

PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on
Wednesday, March 19th (by adjournment from the 5th), 1856,

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF LEIGHLIN in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

The Right Hon. Lord de Freyne, French Park, Roscommon :
proposed by the Rev. Philip Moore, R.C.C.

Henry Steele, Esq., J.P. (D.L., J.P., of Dorset), Killinane
House, Bagnalstown : proposed by the Very Rev. the Dean of
Leighlin.

Henry J. Monck Mason, Esq., Dargle, Enniskerry, county of
Wicklow : proposed by Peter Connellan, Esq.

Mrs. Colonel Johnson, Ballyragget Lodge, Ballyragget : pro-
posed by Mr. W. J. Douglas.

Sir John Benson, Knight, Montenotte, Cork ; and William
C. Burgess, Esq., C.E., Shannon Foundry, Limerick : proposed by
R. R. Brash, Esq.

The Rev. Duncan M'Callum, Manse, Arisaig, Fort William,
Scotland ; Captain William Charles Bonaparte Wyse, Royal Water-
ford Artillery ; Robert Fitzgerald, Esq., Dunoboy, Killee ; and the
Rev. Bartholomew Hester, P.P., Mount Prospect, Boyle : proposed
by Richard Hitchcock, Esq.

Solomon Richards, Esq., Ounavarra, Courtown Harbour, Gorey ;
and Richard Boyse Osborne, Esq., C.E., Philadelphia, U.S. : pro-
posed by the Rev. James Graves.

John Lighe, Esq., Ballymote : proposed by the Rev. Constan-
tine Cosgrave, P.P.

The Rev. Perceval Banks Weldon, Tallow, county of Water-
ford : proposed by the Rev. A. T. Burroughs.

Acheson Thomson, Esq., J.P., Annaverna, Ravensdale, Flurry-
bridge ; and the Rev. R. Dawson Welsh, Clermont Cottage, Ra-
vensdale, Flurrybridge : proposed by the Rev. G. H. Reade.

J. Cleland, Esq., Downpatrick : proposed by J. W. Hanna, Esq.

Thomas O'Gorman, Esq., Inspector of Loan Funds, 17, Heytesbury-street, Dublin: proposed by Dr. R. R. Madden.

R. Scott Thomson, Esq., M. D.; and Mrs. Rae Thomson, Clifden Lodge, Kensington Park, Notting-hill, London: proposed by William Sim, Esq.

The Rev. A. R. Cliffe, Mallow; the Rev. W. Neligan, LL. D., Sunday's Well, Cork; and the Rev. Louis Perrin, See House, Cork: proposed by W. Gillespie, Esq.

William Crabbe, Esq., East Wansford, Exeter: proposed by S. S. Searancke, Esq.

Thomas Chandlee, Esq., Gaulsmills, Ferrybank, Waterford: proposed by H. T. Humphreys, Esq.

William Millan, Esq., Nelson-street, Belfast: proposed by James Carruthers, Esq.

Richard Jones, Esq., New Ross: proposed by Henry Baschet, Esq.

Michael Prendergast, Esq., 3, Baron Strand-street, Waterford: proposed by John G. Davis, Esq.

Mr. James G. Robertson, one of the Auditors appointed at the Annual General Meeting, then laid before the Meeting the Accounts of the Treasurer for the years 1854 and 1855, as under:—

CHARGE.

1854.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 1.	To Balance from last year's Account (see vol. iii. p.6),	88	16	3½
Dec. 31.	„ Subscriptions for 1849, received this year, . .	0	10	0
„	do. for 1850, do. do. . .	0	15	0
„	do. for 1851, do. do. . .	0	15	0
„	do. for 1852, do. do. . .	3	7	0
„	do. for 1853, do. do. . .	15	19	0
„	do. for 1854, do. do. . .	61	1	6
„	do. for "Annual," do. . .	16	10	0
„	„ Cash advanced by Treasurer, do. . .	13	3	8½
		<hr/>		
		£200	17	6

DISCHARGE.

1854.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	By Postages of the "Transactions," circulars, and general correspondence,	17	1	9
„	„ Cost of illustrations of "Transactions" for 1851,	9	16	10
„	do. do. do. 1852,	31	18	0
„	do. do. do. 1853,	14	8	2
„	do. do. do. 1854,	4	0	0
„	„ Printing, binding, and paper of "Transactions" for 1852,	71	19	6
„	„ One year's rent of the Museum,	15	0	0
		<hr/>		
<i>Carried forward,</i>		£164	4	3

1854.		£	s.	d.
	<i>Brought forward,</i>	164	4	3
Dec. 31.	By Fuel,	1	4	0
	„ Messengers,	1	1	0
	„ General printing and stationery,	13	14	6
	„ Commission to agents,	2	19	6
	„ Carriage of parcels,	3	12	4
	„ Sundries, viz.—			
	By purchase of early parts of “Transactions,”	£1	9	0
	„ Fittings for Museum,	1	6	7
	„ Purchase of 3 copies of second and third parts of the “Ancient Crosses of Ireland,”	4	10	0
	„ Purchase of antiquities, &c.	1	17	0
	„ Cost of transcribing documents at the State Paper Office and British Museum,	2	13	4
	„ Cost of stamp and bond to make “Trans- actions” a newspaper,	2	1	0
	„ Petty cash	0	5	0
			14	1 11
		<hr/>		
		£200	17	6

We have examined this Account, and find that the sum of £13 3s. 8½d. has been advanced by the Treasurer.

JAMES G. ROBERTSON, }
JOHN F. SHEARMAN, } Auditors.

CHARGE.

1855.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	To Subscriptions for 1849, received this year,	1	5	0
	„ do. for 1850, do. do.	1	11	0
	„ do. for 1851, do. do.	1	6	0
	„ do. for 1852, do. do.	13	4	6
	„ do. for 1853, do. do.	19	12	0
	„ do. for 1854, do. do.	63	2	6
	„ do. for 1855, do. do.	160	12	0
	„ Cash received for advertisements, do.	3	6	0
	„ do. by donations, do.	68	2	0
			£332	1 0

DISCHARGE.

1855.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 1.	By Cash advanced by Treasurer, as per last Account,	13	3	8½
Dec. 31.	„ Postages of “Transactions” and general corre- spondence,	20	2	10
	„ Cost of illustrations for “Transactions” for 1853,	1	10	0
	„ do. do. do. for 1854,	18	5	0
	„ do. do. do. for 1855,	13	19	6
	„ do. do. do. for 1856,	2	10	0
			<hr/>	
	<i>Carried forward,</i>	£69	11	0½

1855.		£	s.	d.
	<i>Brought forward,</i>	69	11	0½
Dec. 31.	By Printing, indexing, paper, and binding "Transactions" for 1853, as per Mr. O'Daly's bill,	95	14	8
	„ Printing, paper, and binding "Transactions" for 1854, as per Mr. Gill's bill,	95	19	7
	„ Commission to agents, as per bills of Messrs. O'Daly and Bell,	7	11	4
	„ One year's rent of Museum,	15	0	0
	„ Carriage of parcels,	1	9	4
	„ Messengers,	0	6	6
	„ General printing and stationery,	12	7	2
	„ Sundries, viz.—			
	By advertisements,	£3	6	0
	„ Purchase of early numbers of "Transactions,"	2	5	0
	„ Fittings for Museum,	3	17	10½
	„ Rent, and salary of caretaker, Jerpoint Abbey,	3	0	0
	„ Purchase of antiquities,	1	16	0
	„ Petty cash,	3	5	9
			17	10
	„ Balance in Treasurer's hands,	16	10	9
			£332	1
				0

We have examined this Account, and find that there is a balance of £16 10s. 9d. in the hands of the Treasurer.

JAMES G. ROBERTSON, }
JOHN F. SHEARMAN, } Auditors.

The Honorary Secretary announced that with this year the first volume of a new series of the Society's "Transactions" had been commenced, thus affording an excellent opportunity for the accession of new Members wishing to have complete sets of the publications. For the convenience of original Members, a separate title-page would be given at the conclusion of each volume, enabling them to continue their sets without any break.

Mr. Graves reported that, in reply to a letter which he had forwarded to Prince Albert, inclosing the rules and statistics of the Society, and requesting the honour of his Royal Highness' patronage as a Member, he had received a communication from the Prince's Private Secretary, stating his regret that it was contrary to the rules laid down by his Royal Highness for his guidance in similar matters to join any but metropolitan societies; but "that he had much pleasure in sending a donation of £25 towards the publication of the Reports of the Society."

The Rev. Dr. Browne, Kilkenny College, said it was highly gratifying and creditable to the Society to find Prince Albert giving such substantial proof of his interest in their proceedings. He would

move that the thanks of the body be presented to his Royal Highness, and that the Honorary Secretaries be instructed to present to him a set of the Society's "Transactions."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Robertson, and passed unanimously.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors:—

By the Author, the Rev. Robert King, A. B.: "A Memoir introductory to the Early History of the Primacy of Armagh."

By Samson Carter, Esq., C. E., M. R. I. A.: "Epitaphs on the Tombs in the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by Dr. Peter Shee.

By the Society: "Transactions of the Ossianic Society," Vol. II. — "The Festivities at the House of Conan of Ceann-Sleibhe."

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their "Journal," No. 48.

By the Cambrian Institute: "The Cambrian Journal," part 8.

By the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society: their "Proceedings," 1849–54.

By the Society: "Transactions of the Philological Society," 1854–5.

By the Author, Chas. Newport Bolton, Esq., A. B.: "Sketches at Killarney and Glengariff;" also plates of "Dunamase," Queen's County, and "Dunmore East Pier."

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 674 to 684, inclusive.

By the Editor, John J. Lyons, Esq.: "The Irish Reporter," Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

By Mr. R. Cassin: original docket of the Freedom of the City of Kilkenny, granted to William Evans Morris, Esq., dated July 9, 1730.

By J. Huband Smith, Esq., Barrister-at-Law: an old Map of a portion of Kilkenny, showing a proposed new road to Cork, never carried out.

By Samson Carter, Esq., C. E., M. R. I. A.: an original sketch of Kilcolman Castle, the residence of the poet Spenser, drawn upwards of twenty-three years ago, since which period much of that interesting ruin has disappeared.

By the Rev. George H. Reade: a drawing of a small plain bronze box, with hinge, cover wanting, about an inch and a half in diameter, and somewhat more than half an inch in height; supposed to have been a pyx. Also, drawings and a rubbing from the ancient inscribed stone at Kilnasaggart, or Jonesboro', near Moyra Castle, between Newry and Dundalk.

By Richard Kelly, Esq., Ballysalla: an ancient oak chair, traditionally said to have been a portion of the ancient furniture of the house in Coal-market (now occupied by Mr. Langton, baker);

where, in 1641, the Confederate Catholics held their first assembly, hence commonly called "the Parliament House of Kilkenny." Ledwich states the fact that, in the beginning of the present century, whilst the house was tenanted by the late Mr. Richard Tresham, apothecary, the ancient table and some of the benches used by the Confederates were still to be seen there. The following letter from Mr. Kelly accompanied the presentation :—

" *Ballysalla, Feb. 29, 1856.*

" DEAR SIR,—Mr. Prim having requested me to send you in a chair, which was taken, with several others, out of an old oak-floored and ceiled room, in the ancient Parliament House in Kilkenny, I beg to forward it to you. It, with four others, was given to a relative of mine by Mr. Richard Tresham, together with an old oak table. One of the four chairs which I had, but which I am afraid is broken up, was an arm-chair, and called 'the Speaker's Chair;' it was made of oak, and carved with flowers and leaves: the table, which is gone too, was similarly ornamented. The material and figure of the chair which I send will speak for themselves; and I remember, when a boy, that they were always spoken of as 'the Parliament chairs.'

" Yours truly,

" RICHARD KELLY.

" *The Rev. James Graves.*"

The chair presented by Mr. Kelly was of simple but ancient construction, consisting of four pieces of oak, ingeniously put together.

Mr. Prim said that Mr. Kelly had kindly promised to endeavour to recover for the Society the fragments of the carved arm-chair to which he alluded in his letter.

Mr. E. Fitzgerald, Architect, Youghal, sent the following communication to the Society, the facts stated in which excited the "special wonder" of the Meeting; and there was a general expression of indignation at the bad taste which could dictate such doings :—

"Knowing that Cloyne Cathedral was at present under the process of partial restoration, with feelings of pride and expectation it was visited a few days ago. New stone mullioned windows of good execution had been inserted into the choir, and a small portion of the galleries which still block out the light and impede the proper ventilation of this part of the church has been taken away, but yet much still remains to be done in removing Palladian excrescences from its interior, always so much out of keeping when allowed into Gothic buildings. From all appearances the west end is of the Transition period, dating towards the close of the twelfth century; yet here the restorers have made a most laboured and successful attempt at placing it before future visitors in the 'Brummagem' fashion of the nineteenth century—that is, as far as stucco and cement could do it, for the whole has been completely cemented over, cut stone, mouldings, foliated

capitals, and all! Even the sculptured human heads which formed the terminations of the hood-mouldings over the great entrance door, were knocked away, and replaced with a pair of bearded casts seemingly made from one mould. Alas for our mediæval remains, if our national monuments are to be thus masked and mutilated! The destruction of one such sculptured human head, even, is a serious loss, since it is now well known that most of these sculptures were portraits of the celebrities of the time, founders and donors having been usually thus honoured; indeed, in themselves such relics would form a most interesting study, as it is not unusual to find among them the cowed, coroneted, and helmeted heads of the periods in which the buildings were constructed."

Mr. Henry Baschet, Waterford, communicated the discovery of an ancient sculptured stone, bearing the Fitzgerald arms, which had belonged to the old Dominican Friary, on the site of which his premises are situated. The stone bore the date 1649, in which year Mr. Baschet remarked that a Geraldine was Sheriff of Waterford.

Captain Edward Hoare, North Cork Rifles, sent the following communication:—

"During the summer and autumn of last year (1855) I was quartered with my regiment, the North Cork Rifles, at the Curragh camp of Kildare. Occasionally, with some of the officers there stationed, I took long walks into the country around, and one of our most favourite walks was by the Athgarvan and Castlemartin road to Kilcullen, returning to the camp by the road to Martinstown, and by Ballysax Church. Kilcullen is a small country town, a poor place, and much fallen into disuse, since the days of mail-coaches and post-chaises have passed away, it having been formerly a general rendezvous for changing horses. During the Irish rebellion of 1798, the neighbourhood of Kilcullen was one of the strongholds of the rebels; and the spots of their encampments, and of several of their skirmishes and battles with the royal troops, are still pointed out by some of the older residents. About a mile from Kilcullen, in a south-westerly direction, is Old Kilcullen, but of which only a house or two now remains. On the top of the hill is the old churchyard of Kilcullen, in the centre of which are the remains and base of a fine ancient round pillar tower, about 25 or 30 feet in height. In the churchyard there are the remnants of several stone crosses. One is a plain cross of granite stone, the arms gone, about 7 feet in height, and evidently of the same kind, material, and age as the stone cross in Kildare churchyard. There are in various parts of the churchyard remnants of other fine stone crosses; they are now used as grave and head-stones: one is a very beautiful engraved cross, a portion, about 4 feet high, as it appears now over ground, and of a species of marble very different from the others, and very like those magnificent ones at Monasterboice; it stands not far from the Round Tower, to the north-west about 20 feet, and not very far from it is the granite pedestal of another cross, both now used as gravestones. I endeavoured to trace the figures of the engraved cross, and I think they will be found as I have here described them:—On the south side of the cross, as it now stands, are the

figures of the Twelve Apostles, in three compartments, four figures in each; on the east side, in the upper or the first compartment, is seen the figure of a bishop, with his book, bell, and crozier; he holds in his right hand a suspended axe over a prostrate and fallen foe; in the second compartment are the remaining figures of what appears to have been a very beautiful flowery cross; in the third compartment, part of the figure of some animal can be discerned, but the other figures are nearly obliterated, and impossible to be now clearly made out. On the north side is seen, in the first compartment, a man riding on a horse; he holds in his right hand some indistinct object; a figure of a small animal is seen over the back part of the horse: in the second compartment appears a man with a club in his right hand; before him, and evidently in terror departing from him, is the figure of a lion rampant, which he holds by the back of the head with his left hand: the third compartment on the north side is altogether obliterated. The figures on the west side are quite indistinct, being nearly defaced from the action of the weather, but I think they have been magnificent flowery and interlaced crosses. No doubt, a large portion of the cross lies buried in the ground, which it would be well worth the trouble and labour to bring once more to light, and I think it would be indeed desirable that tracings and drawings should be taken for your Society of this interesting relic of former days.

“Let me therefore express a hope that this little notice, through the Kilkenny Archæological Society, may be the means of rescuing from oblivion, or perhaps destruction, another of those curious, beautiful, and unrivalled relics of the distant and bygone days of Ireland.”

Mr. E. Fitzgerald communicated an account of a primitive hand-mill, lately found near Youghal, as follows:—

“As an addendum to Mr. MacAdam’s elaborate article on Ancient Water-mills, in the last ‘Ulster Journal of Archæology,’ I send you the following notice of a quern, or Irish hand-mill, which was lately discovered at Ahavine, about six miles from Youghal, it being one of a class, an example of which I have neither seen nor heard of before. It consists of two stones: the principal or under one is 1 foot 6 inches long, 11 inches at one end, which is square, and gradually rounds off to the other end to about 3 inches, forming into a kind of truncated *oval* shape. It is regularly hollowed out lengthwise, and sunk in the centre to 4 inches in depth; it is quite flat on its under side, and so cut in a slanting way, that, when laid on the ground, the narrow end rises about 4 inches above the larger. The upper stone is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by 7 inches broad, and about 5 in depth; laid into the lower stone across or at right angles, it exactly fits to the curve; the upper side is somewhat rounded off, and just suited to the grasp of the hand whilst grinding: both stones are of the hard, red grindstone grit. Contrary to the fashion of all other mills which are worked by a rotatory or circular movement, this must have been worked with a longitudinal or lengthwise motion, which peculiarity speaks much for its primæval origin, as if it preceded the improved or circular movement. Another difference between this quern and those commonly known and found in Ireland is, that the lower stone of the latter is always convexed, and the upper concaved to fit on it, whilst the reverse is the case with both

upper and lower in the present instance. Both stones were discovered in cutting a large drain at about 8 or 10 feet under the surface, in a yellow clay soil; the large one was discovered first, and, when found, was thought to have been a sharpening-stone, from its size and hollowed appearance; but very soon after, the second being found close to where the first was got, and this having a reverse, or rounded face, which exactly fitted the curve of the other when applied to it, coupled with the fact of its not being at all suited for sharpening purposes from its great hardness, yet nicely adapted for grinding, at once pointed to its use, leaving little doubt but this was the purpose for which both were originally used.

“Mr. Hall, the owner of this primæval mill, and on whose land it was found, says that he ground wheat with it, by way of experiment, well, but of course in a slow manner.

“My friend, Mr. Hackett, says, that when he visited the coast of Africa in 1823, he found the Moors at Tangiers grinding their corn with hand-mills exactly similar to the one here described, and though the circular mill-stones were manufactured from ancient times to the present at Cape Spartel, some ten miles distant, for the whole of the Mediterranean traffic, yet, like the Chinese, the Moors still adhered to this primitive practice.”

The following communication from John O'Donovan, Esq., LL.D., relative to Mr. O'Neill's observations on Dr. Petrie's version of the inscriptions on the Cross of Cong, read at the November Meeting of 1855 (see vol. iii. p. 417, first series), was then submitted to the Meeting. Dr. O'Donovan's paper was illustrated by rubbings taken from the cross itself:—

“The paper on the inscriptions on the Cross of Cong, which Mr. O'Neill has criticised, was (as we all know) hurriedly written, in a popular style, by Dr. Petrie, at the request of the Council of the Royal Irish Academy, on the occasion of a visit of the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Clarendon, to one of their meetings. The paper was intended to direct his Excellency's attention to the value of the archæological and antiquarian pursuits then recently, through Dr. Petrie's exertions, taken up by the Academy; and I am glad to be able to inform you that it has had the intended effect.

“Considering the very short time that Dr. Petrie was allowed by the Council to produce this paper, he has, in my opinion, deciphered the inscriptions with remarkable accuracy, not having mistaken the meaning in any one instance. After reading Mr. O'Neill's critique with due consideration, and pausing again and again to weigh in my mind the exact nature of it,—though I wish Mr. O'Neill every success in his national undertaking,—I deem it my duty to submit to you the following observations, which I should like to see in your ‘Transactions,’ if you think them worthy of notice.

“The two artists seem to agree¹ on the Latin inscription, which, as appears by the rubbings, is twice repeated. The first has *pahus* for

¹ Mr. O'Neill, in a second edition of his paper, printed by Mr. John O'Daly, Anglesea-street, Dublin, at page 3, destroys the illusion under which the above words were

written. He there accuses the Editors of having “suppressed,” without his knowledge, the following paragraph:—“6th. He [Dr. Petrie] has omitted to mention the differences

PASSUS. The engraver either forgot to finish the ꝥ, or formed the single p incorrectly. He has but one p in the second inscription, which shows that he was a rude Latin scholar, or, perhaps, not a scholar at all.

“In the second inscription they do not seem to agree. Mr. O’Neill says:—‘Dr. Petrie makes OR̄ into OROIT.’ Indeed, so he ought; for Dr. Petrie was not giving a fac-simile of this inscription, but a reading of it, lengthening out the contractions according to analogy and authority; and he had various authorities to prove that the OR̄ in Irish inscriptions is an abbreviation for OROIT. He might have made it ORCIT, ORCIO, or even ORCIOIO, but he selected the most usual full form of the word. What does Mr. O’Neill mean by making this objection? The contracted word is properly lengthened out. What more does he want from one who was giving the *reading*, not the *fac-simile*, of an inscription?”

“Mr. O’Neill next observes that Dr. Petrie puts an l between the U and the R in the proper name MUR̄OUCH; and so did Lhuyd and Dr. O’Brien, and so, in my opinion, would the engraver also have done, if he were an adept in Irish orthography. I acknowledge, however, that the l should not have been inserted; but I ask this one question, can Mr. O’Neill make a similar objection to any inscription of which Dr. Petrie professes to give a *fac-simile*? I defy him to do so; for I have tested Dr. Petrie’s accuracy in copying inscriptions in every part of Ireland, and found him to be most scrupulously accurate.

“The next objection to Dr. Petrie’s reading made by Mr. O’Neill is that he has lengthened out the name Toirdhealbhach, now Turlough or Terence. The name is fancifully written THERROĒL in the original inscription in question; but Dr. Petrie gave the true spelling in reading it (in the hurry of the moment). But what does Mr. O’Neill mean by objecting that he has added BACH to it? Dr. Petrie was giving a reading, not a fac-simile, of the inscription, and, knowing the proper termination, he wrote it out *in full*. Of course, when he wrote the name in full, he was right in not giving the horizontal lines which mark the abbreviations.

“Of the word CONCHŌ Mr. O’Neill says that Dr. Petrie has added BHAR to it. Pray, what else ought he to have added? The *rectus casus* of the name is variously written CONCHABHAR, CONCHUBAR, or CONCHOBAR. Dr. Petrie should have written CONCHOBUIR, to agree with the original inscription.

“This inscription was printed in the year 1845 in my ‘Irish Grammar,’ page 234, from the original copy of it made by Dr. Petrie many years ago, as follows. It will show that he had correctly read this part of the inscriptions before the Cross of Cong was removed to Dublin.

OROIT DO THERROĒLBACH U CHONCHOBUIR DO
RIȚ ERENŌ LAS A NŌERRNĀŌ IN ĴRESSA.

in the spelling of the sixth words in the Latin sentences.” This statement is not warranted by the fact—the passage “suppressed” by the Editors being as follows:—“6th. He has omitted to mention that the Latin sentence occurs twice;” and this “suppression” was perpetrated from a feeling of kindness for Mr. O’Neill, as the Editors were well aware

that Dr. Petrie *could not* be charged with the omission in question.—See “Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy,” vol. iv. page 577.—Eds.

¹ According to the rule of Broad with a broad, he might have made this termination BHAR, BHOR or BHUR; but he added the most usual termination of the gen. sing.

“The abbreviated words ~~OR PRO ANIBUS~~ are found on tombstones of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and I have frequently written them out, ORATE PRO ANIMABUS, omitting the horizontal lines. In doing this I have no dread of *enlightened criticism*. And, to tell you the truth, I have no regard for any unenlightened attempt at criticism, either now or at any future period.

“I have looked at and studied the next inscription with great attention; and I have no hesitation in giving my opinion, that the true *reading* is as follows:—

Oratio pro Domnallo filio Flannacani Ui Dubthaigh Episcopo
 OROIT DO DOMNULL mac FLANNACAN U DUBDAIGH EPISUP
 Connactiæ pro successore Commani et Ciarani
 CONNACHT DO CHOMARBA CHOMMAN ACUS CHIARAN
 apud quem factum est 70 opus hoc.
 ICA NERRNAD IN GRESSA

[NÖERRNAD, “D” omitted by the engraver.]

There was no such family surname as O'DUBHDENIC. The ENIC is positively EPIS! and the UP is then easily accounted for. But where does Mr. O'Neill leave 'UP CONNACHT'? Donnell O'Duffy was Bishop of Connacht, and successor of Ciaran, and he died in 1136.

“Dr. Petrie is here again accused of having changed ~~OR~~ into OROIT, ~~MC~~ into MAC, DUBDENIC into DUBTHAIGH, and UP into EPS-COP!! It was much more rational to change EPISUP into EPSCOP, than to manufacture, out of the abbreviated form of U DUBDAIGH—a real historical name, and the abbreviated form of his dignity—a surname which never had any existence, except in the fanciful mind of Mr. O'Neill.

“In the next inscription Dr. Petrie is again accused of having changed ~~OR~~ into OROIT, and ~~MC~~ into MAC!! O'h-Echain was Comharba of St. Finnen of Clooneraff, in the county of Roscommon.

“Mr. O'Neill finally sums up Dr. Petrie's errors thus:—

“‘1st. Throughout the inscriptions, Dr. Petrie has introduced spaces between the words, and stops also, for which there is no authority in the originals.’

“To this most erudite piece of criticism I reply, that Dr. Petrie was not giving a fac-simile of the originals, but readings and translations, in which, of course, he used the spaces and stops of modern printers. He is next charged with having ‘added *thirty letters* which are not, nor ever could have been, in the originals.’

“Now, does it not follow as a matter of consequence (in the logical sense of the word) that if Dr. Petrie has lengthened out abbreviated words, he must have introduced letters which were not, and could not, have been in the originals? If I write out in full, dispensing with contractions, the words L. CÆSARE & C. FIGULO COSS., must I not necessarily increase the number of letters?—LUCIO CÆSARE ET CAIO FIGULO CONSULIBUS, increasing the twenty letters of these abbreviated words to thirty-four letters.

“ In the last item Dr. Petrie is accused of having omitted all the horizontal lines !! This is worse than puerile ! When he lengthened out the contractions he was of course obliged to omit the horizontal lines. What will Mr. O'Neill say to me, who have omitted more than one hundred thousand horizontal lines in my edition of the 'Four Masters,' and changed $\overline{M}C$ into $M\overline{A}C$ and $M\overline{I}C$ in more than ten thousand instances, and changed $\tau\overline{h}$ into $\tau\overline{h}\alpha\overline{i}\overline{\delta}$, and $CONC\overline{O}$ into $CONCO\overline{O}DR$ and $CONCHO\overline{O}AIR$ in more than two thousand places ? If any one should ask me why I did so, I would simply reply, 'Because I fancy I knew what I was doing ; your question is anile !'

“ Criticisms of this description are truly disgraceful to enlightened scholars, and sincere inquirers after truth. What is really wanting in Dr. Petrie's paper are faithful fac-similes of the ornaments and inscriptions, and I confidently assert that there is not a man now living, or has ever lived in Ireland, better qualified to make these fac-similes than Dr. Petrie himself ; for he is the first in Ireland who made these ornaments and inscriptions his particular study, and the first in Great Britain who read the latter with perfect certainty. He is, in fact, the Mabillon of Irish history and inscriptions, and the father of true Irish antiquarian research ; and it is, therefore, very ungenerous in any of us, his pupils, followers, and inferiors, to write a single word to detract from his honours.

“ Mr. O'Neill, in illustrating the Ancient Crosses of Ireland, is, I am glad to see, now doing very good and creditable work ; but he and I, and the other antiquaries of the royal lines of Heber and Heremon, should remember the old proverb, '*Never dirty the fountain from which thou hast drunk ;*' and we should also keep constantly before our eyes the following instructive lines of the Roman satirist:—

“ “ —————Molle atque facetum

Virgilio annuerunt gaudentes rure Camenæ.

Hoc erat, experto frustra Varrone Atacino,

Atque quibusdam aliis, melius quod scribere possem,

Inventore minor : neque ego illi detraxere ausim,

Hærentem capiti multâ cum laude coronam.'

HOR. SAT. lib. i. 10.

Mr. E. Fitzgerald forwarded the following “Jottings in Archaeology,” which he promises to continue on some future occasion:—

“ That quaint old proverb, 'A little chink may let in much light,' is a motto worthy the patronage of all dabblers in archæology. A passing note of an old saying, miracle, tradition, or legend, is worth recording, and may yet lead to important results in future researches. With this view a few random jottings from the county of Waterford are here given.

“ Strange as it may appear, though St. Declan, of the Decies, is pointed to in Irish history as one of our first Christian missionaries, yet the traditions of the district point to an earlier saint as his predecessor, namely, St. Colman. In the old Irish Life of St. Declan it is said that his parents were converted to Christianity by the preaching of Colman, and that he baptized Declan, and prophesied that he would become an eminent man.

In 'Frazer's Magazine' for September, 1845, a writer, referring to the subject, doubts this old record, and says that this could not be, for Colman (of Cloyne) did not commence his mission for a century later. Now, why another Colman may not have existed a century or two earlier in the county of Waterford there is no reason given; the writer evidently making no inquiry into the oral history of the place, nor searching if any relic existed which connected the name with the district; as, on examination, instead of doubting, we have strong evidence to corroborate the old testimony, both in tradition and existing remains, which shows that a St. Colman at a very early period did exist, and flourished in this locality: for we find about three miles north of Ardmore a townland in the 'old parish' called Kill-Colman, and on it *his* sacred tree and holy well; and a fact worth the attention of our Irish hagiologists is, that Declan's labours seem to have been confined to the locality of Ardmore, whilst Colman's were concentrated in the Parostha Shana Pubol, i. e. the old parish of the people, by which name this district is known and always spoken of, and is said to be the oldest parish in Ireland, apparently handing down to us, in the name, a proof of the priority of Colman's mission to that of Declan's,—actually carrying us back into the fourth century.

"Now, that St. Colman's tree should survive to our times is of course a miracle among the peasantry, and, therefore, it is held sacred, inasmuch that its actual indestructibility is commonly asserted, and that, no matter how it may be mutilated or otherwise injured, it immediately recovers itself,—sprouting out fresh as ever. This feeling is so firmly fixed in the minds of the people, that, though the surrounding fields in times of scarcity may be scoured for fuel, and though the vicinity of the tree may be strewn with decayed branches, yet they are left untouched and unsought; no wonder, therefore, to meet it enshrined in story, and among many forms the following Legend of St. Colman's Tree is a favourite one:—

"As St. Colman one day was walking near his old church, he stuck a little dry stick which he carried in his hand into the ground; in a short time it took root and grew into a fine spreading tree, and remains there ever since, a holy tree, to be seen by all, and, no matter what may happen to it, 'tis always the same, never can be destroyed. Now, though this was well known everywhere, yet one day an ignorant countryman should go and break off a great "brusna" to boil his supper with, and had it on his back trudging away home, but, "God betune us and all harm," when he came in sight of his cabin, what should he see but it all in a blaze? In an instant his bundle was on the ground, and away he ran to save his house; but, what do you think?—God bless us! but there it was, and not a *smell* of fire even on it. He now goes back for his bundle, greatly wondering at the sight he was "after seeing,"—and on his way homeward he trudged again; but turning his eyes towards his "ould bohogue" there it was, I be bound, all on fire just as before: down go the sticks, and away he runs a second time to save his house; but when he comes up, there it was, I'll engage, and not a sign of fire about it. Well, the fellow now goes back, cursing to himself he shouldn't be made a fool of any more, and once again was on his way with his bundle on his back; but when he turned his eyes towards the old cabin again, sure enough, there it was all in shooting flames; but this time he was determined not to be made a fool of, so kept

on his way ; but a fool, I can tell you, this time it made of him, for when he came up, there it was lying in ashes,—a just judgment against him.’

“ Tubber-Cholmane, or St. Colman’s well, is near the tree, and is noted for curing pains in the head ; it was much more frequented formerly for performing ‘rounds’ at, but is still used for that purpose. About three miles north of this well, also in the ‘old parish,’ is Tubber-a-Trisnane ; this well is much resorted to by pilgrims for giving rounds at, and is famous for curing stomach and bowel complaints ; it lies about half a mile south of the ruins of the old parish church. At Piltown, some four miles west of Ardmore, is St. Bartholomew’s well ; this well is about two miles from Youghal, across the bay, and is greatly resorted to for ‘giving rounds’ at. It is celebrated for several cures, but especially for sore eyes ; there is a patron held here every 24th of August. When I visited it last, a couple of months ago, a very intelligent young man of the neighbourhood pointed out to me two or three houses some twenty yards from the well, which he said were built on the ground that was formerly taken in by the pilgrims in their circuit of ‘rounds,’ and that to his own knowledge the parties who made the encroachment all dwindled away to nothing,—none of them ever had a day’s luck afterwards. But Tubber-Deglane, at Ardmore, within a few paces of the ruined church on the cliff, i. e. the Teampull Deiscart, or Disirt, as it is usually termed, is the most celebrated well in this province for ‘rounds’ and miraculous cures. Its powers of healing are still frequently put to the test with all sorts of sprains and mutilations of the human body, especially on the patron day here, which is held on the 24th of July. There are also said to be three holy wells on the strand at Ardmore, which were formed by a miracle of St. Declan’s, but these cannot be seen except at extreme low tides, and at low water mark ; they are noted for curing inward complaints in those who are fortunate enough to get a glimpse of them at the propitious moment. At each of the wells mentioned here, except those on the strand, the visitor will find numerous coloured objects tied to the trees and briers in their neighbourhood. At my visit to St. Bartholomew’s well, the fine old venerable thorns which overshadowed it bore a most motley appearance, actually crowded with old red, blue, and green ribbons and rags, as if torn from the dresses of the pilgrims, and tied up as a finale to their ‘rounds’ and prayers. An old crone engaged in giving her ‘rounds’ told me they were tied up by each to leave all the sickness of the year behind them. Now, such matters as these are well worth our attention. A short time since, in a letter from William Hackett, Esq., of Midleton, who has given much of his learned attention to our early mythology, he says :—‘ In this part of Ireland almost all the churches had a holy well near them,—in some instances close to them. All our holy wells were originally sites of idolatry, and, as such, attendance at them has been of late, universally discountenanced by the clergy of all denominations. I stand at a holy well, and see an old woman attaching a rag to the branch of a tree. I know that an Indian rajah who had presented the image of a cow, as large as life, all of solid gold, to a temple, completed his devotion by the same rite of tying a rag to a tree. I read of a Brazilian Indian doing the same, 1200 miles west of the Atlantic. The same is done at this day by the Arabs on Mount Hor, at the tomb of Aaron. Rich mentions a holy well either at Babylon or Nineveh ; there was no tree, but nails were in the

walls covered with these rags, not given as votive offerings, but in a sense identical with that of the old woman here in Ireland. In this lowly and inexplicable rite I fancy I see a vestige of the early patriarchal religion—the first universal worship in the world. Any arbitrary practices common to all Pagan religions must have had a common origin, and the common origin of which all Paganisms were corruptions was the patriarchal religion. But although wells must have been in Oriental regions appendages of patriarchal worship, the veneration for them and the rituals observed at them have come down to us through a medium loaded with Paganism. Therefore I say, these Irish holy wells were fanes of idolatry.’

“In a paper read last November at the annual meeting of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, by Mr. W. T. Henwood, late Chief Mineral Surveyor, H. E. I. C., in the north-west provinces of India, he shows clearly that the Pagans of Upper India *still* use in their worship logan-stones, tolmens, rock-basins, cromleacs; and, on the subject of holy wells, says:—‘Even to the present day numerous small rags may be found fluttering on the shrubs near Madron well in the early part of May, votive offerings from parents, who still bathe their weakly children in the spring. In many passes of the Himalayan range there are trees on which hundreds of similar tokens are displayed, with what object I have not learned.’ This is a most pleasing and practical corroboration of Mr. Hackett’s views and researches.

“At Ardmore we have a celebrated sacred stone still in great repute, i. e. the Cloch-Nave-Deglane [Cloch naoimh Deaglain]. It is lying among the rocks on the strand, and is the centre of great attraction on St. Declan’s patron day; the pilgrims, after their ‘rounds’ at it, as part of the rituals, are obliged to squeeze themselves under it three times. This stone is noted for several cures, but especially for pains in the back (but it is believed, no one with anything on them either borrowed or stolen can ever get themselves safe through from under it). I have several times seen this operation performed, both by males and females, though with much difficulty, as the stone lies on low sharp rocks, and pretty close to the ground.

“Another famous stone is also at Ardmore, but latterly is little known, as it has been buried this some time in a garden in front of Mr. Bagg’s cottage. This stone must be classed among those connected with the sports and pastimes of days gone by, though I have not seen any resemblance to the ceremonies connected with it among Strutt’s descriptions; it is called the Cloch-Daha, i. e. the stone of Daghda, King of the Tuatha De Dananns (there is a monument at Ballymote, county of Sligo, called Bod-an-Daghda). This relic lay on the road-side, nearly opposite the present new church; it is a stone of about 2 feet long by 18 inches in breadth, and 18 inches in depth, and is hollowed into an oval trough-like shape,—probably an old Pagan ‘rock-basin,’ and may be the Cloch-Deaglain mentioned in the saint’s Life, which bore the impression of his infant head. There is a hole in its centre, in which, on Ash Wednesday, the sporting bachelors of the village stuck a wattle with a quantity of tow tied to its top; they then scoured the village and vicinity, and brought with them all the old maidens they could muster, and made them dance round the Cloch-Daha, holding the pendent tow, and spinning it whilst dancing; they then terminated their amusements by dragging them

through the village seated on old logs of wood. Our old 'shannahie' says that 'all the sports and old Irish usages were put down ever since the crappies of '98.'

"By the way, the readers of the Society's 'Proceedings' are already aware that the Ogham monument discovered in the east end of St. Declan's Oratory has been taken down, and a common brown stone substituted in its place; this, no doubt, will contribute wonderfully to mystify and puzzle future visitors to that locality, who will be led to look for it in its original position from seeing the account of it given in the 'Transactions' (vol. iii. page 227, first series), especially as it had been hinted in certain circles in Dublin that it was a *forgery*! But, in all honour to the common cause, and to set matters right for the future before the archæological public, the perpetrators of this transfer should place, in a conspicuous position in the building, a record of the transaction engraven on stone.

"Alas for the poetry of antiquity, which the hoary appearance of this antique little structure was so long and so well calculated to call forth! A spruce new roof and fresh-pointed walls have now completely altered the character of St. Declan's Oratory into a common-place looking modern building. Many years will elapse before

" 'Time's effacing fingers,
Where the power of beauty lingers,'—

will once again fling her charms of mellowing lichens and silver mosses over this primitive relic of early Christianity. But certain well-known archæological works on the Rock of Cashel, &c. &c. disarm further comment.

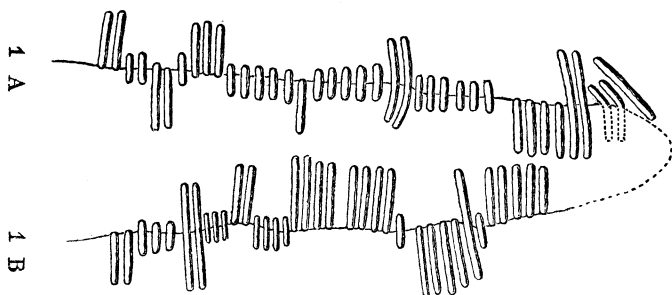
"However, one object gained by the removal is the discovery of a third inscription on one of the concealed angles of the stone; and as the great object of examination is now attained, it is to be hoped, the greatest stretch of centralization will not induce a future attempt to remove this remarkable relic farther from the site where discovered.

"Strange to say, when the discovery of this Ogham was first made known, insinuations were thrown out that it was a forgery got up by me. And, now that another inscription has been found on its inner angle, I am credibly informed that it is actually pronounced an 'old discovery'! No doubt, here has been made a hit, for truly I have a strong suspicion myself that *it is* an 'old discovery,' aye, as early as the times of St. Declan, very probably made by the builders of the oratory, who found it, no doubt, on some Pagan tumulus or other in the neighbourhood, possibly on the heights of Ardo.

"As already announced in the November 'Transactions,' another pillar-stone inscribed in Ogham has been found in this locality. Michael Tierney—an intelligent tradesman, who was engaged in clearing round the edges of the oratory Ogham, in order that Mr. Chearnley and Archdeacon Cotton might take rubbings from it, after its discovery had been first made public—seeing the interest taken in the matter, was led to make a close search through the old churchyard, where he found it lying on a low wall at the side of a grave. Both Oghams are now deposited in a very suitable place for inspection.

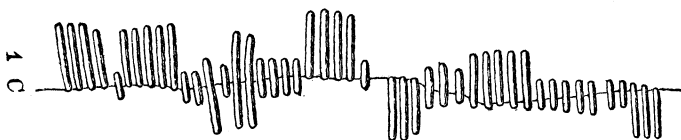
¹ See vol. iii. pp. 419–20, first series.

"The decipherment of the inscriptions given below, according to the ordinary Ogham scale, is by Mr. Windele. Between the present reading of the oratory Ogham, and that given in the 'Transactions,' vol. iii. p. 227, first series, a considerable discrepancy exists, partly occasioned by additional scores being discovered, from having the stone brought under closer scrutiny.¹

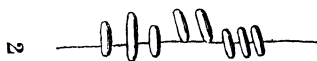


NO. 1 A.
 ɔɔlɑɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔ

NO. 1 B.
 ɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔ



NO. 1 C.
 ɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔɔ



NO. 2.
 ɑɔɑɔɔ

"All our native Ollamhs who have examined this inscription seem most reluctant in giving any decisive opinion on the subject, evidently showing the great difficulty which still besets the path of investigation in this section of Irish archæology. But it is to be hoped, where such a proficiency has been made by our English archæologists, in deciphering what seems

¹ Mr. Windele, who also examined this inscription in November, 1855, is of opinion that the tenth letter, u, on the first line, is doubtful. He regards the fourteenth charac-

ter on the same line as a vowel, o; as above represented, it would be a consonant, ɔ. The stone was here broken away by the builders of the oratory, when setting it in the gable.

almost as difficult,—the long-lost language of Assyria, inscribed in those obsolete cuneiform characters so closely resembling our Ogham,—that our Irish investigators will not suffer their neighbours across the channel long to outstrip them in this interesting study, nor allow this evident stigma longer to remain as a stain on their country's escutcheon.

“The illustrations on the last page are reduced fac-similes of rubbings taken directly from the inscriptions—the dotted parts indicating a breach in the stone. I am glad to be able to add here an attempt at the translation of No. 1 inscription, by a distinguished Irish scholar, whose modesty makes him nameless here; and though he places no faith himself in the reading, pronouncing it merely conjectural from the obsolete antiquity of the language used, yet I think it most important to give the translation of one who has given much of his life to such studies, if it were only to stimulate others to give us better. Our anonymous Ollamh reads No. 1, taking in the three lines of inscription, A, B, and C, which occupy the three corners of the stone, commencing at B and ending at A, thus :—

ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂᵂ
Contracted in sickness in water.

ᵂᵂᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂ ᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ ᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ
Lugud died [he] was a horseman of the field of battle.

Otherwise, ‘Lugad died in sickness contracted in water, he was a horseman of the battle field;’ the last three letters, he thinks, ‘may form a termination for the last word, or may be a distinguishing term for the locality.’

“The Ogham No. 2 simply sets forth the proper name of amᵂᵂᵂ. On the head of this stone is incised a cross which measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 5 inches; and it is worth noticing here, that the stone found to hand and in the churchyard is marked with a cross, whilst the one out of reach in the gable of the oratory is left untouched by the Christianizer's stamp. This stone is of compact quartzose light sandstone, and much weather-worn, the scores coarsely and deeply cut; it measures 5 feet in length, 1 foot 3 inches across its widest end, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches and 11 inches in other parts, and has quite the appearance of a pillar-stone broken off at the base.

“Some time since, Mr. Hitchcock, with his usual nice discernment, expressed a wish to know if the sandstone of the Ardmore Oghams was peculiar to the district (see vol. iii. p. 282, first series). This question, as well as I am aware of the matter, must be answered in the negative. Limestone, clay-slate, brown sandstone, grauwacke, and a variety of dark and many-coloured conglomerates, are the stones I have observed in the district; but it is not unusual to find stones for particular purposes brought from a distance at all times of the world's history; for instance, the stone of most of our ancient buildings is seldom that which belongs to the locality. At Ardmore, the material of the ruined church, Round Tower, and oratory is chiefly of light freestone; several of the stones in the oratory are of the hard quartzose light-coloured freestone, and are much weather-worn, very similar in material and appearance to Ogham No. 2. Indeed, our old Irish architects seem to have had a wonderful *penchant* for freestone, and though good limestone abounded in their neighbourhood, actually on the spot, as at Ardmore, yet they preferred going miles for the freestone. I have been informed by a most respectable authority, that the quarry

from which the stones for the Round Tower at Ardmore were taken, is on the mountain of Sliabh-greine, about four miles distant from the Tower, and that some of the curved stones, broken whilst being wrought, are still lying in the quarry. A curious coincidence, in connexion with the above, a short time since I was told by a peasant, quite unsought—A Legend of the Round Tower—which directly pointed to Sliabh-greine as the quarter from which the stones for Ardmore Round Tower were brought, as he said ‘the stones for Ardmore steeple were brought from Sliabh-greine’ mountain without horse or wheel, and laid in their places without sound of a hammer.’ ‘And how could they be brought without horse or wheel?’ I asked. His reply was, ‘that a row of men from the quarry on the mountain, to the Tower at Ardmore, stood within reach of each other, and handed the stones from one to the other all the way to the top of the Tower.’

“In company with Mr. Windele, a month or so since, I visited Ardmore, and whilst poring over the newly discovered Oghams, and correcting our sketches, we were informed of numerous inscriptions in an unknown language, about three miles distant, in the parish of Grange, cut on the rock or table of the Cor-iska-Finn; several in our group of gapers asserting that the writings on the rock were never deciphered by any one since they were cut, and that they had a strong resemblance to the scorings we thought so much about. Of course, here was a bait of far too tempting a nature for us to think of resisting, and away we drove, most anxiously impatient to feast our eyes on these mysterious engrossings, especially as we now passed along, every site seemed propitious, and teeming with archæological interest, for we now entered the parish of Grange, and soon sighted Sliabh-griene—the mountain of the sun. In a short period the Carn-na-daimh-dheirg—the carn of the red ox—made its appearance in the distance—food for Mr. Hackett to feast his eyes on—and we sighed for his assistance, to track out for us the primeval ‘cow road’ to it; and surely sighings are not always vain, for in a brief period after our excursion, part of a note from the very gentleman contained the following extract, quite in point:—‘Just opposite to Ardmore Tower is Sliabh-greine, and on a pointed summit is a carn called Carn-na-daimh-dheirg, the carn of the red ox. About the base of the mountain, in a north-west direction from the carn, is a place called Macha-na-bo-báinè, the milking-place of the white cow, from a white cow that used to go there to be milked every day, and return by a road the track of which is known through the mountain, until it came out on the public road, and went on to the Bohur-a-Mhachaire near Cappoquin.’

“In Smith’s ‘History of Waterford,’ 2nd ed., p. 355, this road is also noticed; he describes it as a double trench, or dyke, which he supposes to be the trace of an ancient highway from Cashel to Ardmore, between which two places was formerly frequent intercourse; it is called by the Irish Rian-bo-Padric, or the track or trench of Patrick’s cow, from their legend that it was the work of Patrick’s cow, when she went to Ardmore in search of her calf which had been stolen. And, among the ancient sculptures in

¹ This mountain is not called Sliabh Grian by the natives, but Sliabh ḡCpufnn, the same name by which Tory-hill, in the county of Kilkenny, is called in Irish. I do not

believe that it is evidently a corruption of Sliabh ḡrèime, i. e. *mons solis*. Grian means ground and gravel, and also a sandy bottom of a river.—J. O’D.

bas-relief on the west end of the ruined cathedral at Ardmore, is also a figure of a cow, which I have little doubt is intended to symbolize some significant passage in our early Irish mythology, similar to the serpents and nondescripts so often found sculptured on our ancient crosses, &c. which, no doubt, will yet be all fully brought to light by our archæological delvers. About midway between Ardmore and Cappoquin, at a place called Geoshe (the interjection used in driving a cow), is a cross-road and a public-house, and here we have got the white cow as a sign; no doubt also traditionally significant.

“A short time since, in travelling up the steep hill over Tallow, on our way to Lismore, I came on the trail of the legendary cow, for the driver of the car, looking down on the fine vale below, exclaimed, ‘Ah, then, sir! isn’t it the fine valley? and isn’t it allowed by every one to be the most serpentine river in the whole country?’ alluding to the remarkably crooked river Bride, as it wriggled its tortuous way along the centre of the vale. ‘And sure Drimmin herself gave it up to the Inches to have the finest and sweetest grass in the whole kingdom; for she travelled all Ireland over to find it out; and more’s the pity that they should give her offence, for she gave as much milk as a whole dairy, so much, that they couldn’t find keelers to put it in, until at last an old woman (and was there ever any good came of them?) should shame the fine baste by milking her into a sieve; no wonder, then, that she felt insulted at this, seeing all the fine milk going waste!! so that Drimmin that very night went off, and was never heard of in the country afterwards.’ But this is wandering from the object of our research at the Cor-isca-Finn—the carn of the red ox and Mr. Hackett very properly brought us to check.

“However, to resume from where we digressed, we had now on our right a fine rath or fort, and positively in the same field an ancient un-inscribed pillar-stone, at once suggesting to our minds the patriarchal days of Jacob, when he planted the first pillar-stone that we have any record of being raised over mortal, on the grave of his wife Rachel; but here probably planted over the remains of some defunct Fenian hero. This impression on the mind was made stronger, for we now wound our way down into the Gleann-a’-smoil, so famous in the Ossianic legends, and after a little cross piloting, and a stop or two, found ourselves at the Cor-isca-Finn, i. e. ‘the winding water of Fionn;’ and here was the meeting of three wild glens, and the winding water of Fionn gliding musically along its crooked course; and here, it is said, was once the habitation of Isheen (Oisín), and here he first met the holy St. Patrick, and recounted to him the number of the Fenian heroes; hence, a hamlet in the vicinity, it is said, still retains its name of Clarkstown from the circumstance. We were now under the famous rock, and ‘the hero of a hundred fights’—I beg pardon, of a hundred Ogham discoveries—our own Windele, on the rack of impatience to add somewhat still to his well-earned fame in this important field of archæological discoveries; and, after scrambling some thirty feet up its side, stood in this romantic recess, and on the summit of this mysterious rock table, covered over with hieroglyphics and entangled inscriptions, our guide actually asserting they were cut there by the ‘good people;’ indeed, some of our first informants hinted they were in Hebrew, forcibly bringing to the mind the early days of Job, when he wished his words engraven on the

rock; but could it be possible that this good fortune was reserved for us—an inscription in Hebrew as ancient as the times of Job? But, gentle reader, what was our amazement to read *plainly*, among other inscriptions, after a little simple rubbing—

Eⁿ LOVGLEN 1760 · WILLIAM SPRATT 1770 · 1786 I FUDGE · G FUDGE 1786

Well, after all our elevated anticipations we made a—*discovery*, worth all our wanderings, but it ended in FUDGE! However, we found on inquiry, that these glens in the ‘troubles of ’98’ were the great muster-places of the people, and no doubt here, on the rock of the Cor-iska-Finn, as it commanded an excellent view, and was sufficient to shelter two or three men, was the resort of the misguided leaders of those foolish men.”

James Carruthers, Esq., of Belfast, communicated the following notices of coins found in Ireland, being in continuation of a similar paper read at a former Meeting of the Society¹ (see vol. iii. p. 61, first series):—

“Found some years since, in the county of Donegal, a large parcel of English and Scotch coins, minted by DAVID II., HENRY VI., ELIZABETH, JAMES I., CHARLES I. and II., JAMES II., and WILLIAM & MARY.

“1825.—This year there was discovered at Fethard, county of Tipperary, a leaden box, which contained a number of gold coins, and some silver of CHARLES I.; also a crucifix.

“April, 1830.—In this year, 500 silver Roman coins were found by James Quigg, in the townland of Tonduff, one mile from the Giant’s Causeway; they were all sold to strangers visiting the Causeway. Subsequently the same person found two large hoards of coins, of what kind never was known in this country, as the finder shortly afterwards went abroad.

“1839.—When deepening the Kinnegad River, near Clonard, county of Meath, was discovered a small antique vessel, highly ornamented with brass; in it were several silver coins of ELIZABETH, WILLIAM & MARY, and many of JAMES II.’s gun-money.

“1849.—In a grave near Redbay, Cushendall, county of Antrim, two Anglo-Saxon coins were discovered; one of them BERTHULF, King of Mercia (Ruding, vol. iii. plate iii. No. 3); the other, CEOLNOTH, Archbishop of Canterbury (Ruding, vol. iii. plate xiii. No. 7).

“1850.—Found at Tobermore, county of Tyrone, a silver half-penny of JOHN BALLIOL, King of Scotland.

“1852.—A coin of ROBERT BRUCE was found near Armagh.

“1854.—Found near Belfast, 120 ounces of the coins of CHARLES I.; all in poor condition.

“February, 1854.—At Portrush, county of Derry, was discovered a hoard of one hundred silver coins of EDWARD I., minted at the following places: LONDON, CANTOR., DVREME, BRISTOLLIE, and DUBLINIE.

¹ We have been requested by Mr. Carruthers to state that he wishes to disclaim the paragraph of his former paper, relative to

the find of Roman coins at Coleraine. It was added by the Editors from a newspaper cutting.—Eds.

"April, 1854.—In this month were found, in the townland of Ballinrees, parish of Macosquin, near Coleraine, county of Londonderry, 2000 silver Roman coins, and 200 oz. 15 dwts. silver fragments. The coins consisted of the following varieties:—68 of JULIAN II., 2 of JOVIAN, 34 of VALENTINIAN, 48 of VALENS, 68 of GRATIAN, 27 of VALENTINIAN IVN^R., 33 of VICTOR, 41 of THEODOSIVS MAGNVS, 52 of MAG. MAXIMVS, 37 of EVGENIVS, 22 of CONSTANTIVS II., 132 of ARCADIVS, 112 of HONORIVS, 2 of CONSTANTINE in Britain, and 1305 variously clipped. The fragments consisted of ingots, two of which were stamped with the names of Roman mint-masters; and the remainder were portions of broken plate.

"May, 1854.—A large parcel of gun-money was found in the county of Cork.

"December, 1854.—At this time was discovered, at Ballintogher, county of Sligo, about 100 gold coins of CHARLES II., WILLIAM & MARY, and GEORGE I.

"1855.—During this year a small parcel of the groats of DAVID II. and ROBERT II. of Scotland, was discovered near Carrickfergus, county of Antrim.

"1855.—This year a few ounces of the silver coins of ELIZABETH and JAMES I. were found in the county of Antrim.

"1855.—During this year an angel of EDWARD IV. was discovered near Dromore, county of Down.

"1855.—A few months ago were found, near Ennis, many coins of ELIZABETH.

"June, 1855.—About this time there were discovered, near Belfast, four gold rings, commonly called ring-money; each weighed about one ounce.

"June, 1855.—Some workmen, when laying pipes for gas in North-street, Carrickfergus, county of Antrim, discovered about three pounds weight of PHILIP & MARY's base Irish money.

"July, 1855.—At this time a gold coin of EDWARD IV. was found at Castlederg, county of Tyrone.

"August, 1855.—At this time some workmen, having removed the stones which composed a cairn on Scrabo Hill, near Newtownards, county of Down, discovered a stone, 8 feet long, broad in proportion, and so heavy that to remove it they were obliged to blast it with gunpowder; when a grave was exhibited, formed of blocks of stone, in which was a human skeleton greatly decomposed, at one side of the head of which was a smoking pipe, commonly called a Dane's pipe; at the side, about two and a half ounces of very rude, thin, silver Danish coins.¹

"August, 1855.—During this month a large quantity of silver coins was discovered at Castlewellan, near Newcastle, county of Down, about 200 of which were sold in Belfast, and were composed of the following varieties:—English groats, half groats, and pennies of Edward I., II., and III., the latter of the mints of DVRHAM, regal and episcopal, YORK, and LONDON, one of which reads VILA DUNOLMIE (see Hawkins, No. 302); also some pennies of DAVID II. and ROBERT II. of Scotland, and some counter-

¹ See also vol. iii. p. 373, first series, for a notice of this find, communicated by R. Hitchcock, Esq., together with an engraving of one of the coins.—Eds.

feit sterlings, minted by various princes in Europe, to imitate the money of the Edwards of England.”

Mr. James G. Robertson communicated the following observations on the same subject:—

“1856.—In January, whilst a farmer was breaking up some waste land near Carrickfergus, he found between two stones a large number (about 120) of silver pennies of EDWARD I. (London and Canterbury mints), and one penny of JOHN; they were in fine preservation, and the metal remarkably pure.

“In the vicinity of Mullinahone, county of Tipperary, there has been recently discovered a lot of old coins; as far as I can learn, confined to specimens of the gun-money of JAMES II.”

The Rev. Constantine Cosgrave sent drawings of some antiquities in the collection of Mr. Lighe, elected a Member this day. Mr. Cosgrave also presented a six-pence of Edward IV., and an English groat of Elizabeth, the latter dated 1567, found in the castle of Ballymote; also, a bead of the necklace, and some human teeth, found in the ancient interment described in the subjoined communication. The bone carvings represented in the drawing consisted of a heart, surmounted by two praying figures and a cross, of rude but rather modern workmanship; a bronze bell, of the class denominated by Dr. Petrie ancient sheep-bells; and a portion of the crest of a helmet, also of bronze, the character of which, so far as might be judged from the drawing, was decidedly Etruscan. The following communication was received from Mr. Cosgrave, in reply to a letter from the Rev. James Graves, requesting to know the scale to which the drawings were made:—

“The drawings of the bell, carving, &c. having been originally made without any intention that they should be viewed apart from the originals, more care was taken to represent the several parts of each with relative correctness, than to ascertain the exact scale by which they were represented as a whole; and, in fact, it was only when you asked for the scale, that we were reminded how important the omission was rendered by the different circumstances. I think, however, you will be as nearly as possible correct by considering each about half the size of what it is intended to represent.

“As you will have seen, the bell is spherical, with a longitudinal opening at the side, remote from the handle, which is sufficiently narrow to prevent the egress of the included metal ball by which the soniferous vibrations are communicated to the entire. There are also small apertures in that part adjoining the insertions of the handle. It was discovered in a bog near the Abbey of Ballymote, and probably belonged to that institution.

“The carving is of bone, and was found embedded in a part of the wall of Ballymote Castle. Many evidences would seem to show that the compartment of which this wall formed one of the enclosures was used as a private chapel by the powerful family which once boasted the possession of this noble pile.

“The portion of the helmet was discovered at Kiltulach, near Ballyhaunis, county of Mayo, in one of those mounds which are popularly known as Danish carns, but which were evidently pre-existent to the Danish occupation of this country. It forms but a small portion of a rich store, whose revelation and whose ruin were coincident. The helmet which it ornamented was part of a complete suit of armour which invested a skeleton, enclosed in a sepulchral excavation adjoining the carn alluded to. The overlying flag was accidentally displaced by a ploughshare in passing over it. The dropping in of the plough, and the consequent restiveness of the horses, completely annihilated the greater part of what time had rendered so little capable of resisting such rough treatment. That part which is represented by the drawing did not crumble away on being touched, like the others. I am told that the helmet, as a whole, was somewhat pot-shaped, and peaked in front.

“Some time since I chanced on a singular monument, which I take to be sepulchral, and the extreme rudeness of which bespeaks a very great antiquity. It consisted of an immense flag, supported by stone pillars set deeply in the earth, and having their upper extremities elevated only slightly above its surface. Each of those vertical supports was made to bear its proper share of the entire burden by the insertion of stones between the superincumbent slab and such as were too low. The weight of this slab rendering its removal a matter of impossibility without an extraordinary force, I caused it to be excavated underneath, through those unoccupied spaces which were found between each pair of pillars. After a little time we came to a flagged bottom ; and on this were arranged, in several regular rows, a number of small circular enclosures formed by flat, upright stones, and each overlaid by a thin slab of the same material. In these enclosures were placed very large quantities of bones, all, except the teeth, presenting a charred appearance. I have preserved a large number of these bones, but there still remain many more than any one person would care to trouble himself with. I also found a sort of rude necklace which appeared to consist rather of some partially petrified substance than of actual stone. The beads of which it consisted seemed carefully wrought and polished. Their substance being of a somewhat laminated texture, it was difficult to find one so entire that it had not parted with some of its exterior plates. I send you one of them, and also one or two of the teeth. The monument is situated in the immediate vicinity of Keash, at a place whose Irish name signifies Myles’s Carn.”

Mr. Prim contributed the following :—

“The following letter, written in the middle of the last century, may, I think, fairly claim to be preserved, by being placed on record in the Society’s ‘Proceedings,’ as it serves to illustrate the state of society in Kilkenny at that period, when the system of secretly countenancing and protecting highwaymen was pretty general amongst the better classes throughout all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, but seems to have prevailed to so much larger an extent in the county of Kilkenny as to cast a particular stain upon the character of the district. Towards the close of the previous century, the Government itself set a bad example in this respect, by granting ‘protections’ to notorious robbers, for services to be

performed in the way of apprehending and delivering up to justice, or giving such information as would enable the authorities to capture, other depredators, frequently their own associates in crime; and thus 'set a thief to catch a thief' became a proverb. The Grand Jury of the county of Kilkenny appear to have acted on this proverb, when, in the year 1686-7, they 'presented' the propriety of taking into the King's protection the leaders of a gang of tories, or outlaws, then infesting the county, 'as the best course to suppress robberies and felonies in and about these parts of the kingdome,' and when those desperadoes were not alone pardoned their own offences, but were allowed the use of 'their horses and travelling defensive arms' whilst engaged in the service of the State for the suppression of other criminals.¹ This system seems to have continued for many years subsequently; and where the Government of the country, and those charged with the administration of the laws, were to be found entering into compromises and compacts with the most notorious offenders, it can scarcely be wondered at if individuals, even of a superior class of society, should have been occasionally found ready to screen or harbour the outlaw, to insure his assistance against other robbers, in a most unsettled time when the State was totally unable to protect the subject from such visitations. Such an effect ought to have been expected as the natural consequence of the system; and James Freney, the celebrated highwayman of the last century, to whom reference is made in the letter to which I now direct attention, has borne evidence to the fact, that the arrangement of permitting protections to be given to robbers was the cause of all the crime which was so rife in Kilkenny and the surrounding counties at the period when he flourished and bequeathed to literature his 'Life and Adventures.'² It would seem that, at the time when the letter was written,

¹ See a paper, by the Rev. James Graves, on The Ancient Tribes and Territories of Ossory.—"Transactions," vol. i. page 245, first series.

² Freney, or some one for him, the style not being that of an illiterate man, wrote and published his "Life and Adventures" about the year 1750. It still forms one of the chap-books for which the "flying stationers" find a most ready sale amongst the peasantry all over Ireland; but as in that form only is it to be met with, to most of the Members of the Society the dedication prefixed to the volume will, doubtless, be new, and can scarcely fail to be interesting: I therefore transcribe it here:—

"To the Right Honourable Somerset Hamilton Butler, Earl of Carrick. My Lord, as I owe my life to your Lordship, by whose interest and intercession I obtained his Majesty's most gracious pardon, I am in duty bound to dedicate the following account of my past life to your Lordship; and your own well known zeal to serve your country, for which the Grand Jury of the county of Kilkenny, in the most public manner, at the close of their presentments, returned you, on

behalf of the county, their most sincere thanks, entitle you to a preference, before all others, to the patronage of this account of my past life, in which I have avoided as much as I could enlarging on the pains and expenses your Lordship was at in abolishing that notion and scheme of protection which had for too many years prevailed in the county of Kilkenny, and was the real source from whence the practice of horse, cow, and sheep-stealing and house-breaking sprang, and continued so long in that county; for, while the many honest and well-meaning men, either through indolence or backwardness, suffer a few who regard only their own profit, and not the welfare of their neighbours, or the public, to make use of indirect means to screen and save the guilty, your Lordship's zeal and resolution has roused up others to imitate your example, and to concur in preventing such pernicious schemes from taking effect as formerly. This is a truth so well known and allowed of, that anything I could say to prove it might look ridiculous, and, I fear, offend your Lordship, who choose to do good merely for the sake of doing good, without any notion or desire of ostentation or

the nobility and principal gentry of the county had resolved to make a determined effort to put down highwaymen and their protectors, and in that effort they eventually succeeded, although the agency through which it was effected was still that of pardoning and patronizing the principal rogue, on the condition of his aiding to convict his accomplices. The letter was written by Alderman William Colles, the originator of the trade in Kilkenny marble, and inventor of the ingenious machinery by which the cutting and polishing of the stone is carried out. It is addressed to Francis Bindon, of Limerick, an eminent architect of the day, from whose designs the mansions of Woodstock and Bessborough were erected, Mr. Colles having been the contractor for the building. I am indebted for a copy of the document to the great grandson of that gentleman, Mr. Alexander Colles, Millmount.

“ ‘ *Kilkenny, August 13th 1749.*

“ ‘ D^r Sir,—I this moment received yours of the 11th, and as our assizes Ended Last night I shall Give you as Circumstantial an acc^t of what was Done at Them as I can. On Monday the Grand Jury Was Sworn. On the Panell of which the High Sherife Took care to Put none but Gentlemen of y^e Best ffortunes and Characters in y^e County; S^r W^m fflows was forman.—One Corrigan who got his pardon last Assizes for prosecuting Stotesbury was found guilty of horse stealing: as also James Bulger¹ and another proclaimed man Known by y^e name of Breesteen² were arraigned on the Proclamation and being Convicted of being y^e same persons were executed that afternoon at 5 o'clock, and Bulger was, on thursday Hanged In Chains on y^e Road to Callan where Burgess was shott.³ On Wednes-

being rewarded on that account; both of which I am sensible you have too great a soul not to despise. I shall pray for the welfare and happiness of your Lordship and your family, who am your Lordship's most humble servant,

“ JAMES FRENEY.”

The concluding paragraph of the autobiography, in which the robber accounts for his having given it to the public, and complacently takes credit to himself as a benefactor to society, is also worth copying. It is as follows:—

“ Then (after he had been pardoned upon giving evidence which brought the gang that he had led in a long career of crime to the gallows), Lord Carrick and Counsellor Robbins, in order to enable me with my family to quit the kingdom, proposed a subscription to be set on foot, in order to raise a sum of money for that purpose, and it accordingly was; but the gentlemen of the country refused to subscribe, and therefore that scheme came to nothing. Therefore, to enable me to quit a kingdom which is tired of me, and which I do not choose to live in, if I can avoid it, I have been advised to try if the publication of my past life will enable me to take myself and family to some foreign coun-

try, and to earn our bread in some industrious way; and hope the services done my native country by Lord Carrick's spirit and resolution, roused up by my means, will make amends for my former transgressions.”

¹ Bulger was lieutenant of the gang of which Freney was captain, and was much in his confidence. Freney declined to surrender himself and receive the royal pardon for a considerable time, because the betrayal of Bulger was made a stipulation by Lord Carrick, on the part of the Crown.

² The real name of this desperado was Patrick Hackett. He was concerned in most of Freney's robberies.

³ Mr. Henry Burgess was one of the sheriffs of Kilkenny for the year 1748, Mr. Robert Shervington being his colleague. He lost his life in an attempt to arrest the highwaymen. Having information that Freney and Bulger were sleeping in the house of a man named Walsh, near the demesne of Desart, he went to seize them, with a large party from Kilkenny. Freney gives the following graphic account of the circumstances attending the event:—

“ About nine o'clock I went and awoke Bulger, desiring him to get up and guard me whilst I slept, as I guarded him all night;

day, Stack¹ was Convicted of Robbery and Martin Millea² a man of substance was found Guilty of Harboursing Ja^s ffreney, on full Evidence, as was on Thursday one Larresy³ for y^e same Crime, and Two others, not proclaimed, for Robberys, besides 4 or 5 small offences.—So that we have eight under sentence who are all to be Executed on Saturday next. Stotesbury⁴ appeared and Plead his pardon; & has given Security to

he said he would, and then I went to bed, charging him to watch close, for fear we should be surpris'd. I put my blunderbuss and two cases of pistols under my head, and soon fell fast asleep. In two hours after, the servant girl of the house, seeing an enemy coming into the yard, ran up to the room where we were, and said that there were an hundred men coming into the yard, upon which Bulger immediately awoke me, and taking up my blunderbuss he fired a shot towards the door, which wounded Mr. Burgess, one of the sheriffs of Kilkenny, of which wound he died. They concluded to set the house on fire about us, which they accordingly did; upon which I took my fusee in one hand, and a pistol in the other, and Bulger did the like, and as we came out of the door, we fired on both sides, imagining it to be the best method of dispersing the enemy who were on both sides of the door. We got through them, but they fired after us, and as Bulger was leaping over a ditch, he received a shot in the small of the leg, which rendered him incapable of running; but getting into a field, where I had the ditch between me and the enemy, I still walked slowly with Bulger, till I thought the enemy were within shot of the ditch, and then wheeled back to the ditch, and presented my fusee at them; they all drew back and went for their horses to ride round, as the field was wide and open, and without cover except the ditch. When I discovered their intention I stood in the middle of the field, and one of the gentleman's servants (there were fourteen in number) rode foremost towards me, upon which I told the son of a coward, I believed he had not more than £5 a year from his master, and that I would put him in such a condition that his master would not maintain him afterwards, to which he answered that he had no view of doing us any harm, but that he was commanded by his master to ride so near us; and then immediately rode back to the enemy who were coming towards him. They rode almost within shot of us, and I observed they intended to surround us in the field, and prevent me having any recourse to the ditch again. Bulger was at this time so bad with the wound that he could not go one step without leaning on my shoulder. At length

seeing the enemy coming within shot of me, I laid down my fusee and stripped off my coat and waistcoat, and running towards them cried out, 'You sons of cowards come on and I will blow your brains out,' on which they returned back, and then I walked easy to the place where I left my clothes, and put them on, and Bulger and I walked leisurely some distance further. The enemy came a second time, and I occasioned them to draw back as before, and then we walked to Lord Desart's deer-park wall. I got up the wall, and helped Bulger up; the enemy, who still pursued us, though not within shot, seeing us on the wall, one of them fired a random shot at us, to no purpose. We got safe over the wall, and went from thence into my Lord Desart's wood, where Bulger said he would remain, thinking it a safe place, but I told him he would be safer anywhere else, for the army of Kilkenny and Callan would be soon about the wood, and that he would be taken if he staid there. Besides, as I was very averse to betraying him at all, I could not bear the thoughts of his being taken in my company by any party but Lord Carrick's. I then brought him about half a mile beyond the wood, and left him there in a break of briers, and looking towards the wood, I saw it surrounded by the army."

Bulger having been disabled by the wound, was soon after arrested near the spot where he and his single companion had kept fourteen armed men so long at bay.

¹ John Stack was one of Freney's gang, and was arrested and convicted through the means of his captain.

² Martin Millea is described by Freney in the chap-book as an "able farmer residing at Jerpoint." He was a receiver of stolen goods, and a harbourer of highwaymen, but had endeavoured to betray Freney for a reward; however, the robber's information was afterwards taken against him.

³ James Larressy was another member of the gang apprehended by means of Freney.

⁴ Stotesbury does not appear to have been one of Freney's gang, and I have not been able to ascertain the crime with which he was charged. The name was that of a respectable family settled in the city or county of Kilkenny.

Transport himselfe in 6 months. Mr. Walshe was Tryed for the Killing Mr. Barton, but no prosecutors appearing was acquitted¹. Ja^a Freney Rec^d Sentence but is to be Transmitted to Wexford there to be Convicted of the Robbery of Mr. Palliser² & is to be pardoned in order to Convict one Roberts³ a Notorious Receiver of Stolen Plate. Roberts is to Remain in Gaol till next assizes without bail, as is alsoe one Joⁿ Reddy⁴ a Proclaimed man who was formerly pardoned in y^e County of Mayo & is accused of Robbing with those gang of Rapp^s⁵ since he got his pardon; but y^e evidence ag^t him could not be procured this assizes. My Lord Bessborough was in Town & sat on y^e Bench during the Tryalls of y^e Principall Rogues, as did alsoe Lord Carrick, Lord Mountgarett, Lord Mayo, Lord Castledurrow and Lord Desart. Bulger was stole off y^e gibbet on ffryday night by persons unknown. Freney's Evidence was not made use of on any of the Tryalls, but his wife and sister gave Very

¹ This was, doubtless, a duel case, but I have been unable to ascertain the particulars.

² Freney and his gang robbed the house of Colonel Palliser, in December, 1746, taking therefrom a purse of ninety guineas, a £4 piece, two moidores, some small gold, a large glove containing twenty-eight guineas in silver, and a quantity of plate.

³ There is reason to believe that George Roberts acted as the agent of a man of respectable position in society, and possessing influence in the county. Freney states that two of his own accomplices being in gaol, and about being tried for their crimes, Roberts, having met him, told him he "had a friend who was a man of power and interest" who would save the criminals for a sum of money. "I told him," says Freney, "that I would give him ten guineas and the first gold watch I could get," whereupon he said that "it was of no use to speak to his friend without the money or value, for he was a mercenary man." Freney then relates how he gave him a quantity of stolen plate, being a tankard value £10, a large ladle value £4, with some table-spoons "when he engaged his friend would act the needful," and the Spring Assizes, 1748, coming on soon after, the men were tried, but "the physic working well, six of the jury were for finding them guilty, and six more for acquitting them, and the other six finding them peremptory, and that they were resolved to starve the others into compliance, as they say they may do by law, were for their own sakes obliged to comply with them, and they were acquitted; on which Counsellor Robbins began to smoke the affair, and suspect the operation of gold dust, which was well applied for my comrades, and thereupon left the Court in a rage, and swore he would for ever quit the country, since he found people were not satisfied with protecting and serving the rogues they

had under themselves, but must also show that they could and would oblige others to have rogues under them whether they would or no." Shortly after, Freney offered Counsellor Robbins to surrender on receiving a pardon, in return for which he would perform certain services, one of which was:—"Secondly, I would discover of a justice of peace's servant who by his master's permission corresponded with me on very particular terms, and received from me, for the use of his master, one silver tankard, one silver ladle, and three silver spoons." That it was Roberts to whom he here alluded is evident from the following statement:—"At the Spring Assizes following (1750), George Roberts was tried for receiving Colonel Palliser's gold watch, knowing it to be stolen, but was acquitted on account of exceptions taken to my pardon, which prevented my giving evidence. At the following Assizes, when I had got a new pardon, Roberts was again tried for receiving the tankard, ladle, and silver spoons from me, knowing them to be stolen, and was convicted and executed." The "Justice" seems to have been suffered to escape.

⁴ John Reddy had been a member of the notorious Kellymount gang, but had been pardoned on discovering of his accomplices. He it was who subsequently initiated Freney, when a young man, into the mysteries of highwaymanship. He was ultimately hanged at the Summer Assizes, 1750.

⁵ "Rapps" is probably written here as a contraction for rapparees, the name given to the disbanded militia of James II., who degenerated into bands of robbers, and were generally armed with a pole tipped with iron, whence, as some say, is derived the Irish name by which they were designated. The abbreviation above given is, perhaps, the origin of the term "rap," modernly applied to a dishonest man or a counterfeit halfpenny.

material Evidence ag^t y^o Harbourers; the most part of y^o Gentlemen of y^o County Gave undeniable proofs of their Hearty Endeavours to Retrieve this County from the Scandalous Imputation It Lay under, as if the Bulk of y^o County were favourers of the Rogues; and those few ag^t whom any Imputation of that Kind Lay were greatly discountenanced by the Rest but nothing Could be so far fixed on any particular person as to bring them to Publicke Tryall'.—The assizes Ended Last Night with the Grand-jury's Both of the County and the Citty Returning Lord Carrick Public Thanks, for his activity, care, & Vigor In suppressing this Gang of Rogues w^{ch} appeared to be much more numerous than was supposed; four more who were formerly unknown being Presented by y^o Grandjury In order to be proclaimed.

“ ‘ Y^r most obed^t Humble serv^t,

“ ‘ W^m COLLES.

“ ‘ *To Francis Bindon, Esq., at
‘ ‘ Ennis, p^r Clonmell.*

“ As I have already alluded to the highwayman Freney, and have quoted so largely from his ‘Life and Adventures,’ in the notes which I have appended to the foregoing letter, perhaps I may be permitted, by way of appendix to the document, to mention a few further particulars about that notorious personage. Freney, although usually enumerated amongst the ‘gentlemen robbers’ who achieved an unenviable reputation in the last century, was, in reality, of humble birth, his father having been the confidential servant of Joseph Robbins, Esq., of Ballyduffe, whom he faithfully served; the son also acted in a menial capacity in the employment of the Robbins family, till he became dissipated, and took to the road. He was, however, most probably, descended from one of the first Anglo-Norman families in the county—the De la Freynes, of Ballyreddy, who, having long held a leading position, and for centuries, almost without intermission, filled the important office of seneschal of the Liberty of Kilkenny, by forfeiture of property for their political attachments, ultimately descended, in some branches of the race, to the lowest rank. But with the predatory predilections of the old feudal chieftains, Captain Freney, as he was called, also inherited much of the chivalrous feeling of his knightly ancestors, and his name has been handed down to us as a most daring and successful freebooter, but unstained by any act of revolting atrocity. He was particularly gallant towards the ladies whom he encountered in his professional excursions, and a woman had no fear of being robbed by him; whilst even in his treatment of the other sex, he

¹ The proverbial saying respecting Kilkenny in the last century, that it was “*Agar* (eager) for prey, *Flooded* with iniquity, and every *Bush* concealed a thief,” was, no doubt, a foul libel, suggested merely by the play upon words which it afforded, against three of the first families in the county, remarkable for the position in the Peerage attained by one, and the brilliant oratory and sterling patriotism of members of the other two; but

that a stigma rested on some of the better class of inhabitants of the district for alleged support and sympathy given to the marauders who levied black mail on the King’s lieges in those parts at the time, is pretty evident from the above paragraph, as well as the statement that the high sheriff took care to put “none but gentlemen of the best fortunes and character in the county” on the panel of the Grand Jury.

frequently behaved with much forbearance, and even generosity,¹ always sparing the purse of the poor man, and most scrupulously returning to the wealthy person whom he had 'delivered' a sum sufficient to bear his expenses to his journey's end. His exploits on the highway are not only chronicled in his own curious autobiography, but are preserved in the traditions of the peasantry, and have been read, recounted, and sung throughout Ireland. I would here beg leave to introduce to the Members of the Society one of the rude contemporary ballads of which his adventures formed the theme. I often heard it recited by an aged female relative, who remembered frequently to have seen, and even conversed with the 'bold Captain Freney' in her youth; and I recently was fortunate enough to obtain the words from an old servant of hers, from whose lips, also, Mr. William Ranelow, organist of St. Canice's Cathedral, kindly noted down the air, for the purpose of its preservation in the Society's 'Proceedings.' I may remark that, although this old ballad is now almost forgotten in the county of Kilkenny, where, no doubt, it was originally composed, it may be found amongst the peasantry in other districts. A Kilkenny friend of mine, whilst exploring the matchless scenery of the Lakes of Killarney, about two years since, was no less surprised than interested at hearing his boatmen, amongst other songs, sing, in full chorus, that of—

¹ I am tempted to copy one characteristic anecdote from his own "Life and Adventures," as, whilst it would appear to be almost incredible, I am in a position to vouch for its truth. He says:—

"I remained in and about that neighbourhood (Thomastown) for a considerable time, but met with no booty worth mentioning, till at length I heard that there was one Mr. Anderson collecting hearth-money in the neighbourhood. . . . In some time afterwards I espied Mr. Anderson at a mile's distance collecting at a country village on the mountain, with two constables and his clerk, whereupon my spy, Matthew Grace, desired to be admitted along with me, but not having the second horse, I told him I chose to run the risk of robbing Mr. Anderson alone, rather than fatigue Beefsteaks by carrying him behind me, and desired him to remain there a little while, and he would see me playing with Anderson and his attendants on the side of the hill. I rode towards the hill, but Mr. Anderson spied me coming, whereupon he rode with speed towards the constables and his clerk, who were some distance from him; but I soon overtook him, and at the same time told him that he was much overseen to think of escaping from me with that old white horse he rode. He said that his reason for riding so hard was for fear I should rob him before the constables and his clerk would see me. I then spoke to him, saying, 'Zounds, deliver, and don't be arguing cases, for I always hate

quibbles and long arguments in my profession.' He then said he would, but as he had an eye to business as well as myself, he begged of me to suffer the constables to reckon the money, that they might make affidavit how much I had taken from him, otherwise it might be of ill consequence to him, it being the King's money. Moreover, he said he was afraid he would lose his place. Whilst the constables were reckoning the money, he told me he had nothing belonging to himself but his watch, which he offered to make me a present of, but I told him as it was his own, I would not deprive him of it. He then told me he would rather lose as much money of his own than the King's money. I told him that I believed his Majesty had pickpockets enough before, therefore I would not deprive him of his money, upon which I returned it, and rode away."

It is as difficult to understand the whimsical chivalry of the highwayman who would not deprive the King of his money, because his Majesty was so largely plundered by others, as his audacity in proceeding single-handed to rob four men, who, from the dread inspired by his fame, were ready to deliver up their trust to him without striking a blow for it. However, Mr. Henry Anderson, of Dumbel, collector of hearth-money a century since, was my maternal great grandfather, and the family tradition authenticates the robber's statement, and gives a degree of authenticity to the remainder of the narrative.

BOLD CAPTAIN FRENEY.



I.

One morning as, I being free from care,
 I rode abroad to take the air,
 'Twas my fortune for to spy
 A jolly Quaker riding by;
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney!
 Oh, bold Freney, oh!

II.

Said the Quaker—"I'm very glad
 That I have met with such a lad;
 There is a robber on the way,
 Bold Captain Freney, I hear them say."
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

III.

"Captain Freney I disregard,
 Although about me I carry my charge;¹
 Because I being so cunning and cute,
 It's where I hide it's within my boot."
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

¹ The ballads *composed* by the Irish peasantry may be recognised by the peculiarity of rhythm of which the above is a specimen. In the Irish language the vowels alone are

required to agree in sound, and this rule has been transferred by the peasantry to their English versification. Other examples of this rhythm occur in the ballad.

IV.

Says the Quaker—"It is a friend
 His secret unto me would lend;
 I'll tell you now where my gold does lie—
 I have it sewed beneath my thigh."
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

V.

As we rode down towards Thomastown,
 Bold Freney bid me to 'light down.
 "Kind sir, your breeches you must resign;
 Come, quick, strip off, and put on mine,
 For I am bold Captain Freney," &c.

VI.

Says the Quaker, "I did not think
 That you'd play me such a roguish trick
 As my breeches I must resign,
 I think you are no friend of mine."
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

VII.

As we rode a little on the way,
 We met a tailor dressed most gay;
 I boldly bid him for to stand,
 Thinking he was some gentleman.
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

VIII.

Upon his pockets I laid hold—
 The first thing I got was a purse of gold;
 The next thing I found, which did me surprise,
 Was a needle, thimble, and chalk likewise.
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

IX.

"Your dirty trifle I disdain."
 With that I return'd him his gold again.
 "I'll rob no tailor if I can—
 I'd rather ten times rob a man."¹
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney, &c.

¹ It would appear from Freney's "Life and Adventures," that the Quaker and the tailor of the ballad were in reality one and the same person. He says:—

"Nash brought me word there was a Quaker gone by, and that if I did not hasten he would reach Thomastown before I could overtake him. I accordingly pursued, and soon overtook him, desiring him to stand and

deliver. He drew out of his pocket some gold and silver, amongst which was a thimble. I asked him what he was. He said, a tailor. I then asked him what the deuce sent him in my way, charging him not to discover that ever I attempted robbing him; and at the same time gave him his money and thimble, saying I would rob nobody but a man."

x.

It's time for me to look about;
 There's a proclamation just gone out;
 There's fifty pounds bid on my head,
 To bring me in alive or dead.
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney!
 Oh, bold Freney, oh!

“After Freney’s pardon, unlike most persons of his class, he never relapsed into a course of dishonesty. Having been unable to procure the means of emigrating, Lord Carrick’s influence procured for him a small public office, that of a tide-waiter at the port of New Ross, and he always maintained a character for integrity and propriety in that situation. He lived to so good an age, that many people still alive remember to have seen him in their childhood; and, so far from any stigma being considered to rest on his character, he was rather viewed as a celebrity, and his conversation courted and encouraged by people of the better class of society.¹ His grave, in the churchyard at Innistiogue, is pointed out as an object of interest by the peasantry of the locality, but is unmarked by a grave-stone.”

The following paper was then submitted to the Meeting.

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY AT ADARE.

BY RICHARD R. BRASH, ESQ., ARCHITECT.

ADARE, Adair, Athdara in Irish, Ath-daire, the ford of oaks, or of the oak-wood, from ath, a ford, daire, an oak, is a post town situated in the barony of Coshma and county of Limerick: it is a small, picturesquely situated town on the river Maig, or Maigue, a tributary of the Shannon.

The Irish Annals give very little information respecting the early history of this place. In the thirteenth century it came into

¹ O’Keeffe, the dramatist, tells us that he met Freney whilst he was acting with a theatrical company in Kilkenny, and thus describes him:—

“One day, I was, with some others, taking a repast in a tavern there [Kilkenny], when a little man walked in; he was elderly, and had but one eye. Some person asked him to take a glass; he did so. This man was the once remarkable and, indeed, notorious, bold Captain F——, of whom were made ballad-songs. He was the audacious and resolute leader of the Rapparees. When a General

with a troop of horse went to take him prisoner, Captain F—— called out, and said he would surrender, if the General would ride up to him alone; the other complied; the Captain placed his pistol to the General’s breast, and took from him his purse and watch, in view of the whole troop of soldiers. His companions suffered by the law, but the Captain himself was made county keeper, and was of great use in preventing those outrages, of which he himself was once the most daring ringleader and perpetrator.”—“Recollections of the Life of John O’Keeffe,” vol. i. p. 213.