

riff of the county in 1766, and a liberal benefactor to the House of Industry, deposited eight hundred pounds in the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Limerick, that the interest might be distributed every Christmas equally among sixteen poor widows, and which is regularly paid by Archdeacon Maunsell.

*St. John's Charity.*—Various sums were given at different periods by members of the Pery family, the interest of which, amounting to seventeen pounds a-year, is distributed amongst the poor of this parish at the discretion of the Church-wardens.

*The Charitable Loan* was formed in 1770 by voluntary contributions amounting to £636 14s. 0d. of which above £500 were subscribed by members or connexions of the Pery family. Since its establishment it has afforded great relief to thousands of poor tradesmen, who are, on proper security, accommodated with a loan of three guineas each, which they repay at one shilling and four pence a-week.

*The Jubilee Loan.*—In 1810, when our late revered Sovereign attained the 50th year of his reign, various plans were adopted throughout the empire for celebrating the auspicious event. The citizens of Limerick at the suggestion of George Smyth Esq. the late worthy and benevolent Recorder, conceived that the best mode of exhibiting their joy and gratitude would be to found an institution which

troops were encamped, near the adjacent castle of Toureen, shew the antiquity of the place.

should prove a permanent memorial of this happy event by stimulating industry, and thus become a perennial source of relief to the working classes of the city. Twelve hundred pounds were subscribed by the citizens, from which assistance has been administered to near 100,000 individuals, by loans of from one to five pounds each, which are repaid at ten pence per pound weekly. The timely aid thus afforded, has rescued many an honest man from impending ruin, and raised some journeymen to the rank of masters.

*A Dispensary* has existed several years, at which professional advice and assistance have been administered during the last year, to 21,255 persons. A *Magdalen Asylum* has been established on a small scale. There is also a *Mendicity Association*; and in September 1826, an institution for the relief of Sick and Indigent Room-keepers, under the patronage of the Lord Bishop, was formed by a subscription of several hundred pounds.

*The Blue School.*—In 1717, the Rev. John Moore of Limerick bequeathed £17 a-year arising from a house in Dublin, for the use of a Charity School in this city: four years after the Corporation voted twenty pounds per annum, to the same establishment, and in 1724, Mrs. Alice Craven conveyed houses producing a profit-rent of forty pounds a-year to the bishop, dean, mayor, recorder, and their suc-

cessors, for the use of the Blue School. But in the year 1748, this excellent institution was suffered to go to decay; it was, however, again revived in 1772 by Bishop Gore, and the Hon. Dean Crosbie, when the funds were rendered available for the clothing and education of twenty boys. They were also instructed in sacred music to enable them to sing in the cathedral, and at a proper age apprenticed to tradesmen, with a fee of four pounds to each. The old Blue School stood near Island-gate, but the present building which contains a good school-room with apartments for the master, was erected in 1771, adjoining the Northern wall of the cathedral, in which several large cannon-balls were found, one of which is suspended in front of the edifice with an inscription, importing that it had been fired from Park by King William's army. We regret to learn that this establishment is now in a languishing condition; but we trust that exertions will be made in the proper quarters, to preserve from ruin an institution which has been the means of enabling the otherwise destitute offspring of many a reduced citizen to engage in the honest pursuits of industry.

*Charity Schools.*—It is a matter of regret that in this city the education of the children of the poor appears not to have fully kept pace with its other charitable establishments. We are happy, however, to find that of late there has been a considerable

improvement in this respect, both among Protestants and Roman Catholics. Near seven hundred boys of the latter persuasion are educated in St. Michael's parish under the superintendence of four monks. In the same parish are a Roman Catholic school for 650, and another for eighty females; and in St. Munchin's parish, five hundred girls are instructed by the Nuns of St. Clare. In St. John's parish there is a Lancasterian School containing above forty children of both sexes. A Protestant Female Orphan School of twenty girls is well conducted by the Archdeacon of Limerick, and amongst the other memorials of the benevolent exertions of the late Rev. William Hoare, is a Day School for sixty-one boys and fifty-one girls. A Free School in Nicholas-street is supported by the Independent Congregation, and there are one or two flourishing Sunday-schools superintended by the Methodists.

But in despite of these zealous and well conducted efforts in behalf of the poor, the diseased, and the young, want of employment frequently creates a mass of misery in the lanes, the alleys and suburbs of Limerick, which no exertion, however active or well directed could do more than mitigate. The encouragement of industry can be the only certain mode of meliorating the condition of the working classes, and it is by measures of this nature that the surest benefits are conferred upon any country.