

April 22

THE JEWS IN LIMERICK

YOUNG RAHILLY'S IMPRISONMENT

MEMORIAL TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT

PROTESTANT BISHOP'S RECENT UTTERANCES

CONDEMNED BY LIMERICK CORPORATION

A requisition having been presented to the Mayor, his Worship summoned a special meeting of the Whole House Committee of the Limerick Corporation on Wednesday night for the purpose of adopting a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of the youth, John Rahilly, who was at the City Petty Sessions on this day week sentenced to one month's imprisonment, without the option of a fine, on a charge of having assaulted Rev Mr Levin, Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community, by striking him with a stone in the foot. The following is a copy of the requisition presented to the Mayor:

"To the Right Worshipful, M. DONNELLY, Mayor—We, the undersigned members of the Corporation, respectfully request you to call a special meeting at your earliest convenience to present a memorial to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of John Rahilly, of Carey's-road, who was sentenced on Friday, 15th instant, to one month's imprisonment.—Signed,

"T. J. Prendergast, Alderman; Daniel M'Neice, Alderman; John O'Brien, Alderman; Joseph Ryan, B.C.; Michael Murphy, B.C.; John Slattery, B.C.; Charles Johnson, B.C."

At the meeting on Wednesday night the Mayor presided, and the other members present were:—Aldermen T. Prendergast, D. M'Neice, John Daly, John O'Brien, P. M'Donnell; Councillors C. Johnson, P. O'Malley, J. Sheahan, C. Ryan, J. Barry, J. P.; J. Guinane, J. P.; J. Ryan, J. Bradshaw, J. Dalton, M. M'Inerney, R. Walsh, J. Shanahan, J. Slattery, W. Clune, J. Kelly, M. Murphy, M. Leahy, T. Donnellan, R. Nash, solicitor; P. Dooley, J. Hassett, M. Prendergast.

Mr Killen, Assistant Town Clerk, having read the requisition and circular convening the meeting, The Mayor said he was prepared to receive any resolution dealing with the memorial.

Mr Barry said he begged to propose—"That we, the County Borough Council of Limerick, in whole house committee assembled, desire in the strongest manner to support the prayer of the memorial now being got up, and we appeal to his Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant, to exercise his clemency and prerogative in this case, which we believe is one in which, when his Excellency is made aware of the facts, we have no doubt will be dealt with by his Excellency in a humane manner, considering the youth of the prisoner." He (Mr Barry) thought on account of the boy's age—being under fifteen years—that when the Lord Lieutenant was made aware of the facts he would see his way to release the lad. He was sure there was no member of the Council, nor any citizen, no matter what his creed, who would not denounce violence towards the Jews. He hoped the memorial would have the desired effect, and that the city would continue in the peaceable condition it had been in up to the present.

Mr Johnson seconded the resolution. He knew the boy to be a most respectable little lad who would be most unlikely to offer any violence to the Jews or anybody else, but even if he had done so he believed he was sufficiently punished already, and it would be a very good means to restore the good will the Jews were so anxious about, if the Lord Lieutenant exercised his clemency in the case. To see that little boy clothed that very day in convict's garb, and removed out of the city would bring tears to one's eyes. His poor mother was much to be sympathised with and her family in the circumstances. Again he would say that it was most unlikely that this respectable little boy merited punishment such as was meted out to him.

The Mayor said they all sympathised with the object of the resolution, not alone the Councillors present, but almost the entire body of the citizens. The punishment meted out in this case was rather severe, especially taking into account the youth of that boy. He hoped when proper representation was made that it will have the desired effect. He declared the resolution passed unanimously. Continuing, he said there was a far more serious question than the personal aspect in this matter, which, arising out of the condition of things, was far and away more important to the well-being and good name of the city of Limerick. Correspondence had been going on for some time which was highly detrimental to the interests of the city, and it was time that some one would give expression to the opinion as to the real facts of the case. It had been said that a certain community in the city had been persecuted. There was no religious persecution going on in Limerick as regards the Jews—the question of religion does not enter or arise into the matter. The only objection to the Jews was their usurious methods of dealing, and, as a consequence, the hardships inflicted by them on the poor people of Limerick, whether the poor were Catholics or of any other religion did not matter. There was no violence being offered to the Jews in Limerick—there was no combination against them, and the statements made in court and appearing in some sections of the Press as to assaults committed on Jews were unfounded and untrue. There was no doubt one or two cases may arise where individuals were concerned in acts of violence, but those would arise, and had arisen, and would continue to arise, he would daresay, until the end of time in the best regulated communities. He could say, without fear of contradiction, that presently the peace and orderliness and good conduct of the citizens of Limerick had never been surpassed in any period of its existence (hear, hear). The usual records at Quarter

Creagh. He (Mr Johnson) did not think the Bishop Bunbury's action should be allowed pass unnoticed by the Corporation. He seemingly had taken his whole cue from the Chief Rabbi, and the Chief Rabbi said several of the things Dr Bunbury stated in his speech, he said a good many truths which he could not sustain. In one portion he stated that the Jews were not charging more than the shopkeepers in Limerick. Well, the Jews were charging a high per cent more than the dearest house in Limerick for their goods. Everybody knew that. In another portion of Dr Bunbury's speech he said that the Chief Rabbi informed him that the Jews could not charge so much for tea because they did not deal in tea at all. Well, hundreds of people in Limerick knew that the Jews did sell tea, and were selling it, at charged more than the dearest house in Limerick for it.

Mayor—They will have to put on 2d a lb more now (laughter).

Mr Johnson—I don't see what right this sleek bishop has to be attacking the city. As far as I can see the chief thing he does is to draw his salary and attack and slander his fellow countrymen. He knows very little about Limerick or its requirements. It would be better for him turn his attention to his own co-religionists, some of whom were not near his church for twenty years. He does not know that they are there at all. He seems to give more attention to us than to them.

Mr King—With reference to the question of the Jews trading in tea, I had a conversation with two ladies who in the past had got tea from the Jews.

Mr Prendergast—I saw the Jews selling tea, so there is no question that they are selling it.

Mr Johnson—So much for the truth of the Rabbi on whose evidence young Rahilly was convicted.

Alderman M'Neice—This meeting was summoned to deal with the case of the boy, Rahilly and I do not see why we should go into the merits of Bishop Bunbury. I think it has been fully and well answered by the local Press. I think it would be out of order to enter into it now.

Mr Johnson—You have not read the circular. It states "It is also considered desirable to avail of the occasion to refute certain statements injurious to the character and good name of the citizens of Limerick that have recently been given to the public."

Mayor—This meeting was called to save time with regard to the case of the boy. Of course you could consider any question that would arise.

Mr Leahy—I think it would be better call a special meeting.

Mr Johnson—Sure this is a special meeting.

Alderman M'Neice—The requisition I signed was in reference to the boy.

Mr Johnson—I saw it drawn up, and the other subject was in it.

Mr Prendergast—A cruel wrong and an injustice has been done to the citizens of Limerick. I have seen these people (the Jews) passing through various parts of the city, and I never saw them offended, or never saw anyone assault them. I think there has been a terrible lot of wrong done to our people, and I believe it has been purposely done with the object of getting money for these people.

Mr Sheahan said he agreed with what Mr Prendergast had said. He saw the Jews going through the streets and lanes, and never saw them molested.

Mr Clune—Did you get anything from them (Laughter.)

A Member—It is a good job he did not.

Mayor—This requisition was signed and given to me, and in order to save time—as the next meeting of the Corporation would not be held until the 25th—I convened this meeting of the Whole House Committee, which is practically a meeting of the Corporation of Limerick. We have passed a resolution here to-night unanimously in favour of the boy (Rahilly). The memorial will be sent to the Lord Lieutenant on to-morrow. We have done things to-night as effectively as if we had waited for the 25th. I have referred to the statement made by an ecclesiastic of high position in the Church. If there is any gentleman not satisfied with my statement I am in your hands, and am prepared to receive a resolution.

Alderman M'Neice—I am entirely satisfied with your statement. I think you have fully refuted the statements made with regard to the feelings against the Jews. You said there was gross misrepresentation of facts. I am sure the members endorse everything you said. I am perfectly satisfied that your statement is an absolute refutation of what has been said with regard to the city. I am sure that every fair-minded man will agree with the statement made by you.

Alderman O'Brien—I accept your statement and exonerate you from all blame for not being present on last Friday.

Alderman M'Neice—The Mayor has made a statement vindicating the character of the citizens of Limerick.

Mr Johnson—I think there should be a resolution on the matter.

Mr Donnellan said the chief point they had to consider was the statement put forward by a learned ecclesiastic outside the city of Limerick as regards its inhabitants. They all regretted the use of intemperate language by any person, whether a High Church dignitary or the poorest subject of the Empire, but the one chief point in the whole circumstances of the case they all

COMPEL GO

THE OINTMENT has amazing he and quickly and permanently cures and Troublesome Sores, Ulcers and of Skin Trouble. Used in conjunction Pills its healing action may be safe in the most severe cases, as also and Chest Complaints.

Bunbury, and he had informed him that he knew from experience that the Jews traded with servant girls, more especially young servant girls in the city, whom they inveigled into dealing with them. One of the Jews was trading with a servant in this Protestant's house. This young girl, who was from the country, bought some articles from the Jews. It was immediately detected by her mistress, who took the material to a shop in George-street, where she found the same material could be purchased at eighty per cent cheaper than the Jew had charged the girl. That was a case on point in direct contradiction to the statement made by Dr. Bunbury.

Mr. Johnson proposed:—"That we condemn and repudiate in the most emphatic manner, the attack made by Dr. Bunbury on the good name of our city, and also by the English Press, as we consider such attacks most unjustifiable and uncalled for."

Mr. O'Mealy, B.C., seconded the resolution which was passed unanimously.

STRANGE ASSAULT CASE

PROCEEDINGS AT KILMALLOCK

Decision of the Magistrates

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

At the Kilmallock Petty Sessions before Messrs Fitzpatrick, B.M., and P.H. Madden, Mr Patrick Walsh charged Mr Edmond Murnane with assault on the 16th March. The same complainant charged the same defendant with cruelly beating the complainant's mule by striking it on the head with a stick on the same occasion. Mr Patrick Ryan, solicitor, Charleville, appeared for the complainant, and Mr M.P. Geary, solicitor, Kilmallock, defended.

Mr Geary said he had an application to make. A writ had been issued, and an action would arise out of this case. Therefore he asked to adjourn the case until the other action was decided.

Mr Ryan said that Mr Liston, solicitor, was the party on the record to the writ, and he was in communication with him, and he asked if an application would be made for adjournment, and he said he would not be identified with the Petty Sessions proceedings; that a local solicitor would conduct the case. The case was practically opened, and this was a most grotesque application.

After some further observations it was decided to proceed with the case.

was no member of the Council, nor any citizen, no matter what his creed, who would not denounce violence towards the Jews. He hoped the memorial would have the desired effect, and that the city would continue in the peaceable condition it had been in up to the present.

Mr Johnson seconded the resolution. He knew the boy to be a most respectable little lad who would be most unlikely to offer any violence to the Jews or anybody else, but even if he had done so he believed he was sufficiently punished already, and it would be a very good means to restore the good will the Jews were so anxious about, if the Lord Lieutenant exercised his clemency in the case. To see that little boy clothed that very day in convict's garb, and removed out of the city would bring tears to one's eyes. His poor mother was much to be sympathised with and her family in the circumstances. Again he would say that it was most unlikely that this respectable little boy merited punishment such as was meted out to him.

The Mayor said they all sympathised with the object of the resolution, not alone the Councillors present, but almost the entire body of the citizens. The punishment meted out in this case was rather severe, especially taking into account the youth of that boy. He hoped when proper representation was made that it will have the desired effect. He declared the resolution passed unanimously. Continuing, he said there was a far more serious question than the personal aspect in this matter, which, arising out of the condition of things, was far and away more important to the well being and good name of the city of Limerick. Correspondence had been going on for some time which was highly detrimental to the interests of the city, and it was time that some one would give expression to the opinion as to the real facts of the case. It had been said that a certain community in the city had been persecuted. There was no religious persecution going on in Limerick as regards the Jews—the question of religion does not enter or arise into the matter. The only objection to the Jews was their usurious methods of dealing, and, as a consequence, the hardships inflicted by them on the poor people of Limerick, whether the poor were Catholics or of any other religion did not matter. There was no violence being offered to the Jews in Limerick—there was no combination against them, and the statements made in court and appearing in some sections of the Press as to assaults committed on Jews were unfounded and untrue. There was no doubt one or two cases may arise where individuals were concerned in acts of violence, but those would arise, and had arisen, and would continue to arise, he would daresay, until the end of time in the best regulated communities. He could say, without fear of contradiction, that presently the peace and orderliness and good conduct of the citizens of Limerick had never been surpassed in any period of its existence (hear, hear). The usual records at Quarter Sessions and Assizes was white gloves for the County Court Judge and the Judge of Assizes. The list of crime at any time was very small considering the importance of the city of Limerick, its population, and other causes. It was a very lamentable state of things, and one which he referred to with very deep regret, to find the city traduced. There had been at all times the best, the most friendly, and most goodnatured feelings entertained between the different denominations in the city of Limerick, and he would regard it as a calamity anything that would disturb that good feeling and friendship and brotherhood that had been so long and well maintained between the members of the different creeds in Limerick. It was regrettable that a very high ecclesiastic should have made reference in a certain place to a condition of things as said to be existing in Limerick, and which it was not within the power of any man, no matter how important, to find fault or cavil with. There might be undercurrents at work got up for special purposes to disturb the peace of the city, but he hoped the good sense of the citizens would be sufficient to counteract any such evil influences, and that they would not permit any consideration to tarnish the good name of Limerick. They were well aware that from time to time individuals, to serve a purpose and to misrepresent a locality—aye, to misrepresent a nation—used language disparaging and derogatory to their common country. These incidents were so frequent in their history that really for a long time he did not take any notice of what was being enacted in their midst—he had thought that they were of the usual every day occurrence enacted in all large communities; but now seeing that statements had been circulated in the English Press, and in the Press broadcast generally, the plain truths as to the condition of things in Limerick should be made known. He was proud as Mayor of Limerick that the peace and good conduct of its citizens were a credit to any community in the world (hear, hear). It was with feelings of very great pleasure to find during his term of office, having recourse as he had to all classes in the city, the citizens of all creed working harmoniously and well together, and he hoped it would remain ever so. It was a very serious matter for anyone, no matter who he might be, no matter how high his dignity might be, to do anything or say anything against the interests of our common city (hear, hear).

Alderman O'Brien said he was sorry he was not in for the Mayor's remarks. He wished to say as the originator of the meeting he was sorry the members of the Corporation were forced to come together that evening on such a matter. He had nothing to say against Mr Hickson, but he was of the opinion that young Rahilly should be given the option of a fine.

Mr Guinane said he thought Alderman O'Brien was out of order.

The Mayor explained that what they were now dealing with was the memorial they intended sending to the Lord Lieutenant asking his Excellency to use his prerogative to release young Rahilly.

Alderman O'Brien—I bow to your decision, Mr Mayor.

Mr Barry—I would suggest that the names of the members present should be attached to the memorial.

Guinane—The Mayor and Town Clerk can half of the Corporation.

He said he understood that a resolution proposed condemning Bishop Bunbury attack he made on the city, and for the language used, which was insulting to the people of the city and to their most respected Father

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Alderman O'Brien—200 in some cases.

Mr Donnellan—And I am thoroughly acquainted with the fact of what I state. This is not in any sense a question of religious dispute.

Mr Prendergast—Nor is it.

Mr Donnellan—There was one chief point they had a right to consider, and that was that the Jewish people were trading usuriously with the people, and they as citizens of Limerick ought to and would resent that. Why? The Jews were living in the city as a colony amongst themselves, trading and dealing amongst themselves, while the poor Irish people were walking the streets idle and going to America to seek their fortune. The Jews came there as an independent colony to make a livelihood, and did it, and he held they ought not to be encouraged. Statements were made as to the origination of this whole subject, and a rev gentleman they all respected—Rev Father Creagh—had been brought into it. He believed the statements Father Creagh put forward were not used in any sense from the religious point of view, but merely as to commercial attitude affecting the city of Limerick—the well being of the poor and the citizens—particularly of the poor. He would say, and emphasize the statement, that these Jews should not be permitted to trade in the city of Limerick. He hoped they had heard the last of it, and regretted Bishop Bunbury was led into the error of accusing the people of Limerick of doing acts they were not guilty of.

Mr Prendergast said when Dr Bunbury was elected Bishop they had passed a resolution congratulating him, and they had nothing but the most kindly feelings towards him then. Bishop Bunbury was then most pleasing to the people as a Christian gentleman, and so long as he did not interfere he would always continue to be the same. That friendship and fellowship they were prepared to extend to any Christian man, no matter who he might be, but Dr Bunbury had gone outside his duty in censuring the citizens of Limerick in regard to this Jewish question. He had gone beyond his duty in ignorance of the actual facts of the case—he had gone to an extent he had no right to, and he should be censured for it.

The Mayor said he hoped that any money due to the Jews by any citizen would be paid to them. He had considerable experience in the Court of Conscience, and had always dealt with the Jews as he did with the Gentiles. He had meted out the same measure of justice, according to his conscience, to the Jews as he did to his own fellow-citizens. He would continue to do that, and he hoped that any money owed to the Jews would be paid to them.

Mr Leahy said he wished to refer to a matter as to Jewish charges for goods. He was speaking the previous night to a Protestant gentleman, who deeply regretted the language used by Bishop