

# THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

[ESTABLISHED 1766.]

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 1897

## FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. T. P. LEDGER.

The remains of this deeply lamented lady were removed yesterday morning at 9.30 o'clock from her late residence, Weston Cottage, Ballinacurra, for interment at St. Munchin's. The funeral was exceedingly large and most representative, and we don't pretend to give more than a comparatively few of those present. The chief mourners were:—Mr Thomas P Ledger, husband; Mr George Belshaw, father; Messrs. George Belshaw, junior, and B T Belshaw, brothers; Z J Ledger, father-in-law; Z Ledger, W Ledger, and G Ledger, brothers-in-law. Amongst those present were:—The Archdeacon, Rev Canon Gregg, Rev F R Carr, Rev C V Atkinson, Rev J Dowd, Rev F Langbridge, Rev T B Robertson, Dr T Gelston, Dr Myles, Colonel Mannsall, J P; Captain Vanderkiste, Mr W L Hunt, Mr R Hunt, Captain Hunt, E N; Mr E Langley Hunt, Mr Ed P Hunt, Mr F Finch, Mr James Welply, Mr John Morton, Mr W Ball, Mr A Barnett, Messrs. S E and R J Lee, Mr James Goodwin, Mr E C Winter, V S, Mr E G Fitt, Mr P E Toppin, Mr W Walsh, Mr E Evans, Mr J A Place, Mr Poole Gabbett, Mr J Casey, Mr Jackson Jones, Mr H V Moroney, B E; Mr F P Hook, Mr R Hook, Mr Hallowel, Mr Cummins, Mr J Eggers, Master W Eggers, Mr Jackson Harris, Mr S Goggin, Mr E H P Hosford, Mr W Hosford, Mr A Blood Smyth, Mr T Hassett, Mr Masy Hewson, Mr E Hewson, Mr John Wallace, Mr James Wallace, Dr Hare, Mr Donnellan and Mr Sullivan (Messrs R Hunt and Son's office), Dr G Fogerty, Mr E Fogerty, D Laird, Mr Wm M Beauchamp, Solicitor; Mr W Harrington, C E; Mr B Harrington, Solicitor; Mr J H Parker, Mr R Wheeler, Dublin; Mr Frank Atkinson, Dublin; Fr Hanrahan, O S A; Mr S Hastings, Solicitor; Mr H L Stewart, Mr J Stewart, Mr Wm E Corbett, C E; Mr W M Nolan, Town Clerk; Mr M D Carr, Mr A Hall, junr; Mr James Delany, George street; Mr R W Switzer, Mr A Wilkinson, Mr Woodhouse, junr; Mr A Nestor Mr W Holliday (Messrs J and G Boyd's), Mr J F Bennis, Mr J M Bennett, Mr T Bourke, Mr R T Lavery, Mr J Kidd, Mr T M Swiney, Mr S Bernal, Mr C H Fitt, Mr C Hill, Mr W Browne, Mr A Enright, Mr McArthur, Mr James Flynn, Messrs Ebrill, Mr T Rice, Mr M Caffrey, Messrs Cleland, Mr Cooper O'Donoghue, Mr J E Chamney, Mr W J Howell, Mr C Cromer, Mr H R Newsom, Mr Henry O'Shea, Mr J D Hannan, Mr A Prossor, Mr J A Baldwin, Mr Waugh, Mr Kelly, ex-Governor City Gaol; Mr Herriott, Mr Thompson, Cecil street; Mr George O'Dea, Mr E Hanna, Mr W Nelson, Mr P Hartigan, Mr P Herbert T C; Mr A E Hawker, Mr A J Eakins, Mr John Hayes, Mr W Trouadell, Mr S Hawson, Mr P O'Connor, Mr E McCardie, Mr H Farrow, Mr Guest, Mr W J MacNab, Mr E McCarthy, Mr C Corneille, Mr D O'Donovan, Mr W Gullen, Mr H Fudge, Mr Bell, Mr W Beaumont, Mr Scollen, Mr John Copeland, Mr Blennerhassett, Mr Funch, Mr H Sterling, etc.

Several people sent carriages, including Mrs O'Brien, South Hill; Mr J Matterson, J P; Precentor Meredyth, Mr Wallace, Mr W Barrington, C E; Mr David Tidmarsh, Dr Myles, Dr Gelston.

A carriage near the hearse was filled with beautiful wreaths sent in loving remembrance by many friends.

The Archdeacon and the Rev Canon Gregg were the officiating clergy.

EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE IN EAST GALWAY.

## MUSICAL SKETCHES

BY

AUGUSTINE FITZGERALD.

### No 5.—THE PIANO.

The Egyptian harp of 4,000 years ago, the Assyrian dulcimer of an equally ancient period, and the Biblical psaltery have each offered suggestions at different times during the evolution of the pianoforte, notably the psaltery, which gave at once the idea of the instrument called the clavicembalo. We cannot, however, regard any of those instruments as the real origin of the piano, for the harp has become a perfect instrument itself, and the dulcimer almost the same, both retaining their shape and manner of playing since the earliest times. If we wish to find a first parent for the most popular of all musical instruments, we must go back to one of the most primitive instruments of the ancient Greeks, called the 'Monochord,' for in this is contained the germ from which our modern pianoforte has grown. The monochord was a long narrow wooden box, having a single string stretched over it, and played with a rude kind of horse hair bow. The use of this instrument was for fixing the 'pitch' for choir singers, the different notes being obtained by shifting a moveable bridge, which divided the string into different lengths.

From the Monochord was developed an instrument called the "Helicon," but it was merely a variety possessing several strings, and having a resonance box of greater width. Both of those instruments were transmitted to Christian nations at a very early period.

Guido of Arezzo used the Monochord for teaching his choristers the musical intervals, and a short time after his death there appeared a four-stringed Monochord, which gave the four authentic tones and their plagals. This instrument then remained in use until the early part of the 14th century.

It was about this time that finger-keys were invented and introduced into the Organ, and a short time after their introduction the Italians invented an instrument called the "Clavichord" (from clavis, a key). In this instrument the strings were horizontal and struck from below by a wedged-shaped piece of brass (called the tangent), which was fixed on the end of the key farthest from the finger-tip, and placed at different lengths so as to give the required notes, thus removing the necessity of having movable bridges as in the old Monochord. The tangent remained in contact with the wire as long as the finger kept the key depressed, thus acting in the double capacity of hammer and bridge, but the instant the finger released the key all further vibrations were prevented by a piece of cloth which was interwoven between the strings at the far off end.

Another instrument invented by the Italians about the year 1350 and having finger-keys was the "Clavicytherium." This instrument consisted of a harp or lyre-shaped body, with catgut strings arranged in an upright position, and having organ-keys to raise bits of hard leather called 'plectra,' which snapped the strings; later on this keyed cithara was placed on supports in a horizontal position. The 'clavicytherium' was the only instrument that had catgut strings; all other instruments of this kind had brass or steel wires.

During this period an instrument of a similar type was undergoing a transformation—it was called 'clavicembalo' by the Italians, 'clavicymbel' by the Germans, and 'clavecin' by the French. This instrument was identical in its principal features to the English 'virginal' and spinet, and its progenitor must have been the Biblical Psaltery, for in both Psaltery and clavicembalo the largest strings are in the bass, and they decrease in length as the tones become higher; the resonance chamber is