

When John Wesley preached in Limerick in 1752 he won most of the Palatines to Methodism, and among them was Embury, who became a sort of preacher to them and built the first Methodist church in the county, at Court-Matrix. He married Mary Switzer of the same place in 1758, and it seemed as if he intended to settle down as Methodist preacher to the Limerick Palatines.

However, conditions for the Palatines became very hard on the Southwell Estate and many of them emigrated to America. Embury and a family named Heck, also from Ballingrane, set sail for New York in 1760. More families joined them in 1765, and in that year he preached his first Methodist sermon in America—in his own house—to a congregation of five persons, including his wife.

The congregation increased in number with the assistance of Barbara Heck and a certain Captain Webb, who preached in his full military regalia, and in 1769 they were able to build a new preaching house at a cost of £511.

Before Embury's death he became not only preacher, but also magistrate, or more properly "Burgomaster," to his community at Salem. He died at the comparatively young age of forty-five, from pleurisy contracted while mowing his own farm under a burning sun. He was buried under a simple oak tree at Salem, in the year 1773. As the Methodist movement grew in America, Embury's remains came to be regarded as sacred. They were exhumed and re-buried at Ashgrove Cemetery in 1832. In 1886 they were again exhumed, and this time they were buried at Cambridge, not far from the latter cemetery, and a tombstone was erected over his grave.

FATHER MAURICE ENRIGHT

Father Maurice Kinrechtan or Enright was born in Kilmallock, son of Thomas McEnrychty, Kinraght or Enright, a goldsmith in that town. His father, a native of County Kerry, had taken part in the Desmond rebellion and is listed in the Fiants of Queen Elizabeth as having been granted a pardon in the year 1566.

Maurice became a priest, and being an eloquent preacher, laboured for many years in and around his own town. He became chaplain to Gerald, the 14th Earl of Desmond, and when the latter rebelled, Maurice accompanied his army. In 1583 he was captured by Lord Roche at Duhallow, through the information of Murtagh Sweeney, an officer who had deserted Desmond.

He was sent in handcuffs to Clonmel Jail and held there for over a year. While here, a prominent Clonmel citizen, Victor White, bribed a jailor to release Enright on Easter Saturday, so that the spiritual needs of the Clonmel people could be at-

tended to. The jailor, however, betrayed White and told the Governor of the services being conducted in White's house.

Father Enright had heard the confessions of the faithful and was just preparing for Mass when the soldiers raided the house. He escaped by hiding under straw in the courtyard, but the chalice and the sacred vestments were found. White was arrested and threatened with death and the confiscation of his property if he wouldn't tell where Enright was hiding. He refused to betray the priest, but when the latter heard of White's danger he gave himself up and was immediately imprisoned. He was offered his freedom if he renounced his Faith, but, of course, refused and was condemned to death as a traitor to the Queen.

On the 30th April, 1586, this loyal servant of the Church was drawn at a horse's tail to the gallows, where he was hanged, taken down half alive and beheaded. Bishop Rothe wrote of him: —“ He spoke with such piety and wisdom that many were moved to tears and at the sight of the scaffold he threw himself on his knees in constant prayer amid the scoffs of the heretics.”

His head was placed on a spike over the town gate but his body was ransomed and received decent burial in the Franciscan Abbey. The citizens regarded Enright as a martyr and his grave would have become a place of pilgrimage had not the friars kept it a secret so that the soldiers wouldn't desecrate it. The Courtyard where White's house stood became known afterwards as Martyr's Lane.

In 1647, when the Catholic party returned to power, Father Enright's body was exhumed and reburied, with great ceremony and religious honours, in the Franciscan Abbey at Askeaton.

JOHN FERRAR

The Ferrar family have been long famous in England for the Anglican Community, which Nicholas Ferrar established in Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire in the beginning of the seventeenth century. One of the rules of the Community, which was not a celebrate one, was that each member should learn a trade; and that practised at Little Gidding was book-binding. Specimens of the work of the Community are now extremely rare and valuable.

Captain William Ferrar, a descendant of Nicholas, came to Ireland in the army of King William, and settling in Limerick after the siege, married Marie, the daughter of Richard Lloyd, of Drumsallagh, in the county. William Ferrar, a son of this marriage, took to the family trade of book-selling and book-binding, and his son John was Limerick's most famous printer and first historian.

Ferrar started the “Limerick Chronicle,” which he owned, edited and printed from 1768 till 1781, when it was taken over by Andrew Watson, who married his daughter. He was author