The Kerry Evening Post
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Death of the Very Rev. Canon Brosnan P.P., V.F., Caherciveen

Caherciveen, Wednesday

The Very Rev Canon Brosnan died rather unexpectedly early this morning. The shops are closely shuttered, and expressions of sorrow may be heard wherever one turns at the loss of the zealous priest, who for nigh on twenty years has ministered to the spiritual and material interests of his parishioners with untiring zeal. The Canon for some time past had occasionally shown signs of failing health, but nobody suspected that the end was so near at hand. At noon yesterday, feeling indisposed, he took to his bed, and an examination by Mr Mannix in the evening showed congestion to the left lung. Then the Canon, realising his danger, called for the last Sacraments, which were administered by the Rev Michael McCarthy, C.C., and at a quarter to one o'clock this morning, without the slightest of struggle, he calmly died. The general opinion is that his end was hastened by the cares and anxieties incidental to the building of the O'Connell Memorial Church, a project to which it may be said he devoted his life. Sad to say, the noble building remains unfinished, and the Canon died with the dearest wish of his heart unfulfilled namely, to see its completion, and to offer the Holy Sacrifice within its walls. On Friday his remains as is befitting, will be laid to rest in the vault he long ago prepared within the walls of the beautiful edifice.

The Canon, who was about 77 years at his death, was of powerful physique, and until recently showed every appearance of vigorous health. He was a man of great determination and tenacity of purpose, ever unsparing in his efforts for the advancement of his people, and above all with a heart full of sympathy for the poor and afflicted, and a

purse never closed to the appeal of misery. Canon Brosnan was appointed to Cahercíveen in April, 1879, by the Most Rev Dr McCarthy, at the time Bishop of the diocese, in succession to the distinguished and lamented Canon John Healy. Was at the time parish priest of Ballymacelligott, and had previously laboured as curate in Tralee, Dingle, Killorglin and other parishes. Few priests are so well known throughout Ireland and among our exiled countrymen in foreign lands through his frequent appeals on behalf of the O'Connell Memorial Church.

In the recent article in the "Lamp" the writer said:-

The Very Rev Canon Timothy Brosnan was born in January 1823, and was educated for the priesthood in Maynooth College, and promoted to the Dunboyne establishment in the year 1852. In that year the Rev Dr Callan, Professor of Natural Philosophy, etc, got a twelve months' vacation, and the subject of our notice was appointed as a lecturer in his absence. The following year he was placed in charge of the Irish Class, the Professor of Irish have got a year's leave of absence. In 1854 Canon Brosnan got his first mission as curate in Killorglin, in his native diocese, and subsequently served as a curate in Lixnaw, Millstreet and Ballyferriter, on the shores of the Atlantic west of Dingle. Here Father Brosnan, with the full sanction of the Mist Rev De Moriarty, then Bishop of Kerry, celebrated Mass in St Brendan's Oratory, on the summit of Brandon Mountain, which is situate in the above-named parish, and next to Carantual of the McGillycuddy Reeks, the highest mountain in Ireland. This Mass, which was attended by large numbers of the faithful in that romantic district, was followed by similar celebrations the three following years, the pious pilgrims increasing in vast numbers, especially on the third occasion, which occurred on June 30th, 1868, when the Most Rev Dr Mariarty and three other priests, of whom two were Franciscans and one a Dominican, celebrated High Mass on the very summit, the numbers attending on this occasion being upwards of 15,000. The Bishop preached on this

occasion. In 1868 Father Brosnan was appointed to the pastoral charge of Ballymacelligott, a parish adjoining that of Tralee, where he zealously laboured for eleven years until 1879, when he was appointed parish priest of Caherciveen, and at the same time the dignity of VF and Canon were conferred upon him by the Most Rev Dr McCarthy, then Bishop of Kerry. Of Canon Brosnan's life and labour in that now famous parish of Caherciveen it is needless for us to speak. How he exerted himself to save the lives of his flock during the fearful distress which prevailed during 1879 and 1880 was well known all over the Empire.

We have also pleasure in promoting the construction of the recently opened railway from Killorglin to Caherciveen, and Valentia Harbour, and of which the Right Hon Judge Madden (then Attorney-General for Ireland) has given testimony in a letter enclosing a subscription for the Memorial Church, which has gained for him a reputation such as any priest might well be proud of, and his name is known, we might say, throughout the Catholic world.

Besides the great Memorial Church, Canon Brosnan has almost completed one of the neatest and most commodious country chapels in Kerry, at Filemore, about four miles distant from Caherciveen, and has built several beautiful schools, and is now building some new residences for teachers. Shortly after his appointment to the parish of Caherciveen the indefatigable Canon built a very pretty and commodious presbytery designed by Mr Ashlin, which is architecturally in keeping with the Memorial Church, beside which it stands. In many other ways Canon Brosnan has been most energetic in promoting the interests of his flock, but space will not permit us giving in detail the numerous things he has done for the people committed to his care. May the good Canon be spared for many years to carry on the good work in the vineyard of his Divine Master.