

Civic Peacocks

HEATHER CUNNINGHAM

THE MAYORS of today are quite a dreary lot when compared to their more splendidly attired foremayors of yesteryear. Take for example Richard Franklin, Mayor of Limerick for 1840, who attended a public function in Limerick on 2 July of that year to congratulate Queen Victoria and Her Royal Consort, Prince Albert, on their happy escape from the murderous hand of a would-be regicide. Mayor Franklin arrived at the meeting in his carriage:

wearing his gold chain of office, scarlet velvet ermine-trimmed cloak, an embroidered figured Court dress, waistcoat and coat, breeches, shoes, stockings, gloves. On his entrance he was most enthusiastically cheered: to which his Worship responded by bowing to the meeting in the most graceful manner.

Limerick and Tipperary Vindicator 3 July 1840.

His entourage were no less splendidly attired for, according to the *Limerick and Tipperary Vindicator* of 8 October 1841:

The uniform of the sergeants-at-mace, the ancient officers of The Tholsel Court is really superb and magnificent. The sheriff officers are attired in a brilliant livery of scarlet, blue and silver while the Mayors constables are furnished with the Royal dress of blue and scarlet trimmed with gold. The arms of Limerick are splendidly executed in alt relief upon large buttons, superbly chased and of the richest gold and silver plating. It is exceedingly creditable to the Corporation of Limerick and most equally gratifying to our fellow citizens at large, that not a chartered city or town in Ireland can excel the ancient City in Limerick in the respectable appearance of its Civic Auxiliaries.