

irresistible by guilt or innocence. Let the man thus driven into exile for having been the friend of his country be received in every other place as a confessor of liberty and let the tools of power be taught in turn that they may rob but cannot impoverish.

On the death of George II Lucas returned to Dublin, and, being returned to Parliament by the City of Dublin in 1761, retained the seat till his death.

Many tributes have been paid to Lucas's spirit but few to the quality of his writing. Lecky, the historian, described his writings as tedious, but Grattan's son, from his personal knowledge of the man, wrote:—"Lucas was the first who, after Swift, dared to write the word Freedom he loved his country, he detested tyranny; no threats could terrify, no bribes could buy him." Incidentally, he was the founder in 1763 of that mercurial newspaper, "The Freeman's Journal."

Although suffering badly from rheumatism and gout, he married for a third time but did not live long to enjoy his young bride. He died in Henry Street, Dublin, on 4th November, 1771, aged 58, and was buried in St. Michan's graveyard.

Hardy, in his life of Lord Charlemont, describes Lucas's appearance in the House of Commons in his later years:—"His bodily infirmities, his gravity, his uncommon neatness of dress, his grey and venerable locks, blending with a pale but interesting countenance, in which an air of beauty was still visible, altogether excited attention, and no stranger ever entered the House of Commons without asking who he was."

A fine statue of Lucas by Smith stands in the Dublin City Hall, and on his tomb in St. Michan's the following epitaph is inscribed:—

"Lucas, Hibernia's friend, her joy and pride;
Her powerful bulwark and her faithful guide;
Firm in the Senate, steady to his trust,
Unmoved by fear and obstinately just."

EDWARD LYSAGHT

"Pleasant Ned Lysaght," barrister, wit and song-writer, was born in County Clare on 21st December, 1763, son of John Lysaght, of Brickhill, and Jane Eyre Dalton, of Deerpark, in the same County.

He was educated at Doctor Hare's school in Cashel, where Doctor Lanigan, the celebrated ecclesiastical historian, was his fellow-pupil, and, surprisingly, his friend, for no two friends ever bore such contrasting characters. Later, he graduated B.A. at Trinity College, M.A. at Oxford, and studied law at the Middle Temple in London.

For a time he practised at the English Bar, being employed as counsel in many election petitions, but not proving very

successful he returned to Ireland, where he became famous on the Munster Circuit, more for his wit and convivial good living than for his ability or success as a barrister. Often short of cash, he would even laugh at his own predicament, and once, when an accommodating friend signed a bill for him and requested that he be sure to take it up when it became due, he replied: "Of course, I will—and the protest along with it."

Lysaght's politics were doubtful, for whilst writing ballads against the Union, he accepted £500 from Castlereagh to write lampoons against the Anti-Union members.

He was an excellent lyric poet, and Moore wrote of him:—"I look back upon Lysaght with feelings of love. All his words were like drops of music." On his death, Dr. Griffin, his son-in-law, and later Protestant Bishop of Limerick, published a collection of his poetry, together with a short biographical note. While this memoir is sympathetic, the collection is not complete, for the Bishop says:—

"It has become necessary to omit those lyric strains which produced a Tyrtean effect at a certain period not yet forgotten."

"It can hardly be on these grounds that the "Rakes of Mallow" was excluded but, however, the book included the best of Lysaght's complimentary poems as well as his most famous historical ballad on Grattan—"The Man Who Led the Van of the Irish Volunteers":—

He watched it in its cradle and bedewed its hearse with tears,

"A British Constitution (to Erin ever true),

In spite of State pollution, he gained in Eighty-two.

This gallant man who led the van of the Irish Volunteers."

Typical of Lysaght's impish humour, this ballad was composed to the air of "The British Grenadiers."

Lysaght died in 1811 in very embarrassed circumstances, and the measure of his popularity may be gauged from the fact that a subscription for the benefit of his widow and two unmarried daughters realised the very handsome sum of £2,484.

HUGH MacCURTIN

Aodh Buidhe or Hugh MacCurtin, the Irish Poet and lexicographer, was born in the parish of Kilmacreehy about the year 1680 and was given a good start on his life's work by being educated at the school of his cousin, Andrew MacCurtin at Moyglass. Hugh seems to have fought against the Williamites at the siege of Limerick and to have left Ireland with the Wild Geese. In 1693 he was in the famous regiment of Dragoons under the command of Lord Clare, and through the influence of Isabella O'Brien, later to become the wife of Sorley M. MacDonnell, of Kilkee, he became tutor to Lord Clare's family and stayed in the post for seven years. In 1714 he returned to Ireland and stayed in Dublin for some time. While there he published in two parts "A Brief Discourse in Vindication of the Antiquity