

Hoebæet, Robert

"Limerick Prints a Printing", 1742

OIS. 4194RR

10

24. The Rambler. Nos. 1-11, 1d. each. 20-7-1750—28-9-1750. A reprint.
25. A Letter from a gentleman in Cork to a Noble Lord in Dublin, about a sentence of Degradation. 1751.
26. The answer of the Noble Lord to the said Letter. 1751.

JOHN FERRAR. 1743-1785.

John Ferrar according to a bookplate of his own, was born in 1743. His father was a bookseller and bookbinder in Limerick from 1729 to 1754. He was a descendant of the famous Ferrar family of Bookbinders in Huntingdon in England who followed this trade for many generations, and built a model town for their own tradesmen there, and he was the only son of Capt. Wm. Ferrar, who served in Ireland in 1689-1691, by his wife Marie, daughter of Richard Lloyd of Drumsallagh, Co. Limerick. In addition to being a bookseller and printer, John Ferrar edited the Limerick Chronicle, which he also printed, from 1768 until 1781, when it was taken over by Andrew Watson. He was author of the History of Limerick which appeared in two editions in 1767, and in a much enlarged edition in 1787; none of which he printed himself. He also wrote a volume of poems which Andrew Welsh published in 1765, "A View of ancient and modern Dublin," published in 1807, and a "Tour to London." He was made a Freeman of Limerick on 21st September, 1768.

Ferrar like the normal bookseller of his time, dealt in patent medicines and insurance. In 1774 he gives a very long list of books for sale and this includes 214 plays at 6½ each; rather a judgment on the modern provincial bookseller—or is it the provincial reader. He sold his shop in Quay Lane in 1785, but continued as an insurance agent at Sir Harry's Mall. He moved to Dublin some time before 1802 and died there. John O'Keeffe the actor and dramatist gives the following description of Ferrar. "I knew Mr. Ferrar of Limerick, a printer, bookseller and author; he wrote an excellent history of Limerick, which, a few years ago, I heard read with pleasure. His little shop was at the corner of Quay Lane. Ferrar was very deaf, yet had a cheerful animated countenance; thin, and of the middle size." He was the printer to the Corporation in 1778 and 1779. The following are a list of his imprints still extant:—

1. The Limerick Directory, containing Accurate and Complete Lists of all the Persons in Commission, Office, Employment or Business in the City. To which is added A Schedule of the City Duties, Tolls and Customs, Water Bailiffs Fees, &c. The whole forming a necessary and useful Companion for those who have any knowledge of, or connexion with the City. Limerick: Printed by John Ferrar, 1769. G. L.
T. L., plus 32 pp.
2. Rational Self-love; or, a Philosophical and Moral Essay on the Natural Principles of Happiness and Virtue, with Reflections on the various Systems of Philosophers, Ancient and Modern, on this subject. By L. N. Limerick: Printed for the Author by John Ferrar, in Quay Lane. 1770. G. L.
XXVII plus 4 (subs.), plus 144 pp.
NOTE—The author of this pamphlet was Laurence Nihell, the brother of Dr. James Nihell, and Bishop of Kilmacduagh. Advertisement for 1-4-1771 states it was "this day published."
3. A Printer's Pamphlet on the Lord's Prayer, by the Rev. Robert Poole, M.A. The use of the Lord's Prayer, explained to children their Devotion, and enlarge their Meditations in repeating that Most Blessed Word, from whence it is taken. Printed by J. Ferrar. 1772. G. L.
11 pp.
4. Miscellaneous Poems on Religious, Moral and Entertaining Subjects, collected from the best English Authors. Limerick: Printed by J. Ferrar. 1773. G. L.
XVI plus 196 pp. (List of subscribers.)

5. A Familiar Exposition of the Church-Catechism in five parts . . . to which are added Prayers for the Use of Children and Servants. By Isaac, Lord Bishop of Cork and Ross. . . The Sixth Edition. Limerick: Printed by J. Ferrar. 1773.
64 pp. C. L.
6. Emblems, or Natural Things Spiritualized. Being a Spiritual Improvement, arising from a View of the Rock at Flamborough-head, on the Coast of Yorkshire. The Substance of two Discourses delivered at Bridgetown, 1766, from Cant. ii. 14. By James Poulson. The Third Edition. . . Limerick: Printed and Sold by John Ferrar, and by the Author at the English School, Hinchliff's Buildings, Hammon's-marsh, Cork. "Pref." January 20, 1774.
VIII plus 24 pp. (*List of subscribers.*) C. L.
7. The Memoirs and Adventures of Robert Kirk, late of the Royal Highland Regiment, &c., &c. J. Ferrar.
VIII plus 128 pp. B. M.

NOTE—An advertisement in the Limerick Chronicle dates the publication of this book to 2nd December, 1774.

8. A Sermon on I. John, V. 7. The Rev. John Wesley. J. Ferrar. 1775.
12 pp. B. M.
9. A List of the Freeholders of the County of Limerick who voted at St. Francis's Abbey at the election began on Monday the 27th of May and ended on Wednesday the 5th of June 1776. . . Limerick: J. Ferrar, 1776.
40 pp. N. L.

Although no copies of the following are known, they were probably, as announced by him in his newspaper, printed and published by Ferrar.

10. Bowen's complete spelling book.

NOTE—Ferrar states that this book was long out of print, that he had bought Bowen's right of copy, and that it would be printed on a new type and on much better paper than any other spelling book in the Kingdom. 1-8-1771.

11. A catalogue of cheap Books, Plays, &c., with the lowest ready money price annexed to each article.

NOTE—This was a catalogue of Ferrar's own book stock and was given gratis. 26-7-1771.

12. A Royal Sheet Plan of the City of Limerick, including Newtown Pery and all the new improvements down to the present year, 1771, with references to the Public Buildings, &c. In which also is laid down the site of all the old walls, gates and fortifications; and on a smaller scale is annexed a map of the adjacent country showing the course of the new canal for several miles.

The proprietor has gone to a great expense to render this plan curious and useful. It is an exact abridgement of the one Earl Percy paid 50 guineas for, and he doubts not but it will be encouraged by every person who has at heart the interest of this improving city.

The price will be only 1s. 7d. Subscribers names shall be printed on the Plan. To be ready in 5 or 6 weeks. 2-9-1771.

13. A sermon preached at the Cathedral Church of St. Mary's in Limerick, the 18th day of September. 1771; on the death of the Right Rev. Father in God, Dr. John Averell, Lord Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe. 7-10-1771.
14. Works of the late Dan Hayes. 14-10-1771.

NOTE—See Andrew Watson for the second edition of this work.

15. Last Tuesday, Michael Lardner, T. Hourigan and R. Blake were hanged and beheaded at Ennis, pursuant to their sentence, for the murder of Lardner's wife.

Notwithstanding it has been asserted that Lardner's confession was sent to one person alone in this city, in order to be published; yet the Printer of this Chronicle thinks it his duty to declare that the one printed by him was dictated by Lardner last Sunday. 21-5-1772.

16. A refutation of the Word to the Wise and other pretended answers to Doctor Meagher's Popish Mass. By Eusebes Mesoprendes.

Published on 15/8/1772 and entitled Truth Triumphant. Price 1/7. or bound with Popish Mass 6.10.

17. A farewell address to the public on the shutting up of the Theatre in Black Alley. 16-7-1772.
18. Catalogue of Books, Prints, etc. Gratis. 16-10-1772.

NOTE—Ferrar's own stock.

19. The death of Abel, complete in five books, the 11th edition. Price only 6d. 11-3-1773.

NOTE—This was apparently a very popular Limerick Chap book. See S. B. Goggin for a later edition.

20. It is more than likely that Ferrar finished the printing of his Popish Mass, although Thomas Welsh's name is on the title page. Welsh (q.v.) started the printing but owing to a dispute with the sponsors the work was taken from him before it was finished.

THOMAS WELSH. 1757—1784.

Thomas Welsh was the eldest son of Andrew Welsh and was admitted to the freedom of Limerick on 12th September, 1757. Like his father, he worked in John Street in the Irishtown where he continued to print the Munster Journal, at least until 1784. He either died or left Limerick sometime before October, 1797. In 1813, three of his sons were admitted to the freedom of the city. Only two imprints of his are still in existence (apart from the Munster Journal).

1. *Insula Sacra*, or, the General Utilities arising from some permanent Foundation, for the Preservation of our Ancient Annals, Demonstrated and the Means pointed out. O'Halloran. T. Welsh in the Irishtown. 1770.
T. L. plus 36 pp.

R. I. A.

NOTE—The author of this pamphlet was Sylvester O'Halloran, an eminent Limerick surgeon, and author of an history of Irish antiquities.

2. The Popish Mass celebrated by Heathen Priests, For the Living and the Dead, for several Ages before the Birth of Christ . . . with an Appendix . . . by the Reverend Andrew Meagher. Limerick: Printed by T. Welsh. 1771.

12 plus XXXVIII, plus 2, plus 350, plus 2. (Subscribers.)

C. L.

NOTE—Although Welsh's name is on the title-page of this book, it was probably finished by John Ferrar.