

THE FALLS OF CURRAGOWER

A brief look at a news item of 1880, as printed in the *Limerick Chronicle*

On Friday morning last at about 11 o'clock and during the early part of yesterday (Wednesday) the citizens were startled by a series of terrific reports, the intensity of which has seldom been heard in this usually noiseless town. The noise was heard even at Clarina and Patrickswell, and was the result of interesting operations at Curragower Falls.

Most of our readers are aware of the dangerous though certainly picturesque rapids for which this spot is celebrated. So much life and property from time to time has been lost there as to deter any but foolhardy people from tempting the difficult feat of "shooting" the falls.

The poor fishermen of the locality were thus at the mercy of the tide which covers the falls about two-thirds flood, and only then could boats pass up and down with perfect safety.

This state of affairs was heretofore a source of much loss of time to the fishermen, and with a view to remedy the grievance application was made to the Harbour Commissioners to remove the obstruction. This the Commissioners could not undertake as being outside their jurisdiction but their engineer, together with the fishermen, should themselves carry out the work and afford them his private assistance, which was gladly accepted. Mr. Hall pointed out where a passage could be easily and cheaply made at the north-west side of the falls

and the work was immediately set about.

Barges were floated over the larger stones, some of them upwards of five ton in weight, and being made fast at low water, rose with the tide and were hauled into shallow water to be broken up at leisure. There were some portions of solid "quarry" or rock-bed of the river, however, which could not be easily removed, being in the middle of the proposed passage and therefore in a strong current. The

quality of the stone was, besides, of a very hard and tough nature, even the recovered boulders resisting the force of a 40 lbs. sledge hammer wielded by strong arms, and here it was that the services of that new and powerful explosive, dynamite, had to be called into requisition.

Mr. Hall attended yesterday (Wednesday) and the preceding day, and personally placed several charges in good position in, and where possible, under the

rock, so that the complained of obstructions were removed and the passage rendered safe.

Mr. Hall subsequently broke up the several large boulders previously stranded.

The operations were witnessed with great interest by a number of the citizens whom the noise attracted to several vantage points, and the violence of the explosions, together with the fearful destruction wrought by a comparatively small

quantity of the powder in each case, is more forcefully illustrated when we mention that the weight of the dynamite used in the heaviest charge yesterday was very small indeed.

Mr. Hall and his attendants were at one time during the proceedings completely enveloped in a shower of stones, mud and water, but escaped with a slight spattering, though seeming to the lookers-on to be in some danger of being hurt.

THE NEW BUS TERMINUS 1946

In an issue of *The Limerick Leader*, 1945, "Mangaire Sugach" had references to the new bus terminus in Limerick, remarking that many people regretted the removal from the old one in Sarsfield Street. In reply to his comments a correspondent sends in the following:

Oh for the days of the waiting queues!
Oh, for the hours of wind and rain!
Oh, for the lovely Limerick views
That gladden our eyes again and again!

If you can keep your place when all about
Are losing theirs, and blaming it on you;
If your ears can joyfully receive the shout
"Move up there; two abreast, please, in the queue."

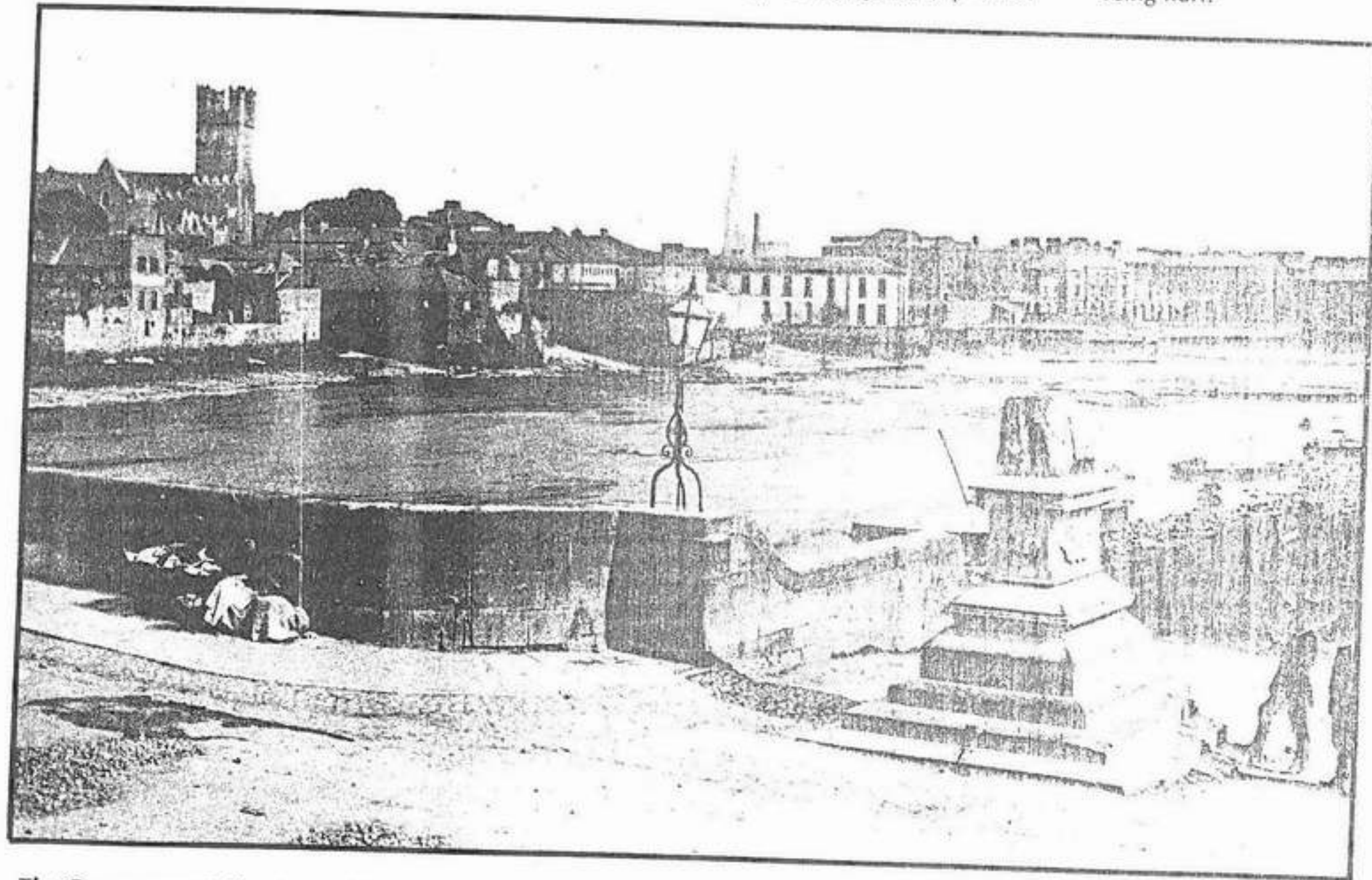
If you can wait, and be not

tired by waiting,
Or, being shoved about,
don't give a shove;
If, scenting hatred, you withhold your hating,
And behave just like a sucking dove.

If, with sodden clothes and frozen feet,
You can enjoy the sight of a city's street,
And the raucous sound of horn and bell,
And the motor petrol's acrid smell.
If, then, a "bridge's" beauty you appraise,
And a "grove of trees" thro' a misty haze,
And a "monument" that's not quite done,
And a "statue" that took a dive for fun.

If you can do all this, and enjoy it, too,
You're welcome, Mangaire Sugach, to the queue.

Croom Passenger



The Curragower Falls, pictured here at the turn of the century. These are situated in one of Limerick's most beautiful and historic sites, with Thomond Bridge, the Treaty Stone and King John's Castle providing a romantic back-drop for the fruit sellers on the bridge. Note the absence of Cannock's Clock.