and lasting interest in the welfare of the Church of Ireland, and used his influence as Parochial Nominator and member of St Munchin's Vestry to the best of his experienced judgment. In politics, Mr Delmege was a staunch Conservative, but while holding his own political views with no uncertain tenure, he ever advocated the motto, *aude alteram partem*, and was most tolerant and indulgent of the views of his political opponents, who ever admired the manly and outspoken vigour with which he advocated his own opinions. He was a thorough sportsman in the highest sense of the term, and before he bore the weight of years few could excel him in shooting a covert, or walking a grouse mountain. He was a great lover of horses and an ardent huntsman, and in middle life could endure the fatigues of a long day's ride with a vigour that many younger men could envy. We remember, with pleasure, the pleasant coursing meetings on the hills above Castlepark, and the genial and profuse hospitality with which his guests were treated. In social life he was a universal favourite. Essentially a gentleman, his motto always was *noblesse oblige*, and he loved honour for honour's sake. The witness, as he was, of many and eventful political changes during his long and useful life, and frequently identified with many local political events of importance, he remained amidst the turmoil of political conflicts his early political creed, and gained the respect of his opponents, not only for his staunch and unswerving consistency, but for the courtesy and dignity with which he ever sustained it. What the great dramatist said of "Coriolanus" can be truthfully said of him—

His heart's his mouth.  
What his breast forges  
That his tongue uttereth;  
And, being angry, he doth forget  
That eye he heard the name of death.

His long and useful life is closed, but "Men's actions live after them," and his time amongst his compeers has been spent far more for the good of others than for mere selfish ends, and many of us will remember with respect the qualities of head and heart which endeared him to those among whom he lived and was so well-known a personality.

LIMERICK PROTESTANT YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL SPORTS AND TOURNAMENT.

- President—Archibald Murray, Esq.
- Vice-Presidents—J F Bannatyne, Esq; J Matteson, Esq; W L Stokes, Esq; A W Shaw, Esq; W M Beauchamp, Esq; Robert Gibson, Esq; F P Hook, Esq; E G Pitt, Esq.
- Captain, Tennis Division—Jackson Harris, Vic J A MacKenzie.
- Captain, Cricket Division—J W Hallowell, Vic George Ball.
- Hon Treasurer—L R Switzer.
- Hon Secretary—E H Wright.
- Committee—A J Eakins, H A Eakins, G Baman, J Palmer, A B Hamilton, R T Belsh, W Ledger, T P Ledger.
- Judges—J Matteson, Esq, J P; A W Shaw, Esq; J P; R Gibson, Esq; W L Stokes, Esq, J P.
- Judges of Cycling—A N Barnett, Esq; Chamney, Esq.
- Handicapper and Starter—C O'Connell, Esq.
- Telegraph—J Hallowell, P J Hamilton.
- Lapkeepers—L R Switzer, J Harris.
- Call Stewards—J A MacKenzie, F P Hook, Palmer.
- Stewards—A J Eakins, R T Belshaw, W Ledger, E G Pitt, T Ewar, H Eakins.
- Timekeeper—Rev F R Carr.

The annual Sports and Tournament, under auspices of the Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club the Protestant Young Men's Association, was held yesterday afternoon at the Club Ground, Ennis Road. There was nothing to be desired far as meteorological conditions were concerned but in point of attendance the meeting was scarcely as successful as on former occasions. One reason for the absence of greater success in this respect might be to some extent, perhaps to a great extent, attributed to the fact that the events were all confined to the club, and although ample proof was given yesterday that the club can produce as good talent as is generally found elsewhere, still there can be no doubting the fact that if the programme had contained two or three open events, as in former years, a much larger gate would have been drawn. However, the committee are the best judges of their own affairs, and if they cannot be congratulated on a better financial success of their meeting, they deserve every credit for the way the programme and arrangements were carried out. The desirability of improving the track might be suggested to the club. The ground is most uneven and very unpleasant and difficult for cycling. When the sports commenced at half-past 2 o'clock the attendance was small, but increased considerably later on until there was a fairly good number of spectators, including a fashionable number of ladies. The band of the Manchester Regiment, which was under the conductorship of Mr E. Quin, discoursed the following programme in admirable fashion—

- March..... "The Prize"..... Janike
  - Selection... "Costor Songs".... Chevallier
  - Waltz..... "Golconda"..... Royle
  - Selection..... "Falka"..... Chassaigne
  - Gavotte..... "Eunice"..... Perdue
  - Selection... "The Gondoliers".... Sullivan
  - Barn Dance "Happy Darkers".... Godfrey
  - Reminiscences of the Gaiety..... Lütz
  - Waltz..... "La Cigale"..... Bucalossi
  - Dance..... "Iola"..... Royle
- God Save the Queen.

The athletic events in each instance were well contested, and the cycling created a great deal of interest. Proceedings commenced with the long jump, which was won by A H Prosser, who cleared a distance of 16ft 7in. The One Mile Bicycle Scratch, for those who never won a race, was secured by McCormack, who just won from Eggleston, both riding very well. Matters started on the 5 yards' race...