

after two years. He then became a classical tutor in various parts of England, and seems to have pursued his favourite sport of fishing wherever he went.

In 1824 he went to Marseilles, where he studied French, became interested in politics, and seems to have been welcome in all the literary circles. However, after taking a small part in the 1830 Revolution, he thought it better to return to England, and obtained a post as reporter in the House of Commons.

For twenty-eight years he worked for the daily press, and during all this time wrote articles on angling for "Bell's Life of London." He was also a distinguished literary and dramatic critic, and his "Lucid Intervals of a Lunatic" attracted much attention at the time.

Fitzgibbon was a man of many talents but one great weakness. He was a periodic drunkard. In the intervals he was completely abstemious, and often promised his friends that he would one day write his experiences of intoxication. But he never did. He became a wreck for some years before his death, which took place on the 19th of November, 1857, and was buried in Highgate Cemetery, London. He was a Catholic, and left no family to mourn him.

Fitzgibbon "made a great impression upon all who knew him by the brilliancy of his gifts. He possessed unblemished integrity, a kind and liberal disposition, much fire and eloquence, and the power of attaching to him many friends." His published works are "Handbook on Angling," 1847, which reached a third edition in 1853; "A True Treatise on the Art of Fly-fishing," 1838; and "The Book of the Salmon," 1850. He also edited what has been described as the best of all practical editions of "Walton's Compleat Angler." Fitzgibbon usually wrote under the pen-name "Ephemera."

JOHN FITZGIBBON, EARL OF CLARE

John Fitzgibbon, First Earl of Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, was the second son of John Fitzgibbon, lawyer, of Ballysheedy, County Limerick. He was born at Donnybrook in 1749, achieved great distinctions both at school and at Trinity College, where Grattan was his closest rival, obtained a B.A. at Trinity in 1767, and an M.A. at Oxford in 1772.

He was called to the Irish Bar in 1772, earned £343 7s. during his first year, £8,973 6s. 3d. during the next few years when he became Attorney-General; and £36,939 3s. 11d. from 1783 to 1789, when he was appointed Lord Chancellor.

From 1778 to 1783 he represented Trinity College in the Irish Parliament, and although he was a moderate supporter of the national cause, he succeeded in keeping on good terms both with the Government and Grattan's party. He was described by Jonah Barrington: —

"He was about the middle size, slight and not graceful; his eyes, large, dark and penetrating, betrayed some of the boldest traits of his uncommon character; his countenance, could deceive the physiognomist into an opinion of his magnanimity, or call forth an eulogium of his virtues."

Grattan supported Fitzgibbon's appointment to the Attorney-Generalship, but soon found out his mistake. In 1784, he joined the Government side, and from then on he opposed every measure of reform or emancipation that was introduced. In 1789, as a result of a heated argument in Parliament, Curran and himself fought a duel near Ball's Bridge in Dublin. While the Sheriff's officer was held down in a ditch they exchanged shots but these were ineffective. As Lord Plunkett said:—"Curran and Fitzgibbon fought, but, unluckily, they missed each other." Fitzgibbon carried his animosity of Curran so far after the duel that Curran is said to have lost £30,000 in practice as a result."

In 1789 he was created Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Baron Fitzgibbon of Lower Connello; in 1793 he became Viscount Fitzgibbon; in 1795 Earl of Clare, and in 1799 Lord Fitzgibbon of Sidbury, Devonshire.

When the Union of Great Britain and Ireland came to a head, Fitzgibbon's final speech was aimed at preventing the inclusion of Catholic Emancipation in the Bill.

Although Fitzgibbon was no friend of Ireland, there can be no doubt of either his ability or bravery. Before Lord Edward Fitzgerald's insurrection, he besought his friends to persuade Lord Edward to escape, as all his plans were known; and when Lord Edward lay wounded in Thomas Street Fitzgibbon brought his brother and aunt to his side, and waited for three hours in an outward apartment in spite of the great personal danger in which he must have known he was.

When Hamilton Rowan was convicted of high treason, Fitzgibbon assisted his wife in preventing the confiscation of all his property. As a judge, he did away with the sale of offices, and removed many of the abuses which attached to the court during the reign of the Irish Parliament.

He died, after a brief illness, on 28th of January, 1802, and his funeral was followed by a Dublin mob, "whose curses violently expressed the hate with which a great part of his fellow-countrymen regarded him." Froude, who admired his statesmanship, says:—"Fitzgibbon is the object of a no less intense national execration. He was followed to his grave with curses, and dead cats were flung upon his coffin."

HARRY DEAN GRADY

Harry Dean Grady, Barrister and member of Parliament for Limerick City at the passing of the Union, was born in the County Limerick in the latter half of the eighteenth century.