

THE JAIL INFAMY.

Since Wednesday evening, when a considerable number of people were attracted to the neighbourhood of the Jail by shouting and other noises, many are asking what happened. The following are the facts:—

On Saturday, 1st February, R. G. Byrne, of Town Wall Cottage, a well-known citizen, was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour, because a revolver and some ammunition were found in his mother's house. Naturally, he protested against the barbarous sentence. He was backed up by the political prisoners at present in Limerick Jail.

At first they resorted to constitutional methods, but, finding these unavailing, they resorted to the more vigorous methods of Wednesday evening. A force of police were sent for. When they reached the prisoners' cells they deprived the men of their boots, handcuffed them, and, in addition, strapped many of them. In that shocking condition, as far as their friends know, they still are, and the night brings no change from the day.

In the same jail is a man convicted of the manslaughter of a girl, in circumstances of revolting brutality, and sentenced by a judge, lenient to his ilk, to 12 months in the 2nd division. He has nothing to do, and is supplied with every comfort. Men who have never committed a crime, believe that they are entitled at least to the treatment that criminal is receiving. But those responsible for the administration of law in Ireland treat him as a gentleman, and try to degrade the others. But those men, who demonstrated on Wednesday evening hold honour dearer than life, and while ready to suffer for their national principles, will never willingly submit to be branded as criminals. In that attitude they naturally expect the vigorous support of the people of Limerick.

It is pertinent to ask, what are the visiting justices doing? Are they willing to continue in their ornamental positions, and thereby give implicit sanction to the barbarity of having political prisoners manacled during meal time and sleeping time?

And what of our popular magistrates? Are they willing to assist in the administration of "law" which perpetrates such infamies?

If the last spark of humanity, as well as the last spark of patriotism, has not deserted them, they will quickly return the "honours" conferred on them by the foreigner, in return for their oaths of allegiance.

One of the prisoners, Henry Meany, is in a bad state of health, yet is manacled as well as handcuffed. His relations have been sent for as the Governor fears he may die.