

## MISCELLANEA.

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### Obituary.

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**James Frost, J.P., M.R.I.A.**—In the Annual Report (*ante*) we have noticed the loss the Club has suffered in the death of this esteemed member.

**Rev. Timothy Lee, P.P., Croom.**—Since the Report was presented another contributor to our JOURNAL has passed away, December 25th, 1907, in the person of the Rev. Timothy Lee. He was one of the original members of the Historical section, and had a deep knowledge of Irish History and Archæology. The short but most interesting biography of O'Curry, which he contributed to the first numbers of the JOURNAL, was to him a labour of love. He had a mind stored with information, and it is to be regretted that his varied duties prevented him from placing more on record.

In the Journal of the R.S.A.I. for 1889, there is a paper by him on "The Northmen in Limerick."

He did much in his time to revive the study of Irish literature, and in this sphere his death is a national loss.

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### Literary Notes.

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**The Earliest Limerick Newspaper.** Through the courtesy of the owner, conveyed to me kindly by Dr. George Fogerty, R.N., I have had the privilege, which I greatly appreciate, of examining personally the earliest copy of a Limerick newspaper which has yet been noted anywhere. It is No. 46 of Vol. III. of the "Limerick Journal," printed by Andrew Welsh. It was in rather a frail condition, having been kept continually creased, and the creases having worn and become ragged,

but thanks to the toughness and general superiority of the paper of the period, it has survived for over a century and three-quarters, and is now repaired carefully and can be handled without much risk of injury. It contains 4 pages of 3 columns each. The width of each column is slightly over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the total size of the page is  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ . In appearance and general make-up it closely resembles the form of the Dublin papers of the period. Page 1 consists of foreign news, page 2 of London news, which is continued into column 1 of page 3: then comes Dublin news, Limerick news and advertisements, which also run into page 4, where also occur six Election Addresses. These latter are very short and not like the Election Addresses of the present day. The imprint on page 4 is as follows:—"Limerick: printed by Andrew Welsh, opposite to the Exchange." Welsh's name is also printed at the head of the first page above the title.

The "Journal" was bi-weekly, and this particular copy was for the period "Friday, August the 7th, to Tuesday, August the 11th, 1741." Calculating backwards therefore on the basis of two issues a week, and starting with the fact that this copy is No. 46 of Vol. III., it would appear that this newspaper first made its appearance in the end of February 1739. In a little pamphlet which I have published giving a List of the Books, etc., printed in Limerick prior to 1800, the earliest reference to a newspaper of any kind was one in 1753 called the "Munster Journal." The discovery of the present copy of the "Limerick Journal" carried back the era of the newspaper press in Limerick to some 14 or 15 years earlier.

This "Journal" does not appear to have been known to Madden, for it is not mentioned by him.

Andrew Welsh the printer was, I am strongly inclined to think, the same as Andrew Welsh, Junr., who was printing in Cork in 1738, having succeeded his father who bore the same name and printed in Cork some years previously. I hope this rare copy of the "Journal" will be carefully preserved. It ought to be deposited in the Museum attached to the Carnegie Library.

While the Limerick news in it is somewhat small, still local names appear in the Election Addresses and advertisements which might have much interest for local historians or genealogists.

## NOTE.

While I am on the subject of Limerick newspapers I wish also to record that through the courtesy of Mr. Barry MacCarthy, conveyed to me through a friend, I have had an opportunity recently of personally examining some copies of Limerick newspapers of the same century, but a good deal later in date, and I accordingly mention them now, as they do not appear in the pamphlet. They are five in number.

The first, of which there are two issues, is the "Limerick Chronicle," printed by "*Edward Flin*, opposite Bridge Street, formerly Quay Lane." One is No. 826, for Thursday, 22nd February, 1787, and the other No. 852, for Thursday, 24th May following. Both form part of Vol IX, and consist of 4 pages of 4 columns each.

The next newspaper I have to record bears *the same title* exactly, *i.e.*, the "Limerick Chronicle," but it is No. 1918 of Vol. XX, and its date Monday, January 15th, 1787; it was printed by "Andrew Watson and Co., within two doors of Exchange." This is a bit puzzling, for it would therefore appear that there were two "Limerick Chronicles" published at the same time, one being an older journal than the other. I was not aware of this before, and perhaps some local antiquarian can explain it. Of this second and older "Chronicle" there are also two other numbers for the year 1798 lent me for examination, one for May 5th, 1798, No. 3856, and the other for August 15th, 1798, No. 3893. For this year the Volume of this "Chronicle" was XXX, and the printer "Andrew Watson, Kings Arms, Exchange."

Since my little pamphlet appeared, with the exceptions here indicated, and the finding of a copy of the last item but one in my pamphlet in the Royal Irish Academy, I have nothing more to add to it. I hope local antiquarians and book lovers will constantly watch for local bibliographical rareties, and that such may find their last resting place in the Carnegie Library.—E. R. MC. DIX.

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The staff at present conducting the "Limerick Chronicle" are unable to clear up the question raised by Mr. Dix—perhaps some of our members could explain it.—ED.

Mr. James Coleman, Hon. Sec. Cork H. and A. Society, has kindly favoured us with notes on some Worthies of our District—collected from the *Gentleman's Magazine*—which we are sure will be found most interesting. We shall be grateful for any additional particulars which members of the Club may supply :—

**Andrew Cherry.** Author of the “Dear Little Shamrock.”—Andrew Cherry was the eldest son of Mr. John Cherry, printer and bookseller at Limerick, in which city he was born on January 11th, 1762, Having received a respectable education at a grammar school there, he was intended for the ministry by his father, but the latter being unable to carry out this project, he was sent to Mr. James Potts, printer and bookseller, Dame Street, Dublin, to learn that business. There he became the favourite and constant companion of his master, who was fond of theatre-going, and seldom went to one without taking young Cherry with him. Thus encouraged, he early imbibed a predilection for the stage, and when fourteen years of age made his first appearance as Lucia in the tragedy of “Cato,” in a private performance held at the Blackamoor's Head, Towers Street, Dublin. At the age of 17 he turned his back on typography, and made his debut as a professional actor at Naas, near Dublin, the company being composed chiefly of runaway boys and girls. His performance of the part of Colonel Teynwell in “A Bold Stroke for a Wife” won him great applause, but his share of the profits on that occasion amounted only to 10½d. Being blest with a special facility for study, he managed in the space of ten months to act all the principal characters in tragedy, comedy, or farces; but during all this time he was never in the possession of a guinea. He was frequently without the means of common sustenance, and sometimes even unable to buy candles to enable him to study the parts that were numerously allotted to him. In Athlone he was turned out on the streets, and was on the point of starving, and shortly afterwards he left the stage and “returned to reason and the shop,” remaining there three years. He now joined the theatrical corps of Mr. Richard William Knipe, a well-known dramatic veteran, a scholar and a gentleman, in whose company Cherry enjoyed much comfort and satisfaction, whose daughter he married, and by whom he had a large family. He was for many years a popular favourite in the north of Ireland, till in 1787 he was called up

to Dublin, where for six years little Cherry, as he was familiarly called, stood at the top of his profession in the comic line. After a three years' tour in England, he returned to his native country, but after two seasons his manager's irregular payments forced him to go back to England. He now played successfully in Manchester, Bath, and finally at Drury Lane, London. He was the author of the following dramatic pieces :— "Harlequin in the Stocks," 1793; "The Outcasts," an opera, 1796, not printed; "The Soldier's Daughter," a comedy, 1804; "All for Fame," 1805; "The Travellers," 1806; "Thalea's Tears," a poetic effusion, 1806, not printed; "Spanish Dollars," 1806; "Peter the Great," 1807; and "A Day in London," 1807, not printed. Andrew Cherry died in 1812. [Two of his songs, "The Bay of Biscay" and "The Dear Little Shamrock" are still popular.]

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He also wrote "Tom Moody," which Samuel Lover considered one of the best of sporting songs.—ED.

**Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.**—Since the issue of our last number some contributions to the parent Society are of special interest to the members of the L.F.C. In Part IV, Vol. XXXVII, is concluded a paper on Abbey Owney (Abington), Co. Limerick, by Rev. St. John Seymour, B.D., illustrated by a fine photograph of the Walsh tomb, by our Hon. Sec., Dr. George Fogerty, R.N. (Mr. J. Grene Barry's name is given by mistake). This paper includes some interesting notes about Clonkeen, Abington, and Tuogh parishes. In the same number, Mr. T. J. Westropp commences what promises to be an exhaustive account of Carrigogunnell Castle. In Part I, Vol. XXXVIII, Mr. Westropp renews our acquaintance with the Co. Clare forts—taking up the promontory forts in the "Irrus." Here we are on familiar ground, and we know at least one member who has taken this number of the Journal to Kilkee with him, with the intention of examining these entrenchments.

An Ogham stone discovered by Mr. H. S. Crawford, B.E., at Mount Russell, Co. Limerick, is illustrated and described with some learned notes, by Sir John Rhys. We hope to hear of more Ogham stones from the County Limerick—they have been rare up to this.

**Cork Historical and Archæological Society.**—The Journal of this Society is mainly devoted to Historical and Topographical records of the Co. Cork. The number for March, 1908, contains what was, no doubt, intended for a review of the paper in our last Journal, on the Lough Gur Cromleacs, by Mr. P. J. Lynch. The contribution is of much greater length than the paper under review. Regret is expressed that Mr. Lynch did not deal fully with the antiquarian remains at Lough Gur, forgetful of the fact that the series of papers are confined to notes on the Cromleacs of the Co. Limerick. However, we are not surprised that more was expected, for the subject is always tempting, and on some writers Lough Gur has a kind of magical influence, under which they proceed to solve the most difficult problems with a freedom which less favoured students find it difficult to follow. Perhaps our reviewer has come under that spell; if so, it would be ungracious to question his conclusions—even though we may differ from them. We notice he objects to the location of the Aenach; but Mr. Lynch was only quoting from Rev. J. Begley's history, which it is clear the reviewer understood. The point about the spelling, taken alone, is not convincing, as great freedom should be given when putting Irish words into English form. Dr. Joyce states the names Aenach and Eanach are sometimes confounded. We would like to hear what the Rev. J. Begley has to say on the whole question.

However, we are grateful for the extended notice of the notes from our Journal, and we will always welcome contributions from the same prolific pen, in which we recognise an earnest worker in the wide field of Irish history and archæology.

**Waterford and S.E. of Ireland Archæological Society.**—The Rev. P. Power, continues his learned paper on the Place Names of the Decies. He also contributes a paper on some bronze pins found in Waterford (illustrated).

**The Architectural and Topographical Record.**—We welcome this latest record of our ancient buildings. An illustrated journal, published by the Architectural and Topographical Society, in which—if we are to judge by the first number—Ireland is likely to get a fair share of space. Mr. W. Travers, A.R.I.B.A., 33 Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W., is the Secretary. The annual subscription is half a guinea. The journal is to be published quarterly. We wish the Society every success.