

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

by his wife, Lucy Caroline Gabbett, of High Park, was born at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick, on 23rd of November, 1845, the year of the first great potato shortage in Ireland.

During her childhood, she witnessed many of the harrowing scenes which famine brought to the country; and her father was transported when she was three years old and not allowed to return until she was eleven. Thus Charlotte was born to be a rebel and remained so all her life.

This spirit first showed itself in a novel of the Fenian Rising of 1869, "Light and Shade," which was published in 1878. The material for this novel was gathered by word of mouth from the Fenian leaders, and Stephen Gwynn, her nephew, says of it:—"It is violent, even dramatic in incident; it lacks the power of characterisation, but it has many passages of beauty. . ."

Smith O'Brien died in 1864 but Charlotte continued to live with her married brother at Cahermoyle until 1879, when she went to Ardanoir, overlooking Foynes Island. Here she spent the rest of her life.

In 1880 her first volume of verse, "Drama and Lyrics," was published and in the same year she showed her interest in Irish politics and economics by writing "The Irish Poor Man," an article for the "Nineteenth Century" magazine. She became a staunch supporter of Parnell, and this led her to her life's work, the care of the poor emigrating Irish.

In articles and letters to the newspapers and reviews, she exposed the awful conditions existing in the Queenstown (Cobh) lodginghouses, on board the emigrant ships, and in the dock-slums of New York, where the Irish had to stay on landing. She travelled twice to Liverpool to see conditions on the boats for herself, and her exposure of them caused a great sensation and a marked

improvement in them. She opened a cheap and well-conducted hostel in Cobh and ran it herself. She even went to America and by arousing the interest of the Catholic clergy and the Irish politicians was responsible for the establishment of good and cheap hostels there.

But like many another Irish social worker, Charlotte's work was suspect. About this time several English "philanthropists" offered £5 to any Irishman who emigrated. The scheme was backed by the Government, and Charlotte O'Brien was accused of being a British agent to encourage emigration. In spite of this accusation, she continued at her good work, until she thought sufficient had been done and that the emigrants could travel like human beings, and no longer as beasts.

In the meantime she found time to write two more books of verse, "Lyrics," appearing in 1886, and "Cahermoyle, or the Old Home," about the same year. When the Gaelic League was formed she became interested and worked hard for the revival of the language, and harder still for the revival of Irish industries. It is recorded that when she attended an aeridheacht at Abbeyfeale, in 1905, when she was sixty years old, she stood up on the platform, described in what part of Ireland each garment she had on came from and entreated her audience to buy nothing but Irish goods.

She became a Catholic before her death in 1909 and is buried on the top of Knockpatrick, overlooking her beloved Foynes, the spot of which she wrote in 1890:—"That's the place for me: grand. The wind was sweeping up from the Atlantic, the sky was heavy with broken clouds, the mid-air bearing mountain drifts of rain, the river grim and wild, the Fergus desolate and grey, the bogland black, and a big heap of human bones at my feet. My ! how weird it looked. The

grandest place in this world to my individuality; may my grave be there, and no other earth hold my bones."

JOHN GUBBINS.

John Gubbins, breeder and owner of race-horses, was the fourth son of Joseph Gubbins, of Kilfrush, Co. Limerick, by his wife, Maria Wise, of Cork. He was born on 16th December, 1838.

His elder brother, Stamer, was six feet six inches tall, became a Captain during the Crimean War, and distinguished himself there by discarding his sword and using a heavy blackthorn stick. On his return to Ireland he bred horses on his estate at Knockany, until, at the early age of forty-six, he died from the results of a fall from one of his untrained horses.

John inherited his brother's property as well as a large fortune from his uncle, Thomas Wise, of Cork. He bought another estate at Bruree and spent £40,000 in building kennels and stables, and buying horses and hounds. He was a keen sportsman all his life, hunting with the Limerick Stag and Fox Hounds, fishing, and riding in races. As a young man he rode many winners at Punchestown and other Irish race-courses. He was also owner of Seaman, which won the Grand National for Lord Manners in 1882.

His two most famous horses were Galtee More and Ard Patrick. He bred Galtee More from Kendal out of Morganette, and having won the Derby, the St. Leger and the Two Thousand Guineas with this horse in 1897, he sold it to the Russian Government for £21,000, and they in turn sold it to the Prussian Government later for £14,000. Ard Patrick, which was bred by St. Florian out of the same mare, was sold to the Prussian Government for £21,000 a few days before it won the Eclipse Stakes of 1903, value £10,000.