

O'Flynn, Miss Austin, Miss Lavers, Messrs. Connolly, Milner, Hill, B. Gibbings, P. M'Carty, W. R. Atkins, &c., &c.

The musical movement in Cork has also called into play considerable powers of composition. Vocal and instrumental pieces of more or less excellence have lately proceeded from the pens of some of the Cork amateurs, amongst which may be mentioned the dance compositions of Gerald de Boutville (a gentleman who writes under this name). "La Fanfara," a grand galop, by Mr. W. R. Atkins, another local musician, has also been very much appreciated. This young gentleman's name is also well known to the public as the composer of the music of a very pretty song, the words of which are by Mr. S. N. Townsend, whose poetical talents are also well known. The song alluded to is "Oh take me from this scene, this place," and referring to which the *Cork Constitution* remarks:—"This is a very pretty ballad, the air being remarkably sweet and simple, and the arrangement very good." The above facts shew that the noble art of music is fast gaining ground in Cork, and it is to be sincerely hoped may long continue to advance.

LIMERICK ART EXHIBITION.

On the 17th ult. there was opened at the "Athenæum," in the City of Limerick an Exhibition of Works of Art and Manufacture, which reflects credit on the managers of that Institution. The inaugural ceremony was performed by the respected and esteemed Mayor, Peter Tait, Esq., in presence of a large assemblage of the elite of the city and county. The large Concert Hall, which was specially devoted to the opening ceremonial, and reserved for holders of season tickets, had a strikingly imposing appearance. The proceedings commenced by the reading of an address to the Mayor, by J. Counihan, Esq.; Hon. Sec. We can afford space for only a few extracts therefrom to shew the object contemplated by the promoters in bringing together such a valuable collection of works of art in their ancient city. The address says:—

"The object of the committee of this institution has not been so much to gather a large number of works as to present those which are of high value and genuine worth. They were anxious to procure all of ancient and modern origin which would exemplify genius, manifest skill, and promote public taste; and in this respect they trust they have been successful. Thanks to the nobility and gentry of this county and city, to the authorities of the South Kensington Museum, and to the liberal and kind owners and controllers of other private and public collections; our Hall and the various departments connected with it, bear on their walls many paintings which are unrivalled, water-color drawings that may be studied with profit even by proficient, and in evidence of local advancement, sketches that do honour to the youth of the South of Ireland, and must enlist sympathy and support for those schools of art and other institutions, in which they were initiated and are instructed. On our walls, too, are those noble pictorial tissues, the Seven Tapestries of Arras, lent us by a possessor who truly values art. Other specimens of tapestry too we exhibit, beautiful in design, the elaborate and exquisite work of fair ladies of our ancient and honoured city. Photography, which is making such rapid progress, and which enables us to behold again, with even greater accuracy than the pencil of the limner, scenes we prized and faces we loved, is represented here in effects that cannot be surpassed. In mosaic, marble, gold, silver, ivory, and other material, we have productions of Oriental and European skill which are both beautiful and valuable. Altogether we have in this establishment a collection which this city and county may well deem an honour, and which, ample and rich as you behold it, is not exhaustive of the treasures that both possess. Our object in inaugurating this Exhibition has been chiefly to assist an institution which confers benefit on the community amongst whom we live, which embraces a school of art that competes with the first of its class in this country and England, which enables our young fellow-citizens to perfect themselves in various accomplishments only to be acquired while youth remains, and which are a resource within doors for occupation, or for support in the world abroad. The Athenæum, devoted to intellectual art, to wise social concord, and to public usefulness, has been only in part accomplishing its mission; the committee desire to make it a perfect success, and deem that they could select no better agency than this Exhibition. For these purposes they have obtained from the studios, ancient masters, modern artists, and existing schools in this country, the array of paintings that adorn their rooms, the gems of art contained in the

cases in this hall, the various handwork of the natives of other lands, wonderful in the minute and delicate character of their design and execution; and, if last named, most important to us, in their immediate utility, samples of home manufacture, which have obtained celebrity in far distant climes."

The Mayor then replied. After thanking them for the honor conferred on him in opening their Exhibition, which was "one of the finest provincial displays he had ever beheld," he concluded his remarks thus:—

"I feel proud because I know that such collections as this tend to excite emulation of the nobler kind amongst the working classes, and are calculated to direct their thoughts to the best pursuits. But independently of these there is a more immediate reason for doing all in my humble power to aid you, and it is the consideration which immediately belongs to your position as a committee. I know the deep interest you all feel in the fate of the Athenæum. I know that your object is to place it in a more extended sphere of usefulness—to place it on a more distinguished literary and more solid financial basis. I sympathize with you fully. I am aware of the good such an institution as this is capable of producing, and would be wanting in my position as a mayor, as a citizen, and as the Mayor of your city, if I did not co-operate. I beg to thank you again, and have much pleasure in declaring your Exhibition open."

The Exhibition having been formally declared open, the band of the 73rd Regiment, under the direction of its efficient bandmaster, Herr Zeigler, performed a march specially composed by William P. O'Donoghue, Esq., Mus. Bac. Ox. This was followed by several concerted pieces of music.

Some idea of the works brought together in this gem of an Exhibition may be formed from the following, taken from the local *Chronicle*:—

In the Concert Hall is the collection of oil paintings by ancient and modern masters, which is the largest ever brought together at any previous exhibition in the South of Ireland. The Gobelin Tapestries from cartoons by Raphael. The works of Roumain, Sir P. Lely, Sir T. Lawrence, Hogarth, Domenichino, James Holland, Sir W. Calcott, Salvator Rosa, Vandyke, C. R. Leslie, Catterson Smith, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Rembrandt, Murillo, and other eminent men. The Water-colour Room contains the productions of eminent modern masters, from the South Kensington Museum; those of ladies and gentlemen residing in Limerick and its vicinity, and pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools, Limerick and Cork. The Photographic Room contains the *fac similes* of Raphael's cartoons from the South Kensington Museum; representations of Works of Art from the same institution, and a vast and valuable collection placed at the disposal of the committee by contributors in this city and county. Another department is devoted to the exhibition of original illuminated manuscripts, pen-and-ink sketches, coloured photographs of architecture and other works, chiefly of those in Italy and in Paris. There is a magnificent collection in the body of the hall, being electro-plated copies of the Regalia in the tower of London, and some specimens of gold and silver work of several centuries ago, the originals being in the South Kensington Museum. Mr. J. T. MacSheehy exhibits Chinese and Indian works of art, of great rarity and value, most of them taken from the Emperor of China's summer palace at Pekin when it was sacked and burned by the allies during the late war. There is a splendid table inlaid with various kinds of foreign marble, sent for exhibition from Curraghchase. A magnificent contribution of eight very valuable paintings worth about £1,000 each, the property of John Lowe, Esq., D.L., Sunvale, have been sent by that gentleman for exhibition.

There are some inaccuracies in the catalogue, which of course will be corrected in a second edition; a want of uniformity is also observable.

It is to be hoped that the committee and managers of the Exhibition may meet with that amount of favor and encouragement from the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, which will enable them to place the valuable institution with which they are identified, and on which they have devoted their earnest attention, on a permanent footing. The benefits to the artisan classes of the community to be derived from these schools of art, have been frequently noticed in the pages of this journal. There are many localities in our country in which we would wish to see institutions similar to the "Limerick Athenæum" established, and we trust that the result of the present exhibition may encourage others to go and do likewise for the public good. A word of thanks, in conclusion, to the

hon. sec., and to Mr. Broome (who represents the South Kensington Museum), for their courtesy and attention on the occasion of our visit.

THE EXHIBITION PALACE AND GARDENS.

THE opening of the Exhibition Palace on the 7th inst. is just now the chief topic of conversation, and the only exciting one—the Reform Bill division being over—to the Dublin public. Debate runs high as to the amount of success which an undertaking so great, and so wholly unprecedented in Dublin may achieve; but of this every one may rest assured; if the committee meet the public with liberality and urbanity, and the public only respond with one half the energy and patriotism they should possess, the result will be a triumph. Failing this, Dublin must be prepared to lose a delightful place of amusement, and to involve in heavy loss a very spirited company. We do not, however, apprehend any such disastrous result, but we would impress on our readers that something more than consideration of the individual gratification of each is demanded here, and an extra amount of support on public and patriotic grounds is the duty of all those who can afford to do so.

Grand musical performances of an attractive character are fixed for the first two days. Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Miss Fennel, and other well-known vocal names, with a band under the conductorship of Mr. Levey, are a strong attraction. The gardens are now, after the few genial days, looking charming, and everything looks hopeful for a grand success.

MONTHLY REPORT OF OFFICER OF HEALTH.

WE give the report of Dr. Mapother, officer of health for the city, for month ending 21st ult. We are glad to find that the sanitary officers are bestirring themselves in the inspection of houses let in tenements; attention has been frequently called in our pages to the neglected state in which premises in the hands of the "house-jobbers" have been kept;—it is stated that we have in this city nearly 9,000 houses which demand constant inspection. The report says:—The deaths recorded by the Registrar-General during the past four weeks have been 656, against 554 during the corresponding month last year, and 600 during the preceding month. The death-rate was, therefore, 1 in 388, while it was in London and suburbs 1 in 450, in Central London 1 in 484, in Liverpool 1 in 310, and in Glasgow 1 in 364. In the seven dispensary districts the death rate has been as follows:—Summerhill, 1 in 494; Coleraine-street, 1 in 547; Blackhall-street, 1 in 258 (or subtracting the deaths in the North workhouse, 1 in 455); Meath-street, 1 in 193 (or subtracting the deaths in the South workhouse, 1 in 452); High-street, 1 in 414; Peter-street, 1 in 616; Grand Canal-street, 1 in 540. Zymotic diseases produced 123 deaths; of these fever caused 44, or 7 more than the corresponding number last year. The Hardwicke and Cork-street Fever Hospitals admitted 241 cases during the month from city dwellings, especially in the following neighbourhoods—Coombe, Moss-street, Montgomery-street, and Great Britain-street. Hooping cough was excessively fatal, 25 deaths having been recorded against 7 during the corresponding month last year, and 19 during March last. It prevailed especially in the neighbourhood of Golden-lane, and Essex-street. Diarrhoea caused 17 deaths, against 12 during April, 1865, and 16 during last month. Nearly all the persons who died from this cause, however, during the past four weeks, were aged inmates of public institutions. As the present hot and dry weather would promote this class of disease, directions have been given to have the street channels flushed and the sewer traps filled with water in the poorer neighbourhoods. Consumption produced 81 deaths, and bronchitis 121, which accounts for the high general mortality of the month. The Inspector of Nuisances and his assistants have visited and directed the cleansing of 315 premises in which fever or other contagious diseases had arisen, or which were complained of at the City Hall—85 nightly lodging houses, 23 bakehouses, 127 slaughter-houses, and 3 knackers' yards. The sanitary sergeants visited 452 houses set in tenements, and recorded 2,829 sanitary defects in them. They also visited 1,500 such houses for the second time and found that 2,741 sanitary defects noted previously had been remedied without prosecution. These defects were, however, of a minor character, the removal of which was inexpensive.