

# IRISH EXAMINER Friday Nov 4th, 1887.

## POPULAR OVATION.

Limerick, Thursday.

**Last night about 12 O'Clock, Michael Lane, Joanna O'Grady, his wife, and Thomas O'Grady, her brother, were discharged from prison having completed one month's imprisonment for resistance to the sheriff and police at the Ardnacrushna evictions which took place on the 27th September.**

The accused were tried under the Crimes Act at Clonlara before Mr Irwin and Major Rolleston, R.M's.

On their release last night Mrs. Lane, her husband and brother took lodgings in the city, and, this morning a large number of residents of Ardnacrusha and surrounding districts came into town, followed by an immense concourse and proceeded to Upper William Street.

Here the ex-prisoners joined the procession, occupying an open carriage, and proceeded to the Town Hall.

They were accompanied by two city bands and much enthusiasm prevailed.

Arriving at the Town Hall about 10 O'Clock a meeting was held, the people being addressed from one of the upper windows of the Council Chamber.

In the room were Mr. Abraham, M.P, the City High Sheriff, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Stephan O'Mara, Mr. John Mc Inerney, Ald. Rioudan and a number of other gentlemen.

Mr S. O'Mara was moved to the Chair amidst applause.

The Chairman, who was received with loud cheers, said -  
Men and Woman of Limerick, the vile Government which now rules over Ireland has been guilty of one of the meanest and lowest tricks that was ever tried to be perpetrated on any people, in this case of Mr. & Mrs Lane (HEAR, HEAR).

They knew you would have given Mrs. Lane and her husband and brother, a warm and hearty reception today on their release from Limerick gaol. (CHEERS).

But the Government thought to steal a march on you (GROANS).

For the first time they allowed these people out of their prison at 12 O'Clock at night. (GROANS).

At 12 O'Clock last night when there was no one to welcome them except a stray watchman. but you, the people of Limerick, were not to be tricked out of the warm reception you intended to give them, and, Mr. & Mrs. Lane waited for the time in order to give you an opportunity of welcoming them. (CHEERS)

You have done so today, you have assembled in your THOUSANDS t Mr. & Mrs.Lane that you are proud of her as a Limerick woman and a worthy successor to the heroines of Limerick. (CHEERS)

We have been famed in history, not alone for the beauty of our woman - for they excel in that - but for the courage of our woman, and I venture to say in the presence of Mrs. Lane that no worthier descendant of these heroines of Limerick was ever seen than she who broke the poker on the policeman's head (LAUGHTER AND CHEERS).

I will ask you to give a cheer for Mrs. Lane and the poker (LOUD CHEERS).

I do hope that wherever the crowbar brigade visits the houses of any Irishwoman or Irishman that the example of Mrs.Lane and the poker will not be forgotten. (CHEERS).

We have assembled hereto welcome Mrs. Lane, her husband and her brother, and a resolution to that a resolution to that effect will be proposed to you by your favourite and your member - William Abraham. (CHEERS)

Mr. William Abraham MP. who was cheered on coming forward, said it has been his pleasure. on many occasions to take part in important demonstrations in the City of Limerick but never at any time in his life had he felt so honoured as he did today in forming one of that vast assemblage in order to do honour to Mr. & Mrs. Lane and her brother, for their heroic action, and the heroic means by which they attempted to defend their home against the crowbar brigade of Colonel MacAdam and his tyrant agent. (GROANS)

He believed that if the tenantry of Ireland were animated by the same heroic of resistance as animated the hearts of these noble people they could render it utterly impossible for the tyrant landlords of Ireland, backed up as they are by all the power of a coercive Tory Government, to deprive the Irish people of the right of living in the homes which they and their fathers built. (CHEERS)

He visited a portion of the rack-rented property yesterday in the Western district of Limerick, and he found there a condition of things which he did not hesitate to say was unparalleled in the history of Irish landlordism. (GROANS), but the Glensharrold tenants were determined to stand on their feet, like the rest of Ireland, and adopt that plan of operation by which they had succeeded in bringing many tyrant rack-renters to their knees, and he hoped that the Plan of Campaign in that portion of his estated property will compel Mr. Delange and his agent to recognise the right of the people of Ireland to have a decent living in the land of their birth: they would unite all the people of that portion of the County Of Limerick, sustained by the proud old historic city in which they were met, and by that struggle - short, sharp and decisive - they would compel him to recognise what were the rights of the tenantry on his property. (CHEERS)

Well he believed that the farm from which Mr. Lane was evicted was today without a tenant and he believed that if it were necessary that the farm should be kept vacant for 50 years there would not be found one man so base, so degraded, so unmindful of what his duty towards his country was in this crisis, to enter the farm no matter how favourable the circumstances might be. (CHEERS).

They were determined in this struggle upon which they entered that they would not be deterred from their course by any terror of misrule.

Mr. Balfour talked of suppressing the League.

But they told Mr. Balfour it was not the National League he had got to suppress but the people of Ireland; but so long as they presented their united front which they did on Tuesday last, when the Counties of Limerick, Clare and Tipperary were banded together, so long would it be utterly impossible for the Tory Government to stifle the convictions of the people of Ireland. (CHEERS)

They were engaged in a struggle, but success would attend their efforts, and they would utterly defeat any attempt to crush the liberties of the Irish people (CHEERS).

He had a resolution to propose the words of which were not yet drafted, but they were to the effect that they tender to Mr & Mrs Lane and Mr. O'Grady their heartfelt expression of their sympathy and admiration for their attitude on the occasion of their eviction from their homes; that the meeting cordially welcomed them amongst them, and they promised that whenever tenants behaved in a similarly heroic manner, so far as the people of this country could do it, they would place them in positions of honour, and sustain them with their sympathy and admiration. (CHEERS)

He was rejoiced to see them today to do honour to his friends who were the admiration of the people from one end of the land to the other.

He believed that actions like this would make the landlords, if it were possible, to pause in the course they entered on, but whether they did or not, the people did not care.

They had only to maintain a firm and strong attitude, because they had the sympathy of all the right minded and liberty loving people of England, and he believed they would see the accomplishment of the object of their life, namely, a parliament in College Green where they would make their own laws in their own land.

Mr McInnerney, PLC, in seconding the resolution said they would show Mr. Balfour and his bludgeon men that the people of Ireland were not to be deterred from doing their duty to their countrymen, and that when one of their people had fought her battle such as Mrs Lane, whom he was proud to call his cousin (CHEERS) had done, she would be accorded the reception she deserved.

The Government would not suppress the branches of their League, because look at his country, meetings of branches which had been suppressed were held, and more than that where there were but one hundred members before in a branch there were two hundred now since the suppression (CHEERS).

The Chairman (Mr. O'Mara) then put the resolution to the meeting and declared it unanimously carried.

He had great pleasure in tendering to Mrs Lane, the unanimous vote of sympathy of this large public meeting of the people of Limerick for their heroic action in defending her own home (CHEERS).

The evicted tenant, Mr. Lane on appearing at the window was loudly cheered.

He said -

Citizens of Limerick I cannot speak many words to you . I have nothing to say but I am Thankful to you for meeting me here. Though Mr. McAdam had the satisfaction of putting me into Gaol he has not had the satisfaction of beating me (CHEERS).

Mr. H.J.Wilson M.P who was introduced by the Chairman as one who sympathised with them in their struggle against coercion, said it was perfectly true, as Mr. O'Mara . . .