

THE ECCLESIASTICAL ANTIQUITIES OF YOUGHAL.¹—No. III.

[CONCLUSION.]

SAINT JOHN'S HOUSE OF BENEDICTINES, YOUGHAL.
 THE COLLEGE OF YOUGHAL.
 SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S HOUSE, YOUGHAL.

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HE religious building to which we shall next direct attention, although lying in the heart of the town, has been passed over unnoticed by all previous writers. Archdall is silent about it; and Dr. Smith, the county historian, was ignorant of its existence. Our records are meagre; but we shall put together the scattered notices, and then describe the existing remains of the Foundation.

SAINT JOHN'S HOUSE OF BENEDICTINES, situated in the

Main or High-street of Youghal, was founded (as its style of architecture shows) in the middle of the fourteenth century. It was a cell, or dependency, of the wealthy Benedictine Priory of St. John the Evangelist, at Waterford, established in that city, in 1185, by John, Earl of Morton; and it would appear from the following record (if the house referred to be the same) to have been a mortuary bequest:—

“ 39 Edw. III. [1366]. The Escheator accounts for 16^s 8^d of the rents and issues of a messuage with its appurtenances, in the town of Yoghill, Co. Cork, now in the King's hands, because the Prior of St. John's near Waterford had acquired it contrary to the Statute of Mortmain, and granted it to Walter Keneford and Isolda Hore.”²

By an Inquisition taken at Cork, August 31, 1590, it was found that a messuage in the town of Yoghall, Co. Cork, commonly called St. John's House, of the annual value of 8^d, was parcel of

¹ In this, and the former portions of my communication, much of the annals of the

different foundations is designedly omitted.

² Escheator's Roll, 39 to 41 Edw. III.

the possessions of the Priory of St. John the Evangelist, near Waterford.¹

Of the chapel, the chief remains are the gables and south side-wall. The east end, through which was the entrance, is to the street, and still retains its pointed doorway, with its moulded jambs and ornamented spandrils, as shown in our illustration. Above this doorway is a good specimen of the square-headed window of the period; it is of one light, and is cusped in the upper angles. Entering by the ancient doorway, we find, halfway up the passage, a moulded piscina and square aumbry, in good preservation. On reaching the west end, we have a square trefoil-headed door and the remnant of a square-headed window, with the original high-pointed gable and barge, to complete the remains of the ancient Priory.

Adjoining St. John's House on the north, and presenting a wide front to the street, are the remains of one of the old castles of Youghal, which, during the Protectorate, was known as "The Magazine," and which is still remembered as Cromwell's residence. According to local tradition, it was founded on the site of the domestic buildings of the Priory. The Commonwealth General laid up his army in winter quarters at Youghal, 6th December, 1649, and marched hence to renew hostilities on the 29th January following. The house he occupied in the interval, though now removed, is well remembered by the inhabitants of Youghal, and should be described in connexion with St. John's. It presented its gable to the street, as was common at the period, and consisted of three stories. The square-headed chamfered doorway, now built up, may be found in the present Glory-lane (perhaps so called from the hymns and chants of the monks). On entering, a broad, massive, oak staircase conducted to two state apartments on the first floor. They were wainscoted in oak, and had dark oak mantel-pieces, elaborately carved, rising to the full height of their ornamented ceilings. The front room was the handsomer of the two, and was said to have been Cromwell's council-chamber. Its ceiling was of raised stucco-work, containing representations of different sorts of animals, interspersed with grotesque emblematical devices. The timbers of the roof were massive, and were of Irish oak. Large gardens were to the rere. This interesting mansion, so pregnant with recollections of the Protector, was taken down about the year 1835. Other changes have been since made in the Magazine; great stone chimneys and castellated parapets have been razed off its walls. But there may yet be seen the ancient fire-places, fragments of Gothic arches, massive walls with closets in their thicknesses, lighted by defensive loop-holes, and pierced with stone stairs, to remind us of what it was in days of yore.

¹ Inquisitions in Exchequer, Ireland.

We have thus consecutively traced the religious foundations of Youghal from the earliest records, and have given the architectural history of the edifices established here in the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. In the fifteenth century we come to a foundation which surpassed all the rest in its rich endowments as well as in its general influence.

OUR LADY'S COLLEGE OF YOUGHAL was founded 27th December, 1464, by Thomas, eighth (called *The Great*) Earl of Desmond, Lord Deputy of Ireland, and proprietor of the town. The community at first consisted of a warden, eight fellows, and eight singing men, who lived in a collegiate manner, having a common table and all other necessaries allowed them, with an annual stipend each. The value of the whole donation was £600 per annum, a very considerable sum in those days. In the foundation charter, the titles of the founder are thus recited:—"Earl of Desmond, Lord of Decies, Lord of Imokilly, Lord of the regalities and liberties of the Co. Kerry, and patron of this Foundation:" and the house is endowed with the parsonages and vicarages of Youghal, Ballynoe, *alias* Newtown, Oletan, *alias* Castlelyons, Ahern, and Mallow, all in the diocese of Cloyne. To these were subsequently added, by the Earls of Desmond and successive Popes, the rectories of Clonpriest, Kilcredan, Killeagh, Ardagh, Ightermurragh, Garryvoe, and the vicarage of Kilmacdonough, all in the same diocese, and adjacent to the town of Youghal (which churches were to be served by the warden and fellows); the rectories of Aglish, Beaver, *alias* Carrigaline, Caheragh, Kilmoe, and Skull, in the diocese of Cork; the rectory and vicarage of Myross, in the diocese of Ross; and the rectories of Aglish-Idronine, Ballyduffe, Ballynacourty, and Kilfyn, in the diocese of Ardfert. The foundation charter, and the appropriation of the several tithes to this house, were confirmed by Jordan, Bishop of Cloyne, under his seal and that of William Roche, Archdeacon of Cloyne, his coadjutor.—Smith's "Cork," vol. i. pp. 82, 83, and note.

1468. Pope Paul II. granted an indulgence to such persons as contributed towards re-edifying the Collegiate Church.¹

1579—December. Gerald, sixteenth Earl of Desmond, who had gone into open rebellion against Queen Elizabeth, captured the town of Youghal, and occupied it for five days. He gave up the place to plunder; and, with other edifices, the College was spoiled and well nigh demolished.

1597—August 25. Dr. Baxter, who had hitherto continued in

¹ Smith, the Cork historian, vol. i. p. 83, states that this and the other charters and privileges of the College of Youghal were, in his day, i. e. 1750, preserved at Lismore Castle. Both the present writer and the

Honorary Secretary of the Society have failed in ascertaining whether they are yet to be found there. The resident agent of the Duke of Devonshire, of whom information was sought, was "unable" to supply it.

the enjoyment of his wardenship without interruption, now found that the revenues of this house were threatened with the fate of other monastic foundations. He was on this day obliged to pass his bond of 1000 marks, which was to be forfeited in case he did not, within forty days after demand, resign his office of warden into the Queen's hands, and did not suffer Thomas Southwell, of Brancaster, in Norfolk, Esq., and John Fitz Harris, of Ballycrenan, gent., to take possession of the same.—MS. at Lismore in 1750.

1598—April 26. A memorandum in the “First Book of Orders of the Revenue Exchequer, 1592–1598,” sets forth the further progress made towards sequestrating this foundation, and the resistance offered by Baxter, the warden:—

“M^d: That Thomas Magner came into Courte this daye in his personn, and made affidavit that he, being appointed by vertue of a writt of sequestracion directed unto him for severall first fructs, came unto the warden of the Colledge of Youghill in his owne proper personn, and made him privie of the said sequestracion, desiring him to take some composition for the payment of the same, or otherwise he must needs extend the force of his wrytt against his livings. Unto whom the said [warden], in the great contempt of this Courte, most oprobriuslie awnsvered that he would neither paye him monnie, nor yet suffer or permitt him to intermeddle in any of his livings, and accordingle gave direccion unto his tenants not onely to suffer the said Magner not to intermeddle in their livings, but also to bete him if he should attempt hit. Whereuppon, it is ordered this daye in Courte, that their should issue an attachment against his bodie for his said contempt, and a new sequestracion for sequestring the whole livings of the Colledge, to be directed unto Arthure Hyde, gent. and Thomas Magner.”

1598—May 15. The Bishop of Down and Connor was presented, *in commendam*, it would seem, to the rectory of the Collegiate Church of Youghal, diocese of Cloyne.—Rolls Office.

1598—June 30. Nathaniel Baxter, the warden, being required to surrender his office, availed himself of the forty days' license; and, before they had expired, on this day privately passed his letter of attorney to Godfrey Armitage, Edmund Harris, and William Parker, authorizing them to dispose of the College revenues. They demised them and the College House, accordingly, to Sir Thomas Norris, who had obtained a former lease of the same from Dr. Witherhead. When this arrangement was completed, Baxter obeyed the command, in the letter, though not in spirit, for he straightway resigned his office, unaccompanied now by any of the rich foundations. This trust the Commissioners refused, under the circumstances, to receive.

1602—Oct. 27. Dr. Meredith Hanmer, the well-known author of “A Chronicle of Ireland,” who had succeeded Baxter in the wardenship, on this day, with the consent of the priests, renewed

the lease that Dr. Witherhead had made, September 28, 1588, to Sir Thomas Norris, now deceased, and granted same to William Jones, Esq., of Youghal, in trust for Sir Walter Raleigh. The demise conveyed to Jones the College House, with all the lands, tenements, tithes, and offerings belonging thereto, for the remainder of the term of Sir Thomas Norris' original lease, reserving to the warden and fellows only the parsonage of Carrigaline, and the rectory of Mallow.—Smith, vol. i. p. 85.

1602. About this time Sir George Carew, Lord President of Munster, took from Jones the College, with an intention to reside in it, and laid out £220 in repairing the house. He remained here but a few months; for the Queen's death occurring March 24 following, he returned to England.—Id.

1602—Dec. 7. Mr. Richard Boyle, afterwards created Earl of Cork, purchased of Sir Walter Raleigh all his grants in Ireland, among which is specified "all the estate of the said Sir Walter in the College of Youghal, called The New College of the B. V. Mary of Youghal, with its rights and hereditaments, spiritual and temporal."—"Calendar of Patent Rolls," 1 Jac. I., pp. 37, 38.

1602—3—Feb. 24. Dr. Meredith Hanmer having resigned the wardenship, Mr. Boyle, by his interest with Sir George Carew, procured the vacant appointment for his kinsman, Dr. Richard Boyle, who was confirmed therein by patent, bearing this date.—Patent, at Lismore in 1750.

1603—Nov. 7. The wardenship of the College, or Chantry, of Youghal, with all the lands, tenements, and hereditaments to the same belonging, and the advowson and patronage of said wardenship, called "The Wardenship of Our Ladye's Colledg of Youghal," being the estate of Gerald, late Earl of Desmond, attainted, were granted to James Fullerton, gent.; rent 3s. 4d. Irish.—"Calendar of Patent Rolls," 1 Jac. I., part 2, p. 8.

1604—March 31. By an Inquisition taken this day at Cork, it was found that Sir Walter Raleigh, lately attainted of high treason, was possessed (among others), for a term of forty-five years yet to come, or thereabouts, of the New College of the B. V. Mary of Youghal, and of all its buildings, edifices, orchards, fruiteries, gardens, inappropriate rectories, vicarages, churches, tithes, glebes, &c., rendering therefor to the warden £13 6s. 8d. yearly.—Inquisitions in Exchequer.

1604—April 3. Grant to Sir George Carew, Knt. In Youghal town, two messuages and gardens; and all the lands and hereditaments, spiritual and temporal, of the New College of the B. V. Mary of Youghal, rent 2s.; with the advowsons, presentations, &c. of the wardenship, and all churches, rectories, vicarages, and chapels of all other benefices belonging to said wardenship, rent 3s. 4d.; parcel of the estate of Gerald, Earl of Desmond, attainted; demised

in fee-farm to Sir James Fullerton, Knt., November 7, 1603, at a rent of 4s.—“Calendar of Patent Rolls,” 1 Jac. I., p. 57.

This patronage he sold to Sir Richard Boyle, who soon after obtained a new patent.

1604—May 10. In Sir Richard Boyle’s patent of this date is the acknowledgment that Sir Walter Raleigh, at the time of his attainder, was lawfully possessed, for the term unexpired of the lease, by mesne conveyance from Sir Thomas Norris, of all the hereditaments, spiritual and temporal, of the New College of the B. V. Mary of Yoghall, as granted to said Norris for sixty years by the warden and fellows, September 28, 1588; which interest, as conveyed to the said Boyle, December 7, 1602, the King now ratifies and confirms.—*Id.* p. 41.

1605—April 8. Sir Richard Boyle, being in treaty with Sir Geoffry Fenton respecting a marriage with his daughter Katherine (vol. iii. p. 109), and finding that the lady insisted particularly on having the revenues of this house settled on her for a jointure, obtained a lease from the warden and fellows in fee-farm for ever,¹ paying the warden and his successors the sum of 20 marks yearly. The reason Sir Richard Boyle gives² for his procuring this deed was, that Sir Geoffry’s counsel were of opinion, that as his best title to the revenues was from the lease granted by Baxter to Sir Thomas Norris and the renewal of it to Jones, the settlement would not be so valuable unless he procured a new lease of it for ever. And this he the readier gained, not only as his kinsman was then warden, but as he had forty years of the old lease granted to Jones unexpired. Besides, both the Church and College House were almost in ruins, occasioned by Desmond’s rebellion; these he engaged to repair, and he actually expended above £2000 in rebuilding them.—Smith’s “Cork,” vol. i. pp. 86, 87.

1609–10—March 8. Grant to Donogh, Earl of Thomond. The Colledge, or tenement within the walls of Yoghall, called The New

¹ The indenture bears date as above, and was made between William [Lyon], Lord Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, Dr. Richard Boyle, the warden, and the priests and collegioners of the New College of Yoghall, of the one part, and Lawrence Parsons, gent., Clerk of the Crown, in trust for Sir Richard Boyle, of the other part. Whereby the said Bishop, &c. grant to the said Lawrence the New Colledge, with all the edifices, &c.; the lands of Ballymacaske, one ploughland near Yoghall, the parsonages and rectories of Yoghall, Inchiquin, Killeagh, Ightermurragh, Ardagh, Aglishane, Beaver or Carrigaline, Mallow, Ballynoe or Newtown.

Olethan or Castlelyons, and Aghcaromoe; the parsonages of Myross, Skull, and Kilmoe, in Carbery; the vicarages of Kilmacdonogh, Garryvoe, and Kilcredan, all in Co. Cork; and the rectory of Aglish-Idronine, in the diocese of Ardferf; with all their advowsons, patronages, etc.: To hold the same, paying to the warden and his successors the sum of 20 marks, sterling, by even portions, at the feasts of Easter and Michaelmas, viz. for the usual stipend of the warden £6 13s. 4d., and the same for his diet, and to the priests their usual stipends and diet.

² In his answer to the Attorney-General’s bill. in 1634.

College of the B. V. Mary of Yoghall, with all its hereditaments.—“Calendar of Pat. Rolls,” p. 157.

1609–10—March 23. Grant to Sir Richard Boyle. The advowson, patronage, and presentation of the wardenship of the New College of priests and clerks of the Church of the B. V. Mary of Yoghall, and of all the churches, rectories, vicarages, and chapels, and the nomination of the several curates, and all other spiritual benefits to the said wardenship belonging. The patent now granted recites previous patents, bearing date November 29, 1603, and May 10, 1604, respectively, and confirms them.—Id. p. 160.

Sir Richard Boyle, having thus secured himself in the possession of this foundation, constantly resided in the College House; and here several of his children were born: Roger, his eldest son, who died young at Deptford, in Kent, was born here August 1, 1606; Richard, his successor in the title, was also born here, October 20, 1612; Geoffry, born here April 10, 1616, was accidentally drowned in the College well the 20th January following; the Lady Alice Boyle, afterwards Countess of Barrymore, was born here March 20, 1607–8; as was the Lady Mary Boyle, the good Countess of Warwick, November 11, 1624. These were, probably, some of Boyle’s happiest days. He was in the prime of life, and had attained wealth, power, and distinction by his own unaided efforts. Blessed with an admirable wife, and with a numerous and most promising progeny, he must have found here all the true delights of a peaceful home; while out of doors, he was actively engaged in reviving the fortune of his town, which had not yet recovered the shock of Desmond’s spoliation in 1579.

1633. This house, and the manner of the Earl of Cork’s obtaining it, were made the subject of judicial investigation in the High Court of Castle-Chamber, Dublin, by direction of Lord Wentworth (afterwards Earl of Strafford), the Lord Deputy. The Attorney-General, Sir William Reeves, appeared as prosecutor for the Crown, and indicted the Earl of Cork for procuring and keeping illegal possession of the College of Yoghall and its revenues; and he charged, at the same time, the Earl’s kinsmen, the Bishops of Cork and Waterford, with aiding and abetting him in this evil purpose. The indictment set forth, that the Earl of Cork had, for £28, gotten possession of the College from William Jones, who held it for Sir Walter Raleigh. That he had prevailed on his relation, Richard, Lord Bishop of Cork, to deliver up the seal, charter, and other records of the College to him (which he still detained), and had procured a deed of conveyance from him of the College and its revenues. That not caring directly to take possession of them, he had suffered the Bishop to continue warden, and two or three persons as fellows, allowing them for the time a small salary to

support them; but that he did not permit them to live in the College House, which he used himself as a dwelling. That, when any vacancy happened, he prevented a new election, so that he had become in time invested with the patronage, wardenship, and sole right of the fellows. That he had discharged the ancient collector of the College rents, and had for a small consideration obtained an assignment of the revenues from Sir James Fullerton, who had only letters patent to possess concealed church lands. That Michael, Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore,¹ Robert Dawborne, Dean of Lismore,² and John Lancaster, clerk,³ who had been elected fellows by the former warden and fellows, and by the Earl's permission, had often solicited him to return the College seal and evidences; but being refused they, together with the Bishop of Cork, then warden, obliged themselves, in April, 1627, by an oath, not to make any composition with the Earl of Cork, unless with the consent of all, first had and obtained under their respective hands and seals. And that, when several letters had been written to the Earl to persuade him to return the College seal, charter, and other records, he gave them a meeting, where the Bishops of Cork and Waterford jointly consented to make up matters with the Earl, on consideration of his paying 40 marks to the warden and £20 to the fellows annually, but this was without the consent of the other parties. And that soon after, the Earl procured a grant of the College, by a new patent. By all which methods, he still continued in possession of its revenues to the value of £800 a year, besides the advowsons and oblations of the churches. The Attorney-General prayed that the Earl's patent might be cancelled by the King's prerogative, and that condign punishment might be inflicted upon him and upon the Bishops of Cork and Waterford.

The Earl of Cork, on receiving notice of this charge, not being ready with his papers to meet it, pleaded his privilege as a peer of

¹ Dr. Michael Boyle was brother of Dr. Richard Boyle, Warden of the College of Youghal, 1602-38, and cousin of the Earl of Cork. He was made Dean of Lismore, and thence advanced to the united Sees of Waterford and Lismore, July 7, 1619. He died at Waterford, Dec. 29, 1635.

² Robert Dawborne, F. T. C. D., was presented by the Crown to the Chancellorship of Waterford, Dec. 30, 1619, and admitted Jan. 9, following. He was collated to the prebend of Disert and Kilmoleran, Mar. 17, 1619-20, and advanced to the deanery of Lismore, June 14, 1622, retaining his prebend *in commendam*. He died March 23, 1627-8.

³ John Lancaster was son of John Lancaster, chaplain to James I., and Bishop of

Waterford. He was appointed Precentor of Waterford in 1615, and of Lismore in 1616; Prebendary, in the latter year, of Disert and Kilmoleran; and, in 1617, Vicar of Mothel. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Harris, Justice of the Common Pleas, Ireland, whose tombstone is in Kinsalebeg churchyard, Co. Waterford,—a handsome limestone flag, inscribed with a (defaced) shield of arms, and having this epitaph running round the edge:—SVB. HOC. MARMORE. IACET. SEPVLTVM. CORPVS. ELIZA^a. PLE. PVDICÆ. CHARÆ. VXORIS. IOA'S. LANCASTER. ARMIGERI. PRÆCENT. LISMOREN. ET. FILLÆ. EDWARD. HARRIS. ÆQVITIS. AVRATI. VNIVS. IVSTICIARII. DNI. REGIS. CAPITALIS. PLACTI. HIBERNIÆ. QVÆ. OBIIT. 8 NOVEMBERIS. 1624.

the realm, the Parliament being sitting, and had the suit deferred until the next term. He then appeared with his answer, and set forth his several titles to this College. He denied the turning out the fellows, or refusing to admit new ones to be elected. He acknowledged his having lived in the College House, but pleaded the precedent of Sir Thomas Norris, Sir George Carew, and Mr. Jones, who had severally used it as a dwelling-house, many years before he had possession of it. He protested that he had never refused to restore the seal and writings, save once, when three letters together were delivered him from the warden and fellows; and he explained that he was then at a considerable distance from them, and did not choose to send these by a common messenger, nor without having a proper receipt. He stated that, soon after this, he came to a new agreement with the warden and fellows, all of whom were present and were fully satisfied; and that, upon this occasion, he doubled their stipends. That he had caused all the churches to be repaired, and better supplied with pastors than they had been ever before. He, lastly, produced the original leases, deeds, and patents, by virtue of which he enjoyed the revenues and patronage of this house.

The issue of the proceedings—for we cannot here set them forth at length—was the Earl of Cork's submission to the Lord Deputy's authority, with a consent to abide by his arbitration.¹ The Deputy awarded Lord Cork to pay £15,000 fine to the King, for the issues and profits of the College during thirty-six years. He left him the College House, and some demesnes belonging to it near Youghal; but took into the hands of the Crown the advowsons and patronages of the livings hitherto annexed to this foundation.

1640-41—March 22. The Earl of Strafford was impeached of high treason. The fourth article brought by the Commons against him related to his treatment of the Earl of Cork respecting this foundation.—“State Trials,” vol. i. pp. 335, 336, and 342, ed. 1719.

1641—Oct. 23. The Great Rebellion broke out; and the Earl of Cork, being ordered by the Lord President of Munster to maintain Youghal in person, took up his residence at the College, which he strongly fortified; he also built five circular turrets at the angles of the park, and raised platforms of earth on which he placed ordnance to command the town and harbour. Several interesting letters, written by him from the beleagured town, are printed with the “State Letters” of his son, Lord Orrery; and his Diary, full of

¹ This result was brought about, according to the Earl of Cork's admirers, through the Lord Deputy's menaces; but how could these so influence a man who was conscious of his innocence? Strafford's statement, on his trial, was to the effect that the Earl, con-

scious of the very undue means by which he had possessed himself of this, and of other church property, made humble suit, with acknowledgment of his misdemeanours, and so left the matter for decision wholly in his. the Deputy's, hands.

minute records of passing events, is preserved, it is understood, at Lismore.¹ Here he closed his eventful career, dying within the walls of the College, Sept. 15, 1643.

1653-4. Richard, second Earl of Cork, at this time resided here. Some curious allusions to the state which he maintained are given in Walter Gostelow's "Charls Stuart and Oliver Cromvvell," pp. 100-1. London: 1655.

1681. In Dyneley's MS. "Tour in Ireland," written in this year, is the following account of this edifice:—

"The Colledg ... hath two Courts, with a fountain in one of them; Fair Roomes with well wrought ancient chimney pieces. Its Garden is extream pleasant, being on the side of the mountaine overlooking the whole Town, Colledg and Harbour, with walks one above another, which nature itself hath contributed much to, and stone steps of ascent to each. The uppermost walk hath also a spring at the end thereof, which it is sayd the Earle of Cork intended to supply fountaines with below, to form delightful throws of water."

1716—Nov. 24. Mr. Digby Ffoulke,² who was a kinsman of the Boyles and agent of their estates in Ireland, died at the College, where he had resided. He had married Angela, daughter of Sir Boyle Maynard, Bart., of Curriglas; and from him descended a family of the name, still resident near Youghal.

1748. The anonymous author of "A Tour through Ireland, in several Entertaining Letters," published this year in London, who had visited Youghal in 1740, thus mentions this house:—

"There are the remains of a spacious Building, the College, upon a lovely eminence, which we ascended by a great many steps. Some of the apartments are kept in repair. From the top of this building we had a charming prospect. The garden of this old place was in tolerable order, and they told us the Mayor of the town [George Giles] resided there. This, and many miles around it, calls the Earl of Burlington and Cork master, and gives him the title of Baron. . . . All Europe is informed of this present Nobleman's taste in Architecture; and had he ever once seen this delightful situation, I am of opinion he would have been pleased to have improved this antique Building, where Nature has laid so fine a foundation. In my opinion, a fourth part of the money laid out at Chiswick would have made this one of the finest places in the world."

1749. Cooke, in his MS. History of Youghal, compiled in this year, thus mentions the College:—"Near the Church is one of

¹ Is there any hope of its ever seeing the light?

² He was youngest son of Lt.-Col. Francis Ffoulke, of the Parliamentary army, who, during the Usurpation, held a high command at Youghal, and virtually governed the eastern part of the county of Cork. Like his

sagacious relative, Lord Broghill, and no doubt through his influence, Col. Ffoulke became converted to royalty just in time to reap all the advantages of the Restoration. Ludlow mentions in his "Letters" (vol. ii. p. 304) that Col. Ffoulke seized on Youghal, in 1660, with the assistance of the Cavalier party.

the seats of the Burlington family, a large building, but going to ruin."

1750. Smith, the Cork historian, describes the College, in this year, very similarly:—"Not far from the Church is the College, which was repaired and beautified for a dwelling-house by the first Earl of Cork; but most of it at present is in a ruinous condition."

1782. The College was in a great measure rebuilt, and converted into a commodious habitation by Nicholas Giles, Esq. — Lord's "Youghal," p. 33.

1810. The College passed, by purchase, from the Giles family to the Duke of Devonshire.

Of the old College buildings hardly a vestige remains. The present house, a fine one of its class, is that built in 1782 by Mr. Giles. The two courts, as noticed by Dyneley in 1681, yet exist; and in that¹ nearest St. Mary's Church is a well, where, in his time, probably, the fountain played. In a sitting-room, at the eastern side of the house, is preserved one of the "well-wrought ancient chimney-pieces," which he mentions. It is composed of a number of grotesque carved trusses, rising to the height of the ceiling and dividing the front into compartments, which are panelled and enriched and have circular heads, the upper part finishing in a carved cornice. A short time since, myrtles grew luxuriantly on the southern front, reaching nearly to the eaves. In the upper grounds, close to the town walls, the Earl's Walk, now moss-grown all over, is pointed out; and close to it, at the south, is a romantic, high, lichen-covered rock, with a spring of water at its sunken base, as alluded to by Dyneley. Here was the well, now stopped up, in which Geoffry, the Earl of Cork's third son, was drowned when nine months old, January 20, 1616-17. Further down, on the slope of the hill, are plainly visible the earthworks thrown up by the Earl, for the defence of the place, in 1641. The platform is still a commanding position, and, notwithstanding the growth of the town beneath, and the tall houses which have sprung up between the College and the water's side, cannon placed here could be brought to play upon any hostile shipping that entered the harbour. The views from this platform are fine and extensive.

The beautiful park is shut out from the public by a grim wall, about fourteen feet high. Disused as it is by its noble owner, a jealous seclusion of the place seems hardly necessary. Instead of this

¹ In this part of the College are the only memorials of the Boyles at present to be found here:—A small piece of a metal plate, like the back of a fire-place, inscribed "1665," which is built into a wall in the kitchen-yard; and as you pass into the demesne from the rere, the arms of the Earl of Cork

cut in stone and inserted in a pier. This entablature is of the same design with that in front of the Earl's Alms-houses, and with another in the gable wall, within, of the south transept, St. Mary's. The three were probably carved at the same time, perhaps in 1634, when the Alms-houses were founded.

gloomy, confining enclosure, a light railing might be substituted; and if the grounds were daily thrown open to the inhabitants, Youghal would have, what it so much needs, a pleasure-ground, or promenade, for all without distinction to enjoy. We make no doubt but that the boon would be gratefully received by the inhabitants, and are equally satisfied that it would enhance the interests of the Duke of Devonshire.

The Warden's House next claims our attention. To reach it at present we must re-pass the church entrance, and go in by a comparatively modern gateway; but the ancient College lands embraced the whole of the N. W. quarter of the town, and comprised the demesne we have quitted, the present churchyard, and the grounds around the interesting dwelling now called Myrtle Grove. A glance at the picture-map of Youghal, in the "Pacata Hibernia," will enable the reader to form an idea of their extent. From the general appearance of the building we feel safe in pronouncing it to be fully as old as the date assigned to the foundation of the College, namely, the middle of the fifteenth century. Modern alterations may have marred its original beauty; but the massive walls, some five feet thick, the deep projecting bay-window and porch, the orielled closet, the high-pointed gables, gablets, and great towering chimneys, are mementoes of this interesting age. Like all old English domestic architecture, it forms a picturesque appearance from the variety and artistic play of its outlines, with light and shade brokenly contrasted on them, so grateful to the initiated eye, and so seldom realized in our modern monotonous erections. But the interest attached to it arises from other sources. Tradition has identified the warden's residence with a name that "starts a spirit" whenever repeated, and throws around its time-honoured walls associations of absorbing historical interest in the designation of—

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S HOUSE.—When Raleigh first came to Ireland, in 1579, he was a mere soldier of fortune. On the breaking out of the Desmond revolt in this year, reinforcements were sent to the Lord Deputy, Lord Grey de Wilton, from Devonshire; and Raleigh, then in his twenty-seventh year, raised a troop of horse in his native country, and with them repaired to the scene of Irish hostilities. Here he did such good service with his few troopers, exhibiting undaunted heroism united with clear-headed discretion, that he rose without delay to the highest honours. Before the close of the succeeding year we find him one of three Royal Commissioners, who were appointed to govern Munster during Ormonde's absence in England; and, on the attainder of Desmond, a warrant of privy seal, dated Feb. 3, 1585-6, granted him three seignories and a half (containing 42,000 acres of land) of the Earl's forfeitures in the counties of Cork and Waterford, which grant was confirmed by letters patent, bearing date October 16, 29 Elizabeth (1586).

The locale of this grand allotment was the valley of the river Blackwater, extending from the city of Lismore to the sea, and including the Geraldine town of Youghal, where Raleigh now took up his residence in the Warden's House of the old collegiate establishment. How long his restless spirit may have contented itself in the privacy of retirement it is difficult to determine, but here was his home for the next two or three years at least. He was Mayor of Youghal in 1589 and 1590; an appointment which would imply settled residence, but that we know the duties were discharged by a deputy, Mr. William Magnor.¹ In the year following, also, he was in Ireland; for we find him then visiting his friend Spenser, at his



Sir Walter Raleigh's House, Youghal.

castle of Kilcolman. This memorable interview is immortalized by the poet in "Colin Clout," where Raleigh is mentioned as "the Shepherd of the Ocean," and as having "come from the main-sea deep," both allusions to his dwelling here by the sea-side. The visit was, it is said, returned in the following spring; and at this port the twain, "friends beloved," embarked for England, to superintend the publication of the first three books of the "Faerie Queene." Raleigh disposed of his Irish estates, in 1602, to Sir Richard Boyle, created, subsequently, Earl of Cork; and in the deed of transfer, which is dated December 7 of this year, special mention is made of the College, including, of course, the Warden's House. In 1616, Sir Lawrence Parsons, Knt., Attorney-General for the province of Munster, was appointed Recorder of Youghal, and took this house from the Earl of Cork for a residence. From him it received the

¹ Cooke's MS. "History of Youghal," a very curious miscellany, written about the

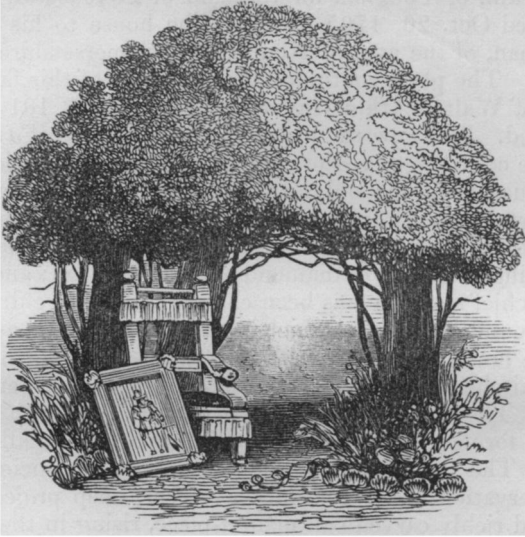
year 1749. It is now in the possession of Thomas Harvey, of Youghal.

name—by which it has been always since mentioned in legal documents—Sir Lawrence Parsons' House. His grandson, Lawrence Parsons, Esq., of Birr, conveyed the house, January 17, 1661, to Robert Hedges, Esq., of Beaconstown, county of Kildare, for a thousand years, at a pepper-corn rent, in consideration of the sum of £135, with the rent reserved by the Earl of Cork of a new almanac yearly. William Hedges, afterwards Sir William Hedges, son of the aforesaid Robert Hedges, sold the house, Feb. 24, 1670, to John Atkin, of Youghal, for the sum of £340; and the latter, by will dated Oct. 20, 1705, demised the house to his grandson, John Hayman, of the ancient Kentish and Somersetshire family of that name. The place continued the residence of this family until the death of Walter Atkin Hayman, Esq., June 5, 1816, when it was alienated. It is now the property and residence of J. W. Pim, Esq., whose courtesy to visitors deserves all commendation.

The house is in the old English style. Three high-pointed gablets crown the east front, and beneath the central one are the hall and entrance doorway. The windows have been modernized; the old glazing consisted of diamond panes set in lead; and the position of the chief staircase has been changed. A large dining-room is on the ground floor, from which is a subterraneous passage connecting the house with the old tower of St. Mary's Church. In one of the kitchens the ancient wide-arched fire-place remains, but is disused. The walls are in great part wainscoted with Irish oak, which some former occupier sought to improve by partially painting in colours. The drawing-room retains most of its ancient beauty in the preservation of its fine dark wainscot, deep projecting bay-window, and richly carved oak mantel-piece, rising in the full pride of Elizabethan style to the height of the ceiling. The cornice rests upon three figures, representing Faith, Hope, and Charity, between which are enriched circular-headed panels, and a variety of emblematical devices fill up the rest of the structure. The Dutch tiles, which anciently adorned the fire-place, have been removed; and instead of the low andirons on which the bickering yule log would burn, a modern grate and stone chimney-piece have been, in bad taste, inserted. In the adjoining bed-room is another mantel-piece of oak, barbarously painted over, and here the tiles remain. They are about four inches square, with various devices inscribed in a circular border. Behind the wainscoting of this room a recess was a few years since revealed, in which a part of the old monkish library, hidden at the period of the Reformation, was discovered. One volume is a curious specimen of early printing. It consists of two distinct portions: the first was printed at Mantua, in 1479, in black letter, with coloured initials, being a compendium of scriptural events from the Creation to the days of the Apostles; the other portion was printed at Strasburg in 1483, and is Peter Comestor's

“*Historia Scholastica*,” dedicated to Prince Gonzales, by John Schallus, Professor of Physic at Hornfield. This ancient volume is now in the possession of Matthew Hayman, Esq., of South Abbey, Youghal.

The grounds are remarkable for the luxuriant growth, in the open air, of myrtles, bays, the arbutus, and other exotics. Some of the myrtles exceed twenty feet in height; and from their embowering shade have given the place its modern name of Myrtle Grove.



Raleigh's Yew Trees.

In the gardens, the potato, originally brought from Virginia, was first planted in Ireland. Here, also, in the midst of a small parterre, is a group of four aged yew trees, which local tradition has ever associated with Raleigh's name. They make a square, and form a kind of canopy with their intermingled heads. Beneath their shade he may often have sate in his fixed musings on El Dorado, that he was never to find; and here, perhaps, in more active moments, were composed some of those writings which remain to our own day, to prove him an almost universal genius. What needs it more to heighten the beauty of the ideal picture than to imagine Spenser, on a bright summer day, his companion, while Raleigh lingers over the “*Faerie Queene*,” as yet in manuscript, and, with sudden start of joy, pronounces the fiat that gave it forth to an admiring world?