

Famous Eviction Recalled

Death of Mr. Patrick Wall, Bodyke

The death of Mr Patrick Wall, Dromod, Bodyke, Co. Clare, recalls a memorable period in the fight of Ireland's tenant farmers against landlordism, when the men of Clare, as ever, took a leading part, and perhaps nowhere with such effect than in historic Bodyke.

While Mr White was bravely, if unsuccessfully, defending his home, his aged mother sat weeping a short distance away in the midst of Crown forces. A policeman struck her over the eye with his baton. His action was observed by the late Canon Hannon, P.P., Miltown Malbay, then a curate in Bodyke; the late Mr Michael Davitt, and Mr Matt Kenny, M.P., Tyrone. They went to her assistance, but were immediately removed outside the military and police lines for "interfering with the administration of the law."

The policeman received no censure from his superiors, but the incident was the subject of a question in the British House of Commons, when the then Chief Secretary denied that any assault had taken place.