

PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on
Wednesday, July 1st, 1857,

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

The following new Members were elected:—

John Hyacinth Talbot, Esq., J. P., D. L., Ballytrent, Broadway, county of Wexford; and George C. Roberts, Esq., Ennis-corthy: proposed by John Greene, Esq., J. P., Wexford.

Stephen Browne, Esq., LL. D., Devonshire-square, Bandon: proposed by the Rev. Dr. Browne.

E. G. Brunker, Esq., M. D., Dundalk; John A. Tredennick, Esq., J. P., Camlin Castle, Ballyshannon; Rev. Edward M. Hamilton, Drumauralt Rectory, Ardee; Rev. J. H. Stubbs, Dromiskin Rectory, Castlebellingham; Gilbert Swanne, Esq., Fairfield, Wexford; and Mrs. Ruxton, 28, Lower Fitzwilliam-street, Dublin: proposed by the Rev. G. H. Reade.

James W. Kavanagh, Esq., Head Inspector of National Schools, Rathgar, Dublin: proposed by William H. Newell, Esq., LL. D.

Rev. Samuel D. Sandes, M. A., Rector of Whitechurch, Cork: proposed by Richard Caulfield, Esq.

James Newlands, Esq., Engineer to the Corporation of Liverpool, 4, Clare-terrace, Edgehill, Liverpool; Surgeon L. E. Desmond, Edgehill, Liverpool; and Michael Murphy, Esq., 10, Mount-rath-street, Dublin: proposed by James Murphy, Esq.

Patrick Joseph Kelly, Esq., Solicitor, 4, Lower Berkeley-street, Dublin: proposed by the Rev. J. Graves.

T. W. Belcher, Esq., M. A., M. D., Surgeon, Royal City of Cork Artillery, The Lodge, Bandon: proposed by J. Swanton, Esq.

The Rev. James Graves laid before the Meeting a Letter from the Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, pro-

posing to forward their annual volumes to the library of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society, and asking for the Transactions of the latter in exchange.

The Very Rev. President remarked, that it was gratifying to find that the character of this Society was so much appreciated in the far West; and the Secretary was authorized to carry out the proposed arrangement.

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

By the Author, Col. North Ludlow Beamish, F. R. S., &c.: “The Discovery of America by the Northmen, in the tenth century, with Notices of the Early Settlements of the Irish in the Western Hemisphere.”

By the Cambrian Institute: their “Journal,” Part 14.

By the Publisher: “The Gentleman’s Magazine” for June, 1857.

By the Archæological Institute: their “Journal,” No. 53.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: “The Ulster Journal of Archæology,” No. 18.

By the Author, the Rev. Ulick J. Bourke: “The College Irish Grammar.”

By the Publisher: “The Builder,” Nos. 743 to 750, inclusive.

By the Rev. Dr. Spratt, Dublin: one of those curious antique stone articles (commonly called “stone chalices,” but by others supposed to be rude lamps) found near the old church of Carrigacurra, county of Wicklow; a small stone with a cavity at each side, apparently formed with the same object as that first described, found a spit deep in the townland of Ballinabola, Hollywood, county of Wicklow; a small ancient Irish bronze bell, of the square form, found in the ruins of the White-Abbey Church, Kildare, near the spot where the high altar stood; a stone celt; and an enrolment, temp. Car. II., of a deed of Patrick Darcy, of Ballyvay, affording a curious specimen of the ornamentation used in engrossing grants at that period;—the ornaments, comprising a portrait of Charles II., differed from those of former reigns in being printed on the vellum from a copper-plate.

By Mr. Piers Butler, Woodstock Cottage: portions of an ancient cast-iron powder-horn, having a loop at the neck for suspension, found by him amongst the ruins of Cloughoughter Castle, county of Cavan, the scene of Bishop Bedell’s confinement by the Irish party in December, 1641.

By the Rev. James Graves: a small but very perfect stone celt, found in the school-house garden at Revanna, one of the highest points of the John’s-well range of hills. This stone was com-

posed of fine-grained basalt, which does not occur in the geological formations of the county of Kilkenny.

By the Rev. Charles A. Vignoles, Rector of Clonmacnoise: a double-tressured groat of Edward IV., of the Dublin mint, and an Athlone penny-token—obv., WILL. ANTROBVS, device, a swan and crescent; rev., IN ATHLONE 1^d. The silver coin was one of a find of 300 or 400 turned up by a peasant a short time since near the famous ruins of Clonmacnoise. When discovered they were arranged in cartridges, wrapped in some substance which fell to pieces on being exposed to the air. The Rev. Mr. Vignoles had been unable to procure any other specimens, in consequence of the injudicious law of treasure trove, which made the peasant-finders apprehensive of the bullion being claimed by the landlord.

By Mr. Michael Connery: some specimens of small ancient clay tobacco-pipes, from amongst a large number turned up by workmen digging on the Messrs. Reade's premises, James's-street, Kilkenny.

By Constable Thomas Ebbs, Callan: a St. Patrick's halfpenny, turned up near Callan.

The Secretary stated that this was the second presentation from Constable Ebbs; and observed, that if the constabulary, scattered as they were over the face of the country, kept a watchful eye for the preservation of such antiquities as might turn up, and should forward them to the Museum, they would materially promote the objects of the Society, and save many an interesting relic from destruction.

The Rev. James Mease wrote to inform the Society of the existence of a cromlech about three miles and a half from Strabane, near the road from that town to Dunamanagh. The covering-stone was of a four-sided irregular figure; diagonal length, 10 feet, breadth, 6½ feet, thickness, about 3½ feet; material, granite, with an excess of quartz. Under it there were three stones, but it rested almost horizontally only on two, and could be rocked from two opposite points.

Mr. J. G. Robertson exhibited three unpublished Tradesmen's Tokens of the seventeenth century,—one being that of “. MERCHANTS, of DENNAUGHADÉE, 1669;” another, “THOMAS LAN, KILCULEN BRIDG.” Neither of these towns had been entered in Dr. Smith's “Catalogue of Irish Tradesmen's Tokens.” The third specimen—that of “JOHN BIGGER, of BELFAST, 1657”—was remarkable for its good preservation and neatness of execution. The Kilcullen Bridge Token was found in a garden in King-street, Kilkenny.

The Rev. James Graves said that Mr. Michael Kearney, a Clonmel member of the Society, had forwarded to him rubbings and copies of inscriptions on tombs, discovered during the removal

of the ancient church of St. Mary in that town, which he (Mr. Graves) was sorry to say was in course of demolition. He had himself also written, in his official capacity as Secretary, to the Rector of St. Mary's, urging on him the importance of preserving all records of the past which might be discovered, and had received from that gentleman the following satisfactory reply:—

“*Rectory, Clonmel, June 12, 1857.*”

“REV. SIR,—In reply to your letter, I beg to state that any curious inscription, coins, &c., that have been discovered are carefully preserved. I have also given strict directions that any other remarkable stone, &c., shall be preserved.

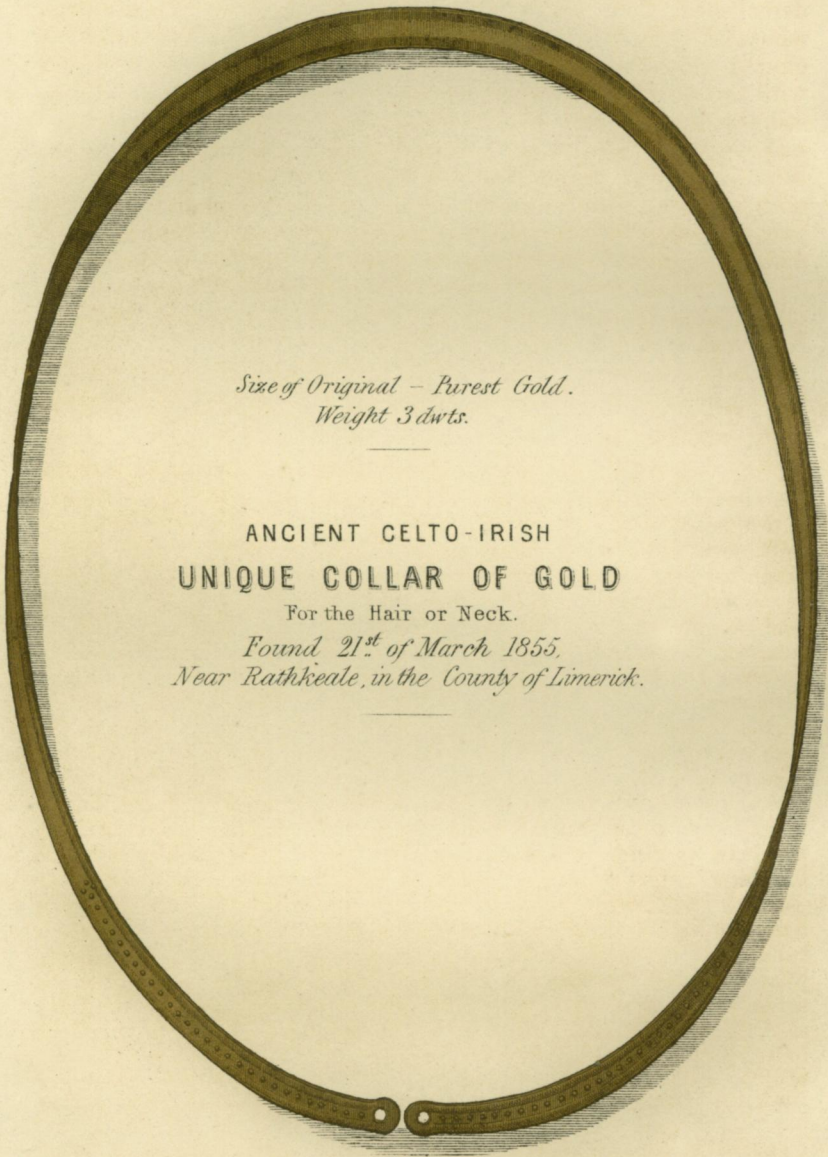
“Yours faithfully,

“C. S. LANGLEY.”

It was the unanimous sense of the members present, that as, unfortunately, the destruction of the ancient structure of St. Mary's was *un fait accompli*, nothing now remained but to look after such vestiges of antiquity as might turn up; and the Secretary was instructed to communicate to Mr. Langley their hope that his instructions would be fully carried out.

One of the monuments, of which drawings and rubbings had been forwarded by Mr. Kearney, bore a cross, the emblems of the passion, the sun and moon, and a skull and cross bones. Round the edge ran the following inscription in Roman capitals:—IOHANNES GELIDO IACET HOC SUB MARMORE VITUS CHARAQ' IOHANNÆ CONIVGIS OSSA PIÆ BIS MAIOR WENTWOORTH PRIMV PROREGE SECVNDV CATHOLICI SUBIENS FÆDERA MARTIS OBIIT 26 AVGVSTI 1643. The stone exhibited also the arms of White (of which “Vitus” is the Latinized form in the inscription), viz., a chevron between three roses, and beneath, the initials I. W. There was another shield on the slab which seemed to be charged with a lion passant gardant on a chief, indented, and another, similarly blazoned, in base, with the initials T. C.; but what this, if correctly given by Mr. Kearney, had to do with the inscription, did not appear. Mr. Kearney stated, that at the distance of a few feet beneath the surface the entire area of the church seemed to be paved with old monuments, and sent the following inscription from another of them:—HIC JACET JOANNES STRICHE BURGENSIS HUIUS OPPIDI QUI OBIIT 25 MAII 1622 ET MARGARETA DANIEL ALIAS SMITHE UXOR EIUS QUÆ HOC MONUMENTUM SUPERSTES IN MEMORIAM DICTI JOANIS FIERI FECIT A° DM' 1625 QUÆ OBIIT [] QUORV ANIMABUS PROPITIETUR DEUS.

From letters which he (Mr. Graves) had received from Dr. Hemphil and Mr. Kearney, it appeared that fragments of ancient



*Size of Original - Purest Gold.
Weight 3 dwts.*

ANCIENT CELTO-IRISH
UNIQUE COLLAR OF GOLD

For the Hair or Neck.

*Found 21st of March 1855.
Near Rathkeale, in the County of Limerick.*

IN THE COLLECTION OF CAPTAIN EDWARD HOARE,
(North Cork Rifles) CORK.

Edwardian cross-slabs, some of them with portions of inscriptions, had been used in the foundations of the piers of the work lately demolished. This fact, combined with the discovery of many fragments of early English sculpture, showed that the Perpendicular church which came down to our day was rebuilt on the site, and with the materials of, an earlier church. What was more curious still was the discovery, beneath the foundation of one of the piers, of a skeleton buried with the head to the east, a wooden cross on the breast, and very perfect leathern buskins on the feet, ornamented with rosettes. Unfortunately, all was covered in again before any one competent to judge of the age of the interment was aware of its discovery; but of the facts given above there can be no doubt.

Mr. Graves also said that a set of photographs of the old church, taken before its demolition, by Dr. Hemphil, of Clonmel, had been purchased for the Library of the Society.

Captain Edward Hoare, A. B., North Cork Rifles, sent the following descriptive particulars respecting a collar of gold at present in his cabinet:—

“During the months of June and July, 1855, the North Cork Rifles were quartered in Limerick, and while stationed there I heard accidentally of this beautiful and unique relic, which now most truly enriches my Irish collections, and of which the accompanying faithful and well-drawn lithograph has been executed for me by Mr. P. Moore, of Cork.¹ It is a relic of the most extreme rarity, and of the earliest days of ancient Celtic Ireland—a collar of gold for the hair or neck; and it is, I believe, the smallest specimen in existence of the very few of these exquisite and choice relics known. It weighs only three pennyweights, and was found in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Rathkeale, in the county of Limerick, on the 21st of March, 1855. The gold of which it is composed is of the very purest quality, of a deep-red colour, without even the slightest particle of hardening matter or alloy, and it is as pliable and as easily bent into any shape as if formed of a piece of lead or zinc. The ornamentation is very neat, and of rather a simple and archaic character, and it has been produced by means of a stamp from the inside. The back part is the broadest, and it gradually lessens in breadth towards the penannular ends. I consider this collar to have been an ornament for the neck of a female of high rank, though it is possible it may have been used also as a band or circlet for the hair; but it seems to be too small for the latter purpose, unless the head of a child or a very young person. I fancy the fastening was by means of a jewelled ornament or drop, through the holes at the penannular ends. If so, it would form a very beautiful ornament indeed for either the hair or neck, and which our modern ladies might do well to imitate. Perhaps it would be well worth the inquiry of some of our Irish archæologists where the ancient Irish obtained the very nume-

¹ Captain E. Hoare has kindly permitted the Society to make use of the accompanying lithograph, executed expressly for the “Jour-

nal” of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archæological Society at his expense, and he has also afforded the gold tint.—Eds.

rous gold ornaments and relics which have been so constantly discovered in Ireland in modern times and up to the present day; or from what sources, or mines, did they procure the gold of which they have been formed; whether, also, they are the works of native Irish artists, and not merely importations, as some, without a semblance or an attempt at proof, assert; and, as in the present instance, relics—not like ‘the collar of gold’ which ‘Malachi wore,’ that he won from ‘the proud invader.’”

Mr. E. Fitzgerald, of Youghal, sent the following observations:—

“In the account given in the March ‘Transactions,’ p. 287, *supra*, of the disgraceful destruction of the monumental effigy at Youghal, I find an error has crept into the printed date of the relic, as, instead of the sixteenth, it should have been stated to belong to the fourteenth century. So grave an error as this needs immediate correction, especially as armour and costume form an important item in archæological research. As an index to the future dating of armour, it may not be amiss to place on record in the ‘Transactions’ a note on the subject from J. Hewitt’s ‘Chart of Ancient Armour from the Eleventh to the Sixteenth Century,’ as he says, ‘for *general purposes*, the body armour, during four centuries, may be thus simply classified:—Twelfth century,—scale, ring, and mail, *unmixed* with plate; thirteenth century,—mixed mail and plate, the mail predominating; fourteenth century,—mixed mail and plate, the plate prevailing; fifteenth century,—era of complete plate.

“‘For the sixteenth century, or Tudor period, the breast-plate will be found a good guide. Its form was at first globose; then a point appeared in front, near the centre; this point or peak gradually fell towards the waist, till at last it extended even beyond the band of the breast-plate, and assumed both the form and name of a “peascod.”

“‘Under the Stuarts, the peaked waists by degrees disappeared, till at length the breast-plate became nearly square at its termination, with an obtuse ridge down the centre.’

“I was aware that an opinion existed of our ancient *Irish* armour being a century later in date than that of other countries; but know of no cogent reason to receive this opinion.

“The Rev. P. W. Drew, an excellent authority on this subject, in writing to me on it, says:—‘It is a mistake that the armour of Irish noblemen and knights is a century in the background. The first Earl of Cork’s (in the south transept of St. Mary’s Church, Youghal), for instance, is precisely of the period in which he wore it. The broken effigy in the north abbey was of a noble or knight, probably.’

“Few who have given the subject anything like attention will be much mistaken in the date of a relic or inscription this side the twelfth century, as each tells its own tale of date pretty clearly, if genuine. Some years since, in poking amongst relics in Limerick, the mutilated fragments of a recumbent effigy was pointed out in St. Mary’s Church, and stated to be of unknown antiquity. However, on a trifling examination, the remnant of a ruffled frill round the throat pronounced it no earlier than Elizabeth or James I.

“A portion of an inscription in the pavement of the Cloyne Cathedral, no later than last year, was shown to the writer, by a most respectable and intelligent young man, as a great curiosity, and as of the sixth century; but the broad-tailed terminations to the letters and figures, so seldom mistaken, told clearly it was not earlier than the sixteenth or seventeenth century. The latter it proved to be, as the unit before the 6 was obliterated.”

The Rev. James Graves said he was sorry to be obliged to differ from the opinion expressed by the Rev. Mr. Drew and by Mr. Fitzgerald as to the relative date of Irish and English armour. As to Mr. Hewitt's “Chart,” it might be an excellent guide to the English student; but, if followed implicitly by the Irish explorer, would assuredly lead him into “graver” error than Mr. Fitzgerald seemed aware of. The truth was, that Anglo-Irish and English fashions in armour ran side by side at first for one century, viz. the thirteenth. In the next two centuries the Anglo-Irish knights and nobles began to lag behind,—so much so, that at the commencement of the sixteenth century, the Earls of Ormonde and the gentry of Kilkenny and Tipperary, as evidenced by their dated monuments, still remaining in the Cathedral of St. Canice and other ancient churches, *wore precisely the same armour as that in vogue in England in the time of Richard II.*; and he had no doubt that where dated effigial tombs remained in other countries, the same anachronism would be found to exist. As the sixteenth century wore on, however, the Anglo-Irish fashions began to regain lost ground, and by the time the Earl of Cork's monumental effigy was carved, armour was again identical in both countries. As Mr. Fitzgerald was not satisfied with the substitution of the sixteenth for the fourteenth century in relation to the fragment recently discovered at Youghal, he (Mr. Graves) was content to bear the blame of it, the more so as it enabled him to make the first claim to the discovery of the curious anomalies which the Anglo-Irish armour, as represented on monuments of the first half of the sixteenth century, presents. The subject was a most important and interesting one, and he hoped that this discussion would serve to elicit facts relative to *dated* effigial monuments all over Ireland. A list of the effigial monuments in each county, with the *date and proportion of mail to plate* in each case, would be most important; and he trusted that the widely-spread organization of this Society would be the means of placing on record much information relative to the subject. In the recently published work on the “Architecture, History, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny,” this subject has received much attention, and Mr. Graves wished to refer the reader to what he had there placed before the public in connexion with the much-neglected subject of Irish dress and armour.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.