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*Corporation of Limerick*

*The  
Mayoral  
Chain*

*J. DANAGHER, N.T.,  
Mayor of Limerick.*

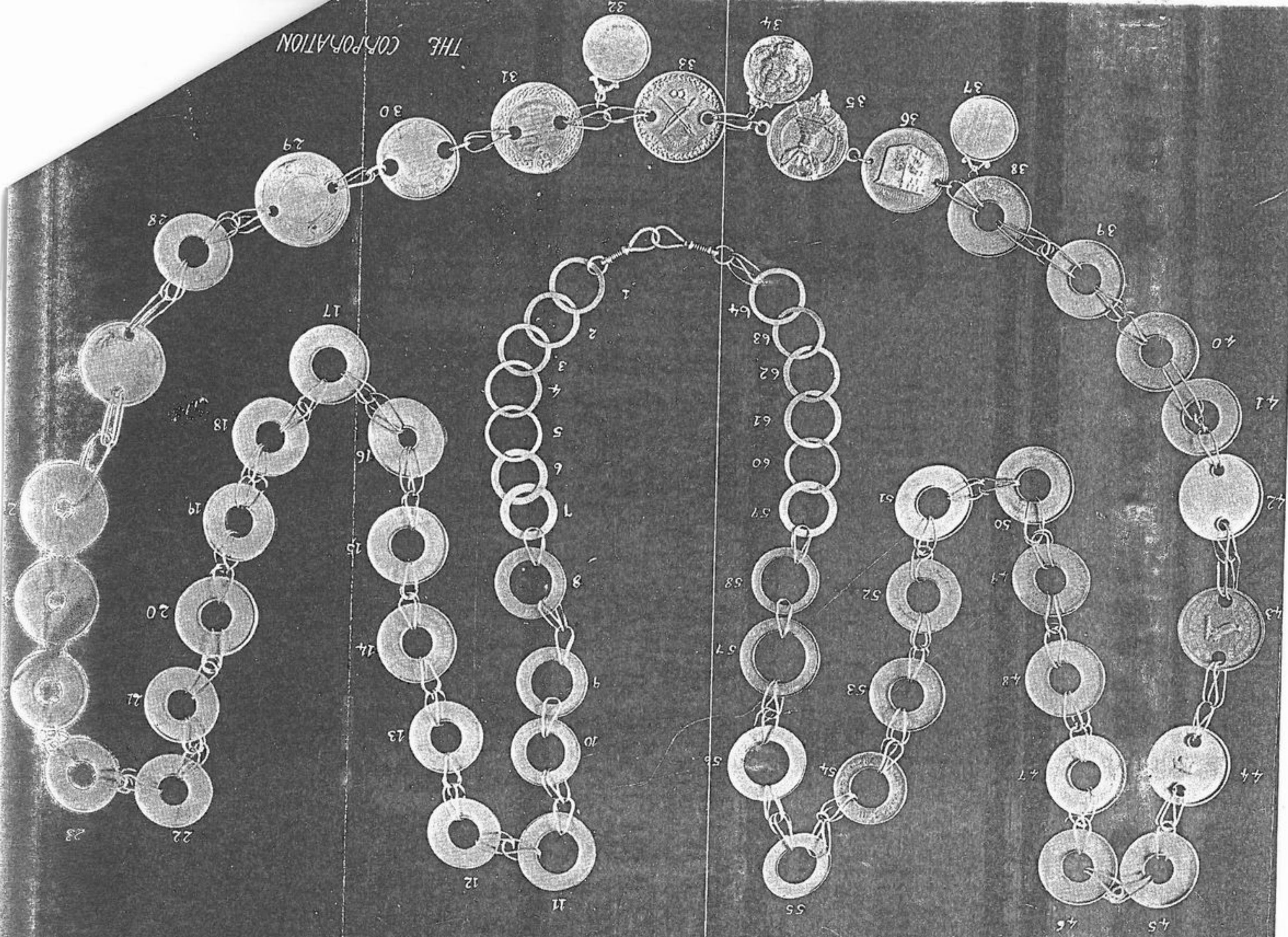
*T. P. MacDIARMADA,  
City Manager & Town Clerk.*

*March, 1965.*

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McKerns Printing, Limerick

THE CORPORATION



Mayor's Chain

# Corporation of Limerick

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This statement gives the inscription on each medallion on the Mayoral Chain in chronological order. The numbers in the first column refer to the numbers shown on the photograph of the chain on page 2.

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From : "The Antiquities of the Corporation of Limerick"

by Robert Herbert.

Published in the "North Munster Antiquarian Journal, 1945.

## CHAINS OF OFFICE :

"There are at present four chains of office. These were purchased about the year 1820 and cost, together with boxes for complimentary freedoms, a portrait of Lord Gort, costing 200 guineas, and the gilding of some pictures, a total sum of £337.0.10. There is no historical reference to the use of a mayoral chain before this date.

The chains were made of gold and were intended for the use of the Mayor and two sheriffs. Later the sheriffs' chains were used by the town clerk and the treasurer.

The principal mayoral chain has sixty-four links. From the year 1822 it became customary, but not obligatory, for the Mayor in office to add a flat ring or roundel, engraved with his name and his year of office. After the Reform of the Corporation, inscriptions were added on the reverse side of the roundel, recording various local, national, and even international events. In order to make room for these inscriptions, the rings became larger and larger until eventually they were no longer rings but medallions. Even then the mayors were at a loss to record fully the important happenings during their year of office, and some of the medallions have the inscriptions running on to the edge.

## SECOND MAYORAL CHAIN :

The secondary mayoral chain is made up of fifty-one plain gold links. It is the one generally worn by the mayor, the more important chain, on account of its weight and cumbersomeness, being retained for state occasions."



A 66955

# CORPORATION OF LIMERICK

## Mayoral Chain

- | <i>Medal</i> | <i>Inscription</i>  |
|--------------|---|
| 1.           | D. F. G. Mahony, Esq., Mayor, Year 1822.  |
| 2.           | Nicholas Mahon, Esq., Mayor, Year 1826.   |
| 3.           | Vere Hunt, Esq., Mayor of Limerick, October 1st, 1828.  |
| 4.           | John Crips, Esq., Mayor of Limerick, 1831.  |
| 5.           | Alderman John Vereker, 1833.  |
| 6.           | Garrett Hugh Fitz Gerald, Esq., Mayor of Limerick—Oct. 1st, 1838  |
| 7.           | Hon. Charles Smyth-Vereker, Mayor, 1841.  |
| 8.           | Pierce Shannon, Corbally House, Mayor, January 1st, 1844. Died in his Mayoralty, June 6th, 1844.  |
| 9.           | Edmd. F. G. Ryan, Mayor, 1846. Floating docks commenced. Total failure of potato crop. £5,000 collected in the city for the poor.   |
| 10.          | Michael Quinn, Mayor, 1848. Got possession of the Island Bank for the citizens. Railway communication opened 9th May between Dublin and Limerick.   |
| 11.          | Laurence Quinlivan, Mayor, 1850. Presided at Banquet of the citizens to General Lord Gough on his Lordship's return from India 16th May. Attended Lord Mayor of London's Banquet to Prince Albert and the Mayors of the United Kingdom, in furtherance of the Great Industrial Exhibition of all Nations. |
| 12.          | Henry Watson: Mayor 1823, 24, 26 and 54. The Mayor this (War against Russia declared. Irish Militia embodied) year traversed land and water boundaries of the Corporation Municipality—Year, 1826-54.   |
| X 13.        | James Spaight, Esq., Mayor, 1856. Visit and entertainment of the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Lieutenant. 1877 Opened Peoples Park. Reformed night watch. Laid foundation stone of St. John's Cathedral and Sailor's Home. Peace with Russia.   |
| 14.          | Edmund Gabbett, Esq., Mayor, 1858. Visit of H.R.H. Prince Alfred 26th June.   |

- | <i>Medal</i> | <i>Inscription</i>  |
|--------------|---|
| 15.          | Alderman William Fitzgerald, Mayor, 1860. Died during his Mayoralty 26th October, Aged 34 years.  |
| 16.          | John Kerr, 1907. Opened the All Ireland Industrial Conference in the Town Hall, November 28th. Opened the Tuberculosis Exhibition in the Atheneum, November 30th. Attended Consecration of the Most Rev. Dr. Boylan as Bishop of Kilmore in Cavan Cathedral. With sword and Mace Bearers. Also Alderman McNiée and J. H. Roche, Esq., J.P.  |
| 17.          | Alderman William Lane-Joynt, Mayor, 1862. (Appointed Clerk of the Crown for County Limerick). Great Distress in Lancashire, consequent on the Civil War in America.   |
| 18.          | Eugene O'Callaghan, Esq., Mayor of Limerick 1861. Presented address to Lord Wodehouse on his assuming the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland. Birth of a son of the Prince of Wales. The Corporation Gas Works renovated. Bill for Corcanree embankment promoted by the Corporation.<br><br>*Note: While the inscription on this medal states that Eugene O'Callaghan was Mayor of Limerick in 1861, he was in fact Mayor in 1864. |
| 19.          | Thomas Joyce, Esq., J.P. Mayor, 1869. The Judges of the Assize attended the Mass in state at the Cathedral with the Mayor and Corporation in their robes, being the first occasion of the kind since the Reformation. Election Petition against City Members defeated. The Protestant Church disestablished in Ireland.   |
| 20.          | William Spillane, Esq., J.P. Mayor of Limerick 1870. President of the Limerick Athenaeum and School of Art—Public Free Library and Limerick Boat Club—unanimously elected to each office. Declaration of War between France and Prussia, July 15th. Irish Land Act became law—August 1st. Corcanree embankment opened October 14th. First public free library in Limerick—opened December 15th.                             |
| 21.          | J. T. Cleary, Mayor of Limerick, 1872. Visit of Earl and Countess Spencer, Lord Lieutenant. Address presented from Corporation—Resignation of Ministry. Formation of Conservative Government by Mr. Disraeli.   |
| 22.          | S. O'Mara, Mayor of Limerick. (1885/86). Elected M.P. Queens Co. Ossory Division. Home Rule Bill introduced by W. E. Gladstone. Most Rev. Dr. C. Butler, Bishop died. Rev. Dr. E. T. O'Dwyer Consecrated Bishop.  |
| 23.          | J. J. Cleary, Mayor of Limerick. Re-elected for the third time 1874. Mayor attended Banquet June 3rd of The Lord Mayor of London. Gladstone Ministry re-signed. Address of congratulations to his Grace the Duke of Abercorn,   |

## Medal

## Inscription

- presented by the Mayor and Deputation for the Corporation at the Viceregal Lodge. First Parliament Election under Ballot Act—Isaac Butt Q.C. Richard O'Shaughnessy, returned Feb. 8th. First sod of the Peoples Park raised by Mayor October 26th. Silver spade and trowel presented. Silver cradle presented to Mayoress by the Corporation and citizens, value 250 guineas.
24. Ambrose Hall, declared Mayor for year 1875 by Right Hon. Justice Keogh after trial on petition in Court of Queen's bench. International rifle match between America and Ireland. Frightful inundations in France, Hungary, England and Ireland and etc. International Municipal Festivities in London. O'Connell Centenary Celebration. Fancy Charity Ball organised by Mayor by which £120 was realised for the poor.
25. John Francis Walker, Mayor 1876. Thomas E. O'Brien, Esq., South Hill, first high Sheriff elected by the Reformed Corporation. Opening of Catholic Institute.
25. The laying of the foundation stone of the Tower and Spire of the Redemptorist Church, Mount St. Alphonsus, which is to be furnished with a grand peal of bells. All being the gift of Alderman John Quin ex-High Sheriff.
26. Alderman Jerome Counihan — 1882/83. Address of welcome presented by Mayor and Corporation in Dublin to Earl Spencer on appointment as Lord Lieutenant. Opening of Dublin Exhibition attended by Mayor and Mace Bearers. New Church of St. Michael built and St. John's Cathedral's spire finished. Most Rev. Dr. Butler Lord Bishop. First tree on Military Road planted by Mayor. Wellesley Bridge opened free of toll. Gold key presented to Mayor by Harbour Board. Royal Agricultural Society Show and Art Exhibition opened during visit of Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer. Bill passed to free Athlunkard Bridge from toll. Water works purchased and taken over by the Mayor.
27. Stiophain M. O'Meara, Meire Luimni 1921-23. Torcaire Dail Eireann sna Stait Aontaithe 1921. Fe glas i gcampa Drioccead Nua 1922/23. Ball de'n Coirle Stait. Stephen O'Meara, Mayor of Limerick 1921/23. Trustee Dail Eireann 1921. Special Envoy to U.S.A. 1921. Interned Newbridge 1922/23. Member of Council of State. Appointed by President de Valera 1959.
28. S. O'Mara, Mayor of Limerick, 1885. Failure of Munster Bank. Visit of Prince of Wales to Railway Station. Not received in City by Mayor or citizens. Resistance to police tax brought to a successful issue. First Mayor elected as Nationalist.
29. Alphonsus O'Mara, Mayor of Limerick, First Sinn Fein Mayor in

## Medal

## Inscription

- Ireland. Refused Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown 1918/19. Freedom of the City conferred on American Delegates—Michael P. Ryan, Edward S. Dunne, Frank P. Walsh, 7th May, 1919.
30. Miceal O'Ceallachain, Meire, 1920. Go stuama calma stiuraigh se gnothai na cathrach bliain ba deine comhrach agus ba mho uafas i gCogadh na Saoirse, bliain glormhara a cruthaigh do claoideacht agus co-anntracht Gael. I gcoimh na h-oiche, Marta 7, 1921, ina thig fein dunmarbhaidh e ag Gallaibh i lathair a bancheile. Beidh buan-cuimhne ar a ainm's ar a oide i measc na ndaoine, 1879—1921.
31. This link was presented to Saoirse E. Russell, Mayor of Limerick 1954/55, 1955/56, 1956/57, by the sixteen surviving former Mayors of Limerick. G. B. Dillon, J. C. Hinchey, A. O'Mara, Michael B. O'Malley, Michael J. Keyes, Stephen O'Mara, P. F. Quinlan, Patrick O'Connell, B.C., P.C., John Carew, James Reidy, Michael Hartney, K. Bradshaw, P. J. Donnellan, Des. J. O'Malley, Stephen Coughlan, James McQuaine.
32. Alderman James M. Casey, elected First Mayor under the Limerick City Management Act, 1934/1936. Alderman James M. Casey acted as Deputy Mayor from 7th to 22nd March, 1921, after the murder of the Mayor by British Crown Forces.
33. Seachan O Dalaigh, do dhaoradh thar ceann treasuin cum braigdeanas pionuis le linn a saoghail—1884. Do sgaoileadh sac as carcar Portland 1896. Do togadh d'eanguth na Meire e 1899 agus 1900. Do buadhuig an d-teoruide an Ridire Tomas de Cliobh 1901.
34. Miceal B. O'Maille, Meire, 1948/49. Dligeadoir.
35. Cuimnighid ar Luimnig. Do buanu cuimne Seoirse Mic Flanncada. Oglach agus Oifigeach d'arm na Poblachta. Meire Luimnighe 1921, a dunmarbhuidh le Gallaibh na thig fein i lathair a bean-ceile an 7u Marta, 1921.
36. Co. P. F. Quinlan, Mayor 1933/34. Co. P. F. Quinlan. Elected Mayor of Limerick 24th June, 1933. Inaugurated Poor Children's Excursion to Youghal. 30th July, 1933. President de Valera opened Civil Carnival 2nd October, 1933. Entertained Atlantic Fliers: Captain Pond and Lt. Stabelli on 17th May, 1934, who conveyed Mayor's petition to Holy Father, Pope Pius XI. Turned sod Limerick's largest housing scheme, 380 houses, Island Field, 7th June, 1934. Messrs. P. Molloy and Sons and M. Doyle and Son, Builders. Entertained French Engineers 3rd July, 1934. Unanimously elected Mayor

## Medal

## Inscription

- 9th July, 1934. Apostolic Benediction received from Holy Father Pope Pius XI, 13th July, 1934.
37. Denis F. McNamara, Mayor, 1892. Cardinal Manning died Jan. 14th, 1892. Gladstone elected to power on the Home Rule Ticket.
38. Martin Honan, Mayor for the years 1842—1843. The Municipal Reform Act. became Law in Limerick, Nov. 9th, 1841.
39. William J. O'Donnell, J. P. Mayor 1890 (Sheriff 1889). The youngest Mayor of Limerick on record. 1890.
40. Stephen Hastings, Mayor 1878. Elected unanimously 1st Dec. 1877. Death of His Holiness Pope Pius IX. 32nd year of his Pontificate. Congratulatory address to Leo XIII on his accession. Treaty of Berlin signed July 13th. Invasion of Afghanistan.
41. James F. Barry, 1902. Seamus F. de Barra I na S. Abhi 'na Ard Sirram Meire Luimnighe 1902.
42. Francis A. O'Keeffe, Solicitor, Mayor of Limerick for three years 1887, 1888 and 1889. Elected member of Parliament for the City of Limerick 18th April, 1888. Introduced Public Libraries Act into Limerick. Turned first sod New Water Works, 5th September, 1888. Corporation Artisans Dwellings first erected.
43. William M. Nolan: High Sheriff, 1890. Mayor 1895 to 1896. Chairman Committee "Garryowen" Fete opened by Countess of Dunraven and realised £3,000, for Barrington's Hospital. Mayoress presided at "Colleen Bawn" stall. Nolan's cottages built. Scheme of Technical Instruction for City initiated. Mayor went with deputation to Lord Lieutenant re endowment for Technical Instruction. Trade and Labour Congress in Limerick. Attended by Mayor in state. Band Stand in Peoples Park inaugurated by Mayor. Garryowen Football Club won Munster Cup. Presented by Mayoress.
44. Alderman P. Riordan, Mayor 1891. The leader of the Irish people. Charles S. Parnell. Died October 6th, 1891.
45. Michael O'Gorman, Mayor 1879 and re-elected 1880. 1879 St. Alphonsus Tower completed and bells blessed. Mayor and Corporation attending ceremony. Isaac Butt M.P. for City—died. Prince Imperial of France killed in Zulu War. Water Arbitration held in Limerick. 1880 Limerick Gas Company's works acquired by Corporation. General election. Resignation of Lord Beaconsfield. Gladstone appointed Prime Minister. Address of welcome to his Excellency, Earl Cowper, Lord Lieut. presented by the Mayor and Deputation of the Corporation. Foundation stone of Clock Tower at Dock,

## Medal

## Inscription

- laid by Miss O'Gorman, daughter of the Mayor. Great agitation for reform of Land Laws through Ireland.
46. J. J. Cleary, unanimously re-elected Mayor, 1873. Vote by Ballot Act became law in Ireland. Opening of graving dock by Earl Spencer Lord Lieutenant, May 14th. Over three hundred citizens invited by Mayor to accompany his Excellency and Countess Spencer to Scattery Island dejeuner on board steamer. Ashantee war broke out. Irish eight won shield at Wimbledon.
47. Robert Mac Donnell, Esq., J.P., Mayor of Limerick. 1871. Siege and surrender of Paris and termination of Franco-Prussian War. Visit of H.E. Earl Spencer Lord. Lt. 10th June and presentation of address at Town Hall. Presentation of Address by Mayor and Corporation to Col. W. Monsell M.P. for County Limerick, at Tervoe: Jan. on his appointment as Postmaster General. John MacDonnell J.P. Father of Mayor High Sheriff, City of Limerick. 1870-1871.
48. Alderman John R. Tinsly, J.P. Mayor of Limerick, 1865. General Election. Russell and Gavin re-elected for the City. £3,000 expended on sewerage. Distress among working classes and outdoor relief obtained—£500 expended on City Gaol. £500 obtained for Corcanree Embankment and work began. Ancient treaty stone raised on pedestal. Jubilee Fountain erected in St. John's Parish. Tait Testimonial Tower begun.
49. Robert McMahon, J.P., unanimously elected Mayor of Limerick, 1st December, 1862, for year 1863. New Church of St. Alphonsus dedicated 7th same month. Prince of Wales married 10th March, 1863 and address of congratulation presented by Mayor at Marlboro' House. Mayor presented at Queen's levee St. James' Place 8th June. Slob lands at Corcanree transferred by the Crown to Corporation on 20th November.
50. John Thomas McSheehy, Esq., J.P. Mayor of Limerick for the year 1861. Presented by the citizens with a valuable silver testimonial on leaving office. Civil war broke out this year in the hitherto United States of America. Prince Consort died 14th December, in this year. £1,100 collected for the purchase of fuel for the poor of the City.
51. Michael Robert Ryan, J.P., Mayor of Limerick, 1859. General Election 4th May. F. W. Russell elected third time. Major Gavin elected second time, members of Parliament for the city. Silver cradle presented to Mrs. Ryan by Town Council and Corporation Officers in accordance with ancient custom of city to commemorate the birth of a son and heir on the 30th January in year of mayoralty.

*Medal**Inscription*

52. Thomas Kane, J.P., M.D. Mayor of Limerick, 1852/57. General Election: Robert Potter of France and William Russell, Esq., returned members for Limerick.  
The O'Connell statue inaugurated 15th August. General Election: Francis William Russell and Sergeant O'Brien elected 1857.
53. Henry O'Shea, Esq., Mayor of Limerick 1855.  
Public fountains erected for the poor of the City.
54. William Henry Hall, Mayor of Limerick, 1853.  
Great Munster Fair, new Corn market, floating docks opened by Earl St. Germans.
55. Thaddeus McDonnell, Esq., J.P. Mayor, 1851.  
The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, elected M.P. for the City.
56. Alderman John Boyce, J.P. Mayor of Limerick, 1849. Presented the Corporation address to her Majesty at the Levee Dublin. Laid the foundation stone of the floating docks, on which occasion he was presented with a silver trowel.
57. Thomas Walnutt, Esq., Mayor of Limerick, 1847. The Liberator died at Genoa, 15th May.  
General Election, John O'Brien and John O'Connell, the son of the Liberator returned.
58. William J. Geary, M.D. Mayor of Limerick. 1844—45.  
First arch stone of the Abbey River Bridge laid on the 29th Nov. 1845.
59. Sir Richard Franklin, M.D., Mayor of Limerick, 30th Sept. 1839.
60. Alderman John J. Piercy, Mayor of Limerick, 1834.
61. The Hon. J. P. Vereker, Mayor of Limerick, 1832/33.
62. Henry Rose, Esq., Mayor of Limerick, year 1829.
63. Thomas Jervis, Mayor of Limerick, 1st October, 1827.
64. Henry Watson, Esq., Mayor of Limerick,—Years, 1823, 1824, 1825.

