



WHEN HOSPITAL CLOSURE THREATENED: 1879

by Richard Ahern

On Monday, 13 January, 1879, tenders were presented to the governors of Barrington's Hospital. Present in the boardroom were Charles Burton Barrington, J.P., County High Sheriff, (great-grandson of the hospital's founder Joseph Barrington); Robert Hunt, land and insurance agent, 83, George (now O'Connell) Street; Alderman John Quin, J. Quin & Son, 70, George Street; Archibald Murray, William Todd & Co.; Rev. Benjamin Jacob, rector of St. Michael's Church of Ireland; Arthur Russell, J.N. Russell & Son, flour millers, resident at Lemonfield, Kilpeacon; Francis Kennedy, commission agent, 69, George Street; Charles Hare, archdeacon, St. Mary's Cathedral, Alexander Bannatyne of J. Bannatyne & Sons, corn and flour merchants, Roche's Street, resident at Woodstown, Annacotty; Dr. George De Landre, 2, the Crescent, and William and James Alexander, grocers, oil and colour merchants, 10, George Street and 2, William Street, both resident at Eden Terrace - James also served as the hospital's secretary). Five other governors - Ald. Eugene O'Callaghan, J.P. Edmund Russell, Alexander Shaw, J.P. Joseph Matterson, J.P. and James F. Bannatyne - were absent from this meeting.

The governors examined the various tenders, such as that of Patrick Hartigan, butter merchant, Upper William Street, for the supply of milk at 12d (5p) a gallon; Messrs Mullock & Sons, coal merchants, Henry Street, for Scotch coal at 18/- (90p) a ton, and Wigan coal at 19/- (95p) a ton; Edward Kelly, victualler, Catherine Street, mutton and beef at 8d (3.5p.) per lb.; William Delaney, grocer and pawnbroker, 21 Mungret Street, groceries, wine and spirits; and the tender of £5 from Mr. H.L. Stewart for keeping the clock in good repair for one year.

All the tenders but one were accepted. The only unsuccessful firm was that of John Laird & Co., chemists and druggists, 118, George Street. Dr. Thomas Carey, resident surgeon, objected to Laird's tender on the grounds that he had always bought medicines where they were best and cheapest in town. Following a discussion, the resolution of the matter was left to Dr. Carey.

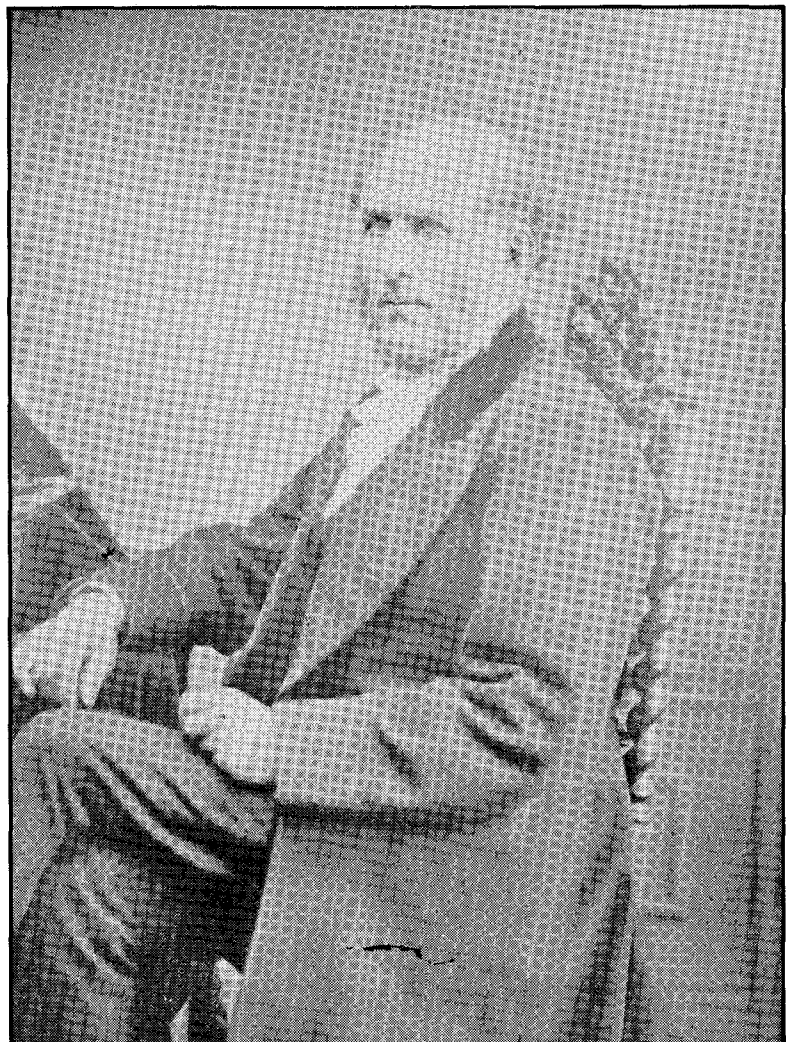
Next on the agenda was the financial statement for the previous year, ending

on 31 December, 1878, which showed an income of £599.10.8d., made up of £116.7.0d. subscriptions, £9.6.7d. donations, £66.14.1d. rents, £9.0.1d. paying cases (most patients could not afford to pay for treatment), £28.4.7d. from the proceeds of concert given by Hon. H. De V. Pery, £99.16.4d. from Lord Lansdowne's bequest and £65.0.9d. from the dividend on Great Southern and Western Railway stock. The remainder was made up of several miscellaneous items. Expenditure for the same period amounted to £797.3.5d, which resulted in a deficit of £197.12.9d. This loss, added to outstanding amounts for previous years, amounted to a sum of £364.15.3d, which was due to the treasurer of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, 63, George

Street, where the governors had opened an account in 1831.

When the various items of expenditure were considered, it was noted that the bill for coal was rather large, but it transpired that Mullock's had not been paid for the 1877 supply of coal until the following year. It was also pointed out that there had been a great many more patients in 1878 than in previous years. The secretary, James Alexander, said that subscriptions for the next year would be very low and would amount to 'only a small thing'. The way out, as he saw it, was to approach the bank manager, John Mortin, to have their credit extended and increased.

Robert Hunt bluntly stated that the hospital could not continue unless they found sufficient money to clear the debt, and added that if they had nothing else to rely on except their credit, then it 'was a



Dr. R. Gelston.



John Godsell.

very poor way to carry on a large establishment ... depending on their own personal credit'. All agreed with this assessment.

The clearing of the substantial debt of nearly £400 was considered to be of the utmost importance. (This amount was quite large, when compared with, for example, the annual wage of £6 for a nurse, or Guinness XX best stout at 1/8d (8p) a dozen. Put in a more relevant context for the governors, it was more than twice the annual salary and wage bill for the entire hospital staff). If they could somehow manage to clear the amount, they planned to appoint an influential deputation to approach the Corporation, and to point out the absolute necessity of that body's support to the tune of £100 to £200 annually. This sum, they believed, would be a relatively trifling tax, but would keep the hospital open.

Hunt continued by saying that Barrington's was the hospital most favoured by the people of Limerick. He pointed out that it had been greatly improved from its undesirable state of a few years ago, and that many of these improvements had been brought about

by Dr. Thomas Carey and Mrs. Carey. To ensure its future, the hospital would need an annual income of between £600 and £700, and he (Hunt) was more than willing to pay his share of the debt.

The governors decided to appeal once more to the citizens, as their predecessors had done 39 years earlier, in 1840, when there had been a huge debt of nearly £1,400. (This debt had been brought about by 'extending too much relief to the poor'. However, some of the creditors had reduced the sum to £575.0.0d, and the hospital committee had limited the admissions to severe surgical cases. The medical officers' most handsomely gave up, during this state of embarrassment, the annual sum of £100 Irish '... and the committee were enabled to keep the house open for the relief of the poor'.) The governors did not wish to restrict admissions again, or to have to close the doors and leave the people with no option but the undesirable Union Workhouse in Mayorstone, or the Fever Hospital attached to St. John's Hospital.

Dr. De Landre suggested the appointment of a deputation to see all the clergymen in the city to arrange an

annual churchgate collection, as this would be a permanent help for the future. Robert Hunt felt this was 'a capital idea'. The governors then deliberated on whether or not the Limerick Corporation had the power to make a grant available to the hospital. The general consensus was that this would be possible, as Cork Corporation had made a grant to the Mercy Hospital in that city, and surely the law in both cities would be the same.

Archdeacon Hare would have been happy to have helped with the church collections, and he felt that the Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. George Butler, would be inclined to co-operate also. Messrs. Hunt, John Quin and Alexander Bannatyne then agreed to subscribe £50 each towards the debt. Following this gesture, the large sum of £275 was contributed before the meeting ended. The governors also selected a deputation to go to the Corporation and clergy of all denominations to make arrangements for a church collection. The deputation consisted of Charles Barrington, Alexander Bannatyne, Robert Hunt and Arthur Russell. Dr. Carey was then thanked for his 'continued indefatigable exertions and interest in the hospital and his unwearied kindness to the patients'.

Over two weeks later, a public meeting for the support of the hospital was held on Friday night, 31 January, 1879, at the Mechanics' Institute, Bank Place. It was presided over by Mayor Michael O'Gorman, with Cornelius Fitzgerald, of the Congregated Trades, as secretary. John Godsell, president of the Congregated Trades, addressed the meeting and said that the working men of Limerick were sensitive to the Barrington's issue, and that the local representatives on the Town Council must restore the annual grant of Corporate funds. (In doing this Godsell was merely asking that the annual presentment which had been paid to the hospital over the years, in amounts varying from £200 to £500, be continued. This grant had been withdrawn 16 years earlier, in 1863, during the mayoralty of Robert McMahon, on the grounds that the Council was unrepresented at the hospital). John Godsell also spoke of the disastrous effects if the hospital closed.

Mr. Dooley, treasurer of the Mechanics' Institute, told of several accident cases where the victims would have died if they had been sent to the Workhouse Hospital. (The Workhouse Hospital, or the Limerick Union Workhouse, was built near Mayorstone at a cost of £10,000, and opened for admissions on 18 May, 1841. Its function was to help the destitute poor of a huge catchment area stretching from ~~Patrickswell~~ to Doon and southwards to Fedamore and Caherconlish, taking in five districts in south Clare, and also the population of the city. It was built to accommodate 1,600 people, but at times the numbers exceeded 2,000. At the



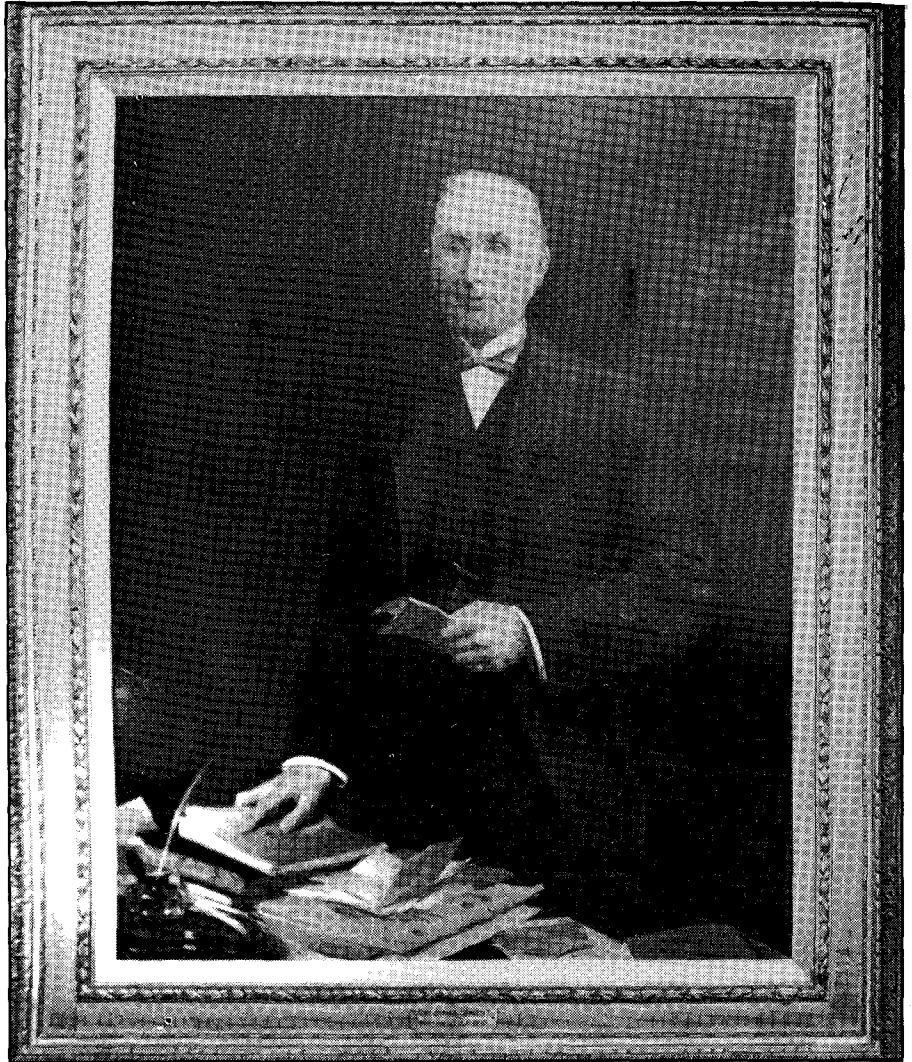
Workhouse a man was fully clothed for £1, a woman for 10/- (50p), and children for even less, as they were not supplied with footwear. The cost of maintaining each person was 2/- (10p) per week. The food - milk, potatoes and oatmeal - was unattractive in both quantity and quality, so as not to entice people who normally worked hard, for only little more, to opt for the Workhouse. The labour carried out there was made as irksome as possible, so as to induce people to leave. Threats to withhold dinner, until a given task was completed, were commonplace. The Workhouse failed to make any real difference to the quality of the lives of the people it was designed to help; many would rather have died of starvation than have anything to do with it).

William Abraham of the Congregated Trades, an ex-officio guardian of the Workhouse, also spoke and, with James Kett, secretary of the Mechanics' Institute, helped in appointing a deputation to appear before the Corporation on the following week.

And so, in the Town Hall, Rutland Street, on Thursday, 6 February, 1879, a meeting of the Corporation, chaired by Alderman Myles was held to consider the half-yearly presentments. During the course of the meeting, the Council was asked to grant £100 annually to the governors of Barrington's for the support of the hospital. Governors present were Charles Barrington, Robert Hunt, Arthur Russell, James Alexander and Dr. Carey. The deputation from the Congregated Trades consisted of John Godsell, James Kett, James Hogan, John McInerney, William Abraham and Cornelius Fitzgerald.

Robert Hunt was to the fore when he said that they were attending as governors and as ratepayers to ask for aid. He reminded the meeting that a number of years before the Corporation had granted £400 per year towards the support of the hospital, and that this grant had been withdrawn in 1863. He stated that since then the hospital had been entirely supported by voluntary subscriptions and bequests, but that this had proved to be unreliable, and the institution could not be maintained on such a basis. He went on to say that the governors had felt obliged to come to the Corporation to ask for the grant of £100 per annum. It could not continue as it had been doing since the grant of £400 had been withdrawn.

However, he advised the Councillors that if they decided that the grant could not legally be made, then those who had hitherto contributed towards the support of Barrington's would endeavour to keep it open. However, he pleaded with the Council, in the name of common justice, to make the grant and do a public service to the people of Limerick. He referred to the strong objections of most people at having to resort to the Workhouse Hospital.



Sir James Spaight.

James Alexander also spoke, and urged the Council to make the grant.

But this united front was soon to be disturbed. Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, parish priest of St. Mary's, rose from his seat and apologised at having to oppose the two gentlemen, Messrs. Hunt and Alexander, who had just spoken. He said he strongly objected to public money being given to an institution which was being managed in what he considered a very objectionable manner. He explained that he had spent the last 19 years among the people of Limerick and he had never heard any objections from them at having to go into the Workhouse Hospital. He had heard that it had been stated at a recent meeting of the governors that the Catholic Bishop and priests of the city were in favour of the hospital, but 'such was not the fact'. If the money were granted, he would feel it his duty, as a ratepayer, to object on legal grounds. The money had been withdrawn in 1863 because the Corporation was not properly represented at the hospital, and because the Sisters of Mercy were not admitted as nurses.

Fr. Fitzgerald referred to a meeting

held on 7 March, 1863, when the governors met three members of the Corporation, Daniel Cullen, J.J. McSheehy and Eugene O'Callaghan. He said that O'Callaghan had told them that the Corporation had wanted two of their members from each ward - a total of 16 members in all - to have all the rights and privileges of voting as the governors had. Daniel Cullen had stated that the Sisters of Mercy should have the same duties and authority which they currently had at the Union Workhouse Hospital. He (Daniel Cullen) disclaimed that there was a wish on the part of the Corporation to close Barrington's, and said the opposite was the case, as they wanted it to be more efficient. He stated that Sir W.H. Barrington had told the aldermen that if the governors agreed to their proposals, it would effectively mean the handing over of the hospital to the Corporation. He had accepted that there had been no complaints about the management or efficiency of the hospital. He had thanked them for their kind attention, and agreed to arrange a special meeting of the managing committee to discuss the proposals for 3pm. on Friday, 13 March, 1863, but only three governors, including



384-15-5 and such a state of the finances being very serious, it was proposed and concluded that a subscription to meet the case should at once be entered into and the following gentlemen present liberally came forward to assist - viz

Sir Arthur Barrington Bt	50. 0. 0
Robert Hunt J	50 0 0
John Deane Esq	50. 0 0
Mr A Russell Esq	50 0 0
Bannatyne Esq	50 0 0
Rev ^d Benj. Jacob	10 0 0
Archdeacon of Limerick	5 0 0
James Alexander	5 0 0
T J Kennedy	5 0 0
Archibald Murray Esq	5 0 0

'and such a state of the finances ... the following gentlemen present liberally came forward to assist ...'

the mayor, had attended, and so the matter had been dropped.

Fr. Fitzgerald voiced what he considered a still graver objection. This concerned the children's ward, opened some years earlier, and he claimed it was being used to convert Catholic children to the Protestant faith. He recalled that Ald. Quinlivan had, from the beginning, opposed the establishment of this ward, knowing that it would be used for proselytising purposes and, because of this stance, Ald. Quinlivan had been ousted from his position as vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce.

What truth there was in Fr. Fitzgerald's allegation is difficult to gauge, but it is interesting to note the names of some of the other members of the chamber of Commerce about the time Ald. Quinlivan was 'ousted'. They were: Arthur Russell, Alexander W. Shaw, Alexander Bannatyne and John Quin - who were also governors of Barrington's Hospital - and James Spaight.

The parish priest then told of a visit he had made to the ward about a year before, when he found that all the patients, with one or two exceptions, were Protestant children. What particularly upset him was that nearly all

the children had Catholic parents, and all had Catholic names.

At that time, there were a number of schools in the city for the education of poor children. One of these schools, in particular, catered for orphaned Protestant children and, when required, accepted non-Protestant children. It was known as the 'Ragged School', and was run by John Gale and his wife Alice, in Bowdoy's Lane, off Roche's Street. There was another ragged school on the Roxborough Road.

Fr. Fitzgerald told of Catholic children being sent from the Ragged School to be nursed in Barrington's, and then being placed in a ward 'for the purpose of preventing them being restored to the religion from which they were stolen'. He also charged that the Protestant rector of St. Mary's Cathedral was an ex-officio governor of the hospital, and that he (Fr. Fitzgerald) was not. He further stated that the Protestant Bishop of Limerick was an ex-officio governor, yet the Catholic Bishop of Limerick, who ruled over a great majority of the people, was not. (Under the 1830 Act of King George IV, section III, the Catholic Bishop, Dr. Ryan, and Fr. Thomas Enraght, of St. Mary's Church, were declared governors for life of the hospital and infirmary). They had

been told they could become governors if they subscribed three guineas each year, as set out in section IV of the Act, but Catholics 'could not compete with the wealthy Protestants of Limerick'.

He then referred to an occasion when he had visited the children's ward and was told that one child, whose parents lived in his parish, was a Protestant. On enquiry, he found that this was untrue, and he further believed the child had been a Catholic. Finally, he spoke of finding the coat-of-arms of the freemasons on the covers of one of the hospital beds. On these grounds, and on many others, he asked the 'Catholic Corporation' of Limerick not to grant any portion of public money to such an institution. (This final allegation made by Father Fitzgerald was never confirmed, denied or even questioned by anyone at the meeting or at any subsequent meetings or hearings. Nonetheless, it may be pointed out that there were four masonic lodges in Limerick at that time, (Union Lodge 13, Lodge 73, Excelsior Lodge 268 and the Triune Lodge 333), and that two of their meeting places were 6 the Crescent and Upper Glentworth Street, where the caretaker was a Michael Sheehy. Charles Barrington was, in fact, the Provincial Grand Master of the



Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland. Years later, on 14 February, 1894, he was received as 'A Prince, Grand Rose Croix, of the Knights of the Eagle and Pelican' by the president and other officers of the Grand Chapter of Prince Masons, Dublin. As such, he was recommended to all chapters and councils of the higher orders of masonry all over the world. In the last century many of the freemasons' activities were not as secretive as might be presumed today. For instance, Charles Barrington, as Provincial Grand Master for North Munster, sent invitations, printed by McKern & Son, Limerick, to his 'beloved Brothers' in the masonic lodges. The invitations were to 'Tea and Coffee' in the library of his family home at Glenstal Castle, a game of golf in the grounds, and a band recital, conducted by 'Brother' W.G. Buck, which included a programme of musical items such as 'Ta-ra-boom-de-ay' and selections from the *Yeomen of the Guard*. To further complicate the matter raised by Fr. Fitzgerald, but without dwelling on the subject exhaustively, it is possible that the priest did see the masonic coat-of-arms on bedcovers in the hospital, because a proportionally large number of the men directly involved in the running of Barrington's were members of the four masonic lodges. They were: Charles Barrington, Glenstal Castle, Justice of the Peace and County High Sheriff; Archibald Murray of William Todd & Co., residence 77, George Street, J.P. and member of Chamber of Commerce; Charles Hare, Archdeacon of St. Mary's Cathedral, residing at 3, Pery Square; John Laird of J. Laird chemist & druggist, 118 George Street, and supplier of medicines to the hospital; Richard J. Lee of H. Lee & Sons, ironfounders, residence at Strand Villas, North Strand; Robert Gelston, physician, 68, George Street; Alexander W. Shaw of W.J. Shaw & Sons, Mulgrave Street, residence at Orelands, N.C.Rd., and member of Chamber of Commerce.

After the priest's allegations, the deputation from the Congregated Trades was introduced. William Abraham said they had come, not only on behalf of the trades, but all working men, to ask the Corporation to allow the grant and to save the city from 'the greivous injury' that would be sustained if Barrington's closed. He spoke of the rumours that he and other members of Congregated Trades had heard of how the hospital was being conducted on sectarian principles. However, he had made exhaustive enquiries and found no basis to these rumours. He again urged members of the Corporation to accede to the request of the trades.

Fr. Fitzgerald interjected to say that the Congregated Trades had not as good an opportunity of obtaining correct information to their points as he had.

BARRINGTONS' HOSPITAL.

T H A N K S

At a meeting of the Governors of Barrington's Hospital, held yesterday, Mr. Robert Hunt, J.P., presiding, it was proposed by Mr. Arthur Russell, seconded by Alderman John Quin, and unanimously resolved:—

"That the thanks of the Committee of Barrington's Hospital and City of Limerick Infirmary be given to Mr. C. B. Barrington and friends, and also to the members of the Congregated Trades, for their kind assistance in getting up a Concert, the result of which has been so successful and had given such a large sum to the funds of the Hospital."

**A vote of thanks 'to Mr. C.B. Barrington and friends, and also to the Congregated Trades',
3 April, 1879.**

Cornelius Fitzgerald, on behalf of the Congregated Trades, read the address in favour of Barrington's, and listed '... 13,000 cases treated up to 1879 ... the immense benefit to the poor. If it closed, many lives would be lost ... The Corporation are already aware of the benefits ... gave £400 annually for many years - now withdrawn ... no doubt thinking the hospital might be supported by private contributions. This however, had been tried but had failed'.

The meeting continued, and Charles Barrington said he would not be identified with any institution which was sectarian, and denied that there was anything of that character in the management of the hospital, which was open only for the benefit of the poor of Limerick, and the

children's ward for the benefit of poor children of every creed. He added 'that a proselytising motive was the farthest thing from their minds'.

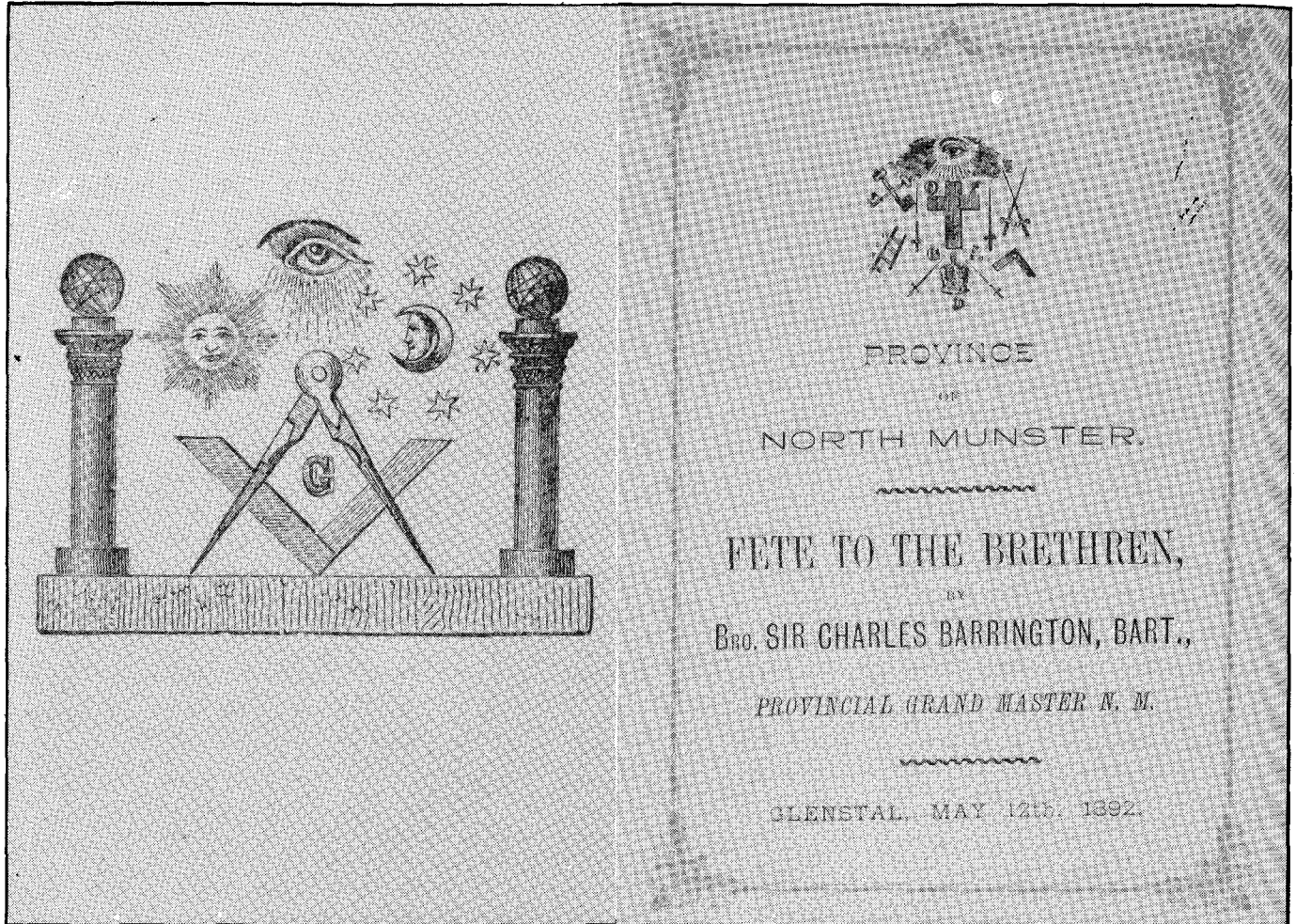
Robert Hunt also denied that there were any grounds for the charges made. He said that on the governing board they had Ald. John Quin, a well known supporter of Catholic charities, and Ald. O'Callaghan, another Catholic, and stated that these two men would not have tolerated such practices. He also said that Charles Barrington was well-known to all as a supporter of every charitable institution. He asserted that he himself would not be connected with the hospital if the charges were true. He stated that he had subscribed to every Catholic charity, and that his good friend, Br. Welsh, Superior Brother of the Christian Schools in Sexton Street, had been coming to him as regularly as he did to any of his Catholic fellow citizens. He denied that there was sectarianism in the management of the hospital, and he appealed to the Corporation to pass the presentment.

James Alexander, the hospital's secretary, told of the only case he knew of involving the Ragged School, about two years before, when a little child was admitted to the hospital, suffering from a skin disease. In any case, he said, children of such tender years could not be affected by any of the alleged practices.

Ald. Eugene O'Callaghan said he had frequently passed through the hospital and never saw the least sign of such practices as those alleged. He went on to say that he would be voting for the presentment, and so would Mr. L. Kelly, as it was well deserved.



Michael Hogan, the Bard of Thomond.



Programme of the 'Fete to the Brethren', by

grant must be allowed. He also said that it would be impossible to submit a certificate of accounts, as requested by Mr. Nash, as the last presentment was given 16 years before. On the question of it being a fever hospital, he recalled the cholera epidemic in 1832, and the important part played by the hospital then. However, he went on to state that there were no fever patients there at that moment, but that they had been admitted from time to time, as the governors did not have the power to exclude any patient. (This, of course, was not altogether true, as the Act of George IV, section X, stated 'That no patient shall be admitted ... except upon a written recommendation from one of the governors ... except in cases of sudden accidents ... persons subscribing the sum of two guineas shall have the liberty of recommending 10 patients, and those subscribing one guinea, five patients to the hospital. Furthermore, while the hospital might have accepted fever patients, it also transferred them. Admittedly, this was a rare occurrence, but, for whatever reason, a total of 10 people had been transferred, over a 16 year period from 1853 to 1869, to the Fever Hospital at St. John's Gate. It was Lady Hartstonge, in 1780, who decided that fever patients should be treated

under one roof, and so founded the Fever Hospital by converting what was the guard-house to the Citadel, near John's Gate, into a temporary hospital. The Hartstonge and Pery families had contributed large sums of money towards the hospital, which brought much needed relief to the poor from the time it opened until the mid-1800s, as it treated between 700 and 5,250 patients each year. In the 1850s and '60s, the numbers being treated fell drastically until it finally closed).

Croker Barrington then spoke on behalf of the governors, and said that if a fever epidemic broke out in the city, Barrington's would be the first place the patients would be received, as the working men would lose their self-respect if they had to go into the Workhouse. Every member of Congregated Trades, every craftsman and worker in the city, wanted the grant to be made, as the governors were anxious to keep it open. It is now in debt, but some of the governors and others had paid off what was due, and the proposed presentment was supported by the entire Corporation, bar one. He added that the Fever Hospital at St. John's Gate was closed, and Barrington's was the only one open to the people, excepting the Workhouse.

John Nash said that Barrington's was

not a fever hospital, and that there were no fever patients at present in it, nor had there been for 19 years past, and Rev. Fitzgerald could prove that that was the case. It was also incorrect, he said, to say there was no other hospital available, as there was the Union, at which fever patients were received, and also St. John's. For these reasons, it could not be held to be a fever hospital, and the presentment should therefore not be allowed.

Justice Fitzgerald asked Ald. Myles if the Finance Committee of the Corporation could meet very soon to decide on whether Barrington's was in fact an institution for the treatment of fever patients? The next hearing of the case was then set for 10a.m. on the following Tuesday morning, 11 March. But the day before, on 10 March, a meeting of the Finance Committee was held at the Town Hall at which Ald. Myles presided, and Barrington's representatives, Robert Hunt and James Alexander, described the hospital as being well suited to the treatment of fever patients. They said that no such patient should ever have been refused admission. They had heard from Fr. Enraght, and he had told of having attended several fever patients there from time to time.



Dr. Thomas George O'Sullivan, a Catholic Councillor, spoke at length of his personal experiences of the Barrington family's liberal acts towards Catholics.

John Bernal said that no tradesmen would avail of the Workhouse unless under the direst necessity, and he proposed the adoption of the presentment. Dr. O'Sullivan seconded the motion. James Spaight strongly supported it and hoped it would not be said that in Limerick charity was strangled by religion. He then called on the Rev. Fitzgerald to withdraw his opposition and to give the hospital a six months' trial. Robert Hunt asked the priest to be satisfied with the evidence of the deputation that the children's ward had not been established for proselytising purposes.

J.P. McNamara asked if the Corporation could be represented on the Board of Governors if they made the grant. Mr. Connolly, the law agent, of Connolly & Leahy, 86, George Street, said he did not think they could. Mr. McNamara replied: 'Then we would have taxation without representation'.

Finally, the Mayor, Michael O'Gorman, put the resolution and declared it carried; but J.P. McNamara asked for a poll, and, upon it being taken, 19 councillors voted for the presentment and one, McNamara, against. Messrs. J. Counihan and P. Riordan declined to vote.

At this time, the governors placed appeals for money in the local press, and stressed that the hospital remained open night and day for accident cases. They also published a list of subscriptions already received from C. Barrington, R. Hunt, J. Quin, Francis Studdert, Messrs. Bannatyne and Vanderkiste, Rev. Benjamin Jacob, John Norris Russell, Cannock & Co., W.J. Shaw & Co., Denny & Sons, McKern & Sons, J. & G. Boyd and F. Spaight & Sons.

The next step taken in procuring funds was the advertising of a full dress concert, followed by a presentation of Dion Boucicault's drama *The Colleen Bawn*. This was to be held in the Theatre Royal, on St. Patrick's Night, 17 March, at 8 p.m. A box plan could be seen at Corbett & Sons, pianoforte & musical warehouse, 108, George Street. The newspapers publicised the forthcoming event on a number of occasions, and praised all concerned with the production, assuring their readers that no effort would be spared in making it a great success.

While all this was going on, the guardians of the Union Workhouse were not idle: on the front pages of the same newspapers they acknowledged the following subscriptions to their fund:

The Most Rev. Dr. Butler 10/-

James Bannatyne £1

Miss H. Maunsell 3/6

Rev. Joseph Burke 10/-

Robert Hunt £1

Edward Murphy, Crescent; Rev. John



Dr. William Fogerty.

Ryan; Mrs. Myles (wife of Ald. Thomas Myles) of 13, Upr. Mallow Street, for parcels and books received.

Signed: Rev. J. McCoy, Treasurer and Henry T. Bourke, Hon. Secretary.

On Saturday, 8 March, the Finance Committee of the Corporation, represented by Aldermen Quin and Myles and Councillors McNamara, Bassett and Molony, and the governors of Barrington's, represented by C. Barrington, R. Hunt, A. Russell, J. Alexander, and their solicitor, Croker Barrington, of 91 George Street, appeared before Justice Fitzgerald to consider the presentment of £100 annually to the hospital. James Spaight also attended. The Congregated Trades were represented by John Atkinson, B.L. 114 George Street, and John Nash, B.L., 85, George Street, appeared for Fr. Fitzgerald.

John Nash spoke on behalf of Fr. Fitzgerald, 'a ratepayer of the city of Limerick'. He asked the judge not to sanction the presentment - numbered 14 on the schedule of presentments - in aid of the funds of Barrington's, which purported to be made under section 81 of the Grand Jury Act of William IV. His lengthy address put forward his client's objections to the grant being allowed, on

the grounds that it was not a fever hospital, and that the governors had not produced a statement of accounts. (In fact, the truth was that in June, 1832, the Corporation had taken over the hospital for use in the treatment of cholera, and it had proved to be of immense benefit to the citizens then. In 1833, the governors had to ask the Fever Board to return the hospital to them).

John Atkinson, in an even longer address, said that the Act of Parliament, dated 29 May, 1830, establishing the hospital, gave to Sir Joseph Barrington and his four sons, Matthew, Daniel, Croker and Samuel, all the rights and privileges enjoyed under the Acts of Parliament then in force, and also decreed that it should be known as 'Barrington's Hospital and City of Limerick Infirmary'. For a number of years past, the large sums of money (£400) originally presented by the Grand Jury had not been made, and recently disease had again begun to spread. People of all denominations had come forward saying it was necessary for the protection of the people that some provision be made for granting increased medical relief. Because of this, a presentment was now being sought. As 19 members of the Town Council were in favour, and only one against, he felt the