CITY OF LIMERICK

CITY OF

1				Α	R.	P.
Part of the parish of Stradbally				1,387	0	0
Killienegarruffe	0			918	2	0
Kilmurry -	1			2,016	0	0
Part of Derry Gal	vane	9		587	1	-0
Part of Carrig-i-Parson -				682	0	0
Part of Carnary	Walter Control		+	639	3	17
Part of Cahirivall	v -	-		1,301	2	0
Downaghmore	-	-	4.5	1,203	3	0
St. Michael's			1	346	1	10
St. Nicholas -		-	+	860	0	0
Knocknegaule	- 1			1,136	1	0
Mongrett -		-		3,037	2	0
St. Patrick's -	**			691	0	0
St. Lawrence -		-	- 2	4	1	0
St. John's -	-	-		2	2	32
	Tot	al		15,213	3	19

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS ON

Acreable Contents of Liberties.

In No. 5 of the Appendix B. of Documentary Papers to the Report of the Select Committee on the city of Limerick Taxation, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on the 31st July 1822, the denominations of the north and south Liberties are stated in detail; the number of acres in the former being 1,714, and in the latter 14,0401. In the Returns relating to the estates of the corporation, ordered to be printed by the House of Commons on the 12th August 1833, p. 72, the denominations are given as taken from the grand jury warrant of spring assizes 1833. They differ in some of the details from the statements of 1822; and the contents by the warrant of 1833 appear to be, of the north liberties 1,708 acres, and of the south 13,840; being a difference in the whole of 2061 acres less than the acreable contents given in 1822.

The contents of both liberties by the late Return are 15,548 Irish acres, making about 25,000 statute acres. A strong impression seemed to exist that the actual contents of the liberties exceed those stated by the grand jury; but we are unable to say how far this impres-

sion is well founded.

Inniscattery.

Admeasurement.

5. Inniscattery is a small island in the Shannon, containing 103 Irish acres. It is about 60 miles distant from Limerick, and, although so remote, forms a part of the parish of St. Mary's, one of the city parishes above mentioned.

6. By the charter of 6 James I., which created the county of the city, commissioners were appointed to measure and mark out the new boundaries "three miles every way, in and through the county of Limerick, from the exterior part of the city walls;" and by a deed of admeasurement, made under this commission, bearing date the 31st August 1609, and enrolled in Chancery, the mears and bounds of the county of the city were declared and certified to be as therein stated. This admeasurement was confined to the county Limerick side of the Shannon, and does not include the north liberties. A copy of this deed is printed in the Appendix B. to the Report of the Committee of 1822, before referred to, No. 4.

The boundaries so laid down far exceed, as already appears, the limit of three miles prescribed by the charters. They are defined with great minuteness in the deed of admeasurement; and the powers of perambulating them, conferred by the charter, were exercised by the corporation in the year 1765 as a then usual ceremony. However, there has been no perambulation of late years, and perhaps it is owing to this omission that the limits of the county of the city are in one point, at least, not accurately known. This uncertainty occurs in the denomination of Tervoe, in the south liberties, and the consequence of it will be

noticed in a subsequent branch of this Report.

Boundary Act.

Prescription.

7. The Boundary Act has made no alteration in the limits of the county of the city of

8. The corporation of this city exists by Prescription and Charter, and its authority is regulated and confirmed by statute. Its prescriptive rights have been constantly pleaded, and are recognised by several of its charters, and recently by the 4 Geo. IV. c. 126, commonly called the Limerick Regulation Act.

CHARTERS. John Earl of Morton.

9. The earliest Charter known to have been given to the citizens of Limerick is that of John Earl of Merton and Lord of Ireland, in 1199. This charter is not on record, but is recited in the next succeeding charter, that of Edward I., as a grant to the citizens of Limerick of "all the liberties and free customs which the citizens of Dublin, by whatever charters of Kings of England and Lords of Ireland, wheresoever used." By an inquisition taken at Limerick, 18th Mar. 12 Jac. I., and hereafter more fully noticed, it is found that King John granted to the mayor and citizens of Limerick 40 plough lands, at a rent of £40 yearly. These plough lands are near the city, and for one of them a chief rent is received by the corporation to this day. The "honour" of Limerick was granted by John in the second year of his reign to William de Braosa for 5,000 marcs. The city of Limerick being retained in the hand and demesne of the King with the cantred of the ostmen and the Holy,

Island (Inniscattery) 10. The charter of Edward I. is dated in the twentieth year of his reign (4th February 1291.) This charter and an exemplification of it in the 31 Edward I. are enrolled. (Rot. Pat.

6 Edward VI. m. 11.)

This charter, after reciting the foregoing grant by John Earl of Morton to the citizens of Limerick, of the liberties and free customs of Dublin, and that they had theretofore used and enjoyed the same, although not expressed in that charter, in order to remove all ambiguity as to the liberties and free customs of the citizens of Limerick, confirms to them " all the liberties and free customs expressed in the charters of Dublin," which this charter then proceeds to specify in detail. Many of them connected with the then existing state of the law have long become obsolete. Those most deserving of notice are, "that no citizen plead outside the walls of the city of any plea, except of a plea concerning extern tenures not belonging to the hundred of the city:" "that the citizens should be free of toll, lastage, pontage, passage and all other customs, throughout the King's entire land and dominion:" "that the hundred should be held within the city once only in a week; that the citizens might distrain their debtors by their chattels in Limerick, and that of the lands, tenements and tenures within the city, right be done to them according to the custom of the said city; and that concerning debts lent and pledges given within the city, pleas might be there held according to the custom of the city, saving the pleas of the Crown."

It further specifies that the citizens of Limerick should have all reasonable guilds, as the burgesses of Bristol had; and empowers them to choose a mayor of themselves annually for the government of the city, " to be presented, when elected, to the King, if present; if not, to his justice of Ireland, and swear allegiance:" "that the citizens should have all the tenures belonging to the city to dispose of at their pleasure, with their common assent, to hold in free burgage, by service of langable, and that each citizen might improve in building wheresoever he would, on the bank within the said city; that they might have and possess all lands and waste places in the said liberty, at their will to build upon, for the use of the city;" and it granted them a 15 days' fair at the feast of St. James, with all the liberties and free customs

to such fair belonging.

M. C. I.

11. This charter was confirmed by Henry IV. in the first year of his reign, 25th June 1400. Henry IV.

12. Henry V. by a charter dated 20th January, first year of his reign, 1413, after Henry V. confirming the preceding charters and all the privileges therein contained, although they might not have been theretofore used and enjoyed according to the charters, and reciting the services of the citizens against the King's Irish enemies, granted to the mayor and commonalty of the city the power of meeting and making ordinances and statutes for the advantage of the city, and power to elect from themselves a mayor and two bailiffs annually; the mayor to be sworn before the mayor of the preceding year (instead of before the King or his justices, as under the preceding charters;) or in his default, from death or other cause, before the citizens: the bailiffs to be sworn before the mayor.

It gives to the mayor and bailiffs cognizance of all pleas, real and personal, assize of novel dissessin, mort d'ancestre and others, with power to arrest and attach by body and goods within the city for all contracts and trespasses arising within the city and liberties, and according to law to imprison, punish or discharge the defendants; the mayor to be escheator, coroner and inquisitor, and the mayor and bailiffs to have the profits of all pleas; and it declares that no justiciary, escheator, inquisitor, clerk of market, or other servant of the King, justice of the peace, or of labourers, shall enter or interfere in any matter within the city, except concerning felonies, which should be determined by com-

mission to any other person, and the mayor for the time being.

Full power is given to the mayor and his successors to inquire, hear and determine all matters belonging to the aforesaid offices "according to the usage of the kingdom of Ireland and the common law;" and to the mayor and commonalty to have all fines, amercements and issues to justices of the peace belonging, and all other forfeitures, chattels of fugitives and felons, waifs, strays, forfeitures of bread and other victuals, tolls, and the custom called cocket, with power to collect and receive them by their own officers, to their own use, by land and by water; and the profits of the fishery called the lex-weir, with its appurtenances

It further grants that none of the city should plead or be impleaded before the King or his justiciary of lands or tenements, rents or services, or of any other thing arising within said city by land or water, but should be bound to proceed before the mayor and bailiffs within the city. It empowers the mayor and commonalty to hold their market as of old; and the charter directs that no one of Irish blood or nation (the word Irish to be understood as usually understood in Ireland) should be mayor, or exercise any other office within the city; and that no person should take or maintain any man or child of Irish blood and nation as apprentice, on pain of losing his franchise.

13. An exemplification by Henry VI., in the second year of his reign, (1423,) of the preceding Henry VI. charter, is recited in the first charter of Elizabeth hereinafter stated.

14. Henry VI. also, in the eighth year of his reign, (1429,) confirmed the previous charters " of such of the franchises, liberties and acquittances as were not revoked by the advice and assistance of the lords spiritual and temporal in a Parliament held at Westminster, in the first year of his reign."

15. These charters were again confirmed by Henry VII., in the second year of his reign Henry VII. (1489.)

16. And by Edward VI., in the sixth year of his reign (1551.)

17. Queen Elizabeth granted two charters to this corporation. The first is dated 28th 1st Charter of October, seventeenth year of her reign, (1575,) and after confirming and renewing all former charters and privileges, grants a sword of state and hat of maintenance to be borne before the mayor within the city and liberties.

4 S

Edward I.

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It empowers the mayor, bailiffs and recorder (an officer then first mentioned) to deliver the gaol from time to time of prisoners confined for felony, according to the laws and customs of the kingdom of Ireland, and to do all other things necessary for the delivery of the gaol without any new commission.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS ON

This charter provides "that no one of Irish blood, or who lived as an Irishman (the term Irishman to be understood as it was accustomed to be taken in the kingdom of Ireland) should be thenceforward promoted to any dignity or any ecclesiastical benefice in the cathedral church of Limerick without the special licence of her deputy;" and that no arms or warlike instruments, or other wares, were to be sold or unladen by foreigners, out of any vessel coming by the Shannon to the city, except to the mayor, bailiffs and citizens, or to some one commorant in the city, or by licence and permission of the mayor, bailiffs and citizens, on pain of forfeiture of the vessel and goods, saving the rights of her English subjects. It gives to the corporation, without any account to the Crown, all fines and forfeitures, amercements and penalties happening within the city and liberties, under any Act of Parliament or otherwise; and the mayor and bailiffs are exempted by it from appearing in person out of the city to any warrant or summons, except for contempt, felony or treason.

2d Charter of Elizabeth.

18. Queen Elizabeth's second charter dated 19th March, twenty-fifth of her reign, (1582,) recites and confirms the preceding charters, and recites that the citizens and inhabitants of Limerick enjoyed their rights and liberties from time whereof the memory of man ran not to the contrary, as well by prescription as by those charters. This is a charter of incorporation by the name of "Mayor, Bailiffs and Citizens," and granted to the corporation all former privileges which they at any time enjoyed by their successive corporate names of "Mayor and Commonalty;" "Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgesses;" "Mayor, Bailiffs and Commonalty," or "Mayor, Bailiffs and Citizens," confirming their ancient limits and boundaries, by land and water, with powers of perambulating them.

This charter also grants to the citizens of Limerick the liberty of walking and exercising in the "King's Island," as often as they pleased, without obstruction from the Crown or any of its subjects; and gave to the corporation all the soil and waste places of land called the New Stent, or New Extent, within the city suburbs and liberties, as were at any time enjoyed by them theretofore, and all buildings thereon, with power to rent out the same. It also gave them power to raise and collect all the small custom called ingate and outgate custom, and granted the fisheries of the Shannon called the Lex Weirs and Fisher's Stent, to hold and enjoy all said franchises, jurisdictions, perambulations, soils, waste places and fisheries to the mayor, bailiffs and citizens of said city and their successors for ever, at a rent of 6s. 8d. to the Crown for the Fisher's Stent; and it empowered them to put themselves into quiet seisin and possession of all the aforesaid grants without any interruption from the Crown or its officers.

Charter, 6 James I.

19. The next Charter obtained by the city of Limerick was granted by King James I., in the sixth year of his reign. (3d March 1609.) This charter recites the recent sufferings of the city of Limerick in the rebellion of the Geraldines, their assistance to the King in the war in Ulster, and in anticipation of the future services of the inhabitants towards the Crown, proceeds to declare the city of Limerick a free city of itself. It grants to the mayor, bailiffs and citizens, and the citizens and inhabitants of the city to be a body politic and corporate, by the name of "The Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens of the City of Limerick," with the usual power to hold lands, to demise or assign them, to plead and be impleaded by their new corporate name. It confirms all their former possessions in the most large and ample manner by whatever corporate name enjoyed, or by whatever legal title, grant or prescription acquired. The charter then proceeds to make the city of Limerick a county by itself, as already referred to under the head of "Limits," excepting thereout the King's castle and precincts thereof, one lower room under the Tholsel used as a common gaol for the county, and also the site of the abbey of St. Francis and its precincts, being a fit place for holding the assizes and sessions for said county of Limerick, and confers full power of perambulating

This charter enables the mayor, sheriffs and citizens to choose one of the "more honest and discreet citizens" to the office of mayor, to be chosen as theretofore; directs that, instead of two bailiffs, two sheriffs shall be chosen; and points out the mode of their election and how vacancies in the office, by death or amotion, are to be filled up. It directs that all persons theretofore considered citizens shall continue so to be, and that in all things they shall be ordered and governed as formerly. It enables them to choose as many aldermen, serjeants at mace and other officers as usual. It confers an exclusive admiralty jurisdiction, both criminal and civil, over so much of the river Shanuon as extends three miles north-east of the city to the mouth of the main sea, with all its creeks, banks and rivulets within their limits; gives power to hold a Court of Admiralty, or Record, every Monday before the mayor, recorder and aldermen, any three or more of them, (of whom the mayor and recorder were to be two.) who were to keep the peace on the Shannon within these limits; and all the powers of the Admiralty Courts in England and Ireland were given to the corporation in these limits. To receive recognisances, to take fines and amercements, waifs, royal fish and other royal prerogatives, with a non-intromittent clause as to the admirals of England and Ireland.

A society of merchants of the staple was incorporated by this charter by the name of "The Mayor, Constables and Society of Merchants of the Staple of the City of Limerick," with the privileges and franchises of the merchants of the staple of Dublin and Waterford.

This charter further constituted the mayor, recorder and four of the aldermen (a class first noticed in this charter) justices of the peace for the county of the city; the four aldermen

to be annually elected as therein mentioned and hereafter noticed, and empowered any three or more of them, of whom the mayor and recorder were to be two, to hear and determine within the city, at all times to be appointed by them, all felonies and other crimes, except treason, misprision of treason and murder, and do all things in relation thereto as belonged to the office of justice of the peace.

This charter also granted to the corporation all fines, escheats and amercements, in as ample a manner as the corporations of Dublin, Waterford and Cork enjoyed the same, except such royal fines as should be imposed on the sheriff or coroners of the said county of the city of Limerick; the fines so granted (except as aforesaid) to be collected by their own officers, and applied to the repair of the walls, bridges and other necessary uses of the city; and, lastly, it enabled them to hold lands, &c. to the value of £40 per annum, notwithstanding the statute of Mortmain. The above charters of Elizabeth and James I. are printed in the Appendix B. to the Report of 1822, already mentioned, Nos. 1 and 2. None of the charters are in the possession of the corporation. From the date of the charter of James I. to the year 1670, the constitution of the corporation underwent no legal change.

20. In the year 1670 an application was made by the corporation to King Charles I., Report by Master for a renewal of the charter of James and for a further extension of the privileges thereby of Rolls, 1761. conferred; and in pursuance thereof, a reference was made to the Master of the Rolls of Ireland to report to his Majesty on this charter; a Report was accordingly made to the Lord Lieutenant, setting forth the full contents of the charter of James, and directing the attention of his excellency to the " New Rules and Orders for the Regulation of Corporations in Ireland," then recently introduced; and it prayed the Lord Lieutenant's directions as to which of said "New Rules and Directions" were to be inserted in the proposed new charter to Limerick, " such as might best consist with his Majesty's service and the good of the said

This Report, dated the 13th February 1671, was immediately followed by a proclamation "New Rules." of the "New Rules" for the government of the corporation of the city of Limerick.

By the first of these, the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant and Council was made necessary to the appointment of the corporate officers of mayor, sheriffs, recorder and town clerk, within 10 days after their election.

By the second, the oath of supremacy was required from all such corporate officers.

By the third, the election of all corporate officers was taken away from the body of freemen, and vested in the common council, and nothing permitted to be discussed in the general assembly of freemen, or Court of D'Oyer Hundred, which had not previously passed the common council, and this under pain of disfranchisement.

And, by the fourth, the admission of foreigners and Protestant settlers in the town of Limerick to the freedom of the corporation, was provided for as in other corporate towns in Ireland.

By an entry in the corporation books of the year 1674, it appears that at this period an attempt was made by the corporation to obtain a new charter. An order of the Common Council was passed "That a new charter be sued for." The mayor and recorder were authorized to proceed to Dublin and employ agents for the purpose, and a sum was placed at their disposal to defray the necessary expenses. However, no effectual steps towards obtaining the new charter appear to have been taken, and the corporation underwent no further change in its constitution from the promulgation of the "New Rules" till the year 1823, when the 4 Geo. IV. c. 126, or Limerick Regulation Act, was passed, if we except the temporary grant of a new charter by King James II., which is on record. (Rot. Pat. 4 Jac. II. p. 2. m. 1.) Charter of This charter recites a judgment against the corporation in the Exchequer, and professes to James II. constitute a new corporate body. Its provisions are very comprehensive, but may be briefly described as creating a self-elected municipality, removable by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council. Its operation appears to have been limited to this short reign.

21. The Act 4 Geo. IV. c. 126, which is entitled "An Act for the better Government of the Limerick Regula-City of Limerick, and the due Appropriation of the Public Revenues thereof," recites that the tion Act. city of Limerick was a city by prescription and charter, enjoying rights, franchises, tolls, customs, 4 Geo. IV. c. 126. privileges and immunities, granted and confirmed by the several monarchs above mentioned; that all the tenures of the city were, by the said charter, granted to the citizens, to be disposed of at their will by their common assent; that the corporation were bound, out of the revenues of the city, to maintain divers ways, bridges and public works within the city and the liberties thereof; that many of the ancient records of the corporation had been lost, withheld or suppressed, whereby the rights, privileges and franchises of the citizens had been endangered, and the public revenues had not been duly applied; that the citizens were by royal charters empowered to meet together in a certain place within the said city, and ordain and establish bye-laws for the use and benefit of the city; and that the confirmation and assent of the citizens so assembled under the royal charter, in general assembly, or Court of D'Over Hundred, were, by the ancient constitution of the said city, necessary to give force and validity to the acts of the common council, provided that nothing be proposed or debated in the said Court of D'Oyer Hundred, until the same shall have first passed the Common Council, and

be made by the members of the common council only. The statute further reciting that it was expedient to provide for the security and due appropriation of the public revenues of the city, proceeds to enact several regulations and provisions for the government of the corporation, which will be hereafter noticed, under the respective heads of this Report to which they relate.

provided that the elections of any mayor, sheriff, recorder, town clerk or other officer shall

· 22. The charter of Edward I. recognised, as already stated, in general terms, the right of Guilds of Tradthe citizens of Limerick to have Guilds of Trades as part of the liberties and free customs in M. C. I.

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the charters of Dublin; and empowered them " to have all their reasonable guilds as the burgesses of Bristol had or were accustomed to have."

The charter of James I. incorporated " the merchants of the staple or guild of merchants with the same franchises as in Dublin and Waterford;" and the third of the "New Rules" for Limerick required the master and wardens of any corporate guild or fraternity within the city to take the oath of supremacy and other oaths, thus recognising the existence of such guilds

By an entry in the corporation book of 1677, it appears that the guild of feltmakers was created by the council, and they were directed to have rules, orders and directions for their government as other societies of the city. They had before been incorporated with the clothiers.

In the year 1756 there is an order in the council book for payment to the mayor of £118 15s. for entertaining the several corporations of the city on the occasion of proclaiming peace with France; and in the same year a sum of £13 was paid for ale delivered to the several corporations on proclaiming war against France.

Fifteen incorporated companies or guilds, namely,

Carpenters, Weavers, Shoemakers, Tailors, Saddlers, Masons, Bakers, Coopers, Surgeon barbers, Butchers, Tobacconists, Tallow chandlers, Hatters, Brewers,

are stated, in Fitzgerald's History of Limerick, to have accompanied the mayor and corporation in perambulating the franchises in the year 1765. Several bodies still appear to exist in this city as guilds of different trades; and upon the occasion of our visit, the masters and wardens of them presented to us the names of the following (21 in number) as still meeting and electing officers:

Ropemakers. Tobacconists. ✓ Tailors. Painters. Coopers. Slaters. Sawyers. Smiths. Nailers. Stonecutters. Cordwainers. Founderers. Millwrights. Shipwrights. /Carpenters. - Bakers. Masons. , Broguemakers. Coachbuilders. Hatters. √ Linen weavers.

These bodies are not now, however, recognised as component parts of the corporation, and have not, as far as we can trace, ever exercised any corporate right. Some profess to act under charters, two only of which were produced to us: one of them, that of the broguemakers, granted in 1688, by the mayor and sheriffs; the other, to the plasterers and slaters, from the mayor, aldermen and common council, was dated February 2 1674. Some of the charters are copied in the old council book mentioned below. They purport to constitute the several guilds members of the corporation.

The present state and proceedings of these bodies are hereafter noticed.

Merchants of the

23. The corporation of Merchants of the Staple, or guild of merchants, created by the charter of James I., having become extinct, was revived in pursuance of the 4 Geo. IV. c. 126. By an order of the Lord Lieutenant in council, bearing date the 14th August 1824, 32 members of the guild were named, one of whom only was a member of the common council of the city, but several were freemen.

The sole object of re-establishing this guild was stated to us to have been to entitle the members of it to send representatives into the common council of the city, as in Dublin, under the terms of the charter of James. But, although the guild has been thus regularly incorporated, yet, deterred, it is said, by the difficulty of showing the powers of the guild of merchants in Dublin in the year 1609, and by the probable expense of a necessary contest with the council, it has not made any efforts to enforce this claim, and, in fact, the merchants of the staple have never once met since their new incorporation, nor has any attempt been made to put the charter in force.

The purposes of practical utility to which such a body might, from its title, be supposed properly to be directed are now very effectively and zealously attended to by the corporation of the chamber of commerce, which was created by a charter of Geo. III., bearing date the 2d June 1815, and is in a great degree composed of the same members as the guild of

24. There is no collection of Bye-laws of the corporation of Limerick extant. No bye-laws Bye-laws. have been recently enacted.

25. Of the Books of Proceedings of the corporation, one volume, the most ancient known, Books of Proceedcontaining entries from 1672 to 1680, is in the Record Office, Birmingham Tower, Dublin; ings. and a regular series of their books exists from the year 1748 to the present time, which appear to contain the proceedings of the council during that period.

26. Upon the Loss of the corporation books of the intervening space between 1680 and Loss of. 1748, which existed in the year 1796, the select committee of the House of Commons, in 1822, report that, in the year 1796, an order was made by the Court of King's Bench of Ireland, "that the books of the corporation of Limerick should be deposited in the office of the clerk of the Crown;" that in consequence of this order five common council books were so deposited, and were inspected in the officer's custody by Mr. Grady, late a Member of the Irish, as well as the Imperial Parliament; that these books commenced in the year 1680, and were brought down to the date on which the order was served; that on the 5th July 1797, an order of court was made that the five books should be given up to J. Prendergast Smyth, Esq., afterwards Lord Gort, chamberlain of the city; that on the 25th July 1797, the chamberlain signed a receipt for these five corporation books; and that, when the production of them was subsequently required, the same chamberlain denied on oath any knowledge of what had become of them, and stated in his affidavit, "that he could not recollect whether such books ever came into his possession since the time of signing the receipt."

The preamble of the Limerick Regulation Act recites, as already noticed, that many of the ancient books and records of the corporation were lost, withheld or suppressed. Those which remain in the custody of the corporation were freely produced to us, and are in good preservation; but we were unable to obtain any further information of those supposed to be lost.

By an entry of the 10th July 1779, it appears that the older council books were then in a decayed state, and ordered to be transcribed; and by another entry, of the 7th October 1782, a sum of 10 guineas was ordered by the council to be paid for transcribing them.

There is no town clerk's office or treasury for the corporation records. The books are kept in the town clerk's private residence.

27. The Title of the corporation, by its last charter, that of James I., is, "The Mayor, Title. Sheriffs and Citizens of the City of Limerick."

28. The corporation as now existing consists of a mayor, two sheriffs and an indefinite Officers. number of aldermen, burgesses and freemen.

There were, at the time of our visit, 69 burgesses, including the mayor and 15 aldermen.

The officers of the corporation are,

The Mayor, who is also Coroner, Port Admiral and Clerk of the Market. Two Sheriffs. Aldermen. Burgesses and Common Councilmen. Recorder. Four Charter Justices. Town Clerk. Chamberlain. Common Speaker. Water Bailiff. Sword Bearer. High Constable. Six Petty Constables. Four Serjeants at Mace. Four Mayor's Serjeants. Four Sheriff's Bailiff's. Poundkeeper. Weighmaster. Cranemaster. Deputy Clerk of the Market. Four Criers. Two Bellmen.

Ranger of the Exchange. Organist.

29. The number of resident Freemen, registered under the Reform Act, is 271. The number of freemen who voted in the year 1820, at the last contested election, previous Freemen. to the passing of the Limerick Regulation Act; was 441. The number admitted since the Act,

is 89. The total number of non-resident freemen is still considerable, but not ascertained. 30. The Mayor is elected annually by the mayor and burgesses. The charters make him Mayor by