

sometimes as "Merulan," and his only book to be published in Ireland, "Ballads, Romances and Songs," was published in Dublin in 1861.

In 1866 Joyce emigrated to America and established himself in Boston where his patriotic writings soon ensured him a good medical practice among the American-Irish. In 1868 he published "Legends of the Wars in Ireland," dealing with the traditions of the North of Ireland, and his next work "Irish Fireside Tales," which appeared in 1871., was a book of similar nature.

In 1872 he reprinted his first work, with additions, under the title, "Ballads of Irish Chivalry," and four years later "Deirdre," his finest and most successful poem appeared. Within a few days more than 10,000 copies were sold, a colossal circulation for a long narrative poem, even in those days. It is a free version of the old Irish tale, "The Fate of the Children of Lir," told in heroic rhyming verse. Joyce was the first of many modern Irish writers to be attracted to that saddest of Irish heroines, Deirdre of the Sorrows.

His last work, "Blaid," was published in Boston in 1879. In this he used the same method as in "Deirdre" to tell us the story of the death of Curoi, the King of Desmond, and his captive maid, Blaid, and the long narrative passages are broken up by short melodious lyrics.

Joyce fell into bad health and returned to Ireland in September, 1883. He died on 24th of the following month in Dublin at the early age of 53. Dr. Sigerson wrote of him:—"It might be said that the spirit outwore the scabbard, but what an honour for the scabbard to have sheathed and preserved unsullied so pure, so bright, and so chivalrous a spirit." In Limerick Joyce will always be remembered for that spirited ballad of the siege, "The Blacksmith of Limerick."

BENJAMIN KIDD

Benjamin Kidd, sociologist, eldest son of Benjamin Kidd of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was born in Clare on 9th September, 1858. He received a poor education and entered the Civil Service in a very minor capacity in the year 1877, where he worked in obscurity for seventeen years. He spent all his spare time in study, and in 1894 his first published work, "Social Evolution," brought him fame and financial success.

The book was translated into ten different languages. It was a philosophical work based on the theme that religion is the hub of humanity, and that reason, which was both selfish and short-sighted, gave no help whatever to mankind in the more important crises of life. Unfortunately the book was written in a style "more suited to sensational journalism than to the exposition of philosophical ideas," and it contained a vital

attack on socialism, a fact that commended it to the reactionary section of the public and ensured its success.

The success of the work enable Kidd to retire from the drudgery of the Civil Service, and he travelled for six or seven years in America and South Africa. Out of these travels came a series of articles commissioned by "The Times" and published later under the title "The Control of the Tropics."

In 1902 he published "The Principles of Western Civilization," a book dealing with much the same subject as the first book but described as "long, verbose and obscure," and no way as successful as the former work. In 1908 he delivered the Herbert Spencer Lecture to Oxford University, entitled "Individualism and After," and in 1910 he began work on his last book, "The Science of Power," which repeated his ideas on religion and humanity but also expressed the view that woman was the great power in creating "the enthusiasm of the ideal." It repeated the success of his first book. Other works by Kidd were the article "Sociology" for the 1911 edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" and a number of papers on natural history, published after his death by his son, under the title "A Philosopher with Nature."

In 1887 Kidd married Emma Isabel Perry, of Weston-Super-Mare, and had three sons. He died of heart disease on 2nd October, 1916, shortly after completing "The Science of Power."

MAURICE DE LACY

Maurice de Lacy of Grodno, Russian General, was born at Limerick during the "great frost" of 1739-40. He was the last direct male descendant of the great Hugh de Lacy, Governor of Ireland. He is described in a printed pedigree as the son of Patrick de Lacy, who died in 1790, by Lady Mary Herbert of Templeglantine, and grandson of "old Patrick Lacy," of Rathcahill, who died in 1741.

He was educated in an Irish monastery and later obtained a commission in the Russian Army. He fought against the Turks and had attained General's rank when he re-visited Ireland in 1792. In April, 1799, he returned to Russia, and, under the general command of Suwarrow, he defeated the French in occupation of Naples, but the Treaty of Presburg brought the war to an end before the attack took place.

There is in existence a letter from Napoleon to Lacy suggesting the re-formation of an expedition to Ireland, to liberate the Catholics, which would be led by the latter. De Lacy seems to have declined the honour.

He never married, and when he died at Grodno in January, 1820, the line of Hugh de Lacy became extinct.

Sir Henry Edward Bunbury, quartermaster-general of the British Forces, says that "D'Anrep was subordinate to old