

REV. PATRICK FITZGERALD.

Patrick Fitzgerald, joint-author with John James McGregor of "History and Antiquities of Ireland," was the son of a poor tailor in Bruff, and was born in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

Being employed in some menial post in the Academy of Mr. Buckley in Bruff, he showed a great aptitude for learning, and was educated in return for his work there. A local landlord to whose children he acted as tutor for a while, decided to send him to Trinity College with them, as a sober and steadying influence. Here he obtained a Sizarship and thus completed his education. On his return to Limerick he acted as private tutor to the Crips and other Limerick families.

It seems that Fitzgerald was born a Catholic and that at some time or another, probably while at Trinity College, he became a Protestant; and it is more than probable that this was the reason of the unusual patronage which he received. Late he became a Clergyman of the Church of Ireland, and was appointed Vicar of Cahircorney in the County of Limerick and Diocese of Emlý.

He married a Miss Stewart, a respectable lady of the County Galway, but there is no record of his having had any children. Fitzgerald's house, a two-storied house outside Grange on the way to Raleighstown, is still pointed out by the local people.

It is very likely that Fitzgerald did all the donkey-work attaching to the History of Limerick, particularly as he was on the spot to do so; while McGregor edited Fitzgerald's reports, put them together and gave them their final polish. The notes in this history of County Limerick houses and families are very valuable, as they give lots of information on a subject about which little else has been written.