

## PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

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GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on  
Wednesday, July 6th, 1859,

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

The following new Members were elected :—

Captain Christopher Humfrey, Coal-market, Kilkenny: proposed  
by Rev. James Graves.

William Lanigan, Esq., Coal-market, Kilkenny : proposed by  
James G. Robertson, Esq.

A petition to Parliament for the repeal of the duty on paper—  
an impost which has a very injurious effect in restricting the publi-  
cation of this and similar Societies—was adopted by the Meeting,  
and signed by the President on behalf of the Society.

The Secretary announced that interchange of publications was  
proposed between this Society and the Architectural and Archæo-  
logical Society of the County of Bedford, at the request of the latter.

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

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

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq. : “ The Ulster Journal of Archæo-  
logy,” No. 26.

By the Ossianic Society : their “ Transactions,” Vol. IV.

By the Architectural and Archæological Society of the County  
of Bedford : “ Reports and Papers read at the Meetings of the  
Architectural Societies of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, the  
Counties of York and Lincoln, and of the Architectural and Archæo-  
logical Society of the County of Bedfordshire and St. Albans,” for  
the years 1850-51 ; “ Reports and Papers read at the Meetings of

the Architectural Societies of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, the County of York, the Dioceses of Lincoln and Worcester, and of the Architectural and Archæological Society of the County of Bedford," for the years 1852-54; "Reports and Papers read at the Meetings of the Architectural Societies of the County of York, Diocese of Lincoln, Archdeaconry of Northampton, County of Bedford, Diocese of Worcester, and County of Leicester," for the years 1855-58.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 850-56.

By Mr. S. K. Vickery, of Skibbereen: a silver penny of Edward I., coined in Oxford, being one of sixty similar coins found at a considerable depth in a bog, adjoining the Rath of Ratheravane, near Ballydehob, in the county of Cork.

By Mr. Prim: one of those grotesque metal castings found so frequently in Kilkenny and its vicinity, and of which a previous example was in the Society's Museum. It represented a quarrel between man and wife, and was found in cleaning out a well near Ballyhale.

Mr. Carter, C. E., suggested that these castings, which appeared to be of Dutch origin, were ornaments intended to be attached to fire-dogs.

By Mr. Prim: a leaden seal, which he supposed to have been originally attached to linen. It was found at St. John's-green, in this city, and bore impressed upon it the letters, in relief, "W. & Co.," with, underneath, the letter L.

The Very Rev. President said he had no doubt the L. stood for Lurgan, the first letters representing the initials of the Company who manufactured the linen.

By Mr. J. G. Robertson: a slate of considerable thickness, which had originally formed a portion of the roofing of the ancient parish church situated in the old town of Jerpoint. A friend of his had suggested that it seemed to have been originally brought from Glasslacken slate quarry, county of Waterford.

The Rev. J. Graves said it was more probable that the slate came from the neighbourhood of Inistioge, where there were strata of a similar character to the specimen.

Mr. S. Carter, C. E., agreed in this suggestion.

By the Rev. J. H. Scott, Seirkyran: a portion of bog-butter taken from a mass of the same substance, found in a wooden vessel formed out of the solid, and bearing some carvings of a rude, yet vigorous type. Mr. Scott hoped, if possible, to secure the vessel for the Society's Museum.

By Mr. J. G. Robertson: a sketch, drawn to scale, of the base of an ancient cross remaining in the burial-ground attached to the old church at Jerpoint.

The Very Rev. Dean of Leighlin, in connexion with the monu-

mental crosses of the county of Kilkenny, expressed the gratification which it gave him to observe how admirably the three crosses at Kilkyran, in the parish of Whitechurch, near Castletown, in the barony of Iverk, had been re-erected and repaired by a blind man of the district, named Lawrence, who had lost his sight whilst engaged on the works at the new Palace of Westminster. He considered the work most creditable to the Society.

The Rev. J. Graves said that, although the originating of the work might properly be traced to the influence exercised by the existence of this Society, and the revival of an interest in the preservation of the relics of the past, consequent thereon, yet, as had on a former occasion been reported by the Rev. P. Moore, R.C.C., the immediate credit was alone justly due to Mrs. Walsh, Fanningstown, who had at her own expense employed Lawrence to make the repairs. He (Mr. Graves) had himself (in company with the rector of the parish, the Rev. Charles Harte, who had also helped on the good work) recently inspected what had been done at Kilkyran, and was glad to be able to contribute his testimony, in addition to that of the Dean of Leighlin, to the efficiency and good taste of the repairs—in fact, the work could not have been better done.

Mr. W. Lawless, Rose-inn-street, exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Henry Jones, jeweller, Clonmel, the fragments of a magnificent penannular gold fibula, lately purchased by him, and which had been dug up by a labourer whilst at work in a potato field called Parkanor, at Cloghora, near Ballydavid, Bansha, county of Tipperary. A quantity of coins and antiques had been found at various times in the locality, as Mr. Jones had learned from the Rev. George Cole Baker, rector of the parish.

The Rev. J. Graves stated that on the occasion of a recent visit to Clonmel, he had examined, at Mr. Jones's establishment, the antique before the Meeting. Mr. Jones had informed him that the finder, at first conceiving it to be brass, had broken the penannular ends of the fibula, and formed one of them into a ferule for his walking stick. The portions now before the Meeting were three: first, the centre loop, of very massive proportions, measuring 4 inches from end to end, and three inches in circumference at the centre, decreasing to  $2\frac{2}{16}$ ths at the ends beneath the penannular expansions. This fragment was hollow; but weighed 4 oz. 13 dwts. Troy. Secondly, one of the penannular expansions, in two fragments, and beaten flat; the weight of all three pieces being 8 oz. 6 dwts. Troy. The loop was ornamented below each expansion by a band of five punched fillets, at each side of which was a row of chevron ornaments, neatly and sharply incised with a graver. Round the edge of the plate which formed the penannular end was a raised, solid, round rim; next that, a row of punched-up fillets, and within all a circle of chevrons similar to those already described. By those

familiar with similar ornaments, it would be seen that this fibula, although of a larger size than those generally met with, presented the usual type of such antiques, of which there are many fine and perfect examples in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. It appeared by a letter which he (Mr. Graves) had received from Mr. J. Wallace, jeweller, Clonmel, that the remaining portion of the fibula had come into the possession of Mr. Wallace.

It was a great pity that the unaltered law of treasure-trove, a relic of the feudal ages, and which gives the property of such antiques not to the finder but to the owner of the soil, almost invariably led to the destruction of the remains found, composed of the precious metals. They were generally disposed of secretly, and mostly found their way to the melting-pot. They managed these things better in Denmark, where the antiquities found became the property of the finder, who received from Government, in exchange for them, the full value of the precious metal of which they were composed. Lord Talbot de Malahide had expressed his intention of bringing before the Imperial Parliament a measure having the same object in view. It was to be hoped, for the sake of the preservation of our national antiquities, such a Bill might be favourably entertained, and receive the sanction of the Legislature.

The following communication from Thomas J. Tenison, Esq., J. P., Port-Nelligan, was read:—

“The word *quern* is a Danish term, signifying a *hand-mill*. To the hand-mill the Irish give the name *clogh-i-vrone*, which means the stones for crushing, and is likewise synonymous with stones of sorrow,—no doubt, as it is for this operation that we must till, sow, reap, and suffer under the curse of our first parents, as set forth in the book of Genesis, chap. iii., v. 17—‘In sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.’

“The quern or *vroe* consists of a runner and lie, the former about twenty inches in diameter. Only a small quantity of meal, called a mel-dor, can be made at a grinding. The quern is of the greatest antiquity. We read of it in Scripture, in Homer, in Virgil, and Shakspeare. The learned Dr. Wilson, author of the “Archæology and Pre-historic History of Scotland,” believes it to be the portable hand-mill of the Roman soldier—*vide* Plate xiii. in Stuart’s ‘Caledonia Romana.’ Mr. Curry, who contributed several interesting dissertations to the ‘Dublin Penny Journal,’ and inserted in that meritorious publication an accurate representation of a curious quern found in the vicinage of Armagh, observes, that the hand-mill was in general use over Europe, Asia, and Africa, and that it was likewise common in Lapland, and parts of Palestine. Dr. Clarke, the distinguished traveller, when he visited the isle of Cyprus, noticed one of what he terms ‘the primæval mills of the world’ in full operation; and near Jerusalem he also saw two women seated on the ground opposite to each other, who held between them two flat stones, such as are called *querns* in Scotland. He adds, that the employment of grinding with those mills is solely confined to females; and the practice illustrates the obser-

vation of our Saviour, alluding to this custom, in His predictions concerning the day of judgment:—‘Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.’—St. Matthew, xxiv. 41.

“In the year of grace 1284, the Scottish Parliament passed a law for the protection of mill-owners, and restricting the use of the quern amongst the peasantry. At the same time was written a stanza, deprecatory of this arbitrary measure, which I have thus rendered into intelligible English:—

‘An act they framed against the poor man’s mill,  
The only hopper that the poor can fill.  
Of barley, rye, and oats, they did him mulct,  
And ground him sore with want and sad insult.’

“Pennant states that the quern was in use till a very recent period in the Hebrides; and even the Rev. Mr. Ledwich, who deliberately denies that St. Patrick ever existed, and whose works are warped by prejudice and anti-national theories, even he acknowledges that querns, or grinding-stones, were generally used in Ireland. We all know that in the southern and western districts this primitive machine for crushing and grinding grain was used till superseded by the construction of water-mills. This is evidenced by the fact that they have been so frequently found in swamps and sequestered situations, where the peasantry had probably concealed them in order to avoid that destruction comprehended in a prohibition disseminated against their employment by the proprietors of the newly-erected water-mills. Water-mills were, however, commonly known in Ireland antecedent to the English invasion under Fitz-Stephen, A.D. 1169; and trustworthy writers refer them to a period much more remote than is generally believed. Giraldus Cambrensis (‘Topographia Hibern.’), another prejudiced historiographer, in whom confidence cannot consequently be placed, particularizes the mills of St. Lucherin and St. Fechin, in the county of Meath; and the learned O’Donovan, in support of this statement, has adduced numerous proofs—if proofs were wanting—from ancient MSS. on vellum, preserved in the Libraries of Trinity College, Dublin, and the Royal Irish Academy.

“That Ireland was not always the land of potatoes, but the land of milk and honey, the land of wheat, of oats, of ale, of mills, is abundantly proved by Drs. Petrie and O’Donovan,—two of our most erudite antiquarians and writers on ancient Irish literature. The querns found in Ireland are of three forms, viz., the flat, which is the most common; the convex, which may yet be met with in the fens and rural retreats; and the pot quern. This last is, probably, the most ancient, and is now very difficult to procure, being rarely seen except in the collections of those who are curious in the possession, and laudably tenacious in the preservation of such relics. Those discovered in Ireland are generally composed of grit-stone or granite, and without the presence of one of each variety no Celtic collection of antiquities can be considered complete. In the extensive collection of Irish antiquities exhibited in the Belfast Museum during the meetings of the British Association in that city, in the month of September, 1852, a number of querns belonging to John Bell, Esq., exemplified the various forms of the Irish hand-mill. In this valuable repertory was,

also, one rub-quern, which must have been used previously to the invention of the rotatory movement in the hand-mill.”

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

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THE IRISH CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES FITZ MAURICE  
OF DESMOND.

EDITED BY JOHN O'DONOVAN, ESQ., LL. D., M. R. I. A.

THE writer to whom, and by whom, the following letters and proclamations were written and issued was James, son of Maurice Duff, son of John, son of Thomas Fitzgerald, a near relative of the last Earl of Desmond. In the year 1560 he and his brother Thomas made a hostile attack on Mac Carthy Reagh, but he was defeated by Mac Carthy on the margin of the River Bandon, opposite Inishannon, with the loss of three hundred of his family and followers. O'Daly informs us, in his “History of the Geraldines” (c. xvii.), that the Earl of Desmond and his brother privately intimated to this James Fitz Maurice their anxious desire that he would take upon himself the leadership of the Geraldines while they should be detained in captivity.

The Four Masters state that this James was chief leader of the Geraldines, instead of the sons of James, son of John, who had been kept in captivity in London, for a year previously to August, 1568, when James made a predatory incursion into Clanmaurice, in Kerry, which he totally ravaged and burned. Fitz Maurice, the Lord of the territory, retired to Lixnaw, where they were besieged by James and his forces. James was, however, defeated with considerable slaughter of his followers.

In the year 1569 James was joined by some of the most powerful men in Munster in opposition to the English Government. The two brothers of the Earl of Ormonde, during the Earl's absence in England, also confederated with him, but on the Earl's return his brothers were pardoned and reconciled to the state.<sup>1</sup>

In 1570 the Earl of Ormonde invaded Desmond with a powerful force, and James Fitz Maurice was unable to resist him, because he was himself opposed by the whole country. The sons of the Earl of Desmond were still in prison in London.

In 1571 James Fitz Maurice took and plundered Kilmallock, and carried off its various treasures to the woods of Aherlo. He set fire to the town, and destroyed all its edifices of wood and stone, and Kilmallock became the abode of wolves. In this year he was joined by the soldiers, mercenaries, and insurgents of Desmond, and success-

<sup>1</sup> See Camden's Annals, Reg. Eliz., A. D. 1569, p. 173.