

No.1 had several scrapes or cuts on his cheek."

The location of some of these shafts is still marked today with mounds of the excavated rock etc. In other cases, the stones were carted away to construct and repair roads. Where visible, they show the line of the tunnel from where it enters the hill behind Drumbanagher Church to where it emerges a short distance from Michael O'Brien's home. The tunnel remains in quite good condition to this day, and apart from the problems about access to the entrances, it can be walked with no difficulty. The rails and sleepers have been removed and the only evidence of the track are the wooden keys strewn about the floor. The walls and roof were built with cut stone and the small arched recesses were built around with brick with the natural rock face forming the back wall. As in 1862 when the reporter visited the tunnel, today's visitor will find some limited vision when he, or she, becomes accustomed to the gloom. The exit is clearly visible from the entrance. In some places there is quite a lot of water coming down and stalactites hang from the roof.

And what about the men who were involved in this great undertaking? As reported, a number were miners brought across from England to work in the tunnel and an examination of Drumbanagher Church of Ireland Parish Records supports this. The records show miners and their children buried there as follows:—

William Bailey, son of miner on railway, 10/2/1863, 21/2 years.

Thomas Pryor, miner on railway, 12/4/1863, 56 years.

Richard M. Walker, son of miner on railway, 27/4/1863, 7 years

William Funckley, son of miner on railway, 23/5/1863, 1 year.

James Cooper, miner of Manchester, 2/6/1863, 55 years.

Mary Anne Parker, Lancashire, daughter of miner, 5/6/1863, 2 1/2 years.

Edward Wm. Keaton, Lancashire, son of miner, 8/9/1863, 10 weeks.

Mary Hanna Harris, Northampton, daughter of miner, 8/10/1863, 1 month.

Their behaviour did not exactly endear them to the local community and shortly after their arrival in the Markethill area they were alleged to have made use of "expressions calculated to offend the good residents" of that town. As a result, they, the residents,

held a demonstration to protest about the railway workers' behaviour and 3,000 marched through the town with fife and drum to show the strength of feeling. A sub-Inspector with 40 police succeeded in keeping the peace. The navvies, as they were called, caused problems in Newry too and one navvy described as "an English-man of immense proportions" appeared at Newry Court on a serious assault charge. William Watson, known as 'Cumberland Bill', emerged from Smith's Public House in Canal Street and set upon a poor unfortunate coal porter called Owen McBride, who just happened to be delivering coal in the street. Eventually the police arrived, and, 'with difficulty,' as the report states, 'removed the monster to the barracks.' Most of the disturbances arose out of the navvies visits to public houses and other places as the following reports illustrate:—

"A woman of ill-fame, named Mary Johnston; charged a navvy, named William Nelson with having committed a grievous assault upon her."

From the evidence it appeared that two of the navvies went into the residence of this girl, and assaulted her, knocking her down and dragging her by the hair. She said:—

"The treatment he gave me was fit to kill a beast."

Esther Scott, a fellow resident, corroborated the complainant's evidence. Acting Constable Roberts deposed that Sub-Constable McIntee and he went up to High Street and met Nelson running along, with all the women in the street running after him and pelting him with stones. He arrested him and brought him before Mr. Brady, who remanded him. He was "not altogether drunk...."

Mr. Brady said:— "This would all be avoided if they would pay the men at the tunnel and not in public houses in Newry."

The Bench sentenced the prisoner to be imprisoned for one month at hard labour.

#### THE NAVVIES AGAIN!

"This morning, at the Police Court, Pat Sullivan, William Raber, Pat Quinn, Thomas Brombie, John Kirby, navvies, were brought up, charged by the police with being drunk, and disorderly on the public streets on Saturday night. The fellows, as usual, arrived in Newry from the tunnel, and, on Saturday night after having sojourned some time in the public houses, began their vagaries in the streets. The men were all fined in small sums. Peter Kelly another gentleman from the