

(1786-1847) to the Arctic to find the North-West Passage. Crozier was a native of Banbridge, County Down, and it is in that town where his memorial stands today, a Gothic confection topped with a statue of the intrepid officer. Also featured are carvings showing the ships Erebus and Terror stuck in the ice, scallop-shells, anchors, an Arctic otter with a salmon in its mouth, and a convolvulus to emphasise Crozier's scientific interests. Four flying buttresses support the central octagonal structure carrying the statue: on those buttresses are what are supposed to be polar bears, but the sculptor, Dublin-based Joseph Robinson Kirk (1821-94), seems to have had an imperfect understanding of what such creatures actually looked like, for they resemble the improbable offspring of shaggy overgrown ferrets crossed with unattractive dogs, and furthermore they ludicrously present their rear ends to Captain Crozier high above them, in poses which have reduced me to helpless laughter every time I have paused to inspect the monument (*Figure 10*). Barre was on much surer ground with his handsome obelisk (completed 1857) in Monaghan town in memory of Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Thomas Vesey Dawson (1819-54), of the Coldstream Guards, who fell at the Battle of Inkerman in the Crimean War (*Figure 11*).

Barre was a versatile designer, who worked in several styles. His Classical work is convincing, as in the handsome Methodist Church in Darling Street, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh (1863-5), with its noble Roman Corinthian pedimented front (*Figure 12*): its galleried interior is a smaller and less ornate version of the Ulster Hall in Belfast. But if his grander, more showy buildings were often highly competent works of architecture, so were his exquisite miniatures, of which the most perfect is the former gatelodge to Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast, with its beautiful polychrome brickwork (red, yellow, and blue-black) and central chimney (*Figure 13*).



Figure 10: Monument in Banbridge, County Down, to Captain Crozier, who perished with Sir John Franklin's entire expedition to the Arctic. The 'polar bears' would appear to be of dubious parentage.



Figure 11: Memorial in Monaghan town, County Monaghan, to Lt.-Col Dawson, killed during the Crimean War.



Figure 12: Confident Roman Corinthian temple-front of the Methodist Church, Darling Street, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh (1863-5).



Figure 13: Former gatelodge for Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast (1860-1), showing the beautifully considered complex polychrome treatment.

Harron has done the short-lived Barre justice in this well-researched volume, with many fine photographs taken specially for it by David Bunting, and the book is remarkably good value for money, given its quality.

His His admirable and very handsome book* celebrates one of the most important architects who made a massive contribution to the built fabric of Victorian Ulster.

*Paul Harron: W.J. Barre 1830-1867: *A Vigorous Mind* (Belfast:

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, 2021), ISBN: 978-0-900457-84-5, £28.

**Figures 3-13 are from Harron's book.

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Professor James Stevens Curl, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, was awarded The President's Medal of the British Academy in 2017 for 'outstanding service to the cause of the humanities' in recognition of his 'contribution to the wider study of the History of Architecture.' He has published much on the architecture of Ulster over the years. His latest tome, entitled *English Victorian Churches: Architecture, Faith, & Revival*, is to be published in London by John Hudson in the Fall of 2022.

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