THE INVENTION OF THE STEAM-HAMMER.

One of those men whose careers are a source of gratification to their country as well as a just vindication of their own natural ability died in London on Wednesday at a ripe old age. If James Nasmyth had no other title to fame, his im-mortality is, at all events, secured by his inven-tion of the steam-hammer which bears his name. In reality, however, he was by no means the man who gains repute by a single exploit, after the fashion of those poets whom we are bidden to admire because they were the authors of a single noteworthy poem. The youngest son of the Scotch landscape painter was, on the contrary, born a scientific student who could no more fail to show his tendency for mechanical work of all to show his tendency for mechanical work of all kinds than he could help exhibiting all the innate thrift and economy which are usually associated with those who come from north of the Tweed. At a very early period of his life James Nasmyth was busy in the construction of steam-engines, and while wider his fathers. and while under his father's roof he showed the and while inder his father's roof he showed the practical character of his intelligence by the mechanical methods which he invented for grinding his father's colours. Whether or no the old story be true which attributes the origin of his family name to the remark of some sceptical fellow-workman, who told his ancestor that he was the start of the colour of the colour of the colour that he such nae smich," it is abundantly clear that no such criticism could be brought against the young enthusiast who, when he was only thirteen, spent his Saturday afternoons in an iron foundry. His own talent provided him with the means of at-tending the classes at Edinburgh Uni-versity, where he acquired more than the rudiments of chemistry, mathematics, and natural philosophy. He was twenty-one years of age when like so many of his fellow-countrymen, he turned his back on Scotland, and migrated to London. His first home in the Metropolis was with Mr Heary Maudslay, whose name is so notably associated with engineering enterprise; and while occupied in the workshop, not as an apprentice—for he had got beyond so primitive a stage—but as a salaried assistant, his frugal habits enabled him to make his ten shillings weekly wage cover all his personal expenses, and prevent him from being a burden upon his father. Doubtless the elder Nasmyth had found Art to be but a niggardly stepmother, and had James not been a Scotchman it might have been somewhat difficult to provide him with the opportunity for developing his abilities in England. In 1834 the scene of his industry changes to Manchester. Here James Nasmyth started a small business engineering tools which he had constructed in Edinburgh after the death of Mr Maudslay in 1831. His good fortune, however, soon made it necessary for him to provide himself with new premises. Four miles west of Manchester he acquired a plot of land, on which he erected the series of workshops which were called the Bridgewater Foundry, from the fact that the land was bounded by the Bridgewater Canal. It was in this establishment that many of those tools were invented which have since proved so useful to mechanical work in all the manufactories of the world, and it was here that in 1839 Nasmyth devised the celebrated steam-hammer with which his name will always be indissolubly associated. The origin of the Nasmyth steamhammer is told in many popular handbooks of science. Like most of the creations of human intelligence, it arose under the pressure of actual need. The Great Western Railway Company, who were meditating the construction of a large paddle-wheel steamship, to be called the Great Britain, were actually at a standstill because they were unable to obtain a shaft of the size and diameter which were required. No firm of engineers could be found to undertake the forging of a wrought iron bar of the thickness of thirty inches, which should serve to connect the enormous paddlewheels of their projected design. The reason was plain. The only hammer used for forging was made on the lines of the old-fashioned hand-machine, which, of course, could not deliver blows with sufficient force. When Nasmyth was consulted by the Company in reference to their difficulty he at once saw that the real problem was how to get adequate weight and force combined with the nice adjustment that such engineering work necessitated. The result of his meditation on the subject was the Nasmyth steam-hammer, which in its original form consisted merely of a mass of iron to give the blow, an anvil on which to lay the work, and an inverted steam cylinder, to the piston-rod of which the hammer-block was attached. As a matter of fact, the invention was never applied to the purpose for which it was contrived, because the substitution of the screw for the paddlewheel led to the abandonment of the railway company's design. The steam-hammer, however, remained as a monument of Nasmyth's mechanical ability and notwithstanding all the improve-ments of which it was afterwards found capable, and the manifold uses to which it was ultimately applied, in essential elements it is even now the applied, in essential elements it is even now the same machine which the inventor roughly and rudely delineated in his "scheme book" to serve the temporary needs of the Great Western engineer. The history of the hammer forms, indeed, a curious page in the developments of science. Of all the tools used in the industrial arts it is clearly the one which could be the least discovered with and for this reason it is mobally dispensed with, and for this reason it is probably one of the oldest of the mechanical devices of the man and vet it is only within our own days RANGENT AND TREBARD.

Mr directions appear at Rawsenstall is a vigorous defence of the policy of the Government both in freland and in this country. He effectively exposes the total indifference displayed by the Irish party in Parliament to the interests of the Irish people. A land purchase scheme, which is popular, at any rate, in the north of Ireland among Unionists and Parnellites alike, was met by Mr Parnell with a motion for propulation rejection. This patriot would not even stop to rejection. This patriot would not even stop to discuss a boon to Irish tenants of the most unpreedented magnitude, offered on terms which impose no burden whatever on the Irish taxpayer. An elaborate scheme for the relief of the poorest and most wretched of the Irish population did not so much as attract his attention. He forgot to mention the congested districts, and his oversight was fitly matched by the charge brought by some of his friends that in proposing light rail-ways to carry produce to market the Government is only making jobs for its supporters. Yet these are the people whom we are told to accept as the only exponents of Irish feeling, and whose approval is to be the indispensable condition of the acceptance of any Irish legislation whatever. They have been, as Mr Goschen points out, unwearied in their efforts to create ill-feeling where none existed, to teach repudiation to men natural ly honest, and to plunge whole populations into ruin in order to make good their boast that Ireland is ungovernable save by themselves. The head and front of Mr Balfour's offending is that he has made the interest of the Irish tenants prevail against that of selfish agitators, and has found means to convince the tenants that they will do better to deal with the Government with out the help of their so-called representatives. Mr Goschen devoted a portion of his speech to the defence of the proposals for extinction of licences. showing that they only enable local authorities to buy up licences if they feel so disposed, leaving intact all the ordinary machinery for dealing with the liquor traffic in the old way. He made a point against the opponents of compensation when he observed that the publican's interest in his licence has always been recognized upon his death as a taxable property. It is rather a hard measure to create that property by the action of the State, which draws a large revenue from the publican's trade, to charge probate duty upon his property when he dies, and yet to wrap ourselves in our virtue and refuse to recognize the existence of the property while the owner lives.

THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

[ESTABLISHED 1766.]

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 10, 1890

CITY PETTY SESSIONS-YESTERDAY. (Before the Mayor presiding, Mr Z. Myles, Dr O'Shaughnessy, Alderman Gaffney, Mr. R. McDonnell, and Mr J. Guinane.

CARRYING A GUN WITHOUT A LICENSE. Thomas Gilhooly, Ballingarry, was charged with having carried a gun without an excise license in the city, on the 26th March last.

Mr Wm Cunmin, appeared on behalf of the

Inland Revenue authorities.

Head Constable Ward gave evidence of having found the defendant in possession of the gun, for which he had no license enabling him to carry

The defendant stated that he brought the gun to Whitakers to get it repaired. He had the ordinary license for keeping the gun.

Mr Cummin said that plea was always given under the new Act, but it was not lately taken because the authorities found that the Act was

The Mayor said they believed the defendant

had no intention of abusing the Act.

Mr Cummin—That may be, but I was ordered to take proceedings, and if you decide against me I must appeal.

The Mayor said they had no alternative but to inflict a fine, but they would recommend it to be either reduced was £2 10s.

Mr Cummin said he would forward the recommendation to the proper authorities.

FRAUDULENT INLISTMENT. A man named Michael Doolin was charged with having made a fraudulent attestation when joining the Munster Fusiliers, on the 26th Jan.,

Colour Sergeant Courtenay identified the prisoner as belonging to the 4th Battalion Connaught Rangers. He had joined the Fusiliers and made a false attestation.

The accused said he was necessitated through poverty to enlist secondly.

The magistrates inflicted a month's imprisonment.

DISORDERLY.

Richard Stenson was charged with having been drunk and disorderly on Mr Moloney's licensed premises; and the accused was further charged with the larceny of a scarf.

Acting-Sergeant Green gave evidence of having been called to Mr Moloney's publichouse, where he saw the defendant, who was drunk and dis-

orderly.

Mr Moloney stated that during the row the prisoner tore the scarf and pin off him. He did not know who took it.

The prisoner was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, and at the expiration of that time to find bail to be of good behaviour, or to go to gaol for an additional month.

A fine of 108 6d was imposed for drunkenness.

Wate Smyth was abarged by Constable Murphy

THE DRATH OF THE WORAN DOTLE. CHARGE OF FATAL ASSAULT.

At the Petty Sessions yesterday, before the Mayor, presiding, and other magistrates, a young man of the labouring class haned John Doyle was brought up in custody, charged with having committed an assault on his wife, Mary Ann Doyle, on the 26th February last, from the effects of which her life was endangered. The woman's death occurred on the 6th inst-and on Tuesday last an inquest was held on the body, and the verdict of the jury was that death resulted from tuberculosis or natural causes.

District Inspector Lawless prosecuted, and Mr J. H. Moran, solicitor, appeared for the

Mr Lawless said there was a deposition made by the deceased.

Mr Moran said he would read the deposition which was made nine weeks after the alleged assault, which was alleged to have the effect of causing or accelerating death. The deposition was to the effect that the woman was living with her husband in the New Road, She remembered on a Saturday about nine weeks ago that her husband beat and kicked her in the stomach. He dragged her by the hair of the head, and kicked her before he knocked her down, and when she was on the ground he dragged her out of the house by the hair. Larry Murphy was present, and he tried to save her. She went away and her husband brought her back again to his house. She got sick two days after this occurred and was confined of a premature birth which took place about two months before the time. He best her afterwards and thumped her and pulled her by the hair, but he did not kick She then went to hospital and went back to her husband. After coming out she went to bed at home, and her husband, when she was unable to rise from bed, put his hards on her throat and said she shou'd either go to the work-

house or go to her father.

Dr Nolan was examined and stated, in reply to Mr Lawless, that the deceased was admitted to the Union Hospital on the 1...h March safering from kidney disease. The lungs were also singlify affected. She left the hospital, but was subsequently re-admitted on the 1th April. She was then suffering more acutely from the lung disease, which was much an arvested, and the kidneys which was much aggravated, and the kidneys were very bad. Death occurred on the 6th inst He made a post mortem examination of the body and found that death resulted from general con sumption, the kidneys and lungs being diseased. The heart was sound. She suffered from diarrheea, which had the effect of infla 'ng the bowels.

Do you think that this violnce that has been deposed to had anything to do with her death? I should say from the condition of the woman that that this violence, if used, would have accelerated

Mr Myles-Did she complain of any injury? I don't kno, that she complained of any injury the first time, but she did on her second admis sion

Mr Lawless-Do you believe that the consump tion she was suffering from would have a fatal termination before the 6th? I believe this: that from the condition of the woman that immediately after her confinement she would have died.

Would the violence have the effect of aggravating this disease to the kidneys? Certainly it

Dr O'Shaughnessy - Did this inberculas disease develop rapidly ? Yes.

Mr Lawless—Was this her first confinement?

Fron the state of the womb, I should say it

Would the violence have the effect of causing premature confinement? It might of course.

Dr O'Shaughnessy—Do you think this tuber-

culosis would have remained dormant up to her

confinement? I consider it would.

Alderman Gaffney—Did she make any complaint the first time she was admitted? I don't think she did.

Will you swear she didn't? I cannot swear

examined by Mr Moran—Did she con plain of a cold? She did.

What length of time elapsed between the time ofher first admission to the workhouse and her re-admission? She was admitted on the 15th HOP BITTERS paid for a case they will no March, and left on the 2nd April, and was again HOP BITTERS cure or help. They are admitted on the 11th April,

During the time from the 15th March to the 2nd April did the woman make a complaint? To the best of my belief she did not.

Would it be your duty if she made a complaint to find out what it was, and treat her for it? It would. The violence was complained of on the second occasion

From the examination of the woman when admitted did you discover any marks of violence on her? There were none on the parts I examined.

Mr Lawless—Did you ascertain from the woman that she had received some injuries.

Mr Moran objected to the question. Anything said by the woman was not evidence.

Dr. Nolan said so far as he remembered she made no complaint until she was admitted secondly.

The Mayor said the magistrates were unanimously of opinion that a prima facia case had been established for the prosecution, and they were of opinion that it was one which ought to be decided by a jury. Mr Moran applied for bail.

The magistrates measured bail at £50 and two

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