

Brightest city

they were highly gratified with. Later that week the Duke and his suite were entertained to a grand ball at the Commercial Buildings. The arrangements were magnificent and the dancing elegant. Over 100 tables and the wines rare in quality were served with excellence. The transparencies (painted

from the Bishop's Palace in this city and were met on the way by the Countess and Earl of Clare and their suite attended by all the leading gentlemen in the neighbourhood. While the entire population of the city and the highways and noisily saluted and cheered and greeted every step of their progress.

stream, left no part of this sublime theatre unfurnished, and then, upon a signal given, immediately drew up along the shore and wafted over the whole company together to the Elysium of Doonass".

At Doonass the party were received by Sir Hugh and Lady Massey and conducted by them along the waterfall to the turret, "where they graciously and repeatedly expressed their delight and admiration at the magnificence of the scene".

In mid-October, Limerick celebrated the 50th year of the reign of George III and the event was celebrated with entertainments which even surpassed those held in honour of the Vice-Regal visit.

The Mayor and Corporation proceeded in full regalia to

Taken from the Chronicle files

half-pints to be adjusted and duly stamped. The weights in the shops, stands and cellars to be properly regulated.

Sweepers to have the streets scraped and swept against 7 o'clock in the morning after which hour no dirt is to be thrown out, except in the scavengers' carts which are to

Here are some other examples of his activities. This morning between the hours of 4 and 5 o'clock the Mayor stopped a man and a woman having bags containing the fat of three sheep and a shoulder of mutton, quite warm. Not being able to give a satisfactory account of themselves, they were secured and as it is presumed those persons, clandestinely, killed the sheep, the Mayor gives this notice of his having the prisoners in custody.

A gambling table, held in a house in Francis Street, was seized by the Mayor, and the money in the room, staked at the time for play, His Worship distributed to the poor.

Early this morning the Mayor visited the Markets and seized several carcasses of blown meat and three kishes of turf from forestallers, which His Worship sent to the House of Industry and Hospital for Lunatics.

An Editorial comment sums up his work: "The extraordinary exertions of our Chief Magistrate is become the theme of every citizen. He is to be seen in the streets and highways detecting rogues and forestallers before the labourer rises from his bed, and his vigilance has made groups of villians who batten on the poor man's earnings betake to other callings not so dangerous to society."

Fines

"While he bestows the fines inflicted on offenders in relieving real objects, he has exerted his authority in either driving hence the sturdy vagrant or sending to the House of Industry those disgusting mendicants who have so long disgraced every public avenue to or in this city".

These were just a few of the happenings in Limerick when Nelson's Pillar was opened in October, 1809. Perhaps we should not omit the following advertisement, which may surprise more than a few:

"There will be a Grand Ball in the Assembly Rooms, Charlottes' Quay, on the night of Friday, the 27th instant. Admittance, five tenpennys: 4s. 2d. Several ladies have expressed their intention of appearing at the Ball in stuff of Limerick manufacture, and many gentlemen are providing themselves with waistcoats and small-cloths of the same material".

Limerick was a lively and, thanks to Mayor Francis Lloyd, a well-disciplined city in 1809, and perhaps the round of social events and the extraordinary activities of the Mayor may have distracted attention from the opening of the Nelson Column. Or perhaps the bright blades of the time may attribute the reason to the following: "Fascination, beauty and animation adorn our streets and other places of public resort to a higher degree than was ever recollected in the annals of the city. Our lovely fair ladies are indebted for that sweetness and lively glow of animated countenance to the efficacy of Gowland's Vegetable Lotion". And with such lovely fair ladies — wearing, of course, Gowland's Lotion — what Limerick male could be interested in Nelson or his Pillar?



A map of Limerick drawn in 1865, when the city was of the same appearance — by and large — as it had been sixty years earlier.

by J. Gubbins, of this city) highly suited the occasion".

Highlighting what must have been the busiest week in Limerick's social history was the visit of the Vice-Regal party to Mountshannon: "This princely mansion, so often visited by the representatives of His Majesty in this country, was now again dignified by the reception of the illustrious House of Richmond and the Irish Court.

"At about 4 o'clock the splendid train took its depar-

On the following morning the party visited the O'Grady family seat at Belmont.

"Groups of beautiful women, in elegant morning dresses, heightened the animation and brilliancy of the scene. Bands of musical performers, stationed in the islands, the groves and on the banks of the river, contributed by turns all the softness and all the sublimity of music.

"A numerous and magnificent fleet of canoes, now

attend Divine Service in St. Mary's Cathedral; the Regiments in garrison fired a "feu de joie" in George Street; there was a grand illumination of the city, and a brilliant ball at the Assembly Rooms was attended by the nobility of the city and county.

Busy man

Perhaps the busiest man in Limerick that month was the Mayor, Francis Lloyd, who did not allow his participation in

be provided with bells, and the streets must be perfectly clean against the hour of 10 in the forenoon.

"The nuisance of pigs being suffered to prowl in the suburb avenues and in the streets is attended with much inconvenience and danger and it is, therefore, necessary for the Petty Constables to take up the swine and levy a fine of 5/- on the owner.

"In order that the necessary articles of life shall come as moderate as possible to the