

Dr. Teige bequeathed 5,702 florins to the Irish Pastoral College for the foundation of burses for Limerick students. It is interesting to note that, more than a hundred years later, one of these was availed of by John Young (afterwards bishop of Limerick), whose address is given as "near St. John's Gate, Limerick."

Another Limerick benefactor of this Louvain Irish College was Rev. Thomas Hurley, pastor of the hospital of Biloke at Ghent and Canon of St. Pharailde in that city. In 1697 he bequeathed a sum of 3,200 florins to his *alma mater*.

And still another alumnus of the Irish Pastoral College is entered on its registers for the year 1769 as "Praenobilis Dominus Jacobus Rice, Limericensis." He is described as "a rather brilliant student," but he did not follow an ecclesiastical course. It seems to me that there is little doubt but he was the famous Count James Rice, who became such a notable figure of his day in Austria and France. He was of the family of Lord Monteagle, and his mother was Alicia Meade of Kilmallock. He entered the Austrian army and became one of the few personal intimate friends of Emperor Joseph II. A noted duellist, Count Rice formed a plan for the rescue of Queen Marie Antoinette from her prison during the French Revolution. He had arranged relays of post horses from Paris to the coast, where he had a boat waiting to convey her to his house at Dingle, Co. Kerry. But the plan fell through because of the queen's unwillingness at the last moment to join in the project.

## Origin of the Early Marks on Limerick Silver.

By J. N. A. WALLACE.

Jackson in *English Goldsmiths and Their Marks*<sup>(1)</sup> published in 1905, writing of Limerick silver, states: "The earliest known example of Limerick plate is a communion flagon at Churchtown, Buttevant, Co. Cork. Its marks are, a triple-towered castle and the makers initials (I.B.), each mark being duplicated alternately. For a long time these marks remained unlocated, but the discovery by Mr. Dudley Westropp of an old Limerick toll-stamp of the early part of the eighteenth century bearing a castle of similar form, led to their identification. The toll-stamp bears the inscription "Tholsel Court Limerick."

A paten in St. Mary's Cathedral has similar marks to the Buttevant flagon, and other pieces of plate with these marks are now known. The makers mark I.B. is that of Jonathan Buck<sup>(2)</sup> who worked in Limerick between the years 1725-1740.

Since the publication of Jackson's work many earlier pieces of silver with the castle mark have been noted,<sup>(3)</sup> namely the Askeaton chalice and paten, 1663; the Ennis chalice, 1685; the Limerick Cathedral flagon (circa 1695), and a paten at Ballintemple (Co. Tipp.), but in addition to the castle, all these pieces have a star mark stamped on them. The dates assigned to these pieces are verified by either an engraved inscription or the stamping of a maker's mark whose period of working is known.

The presence of this star mark in addition to the castle or castle-gate suggest an alternative source as the origin for the early marks on Limerick silver. In the middle of the fifteenth century Edmund Galway erected a handsome tomb in the south transept of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick,<sup>(4)</sup> three armorial tablets are set in this monument, one commemorating Richard Bul-tingfort, another Richard Galway, and the third Edmond Galway. Over the monument is a fourth tablet. Mr. T. G. Westropp states this to be of a much later date;<sup>(5)</sup> it displays as crest the chained cat of the De Burgos and the Galway arms, quarterly. (1) a cross. (2) a double eagle displayed. (3) a fess wavy with a label above. (4) Ball's Bridge. This fourth quarter was granted to John de Burgo of Galway in 1361 or '64 for his defence of that bridge<sup>(6)</sup> and the oldest part of the city against the O'Briens and MacNamaras. Mr. Westropp compares these arms with the Galway slab (1627) in Kinsale Church and the seal of Sir Geoffry Galway on his will (1636), from which he suggests they may have been taken.

It is this fourth quarter (Plate fig. 2) with which I am concerned. It shows a bridge of four arches defended at either end by a castle, with a building on the middle—two stars are placed between the castles and this building, and a third star under the bridge. The seal attached to the will also shows a third star below the bridge.

I would suggest that here we have the origin of our silver marks. The Mayor of Limerick in 1652 was Sir Geoffry Galway, a notable and wealthy citizen, whose house stood at the corner of Quay Lane and Nicholas Street, and called locally Ireton's House or the Gridiron Inn. What is more likely than that the silversmith in the city should adopt these distinctive parts from the arms of a notable citizen, which were symbolic of city and the courage displayed by its citizens in its defence, to guarantee the standard of his work and his integrity.

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1. Jackson, C. J., *English Goldsmiths and Their Marks*, p. 630.
  2. *North Munster Antiquarian Journal*, Vol. I, p. 159.
  3. *Ibid*, Vol II, p. 135.
  4. *Journal Roy. Soc. Antiq.* Vol. II, p. 42.
  5. *Ibid*.
  6. *Ibid*, p. 37.