

NEGAGH GUARDIAN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1874

SERIOUS ASSAULT NEAR LIMERICK.

A serious assault is reported from Clonlara district, not many miles from Limerick, in which two families named Dillon & Lane, resident in that locality and relatives by intermarriage are concerned.

Not long since the Dillons' sent a number of their cattle to graze on Lanes' farm, and shortly after an execution was put on the premises and lands of Lane, under which Dillons cattle were seized. On hearing of the legal process the Dillons' proceeded to Lane's farm and endeavoured to drive off their cattle, but in this they were frustrated by the Lanes.

It is not ascertained that the Bailiffs had anything to do with the matter.

However an altercation took place between the families in which the Dillons' were worsted, two of them having their skulls fractured.

One of the Dillons is in a dying state.

THE MUNSTER NEWS & LIMERICK & CLARE ADVOCATE.

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH, 1874.

At the Clonlara Petty Sessions held on yesterday, the Magistrates presiding were: WH Warburton, RM; Robert Hunt, John Vanderkiste, and Robert Liddell Brown, Esqrs.

A young man, named Dillon, was charged with shooting with intent to kill, under the following somewhat singular circumstances.

It would appear from the evidence that about two years ago a respectable farmer named Michael Dillon residing near Pallas, County Limerick, had his daughter married to a young man named John Lane, son of a farmer in comfortable circumstances, and residing at Clonlara.

Before the Marriage had taken place, Mr Dillon agreed to give his daughter £300 (pounds) a fortune, and this stipulation was carried into effect soon after the bride had gone to her husbands house.

Notwithstanding the many advantages of both families, it would seem that almost since the marriage took place a very bad feeling had existed between them, growing more bitter every day.

Mrs. Lane's brother Michael Dillon junior, had occasionally resided with her and her husband since their marriage.

Through an arrangement made soon after the marriage had taken place, young Dillon's cattle were allowed to graze on the same land with Lane's own cattle.

This had not, however, been long going on, when Dillon's cattle were seized by the Sheriff's officers for a debt due to the elder Lane.

Dillon, it appears, replevished, but ultimately, owing to the troublesome and annoying nature of the litigation attending the process, he paid the whole debt, and then got back his cattle.

This naturally led to renewed bickerings, and so serious did the quarrel become that the law had to be appealed to.

The magistrates at Petty Sessions on hearing charges brought by one party against the others, decided on sending all the persons implicated in the matter for trial before the Chairman of the County, so that at present they are under a rule of bail.

The alleged outrage which was the subject of inquiry today, was first brought to light in the following manner:-

Early on Sunday morning one of Lane's sons reported that at five o'clock that morning a shot had been fired into the room where he had been sleeping by Michael Dillon jun. He was of the opinion, he said, that the shot had been fired out of a revolver, or a gun, but could not be certain which.

The police authorities immediately made inquiries into the affair and their researchs showed that, to say the least of it, it was very improbable that the outrage had been committed.

On the case coming on hearing today, the court was densely crowded, for the affair had created a good deal of excitement in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Patrick Shelton Connolly, Solicitor, Limerick appeared on behalf of Dillon.

Michael Lane sworn, disposed that about five o'clock on Sunday morning he was awake in bed. He slept in the kitchen of the house. He heard a shot fired through the kitchen window. He immediately got up and opened the front door. On going out he saw Michael Dillon go into his brother John Lane's house.

Witness asked him why he fired the shot, when Dillon replied by saying - "Go to hell out of that". Witness returned into bed and slept for two hours after which he got up and lighted the kitchen fire.

Mary Lane, sister of Michael Lane, swore that she heard the shot at about five o'clock and heard her brother talking to Dillon; witness begged of her brother to return home which he did; saw the marks of the shot on the wall, pointed out by Michael Lane after Mass.

Thomas Lane father of the last witness, deposed that he heard the shot fired.

In answer. to Mr Connelly, the witness deposed that his daughter did not get up at the time she stated; he also denied that his son pointed out some of the shot marks after Mass.

For the defence Mr. Connelly called Dillon's brother in law, John Lane . The witness disposed that he slept in the same bed with Dillon on Saturday night, and they did not get up until eight o'clock on Sunday morning so that it was impossible that Dillon could have committed the outrage if it was committed at all.

On this testimony, and thanking into consideration the contradictory swearing of the witness for the prosecution, the bench decided on discharging Dillon. Their Worships also ordered that informations for perjury should be taken against Thomas Lane, his son and his daughter.

It would thus appear that for the present at least the tables have been completely turned on the would-be prosecutors.