

tokens in Cashel. "Peeter Boyton," another of those who issued tradesmen's tokens, is one of the witnesses to this will.

JOHN SHUGSTER, QUARTERMASTER *in* CAPT. ADAM MOLLIONEX *his* TROOPE;
WILL dated 1660.

He bequeaths the lands of Cooleagh, being part of the arrears due to him for service in Ireland.

THE HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE, AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE CITY OF KILKENNY.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAVES, A. B., AND JOHN G. A. PRIM.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.—Having, in a work already before the public, traced the history of the See of Ossory to the place of its final establishment at Kilkenny, we then promised,¹ if life and health permitted, to take up again the thread of local history, of which the peculiar nature of the subject then in hand precluded a fuller development. This promise we now purpose to fulfil, so far as we are able. The subject, in its entire extent, may be comprised within the terms, "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the City of Kilkenny," including within that scope the district formerly known as the County of the City of Kilkenny, and at present existing as its electoral district for Parliamentary representation. The principal sections into which this subject may be divided are—

I. The Corporation of Irishtown.

II. The City of Kilkenny, properly so called, and the County of the City of Kilkenny.

III. The Castle of Kilkenny.

It is proposed to treat, in the first instance, of the Corporation of the Irishtown; not only because the date of its foundation is probably more ancient than that of Kilkenny proper, but chiefly in consequence of the history of the Cathedral of St. Canice, with which it is topographically as well as historically connected, having been already placed in the hands of the public.

The various churches and religious foundations (except the cathedral, which has been already treated of) come within the second section. The Castle of Kilkenny, although comprised within the city walls, was never subject to corporate authority, and, as comprising the history of the ancient and historic house of Ormonde, could not be included within the history of the City without swelling it to undue proportions: its annals, therefore, form the third division.

¹ "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice," p. 31.

SECTION I.—THE IRISHTOWN.

CHAPTER I.—HISTORICAL.

BY THE REV. J. GRAVES, A. B.

IT was the deliberately expressed opinion of Bishop Rothe—a native of the place, and one intimately acquainted with many sources of information now no longer available, that the origin of Kilkenny, civil as well as ecclesiastical, was coeval in date with the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland.¹ All our endeavours to trace an earlier civil occupation of the site having proved fruitless,² we accept the dictum of so very competent an authority. Rothe's³

¹ "Si vetustatem spectes cœna est eius origo conquestus et expugnatiois Anglicanæ in Hibernia primordiis."—Rothe, "De Ossoriensi Diœcesi," §§ 10, Cod. Clar., tom. li. No. 4796, Mus. Brit.

² For the facts and arguments which support the negative of a greater antiquity for Kilkenny, see the "History, &c., of St. Canice," pp. 22, 23.

³ That this MS. is to be attributed to the pen of David Rothe seems clear from internal evidence. For, 1st. That it was written by a native of Kilkenny, is evident *passim*. 2nd. The writer was a Roman Catholic. He speaks of Thomas Fleming as being *the Archbishop of Dublin*, §§ 16;—recognises the efficacy of the aid and guardianship of saints, § 17;—eulogizes the piety of founders of churches and monasteries: "quam vtramq' cum cōspicimus, tam in iis monumentis maiorū quæ adhuc integra supersunt, quam in ruderib' et cadauerib' sacrariorum, quæ demolita est [*sic*] *novitatis violentiâ*, nō possumus non excitari animis et corrob'ari *ad eandē professionem colendā cōservandamq'*" §§ 24;—and speaks contemptuously of the Reformed Church, terming Protestants "*novelli iconoclastæ*;"—and charging Bishop Bale, whom he calls "impudicus ganeo," with having broken and defaced all the statues and images of the saints he could lay hands on, §§ 28, &c., &c. 3rd. The writer and David Rothe were contemporary. He speaks of Kilkenny having been made a city by the charter of James I., §§ 10, 14, &c.;—the date, 1624, is mentioned as being past, § 16;—the eastern painted windows of the cathedral, broken down by the Parliamentarians after 1646, are described as still standing, § 28; whilst there is no allusion to the outbreak of the Rebellion of

1641. 4th. The author speaks of having used elsewhere the argument for the truth of Roman Catholic doctrines derived from the piety of ancient times (§ 24)—an allusion fully supported by the existence of Rothe's "Analecta" and other works; and states that he had elsewhere more largely treated of the synonymous terms "Hiberni" and "Scoti," as applied to the Irish (§ 1)—an assertion substantiated by the existence of Rothe's tract, "De Nominibus Hiberniæ," printed in Messingham's "Florilegium." There can, therefore, be no reasonable doubt that this fragment is from the pen of Rothe. Its incompleteness is much to be lamented. The MS. was intended to be a complete treatise on the Diocese of Ossory, as appears by the writer's statement in § 9, that, taking Kilkenny as a centre, he purposed to review in order the history, &c., of the different Rural Deaneries into which the Diocese is divided. It is, however, imperfect, ending abruptly in the middle of the 33rd section. But, even if completed, the treatise was but a portion of a larger work, a complete ecclesiastical survey of Ireland. The writer speaks of the dioceses of Armagh and Lismore as having been already treated of, and, alluding to the anchorite dwelling in his time at Fore, in Westmeath, adds, "proprius dicendi locus erit in Diœcesi Medensi" (§ 27). There are but two copies of this valuable fragment known to exist—one in the British Museum, part of the Clarendon (i.e. Ware's) collection, marked Tom. li., No. 4796; the other, written in a contemporary hand (but probably a copy, as it is deficient in the notes at §§ 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, which exist in the Museum codex), in the Manuscript Library of Trinity College, Dublin, marked E. 4, 18. Even in its present

hitherto unpublished manuscript gives the following graphic description of the situation and origin of the town :—

“The site is most enjoyable, being an open plain extending in every direction for many miles. The fields are fruitful in all manner of grain. Ponds and rapid streams¹ subserve, the one to fisheries, the others to traffic likewise; except where the dams and weirs, which support the mills that stand on either bank of the river, here and there impede the course of boats, whereby is supplied abundance of marble dug from the quarries, and of timber and beams felled in the woods, which to the north of [Kilkenny] mostly abound with lofty oaks, and invite the construction of timber work. Moreover, there exist two stone quarries—one to the east, remarkable for the variety, solidity, and abundance of its marbles, which, cerulean, black, white, or variegated with divers hues, are either exported to a distance, or else stored at home for building purposes.² The other stone quarry, which verges more to the north, affords marble also, but of rougher grain, and less apt to receive a polish;³ yet it also is prepared in large quantities, and dressed for the construction of edifices. . . . There being, therefore, such a rich supply of building materials, as well stone as timber, the inhabitants of this city are distinguished above most others of the realm by their propensity to erect structures of marble of a larger and more splendid class. To the east, the city is washed by the river, but to the west is defended by walls and turrets (which are said to have been commenced by a citizen named Talbot⁴), and pleasantly clad with the verdure of gardens and orchards on both sides. Furthermore, to the work of securing and increasing the inhabitation of the city itself, I find that three diverse nations, who finally coalesced into one, gave their aid. For the episcopal chair of the diocese of Ossory was translated hither from the ford or field of the Ox (in the vulgar tongue called Aghboo), in Upper Ossory, north of Kilkenny. The See was then, in the reign of Henry II., and at the commencement of the Conquest, ruled by Fœlix O’Dullany, Bishop of Ossory. That venerable prelate, when he perceived all places to be full of strifes and animosities, and the entire county to be on fire with war and tumults, with the desire to obtain greater security and quietness, betook himself to this place with his husbandmen and tenants, and laid the foundation as well as of the church as of the burgh, to serve the inhabitants both for the worship of God, and for civil inhabitation, as

imperfect state, this treatise of Rothe is worthy of that writer whom Ussher describes as a very learned investigator of his country’s antiquities; and may have well been in the Primate’s hands when writing his matchless work, “*De Brittan. Eccl. Primordiis*,” wherein (p. 737) he acknowledges his obligations—“*D. Rotheo . . . cujus tùm libris publicè (sed celato nomine) editis, tùm scriptis privatim transmissis, non parùm hïc adjutum me fuisse libens agnosco.*”

¹ This is quite the character of the river Nore, the course of which abounds with deep, still ponds, separated by shallow, gravelly fords,

over which the stream runs impetuously.

² Now known as the Black Quarry. It is interesting to learn that this marble was exported at so early a period; for this treatise of Rothe’s was written before the destruction, in 1646, of the famous east windows of the Cathedral of St. Canice, which he describes as existing.

³ The stone used in the new Roman Catholic cathedral is from the northern quarries, and answers to the description above given.

⁴ Under the superintendance of Robert Talbot, A. D. 1400. See “*History, &c., of St. Canice*,” p. 150.

also for defence against the attacks of robbers; and that municipality was of old time, as it is to the present day, called the Irish Town, and rejoices in its peculiar immunities, [namely] a public market recurring twice in the week; also a civil magistrate, called the Portreeve, who, being elected yearly by the suffrages of the Burgesses, is presented to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, as by him the office is created; and [an officer] of the Cross,¹ termed the Seneschal, who is generally a nobleman, or knight, or at least an esquire. This municipality is thickly inhabited, according to the custom of the country, being encircled by its own walls, and separated by the Bregach rivulet from the neighbouring city, much in the same way that the city of Nobiliacum (for so it was formerly termed), in Artois, was separated from the town of Arras."

"Situs loci peramœnus aperiente se planitie campestri undequaq̄ p̄ multorū milliariū spatiū; arua omnis generis frumenti feracia; aquæ stagnantes iuxta et profluentes; illæ piscationi, istæ vocationi pariter inseruiunt: nisi quod alibi septa et cataractæ q̄ molas obmuniunt (quas vtraq̄ ripa fluminis habet plurimas) obicem hinc inde inferant cursui cymbarū, copia quæ suppetit marmorum eruendorum è latomijs, et lignoꝝ trabiumq̄ e sylvis cœdis, quæ maxime ad boream solent abundare proceris quercubus inuitant ad fabricandum. Habet enim duas lapicidinas, vnâ ad orientem eamq̄ prænobilem a varietate, soliditate, et multitudine marmorum, quæ cærulea, nigra, candida partim etiam diuersi coloribus variegata vel longinq̄ exportantur, vel domi coaceruantur in vsum structurarum. Altera vero lapicidina, quæ magis ad boream vergit, p̄bet etiam marmora sed asperiora minusq̄ apta læuigationi, quamuis et ipsa quoq̄ vbertim præparentur et ædificiis extruendis accōmodentur. Cum itaq̄ fabricandi materies tam fossilis quâ cœdua hic affatim suppetat, hinc est quod incolæ huius ciuitatis, præ alijs complurib⁹ huius regni hominib⁹ studeant ædificiis ferè ampliorib⁹ et nitidiorib⁹ e marmore excitandis. Latus ciuitatis orientale fluuio alluitur, occidentale verò munitur mœnib⁹ et turriculis, quib⁹ extruendis Talbotus ciuis initium dedisse perhibetur, et ab vtroq̄ latere hortis et pomarijs amœne vestitur. Cæterum in ipsius ciuitatis incolatu firmando et ampliando, tres diuersas gentes, quæ in vnam tandem coluerunt, operam posuisse inuenio. Nam a parte boreali, ex vado seu cāpo boū in superiori Ossoria (vulgo nuncupatur Agboo), translata huc cathedra ep̄alis Ossoriensis Diœcesis, quâ Fælix O'Dullany Ep̄us Ossoriensis regnante Henrico Secundo sub initium expugnationis regebat, cum oīa simulatibus et odijs plena, et totam ditionem bello ac tumultibus feruere cerneret, venerabilis ille Antistes, studio captandæ maioris securitatis et quietudinis in hūc locum se recepit cum suis colonis et inquilinis; et fundamentū collocauit tam templo quam burgo extruendo, quod incolis seruiret tum pro cultu Dei, tum pro incolatu ciuili, tum etiam p̄ munimine aduersus grassatorū incursiones, ipsūq̄ municipium vōcebatur olim Burgum Hibernicum prout vsq̄ in hodiernū dum nominatur; et gaudet immunitatib⁹, mercatu publico bis recurrente hebdominatim, magistratu etiam ciuili quem vocant præpositū, qui Burgensiū suffragiis electus quotannis præsentatur ep̄o vt

¹ "Crocea."—The church lands were so named. The Bishop's lands about the Cathedral, which formed the Manor of Nova Curia, or New Court, are here alluded to.

ab eo confirmetur, prout ab eo creatur, et Crociæ quæ vocant Senescellus, qui solet esse primarius vel ex equestri ordine vel certe armiger. Habitat hoc municipium frequenter incolatu pro more nationis, suisque mœnibus cinctum, et distinctum Briagio fluviolo a ciuitate vicina, et fere modo quo in Artesia Nobiliacum (ita olim dicebatur) ciuitas separatur ab vrbe Atrebatensi.”— (§§ 10–13.)

The MS. then gives a lucid account of the foundation of William Earl Mareschal's Castle and Burg of Kilkenny, and of the settlement and gradual absorption of a colony of Flemings, of which more hereafter, and proceeds :—

“From these three original nations, fused into one common people, with a certain grafting and mingling of race by marriage, and the procreation of children common [to both parents] which is wont to be the pledge and bond of the permanency of a community, sprung that inhabitation¹ which we [now] see.”

“Ex tribus his gentibus primariis in vnus populi conflatis, propagatus est iste incolatus quem cernimus cum insitione quadam et cōmixtione sanguinis, per connubium et cōmunium liberorum procreationem, quæ pignus esse solet et vinculum perpetuandæ cōmunionis.”— (§ 16.)

The only exception that can be made to the foregoing theory of the origin of the Irishtown of Kilkenny is as follows :—Felix O'Dullany, an Ossorian by birth,² and a prelate well calculated to hold his own amongst the unconquered tribesmen of Upper Ossory, we know, did not found the cathedral of St. Canice³ of Kilkenny. He died at that same Aghaboe,⁴ from whence he is said by Rothe to have removed for quietness' sake, “cum suis colonis et inquilinis,” to Kilkenny. The truth seems to be, that O'Dullany, who was also Abbot of Jerpoint, in the heart of the conquered district of Lower Ossory, now the county of Kilkenny, and who would, no doubt, wish to stand well with its Anglo-Norman feudal Lord, may have planted his See lands adjoining the newly founded Castle of Kilkenny with some Irish colonists from Aghaboe, whilst it is equally certain that the natives, expelled from the district occupied by the feudal fortress and its franchises, would take shelter beneath the authority of their fellow-countryman O'Dullany, whose lands at Kilkenny then, and for ages after, formed “the Cross” (Crocea), exempt from lay authority, and under the ægis of the Church. But when Hugh de Rous,

¹ “Incolatus,” a settlement in a strange land.

² O'Dullany (O'Duárláine), now Delany, came of a tribe which O'Heerin, in his “Topographical Poem,” seats in Coill-Uachtarach, or Upper Woods, along the eastern slope of the Sliabh Bloom Mountains, now the Barony of Upperwoods, close to the Monastery of Aghaboe, and a district of ancient

Ossory (Oppanige)—See “Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society,” vol. i. p. 249.

³ Rothe himself was aware of this, for in a note to the passage quoted he writes “Felix designauit potius quã fudauit Ecclesiam S'ti Canici.”

⁴ Ussher, De Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Primordiis, p. 957.

“*primus Anglicus Episcopus Ossoriensis*,”¹ succeeded O’Dullany in 1202, and translated the Cathedral to Kilkenny, we find on record the pregnant fact, that he at once exchanged, with William Earl Mareschal, the See lands at Aghaboe for others situated more conveniently, i. e. nearer Kilkenny, and within the limits of the conquered districts. We subjoin both the Bishop’s and the Earl’s counterparts of the deed of exchange, now for the first time published :²—

“ To all sons of holy Mother Church to whom the present charter shall come: Hugh, by the grace of God, Bishop of Ossory, sends greeting in the Lord. Know ye that we, by consent and assent of our Chapter, have given and granted to William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke, for his homage and service, the vill of Achboo, with all its appurtenances, and with all the claims of lands which I demand in the Cantred of Achbo, to have and to hold to him and his heirs, of us and our successors, in fee and inheritance, freely, entirely, and honourably, in wood, in plain, in paths, in waters, in meadows, in pastures, in moors and marshes, in mills, stews, castles, fortalices, and in all other places, with all liberties and free customs; paying annually thereout to the Cathedral Church of Kilkenny two wax [candles] of six pounds of wax, for all service and demand. And although we have given to the aforesaid Lord, for his homage and service, the vill of Achbo, nevertheless, that he might also benefit more largely us and our successors, the said Earl has given to us and our successors eight carucates of land, to be possessed for ever, to wit, Ballisle³ for three carucates, and Growen⁴ for four carucates, and the ecclesiastical benefice of the same land, and one carucate of land on the other side of the bridge of Insnake,⁵ towards the south. Moreover, the said Earl has given to us and our successors the patronage of the churches of the Blessed Mary of Kilkenny, and of St. Patrick of Donnaghmore, with all their appurtenances, to hold in exchange for the advowson of the church of St. Canice, of the vill of Achbo, and of all the other churches of the same place, with all their appurtenances. And that this our grant might remain sure and unshaken, we have confirmed it with our seal, and the seal of our Chapter, &c.

“*Ex^d by Na: Plunket.*”

“*Omnibus scē matris ecclie filiis ad quos presens carta pervenerit H. Dei grā Ossorien’ epūs saltem in Dño. Sciatis nos consensu et assensu capit’ li nrī dedisse et concessisse Willimo Mar’ com’ Pembroch’ p̄ homag’ et servic’ suo villam de Achboo cū oībus p’tin’ suis et cū omnibus clam’ terrarū quas exigebamus in cātredo de Achbo, hend’ et ten’ sibi et hered’ suis de nobis et successoribus nrīs in feodo et hereditate libere integre et honorifice in bosco in planis in semitis in aquis in pratis in pasturis in*

¹ Cartulary of Kells in Ossory, “Lansdowne MSS.,” Plut. LXXVI., E. 418.

² From the transcript of the White Book of Ossory, Consistorial Records, Kilkenny, compared with an early transcript preserved amongst the Ormonde manuscripts.

³ Ballinaslee, near Durrow, still part of the temporalities of the See of Ossory.

⁴ Grovine, near Kilkenny, still part of the temporalities of the See of Ossory.

⁵ Innisnag, near Stoneyford, still part of the temporalities of Ossory.

moris in marescis in molendin' viuariis castris fortellicis et in oibus aliis locis cū oibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus. Reddo inde annuatim cathedrali ecclie de Kilkenny ij cereos viⁱⁱ cere p̄ omni servicio et exacōe. Et qu'vis p'dēam villam de Achbo p'dcō dom' pro homag' et servic' suo sicut p'miss' est dedimus, tā nobis et successoribus nris plenius ut benefecerit, dedit nobis et successoribus idem com' viij. carucatas terre p̄petue possidend', silz Ballisle pro tribus carucatis, et growen pro iij caruc' cū beneficio ecclesiastico eiusd' terre, et vnam carucatam terre ex altera pte pontis de Insnake versus meridiem, insup' dedit nob' et successoribus nris idem Com'ius patronatus eccliaꝝ beate marie de Kilkenn' [et] s̄i Patricii de Donnaghmore cum oibus eaꝝ p̄tin', hēnd' in comutacōe advocacōis ecclie sc̄i Kannicii de villa de Achbo et aliaꝝ oñium eccliarꝝ eiusdem loci cū oibus ad easdem ecclias p̄tin'. Et ut hec nrā donacio rata et inconcussa p̄maneat sigillo nro et sigillo Capifli nri firmavimus, &c.

“Ex^a p̄ Na: Plunket.”

“The Charter of William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke, and the Countess, his Wife, to Hugh, Bishop of Ossory.

“William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke, to all to whom shall come the present charter, greeting. Know ye, that I have received, by the gift of Hugh, Bishop of Ossory, and the grant of his entire Chapter, the vill of Aghebo, with all its appurtenances, and with all the claims of lands which the said Bishop claims in the cantred of Aghebo, to have for my homage and service, and to hold to me and my heirs of the said Bishop, and his successors, in fee and inheritance, freely and quietly, entirely and honourably, in wood and in plain, and in all other places, with all liberties and free customs, as the charter which I have of the said Bishop witnesses, at the annual rent of two wax [candles] of six pounds of wax, to be paid to the Cathedral Church of Kilkenny at the feast of St. Canice, in lieu of every service and exaction. And although the said Bishop, as is aforesaid, has given me the said vill of Aghebo for my homage and service, nevertheless, that I may the more largely benefit him and his successors, with the assent and consent of the Countess Isabella, my wife, I have now given and granted to the said Bishop and his successors eight carucates of land in places useful and suitable to him, viz., Bally-sly as three carucates, and Growin as four carucates, with the church benefice of the said land, and one carucate of land on one side of the bridge of Insnak towards the south, to be possessed for ever. Moreover, I have given and granted to the said Bishop and his successors the patronage of the churches of the Blessed Mary of Kilkenny, and of St. Patrick of Donaghmore, with all their appurtenances, to have in exchange for the patronage of the church of St. Canice in the vill of Aghebo, and of all the other churches of the said place, with all their appurtenances. Moreover, that this my grant may remain firm and unshaken, I have confirmed it with my seal, and the seal of the Countess Isabella, my wife, in the presence of, &c.

“Examined with the original ‘whit booke,’ and there you will find this grant written in the second folio of C² of the said book.”

¹ Ormonde MSS.

² That is, of the “stave” marked C in the White Book.

“Carta Willelimi Marescalli Comitis Pembroke et Comitisse uxoris sue Hugone Ossor’ Ep̄o.

“Willelim⁹ Marescall⁹ comes Pembroke oīb⁹ ad quos p’sens carta pvenit salutem. Sciatis me accepisse ex donacōe H. Ossor’ Ep̄i et concessione totius Cap̄li sui villā de Aghebo cū oīb⁹ p̄tinent’ et cū oīb⁹ clameis terraꝝ quas eidem Ep̄s clamabat in Cantredo de Aghebo habend̄ pro homagio et servicio meo, et tenend̄ mihi et heredib⁹ meis de dict’ ep̄o et successorib⁹ suis in feodo et hereditate libere et quiete integre et honorifice in bosco et plano, et oīb⁹ aliis locis cū oīb⁹ libertatib⁹ et liberis consuetudinibus sicut carta mea quā habeo de eod’ ep̄o testatur. Reddendo inde annuatim Cathedrali Ecc̄lie de Kilkenia ad festū s̄ti Canici duos cereos sex libraꝝ cerei p̄ oī sevitiō et exaccione. Et quamvis eidem Ep̄us sicut p’miss⁹ est p’dictā villā de Aghebo cū p̄tinent’ mihi donaverit pro homagio et servicio meo, tamen ut ego ei et successorib⁹ suis plenius beneficerem, dedi et concessi assensu et consensu Comitisse Isabelle uxoris mee iam dicto Ep̄o et successorib⁹ suis octo carucat’ terre in locis ei utilib⁹ et competentib⁹, viz. Ballysly pro trib⁹ carucatis, et Growin pro quatuor carucatis cum beneficio ecclesiastico eiusd’ t̄re, et unum carucat’ terre ex alt’ p̄te pontis Insnack vers⁹ meridiem perpetuo possidend̄. Insuper dedi et concessi eid’ Ep̄o et suis successorib⁹ ius patronatus ecclesiarū Bē Marie de Kilkenia et s̄ti Patricii de Donaghmore cū oīb⁹ suis p’tin’, habend’ sibi in cōmūtatione patronatus Ecc̄lie s̄ti Canici in villa de Aghebo et aliaꝝ omniū Ecc̄liaꝝ eiusd’ loci cū oīb⁹ ad easd’ p’tin’. Ut autem hec mea donatio rata et inconcussa p̄maneat eam sigillo meo et sigillo comitisse Isabelle uxoris mee confirmavi hiis testib⁹, &c.

“Examinata cū originali whit booke, et illic invenies inscripta hec donacio folio secundo eiusdem libri de C.”

The date of the preceding documents can be approximately ascertained. The Hugh Bishop of Ossory, who is party to them, must have been Hugh de Rous, because there was no other prelate bearing the same Christian name till 1251, and William Earl Mareschal the elder died in 1219. Hugh de Rous sat from 1202 to 1218, and we are inclined to adopt the earlier date, and to conclude that the exchange was effected shortly after his accession to the See. That De Rous gave a charter to his tenants at Kilkenny about the year 1202, and previous to the foundation of the Earl Mareschal’s burgh, seems probable.¹ In support of this supposition we may observe that the ancient seal² of the Corporation of Irishtown, bears a legend which does not use the *relative* term of

¹ The charter granted by William Earl Mareschal the elder, “Burgensibus meis de Kilkenia,” is without date; but, as he gave a charter to St. John’s Priory in 1211, granting rights to its monks “in villā de Kilkenny,” the town must have been incorporated before that year.

² The original matrix of this seal is preserved in the Museum of the Society: it is

of copper, and of the same size as the engraving at next page. The characteristics of the rudely engraved ecclesiastical building with which it is charged, as well as the Lombardic letters of the legend, are fully as old as De Rous’s time. For the mode of its acquisition by the Society, see “Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society,” vol. i. p. 486.

“villa Hibernicana”—an appellation undoubtedly introduced after the establishment of the adjoining *English Corporation*. We give an engraving of this interesting and ancient corporate seal (see Plate). The Church which occupies the field shows the dependence of the “civitas”¹ on the Bishop;² and the legend explicitly claims the seal to be that of the “citizens of Kilkenny,” whilst the addition “of the See of Ossory” excludes the idea that it had anything to do with the subsequently founded English town. The legend reads as follows:—

✠ SIGILL : GOMVNE : CIVIVM : KILLKENÑ : SEDIS : OSSORIE.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE CITIZENS OF KILKENNY OF THE SEE
OF OSSORY.

The inference we have drawn is further strengthened by another deed, extant in the fragmentary transcript of the ancient White Book of Ossory, which implies a charter of incorporation already granted to the town, and uses the style and title found in the above legend. We append a translation, accompanied by the original:—

“The Charter of Hugh, Bishop of Ossory, to Thomas Vnch, of two Burgageries, and five acres of land.

“To all sons of Mother Church who shall see or hear the present writing: Hugh, by the mercy of God, Bishop of Ossory, and an humble minister of the Church, sends greeting in the Lord. Know ye, that we, with the assent and consent of our Dean and Chapter of St. Canice, Kilkenny, have granted, and by this our present charter confirmed, to Thomas Vnch, *our citizen of Kilkenny*, two Burgageries lying on the north side next the public road which leads towards the House of the Friars Preachers, with five acres of land in our tenement of Kilkenny, which John le Messag’ formerly held of us: To have and to hold of us and our successors to him and his heirs or assigns, freely and quietly, entirely, peacefully, and in inheritance, *with all the liberties and free customs belonging to a free burgage of our town of Kilkenny*; paying thence annually, himself, his heirs or assigns, to us and our successors, two silver shillings at two terms of the year, viz.: twelve pence at Michaelmas, and twelve pence at Easter; and to the Church of St. Canice of Kilkenny, half a pound of wax at the said feast of Easter, for every service, exaction, and demand; and that this our grant, concession, and charter, might be preserved, confirmed, sure, and stable for ever, we have caused to be appended to this present writing our seal, together with the common seal of our said Chapter, the following being witnesses, &c.”

“Carta Hugonis Ossoriens’ Epi Thome Vnch de duab⁹ Burgagiis et v. acris terre.

“Universis m̄ris ecclie filiis psens scriptū visur’ vel auditor’ Hugo miseracione divina Ossoriens’ Ep̄us et ecclie minister humilis sal̄m in dño.

¹ As being a Bishop’s See, Kilkenny was ecclesiastically a city before the charter of James I. gave it that dignity in the civil

state.

² Rothe says that it was sometimes termed “Villa Episcopi”—“De Ossor. Diocese.,” §17.



ANCIENT CORPORATE SEAL OF THE IRISHTOWN, KILKENNY.

Nov⁷tis me de consensu et assensu decani et capituli n^ri scⁱ Canici Kilkenie concessisse et hac pⁿti carta n^ra confirmasse Thome Vnch civi n^ro Kilkenie duo Burgagia jacentia iuxta viam publicam que extendit v^sus domū frat^rū predicator^z ex p^{te} boriali, cū v. acris terre in tenemento n^ro Kilkenie ad d^{ca} burgagia pⁿinent' q^d Johes le Messag' aliquando de nobis tenuit. Habend' et tenend' de nob' et successorib⁹ n^ris sibi et heredib⁹ suis vel assignatis libere et quiete integre pacifice et hereditar' cū oib⁹ libertatib⁹ et liberis consuetudinib⁹ ad libera burgagia ville n^re Kilkenie spectantib⁹ reddend' inde annuatim ipse et heredes sui vel assignati nobis et successorib⁹ n^ris duos solidos argenti ad duos anni terminos vz xij^d ad festū Michaelis et xij^d ad festū pasche et ecclie scⁱ Canici Kilkenie dī fi ceree in d^{cto} festo pasche pro oī servicio exaccione et demando. Et ut hec n^ra donacio concessio et chart' confirmar [. . . .] firma et stabilis impetuū p^reveret' p^rsent' scr [. . . .] sigillū n^rū una cū sigillo comuni dict' capituli n^ri fecim⁹ apponi hiis testib⁹," &c.

The Bishop Hugh who granted this charter may have been, Hugh de Mapilton, who sat from 1251 to 1256. It cannot date later, however, than the time of his successor, Hugh III., who filled the See from 1257 to 1259.

(To be continued.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE IRISH CORRESPONDENCE IN
H. M. STATE PAPER OFFICE.

COMMUNICATED BY HERBERT F. HORE, ESQ.

My promise of resuming extracts from the Irish State Papers requires to be fulfilled, in order to draw the attention of our readers to the extent and interest of these documents, soon to be made more apparent by the publication of the first Calendar of them, which must be deemed a great boon to our archæologists, and to all who feel interested in the history of our country. This voluminous catalogue is a digest of the earliest papers, extending from the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. to the close of the year 1573; and the quantity of the state correspondence and documents indexed may be imagined from the facts that this Calendar comprises 536 large octavo pages, and that the folio volumes of MSS. thus catalogued are forty-three in number, for the first fifteen years of Elizabeth's reign. The reigns of her predecessors are, unfortunately, less fully illustrated, the papers of Edward VI. being contained in four volumes, and of Queen Mary in two, while the memorable times of the Eighth Henry are developed by a series of twelve manuscript