


In the *Dublin*  of August 18th, 1832, there is a nice description of Irishtown in John Banim's "Roman Merchant." The inn the merchant stayed in, the bow window of his little shop, the kindly and inquisitive neighbours leaning over the cross doors, the little bridge in and out of the Hightown comes clearly to us, through the height of almost 200 years, for Banim describes the doings of 80 years before his time. The student of this part of Kilkenny will be interested in the tale and will wonder, too, how much of it is fiction and how much of the strange happenings actually occurred.

## A Glimpse into the Past : When the Vane Fell

On an iron plate attached to the weather cock, recently removed from Kilkenny's Town Hall, appears the following engraved inscription :

THE VANE FELL 1880 : T.P.P.

John McCraith, Mayor 1834.

Simon Morris, Mayor, 1875.

The first was Mayor in 34,  
 He, poor man, is now no more ;  
 The next was Mayor in 75,  
 He, poor man, is now alive.  
 Please tell the Council, you who last,  
 I find the Ball is falling fast,  
 And should we two have been forgotten,  
 Please tell the Council all is rotten.

On the back of the plate was engraved : Erected by Power and Son.

Power and Son were the well-known engineering and hardware firm in High Street, where Mr. James Delehanty now carries on a similar business.

An indentation on the plate would appear to be caused by a bullet, probably in the Civil War of 1922.

The weather cock was sent to a Dublin firm for overhaul recently and the plate was returned.