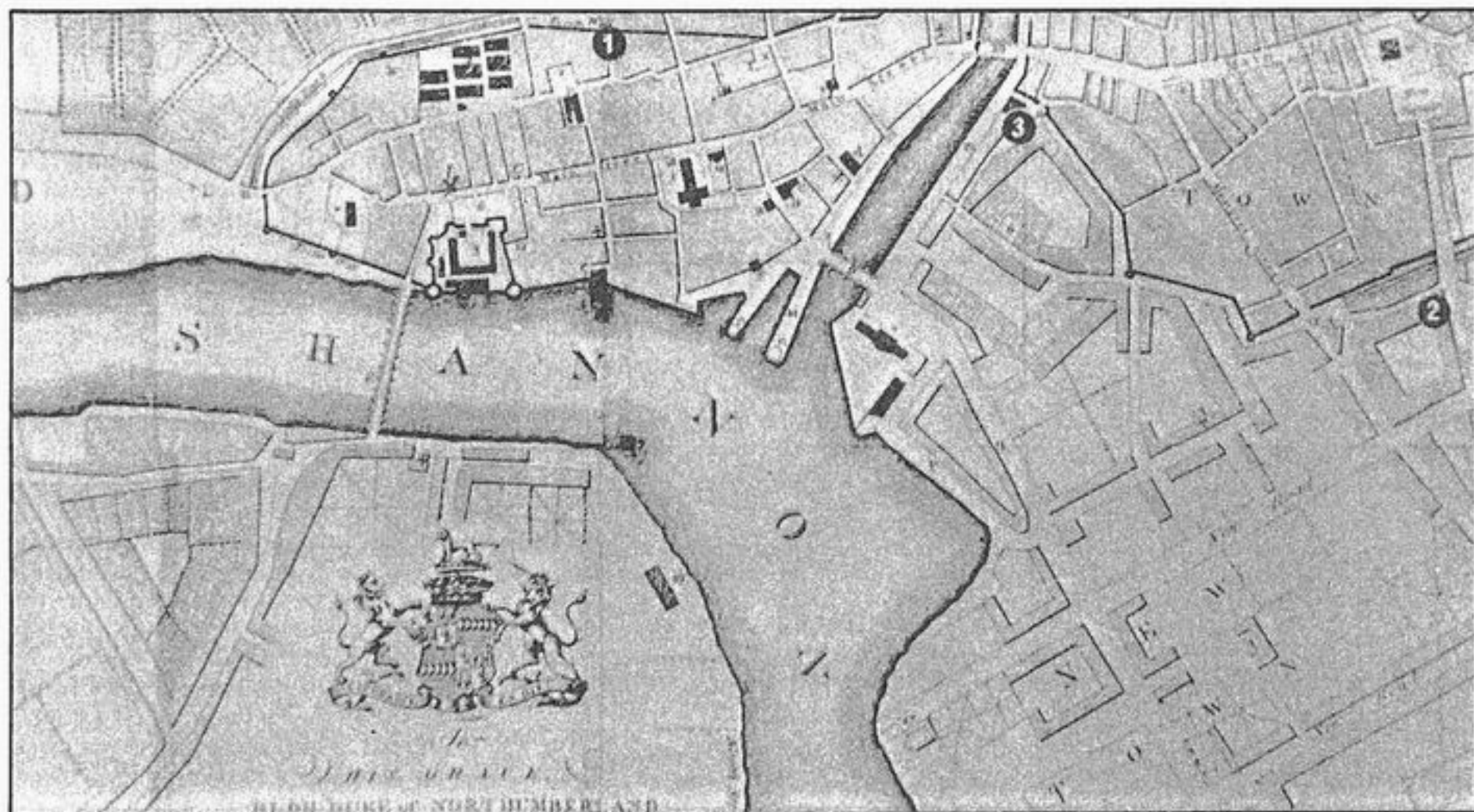


Siege of LIMERICK, September, 1702. By General Ginkle?







18th century map of Limerick.

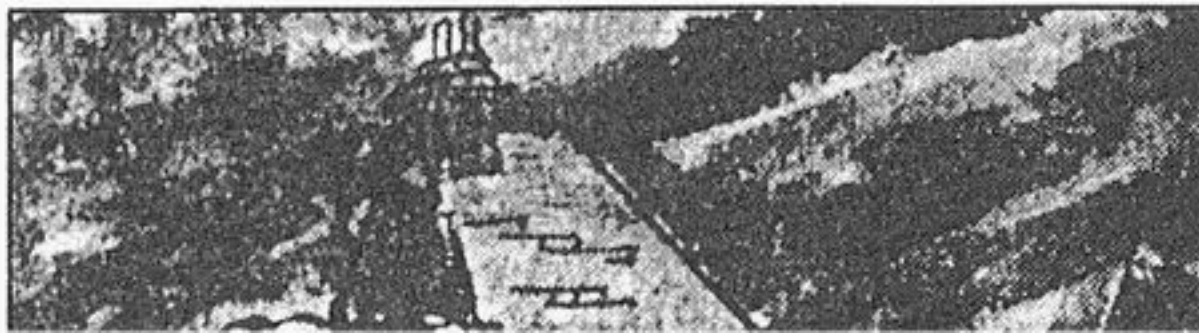
benevolent to give Limerick a lead in founding a hospital of this description, St. John's being the first of its kind to be opened in the city.

John Geary goes on to discuss the conditions of the streets from 1786 to 1792, and deplores the state of the city, the back lanes of the Irishtown, the Abbey and various other parts. During his work in one of these, he contracted fever himself, and mentions that a house situated near Mr. Kelly's tanyard, in a lane leading to the Island, was never free from fever for four years, that another in Father Davy's Lane, Spittal, and a third dwelling near Miss Tucker's Brewery in John's Square were also in a similar state.

Dr. William John Geary, writing on 29

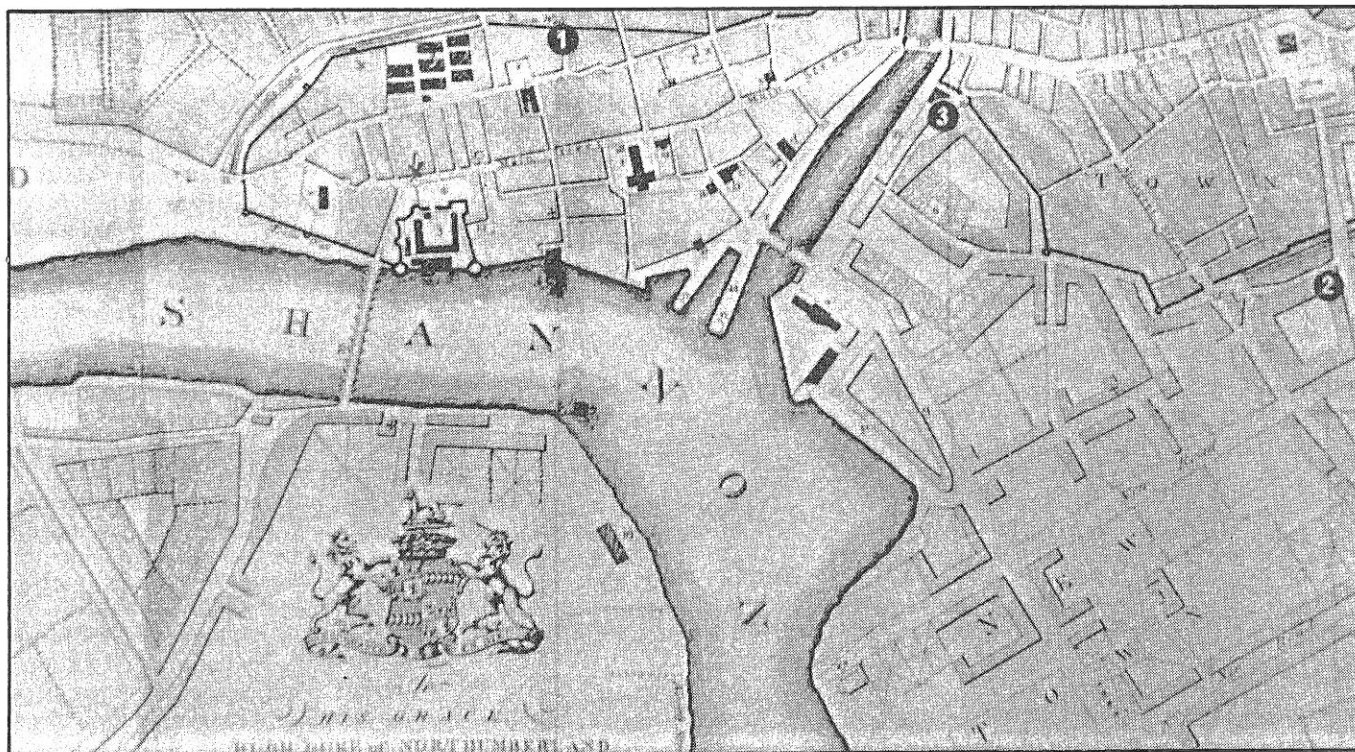
book *12 Months Campaign with the British Legion*, and in describing the fatal effects of epidemic typhus, which attacked that body at Vittoria in January, 1836, stated that the English and Scotch suffered extremely, while the Irish Brigade, composed of the 7th, 9th and 10th Regiments, enjoyed perfect immunity. He added that, had the whole company been composed of Irishmen,

instead of losing 1,000 men at Vittoria, 100 might only have been lost, in spite of the severe winter, bad rations and total want of pay. The Irish Brigade then suffered less from disease, though it was not better off for provisions or quarters than the rest of the force. The author sadly commented 'such were the advantages of misery and starvation at home'.





# SOCI M.



18th century map of Limerick.

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In order to understand the for a hospital in Limerick it is necessary to look at the social conditions of the and the general medical s available at that time. It is necessary to look at the training that was required to provide these services.

From the latter part of the m period the study and practice of m had moved into a period of stag and sunk to a very low level ind situation which remained unchang to 1829. Diagnosis and progn medicine was based on a study stars, natural and hereditary cures study of the urine. Treatment cor of blood-letting and the use of herb anatomy was taught from a dissections.<sup>(1)</sup>

The only recognised universiti the teaching of medicine at the end 15th century were Bologna and



manly interest in and support of dramatic performances spread from the capital to all sections of the country. Indeed, it was during the eighteenth century that the theatrical inclinations of the townspeople of Ireland were aroused and shaped into a permanent, nation-wide tradition which was affected by but never dependent upon any of the movements for Irish political autonomy that flared and faded.

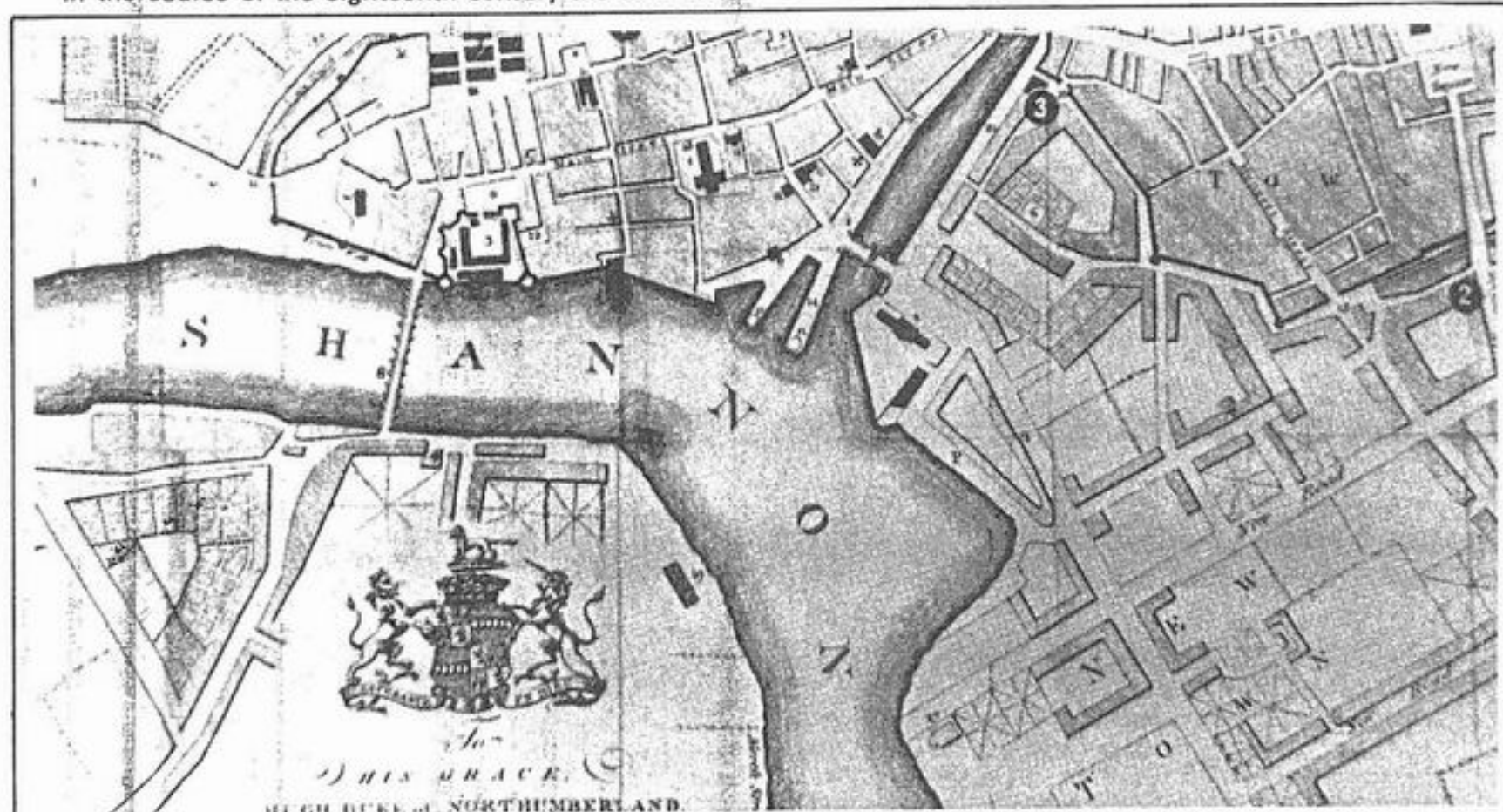
A sociable, beneficent attitude in a majority of the upper classes, and a remarkable sense of humour in the lower orders, made the eighteenth-century Irish towns an alluring 'Ultima Thule' for English as well as native performers. The seventeenth-century concept of players as vagabonds or inferior persons disappeared from the minds of both the profession and the public perhaps more quickly in Ireland than in Britain. For instance, in 1743, a Dublin clergyman's son, John Carteret Pilkington, in a fit of adolescent depression over his musical career, had given up 'hopes of being a gentleman'. During the summer, on a visit to Cork, he suddenly decided to join the troupe at the Theatre Royal because he found the members, by dress, manners, and education, assuming the character of 'gentlemen' and being accepted as such in the city. Thus the gratifying status that actors and actresses generally enjoyed long before 1800 throughout the Emerald Isle proved a decisive factor in giving it fame abroad as 'the Hot-Bed for Actors'.

In the course of the eighteenth century the more im-

ford and Newry became satellites of Dublin ... At first such companies originated for the most part in Dublin and embarked in the summers on sporadic tours.

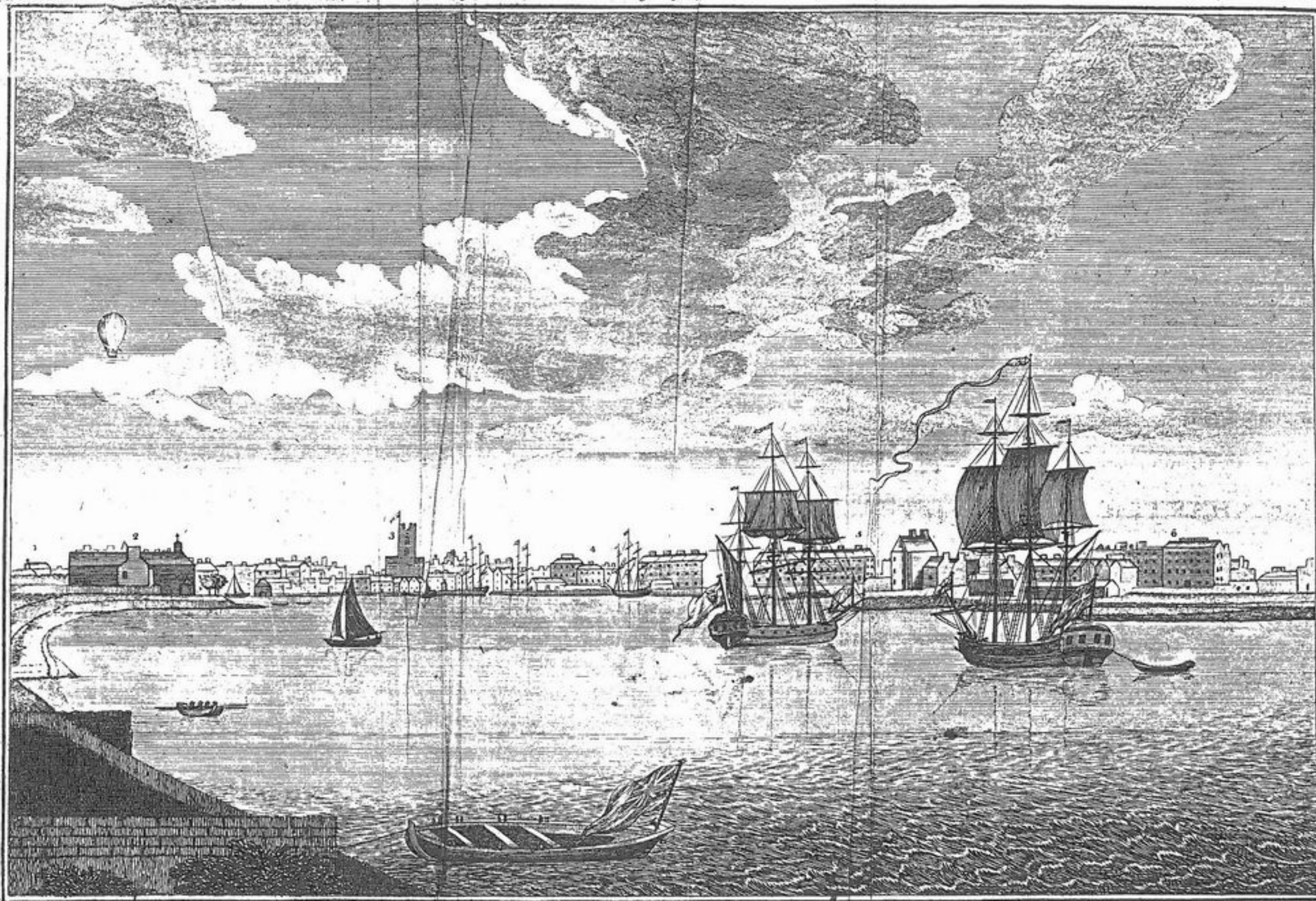
These travelling players fascinated the populace wherever they put up. And, in turn, the spectators at the inns along the road always delighted one of the century's outstanding itinerant comedians, John O'Keeffe. A 'great variety of personages' were sure to assemble at every stopping-place to welcome the troupers and to speed them on their way. Their modes of transport provided the bystanders with a subject for voluble and whimsical repartee: 'the post chaise, the gig, the whiskey, the noddie, the single horse, the double horse, the car', and, above all else, those most humble Irish beasts of burden, 'St. Francis's mules'. As the moment of departure approached, the manager of a strolling band used to round up his fellows like a mother hen overseeing her chicks. On one occasion, O'Keeffe recalled, the manager stood 'at the inn-door, his hands in his fobs, looking anxiously around', and an Irish countryman, pointing at him, loudly addressed another onlooker: "Hush! look! that's the ringleader of them all!"

The manager was the 'ringleader' of a troupe organized in most cases on a 'commonwealth' or shareholding basis. Under such an arrangement each performer shared equally in the profits of each performance after the expenses had been deducted, but the manager customarily enjoyed, in addition to his individual portion,



Map of Limerick by John Ferrar, 1786, showing the sites of the eighteenth century playhouses.





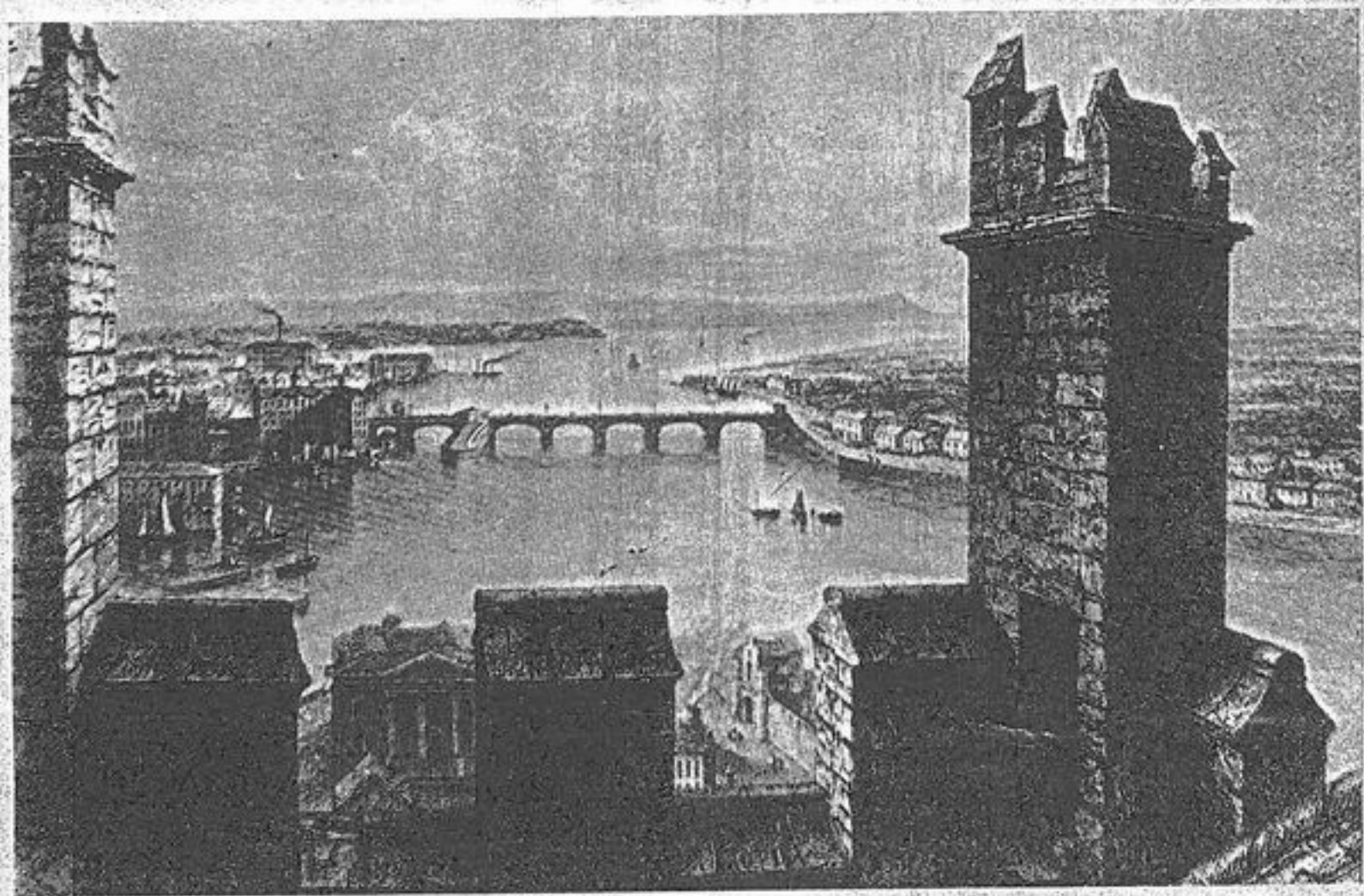
H. Pelham del.

J. Duff sculp.

*View of LIMERICK & NEWTOWN PERY. from the Watch House on the North Strand.*

1. St. Munchin's Church. 2. The Poor House. 3. The Cathedral. 4. The Custom House. 5. Arthur's Quay. 6. Newtown Pery.





VIEW FROM ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL.

The sweet toned bells of Mary's tower,  
Proclaim'd the Saviour's natal hour !  
And many an eye with pleasure glisten'd !  
And many an ear with rapture listen'd !