

Also published by the author and still available :—

WORTHIES OF THOMOND.

1st Series, 2/3, post free, containing :—

Andrew Cherry.
Thomas Grady.
Charlotte O'Brien.
John Gubbins,
Joseph Timothy Haydn.
Peter Count Lacy.
John O'Tuomy.
Sir John MacNamara Hayes.
Standish Hayes O'Grady.
John Francis Waller.
George Alexander Osborne.
Sylvester O'Halloran.
Peter Woulfe.
John St. John Long.
Thomas G. Shaughnessy.
James Baggott.
General Sir Eyre Coote.

John Claragh MacDonnell.
Lady Rosina Lytton.
Daniel Hayes.
Lola Montez.
Thomas Barnard.
Timothy Collopy.
Fitzjames O'Brien.
Nicholas Thomas Arthur.
Edmond Sexton Pery.
Doctor Thomas Arthur.
Father Thaddeus O'Malley.
James Rochfort Maguire.
John Fitzgibbon, M.P.
Gerald Fitzgibbon.
Rev. Patrick Fitzgerald.
Edward Purdon.

2nd series, 2/9, post free, containing :—

John Martin Anster.
Dr. Richard Arthur.
Colonel Thomas Blood.
Sir John Bourke of Brittas.
David O Bruadair.
Sir Frederick Wm. Burton.
Thomas Condon.
Sir Eyre Coote.
John Singleton Copley.
Samuel Crumpe.
Thomas Dermody.
Aubrey Thomas de Vere.
Sir Stephen Edward de Vere.
Philip Embury.
Father Maurice Enright.
John Ferrar.
Gerald Fitzgerald.
Sir John Fitzgerald.
William Vesey Fitzgerald.
Edward Fitzgibbon.
Harry Dean Grady.
John Higgins.
John P. Holland.
Admiral Daniel Honan.

Sir Vere Hunt.
Charles Johnston.
Patrick Weston Joyce.
Robert Dwyer Joyce.
Benjamin Kidd.
General Maurice de Lacy.
Maurice Lenihan.
Charles Lucas.
Edward Lysaght.
Hugh MacCurtin.
Richard P. MacElligott.
Andrew McGrath.
John James MacGregor.
Donnchadh Ruadh MacNamara.
The O'Gorman Mahon.
Bryan Merryman.
Frank Frankfort Moore.
William Mulready.
Terence Albert O'Brien.
William O'Brien.
Wm. O'Brien, 2nd Earl of Inchiquin.
William Smith O'Brien.
Peter O'Connell.

SIR JOHN THOMAS BANKS.

Sir John Thomas Banks, Physician, was the twenty-fourth child of Percival Banks, who was also a doctor with a good practice in Ennis, and of Mary Ramsey. Banks was born on 14th October, 1815, and entered Trinity College, Dublin, at the age of 17. He graduated from there B.A., and M.B., in 1837, and M.D. in 1843.

In the meantime, he had entered the Royal College of Surgeons and, after several years apprenticeship under the famous physician, Sir Henry Marsh, he obtained his doctor's licence in the year 1836. In 1841 he became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and, in 1844, a Fellow of the same College.

After such a brilliant educational career, Banks very soon established a large practice in Dublin and, in addition, there was hardly a hospital in the city in which he did not hold some sort of position as consultant. He was President of the College of Physicians in 1869 and President of the British Medical Association in 1887, on the occasion of their general meeting in Dublin. Without danger of contradiction, it may be said that Banks was the most eminent Irish physician of his day.

He was the recognised authority on typhus as well as diseases of the brain and, in his younger days, he had done much clever research work into these two subjects. His busy life, however, left him little time for scientific research, and it is on his practice that Banks' reputation now rests.

In 1848 he married Alicia Wright, of Monaghan, and had an only child, Mary. In 1883 he declined a knighthood, but, in 1889, accepted the far greater honour of K.C.B. Banks lived to be a very old man and, although his eyesight failed him in his last few years, it did not interfere either with his practice or his social activities. He died at 45, Merrion Square, Dublin, on 16th July, 1908, aged 93, and was buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery.

A portrait of him, painted by Sarah Purser, now hangs in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians. Another portrait, designed by Oliver Shepherd, for a medal to be awarded to the winner of the travelling scholarship in medicine in Trinity College is in that College.

BRIAN BORU, High King of Ireland.

Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, was born in the first half of the tenth century, about the year 926. He was the son of Kennedy the Pure, of the Dalcassian Race, and in the sketch of his elder brother, Mahon, we have already described his early exploits. When Mahon was slain in 976, Brian assumed the Kingship of Munster and quickly avenged his brother's death.

Maolmhuadh, Mahon's slayer, was killed at the battle of Belach Lechta in 979. Ivar the Dane, one of the conspirators against Mahon, was slain shortly after, and all his islands and forts at the estuary of the Fergus destroyed; and, finally, the territory of the Ui Fidhgeanta in West Limerick was plundered and their King Donovan, put to death.

Brian then went into Waterford and Leinster and subdued the kings there, making himself undisputed ruler of the whole Southern half of Ireland. He then collected a huge fleet and, sailing up the Shannon into Lough Ree, imposed his rule on the lords of Meath, Breifne and Connaught. In 998, he was recognised as King of Leath Mogh by Maolshechlainn, High King of Ireland, who gave him in recognition all the hostages and tributes of Leinster, Dublin and Connaught. The Northmen of Dublin and the Leinstermen conspired and revolted against Brian, but the latter inflicted a crushing defeat on them at Glenmama in the Wicklow Hills. Following up his victory, he raided Dublin, burned it to the ground and took off much plunder to Kincora. The prestige gained by Brian by his defeat of the hitherto invincible Dubliners was too much for the High King, who, without any fight, resigned in Brian's favour.

Brian, of course, made the usual circuit of the High King, exacting respect, tributes and hostages wherever he went. His rule was strict and just, and although it cannot be truly said that the country was really at peace, it undoubtedly was, for the first and last time, really united under one powerful ruler. It has been called the Golden Age of Ireland.

Eventually, the Northmen and the Leinstermen again revolted against Brian's rule and assembled in force to march against Brian. They received help from their fellow-Northmen from as far North as Norway itself, but Brian, with the assistance of many of the Irish tribes, marched undauntedly against them. The two armies clashed just outside Dublin, on the plains of Clontarf, where the river Tolka flows into Dublin Bay, on Good Friday, 23rd April, 1014. The fight was long and bloody, but eventually the Northmen broke rank and were completely routed. It was the final smashing for ever of the power of the Northmen in Ireland, but the cost paid by the Dalcassians was an expensive one. Brian himself, now an old man, was killed in his tent by an escaping Northman. Murcadh, his son, and Turlough, his son, as well as most of the Dalcassian chieftains were also slain. If the power of the Northmen was smashed, the might of the Dalcassians, or as they were soon to be called, the Ui Briain, was left so weak that they never again attained the eminence they gained during Brian's lifetime. In spite of this, the battle of Clontarf deserves its reputation as the most decisive battle in Irish history, and Brian Boru the honour he has won, as our greatest leader of all time.

COUNT GEORGE BROWNE OF CAMAS.

Count George Browne of Camas, soldier of fortune, was born at Castle Mahon, on the 15th of June, 1698. His father was George Browne, Baron of Camas, and his mother, the Lady Honora de Lacy, of Limerick and Russia. He was educated at the Limerick Diocesan School, but like most Catholic nobles of the period, soon left the country to enlist in the armies of Europe.

Having been deprived of their estates, the Brownes were poor, and the only army in which George could afford to buy a commission was that of the German Palatinate. He soon left this, however, for the Army of Russia, in which he served with distinction as Major-in-Chief, under his brilliant uncle, Count Peter de Lacy.

While assisting the Austrians against the Turks, Count Browne was captured and led a terrible existence for four years as a galley slave, being flogged mercilessly and sold four times over. He was eventually recognised near Kishinov by another Irish soldier, who secured his release, and, in spite of all the ill-treatment he had received, Browne was hardy enough to make the long journey of over 1,000 miles on foot and in rags, without any money and starving, to the Court of St. Petersburg. Here he was able to relate many of the Turkish military secrets, and as a reward, as well as in recognition of his great feat of endurance, was raised to the rank of Major-General.

He immediately re-assumed the military life, and for his part in the war against Sweden was awarded the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky. During the Seven Years War, at the battle of Zorndorff, Browne was surrounded by the enemy, had a pistol discharged in his face and his head split by a sword. Even this did not kill the hardy Irishman, and a silver plate to cover the gaping wound was the only reminder he carried of so terrible an encounter.

In 1762 he was appointed Governor-General of Livonia and Esthonia, a post formerly held by Count Peter de Lacy. He was a just but severe Governor, and his experiences of the hardships of the Irish Catholics led him often to take sides with the poor Russian peasants against the despotic nobles. He once had the Mayor and Corporation of Riga whipped for disobeying an order, a disobedience which caused the town bridge to be destroyed.

Browne was a great favourite with the Empress Catherine the Great, who is alleged to have said to him as she refused his proffered resignation: "Nothing, my friend, shall separate us, save death."