

PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on
Wednesday, November 5th, 1856.

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF LEIGHLIN in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

The Knight of Kerry, Valencia, county of Kerry; Clayton Savage, Esq., D.L., J.P., Norelands, Stoneyford; George L. Bryan, Esq., D.L., J.P., Jenkinstown House, Jenkinstown; John George, Esq., M.P., Cahore, Gorey; the Rev. W. Smyth King, Ballinree, Kiledmond; Harry Alcock, Esq., J.P., Wilton, Ennis-corthy; John A. Kirwan, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, D.L., Resident Magistrate, Castlecomer; Frederick Richard Morris Reade, Esq., J.P., Rossanarra, Callan; and William Phelan, Esq., Ballyragget: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Mrs. Parkinson Ruxton, Redhouse, Ardee; the Rev. Joseph Wright, Broughatena, Flurrybridge; and John Tisdall, Esq., Charlesfort, Navan: proposed by the Rev. G. H. Reade.

Thomas F. Strange, Esq., Waterford: proposed by Samson Carter, Esq., C.E.

Henry Butler, Esq., J.P., Kilmurry, Thomastown: proposed by James S. Blake, Esq.

Miss Helen Cecil Archer Butler, Tullamain Castle, Fethard, county of Tipperary: proposed by Joshua Kettlewell, Esq.

William Williams, Esq., Dungarvan; Patrick J. Scannell, Esq., 14, Douglas-street, Cork; and George Fitzgerald, Esq., London, Canada West: proposed by Edward Fitzgerald, Esq., Architect.

Edward Wright, Esq., War Department, Kilkenny: proposed by John G. A. Prim, Esq.

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

By the Author, Edward Richardson, Sculptor: "The Ancient Stone and Leaden Coffins, Encaustic Tiles, &c., recently discovered in the Temple Church;" and "The Monumental Effigies of the Temple Church, with an Account of their Restoration, in the year 1842." Folio, London, 1843 and 1845.

By the Census Commissioners: "The Census of Ireland for the year 1851," part 5, Vols. I. and II., comprising "Tables of Deaths;" and part 6, being their "General Report."

By the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire: their "Transactions," Vol. VIII.

By the Author, Edward Newenham Hoare, A.M., Dean of Waterford: "English Roots; and the Derivation of Words from the Anglo-Saxon." Second edition.

By Frederick May, Esq.: "The Ancient Customs of the Manor of Taunton Deane."

By the Cambridge Antiquarian Society: "Report and Communications." 8vo series, No. 6.

By the Oxford Architectural Society: "Reports of Meetings," 1853-56.

By the Cambrian Archæological Society: "Archæologia Cambrensis," No. 7.

By the Cambrian Institute: their "Journal," part 2.

By the Dublin Geological Society: their "Journal," Vol. VII. part 3.

By the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, and Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire: their "Reports," "Proceedings," and "Transactions;" also "The Economy of a Coal Field," and "An Account of an Egyptian Mummy."

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 709 to 717, inclusive.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine," for January, February, March, and October, 1856.

By James S. Blake, Esq., J.P.: a portion of the "County and City of Cork Remembrancer."

By T. C. Mossom Meekins, Esq., Barrister-at-Law: "Decimal Coinage; should it be International?"

By Richard Sainthill, Esq.: "Suggestions for a Medal to record the Discovery of the Passage of the North Pole;" and "Sunrise." Two pamphlets.

By W. J. Fitzpatrick, Esq.: cuttings relating to Kilkenny and its Theatricals, from "Carrick's Morning Post," and "Saunders's Newsletter," 1807-1819.

By the Rev. G. L. Shannon: "a MS. copy of a Prologue, written by Henry Amyas Bushe, Esq., and spoken by Richard Power, Esq., at the Kilkenny Theatricals, October 7th, 1805."

By Henry Steele, Esq. : a collection of fifty-two coins, consisting of eleven Lower Empire Roman brasses, obtained from Syria; thirty-seven English tradesmen's tokens of the seventeenth century; a base English shilling of Charles II.; and three Irish farthings of Charles I.

The Secretary announced that, in exchange for one of the copies of Mr. O'Neill's "Irish Crosses," for three of which, it would be recollected, the Society had subscribed, he had obtained for their Library, from the Spalding Club, through the kindness of the Secretary of that body, John Stuart, Esq. (a Member also of this Society), a copy of the magnificent folio lately printed by the Spalding Club for its members, entitled "Sculptured Stones of Scotland." This splendid volume showed what might be done by combined exertion, where a true sense of the importance of national antiquities animated the breasts of those who were able to contribute the means required properly to illustrate, and thus preserve the knowledge of, the antiquities of a country. He (Mr. Graves) was ashamed to say that, in this respect, Scotland was far beyond his native land, and nothing could furnish a more striking illustration of the different state of feeling prevalent in the two countries, than a comparison of the two works he had alluded to. *Here*, an artist, whose livelihood depended on the profitable exercise of his pencil, had been allowed to devote himself, with much generous self-denial, and *present* sacrifice of pecuniary means, to the illustration of our matchless sculptured crosses and their kindred antiquities. *There*, a society of noblemen and gentlemen had, without stint, supplied the means to employ artists, and fully to illustrate the contemporary sculptures of Scotland. All honour to the *one man* who has undertaken for Ireland what the *landed proprietors and monied* men of Scotland have nobly done for *their* native land. Surely it shall not be said that Ireland cares not for those memorials of her olden glory! It is to be hoped that every Irishman, who can with propriety afford the outlay, will order a copy of Henry O'Neill's work, of which the fifth number has just appeared, comprising, amongst other illustrations of the highest interest, a plate of one of the ancient stone crosses existing in the churchyard of Kilkieran, in the county of Kilkenny.

The publication of the Spalding Club, which he laid on the table, comprised *one hundred and thirty-seven* folio lithographic plates, in the best style of art, with an introductory essay by Mr. Stuart, who had ably edited the work for the Club. An inspection of this rare and valuable privately printed volume proved the identity of Celtic art in Scotland and Ireland, and at the same time showed that the Scottish sculptures proceeded from a distinct school, many peculiarities separating them from their Irish counterparts, of which might be mentioned a more decidedly *Pagan* element, to be expected

in a country where Christianity struggled with Paganism for ages after the former had been fully established in Ireland.

Mr. Graves then called the attention of the Members present to the valuable additions made to the Society's Library by the Census Commissioners. Dr. Wilde's labours, in elucidation of the history of disease and therapeutics in Ireland, were here set forth, and would form a reference book for all future inquirers on the subject, affording information of the most varied and interesting kind, rescued from the imprisonment it had long endured between the folios of the treatises of the ancient hereditary leeches of Ireland, and amongst the other memorabilia of our annalists.

The Secretary also called attention to the donation made that day, on behalf of Mr. Edward Richardson, who, having been recently in Kilkenny employed in erecting, in the cathedral of St. Canice, the beautiful monument which he had sculptured for their late deeply lamented Patron, the Marquis of Ormonde, had presented to the Library his works on the monumental and sepulchral remains of the Temple Church, London, which would be of much value for the purposes of comparison with the monumental sculptures of this country, and prove a guide, should the work of restoration—so much needed in the cathedral of St. Canice—be ever undertaken.

The following communication, received from the Rev. John O'Hanlon, of Dublin, was then laid before the Meeting, being a continuation of the results of his researches in the Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin, descriptive of the manuscript materials there preserved, serving to illustrate the history and topography of the Queen's County:—

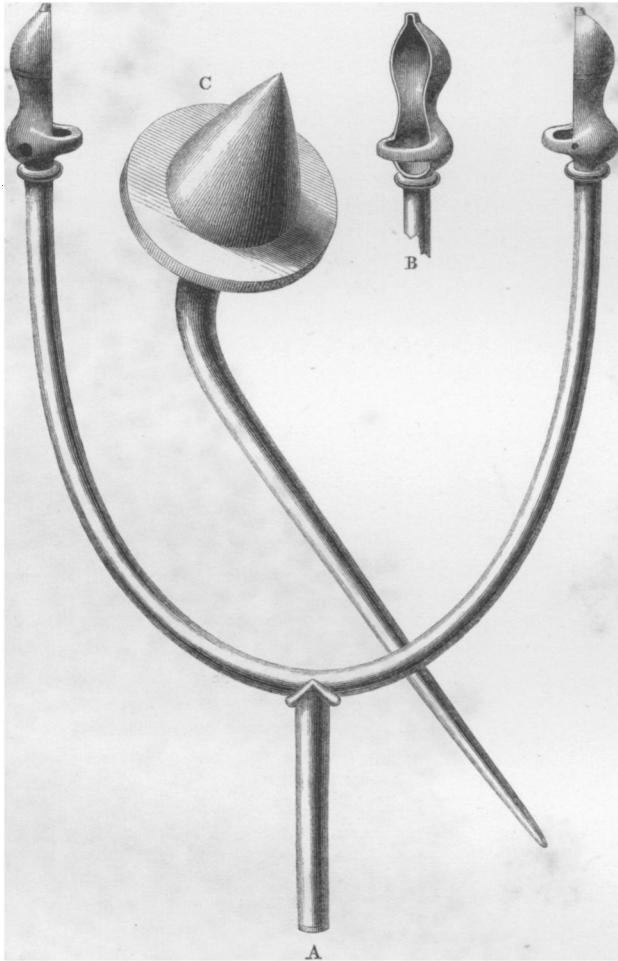
“Having already furnished a list of the MS. materials referring to the county of Kilkenny, as found in the Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, I thought it would interest many of the Members of the Society to present to them an outline of the like materials respecting the Queen's County. Not only the early associations connected with one's own native district, but the circumstance of its forming one of the Irish south-eastern counties, naturally induce the writer to prepare a second letter on this subject. I find, then, in the Catalogue of Ordnance Survey MSS., the following list referring to the Queen's County:—I. Inquisition. II. Names from Down Survey (see *Leinster*, vol. ii.) III. Extracts, two volumes (see also p. 33), and Common-place Book; Rough Index of Places to Irish part of ditto, not arranged. IV. Letters, two volumes. V. Name Books, 65. VI. Parish and Barony Names, one volume. VII. Memoranda, one volume. VIII. County Index of Names on Ordnance Maps, one volume. IX. Memoir Papers; see detailed list annexed. Such is the list; but I regret to say there are no drawings of antiquities for this county, as it is one of those on which an artist was not engaged. To enter, then, into a few particulars respecting the papers and volumes prepared:—I. Inquisition.—One quarto volume, containing 136 closely written pages, besides an Index of all the places referred to therein, prefixed. II. Names from Down Survey,

&c.—These are contained in a folio volume, named ‘Down Survey, Leinster,’ vol. ii., and the names of places are alone given; the names referring to the Queen’s County are comprised within, from p. 264 to 344, loosely written, alternate pages blank; an Index of parishes precedes, occupying only p. 264; the names are for the most part referable to townlands, with identification on the old maps. III. Extracts, &c.—Although there are only two volumes of extracts marked on the Catalogue, I find three volumes in the collection; vol. i. comprises 441 closely written quarto pages; vol. ii. is not paged, but I believe is quite as large as the former, and contains as much matter, in quarto pages; vol. iii. comprises 65 pages, and 14 additional pages, quarto, closely written. The references made to p. 33 relate, I am informed, to extracts from the British Museum, Lambeth, Oxford, and Bodleian Libraries, regarding the counties of Antrim, Armagh, ‘Coleraine,’ Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Monaghan, Queen’s County, Tyrone, Wexford, and the provinces of Ulster and Munster. Vol. i. is now in the custody of Colonel Larcom, the former able and talented superintendent of the Irish Department of the Ordnance Survey. It is, however, the property of the Department. The reference to Common-place Book N will be found in MS. No. I, named Inquisition. The rough Index of places to Irish part of Extracts, not arranged, will be found in 31 folio pages of foolscap paper. The names of places, in the modern English spelling and in the ancient Irish character, are placed together, and this portion of the work is in the handwriting of Mr. Anthony Curry (brother of Professor Eugene Curry, Esq., M.R.I.A.), and is well executed. The leaves are yet loose, with a view to slips being taken from them, to be alphabetically arranged in another book. IV. Letters, &c.—Comprised in two quarto volumes; vol. i. comprises 359 pages, closely written, besides a well-arranged Index prefixed; vol. ii. comprises 306 closely written pages, besides a well arranged Index prefixed, and the following maps and traces:—Trace of Balliadams and Slew-margie baronies, from Down Survey, p. 296; ditto, Cullinagh, p. 297; ditto, Mariborough, p. 298; ditto, Portneinch, p. 299; ditto, from old map by John Mason, 1567, p. 303; ditto, Stradbally, from Down Survey, p. 300; ditto, Tenehinch, p. 301; ditto, Upper Osserey, p. 302; ditto, old map of Leax and Ophaly, preserved in Trin. Coll. Dubl., pp. 304, 305; hand sketch of the Queen’s County, with some of the territorial names marked upon it by Dr. O’Donovan, p. 306. The first of these volumes contains thirteen letters, written during the months of November and December, 1838, from Mountrath and Stradbally. Two letters were written by P. O’Keefe, six by Dr. O’Donovan, and five by Thomas O’Conor, a most excellent Irish antiquary and topographer, as his valuable letters evince; but I regret to be informed he died at a comparatively early age. By his death Irish history and literature have, no doubt, sustained a serious loss, for, with his undoubted talent and early promise, he was indefatigable and zealous in promoting the object of his mission. Vol. ii. contains eight letters, all written from Carlow, in the month of December, 1838—four by Dr. O’Donovan, and four by Mr. O’Conor. Besides the maps and tracings already mentioned, these letters are interspersed with other rough maps and drawings, on a minor scale. I should remark, that all these letters, although written in a familiar style, and only with a view to furnish sub-

sequent matter for published and corrected volumes, are, nevertheless, almost finished dissertations—many written at great length—on the history and antiquities of the Queen's County. V. Name Books.—These are in the form of small receipt blocks or books, and contain, according to a printed form, the writing of the names of places, generally in the hands of resident, local gentry, clergymen, Catholic and Protestant, farmers, &c. VI. Parish and Barony Names.—These are comprised in one quarto volume, of 63 pages, marked, but in reality of double that number of written pages, alternate pages being only numbered; there are three pages besides of Index and Authorities. VII. Memoranda.—One quarto volume, of 238 closely written pages. VIII. County Index of Names on Ordnance Maps.—This is comprised in one folio volume; the pages are not numbered, but are numerous, and well filled with names of localities, townlands, parishes, baronies, &c. IX. Memoir Papers, &c.—There is only one paper, on 'Lea Castle,' 16 pages, folio, signed a 'true copy, R. Fenwick.' There are loose sheets in this parcel, with a pen-and-ink ground plan of Lea Castle and environs; an engraving of ruins and rock of Dunamace, with engravings of sections of an ancient baptismal font at Emo, near Portarlinton. These engravings appear to have been executed by the staff of engravers employed in the Ordnance Survey Office.

"In the MS. materials for the county of Kilkenny, noticed at p. 153, *supra*, not having referred to the Catalogue, I did not mention that there are three other MS. volumes, besides those I gave an account of, which I now supply:—I. Names from Down Survey (see Leinster, vol. i.)—By referring to the volume named, I find that from page 236 to 391 are the names of county of Kilkenny baronies, parishes, and townlands, with identifications on ancient maps. The volume is a folio, and the part referring to the county of Kilkenny is preceded by three pages of an index map of barony, and parish names, commencing from p. 236. II. Name Books, 128.—Drawn up on the same plan and form, as already stated in the previous part of this letter, at No. 5. III. Parish and Barony Names.—These are comprised in one quarto volume of 170 pages, marked, but of double that number of written pages, alternate pages being only numbered; there are besides five pages of index and authorities."

The Rev. James Graves said that the Rev. G. H. Reade had forwarded drawings of an ancient bronze antique, of which there are many varieties, but all of the same type, preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. These objects, bearing a general resemblance to a gigantic spur, were first assigned to their true purpose by Mr. Edward Clibborn, Curator of that unequalled collection of national antiquities. Mr. Clibborn suggested that these objects were intended to form pendant ornaments beneath the throat of the horse, being suspended by straps from the headstall, something in the same way that our cavalry regiments display a crescent, or tuft of red horse-hair, dependant from that portion of the bridle. The specimen represented from Mr. Reade's drawing was in the possession of Mrs. Parkinson Ruxton, of Redhouse, Ardee, who had that day become a Member of the Society. It had been



Bronze Bridle Ornament and Cloak Pin.

SCALE, ONE-HALF.

N. B. The Bridle Ornament is imperfect at A.

found in a black, or turf, bog near Ardee, along with a bronze spear-head; and differed from every specimen which he (Mr. Graves) had seen, in the contrivance for inserting the cords or straps by which it had been suspended to the headstall, which will be best understood by an inspection of the accompanying plate (Figs. a and b), where the antique is represented at half size. It would seem that the cord or strap was passed through the loop, and then bound to the bronze by a fastening passing round the depression, immediately above the place of insertion. These ends were formed of the usual dark greenish-coloured bronze, whilst the remainder of the antique, though of the same metal, was of a rich golden tint. It will be remembered that a similar object, which had been found in the county of Kilkenny, was some time since secured for the Museum of the Society. This example had unfortunately lost the parts by which it had been suspended, but was finished by a simple knob at the lower extremity. Most of the specimens preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy were thus finished, and had merely knobs at their suspension ends also, but in many instances, if his memory served him rightly, the antiques were highly ornamented.

On the same plate is also represented (Fig. c) a bronze cloak-pin, half the size of the original, from a drawing furnished by Mr. Reade, in whose collection this antique is preserved. It was of dark bronze, and the cone had been originally gilt.

Mr. Hitchcock sent an account, from the "Forres, Elgin, and Nairn Gazette," of the further spoliation of the few remains of the Moyness temple (see p. 79, *supra*), and by other than plebeian hands. It appears, that some weeks since (the paper dates Nov. 5), a party, among whom were the lord of the manor—the Earl of Cawdor, and Mr. Stuart, of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland—visited the site of the dilapidated circle, and caused several excavations to be made. They were rewarded by finding an urn (not described)¹ in the centre of the displaced causeway; but the trenched up ground is left open, rendering the destruction now as complete as can well be imagined. However interesting the discovery of the urn in this celebrated circle may be, we can scarcely refrain from adding our voice to that of the Forres paper, that the pits—some of which were, perhaps, dug close to some still standing megalith—ought not to have been left open, and that such monuments as the Moyness temple, wherever they exist, are the property of the nation—to be cared for and preserved for the gratification of the public.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

¹Mr. Stuart has since informed me that "the urn was of clay, very rude, and without a trace of ornament. It lay near the

surface, and was filled with roots and vegetable debris and sand." The ground would seem to have been previously disturbed.—R.H.