

IRELAND.

[The following extract from the *Limerick Chronicle* of 4th January, shows the terrific effects of Gunpowder, and the great culpability of those who keep large quantities of it, in towns or cities.]

AWFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE EXPLOSION.—The citizens of Limerick were last night about a quarter past ten o'clock, terrified by a tremendous explosion of gun-powder, which shook to the very foundation all the houses in the main street of Saint Michael's parish, and even dashed out the window sashes in most of the houses in Patrick-street, George's-street, Denmark-street, Arthur's-quay, and Hogan's-quay, covering the flag-ways with a profuse shower of broken glass. The concussion was so violent as to extinguish all the gas lamps, and involve the streets in total darkness, while the report of the explosion was distinctly heard at the extreme ends of the city, and could be likened to nothing else but the springing of a mine close to our very door, the ground itself trembling with the force of the blast. The scene of this appalling calamity was the large house, corner of George's-street and Denmark-street, inhabited by Mr Richardson, the extensive gun manufacturer, whose entire magazine of gun-powder blew up, and levelled the whole premises to the earth, exhibiting at one glance a scene of desolation, wreck, and ruin, awful to contemplate, but the extent of which was unknown for many minutes, under the cloud of darkness which enveloped every object in the vicinity. The mayor, recorder, and all the magistrates repaired to the spot, with the parish watch and policeman to afford assistance. Piquets of the royal regiment and 72d depot were brought up soon after, besides labourers, with fatigue parties of both corps, were set to work by Lieutenant-Colonel Mansel, brigade-major, clearing away the immense pile of rubbish in which several persons had been overwhelmed, in order to rescue the sufferers, if possible, alive. At half past eleven o'clock last night seven bodies were taken out of the ruins, and conveyed to Barrington's Hospital, terribly mutilated, yet still retaining the vital spark, though literally black with powder. One of the first victims, and who died in a few minutes, was Mr John Healy, of Bank-place, medical student, a young gentleman who happened to be passing the house when the shock occurred, a great beam having struck him on the head and dashed his brains out. His premature fate is the cause of very general and marked regret. Surgeons Thwaites, Franklin, Brodie, and Kane, attended the hospital all night, administering to the unhappy victims, who were brought in every hour for relief. There are several persons yet missing. The next house in George's-street to that which is now a mere blank or vacuum, and that in Denmark-street, immediately adjoining, appeared tottering to the ground, in a most dangerous state, and exhibit a frightful picture of devastation. They resemble mere shells, the main walls standing, but all the floors torn up and rent asunder. Also the opposite house of Mr Ellard, corner of Patrick-street and Denmark-street, and the house of Mr Bourke, corner of Patrick-street and Arthur's quay, are greatly damaged, the window sashes and shop-shutters blown out of the frame work in every instance, and not a particle of glass remained. The other houses in the vicinity are gutted of their window-sashes, and the fronts of all are much disfigured or shattered.

Further Particulars—We have this morning received the following official return of cases in hospital:—

"Honora Grady, severe laceration, not likely to recover; Dr. John Healy, skull dreadfully fractured, dead; Mary Euright, injury of

head and general contusion, likely to recover; Robert Tesky, wound of head and contusions, do.; Mary Hynes, injury of spine and head, dead; Mary Sheehy, general contusion, likely to recover; Anne McMahon, wound of head and general contusion, ditto; Terence Blake, wound of knee, dangerous.

"John S. Thwaites.

"Richard Franklin.

"Thomas Kane.

"Surgeons, Barrington's Hospital."

Four o'clock.—Hospital crowded. The committee are summoned to provide additional bedding and accommodation for the sufferers yet in the ruins.

Mr Richardson's house, stock in trade, and furniture present one indiscriminate heap of ruins, every article irretrievably lost. The house of Mr McMahon, in Denmark-street, adjoining Richardson's is totally demolished, and McMahon himself, his wife, and child, buried in the ruins, not yet found. The next house thereto, in Denmark-street, blown into the street, but no lives lost there. Mr Ellard's house is in a perilous state of decay, the walls threatening to fall every instant, furniture and shop goods destroyed. Mr McNamara, cloth merchant, George's-street, next Richardson's—house dismantled, every window blown out, furniture ruined, shop goods a mass of rubbish, and half burnt. Mrs. Michael Ryan and family lodged there; this lady had her collar-bone dislocated by the shock of the explosion, and her aunt suffered the like injury. Mr Wm Wilson, seedsman, and family, George's-street, had a most providential escape; cannot account for the circumstances at so dreadful a crisis. The houses of Messrs. Barry, Ryan, O'Donnell, Abraham, Hogan, Stevenson, Alexanders, Kelly, London-house, O'Callaghan, O'Brien, Welch, &c., in George's-street, sustained serious injury, windows smashed, and furniture broken. Scarce a shop window in Patrick-street has an entire pane of glass left in the front, and over the doors the fanlights are blown out. Mr Burke's house, Patrick-street, almost reduced to bare walls, shop goods and furniture in a state of destruction, and windows dashed to pieces.

Amongst the other houses in Patrick-street which suffered in a greater or less degree by the catastrophe, are Messrs. Quinlan, Johnston, Barry, Walton, Abraham, Carroll, Connolly, Landers, Trousdell, Ryan, Sykes, Fogarty, Hallowell, O'Gorman, Bowles, Tracy, Wilson, Mason, McMahon, Evans, Doyle, Collopy, and Grubb. The interiors of most of the houses have been materially injured, and the loss will be serious to the proprietors. On North Strand different houses lost a quantity of glass and in the house of Industry many panes were blown out of the sashes. The concussion, we ascertain, was felt at several miles distance from town last night, and the blaze, or reflection on the sky, was seen so far as O'Brien's Bridge and Castle Connell, where the report was also heard. Many persons in town were roused from their slumbers by the shock, for the beds literally trembled under them. The crowds pressing this morning to see the dismal spectacle, from all parts of the city, are innumerable, while the groans of the wounded victims, and the cries of their relatives and friends in melancholy unison, raised the most painful emotion as they passed the hospital.

The active and undaunted exertions of the mayor throughout the entire of this dreadful crisis, and occasionally in scenes of great personal danger, were really beyond all praise. He exposed himself to lead on others to the perilous situations, under tottering walls and fragments of missiles, where any likelihood appeared of rescuing a fellow-creature. Lieutenant-Colonel Mansel, the magistrates, po-

lice, and military, also spared no effort to render assistance to the sufferers. To the inmates of Mr Richardson's house the circumstances which induced this tremendous and fatal explosion are yet a mystery; but the effect of gun-powder is too faithfully developed.

From a Correspondent of the Times.

DISTRESS OF THE POOR IN IRELAND.—Whilst the question of a legal provision for the poor has been so prolific a topic of discussion at the Corn-Exchange, the most harrowing description of their destitution and suffering has been arriving from all parts of the country. The extreme inclemency of the season and the partial failure of the crops have augmented the distress of the Irish poor almost to the extent of famine. In a few—but in a very few—districts, the resident gentry have come forward with contributions towards mitigating the miseries of the multitudes of starving paupers in their neighbourhoods. In Enniskillen for instance, the Earl of Belmore presided at a meeting to raise subscriptions, and his lordship has caused a large quantity of timber to be cut down and conveyed into that town for gratuitous distribution amongst the poor, who have been totally unable to purchase fuel, owing to its scarcity and high price. In the south the charitable donations of the Duke of Leinster, Lady Fitzgerald, and a few others, are spoken of; but, generally speaking, the rich proprietors, especially the absentees, appear neither to know nor care anything about the condition of the famishing thousands on their estates. As an illustration of the extreme distress now prevailing, I subjoin an extract of a letter from the village of Rathkeale, country of Limerick, in which the state of things is not half so bad as in Mayo and other parts of the west of Ireland:—

"There are at the present period over 300 persons in this small town without a bed to lie on. As an aggravation of all our other calamities, potatoes and turf have risen to treble the price they have been usually sold for at this season of the year, and, in addition to all this, the typhus fever is raging with great severity amongst us. So prevalent is the disease, that every day numerous applications of patients for admission into the hospital are obliged to be rejected on account of the already too crowded state of its wards. The poor, having no money to earn, are obliged to sell and pawn every article of dress or furniture of which they can dispose, to purchase food for themselves and their children; and frequently they are compelled to give the money thus raised as payment of the rent to the landlord, and depend upon the charity of the people almost as poor as themselves for the means of existence. Even in this village, the destitute poor amount to almost 1,504 souls."

KILKENNY.—The distress of the poor at this inclement season is much aggravated by the high price of fuel, and the dampness of their wretched dwellings, caused by the continued wetness of the season. The time is fast approaching when the spread of fever may forcibly operate upon the public sympathy.—*Kilkenny Journal*.

CLONMEL.—Hundreds upon hundreds are suffering at this moment, the complicated afflictions of cold, hunger, and sickness, and the question is, how is the evil to be remedied? The prices of every article of necessary consumption is exorbitant, and, while they have been rising there has been no advance in price of human labour.—*Clonmel Correspondent of the Waterford Chronicle*.