

THE FATE OF CURRAGH CHASE—

Dear Sir—I would like to comment in your columns on the sad fate of Curragh Chase, Adare; once the home of the poet, Aubrey de Vere, and recently acquired by the Forestry and Land Commission jointly.

It is well known that Curragh Chase was once a jewel on the face of Co. Limerick, it had some of the most beautiful woodland left in Ireland, and a great variety of rare trees from all over the world. In fact people come from all over these islands to enjoy the beautiful setting.

Now the State is in control and what a change!

I visited Curragh Chase again last summer and found the place as desolate as the surface of the moon. The Forestry Commission had literally cut down every tree of note, leaving a small and neglected area around the ancient ruins of the mansion itself. The gates were locked and barred, although apparently the public theoretically has access to some parts of the grounds. Every article of value, including the ancient sundial and bell had been removed and auctioned; rank weeds grew waist high around the monument that marks the spot where Aubrey de Vere composed some of his greatest poems.

From all this but one conclusion can be deduced. In the interests of commercialism a national heritage has been sacrificed with as little thought as that given when the Government allowed factories to be built around the beautiful lakes of Killarney.

It is sad for exiles like myself to reflect, when dreaming of home, that the aesthetic senses of our fellow countrymen so often succumb to the lure of the quick turnover.

Yours sincerely,

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