

The inquest on Mary Hastings, the unfortunate girl, who fell into the river at Russell's Quay, and was drowned, was then proceeded with.

John Connell living in Chapel-lane said that he was on the quay between 9 and 10 o'clock on Saturday night, and heard a splash in the water, but did not then know what it was, he then heard a scream, and ran over to the edge of the quay, but saw nothing but heard the cry of distress underneath in the water; he then screeched out, and gave the best alarm he could when the watchman and others came up; there was a lamp there but it did not afford sufficient light to see an object in the water; the watchman and the people procured a ladder and candle, but they did no good as the body sank, and he did not see the body taken up; there were people on the quay at the time he heard the splash, but there was not one of them near that place.

Margaret Hurley said that she knew deceased, who was twenty-two years of age, and was from Ennis, and was speaking to her between nine and ten o'clock last night; when she (witness) parted from her to take a pint of porter, and it was after she parted her that the deceased was drowned; not more than ten minutes elapsed from the time the witness parted from her till she heard she was drowned; the deceased was quite sober, and there was no one with the deceased when she parted from her.

Constable O'Brien, of Henry-street, deposed that he patrolled the quay on Sunday night between nine and ten o'clock, and found everything quiet; went then to Bqhrbuoy, and captured a prisoner there, and was returning to his barracks at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock when he met a night watchman, who told him that a person was drowned off Russell's-quay; and he then proceeded there, and procured grappling irons, and with the aid of James O'Shea, and two dockmen and others brought the body of a female on shore; he knew the deceased, and she was then quite dead, and, with the assistance of O'Shea carried the body to the dead-house; there was a ship in the river and close to where the deceased fell in, and there was a rope from it attached to one of the mooring posts on the quay, and, in his opinion, and that of others, she was tripped up by the rope and fell into the river; there was no watchman on board ship.

James O'Shea said that he was night watchman on board the *Princess Royal*, lying at her moorings on Russell's-quay; at the hour of 10 o'clock on Sunday night he was on shore just abreast of his ship, and he heard the screams of a man singing out that a woman was drowning; he came ashore, but could see nothing in the water; he then went on board the other-ship hard by, but saw no one aboard; Constable O'Brien shortly came up, and, by means of the drags, the body of the deceased was recovered and conveyed to the dead house.

The Coroner observed that there was nothing in the evidence to show that the deceased came by her death by unfair means, and as the facts deposed to demonstrated that the unhappy event occurred by accident, they should find a verdict in accordance with the evidence, and return a verdict of "accidental drowning."

The Jury accordingly returned a verdict of "Death by accidental drowning."

The Bishop of Ripon intends to hold an ordination on Sunday, the 21st of February. His lordship requires from candidates for deacons' orders three months' notice of their intention to offer themselves for ordination, and also a personal interview. Candidates for priests' orders are expected to give at least two months' notice of their intention to the bishop.