

Miscellanea.

AN O'MOLONY FOUNDATION IN PARIS.

Few ecclesiastics of the seventeenth century played a larger part in Irish affairs than John O'Molony, who was bishop of Limerick from 1698 to 1702. A zealous patriot, who toiled ceaselessly abroad for his dream of an independent Ireland, one of the objects dearest to his heart, too, was to provide educational facilities at Paris for his countrymen. Immediately before his death in 1702, he helped to found an Irish college there (the *Collège des Lombards*) and he built the chapel attached to it, where he lies buried. At the same time he spent large sums out of his own resources in founding Bourses for members of his own family in various Paris colleges, e.g., that of St. Barbara and that of Louis le Grand (or *Collège de Clermont*). In the latter institution he established six Bourses, and sixty years after his death a little contention seems to have arisen when some of his relatives claimed the enjoyment of these. It is with their claims that the following document deals—an English translation of the original (in the *Archives Nationales*, Paris) is in the *Add. MSS.* (39266.f124) of the British Museum and runs as follows:—

"Paris—*Collège des Irlandais*. Act settling the Molony Foundation.

"Louis par la grace de Dieu, Roy de France et Navarre au premier huissier de notre cour . . . etc.

"By decree of 10 March, 1764, having referred to the Grand Chambre l'omolgation of the Acts to be passed relative to the 'Bourses' founded in the College of Louis le Grand by Jean de Molony, Bishop of Limerick, on August 8, 1701, and laid before the said Court the deliberations of the said College which rectifies the Act passed on 27 February, 1764, to settle definitely the matters between the heirs and representatives of the said Bishop and Bureau concerning the administration of the revenue and the right to the said bourses, We now require our Procureur-General, &c., to put in force the said Act, &c. . . .

"Here follow the clauses of said Act and Judgment:—

"Recites the names of the notaries and council appearing for the State and said College on the one part—and Jean Nihell de Moloney, ecuyer, docteur en medicine de la faculté de Caen, consulting physician to the Kings of England (Prince Charles Edward) and Poland, dwelling in Paris chez Monsieur President Bortail, rue de la planche, faubourg St. Germain in the parish of St. Sulpice, having since 1744 the administration of the Molony foundation; John Paul Marie Nihell, age 21 years, student in theology; and Victor Nihell, canon of Neuville in Alsace, age 17 years, student of logic, both presented to the 'bourses' by the said John Nihell de Molony, their father, and at present on the foundation of the College of Navarre, in the parish of St. Etienne du Mont—on the other part.

"The bishop founded six bourses in the College of Louis le Grand, which he endowed with 2500 livres, annual rent arising from a principal sum of 50,000 livres on condition that the bourses be held by Irish Catholics, with preference to persons of the name of Molony related to the said founder, and that the issue of his sisters to the 4th degree of descent should share with the families of O'Brien, MacNamara and MacMahon of the diocese of Killaloe, and the families of Arthur, Creagh and White, of the diocese of Limerick, and, if none such be forthcoming, then other Catholics of the said kingdom, who should be first presented, should have the right to said bourses, provided always that persons of the name of Molony and relatives of the Founder, should have first right to be preferred to said bourses. That the bishop's intention was that the holders of the bourses should be of use to their fellow-citizens and in consequence be students of theology in the first place, with, however, permission to apply said funds to the study of medicine and law. The bourses are fixed at 400 livres each for the maintenance of each holder thereof. The bishop reserved to himself the right of nomination, and after his death accorded it to two of his relatives, and afterwards to the eldest 'Boursier,' under obligation to present to the Jesuits three names from which they should select one. That at the close of their studies the sum of 100 livres should be given to each 'Boursier.' That the Procurator of the College should keep a register of receipts and expenditure and render an account thereof to the Provincial as well as to the Prior of the Carthusians whenever they should demand the same, and that they are begged to supervise the proper execution of the Foundation. That the Founder subjected the holders of the 'bourses'—both priests and those living outside the College—to the authority of the Jesuits, who should have the right to send them on the mission in Ireland whenever they judged right to do so. That the Founder had obliged the Jesuits to obtain from the Secretary such Letters Patent as might legalise their Foundation, which was not done till this foundation had suffered many changes. That 50,000 livres given in 1701 have been repaid in execution of the Edict of 1713 and replaced with the 5000 livres for the interest of the years 1712 and 1713, making a charge of 55,000 livres on the 'Ardes et Gabelles' (21 June, 1714). In 1720 this charge only produced an increase of 1375 livres, and the number of 'boursiers' has been reduced to three and, since 1750, to two. That till 1 July, 1761 the revenues were received by the Procurator of the College, who rendered an account to the relatives of the Founder, entitled by the Foundation to the right of inspection, and since that date to the said Nihell de Molony as the oldest 'boursier.' That on 1 April, 1762, the two bourses were held by his two sons, who are the only persons actually entitled to them. That there exist no longer any relatives of the Founder bearing the name of Molony—at least that they know of. And respecting the three sisters of the bishop named in the Deed of 8 August, 1701, Dame Black is the only one whose posterity still survives; that her only daughter, Eleanor Black de Molony, married Edmund Nihell, by whom she had four children, viz:—James Nihill de Molony, Canon and Precentor of the Chapter of Neuville in Alsace; Barbe Nihill de Molony, widow of the sieur Dempsey, by whom she had only one son, now a priest; John Nihell de Molony, now appearing; and Edmund Nihell who, fifteen years

ago, went to the East Indies and from whom no news has been received since his departure from London. In consequence, the children of said John Nihell and of his brother, if he still lives and be a Catholic, are the sole descendants of the said bishop of Limerick who are entitled to bourses to the exclusion of the other families named and in said Deed. Under the circumstances, the said John Nihell de Molony, in the name of his son, has formulated his demand against the creditors of the Jesuits in order to obtain payment of the amount of the bourses. That by two Decrees of 2 September, 1763, and 11 January last he has been adjudged 2000 livres. That the College of Louis le Grand, having by decree of 24 January last been placed in possession of the income of 1375 livres, the 'Comparant' has considered that his two sons should come to an agreement with the administrators of said College concerning not only the 'bourses' but also the arrangements to be made relative to the foundation owing to the changes which the circumstances of the case exact, according to the good pleasure of the Court, and conforming as far as possible to the intention of the Founder. It has, therefore, been agreed "

Here follow the arrangements made, and an amicable agreement seems to have been come to. Further down the document a list of those kinsmen of Bishop O'Molony entitled to the Bourses is given as follows:—

LIST OF "BOURSIERS," 1766—1790.

Edmund James Nihell de Molony	...	1766—1774.
William Griffin	...	1768—1773.
MacNamara O'Molony	...	1773—1777.
Jeremiah O'Molony	...	1774—1778.
Matthew O'Molony (brother of Jeremiah)	...	1777—1783.
Donat MacMahon	...	1778—1784.
Morton MacMahon	...	1784—1789.
Terence O'Shanasy MacMahon*	...	1783.
James O'Molony	...	1789.

*This is the well-known Dean O'Shaughnessy of Ennis.

QUERY RE LIMERICK POETS.

Towards the end of Vol. II. of Fitzgerald & McGregor's *History of Limerick* there is an enumeration of bards, natives of the county and city of Limerick:—

- "John Lloyd (Sean Lluid) who lived near the weigh-house in Limerick in 1775.
- "Andrew MacMahon had a tanyard in the city and was a writer of satires.
- "John Roberts of Kenry was living in 1778."

Could any reader supply any local history or tradition bearing on the forementioned writers?

INQUISITOR.

PROCEEDINGS; THOMOND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND FIELD CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Limerick Technical School on January 9th, when the following officers were elected for 1939:—President, The Very Rev. Archdeacon Begley, P.P., V.F., M.R.I.A.; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Canon Abbott, B.D.; Mrs. D. O'Donovan; Committee, An t-Ath De Bhall, S.P.; Rev. M. Moloney, Miss Roche Kelly, J. M. Flood, D.J.; E. H. Bennis, P. V. Twomey, D. F. Gleeson, D.J.; R. F. Hewson; Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. N. Stewart and J. N. A. Wallace; Hon. Treasurer, E. Treacy.

The annual report was read by Mrs. Stewart and a statement of accounts was presented by the Hon. Treasurer; both of which were considered highly satisfactory. Short papers were then read on "The Civil Survey of the City and South Liberties of Limerick" by Mrs. O'Donovan and J. N. A. Wallace.

On February 9th the Society visited the Limerick Free Library on the invitation of the Librarian and inspected the various objects of Antiquarian interest deposited in the Museum.

During the Spring the following excursions took place and were well supported by the members and their friends:—March 19th, "The Footsteps of St. Patrick"; Knockea, Donoghmore, Singland. The lecturers on this occasion were the Rev. John Ryan, S.J., and the Rev. M. Moloney. April 20th—Mungret and Carrigogunnell; lecturers, Rev. E. Punch, P.P., and R. F. Hewson. May 7th—Croom, Dysert and Monasterenagh. Miss Murphy delivered a short and interesting address on the "Maigue Poets" and and Mr. D. Cantwell spoke on the history and antiquities of the district. On May 18th—Adare, with its religious foundations and castle was visited, the Society being welcomed by the Earl of Dunraven. Mr. R. F. Hewson described the history and architectural features of the various buildings. May 29th (Whit Monday) was selected for a joint excursion with the Cork Society to Killarney, Ross Castle, Muckross, Aghadoe and Dunloe Castle were visited and the Societies were entertained later by Commander O'Connell, R.N.

