

Tuomy and his friend, Andrew McGrath, "the merry pedlar," had many a wordy battle. In one of these Tuomy wrote to Andrew in the well-known five-lined verse, with the third and fourth lines short, now known as a limerick. McGrath replied in the same metre. It is probable that this was the origin of the term "limerick" for such verses. O'Tuomy wrote:—

I sell the best brandy and sherry
 To make my good customers merry;
 But, at times their finances,
 Run short, as it chances,
 And then I feel very sad, very.

And McGrath replied:—

O Tuomy, you boast yourself handy
 At selling good ale and bright brandy,
 But the fact is your liquor
 Makes everyone sicker,
 I tell you that, I, your friend Andy.

Tuomy's poems are mostly illustrative of his own condition and habits of life, and they show that he must have received a more than average education. He died in Limerick City on 31st August, 1775, and his corpse was borne to his ancestral burial place at Croom by a "numerous assemblage of the bards of Munster and others of his friends."

John O'Daly, a contemporary poet, read the following elegy over his grave:—

O woe, O sorrow, waking heartwring sighs,
 Our guide, our prop, our stay,
 In Croom, beneath an unhewn flag-stone lies,
 While the stranger treads his clay.
 'Tis seventeen hundred years—the account is true—
 And seventy-five this day,
 Since Christ, His death, that we by death lost you,
 O'Tuomy, once the Gay.

SIR JOHN MacNAMARA HAYES, M.D.

Sir John MacNamara Hayes, M.D., the son of John Hayes and Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Sheedy MacNamara of Ballyalla, Co. Clare, and

the great-grandson of Colonel Edmund Hayes, was born in Limerick in the year 1750.

He took his degree at Rheims and then served in the British Naval and Military Forces, respectively. His name was frequently mentioned in dispatches from North America during the War of Independence, and he also served in the West Indies. On his return to England in 1791 he was appointed physician extraordinary to the Prince of Wales, created a Baronet for his service in America, and obtained the post of Inspector-General of the Military Department of Woolwich.

When Lord Cloncurry was imprisoned in the Tower of London, Hayes attended him and was prepared to give him a certificate which would lead to his release; but this kindly act towards his own countryman was foiled by another physician who refused to co-operate.

James Roche, the Limerick Banker and author of "Essays of an Octogenarian," describes Hayes—"This gentleman was a native of Limerick, the son of a respectable shoemaker, who gave him an education that enabled him to obtain the appointment of surgeon during the American War on Board the vessel in which Prince William Henry, afterwards William IV., entered the naval service. He soon attracted the notice of the royal sailor, whose unvarying protection he long enjoyed and, from his talents and character, well deserved. After years of absence, he paid in or about 1783 a short visit to his parents, whom my father, in compliment to him, who brought a letter of introduction, invited to dinner together with him. I well recollect how much the humble but excellent couple obviously felt out of their element in unwonted society, while their son had acquired all the forms of polished life."

Sir John Hayes married Anne, eldest daughter of Henry White, one of the Council of New York.

She died on the 18th January, 1848, leaving two sons and two daughters. Hayes himself died in London on 19th July, 1809, aged 59 years, and was buried in St. James's Piccadilly. Over his grave is the inscription:—

“Sacred to the memory of Sir John MacNamara Hayes, Baronet, Inspector-General of the Medical Department of the Ordnance. Sir John was raised to the Baronetage in 1797, as a reward for his services, and died in 1809, aged fifty-nine, beloved and respected by all who knew him.”

STANDISH HAYES O'GRADY.

Standish Hayes O'Grady, greatest of modern Irish scholars was born at Castleconnell in the year 1832. Son to Admiral O'Grady, nephew to the first Viscount Guillamore, educated at Rugby and Trinity College, O'Grady's love of the Irish language conquered all other influences and he spent his youth wandering the Limerick countryside collecting folk tales and customs, the friend of O'Curry, O'Donovan and O'Longan. His apprenticeship stood him in good stead when he came to edit his most famous work the “*Silva Gadelica*,” in which he translates the Irish tales into an English peculiarly his own, but also peculiarly suited to the Irish originals.

In his introduction to this work, O'Grady writes:—“*Silva Gadelica* is far from being exclusively or even primarily designed for the omniscient impeccable leviathans of science that headlong sound the linguistic ocean to its most horrid depths, and, in the intervals of ramming each other, ply their flukes on such audacious fry as even on the mere surface will venture within their danger.”

He was hard on the Anti-Irish writers, and of Richard Stanyhurst, the 16th century Dublin-born