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Author: Doran, C. G.

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of this goat came to obtrude itself on public notice. It is stated by a writer to a Cork newspaper to have been in the following manner:—The animal was well stricken in years while Mr. Atwell Hayes was yet a young man. A generation afterwards, Captain Philip Allen, the son-in-law of Sir Henry Hayes, became mayor of Cork in 1800, and gave a civic banquet. It happened at this time that the goat died, and Captain Allen, who, like many Corkmen of the period, was a practical joker, served up at the corporate board a staple dish under the title of venison. The city fathers were in ecstasies, and pronounced it prime, delicious, and excellent; but not long after it transpired that the haunch of venison, considered so palatable, was neither more nor less than the hind-quarter of Atty Hayes' goat.

The term "Curse o' the Crows" has been considered by some writers to arise from a popular superstition among the Irish peasantry that, when crows desert an estate, it signifies that its present owner will be the last of his race; hence that, if your property is abandoned by this feathered tribe, it is a bad omen, the expression being equivalent to

"May your family become extinct." A newspaper writer, however, claims the phrase as a Cork one, on the authority of the following, related to him by an old resident:—In 1796 the fine old elm trees which, from time immemorial, had overshadowed the burial-ground of St. Anne Shandon, were cut down by the then rector, Mr. Hyde, and sold to a timber merchant. The crows had a settlement in these trees, and, when they were evicted, many of them perished. The neighbours pitied the poor birds, and thus the term in question came to be used in Blarney Lane and its neighbourhood.

"Bran New" is believed by many to be a term corrupted from "Brand New," having a new brand. Windele, however, claims for it quite another origin, and domiciles the expression in Cork. He says that formerly, when the mayors entered into office, "the population enjoyed a day's *saturnalia*. They followed the mayor from the court, and flung "bran upon him, in hopes of an abundant "year. Hence the term 'Bran New.' This "custom," he adds, "as well as the old "pageant of riding the franchise, has long "fallen into disuse."

## Some Unpublished Records of Cork.

PART I.—FROM 1815 TO 1816 INCLUSIVE.

By C. G. DORAN (COUNCIL MEMBER).



HAVE taken the following records from a diary kept by a Mr. John Young, who was a prominent and highly-respected citizen of Cork for many years.

He was born about the year 1785, and died in the year 1849. During the period covered by this paper he acted as one of the market jurors of the city—a position of great usefulness and importance to the citizens, inasmuch as the purity of their meats and provisions, protection against imposition and overcharge in prices, and the cleanliness and good order of the markets, depended altogether upon the gentlemen who filled the office. The market jury consisted of some twelve members, taken alike from the mer-

chants and tradespeople. Its duties were to detect bad provisions, regulate the markets, and secure forestallers; and any person resisting its members in the discharge of their duties, or offending against the bye-laws, were punished by fine or imprisonment, or by both. A case of the latter sort will be noticed further on.

Each juror generally kept a record of the prices of provisions and marketable commodities, and noted as well any remarkable incident that might arise in the discharge of his duty.

Mr. Young, however, was apparently a man of more enlarged ideas than the generality of his colleagues, and was not content with the mere dry record of market quota-

tions, but interspersed his market entries with other entries of a social or political nature, some of which are of a very interesting character.

The fact that the city of Cork, during the early part of the present century, was for a period without a mayor—that the citizens had lost the power of electing one without exceptional legislation of the Court of King's Bench, and that the charter, and parliament, had made no provision to meet the case that occurred—seems to be altogether unknown to the majority of the citizens of the present generation. Yet such was the fact; and Mr. Young, in his diary, has minutely recorded the whole proceedings connected with that event. I have noticed that Mr. Tuckey dismisses the subject with a meagre reference in a note in his *Remembrancer*, equally as he does a somewhat similar case that occurred in 1820.

There are many other items of an interesting character noticed in the diary, one of them being the fact that, at least as late as the year 1816, the mayor and magistrates of Cork reserved to themselves, or at all events exercised, the right of regulating the city tradesmen's rates of wages; and an instance is given where the mayor deals with an important case referred to him for his decision.

Another very singular and now forgotten item was the formation, existence, and objects of a society called the "Friendly Club." It was established by a number of the "knowing ones" among the freemen, who, to the exclusion of the great majority, through its agency, monopolized the honours and emoluments of the corporation, the movements of which body it for a long period absolutely controlled. But I will not anticipate the record, as these matters will come on in their proper places. I have thought it much better to quote from the diary direct such items as I submit in this paper without blending them with any observations of my own, so as to render them useful and reliable to any person who might hereafter undertake to continue the *Cork Remembrancer*, from where Mr. Tuckey ceased his valuable *Remembrancer*, down to our own time.

I have quoted such entries of trials, sentences, floggings, transportations, and hangings, as will enable you to judge of the state of society and the state of law at that period, when the stealing of a watch and the stealing of a child were dealt with as crimes of equal

magnitude, and similar sentences pronounced upon the offenders.

The matter in the diary, I found, would be too much to submit to one meeting, and I have therefore divided it, so that the present paper concludes with the end of the year 1816, and may be considered as Part I. of the subject.

The first entry is dated October 3rd, 1815.

1815, *October 3rd.* This day Henry Sadler, Esq., was sworn in mayor, and Thomas Deane and William Lucas, Esqrs., sheriffs for the ensuing year. The Court of D'Oyer Hundred agreed unanimously to recommend the Council to vote the recorder, William Wagett, Esq., and the late mayor, John George Newsom, Esq., a piece of plate (value one hundred guineas each) each with a suitable inscription thereon. The late mayor and Alderman Thomas Harding were also sworn in aldermen of the ward. The swearing in of the water bailiff was put off until Friday next, on account of his (Mr. Westrop) being unwell and unable to attend.

*October 6th.* This day Michael Roberts Westrop, Esq., was sworn into the office of water bailiff, and Mr. George Barter that of sergeant-at-mace, vacant by the resignation of John P. Mathis. Great opposition was made to the swearing in of the last gentleman, on the score of his being a freeman, and also that of the deputy water bailiffs of Cove and Passage; but it was over-ruled. A letter was read in court from Recorder Wagett, declining either plate or an increase of salary.

*October 11th.* This morning that part of the city above Hammond's Marsh was covered with water, and a great deal of damage done to the inhabitants, in consequence of the fall of rain a day or two before.

*November 18th.* This evening, about five o'clock, Thomas Scannell was found strangled in the room of the bridewell, in which he was confined for stealing three cows, the property of Miss Briggs of Bandon. This evening, about nine o'clock, a cooper of the name of Lynes was stabbed with a knife. The wound was four inches long. He was taken directly to the South Infirmary, with very little hopes he would recover. It happened in an affray in an infamous public-house kept by one Williams, in Drawbridge Street.

*November 19th.* This morning an inquest was held on the body of the above-named

Scannell by a jury, who returned a verdict of "killed himself" by strangling himself with his handkerchief.

*November 20th.* This day and yesterday a number of people were taken up for stabbing the above Lynes, and as some of them were going to the infirmary that they might be identified by the man, they were met by some who told them he was dead.

*November 21st.* This day an inquest was held on the body of the above man, and after long investigation of the facts, a verdict was returned of "wilful murder" against two foreigners, who were committed to gaol to stand their trials for the same next assizes.

This day ten people, who are in the practice of selling stockings at the Exchange these number of years, were convicted of a nuisance, made to pay their fees, and to enter into their recognizance to come for judgment when called on; and they would be called on if found selling stockings in sight of the Exchange, and that the judgment would be six months imprisonment.

*December 14th.* This day Richard Devonshire Newenham, two of his sons, and one of his servants, were tried before Recorder Waget for assaulting John O'Keeffe, who served a subpoena on one of his sons at Maryborough, on the 20th of last month. After a trial which lasted five hours, they were convicted, except one of the sons.

The uncommon fall of provisions created a great number of expected failures at this time.

*January 18th.* This day being set apart by public authority for a day of thanksgiving for peace, the Corporation, attended by (the officers with) the city regalia, went to Christ's church. The markets and shops all shut, &c.

*January 22nd.* This day George House, a baker living near Parliament Bridge, was tried before Recorder Waget for an assault on Mr. Robert Rogers, in the execution of his duty as market juror. He pleaded guilty to the charge, and after a very severe reprimand from the Recorder (he) was sentenced to pay a fine of £3, and to be confined for two months.

*February 23rd.* This day came on before the Mayor, being referred to him by Sir V. Pick, an important case in which a tyler was plaintiff, and Mr. Ronayne was defendant, for three days' work at 4s. 4d. per day—Mr. Ronayne insisting that the wages fixed by the

sessions was enough, and which was 2s. 9d. per day.

*February 27th.* The Mayor, after a hearing, deferred giving his decision until this day, when he gave it for the defendant. It was decided in the City Courthouse, and at the same time it was understood a day would be fixed for regulating the wages of the tradespeople of this city.

*February 30th.* This day John Crowley and another were whipt publicly for stealing—the first for clothes from a ship, and the other for some rope.

*April 3rd.* This day Mr. Justice Mayne arrived, and opened his commission in the City Court, and proceeded on to the criminal business immediately, when the following convictions took place:—

Samuel Dinan, for assault—guilty.

Patrick Lynch, Owen Neal, and Michael Lynch, three small boys, for stealing gold rings and other trinkets out of the shop of Miss Webb, Patrick Street.

Mary Fitzgibbon, for stealing 18 yards of casimere from Mr. Scannell's shop.

Lawrence Duggan and William Kirby for street robbery.

They were all ordered to be transported for seven years.

*April 4th.* This day Pedro Antonio, a Portugese sailor, was tried for the murder of Michael Lyons, and acquitted.

Humphrey Henessey and John Lafy were convicted of stealing cloaths<sup>(1)</sup> out of the house of John Kelly, tailor, Meeting-house Lane; and Ezekiel Rogers, for running away with some handkerchiefs from the shop of Thomas Magee; and Joseph Mantle and Patrick Mahony, for stealing ropes.

The five were ordered to be transported for seven years.

*April 5th.* This day Matthew Horagan was capitally convicted; John Kenny and John Foley for selling forged notes, were acquitted; Philip Goggin and Denis M'Carthy for a similar offence, were also acquitted; Margaret Kenny for uttering forged notes, acquitted; Henry Ford for stealing cloaths, guilty; William Walsh, stealing loaf of sugar, guilty—and ordered to be transported for seven years.

*April 6th.* This day Fitzgerald was con-

(1) The form of spelling is that used in the diary, as is the case with several other words (now obsolete) in the paper.

victed of stealing three shirts, the property of Peter Lively; and the above Horagan received sentence of death.

Yesterday Judge Day arrived in town, and proceeded with the business of the county.

There were 360 for tryal. A great number were acquitted, a number transported, and three capitally convicted.

One, for shooting two men, was hanged near Macroom; and two men at Gallows Green—one for the murder of his child, and the other for his wife.

The assizes ended on the 17th inst.

*April 29th.* Last Saturday week the office of Miss Beamish was broken open, and cash to the amount of about £30 taken out. They (the thieves) got in through the roof. On Wednesday Mr. Walsh, the gaoler, being told some suspicious fellows were drinking at a public-house near the gaol, went there, and, on his entering the tap-room, a notorious ruffian of the name of Lynch, put something in a hurry up into his mouth. Mr. W. sprang forward, seized him by the throat, and pulled out of his mouth some notes, which proved to be stolen out of Alderman Wagget's office, which was broken open that night. He was taken, with two others—fully committed to stand their trial at the ensuing assizes.

*May 20th.* Last Saturday a boy, called John Murphy, was whipt from the North Gaol to Broad Lane for stealing cloths from off the bleach.

*June 27th.* This day came the election of Common Speaker, and an attempt was made to put out the "Friendly Club" candidate. The Mayor took the chair at twelve o'clock, when Dr. Rogers requested the Common Speaker, Charles Perry, to propose, on the part of the Commons, William Gregg, Esq., as Common Speaker for the ensuing year, and the Mayor proposed George Campbell, Esq. Among a number of questions put by Mr. Gregg to Mr. Campbell one was: Was he a member of the club called the "Friendly Club"? which he declined answering. The poll commenced, and did not close until seven o'clock, in consequence of the freemen, on their voting, delivering their sentiments, when the numbers were—George Campbell, 182; William Gregg, 68.

Mr. Campbell was declared duly elected, and sworn in accordingly.

There were several votes rejected by the Mayor, some of them the younger sons of

freemen, who, on being rejected, declared it to be their intention to bring a mandamus, and try the question in a court of law.

Before the court broke up, Mr. Gregg put a protest on the book against Mr. Campbell's being sworn into office, he being a member of the "Friendly Club," as were the mayor and sheriffs who presided at the meeting.

The court then broke up until Monday next to elect mayor and sheriffs for the ensuing year.

*July 1st.*—This day came on the election of mayor and sheriffs. Mr. Gregg opened the proceedings of the day by reading an extract from the charter, which said the election of officers should take place on Monday after the feast of St. Bartholomew, and sworn into office on the Monday after the feast of St. Michael.

The recorder replied that by an Act passed in the reign of Charles II., the officers of the Corporation should be chosen the day three months previous to their coming into office.

That objection being done away, he then insisted on the right of the commons to elect one of their body for the office of mayor, and that it was not necessary to serve the office of sheriff to become eligible for that dignity. He said he was determined to try the question, and the recorder said he would advise the mayor to proceed in the usual mode of electing, by drawing five out of the number of burgesses out of a hat, and the freemen to choose one of that number for mayor; which was done accordingly, when Abraham Lane Leicester, George Knapp, George Sealy Waggett, and — Cuthbert were drawn. Mr. Daltera got up, and said they were determined to try the right of the "freemen," and for that purpose proposed Walter Hussey Fitton as a proper person to serve the office of mayor, and who, on being placed on the hustings, in a speech of some length, stated the shameful manner the funds of the Corporation were frittered away, and that, should he be the man of their choice, he would fill the office in a proper manner. However, he said, he was merely placed there to try their right of choosing one of their own body to serve that office, and that, on his getting enough of votes to do so, he would recommend Mr. George Sealy Waggett as a person fitter to serve office than Mr. Knapp, he being an officer of the revenue.

Upon that the poll began, at the close of which the numbers stood thus:—George Knapp, 113; George Sealy Waggett, 8. The Mayor refused to take any notice of the numbers for Mr. Fitton, but they were 35.

The election for sheriff then commenced, and according to bye-law—and which not usually acted on—the Mayor proposed Charles Perry, and the Recorder, George Crawford; the Sheriffs, on the part of the Mayor-elect, Charles Evanson, junior; and, on their own part, John Ingram; when, at the close of the poll, the numbers stood thus:—Charles Perry, 95; Charles Evanson, 92; George Crawford, 23; John Ingram, 1; on which Charles Perry and Charles Evanson were declared duly elected.

Walter Hussey Fitton then put on the book a protest against the election of George Knapp, and the meeting adjourned.

*July 20th.*—A hardened offender, John Crowley, was publicly whipped this day for stealing clothes from off a bleach—the second offence within these three months, and the second time of his being flogged.

*August 22nd.* This day Mr. Sergeant Johnson opened his Commission in our City Court, and, after the grand jury were sworn, Sir Nicholas Colthurst being the foreman, the judge proceeded to charge them. He particularly called their attention to the Act of Parliament passed last session relative to the mode of finding bills of indictment, which was that, in general, the only rule the grand jury had was the written information of the accuser, whereas the new law enacted that no true bill be found by the grand jury without the testimony of the prosecutor before them on oath. The clerk of the Crown then proceeded to call the different people, and, on swearing them, sent them before the grand jury.

The first bills that came down found true were gone on with, and the following trials took place:—

Edward Cleburne, for assaulting a revenue officer while seizing a private still at his father's house—acquitted.

Roger Neil for fraud on the Linen Board—guilty. Twelve months' imprisonment, and £200 fine.

Margaret Brior, for stealing £10 and some clothes from Robert Bridgway, to be confined six months.

Margaret Moor, for stealing clothes from Arthur Foskey—the like sentence.

Timothy Harrington, for stealing an epaulette from the coat of John Bickerton Flanagan, the surgeon of the 82nd Foot, to be confined six months.

Mary Sullivan, for stealing one guinea and a half note, and Catherine Barry, a watch and seal from Charles Crowley—each six months' imprisonment.

Margaret Murphy, for stealing a son of Mr. Wm. Fenlon's, four years of age—guilty. Transportation for seven years.

Thomas MacCarthy, for stealing a watch out of T. Chillingworth's pawn office—guilty. Transportation for seven years.

Bridget Quin, for stealing worsted—guilty. Six months confinement.

Ann Kinely, for stealing pocket book from Wm. Sheehy, two months confinement.

John Hennessy, for stealing bacon, same sentence.

Ellen Kelly and Ellen Lander, for stealing check and money from J. O'Connor, three months confinement.

*August 22nd.* This day Justice Mayne came to town, and proceeded to open the Commission in the County Court, when the following convictions took place:—

Four, for maiming with intent to kill, to be hanged.

Six, for manslaughter, twelve months imprisonment.

Three, for sundry thefts, six months imprisonment.

Five, for attacking the sheriff, six months imprisonment.

Seven, for sundry thefts, three months imprisonment.

One, assault on a female, twelve months imprisonment.

Five women, for shoplifting, transported for seven years.

*September 9th.* On the night of the 5th inst., the shop of Mr. George Osborn, taken as an auction room by Mr. T. W. Monty, was entered by some fellows, and watches, gold and silver spoons, etc., and a number of other things in the jewellery line, carried away, and as yet no trace of the robbers have been discovered.

*September 13th.* The sum presented to be raised on the city this assizes was £9,600 16s. 4d., and which was apportioned at the rate of 1s. 4¼d. in the pound.

At this assizes came to be tried that great record, "Duke of Devonshire against the

Corporation of Youghal," which occupied the court three days.

The jury found a verdict in fifteen minutes for the Duke, on giving of which his agent handed them fifty pounds.

About this period the public prints speak much about the general election. The reason some of these give is that the ministry themselves (who are supposed to be in the secret) are canvassing their respective constituents. A very warm contest is certain for both this city and county.

Very bad prospects at this time as to getting in of the harvest. Now the middle of September, and the weather wet and unfavourable, and little or none of the corn cut down; trade and business of every kind getting worse and worse every day.

*September 14th.* This day James and David Barry, who were convicted, of cutting with an intent to kill Peter Murphy, at the late assizes, were executed at Gallows Green, pursuant to their sentence, at five o'clock in the evening. The unfortunate men had petitioned the Lord Lieutenant: and not having received any answer, their friends requested to delay the execution until the coach would come into town, but on its arrival, no reprieve having arrived, they underwent the awful sentence of the law accordingly with great composure and propriety of conduct.

On the 2nd of this month, Mr. Sadler, junr., ascended in a balloon from the new Barrack Square at half-past four (evg.), and continued in sight for twelve minutes, when he was lost in a cloud, re-appeared twice again, and was then finally lost to view from the city. He alighted in Hoddersfield, the seat of Colonel Hodder, without any accident.

*September 17th.* The prospect of the harvest is not, by any means, mending. With every wind that blows we have rain, and this day must have done incalculable injury to the crops, cut and uncut. Sunday, and the greater part of yesterday, was fine; but to-day it has continued to rain without intermission.

As the season advances bad weather becomes progressively injurious, and the present rain will have the worst effect. The consequence to the potato crops will be disastrous, they are now so soft and pervious.

*September 18th.* In the papers this week the mayor advertised the lamp money that was apportioned on the city at 6d. in the pound on the last valuation.

George Knapp, Esq., who was returned, duly elected, mayor on the 1st of July, petitioned the Commissioners of the Customs for permission to absent himself from his place in the Custom House for his year of office, and though great interest was exerted for that purpose, it was all unavailing. They (the Commissioners) were firm in their purpose of never permitting one of their officers to accept any municipal office. The consequence was that this day Mr. Knapp declared his intention of resigning any pretensions to the office of mayor. That has thrown the Corporation into a great dilemma, as, it is said, the charter is void if next Monday should pass without a mayor being sworn into office.

How this affair will end, it is impossible to say. The people are anxiously expecting the result on Monday.

*September 30th.* At an early hour this morning the court was surrounded by a number of people attracted by the novel situation the city stood with respect to the office of mayor.

At 12 o'clock the mayor, sheriffs, recorder, and a number of aldermen, took their places in court. The first thing done was to swear in Alderman Westrop into office of water bailiff. The town clerk having read the election of Mr. Knapp to the office of mayor, and Messrs. Perry and Evanson to that of sheriffs, on the 1st of July last, and the approval of the said election by the Lord Lieutenant, he called out, "Is George Knapp in attendance to take the oaths of office on him?" Upon that Mr. Knapp came forward and addressed the freemen. The substance of his speech was that the Commissioners of the Revenue had put it out of his power, in justice to his family, to accept of the office to which his fellow-citizens had elected him, and the reason of his not declining the office time enough to choose another, so as not to leave the city in the dilemma it is in, was that his final answer was not received until that day week, when no election could take place. He was in the hopes that the objection to his serving the office might have been got over, but it could not, though it had been filled before by revenue officers, with credit to themselves and advantage to the city; but he hoped they would now accept his resignation of the office, and yet the time might come when no hindrance could be to his

servicing that high office which he would do to the utmost of his abilities.

Mr. Fitton then got up and attempted to recount what occurred on the day of election, when he was called to order by Councillor Connell, who insisted the motion before the court was—"should Mr. Knapp's resignation be accepted or not." Mr. Fitton declared he could not resign an office he never held. The word was then altered to "relinquish," when the motion was put and carried unanimously.

The Recorder then rose and said 'twas fit the freemen should be made acquainted with what had been done, in consequence of the very awkward situation in which they were placed by Mr. Knapp's relinquishment of the office of mayor, and the Common Council with what was done also. The new sheriffs,

he said, should be sworn into office; and a case had been submitted to the Attorney and Solicitor-General for their opinion, whether a mayor might be elected by the freemen on that day week (and for which a notice should be given), or should they wait until term, and then apply for a mandamus to elect one.

After an able speech from Mr. Daltera, proving the extinction of the Corporation, which made it impossible to swear in the sheriffs by the old mayor, the new sheriffs (by the advice of the Recorder) were sworn into office. After a very long speech from Mr. Fitton proving the legality of his election, and on Sheriff Perry giving notice of a meeting on that day week for the purpose of electing a mayor, and for no other purpose, the meeting adjourned.

(To be Continued.)

## *Biographical Sketches of Persons Remarkable in Local History.*

### I.—CURRAN.



ONE of the most remarkable of the many men whose genius shed lustre on the Old House in College Green—John Philpot Curran—was born in Cork county, at Newmarket, in the year 1750. The little town still wears its old-fashioned appearance; all its quaint interesting surroundings have an antiquated retired air, despite the fact that later day Light Railway schemes have rudely wakened most of the sleepy hollows in neighbouring countries of Clan Auliffe and Pobble O'Keeffe. James Curran, father of the barrister, was seneschal of the manor of Newmarket—a petty magisterial position in the giving of the Aldworth family. His wife, Sarah Philpot, was the daughter of a local Protestant clergyman, whose kindly disposition had endeared him to gentle and simple alike. She has been described for us by another famous county Cork man,<sup>(1)</sup> whose influence on the minds of his countrymen has been deep and abiding, in the following words:—"She was of gentle blood; but what 'is more to our purpose, she had a deep

(1) Thomas Osborne Davis, born at Mallow.

"womanly irregular mind; it was like the clear river of her town, that came gushing and flashing and discoursing from the lonely mountains—from the outlaw's and fairy's home—down to the village. She had, under an exalted piety, a waste of passions and traditions lying grand and gloomy in her soul, and thence a bright human love of her son came pouring out on him, and making him grow green at her feet." There can be little doubt that her influence was considerable in moulding the character of her son. At Newmarket, where she was buried, he raised a monument to her memory, which bears the simple words

"This frail memorial was placed here  
By a son whom she loved."

Curran when a child seems to have grown up wayward and wild, his grandfather in his time was thought to have been a good Irish scholar, and he, too, knew the kindly Gaelic thoroughly before he could write his name in English. He was sent to school to Kanturk, where he did little else than play marbles with Barry Yelverton, <sup>(2)</sup>

(2) Afterwards Lord Chief Baron Avonmore.