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Historic Link With One Of The Arthur Family Of Limerick

DEPOSITED carelessly beside a wall in disused premises in Newtown Market, Ellen Street, Limerick, was an oval-shaped white marble memorial with a stone background. No one, apparently, was aware of its importance from a local history point of view, but when Mr. James O'Donnell acquired the premises very recently for the purpose of carrying on a general engineering works he was fascinated by the inscribed stone and knew that it was of local historic value. The stone bears the name of Patrick Arthur, a member of the famous Arthur family that is prominently identified with the history of Limerick in the 18th century.

SIMPLE CEREMONY

This morning a simple but interesting ceremony took place at Newtown Market, when Mr. O'Donnell presented the stone to Mr. Robert Herbert, City Curator, for the local museum.

On behalf of the Limerick Borough Council, Mr. Herbert and Councillor Stephen Coughlan thanked Mr. O'Donnell for his gesture.

The stone bears the following inscription:—

"D. O. M. to the memory of Mr. Patrick Arthur, merchant, who closed a life spent in the discharge of all social and Christian duties, on the 16th of December, 1799, in the 78th year of his age. In him the poor have lost a liberal benefactor, the afflicted an example of resignation, and his family a tender and affectionate parent. R.I.P."

HISTORY OF THE STONE.

Writing specially for the "Limerick Leader," Mr. Robert Herbert, City Curator, says: "The stone, in all probability, stood inside the entrance to the market, and was there erected in memory of the

man who built it. Patrick Arthur was the most prominent of the rising young Catholic business men of the latter half of the 18th century. He built Arthur's Quay, and later most of Francis Street, Patrick Street, and Ellen Street, calling the last three after his children. He is also said to have donated the land for the building of St. Michael's Church in 1779. Arthur's great enterprise stored up a load of trouble for his children, and through Government and Protestant jealousy his son Francis Arthur, though perfectly loyal to the Crown, received from their hands endless persecution and even torture the year before his father died. Eventually, convicted of treason, though on the evidence of an admitted perjurer, he was fined £5,000 and sentenced to be transported to Botany Bay.

FALSE STATEMENTS.

"One present-day savant claims that the inscribed stone was cast out of St. Michael's Church, and another that Patrick Arthur received the signal honour for a layman of being buried inside it. Both these categorical statements are, on the face of it, false. St. Michael's still retains the memorial stone to Patrick Arthur, which Maurice Lenihan in 1863 refers to as one of the only two slabs erected there; and, secondly, the stone is only a mural memorial tablet, not a tombstone.

"Mr. O'Donnell, with true feeling for the preservation of the past, intends to retain the pedimented doorway to the markets, which is inscribed in late 18th century lettering: 'New Town Market.' This was used as a meat market all through the 19th century, and in 1840 I find there were some thirty 'victuallers' with stalls there, including two O'Donnells."

DECISION
CITY EJECTMENT
PROCEEDINGS

ON the 7th inst., Civil Bill Court Gleeson adjourned case in order to lo on a point raised. he had to probe v landlord was enti Rent Restrictions' session of non-bu from his or her te carry out repairs. 86, O'Connell St., L ejection procee James O'Mara, an sioner of 1 Spellac Tone Street, on th tioned:

Mr. N. S. Gaffne, the plaintiff, and M solr. (Messrs. J. J. appeared for the d

Mr. Dundon sul previous hearing o the plaintiff could sion of the premis was necessity to de reason of the pro Rent Acts.

When the case Friday evening las agreed that in po plaintiff could get premises if it w necessary in order the requirements c tion.

EVIDENCE CA

Then the Justice evidence, and Th engineer, of Mr. J. office, told the Cou of the house was ir in order to carry c of work on it the to be stripped. It possible to carry without disturbing

Kenneth McCorm Inspector, said in c visited the premis and inspected them the roof needed re not need a new matter of replacin

Cross-examined, v it would not be n turb the tenant. the Public Health had been served by and all that had b connection was th had gone to Mr. and pointed out th would have to be

FOR THE I

Donogh B. O'M evidence that a rel on the roof was all sary and there wa turb the tenant. repairs would have these could be al disturbing the ten

INQUEST OPENED
ON INFANT
FOUND BURIED

Dr. John P. Cleary, Coroner for East Limerick, and a jury, the foreman of which was Mr. John O'Brien,

WORK POSITION
AT LIMERICK
LOCO. WORKS

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

SIR—Under above heading there