

ANDREW CHERRY.

Cherry's ancestors, according to himself, resided on a considerable estate near Sheffield, whence one of them came to Ireland with King William's Army and settled on an estate near Croom. This was lost by the dissipation of his grandfather. Be that as it may, Cherry was the son of John Cherry, a Limerick printer and bookseller, and was born on 11th January, 1762.

His early youth, like his ancestry, is in doubt. He himself says he received a good education, but this cannot be reconciled with a statement that he left the Limerick Grammar School at the age of eleven and was apprenticed to James Potts, a Dublin printer. When only fourteen he appeared as an amateur in Addison's "Cato" in Dublin and shortly after joined a poor strolling company under the management of a Mr. Martin. While with this company he seems to have played the dual role of actor and printer, but in spite of this, was constantly on the verge of starvation, being on one occasion three days without food.

For a time he returned to his old job in Dublin, but after three years at it, joined another company under Richard Knipe's management, married the manager's daughter after her father's death, and was soon playing leading parts in "the principal provincial company of Ireland," Mr. Atkins'. In 1786 Cherry became a member of the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin and for five years enjoyed a high reputation and was known familiarly as "Little Cherry."

In 1791 he joined Tate Wilkinson's Company and toured England with his wife. Jealousy of another actor caused him to break with Wilkinson and in 1794 he returned for two seasons to the Dublin stage. In 1796 he appeared in Manchester, in 1798 in Bath, and on 25th September, 1802, he first appeared at the Drury Lane Theatre

in London where several of his own plays were produced. About the year 1807 he became manager of a theatrical company in Wales. He died at Monmouth on 12th February, 1812.

Tate Wilkinson said of Cherry:—"He possesses great merit, and has the peculiar excellence as a comedian that when he has to perform a character not so suited to his genius and abilities, yet still it is not Cherry, but the character so justly conceived, that you perceive the skill of the artist perhaps more when he is out of his walk than when in."

Cherry wrote many pieces for the stage, but none of them has stood the test of time. Among them are:—"Harlequin on the Stocks," 1793; "The Outcasts," 1796; "The Soldier's Daughter," 1804; "All for Fame," 1805; "The Travellers," 1806; "Spanish Dollars," 1805; "Peter The Great or The Wooden Walls," 1807; "A Day in London," 1807. His plays are well constructed but have little literary merit, although "The Soldier's Daughter" ran to twelve editions between 1804 and 1805.

Portraits of Cherry were painted by De Wilde, for the Monthly Memoir, and by Harding

He is best remembered in Limerick as the author of "The Dear Little Shamrock," and for his reply to the manager who offered him a contract but who had not paid him for the previous one—"Sir—You have bitten once, and I am resolved you shall not make two bites of A. CHERRY."

THOMAS GRADY.

Thomas Grady, barrister and satirical poet, was born in the County Limerick in the last quarter of the 18th century. He was no very great success in the courts, never rising above the position of assistant-barrister. He first appears in public