

# FAMOUS ATHLETE'S DEATH.

## MR. DAN SHANAHAN.

Our Kilmallock correspondent writes:— Much regret is felt at the death of Mr. D. Shanahan, Kilfinane, at the comparatively early age of about 45 years. His demise will recall a period in the earlier school of athletes, in which he figured so prominently and creditably. Shanahan was born at Ballinima, where and in its vicinity many noted athletes first saw the light. He had as school fellows John Flanagan, Jack McCarthy, and the Connerys, all of whom won fame not alone in Ireland, but in America and elsewhere. At this early period they gave evidence of the ability they possessed, and of the successes to which they afterwards attained, which made their names familiar in every household in Ireland, and beyond the Atlantic. Their recreation hours were occupied in the practice of the different branches of athletics in which they afterwards excelled. Shanahan's forte was jumping, and he chose for his exercise the feat of crossing the river that flows through Martinstown. As time advanced Shanahan progressed. The championship for the hop, step and jump was held at 42 feet, but Shanahan and John Purcell of Dublin came quickly in pursuit of laurels, and soon exceeded this mark, with the consequent result that there was much speculation as to whether Shanahan or Purcell was the superior, and there was much excitement when they did meet. Shanahan, however, proved to be the victor. Purcell left for San Francisco, where he became a great friend of Jim Corbett, and also a successful merchant. It was in 1888, at Limerick, that Shanahan performed the remarkable task of covering 50 feet  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on a grass take off, thus establishing a record which, though frequently assailed, was never broken. The judges on the occasion were the late Mr. Michael Flanagan, Killbreehy; the late Mr. P. Coll, Ballinamuddagh, and Mr. Ned Grady, who superintended the measurements, and were unanimous in praise of Shanahan's great feat. Mr. Flanagan declared it was one of the cleanest jumps ever given, and would take a lot of beating. His prophecy was fulfilled. Looney of Macroom was second on the occasion at 49 feet 9 inches. At the same meeting were the celebrated Canadian shot putter, George Grave, who had made a trip to Ireland for the first time; Willie Real, and Jim Mitchell, and the three divided the weight-throwing events between them. Shanahan was one of the picked team that joined the American invasion, and he, T. J. O'Mahony, and Jim Mitchell and others distinguished themselves in a manner that did credit to themselves, and gave pleasure to their countrymen. Dan Shanahan, as he was familiarly known, was an ardent supporter of Gaelic pastimes, of unassuming demeanour, and genial disposition; he was very popular, and held in much esteem by all who knew him.