

long friend and was one of the executors to Collopy's will.

On his return to Limerick, an accomplished portrait painter, he was widely patronised, and many of the County Limerick houses must still have copies of his work. In 1777 and 1780 he was in Dublin and sent portraits to the Exhibition of the Society of Arts from the address 112 Grafton Street. About the year 1783 he went to London, and although he remained here until his death, he does not seem to have met with any great success. He was an expert cleaner and restorer of pictures, and was handsomely rewarded for his work on the famous collection of the Marquis of Bute in London.

During his occasional visits to Limerick he did many religious subjects for the Catholic churches of the city. He presented a painting of the Ascension to St. John's, and for a like act to the Augustinian Church, it is recorded that a Mass was said every year for the repose of his soul on the 10th November.

Collopy died in London in 1810 or 1811, unmarried.

Besides the paintings in Limerick, the following works are also attributed to him:—Portrait of Gerald Griffin in the possession of the Corporation of Limerick; Thomas Hussey, Bishop of Waterford; Sir Peter Francis Bourgeois, R.A., Cupid. The first of these cannot possibly be by Collopy, as Griffin was only seven years old when Collopy died. The second was engraved by W. Hincks and published by Collopy in London in 1783. The third was engraved by W. Ridley for the "Monthly Mirror" in 1804; and the fourth was sold for John Moreton in Limerick in January, 1900.

FITZJAMES O'BRIEN.

Fitzjames O'Brien, newspaperman, poet, novelist and soldier, was born in Limerick in the year

1828. His father was a lawyer and his mother a noted Limerick beauty.

O'Brien was educated in Dublin and emigrated to America in the year 1852, carrying with him letters of introduction to most of the prominent Irish-Americans of the day. These gained him an easy entrance to literary and fashionable society in America, and his charm of manner and his talents enabled him to consolidate it.

His poetry includes such famous comic ballads as "The Gory Gnome," "The Wonderful Adventures of Mr. Papplewick," and "The Demon of the Gibbet." He also wrote many poems in more serious vein, and his short story, "The Diamond Lens," has become a world classic. In 1861 O'Brien was invited to act as "Poet" to the Literary Society of Brown University in Providence.

Meantime O'Brien had enlisted in the 7th New York Regiment, and, having attained the rank of Captain, he took part in the defence of Washington in the Civil War. On his retiring from the 7th, he began to raise a regiment of his own in New York, and it was while he was engaged on this work that he received the invitation from Brown University. His reply is still treasured in the University records.—"A regiment of rifles which I am now engaged in raising demands all my time. If you can put me on the track of a hundred good men you will please me better than if you crown me with bays. If there is a spare population up your way I would take a recruiting trip thither and present my regards in person."

O'Brien's record as a soldier was a heroic one, as was his death. When aide on the staff of General Landers of the Union Army, he was wounded while leading a charge in Virginia. He died from the effects a few months later, and was buried in an honoured grave in Greenwood Cemetery, New York, in the month of April, 1862.

O'Brien's youth was very Bohemian. Although educated at Trinity he never graduated, and on receiving a legacy of £8,000 he went to London, where he ran through the money in two years. With no money left, he turned to journalism and spent several years on the London newspapers before emigrating.

NICHOLAS THOMAS ARTHUR.

Nicholas Arthur is included among the Worthies of Thomond, not so much for his fame as for the fact that he was a typical Limerick merchant of the fifteenth century, and his life gives us many intimate details of the Limerick of that period.

He was born about the year 1405, and followed his family's trade in "being engaged in respectable mercantile transactions." He was an exporter of horses of "generous" breed, hounds, falcons, scarlet mantles, and otterskins; martens, squirrels and other soft-furred animals; pillars and tables of polished and variegated marble.

In 1428 his vessel was raided by the pirate subjects of the Duke of Brittany, he was robbed of 700 marks worth of goods, his ship was taken and sold off at St. Malo, and he himself was imprisoned at Mont san Michele. He was released only on payment of 400 marks ransom. He appealed to the King of England and was allowed to take reprisals from the Duke's subjects to the value of £5,332 13s. 4d., and these he "bravely, energetically and perseveringly levied even to the last farthing." As a further sign of royal favour, Henry VI. granted him the right to construct a weir for his own use at Farranshone.

He was the progenitor of a prominent Limerick family. He married Katherine Skiddy of Cork, an immensely wealthy woman, and had six sons. Four of these became Mayor, one Sheriff and one,