



**AN EXCEPTIONAL  
DETACHED RESIDENCE**

Public Auction at our Offices, 25 Glentworth Street,  
Friday next, January 14, 1987, at  
12 noon.  
(If not sold prior thereto)

Instructions of Aughinish Estates Ltd.  
Accommodation consists of entrance hall, spacious  
living room with bow window, arch into diningroom, french  
kitchen, ultra modern fitted kitchen with family dining  
room, study, downstairs w.c. and w.h.b., 4 good  
bedrooms built-in wardrobes and main bedroom en suite,  
bathroom (tiled), oil fired central heating system,  
cable television and telephone.  
Double garage, fuel shed, boiler house, mature  
garden and rear and side entrance.  
Especially attractive property occupying a prime  
location which has been maintained in good order

For details and viewing arrangements from Nolan

**AN AUCTIONEERS LTD.**  
**AGENTS, VALUERS & ESTATE AGENTS**  
25 Glentworth Street, Limerick.  
Phone 312213/312886

**JOHN SHAW**

**COUNTY OF LIMERICK  
ABINGTON, MURROE  
DESIRABLE RESIDENCE  
ON c. 1 ACRE**

Public Auction at Powers Public House, Abington,  
Friday, Jan. 27th, at 3.30 p.m.  
Instructions of Repts. Mary Cusack.  
Accommodation: Hall, lounge with bay window, kitchen-  
utility, study-office, 3 bedrooms, nursery room,  
bathroom, washroom.  
Double garage and store, outoffice, mature trees,  
Mulcair River to rear.  
Full conditions of sale from MAURICE M. A.  
SON, Solrs., Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.  
Furniture and effects on premises on Thursday,  
Jan. 27, at 12 noon.  
Agents: PEADAR RUSSELL, Auctioneer,  
Olysimon, Limerick (061) 337453.

**GLYNN, ARDNACRUSHA,  
NEAR LIMERICK  
HALF-ACRE BUILDING SITE.**  
Available for fast sale.

**COUNTY OF LIMERICK  
DUNLOP, BALLYNEETY  
BROOM DORMER BUNGALOW**  
on river site.

**JOHN SHAW**  
Auctioneers/Valuers  
25 HARTSTONGE STREET, LIMERICK  
(061) 311133 (110-7413)

**DICK POMEROY**

**MAHONAGH, LOMBARDSTOWN,  
MALLOW, CO. CORK  
COMPLETE CLEARANCE SALE**

Young dairy cows, incalf heifers, bulk tank, milking  
c., on instructions of Noel Ryan, Esq., who is  
on health reasons. The Auction will be held within  
the farmyard

Friday Next, Jan. 14, at 12.30 p.m.

Time: 57 choice young dairy cows calving as from  
1st if not some before sale; 8 incalf heifers, one 750  
lb bulk tank, 8-unit Alfa Laval milking machine  
(ump), tractor trailer, silage grab (rear end), Major  
v box, etc.  
If the above invited on Tuesday, 13th, from 2 p.m.

Auctioneer after personal inspection of the above stock  
to emphasize the quality and the youthfulness of  
having been bred by top class A.I. bulls carefully  
selected by the owner. Sale can be held under cover. All  
particulars from:

Excellent location. Turnover available. Open Monday through  
Saturday

**OFFICES — CRESCENT HOUSE,  
HARTSTONGE STREET**  
Offices available shortly. Circa 1,260 sq. ft., fully carpeted,  
lift, 5 telephone lines. Excellent well laid out offices in a  
prestigious location.  
Viewing by appointment.

**HOUSES FOR SALE**

7 High Street, Caherconlish — 3 beds, terraced .....£17,000  
St. Patrick's Villas, Castleconnell — 3-bed semi.....£17,950

bath/w.c., garage. Excellent  
condition, carpets, curtains,  
light fittings. Tele., oil heat.

**CAPPANAHANAGH,  
MURROE**

4-bedrooms, drawingroom,  
spacious mahogany fitted  
kitchen, wc, bath, wc, garage,  
1.7 acres. S.F. heating,  
carpets, curtains. Located be-  
side Murroe village.



£45,000

**We are Open and Selling 6 Days: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

# Palatial again: the Old Bishop's Palace

ONE OF the most significant developments to have taken place in Limerick city in recent times must surely have been that at the Old Bishop's Palace in Henry Street, a building steeped in tradition.

Robert Butler, one of Limerick's most progressive builders, purchased the property some time ago and in the interim has transformed it into one of the most modern of its kind in the region.

Hibernian Life were first to realise its value and they have taken a lease on the first two floors. Negotiations are going on for the remaining two and basement and according to Pat Chesser, sole letting agents, there is above average interest.

Mr. Butler has spent a considerable amount of money in redevelopment and obviously went to great pains to retain as much of the original character as possible.

**History**

Hereunder is a history of the building and you will agree that it makes for most interesting reading.

After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, a Limerick adventurer named Edmund Sexton, who had for some time before conciliated the regard of the King, was granted an extensive area of land on the south side of the city of Limerick. This had been the property of the Augustinians and was known as "Prior's Land."

Sexton himself did not live long enough to enjoy any practical benefits from his bonanza, but 200 years later his illustrious descendant, Edmund Sexton Pery, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and raised to the Peerage as Viscount Pery, returned the land to the people with interest — the interest of a new city, laid out in a manner that suggests that the great benefactor foresaw the traffic conditions of the twentieth century. It was the time of the great architectural revolution in Britain and Ireland — the Georgian period.

Overlooking the river from the north side of the still undeveloped new thoroughfare (Henry Street) that was to run parallel to, and on the north side of the great central street (O'Connell Street), he chose an elevated site commanding a grand panoramic view of the Cradle woods and the Clare hills, with the ever changing river winding between, to build two splendid houses, one for his own family and the other for his brother, William Cecil, who was



The former Bishop's Palace, now restored.

consecrated Bishop of Limerick in 1784, in succession to Dr. William Gore, who was the last bishop to reside in the old palace in Church Street (the Bishop's Lady's House).

**Impressed**

Dr. Knox was so impressed with the child's singing that he enlisted the interest and assistance of a number of his friends towards having the child properly trained and educated. Catherine was sent to Dublin to study under Antonio Sapio, an Italian singing master; she finished her training in Milan, becoming one of the world's greatest operatic sopranos.

She performed all over the world and was known as the "Swan of Erin". She was the Prima Donna at the Royal Opera House of San Carlo, Milan — a long way from obscurity and Lord Limerick's garden!

Catherine Hayes was born at No. 4 Patrick Street, in 1825, and died in London in 1861.

Alas! after the pomp and splendour of the first half of the 19th century we find Lord Limerick's beautiful mansion turned into a linen store by the Russell family who had their spinning and weaving mill right across the river at Lansdowne, directly opposite the garden. The Russells also owned the Lansdowne shipyard. It is probable that the merchandise was ferried across the river from the factory which was adjacent to the shipyard.

The spinning and weaving mill operated for a number of years before it shut down dramatically as a result of being sabotaged by a disgruntled master weaver who was brought in as a specialist some time before.

No reason has ever been advanced that might explain this man's strange behaviour, but we know that he made a hurried departure from the city, and was followed to the railway station by the whole redundant staff of the factory. Whether he brought with him any permanent marks of this encounter is not recorded.

**Prestige**

This industrial tragedy resulted in the prestige and respectability of the famous house being once more restored. It became the headquarters of the Diocesan Seminary, better known as St. Munchin's College, which removed from its cramped quarters at Park House, in St. Patrick's Parish, where it had been since 1809.

The house became vacant again nearly 40 years ago when the college moved back again to its old parish, this time on the site of the bishop's palace in Corbally, and since then its structural decline has kept in tune with the lack of interest in its preservation.

The total destruction of buildings such as this has been so common in Limerick that the splendid restoration of this fine period piece is a pleasant surprise to the many citizens who had

almost given up hope of ever seeing such splendid work carried out in the city.

Both the Perys had formerly resided in St. John's Square. No doubt the beautiful homes were a most salubrious and congenial departure from the conditions of the old city, with its slums and smells of an insanitary age.

It is remarkable that the extensive gardens at the rear of both houses formed a conjoint demesne right down to the river, where a ferry was in operation to and from the north shore for many years by a family named Meade, hence "Meade's Quay."

**Gardens**

An early visitor had this to say of both houses: "The buildings were of brick, the insides well and conveniently constructed having several good apartments, the dining rooms commanding a view of the river and shipping for several miles, and the gardens hanging over the Shannon." It must be remembered that this was a time before the Dock Road or buildings at the Clare side of the river. It was virgin country with a truly rural setting.

Lord Limerick's House was often the venue for an overflow of distinguished guests in the Palace, and visa versa.

In 1874 the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Rutland, during a visit to Limerick, was entertained at the house and stayed at the Palace next door. The Duke received the freedom of the city at the time and Rutland Street was named after him.

In 1841 the great Franz Liszt was entertained by the Perys and on the invitation of Bishop Knox gave a recital in the drawing room of the Palace. There is a strong local tradition that the great composer gave his first public performance of the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 here.

It was in the garden of Lord Limerick's house that the great operatic soprano, Catherine Hayes, gave a public recital that was the most important in her life. She had an audience of one, Bishop Knox, who was awakened from a siesta in his garden, as she thrilled the air with her beautiful notes.

The bishop got up, and looking over the shrubbery saw the poorly clad child singing the most beautiful notes he had ever heard. On enquiry he learned that the child's name was Catherine Hayes, whose father a hand-master, in the City Militia, had deserted his family.

Little Catherine was often brought to the house by a relative, Mrs. Carroll, who was a member of the domestic staff there.

## IMPORTANT AUCTIONS

WM. B. FITT & Co., pleased to hold an auction at their salerooms on

Monday, January 30, when the lot will be selling a 23-acre

The lands are set out in four fields and three paddocks. There is