

Glimpses of Eighteenth-Century Limerick from Contemporary Newspapers

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Custom House Fire

Last Friday Night the Custom House of Limerick was burnt down to the Ground, but the Cash Books and papers were saved by the Diligence of Mr. White, the Collector's Clerk, who went thro' the Fames naked, and saved them; the Goods that were in the Store were likewise sav'd by Mr. Neterville, surveyor of the Port. The Fire began in one of the Garrets. It caught the Roof of the adjoining House, in which Dr Vereker lives; but was happily extinguished by pulling down the Roof, and the spreading of the Fire thereby prevented.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From SAT. Oct. 3rd to TUES. Oct. 6th, 1741

Poverty

We hear from Rathkeal in the County of Limerick, that the distressed Condition of the Poor in that Country has had such Effect on the Widow Southwell of Iniscouse and her worthy Grand Daughter, Miss Peggy Southwell, that besides giving Money Weekly amongst them, also several Medicines to Cure the Mortal Flux now Rife among the Poor, they have the Beef killed for them, and several Barrells of Oats given, and equally distributed among them, and to lower the Price of Corn in the Market, they have sent several Barrells, and ordered it to be Sold 10 Pence per Bushell cheaper than any in the Market, which has lessened the Price which Forestallers and hard-harted Hacksters expect. As this ought to be an Example to Incourage others of better and much larger Haggards, to assist so necessary a Charity; We are assured the said Lady is willing to join Every Market Day to support and help the afflicted after the above manner until the exorbitant Prices are brought down.

Pue's Occurrences, From SAT. January 24th to TUES. January 27th, 1740-41

Rathkeal March 4. All this last Week, we had Snow 5 Feet deep, in the open Field, which has lasted as yet, and hath destroyed a vast Number of black Cattle and Sheep and greatly raised our Markets, and most of the Poor would Starve were it not for the Charity of one Mr. Odell, who sells all kinds of Corn a Shilling in the Bushel cheaper than the Market.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From TUES. March 5th to SAT. March 9, 1744-5

We hear from Limerick, that on Tuesday the 24th of May, upon a sudden rise in their Market, the mob rose and cut away the Rigging and Anchor of a ship that was loaden with Oat-meal, and just ready to sail; they afterwards went to the House of Mr. Sexton, an

eminent Merchant in that City, who freighted the above Vessel, and who for some time past had bought up great Quantities of Oats, which he intended for exportation; they broke the Window and destroyed great part of his Furniture. Mr. Sexton was obliged, in order to appease their fury, to make Oath before the Mayor, that he would cause the Vessel to be unloaded, and sell the Cargo at the market-price, which is 4s. 6d. per hundred.

Dublin Weekly Journal, SAT. June 4th, 1748

Crime

[Advertisement] Whereas Pryce Hartstonge, Esq. was Robbed in the Night time, on the 4th Day of April Instant, in the House of Mr. John Mead, Vintner in Limerick of the following Things viz., A Watch with a shagreen Case studded with Gold, and to it a gold Chain and gold Swivels, a large Kerry-stone Seal with the said Pryce's Arms thereon drilled, with a gold Ring therein; a cornelian Seal with Sir Standish Hartstonge's Arms, another Seal with Alexander's Head; another a while Onyx with a Head, all set in Gold; a Stuff box, the top enlay'd with Mother of Pearl and Silver; a Silver pair of Shoe buckles Chased-punched thro'; a silver Stock buckle set with Kerry-stones; a gold Ring with a yellow Stone, a Purse green and Gold with about 16 or 17 Pounds.

This to give Notice that whoever delivers the said Goods to the said Hartstonge, or Mead, or to John Hartstonge, Esq. in Dublin will receive 5 Pounds reward from the said Hartstonge, and 10 Pounds on Conviction of any concerned.

Pue's Occurrences, From TUES. April 10th to SAT. April 14th, 1739

By Letters from Limerick, we are informed of a very great Seizure lately made by a Gentleman, on the River Shannon, consisting of Brandy, Tea, Florence Windes and other Goods, amounting to 500L. The Gentleman who made this Seizure is the Person, that in the Year 1735, made another Seizure of ten thousand Gallons of Rum and Brandy which he did for the Good of his Country, without any Reward or mercenary View, purely for the Benefit of a fair and industrious Trade.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From TUES. May 1st to SAT. May 5th, 1739

[Advertisement] Whereas Pryce Hartstonge, Esq. was robbed in the House of John Mead, Vintary in Limerick, the fourth day of last April, of a Gold Watch, Gold Chain, Seals and other Goods, and Money of considerable Value, since which the said Goods have been found with one Edward Connolly, Wig-maker, who falsely accused John Mellsop, Servant to the said Hartstonge, of being concerned with him in the said Robbery, in order to turn King's Evidence.

Now this is to certify to the Publick that the said Edward Connolly now denies knowing the said Mellsop, and that the said John Mellsop hath lived with me for six Years past and always behaved himself faithfully and honestly during the said Time and now lives with PRYCE HARTSTONGE.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From TUES. January 29th to SAT. Feb. 2nd, 1739-40

From the Assizes of Limerick we are informed, that several Criminals were tried for the County as well as the City; four were convicted for stealing a cow and a horse; but the Grand Jury, considering the great Scarcity of the late Season, recommended them as Objects of Mercy, and they were burnt in the Hand and turned out of Court. The Grand Jury declared that (on account of the present plentiful Harvest) that any Person convicted of stealing even a Lamb, or any other Trifle, shall be punished as the Law directs.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From TUES. Sept. 1st to SAT. Sept. 5th, 1741

Dublin April 23. We hear from Limerick that last Week one Laurence Ryan a Roman priest was brought in there under a strong Guard from Cahirconlish and lodged in the County Gaol, being charged with dispersing Commissions from the Pretender and other Treasonable Practices, and that the Grand Jury of said City have promised a reward of thirty pounds for every Papist who shall be prosecuted for carrying Fire Arms contrary to the Laws and the Grand Jury of the said County have also promised a Reward of ten Pounds for every Person convicted as aforesaid.

Pue's Occurrences, From SAT. April 19th to TUES. April 22nd, 1746

Infanticide

Limerick, March 4. A few Days ago, a soldier's Wife, a comely, young Husay being checked by her Husband for having a Child several months before the proper time, encouraged her to go and leave the same with the Father; assuring her, that when she did so, he would again take her to be the wife of his bosom; but she, contrary to all Humanity, took the Child away and threw it over Thoumond Bridge into the River Shannon, where it perished, on discovery whereof, the vile, unnatural Mother was committed to our Gaol, where she now lies.

There was also committed to our County Gaol, this Evening, a Woman charged with poisoning her own two Children. The Fact was committed in NewCastle, sixteen Miles from this City; she is a Widow, and it seemed her Courtier refused to marry her, having such a Charge; in eleven Days after the children were buried, it was discovered the Mother had bought poison (as was proved by the Appothecary) on pretence to destroy rats, two Physicians being employed to examine into the latter, found the Poison in the Children's Stomachs, whereof the Mother was taken up, and sent hither under a strong guard.

Dublin News-Letter From TUES. March 8 to SAT. March 12, 1742-3

Capital Punishment

Limerick, April 24. Yesterday Edmond Ryan was executed here for robbing and running away with the widow Freeman, when a most violent riot ensued in order, as it is supposed, to release the Criminal, in which Some were killed, and several more much wounded, Forty-five persons are confined here for this fact.

Dublin News-Letter From TUES. April 26 to SAT. April 30, 1743

Limerick, April 26. Forty eight Persons were Yesterday tried by the Magistrates of this City, for the Fray and Attempt of the rescuing Edmond Ryan, who was executed here the 23d. Instant., for the Robbing, etc of the Widow Freeman; forty of which have been

enlarged upon good Bail for their Appearance, and eight more were ordered into close confinement, being, by positive proof, found Guilty of the Assault and Attempt of rescuing said Ryan.

Ibid., SAT. April 30 to TUES. May 3, 1743

Limerick, April 29. Mr James Farlow, who was condemned at the last Assizes, for killing Mr John Warwick, was executed at the same. He walked through the Street to the Gallows, reading Prayers of his own composing, with that firm Calmness in his Countenance which is not well to be expected, and which drew Tears from every Eye that beheld him. When he arrived at the Gallows, he flung himself upon his Knees and continuing for about a Quarter of an Hour, he rose and saluting the Sheriff, told them that he came with the greatest Reluctance to the said Place, as he was innocent of Murder, and assured them, that as he hoped for Mercy from his Creator, before whom he was in a few Minutes to appear, Mr Warwick, giving him that Lye, took up a Pistol before he touched him, and presented it at his body, before he shot. He prayed ardently for these Gentlemen who endeavoured his Preservation; and he forgave those who brought him to that shameful End. Then he suffered the Cord to be tyed about his Neck, and ascending the Ladder with a Smile on his Face, he pulled the Cap on it, and ordered the Hangman to do his Duty. He was attended during his Confinement and to the Place of Execution, by a Clergyman of the Church of Ireland as the Law established.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From SATURDAY, May 19th to TUES. May 21, 1744

Education

The Local Committee of the Charter School of Kilmallock in the County of Limerick, in the Report date the 2nd of January, 1743, set forth that the Boys and Girls, are well instructed in Reading, and the Principles of the Protestant Religion, and Sing the 4th, 100 and 16 Psalms in the Church exceeding well.

That the Boys have this Spring set out near an Acre and half of Potatoes, duned and dug, set out their Kitchen Garden with Peese, Beans, Cabbage, Parsnips &c. Without the help of a labourer.

The Girls carded and Spun all the Wool last Year, for their own and the Boys Clothing, dressed and Spun the Flax for their Shifting, Caps, Banns, and besides doing all the Business of the House, and made up their own and the Boys Linen, and all well clothed.

That there are twelve Children, six of each Sex fit to be put out Apprentices, and proper Protestant Master Linen-Weavers named for the Boys and other Protestant Masters and Mistresses for the Girls.

That Elinor Berdan, aged 14 Years of Popish Parents, could not speak English when admitted to the School, had lately a Fit of Sickness, of which it was thought she would have died, was asked whether she would have her Father and Mother sent for, she answered, she would not, lest they might endeavour to bring a Priest to her; and choose to die without seeing them, rather than be tempted by them to forsake the Protestant Religion.

Dublin Gazette, From TUESDAY, June 7 to SATURDAY, June 11, 1743

The Incorporated Society have received advice by a report, dated the 10th of June 1746, and certified by the Local Committee of Shannon Grove in the County of Limerick; that the Boys and Girls, have earned Fourteen Pounds Four Shillings and Two Pence Half-penny in one Year for which credit is given, besides the Work within and without Doors, and have built a Kiln for the convenience of the School that will dry eight Barrels of Oats at a time, without any Expence to the Society except the hire of the Mason, and the expence of the Hair-Cloth.

Pue's Occurrences, From SAT. July 26th to TUES. July 29th, 1746

Weather

We hear from the County of Limerick, that near Rathkeale in that County there was very great Lightning and Thunder and Hail; that the Lightning penetrated into a Farmer's House and burnt score Persons, killed 2 Dogs, who were on each side of the Farmer's Fire; also broke all the Shelves and the Dresser in the Kitchen; and that a Woman had her Side burnt black, and her Shift had no sign of burning on it; That a man going to some Place, having a Dog which run between his Legs, the Dog was killed and the Man received no harm; that all the Windows and Garden Glasses of a Gentleman near the same Place was shatter'd to Pieces, and all his Garden Stuff destroyed by the Hail-stones, which were of an incredible Size.

Pue's Occurrences, From TUESDAY June 14th to SATURDAY June 18th, 1737

Abduction

This day a Proclamation was published by his Grace, the Duke of Devonshire and the Privy Council, promising a Reward of two hundred Pounds, for apprehending within three Kalendar Month each of the following Persons, who feloniously and forcibly stole away, on the 13th Instant, Mrs Francis Ingoldsby of Nantenan in the County of Limerick, Sprinster, from the House of the Rev. Thomas Royce, of the above Place, to wit, Hugh Fitz-John Massey, in the County of Cork, gent, John Boucher, Gent and Michael Scanlan the Younger of Ballynakill in the County of Limerick, James Currane, and Timothy Cromeen.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From TUES. November 22nd to SAT. November 26th, 1743

Fatal Accidents

Limerick, April 5 – A melancholy Accident happen'd here last Saturday. A Gentleman riding into Town, had occasion to alight at a Gentleman's Door, and tying his Horse there, a Child of eleven Years old, Son to Lieutenant Parks, mounted the Horse, who running away with him, flung him off, broke his Skill and dashed his Brains out, he lived about [?] Hours.

Pue's Occurrences, From SATURDAY April 9th to TUES. April 12th, 1743

From Limerick of the 1st Instant we hear that three Persons were downed in that Neighbourhood and was the First Man whose Corse was found floating the Strand near

the Ferry, another was a Boat Man, who fell overboard, and the third was downed in a Bog near Adare.

Pue's Occurrences, From TUESDAY Sept 11th to SATURDAY Sept 15th, 1744

Catholics

Limerick, Jan. 14 – The other Day one Mr. Hedman, a Friar made his Recantation, and was receiv'd into the Church of England: By all Appearance, and from his past Behaviour and good Stock of Learning, it is evident that his Recantation was the result of a Conviction of the Errors which he had before embrac'd; it is thought a very handsome Provision will be made for him, and it were to be wish'd that all the Ecclesiasticals of the Romish Persuasion, on their Conversion were properly provided for, as the Apostates of our Church are abroad.

Dublin Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, January 19, 1736-7

Mr. Faulkner, As the following Behaviour of the ROMAN CATHOLICS in our Part of the Country is worthy of Consideration of the Publick, your are particularly desired to insert it in your Journal.

Newcastle in the County of Limerick – Since my last to you a very pleasing Occurrence has pass'd there, which you will expect I should give you some Account of.

We had Yesterday the largest and best Appearance of Protestants that has been seen together in this Town on any former Occasion. James Smyth Esq. Collector of Mallow our worthy Capt. Who has got an Independent Troop of Dragoons to be array'd here summoned the neighbouring Gentlemen, with whom we assembled in the great Square and from there march in Order about an hundred on the Castle Yard ... And this Captain being well beloved and respected by all Ranks of People among us, has put forward a Subscription of the Popish Inhabitants of the Town, and Tenants of the Estate, for cloathing and fitting out the poor Sort of the Protestants, and I must do them the Justice to say, they very readily came into it, which is, in my Opinion, a very becoming Example for their Brethern to follow ...

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, From SAT. Jan. 25th to TUES. Jan. 28th, 1745-6

Labour Organisation

We hear from Limerick that the Journeymen Combers and Weavers of that City, have turned Out from their several Employers, and refuse to work without an advance price, having bound themselves by an Oath to do so. Which illegal practices must tend to the discouragement of the Trade and Manufacture of this Kingdom, and to the ruin of several poor Families.

Pue's Occurrences, From SATURDAY Nov.12th to TUES. Nov.15th, 1748

Post-Mortem

The Right Hon. Henry O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, died of an Inflammation in his Lungs, and not of a Fracture of his Scull as was reported, being opened in the Presence of several of the most Eminent Physicians and Surgeons, who found all the Parts in a natural State

but the lungs were mortified in several Places; on Thursday his Body was embalm'd in order to be interr'd at Limerick.

The Dublin News-Letter From SAT. April 25th to TUES. April 28th, 1741

Family Dispute

[Advertisement] Whereas I am informed that Mr. Edward Monckton, otherwise CARY, is selling or intends to sell the Lands of Ballymale [?] as also Doorless and some other Denominations ... in the County of Limerick. These are therefore to caution all Persons not to purchass said Lands, they being intended and settled on me, and my Male issue and on my Brother Mr. Monckton Cary, and his Male heirs, failing Male Issue in the said Edward. Dated March 5, 1742. GEORGE CARY.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, 16 March to 20 March, 1741-2

Gender Issue

This Week a Girl who was a Drummer, for a considerable time past, in the Hon. Col. Bligh's Regt. Of Foot on Duty here was discharg'd upon her Sex being discover'd, a handsome Collection was made for her by the Officers.

Pue's Occurrences, From TUESDAY July 28th to SAT. August 1st, 1741

