Tɼí na Cɼíoċa

leiɼ "An Maɼġaire."

An tseaċtain seo caite tugaɼ roinnt eolaiɼ díḃ i dtaoḃ Séumaiɼ Mic Caɼṫaiġ, fean cainnteoir Gaeilge a ḃí 'na ċomnuí istiġ sa Ċaiɼleán Nua i dtosaċ na haoise seo. Tomás Ó Condá a ċuiɼ an teolas go léiɼ aɼ fáil dúinn, ċom maiṫ le gaċ rud atá insa nótaí so inniu. Seo rann a ṫóg sé síos ó Śeumas.

RANN.

Sé a ḃriseann mo ċroiḋe-se a ċlann,
Nuaiɼ a ċím lám nduɼ gceann ag an lomaire;
Náɼ ċailleaḋ-sa amharc mo súl,
Náɼ ċailleaḋ-sa an dlúṫ le foiɼḃṫeaċt,
Go ḃfeicfeaḋ-sa siḃ-se sí ċuiɼ,
Agus an dream so óɼ duɼ gceann faoi ċuiɼṗṫeaċt.

An tAṫaiɼ Mac Gearailt a ḃí maɼ sagart paróiste sa Ċaiɼleán Nua a ċeap an ḃéarsa so. Ḃí sé ag tagairt dos na dliġṫe pianamla a ḃí dá gcuɼ i ḃfeiḋm go dian agus go neam-ṫrócaireaċ aɼ na daoine le n-a linn.

Dlúṫ-neart; foiɼḃṫeaċt- seanaois; cuiɼṗṫeaċt-loḃṫaċt).

Ó MÍCEÁL NA FÉILE.

Agus seo dán a sgríoḃ Tomás síos ó ḃéal-aiṫris Míċíl Mic Piarais (Míċeál na Féile) cainteoir Gaeilge eile a ḃí 'na ċomnuí sa Ċaiɼleán Nua daċad éigin bliain ó soin. Tá leagan eile den dán so le fáil san sean-leaḃaɼ san "Aḃráin Grá Ċúige Connaċt," leiɼ an gCraoiḃín Aoiḃinn.

AN DÁN.

A Ṁuiɼis ḃáin ġil duḃrais ḃréag liom,
Do ġeallais a ḃeiṫ roṁam ag cró na gcaorac;
Do leogas fead agus míle glaoḋ oɼt,
Aċ ní ḃfuaireas ann aċ na h-uain ag méiḋliġ.

Dá mbeaḋ fios agam gur ġaḃais an t-áṫ úd,
Do ċaiṫfinn díom, agus do raġainn ag snám ann;
D'ólfainn deoċ le cois do ṡláinte,
Agus do ḃeinn 'gá h-ól go deo go dtráiġiḋ sí.

Fóill, a ṁáiṫrín, taḃaiɼ féin mise dó,
Taḃaiɼ a ḃfuil agat féin sa traoġal uile dó;
Téiriġ féin a d'iarraiḋ déirce,
Agus ná gaḃ siar ná aniar im' éileam.

Agus, a Ṁuiɼis ḃáin ġil, ḃfearrа duit mise agat,
Ná bean óg uasal uaiḃreaċ iomarcaċ;
Mar ċrúḋfainn bó duit, agus déanfainn cuigeann duit,
Agus dá mba ċruaiḋ duit do ḃuailfinn buille leat.

Duḃairt mo ṁáṫair liom gan labairt leat,
Inniu ná amáireaċ ná Dia Domhnaiġ.

AIFREANN.

"Éirṫ Aifreann an Domnaiġ, pé fliuċ fuaɼ a ḃeaḋ an maidean, le heagla ná mairfeá Dia Luain, agus gurab í an uaiġ do leabaiḋ."

THE GERALDINES OF WEST LIMERICK

Their Arrival And History

NEWCASTLE THEIR PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE

(By "ORJAY")

"THOSE Geraldines, those Geraldines, not long our air they breathed—
Not long they fed on venison, in Irish water seethed;
Not often had their children been by Irish mothers nursed,
When from their full and genial hearts an Irish feeling burst."

The history of West Limerick from the time of the Norman Conquest (1170) to the beginning of the 17th century is the history of the Fitzgeralds. These Norman conquerors, having all Ireland as their province, chose West Limerick as their abode, and built their principal place of residence in Newcastle. What manner of men were those Geraldines who ruled like kings for so many centuries, and then in a few years fell, like Lucifer, never to hope again? How did they assert such mastery, and maintain it for so long? Well, they were men of great physical development — strong of limb and broad of shoulder, essential in those days of personal leadership, and hand to hand encounters.

They were hot-tempered and impetuous, "quick on the draw" and totally unafraid of consequences—in the words of a contemporary chronicler, "a hand into a griffin's or a serpent's nest would be to give an attack of battle upon the Geraldines." That was how they asserted mastery. They maintained it not only by a firm belief in their own power, but also by a high standard of intelligent and far-seeing state craft, considerably in advance of any of their contemporaries.

IDEALLY SITUATED.

Newcastle is ideally situated as a central unit connecting the three Counties of Limerick, Cork and Kerry. Anyone wishing to rule and control these counties, would select Newcastle as a stronghold and as a residence. Before there was ever a castle built there, the place was known as Gleann a Muice Duibhe—the Valley of the Black Pig. Muc dubh, a black pig, is a common feature in Irish Folk belief, said to be the harbinger of woe.

The name gives rise to interesting speculations, but the records are silent. In fact, the only pre-Norman reference to the district is, to a battle fought at Cullenagh (a townland forming part of the present town) in 546 A.D., between two local chieftains, with St. Ita in her nearby convent at Killeedy praying hard for the victor.

Legend says that the first castle was built by the Knights Templars about the end of the XII century (1184). The Knights demanded unjust taxes and enacted them in a harsh and brutal manner. Adjoining Newcastle is a district whose chieftain and people resisted the taxes. The Knights fell on them and slew every man, woman and child.

THE PEOPLE REVOLTED.

The district has since been known as Tournafulla, the place of the blood. At length the people revolted and overthrew the Knights. Two different accounts are given as to how they were overthrown. The first: One day some of the Knights rode out to the bogs requisitioning turf, when they were attacked and killed. The bodies were cut into small pieces and placed in the creels or panniers of the Knights' horses with a layer of turf on top. The animals were then driven back to the castle and the remaining Knights, shocked at the gruesome discovery, fled from the locality.

The second account: The Knights had ordered a large quantity of turf from the bogs. The turf was brought into the Castle on creels slung over donkeys backs. In each creel, there was an armed man, covered over with a layer of turf. When they had gained admittance to the Castle, the warriors jumped out on a given signal, and after a brief and bloody combat overpowered the garrison, and put them all to the sword. Up to recent times, the place where the Knights were buried used to be pointed out. Legend is strengthened by the fact that the Acorn, the emblem of the Knights' Templars, is to be found on some of the Castle buildings, and about one hundred and fifty years ago a number of old Roman bath tickets, stamped with indecent figures, were dug up in the castle.

FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE FITZGERALDS

With the Templars gone, the Castle fell into the hands of the Fitzgeralds, who were quick to recognise its potentialities, and made it their principal residence. It is a great temptation to follow the fortunes of each one of that warlike and romantic family, but the limits of this article compel us to deal only with those members whose lives were intimately linked with the Castle.

The first was Thomas, who was a great-great-great grandson of Gerald of Windsor founder of the Fitzgerald line by (hence Geraldines) Nesta, the famous Welsh Queen. Thomas was known as Thomas An Apa or Thomas the Ape, because of a singular incident which happened when he was an infant at Tralee. His father and grandfather were slain in the battle of Callan near Kenmare (1261). When news of the disaster was brought to Tralee, his nurse, distressed by the news, left Thomas's cradle unattended. A pet ape, snatched the child out of the cradle and climbed to the top of the Castle with it, resting on the narrow and lofty parapet. The onlookers below watched helplessly, every moment expecting to see the child dashed to the ground. To their amazement the monkey stripped the clothes off the child, licked him all over, clothed him again, and descending, replaced the child in its cradle. Thomas An Apa improved Newcastle by building the lovely circular Keep which can still be seen. He ruled Ireland in 1295, and was an attractive and popular Justiciar. He died in Newcastle at the very early age of thirty eight, "after the carrying away of victory from devil and from world," to quote from a contemporary record.

MAURICE AND THE BRUCE INVASION.

Thomas An Apa was succeeded by his son Maurice, the first of the really great Geraldines. Maurice had scarcely attained full age when he had to deal with the effects of the Bruce invasion. In the year 1315 Edward Bruce, aided by his brother, the great King Robert of Scotland, had invaded Ireland. When news of his success reached Ui Chonaill, in West Limerick, the Irish there rose in rebellion against their Norman conquerors, and in the quaint words of the chronicler, "Mahon O'Donegan, and other felons of the king, with their followers, did not hang back when all the Irish in Desmond revolted, but rose against their Lord, Maurice Fitzthomas. They revolted in hostility to the King and his faithful subjects, burning and slaying. Maurice was then in Dungarvan, and gathering all available forces, he set out for Newcastle. But he was too late to repress the malice of the Irish, and came to Newcastle, in O'Conyll, which the Irish felons had destroyed, and where they (the Geraldines) found little or no provisions. Pressed for supplies, Maurice took the crops at Rathgel, for which (with but little consideration for the urgency of his circumstances) he was subsequently involved in a law suit. But far more unjustly, Maurice was accused of the preposterous charge of harbouring O'Donegan, being held answerable for his tenants' behaviour."

CREATED FIRST EARL OF DESMOND.

Maurice was created First Earl of Desmond in 1329, but within a few years he was imprisoned for his Irish leanings. After a short time he was allowed out on bail, and proceeded to his residence at Newcastle, where he gave hostages to the Government to be delivered to the King. He was Viceroy for a number of years, and during his term of office the country enjoyed tranquility. Maurice, in addition to his statecraft and courage, possessed the gift of poetry, an accomplishment despised by his brother Barons. For shortly before he was created an Earl, Arnold le Poer tainted him with being a mere "rhymer." Maurice deeply resented this insult, and a fierce conflict took place between the two families, which threatened to engulf the whole of Ireland, only for the personal intervention of the Viceroy. Thereafter Maurice was known to his friends as "the Great Earl," but to his detractors as "Maurice the Rhymer."

"GERALD THE POET."

His youngest son, Gerald, became the Third Earl, and although he ruled as Viceroy, it is as "Gerald the Poet" that he is remembered to-day. He was beloved by the Irish, who always affectionately referred to him as "Gearoid Iarla." Gearoid Iarla was a poet of high distinction, and his poems were recited not only in Ireland but in Scotland. Some years after his death a number of them were transcribed by the then Dean of Lismore, and so have come down to us. Competent judges described his poetical themes as both difficult and various, and conclude therefrom that he must have received a thorough training in Gaelic metrics.

The Four Masters wrote that he "Excelled all the English and many of the Irish in knowledge of the Gaelic language, poetry and history, and of every other learning." In the Annals of Clonmacnoise, he is described as "a nobleman of wonderful bounty, mirth, cheerfulness in conversation, charitable in his deeds, easy of access, a witty and ingenious composer of Irish poetry, a learned and one of the English nobility that had Irish learning and professors thereof in greater reverence of all the English in Ireland."

GOT LEGAL SANCTION.

These literary attainments reflected themselves on the surrounding countryside, and wherever the reigning Earl left Newcastle to visit his Kerry domains, he was always met in the extreme western part of County Limerick by the rimers of Templeglantine and Brosna, who entertained him with song and dancing. In course of time, these services got legal sanction, and in consideration of their entertainments, the rimers were granted land—surely a unique arrangement.

It is worth recording here that in an Inventory of the Desmond Estate made in 1574, we find:—"Lands held by the rimers of the Earl in the mounteyn of Slewlocra, named the Brosenaghe, and by the rimers of Templay, Eglantine and Balleywroho."

A second entry reads:—"Rents and duties when the Earl doth cross the mounteyn or take his journey betwixt Kerry and Connelough, the foresaid rimers are wont to bear the charge for a day and a night, coming and going."

An Inquisition of the 13th century shows that a Biatagh, or controller of a public hostel, resided at Mount Collins, in Slewlocra, in Connelough. It might be inferred, from the existence of such an establishment, that surely it was here, in the centre of the district, that the bards entertained their Earl.

(To be continued).

GARDENIN[G]

Seasonal [...]

(By J. J. O'CAR[...]

TOMATOES IN UNHEATED HOUSES.

THE season for planting up unheated houses with tomatoes is here now and a start at planting could be made at once in a warmly situated house.

Assuming that the soil is already prepared, i.e., the ground deeply dug, heavily manured and fertilised, the plants may be put in at an average of 18 ins. apart each way.

If the plants are in pots, they could be stood in the holes in the pots for a few days before planting. This will acclimatize the plants to their environment and they will receive no check when transferred from the pots.

Purchased plants are often wrapped in paper and in that case they must be planted into the ground straight away. The latter will require a ball watering very soon after planting, whereas those planted out of pots will not want water for perhaps a week, especially if they have been soaked in the pots an hour or so before planting.

At the ball watering it is a good plan to use a solution of chestnut compound, obtainable for a few pence at any chemist. This will partially sterilise the soil round about the roots and prevent many plants from dying off at ground level, especially in old soil.

From the time of planting, damping down or syringing the plants overhead with tepid water each sunny afternoon and shutting up the house early to trap the sunheat, should be practised. If green or white fly should appear the house should be fumigated with some of the new smoke bombs invented for the purpose.

Good varieties to plant now are Market King, Moneymaker and Prolific.

In heated houses where the plants have been growing some time the twines should be put to them before the plants begin to fall over. Do not use old twine as it cannot be strong and may come down when the weight of fruit is on it. Besides, it may carry diseases and pests if it has been used for a previous tomato crop.

OTHER WORK UNDER GLASS.

Gardeners are very busy now propagating plants under glass. Early sown plants such as Lobelia, antirrhinum begonias, calceolarias, dahlais, etc., are all waiting to be pricked out into other boxes. The small subjects such as lobelia and even begonias and antirrhinums are so difficult to handle singly that it is a good plan to prick them out in tiny bunches as soon as one can handle them. This will stimulate them to grow more quickly and one can very soon handle them singly and prick them out finally at one to one and a half inches apart in other boxes or frames. Of course, lobelia is seldom pricked out singly, but left in little clumps of two or three plants.

Dahlia tubers that have been started into growth can be used now to provide cuttings. These are made about 3 ins. long and cut just below a node or joint. If these are dipped in one of the new rooting hormone powders, the cuttings, if placed in a heated glasshouse or over a hotbed, will root in a few days. If more than one cutting is inserted in a pot and several can be rooted in this manner, say in a 5 in pot, they should be separated as soon as rooted and be potted off separately into 3 in. pots or boxed at about 2 ins. apart. This is the only satisfactory method of propagating any quantity of named varieties of dahlias and is the method usually carried out by nursery men.

Amateurs requiring only a few of each variety may divide up an old clump soon after it begins to grow. The division is left until then so that one is sure that a bud or two is left on each division. Dahlia tubers are not like potato tubers. The former are root tubers and have no eyes (buds) and unless some of the old stem with buds are attached to the tubers the dahlia wil[l]