

REVIEWS.

PRE-REFORMATION ARCHBISHOPS OF CASHEL.*

By REV. ST. JOHN SEYMOUR, B.D.

Mr. Seymour has given us in this little work a very interesting account of the Pre-Reformation Archbishops of Cashel. The author is to be commended for his industry and research. Short though the work is, yet judging from the list of authorities consulted, as given at the beginning of the book, the composition must have entailed a very considerable amount of trouble and research. The account which Mr. Seymour gives of Pre-Reformation times furnishes a not altogether pleasing picture. As an illustration of this we may quote the following story of David MacCarwell as related by the author:—MacCarwell was anxious to get credit for founding a monastery at as little expense to himself as possible. The means lay to hand in the shape of the House of the Upper Rock. MacCarwell dreamt one night that the monks intended to cut off his head. On consulting with his mother as to the import of the dream she advised him to forestall them by turning them out, which he did accordingly, and he seems at the same time to have demolished their house. The times no doubt were troublous ones, and things were done even by Archbishops which would not be tolerated at the present day. Mr. Seymour observes in the preface that many of these prelates must have endeavoured to uphold the ideal of their high office, but of such work no account remains in any earthly Record Office.

There are two complaints that we have to make. One is that the author has not given us a list of the Archbishops with dates. Of course this may be found in Cotton and elsewhere, but it would have been a great convenience if such a list had been added to this work. The second complaint is that there is no index. No work of this kind should be issued without some sort of an index. The writer has, however, done a useful service in giving such a full list of the principal authorities consulted, and anyone undertaking similar work will find this list very useful as a guide. The book is well printed and is published at the modest price of one shilling.

T. F. A.

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Literary Notes.

Royal Society of the Antiquaries of Ireland.—In the two Journals of the parent Society which have appeared since our last issue, there are several articles by our members, or of local interest. In Part 4, Vol. XL., Mr. T. J. Westropp, M.A., describes some promontory forts in Co. Kerry, and Rev. St. John D. Seymour, B.D., has some interesting notes on the chapter books of Cashel Cathedral.

In the Miscellanea section there is a note of a beam found by Mr. M. Collins, 20 Broad Street, Limerick, on rebuilding the premises, with three panels. In one panel "P" overhead, "R. L." below; "Anno Domini 1634" in centre panel, and "C. S." in the third panel. Some members might inquire further as to this beam. There is also a note of the Ousely family, of Limerick, of which the famous musician, Sir F. A. G. Ousley, was a member. Mr. P. J. Lynch sends notes with photograph and section of a stone trough found at Caherconree, Co. Kerry. This is an interesting relic in connection with an ancient stone fort. Could it have been a reservoir to catch water from a trickling mountain stream?

Part 1, Vol. XLI., Mr. T. J. Westropp contributes some valuable and interesting notes on St Mochulla, of Tulla. He acknowledges his obligation to Mr. R. W. Twigge, F.S.A.—who has given a good deal of attention to the ecclesiastical history of Clare—for calling his attention to this life for which Colgan sought in vain before 1637; and though Canon O'Hanlon notes a St. Mochulleus on 12th June, he identifies him with the Co. Carlow, in which, it would appear, he was not justified. The particulars of his life, and the Saint's connection with Tulla, should be studied by all who are interested in the history of Clare.

Cork Historical and Archæological Society.—The Journal of this Society is, as usual, rich in historical matter connected with Cork. In No. 88, Mr. James Grene Barry deals with one of the many disreputable events in the history of the Munster Geraldines, the putting away of his first wife (Lord Roche's daughter) by James, the fourteenth Earl of Desmond, and his marriage with Morc, daughter of O'Carroll, of Ely. The reason assigned for this was near affinity, which Mr. Barry, on a critical analysis of the Fitzgerald pedigrees, believes to be erroneous.

Waterford and S.E. of Ireland Archæological Society.—

The Journal of this Society, if not bulky, is composed of matter of a very good quality, namely, records of great local interest. Nothing could be selected more suitable for the pages of such a Journal.

Galway Archæological and Historical Society.—Our fellow

member, Mr. J. P. Dalton, M.A., Hon. Secretary of this Society, continues his valuable history of Kilnalahan Abbey, illustrated by a plan and some drawings of the Abbey. It is difficult, without considerable clearing along the old foundations, to make an accurate plan of a ruined abbey as this is, and it looks as if some of the arrangements shewn here might require reconsideration by his draughtsman. However, in the letter-press there is no evidence of haste, and when completed this article will be a valuable contribution, not alone to the history of Kilnalahan, but to the Church history of the period in the West.

Kerry Archæological Magazine.—This Magazine appears to

be growing in usefulness. The last number contains some interesting copies of the records of the parishes of Rattoo, Dysert and Killury, contributed by Mr. M. J. Byrne, Solicitor. There is also a paper of the lighter kind on "Some Kerry Fairies," by Lady Gordon. We hope the equanimity the Kerry labourer displayed in cutting down the "fairy thorn bush," and exploring the souterrain may not encourage the authoress to make any further "improvements" in connection with these ancient monuments. We have all reason to regret that the superstitious dread which helped to preserve so many of our ancient monuments is dying out in Kerry, and unfortunately it is not being replaced by any feeling of veneration or respect for these memorials of the past.

A notice of a cromleac discovered by the Right Rev. Dr. Orpen, contributed by Mr. P. J. Lynch, adds another to the list of Co. Kerry cromleacs.

A sympathetic obituary notice of the late Professor S. H. Butcher, M.P., very appropriately commences the number. His connection with Kerry was intimate and appreciated, while through his sister, the late Lady Montague, the family has endeared itself to Limerick.

"Dowered with the glamour of his native isle
That fired his tongue and lit his ardent gaze
That lent enchantment to his radiant smile
And grace to all his ways."

A "Blue Book."—"Blue Books," as a rule, do not provide matter of general interest, but this cannot be said of the Report of the Board of Works, as for some years past it includes an interesting section on National and Ancient Monuments with numerous illustrations

The illustrations in the Report for 1910 are the Churches and Monastery at Ferns, Co. Wexford, and Dunbrody Abbey, all of which have been recently repaired.

It is interesting to find that the inauguration mound of the O'Brien's on Magh Adhair has been taken over as a National Monument under the Land Act of 1903.

Many other monuments appear to have been offered to the Board by the Estates Commissioners, but declined. It is to be feared that the Co. Councils, who are supposed to take over such monuments, will fail in their duty and allow these interesting memorials to pass on to the tenants, who will, no doubt, in time utilize them for farm improvements as has been frequently done in the past. It is time to awaken public opinion on this question.

P. J. L.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MEMORIALS OF THE DEAD.

From the Journal of this Society for 1910 (Vol. VIII., No. 2) we extract the following copies of funeral entries made out from a MS. copy in the British Museum, as we consider them of local interest:—

610. Thomas Stephenson of Ballivohane in the County of Limerick. Gent., Son of Oliver Stephenson mar^d Uny Dat^r of John Lo^d Bishopp of Ardfert by whom He had one Son and two Dat^{rs} Viz^t Rich^d Uny and Ann. The said Thomas died at Ballivohane the 20th of March 1633 and was interr'd in Asketon in Com Limerek. The truith of the Premiss^s is test^d by Subscrip. of Charles Sughrue of Ardfert who return'd this Certiff^t to be record^d in the Office of Ulster King of Armes. Taken the 13th of May 1637.

CHA : SUGHRUE.

The Stephenson Monument is on the south side of the chancel in Askeaton Abbey.