

MISCELLANEA.

HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

Literary Notes.—We have to acknowledge the receipt of the JOURNALS OF THE WATERFORD AND SOUTH-EAST OF IRELAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The first paper in No. 25 contains a description of some new choir stalls erected in St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, and executed in Bruges. To the Irish antiquary, the article is calculated to awaken memories of the artistic eminence which Ireland once attained, and regret at the want of any systematic efforts to foster and encourage native art at the present day. "Mediæval Lismore," by W. H. Grattan Flood, is continued. One record quoted is of local interest :—

"On June 24th, 1363, Pope Urban V. commissioned the Bishop of Lismore and Waterford to inquire into the difficulties connected with the moribund see of Iniscathay, which then had a Bishop called Thomas ; and the result was that the ancient diocese founded by St. Senan, now known as Iniscattery, was in 1364 merged into that of Killaloe.—(Theiner's *Vetera Monumenta.*)"

One of our members, Mr. Coleman, of Southampton, continues his notes on early printed books, and contributes other most interesting paragraphs to "Notes and Queries." No. 26 is equally interesting. "The Lismore Annals" are continued into the fifteenth century. It is interesting to read that in 1481 "Nicholas O'Hennessy was consecrated Bishop of Lismore and Waterford, but was objected to by the Dean and Chapter of Waterford, because '*he was Irish spoken and did not understand the English language,*' and he had to retire, being succeeded by John, Rector of Baudrip, diocese of Bath and Wells." No. 27 is evidence that this Society, in the publication of the Journal, fulfils its mission admirably, as, except the opening address for the General Meeting, all the other papers are of purely local interest, including "Notes and Queries," to which Mr. Coleman is an industrious contributor.

THE JOURNAL OF THE CORK HISTORICAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—No. 48 continues the records of the Barrys by the late Rev. E. Barry. The "Quarterly Notes" contain an encouraging notice of the last number of our Journal. With Mr. Day's paper on the "Medals

of the Irish Volunteers" is an engraving of the medal of the Small County Union Light Dragoons, 1780—a County Limerick troop, commanded by Capt. John Grady. No. 49 is a most interesting issue. "Town Life in Mediæval Ireland," by Professor W. F. J. Butler, M.A., dealing, as it does (*inter alia*) with the Danish occupation of Limerick, has a special local interest. There is also a biographical notice of Thomas Crofton Croker, about the merits of whose work there may be differences of opinion, but his countrymen must ever gratefully remember his services to Irish literature and folk-lore.

The last issue of the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, IRELAND, is up to the usual standard of excellence. The notes on that gem of Irish metal-work, the Cross of Cong, by Dr. Percival Wright, the President, with a well-executed coloured illustration of the enamel work, is a valuable addition to Miss Stokes' work on the same subject. One of our members, Mr. T. J. Westropp, continues his interesting series of papers on the prehistoric remains in Co. Clare. Clare owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Westropp for his labours to record the history of its ancient civilization.

There is one publication in Ireland which does not receive the support which it deserves: that is the JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MEMORIALS OF THE DEAD. No. 3 of Vol. iv. is the last issue. It is doing useful work in collecting and preserving these memorials where practicable, and securing a record of the inscriptions on our old tombs, that otherwise might be for ever lost. The report calls attention to many sad cases of neglect. We read that "at Kilmallock Priory the tomb of the 'White Knight' and many other tombs are reported to be ankle-deep in cow-dung." 'Tis strange, considering the passionate grief with which the Irish mourn their dead, how little care is bestowed upon the resting-place of the departed, as evidenced by the disgraceful condition of most of our rural cemeteries—if the rough accumulation of stones and weeds can be so called. It would be well if every parish clergyman in Ireland was a member of this Society.

THE ULSTER JOURNAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY for January is rich in information on Ulster antiquities. Family histories, parochial records, and provincial literature, all contribute to make it interesting. The notice of Arthur O'Neill, the Irish harper, by Mr. F. J. Bigger, appeals

to a wider circle, which includes all lovers of our native music. Mr. Bigger states that a large part of the information about harpers in Bunting's "Ancient Music of Ireland," was derived from O'Neill.

THE ANTIQUARY for April continues the articles by W. H. Jewett on "Pagan Myths and Christian Figures." Amongst other articles is one on "Stocking Clocks," which may interest some of our members. The writer (G. L. Apperson) opens with a reference to "Notes and Queries" (7th Ser. vii, 148), and proceeds to inquire why a decorated stocking is described as "clocked," and mentions that—

"Dr. Murray, in the *New English Dictionary*, says that 'one of the conjectures offered is that the pattern consisted of bell-shaped ornaments, but evidence is wanting,' and so the origin of the term remains a mystery. Originally the application of the word was not confined to stockings, nor was the meaning altogether restricted to ornamental embroidery. Cussans quotes, under date 1548, 'a cope of Blake vellat and Clothe of gold clocked.' Fairholt, quoting Randle Holme, says 'Clocks are the gores of a ruff, the laying in of the cloth to make it round the plaites.' It was also applied to the ornament on stockings, and during the fifteenth century to that upon hoods."

King James, it is said, once asked the Earl of Mar, to lend him a pair of silk stockings, "scarlet hose with the gold clocks," in which to receive the French Ambassador. The article clearly proves that the clocked stocking is no modern novelty.

The last number of THE RELIQUARY contains some articles of interest to Irish antiquaries, such as "Homes of the Picts," a description of a pre-Norman Cross shaft, and Dr. Munro's notes on the "Dumbuck Crannog."

P. J. L.