

# NOTES AND QUERIES

## "THE BUTLER ARCHBISHOPS OF CASHEL"

I should like to add a postscript to Rev. Dr. Morris' interesting article on the above.<sup>1</sup> He mentioned that, when pursuit from priest-hunters became particularly close, Archbishop Christopher Butler "would seek shelter from other relatives, the Gallweys of Cork" and that "another of his places of refuge was Westcourt." The relatives here referred to were the Galweys of Lota, near Cork, one of whom married Mary Butler, the Archbishop's first cousin. She was a daughter of Col. John Butler of Westcourt, Co. Kilkenny, son of the Hon. Richard Butler of Kilcash and nephew of the first Duke of Ormonde. Her son, John Galwey of Lota, inherited Westcourt from his uncle, Richard Butler, in 1758 and made it his principal residence. He was a supporter of Grattan, and a review of the Volunteers was held there on one occasion. He died at Westcourt in 1793, and by his will directed that the property be sold to raise portions for his younger sons, Richard (my great-great-grandfather)<sup>2</sup> and William (afterwards Archdeacon of Cashel). John Galwey was a Protestant (his father conformed to preserve the family estates) and a Justice of the Peace, so the Archbishop was safer with him than in the home of a Catholic relative. But he nevertheless ran considerable risk in sheltering the fugitive prelate, for a magistrate who neglected to enforce the Penal Laws against 'Popish Archbishops' was liable to a heavy fine and removal from the commission of the peace, while the penalties for harbouring one were still more severe.

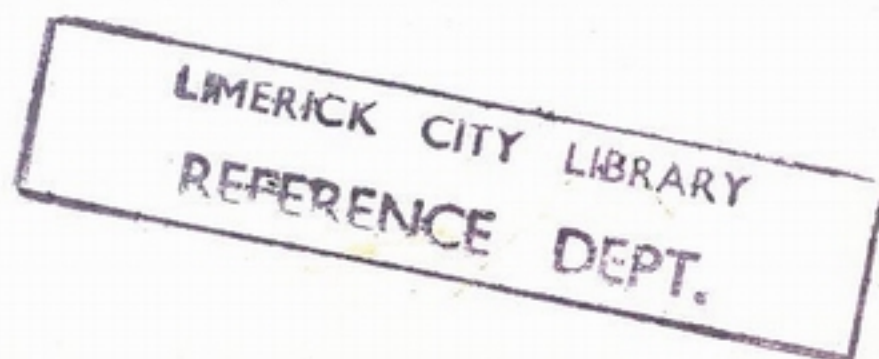
Lecky tells us of another Protestant magistrate who displayed the same humane spirit as John Galwey in similar circumstances. He would warn the Catholic bishop whenever a priest-hunter was on his track, and he kept an upper room in his own house permanently locked, giving it out to the servants that it was haunted. The room overlooked the garden, and in times of danger the bishop would climb into it by a ladder which was conveniently left beneath the window.

SIR HENRY BLACKALL.

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1—N. Munster Antiq. Jn. Vol. VII No. 2 (1955).

2—'See my article 'The Butlers of Co. Clare' (N. Munster Antiq. Jn. Vol. VI. 4 (1952) p. 123 n. 83)





## THE LIMERICK MANOR OF FONTIMEL : A WESTROPP— ORPEN CONTROVERSY

Goddard Orpen, historian of the Normans in Ireland, crossed swords with Thomas Johnson Westropp, a valued contributor to this Journal, on the whereabouts of the Manor of Fontimel. Orpen claimed that it lay in the north-west of the country while Westropp agreed with Begley that it lay in the south-east—from about Kilmallock towards the Ballyhouras.

Westropp clinched the proof for his case in an Academy paper of 1915 on Limerick Earthworks when he showed from manor court records that places like Ardpatrick, Kilquane, Effin and Darragh were in the territory of Fontimel.

The various spellings of the manor name set both parties speculating as to what Gaelic original it represented. Orpen rightly saw in 'Fontymchyll' the element *Fonn* (territory) and said the stress should be on the middle syllable. Westropp thought some form of *Micheal* figured in the name.

The answer to their problem lies in the text of an Irish topographical tract included in the Book of Lismore. The *Crichad an Chaoilli* described in the tract covers some N.E. Co. Cork territory with an overlap beyond the Ballyhouras into the Limerick plains. For this northern fringe there are no surname or church-name details and the general vagueness suggests that for the compiler this outlying area was no longer in effect united with the land south of the hill range. The Normans had a similar boundary problem and in 1206 a royal inquiry was ordered to ascertain "whether the castle of Kilmallock, the cantreds of Karebry, ..... belong to the Kingdom of Cork or the kingdom of Limerick."

The Irish text of the *Crichad* tract was published in 1928 by J. G. O'Keeffe and again four years later by Canon Power. The Irish name for the debatable frontier about the Ballyhouras appears as *Fonn Timchill* (border land). This no doubt is the origin of the puzzling name of Fontimel Manor. Among territories in this frontier area the Tract cites *Leath-baile I Finn*, a sept to which we may owe the name of Effin.

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