

Tí na Chioča

Leir "an mansaire."

Tugtar roinnt eolair óid cípta
reacáin ó foin i vtaod Domhnáil
Uí Cacarais, fear ordó o
ceannán na Beannan; in lárán
Lummis. Cainteoir Saerse o
vúdar ab ead é, ad ní raias a fhor
fín ag Alán a Connac é ag bruf
ead cloch-1 scóireál Baile an
Teampall Ó Ríomh Dhuain ó foin;
nó, má blí, níor tugtar an son dho
aim d'á darr ran. Ag blí fear
ardán, a tuisig ead é an farr
óigeal Ó Domhnall. Dab é
Tomáis O Conbá an fear ran;
agur reo cuio den treancar
a chloibh ré ríor Ó Domhnall.

CAOINE AN LEINN.

O cailleadh leabhair leir an
minicín, agur tús ré óa pinginn
Ó Eogan Ruad cún an leabhair do
caoineadh. Ól ré mi-tartha leir
an méid a fhuaing ré, agur agus reo
an caoineadh a dein an file:

"Mo ghráda an minicín a tús
an óa pinginn dom;

O'fionnán leabhair do caoineadh;
ine an leabhair reo an an Scuir
éile aca.

Síar go n-iomball timpan."

SCÉAL FÉ OGÁIN RUAD.

"Ufultigh anfán a' Eogain
Ruad!" arr an ragart ón Ál-
cóna Ld.

"Cáim céana," arra Eogain,

"Agur ná feicin an dataroimh."

Do labair an ragart anfir:

"Cád a veinir id' vútagh fén
sun tainis annroim' papóirte agus

déanam mearcán meapárve?"

Seo map t'freagair Eogain

Ruad é:

"De dearcaid mna iread
táinig bat na Tráoi Coip;

De dearcaid mna iread táinig
peascád an trinnip;

De dearcaid mna táinig fén
ra tir reo;

Agur de dearcaid mna atáin-
re inbriú im thíbirt."

SEAN-FOCLA.

"Cionn ré an bhoibh fém fúil-
re ac ní feiceann ré an t-ádmha-

mór fé n-a fúil fém."

Tuiceann nád le moim-eac-
eath."

"Ib fuimprí bhat a cup an laos
duic."

"Sac file, sac fáis as cráct
an a ealaíb fém."

"Mír feann an romanca léigin
ná deit fé n-a bun."

"Mír bionn fear náipead éada-
lácl."

"Mír dubaingt salan fada
breag."

"Coimce na cuaidé ni tuaró-
tear leir min."

"Eitead cealg ir feall—mír
baon tú agur nér leir na flá-
ctic maha noenimh-re t'anam
n-am."

TRÍ NEITE.

Na tri neite ir séime le
fagáil:

Súil raoir i nuaidóir capil; rúil
realgaine i nuaidóir fiaid; agur
rúil mna óige i nuaidóir fin 615.

STEANN A' CAIM
(StenQuinn).

Sé Steann a' Caim. an Steann
tar maoráim;

Sé an gleann gan ceo, ré an
gleann gan rmóit;

Sé an gleann go bpuil montar
Dó ann.

AN MÁISÍSTIR AGUS AN
BUACAILL AIMSIRE.

An Máisístir: "B'fearr liom
ná an baile reo agur Baile na
Buaille dá mbeadh mo soile com-
maid leis' buacaill."

An Buacaill: "Ó! mb'ail teat
einge an maidin agur an baile
reo cuardac, tul ar ran, go
Baile na Buaille, carad agur
earair a bualaib; anran beab do
soile com leis' buacaill."

THE GERALDINES OF WEST LIMERICK

More About The Earls Of
DesmondSECOND 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 1582, some years after Elizabeth ascended the throne of England, the next Earl of Desmond who she attempted to win over, Gerald, had associations with Newcastle the then Earl of Desmond. He was was Thomas, the Fifth Earl, sometimes summoned to London in that year times called "the love lost," and he promised to pay the Queen her feudal dues and to suppress her father, John, the Fourth Earl, Breton law and the poets, "who, by who was a son of Gearoide Iarla, their ditties and rhymes in commendation of extortions, rebellion, rape and ravin, do encourage lords adventurous young man, and on 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 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 MacCormac, 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.

THE FIFTH EARL.

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, repose by the side of his steed, which is ready comparison 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, his younger son, Gerald. Among his and Gearoide Iarla free to return again to his beloved castle.

MOORE'S POEM.

Some 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 Clannmaurice at Lixnaw; the Knight of Gil and the White Knight or Fitzgibbon at Kilmallock.

James founded the important family of the Fitzgerald 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 Carrigogunnell, 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 sway 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'Clergy, the Aynalt, "James, the head of the foreigners of Erin, in Caislen Nua Occonall 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 Mahoonaugh (Castlemahon), at the instigation of his brother, John Fitzgerald, who hoped to succeed to the Earldom. But Maurice "The Baggach" (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.

(To be continued).

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of the

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