

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

the eighteenth century. His family was connected with that of the Viscount Clare, and, like it, suffered ostracism for its adherence to the Stuart cause.

O'Brien acted for several years in Ireland before David Garrick saw him and engaged him to play at Drury Lane. He first appeared here on the 3rd October, 1758, in another Irishman's play, "The Recruiting Officer," by George Farquhar, and was an immediate success. This success continued until he was playing principal parts in Shakespearean and other plays, but, on his marriage in 1764, he retired from the stage. This marriage was to Lady Susan Sarah Louisa, eldest daughter of Stephen Fox-Strangways, first Earl of Ilchester, and niece to Henry Fox, and was without her father's consent. Horace Walpole tells of a rumour that, for rashness, they were to be transported to a 40,000-acre farm in Ohio. Be that as it may, he certainly did go to America for a time, where according to one authority, he was "obliged to do penance for his redemption."

O'Brien had a high reputation as an actor, and Walpole writes: "Colley Cibber and O'Brien were what Garrick could never reach—coxcombs and men of fashion." On his retirement from the stage he wrote two plays, "Cross Purposes" (1772) and "The Duel" (1773), the former being a popular success; the latter, according to the critics, not meeting with the merit it deserved.

O'Brien's rashness in marrying the daughter of a nobleman was soon forgiven, and he obtained an appointment under the Governor of New York. In 1768 he was gazetted Secretary and Provost-Master-General of the Bermudas, and eventually Receiver-General of Dorset. He died at an advanced age at Stinsford House, Dorset, on 2nd September, 1815.

O'Brien, according to his contemporaries, "had a good and gentlemanly bearing, easy manners, grace and elegance, and in the conduct of his sword (as befitted the son of a fencing master) was unapproachable." Upon his elevation into high society, he endeavoured to hide the shameful fact that he had ever been a low stage-player.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN,

2nd Earl of Inchiquin.

William O'Brien, 2nd Earl of Inchiquin and son of Murrough of the burnings, was born about the year 1638. He was brought up in London at the house of his father's friend, Sir Philip Percival, and spent most of his early life in France and Spain on military service with his father. In 1638 he paid a brief visit to Ireland "without pass or permission," but was back fighting on the Continent in the following year and, when on his way to Lisbon with a French army destined to assist the Portuguese against Spain, his boat was attacked by Algerine pirates.