

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.



JOHN ST. JOHN LONG.

He was born in 1798 at Newcastle West, the second son of John Long, a basket-maker and jack-of-all trades, whose real name is said to have been O'Driscoll, by Ann St. John, his wife. Reared to practise his father's various occupations, his talent soon emerged, and as this originally took the form of an unusual gift of drawing, he was enabled by the charitable aid of some friends to spend two years at the Dublin School of Design perfecting this art. He returned to Newcastle in 1818 and spent several years there, giving drawing lessons, and painting pictures of still life, landscapes and portraits.

In 1822 he went to London, where he took lessons in drawing from John Martin, and was, for a time, assistant engraver to William John Ottley. In 1825 he exhibited three paintings with the Society of British Artists, "Elijah comforted by an Angel," "The Temptation," and "Abraham Entertaining an Angel." In the same year he also exhibited a very large canvas (6ft. x 9ft. 3ins.) at the British Institution, entitled, "An allegorical scene in Ireland, in which the degradation consequent upon Ignorance, Idleness and Vice are contrasted with the advantages resulting from Education, Industry and Virtue." The size of the canvas seems to have strained his belief in the latter, and in 1827 he abandoned art, and by the easy stage of specialising in chiropody, he became a quack Harley Street Specialist in consumption, rheumatism, etc. Before doing so, however, he had advanced sufficiently as an artist to gain a medal of the Society of Arts for one of his landscapes. In the catalogue of an exhibition held in Limerick in 1821, ten of Long's paintings are listed, including a view of Carrigounnell.

Long knew the value of effective advertisement, and after a few months in Howland Street, he moved to Harley Street, where for three years his

quackery imposed upon the too gullible world of fashion: and in that time he amassed an immense fortune. However, in 1830 one of his patients died from the effects of his treatment, and on 23rd October he was brought to trial in the Old Bailey. The Marquis of Sligo, the Marchioness of Ormond, and many other titled and society persons gave evidence in his favour, and, although found guilty of manslaughter, he was discharged on payment of a fine of £250. In February, 1831, he was brought to trial for the death of another patient, but this time he was acquitted. Naturally, these trials increased, rather than diminished, his fame, and although Long was the subject of bitter attacks, especially from the medical profession, he was able to continue his practice and live in affluent leisure in Harley Street.

Long died on 2nd July, 1834, some say from the rupture of a blood-vessel, others from the very disease which he professed to cure in others and which he refused to treat with his own cure when it appeared in himself. Wherever the truth lies, he left his secret cure, said to have been the application of corrosive liniments and friction, to his brother William, who sold it for a very large sum.

Long published several pseudo-scientific works, including "Discoveries in the science and art of healing," London, 1830; and "A critical exposure of the ignorance and malpractice of certain medical practitioners in their theory and treatment of disease." London, 1831. The former was reprinted in 1831, and in the same year "A Defence of John St. John Long, Esq., &c.," appeared.

He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, where a temple of Greek design, adorned with Aesculapian emblems was erected over his grave, for which purpose he had left £1,000. The vanity of this young genius was vulnerable, and the plea in his written epitaph is a pathetic one:—

‘It is the fate of most men to have many enemies and few friends. This monumental pile is not intended to mark a career, but to show how much its inhabitant was respected by those who knew his worth and the benefits derived from his remedial discovery. He is now at rest, and far beyond the praises or censures of the world. Stranger, as you respect the receptacle of the dead, as one of the many who will rest here, read the name of John St. John Long without comment. Died July 2nd, 1834, aged 37 years.

THOMAS GEORGE SHAUGHNESSY.

Thomas George Shaughnessy, first Baron Shaughnessy of Montreal, and of Ashford, Co. Limerick, was the son of Thomas Shaughnessy, a native of Ashford, who became a policeman in the United States. He was born on the 6th October, 1853.

He was educated in the ordinary primary schools and when sixteen years old obtained employment in the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway. In the beginning he disliked his work intensely, and studied law in his spare time in order to get out of it. However, as promotion began to come rather quickly he settled down to it. In 1879 he was appointed general storekeeper, and in 1882 general purchasing agent to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. When this Company were building their railway across Canada “on faith and credit,” it was said that “the one bright spot in the darkness was the success of the indefatigable and resourceful Shaughnessy.” Eventually in 1899 he became President of the Company.

Shaughnessy’s great work for engineering was adequately recognised. In 1901 he was knighted, in 1907 created K.C.V.O., in 1916 raised to the peerage, and in 1911 received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from Trinity College.