

## PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on  
Wednesday, May 5th, 1858,

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF OSSORY, President of the Society,  
in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

The Rev. Lord Adam Loftus, Adress Glebe, Kesh; and the Rev. Willam Thompson, LL.D., The Rectory, Carrickmacross: proposed by the Rev. George H. Reade.

The Rev. Godfrey C. Smith, B. A., Kinneigh Glebe, Enniskean, Bandon: proposed by Dr. Belcher.

The Rev. Robert John Gabbett, Vicarage, Foynes, Co. Limerick; and William Smith O'Brien, Esq., Cahermoyle, Newcastle-West, Co. Limerick: proposed by Dr. Cane.

The Rev. Patrick Magrath, R. C. C., Baldoyle; and the Rev. William Crowe, R. C. C., Howth: proposed by the Rev. Paul Smithwick, P. P.

Captain Michael Phillips, Glenview, Belturbet: proposed by David F. Jones, Esq.

Thomas Bowers, Esq., Graigavine, Piltown; and Mr. James Cleary, Abbey-street, Clonmel: proposed by Mr. Hugh Cuolahan.

William Kelly, Esq., Humberstone-road, Leicester; and Henry Barry Hyde, Esq., 4, St. George's-square, Regent's Park, London: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Thomas A. Wise, Esq., M. D., F. S. A. Scot., 17, Abercromby-place, Edinburgh; and Joseph Robertson, Esq., F. S. A. Scot., Register Office, Edinburgh: proposed by Richard R. Brash, Esq.

The Rev. J. Graves reported that, in accordance with the Resolution passed at the March Meeting, he had communicated with various persons on the subject of the restoration of the chancel arch of the ancient building known as the Nunnery, at Clonmac-

noise. He had received so much encouragement that he thought the issue of a circular, containing a brief historical notice of the building and the nature of the repairs required, would produce the necessary funds.

The rector of the parish, Rev. C. A. Vignoles, stated that the proprietor, Captain Johnston, had died since the last Meeting, but his representatives would give every facility to carry on the work of restoration at Clonmacnoise.

It was then resolved that such a circular should be prepared and issued.

The Secretary laid before the Meeting a beautifully executed Card of Thanks, in tinted lithograph, received from the Executive Committee, in acknowledgment of the antiquities contributed from the Society's Museum to the Exhibition of Art Treasures, at Manchester, in 1857.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By the Right Hon. Lord Londesborough: "Miscellanea Graphica: Representations of Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Remains, in the possession of Lord Londesborough," drawn and engraved by Fairholt; the "Historical Introduction" by Thomas Wright, M. A., F. S. A.

By the Author: "Sketches on the River Suir." By Charles Newport Bolton, B. A.

By the Author: "Royal Progresses to Leicester," Part III.; a Paper read before the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, on the 8th March, 1858. By William Kelly, Esq.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," Part 14.

By the Author: "Poems of Oisín, Bard of Erin. From the Irish." By John Hawkins Simpson.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: "Archæologia Cambrensis," Third Series, No. 14.

By the Cambrian Institute: "The Cambrian Journal," Second Series, No. 1.

By the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society: their "Proceedings" for the years 1856-7.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine" for March, April, and May, 1858.

By the Author: "Catalogue of the Antiquities of Stone, Earthen, and Vegetable Materials, in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy." By W. R. Wilde, M. R. I. A.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 785-94, inclusive.

By the Rev. Patrick Lamb, P.P.: a bridle-bit of antique bronze, found thirteen or fourteen feet deep in a bog at Ummeracoin, in

the parish of Newtownhamilton. It was a snaffle, with large cheek rings, and of very elegant form. The finder had rubbed one side bright with sand-paper, and got it brazed by a tinker where broken—apparently to fit it for use—but the back retained the marks of the casting.

The Meeting expressed their pleasure that the reverend donor had succeeded in rescuing this interesting antique from obscurity, or perhaps destruction.

By John G. A. Prim: two bronze fibulæ. They were found about twelve months since, in levelling an old ditch at Gorespark, adjoining Goresgrove, near Urlingford, on the farm of Mr. Charles Hewitson, who had given them to the donor. In the centre of the field which this ditch had bounded was a rath, which Mr. Hewitson had lately also levelled, but he reported that nothing was discovered in the operations but some sharpening-stones and a few fragments of wrought-iron, apparently similar to the knives found in such quantity in the raths at Dunbell. Outside the fosse of the rath a small and short “creep,” or sewer-like passage, was lighted on, which contained bones, which were not burned, although there were apparent marks of fire on the stones of which the passage was formed. The ring of the larger fibula of the two was two inches three-quarters in diameter, of penannular form, with flattened ends, on which were stamped ornaments of the triquetral form, the hollows appearing to have been filled with a white enamel. The pin was four inches in length. The smaller fibula was an inch in diameter, quite plain, of white bronze, and apparently of later date than the other. The ring was continuous, and the pin, which was attached after the manner of the tongue of a buckle, did not extend beyond the circumference of the ring. These antiquities were found within two hundred yards of the spot where the portion of the gigantic silver fibula, now in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, was discovered about ten years since.

By Dr. Belcher, of Bandon: a number of small, cylindrical, oblong, and globular glass beads, of various colours, found on the strand at Dunworley, county of Cork. The presentation was accompanied by the following observations:—

“For the specimen ‘beads and cylinders’ I am indebted to the kindness of George Bennett, Esq., of Bandon, a landed proprietor at Dunworley, whose attention was directed to them by the Rev. Dr. Neligan, of Cork. The latter gentleman read an interesting Paper on the subject before the Cork Cuvierian Society, in December, 1857; this he has recently printed for private circulation among his antiquarian friends; and as it will not meet the eye of the general reader, it may not be amiss to give a short abstract of it. For several years Dr. Neligan had casually picked up some few beads during the summer months, but having given special attention to the matter last year, he succeeded in accumulating a considerable va-

riety of various colours, and in a few cases found glass cylinders with inscriptions on them. The most remarkable specimens he represents in a well-executed, coloured lithograph, exhibiting, particularly, one of an hexagonal form, and also the most clearly marked of the inscribed cylinders. The result of his labours he alludes to as follows:—‘Over six hundred beads of the light blue colour, of various sizes, many being round; several of these were broken, but being perforated, I strung all together. There were also numerous fragments or chips of the blue beads, forty-four white beads, with three sets of three stripes, the centre red, and the two outer stripes blue, and others exactly *vice versâ*, viz., the centre stripe blue, and the outer ones red; three white beads, with four single stripes, alternately of red and blue; one white bead, with alternate stripes, four in number, of brown and blue, with a few fragments of each; and thirteen red beads, nearly all of various sizes. On inspection, the red beads will be found to correspond with the cylinders of the same colour; if there is any difference, it is that some cylinders are striped, while none of the same coloured beads have stripes. There was also one large light blue bead (the only one which looks like a stone), of an hexagonal form.’ On his return to Cork, Dr. Neligan showed his collection to several friends, who gave various opinions as to their probable origin and use. One suggested their having been used for devotional purposes in Timoleague Abbey, the building of which was commenced in 1350, and which lies four miles in a right line from the strand. The same friend thought the cylinders may have been intended for decades; he was, however, of opinion that their origin was eastern. Again, one considered them Anglo-Saxon; another, Egyptian, with a Coptic inscription; a third fancied them to be of Pagan origin, and said ‘the blue glass was very similar to that of the Scarabæi, usually found deposited in Egyptian mummies; one or two friends suggested their being Venetian; another, that they were for talismans or amulets.’ On the recommendation of his friends, Dr. Neligan sent drawings and descriptions of the beads and cylinders to Lord Londesborough, J. Y. Akerman, Esq., F.S.A., Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries in London, C. Roach Smith, Esq., and also to W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., of the British Museum. In reply Mr. Akerman says—‘they do not appear to be very ancient;’ Lord Londesborough—‘to me also they have a most Coptic appearance;’ Mr. Smith—‘they bear an eastern character; they will probably turn out to be not remotely ancient;’ Mr. Vaux believes—‘they all came from the east, probably from Alexandria or Syria; the inscriptions are in Arabic;’ and again he writes—‘from the character of the writing, which is a late form of Cufic, they are probably of the date of the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries.’ He further conjectures that they may have been stranded from shipwreck; and, in support of this view, Dr. Neligan quotes a passage from Smith’s ‘History of the County and City of Cork,’ relating a descent of Algerine pirates on Baltimore, in 1631, and mentions a local tradition of a pirate vessel, containing these beads, having been wrecked on the coast of Dunworley about 300 years ago; also suggesting their Phœnician or Egyptian origin from the fact that, by all writers, the invention of glass has been ascribed to the Phœnicians, and also that glass has been found in Egyptian relics of great antiquity. Dr. Neligan makes another suggestion—that the colours of the stripes on the

white beads are very like the colours found in illuminated missals and MSS. of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. He further remarks the existence of St. Anne's Well contiguous to the place of find, and as, according to Smith, this place was much resorted to for devotional purposes by the peasantry of his day (1720), asks, 'could the beads have been intended to be sold for such uses to the frequenters of the well?' The subject is one deserving investigation, and it is only to be regretted that Dr. Neligan's Paper on 'Ancient Glass Beads and Cylinders' is confined to private, instead of being extended to general circulation."

By W. T. Jones, Esq.: a large number of similar beads, from the same place. The donation was accompanied by the following analysis of the beads by Professor Blyth:—

"The red cylinders are of transparent green or bottle glass, covered with a glaze of the same glass, holding a considerable quantity of peroxide of iron as the colouring matter. This glaze originally presented a vitreous aspect, though opaque. This is still exhibited in its conchoidal fracture. The present earthy appearance of the exterior is due to the friction in the sand to which the beads have been subjected. The dull appearance of the blue beads is due to the same cause. The colouring matter is, in these, oxide of copper. The glass is much more imperfect than in the cylinders, is only semi-transparent throughout, probably from the presence of large quantities of air-bubbles which have not been expelled. The beads were evidently made from a mixture which had not been sufficiently long heated to render it homogeneous, as in the case of the green cylinder glass."

By the Rev. Dr. Neligan: a most interesting tinted lithograph of several cylinders and beads from the same place, and now in his collection.

By John L. Lindsay, Esq.: an Anglo-Saxon penny, considered by the donor to be the coin termed in ancient Irish MSS., a "pin-quinn;" also two unpublished coins, which he supposed to have been struck in the time of Henry II. or Richard I. Writing to the Secretary, the Rev. James Graves, Mr. Lindsay says:—

"I suppose you have heard of the large hoard of coins lately found near Newry: they consisted, I understand from Dr. Smith (who will probably publish a more particular account of this hoard), of the following, viz.:—

- "5 Pennies of William the Lion.
- 2 Halfpence, 'Johannes Dom.'
- 1 Halfpenny, 'Caput Johannis' (unpublished).
- 10 Masle farthings.
- 289 Pennies of John, 'Roberd on dive.'
- 1 " " 'Johannes on Diveli.'
- 1 " " blundered.
- 2 Halfpence, 'Roberd.'

- 1 Farthing, 'Roberd.'  
 534 English Pennies of Henry III., 14 mints, all short cross.  
 5 Halves of ditto.  
 238 'Patricii,' reverse 'De Duno;' many of them broken.  
 26 ,, reverse 'Crag' or 'Cragfevf.'

"The total number of the coins was 1115.

"The only unpublished coins in this hoard are the 'Caput Johannis' and the 'Patricii,' coined at Downpatrick and Carrickfergus. The 'Patricii' were probably struck either in the reign of Henry II. or that of Richard I.; they are farthings, and weigh about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  grains when perfect. I enclose a specimen of each mint, which, with one of the ecclesiastical coins I have supposed to be pinquins, weighing 8 grains, I would thank you to place in the Museum of our Society. The 'Patricii,' particularly those of Carrickfergus, are mostly mutilated and in bad condition."

By the President: two jettons dug up in the garden of the Deanery of St. Canice.

By the Rev. Dr. Spratt: Wilson's Dublin Tradesman's token, found in an ancient well in Aungier-street, Dublin.

By Mrs. Anderson: a London groat of Edward IV., and an English shilling of Elizabeth.

By John G. A. Prim: the Tradesman's token of "Thomas Fitzgerald of Thurles."

By Robert Stevenson, Esq.: an impression of the ancient seal of the Mayoralty of the borough of Grimsby, in England.

By Aquilla Smith, Esq., M. D.: a thirty-shilling note of the "Kilkenny Bank" of Mr. Joseph Loughnan, dated 9th September, 1818.

Dr. Corbett, of Cork, exhibited a curious pamphlet, entitled:—"A True Relation of all the Proceedings in Ireland, from the end of April last, to this present: sent From *Tristram Whetcombe*, Mayor of *Kinsale*, to his Brother *Benjamin Whetcombe*, Merchant in London. With A Certificate under the Hand and Seal of Sir *William Saint-Leger*, Lord President of Munster. As also The Copy of an Oath which was found in a Trunck in *Kilbrittaine* Castle, after the Rebels were fled from thence, the first of *June*, 1642." London, printed, by order of Parliament, for Joseph Hunscomb. 1642.

Mr. J. G. Robertson exhibited a leaden seal, which bore marks of having been appended by a cord or string; it bore on one side the letters and figures, N. P., N12II. 1797; the other side was much defaced. He asked for information as to its origin or purpose.

The Very Rev. the President suggested that it had been a seal attached to linen imported from Holland, certifying its authenticity.

Mr. Robertson also exhibited the impression of a bronze signet ring, found near Armagh in the year 1857, and now in possession of Dr. Petrie, bearing the letters "ION," above which was a crown of three strawberry leaves. These letters were presumed to stand for "I. O'Neill."

The Rev. Mr. Graves remarked that rings with a crowned "I" were common, and, to whatever personage those rings belonged, the impression which was now exhibited seemed to have been of the same class, giving the name "John" a little more *in extenso*. He did not think it could be in any way connected with the O'Neill family. The form of the letters was of the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Samson Carter, Esq., C. E., on behalf of J. G. Gibbon, Esq., C. E., sent a drawing of the old monument of the Whittey family existing in the ruined church of Kilmore, barony of Bargy, county of Wexford, accompanied by a copy of the inscription, as follows :—

"Hic iacet Walterus Whittey, De Balleteigue, &c. Armiger, qui  
Obyt 9 Novembris, Anno Dōi. 1630, et Helena uxor eius Fillia  
Hamundi Stafforde De Ballyconnoure Generosi quæ obyt 27  
Aprilis, Anno Dōi 1646 et Catharina Prima uxor Ricardi Whittey  
Armigeri Filia Philippi Devereux De Balmagir Armigeri quæ  
Obyt 18 Augusti Anno 1646 quorum Gratia idem Ricardus primo-  
genitus p'dicti Walteri et Helenæ cum uxore sua secunda  
Catharina Eustace Filla Olyveri Eustace De Ballynunry  
Armigeri Me Fieri fecit. 29 ianuary Anno Dōi 1647.

"Yee Christian friends in passing by, youre prayers wee humbly crave,  
That heere interred expecting christ a Restinge place maye have  
And as for them that went before prayers yow maye surely yelde,  
The licke of those that are to come expecte when yow have neede."

Mr. Michael Kearney, Clonmel, sent an inscription on a headstone in the church-yard of Darragrath, near Woodroof, midway between Cahir and Clonmel, county of Tipperary; which, although of no great antiquity, was worth preserving for its singularity.

Here lies the body of  
Andrew Coffoe who  
was Murdered by Den-  
nis Ryan and his Son  
y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> F<sup>by</sup> 1755.

The Rev. C. B. Gibson, M. R. I. A., sent the following communication relative to John Annias the poisoner :—

"Mr. Daniel Mac Carthy, in his interesting paper on 'State-craft in the sixteenth century,' says, when speaking of Annias the poisoner (vide

vol. i., new series, p. 408):—‘ No success has repaid my search after any further account of him.’ If Mr. Mac Carthy will turn to pages 556 and 557 of the ‘*Pacata Hibernia*,’ he will find two of his letters; the first, dated June, 1602, addressed to Father Dominick, Beerehaven, in which he warns him to be careful in fortifying Dunboy Castle, filling the chambers with hides and earth. He inquires about ‘cord and saltpetre,’ and in conclusion commends his friend to the special care of God. We conclude from these letters, that John Annias, as well as ‘James Archer the Jesuit,’ were engaged in the Spanish expedition (under Don Juan de Aquila), which landed at Kinsale in 1601.

“As his second letter is short, and was written ‘a little before his execution,’ and as I have a remark or two to make upon it, I shall ask a place for it here:—

“ ‘ A LETTER *from JOHN ANIAS to the BARON OF LIXNAW, a little before his Execution.*

“ ‘ In trust is treason. So Wingfield betrayed me. My death satisfies former suspicions, & gives occasion hereafter to remember me; & as ever I aspire to immortalize my name upon the earth, so I would request you by virtue of that ardent affection I had toward you in my life, you would honor my death in making mention of my name in the Register of your country. Let not my servant Cormock want, as a faithfull servant unto me. Let my funeral & service of the Catholique Church be observed for the soul. Heere I send you the Passe and Letter of that faithlesse Wingfield, having charged the bearer, upon his dutie to God, to deliver this unto your hands. O’Sulevan was strange to mee, but inures himself to want me. Command me to Captain Tirrell, O’Connor, your sister Gerode Oge. This the night before my execution, the eighth day of November 1602, & upon this sudden I cannot write largely.

“ ‘ Your loving Bedfellow sometimes,

“ ‘ ISMARITO.’<sup>1</sup>

“He speaks in this letter of ‘former suspicions.’ What were these? Had they reference to the report of his intention to poison Florence Mac Carthy? This may or may not have been the case. ‘O’Sulevan was strange’ to him. O’Sullivan was an honest man, and knew Anias had acted traitorously to his country. On the other hand, the Baron of Lixnaw had been his ‘loving bedfellow, sometimes.’ But ‘Misfortune’ (might plead the Baron) ‘makes us acquainted with strange bedfellows.’ Very true, but the whole style of the letter is not that of a thoroughly bad man. His desire to have his name mentioned in the Register of his country; his ardent affection for his friend, expressed in his dying hour; his adherence to his original faith, and his care of his faithful servant, are not the marks of one totally depraved. It is possible after all, perhaps *probable*, that he never contemplated the poisoning of Florence; but that his great enmity to Cecil and Carew caused him to ‘give out (as yt semeth) so vyle an untrewth.’ Let us be just and charitable to

<sup>1</sup> In the first letter to Father Dominick he signs himself “John Anias.”



them all, to the secretary and president, as well as to Annias. Whatever was his crime, it did not justify Wingfield's entrapping him by a 'false passe and letter.' In those days there was too much truth in the words, 'in trust is treason.'"

The Rev. James Graves said he had received a letter from Mr. Albert Way, dated at Venice, April 26. Although abroad in quest of health (and every lover of antiquity should hope that Mr. Way would return with a good store of that greatest of earthly blessings), yet he had not forgotten this Society, as was evident from the following communication:—

"Amongst the manuscripts in the public library at Nice, a collection which owes its origin to the suppression of certain monasteries in the Sardinian States, there exists a small volume, no doubt portion of the spoils of some old conventual library, which may possibly be regarded with interest by those who investigate Irish antiquities or literary history. It is entitled 'Manipulus Florum,' and appears to have been the result of the laborious studies of a certain Fellow of the Sorbonne in the fourteenth century, 'Magister Thomas de Hybernia,' doubtless a native of Ireland. At the end of the work is found the following colophon:—

"¶ Hoc opus est compilatum a magistro thoma de hybernia quondam Socio de Sorbona.

"¶ Explicit manipulus florum.'

"And at the close of a 'tabula' or index of the various subjects comprised in the volume, which is, in all probability the autograph of Thomas de Hybernia, the following date is found:—

"¶ Finit' [*finitum*] Anno domini M<sup>o</sup>. ccc. vi<sup>o</sup> die veneris post passionem apostolorum petri et pauli.'

"The compilation consists of numerous extracts from various authors, arranged under the words or subjects which they serve to illustrate or explain. A few of these subjects will suffice to show the nature of this medieval commonplace book; and although the volume, it will be perceived, is comparatively of slight literary importance—no portion of its contents being the original composition of the learned Fellow of the Sorbonne, an Irishman by birth—it may appear not wholly undeserving of attention, as serving to indicate the various authors most in esteem at the period, and most readily accessible to the writer. Nor is this brief notice offered without the hope that they may serve to draw forth some particulars regarding the Irish scholar with whose memory it is connected, or the original productions, possibly, of one who, as the evidence here supplied gives us assurance, had drank copiously at the best sources of ancient erudition and sound doctrine. The list of subjects commences thus:—

Abstinencia.  
Abusio.  
Acceptio personarum.  
Accidia.  
Adjutoria.  
Adventus domini.  
Adulatio.  
Advocati, &c.

“ At the close of this ‘ tabula,’ after the date before given, is found a ‘ tabula scriptorum,’ indicating the writers and treatises from which the extracts were compiled. Amongst these the following occur:—

S’ Augustine.  
S’ Ambrose.  
S’ Jerome.  
S’ Gregory.  
S’ Bernard.  
S’ Hilary. and others.

Also—

Libri Ysidori.  
Libri Johannis Crisostomi.  
Libri Rabani.  
Libri Prosperi et Damasceni.  
Libri Anselmi.  
Libri R. de Sancto Victore.  
Libri Hugonis de Sancto Victore.  
Libri Alcuini [*Alcuin*].

“ Then follow ‘ Libri diversorum auctorum,’ and amongst these are worthy of note:—

“ Plinius de Naturali hystoria.

“ Raby Moyses, qui intitulum, *Dux Dubiorum*.

“ Valerius Maximus de memorabilibus dictis et factis Romanorum, &c.

“ Dissuasio Valerii ad Rufinum ne ducat uxorem.

“ Macrobius de sompno sipionis [*Scipionis*].

“ Libri Tullii ; Rethorica vetus ; Rethorica nova ; De Amicitia ; De Officiis ; De Senectute, and several other works of Cicero.

“ Libri Boecii, de Trinitate, and others.

“ Libri Senece ; Epistole ejus ad Paulum Apostolum ; De beneficiis, and many others.

“ It may deserve mention, that in this catalogue the various works enumerated are described with the following singular precision ; the first and last words of each work are given, as in the following example:—

“ ¶ Rabij moyses, qui intitulum dux dubiorum vel neneroꝝ (?) continens partes tres. Principium—in nomine domini dei mundi fac m̄ uiaꝝ (?) Finis—sudentibus in regione umbre mortis lux oriatur.’

“ The MS. is very neatly written. The initials are rubricated, and painted blue. One leaf seems to have been lost at the beginning of the volume.”

Ware and Harris (“ Writers of Ireland,” pp. 74, 75) state that Thomas de Hybernia was born at Palmerstown, near Naas, in the county of Kildare. The “ Manipulus Florum ” was printed at Venice in 1492, and went through many subsequent editions.

Mr. Way also mentioned that he was struck by remarking, amongst the fresco paintings which cover the walls of the beautiful conventual church of Chiaravalle, the first Cistercian foundation in Italy, a painting of St. Malachy, with the legend:—“ S. Malachias Archiep’ Armacani, ordinis Cisterciensis ; ”—and over the figure:—“ Hinc di-

uitia, oratio Justi penetrat cælos." This painting was not, however, earlier than the sixteenth century.

He saw also a painting entitled "S. Cristianus Archiep<sup>s</sup> in Hibernia, Cisterciensis;" as also one of Edmund Archbishop of Canterbury,—works attributed to Fiamminghini.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

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ON ANCIENT MASON MARKS AT YOUGHAL AND ELSEWHERE; AND THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF THE CRAFTSMEN OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN IRELAND.

BY E. FITZGERALD, ARCHITECT, YOUGHAL.

It is now pretty well known that our mediæval architectural remains bear an undoubted impress of the age in which they were erected, independent even of tradition or history,—as, to the practised eye, the tapered window ope, inclining door-jamb, and massive wall of well or ill-wrought masonry, the form, style, and construction of arches, workmanship of sculpture, and section of mouldings, &c., each and all contribute in forming unerring clues to the date and period when erected.

But, that the early builders incised secret marks on the products of their heads and hands may not be generally known, yet is a fact well worth our attention.

That the craftsmen and masons of the middle ages, in Ireland, not only had private marks, but also a dialect called "Bearlagair-na-sair," which was unknown to any but the initiated of their own callings, is also a fact worth our particular attention.

This dialect has been preserved to our own times, and is still used among masons (though not exclusively confined to them) in the counties of Limerick, Clare, Waterford, and Cork; to the two latter counties it is chiefly confined in the present day. The writer made it an amusement, during part of the last year, to jot down, from among his masons, every word of "bearlagair" he could get an inkling of, until he conceived the subject was exhausted; and indeed, it is but fair to say, when the men found it was an amusement "to book their slang," they gave every facility in the collection, in general, except an odd, crusty old craftsman, who thought it "very wrong to let out their secrets;" but, when hinted, from mischief, that it was *only* for "prenting" they were being collected,