

PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS
OF
THE KILKENNY AND SOUTH-EAST OF IRELAND
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1857.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, January 14th (by adjournment from the 7th), 1857,

SAMSON CARTER, ESQ., C. E., in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

Lady Anna Maria Loftus, 63, Eaton-place, London; and Chichester Fortescue, Esq., M. P., Red House, Ardee: proposed by Rev. G. H. Reade.

Lieutenant-Colonel K'Eogh, Resident Magistrate, Ballina, county of Mayo; W. Andrew Armstrong, Esq., J. P., Rathmacknee, Wexford; J. A. Purefoy Colles, Esq., L. R. C. S. I., Assistant-Surgeon, North Tipperary Regiment; J. Macnamara Cantwell, Esq., Cantwell's Court, Kilkenny, and 24, Lower Dominick-street, Dublin: proposed by the Rev. James Graves, Hon. Sec.

Richard Nugent, Esq., 1, Gloucester-terrace, Belgravia, London: proposed by T. C. Mossom Meekins, Esq.

Rev. P. J. Lenihan, P. P., East Greenwich, Rhode Island, United States; and Felix J. Quinn, Esq., C. E., Enniskillen: proposed by Edward Fitzgerald, Esq.

James O'Mahony, Esq., Bandon: proposed by R. R. Brash, Esq.

Thomas P. Littleton, Esq., Cashel: proposed by P. Aylward, Esq.

P. J. Dillon, Esq., King-street, Kilkenny; proposed by J. G. A. Prim, Hon. Sec.

The Honorary Secretary then read the following Annual Report for 1856 :—

The conclusion of your Eighth Session affords your Committee an opportunity of congratulating the Members on the satisfactory progress which the Society has made during the past year. At the six meetings which were held in 1856, 112 new Members were proposed and elected, leaving, after the deduction of 20 names removed in consequence of death, non-payment of subscriptions, and other causes, a clear gain of 92. Amongst those whom the hand of death has removed from amongst us the Society has deep cause to lament the loss of Richard Hitchcock, Esq., one of its earliest Members, and most useful and enthusiastic supporters. When you are told that, owing to his exertions, the list of Members has been increased by over 100 names; that his able assistance in correcting the proof-sheets of the "Journal" was ungrudgingly and unsparingly afforded to the Secretaries; and that on several occasions he had presented engravings to illustrate the Journal,—but a very feeble expression will have been given of the sense entertained by your Committee of the untiring exertions made by Mr. Hitchcock to advance the interests of the Society. Warm in his friendships, characterized by principles the most honourable and strictly upright, he will long be regretted by his personal friends; whilst those whose pursuits were congenial to his own will retain a vivid impression of the disinterested zeal for the advancement of Irish archæology by which he was actuated. In the abstruse department of our ancient Ogham monuments his exertions were indefatigable: he devoted himself to the collection and registering of such monuments, noting accurately their situations, and making *fac-similes* of the inscriptions wherever discovered. Professor Graves has already publicly expressed the high sense entertained by him of Mr. Hitchcock's labours in this field: indeed, his name must ever be associated with those of Professor Graves and Mr. Windle in connexion with the study of this most difficult branch of Irish antiquities. Of the extreme accuracy and untiring diligence which were the ruling features of his mind, several papers on topographical subjects, chiefly connected with his native and beloved county of Kerry, which from time to time he communicated to the Society, afford ample proof; and even in his last illness he found time for a short but interesting communication, which has been printed in the November part of the "Journal."

With the year 1856 a New Series of the Society's "Journal" was commenced. This step was rendered necessary by the unwillingness of new Members to place on their shelves an imperfect set of the Society's publications; the fact of the first volume having been long out of print rendering it impossible for the Secretaries to supply complete series. The impression of the New Series of the "Journal" amounts to 850; yet so numerous have been the accessions to the Society, that there remain on hands but 150 copies, thus rendering it advisable that all who wish to obtain perfect sets of the New Series should lose no time in securing copies whilst they are available. It is hoped that the New Series will be found not to have fallen off in value and interest as compared with the earlier volumes of the Society's publications.

The first part of the "Annuary" of the Society has been placed in the

hands of those who subscribed for it, but the continuation of the work must depend on the measure of support afforded. Much matter of an important and interesting nature is ready for publication if the necessary funds are subscribed; but your Committee cannot venture to incur further risk until more fully supported by the Members at large.

The appeal made to the Members for the formation of a fund by donations has been by many liberally responded to. But to effect the objects set forth in the circular which has been placed in the hands of Members, it is necessary that the Members at large should contribute their *quota*: were each even to double his subscription for the present year, the Society would be thereby enabled to carry into effect many desirable objects.

The Honorary Secretaries have, during the past year, been engaged in exertions to promote the preservation from further ruin of the noble Abbey of Dunbrody, in the county of Wexford; but, they regret to state, as yet without effect. They feel, however, loath to despair of final success, as the noble owner of the Abbey (Lord Templemore) must be conscious of the importance of preserving from impending destruction a building which forms so striking an ornament to his property, and affords such a matchless example of the piety, skill, and taste of our ancestors.

Your Committee, in conclusion, would earnestly seek to impress on the attention of Members the absolute necessity which exists for prompt payment in advance of their small annual subscriptions. *Surely, that often a twelfth part of the entire amount should be expended in the collection, is a grievous misapplication of the funds of the Society!* And yet, if Members will not take the trouble to recollect that the claims of printers, &c., must be paid, and that their subscriptions are due on January 1st in each year, it follows that repeated applications must be made to them. Hence arises a very considerable expenditure of money and labour, which would be far better expended on the "Journal" of the Society, thus rendering to each Member individually better value for the money he has paid, instead of merely serving to increase the revenue of her Majesty's Post-office.

The Report having been unanimously adopted, and the consideration of the arrangements for printing the Society's "Journal" for the present year proceeded with, it was—"Resolved, that Mr. Gill's estimate for printing having been taken into consideration, and adopted, in order to meet his reasonable demand for half-yearly settlements, the Members of the Society be called on to pay in their subscriptions promptly on the 1st of January in each year, as by the Society's Rules they are bound to do."

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was—"Resolved, that in case more than one application be rendered necessary by want of punctuality in the payment of subscriptions, the additional postage incurred should be added to the subscriptions.

The Acting Treasurer said that, although many of the Members, apparently from forgetfulness, were tardy in sending in their subscriptions, yet at the end of each year very few, indeed, remained in arrear; all that could be complained of was that they did not all pay at once in the beginning of the year, and that many of them

required numerous "reminders." Some half-dozen Members seemed to have been struck with conscientious scruples at having taxed the Society's funds for so many applications to "pay up," and when sending their subscriptions had added the additional postage to the amount. Their example certainly was most worthy of general imitation.

It was Resolved, that the previous Officers of the Society be re-elected for the present year, with the following—

COMMITTEE :

JAMES S. BLAKE, Esq., J. P., Barrister-at-Law.
 REV. JOHN BROWNE, LL. D.
 JOSEPH BURKE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.
 SAMSON CARTER, Esq., C. E., M. R. I. A.
 HERBERT F. HORE, Esq.
 JOHN JAMES, Esq., L. R. C. S. I.
 REV. PHILIP MOORE, R. C. C.
 MATTHEW O'DONNELL, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.
 JOHN O'DONOVAN, Esq., LL. D.
 REV. JOHN O'HANLON, R. C. C.
 THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF WATERFORD.
 JOHN WINDELE, Esq.

It was also "Resolved, that the Treasurer's accounts for the past year should, in accordance with the General Rules, be brought up at the March Meeting, and that Mr. J. G. Robertson and Mr. P. O'Callaghan be requested to act as Auditors."

The Secretary then read the following protest:—

"We, the undersigned, hereby protest against the Kilkenny Archaeological Society being made the medium of misrepresenting the Irish character, by the publication of such documents as that of *Thomas Dineley*, at page 170 of the September Number. We joined the Society, believing it to be established for the purpose of developing *useful* antiquities, not of circulating *unfounded statements* concerning our native land. We deem it our duty to make this our protest against such unjustifiable conduct, and to require of the Committee to publish this expression of our dissent in the next Number of the Transactions of the Society.

"JOHN SPRATT, D. D.

"PETER WARD, P. P., Turlough.

"MARTIN A. O'BRENNAN, 57, Bolton-street,

"Author of 'Ancient Ireland.'

"*Dublin, December 9, 1856.*"

It was then proposed by John F. Shearman, Esq., seconded by John James, Esq., F. R. C. S. I., and—

“Resolved, that having received and considered this protest, we order it to be inserted on the Minutes; at the same time, it is the sense of the Meeting that the Society, by its Rules, is not identified with any expressions or statements to be found in the document alluded to, which has been printed solely as an archæological curiosity, and as forming a portion of a larger MS., calculated to throw much light (both by drawings and descriptions, of which the portion yet to be printed solely consists) on the architectural and monumental remains of Ireland.”

The Rev. James Graves laid on the table a large folio volume, containing the newspaper reports of the Society's Proceedings, from its formation in February, 1849, to the end of the year 1853. These reports had been collected, arranged, and bound by the late Mr. Richard Hitchcock, and were now, in pursuance of his expressed intentions, presented to the Society by his widow. In consequence of the smallness of their funds, the earlier volumes of the Society's publications comprised merely a selection of the matters brought before the various Meetings, full reports of which were alone afforded by the local newspaper press. This greatly enhanced the value of the present donation. The destination of this volume by the lamented compiler afforded another strong proof of the deep interest which he took in everything connected with this Society.

A small collection of ancient coins, from her late husband's cabinet, was also sent for presentation by Mrs. Hitchcock, to whom a special vote of thanks was then voted by the Meeting.

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

By the Publisher: “The Gentleman's Magazine” for December, November, and January.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their “Journal,” No. 51.

By the London and Middlesex Archæological Society: their “Transactions,” Vol. I. part 1.

By the Sussex Archæological Society: their “Archæological Collections,” Vol. VIII.

By the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society: their “Proceedings” for 1855.

By the Publisher: “The Builder,” Nos. 718 to 727, inclusive.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: “The Ulster Journal of Archæology,” No. 16.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: “Archæologia Cambrensis,” Third Series, No. 9.

By the Cambrian Institute: their “Journal,” part 12.

By the Author, T. L. Donaldson, Esq.: “Mémorial of the Commandatore Canina, and History of Alnwick Castle:” London, 1856.

By the Author, Martin A. O'Brennan, Esq., LL. D. : "An Essay on Ireland:" Dublin, 1856.

By Clayton Savage, Esq. : a farthing of King Charles II., in good preservation, and a manuscript of the year 1708, both of which had been found in the roof of Kilcreene House, when being newly slated in 1839. The document was an order for £11 10s., drawn on Alderman Josias Haydock by Robert Fitzgerald, collector of the rents of the Duke of Ormonde; and it is supposed to have been carried into the roof of the house by mice. Kilcreene House appears to have been built some time before the year in which the document was written, by Alderman Haydock, whose daughter was mother of Sir William Haydock Morres, of Kilcreene, who represented Kilkenny city in the Irish Parliament for a considerable period, in the middle of the last century.

By Mr. Lawless : an ancient paper-clip.

By S. Atkin, Esq. : a small perforated stone, of the class known as "fairy millstones."

The Rev. John O'Hanlon communicated the following remarks to the Society, which were heartily concurred in by the Members present :—

"At the half-yearly meeting of the Mining Company of Ireland, held on the 1st day of January, 1857, Edward Atkinson, Esq., Chairman of the Company, presiding; after the Annual Report of the Directors and Statement of the Accounts had been submitted by the Secretary, the Chairman, in moving their adoption, amongst other remarks, said :—

" 'The ruins of the ancient church of Glendalough were now in possession of the Company, and it was a consideration how far it was their duty to do something—not to restore the building—but to preserve it from total decay. The Board being of opinion, that as these relics of ancient times were considered of sufficient interest, from the peculiar circumstances attaching to them as connected with the history of the country, to induce eminent men from all countries to visit them, that it is their duty to prevent them, at least, from going to total ruin.'

"The foregoing creditable recommendations appear to have met with a hearty and approving response from all the shareholders present, and the Directors are justly entitled to the gratitude and respect of every archaeologist and enlightened patriot in the country, for the resolutions to which they have given expression. Theirs is an example worthy the imitation of every holder of landed property throughout Ireland, and furnishes a just rebuke to the acts of individuals who are said to have perpetrated desecrations, at no remote period, on the venerable objects and remains of this valley of Glendalough. The name of one individual is well remembered in this locality, but held in no especial veneration; as the words of a ballad familiar to the peasantry of the district testify, which says—

" 'He cut down the sacred yew
That holy Kevin planted.'

The desecration of the burial-ground of the Priory of St. Saviour is still vividly remembered, and related to travellers, by the local guides. Let us trust that, henceforth, we shall not have such instances of Vandalism to place upon record."

It was resolved that the thanks of the Society should be given to the Mining Company of Ireland for the laudable example set by their resolution to preserve from injury, and desecration, the far-famed architectural antiquities of Glendalough, of which they have become the proprietors.

The following communications were sent by Daniel Mac Carthy, Esq., comprising extracts from letters in the State Paper Office:—

"In 1574, the seventeenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, that august lady took scandal at the luxurious excess to which the dress of her courtiers was carried. The reader well acquainted with the portraits of Elizabeth may be surprised to hear that 'the neck attire called ruffs,' with huge, wide sets (*involutris voluminosa*), attracted her especial displeasure. She had discovered that large sums annually left her kingdom for the purchase of silks and other costly stuffs, and, with the prompt decision, the unbending will of the house of Tudor, she resolved to put a stop to the evil, to restore the *patrius cultus*, and to compel every man to conform himself in apparel to a certain prescribed fashion. Her Highness was a scholar, and a lady of extensive reading, and could scarcely be unacquainted with the various attempts of sovereigns of all ages, and of all lands, who had, like herself, taken offence at the vanity of dress, and the extravagance that accompanies it: she was herself able to remember proclamations upon the subject by her father and sister, and she knew what had been uniformly the result of these royal attempts at reformation. In order to succeed where they had failed, she resolved, with peculiar shrewdness, to eschew, in the first instance, the extreme proceeding of a proclamation, and to encounter one vanity by another, a costly by a cheap one. She determined at once to remodel the attire of her personal attendants, and to make homely dress the fashion. At this precise period my Lord Clanrickard was, by very slender instalments, paying off a tailor's bill of some standing, and incurring new charges for the clothing of the two young rebels, his sons, named in the bills 'Mr. Burke' and 'Darby.' It would appear that he compromised for indulging himself in a few 'outlandish braveries,' by attiring his sons in canvas, fustian, and leather.

"1578, August 20th.—*My Lord Clanricard's Tailor's Bill.*

To the Earle of Clanrickarde.

Item for 3 doz: of bottones for your dublet	12 ^d
Item for making your dublet of sattin and hose of lace velvett .	20 ^s
For 7 doz: and half of lace to the same at two shillings the dozen	15 ^s
For silk unto the same hose	3 ^s 9 ^d

For half a yard of fustian to foote two paire of stockes and for foting them	12 ^d
Item for a skaine of silk to mend your rosset sattin hose	2 ^d

More unto the Earle of Clanrickarde.

Item for making your cloke of fine puke	5 ^s
---	----------------

More unto the Earle of Clanrickarde.

20th of August 1578.

Item for making your dublet of sattin, cut rased and laced	5 ^s
Item for making your hose of sattin cut and rased	5 ^s
Item for sowling two paire of stockes with fustian; one paire of morre, and the other paire of rossett	12 ^d
Sum: pag ^e	<u>56^s 11^d</u>

Received in parte of payment	30 ^s
More received	20 ^s
More received in parte of payment	20 ^s

More unto the Earle of Clanrickarde for Mr. Bourke.

Item for making his dublet of yellow canvas pinckt for the 9th June 1578	5 ^s
Item for making of his Venicion hose	4 ^s
Item for a paire of leather pockets to the same	6 ^d

More for Mr. Bourke.

Item for making his hose of new sad collored broad clothe	13 ^s 8 ^d
Item for sowling a paire of ash collored sockes	6 ^d
Sum: pag ^e	<u>23^s 8^d</u>

More unto the Earle of Clanrickarde for Darby,

17 March 1578.

Item for making his green Venicion hose	2 ^s 6 ^d
for a q ^r of an ounce of silk for traunslating his rounde hose of leather	12 ^d

More for Darby *15th June 1578.*

Item for making his browne canvas dublet	4 ^s
for an Elle & half of browne canvas to make the same at 20 ^d the Elle	2 ^s 6 ^d
For four yards half of long clothe to line it at four pence the yard	19 ^d
For 20 yards of lace to the same	20 ^d

For white thread to sowe the lace of the forsaid dublet, and to make botten holles	6 ^d
For three dozen blue and white thread bottones to the foresaid dublet	6 ^d
For half a yard of Elle broad Taffetta to face the foresaid dublet	21 ^d

More for Darbie.

Item for making of his white fustian dublet cut and laced 5^s

Sum: pag^e 21^s

“The usual abode of the Earl of Clanrickard was so remote from the sphere of her Majesty, that the radiance of royal example reached him but feebly: indeed, the very laws of her Highness sometimes failed to pass the frontiers of his distant country, and, therefore, some allowance may be made for his partial adoption of the homely fashions it was her wish to introduce. But there dwelt in greater proximity to her court a numerous body of her subjects, over whom she could exercise such control as it pleased her in the article of dress and many other particulars. Residing under the parental care of Sir Owen Hopton, leading rather sedentary lives, furnished by her Majesty’s bounty with ‘keepe, fewell, attendaunce, and other necessaries,’ and with only such restraint upon their liberty as the regulations of the Tower required, there dwelt from time to time notable men of all classes, from the great nobleman like the Earl of Clanrickard, to the poor seminary priest, who accepted without delay or murmur any change in their costume that might be judged suitable or becoming to them; and we are fortunately in possession of many details concerning their attire, from which we may learn the cost, and presume ‘the conformity to the prescribed fashion’ which her Majesty commanded in the seventeenth year of her glorious reign. It is gratifying to perceive that in some few instances—I think two, in the course of eight years—HATS were furnished to individuals in that numerous family of the Lieutenant, implying that they occasionally walked abroad amongst their fellow-creatures. Other curious matters may also be found, as the reader will perceive, in the Tower bills of domestic expenses; such, for example, as the use and price of ‘warmynge pannes;’ the fact that in the course of eight years one person demanded a ‘Bible in English,’ and that the sum of 13s. was paid for the same. There is one unpleasant little group of charges opposite the name of a countryman of ours, which serves to show that Sir Owen Hopton had occasionally forced upon him the painful duty of paternal chastisement; but for this, so bountiful, so indulgent, so careful of the warmth, cleanliness, and health of his inmates does this functionary appear to have been, that the precise nature of his establishment would not be apparent from his bills. The single unruly member of the Hopton family was a man of some notoriety in his day. Long after he was supposed to be in safe custody, he suddenly appeared, half naked, on the walls of Cork,—the ‘conformity to the prescribed fashion’ he had found, probably, inconvenient for public travelling. He was taken before the Mayor, who, ‘eyeing him well.’

saw through an adopted name, ascertained that he had broken prison, and sent him back to ‘boulds, manackles, and shackylls.’ By the return of the stray lamb to London a direful purpose of Cecil was defeated: his sentence awaited him in Cork, where no formalities would have relieved him; but, once in England, all that the powerful minister could do was to write on the margin of his bills, ‘to be proceeded with by Justyce;’ notwithstanding which, he continued wearing the Queen’s new shoes, hose, ‘stockynes,’ and other matters, for several years.”

The following are the extracts from the Tower Bills alluded to:—

“The demaundes of Sir Owen Hopton Knight Lewitennant of Her Majesty’s Tower of London for the Diette and other Charges of Prisonn^s in his Custodie &c.

In primis. Fewell, and Lights at y ^e rat of vj ^s viij ^d per weeke.	
Item Dubblett and hose of Fustyan	xvij ^s
It ^m a payre of Stockyns	iv ^s vi ^d
It ^m Washing xiv whole weeks	v ^s
It ^m ij sherts & ij bandes	xvij ^s viij ^d
It ^m For a sute of apparel	xvij ^s
It ^m A Cloake	xxxv ^s
It ^m a Hatte	vj ^s viij ^d
It ^m a Gerdle	xij ^s
It ^m a payre of Shooes	ij ^s iv ^d
It ^m Fower Handkerchiefes	ij ^s iv ^d
It ^m A Gowne	xxj ^s vj ^d
It ^m a Sheepskine and Mending hose	xii ^d
It ^m ij Shirts	vij ^s
It ^m Canvas for a Bedd	ij ^s vj ^d
It ^m Barber	vj ^d
It ^m Rugges Gowne	xx ^s
It ^m A payre of Stockyns and Garters	x ^s
It ^m a Dussen of Pointes	xij ^d
It ^m a Hatte and Brushe	vj ^s vj ^d
It ^m Half a Dussen of Bandes and Cuffes	vij ^s vj ^d
It ^m a Gerdle and Gloves	ij ^s vj ^d
It ^m a Warmyng Panne	ij ^s iv ^d
It ^m a Bason and ij dishes of Pewter	xij ^s
It ^m a Payre of Shooes and a payre of Pantoffles	iv ^s vj ^d
It ^m For an Englyshe Bible	xij ^s
It ^m A payre of Mannacles, and for mendinge the Shackylles	ij ^s vj ^d
It ^m For ij Staples iv hengis, and a bould for a Pryson Dore	ij ^s

The Rev. John O’Hanlon, sent the following continuation of his researches in the Ordnance Survey Office, Phœnix Park, relative to the King’s County:—

‘The matters, as contained in the Index relating to the Ordnance Survey for the King’s County, are thus enumerated:—I. Names and Descrip-

tions from Down Survey (see Leinster, vol. i.). II. Extracts, two volumes. III. Common-place Book, "O," at Miscel. IV. Rough Index to Irish part of ditto (viz., Extracts), not arranged. V. Letters, two volumes. VI. Name-books, 70. VII. Parish and Barony Names, one volume. VIII. Memorandums, one volume. IX. County Index to Names on Maps, one volume. X. Memoir Papers; see detailed list annexed. XI. Sketch, one. To enter, therefore, on a minute description of each, it may be observed, that No. I. will be found to contain the King's County Index to Barony and Parish Names, included in the Leinster, vol. i. pp. 400, 401. Then follow the names of the Baronies, Parishes, and Townlands, from pp. 403 to 493. Then follow a few blank pages, and afterwards a 'General Description of the King's County, extracted from the Down Survey.' I find written under the title, in pencil characters, 'Index included in the Index to Barony and Parish Lists preceding.' This description is included within pp. 501 to 598, a few blank leaves intervening. This description also contains the 'Extracts from the Burned Volume of the King's County,' commencing at p. 567. At the foot of this page I find, written in pencil characters, 'The Index included in that of Barony and Parishes preceding.' This Down Survey, Leinster, vol. i., is in folio, and contains the counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, King's County, Longford, and Louth. II. Extracts, two volumes.—Vol. i. is preceded by an Index of names of places referred to, in the body of the volume, in five columns. The extracts are from the 'Annals of the Four Masters;' from those of 'Clonmacnoise;' from the Irish of the 'Battle of Moylena;' from O'Flaherty's 'Ogygia;' from the 'Irish Calendar;' from Lanigan; Harris' 'Ware;' Mr. Petrie's 'Collection on Clonmacnoise;' 'Liber Regalis Visitationis;' Archdall; Colgan; and Ussher; in 468 closely written quarto pages. Vol. ii. contains extracts from Cambrensis's 'Topography,' 'Annals of Innisfallen,' Seward's 'Topography,' Carlisle's 'Topographical Dictionary,' Mac Firbis's translation from the 'Registry of Clonmacnoise' for Sir James Ware ('Leabhar Breac,' 'Annals of Tighernach,' of Ulster, and of Kilonan, O'Dugan's 'Topographical Poem,' O'Huidhrin's 'Topographical Poem,' Mac Firbis's 'Book of Ballymote,' 'Poem on Hugh O'Byrne,' 'Book of Lecan,' 'Adventures of Conall Gulban,' Mac Firbis's 'Pedigrees,' Keating),—all included within brackets, in the Irish character, for the most part in the handwriting of Messrs. Curry and O'Keefe,—Moryson's 'Ireland,' Inquisitions, Mac Geoghegan, Hardiman's 'Irish Minstrelsy,' and queries of Mr. O'Donovan, with letters from Messrs. Petrie and O'Keefe, besides other extracts from the sources indicated in vol. i. This vol. ii. contains 360 closely written quarto pages. I have been thus minute, in order to give our Members an idea of the matter likely to be found in the Kilkenny and Queen's County excerpts, where I did not enter into particulars. III. The Common-place Book "O" may be considered as a continuation of the Extracts. It contains extracts from the 'Liber Regalis Visitationis,' the Latin 'Life of St. Kieran, Abbot of Clonmacnoise' (not yet published), and a curious French 'Généalogie de la tres-Noble & tres-illustre Maison des O'Cahane-s communément nommée par les Anglois O'Kean ou meme Kean, en supprimant l' O', comme un titre odieux à cette nation qui a voulu regler, determiner, fixer, annoblir, avilir, abaisser les differentes maisons du Royaume d'Irlande, selon maxime invariable de tout peuple

conquérant qui fixe tout relativement à ses interets dans l'ordre civil, militaire et Politique;' a Spanish extract, transcribed from an original document, which was in the possession of the Rev. Mr. O'Moore, a Spanish ecclesiastic (bearing an Irish name) residing in London, and who was engaged in compiling a History of the De Lacy family. The following is the prefixed Spanish title:—'La Familia De Lacy se divide in tres ramos quel son. 1. Lacy de Ballingary. 2. Lacy de Bruff. 3. Lacy de Bruree.' Both these extracts are interesting, in a genealogical point of view, as referring to members of the said families in Ireland and in France and Spain, with their female alliances, and their civil and military positions abroad. This volume is only numbered to the end of the 'Liber Regalis Visitationis,' including 271 pages, with Index to the Diocese on last page. On counting the remainder of the volume, I find 41 pages additional; in all, 312 very closely written quarto pages. IV. Of the Rough Index to Irish part of Extracts referring to the King's County, I find 71 loose folio leaves, and loosely written, only on one side. V. The King's County Letters are in two volumes, quarto.—Vol. i. is preceded by a well-arranged Index in Mr. O'Lalor's handwriting, as also may be observed of vol. ii.—Vol. i. contains twenty-one truly admirable antiquarian letters, written by Mr. O'Donovan, the first of which is dated Portarlington, December 18, 1837, and the last Banagher, January 18, 1838. Three of these letters were written from Portarlington, nine from Tullamore, and nine from Banagher. They contain pen-and-ink sketches of the ancient districts of the King's County, many of the names of the old territories, written in the Irish character, being on these maps. I could not possibly describe how completely and accurately these maps are drawn, nor how indispensable copies of them would be for the future historian of the King's County. But what are these even to the accurate descriptions of the ancient territories, with their exact limits proved to a demonstration? The learning, research, and industry of our distinguished countryman, in matters connected with Irish history and antiquities, are truly prodigious, and this at a period of life when he was a very young man. In this volume are included a traced map of territories in the ancient lordship of Ui Failge (O'Conor Faly's country), a copy of an old map of Leax and Ophaly (preserved in Trin. Coll., Dub.), and a map of the diocese of Kildare, from Beaufort's 'Ecclesiastical Map.' Mr. O'Conor wrote five letters, the first dated Tullamore, January 1, 1838, and the last, Banagher, January 16, 1838. Three of these were written at Tullamore, and two at Banagher. The whole number of letters, therefore, in vol. i., is twenty-six, in 272 closely written pages. Vol. ii. contains twelve letters written by Mr. O'Donovan, and eleven by Mr. O'Conor. The first of these letters, written by Mr. O'Donovan, is dated Banagher, January 20, 1838, and the last, Roscrea, February 10, 1838. He wrote one letter from Banagher, eight letters from Birr, and three from Roscrea. The first of Mr. O'Conor's letters is dated Banagher, January 21, 1838, and the last, Roscrea, February 11, 1838. He wrote one from Banagher, five from Birr, and five from Roscrea. In this volume are included a trace of the King's County, from engraved map of the Down Survey, and a most valuable hand sketch, with territories marked upon it, by Mr. O'Donovan. I should remark that, in all the Ordnance Survey Letters, there are occasional extracts in a different handwriting, arranged and

bound up with the letters, to illustrate certain passages in them. Thus, it will be seen that vol. ii. comprises twenty-three letters in all, contained in 208 closely written pages. VI. The Name Books are seventy in all, that is, about one for each parish in the county. Descriptions of the parish and its several townlands will be found in each of these. VII. The Parish and Barony Names will be found in a thin quarto volume, containing 61 pages, with Index prefixed, 2 additional pages. Various spellings are here given for the several parishes, with the Irish name in the Irish character, and the English translation, in Mr. O'Donovan's handwriting, on the top of every alternate page. I should remark, that there are double the number of pages enumerated, as only alternate pages are marked with figures. VIII. Memorandums.—The volume thus entitled is in quarto, and is preceded by two Indexes, on 3 pages, in double columns. One Index refers to Memorandums, the other to Extracts. Besides, there are 7 pages of Index in double columns, signed 'W. Mooney, 12th Nov., 1838.' This W. Mooney is brother of Mr. Joseph Mooney, the present Chief Clerk in the Ordnance Survey Office. These memoranda were for the most part forwarded, from the various localities of the King's County, by the officers of the Ordnance Survey there engaged; and the queries they contained, chiefly with regard to antiquarian features of the country, were answered underneath by extracts, copied from the letters written by Mr. O'Donovan and Mr. O'Connor, and forwarded to the questioner. We usually find added in a note, opposite the information, 'inserted on the plan.' This had reference to the filling up of a map for the purposes of the engraver. There are some notes and letters of local gentry and clergymen, inserted in this volume, who courteously furnished information for the use of the Ordnance Survey staff. This volume contains 161 variously written pages, mostly in close handwriting. IX. County Index to Names on Maps is contained in one folio volume of 114 pages; the pages, however, are not numbered. We have the names of townlands, with the parishes and baronies in which they are situated, written on slips, and copied in neat writing, for the use of the engravers. X. Memoir Papers.—The only memoirs I can find is a pen-and-ink bird's-eye view plan of the old churches of Clonmacnoise, restored to their imaginary original shape and appearance, with their relative positions, and those of ancient crosses in the cemetery, which appears enclosed. This sketch is headed—'Ecclesiarum & Cœmeterii Clonmacnoisæ Descriptio,' and is very curious, although on a small scale. There are letters marked on the plan, referring to the following Index beneath:—A. Temple Keran. B. Temple Ri. C. Temple Conor. D. Temple Velly. E. Temple M'Dermot. F. Temple Hurpan. G. Temple Espic. H. Temple Gauny. I. Temple Killin. K. Temple Finian. Underneath is written, 'W. Hollar, fecit.' There is one sheet of note-paper, written in faded ink, and headed 'Clonmacnoise.' It is descriptive of the state of the ruins at the place, but has neither date nor signature. I am inclined to think it like Mr. Petrie's handwriting; but of this I cannot be certain. After a careful examination of the parcel in which these scraps were contained, I could find nothing else referring to the King's County. XI. The only sketch referring to this county is one in pen and ink, about 6 inches by 10. It is one of Garry Castle, by an *amateur* artist apparently, whose name is affixed, but the characters are so illegible, I am unable to

make them out. It is tolerably well executed; but there appear to have been no professional artists employed on the Ordnance Survey of the King's County. In closing this accurate list of the papers contained in the Irish Ordnance Survey Office, referring to the King's County, might I be permitted to suggest how desirable it would be for persons living in the various localities of Ireland, whose antiquarian features have not yet been sketched, to forward drawings of old ruins, objects, &c., at present existing, accurately designed, to any of our Archæological Societies? Thus, I am sure, a collection of such drawings would be acceptable to the Council and Members of the Royal Irish Academy, to the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society, &c. The storms and commotions of the elements that pass over our heads disarrange the present form, and, frequently, totally destroy many of those memorials of the olden time; not to speak of the injury done, from year to year, by neglecting to preserve those ruins, or the Vandalism so often exercised, by removing every vestige that would give us an idea of the former purposes for which they were destined."

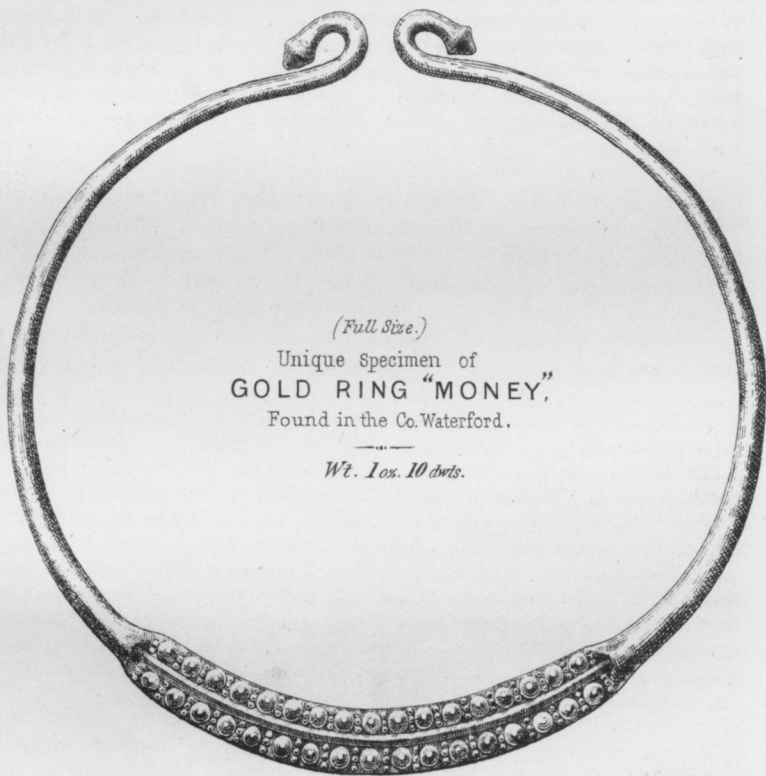
The Rev. James Graves called attention to a remarkable ring of gold, represented in the accompanying plate. The antique was at present in the possession of Mr. James H. Greaves, of Cork. Although termed "ring-money" by its present owner, it was plainly an armlet, though of very unusual, if not unique, fashion.

The Rev. Duncan M'Callum sent the following communication on the frequent intercourse of Irish with the Scottish Highlanders:—

"The two nations, the Scots and Irish, speaking the same language, and separated only by a few hours' sailing, had frequently visited each other, and had frequent intercourse to a late date. The writer of this paper remembers them trucking fine linen of the one island for woollen stuff of the other. This was in the last century. But there has been closer connexion, and more familiar intercourse between them in former times.

"The Scots or Highlanders went to the college of the bards in Ireland and studied under the famous sacerdotal order of the Celts. Every Highland chieftain in those days kept a bard, who was held in high respect, and was esteemed a sacred character. When he lived not in the family, he had in possession a farm, as the Mac Vurichs. The famous bards of Clanronald, the eldest branch of the Mac Donald clan, held in Uist the largest island of the Hebrides, and is known at this day as *Baile Bhaird*, the farm of the bard. The high office was hereditary in this great family. The son succeeded the father, and could reckon eighteen generations. They commonly went to Ireland to perfect them in the art or science. Mac Vurich was the shenachi—historian or genealogist—as well as bard; and one of them left a written history, and some ancient Gaelic poetry, in the book entitled '*An Leabhar-Dearg*.' The bard of a chieftain might be of another clan. The Mac Vurichs were so famous, that other chiefs also employed them.

"It may appear singular that the old bards disliked the music of the bagpipes. They used the harp, and preferred it, previous to the celebrated Mac Crumins, of the isle of Skye, where there was a college of pipers.



(Full Size.)

Unique Specimen of
GOLD RING "MONEY,"
Found in the Co. Waterford.

Wt. 1 os. 10 dwts.

In the possession of JAS H. GREAVES, Marlboro' St Cork.

Apprentices were sent to them from distant quarters, who composed pipe-tunes, and became themselves performers. Modern Gaelic poets adopted their music, and composed some excellent pieces, as *Bein dourain*, and *Mola-Moraig*.

“There was a third class, that visited either islands in their turn, viz., the minstrels. They sung their compositions. They were welcome wherever they went, were entertained in the first families, and well rewarded. As the Druids brought the faculty of memory to the highest state of perfection during the long period of time attending their institution, the bards, who were the order next to the priests, committed 50,000 verses to memory; so that they had an immense store of poetry in reserve for all occasions, whether their own or others’ compositions. The minstrels added music, which enhanced very much the value in which their acquirements were held. The most popular of their pieces long survived the age of minstrelsy. Some Irish poems have been taken from oral recitation, and inserted in collections of Gaelic poetry. I might mention several; but will confine myself to one—*Mali Bheag Og*, which is well known over the Highlands of Scotland, and is much esteemed for its beautiful air and pathos. The subject is a melancholy one: a young man fell in love with a female of high rank; he entered the army, distinguished himself, and returned an officer. The reciprocal passion being increased by absence, brought the lovers again together. As her father would not give his consent, the beautiful daughter eloped with the handsome officer. The sire pursued with a party, and, overtaking the lovers, a struggle ensued. The officer, being an excellent swordsman, drew, and, to prevent bloodshed, the fair one rushed between them, and received the blow that was intended to be given the most forward of the party. He threw away his sword, was imprisoned, and condemned, but, becoming insane, was, after a long confinement, liberated. He came across to Cantire, a peninsula of the county of Argyle, and wandered through the country. Poor *Leaghlán Hágai* (young Lachlan) was known to many here a century ago. He composed the poem called *Mali Bheag Og*, or, Young little Mary, during his confinement, of which the words are plaintive and touching, and the air is inimitable.”

Mr. M’Callum contributed a metrical English version of the song alluded to. He also wished to have it stated, that the words “Iar-rion” and “Hebridæ,” at p. 106, line 42, and p. 107, line 11, *supra*, should be printed “Iar-inn” and “Æbridæ;” and believes the latter to be derived from Hubba, the leader of a Gothic race who were the first inhabitants of the islands commonly called Hebrides.

Richard Caulfield, Esq., contributed two original letters of Robert Clayton, Bishop of Cork, respectively dated December 6 and 20, 1753; and proving that the ancient cathedral of St. Finbarr was not demolished until after that year, from which must be dated the erection of the modern incongruous structure which serves as the cathedral of the diocese.

The following paper was then read.