NOTE—The authors of the various papers are solely responsible for the views expressed therein.

Franciscan Limerick

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In the year 1279, the reigning Archbishop of Armagh postulated that a Franciscan, Friar Malachy, be appointed to the see of Tuam, then vacant. The Holy See rejected this petition in a document dated July 12th, 1286. The document refers to the Franciscan in question as “Fratrem Malachium, Ordinis Minorum de conventu Limbriecen.” There exists no earlier, reliable reference to the Franciscan friary at Limerick. It was evidently founded before 1279—the year Friar Malachy was postulated. (1) T. J. Westropp allowed considerable latitude in dating the foundation of Limerick friary when he wrote: (2) “It is said to have been founded either by Donchad Cairbreach O’Brien, before 1241, by W. Fion de Burgo, who died 1237, or by a certain Mary, Countess of Desmond, 1350.” The same writer quotes an undated deed in the Black Book of Limerick, which mentions a grant by the Abbot and monastery of Moy, of lands extending from the New Gate “ad aream Fratrum Minorum.” Westropp gives the date of this deed as “circa 1210.” Fitzgerald-Little, however, suggest 1277, because Simon Hereward, Mayor of Limerick, who witnessed the deed, appears as Mayor in another deed witnessed by Gaylard de Solers. The latter was a collector of taxes in Limerick in the years 1277-8.

Fr. Donough Mooney, O.F.M., who wrote an account of the Irish Franciscan province in 1617 did not know when exactly the Limerick friary was founded. (3) The Brevis Synopsis Provinciae Hiberniae, which was written at Louvain about 1630 by Fr. Francis Matthews, informs us that the friary at Limerick, founded by the de Burgo family of Castleconnell, was mentioned at the General Chapter of Narbonne in 1260 as belonging to the custody of Cork. (4) I can find no further authority for this statement. Fitzgerald-Little, who were most painstaking scholars have no list of Irish houses from the General Chapter of Narbonne in 1260. Fr. Brendan Jennings, O.F.M., remarks that Fr. Matthews had only been able to date certain houses “in a general kind of way as having been founded (as he erroneously thought) before the year 1260.” (5) This

unreliable date, 1260, was accepted as authentic for the foundation of Limerick friary by Brother Michael O Cleirigh in the list of Irish Franciscan houses which he compiled in 1641, (6) and also by Archdeacon Begley. (7)

The ancient friary was situated near what is known today as "Sir Harry's Mall," and was commonly referred to as "St. Francis Abbey." From it the "Abbey River" took its name. The precise location of the friary is indicated in an excellent map attached to Mr. H. G. Leask's article on The Ancient Wails of Limerick in this Journal, vol. II, No. 3 (1941). Fr. Mooney describes the place as he found it in the following words: "Conventus Limericensis est in ipsa civitate Limericensi, quae situ valde pulchro situata est in insula in medio fluminis Synann, de cujus amoenitate et commoditatibus prolixum esset multa loqui. Conventus est in ipsa insula sub moenibus civitatis ad Orientem, prope flumen inter monasterium Sanctae Crucis ad Austrum situatum, et monasterium Sancti Dominici ad Septentrionem, habetque pomarum et alios fundos, a fundo Sancti Dominici seu porta proxima illi usque ad portam proximam monasterio Sanctae Crucis, satis commodum locum pro novo monasterio construendo; antiquum totum dirutum est quoad tecta; parietes stant satis amplecti et proportionate constructi, sed non ex bonis materialibus, atque ideo jam ruinam machinantur." (8)

Thomas de Clare, brother of the Earl of Gloucester, was buried "apud Fratres Minores de Limeric" in 1287. (9) This Thomas was an ambitious man who had received a grant from King Edward of the whole of Thomond. (10) In 1289, the Mayor and citizens of Limerick imposed a fine of twenty pounds on the Franciscan Church for various offences. These included the escape of Reginald le Tanner, who was guilty of the deaths of David Goth and Owlyn Caeroll or Carroll. Tanner is said to have fled to the Church after the murder. (11) Two years later, in 1291, Pope Nicholas IV granted a relaxation of one year and forty days of enjoined penance to penitents visiting the same church on the feasts of the Blessed Virgin, St. Francis, St. Anthony, St. Clare, and their octaves. (12)

The friars at Limerick very often benefited from royal alms. Between the years 1295 and 1355 many gifts to them by the King are recorded. A chalice the friars had lent for the benefit of one William Maunsell, was the subject of a lawsuit in 1317, before the Justiciar of Ireland, Edmund de Botiller. (13)

11. Fitzmaurice-Little, Materials, pp. 215-6. Another item of interest concerning the year 1289 occurs in the White Ms. (RI.A, 24, d. 21, p. 123), to which Very Rev. Canon Moloney, P.P., has kindly drawn my attention. Fr. White wrote: "An inscription of the year cut on a beam which in my own time was taken out of the (Franciscan) church when part of it was thrown down, corresponded to this year (1289)."
The next year, 1318, Richard, son of Thomas de Clare, was killed in battle at Dysart O'Dea and was buried, like his father, "in Lymerico, inter Fratres Minores."(14) As a result of a disagreement between the Irish and Anglo-Irish friars, the General Chapter at Lyons in 1325 determined that the Limerick friary should be assigned to the custody of Cork and be handed over to the Anglo-Irish body.(15) The death of a Limerick Franciscan, Thadeus Mac Mahowne, Lector, is recorded shortly before the feast of All Saints, 1349.(16)

In 1376, the Franciscans at Limerick became involved in a dispute with the local Bishop, Peter Curragh. They appealed against Peter's treatment of them to the Archbishop of Cashel, Philip Torington, who was the conservator of their privileges. The Archbishop came in person to Limerick to investigate the matter but Peter, far from receiving him, ordered him to quit the diocese after laying violent hands upon him. Thereafter the friars suffered still more under Peter. He excommunicated all his subjects who patronised the Franciscan church. The Holy See referred the question to Simon Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, but it is not known how the dispute ended.(17)

1534 is the next recorded date in the history of Limerick friary. According to the Brevis Synopsis and Brother Michael O' Cleirigh, Limerick accepted the Observantine reform in that year.(18) Archdeacon Begley implies that the place was suppressed in 1539(19) but he cites no authority for the information. The Brevis Synopsis fixes the suppression at 1548—"suppressus ab hereticis anno 3o Edwardi 6o Regis Angliae, Christi vero 1548,"(20) There seems to be some mistake here. Henry VIII died in January, 1547, and was succeeded by the boy-king, Edward VI. 1548 could not then be the third year of Edward's reign. Archdall, quoting a document in the Chief Remembrancer's office, points out that the Guardian of the Limerick friary, Donough, and his community had voluntarily quitted the premises before the suppression.(21) The public Record Office, London, carries two extents relating to the property held by the friars. The earlier extent, made on January 23rd, 1541, says of the friary that "there are some superfluous buildings which can be thrown down, viz., the church, dormitory, cloister and hall, and the stones, tiles, timber, and iron of the church are worth if sold (blank) The remaining portion of the buildings necessary for the farmer, viz., the site, circuit and precinct with a garden cont. 1 acr. (1.m) and is worth nothing ... In the precinct a garden, orchards, and houses, with a cemetery, held by divers tenants, paying between them

15. Fitzmaurice-Little, Materials, p. 120.
43s. 2d. Total of the extent, 

"(22) The later extent, is dated January 31st, 1541, and concerning the "House of Friars Minor in the city of Lymerryck," it says: "There are no superfluous buildings which can be thrown down. The site, with church, cemetery, and other buildings cont. 1 ½ acre, and is worth 2s. Outside the walls and precinct there is a garden cont. 4 acre, held by Nicholas Creaghe and others per ind., paying 66s. 8d. Totals 66s. 8d. City of Lymerryck. 30ac. ar. and p. called Courtebreke, worth 33s. 4d. Total of the extent, 102s."

Archdall gleaned some of these details from a document in the office of the Chief Remembrancer, and his version has been copied by Lenihan (24) and by Archdeacon Begley. (25) In an earlier chapter of his book, Lenihan quoted at length from the hitherto unpublished Arthur Manuscripts to "give some notion of the great riches with which the abbeys and monasteries of these days were filled, before they fell a prey to the rapacious spoliation of the brutal and merciless Henry." (26) Items of Limerick Franciscan interest occur in the following excerpt from these manuscripts: "Item, we find that David Michell of Lymerryck, marchant, have a challice of silver, of the grey fryars in his keeping, delivered unto him, by one John O'Linge, at that time fryer of the said house, which challice was delivered to Humphrey Sexten. Item, wee find that John Steolan of Lymerryck, merchant, have two candlesticks of brass, of the said abbey in gage they doe say. Item, wee find that John M'Skyddiy of Lymerryck, taylor, have a booke of the said fryars in gage for eight pence. Item, wee find that Stephen Crevagh, hath certain glasses of the said fryars which he hath delivered to Humphray Sexten. Item, George Sexten hath a vestment of chamlet red with a cross of velvet thereon. Item, John Ryce hath a vestment of Ameilstock of the said fryers. Item, Humphrey Sexten have received of Leonard Crevagh, one challice of Silver of the grey fryers. Item, wee finde that Stephen Harrold have a gardeine of the said fryers by lease for years, paying therefor yearly sixteene pounds which is within the churchyard of the said fryers. Item, Steepen Crevagh hath a particle of the same churchyard, and in lease for yeares paying therefor, yearly, sixpence. And Christopher Crevagh hath the rest of the said churchyard by lease for years, paying yearly therefor, 2s. 8d. Item, Steepen Crevagh hath a garden of the said fryers, within the moore of the said fryers by lease, paying yearly therefor, 2s. Item, James Harrold hath a garden of the said fryers, by lease, paying therefor, yearly, 3s. 4d. Item, John Nagle hath a gardeine within the precincts of the said freeres., by lease paying therefor, yearly, 3s. 4d. Item, John Nagle hath a little medowe of the said freeres, paying therefor, yearly, 3s. Item, more wee find that John Skoylane hath another gardeine in the said moore, by lease, paying therefor, yearly, 2s. Item, Nicholas Stretch hath a gardeine by the little Iland by lease, paying yearly therefor, 8s. sterling. Item, Andrew Harrold hath a gardeine in the said moore by lease, paying yearly therefor, 2s. 4d. James Fox hath a garden by lease and within the precincts of the freeres church, paying yearly therefor 8s. Item, Leonard Creagh hath another gardeine paying yearly therefor 1s. Item, Dominick Comyn hath one.

23. Ibid.
26. Limerick, p. 89.
stone house of the said freeres, named the fish house, by lease, paying therefor yearly sixteen pence. Item, John Nagle hath one other gardine within the said precinct by lease, payeing therefor yearely 16d. Item, John Stretch Fitzgeorge hath one other gardine by lease without the moore, paying yearly therefor 2s. Moreover, the said John hath one house which did appertayne to the said freeres, by lease, paying therefor 2s. Item, Christopher Crevagh hath one tenement or voyde place by lease, payeing therefor yearely 4s. and another voyde place, payeing therefore yearly 8s. 4d. Item, wee fynd that there are tenn acres of land in Luitagh, more the two parts of the teythe of the same in Theobot Boorke's country, and three acres in Bramblock and twoe parts of the teythe of the same and twoe acres in the great croft and the twoe parts of the teythe of the same, and tenn acres in Claishcuingilly with the 2 partes of the same, whych lands and teythes appertyne to the same freeres."

At the time of suppression all the friary buildings were destroyed and the place was turned to profane use. The choir of the church, however, seems to have been left intact and was used by the spoilers as a law-court, but not by any means a court of peaceful litigation, if the Brevis Synopsis account is correct: "omnibus aedificis in profanum usum conversis et diruitis, choro Ecclesiae excepto, qui Hereticis in curiam judiciorum, litium et sanguinis desertit."(27) The property passed into the hands of one Edmond Sexten, whose family retained it for many years. Lenihan has some interesting details about the friary's history in the years succeeding the suppression.(28) Theobald de Burgh, Baron of Castleconnell, obtained a patent concerning tithes and spiritual duties, and with Edmond Sexten he shared the spoils. Early in the seventeenth century another Edmond Sexten, grandson of the former, petitioned the Mayor and Corporation to liberate the friary from all temporal charges. He also demanded services at public expense to the property. One of the two gates leading to the friary—that commonly known as the "Friars' Gate"—caused Sexten particular annoyance. It had been closed by the Corporation during the rebellion of Munster and the closing of it detracted from the profit on the friary lands. A grant of James I in 1609 certified the friary as "a fit place for holding the Assizes and Sessions for County Limerick." The same King allocated the site to the County of Limerick and it remained so until 1824. In consequence of these grants, Sexten enjoyed two votes in the Corporation of Limerick. Besides, the Mayor and civic officials were obliged to wait on him with the first salmon taken in the great sea weir, and the Mayor could not carry his rod into the friary.

Despite the difficulties of the times, some members of the Order seem to have remained in Limerick during the latter half of the sixteenth century. We know that there were four friars in the city in November, 1613.(29)

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26a. The Civil Survey (1654-56) locates the last named lands in the parish of Donaghmore and returns Christopher Sexton as the proprietor of "Inchymore, both Glassengillis Bramboge and Crogthmore one quartermere of land meaning on the North and Easte with ye land of Rathbane and Sheldfackel; on the South with the lands of Garryglosse, and on the Weste with ye lands of Downaghmore." See also Inq. Corporation Lands, 12 James I in Begley, Dioc. Anc. Mod., 41, Appendix C, p. 419.


years later when Father Mooney visited the place, he found some of them living in a rented house and ministering to the faithful as best they could.\textsuperscript{(30)} This "rented house" is probably the residencia mentioned in the Brevis Synopsis. It was erected in 1615 under the superintendence of Fr. James Kent.\textsuperscript{(31)} Of the old friary, Fr. Mooney states that it had been turned into a tannery. He failed to gather any other items of note about it or its equipment.\textsuperscript{(32)} Father John O'Cahan, an alumnus of St. Anthony's College, Louvain, died in Limerick in 1622.\textsuperscript{(33)}

It may be here noted here that we still have the inscriptions of three chalices which the Limerick Franciscan community received in the years 1619, 1626, and 1627. These inscriptions read:

(a) "In usum Fratrum Minorum Limericensium me fieri fecit Frater Ferallus Minorita, 1619.\textsuperscript{(34)}"

(b) "D. Anastasia Rice Tertii Ord. S. Francisci me fieri fecit pro altare Conceptionis B. Virginis FF. Min. Limeri A.D. 1626.\textsuperscript{(35)}"

(c) "Oretur pro D. Leonardo Creagh eius uxore Joana White qui hunc calicem missae paramentis conventu Limericensi fratum Minorum dederunt anno 1627." The chalice bearing this inscription is now in the Convent of Mercy, Nenagh. A further inscription indicates that it had been presented to the parish of Burgess, Co. Tipperary in 1788.\textsuperscript{(36)}

The well-known Donegal Franciscan, Bro. Michael O Cleirigh, visited Limerick some time before December, 1629, while journeying in search of material for Annála Ríoghachta Éireann. In Limerick he copied the Miobhuiit Senáin along with nine other poems relating to that saint, and also part of the Cáin Einde.\textsuperscript{(37)} It is quite possible that Bro. Michael accompanied the then Provincial, Father Francis Matthews, author of the Brevis Synopsis, from Cork to the Chapter that was held in Limerick in August, 1629.\textsuperscript{(38)} This Chapter appointed Fr. Bonaventure Geraldinus (Fitzgerald) as Guardian of the capitular convent, and it also decreed that each Franciscan priest should offer one Mass for the intentions of the Bishop of Limerick.\textsuperscript{(39)} The Vicar-General of the Limerick diocese, Philip Hury (alias Harrow) preached the panegyric on St. Francis at the Franciscan House an October 4th, 1653. Among other things, he declared that on every St. Francis' Day, the Saint descended from

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heaven to purgatory and liberated all Franciscans from there. The Jesuits and Dominicans contradicted this statement, and eventually the Vicar-General was cited before the Bishop, Dr. Arthur, who forbade him to express such views in future.  

Franciscan activity in Limerick was not exclusively confined to the ecclesiastical ministry, if we are to judge from a note that appears on the first folio of Ms. Z3.5.3., in Marsh’s Library, Dublin. The note reads: “In usum Fratris Antonii pro Conventu Limericensi cum Superioris licentia.” The manuscript carries the oldest extant copy of an Irish grammar in Latin, which was compiled by Fr. Bonaventure O’Hussey, O.F.M. (+1614). Fr. Haly made his copy at Louvain in 1634. This same scribe has left us the only existing copy of the oft-mentioned Brevis Synopsis Provinciae Hiberniae, and there is evidence that he had close connections with Co. Limerick.

On June 23rd, 1636, all Sexten’s tenements in St. Francis’ Abbey were wholly burned with the exception of “the house wherein Robert Coyne lyved.”

The next recorded Chapter of the Franciscan Order in Ireland after 1629 is that held at Kilconnell, Co. Galway, in 1645. Fr. Thaddaeus Gorman was appointed Guardian of Limerick and held office for three years. He was one of the signatories to a letter sent by the Bishop and clergy of Limerick to the Nuncio, Archbishop Rinuccini, in June, 1648. This letter was an effort to persuade the Nuncio to suspend the censures he had promulgated against those who would oppose the truce between the Supreme Confederate Council and Inchiquin.

It is not clear when exactly the old church came again into the hands of the friars. At the time of the Confederation, however, it was in their possession and it figures in some incidents of the period. On the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, June 13th, 1646, Fr. Boetius Mac Egan, then Definitor-General of the Franciscan Order and later Bishop of Ross, arrived in Limerick. He had been Chaplain-General of the Irish Army at Benburb, and he came to Limerick as the personal envoy of Owen Roe O’Neill to inform the Apostolic Nuncio, who was then in the city, of the Irish victory. He brought with him official letters, and also thirty-two captured enemy standards. The latter were deposited in the Franciscan church.

On the following day, Sunday, June 14th, a triumphal procession moved from this church to the Cathedral. Those taking part included the Apostolic Nuncio, the Archbishop of Cashel, the Bishops of Limerick, Clonfert and Ardfern, and civil dignitaries in ceremonial dress. The captured enemy banners were carried in triumph and at the Cathedral a Te Deum was sung; the Apostolic Nuncio officiating. Fr. Matthew Sharp was appointed Guardian of the

40. J. Begley, The Diocese of Limerick from 1631 to the Present Time (Dublin, 1939), Appendix, p. 595.
41. This manuscript and its contents are discussed in Measgra Mhichil Uí Chléirigh (Dublin, 1944), pp. 238-42.
42. Lenihan, Limerick, p. 657.
Limerick friary at a Chapter held in Cavan in 1648. He was one of a number of Franciscan superiors who were listed by the Earl of Ormond in 1649 as disturbers of the public peace, who tried to undermine the loyalty of subjects to the King. Ormond complained of these Franciscans to the then Commissary-General of the Order, Fr. Raymund Caron. At a Chapter held in Kilconnell, Co. Galway, in 1650, Fr. Francis Wolfe was assigned to Limerick as Guardian. When Ireton’s soldiers entered the city in October, 1651, Fr. Wolfe was one of the twenty-two persons who were exempted from quarter. He disappeared, and was never seen again. On the same occasion, Dominic Fanning, Mayor of the city, who had also been exempted from quarter, was arrested in the churchyard of St. Francis’ Abbey.

It is recorded that in the afternoon of July 17th, 1651, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared over St. Mary’s Cathedral in Limerick. She was accompanied by St. Francis and St. Dominic, and by other friars of both Orders, as well as by three virgins. Before disappearing she moved to the priory of St. Dominic and thence to the Franciscan church outside the walls.

The Chapter Acts of the Order record the appointment of Guardians for the Franciscan house at Limerick in the years 1659, 1661, 1669, 1675, 1678, 1681, and 1687. In 1667 a novitiate house was established there, and the Chapter held at Rosserilley, Co. Galway, in the same year appointed Fr. Francis Butler as Master of Novices. This friar had previously been Guardian at Limerick—an office he was later to fill again in 1690. Prior to 1687 the old friary had been in the hands of Lieutentant Pery, a descendant of Sexten, who had received it at the suppression. In October, 1687, the friars rented the place from Pery, and they had the church consecrated by Most Rev. Dr. Moloney, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, who also celebrated the first Mass. Rev. Jaspar White, Parish Priest of St. John's, celebrated the second Mass.

A Chapter held at Kilconnell in May, 1689, elected Fr. Francis Harold, Senior, as Guardian of Limerick Convent, and he remained in office for a year. He became Guardian there again in 1693. Harold was a well-known Limerick surname, but the friar in question cannot have been the Limerick-born nephew and biographer of Fr. Luke Wadding. This latter Francis Harold died at St. Isidore's College, Rome, in 1685. An Irish Franciscan named Franciscus Antonius Haroldus was ordained priest in Rome in December, 1678. This may be the friar who became Guardian at Limerick in 1689 and 1693.

During the eighteenth century upwards of thirty Chapters of the Franciscan Order were held in Ireland, and at each one a Guardian was assigned to

47. Comm. Rin., ibid.; Lenihan, Limerick, p. 170; Begley, Dioc. 16th and 17th Cents., p. 337.
49. Chapter Acts.
50. Lenihan, Limerick, p. 211; Begley, Dioc. 16th and 17th Cents., p. 491.
Limerick. Thus, in spite of persecution and manifold difficulties, the succession of the sons of St. Francis in the city was retained. Archdeacon Begley tells us that a few of them were imprisoned in 1703. An Act came into force in 1704 compelling “every Popish priest remaining in this country to give a return of his name, of his place of abode, of his age, of the parish of which he pretended to be the Parish Priest, of the place and time he was ordained, of the name of the Bishop or Ordinary who ordained him.” Forty-seven priests were registered at St. Francis’ Abbey.

We do not know precisely when the friars departed from St. Francis’ Abbey. Lenihan quotes tradition for the statement that they occupied the old foundation right up to the last siege of Limerick. After that it is not clear where they resided until 1732, when four of them formed a community in an old castle or fortress at the junction of Mary Street and Athlunkard Street. This became known as the “Castle Friary.” There is evidence that the Franciscans were involved in a dispute with other religious regarding a foundation, in 1756. The principal citizens of Limerick seem to have sided with the friars and Dominicans in the matter. The county courthouse was built at the old Abbey in 1732, and in 1745 Rev. James White, who is described as “Parish Priest of the Abbey of St. Francis,” fixed a small chapel there for the use of his parishioners. When a Methodist community was established in Limerick about 1749, after a visit by John Wesley himself, the place was rented as headquarters and was occupied by that body until 1763. The Catholic tradesmen of the city were restricted to the Abbey for some time, but about 1757 they dispersed and set up their trades in different places. The old Franciscan site figures again in 1765, when a hospital containing forty beds was built on it. This hospital was the forerunner of the present County Infirmary, Mulgrave Street. A stone slab from the ancient building is exhibited in the main hall of the modern hospital. In 1789, one of the elaborately decorated windows of the old friary was eventually installed in St. Michael’s Protestant Church, Pery Square, in the basement of which it can still be seen.

When opportunity offered, the friars set about procuring suitable ground for a new church and convent. This time they moved to Newgate Lane and the church was opened in 1782. Members of different religious denominations in the city are said to have contributed towards the building. The Guar-
dian at the time was Fr. Anthony Casey. Later on, the friars set up a
school in the same locality. It was well patronised by the leading Catholic
families and flourished until 1815. Some records of the Newgate Lane
friary are still extant in the Franciscan Archives, Limerick. They begin
with the year 1798, when the friars accepted a curacy in St. Mary's Parish
from Dean Flynn. Expenses in connection with St. Mary's church are men-
tioned.

Fr. Denis Hogan became Guardian in 1796 and remained in office for
many years. This zealous churchman was a staunch friend of Daniel O'Con-
nell, and he spared neither energy nor expense in beautifying God's house.
On being informed by O'Connell that no penal statute prohibited the erection
of a cupola and bell at the gable end of the friary, Fr. Hogan acted accord-
ingly, and on June 1st, 1809, the first Mass-bell to toll in Limerick for many
years summoned the faithful to the Holy Sacrifice. Fr. Hogan was also
responsible for the erection of a new door and staircase in the chapel. The
training of a choir to sing at liturgical functions seems to have engaged con-
siderable attention at this time and mention is made of the provision of
musical instruments. Fr. Hogan died in 1812. Fr. William Aloysius O'Meara,
another prominent Limerick Franciscan of the early nineteenth century, was
responsible for the foundation of part, at least of Mount St. Vincent's Orphan-
age. In 1822, the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. Tchohy, petitioned the
Holy See to appoint Fr. O'Meara as Coadjutor. The latter, however, was
never promoted.

The lease of Newgate Lane friary expired in 1822 and the friars were
compelled to hand over the church and convent to the landlord, Major Drew.
They had a temporary chapel in Bank Place until 1825. In September, 1824,
the foundation of a new church and convent was laid in Henry Street—the
present site—and a new era began in the history of Franciscan Limerick.

63. Chapter Acts.
64. Lenihan, op. cit., p. 653.
65. Grateful thanks are due to Fr. Hilary Kilkoury, O.F.M., for the loan of a tran-
script of those records.
68. Lenihan, op. cit., p. 650.