

PEEPS INTO THE PAST

CHRONICLE FILES 1877

Freemen of Limerick

A special meeting of the Corporation was held today at one o'clock in the Council chambers, Town Hall, for the purpose of formally presenting the freedom of the city, in accordance with the resolution passed at a previous meeting of the council, to the city representatives, Messrs Isaac Butt and Richard O'Shaughnessy.

The Mayor, Mr James Spaight JP, presided, and the other members of the Council present were: Ald Zachary Myles and J J Cleary. Town councillors: John Walker, Jerome Counihan, Patrick Riordan, John Hardiman, Maurice Lenihan JP, John Hayes, John Barry, Laurence Kelly, John Browne, Stephen Flanagan, William Phayer, John Cronin, Donal O'Brien, Michael O'Gorman, John Bernal, John Moloney, George Bassett and Dr Thomas O'Sullivan.

Mr Butt and Mr O'Shaughnessy were also present and there was a large attendance of the general public.

The Assistant Town Clerk read the resolutions, adopted unanimously at a previous meeting of the Council, which proposed that the freedom of the city should be conferred on Messrs Butt and O'Shaughnessy.

The Mayor, after addressing the assembly, amid much applause, went through the ceremony of conferring the freedom on Mr Butt.

Mr Butt, who was very warmly applauded, said it was a proud thing to feel that he was now associated as a citizen with a city which dates its municipal pri-

viliges to a date farther back than that of the proud city of London (Hear, hear).

Limerick, as a corporation, existed before London. He then addressed the meeting on the Municipal Privileges Bill.

The Mayor said his next duty was to confer upon a successful opponent and rival of his an honour similar to that which had been accorded to Mr Butt.

He heartily joined in doing honour to the junior member for the city, Mr R O'Shaughnessy.

Born

On the 27th inst, at Fort George, Kilpeacon, the wife of G C Furnell Esq, of a son.

Address

With the kind permission of Right Rev Dr Butler, a preliminary meeting of the Roman Catholic ladies of the Diocese of Limerick was held to day in the lecture hall of the Sacred Heart College, Crescent, for the purpose of adopting an address conveying to His Holiness the expression of their profound respect and unalterable devotion on the occasion of the unprecedented event of his golden jubilee.

Trotting Match

A trotting match for a wager of 20 pounds was held yesterday, the competing horses being the property of Mr Joseph Murphy, solicitor, and Mr William Clayton, butter merchant.

The course lay from Ferrybridge to the New Docks, a distance about seven miles, and Mr W Johnston, who drove for Mr Murphy, came in the winner, after a fiercely contested race, by scarcely a length.

The event gave rise to much interest and several wagers were laid on the issue.

Surgeon Major

We notice from the promotions, appearing in the "Madras Mail" of April 11th, that Mr David John McCarthy MD FRCS, after twelve years service, has been promoted to the rank of Surgeon Major.

The above gentleman is a native of Limerick, and son of Mr J McCarthy, of Catherine Street.

Public procession

It is intended to have a public procession through the principal thoroughfares of the city on Sunday next in honour of the jubilee of Pope Pius IX.

There are to be religious services in St John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, after which the procession will reform and march by a prescribed route to the Redemptorist Church, where the proceedings will be brought to a close.

The procession will be composed of the boys of the Christian Brothers' Schools, the members of the Confraternity of the Holy Family and such members of the Corporation as chose to take part in the proceedings.

Triumphal arches will be erected in different parts of the city.

Diocesan appointments

The Right Rev Dr Butler, Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, has appointed the Rev James Mulqueen, administrator, St Michael's, Parish Priest of Shanagolden, in room of the Very Rev James Synan, PP VF, deceased.

Limerick Artist

It is very creditable to our local artist, Mr Henry O'Shea, George Street, that

the Irish Catholic members of parliament should have entrusted him with the engraving and illuminating of the address which they are about to present to His Holiness Pope Pius IX on the occasion of the attainment of the 50th year of his episcopacy.

Their action is well worthy of imitation, as but too many of our countrymen have quite a penchant for passing over the claims of native talent when one would naturally expect that it should be all the other way.

We feel sure that the address to which Mr O'Shea has just given the "coup de main" will afford every satisfaction to the Irish Catholic members, for as a work of art it reflects every credit on the artist.

The address, which is done in mediaeval church lettering, has on each side a border made up of gems of Irish and Roman scenery, two of the smaller panels presenting views of Westminster, and the Bridge and Castle of St Angelo.

The artist has succeeded in giving a very life-like sketch of Ireland's Patron saint, who is seen in one of the larger panels arched in his episcopal robes, a round tower in the distance, and in an act (legendary, we would presume) of driving serpents, innumerable, into the ocean.

Surmounting the address are the Pontifical arms and some beautiful cross work in illuminated characters.

The presentation will be made towards the end of the month.

Rail tragedy

A melancholy accident occurred at Castleconnell railway station on Sunday evening whereby a young man named Thomas Forde,

a stone cutter from Carey's Road, lost his life under very saddening circumstances.

Between six and eight hundred excursionists left the city on Sunday by the morning and afternoon trains for Castleconnell and Killaloe, and of the number the greater portion remained in Castleconnell.

In the evening, as the time for the arrival of the train from Killaloe on its way to Limerick drew nigh, there was a considerable crowd collected on the Castleconnell platform, and is usually the case with excursionists a good deal more of undue hilarity and knocking about prevailed than was altogether required.

Indeed, when the whistle of the locomotive announced the near approach of the train, there was something more than the usual commotion going on at one end of the platform, and as the engine, followed by some 20 or 25 carriages, was passing the station, a scramble took place on the part of the third class passengers to secure seats before the train had stopped.

A great amount of confusion ensued, and while several passengers were surging about the platform, a cry arose that there was a man under the train.

It unfortunately turned out to be but too true, and before the train could be brought to a standstill, the carriages of a third-class compartment had passed over the unhappy man, severing one of the arms clean off, a little above the elbow joint, and causing such internal injuries that he died in six or eight minutes after he was extricated.

As stated above, the man turned out to be a stone cutter named Forde from this city, and his untimely end is mainly attributed to

the rash attempt made by him to enter one of the carriages while the train was in motion.

And it is said that another man, named Doherty, who was in company with the deceased, had a very narrow escape as he missed his footing while attempting to enter the train with Forde and would have fallen on the permanent way were it not that Mr Joseph Green Jnr, of Newport, caught him while he was falling between the moving carriages and the platform, and so saved him from a fate similar to Forde's.

The carriage which had passed over the body of the deceased was found to have left the rails, and as a consequence the train was over an hour late when it arrived in Limerick.

Yesterday, Mr Thomas Costello, county coroner, attended at Castleconnell for the purpose of holding with the assistance of a jury an inquiry into the cause of death.

Evidence was given by the station master, engine driver and the inspector, Mr Duffy, showing that it was owing to the deceased having attempted to enter the carriage while the train was in motion the sad occurrence was caused.

At the close of the inquiry, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was killed at Castleconnell railway station by a railway train passing accidentally over him, exonerating the railway officials from all blame in the painful transaction.

Mr John Roberts, traffic manager of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, was present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the proprietors of the line.

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY PADDY MORONEY.