

MISCELLANEA.

UNDER this heading in the JOURNAL, the Secretaries hope to receive contributions from members of the different sections of the Club on subjects of local interest. In many cases a short note or descriptive paragraph on some subject may, in the future, become an important local record ; while a simple query may be the means of directing attention to a matter, inquiry into which may result in the publication of some valuable and interesting information. It is by the extensive use of this portion of the JOURNAL that the members will derive the greatest benefit, and a local club such as ours may best effect its object. There are many matters which are not of sufficient interest or importance to find a place in the scientific or antiquarian publications of the day, but which in local circles may prove of the greatest interest. In natural history the discovery in our district of some object not previously noticed may be recorded, or some new feature or fresh development in the ever varying forms of nature may claim attention. In archæology new finds can be described, and others too, that may be known to members, but which up to this have not been published ; these, with interesting items of local history, family records, and old MSS. of local interest, it is hoped will be brought to light in the pages of our JOURNAL.

History and Archæology.

Limerick's Early Printed Books and Newspapers.—Locally-printed books and publications form a subject of such interest from many points of view that most of the large towns in England, for instance, possess their records of this class ; whilst in Ireland, these local literary productions have likewise attracted considerable attention. At present, however, Belfast is the only Irish town that can boast of a separately published volume dealing with its early printed books. In the first volume of the *Cork Archæological Journal*, a far from complete attempt was made at chronicling Cork's early

printed works ; and in the current numbers of the *Waterford Archaeological Journal* a better effort is being made to record the early printed books of Waterford, Kilkenny, and South-east Ireland. To Dublin is due probably the earliest Irish record of this kind, viz.—“A General Catalogue of Books in all Languages, Arts and Sciences, printed in Dublin, from the year 1700 to the present time, *i.e.* 1791 : Dublin, Peter Hoey, Bookseller.” On books printed in Dublin in the Sixteenth Century, that in which printing was first introduced into Ireland, the late Sir John T. Gilbert read a paper before the Royal Irish Academy, which is as yet unpublished ; and just now an eminent bibliophile, Mr. E. R. McC. Dix, of Dublin, is bringing out an annotated work on the “Books printed in Dublin in the Seventeenth Century,” of which Part I. is all that has as yet been issued : Dublin, O’Donoghue & Co. Like these other Irish cities, Limerick is not without its typographical quota of this sort ; and the aim of the present paper is to show what Limerick has thus added, in one form or other, to the general literature of Ireland, including also, books of recent date.

Dr. Madden’s valuable work on *Irish Periodical Literature*, London, 1867, it is disappointing to find, tells us little or nothing as to early Limerick books. “Limerick,” he rather slightly remarks, “cannot be said to have manifested much intellectual life at an early period. A Diocesan School had been established there pursuant to an Act of the 12th year of Queen Elizabeth’s reign, but it was never well supported, and long previous to 1827 it existed only in name.”

More satisfactory, however, is Dr. Madden’s notice of the first Limerick newspapers, which he enumerates as follows:—*The Limerick Chronicle*, printed by Mr. J. Ferrar, author of the History of Limerick, Limerick, 1766. Various dates, writes Dr. Madden, are assigned to the *Chronicle’s* first year of issue. Archdeacon Cotton in his *Typographical Gazeteer*, says “it first appeared in 1767” ; Ryland, the Waterford historian, speaks of it as in being in 1766 ; Pinkerton, in *Notes and Queries*, London, December 1854, states that “it commenced in 1768” ; whilst the late Mr. Maurice Lenihan gives 1766, in his “History of Limerick,” first published in 1866, Dublin, which latter volume, Dr. Madden considers “An excellent work, and one of the best modern local histories.”

The Munster Journal, printed and published in Limerick for the proprietor, by Andrew Welsh, Limerick, 1766. This venerable broadsheet established by an energetic citizen of Limerick, was claimed by Mr. Lenihan as the oldest Munster Journal; but this Dr. Madden states it certainly was not. Its publisher, Andrew Welsh, was ancestor of the Welsh family of Newton Park, Co. Clare; and he was also publisher of the *Magazine of Magazines*, referred to below. A contemporary of Welsh (continues Dr. Madden) was William Goggin, a printer of some notoriety—"The great chap-book and ballad printer," whose shop was dignified with the name of Shakespeare; Goggin also published a very "trashy" magazine, of whose title Dr. Madden has not troubled to inform his readers.

The Munster Journal, which is said to have been the only periodical publication that then existed in the Province of Munster, was not much in advance of its Provincial Irish Contemporaries; yet, adds Dr. Madden, "it was well supported for more than half a century, and its proprietor realised a handsome independence from it." *The Munster Journal* merged later on into *The Limerick Chronicle*, whose proprietor in 1787 was Edward Flynn. In 1866, *The Limerick Chronicle* had reached the venerable age of 100 years, and was then owned by Mr. Hosford and Mrs. Sarah Bassett.

The Limerick Journal, printed by Mr. Edward Flynn, Limerick, 1787. This journal enjoyed the patronage of Lord Chancellor Clare, and was, consequently, Dr. Madden observes, "not vehemently liberal or patriotic." Flynn who was a Catholic, had been agent for Lord Clare, and reaped a rich harvest by the publication of the Government Proclamations of that day.

The Limerick Herald was started by Dr. Hargreaves, Limerick, in 1787. In McGregor and Fitzgerald's *Limerick*, it is stated that it was commenced by Dr. Hargreaves in 1786 or 1787, and was conducted for some years with considerable ability.

The Limerick Herald and Munster Advertiser, was printed and published by Robert Law, Limerick, 1788-9. It made its first appearance in the beginning of January, 1788, and was published twice a week, price twopence. Its politics, if anything, were ultra-Tory; and according to Dr. Madden—"No provincial paper of the time surpassed *The Limerick Herald* in stupidity." McGregor and Fitzgerald's

History of Limerick, Dublin, 1827, states that at one time there were four newspapers in Limerick; but in 1827, only two, viz: *The Limerick Chronicle*, a bi-weekly, published by Messrs. H. and A. Watson, and *The Limerick Evening Post*, published by Mr. Geary, both papers of moderate politics.

The Magazine of Magazines, above-mentioned, was thought by Mr. Lenihan to have begun in 1740; but Dr. Madden assigns 1747 as the date of its origin; whilst Cotton (second series) says it was in 1730!!! In 1754, it was printed and published by its originator, Andrew Welsh. It contained no original matter, and was professedly selected from thirteen English and French periodical pamphlets, magazines, literary journals and other publications. In Power's *List of Irish Periodical Publications*, 1866, it is, however stated, that four pages of original Irish matter were usually added at the end of each number. Vols. 1-20 and 22 (1751-61), of the Limerick *Magazine of Magazines*, are in the British Museum [PP. 6187F]. Power's *List of Irish Periodical Publications* furnishes us with the title of another Limerick periodical, viz.—*The Limerick Magazine*, a number of which, issued in 1830, was bound up with other works in the Dublin Library, in a volume of pamphlets, No. XXVI. (This Library is I believe, no longer in existence).

The Limerick Magazine was thought to have been the earliest Limerick printed work, whose first appearance is assigned to 1752; but we have still earlier works in (1) *A Collection of Resolutions, Queries, &c.*, Written on Occasion of the Present Dispute in the City of Limerick, relating to the Trade and Taxes of the City, &c.; octavo, Limerick, printed by Andrew Welsh, 1749. And (2) Charles Lucas's *Letters to the Commons and Citizens of Dublin*: Limerick, 1749.

Among the successors of this work were the following:—

Juvenile Poems, by George (?) Roberts; Limerick, 1763. The Orphan; or, the Happy Marriage, a Tragedy; and some Miscellaneous Poems, by John Ferrar; octavo, Limerick, 1765. An History of the City of Limerick, carefully transcribed from Manuscripts of impartial writers, compiled from the most authentic accounts, and embellished with the Arms of the City, &c. By John Ferrar; 12mo, Limerick, 1767. Limerick Directory, to which is added a Schedule

of the City Duties and Customs ; octavo, Limerick, 1769. *Insula Sacra* ; or the General Utilities, arising from some Permanent Foundation for the Preservation of our Ancient Annals Demonstrated ; and the Means pointed out. By S. O'Halloran ; octavo ; T. Welsh, Limerick, 1770. *The Popish Mass, Celebrated by Heathen Priests for the Living and the Dead for several ages before the Birth of Christ.* By Andrew Meagher ; octavo, Limerick, 1771. *Works in Verse*, by Daniel Hayes, of Limerick ; new edition ; small octavo, Limerick, 1785. [To Daniel Hayes, whose poems were written in the style of Rochester, was ascribed the original authorship of the Tragedy of Hamlet. A volume of his poetical works was published in London in 1769. Hayes's monument is still to be seen in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick]. *The History of Limerick ; Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Military, from the Earliest Records to the year 1787.* To which is added the Charter of Limerick, and an Essay on the Castleconnell Spa ; octavo. By John Ferrar ; Limerick, 1787. *The Charter Party ; or Articles of Agreement of the Friendly Annuity Society ; octavo.* Flinn, Limerick, 1792. Report of William Chapman on the Means of Making Woodford River Navigable from Lough Erne to Woodford Lough, as an off-branch from the Lough Erne and Ballyshannon Navigation ; 12mo. Limerick, 1793.

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(*To be continued*).

NOTE.—Other books were printed in Limerick in the last century. To assist in completing the list, members who may know of any such should send us the particulars for insertion in the next number of the JOURNAL. [EDITOR].

Literary Notes.—Since our last issue the *Quarterly Journals of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ireland*, have contained many items of local interest. In Part 2, Vol. viii., the paper on “St. Mary's Cathedral, its plan and growth,” by Mr. T. G. Westropp, M.A., is completed. This is a valuable contribution to the history of St. Mary's. The writer is justly very severe, when referring to some recent “improvements” to the west entrance, and his remarks on the subject of restoration generally deserve attention. He writes “. . . recent experience has again shown how essential it is to secure accurate records of the features of our ancient churches still used for worship. Even yet a legacy, donation, or successful collection is able at any time to inaugurate such extensive “improvements”

and "restorations" as may, in a few months, replace many valuable relics of ancient work by the inanities of some ambitious modern architect, *vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas.*" The letter from the Board of Works to the Council of the R.S.A.I., in reference to King's castle, Kilmallock, (the Journal has it King John's castle, which is an error) is also published in Part 2, Vol. viii. The Board offers to complete the works of repair to the castle, provided the forge at present occupying the ground floor is removed. We believe the smith still occupies the forge, a fact not very creditable to the public opinion of Kilmallock. The number for December quarter, '98, contains a paper on the prehistoric remains in Burren, Co. Clare, and notes on forts near Loop Head, by Mr. T. G. Westropp, M.A. On the latter he remarks—"Going down the coast from Kilkee we meet with several examples of the "cliff forts," or cliff castles, common in Celtic districts, on the spurs of the Alps and the Vosges, and the coasts of France and our islands A monograph on these cliff forts round our coasts is a desideratum in archaeology." He furnishes a map of the coast line for about a mile north and south of Loop Head, showing the position of seven forts; let us hope some members of the Limerick Field Club will utilise their next vacation by compiling notes and particulars of the many others which lie eastwards on to Kilkee. The last issue of the JOURNAL has a particular interest for the members of the L. F. C., as it contains a paper on Caherconree, by Mr. P. J. Lynch, Hon. Sec. of the Archæological Section, illustrated from photographs taken by the Hon. Sec. of the Photographic Section, Surgeon Fogerty, R.N. The Club may claim credit for the members having performed such a very useful work as obtaining reliable information regarding this fort, which is one of the most interesting of our national monuments.

Waterford and S.E. of Ireland Archæological Society.—The quarterly publications of this Society are most interesting. The papers on ancient ruined churches, Co. Waterford, by Rev. P. Power; the History and Topography of the parish of Hook, by G. O'C. Redmond, M.D.; and Ancient Waterford families, by P. Higgins, F.R.S.A., in the December number, show how much can be done towards preserving the history of a district by the members of local societies.

Cork Historical and Archæological Society.—The publications of this Society, which are now issued quarterly, maintain their high standard of excellence. In No. 39 (Sept., 1898) there is an interesting list of old priests in the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, compiled from records of the Probate Court. Mr. Robert Day, F.S.A., continues his paper on the "Mementoes of the Irish Volunteers," the illustrations to which are a special feature well deserving of praise. The article on Newport's Waterford Bank, by Rev. W. P. Burke, is a valuable record in the commercial history of Waterford. In it a passing notice is made to the closing of Maunsell's bank in Limerick in the commercial panic of 1820. The paper itself is written, as the author states, because the subject deserves a fuller notice than it received in a former paper in the Cork journal by Mr. C. M. Tenison, B.L., on "The private bankers of Cork and South of Ireland." For the same reason some interesting articles should be forthcoming for this Journal, on the private banks of Maunsell & Co., George E. Bruce & Co., Furnell & Co., Thomas and William Roche, and other banks which flourished in Limerick in the early portion of this century, and which received but a brief notice from Mr. Tenison in the Journal of the Cork H. and A.S. (No. 17, vol. ii). In an article in No. 39, vol. iv, Rev. Canon Courtenay Moore, M.A., has collected many records of the North Cork Regiment of Militia. We refer to this paper not so much for any special merit it may possess, as for its suggestiveness when considering subjects which might suitably find a place in the journal of a local society.

Ulster Journal of Archæology.—In addition to various learned articles on archæological subjects, in the last number of this Journal, is commenced "Personal recollections of the beginning of the century," by Thomas McTear, edited by F. J. Bigger, M.R.I.A., dealing principally with Belfast. It is enriched with illustrations of old streets, and houses, now improved beyond all recognition, or removed, and is a contribution to local history, which promises to be most interesting to the citizens of the northern capital.

The Reliquary.—In the current number there are two articles on Irish subjects,—one on the famous abbey of Timoleague, by H. Erlington; the other on Early Christian art in Ireland, by Miss Stokes. Miss Stokes's essay is highly interesting and suggestive. She throws light from a new source on the debated question whether

the "Divine Comedy" was of spontaneous growth or linked to a cycle of older works. There seems no doubt now that the supreme singer's immortal song was linked to a long cycle of older works, and that Ireland supplied not a few links in the memorable chain. Forty-four years ago Palgrave* drew the attention of the literary world to the visions of Irish Fursa, and gave antiquaries an interest in the lichen-encrusted ruins of his cell by the Yare. Others have directed attention to the visions of Brendan and Adamnan. Palgrave also drew attention to the fading traces of grotesque designs on the walls of East Anglican churches. And now, for the first time, Miss Stokes shows that certain incidents in the Inferno and Paradiso have their prototypes on the bas-relief of the cross of Monasterboice.

Limerick's Historical Documents.—It is now thirty years since the late Sir J. F. Gilbert, LL.D., made the following report—published in a Government Blue Book in 1874—on the historical documents of Limerick. The list is rather a meagre one, even compared with like possessions of other towns in Ireland whose past history, as we know, was not favourable to forming collections of this kind; but there can be little doubt that many other historical manuscripts relating to Limerick and its vicinity are still in existence, and it is to be hoped that contributions of this class may appear from time to time in the JOURNAL OF THE LIMERICK FIELD CLUB.

"The following two documents, inspected by me at the Limerick Town Hall, are stated to be the only old records now in the possession of the Municipal Corporation of that city:—

"1. 'Inspeximus, by Oliver Cromwell, of enrolment of Letters Patent to Limerick, dated at Westminster, 3rd of March, in the 6th year of James I., attested by Charles Fleetwood, "Deputy General of the Dominion of Ireland," the five and twentieth day of May, 1657.'

"2. 'Inspeximus, dated Dublin, 20th of February, twenty-second year of Charles II., of enrolment of Letters Patent to

* See Palgrave's History of Normandy and England, vol. i, p. 163-4. The Irish Fursey, of whom Palgrave writes was son of Fintan, a West Kerry prince, and born about 570. He was educated by St. Brendan. In his visions he represents Saints Meldanus and Beanus as appearing to him, and communicating the mysteries of the world behind the veil. They were to him what Virgil was to Dante.

Limerick, under Great Seal of England, dated Westminster, 3rd of March, sixth of James 1.'

"The manuscripts in the hands of Maurice Lenihan, Esq., of Limerick, include the following:—A volume of about 400 pages, small quarto, closely written, by Thomas Arthur Fitzwilliam, a physician of eminence in Ireland during the first half of the seventeenth century.

"A small quarto volume of an English version of part of *Cambrensis*, entitled 'The Copy of an Auntient Monument of the First Conquest of Ireland, in the Reign of King Henry, Second of that Name, King of England'; Richard Robinson, scriptor *hujus libri*, Anno Domini 1575, Febr. 15.

"Commission for Applotment in Territories, called Birne's Country and Cosha, in the County of Wicklow, in lieu of composition for cess of soldiers, set down and agreed upon at Wicklow, 20th July, 1616, with autograph of Sir William Parsons.

"Collections for History of Limerick by the Rev. James White, Parish Priest of St. Mary's, Limerick, in the last century.

"Two volumes and a quantity of loose papers from the Consistorial Court of Killaloe, extending from 1671 to 1780, comprising memorials, licenses for marriages, wills, inventories of properties, with autographs. In the front of the second volume 'is a list of records and instruments in the Registry of Killaloe, 1713.'"

J. C.

NOTE.—The MSS. of the late Mr. Lenihan have passed from his family,—the Fitzwilliam Diary, we believe, to the British Museum; the remainder to the Rev. Timothy Lee, St. John's, except the Killaloe MSS., which are with the Rev. Dr. O'Riordan, St. Michael's, Limerick.—EDITORS.

Ogam Stone in Limerick.—In a letter which recently appeared in *The Limerick Chronicle* Mr. P. J. Lynch referred to a stone with an Ogam inscription, which may possibly still be in Limerick. The stone was found in 1837 near Rathkeale by a Mr. Hall of that town. Brash gives the inscription on the stone, as copied by Mr. Windele in 1840. The finder presented the stone to Mr. John Browne, of Mt. Browne, who handed it over to the Limerick Philosophical Society. This Society afterwards was broken

up, and its collection, including the Ogam, disappeared. It would be useful to know what became of this collection. Some historical notes in reference to the Philosophical Society, which at one time was very flourishing, would be interesting.

Obituary.—We regret to have to record the loss of a distinguished Irish antiquary, and a member of this Club, Miss Mary Agnes Hickson, who died at Mitchelstown on the 6th April, at the age of 73 years. She was the daughter of the late Mr. John James Hickson, Solicitor, of Tralee, who was connected by marriage and descent with many of the Elizabethan families in Kerry. She was a woman of undoubted talents, and the labours of her life may be said to have been almost entirely devoted to the study of the history and topography of her native county. Her opinions on some of the events in the chequered history of this island were not such as a perfectly unbiased historian (if such there be) could agree with; but this is not the time, or the place, to inquire into them. Her learned inquiries into our ancient records, and her valuable contributions to historic literature will always remain worthy of the highest praise. She was buried in the new cemetery, Tralee.

Natural Science.

Ornithology.—It may interest readers of the JOURNAL to know that one of the smallest British migratory birds, the *Grasshopper Warbler* (*Locustella nevia*), is a regular visitor during the Summer to Limerick, and that it may be heard along the northern banks of the Shannon near Parteen, and also in the neighbourhood of Barrington's Pier.

The Dipper (*cinclus aquaticus*) breeds near Plassy, a pair having regularly nested for several years close to the Mill, some two miles above the city, on the Shannon. On one occasion a young bird, out of the nest, but not yet able to fly, was observed beside the tail race, the deeper parts of which it entered freely, using its wings under the water, as if in flight, thus crossing from side to side very quickly. Is this a usual habit of the bird when in deep water?

Entomology.—*Grasshoppers* belong to the order of insects known scientifically as *Orthoptera*, signifying that their wings are straight. They are usually associated with warm weather, fine days, and dry fields. One member of the family has, however, been noticed swimming in water at Adare in the month of May, and others of a different sort at Mountshannon in June, both being, to all appearance, quite at home in so doing. This habit has apparently escaped notice elsewhere.

The *Brimstone Butterfly* (*Gomopteryx rhamni*) has been observed during the past few years in County Clare, at Cratloe, Finlough, Broadford, and near Lloyd's Glen, also in the City of Limerick. The exclusive food plant of its *larva* is said to be Buckthorn, (*Rhamnus catharticus*, or *Rhamnus frangula*,) neither of which shrubs have been yet noticed as growing in any of the places named.

Small Whites (*Pieris rapæ*) were on the wing this year (1899) unusually early, one having been seen near Limerick on the 17th March. They do not generally emerge from the pupa until April, the exact date depending on the warmth of the season.

