

PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Society's Apartments, Williamstreet, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, May 9th (by adjournment from the 2nd), 1860,

THE REV. CHARLES A. VIGNOLES, A. M., in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected:—

The Right Hon. Lord William Fitzgerald, Harcourt-place, Dublin: proposed by John P. Prendergast, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Arthur Nugent, Esq., Cranna, Portumna; and Benjamin W. Fayle, Esq., Parsonstown: proposed by T. L. Cooke, Esq.

D. C. O'Connor, Esq., M. D., Camden-place, Cork: proposed by R. Corbett, Esq., M. D.

George J. Wycherly, Esq., M. D., Charlotte-quay, Cork: proposed by Barry Delany, Esq., M. D.

Denis O'Connell, Esq., M. D., Flintfield, Millstreet, county of Cork; and John O'Connell, Esq., Altamont, Millstreet, county of Cork: proposed by Mr. P. M'Gragh.

Thomas Lane, Esq., 18, Patrick's-place, Cork; and Mr. John O'Reilly, Jun., Rose-Inn-street, Kilkenny: proposed by John G. A. Prim, Esq.

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

By Col. the Right Hon. W. F. Tighe: "Annals of Windsor, being a History of the Castle and Town, with some Account of Eton and Places Adjacent," by Richard Tighe, Esq., and James Edward Davis, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. 2 vols. London, 1858.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine," for April, 1860.

By the Cambrian Institute: "The Cambrian Journal," for March, 1860.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their "Journal," Nos. 63 and 64.

By the Cambrian Archæological Society: their "Journal," third series, No. 22.

By the Suffolk Institute of Archæology: "The East Anglian," No. 6.

By the Author: "Notices of certain Crannogs, or Artificial Islands, which have been discovered in the Counties of Antrim and Londonderry," by the Rev. William Reeves, D. D.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," No. 29.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 892-98, both inclusive.

By the Publisher: "The Dublin Builder," Nos. 16 and 17.

By the Rev. Dr. Spratt: the original brass matrix of the seal of the Very Rev. James Verschoyle, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin. It bore the Verschoyle arms, a chevron between three boars' heads, impaling the arms of the Deanery; and the inscription—JAC. VERSCHOYLE. LL. D. DEC. EC. CA. S. PAT. DUB. INS. MAI. 3. 1794—i. e., James Verschoyle, LL. D., Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Dublin; installed May 3, 1794. This dignitary was afterwards Bishop of Killala.

By Maurice Lenehan, Esq.: a fragment of a cannon ball, apparently a 24-pounder, dug up under the curtain of the Black Battery of Limerick—a relic of one of the sieges of that historic city. Mr. Lenehan also sent for exhibition four coins, one of them a brass of the Emperor Galba, turned up by a peasant whilst tilling his land, in the county of Limerick, which Mr. Lenehan said opened a question as to how it had got into a country where historians assert no soldier of the Roman Empire had ever set his foot. The three other coins were Limerick tokens, two of them being issued by E. Wright, dated 1674 and 1677, the third bearing the legend "Charity Change," with the date 1658.

By Mr. J. Phelan, Kilkenny: a piece of Irish "money of necessity," stamped with a castle, found at the Cathedral of St. Canice.

By Mr. Hayes, Porter at Swift's Asylum: some silver and copper coins, dug up in the grounds attached to that institution, including a shilling of Elizabeth, a gun-money half-crown of James II., and a St. Patrick half-penny.

By the Rev. Francis M'Loughlin, O. S. F., Ennis: a piece of gun-money of King James II., curious for the smallness of its size, it being a half-crown.

By the Rev. James Mease: two memorials of the Irish Rebel-

lion of 1798. The first was a gold ring, which he wished to deposit in the Museum. It was not of much antiquarian value. Its history was this :—A gentleman, who had received some assistance during that troubled period, made a present of rings of the same kind to those from whom he considered he had received most support. The inscription on the ring was “KING AND CONSTITUTION, 1798.” The other memorial would be considered as an important historical document. It was the original commission of Theobald Wolfe Tone as a General of Division in the United Irishmen. It is signed by James Napper Tandy, and countersigned “E. Fitzgerald.” The form was in copperplate on parchment, the blanks being filled up in the writing of Tandy. It was numbered 70,000. It bore an engraving of a harp surrounded by oak-leaves, and the mottoes, “It is now strung and shall be heard.” “Society of United Irishmen of Dublin.” The history of the document, as far as was known, was this. It was found by the Rev. James Despard in the pocket-book of a deceased brother. It was not known how it came into the brother’s hands. The family had a good deal of communication with the Castle of Dublin during the time of the Rebellion. But it was very unlikely that this parchment had ever been in the possession of any of the Castle authorities. In that case it would not be likely to have been parted with. It was most probable that some of the Despard family found it with some political prisoner and concealed it, from motives of humanity, as the possession of such a document in those days would have insured his execution. There was no date, but Mr. Mease had a faint recollection that when he first saw it there was 1795 upon it or the envelope. Of this he was not quite certain. The following was a copy :—

“ SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN OF DUBLIN.

“ S. of U. I. of D.

“I hereby Certifie that Theobald Wolfe Tone has been duly elected and having taken the Test provided in the Constitution has been admitted a Member of this Society.

“JAMES N. TANDY, *Secretary*.

No. 70,000.

“To be General of Division,
E. Fitzgerald.”

The document had evidently been originally bound with other similar forms in a block-book, as proved by the check-mark formed by the initials—S. of U. I. of D.

By the same: six coins, a shilling of James I., two groats of Elizabeth, a gun-money shilling of James II., a silver shilling of William III., and a half-penny of George III.

The Rev. Samuel Hayman, of Youghal, sent for exhibition two unedited merchants’ “tokens” struck in that town—viz., “Robert

Tobens, Youghal and Dungarvan, 1656," and "Thomas Cooke, 1671." The latter had been re-stamped, with the word "farthing" over "penni." Mr. Hayman also announced that there existed another unedited Youghal token in the collection of Captain Edward Hoare, North Cork Rifles, viz.—a second token of Peter Godwin—an engraving of which Captain Hoare intended to present to the Journal of the Society.

The Rev. James Graves presented a transcript of a document preserved in the Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle, which gave some idea of the state kept up by the Duke of Ormonde. Mr. Graves considered that the original MS., though undated, was contemporary with the first Duke, and that the Irish household was intended for Kilkenny Castle. The transcript was as follows:—

"To attend her Grace y^e Dutches in Ireland dureing his Grace's absence.

Dyett or Table for her Grace,	{	Her Grace,	1	} 10 {	4 Dishes at a course, and one Remove, w th a Dessert. Supper.
		The two Ladys,	2		
		Cap ^t Guards,	1		
		Chaplain in waiting,	1		
		Covers for others that dine w th her Grace,	5		
Stewards Table,	{	Steward,	1	} 16 {	3 dishes, and 4 from her Grace's Table.
		Mrs. ffulford,	1		
		Mrs. Parker,	1		
		her Daughter,	1		
		Mrs. Butler,	1		
		Mrs. Richardson,	1		
		Madamosell,	1		
		Gen ^t Vsher in Waiting,	1		
		Gen ^t at Large in waiting,	1		
		Houshold Chaplin,	1		
Clerke of y ^e Kitchin's Table,	{	Her Grace's Pages,	2	} 15 {	3 dishes, and y ^e rest from her Grace's Table.
		Place for Strangers,	4		
		Clerke of y ^e Kitchin,	1		
		Yeoman of y ^e Wine Seller (to be butler ¹)	1		
		Butler (none),	1		
		Pantler and assist ^t to y ^e butler,	2		
		Master Cook and Clerke of y ^e Chappell,	2		
		Clerke of y ^e Coleyard,	1		
		Yeomen Ushers 2, Scipio 1,	3		
		Celerer & Larder Man (in one),	1		
Confectioner & 2 Strangers,	3				
Ffootmen 5, and 3 Strangers,	8	8 Two dishes.			

¹ Below, with reference to this entry, is written on the original document the note—

"Qy. what occasion for a yeoman of y^e wine cellar?"

Maids Table,	{	Landry Maids,	2	}	7	Two dishes.
		Mrs. ffulford's Maid,	1			
		House maids 3, and Necessary Woman 1,	4			
Assistants and Under Serv ^{ts} ,	{	Assistant Usher of y ^e Hall,	1	}	10	Noe Dishes.
		Firemakers 2, Scullery maid's assis ^{ts} ,	4			
		Under Cooke ^s ,	2			
		Helpers and Turnspitts, to eat in y ^e Kitchin,	3			
		The Porter at Gate to have his meat cut and sent him from y ^e Clerke of y ^e kitchin's Table,	1			1
						67

The Charges of y^e foregoeing Tables, together wth y^e Expense of Wine, ale, beere, & bread, at 49th P week, which P ann. is 2548 0 0

Wages to all, 972 10 0

Board Wages for Stable, and those wth his Grace, 837 4 0

Livery to Pages (but 3), 165 9 6

Do. to Coachmen, &c., 387 0 0

Stable Expenses, 2 Saddle, 14 Coach, 240 1 4

Wax Candles, 50 0 0

ffuell, 170 0 0

Washing, 60 0 0

Contingences for y^e Stables, &c.

Porter's Gown, 21 12 1

2 black's Livery, &c. (plaine)¹ 61 18 6

Her Grace's Money, 1000 0 0

To 3 Justices², 6570 04 10

3600 0 0

10770 04 10

To attend his Grace into England.

	Board Wages P weeke.
Mr Portlock, the Comptroler,	0 12 0
Gen ^t of y ^e Horse,	0 12 0
One Page,	0 10 0
Two Valets de Chambre,	1 0 0
Two Cooke ^s ,	0 10 0
One Groome of y ^e Chamber or Closet-keeper,	0 8 6

¹ The sums opposite this and the previous item, in the original document, have a line

drawn with the pen through the numerals. ² i. e. Of the Liberty Court of Tipperary.

2 Coachmen at 8s.	0	16	0	
Postillion,	0	7	0	
Helper,	0	7	0	
Six footmen,	2	2	0	
This allowance takes in farrier, sadler, and harness maker's work. } One Sett of Horses & two Padds,	4	16	0	
	Landry Maid,	0	8	0
			<hr/>	
	£	13	15	0
	£	52	0	0"

Mr. Edward Benn sent the ensuing observations on Irish crannogs :—

“ In the last number of ‘ The Ulster Journal of Archæology’ there is an account of artificial islands in Swiss lakes, occupied at a remote period as habitations. The propriety of introducing such a paper into a journal in a province where so much exists, and where so little has been done to elucidate its early history, may be questioned; but the chief objection is, that it would seem to assume that those Swiss remains were identical with the artificial islands found in Ireland. They have nothing in common, except the fact of both having been habitations surrounded by water for security. The Swiss habitations also are alleged to be of a most remote period, indeed many centuries preceding the age of history. The Irish, on the other hand, may be said to be almost modern; the articles found about the former are described as exhibiting the very oldest and rudest efforts of uncivilized man; those in connexion with the latter are, in comparison, quite recent and modern. The oldest account we have of a crannog or artificial island in Ireland, does not extend, I believe, beyond a thousand years. Some may have been made so long ago, and even longer, but it seems pretty certain that the greater number are far more recent, and that during the sixteenth century they were known as the habitations of what we may call the landed gentry of the Irishry of the interior of Ulster, as the small castles, perched on rocks, were of their contemporaries on the sea coast. Thus, even without pretending to a very high antiquity, they present matters of great interest, the objects found around them throwing some light on the domestic manners and habits of the Irish of the North three centuries ago, of which but little is at present known.

“ In this paper I will confine myself to statements concerning artificial islands in Down and Antrim, which I have personally examined; these were three, one at Ballinker, another at Ballywoolen, both in the county of Down; and a third near Randalstown, in the county of Antrim; and if such of the correspondents of the ‘ Kilkenny Journal’ as have opportunities of examining similar places elsewhere would furnish the like information, the result might be highly interesting, and would, perhaps, show that some are of older date than those which I examined, and that objects are found near them of a different age and character.

“ At a time when rapine and plunder were the rule, and law and

order the exception, and in a country abounding with lakes and bogs, it was obvious that a habitation on an island was both easily obtained and of great security, more secure than even a small castle, which could probably be approached from all sides, and destroyed in a short time. Bands of marauders could not well carry a boat with them, and even if they did procure one, their approach to the island, opposed as they would be by armed opponents, would be undertaken under very disadvantageous circumstances. On the other hand, if great danger were at any time apprehended by the island inhabitants, escape could be made in the boat; the wooden dwellings, if destroyed, could soon be repaired, the island itself being scarcely capable of injury by any ordinary means. The mode of construction appears to have varied according to circumstances. In some cases advantage was taken of natural elevation, but from the very ruinous state in which they are now found, it is difficult to determine the manner in which they were originally made. The island at Ballykinler, now quite removed, seemed to have been formed by placing a circle of small trees around it, fast into the soil, then securing these by cross-trees firmly morticed; this was filled with brushwood, on which was placed a layer of earth and gravel; as this latter sank, the process was repeated, till the surface became perfectly solid. This is what appeared by examining a cutting through the centre; the brushwood kept all firm, and prevented the earth from washing out. The great island near Randalstown appears to have been made with very heavy beams laid horizontally, but, except this, the present condition, both of it and the adjoining ground, must render any account of its original construction quite conjectural. As a general rule, I would suppose that island habitations must have been damp and miserable, showing the great price paid for security in those melancholy times. The only perfect one I ever saw is that at Ballywoolen. It is small, and its general appearance is most gloomy, its surface being nearly on a level with the surrounding water. At one place was a sort of flagging of flat stones, where the fire had been, and near it was lying the mill as it had been left when abandoned, and where it was still allowed to remain; it was a small hand-mill, made of red stone, called, I believe, Ballyhack stone, brought from Wexford. I did not hear of anything else found on this island, but a piece of tube, about a foot long and a quarter of an inch in diameter, made of thin brass, rudely seamed with white metal solder. The lake here is not likely to be drained, as it is surrounded with high hills.

“In general the lakes in which these islands were made were surrounded by bog. The progress of time tended to enlarge the bog surface, changing the lakes into peat mosses. The advance of agriculture, and increase of population, again hastened the process, causing them to be drained for fuel and cultivation. As might be expected, bogs of this character, which had once been lakes of deep water, closely surrounding what had been dwellings, occupied, perhaps, for centuries, and into which everything that fell was lost for the time, are perfect mines for objects of antiquity. It is only the slow process of peat-cutting, however, that brings these things to light, and as this operation will extend over very many years, and be the work of many different hands, they are too frequently dispersed. Notwithstanding this, I have been enabled to preserve

a considerable number of them, which I now propose briefly to describe, and the greater part of which are in my own collection.

“Nearly the most common objects found are bones and horns, generally of oxen, the remains, it is to be presumed, of the animals on which the inhabitants of the island fed. The horns I have met with are all short horns. Besides the remains of the ox, are found tusks of the boar, and the bones, seemingly, of the sheep or goat, dog and deer. In one instance, the head of what seems a deer has the horns cut off, as with a saw, near the skull.¹ It was found at the island near Randalstown. It is probable the objects next in order of frequency, and which are found at all the islands, are sharpening-stones, or what appear to be such, of different sorts and sizes.

“The miscellaneous articles now to be named were discovered at Ballykinler, and at the crannog near Randalstown; those found at the former appear to be more ancient than those at the latter place. No weapons of bronze, so far as I can learn, were got at either, except seven short scythes of that material at Ballykinler; they were probably used at the making of the island for cutting the brushwood, and lost at the time. Besides these, there was also a curious knife, with a blade no larger than that of an ordinary penknife, and a handle of goat’s horn, and a comb, like a large fine-toothed comb, made, I think, of bone, strengthened by two pieces, neatly fastened on with iron rivets. Some nondescript stones, with holes in them, were also turned up at Ballykinler, and two stones that appear interesting; they are semicircles of about three and four inches diameter respectively, and a quarter of an inch thick, and have been made by breaking into two pieces circular stones formed in the semblance of small cakes of bread; one of them, indeed, made of granite, bears a great resemblance to a piece of oaten cake. Could these have been intended to be kept by different parties, in confirmation of treaties or agreements made, each taking one to commemorate the fact of having broken bread together? I can imagine such a use for them, but I have never seen anything of the kind referred to. There was also got a ploughsock of iron, and, I believe, a ploughshare of flint, several darts of iron, and some pins. Most of these things were scattered before I heard of them.

“The island near Randalstown was a very large and important one, said to have been occupied by a member of the O’Neil family. The lake on which it stood has been long since drained, and a peat moss now occupies the place, which has been yielding antiquities for the last twenty or thirty years, and still produces some annually. A good idea of the importance of this island may be formed from the number of tools and appliances for carrying on the ordinary trades, which have been discovered on it, as the tongs and anvil of the smith, which latter is a rough lump of iron somewhat smoothed on one side, and weighing fifty or sixty pounds. Its use as an anvil is only conjecture; but it is thought a highly probable one, and if correct, it shows the difficulty of procuring in those rude times a piece of iron large and heavy enough for such a purpose. Then there were found also the crucibles of the brass-founder, one unused, and

¹ In the Museum of the College of Surgeons in London, there is the skull of an Irish elk, from which the horns have been cut

away in a similar manner, and said to have been found in that state in the west of Ireland.

several greatly worn and burned out. The perfect one is very neat and good, and about the size of a small hen's egg. Then we have next the scissors and two needles of the tailor: one of the needles is about the size of what is called a darning-needle; the other long and strong, resembling a packing-needle, such as is used for sewing sackcloth; both are made of brass, and well formed. There was also found the awl of the shoemaker, a very curious article, and apparently older than the other things; the blade of this awl is of brass, and the handle of stone. Several axes or hatchets of the carpenter have turned up, very like those of the present day; also a pair of small shears, such as are used by weavers. Connected with agriculture were found a very small sock of a plough, a curious spade, very light, about four feet long, all of wood, but neatly tipped with iron on the edge; and a pair of very large shears, for clipping sheep. There was also a netting-needle of iron, but few warlike weapons of any kind. None of the latter, indeed, came within my observation but an iron sword and a very good battle-axe, such as was used by the galloglasses; it is shaped like the axe used by coopers, and is very interesting from its rarity. Little or nothing of personal ornament has been found, so far as I have ascertained; there was one large bead, and a small crescent-shaped piece of glass that appeared to have been set in something. I can scarcely consider the great number of pins got at this place as personal ornaments, but rather the necessary hair or mantle pins of the common people; they are of brass, iron, bone, and wood, and generally from three to five inches long; those of brass having, in most instances, moveable rings at the top. There are some interesting varieties among them, though it is probable that some of these things, more particularly the pins of wood, may have been used for other purposes, as pointers, or, perhaps, for knitting. A curious button is among the articles found; it is not unlike a large button of the present day, but that it has two eyes. Besides this, there are several articles of thin brass, which might have been used for fastening leather or other garments; also a horse-shoe of ordinary size, thicker at the outer edge than elsewhere, without raised heels, but drawn out at the extremities to much greater length than shoes of modern make. Very little pottery has been found; such fragments as I have seen appear to be the remains of strong, well-formed vessels, but nothing more, I would suppose, than household earthenware. A wooden scoop was got, rather a curious object, the use of which is not easily determined. But the most interesting and valuable article which has come into my possession from this locality, and one which gives rather a favourable idea of the house-keeping of the occupants of this island home, is an exceedingly well-made brass dish, fifteen inches across, including the rim, which is an inch and a half broad. The dish is rather more than two inches deep, and, from its beautiful golden colour, would do no discredit almost to a dinner table of the present day. It seems to have been a good deal used, having many scores on its bottom made by the carver. The knife was also found; it was about six inches long, very narrow, and sharp at the point, and thick on the back. There were also other knives, but all without handles.

"Besides the things here enumerated, the bog around the Randalstown crannog has already yielded several boats and parts of boats; these were all hollowed out of large trees, and were very well formed. One of

large size, and quite perfect, has been taken out lately from beneath sixteen feet of moss. It has been stated, when first raised, it retained its original form entire, but soon became warped and out of shape. In the bottom of this boat lay a very neatly made oak paddle, about three feet and a half long, and a wooden bowl, capable of holding nearly a quart. It was very thick and rude-looking, not made by turning, but by hollowing out of a solid piece, like the boat itself.

“The list of articles here described might, no doubt, be enlarged, by following such as have been dispersed. I can determine nothing regarding their age; they would seem to be of very different ages, and were, probably, lost at very different times. The oldest article found, so far as I know, was a stone hatchet, rather of a small size, but not remarkable or uncommon. The most recent, and the only piece of coin I ever heard of, discovered in such locality, is a base coin of Philip and Mary. We know when the coin was made, and, if the hatchet belonged to what is called the Stone Age of antiquities, that is, several thousand years ago, a wide range for conjecture as to the original age and lengthened occupancy of crannogs is hereby afforded. No gold or silver, so far as I have been able to learn from inquiry, has ever been discovered at any of the crannogs referred to in this paper.”

Mr. John O'Reilly, Jun., contributed the following registry of births, marriages, and deaths, in the family of Mr. William Shee, of Sheepstown, county Kilkenny:—

“My daughter Mary born a Sunday ye 14th July 1734 at 2 a clock in the morning & was baptilised by father Phill Purcell M^r. Vall Smyth of Damme & M^r Wat Butlers Lady stood gossops, pray God make her his servant.

“My Sone James was born Sunday y^e 21st Septem^{br} 1735 between 4 & 5 in the afternoon he was baptilised by father Phill Purcell ye 25. Uncle Frank Shee and Cosⁿ Chevers gossops; pray God make him his true servant.”

“[Written later] ‘My son Jam^s sailed from Dublin ye 4th day of april 1748 on board ye friendship of London Captain Ross commander bound for Rotterdam. God protect and direct him.’

“My sone Frances was borne Saturday ye 21st of Janvar about 5 in the morning he was baptised by father Phill Purcell Pierce Corr and my mother Huish gossops.’

“[Written later and a portion lost] ‘My son Frank Shee say'd from Cork aboard the Betty from London, Captain Brown Commander for Haver de [torn away]

[torn away]	I pray God of his infinite	[torn away]
[torn away]	him and preserve him from	[torn away]
[torn away]	invisible	[torn away]
[torn away]	March ye 5 th about	[torn away]
[torn away]	the child being weak was baptilised	[torn away]
[torn away]	a Carmilit Fryer s ^d Pendergast	[torn away]
[torn away]	gossops, he died ye 10 th	[torn away]
[torn away]	my Father Shees.	[torn away]

My Son Henry was born 7^{br} ye 30th 1740 between 6 & 7 in y^e morn-

ing, baptised 8^{br} ye 5th by father Patt Murphey, M^r Robert Langrish & M^{rs} Read Rosenarow gossops I pray God make him his Son.

“ ‘ My Daughter Margret was born ye 6th of Decemb^r 1743 at the our of 4 in ye afternoon baptsied ye 11th by father Patt Murphy M^r John Meade & M^{rs} Conan stood gossops.

“ ‘ My sayed daughter died ye 8th of Sep^r following & is burried at Derry[. . .]

“ ‘ My Daughter Rose was born tuesday ye 11th of Sep^r about 6 in ye morning, crisened by father Patt Murphy, Red^d Purcell [torn away] Mary Shee gossops my [torn away] Purcell. I pray God [torn away].

“ ‘ Sunday November ye 10th, my Daughter Mary was marryed to M^r Patt Kennedy of Waterford by the Rev^d Pat Murphy [torn away] [torn away] them.

“ ‘ Monday December 31st 1753, my Cosⁿ Captain John Hennesy of Boulklyes died at Sheepstown of a obstruction in his livers & and is buried at Derryne[. . .]

“ ‘ Pray God have mercey on his soul.

“ ‘ I was marryed to M^r Shee ye 1st of October 1732 by ye Bishop of Ossory.

“ ‘ My D^r father M^r George Huish died 26th October 1745, the lord Jesus have mercy on his Soul.’

“ The foregoing interesting record of Kilkenny family history is one of a class of documents very rare in Ireland, and, therefore, the more valuable. It is a register of the births, the marriages, and the deaths in a Catholic family, of the better class, during the dark days when the penal laws existed. It also tells of the abandonment of Ireland (where, at the time, every honourable career but trade was shut against them) by the sons of the family as they approached to manhood, and their departure ‘ beyond seas,’ either to swell the ranks of the Irish brigades, or to obtain the education forbidden them at home; and this notwithstanding the heavy penalties for so doing, which might have been imposed on their parents or guardians. These penalties made it neither safe nor prudent to commit to writing such confessions as the document contains, and hence the scarcity of those of a similar character. These penalties will be found stated at length in the Act 7 William III., c. 4, and were in full force during the early part of the time when the register commenced. Like all absurdly rigorous laws, they were, in a great measure, practically inoperative, through the good feeling of those who had the execution of them. Thus we find the Protestants, Mr. Langrish, of Knocktopher, and Mrs. Read, of Rosenarow, standing ‘ gossops’ for the Catholic child born in 1740, which child was baptized by Father ‘ Patt’ Murphy ‘ contrary to the statutes and the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, George II.’

“ The family to which the register relates resided at Sheepstown, otherwise Ballinageragh, near Ballyhale, in the county of Kilkenny. Sheepstown, according to an inquisition held at Rosbercon in 1620, was held from the then Viscount Mountgarret by Pierce Rooth, merchant of Kilkenny. By a subsequent inquisition it was found to be held by John Rooth Fitz Pierce from the King, by knight’s service.

"The close connexion, religiously and politically, which our local history points out to have existed between the Rooths and Shees, was, no doubt, cemented by marriage alliances between members of both families, and in this way Sheepstown became the residence of one of the four younger sons of Sir Richard Shee, of Bonnetstown, who married into the Rooth family.

"The first name of local historic interest that occurs in the register is that of 'Mr. Vall Smyth, of Damme.' This gentleman, it will be found by reference to the first volume of the 'Transactions' of this Society,¹ was descended from a family originally settled at Longashen, near Bristol. William Smyth was the first of the name who settled in the county of Kilkenny, into which he came under the protection of the first Duke of Ormond.

"For the faithful services performed by the Smyth family to the house of Ormond, and which are detailed in letters under the hands of the first and second Dukes (for which see the 'Transactions,' as above quoted) a grant of arms was conferred on the family, which had been settled at Damagh for some time previously, where they built a mansion-house, a portion of which is now converted into a farm-house. William Smyth, the founder of the family, built St. Michael's Church near his house, and the grave-yard was the place of interment of his family.

"The dedication of the church to St. Michael was intended, no doubt, to preserve a memorial of the Bristol origin of the family, there being a church dedicated to the Saint in that city. A tombstone in the church-yard² gives a succinct history of the family from its foundation in Ireland. It ends with the record of the deaths of 'John Smyth on y^e 8th day of June, 1708, aged 41 years; Jane Smyth, alias Read, wife to said John, dyed on y^e 28th day of August, 1747, aged 71 years.' In reply to the statement that the Smyth family had ceased to exist in the county of Kilkenny for nearly a century, George Lewis Smyth, Esq., of Parliament-street, London, communicated the following:³—

"The heirs of that Valentine Smyth, so emphatically commended by the Duke of Ormond, continued to possess Damagh until a younger son, taking advantage of the penal laws against the Roman Catholics, wrested the estate from his elder brother, by becoming a Protestant."⁴

¹ First Series, p. 261.

² "Transactions," vol. i., (first series), p. 260.

³ "Transactions," vol. ii. (first series), p. 187.

⁴ The following is the circumstance which afforded a pretext for the enactment under which the proprietor of Damagh was dispossessed of his property by his younger brother:—

"2^d Die Decembris, 1695.—A petition of Roger Shiell, Gentleman, being a Protestant, and the eldest son of a Papist, praying the House to appoint a Committee to prepare the heads of a bill, to prevent his being disinherited by his said father, was presented to the House, and read."

The following is the father's reply:—

"A petition of William Shiell, setting forth that he is very willing, without an act of parliament, to settle his estate on his Protestant sons, and none else; and that he has no design to disinherit his eldest son Roger Shiell, as being a Protestant, though he is less dutiful to him than his other sons; that in regard his real estate is not worth above ten pounds *per annum*, and that the allegations of his son Roger are false, that this House would examine the truth of the allegations on both sides, was presented to the House."—"Journals of the Irish House of Commons."

The Act for vesting the estates of Catholics in the nearest Protestant relatives claiming them, grew out of the proceedings consequent on the above petition.

“The dispossessed party did not, however, lose his interest with the Butler family; on the contrary, he rented from his patrons more than one townland in the neighbourhood of Carrick-on-Suir, where he resided. On the relaxation of the penal laws, the estate of Westcourt, near Callan, was purchased, in fee, by Valentine Smyth, of Carrick-on-Suir. ‘He was, I believe, the grandson of the person who was deprived of Damagh, and instituted a suit in Chancery for the recovery of that property, without avail. He died at the Lodge, in Callan, which stands on part of the property.’

“Edmund Smyth, who died so late as 1822, in France, had been agent for the Ormond estates for some years. The estate of Westcourt descended to his eldest son Edmund, and passed through the Incumbered Estates Court in 1855.

“The ‘Vall Smyth’ of the register was, most probably, the person ejected from Damagh by his younger brother, and son to John Smyth, who died in 1708.

“Of the family of ‘Huish,’ to which the writer of the register belonged, we can find no record as having existed in Kilkenny.¹ It probably belonged to either Wexford or Carlow, of either of which counties she may have been a native. We are led to form this opinion by the fact of the relationship which existed between Mrs. Shee and the Chevers family, and by a note in the ‘Annuary’ of this Society for 1855 (p. 66), where it is stated that—‘Chievers is the name of a Flemish family which settled at an early time in the county [Wexford]. William Chevre is one of the witnesses to the charter of Tintern Abbey (Charta, &c., Hib.). Patrick Chievers held a knight’s fee of the Earl of Pembroke, and witnessed this nobleman’s charter to Wexford in 1317. Edward Chievers was created Viscount Mount-Leinster by James II.’² The following extract from the ‘Journal of the Irish House of Commons,’ A. D. 1662, Car. II., is an evidence of the residence of a branch of the family in Carlow:—

“5 Die Martii, 1662.—Upon consideration had of the petition of Peter Bath, Merchant, alledging that Thomas Burdett, Esq., late Sheriff of the county of Catherlagh, a member of this House, suffered one John Cheivers, under an execution of three hundred pounds at the petitioner’s suit, to make an escape, and praying, that the privilege of the said Burdett be waved, to the end he may bring his action against him.’

“There did exist a branch of the Chevers family in Kilkenny, however, for, by an inquisition held at the Black Abbey, in that city, on the 6th of September, 1637, John Chevers was found in possession of

¹ The name of Huish is an extremely rare one in this country, though Mrs. Shee was evidently, from her family connexion, an Irishwoman. I never recollect meeting the name but once, and then it was subscribed to an advertisement of the “London and North-Western Railway Company,” concerning trips to Killarney. Perhaps it may turn out that the “Mark Huish” of the railway line in question may also be of the line of Shees.

² There is a letter in the first volume of the

new series of the “Transactions” of the Society, p. 102, from Patrick Furlong to his nephew, Christopher Chievers. The letter is dated the 29th of June, 1593, and is concerning the presence of certain Spanish pirates then on the coast of Wexford. The writer was Mayor of Wexford, and uncle to Christopher Chievers. The latter resided at Killiane Castle, of which he was owner. Edward Chievers, Lord Mount-Leinster, of King James the Second’s creation, was of this family.

Maylardstown, which he held in soccage;¹ but from the fact of Huish not being a Kilkenny name, it is probable that 'Cos' Cheevers,' a near and dear relative, was brought from her native country to stand sponsor for the first-born son of Mrs. Shee.

"In the two instances where the burial-place of the Sheepstown family is alluded to, the name of the place in the original MS. is partly illegible. In the first, only 'Derry' remains, and in the second, recording the death and burial of Captain John Hennessy 'of Boulkleys,' 'Derryne.' There can be little doubt that this means Derrynahinch, a very ancient grave-yard, within half a mile of Sheepstown.

"There are not now, however, any remains of monuments erected to any of the Shee family in Derrynahinch, for an obliging correspondent informs me that he 'examined *all* the tombstones in Derrynahinch old church-yard, and could not find one with the names of either Shee or Hennessy, although there are some with dates so far back as 1717.'

"This Captain Hennessy is likely to have been a relative to M. Hennessy, Lieutenant-Colonel of Lee's Regiment of the Irish Brigade in the French service. O'Connor, in the appendix to the 'Military Memoirs of the Irish Nation,' quotes two letters written by M. Dangervilliers to Colonel Hennessy; one of the 16th November, 1731, the other of the 27th September, 1732. The letters relate to an Irish soldier of Lee's, who, having killed a comrade, took sanctuary in the Church of the Capuchins at St. Omers, and communicate the King's determination not to permit religious houses to shelter foreign soldiers under such circumstances. This resolution of the French King was properly forced on him by the combative propensities of the Brigade men, whose ardour for fighting, while in peaceful quarters, may have inclined them to recall some feuds of their old country to keep their hands in practice. When accidents *did* occur, can we blame the Irish members of French religious houses, if they threw the mantle of charity over their brave countrymen, and sought to save them from the consequences, both by their prayers and the protection of their houses?²

"Captain John Hennessy, who lies in Derrynahinch, without a stone to mark where he rests, was one of those who composed Bulkley's regiment at Fontenoy, where it took the colours and two field-pieces from the second regiment of English foot guards. At the battle of Lawfeld, which took place on the 2nd of July, 1747, the Irish Brigade distinguished itself very much, and amongst the officers rewarded for their conduct on the occasion was M. Hennessy, Captain of the Grenadiers of Bulkley's

¹ There was another residence of the Chevers family in the county of Kilkenny, as the following extract from the "Post-chaise Companion," Dublin, 1803, asserts: "On the left of the road to Durrow, near Ballycondra, are seen the ruins of the Castle of Ballyseskin, formerly belonging to the family of Chevers." The ruins, we believe, still exist, and are in the parish of Aharney.

² Very many Irishmen were at the head of various religious communities down to the period of the first revolution in France. Not

to multiply instances, an "ingenious" English gentleman found an Irishman Prior of the Benedictine Priory of Chalons, where Abelard died and was interred, previous to the removal of his remains to the Paraclete. The Englishman indulges in the following choice specimen of the mode of speech called a "bull," concerning the Irish prior alluded to:—"The prior was an Englishman, though a native of Ireland—none of those idle distinctions reigning abroad, which so often bred discontent at home."—"Annual Register," 1768, p. 170.

regiment, who had the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel conferred on him. This appears to have been only brevet rank, and if the Captain Hennesy, distinguished for his conduct at Lawfeld, was the same man who died at Sheepstown, the circumstances of the times sufficiently account for his Colonelcy not being obtruded on public notice in Ireland. He, when declining health prevented his pursuing a military career, returned to die amongst his kindred, and the pious prayer, 'Pray God have mercy on his soul,' shows how kindly the old soldier was regarded by them.

"The fact of 'Cos John Hennesy' being an officer in the Irish Brigade sufficiently indicates why 'My Sonne Jame' sail'd from Dublin bound for Rotterdam.' It would not have been prudent, two years after Fontenoy, for a young recruit to sail direct for a French port. Some years later, Frank, the second son, sailed direct for 'Havre-de —'; the vigilance of the Government being then relaxed in some measure, though in 1750 a sergeant of the Irish Brigade was hanged at Tyburn for enlisting men in London for the French service.¹

"The simple prayers of this Irish mother for the protection of her children from 'visible and invisible dangers' are very affecting, and were not unheard, for their careers in the land of their adoption were prosperous ones, and their descendants now exist in honourable positions in France.

"A correspondent of the 'Kilkenny Journal,' who some time ago gave a notice of Baron de Shee's elevation to a Chevaliership of the Legion of Honour, and also of his distinguished services as a cavalry officer in the French army, alluded to the Baron's descent from William Shee, of Sheepstown, who died in 1758, and who was husband to the lady who kept this family registry. The gentleman who communicated the sketch to the 'Kilkenny Journal' states that Henry Shee, son of the above William, 'married a Miss Nichols, whose mother was daughter to Richard Shee, of Roseneamy, from whom in the fourth degree is descended James Shee, Esq., of Abbeyview, Clonmel; her sister, Sarah Nichols, was married to James Butler, of Fethard, Esq., and their issue was Richard Butler, the first Earl of Glengall. Redmond Shee, the son of Henry Shee, and the father of the present Baron, by his wife, the daughter of Michael Murphy, the founder of the Presentation Convent in Kilkenny, left his native country in 1782, and went to France to his relative, the Field-Marshal Clarke, Duke de Feltre, who was also from the county of Kilkenny. In 1791, at the age of 16, he entered Berwick's regiment, and in 1809 was made a Colonel in the 13th Regiment of Chasseurs, and in 1817 was General of Brigade, and for his services was created Baron by the first Napoleon. During the Peninsular war he took the Marquis of Anglesey prisoner.' The sketch goes on to say that subsequently, during a debate on the Catholic question, the Marquis alleged the Baron's gallantry as a reason for throwing open the highest posts in the British army to Catholic Irishmen.

¹ His name was Reynolds, and while his irons were being knocked off in the press-yard of Newgate, he declared that he went to be hanged with as much satisfaction as if he were going to be married, and that he

was innocent. Probably many others, similarly engaged, escaped. A man was hanged the same month on Pennendon Heath, near Maidstone, for the same offence against the law.

“The Baron Redmond de Shee, Anglesey’s friend, died about the year 1837 at St. Germain-en-Laye. His only surviving issue, the present Baron, who was recently created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, spent some of his childhood in Kilkenny, at the late Mrs. Leech’s school. He is married to Valentina, the daughter of the Marquis d’Anach, of the Chateau de la Cour Senlisse, Department Seine et L’Oire.

“So far, in substance, is the account tracing back the present Baron’s pedigree to Henry Shee, third son of William Shee and the lady who was married to him “ye 1st of October 1732, by ye Bishop of Ossery.” The writer appears to have overlooked the fact, or not to have been aware of it, that there were two elder brothers of Henry Shee’s, who had, apparently, settled in France, and from either of whom the distinguished legitimist, Count Dalton Shee, is most probably descended, as well as other Shees, besides the Baron, who hold high posts in the French army. This, however, may be, and probably is, a mere supposition, and, therefore, it is much to be wished, for the sake of our local biographical history, that the writer of the sketch of the Baron, which appeared in the ‘Kilkenny Journal,’ who appears to have peculiar facilities for the task, would apply himself to giving a detailed account of the connexion between the Irish and the French Shees, and that of their famous relative Clarke (Napoleon’s Minister-of-War) with them. This would also include some notice of ‘De Montmorency Morris (Hervé),’ Adjutant-Commandant, whose name also is a Kilkenny one. The position which he held in the Imperial War Office under Clarke, would appear to show a connexion between them either of kindred or country, while the interest that they both displayed in providing O’Conor with materials for the history of the Irish Brigade from the archives of their department, evince their sympathy with his undertaking.¹

“One thing is certain, that the military connexion between the Shees, of Sheepstown, and France did not commence with Redmond’s departure in 1782, to join his relative, Marshal Clarke.² Either James or Francis, his uncles, will most probably be found on the muster-roll of the Irish Brigade as fellow-soldiers of Captain John Hennesy, ‘of Boulklye’s,’ who was their mother’s cousin.

“The allusion to the ‘Carmilit Fryer, s^d Prendergast,’ baptizing the child in the neighbourhood of Knocktopher during the penal days, corroborates the statement that the Order has never been absent from that immediate locality since the suppression of the Abbey.

¹ The following attestation is appended to O’Connor’s “Military Memoirs of the Irish Nation :”—

“His Excellency the Duke de Feltre, Minister of War, was so kind as to communicate to me the original memoir above cited, of which this is a perfect copy, which I attest.

“DE MONTMORENCY MORRIS (HERVÉ)

“Colonel

“Adjutant Commandant.

“Paris, 1st September, 1813.”

² One of the ancestors of the Duc de Feltre was J. Clarke, Esq., who occupied a

somewhat similar position of trust under the Ormond family, to that held by the founder of the Smyth family in Ireland. The Rev. Dr. Brown, Master of Kilkenny College, in a highly interesting account of that famous establishment, contained in the “Transactions,” vol. i., first series, p. 125, quotes a letter from Thomas Otway, Bishop of Ossory, to J. Clarke, Esq., dated on the 18th August, 1686. The letter indicates the approaching struggle between the partisans of James and William, and makes allusion to its effects on the interests of the endowed school of Kilkenny.

“The document under consideration was left at her death by Miss Anne Elliott, who recently died in Kilkenny, and who was a second cousin of the Duke de Feltre, with whom she had spent some time in France in her younger days. She also left two beautifully executed medallion portraits, in embossed bronze, of the Duke and his wife, besides a miniature on ivory of a young man in a hussar uniform, apparently of the early French revolutionary period, probably that of Redmond Shee.

“The original of the document, and also the likenesses, are now in the possession of Mrs. Croseby, late of Johnstown, county of Kilkenny, sister to Miss Elliot.

“It may be added, that the old Castle of Sheepstown was only recently pulled down, to form a quarry to build an ugly dwelling-house, by a Mr. Kelly, who purchased the property in the Incumbered Estates Court. It had previously, however, passed out of the hands of the Shees into the possession of a family named Breathwicke.”

The following Paper was then submitted to the Meeting.

THE FAMILY OF GALL BURKE, OF GALLSTOWN, IN THE
COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

BY JOHN O'DONOVAN, ESQ., LL.D., M. R. I. A., CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, BERLIN.

BRUDIN, in his account of the families of the county of Kilkenny, given in his “Propugnaculum,” published at Prague, 1668, states, p. 1001, that this illustrious family deduces its descent from *Walter de Burgo*, commonly called the Red Earl. Somewhat of a similar assertion is found in an epitaph on a broken tomb in the old chapel of Gallskill, to *Walter de Burgo*, who died in the year 1642, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. It is stated that he was—

“DESCENDED OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
CALLED THE READ ERLE AND SIR WILLIAM
OF THE CASTLE AND MANOR OF BALLINDOWLIN AND OF OTHER MANNORS,
TOWNES AND LANDES IN CONNAGHT, ALL WHICH ARE CALLED THE FRY . .
. KILDROMENERICKE WHICH LYES ABOVE
. TO AND FROM THE TOWNE OF GALWAY
IN THE SAID PROVINCE OF CONNAGHT—AND WAS ALSO LORD OF CASTLES,
MANNORS, TOWNES, LANDS, AND TENEMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF KILKENNY AND
WATERFORD.”¹

“THIS SIR WILLIAM WAS VICE-CHAMBERLAINE TO KING EDWARD THE THIRD, JOHN FITZ WALTER TO EDWARD THE FIRST, IN THE COUNTY OF KILKENNY IN GAWLESTOWN.”²

¹ On a stone, at Gallskill, measuring 4 ft. 9 in. in length, and 2 ft. 4 in. in breadth.

² On a stone slab, at Gallskill, 6 ft. long by 2 ft. 7 in. broad.