

AWAKENING MEMORIES

Famous Men Of a Past Generation

PROMINENT FIGURES FIFTY YEARS AGO

FOUR men who occupied a conspicuous place in the life of Limerick a half century ago were Rev. P. F. Kavanagh, O.F.M.; Rev. James Dowd and Rev. Canon Langbridge (two Protestant clergymen) and County Court Judge Adams.

A. J. O'Halloran, the well-known writer and author of the "Glamour of Limerick," brings this quartette to life in the following very interesting article from his pen.

IN the opening years of the present century there lived in our city four very distinguished men, who, though not natives, became more or less identified with it. The name of one of them is, for reasons to which I will allude, often in evidence, but the others are more or less forgotten, so that in the course of many years I can only recall a reference to any one of them only on a few occasions.

WROTE HISTORY OF '88.
At the Franciscan Convent in Henry Street was stationed the Rev. P. F. Kavanagh, O.F.M., who was popularly known as "The Historian of '88," because he had written a very fine account of that Insurrection, which is even yet considered a standard work on the subject. Like all the other members of the Order at that period, he wore ordinary clerical attire, a reminder in itself that it was not so long since Ireland had emerged from the shadows of the Penal Laws. In the Convent, of course, he donned the brown habit. Father Kavanagh was remarkable for more than his history, being the only Catholic priest who, to my knowledge, ever condemned enlistment in the British Army. Nor was this a spasmodic posture. Time after time in public lectures and in articles published in the national press, he taught that it was the doctrine of the Church that any man who willingly took part in an unjust war imperilled the salvation of his soul. These pronouncements were reproduced in handbill form, and distributed by the thousand throughout the country. It was the time of the Boer War, and needless to state those who ruled the roost at Dublin Castle were furious at the idea of any attempt being made to deprive Britain of such good fighting material as Ireland could supply. For some time they debated the question as to whether they should attempt to put an end to his activities, but reluctantly concluded that they would lose more than they would gain by doing so.

I do not know at what period of his life Father Kavanagh came into contact with John Mitchell. Probably it was after that patriot's return from exile in 1876, but he seemed to have based on intimate terms with him, and it was indeed touching to listen to this elderly, brown-robed Prior refer to the high-hearted "Father Presbyterum" at whose deathbed he had knelt, in terms of love and reverence. On the other hand, like many who in their youth had come under the influence of the Young Ireland movement, he seemed to entertain a certain contempt for O'Connell, and once in the course of a lecture delivered in the Athlone Hall, declared that when O'Connell had pronounced the doctrine that the freedom of the world was not worth the shedding of one drop of human blood, he should have been driven from public life.

In appearance Father Kavanagh was anything but a fire-eater. He was of average height, slender in build, with very gentle manners, and had a keen sense of humour.

PROTESTANT AUTHOR.

The Rev. James Dowd is one of the four who is frequently alluded to, since every now and then, in lectures, letters and articles dealing with the city, he is referred to or quoted. His books "Limerick And Its Sieges" and "Round About County Limerick" are deservedly popular, because charmingly written, though, perhaps, not bearing any great evidence of original research. He occupied the position of Diocesan Curate in the Limerick-Ardara Diocese, by virtue of which he did relief work in any parish when needed. A brilliant mathematician, he was a gold medalist of T.C.D., and in his spare time coached university aspirants. He bore a somewhat aggressive

with his adopted country and its people, as his writings frequently testified, though he had no other connection with it save that he was born on the 17th March. These feelings were heartily reciprocated, not only by members of his own Communion, but by the citizens generally. He was wont to tell with great glee that when he first took up residence in the Square, he was visited by an old clergyman who seemingly had little faith in the tolerance of Irish Catholics, and obviously anticipated another Saint Bartholomew's Day, because he advised the Canon to have iron shutters affixed to the lower windows, so as to save the family from massacre. He did not act on this advice, since he realised that they were probably safer there than they would be in Sandy Row. The visitor warned him also to beware the interference of the "Romish" clergy, but, as the Canon was afterwards glad to recall, the very first instance of it he experienced was when the priests of Saint John's parish used their influence to have his salary as Church of Ireland chaplain at the Mental Home increased.

In literature, Canon Langbridge achieved quite a reputation, and Trinity College conferred on him the distinction of D.Lit. He was a poet of no mean order, and his essays make delightful reading. With Freeman Wills, he collaborated in writing the evergreen drama "The Only Way." It is said that this was not his only contribution to the dramatic art, but that since his Bishop did not approve of the clergy having any connection with the stage, his other work was done sub rosa. I do not know whether there is any record of it.

He was of middle height, of spare build, and had always such an expression of benignity that it was easy to understand why he was so popular with rich and poor alike.

A GREAT HUMOURIST

Though County Court Judge Ryan and Adams' bent was not in the direction of literature, the fact that he was a leader writer on the "Freeman's Journal" gives him some claim to be linked with these three clergymen. Gilbert, in his list of people "who never would be missed," had a dig at County Court humourists, because it seemed to be taken for granted that they should exercise their wit at the expense of the litigants who appeared before them. Judge Adams certainly did his best to live up to this idea, and that it came easy to him to do so can be deduced from the fact that he actually attained the position by means of a joke. It happened this way.

John Morley had been appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, and in the process of getting in touch with the people was entertained at a Bar dinner. During the progress of the repast, Dick Adams kept the guests in high good humour with his witty stories. One of them in particular, relating to some "Mr. Smith," appealed so much to Morley that, on parting, he said to Adams: "Good-by now, Mr. Smith, and if I ever can do anything for you be sure and let me know." Not very long afterwards Judge Farrell of the Limerick Court died, and Dick wired Morley to first of all add "Do not forget Mr. Smith." The Chief Secretary remembered, and almost by the next post the brilliant Corkman received the appointment.

Judging from the method of elevation to the Bench, it might be assumed that he was not altogether qualified for the position. Yet it can be recalled that when on one occasion a solicitor, feeling disgruntled with one of his decisions, tartly announced that he would appeal the case, Judge Adams, in characteristic vein, told him to do so, and that he "would chalk the way," adding that he bore the record that fewer of his judgments had been reversed on appeal than those of any other County Court Judge in the three Kingdoms. No small

Obituary

MR. DANIEL HARROLD, KILMEEDY

Widespread sorrow and regret have been occasioned by the death of Mr. Daniel Harrold, Kilmeedy, who passed away on Saturday, September 9th, after much suffering, resulting from an accident sustained while at work. Deceased, who originally came from Tullylease, Co. Cork, had been a member of the Belville Creamery staff for over forty years. The sad events surrounding the occasion of his death came as a shock to his wife and children, and to all the people who knew him so well. The Sisters and medical staff of Croom Hospital made a heroic attempt to save his life, but the extensive burns he had received finally brought about his death. Dan, as he was known to his many friends, was a man of the highest honour and integrity. His smile, his wit and humour will be sadly missed in Belville Creamery. Eight years ago he had the honour of being present at his son's ordination to the priesthood. Father James, now stationed in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., flew home to officiate at the Mass and funeral.

Sincere sympathy will be tendered to the sorrowing widow and children on the loss of such a loving and devoted father.

All sections of the community were represented in the huge cortege which attended the removal of the remains to Kilmeedy Church, and the funeral next day to Tullylease.

The officiating clergy were: Rev. James Harrold, S.M.A.; Rev. Patrick Finn, P.P., Kilmeedy; Rev. Maurice Crowley, J.O.; Rev. Michael O'Flynn, S.M.A., Nigeria, West Africa; Rev. T. Culhane, C.C., Castlemahan.

Chief mourners Mrs. Mary Harrold (wife); Father James, Edward and Thomas (sons); Mrs. Josephine Egan and Betty (daughters); Miss Nora Harrold, Tullylease; Mrs. Carr, Dalbriggan, Co. Dublin; Sister M. Dominica Wilkes-Barre, U.S.A. (sisters); Edward and Thomas Harrold, both of Philadelphia, U.S.A. (brothers).

Telegrams: Willie F. Dunne, Charleville; Patrick Peyton, Letterkenny; Tom and Kathleen Brennan, Doon; Patrick and Mrs. Muldowney, Dublin; Mr. and Mrs. P. Hayes, Limerick; John and Catherine Fitzgerald, Dublin; Michael Peyton, Ballyvary, Co. Mayo; Patrick Harrold, Nenagh; James Power, Dublin; the Browne family, Dublin; Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore, Kesh, Co. Down; Miss Clanche, Edinburgh, Scotland; Mrs. F. Harrold, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Miss Curds; Mrs. Mary Harrold (wife); Father James, Edward, Thomas, Josephine and Betty (children); Rev. Michael O'Flynn, S.M.A.; Rev. A. P. McAndrew, S.M.A., Washington, U.S.A.; Mrs. T. Harrold, Ballywalter, Co. Down; Doreen Quilly, Feenagh; Thomas Hayes, Ballygarry; Bill and Mae Walsh, Garbally, Kilmeedy; Deborah Flanagan, Kilmeedy; Nora and Mary Flynn, London; John Harrold, Belville; Fitzgibbon family, Gurrane; Patrick and Peggy Sheehan, Belville; Deborah Flynn, Kilmeedy; Tom and Lena Ruddle, Belville; Daniel Harrold, Belville; Farrell family, Drumcollogher; Sullivan family, Astagh; Tim Keane, Feenagh; Paddy and Mrs. Hayes, Kilmeedy; Tom and Rita Keane, Feenagh; M. J. Healy, Newentle West; Kitty and Garry Murray, Kilmeedy; William Galbraith, Belville; Michael Roche, Garbally, Kilmeedy; Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore, Co. Down; Jack and Mary Hanley, Ballygarry; Eilech and Jack McFarthy, Kilmeedy; Nora Harrold, Tullylease; Conlan family, Ballygulleen; Donald and May Hogan, Kilmeedy; Patrick and Mrs. Wall, Drumcollogher; Ned Colohan and family; Paddy Keedy; Broke Harrold, Belville; Mrs. Gaffney; Margaret Sheehan, Belville; Philomena O'Connor, Belville; Margaret Flanagan, Garbally; Flynn family, Kilmeedy; Patrick Healy, Drumcollogher; the Fitzgeralds, Belville; Flynn family, Doon; Mrs. Long, Kilmeedy; Patrick and Mrs. Dunwoody, Kilmeedy; John and Catherine Fitzgerald, Dublin; Hannah and John Drinnane, Castlemahan; Mr. and Mrs. T. Egan, Kilmeedy; Thomas Ahern, Belville; David and Nellie Kelly, Kilmeedy; Margaret Healy, Bruff.

BIED IN ENGLAND

After returning from a holiday in Ireland, Mr. E. J. Sherwood, formerly of the Pire, Limerick, took suddenly ill and died on 11th ult. He was a well-known and successful man who lived at 196 Newtown, Ashford, Kent, to regain his loss.

The deceased was a very popular figure in the Pire district, where the news of his untimely end will be received with great regret.

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