

of Ireland." This was an attack on Cox's *Hibernia Anglicana*, a recently-published Government-inspired work, and, as a result, MacCurtin was put in gaol. While here he worked on a grammar of the Irish language, the first ever to be written, and, in 1728, this was published for him by the Franciscans of Louvain under the title: "The Elements of the Irish Language."

In 1732, he published in Paris in conjunction with Conor O'Begley an English-Irish dictionary. While this may not have been an ideal dictionary, it is certainly a very valuable record of the County Clare vernacular of the early eighteenth century and it is introduced by a poem of MacCurtin's, the only one ever to be printed.

On the death of his cousin, Andrew, in 1749, Hugh succeeded to the hereditary title of Ollamh to the O'Briens and wrote a long dirge on the death of his cousin. Like the other poetry he wrote, it was never published, but may be found in many of the old County Clare manuscripts salvaged by O'Curry and others, and now in the great libraries of Ireland and England. In these manuscripts we find that MacCurtin's chief patrons were the O'Loughlens of Burren, the MacDonnells of Kilkee, and William O'Brien, Earl of Inchiquin.

In his old age Mac Curtin gave up his wandering ways and opened a small school at Knock-an-Aird in his native parish and died there in the year 1755. He was buried in old Kilmacreehy churchyard, and, although no stone was erected over his grave, his memory was kept green in the minds of the people and his old school and dwelling-house were still pointed out to visitors towards the end of the nineteenth century.

RICHARD PIERCE MacELLIGOTT.

Richard Pierce MacElligott, Celtic scholar, revolutionary, and hedge-schoolmaster, was born in Limerick in the year 1756. He was descended on one side from the McElligotts of Kerry, a branch of the O'Sullivans, and on the other from the de Lacy Evans of the County Limerick.

MacElligott taught in Limerick City, first at Peter's Cell, "a retirement peculiarly favourable to study," and later at Crosby Row, under the shadow of St. Mary's and overlooking the harbour of Limerick. His terms were four guineas a year for the day boys and thirty guineas for boarders.

The Griffin family lived close to MacElligott and Gerald Griffin was his most famous pupil. In the latter's life by his brother, Dr. Dan Griffin, several patronisingly humorous stories were told of MacElligott, and this so incensed another famous pupil of MacElligott, the Reverend Jonathan Furlong, that he wrote and published in London a pamphlet in reply. The stories were withdrawn from the second edition of Griffin's life and an adulatory paragraph inserted instead.

MacElligott was one of the most eminent Celtic scholars of his day. When the Gaelic Society of Dublin was formed in 1806, he was elected an honorary member on merit and contributed the first paper to their one and only volume of transactions. In it he discusses the difficulties likely to be met with by the Society in the compilation of their proposed new dictionary and grammar, shows a thorough knowledge of the Manx and Scottish Celtic dialects, and at least some acquaintance with Latin, Greek, German, Hebrew and Persian. He also wrote an Irish grammar and although this was never published it was used extensively by John O'Donovan, who praised the author highly for his scholarship.

Like many of the Irish schoolmasters, MacElligott was a United Irishman and, with 136 others, he was arrested in 1798 and lodged in Limerick Gaol. Ten of these were executed on the New Bridge, and in a letter written in gaol, MacElligott gave a harrowing description of the event:—"What shall I suffer walking up and down this dismal place from light to light, with no companion but a man who, three times flogged, lies dying in a corner, a still-breathing corpse; and legions of rats of all ages, which have forgotten the timidity of their species and lord it here with hereditary sway There were three happy fellows on every lamp on the bridge as I was crossing here; the lantern hoops were breaking so I must wait till some kind friend drops off. They nearly took up the little footpath, and the toes of some of them were touching it.

"As I passed, I thought what a splendid and economical plan it was for lamp-lighting, for, by its piercing rays, the whole earth could see into the dark hearts of a distant people, and follow its each individual to the world's ends while he carries one grain of pride. In the glory of such bright eternal light who would not wish to hang. Not typhus! Not smallpox! No!—No!"

MacElligott was, however, reprieved and allowed out on a bail of £2,000, later reduced to £200. He was twice married, first to Miss Loftus, by whom he had three sons and four daughters; and in 1797 to Mary, daughter of Captain William Craig of the 2nd Foot Regiment, by whom he had two more sons and two more daughters, several of whom took up their father's profession of teaching.

Broken up in health and embittered by his political experiences, he died after a short illness on Saturday, 18th of April, 1818.

ANDREW MacGRATH.

Andrew Magrath, "An Mangaire Sugach," or, "The Jolly Pedlar," was born in County Limerick, "beside the Maigue," a river which appears frequently in his poetry. He was the greatest of all the Maigue poets, but he was also the greatest rake among