

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

OF

DUNGARVAN



With an enquiry into the state of religion in ancient times, the foundation of the town, a narrative from existing records of the varying fortunes of the Castle of Dungarvan, with a chronicle of the events prior to, and subsequent to, the signing of the Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland, with Illustrations from direct photographs.

BY

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WATERFORD:

PRINTED BY THE WATERFORD NEWS, LTD.

1924.

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P R E F A C E .

ON the 4th March, 1922, when the police force, the garrison of Dungarvan Castle and representative of the British Government in Ireland, delivered unto the soldiers of the I.R.A. this historical fortress, they, the Royal Irish Constabulary, then left the town for ever. The police force on the occasion numbered about sixty men. They had been gathered in from the surrounding stations for safety—those outlying stations having been repeatedly attacked, oftentimes resulting in loss of life.

When the police emerged from the battlemented walls of the Castle, they marched up the Main Street, led by their officer, Captain Sheehan, *en route* to the waiting train at the station, to take them to their quarters for disbandment. The marching of those uniformed men away from our presence for ever was in itself an incident as remarkable as any that had previously occurred in the history of our country. It was to us, who had seen them marching through the street, a symbol of the termination of British rule in Ireland.

I had often times consulted the historians of our county, particularly those portions which related to the story of the Castle of Dungarvan, and this striking incident of the departure of the police force gave me an idea that it might be opportune to have produced, with suitable illustrations, the many interesting and important phases of change that have occurred in connection with this ancient building.

The military had departed some days before. The Black-and-Tan's, who had their quarters in the Castle, had also gone. The few years preceding the departure of the military and the police force had been remarkable for

notable events. In pursuance of the idea given me by the departure of these forces of the English Government, I compiled an account, as related by our historians, of the incidents of the Dungarvan Castle rule over the town, which embraced the absorbing events from its erection up to and including the recent past, which I conceived might be acceptable to the public.

It was thought by many then that we would have peace. But this idea was soon dispelled. The peace was only momentary. For soon after the disappearance of the military and police incidents of a no less important character than those which had preceded them took place, and being personally observant of them, I ventured to extend my labours, and to narrate in consecutive order the events of stirring import which occurred. This I have endeavoured to do in the following pages.

The compilations from the historians involved some labour. The setting forth of the events of history which locally took place within the past four years also necessitated some attention to the passing happenings, and I have endeavoured to give an account of them in their consecutive order, and the story of them will for all time make memorable the years of turmoil and of strife, of bloodshed and of sorrow, preceding and subsequent to the signing of the Treaty.

I must confess my indebtedness for the historical portions of this work to Dr. Smith, the painstaking and gifted historian of the County Waterford; to the Rev. Mr. Ryland, the learned and facile writer; to Mr. Joseph Hansard, whose additions to previous histories are very valuable; and to Mr. P. M. Egan, the latest of our chroniclers, whose industry and application deserve the highest praise. The works of all those writers are now out of print, and sell at a handsome premium. I am also indebted to friends for information on various matters.

The illustrations presented to the public here are reproduced from actual photographs taken at various times. I am glad to be able to present a photograph of the Ballyvoile Bridges before their destruction. They will show to future generations what the railway viaduct

was like, for not a vestige of that unique, massive, and splendid piece of arched masonry now remains; and the road bridge, too, a superb work of massiveness, of strength and symmetry, has been restored, and now appears as if it had never suffered damage. The destruction of Ballycoe House, of Mrs. Morrissey's at Burgery, the ruins of the burned houses at Abbeyside, and burned remains of the barracks, and of Ballinacourty, will show better than words could convey the thoughts and the feelings of people which predominated in these exciting times.

I trust my efforts to preserve in permanent form those incidents of paramount importance in connection with the history of the town will receive a small measure of appreciation. Reproduction from photographs has now reached a high degree of perfection, and the pictures here presented may be relied on as being accurate representations of what they portray. The work ought be acceptable to friends and relatives abroad, whose minds and hearts never cease to turn with affection to the homes and the scenes of their youth.

For wheresoe'er we chance to roam
From our dear isle of green.
Our hearts will fondly turn to home—
To each familiar scene,—
The haunts of childhood where we played
By river, wood, or dell,
The pathways where in youth we strayed—
For ever with us dwell.

E. K. 1924.

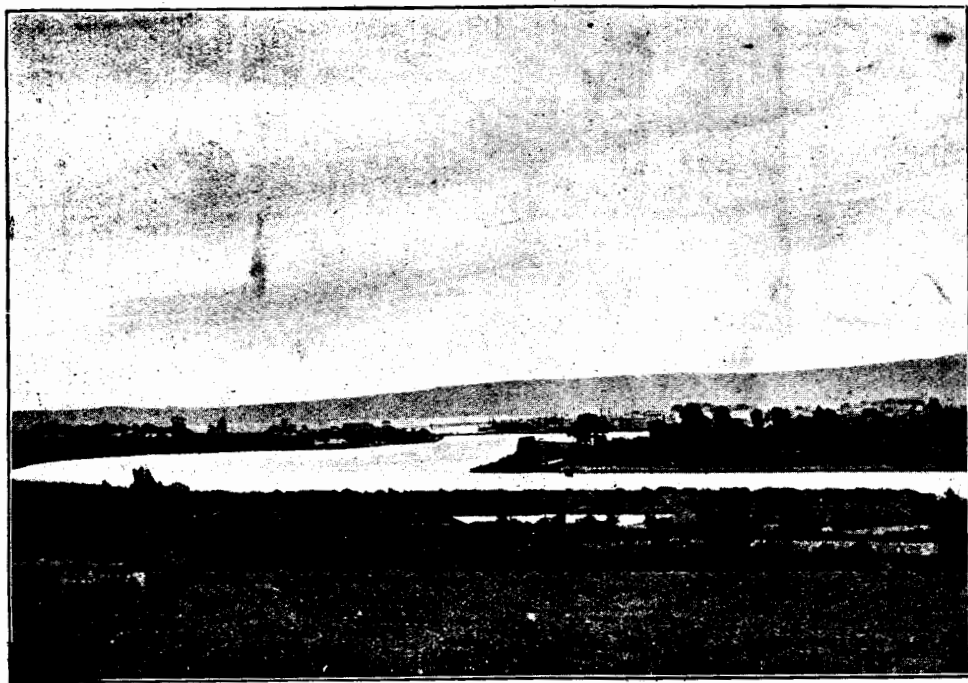


DUNGARVAN.



HISTORIANS tell us that the town of Dungarvan is of very ancient date. Its name was at first Achad Garvain, which later was changed to Dungarvan, and this name, it is said, is derived from Saint Garvain, who in the seventh century founded an Abbey of Canons Regular here, and that no vestige now remains of the church in which they officiated. One of the historians of the County Waterford tells us that this church was situated somewhere at the lower end of Church Street, and if this be so, the site may be easily ascertained, for the west wall of the large store at the end of Church Street shows unmistakable evidences of an ecclesiastical character. In this wall there are windows which at once disclose their ecclesiastical origin, and one window in particular, which is well preserved, though of ancient appearance, undoubtedly belonged to a church. If, then, the site of the church of Saint Garvain was at the lower end of Church Street, these remains of the ecclesiastical edifice must have been portion of the particular church in question.

But with regard to this ancient church, and it is pardonable to make every possible inquiry respecting it, there is another building—that in which is located the Electric Light and Power Co. of Dungarvan—and its appearance would more strongly show that it must have been the ancient church of Saint Garvain. The doorway of this building, facing Barrack Lane, is of Gothic construction, and is very well preserved, though the ground in the vicinity has been raised somewhat in the course of time. The windows, too, are plainly visible, the architraves and lintels of cut freestone bear evident traces of a devotional character. And one of our capable historians, who visited the site and made a minute examination and hunted up ancient records, came to the conclusion that this building must have been Saint Garvain's Church. The street also in which the



Dungarvan from Glidaun.

Photo by Keohan.

building is situated was called "Temple Street," another corroboration of the conjecture that this is the church under review. For centuries this old building had been covered with mortar, and it was only when the front had been cleaned that the doorway and windows were plainly visible, and now the more one inspects its walls and general appearance, the more he is convinced that this, indeed, is the ancient church of Saint Garvain.

With regard to the name "Dungarvan," the first syllable of which signifies a fort, and which, it is said, has reference to the large mound of earth which lies to the west of the road leading from the Brewery to Kiltrush. There are many mounds of this character scattered through the country, and they are said to be sepulchres, or burial places of eminent personages. Dr. Smith, a painstaking historian of the county, made a boring of this mound and found it was hollow in the centre. The Archæological Society of Waterford had, at one time, intended to make the excavation of the tumulus, but the idea did not mature, and it still remains a mystery as to its contents and its inner formation. In any case, the name "Dun" is applied to these mounds throughout the country, and with Saint Garvain on the one hand, and this "Dun" on the other, it is easy to arrive at the topographical explanation of the name.

But we know very little of Saint Garvain, and, like many other instances, the name may be tinged with conjecture. Another theory is broached, and perhaps a fanciful one, but it has some semblance of reason to support it. And it is this, that the word Garvan signifies rough, white, and that when the tide recedes, after a storm from the Western Bay, it leaves a long length of white rough foam upon the strand, which from its rugged appearance may have given rise to the word "Garvan," and we know that names of places are founded oftentimes on very slender incidents. Of course, a good deal of this is mere conjecture, and better it is that we adhere to opinions expressed by our painstaking historians, that the name had its origin in Saint Garvain and the dun or fort, while at the same time we may rest content with the philosophy of Shakespeare in respect to the meaning of a name.

There can be no doubt that the town is of very ancient foundation. No amount of research will enable us to mark the century in which the site was fixed upon as a dwelling-

place. We have through tradition, and through written records, convincing grounds for believing that our district was peopled by an ancient race many centuries before the introduction of Christianity. We hear of the Firbolgs and the Tuatha Da Danaans, and of the Druids, which carry us back to thousands of years before the Christian era, and we are told also that the whole country was extensively wooded, and that the early settlers came from Eastern lands. Our national minstrel puts the matter into verse, for he says:

“ They came from a land beyond the seas,
And now o'er the Western main—
Set sail in their good ships gallantly
From the sunny lands of Spain,
And lo, from afar o'er the ocean shines
A sparkle of radiant green,
As though in its depths lay emerald mines
Whose light through the waves was seen.
'Tis Inisfail, 'tis Inisfail,
Rings o'er the echoing sea,
As bending to Heaven the warriors hail
The home of the brave and the free.”

The Menapii.

The earliest people of which we have any records that inhabited this portion of the country were the Menapii, a tribe of warriors from Spain and Egypt, who, being overcome in wars with Cæsar, set out in search of other lands, and after struggling with the wind and waves for some time, ultimately landed on the coast of Waterford. The county presented a wide seaboard to these adventurers, and tradition goes to show that the spot on which these warriors landed was at Dunabrattin Head, now known as Boat Strand. The time of their coming is said to be some years anterior to the Christian era, and the information is gleaned from the writings of Ptolmey and Strabo, both very eminent and ancient writers. According to them, these Menapii were a tribe of the Belge of Gaul, and of a warlike, Celtic race, who refused to submit to the rule of Cæsar, and after many conflicts they left their homes and set their eyes westward in search of more suitable climes. They had been driven out from their territories, bordering on the Rhine, and as there are no striking incidents recorded of them for years in this old county, it is presumed they coalesced with the people, married into their families, and adopted the manners and customs of the time.

The Decie.

But subsequently, in the course of some centuries, a people called the *Decie*, who resided in the vicinity of the palace of Tara, in the County or Meath, came and settled in the County Waterford, and occupied the site now known as Dungarvan, as well as the lands stretching up the Drum mountain, and far away along the course of the Blackwater. They also settled down in the valley of Ardmore, and even across the river, to the borders of the County Cork. These people gave the name of their tribe to this portion of the County Waterford, those here being designated the *Nan Decie*, and those remaining in the County Meath, the *North Decie*. The name of this famous people has remained with us to the present day, for among the baronies of the county we have *Decies "within"* and *Decies "without"* Drum, both baronies comprising the lands lying on both sides of the Drum Fineen hills, which run from Helvick Head along to Dromana.

Now as to the foundation of the town. It can easily be conceived that the site on which Dungarvan is built afforded the most convenient place for a settlement. The river Colligan ran then as it does now, and emptied itself into the sea at the junction between the Cunnigar and Abbeyside. The tide ebbcd and flowed much the same as at the present time, and with the facilities for both sea and inland transit it was to those early people the most desirable location in which to erect their habitations. Thus, if portion of the town had not been already formed, which on a reasonable presumption must have been the case, these hardy people would have fixed upon the present site for the erection of their dwellings. At all events, we have historical records to show that in the year of the Christian era 135 the town was founded, though very little mention is made of the fact, and tradition must help us, as well as reasonable conjecture, where there are no written records to arrive at indisputable conclusions.

Let us examine what *ancient monuments* we can find, and see how they bear upon the matter. We have standing in the Dungarvan churchyard an old wall of very remarkable appearance, whose origin is wrapped in mystery, and which carries the mind back to ages long before those of which we have any written record. This old wall has been the subject of much research by antiquarians. It presents

the appearance of the gable of a building, but what that building was cannot be exactly determined. This old wall has been closely scrutinised by a Rev. Professor of Cork University, and he has come to the conclusion that it was portion of the old church, and by measurements and location, and by comparing the masonry with that of the church, he concludes both buildings must have been executed at the same period, and that the wall is undoubtedly of Christian origin. The old wall of the church has recently been cemented, and, to the curious mind, one cannot now examine both buildings with minute scrutiny. It might be well to accept the authority of the eminent professor who has made a study of this quaint wall, but a reverence for things of the past induces a further inquiry, and a quotation of further testimony with regard to this building.



Old Wall in Dungarvan Churchyard.

Photo by Keohan.

Another ecclesiastical authority lays it down that this old wall must have been the gable of a leper hospital, his reason being that the sea around Dungarvan proved an excellent fishing ground, and that the people existed very

largely on a fish food, which produced leprosy, and hence the need of a leper hospital. This is but a theory and exists simply on conjecture, but at all events the explanation may be far-fetched of the existence of this remarkable structure.

And yet another theory has been advanced, and it is, that this wall was portion of a building in which Sun worshippers used to worship. The wall is unique in its having circular openings. There were six of them—one has broken away from top—and these openings are splayed on the inside and constructed in very capable arched masonry, and it is conjectured that these openings were used for the purpose of allowing the rays of the setting sun to throw its beams upon the inner chamber in six circular lights, when the priests of the sun worship would have their flocks fall down and adore. This theory would, of course, carry us back to a time long anterior to the introduction of the Christian religion. The splayed apertures are facing west, and therefore it would be in the evening time the circular discs of light would throw themselves on the wall and the adoration would take place. This theory may or may not be correct. It is difficult to determine. But it partakes not too much of the realms of fancy. Our ancestors came from the East, where sun worship was in vogue, and it was but natural that these early settlers would have carried with them the habits of their primitive fathers, and when they established themselves in the genial atmosphere of our locality, erected this building with its circular windows to follow the practices they were accustomed to in their Eastern homes.

These references to the ancient architecture of our locality are made to show the justness of the statement that "Dungarvan is a town of very ancient date." It may not be amiss also to refer to other monuments found in the vicinity to demonstrate some of the traditional forms of worship that existed here in very early times.

Ancient Forms of Worship.

The Druidical form of worship was a feature of all the Celtic races, and in our vicinity we have evidence that at one time it was practised in this neighbourhood. Its doctrine comprised the transmigration of souls and the belief in a hereafter. Within the town itself we have not discovered any evidence of this religion, but this may be easily

accounted for in the fact that in the process of time and change these evidences, if they existed, have been swept away to make room for more modern requirements. But in Kilgrovan, a townland three miles to the east of Dungarvan, there existed a stone circle which was of absorbing interest to antiquarians. The stones which comprised this circle have been removed and are now deposited in the safe keeping of the Fathers of the Cistercian Order in Melleray. But these pillar stones must have been in existence at a very ancient period, and were used for the Druidical form of worship. Upon them were Ogham markings of much interest to scholars in Ogham lore. This traditional form of worship existed not only in Ireland, but also in England, Scotland, and other European countries, and the similarity of these stone circles forces upon one the conviction that their origin must have sprung from the same race of people. And thus, having evidence of the Druidical belief in a district so contiguous to Dungarvan, it is natural to believe that in this old town in the past ages the old Druid Priests performed their rites, and the people worshipped in the same order as they did in the Far Eastern climes from which they came.

In 1868, when excavations were being made for the building of the road bridge at Ballyvoile, many stone coffins were found in a field called "Killeen," and these also told of pre-Christian burial. And thus these evidences of a forgotten past show us that this town and its vicinity were peopled by a race many hundred years before St. Declan came from Rome commissioned to spread the truths of Christianity to the inhabitants of the old city of Ardmore. However, before leaving this interesting subject of antiquarian research, we would give the dimensions of the old wall in the churchyard whose origin is still much a matter of conjecture, and which probably for many ages yet to come will excite the curiosity of would-be inquirers into pre-historic times. There has been some modern masonry added as protection to this old wall, very necessary it appears to have been, for the stones were crumbling at the sides, and it was eminently praiseworthy to preserve so interesting a relic of a forgotten age. The width of this old gable is 3 feet 3 inches, its breadth 33 feet, height about 40 feet. Its distance from the angle of the existing church is some 84 feet, so that if Professor Power's theory be the correct one, the church then must have been a spacious edifice.

In many instances old stones used as monuments have been put into existing buildings, and thus is lost what would serve to enlighten us of times of which there is no history. As an instance of this practice, the church of Seskinane may be cited, where the Ogham stones that marked the graves of the ancient people were raised and put into the masonry of the church, either as lentils or as coign stones, for which they suited admirably. Hence, also, many monuments may be lost that would throw light upon the inquiry as to the manners and customs that had their habitations here in the long ago.

The Spread of Christianity.

We have not much information as to the progress of events from the coming of the Menapii down to the introduction of the Christian faith. We are told that the Decies drew their descent from Fiachadh Suidhe, eldest son to Ferdinand, the law giver, who was supreme monarch of Ireland from the year of Christ 164 to the year 174. But Fiachadh died in the lifetime of his father, and the crown descended on his younger brother, Cormac MacArt, who began his reign in the year 254. A prince named Sneas resented his exclusion from the throne, and a domestic quarrel ensued, which was quelled by King Cormac, and Angus with two of his brothers, and others of the Decie adhering to him, withdrew into Munster and settled themselves in the County Waterford. St. Declan, who was a precursor of St. Patrick, was descended from the princes of the Decie, and had been Bishop of Ardmore for about thirty years before St. Patrick came to Ireland.

No doubt the town of Dungarvan received the attentions of the Danes in later years, for evidences of the habitations of these northern warriors are found along the coast-line of the county, and near Bonmahon there is a promontory, semi-detached from the land, which bears the suggestive name of "The Danes' Island." And in this conspicuous eminence many implements have been found which it is supposed belonged to the Danes. Having been so near, it is easy to imagine that they made their depredations upon this old town, and in writing of the old buildings at present existing one writer asserts that the round tower within the confines of the fort of Dungarvan Castle was built by the Danes. It bears a striking resemblance to Reginald's Tower, in Waterford city, and it may be that when King

John set to build the castle of Dungarvan, as will be set out later, his advisers included this old tower within the fort for prudential and other reasons.

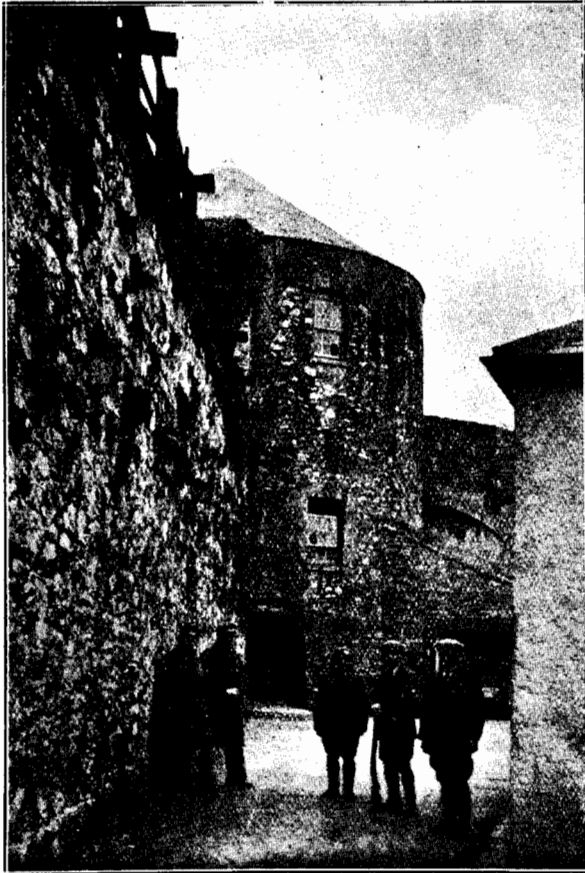


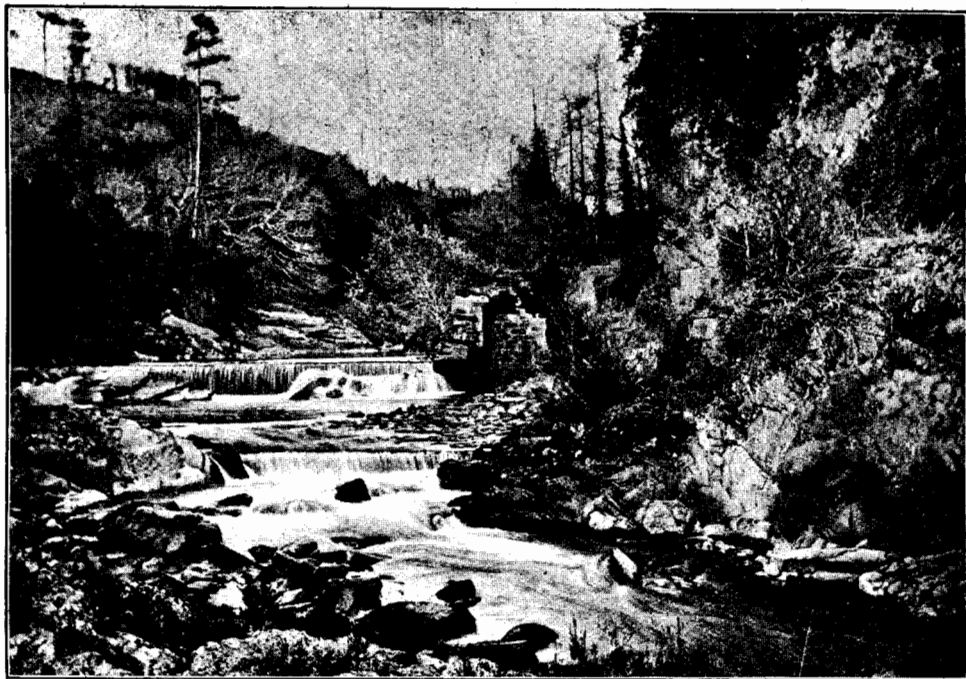
Photo by Keohan.

Old Tower in Castle—I.R.A. on Guard.

There can be no doubt that Dungarvan was one of the first towns, if not the first, with the exception of Ardmore, to be blest with the light of the Christian faith. The "Old Parish" lies about midway between Dungarvan and Ardmore, and historians tell us that St. Declan came from Rome to Ardmore in the year 402, and that he founded the Abbey there. But St. Declan had been baptised by Saint Coleman,

who was the patron of the "Old Parish." And this event must have happened fifty years before St. Patrick came to Ireland, so that it can scarcely be doubted that the "Old Parish" is the oldest parish in Ireland. And this district is within easy reach of Dungarvan, so it is not difficult to conjecture that the saintly ministrations of Saint Coleman, and later those of St. Declan, found their way to Dungarvan, so that the light of Faith must have shone in this old town before yet St. Patrick had confirmed St. Declan in the See of Ardmore. These ideas are supported by the remains of the ancient edifices which can be found in the town. We have already referred to St. Garvain's Church, to the architecture of the old wall of the large store at the end of Church Street, and again we may point out the remains of buildings at the rere of Messrs. Merry's stores, which also give evidence of having been belonging to an ecclesiastical building. And, moreover, the ground at the rere was once a graveyard, as was discovered from remains found there in excavating for buildings. In looking over these old places one is reminded of the aroma of sanctity which prevailed here in very early times, and this light, which burned brightly where the Colligan meets the waters of the Atlantic, must have thrown its beams in every direction, for both in history and tradition we have abundant proofs of the increasing fervour of a civilized people in the Christian religion. Indeed, from this time onwards civilisation and religion progressed in the most edifying manner, till, when, after the expulsion of the Danes, troubles began to arise, and continued in a more or less effective manner until the coming of the English towards the latter part of the twelfth century.

Meantime, the inhabitants of the town and the surrounding districts had made considerable headway in the erection of religious houses and in the progress of enlightenment. An Abbey had been established at Clashmore, founded by Cuanear, at the command of Mochoemore of Lethmore, who, it is said, raised Cuanear from the dead. This Saint died on the 13th March, A.D. 655. In these early days communication was kept up between Clashmore, Ardmore, the Old Parish, and Dungarvan, and the Brothers and Priests of the Orders made frequent journeys across the mountains to confer with the occupiers of the neighbouring Abbeys. Ryland tells us that the intercourse between the monasteries and other religious houses at Ardmore,



The Weir, Colligan.

Photo by Keohan.

Clashmore and Dungarvan could not be kept up except by mountain roads, which were the direct modes of communication between these places, and that "it may appear strange to us that the reverend travellers should expose themselves on this mountain to a motion so unsuitable to their age and habits, yet we can have no reason to question the fact when we are reminded that the road, though not an easy one, was a royal one, and was the line in which King John and his courtiers travelled when business or pleasure induced them to cross this part of the country."

What a wealth of religion existed in this part of the County Waterford! Before Christianity, the settlers performed their pagan rites of worship, but being converted by the efforts of St. Coleman, St. Declan, and later on by St. Patrick, they applied themselves to the erection of churches in which they could perform the ceremonies of the true Christian religion. If we travel east, we come to a place bearing the name of "Carrignaffrin," or the "Rock of the Mass," where the priest officiated among the assembled people in the penal days, and where watch was kept on the surrounding heights to give warning of the approach of the English soldiers. And further on we have Stradbally, with its ancient edifice, the Abbey of the Augustinian Friars, the last of whom was called "The White Friar," and who was, according to Ryland, the hero of many legendary tales. Then, at Ballyvooney, there are traces of extensive buildings, with a subterranean passage of 200 feet, and wells to which the water was conveyed by an aquaduct of over half a mile. And, indeed, throughout the interior of our county, in every district, there are ecclesiastical ruins which point to a very early age of civilisation and a devotion to the practice of the Christian teaching which was so general that it became inseparably associated with the traditions and habits of the people.

Not much is there of a public record of the events that took place from the time of the conversion of the district to Christianity until we come down to the arrival of King John at Waterford in 1185. Henry II, who was ruling in England at this period, sent his son John, with a number of courtiers, to try and make peace in Ireland. The English had but recently endeavoured to get control of the country, under the guise of a Bull said to be issued by the Pope, but which is still doubted by many learned people, and John, who was but 19 years of age, landed at Waterford in the

year above named. One propensity he displayed, and that was the sowing of his wild oats, and while in Ireland he and his courtiers committed many excesses in frivolity and hilarity, the accounts of which reaching the King, he recalled his son and his train. But meantime the British had set upon the building of many fortresses through the country to contain garrisons who were to preserve the country under English control. It was then the Castle of Dungarvan was built. The work was begun in 1185, and completed in the course of a year or two. In addition to the building of the Castle, the town was enclosed with fortified walls and a garrison of the English kept continually in the Castle. It appeared to be necessary that this should be done, for the Decies, under their prince, O'Feolain, were the rulers of this western portion of the county from close to the city to the Blackwater, and beyond.

But previously, in the year 1170, after the invitation of Dermott MacMorrough, King of Leinster, who had eloped with the Prince of Breffni's wife, Raymond le Gros landed at Waterford, and the Danes, who had occupied the city for many years before, determined to give battle. They were assisted by Malachy O'Feolain, Prince of the Decies, and O'Ryan of Idrone, and, it is said, they had together a force of 3,000 horse and foot. They fell upon the English in a desperate manner, but fortune did not seem to rest with them, for after a bloody strife a number of the leading citizens of Waterford were made prisoners and the Prince of the Decies was taken and lodged in Reginald's Tower. Through the mediation of MacMorrough subsequently, the lives of the prisoners were spared. Strongbow came to Waterford soon after, and was married to Eva, daughter of MacMorrough. The ceremony took place in Reginald's Tower.

In 1173 Raymond le Gros made an incursion into the west of the county and captured Lismore and plundered it. He then came with his booty to Dungarvan and found thirteen boats on the quay, which he seized, and placed the plundered goods in them. He intended making for England, but being delayed by contrary winds on leaving the harbour, he was attacked by a fleet of the Danes from Cork, but in the engagement the English were victorious. From this time forward, to the building of the Castle of Dungarvan, not much enlightenment is thrown upon the condition of the town. The Castle was garrisoned by the English

forces. It was held by them almost unintermittently for 750 years, down to the time, in 1920, when the English forces marched out, handing over the control of this famous fortress to the army of the Irish people, as a result of the Treaty entered into between the English on the one side, and the plenipotentiaries of the Irish people on the other. The history of the Castle, during its long occupation, reflects in every respect the history of the town, and it will be seen from the records published that this fortress was regarded as of the utmost importance to the occupation of the country by the British.



Photo by Keohan.
Entrance to Dungarvan Castle—I.R.A. Doing Sentry Duty.

The Castle.

The Castle was built by King John, son of Henry II, in the year 1185. He had landed at Waterford in the month of April of that year, and having been received kindly by the inhabitants, he proceeded, with his courtiers, to make a tour of the portions of the county lying further west. Many of the excesses of this young King are spoken of with contempt. However, for the purpose of combatting the uprisings among the people, he conceived the idea of erecting castles in different parts of the county, and the site in Dungarvan seemed a favourable one for his design. He had the work begun and completed in a short time. A survey of the walls, the arches, the massiveness of the outer portion of the works, give one an idea of the amount of labour employed. The work was carried out with great skill, the arches are all perfect, and are all constructed of stone. The towers that flanked the entrance are now completely demolished, but when in their first finished state they must have added much symmetry and dignity to the building. The gloomy dungeon in the inner portion, arched over completely with stone, as well as all the other portions go to show the excellence of the workmanship at this early period.

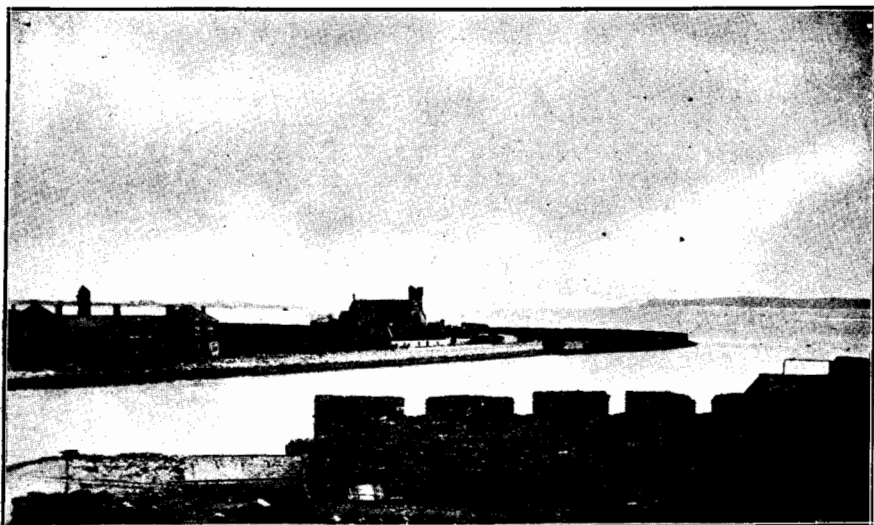
The Castle of Dungarvan is situated at the eastern angle of the town, close to where the river Colligan bends to the right in its onward course to the sea. The castle itself was of circular formation, and built inside the fortified walls, the latter forming an oblong fort, pierced with loopholes facing in every direction, for the purposes of defence. The fortress was supplied with cannon. Two of these pieces remained there until 1920, and were interesting relics of antiquity, but were obsolete in their uses. They rested on the top portion of the walls, facing towards the sea.

The approach to the Castle lay between two high walls and through an arched gateway of massive strength, the masonry of these walls being still in good preservation. The guard-room was immediately inside, and both sides of the entrance were flanked by circular towers. One of these is altogether destroyed, portion of the other is remaining. Over the gateway was a fighting platform, with an aperture to hurl missiles, molten lead, and other destructive articles on the enemy in case of attack. The battlemented walls are still in good condition, and covered as they are with

lichen and moss, with an occasional wallflower to add a shade of colour, they combine all the mellowing influences of destructive grandeur. From the quay-side, the loopholes looking in every direction show the ancient modes of defence and indicate how hazardous an enterprise it would be to attack this almost impregnable fortification. The castle proper rose from the inside to a height above the outer walls, and this was also fortified as a last retreat in case an entrance was effected in the outer works.

In the quadrangle, and close beside the ruined portion of the castle, the modern buildings are erected. These were capable of accommodating up to sixty men, and were spacious and comfortable buildings, until destroyed by fire by the Republicans when vacating the barracks on the coming of the Free State troops.

At the western corner of the fort the venerable circular tower stands. A doubt exists as to whether this old tower was built at the time of the building of the castle. Some believe it was erected many years before and that it was the work of the Danes. Its walls are at least six feet in thickness. It has two floors, ancient windows looking out into the castle yard, and it was used as an hospital during recent military occupation. Its appearance would indicate



View from Dungarvan Castle.

Photo by Keohan.

that it is more ancient than the other works. The first ceiling is of wattle work, arched, of great strength, and the wicker lines show very clearly and point to a very remote construction.

The view from the Castle walls is magnificent. It embraces both sea and land. From the eastern end a full prospect of the harbour is obtained, with the Cunnigar headland stretching across the bay, and Helvick Head rising in the distance. The lighthouse of Ballinacourty shows itself on the opposite side of the harbour. The old castle of Abbeyside and the ancient monastic ruin close to the sea engage the attention, and the mind is carried back for several centuries to the time when the good Fathers of St. Augustine first sang their hymns of praise within the precincts of this hallowed building. To the north, Cruachan Mountain rears its heathery head, and the undulating hills of the Comeraghs fade away in the distance. One can also see the far hills of Knockmealdown, while in the middle distance the beautiful valley of the Colligan looks verdant in its fertility, and the long reach of river is seen winding by the favoured walk of Shandon.

The site of the castle belonged to the Duke of Devonshire. Now it is freehold and is the property of the Irish Government. There was once a well inside the castle walls. It is now disused. The water was brackish, which is accounted for by the fact that the subsoil is porous, and the tide at each coming percolates a long way underground.

Notwithstanding the ravages of time, the outer walls of this old fortification are fairly well preserved. The castle was considered of immense importance to the rulers of the country, and of this there is abundant testimony; and that it has seen many changes there can be no doubt. It played an important part in the English government of Ireland, and looking at it to-day in its silent but massive decay one can well realise that there was a time when Scott's description of Norham Castle might fittingly apply:—

“The battled towers, the donjon keep,
The loophole grates where captives weep,
The flanking walls that round it sweep
In yellow lustre shone.
The warriors on the turrets high,
Moving athwart the evening sky,
Seemed forms of giant height.
Their armour, as it caught the rays,
Flashed back again the Western blaze
In lines of dazzling light.”

The town itself was enclosed by battlemented walls, supposed to be built by King John after completion of the Castle, and at each of the four corners there were towers, or bastions. Portion of this old town wall still remains and can be seen on the "Dead Walk"; and from the corner of the "Dead Walk" it ran down St. Augustine Street, by "Clubber's Lane," the houses of which are now removed, and on to the Quay, to meet again the walls of the Castle. At the Main Street, between Mrs. Walsh's and Mr. Keohan's, a gate entered the town. Some years ago, when building a new house at the top of Friary Street, the foundation of one of these circular towers was come upon. It consisted of huge stones, and the walls were from three to four feet in thickness.

Town Incorporated.

The town of Dungarvan was incorporated by Edward IV in the year 1463, the Act of which recites: "As the seignory of Dungarvan was the most great and ancient honour belonging to the King in Ireland, which through war, etc., was for the most part destroyed. It is provided that the portrieve and commons of said town, their heirs, etc., may enjoy all manner of free gifts and customs, as the inhabitants of the manor of Clare, in England, have used and enjoyed, and as the Mayor and commons of Bristol have done, the profits to go to the reparation of the walls and towers, under the survey of the Earl of Desmond." All these privileges which the citizens enjoyed under this Act were renewed to them by James I as a reward for their fidelity to the Crown during the rebellion in the reign of Elizabeth. The charter was again renewed by Richard Cromwell on April 12th, 1659 at the request of Richard Harris, as expressed in the recital. By an inquisition taken 7th March, 1566, by Michael Fitzwilliam, the general surveyor of Ireland, there belonged to the borough of Dungarvan several lands, houses, and other property, to the value of £203 per annum. In the 4th of Henry VIII an Act was passed in the British Parliament by which the Castle of Dungarvan is confirmed to the King, together with all its fishings, issues, customs, etc., to be knit and united to His Majesty's Imperial Crown for ever. (That this provision was not final is evidenced by the departure of the King's forces from the Castle and the delivery of the fortress over to the forces of the people of Ireland.)



Grattan Square, Dungarvan, Market Day.

Photo by Keohan.

It will be seen from the following extracts that Dungarvan Castle occupied much attention in the British Parliament. In the year 1463 an Act was passed in reference to the Castle, which recited "That the town and Castle being in a state of decay, should be seized into the King's hands, there to remain for sixty years, and the wardship of them be committed to Thomas, Earl of Desmond, who should receive the customs of the said town and expend them upon the reparation of the walls." The markets of the town were regarded as being serviceable for the upkeep of the fortifications, and an Act was passed about the same time as above for "the holding of a common market every day in the town, and that all goods sold therein should pay reasonable customs, in the same manner as was paid in Waterford and Dublin, which customs were to be employed in making the ditches, walls, etc., about the said town, according to the directions of Thomas, Earl of Desmond."

This Thomas, Earl of Desmond, mentioned in the Act was the son of James, seventh Earl of Desmond, and he was appointed Lord Deputy under the Duke of Clarence. The Irish Parliament at this time referred to acts of warfare against the King's Irish enemies, where the Earl had often been in jeopardy of his life, and they certified that he had ever been a true and faithful liegeman, governing himself always by English laws, and by his exertions the land was in a state of great tranquility. It was he that founded the Collegiate Church of Youghal in 1464. He was afterwards attainted, at the issue of the Earl of Worcester, for treason for an alliance with the Irish and for supporting them against the King's subjects. He was beheaded on the 15th February, 1467, at Drogheda, and buried in St. Peter's Church. One account attributes his death to the intrigues of the Queen of Edward IV, Elizabeth Gray, who was jealous of Desmond's influence over her husband.

There was another statute passed in this Parliament, which granted the entire fee farm of the town to the said Earl during his life, without rendering anything to the King or his heirs. The Castle was repaired and possessed by the Earl of Desmond, and in the 4th of Henry VII. an Act was passed by which the Castle is confirmed to the King, with all its fishings, issues, customs, etc., to be knit and united to His Majesty's Imperial Crown for ever.

The privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants were renewed in Queen Elizabeth's time, and the government of the town

was changed from a portrieve into that of a sovereign and 12 brethren "who are to be yearly chosen five days before the feast of Saint Peter."

As has been said, the town was incorporated in 1463, and James I renewed the charter.

From the records of the Patent and Close Rolls it is found that in 1531 there was a grant to Peter Butler, Earl of Ossory, of the office of Seneschal, Constable, and Governor of the manor and Castle of Dungarvan, with a fee of £100 a year. And again, in the reign of Henry VIII, we find in the record: "His Grace is pleased that Robert Sentleger, brother of the Lord Deputy, should have the rule and safe keeping of the honour and manor of Dungarvan, that he shall have for his custody all the services, fishings, and customs to the Castle belonging, provided he maintained a sufficient number resident at the Castle for sure keeping, and His Grace remits payment of all arrears due by the Earl of Ormond out of the profits of the said manor and Castle." This was in 1545.

And again, in 1550, we find the following, according to the 4th of Edward VI: "After Our right heartie commendachuns. Whereas, with our advice the Kinge's Majestie hath appointed James Walsh to be a constable of Dungarvan for the term of his life," and it goes on to make a lease for 21 years of the parsonage of Dungarvan.

The next item in order of date we find to be from the Council of England to the Lord Deputy:—

"After Our hearty commendations, this bearer, Matthew Kinge, hath informed us that by order of Sir Edward Bellingham, late Lord Deputy, he disbursed of his own proper goods certain sums of money in building and repairing the Castle of Dungarvan, and is yet unpaid the sum of £243 10s. 4d.; and further the said Matthew allegeth that he is indebted to the Queen's Highness near about the same sum. Her Highnesses pleasure is that you examine the matter, and finding the same to be true, you give allowance of the sum before mentioned in discharge of the debt by your warrant to be directed to the treasurer." 1st Mary, 1583.

There was some commotion at this time among the people, the old spirit again breaking out, and in order to quell any disturbance drastic measures were to be taken, as can be seen from the following:—

"Commission to Henry Stafford, Constable of the Castle of Dungarvan, in the county of Waterford, to

execute martial law in the county of Waterford." 1st Elizabeth, 1558-9.

The parsonage of Dungarvan was also a source of trouble to the Government, for some years after the Reformation, in the 25th Elizabeth, we find:—

"The Queen to the Lord Archbishop, and Sir Henry Wallop, on behalf of Mrs. Macworth, directing a lease to be made for thirty years to Henry Davelle, her son, of the Parsonage of Dungarvan, if they (the Justices) should be of opinion the Parsonage could be properly united with the custody and guard of the Castle there." The Queen had written previously to the Lord Deputy directing the appointment of Henry Davelle to the office of Captain of Dungarvan, in consideration of his good and faithful service, and for the better encouragement so to continue. This document is dated "Greenwich," April 29th, 1574. 15th Elizabeth.

On September 22nd the appointment was made in Dublin, in the 36th Elizabeth, 1594, of Henry Dockwray to the office of Constable of the Castle of Dungarvan, in the county of Waterford, to hold for life, with a fee of 4/- a day for himself, 6d. a day for each of his six archers, and 8d. per day for each of fifteen foot soldiers to serve the defence of the Castle; he is required to keep and repair the Castle out of the fines to be assessed within the liberties of Dungarvan."

Another interesting record states: "Grant to Robert Bostocke, 4 messuages, 20 acres arable, of great measure in Ballinrody, in the county of Waterford, parcel of the possessions or house of Friars in Dungarvan." 30th Elizabeth, 1594.

But another item in connection with the Castle should not be omitted, and that is "grant to Peter Butler, Earl of Ossory, of the office of Seneschal, and the manor and Castle of Dungarvan, with a fee of £100 a year." 22nd-23rd Henry VIII, 1531-1532.

Dr. Smith, the historian, tells us that the "manor, etc., was afterwards granted to Sir George Thornton by patent dated 8th Novr., 2nd of James 1st, at £20 per annum. It at present belongs to the Earl of Cork, the Castle, etc., being granted to him by Act of Parliament. The corporation is now gone into disuse."

The spirit of the people had, during these years, been more or less of an excitable character. The City of Water-

ford was much disturbed, and on the journeyings between that city and Lismore the officials used call at Dungarvan, and being housed at the Castle, would unfold the necessary information as to the official condition of the country. It could not be denied that the feelings of the populace were those of a suppressed rebellion, and notwithstanding the efforts at suppression the country broke out in rebellion in 1642. The town had revolted in connection with many other of the towns of Munster. The Lord President of Munster made preparations for an attack, and in March, 1642, he was successful in getting possession of the town. He inspected the Castle, and, being satisfied of its strength of resistance, he left in command one Lieutenant Rossington, who felt secure after a survey of the defences of the Castle. But councils were being held in secret, and one night the security of the Castle was disturbed, for there was a fierce attack made on it by the Irish. They were under the command of John Hore Fitzmatthew and his son, John Fitzgerald of Farnane, with Richard Butler, Esq., of Kilcash. The assaulting party came provided with scaling ladders and other implements of warfare. The spirit of the rebellion was amongst them. They imbibed some of the torrent of patriotic ardour which was surging through the country, and they determined to make a bold and desperate stroke to recover the old fortress, which had shielded the representatives of British rule for over three hundred years. The attacking party was ably led, and they possessed that which was of as much moment as skilled leadership—the spirit to do and dare on behalf of their country. Under cover of the night they crept beneath the Castle walls, and with a dexterity which was a surprise even to themselves, they flung their scaling ladders over the walls and mounted the battlements. They seized the sentry, and he giving the alarm, a fierce but brief encounter followed. The English were overpowered and the Irish forces became masters of the citadel. Another of the leaders was Sir Nicholas Walsh, and we are told that that same night all the English in the town were plundered, their goods and chattels seized, and they were driven outside the walls.

The Irish forces settled themselves in the Castle, and in a short time they fitted out a vessel for France, which they loaded with several kinds of goods. She made a safe voyage to her destination, and in return brought over a large quantity of powder, cannon, and other firearms, with which

they fortified the Castle. They appointed one John Butler governor. He belonged to near Carrick, and he had a little Scotch engineer who undertook to supply the place with fresh water, but could not effect it. They held the town until May, 1647, at which time the Lord President, Inchiquin, attacked them with about 3,000 men, including 1,500 horse, and he made himself master of it. He had approached the town from the west, and in the course of his journey reduced the castles of Cappoquin and Dromana. This was the state of affairs when Oliver Cromwell paid his visit to Dungarvan.

The Coming of Cromwell.

The town and Castle had been held by the royalist party for two years when Cromwell came, and the town was surrendered to him. This took place in 1649. On the 2nd December of that year Cromwell with his army marched from Waterford. He arrived at Kilmacthomas the same evening. The rain fell heavily, and the river Mahon was swollen. The army were unable to cross that night, and they quartered themselves on the villagers round. Next day, after considerable difficulty, Cromwell with his army crossed the river, and they proceeded on the road to Dungarvan. On the 4th December Cromwell approached the town. Portion of his army he had despatched to Knockmaun, where after a short assault they reduced the castle there to ruins. The devastated walls of this lofty building can still be seen by travellers as they pass along the road by the Brickey river. Cromwell approached Dungarvan. He entered it by the main gate, which stood where now runs the Main Street, and, as report informs us, he had given orders to his soldiers to put the inhabitants to the sword. He had been in ill-humour on this occasion, and, with Shakespeare, he might have said,

“Away to Heaven respective lenity,
And fire-eyed fury be my conduct now.”

But coming inside the gate an incident occurred which shall for ever call forth the bravery and strategy of a woman and live for ever in the glorious annals of the town. A woman named Mrs. Nagle, a native, came forward, and with amazing courage approached the conqueror, holding in her hand a flagon of beer. “Here,” she said, “is a health to the conqueror,” and, drinking to Cromwell, she proffered

him a cup of the beverage. He was thirsty. He took it with avidity. He drank, and the liquor so pleased him, coupled with the gallant conduct of the woman, that he revoked the order for the massacre of the people. He also gave directions that the town should not be pillaged, and thus the brave act of this Dungarvan lady saved the old town and its people from destruction.

“ There is a tear for all who die,
A mourner o'er the humblest grave,
But nations swell the funeral cry,
And triumph weeps above the brave.”

'That evening was a merry one in Dungarvan. Barrels of beer were brought forward, the soldiers drank lustily, and instead of carnage there was gaiety, for a feeling of relief had come to the people. We are not told of any subsequent serious happenings on the occasion.

The Castle surrendered, and Cromwell took possession. He and his soldiers quartered there, and two days later a General in Cromwell's army died in Church Street. The house where the death took place was kept by the daughter of the Rector. This lady, Mrs. Chaplain, circulated the story that the General, whose name was Jones, had been poisoned by Cromwell, as it seems there had been ill-feeling existing between them. The body of General Jones was brought across to Youghal for interment, and Cromwell, as if to avoid suspicion, wrote a letter of regret at his death. Still Mrs. Chaplain adhered to her story, and gave some particulars in support of her statement.

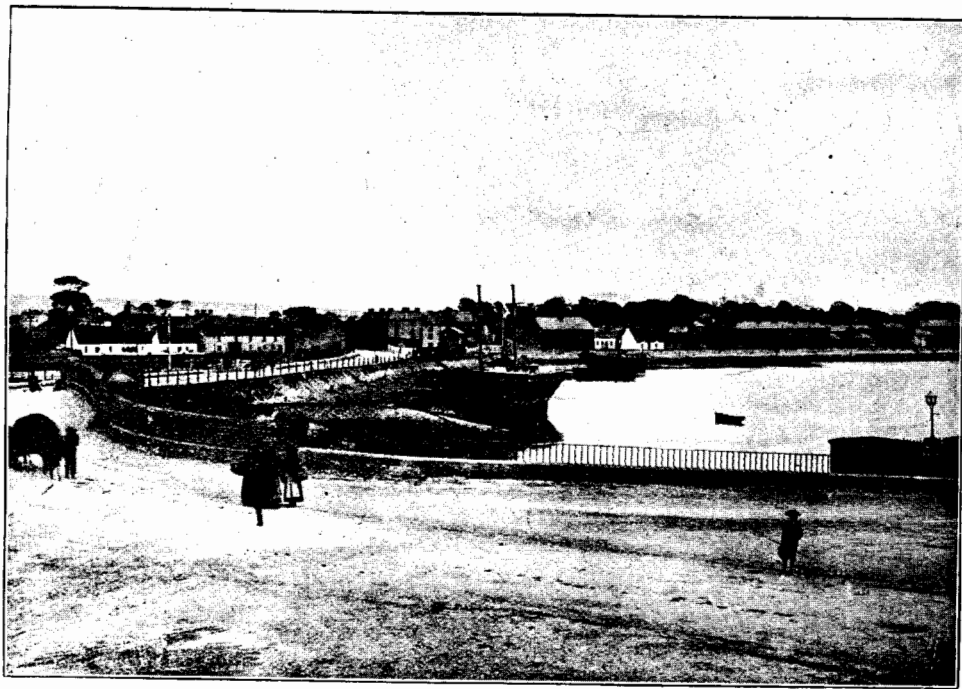
In 1689 King James granted a new charter to Dungarvan, by which the corporation was to consist of a sovereign, twenty-two burgesses, a Recorder and Town Clerk, three sergeants and a water bailiff. But the privileges granted by this charter were not long enjoyed, for upon the accession of King William the charter of King James—having been granted after his abdication—became useless. The Castle was continued to be occupied by English troops, generally about thirty men being in occupation. It also continued, whether occupied by soldiers or not, to be a ready stronghold for the domination of the people in this portion of the county.

The last time, that is before the spread of the Sinn Fein movement, and before the Terror came, that the castle was occupied by the forces of the British was in 1882, when a

detachment of the King's Own Borderers was stationed there. They kept on good terms with the people, had a little band consisting of some fifes and drums, and they played very frequently through the streets. They held a dance in the barrack square on one occasion, when a number of the townspeople attended. The barrack was gaily dressed for the festivity. It was summer time, and, being a fine night, the decorations, with coloured lamps, festoons, and garlands, presented a pretty sight. The old Castle yard appeared to be invaded with a frivolity far different from many of the incidents of the olden times and somewhat out of harmony with the frowning aspect of walls and battlements that looked down upon the scene. When this detachment left, the Castle was given over in charge to a caretaker, Sergeant Grace, who was an ex-soldier but a man of high principle and rare intelligence. On top of the gloomy dungeon he cultivated a garden and took special pride in the early yield of his produce, notably grapes and exquisite flowers. He continued to remain in charge for some years, when a change took place and the Royal Irish Constabulary were installed as occupants, and for the rest of the term, under English rule, they were stationed there.

The R.I.C.

The R.I.C. of Dungarvan resided, prior to 1873, and after that date, in premises in Blackpool, now O'Connell Street, where they had their lock-up and a spacious yard. There was also a police barracks in Abbeyside at the same time which used to keep four men. Their station was in one of those houses facing the river, and the combined forces of the Abbeyside and Dungarvan police were some twenty men. The Abbeyside station was given up, and the Dungarvan police had charge of the entire district. The force in Dungarvan consisted of a District Inspector, Head Constable, two or more sergeants, and the subs. The District Inspector had charge of all the stations in the surrounding country districts. Subsequently the Dungarvan police left their premises in Blackpool and took up their quarters in the large house at the corner of the Square now in the possession of the Misses Meade. It had previously been known as "Flynn's Hotel." The R.I.C. continued there for over a dozen years, when they were transferred to the Castle, and there they remained for the entire time until the coming of the evacuation and dispersal as a result of the Treaty arranged between Ireland and England.

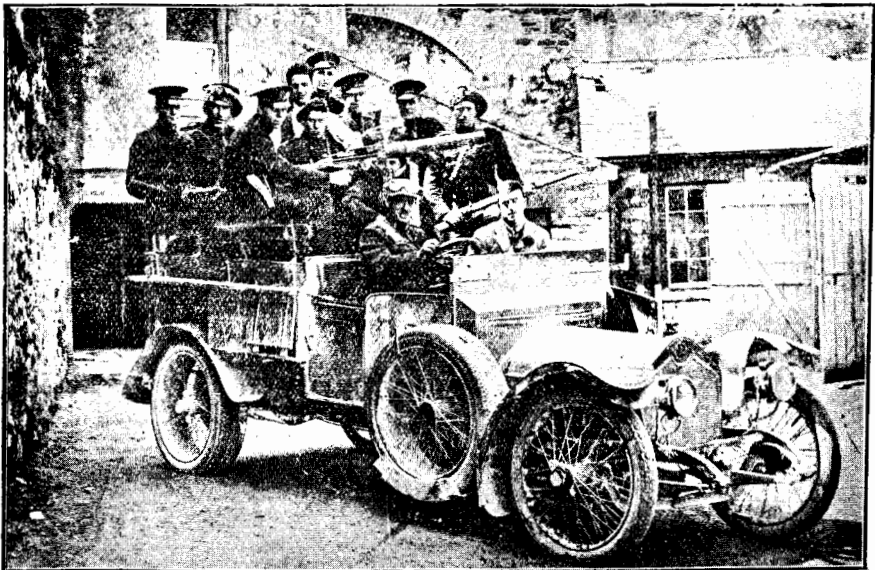


Abbeyside, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

Military and Black-and-Tans.

But for two years previous to the evacuation the old Castle had been occupied by other forces than the R.I.C. When the Irish struggle was at its fiercest a body of military came to town and took up their quarters in the Castle along with the R.I.C. Then came the Black-and-Tans. The Black-and-Tans were ex-soldiers of the Great War who volunteered for service in Ireland at good pay, the latter inducement being so generous that the Government was flooded with applications. The situation in Ireland was desperate. The Rising of the Republican Army had taken place in Dublin in Easter week of 1916. After a desperate and bloody struggle a number of the Republican leaders were taken prisoners and a good many of them executed. The executions, which followed morning after morning with brutal regularity, became so repugnant to the people, the young men were fired with indignation. The great majority of them joined the forces of the Irish Republican Army. Day after day the most daring deeds by them were reported. Evidently the country was getting out of hand, and it was with a view of suppressing this revolt against British rule



Black-and-Tans ready for Raid—Photo taken in Dungarvan Barracks.

Photo by Keohan.

that the Black-and-Tans were called into requisition. The Irish are quick to give a name, and in this case that of the Black-and-Tans will live for ever in the history of the time. It appears they were organised so hurriedly, the occasion being one of great emergency, the Government were unable to supply them with the entire black uniforms, so under the black jacket they wore the military trousers of khaki. The uniform was a mongrel one, and the name Black-and-Tan was the result.

The military were removed from the Castle to a house in Church Street. The Black-and-Tans were installed with the R.I.C. in the barracks. Around the barracks barbed wire defences were erected. At night time no one was allowed to pass without being challenged by the sentry. It was the same in Church Street, and curfew was proclaimed. The military quarters in Church Street, as well as the old Castle, were in a state of siege, and the mails coming to the town were often seized by Republicans, and Government correspondence taken. In these circumstances the mails for the military were brought to the town by aeroplane.

Mails by Aeroplane.

During the summer of 1921 it was a daily occurrence for the mails to be brought to the Castle by aeroplane. It was interesting to watch the evolutions of the machine as it descended in a spiral and dropped the mail bag into the Castle yard. On one occasion the bag dropped into the sea, but after a vigorous search it was discovered. At about mid-day every day the buzzing of the engine would be heard, and people craned their necks to get a sight of the machine, which would swoop around and around, sometimes coming close to the chimneys of the houses, but invariably circling over the Castle until the bag was dropped. When this was found, the aeroplane was signalled to and the machine continued its flight in the direction of Waterford.

Activity in the Castle.

During the year 1921, and for some months of 1922, the Castle of Dungarvan was the scene of much activity. Probably the events occurring at these times were as exciting as were those of any previous period, though the old Castle had witnessed many changes "by flood and field" since the day when first it was completed by the builder's hand. The conflict in Ireland raged most severe. Numbers of young



Colligan Rustic Bridge.

Photo by Keoham.

Irishmen had joined the I.R.A. ranks, and the daily papers every morning were filled with reports of shootings and tragic occurrences in many parts of the country. When there would be a dearth of these happenings, the remark would be made, "There is no news to-day." And all the while raids on houses, both in town and country, were being carried out by the military. Searches were being continually made for arms and documents, and it would seem that the policy of the rulers at the time was to strike terror into the people and make them as subject to British rule as before. Sir Hamar Greenwood occupied the post of Chief Secretary. The Irish had eighty-five National representatives in the House of Commons, and when one of them would ask a question as to events in Ireland he was answered by Sir Hamar in the most supercilious manner, and no satisfaction whatever was given to the Irish members. It may be truly said that at the time many people were terrorised and were very apprehensive as to how matters would end. Prisoners were arrested almost daily and lodged in the barracks. But these were zealously attended to by the lady members of the Cumann na mBan, who carried to them provisions and ministered to their comforts by every means in their power. The lorries of the military would rush incessantly through the streets, carrying with them a machine-gun, the soldiers being armed with rifles pointing in every direction. Having made an incursion into the country, they would return with the same terrific speed, shoot down the Main Street, and lodge themselves in the barrack. Oftentimes rifle shots would be heard at night, and explanations would be sought for in the morning. The military were ever on the watch, for, owing to the guerilla warfare in vogue, they knew not where or when they would be attacked. And all this time it was being whispered about that something out of the ordinary was going to happen, for, like to the clouds gathering in the sky preparatory to a storm, it was almost instinctively felt that some tragic occurrences were at hand.

The Ambush at the Burgery.

On the morning of the 19th March, 1921, the startling rumour went round the town that an ambush of military had taken place at the Burgery and that there were casualties on both sides. Rumour had it that fighting had been going on all night, and only finished when there was broad

daylight in the morning. People asked one another for particulars, but only the vaguest accounts could be learned. But confirmation of the stories was in a measure made manifest when a motor car drove down the Main Street at about ten o'clock in which an auxiliary policeman was dying.

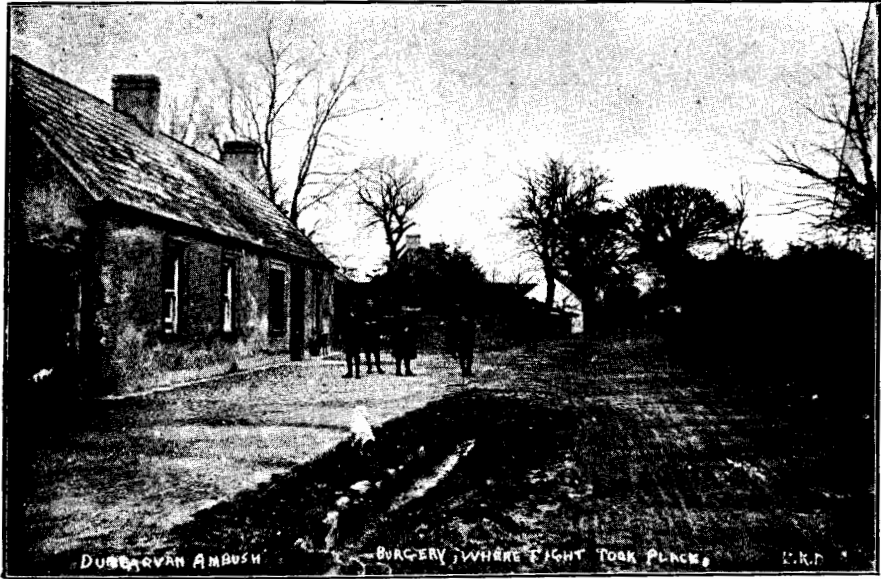


Photo by Keohan.

The Burgery, one mile from Dungarvan, where the Ambush took place.

The Burgery is situated on the main road to Waterford from Dungarvan, about a mile to the north-east of the town. It is a pretty suburb, well sheltered with trees, and along the road there are good fences topped with hawthorn and privet on either side. On the evening previous to the ambush a force of military left the Castle in a motor car and a lorry. There were about twelve soldiers in the lorry, and the motor contained Captain Thomas (in command), Lieut. Griffiths, Sergeant Hickey, of the R.I.C., and two soldiers. The destination was Clonea, on the Ballyvoile Road, the object being to make the arrest of a man named Murphy who lived there. The party succeeded in finding the man "wanted" at home and in making the arrest. The reason for Sergeant Hickey accompanying the party was so that he might point out the house of Murphy. Having

secured Murphy, the military set out for home, but they made a detour to come back by Cloncoskraine, where some military were stationed, and with whom they wanted to make an exchange of views. Having remained for a short time at Cloncoskraine, they proceeded homewards, it being then somewhere about eleven o'clock at night. The motor car went first, followed at a little distance by the lorry containing the soldiers guarding the prisoner.

People of Dungarvan know well where the road turns off from the main road to go to Lacken or Fruit Hill. Here, behind the fence, a number of I.R.A. lay in waiting. And lest the military would take the old Cork road, another party of ambushers lay there also in waiting, screened behind the fence. The motor car, coming along the main road, was allowed to pass, but when the lorry came within some yards a volley was discharged from behind the fence. The lorry stopped, the petrol tank was pierced, and the vehicle became disabled. The soldiers jumped out and ran for what cover they could. Then they opened fire and a rapid exchange of rifle shooting took place between the parties, the encounter having lasted for about ten minutes. Captain Thomas had gone on with the motor car. He pulled up on reaching the Burgery. He found the lorry was not following, and, hearing the shooting in the distance, he surmised an ambush and ordered Lieut. Griffith to proceed with all speed to Dungarvan for reinforcements. That officer came into town and, reaching near the barracks, shouted that his men were ambushed and to have assistance come quickly. With incredible swiftness three or four motor cars issued from the barracks, accompanied by lorries, all filled with armed soldiers, machine-guns, and other implements of battle, and proceeded with speed towards the Burgery. The men remaining to keep charge of the barracks shot up Verey lights, discharged their rifles, and some of them rushed to the park, where they sent up more Verey lights as a call to the marines stationed at Ballinacourty to come to the rescue. The firing continued for some hours. The people in the vicinity were aroused from their slumbers, but none would venture outside doors. It was a night of anxiety with them long to be remembered.

But to return to Captain Thomas. When he, with the two soldiers and Sergeant Hickey, dismounted from the motor car they fired into the darkness, and while proceeding to the scene of the ambush, a quarter of a mile distant, a

number of the I.R.A., armed with rifles, jumped over the fence, shouting "Hands up." Captain Thomas ran over the fence as well as the others, but they were followed by the attacking party and placed under arrest. Captain Thomas had a Colt .455 automatic pistol, while Sergeant Hickey was also fully armed. The I.R.A. now took them up to the road and placed Captain Thomas in the house of Mr. Barr, and the soldiers in the house of Mr. Kennedy. Sergeant Hickey was taken away by others up the boreen leading to Knockateemore, and was never afterwards seen alive. Captain Thomas was held a prisoner, but suffered no further injury.

But how fared it all the time with the ambushed party further down the road? The soldiers made away over the fields. It is not known if there were casualties, but afterwards it was stated that there were seen coffins at Waterford being brought to England by one of the cross-Channel boats. The ambushed lorry was set fire to and portion of it was burned. The reinforcements came out from Dungarvan, and in the confusion that prevailed Captain Thomas and the soldiers who were prisoners escaped. They then proceeded to where the lorry was disabled and remained there for some time. Soldiers were stationed at the Burgery. The Marines from Ballinacourty came along and they placed themselves at every vantage point; even some of them mounted the roof of Mr. Barr's house and poured volley after volley into the darkness. Many other houses around bore bullet marks that were seen on the following day. In the early morning, as Mrs. Keating was milking her cow in an out-house visible from the road, the cow was shot dead with a rifle bullet. One bullet pierced Mr. Fives' window. Luckily no one was hit.

As day broke the soldiers commandeered a horse belonging to Mrs. Morrissey to draw in the disabled lorry, to which they yoked the animal, and, accompanied by soldiers, the lorry was being drawn up the hill on the road to Dungarvan. When at the gate of the field where there is a "short cut" to Lacken the auxiliary policeman, Redman, who had the horse in charge, was mortally wounded and bled copiously. A soldier covered John Fitzgerald, one of the party at the other side of the fence, and shot him dead. Patrick Keating, another of the I.R.A., rushed out from cover to bring Fitzgerald in, but he was fired at and wounded. He went back, but instantly returned again to the assistance of his fallen comrade, when

another shot was fired at him which also took effect. With an effort only was he able to get into cover of the fence. His companions took him away, carried him in the direction of Knockateemore, where he was rested for a while, and ultimately he was housed in a dwelling in the high land that overlooks the valley of the Colligan, where he lingered until 5 p.m. same day, and died. Much regret was felt at the death of this young, courageous, and genial Irishman, whose memory is revered by the people.



Photo by Keohan.

The Burgery Ambush—The Cross shows where Redman, the Auxiliary, was killed.

When Redman, the auxiliary policeman, was wounded Mr. Barr cycled in to town for medical assistance. He called on Dr. Hackett. It was early morning, and the doctor answered the call with promptitude. In a few minutes he was ready and cycled with Mr. Barr to the scene of the tragedy. The ride was a risky one, as bullets were whizzing around, and through the ring of fire the doctor reached the wounded man. On examination he found that nothing could be done—that Redman was mortally wounded. The



Photo by Keohan.

Patrick Keating, mortally wounded in Burgery Ambush.

auxiliary was then taken in a motor car into Dungarvan, a soldier holding him in his arms. He lived till just before entering the barracks, when he expired.

As has been said, Sergeant Hickey was taken up the bye-road that leads to Knockateemore, then towards the glen at Castlequarter. What happened is not quite clear, but it appears he was sentenced to death. A priest was procured and the sergeant was prepared for death. He received the viaticum, and the sentence was then carried

out. His body was pierced with bullets, and it was left in the lonely glen. For two days the soldiers scoured the countryside to find him, and it was Mr. Beresford, on whose land the body lay, that discovered it lying in the glen. The soldiers took charge of the remains, which were removed to the barrack. The body of John Fitzgerald was also taken there. The relatives of Fitzgerald made application for the remains, but they would not be given up until the funeral of Sergeant Hickey had taken place. No civilians accompanied Sergeant Hickey's remains to the grave. The cortege was composed entirely of soldiers and police. In fact there was some difficulty in having the grave dug. An order was issued by the military that all shops should be closed during the funeral, and this was observed. The body was interred in the cemetery of the parish church.

When the funeral of Sergeant Hickey was over, the remains of John Fitzgerald were handed over to the relatives. The funeral took place from the barrack to the parish church. It was an immense concourse of people. On the following morning Requiem Office and High Mass were sung, and it was known the remains were to be interred in Kilrossenty. The military had issued an order that only twenty people would be allowed to follow the remains. As the coffin was removed from the church soldiers were posted outside the railings with fixed bayonets, keeping the crowds back. There was a large number of people present. As the coffin was carried through the outward gates and down Mary Street the ladies of the Cumann na mBan lined up in processional order and marched after the remains. But only a limited number of people were allowed to join the funeral, which passed over the bridge on its way to Kilrossenty. As the cortege proceeded on the road it was met by numbers of people from the country, so that by the time it reached Kilrossenty it had assumed considerable dimensions. The remains were laid to rest in the Republican Plot in the ancient graveyard of Kilrossenty.

Oh, remember, life can be
No charm for him who lives not free.
Sinks the hero to his grave
Midst the dewfall of a nation's tears.

On the evening of the ambush Patrick Keating died. He, too, subsequently was buried in the Republican Plot at

Kilrossenty. The news of his death was kept quiet for a time, but coming from his funeral, which took place in the night, many people were met by soldiers, an exciting time followed, and some arrests were made.

While this work was going through the press a letter appeared in the *Waterford News* on the Burgery Ambush. It was written by an officer who took part in the exciting affray. But it does not differ in any essential points with the account here given. And with respect to what took place in Dungarvan on the same night, it would be difficult for an officer engaged at the Burgery to personally know. We who lived inside the town heard through the night the tramp of armed men, the rushing of lorries, and the firing of shots, and those living in the vicinity of the Park give personal testimony as to the terror in which they were that night from rifle shots.

There is a conflict of opinion as to whether Captain Thomas was released or whether he and the soldiers escaped when reinforcements came. When the question was raised subsequent to the ambush, Captain Thomas had a letter published in the papers stating that he and the soldiers escaped—that the guards left them when extra military came out from Dungarvan. The I.R.A. officer maintains they were released. I am not in a position to verify either story.

It might be further stated that in the ambushed lorry there was a man named Dwyer, who was taken with the military as a hostage, and his mysterious disappearance during the fighting was a matter of much speculation. It appears he got through the fields, made for the high ground, and eventually succeeded in reaching Kilrossenty, where his dishevelled condition gave rise to suspicion, but he was ultimately set free on his being recognised by a resident of Dungarvan. There can be no question, however, as to the casualties. On the military side two were killed, Hickey and Redman, and on the I.R.A. Fitzgerald and Keating. But these two latter would not have suffered injury had they not come round with others in the morning to reconnoitre the scene of the fighting, when the military had been reinforced to a big extent, which could not be known to the I.R.A. owing to the high road fences and the cover which they afforded.

Furniture Destroyed.

The day after the interment of John Fitzgerald there were some deplorable incidents committed by the military, who, armed with sledge hammers and rifles, approached the premises of Messrs. Michael Moloney, Bridge Street, and having ordered all the people outside, they threw out on the street all the household furniture in the place. As each article fell on the ground the soldier with the sledge broke it into pieces, and the work continued until all the furniture was demolished. It is said that the action taken by the military was a reprisal for the ladies taking part in Fitzgerald's funeral.

Having finished at Messrs. Moloney's, they next proceeded to the premises of Miss Boyle, O'Connell Street, where the same deplorable procedure was gone through. Next they went to Miss Fuge's in St. Mary Street, and did the same. It was a heartrending sight to witness the beautiful furniture thrown from the upper windows and smashed with the hammer in the street. A crowd was collecting, but a shot was fired by the soldiers, and this sent the people back. They finished the fell work, and forming into line they marched through the Main Street to their barracks. Many a comment was made on the procedure, which was, of course, another means of striking terror into the people. It should be mentioned that before the soldiers began to break up the furniture they imposed a levy of £100 on each of the parties named, but payment in each case was refused. The sight was a woeful one, and those who witnessed it can never have it completely blotted from their memories. But the result of the Burgery ambush was not yet complete, as will be seen from the details given of other processes of destruction.

Curfew.

Curfew was proclaimed in Holy Week, 1921. It cautioned all parties to be within doors from 7 o'clock in the evening till the morning. Some short time before the hour fixed for curfew groups of people could be seen around the streets, standing at their doors and on the Square, watching out for the soldiers to appear. Punctually at 7 o'clock a body of military would emerge from the Barrack Lane armed with rifles. These were soon followed by lorries of military carrying machine guns and rifles, and people would

shout "Here they come," and there was an immediate rush for their homes. In a minute the streets were cleared.

The Lenten devotions in the churches were suspended, and from the early hour named in the evening till daylight no sound could be heard in the streets save the challenges of the soldiers or the loud knocking at doors where an entry would be demanded for the purpose of making a search.

Shooting a Donkey.

Incidents had their humorous as well as their serious side. One night, while the military were patrolling the "Dead Walk," they saw an object move in the darkness under the trees. The cry "Halt!" was given, but still the object kept moving. Another "Halt!" louder than before, was shouted. Still without effect. "Halt!" said the commanding voice in all its force, but the moving object did not heed. And then bang went the rifles. The object dropped. They moved cautiously to view the victim, but they found—a donkey.

Another incident—sad in character—took place at Carriglea. While the military were passing the wood in a Crossley tender they saw a figure moving among the brambles. The "Halt!" was given, but with no effect. Another "Halt!" was cried out. Still the moving went on. The military fired, and a poor aged woman was shot dead. She was collecting some decayed timber for her fire. She was deaf and did not hear the challenge of the military.

About this time also a man named William Moran, a shoemaker and ex-soldier, was taken in the night from his home in Lord George's Lane and shot. His body was found next morning in the marsh with a label tied on, on which were the words "Spies, beware!"

Destruction of Other Property.

The funeral of John Fitzgerald took place on Holy Thursday, and on the following day, Good Friday, scenes were enacted in the suburbs which can never be forgotten, and which were a consequence of the ambush at the Burgery. At about mid-day on this memorable Friday two military lorries drove up the Main Street, carrying some twenty soldiers fully armed, and with machine guns. One

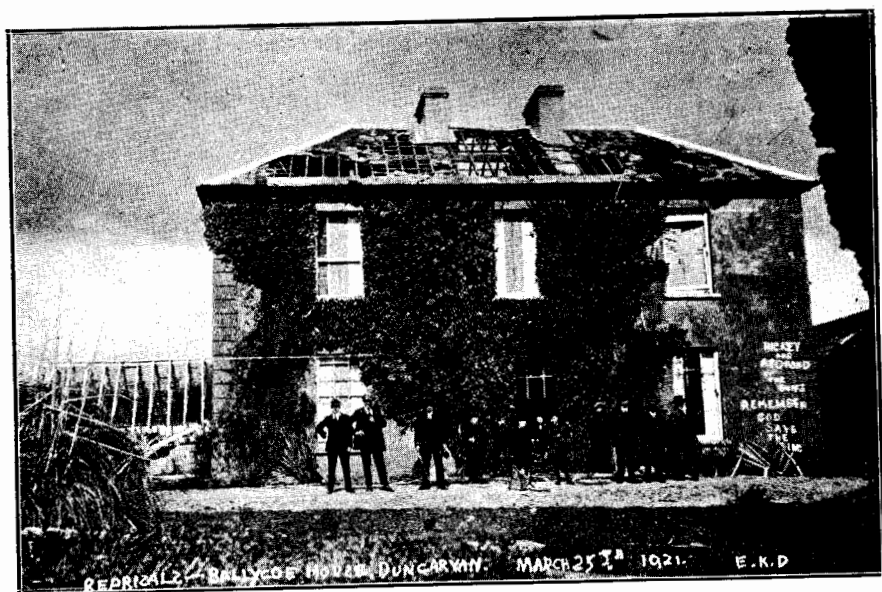


Photo by Keohan.

Ballycoe House (Mrs. Dunlea's), destroyed by English Military, Good Friday, 1921.

of the lorries contained a goodly supply of implements of destruction, axes, sledges, crow bars, and various other tools. The lorries drove across the Square and in the direction of Abbeyside. They then turned to the left, on the road to Ballycoe, the residence of Mrs. Dunlea, which is about one and a half miles from the town. The residents were Mrs. Dunlea, a widow, and her two daughters, the Misses Dunlea. The residence was approached by a long winding avenue, and up this the lorries drove, coming to a halt in front of the door. Their appearance was a shock to Mrs. Dunlea and her daughters. The officer in charge ordered all the inmates outside, and he informed them that he was going to wreck the furniture and destroy the dwelling. Then began a scene of destruction which was as barbarous as need be witnessed. The ladies were obliged to remain passive onlookers to the demolition being carried out. The soldiers went inside. First they attacked the beautiful piano—a first-class instrument—and this they smashed to atoms, using the sledge hammer freely. Next in turn came

all the furniture, and from room to room the wrecking party went, breaking everything, until the entire massive residence was a heartrending scene of desolation. They next directed their efforts to the outside. The flowers and shrubs they cut down. Even the creeper on the front of the house they cut away. They smashed the halldoor and the windows, and the adjoining conservatory, roofed with glass, they smashed and broke in every way. Then they entered the fruit garden, situated immediately inside the



Photo by Keohan.

Mrs. Morrissey's House (Burgery) destroyed Good Friday, 1921.
lawn. Here they cut down the fruit trees and destroyed everything. They then procured a tall ladder, went on to the roof of the dwelling, and hacked and broke away all the slates. Having completed the process of destruction, they went away, highly satisfied that they had carried out their orders with avidity and completeness. The fine habitation was a ruin and a woeful sight to behold. It must have been agonising to the ladies to see this fell work being carried out, and they helpless to interfere. That night they were obliged to seek shelter in other apartments besides their own, given to them by sympathising friends.

Leaving the demolished premises of Mrs. Dunlea, the military party drove around by the house of another widow, that of Mrs. Morrissey at the Burgery, which lay close to where the ambush had taken place. The residence here was of thatch, the out-offices being slated. The soldiers attacked her place, tumbled down her dwelling, and stripped the roofs of all the out-houses. They left the place a complete wreck, while she, poor woman, was helplessly looking on. All this destruction was as a reprisal for the ambush.



Photo by Keohan.

Miss English and her Wrecked Furniture.

Those who know Mrs. Morrissey can well believe that she knew nothing whatever about the ambush coming off, nor had she had anything in the world to do with it. Still she was made to suffer, and, like in the case of Mrs. Dunlea, she, too, was obliged to seek other apartments for the night which were kindly given her by the kind-hearted neighbours.

On returning to Dungarvan the lorries stopped at the business house of Miss English, of Abbesside. She was

suspected of being in sympathy with the I.R.A. They attacked her house, broke all her furniture, smashed her windows, and left the place a wreck. Crowds of the townspeople walked around to view these devastated places on the following Easter Sunday, and were filled with horror at what they saw. In penning these lines two years after the dreadful occurrences one is amazed that a Government professing advanced principles of civilisation could have condoned, let alone promoted, such fell work, and all for reprisals. On the anniversary of the death of John Fitzgerald large numbers of young men, members of the I.R.A., came from Kilrossenty and district and formed a circle in the field around the spot where he was killed. Then, going on their knees, a priest recited the Rosary, the responses being given by the people, and, having concluded the impressive ceremonies, the young men re-assembled on the road and marched four deep back again towards Kilrossenty. The anniversary of the ambush was commemorated in Abbeyside Church, when Requiem Office and High Mass were celebrated, the church being filled with sympathisers during the devotional proceedings. The two young men who had lost their lives in the ambush were held in the highest esteem and enjoyed the confidence of their comrades. Their deaths occasioned universal sorrow, and it may be said with truth that their memories will live for all time among the people of their native parish, and their deeds of daring be cherished with feelings of undying regard.

The Abbeyside Burnings—More Horrors.

Perhaps at no previous time were there more indications of the rule with an iron hand than now prevailed in Dungarvan. The whole object of the Government seemed to be to strike terror—to subdue by force the spirit of the people. But all these efforts were borne in good part by the inhabitants. Sir Hamar Greenwood, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, was the ideal instrument in the hands of the British for the purpose, and when questioned in the House of Commons as to the actual happenings his replies were almost brutal in their callousness. The military rule in the town and district was as rigorous as ever it was in the old days of tyranny, and what with the Black-and-Tans and the

armed forces—the police force did not much count, as they seemed to be entirely on the defensive—the incidents which were of daily occurrence were appalling in their character. In pursuance of this policy, the striking of terror, a body of Black-and-Tans paraded the streets, carrying with them a bucket of tar and a brush, and they daubed the walls of the houses here and there with such mottoes as “Up the Black-and Tans!” “To H—— with the I.R.A.!” “Remember Redman and Hickey!” and several other wordings of a like description. Even in some cases the shop fronts were besmeared and the residents warned under the severest penalties not to attempt to clean off the nuisance. Still, under all this provocation, the people were passive in their demeanour and were careful to avoid anything that would be the cause of disturbance in their midst.

But on the night of the Abbeyside burnings there was great activity in the old Castle of Dungarvan. Martial law had been proclaimed. It was enforced with rigour, and the curfew was on. People were obliged to retire to their homes at an early hour. The streets were patrolled through the night by military, and wherever a light was seen burning in a house the door would be battered with the butt-end of a rifle. Oftentimes loud knockings would disturb the sleepers, and one was almost afraid to put his head through the window to ascertain why there was any commotion. But on the night of the 12th April, 1921, occurrences of the most alarming character took place. The tramp of armed men could be heard at intervals passing up and down the streets, and close on midnight Verey lights of much brilliancy were sent off from the Castle. The direction in which they were shot was chiefly towards Abbeyside. These firework displays followed one another with unusual rapidity, and only from the cover of their windows could the people see any indication of what was happening, but the brilliant illuminations led them to surmise that something of an unusual character was taking place, and events of momentous import must have been under way. No one could venture out. It might be death to do so. All that could be discerned was the Verey lights streaming through the sky and throwing a shower of brilliant flare on the landscape. Not till the morning were

people able to glean what this was all about. But with the coming of the day it was learned that many of the houses in Abbesside had been fired and destroyed by the Black-and-Tans. It was alleged, at all events, that they were the perpetrators of the burnings, and from the stories told in the morning one could gather the sort of horrible night that had been spent by the inoffensive people of Abbesside. From an examination of the happenings, the aspect of Abbesside



Photo by Keohan.

Strand Hotel, destroyed by burning at Abbesside.

was truly pitiable. Miss Fitzgerald's fine business house, the "Strand Hotel," was a mass of charred ruins. So also was the house adjoining, Mr. T. Fahey's fine business house, on which he had expended a lot of money in improvements, was completely gutted, and the houses alongside were completely destroyed. Tales of horror were told by the people. In the case of Mrs. Fahey, whose husband was in prison at

the time, arrested on suspicion, she escaped with her infant child over a high back wall, and the wonder is her courage had not failed her, for she was in fear of death. Miss Fitzgerald stood the ordeal with commendable bravery, and not many could hold out as she did at the sight of her fine premises being consumed in flames. Stories were told of soldiers running and firing, of Verey lights flaming in the sky, of the petrol can being used freely, and the flames of



Photo by Keohan.

Mr. T. Fahey's House, Abbesside, burned 13th April, 1921.

the buildings rising in the air, the crackling of the timbers and the falling of the walls adding fresh horrors to the weird proceedings. It was a night of terrible suffering, and its harrowing incidents will be told at the firesides of this peaceful suburb for many generations yet to come. Happily, when calmer reason prevailed, compensation was given to the sufferers, but scarcely any money consideration could pay one adequately for the ordeals they had gone through on that eventful night.

Evacuation of the Barracks.

In writing of Dungarvan Castle and the Barracks, the terms must be understood to be synonymous. Since the castle was demolished the premises got to be known as the barracks, and it was spoken of as such whenever reference was made to the place. In the year 1921, when the troubles were on to the biggest extent, matters were shaping themselves and exchanges of feelings were being made between those in high places on either side of the Irish Sea. The castle was occupied by the police force known as the R.I.C., and with them were the auxiliary police, or what were known as the "Black-and-Tans." The military had their quarters in Church Street, and the utmost precautions were continually taken so as to prevent a surprise. On one occasion—in the summer of this year—a bomb was thrown



Photo by Keohan.

Group of Royal Irish Constabulary before handing over the Barracks.

at the military post. A couple of the soldiers received slight wounds, but some young girls who were walking on the opposite side, close to the Convent wall, got more or less severely wounded. They were that night removed to the hospital, and in a short time got perfectly well. When the

bomb exploded the military fired several rifle shots. People became alarmed, and there was a general run for cover, those who could making for their homes. The night was one of excitement. On a few occasions, as some of the military were making for their quarters from the town to the Union Hospital, where some numbers of them were located, they were fired on, and a sharp fusilade would follow. In this way matters proceeded till coming on the close of the year. Correspondence was being carried on between Mr. De Valera, who was President of the Irish Republic, and Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of England, which culminated in negotiations being agreed upon. Plenipotentiaries were appointed by Mr. De Valera, and they proceeded to London, where the conference was held. Amongst the plenipotentiaries were Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins. After some days of negotiations, and when alarming rumours began to appear in the Press to the effect that the conference would fail, the report was published on the 7th December, 1921, that the conference came to an agreement and the Treaty between England and Ireland was signed. One of the terms of this Treaty was that the English soldiers should evacuate Ireland, as well as the Black-and-Tans, and that the Irish police force should be disbanded.

It seemed that a relief had come to the people. The Irish, with the exception of six counties of Ulster, were to have their own Parliament, the management of their own money, and they were to be enlisted as one of the dominions of the British Empire, having equal status with Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa; they were to be empowered to raise their own army of defence and organise their own police force. But, notwithstanding these arrangements, things did not get on well. A striking instance of the first appearance of the division which soon after made for the wrecking of the country was seen in Dun-garvan. The members of the old brass band came together and resumed practices in order to jubilate over the victory gained by their leaders. But meantime a letter written by De Valera appeared in which he said that he was entirely against the Treaty, and that it was a document which he would advise the people not to accept. The practices of the band discontinued. Division crept in amongst them, and the split observable there in a small way was typical of the larger and fiercer split which soon widened through the country.

But, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty, preparations were being made for the evacuation of the barracks. All the police from the west of the county, as well as from several stations in East Cork, had been drafted into Dungarvan for security, and their force numbered at this time 65. A body of them used patrol the streets with loaded rifles, and in extended formation, but their work of usefulness as a police force had ceased. A chasm seemed to have divided them from the people.

The occupants of the old Castle were now to be changed. The English forces were to leave; the old premises were to fall into the possession of the Irish people alone. This old fortress had in the olden time, before the building of Dungarvan Quay, been washed by the waters of the Colligan, and the sentries at night could listen to the swish of the waves as they beat against its ancient walls. In this defensive stronghold were garrisoned the troops of the English King, and kept there, with but little intermission, for 750 years. It was symbolical, in every respect, of British rule in Ireland.

Through the reigns of the Henrys, the Edwards, James the First, Queen Elizabeth, and the Georges, Dungarvan Castle was regarded as a fortress of immense significance. Despatches from the Court of England, orders from the English Parliament, frequently found their way to this old Castle, all giving directions for procedure for the protection of the British interests in the South of Ireland. Cromwell himself walked the ramparts. His iron mind, indeed, might have been softened with the lovely view that unfolds itself from the topmost walls, for the aspect of the sea and land is fraught with all that comprise beauty in the artistic modelling of nature.

It is said that when Cromwell stood on the heights of Killineen and viewed the waters around Dungarvan Bay, the Drum Fineen Hills in the distance, the diversified valley that stretched itself at both sides of the Colligan river, he exclaimed, "This is a country worth fighting for." It may be that he used the words elsewhere, but tradition credits him with having used them here, and however that may be, it is certain that the view from this eminence called forth the eulogiums of Thackeray and other famous writers who have toured the country.

The evacuation of Dungarvan barracks took place on the 4th March, 1922. The large square of the enclosure

had been used for the purpose of keeping the motor lorries and motor cars, and it is from here that the military used issue forth on their raiding expeditions. The Black-and-Tans had gone away some days before the military had left the town, and the Castle was occupied solely by the sixty-five members of the R.I.C. They were under the command of Captain Sheehan, an officer who had fought in the Great War.



Black-and-Tans leaving Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

Taking Over the Castle.

Before the police left some conferences were held in the barracks. An application was made to Captain Sheehan for possession in the name of the I.R.A.. He asked for credentials from the Provisional Government, for now, under the Treaty, the Irish Provisional Government was in power. Captain Sheehan did not consider those produced satisfactory. As a consequence, the giving over of the barracks was delayed until the 12 train came from Waterford, when a Commissioner from the Provisional Government arrived, and, driving in a motor to the barracks, he had an interview with Captain Sheehan. Captain Sheehan, being satisfied,

handed over the control of the fortress to the representative of the Irish Government, and in a few minutes afterwards he formed his men four deep in the square, and giving the order "March," the men filed out of the Castle, passed through the massive gateway, and thus was ended, apparently for evermore, the symbol of British rule in this historic fortress.

It might have been two hours later that three motor cars drove down the street. In them were members of the I.R.A. They entered the barracks and installed themselves there, and within a few minutes the Tricolour floated from the ramparts of the building. These incidents in themselves were of tremendous significance, inasmuch as they emphasised the change that had taken place, that the rule of which the people had so long complained was at an end, and that the affairs of the country were now in the hands of their own representatives.

There were many onlookers at their doors and windows as the body of police marched up the street, headed by their Captain, *en route* for the railway station, to leave the old

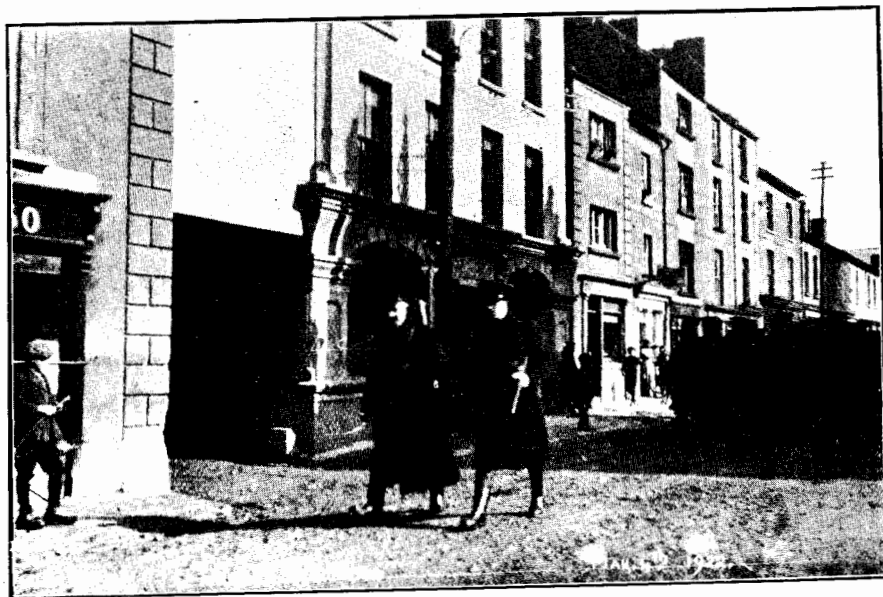


Photo by Keohan.

The R.I.C. marching up Main Street, leaving Dungarvan for ever.

town for ever. Some of the men smiled greetings to their friends as they passed them by, others appeared to realise the changed position of affairs. A musical instrument was being played by one of the party, and the air "Good-Bye-ee" only indicated too well the meaning of the proceeding. Their departure was regarded with mixed feelings, and perhaps at the moment the mind was filled with kindly recollections. For, until the strife, these men and the public had got on very well together. They were regarded by the ordinary citizen as the protectors of the people's rights, and, apart from their position as representatives of a foreign power, they were, on the whole, held in high esteem. Indeed it might be said with truth that up to the last moment they could not bring themselves to think that their status was being brought down, that they, who were the almost absolute controllers of everything that pertained to the government of the people, were now to be completely dispensed with, and that all their ideas of constabulary life were to be dashed to the ground. Yet so it was. But reflections such as these must have seized them as they marched up the street, wheeled around the Square, and made for the steaming train in waiting for them at the station. When they arrived at the platform they were entrained, the whistle of the engine sounded, and the Royal Irish Constabulary were gone for evermore from the "Old Borough." Thus we had convincing evidence on that day of the vast change that had come over the government of the country. If unity could have prevailed, matters would have gone on well, but division crept in, armed bodies became arrayed against one another, and it would seem for a time that matters were much worse than ever before. The great Dominican, Father Tom Burke, in one of his brilliant lectures in America, said that on the day when Ireland would be united there was no power would be able to keep them in subjection, and with reference to their condition he quoted the lines of the national minstrel, Thomas Moore:—

"They say 'twas fate, a wayward fate,
Our web of discord wove,
For while our tyrants joined in hate,
We never joined in love."

When the English garrison evacuated the barracks of Dunganvan and the premises were handed over to the control of the Irish soldiers, it was thought, and with some

reason, that our troubles were at an end. Such an idea was, however, very soon to be dispelled. Subsequent history does not seem to reflect the glory which was once ours in the past, nor would it redound to the good sense or desire for the country's welfare on the part of its people. It was believed that when the Castle, now occupied with our Irish troops, was free from all outward molestation that the people's hearts would glow with pride and that a new enthusiasm would replace the lethargy which had prevailed for some considerable time.



I.R.A. in possession of Dungarvan Barracks. *Photo by Keohan.*

A feeling of division spread through the country which by degrees assumed alarming proportions. The question which divided them was as to whether they were Republicans or Free Staters. In almost all cases the barracks throughout the country which were vacated by the soldiers and the R.I.C. were now in the possession of the Republican Army. And as days passed by people began to ask the question, "How are they down at the barrack?" and the invariable reply was, "They are Republican." Then the question arose, how was it they were wearing the uniforms

of the Free State. But this did not seem to count for anything, and the general feeling gained ground that the occupants of the barracks were supporters of De Valera and opposed to the upholders of the Treaty.

De Valera Attends at Dungarvan.

A public meeting was announced to be held on the Square, Dungarvan, to be addressed by Mr. De Valera. The meeting was on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, 1922. The Republicans were very active on the occasion. They decorated the town with bunting. The Tricolour was suspended across the streets, and flags were flying out of some of the windows. Emblems were fixed to lamp-posts, and there was a particularly large show of decorations around the Square. Mr. De Valera and his party met with a hearty reception, his supporters showing much enthusiasm. A large public meeting was held on the Square, and Mr. De Valera addressed the populace from a motor car, in which were seated a number of his intimate followers. He reviewed the existing situation, and commented rather severely on the acceptance of the Treaty, and with much argumentative oratory he held forth on the difficulty that would be felt in the country on enforcing that instrument. He was a powerful speaker, masterful and tactful, and his rounded periods, when he reached a climax, drew forth the plaudits of his listeners. He foretold that the enforcement of the Treaty would be the cause of trouble, and in this matter it was not long until his prophecy was fulfilled. Other speakers also delivered addresses, and the meeting, on the whole, was successful and orderly.

Michael Collins in Dungarvan.

Nine days after the visit of De Valera, Michael Collins came to Dungarvan, his arrival being on the 26th March, 1922. He had been one of the signatories to the Treaty, and held the position of Prime Minister of the Provisional Government. The meeting had been advertised. The gathering was of larger proportions than that attending De Valera's meeting, and far more representative. In anticipation of his intention of reaching Dungarvan by motor car from Waterford, obstacles were placed along the route, so that he was delayed over an hour longer than the time announced. He had to encounter trees felled in every direction, and he was obliged to hew his way along. He

was accompanied by two other motor cars, and in these were carried a crosscut saw, a woodman's axe, and some large, stout deals for the purpose of crossing trenches. The party were obliged to make various detours by bye-ways and boreens, and hack their way through felled trees before they could reach the town. People gathered on the Square waiting for the meeting whispered one another that something was wrong when they did not see Michael Collins arriving up to time. But when he did come he drove to the Square and back again to the Devonshire Arms Hotel, where he lunched. A feeling of anxiety seemed to impress everyone, and it was anticipated that determined opposition would be given to the meeting. It was asked, how would the occupants of the Castle act, for as yet no public indication was given as to the attitude they would adopt.

Michael Collins is Driven Away—A Novel Incident.

A large motor lorry drove up the street and stopped at the Square. This was to be the platform from which the meeting would be addressed. The lorry got soon filled. There were Press representatives there from Dublin and Cork, as well as the local journalists. Mr. Michael Brennock, Chairman of the Urban Council, was appointed chairman of the meeting. In opening the proceedings he was warmly received, but just as he began to address the people the engine of the lorry began humming, and while the chairman was expressing his thanks for the honour done him the lorry began to move. Members of the I.R.A. cleared the people from the front, making a passage for the lorry, which now was gaining speed, and it was driven down Bridge Street and across the Bridge. As it mounted the height at the Bridge several of those on board jumped off, but the lorry sped on. It ran down the incline at the far end of the Bridge, gaining momentum all the while, being driven by a driver who was acting in obedience to pre-arranged orders. The action was so sudden and so unexpected, very few for a time realised the position, which to many onlookers appeared ridiculous.

As the lorry passed the Bridge a man by Michael Collins' side—one of his bodyguard—produced a revolver and, presenting it at the driver, called upon him to stop the lorry. Mr. Brennock put down the arm of the man with the revolver, but again he used the weapon, and, breaking

the glass screen separating the driver from those in the body of the lorry, he put the revolver to the driver's ear and told him to stop the lorry or he would shoot him. The lorry meantime had mounted the footpath and ran for some yards along, escaping by a hair's breadth from tumbling into the graving bank, which probably would have had serious consequences. Luckily the lorry swerved and bolted off the footpath, and when it did so the driver jumped off and ran back to town, but a revolver bullet was fired which, however, did not take effect. Michael Collins jumped off, Mr. Brennock jumped off, also the writer, who was one of the reporters, and a lady who was thrown across the end of the car. Michael Collins' first word to his friends was "Mind the flags," meaning the Tricolours with which the lorry was decorated. Numbers of I.R.A. men had followed the lorry, and in the general confusion the flags disappeared. Michael Collins and his party walked back to the hotel.

It was then decided to address the people from the balcony of the Devonshire Arms Hotel. The balcony has rather a historic record. From it Lord Llandaff, then Henry Matthews, addressed the electors at the end of the seventies, when he contested the borough against Frank Hugh O'Donnell. And on the same occasion, when Matthews had finished, O'Donnell delivered his first speech in Dunganvan and refuted the insinuation of Matthews that advocating Home Rule was like to flogging a dead horse. Michael Collins and his supporters, which included some clergymen, came on to the balcony, and they were met with a storm of boos and interruptions, mingled with cheers. These disturbances came from a number of the I.R.A. stationed on the Court House railings, and the interruptions were continued all through the meeting. Michael Collins delivered a very forcible speech, and turning oftentimes to his disturbers he would retort with a bit of witty sarcasm that silenced his interrupters for a while. He was a fine muscular man with a strikingly handsome and good humoured face. His hair was intensely black, a lock of which kept persistently falling down sideways on his forehead. The meeting ended, and later, when Michael Collins went to his motor car to go back to Waterford, it was found that one of the essential parts had been removed, and the car refused to start. But the local repairer after a time got things right. Michael Collins drove away, some of his supporters cheering him a farewell as he departed. But

shortly afterwards this fine and brave Irishman was killed in an ambush near Bandon on the 22nd August following.

The Pact.

Soon after this time the elections for the Irish Parliament were coming on, and the intensity of the division among the people made it absolutely certain that no elections could be held. It was feared that around the polling booths there would be warfare, and with an army armed on both sides people shuddered to contemplate what would happen. It was evident in the existing state of things that the elections would not be an indication of the real feeling of the country, for timid people would not venture to face the polling booths in view of the existing strife. In these circumstances a pact was entered into between Michael Collins and De Valera by which the existing representatives would be supported for election, so that the Dail would be much the same as before the dissolution. Both sides pledged themselves to support this pact, and while many viewed the arrangement with disfavour, it was conceded that it was the best that could be done for the purpose of securing an election that would be free from bloodshed.

But there was one article in the pact which made an essential difference. It was "that each and every interest was free to come forward for election." And taking advantage of this clause, in many places farmers announced their intention of coming forward as candidates, and the Labour Party proposed also a number of candidates, so that in many constituencies the Pact did not work, for still there was opposition. In one instance, that of Mr. Godfrey Greene, a farmer living near Carrick, because of his coming forward for election he was attacked, shots fired into his house, while he from inside returned the fire. But in the encounter Mr. Greene got so severely wounded he was obliged to desist from his candidature. Similar cases of intimidation were reported from different parts of the country. The elections were carried on peaceably. There was no disturbance anywhere, and this was an agreeable surprise. For the County Waterford the members elected were:—Dr. White (Treaty), Cathal Brugha (Republican), Messrs. Sean Butler and T. Phelan (Labour). The voting was on the proportional representation principle, the general result through the country being that the Treaty Party were augmented in strength, as a preponderance was recorded in their favour.

Civil War.

Early in the month of July, 1922, civil war broke out. There followed great destruction of property. Public buildings, railways, railway and road bridges were blown up. Dungarvan got partly isolated. The railway line on the Waterford side of Dungarvan was torn up. The railway service from the Cork side continued all right. At this time Cork city was under the complete control of the Republicans, or the Irregulars as they were called. The *Cork Examiner*, the only daily newspaper published in Cork, was seized and it was placed under the editorship of Miss Mary MacSwiney, sister of Terence MacSwiney, who was Lord Mayor of Cork, but who died of hunger-strike in Brixton prison. The *Examiner*, as was to be expected from the change of control, became completely one-sided. It was entirely Republican, and daily it reported victories by the Republicans and the almost complete annihilation of the Free State troops. The proper editor had inserted a note that he disclaimed all responsibility for what was now appearing in the paper. There were no Dublin papers coming to town. None of them came during the entire month of July, as there was no railway service from Waterford, and though it was arranged for motor cars to bring the parcels, on their arrival in Waterford the papers were seized and burned by the Republicans. The city of Waterford was completely in the hands of the Republicans. Their headquarters were in the Infantry barracks. There were no British papers either allowed to reach the town. These were seized and burned at Rosslare.

Raids.

Then began those series of raids which will long be remembered. The Republicans seized motor cars, motor vehicles, and even bicycles. A proclamation was issued by them warning all users of motor-driven cars that they should procure a licence, which could be had on application at the headquarters of the army in Dungarvan Castle. The Republicans seized a motor van, which they utilised for the carrying of the goods they commandeered in the shops. The procedure would be thus: the van would come to the shop door, the party of Republicans would walk in and demand various kinds of goods, wearables of all descriptions, groceries, bread, meat, etc. A receipt would be given for the goods taken, and that was all. The motor van would

drive to the barracks and the van was unloaded. This procedure went on for a while until some thousand pounds worth of goods had been taken from the shops, and the commandeering became so common that many shopkeepers refrained from getting in goods, knowing they would be seized. The Provisional Government were not yet ready to interfere. But they had made a successful attack on Waterford city, routed the Republicans from their quarters, and installed themselves in the positions occupied by the Republicans. People in Dungarvan anxiously inquired when the forces of the Government were coming here, but as yet there was no appearance of their approach.

An exciting occurrence took place in one of those raids. It happened in the case of a merchant of Blackpool whose son kept a depot for the repair of bicycles and had on hands a number of these machines. The Republicans demanded the bicycles he had on hands, but the owner stoutly refused to give them. They threatened him with force, but the merchant set their threats at defiance. Reinforcements were brought from the barracks, and they set out to seize the bicycles. They advanced towards the premises in extended formation, taking cover in the doors of houses as they went on, and also behind carts and cars on the street. The merchant and his son, armed with loaded guns, watched the attacking party advance and as the Republicans approached the house they produced revolvers, and at that moment it seemed as if there would be a bloody encounter, when a local clergyman, who was called, came quickly on the scene, accompanied by a medical gentleman. The clergyman thrust himself between the contending parties, and the respect which the people always entertained for their clergy had a soberising effect and no shots were fired, though the arms were levelled at one another. The merchant was called upon to surrender to the Republic, but he refused, and the priest, seeing the serious aspect of things, asked the merchant to give up his gun. "Yes," said he, "I will surrender to the Church, but not to them." He then left himself in the hands of the clergyman, but the Republicans made him a prisoner and took him in charge to the barracks. He was detained there for a couple of hours, when he was released. The incident was at one time very angry looking, and but for the good tact displayed by the peacemakers in all probability there would have been regrettable consequences.



Colligan Rustic Bridge.

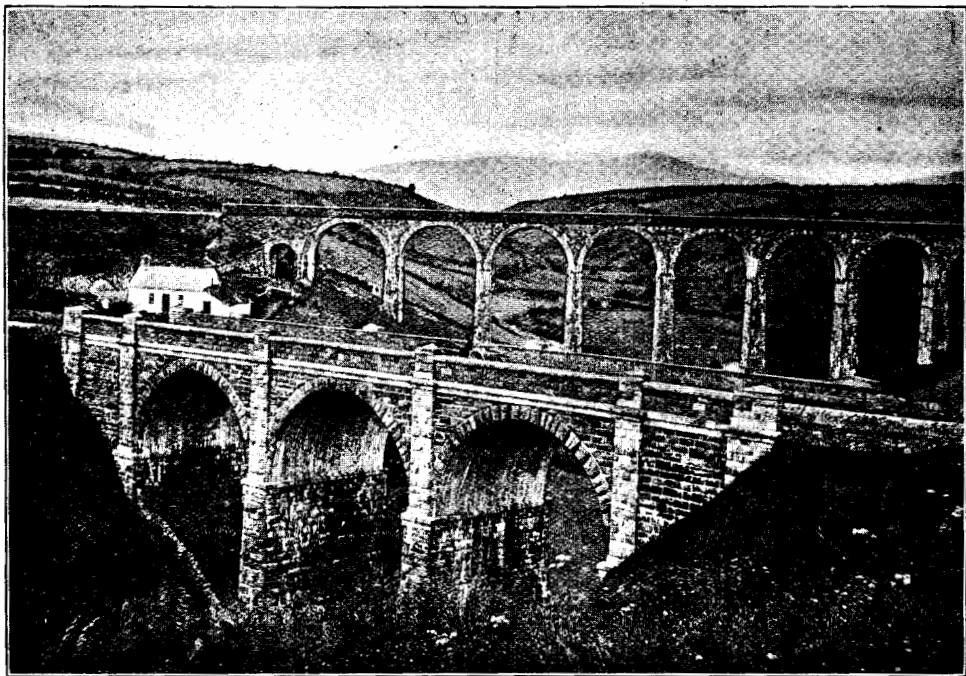
Photo by Keoham.

The First Cork Brigade.

Towards the end of July the garrison in the Castle were largely reinforced. About 300 men, coming from Waterford, Carrick, and other places on that side, marched into Dungarvan. They passed down the Main Street of the town, fully armed, lustily singing "We are the Boys of the First Cork Brigade," to the air which was that inspiring one which served as a battle-cry in the American Civil War, the refrain being "Glory, Glory, Alleluiah." This large force marched on to the barrack, and soon after they scattered themselves around the town.

They quartered themselves in the hotels, which they commandeered. Visitors were obliged to vacate their apartments and find other lodgings. The entry of this force into Dungarvan led the residents to believe that when the Free State troops came along they would contest every available approach. Fearful of the consequences, many people had made arrangements to fly from the town for shelter, or barricade themselves in their homes. Troops of the I.R.A. patrolled the streets by day and night, and in all respects they appeared to be a very formidable force. It was believed that when the battle would come on the troops would vacate the Castle, which was good enough for defence in the days before the invention of gunpowder, but now a shell fired from Abbeyside would lay the old fortification in ruins. In this state of things matters moved along with a good deal of uncertainty.

The supply of provisions in the town was now severely tested. Bakery shops were commandeered to produce bread, butchers should provide meat, groceries and other necessaries should be provided, and all these were procured by the seizures of goods which were being carried out. While matters were in this unsettled state an alarming rumour came from Cork that the Free State troops had taken possession of that city and routed the Republicans. It was stated that the Republican forces were also driven out of Youghal, where the National troops had also landed in the morning. And in confirmation, about mid-day of this memorable day an aeroplane flew up from Waterford, passed over Dungarvan on its way to Youghal. The appearance of the aeroplane caused a flutter of uneasiness to take possession of the Republicans in the town, and preparations were being made for the evacuation of the barracks. The aero-



Ballyvoile Bridge, near Dungarvan (Destroyed in 1922)

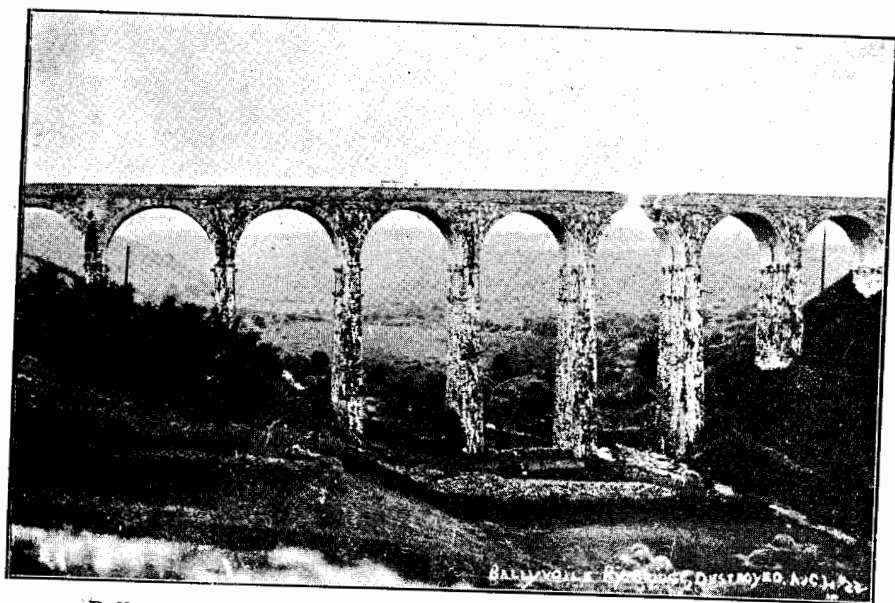
Keohan, Dungarvan

plane returned towards evening. It flew at a lower altitude, and as it passed over the castle the machine-gun was turned on and several shots fired, but without effect. The machine continued on its way unharmed, having discharged a volley or two into the barracks, but no harm was done on either side. It would seem that now the crisis was approaching, that the struggle for possession of the town could not be long delayed. The question was, where would the encounter take place? This was the state of things existing on the 8th August, 1922, but four days before that the bridges of Ballyvoile had been blown up.

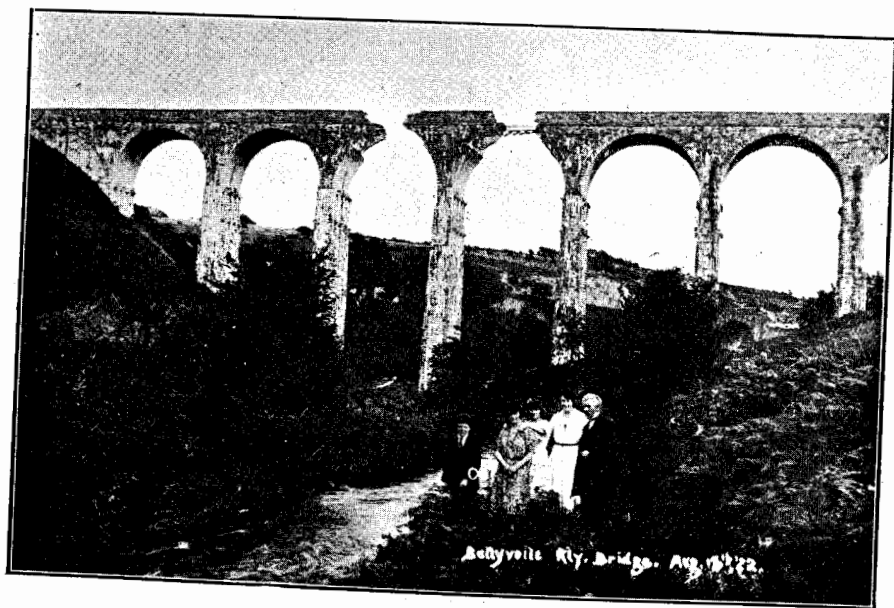
Destruction of Ballyvoile Bridges.

Across the deep ravine which runs by Ballyvoile down to the sea the river Dalligan makes its way. Here were constructed two important and beautiful bridges—one the viaduct which carried the railway across this broad and rugged chasm, the other the road bridge. Both were substantial works, consisting entirely of masonry. The road bridge was one of three arches, with a height of 88 feet above the little river; the railway bridge consisted of nine arches, and rose to a height of 108 feet. The road bridge was one of much symmetry, gracefully turned arches, and very important to the district for traffic. It was built under the Grand Jury in 1868. The railway bridge, both from its height and design, was a novelty in itself, and had been very carefully tested for its strength and suitability for the purposes of heavily-laden trains with powerful engines passing over it. It lay on the line that made up the Rosslare system in the South of Ireland.

On the 4th August the army stationed at the Castle could be noticed to be very active. Commandants and others held councils in the streets, and at about mid-day a body of them set out in motor cars and lorries in the direction of Ballyvoile, bringing with them fuses, bombs, rifles, and implements of destruction. They proceeded to the bridges of Ballyvoile. There they set to work. Experts in the art of destruction gave directions as to the means of setting the explosives so as to break the bridges, and when all was ready the bombs were fired. That evening loud explosions were heard for many miles around—there were nine or ten rumbling explosions in all, and not long after the news reached Dungarvan that the bridges at Ballyvoile had

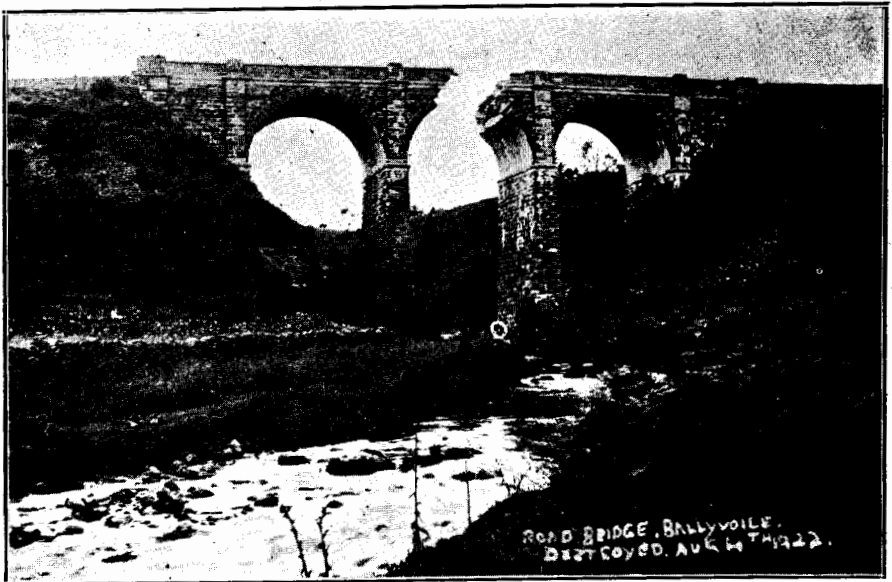


Ballyvoile Railway Bridge, one arch blown up August 4th, 1922.



Second arch of Ballyvoile Bridge collapses four days after first being blown up. *Photo by Keohan.*

been blown up. Residents in the district gave accounts of the methods employed for the destruction—of the thunderous roar of the explosions, and the hurling of massive stones for hundreds of yards around. When the smoke had cleared away the evil was done. The centre arch of the road bridge was cut clean across, and one arch near the centre of the railway bridge was also destroyed. The reason given for the destruction was that it was necessary for military purposes, but whether this was correct or not, the destruction of the bridge did not impede the



Ballyvoile Road Bridge, one arch blown up August 4th, 1922. *Photo by Keohan.*

entry of the Free State army into Dungarvan. It was thought after these occurrences that the decisive battle for possession of the town would take place at Ballyvoile, where the advance guard of the National troops would be resisted on the banks of the Dalligan. All traffic by rail and road was then stopped. Even the road that runs down the cliff side to the old bridge near the sea was rendered impassable by explosion. The destructive work having been accomplished, the parties returned to their rendezvous in the Castle. Numbers of people travelled to Ballyvoile on the following Sunday to view the destruction. It was a sad

spectacle to witness, but it was not conceived that the railway bridge would collapse, as it did soon after. Just three days following the blowing away of one of the nine arches a second one fell down, and thus it remained for nearly a fortnight. Then a third pier fell, falling against the next one and tumbling it, and one after another fell until the Dalligan valley was a mass of debris. All nine arches had fallen. In the case of the road bridge, which was gradually slipping away and had moved out a couple of inches, Mr. Bowen, the County Surveyor, took the matter promptly in

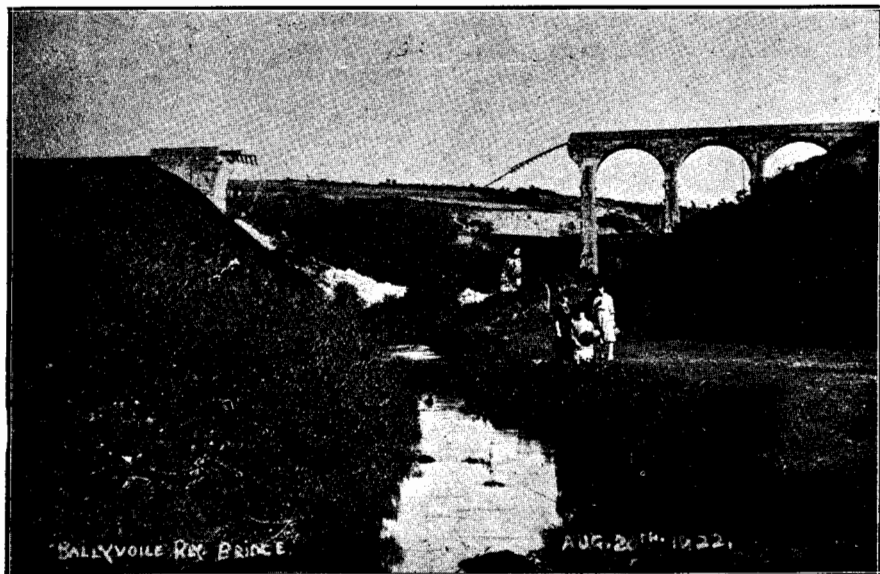
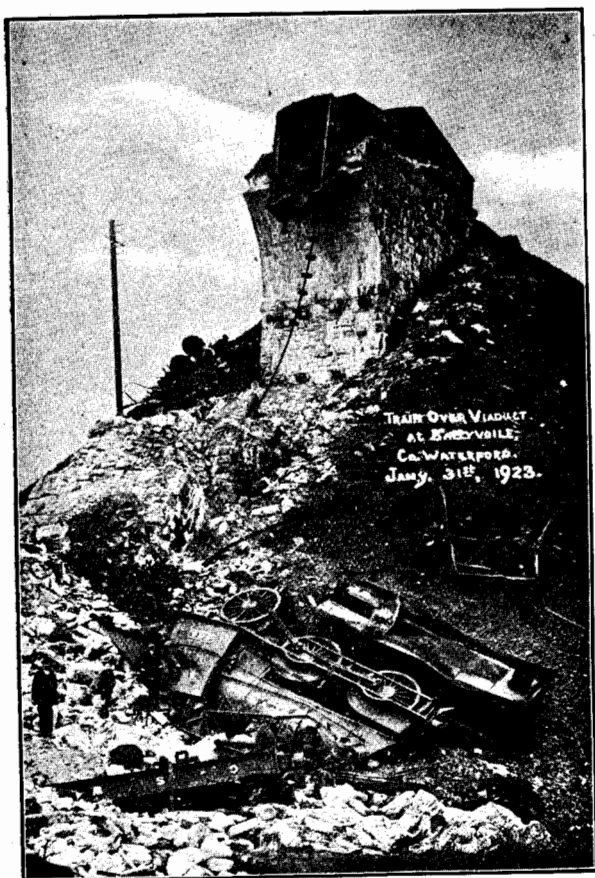


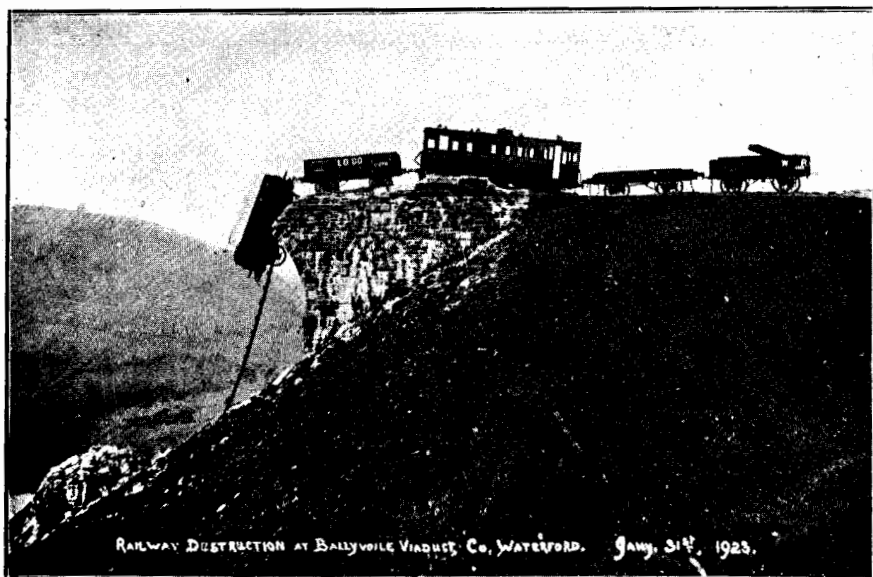
Photo by Keohan.
Ballyvoile Railway Bridge collapsed August 30th, 1922.

hands. He got stout baulks inserted between the middle piers, and also strong wire cables at the ends, and he thus saved the bridge. The expense of this preserving work cost about £100, but should the bridge have collapsed the cost of restoration would have amounted to £8,000. The work was carried out at imminent risk to the lives of the workmen, but happily the bridge was saved. It may be mentioned, as an illustration of the state of affairs prevailing at the time, that before Mr. Bowen undertook these steps to save the bridge he was obliged to procure a permit



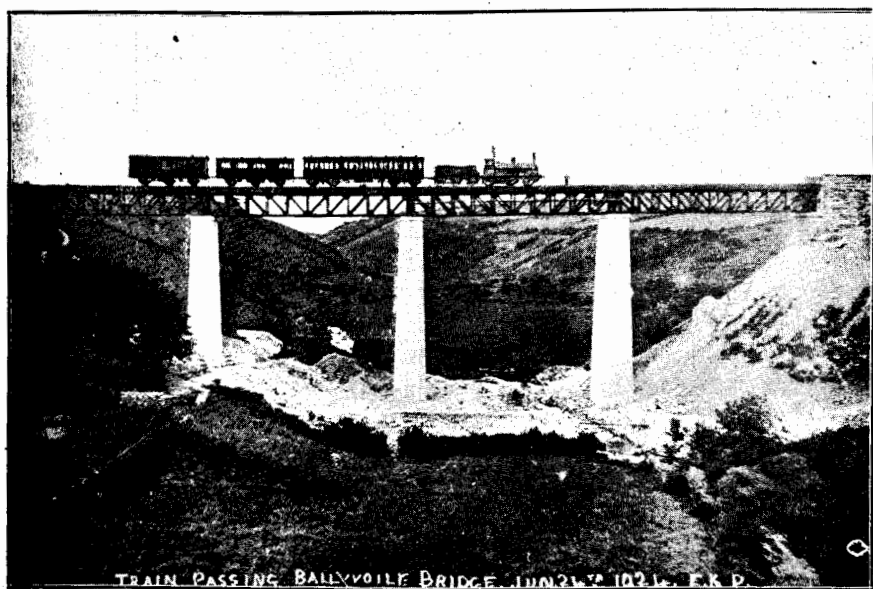
Train wreckage at Ballyvoile, January 31st, 1923.

from the officers of the I.R.A. The bridge remained in this impassable condition for nine or ten months, when a more peaceful condition of affairs began to prevail and the restoration of the bridge was begun. It was completed and opened for traffic in August, 1923. An inscription on a cap stone of the protecting wall bears the following:—"Ballyvoile Bridge. Erected 1860-1862. Centre arch destroyed 1922. Rebuilt 1923." The work of the restoration of the railway bridge was begun in August, 1923, and was completed in 1924. The first train passed over it on June 17th, 1924.



Train wreckage at Ballyvoile, January 31st, 1923.

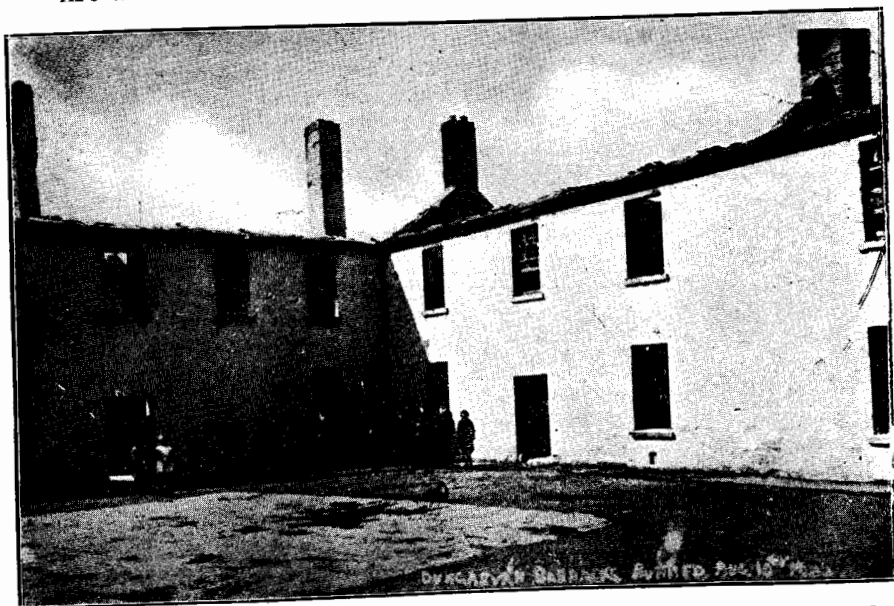
Owing to the rails not going the full way, the wheels stuck in the mud and the engine fell over, the coupling breaking, leaving the carriage suspended over the chasm. This photo was published in illustrated papers throughout the world.



Train passing over Ballyvoile rebuilt viaduct. June 24th. 1924. Photo by Keenan.

Burning of Dungarvan Barracks—Destruction of Ballinacourty Coastguard Station.

Rumours began to gain ground that the National troops from Waterford were on their way to Dungarvan. Motor cars that plied between Dungarvan and Waterford brought the intelligence that numbers of them were seen making their way along the road. The I.R.A. in the Castle now began making preparation for evacuation. All that was moveable in the barracks was taken away. Loads of material could be seen being brought up the street, and a report began to be spread that the dwelling apartments, the castle, and the ancient round tower were to be given to the flames. These rumours turned out to be true. On the evening of the 8th August smoke was seen to issue from the castle. Soon a big blaze shot up. There was much activity among the occupants, and there were parties there hurriedly removing everything. The flames raged all the evening and through the night, and when the place was visited in the morning all the tenement buildings were blackened with fire and the roofs had fallen in.



Dungarvan Barracks burned.

Photo by Keohan.

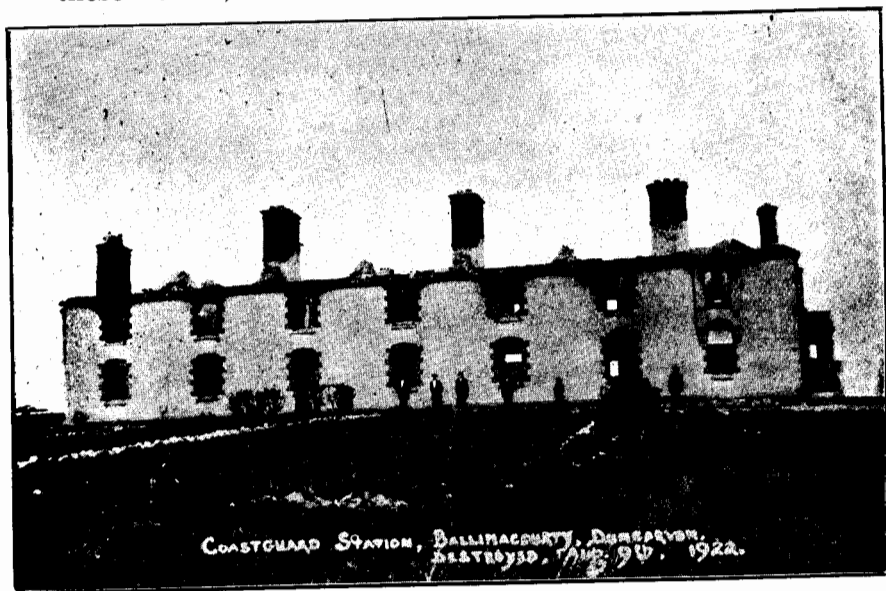
People of the town flocked around the old walls and looked helplessly on while the process of destruction was in progress. An ordinary jet of water from a fire engine might have saved the place, but a dread seemed to be on everyone, nobody would interfere. The Chairman of the Urban Council was appealed to, but he rightly stated it was not his business to interfere, and thus it was that the old barracks, over which hung the fluctuating history of 800 years, was rendered a mass of ruins. The fire made its way slowly. The roofs were intact at midnight, and this old place of hallowed memories now seemed to be nobody's child. The place was a mass of ruins in the morning.

There was one portion of the building about which public feeling appeared to be most interested, and that was the old circular tower, standing silently in the corner, whose origin is lost in the unrecorded past, whose conical roof and ancient aspect looked down as if upbraiding the senseless spirit that prevailed. It had stood there in this old place for upwards of a thousand years, back to the time contemporaneous with the erection of Reginald's Tower in Waterford, its walls being six feet in thickness, its wattled ceiling and its marks of age giving it that venerable appearance that in itself should be a shield against destruction. "What of the tower?" was asked. "Is that going to be burned, too?" And when the smoke was seen to ascend from its antique windows there was an indescribable feeling of sadness among the crowd—the most striking token of their ancient history was about to be destroyed. But the superior masonry of this old tower would not yield to the assaults of desperation, and though the stairway was burned, and other woodwork, though the ancient door-posts were torn from their position, the old tower still stood. The fire died out, and still looking out over the river and the sea rose the circular, conical roof, the work of those who lived a thousand years ago. Lovers of antiquity, those who still appreciate the handicraft of a long-forgotten past, will wish that long may this old circular tower remain, pointing, as it does, backwards to a time ere yet the quay was built, or the castle, or the mellow old ruin at Abbeyside, when genius sprung from the nurturing spirit of this portion of our fertile land.

What a wreck the place presented in the morning! Slates were thrown promiscuously about. Wrecked bodies of motor cars were there, and desolation gaped

through the smoking windows of these fine buildings. The old walls of the castle were uninjured, and with them were associated thrilling memories. They tell of a time when this old fort was occupied by Lord Inchiquin, when Cromwell walked the ramparts, when the "wild Irish" made their successful sortie and made prisoners of the English garrison, and the pity of it that in this intellectual age the only appreciation would be to destroy the property of the people.

And while the castle was burning, those who looked from the "Look Out" could also see smoke issuing from the fine buildings at Ballinacourty. Here, in the seventies, this row of buildings was erected as a habitation for the coastguards. They looked very pretty; they were ornamental and useful. Forceful representations were made to spare these buildings, but without avail. It was urged the burning of them was a military necessity, and hence they were given to the flames. The people of Ballinacourty—this pretty village, three miles away, looking out upon the harbour—viewed with feelings of sorrow the destruction of these houses, which added to the picturesqueness of this



Ballinacourty Coastguard Station burned. *Photo by Keohan.*

delightful locality. The next day these buildings were a mass of ruins. But with Shakespeare it might be said:—

“ Wise men ne'er sit and wail their loss,
But cheerily seek how to redress their harm.”

The forces now withdrew from the castle, the dwellings there being unfit for habitation. The ruins were left derelict. But after some weeks a representative of the Provisional Government came along and took over possession, giving directions that the place should be made secure and the entrances built up. This was done. The forces of the Republicans now quartered themselves in the hotels and remained there until the coming of the National Army.

The National Army Enters Dungarvan.

The troops of the National Army entered Dungarvan on the 16th August, 1922. Some few days before the 300 men of the First Cork Brigade evacuated the town. They marched up the street, made their way to the railway station, where they had commandeered a special train to take them off. The train was stopped at Cappoquin on their journey westward. The Republicans got out and blew up the railway bridge there that crossed the Blackwater. They then proceeded further west.

When the National Army entered Dungarvan the Republicans had all cleared away. Only a few soldiers arrived in the early morning, but at about mid-day a long line of military lorries approached, bringing with them stores, arms and equipment. They met with a good reception. They took up quarters in Church Street, in the Town Hall, and at the Union Hospital. There was also another body of them stationed in the Provincial Bank. People felt relieved that there was no fighting. The expected battle did not come off. By degrees a more peaceful atmosphere prevailed.

Subsequently, in November, 1923, a special court, presided over by the County Court Judge, sat for over a fortnight in the Court House, hearing applications for malicious injuries and for compensation for goods commandeered, and the amounts awarded totalled several thousands of pounds. The entire amount of claims for the County Waterford rose to a total of £800,000.

Obstacles on the Roadways.

During the time of the strife the roads to and from Dungarvan were frequently rendered difficult of transport on account of the obstacles placed across them in the way of felled trees and trenches. Railway communication was completely cut off from the town. But with commendable enterprise two of our town merchants, Messrs. K. Williams and Co., and Messrs. Moloney and Co., purchased cross-Channel steamers, which supplied the wants of the people. Messrs. Williams owned the "Cargan," a very useful steamboat carrying 200 tons, and her first visit to the quay, laden with foodstuffs for the people, was hailed with much satisfaction and relief. She made frequent trips across Channel and to other ports, and did splendid service. The Messrs. Moloney purchased also a fine steamer, the "Lady Belle," and this vessel also was kept going to and from, bringing from England cargoes of necessaries, so that the town was kept well supplied, and people realised how beneficial it was that they possessed a harbour which rendered them independent of road transport. Had it been otherwise, much privation would undoubtedly have been felt.

To go a journey from the town was a hazardous enterprise. Often the motors were obliged to make detours by bye-roads, owing to the trenches or felled trees on the way. The roads might be clear to-day: to-morrow they would be impassable. For fifteen months there was no train coming to Dungarvan, but with the completion of the rebuilding of the great Mallow viaduct, which had been destroyed, and the repairs to the broken Cappoquin bridge, a train at last came and made its first entry to the town on November 5th, 1923. It was but a pilot train. The regular service did not run for a fortnight later.

Newspaper Supplies.

During these months when we had no train service the Cork and Dublin newspapers were brought to town by motor. The *Cork Examiner* came daily from Mallow by motor, and reached here at between ten and eleven; the Dublin papers were carried from Waterford by motor, reaching the town about 2 p.m. The service in this

way was very regular and satisfactory. By the end of the year 1923 there was a marked change for the better in the condition of the country. The law seemed to be observed. The Civic Guards, the new police force, took up duties in the town for the first time on 17th January, 1923, when Sergeant Jones appeared with five men. Another five men supplemented them on 15th February following, and peace appeared to be on the return. The old castle, even in its ruins, still brings back to one's mind the history of the past centuries, its varying fortunes being at all times the reflex of the condition which prevailed. The wave of unrest, of bloodshed, has all but passed away. In the moving changes, which we hope will be for better things, the old castle walls will continue to cast its spell of anti-quarian richness upon the locality, and perhaps inspire in many contemplative people the words of Balfe:—

“The mind will in its worst despair
Still ponder on the past,
On moments of delight that were
Too beautiful to last.”

Town in a State of Siege.

On one occasion, in the summer of 1921, a fair was held while the town was in a state of siege. The British were in occupation at the time. What must have been the ideas of the farmers, when they were trying to sell their cattle, to see soldiers posted at every available point and machine-guns staring them in the face in every direction? The military were in occupation of the National Bank, and a machine-gun peeped out from the upper window. Another machine-gun was mounted at the pump on the Square, while all around there were squads of military posted. But beyond this things passed off quietly. The country people did not seem to mind—they had become used to it. And it was only when the business of the fair had ended that the instruments of war were removed. The soldiers retired to their barracks and the town resumed its wonted appearance.

Parliamentary and Social History of the Town.

For many centuries before the passing of the Act of Union, Dungarvan returned two members to the Irish Parliament. The franchise was restricted, and the town may be said to have been under the complete control of the



Grattan Square, Dungaryan.

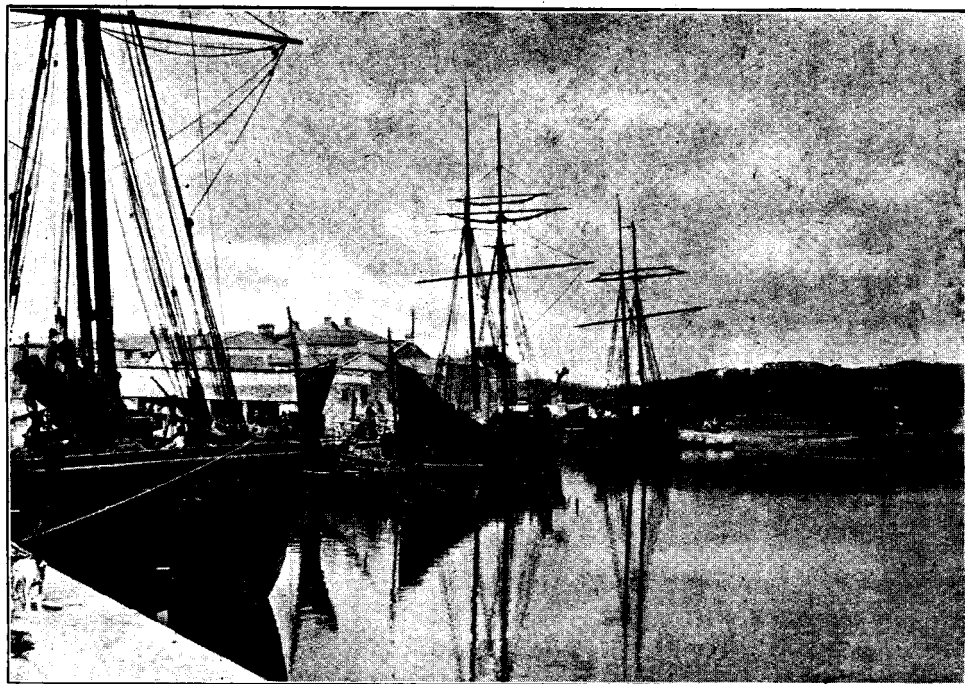
Photo by Keohan.

Lord of the Manor. By the Charter of 1609 Dungarvan was to be a free borough, and there was to be a body corporate, consisting of "sovereign" brethren and free burgesses. The vacancies, when they occurred, were filled by co-option, so that the ruling body would be sure to be in support of the reigning powers of the time. It is not known how this body ceased to exist, and it is supposed that the Lord of the Manor succeeded in blotting them out. There was a Royal Commission, which sat here in 1833, but the point was not elucidated. The Duke of Devonshire, who was Lord of the Manor, had a monopoly of the civil rights. The Charter granted by King James did not operate after his defeat at the Battle of the Boyne. The Seneschal was appointed by the Duke of Devonshire, and his duties much resembled those of the Sheriff at the present time. He was to act as returning officer for the election of Members of Parliament. He also held a Court, the extent of his jurisdiction being £15. The Leet Court was summoned once a year, and a jury sworn to regulate the dues to be paid to the harbour and for quayage and anchorage. The jury were also empowered to nominate a harbour master, but the Seneschal had a veto on the appointments.

The "Manor" of Dungarvan was co-extensive with the Union of Dungarvan, and consisted of three parishes, Dungarvan West, Ballinrode or Nugent's Parish, and Abbeyside. There were fairs appointed and tolls fixed. The Royal Commission in 1833 inquired into the levying of tolls and other matters, and their conclusions were given in the report issued by them, in one part of which it is said:—

"Several of the powers exercised by the Seneschal, and the privileges claimed by the Duke of Devonshire, and by Mr. Kelly also, as to the old fairs, resemble so much of the franchises conferred by the charter of the extinct corporation as to lead us, in the absence of more accurate information, to the belief that they are, in fact, parcel of the corporate rights. Whether these rights were transferred by the Corporation previously to its dissolution, or were exercised without authority after that event, by the Lord of the Manor, and the owner of the soil on which the old fairs are held, we had no materials before us from which we could form an opinion."

The tolls of the fairs were paid to Mr. John Kelly, of Strancally. The Duke of Devonshire obtained a patent for two new fairs. The manor of Dungarvan, was anciently



Dungarvan Quay, with Bridge.

Photo by Keohan.

vested in the Crown; it was granted in the reign of Henry VIII to a member of the Ormonde family; it was, with the consent of the Earl of Ormonde, re-annexed to the Crown in 34th Henry VIII; it was in the second year of James I re-erected, and bestowed on George Thornton at the yearly rent of £20, and it afterwards passed successively to the Earl of Cork and the Duke of Devonshire.

The Duke of Devonshire had two estates in Waterford and one in Cork. That of Lismore contained 16,892 acres, valuation £9,753, the annual rent being 15 per cent. over the valuation. There were 285 tenants. His estate around Fermoy had 13,312 acres, with 166 tenants. His Bandon property contained over 17,000 acres, with 215 tenants, the valuation being £10,162, and the rent 10 per cent. over the valuation. Since 1810 many old leases dropped, and there was an increase of rent of about 15 per cent.

The present Dungarvan Bridge was built by the Duke of Devonshire at a cost of £8,000. He also constructed a fine causeway which reaches for some hundreds of yards. This bridge and causeway unite the town with Abbeyside, and has been a magnificent improvement. The bridge is a strong and beautiful one, constructed exclusively of Portland stone, all of which was imported from England, and it is both graceful and striking in appearance. His Grace also built Bridge Street and the broad, uniform, and spacious Square. The town before this lay to the east. The span of the bridge is 75 feet. The town now is most conveniently laid out, the principal streets radiating from the central Square, and off these there are narrower streets leading to the Quay, the "Look Out," and other parts of the borough. The Main Street and O'Connell Street are the principal business thoroughfares. They are level, contain fine shops, and could with a little attention be kept in perfect condition.

Dungarvan, as well as Lismore and Tallow, had each the privilege of electing two members to serve in the Irish Parliament, and we have records, which have been unearthed by our late historian, Mr. Egan, giving the names of the representatives from the year 1559. This is the earliest date for which lists can be found in the Public Record Office. The dates of the returns of the Members of Parliament are also given. It should be mentioned that the franchise was a restricted one, probably thirty or forty voters only being allowed to vote, as religion was a barrier to the extension of the franchise, and in almost all cases the

lord of the manor had sufficient influence to have his own nominee returned as representative. In looking over the lists of the members for the city and county we find the names of the Walshes, the Sherlocks, and the Powers, as well as the Beresfords, to predominate.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

January, 1559.

Henry Stafford, Esq., and John Chollyner (gentleman), Lambaye, Dublin.

23rd April, 1613.

Peter Rowe, Esq., Thomas Fitzharrys (gentleman), Maghmain, Wexford.

20th June, 1634.

Sir T. Smith, Knt., Ballynetra, John Hore (Fitzmatthew), Esq., Dungarvan.

February, 1639.

Richard Osborne, Esq., Bart., Ballyntaylor, John Hore (Fitzmatthew), Esquire, Dungarvan.

11th April, 1661.

John Fitzgerald, Esq., Dromana; Sir Allen Brodrick, Knt.

5th Oct., 1692.

Charles Bouchier, Esq., *vice* Fitzgerald, deceased; William Buckner, Esq.

5th August, 1695.

Charles Bouchier, Esq., William Buckner, Esq.

PARLIAMENTS OF IRELAND, 1695 to 1699.

Summoned 27th August, 1695; 7th William III.

Charles Bouchier, Esq.; William Bucknor, Esq.

1703 to 1713.

Summoned 27th Sept., 1703; 2nd Queen Anne.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH AND MANOR.

James Barry, of Rathcormick, Esq.; Roger Power, of Lismore, Esq. (deceased); Henry Pyne, Esq.

1713—1714.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH AND MANOR.

James Barry, Esq., Robert Carew, Esq.

1715—1727.

Summoned 12th Novr., 1715; 2nd of King George I.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

Col. J. Barry (after deceased), Robert Carew, Esq. (after deceased), Redmond Barry, Esq., James Barry, Esq.

1727—1760.

Summoned 14th November, 1727; 1st of George II.

Rt. Hon. Benjamin Parry, Thomas Carter, Esq., Robert Dillon, Esq., in place of Thomas Carter, who made his election for Hillsborough. Robert Roberts, Esq., in place of Benjamin Parry, deceased. John Ussher, Esq., in place of Robert Dillon; deceased. Richard Boyle, Esq., in place of John Ussher, deceased. Hon. Robert Boyle Walsingham, in place of Robert Roberts, deceased.

PARLIAMENTS OF IRELAND, 1761 to 1768.

Summoned 19th May, 1761; 1st of George III.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

Hon. Robert Boyle Walsingham; Thomas Carew, Esq.

1769 to 1776.

Summoned 1st August, 1768; 9th George III.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

Sir William Osborne, Bart.; Robert Carew, Esq.

1776—1783.

Summoned 11th June, 1776; 16th George III.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

Right Hon. Sir William Osborne, Bart.; John Bennett, Esq., not duly elected; Godfrey Greene, Esq., in place of John Bennett.

PARLIAMENTS OF IRELAND, 1783—1790.

Summoned 14th October, 1783; 23rd George III.

Marcus Beresford, Esq.; Godfrey Greene, Esq.

1790—1797.

Summoned 20th May, 1790; 30th George III.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

Marcus Beresford, Esq., Chambre B. Ponsonby, Esq.

1798—1800.

Assembled on 9th January, 1798; 38th George III.

DUNGARVAN BOROUGH.

Marcus Beresford, Esq., John Brabazon Ponsonby, Esq.;
Edward Lee, Esq., in place of Mr. Beresford, deceased.

This closed the representation for Dungarvan in the Irish Parliament, for now the Act of Union was carried, and at the next election, it was law, the member was returned for Dungarvan to serve in the English instead of the Irish Parliament. Waterford County had two members; Dungarvan, one; Waterford City, one. Lismore and Tallow had now no representative.

A Proclamation was issued on 5th November, 1800, declaring the then sitting Members of Parliament to be Members of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, and were to assemble on 31st August, 1802. The first member returned under the new order of things was Edward Lee, Esq., and Parliament was dissolved on 24th October, 1806. On 17th July, 1802, William Greene was elected.

Another Parliament was summoned for 15th December, 1806. The election was held in Dungarvan Borough on the 14th November preceding, and George Walpole, Esq., of the City of London, was returned. This Parliament was dissolved on the 29th April, 1807, and on the 22nd May, 1807, General George Walpole, of the City of London, was elected. On the 16th October, 1812, the same member was returned, and on the 25th June, 1818, another election took place, when the General was again returned. On the 13th March, 1820, Augustus William James Clifford, R.N., Captain, was elected. On the 18th February, 1822, there was another election, when George Lamb, of the City of Westminster, was elected in place of William James Clifford, Esq., who accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

Then came the famous election of '26, when the county was stirred to its depths over the question of Catholic Emancipation, and when Henry Villiers Stuart of Dromana was elected for the county. In that election George Lamb was elected for Dungarvan. Another election followed in 1830, and George Lamb was again returned. He was also elected on the 4th May, 1831. He continued member till 1834, when Ebenezer Jacob was elected, his former election on 26th December having been declared void.

On the 12th January, 1835, Michael O'Loghlin, Esq., was elected. He was appointed Attorney-General for Ireland and re-elected 4th May, 1835. On 5th August, 1837, Cornelius O'Callaghan was elected, and on the 5th July, 1841, that brilliant orator, Richard Lalor Shiel became the member for Dungarvan, his address being Long Orchard, Co. Tipperary. He was afterwards appointed Master of the Rolls, and on the 10th July, 1846, he was again elected.

There was a Parliament summoned for 21st September, 1847, and on the 5th August, in that year, he was again returned. In the election which followed there was a keen sense of national feeling. A deputation from the town waited on John Francis Maguire, who had established the *Cork Examiner* in Cork, and who was truly regarded as a pure-souled patriot. He consented to stand for election. He was ably supported by his party, and on the 15th July, 1852, he became the Member for Dungarvan. On the 26th August, 1853, there was another election, and he was again elected. He was re-elected on the 23rd April, 1857, and also on the 3rd May, 1859.

On the 15th July, 1865, Charles R. Barry became the member, and when the next election came on, which was on the 21st November, 1868, there was a contest of the most heated character. The opponent of Charles Barry was Mr. Henry Matthews, of London, who afterwards became Lord Llandaff. He was a Q.C. of the English Bar, and had been solicited to contest the borough against Mr. Barry, as the latter had been counsel against the Fenian prisoners who were tried after the '67 rising. The contest was a furious one. The people were almost evenly divided. Henry Matthews was supported by Sir Nugent Humble, who at the time had much influence with his tenantry. After an exciting contest, Henry Matthews was elected. This election became notorious, and there was much public writing about it and many hints that there was money going. Indeed the most fanciful stories were told of the expenses incurred on the side of Henry Matthews, and for many years afterwards the most astounding incidents were told of this election.

Very Rev. Father Anderson.

During this election the Very Rev. Father Anderson, O.S.A., was Prior of the Augustinian Community in Dungarvan. He entered heart and soul into the contest in

favour of Henry Matthews. The secular clergy were on the other side. Charles Barry was a Whig, and Father Anderson, who was a vigorous speaker and an ardent patriot, could not brook the epithets that were flung at the Fenian prisoners during the time of their trials and when he was prosecuting counsel. The most strenuous exertions were made on both sides. At first the issue of the election was thought to be a foregone conclusion, that Barry would have practically a walk-over. But from the efforts of the Matthewites feeling in this respect began to waver, and coming on to the day of polling it was thought it would be a very close thing. And so it was. On the declaration of the poll, showing that Barry had been defeated, there was joy amongst the most daring patriots in Ireland. It was like the uprising again of the old spirit of Nationalism, which had been never quenched during the long years of persecution, and though Matthews was an Englishman, the cause was not so much that of electing him as of defeating the man who had prosecuted the Fenian prisoners. The election was, perhaps, the most notable that had ever taken place in the "Old Borough." Subsequently Mr. Matthews presented to the British House of Commons a petition calling for the release of the political prisoners, a fact which he referred to afterwards when seeking election in a later contest. Father Anderson soon after left Dungarvan. He returned, however, on a visit some years later, and the Urban Council presented him with an address, to which he replied in graceful and vigorous terms. He was a most effective speaker, had the faculty of arousing enthusiasm, and always finished his arguments with a convincing climax.

Another Exciting Contest.

When Parliament was dissolved in 1874, Henry Matthews was opposed by Minor O'Keeffe, of Ballylemon Lodge. He was regarded as a local man, and the supporters of Charles Barry believed the local influence would be sufficient to beat Matthews. And in this view they were correct. For the result of the election showed that Mr. O'Keeffe had got a majority of votes and he was declared elected. This Parliament was dissolved on 24th March, 1880. But on account of the death of Mr. John O'Keeffe an election for Dungarvan took place. This was a memorable election. Mr. Matthews was invited by his supporters to come forward, and he was promised great support. The

date of election was 25th January, 1877. Mr. Matthews consented to contest the seat. It was not known at first who was to be his opponent, but the name of Frank Hugh O'Donnell was spoken of.

The Home Rule movement had been going on for some time, and the Party had been established in the House of Commons in England. It was thought by some that the Home Rule movement was falling away, and Mr. Matthews evidently was of that opinion. Both of those expectant candidates left London simultaneously, and intelligence reached Mr. Matthews' supporters that he would arrive on a certain day, about a fortnight before the election. A deputation went along the Waterford road to meet him, Mr. Matthews driving in a carriage from Waterford, having landed from the Milford boat. The parties met below Leamybrien and they consulted with Mr. Matthews. From the information given, the forthcoming candidate, Mr. Matthews, offered to return instantly to London and do no more about the election. But he was urged to come on. As the parties were conversing on the road a carriage came along. It passed. Inside there was a gentlemanly-looking man with fair hair. He wore an eye-glass. He looked at the party on the road, and they looked at him. "Who is that?" said one of the party. "Is that Frank Hugh O'Donnell?" "I don't know," replied Mr. Matthews, "but he travelled across in the boat from Milford." Mr. Matthews continued his journey into Dungarvan, and on arriving there he was informed that Frank Hugh O'Donnell had arrived before him, and that he was to be his opponent.

On arriving in Dungarvan Mr. Matthews was warmly received. A crowd with green bushes met him at the Bridge, and there was much enthusiasm. It was arranged that Mr. Matthews should address the electors on the evening following. He did so from the balcony of the Devonshire Arms Hotel. He was received with much cheering from an immense crowd. In his speech he made a fatal mistake, and one which in all probability cost him the election. He said, in regard to Home Rule, "there was no use in flogging a dead horse." The phrase was his undoing. His opponents took it up, and the "dead horse" was used as an election cry for the remainder of the contest.

Later in the evening Mr. Frank Hugh O'Donnell spoke from the same balcony. He was an avowed Home Ruler. He commented in terms of sarcasm on the sneer of Henry

Matthews on the agitation for Home Rule. He announced himself as being one of the Vice-Presidents of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain, and while he said this he, with a dramatic gesture, let fall a book among the crowd and told them to look in that book and they would find his name as one of the Vice-Presidents. He was a most impressive orator, a singularly cultured and able speaker, and gradually, by his persuasive eloquence, he won over his auditors, and they cheered him lustily in the end.

The Very Rev. Dr. Cleary, afterwards Archbishop of Kingston, Canada, was Parish Priest of Dungarvan at the time. He warmly espoused Mr. O'Donnell's candidature. He was supported by the clergy, who were good platform orators, and nightly speeches were made from the windows of Flynn's Hotel, the establishment where now Miss Meade carries on her restaurant. Great excitement prevailed during the election. Mr. Matthews was losing ground. His sneering reference to Home Rule did him a lot of harm, and when the votes were counted after the polling it was found that O'Donnell was returned by a majority of some thirty votes. Mr. Matthews left hurriedly for London. Frank Hugh O'Donnell became member, and when another election came on in April, 1880, he was returned easily, and remained Member for Dungarvan until the passing of the Redistribution of Seats Act, which merged the borough of Dungarvan into the constituency of West Waterford. The Old Borough ceased to return its member. In 1886 an election was held for West Waterford, and Jasper Douglas Pyne, of Lisfinny Castle, Tallow, was returned. He was a Protestant, but an ardent Land Leaguer. He was lost crossing from Holyhead, having fallen overboard from the steamer, and in his stead Mr. Alfred Webb was returned. After him, the constituency was represented by Mr. J. J. O'Shee, who continued member until the Sinn Fein movement came uppermost, and then he was opposed by Cathal Brugha, who defeated him by a big majority. Cathal Brugha was afterwards killed in Dublin, following the attack on the Four Courts. One of the members now for the County Waterford is his wife, Mrs. Caitlin Brugha. She is a pronounced Republican, and headed the poll by a big majority at the election of 1923. The other members for the county are Messrs. Sean Butler (Labour), Nicholas Wall, Kilmacthomas (Farmer), and Captain Redmond, son of the late Mr. John Redmond, who was leader of the Irish Party (Independent).

The Fenian Movement in 1867.—Landing at Helvick.

There was considerable excitement in Dungarvan when on the 1st June, 1867, the report spread quickly that a large body of Fenians had landed at Helvick Head. It so happened that the day was Saturday and a court of petty sessions was being held. In the midst of the hearing of a case a Coastguard from Helvick burst into court and exclaimed "The Fenians from America have landed at Helvick Head." The magistrates got into a state of terror. Some of them stooped under the bench, but they all cleared out very quickly and no more cases were heard that day.

The tidings of the startling affair gradually became verified. The Fenian movement was in full swing in the country at the time, and the question among the American supporters of the movement was the difficulty of landing arms in the country. The ordinary methods of the regular steamers was considered slow, and so a brigantine of 200 tons was chartered for the special purpose of delivering arms into the country. The vessel was called the *Jackmel*. J. F. Kavanagh was commander of the expedition. He had been a Brigadier-General in the American Army. The vessel sailed from New York without papers, and nine days after her departure she fired a salute of guns and the name of the vessel was changed to *Erin's Hope*.

They arrived off Sligo Bay on 20th May, and on the 1st June they reached outside Dungarvan Harbour. They saw a fishing boat and hailed her. They bargained with the skipper to take the men ashore. Twenty-eight of them stepped on board the fishing boat, and as there was a coast-guard station at Helvick they decided on landing about a mile away to the west. To get ashore the men had to wade through three feet of water. The coastguards got news, however, and a special messenger was despatched to Dungarvan for reinforcements. All was excitement. The police, coastguards and military went with haste to Helvick, and the result was the arrest of twenty-seven of the men. It appears there was one man amongst them, named Buckley, who turned out to be the Judas of the party. Amongst those arrested were Colonel J. Warren and Augustine E. Costelloe. All were brought to Dublin, and before a special commission Colonel Warren and Costelloe were tried and found guilty. Warren was sentenced to 15 years and Costelloe to 12 years. Their speeches, on being convicted, were noble outpourings of national feeling.



Helvick Cove, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

The Fisheries.

The Fisheries of Dungarvan were at one time famous, and of the utmost importance to the commercial and industrial interests of the town. Their success in the past century has been so well recognised as to credit the town with a name connected with a particular form of fish which for centuries afforded an abundant harvest for the fishermen. Up to the beginning of the present century it was easy enough to procure haak fresh from the sea. They could be bought for from fourpence to a shilling, and they often weighed up to twenty pounds. No more beautiful fish could be desired. One could see them lined along the quay. They would be taken by carriers into the country districts, where a profitable trade was carried on. The line fish were preferred to those caught in the trammel nets, and they were recognisable by having a slice taken off near the tail which would serve for bait. Thus they were catching haak with a piece of their own tail.

Now things are changed. For many years past it was a rarity to see a haak in Dungarvan. Whatever were caught in the fishing ground off the coast were taken away from Helvick or Ring for the English market. The hardy Dungarvan fishermen who used frequent the quay are all passed away. They sleep in the old churchyard in the rude mounds near to which they would assemble during leisure hours, under the shelter of the church, and hold their arguments, which oftentimes were of an animated nature and dealt with many of the popular questions of the day. Their boats, too, have gone with them. Some of their ribs are withering on the mud flats around the harbour, telling in their sad decay the life and buoyancy that once were theirs as they bore their venturesome owners on the waters that played around the coast. Of the large numbers that would lie at the quay not one now remains. And to what could the decay be ascribed? It might have been an alien and uncared-for government. At all events, there was no support given for these men who risked their lives to procure the treasures of the deep, and with the incursions made upon their fishing grounds by well-equipped fishing craft, which in the process of trawling disturbed the spawn as well as the feeding which grew on the Nymph Bank, the efforts of our local men were severely handicapped. And thus gradually fell away this valuable industry, which gave

profitable employment to hundreds of families and was a source of much wealth to the commerce and welfare of the inhabitants.

Smith, in his history, says in reference to the fisheries of Dungarvan, and this was in 1756:—"The Dungarvan fishery has of late much failed. About sixty or seventy years ago the place was much frequented by a considerable number of fishing vessels, not only from many parts of this kingdom but also from England. The fish now taken on this coast are haak, ling, cod, whiting, whiting-pollock, mackerel, red-gurnard, grey-gurnard, called by some knowds, bass, mullet, bream, sole, dab, plaice, fluke, turbot, and sometimes the hollybird, the skate, or ray dog fish, herrings, etc. The haddock some years ago frequented this coast and were taken in great plenty, but at present there are none to be seen, scarce one being taken in a year; nor can there be any tolerable reason assigned for the almost present extinction of this species of fish, which formerly swarmed on the coast."

And speaking of the haak fishery, the same writer says:—"Some years before this time six men with a hook and line could take 1,000 haak, with quantities of other fish, in one night," but that in his time only half that quantity could be taken. The 1,000 haak valued £6, and when saved were worth £18 in the year 1756. It would appear that the cod fishery had declined in the year 1756, for larger quantities were dried and shipped from Dungarvan before that time. The Dungarvan cod and ling were esteemed as well-fed fish, and considered better than the Newfoundland. Sole and plaice found here were also considered excellent for eating, and it was not uncommon to take 100 pair large soles, with a quantity of fluke, plaice, etc., at a single draught.

Smith condemned the system of beam trawling, as it disturbed and tore away the spawning ground, and he gives a table of exports before the introduction of trail nets, and after, from which it appeared that the export of haak before trail nets were used, for seven years, was 458,648, and after their introduction were 276,410. This shows a remarkable falling off in the takes, attributable to the use of trail nets.

Smith speaks very highly of the shell fish found on the coast, oysters, cockles, prawns, lobsters, crabs, razor fish, perriwinkles, etc. Towards the close of the last century some oyster beds were planted in Dungarvan, but they did

not prove as successful as anticipated, and now the oysters are entirely gone. In the time of Mr. Patrick McNamara, he made good profits by dredging for oysters in the ground between the "Look Out" and the Cunnigar.

A description is given of the Nymph Bank by a Mr. Doyle who in a fishing boat of twelve tons, in July, 1736, fished on this bank. He says:—"In six hours they filled their fish room with haak and cod and ling alone, and all parts of the boat with other fish. Such was the satisfaction of the first that he soon determined to make another voyage in order to make observations in different places, as well westward as southward of the first station. Volunteers offered themselves, the profits of the first venture being an encouragement for the second; in the execution of which between the high land of Dungarvan and the said bank they frequently sounded, and found the deepest water to be 43 fathoms, sandy ground, but no fish. At length, continuing the course S.S.W., they arrived at the bank and found 38 fathoms, small pebblestones, cockle and other shells. This was on the edge of the bank, which he conceives to be 10 or 11 leagues from the shore.

"In various places he made experiments, sometimes west, again south-east of the first station, till, by good observation of the sun, having a clear horizon, he found himself in latitude 51.20m, at least fifteen leagues from the land. In all places he had the same ground, and very good fishing; he thinks the sustenance must needs be very good and in great plenty, where such prodigious shoals abound; and from the premises it may be reasonably inferred that the fish continue on the bank all the year round. The dimensions of this bank are not yet known; some pretend it extends far westward of Ireland, and it is believed by others that it joins that of Newfoundland; but these things are merely conjectural."

It is known, at all events, that the Nymph Bank extends from opposite Dungarvan to Cape Clear, and all excellent ground. In 1743 a sun fish was taken which was 25 feet long. The tide rose to an enormous height in 1869, on the evening of the 7th January. The same tide flooded several places around the coast, and at Waterford quay it rose over the ground and filled all the low-lying cellars. The number of boats at Dungarvan engaged in the fishery in 1825 was 163, and 1,000 men were earning a living by the fishery. In 1830 the tonnage of the fishing boats of Dungarvan

reached 1,239 tons, of 69 decked vessels with crews of 320 men; 61 half-decked vessels of 900 tons and 320 men; 40 open boats with 200 men; and 270 row boats with 1,080 men. The exports amounted in 1843 to £69,486, the chief items being corn £25,000, copper ore £20,000, provisions £18,311, and swine £3,000. The only boats now engaged in the Dungarvan fishery are stationed at Ballinagoul and Helvick. They have much to contend against, for the English and Scotch boats come along and scour all the ground, leaving but poor provision for the local men. To-day the great fishery of Dungarvan lives but in name, still the recollection of the Nymph Bank survives, and under a native Government, with its Minister of Fisheries, a hope is entertained that this admirable fishing ground will be supported by our representatives, and with bounties for their encouragement they may yet regain some of the profitable industry and commerce of the past.

The Cunnigar Embankment.

For upwards of fifty years the Cunnigar Embankment is a project loudly spoken of. It was warmly advocated by the residents of the town, as it would afford an easy means of access to the beautiful strand lying before the people's eyes, but which cannot be reached except by boat. If the embankment were constructed, this lovely promenade and bathing-place could be reached in a few minutes either by bicycle or motor, the sea breeze there being so excellent, and the attractions so many, it is believed it would not take long before the town would become a famous bathing resort. Also just at present there is a Golf Club established, the links stretching along the Cunnigar, and this also would be an additional inducement for visitors and residents to avail of the local healthy atmosphere for bodily improvement and recreation purposes.

In the year 1880 considerable activity was shown by the residents in furtherance of this project. Mr. Villiers Stuart, of Dromana, the landlord of the district through which the extension of the road would run, warmly supported the efforts being made and promised to give a free grant of land in addition to a munificent subscription towards the project. It was anticipated that a roadway should run along the Cunnigar and join the main roads to Ballinagoul and Helvick. It was considered that the making of this roadway,

by shortening the distance to Dungarvan, would immensely improve the Ballinagoul and Helvick fisheries. The Dungarvan Board of Guardians passed a resolution in favour of the scheme. They were supported by the action of the Dungarvan Urban Council. A grant of money was asked for from the Government, and in response the Fisheries Department ordered an Inquiry to be held, to be presided over by Major Hayes, one of the Inspectors of Fisheries.

The Inquiry was held at the Dungarvan Court House on the 11th August, 1880. Major Hayes presided. Evidence was given by numbers of fishermen from Helvick and Ballinagoul in support of the project, and so universal was the demand it was thought the application would be successful. Major Hayes, the Inspector, seemed deeply impressed with the evidence. He submitted a report to his Board which went on to the House of Commons, and on the request of Mr. O'Donnell, M.P. for Dungarvan, the report was issued.

In the report it was stated:—"The Court was densely crowded, a very large proportion of those present being fishermen from Ballinagoul and Helvick Head, and great anxiety was manifested by all that the application would prove successful. The distance from Helvick to Dungarvan by the existing road is about 9 miles, by the same road to Dungarvan from Ballinagoul $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; from Helvick to Dungarvan by proposed new route would be $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and from Ballinagoul $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles. At Ballinagoul the fishing boats of this part of the coast are stationed, except three which are kept at Sea View, to the Westward of Helvick Head. The return shows 12 hookers and 36 yawls, and one hooker that is registered at Dungarvan.

"The evidence completely proves that the fishermen suffer much inconvenience and loss by reason of the difficulty of getting their fish speedily to Dungarvan. The fish is frequently sent up by boat, the bar in the channel is difficult to cross, and it frequently happens that from one cause or another they are detained on their passage by wind or tide and arrive at the bar too late to enable them to cross, and they are thus detained several hours, until the tide rises, causing them to miss the early trains and depreciating the value of the fish about one-third.

"At other times they are sent by road, and again occasionally across the Cunnigar. On these occasions they are taken by the wives or daughters of the fishermen, who

have, when the tide permits, to wade across from the Cunnigar to Dungarvan, often up to their waists in water, and, it was alleged, in consequence of the shifting of the channel, at considerable danger. The construction of the road as proposed would bring the fishing village of Ballinagoul at all times within $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Dungarvan, and frequently, at certain stages of the tide, the distance would be lessened to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

“The evidence of the Clerk of the Dungarvan Union shows that there were about three hundred tenement holdings at or near Ballinagoul held by fishermen, representing a population of 1,500 people connected with the fishing. Most of the fishermen hold small plots of land, varying from half an acre to an acre and a half. They were represented to be an industrious, hard-working, independent class of men, and, except in cases of sickness, never receive relief from the rates. I believe this to be quite true.

“The quantity of fish captured is very considerable, and it is important to the public that it should be got to market in the best possible condition, and also to the fishermen, as securing to them a better price for their fish. There cannot be a doubt but if the road and bridge be constructed it will prove most useful to the fishermen and beneficial to the public. At the same time I feel bound to state that outside the fisheries such a road would be most advantageous to the town of Dungarvan, and a considerable portion of the Barony of Decies Within Drum, by lessening the distance between them by about three miles.

“The cost of the proposed work has been variously estimated at from seven to ten thousand pounds. If a grant of public money can be obtained, it was stated by the legal gentleman, Mr. Slattery, who attended to support the application, that one-fourth the cost of the work would be locally provided.”

This report was immensely favourable, still the grant of money would not be given, on the grounds, it was said, that the benefit to be derived did not wholly apply to the fishermen.

Still another effort was made in 1898, when the question arose of the sale of the Waterford, Dungarvan and Lismore Railway. A deputation from the County Waterford waited on Mr. Hanbury, Secretary to the Treasury, in London, and at Whitehall laid their views before him. The members of the deputation were:—Messrs. Sir John Keane,

Bart.; Sir R. J. Musgrave, Bart.; J. Peddar Furlong, J.P.; R. J. Ussher, J.P.; J. V. O'Brien, Chairman, Board of Guardians, Dungarvan; C. J. Curran, J.P.; Edmond Keohan, T.C.; James Hayes, P.L.G.; E. S. O'Donnell, Lismore; Alexander Heskin, P.L.G.; J. R. Dower, Clerk, Dungarvan Union, and P. F. Walsh, of Tallow. There was also a deputation from Cork County and City, from Kerry County, and from Wexford County. The outcome of the proceedings was that the southern railways were amalgamated, and there was a sum of £90,000 in the hands of the Treasury which the Government agreed to hand over for the improvement of the South of Ireland, as this money was contributed by the ratepayers of the County Waterford. Later, this sum was ear-marked for the improvement of the river Bride, the river Suir, the river Blackwater, and the construction of the Cunnigar Bridge. Still the project did not mature.

Then again a deputation headed by Mr. O'Shee, M.P., waited on Mr. Birrell, who was then Chief Secretary for Ireland, with a view to soliciting his influence in the granting of the money for the embankment. The interview took place at Dublin Castle on November 8th, 1907. The amount of the unallocated railway balance at the time was £35,000, portions of the sum of the entire £90,000 having been devoted to other schemes, one of which was the free bridge of Waterford. Mr. P. J. Power, who was the senior member for the county, accompanied the deputation and introduced the members to Mr. Birrell. Messrs. Power and O'Shee spoke most praisingly of the project, and further addresses were delivered on the occasion by Mr. Thomas Power, Mr. Alexander Heskin, Mr. Jacob, Tallow, Mr. E. Keohan, Dungarvan, and others. In the course of his reply Mr. Birrell said "the amount was obviously ear-marked for public purposes in your neighbourhood. I fully appreciate what has been said as to the undoubted claims of your district, and the heavy claims for payments made by the ratepayers cannot be overlooked in the consideration of their claim. Subject to hearing anything which others might have to show, I certainly feel that you have made out, and can substantiate before any tribunal, first claim upon the balance, whatever it may be." He then quoted from Major Hayes's report on the fishery inquiry, and asked what would be the local ratepayers' guarantee.

Mr. O'Shee said £5,000 borrowed out of the local loans fund, and repaid in thirty years.

Mr. Birrell—I will do the best I can and have your claim pressed forward in the most vigorous way I can.

He then went on to refer to the navigation of the Blackwater, the Bride, and the Suir, and said:—“ I strongly recognise the very strong claims the County Waterford has for the balance of money that may be left, having regard to the heavy burthens that have been borne in the past. I will do my best.”

The deputation thanked Mr. Birrell and felt that they had made out such a case that the money would be granted for the bridge. But from that day to this the money has not been given. At one time Mr. O'Shee thought he had succeeded, but this money still lies in the British Treasury. The Dungarvan people—those who take an interest in the welfare of the “ Old Borough ”—should be up and doing and keep hammering away, pressing on their claim unceasingly until they have secured the money and see the hope of generations realised in the construction of the Cunnigar Bridge and Causeway.

Municipal Government.

On the passing of the Towns' Improvement Act, 1854, the inhabitants of the town decided on adopting it. A public meeting was called, in accordance with its provisions, and by a large majority it was decided to have the town under municipal government. The petition went on to the Local Government Board, and the sanction was given for the adoption of the Act.

The first election for Town Commissioners was held on the 29th January, 1855, and as a result of the polling the following were returned:—

DUNGARVAN WARD, which returned 12 members:—
Andrew Carbery, Chairman; Christopher O'Brien, Patrick Ronayne, John O'Sullivan, Michael Mahony, John Wall, John R. Dower, Patrick Cody, James Byrne, Edward Shaw, Richard G. Hudson, and John Hannigan.

For ABBEYSIDE WARD, which returned 3 members:—
Sir Nugent Humble, Beresford Boate, and Maurice Goff.

The receipts and expenditure of the Town Commissioners in 1890 were:—Borough Account, £275; Road Account, £250; Harbour Dues something like £200 to £300; Market Tolls, £200; making a total of £1,025 per annum.

In 1863 the Dungarvan Harbour and Markets Act was

passed. By this enactment Dungarvan got control of its markets, and the roads, which were under the care of the Grand Jury, were transferred to the Town Commissioners. They got the authority to appoint a Harbour Master, and exercised control of the harbour to the limits between Helvick and Ballinacourty. A code of bye-laws was drawn up by them which were adopted by the Chairman of Quarter Sessions in 1864. The signature of John Whelan, who was Harbour Master at the time, is appended. These bye-laws are still in force, but would seem to be "more honoured in the breach than the observance." The mover of the resolution for the adoption of these harbour bye-laws was Michael A. Anthony, and seconded by Bartholomew Kiely, and passed. John R. Dower was Chairman of the Board at the time.

In 1885 the following were the members of the Town Commissioners' Board:—Messrs. R. Edward Brennan, John Curran, Richard Curran, William Dunlea, Maurice Flynn, William Gibbons, Edmond Keohan, Thomas Kirby, John E. Mahony, Thomas McCarthy, Robert E. Merry, Thomas O'Connor, Thomas O'Neill, and Richard Phelan, the Chairman being Thomas O'B. Williams. Some years ago the Town Board had a reputation for the heated character of their debates. Still, under these old Boards much good work was carried out and the town improved in its flagging and general appearance.

Transfer of Roads to Grand Jury.

When the Commissioners took over the control of the town and suburban roads they levied an equal rate on houses and lands, and this rate was paid for a few years, when, upon an appeal by Captain Richard Curran, the Chairman at Quarter Sessions ruled that only one-fourth the rate could be recoverable from lands. The usual rate levied for road purposes was 1/-, and on this ruling the rate on lands would then be only 3d. in the £. The Town Commissioners found that this sum was totally inadequate for the maintenance of the suburban roads, so the Grand Jury were applied to to take over these suburban portions of the roads within the township. A deputation waited on the Grand Jury on the subject, and ultimately the roads were transferred to that body. They continued to maintain them until the passing of the Local Government Act

of 1898. The suburban roads were thus maintained by the Grand Jury from 1884 to 1898. The passing of this Act placed the suburban roads under the control of the Urban Board again, and on a petition a Local Government Inquiry was held with respect to the cost of maintenance and as to contribution for the expenses, when a ruling was made that stands at the present time. By the passing of the Act the powers which the Grand Jury had of levying rates within the suburban area were not possessed by the County Council. The present road rate is 2/6 in the £, and the complaints about the bad condition of the roads are very general.

Dungarvan Water Supply.

The water supply of Dungarvan was very defective and limited in its character. It was conveyed from the Spring around the town in barrels, and retailed to the householders. The Spring was close on a mile away. There is a stream constantly flowing there of very pure water, but for domestic purposes it was rather hard. It is recorded that in the year 1750 a grant of £800 was made by the Irish Parliament for the purpose of getting in a supply of water from the river Finisk. An aqueduct was constructed all the way, the traces of which can still be seen, and water was conveyed to the town. A dispute, however, arose as to vested interests, and the water supply was stopped. And again, in the middle of the 16th century, the Governor of the town and castle engaged a Scotch engineer to sink a well in the castle yard, but the work was a failure. The sea percolates underground for a considerable distance and renders all water of wells in the town brackish. The Finisk aqueduct cost £1,300. The wages of the men engaged in the work were 6½d. a day, and for tradesmen 1/6 a day. There were 488 men employed. The work was begun on 7th August, 1756, and completed on 1st January, 1758.

Since the establishment of the Town Commissioners there was considerable agitation for a water supply for the town. In the year 1877 a Provisional Order was obtained, and a loan for the amount of the estimate, £10,000. The supply was to come from Glendine, about four miles distant, the engineer being Mr. Frazer, a gentleman of much eminence. Looking back on the matter now, and consider-



Photo by Keohan.

The Old System of Water Supply.

Picture taken in front of Dungarvan Barracks. The late Mr. Beary, Borough Surveyor, is seen making a sketch in front of the barrack gate.

ing everything—our present two supplies and their frequent inadequacy to send water to the higher levels of the town, as have drawn forth many complaints—it is to be regretted that this scheme was not carried out, for it undoubtedly would have been most satisfactory. However, an election for Commissioners came on and a majority opposed to the scheme was returned, and on a vote the scheme was

quashed. The Local Government Board was appealed to to issue a mandamus, but they held their hand and did not do so.

Then Mr. Michael Beary, who was Borough Engineer at the time, brought forward a water scheme, the source being at Kildangan. His estimate for the work was £4,500. The inquiry was held, the scheme passed, Mr. Finn of Charleville, got the contract, and the work was started in October, 1890. The reservoir was to contain 2,000,000 gallons of water. The scheme was completed in due course, but when some extensions were made the pressure seemed to be sadly deficient and a new scheme was advocated. This was started in 1909, the contract price to be £4,500. Mr. Blake was the contractor. He did good work. The scheme was completed expeditiously, and the connection made with the town main on the 4th December, 1909.

Artizan Dwellings.

We have four scheme of artizan dwellings completed. The first one comprised ten houses on the BATTERY, the second an additional ten houses, ten houses for the third scheme, and eight houses for the fourth scheme. The last one was the most expensive, cost of buildings and materials having risen considerably.

The Poor Law.

The Poor Law system was introduced in the year 1839, when the workhouse was built. The guardians consisted of about equal numbers of elected and ex-officio guardians. The Union took in all the country to the east down to the Mahon river, and to the west it extended to the Blackwater and to Youghal Bridge. There were only two workhouses in the county, those of Waterford and Dungarvan. The passing of the Local Government Act made a change in the representation, and the Board then consisted of forty-six members, there being elected guardians as well as the Rural District Council members, who were also guardians, but the ex-officio representation was abolished. Home help now takes the place of outdoor relief, and Dungarvan has a Cottage Hospital. Mr. John F. Boyle was Clerk of the Union for a considerable number of years. He afterwards filled the position of accountant on the County Council. Mr. John R. Dower is the present Clerk of the Rural District Council. He was appointed in 1887, and is there-

fore 36 years in office. The present Secretary of the County Board of Health is Mr. Michael Flynn. He entered the service of the guardians on 28th January, 1894, and is now doing duty for 29 years. The change in the Poor Law system was made on the grounds of economy, but there are many who doubt that it has effected this object.



McGrath's Castle, Abbesside. *Photo by Keohan.*



The Abbey, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

Abbeyside Castle.

In Abbeyside there is an ancient castle, now almost entirely fallen away, only the west wall of the square building being standing. It was built in the twelfth century by Donald McGrath and the O'Briens of Comeragh. Donald McGrath's tomb can be seen under the north window, with his name inscribed.

The Abbey.

Close by is the Abbey, now also in ruins, the square tower only of the original building being intact, and is used as a belfry for the Parish Church attached to the old ruins. It was founded in the twelfth century by the Eremites of Saint Augustine, or Austin Friars, who subsequently removed to their present home in the town. The old Abbeyside ruin has recently been repaired. An energetic committee took the matter in hands, and now the fine old church is well preserved and shows all the traces of its ancient beautiful architecture. The church is romantically situated, overlooking the sea, and the cemetery surrounds it on all sides. Its old headstones, in many stages of decay, reveal the length of time that has passed over it since it was first used as a burial place for the forefathers of Abbeyside. The present Parish Church is a modern building, with little traces of architecture, but very well suited for its sacred purposes. It has a gallery and organ loft. It is a square building, the designers availing of the already erected tower to serve as a portion of the new edifice. Recently, under the pastorship of the Rev. Father Byrne, P.P., the church has been beautifully decorated. The canopy of the church is the gift of the Moloney family. The aspect of the church is attractive when viewed from any direction. The tower is sixty feet high. Since its repair it does not look so ancient as when it was covered with ivy. The new church was built in 1820.

The Wreck of the "Moresby."

In the year 1895 the wreck of the *Moresby* took place. She was an iron-built vessel of 1,750 tons, and sailed from Cardiff for South America, laden with coal. The day before Christmas Eve she appeared off Ballinacourty Head, her sails all tattered. She was evidently in distress. A four-

oared boat set out from the "Look Out" to render assistance. It was blowing a pretty stiff breeze S.E. at the time. The lifeboat from Ballinacourty had gone to her assistance before that, but, owing to the haze, could not be seen from the "Look Out." When the lifeboat approached the vessel the captain refused to abandon the ship. The lifeboat came back to land. So also did the four-oared boat that went from Dungarvan. The ship was at anchor half a mile to the west of Ballinacourty. The gale increased during the

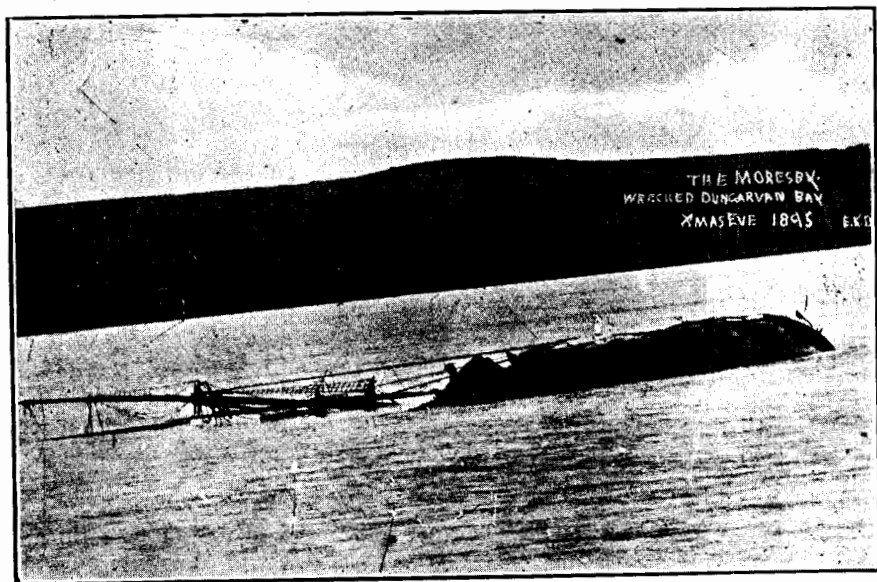


Photo by Keohan.

The "Moresby" as she lay after being wrecked in the Harbour on Christmas Eve, 1895.

evening, until towards midnight it blew a hurricane. The *Moresby* lighted a flare-up on deck—a signal for assistance. She was drawing her anchors. The cable was left out, and unfortunately the port cable ran out of the hawse hole. When the captain saw she had but one anchor to hold her he knew the ship was lost. All night the crew remained on the vessel, and at daybreak the sight from the shore was a pitiful one. It was only then that word came to Dungarvan of the serious state of things, and a volunteer crew made

with all haste to Ballinacourty. They took possession of the lifeboat despite the protests of the coxswain, Cummins, and with Captain Veale at their head they made for the ship. By this time many of the crew had jumped off the ship in hopes of being able to swim to land. But not one of them succeeded. The lifeboat saved seven men out of the twenty-five on board. Two of these succumbed after being brought ashore. The captain jumped off with his child of four years, whom he had on board, and both were lost. The mate, a fine strong swimmer, jumped off, holding on to the captain's wife, but they, too, were lost. All their bodies were picked up soon after. One of the crew a black-man, was lost, and his body was found near Ardmore. The funerals were sad to behold. All were buried in the churchyard and a monument placed over them. An inquiry was afterwards held, and the coxswain of the lifeboat was censured for his want of bravery on the occasion. Medals for valour were afterwards issued to the members of the lifeboat crew, and special honour was done to Captain Veale who coxed the rescue boat on the occasion. The bodies of the lost seamen which had been recovered were kept in the Courthouse till they were taken to the burial place in the Protestant churchyard. The wrecked ship lay in the harbour on the Whitehouse bank, her broadside faced to the current of the tides, and in this position she was a great menace to shipping. To relieve the danger, the Wigham buoy was purchased at a cost of £200. This was moored close to the wreck. It was lighting all through the night, and helped mariners considerably until the wreck was totally removed. The Urban Council entered into a contract with a firm from Cork to clear away the obstruction. They blew the vessel up with dynamite, cleared away all the iron and had it landed at the quay, from which it was taken and sold as scrap. A gloom hung over the town for a long time after owing to the sad occurrence. Suitable memorial tablets were placed in the graveyard over their graves, and a kind-hearted gentleman of the town, Mr. Ruddell, attended to the painting of the inscriptions while he lived, but after his death this was neglected, and now no trace remains of the large graves where the seamen were buried. Near relatives of the lost ones came across from England to visit the graves, and thanks were tendered to the Dungan people for the assistance rendered and the sympathy shown on the sorrowful occasion.

The Churches.

There is every convenience in the town for the exercise of one's religious inclinations. It contains two Catholic churches, a Protestant church, and a Methodist church, and in addition, across the river there is a Catholic church at Abbeyside. The Catholic Parish Church of Dungarvan is a beautiful, spacious edifice, and its interior was many years ago described in an interesting story, "The Cruise of the Daring," which dealt largely with Dungarvan, and opened with references to the impressive beauties of the Parish Church. This church was founded by the Very Rev. Dr. Connolly, P.P., in the year 1826, and is built on an eminence overlooking the town. Its outward appearance presents no elaborate architectural features. It is quadrilateral and supported by cut stone buttresses, the original intention being to have a steeple erected at the east end. This idea is not lost sight of, and, when completed, this fine building will be an object of much interest from many miles of country around. The interior shows very beautiful and exquisite modelling. Its roof is supported by fluted columns from which spring graceful arches in various directions, all being coloured in subdued tints of harmonious blending, quite in keeping with the object for which the church was constructed. Of late years the edifice has been immensely improved. Formerly it possessed galleries, but these were taken away. Over the high altar was placed an oil painting of the Crucifixion, with the "All-Seeing Eye" over all. These paintings have now been replaced with stained-glass windows, three in number, and were the gift of a very popular townsman, Captain William Gibbons. The side entrances have been taken away, and around the main doorway a porch has been constructed of solid masonry, and at a cost of £800. The seating accommodation is all that could be desired, and every care seems to be exercised for the convenience of the parishioners. All the windows of the church are now of stained glass. There are seven at each side, all of which have been gifts of people of the parish, the donors' names being inscribed at the foot of each, with the object specified for which the gift was made.

Below the marble altar, encased with a frontage of plate-glass, is a beautiful piece of statuary of white marble, which is much admired. Its title is "Pieta," and was executed by the well-known firm of sculptors, Messrs.

Scannell and Co., of Cork. This excellent work has an interesting history. The order for the statuary was given by the late Very Rev. Dr. Halley, P.P., who, while it was being executed, paid frequent visits to the sculptors at Cork to see how the work was getting on. It was completed satisfactorily, and the marble group was taken on a drag by road from Cork to Youghal. At that time the old wooden bridge spanned the Blackwater at Youghal. This now has been replaced by the very excellent iron bridge over that river. But while the drag was being got across the wooden bridge its wheels fell through the timbers, and it was only after considerable difficulty and caution that the vehicle was extricated and got to the Waterford side of the river. The rest of its journey to Dungarvan was easy, and when it reached its destination it was placed in position. The sculptured group consists of a single block of purest Carrara marble, the figures being life-size, and the expressions on the faces being very fine and realistic. It rests beneath the Altar Table, which is also one block of veined marble and is said to be the largest one-piece of marble altar table in Great Britain or Ireland. Some few years ago a parish priest from America was so struck with the beauty of this sculpture and the altar that he gave an order for a replica for the church which he was then building in the States.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

The Stations of the Cross are the gifts of donors, and are massive and of a beautiful description. They consist of very finely executed oil paintings, with the names of the donors underneath and the object for which the Station was presented. The names of the donors are as follows:—No. 1, Mrs. Mary Flynn; 2, Patrick Flood; 3, Very Rev. Dr. Cleary; 4, Mrs. Captain Edward Whelan; 5, Members of the Living Rosary Sodality; 6, Captain Thomas Kirby; 7, John Slattery; 8, Very Rev. P. Delaney, P.P.; 9, Michael Whelan; 10, Miss Mary Sheridan; 11, Mrs. Mary Kiely; 12, Richard Phelan; 13, Miss Mary Gibbons; 14, William Gibbons.

The donors of the stained glass windows are:—No. 1, Right Rev. Dr. Vincent Cleary, Archbishop of Kingston; 2, Henry Anthony; 3, Catherine Hackett; 4, Patrick Power; 5, Edward Kennefick; 6, Captain John Carberry; 7, Maurice Hayes; 8, Farmers of the Parish; 9, Mrs. Maria O'Brien;

10, Catherine Sheehan; 11, Richard Kiely; 12, Mary Cleary; 13, William Ryan; and 14, Patrick McCarthy, Ballinamuck.

The following were the pastors of the parish during the last century:—Dr. Phelan, 1828; Dr. Halley, 1834; he controlled the parish as Parish Priest for 39 years; he was succeeded by the Very Rev. Dr. Cleary in 1876. Dr. Cleary was appointed Archbishop of Kingston, and he was succeeded by Dr. Delaney in 1881. He remained Parish Priest only some months, when Dr. Pierce Power was appointed, also in 1881. Dr. Pierce Power, while pastor of Dungarvan, was appointed Bishop of Waterford. His consecration took place in Dungarvan Parish Church, and for many months afterwards he lived in Dungarvan. He was succeeded by Very Rev. Pierce Casey in 1888, when the Bishop left here to reside in Waterford.

Appointment of Very Rev. Dr. Cleary.

On the appointment of Very Rev. Dr. Cleary, who was a native of Dungarvan, there was great jubilation among the parishioners. He had been for some years President of St. John's College, Waterford, and had gained much distinction as an eminent divine. On his coming to Dungarvan a glorious reception was prepared for him. On the day of his induction into the parish arches of evergreens and banners spanned the gateway leading into the church, and banners floated over the principal streets of the town. On the arrival of the Very Rev. Doctor at the precincts of the church he was welcomed by a tremendous crowd, and a beautiful address was presented to him, which was read by Mr. John F. Boyle. Dr. Cleary replied from the pulpit of the church to a congregation that filled the edifice in every part. In a speech of fervid and thrilling eloquence, he referred to his early associations with the town and its people, how he played as a boy with his parishioners in the streets, and how now they should all be dearer to him than ever. During the years of his pastorate he was held in the highest esteem, and he helped in many ways towards the temporal as well as the spiritual comforts of the people. On his appointment as Bishop of Kingston the news was heard with both joy and sorrow—joy at the dignity conferred upon their fellow-townsmen, and sorrow that he should be leaving them, perhaps for ever. On his return from Rome as Bishop he delivered his farewell address in

the Parish Church, and many there were in the crowded assembly that were moved to tears, and the beloved Bishop carried with him to his new home across the Atlantic the fervent prayers and best wishes of his devoted people.

In front of the Altar of St. Joseph in the Parish Church there is a slab laid into the floor commemorating the memory of the Very Rev. Peter Casey, P.P., who died in 1894, aged 66 years. A brass tablet on the south wall was erected to the memory of the Very Rev. Canon O'Neill, D.D., born on 22nd July, 1829, died 15th October, 1895. The tablet was erected by his parishioners of Rochdale, Lancashire, where he laboured as Parish Priest for 24 years.

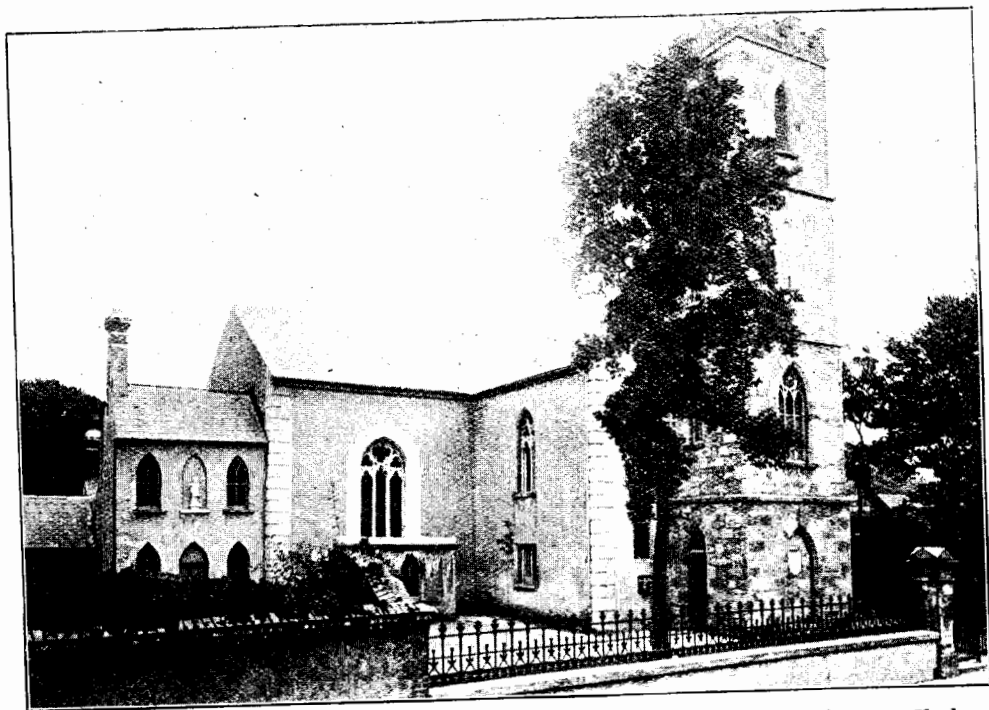
The church was consecrated by Bishop Hackett in 1921. The present Parish Priest is the Very Rev. Archdeacon John Power, P.P. He had been curate here in the stormy days of the Land League, and did heroic work for the success of the farming population in their stubborn fight for justice.

The new cemetery attached to the old burial ground was consecrated by the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, then Bishop of the Diocese. It now contains some very handsome monuments, is well laid out, and in the course of some twenty years it has got pretty well filled up.

A slab in commemoration of the Very Rev. Dr. Halley is laid in the centre of the church, and speaks eloquently of his great labours amongst his people. In front of the church there is erected a large mission cross in memory of the mission of the Fathers of the Oblate Order in 1879.

The Augustinian Church.

The Augustinian Church is situated in a street in the centre of the town to which it has given its name. Some thirty years ago this edifice was considerably enlarged by an addition being built at the altar end. The decorations around the High Altar are very fine, and the flooring inside the altar rails is laid with tessellated pavement in a very artistic manner. The altar of Our Lady of Good Counsel, at the south side, is the gift of Dr. Coman, made in 1873, whose remains rest in front. The church has a massive square tower at the entrance, which serves for a belfry, and its bell can be heard for a considerable distance. On the east wall, close to the High Altar, a tablet is erected to the memory of the V. Rev. Jeremiah O'Brien, O.S.A., Prior, who died in 1896, aged 66 years. The marble altar rails were the gifts of donors, one section of which bears the inscrip-



Augustinian Church, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

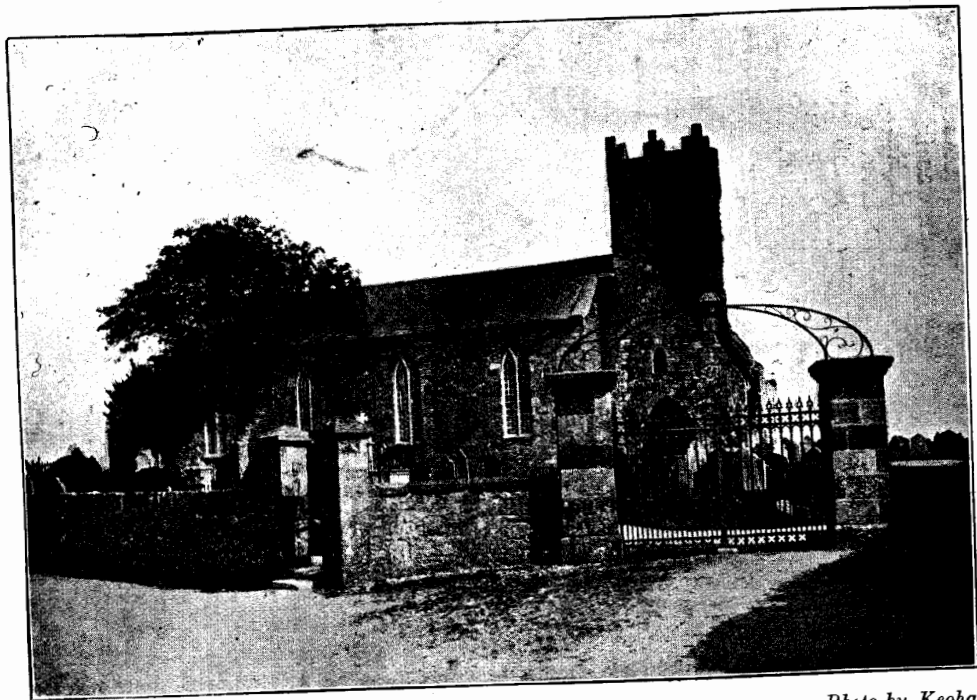
tion, "Nicholas and Ellen Tobin, Cahir." The church was built in 1824, Very Rev. P. J. Wall being then Prior.

A very beautiful marble pulpit stands just inside the altar rails. This is the gift of Mrs. E. Cashels, Cahir, in 1916. The High Altar was consecrated on the 11th January, 1881, by the Most Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Kingston, and the bell of the church was baptised on the 18th August, 1889, by the Right Rev. S. Reville, O.S.A., of Sandhurst. In the ground space in front of the church there are a few monuments.—one to the Rev. Vincent Landy, O.S.A., who died 1902, aged 39 years; another to Rev. Nicholas Landy, died 20th November, 1907, aged 53 years; and another to the Very Rev. Patrick Raleigh, Prior, O.S.A., who died 25th March, 1917, in the 26th year of his priesthood. He was aged 50 years. There is also a monument at the south side of the ground to the late Michael Power, who was a donor to the church. A tablet of marble on the outer wall of the church is erected to the memory of Father P. Twoomey, 1863. It was he that succeeded in having the well known as "Father Twoomey's Well" established at the rere of the workhouse. This well is held in great veneration, and many people visit it for devotion and in the hope of getting relief from many infirmities.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Some few years ago, in 1919, a beautiful set of Stations were erected in the church. They are, as in the parish church, the gifts of donors. The paintings are very fine, the colouring of much beauty, and the expressions and general characteristics of the paintings display a high degree of art. The following are the donors, whose names are inscribed at the foot of each:—No. 1, Miss Mary Christopher; 2, Bridget and William Foley; 3, John and Ellen Murphy; 4, Mrs. N. A. Ryan; 5, Martin Morrissey; 6, George Stokes; 7, Thomas Curran; 8, Johanna and Margaret Foley; 9, Michael and Johanna Healy; 10, William Dee; 11, Gertrude Moloney; 12, Thomas Clancy; 13, Thomas and Martin Draper; 14, Patrick and Mary Egan.

At the left entrance to the porch, close to the Holy Water font, there is a cut freestone slab bearing the inscription "B. J. Wall, 1820." He was prior. The church was newly floored in 1906. The organ has also been newly repaired, and is in good condition. The church is conveniently situated in a quiet part of the town, and is almost filled to its utmost at the devotions.



Abbesside Catholic Church, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

The Augustinians.

In the twelfth century the Eremites of Saint Augustine came to Abbeyside, when the old ruined church was built for them by the McGraths, of Sleady, and the O'Briens, of Comeragh. Simultaneously the old castle was erected, presumably for the protection of the church. This ancient church, which was built in a romantic situation on a headland jutting into the sea, shows to-day traces of its beauty of architecture, its east window, which has been preserved, being very graceful. The square tower, now used as a belfry to the modern church, is massive, supported on groined arches, displaying excellent tracery and fine workmanship.

On the coming into being of the Penal Laws, the Friars were obliged to abandon their church and seek the shelter of the hills. In the adjoining Comeraghs they were afforded security, the people sheltering them with love and veneration, and all the while the hunted priests ministered to the spiritual wants of the people. Often they would seek the loneliness of Carrignaffrin and celebrate Mass to the assembled people, while watch was kept to give warning of the approach of the red-coated soldiers. There was no bridge erected there at that time, and the choir of the Mass was the singing of the river Tay as it rushed by the side of the priest and the congregation.

How expressive are these Irish names of places: Carrignaffrin, "The Rock of the Mass." Old people used point out holes in the rock where the candles were lighted during the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice. In more peaceful times the Augustinians came to Dungarvan, resided for a time near the Spring, and then settled in the place where the church is built to-day. No wonder the people flocked around them on the occasion of the centenary of the building of their church, which event was celebrated on the 12th June, 1924.

Saint Augustine is the patron saint of Abbeyside, and there the day of his feast is kept as a special holiday, and generally a regatta is held or some other commemorative events on the occasion.

The centenary of the erection of the Friary Church was celebrated on the 12th June, 1924, the Prior at the time being Very Rev. T. Conlan, O.S.A. There was much jubilation on the occasion. Flags were suspended from the

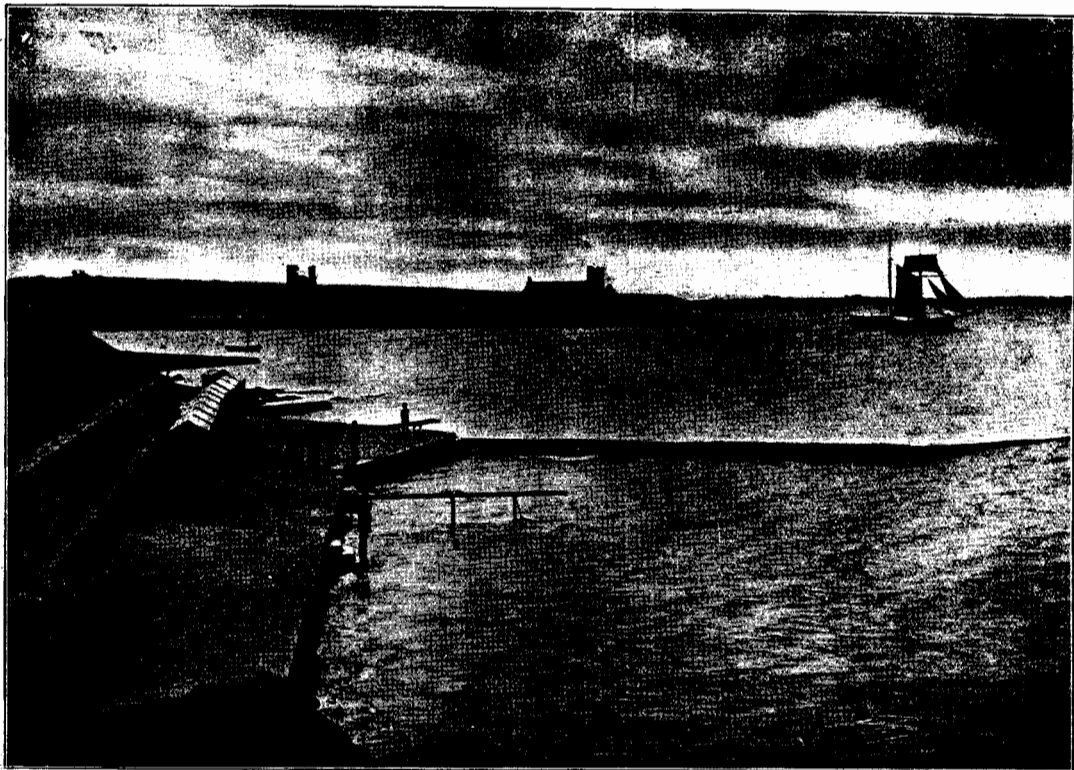
church tower, surmounted with the Papal banner. His Lordship, Most Revd. Dr. Hackett, Bishop of the Diocese, presided at the Solemn High Mass and delivered an address, in which he thanked the Good Fathers of the Augustinian Order for the success which had attended their efforts in the cause of religion for the past one hundred years, and he prayed they would be enabled to continue to carry on their good work. An address from the people of the town was presented to the Reverend Fathers on the occasion, the illuminated copy to be presented subsequently, when ready, together with a suitable testimonial. The Very Revd. Prior thanked the committee for their efforts, and thanked also the people of the town.

The celebration of Corpus Christi in this year was remarkable for the beautiful and imposing processions both in Abbeyside and in the two churches in Dungarvan. The windows of the town were decorated and Friary Street was literally a forest of trees, all the windows also being decorated with lighted candles and showing religious pictures and many statues.

Kilrush.

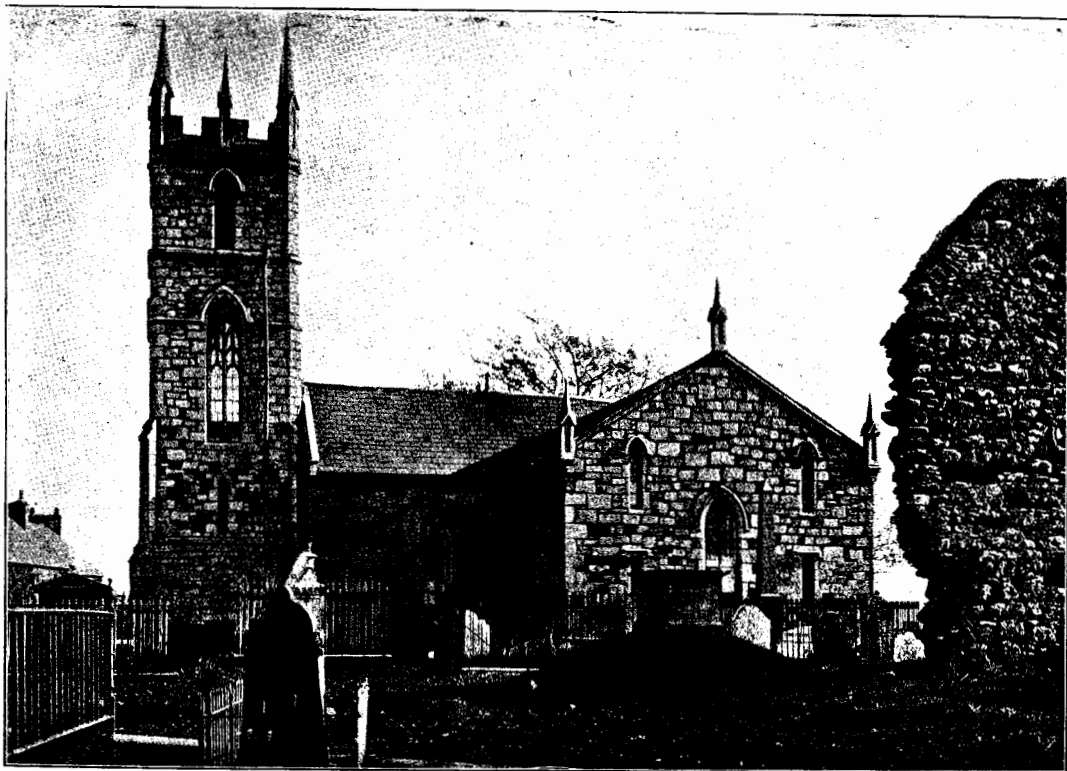
Kilrush, a townland lying less than a mile from the town, was at one time a separate parish. It is now in the parish of Dungarvan. There is an interesting old church there, lying on the lands of Mr. Daniel. Set into the wall of the old building is a stone which excited some curiosity among archæologists, but on examination they came to the conclusion that it was a stone marked with ice scorings from the ice age. Another stone, scooped out and shaped like a coffin, was unearthed by Mr. Daniel some years ago close to the old church, and this, too, aroused some curiosity. Some experts designated it a baptismal font, others a stone coffin, but no reliable explanation is forthcoming as to what it was originally intended for. This curious stone is lying near to the old church and is guarded zealously by the proprietor, Mr. Daniel.

Very interesting old churches exist also at Colligan and at Kilgobinet. At Kilgobinet a religious procession used to be held on the feast of Saint Gobnata, the patroness of the parish. Tradition has it that the Colligan church was rifled one night and the sacred vessels thrown into the river at a place called the Dark Hole.



Bathing Place, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.



Protestant Church, Dungarvan, showing Portion of Old Wall.

Photo by Keohan.

The Protestant Church.

The Protestant Church is very soundly built, with square tower and pinnacles, and is situated in a very beautiful part of the town. It overlooks the harbour, and is close to the ancient wall in the graveyard. It is thought the ancient wall once belonged to the church, but it is unlikely this question will be ever satisfactorily cleared up. Before the cementing of the church wall at the south side the masonry appeared to be identical with that of the ancient gable, and running the eye along its line it would seem to meet the outer part of the gable, as if it once formed a part of the same building. Now, however, that the wall is covered this connection cannot be traced, and a good deal must be left to conjecture. The walk in the churchyard is interesting, the fine view of the harbour being attractive, especially when the tide is full; then the long sheet of water in the western bay adds to the beauty of the scene. Many of the trees in the churchyard have rotted and fallen away. It will be a pity when the remainder die, as their large trunks and extended branches add immensely to the aspect of the surroundings. In about the year 1900 an addition was built to the east end of the church, the contractor being Mr. Hayes, of Fermoy. There is an inscribed slab inside the church commemorative of the loss of the ship *Serpent*, in which a respected townsman, Masters Rae, was drowned. There are some very interesting monuments in the burial ground, some of them dating back for long periods, and there is one also erected to the family of the Rev. Mr. Ryland, the painstaking and learned historian of the County Waterford.

The Park adjoins the grounds of the church. This little plot, so prettily situated, was acquired in 1895. It is held under lease. It has been planted with ornamental trees, but it is feared they have been severely injured by goats being allowed to eat away the barks.

The bathing place is immediately under the park. This resort was improved with a bequest made by the late Captain Gibbons, and in summer time is much patronised for its facility of enjoyment in the excellent sea water that flows in from the open sea. The Esplanade, or, as it is sometimes called, "The Look Out," because it is from there people look out over the harbour, has been also improved

with the same money, and a tablet there gives particulars of the generosity of the regretted and respected popular townsman.

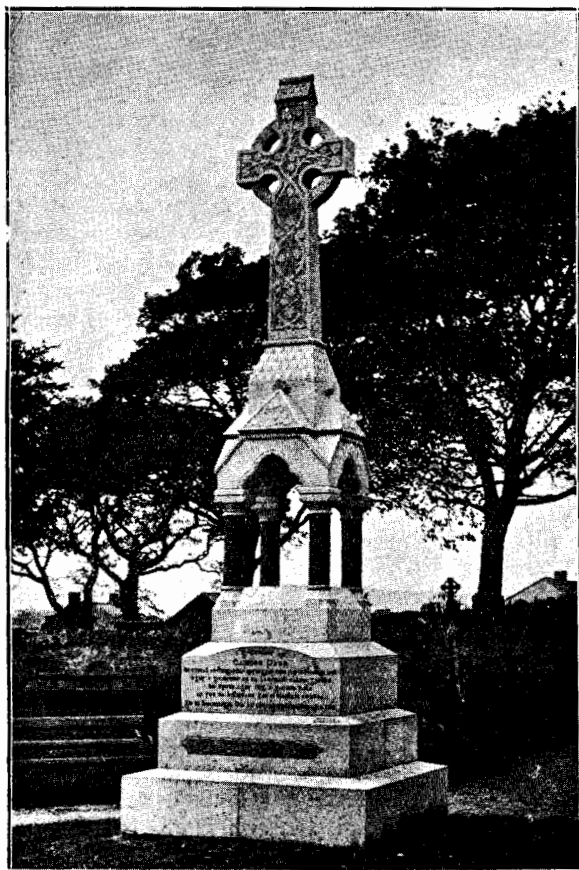


Photo by Keohan.

Memorial to Edmond Power in Dungarvan Park.

Unveiled by Dr. Henebry.

In the Park is a monument to Edmond Power, who in the memorable year 1798 was hanged for his adhesion to the principles of the United Irishmen.



Catholic Parish Church, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

The Industries of the Town.

Dungarvan in the past had its own industries peculiar to the locality. Its environment originated the supplying of many of the wants of the people, and the attributes of its topography gave rise to many local technical works which helped to support many families and promoted local handicraft in its own small way.

The Dungarvan Brewery was a very fine concern. It belonged to the late John R. Dower, who was a magistrate and took a foremost part in all things that would be of benefit to the people. The establishment was built on a commodious scale, and possessed its vats, its machinery, its lofty and spacious corn stores, and carried on, when in its prime, an extensive trade. It kept many horses on the road, and with its clerical hands and its workmen there was constant and beneficial employment given in this concern. It employed many coopers, a trade which has now left the locality almost altogether. However, it was after the death of Mr. John R. Dower trade began to decline. The railway offered means of much competition. Mr. Dunphy carried on the business for a time. He sold his interest to Mr. Haines, and a limited company was formed. Mr. Haines gave up, sold out his interest, and the business was conducted by the Marquis of Waterford, who was the owner in fee of the establishment. A good trade was done for a time. The expenses were heavy, and after a few years the premises were closed and all the busy hands thrown out of employment. In or about 1919 the Marquis sold his interest, and this was purchased by our enterprising townsman, Mr. Thomas Power, who had the honour of being the first Chairman of the Waterford County Council. Mr. Power effected considerable improvements, made extensive additions, and fitted the concern up generally in the most elaborate style, no expense being spared in having the accommodation suitable to his requirements. He is a man of considerable industry and enterprise. The firm, trading under the name of Thomas Power and Co., started the industry of bottling, mineral water and cider manufactory, in buildings they erected in a large field adjoining the town. Here he established machinery of various kinds and gave employment to a number of hands. His mineral waters had a wide and extensive sale, his cider became famous, but now all his machinery, with valuable additions, have been trans-

ferred to his new premises in the old Dungarvan Brewery. He imports apples in hundreds of tons, and besides he has planted up to fifty acres in the district with apple trees suitable for the cider trade. His cider finds its way all through the country and across the Channel. His bottling trade is very large. His motor lorries go many miles into the adjoining counties, while his despatches by rail are also considerable. The elaborate works of the firm are very interesting. The premises are a veritable hive of industry, and much credit is due to him for the untiring energy and business capacity he has displayed in the development and promotion of this large concern.

The trade has been severely hit in recent years. First by the general upset of the country, the blowing up of bridges and railways, the trenching of roadways, all of which prevented his delivery of material. No sooner were these obstacles removed when there came the disastrous strike of 1923, and all the Transport members went out, and trade had to be carried on under the most trying circumstances. However, things are righting themselves again, and the output of his factory is increasing day by day. The number of his hands are being weekly added to, and, this being so, the concern is of much advantage to the town on account of the weekly circulation of money amongst the employees.

In olden times there was a rope-walk, owned by Mr. John Carbery. The walk is there still, but the twirl of the wheel is heard no more. When the opposition created by the Belfast rope works came on, ropes made by hand could not compete with those made by machinery in regard to price, and this little industry became derelict. The walk still runs down by the gas house to the Shandon Road.

The gas house was at one time a prosperous concern. Its shares stood for many years at a premium. This was the case under the management of the late Mr. Lennon, and also of his son, the late Mr. George Lennon, but in the year 1920 The Electric Lighting and Power Co. was established, and the opposition has interfered considerably with the prosperity of the gas works.

The Electric Light Company was established in 1920 with a capital of £8,000. The original intention was to obtain the power from the river Colligan, but this idea was abandoned, and now the power is derived from engines installed at the works. The Company have secured the

contract for the public lighting, and almost all the shops in town have got an electric installation. It has been very satisfactory as regards its lighting powers, and so far, that is for the three years of its existence, the enterprise has got on well. As a local industry it is a success. The charge is 1/- per unit. The light was first lighted on the 15th of August, 1921. Mr. John Dunphy is electrical manager.

There was another industry, peculiar in itself, that of brushmaking. The materials of which the brushes were made was obtained on the Cunnigar. It was called sedge. The brushes were bound with strips of tin; they had long handles, and were useful in a household. Those who made these brushes have passed away, and the brushes themselves are things of the past.

Cockle-picking also gave employment to a number of women. The cockles were found on the Abbeyside strand, and used to be sold through the town. This industry seems also to have passed away. Cockles are plentifully found on the Cunnigar strand, but they are of small size. In summer time the process of picking them gives recreation to the visitors, who delight in walking along the extensive strand there at low tide.

The Shandon Dairy Co., which is owned by Mr. Patrick Dunne, used give employment to close on one hundred men. The strike interfered very much with the business, and now the numbers employed are scarcely half that number. The concern embraces saw mills, butter-making, cheese-making, ice-making, and further extensions would have been made in the establishment but for the strike. However, in this concern also things are picking up, and much benefit results to the town from the employment given. Mr. Daly is manager of this large concern.

Messrs. Robert A. Merry and Co. are extensive bottlers and do a big wholesale as well as retail trade. The firm intended extending their premises, but matters did not turn out favourable, the general upset and the strike playing havoc with their ideas. Mr. Martin is manager of the Dunganvaran house.

A Co-operative Society has recently been established, where a good deal of employment is given. The Company import considerable commodities for the agricultural community, and also carry on butter-making, and are making rapid progress in their enterprise. The Company is com-

posed of large and independent farmers who take great interest in the works.

Messrs. Moloney, corn mills, turn out a lot of material. The mill premises adjoin the quay and are provided with excellent and up-to-date machinery. A large number of hands are constantly employed. The firm are owners of the steamer "Lady Belle," which during the strike was kept

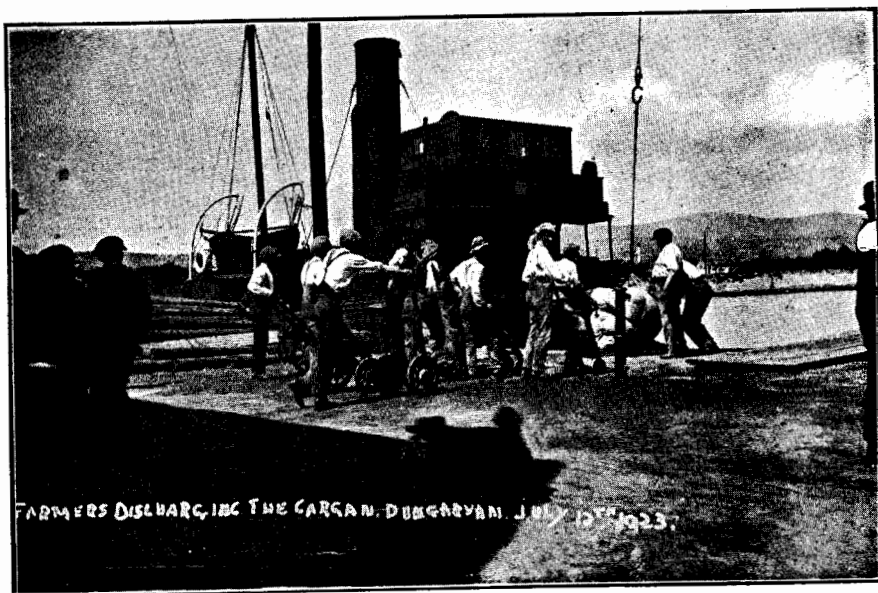


Photo by Keohan.

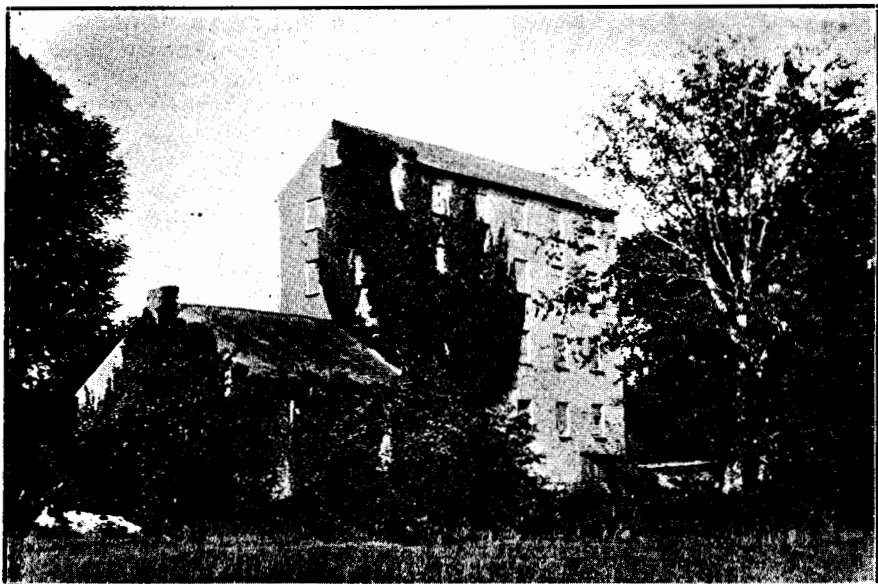
Farmers unloading the "Cargan" during labour strike, June, 1923.

busily going to and from different parts of this and adjoining countries, providing supplies for the town. Owing to the usual workers being "out," farmers did volunteer work in loading and unloading. The firm also conducts a large bakery business, and sends vans and motor lorries far into the country districts.

Messrs. K. Williams and Co. are another large firm. They possess mills at Kiladangan, three miles away, the corn being brought to and from in lorries. Formerly the transport used be made by horse haulage. They own a large coal yard, do a large bakery trade, and have an extensive connection with the farming community. They are owners of the good steamer "Cargan," which was first

used to relieve the wants of the people caused by the strike and was kept busy bringing cargoes from across Channel to the town. Like to the "Lady Belle," she was also loaded and discharged with the volunteer labour of the farmers of the district while the strike lasted.

Messrs. Murphy, the old-established brewers of Clonmel, have acquired premises in St. Augustine Street,



Kiladangan Mill, two miles from Dungarvan. *Photo by Keoha*
Owned by Messrs. K. Williams & Co.

from where the customers in the district are supplied. Motor and horse traffic is used by the firm. Mr. Michael J. Keane, the local agent, looks carefully after the interests of the Company.

Mr. Daniel Crotty has established a very large motor garage and factory. The site on which his premises are built was formerly a grass plot beside the Bridge, and it speaks well for his foresight to find that now his business is of huge dimensions. Attached to the works is the Cinema Theatre, of which Mr. Crotty is also owner, which gives displays twice, and sometimes oftener, a week. These shows are a source of much recreation to the people and are well supported. The premises are now very large and occupy a commanding site.

There are several other motor garages in the town. In fact, during the cessation of the railway the town got fully supplied with motor cars, and their frequent running through the streets would remind one of the hurry observable through the busiest of our cities.

A word might be said about the roads of the district. Those under the control of the local Council, and which extend for about a mile on every side, are of a poor description. It is a hardship on the local ratepayers to be obliged to maintain them, and an effort should be made to have them, as formerly, under the control of the county, for they are used principally by the country people, and the rate derived on the outskirts of the town for their maintenance is sadly short of the amount necessary to be expended on them. Once outside the borough bounds, however, the roads are in excellent repair and it is delightful to motor over them, the County Surveyor paying particular attention to their requirements. Just now a Government grant of £2,000 has been received, and the borough roads are being improved and steam-rolled.

The trade on the quay is much changed from what it was even half a century ago. Then it was a rarity to see a steamer lying alongside. All the cross-Channel trade was done with sailing vessels, and there were many captains in the town owners of their own ships. Scarcely ever a sailing vessel comes into port now. All the trade is done by steamers. The old cross-Channel sailer is a thing of the past; still they did their part well in the old days, and it was often a treat to see the harbour lined with sailing ships, often two or three deep all along the Quay. The "Parton," sailing vessel, still trades between here and cross-Channel.

The tobacco manufacture was carried on here for a number of years by the Messrs. Carbery. It is now well-developed by Mr. Matthias Walsh (M. Walsh & Son), Main Street and Square, Dungarvan.

Visitors.

At the time when the Park was maintained in proper order, and when the town possessed its local band, the number of visitors in the summer time was very large, and decidedly of much benefit to the business of the town. But since the Great War this big influx of visitors has fallen away. The Baths, which were established by the late Mr.



The Park, Dungarvan.

Photo by Kenan.

George Stokes, used draw numbers of people from the adjoining counties, as they were considered the very best and the most variable that could be obtained. We have the authority of Dr. Smith for stating that the sea water in Dungarvan is the purest that can be found anywhere, and all that is needed is some little attention to the requirements of people coming to the town for the holidays to bring back the crowds again that used exceed even the extended accommodation prepared for their convenience. Visitors to the town is an asset that should be well cultivated. Other places with less attractions make use of every effort to attract visitors, and Dungarvan, with its surrounding beauties, its fine tidal harbour, and extended healthy and sandy beach on the Cunnigar, only needs a little development to induce those on health or pleasure bent to avail of the benefits that await them in this locality.

Since the above was written the Park has been improved and the local Brass and Reed Band has been revived.

Export of timber is a large item in the trade of the town. A good many carters are employed in bringing the timber from the woods. The timber is shipped from the quay. Since the beginning of the war there has been a large export of timber, all to England. As a result all the neighbouring woods are being cut down. Much of the natural beauty of the outlying places is destroyed. It behoves the Government to begin replanting and turn to good account the waste and hilly lands of the county.

Amongst the lost industries is that of shipbuilding. Dungarvan turned out many vessels, which were constructed above where the bridge now spans the river, and a century ago ship carpenters were almost always employed at this industry. There were a number of ship carpenters in the town, but gradually the trade fell away, and when shipbuilding stopped the tradesmen got employment at the repairing of vessels. Now all these tradesmen are gone, and it is but seldom that the graving bank is occupied with a vessel needing repairs.

There was a salt manufactory carried on here towards the close of the 19th century by Messrs. White, Budd & Co. The premises occupied by them is now in possession of the workmen of the County Council. They imported rock salt, and this, boiled in sea water till evaporated, gave a residue of salt. It is doubtful if the venture was a success financially. At all events, the work was discontinued, and all the gear is now completely demolished.



Photo by Keohan.
Clonea Castle, near Dungarvan, a locality famous for its beautiful strand.

The Workhouse.

The Dungarvan Workhouse was established in the year 1839, not long after the passing of the Poor Law (Ireland) Act. The extent of the Union district then was as far as the Blackwater river on the one hand and the Mahon river on the other. For some years following there were only two workhouses in the county, one at Waterford, the other at Dungarvan. The population at the time was considerably larger than it is now, and to relieve the Dungarvan house the workhouse at Lismore was built. The guardians, who were the governing body, were half elected and half ex-officio. This condition of things continued until the passing of the Local Government Act in 1898, when the Rural District Council members became Poor Law Guardians, and, in addition, there were five guardians appointed for the town of Dungarvan. The number of those representatives was forty-six. It is the announced intention of the Government to reduce this number by about half, if not to do away with Rural Councils altogether. In any case it is considered that a smaller board would be more beneficial. For many years Mr. John F. Boyle was Clerk of the Union. He was succeeded by Mr. James Fitzgerald, and Mr. John R. Dower was appointed clerk in 1887.

In 1922 a change was made on the coming into effect of the Treaty between England and Ireland. The Dungarvan Workhouse was changed into the County Home, and instead of outdoor relief home help was administered. There is a Cottage Hospital now within the County Home. The present clerk is Mr. Michael Flynn, who first entered the service in 1894. The medical officer is Dr. John C. Hackett, the other medical gentlemen in the town being Dr. M. F. Moloney, who is Coroner for the district, Dr. Hugh O'Neill, and Dr. McCarthy, of Abbeyside.

The town solicitors are Messrs. John F. Williams, E. Arthur Ryan, who is also State Solicitor, T. Murray, of Lismore, and Denis F. Slattery.

The Schools.

The schools of the town comprise the Augustinian Seminary, the Christian Brothers, the Presentation Convent Schools, and the Schools of the Sisters of Mercy. There is a National School also at Abbeyside. The Augustinian Seminary was established in 1874, and has been most

successful in sending forth pupils who have won distinction in various walks of life. Some of them are Bishops in distant lands, others occupy prominent positions in the professions, and the record of this seminary stands high in the sphere of classic and commercial education. The schools are under the immediate control of the Fathers of the Order, and they consist of a day and boarding schools.

The Christian Brothers' Schools and their residence are erected on a site overlooking the town and commanding an extensive view of the harbour and headlands. The Duke of Devonshire was a contributor to the cost of their erection, the schools costing over two thousand pounds. They were founded by the Most Revd. Dr. Foran, Bishop of the diocese, before which time the Brothers resided in a house down Shandon. During the time of the Intermediate examinations the pupils of these schools gained many and high distinctions, and the teaching imparted is of a high order. Their boys are now scattered the world over, and many times the teachers get kindly remembrances of the affection entertained for them by those they have enabled to successfully fill their honoured spheres of life.

The Presentation Nuns were established in Dungarvan in 1809. Their premises first occupied were in Jail Lane. In 1822 the nuns took up residence in the Convent in Church Street. They there remained until the building of their present beautiful convent was completed, and they took up their residence there in 1858. In their efforts to establish their new home and convent they were ably assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Halley during his pastorate of the parish. They instruct a large number of pupils, and their schools, convent and church are very beautiful, elaborate, and most suitable.

The Sisters of Mercy took possession of the vacated convent of the Presentation Nuns in Church Street in 1822. The community had been in another residence for two years previously. Their convent, grounds, and schools have been much extended since, and their pupils all show results of very high instruction. Among the subjects taught are music and painting. Adjoining the Convent is the commodious House of Mercy. This fine building was erected with funds provided by a donor, and here young girls are taught and trained to earn respectable livelihoods. The House of Mercy is under the immediate control of the Sisters of the Order.

Abbeyside.

The most conspicuous features in the Abbeyside district are the old square-built castle and the Abbey ruins. The castle has almost completely fallen away. Now there remains but the south wall, which contained the circular staircase of the building, and this old wall, from its great thickness, promises to keep its place for many years to come. The castle was built by the McGraths and the O'Briens of Comeragh in the twelfth century, and it is supposed it was meant as a protection to the Abbey close by. Both the Abbey and the castle were built much about the same period. The ruins have been renovated. When the work of renovation commenced the ivy that was clinging to the ruins was cut down, and, stripped of this congenial adornment, the ruins now do not appear so much in keeping with antiquity as when they were covered with the "ivy green." But this is springing up again and will, in course of time, reach round on all sides as before, and throw its mantle upon the old tower and the walls of the Abbey. Beneath the arch of one of the windows there is a tomb bearing the inscription, "Donald McGrath, 1490." The conventual church consists of a narrow nave and chancel, and the tower, which bears traces of much beauty, springs from the side walls, the groining of the roof showing much grace and strength. The modern church, which was built in 1820, is attached to this tower, which it utilises as an entrance. The church is a square edifice having no pretensions to architecture, but its interior is very tastefully decorated and it contains many memorials of past donors and parishioners. Its quiet and romantic position draws many towards its precincts, and those devotionally inclined can in this quiet retreat feel all the influence of religious fervour.

The Tumulus.

On the Shandon side of Dungarvan there is a large tumulus which is supposed to be the tomb of some ancient warrior. This large heap of earth shows very prominently from the Kilrush road. These mounds are common enough through the country. Some of them have been explored and found to contain urns, denoting them as places of burial. A facetious writer attributes this gigantic mound to the raising of fortifications by Cromwell's soldiers, but its



Train leaving Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

history is of different origin. During a visit of the members of the Waterford Archæological Society about the year 1900 it was decided to make a boring, but no action was subsequently taken. Dr. Smith says he bored the mound and found it hollow near the lower part, which would bear out the supposition that it is the grave of some Irish chief, constructed in conformity with the ideas of our ancestors in regard to the distinction due to the honoured dead.

Shandon.

Shandon, or Sean Duin, the "Old Fort," is a favourite walk for the people of the town. By the side of the road are the limestone quarries, in which will be found stalactites and stalacmites. There are extensive caverns in this limestone bed. A late respected resident of the town, Mr. Brennan, an archæologist of repute, contributed a paper to the Royal Dublin Society on the fossil remains which he found in a cave in this limestone quarry. The paper was written in 1859, and in it he describes how he found a mammoth bear, a reindeer, a hare, and a horse, with the bone of some bird. The bones were discovered by the men working the quarry, and though there was no trace of man in the remains, the find was of enormous value to geological research, and it created wonder that these relics of many thousands years past had lain for a long period of time hidden in this limestone cavern. It is by the discovery of such relics as these that geological history is built up and an insight given into the vast ages that must have rolled over our earth since first wild animals sought refuge in these caves, when perhaps it might have been the rigours of the ice age that caused them to seek shelter. Some people have superstitious notions about Shandon and will tell you that it is not prudent to go along there in the month of May.

The Environs.

The environs of the town present very healthy and interesting walks. It is so easy to get into the country. Immediately you leave the town you are among the green fields, the hedgerows, and the rural beauties. This is the case on all sides, except that of the sea. The "New Line" is a favourite promenade, so is also the Youghal Road, the Hospital Road, Shandon, to which we have referred before,

the Kilrush Road, or the road to the Burgery. The latter is a beautiful suburb of the town, in the Abbeyside district. It is nicely sheltered with trees, and the walk around Boherawilling, either to or from the Burgery, is one of varied attractions, each curve presenting new features creates a pleasing impression. Of late years some new houses have been built—one at the Burgery, where the Abbeyside curate resides, six fine houses below the Abbeyside schoolhouse, and a new scheme of eight houses built by the Urban Council, just finished, four at Abbeyside and four at Fair Lane, Dungarvan. Nevertheless, there is a great want of housing accommodation in the town. The Government are endeavouring to promote building and are giving grants as subsidies to private builders; still, with high cost of labour and material, as well as conditions which do not tend to the comfort of house owners, it may be that the efforts made will not have the desired effect.

Coast Erosion.

During the past fifty years a great quantity of rich pasture land has been eaten away by the tide. This coast erosion is very noticeable at Shehacrine, where also the finely-built wall that protected the Rectory grounds from the action of the waves has been almost wholly destroyed. Along Abbeyside strand, extending to Abbeyside Church, only with difficulty can the land be preserved, and in the locality called "Quann's Fields" a considerable quantity of rich, valuable land has been eaten away. It is a pity that this process of demolition should be going on, and it will continue unless a careful Government builds protecting barriers to save what remains of the fine rich land around the sea shore.

Two Esteemed Pastors.

In the centre of the Parish Church there are two slabs laid on the floor, commemorative of two esteemed pastors beloved by the people, Dr. Halley and Rev. Edward Foran. On the slab above the remains of Dr. Halley there is the inscription "Pray for the repose of the soul of the Very Revd. Jeremiah Halley, Parish Priest of Dungarvan, who died on Christmas Eve, 1875, in the 83rd year of his age, after he had laboured as Pastor for 35 years and fifteen years as Curate in Dungarvan."

The inscription to the memory of the Rev. Father Foran states:—"Sacred to the memory of Revd. Edward Foran, P.P., Ballyneale, who died 17th Sept., 1896, in the 61st year of his age and 34th of his sacred ministry, 24 years of which he spent as Curate in the parish of Dungarvan. Father Foran was appointed Pastor of Ring and Old Parish in 1888, and in 1895 was translated to the pastoral charge of Ballyneale. The deceased was universally loved and revered, etc."

Interesting Drives Around the Town.

Dungarvan is within 18 miles of Youghal, 14 of Ardmore, 11 of Cappoquin, 15 of Melleray, 9 of Stradbally, 13 of Kilmacthomas, 28 of Waterford, 18 of Curraghmore, 12 of Dromana, 25 of Clonmel. The roads within the borough bounds, extending for about a mile all round, are but indifferent, but beyond that limit the county roads are kept in excellent order, and from Dungarvan to the places mentioned above their surfaces are smooth and the majority of them steam-rolled. The districts around are diversified and most interesting. Many tourists who visit Dungarvan take a journey to Melleray, which can be reached by either train or motor car. The latter means is the readiest, for when one reaches Cappoquin by train he has to do the other four miles by a hired vehicle, of which there are many waiting the arrival of the trains.

To one interested in mountain scenery, the brown heather and the wild prospect should be delightful, for all round are rising hills of primitive barrenness, while embosomed in their midst are the famous halls of Melleray, where religion shines with radiance and where austerity is embraced with fervour, and from where has gone forth many a student to spread the light of learning and of Faith in the most distant lands. A drive to one or other of the above-mentioned places is sure to be invigorating and entertaining, for scenic beauty in its many charms will be revealed by wood, by hill and undulating meadowland, and marsh and moor, and sea and land will reveal themselves in panoramic grandeur in whatever direction one is inclined to turn.

Those in quest of exquisite natural beauty might take a journey to the Vale of Colligan, distant about four miles, where the ever-varying aspect of hill and dale, wood and

rushing river, can be enjoyed and where the songs of birds will well regale one's leisure moments in this veritable fairyland. And those who are archæologically inclined can take a trip to Drumloghan, near Stradbally, and view the famous cave roofed with Oghams, a curiosity of a rare order, and the beehive cell close by, and the Killeen, where rest for thousands of years the fathers of this ancient place. Or, again, a trip can be taken to that storied ruin of Seskinane, known as Knockboy, one of the most interesting ruined churches in Ireland. The lentils spanning the windows are Oghams taken from the Killeen close by, the inscriptions of which have been deciphered and point to a very remote past, the genealogy of those Irish chiefs who rest there being lost in the haze of primitive mystery. Or, again, a visit could be paid to the beautiful ruined church of Kilmolash, with its varied styles of architecture, lying beautiful in the midst of a country of pastoral splendour.

And certainly a trip to the lovely village of Ardmore, once an ecclesiastical city, which can be easily accomplished, should be fraught with pleasure of the rarest kind. One can view the stone of many virtues, said to have floated after St. Declan, the patron of the district, when he was returning from Rome bearing along across the sea his bell and vestments. Then there is the view of the old cathedral, with its marvellous carvings in the west gable, its graceful Cyclopedean arch, its Oghams and novel tombs, its decayed old church on the cliff by the sea, its Holy Well, and the small but most ancient church of the venerated saint, where, it is said, his remains lie at rest, and towering over all in majestic grandeur rises one of those "pillar towers of Ireland" which is said to be the most perfect specimen of a Round Tower in the country. Added to these attractions of antiquity, the village itself is one of much scenic beauty, lying beside the sea, with its rocky headlands, its long level strand, and its cliffs reaching to an immense height over the waters of the Atlantic. And thus, indeed, viewing the present with the past, we may realise the truth of the lines of Gay:—

"Variety's the source of joybelow,
From which still fresh reviving pleasures flow;
In books and love, the mind one end pursues,
And only change the expiring flame renews."

Hotels.

Dungarvan is plentifully supplied with hotel accommodation. The oldest-established hotel is the Devonshire Arms, owned by Mr. William Dunne. It is spacious, well-appointed in every respect, and under the present proprietorship has undergone considerable improvements. It is centrally situated and provides a motor service. In the same row of buildings there is another fine hotel, "Lawlor's Hotel," under the capable management of the proprietor. The attendance is first-class, the cuisine perfect, and motor service is also provided. There is, again, in another part of the town, Blackpool, Egan's Hotel, which has also been improved, and almost directly opposite, the "Eagle Hotel." All these hotels possess bars, and will be found comfortable and reasonable. There is also in the Main Street "Phelan's Hotel," where excellent accommodation is provided and the utmost attention paid to visitors. Then there is the "Park Hotel," adjacent to the Baths and the Park and to the sea. The "Commercial Hotel" is the nearest to the Railway Station, most conveniently situated, spacious and airy, and, commanding an excellent view of the harbour and mountains, is in a most desirable locality. The premises were built by the late Captain Richard Curran, and they are replete with all modern improvements. There is a bar attached, as well as an efficient motor service.

At the Abbeyside portion of the river a newly constructed hotel has been completed, owned by Mrs. Griffin (*nee* Fitzgerald), and the structure is very imposing, commodious, and well-appointed, and a great addition to the appearance of Abbeyside. It is built on the site of the premises burned by the Black-and-Tans when the night of horror was experienced at Abbeyside, and for which Mrs. Griffin was in some way compensated for the malicious destruction of her premises. In the erection of this new building the proprietress has shown much enterprise which deserves success and is sure to be appreciated. There is also a bar attached to this hotel, which from its proximity to the strand is called "The Strand Hotel."

Coaching.

In the old days a coach, under Bianconi's management, used ply between Dungarvan and Waterford. It was drawn by four horses. It made a delay at Kilmacthomas, both on the outward and inward journey, for about half an



Devonshire Arms Hotel, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

hour to change horses. The entire journey used take about four hours. The service was very regular. Sometimes there would be a breakdown of the vehicle and a delay. When the train for the first time steamed into Dungarvan from Waterford the old coach left and has not since returned. This was in 1876. The coach used bring the daily papers and the mails. Mails also used come from Youghal by car. This latter service was replaced by a car from Clonmel, which latter service was also discontinued. On the whole, at that time the postal service was good. There were two deliveries and two despatches in the day, and there was no cause of complaint. What a contrast there is between now and then! Now motor cars rush through the streets, motor lorries deliver goods to the shopkeepers, and the town, from the ceaseless hum of traffic, resembles more a city than a busy country town.

Societies.

Fifty years ago, that would be in 1875, Dungarvan had not a single club or society. There was no institution to which people could repair in the evenings for social chat or games of recreation. The old Young Men's Society was a thing of the past, and the fine premises they had built were disposed of to the proprietors of the Provincial Bank, much, indeed, like to the passing of the old Irish Parliament House to the Bank of Ireland after the country had ceased to have its own Parliament.

The oldest existing Society now in Dungarvan is the Literary Club. This was founded in 1876 and was termed the Literary Society, which later was changed to Literary Club. The promoters of the Society were Messrs. Thomas O'Connor, James F. Ryan, Wm. O'Neill, Edmond Keohan, James P. Keane, Thomas Power, and Michael J. Power. Many of those are now dead, but the Club still goes on. The first room they acquired for their operations was that which is now the clerk's room in the Town Hall. There they erected a small billiard table. Later the Society removed to the house on the quay now owned by Captain Patrick Curran. They then transferred themselves to the house now known as the Park Hotel, and from there to the premises in St. Mary Street where the National and Commercial Club is now located. Some differences arose



Cappelquin, on the Blackwater.

Photo by Keohan.

between the members as to the taking of the premises in Church Street; part of them came to the latter place, part remained where they were, and thus two clubs were formed. The National and Commercial Club remained in the old premises. Indeed, the division partook slightly of the existing split in the country. But however that may be, the Commercial Club made great headway, purchased a splendid full-size billiard table, and, their rooms being commodious and convenient, they were well supported in their effort, and now the Club is in a strong financial position and is doing as well as need be. The membership of both the Commercial and the Literary Club numbers about eighty in each place, and both institutions are of great service to the young men of the town. In the early days of the Literary Society there was much attention given to literary pursuits, and lectures, readings, and debates were frequently held. Social functions, too, took place, but of late there is a lack of literary entertainment, which indeed is a loss to the desirable achievement of the improvement of the mind.

The "Dungarvan Club" is situated in Bridge Street. They, like the other clubs, have a billiard table, and also spacious rooms for entertainment. They have a large number of supporters and the Club is going on steadily and successfully.

There is a "Dance Club" in Quay Street, where amusements are carried on. Excellent music is provided, and the efforts of the members are much appreciated in providing agreeable amusement which is much enjoyed.

A Golf Club was established in 1922, with Mr. E. A. Ryan, State Solicitor, as President. There was a great accession of members, and an expert from Dublin was procured who laid out the links on the Cunnigar. Since its inception there is a good deal of sport at the game. The approach from the town is by boat, but if the bridge were built this would be a fashionable resort. A fine pavilion was erected in 1924 which will afford shelter in time of rain and be otherwise very serviceable to the Club.

We have also a Tennis Club, and several matches with teams from other places have taken place.

A Hockey Club should also be numbered among the list. It is well-supported, and playing is indulged in at stated intervals.

There is also a Camogie Club, of which the players are able to hold their own against any team, and they have won some important matches.

It will be seen from the above that healthy recreation is well catered for, and pastimes are arranged suitable to all seasons of the year. The Golf Club got a great fillip this year, and at all times there are practices and matches taking place on the Cunnigar. The links are superb, the surroundings beautiful, and as a resort for health there is no more admirable situation in the country.

There is also an Ex-Servicemen's Club, which has its premises near the Park.

The Ramblers' Cycling Club, which twenty years ago numbered close on a hundred members, has now ceased to exist. It was the oldest Cycling Club in Ireland, and one much regretted and talented townsman, Mr. R. Edward Brenan, was its president. During the years of its existence it afforded considerable recreation in many respects and was cordially supported by its members.

In the Gaelic Field at Shandon, some hundred yards from the town, very important football and hurling contests have taken place. The field is under the special care of Mr. Dan Fraher, a well-known athlete who on one occasion won the championship belt from a field of many competitors. It is here the Horse and Agricultural Show is held annually, and some horse and pony races have also been held on the grounds. The Camogie Club play their matches there, and it is availed of for practices by youths training for proficiency in the athletic arena.

Dungarvan possesses three banks—the Munster and Leinster, the National Bank, and the Provincial Bank. Mr. J. H. McCarthy is Manager of the Munster and Leinster, Mr. Mulcahy, of the National Bank, and Mr. George Williams of the Provincial Bank.

The Right Rev. Archdeacon Power is the esteemed Pastor of the parish, the curates being Rev. L. Egan, C.C., Rev. M. Hearne, C.C., and Rev. Father McGrath, C.C.

The Fathers of the Augustinian Church are:—Very Rev. T. Conlan, O.S.A., Prior; Rev. P. Donegan, O.S.A.; Rev. Father Brady, O.S.A.; and Rev. Roger Walsh, O.S.A.

In Abbeyside the Rev. P. Byrne, P.P., is Pastor; Rev. J. Rae, C.C., Curate.

There is a Methodist Church in St. Augustine Street, the present minister being the Rev. W. J. Ewart.

Our practising solicitors are:—Messrs. J. F. Williams, Main Street; E. A. Ryan, State Solicitor, Cross Bridge Street; T. Murray, Cross Bridge Street and Lismore; Denis F. Slattery, Emmet Street.

Medical Doctors:—Dr. J. C. Hackett, Medical Officer, Board of Health; Dr. Hugh O'Neill, Bridge Street; Dr. M. F. Moloney, St. Mary Street, also Coroner for West Waterford; Dr. McCarthy, Abbeyside.

Postmaster—Mr. Hegarty, in succession to Mr. Logan.

Dr. McCarthy is Sanitary Officer; T. Walsh, Sub-Sanitary Officer; W. O'Meara, Acting Town Clerk; J. McGrath, Borough Engineer; Michael Brennock, Chairman of Urban Council.

J. H. O'Sullivan, Secretary, County Council; T. F. Casey, Assistant Secretary; T. F. Boyle, Accountant; J. Bowen, B.E., County Surveyor.

Mr. Young, Customs Officer. The Custom House is at Abbeyside.

Michael Flynn, Secretary, Board of Health; Miss Christopher, Assistant.

The Volunteers.

One of the main factors in the tremendous changes that have been made in the country was undoubtedly the organisation of the Irish Volunteers. It had a kindred aspect to that which followed the enrolment of the famous Volunteers under Grattan and the Earl of Charlemont in the stirring years preceding '98.

In the early part of 1914 bodies of Volunteers were established in various parts of the country. Dungarvan would not be backward. A movement was set on foot for the establishment of this patriotic body. The cause was taken up with fervour. A public meeting was called, to be held in the Town Hall, for the ostensible object of establishing a corps of Irish Volunteers. The meeting was held on the 22nd April, 1914, and Mr. J. A. Lynch, *Dungarvan Observer*, had the honour of presiding on the occasion. Patriotic speeches were delivered and there was much enthusiasm. The meeting was attended by The O'Rahilly and by Professor Eoin MacNeill, now the present Minister for Education. A sturdy body was formed which augmented in strength as the days went by. In May, 1914, the town Volunteers marched to Cappagh, where a review was held, and another memorable march was made to

Clonea strand, where there were up to five hundred in the ranks, and on the fine level strand many evolutions were gone through, and the men were addressed in spirited terms by an esteemed and patriotic priest.

Mr. Birrel was Chief Secretary, He was a talented, genial, witty, literary gentleman. Still, some efforts at suppression were made and there were prosecutions. But, at all events, this formation of the Volunteers throughout the country culminated in the sudden and startling Rising in Dublin, which is now a matter of interesting history.

The Ring Irish College.

The present Irish College, about four miles from Dungarvan, was established in 1906. Some years previously a small timber building was constructed near to the present College, and in this temporary structure, and at some inconvenience, the College was first established, and progressed under the direction of Revd. Dr. Hennebry and Rev. Dr. Sheehan, now Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney. In their work they had the assistance of several lay workers. Later



The Irish College, Ring, four miles from Dungarvan.
Our picture shows students practising a new Irish dance.

Photo by Keahan

on, in 1909, the committee acquired the present commodious premises. The building was originally intended for an industrial school, and a meeting of landlords and others was held in the Dungarvan Courthouse in 1876, under the chairmanship of Mr. Villiers Stuart, of Dromana, at which it was requested that an addition be made to the capitation grant. The application did not succeed, and financially it was thought the scheme would not be a success. After that time the building was neglected. The walls remained without a roof for thirty years, but Mr. Stuart gave the premises to the Irish College Committee on favourable terms, and in quick time they had it converted into a spacious College and a comfortable habitable structure. Since then it has been improved year by year, and it is now the famous home for instruction in Irish. For each of the three summer sessions there attend upwards of three hundred students from all parts of Ireland. The College is situated in a most healthy and picturesque locality by the side of the sea, and of itself is most attractive as a summer resort, while the best tuition possible is given in the acquiring of the language of the country.

Ballinacourty.

Opposite to Ring the pretty village of Ballinacourty stands. This is three miles from Dungarvan. A pier was built there in 1832, partly by subscription and partly by a grant from the Fishery Board. A walk along the cliffs here is very enjoyable. The district is nicely wooded, and around the lighthouse there are some very beautiful strands which reach along to the old castle of Clonea.

The Press in Dungarvan.

The Press is the fourth estate of the realm. There is no institution which has grown to such immense proportions as this during recent years. With the introduction of linotype machinery in newspaper offices the slow and cumbersome work of handsetting of type has become almost obsolete, and now the application of machinery in various ways in press work has revolutionised the production of daily newspaper service to a degree which could not be thought of half a century ago.

In 1874 and years preceding Dungarvan had its local paper, the *Dungarvan Gazette*, the reporter being a most respected old newspaper man, Mr. McCormick, and it was edited by Mr. Joseph Hansard, who about this time pub-

lished a very creditable History of the County Waterford. The paper was fairly well supported, its type was all set by hand, its impression was clear, but soon after this year Mr. Hansard left the town to take up business in Killarney, and the *Gazette* ceased publication.

The town was then supplied with local news by the Waterford papers, the *Waterford News*, the *Waterford Star*, and the *Munster Express*. Mr. E. O'Shea was correspondent for the *News* and *Star*; Mr. E. Keohan for the *Express* and *Cork Examiner*. The latter paper, in addition to giving general news, telegraphic and otherwise, gave also a large share of local news. The *Cork Daily Herald* was also at that time in circulation daily in the town. Since then it has been absorbed by the *Examiner*.

The *Dungarvan Journal* was established by Mr. R. Edward Brenan, who was Postmaster for thirty years, and also carried on a printing office. The journal was very chatty and of a high order of merit, but the proprietor found it difficult to devote sufficient time to its publication and after the issue of twelve numbers it ceased.

Mr. Lynch, an enterprising member of the Press, established the present local paper, the *Dungarvan Observer*, the first issue of which was published on the 8th February, 1912. It immediately had a large circulation, and the proprietor's efforts being appreciated, he introduced linotype machinery, and now the office is well up-to-date in every particular. The paper caters for every class, has a wide circulation in the South, and as a local journal it is capably edited, well turned out, and gives full reports of all public matters in the district.

Other Happenings.

Amongst other events which deserve to be recorded are the following.

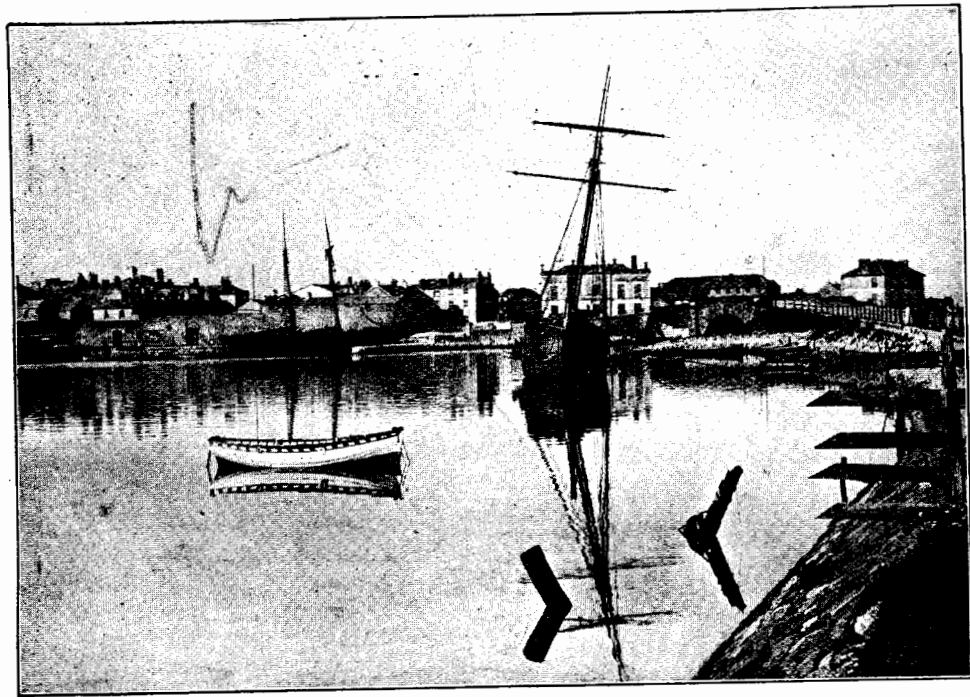
On a night during the English Terror a fearful explosion took place at Kilgobinet by which the lives of some of the young men from the place were lost. It appears members of the I.R.A. had the road trenched close to the church, and British soldiers going to the place laid a live bomb beneath a stone in the trench. That night some fifteen of the I.R.A. from the district went to the trench for the purpose of deepening it, and lifting the stone over the bomb, it exploded with terrific force and noise, killing three of the young men and wounding many others. The

sound of the rumbling explosion was heard plainly in Dungarvan at twelve o'clock that night. One of the wounded men who died in Dungarvan Hospital had a tremendous and impressive funeral, vast crowds marching in processional order all the way to Kilgobinet, where the interment took place.



Photo by Keohan.

John Cummins, shot dead at Ballyvoile by English military.



Colligan Estuary, Dungarvan.

Photo by Keohan.

The "Bandon" Torpedoed.

On April 13th, 1917, the steamer *Bandon*, from Cork, was torpedoed by a German submarine outside Dungarva harbour. There were thirty-three of a crew, and of these twenty-nine were drowned. Among the four saved was the captain. The rescued men were brought to Dungarvan and were catered for in the Devonshire Arms Hotel. The terrible disaster caused widespread sorrow in Cork city, as all the members of the crew belonged to that place.

Frogs in Limestone.

A peculiar and inexplicable event took place at the Rectory during the time when the Revd. Mr. Dickson was Rector of Dungarvan. In sinking a pump in the grounds a number of live frogs were discovered in the solid limestone rock, and it was never known how they could have got into the cavity. Nor could it be found how they subsisted, embedded as they were in the limestone.

An Echo.

It is said that a peculiar echo could be heard on the strand of Abbeyside that would rival the well-known similar sounds that are the wonder of tourists in Killarney. This echo was referred to by a writer in the old Cork *Daily Herald* who at one time was writing descriptions of southern Irish towns. Whether the echo exists at present is not known, but some speculative inquirer might experiment by following the receding tide at Abbeyside to its farthest point and then blowing a note on some loud-toned instrument and look out for the response. History tells us it was there. Could it have left us in these days of wonders by wireless and otherwise?

A Huge Stone Dislodged.

Another peculiar event recorded is that of a huge stone being dislodged on Abbeyside strand. It appears that one night this well-known boulder was removed some twelve feet from its original bed, by what force is not positively known. It was during the time of a severe frost, however, and the occurrence is attributed to some curious action of the ice or to some convulsion of nature of which no solution can be offered. So "there are more things on earth than are dreamt of in one's philosophy."

The "Look Out."

In the illustration of the "Look Out" in the old days there will be seen standing, with arms folded, in the picture a boatman who was well and popularly known through the South of Ireland. His name was Patrick McNamara, or, as he was familiarly known, "Paddy Mac." With him are seen standing two of his sons, stalwart youths and sterling characters,



Old Dungarvan—The Esplanade, or "Look Out," before the recent improvements. *Photo by Keohan.*

"Paddy Mac" with his two sons are seen in the picture. Across the water the old salt store, now demolished, is seen.

who left this country at an early age, and the father, Paddy Mac, would talk with affection of them and how they had gone to Crescent City, beyond the Rocky Mountains. There will also be seen the old salt store at Abbeyside, now completely gone, but in the old days a good business was done there; and in the small house beside it there lived one Patrick Terry, a tobacco spinner, who worked for the

Carberys. This house, too, is also a thing of the past, and some new houses are built on the site of the old store and the house where Terry used to live.

Some fifty years ago "Paddy Mac" was one of the most notable men in the town. He was a fine, well-built man, broad shoulders, and in every respect representative of a fine type of boatman. He lived close to the ferry, and for many years he held undisputed sway in the rowing of passengers to and from the Cunnigar. He often said that to this he had an immemorial right, but this right was disputed at a later stage, when Captain Veale started taking passengers across to the Cunnigar. Paddy regarded Veale as encroaching on his rights, and many a dispute, often of a heated character, took place between them which many times figured in the petty sessions court.

"Paddy Mac" was a fine, intelligent man, well versed in all the current affairs, and even foreign politics. He was an especial favourite with the gaybricks, that is the visitors who came to the seaside for a holiday, and it was a



Patrick McNamara, better known as "Paddy Mac."

A link with the old times. He maintained he had prescriptive rights, from time immemorial, for the ferry to and from the Cunnigar.

treat of rare interest to observe him superintending the ferrying of passengers in the boats. He possessed a powerful voice which could be heard for long distances across the water. He stood for election for the Urban Council and became a member, his election cry being "What are the wild waves saying?" He was held in high esteem by the visitors from the county Tipperary, and, indeed, all through the town and district no one had anything but a good and kind word for "Paddy Mac." Often he is inquired for in letters from America, for he was looked upon partly as an institution of the town, and his quaint ways and peculiarities rendered him a personality of a very rare and interesting type. Like to the old rugged platform of the "Look Out," he, too, is gone, and it is safe to say, with regard to his own distinctive calling, "we shall never look upon his like again."

Conscription.

I have never seen more fierce determination on the faces of any people than was manifested by the excited and vast assemblage of Dungarvan people in the Town Hall when the Conscription Act was passed. The Great War was on. Lloyd George was in power with the Coalition Government, and in introducing the Conscription Act for Ireland in the British House of Commons on March 9th, 1918, he said that the time had arrived when Ireland could not be left out. His statement was received with loud cheers by his listeners. The people of this country at once realised what this meant. It was bad enough to be ruled by a foreign Power, but for Irish mothers to see their sons taken by compulsion to fight for a Power they detested and in a war which was none of their making—this was more than the Irish blood could bear.

A public meeting was called, to be held in the Town Hall. This was in 1918. The object of the meeting was to devise means to resist Conscription. The people assembled, sullen but determined. Some of our local priests were present. The people warmed to them. They knew in the hour of danger they were their counsellors and protectors. It was like to the olden times—times of which we read—when in days of oppression priests and people joined as one, and when the death of one for the other was the dominant passion of both.

Assembled in the Hall were the labourers, the shop assistants, the men of business in the town, the representa-

tives of the people on their local boards, and all were filled with the one idea—death before conscription. There, too, were many ladies—members of the Cumann na mBan, not less brave than their stronger brothers, ready as was the best of them to resist to the last the attempt to force them against their will to fight in a war in which they believed they had no part.

Some speeches were delivered, the priests advised to obey the leaders, who at that time were De Valera and others, and whatever words there were of resistance to conscription were cheered vociferously—not so much applause in the ordinary sense, but as a roar of defiance to British statesmen which could easily convey to them how utterly worthless would be the attempt to conscript the Irish. There and then the resolve was come to that resistance would be offered to the last.

The meeting over, the people left the Hall, but they spoke to one another, and never was there more unity than in this. The one common sentiment pervaded the minds of all, and all were determined, as far as human effort could go, to struggle side by side on the green sod of their own land and let their life's blood mingle with their native earth before the rifle or the bayonet of a British soldier would conscript them to fight their battles.

The same determination was evinced throughout the entire country, so much so that Lloyd George threw up the sponge. He would not attempt what would be a fruitless effort, and so the Irish race, united in a common brotherhood and for a common cause, triumphed over the sinister combinations of a Power for which they had no liking and against which they had risen up in open rebellion. And thus the conscription scare was signally defeated.

The County Council of Waterford.

The first meeting of the County Council was held in the Courthouse, Waterford, on Saturday, 22nd day of April, 1899, at eleven o'clock a.m.

Councillors present:—John Flavin, Mark Smyth, William C. Coughlan, William Fitzgerald, James V. O'Brien, James Queally, H. C. Villiers Stuart, Thomas Power, Patrick Wm. Kiely, John Lawlor, Thomas Sullivan, Edmond Nugent, Thomas Murphy, Patrick O'Gorman, Charles C. Curran, Thomas Flahavan, Matthias Walsh, James Hayes, Patrick F. Walsh, Martin J. Murphy, R. J. Ussher, L. W.

Bonaparte Wyse, William Kearney, Edmond Flahavan, James O'Brien, Matthew Drohan, Michael Mulcahy, John McCarthy, James Kennedy, Edmond O'Shea, John Morrissey.

All above Councillors having signed declarations accepting office, it was proposed by Mr. James Hayes, seconded by Mr. C. J. Curran, that Mr. James V. O'Brien be Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Patrick O'Gorman proposed, and Mr. James O'Brien (Lismore) seconded that Mr. Thomas Power be Chairman of the Meeting. On a division Mr. Power was elected by 16 votes to 11.

Mr. John Morrissey and Mr. Edmond O'Shea were co-opted members. Both having signed declarations accepting office took their seats.

Election of Chairman for Ensuing Year.—Mr. James Hayes proposed and Mr. Stuart seconded Mr. J. V. O'Brien. Mr. M. Walsh proposed and Mr. Patrick O'Gorman seconded Mr. Thomas Power. Mr. O'Brien retired in favour of Mr. Power, who was elected unanimously.

CONCLUSION.

In the foregoing pages I have endeavoured to trace from the very earliest times to the present day, as far as research amongst the materials at my disposal would enable me, the incidents in connection with the town. I have pored into the historic times of the past, as well as those striking and eventful occurrences which now live vividly in the memories of the present generation. The inquiry involved some labour. Owing to the incursions of the invaders for hundreds of years, records which might throw light on many matters have been irretrievably lost. The opposition of the native population to the foreigner created war—incessant war—and while such a state of things existed it is reasonable to suppose that the chronicling of incidents would not be attended to as well as in times of peace. But from the twelfth century on to the present the history of the old Castle is in itself almost a complete history of the town. It will be seen from what has been published with regard to it that it was regarded as a citadel of considerable importance to the rule of England in the South. And it was almost continually occupied by English troops, who were in constant touch with either the Lord Deputy or the English Parliament. And with respect to the circular tower standing silent and unique in the corner of the oblong fort,

all traces of its origin are lost. The most striking feature that would indicate its age is the wattle ceiling inside the doorway, still in excellent preservation. It is almost certain that it was standing when John undertook the building of the castle and walls. The hand of the builder has again roofed the dwellings inside the castle walls. These buildings shall again resound to the tramp of armed men, and laughter may rise again among them in their restored conditions, when the animation of the present time will be but an echo of the transitions which these old ruins have witnessed during the eventful periods of their existence.

“For oft conducted by historic truth
We tread the long extent of backward time.”

And what of the present and of the future,? To the most casual observer it must be apparent that there is a prosperous future in store for this old town. But first of all it requires capable management. It has within itself all the materials for its own advancement. Those who control its affairs should devote their attention to those matters which would be of public utility and add, wherever possible, to the benefits which nature has provided. Dungarvan, standing almost encircled by the sea, sheltered by the mountains which tower at either side and which temper the chilly blasts that sweep across less favoured places, has within its surroundings all those advantages which contribute in a large degree to the happiness and comfort of a people. The waters of the Atlantic rush up as if to embrace its environs, its broad seaboard faces the industrial countries of the East and affords convenient means for the promotion of commerce and enterprise. Its tidal waters, though restrictive in one sense, are of inestimable value in contributing towards the navigation of the harbour. The incessant action of the tides keeps its waters pure, and with little of the river flow to affect its specific gravity, its brine-impregnated qualities have been proved by analysis to be as excellent as can be found in any part of the world. Hence its sea-bathing qualities are of the very finest kind, and all that is required is a reasonable effort on the part of those who control our public affairs to add to those natural attractions to have the town a most popular seaside resort in the summer months. With our train service restored, there ought be excursions as there used be heretofore, and give to those living inland an opportunity of enjoying the

natural beauties which are profuse amongst us, as well as the healthful and recreative pastime of a sojourn by the sea.

There are many things which could be done to attract visitors to the town. The little Park, from which there is such a delightful prospect, might be kept trim and neat, plentifully provided with seats, clean and painted for the summer season. The bathing-place could be tidied up, and wherever the concrete has given way remedied, the bathing boxes rendered more attractive, and a capable attendant appointed there to wait upon the bathers. Then the Esplanade is a much-frequented promenade. Here there should be seating accommodation to a large extent, and the restful pleasure of being there is enhanced by the continual crossing of the boats, with their living freights, to the Cunnigar headland. If music could be provided, so much the better. We have the band re-organised now. It is the wish of all that it may long be a success. But at all events the most ought to be made of the facilities which nature has given, and Dungarvan, for its own sake, should be just as much alive as other places to induce strangers to visit the town, for by their doing so business is improved and the gratifying hum of prosperity is heard on every side. There is no doubt we are recovering from the disturbed condition of affairs for the past few years, and if a little energy and attention were devoted to the matter the visits of strangers for the summer season would be one of the principal assets of the town.

Then as for commerce, Dungarvan can well hold its own. Its harbour affords facilities for cheap and ready transport, and our merchants are eager to avail of these advantages, and hence all commodities can be supplied at rates which will favourably compare with those of any other market town. Its monthly fairs are regarded as most important by buyers and dealers of cattle, for the rich district which surrounds it produces stock of the first quality, and export by rail and sea is considerable. Its location on the main line from Waterford to Cork, and also a through route for the traffic from Dublin *via* the south-east of Ireland, draws to it a continual stream of business and a goodly number of tourists. The County Council are applying themselves to the maintenance in a superb manner of the main roads which pass through the town, and there is every reason to hope and believe that the town will make rapid strides towards a further progress which has marked it even

through the gloomy period which affected the entire country. Indeed it was by a narrow margin that Dungarvan missed being the assize town of the county—only one vote turned the scale—but in the matter of the County Council a majority decided that Dungarvan, the county town, should be the home of the County Council, and hence it is here its meetings are held and its business transacted. In the process of change which is continually taking place in all human affairs the possibilities which open themselves to enterprise are sure to be availed of, and looking into the future “far as human eye can see,” one can without exaggeration assert that the old town shall continue to be as it has been, creditable alike to itself and to the country.

It has stood the brunt of many a hard-fought battle in the olden times. It has witnessed, and taken part in, the varying changes that have come during all the centuries upon the country; and preserved, as it was, until recent years, from the contaminating influences which worked their ways upon other peoples and disturbed the even tenor of their lives, the old town retained its old traditions and the glory of the past.

It has been thrilled with the oratory of some of the foremost speakers of the day. Daniel O’Connell stayed for a time here and exhorted the people in the ways of national ardour; the eloquence of Richard Lalor Shiel went forth upon the breezes; and in our own times the foremost leaders of thought and politics have addressed the inhabitants.

Truly, the “Old Borough” has taken its part in the various phases that have come upon the old land, and when, during the recent strife, war decimated other lands, when distress and stagnation largely affected other places, it has held its own and emerged successfully from every ordeal. That it may continue so is the wish of all; and when the sincere hope of every sincere Irishman is realised, when Ireland, free from the trammels of partition, is a queen amongst the nations, it is as certain as anything can be that Dungarvan shall reap to the full the advantage of her steadfast adhesion at all times to the principles of Faith and Fatherland.

ERRATA.—On page 37, line 2, read “All that day,” instead of “For two days.”

The greater portion of the photo blocks in this publication have been prepared for the author by the “Dublin Illustrating Company,” South William Street, Dublin.

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