

*Kilkenny People May 20<sup>th</sup> 1916*

MR. PAT O'BRIEN, M.P., AND THE **KILKENNY ARRESTS.**  
CORPORATION'S RESOLUTION.

At the meeting of the Corporation on Tuesday night, The Town Olérk said that, respecting the recent arrests in Kilkenny he had, at the direction of the Mayor, placed all the facts before Mr. Pat O'Brien, M.P. for Kilkenny City, from whom he had received the following reply.—

House of Commons,

May 15, 1916.

Dear Mr. O'Connell—In reply to your letter of the 13th inst., I am sorry to hear of the arrests where all was peace. I will put questions when the Prime Minister returns from Ireland. There is no one here who can answer questions about Ireland of that, sort in his absence. I may also write to Sir John Maxwell. —Yours very truly,

PAT O'BRIEN

The Mayor said that, as might be seen by the- Press, other Councils throughout Ireland had passed resolutions calling for clemency for the men detained as prisoners, and the Town Clerk had drafted a resolution on similar lines for their consideration.

Mr. Healy—I think we should wait yet awhile.

Mayor—Very well.,

Mr. Healy—That is only my own opinion.

Mayor—It is for the Corporation to decide if they will adopt the resolution.

Ald. Cantwell—I don't know that it would be wise to wait. The longer the sore is kept open the worse will it be for the country. If clemency were extended quickly it would have much greater effect than if it were withheld for any length of time, If we can do anything to get home the men who have been taken out of Kilkenny I think we ought to do it.

Mr. Slater agreed.

The Town Clerk then read the following resolution:-“The Corporation of Kilkenny are, naturally, chiefly concerned in the welfare and interest of the men from Kilkenny city and county, and who were placed under arrest to constitute a sequel glaring in its inconsistency because of the undisputed fact that those young fellows had neither hand, act or part in the Dublin rebellion, the consequences of which are so much deplored. We now, in meeting assembled, make a request to the Premier of England, through the hands of our sturdy and vigilant Parliamentary representative, Mr. Pat O'Brien, who, irrespective altogether of circumstances, is always to the rescue of Kilkenny and her people, for the release of those men; and we will ask Mr. O'Brien to enlist the services and influence of his illustrious leader, Mr. Redmond, and of the whole Irish Party, when presenting this appeal on our behalf to Mr Asquith, a man who is now in a position to judge for himself. As we say, we make this request for the release of our own in particular; knowing them to be totally unconnected with the recent risings, knowing them to be of exemplary and unblemished character, and knowing, too, that the majority of them were the chief and perhaps only means of support of aged parents and helpless dependents. We take the liberty, too, of making a strong appeal for clemency all round, and we are very confident that this request, supported by the illustrious Chairman and Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, with the strong and influential assistance of our own Parliamentary representative, will meet with a consideration and response in conformity with its gravity and justification—justification, we say, because it is an admitted fact that up to the rising in Dublin it was as permissible and as legal to be an Irish Volunteer and to carry a rifle as it was for the forces of the Crown to take over our city under martial law. '

