

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

on 9th December, 1799, when the Bar convened to discuss the Union. Grady was one of the few barristers who spoke for the Union and part of his speech has been recorded by Sir Jonah Barrington:

“The Irish are only the rump of an aristocracy. Shall I visit posterity with a system of war, pestilence and famine? No. Give me a Union. United with that country where all is peace, order and prosperity. Without a Union we shall see embryo chief justices, attorney-generals in perspective and animalcula sergeants. . . .” It is said that, for his speech on that occasion, Grady was made a County Judge worth £600 per annum. Later in life he was made Postmaster to the Limerick Post Office.

Grady lived at Belmont, Castleconnell, a house still in existence. Known in Limerick as “Spectacle Grady,” on account of his shortsightedness and to distinguish him from another barrister of the same name, Grady acquired an enviable reputation at the Bar for his wit, and an unenviable one for his bitter satire. O’Connell used say of him—“No one but Tom Grady could have ruined Tom Grady.”

Not receiving the promotion he expected at the Bar, Grady retired, and, as a fellow-lawyer said of him, became “an exile from society in his own house.” He began to write satirical poetry here, mercilessly criticising anybody who crossed him in highly polished and elegant satires. Grady was almost a great poet and if he had written verse of a more pleasing nature, might have rivalled Moore for his laurels as a song-maker.

In the Limerick of his period there was a banker named Bruce, who was a notorious profligate and cheat. He fell foul of Grady by calling in too suddenly a loan of £1,300, which Grady had of him on excellent security. Grady revenged himself in a vicious and merciless lampoon on Bruce. “The Nosegay,” and, of course, Bruce took a libel action

against him for £20,000. However, the Limerick Grand Jury seemed to think that most of the libels were true and awarded Bruce the nominal damages of £500. Even this small amount Grady refused to pay, and left the country for life to evade paying it. He died at Boulogne in or around the year 1863.

Besides "The Nosegay," Grady also wrote "The Flesh-brush," a satire in verse, for Lady Clare; the "West Briton," a long poem advocating the Union of Great Britain and Ireland; the "Bar-rister," a satire on the legal profession; "Sir Phelim O'Shaughnessy," and the "Two-penny Postbag." He also edited a report of his trial by Bruce, which everybody else refused to publish, and to which he prefixed an account of the proceedings which led up to it.

Most of "The Nosegay" is unfit for present-day quotation; but perhaps the following short extract will give some idea of the force and power of Grady's verse—

Come Bruce—for tardy justice takes her seat,
 Convicted usurer! convicted cheat!
 In every mischief, actor or abettor,
 Self-vaunted infidel, and tampering traitor.

Grady's verse was highly thought of by Grattan and Curran, Moore and O'Connell. Goold, Bruce's lawyer in his opening address at the trial of Grady, compared the poems malignity with the bold invective of Juvenal or Persius, and its condensed powers of expression with those of Pope. It was no exaggeration, but the unsavouriness of its subject has caused the poem to suffer from a greater neglect than its literary merit deserves.

CHARLOTTE GRACE O'BRIEN.

Charlotte Grace O'Brien, author and social worker, second daughter of William Smith O'Brien