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SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 31, 1896.

It is to be hoped the prosecutions so successfully carried out yesterday at the Petty Sessions will have the effect of diminishing, if not of suppressing, an evil which has assumed great magnitude in this city. It is one of the commonplaces of conversation that gambling is becoming a greater curse to the community than drink. Instances have been given of men who have hampered themselves with debt, imperilled their future prospects, lost the situations by which they earned the livelihood of themselves and their families, all through an unreasonable and vicious indulgence in gambling. It is very easy to speak too strongly on the matter, and it might be as well, perhaps, to take care we do not compound for sins we are inclined to pry damning these we have no mind to. We do not wish to enter into any discussion as to the morality of gambling, or as to where the sin comes in, if it be a sin. Nor need we be careful to draw a sharp moral distinction between paying a shilling for a charity lottery ticket, or backing a horse with a similar coin. Nor, again, are we anxious to decide why an artizan on a pound a week is to be blamed for laying a wager on a horse which has been backed by a Cabinet Minister without exciting any severe adverse comment. These are subtleties that do not enter at all into the practical consideration of the question as, unfortunately, it has come before the public. There is no denying the fact that gambling, as we have said, has become a crying evil in this city. Whether inherently blameworthy or not, it is but too plain that risking sums of money which men cannot afford to see pass away without anxiety as to the result, has led to very serious disaster. There are few to affirm that habitual betting is in accordance with prudence or a reasonable care for one's future, but when it goes farther, when, as is often the case, money is staked which has been obtained from the till of the employer, or at ruinous terms from a money-lender, the condemnation of such a course is clear and decisive, and such a proceeding has led in many cases to terrible disaster. As long as there is a world in existence there will be dupes, and, of course, rogues, to make a remunerative living out of the follies, the weakness, even the crimes of the dupes. Laws are powerless to prevent such evils, to protect the morally weak, or to infuse strength into their feeble moral fibre. The executive, however, though it cannot entirely protect such a class, can at least see that advantage is not taken of their weakness and their folly with impunity, and so lessen the evil. The police have earned the thanks of the community in carrying out this raid which has resulted in the prosecutions of yesterday. The infliction of even heavy fines will not put down gambling, but the shame of public exposure may probably deter many from mixing themselves up with questionable proceedings. The facility that is afforded for gambling attracts the young, the inexperienced, those on the threshold of manhood, who think they become men by copying the vices of men. The public opinion of the community must be strongly directed against gambling, for from that only can we hope for an effective preventive. It was public opinion which condemned the drinking habits of fifty years ago, and which has wrought such a great improvement. Reckless and imprudent gambling deserves the same condemnation. The young should be warned in time. Those older require to have the folly of their recklessness pointed out to them before it is too late. In any case the practice of the vice should be made as difficult and as risky from a legal point of view as possible. The police, we hope, will not lessen their efforts in seeing that the law is not evaded by the technicalities that were put forward yesterday. But it is to the combined efforts of the community that we must look for the remedy which will be most effectual and most permanent. Whether the gambling spirit be due to an unwholesome feeling for excitement, or to a greed of speedy and easy gain, the inexperienced should be warned against indulging in it, and also a firm and decided expression of opinion should stamp the making a living out of the follies of others with the reprobation it so richly deserves.

Mr Coogan, L.D.S., has returned to 11, Upper Mallow street.

A quarterly statutory meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday next for the transaction of general business.

ADJOURNED PETTY SESSIONS.—Mr E F Hickson R M, and Alderman Cleary, presided at the adjourned Petty Sessions to-day, and disposed of a number of cases in which the defendants were charged with drunkenness, and other minor offences. Nominal fines were imposed.

ADJOURNED QUARTER SESSIONS.—His Honor Judge Adams sat in the County Courthouse yesterday for the purpose of hearing some cases which had been adjourned from the recent Quarter Sessions. The cases were of no public interest. His Honor will hold a court on Monday next for the purpose of disposing of the remaining business.

THE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.—We learn that the first meeting for the winter season of the Choral Branch of this Society will be held in the Library of the Athenæum on Thursday next, the 5th November, at 8 o'clock, under the conductorship of Mr F Musgratt. The choral pieces selected are short and popular of the part song character, some of which will be with full orchestral accompaniment, similar to those of last year.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL.—Twenty second Sunday after Trinity.—Feast of All Saints.—Morning Service 11.30; Venite, Stainer in C; Chants, Hayes in G, and Hopkins in C; Service, Te Deum and Benedictus, Dykes in F; Hymn, No 585, "Hark! the sound of Holy Voices"; Communion Service, Dykes; Offertory Sentences, Barnby; Preacher, The Dean. Evening prayer, 3.30; Chants, Turle in D m and aj; Service, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, Bridge in G; Anthem, "God is a spirit," John iv. 24, Sterndale Bennett; Preacher, Rev T F Abbott, B D; Hymn after sermon, No 352, "Who are these like stars." Weekday services at 11 a m and 3 p m. Litany on Wednesday and Friday.

SERIOUS ASSAULT ON AN OLD WOMAN.—At Newcastle West Petty Sessions yesterday, District Inspector Bain charged, James Kiely, a shoemaker, with having caused bodily injury to his mother, whereby her leg was broken. He said the accused and his mother had some alteration; he shoved her, and she fell breaking her leg. The old woman was 97 years; and it is scarcely possible she can recover. Should she die, although the injury might not be the immediate cause of death, it would be considered accelerating and might then assume a serious shape, and it would be difficult to know what the Judge might think of it. The case was adjourned for a month to see how the injured woman would go on, and the accused admitted to bail—£5 and two £2 10s.

TRAGIC SUICIDE IN THE CITY.

SENSATIONAL EVIDENCE.

A painful sensation was caused in the city yesterday afternoon when the news was circulated that Mr Peter G. Griffin, J P, of Altavilla, Co Limerick, had shot himself dead with a revolver in his bedroom at the Glentworth Hotel. The circumstances of the sad fatality are set out at the inquest, but it may be stated briefly that Mr Griffin came to town on Wednesday, and it appears had been at the Club that night, where a dispute is alleged to have arisen over a game of cards. He returned to his hotel at a late hour on Thursday morning, and during the day was absent in the hotel, and certain commands of his were carried out by the officials. Nothing particular was seen of him after until his dead body was discovered yesterday in his bedroom, with a revolver clenched in his right hand. In one of the two letters (that addressed to Mrs Griffin) which the deceased gentleman wrote on the day preceding his death he makes grave allegations regarding the affairs at the Club, and these imparted to the painful proceedings a sensational interest. The letters were put in evidence this evening. The inquest was formally opened yesterday evening at the Glentworth Hotel by Mr Coroner DeCourcy and a jury, and after hearing the evidence of Dr Shanahan, was adjourned till 3.30 this afternoon to the City Courthouse to hear the result of the *post mortem* examination.

The tragic event has created a gloom over the city and county, where Mr Griffin was most popular for his truly hospitable, sportsmanlike, and genial manner, and his awfully sad end has filled with dismay all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and who deeply sympathise with his afflicted widow and family.

The inquest was resumed to-day at half-past three o'clock in the City Courthouse by Mr Coroner DeCourcy.

The following were the jury:—John Hardiman (foreman), George O'Dea, George Hare, Edward Walsh, John Waugh, Thomas Costelloe, John J Mescall, Michael Costelloe, Daniel Lynch, Thos Lane, John Casey, John O'Malley, Thos Downey, Joseph Kimmett, Michael O'Tool.

Mr Hetreed, D I, prosecuted the case on behalf of the Crown.

Mr Wm Lewis Hunt was the first witness. He deposed, in reply to Mr Hetreed—I live at Southhill, and the deceased, Mr Griffin was my brother-in-law; I had not seen him for the past week, until I saw his dead body on yesterday evening about twenty minutes to four o'clock at the Glentworth Hotel; I identify the body as that of Mr Peter Gerald Griffin; I knew the deceased very intimately.

Can you say if he was in difficulties of any kind? I thought he might have had a little more money than he had.

Was he in difficulties? N, he was not in difficulties.

Do you know of any circumstances that would cause his mind to become unhinged? No, I do not.

Did he ever express to you any intention on his part to do away with his life? Well, not to me.

Did he say anything of the kind to any relation? I believe he did; I heard he expressed something like that to my brother.

Mr Hetred—That's all I ask you; but I believe there are solicitors present representing different parties, and they may have some questions to ask.

Mr F M Fitt—I appear for the deceased's family. I have no questions to ask Mr Hunt.

Mr P E O'Donnell—I appear here for some members of the County Club who are represented here owing to the rumour which appeared in the papers that this occurrence had something to do with a transaction there. I appear for them, and they are willing to give every assistance in order to have a proper conclusion arrived at. I don't ask Mr Hunt any questions.

Captain John Gerald Hunt, Commander R N, deposed—I reside at 25 Upper Mallow street; the deceased gentleman was my brother-in-law; I was not here, nor had seen him for some time.

Did he at any time make use of any expression about doing away with himself? Yes, he said something like that out of fun or jest.

What did he say? He said it would be very easy for him to put a pistol in his hand and make away with himself.

When did he say this. How long is this ago? I should say it is about a year ago.

Did you recollect the circumstances which gave rise to this observation? I cannot say. It appeared like a jest.

Was he a man of bad temper? No, on the contrary he had the best of temper; he was an excellent companion and friend.

Was he excitable? No, he was the coolest man I ever met.

There is one more question, which may be painful, but which it is necessary to put. Did you know that the deceased at any time took too much drink? Well, no, I never saw him incapacitated from drink.

Alderman Patrick Kenna, proprietor of the Glentworth Hotel, was the next witness. He deposed, in answer to Mr Hetred,—I knew the deceased gentleman quite well; on Wednesday morning about half-past ten Mr Griffin came into the hotel to engage a room; I did not however see him until I saw him dead in bed; at half-past two on Thursday morning I inquired from the hall-porter if anyone was out, and the porter replied that the only one out was Mr Peter Griffin; I then retired to bed; I asked next morning what time did he come in, and was informed that it was about four o'clock.

Mr Hetreed—Of course you do not know that from your own knowledge. We will get that from the porter.

Cornelius Maher deposed—I am night porter at the Glentworth Hotel; I remember that Mr Griffin came into the hotel on Thursday morning last at four o'clock; I knew him well, as he was in the habit of staying at the hotel.

Did you notice anything peculiar about him?

He rang the bell and came into the hall; he said nothing but passed on; I saw him staggering, and I went to get a candle; I followed him with the candle.

Did you form any impression as to his state? I thought he had enough of drink taken, but he did not want any assistance upstairs; I followed him into the room.

Do you mean that he was able to go upstairs without assistance—Did you offer him assistance? No, I did not, but he did not want assistance upstairs; I thought it my duty to follow him into the bedroom; he staggered two or three times on the stairs.

Did he say anything to you when you were in the room; he told me to lay the candle on the dressing table, and that I might go away.

Did he speak to you in the ordinary way or was his speech thick? He was not cross or anything.

Was his speech thick, or anything like that? I did not take notice.

I think you made a statement to the Head Constable that he appeared to be angry? He did not speak to me so friendly on that night as usual.

The Foreman—You met him several times before that?

Witness—Yes, and he was always very friendly.

Mr Hetreed—When did you leave off duty on that morning?

Witness—About seven o'clock; I did not see him afterwards until about a quarter past ten on Thursday night; I was passing the corridor, and I saw a candle lighting in his bedroom; the door was closed, but not locked; I opened the door and went in; I saw Mr Griffin lying on the bed; he appeared to be asleep.

Did you look at him closely? No.

Did you notice a revolver in his hand? No; but it may have been in his hand without my noticing it.

How was he lying? He was lying on his back.

When you saw him on that night could you say if he was dressed or undressed? I could not say.

Were his arms out? I could not say.

The Foreman—Have you any idea how long he was on the bed that evening? No, sir. The body was in the same position on that night.

The Coroner—You went to put out the candle? Yes.

A Juror (Mr Casey)—Did you see Mr Griffin leave the hotel on that day? Did he leave the hotel at all?

Witness—I did not see him leave it.

Mr Casey—Because I am informed that he was at the Munster Fair.

The Coroner—You must go by the evidence.

Mr O'Donnell—I think Mr Casey is under a misapprehension. This witness did not see him after he came in on Thursday night.

Lizzie Kilmartin deposed—I am a housemaid at the Glentworth Hotel; about eleven o'clock on Thursday morning I went to Mr Griffin's room, No. 19, to make it up; Mr Griffin was then standing in his room fully dressed, except his coat; he did not say anything; I thought he was gone, but finding him there, I went away again; I came again in about an hour afterwards and Mr Griffin was still there; I passed his room door about half-past six that evening; Mr Griffin called out, "Is that the boots?"; I said not; I stood at the door, and Mr Griffin told me to bring him a whiskey and soda. I brought it to him; he took it from me at the door; he drank it, gave me back the glass, and thanked me; I think he was sober at the time; I left me him at one o'clock yesterday (Friday); I had not gone to his room before this time, as I was very busy; I did not knock at the door, but walked into the room; Mr Griffin was then dead.

How did you know he was dead?

Witness—There was blood on his face and I saw a revolver in his hand; I reported what I had seen to Mr Kenna, and the police were then sent for; there was bustle and noise through the hotel, it being fair day.

John Kenna deposed—I remember 12 o'clock on Thursday, Mr Griffin asked for two stationeries downstairs—he meant two sheets of notepaper, and I gave him two, with two envelopes; ten minutes afterwards he rang the bell in the same room (the writing room), and told me to bring a glass of port wine and biscuits to his bedroom; I brought them up; he was just going upstairs after me.

Mr Hetreed—Did he appear all right? Perfectly.

Could you say when Mr Griffin went out of the hotel? I could not say.

Can you identify that paper (notepaper produced) as being similar to the paper you gave him? It is just the same.

Mr Augustus Nestor—I live in Victoria Terrace, and carry on business in a shop in George street; I knew Mr Griffin well; I remember him coming into my shop about half-past eight on Thursday morning; he said he wanted to see some revolvers; the revolver (produced) is the one he bought; I showed him a smaller one, and I think he said, "If a fellow has to use one at all he may as well have one that would stop"; he meant one that would be useful.

Stop who? Stop a person coming at him; it cost 30s; he bought a box of cartridges; could not say if the box (produced) had been quite full; there may have been three or four out of it; he was rather excited when he came in, for he shouted, my name rather loudly; I was at the back of the shop; he left with the revolver then; he made another observation. "I have one of these at home, but it is no good, and a man requires a decent revolver in his house."

Witness examined the revolver he had sold Mr Griffin, and said there had been only one chamber discharged.

Head-Constable John Fitzgerald deposed—I left the Courthouse yesterday at three o'clock for the Glentworth Hotel on the matter being reported to me by Mr Kenna; I was accompanied by him going up, and I went to the bed room; when I entered No. 19 bedroom I saw the deceased lying on his back in the bed; the bedclothes were on him; they were not much disturbed or tossed; outside the bedclothes his two arms were across his breast; in the right he had the revolver in a rather perpendicular position, his four fingers resting on the trigger; there was blood on his nose, his mouth, and on his neck at each side of his chin; with a little difficulty I took the revolver out of his hand; it had been firmly grasped; the body was cold and rigid; on examination of the revolver I found it contained an exploded cartridge case, I examined the other barrels, and I saw that only one had been used; I then examined his body, and found that he had his vest, trousers and stockings on him; his boots were by his bed-side, and his coat and other articles were hanging up on a rack in the room; in a portmanteau I found this box full of revolver ammunition; it contained 43 rounds; on the dressing table in the room I found two letters.

Mr Fitt—I ask you not to put in these letters until you hear me upon it.

Mr Hetreed—I merely wish to give evidence of identification. (To the witness)—You identified these letters? Yes. One is addressed to Mrs Griffin, Altavilla, Rathkeale, Co Limerick, and is stamped, and the second is addressed to Captain George Hunt, Upper Mallow street, Limerick; this is also stamped; at the back of the letter addressed to Mrs Griffin is his handwriting in red pencil, "There are five pounds in notes and silver in my pockets." Witness, continuing, said he was present when Mr Hetreed opened these letters last evening about six o'clock.

In answer to Mr Fitt, he said that the laudanum bottle was found beside the bed; there was nothing in it.

Mr Hetreed said there seemed to be a little liquid in it.

Aare Suche deposed—I am assistant at Mr Laird's Medical Hall in George street; I knew the deceased; I remember Mr Griffin coming in between half-past 8 or 9 on Thursday morning, and he asked for an ounce of laudanum; he had been in the habit of buying large quantities of medicine for cattle, and I gave it to him in the ordinary course; he said nothing; I did not notice anything particular about his demeanour; identified the bottle (produced).

Dr Shanahan deposed—I made a post mortem examination last evening in conjunction with Dr Graham; the cause of the death was laceration of the brain and hemorrhage caused by the bullet tarversing through the brain; death must have been almost instantaneous; he described some slight abrasures he found on the body, but could not say if they were recent; the death wound must have been self-inflicted.

Coroner—Could you give any idea how long he had been dead when you saw the body first?

Witness said it might have been twelve hours.

Mr Hetreed—It might have been twelve or it might have been twenty-four? I don't know that it might have been so long as twenty-four hours.

To Mr Fitt—I was present when the laudanum bottle was found; I found no evidence of it in the pupils, but the pupils dilate again after death.

Dr Graham agreed with Dr Shanahan's evidence, so far as he has described the injuries to the head—the bullet wound, and as to the cause of death; the contusion of the arms, the abrasion on the chin were, I'd say, inflicted within three days; they were all slight wounds. (Continuing)—The wounds at the back of the head were about the size of a grain of wheat; they did not penetrate the skin; I don't think they were wounds such as would have been caused by a fall; I could not say that they were wounds at all; they had not the appearance of having been caused by blows.

Mr Hetreed said he now came to the most painful position of this unhappy affair, and that was with reference to the letters which were handed to him, and which in the course of his duty he opened to see whether they might throw any light upon the state of the man's mind at the time of his death. These letters contained some allegations indicating the state of his mind, and they contain references to private matters, and other transactions. He mentioned this matter now to the Coroner. He understood that Mr Fitt, as representing the relatives, objected to these letters being read. It was true they were addressed to private persons, but they were there to inquire into the state of the man's mind, and documents such as these in the ordinary titles of evidence would be most material to them in coming to a conclusion on that point. Acting on the instructions of his superiors he was prepared to hand them in.

Mr Fitt said he acknowledged the reasonableness of everything Mr Hetreed had said, but he would draw their attention to the fact that these letters were not like an ordinary document that a man driven to do an extreme act left behind him perfectly open on a dressing-table or bed or chair, and where it was intended as his reasons for committing the rash act. In this case these letters were written under different circumstances—they were written in the writing-room of the hotel, and they were stamp d with postage stamps, and it was only a coincidence that they were not posted. The letter to Mrs Griffin contained matters of a particularly private nature which the family would rather not make public. At the same time they asked, as the letters were put to them, that the coroner and jury judge and read them privately for themselves. It would be most painful and add unnecessary bitterness if these letters were to go into the newspapers.

The Foreman said he was directed by the jury to say that, having heard the evidence, they were quite satisfied as to the cause of death, and they did not require these private letters to be read.

Mr Hetreed said he could not allow the jury to remain under a false impression, but he must say that the letters disclosed evidence of an unfortunate transaction which preyed upon his mind, and which he assigns as being the cause of his taking away his life.

The Coroner having perused the letters, said it was, no doubt, a very painful matter, but he did not think they could avoid reading them.

Mr Hetreed then gave evidence and said the following letters had been handed in:—

"Glentworth Hotel,
"14, 15, 16,
"Thursday.

"MY DARLING WIFE,—I don't know how to begin or end this unhappy letter. I am in such misery and trouble. Last evening at the Club I was drawn into a game of cards with Johnny MacMahon, a stranger named O'Brien, Tom Atkinson. The evening went off quietly and pleasantly until Mr O'Brien began to address me as the Major, which I resented, and begged of him not to persevere in. He, however, seemed determined to insult me, and words led to worse. He and McM. and Hobson eventually assaulted me, letting O'Brien on to strike me, and leaving me no chance whatever of [illegible] They knocked me down three times [illegible] give me notice or a chance. The row started about a character that I am determined not to live under. I did not, and would rather [illegible] Now I will kill both O'Brien and MacMahon if I met them and I purchased a revolver this morning to shoot them at sight. But I thought better of it, and would not do this murder on my hands for your sake and my darling children. My dear wife, I beg of you not to fret—the row is nothing about me. My life at best would be a short one, and you will, I am certain, take good care of our dear children. There will be enough to pay all our debts and leave you sufficient to live on.

"My life is no further value, and it would be quite unbearable to me, and I pray God to forgive me all my sins, and He will, I am sure, measure my deserts and allow for all my shortcomings according to the opportunities he has placed in my way and power. There is not much more to say, except good bye my own darling good wife and keep our sons from bad company and bad temper. I am utterly miserable and hopeless, or I would not commit the fearful act I am now resolved on. I brought on by drink, temper, and bad company. Good-bye my sweet love, and bear up for the children's sake. When this reaches you I will be beyond pity, pain and succour.

"I die without shame or dishonour, murdered by dishonourable men, who made a display of their skill in cheating in my presence.

"Tom Atkinson was perfectly innocent of all participation in the row, but was present before it and left.

"Goodbye, goodbye, and may God bless you my dear love.

"Yours fond,
"PETER."

The second letter was as follows:—

"MY DEAR GEORGE—Take care of Maria and the children for me, and may God bless you. There will be enough for all. I am done to death by blackleg, and mean to do justice better than man's laws.

"Yours ever in death,
"PETER GRIFFIN."

Mr Hetreed—I wish to give my own impression in the matter as I happened to go into the Club while the party were card-playing. I went into the club about ten o'clock and stayed reading, and occasionally watching the game for about an hour altogether. Mr Peter Griffin made a remark to me about the recent letting raid in which a P Griffin was arrested. It seemed to pray on his mind as he said he was disgraced on account of his name being mixed up with it, and that he should contradict it by writing to the *Chronicle* explaining that he was not the man. I put it off saying it was not necessary, and it would be only making a fuss about nothing; nobody believed i was him; he appeared satisfied then, but it appeared to me extraordinary that he kept harping on the same subject and returning to it over and over again; I would not say that he was drunk, but my first impression was that he had some drink taken; I knew him pretty well, and I must certainly say that his general demeanour on this occasion was quite different to anything I had seen with him before; I always looked upon him as being a level-headed man; I remained there to about eleven o'clock; Mr Griffin appeared to be more peculiar than usual on this occasion.

Mr O'Donnell said he would examine Sir Timothy O'Brien.

Mr Hetreed—Of course Mr O'Donnell is calling on these gentlemen on their own account, and I may cross-examine them.

The Coroner—Certainly.

Sir Timothy O'Brien, Schort Castle, Mallow was examined. In reply to Mr O'Donnell, he stated—I was a guest at the County Club on Wednesday last; I am an honorary member; I met Captain M'Mahon as a visitor; I also met Mr Peter Griffin and Mr Atkinson; during dinner Captain M'Mahon suggested that they would go to the theatre; Mr Griffin, I think, suggested that instead of going to the theatre they should have a game of cards; that is my impression; I was quite familiar with Mr Griffin the whole evening, and invited him to go hunting; during the whole night there was not a single suggestion from anybody about cheating at cards.

Was there any suggestion at all of the kind? None whatever.

As a matter of fact, did Mr Griffin come off at the end of the evening a few pounds winners? Yes; Captain M'Mahon lost.

I believe there was some chaff about calling Mr Griffin "major"? Yes, somebody called Mr M'Mahon major, and I said Mr Griffin would look more like a major; that was mere chaff, and I called it to him several times during the evening; I said if he objected to my calling him major I would call him Major-General; in a few minutes afterwards Mr Griffin got up and was going to strike me; he pushed the card-table and ink-bottle and everything down; I said I could not have anything to do with him in the Club, that I was a guest; sometime afterwards he got again annoyed, and asked me if I owed him any money; I said not, and he said somebody did; I said Captain M'Mahon did; and Mr Griffin then made some insulting remark, to the effect that if he did not get it then he would never get it; Captain M'Mahon rang the bell for the porter for the purpose of getting a cheque, and I then gave Capt M'Mahon some money I had; I believe it was £5; Captain M'Mahon gave it to Mr Griffin, who threw it back at him, saying it was £7; eventually he took the £5; he used most insulting language towards me; I said to him that he must be a cur, and asked him if he would come out; he made an effort to come out, but went back and fell on the floor; I said, "That is just what you would do, you are a cur;" I did not see Captain M'Mahon strike him; I pushed him and he fell, but he struck me twice as a matter of fact. I did not strike him, but I pushed him I was under the impression that he was not drunk; there was not a word about cheating or anything of the kind; Mr Griffin said he would shoot me, and he made some remark about meeting him at ten paces; I did not think the matter very serious at the time; I am quite sure I did not strike him; I did not see him struck, nor did I strike him myself; Captain M'Mahon endeavoured to square matters, or bring about a reconciliation; there was not exactly a reconciliation, but we went away.

Cross-examined by Mr Fitt—Is this true or false which was written by Mr Griffin in that letter—"Everything went on quietly and pleasantly until Mr O'Brien began to address me in an offensive manner as major, which I resented, and begged of him not to preserve in, but they seemed determined to insult me, and words came to worse." That is written by a man who knew he was about to terminate his existence. That is written to his wife. Do you say if that is false?

Witness—Yes; distinctly I do; when he seemed annoyed by my calling him Major-General I then called him Mr Griffin.

You say you did not strike him? I pushed him. I could exemplify it if you come up.

Did he fall? Yes.

Did you knock him down three times, as the letter states? Is that false? It is false.

Did you say in the course of the evening "We will make the b— fight"? No.

Did you catch him by the neck, and did you pull him up the hall, and did Mr Hobson lock the hall door and give the keys to the hall porter? No. Nothing of the kind.

Were you sober? Yes, perfectly.

Mr Fitt (addressing the Coroner)—In consequence of these answers I would ask that the steward should be sent for.

The Coroner—Very well.

Mr O'Donnell (to witness)—Is there a word of truth in the statement that two men held him while you beat him? No, they held me.

Captain John M'Mahon was then examined by Mr O'Donnell. He said that Sir Timothy O'Brien's evidence was fairly accurate, but there might be a few discrepancies. I really never thought that he objected to be called Major, because they were calling me Captain? I was asked would I take a card Captain, and he was asked would he take a card Major, and he said yes or no, as the case might be; I did not think he was insulted when he was called Major.

Is there any truth that Mr Hobson held Mr Griffin while Mr O'Brien struck him? None, whatever; I admit pushing him once, that was after Sir Timothy and Mr Hobson were in the street; Mr Griffin was left behind in the Club, and I went back and told him to have all this nonsense stopped, and they should make it up; Mr Griffin said "No; he is a doomed man; I will shoot him."

At this stage the Coroner said he would adjourn the investigation.

Capt McMahon said these allegations against him and the others won'd go before the public, and he thought he should be allowed to explain his position. As an officer he must at once report the matter. It was very serious to have these aspersions circulated.

The Coroner—I will adjourn after your evidence.

Capt McMahon (continuing)—I endeavoured to keep Mr Griffin quiet; Sir Timothy O'Brien said he was a guest, and would not fight in the Club; Mr Hobson never touched him; Sir Timothy caught him by the collar, but I said to him that he (Sir Timothy) was my guest, and this thing should not go on; I never touched him, but was doing my best to make peace; Sir Timothy O'Brien put up with a great deal from him more than I could stand, I think; he seemed to have lost himself completely. I said to Mr Griffin to go home; he said "No, I will kill that man;" I will shoot him;" Mr Griffin said "You have also turned against me;" I said I tried to lead to me and my son; you made a great friend of him in the world; I said that we all commence. His manner was great annoyance; we discussed the whole matter afterwards about his unusual conduct; at one time I thought he had too much drink, but other times I did not; he was most quiet in the morning.

Mr Fitt—What impression did you afterwards come to?

Witness—I believe he was suffering from some hallucination; there was not the slightest remark about cheating during the whole evening.

Mr Fitt said he was quite willing to accept Captain M'Mahon's statement of what occurred.

The Coroner again intimated that he would adjourn the court.

Mr O'Donnell proceed to have the evidence of Mr Hobson taken, and after some discussion, the Coroner consented to conclude the inquiry.

Mr F Hobson, in reply to Mr O'Donnell, said he went into the Club at about eleven o'clock, when Mr Griffin, Mr Atkinson, Sir Timothy O'Brien, and Captain M'Mahon were card-playing; after some persuasion he joined in the game; Mr Griffin did not appear to take offence at being called Major, but he suddenly rose and attempted to strike Sir Timothy across the table; he addressed him in the most offensive manner; there was no provocation at all, and the act was that of a mad man; Mr Griffin, in a short time afterwards upset the card table, and continued to address Sir Timothy most offensively; he said that if he did not get the money from Captain McMahon he would never get it; he seemed to have lost himself completely, and was going on like a madman.

Had Sir Timothy O'Brien produced money out of his pocket? He handed money to Captain McMahon, and he handed it to Mr Griffin who shied it back in his face, saying "take your money."

He made use of a very offensive word? Mr Griffin made use of that word; after that I was afraid he would go out, and I locked the door; after that Sir Timothy and I discussed what was the matter with the man; we both came to the conclusion that he was not drunk; I never saw any people to keep their temper better on that night, as all my life, than Sir Tim thy O'Brien, myself, and Mr Atkinson and Captain M'Mahon.

George Taylor, house steward at the Club, stated that after two o'clock Mr Griffin was talking in an excited state.

Mr Fitt—Did you see Sir Timothy O'Brien do anything to Mr Peter Griffin? I saw him push him down in the room at the fire-place.

Did you hear Sir Timothy making use of any expression? I could not recollect.

Did Sir Timothy threaten to drag him through the mud? He said, "I won't hurt him. I would roll him in the mud."

That occurred in the hall? Yes.

Mr Hetreed, at the time of the scuffle was going on, you say you saw Sir Timothy give this push. Did you see anyone else strike him? Capt McMahon remonstrated with him.

Did you see anyone else strike him? No. I heard Mr Griffin call Mr McMahon a liar. It was then Capt McMahon struck him.

Did you see Peter Griffin strike anyone? He struck at them; in the room when Sir Timothy pushed him he struck forward.

Did you see him strike anybody? No.

This closed the evidence, and

Mr O'Donnell addressed the jury.

The Coroner said there was no doubt upon the evidence that was given that the deceased was in an excited manner, and he showed by his conduct the state he was in. He was not suffering from the effects of drink. I am sure you will all come to the conclusion, the only conclusion which to my mind you can come to, that the deceased died from a self-inflicted wound while temporarily insane. As to the allegation about unfair play at cards, from the evidence that you heard given I think you must come to the conclusion that there was no truth in the allegation that there was any foul play.

The jury retired, and after a short absence returned to court with the following verdict:—"Deceased came by his death by a self-inflicted wound while labouring under a state of temporary insanity." The Foreman added we desire to express our sincere regret at the unfortunate occurrence by which her husband came by his death, and to tender her our sincere condolence in her affliction, to herself, her family, and friends.

Mr O'Donnell asked would the jury add the rider that he had suggested.

The Foreman—I brought that before the jury There are some for it and some against. A majority are for it.

The proceedings closed about 8 o'clock.

ATTEMPTING TO TRAVEL WITHOUT A TICKET.

WELL-MERITED SENTENCE.

At the City Petty Sessions yesterday, a young man named Egan was prosecuted at the suit of the Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway Company for travelling without a ticket. He was also charged with getting into the train while it was in motion, and further, with maliciously injuring a carriage. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Hanrahan, ticket collector, that the defendant had been removed from a carriage attached to the night mail. As the train was moving out, Egan jumped on to the step-board, and breaking the window in the door of the carriage, succeeded in getting in. When the train reached Newpallas, the first stopping station, Egan was removed by the guard, but again when the train was in motion he jumped in through the window. The magistrates considered that he should be prevented from going near the railway premises. Mr Dundon, solr., who prosecuted, said the defendant was incorrigible, and had got on the premises unknown to the Company's servants. The Bench imposed a fine of 40s for each offence, or in default three months' imprisonment; and it was ordered that he should pay 7s 6d compensation for the damage to the carriage.

GREAT MUNSTER FAIR.

SECOND DAY.

The Cattle and Sheep Fair was held yesterday morning, and fortunately those whose business brought them to the fair were favoured with fine, but very sharp weather. The fair was a very large one, and as prices held firm, a great deal of business was done, large quantities of stock being purchased for export purposes, and sent away by special trains, while the Clyde boat took across about 500 head. The supply of cattle was slightly larger than at the corresponding fair of twelve months ago, while calves were much less, being 830 as against 2,339. The sheep department was well supplied, but was 200 under the return of twelve months ago. Best beef sold at 52s 6d per cwt; medium, 45s to 48s. Mutton fetched from 6d to 7d per lb on foot. Three year olds realised from £11 to £15; two year olds, £8 to £10, while yearlings were to be had from £5 to £7, and calves at various rates, according to condition. Milch cows and springers were in good demand. The following is the official return of the fair—Horses, 1,493; cattle, 5 057; sheep, 9 5; calves, 830; pigs and bonhams, 1,832.

PROTESTANT AID HOME, LIMERICK.

Miss Garnett gratefully acknowledges the following gifts to the Protestant Aid Home:—From Mrs F Cleeve, fruit and magazines; Mrs Elliott, apples and sugar; a Lady, parcel of clothes; Miss Mansell, basket of apples; Miss Bunbury, bonnet, etc; Mrs R Fogarty, men's clothes; Mrs Beaumont, six pairs socks; Mrs Frank Fitt, parcel of biscuits; Mr Hanna, apples, oranges, and nuts; Miss Bebbie, bag of onions; Mrs Boyd, vegetables, etc; Archibald Murray, Esq. Miss Malone, and Mrs Fitt, newspapers. Thanks also to Mrs Bannatyne for repairs and beautifying done in the house.

PENNY DINNERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

DEAR SIR—As I am sure all your readers are interested in the welfare of their poorer citizens they will be glad to hear that the "Penny Dinners" will be in full work on Monday next, the ladies committee hope that each caterer will obtain the kind support of the friends of the poor. I wish to thankfully acknowledge, having already received 10s from Messrs Denny & Sons, tea from Lipton's, and rice from Messrs Leverett & Fry per Miss Graves, 10s and a sack of potatoes from Mrs Cope per Mrs Fitt.

But as I expect to have to provide at least a hundred and fifty dinners a day I hope our friends will help us.

Yours truly,
JANIE GIBSON.

Crown Wallsend Coal to be had only from Limerick Coal Co. Ltd., Limerick.