

TERENCE ALBERT O'BRIEN.

Terence Albert O'Brien, Bishop of Emly, was born in Limerick in the year 1600, of an ancient Limerick family, and was educated by Maurice O'Brien, Prior of the Dominican Order in the same city. In the year 1620 he went to Toledo, where he remained for eight years, and, like his uncle, became a Dominican friar. On his return to Ireland he was created Prior, first of the Dominican House at Lorrha, and later at Limerick. On the establishment of the Confederate Government at Kilkenny in 1643, he was elected Provincial of the Irish Order, and in the following year was one of the two representatives selected to represent it at Rome.

From Rome O'Brien went to Lisbon, and while here he was informed of his selection as Bishop of Emly. He returned to Ireland to take up his post but found that the death of Pope Urban VIII. had delayed his appointment. Rinuccini, the Papal Uuncio in Ireland, again recommended him for this bishopric in 1645 and 1646, and describes him as "a man of prudence and sagacity, who had been in Italy, and is so expert in the management of Church revenues that happy results might be expected from his care." O'Brien was consecrated Bishop, and although he retained the post until his death in 1651, he saw little of his diocese, which, during the length of his episcopacy was overrun by the Cromwellians.

O'Brien was a staunch supporter of Rinuccini, joined in the latter's excommunication of anybody who remained with Lord Inchiquin, and also excommunicated anyone continuing to support Ormonde after his break with the Confederate Catholics.

He was in Limerick when Ireton's army surrounded the city in 1651, and was mainly responsible for the stout resistance which the people of the city showed to the powerful Cromwellian army. When the latter entered the city, he was found administering to the fever-stricken people and was arrested. In the articles of surrender he was one of the persons excepted from pardon and he was executed on 31st October, 1651, a martyr for his religion and his country. As an example to all such traitors, his head was impaled on the spikes of St. John's Gate, near Garryowen.

At a Dominican Chapter-General held in Rome five years after his death, it was asserted that Bishop O'Brien refused a bribe of £40,000 to leave the city before the siege, and foretold the dreadful fever which struck down Ireton the conqueror within one month of his victorious entry into the city.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

William O'Brien, actor and dramatist, the son of a fencing master, was probably born in County Clare in the first half of