Herbert, of Cahirnane, where, possibly, Crumpe was born. There is a saying in Kerry which commorates either this man's or a namesake's proficiency: "Ta se comh maith le Doctuir Crumpe."

In May, 1792, Crumpe married Susan, the second daughter of the Reverend Jaques Ingram, at Kilfintane, " an accomplished lady with a large fortune." He had at least two children, a son whom he named Daniel George Washington Crumpe, and who, overburthened with the responsibility of his nomenclature, lived only two months after his christening; and a daughter, who was still alive in 1826.

Crumpe gained no small celebrity by the publication of " An Inquiry into the Nature and Properties of Opium, in 1793. It was translated into German. Although he was a busy practitioner and spent a lot of his time tending the poor of Limerick, he did not confine his activities to medical work, and in the same year gained a medal of the Royal Irish Academy for his " Essay on the Best Means of Providing Employment for the People of Ireland." This also was translated into German and considered extremely valuable by Lecky and other Irish historians. Its principles are sound and it is free from prejudice of any kind. It establishes Crumpe as a sensible and kind-hearted man, a true patriot and a zealous philanthropist.

Crumpe accomplished all this work before he was 27 years old. He died in Limerick on the 27th January, 1796, aged 29, as the result of a fever said to have been contracted in the course of his work.

He was buried outside the west door of St. Mary's Cathedral, and the inscription on his tomb reads:

" Were his contemporaries to live forever monuments of his talents, it would be unnecessary to eternize his name. But as they also must decend into the grave, it is a just due to the memory of departed worth to inform posterity that beneath this stone is interred a man who to eminent talents, profound judgement and extensive knowledge, added integrity of heart, benevolence of disposition and suavity of manners. As a son, a husband, a parent, a friend, his conduct was such as to merit the tenderest love of those with whom he was connected, the warm approbation and esteem of all to whom he was known."

THOMAS DERMODY

Thomas Dermody, poet, Ireland's most precocious and most erratic genius, was born in Ennis on the 17th January, 1775. At the age of nine he was employed as classical teacher in his father's school, and had already acquired from his father a love for literature and the bottle. Ridiculous though it sounds, on his beloved brother's death in 1785, Thomas determined to give up drink and set out for Dublin with two shillings in his pocket.

He became assistant to a Dublin bookseller, to whose son he

also taught Latin, and while there, he became acquainted with many learned and influential Dubliners, each of whom in turn, helped Dermody until his dissolute conduct compelled them, in despair of effecting a reformation, to drop him. First there was Dr. Houlton, a professor of Trinity, then Mr. Owenson the actor, then the Rev. Gilbert Austin, a Dublin schoolmaster who published a volume of Dermody's poems at his own expense, then a Mr. Atkinson with whom Dermody stayed for some time, and finally the Dowager Countess of Moira.

During this time Dermody was improving his knowledge of European literature and the classics, a knowledge which is abundantly evident in his later poems; but he couldn't or he wouldn't improve his way of living. "I am vicious," he said, "because I like it." Lord Chief Justice Kilwarden offered to pay his fees at Trinity College as well as to allow him £30 per annum until his studies were complete, but Dermody, by this time fonder of the gutter than the College Hall, refused to accept the offer.

All this happened before Dermody was nineteen years old. At this age, he enlisted in the army and behaved uncommonly well under military discipline. He became corporal, sergeant and eventually 2nd lieutenant, served with distinction and was wounded in France, and on his return to England, was retired on half-pay.

In London Dermody resumed his former dissolute habits, and was again lucky in his choice of patron, J. Grant Raymond, who later wrote his biography and now assisted him to publish a second volume of verse. However, in spite of Raymond's help and several contributions from the Royal Literary Fund, he could not be saved. Penniless and broken down in body and mind, from the effects of disease and privation, he died in a miserable hovel near London at the early age of twenty-seven, a monument to genius mis-applied and golden opportunities cast away. He was buried at Lewisham, where a monument with a lengthy inscription marks his grave.

Whatever has been said of his morals, none has ever criticised Dermody's literary integrity. His biographer wrote of him: —"There is scarcely a style of composition in which he did not excel. The descriptive, the ludicrous, the didactic, the sublime—each, when occasion required, he treated with skill, with acute remark, imposing humour, profound reflection and lofty magnificence."

In addition to a volume of verse published when he was seventeen, Dermody also published a pamphlet on the French Revolution in 1793, "The Rights of Justice or Rational Liberty"; to which he annexed a poem entitled "The Reform." "Poems, Moral and Descriptive, 1880," and "Poems on Various Subjects, 1802." In 1806, Raymond published the "Life of Thomas

Dermody, interspersed with pieces of original poetry"; and in 1807 "The Harp of Erin, or the Poetical Works of the late Thomas Dermody," also in two volumes.

AUBREY THOMAS DE VERE

Aubrey Thomas de Vere, poet and author, was born at Curragh Chase on 10th January, 1814, the third son of Sir Aubrey de Vere, the poet, the younger brother of Sir Stephen de Vere, translator of Horace, and the grandson of Sir Vere Hunt, diarist, member of Parliament, theatrical manager and what not. There is a memorable passage in the latter's diary describing the birth of Aubrey, which seems now to have been prophetic: —

"Frost increasing but weather delightful. Pigeons, rooks, robins, sparrows, magpies, blackbirds, thrushes and water-wagtails in affectionate intimacy, crowding about the house for hospitable consideration of potato-skins, oats, barley, bread crumbs and offals. Gratified the humanity of my disposition in feeding them. This morning at half-past one, our dear Mary was happily delivered of a fine boy after an illness of only one hour. Kit was sent off to Rathkeale for that paragon of mid-wives, Mrs. Flin, but Providence, aided and assisted by Kitty and Mrs. Gamble, was good, and before the arrival of the lady doctor, a little Aubrey travelled into this wicked world, who, I pray God, may live long, be healthy, happy and equal to his father in disposition, talent and goodness."

De Vere was educated by a tutor, and at the age of eighteen was already contributing poetry to the National Magazine. In 1832 he entered Trinity College with a view to taking Orders, but although he never fully gave up the idea, he seems to have drifted along without doing so. While here he became the intimate friend of Sir William Rowan Hamilton, the poet and mathematician.

After graduating in 1837, he travelled to England and the Continent, met Cardinal Newman at Oxford, Tennyson at Cambridge, Browning, Carlyle, Manning and many others. He was a fervent admirer of Wordsworth, whom he met in London in 1841, and when invited to stay with the poet, considered it "the greatest honour of his life." An intimacy, to be ended only with the older poet's death, as well as a close friendship with Coleridge's talented daughter, Sara, began here. At this time he had already published two books, "The Waldenes and Other Poems" in 1842, and "The Search After Proserphine and Other Poems," in 1843.

In 1846 De Vere returned to Ireland and, finding the country in the grip of famine, worked hard for the relief of the starving people. The harrowing scenes he witnessed during this time gave rise to a long poem, "A Year of Sorrow," and an indignant pamphlet, "English Misrule and Irish Misdeeds."