relief.

If even once we occasion arose for requiring admission to the Infirmary, it must still be a comfort cheaply bought at a pound to hand lovely or sweet that he has the right of consigning well-deserving relatives or humble neighbours, to the institution, and providing in the best manner for the recovery of their health. One such benefit should be a reward the amplest for earned by twenty shillings, and this perhaps in the case of an individual whose services it may be most inconvenient to lose, of a relative whose death would leave a lamentable gap in an affectionate circle, or a fellow-creature to whom it would be a good, gracious deed in the sight of heaven and man, to lend the assistance. But this is not all.

Besides the right of holding and using three tickets annually to the Infirmary, the additional privilege is granted subscribers of the single pound, of sending *any number of patients* for a small weekly payment, to the Infirmary, and thus acquiring the means of dispensing life-saving service to the inhabitants of a whole district. There is no restriction to the number whatever. We cannot say—the more the merrier, but the greater the number the more welcome upon the moderate conditions. Why, two or three contributors of the small subscription would command the medical treatment of the population around, and we need not tell how much they would enlist the respect and deserve the gratitude of the inhabitants. Fewer applications, fewer funerals would sadden or weaken the resident occupiers, and it need not be noted that loss of the labour of men, to speak of no higher worth, could be ill afforded in these times. When the Celt is gone with a vengeance, man, beast, grass or woman is badly missed, even the remnant which emigration has spared.

To assure and extend those most acceptable advantages, the privilege heretofore held by Magistrates in virtue of their Commission, is revoked, and henceforward they are not to retain the gratuitous discretion of recommending the admission of as many persons as they please to nominate. They are not to fill the Infirmary by the dint of their prerogative as Justices of the Peace, and that there is nothing invidious in the reduction of the license, is testified by the circumstance that the origin and warrant of the resolution are owing to members of their own order.

The Committee, appointed by the Grand Jury, to consult with the Governors of the Infirmary, and to carry out the objects of the resolutions, are Heffernan Considine, Esq. J.P, the Hon. Hugh Massy, and Stephen E. DeVere, Esq. J.P; and the realization could not be committed to worthier or more judicious trustees.

THE LIMERICK WORKHOUSE.

According to the report of the Committee of the Guardians, the Workhouse must be in an unwholesome condition. If it is not insalubrious, there is no factor in filth. Literally enough it seems to be a congeries of Augean stables, or at any rate to encircle several snuggeries of revolting dirt. "Clean dirt is no poison," but dirty dirt must be deadly. So it is held to be by the highest authorities on sanitary subjects, and every one knows that foul air is noxious to the respiratory as well as the olfactory organs. If to the healthy it is disgusting, what must it be to the sick? There are crowds of the sick in the establishment, and fresher cannot accelerate their recovery. A miasmatic current along the corridors would surely retard it. No copiousness of stimulants might counteract the killing effluvium, and even to prolong illness is to aggravate rates. The exhalations from closets produced typhoid fever, and nearly cost the life of the Heir Apparent of England. The life of an inmate of the Limerick Workhouse is not as precious, but why should the poor be subjected to the infectious nauseas of shocking and sickening smells? Sweet are the uses of adversity, but how are they rarefied by rancid pollution?

An order was given by the Committee for the immediate removal of the abominations. The inference is that these must have been accumulating and seething for weeks. Few or many, the fermentation of any should be fatal to life in the event of the advent of an epidemic. It is alarming to think that evil elements are generated at this period in such an establishment, contiguous to the city, and with which communication is obviously inevitable. From all that is stated, an outbreak of pestilence in the workhouse is possible; and should it occur, the deaths of thousands and the desolation of the city as before might follow. It behoves the Guardians to avert the catastrophe. The Chairman of the Committee, supported by other conscientious gentlemen, has rendered inestimable service by his reforms effected in the Lunatic Asylum, and it must be earnestly wished that the condition of the Workhouse, the shocking nuisances which it is said to contain, the abuses it pampers, and the abuses therefore from which it cannot be free, would engage their attention with results as beneficial as those which attend the reforms effected in the other establishment. If cleanliness is next to godliness, the report of the Guardians' Committee proves that the last resource of the destitute and the last refuge of numbers afflicted with illness, is very far off from proximity to a state of perfection.

THE CONVENT OF MERCY, KILKEE.

The title is but a title as yet. Two years have passed and the Nuns have only been lodgers in the occupancy of a rented and insufficient residence. The sphere of their usefulness is contracted to the narrowest limits, and the principal worth of their mission lost. Every year which is spent without a Convent and Schools, is a year barren of the blessings which are derived from each; and it is time to make a beginning of building both structures, in order that the sanctified Nuns may be enabled to exercise their sacred ministrations without embarrassment, and impart the instructions which cannot be communicated unless accommodation for numbers is made available. The Sisterhood of Mercy is associated for all time with Kilkee; the connection is indestructible; sooner or later the required buildings will be erected; but the sooner the better for every religious and charitable purpose, and the more hopeful of abundant fruitfulness, as the spirit of piety is being developed by the revered Parish Priest, and his zealous Curates, amongst the general population of the Town and Parish.

The devotions of the Triduum in the Church of Kilkee last week were attended by thousands who thronged round the altar rails to receive the bread of life. Nearly two hundred of the Total Abstinence Society, wearing their medals, were the happy recipients of Holy Communion, in an edifying body, attending together. In a community in which the practise of religion so far prevails, a Convent of Mercy is an indispensable complement of the cultivation of every virtue, and the extension to the classes amongst whom the diffusion is best entrusted to and perhaps can be introduced by the Sisters of Mercy alone. The day will be auspicious for Kilkee and the districts east, west and inland, when the foundations are laid for their Convent and Schools, on the beautiful site generously granted by the noble Lord of the soil—the Marquis of Conyngham; and fortunately for the success of the great undertaking, its advocacy in the first instance from the altar, of which elsewhere he has been, and is an ornament, is confided to one of the most gifted, impressive and eloquent Clergymen in any diocese, Rev Father Pyne, the beloved and true-hearted Parish Priest of Kilfimer, West Clare. Erudite, earnest, a master of language, sympathising with the people, impersonating the qualities with which their affections entwine, and espousing no cause that prospers not with his aid, the holy and high cause of religion and charity, morality and education, will thrive in the keeping of Father Pyne, and his soul-touching words thrill those who hear them, with emotions which they will have reason to thank Heaven were stirred within their breasts. Will it not be a living, a dying and after life gain to all who are moved to appreciate the great objects of the future institutions, when they become the actual benefactors and earn the favour of the Most High, the perpetual prayers of the cloister and altar, the soul-saving aid of the Religious, in their tribulations of body and mind, and even the secular benefits that the educated, accomplished gentlewomen of the Order of Mercy in their Schools everywhere bestow?

CLARE ASSIZES.

COUNTY CROWN COURT—THURSDAY.

His Lordship, Justice Morris, entered court this morning at a little before ten o'clock, accompanied by the Honorable John Massy, High Sheriff of the county.

ALLEGED POISONING OF A FATHER BY HIS SON.

Christopher King was placed at the bar charged with poisoning his father, John King, on the 26th August, 1872, at Cappa, in the County of Limerick.

The following jury was sworn to try the case:—John Keating, foreman; John Power, John Rea, John Garvey, John Power, Michael Callaghan, John Halpin, James Barry, Michael Regan, Michael P. Ambrose, Thomas Power, and William Callaghan.

Counsel for the Crown—Sir Colman O'Loghlen, QC, MP, Mr De Moleyns, QC, Mr Coffey, QC, and Mr O'Hea, instructed by Mr Roche, Crown Solicitor.

Counsel for the prisoner—Mr Waters, QC, and Mr O'Loughlen. Attorney—Mr Cosgrave, Rathkeale.

Sir Coleman O'Loghlen stated the case for the Crown, and in the course of his address, he said that the case before them had been tried at the last Assizes, and he asked any of the jury who heard or read the particulars of that trial to dismiss them from their minds, and to be guided only by the evidence which would now be laid before them. The prisoner was accused of a most revolting crime—the murder, by poison, of his father. Before going into the circumstances of the case, he informed them there were two ways of proving the charge against a prisoner—one known as circumstantial evidence and the other as direct testimony; and they would be bound to find a verdict as much on one class of testimony as the other, provided it was of that description which left no doubt on their minds. In a case of this kind, it was very rarely that evidence could be given of the actual administration of poison, but he believed proof would be laid before them which would leave no doubt on their minds of the prisoner's guilt. In the case before them, the deceased man carried on the business of a victualler at Phibsborough, near Dublin, and becoming possessed of money he purchased property in Dublin, and in the county of Limerick, near Rathkale. He came to reside at Cappa, the name of the place in this county, and took the prisoner, who was his favourite son, to live with him, and being a man of economical habits, his son did a great deal of the household work, such as cooking, and other domestic duties. They had a woman to help them and a man who acted as a farm servant on the land. On the morning of the occurrence, old King had some cattle to sell at Rathkeale fair, and all got up early to attend it. The woman came in and having arranged some matters, she left to do something outside, and the prisoner in the meantime laid the table and filled out the tea. Soon after the man and woman, and another came in, and old King, on coming down stairs, took his seat at the corner of the table, where, it would be proved, he was invariably in the habit of sitting. He was up to that in rude health, and in his usual spirits. While breakfast was proceeding, the old man complained of the bitterness of the tea, and the woman said it might be the milk, and she threw it out and got more, but no one else made the same complaint. Breakfast over, the old man went out to see after the cattle and immediately after got ill; he staggered in the field, where he was, and had to be helped into the house, when he was laid on a sofa in the room where he had breakfasted, and within one hour he died in great agony. It would be proved beyond a doubt on the evidence of one of the most eminent analysts in the country, that the deceased died from the terrible poison known as strychnine. Whether that was administered in the tea, or milk or butter, it would be for them to judge. The day after the death the body of the deceased was removed to Dublin and interred in Glasnevin; soon after suspicion arose against the prisoner, in the minds of the police; the body was exhumed, and the man at the bar was arrested. It would be shewn that strychnine was found in the body of the deceased and that he died from its administration. On the 19th of August, some days before the occurrence, the prisoner went into the establishment of Dr Bourke, in George-street, and there purchased a quantity of strychnine, as he said, for the purpose of killing rats. When he got it he wrote his name in the book kept for the purpose, and gave his address as Kilpeacon, a place far distant from his real residence—whether there was anything in that it would be for them to judge—but they could have no doubt that he had that poison in his possession. It would be asked what could be his motive for this crime, and it could be proved he was aware that he was entitled to property under his father's will.

Mr Waters objected to evidence being given on this point, it having been overruled at the last trial.

Sir Colman O'Loghlen said they did not then press the evidence, but they would now do so, and he referred to the Montgomery case where a similar objection had been ruled in favor of the Crown.

His Lordship said he coincided in the ruling in the Montgomery case, and decided in favor of the Crown.

Sir Colman O'Loghlen then proceeded with his statement, and to read the following confession made by the prisoner, and written down in his presence by the police. (The document will be found given in evidence.) Sir C. O'Loghlen continued to say that there would be evidence given of other circumstances corroborative of these admissions of the prisoner, and on the whole of the evidence, he believed such a case would be made out as justified the Crown in asking the jury to find the prisoner guilty.

Michael Hinchy, examined by Mr DeMoleyns, deposed he knew the late John King; knows the prisoner, the son of the late John King, was in the employment of the late John King on the 26th August last; he lived at Cappa, in the County of Limerick; was at John King's house on the morning of the 26th, before going to the fair of Askeaton; the breakfast was laid out in the kitchen; Daniel Nunan, Catherine Hayes, John King, and prisoner, were at breakfast together at one table; the prisoner was sitting opposite his father; witness was seated on the stairs eating his breakfast; after breakfast Mr King, Nunan, and witness, went out to get the stock ready for the fair; Mr King turned in towards his own house, he stood at a bush for a few minutes, and said to witness, "Help me in," said he; witness did so; went out then for the Priest, Father John Conway, he came immediately; the prisoner had a dog; when the Priest was inside, witness saw the dog dying outside the door; took the dog away and gave him to John Vaughan, desiring him to bury the body; saw the same dog afterwards dug up by the police.

To Mr Waters—Was for six years in the employment of Mr King; used not sleep there; used breakfast only occasionally; the old man had a place at the table at which he usually sat; old King was a strong and healthy man; the prisoner was always an obedient son; heard him tell the same other person to go for the priest, and then witness went; when the old man was attacked the prisoner asked what was the matter; he assisted the father in every way he could; the deceased was a very respectable, rich man.

Catherine Hayes was next examined by Mr Coffey, Q C. She deposed she went to the deceased's house between five and six o'clock on the morning of the 26th August; the door was opened by the prisoner; went away milking the cows then, did not lay the table that morning; when she came back the table was laid out; there was no one then in the house but the prisoner; the deceased did not come down stairs for about half an hour after; he immediately sat down to breakfast; prisoner was tending them; some of the tea was filled out before the father came down; there was milk in the house besides what she brought in that morning; the breakfast did not last long as they were in a hurry to go to the fair; the deceased before he had drank all his tea asked them all round if they found any bitter taste from the tea; did not find any bitter taste from her one; said that it might be from the milk, and went and got fresh milk; went away out of the house after to go to Rathkeale; saw the prisoner playing with the dog before she went; was a good while away and when she came back Mr King was dead.

To Mr M O'Loghlen—Did not see anything that morning different from any of the previous mornings; the milk used sometimes be left on the table and sometimes put into a cupboard; remembered the deceased being very ill about a year before he died; no son could take better care of a father then than the prisoner did; when she tasted the milk on the table she threw it out into the scullery; the prisoner was attending to the whole of the breakfast; the prisoner used sometimes take some much drink, but he was always most kind to his father; the deceased came down very slowly and looked very delicate on the morning of his death; when she gave him the fresh new milk deceased said it might be in his own mouth the taste was.

Daniel Noonan, who was next examined by Sir Coleman O'Loghlen, Q C, deposed he was in the employment of the late Mr King; on the morning of the fair at Rathkeale he came to the deceased's house between five said six o'clock; Mr King came down very soon after; he appeared to be as usual in good health; he sat down in his usual place; the deceased when taking his tea said it was bitter; Catherine Hayes then got some fresh milk; did not hear any remark about the bitterness of the tea except from the deceased; after breakfast they went out to get the stock for the market; the deceased then complained and was taken into the house; he lay back on the bed and complained of cramps in his legs; he was struggling and stretching; the Priest came after a time and witness left the room; the deceased died about an hour after breakfast; heard the prisoner once say that after his father died the place would be his own, and that he was the right owner of it; he said that more than once; was in the service of deceased for about 12 years; the prisoner was living with him since he came to Cappa; saw the dog dying while the Priest was with the old man.

To Mr Waters—Prisoner was the only son living with his father; it was about the time the father was very ill that prisoner had the conversation about what he would do when he would have the land; witness's house was about 20 perches from deceased's; no one told him to sit down at any particular place, but he knew where to sit down; got no orders from Mr Christy as to what cup he would take; the prisoner sat down after giving Hinchy tea; he sat at his usual place, at the corner near the fire; saw deceased take but one cup of tea; was in and out of the house the time deceased was ill before that; prisoner was most attentive to him at that time; he used sometimes have a little too much drink taken.

Rev John Conway, P P, Cappa, examined by Mr DeMoleyns, deposed he knew the deceased since he went to Cappa; went to see Mr King in consequence of a message he had received; Mr King was lying on the sofa; he was suffering from spasms, lassitude, and general uneasiness; there was a jerking and twitching about him which ceased occasionally and returned; the lips appeared very much compressed; deceased died about a quarter of an hour after witness saw him; Mr King followed his usual avocation previous to his death.

To Mr O'Loghlen, attended deceased during his first illness; thought the prisoner's conduct was very attentive during the time; prisoner accompanied his father's remains to Dublin; saw him after coming from Dublin; he appeared like a person after a drinking bout; his mind appeared unsettled, and he had several unfounded imaginations, like a man suffering from *delirium tremens*; his discourse was consecutive enough; saw him about the day or two after his return from Dublin.

Re-examined by Mr De Moleyns—Saw him in his own house and only on one occasion; his conduct then appears to be attributable to drinking.

Richard Wolfe, Acting Inspector of the Metropolitan Police force, examined by Mr Coffey, QC, deposed that he was present going to Glasnevin Cemetery in company with William King, brother of the prisoner; was pointed out the grave of the deceased which he had opened; there were two coffins; had the corpse removed to the dead house; William King identified the body as that of his father; locked the door of the dead house and kept key until Professor Cameron and Doctor Hamilton arrived; saw the stomach taken out and put in an earthen jar. The witness was not cross examined.

Surgeon Hamilton examined by Sir Coleman O'Loghlen, deposed that he remembered the body being given up by Mr Wolfe; the spine of the body was more arched than usual; the body appeared to be well nourished and healthy; opened the brain; it appeared to be healthy as also did the lungs, heart and blood vessels; the surface of the stomach was healthy; there was a small hernia on the left side; the stomach and liver were given to Professor Cameron; the body did not present the appearance of a sudden death, independent of poisoning.

To Mr Waters—There are several causes of death unknown to medical science, even at the present day.

Charles A Cameron, Professor of Chemistry, and Analyst of the City of Dublin, examined by Mr DeMoleyns, deposed he assisted Dr Hamilton at the examination of the body; concurred in the evidence of Dr Hamilton; there were no appearances in the brain which might account for sudden death; received the duodenum and the liver, and removed them to his laboratory; remarked that the spine was curved towards the abdomen; that is a characteristic of poisoning by strychnine; that is a most deadly poison, it would cause death in from half an hour to two hours; half a grain would cause death, but a grain would cause inevitable death; it acts on the muscles, through the nerves; it causes spasms and tetanus; it causes no change in the normal appearance of the brain and the stomach; a person poisoned by strychnine retains consciousness to the last; that is not the case in ordinary convulsions and spasms; strychnine acts only on the nervous system, examined the contents of the stomach; nearly the whole of the contents were examined by him; they contained strychnine and no other poison; estimated the contents at one grain of strychnine but some of it must have been absorbed; in some cases of undoubted poisoning no traces of the poison could be found; there were no tests more characteristic than those for strychnine; they were unmistakable; heard the symptoms of the deceased before his death; believed they were the symptoms of deadly strychnine; the face of the deceased's body was nearly as black as that of a negro; it was on the 11th of September he made the examination; several months after the remains of a dog in the last stage of decomposition were brought to him by Inspector Annesley; the entrails were in a jar; detected strychnine, but could not estimate the quantity.

To Mr O'Loghlen—There are 63 grains in a draghm; strychnine is almost invariably in small prismatic crystals, about the eighth of an inch in length; the greater the dose of strychnine the more bitter would be the taste; in cold water strychnine would take a long time to dissolve; it would take about 80 parts of cold water to dissolve strychnine; it would dissolve much more rapidly in hot water—in a few minutes; strychnine would remain undissolved for a longer time than some mineral poison; the dose administered to deceased must have been very small; there are many deaths occur which cannot be explained by present medical science; curvature of the spine might be caused by some other diseases.

To Mr De Moleyns—Strychnine could be swallowed without being dissolved.

To Mr O'Loghlen—Swallowing any poison will not cause death until it is taken into the system, unless it be corrosive.

Mr James Bourke, medical student, examined by Mr Coffee, QC, deposed that his father kept a Medical Hall in George's street, in this city; under the date of 19th of August there is an entry of a sale of half a drachm of strychnine; that was in crystals; the person who purchased the poison signed his name to it; in witness's writing was C. King, half a drachm of strychnine; under that, in different handwriting, "C. S. King, killing rats, Kilpeacon;" labelled it "poison."

To Mr Waters—Sold all kinds of poisons.

Charles McCarthy examined by Mr DeMoleyns, deposed he was a messenger in Mr Bourke's establishment; remembers the prisoner purchasing some poison there; knows the position of Kilpeacon and Cappa; they are about twelve miles from one another.

To Mr Waters—Never knew the prisoner before saw him two months afterwards in gaol; identified him among a number of others; he had a tall hat on, and dark clothes; some of the others had prison dress on them.

Mr William King examined by Sir C O'Loughlen, deposed he was brother of the prisoner; knew his handwriting; identified the entry in Mr Bourke's book as the prisoner's handwriting; was at the exhumation of his father; identified his father's body; the prisoner was about being married last year to a lady in this county; had not a conversation with his brother about the marriage.

To Mr O'Loghlen—Received a telegram when his father died: it was signed with his brother's name: came from Dublin in consequence: was not aware of an inquest being held: the body had not been coffined when he arrived from Dublin.

To his Lordship—The prisoner's name was Christopher Stephen King.

John Vaughan, in reply to Mr DeMoleyns, deposed that he buried the body of the dog given him by Mr Hinchy: saw the same dog dug up.

Constable J Driscoll examined by Sir Coleman O'Loghlen—I arrested the prisoner and brought him to the barrack: I cautioned him that any statement he made might be used against him: he then made the following statement, which I put down in writing:—"Quite so. How will that be arranged? Will I have to go to Rathkeale? The act was a shocking one, but the intention was not malicious. He was a good father, but had one failing, and that was the prevention of my starting in life, his intention being to continue on until his death, I being 30 years of age to-day, and wishing to be doing for myself. The excuse is a poor one, but I felt the greatest regret when I saw him attacked. The clergyman was with him about half an hour from the time of his attack, and remained with him until his demise; and which he thought was a happy ending. Will my arrest interfere with the will in any way?" He was very cool and collected when making that statement: between the time he returned from Dublin and when he made the statement he seemed to be unsettled in his mind: had known him three or four months before his arrest; while writing down the statement prisoner asked, "Have you down that he was complaining the night before?" Witness said no: he asked to have it put down, but witness did not, knowswhere Kilpeacon is situated: it is about 12 miles from Cappa, and in a different direction: prisonerwas removed to Rathkeale at ten o'clock at night. Constable Cooney was in charge of the prisoner in the barrack: I allowed him to sleep in the barrack the night before he was arrested.

To Mr Waters, QC—Wrote down the statement as he made it, sentence for sentence: tore off part that was written, after having written it on the back of the paper: did not say a single word to him: it was about half past one in the day, and Constable Cooney was present at taking down the statement; showed the statement to the officer in Rathkeale on the first occasion he met him: prisoner was arrested in his own house: he had slept in the police barrack the previous night: said he did not appear to be in his right mind on his return from Dublin: was at his house before he arrested prisoner, who was not inside at that time: considered the prisoner was unsettled in his mind from drink: he was imagining that people were by him who were not; he was afraid to stay in his house, would not allow him to sleep in the barrack only for his state of mind.

By Sir Coleman O'Loghlen—When he asked to be let sleep in the barrack, he said, "Oh, it is an awful thing to be alone;" when sleeping with him the prisoner was very uneasy; about four o'clock in the morning he said "strychnine;" he then said "I poisoned my father with strychnine," witness said "you did not;" prisoner said "I did—I did it to get a living; he was a hard, bad man and would give me nothing, but what I got by foul means;" witness asked him where he got the strychnine, and he said in a shop in Limerick near Tait's; he said he paid 1s 3d for it; witness asked how he gave it to his father; he said he put it on the bread and butter, and threw the remainder into the fire; he said he could not sleep until he saw a priest; went to search prisoner's house after that; found no poison there; had a communication with Mr Annesley, SI Rathkeale after that; saw the head constable of this district also before he arrested the prisoner; gave the prisoner the usual caution before he made the statement.

To Mr Waters—Made two informations; the first on the 8th September and the second on the 30th September.

Sub Constable Stephen Cooney examined by Sir Coleman O'Loghlen, deposed he was stationed at Cappa Police Barrack; was at the arrest of prisoner; he and Constable Driscoll cautioned prisoner in the day room of the barrack; heard prisoner make a statement and saw Constable Driscoll take it down; was left in charge of the prisoner when the constables went to Rathkeale; that evening the prisoner made a statement to witness.

To Mr O'Loghlen—Mr Annesley and Constable Driscoll were in the barrack at the time the prisoner made the statement; was sitting at the fire and the prisoner there also; Sub Constable Dormey was also in the room; was not chatting with the prisoner; the only conversation was to tell him to put on his coat as he should proceed to Rathkeale; heard no other Constable ask a question.

To Sir Coleman O'Loghlen—He said when I asked him to put on his coat—"The old man was very nice, but he had very peculiar ways; I was like a servant—even cooking for him; I know what I done was a most frightful act, for see my age now, what less could I do;" escorted the prisoner to Rathkeale with Sub Constable Swift; on the road said—"May the Lord have mercy on me, and grant me time to repent of the awful crime I committed on my father;" he appeared to be a little unsettled, but to know what he was saying.

To Mr O'Loghlen—Could not swear that the prisoner slept in the barrack the night previous; saw him take breakfast there; accompanied him to his house the morning of his arrest; another Sub Constable went also; he appeared to be a little sick; did not remember the name of the other Sub Constable who went with the prisoner; went into the kitchen; did not see a bottle of whiskey, nor a drop of whiskey that morning; sat down in the room; wrote the memorandum of the prisoner's statement in the day room of the barracks; the night they carried the prisoner into Rathkeale was wet; Constable Swift accompanied the prisoner also; did not show the statement immediately to the Sub Inspector.

Sub Constable Harold Swift examined by Mr De Moleyns, deposed he remembered the day of the prisoner's arrest; was on escort duty that day; accompanied prisoner to Rathkeale; asked him no question on the way; heard him make use of the words "am I going before my God," further on he said "Lord have mercy upon me for the crime I have committed"; was in the barrack when the prisoner made a statement; it was a wet night they were going to Rathkeale.

To Mr Waters—Did not swear at the last assizes that the prisoner had made use of the words "am I going before my God."

Mr James Bourke recalled deposed in answer to Mr DeMoleyns, that the sum the prisoner paid for the poison was 1s 3d.

Sub Inspector Annesly examined by Sir Coleman O'Loghlen, deposed he was stationed at Rathkeale; was present at the exhumation of the body of a dog: delivered the body on 22nd November to Professor Cameron; it was after the prisoner's arrest the remains of the dog were exhumed.

Constable Driscoll re-examined, deposed he had received some directions from the Sub Inspector as to a portion of the prisoner's admission; they agreed that it would not be fair to give in evidence what the prisoner had said in the bed as he was not under arrest, and had not been cautioned.

Mr Roche, Crown Solicitor, examined by Mr Waters deposed that Sub Constable Swift had not stated to him that the prisoner's words were the "awful charge" and not the "awful crime."

Mr Waters, Q C, then addressed the Court and Jury on behalf of the prisoner. It would be an affectation for him to say that his was a solemn and anxious duty only surpassed by his Lordship's, and theirs. The prisoner was charged with the wilful murder of his father; the punishment of that offence was death, and on them it depended to say whether the prisoner should continue to exist or go ignominiously before his God. He would demonstrate to them that never was a more extraordinary case brought into a account of justice, and never was one developed by means more condemnable. The prisoner was charged with having wilfully, feloniously and maliciously murdered John King, and unless the Crown proved that charge they should acquit him. They should acquit the prisoner unless they had absolute certainty of his guilt. They had sworn a solemn oath to try the case upon the evidence, and that was alone. The question in the present case was, on the conclusion drawn from the circumstances deposed to, inconsistent with the prisoner's innocence. All the circumstances might be perfectly true, and they had to draw the inferences, and only when those inferences were inconsistent with the prisoner's innocence could they find him guilty. Counsel here quoted an extract from Taylor on evidence, showing that the conclusion often drawn from evidence was quite false. The Crown proved that the prisoner had in his possession some poison. John King had died of poison ergo the prisoner had murdered John King, but there was a broad gulf between the two positions. Sir Colman O'Loghlen, than whom there could not be a more honorable man, made statements in his opening speech which could not be sustained; how much more likely then was it that police constables should have misinterpreted the acts of the prisoner; if the police evidence were taken out of the case the rest would be as weak as a spider's web. In criminal cases witnesses against the prisoner were bound to appear before magistrates to make an informations, and the prisoner had a right to get a copies of them. The law was jealous of the lives and liberty of the people, and when such a course as that taken on the present case was followed with regard to the constable's evidence, it became but a hollow, shameful mockery. Counsel then proceeded to comment on the evidence of Constable Driscoll, who said the prisoner was quite cool and collected, while counsel would prove that the prisoner was in delirium tremens. They should bear in mind throughout that the constable said the prisoner stated he had conveyed the poison into the bread and butter, while the case for the Crown was that the poison was in the tea. That was the meaning of proving that the tea was bitter. There was no evidence against the prisoner except those confessions which were the most unreliable kind of evidence. They had heard the evidence of Father Conway regarding the state of the prisoner. There were other witnesses who would prove that on the morning the statement were made the unfortunate prisoner was quite deranged. He had proof which would show that the evidence of the two policemen was false, as it would be proved that when the prisoner and the two policemen went to the house they had a decanter of whiskey on the table. Swift came up and swore that the man made use of the words—"Am I going before my God." It might be so, but he had never stated so at the last trial, and that showed the insecurity of his evidence. Counsel suggested that the cause of deceased's death was that the old man had on the previous night been mixing a cake for killing rats, and some of the poison had remained in the cup, which was not cleaned in the morning. They had many cases in which drunken men had confessed to crimes of which they had no knowledge. It was only last week or so that a man had given himself up in England as the murderer of Talbot, and was discharged in delirium tremens. Counsel concluded by expressing the hope that God would direct the Jury to give a true verdict.

Evidence for the defence was then given.

Mr Edmond Culhane, examined by Mr O'Loghlen, deposed he resided in the townland of Cappagh: knew the prisoner and his father: was present as foreman on the inquest on the deceased's body; it was held on the same day he died: the coffin was sent to Dublin next day: recollected the time prisoner came from Dublin: saw him at his house: that was the Sunday before he was arrested: a Mr Murphy was with him: he appeared to be in a bad state of mind: did not wish to remain with him as he appeared to be dangerous: saw him on Tuesday evening following, and he was not composed: he was under the impression that there were people about the house although there was not one: tried to prove to prisoner this was so.

To Sir C O'Loghlen—He was not in such a bad state of mind before his father's death: he never spoke about the manner of his father's death.

Michael Cremin, examined by Mr Waters, deposed he held some land from the prisoner's father: went to the prisoner's house on the morning of his arrest: there were two policemen there, Cooney and Swift; prisoner was lying on a sofa: part of a policeman's over coat was round him; there was a decanter and a glass containing some whiskey on the table. Swift took up the coat and put it on himself and went away, being called from the barrack, the other policeman remained reading a book or a paper, and witness went away: the prisoner seemed to be totally out of his mind: witness asked him would he be going into Rathkeale, "What, man," said the prisoner, "I can get the will case tried in Limerick."

This concluded the evidence on the trial, and Mr O'Loghlen, B.L., addressed the jury for the prisoner, in an able speech, contending strongly that the case for the prosecution had totally failed.

Mr DeMoleyns, Q.C., then addressed the jury on behalf of the Crown. His duty was a painful one, but he would not allow any sentimental feelings to prevent him from doing an act of public justice in asking the jury to return a verdict of guilty. He had two questions to consider; the first, whether deceased had died of poison, and, secondly, whether the prisoner at the bar had administered that poison. With regard to the first they could have no doubt, as the deceased before and after death presented all the symptoms of death by poisoning. With regard to the second question it was an indisputable fact that the prisoner had purchased poison one short week previous to his father's death. Counsel then reviewed the various circumstances of the case, as deposed to by the witnesses, contending that all those circumstances pointed to one dread conclusion.

At the conclusion of Counsel's speech, at half-past seven, p.m., the Court rose.

THIS DAY.

THE TRIAL OF KING FOR THE POISONING OF HIS FATHER.

(Before the Right Hon. Mr Justice Morris.)

The trial of this important case was resumed at 9 o'clock this morning.

In charging the jury, his Lordship said—Gentlemen of the jury, the prisoner, Christopher King, is, as you are aware, accused of the murder of John King. You have been cautioned, and very properly, by the Counsel for the prisoner—by both the eminent Counsel for the prisoner—who addressed you, that you cannot possibly give too much attention to a case in which the charge is one of murder, and the punishment of which necessarily is death. In all cases, gentlemen, the charge of the evidence which is applicable to the case, is just the same, and the mode of arriving at a conclusion should be just the same, whether the crime is one of the most heinous character or one of the most ordinary description. Although that may be very logical, I confess to you for myself, and I am only assuming, I suppose, the fallibility, that the case in which the life of one person has been forfeited and the life of another is in danger, is one which can scarcely be weighed so practically by the jury, or almost by any person in exactly the same scale as if the crime was not of that heinous character, and if the punishment was not so severe. In every punishment, except death, there may be an opportunity of setting the matter right afterwards. Of course, in a case of murder in which, if the prisoner is convicted, the sentence of the law, in which I shall be merely ministerial, would be death, is irreparable. However, gentlemen, I have directed your attention to this subject, wishing to impress it on you emphatically, as if I were counsel for the prisoner, but, at the same time, gentlemen, crimes of this nature, if they have been committed, the parties committing them cannot expect to escape the punishment which the law of the land, as well as the law of nature, prescribes, because it is so terrible. The prisoner was not alone charged with having committed the most awful crime known to the law, but was accused of the murder of his father—a crime seldom occurring in this country. The incidents of the case were not very numerous, nor were they spread over a very lengthened period. They could all be compressed into a period of a fortnight in duration, and may be divided into three classes of circumstances: firstly, the circumstance which occurred before the death of the old man; secondly the circumstances under which he met his death, and thirdly and lastly, the circumstances which occurred after his death. It appears that John King was a man who had realized some money in Dublin, and had bought some land ten or eleven years ago at Cappa, near the town of Rathkeale, in this County. He appears to have kept a very small household if any at all, the sole inhabitants of his house being himself and the unfortunate prisoner at the bar—unfortunate if he is guilty, unfortunate also if he be innocent. He lived there farming a portion of the land with no regular servant, except the woman Catherine Hayes, who used come in the morning and evening to do some menial offices. Well now, gentlemen, I pass from those early incidents, and I come down to the matters and circumstances which occurred immediately previous to his death. I start with the 19th August, which appears to be the first day connected with the case, and which it was necessary to keep clear in their minds. On the 19th August last year, which I calculate to have been a Monday, the prisoner, Christopher King, in the city of Limerick, at the establishment of Dr Bourke, who keeps a Medical Hall in this city, purchased half adrachm of strychnine. Of course, gentlemen, you will take me only as suggesting that it has been proved beyond controversy. His Lordship then commented on the evidence of Mr Bourke, regarding the purchase of the poison. He then continued—Well, gentlemen, what became of that strychnine, or what the prisoner did with it in the interval except so far as I will afterwards have to refer to the confession alleged to have been made to him by Constable Driscoll, we cannot at present say, as we are obliged necessarily to step from Monday, the 19th August to Monday, the 26th August, one week. Upon the morning of the 26th August, which appears to have been a fair day at Rathkeale, the deceased man was about going to the fair with some stock to dispose of. A couple of men, Hinchy and Noonan, arrived early in the morning for the purpose of assisting him in taking the stock to the fair or getting them ready. On that morning there was no person in the house except the prisoner, but the other persons came in after, so that when they sat down to breakfast there were there five in all—the deceased, the prisoner, Catherine Hayes, Daniel Nunan and Mr Hinchy. The woman, Catherine Hayes, had gone out in the morning to milk the cows, and on returning about a quarter of an hour found the table laid by the prisoner. Michael Hinchy, the first witness examined here, and you may remember that he was the last that arrived in the house that morning; you have heard examined the three persons who were in the house that morning, and who could throw any light on the matter; the deceased of course was in the grave, and the prisoner could not be examined. All the witnesses appeared to be intelligent above their class, and it is for you to say whether there was anything in their evidence which seemed unfair or unfairly given against the prisoner. At the breakfast the prisoner seemed to be the person who distributed the food to the different persons there, and the Crown suggested that he had a great facility in allocating the bread and tea to each party, but really, gentlemen, there would not be in ordinary life anything unusual in the prisoner doing so. It also had been suggested by the Crown, that the prisoner was well aware of his father's usual position at the table, and that to some extent has been borne out by the evidence. The witness generally deposed that the deceased had a place at the table, where he usually sat, which is a very usual practice at most country tables. The suggestion of the Crown, gentlemen, with regard to this fact is, that the prisoner had the facility—if tempted by the devil, of knowing where to allocate the poison, but that knowledge was not the strongest evidence against the prisoner. The breakfast had not proceeded long when the deceased complained of the bitterness of the tea, and Catherine Hayes believing it was from the milk on the table, threw it away and got fresh milk. It was relied on by counsel for the prisoner that the poison could not be in the milk as Catherine Hayes had tasted and drank some of the milk and received no injury from it. Soon after the breakfast was over, the deceased man went out of the house to look after the cattle, and was immediately attacked. He called on Hinchy to assist him in, and also called on the prisoner who was standing at the door. He was helped in and placed on the sofa, where he suffered from spasms, contortions, and I may say wrigglings. The Counsel for the prisoner commented strongly on the prisoner's dutiful conduct on the occasion, but it is for you, gentlemen, to form your own opinion on it. Hinchy went for the Priest after he had heard the prisoner tell some one to go for him, the Priest came in about half an hour, and in an hour after eating his breakfast John King was a dead man. That disposes of the incidents of the day, and now comes the great question what did the man die of. His Lordship then reviewed the evidence of Dr O'Connor, and the other medical testimony which he said left no doubt but that the deceased man had died of poisoning by strychnine. If they were satisfied that the deceased had not died of strychnine the prisoner of course should be discharged, as he had not committed the crime. His Lordship continued. And now gentlemen comes the momentous issue: was it the prisoner administered the strychnine to him. The Counsel for the Crown stated to you in what I must say was studied moderation (the facts of the case, and stated they would prove to a demonstration that the deceased had died of poison. That the poison must have been in the food, it is scarcely possible to doubt, because it is so excessively bitter a poison that it could not possibly be taken except in food. The suggestion is that the prisoner was anxious at all events to get into possession of this farm and that he felt unpleasant at the life he led. If in upon evidence that the prisoner had on a previous occasion said to Hinchy that the farm was to be his when his father died, and that he had the best right to it. He certainly was leading a very unpleasant life, performing the duties of a servant, and it was only natural he would feel unpleasant about it. It has also been proved that the prisoner was about getting married, and the suggestion is that he wished to be settled down in life. There was some discussion about a will, but to my mind that was irrelevant, for if he knew the property was coming to him in some mode or another, and if the devil tempted him he would have committed the crime in any case. It is revolting to human Nature to suppose that any man would anticipate nature and put his father out of the world, to succeed to his property—we have heard or read of such cases, but we seldom experience