

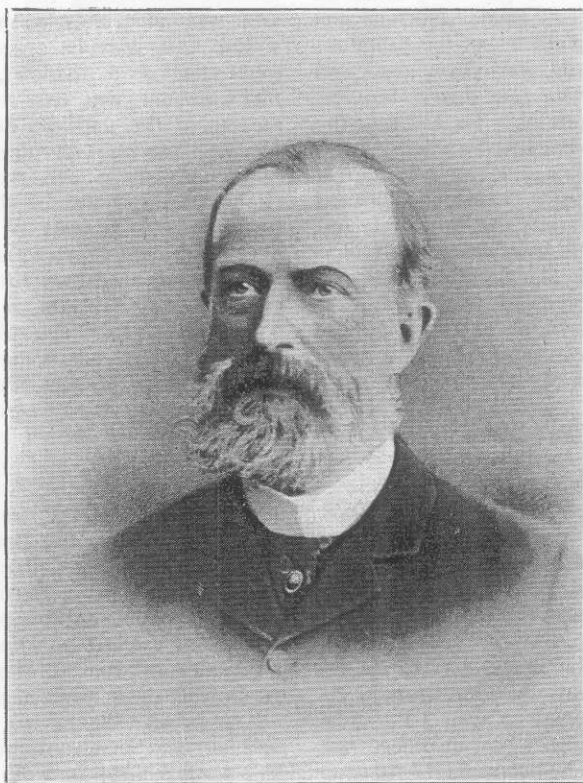
The
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THE LATE MR. WILLIAM SPILLANE, D.L.

WE take the following extracts from the daily Press, in connection with the much-lamented death of Mr. William Spillane, and take the liberty of introducing them here in this issue of our SCHOOL MAGAZINE, as for very many years he and his family were so intimately connected with the Church of the Sacred Heart, and all his sons received their education in this College.

“With the most profound sorrow we have to announce the death of Mr. William Spillane, J.P., D.L., which took place at his residence, George Street, after an illness of very brief duration. A week ago he was about in his usual good health, full of all his accustomed vigour, and on Monday last, in his capacity of Harbour Commissioner, he attended a meeting of that Board. The following day, however, he complained of an internal affection, which developed serious complications, and his medical advisers,

Dr. Holmes and Dr. Gelston, decided to call in the aid of an expert, and accordingly Sir Thornley Stoker was wired for. That gentleman arrived on Saturday, when a successful operation was performed, but the patient was then so weak that he did not recuperate, and gradually sank, till about half past ten, when he died. Nothing that the best medical skill could do, or the solicitous care of his devoted family, was of any avail, and surrounded by all who were most dear to him, his soul passed away peacefully. To say that the death of Mr. Spillane has caused a great void in the public and social life of the city of Limerick, but inadequately conveys to those unacquainted with the working of our city life how deep and how serious is the loss we have sustained. That it is already recognised is evidenced by the regret which is universally expressed at his untimely demise, and the sorrow which is felt, not alone in the city, but throughout the country, wherever his many noble qualities of head and heart were known and appreciated. Indeed it is impossible to realise that so familiar a figure in our public life, and one who filled so large a space in the eyes of all for so many years past, is now no more. But the stern, inexorable, and melancholy fact remains. Mr. Spillane had reached the age of fifty-eight years, the entire of which he devoted to various pursuits, public and private, in his native city. He was early elected to a seat in the Corporation, and in the year 1870 he was unanimously called to the mayoral chair on the proposition of Alderman L. Quinlivan, J.P., seconded by Dr. Thomas Kane, J.P. Mr. Spillane did not seek another year of office: but some years subsequently he occupied the position of High Sheriff of the city, and acquitted himself with distinction.

"It was during his Mayoralty that the Cork-anree Embankment, a work which had just been completed under the direction of the present City Engineer, Mr. W. E. Corbett, was formally opened to the public as a promenade. At the conclusion of Mr. Spillane's year of office the citizens determined to erect a lasting memento of the exceptional ability which he displayed in the fulfilment of the duties of Mayor, and to especially mark his interest in the welfare of the port. The memorial took the form of a tower on the southern bank of the river, known as the 'Spillane Tower,' which will perpetuate to future generations the memory of one of the most active, upright, and worthy of Mayors, and the most useful of citizens.

"In 1875 Mr. Spillane was appointed man-

ager of the Gas Works, the control of which was then taken by the Corporation out of the hands of the English company which up to that time owned them. Apart from his own department of the Corporation, his advice was sought in all matters concerning the well-being of the city, and was invariably found to be thoroughly sound and reliable. As a testimony of his great talent as a financier, it may be mentioned that for some years past he occupied a position as one of the auditors of the National Bank. Mr. Spillane was identified with almost every public board in the city; and in the discharge of his duties he showed the same rigid rectitude and honesty of purpose which were his pre-eminent characteristics. For many years he occupied a seat on the Board of Governors of the Lunatic Asylum, as well as being an ex-officio Poor Law Guardian of the Limerick Union. He was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Market Trustees, and Honorary Treasurer for the Governors of St. John's Hospital, Public Free Library, Technical Education Committee, and also for the recently formed Jubilee Nursing Association. For many years he was a Magistrate for the city and county, and during the Lord Lieutenancy of the county of the late Mr. Thomas Enraght O'Brien he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant. Mr. Spillane occupied another position which perhaps to him was the one he valued most, namely, the presidency of that admirable charitable body, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

"In private life he was of a most genial disposition, and an entertaining conversationalist. As a Catholic, sprung from an old Catholic family which has long been associated with the county and city of Limerick, he was remarkable for his deep and fervent piety, and for the spirit of religious rectitude which guided all his actions.

"At his death votes of sympathy were sent to his family by the various public bodies with which he was connected, including the following:—The Limerick Harbour Commissioners, Limerick Market Trustees, Limerick Race Company, Limerick Board of Guardians, Committee of the Ratepayers' Association, Board of the National Bank Ltd., Technical Education Committee, Governors of St. John's Hospital, Gas Committee, Trustees of the Limerick Savings Bank, Governors of Barrington's Hospital, Free Library Committee, Limerick Corporation, Limerick Nursing Association, Limerick District Lunatic Asylum, and St. Vincent de Paul's Association."