A Sad Tragedy

Father's Vain Effort to Save Son's Life

Limerick Drowning Drama

One of the most distressing tragedies it is possible to record occurred on Tuesday Tuesday night in the Shannon near the Limerick docks, as the result of which a child named Alexander McConkey, 2½ years of age, son of Mr A McConkey, carpenter, St Lelia street, Limerick, lost his life by drowning.

It appears that the father, with his son and six other children, left the Abbey River some time previously in a motor boat for a trip on the Shannon. Here the child stood up in the boat, lost his balance and fell into the river. The father, who was steering the craft, immediately dived in to the rescue of his son, who had disappeared. The distracted parent swam about and dived at intervals in his vain efforts to find his boy, who never again appeared on the surface.

Master Long, one of the occupants of the boat, aged 10 years, although he had no previous knowledge of the operation of a motor engine, succeeded meantime in stopping the engine, and manoeuvred the boat into such position that Mr McConkey, who was now in an exhausted condition, was just able to get aboard where he immediately collapsed as the result of his brave but unavailing efforts.

By this time another boat had put out, and Mr McConkey, who had lost consciousness, was brought ashore. He was removed to Barrington's Hospital, where he regained consciousness some time later.