

He died in September, 1792, still Governor of Esthonia, although ninety-six years of age. He was a staunch Catholic all his life, always observed the Church fasts, even when in military harness, and rebuilt many churches in the provinces he governed. Beginning life as a poor man, he ended his days with vast wealth, but had neither forgotten the faith he had been bought up in or the country he had abandoned in order to retain that faith.

JAMES BURKE.

James Burke, cleric and revolutionery, was born near Ennis in the year 1739. He was the son of John Burke and Mary Callery.

Burke was sent to the Continent to be educated, was prepared for the priesthood at the Irish College in Bordeaux, and, after ordination, was made Canon of St. Astier in the Diocese of Perigueux. Later he was appointed parish priest of Saint Jacques d'Ambes, near Bordeaux, and was ministering in this office when the revolution broke out in 1789.

One of his teachers at the Irish College had been Guillotine, the inventor of the execution knife which did so much work during the bloody days of the Revolution and counter-revolution, and it has been surmised that Burke was greatly influenced by Guillotine's views. Be that as it may, he was certainly enthusiastic about the new regime and was one of the first priests to take the oath to the Civil Constitution.

His enthusiasm for the revolution and his holy office had nothing in common, and Burke soon left the priesthood to become a speculator in the confiscated lands and houses of the aristocracy in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux. He became one of the leading revolutionaries in the Bordeaux area and gave the Governor of that town great assistance in keeping order. To his credit it may be said that it was his influence alone which saved the Irish College from confiscation. During the height of the terror, an American ship was chartered to bring the students safely to Ireland, and, when things had quietened, the College was returned to the Carmelites.

Although he sacrificed everything in the revolutionary cause, Burke's former calling as well as the zeal with which he executed his duties to the new Government, made him many enemies, and he was imprisoned under suspicion of being an enemy of the Republic. However, his record prevailed and he was released, and, after the Concordat of 1802, was even reconciled to the Church, resuming his pastoral duties in Bordeaux.

In 1815, the French Minister, of Irish parentage, Lally Tollendal, pleaded for a State pension for Burke, claiming that he had risked his life and spent his last penny in preserving the Irish College and in restoring it as a seminary. We do not know

if the pension was granted, but probably it was, for when Burke died in 1822 he left enough money to establish several Burses in the Bordeaux College for poor Irish clerical students, and for a perpetual daily Mass in its chapel for the repose of his soul. On his death, Burke had so reconciled himself with the authorities that he was buried with full clerical honours from the Cathedral of Bordeaux.

He has left us an account of his revolutionary activities in a pamphlet entitled : *Burke, a Sauve la Mission de Bordeaux*.

MICHAEL CLANCY.

Michael Clancy, physician, poet and dramatist, was born in Co. Clare in the year 1704. He was the son of Daniel Clancy, a soldier, probably in the army of James II, who fought at the siege of Limerick but returned to Co. Clare after the Williamite victory.

When only eight years old, Clancy was sent to Paris to be educated, probably to the College of Navarre. Later, as the Penal Laws relaxed somewhat, he returned to Ireland and, at the age of seventeen was sent to Trinity College, where he qualified as a physician. He then returned to the Continent, established a lucrative practice in Paris and became the intimate friend of Montesquieu, the philosophical writer.

At the age of thirty-three he became totally blind and was unable to earn his living as a doctor. He took to literature, which had always been his hobby, as a livelihood, and, returning to Ireland, became friendly in Dublin with Lord Chesterfield and Dean Swift. George II, or his lieutenant in Ireland, took pity on Clancy's plight and, out of those generous and elastic funds, the Irish Establishment, granted him a pension of £40 a year. He died in Dublin on 7th April, 1776. Shortly after his return to Dublin, Clancy published in 1750 an account of his *Memoirs and Travels*. This has been described by O'Donoghue as "an extremely dull book," but, unfortunately, I have never seen a copy. In it he describes his father as "a military man and a man of letters of an ancient and once powerful family." The latter part of the statement is certainly correct, for the Clancys were of major importance during the reign of the Dalcassian tribes over Munster.

In 1739 he wrote *Tamar, Prince of Nubia*, a tragedy which was never published, and, in 1745, *Templum Veneris, sive Amorum Rhapsodiae*, a collection of Latin love poems, which were reprinted in 1774. Other works of his were : *Hermon, Prince of Choraëa*, a tragedy published in 1746, and *The Sharper*, a comedy published and acted in 1750.