

THE INHABITANTS PERPLEXED.

Meanwhile the inhabitants of the neighbouring houses were much perplexed as to what was going on, and incredulous of the explanation that the gas supply of Trinity had failed and some attempt was being made to put it right. The arrival of soldiers, who formed up in the cover of the side streets and took possession of the corner house to cover the digging party caused them further alarm and curiosity.

Unfortunately in Trinity College further tools were not procurable, and a delay seemed undesirable it was determined to attack at once, utilising what holes had been made. The guns cantered out by the Brunswick street gate, and came swiftly along Tara street. When they reached the two side streets which intersect it, about thirty yards from the quays, they turned off into these and unlimbered, the ammunition limbers being left there, while the guns were man-handled into the prepared positions. The volunteers from Trinity College left their work, and three of them formed a party to carry ammunition from the side streets to the guns.

The two 18-pounders opened fire almost simultaneously. At the first report every pane of glass in the street was shattered, and even in Trinity College the solid buildings seemed to quake under those who were lining the parapets. Machine guns placed on the tower of the Fire Station, the Custom House, and the Tivoli mixed their noise with that of the rifles, to form an indescribable and hideous medley of sound, almost deafening the gunners in the narrow Tara street. Liberty Hall and the adjacent houses were wreathed in dust and smoke, and appeared to be replying vigorously from machine guns and rifles. This was subsequently discovered not to be the case, as the rebels had got wind of the move, and partially evacuated their position on the previous night. Shell after shell was fired, throwing down a portion of Northumberland House, and making the others mere empty shells.

SHELLED FROM THE RIVER.

On Wednesday, the 26th April, the steamer Helga, which was formerly a police patrol boat belonging to the Fisheries Department, and lately employed by the Admiralty in connection with the war, was brought up the Liffey, and anchored nearly opposite the Custom House, with the intention of bombarding Liberty Hall, the headquarters of the Citizen Army.

As most people are aware, the loop-line railway bridge intervenes between the Custom House and Liberty Hall, and in addition to this formidable obstruction to the line of fire one of Guinness's steamers was lying close to Butt Bridge. It was impossible under these conditions to bring direct fire to bear upon the objective. The gunners on the Helga were accordingly obliged to adopt a plan of dropping fire.

The military in occupation of the Custom House prepared to co-operate, and by removing portions of the wall facing Liberty Hall were able to obtain effective positions for their machine guns.

The bombardment commenced about eight o'clock in the morning, and for over an hour a continuous cannonade was maintained. There was no return fire from the rebels, who were supposed to be in occupation of Liberty Hall, but the bombardment caused intense excitement in the district, where there is a large population of the poorer class of residents. With every shot the houses were shaken, and the people were almost panic-stricken.

After the expenditure of a great amount of ammunition, the Helga withdrew further down the river. It was then seen that the outer shell of Liberty Hall had been very little damaged. All the windows had been blown in, but the surrounding brickwork was only slightly injured. The interior, however, was a mass of debris. The adjoining premises, occupied as an office by Messrs. Pickford, carriers, also suffered by the bombardment, the whole building having been blown to pieces. It was stated that during the previous night the "garrison" had been warned of the approach of the Helga, and made good their escape.

AT THE FOUR COURTS.

Not far from Charles street are the Four Courts, where were one of the Volunteers' strongholds. The Courts of Law presented an extraordinary appearance. The gates were closed and barricaded with all kinds of furniture, and inside each was a Volunteer sentry. The buildings within were held by the rebels, whose number could not be ascertained. That many hands had been at work was apparent. Most of the windows were blocked with books and other things taken from the offices, many of which doubtless contained valuable records. Church street Bridge was a centre of interest. It had been barricaded by the Sinn Féin on Monday. A couple of sentries, marching up and down, did not allow the many inquisitive sight-seers to cross into the place at the end of Church street. It was possible to go up the Southern quays, but not up the northern, owing to the position of the Volunteer next bridge was open to pedestrians, but not free from danger. The rebels kept a number of prisoners, and kept the place until they surrendered on Saturday. The City Institute, not far off, had been a rebel's fortress, but had been successfully enfiladed by the soldiers on Monday.

Easter Sitings should have commenced Thursday, 27th April, but at the time the Lord Chancellor would, under ordinary circumstances, have been standing in the Central Hall, wearing his State robes, and receiving the judges, the building was in possession of the insurgents, and bloody war had usurped the place of law.

It will be learned with pleasure that the building and the valuable records which it contains are nearly intact. A great deal of glass has, of course, been broken, and the furniture, books, and documents in many of the departments have been used to form barricades for the sappers. Attempts appear to have been made by the rebels to investigate the contents of the safes in the offices, but their efforts proved unsuccessful, except in the case of the safe in the Law Library. But it was like the case of Doctor Hubbard and the bone, for they found that the "cupboard was bare."

Much anxiety was felt as to what was going on in the Record Office, where thousands of valuable historical documents, wills, deeds, etc., are stored, and great relief was experienced when it was found that the majority of these documents, though much tossed about, had not been seriously damaged. Some bundles containing wills had been thrown out on the adjoining streets, and had been taken away by residents in Church street, not so much, it is believed, as "loot," but rather as curious souvenirs of the rebellion. When these people learnt that the authorities were again in possession of the Record Office, it is to their credit that many of them brought these documents back to their custodian, and it is hoped that any other documents taken away will also be retained.

A large number of workmen is engaged in restoring the place to its normal state, but this will necessarily occupy several days. In the course of this work four unexploded bombs were discovered in the Library. They were at once removed to a place of safety.

At about one o'clock on Tuesday, 25th April, James Connolly, who described himself as the Commander of the Dublin section of the rebels, issued an announcement stating that "the Irish Army" was holding its own everywhere, and had repulsed the enemy with "bloody slaughter." He also alleged that the military had fired on ambulance workers in St. Stephen's Green Park. The announcement was posted on the pillars at the G.P.O., and was stuck up with postage stamps.