The siege of Clampett's Bow

by Jim Kemmy


SCOTS GREYS "CHARGING THE MOB" AT LIMERICK.

whose backs they ornamented and were more intent on exploiting the occasion to the fullest rather than on the celebration of an old, time-honoured custom. But the second clash, on the same evening, was a much more violent affair and of far longer duration. This fracas was to become known as the "Siege of Clampett's Bow". The Chronicle, of March 4, 1879, takes up the story:

The neighbourhood of John Street was on Sunday night the scene of a dangerous row. It would appear that for some time past a spleen existed between four families resident in the Irishtown. This animosity was partially dying out and was quickly quelled by the police. In a report, on March 2, the Chronicle described how the trouble began:

A row occurred on Sunday evening in Mungret Street at about seven o'clock. It being "Chalk" Sunday a number of young men and women were amusing themselves by besmearing with chalk everybody that passed them. One young man, having got indignant, struck one of the chalkers. A general melee then ensued, in which stones flew in every direction. One young woman named Mary Murphy, 19 years of age, received a contused wound on the forehead. She was treated at Barrington's Hospital. A boy, fourteen years of age, named Michael Dwyer, who was looking on at the row, was admitted to the hospital suffering from a stroke on the head which caused injury to the brain. He is in a precarious condition. The prisoners are in custody.

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