

noble spirit of christian charity. Her during the past year has been the interesting topic, as it provided the variety. There was a little skating in the month of January, but all too soon the ice gave way, and a spring succeeded with constant rains, and therefore floods. There were almost incessant rains up to the month of April, and in the second week of the month there were several hail showers, which seriously affected whatever crops had been sown up to that time. In the opening of the month of May the street sweepers felt justifying a strike, but towards the middle of the month a change in the weather relieved the citizens from anxiety as to the result which might ensue from the discontinuance of the labours of that ridiculously inefficient body. So great was the change in the weather that tropical heat began almost at once, and on the 21st of May a high barometer was registered in the city as 95 deg. F was registered in the city on the Jubilee Day, 22nd of June, was marked by a grand military and torchlight procession in front of the Barracks, which attracted a very large number of spectators. With regard to the visit to this country of the Duke and Duchess of York, we have as a matter of course only to express our regret that the Royal Highnesses did not visit the City while passing through, and it has also been a general disappointment that advantage was not taken of this auspicious year to confer honours of Royal favour on some of our citizens. Limerick has been left out in the list of honours which have been conferred in other parts of the Kingdom. With the exception of Lord Emly's and the Jubilee Knighthood of Sir John, it might there has not been an honour conferred by the State on any Limerick citizen for a half century. On the 28th of June a grand regatta was held at Mr McMahon's timber yard, which unfortunately was got under before it had had the opportunity of spreading to the houses and in the immediate vicinity. The long and tedious Limerick Regatta was revived with great success on the 16th July, and it is to be hoped that this sporting event, formerly one of the most popular civic fixtures and holidays, will now be permitted to collapse or fall into disrepute. The close of the year has been marked by a Grand Fancy Ball held in the City of Limerick to commemorate the seven hundredth anniversary of the City Charter. The honours were granted by John, "Lord of

there is a great demand for tickets. Madame Belle Cole, one of the most delightful singers before the public, is certain to charm everyone; and much interest centres around the appearance of Mr F W McNamara, of Ennis, who possesses a splendid baritone voice of great compass and sweetness. A pleasant feature of the programme will be the recitals of Miss Mary O'Hea, and this lady will also take part in the comedy which comprises Part III. of the programme. The concert will be under the immediate patronage of the Earl and Countess of Dunraven, the Earl and Countess of Limerick, Lord and Lady Emly, the Mayor and High Sheriff, and the Colonel and Officers Royal Irish Regiment, &c. It is sure to be a great success.

DEATH OF MISS JENNIE BAKER—We regret to announce the very sad and untimely death of Miss Jennie Baker, third daughter of a highly esteemed Limerick merchant, Mr Edward Baker, George street. The deceased young lady, who was only in her nineteenth year, left town a short time since to take part in a bazaar in connection with the Convent of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, Poplar, London, where she had been educated. She contracted a cold which led to serious developments, and she passed away yesterday morning at the Convent in presence of her devoted father. A most accomplished young lady, of a bright and winning manner, she was highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends, who deeply sympathise with Mr Baker and family in their sorrow, rendered all the more acute by the fact that another sister passed away a little more than a year and a half ago. The funeral will take place in London.

THE NEW YEAR.

The New Year was ushered in in the customary manner in Limerick. The night, though cold and very foggy, did not prevent large numbers from turning out at midnight, when the bells from the venerable Cathedral of St. Mary, and also from St. Alphonsus and other Churches, gladly rang in the new-born year. The hoarse whistles of the steamers in port also kept sounding for some time, and the bands played at the New Barracks and Militia Barracks. The usual Watch-Night Services were held at St. Munchin's and the Wesley Churches, and at each place there was a crowded congregation.

ST JOHN'S HOSPITAL.

A varied entertainment has been given to the inmates of St John's Hospital by the ladies of the Committee (Children's Ward), who provided tea, music, etc., and also presents for the children of the ward. Mr. Gibson very kindly gave a performance with his magic lantern, in which he was ably assisted by Mr Tidmarsh. Most of the patients and the children of the ward were well enough to be present and showed by every demonstration of delight how much they appreciated the efforts made for their amusement. The entertainment was honoured by the presence of the Lord Bishop the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, some of the city clergy, and the attending physicians.

SALE OF HOUSE PROPERTY IN RICHMOND STREET.—Mr Wm B Fitt, auctioneer, deposed of the four two-storey houses on yesterday for Mr P Collins, at the sum of £650 and fees, Mr J P Hall, solr, being declared the purchaser (in trust). Mr Ralph Nash, solr, had carriage of sale.

one will assert that any of the most important improvements as they are avoided. For block paving alone a sum of £9,000 was borrowed has been expended economically on streets in which the traffic is the heaviest. Lower Cecil street, Shannon street and Rock block paved, and a sum of £1,000 expended on new crossings and shows also an increase on expenditure for the past twelve years on repairs to channel courses, £1,248 2, repairs of flagging, 22,900, main sewers, 22,900, branch drains, setting gully covers and cleansing sewer streets with setts, £6,180. Department of Corporate business expenditure for 1897 totalled £1,000 which I venture to assert has not been in any corresponding year. Sanitary work of the Corporation, say, progressing very steadily, years more every house, where it can possibly be effected, will be provided with proper sanitary appliances. S notice on houseowners and of 875 closets and drains have been provided without any expense to the Corporation an average of £14 per closet is beneficial to local traders, to the Corporation or an average of £3,059 per year. We contrast other items of expenditure say ten years ago and find that the rate amounted to 4s 1d; the cause of the increased rate is explained, and for the information of the Corporation and the citizens I have the following figures, taken from the books —

	1887.	
	£	s.
Lighting ...	1783	16
Watching ...	1260	10
Cleansing ...	2073	6
(Part of cleansing and repairs done in 1887.)		
Repairs of Streets and Roadways, exclusive of paving with setts ...	8416	10
(Flagging cost in 1887, £1300)		
Salaries ...	900	0
Public fountains and watering streets ...	762	13
Fire Brigade ...	107	12
Printing, Stationery and Advertising ...	78	10
Interest and Repayment of Loans for Sewerage and Paving ...	781	9
Sinking Fund ...	846	13
Sewerage ...	160	0
(Exclusive of new sewers)		
Town Hall ...	174	0
Corkanree (New) ...	171	4
(In 1887 loss owing to repairs)		
Island Embankment ...	80	8
Law Costs ...	100	0
Unoccupancies ...	800	0
Labourers' Dwellings ...	Nil	
Sanitary Expenses ...	254	10
Public Library ...	Nil	
Technical Education ...	Nil	
Making a total of	£18,201	
as compared with	£16,955	