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## OUT OF THE PAST

By ROBERT HERBERT

I WONDER how many Limerick people remember a journal published in the city as recently as 1887. It was entitled "Irish Trade," and the copy before me, vol. 1, No. 3, is the only one I have ever seen. It is entitled "The Official Organ of the Trades of Limerick," "an advocate of home manufacture and local industries," and "an interesting and instructive monthly magazine," and was modestly priced "one penny."

### THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE.

The magazine gives a very fair cross-sectional view of trade conditions in Limerick 68 years ago, and I shall make my extracts with that viewpoint in mind. It certainly convinces me that there were more original articles being manufactured here in those days. The Mechanics' Institute was a very strong body with Michael Murphy as its President, Thomas Dooley as its Treasurer, and John Hogan its Secretary.

### THE UNITED TRADES.

The United Trades, connected with the Institute, requested that every member coming to Limerick in search of employment first consult the local secretary of his trade looking for a situation. The following were the local secretaries:—Bakers, James Ryan, New Road, Pennywell; Boot-makers, William Egan, John Street; Cabinetmakers, J. McCarthy, Francis Street; Carpenters, Philip Corboy, Clare Street; Coopers, John McKnight, 41 Cornwalis Street; Harness-makers, J. Clohesy, Garryowen; Masons, John Flynn, Mechanics' Institute; Millers, James Bowles, Mungret Street; Painters, John Ryan, Glentworth Street; Plasterers, James Kennedy, Nelson Street; Printers, Michael Honan, Patrick Street; Sandmen, Mathew Crowe, Abbey; Smiths, Michael Stack, Carey's Road; Tailors, John J. O'Callaghan, Mulgrave Street.

### LADY AUGUSTA GOOLD.

"Irish Trade" was an excellently produced magazine, printed by Guy and McQuaide of 114 George St., who, according to their advertisement, claimed — and the production of this magazine proves their claim — that they could do lithographing as neatly as was

done in the largest city. It was probably subsidised by Lady Augusta Goold, the wife of Archdeacon Goold, who must have been one of the most advanced women of her day. Perhaps the reader will remember that, in addition to the great support she gave to Irish labour, she also supported a number of intellectual misfits like the Bard of Thomond.

### LACE WORK.

In this number of "Irish Trade" she has an article on "Irish women's industries," quoting, as a start, John Ruskin's "a happy nation is one in which the hand of the man is on the plough, and that of the woman on the needle," and there is truth in the remark. The article in the main is on needle-work and, with the Misses O'Brien of Foynes Island, she must have been responsible for the revival of the old Limerick craft of lace-making. She maintained that the falling off in this old handcraft has been due to lack of training and to the fact that inferior designs were being used. At the time the Government had appointed a lace inspector, a Mrs. Power, and she had done much good throughout the country.

### EXCELLENT MANUAL.

In addition a Mademoiselle La Reigs de la Blanchaure had been engaged in producing an "Irish Lace Instructor." This excellent little manual took Miss Reigs five years to produce and she sold it for the small sum of one shilling, in spite of the fact that it contained a large number of costly illustrations, some of them coloured. It consisted chiefly of patterns for laces designed as trimmings for dresses of Irish material, such as serges, tweeds and such like warm fabrics.

### THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

The wearing of these all Irish materials among "dames of high degree" had been initiated and encouraged by the Countess of Aberdeen, the wife of the Lord Lieutenant, and withal, a patriotic Irishwoman. Needless to say, many followed in her wake and for a time there was a real revival in the demand for Irish home industries. I regret to say it did not survive long.

## HAVING "WHACK" WHAT HE S IN LIMERICK

(By Willie W. Glee)

IT is some months since I, a Limerick citizen, sent 50,000 others, well to the Municipal Council to do their utmost for and the common good. Mr. Willie W. Gleeson, a man now resident in How far they have progressed that direction I do not know, nor should it concern I were not a citizen, as the people of Sarsfield's more able to look after affairs, without the guidance, of those not residing the ancient Co. Boy.

To the casual visitor, no matter how he may many fine housing schemes are second to none — removed from churches places of employment and ment — he cannot at time but be "impressed innumerable derelict ramshackles which "ad numerous broad approach what is now called "Centre."

### WHERE FERRAR V HIS HISTORY

Quite recently, when through battle-scarred M (my former abode), I fled on gazing down I to see the rubble of once the beautiful, the stone-and-brick residence citizen John Ferrar published his famous "Limerick" (1753). After historic pile served as Catholic College, and birthplace of St. Mary's and Literary Society.

Not far from this spot uncommon sight to see li and rubbish of every covering the wasteland the great St. Francis A flourished. Octogenarian in the Parish will tell remember when this "Land" boasted of "terraces of houses, with and sewerage laid on — a king to live in." (In fact, once reside there Johnny, with whom I played a rugby match in the colours of black and blue they'll persist — the "power" — in telling you and me the foundations there.

# Kilmallock Woman