

LIMERICK ASSIZES.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

COUNTY CROWN COURT—THURSDAY.

Mr. Sergeant Greene took his seat this morning at 9 o'clock, and was engaged until eleven finishing the presentments. The prisoners were then arraigned, for the first time since the opening of the Commission, and the Long Panel called over, from which the following Jury were sworn:—

Thomas Travers Adams, Garrett R. Fitzgerald, Robt. Fetherstone, John Peppard, Hugh Finch, John Barry, Thomas Bennett, James Barry, Henry Bouchier, Paul Erson, James Ievers, Myles J. Mason.

William Haze was indicted for that he, on the 16th February, in the 6th of his late Majesty, at Loughgur, did assault John Hickey, giving him a stroke of a stone on the right side of the head, of which he died.

Garrett Panch sworn—Knew John Hickey; he is dead; was returning from a funeral the day Hickey was beat; there were several returning along with him; saw a row on the road between the deceased and a party of men who were with the prisoner; saw the deceased struck, but cannot say the prisoner struck him; he was among the party that were beating the deceased.

Cross-examined—Drank no whiskey that day; did not want it; there was a race after the funeral, but did not wait to see it; there is a public-house near the place where deceased was beat; did not see a man of the name of Connell strike deceased.

Maurice Hickey sworn—The deceased was brother to witness; knows the prisoner Haze; saw the prisoner and a man named John Connell strike his brother; the prisoner struck him with a stone which knocked him down; prisoner struck deceased in the head when down; Connell also struck him; his brother was brought to his sister-in-law's by neighbours that found him on the road; he was afterwards taken to the house of Doctor Fitzgerald, who said his head was fractured, and directed that he should be taken to Hospital, which was done.

This witness's evidence was given in Irish through the interpreter, and previous to being examined, he was asked by Mr. Freeman if he could speak English, in which language he replied "I could not."

Dr. Thwaites, sworn—The deceased was admitted into the County Infirmary, on the 17th February, 1836; he had an extensive fracture on the right side of the back of his head; the bones were broken and the brains came out; he died of the wound on the 7th March.

Owen Rourke, policeman, sworn—Is stationed in Bruff; when he received orders to arrest the prisoner, he searched for him, but to no effect.

Constable Chas. Hickson proved to having arrested the prisoner at Raheen, on the 26th last December; when conveying him to prison, he said, without being asked about anything—"If I am transported for this, I'll have revenge for it." The prisoner was found lying under some straw, naked.

Doctor Gerald FitzGerald sworn—The witness examined in the Irish language was for some time in his employ; often heard him speak some sentences in English.

James Raleigh, John Dwyer, and Daniel Dwyer were sworn for the defence, with a view to shew that the prisoner was not present when the deceased was struck. Guilty of manslaughter. To be imprisoned six months at hard labour.

Patrick M'Mahon was indicted for the murder of Patrick Ryan, on the 4th of June, 1836, at Ballytrasna, by striking him with a stone.

Patrick Ryan, son of deceased, a boy of eleven years, sworn and examined—Was present when the prisoner struck his father; his father is dead about two years; prisoner was working within a couple of fields belonging to his father; the prisoner went through a potatoe field belonging to his father; his father caught hold of him, and asked him why he did so; prisoner said to his father that he did not blame him for being angry for going through the field; his father and the prisoner were scolding, and went along the fields from the garden; witness saw them up the height, and saw his father going to whistle with his finger, to call up the brother of witness, when the prisoner struck him with a stone, and he, (deceased) fell; witness saw the prisoner run off, and he, with two other persons pursued him, but to no purpose.

Patrick Bryan, one of the men that pursued the prisoner, corroborated this testimony, and the Jury returned a verdict of manslaughter.

To be imprisoned six months.

Edward Lysaght was indicted for presenting a gun loaded with powder and ball, and firing at Jeremiah Connell, of Doone, on the 9th of December last, with intent to kill or maim.

Jeremiah Connell sworn—Knows the prisoner; witness was standing in a field in December last, and saw the prisoner about forty or fifty yards from him; had a gun; saw him present the gun at himself; prisoner after presenting the gun lowered it; he again presented

HOUSE OF COMMONS—MARCH 1.

Sir G. STAUNTON took the oaths and his seat for Portsmouth.

Sir R. PEEL presented a petition from the Dublin Royal Canal Company, against the bill for connecting by railway Dublin with the north west of Ireland.

Mr. FRENCH presented a petition of the grand jury of Rosecommon against the Poor Law Bill.

Mr. CHARLES W. WYNN said the hon. and learned member for Dublin, would perhaps, consent to postpone his notice for a select committee to investigate proceedings before election committees, because many hon. gentlemen, as well as himself (Mr. Wynn) were annually obliged to give their attendance elsewhere (it being St. David's day).

Mr. O'CONNELL readily acceded to this request, as he admired the respect which was entertained for the ancient saints of this realm. He would postpone his motion till that day week.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL rose to bring under the notice of the house a very important subject relating to the administration of justice at Quarter Sessions and in other county courts of England and Wales. It was his opinion that that they ought to enact that those courts should be held twice as often as at present—that they should be held every six weeks—that is to say, that there should be in the year eight of these general sessions, as well as two assizes. As to chairman at quarter sessions, he did not think that the functions of that office could be much longer exercised by gentlemen not originally brought up to the profession of the law. He did not propose that that measure should be introduced at first without the consent and application of the magistrates attending quarter sessions, but he proposed that there should be a power in the crown on such application to appoint a barrister of seven years' standing to act as chairman. He proposed also that when the magistrates thought it advisable, a county should be divided into districts, and the judges should sit in the place of each district once in six weeks. By these means there would be a very cheap and efficient administration of justice. The noble lord concluded by moving for leave to bring in a bill to improve the county courts in civil and criminal jurisdiction.

Mr. HAWES considered the noble lord entitled to great praise for having introduced this measure. Without meaning any disrespect to existing magistrates, he was glad that at last we were to have justice administered by persons competent to it. He thought that the frequency of sessions, and the bringing prisoners nearer to punishment, would not only have the effect of lightening the burden of maintaining them, but also conduce to the diminution of crime.

Mr. S. O'BRIEN said that all the Irish members however they might differ in opinion upon other questions, were agreed that an institution in Ireland similar to this had given the greatest satisfaction. He thought that this measure might beneficially extended as far as the Irish one, the court try ejectments to the amount of £50, and all civil actions not exceeding £20. The salaries of the assize barristers in Ireland were paid out of the consolidated fund, and he hoped the same principle would be adopted in this measure. There was in the proposition one improvement upon the Irish system which was, the court being held every six weeks instead of three months. He hoped the bill for Ireland would be altered in this particular.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Mr. MAHONY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of the office of Sheriffs and under Sheriffs in Ireland. He next moved for leave to bring in a bill for registering births, deaths, and marriages, in Ireland.

Mr. O'BRIEN reminded the noble lord that he had promised that a measure on this subject should be brought forward by the government.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL did not know that he had brought in such a bill at present, as there were so many important measures before parliament; but he should be happy if the hon. gentleman obtained leave to bring in his bill.

The house then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—MARCH 2.

Mr. Sergeant BALL presented the report of the committee appointed to try the merits of the Dublin (city) election petition, which stated that W. Harland, Esq. had been duly elected to serve in parliament for the said city, and that neither the petition of Thomas Granger, nor the opposition thereto, was frivolous or vexatious.

Mr. S. O'BRIEN presented a petition from the West India islands, and against the apprenticeship system; also, a petition from the females of the place, to a similar effect. He also presented a petition from the parish of Knockany, in the county of Wick, for corporate reform, the abolition of tithes, vote by ballot; also two petitions, from Pallas in the county of Kerry, in favour of corporate