

Shaughnessy's mother, like his father, was Irish, and in 1880 he married another Irishwoman, Elizabeth Bridget Nagle, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. He died at Montreal on 10th of December, 1923.

Shaughnessy has been described by a contemporary as "neither obstinate nor arrogant but wont to place great trust in his own judgment . . . with a quick wit and keen sense of humour . . . well-informed and an omnivorous reader in spite of the defects in his early education . . . fond of music, but cared little for pictorial art . . . habitually drank a pint of champagne with his dinner . . . fond of billiards and bridge . . . owned some race-horses . . . played golf . . . was a Roman Catholic."

JAMES BAGGOTT.

James Baggott, revolutionary, mathematical scholar and hedge-schoolmaster, was descended from the Norman family who gave their name to Baggotstown. He kept a school in Ballingarry in the latter half of the eighteenth century. In 1805 we find him advertising that he has acquired a supply of "curious mathematical and astronomical instruments," in which he hopes his pupils will find "both pleasure and profit in the prosecution of their studies."

Baggott was an eminent mathematical scholar, noted for his solutions to the problems set in "The Ladies' Diary," and for the fact that he was the friend and correspondent of La Place, the great French scientist and tutor to Napoleon. It is recorded that when La Place was once in conversation with Colonel Odell, Member of Parliament for Limerick and one of the Lords of the Treasury, he enquired if Odell knew Baggott, the great Irish mathematician. Hence his nickname: "The Great O'Baggott."

He was also a member of the United Irishmen, and his house in Ballingarry is still pointed out as the one in which Lord Edward Fitzgerald stayed during his tour of Ireland in 1798. He was also active in the Emmet Rising of 1803, and is reported to have devised a plan for the capture of Limerick City. The plan was discovered on the eve of its perpetration and all the ring-leaders arrested.

Local tradition and even local historians are very hazy about Baggott, and what statements they make are mostly wrong. One says he "paid the forfeit," another that he was found dying of brain-fever by the yeomen who remained on guard at his house until he died. Yet another suggests that Colonel Odell had him arrested on hearing of the correspondence with the Frenchman La Place.

Actually the Government were kept fully informed by a spy who signed himself "J.D." of all Baggott's movements, and General Payne wrote in a letter to Dublin Castle shortly after Emmet's abortive rising:—"That rascal Baggott can neither be frightened nor bribed, and when Mr. Odell returns I think we had better take him up." There is no positive evidence of Baggott's ever having been arrested. He died at Charleville on 31st of August, 1805, at the early age of thirty-five.

A poem was written to his memory by "F-rr-ll," of Limerick, in 1810, and was published in Watty Cox's Irish Magazine. In another poem which the same writer composed on the Independent Party of Limerick, he describes himself as Martin Farrell, Philomath. The following are some of the eight verses:—

O Science, mourn ! thy favourite is no more,
 Alas ! he's numbered with the silent dead ;
 Hibernia's genius will his loss deplore,
 Whom he to fame's exalted temple led.
 By nature blessed with an exploring thought,
 His brows were decked from the Newtonian tow'r.
 The deep arcana of fair Science sought,
 And gleaned her fields of ev'ry golden flow'r.
 Of manners gentle, gen'rous and sincere,
 A heart replete with honour, truth and love ;
 His matchless worth whole ages shall revere,
 Who now has met its due reward above.