

Mayor's own house. Hence, the progress of the guard with their prisoner from the town-house to the jail was for a considerable part of the way in full view of the home of the unfortunate culprit. From a window of their own residence, to which they had been drawn by the uproar of the crowd that had joined the dismal procession as it passed, the mother and sister of the self-confessed murderer could see



A GROUP OF CONNEMARA MEN.

him approach, bareheaded, pale, pinioned and surrounded by the spears of his escort. Their outcry of dismay at the spectacle smote the father's heart and tested his fortitude to the utmost. Outside he beheld the surging, excited multitude. Surprise, compassion, horror, were depicted on the faces of all. While some expressed admiration for their upright magis-

trate, the vast majority pitying the fate of their favorite were loud in bewailings and in protest. As Mayor of the city, James Lynch Fitzstephen, was, under the extraordinary powers conferred on that office in the 15th century, vested with the prerogative of pardoning criminals; but apart from his fixed purpose of justice he remembered now that during his tenure of office, he had in the case of an earlier murder exercised his civic duty without mercy. The struggle between his feelings as a father and his obligations as a judge was such as to shake the stoutest heart, but he remained inflexible.

The legal enquiry that followed was short. On his own confession the prisoner was convicted of murder and from the lips of his father who presided at the trial, heard the sentence of death. Thus was reproduced in Galway town, four centuries ago, a scene which recalled the heroic days of Lucius Junius Brutus.

No sooner was the result of the trial publicly known, than the indignant populace, crying out against what seemed to them an act of inhuman severity, surrounded the prison and the Mayor's house, threatening to pull down both buildings if the condemned man was not released—a menace which they were prevented from carrying out only by the presence of a military force summoned to suppress the riot.

The interval between the trial and execution was a prolonged and stern test of the fortitude of the father and the firmness of the judge. Persons of rank and influence pressed for a reprieve; his family implored him to save the life of his misguided son; the despair of the innocent cause of that son's crime and her piteous appeals for