

## **BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND**

Doctor Harrison died in the year 1890, and, in order to perpetuate his beloved memory, a fund was opened for subscriptions. This fund received most generous support, not alone from the people of Roscommon, but from subscribers in many parts of the country. Trustees were appointed to administer the fund, some of whom were in favour of having a Hall dedicated to the memory of Doctor Harrison. A section of the trustees, however, opposed the idea of a Hall, and, as no agreement was reached on the matter, a deadlock occurred, and the matter fell into abeyance, the money subscribed being left in the bank. One payment was made from it, however, i.e., £400 for the erection of a memorial window in the Church of the Sacred Heart, then in course of construction.

The Church of The Sacred Heart was dedicated in 1903, leaving the Old Church in the Square void of religious character. In 1910, the Very Rev. T.H. Cummins was appointed Parish Priest of Roscommon, and he immediately set about reviving the question of the Harrison Memorial Fund. A meeting was called to discuss the matter, and a new body of Trustees was appointed, viz, The Bishop, The Parish Priest and the Rector of Roscommon, Lord Crofton, T.A.P. Mapother, J.M. Whelin, W.E. Holmes (in 1914, James O'Connor, Jas. Neilan, Edw. Melia were co-opted), E.P. Murray, with T. Larkin as Secretary. These Trustees adopted a resolution, to the effect that the Old Church should be offered to them by the Bishop for the sum of £500, £400 of which should be paid out of the Harrison fund, £100 by the Bishop, and £50 by the Parish Priest, with the proviso that the Parish Priest and the Rector of Roscommon for the time being should be Members of the Trustees. The £400 was paid out of the Harrison Fund; but it is possible that the £100 by the Bishop and