

**WAS A GREAT  
OLD GAEL:  
REMINISCENCES  
OF A SURVIVOR**

**B**OWED with the weight of 80 years, aggravated by the results of several accidents and operations, involving, among other things, hardness of hearing, loss of an eye, a broken rib and strained hip, it was my great grief that I was unable to attend the funeral of my old and esteemed friend, Mr. Richard Quinn (Derk Pallasgreen), captain for years of the famous Knockane Sarsfields G.A.A. A GAEL TO THE FINGER TIPS.

Dick Quinn was a Gael to the finger tips, a splendid forward footballer, a leader of men, who used both brain and body, a skilled selector without favour or prejudice. With him, the team spirit always prevailed, though it could not cloak his outstanding personal merit as a player. What fine men physically and socially composed his team, of which for some time I had the honour of being a member! Without any special playing pitch—though the Ballyneety farmers were generous of their fields—scattered, and usually short of funds, and of course, of the easy modern methods of travel and training, many of these men went into the front line of footballers while almost all attained distinction in county matches. They were proud of Ballyneety, the scene of Sarsfield's thrilling exploit, of their team and of the G.A.A. as a whole.

It would be invidious to mention individuals, so I give the names of the seventeen players who composed the team at Croom in May, 1900—Spencer Lyons's field—when they played a drawn game with the then famous Limerick Commercial's, Mr. Tom Campion, Kilmallock, being referee:—

**Knockane** J. Mahoney, M. Shinnors, James Nash, John Nash, J. Ryan, T. Ryan, T. Brien, M. O'Donnell, Eamonn Mansfield, P. Ryan, J. O'Dwyer, P. O'Dwyer, R. Quinn (captain), P. Gorman, J. Dohovan, T. Humphries and John Moloney.

**UNFINISHED GAME AT KILMALLOCK.**

The Limerick Commercial's were captained by Mr. Con Fitzgerald, a noted athlete and footballer, and included several who had been in All-Ireland games. The re-play was fixed for Kilmallock some months later. After less than half an hour's play with 1 goal 4 points to their credit, the Commercial's having no score, a dispute arose as to an award, and the match was not finished. It was a cold windy day favouring our team. In the same field, a year later, Mick Hynan, of Garryspillane, beat me by a yard in a stiff mile. Mick was a star.

Space prevents me from dealing with many other matters in which Dick Quinn and his fellow players excelled even themselves. I cannot refrain, however, from recalling his courtesy and kindness, his friendliness, his keen interest in public and national affairs; the pleasure with which he recalled his many battles in the Gaelic arena; his love of sport; his industry, his abiding love of Limerick and particularly of his native heath, May Ballyneety ever have good Gaels and outstanding teams to play and practise within the echoes of hallowed Templebraden, where he rests.

**THE TEAM SPIRIT.**

Though I had the privilege of playing as one of the teams in five counties—I captained two—Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny and Limerick, I have never met a body of men more imbued with the co-operative or team spirit than those of Knockane. As in the true patriot, the

**OUT OF THE PAST**

By ROBERT HERBERT

**A**T the beginning of last month I referred to Doctor Hall's Charity and, quoting from Lenihan, stated that the charity had been grossly mismanaged and that the income had fallen away. Lenihan also stated that the Dr. Jeremiah Hall Schools (St. Mary's) was reported on favourably by the Queen's Commissioners in 1855, that the property was worth £200 a year and that there was also a sum of £979 at 3 per cent. stock belonging to the Institution independently of the property.

**DR. JEREMY HALL.**

Although Dr. Hall's charity will always be associated with Limerick, he was himself, in fact, born in Boothtown, Halifax. It is surprising to note, also, in view of his generous benefactions, how little is known of his private life—not even whether the doctorate was or was not a medical one. He was born in 1619 and after attending the Halifax School was entered as a Sizar in Trinity College, Dublin, at the age of 20. His family cannot have been well-to-do, for a sizar was one, usually a clergyman's son, who received free education in return for the performance of certain menial tasks at the college. At College he was friendly with William Wentworth, son of the first Earl of Stratford, and it may be that it was this family friendship which originally brought him from Halifax to Dublin at the, for that time, very late age of 20. In 1640 he was elected a scholar and from that date to his death we have no information, apart from that contained in his own will, about this most munificent public benefactor. He died between 1689 and 1694 and, as the will shows, had been on terms of intimate personal friendship with many of the Irish aristocracy. This also probably arose through the patronage of the Earl of Strafford who later became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

**DR. HALL'S WILL.**

Dr. Hall left a large and still operating charitable bequest to his native parish of Boothtown, but it has no interest to Limerick and I give here only those details of his will which directly relate to our own city or to Ireland:—

**"IMPRIMIS,** I give, dispose and bequeath for ever the house I have built in the City of Limerick, as it is hereafter particularly set down. I give and bequeath the four lower ground middle rooms of the said house for lodging for four old poor aged men, unmarried, and for four old aged women widows who are not able by labour to get their livings nor have relatives that are able to help to maintain them.

**ROOMS FOR TWO SCHOOLS.**

**"ITEM,** I do give and bequeath the two upper large middle rooms of the said house for two schools, that on the north side to teach therein twenty poor boys, and that on the south side twenty poor girls, orphans, or such whose parents are not able to keep them to school, the boys to learn to read English well, to write well, and to cast Accounts; the girls to learn to read English well, to sew, knit and make bone lace.

**"ITEM,** I give and bequeath the two upper Rooms on the North-East and North-West side of the House, as also the lower back ground Room on North-East side of the House, together with the place and passage going into it for lodg-

ing and use of the schoolmaster.

**"ITEM,** I give and bequeath the two upper Rooms on the South-East and South-West of the House, as also the lower back ground rooms on the South-East side of the House, together with the place and passage going into it for Lodging and Use of the School Mistress.

**"Item,** I give and bequeath as much of the back side of the first wall to each of the divisions or apartments as before set out and described doth contain, in breadth and as I have ordered to be separated and distinguished by parts to each division or apartment for ever.

**FOR USE OF OVERSEERS AND TRUSTEES.**

**"Item,** I give and bequeath my own lodging room for the use of the overseers and trustees hereafter named to meet in as also to keep in the press, already made, the books of accounts and the books for the poor boys and girls, and other things necessary for the poor people as also the garrett over it for the like uses and as for the lower back ground room under my chamber, I order for the present that it be made use of for the poor people; but if God preserve my life I do intend to add more to it, and make a chapel, towards the making whereof the twenty pounds Dr. Wm. Smith gave by his will to my hospital, I would have laid out, and the rest out of my own overplus rents. Swynn Cowell did once give me a model of what I intend to build. I give and bequeath the lower garden to the use of the hospital as to the said overseers and trustees shall be thought most advantageous and expedient for it.

**FOR POOR OLD MEN AND WOMEN.**

**"Item,** I give and bequeath to each of the poor old men and women five pounds per annum to be paid them weekly or quarterly as the said overseers and trustees shall appoint.

**"Item,** I give and bequeath to the school master and mistress for teaching of twenty poor boys and twenty poor girls as aforesaid, ten pounds per annum for each of them to be paid half yearly at midsummer and Christmas.

**"Item,** I give and bequeath to buy Horn Books, Primmers, Psalters, Whole duties of Man, and Common Prayers, the Bishop of Geneva's Introduction to a Holy Life of Thomas a Kempis, and for the keeping of the house in repair, ten pounds per annum. I would have every poor boy and girl, when they go away, to have a whole duty of man or some other of the books of devotion above named."

**TO REDEEM POOR DEBTORS.**

Finally, to cut short a long will, Dr. Hall left another £10 to redeem poor debtors out of prison and £20 to be lent constantly to one or more hopeful young men newly come out of service to be lent them gratis for two or three years, they giving very good security for the repayment of the principal at the two or three years end.

As will be seen from above, Lenihan was almost completely inaccurate in his description of Hall's charitable bequests. He was even further out when he said that Hall constituted the Protestant Bishop, Dean and Mayor, Recorder and Sheriff for the time being, trustees of his will, for, in the year the will was made, 1687, both Mayor and Sheriffs of Limerick were Catholics.

**HOUSING  
GRANTS AND  
THE REPAIR  
COTTAGES**

**M**R. J. J. COLLINS (F.F., Limerick) asked the Minister for Local Government in the House whether he received an application from the Limerick County Council for sanction to raise £25,000 for the purpose of paying supplementary housing grants during the current financial year and, whether, in view of the conditions caused as a result of the decision, he would be coming to a decision, he will with sanction this application.

**Mr. O'Donnell:** The authority were notified on 5th last that the borrowing referred by the Deputy had been sanctioned and that the issue of the Local Loans Fund had been authorised by the Minister for Finance. The housing authority have applied for the issue of instalment of the loan and application is being considered.

**Mr. Collins:** also asked the Minister for Local Government why sanction for the full amount of £50,000 applied for by the Limerick County Council for repairs was refused, and why the Department agreed to sanction only half this amount; whether he is aware that the over 2,000 cottages in County Limerick badly in need of immediate repairs, and, if so, if he will the decision reconsidered.

**Mr. O'Donnell:** Sanction was refused to the loan of £50,000 referred to by the Deputy. This was to be spent over a two-year period and it was ascertained that the housing authority considered that a loan of £25,000 would be sufficient to continue the council's cottage repair programme for the balance of the present financial year. The raising of £50,000 on this basis was sanctioned instant. In these circumstances the second part of the Deputy's question does not seem to arise.

**Mr. Collins:** The Minister stated that the loan of £25,000 would carry on the work of repairs until the end of the financial year. My information from the county council from the existing organisation we have in that type of work is that it would have only sufficient to carry on to the end of December. I do not reconcile the Minister's statement with the information which I have been supplied.

**Mr. O'Donnell:** I think the Deputy is Chairman of the County Council and it is his own authority that furnished me the information.

**Mr. Collins:** I am glad to that.

**COTTAGE TENDERS.**

**Mr. Collins:** asked the Minister for Local Government why sanction was not given to the application made by the Limerick County Council in respect of a number of cottage tenders which have been submitted to his Department since May last; and if, in view of the fact that the Parliamentary Secretary stated in July last that sanction would be given for the will state the cause of the delay.

**Mr. O'Donnell:** Proposals for Limerick County Council for acceptance of tenders for 2 cottages were received in the Department on 25th June last proposals for the acceptance of tenders for two further cottages received on 24th July 1956 and 9th August, 1956. The Deputy informed by letter dated 17th July, 1956, that the proposals received on 25th June last were under examination and that a decision would be issued as soon as possible.

Glin Old Quay: