

## MISCELLANEA.

---

### Literary Notes.

---

The Diocese of Limerick, Ancient and Medieval.  
 By Rev. John Begley, C.C., St. Munchin's. (Dublin :  
 Browne and Nolan, Ltd.)

No book has appeared for a long time which should be of greater interest to the Archæological section of the Limerick Field Club—apart from its value to the student of general history—than this History of the Diocese of Limerick, by our fellow-member, Father Begley.

In the opening sentence the author states that the "Diocese of Limerick is co-extensive with the ancient territory of Hy Fidghente." This takes us back to the fourth century, and in following the fortunes of the tribe we learn the early history of the diocese. This portion of the book is most interesting as shewing the early growth of Christianity grafted on—as it were—to the ancient tribal system of Ireland. There is a map shewing the sub-division of the Tuath mor or territory of the tribe into the Tuaths of the Chieftains, and the relation of these to the present parish boundaries which is most instructive.

By starting on such well defined lines the author has secured for the Topographical Survey of the Diocese, and the History of its Ancient Churches, an exceptional interest. Indeed, we wish the History of these old Churches could have been dealt with more fully. However, that section of the book provides matter for a volume in itself, and suggests some interesting parish histories which we hope will be taken up by those interested. It should also direct attention to the condition of those ancient churches, many of them standing in grossly neglected grave-yards—overgrown with weeds and briars—and fast crumbling to decay. Possibly there may be found in some of these parishes public spirit enough to preserve what remains, and within decent surroundings.

From the Early Church the author passes on to the Anglo-Norman period, and avails of that valuable MSS., the Black Book of Limerick for much of the interesting information it affords. The Norman settlement would appear to have been a less troublesome proceeding here than elsewhere. The History of Limerick City differs somewhat from that of other parts of Ireland, from the fact that the Celtic element never predominated there. From being a fort of the Norsemen, they developed it into a city; they intermarried with the tribes of Hy Fidghente, and when the Normans came the natives had lost much of their warlike spirit, and had become commercial, so that they offered but a fitful and feeble resistance. When Donald O'Brien set fire to it in 1177, saying that it should no longer be "a nest of foreigners," he probably described it accurately. Its Church History followed on somewhat similar lines, and we find the early bishops being consecrated at Canterbury, and following the form and usages of the English Church. The settlement of the Normans in the diocese—or the history of the manors—affords some valuable information. This, too, is a section of the book where the reader's appetite is whetted and calls for more; but obviously it would be impossible to keep within the limits of one volume if the author were to illuminate his narrative by the many side lights which this section and the Civil history of the Diocese would afford.

In medieval times it is difficult to separate Civil and Ecclesiastical History, indeed, a knowledge of both is necessary for the proper understanding of either. The records of Civil history in this volume cannot be said to be full, but they are very helpful. It is well to remember that in the days of the Geraldines no mere "Irishman" could be Mayor of Limerick, nor hold any office within it, or support any apprentice of Irish blood under pain of loss of his citizenship. Facts such as these explain away much that appears strange in the national character, and should be more widely known.

The Ecclesiastical portion of the history naturally claimed the author's first attention, and this, the main portion of the book, contains most valuable and interesting information. Space will not permit us to dwell on the many sources from which he has collected the several records; however, the Black Book of Limerick was a mine of wealth, alone.

Inniscathy, the silent sentinel on the Shannon, the island lost to the Diocese, he has left for the last words. Is this a suggestion to the future historian of Killaloe to commence his narrative with Patrick's blessing of the Corco Baiscinn and continue the controversy? We shall see.

There are some slips and evidences of hasty proof reading, which should be corrected in future editions.

In conclusion, we must congratulate the author. He has written a history as history should be written, on a well defined plan, with the records set down in regular order, the story told in simple language, free from any flights of fancy, and guided by the spirit of truth.—P. J. L.

**The Ulster Journal of Archæology.**—We notice this Journal has changed publishers, but we are glad to see that Mr. F. J. Bigger, M.R.I.A., is still at the helm. He contributes some interesting notes on Irish bards to the last number. There are also some descriptions of Ulster cromleacs, which are illustrated.

**The International Genealogical Directory, 1907.**—This is a new publication, designed by Mr. Chas. A. Bernau, Walton-on-Thames, and it should prove of the greatest assistance to those interested in Genealogy, or anxious for information about the family pedigree.

**Index to the Wills of the Diocese of Kildare, in the Public Record Office, Dublin.**—By Sydney Carey.—This is a re-print from the Journal of the Kildare Archæological Society. There is a growing desire for the publication of all the available records and registers of this kind, they are so helpful to historians and genealogists, and this is an interesting contribution.

**List of Books, Pamphlets, and Newspapers printed in Limerick to 1800.** By E. R. McC. Dix. Guy & Co.—We are indebted to Mr. Dix for his labour in this branch of bibliography. He has created a new interest in local printing, and indirectly in local history. In looking over the list some names almost forgotten in Limerick, are brought to light. Thus, we find John Cherry printing in Limerick, 1763, he was probably the father of Andrew Cherry, the poet and dramatist, who was himself a printer, born in Limerick in 1762; and so with others. It is to be hoped that with the assistance of the members of the L.F.C., to whom the publication is dedicated, Mr. Dix may be able to increase the list in the future.

**The Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead.** E. R. McClintock Dix, Hon. Treasurer, 17 Kildare street, Dublin.—We are pleased to see this society continuing to produce a Journal of great interest. In many cases the inscriptions collected from the different memorials through the country will become interesting historical records when all traces of the originals shall have disappeared. Some of the contributors add some useful notes which give a greater interest to the inscription. Care should be taken, however, not to introduce matter of a controversial nature, such as the note to the copy of the inscription on the memorial to the Rev. John Darley, Rector of Arboe (Arboe Abbey) County Tyrone, giving the succession list of rectors. Whether the rector in 1894 is in direct succession to Patrick O'Kennallan, the *Διῆκονηδαι* of 1434, may be questioned in the Parish of Arboe, and, as a note it is quite unnecessary.

The objects of this society should appeal to all Irishmen of every denomination. There is no country in Europe where the grave-yards and memorials of the dead are more neglected than in Ireland.

In the first report of the society issued in 1888, it was proposed to establish a fund for the preservation of the memorials of the dead, hence the name of the society. If this is impracticable and that the funds will not admit of any restorations or repairs being attempted, still we think that by a little organization—say a system of County and Borough Secretaries—the society might become the medium through which public opinion would be directed to cases of neglect, and a remedy suggested.

It is worth considering whether an effort should not be made to carry out—even in some modified way—the original intentions of the founder, Col. Vigors. This would probably increase the roll of members considerably.

**Cork Historical and Archæological Society.**—The Journal of this Society continues to increase in interest. The contributions are mainly historical and topographical, relating to the Co. Cork. In the Journal for the March quarter of this year, Mr. McAlister has contributed some critical notes on the Ogam Stones at the Queen's College, Cork.

**Galway Archæological and Historical Society.** Sir Richard Bingham in Connaught, by M. H. T. Knox —The Sept of O'Maolale

(or Lally), by Miss J. Martyn, and the Old Borough of Tuam, by Mr. Richard J. Kelly, B.L., are the most noteworthy articles in the last issue of the Journal.

**Waterford and S. E. of Ireland Archæological Society.**—The Place Names of the Decies, by Rev. P. Power, is continued in the present number of the Journal. It will prove a valuable contribution to the topography of the district.

**The Registers of St. John, the Evangelist, Dublin.**—1619-1699. Edited by James Mills, I.S.O., M.R.I.A. The recently established Parish Register Society of Dublin, has started well with the publication of the Register of St. John's Parish, Dublin, 1619-1699, a record which will be very useful and interesting to Antiquarians and future Historians of the City of Dublin.

It may be well to explain that the Parish of St. John is now joined with the Parishes of St. Werburgh and St. Bride. These united parishes comprise a large part of the City in the vicinity of Christ Church Cathedral, including Fishamble Street, which formerly contained the Theatre in which Handel's Oratorio of the Messiah was first performed.

The Parish Church of St. John has ceased to exist, but fortunately, some of the registers have been preserved, and these go back to a very early date.

Owing to various causes there is a scarcity of these records in Ireland, and many of those that have survived have been very carelessly kept. One of the Canons of the Irish Church passed in 1634, required that "in every Parish Church and Chapel within this realm, shall be provided one Parchment Book at the charge of the Parish, wherein shall be written the day and year of every christening, wedding and burying," but we fear that this canon was not always very strictly observed.

There is a great difficulty experienced sometimes in wading through these old records, owing to the fact that marriages, births, and burials are frequently all jumbled up together, and we can quite appreciate the amount of time and trouble that must have been spent on the present volume. As might be expected, we meet with some curious spelling of names—and very frequently the same name is spelt in a great variety of ways; some of the entries are much fuller than others, and occasionally the occupation is given of those whose names are entered.

Amongst the trades, we have those of Gabertman, Cleeveman, or Clefeman, Limbner, and Apoulsterer. A Gabertman would seem to have been a sort of boatman or lumberman; what a Cleeveman was we cannot discover, probably a butcher; a Limbner was, probably, a painter, and an Apoulsterer may be another spelling of upholsterer.

We also find one man described as "A seller of strong waters," and, as we have Brewers and Vintners mentioned, we surmise that this must have been a polite name for a Publican. One of the lists is headed, perhaps by way of irony, "The Burials of the Poore English." The heading, no doubt, meant those English devoid of means, but it is a little ambiguous.

Amongst curious names or spelling, we have noted the following:—  
Quadrod, Afluethas, Sulanant, Assbic, Bodily Anascoate, Arcolar.

As examples of the variety of spelling we may add the following:—

BALL ... (Baal, Baall, Baale, Baull.)  
 BARLOW ... (Barlowe, Barloe, Barlo, Bariloe.)  
 BROGHALL... (Braughall, Braugholl, Brochal, Brochall, Brochell, Broghal, Broaghall.)  
 REEVES ... (Reeives, Reves, Renes, Revis, Reines, Reeuse, Rines, Reene, Ryves.)

This will be sufficient to show the great difficulty which presents itself occasionally in tracing names through these old registers.

The volume concludes with two appendices, one being Entries of Burials, the fees for which are included in the Churchwardens accounts of the parish, the other being a list of those rated for Parish Cess.

We commend this book as an illustration of how such things should be done, to all those who are contemplating similar work.

T. F. ABBOTT.

It would be desirable if some member of the Limerick Field Club would devote some time to an examination of the interesting Parish Records of the District.

(Editors).

---

## Natural Science.

---

**Some Notes on Plant Names.** By Rev. T. F. Abbott, B.D.  
 The saying that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," is no doubt, quite true, but at the same time every flower is entitled to

its own name ; and, if everyone was to call the rose by a different name there would be endless confusion and misunderstanding. There must be some kind of order. Botanists, of course, have long recognised this, and have classified and arranged every known plant according to certain definite rules, and every individual has its own family and particular name. But unfortunately, it is not so with the general public, or even the majority of gardening people. Most people will tell you, "Oh, we object to those awful Latin names ; we like simple English names."

That is well and good, but the very next moment the same people will call your attention to a Japonica. Japonica, of course, is simple, but it represents nothing of itself, and it is not even English. It is the specific name of numerous plants belonging to different families, as for instance, *Anemone Japonica*, *Kerria Japonica*, *Spiræa Japonica*, and *Pyrus Japonica*. Which of these then is alone entitled to be called the Japonica "Par Excellence?" Yes, it is much simpler forsooth to have a common English name, but why the same name and that a Latinised one for at least half-a-dozen different kinds of plants? Well, *Nasturtium* of course, you will say, is a good English name. It is simple no doubt, but it is not English ; and moreover, it is not even the Latin name of the plant to which it is commonly applied which is a *Tropæolum*, or Flame flower, or Indian Cress, if it is to come by its rights, *Nasturtium* being the botanical name for the Water Cress.

The curious thing is, that another member of this same family is generally called *Canariense*, as if it was a totally different plant from the *Nasturtium*, while it is in reality *Tropæolum Canariense*.

Then again, why should three members of the same family be called respectively, Violet, *Viola*, and Pansy, when *Viola* is the family name of all three.

Some botanical names are rather hard for the ordinary person, and perhaps, seem to be unmeaning, but that is not really so. The hardness of some of them is accounted for by the fact that they are simply Latinised forms of the names of their first discoverers or introducers.

The well-known *Fuchsia* was so called after a Dr. Fuchs, who was a German botanist. The *Lobelia* is called after a M. Lobel, a botanist and physician who lived about 1616.

The Begonia, Dahlia, and Eschscholtzia, were named respectively after Michael Begon, Dr. Von Dahl, and Dr. Eschscholtz.

There are other plants which have more romantic histories attached to their names, as for instance, the Euphorbia. This family was named after a man called Euphorbus, a physician to the King of Mauritania, who is said to have been the first to have used this plant medicinally.

The Azalea Pontica is said to have produced the poison which stupified Xenophon's soldiers in their retreat, hence the latter part of the name from Pontus in Asia, Azalea being from a Greek word meaning dry, given to it on account of the natural habit of the plant which delights in dry places.

The names Narcissus and Hyacinth have, perhaps, the most interesting origins. In Greek mythology Narcissus was a beautiful youth who was punished for his vanity by being made to fall in love with his own reflection. In the place where he died sprang up this flower that bears his name.

The Hyacinth is said to have sprung from the blood of a beautiful youth who was beloved by Apollo and Zephyrus; Zephyrus being jealous because he loved Apollo, caused Apollo's quoit to strike and kill him while they were at play.

The Asphodel, or King's Spear, is the plant which Homer speaks of as growing in the Elysian groves.

But we could find other plants too with histories attached to them. However, it will suffice now to give some brief notes on a few other names just to show that as reason goes to the cooking of eggs, so reason as a rule, goes to the naming of plants, though sometimes indeed, a wrong reason, as in the case of the so called Jerusalem Artichoke, which has nothing to do with Jerusalem, but is a name corrupted from Girasole (turning towards the sun) or Sunflower, for that is what it is in reality.

The botanical name is sometimes given on account of some special habit or noticeable feature of the plant, Convolvulus meaning winding round, as is the habit of the Bindweed, Heliotrope being Greek for turning towards the sun, and Hollyhock is the Holy Hock, or Mallow, as coming from the Holy Land.

Cineraria is from a Latin word meaning ashes, and is given to the



plant on account of the soft, white down which covers the surface of the leaves.

The Genus *Passiflora*, or Passion flower, received its name from some early Spanish settlers in America who imagined that they saw in its flowers the emblems of our Lord's passion.

The *Amaranthus* is from two Greek words meaning not decaying, and is so called because when picked it does not soon wither; in fact in poetry, it is an imaginary flower supposed never to fade.—

“Immortal Amaranth! a flower which once  
In Paradise, fast by the tree of life  
Began to bloom; but soon for man's offence  
To heaven removed, where first it grew.”—Milton.

But enough is as good as a feast, and so we will leave the subject for the present with the hope of returning to it at some future date.

### Additions to our Local List of Land and Freshwater Shells. By Harry Fogerty.

Below is the list of additions to our Local List, as published in the *Field Club Journal*, Vol. III, p. 64.

SPECIES	LOCALITY
<i>Hyalinia nitidula</i>	Rathkeale, Limerick
<i>Helix rupestris</i>	Rathkeale, Limerick Meelick, Clare
<i>Planorbis spirorbis</i>	Rathkeale, Limerick
<i>P. contortus</i>	Lough Gur, Limerick
<i>Pisidium amnicum</i>	River Gamoge, Limerick
<i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i>	Castleconnell, Limerick

The following twenty species were obtained during a three days' visit to Rathkeale—

<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	<i>Pupa cylindracea</i>
<i>Hyalinia cellaria</i> (var. <i>vitrina</i> )	<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>
<i>Hy. nitidula</i>	<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>
<i>Helix rotundata</i>	<i>Planorbis marginatus</i>
<i>H. rupestris</i>	<i>P. spirorbis</i>
<i>H. aspersa</i>	<i>Limnæa peregra</i>
<i>H. nemoralis</i>	<i>L. stagnalis</i>
<i>H. rufescens</i>	<i>L. palustris</i>
<i>H. itala</i>	<i>Bythinia tentaculata</i>
<i>H. caperata</i>	<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>

## History and Archaeology.

---

**The Ferrar Family.**—The descendants of John Ferrar have not forgotten their former family connection with this city. Some six or seven years ago two members of the family paid a visit to Limerick for the express purpose of examining on the spot the sites and historic features of a place with whose story they were so intimately acquainted. They took especial interest in being pointed out the locality where their ancestor resided, and perhaps the very house where the history was written. One of the members of our Field Club had the pleasure of conducting them to the principal historic places in the city and neighbourhood. John Ferrar was the grandson of William Ferrar, a member of a most distinguished family in Huntingdon. He held a Captain's commission in Schomberg's regiment of cavalry, and served in that corps during the wars of 1690 and 1691. There is a little romance connected with him—shortly after the memorable siege he fell in love with and married a Limerick lady, and made his home in the city. He however maintained his connection with his people at Little Gidding in Hunts. William had a son named also William, and there is in existence an old parchment grant admitting him to the Liberty and Franchise of the City of Limerick, carefully preserved and highly valued by his present day representatives. The document is dated 28th January, 1731. It is in Latin, and signed by Phillip Kawson, Armiger, Mayor of Limerick, and by George Roche, T.C. In it he is styled Bibliopegus, that is a book-binder. John, the writer of the history, was the only son of this second William. In adopting this occupation the Limerick representative was singularly true to his family traditions. The community at Little Gidding, under Nicholas Ferrar, did as a labour of love a great deal of bookbinding extraordinary, principally of the sacred books which they compiled for their own use and that of their friends. The binding possessed artistic merit of a very high order. One of the books bound by them, a magnificent concordance for Charles I., is now in the British Museum. William, the eldest son of the historian, married in 1790, Maria Lloyd, daughter of

Rickard Lloyd of Drumsallagh and Kildromin, Co. Limerick, and Castle Lake, Co. Tipperary. About eight or nine years ago the representative of the family retired from the service of India, after a long and honorable career in an important dependency. When the the British Archæological Association met at Peterborough in 1898, one of the expeditions made was to Little Gidding. The Manor had passed out of the Ferrar family, but the historic little church was restored in 1853. On the occasion of the visit it fell to the lot of Mr. Michael Ferrar during the proceedings to stand in the aisle of the church--surrounded by the memorial brasses of his family--and read out to the assembled company an original letter of Nicholas', dated 1635. Surely this was an unique experience.—J.D.

**Devinish, Lough Erne.**—By a press cutting we notice with pleasure that clearances are being made around the interesting remains on Devinish Island. Devinish was illustrated in Vol. II. of our Journal. (Early Christian Architecture in Ireland, by P. J. Lynch, p. 91.) Any further details of the carved work of the house of St. Molaise that could be brought to light would be most valuable. The specimen already illustrated is almost unique.

---

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

---

**Henry Van Cruys-Kircken of Limerick.**—Will dated 27th February, 1727, with a codicil dated 1st March, 1727, proved in Dublin 28th March, 1728. I shall be glad to ascertain the family name of his wife Catherine, who is mentioned in the Will. He was a native of Leyden, Holland, and was baptised in St. Prancas Church in that city, on 11th December, 1657. He left two daughters, from whom are descended several well-known families in the Counties of Limerick and Clare —Z. B. A., c/o Hon. Sec.

**Tandy.**—In a recent note in the *Irish Times* on the Tandys of Drewstown, Co. Meath, I notice that James Napper Tandy (of '98 fame), had a sister Anne who married George Wilkinson of Limerick. Can any member of L.F.C. inform me (through the Hon. Secretary), as to

what branch of the Wilkinson family he belonged. A first cousin of this Anne Tandy (Anne Tandy), was married to O'Brien Bellingham of Castle Bellingham, Co. Louth.—T.

**An Early Limerick Bookbinder.**—Mr. John Ferrar, historian, newspaper proprietor, publisher, poet, author, compiler and printer, is well known to many Limerick people from his History of their native city, the first that appeared in print, but it is probably not known to many that William Ferrar (born in Limerick in 1700) the father of John, started a paper factory there and practised also bookbinding in the early decades of the eighteenth century. He was the only son of a retired military officer, and having no land or other independent or sufficient means, he used his inherited love of books and knowledge of binding and settled down to carry on as a business, and made a livelihood of that which his forbears at Little Gidding pursued as a pastime. It would be very interesting if any of his work could be identified. I do not know what old libraries Limerick can boast of, but there, or in private hands, some of W. Ferrar's bookbindings might be found.

William Ferrar died on the 25th of August, 1753, in his 53rd year, and was buried in the Cathedral.

His wife was Rose Paine (or Payne). Only two of their children grew up, namely, John, the historian, and a daughter, Mary. William Ferrar was granted the freedom of Limerick City in January, 1731.

The high prices that the "Little Gidding" bindings can command in the book market are well known to book hunters, but the connection of Little Gidding and the Ferrars of Limerick and their relatives is little known.—E. R. McC. D.