

Tipperary, Sunday.—The unveiling of a memorial to Patrick Lynch, Hospital, Co. Limerick, who was taken from his home by British military on the night of 14th August, 1920, and shot dead on the public road on the immediate outskirts of the town, was celebrated in Hospital on Saturday. The day was a Church holiday, and there was a huge demonstration, numbering several thousand people. The memorial, which is erected immediately beside the spot where poor Lynch was murdered, consists of a handsome Celtic cross, bearing the following inscription, which is in both Gaelic and English characters:—"Erected in memory of Patrick Lynch, Hospital, who, on the night of August 14th, 1920, was forcibly taken from his home, and in this vicinity brutally murdered by British Crown forces then stationed in Hospital. On his soul may Sweet Jesus have Mercy. —Lynch Memorial Committee, August, 1925."

A procession was formed, headed by the St. Joseph's Industrial School Brass and Reed Band, Limerick, under the direction of Rev. Brother Curran, Superior. Following them came the Hospital Brass and Reed Band, of which the deceased was a member, with instruments draped and reversed; the pupils of the Christian Brothers and Presentation Convent Schools; the Elton (Staker Wallace) Fife and Drum Band, and the general public.

The procession proceeded to the site of the memorial, where a very large concourse assembled. Rev. Joseph McCarthy, P.P., V.F., Hospital, presided. On the platform were—Misses Mary, Lizzie and Annie Lynch (sisters); James Lynch and Wm. Lynch (cousins); Rev. L. Ryan, C.C., Hospital; Rev. L. Hayes, C.C., Knockaney; R. O'Connell, T.D.; Senator T. W. Bennett, J. C. Bennett, M.C.C.; P. Clancy, T.D.; J. O'Neill, George Downes, T. Bourke, J. O'Byrne, J. Raleigh, N.T.; M. O'Halloran, J. Downes, J. Davern, J. Dwane, J. Woods, J. J. O'Sullivan, J. McCann, E. M. Canty, and P. O'Mahoney and Thomas Walsh, P.C., secs. of the Memorial Committee.

TRIBUTES TO DEAD PATRIOT.

The Rev. Chairman paid a high tribute to the memory of Patrick Lynch, who, he said, was a worthy and inoffensive citizen, a devout and practical Catholic, held in the greatest esteem throughout the district. The speaker appealed for unity and friendship amongst all Irishmen, which was the only hope of making their country prosperous and happy.

A letter was received from President Cosgrave's secretary, regretting the President's inability to attend owing to his having to attend the anniversary demonstration ceremony in connection with the late President Griffith and the late General Collins.

Rev. J. McGrath, P.P., Kilbehenny, who also wrote regretting he could not attend, said:—"It is very thoughtful and kind of the people of Hospital to raise such a memorial, and it is only in keeping with the part they have always taken in every good cause."

Mr. James Ledden, T.D., Limerick City, wrote:—"I knew Patrick Lynch very well indeed. He was as straight, and as modest and as tolerant as by his death he proved himself to be unselfishly devoted to his country. It is my firm conviction that the example of those who, like Paddy Lynch, faced peril unflinchingly, and finally paid the supreme penalty for the sake of Rosin Dhu, will be cherished by the generations who, after us, will make our country, thanks to him and to others like him in recent years, happy and prosperous as God and Nature intended her to be."

Mr. James Colbert, T.D., Athea, Co. Limerick, said the memorial was a fitting tribute of respect to the memory of a man who had made the supreme sacrifice for the cause that Irishmen should hold so dear.

Letters of apology were also received from Messrs. P. K. Hogan, T.D., Herbertstown, and Sean T. Nolan, T.D., Foynes.

ORATION BY MR. O'CONNOR, T.D.

Mr. Batt O'Connor, T.D., Dublin, said he deemed it an honour to come there to join with the people in paying a tribute to the memory of Patrick Lynch, who met his death under the terrible and tragic circumstances so well known to them all. The English Government of the time sent over to Ireland armed forces to commit murders of this character with the object of terrorising the people into submission. But the Irish were a fighting race and stood up to them, and instead of the British defeating the Irish they were themselves defeated, and driven, bag and baggage, out of the country. For that glorious victory there was one Irishman they had to thank above all others, and that was Michael Collins. He was a personal friend of his (Mr. O'Connor's). They met regularly, and when England was pouring her armed forces into their ports, Michael Collins said to him: "They are coming, Batt, but we'll beat them." Michael Collins never for one moment doubted that victory would be on the side of the Irish people. In order to consolidate and bring to full fruition the victory that had been gained, the people must forgive and forget any bitterness and differences that had divided them in the past, and work loyally together for the common weal.

The speaker remarked that as he saw the procession pass through the town he observed that the Hospital band, of which Patrick Lynch was a member, was silent, and marched with their instruments draped and reversed, and the explanation he got for this was that since Lynch's murder five years ago the band had never played there on the spot which would be for ever sacred to Lynch's memory. He appealed to the people of Hospital to revive their band. It would be the best tribute that the people could pay to the memory of one who was so beloved and revered by them all.

"In your name," said Mr. O'Connor, in conclusion, "I now unveil the memorial."

During the unveiling ceremony, which was witnessed in reverent silence, the "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of St. Joseph's Band, Limerick.

Senator T. W. Bennett, Kilmallock, who said he was an intimate personal acquaintance of Patrick Lynch, spoke in feeling terms of the noble qualities of the deceased.

The Rev. Chairman then recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish for the repose of Patrick Lynch's soul, which was reverently responded to by the great concourse.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close. ©INA