

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.