

Miscellanea.

Irish History in Kingsley's Novels.—So remarkably does the very interesting discovery made by our President at Waterford confirm a statement in Kingsley's "Hereward the Wake," that Waterford Cathedral was built in imitation of Christ Church, Dublin, that it may be well to note that other allusions to Irish events by the author of "Hypatia," must not, on that account, be too readily accepted as reliable.

Though no one can be so pedantic as to expect dry historic accuracy in these delightful novels, the question assumes a different aspect when they come to be cited in our *Journal*. Two instances will serve as a warning. In "Hereward," chapter iv., the reader is led to believe that, by common report in Irish histories, Ranald, of Waterford, had been slain by Brian Boru at Clontarf, and not Brian by Ranald, which is suggested as the true version.

Our "Annals" and the "Wars of the Gael" agree with the "Njala Saga" in attributing the Irish monarch's death to Brodir, who is directly afterwards killed by Brian's adherents.

In "Westward Ho!" chapter ix., we find the English besieging the Spanish Fort at Smerwick, on Christmas Day, regardless of its actual surrender some six weeks earlier (November 9th, 1580). These facts demonstrate the caution necessary in the using of historic novels in archæology.

We may also note that Worsaae's "Danes and Northmen," p. 363, relates the building of the above churches without hinting that one was copied from the other. So it remains an interesting problem whether Kingsley or his friend had record of the fact, or whether it was merely a happy guess, founded on the dedication and nationality of the buildings.—T. J. W.

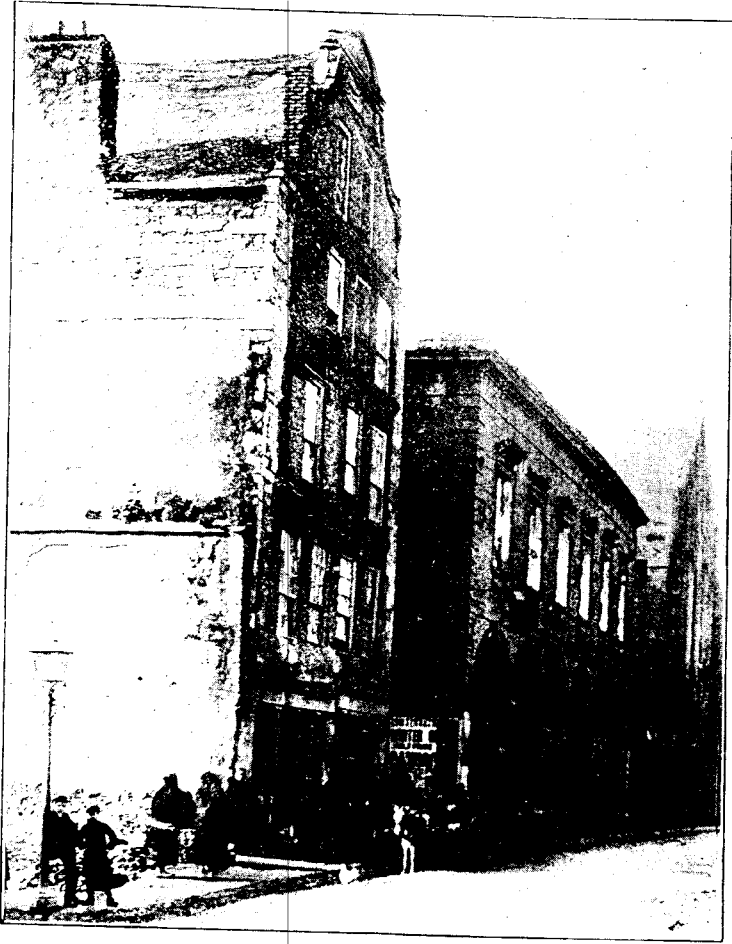
* Report from the Hon. Local Secretary for Limerick.—The only matter I have to report on is the history of the disappearance of one of the most remarkable and interesting of the castellated houses of old Limerick, viz. *Galwey's Castle*, commonly known as *Ireton's House*. It was a large stone structure, with pointed gables in the Elizabethan style, with stone-mullioned windows, and a round-headed stone-arched doorway leading into Gridiron-lane, which separated it from St. Mary's churchyard and the old Exchange. Its high Dutch gable front of red brick, evidently an insertion of later date, facing Nicholas-street—the main street of the English town—gave one a good idea of the houses of



GALWEY

The Nicholas-street

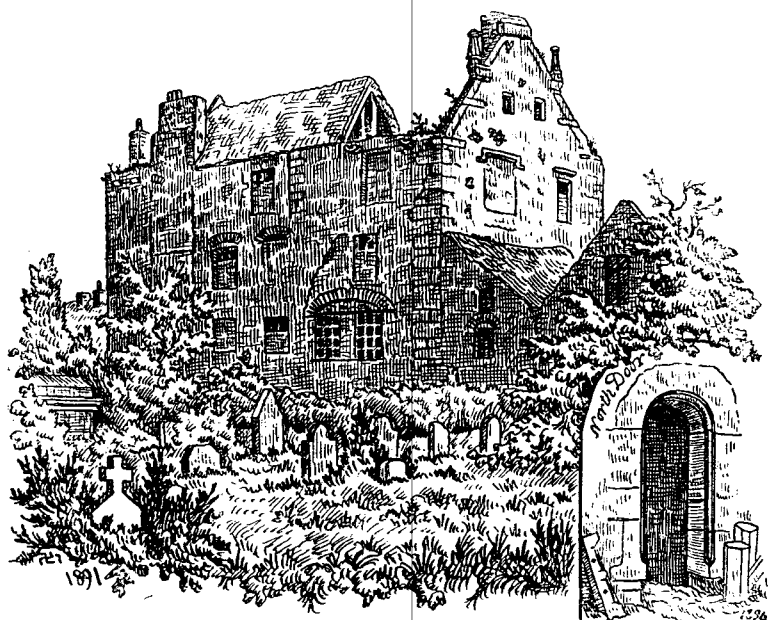
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GALWEY'S CASTLE, KNOWN AS "JRETON'S HOUSE," LIMERICK.

The Nicholas-street front. Beyond it is the Old Exchange, erected in the first year of Queen Anne.
Both have recently been taken down.

old Limerick. This front of imported Dutch brick was, according to local tradition, the first brick-fronted house erected in Limerick. In 1661 Lord Orrery was made Governor of the Castle and City of Limerick. In a letter from King Charles, he is directed to "employ himself" in getting English and Dutch merchants to settle in Limerick. By a letter of Orrery's, he would seem to have been successful, as he says he expects more Dutch merchants to settle in the city. We know a considerable portion of the city was granted to Lord Orrery, General Ingoldsby, and other Cromwellians after the siege, and these grants were confirmed by the Act of Settlement. Sir Geoffrey Galwey, Bart., the owner of this house, was hanged by Ireton, and his property was



Galwey's Castle, known as "Ireton's House," from the South.

confiscated. It is not, therefore, improbable that one of these Dutch settlers, having got possession of Galwey's Castle, modernised it, so to speak, by the insertion of a brick front in the Dutch style. Ferrar, in his "History of Limerick," says the only houses which remained habitable after the siege of 1691, were certain castellated ones in the main street. New houses, in the Dutch style, then replaced the old ones both in the English and Irish town. Picturesque old Limerick, now fast disappearing, dates therefore from after the siege of 1691, excepting these ancient castellated mansions.

"Galwey's Castle" was so called from Sir Geoffrey Galwey, an

eminent lawyer, who was mayor of the city in A.D. 1600. It was built, or rather remodelled, in the reign of Elizabeth. It was on the site of a more ancient structure, said to be a portion of the palace of the kings of Limerick.

The Galwey family were of note in the City Annals. John de Burgo, known locally as John of Galwey, was knighted by Lionel Duke of Clarence for his gallant defence of Baal's Bridge against the O'Briens, of Thomond, in 1361, and got the right to have that bridge emblazoned on his arms. His descendants took the name of Galwey. There is an elaborate monument in the south aisle of St. Mary's Cathedral to Geoffrey Galwey, who died in 1414. Underneath the Galwey arms (figured in the Plate facing p. 70, *Journal* for 1892) is the quaint inscription—

“LUMINA, QUÆ LECTOR | TUA CERNUNT HISCE JOHANNIS | MURIS SCULPTA
SACRIS | QUADRAT INSIGNIA GALWEY.” |

Sir Geoffrey Galwey, when mayor, fearlessly maintained the ancient privileges of the citizens. On one occasion, during his mayoralty, Carew, the Lord President, demanded the release of a soldier who had been convicted of larceny. Galwey refused to deliver him up, declaring that the ancient Charter of Limerick exempted him from the jurisdiction of the president and council. For his contumacy he was fined by Carew £400. The Corporation sent a deputation to Elizabeth to complain of this arbitrary act of the Lord President, but got no redress. This stubborn citizen died in 1636, leaving considerable property in the city and the adjoining counties. His grandson, Sir Geoffrey Galwey, Bart., succeeded him, and on the surrender of the city was, with Bishop O'Brien and others, hanged by order of Ireton on October 31st, 1651. A local tradition (I rather think), of comparatively recent date, has it that they were hanged out of one of the windows in the south gable of this house, and that it was, at the time, the temporary residence of Ireton, where he died soon after his victims, of the plague then raging in the city. I cannot find sufficient evidence to satisfy me that Ireton ever resided in this house, neither is there any evidence that it had any connexion with Bishop O'Brien's execution further than the fact related in *Hibernia Dominicana*:—“The Bishop of Emly was executed on the eve of All Saints' Day, and his head was fixed on a spike at the top of a tower near the centre of the city.” As “Galwey's Castle” was situated in the centre of the city, and was higher than the adjoining houses, it was most probably the “tower” referred to. Other and more likely places have been pointed out as the site of the bishop's execution. It is far more probable that General Ireton, commander of the victorious army, took up his quarters in the townhouse of Lord Thomond, which was situated close to King John's

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Castle, than in a house which was to be the scene of the execution of his victims, or where was spiked the gory head of the Bishop of Emly—he who summoned his executioner to follow after him in a few days.

We learn from Ludlow's "Memoirs" that Ireton made an expedition into Clare in the first week of November. We find he took many castles, including Leamaneagh, and got as far as the borders of Galway, the weather being very inclement, when he "took a severe cold," and, though ordered to lie up, returned to Limerick the third week in November. Here Fleetwood found him in a high fever, to which he succumbed on the 26th of that month.

On learning that the Dean and Chapter had purchased "Galwey's Castle," with other houses adjoining, and were about to apply to the Corporation for a presentment to close Gridiron-lane, which separated these houses from the cathedral (this lane was called from a well-known inn, "The Gridiron," which existed early in this century—the last proprietor was a popular character named Pat M'Grath, otherwise "Paddy the Chopper"), I wrote the following letter to the Mayor:—

"SIR,—I understand an application is to be made at the next meeting of the Town Council, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, for a presentment to close Gridiron-lane. As Local Secretary of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, I am anxious that the house, commonly known as "Ireton's," should, as far as possible, be preserved from decay, and remain as an example of the ancient castellated mansions of old Limerick. As this building was erected in the time of Elizabeth by a former Mayor of Limerick, Sir Geoffrey Galwey (Mayor A.D. 1600), a very notable personage in the Annals of our ancient city, I trust you, sir, and the Corporation, when granting the presentment, which I hope you may see your way in doing, will safeguard this ancient building, so that this remnant of antiquity may be left in our midst as a memorial of an eminent citizen who, when Mayor of Limerick upheld the dignity and privileges of his office.

"I am, Sir, &c.,

"JAMES G. BARRY.

"HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF LIMERICK.

"February 2nd, 1893."

The City Fathers, however, in their wisdom, took a narrow-minded view of the question, and, in granting the presentment, expressed an opinion that "Ireton's House" should come down, as it was undesirable that it should be preserved as a memorial of a man of infamous memory—the "scourge of Limerick," who had hanged the martyred Bishop of Emly; and therefore "Galwey's Castle" has now disappeared, and an up-to-date, commonplace iron railing encloses its site, to the delight of our iconoclastic Corporation. It is only fair to the Dean and Chapter to say that, when some of the adjoining houses were taken down, several cracks were found in the main walls of the castle, and the Dutch front was pronounced to be unsafe.—JAMES G. BARRY, *Hon. Local Secretary for Limerick.*