

considerable progress, and by week many of the largest business concerns in the city were illuminated for their usual seasonal displays. Public Library, which was opened three years ago, completed over a hundred volumes, and when the catalogue was filed the issue of books to readers to be read in their homes was gradually begun. The issue of this Free Public Library is most liberal, and already the number of free books of the reading-room is largely in excess of the commodation which was thought sufficient when the institution was started. During the month of September a project for providing better dwellings and the removal of obnoxious and unsanitary buildings was started by the Rev Dr O'Dwyer. The movement was forwarded by the generous subscriptions of Mr Hugh and Mr James F Bannatyne, and it is expected that work will be proceeded with at an early date. The irregularities of the mail service also engaged the attention of the public, and in the past two months both here and in other parts of the county a temporary arrangement has been made which at present removes many of the most inconvenient inconveniences. With regard to the sporting events of the year, the greatest interest has centered in the football field. The Galway team, whose name and popularity were confined to Munster alone, well sustained their position, winning every match which they played except three, and also at the end of the season crowned their success by securing the County Challenge Cup, which they have retained uninterruptedly for eight seasons—a remarkable record. Their defeat of the University added immensely to their reputation. The Protestant Young Men's team also performed exceptionally well for a junior club, and their best performance was the defeat of the University College on their own ground in Cork. The promising team is likely to get into a prominent position this season judging by the display which it has already made. The County cricket matches played on the County Ground proved highly interesting, and the season had a very successful season. The Club, under the services of a professional, Mr Layton, won eight matches. The chief event of the season was the match with Trinity College, which they played a drawn game, but the county men would have easily won if they had been played out. The Lawn Tennis tournament was largely patronised by a fashionable gathering, and as regards athletics, we may expect the annual meeting of the L A A & B C, which was well up to its usual standard; and in this age, when cycling is progressing rapidly and bounds, the club suffers greatly by want of a cinder track, such as exists in other important athletic fields in the county. We hope that some arrangement will be come to with the Markets Trustees which would encourage the L A A & B C to spend money in laying down the track. Until provided we cannot hope to have a first-class cycling meeting, for it is not every crack cyclist who would risk personal safety or his reputation over the uneven grass track as it exists at present. The matter should be taken up at the next year's meeting is to see an improvement. The death roll of the year contains many prominent names. It opens with the death of Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mr T. E. O'Brien, on the 18th of January. The vacancy created was filled by the appoint-

Griffin, to be hung in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. The painting is the work of a former Limerick artist, Mr Collopy, who attained great distinction in his time. The painting is an exceptionally fine one, and will certainly add to the attractive appearance of the Council Chamber.

REV PRECENTOR VEREKER.—We regret to learn that the Rev Precentor Vereker has found it necessary, owing to failing health, to give up his ministerial duties at Killaloe. He has been presented, on leaving the Parish, with a purse of sovereigns and a most sympathetic address, which has been tastefully illuminated by Mr James McConnell, of Dublin. The text of address and reply will be found in our advertising columns.

THE LATE MR CHRISTOPHER KEAYS.—A great deal of regret was evoked by the death of Mr Christopher Keays, of Gortmore, near Nenagh, the deceased being extremely popular in the district, and his connections for many a long year. He went to Dublin to undergo an operation, and in a couple of days afterwards he died, aged about 50. The funeral to Abingdon, county Limerick, was extremely large. Amongst the family mourners were—Mrs Talbot, Leicester; Messrs Keays, brothers and cousins; Powell and Hobbs.

DEATH OF MR EDMOND SLATTERY.—Mr Edmond Slattery, Butcher Merchant, died at his residence Clino, near the city, yesterday after a short illness. The deceased gentleman, who was in his 71st year, was well known in Limerick and the surrounding counties, with which he was intimately associated by extensive business connections, and with the public, as well as the members of the trade, he was most popular, by reason of his unswerving rectitude, and his unassuming and kindly manner. The remains will be removed by the 10.40 a.m. train on Friday for Tralee.

MR KENDAL IRWIN'S CONCERT.—What promises to be a most attractive entertainment will be given by Mr Kendal Irwin at the Theatre Royal on Friday evening, January the 8th. Besides a miscellaneous concert, there will be a dramatic sketch entitled "A Case for Eviction," and this will be followed by Balfe's opera in one act, entitled "The Sleeping Queen," which will be performed here for the first time, and there will be the full accessories of costumes and orchestra. There is a very fine cast, and we feel certain the piece will be excellently staged. Altogether the entertainment is certain to attract a crowded house.

THE LATE MRS KENNY.—At a meeting of the Corporation Committees yesterday, the Mayor, who presided, said this was the first meeting of members of Council since the death of the mother of their esteemed and popular fellow-member, Major Kenny, and he thought it only right that they should express their sympathy and condolence with him, on the demise of the good and worthy lady, who was the sister-in-law of an old and highly respected citizen, and an officer of the Corporation, Mr John Elliott, formerly Town Clerk, and now Clerk of the Crown and Peace. The members present concurred with the Mayor's remarks, and Mr Nolan, Town Clerk, was directed to forward the expression of their sympathy to Major Kenny. The funeral which took place yesterday for Mount St Lawrence, was very large and representative.

POLICE COURT.—Mr E F Hickson, R M, presided at the Police Court this morning. A young fellow named King, aged ten years, was charged at the suit of Constable Connell, of the Dock Police Station, with the larceny of a bag of coal from the Whitehaven Coal Company. From the evidence it appeared that the accused placed the bag on the roadside, and now and then would go into the yard and take the coal in small quantities. Sergeant Flynn stated that several cases of petty larcenies of a similar kind had occurred, and these young fellows sold the material which they plundered, and then resorted to the game of pitch and toss, or speculated it on horse racing. Arising out of the case some discussion took place with regard to the refusal of the Corporation to contribute towards Industrial School cases. Mr Hickson

- 1. pig-buyers to cease.
- 2. All pigs to be sold by the pig-buyers on the same terms as farmers—viz, at differential prices for weight and quality.
- 3. All pigs to be sold by pig-buyers upon the open market.
- 4. Merchants agree not to employ agents for the purchase of pigs within a certain distance of Limerick.
- 5. Merchants to continue receiving farmers' pigs on all days of the week but Saturday.
- 6. Merchants agree to pay pig-buyers 1s per cwt over the price they pay to farmers in consideration for their delivering pigs in wholesale quantities.

It is understood the buyers will commence business for the local merchants to-morrow.

THE DELAY OF THE MAILS AT LIMERICK JUNCTION.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE POST OFFICE.

Mr Francis A O'Keefe, M P, received the following letter to-day, which is an authoritative official statement as regards the Mails question:—

"General Post Office, London,
30th December, 1896.

"Sir—With reference to your letter of the 7th instant, and earlier dates, on the subject of the inconvenience caused by failures of connexion of the mail trains at Limerick Junction, I am directed to state that the failures have largely arisen from the inability of the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Company to detain their trains until the arrival of the mail train from Dublin, and when the time tables of the mail services are revised in connexion with the acceleration of the English mail, which will shortly take place, it will be necessary to arrange for a wider margin at Limerick Junction, in order to minimise the risk of such failures.

"In the meantime, the Postmaster-General has concluded temporary arrangements with the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Company, under which that company will detain the trains from Limerick Junction to Limerick and to Waterford for twenty minutes, if by so doing the connexion with the train from Dublin can be maintained; and on occasions when the Dublin mail arrives more than twenty minutes late, will run special trains to Waterford and to Limerick with the mails. The special train to Limerick will, moreover, run on as far as Newcastle, if necessary, in order to overtake at that point the train to Tralee.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
T E SIFTON,
F A O'Keefe, Esq,
12 The Crescent, Limerick."

THE LOCAL POST OFFICE AND CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE.
31st December, 1896.

DEAR SIR—Will you kindly allow me, through your columns to make, on behalf of the citizens, a thankful acknowledgment of the very admirable manner in which the local postal arrangements were made during the unusually busy time of the late Christmas holidays. Under the able direction of Mr Dowe, our courteous and obliging Postmaster, and his assistant, Mr Hook, the delivery of the mails was punctually and efficiently performed. It was carried out in a manner that gave satisfaction to everyone, and that helped, by providing for the early distribution, in all parts of the city, of parcels and letters, to put people in a frame of mind that contributed to the enjoyment of the festive season—Yours faithfully,
M. CUSACK, Mayor.

APPROACHING FASHIONABLE MARRIAGES.

Amongst the forthcoming fashionable marriages are the following:—

At Plymouth, on Thursday, the 28th January, Mr Walter Richardson Fox, second son of Mr George E Fox, of Hillside, Plymouth, will marry Miss Lily Hunt, third daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Rochfort Hunt (late of the 17th Regiment), of Cloughnadromin, county Limerick, and

and the firm people formed should not justly impossible and counter-eration of their justice, in Ireland were. been myself which they w sponsil spirit a Act of solemn pause, which but th. under was th party Comm article Union honest not, if to whi moved that t for th partn as th applat Union were actor doubt opini subje Engli that listen was a Times publi right in I frigh woul move for s in th prin in an be t capa cons Now its conc and was to s the con Cus exp wor gua cou a t wat hee pro Ire cou wh cor thie he va th av co ur ti he re de le fo