

CEREMONY OF "THROWING THE DART."

THE visit of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland to the city of Cork, last week, was the occasion of the observance of an interesting municipal custom, which our Artist has pictured in the accompanying Illustration.

On Wednesday morning, his Excellency and suite, accompanied by a distinguished party, after visiting the Sailors' Home, proceeded to the Custom house and entered the Cork, Blackrock, and Passage Railway steamer *Victoria*.

The scene of the quays at either side was strikingly picturesque. The ships lying in both channels of the river, were gaily decorated with flags and streamers. Their decks, masts, and rigging were crowded with persons anxious to see the Viceroy, and as he made his appearance a deafening cheer arose from the vast assemblage. The steamer *Victoria*, which conveyed his Excellency and the parties who accompanied him in the excursion was decorated for the occasion. The excellent band of the 15th Regiment of Foot was in attendance,

A Guard of Honour of the Cork city constabulary, with a troop of the 16th Lancers, attended the Viceregal cortege as it entered the steamer. Precisely at half past ten o'clock the steamer was loosed from its moorings, and moved along from the quay, while the Royal salute which was fired was scarcely heard amid the loud cheers. Her Majesty's steam tender *Advice* followed the Viceregal steamer. The *Prince Arthur* river steamer also followed with a large company of Citizens, and the Harbour Commissioners' steamer *Queen* also accompanied.

The Mayor was surrounded by his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant and suite; the various Consuls resident in Cork; and the Corporation; who vociferously cheered the ceremony. His Excellency remained on the gangway a considerable time, in company with Captain Clarke, Harbour Master; Mr. Fagan, M.P.; and Lord Fermoy, and made several inquiries regarding the harbour.

During the return, Mr. R. L. Stopford, who had made the accompanying Sketch of the ceremony for the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, had the honour of submitting the same to the Lord-Lieutenant, who expressed himself much pleased with the representation.

As the steamer passed Blackrock Castle, the flag which streamed from its summit was lowered, and a salute was fired. The steamers proceeded down at a moderately-rapid rate to Haulbowline Island, where his Excellency and a large company landed, and were received by a guard of honour of the 16th Lancers, with the General (Mansel) and staff. The guard-ship in the harbour fired-twenty-one guns. His Excellency accompanied by several distinguished personages, was conducted by Mr. Ede, the superintendent, over the entire stores, which are at present well filled with every requisite for the navy. Having concluded his inspection of Haulbowline his Excellency proceeded in the Admiralty barge to Spike Island Convict Depot, where he remained a considerable time.

Soon after his Excellency's embarkation, Mr. Hugh Cole, of Queenstown.

Admiralty Chart Agent, having been introduced to his Excellency by the Mayor, presented to him a fine chart of Cork Harbour, with views of Queenstown, Haulbowline, and Spike Island, accompanied by a suitable address.

His Excellency and the Viceregal cortege in the Admiralty barge, rejoined the steamer, at Haulbowline, shortly before two o'clock, when the steamer proceeded to sea, and having arrived at a point commencing the outline of the Poor-head on the left, and the Old head of Kinsale on the right, the Mayor and civic authorities proceeded to assert the corporate jurisdiction over the harbour by the customary formality of throwing the dart. For this purpose, the Mayor having robed himself in his scarlet cloak, with the official chain, &c., on his neck, proceeded to the bow of the vessel as soon as it had reached the extreme mouth of the harbour, when the dart (an arrow about four feet in length) having been handed to his Worship, he threw it into the water, amidst cheers from the councillors and other persons present.

[Taken from *Illustrated London News*, Vol. XXVI, 1855, p.531 2 June 1855]

