

ASSASSINATION IN THE QUEEN'S COUNTY

(From Saunders's News Letter.)

PARSONSTOWN, SATURDAY.—On last evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a determined attempt was made to take the life of R. Ely, Esq., whose sides at Ballaghmore, Castlemore, midway between Borris-in-Ossory and Roscrea. The assassin was concealed in a shrubbery contiguous to his residence, and while Mr. Ely was passing through a small wicket he was fired at, and the contents took effect on his left arm, above the elbow, which is greatly shattered and, it is apprehended, will end fatally. Mr. Ely is a gentleman of the most benevolent habits, and was one most unlikely to make an enemy. This attack on his life was most unaccountable, and has caused a great and wide-spread sensation.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.—Mr. Ely was going to his brother's house when he was fired at. It is said that he will this day undergo amputation of the arm, but faint hopes are entertained of his recovery.

PARSONSTOWN, SUNDAY EVENING.—A telegraphic despatch which appeared in your second edition of Saturday last, stated that the life of the above named respected gentleman had been attempted by an armed assassin, who fired at him on the previous evening when passing through a small gate on his grounds, wounding him, as apprehended, fatally. The unfortunate gentleman lingered on until about one o'clock on the following day (Saturday), when he expired from the effects of the wounds so inflicted. As already stated, he was a gentleman of kind, benevolent, and popular habits, and his savage murder can only be accounted for by a supposition which has been hinted at, that it was in consequence of carrying out the suppression of prevalent poaching habits in that part of the country. Another report attributes his murder to the fact that he was mistaken for a landed proprietor in the neighbourhood; but this is not credible. Other causes have also been assigned; but all is merely conjecture. Mr. Ely was a large sized man, and it is supposed he was passing sideways through the small gate when he was fired at. A hat was found at the spot of the murder, which is supposed to have been worn by the assassin, and dropped by him in his haste to escape. This may lead, and it is reported, has led to the commencement of a clue which may conduct to the discovery of the murderer. There has been distributed at the various surrounding police stations a description of the person suspected, and who, it is said, has absconded. Should any further particulars of consequence transpire as to this terrible crime, which has occurred in what was supposed to be a peaceable neighbourhood, they will be forwarded immediately by telegraph.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.—The editor of the *Leinster Express* has furnished us with the following letter, received from his correspondent:—

“ROSCREA, NOVEMBER 6TH, 1858.—You will be shocked and grieved to learn the death of your old friend and relative, Richard Ely, Esq., of Ballaghmore Castle, who has fallen by the hand of the assassin. Richard, who resided in his own house, a short distance from the castle, usually dined with his brother and his sister, at the castle; and on Friday evening, about half-past seven o'clock, he left for his own residence. On passing through a narrow stile he was fired at, the contents of the gun taking effect in his left arm near the shoulder, the assassin's aim having been evidently for his heart. Mr. Ely ran back to his brother's house, where he fell from loss of blood. Drs. Kingsley and Powell, from Roscrea, were in attendance as soon as possible, and did what they could to stop the hæmorrhage. Next morning Dr. Jacob, of Maryborough, with Drs. Wood, of Roscrea, and White, of Borris-in-Ossory, were also present, when it was decided that amputation of the limb afforded the only chance of saving life, from the extensive injuries caused by the pellets. The operation was performed, but the lamented gentleman sunk and expired in about three hours afterwards. The missiles with which the gun was charged are supposed to have been bullets cut in four—six of these pieces have been found in the limb or clothes of the victim. Meanwhile the constabulary were on the alert, and grounds of suspicion exist against a young person of bad character who has absconded, but it may not be judicious to give publicity to the particulars at this juncture—enough to say that a more trivial cause could not well be imagined than that to which is attributed this atrocious instance of the 'wild spirit of revenge' which degrades the character of our peasantry. A more kind-hearted man, or one more universally beloved than Richard Ely never existed. The Messrs. Ely were of the old Conservative school of politics, but were exceedingly popular in the Queen's County, and in the adjoining parts of the King's County and Tipperary. They were, perhaps, the oldest and longest occupiers upon the estate of Sir C. Coote, Bart., M.P. They gave considerable employment, as their improvements were extensive. The deceased, who was a fine powerful-looking man, about 50 years of age, was unmarried. How fearful must be the state of society when such a life as that of Richard Ely could be so wantonly destroyed. An inquest will be held on Monday.”

(From the Daily Express.)

The Borris-in-Ossory police, under Mr. Mullen, were soon on the spot, and discovered, in a small shade of trees, within seven yards of where Mr. Ely fell, a hat, which, it has been ascertained, belongs to a man named James Delany, who resides with his father on part of Sir Charles Coote's estate, a short distance from Ballaghmore. Search was made for Delany, but he has not been at his residence since, and the police are actively in pursuit. A description of him has been forwarded to the different police stations.

It has transpired that about a fortnight since, when Delany's father attended at the office of Sir Charles Coote's agent, for the purpose of paying rent, the agent complained of Delany's keeping greyhounds, and of his son James being a poacher. Delany denied that he had any dogs, and offered to take his oath to that effect; and thereupon Mr. Richard Ely, who was present, stated he was surprised that Delany could make such a statement in his hearing,—or words to that effect. The agent thereupon tore a receipt which he had prepared for Delany, and said he would require the full arrear to be paid if Delany did not get rid of the dogs.

This is the only cause of offence that poor Mr. Ely is supposed to have given. He was a keen sportsman, but a more generous one never existed; in fact the game on his land were for the use of his friends, and those, not only of his own class in life, but the farmers and labourers of the district, were always welcome, and usually joined his coursing parties. He was never known to prosecute in any court of law in his life.

Delany, the person suspected, has not borne a good character. About four years ago he was tried at the assizes of Nenagh for the murder of a man named Kishem, by stabbing him, was found guilty of manslaughter and suffered two years' imprisonment.

An inquest was held this day, before J. H. Owen, Esq., assisted by Captain Whelan, R.M. Messrs. R. Palmer, H. White, R. White, and Barker Thacker, J.P.'s, were also present.

An intelligent jury were sworn, of whom George Steele, Esq., was foreman.

Mr. Robert Ely, brother of the deceased, and Dr. Powell, of Roscrea, were examined as to the causes of death, and an open verdict was found.

It is worthy of observation that one of the jurors remarked that Mr. Ely was in the habit of carrying a gun, and might have shot himself.

The Coroner did not appear to think that such was at all a probable matter.