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HARERICK THEADER, CITY EDITION HESTYLES LENGURE PAGE 6 HALARY 14-TH, 2006



Bridge Street, Newcastle West, taken around 1900 -

pressed by one Colonel niel Robinson, scribed as managing ector of the Irish ste Land Improvement mpany. For the ment, however, I prose to confine myself to brief but enlighten portion of the report ling with conditions they then existed in st Limerick.

DEAN COLL'S EVIDENCE

When the Commissionsat in Newcastle West August 28th, 1844, the st witness sworn and amined was none other in the celebrated Very v. Thomas Coll, D.D., man Catholic Dean of Diocese of Limerick, I Parish Priest of Newtle West for the previseventeen years. in Coll told the Comsioners that the land he district was "tillage ncipally but that there s however, a great deal grass land". Stating t the state of the agriture in the district had proved to a certain ent, the Dean lained that the provement consisted the increased intellico dienlawed in the

resulted from the want of drainage; the district, he added, consisted of very wet and heavy soil, and could never be rendered productive unless is was drained, and could never be drained unless there was facility afforded for obtaining manure.

GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE LANDLORDS

The Dean was not aware of any encouragement by landlords for drainage, but he knew Colonel White that encouraged his tenants and made allowances for the building of farm houses and offices, which tended exceedingly to the comfort of farmers and enabled them to house their cattle, which they considered a very great advantage.

Incidentally, Dean Coll told the Commissioners that "Lord Devon is looked upon as an exceedingly good landlord." The Dean suggested that time should be given to the farmers at more reasonable rates. Questioned in regard to the condition of the farming population in the district, Dean Coll replied: "I do not believe that

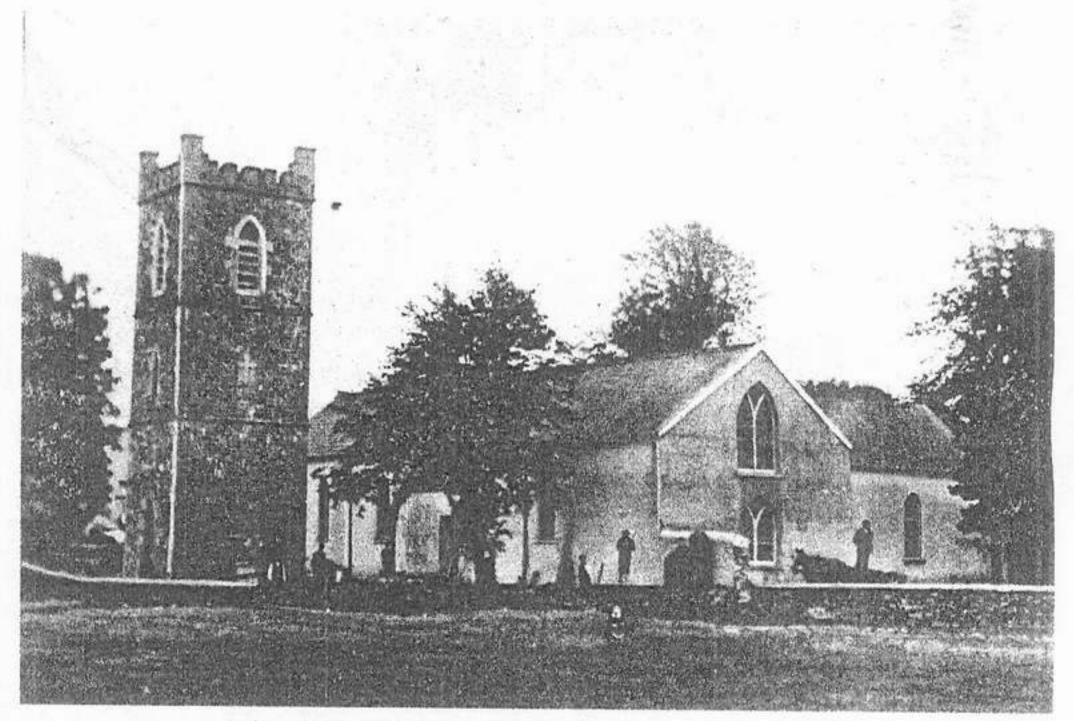
discontent."

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF THE LABOURERS

Asked if the labourers were getting more comfortable in their condition, he said: "No. The labourers are a very wretched set of men in this neighbourhood; numbers of them can get no employment, and those who are employed are paid at the rate of 8d per day without food. Lord Devon and the trustees employ a number, but the employment of the labouring class is confined principally to this estate, in a great degree."

In conclusion Dean Coll suggested, as a means of improvement, leases at a reasonable rent, and moderate assistance from landlords. Stating that there has been no agrarian outrage in the district curing his residence, the Dean added: "I do not know of any part of the kingdom more free from disturbance though they have great suffering and great loss of cattle, and great discontent."

TAT OTHERD DADING OF



A fine picture of the Catholic Church in Dromcollogher c. 1900

tenants were anxious for leases at existing rents

AGENT GOT ALL THE

(the labourers) had was sending out their little

lies ejected on the same day as myself upon the