Some Old Limerick Wills.

By Dr. Richard Hayes.

Though the contents of old wills help sometimes to conjure up vividly a far-away past, it was with a little diffidence that the following paper embodying a certain number of them was submitted to the Editors. They feel justified in accepting it for publication, I presume, by the thought that one of the main objects of their Journal is an effort to reconstruct the past in its varied phases. And these human documents, apart from their intrinsic interest, do often throw revealing sidelights on the social features and customs of a life gone for ever. They are sometimes of real value, too, for the students of local history, especially on its genealogical side. And reading them in their faded parchment sometimes calls up the very atmosphere of their day.

The wills were selected by me from the remnant saved after the lamentable destruction of the Four Courts in 1922. The first presented here is dated 1640—the year before the outbreak of the Irish Insurrection. The testator is Michael McMahon, a merchant of Limerick, who was also a holder of lands in the county. Judged from its contents, he seems to be a fairly wealthy "Irish Papist" of the time and was related to many of the leading local families. His name occurs among the Irish landed gentlemen in the recently published Civil Survey of Limerick:—"Michael McMahon, late of Limerick, deceased, Irish proprietor and papist in the parte parish of Askeaton called Ivorossa." The names of most of those mentioned in his will are found here and there throughout the pages of the same Survey which, in the cases of Alderman Creagh, Dr. White, Patrick Sarsfield and those residing in the city, gives a description of their houses, gardens, &c. (1)

The will runs as follows—an interesting item in it, an unusual one for the period, is the testator's bequest of all his books "with their case" to his brother:

"In the name of God, Amen, the fourth day of August An. Do. one thousand six hundred and forty, I Michael McMahon of the citta of Limerick merchant, being of good and perfect memorie, God be praised, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I committ my soul to God my maker and Redeemer, and my body to be inreerred in St. Marie's Church in the grave or tombe which my cossen Dominick Creagh Alderman promised to convey unto me and my heires upon demand and that in consideration of a satten dublett which I bestowed upon him before the date hereof.

"Item. I will that all such debts and duties as I owe of right or of conscience to any person or persons be well and truly satisfied and paid with as much expedition as my executors hereafter named shall advise or devise. And after all my funeral expenses performed I will that all the debts undeviced betwixt John O'Connell and myself be due and honestly devised, and he to enjoy the one moiety thereof as he ought, and the other moiety belonging unto me to be disposed of with all the rest of my goods and chattels as hereafter followeth. First, I leave and bequeath unto my sister Alice the sum of ten pounds ster. towards the payment of the marraige portion of her eldest daughter Ellen . . . I will and ordain that my brother John White shall have the disposing of twenty pounds ster. of my said goods and shall thereof dispose according unto my instructions unto him delivered. I alsose will for as much as I paid two hundred and ten pounds towards the purchasing of Martowne in the Barony of Kenne and countie of Limerick, whose conveyances are made and past unto William O'Noonnan and whereof Edmund Purtell of Currien in the Barony of Kenne and countie aforesaid is enfeoffed by the said William O'Noonnan . . . And as for as much as I am possessed by way of inheritance of a fourth part of the ploughland of Ballymacurtie in the Barrony and countie aforesaid and for as much as my brother Laurence White doth stand seized for and in my use of another quarter or fourth part of the said ploughland in mortgage of two hundred pounds ster. which is to be paid within the space of ten years or thereabouts. And for as much as my said brother Laurence doth stand seized and possessed of another fourth part of the said ploughland and as a pledge or mortgage for the payment of forty and two pounds ster. . . . I therefore will and bequeath and leave all my right, title and interest in the said lands with the appurtenances to my eldest son Thomas McMahon and his heirs males lawfully begotten, and for want of such issue the premises to descend and come unto my daughter Marie McMahon (if in case there be not another sonn in her way) and in case

1. The names of the following, mentioned in the will, occur in the list of Irish land-owners transplanted to Connacht after the Cromwellian confiscations, as given in the Ormond MSS., Vol. 2.—Dominick Creagh, Patrick Sarsfield, Dr. White, John White, Laurence White and Laurence Rice. All these were notable Catholic gentlemen of the day, e.g.:—Patrick Sarsfield, nephew of Viscount Sarsfield of Kilmallock. He was educated at Bordeaux, was Recorder of Limerick, and had a large family by his wife, Eilnor White. One of their sons, Ignatius, became an Irish Brigade officer in France, where his descendants bore the title of "Counts Sarsfield" in the French army.
that said other daughter and one son that then the premises shall descend to the said other daughter and to the said Marie and their heirs, provided that my executors shall immediately after my decease enter into the said premises two thirds of them and thereof to be seized and possessed during the minority of my said children for the use of my said children and afterwards to and for the use and payments hereafter expressed and declared, that is to say, in case my said issue shall fall or die without issue as aforesaid, that the premises shall descend and come unto my brother Thomas McMahon and his heirs male lawfully begotten, and for want of such the premises to descend and come unto my brother Richard McMahon and his heirs male lawfully begotten, and for want of such issue the premises to descend and come unto my sister Honnora McMahon and her issue male and for want of such my will is and so I ordain that the premises shall descend and come to my rightful heirs without further dispute, and as for my wife's will is and so I ordain in lieu of her Dowery and other things that she be paid of the sum of two hundred pounds sterling. And household stuff which I hand and bequeath unto her excepting the parcels hereafter named, viz.—my Great Hilt, my brand iron, my two round tables, my own trunk, my best bed clothes, feather beds, curtains and Signet of Gould, whereas she is to have the use only during her widowhood, and upon marriage I will and ordain that the parcels before excepted to be secured by my executors to the use of my said heirs, and for want thereof unto my brother Laurence White and his heirs.

"I also leave the lease of my Dwelling House and Shoppe unto my said wife. I also leave and bequeath unto my said wife all her jewellery, Rings and Brooches except my said Signet of Gould. I leave and bequeath unto my daughter Mary McMahon the sum of two hundred pounds sterling out of my movable and out of Rents, issues and profits out of the two-third parts of my said lands, the same to be paid unto her when she is of an age of sixteen years, always provided that she shall be said by her mother and by my executors and Dr. White, and if she should prove refractory or contrary to this, then I do hereby declare that my will and pleasure is that she shall have no more benefit of this my will. I also ordain that all my children be duly bred and always kept at schools and maintained from time to time in a decent honest and godly manner. All my writings and papers I ordain to be put in my brother Laurence's custody, he being one of my executors to be named, and in case that my son Thomas do live to inherit my said little patrimony and that my son Dominic do live to the age of sixteen years that then my said executors with the assent of Mr. Dr. White shall allow my said son Dominic what portion or stock they shall think fit out of my movable rents, &c. I shall leave all my books with his case unto my brother John Clancy. I leave my nagge my saddle and Rapier to my brother Laurence White. I ordain that my executors shall send for Twenty rings of Gould, each thereof to have Deaths Heads, and the same to be worn on the persons hereunder written, one to Sir Hardrus Waller Kt. the same to be worth fifteen or sixteen shillings, all the rest to be worth twelve or thirteen shillings as they shall think fit, and to Deliver one to Dr. White one to Lady White one to David White, Burgess, one to Conor Clancy one to Laurence White one to John Clancy one to Boetius Clancy one to his brother Daniel one to Mr. Clancy of Knockfane, one to my sister Aisone White, one to Thomas White one to my brother Patrick Sarsfield one to Pearse Lacey one to Major Sheare one to my brother John White one to my cousin Garrald Fitz Thomas one to Thomas Arthur one to Mr. Dr. Rice one to Francis Rice one to Edmund Roach and the other to my cousin Torlogh McMahon of Connagh. I leave and bequeath to my mother five pounds per annum after she parts my wife. In the interim I ordain that she want nothing. Of this my last will and testament I make and ordain my well beloved brothers Laurence White, John Clancy and John White aforesaid my executors. In witness my hand and seal this day and year above written.

"MICHAEL MCMACON."

A Prerogative will of the year 1627 is the earliest in my collection. It is that of "Richard Hackett fitz Thomas, Limerick, merchant," and is a contrast in brevity and other ways with the McMahon will:

"To wife Catherine Cahissey (2) fitz David the one half of all my goods and chattels.

"Of the other half I bequeath unto my sister Catherine Hackett; fitz to sister Juan Hackett £10 to brother Peirs Hackett my cloake to brother Thomas Hackett my best cupboard and my dark pewter pot.

"To foster father and foster mother 30/- of the £7 which they owe me.

"To Nurse Onora my Quely 30/- and 44 unto my base daughter Ellen Hackett. (Silver bowl to be given to my son if my wife be delivered of a son, otherwise to my daughters—if they die to my brother Peirs Hackett's son Thomas Hackett).

"The rest of my goods and chattels I leave altogether to my children in manner following. If my wife be delivered of a boy I leave him the third part of my said goods, but if a daughter said goods to be equally divided between both my daughters. And if it should be a boy I leave the two parts to my daughter Ellinor Hackett and the one third part unto the boy.

Thomas Neelan.
James Mahowne
Michael Fox.

D. 7 November 1624

RICHARD HACKETT."

The two succeeding wills presented here are those of a pair of merchants from

(2). This is the Irish O'Cathasigh (English, Casey).
Holland who were naturalised and carried on business in Limerick. The extent and influence of Dutch settlements in the city and its neighbourhood during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is an interesting subject which, it is to be hoped, may be studied by some reader of this Journal, who in its pages will find a lacuna of local history. During the two centuries mentioned one meets with the names of many Dutchmen prominent in the commercial and professional life of Limerick. From 1600 to 1650 Ireland had little native shipping, and most of the carrying trade to and from the country was in their hands. They brought to the port of Limerick (which was the second city of Ireland for a part of this period) wines, brandies, tobacco and manufactured goods, taking away live cattle, hides tallow and fish. It was during this earlier half of the seventeenth century that they began to settle individually in the city and its neighbourhood and, wherever any of them did settle, it was said that they "soon made themselves known as industrious and enlightened members of society."

After the siege of 1651 Limerick suffered heavily under the Cromwellian regime. All the Papist merchants, native Irish as well as old English, were banished, and numbers of Dutch and English merchants supplanted them. Boyle, Earl of Orrery, governor of the city, wrote at the time that "it did my heart good to see at Limerick forty Dutch families which I had lately gotten together, so busy in their manufactures and plantations." And a few years later another letter of his states that he "daily expects more Dutch merchants, out of the Low Countries, to settle in the city." Their coming seems to have had a stimulating effect on its trade, especially on the local woollen industry. Later, too, they influenced the city's architecture—houses of pointed gables with fronts of Dutch brick were a feature of older Limerick up to a generation ago. And in this connection one thinks of the portrait of O'Carolan, the poet, painted at Doonass in 1720 by the Dutch artist, Vanderhagen, at the request of Dean Massey of Limerick.

The best-known of these Dutch families, that settled in and about Limerick, were the Verekers, Vandeleurs, Yorkes, Foxons, D'Estrees, Van Hogarten and Van Cruyskirkens. The Verekers' arrival dates during the first decade of the eighteenth century. They subsequently functioned on several occasions as sheriffs of the city, while some of them married into local families like the Smyths and Westroppes. The most notable of them was Colonel Charles Vereker, who was the English commander at the battle of Collooney in 1798, where he was defeated by the little Franco-Irish army. He afterwards became Viscount Gort. Regarding the Vandeleurs (Van der Leurs), Maximilian was the first of the name who came from Holland and settled in the neighbourhood of Limerick, where he was naturalised in 1605. The family became associated with manufacturing industries at Sixmilebridge and in the Cromwellian period got extensive tracts of land round Kilrush. Giles Vandeleur was sheriff of Clare in 1665, while a hundred years later his grandson and namesake was one of the best known surgeons in the Limerick of his day.

Two of the most prominent Dutch merchants in seventeenth-century Limerick were Samuel Foxon and William Yorke. The former was mayor in 1605, while the latter filled the same office for three terms a few years later. Foxon was knighted by William the Third for services rendered during the siege of 1691; Yorke presented to St. Mary's Cathedral the bells which bear his name and in other ways showed a generous civic spirit. A letter from the Earl of Orrery in the Domestic State Papers (Chas. II.—1675-76) describes his as "an honest man, a great trader and one who chiefly keeps up manufacture and trade in Limerick." He has been called the ancestor of the Stam family of Carnelly (Co. Clare), into one of whose daughters married in 1689.

The first of the two Dutch merchants whose wills follow is Abraham Van Hogarten. During the Cromwellian regime his father Isaac settled on the Vandeleur property at Kilrush, and here at Querin beside the Shannon a little later Abraham built a mansion in the old Dutch style. It was still standing one hundred and fifty years later when Mason's Statistical Survey (1810) refers to it thus:

"Querin is the residence of Lieut. William Borough of the Royal Navy. This

3. The best-known of these seems to have been that known as "Ireland's House" (the former residence of Sir Geoffrey Gallew) in Nicholas Street, which was demolished in 1894. All the others have since disappeared. I am indebted to Mr. J. N. A. Wallace for copies of some finely executed photographs of these old houses which he fortunately made some time before their destruction.
house is in itself a very great curiosity, having been built after the old Dutch fashion, with two stories in its long projecting roof. It is credibly reported that every article of the materials of this house, timber, bricks, shingles, windows, &c., were brought here from Holland in one vessel by Mr. Vanhогarten, the ancestor of Mr. Borough.

Van Hогarten's will runs as follows:—

"In the name of God Amen I Abraham Vanhогarten merchant now residing in the Cittye Limerick yet of perfect sence and memory, praise be to God, doe make this my last will and Testament in manner following (vz.)—I bequeath my soule to Almighty God my creator and Redeemer and my body to be buried in St. Marie's Church in Limerick aforesaid. Item. I leave and bequeath unto Laurence de Guere, Lord at Osterbury in Swedeland, Comissaire for His Maje. of Swedeland all my estate whatsoever real and personal which I have in this Kingdome of Ireland, and of my said Estate do make and constitute him my sole heire and Executor. And doe nominate Thomas Hickman Esq. overseer of this my last will and Testament, hereby willing and ordaining that a贼ere reckoning and balancing being made between the said Laurence de Guere and me concerning our partnerships whatsoever shall be found due of overplus shall be equally distributed between my owne brothers and sisters, every one a like proportion. Item. I leave and bequeath unto Katharyn the mayde that waited on me in my sickness ten pieces of eight. Item. I leave to the prisoners of this Citty ten pieces of eight to be bestowed in white leaves upon them. And for my dearly beloved wife I leave her to a former will which I made when I come from hence hereby confirming the same in all points. Item. I leave the care of all my goods to my said overseer Thomas Hickman to the use of this my last will, and to be brought into the estate accompt to my heir de Guere along with all my bonds, Credits and their rights whatsoever, he having an interest in the said estate with me and to be by him accompted and balanced as above said, and the overplus to be disposed as I have ordained hereby willing and enjoying my brothers to observe the orders and directions of my said overseer and executor in all things. In testimony whereof I have to this my last will and Testament putt my hands and seale the yeanteenth day of September Anno Dom 1665,

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us,                        ABRAHAM VANHOEGARDEN.
Will Allin
Isaac Vanhогarden

This gave rise to some discussion at the time. England and Holland were at war, and the Irish law authorities accordingly proposed the seizure of Vanhогarden's ships and goods, because his legatee, de Geer, they maintained, was a Dutchman. In January, 1666, King Charles II. wrote to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland as follows:—

"We are informed that Abraham von Hогarden, who was employed at Limerick as correspondent for one Laurence de Geer at Amsterdam, is lately dead, and thereupon Sir Peter Pett, Advocate-General in Ireland, or others are endeavouring to make prize of the goods which the said Hогarden was possessed at the time of his death as if de Geer was a Dutchman. The Swedish Resident at our Court informs us that de Geer is a Swede and is now and has long been Swedish Minister at Amsterdam. . . . Meantime, these goods and ships shall be no further embrazed. . . ."

Six months later the King again writes that de Geer is a Swedish subject and orders that all proceedings against the goods of Van Hoegarden should cease.

The other Dutch merchant, whose will is given below, was Henry Van Cruyskircken. A native of Leyden in Holland, he was baptised in St. Pancras church in that city on 11th December, 1657. He settled in Limerick, where he married and left two daughters; several well-known families in Limerick and Clare, like the Bevans and Brady's, were descended from or related to these. His will is dated 1st March, 1727, and is as follows:—

"In the name of God Amen, I Henry Cruyskircken of the city of Limerick, being very sick and weak in body but perfect sence and memory, thanks be to God, and therefore calling to mind ye mortality of my body and knowing ye is appointed for all men once to dye, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament, that is to say Principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul to the hands of God that gave it, and for my body I commend it to the earth, to be buried in St. Mary's Church in a Xtion like and Decent manner. . . . Imprimis. I give and bequeath to Catherine, my well beloved wife, the Interest, issues and profits that can be made of the sum of 300 pounds sterling to be taken out of the debts due to me in this city, and the same to be kept by my said wife (in conjunctiion with my executors hereafter named) at Interest, the interest thereof to be to her use and at her disposal during her natural life, and after her decease the said sum of 300 ster, moyetively to the children of my two daughters hereafter named, to be distributed among them as my said daughter shall think proper. Secondly, I give and bequeath alsoe to my said wife the third part of all my worldly substance and assets, that is and are not hereby devised or bequeathed to any other person or persons, the interest issues and profits thereof to be to her use and at her disposal during her natural life . . . , and my will is that the principal or the said one
third part of my substance after her decease shall be distributed among my daughter's children as above. Thirdly, I give and bequeath unto the children of my daughter Dilliana Brady another one third part of my worldly substance as above to be distributed among them as my said daughter Dilliana shall think fit and proper, and that the said children of my daughter Dilliana shall have the half of the third part already bequeathed to my wife, as also one half of the said sum of 300 pounds left my said wife after her decease. Fourthly, I give and bequeath unto the children of my daughter Jacobs Susanna Bevin the other one third part of my worldly substance as aforesaid to be distributed among them, as my daughter Jacobs Susanna shall think fit and proper, and that the said children of my daughter Jacobs Susanna shall have the other one half of the said sum of 300 pounds left my said wife after her decease. Fifthly, I leave and bequeath to my grandson Henry Bevin in consideration of his constant care and dutiful attendance on me the further sum of 50 pounds sterling, to be paid out of all the debts due to me. Sixthly, I also leave and bequeath unto my grand-daughter Mary Brady ye further sum of 30 pounds sterling. Seventhly, And whereas I have already given as a marriage portion unto Catherine Sargeant als. Brady my grand-daughter the sum of 300 pounds sterling, I do therefore in requital leave and bequeath to my grandson Thomas Bevin all my right, title and interest in, and to the lands of Ballyna, Courty, Gort Scrivins, Boherkille, and Park, in as large ample and beneficial manner as the said lands or any part thereof was conveyed or assigned over to me by John Vincent of the city of Limerick alderman and Anistace McNamara widow and administratrix of Michael McNamara late of the city of Limerick, gentleman, deceased. Eighthly, And whereas I have sent on sundry shippes to Mr. Hermanus Vanlyzendoon of Rotterdam several goods and merchandise and that some time past I writ to him to keep the value in his hands till my further order. Now this is to certify and publish that on the 25th day of this Instant Feb. I writ again to the said Vanlyzendoor ordering him to remit all such effects of mine that are in his hands, in good faith to Edward Davis of this city of Limerick merchant, to remain in his hands for the use of his heirs and administrators. Now my will is that all such sums so remitted shall be to the use hereinbeforementioned and noe other. Lastly, I do hereby constitute, make and ordain Samuel Smyth, clerk, and Francis Sargeant, alderman, both of this city of Limerick, the executors of this my last Will and Testament in manner following. I recommend my soul to Almighty God my Creator and Redeemer hoping through the merits of His Sacred Passion for life everlasting and my body to be buried after such decent and becoming manner as my Executors shall think fit. Secondly, I leave and bequeath unto my grand daughter Mary Skea Slan the sum of Twenty Pounds sterling, to be paid her out of what is due to me from her father, my son-in-law John Skeolan, and in case as God forbid that she shall not survive me, my will is and so I devise that the said twenty pounds sterling shall come to my dear sons Edmond and Pierce Merroney motively between them. Thirdly, I leave and bequeath unto Father Theobald Butler three pounds sterling. Fourthly, I leave and bequeath unto the Roman Catholic clergy twenty pounds sterling, to be paid by my said Executors as they shall think fit to distribute same towards the praying and celebrating Masses for my soul. Fifthly, I will and so devise that twenty pounds sterling, shall be and remain on the hands of my son Pierce Merroney to be paid out on any public work that the Franciscan Friars may hereafter sett forward and that the aforesaid sume of twenty pounds shall be laid on and expended on such works and after such a manner as my said son Pierce Merroney and my son-in-law Thomas Harroid or the longer liver of them shall think fit. Because they know my intentions how I would satisfy the said sume and so devise that ten pounds sterling shall be paid by my said Executors to the poor to be distributed between them after such a manner as my said Executors shall think fit for the good of my soule, and also that my said Executors shall yearly while they live over and above the foregoing several sums bequeath for plus uses as aforesaid pay motively between then to the Roman Catholic Clergy towards praying and having Masses the sum of five pounds sterling, to be yearly distributed by my said Executors as to them shall be thought most fitting, but that for the first year after the said five pounds shall be monthly distributed equally towards praying for my soul as my said Executors shall think most convenient for

Signed &c in presence of us,
Jno. Bonfield,
Thomas Lynch.

HENRY VAN CRUYSKERCKEN.

The following is a copy of the will of Margaret Merroney (née Creagh), widow of Pierce Merroney, merchant. The latter was one of the Catholic faction which in 1703 disowned connection with the petition of the Catholics of the city to Parliament for redress of their grievances. White in his manuscript history of Limerick strongly denounces this faction for their disloyalty and treachery to their fellow-religionists.

The names of some Limerick notabilities of the day occur in the will, e.g., Thady Quin (a son-in-law of the executrix), who played such an ambiguous part in contemporary events.

The will is dated 10th September, 1703, and runs as follows: —

"In the name of God, Amen, I Margaret Merroney, als. Creagh, widow, being sick in Body but of sound mind and perfect memory, praised be the Almighty God, and taking into consideration the uncertainty of this transitory life and being desirous to settle what means and worldly substance the Almighty God of His infinite mercy hath been pleased to bestow on me and do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following. I recommend my soul to Almighty God my Creator and Redeemer hoping through the merits of His Sacred Passion for life everlasting and my body to be buried after such decent and becoming manner as my Executors shall think fit. Secondly, I leave and bequeath unto my grand daughter Mary Skea Slan the sum of Twenty Pounds sterling, to be paid her out of what is due to me from her father, my son-in-law John Skeolan, and in case as God forbid that she shall not survive me, my will is and so I devise that the said twenty pounds sterling shall come to my dear sons Edmond and Pierce Merroney motively between them. Thirdly, I leave and bequeath unto Father Theobald Butler three pounds sterling. Fourthly, I leave and bequeath unto the Roman Catholic clergy twenty pounds sterling, to be paid by my said Executors as they shall think fit to distribute same towards the praying and celebrating Masses for my soul. Fifthly, I will and so devise that twenty pounds sterling, shall be and remain on the hands of my son Pierce Merroney to be paid out on any public work that the Franciscan Friars may hereafter sett forward and that the aforesaid sume of twenty pounds shall be laid on and expended on such works and after such a manner as my said son Pierce Merroney and my son-in-law Thomas Harroid or the longer liver of them shall think fit. Because they know my intentions how I would satisfy the said sume and so devise that ten pounds sterling shall be paid by my said Executors to the poor to be distributed between them after such a manner as my said Executors shall think fit for the good of my soule, and also that my said Executors shall yearly while they live over and above the foregoing several sums bequeath for plus uses as aforesaid pay motively between then to the Roman Catholic Clergy towards praying and having Masses the sum of five pounds sterling, to be yearly distributed by my said Executors as to them shall be thought most fitting, but that for the first year after the said five pounds shall be monthly distributed equally towards praying for my soul as my said Executors shall think most convenient for
the good of my soul. Seventhly, I will that Ten Goulde Moneysing Rings of the value of twenty shillings each shall be given by my said Executors in manner following, viz:—To my son-in-law John Ronan and my daughter Mary his wife one Goulde Ring each. To my son-in-law Thady Quinn and my daughter Catherine his wife one Goulde Ring unto my son-in-law Thomas Harrold and my daughter Margaret his wife one Goulde Ring to each. To my son Edmd. Merroney and his wife Jeane one Goulde Ring to each. Eightly, I leave and bequeath unto my son Pierse Merroney whatever sums my said Edmd. Merroney paid me for the household stuffe which my deceased husband left me only during life and the remainder to my aforesaid son Pierse Merroney. Ninthly, I leave and bequeath unto my sons Edmond Merroney and Pierse Merroney after my legacies aforesaid paid, and my funeral expenses and all other charges borne debts and credits of any sort or kind soever whereof I shall dye seized or possessed entitled unto, to be equally distributed and divided between them, the said Edmond and Pierse and their respective heirs and executors. Lastly, I doe hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my said dearly beloved sons, Edmond and Pierse Merroney, Executors of this my last will and Testament, hereby revoking, annulling and making void all former wills and Testaments by me heretofore made. . . . the tenth day of September, Anno Domini 1703.

"MARGT X MERRONEY,"

her Mark and Seale (loco sig.)

(To be continued).