

From the *Anglo-Celt*, Co Cavan, 20 July 1849

(available at <http://www.irelandoldnews.com/Cavan/1849/JUL.html>)

FATAL COLLISION NEAR CASTLEWELLAN.

The following ample particulars of the melancholy affray between the Orangemen and Roman Catholics at Castlewellan, on the 12th instant, we borrow from different sources:-

(From the *Newry Telegraph*.)

The Orangemen, on their return from Tollymore Park, through the pass of Dolly's Brae, were fired on by a dense mob of Ribbonmen, who had lined the pass on either side. The great body of the lodges had passed through the defile, when the rebels opened their fire on the men around the last flag, and on the constabulary and military, who were bringing up the rere (sic). Balls were whizzing on all sides. Some of the Orangemen were struck down, but the body at once opened a warm fire in return, and with the police, broke into skirmishing order up the mountain, and dislodged their cowardly assailants from behind the stone walls and ditches where they had taken up position.

Mr. Hill, of Rathfriland, constabulary officer; Mr. Edwd. Corry, S.I.; Capt. Fitzmaurice, R.M., Francis C. Beers, Esq., J.P., and Capt. Skinner, J.P., bravely led the police force and in the thick of a very heavy fire dispersed the ribbon party, and took thirty-eight prisoners, most of them armed with pikes, muskets, scythes mounted on poles, and other deadly weapons, who were all conveyed into Rathfriland that night, and were to-day (Friday) fully committed at an investigation which was held by Capt. Fitzmaurice, R.M., Mr. Tabiteau, R.M., Capt. Skinner, J.P., Thos. Scott, Esq., J.P., Frns. C. Beers, Esq., J.P., Capt Tighe, J.P.

As far as we can learn, four of the Orange party are severely wounded, though not killed, and about thirty of the Ribbon party, several of whom were seen lying dead on the roads in the vicinity, and through the mountain, but were conveyed away during the night. Five men and one woman severely wounded, were brought into the infirmary at Castlewellan last night. One of the men has since died, and we understand four persons are lying dead at Maheramayo, awaiting a coroner's inquest. It should be mentioned that, from some houses in the neighbourhood of the pass, shots were fired at the Orangemen. The latter, roused beyond endurance turned upon their assailants, and set fire to six or seven of the houses.

The bravery with which Mr. E. Corry, sub-inspector of the constabulary, brother of I. Corry, Esq., D.L., rushed into a burning house, and at the hazard of his life, rescued two poor women from the flames, is the theme of every tongue. He was so nearly suffering from his heroic conduct, that the blazing timbers fell in on him as he was carrying out the second female, and so exhausted was he, that he fell insensible on the ground. He is quite recovered. A quantity of ammunition was found on the persons of the Ribbon party who were captured; and it is worthy of remark, that a barrel of gunpowder, which a carrier was conveying to a merchant in Castlewellan, was robbed from his cart on Tuesday night, and distributed among the Ribbon party. The number of the attacking party was estimated at one thousand.

(From the *Downpatrick Recorder*.)

July 13. - Sad work yesterday evening at Dolly's Brae, near Castlewellan. I have been there to-day, and learned the following particulars:- there was, as you know, an evident intention to attack the Orange procession at that place; indeed, an anonymous challenge had been sent to Mr. Shaw, Lord Annesley's agent, a day or two previous, couched in the bitterest language, desiring to meet the Rodens, the Keowns, the Skinners, the Pig drivers, the police, and the handful of soldiers to protect the last march that they, the Orangemen, shall ever have, in spite of all her Majesty's forces, to protect them; and they should see who would be uppermost.

Government, as you know, sent a troop of dragoons, which, with the company of the 13th Light Infantry, and about 50 police, the former under the command of Major Walhouse, the latter under M. Tabiteau, R.M. The Major disposed his forces so as to command the pass, and so far all went on quietly. On the Orangemen coming to their place of rendezvous, Tollymore Park, though there were numbers of Ribbonmen at the place armed to the teeth with every kind of weapons, guns, pikes, &c.; nothing, however, took place except an incident that nearly proved fatal to Captain Skinner, Lord Downshire's agent. He had gone on a road to the left towards the townland of Leitrim, and met a large body of Ribbonmen, whom he mistook for Orangemen.