

## PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

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GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, May 25th (by adjournment from the 4th), 1859,

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

The following new Members were elected :—

John Bagwell, Esq., D. L., J. P., M. P. : proposed by M. Kearney, Esq.

Rev. James S. Franks, Rathkeale : proposed by James M'Lochlin, Esq.

Edward Atthill, Esq., J. P., Ardvarney, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh : proposed by Thomas O'Gorman, Esq.

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

By the Author: "The Life of Saint Malachy O'Morgair, Bishop of Down and Connor, Archbishop of Armagh, &c., and Delegate Apostolic of the Holy See for the Kingdom of Ireland." By the Rev. John O'Hanlon. Dublin, 1859.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland : their "Journal," Nos. 60, 61.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq. : "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," No. 25.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 835-49, inclusive.

By the Publisher: "The Dublin Builder," Nos. 1-3, inclusive.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: "Archæologia Cambrensis," third series, No. 18.

By the Cambrian Institute: "The Cambrian Journal," March, 1859.

By the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society: "Original Papers," Vol. V., part 4.

By the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne: "Archæologia Æliana," new series, No. 13.

By the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History: "East Anglian Notes and Queries," No. 3.

By the Rev. Beaver H. Blacker, A. M.: "Wayland Smith," by W. S. Singer; London, 1847. "An Inquiry into the Origin, Progress, and Material of Ancient Personal Ornaments," by W. Acheson, M. R. D. S.; Dublin, 1856. "Catalogue" of the Library of Robert Daly, D. D., Lord Bishop of Cashel; sold by Sotheby and Wilkinson, in June, 1858. "Bibliotheca illustris ac Præhonorabilis Domini Edvardi Vicecomitis de Kingsborough in Comitatu Corcagiensi apud Hibernos;" sold by Sharp, in November, 1842. "Notices of Communications to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Dublin, in August, 1835;" London, 1836. "The Queen v. Mills (Writ of Error): Notes on the opinions of Lord Brougham and Vaux, and Lord Campbell," by George Miller, D. D., Vicar-General of Armagh; London, 1844.

By the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen: "Antiquarisk Tidsskrift," 1852-4. "Sur la Construction des Salles dites Géants, par S. M. le Roi Frédéric VII. de Danemark;" Copenhagen, 1857. "Cabinet D'Antiquités Américaines a Copenhague, Rapport Ethnographique par C. C. Rafn;" Copenhagen, 1858. "Saga Játvardar Konungs hins Helga, Udgiven efter Islandske, Oldböger af det Kongelige Nordiske Oldskrift-Selskab;" Copenhagen, 1832. "En Vandring Gjennem Jægersprills's Have og Lund;" Copenhagen, 1858. "Leitfoden zur Nordischen Alterthumskunde;" Copenhagen, 1847. "Antiquités de l'Orient, Monuments Runographiques interprétés par C. C. Rafn;" Copenhagen, 1856.

By W. T. Jones, Esq., Cork: a mass of blue vitreous matter, found on the sea-shore at Dunworley Bay, apparently of the same material as the beads found in such numbers in the same locality, already brought before the Society.

By Robert Stephenson, Esq., Grimsby: a beautifully executed gutta-percha cast of the seal of William Bishop of Kildare—apparently, from the style of the ornamentation and the form of the letters of the legend, that Bishop William who, having been Archdeacon of the same diocese, was raised to the episcopal chair in 1442, and died in 1446. The legend read: *Sigillum Will'mi dei gratia kildarens' epi.*

By Sir John Blunden, Bart.: a halfpenny of Charles II., dug up in a field at Castleblunden.

By Constable Joseph Crowe, Callan: a Kilkenny penny token, struck by Thomas Talbot in the seventeenth century, which was found in taking down an ancient building in the town of Callan.

By Mr. Prim: an ancient bronze globular bell, of the class

usually termed "hawks' bells," but of large size. He had bought it from a little boy whom he met in the street in Kilkenny, and who was using it as a play-thing, but could give no account of where or how it was found.

The Rev. J. Graves observed that the bell, which was composed of a very pale-coloured bronze, was probably ancient. Although large, it was not impossible that it might have been used for the larger kind of hawks.

Mr. J. G. Robertson exhibited a small copper matrix of a seal, about the size of a sixpenny piece. It bore for device a cock, surrounded by the legend 'INMUTABIL' SIGN' (*immutabile signum*). It was evidently a personal seal, the cock probably being the armorial cognisance of the owner, and the legend referring to its use as his signet. There was a small loop at the back, for suspension. It probably belonged to the latter part of the thirteenth or beginning of the fourteenth century. The legend was in Lombardic characters.

The Rev. Duncan Mac Callum, Arisaig, Fort William, sent the following communication :—

"'Scar nan Albanach,' 'Cnoc nan Sassenach:' these are names of hills in the district of Arisaig, county of Inverness, of which the oldest men in the country have no tradition. *Scar* is a descriptive name of a particular rocky hill of a peculiar form; but this one has an addition—*Albanach*, and the other, a lower and larger hill, *Sassenach*, which lead us to infer they have been occupied as camps by armies of both nations.

"The Romans never penetrated so far west; Prince E. Charles Stuart was in the district when he landed in Scotland, and when he escaped from Culloden, but these hills must have been camps of the Gael and the Saxons before his time. The *Scar* is as high as any part of the country; it looks over the Atlantic; it is a natural fort that a few men could easily defend; and the Gael did defend it. The *Cnoc* is below, extending south, and large enough for a great army, on which the Saxons encamped, in sight, though at a distance, from the *Scar*. But when were the English there? On the south, divided by an arm of the sea, is the district of Moidart in said county, in the north-west of which is Castle Tirim, a fine old ruin, the walls of which are entire. The castle was built on a rock, which is washed by a strong current, when the rising tide makes an island of the site; at low water the whole space—a few acres—is dry; hence the name Tirim. In former times the invading enemy could not assail the castle but on the south and by the narrow neck, which might be guarded by Scaur-Doish, where a Norseman, a great warrior, named Doish, lost his life. The army of Oliver Cromwell made their way through a ravine, descended the Scaur, and assaulted the castle, and seized it; but all in it made their escape in boats, and, joined by natives of the adjacent districts, reached Scar nan Albanach, where they encamped. The assailing army pursued, and encamped on the Cnoc below. They found the work of nature of more difficult access than the work of man. They tried, but tried

in vain, to dislodge the Albanach; so that Cromwell did not entirely subdue Scotland.

“As mention is made of Scottish antiquities in the Journal of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, the above may be noticed in one of their Numbers; it is a fact in history of which no notice has been hitherto taken.

“There is much said of the Ogham in the Journal, No. 17, with the most of which entirely agree; but there seems an uncertainty about the origin of this alphabet. It is certain that the Roman character was introduced into Ireland by St. Patrick in the beginning of the fifth century; and we cannot suppose that a people knowing the Roman character would think of the Ogham. Nor is there any evidence that it was formed by Christians of any age or country; nor by Pagans of the north of Europe. It is certainly Celtic, and must have been imported into Ireland, and have given names to trees, and not trees to the letters, as is properly observed.

“But when, and by whom, was this alphabet formed, is the query. It must have been anterior to the arrival of the Celtæ in the West of Europe, which was at the dawn of history. By whom? By the Druids, there can be no doubt. They were the priests, legislators, philosophers, and teachers of the great nations; they had an alphabet; and, unless that was the Ogham, we know not what it was. They were men of great learning and profound thought; the first order of the nation, they were above princes and chiefs. Being the fittest persons to make laws and regulate affairs, their power and influence in the state were great. They were the professors in their colleges; the teachers of youth. The curriculum was long; they were austere, and the tasks arduous; all was committed to memory, and they made the use of letters illegal.

“None else, therefore, knew their alphabet; they had written the laws, and probably their mysteries. Some of their writings had fallen into the hands of St. Patrick, who drove them from Ireland, and which he destroyed, more, we should suppose, owing to the doctrine than the law. St. Columba had done the same in Scotland.

“The Celtic religion was divided into the mysterious and the popular; the mysteries were deemed too sacred for the vulgar, who regarded the Druids as superior beings. They were venerated; what their secret doctrines were, none else knew, but the Culdees thought them pernicious.

“The Druids might have written inscriptions in various places; wherever the Celtæ branched there were Druids; and whatever was written in the Ogham letters were only intelligible to them. Should these characters be found in any other country, it is easy accounting for them as branches of the great nation spread through most parts of Europe, and some of these acquired new appellations. Colonies from Gaul and Belgium were the first inhabitants of the western isles; the latter were the Fir-bolg, the men of quivers. They might have been visited by Vikings, Sea-Kings, and Norsemen, like all European coasts in those times; but no other people or tribe settled in Ireland previous to the eighth century.

“The Druids studied astrology, like other ancient philosophers, and

also astronomy, which in those times were thought the same. They likewise pretended to power over the elements, as Coivi, the Arch-Druid, pretended to St. Columba. The Ogham, then, must have been the Celtic alphabet formed by the Druids at an early period of the history of the great nation."

The following papers were submitted to the Meeting.

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EXTRACTS FROM ORIGINAL WILLS FORMERLY PRESERVED  
IN THE CONSISTORIAL OFFICE, CASHEL, BUT NOW RE-  
MOVED TO THE COURT OF PROBATE, WATERFORD.

BY JOHN DAVIS WHITE, ESQ.

SAMUEL LADYMAN, D. D., VICAR OF CLONMEL AND ARCHDEACON OF  
LIMERICK; WILL, DATED 1683.

THERE are many things in this will worthy of notice, but want of space compels me to pass over most of them. He calls himself "a weake, consuptive, sickly man," with "a crazy, distempered, wasted body;" he requests of his daughter and grand-daughter "that they never doe forgett those many signall obligations w<sup>ch</sup> my selfe have receaved from the illustrious Lord Duke of Ormond, but continue to pray for y<sup>e</sup> Lasting Happiness of y<sup>e</sup> most honorable family." He leaves to his daughter "all my plate, both Beere cups, wine cups, Tankards, spoones, paringers, greater and lesser salts," &c. To his grand-daughter—

"One green satin Christening mantle with y<sup>e</sup> broade gold and sylver lace; three hanging sea-green Sweet Baggs, as they are called, Trim'd with Gold and sylver ribbon, and one more wrought with Gold; one pinkissine of y<sup>e</sup> same silk with y<sup>e</sup> baggs with gold and sylver lace; one suit of fine wrought Child bead Lineñ; w<sup>th</sup> mantle, baggs, &c., being used by my dearest wife with all her children, my desire and will is y<sup>t</sup> they be kept without any alteration (though used as occasion requires).

"*Item.*—I doe give and Bequeath one hundred and fifty pounds Sterling, sealed up in one Bagg, marked with Clonmell, whereof fifty pounds and its interest till that time shall come to be out, towards a ring of Bells in this Church when y<sup>t</sup> work shall be gonn about; and fifty pounds to be improved for ever, of w<sup>ch</sup> Improvement or Interest fifty shill. ster. to be laid out in six pennis, and distributed on y<sup>e</sup> first day of June; and fifty shill. more on y<sup>e</sup> first day of January in each year, y<sup>e</sup> Like having been done by me some years past on y<sup>t</sup> day; the saide bread to be distributed still on the aforesaid days by the Church Wardens care at y<sup>e</sup> Church porch in Clonmell, and soe that every poore man and woman, without distinction, may have one Loafe if y<sup>e</sup> hundred will hold out. But if not soe