

## LOCAL HISTORY AND THE CIVIL SURVEY.

As this issue is being printed there comes to hand the good news of the publication by the Stationery Office of the Limerick volume of the Civil Survey. "And this is my testimony before I die": so might have written any of these jurors of the old stock who were required to describe in detail the broad acres so soon to pass from them and theirs. The recital and Mr. Simington's presentation of it will be the subject of full review in a later number: here, for the benefit of scores of readers who will peruse the Survey this winter, we call attention to other printed sources which provide a setting for the picture revealed in the Survey.

In a Note on Maps the editor tells how the reader may equip himself with copies of Petty's barony maps that make the story of the Confiscation so easy to follow. The comparison of the Down Survey baronies with the Townland Index maps—six of these latter cover Co. Limerick, and they are on sale at 2d. each—enables one to set down the old names on the modern map and to see how much has been changed, how much translated, and how very much remains unaltered. Perhaps the greatest change has taken place in the South Liberties of the city. The Report of an Enquiry of 1615 into Corporation Property (Appendix III. to Archdeacon Begley's first volume) cites names in this district that appear again in the Civil Survey and in Petty's map, but have vanished from the Ordnance Survey sheets and from living memory. But that is exceptional, and the remarkable feature revealed by the Survey is the persistence of the old names.

Finding in the Survey the description of a townland and the name of its owner in 1641, the reader will want to know its fate as a result of the Plantation. Fortunately, the late James Grene Barry made this information available for Co. Limerick in the predecessors to this Journal (L.F.C.J. Vol. I., No. 4, to J.N.M.A.S., Vol. I., No. 2: 1900-1910). Here we get the position for each townland after the plantation as amended by the Acts of Settlement and Explanation. If the Stuarts revised the Plantation, William's victory led to a new forfeiture of Stuart adherents (particulars of sales of forfeited lands in Co. Limerick: Lenihan pp. 301-2), and there emerged the compact Puritan ascendancy who owned the lands of county until the Purchase Acts. Before we leave the great Confiscation, attention must be called to the Cromwellian Returns of 1659, giving the population of each townland and the name of its holder in that year. The particulars for the county and city are given in chapters 5 and 6 of Archdeacon Begley's second volume.

Limerick was planted long before Cromwell, for the Normans settled here in great strength. Indeed, these settlers of seven hundred years ago have left a deeper mark on the county population than all the subsequent planters combined. Father Woulfe's thorough study of the elements in the county population will be found in J.N.M.A.S., Vol. IV. Particulars of the mediæval manors of the Fitzgeralds and other magnates can be perused in the History of the Diocese (Begley, Vol. I., ch. 10). Here, as elsewhere, the history deals with that part of the county which is within the Diocese of Limerick. When the Fitzgeralds of Desmond went down in the struggle with Elizabeth, the forfeiture of the lands of the earl and his adherents was based on the Peyton Survey, of which a full summary is to be found in Begley, Vol. II., ch. 2. A useful survey of the territory, parish by parish through the whole mediæval period will be found in Westropp's papers on "Ancient Castles of the County of Limerick" (P.R.I.A., Vol. XXVI.). Apart from the descriptions of ruined castles, we have here from a great variety of sources what amounts to a succession of freeholders in the Limerick parishes all through the Middle Ages. Though out of print, like his similar work on Limerick churches (P.R.I.A. Vol. XXV.), the work can be consulted at the City Library, Pery Square, or the County Library, Sarsfield Street.

The editor points out that the return of Church Lands made by the Civil Survey Commissioners is not now available. To remedy this deficiency Mr. Simington has taken pains for which his Limerick readers have deep reason to be grateful. He gives in an Appendix the church lands and glebes in the county from the Book of Survey and Distribution, and in the course of a very valuable Introduction he prints a Grant of Limerick lands to Trinity College, and a Charter of Bishop's Lands otherwise not easily available. In addition he gives full references to the valuable document on disputed Church Lands to be found in the second volume of the *Diocese of Limerick*, and to the particulars of Bishops' Manors to be found in that work and in Seymour's *Diocese of Emly*.



To get behind the Norman gloss to the Gaelic *tuatha* on which barony and manor were overlaid, we have the help of Father Woulfe's study of O h-Uidhrin's Topographical Poems in the papers already mentioned. That same pre-Norman world is reflected in the papers on Limerick forts which were the work of the closing years of Thomas Johnson Westropp's lifelong study of the antiquities of his native county. They are scattered through four volumes of the Proceedings of the R.I.A., and each of the papers can be purchased for a shilling (Papers 2 and 12 in Vol. 33; 3 and 8 in 34; 10/11 in V. 35; and 5 in V. 36).

The Study Circle proposes to examine the Civil Survey during the winter months. Readers who are interested are requested to give their names to the Secretaries before the end of November.

