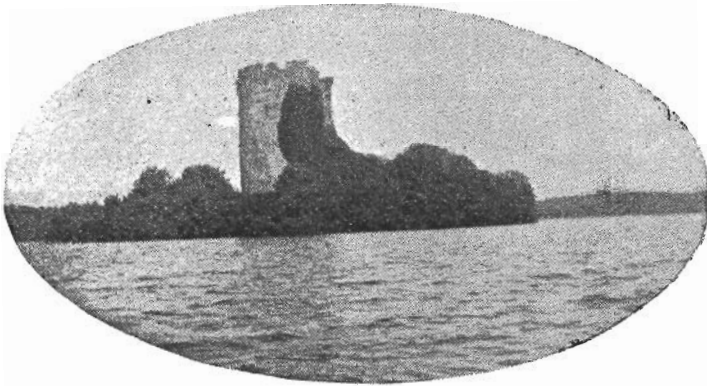


# The Breifny Antiquarian Society.



Cloch Oughter.

JOURNAL FOR 1920.



**Vol i. No. I.**

**Price, 5s.**



CAVAN:—

THE ANGLO-CELT, LTD., PRINTING WORKS.

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# CONTENTS:

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	Page
<b>Sources of Information</b> ... ..	3
<b>Reports of Meetings</b> ... ..	7
<b>The Inaugural Lecture</b> ... ..	8
By F. J. Bigger, Esq., M.R.I.A.	
<b>A Popular Antiquarian Society</b> ... ..	10
By R. V. Walker, Esq., B.A.	
<b>Historical Notes on Virginia and Lough Ramor</b> ... ..	16
By Philip O'Connell, Esq., M.Sc.	
<b>Exhibits at June Meeting</b> ... ..	30
<b>Illustration of Local Seals</b> ... ..	32
<b>The Legend of Conall Cernaoh</b> ... ..	31
By Miss M. E. Dobbs, F.R.S.A.I.	
<b>Cavan Members in the Irish Parliament</b> ... ..	37
I.—Seventeenth Century. By T. S. Smyth, Esq.	
<b>Exhibits at the November Meeting</b> ... ..	48
<b>The Episcopal Succession in the Diocese</b> ... ..	49
of Kilmore, 1356—1560. By Dr Grattan Flood, K.S.G.	
<b>Books on Leitrim History</b> ... ..	53
<b>A Big Day in Belturbet</b> ... ..	54
<b>The Battle of Cavan</b> ... ..	56
<b>Cromwell in Cavan</b> ... ..	58
<b>Muff and its Fair</b> ... ..	59
<b>Kilgolagh</b> ... ..	61
<b>Tuaim Dreccin</b> ... ..	62
<b>Ancient Crosses in Breifny</b> ... ..	64
<b>Notes on Histories of Families</b> ... ..	65
<b>Breifnian Articles</b> ... ..	65
<b>Two O'Reilly Tombs and a Problem</b> ... ..	66
<b>Book Review</b> ... ..	70
<b>Literary Notes</b> ... ..	74
<b>Obituary Notice</b> ... ..	74
<b>List of Members</b> ... ..	75
<b>Rules of the Society</b> ... ..	78
<b>Statement of Accounts, 1920</b> ... ..	82

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION: SUGGESTIONS.

To a request addressed to a distinguished Irish Antiquary on the 'loci historici,' or "the sources whence information may be obtained on the Antiquities and History of Cavan and Leitrim," the following reply was received:—

The first, fullest, most important and authoritative "locus historicus" for a local antiquary to examine and study, is the two counties themselves. They are the conclusive document. The face of the country is an open page on which the men of old have written their story, the work of their hands forms the characters of the text. This venerable manuscript exists in a single exemplar. To read, preserve and perpetuate its story is the essential and urgent task of the local antiquary. Day by day it becomes less legible. Every shower of rain, every blast of wind, every frost, every leaf that grows on an ancient structure, every worm that wriggles through its soil, every beast that burrows in it or treads upon it is blurring the letters, and above all, man erases line after line and even tears out whole pages too often in wantonness or for some mean purpose. Accordingly the primary necessity is to get all that now exists recorded at once.

"Quod adest memento

Componere acqus";

collect without prepossessions whatever is to the fore. There is no other branch of archaeological work that the man on the spot should take up before this, and there is none that he can do better.

The work should be done systematically, barony by barony, parish by parish, townland by townland. Every remnant of antiquity should be noted, measured, described and, if possible, photographed—the rude stone monuments, standing stones, dolmens, circles, alignments, oghams, everything inscribed or marked by the hand of ancient man, tumuli and graves with their contents carefully set down as they were found, finds of all kinds, weapons, implements, utensils, ornaments and coins (when, where and how discovered, with the fullest detailed description of the articles and their position); fortifications, crannogs and enclosures for residence or defence, their situation size and construction, with particulars of anything found at them; places of ancient assembly for religious or secular purposes, venerated trees and wells; and then medieval structures of all kinds. Obviously, the most effective way to carry out such a scheme is to distribute the work amongst a number of active persons, so many for each parish, and naturally residents

in or close to the area allotted to them, who, provided with the townland sheets of the Ordnance Survey, would set down on each map the position of any antiquity not already shown, and then draw up for each map a brief report cataloguing descriptively all the antiquities shown upon it. Such a catalogue should not aim at historical accounts or explanations, which will be most fitly developed elsewhere; where the dates of medieval buildings are accurately known, they should be given. But there is need for caution here. When we read that St. Patrick built a church, say at Drumlease, we must not suppose when we find some remnants of ancient walls there that these are actually the remains of St. Patrick's original building. That is very unlikely; yet too many people let their enthusiasms carry them beyond all probabilities, and by one outburst bring all the rest of their work under suspicion.

I would not like at this stage to give a young society, or, as you have said, amateurs, any impulsion towards literary inquiries. Sound and useful work in that line cannot be done at a distance from large libraries and deposits of records, and a country writer will seldom be able to do more than make "cauld kail het again," i.e., rehandle what has been done already in more or less readily accessible publications.

There is, however, an important exception: there may be preserved in country houses valuable manuscripts and historical papers. Thus, the Molesworth correspondence, calendared for the Hist. MSS. Commission in 1913 is preserved in County Cavan, and the library at Lough Fea, in County Monaghan, contained a MS. description of part of County Cavan dating from the middle of the 17th century. It would be very proper for a county or diocesan society to inquire what materials of this kind exist within their borders, and to catalogue, calendar and publish such as deserve publication.

Nevertheless, after these two sources of information, which are more important than most others, you will still look for references to books. The only accounts of Leitrim and Cavan known to me are the "Statistical Surveys" of the Royal Dublin Society, published in 1802, that for Leitrim by Dr McParlan, the Cavan one by Sir Charles Coote. Their main object was to report on the state of agriculture, but they (especially that for Leitrim) have references to antiquities. That was the period when Druids and Chaldeans dominated Irish antiquities, and consequently the references are less valuable than they might have been. But they will show how negligible theorising is apt to be and make us realise how much more valuable a plain and accurate description would have been than all such fustian erudition. McParlan knew Irish, yet he allowed a humbug to persuade him that *leaba* did not mean a bed at all, but was a Chal-

dean word *lehab* meaning a flame, and if a flame, of course an altar; so that by *Leaba Diarmada agus Grainne* the country people did not, as they themselves supposed, mean "a bed of *Diarmaid and Grainne*," but an altar! A warning against sciolism.

More authoritative documents will be  
 the Annals of Ulster,  
 Annals of Lough Cé  
 Annals of Clonmacnoise,  
 Annals of the Four Masters,  
 Chronicon Scotorum,  
 the Martyrology of Oengus and  
 Martyrology of Gorman (edited by Stokes for  
 the Henry Bradshaw Society),  
 Martyrology of Tallaght (edited by Kelly),  
 Martyrology of Donegal.  
 Archdall's *Monasticon*\*  
 The *Monasticons* of Alemand and Stevens.  
 Ware's *Bishops*.  
 Cotton's *Fasti*.  
 The *Calendars of State Papers*.  
*Ulster Inquisitions*.  
 The *Patent Rolls of James I.*  
*Journal R.S.A.I.*, *passim*.  
*Ulster Journal of Archæology*, *passim*.

All the foregoing are in print. The genealogies, however, which are important as correctives and illustrators of the annals are still in MS. MacFirbisigh's MS. is now in the possession of the Right Hon. M. F. Cox and a copy by O'Curry is in the R.I.A. Another valuable MS., Parrell's *Lineæ Antiquæ*, which comes further down than MacFirbisigh is in the Office of Arms, Dublin Castle.

The best-known of the MS. authorities are of course the Ordnance Survey papers—the Letters at the R.I.A., and the Fieldbooks at Mountjoy Barracks, in the Phoenix Park. As regards the letters there is a difference of opinion as to the expediency of publishing them as they are. O'Donovan does not always appear at his best in what he wrote to the O.S. office, and some people think it is not just to publish what he did not anticipate would ever emerge from official privacy. My idea has always been that in so far as documents are evidence and used as such, those to whose judgment they are submitted are entitled to the whole of them.

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\*In Card. Moran's edition the notes for County Cavan are of no value.

Other important MS. sources of local history are the documents in the Public Record Office. For the northern counties these are chiefly post-sixteenth century.

Amongst the T.C.D. manuscripts several might be worth printing, but naturally one cannot positively say so who has not examined them, e.g., "De terris Phil O'Reyly in Com. Cavan 4 Jas. I." is probably a copy of the inquisition calendared in the Ulster Inquisitions. The MS. of Pynnar's Survey is no doubt the same as has already been printed. "Glebelands in Kilmore diocese assigned Jas. I.," and the records of the "Visitationes Regales," 1615, 1633-4, would doubtless be useful; but the chief interest for your local history would possibly be in the collection of Massacre Depositions, which has not yet been carefully sifted, though more than once examined by persons with a strong inclination to one side or the other.

I should like to urge a young society to undertake no other investigation until it has catalogued and described sufficiently for its district:—

- I. All the existing remains of antiquity.
- II. All the historical documents, portraits and objects preserved in private houses (so far as it can be done.)

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

### PUBLIC MEETING.

On the 8th January, 1920, a public meeting, convened by circular, was held in the Courthouse, Cavan, to consider the advisability of establishing an Archæological Society for Counties Cavan and Leitrim and the Diocese of Kilmore. There was a large attendance, and many apologies for absence and promises of support.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That a local Society be formed to study the history and antiquities of Kilmore Diocese and of County Cavan and County Leitrim."

A temporary committee was appointed to draw up a code of rules. It was also left to this Committee both to arrange for an Inaugural Lecture and to call the next meeting; its business to be the discussion of the rules, the enrolment of members and the election of a committee and officers.

It was also proposed, seconded and passed unanimously, that their Lordships, Most Rev. Dr Finegan and Right Rev. Dr Moore be elected Patrons of the Society.

### OPENING MEETING.

In accordance with the resolution above mentioned a meeting was held in Town Hall, Cavan, at 3 p.m. on 11th Mar., '20.

The rules were submitted, discussed and approved of. It was agreed that the Society be called the **Breifny Antiquarian Society**. A large number of members were enrolled. A Committee for the current year and officers, both of which are given elsewhere, were elected.

In the evening of the same day the Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Francis Joseph Bigger, Esq., M.R.I.A., Belfast, in the Assembly Room of the Town Hall. A synopsis of the lecture will be found in the Journal. There was a large attendance of both members and the general public.

### 1st Meeting for Reading of Papers.

The first meeting of the members of the Society for the reading of papers took place in the Town Hall, Cavan, on Friday evening, June 25th, 1920. A large number were present. The papers, which are published in the opening pages of the Journal, were read, and the exhibits, also described in the Journal, were shown.

### 2nd Meeting for Papers.

The Society met again for the same purpose on Monday, 8th November, 1920. There was a good attendance of members and their friends. Two papers were read; they appear in the Journal. A number of antiquarian objects and an interesting local recent find were exhibited. Mention is made of them in the Journal.



## THE INAUGURAL LECTURE.

The Inaugural Lecture of the Breifne Antiquarian Society was delivered in the Town Hall of Cavan on the 11th March, 1920, by Francis Joseph Bigger, M.R.I.A., Vice-President of Royal Society of Antiquaries of Belfast.

The Lecturer chose as his subject the History and Antiquities of Breifne na Ruarc, illustrating his subject with an exhaustive series of lantern slides. One slide, in particular, the result of much labour and research, represented a map of the Ua Ruarc country with all the antiquities distinctly and differently denoted upon it—the stone monuments, the earthworks, abbeys, churches, crosses, crannoges, etc. It is hoped that this map may at some time be published in a large scale to assist other workers in additional research.

The Lecturer referred to the earthworks about Mohill which he described as the most considerable and, perhaps, the oldest in the district and the original stronghold of the Ua Ruarc. The castles in and around Dromahaire were illustrated and described, and special reference made to St. Patrick's love of that place which he often visited, expressing the hope that there might be his Primatial See. The Franciscan Friary of Creevelea on the Bonet River was described at length. It was founded in 1508 by Margaret O'Brien, wife of Eoghain Ua Ruarc, and daughter of the Prince of Thomond, who brought to it the Brown Friars from her own loved Friary at Ennis. The carved representation on a cloister column at Creevelea, of St. Francis communing with the birds, was enough to dispel all the statements of the ignorance and barbarity of the Irish at the time when Bingham was the English Governor of Connacht, libels so freely circulated from his day until the present time. The grandson of the founder of Creevelea was Brian na Murta, "the proudest man who walked upon the earth in his day." His story was feelingly told ending in his passage to the scaffold at Tyburn with the wily Miler Mac Grath whispering unctuous but unheeded talk into his dying ears. The proud man had given hospitality to famished shipwrecked Spaniards in his lordly halls at Dromahaire, an offence not to be overlooked by the Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam. The Mac Clancie had defied and out-witted the Deputy at his island fortress of Rossclagher in Lough Melvin. Brian na Murta was succeeded by Brian of the Battle Axes who was out with Aodh Ruadh O'Donnell at the Battle of the Curliou Mountains. The burning of Sligo Abbey by Hamilton "the Tamerlaine of the West," was read by the Lecturer from W. B. Yeats' weirdly thrilling account of that dark sanguinary episode. The churches of Killargue and Cluain Claire were also described, but a fuller account was given of the many remains at Feenagh and the relics of that famed seat of piety and learning, including

the shrine of St. Cailin made by an Ua Ruarc in the 14th century. There were prehistoric remains in abundance at Feenagh existing long prior to the present abbey with its yet perfect and glorious altar windows, its tombs of the stout Mac Ragnail and the learned O'Duigenain, patrons and advisers to the Four Masters themselves. The Lecturer referred to the Ua Ruarc castles on the Northern shores of Lough Gill and trusted every effort would be made to preserve them, especially the remains of the much earlier little chapel beside Parke's Castle, and not far from the ancient bridge.

Some crannoges were described, including the one at Castle Fore in the O'Duigenan country, and others in the O'Raillaigh Breifne, especially Lough Oughter, famed for its association with the O'Sberidans, Bishop Bedell and Eoghain Ruadh O'Neill. Some anecdotes relating to Jerome O'Duigenan, the classical scholar and famed Harper of Breifne, were told, including his triumphant encounter with a celebrated Welsh Harper arranged by Colonel Jones, M.P. for Leitrim on the floor of the Irish House of Commons.

The Lecturer concluded his lengthened address with an urgent appeal to all the members of the newly-formed Society, as well as to the people of Breifne generally, to make a valiant effort to collect any fragment of history relating to their district; to know, understand and discuss every phase of the past life of the people, and to value and preserve every physical feature of that past, so that not a stone would be cast down or lost, but handed down as a precious heritage to those who would come after them, who in the coming years would surely value the results of the efforts of the Breifne Antiquarian Society.

## A POPULAR ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

By R. V. Walker, B.A.

[Read 25th June, 1920.]

Barely six months have elapsed since the idea of an Antiquarian Society for Breifne was first mooted, yet we meet here to-night for our first work meeting, with our constitution framed and with a large and enthusiastic membership. That is a record upon which our officers and committee have good cause to congratulate themselves and, as one of the rank and file, I could well wish them a period of ease after the strenuous time they have spent in organisation. Richly though they have deserved it, however, they cannot yet claim a respite from their labours, for the very energy which they have expended in forcing our growth thrusts upon them, at an earlier stage than might otherwise have been necessary, the responsibility of selecting the path along which we are to tread. Sympathy with them in that responsibility it is which has caused me to turn for the subject of my paper in the direction which I have selected. I therefore purpose briefly to submit for the consideration of the Society some reflections upon the problem with which we are faced, and to suggest a method by which, in my estimation, we may most successfully attain the objects for which our Society has been founded.

To many it may seem that having framed our constitution on those of the older established Antiquarian Societies we should be courting disaster if we did not model our rule of conduct completely on theirs. Personally I could conceive of no course which would be more certain to destroy what chance there is of our Society succeeding. The success of our older Antiquarian Societies has been due more to the brilliancy of the work of their leading members—not in any case a large proportion of the whole—than to the enthusiasm or energy of the general body. In a Society composed, as ours is, of neophytes, it would be folly to hope that a few could be expected to continue to spend time and labour in research for the entertainment or education of others. Many local Antiquarian Societies, starting with hopes as high as ours, have endeavoured to do so and have failed, as we should fail.

It, therefore, seems to me that, unless from the very start we are assured, not merely of the interest but the active co-operation of all our members, that unless we endeavour to bring home to these members how simple and how interesting in itself is the method by which they can educate themselves so as to be in a position to give that co-operation, our Society can never hope to endure. My suggestion, briefly put, is that we should for the moment encourage our members to concentrate upon

what is loosely called "Field Work," and leaving to the taste of the individual whatever other directions he may choose for his research work, that we impress upon the average member that, however trivial and unimportant the results of his own local investigations may be, they all form the material upon which, in the course of time, our Society hopes to base its work.

There is one circumstance which leaves us freer than any of the other Antiquarian Societies to thus specialise on "field work." Hitherto Breifne has been practically "terra incognita" to the antiquarian, not merely because it has been overlooked, but because there was prevalent the absurd idea that it was a district where antiquities were negligible. "Breifne," says Sir John Davies in his visitation to Cavan, "has no objects of interest to any save the local antiquary." Coote, who should have known better, makes the same charge in almost identical words, and, in the middle of the last century, the Parliamentary Gazeteer has nothing to tell us of the antiquities of Cavan, because "there is nothing to tell." In point of fact, with regard to antiquarian research, we in Breifne are a century, if not centuries, behind the rest of the country. We are, therefore, practically pioneers. Our territory has yet to be charted, and this, the most important preliminary work which can **fall** to the lot of the antiquarian, work which has in other districts been completed long ago, has first to be performed before our Society can hope to undertake its work proper.

For this preliminary work we shall have to depend upon our average member. Can we persuade him that without any preliminary training, given, in fact, only a fair amount of good-will, he can successfully undertake this most interesting and important work? Can we bring home to him that in performing this work he is undertaking a course of self-education, which will inevitably make of him, if not an antiquarian, at least a useful member of any Antiquarian Society? If we can succeed in doing so, then the popularity and success of our society are assured.

As far as our potential working member is concerned his original equipment is simple: in addition to such desire to assist as we may reasonably credit him with, he need only have a notebook. Let him at first have no ambition more lofty than to note, on behalf of the Society, such objects of antiquarian interest as he finds in the small area—the smaller the better—which he proposes to deal with. Above all things, let him not imagine that he is going to make discoveries of great importance—that way lies disaster.

For convenience sake we will divide the possible operations which he may be called upon to perform into stages. There is first the *enumeration stage*. He will list all the objects of interest in his area—the forts, raths, cromlechs, and stone circles;

the ruined churches and old graveyards; the birth or dwelling places of celebrities; places of historic interest of any kind, and any local traditions concerning all or any of these which may linger. Local customs will not be overlooked: there may be, or may have been, local industries—even local methods of industry may suggest themselves to him as worth noting. The list may be extended almost indefinitely according to his point of view—indeed, if he works systematically he shall be surprised at what an extensive list he can make, even in a restricted area, of objects of genuine antiquarian interest which in his every-day life he has barely noticed. Once started on the path his interest is bound to grow, and he will be faced with his first discovery, the fact that hitherto he has lived in the midst of interesting things to whose existence he has given no thought. Let us suppose that his interest succeeds in carrying him no farther. Even so, he has done useful work: he has assisted in charting one fragment of the Society's territory, has done his share in what I have already described as our first and most important preliminary work.

We must, however, presume that the interest which has originally induced our member to join the Society and has caused him to do even so much on its behalf, will carry him further. He will, in the great majority of cases, I feel assured, proceed to the next stage that of *personal examination*. If he has a certain number of forts on his list he must have observed points of resemblance or contrast between them. Has he noted cromlechs or standing stones? Can he forbear wondering at their origin, or conjecturing how such masses of stone were placed in position? Will not his local patriotism induce him to endeavour to draw comparisons between them and similar monuments found elsewhere? Is there in his neighbourhood an old castle, or a ruined church, or an ancient graveyard? Will his curiosity allow him to stop at mere enumeration? Surely, he will be impelled to examine them more closely, to find room in his notebook for some descriptive details. He will by now have added a tape-measure to his equipment. The forts and cromlechs and standing stones will be measured and their dimensions noted. He will embellish his descriptions with photographs or sketches, and the contents of his notebook will be of the greatest assistance to the Society. What an interesting and informative collection we could put together in such a way and how little preliminary training on the part of our members would be required to enable us to do so.

Our aspirant's curiosity ought by now to be well aroused, and he may perhaps be tempted to satisfy it by applying to books. He would be well advised to defer doing so: there is yet another stage in his self-education through which he should pass if he ever hopes to rely on his own judgment. He ought to make

himself master of the area he has selected for himself, by noting all that he can discover about it in the way of local tradition before he allows his opinions to be coloured by what others have written of it. This is the most interesting stage of all—and the most difficult. The value to be attached to tradition varies enormously. Sometimes it comes down to us almost intact. Sometimes fact and fiction seem hopelessly confused: sometimes whatever kernel of truth it may have had originally has been lost in its passage down the ages. Still, in whatever form one obtains it, one is never safe in disregarding it, never secure in deciding what should go down in the notebook and what not. One's notebook may grow obese with matter which subsequent examination will prove to be valueless. Yet the labour of sifting the grain from the chaff is not without an educational value of its own, and one finds not infrequently that it is not the story which at first blush seemed the most extravagant that is the farthest from the truth.

The chief essential in noting tradition is to let the narrator tell his own tale in his own way: never to lead him and never, even when he wanders from the point, to try and put him right. Strange to say, this was a part of their craft which some of our really great archaeologists never fully mastered—partly because they never brought themselves down to their narrator's intellectual level, and partly because they were rarely without a preconceived theory of their own upon the matter upon which they sought information and, consciously or not, either led the narrator, or gave his narrative a turn in the direction in which they wished it to flow. That is probably a fault from which our beginner will not suffer. He will be a genuine seeker after knowledge, and will, therefore, be the more likely to get the natural tradition and, by exercising a little judgment, will ere long begin to reap the reward of his trouble. Incidentally, he will be led into fresh fields of enquiry, will get glimpses at the life and customs of the last century, will be familiarised with the intricacies of county pedigrees and with the history of county families or local celebrities. Of course, as I have said, the value of the matter one gets varies considerably and one gets many disappointments. Still, there is no district in which one cannot garner some tradition which, however ill it suits the purpose of one's enquiry at the moment, cannot fail to serve as a footnote in subsequent enquiry either to oneself or to someone else.

If our aspirant has succeeded in passing through the stages I have described—and I have merely been endeavouring to trace the path by which many have been drawn insensibly to take an interest in old half-forgotten, wholly neglected, things—I think we may write him down as having completed his apprenticeship. How far he shall proceed further in the pursuit of antiquarian knowledge, and in what direction he shall proceed, will depend

entirely upon the amount of leisure time at his disposal and the bent of his own inclination. Even should he desire to seek no further knowledge of his own district, or of the larger area which our Society proposes to embrace, than that which he has secured by his own personal observation and from the tradition of his neighbourhood, still he will have become in the process of his self-education a useful member of our Society.

In theory there is no reason why everyone of the many who have joined our Society should not be able to bring himself to such a stage of proficiency as I have described. In practice we should have reached a far higher degree of efficiency than any similar local Antiquarian Society if we could ensure that even half our nominal members would so far interest themselves in our work as to supply us with a list of the antiquities in their neighbourhood. I am sufficiently sanguine as to the success of the evolutionary process I have described to feel assured that if we could get that many to take the first step we might reasonably expect that the majority of them would go further.

In our attempt to secure the co-operation of our members in such a scheme of work we should endeavour not to place a fresh responsibility upon our already heavily burdened committee. Why should those of us who are here to-night not take the matter in hand? Can we not each map out a district for ourselves and set ourselves to compiling a classified list of such antiquities as it contains? Can we not also endeavour to use our influence with the others who are not with us, those especially whom some of us may have brought into the Society? Can we not invite *them* to stake out their little allotments and to commence their lists? In this way we should speedily be able to determine what parts of our territory were being attended to and in what parts it would be necessary to make special efforts to secure workers.

We should not have long to wait for results. Our aspirant members would soon be emerging from the first stage and the centralised work of our Society, the work for which our registrar and editorial committee are panting, would soon commence. We should be supplied with material which could place the success of our Journal beyond doubt. We should proceed upon our annual excursion secure in the knowledge that we should have local guides to lead us and local tradition to inform. The recruitment of our members would become automatic. In a word we should have a Society which would be as we all would have it, if wishing alone could produce the result.

As a stimulus to the little extra energy necessary to bring such a result about one consideration alone should have paramount weight. We have taken upon ourselves work which in the estimation of everybody is praiseworthy work, work which should have been undertaken long ago, work which makes such imme-

diately appeal to everyone in historic Breifne that its success—that success to which we have pledged ourselves—ought to be certain. But we *may* fail—unthinkable though such a consummation may be, yet it may be ours. If such be our fate there will be plenty to point out to us to what extent our organisation has been responsible for our failure. Let us forestall that humiliation, at least, by ensuring that, should circumstances prove too much for us, those of us who have pledged our loyalty to the Society will have done our share in the effort to procure its success.

**R. V. WALKER.**



## HISTORICAL NOTES OF VIRGINIA AND LOUGH RAMOR.

By Philip O'Connell, M.Sc., F.R.S.A.I.

[Read 25th June, 1920.]

While the present town of Virginia, neatly situated on the wooded shores of beautiful Lough Ramor, does not possess any features of historical interest before the beginning of the seventeenth century since its foundation, as we shall see presently, was consequent to the Plantation of Ulster in the earlier years of the reign of James the First of England, yet Lough Ramor itself and its immediate neighbourhood, from the many references in the older Annals and Manuscripts, seems to have been of great historical importance from the earliest times. The large number of moats and earthen raths which still remain are evidences both of the military importance and populous condition of the locality in very early times. In the present paper we will collect and examine such references as will explain the history and topography of this interesting district.

The original and older name of Lough Ramor, as given by the Annals of the Four Masters and by the Annals of Ulster, is Loch Muinreamhair. The earliest reference to Loch Muinreamhair is contained in the Annals of the Four Masters (edited by O'Donovan) under the year 2859 Anno Mundi. "These were the lakes that sprang forth—Loch Dairbhreach, Loch Muinreamhair in Luighne in Sliabh Guaire." Loch Dairbhreach is now Lough Deravarragh in Westmeath. The springing forth of these lakes, as well as of many others mentioned in the Annals, are events which can only furnish material for scientific speculation, but which may have been due to some atmospheric or seismological phenomena of that remote period.

The record is interesting as it indicates that the district of Loch Muinreamhair was included in the ancient districts of Sliabh Guaire and Luighne. The hilly district to the North of Virginia is mentioned in some of our oldest records as Sliabh Guaire. The *Leabhar na gCeart* (or Book of Rights, published by the Celtic Society, p. 188), which deals with the rights and revenues of the Irish provincial Kings refers to a river called the Finnabhainn (i.e., White River). It was a tributary of the Boyne and rose in Sliabh Guaire. This river, now the Blackwater, is considered in the references made to it to have its origin not in Loch Muinreamhair but in the hilly district north of it. The small river which rises in the district of Bailieboro' and flows through Virginia may have been originally considered as part of the river which had its source in Sliabh Guaire; and the name Finnabhainn was apparently given to both rivers, which were considered as one waterway flowing through Loch Muin-

reamhair in the same way as the Bann flows through Lough Neagh\* This river, Finnabhainn, was called the Sele at the time of St. Patrick, and under this name is mentioned by the Four Masters. It is said that Patrick cursed the Sele on account of an insult offered him by the sons of King Laoghaire at Tailten (now Telltown), and that the waters turned black; hence the name Blackwater. The following passage from the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick (Colgan's Trias Thaumaturga, chap. iv. p. 129) records the circumstances:—

On the first day of the week Patrick came to Tailten where the royal assembly and public games of the Kingdom, in addition to contests, were accustomed to be held yearly. There he met Cairbre, son of Niall, brother of King Laoghaire who equalled his brother in fierceness of soul and obstinacy to believe. This man of adamant heart to whom St. Patrick preached the word of life and showed the way of salvation, not only refused to believe in the truth of his preaching, but threatened the man who was showing him the way of life with death. Besides, he scourged the disciples of the Saint in the river near by called the Sele because Patrick called him an enemy of God. In a note Colgan adds:—"The river called the Sele is today called Abha-dhubh which means black river."

This important passage serves to fix the situation of Tailten and also the date of the arrival of St. Patrick there; the original has "prima feria" which is translated "the first day of the week, i.e., Easter Monday." After the time of St. Patrick the river is given by the manuscripts as the Abha-dhubh or black river; the *fluvius niger* of Colgan.

The ancient district of Luighne or Luguni extended—as is evident from many manuscript references—over a large portion of Meath and portion of the present County of Cavan. In the opinion of the learned topographer, O'Donovan, the district of Luighne included Navan and Lough Ramor; the name still survives in the Barony of Lune in Meath. In 1898 an interesting discovery was made in the Churchyard of Kieran, near Ceannanus Mor. An Ogham stone, illustrating the system of epigraphy used in Ireland before the introduction of the Roman system, was unearthed. This was afterwards examined and deciphered by the late Professor Rhys (Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Vol. xxix, p. 426.) The inscription on the Kieran Ogham according to Professor Rhys is: "Covagni Maqui Mucoi Luguni," which may be translated: "The stone of Cuan son of the kin (or tribe) of Luguni." The name Cuan or Covagni occurs frequently in the pedigrees in the Book of Leinster. The location of the Ogham at Kieran, the first of its kind discovered in Meath, is an indication that the district of Luguni extended over that part of Meath and was very extensive since it included Lough Ramor. The exact boundaries of Sliabh Guaire have not yet been accurately defined, but it included

\* See note on Sliabh Guaire.

a large portion of Southern Cavan\* Before the Principality of Breffni O'Reilly was formed into the present County of Cavan by Sir John Perrott in 1584 and added to Ulster, Lough Ramor and the Blackwater formed the eastern boundary of Connacht to which Breffni belonged.

The Annals of the Four Masters under the year 845 A.D. have the following record of the extermination of a party of marauders who had their stronghold on an island in Lough Ramor and who, in alliance with the Norsemen, were engaged in plundering the surrounding districts:—

The demolition of the island of Loch Muinreamhair by Mael-seachlainn son of Maelruainaidh against a great crowd of the sons of death (i.e., malefactors) of the Luguni and Gaileanga who were plundering the district at the instigation of the foreigners and they were destroyed by him.

The same event is recorded in the Annals of Ulster (Vol I., Edited by W. M. Hennessy) under the year 846 A.D. as follows:

Maelsechnaill son of Maelruanaidh begins to reign. The demolition of the island of Loch Muinreamhair by Maelsechnaill, against a great band of the "sons of death" of the Luighne and Gaileanga, who were plundering the districts after the manner of the Gentiles.

(Note by Hennessy:—Gailenga—Otherwise Gailengamora. Now known as the Barony of Morgallion, in the north of the County of Meath.)

\* Sliabh Guaire or Gorey is located by O'Donovan in Clankee Barony, but recent examination of the place-names of the ancient district, from the Inquisition defining its boundaries quoted by O'Donovan, shows that a considerable part of it is in Tullygarvey and portions in Castlerahan and Upper Loughtee. The Down Survey Map (1654) of Castlerahan has "Slewgole" where the townlands of Gola and Greaghadosan are marked on the modern Ordnance Survey Maps. Slewgole is another form of Sliabh Guaire.

The Annals of Loch Ce under the year 1054 record:—Loch-Suidhe Odhrain in Sliabh Guaire stole away in the end of the night of the festival of Michael and went into Fabhall, quod non auditum ab est antiquis. The Annals of Ulster in the same year have an almost similar record.

The Lake of Snidhe Odhrain in Sliabh Guaire stole away in the end of the night of the feast of Michael and went into the Fabhall, a thing that has not been heard of from ancient times.

The Annals of the Four Masters have the same record; also the *Chronicum Scotorum*.

The name Snidhe Odhrain is now represented by that of the townland of Secoran in the Parish of Knockbride and Barony of Clankee. O'Donovan thought that the Fabhall is a stream "which discharges itself into the Boyne." The river which flows past the present town of Virginia and which was, as we have seen, originally considered as part of the Finnabhainn, or present Blackwater, having its origin in Sliabh Guaire, seems very probably the Fabhall of the Annalists. The district through which the river is recorded as passing provides evidence in support of this view. As O'Donovan observes, the name appears to be preserved in the form *Tonyfoyle*, a townland at Killinkere,

There is only a difference of one year in the records of this event as given by the Annals of the Four Masters (845) and by the Annals of Ulster (846.) Many similar records of marauders who established themselves on islands in various lakes are mentioned by our Annalists. Maelseachlainn or Maelsechnaill, who is mentioned in the foregoing extracts, was Malachy the Great, King of Meath. He was then engaged in a series of attacks on the Norse or Danish settlements. The Annals of Ulster record, under the year 844 A.D., the defeat and capture of the Danish tyrant Turgesius by Maelsechnaill and his subsequent drowning in Lough Owel near Mullingar. The Annals of the Four Masters and the Chronicon Scotorum have the same entry. (See Rev. Paul Walsh "Placenames of Westmeath," p. 77 for O'Donovan's Account.) After the drowning of Turgesius a general onslaught was made on the Norse settlements; and the extermination of the "sons of death," who appear to have been Irish outlaws and rebels allied with the Norsemen, in opposition to their own monarch Malachy, was one of the blows struck at Danish influence by Malachy the Great. As these hardy seafarers usually followed the river courses in their incursions it was possible for the Norsemen to have reached Lough Ramor through the river Blackwater.

These references show that the value of the islands in Lough Ramor as places of security was recognised at an early period. In latter times two at least of the larger islands were used as places of residence as we shall see presently.

We have seen that the older name of Lough Ramor, as given by the Annalists, is Loch Muinreamhair. This name, it would seem, could be explained from the configuration of the lake; *muin* signifying a neck and *reamhair* meaning thick. But since the name Muinreamhair was frequently given to semi-mythical warriors in pre-Celtic Ireland—for instance, Muinreamhair is mentioned as the name of a Fomorian Chieftain in the legends of pre-Milesian times—we must concede that the lake very probably takes its name from some of these legendary heroes. Many Irish rivers and lakes are named after mythological heroes or deities of whose history all is vanished except the topographical records of their names.

The townland of Ballaghanea, which stretches along the northern shore of Lough Ramor, is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters. They record under the year 572 A.D. The fifth year of Aedh. The battle of Doete which is called Bealach-fheadha by Aedh son of Ainmire against the men of Meath where fell Colman Beg son of Diarmaid. This place, correctly anglicised Ballaghanea, is also mentioned in the O'Reilly Pedigree\* "Conor Mor O'Reilly, he who erect-

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\*MSS. H. I. 15., T.C.D.

ed the Castle of Mullagh, had a son Conor Oge of Beal-atha-an-Fheadha"; and again "Gilla-iosa son of Glasney died at bealach-an-fheadha." (O'Reilly Pedigree quoted by O'Donovan "Ordnance Survey Letters," Cavan, unpublished MSS., p. 65.) The name Bealach-an-fheadha signifies the road or pass of the wood and was equated by O'Donovan with the district mentioned by the Four Masters, and given also in the O'Reilly Pedigree. It may be noted that a small hillock in the locality is still called Croc Fola (Knock Fola) or the hill of blood. Although local legend attributes the origin of the name to a fight between rival sections of a party of robbers, who had plundered some Friars who were, according to the tradition, living on one of the islands in Lough Ramor, we may possess in the name a trace of the battle recorded by the Four Masters in A.D. 572, or, perhaps, of the attack made by Maelseachlainn on the island when, as already mentioned, the marauders were exterminated in the ninth century. The Annals of Ulster record, under the year 592 A.D., "the battle of Bealach Dhaite in which fell Colman Bec, son of Diarmait." As we have seen, the Four Masters record the battle as having been fought in 572, so that the notices differ somewhat in date. The townland of Ballaghanea contains an interesting stone circle or cromlech consisting of four upright pillar stones the tallest of which is about eight feet in height. The capping stone has been displaced and now lies alongside. The "Great Island" in Lough Ramor is included in the same townland.

The Barony of Castlerahan, which includes the present district of Virginia and the southern portion of Co. Cavan, formed part of the ancient principality of Breffni O'Reilly. In the tenth century Breffni was divided into two principalities, viz., Breffni O'Reilly, or East Breffni, and Breffni O'Rourke or West Breffni. As we have already stated, the principality of Breffni O'Reilly was formed into the present County of Cavan in 1584, by Sir John Perrott, who was Elizabeth's Lord Deputy in Ireland, and added to Ulster in order to facilitate the scheme of Plantation which was rapidly to follow.\* The names of the Chieftains who, under the Gaelic Clan system, held sway over their respective districts still linger in some of the place-names which have remained. The Clan O'Reilly had several Chieftains named Cuconnacht. One of them has given his name to Munterconnacht, adjoining Lough Ramor. This

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\*The Earl of Sussex had already contemplated this. In a Report to Queen Elizabeth, dated 1562, he places "O'Rwreke's" country in Connaught. "O'Rail's country is taken to be within Connaught, but because it lieth fitter for another government, and bordereth upon the English Pale, I leave it out of the government of Connaught." (Carew Cal. i. 330.—Quoted in Falkiner's "Illustrations of Irish History and Topography," p. 120.)

comes from Muintir-Cuconnacht, i.e., the family or tribe of Cuconnacht. We read in the Annals of Loch Cé under the year 1255:—

Brian O'Neill and the men of the North of Ireland came in a great hosting against Cathal O'Raighilligh and Cucounacht Raighilligh.

The O'Reilly Pedigree (quoted by O'Donovan "Ordnance Survey Letters"—Cavan, p. 54) has the following reference to this district:—

The district of Uachtar-tire or the south-east district of Breffney now called Loch Ramhor or the Barony of Castle-Raheen was the patrimony of Felim, the son of Shane O'Reilly.

The O'Reillys maintained their independence down to the reign of James the First of England when their lands were finally confiscated.

In the year 1586 Queen Elizabeth made a grant to Gerald Fleming of certain monastery lands in Cavan, among them being "The rectories, churches or chapels of Killine (Killan), Knockbride, Castlerahin, Templeport and Crodragh." He had a re-grant of these lands from King James in 1609 "as a token of favour." The State Papers of 1606 (calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1606, p. 60) record the "Crown lands and tithes now on lease from the King of Ireland." The portions in the County of Cavan assigned to Sir Garrett Moore included many names in the southern district of the county, among them being Killeneykyre, Lorgan, Castlerahan, Mounteyconnoght, Moybolgy, Fayntavin, Clone-kraghvoy (now Clonkeiffy); also "Aghaleere in the Barony of Castlerahan part of the lands of Brian M'Philip O'Reilly attained." From the evidence afforded by the Plantation Map and contemporary documents we shall see that Aghaleere was the original name of the townland in which Virginia is now situated.

The foundation of the present town of Virginia dates from the Plantation of Ulster in the reign of James the First. After the Flight of the Earls preparations were made for the confiscation of the lands held by the Irish Chieftains and a general survey of Ulster was commenced. In a general survey of the confiscated lands carried out in 1610 by Sir John Davys, the English Attorney-General in Ireland, we find the following Precincts or Baronies in Cavan set apart for servitors and "Irish natives," "Tullaghah (now Tullyhaw), Clonmahon, Tullaghgarvey, and Castlerahan." The servitors were so named on account of the service which they rendered in the armies of Elizabeth and James, and many of them consented to become undertakers on being recommended as suitable by the Plantation Council in London. The servitors who obtained the Barony of Castlerahan were:—Sir John Elliott, Knight; John Ridgeway, Esq; Sir

William Taaffe, Knight; Roger Garth, Sir Edmund Fettiplace, Knight.

Sir John Davys, in a letter to the Earl of Salisbury dated 1610 (State Papers, Ireland, 1610) describes that at that time in the County of Cavan:—

There remained 50 polls or 1250 acres of which 30 polls or 750 acres were to be allowed to three corporate towns or boroughs which the King ordered should be endowed with reasonable liberties, and should send burgesses to Parliament, and should hold their lands as aforesaid, viz:—10 polls or 250 acres to the town of Cavan; so much more to Belturbet; and so much more to a third town which was to be erected in or near mid-way between Kells and Cavan, the place or seat thereof to be chosen by the Commissioners who were appointed for the setting of this Plantation. Ten other polls or 250 acres were to be laid to the Castle of Cavan; 6 other polls to the Castle of Cloughoughter, and the 14 other polls or 350 acres to the maintenance of a free school to be erected in Cavan. The natives who were not freeholders were to be placed within the county or removed by order of the Commissioners.\*

This statement shows the allocation of 250 acres for the erection of a new town between Kells and Cavan on a site to be chosen by the Plantation Commissioners. The building of a town was a necessary step in securing the success of the Plantation. Moreover, it was made obligatory by the following which was one of the General Conditions to be observed by the Undertakers by order of the Plantation Council:—

That in every of the said Counties there shall be a convenient Number of *Market Towns* and *Corporations* erected for the Habitation and settling of Tradesmen and Artificers; and that there shall be one *free-school*, at least appointed in every County for the Education of Youth in learning and Religion.†

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\*This extract may also be seen in Harris' *Hibernica*, p. 118. King James the First's "Project for the Division and Plantation of the Escheated Lands in six several Counties of Ulster," including Cavan, is given in full, just as it emanated from His Majesty. Besides such immaterial points as the spelling of a few words, the more plentiful employment of capital letters, the use of such an archaic phrase as that the third town is to be erected "in or near the Midway between **Kells** and the Cavan" etc., the actual "Project" differs from the paragraph given in "the text in two not unimportant particulars—(1) Its first line reads:—There remains sixty *Polls*, or fifteen hundred acres, etc." Not 50 and 1250. (2) Its last sentence is:—"Touching the Natives, who are not to be made Freeholders, they are to be placed within the County, or removed by Order of the Commissioners, as they be in Tyrone." This sentence as it lies is ambiguous: one cannot here base the meaning on the punctuation. But as subsequently some of the "natives" were actually made freeholders it is seen that the relative pronoun was understood to be used, as grammarians say, "restrictively." Sir Charles Coote has the same paragraph. He follows Harris, but his last sentence is exactly as in the text above. (Vide Coote's "Statistical Survey of the County of Cavan." *Introd.* pp. xxxi and xxxii.)

† Harris' *Hibernica*, p. 130.

In a list of grants to the "Irish natives" in the Barony of Castlerahan in 1611 (Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1611, p. 213) we find that, after the individual grants are specified, the following extra grant is recorded:—"Extra: town at Ballaghanev, 250 acres; Glebes, 540 acres." This would indicate that the original intention was to found the new town in the townland of Ballaghanev where the first servitors resided; though it is quite possible that the district of Ballaghanev here mentioned covered a larger area than the present townland.

Captain John Ridgeway was the first Undertaker who was given this division of the Barony of Castlerahan. It was subject to the condition that he would proceed with the erection of the proposed town. The grant is described as follows in Pynnar's "Survey of Ulster," 1618. (State Papers, Ireland, 1618—Carew MSS., vol. 643, p. 93; Stearne MSS., Trin. Coll., Dublin, F. I. 19.)

Loch Rammor, alias the Manor of Chichester (1000 acres):— Captain Ridgeway was the first patentee. Captain Culme then held these lands and a house 14 feet high around which there was a bawne of lime and stone 180 feet square. This bawne stood on a passage and was able to do good service. Captain Culme had conditioned to build a town called Virginia for which he was allowed 250 acres; at that time eight timber houses were built, with English tenants, and there was a minister who kept a good school.

The grant described by Sir John Davys in 1610 provides for the allocation of 250 acres for the site of the new town to which no name was then ascribed. The State Papers of 1611 call it "the proposed town at Ballaghanev." When Captain Ridgeway received the grant in 1610 it is called "Loch Rammor" which seems to have been the name applied generally to the district. Captain Culme obtained the grant of 250 acres on condition that he erected the proposed town and in the period 1611 to 1618 had erected a town of eight timber houses which is called Virginia in the State Papers of 1618. The slow progress of the work must be ascribed to the inactivity of the grantee who only did enough to barely fulfil his contract. The name Virginia was applied to the new town by Captain Culme and, as we have seen, is first mentioned in 1618: so this may be accepted as the year in which the town received its present name.

The foundation is thus described by Coote's "Statistical Survey of the County of Cavan," (Introd. p. xxxiii):—

The intended town between Cavan and Kells was not made a borough, but it doubtless means Virginia, and Captain Culme who held the possession of the grant by assignment from Captain Ridgeway, the original patentee, had conditioned to build this town, for which he was allowed ten polls, or 250 acres, and which his descendants or assigns have since enjoyed; at that time but eight houses were built, and were all of timber; but it does not appear that it was ever made a borough town.



In the terms of the Plantation it was stated that each Undertaker should have performed at the end of a specified time the tasks allotted to him. A report of the progress made by them in the Barony of Castlerahan in 1611 (Calendar of State Papers Ireland, 1611, p. 130), and signed by some of the leading Undertakers in Cavan says:—

Sir William Taaffe, Knight (Mulloch, 1000 acres) as servitor in the Barony of Castlerahan, has taken possession but done nothing. Captain John Ridgeway (Loch Rammor, 1000 acres). 120 great oaks have been brought from Fermanagh, 30 miles away, and more ready framed, being 280 garren (i.e., horse) loads from Bealturbert. He has made a watercourse for a mill in a stony and rocky ground which cost him 25 pounds as he says. He has agreed for 500 barrels of lime in Meath to be brought him upon demand. He has removed five Irish houses near his castle and built two other Irish houses in the Great Island. He has an English millright, smith, and farrier with their wives and families and necessary tools, and an English and Irish house carpenter with their wives and families, with two or three other families of several trades, and has contracted at Bealturbert for a boat for use at Lough Rawre (Lough Ramor.)

The servitors being charged with backwardness in having done so little answered for the most part that they had not taken out their patents until the end of Candlemas Term last and that as the British still retain natives (who ought to be servitors' tenants) they are unable to put things forward as otherwise they would; but they will go roundly in hand with their works this next spring as they have promised.

The site of the Castle where Culme lived can still be seen. It is in the townland of Ballaghanea on the shore of Lough Ramor adjoining the Great Island. The walls of the Castle were standing within living memory, and the measurements of the existing foundations correspond with the readings given by Pynnar. The passage between the Castle and the Great Island is comparatively narrow and shallow, and could easily be crossed in case of attack; hence the erection of the Castle alongside this passage. The foundations of the houses on the Great Island (sometimes called Ballaghanea Island) are still visible. The "Bawne" or cattle-fortress, which every Undertaker was required to build within two years around his Castle, was intended as a means towards security of property and also for personal protection.

Captain Hugh Culme is mentioned in 1617 (State Papers, Ireland, vol. 234, p. 10) as "Provost-marshal of the counties Cavan and Monaghan"; again in 1623 (idem. vol 237, p. 53) we read a letter from him to the Lord Deputy in which he makes bold to acquaint his Lordship with the affairs and the condition of those parts wherein he lived, and requesting that certain "illegal assemblies" may be suppressed. In 1623 Culme is also mentioned as one of the "Commissioners of the Six Escheated Counties of Ulster."

The proximity of the district of Virginia to Meath border rendered it open to easy attack from the garrison of the Pale.

Sir Henry Tichborne, who was one of the Commonwealth Commanders in Ireland, describes how he found one of the islands in Lough Ramor being used as a refuge in 1643:—

That night we went eight miles into the County of Cavan and saw many rebels, but they knew their distance; yet at Lough Ramor, on an island, we lighted on the Earl of Fingall's two children, thirty cases of new pistols with other goods that could not suddenly be taken away when he fled from thence.

The Revolution of 1641 made itself felt in the County Cavan where the O'Reilly Clan figures largely in the events of that fateful year. The condition of the district of Virginia is described by Revd. George Creighton,\* a Protestant clergyman, who was "Vicar of Moybolge and Curate of Lurgan," and who was living in Virginia in 1641. In a Deposition concerning the Revolution he states (Appendix to "Aphorismical Discovery," edited by J. T. Gilbert; Cavan Depositions, Library of T.C.D., vol. ii):—

As soon as the English came abroad and had Dundalk and Trim all the inhabitants of Dublin, Meath, and Louth fled with all their goods into Cavan. Day and night there came through Virginia great droves of cattle and great carts laden with trunks and household stuff (sic), also great stores of wheat and malt. The refugees filled all the houses in Virginia. . . . Every Thursday they had a market as great, and methinks greater, than ever was at Navan.

This statement indicates that Virginia was in a prosperous condition in 1641, and had increased in size since 1618. This may be explained in the light of the Deposition of another Cavan clergyman, Rev. Henry Jones, D.D.,† of proceedings in Cavan from October, 23rd, 1641, to June 15th, 1642. (Appendix to "Aphorismical Discovery"; Cavan Depositions, Library of T.C.D., vol. ii.)

The County of Cavan at this time was the receptacle of all the rebellious lords, gentlemen and adherents who have been forced out of the Counties of Meath, Louth, Dublin, Monaghan, and Fermanagh, where our armies have, by God's power, victoriously marched.

Virginia must have been rather an unenviable place of residence during this troubled period if we might judge from the Deposition of Revd. Faithful Teate,‡ Vicar of Ballyhaise (Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Series vi, vol. x, p. 39)

\* Revd. George Creighton was appointed to this Incumbency in 1619. He was a first cousin of Abraham Creighton, the ancestor of the Earls of Erne.

† In the Thorpe Collection of 17th and 18th century pamphlets, preserved in the National Library, Dublin, there is in Vol. II. a pamphlet by this clergyman on the Rebellion in Cavan. It was published in 1642.

‡ Grandfather of Nahum Tate, Poet Laureate from 1692 till 1715. (Vide Journal R.S.A.I., June, 1920, p. 39, etc.)

“ that about the 23rd of October ‘ fearing of a rebellion and seeing them begin to rise ’ he had put a large sum of money in his pocket and set out for Dublin, partly with the intention of saving himself, and partly to give information to the Government of what was about to occur. He travelled in the company of Mr Aldrich, High Sheriff of County Monaghan, and the latter’s nephew, but on the journey between Virginia and Lough Ramor he was attacked by a gang of ruffians, illused, knocked down, and robbed of all his money.”

In the Depositions of Revd. George Creighton, in connection with an Inquiry into the Revolution of 1641, we find an interesting statement regarding the original Irish name of Virginia. He states it was *Aghanure*. As the State Papers, which I have already quoted, mention *Aghaleere* we will examine the evidences upon which these names are based. The Deposition of Rev. George Creighton, dated 1642 (Hickson, “ Ireland in the Seventeenth Century or the Irish Massacres of 1641-2 ” vol ii, p. 388; Cavan Depositions, Library of T.C.D. vol. ii) has the following:—

This deponent further deposeth that he and others in his company heard from divers persons bitter words cast about Dublin, viz., that they would burn and ruin it, destroy all records and manuscripts of the English Government; they spoke of laws to be made that the English tongue should not be spoken but this deponent remembereth not whether that law should take place throughout Ireland or Ulster only, and that all names given to land or places by the English should be abolished and the ancient names restored. And that the Earl of Fingal demanded of this deponent what was the ancient name of Virginia who replied that as this deponent could remember, *Aghanure* whereupon the said Earl said that must be the name thereof again.

This appears to be the only manuscript evidence in favour of *Aghanure*, and it is not supported by contemporary State Papers. The Plantation Map of 1609 has marked *Aghater* as the name of the townland in which the present town of Virginia is situated, and which is bounded on the south-east by the river flowing past the present town into Lough Ramor, and on the north-west by the small river at Dunancory; Lough Ramor forms the south-western boundary. The Fiants of Elizabeth under the year 1586 have “ M’Symon of *Aghelerre* ” and also in the same year “ M’Symon of *Carigagh* ”; the Plantation map has *Carigagh* marked adjoining *Aghater*, so that it is evident that the *Aghelerre* of the Fiants of 1586 is the *Aghater* of the Plantation Map. Among the many references in the Fiants of the same year to places in the immediate neighbourhood we find “ M’Symon of Mormade ”; “ M’Symon of Monterconnaghte.” (Note—The term Fiant which is derived from the first word of *Fiant literae patentes*—“Let letters patent be made”—was the name given to the Chancery warrants authorising the issue of letters patent under the great seal.) Again, in the Fiants of 1591 we

have "*Aghleere* in the Barony of Castlerahan, two polls or cartrons forfeited by the attainder of Brian O'Relye"; and in the Fiants of 1592 we find "M'Symon of *Agholirr*." The State papers of 1606 (already quoted) have "*Aghaleere* in the Barony of Castlerahan part of the lands of Brian M'Philip O'Reilly attained."

We have the name, therefore, occurring in the different forms, *Aghleere*, *Aghaleere*, *Aghellerre*, *Agholirr*, and the *Aghater* of the Plantation Map which is clearly a mis-print for *Aghaler*. The evidence afforded by the State Papers, the Fiants of Eliz., and the Plantation Map, is conclusive in fixing both the original name of the townland, and also its exact position. The spelling of the name indicates that it is *Achadh Ladhair* or the field of the river-fork; the term *ladhair* (pronounced "leer" in Ulster and "lyre" in Munster) having been commonly applied to the portion of land between two rivers. The configuration of the *Aghater* of the Plantation Map, on which it is shown as bordered on two sides by rivers with a third side stretching along Lough Ramor, is convincing evidence of the meaning of the name, as well as of the suitability of its application. We must then discard *Aghanure* as being without any definite historical basis; recent historical research has cast grave doubts on the value of the Depositions of 1641-2 as reliable history. As we have seen, the modern name *Virginia* appears for the first time in the State Papers of 1618; it is not marked on the Plantation Map of 1609, but is given on the Down Survey Map of 1654 as "*Virginia and Clanmore*." The older name *Achadh Ladhair* would be the more correct Gaelic name as it was in use before the foundation of the present town and is derived from the position of the original townland.

Coming down to later times we get a lucid and interesting description of *Virginia* and district as it appeared in the middle of the eighteenth century to Isaac Butler, a Dublin physician who made a journey from Dublin to Lough Derg about the year 1745, and who wrote his experiences in an Essay entitled "*A Journey From Dublin to the Shores of Lough Derg*" (*Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries*, vol. xxii., p. 126. Consecutive Series.) The journey was made by coach from Dublin through Navan, Kells, *Virginia*, Ballyjamesduff, Cavan, and Belturbet, and the writer gives a brief account of the general appearances and antiquities of the districts through which he travelled. After describing Kells (*Ceannanus Mor*) he travelled towards *Virginia*, and this is his description (I give it in modern English):—

A mile from Kells we passed over a stone bridge of three arches through which flows the *Blackwater* from Lough Ramour. The country appears open and waste with few houses. Three miles more westerly brought us to the boundaries of the Provinces of Leinster and Ulster and into the County of Cavan. Not far from hence near Lough Vanch was a fine convent. The country is here very rude and

desolate, a large bog on our right and on our left Lough Ramor, which is said to be four miles in length and one in breadth, plentifully stored with wild fowl and fish. A small island a pistol shot from the shore had a good dwelling house on it, with large gardens well laid out belonging to Colonel Woodward of Kells who on the 28th May, 1726, the birth-day of his late Majesty invited several gentlemen of that neighbourhood to a friendly collation, where having several pieces of cannon firing, one of them burst and tore the Colonel to pieces, since which time the house has lain waste and is falling into ruin.

Virginia, entering the county on this side (in the Barony of Castle Raghon), is on the north bank of Lough Ramor, upon the elbow thereof which trends southerly, a poor despicable place not affording a tolerable inn. Here is a good stone bridge of three arches over a river which enters Lough Ramor. From hence through a rude barren country of craggy rocks with mountains covered with bogs and heath, the road up and down hill, with a few scattered miserable cabins to Bally James Doough or Black James's Town, etc. etc.

Butler's description gives us a vivid pen-picture of the appearance and state of the district in the middle of the eighteenth century. With reference to Colonel Woodward and the incident related by Butler, the following note is added by Dr Stokes to Butler's paper:--

" Joseph Woodward of Drumbarragh in Co. Meath, was one of the attainted in the celebrated act of James II. Drumbarragh was changed during the last century into Fort Frederick its present designation."

Dr Stokes is in error when he says that Drumbarragh in Co. Meath was changed to Fort Frederick; the latter place is near Virginia and on the bank of Lough Ramor. The Woodward family were of Cromwellian origin: we find the name of Benjamin Woodward of Meath in the list of soldiers serving in Ireland in the Commonwealth period. The island in Lough Ramor on which Colonel Woodward lived is still known as " Woodward's Island." It is the second in point of area, the " Great Island " being the largest. Barely the ivy-clad foundations of Woodward's mansion have survived the storms and vicissitudes of the two centuries that have passed since Isaac Butler saw it falling into ruin and decay. This island appears to have been a place of residence in the early seventeenth century since the Plantation Map of 1609 has a building marked on it. Traces of the gardens and paths by the water's edge can still be detected.

The islands in Lough Ramor, thirty-two in number, are tastefully planted. The larger ones, especially Woodward's and the Great Island, will repay a visit from the archæologist or the tourist. Although Lough Ramor is not situated amidst " the wild and stern grandeur of the mountains," yet its verdant and gently undulating banks and placid waters, combined with its peacefully secluded islands, romantic in their sylvan insularity, abound in many scenes of natural beauty and historic interest. On its peaceful shores great dramas of history have been enacted and famous romances evolved. A short distance away is Quilca,

the residence of Swift and "Stella," and of Sheridan and "Vanessa." Swift was in residence in Quilca at frequent intervals during the first half of the eighteenth century as his numerous letters therefrom indicate. In a Letter to Dr Sheridan, written from Dublin, and dated Dec., 1722, he says:—"You will find Quilca not the thing it was last August; nobody to relish the lake; no trout to be caught; no Night Heroics, no Morning Epics; no blind Harpers; no Journies to Rantavan, etc." Many of Swift's Letters from Quilca are dated 1725. They deal mainly with domestic matters, and the frequent references to "Stella" throw much light on her unique and vivid personality. Swift also makes frequent references to the lake at Quilca; in one of his Letters to Sheridan he says that "the lake is strangely overflown." On one occasion when Swift was absent his friend, Dr Sheridan, had an artificial island formed in the lake so as to astonish the Dean on his return which is said to have the desired effect. At Quilca Swift wrote his "Gulliver's Travels," a caustic political satire, the secret of which he only imparted to Dr Sheridan; also some of his best-known satires and Letters. Rantavan, to which Swift refers, in the Letter quoted, was the residence of Henry Brooke, the well-known author, and friend of Swift and Sheridan. Writing from Dublin in 1735 to Mr Pope, Swift says:—"I have an intention to pass this winter in the country with a friend forty miles off." Here in Quilca the versatile and capricious author of "Drapier's Letters," an enigma even to himself, displayed his erratic genius and composed his stinging satires while his vaulting ambition was encompassed with that monumental loneliness of soul which seemed to cloud the spirit of that great master of irony notwithstanding his romantic and charming associations in his quiet retreat on the banks of Lough Ramor.

PHILIP O'CONNELL

## EXHIBITS AT JUNE MEETING.

1. Bronze Sword—Leaf pattern; total length, including tang, 23 1-8 ins; length of blade, 21½ ins.; greatest breadth, seven and a half inches from top, 1½ ins.; at tang, 1 7 8 ins; plain, no midrib; cast, no traces of work; for hafting, 3 rivet holes in blade, 4 in tang; handle missing, was probably of wood or bone. Weight, 19 ozs.

(For a near illustration of it, see Wakeman's *Handbook*, 2nd ed. p. 281, No. 2, or Wood Martin's *Pagan Ireland* p. 433, No. 194.)

This was found at Cloughoughter at the time of the Erne drainage. It is one of a great number of bronze swords, spear and javelin heads, bronze celts and palstaves, etc., etc., that were discovered there particularly about that time, when the level of the lake was lowered. They are now in various Museums and private collections, or utterly lost. At the same time in the bed of the river near Gowna a great find, both of gold ornaments and of bronze implements, was come upon. It is hoped it will be described in detail in an early number of the Journal.

2. Two bronze cauldrons.

The smaller is 9½ ins. in diameter and 8 ins. in depth. It was found near Crosskeys about 15 years ago.

The larger, which is very graceful in outline, is 10½ ins. in diameter, 11½ ins. in depth and 12 ins. high. It was obtained in the neighbourhood of Killeshandra about 20 years ago. From this district there are many objects of antiquarian interest in the Dublin Museum. Both cauldrons are cast, not riveted.

3. Rush-light and resin candle-holders. All of them of twisted iron and of an ordinary pattern. These "rawsin candle-sticks" as they are generally called, as well as the "grissets" for making the candles, are often met with both in Leitrim and in Cavan. In Leitrim they were in fairly common use up to 40 years ago. Then they were displaced by the tallow dips. On showing them at the meeting rush-candles were inserted in the clamps and lighted. They had been prepared by an old Cavan lady who as a girl was an expert at this home manufacture. They were seen to give a serviceable, if not a brilliant, light.

All the foregoing belong to Dr F. Smith, D.L., Kevitt Castle, who kindly brought them in.

4. A stone celt, 5 ins. by 2¾ ins., highly polished, unchipped, of a greenish shade, possibly jade. Found in Aughaloor in 1919 in the debris of an old house which had been taken down. Shown by Rev J. B. Meehan.
5. A collection of polished celts, different sizes, smooth, dark stone, the largest being 7¼ ins. long and 2½ ins. wide; 5

bronze celts from the earliest flat variety to the latest socketed pattern; a bronze cauldron, medium size, riveted; a bronze penannular brooch, 2 1-8 ins. in outside diameter, beautifully chased. All these are from a fine collection put together by the late Mr Whelan, Cavan. They were discovered in the neighbourhood of the town in different places and at different times, but all over 30 years ago. The brooch was found at Shantamon. Exhibited by his son, B. Whelan, Esq.

6. A socketed bronze celt, about 4½ ins., slightly ornamented; would be said to have been cast in the same mould as the latest of the last collection, but that it is as large and a half. This is the only object known of now out of a great find discovered in 1885 in Callinagh bog, parish of Mullahoran, by Mr P. Smith, of Aghakilmore. They were 9 feet down in the bog. It consisted of about thirty of these celts, a score of bronze spear-heads, wooden handles attached to a few of them, hundreds of glass beads of an amber colour, and many other objects, the identity of which cannot now be made out from the finder's description of them. This celt was preserved by P. M'Gennis, Esq., Kilnaleck.
7. A Charter granted to the Borough of Cavan in 1688 by James II. The original parchment document, which was shown to the members, is in the possession of D. O'Reilly, Esq., J.P., Cavan. The Charter of James I., dated 1611, creating Cavan a Borough is still to be had. It is now the property of D. Carolan Rushe, Esq., Far-Meehul, Monaghan. Portions of a copy of it were read.
8. An ancient seal of the diocese of Kilmore. The matrix of this seal is lodged in the British Museum. Impressions of it in wax were shown. Sir C. H. Read kindly furnished the following particulars about it, abstracted from the MS. Catalogue of the Museum:—

“ Seal—brass—circular—Diam 1 7-8 inches—loop at back.

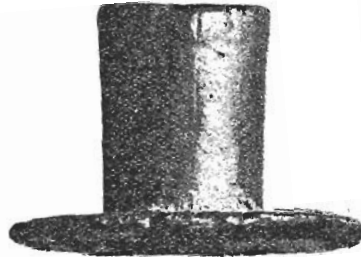
**\* S':COMMVNE: CLERI: TIRBRIVNENSIS.**

Under a crocheted canopy the Virgin and Child seated on a throne, to her right an episcopal figure kneeling.”

Sir C. H. Read adds that “ it was here [i.e., in British Museum] in 1838, and may have been presented by one Dr. O'Reilly. Its date is 14th century.” Mr E. C. R. Armstrong, Curator of the National Museum, Dublin, author of *Irish Seal—Matrices and Seals*, and perhaps the greatest authority in Ireland on the subject, was shown the seal. He also declared it 14th century. It follows from their use that seals themselves seldom or never bear a date.

There is a cast of this seal in the Dublin Museum, and it is illustrated in the *British Museum Catalogue of Seals*, Vol. IV., Pl. XII., No. 17, 379. Shown by Rev. J. B. Meehan,





Matrix, Side View, and Seal (Exact Size) of Sir John O'Reilly.

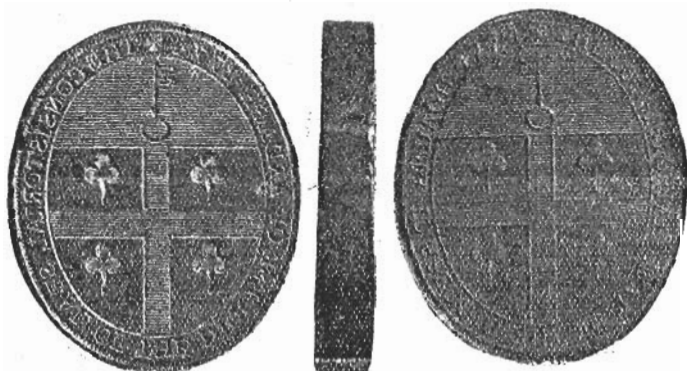
(From Armstrong's Irish Seal Matrices and Seals.)



**BELTURBET CORPORATION.**

**Matrix, Side View and Seal—Exact Size.**

(From Armstrong's Irish Seal Matrices and Seals.)



**The Consistorial Seal of the Diocese of Ardagh, 1774.**



**Matrix, side view and impression of the Seal of Hugh O'Reilly, Vicar Apostolic and afterwards Bishop of Kilmore, subsequently Archbishop of Armagh.**

(From Armstrong's Irish Seal Matrices and Seals.)

## THE LEGEND OF CONALL CERNACH IN CENTRAL IRELAND.

By Miss Margaret E. Dobbs, F.R.A.S.I.

[Read 8th November, 1920.]

As the revival of our classical literature is of recent growth, it is well to state clearly at the beginning of this paper the place and date of Conall Cernach in that literature. He belongs to the cycle of great sagas, known as the Tain Cycle. These stories, in the opinion of the leading scholars of our day, originated in, and represent the culture of, the early Iron Age in Ireland; that is, the period from 300 B.C. to 100 A.D. This culture was drawn from the La Tène, or Celtic, culture of central Europe and Britain. In the Tain Cycle Conall is represented as the friend and avenger of Cu Chullain, as a great soldier, and as belonging to the Rudrician family who ruled N.E. Ulster at that period. He is the leading hero in Ulster next to Cu Chullain himself. In certain tales he appears as the principal character, and may be said to have a saga of his own, distinct from that of Cu Chullain. He also figures prominently in the genealogies. He is classed as one of the three chief ancestors of the peoples of Antrim and Down and North Louth. The other two names are Fergus Mac Roig and Celtchar. The oldest Ulster stock, the Dal Araide traced their descent to Conall. He has, therefore, a double claim to interest, both as an heroic character in romance and as an ancestor of families existing in historic times.

It is noteworthy that his descendants, as well as those of the other two named, were not confined to North-east Ulster. The seven families of the Sogain in Meath, the Laigse in Ossory and the Fir Iboth about Loch Derg on the Shannon, all called themselves descendants of Conall. I cannot find any indication of any of these peoples in Cavan. Nevertheless, Cavan contains the spot associated with his death and burial, and I am told that his cairn and standing stone are still pointed out on a hill west of Ballyconnell.

It may interest Cavan readers to know that the story of how Conall came to die at this place still exists, and has been published in the *Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie*, vol. 1. Two versions are known; one in H.2.17. in Trinity College Library, and one in Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, codex XL. The full title is "The Cherishing of Conall Cernach in Cruachan." The exact translation can be read in the *Zeitschrift* in the great Dublin libraries. I shall, therefore, only outline it here.

Conall is represented in all his sagas as a professional soldier of the type of the mediæval free-lance. He is not a prince or lord of territory like Conchobar or Cu Chullain. His only consistent warfare was a deadly feud with Connaught. He is fre-

quently spoken of as fighting in Scotland and the Hebrides. In the tale "Bruden da Derga," he fights for the High King, Conaire Mor, against pirates. Again, no settled home or fort of his own is attributed to him as to Cu Roi or Cu Chullain. His father's fort is frequently given as at Tailtinn in Meath, but Conall is never mentioned as living there. In accordance with this view of his character, the story of his death represents him as homeless and forlorn in his old age, so friendless and destitute that he actually sought refuge with his worst enemies at Cruachan in Connaught. There is no reason given why his numerous family did not take care of him. The story takes it as normal and natural that he had no home, and that his worst enemies gave him shelter simply for the asking. This did not mean that they had forgiven him. It probably indicates some rule of hospitality not to be broken on any excuse whatsoever and taken for granted. He was given a dwelling on the rampart of the rath and "men would bring their spears to him to be set and to be chipped" early in the morning. Then, Medb used him as a tool in the murder of her husband, Aillil. The deed accomplished, she flung the blame on Conall who, having murdered his host, had forfeited all claim to hospitality. His life as a suppliant was no longer sacred and he fled from Cruachan across Magh Luirg (N.E., Roscommon) towards Magh Slecht (district N.E. of Garadice Lake.) He probably crossed the Shannon near Drumsna. It is the only place where the great river could be crossed in pre-historic times between Lough Allen and Roosky, and is in the direct line from Cruachan to Ballyconnell. Medb had three desperadoes in her service, the three Ruadchoin from Martine in Munster. She despatched them on Conall's track, and they overtook him at Ath na Mianna—the Miner's Ford—and slew him there. I do not know if any story resembling the above is told at Ballyconnell. It would be most interesting if any antiquarian in that district would collect all traces of tradition from old people, and publish the results in your magazine.

As a rule the heroic tales that have survived locally are corrupted into wild fairy tales of giants. For instance, the fine story, "Tain Bo Flidais," was found in West Mayo as a folk-tale of local giants, and the same thing occurred in the tradition of Fionn Mac Cumhail.

It is well to remember that in looking for the traces of a story the people should be asked for their traditions before giving any hint of what the story is. It is to be noted in the tales concerning Conall that his birth-place, Teltown, is in Meath, and his death and burial are located at Ballyconnell, both in central Ireland. He is, however, in all the tales about him and in the genealogies, consistently associated with the Cruithne, or Picts, of N.E. Antrim, and their royal families claimed descent from him. The Seven Tribes of the Sogain, who made the same claim, are the

only descendants who were near Teltown or Cavan. According to the Onomasticon Goedelicum, they were in Roscommon and Galway as well as Meath, but nowhere do I find any trace of them in Cavan. The legend about Ballyconnell is interesting because it is unexpected.

In most cases the deaths of the heroes or heroines of the tales occur in the region associated with them; e.g., Cu Chullain dies near Dundalk, Celtchar near Downpatrick, Cu Roi at Sliabh Mis, Medb at Cruachan, and so on. It is difficult for a stranger to guess how far the story is consistent with the locality. I should be much interested to know if "the Miner's Ford" where "the miners were washing ore in the river above him," can be identified, and what metals exist in the neighbourhood that may have been here indicated. As a rule, however imaginative the story, the topographical details are true to fact and place. I hope that some Cavan scholar will study the story in the original, and compare it with the local tradition and topography and communicate the results to your Journal.

**M. E. DOBBS.**

## MEMBERS IN THE IRISH PARLIAMENT FOR CAVAN COUNTY AND THE BOROUGHS OF CAVAN AND BELTURBET.

### I. MEMBERS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

By T. S. Smyth.

[Read 8th November, 1920.]

From the time Cavan County was formed into a shire it had, as it still has, the right of returning two members to Parliament. In inquiring into the origin of the county we find that primitive Ulster was almost coterminous with the modern province of that name, but it included Louth. Cavan, being then incorporated with Connaught, formed no part of it. East Breney (or Breifne) was, in 1584, formed into the modern County of Cavan and added to Ulster. In 1579, just before its formation, Sir Nicholas Bagnal stated that "never writ was current in O'Reilly's countrie, and it was almost a sacrilege for any Governor of Ireland to look into that territory." (State Papers.) We learn that Sir John Perrott's contribution to the shiring of Ulster was little more than a settlement on paper of the boundaries of the new counties he desired to create. Of the province, Sir John Davies says:—"After him (Sidney) Sir John Perrott. . . . reduced the unreformed parts of Ulster into seven shires, namely, Armagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Coleraine, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan, though in his time the law was never executed in these new counties by any Sheriff or Justice of Assize; but the people left to be ruled by their own barbarous lords and laws." Whether this is correct or not, the fact remains that the county was formed at the date mentioned; and within a year after its formation Cavan returned Parliamentary representatives. The names of the first two members—those for 1585—are included in the list annexed.

In 1611 the town of Cavan was granted a Charter, and this empowered the borough to send two members to the Irish Parliament, which it did until the Act of Union came into operation. Belturbet was incorporated as a borough in 1613, two years later than Cavan, and, like the latter town, from then until 1800 it had the privilege of appointing two Parliamentary representatives.

Before dealing with the members in the Irish Parliament for the seventeenth century, it should be mentioned that in 1653 Cromwell summoned six Irish members to Westminster "to take upon them the Trust of this Commonwealth." This was the assembly that the royalists opprobriously termed Barebones' Parliament. Sir R. King, mentioned below, was one of the six Irishmen who were summoned. It is interesting to notice that in it he gave Ireland less than one-twentieth of the representation of

England, exactly that of Wales, and one-sixth more than Scotland. The following year, upon the 27th June, an ordinance was passed providing for a regular distribution of seats. It allowed Ireland, like Scotland, a total representation of thirty members. Ulster was allotted seven representatives, Cavan, Fermanagh, and Monaghan jointly having one member. Connaught had four members, of whom two represented Sligo, Roscommon, and Leitrim.

The names of members of local interest in the Cromwellian Parliaments are\* :—

1654	Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan ...	Col. John Cole.
	Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim ...	{ Sir Robt. King.
		{ Sir John Temple
1656	Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan ...	Richard Blaney.
	Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim ...	{ Sir Robt. King.
		{ John Bridges.
1659	Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan ...	Col. T. Coote.
	Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim ...	{ Robert Parke.
		{ Thomas Waller.

The six members of 1653 were summoned simply by Cromwell's mandate. The mode of selection of the thirty to the three subsequent Parliaments was almost equally arbitrary. Leland shows this in some detail† Green‡ and Lingard§ agree with him. Of the 1656 Parliament another historian says bluntly that "the Irish and Scottish members were not elected, but appointed by the Government."||

In the assembly of 1656 a motion was carried requesting Cromwell to assume the title of King. Bridges alone of our local members voted with the majority, in favour of it.

Herewith is the List of Members for the seventeenth century, which has been extracted from a Blue Book of 1879, entitled "Members of Parliament." This book was a "return to an Order of the House of Lords," and its number among the Lords' Papers is 180-1 :—

\* Journal R.S.A.I., 1893, pp. 73-78.

† History of Ireland, 1st Ed. Vol. III., p. 398.

‡ Short History of English People, 1889. Part III., p. 593.

§ History of England, 1st Ed., Vol. VII., p. 220.

|| Tait in Supplement to Green, Part III., p. 200.

NAMES OF MEMBERS RETURNED TO SERVE IN PARLIAMENT.  
CONSTITUENCY: CAVAN COUNTY.

Date.	Name.	Residence.	
1585 — April	Philip O'Reily, Esq. ...	Cavan	(1)
	Edmund O'Reily, Esq. ...	Do	(2)
1613 6 April	Sir Oliver Lambert, Kt. ...	Kilbeggan, W'meath	(3)
	John Fische, Esq. ...	Lissinean	
1634 1 July	Luke Dillon, Esq. ...	Trinity Island	(4)
	Sir Stephen Butler, Kt. ...	Belturbet	(5)
1639 — Mar.	Philip McHugh O'Rely (O'Reilly ws expelled 22 June, 1642, for the Re- bellion 17 Nov., 1641.)	—	(6)
	Robert Baylye, Esq. ...	—	(7)
1661 12 April	Sir Fras Hamilton, Bt. ...	Castlehamilton	(8)
	Thomas Coote, Esq. ...	Coote Hill	(9)
1692 28 Sept.	Sir Fras Hamilton, Bt. ...	Castlehamilton	
	Robt. Saunderson, Esq. ...	Castle Saunderson	(10)
1695 20. Aug.	Sir Fras Hamilton, Bt. ...	Castlehamilton	
	Robt Saunderson, Esq. ...	Castle Saunderson	

CONSTITUENCY: CAVAN BOROUGH.

1613 2 May	Hugh Culme, Esq. ...	Lisnamain	
	George Sexton, Esq. ...	Dublin	
1614 27 Oct.	Walter Brady, gent., the first Sovereign, Cavan elected 3 May, 1613.	—	(11)
	Thomas Brady, gent. ...	Cavan	(12)
1634 1 July	Alan Cooke, LL.D. ...	Dublin	(13)
	Brockhill Taylor, Esq. ...	Ballyhayes	
1639 — Mar.	Alan Cooke, LL.D. ...	Dublin	
	Edward Lake, LL.D. ... (Lake was expelled 9th November, 1640)	Dublin	
1661 11 April	William Moore ...	Tullyvin	
	Thomas Ashe, Esq. ...	Ashfield, Meath	
1692 22 Sept.	Robert Saunders, Esq. ...	—	
	Thomas Ashe, Esq. ...	Ashfield, Meath	
1695 20 Aug.	Thomas Ashe, Esq. ...	Ashfield, Meath	
	Robert Saunders, Esq. ...	—	

CONSTITUENCY: BELTURBET BOROUGH.

1613 13 April	Sir Hugh Worrall, Kt. ...	Belturbet	(14)
	George Grimesditch, Esq. ...	Dublin	
1634 24 June	Sir Arthur Blundell, Kt. ...	Blundellstown alias Lomclone King's County	(15)
	William Ryves, Esq. ...	—	
1639 — Mar.	Sir John Borlase, Kt. ...	Dublin	(16)
	Richard Ashe, Esq. ... (Ashe expelled 22 June, 1642, for Rebellion.)	—	(17)
1661 12 April	Stephen Butler, Esq. ...	Belturbet	(18)
	Thomas Worsopp, (Knt.) ...	Dunshaughlin	
1662 11 April	Francis Butler, Esq. ... vice Butler, decd.	Belturbet	(19)
1692 29 Sept.	Francis Butler, Esq. ...	Belturbet	
	John Warburton, Esq. ...	Dublin	
1695 12 Aug.	Francis Butler, Esq. ...	Belturbet	
	John Warburton, Esq. ...	Dublin	



As explaining the blank between 1614 and 1634 in the above tables it should be recalled that from 1615 till 1634 no Parliament sat in Ireland. A second long hiatus is accounted for by the existence of the Commonwealth, 1649-1660, and by Cromwell's Parliaments above referred to. James II.'s Parliament at Dublin in 1689 is not recognised or referred to.

Subjoined are particulars relating to many of the members in the foregoing lists. This information has been gleaned, except where otherwise stated, from Archdall's "Lodge's Peerage," Dublin, 1789.

(1) Philip O'Reilly was son of the chieftain Hugh, who died in 1583, and was buried in the monastery of Cavan. Of Hugh the "Four Masters" (p. 1804) say that "he was a man who had passed his time without contests, and who had preserved Breifne from the invasions of his English and Irish enemies." A note at page 1809 in the same work (O'Donovan's edition), copied from a Lambeth manuscript, states that "the Breny, now called the countie of Cavan, hath been tyme out of minde whollie in the jurisdiction of him that for the tyme was O'Reillye, that is to say Lord of the countrie."

To this Philip O'Reilly, one of the first two that entered the Irish Parliament, was allotted the barony of Iniskine (now Clannee) when the county was divided by Sir H. Sidney among "the principal gentlemen of the O'Reillies." In 1596 he was nominated by O'Neill as "O'Reilly over all Breifne." But he was soon after accidentally slain by O'Neill's people, and then his uncle Emann or Edmund was styled O'Reilly, or The O'Reilly. Emann was elected in 1598.

(2) This Edmund is the second name on the lists. He was chief of East Breifne. To him and his heirs had been assigned at the partition above-mentioned the barony of Castlerahan. He resided at Kilnacrott, in the parish of Crosserlough. He died in April, 1601, and was buried in the monastery of St. Francis at Cavan. The "Four Masters" (p. 2243) describe him as "an aged, grey-headed, long-memored man, and had been quick and vivacious in his mind and intellect in his youth."

So early as the year 1558 Emann and his brother Hugh made a covenant with the English Government; and again in 1567, when they promised among other things that they would pursue their brothers, Cahir O'Reilly, Owen O'Reilly, and Thomas O'Reilly, "nunc rebelles et eos ferro et flamma punire." (Note to "Four Masters," p. 1804, etc.)

From this chief, Emann, descend the O'Reilly's formerly of Heath House, Queen's County; the O'Reillys of Baltrasna and Scarvagh; and Count O'Reilly of Spain. Miles W. O'Reilly, of Knock Abbey, Louth, was descended from him by both father

and mother. Seventh in descent from Emann was Count O'Reilly, Generalissimo of His Catholic Majesty's forces, Inspector-General of Infantry, Civil and Military Governor of Cadiz etc. (Cf. O'D.'s Notes to same Annals; year, 1601.)

Emann married a daughter of the Baron of Dunsany, and had Cahir, John, and Terence Neirinn; he married secondly a daughter of Baron Delvin, and had Myles, Farrel and Charles. His son, John, married a daughter of Sir James Butler, and had a son Brian, who died in 1631, and was the father of Maelmora, known as "Myles the Slasher," a distinguished cavalry officer in the war of 1641.

To Emann as chief succeeded his nephew, Eoghan (Owen), son of Hugh Connallagh, his brother. But Owen died in the same year, 1601. Owen was followed by Maelmora or Myles, the fourth son of Hugh Connallagh and the last chief of East Breifne. He enjoyed that dignity till the plantation of 1609. Myles died in 1635.—(Note to "Four Masters," p. 2240.)

(3) Sir Oliver Lambert was the father of the first Earl of Cavan. He came from an ancient family, which derived its immediate descent from Lambert, Count of Mons and Louvain. Sir Oliver was the son of Walter Lambert or Lambart—the name is variously spelt—whose wife, Rose, was the daughter of an ancestor of the Earl of Portsmouth. In Queen Elizabeth's reign, Sir Oliver was in Ireland, and, in a decree dated 8th September, 1581, he is mentioned as a gentleman of good credit and a nephew to Sir Henry Wallop, Knt., her Majesty's Vice-Treasurer. He was a prominent soldier in his day, for he attended Robert, Earl of Essex, in his first expedition to Spain; and the latter in 1596 made him a Knight for his bravery in storming Cadiz. In Ireland, Sir Oliver served against Tyrconnell; he commanded 200 feet for some time at Enniscorthy; in March, 1600, he victualled the garrison of Maryborough for three months; and in the beginning of April of the same year, with 1,000 foot and 100 horse he invaded the territories of Leix and Offaly. In 1601, Sir Oliver was appointed Governor of Connaught. Immediately he took up duty he began to build the fort of Galway; and when it was finished, in 1602, he went in prosecution of O'Rourke, but was recalled from that service when the Spaniards landed at Berehaven.

King James, as a reward for his signal services, made him a Privy Councilor, and granted him patents of lands in thirteen counties. In Co. Cavan he had 2,000 escheated acres, "called the Carig"; and at Tullacullen, in the same county he purchased from the original patentees, Captain Lyons and Joseph Jones, another 1,000 acres, upon which he built a bawn of lime and stone two hundred feet square, fourteen feet high, and a deep moat about it. Both Carig and Tullacullen were in the Precinct or

Barony of Clanmahon ("Clonemahown"). From a report to the Privy Council of the Commissioners for the case of Phelim M'Fieugh Byrne, who was accused of murder and rebellion, dated Jan. 20, 1629, it appears that his son, Lord Lambert had also land at "Inniskeen, Co. Cavan." (Mahaffy's Calendar of State Papers.) Further, we would like to remark that Sir Oliver had a grant from Queen Elizabeth, dated 8th January, 1595, of "the hospitals or houses or Urney, Killdalloun, Ballynehinchy, etc., in Cavan."

Owing to his success in his various expeditions, Sir Oliver was advanced to the Peerage of Ireland, by patent at Dublin, 17th February, 1617, creating him Lord Lambart, Baron of Cavan. However, he did not enjoy his new dignity long, as he died in London on the 9th July, 1618. After his death three inquisitions were held, the first taking place at Cavan on 30th September, 1618; and the results show that he had become amply enriched out of confiscated property.

Oliver Baron Cavan was succeeded by his son, Charles, who served in the English Parliament and was an eloquent speaker. Charles was appointed, 6th March, 1627, Seneschal for the government of the County of Cavan and the town of Kells. In a State Paper setting forth the Manner of proceeding to the Parliament holden in Dublin, July 14th, 1634, Charles Lambert is referred to as Lord Lambert, Baron of Cavan. (Mahaffy's Calendar.) By privy seal, dated at Newcastle, 14th January, 1646, he was promoted to the dignity of Earl of Cavan and Viscount of Kilcourse in the King's Co. The title remains. The present holder, born in 1865, is the 10th Earl of Cavan, and a descendant of this Charles. (Burke's Peerage.)

(4) Luke Dillon was brother to the Earl of Roscommon, and a friend of the famous Bishop Bedell. When the insurrection of 1641 broke out, Mr Dillon and Philip McMulmore O'Reilly interceded with the chief of the O'Reilly clan—the leader of the rising in Cavan—on behalf of the Bishop, who was then harbouring English people who had suffered at the hands of the insurrectionists. During the rising the Bishop himself and some others were imprisoned by Edmund O'Reilly in Loughoughter Castle; but, thanks to the efforts of Mr Dillon and two friends in arranging an exchange of prisoners, his incarceration was of short duration, namely, from the 18th December till the succeeding 7th January.\* When his Lordship died, his friends desired to bury him in the churchyard where his wife was interred. There was, however, some difficulty about doing this; but Mr Luke Dillon again exercised his influence successfully, with the result that the wishes of the Bishop's friends were carried out.†

\* "Two Biographies of William Bedell, Bishop of Kilmore," Ed. by E. S. Shuckburgh, M.A. (Cambridge—1902), pp. 69 and 193.

† Do. page 204.

(5) Sir Stephen Butler came to Ireland in the reign of King James I., being an undertaker in the plantation of Ulster. He received a grant of 2,000 acres, called Clonose, in County Cavan, upon which he erected a castle and a bawn of great strength. In 1618 he was able to arm 200 men with first class weapons; and besides the arms stored in his castle, he had his tenants armed for their security. Sir Stephen and other undertakers were allowed 384 acres for planting a town at Belturbet and building a church; and Pynnar's work states that there were at that time houses built of cage-work, all inhabited by British tenants, most of whom were tradesmen, each having a house and garden plot with four acres of land, and commons for cattle. According to the same authority, Sir Stephen built two corn mills and one fulling mill at Clonose. He also owned 1,500 acres, called Kilspeenan, in Fermanagh, apparently having purchased them from the first patentee, Lord Mountwhany.

Sir Stephen, by his will, dated September 8th, 1638, ordered that his body be buried in the Chancel of Belturbet Church; and when he died, 21st April, 1639, he was buried there. His wife, daughter of Gervas Brindsley of Nottingham, remarried Edward Philpot, who swore in a deposition, 27th February, 1642, "that when the rebellion began in the County of Cavan, he and Dame Mary Butler, his wife, with five of the children of her former husband, Sir Stephen, of Belturbet, were forcibly expelled by the rebels and driven from their habitation and lands," etc. However, the 1641 insurrection did not sever the connection of the Butler family with Belturbet. As the list of members shows, Belturbet borough was represented in Parliament from 1661 to 1695 by Butlers. They were sons of Sir Stephen.

(6) Philip McHugh O'Rely was "the second son of O'Reilly of Cavan."\* Elected Knight for Cavan shire in 1639, he played a prominent part in the Irish House of Commons, and eventually was created a member of the Privy Council. In 1640, however, he was taken into the confidence of Rory O'More, the leader of the Rising of 1641, with the result that he became an outstanding figure in the insurrection. In the succeeding War of Confederates he was on the side of Ormonde, against the Parliamentarians. Amongst the Duke's MSS., preserved at Kilkenny Castle, is a Commission of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, dated Aug. 8, 1650, "directed to Sir Phelim O'Neill, Knt., Torlogh O'Niell, Torlogh O'Boyle, Philip McHugh O'Rely, Torlogh McArte O'Neile and Hugh McMahan, Esquires," giving them jurisdiction over all Ulster, "there being none at present qualified with any civil power there," and empowering them "to try and make inquest and enquiry of all murders manslaughterers, rapes, felonies, burglaries and such like offences, as also to hear and

\* Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. XIV., p. 1145.

determine all matters of debt between party and party, the same not exceeding ten pounds sterling in such manner and power as Judges of Assize heretofore in time of peace did, or by the laws of the land were accustomed to do in the said Province.\*

McHugh O'Reilly in his military life was both daring and chivalrous. He married a sister of Owen Roe O'Neill and died in Louvain in 1657.

(7) According to Mahaffy's Calendar of State Papers, a Robert Bailey on May 14th, 1628 was granted 3 poles of land [75 acres,] Drummore, Drummackarrow and Corlorgrane in the Barony of Clonchy, now Clankee, Co. Cavan. This may be the man, though we have nothing but the name to guide us.

Again, Pynnar's Survey of Ulster, made between December, 1618, and the 28th March, 1619, records "for the Precinct of Clanchie" that "William Bealie, Esq., holdeth 1,000 acres called Tonregie," and that his wife and family are living there. Possibly the Robert Baylye, Esq., who was M.P. for Cavan County twenty years later, was a relative not improbably a son.

As the Barony mentioned was allotted to Scottish Undertakers we may presume that the Bailies were Scotsmen. Tonregie, now called Tanderagee, is beside the town of Bailieborough, a town which takes its name most probably from William. By the year 1619 he had "planted and estated" upon his "proportion" ten families, "consisting of twenty-eight men armed" of "Brittish Birth and Descent." He had also built a stone bawne, 90 feet square, with two flankers. "In one of the flankers there is a Castle in building which is above the first storie." It was 30 feet by 22 and vaulted.

Lisgar house, now owned and occupied by the Marist Brothers, occupies the site of this ancient fortress. Bealie's Castle, which Pynnar describes, remained standing till about 1832. It was then pulled down to make room for additions and improvements in the modern building. (Lewis' Top. Dicy.) The later, often styled Bailieborough Castle, was at the time the residence of Sir W. Young, a Director of the East India Company, who had been created Baronet in 1821. His son, Sir John, was a distinguished Statesman, Governor of S. Australia, Chief Secretary for Ireland (1853), the last High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands (1855-9), etc., etc., Morley's *Life of Gladstone* has a great deal to say about him. In 1870 he was raised to the Peerage as Baron Lisgar. But dying without issue six years later the Peerage became extinct and the Baronetcy devolved on his nephew. It still continues, but the holders of it have ceased connection with Bailieborough. (Debrett's Baronetage, etc.)

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\* Historical Manuscripts Commission, New Series, Vol. I., 1902, p. 157.

(8) Sir Francis Hamilton was one of the commissioners for the settlement of Ireland. He married first Catherine, daughter of Hugh, the first Earl of Mount-Alexander; and he married secondly, Anne, daughter and co-heir to Claude Hamilton, Esq.

(9) Thomas Coote, of Cootehill, was a captain in the army of King Charles I., and Governor of Coleraine for the Parliament, after the reduction of the Kingdom by Cromwell. King Charles, 9th February, 1660, made him a lieutenant-colonel in the Earl of Ossory's regiment; and he had five grants of land under the Acts of Settlement. He married Frances, daughter of Moses Hill, Esq., of Hillsborough. Dying without issue, 25th November 1671, he was buried in Christ Church, Dublin.

(10) Robert Saunderson, of Castle Saunderson, "made a noble stand, in 1689, against the illegal proceedings of King James's minions." It appears that at a Quarter Sessions held at Cavan, on the 8th of January of that year, Captain Robert Saunderson mounted the bench, and asked by what commission the Justices sat there. When they replied "by that of King James," he told them the authority was not good while the laws were unrepealed. He then ordered the people concerned to return home. That they obeyed his command there can be little doubt; for when he entered the town he was accompanied by a body of fourscore horse. As soon as Tyrconnell heard of this occurrence, he threatened to send down some troops of horse. This threat so terrified the people "that almost every man put himself in arms."

In part II. of the Blue Book referred to previously, the names of the members of Parliament for Cavan, from 1695 to 1699, are repeated. There is, however, an interesting addition—it is recorded that Robert Saunderson was expelled from Parliament, and his place taken by Francis White.

(11) Walter Brady was the first Sovereign or Mayor of Cavan. His name appears in the Charter granted to the town by King James I., which directs that the area of the borough is "to be measured and taken from the stone house or castle wherein Walter Brady, Gent., now dwelleth."

(12) Thomas Brady was one of the twelve burgesses of the Cavan Corporation, constituted by King James I. Besides Thomas, there are three other men of the name of Brady mentioned in the Charter of 1611. From this it is patent that the Bradys played a prominent part in, if they did not actually rule, the town in those days.

(13) Dr Alan Cooke, who represented Cavan borough in 1634 and 1639, was, in all probability, the person of that name who was Chancellor of Kilmore in the days of Bedell. We find in the

Bishop's biographies (quoted before) that his Lordship wrote a letter to Archbishop Laud complaining that Dr Cooke—a lay man—held too many ecclesiastical positions. After mentioning the Chancellor's appointments in Clogher and elsewhere, the Bishop proceeds:—"Besides all these (Dr. Cooke) is official to the Archdeaconry of Dublin, Judge of the Admiralty, Master of the Chancery, Principal Advocate of the High Commission Court, one of those of the Prerogative Court, and Sovereign of the Towne of Cavan." Indeed, the Bishop and the Chancellor were no friends. Dr Cooke was appointed Chancellor before Bedell took charge of the See, and wanted to continue in that office under the latter's regime. His Lordship opposed this and tried to remove him, with the result that a prolonged struggle ensued.

(14) Sir Hugh Wirral, according to Pynnar's "Survey of Ulster," had in Cavan one thousand five hundred acres "called Monaghan." Upon this, we learn, he built no bawn, but he set about erecting a house of lime and stone; which ultimately, though standing for two years unfinished, became the property of a Mr Adwick. On this estate there were three freeholders and five lessees, all British families. In Fermanagh, Sir Hugh had one thousand acres "called Ardmagh," whose first patentee was Thomas Plomstead. This land contained a bawn of lime and stone sixty-six feet square, with two flankers, and a little stone house or tower. "He hath," writes Pynnar, "no Freeholder nor Leaseholder, and but three poor men on the Land, which have no Estates, for all the Land at this time is inhabited with Irish."

(15) Sir Arthur Blundell, of Blundellstown, had a daughter, Joyce, his sole heiress, who married the third Castlestewart.

(16) Sir John Borlase was born in 1576. He served as a soldier in the Low Countries sometime before 1608, and was in Sir Horace Vere's Palatinate expedition in 1620. Lord Dillon and Sir William Parsons were Lord Justices in 1640. Dillon was considered a dangerous man, and was eventually removed from the position, his place being taken by Borlase. Sir Henry Tichbourne succeeded Parsons on the 21st January, 1644, but when Ormonde became Viceroy both Lord Justices were dismissed. Borlase died in London on the 15th March, 1647 (or 1648.) His estate was so wasted by the rebellion that his widow applied for State aid.\*

That he had any connection with Belturbet, further than sitting for it in the Irish Parliament, we have failed to discover.

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\* Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. II., p. 860.

(17) Richard Ashe was one of the two score members who were expelled from the Irish Parliament on the 22nd June, 1642, for being connected with the rebellion of the previous year. The resolution of the House of Commons dealing with the matter is interesting, and accordingly it is given in extenso:—

“ For as much as it appears unto this House, that the persons hereafter named, who were members of this House, are either in open rebellion or stand indicted of high treason, so as the said persons are conceived and adjudged to be rotten and unprofitable members fit to be cut off, and not worthy any longer to be esteemed, as members of this Honourable House. It is, therefore, now ordered, that all the said undernamed persons shall stand expelled and excluded from this House and be no longer reputed any members of the same; and it be further ordered that Mr Speaker shall issue out warrants to the Clerk of the Crown of His Majesty's High Court of Chancery to issue forth writs for new elections to be made in the Rooms and Places of the said undernamed persons.”\*

The names which follow include those of Richard Ashe and Philip McHugh O'Rely.

In the Precinct of Castlerahan a Sir Th. Ash in 1619 held 1,000 acres at Mullagh and 500 at Murmode, besides other lands. Possibly this Richard was a relative. (Pynnar.)

(18) Stephen Butler, who was the second son of Sir Stephen Butler, mentioned before, married 20th May, 1660, Anne, daughter of Sir James Barry, the first Lord Santry. By the marriage he had three children—James, Richard, and Catherine—all of whom died young. He himself died, 12th February, 1662, and was buried in Christ Church.

(19) Francis Butler was a younger brother of Stephen just mentioned. He bore arms in the service of King Charles I. during the quarrels between King and Parliament. He, however, incurred the dislike of King James II., and was involved in the Act of Attainder, having his estate sequestered. By his marriage with Judith, daughter of Sir Theophilus Jones, P.C., Osbertstown, Meath, he had five sons and five daughters. He died at Belturbet 15th August, 1702, and was buried there.

This Francis Butler was the ancestor of the Lanesborough family. His eldest son, Theophilus, was created Baron of Newtown-Butler on 21st Oct., 1715; and, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother Brinsley. Brinsley became Viscount Lanesborough on 12th Aug., 1728. Humphrey, one of his twenty-three children and 2nd viscount, was created Earl of Lanesborough 20th July, 1756. The present Lord, born in 1865, is the 7th Earl of Lanesborough. (Burke's Peerage.)

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\* Journal of the Irish House of Commons, Vol. I. (1613-1666), p. 299.



## EXHIBITS AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

### Old Maps Were the Main Exhibits.

The Down Survey Maps were shown by Mr Walker, Clones, who explained very minutely how they were made, their fate subsequently, and their historical value. Speede's map of "Connaugh," date 1610, and also copies of Ptolemy's and of the earliest known maps of Ireland, Italian in origin, were also exhibited. A very interesting local map on view was one of "The Towne of the Cavan," copied from one in the State Paper Office made about 1593. "Aurelie's (i.e., O'Reilly's) castell on the hill over the Cavan," the Market Cross and the Bull Ring in the Main Street, and also the Church and Tower of the Franciscan Monastery off what is now Bridge Street, the tower apparently what it is to-day, are depicted on it. This map was kindly lent by Mr H. Clarke, C.P.S., Cavan.

A recent find of bog butter was also shown. It was discovered July, 1920, by Mr John Fitzpatrick in the bog beside Keilderry National School, in the parish of Crosserlough. Very many finds of the kind, sometimes in ornamented wooden containing vessels, have been made in County Cavan; but in recent years they are rare.

This was about 3 feet beneath the surface. The dish was full and had "a criven" on it. A cloth had been spread over it all. The cloth had decayed away, but it left its track plainly on the outside layer.

The dish or trencher is in an excellent state of preservation. It is a perfect oval with projecting perforated handles, all formed out of one piece of wood. The longer axis is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the shorter  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches; depth,  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The rim is a half-inch broad, and the even half-inch all round. The vessel is graceful in outline, almost perfectly finished, and has some ornamental features.

## THE EPISCOPAL SUCCESSION IN THE DIOCESE OF KILMORE, 1356--1560.

By W. H. Grattan Flood, Mus.D., K.S.G.

The early history of the Diocese of Kilmore has yet to be written, and it is not my intention to touch on the intricate question of the Bishops of Ui-Briuin or Tirbruin during mediaeval times. The *Annals of Tighernach* (Ed. by W. Stokes in *Revue Celtique* xvi-xviii) give us one of the earliest references to a Bishop, in 1136, but names him "Bishop of Breifne," while, at the historic Synod of Kells, in 1152, one of the Prelates present was Tuathal O'Connachtaigh (O'Conaty), Bishop of Ui-Briuin. Nearly a century later the *Annals of Loch Cé* chronicle the death of "Flann O'Connachtaigh, Bishop of Ui-Briuin," in 1231, whose successor, Congal Mac Idhneoil, died early in 1250, described by these same annalists as "Bishop of the Breifne." It is of interest to note that as early as 1250 a royal licence was asked by the Dean and Chapter of Kilmore to elect a Bishop "vacant by the resignation of Congal, late Bishop" (May 27, 1280), which is duly recorded in the Patent Rolls (34 Hen. iii m.5.) A similar royal licence was obtained in 1286 on the death of Bishop Simon O'Ruaire, and there is an entry on the Patent Rolls of the election of Brother Maurice, Abbot of Kells, as Bishop of Kilmore (Tirburnensis), on October 13, 1286 (14 Edw. I. m.4.)

Richard O'Reilly was appointed Bishop of Kilmore in 1306, and we find several letters written to him by Archbishop Sweetman of Armagh in 1366 and 1367. He was excommunicated by the Primate for a serious offence, but was absolved formally by Master Thomas O'Sheridan, acting for the Primate's Commissary (William O'Farrelly, Coarb of St. Moedhoc) on January 15, 1368, and this submission was "sealed with the common seal of the bishop and clergy"—(*Calendar of the Register of Archbishop Sweetman*, ed. by Lawlor, R.I.A., 1911.) Probably the matrix of the seal used on this occasion is that which is now in the British Museum, an impression of which was shown at the first Meeting of the Breifne Antiquarian Society (v.p. 31.) Bishop O'Reilly died in 1369, according to the *Annals of Loch Cé*, which describes him as "Bishop of the Breifne." (II. p. 43.)

John O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore, seems to have got into trouble with the Roman authorities in 1388, and in the following year Thomas de Rushook, O.P., the exiled Bishop of Chichester, was translated to Kilmore by Pope Urban VI., but was unable to get hold of the temporalities\* The crux was solved by the death of both Bishops in the same year (1393), and the Chapter elected Nicholas Mac Brady, Rector of Cuil Brighdein (Castle-

\*Cf. I.F.R., Sep. 1920.

terra), as Bishop. This election was confirmed by the Pope, and the Bishop-Elect went to Rome for Consecration, the ceremony being performed on August 27, 1395.

Bishop Mac Brady had not a bed of roses during his episcopate, and he was involved in much litigation, both secular and ecclesiastical. He was also in financial difficulties, and it was only on January 12, 1407, that he completed his payment of the taxes due to the Holy See. To make matters worse, David O'Farrelly, Rector of the Church of St. Brigid of Disertfuchil (Knockbride), went to Rome at the close of 1408, and, having announced that the See of Kilmore was vacant, had himself appointed and Consecrated as Bishop of Kilmore on March 26, 1409, promising to pay the accustomed taxes.

From the Register of Archbishop Fleming we learn that on July 9, 1409, Bishop Mac Brady was cited to a visitation at Drogheda, as was also "David, claiming to be Bishop." Naturally, David's claim was scouted, and his appointment was subsequently annulled.

Bishop Mac Brady was present at the Provincial Council held on October 12, 1411, at Drogheda. No other remarkable event is chronicled during his episcopate, and he died in 1420, having as successor, Donal O'Gowan.

It would appear that there was no burning desire on the part of the Chapter of Kilmore to elect a successor to Bishop Mac Brady, and hence Pope Martin V., having taken counsel with the Cardinals, selected Donal O'Gowan (Smith), perpetual Vicar of the parish church of Ballintemple, to be Bishop of Kilmore, on August 13, 1421. From whatever cause, Dr O'Gowan was still Bishop-Elect, in April, 1423, but evidently he was consecrated ere the close of said year. His episcopate was uneventful, and he resigned in 1444.

Andrew Mac Brady was provided as Bishop of Kilmore on March 9, 1444, and to him is due the conversion of the parish church of St. Felim, Kilmore, into a Cathedral Church, in 1454. Having erected the said church into cathedral status, and placed in it 13 Canons, he sought and obtained the sanction of Pope Nicholas V. for same, but as the Pope died before the Bull was expedited, Pope Calixtus III., issued a Bull, confirming that of his predecessor on April 20, 1455.

Bishop Mac Brady died early in 1455, and was succeeded by Thady Magauran, O.S.A., Prior of Drumlane, who had gone to Rome on business, and who was there consecrated, being also given the Priory *in commendam*. His provision is dated July 11, 1455, and he personally paid the Papal tax on July 20. Bishop Mac Gauran was present at a Provincial Council held by Archbishop Bale, at Drogheda, in June, 1460.

An intruded Bishop is recorded by Ware and by Cotton,

namely, Fearsithe Mac Duibhne (Mac Givney), who died on November 26, 1464. The *Annals of the Four Masters* give his obit as follows:—"The Age of Christ, 1464, Fearsithe Mac Duibhne, Bishop of the two Breifnys died."

I have not succeeded in locating the death of Bishop Mac Gauran, but his successor was provided on May 17, 1465, and in the Brief of appointment the See is said to be vacant by the death of Thady, thus passing over Fearsithe, and his successor was John O'Reilly, Abbot of Kells, who was privileged to be consecrated by any bishop of his choice, and he appears to have been consecrated early in 1467. Ware tells us that Bishop O'Reilly was alive on May 16, 1470, but he was unable to find the date of his death.

Cormac Mac Gauran was provided to the See of Kilmore on November 4, 1476, but, from whatever cause, Thomas Mac Brady was appointed on October 20, 1480. Singular to relate, both these bishops presented themselves at a Synod in 1489, and again at the Provincial Council of Dublin, in 1495, and both were styled "Episcopi Kilmorensis." From Papal documents (Register of Pope Julius II., Anno 9, lit. 4) it appears that the Holy See finally decided against the claims of Cormac Mac Gauran, O.S.A., Prior of Drumlane, and adjudged that Thomas Mac Brady was the legitimate ruler of the See of Kilmore.

However, the death of Bishop Mac Brady, in 1511, did not end the dispute, although, according to the *Four Masters* this Prelate was "a paragon of wisdom and piety," and died, on his way to consecrate a church, at Dromahair, County Leitrim, in the 67th year of his age, being interred in the Franciscan Friary of Cavan. On the appointment of Dermot O'Reilly, on June 3, 1512, Cormac Mac Gauran again put in his claim, but the Pope confirmed the appointment and dismissed the appeal of Cormac, who died five months later, and who is lauded by the *Four Masters*.

Bishop O'Reilly, according to Ware, withdrew to Swords, Co. Dublin, in 1519, and died there in 1529.

On June 22, 1530, on the nomination of Henry VIII. the Pope provided Edmund Nugent, Prior of Tristernagh Priory, Co. Westmeath, as Bishop of Kilmore, with permission to retain his priory *in commendam*. In 1538 this temporising Prelate agreed to surrender his Priory, and on March 20, 1540-1, he was promised a pension of £26 13s 4d yearly for life payable out of the revenues of Tristernagh. No doubt, the surrender of his Priory in 1538 was regarded as evidence of his heterodoxy, and accordingly on November 5, 1540, the Pope provided John Mac Brady, of the Diocese of Kilmore, to the See, with permission to retain his parochial church of St. Patrick's, Kildrumferton (Crosserlough.)

Although Bishop Nugent is said, by Ware, to have died in the reign of Queen Mary [1553-1558] it is certain that his death occurred about the middle of October, 1550. He held the See from 1530 to 1540, and, although Dr Mac Brady became in the latter year *de jure* Bishop of Kilmore, yet he allowed his predecessor to enjoy the spiritualities and temporalities of the bishopric, without any interference, contenting himself with the revenues of his parish church of Cavan. Bishop Nugent never renounced the Catholic Church, and cannot by any means be regarded as heretical, but he temporised, merely acknowledging Henry VIII. as ruler in temporals, and he died in communion with the Holy See, living in retirement like his predecessor.

Curiously enough, Bishop Mac Brady is regarded by all writers as in full communion with the See of Rome, and yet, from a letter written by the Lord Deputy (St. Leger) and members of the Irish Privy Council, on October 28, 1550, announcing the death of Bishop Nugent, it is stated that Dr Mac Brady "did not only surrender his Bulls to be cancelled, but had permitted the late Bishop quietly to enjoy the same." It may be necessary to explain that the surrender of the Bulls was by no means a sign of schism or heresy for, as the late Monsignor O'Laverty definitely put it in his valuable *Diocese of Down and Connor* (Vol 5, p. 293), "it was quite customary for Bishops, against whom there was not the least suspicion of heresy, or schism, to surrender to the Crown their Bulls as a purely civil ceremony, which secured to the canonically appointed Bishop the peaceful possession of the temporalities of his See."

Bishop Mac Brady had his temporalities duly restored by the Crown, like his predecessors, in 1551, and retained his bishopric till his death in 1559. His orthodoxy cannot be questioned any more than that of Bishop Nugent, and in the Bull of Provision of his successor, the See of Kilmore is said to be "vacant by the death of John Mac Brady of happy memory." His successor was Dr. Hugh O'Sheridan, a Canon of Raphoe, who ruled Kilmore from 1560 till his death in 1579. Here I pause for the present—with the intention, at a future date, of continuing an account of the episcopal succession in Kilmore from 1560.

W. H. GRATTAN FLOOD.

## BOOKS ON LEITRIM HISTORY.

The following reply from a distinguished Professor of History, since deceased, to a query on the subject of the sources of the History of Leitrim was received by one of our members who has kindly permitted its publication:—

November 28th.

There is, indeed, plenty of material for the work, but very little has been accomplished. You cannot hope to buy many books on Leitrim, for little has been written, but why not spend a week up here (Dublin) near libraries and bring back heaps of notes and some of the old books I shall mention to you?

Begin, then, with Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of 1837. Then add to that the account of the various Leitrim parishes in Mason's Parochial Survey, 3 vols. 1810, with Dr Reeves' Columba where Dr Reeves treats of Leitrim in connection with St. Columba. But I forgot that you only want Leitrim after Cromwell. Well, in Marsh's Library we have a large thick volume of MSS., giving an account of the Plantation of Leitrim and Longford, called "Royal Grants." You can purchase at McGhee's "Henry's Tour of Lough Erne," A.D. 1730, edited by King, for 2s 6d, giving an account of a good deal of Leitrim about 1680.

Pocock's "Tour Round Ireland" in 1752 tells a good deal about it near Bundoran. This, however, is out of print. Now in the R.I.A. the Ordnance Survey letters in manuscript about the county is a mine of information about every parish written by O'Donovan about 70 years ago. Then Siek's Eccles. Directory in its account of the diocese of Kilmore has a lot about it and references to authorities which you will find nowhere else. The Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Rolls for the last 30 years have a good deal about the antiquities of the county and changes of property in it. These you can buy at Hodges and Figgis at about 1s per volume on an average. Rev. Caesar Otway's "Tour in Connaught" about 1830 is interesting. The life of Carolan, the poet of 1700, has a long account of it. The History of Dissenting Methodism, etc., in the county could also be traced by a reference to the authorities about Irish Methodism by Crookshank. But time would fail to tell of the authorities for the Arigna district of the coal mines.

G. T. STOKES.

## A BIG DAY IN BELTURBET.

By An Scolaire Bocht.

I have sought in vain for a complete record of the Honorary Freemen of the Borough of Belturbet. Here and there in the general Minute Book of the Corporation one comes across incidental references to them; but if, as is likely, a separate register of the names was kept it has been lost.

We are therefore without any direct information as to the number of Honorary Freemen, the circumstances under which the honour was conferred, and whether any particular ceremony was attached to the event.

In one instance only does the Minute Book break silence. It records that, on December 31st, 1773, no less than four Honorary Freemen were admitted. The entry gives in each case the resolutions accompanying the honour. We could have wished them a little more definite in the details. Are we correct in assuming that the Lord Lieutenant actually paid the borough a visit in person? Does the presence of his private secretary imply that the visit was one formally paid on some great public occasion? Or was he merely paying a visit to his kinsman (son?) the Honourable William, who quite clearly was commanding the garrison in Belturbet at the moment, and did the Corporation avail themselves of the opportunity which his presence gave them of adding his distinguished name to the Corporation roll? We have not had an opportunity of enquiring into the relationship between Earl Harcourt, the Honourable William and the Honourable Harcourt Neineham (Newenham); but we have endeavoured, in vain, to discover whether any event occurred locally in 1773 of sufficient importance to justify a visit "ad hoc."

We are completely out of patience with the Town Clerk of the time. His negligence on this occasion would seem to show that his yearly "sallery"—of £2—paid sixmonthly—would never have been sanctioned if the town accounts had been audited. Could he not—after an interval of a week say—have given us an inking as to the manner in which Belturbet dealt with this stupendous occasion? The man had clearly no soul. We turn over the page in the expectation that we are going to learn something about it all to find him in the midst of the yearly accounts detailing such an important matter as an expenditure of 2s 2d paid "for extraordinary expenses in moving the ladder to different points." In good truth we almost lose sight of the pomp and ceremony of the Lord Lieutenant's procession in a vain attempt to visualise that of the ladder.

## Extract from Minute Book of Belturbet Corporation.

At a court held December 31st, 1773.

“ To his Excellency, Simon, Earl Harcourt, Lord Lieutenant General and general Governor of Ireland, the Provost, Burgesses and Freemen of Belturbet herewith present the Freedom of the Corporation in Testamony of the high opinion and veneration they entertain of his Patriotic Virtues and Eminent Abilitys through which the government of this Kingdom has been established in Firmness, Moderation and Integrity confirmed by National Confidence and Universal Esteem!”

“ To the Right Honourable John Blaquirere, Esq., Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, one of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, the Provost, Burgesses and Freemen of Belturbet herewith present the Freedom of this Corporation in Remembrance of his Excellent Discipline in Military Command and in testamony of his Patriotic Conduct and Abilitys wherein Cander and Pespicity *has* been so eminently distinguished.”

At the same court as last the Freedom of the Borough was presented to the Honourable William Harcourt, Lieut.-Colonel of the 16th Regiment of Dragoons ‘ in grateful remembrance of his Exemplary Conduct, when quartered in this town where proved (sic) that the Martial Fire of a soldier is not unconsistant with the Feelings of Humanity and the Modest Grace of a Gentleman.’

And also at the same court “ to the Hon. Harcourt Neineham (Newenham?) in testamony of their esteem and respect for his Manly Virtues and Stedy Principles, the Character of True Nobility, the Blessings of Private Society and the Guardians of the Public Good.”

The wording of the last has grown confused towards its conclusion. Still, four of them in the one day! Could two pounds per annum fail to be affected by the greatness of the occasion?

The resolutions are all signed by the reigning Provost, Laurence Tanner, who writes a fine free hand.

Laurence Tanner held the Provostship for one year only, 1772-1773. He died 8 years afterwards during the Provostship of the Rev. Brinsley Nixon, a year before the Corporation embarked upon its “ Magnum Opus,” the building of the Market House.



## THE BATTLE OF CAVAN, 11th FEB., 1690.

A brief account of the Battle of Cavan is contained in the principal manuscript, entitled "A Light to the Blind," preserved at Killeen Castle in the Earl of Fingall's collection. The MS. is dated 1711. It is anonymous, but not improbably it was written by one Nicholas Plunkett, an eminent lawyer of the time. A great part of it, edited and annotated by John (afterwards Sir John) T. Gilbert, is printed in the Tenth Report, Appendix, Part V. (1885) of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. The portion of it in this publication fills close on 100 pages. "The work," states the editor, "is the production of an earnest advocate of the Stuart cause."

Partly for themselves, and partly to draw our members' attention to the above-named Commission's Reports, which are both valuable and easily obtainable, we give the extracts. They may be seen at pages 128 and 141 in the volume mentioned.

"But in a month before this there happened a small fight at Cavan on the frontiers of Ulster between the loyalists [followers of James II.] and the rebels [Williamites] Mareschal Schomberg, designing to streighten the Irish quarters on the borders of the North, ordered Brigadier Wolsely\* to take a party of Enniskilleners and of English souldiers and marche to Cavan, the head of that county, and fix there. The King [James II.] being informed thereof, sent from Dublin his commands to Brigadier Nugent to march to the said Cavan with 800 men from the countyes of Westmeath and Longford; and at the same tyme his Majesty enjoyned the Duke of Berwick to marche from the county of Dublin with the like quota to the same place, in order to hender the enemy from gaineing ground. Both the royal cores for the most part arrived at the open town of Cavan on the 10th February. They were all foot, except a troop or two of horse. Brigadier Wolsely came to the place on the 11th in the morning with 700 foot and 300 horse and dragoons. The Duke of Berwick, commander in Chief, being alarmed, and not well prepared, drew however his men out of the town to an open ground: by which he gave an advantage to the enemye, who was come to attack him. For the enemy seeing that posture, he placed his foot within the hedges and ditches of the avenues of the town; and so took the defensive. The King's forces being divided into two wings, assaulted the rebels within their fences. The charge being given and maintained smartly, a party of Irish hors broake another of the enemyes. But the left wing of the royalists was so overpowered by fighting at such an inequality,

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\* This was Richard, son of Sir C. Wolsely, of Staffordshire, and ancestor of Field-Marshal Viscount Wolsely who died in 1913 (Burke's Peerage.)

that they were forced to retire into a fort, that was near them. The right fighting at the like disadvantage, retreated also thither. By which the rebels gained the field. Of the royal party there were about 200 killed: amongst whom was Brigadier Nugent, much regretted for his bravery. So was Adjutant Geoghegan; and Captain Stritch; and a few other officers. There were ten officers made prisoners; of which were Captain William Nettervil, Captain Daniel O'Neill, Captain O'Bryen, and Captain George Macgee. Of the enemies there was slain Major Trahern, Captain Armstrong, Captain Maio, and near 50 privat men; and about 60 wounded. Brigadier Wolsely returned to his own quarters, haveing first burnt the town of Cavan, not being able to keep it, because the castle was in the possession of the Irish." p. 128.

"The loss of Croom-castle fight was caused by mistaking the word, that the Commanding Officer of the Irish gave; by which the strength of the Lord Mountcashel's army was drawn from the field. The looseing of the Battle of Cavan was occasioned by ordering the Irish to attack the enemies within ditches and hedges"; p. 141.

The fort to which the Duke of Berwick's soldiers retired was most probably O'Reilly's castle. This castle on "Tullach-Mongain" (now Tullymongain) hill is mentioned in the Annals of Ulster as far back as the year 1401. It is also referred to in the Cavan Charter of 1611. At the time of the battle, 80 years later, it must have been still a place of considerable strength. Very likely it covered the present Fair Green, but not a trace of it is to be seen now.

The description of the engagement given in Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary" (1837) differs considerably from that in "A Light to the Blind." In the main thing both agree, namely, in the result. As in the case of a much more famous battle five months later it is fairly manifest that the courage and generalship of the respective commanders had a large share in that result.

Lewis states that "human bones have been found in great numbers on the side of the hill overhanging the town, where the battle took place." This would indicate that according to the local tradition existing a hundred years ago the site of the battle is between the Main Street and the Fair Green on the Ballinagh side. Wolsely's forces came in from Belturbet, most likely by the Keadue Lane, which was then the only road in that direction.

## CROMWELL IN CAVAN.

The Dictionary just mentioned was published in London in 1837. In treating of Cavan town it states, referring to Cromwell, that "till very lately a house was standing in the principal street in which he is said to have resided for several weeks." Where in the Main Street the house, so distinguished, was, we have failed to find out. The tradition died out long ago. It is no great loss. It was a false one. Cromwell's itinerary in Ireland from his landing at Ringsend near Dublin on the 15th\* August, 1649, till his setting sail from Youghal back again for England on the succeeding 29th of May, has been carefully traced. (See, for instance, *Cromwell in Ireland* by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J.) He went to Drogheda. No mistake about that. Perhaps, too, he went a bit higher up along the coast as far as Dundalk. At all events there is a voucher for it in a Dundalk story which needs his personal presence; a well-told, if not a too-convincing, story of a Royalist Plunkett, ancestor of the present Baron of Louth, wounding him there badly—in the nose.

It is got over in D'Alton's History of this Louth town, with many details to add verisimilitude, that as Cromwell was watering his horse at the Dundalk ford Plunkett came along, saw his chance and took it. He "flung his naked blade at Oliver's head and gashed his prominent nose."

Then he made off. He made a good run for it, knowing the district, but at last was captured by the body-guard. Then he was brought before the Commander-in-Chief and the captors outvied one another in suggesting a proper cruel death as befitted such a heinous crime. But Cromwell left the choice to himself.

"How would you like to be put to death?" he asked, and his face muffled up.

"An it please your Highness," the prisoner answered, "with my good sword in my hand and two of your best officers before me ready to execute your orders."

The reply so pleased the soldier Cromwell that he spared his life on condition that there should always be an Oliver in the Plunkett family.

We did not like to tantalise the reader by cutting the story short. It is a good one. It would be a pity to scrutinise it too closely for historical value.

In Cavan and Leitrim the Old Christmas "Mummers" (now, we fear, no more) always referred in their rhymes to this physical feature of Cromwell. In their bright little drama Cromwell, un-

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\*Ware alone of a dozen authorities we have looked up gives the 14th,

mistakable by his facial make-up, used to introduce himself in a gay little stanza which began something like this:—

“ Here am I, and as everybody knows  
I'm Oliver Cromwell with my copper nose.”

The make-up was quite correct. Sir Walter Scott's mother survived until 1820. Chambers' *Book of Days* (1-71) relates that she had met a person who had seen Cromwell make his entry into Edinburgh in 1650 after the victory of Dunbar. “ All I remarked about him,” said this individual, “ was the extraordinary size of the nose.”

There is a much better supported tradition that Cromwell came in person to Trim in Meath. But these are certainly the nearest points to Cavan he ever touched.. That during his busy nine months in Ireland he found time to settle down for “ several weeks ” in the town of Cavan is, on the face of it, most unlikely. That he was here but the industrious investigations of his movements failed to trace his whereabouts for so long, equally improbable.

Lewis' Dictionary is a compilation mainly of information supplied by local resident gentlemen. (See its Preface, p. iii.) In Ireland local histories were seldom to be had. They were fewer in 1837 than even now. Mistakes were inevitable. Throughout County Cavan, at Muff, for instance, at Crover Castle in Lough Sheelin, at Cloughoughter, Tonymore and Trinity Island, you will indeed yet hear from those living about that “ yon old Castle,” or “ yon old buildin' was battered down by Cromwell with his copper nose.” You may be shown even the hill on which he planted his cannon, nay, the old lane by which his troops marched to it, still called, you will be told, Cromwell's road. Don't believe it for all that. Cromwell did a lot, but he left Cavan alone.

In a certain work, *Cambrensis* we think, there is a chapter unique for its brevity on snakes in Ireland. The chapter consists of the one sentence:—“ There are no snakes in Ireland.” Cromwell's personal exploits in this county may be told in full detail with equal brevity:—Cromwell never was in Cavan.

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### MUFF.

Muff, a village between Bailieborough and Kingscourt, is noted for a “ battle ” which, as it took place early in the last century, is rather recent to engage the attention of an antiquary. This is another place in Cavan to which Lewis transports his ubiquitous Cromwell. Writing in 1837 he says:—“ There are here some ruins of an ancient castle, said to have been destroyed by

Cromwell." Up to 25 years ago about 30 feet of a gable was still standing. This last vestige of it has since been torn down to build labourers' cottages. Hardly a trace of it now remains.

Local tradition states that this was an O'Reilly Castle, and confirmation of this is found in the Annals of Ulster. Under the year 1502, they record that O'Reilly's son, Domnall of Muff, was slain in an inroad the O'Reillys made on Philip Maguire's territory. Tradition further has it that there was a line of O'Reilly strongholds from the verge of Farney in Monaghan to Lake Sheelin.

A notable horse fair has been held annually at Muff (Magh—the Plain) from time immemorial on the 12th August. It is its one and only fair during the year. It was so over a hundred years ago. Sir Charles Coote in his *Statistical Survey of Cavan*, "drawn up in the year 1801," gives a table of fairs then held in the county. Looking to the yearly number for each place, "Swanlingbar" would head the list with nine; Ballyhaise and "Ballynagh" had six each, nicely distributed over the year; Doobally two; Largy four, and so on. The table accounts for the irregularity in the dates of the still existing Cavan "old fairs." But very many of them are gone long ago. Muff alone is seen to have had one, and only one, and Muff's remains and is still held on the same date, the 12th day of August. The "green," at the junction of five roads, is dominated by the site of the O'Reilly Castle which stood on an eastern spur of Loughanleagh mountain.

Muff fair is very ancient. Not improbably it goes back long and long before the time of the O'Reillys. Locally it is called The Patron Fair, and in times not very remote it lasted a whole week. There is a well, once considered a holy well, beside the green. Around Loughanleagh the Sunday succeeding the fair is still the great day of the year; a "pattern" is held on the mountain with the usual amusements, common to such out-door gatherings, and bonfires to boot at the winding-up. A local gentleman tells us it is Bilberry Sunday, but we think there is far more in it than this name suggests. The little festivities at the spot from year to year, the well, the term Patron Fair, and the week's continuance, point to an ancient Aenagh, not possibly pre-Patrician in its origin. Not very unlikely, granting it goes so far back, here as elsewhere the pagan rites were Christianized and the celebrations were connected with honour paid to some local saint now forgotten. Possibly his feast in Christian times originated it all. Searching through old books and martyrologies has barely resulted, however, in a conjecture, not worth giving, as to whom he might have been. Perhaps some local member will throw light on the subject? It is worth investigating.

## KILGOLAGH.

Kilgolagh, another small Cavan village, is also remarkable for its two ancient horse fairs. These Cavan Carrignagats are held annually on January 17th and November 27th. Kilgolagh is at the south-western point of both Lake Sheelin and the county itself. It is separated from the village of Finnea in Westmeath just as Blacklion—or The Black, as this town is locally called—in Cavan's extreme north-west is from Belcoo in Fermanagh, merely by a long bridge. But the seven arched—originally nine arched—one that spans the broad Inny, as it flows from Lake Sheelin to Lake or Lough Kinale, forming the sole pass across the neck of land, a mile in breadth, between these two sheets of water, is the celebrated Bridge of Finnea. It is noted for being one of the very oldest bridges in Ireland still in daily use, as well as, as everybody knows, for its heroic and successful defence on the 5th August, 1646 by Myles the Slasher against the English-Scottish forces under General Monroe. On it, if tradition speaks true, Myles fought his last fight, and his best. Whether he died on the bridge or lived to die some years later at Châlons-sur-Marne in France, is a big controverted question which we hope some member will take up and settle for us.

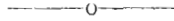
Both Kilgolagh and Muff are traditionally said to have been O'Reilly markets. In olden wars the O'Reillys were certainly famous for their horse regiments. The English Camden (1551-1623) states of them that they were "not long since particularly distinguished for their cavalry." There are no tolls at Muff, but there are at Kilgolagh. At the latter place a show-board, conspicuously hanging at the custom-gap, informs you as you enter that the authorization for exacting such is "George the II. Letters Patent and registered with the Clerk of the Peace for the County Cavan pursuant to the 57th George the III. chap. 108 Sec. 7, to Richard O'Reilly, Bally Jamesduff." Duly impressed by a perusal of this proclamation, and humbled by your inability to quite understand it, there should be small reluctance in paying the Kilgolagh tolls.

A still older and perhaps equally awe-inspiring Kilgolagh authorization for both fairs and tolls, engrossed in Latin on parchment, and said to date back to the time of Queen Elizabeth herself—the fairs themselves go back a long, long way further—was lately in the possession of Mr Robinson, Solicitor, Co. Longford. Very likely this charter is still in existence.

Besides the two fairs mentioned this village 120 years ago had two others, one on Patrick's day and another on 26th April. One of these (we are not sure which) was exclusively for selling and buying yarn. And it was needed. In the years preceding 1801, according to Coote (Statistical Survey of Cavan, 1802—p. 275) nearly £100,000 worth of linen alone was annually manu-

factured in County Cavan. The same authority gives, too, the location and proprietors' names of the twelve "County Bleach-Greens." They were capable of dealing with 91,000 webs during the year, and a single web or piece he cannot rate at less than 30s.

The Cavan markets, he further states, "are only remarkable for the sale of yarn, flax, and webs." This great home-industry died out generations ago. The dozen Bleach-Greens are to-day as deserted as our old forts, and may now be fairly classed along with them among our antiquities. There is no longer any use for a yarn market at Kilgolagh or anywhere else within the county. They are all over like the fair of Carman.



### TUAIM DRECUIN.

By An Scolaire Bocht.

There are few places in Breifne referred to more frequently in the old manuscripts than Tuaim Dreuciu—Drecon's burial mound—which in ancient times was clearly a well-known landmark. Beyond the permissible assumption that Drecon was a Chief of note we can hazard no guess as to his identity or the period at which he lived. The latter must have been very remote, for we find that 1500 years *before* the Christian era Eochy, King of Ireland, won the battle of Tuácin Dreuciu in Breifne (Four Masters sub anno) which *may* mean that the name was a prehistoric one.

Interest attaches to Tuaim Dreuciu chiefly from the famous lay University which flourished there in the 7th century of our era. Cennfaelad, a youthful warrior of more than ordinary promise, was dangerously wounded at the Battle of Moy Rath (A.D. 634), his brain protruding. He was sent to Tuaim Dreuciu to be under the medical care of Saint Bricin. The Saint, if the historian is to be trusted, performed upon him an operation unique in the history of science. He cut away part of his brain—that part "with which one forgets things."

The chronicler regards the operation on Cennfaelad as one of the most remarkable results of a battle which was not without making history in other directions, and he gives us a precise account of the wonderful institution at which it took place. It was a lay University with three constituent Schools of Law, Classics, and Humanity; and was situated at the meeting place of three roads, a school being located on each road.

During his convalescence Cennfaelad rambled at will during the day from one school to another. Naturally, as might be expected from one who could not forget, he was not long in picking up *all* that was to be learned there, and what he picked up during the day he set down on "white tablets" at night. As a

further natural consequence he forsook the sword for the pen and became the most learned man of his time writing many tracts on different departments of knowledge. His treatise on law—prefixed to Cormac Mac Art's Book of Achainn—is extant. Cennfaelad's late history is connected with the parish of Derry-loran (Cookstown.)

Save that his name is preserved in the name of the townland of "Slievebricken" nothing is remembered locally of Saint Bricin. The reference to him in the Felire of Aengus shows that he was a famous missionary. The inference from "Bricin of the many conquests who was called forth from Ireland," as the Felire puts it, seems to be that he subsequently laboured in missionary fields abroad.

Hitherto, beyond the general equation of Tuaim Dreucin to the parish of Tomregan, no attempt has been made, as far as I am aware, to locate the spot.

In the Down Survey Map of the Barony of Loughtee we find one townland in "Tomregan" parish (so spelled) given as "Tomergan." The map in question has several faults in orientation. I did not, therefore, when I first examined it, regard the fact as one of any great importance, more especially as I had conceived the idea that Tuaim Dreucin would be more probably found in Tullyhaw on the Fermanagh border. However, in consulting the Maps of the Escheated Estates (1609) I found Tomregan given in exactly the same position—in the little tongue of Lower Loughtee which inserts itself between Tullyhaw and Tullyhunco Baronies.

On making local enquiries I found that there was quite a strong tradition as to there having been a monastery, with which St. Dallan, and not Saint Bricin, was associated. The actual spot in which the University was situated seems to be in Mullynagolman townland, in a field at the back of Mr Armstrong's house. There are absolutely no traces of any building at present, but I am informed that in ploughing the field there have been found distinct traces of the foundations of an oblong building and a round one. My actual visit of enquiry was made in the dark after a heavy day's work elsewhere, and I was unable to proceed as closely as I would have wished with my examination of the spot.

Some months subsequently to my first visit I arranged to go back with Mr Henry Morris, who, as he had been making an attempt to trace Cennfaelad's Cookstown history, was equally interested in Tuaim Dreucin with myself. I was unfortunately unable to keep my engagement. But Mr Morris, who had previously examined the evidence in my possession visited the place by himself, and expresses himself as confident that my location is correct.

**AN SCOLAIRE BOCHT.**



## ANCIENT CROSSES IN BREIFNY.

A note on ancient crosses in Breifny must necessarily be short, for little is to be said. In the *Journal of the R.S.A.I.* for June, 1907, there is given by Mr Henry S. Crawford, M.R.I.A., a full list of the early Irish Crosses still in existence. The article fills 38 pages and mentions and describes all of them that are known—about 200. But in Connacht, Leitrim stands at the foot of the list; it has merely one. Ulster has 50, of which Donegal has 17; but again, Cavan is the poorest county in Ulster and has not even one. So that Tullaghan Cross, Co. Leitrim, is the sole representative of the class for the two counties recorded in that exhaustive list. Neither is there another cross in the parts of the Diocese of Kilmore outside these two counties.

About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of County Leitrim borders Donegal Bay. The little village mentioned stands on that strip. It is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Bundoran, a little further on than Duncarbry Castle on the Sligo road. The Cross is still to be seen at Tullaghan. It is a plain Latin one 14 feet high, the head rather small in proportion to the base. It is marked on the Ordnance map.

As to County Cavan Mr Crawford remarks (p. 201):— I have not heard of any early cross in this county, though three crosses are marked on the Ordnance Maps. Two of these are at Killinkere (Ordnance sheet 33), 12 miles north of Virginia, the first of which, in the townland of Greaghadossan, is not now to be found, while the second, in the townland of Cargagh, is a late cross in the form of a pillar 4 feet high, the top of which is missing. There are traces of an inscription on the shaft.

The third, at Raheever,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of Oldcastle, is the upper part of a plain, rough cross with solid ring, 21 inches across the arms. It does not appear to be ancient.

Another cross, evidently a Market cross, stood in the centre of the town of Cavan. It is indicated on the map of "The Towne of the Cavan," drawn about 1593, that was shown at the Nov. meeting of the Society. Whether at that time it was long there or not, and whether it was a plain cross or was as richly carved as that in Clones or that in the centre of Kells, there are no means at hand for determining. Judging from the sketch in the map it was a plain Latin cross; but the map is very roughly done and goes into few details. What happened this cross afterwards and when it was removed nobody can now say.

Near the village of Killargue in North Leitrim is also a very old cross. It is in a secluded dell and stands over an ancient holy well. It is very rudely made, but not ruder than are some depicted by Mr Crawford.

There may be still many of those early crosses (not cross-scribed slabs) throughout Leitrim and Cavan but unrecorded. We should be very glad to hear of them, no matter how rude they may be.

## NOTES ON HISTORIES OF FAMILIES.

In *Notes and Queries*, a literary weekly published by the *Times Publishing Co.*, London, is appearing a series of interesting articles on Irish Family History. They aim only at giving the genealogies, and the information is gathered from Wills, Leases, Vestry Books, old MSS., and documents of that kind that are not easily accessible. The papers of Breifnian interest in the series last year are:—The Keons of Moreagh and Keonbrook, Co. Leitrim in the issues of July 3rd and 10th; the Keons of Kfl-nagross in the same county, July 24th; the Reynolds of Castlefinn and Dromore, Co. Donegal, Aug. 7th; the Hewetsons of Ballyshannon, Aug. 28th. The compiler is Mr H. Fitzgerald Reynolds, of Cardiff. Though living in Wales Mr Reynolds is himself a descendant of Humphry Reynolds (or MacRannall) of Lough Seur, Co. Leitrim, who was High Sheriff of the county in 1620. An exhaustive article on that old Leitrim family may be expected soon.

### BREIFNIAN ARTICLES.

The following articles and notes of special interest to the Society are published in the *Journal of the R.S.A.J.*:—

- Shrine of St. Caillin of Fenagh, Illustrated.**  
By Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J. ... July, 1892.
- Ancient Chalice. Illustrates and describes the Manorhamilton or Cloonclare Chalice, date 1596.**  
By the Rev. J. F. M. French, M.R.I.A. ... June, 1898.
- Cloughoughter Castle.**  
By S. K. Kirker, C.E. ... Dec., 1904.
- The MacRannalls of South Leitrim.**  
By Rev. Joseph B. Meehan, C.C. ... June, 1905.
- The Arms of the O'Rourke and the Leitrim Iron Mines—Illustrated.**  
By Rev. Joseph B. Meehan, C.C. ... June, 1906.
- Crannoge in Cuilaghan Lake, between Belturbet and Ballyconnell.**  
By Thomas Hale ... June, 1907.
- Killan Old Church, Bailieborough—Illustrated.**  
By Thomas Hale ... Dec., 1908.
- Loughduff Dolmen—Illustrated.**  
By Rev. Joseph B. Meehan, C.C. ... March, 1909.
- Crannoge in Barnagrow Lake, between Cootehill and Shercock.**  
By Thomas Hale ... Dec., 1910.
- Killery and Blacklion Bullans—Illustrated.**  
By William F. Wakeman ... June, 1913.

**Carvings in the Cloisters and Eighteenth Century  
Grave Slabs at Creevelea Abbey, Co. Lei-  
trim—Illustrated.**

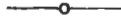
By Henry S. Crawford, M.R.I.A. ... Dec., 1916.

**The Old Churches of Killesher and Kinawley. (In  
Ancient Church Sites and Graveyards in  
County Fermanagh.)**

By Lady D. Lowry--Corry ... June, 1919.

**Rev. Faithful Teate, Vicar of Ballyhaise in 1641,  
and his Descendants.**

By St. John D. Seymour, B.D. ... June, 1920.



**TWO O'REILLY TOMBS AND A PROBLEM.**

Kildrumfertin, now usually called Kill, graveyard is in the parish of Crosserlough. It is one of the oldest graveyards still in use in Breifny. It was once a favourite burying place of the O'Reillys, and in it are two of their tombs which are of much interest both historically and otherwise.

Both tombs are to the right-hand side of the enclosure as you enter the gate; and both lie not East and West, but North and South. The one furthest from the entrance will be first described.

**THE FIRST TOMB.**

This tomb is of a somewhat unusual form. It consists of a vault, solidly constructed of sloping flags, crowned by a rectangular structure. Each side of the rectangle is made of a single cut stone 2ft. 8ins. high. The covering slab or tombstone surmounting them is 7ft. 2ins. by 3ft. 6ins. by 5 ins. in depth or thickness, its edges tastefully modelled in an ogee pattern. There is no difficulty in reading the inscription, and the following is an exact copy:—

**Here Lieth Intombed the  
Body of Colonel John  
O'Reilly who was elected  
Knight of the Shier for  
the County of Cavan in  
the year 1689 & departed  
this life 17 day of Febry 17<sup>17</sup>/<sub>16</sub>  
& left 5 sons & 2 daughters**

A Coat of Arms is incised at the head of the epitaph. The central device is the open right hand. This, too, is the device

on the seal of Sir John O'Reilly who was knighted in 1583 by Queen Elizabeth\* Its matrix, found in County Cavan, is now in the Royal Irish Academy collection. As it is hoped there will be in an early number of the Journal an article devoted to local seals and devices nothing further need here be said about them. The motto underneath the Coat of Arms reads:—

### DUM SPIRO SPERO.

Its precise English equivalent is, While I breath I hope; but a free translation would give, As long as there's life there's hope. Later created baronets—for instance, Dillon of Meath, Cotter of Cork, Collet of Kent, etc—have borrowed or adopted this O'Reilly motto. And it is a good one. It may be taken as expressing on the part of the O'Reillys and the rest of them a fixed determination that never, no matter how dark and difficult the circumstances, would they despair or accept defeat.

The Parliament to which Colonel John is declared to have been elected was James II.'s Irish one, sometimes termed the Patriot Parliament. This chance record, accordingly, helps to supply the only genuine omission occurring in the list of Members for Cavan County as set out in a previous page of this Journal.

The doubt displayed as to whether the year of death was 1716 or 1717 is noteworthy. But its interest cannot be appreciated, nor can the correct year be determined, without touching on the big question of chronology.

The Julian Calendar originated with Julius Caesar in B.C. 46 and lasted unchanged till A.D. 1582. It was at last amended by Pope Gregory XIII., and so amended was promulgated in 1582. This reformed or Gregorian calendar was soon introduced into most European countries. It is now in use everywhere throughout Christendom, Russia excepted, and is the calendar we all follow. But England did not accept it, at least formally, till 1752. Besides dropping 11 days out of that year, the change made in the English calendar by the Act of 1751 embraced another point. The legal year thenceforth was to begin on 1st January, not, as previously, on the 25th March. For some time after 1752 it was customary to give two dates for the period intervening between 1st January and 25th March, that of the old and that of the new year, as February 1754-5. This is quite common in old documents. The greater of the two final figures indicates the date "new style," and the lesser that of "old style." Hence it is apparent that according to our modern reckoning the year of O'Reilly's demise was 1717.

But, it will be observed, the double date on this tombstone is fully 34 years before the time of the English Parliament's sanction of the new calendar. Presuming that the tomb was put up soon after the death, this seems to suggest an earlier popular

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\* FF.M. sub anno.

adoption in this country.\* The English popular usage certainly even then began the year as now. On the other hand, however, the date on the second epitaph will be seen to afford no confirmation to this theory. It is "old style"; simply Feb. 1716 and no compromise. Whatever it imports had the Colonel departed this life, not in February but on or after 25th March, the year would have been given plainly as 1717. There would have been no need for a double record.

In the public accounts, it may be added, there is still visible an interesting antiquarian feature traceable to these chronological changes. The first day of the financial year is the 5th April, and with that day the reckoning of British annual budgets begins and ends. Under Monthly Notes for April the latest Whitaker's Almanac at hand observes for the 5th. "The Financial year, . . . . for Imperial purposes ends to-day." It is a survival from past centuries. The conservative Treasury stands where it stood in the times before 1752. It did not even drop the 11 days. Had it, then its New Year's Day would be precisely the same as it used to be in England in olden times, at least for all legal and ecclesiastical purposes, namely, the 25th March.

In the tomb the upright stone that forms the end or foot of the supporting rectangle bears the following inscription:—

**SACRED**  
**TO THE MEMORY OF**  
**THE O'REILLYS OF THE**  
**HOUSE OF**  
**BELTHRASANAGH.**

The slab of the vault sloping down from this stone is of concrete, and contains indications of an opening or door. Plainly it has not been touched for a very long time. Both the weathering of the stones and the superior position in the graveyard of this tomb itself would lead one to suppose that it is somewhat older than the one next to be described.

**THE SECOND TOMB.**

Nine feet from the first tomb is the second little mausoleum. It is of the same pattern but a good deal larger. There is no vault, the sides rest on dead walls.

The height, including the covering slab, is 3 feet; the slab itself 8 feet by 4 feet by 5 inches; the ends not carved in any way but plain-cut.

On the sides there is no engraving. But on the top is the following long inscription:—

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\*The Irish Parliament, we have authority for saying, did not relinquish the old calendar till 1782; the Scottish Parliament, according to The Encycl. Brit., 11th ed., threw it over in 1600.

Here lyeth the body of Colonel  
John O'Reilly who was Elected Knight of  
the Shier for the County of Cavan in the  
year 1689 he Departed this life the 17th Feb 1716  
leaving 5 sons and 2 daughters .

Also the body of his eldest son Bryan O'Reilly  
Esq late of B                                in this County who  
died the 6th September 1749 aged 72 years  
and of Margaret O'Reilly wife to the said Bryan .

                              the 30th November 1755 aged 72 years  
on the 4 of Feb 1    5    Myles O'Reilly Esq  
late of the City of Dublin eldest son of  
the above Bryan Departed this life in  
the 68th year of his age and on the 5th of  
said Month Sarah O'Reilly his wife in  
the 57th year of her age this small token  
of Esteem to their Memories was Erected  
by John Ahe O'Reilly Esq Dowell  
O'Reilly and Nath        O'Reilly sons of  
the above Myles O'Reilly.

On comparing this inscription with the previous one the reader's first impression will be that some mistake has been made in copying it. But he may at once dismiss that thought from his mind. The second inscription is indeed not an easy one to decipher. But line after line it has been carefully taken down, the spelling strictly adhered to, and even the punctuation marks—or rather want of them—left without change. The blanks indicate words, letters or figures which have defied efforts to make them out.

The identity of the details mentioned in both epitaphs afford a proof, almost mathematically rigid, that one and the same military gentleman is referred to in both cases. Here is a problem that awaits solution. How there can be two sepulchres in the same place to the same Colonel John O'Reilly, we may guess but we can offer no reliable explanation. There is no tradition to guide, and even the difficulties of deciphering had hitherto cloaked the anomaly. Neither can we say in which the body is actually reposing. As to this main fact one of the tombstones must be, let us say, inaccurate.

The Arms on the second memorial flag are quite different from those on the first. The motto displayed beneath them is also different. On the second tombstone the motto is

**Fortitudine                                Prudentia**

that is By Bravery [and] By Prudence. It is not a bad motto either. It shows that this Breifny family set store by two cardinal qualities that make for success in life, success in any undertaking, boldness and cautiousness; or, as we may more concretely put it, action and thought.

## BOOK REVIEW.

**The Antiquities of Leighlin.** By Rev. James Coyle, P.P.  
(Browne and Nolan—1920. 1s 6d.)

An ideal little book, from the antiquary's point of view, has been published by Rev. James Coyle, P.P. Father Coyle treats solely of the antiquities of his own parish, never by any chance going outside of it, unless it be to collar some ill-informed *Annalist's* editor who tries to sneak away from it some bright distinction. "For children," he says in his modest preface, "the home should be the centre of the universe." We are not too sure but it should be so also for even the children of larger growth. The death of an old neighbour affects one more than a revolution in China; and have we not it on authority not to be gainsaid that "the eyes of the fool are always on the ends of the earth?"

At all events Father Coyle concerns himself only with his own centre, and for it he does a great deal. He sets all its old forts aglow with mystery and romance, and shows before he stops that it possesses "a wealth of pious memorials and associations to bind them in chains of loving remembrance with the good men and good women of the past."

While solidly written and full of information, derived from a hundred sources, about castles and moats and holy wells and old cathedrals, all of course belonging to the parish, there is a silver thread of poetry running through the whole work. The story of Dinn Righ in the opening chapter, for instance, would be hard to beat. Dinn Righ was in its glory about 320 B.C. Instead of looking at this very distant past through a telescope as it were, Father Coyle at once transports us back into the midst of it, and we live and move among the men and things of that long, long ago, just as if we were one of themselves. And it is best. A view through a telescope might be forgotten, but of such a visit there is no forgetting.

The carrying back he effects very simply. He was sitting one fine evening, he tells us, on the outer foss of the moat, tired of course after his hard day's work (though he does not say so) and musing over Shakespeare. "A strange uncanny silence brooded over the place, interrupted solely by the soothing sound of the distant waterfall, or the gentle piping of a blackbird close by singing its vesper hymn." These are his words. Then, suddenly, unaccountably, he found himself back in the old, old, times; 2,000 years back! And when he looked about him no transformation scene in a theatre royal could surpass the change he saw on the face of the country. It was covered with a dense forest. The great river he was used to all his life was no longer chained and channeled within its narrow banks, but "swirled

by the very base of Dinn Righ." Up on the moat top "there was a huge house in the shape of a pavilion, made of timber and wicker-work and plaster, painted in vivid colours." It was full of life and activity. And who was just standing beside him peering into his eyes, above all people in the world, but the King of Dinn Righ, King Labraith the Mariner himself? "a gorgeous cloak, clasped before his breast with a brooch of floreated gold, falling from his shoulders and reaching below his knees." On his feet shoes of untanned leather. King Labraith spoke to him most affably, telling him indeed the whole tragedy of his life, and introduced him to the Queen. It happened to be a night of high festival and her Majesty was resplendent in what, we are sure, was her very best, "bright robes of many colours, golden spangles round her arms, and a golden torque around her neck."

Best of all he got an invitation to the banquet. And it was a banquet all out. Besides stews of mutton and roasts of beef, they had venison and game to no end. Each had a small knife, but forks had not yet come into fashion. The implements that for them took the place of forks were not of steel or silver, but of the precious material which, according to a North Leitrim "saga," the Lord of Benbo used for such purposes in his superb palace guarded by grenadiers at the foot of Benbo when he married the Lord Mayor of Dublin's daughter. And they had a home-brewed beer called coirm, mether-fulls of it at each one's elbow, and mead, a drink made of honey, the wine of the gods, in graceful horn goblets. All, he tells us, drank copiously. Then, at the end they had, not lonesome songs and prosy speeches, but loud calls for Craftiny, the harper. And Craftiny, the aged minstrel, came forward, "his grey hair made into ringlets to which were attached golden balls," and his music was, of course, golden too.

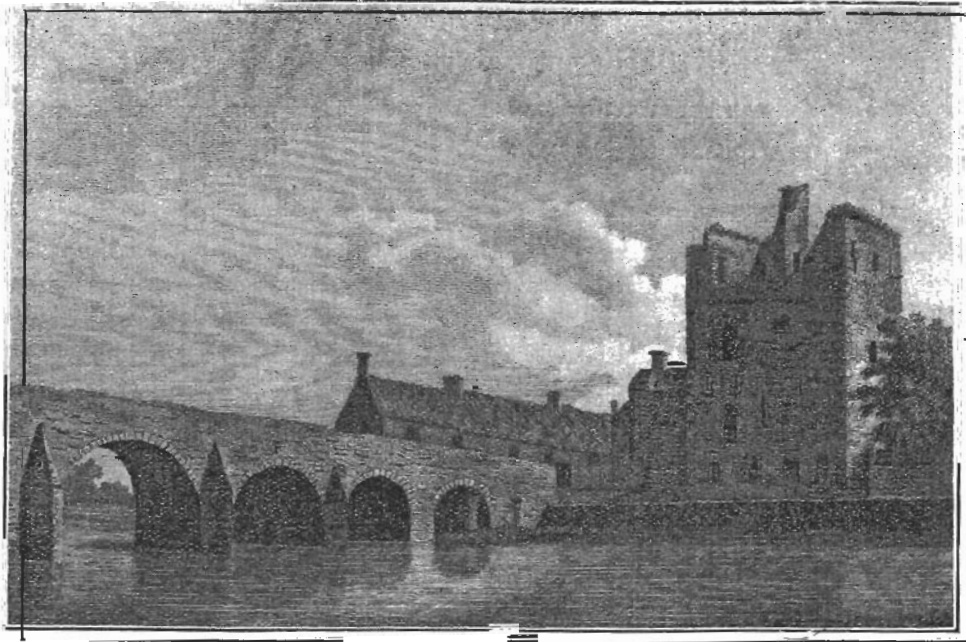
The feast, not unlike our country balls, lasted far into the night. When the King rose all rose with him. Then there was a loud blare of trumpets which——

But at this stage Father Coyle woke up abruptly, and rubbing his eyes found himself still seated on the outer foss of the moat, and Shakespeare sprawling on the ground in the dewy-damp grass at his feet! Were we in his shoes, we must confess we would be crying our eyes out all our lives had we wakened up till the banquet was over anyway.

The setting of the story is not unlike Rip Van Winkle, but it goes backward not forward. And it is most carefully done, every assertion solidly buttressed by the soundest of authorities, from Ware to MacNeill.

Intended primarily for his parishioners and his own centre the book, none the less, is both instructive and suggestive to all of us. Though the scenes at times seem fairy ones, the descriptions of dress and manners and hospitality are, for all that, as





**LEIGHLIN BRIDGE AND BLACK CASTLE, CO. CARLOW.**

(Through the Courtesy of the Publishers.)

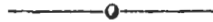
true to the life of the period and as accurate as popular antiquarianism, guided by ripe scholarship, ever aims at. They give one a good general idea of what our great Breifny forts were like a thousand and more years ago; what the forts of Mohill were like; what Daingean an Mhantiagh, which O'Donovan in his O.S. Letters locates "in the parish of Kildrumsherdan near the boundary of Drumgoon," when Gilduff Mantaeh (that is Gilduff the Gap-toothed) who antedated Raghalach the progenitor of the O'Reillys, lived and ruled there; what Dundavan (old Dún Dil Beann) in Drumlummon; what Shan-rath, before the ancient church—its successor built in 1688 by Sir F. Hamilton in its turn worn out and long in ruins—took possession of the pleasing site, and gave its name to the town of Killeshandra (Kill-a-shan-rath, the Church of the old rath, a pagan rath O'Donovan says); what Dingins fort, on the high hill crest over Dingin's Bridge in the parish of Gowna—for the days of early warfare the most strongly placed fortress we have come across in East Breifny—near the time of its construction, and the piling up of its massive ring mounds, when, as is most probable, the waters of the Erne also "swirled round its base."

Father Coyle's work is a model of what can be done for a parish, the illustrations splendid. Precept is good, example is better. An incumbent, may we say it with all due deference, could do worse than go and do likewise; and, never minding the great big world outside of it, crown with a halo of beauty and interest his own "centre of the universe."

## LITERARY NOTES.

Early this year there will be published by the Rev. P. A. Walsh, C.M., Dublin, a book on the oft-debated subject, the authorship of "The Exile of Erin." Father Walsh is a strong advocate for the claims of George Nugent Reynolds, the Leitrim poet, and goes exhaustively into the question.

It is also expected there will soon appear in print *The Life of Carolan*, "the last of the bards." Carolan spent a great deal of his time in Leitrim, and received there unbounded hospitality in the homes of the MacRannals, Peytons, O'Rourke, Magaurans, and O'Donnells. In Leitrim, as is told by Miss Milligan in *The Annals of the Irish Harpers*, many of his unpublished songs and airs were recovered for Bunting, as many as six at the one time in a place called Killargue. Many more may be still scattered about in the county unrecorded. The writer engaged at the *Life* is Dr Grattan Flood who contributes an article to this number of our *Journal*. He may be claimed as a Kilmore man, as his father belonged to the Five-mile-bourne near Dromahair, and was born there in 1832.



## OBITUARY NOTICE.

## REV. MICHAEL McLOUGHLIN, C.C.

The first member of our Society to be called away by death is the Rev. Michael McLoughlin, C.C., Belturbet. He assisted at its formation and was enthusiastic in its support.

Father McLoughlin was born near Drumkeeran, in the parish of Innismagrath, County Leitrim, a little over 40 years ago. He was educated in St. Patrick's College, Cavan, in which he was a distinguished Intermediate student, and in the ecclesiastical College, Maynooth. He was Curate successively in Glangevlin, Kilasnet, and Annagh, and was everywhere beloved. He died in Dublin on 18th May, 1920, after a short illness, regretted by all who knew him. His death is a great loss to the Antiquarian Society. Had he been spared he would undoubtedly have been an energetic worker for it.

It is keenly felt both by the people among whom he ministered, and by his brother priests of Kilmore. With them he was a great favourite, and was admired for the energy and straightforwardness as well as for the simplicity and piety of his character.

# LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS AND MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 1920.

## LIFE MEMBERS.

- Bigger, F. J., M.R.I.A., Ardriagh, Belfast (Honorary.)  
 Conlon, M. V., Technical School, Cavan.  
 Finegan, Most Rev. Patrick, D.D., Bishop of Kilmore, Bishop's House,  
 Cullies, Cavan.  
 Finlay, Very Rev. Peter, S.J., Milltown Park, Dublin.  
 Finlay, Very Rev. Thomas A., S.J., 35 Lower Leeson St., Dublin.  
 Fitzgerald, Lord Walter, Kilkea Castle, Magancy, Co. Kildare.  
 Flynn, Very Rev. Michael J., St. Michael's, West Derby Rd., Liverpool.  
 Moore, Right Rev. W. R., D.D., Bishop of Kilmore, See House, Cavan.  
 O'Reilly, William, R.M., Beechmount, Navan.

## MEMBERS.

- Acheson, H. W., M.D., Infirmary House, Cavan.  
 Atkinson, Rev. F. S., M.A., Derryheen Rectory, Cavan.  
 Baxter, Philip, Ballinagh, Cavan.  
 Benison, J. A., D.L., Sieve Russel, Ballyconnell, Cavan.  
 Berry, T. F., C.P.S., Belturbet, Cavan.  
 Brady, Very Rev. Hugh, P.P., V.F., Crosserlough, Ballyjamesduff,  
 Cavan.  
 Brady, Rev. Hugh P., Adm., The Presbytery, Cavan.  
 Brady, P. J., C.E., Broomfield House, Cavan.  
 Blackley, Mrs I., M.B.E., Drumbar, Cavan.  
 Burke, Dr., Ballinagh, Cavan.  
 Burke, Dr., Shercock, Cavan.  
 Chambers, Thos., The Laurels, Bailieborough.  
 Clarke, John, M.D., Cavan.  
 Cole, J. A., M.A., Cavan.  
 Comey, Rev. Charles, C.C., New Prospect, Virginia.  
 Comey, Rev. Michael, C.C., D.D., The Presbytery, Cavan.  
 Connolly, Rev. Peter, P.P., Drumreilly Upper, Carrigallen.  
 Corcoran, Very Rev. Michael Canon, P.P., V.F., Gowua, Cavan.  
 Corr, Rev. Laurence, C.C., Drumreilly Upper, Carrigallen.  
 Corr, Rev. Peter, St. Dorothy's, Eatonville, N.J., U.S.A.  
 Crowe, Rev. E. D. M.A., The Rectory, Cavan.  
 Dolan, Joseph, M.A., M.R.I.A., Ardee.  
 Dolan, Rev. Michael, C.C., Drumkilly, Kilnaleck, Cavan.  
 Dooner, Rev. F., C.C., The Presbytery, Gowua.  
 Downey, Daniel, Killyconnan School, Stradone.  
 Duffy, P., A.R.Sc.I., Annesley Terrace, Cavan.  
 Duke, S., A.R.Sc.I., Agricultural College, Cavan.  
 Egan, Rev Robert, P.P., Drumlummon, Grauard.

Farrelly, T. M., Co.C., Bailieborough, Cavan.  
 Fawcett, Gen. W. J., Lecarrow, Spencer Harbour, Carrick-on-Shannon.  
 Fay, James, B.L., Moyne Hall, Cavan.  
 Finegan, Rev. Charles, C.C., St. Joseph's, Clondalkin, Dublin.  
 Finlay, William, Killynebbber House, Cavan.  
 Fitzpatrick, Rev. Daniel, B.D., St. Patrick's College, Cavan.  
 Fogarty, Thomas, Church St., Cavan.

Galligan, Rev. Henry, C.C., Cootehill, Cavan.  
 Galligan, Paul, M.P., Drummalaragh House, Ballinagh, Cavan.  
 Galt-Gamble, T. E., Cavan.  
 Gannon, J. P., Cavan.  
 Gannon, Rev. P., S.J., Milltown Park, Dublin.  
 Gerrard J. Dennison, R.M., Cavan.  
 Godley, Miss, Killygar, Killeshandra.  
 Green, J., Maxwell, D.L., Tullyvin, Cootehill:

Halpenny, P. J., Ulster Bank, Mullingar.  
 Halpin, W. H., Farnham St., Cavan.  
 Hoare, Most Rev. J., D.D., Bishop of Ardagh, Longford.  
 Hogan, P., Cavan.

Judge, Very Rev. James, P.P., V.F., St. Brigid's, Killeshandra.  
 Justin, Rev. Brother, St. Patrick's Juniorate, Bailieborough.

Kelly, Rev. F., Moyne, Arva.  
 Kelly, Rev. Thos. J., C.C., Shercock.  
 Kennedy, Fred., Cavan.  
 Kennedy, Henry, B.L., Cavan.  
 Kimmot, Jno., 63 Battlefield Avenue, Longside, Glasgow.

Lough, Miss, Drom Mullac, Killeshandra.  
 Lough, Rt. Hon. Thomas, H.M.L., Drom Mullac, Killeshandra.  
 Lowe, Rev. William P., M.A., The Rectory, Bailieborough.  
 Lynch, Rev. John, C.C., The Presbytery, Granard.

MacCabe, Aidan, E. R., Church Street, Cavan.  
 McCay, Cyril, Main Street, Cavan.  
 McCay, R. A., Ulster Bank, Cavan.  
 MacCormack, Rev. Patrick, The Presbytery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.  
 MacDowell, Rev. W., B.A., The Mansie, Farnham Street, Cavan.  
 MacGauran, Rev. M., P.P., Tierworker, Bailieborough.  
 MacGennis, Patrick, Kilmaleck.  
 McGuinness, Thos., Main Street, Cavan.  
 MacGovern, Bernard, J.P., Drumkeel House, Dromahair.  
 MacGovern, S., Ardilla House, Cavan.  
 Maguire, Rev. Francis, C.C., Loughduff, Cavan.  
 Maguire, Rev. Jno., B.D., St. Patrick's College, Cavan.  
 Maguire, Rev. Thomas, C.C., Crosserlough, Ballyjamesduff.  
 Mallon, Rev. Patrick, C.C., Ballinamore.  
 Martin, Thos., Carrigans, Sch., Ballinagh.  
 Masterson, Rev. Edward, S.J., Milltown Park, Dublin.  
 Mayne, Rev. Joseph, M.A., The Venerable, the Archdeacon of Kilmore,  
 Stradone.  
 Meehan, Rev. Joseph B., C.C., Bruskey, Ballinagh.  
 Meehan, Rev. Terence, C.C., Ballynarry, Kilmaleck.  
 Myles, Rev. Thomas, C.C., Milltown, Belturbet.  
 McLoughlin, Rev. M., C.C., Belturbet.  
 MacKeon, Rev. P., B.D., St. Patrick's College, Cavan.

- O'Connell, Very Rev. Patrick, P.P., V.G., Cootchill.  
 O'Connell, Philip, M.Sc., 20 Mary Street, Clonmel.  
 O'Connor, Miss, Main Street, Cavan.  
 O'Farrelly, Miss A. W., M.A., 26 Highfield Road, Rathgar, Dublin.  
 O'Farrelly, Alphonsus, M.A., D.Sc., 26 Highfield Rd., Rathgar, Dublin.  
 O'Farrelly, P. E., Cornahesk House, Virginia.  
 O'Hanlon, Jno. Fred, Cavan.  
 O'Hanlon, Edward T., Cavan.  
 O'Reilly, Daniel, Main Street, Cavan.  
 O'Reilly, Henry, B.E., County Surveyor, Rice Hill, Cavan.  
 O'Reilly, Rev. John, C.C., The Presbytery, Cavan.  
 O'Reilly, Rev. Patrick, C.C., Bailieborough.  
 O'Reilly, Rev. Peter, C.C., Virginia, Kells.  
 O'Reilly, Thomas, Loughduff, Cavan.  
 O'Rourke, Rev John, Garadice, Ballinamore.
- Peyton, Rev. W. W., M.A., Toomna Rectory, Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Reid, Wm., M.B.E., Cavan.  
 Roe, Col. E. A. H., D.L., Ballyconnell.  
 Ratherford, Dr., Earlsfield, Manorhamilton.  
 Ryan, Rev. —, C.C., Anghavas, Carrick-on-Shannon.  
 Ryan, R., M.D., The Villa, Bailieborough.
- Sheridan, Michael, Ballinagh, Cavan.  
 Sheridan, Nicholas, Omard House, Kilmaleck.  
 Small, Rev. Terence, C.C., Derrylin, Belturbet.  
 Smith, Alfred, M.D., 30 Merrion Square, Dublin.  
 Smith, Major Dorman, D.L., Linn House, Hamilton, Scotland.  
 Smith, Frederick, M.D., D.L., Kevit Castle, Crossdoney.  
 Smith, Mrs, Kevit Castle, Crossdoney.  
 Smith, Rev. Joseph, C.P., Mt. Argus, Dublin.  
 Smith L. C. P., Crown Solicitor, Cavan.  
 Smyth, T. J., B.L., Cavan.  
 Smith, Rev. Philip, P.P., Parochial House, Carrigallen.  
 Story, Col., D.L., Bingfield, Crossdoney.  
 Stuart, James, M.D., The Lawn, Belturbet.  
 Smyth, Terence S., 60, Main Street, Cavan.
- Tierney, Jno., Virginia, Kells.  
 Walker, Rev. R. J., B.A., Ballintemple Rectory, Ballinagh.  
 Walker, R. V., B.A., Erne Square, Clones.  
 Whelan, Bernard, Main Street, Cavan.  
 Worrall, Rev. F. B., Cavan.

# RULES OF BREIFNY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

## OBJECTS.

1. The Society, which shall be non-sectarian and non-political, is formed:—
  - (a) to throw light upon the ancient monuments and memorials of the diocese of Kilmore, and of the Counties of Cavan and Leitrim, and to foster an interest in their preservation;
  - (b) to study the social and domestic life of the periods to which these memorials belong;
  - (c) to collect, preserve and diffuse information regarding the history, traditions and folk-lore of the districts mentioned; and
  - (d) to record and help to perpetuate the names and doings of distinguished individuals of past generations connected with the diocese or counties named.

## CONSTITUTION.

2. The Society shall consist of Patrons, Members and Life Members.
3. The Patrons will be the Bishops of Kilmore, if they are pleased to act.
4. During this year (1920) all interested in the objects of the Society may become Members on payment of the entrance fee and the annual subscription.
5. After 31st December, 1920, a Candidate for Membership besides complying with the conditions in the preceding Rule must:—
  - (a) be proposed in writing by an existing Member,
  - (b) have his name submitted to the Committee, and, if approved of,
  - (c) be elected at a meeting of the Society.
6. The entrance fee shall be 10/-. The annual subscription shall also be 10/- payable on or before election and on each subsequent 1st day of January.
7. A single subscription of £5 covers the entrance fee and entitles to Life Membership.

8. A Member ceases to have any right or privilege in the Society until his subscription for the year is paid.
9. At the end of the year such defaulters, failing a special resolution of the Committee to the contrary, shall be considered to have resigned, and their names shall be removed from the list of Members.

### GOVERNMENT.

10. The Officers of the Society shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Registrar.
11. The affairs of the Society shall be managed and controlled by a Committee. This Committee shall consist of:—
  - (a) the Officers just mentioned, who shall be Ex-officio members;
  - (b) the Patrons and Past Chairmen, who shall be Honorary Members; and
  - (c) Six others specially elected.
12. For ordinary business of the Committee three shall form a quorum. But any contentious matter shall be reserved for a meeting at which five, at least, shall be present.
13. All cheques on the funds of the Society shall be signed by two Members of the Committee, as well as by the Honorary Treasurer.
14. In the event of a vacancy in any Office or on the Committee occurring during the year the Committee shall have power to fill the former by appointment and the latter by co-option until the next Annual General Meeting. It also shall have power to select to act on the Editorial Sub-Committee any Member or Members of the Society it may consider specially qualified.
15. THE CHAIRMAN
  - (a) along with his deliberative vote shall have a casting vote at Committee Meetings, but at the Society's Meetings only the latter;
  - (b) on his own responsibility may at any time call a Special Meeting of either the Committee or the Society; on joint requisition in writing by five Members of the Society for either, he shall on cause shown summon such meeting;
  - (c) shall hold office for two years only and until the end of the Session at which his successor should be



appointed; he shall be ineligible for re-election but afterwards shall continue an Honorary Member of the Committee;

- (d) if appointed by the Committee under Rule 14 the time of such temporary appointment shall not be considered as part of the two years just referred to.

#### 16. THE HON. SECRETARY

- (a) shall convene Committee Meetings as business may arise;
- (b) shall send to each Member a clear week in advance notification of General Meetings, together with the Agenda paper;
- (c) shall take and preserve Minutes of all Meetings;
- (d) shall forward to each Member entitled to it (vide Rule 30) a copy of the Journal on its publication.

#### 17. THE HONORARY TREASURER

- (a) shall receive all moneys paid to the Society and make such payments as are authorized by the Committee;
- (b) shall keep accurate accounts of receipts and payments, and submit them for audit whenever required either by the Rules or by the Committee;
- (c) shall keep an accurate list of Members of the Society, showing the dates upon which their subscriptions have been paid, this list to be available for inspection at reasonable times; and
- (d) in the first week of December shall remind any Member in arrears of the provisions of Rule 9.

18. It shall be the duty of the Hon. Registrar to aim at procuring information on Antiquarian and Historical matters. He shall preserve and index it, and assist all the workers of the Society.

19. Due regard being given to the provisions contained in (c) and (d) Rule 15, all Officers and Members of the Committee, Hon. Members excepted, shall be elected from and by the Society's Members and Life Members at the Annual Meeting of each year. They shall remain in office until the opening of the Annual Meeting in the succeeding year, and shall be eligible for re-election.

20. No Member who during the year has failed to attend at least one-fourth of the Committee Meetings to which he

was summoned shall be eligible at the next Annual Meeting for election as Officer or Member of Committee.

21. Resignations either from the Committee or from the Society shall be lodged with the Secretary in writing. On acceptance by the Committee the individual's obligations cease.

### MEETINGS.

22. The Society shall hold three Ordinary Meetings in the year, two mainly for the purpose of reading and discussing papers, and one for an excursion to some place of archaeological interest in either of the Counties named.
23. The Chairman shall preside at both Committee and General Meetings. In his absence (a) the Vice-Chairman, or (b) the Senior Past Chairman present, or failing these (c) a Member selected by the Meeting shall be entitled to powers as the Chairman.
24. The first of these Meetings shall be held, if possible, in January, and shall be called the Annual Meeting.  
At its opening Session:—

- (a) The Committee shall submit a Report on the work of the Society during the previous year;
- (b) the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a detailed balance sheet, duly audited, ending with the previous 31st December;
- (c) the Hon. Auditor for the current year shall be appointed;
- (d) the election of Officers and Members of Committee shall take place;
- (e) any amendments to the Rules, duly proposed, shall be discussed; and
- (f) any other matter appertaining to the Society's well-being or working shall be brought forward.

- 25—Except to the business Session just mentioned, Members may introduce visitors to all the meetings of the Society.

### PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS.

26. A paper to be read before the Society must be first submitted to and approved of by the Committee. The writer of it, however, will alone be responsible for its contents.
27. All reference to existing religious or political differences must be rigidly excluded from such papers, as well as from the discussions at the Society's meetings.

28. It rests with the Committee to determine what papers or part of papers shall be published.
29. All papers read before the Society shall become the property of the Society.
30. At the end of each year the Society shall endeavour to publish, as far as the funds will permit, a Journal containing these papers, together with the proceedings of the year and other matters of local antiquarian interest. Every Member not in arrears with his subscription is entitled to a copy of this Journal.

#### **ALTERATIONS IN RULES.**

31. Amendments or additions to the Rules can be made only at the Annual Meeting.
32. Notice of such alterations must be lodged in writing with the Honorary Secretary on or before the last day of the previous year and the modifications proposed must appear on the Agenda paper.

# General Account of Receipt and Expenditure for the Period Ending 31st December, 1920.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s d		£ s d
Lecture (Mr F. J. Bigger)	... 16 10 0	M. V. Conlon (Stationery)	... 1 0 0
Subscriptions	... 105 0 0	T. J. Smyth (do)	... 17 2
		Cavan U.D.C. (Hire of Hall)	... 1 2 6
		"Anglo-Celt" (Printing and Advertising)...	2 12 6
		"Irish Post" (Advertising)	... 1 7 0
		Lizars (Lantern, Etc., for Lecture)	... 3 16 10
		Stamps	... 1 3 2
		Cash on Deposit at Bank	... 50 0 0
		Balance at Bank, Current Account, on 31st December, 1920	... 59 10 10
Total	£121 10 0	Total	£121 10 0

63.

(Signed) **J. P. GANNON.**

Examined and certified correct.

15th March, 1921.