

This dayweek the message arrived informing the pull of the relief of Kimberley, the retreat of Cronje, and the attack upon his lager by Lord Kitchener with the Artillery. Immediately also it was announced that the Boer force on the banks of the Tugela had been largely diminished in order to send reinforcements to Cronje, so that the road to Ladysmith was practically open to the force commanded by Buller. Two events were, therefore, confidently looked forward to—namely, the relief of Ladysmith and the surrender of the Boer army under Cronje. Buller has, indeed, entered Colenso, but the Boers left behind at the Tugela have only retired to Ficksburg the next station on the line of railway, where they are protected by the guns at Bulwara, and occupying a very strong position. It is expected that they intend to make a resolute stand before they permit our troops to reach Ladysmith. Our artillery is well advanced and the troops are eager to be led to the attack. The garrison at Ladysmith is not idle, as heavy firing has been heard in that direction, and it is reported that Sir George White made a sortie on Thursday last and captured a number of waggon. Intelligence as regards operations at the Tugela shows that Cronje is making a most stubborn defence in the expectation that reinforcements must arrive soon. It has been an incessant conflict between Boers and British since this memorable retreat began. All Sunday the artillery fire never ceased till nightfall. It was one of the most fiercely contested in the history of the war, and by evening both sides were completely fired out. During the night no sound was heard from either side, but the undaunted Boers spent the hours of darkness in constructing strongholds round their lager. On Monday Cronje asked for a twenty-four hours' armistice to bury his dead, which was refused by Lord Kitchener. A little later came a message that if the British were so kind as to refuse an armistice for such a purpose there was nothing for Cronje to do but surrender. Lord Kitchener then proceeded to the lager to receive the surrender, but he was told that it was all a "mistake." In the meanwhile the Boers gained so much time. Lord Kitchener then ordered the bombardment of the position by three field batteries and a howitzer battery, the latter using lyddite. The Boers retired to their trenches by the river, the howitzer dropping shells amongst them, and we are told that "the trenches were soon filled with a terrible green fume from the lyddite." During Monday a British force occupied some hills to the east of the Boer position. General French and his cavalry arrived in the neighbourhood, and General Roberts arrived in camp. The early part of Tuesday passed quietly, though in the morning the British infantry assailed the Boers at the river bed and French's artillery was heard to the east. By Tuesday evening Lord Roberts determined to crush Cronje, once for all by his artillery. Fire was opened from both banks at a range of 2,000 yards, with six field batteries, one howitzer battery, and three naval guns. The shell fire searched every bush and crevice on the river banks, the lyddite shells raised clouds of green smoke that filled the river bed, shrapnel burst in all directions, and the heavier guns added to the terrible din. Night put an end to the work of destruction. The correspondent concludes his description saying:—"I am writing in the middle of the sleeping camp. Not a sound

**CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS—LIMERICK SUCCESSORS.**—At the January Examination for Boy Copyists in the Civil Service, Miss D. Coffey and Wm. J. Kinmonth, Pupils of Clare street National School, were amongst the list of successful candidates. They were specially prepared by Mr Broderick.

**S. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.**—There will be special lectures during Lent on Fridays at 11.30 a.m., as follows: March 2nd, Canon O'Brien; 9th, Rev. S. J. Hackett; 16th, Rev. R. S. Ross-Lewis; 23rd, Rev. F. Langbridge; 30th, Canon G. M. Luther; April 6th, Rev. C. V. Atkinson.

**P.Y.M.A. BIBLE CLASS.**—This Class will meet on Monday evening in 97, George-street, at 8 o'clock. The subject of lesson will be: "How Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost" (Acts v., 1-16). All young men are invited to the Class. President: Rev. R. H. Semplo, M.A. (Cantab.).

**FISHING AT CASTLECONNELL.**—The river is now settling down again after the floods, and the chief pools are coming into order. On Doonass Mr J. Enright killed one salmon, 13lbs, on 15th. On Hermitage the fishermen killed one salmon, 10lbs, on 23rd. On the Birdhill waters Mr R. Twiss killed one salmon, 12lbs, on 20th.

**CATHOLIC LITERARY INSTITUTE.**—On Monday evening next a most interesting entertainment consisting of Readings and Music will be given in the Hall of the Catholic Institute. A highly attractive programme which will be supported by several well-known lady and gentleman amateurs, will be submitted, and should attract a crowded house. Details in our advertising columns.

**THE SOUTH MAYO ELECTION.**—The Mayor has left town for South Mayo to support the candidature of Major McBride of the Boer Army. His candidature is warmly advocated by the Nation, while the Freeman champions that of Mr John O'Donnell, the candidate of the United Irish League. Alderman Joyce is acting as locum tenens for the Mayor during his absence.

**CHIPPENDALE INITIAL STATIONERY.**—Messrs Guy and Company are showing a quite new and very stylish sample of stationery, under the above title. It is of a dark olive green shade with a neat white border, and the envelopes, which are of very pretty design, can be had with any initial that the purchaser may desire. A package of this notepaper and envelopes is inclosed in an artistic box. The price is extremely moderate—viz 1s or 2d extra by post. We feel sure the "Chippendale Initial Stationery" will be very popular with the public.

**THE LABOURERS ACT.**—The report of Mr Edmund Bourke, Local Government Board Inspector, relative to the Labourers Act Inquiry, held by him some months ago, has been received. That portion concerning the No 1 (Limerick) District Council has been already published. In No 2 (Clare) Rural District it was proposed under the scheme that 21 plots of land should be acquired by compulsory purchase, and to build 20 cottages. The Inspector, after careful consideration of the evidence and personal inspection of the sites, recommends that sanction should be given to the acquisition of ten plots of land, and the erection of ten cottages thereon.

**S. MARY'S CATHEDRAL.**—Quinquagesima Sunday Matins, 11.30 o'clock: Venite, Turle in D; Chant, Morning in D and Hayes in G; Service, Garrett in D; Hymn, 544; Communion Service, Garrett in D; Morning Preacher, the Dean. Evensong, 3.30 o'clock—Chant, Aloock (B flat) and Walmsley (F); Service, Garrett in D; Anthem, "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem" (Bless), Ps. cxlvii, v. 12; Hymn, 431; Evening Preacher, Rev. T. F. Abbott, B.D. Service daily at 11 and 3; Litany on Wednesday and Friday. Celebration of the Holy Communion every Sunday after Matins, and on the 1st Sunday of the month at 8 a.m. Wednesday next being Ash-Wednesday, the hours of service will be 11.30 and 3.30.

**WM B FITT'S SALES OF IMPORTANT SPOURING LAND, CATTLE & FURNITURE.**—Reference to our advertising columns of this issue under the heading of Wm B Fitt's sales is worthy the notice of investors and capitalists. We give particulars of some highly important securities which are to be sold on March 5th, they comprise the rents arising out of property situated in one of the centre blocks of George street also the rental out of a small range known as Fitzgerald's Cottages, this latter is a particularly good investment for small capitalists, the former speak for themselves. Under the land department there is an exceedingly sound and eligible farm known as "The Hill" Pallasgreen, Rathmore near Clonsilla.

A special meeting of the Corporation was held last night to instal the High Sheriff into office, and to transact other business. The Mayor presided. There were also present—Aldermen T Prendergast, M Joyce, E B Clave, S O'Mara, M McDonnell, P McDonnell. Councillors—William Fitzgerald, J O'Brien (Irishtown), M Murphy, J Hassett, T H Clave, J P, High Sheriff; W Whelan, J Barry, J Connery, M Donnelly, J O'Brien (Abbey), J Connery, P Herbert, J Godsell, J Hayes, Michael Donnelly, L Carr, P Mulony, M Spain, M Prendergast, J Vaughan, D Begley, and E P O'Connor. Messrs Wm M Nolan, Town Clerk; J Dundon, Law Adviser; M J DeCourcy, Water Works Secretary; and M Wolfe, City Treasurer, were in attendance. The minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

**INSTALLATION OF HIGH SHERIFF.**  
The Town Clerk said the first business was to instal the High Sheriff, Mr T. H. Clave, J.P., into office as High Sheriff for the current year.

The Mayor regretted that a slight indisposition prevented him from having some little decorations here to mark this event, but he was satisfied that a practical business man like Mr Clave would admire them more for the straight, business-like manner in which they undertook their work than for the observance of any formalities. He was voicing the feelings of those with whom he was identified in saying that it afforded him extreme pleasure to instal the High Sheriff into office for the second year. Perhaps few men in the future history of their Corporation would have the same honor conferred on them as Mr Clave and he had—of being elected to their positions—he believed unanimously—for two successive years. He spoke of the dignified manner in which the High Sheriff had discharged his duty, and was satisfied he had not in any way used his high prerogative harshly or rudely in reference to the appeals that had been from time to time made to him to put the law in force. In conclusion the Mayor, amidst applause, invested the High Sheriff with the chain of office.

The High Sheriff, who was warmly received, thanked them most sincerely for their action in again placing him in the position of High Sheriff of their most ancient and historic city. He also thanked the Mayor for his very kind remarks. As regards decorations of evergreens and flowers—much more did he feel that he had the decoration of good, kind faces (hear, hear) who had almost unanimously placed him in the position he again held. When they started last year there were many fears that very unpleasant things would come to pass, but he must say that he never had an unkind word with any one there, and had always been met in a most friendly spirit (hear, hear). His position as High Sheriff had been unique, as far as he could understand. They had the Spring Assizes and the Summer Assizes, and it was his pleasing lot to present the presiding Judge on each occasion with a pair of white gloves. He hoped he was not to be called a gentleman of the gloves, because he was not a fighting man (laughter). Now, he was told that they were going to have white gloves at the coming Assizes, and it spoke well for dear old Limerick that law and order should be so well observed. He hoped they would get on in the present year in the same friendly spirit that had characterised the past (applause).

Mr O'Brien (Irishtown) said he wished to refer to the Mayor's remarks that Mr Clave was elected unanimously—

The Mayor pointed out that the business was to instal Mr Clave as High Sheriff, and he thought they would agree with him that they were called upon to do it gracefully, generously, and manfully (applause).

Mr O'Brien said that he had no intention to say anything with regard to the High Sheriff, except that nothing had occurred since the 23rd January to alter his opinion.

The matter dropped.

**CONDOLENCE.**  
Alderman Joyce proposed a vote of condolence with Councillor Whelan on the death of his brother.

It was passed unanimously.

**THE PETITION AGAINST RAILWAY AMALGAMATION.**  
The next business was the adoption of a resolution in accordance with the Borough Funds (Ireland) Act to empower the Council to incur the necessary expenses of lodging a petition with Parliament, and opposing the Great Southern and Midland Companies Bills for amalgamating with the Waterford and Limerick Company.

Alderman Joyce said the Council had already passed a resolution unanimously opposing both Bills, and owing to some technicality it was necessary for the resolution to be passed again by a clear majority of the Council. It was not necessary for him to make any speech on the matter, and he now simply proposed that the resolution already passed be now again adopted by the Council.

Alderman Prendergast said he had the honour of proposing a similar resolution last year, and he had now again great pleasure in seconding Alderman Joyce's proposition.

Captain Wyldé govt. Alderman O'Mara was £100 a year allowed to retiring on three years salary but he asked them to make it contingent Government Board. Alderman Prendergast. Mr Michael Prendergast of the matter employment for Cahim compensation. Mr Herbert second On a division, 14 for the amendment Mr O'Connor the sum be £100 salary. Mr Barry second There voted for against 8, and £15. The Council so.

**LIMERICK**

An adjourned Council was held. The Mayor presided. There were present: The Mayor; Duignan; Lord D.L.; J O'G D.; T D Atkinson; J Robert Coll; J P Crom; J O'Neill; J P; D Clancy; Mitchell. Mr Poole GA assistant; Mr and Mr Leaby. EXTRA REMUNERATION. The following...

"SIR—With reference on the subject of the Government Board information of the appeal against the Board have fixing his remuneration. Government Act Board have statement of his basis his claim. most of these are in his capacity and for which claim an increase day up to his secretary now claim will cover as secretary to ask the same at the County Council secretary to the custodian the fixed his remuneration at £200.

"D. J. MACDONALD. Mr Coleman resolution of the at £150. Mr Duggan's Mr Delmege Committee re Government Board. The Chairman only £150. Mr Mackey's the Finance Committee that he would voting for the Mr Delmege decision of the matter? The Chairman necessary you Mr Mackey than would be Mr Coleman see whether our salaries of our Mr Coll the the action of because the towards the assistant the Government Council and with £725, and £925, and he officer of an rat-payers capabilities £1,000 in a year position as a Mr Waller