

MELANCHOLY DEATH BY DROWNING.

On Sunday, between two and three o'clock, a melancholy catastrophe occurred at Corbally, within a mile of this city, which resulted in the death of Miss Margaret Deborah Keane, eldest daughter of James Keane, Esq., Solicitor of this city. The particulars of the disastrous occurrence will be found detailed in the evidence of the inquest, a full report of which we submit. The body was not discovered until ten o'clock on Monday morning, when it was removed to the house of her afflicted parents, Upper Densmark-street, where an inquest was held before Dr. Murphy, Coroner.

The following jury were sworn:—Patrick Shiel, Michael Cahilly, William Perry, Andrew Mann, John Halpin, John Sheahan, Patrick Moroney, Michael Aherne, Maurice Hurley, William O'Grady, John Aherne, Daniel Ryan.

The jury having viewed the body, which was that of a very beautiful young woman, aged about nineteen years.

The first witness sworn was Mr. Thomas Francis Murphy—Was walking round Corbally, on Sunday, in company with James Canter and Michael Moroney; saw deceased and another young lady, crossing on planks that are laid across a little creek about six feet wide; the other young lady got over, but deceased, who was last, slipped and fell on her side into the water; was about ten or a dozen of yards away at the time; ran and called to Mr. Canter to get in after her that he knew how to swim and witness did not; he made no answer, and witness, without waiting to ask a second time, went to himself; was then only up to his waist when he walked on till he got no footing; she caught witness by the right arm, and he kept paddling with the left; where Mr. Canter would get ground witness would be drowned; sunk twice with her; when he rose the second time he called to Mr. Canter for the honor of God not to see him drowning without making an attempt to save him; Moroney then called to Canter to throw him his top coat; Canter made the first attempt to throw in the boat without going into the water when Moroney took it and got into the water and threw it to witness, when it reached him and he was pulled out; in the mean time the deceased young woman, that is between the first and second of his attempts to grasp the coat, let go her hold of witness's arm; as soon as Moroney saw me safe, partly on the bank, he and Canter went down to look after the body; witness was senseless for nearly half an hour after, and when he came to himself he saw the body floating.

To the Foreman—Spoke quite loud enough to be heard by Mr. Canter; he could have saved her without going beyond his waist when she first fell in; if Canter had made the least exertion her life could have been saved; James Canter and Michael Moroney were quite close to deceased at the time.

Coroner—I am very glad the Press are here both to expose the cowardly conduct of certain parties, and to give and well-deserved publicity to your meritorious and highly intrepid conduct.

Miss Bridget O'Shaughnessy sworn—Knew the deceased for about two years; she and witness were employed at Mr. Ravington's in George-street; they used to walk out every Sunday together; on Sunday last they went to walk out Corbally about two o'clock; while passing this plank Miss Keane fell in, but did not scream; witness had reached the opposite bank about a minute before; heard the men say "leap in"; and then witness looked round and saw Miss Keane in the water; she floated twice; Mr. Murphy was in the water all this time, and no one could do more than he did; he was nearly drowned in trying to save her; Mr. Moroney did his best, but said he could not swim; and called on Canter to leap in, as he could save her; Canter made answer "She wasn't in my company, I don't know her."

Coroner—A very humane answer.

Witness—He turned his back and left the other men there.

To a juror—This little bridge is in very bad condition; even in summer it is extremely difficult to safely over it.

Mr. Hurley from Corbally said the bridge, which required repair, should be put in repair by the Corporation.

Witness—I have no doubt if Canter used any praiseworthy exertion he could have saved her, for he was within three quarters of a yard of her. I am sure he could have saved her without any risk, even if they had caught each other's hands they could have been saved. He did nothing at all to try to save her; stood on the bank. He was no way trembling or alarmed, no more than if it was a dog jumped (sensation).

Mr. Michael Moroney deposed that he was with Canter when this accident occurred; Mr. Murphy acted most courageously and made every effort to save Miss Keane; Witness called Mr. Canter to try to save Murphy, but could not recollect whether he gave an answer; Canter did not make the slightest exertion to save deceased.

Mr. James Canter was then sworn. He said he deceased fell into the river and she was instantly swept down; if he had courage at the time he could have saved the young lady, but the very same thing occurred four or five years ago, when a boy named O'Brien was drowned, and he was in the great danger of losing his own life, and he would not take the courage since it was his own wife or mother who risked the like danger.

The jury found a verdict that the deceased met death by accidental drowning.

Coroner—From the evidence here I would not put Mr. Canter's position for all Limerick.

During the progress of this painful case the poor and respected coroner frequently evinced deep emotion and more than once was moved to tears when he heard the details of the horrible indifference manifested by a Limerick man in a case where the life of an interesting young lady might have been preserved by the slightest exertion on his part. The parents of Miss Keane were at one time in most independent circumstances, and occupied a most respectable position in this county, and were even now pretty comfortable owing to the exertions of this amiable and beautiful young woman, who had not yet reached her twentieth year.

Dr. Murphy also held an inquest on Monday, Palmerstown, on the body of John Brennan, who died suddenly while at his breakfast on Sunday morning. Verdict—Died from effects produced by natural causes. Deceased was a man of most temperate habits and never had been ill for the last fifteen years.

NEWCASTLE WEST COURSING MEETING TUESDAY, DEC. 23.

STAKES FOR PUPPIES OF 1855.

Mr. Moore's bd & w b Foremost, a bye; Mr. Gun's Speed disqualified, not being present when called to the slips; Mr. Fitzgerald's b b Kathleen beat Mr. Massy's bd d Desmond; Mr. Fitzmaurice's b b Elise, late Heath, a bye.

2nd Ties—Foremost, a bye; Kathleen beat Elise.
Deciding Course—Kathleen beat Foremost and won the stakes.

ALL AGES STAKES.

Mr. Fitzgerald's r b Little May beat Mr. Dobyn's b & w b Lucy; Mr. Curling's r d Sparrowhawk beat Mr. Hewson's bd d Fiske; Mr. C. Curling's b b Fly beat Mr. Arey's bd & w b Luna; Mr. Curling's r b Spiteful beat Mr. Moore's bd d Brigand.

2nd Ties—Little May beat Sparrowhawk; Fly beat Spiteful.

Deciding Course—Fly beat Little May and won the stakes.

MATCHES.

Mr. D'Arcy's Luna beat Mr. Noonan's Cora; Mr. Dobyn's Lucy beat Mr. Moore's Brigand.

The day was beautifully fine; the sport as usual excellent, and the decisions of Ralph Westropp, Esq., who most kindly officiated as judge, elicited universal approbation.

TIPPERARY RACES—FRIDAY.

Steeple-chase.

Mr. Wm. O'Ryan's b m Modesty, aged (owner) 1 1
Mr. St. George Mansergh's b m Chance, 4 yrs
(Dan Meany) ... 2 2
Mr. O'Brien's g g Butcher, Mr. R. Frewen's Lady Annie—not placed. A most exciting race—both heats won by a head.

Corinthian Flat Race.

Mr. O'Brien's Ishmael colt, 3 yrs (Mr. Bennett) 1 1
Mr. Wm. O'Ryan's ch m Enchantress 5 yrs
(Mr. A. O'Ryan) ... 0 0
Mr. Wm. O'Ryan's b h Jack, aged (owner) 0 0
Mr. Andrew O'Ryan's b h Archer, aged (M. Hunt) 0 0