

# Í na Cúioa

ar "An MANGAIRE."

gar joimnt eolair oib cúpla  
am ó'fóim i tsaob' Dóm-  
Uí Chátraig, fear oibre ó  
tar na Deánnan, in lárán  
aige. Camteoir Saetge ó  
ad ead é, ac ní raib a fiop  
alán a connaic é as bhrí-  
tóc i gcoméat. Baite an  
puill dá peop bliam ó fóim;  
á bhí, níor éusadap son áir  
á bárr pan. Ac bhí fear  
a tuig cad é an paró-  
bhí as Dómhall. Dób é  
p Ó Conbá an fear pan;  
reo curd den tceanap a  
ó ré pór ó Dómhall.

caoine an leinb.

cailleat leant leir an  
tip, agus eus ré dá pínim  
san Ruad éun an leant do  
eas. Bhí ré mí-párca leir  
ro a fuair ré, agus as reo  
omeat a deim an file:

o spáó-ra an minipir a eus  
an dá pínim dom,  
onn an leant do caoineat;  
an leant reo ar an seuit  
eile aca

o so h-íorball timpall."

oal fé coisan ruad.

fuilp, anpan a coisan  
p' an an pasap ón ál-  
á.

ám éana, appa coisan,  
p nápsieir an tacaóir.

ladair an pasap apir:  
an a deim id' túsas fém  
amir anpó im' pápóir as  
am meapán meapóir."

o mar o'fpeasap coisan  
o é:

e deapad mna íreao  
éamig'eac na tpaol tóir;  
deapad mna íreao éamig  
peacat an trimpir;

deapad mna éamig fém  
ra tip reo;  
ur deapad mna atáir-  
te muiú im tóirp."

oan-focla.

onn pé an bpoí fém pút-  
ní feiceann pé an t-admao  
fé n-a pút fém."

teann pút te mon-éac-  
p fuilpíe bpat a eip ar laos

oac file, oac páis as tpaéc  
eataa fém."

li fearn an iomapa léigín  
eif fé n-a dún."

li díonn fear nápsac éad-  
a.

li tóubapíe galap pava  
s."

oipce na cuaióe ní tuaró-  
leir min."

íteac cealg ir feall—m  
tá agus léir leir na flai-  
mapa nreim-pé t'anam i

oí neite.

oí neite ir géipe le  
it:

oí neite ir géipe le  
it:

# THE GERALDINES OF WEST LIMERICK

## More About The Earls Of Desmond

### SECOND INSTALMENT OF SPECIAL ARTICLE

BELOW we give the second instalment of the special article on the Geraldines of West Limerick. It gives further interesting details about the Earls of Desmond. The article is from the pen of our brilliant contributor, "Orjay." The opening portion appeared last week and here is the continuation:—

IN 1562, some years after Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England, she attempted to win over Gerald, the then Earl of Desmond. He was summoned to London in that year and he promised to pay the Queen her feudal dues and to suppress Brehon law and the poets, "who, by their ditties and rhymes in commendation of extortions, rebellion, rape and ravin, do encourage lords and gentlemen." But Gerald either was unable or unwilling to carry out his promises, and literature continued to flourish, because the jury presentments of 1584 show that seventy-two chroniclers, rhymers and harpers occupied land in the escheated territory of the Desmonds.

The tradition of music, song and dance has lasted in West Limerick down to the present day. Practically every parish has its Bard, and the people retain the liveliest interest in their effusions. It is a great temptation to follow the fortunes and describe the lives and poetry of some of these West Limerick bards. Most of them were poor and lived in straitened circumstances. But in all of them the divine spark flared, and their poetry is of a very high order.

#### "SPIRITED AWAY"

But to return to Gearoide Iarla. In the year 1398 he was residing in Newcastle, and one summer's evening he went for a walk in the demesne. He was unaccompanied, and he never returned. An immediate search was made, but neither trace nor tidings of him was ever found. The Irish, who loved him, refused to believe that he was dead. Indeed, so great was his learning and accomplishments that it was thought surely he must be a magician. And so a legend grew up that he had been spirited away to the enchanted land beneath the waters of Lough Gur, where he and his followers sleep in the recesses of a vast subterranean cavern. Each warrior, in complete steel, reposes by the side of his steed, which is ready comparisoned awaiting the time, when one night, every seventh year, they are permitted to appear. Then the Knight, on a white steed, shod with gleaming silver shoes, and accompanied by his troupe of horsemen, can be seen riding to and fro, unceasingly, over the surface of the waters. So they ride until the first rays of dawn drive them under. And so they will continue to ride, every seventh year, until the silver shoes of the Earl's steed are worn out on the ripples of the lake. Then, and only then, after the lapse of countless centuries, will the enchantment be broken, and Gearoide Iarla free to return again to his beloved castle.

#### THE FIFTH EARL.

The next Earl of Desmond who had associations with Newcastle was Thomas, the Fifth Earl, sometimes called "the love lost," and sometimes the "Discrowned Earl." His father, John, the Fourth Earl, who was a son of Gearoide Iarla, was drowned at Ardfinnane in 1399. Thomas was a spirited, botheaded, adventurous young man, and on coming of age in 1411, his first act was to raise seven hundred pounds and go to England where he enjoyed himself at the Court for several years. He returned to Ireland in the year 1414 and settled down at Newcastle. One day while hunting in the fastnesses about Abbeyfeale he got separated from his companions, lost his way and was overtaken by the darkness. He saw a light and found himself in a humble cottage, where he got food and shelter for the night. Here he fell in love with Catherine McCormac, the fair daughter of the owner of the cottage, and ultimately married her. The marriage was opposed by his followers, led by his uncle, James, an ambitious man, and poor Thomas was eventually driven from his castles and from his possessions. He solemnly resigned his rights before Lord Ormond at Callan in 1418, and retired with his beloved Catherine to Rouen where he died within a few years.

#### MOORE'S POEM.

The lovers inspired many a poem, none more feeling or more popular than Thomas Moore's:—

By the Feale's wave benighted,  
No star in the skies,  
To thy door by love lighted,  
I first saw thine eyes.

Some voice whispered o'er me,  
As the threshold I crossed,  
There was ruin before me,  
If I loved I was lost.

James, called the "Usurper," became Sixth Earl in succession to Thomas. He was a younger son of Gearoide Iarla, and he became the greatest of all the Desmond Geraldines. By inheritance, by grant, by preference, and by conquest he ruled practically all Munster, and his power was princely.

#### THE MAIN DESMOND LINE.

The main Desmond line was supported by four junior branches, the Knight of Kerry at Dingle; the Baron of Clanmaurice at Lixnaw; the Knight of Glin and the White Knight or Fitzgibbon at Kilmallock. James founded the important family of the Fitzgeralds of the Decies (West Waterford), which he gave to his younger son, Gerald. Among his English tenants James was a great Palatine Lord: to a widespread

Gaelic population he was like an Irish "Rí," to whom as a great prince of an accepted stock they gave generous obedience. In defiance of the Statutes of Kilkenny he granted portions of the earldom to Irish chiefs; thus he planted an O'Brien in the great castle and lordship of Carrigrohane, on the Shannon. The ruling race of Thomond were his allies, for he had been fostered among the O'Briens, and in the south-west McCarthy More was true to the Vassalage which the head of the race had admitted in 1395, even if McCarthy Reagh was hostile.

The fame of the Earl reached even to Florence, where the Secretary of State to the Republic in 1440 wrote him a flattering letter, congratulating him on being of Florentine stock, of the ancient family of the Gherardini, so that the Florentines themselves could rejoice that through him they bore away even in Ireland, the most remote island in the world!

FORFEITED NEARLY 500,000 ACRES.

When the Desmond power fell with a crash in 1583, it was written: "The Earl of Desmond grew into the greatest estate, power and riches of any subject perhaps in the world, which is manifest by this, that at his attainder he forfeited near 500,000 acres of land and had not less than twenty great houses and castles big enough for the residence of a prince."

James had a great love for building and with the wealth at his command was able to indulge his passion. The principal buildings in Newcastle and Askeaton owe their origin to him. In Newcastle he repaired and renovated the existing buildings and he erected the splendid "Hallamore," celebrated as the finest hall of its kind in all Ireland. He also erected the famous Desmond Hall with its massive vaulted basement. In Askeaton, he built the great Keep round the castle, the lovely Hall, and he founded and built the Franciscan Abbey, one of the most beautiful of its kind. He spent his declining years in his beloved Newcastle, and died there. In the words of Michael O'Clery, the Aynalist, "James, the head of the foreigners of Erin, in Caislen Nua Oconnaill he died, after ending his age, and he was buried in Tralee, 1462."

#### DEATH DUE TO IDLE REMARK.

James was succeeded by his son Thomas, the 7th Earl. Thomas ended his days on the scaffold in Drogheda, at the hands of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, the King's Deputy. His death was the result of an idle remark to Edward the IV, belittling Elizabeth Woodville, Edward's wife. Elizabeth never forgave the Geraldine and eventually brought about his death. James, son of Thomas, was the eighth Earl. He married a daughter of O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, and held the important position of Constable of Limerick Castle. He was murdered in his castle at Rathkeale by John Mac Gibbon, "the Stammerer," of Mahoonagh (Castlemahon), at the instigation of his brother, John Fitzgerald, who hoped to succeed to the Earldom. But Maurice "The Baccagh" (so called because he could neither walk nor ride), another brother, killed the murderer, banished the instigator, and assumed the title. Maurice was as warlike and intrepid as any of the Geraldines, and used to be carried into battle on a litter. He supported the imposter, Perkin Warbeck, and for some time was in rebellion. The lame Earl died in 1520 "against a pillow," to quote the quaint and apparently surprised words of a contemporary.

# GARI

## Sea

(By )

EASTER IN THE  
MANY amateurs w  
Easter weeken  
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IN THE VEGETAB

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it is nicely rotted i  
manure. Put a light  
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say two ounces per y  
row. Good varieties  
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earlies and Dunbar  
Queen and Great Ser  
lies.

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are generally dug o  
slug has time to do

All potatoes can l  
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spade and if one is  
in grass land that  
broken before, this i  
to do the work.

Cut a strip of gra  
end of the plot and  
the way. Let the st  
foot wide and two  
Now dig out a tren  
grassed soil making  
or a spade in depth  
in a heap, too.

Begin now on a s  
grass beside the tre  
the same width and  
first. Put these sod  
in the trench and  
digging the soil out  
strip thus making a  
with the first one  
rods and covered w  
Continue this tre  
the way down the  
all turned over to t  
spade and the gras  
and buried at the b

If one is a pure l  
be better to compl  
first and then plan  
with a line and sp  
one could plant th  
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foot then the row  
planted in every ot  
at the correct dista  
between the lines.

The potato sets  
be planted on top  
be covered with tw  
of soil and one coi  
manure with advan  
rows of potatoes as  
ceeds. Failing man  
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as John Innes con  
could be dusted a  
prior to placing the  
be broadcast over  
face of the soil w  
completed and be r  
in with a fork.

There is really i  
open drills for  
planting with a sp  
ordinary cultivated  
can be dug in dur  
the potatoes plante  
and the drills are  
earthing up to the  
when they are fou  
high. The earthing  
more easily with th