

**"OLD LIMERICK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD."**

**Lecture by Mr. E. H. Bennis.**

There was a crowded house in the Lecture Hall of the Protestant Young Men's Association on Monday evening, April 16th, when Mr. E. H. Bennis delivered a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Old Limerick and Neighbourhood." It was illustrated by numerous slides, showing objects of antiquarian interest in the city, as well as in parts of Limerick and Clare, and also gave realistic impressions of old Limerick from a social and commercial point of view. Many incidents were hit-off in a happy, humorous fashion, which enhanced the pleasure of a lecture that for an hour and a half held the unabated attention of the audience, and was frequently applauded. At the close a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bennis for his admirable address was proposed by Mr. C. Downey, seconded by Mr. E. G. Fitt, and conveyed to the lecturer by Mr. A. J. Eakins, vice-president, who occupied the chair. Mr. Bennis suitably replied. The magic lantern was worked by Mr. J. E. Galbraith, who was also thanked, as well as the Secretary of the Thomond Archaeological Society and Field Club for the loan of some of the slides of old Limerick.

The lecturer began by explaining that what makes a country interesting is the writing up of its history and romance by some literary genius, as Sir Walter Scott has done for Scotland. Ireland is just as beautiful, just as romantic, with just as interesting a history, yet lacks this literary genius, except for Co. Wicklow, which has been immortalised by Tom Moore.

Limerick, he explained, was the oldest and most historic city in Ireland, and its old lanes and alleys, houses and ruins, are alive with history and romance, if we went to the trouble of unravelling their stories. This the lecturer illustrated by showing slides of many of the less familiar bits of old Limerick. Some of the architecture of the older ruined buildings showed traces of the different occupations by invaders. Thus, the Tholsel and Lax Weir were Norse, and the one time prevalent Flemish gables that of the Williamite settlers. The views of the Citadel Gateway, Black Battery, and other parts of the old city walls, were historically interesting, but it was his description of the citizens who built up the trade and commerce of the city, their eccentricities, their successes, and their indomitable characters that made the lecture unique. The corn trade, for which Limerick has ever been and still is a most important centre, was dealt with by interesting accounts of Francis Street Mills, Plassy, Pike's Bow, etc., enlivened by humorous anecdotes connected with their various proprietors. The stories of the Lax Weir and Annaholty turf factory were both grave and gay, and even the account and anecdotes of that sedate body—the private bankers of by-gone centuries—caused ripples of laughter throughout the audience.

During his account of notabilities visiting the city and neighbourhood, including T. P. O'Connor, John Bright, and George Peabody, his audience ricocheted from serious vein to roars of laughter.

In dealing with the surrounding district, Mr. Bennis referred briefly to the great O'Brien clan and their intimate association with the old city from prehistoric times right down to our own time, several of them at one time or another as Kings of Thomond being also Kings of Limerick. Views included Kincora at Killaloe, the at one time magnificent court of Brian Boru when Ard-ri of all Ireland. Referring to their residence as Earls of Thomond at Bunratty Castle three hundred years ago, he quoted Rinuncinni's description of that truly magnificent castle and park. He also spoke of the year that Admiral Sir Wm. Penn spent there with Barnaby, sixth Earl of Thomond, and told how the Admiral married Margaret Jasper, a young Clare girl from near Quin Abbey, who was endowed with "a merry and indomitable spirit," and

**Child's Fatal Injuries.**

**Street Dangers.**

**Plea for Playgrounds.**

Mr. J. S. McNeice, solr., Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at Barrington's Hospital yesterday morning into the death of Lucy Ryan, 7 Garryowen, who died as a result of injuries sustained by being knocked down by a horse and dray on Saturday afternoon.

Sergeant Higgins, John street, conducted the inquiry.

Mr. Ed. Leahy, solr., held a watching brief for Messrs J. & G. Boyd, owners of the horse and dray, and Mr. D. O'Donovan, solr., appeared for the next-of-kin.

Patrick Ryan, labourer, father of the child, gave evidence of identification. His daughter was three years of age. On Saturday last he saw the child in the morning, when she was in the best of health. He next saw her at 7.30 o'clock that night at the hospital, dead.

John McNamara, aged ten years, deposed to seeing a man driving a horse and cart at Garryowen on Saturday evening. The vehicle was on its proper side of the road, and when passing Ryan's house deceased was on the footpath. She ran across the road and was struck by the car and knocked down. He could not say if the car went over her. The driver stopped the vehicle and lifted up the child in his arms. He then brought her into her own house. The vehicle was not going fast, but the horse was trotting.

In reply to Mr. O'Donovan, the witness said that the car was only a small piece out from the path.

Mr. Leahy—Was she by herself when she ran across the road?—Yes.

Dr. T. Morris, house surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, stated that when the deceased was admitted to the hospital she was unconscious. She died in about ten minutes, and death, in his opinion, was due to fracture of the skull. There was a bruise in her forehead and a larger one in the right rib. The injuries would be consistent with the child running against the car.

Mr. O'Donovan—Would the injuries be consistent with the car going over her?—No, I do not think the car went over the deceased.

John O'Brien, Dooradoyle, Ballinacurra, the driver of the horse and float, stated that he was employed by Messrs J. & G. Boyd, William street. At about 12.15 p.m. on the date in question he was going up Garryowen and was driving the horse, which was trotting. When he was about to pass by Ryan's house a child ran out, and before he saw her she was struck by the wheel. He was driving about six feet from the kerb on the left side. The child struck against the side of the wheel. He did not see the child until she was struck, and he stopped immediately.

In reply to Mr. Leahy—He could have done nothing to avoid striking the child.

Giving further evidence, the witness said he was watching two children who were on the road in front of him when the accident occurred.

Guard Brophy gave evidence of taking measurements of the scene of the occurrence. There were no tracks or marks on the road. The place where the accident occurred was pointed out to him, and there was no footpath opposite. The width of the road was 18 feet at the point.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and held that no blame attached to the driver.

The Coroner expressed sympathy with the parents of the deceased, and said that owing to the large increase in traffic it was imperative that play-grounds be provided for children. The number of deaths of children from road accidents had increased alarmingly, and as children could not be confined indoors or in yards, the Corporation should take steps to provide suitable recreation grounds for them.

Mr. O'Donovan and Mr. T. Earlie, foreman of the jury, endorsed the Coroner's remarks.

**THOMOND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND FIELD CLUB**

**CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE**

**Annual Demonstration.**

**Enjoyable Entertainment.**

The annual demonstration of the Church Lads' Brigade was held last Friday night at the Diocesan Hall, Pery Square, in the presence of a crowded audience. The proceedings were opened by the singing of the Brigade Hymn, following which the Company, under the command of Capt. E. Pearson, was inspected by the Lord Bishop of Limerick.

The Company gave exhibitions of squad drill and squad games, which were most entertaining. The gymnastic items, comprising bar bell drill and work on the vaulting horse and parallel bars, were performed by the combined Gymnastic Class of the C.L.B. and the L.P.Y.M.A., under the instructorship of Sergt.-Major Brown. The Class has shown a steady improvement, and its performances on Friday night were of a very high order and reflected great credit on the instructor. A series of tableaux received well-merited applause.

Once again the Cork Company of the Boys' Brigade, under the command of Captain S. M. Faris, visited Limerick and took part in the demonstration. Their Gymnastic Class, which is directed by Lieut. Veal, gave an excellent physical training display, with musical accompaniment.

The audience had a special treat in the singing of Mrs. Cole Hamilton; her rich contralto voice has, if anything, improved since she was last heard in Limerick. That her singing was greatly appreciated, was demonstrated by the hearty encores which she received.

A new and novel item which proved to be highly diverting was "Cyclodivities," in which members of the C.L.B., garbed in amusing costumes, cycled on curious bicycles, which included the Penny-Farthing and the Tandem. Those taking part represented "An Overgrown Schoolboy" (William Richardson), "Laurel and Hardy" (R. Christy and G. Trousdell), "A Bob, a Penny and a Farthing" (R. Auchmuty), "Ballyclough" (P. Fogerty), "Wooden Age Cyclist" (J. Stewart), and "Cyclist Tourist" (J. Finlay). The procession was led off by a diminutive bride and bridegroom (Arthur and Ronnie Ringrose) in a baby car.

Mr. Granville Metcalfe contributed a violin solo, "Brindisi Valse," and entertaining selections were played by his orchestra during the programme. Mrs. Granville Metcalfe was at the piano.

At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. G. W. Preston (President of the L.P.Y.M.A. Gymnastic Class), announced that the Cleeve Cup (presented by the late Sir Thomas Cleeve) had been awarded to the member of the class showing the best all round improvement, attendance, etc. He asked the Lord Bishop to present the Cup to the winner, Mr. R. Auchmuty, who will hold the trophy for one year.

The Lord Bishop, in doing so, complimented the officers on the splendid turn-out of their boys, who showed smartness and precision in their drill. The team work which they had done inspired the thought that in going through life it was loyalty to the cause, whether religious, political, or social, which counted, rather than the object of the individual.

The Dean having expressed thanks to the Lord Bishop and to all who took part in the programme, the proceedings were concluded by the singing of "Abide with Me" and the pronouncement of the Benediction.

**RUGBY FOOTBALL.**

**Another Cup for Garryowen.**

**Seven-a-Side Tournney.**

By winning the Musgrave Cup in the annual Charity Seven-a-Side Tournament at the Markets field on Saturday last, Garryowen completed a noteworthy "treble" in Munster Rugby this season. Their earlier victories were the Munster Senior Cup and City Charity Cup.

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