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Institution, formed in 1809, could boast of a library containing over 2,000 volumes.

**THE LINEN AND COTTON INDUSTRY** had declined by the 1830s despite the efforts of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce to halt the deterioration by erecting a new linen-hall and holding a weekly market every Friday and Saturday. The adaptation of new designs did little to help the faltering market, so the problem was eventually turned over to the agricultural association. This body tried to promote the linen, woollen, cotton and other trades among the poor with a fund of £7,000 allocated to them by the association's board of directors in London. At the same time the glove trade was in trouble, and most of the "Limerick gloves" on sale were actually manufactured in Cork.

• **HAY AND STRAW MARKETS** were held on Wednesdays and Saturdays in 1837. The large wheat market had sheds all around its enclosure and the butter market, a spacious and lofty building, was opened daily throughout the year. There were two potato markets, one in the Englishtown, the other in the Irishtown; as well as two meat markets, plentifully supplied with butchers' meat and poultry, but the supply of fish and vegetables was often deficient. The smaller of these markets, called the Northumberland Buildings, had attached to it large apartments for public buildings, a bazaar, and commercial chambers. Four annual fairs were held in the city on Easter Tuesday, 4 July, 4 August and 12 December. The August fair carried a curious privilege as no person could be arrested in the city or Liberties on process issued out of the Tholsel Court for fifteen days after it.

**THE BLACK AND TANS** were given this derogatory title by Christopher O'Sullivan, proprietor and editor of *The Limerick Echo* when he described the "strange type of individual wearing the black cap and tunic of the Royal Irish Constabulary and khaki trousers of the British soldier" with whom he had travelled in a train from Limerick Junction to Limerick City. He later remarked, in a leading article, in his own newspaper that "this puny creature resembled something one would associate with the Scarteen Hunt (the Black and Tans) of Pallasgreen judging by his strange attire". Mike Nono, the Ennis comedian, perpetuated this nick-name shortly afterwards from the stage of Limerick's Theatre Royal when he used Christopher O'Sullivan's quip to describe the new occupying force set up by the British.

**JOHN FERRAR**, the grandson of a Williamite cavalry officer and a descendant of Nicholas Ferrar who founded the Little Gidding community, published a short sketch of Limerick's history in 1766. He established

*The Limerick Chronicle* in 1768, and in 1787 produced a substantially enlarged version of his history. Denis Fitzgerald Mahony (1773-1840) was a part owner of *The Limerick Chronicle*. He lived in the Tontine Buildings on what is now O'Connell Street and was a successful stockbroker, alderman, magistrate and philanthropist. His son, Andrew Watson Mahony, (1817-1839) was drowned on the Night of the Big Wind, 6 January 1839, when the schooner *Undine* was swamped in the Shannon.

**THE RECORD PRINTING WORKS**, at No. 6 Cornmarket Row, published seditious material, *Bottom Dog* and the *Factionist*, during the War of Independence. The proprietor was usually warned of impending R.I.C. raids by Sergeant McCarthy of Clare Street who used to give three taps on the window pane nearest to the door of the premises.

**GERALD GRIFFIN STREET** was the site of Tottenham Heaphy's Theatre, the New Theatre Royal. This was located at the south western corner of Gerald Griffin Street and Little Gerald Griffin Street which were then known as Cornwallis Street and Playhouse Lane. Heaphy built his theatre for £600 in 1770. It was 80 feet long by 40 feet wide, awkwardly designed, and lacked a proper facade as the front part was used by a coach-builder, named Edward Gubbins, for both business and domestic purposes. In fact, access to the playhouse boxes was through Edward's kitchen and the entry to the pit was through Playhouse Lane. A site next to the Assembly House, at the eastern end of Charlotte's Quay, was given to Tottenham Heaphy, by Thomas Smyth, in August 1774 but there is no record of this being used for theatrical purposes. In 1771 Tottenham Heaphy complained of counterfeit admission tickets, unruly audiences, backstage romances, heating, light, air-conditioning and maintenance. He often let his theatre to other entrepreneurs such as Richard Daly who leased it from him in 1781. Sir Vere Hunt of Curragh Chase formed the Limerick Theatrical Society with Major Alcock of the 47th Regiment and Captain Trevor Lloyd Ashe, a skilled instrumentalist, on 17 January 1785. The society then leased the Theatre Royal from Richard Daly who sub-let to them. In 1790 Sir Vere Hunt turned the ballroom of the Assembly House into a "beautiful" theatre and established a touring theatrical group which operated with some success until a disagreement with his manager led to its closure. By then the city had a population of about 50,000. In 1858 Charles Dickens appeared on stage in Limerick to give a dramatised public reading. On 4 September a correspondent for the *Limerick*