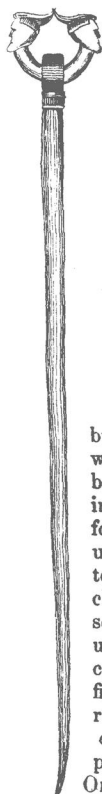
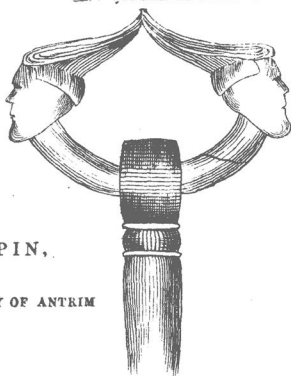


## ANTIQUARIAN NOTES AND QUERIES.



BRONZE PIN,

FOUND IN THE COUNTY OF ANTRIM



WE give here accurate drawings of a bronze pin of very unusual form. Indeed we are not aware that any instance has before occurred of the human head being introduced as an ornament on fibulæ found in Ireland. This specimen was dug up in Derryullagh bog, near Randals-town, county of Antrim, in that border clan-country, which has already afforded so many antiquities. The material is the usual dark-coloured bronze. It has been cast in the required form, but afterwards finished by a chasing-tool. The one figure represents the pin of the actual size: the other is a magnified drawing of the upper portion.—[EDIT]

OLD CORPORATE RECORDS OF BELFAST.—I quite concur with H. P. [vol. 4, p. 100,] in his estimate of the value of the Records of the old Corporation of Belfast. They must contain much matter of the highest local interest, and possibly some things not unworthy

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of notice as contributions to the general history of the country. The writer of this had once access to the Records, but from circumstances connected with the mode in which the examination of them had to be conducted, from inexperience, and a want of aptitude at the time in reading with facility the old cramp writing, he was not able to appreciate them, or make due use of his opportunity. When under his examination, which was a great many years ago, they were understood to be the property of the Donegall family; and it is probable that judicious inquiry somewhere in the same direction

might lead to a knowledge of their present ownership. Their place of deposit must be known; no one, surely, could take an interest in withholding such documents, or such parts of them as are interesting, from the public of Belfast; and it is hoped this notice, as well as the queries of others already published, will have the effect of withdrawing them from concealment. The writer of this has elsewhere published many extracts made by him from the old Corporation Records: he finds among some loose papers a few notices of a similar character; but, from some casualty, he has omitted to remark at the end of them that they have been copied from the Records, and has now no recollection whether they were so or not. He has little doubt, however, that they were derived from that source, either directly or indirectly, and that they are in the main authentic. They are not of much importance, but may serve, as far as they go, as farther samples of the unpublished matter which the old Records contain.

A. D. 1616.—“The people of Belfast, becoming

- drunken and riotous, a bye-law was made to prevent improper persons from selling liquor ; and the sale of ale and spirits on Sundays was prohibited, under a fine of 6s. 8d."
- 1616.—"The Sovereign, Burgesses, and Freemen, made their first public procession this year to Church." [The writer once heard a very old inhabitant saying that in her youth she had seen the members of the Corporation proceeding in state, in the manner here described, to the Church in High-street, on some important public occasion.]
- "The Burgesses and Freemen were obliged to apprehend all felons, either on horseback or foot, at the command of the Sovereign, under a penalty of 20s. for absence."
- 1639.—"The Corporation fitted up a Court-house, with bench and bar and town prison; and for this purpose an applotment was made on the inhabitants; but only forty-six were found able to pay it."
- 1640.—"Assizes were held in the Court-house this year."
- 1641.—"The Sovereign ordered that attorneys pleading in his Court must be paid 12d. fee at first, and 12d. every Court after, as long as the action pended."
- 1642.—"Col. Chichester's regiment worked at the ramparts sixty days, for 3d. per day."
- 1642.—"Sluice Bridge built."
- 1644.—"Col. Mair's and Col. Hume's regiment were quartered here, besides many other troops. From the destruction which the civil wars had made on the ramparts and gates of the town, the Corporation was under the necessity of making a weighty assessment on the inhabitants for the repairs of the same; which was accordingly done, and the town again sufficiently strengthened."
- 1697.—"A great storm blew down part of the battlement of Mill Gate and the vane of the Church."
- 1699.—"The names of the principal inhabitants at this time were Leatham, Squire, Hamilton, Byrtt, Macartney, Crawford, Maxwell, Rainey, Duff, Gilbert, Taverner."
- As before observed, these extracts do not tell

very much; but still, from among the mass of unimportant details, really desirable information might be gathered. The editor of the diary kept by an eye-witness of the wars of the Revolution, and published in a late number of this Journal, inquires where the great hospital of Belfast which received the invalids of King William's army, and alluded to therein, was situated. The Records might supply this information, and many other things of greater import worth being known to all who take an interest in the early history of this town and province. G. B.

URN-BURIAL.—In all ancient nations, dead bodies have been burned and the ashes preserved: of this we have satisfactory evidence from history. But we have also evidence of a still more interesting kind, the ashes themselves—the very repositories themselves—the discovery of which in Ireland is now of common occurrence. This very circumstance, however, must make them so much the rarer in the coming age; and indeed their entire disappearance may be anticipated at no very remote period. As notes are seldom preserved of the situations in which they are found, I would beg permission to record, in the pages of your Journal, what I recollect of the discovery of an urn beside Doagh, in the County of Antrim.

About the year 1825, John Minfoad, of Ballyhammage townland, a respectable farmer, found an earthen urn. Having heard of the circumstance shortly after, I went to see it, and from himself received the following details. The urn was of a dark-red coarse clay, rudely ornamented, and crumbling into fragments. It was full of cinders, which I saw, and portions of which, as well as of the urn, I preserved for years. The peculiarity, however, which impressed me most strongly, and which, indeed, is the cause of my drawing particular attention to the case, is, that the urn, when found, was covered by a solid stone arch. The stones employed in constructing this arch or dome were about five or six inches in width. With these an arch, about four or five feet in diameter, was formed so firmly, and each stone wedged in so skilfully among the others, that Mr. Minfoad was unable, with a spade, to disturb the arch, or raise a single stone. He had

to bring a crow-bar for the purpose, which effected the destruction not only of the arch, but unfortunately also of the urn, which had remained for so many ages safely preserved. The only articles found under the dome, besides the urn, were a stone celt and a flint arrow head. I received both of these, and have them still in my possession.

This was not the only urn found in that neighbourhood. A short time previously, the "Antiquarian" of Doagh, John Alexander, discovered one containing cinders of bones. The quantity, in this case, had been insufficient to fill the urn, and the remaining part was stuffed with a fibrous material, the nature of which was unknown, but resembling the fibrous rootlets of plants, and so firmly crammed as to require considerable force to remove it. Mr. John Rowan, of Belfast, saw the urn as originally found, before the fibrous matter was removed.

The same "Antiquarian," among other curious objects in his collection, had a dozen of stone buttons, found on Ballyboley mountain, and which I saw. These buttons were largely convex on the under side; so much so as to allow of a hole being drilled through, large enough to admit a cord or thong by which they could be fastened. As Ballyboley and the surrounding districts afford so many traces of human occupation at very early as well as later periods, I fear it will be impossible to assign a date to the use of these articles.—The same person had also a stone and muller, found in Cogry moss. The stone was nearly two feet long, ten or eleven inches broad, and six or seven inches thick. The muller was a roundish stone, eight or nine inches in diameter. One side of it fitted nicely into a groove, sunk with considerable skill in the face of the stone previously described. This groove was about eighteen inches long, nearly two inches deep in the centre, and becoming less and less deep towards its extremities. The use of this implement was possibly to prepare meal, and to shell nuts. It would seem to have been one of the earliest and rudest forms of the quern and millstone.

Belfast.

WILLIAM MILLEN.

**LIME FLOORS OF ROUND TOWERS.**—In the *Miscellany of the Celtic Society* is a poem on the death of Brian O'Neill, from which it appears that his head was cut off and sent to London. In this poem is the following reference to the graves of Irish chiefs:—

"In Ard Macha are the interments  
Of the Ulaigh with their lime-stone graves."

There is in London under a white flag-stone  
A head which the Gaoidhil would ransom."

H. P.

**LIME FROM SHELLS.**—In vol. 1, p. 30, of this Journal, the fact of lime from limpet shells being used in the buildings of Torry Island is mentioned. In Docwra's narration he mentions amongst other matters connected with his establishment at Derry:—"Cockle-shells to make a lyme, wee discovered infinite plentie of, in a little island in the mouth of the harbour, as wee came in." "Infinite plentie" it may well be called, for to this day shells for manure are taken from the same place.

H. P.

**EARTHEN MOUNDS.**—A proof that these were sites of houses is found in the poem of Fearghal Og Mac an Bhaird, on the battle of Down. In the last verse but one the following occurs:—

"His fortress was enfeebled by his death,  
It is bent to the earth from his fall!  
O thou fair hill, whom hospitably adorned,  
O hill [*tusach*] at which strangers alighted."

E. G.

**BIRD-SKIN CLOAKS.**—Amongst the numerous donations of Mr. Gordon A. Thomson, to the Belfast Museum, not the least remarkable is a splendid cloak, from one of the islands of the south seas, entirely formed from the skins of one small species of bird. Tæidhean or Tuighean, was the name, amongst the ancient Irish, of an ornamented mantle worn by the chief poet or laureate of all Ireland, and described in *Cormac's Glossary*, as "made of the skins and feathers of various coloured birds."

E. G.

**ROUND TOWERS.**—Allow me to direct the attention of E. G. to Barrow's *Travels in Ireland*: they contain a beautiful engraving of an Irish head, worthy of Persepolis, which Barrow copied, as he tells us, from a frieze or plinth in the interior summit of the Round Tower of Devenish. A faithful full-sized drawing of this head would

make a beautiful embellishment for the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. It would not only do this, but it would afford material for a dissertation on the vulgar Ethnological description of the Celtic head, which is utterly false, and would establish the truth of an observation of Giraldus Cambrensis:—"In Ireland man appears in all his majesty." It gives historians an idea of the personal appearance of the builders of our Round Towers, and realises the descriptions given to us by Livy, Plutarch, and Strabo, of the gigantic Celts (or Gaels), of whom Ammianus Marcellinus says:—"In the east of their features there was something terrible." C. M. O'KEEFE.

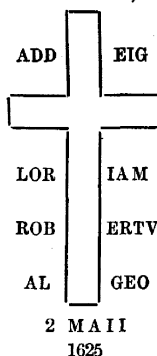
LURGAN IN THE LAST CENTURY.—"From thence we visited Lurgan, in the county of Armagh. Its situation is extremely pleasant, in a fine fertile and populous country, and in the midst of the linen manufacture. The inhabitants are genteel, sensible, and friendly; and though the town is not very considerable, yet from a general concurrence in the same agreeable disposition, they have established a very sociable and entertaining assembly, to which, throwing aside all the ridiculous distinctions and exclusions on the circumstances of birth and fortune, the offspring of pride upon vanity and ignorance, every person is welcome who is qualified to appear with decency, and to behave with good manners. They seem, indeed, to exert themselves to support the reputation of their town, which from the similarity of its general figure, and of the language, manners, and disposition of the inhabitants to those of the English, had for many years acquired the name of Little England, and an Englishman at Lurgan will think himself in his own country."—*Tour in Ireland in 1779*.

In the Ghost-story given in vol. 3, p. 327, the name "Taverner" is mentioned, with the *alias* "Tavney." This latter is not merely an abbreviation, but is the French pronunciation of a French name—"Tavernier"—which occurs in the list of the Huguenot family names remaining at Lisburn, included in the list given by Dr. C. Purdon, [*Journal*, vol. 2, p. 178.] I believe the name Tavney is still met with in the neighbourhood, but its real origin is already forgotten. LOUIS.

Some years ago, whilst travelling through your northern province, I was struck with the appearance of some ancient monuments. I shall give you a short notice of them, for the purpose of awakening the attention of those of your readers who reside near the locality mentioned, and of eliciting from them a more accurate and interesting account than I can give.

In the county Tyrone, about midway between historic Strabane and the small town of Donnamana, (*Dun-na-manach*, fort of friars?) is situated a small village commanding a magnificent view of the Foye, the Donagal and Mourne mountains. It takes its name Artigarvan (*ard-a-garbh-thonn*, height of rough breakers or waves) from a boiling torrent beside it, which is spanned by an old narrow and ivy-covered bridge, called the Malison, from a touching legend which I shall not here mention. Inserted into the south-eastern wall of this bridge, about three feet from the only arch, and four from the ground, is a large rectangular stone partially covered with ivy.

This stone is, as well as I can remember, four feet long, and two broad, with the following inscription in *raised* letters, surrounding a crucifix in *basso-relievo*, thus:—



Local traditions say it belonged to a Catholic "chapel," situate at the distance of a quarter of a mile, of which nothing remains but a grey rock in a meadow. This rock is cup-shaped on the apex, and was used as a *benitier*. (aiubt.) To bathe his hand in the water this cup-shaped concavity always contains, a young peasant may be seen, resorting sometimes, if he has received a "bruise," or if there be "warts" on his hand,

A little rivulet flowing past is termed the "chapel burn." The inscribed stone was taken by a gentleman from the ruins to his house as a curiosity, but he was soon compelled by spirit-visitations to transfer it to the bridge.

Near the village of Liscurry (*lios-curraich*, fort of the plain) situated near Donnemana, is a "rocking-stone," and "rath." And still nearer the town is a "giant's-grave," covered by flag-stones, lying laterally, superiorly, and a smaller one at each end. In the bottom of a hazly dell beside that, is a small square building called "a sweat-house."

Can you tell me if the name "Sigerson," which I saw there, and never elsewhere, is Danish or Celtic?

*Skibbereen.*

ED. BUCHANAN.

GIANT'S RING.—As I quite agree with H. P. [Notes and Queries, vol. 4, p. 97] that every notice connected with this curious monument of antiquity ought to be recorded, I send one contained in a description of it by the author of *A Tour in Ireland in 1779* (Dublin, 1780.) "Contiguous to the rath [ring] there was a small mount formerly dug through to get stones for building, in the middle of which great quantities of bones were found." This corroborates the statement given in vol. 3, p. 364, of this Journal.

SESEX.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONFUSION.—The following words of Dean Butler, in his preface to *Clym's Annals*, are worthy of a place in any Journal that proposes to discuss or illustrate ancient Irish history:—

"We know that the Northmen had a peculiar genius for high-wrought and lofty imagery, enigmatical rather than fantastical; not only were their ships "the wooden horses of the ocean," and their swords "serpents," but the very geography of their countries, either from their own taste, or from the taste of their visitors, was allusive and metaphorical. The Baltic Sound, which in the days of Tacitus, (*Germania*, 34) was called "the pillars of Hercules" was styled "the Hellespont," by Saxo-Grammaticus. And the Africa of Nennius, and Geoffrey of Monmouth, seems to have been the southern coast of the Baltic, the land of the sea-robbers, with whom, as Dubh-galls or black strangers, we are familiar in Irish history, but who startle and perplex us when we meet them under the name of Africans."

E. G.

## QUERIES.

In No. 3 of "Original Documents Illustrative of Irish History," extracted from the State Paper Office (Irish) for 1604, and which will be found in vol. 2 of this Journal, p. 251, the following passage occurs:—"And that the offer made by *Dutchmen* to the late Queen, to inhabit Lough-foil, upon the border of the country of the Karl of Tyrone, upon such conditions as to your Majesty shall be thought fit, be accepted."—Can any of your readers supply any information as to these *Dutchmen*; whether there be extant any record of their names, or of their offer having been accepted; whether they might not have been some of the Dutch refugees who, driven by the Persecution under Philip II. of Spain, about the year 1558, from the Netherlands, were forced to seek for shelter in England, and probably endeavoured afterwards to settle themselves in Ireland?

T. O.

In the *Metamorphoses* of Apuleius, Book 2, the following passage occurs:—"I was loitering about the town, when, coming by chance into the Forum, I saw in the midst a tall old man, standing on the top of a large block of stone. 'Any person,' exclaimed he, 'willing to undertake to guard a corpse, shall receive a good reward.' On hearing this proclamation, I addressed one of the by-standers, and asked:—"Do the dead men run away in this country?"—"Hold thy tongue," said he, 'thou art a fool, as well as a stranger, not to know that, all over Thessaly, witches with their teeth tear off pieces from the faces of the dead to use in magic spells, &c.' Now, query, does the Irish custom, of revelling and singing beside the dead, originate in some popular superstition such as the preceding; or, was the noise and merriment designed to scare the witch from disfiguring the corpse?"

C. M. O'KEEFE.

Is it known at what period *organs* were first introduced into Ireland? **ECCLESIASTICUS.**

**CURIOS CHURCH.**—Near the village of Cloghreen, county Kerry, not far from Mucruss demesne, is a very small church called Killaghie. Mrs. Hall describes and figures it as the smallest church in Ireland. It measures inside eighteen feet five inches, by ten feet eight and a half inches. At one end is a marble altar, too large in proportion to the other parts; and a few years ago the centre of the interior was occupied by a burial-vault now broken down, said to be of one of the Hussey family. It is stone-roofed, and has a square tower at the west-end. From the mound on which it stands is one of the best general views of the Lakes of Killarney. Can any correspondent favour me with information respecting the history of this curious little church? **E. G.**

Do any of the readers of this Journal know anything of the fate of a Manuscript quoted by MacGeoghegan, and entitled "*Discours jour par jour du voyage et exploit que firent Messieurs de Montluc et de Forquevaux au Royaume d'Irlande par commandement du feu Roi Henri en l'année, 1549, selon que le dict. Fourquivaux s'en peut souvenir?*" Leland alludes to this embassy at page 191, vol. 2. **C. M. O'KEEFE.**

Can any of your Liverpool correspondents explain the origin of the name "St. Aidan's," given to a college at Birkenhead? St. Aidan was the name of an early Irish saint. **SENEX.**

What is the origin of "Devis," the name of the highest mountain in the neighbourhood of Belfast? **CURIOSUS.**

## ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

**BONNYCLABBER.**—When the mail-coach plied from Belfast to Dublin (previous to any conveyance by railway) the driver pulled up in the street of a village, which gave one of the outside passengers the opportunity of inquiring the name of the place. An inhabitant, a poor old woman, surprised that any one should be so ignorant as not to know the name of her dear native town, turning her eyes askant towards the top of the coach with a rather quizzical leer, replied:—"Arrah, and are ye pretending ye don't know Balbriggan." So when an inquiry is made regarding the nature and consistence of *Bonny-clabber*, a Gael, who, from his infancy, had been occasionally fed on that beverage, might naturally suppose the inquirer to be only feigning ignorance of a kind of food with which he had had an early and intimate acquaintance. The fact is, nevertheless, that our archæologists seem at a loss to know what is meant by the terms *Bainè-clabber*, and *Bainè-ramar*. I believe *bainè-clabber* is stale or rancid butter-milk; whereas *bainè-ramar* is simply cream, or milk thrown up previous to its being churned. The latter word consists of *bainé*, in Irish signifying milk, and

*ramar*, thick or fat. The apothecary here, to whom I applied for a settlement of this buttermilk difficulty, says:—"Bonnaclabber consists of a white thick curd, called *carau*, which has been disengaged from, and floats on, a serous or watery whey, containing lactic acid." In an anonymous book, entitled *The Irish Hudibras*, published in London in 1689, which I take to have been written by a Mons. Durfry, the word *bonna-clabber* is explained simply as "sour milk." The following lines are from that work, which was printed immediately after the coronation of William and Mary:—

"Art thou alive? see in thy face,  
Is this thy voice I hear? the grace  
Of thy discourse, able to turn  
To *bonnaclabber* a whole churn."

Page 116.

It is reasonable to think the ancient Irish must have understood the manner of preparing milk in a variety of forms: they lived for the greater part of the year in *booles*, or mountain pastures, feeding chiefly on milk, or what were termed *white meats*. In producing curd, they used a portion of the mountain-ash, or rowan-tree, instead of *runnet*: this tree was held by

them in great esteem, and to this day the Irish house-wife is well pleased when in possession of a churn-staff of mountain-ash. So propitious is the tree regarded, that, when their friends are about to cross the Atlantic, their most fervent prayer is "that the Lord and *Rowan-tree* may be with them." It is probably to this *boolying* or pastoral era of our history, that the deposition of the butter so frequently found in our bogs is to be referred.

*Dungannon.*

JOHN BELL.

HOLYWOOD.—[*Queries*, vol. 4, p. 170.]—Ware, in his *Annals*, (*anno*, 1256,) gives the following account of *Johannes De Sacro Bosco* (not *Sancto Bosco*); and the inscription on his tomb differs from the one given by your correspondent, "An Irishman in Paris."—"About this time—to wit, anno 1256, flourished *Johannes De Sacro Bosco*. Bayle, out of Leland, will have him to be a Yorkshire man, and terms him John Holyfaxi. Stanihurst writeth that he was born in Ireland, at *Holy-Wood*, in Fingal, some twelve miles from Dublin, and therefore called *Johannes De Sacro Bosco*, which carries great likelihood with it. His great bearing graced him unto posterity. In his springing years he sucked the sweet milk of good learning in the famous University of Oxford; afterwards he went to Paris, where he professed the learned sciences with singular commendations; and there slumbereth in the dust of the earth, whose exequies and funerals were there with great lamentations solemnised. First he followed Aristotle, afterwards gave himself to the Mathematicks, and addicted himself so much thereto that few since could follow him. Upon his tomb, together with the Mathematical Astrolabe, was insculped as followeth:—

M. Christi bis. C. quarto deno quater anno,  
De Sacro Bosco discrevit tempora ramus,  
Gratia cui nomen dederat divina Johannes."

SENEX.

OLD ABBEYS NEAR BELFAST.—A correspondent, Alpha [vol. 3, p. 84] asks for an enumeration of the old abbeys, &c., in the district surrounding Belfast. I am able to give the following list, extracted from Dr. Hanmer's MS. Collections, in the State Paper Office, London:—

"The Abbays of Clanyboy.

The Gray Abbay, a house of monckes.

Moyrylly, a house of chanons.

The Abbaye of the New-town, a house of Sainct Domynycke's ordre.

The Abbaye of Bangor, a house of chanons.

The Comber, a house of monckes.

Ardneknysse, a house of the order of Saint Francis.

All the fore-named within the Ardes.

The Abbays below Balfershede as followeth:—

The Abbay of Goodborne, beside Cragfergous, a house of chanons.

The Freery, within Cragfergous.

The Abbay of Mookomyre, in Moylynye, a house of chanons.

The house of Mesreeny, East of Logh-neagh, of the order of St. Francis.

The house of Lynnbeegg, of the——order do. Inverlarne, do.

The Abbey of Glenarm, do.

The house of Bonmargie, do.

The Abbay of Kealbeegg, a house of chanons.

The Freery of Cowbrayne."

Some of your readers versed in ecclesiastical antiquities, will be good enough to identify these places with modern localities. H. F. H.

HORSES PLOUGHING BY THE TAIL.—[*Queries*, vol. 3, p. 254.]—There is no doubt that this was at one time actually a common practice in Ireland; but ploughing, in those days, was a very different thing from what it is now. The old plough was a slightly made wooden implement, with a stone plough-share, and only calculated to scratch the surface of the ground, which most probably had been previously broken up with spades. I rather think that the practice, if not nearly confined to Ulster, was more common there than in the other provinces.

OLLAMH FODHLA.

ANCIENT WATER-MILLS.—[*Queries*, vol. 3, p. 83.]—The earliest notice of a water-mill in Ulster, that I have met with, is in the *post-mortem* Inquisition on the death of William de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, A.D. 1333:—"Item fuit ibidem quoddam molendinum aquaticum, cujus proficium tolneti valuit per annum 6s. 8d." SENEX.

STANAGOMAR [Queries, vol. 3, p. 254.]—This ought, in my opinion, to be *Stanagowar*. The latter part of the word is probably *gobhar*, the Irish name of the shad-fish; and we know that *sta* is often a provincial form of *teach*, a house, (as in Stackallen, in the county Meath, for Teach-Callan the house of Callan. *O'Donovan*.) *Stanagowar*, might therefore be “house of the shad-fish,” a poetical or figurative name given by fishermen to this spot in the sea at the mouth of Belfast Lough. A. A.

The unanswered query in vol. 2, p. 71, respecting a coin found near Donaghadee with the name of that town upon it, is most probably of very easy solution. It would appear to have been a tradesman's token of Donaghadee: and as I believe none are known of that place, should the finder still have it in his possession, it is deserving of preservation. By submitting it to any person in the slightest degree acquainted with coins, the correctness or otherwise of my conjecture will be at once ascertained. G. B.