

## THE CROKE COMPETITION CUP.

After a struggle of two years the fate of the All-Ireland Challenge Cup for hurling presented by Archbishop Croke for '97 was decided here on Sunday when Munster won the trophy. The final tussle lay between Kilfinane (Limerick) and Kilkenny, the former qualifying by winning the Munster ties and beating Connaught, and later by defeating all-comers in Leinster, and naturally great interest was centred in the event. Fully six thousand people were in attendance here to-day, though the weather was miserable in the extreme. In the early afternoon rain commenced to fall lightly, but as the day advanced it developed into an incessant downpour in which the match was played. The contest did not begin till four o'clock, but long before that the Archbishop made his appearance and was cordially greeted on entering the field. When the team had lined up, Mr. Dineen, secretary, presented them to his Grace, who gave them his blessing. He expressed his delight at their appearance, and hoped they would have a good and peaceable match. The ground was in bad condition and the grass high. These circumstances, with the rainfall, made fast hurling impossible. Kilkenny won the toss, and were attacked by Kilfinane who won the first point. Kilkenny retaliated with two points, but Limerick soon equalised. A stiff struggle ensued in Limerick quarter, out of which Kilkenny got another minor point, but then Limerick plucked up, and with play that was brilliant in such circumstances bewildered their opponents with ease and graceful style, which resulted in their placing to their credit two goals and two further points. The defence of Fox, of Kilkenny, defeated some splendid essays of Limerick towards the end of half time. Kilkenny came out of a stiff contest with a goal. Half time score was:—

Limerick ... 3 goals 4 points.

Kilkenny ... 1 goal 3 points.

The second half was a matter of defence for Kilkenny, who proved unable to cope with the tactics of their opponents, and if they made a few rushes it was only to be repulsed by a grand combination, in which the play of Hanley (Shaunog), of Kilfinane, was of ideal scientific hurling, the final score being:—

Limerick ... 3 goals 8 points.

Kilkenny ... 1 goal 4 points.

Referee—M. P. McGrath, Tipperary.

The very best temper prevailed throughout the match.

A large contingent travelled by brakes, cars, and bikes from Nenagh and district to witness the contest.