

LAYING OF THE  
FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE VICTORIA  
PIER, QUEENSTOWN.

TUESDAY week being the day fixed for the laying of the foundation stone of the new Pier building for the Lords of the Admiralty at Queenstown, a large and fashionable assembly was in attendance for that purpose. The scene of the ceremony was gaily decorated with flags of all descriptions, and the protecting railing was covered with green boughs. The addition of ladies light dresses, and a sprinkling of naval and military uniforms, increased the gay appearance of the scene.

Exactly at two o'clock, the steamer yacht the *Black Eagle*, having on board the Lords of the Admiralty, followed closely by the *Banshee*, entered the harbour and fired a salute, which was immediately answered from the guardship; and soon after the two steamers took their places close by Haulbowline. About half-past two the *St. Jean d'Acre*, which had been seen off the harbour from an early hour in the morning, came in under topsails, and fired a salute announcing her arrival.

A deputation—consisting of Messrs. Fagan, M.P., B. Verling, and George Scott—waited upon their Lordships, to request that they would assist at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Pier—the ceremony which was about to be performed by Rear Admiral Sir W. F. Carroll. Sir J. Graham, who received the deputation with the utmost courtesy, readily acceded to their request; and, at three o'clock, arrived at the pier. Sir James Graham was accompanied by Captain Milne and Rear-Admiral Dundas, both Lords of the Admiralty; and Sir Baldwin Walker; the Mayor; Messrs. E. B. Roche, M.P., Fagan, M.P., Beamish, M.P.; and the Harbour Commissioners.

At three o'clock the huge stone was lowered to its place, and Sir William Carroll descended to perform the interesting ceremony. As he stepped upon the stone, his appearance was greeted with a vociferous cheer from the gentlemen, and waving of handkerchiefs from the ladies. A number of coins of every denomination of value were placed beneath the stone; and then a square plate of brass, containing the following inscription, which the Admiral read in a loud and distinct voice:—

The foundation-stone of the pier, built at the expense of the Government for the benefit of the public the inhabitants of Queenstown, was laid by Rear-Admiral Sir W. F. Carroll, K.C.B., Commander-in Chief of the Port, on the 22nd day of Sept., 1853.

Colonel George T. Greene  
Director of Engineering and Architectural  
Works of the Admiralty  
W. H. Churchward, Superintending Engineer  
John Edwards, Contactor.

Mr. Edwards, the Contractor, then presented, to the Admiral a silver trowel of exquisite workmanship and design, with a carved ivory handle, from the establishment of Mr. Hawkesworth, of the Grand Parade. The trowel bearing the following inscription:—

Presented to Sir W. F. Carroll, K.C.B.,  
Commander-in-Chief of the Port, on the  
occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of  
the Victoria Pier at Queenstown, Sept., 1853.

Mr. John Edwards, Contractor

The Admiral, taking the trowel, dipped it in mortar, and drew it round the stone; then, taking a large bottle of champagne, he broke it upon the stone, and said, "I declare this the Victoria' Pier." This declaration was received with a deafening shout. The Admiral then waving his hat, called out, "Her Majesty, God bless her." And with three loud cheers the ceremony was concluded.

The Illustration represents Sir William Carroll reading the inscription-plate, accompanied by the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, the Hon. Capt. Milne, &c.

[Taken from *Illustrated London News*, Vol. XXIII, 1853, p.308]