

the period. He also founded a Literary Society in Limerick which depended so much on its founder's labours, that it was dissolved on his death.

His first literary work was "Insula Sacra," published in 1770, to encourage the preservation of Ireland's ancient manuscripts and records. "Terne Defended," in which he defended the authenticity of the ancient Irish histories against the calumnies of Cambrensis and other English historians, was published in 1774. In 1772 he published "An Introduction to the study of the History and Antiquities of Ireland," and in 1774 his greatest work, a "General History of Ireland from the earliest accounts to the close of the 12th century," appeared.

O'Halloran married Mary O'Casey in 1752 and had three sons and one daughter. His youngest son, Sir Joseph O'Halloran, became a Major-General in the East India Company's Service.

Thomas O'Meehan, a contemporary Clare poet, wrote a poem in Irish in his praise. Another contemporary describes him 'the tall thin doctor in his quaint French dress, with his gold-headed cane, beautiful Parisian wig and cocked hat.' He died in his eightieth year on the 11th August, 1807, and is buried in Killeely graveyard, where no stone marks his grave.

O'Halloran's pride in his ancestry led him to revive the old family motto—Lothaim agus marb-haim—I destroy and I kill—a not too suitable motto for an eminent surgeon.

### **PETER WOULFE.**

Peter Woulfe mineralogist alchemist and chemist, was born about the year 1727 at Tircullane, near Limerick City, where he received his early education. When fifteen years old he went to Madrid, where his brothers resided, and later to

Paris to work under the chemist, Rouelle, to whom he had been recommended by the Limerick Surgeon, Sylvester O'Halloran.

In 1752 he worked under Doctor Charles Lucas of Dublin, in London, and was then appointed Surgeon-General at Guadaloupe. On his return he spent a time studying the mines in Germany and France and was employed by Lord Bute and other rich people to advise on and arrange their collections of natural curiosities. At this time, Ferrar says, he was the acknowledged first chemist in Europe.

He was the first modern to examine and exploit the tin deposits in Cornwall, in 1766, and in the following year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for his paper on "Experiments on the distillation of acids and volatile alkalis," in which he described an apparatus which is still known as Woulfe's Bottle. He received the Copley Medal, the highest award of the Royal Society in 1768.

In later life Peter Woulfe became erratic and is said to have had strange religious and alchemical ideas. He breakfasted at four each morning, and admission to his rooms would only be gained by persons knowing the secret signal. He had no faith in the medical profession and would not have them near him. In 1803 he took ill, refused to be treated by a doctor, and died, alone and unattended in the same year.

### JOHN ST. JOHN LONG.

The Dictionary of National Biography describes Mr. Long as an empiric, and the inquisitive, on referring to the Oxford Dictionary, will find that an empiric is one who practises physic or surgery without scientific knowledge; a quack or charlatan. This is an honest description of Long, but he was many other things besides.