

Besides his fervent national poems O'Donhell had a quiet, natural vein in which he delighted in the past and present for their own sakes. His beautiful poem on Adare is typical of this mood: —

Soft sleeps the village in the maze  
Of dreamy elm and sycamore;  
Soft slides the river's rosy tide  
Through blossomed sedges by the shore,  
Rushes and pendant willows hoar.  
The little boat moored in the cove.  
Takes no pulsation from the stream,  
But shadowed in the water lies  
The lovely image of a dream. . . .

Three hundred years in channelled stones  
Hewn in some quarry vast and fair,  
But touched with melancholy grey—  
The habit of our Irish air—  
Which slays but still knows when to spare.  
Chancel, quadrangle, tower are here,  
Gaunt cloisters, roof and mullions riven,  
With that clear interspace through which  
Souls, tired of flesh, looked out to Heaven.

### DR. EDMUND O'DWYER

Dr. Edmund O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick from 1645 to 1651, led a life of adventure more in keeping with that of a soldier than of a Bishop. Descended from the O'Dwyers, Chieftains of Kilnamanagh, he was educated on the Continent, first at Rouen, then at the Sorbonne and finally at Rheims, where he graduated a doctor of divinity and was ordained.

On his return to Ireland he worked so well in the Diocese of Emly that he quickly became an Archdeacon, and in 1632, he was appointed to represent the interests of the Bishops of Ireland at Rome, where he went to live. Here he became friendly with Father Luke Wadding, the learned Franciscan and patriotic Irishman.

On the outbreak of the Confederate Wars in 1641, he was sent to Ireland, on the advice of Wadding, as the Pope's confidential agent. On the journey his boat was seized by two Moorish men of war. O'Dwyer was captured and put in irons. Later he was sold as a slave in Africa. A French merchant bought him for £40 and brought him to La Rochelle, where he had to remain a prisoner until Father Luke Wadding paid £60 for his ransom.

He arrived in Ireland in 1643, and worked for a time on the side of the Confederates and compiled a report for the Pope. When his work was done he returned to his former post in Rome but was soon after appointed coadjutor to Dr. Arthur, the Bishop of Limerick, with a promise of succession.

He returned to Ireland in the company of the Papal Legate, Cardinal Rinnuccini, and began a complete reorganisation of the Limerick Diocese, laying special emphasis on the necessity for good and regular preaching. He had met and been a friend to St. Vincent de Paul on the Continent, and had persuaded several young Limerick men to join his Order; and now, as the Bishop of Limerick, he was the first to introduce this great preaching Order, the Vincentians, into Ireland.

Like most of the Bishops of the day, O'Dwyer worked wholeheartedly for the Confederate cause, and was a member of the Supreme Council. He was, however, completely under the thumb of Ormond and this brought him into conflict with Rinuccini and the rest of the Bishops. The Nuncio issued an edict of excommunication against all who adhered to Ormond and an interdict against any city that should support the peace with Inchiquin. Limerick fell under this sentence, but when O'Dwyer returned from the Council at Kilkenny he ignored the interdict and opened up St. Mary's Cathedral to the people. For a time there was ecclesiastical warfare but eventually the interdict was lifted and O'Dwyer was once again on the popular side.

When Ireton besieged the city O'Dwyer was one of its most vigorous defenders and was expressly omitted from pardon in the terms of surrender. However, "with the knapsack of a soldier on his back he passed quietly through the gates, withdrew from the city and made his way to Belgium, having suffered all but the bloody death of a martyr." Here he died on 7th April, 1654, and was buried in the church of Condeberge in spite of the opposition of a few hot-headed Irish clerics who remembered his disobedience to the Nuncio.

Father John Lynch, the author of *Cambrensis Eversus*, wrote of him:—"He learned knowledge in Paris, prudence and business habits in Rome, piety in both cities. He was an accomplished Greek and Latin scholar, a graceful poet, a subtle philosopher and a deep divine. He was promoted to the episcopacy, not through the recommendation of friends, but through personal merit, for his superiors knew thoroughly his excellent gifts, his habits of study and his piety."

## THOMAS O'GORMAN

Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman, Captain of Infantry in Her Most Christian Majesty's Service, Knight of the Royal Military Order of St. Louis, Irish Historian and Genealogist, was born at Castletown, County Clare, on 16th September, 1732. His father, Matthew O'Gorman, or MacGorman, who died in June, 1740, aged 35, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Donogh O'Loughlin, of Castletown, and Celia O'Brien, of Newtown, both in the Barony of Burren.