The following obituary notice appeared in the "General Advertiser and Limerick Gazette" on Monday, 29th July, 1805:—"Died on Saturday morning, in Old Clare Street, after a few hours illness, Mr. Bryan Merryman, teacher of Mathematics, etc."

FRANK FRANKFORT MOORE.

Frank Frankfort Moore, novelist and dramatist, was born in Limerick City on 15th May, 1855. He was educated by a private tutor, and at the Royal Academical Institution in Belfast, where he worked as a journalist on the "Belfast Newsletter." In spite of a busy life as journalist and writer—he published over eighty books—he travelled much, having been in South and East Africa, India, West Indies and South America.

His first book, a slim volume of adolescent verse, was published in 1872 when the author was only 17 years old. For sixteen years Moore slaved away as a journalist until his books brought him success, and in "A Journalist's Note-Book," published in 1894, he gives an amusing account of his experiences as dramatic critic on the "Newsletter," and deals unsparingly with many of his friends.

So prolific was Moore that he had already published thirty books before "I Forbid The Banns," in 1893, created a sensation and became a best seller. He then retired from journalism and for year after year turned out novels with monotonous regularity.

He was a great admirer of Oliver Goldsmith and made him the subject of a novel, a one-act play, and a very good full-length biography. Other historical characters, whom he featured as heroines, were Kitty Clive, Nell Gwyn and Fanny Burney. The scene of several of his novels is in Ireland, and in two of them, "Castle Omeragh" and its sequel, "Captain Latymer," he gives a graphic and fairly unbiassed account of the country in Cromwellian times. In "The Ulsterman," his outspoken criticism gained him many enemies and lost him many friends.

In 1930, the year before his death, he was still busy with his pen, and wrote and published anonymously, a volume of recollections entitled "A Mixed Grill." He was twice married, firstly to Grace Balcombe of Dublin, and secondly to Dorothea Hatton, of Willingdon, by whom he had five daughters. He died on 11th May, 1831, aged 76 years.

WILLIAM MULREADY.

William Mulready, portrait and subject painter, was born in Ennis on April 1st, 1786. When he was still young his father, a leather-breeches maker, took his family to Dublin, where he worked for four years before settling down to his trade in London. Mulready never lived in Ireland again.

He was a Catholic, and, although his parents were poor, they seem to have given him as good an education as their means would allow, first at a Wesleyan and later at a Catholic school in London. He early displayed a great talent for drawing, and in the year 1805 a book called "The Looking Glass : a true history of the early years of an artist, by Theophilus Marcliffe," was illustrated by Mulready, and is said to be a true account of his life up to the age of fifteen.

From this age onwards, although always studying his art, he was able to earn his own livelihood by drawing and other means. When sixteen he won the Silver Palette of the Society of Arts and went to work with John Varley, a water-colour painter and teacher. Here Mulready both taught and learned.

When eighteen he married Varley's daughter—a most unhappy match. He had four children, but the extreme poverty of the young couple seems to have wrecked the marriage. Within six years they had separated—for ever—and, although living in the same neighbourhood for over fifty years, Mulready's wife stated that they only met one another once from the time of the separation. Mulready himself says of this period : "I remember the time when I had a wife, four children, nothing to do, and was £600 in debt," and adds that he tried his hand at everything from a miniature to a panorama.

All his life he was a hard worker, and he succeeded in the end. From 1807 to 1809 he illustrated a series of about twenty books for children, and in the latter year his first important picture, "The Carpenter's Shop," was exhibited to the British Institution. From this picture he went from success to success, with his pictures, "The Barber's Shop," "Punch," "Boys Fishing," etc. In 1815 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy and in the following year an Academican.

Mulready continued to be a highly successful and popular painter until well over seventy. When over seventy-five, feeling his own powers failing, he returned to study and practice at a "life" school in Kensington, working unconcernedly among the budding artists of the new generation. He died on 7th July, 1863, aged seventy-eight years, and was buried at Kensal Green. On the very day of his death he attended a committee meeting of the Academy, to which he had always been faithful.

His most important works, together with a large collection of his drawings, are in the South Kensington Museum. There are two pictures of his in the City of Limerick Art Gallery, a landscape and an excellent copy by himself of his famous picture, "The Fight Interrupted." In 1840 he designed for Rowland Hill the first penny postage envelope, depicting Britannia sending winged messengers all over the world. This envelope was the subject of a famous caricature by John Leech in "Punch."