

On this change of seasons the poet from whom I have just borrowed has also sublimely written—

These, as they change, Almighty Father, these
Are but the varied God.

It is very remarkable that Ware and the “Annals of the Four Masters” disagree as to the diocese of which this William O’Duffy was bishop, while both state that he died by a fall from a horse. The church of Kill-Regnaighe, near to which the cross now being written of stood, was in the ancient diocese of Clonmacnoise. The evidence of this interesting remain may prove of some value in deciding between these highly respectable antiquarian authorities.

After the lapse of some years from the time I first had the gratification to see the shaft of the Banagher cross, I discovered that it was going to destruction, owing to ill usage. I therefore obtained permission to have it removed from the reach of its brutal and Gothic foes. It is now once more standing erect and free from danger, in the enclosed gardens at the rear of my residence in Parsonstown. The true archæologist would of course prefer to have it preserved *in situ*. He, nevertheless, will probably join me in opinion that it is better it should be preserved anywhere rather than not be preserved at all.

NOTES MADE IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL COURT OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1853.

BY RICHARD HITCHCOCK.

THE collection of Irish antiquities brought together at Dublin in the Great Exhibition of 1853 was perhaps the finest ever presented to the view at one time; and such a collection will probably never again be exhibited in the same way.¹ The entire Museum of the

¹ In writing thus, we must not forget the highly important collection of Irish antiquities brought together towards the close of last year in the Belfast museum, on the occasion of the meeting of the British Association in that town. One permanent good, at least, has already resulted from this collection of antiquities into one place—I allude to the interesting and valuable “Ulster Journal of Archaeology”—a publication which has now reached its eighth number, nearly completing the second vo-

lume, and to which every archæologist cannot hesitate to bid success. The descriptive catalogue of the Belfast collection of antiquities, now before me, is one of the most welcome of recent archæological publications; and I would earnestly recommend every lover of antiquities to secure a copy for himself. It is, as stated in the preface, “a permanent record of the existence of these curious objects [the antiquities shown at Belfast], and of the names of their present possessors.”

Royal Irish Academy, of course, formed by far the greater part of this vast assemblage of Ireland's ancient art; and, under the judicious arrangement and care of its able curator, Edward Clibborn, Esq., was one of the proudest possessions of the Exhibition. I believe it is now almost universally acknowledged, that the collection of Irish antiquities belonging to the Royal Irish Academy is one of the most national and valuable in existence. Next in importance and tasteful arrangement in the Exhibition was the extensive contribution of Thomas L. Cooke, Esq.; being a portion of a collection which, I understand, Mr. Cooke has been amassing, at very considerable cost, for nearly half a century. Indeed, his mode of labelling and general classification were altogether models for collectors of antiquities. Perhaps I should also single out, as having much attracted my attention, the interesting and well-arranged contributions of George Petrie, Esq., LL.D., R. H. Brackstone, Esq., lord Talbot de Malahide, James Carruthers, Esq., the Fine Arts Committee of the Exhibition, the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Matthew J. Anketell, Esq., T. R. Murray, Esq., Thomas Tobin, Esq., &c. Other visitors, no doubt, felt much interest in the gold antiquities, and so did I; but my attention was principally directed to whatever struck me as most remarkable in the various collections, and to such objects as I thought, perhaps, would not again appear in Dublin. Few, I believe, besides those friends who know something of my archæological predilections, can picture to themselves my feelings when wandering amongst the immense number of precious relics by which I was surrounded in the antiquarian court of our Great Exhibition. They seemed to me like the fragrant flowers of some beautiful garden, whilst I, as it were, imbibed the sweets! At other times I felt transported with thought! And who, let me ask, with anything of a heart in his bosom, could look on the various objects of antiquity around him, and not *think*? For my own part, I could have spent entire days and nights amongst the treasures of ancient Irish art exhibited within the walls of that glorious Temple of Industry.¹ I paid several visits to the Exhibition, and during each visit, as may be readily supposed, added something in my note-book. The notes thus made soon grew too numerous for one middle-sized volume, and I had to provide another and another; each succeeding visit adding something new, or correcting or illustrating a former note. As the Exhibition drew near its close, on the 31st of October, I began to think of sharing my gains with others who, perhaps, had not the same opportunities for seeing for themselves that I have had. The Archæological Society of Kilkenny, in which I can truly say I feel the warm interest I express, very soon occurred to me as a fitting repository for a portion of my gatherings.

¹ I cannot here omit referring to an excellent article on the museum of Irish antiquities in the Dublin Exhibition of 1853, in the *Athenæum* of 22nd of October last.

I have accordingly made a random selection from my note-books, which I herewith send, to be used as the worthy Secretaries may think proper; for I am well aware that the "notes" themselves are not worth much, and cannot therefore claim a great share of attention. The only attempt at arrangement which I have made in the present selection is the bringing together, or near each other, the notes on articles of a similar nature, adding afterwards a few of a miscellaneous character. Should the "notes" in any way interest the Society, I may, with its leave, at some future, but I fear distant, time, make a further selection from my note-books for some one of its meetings.

1. A large stone celt, exhibited by Matthew J. Anketell, Esq., Anketell Grove, county of Monaghan, is nearly covered with lines, arranged so as to represent Ogham inscriptions. These lines, however, are not Ogham; but yet they are worth notice. Mixed up with them are a few letters of the common Irish character, which, to my mind, make the whole thing the more remarkable. It would, indeed, be very interesting to find a stone celt bearing an Ogham inscription; but, unfortunately for some of our friends, here we are disappointed.

2. A curious flint knife, with one end neatly and firmly covered with moss to serve as a handle, found in the bed of the river Bann, was exhibited by lord Talbot de Malahide. This is probably the way in which many of the flint knives were mounted and used. Lord Talbot, who exhibited the knife in question at a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, on the 23rd of June, 1851, believes it is the only one of the description ever discovered in Ireland. See *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. v. p. 176, where an account of the knife is given.

3. Stone hammers, with handles in them, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy and J. C. Bloomfield, Esq., Castle Caldwell, Belleek. The hammer shown by the latter is without a hole, and has the handle looped round it.

4. A number of large stone hammers, with indentations for an external handle, were shown by the Royal Irish Academy and R. H. Brackstone, Esq., 47, Wood-street, London. A very large specimen, found in the ancient mines in Ross island, Killarney, was given to the Academy by myself (*Proceedings*, vol. iv. p. 326). It may be worth remarking here, that in some recent American books which I have had the privilege of inspecting, I met with engravings of ancient mining implements found in the old mines of that country, exactly similar to the stone hammers above noticed.

5. Three stone heads, of barbarous types, were exhibited by R. Murray, Esq., Mullingar. These heads appeared to me to be modern, and I should not have here noticed them were it not that I consider them very remarkable. It may be interesting to know something of their history.

6. Several of the curious stone figures termed "Shela-na-gigs

were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. Mr. Clibborn's interesting communication on some of these will be found in the second volume of the Academy's *Proceedings*, pp. 565-76. They are barbarous and perhaps indelicate figures, and are in all probability remnants of Pagan times. The finding of them in the neighbourhood of old churches does not invalidate this conjecture—on the contrary, it rather strengthens it; for we know that undoubted Pagan monuments have been found in close connexion with many of our ancient churches.

7. A number of hollow, boat-shaped stones were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. They are remarkable, as being all nearly of the same shape; but what the use of them may have been it is difficult to say. Possibly they may have served as primitive baptismal fonts.

8. Twelve cinerary urns, being a portion of one of the most remarkable discoveries ever made, I believe, in Ireland, were exhibited by J. Richardson Smith, Esq. They were found, some time last summer, with many others of the same kind, in an ancient cemetery on the hill of Ballon, in the county of Carlow. The urns are of various sizes, and most of them are highly ornamented. There was one very large one, and an exceedingly small one, about the size of a small breakfast cup. A very interesting account of these urns was read by the Rev. James Graves at the July meeting of the Kilkenney Archæological Society, and to it (at p. 295 *post*) I now beg to refer the reader.

9. A collection of eleven Ogham stones, and a cast of another, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. Brief notices of five of these, and of some fragments of a sixth not shown, which have been rescued from destruction and presented to the Academy by myself, will be found in their *Proceedings*, vol. iv. pp. 271-2, and vol. v. pp. 401-3. Four more fine monuments have been presented to the Academy by The M'Gillicuddy of the Reeks, county of Kerry, an early notice of which will no doubt be placed on record in the "*Proceedings*."¹ The two remaining stones are—the celebrated "fragment," *said* to have been found in the base of the Round Tower of Ardmore, and presented by Edward Odell, Esq., Dungarvan,² and another fragment presented by Francis M. Jennings, Esq., Cork (*Proceedings*, iii. 231). The cast is that of a sculptured head-stone with two Ogham inscriptions, from Bressay, one of the Shetland islands, presented by Albert Way, Esq. (*Proceedings*, v. 323), and is remarkable as exhibiting the rare *fleasg* or medial line, only two

¹ A very important communication has been since made by Dr. Graves on these four monuments, and on the general subject of Ogham inscriptions, at the meeting of the Royal Irish Academy held on the 10th of April, 1854. See *Proceedings*, vi. 71.

² In an interesting little "Hand-book to the Holy Citie of Ardmore," published in Youghal, mention is made of *two* Ogham inscriptions found "at Ardmore;" but whether in the Round Tower, church, or cathedral, we are not informed.—p. 63.

other instances of the occurrence of this line being known. Of these twelve Ogham monuments, including the cast, only three are marked with the Christian symbol, and even the cross on one of these is very indistinct. There *was* a portion of another Ogham stone in the museum of the Academy, "found at Houseland Bay, Hook Point, county of Waterford, near the ruins of a small chapel, in September, 1845"¹ (*Proceedings*, iii. 136); but this has been long since removed by the owner, Hugh N. Nevins, Esq., Waterford, who, I dare say, thought it looked better in his own possession, imperfect as it is. This stone, when perfect, seems to have resembled the remarkable egg-shaped Ogham monuments at Ballintaggart, near Dingle.²

10. A portion of an ancient Irish tomb-stone, inscribed **OR DO BRAN J**, was shown by the Royal Irish Academy. It is greatly to be regretted that the inscription seems imperfect, nor can I find any account of the stone in the Academy's "Proceedings." One great value belonging to most of these tomb-stones is, that they show the old form of the Irish letters; and it is remarkable what a general similarity there is between the letters on almost all the ancient Irish tomb-stones.

11. Two bronze *double-looped* palstaves were exhibited by lord Talbot de Malahide and the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. The latter was found at South Petherton, Somerset. These palstaves are exceedingly rare.³

12. The moiety of an unique stone mould for casting bronze objects of four various forms, celts, spear-heads and javelin-points (?), found between Bodwrin and Tre Ddafydd, on the western coast of Anglesea, was exhibited by James Dearden, Esq., F.S.A., Rochdale, Lancashire.

13. Several highly ornamented bronze celts and hatchets were exhibited by George Petrie, Esq., LL.D., Dublin. A pocket-celt, with a wooden handle, from Kinnefad pass on the Boyne, King's County, was shown by T. R. Murray, Esq., Edenderry.

14. Stone moulds for casting celts, hatchets, spear-heads, &c.,

¹ Hook Point, the eastern head-land of Waterford harbour, is situated in the county of Wexford.

² I am here reminded of mentioning a very valuable chapter on Irish antiquities, in Mr. Maguire's work on the National Exhibition of 1852, written, as we are informed in the preface to that work, by our distinguished member, John Windele, Esq. This chapter consists of a short article on the general subject of Irish antiquities, then on Ogham inscriptions, St. Patrick's bell, torques, brooches, ring-money, celts, trumpets, Ballydehob tube, coire, methers, cross of Cong, crozier, harps, Kilfane effigy, Ra-

leigh, ancient seals, and a few miscellaneous antiquities. In the article on the Ogham inscriptions the writer seems to take a view, not quite warranted by the premises, of certain statements put forward by some of the "hierophants," whose opinions on these inscriptions are somewhat different from those of Mr. Windele; but, on the whole, the several articles are excellent in their way, and, coming from the pen of Mr. Windele, cannot fail to be looked upon as authorities.

³ For an engraving of lord Talbot's valuable specimen, see *Archæological Journal*, vol. ix. p. 195.

were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy, George Petrie, Esq., LL.D., the Belfast Museum, A. C. Welsh, Esq., Dromore, county of Down, &c. The finding of these moulds in Ireland is very important, as it proves that the arms used by the ancient Irish were manufactured in this country.

15. Examples of the bronze war-club, engraved in the *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. ii. p. 20, were shown by J. C. Bloomfield, Esq., James Carruthers, Esq., Belfast, and Edmund Getty, Esq., Belfast. Two fine bronze war-clubs, same as the above, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. These are very perfect.

16. A number of bronze blades were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy, Sir John Nugent, Bart., Ballinlough castle, Castle-towndelvin, John Martin, Esq., Downpatrick, Thomas L. Cooke, Esq., and R. H. Brackstone, Esq. It was thought by antiquaries that these blades might have been formerly used for chariot wheels; but latterly it is considered more probable that they were originally fastened obliquely on a long handle, and so formed a very effective and dangerous weapon like a bill-hook.

17. In a tray exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy were three heavy adze-shaped bronze implements, supposed to have been used in the dressing of leather. One of these was found in a rath at Monegall, county of Tipperary. In a tray shown by T. R. Murray, Esq., was a similar implement, from Carberry, county of Kildare. These are very curious articles, and are no doubt very ancient. Finding one of them in a rath goes far to prove this. There is no hole in them for a handle.

18. Specimens of Irish bronze ring-money were shown by John Windele, Esq., Cork, who placed beside them some examples of the African ring-money, for illustration. The resemblance was certainly remarkable. See an excellent paper on Irish ring-money, by Sir William Betham, in the seventeenth volume of the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy,"¹ and papers by Dr. Cane and Mr. Windele, in our own "Transactions" for the year 1851—all beautifully illustrated with engravings of the specimens described.

19. Some specimens of the Roman coal-money, from Kimmeridge, Dorset, were exhibited by the Archæological Institute. An interesting paper on this species of so-called "money" may be seen in the first volume of the "Archæological Journal." It is doubtful whether it was ever used as money.

20. The remarkable and unique bronze instrument, found in a bog near Ballymoney, county of Antrim, in 1829, and figured in the

¹ Alas! for the uncertainty of human life. I had scarcely copied the above from my note-book when I heard of the sudden death of this eminent antiquary. The late Sir William Betham died at his house at Blackrock, on Wednesday, the 26th of October. His death will be a sad loss to Irish

archæology. Since writing the above I have had much pleasure in reading the honourable testimony which our Secretaries have borne to the labours of Sir William Betham in their annual report for 1853. See the *Proceedings and Transactions* for January, 1854, p. 4.

Dublin Penny Journal, vol. i. p. 324, was exhibited by James Carruthers, Esq. (See *Belfast Catalogue of Antiquities*, p. 18.) According to the *Belfast Catalogue*, p. 10, and *Appendix*, p. 12, the only other known example of this curious instrument is in the possession of F. W. Barton, Esq., Dungannon; but Mr. Carruthers' specimen is the most complete.¹

21. An iron sword, of the Danish type, from the county of Kerry, was exhibited by William F. Wakeman, Esq., Dublin. This is a fine sword, and probably did good execution in the hand of some ancient Dane. We know that Kerry was one of the last strongholds of the Danes.

22. A steel sword, found near the site of Sir Phelim O'Neill's castle, at Caledon, was exhibited by the countess of Caledon. When discovered, it was enclosed in a leather scabbard, tied with leather thongs. It is inscribed on the blade, "Sahagon," and is probably of Spanish manufacture.

23. The Queen's torque, the most beautiful of its kind in the entire collection, was found in Needwood forest, in 1848, having been scratched out of the ground by a fox making a fresh earth. A beautiful engraving (size of the original) and an account of this precious relic of antiquity will be found in the thirty-third volume of the "Archæologia."

24. A curious gold torque ring, found in Ireland (from Dr. Nelligan's collection), was exhibited by W. W. Wynne, Esq., M.P.

25. Crescent-shaped gold ornaments were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy, lord Londesborough, lord Rossmore, and Thomas Tobin, Esq., Ballincollig. One of Mr. Tobin's ornaments, of which he was so good as to send me a beautiful drawing, coloured in imitation of the original, represents the zigzag pattern in a very perfect state. There are various opinions as to the use of those beautiful articles; but the most generally received one seems to be, that they were worn as neck collars by persons of rank. Some are of opinion that the Druids and Brehons wore them.

26. Some of the ornaments found near Largo, North Britain, in 1848, were exhibited by Robert Dundas, Esq., of Arniston. See *Archæological Journal*, vol. vi.

27. Two beautiful torque armlets, of pure gold, found in 1831, near Egerton Hall, Cheshire, were exhibited by Sir Philip de Malpas Egerton, Bart., M. P. One is engraved in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxvii. p. 401. A similar armlet was found at Ropley, Hants.

28. A bronze fibula, bought at Perugia, in Italy, and exhibited by the archdeacon of Ardagh, is remarkable for the resemblance it bears to some of our Irish specimens.

29. A fibula, decorated with the "*opus Hibernicum*," found at

¹ This curious instrument has since been illustration, in the *Proceedings and Transactions* for March, 1854, p. 64.

Lagore, near Dunshaughlin, was exhibited by lord Talbot de Malahide.¹

30. An ornament of gold, with terminal cups, *unique* as found in England, weight 5 oz. 3 drs. 10 grs., found in 1815, at Swinton Park, North Riding of Yorkshire, was exhibited by captain and Mrs. Danby Harcourt, of Swinton Park.

31. Thirteen gold beads, a half bead, and three bits of gold wire, found in a turf bog near Malin, county of Donegal, were exhibited by John Harvey, Esq., Malin Hall, Carndonagh, county of Donegal.

32. A silver bracelet was exhibited by the Royal Dublin Society, which much resembled one or two models of another in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy.

33. Two beads, an ancient silver stand (supposed) for salt cellar; an ancient amulet, against and in the form of the conaë or murrain caterpillar, dug up near Timoleague, county of Cork, April, 1843; an ancient gold ring, weight 5 dwts. 15 grs., found in the county of Kerry, November, 1850; an ancient silver relic case, with a corrupt Latin inscription, found in the county of Cork; a brooch found at Kilmallock, in 1786; and a small silver crucifix;—exhibited by the distinguished numismatist, John Lindsay, Esq., Cork.

34. The dean of Clonmacnoise exhibited a large thimble, found at Bective abbey, county of Meath; brooches and bead; three small spoons; ancient buckles; and a spur; all found at Trim, county of Meath.

35. A curious silver ornament, found in the county of Cork, in 1853, along with English coins of James I., were exhibited by Richard Sainthill, Esq., Cork.²

36. A collection of curious jet beads, found with many others of the same kind, in the spring of 1848, at the depth of seven feet below the surface, in Moyne bog, Queen's County, were exhibited by J. F. Shearman, Esq., Kilkenny. (See the *Transactions* for 1849, p. 32).

¹ A similar fibula, but with the additional ornament of "wolves' heads," is in the possession of Edward Hoare, Esq., Cork, who has given a very interesting account of it, accompanied with a beautiful lithographic illustration, in the *Proceedings and Transactions* for 1854, pp. 10-11.

² Whilst fitting these notes for the "Transactions," I met with the following paragraph in the *Tralee Chronicle*, of March 24, 1854:—

"DISCOVERY OF GOLD.—On Thursday three labourers who were at work at Ballykilty, county Clare, upon the property of Mr. Blood, through which the Limerick and Ennis Railway is to run, accidentally turned up with the spade, a large quantity of valuable antique Irish gold ornaments, of which they eagerly possessed themselves, and one of the parties who filled his hat with the

precious metal, sold it to the first who offered in Newmarket, whither he ran with his booty, for £30. The gold is of the purest description, consisting of armlets, ringlets, bracelets, collars, &c., and worth £4 per ounce: The lot which the man sold in Newmarket for £30, weighed 110½ ounces, and is valued by Mr. Wallace, of Limerick, at £400."

This account, if true, needs no comment here; and I am informed that, instead of its being an exaggerated statement, it under-rates the quantity, variety and value of the golden ornaments found! I understand that Dr. Neligan, of Cork, has got possession of one of the torques, and a friend who has seen it informs me that it is of "a most curious spiral pattern." Let us hope that none of these truly Irish relics will pass out of the country.

A few similar beads were in a case belonging to the Royal Irish Academy, forming, I believe, part of the same set.

37. A number of ancient shoes, of leather, and bronze or brass, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy, A. C. Welsh, Esq., lord Rossmore, Dr. Petrie, Thomas L. Cooke, Esq., and Matthew J. Anketell, Esq. Some of these, particularly the collection shown by the Royal Irish Academy, are curiously carved and ornamented. — See *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. v. pp. 27-9.

38. A number of white Chinese seals, found in Ireland, were in the collections of the Royal Irish Academy and the duke of Northumberland. I believe the questions of how those curious seals came into Ireland, and of the reading of the inscriptions on them, have not yet been satisfactorily settled; everybody, seemingly, not being quite satisfied with Mr. Getty's treatment of the subject.¹

39. Several of the ancient cauldrons, or brazen vessels, were amongst the collection of the Royal Irish Academy. One of these, found on the lands of Laharan, near Killorglin, county of Kerry, is of the dish shape, and slightly ornamented at the inside. It was found in the year 1849, under a turf bog seven feet deep, and resting with the mouth up, within about a foot of the clay sub-soil. A much larger vessel, of the same shape, was exhibited by J. C. Bloomfield, Esq. A large pan-shaped bronze vessel, found about six feet deep in the bog, in the townland of Carn, two and a-half miles from Newbliss, was exhibited by Matthew J. Anketell, Esq. (?) This vessel, which is of a beautiful gold colour, is supposed to have been used for making beer. A small vessel was found beside it. The story of the vessel having been used for brewing purposes reminds me of the anecdote given in the second volume of the *Dublin Penny Journal*, pp. 347-8; the tradition mentioned in which, I may observe, is current in almost every part of the South of Ireland—the small circular enclosures in the heathy districts being pointed out as the places where the Danes made beer from the heath. Cauldrons of different shapes, and some beautifully ornamented specimens, were shown by other exhibitors, particularly the Royal Irish Academy, and Royal Dublin Society. A good example of these is engraved in Shirley's work on the *Territory or Dominion of Farney*, p. 185.²

40. A large assortment of antique pots, of various sizes, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. A few bear dates. One very large one has "E. H. 1640," and a pipe or spout at the side.

41. The curious mether, or ancient drinking vessel, engraved and described in the *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. ii. p. 249, was exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy, along with many other curious vessels of the same kind. This mether bears the name and date of

¹ "Notices of Chinese Seals found in Ireland. By Edmund Getty, M.R.I.A." 4to. Lond. 1850.

² A magnificent specimen of the caul-

dron, found in a bog near Urlingford, was presented by Mr. M'Evoy to the Society at its meeting of July, 1854. See *Proceedings and Transactions* for 1854, pp. 131-2.

“Dermot Tully, 1590;” and also exhibits some rude carving. Mr. Windele, in his paper referred to in the note at p. 284, has some good remarks on the mether. Some of these vessels are furnished with four handles, the use of which appears to have been for the greater convenience of passing the cup round from one drinker to another. The use of the mether seems to have been universal in Ireland, for it is found in the bogs in all parts of the island; and, judging from the great depth at which it is often discovered, its antiquity must be extreme indeed. Mr. Windele says that the present wooden “mugs” in use amongst the peasantry seem analogous to the ancient mether, save that the form is rotund, and better adapted for drinking out of.

42. A horn of tenure, richly carved in ivory—*temp.* thirteenth century—and formerly belonging to Dr. Samuel Hibbert Ware, was exhibited by Daniel Wilson, Esq., LL.D. If I mistake not, I have seen an engraving and full account of this curious horn in some book, the name of which I cannot just now remember.

43. A silver can, found thirteen feet deep in the Bog of Allen, was exhibited by the Royal Dublin Society. It may be desirable, if some of our members who are connected with the Royal Dublin Society could furnish us with some account of this antique can. As well as I could see, it bears some family arms on one of its sides.

44. Two antique glass bottles, each inscribed on the side, “J. Swift, Dean, 1727,” were exhibited by a lady. These bottles were given to the late Miss Molloy by Mr. Theophilus Swift, together with a small needle-book, worked by Stella, which contained a bit of dean Swift’s hair. The latter has been unfortunately mislaid. There is not the slightest doubt but that these bottles belonged to the late dean Swift. They have been valued at three pounds for the pair. Several bottles of the same old-fashioned shape were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy and Thomas L. Cooke, Esq. If my memory serves me, I have seen a few such bottles in the Royal Cork Institution—an Institution, by the way, the contents of which are less known than they deserve, for want of a catalogue.

45. The dean of Waterford exhibited pieces of hurdles or wattles, formed of hazel rods, used for centring of arches in early times, probably prior to the Norman Conquest, found in the roof of a crypt at Waterford. There was also a view of the crypt exhibited, drawn by D. Frazer, Esq., R.E. See our *Transactions* for 1851, p. 413.

46. A piece of ancient carved oak, part of a rood-screen of the fifteenth century, found built up in a brick partition in a cellar at the deanery of Waterford, March, 1851, was also exhibited by the dean of Waterford.

47. An oak spade, bound with iron at the edge, found near Caledon, was exhibited by the countess of Caledon.

48. Two large three-pronged wooden implements, like spades,

were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. These must be of great antiquity.

49. An ancient oak chest, inscribed on the front, "com not in hest to open this chest," was exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. On the lid are the letters "I. W." and the date 1616.

50. Fragments of an ancient book, made of tablets of beech-wood covered with wax, and inscribed with Latin words, found in a turf bog near Maghera, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy. The Rev. Dr. Todd's account of this valuable, and, in Ireland, perhaps unique relic, with accurate and beautiful engravings, will be found in the twenty-first volume of the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy."

51. A great number of ancient smoking pipes, commonly called "Danish pipes," were exhibited by the dean of Waterford, the Royal Irish Academy, and Thomas L. Cooke, Esq. (See *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. iv. p. 29). I always like to see those pipes. They remind me of the green fairy raths, in which, on fine summer evenings and moonlight nights, the "good people" are said to be quaffing their *dudeens*.

52. A very large bowl of a pipe was exhibited by the Royal Dublin Society; but it does not appear to be very ancient, or of Irish manufacture.

53. An earthen jar, found in a mountain near Malin, in the parish of Clonca, county of Donegal, containing, when found, fourteen silver coins, was exhibited by John Harvey, Esq.

54. Three medallions, struck at the royal mint, from pieces of Irish gold ring-money, and exhibited by Richard Sainthill, Esq., are curious from this circumstance; though I confess I should prefer the original ring-money. They seem to be of the purest gold.

55. Medallions, chased in bronze and gilt, of the duke and duchess of Marlborough, and a medallion of Cromwell, carved in pine-wood by Gibbons, were exhibited by Aquilla Smith, Esq., M.D., Dublin.

56. A fine collection of ancient Irish encaustic tiles was exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy, many of them bearing curious devices. Two of these represented an animal like a boar devouring some other animal. Two tiles, the one shown by J. C. Bloomfield, Esq., and the other by John Martin, Esq., also represented animals. Tiles were also exhibited by the dean of Waterford and lord Talbot de Malahide, some of which were glazed. See Oldham's excellent treatise on "Antient Irish Pavement Tiles" — I believe the first written on the subject — and a paper by the Rev. James Graves, in our *Transactions* for 1849, pp. 83-8.

57. Twenty-three old documents of the seventeenth century,¹ be-

¹ The catalogue (1894) says, "with dates from A. D. 1597 to 1700;" but I could not find so early a date. Indeed the MSS. were placed in a very unreadable position.

longing to The M'Gillicuddy of the Reeks, and comprising royal and other distinguished autographs of that period, were as follow :—

	A.D.
1. Parchment rent roll	1631
2. Licence for firelocks	1651
3. Do. for pistols	1666
4. Ormonde's certificate of good conduct	1661
5. Lords Justices' regrant of lands	1661
6. Clancartie's certificate of good conduct	1661
7. Lords Justices' certificate of the peace	1694
8. Charles R. passports	1661
9. List of lands in Dunkerron from a Sheriff	1635
10. Charles R. passport	1661
11. Privy Council letter with salmon fishing proclamation	1686
12. Inchyquin's certificate of the peace	1661
13. Council warrant from Bunratty	1646
14. Clancartie's certificate of the peace	1661
15. Privy Council regrant of lands	1661
16. P. Ferris's letter from London	1688
17. Privy Council pass to remain in London	1673
18. Return to account of Lord Ranelagh	1674
19. James R. warrant to county Cavan	1690
20. William R. warrant to serve in Germany	1689
21. Scomberg's letter to do.	1689
22. Baronial return of beeves charged to Co. Kerry for the King's use	1691
23. Coat of Arms	1688

58. The dean of Waterford also exhibited some curious original documents, with autographs of the seventeenth century. These were :—

1. Order of Lord Lieutenant and Council, directing the Mayor and Corporation of Waterford to deliver up to the Dean and Chapter sundry vestments, plate, &c., belonging to the Cathedral Church, Waterford. Dated May 25th, 1637.
2. Order of Lord Lieutenant and Council, referring petition of the Dean and Chapter of Waterford, in reference to repairs of the Cathedral, to the Lord Bishop of Derry, to inquire and report thereupon. Dated May 6th, 1639.
3. Order of Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland, directing the Mayor and Corporation of Waterford to repair the Chapel of Our Lady, in that city. Dated May 3rd, 1675.
4. Lease with the seal of Dean and Chapter of Waterford. Dated 1549.

59. A small portrait of the Old countess of Desmond was exhibited by Joseph Huband Smith, Esq., Dublin. A great deal has been lately written in "Notes and Queries" and other publications on this celebrated old lady; and I believe good portraits of her are very scarce. An article in the "Quarterly Review" for March, 1853, settles the question of her identity in a conclusive manner, and establishes the fact that a well-authenticated portrait of her is at Muckcross, the seat of Henry Arthur Herbert, Esq., M.P. for Kerry. I possess two portraits of the old countess, which I am told are very fine. The impression of the plate of one measures fourteen and three-eighth inches long, by nine and a-half inches broad at one end, and nine and three-eighth inches at the other, and bears the following inscription :— "Catherine Fitz-Gerald (the long-lived) Countess

of Desmond. — From an original family picture of the same size painted on board, in the possession of the Right Honourable Maurice Fitz-Gerald, Knight of Kerry, &c. &c. &c.; to whom this plate is most respectfully dedicated by his very obedient and much obliged humble servant, Henry Pelham. This illustrious lady was born about the year 1464, was married in the reign of Edward IV., lived during the entire reigns of Edward V., Richard III., Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, and died on the latter end of James I. or the beginning of Charles I.^{sts} reigns, at the great age (as is generally supposed) of 162 years. Published as the act directs, at Bear Island, June 4, 1806, by Henry Pelham, Esq. Sold by Edw. Evans, No. 1, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields." At the right hand corner at top is also, "Engraved in Cork by N. Grogan." The other portrait which I have is a small one, probably a copy of that shown by Mr. Smith, about three and three-fourth inches long and three inches broad, with the corners bevelled off, and inscribed at the bottom, "Catherine Countess of Desmond, 140 years and upwards." It also bears the name of "Neele, sc. Strand," and the paper on which it is printed exhibits the water mark, "1815."

60. An original miniature of king Charles II., transmitted as a gift from that prince in the Whyte Baker family, Ballaghtobin, Callan, and fitted up in its present state by the late Mrs. Whyte Baker, was exhibited by Abraham Whyte Baker, Esq.

61. A one hundred pound note, No. 2538, dated London, October 10, 1603, exhibited by T. R. Murray, Esq., is a very curious object, and in fine preservation. Mr. Murray had it neatly framed.

62. An ancient map of Galway, A.D. 1650, and an old municipal map of Galway, commencing A.D. 1484, were exhibited by Edward Berwick, Esq., Queen's College, Galway. These maps are curiously bordered with the various coats of arms of the old families of the district.

63. Beautiful drawings of the royal Tara brooch; sculptures and inscriptions on Magrath's tomb, in the cathedral of Lismore, county of Waterford; Ross castle, Killarney; doorway of Aghadoe church, Killarney; ancient market-cross of Kilkenny (and part of the High-street); east side of Killamery cross, county of Kilkenny; west sides of two of the crosses of Kilkeeran, county of Kilkenny; west side of the south cross, Kilklispeen, county of Kilkenny; and of the west side of Killamery cross, county of Kilkenny, were hanging round the antiquities court—the exhibitors being, the Royal Irish Academy and Henry O'Neill, Esq., Kilkenny—an able artist, who, I am glad to perceive, is now publishing a series of detailed and elegant views of the ancient stone crosses of Ireland, with descriptive letter-press. Would that the many fast-decaying ruins in Ireland had an O'Neill to copy them ere they altogether vanish from us!¹

¹ Since the above was written, two parts of Mr. O'Neill's work on the ancient stone

64. A drawing of a curious silver pin, found near Cavan, in the possession of the Rev. Richard Butler, Trim, was exhibited by him.

65. Bagpipes, said to have been made in the year 1786, and to have belonged to lord Edward Fitzgerald, were exhibited by Mr. George Tuke. The Irish Union pipes were exhibited by Dr. Morrisson, Dublin; and another set of Union pipes were shown by lord Rossmore.

66. In a little case exhibited by the countess of Caledon were two "fairy lasts;" while in a case belonging to the Rev. George H. Reade, Inniskeen rectory, Dundalk, was a stone mould, vulgarly called a "leprechaun's coffin." Both these articles are not, of course, what they are stated to be.

67. Three glass balls, the use of which I do not well know, were exhibited by the Royal Irish Academy and lord Rossmore—the latter found in a bog. The balls are clear as crystal, and perfectly round. Montfaucon remarks, that it was customary in early times to deposit crystal balls in urns or sepulchres. Thus, twenty were found in Rome in an alabaster urn; and one was discovered in 1653, at Tournai, in the tomb of Childeric, king of France, who died A.D. 480. These instances would seem to show that such balls are of some antiquity.

68. Two ivory balls, with the alphabet inscribed on them, were exhibited by Thomas L. Cooke, Esq., and archdeacon Saurin, Seagoe, Portadown. Mr. Cooke's ball was found two or three feet under ground, at Philipstown castle, King's County, in 1836. The use of these balls seems to me rather a puzzle, unless it were to teach the alphabet.

69. A monstrance, silver gilt, of David Rothe, Roman Catholic bishop of Ossory in the seventeenth century, with the following inscription, was exhibited by the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, Roman Catholic bishop of Ossory:—"Ecce Tabernaculum Dei cum hominibus et habitabit cum eis." Round the base—"David Roth, Episcop. Ossorien. me fieri fecit. Ano. 1644. Ora pro clero et populo diocesis Ossorien."

70. A number of Irish bears' skulls, many of them discovered by that indefatigable collector of Irish antiquities, Mr. James Underwood,¹ were exhibited by Abraham Whyte Baker, Esq. See *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. iv. pp. 416-20.

crosses have appeared, comprising some of the finest from the county of Kilkenny; and, if I were allowed to judge, I would say, that his beautiful copies of these richly-sculptured monuments of the piety of the ancient Irish are as creditable to the talented artist who has produced them, as to the county which may so well feel proud of possessing the originals.

¹ It is much to be deplored, that this useful servant in the cause of Irish archæology and zoology is still suffered to pine away in comparative indigence. A very touching appeal to public sympathy on his behalf has been well combined with an interesting "Reminiscence of the Dublin Exhibition of 1853," written, I believe, by a member of this society, and published in

71. Casts of the skulls of the ancient bear of Ireland (*ursus arctos*), identical with the black variety at present found in Scandinavian forests, were shown by Robert Ball, Esq., LL.D., Dublin. Much valuable information on the animals which have disappeared from Ireland during the period of authentic history will be found in a paper by Dr. Scouler, in the first volume of the "Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin." The doctor seems to think that the bear was not a native of Ireland.

I fear I have long since sufficiently exhausted the patience of the meeting in hearing my dry notices of a few of the antiquities shown in our Great Exhibition this year. I confess my inability to make them interesting without illustrations; and it is evident that, to make many of the notes even intelligible, they should have been fully illustrated with engravings. I shall, therefore, for the present end with my seventy-first note; but may, at some future time, as already stated, make a further selection from my note-books. If ever I should, it will probably be on the ancient stone crosses, doorways, and other architectural objects, of the antiquities court of the Great Dublin Exhibition of 1853.

One remark now suggests itself—at least to me—namely, that it is greatly to be regretted that antiquaries are not supplied with a few more details of the history of each relic of antiquity discovered than is generally given in the proceedings of archæological societies. We seldom or never find more than the bare mention of the article presented and the donor's name, even though the same donation may afterwards turn out to be one of great importance; and where are we to look for information respecting those articles when the donors are dead and gone? Now, the person imbued with anything of an archæological or inquiring spirit who reads the few preceding random notes, cannot but feel the want of some little history of several of the objects mentioned. For instance, how desirable would it be, if we had some data, on which to reason, for Nos. 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20, 31, 35 (partially), 36 (but something is known of these), 67, and 68. I am persuaded that full, faithful, and accurate accounts of the finding of certain antiquities are very often as valuable as the antiquities themselves. I would, therefore, beg most respectfully to impress upon the finders of antiquities, or those presenting them to learned societies, the great utility of collecting, and sending with their donations, all the information they can obtain concerning the discovery, the circumstances attending it, and many other matters, which will readily suggest themselves to the intelligent—in short, all that is known of the object. It will then be for the more practised antiquaries to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to record carefully

the *Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator*, of December 20, 1853; but as yet poor Mr. Underwood is uncared for! Many of the visitors to the Great Exhibition of

1853, in the Irish antiquities department of which Mr. Underwood was most usefully employed, must have heard of him, if they have not seen him there.

whatever part of the interesting history may appear to them most worthy of being preserved. Very often, every word thus collected and sent with an antiquarian donation is as so much gold, and ought to be scrupulously printed and preserved. How deeply interesting, for instance, to know that golden torques and other regal ornaments have been found on Tara Hill. How interesting, too, to all who love to read of Ancient Ireland, will it be to know something more of the discovery of the extremely valuable and perhaps unequalled hoard of golden ornaments mentioned in the note at p. 287. I have said "unequalled," because I believe the "find" exceeds all previous ones, both in value and number. Numerous instances might be mentioned, where the bare name of the locality and the circumstances connected with the discovery add very considerable interest and value—nay, sometimes its whole interest and value—to the article discovered: On the other hand, when an interesting antiquarian relic is presented to a learned society, which is supposed not only to preserve it with the greatest care, but also to give some account of it in its publications; and when, moreover, the donation is accompanied with a full history of the discovery, &c., how very discouraging to the donor, and, what is worse, injurious to the science of archæology, if no account or part of that history is given to the public! Our archæological science is far behind in this respect; and we have not, by any means, sufficient printed matter in proportion to the numerous, valuable, and truly national antiquarian treasures existing in Ireland.

THE PAGAN CEMETERY AT BALLON HILL, COUNTY OF CARLOW.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAVES, A. B.

OF the unwritten history of the far back past, few pages have been so little read, and yet not one is so full of important and deeply interesting lore, as the sepulchres of the dead. Often, it is true, have the barrow, the cist, or the tumulus, been rudely torn open by the hand of the spoiler, or the idly curious; but how seldom have they been intelligently examined? It reflects but little credit on the archæologists of Ireland that no systematic attempt has ever yet been made to read this page of its "prehistoric annals"! Why have we not a society established with such an object for its aim? We have very properly associated ourselves to investigate the general antiquities of the island; to print its ancient literature, its music, and its romances;