

THE NEW POST-OFFICE, CORK

A DEPUTATION from Cork waited last week upon the Postmaster-General, London, relative to the new Post-office in that city. The deputation consisted of the Mayor, Town Clerk, City Surveyor, Alderman Galvin, Alderman Plane, and Mr. Kennedy. They were accompanied by Mr. Murphy, M.P., and Mr. Downing, M.P. Mr. Murphy introduced the deputation, and pointed out briefly to Lord John Manners their object in waiting on him, and explained the necessity which existed for larger postal and telegraph offices than those contemplated. The Mayor said they were much surprised and greatly disappointed when they saw the plans and specification for the postal and telegraph offices which are about to be erected in Cork, and they did not conceive that this building was in keeping with the progress of the times. It was, in fact, inferior in point of ornament and elevation to many public buildings in Cork—to the bank, for instance, and even to the corn stores, and to a tobacco store. He thought that now that the Government money was to be expended, there should be two points borne in mind—the beauty of the building as an ornament to the city, and the convenience of the public. The proposed building did not accord with their tastes in regard to beauty, nor with their ideas on the score of convenience. The stamps must be purchased in Pembroke-street, and you must go round to George's-street to post the letters, where you were not protected from wind or weather. He advocated the purchase of the quadrant between the two streets.

Alderman Galvin pointed out the growing trade of the city, particularly its maritime trade. He also pointed out that Cork was an important military centre. Though the proposed building might be adequate for the present service, he believed it would be quite unequal to the trade of the country ten years hence.

Mr. Plane urged the necessity of deferring the contracts until some alteration could be made in the plans. He also suggested that there should be a large illuminated clock placed in the front of the building.

After a discrepancy which existed between the plans at the Post-office and those at the Cork Custom House was pointed out and discussed.

Lord John Manners said he was sorry that the deputation had come so late, for, as they knew, the tenders had been already advertised, and everything was settled. He was quite taken by surprise to learn that the internal as well as the external arrangements had been objected to by the citizens of Cork. He understood these arrangements had been agreed on by men who were interested in the proper accommodation of the Cork public. It came before him as a matter which had been very much thought over and discussed, and he had understood that the great complaint was the enormous delay which had occurred.

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