FAMILY PAPERS BELONGING TO THE PURCELLS OF LOUGHMOE, CO. TIPPERARY.

By Rev. St. John D. Seymour, B.D., Vice-President for Tipperary (N.).
(Continued from Page 129.)

III.

With the Restoration of King Charles II. the fortunes of the family took a turn for the better. The dowager, Mrs. Purcell, returned to Loughmoe, and again enjoyed her jointure of £300 a year. About this time she married her second husband, Col. John Fitzpatrick, who thenceforth plays an important part in our narrative. She was joined at Loughmoe by some members of her family, amongst whom were her three married daughters, and her son, Baron Nicholas. The latter was a minor at this period, being apparently about ten years of age, so steps were taken to appoint a guardian for him who might look after his extensive property. Copies of two King’s letters with reference to this are extant among the papers. The first of these, addressed to the Master of the Wards, and dated 9 November, 1660, orders a Commission to be appointed to enquire of “Our” title to the wardship of Nicholas Purcell, and if a title be found, a grant is to be made of the wardship to James, Marquis of Ormonde, uncle of the said Nicholas, without any fine or rent. A second letter dated 31 October, a. r. xiii., alludes to the above. It states that a title was found, but before the patent could pass the proceedings of the Court of Wards were stopped, so that the said patent could not be perfected. This letter, therefore, directed that the wardship be granted to the Duke of Ormonde. It appears from an account of 1662 that £20 was paid for the two documents.

The Duke, accordingly, became his nephew’s guardian, but the person on whom fell all the hard work with respect to the recovery
and management of the estate was Col. John Fitzpatrick, the young Baron's step-father, who, according to a statement in one of the papers, entered into possession in May, 1662, and who seems to have discharged his duty with scrupulous fidelity. He rendered accounts of the various items of expenditure to the Duke, from which many valuable pieces of information have been extracted.

We may now turn to a consideration of the extent and rental of the Purcell estate, as well as the various encumbrances upon it, for which purpose the documents, especially two of 1663, afford us much information. It is a significant fact that of the numerous broad acres in the possession of the family before 1641, almost every one was re-granted, under the Down Survey, to the young Baron. Was this most unusual action due to the influence of Ormonde? As we shall see a little further down the difference between the rentals of 1640 and 1663 was only a few pounds.

The estate consisted of the following lands:—Loughmoe, Cloghraile, Garranbarry, Graigue, Rathleasty, Rorardstown, Dovea, Lisheentaggart, Ballybristy, Clondoty, Killahara, Kilrush, Kilkillahara, Ballinahow, Beakstown, Cormuckstown, Fartean, Rathelty, one-third of Athnido with Coolaculla Woods, Brownstown, Clonmuckogegeg, Ballyduag, half Curraghmore, and one tolpe of land in Kilnalongford. The three names printed in italics, with one-third of Fartean, were claimed by the Lady Joan for her jointure. The profitable acres number 7,509, the unprofitable, 3,980. All the above denominations lie in the parishes of Loughmoe East, Loughmoe West, Drom, Inch, Thurles, Ballycahil, Holycross, Fertiana, Athniod, and Rathelty: Garranbarry does not occur in the census lists, but in the Down Survey is placed in Loughmoe, while Kilnalongford is probably Longford Pass.

Annual Value of Estate in 1640 ... £878 0 0
Set by the Duke's Commissioners in 1662 for 506 0 0
Set by Col. Fitzpatrick in 1663 for ... 863 0 0

The encumbrances reached altogether the tidy sum of £4,340, of which the greater part consisted of mortgages; certain family charges helped to swell the amount.
Pay to Lady Joan ... ... £150 0 0
Her daughter Esmond ... ... 30 0 0
Mrs. Ellen Purcell ... ... 30 0 0
Mrs. Mar. Purcell, als. Fitzpatrick ... 20 0 0
Mrs. Dwyer ... ... 50 0 0
Mrs. Darcy ... ... 50 0 0
Mrs. Cheevers ... ... 50 0 0
Mr. Purcell ... ... 60 0 0
Mrs. Els. Fitzpatrick ... ... 300 0 0
"Ye most nede creditors" ... ... 100 0 0

This amounted to £840. A note appended states that the balance in hand of £23 was to be used for the purpose of paying debts or repairing the house at Loughmoe. It also stated that when Mr. Darcy and Mr. Cheevers were settled in their estates, Mr. Purcell would be the easier of the pensions, so it would appear that the support of their wives devolved for a certain period on the young Baron.

We may now proceed to make some attempt to identify the above ladies to "Lady Joan," the wife of Thomas, the first Baron mentioned in the pedigree? If so she must have been of a very great age. Her daughter "Esmond" may have been married to a man of that name, or is this her Christian name? "Mrs. Ellen Purcell" is elsewhere described as aunt to Baron Nicholas. "Mrs. Mar[garet] Purcell als Fitzpatrick" was a daughter of Baron Tibbot or Theobald, and wife to John Fitzpatrick, of Ballygehin. Mrs. Dwyer, Darcy, and Cheevers were sisters to Baron Nicholas; the second these, who may have been connected by marriage with Col. Fitzpatrick’s mother’s family, had been in France prior to the Restoration, as £85 was charged on the annual rental for her passage from thence, and her diet and clothes there.

The marriage-portions of these ladies were as follows:—

Mrs. Ellen Purcell, for her portion ... £500 0 0
Mrs. Esmond, for her portion ... 500 0 0
John Fitzpatrick, of Ballygeaheene, for the remainder of his portion with one of the daughters of Theobald Purcell ... 300 0 0
Mrs. Dwyer, for her portion ... ... 500 o o
Mrs. Darcy, for her portion ... ... 500 o o
Mrs. Cheevers, for her portion ... ... 500 o o

"Mrs. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick demands to be reimbursed £500, which she paid with one of the daughters of Mr. James Purcell as her marriage-portion with Sir Valentine Browne." The double connection with the Browne family is of interest. Sir Valentine (whom I cannot identify in either Archdall or Burke) married Bridget Purcell, daughter of Baron James, and sister of Baron Nicholas, receiving with her the above dowry; this marriage apparently took place after the Baron’s death, for on 23 July, 1660, Sir Valentine gave a receipt to Mrs. Purcell for £200, "by virtue of articles of agreement concerning his inter-marriage." Evidently the lack of funds would not permit the full amount being paid down all at once. Subsequently Baron Nicholas married Ellis, daughter of Sir V. Browne, the third Baronet, and first Viscount Kenmare. According to Archdall’s Lodge (VII., 56) she was his second wife. This must be a mistake, for the Baron was far too young to be married twice.

Some items with respect to the maintenance of the young Baron also appear in Col. Fitzpatrick’s accounts. In 1663 a sum of £60 was paid for clothes, linen, and other necessities for himself and his two sisters. In 1664-5 we find £100 spent on "Mr. Purcell’s own diet, his man and tutor, their clothing and horses." In 1668 these items appear:—

Paid for his farandin (?) shute ... ... £12 4 o
For a droget shute ... ... 8 13 o

Clothing was evidently an expensive item in those days.

A curious miscellaneous account appears, dated 31 May, 1667.

One yd and a halfe white sarsnet and three
qrs black cost 12/- p. yd. ... ... £1 7 o
One yd. gallume ... ... ... o o 4
Halfe an ounce silke ... ... ... o 1 6
One qr. of a pound whalebone ... ... ... o 1 3
Two bedcords ... ... ... o 1 6
One bottle sallett oyle ... ... ... o 3 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)
One bottle vinegar ...... 0 0 10
9 bottles containing 10 qarts Clarrett cost ...... 0 12 6
One sammon and some trouts cost ...... 0 2 0

Loughmoe Castle, or "the house" as it is nearly always termed in the papers, seems to have suffered much damage during the absence of the family. Consequently Col. Fitzpatrick's first care was its repairing and improvement, in connection with which several items of payment occur. The first of these, which was made between May and October, 1663, indicates that the roof, windows, and flooring were in bad repair.

Leade for the house ...... £16 0 0
For glaseing the house ...... 14 0 0
For timber and boards for the house ...... 18 0 0

A considerable amount of external work was also deemed necessary in 1664-5.

For building a wale fro ye stabil to ye Castil, paving ye whole Curte, brecking ye oul gate, and building to niue ones ...... £15 0 0
For 20 dussin of burdes, and bringing them to Luchmo ...... 14 0 0
For building a niue stabil and chooch house ...... 10 0 0
For building a malte house ...... 12 0 0
For building a house to kepe fuel ...... 4 0 0
For repairing ye barne and crue(?) house...... 6 0 0

Let us hope that the contractor's work was stronger than his orthography. The state of dilapidation must have been very considerable, for we learn from another paper of accounts rendered to the Duke in May, 1664, just two years after the Col. had entered into possession, that a sum of £300 had already been spent in repairs, and as we have shewn above, more money was laid out in the following year. Of all this work no trace remains at the present day; in fact, the only existing masonry, apart from the castle, is a wall round the garden.

The estate was re-granted to Nicholas Purcell, as we have already shewn, under the Down Survey, but after the Restoration there seems to have been considerable trouble and expense under-
gone with reference to it. Numerous items of legal expenditure appear, such as fees to Counsel, expenses of suits of law in the Court of Claims, &c., &c. Mrs. Purcell desires some "consideration" for a twelve month's solicitation about the estate in Ireland and England, while Col. Fitzpatrick also claims some allowance for passing a new patent of the estate, and defraying the expenses of several law-suits. We do not possess sufficient documents to clear up the whole question, but the following letter and deposition are not without interest in this respect. They emanate from one Daniel Ryan, who appears to have acted as steward and confidential agent to the Colonel.

"Honnered Sr.

I cannot as yet give you any positive account of my success concerning Mr. Purcell's estate, other then what I writ to you at my coming away from Dublin on ye 5th instant, for when I came to Ossory about the 8th instant I heard my Ld. Duke's Comrs. were at Thurles, but afore I came thither they were gone to Carrige, and from thence to Waterford, but could not meete them (though I went to Carrige) till I mett you at Dunemore on ye 13th instant, where I shewed my papers to Mr. Butler and Mr. Harrison, and they gave me their warrant requiring the tents. to detaine the rent upon their lande, and told me yt after they had conferred with Sr. William Flower (who was to be with you on ye 16th instant) one of you would come up to demand ye possession, but not yett come. I gott my Lady to send to Dunemore this day to hasten them thither, letting you know the inconveniences their delay might produce. I am still of opinion that two words of a letter from my Lord to his Grace's Comrs. will not be a misse, for I fear much yt this last Order will not putt a periott to this business. I would have gone to Ossory to settle things there, only yt I dare not be out of the way, not knowing when my Lds. Comrs. may come hither, as I came through Ossory I went to Mountrath to deliver ye Lord of Mountrath's letter to Mr. Carroll, and to get an accompt of him of these cells in my Lord's hands, but he being not at home, I left ye letter with Mr. Duugin to be presented and to get an accompt, but what ye same is I doe nott as yet know, but ye quit rent is soe high, and ye rent reserved in most of yor estate soe low, yt we shall have but
very little profitt for this yeare, young Stubers and others did reinter upon us, but ye Sherriffe broake open their doores and repossed us, besides ye offenders are bound over to ye next Cession of the peace. As soone as my Lord’s Comrs. doe come hither I will goe to OSSory and give you an accompt of all things there. I shall make noe longe stay there, but will goe to Dublin to rec. ye money from Mountrath, and remitt it to you by Bills. I must alsoe be in Dublin swoone least any of ye persons upon Mr. Purcell’s estate would shew any cause against our Order, as above to appear at Rason’s suite agt the ten. My Lady and Mr. Mathew are much troubled about ye arrears of Mr. Barker, for Pilkington writes yt Barker is like to arrest him for ye rent. I found lately at Loughmoe ye Articles betwixt Pilkington and Barker, and have sent for a coppie thereof, and of another lease which my Mrs. had of pte of ye lands by the said Articles dispersed, and would advise my Mrs. to gett Mr. Walsb. or some other understanding person, to accompt with Barker, and to gett tyme for paymt of what shalbe in arreare to his Agent heere, I suppose ye arreares wilbe very little, if we be not forced to pay ye last yrs rent (as I hope we shall not) ye accompt is somewhat intricate and I suppose it must be don before Mr. Barker himself. I have laboured as much as I could to come to a perfect understanding of it, and have stated ye same in the inclosed note as well as I could, wch wilbe your directory upon balancing the accompts, Mr. Barker’s agent here can doe nothing in it, but if any difficultie appear to Mr. Barker he may reffer ye examine of it to his Agent, Mr. Lucas. My Lady will take it very well yt the arreares be stated as longe as you are there whereby Mr. Pilkington might not be troubled by Mr. Barker, for Mr. Mathew is obliged to fee Pilkington. There is noe more paid of ye rent from first to last (as I find by Mr. Mathew) but fiftie pounds, and fourtieone pounds in Mr. Mathews handes lately receivd from ye tent. of Turkloch lott wth whom I have this day accompted. Besides ye fortye pieces of gold in Mr. Mathews handes ye Articles of Barker yt weare sent to Mr. Mathew, and wch are now in my hands, weare not signed by Barker, but peradventure what we have is but a copie. There has been search made at Loughmoe after yor horses and Sr. Valentine’s
but they weare put out of ye way, one of ye coatch geldings has beene lame for a long tyme, but is now well, ye store horse is well, and all ye rest of yor horses. Here are late Orders for removing all papists out of Corporacons and transplanting all transplantable persons.

I rest,

Yor humble servt,

"Thurles, 19 December, 1661."

Up the side of the third page runs the following postcript:—

"Patrick will go to Connoght next week, but I feare to little purpose, for it seems Clanrikard advises the tents. to stop ye rent, but I intend if they refuse payt. this tyme to gett writts against all the tents." There is no endorsement, but the letter is obviously to Col. Fitzpatrick.

In a deposition made by Daniel Ryan in June, 1662, some of the difficulties of getting back the estate are shewn to us. He deposed that on the third of January last Edward Butler, one of the Duke's Commissioners, went to Beakstown Castle, near Holycross Abbey, being part of the estate. of Baron Nicholas, and demanded possession for his Grace, by virtue of an Order dated 5 December, 1661. Thomas White, who then lived in the castle, perused the Order and asked time for consideration. This being granted, the Commissioner called again in a few days. White was not then at home, but Thomas Roberts, who lived as joint tenant with him, gave up quiet possession, acting (as he said) under White's orders. Notwithstanding the above, White still detained possession of the castle from the Duke.

In September, 1670, a payment appears with reference to the young Baron's patent, viz:—Enrolling the King's letter, drawing the fiiant, engrossing the same, enrolling the patent, etc. As he died in 1722, aged 71 years, this must have been preparatory to his coming-of-age, which would have occurred in 1671.

In Ryan's letter there is a reference to a copy of "ye Articles" between William Barker (now represented by the Ponsonbys of Kilcooley Abbey) and Pilkington. This paper is extant, and dated the same as the letter, 19 December, 1661; we reproduce the greater portion of it here.
"The state of the accompt between Mr. Barker and Mr. Pilkington for ye arrears of Loughmoe and Turkoloe\(^1\) lott."

"Nicholas Blake of London, merchant, being in ano 1656 possessed of a lott, sett out for 222 Plantacon acres to one Mr. Mathewes in Loughmoe, and of an other lott, set out for 111 plantacon acres for one Mr. Kirkholme in Turkloe in ye parish of Thurles, did empower Mr. Richard Glene, surveyor for all ye adventurers of ye Barony of Elilogarty (wherein ye said lotts doe lye), and then a general. Agent for most of ye adventurers of ye said Barony, and now general. Agent for all ye adventurers of ye said Barony to dispose of ye said lotts.

"That ye said Mr. Glene, pursuant to his said authoritie, did by his deed dated ye 15th of June, 1657, demise unto Mrs. Elizabeth Purcell ye said lott of 222 acres from ye first of October, 1656, unto ye first of May, 1658, for ye sum of £14 payable in 3 gales as by a copie of ye said lease hereunto annexed may appear.

"That ye sd Mr. Glene did also sett ye said other lott of 111 acres to one Mr. Grace for one yeare commencing 1 mo. May, 1657, and determining 1 mo. May, 1658, for ye rent of five pounds, and did covenant yt Mr. Grace should carrie his crop of corne free in ye harvest, 1658, being ye harvest after ye expiration of ye said lease.

"That Mr. Glene recd ye sd. five pounds from Mr. Grace, and did rece. four pounds, if not £9, from Mrs. Purcell of ye former £14.

"That after this setting Mr. Barker haveing purchased ye said two lotts from ye said Mr. Blake did (without regarding ye former setting) demise ye two sd. lotts to Mr. Pilkington for 21 yeares to commence 1 mo. May, 1657, at ye yearly rent of £50, quitt rent to be borne by Mr. Barker.

"That Mrs. Purcell enjoyed ye sd. lott of 222 ac by virtue of the said demise till May, 1658, and yt Mr. Grace did likewise holde ye lott of 111 ac till May, 1658, whereby Mr. Barker could expect for ye said lotts, for ye yeare ending 1 mo. May, 1658, but five pounds, being the remainder of ye said years rent not paid to Mr. Glene and in regard to Mr. Grace had ye cropp of ye lott

\(^1\) Now Turtulla, in Thurles parish.
of 111 ac for ye second yeare noe rent ought to be paid for ye same. Soe as there is in all due to Barker from Pilkington ye severall items following:—

(Here follows a statement of account).

"If Barker could raise the arrears to £20 more I would not have you stand with him. If Barker should object yt he is to beare but ye quitt rent of 333 ac it may be answered yt both ye lotts are found to be 720 plant. ac., and yt by his Articles he is bound to pay all ye quitt rent.

"If Barker should deny all Glenes authoritie in settling lotts it may be answered yt Glene had a likely authoritie, and beeing a knowne Agent may sett lands for one year without authoritie."

The remainder of the paper is apparently lost. On the ninth of April, 1660, we find a receipt from Theobald Mathew for £50 from Mrs. Elizabeth Purcell towards payment of Alderman Barker's rent due to him out of Loughmoe, Thurkowle, and Ballydavine.

IV.

Though the documents that form Part IV. have little to do with the Purcell family they are not without their own interest. They consist of some miscellaneous private papers and letters belonging to Col. John Fitzpatrick which got mixed with the family records at Loughmoe. The first of these in point of time is a Deed, written in a curious, but very legible, hand.

"John Fitzpatrick of Grantstown in Queen's Co., Esquire, and Philip Dwgin of Ballyduff in same Co., gent., have remitted all their right in and to 74a. in killyn lea, in three half plow[lands] in Comor, 4a. in Ballynvally, 10a. in Cuileneure, 7a. in Gragh Duffe, and 10a. in Guirteene na malagh, all in Queen's Co., [and give] unto Patrick M Donogh oge of Adirgoill, gent., being now in possession of said Patrick, to hold for ever.

2 October, 1616.

PHILIP DUIGIN,

JOHN FITZPATRICK.

Witnesses

James McGoghegan,

Art Molachlynn,

Beallagh FitzPatrycke.

The next document that may be given here is a list of Col.
Fitzpatrick’s linen, dated 26th of June, 1666, which affords us an intimate peep into a gentleman’s wardrobe of the 17th century:—

“10 fine shirts; 9 night shirts; 7 laced bands; 4 payre of laced cuffs; 6 cambrick plaine bands; 5 holland bands; 4 payre of laced walking tops; 2 pr. of large laced holland riding tops; 2 pr. laced ankle stockens; 2 pr. of new holland leggs; 2 pr. of ould holland stockens gempted at the tops; 3 laced caravats; 7 holland playne caps; 1 laced cap; 2 tucked caps; 7 pocket handkerchiefes; 3 night caravats; 4 pr. of holland sleaves; 2 dimity vastcoates; 2 large holland drawers; 2 pr. of winter drawyers; 1 pr. of cotton drawyers; 2 pr. of drawyers with thread stockens to them; 1 pr. of thread stockens; 5 pr. of holland sockes; 2 pr. of holland sockes; 5 pr. of white worsted sockes; 1 towlett, 1 powder box, and other things belonging to it.”

The remainder of part IV. consists of four letters, which may be given in chronological order.

(1) Gilbert Rawson (evidently the “Rason” of D. Ryan’s letter) to Col. Fitzpatrick.

"Huned Sr

I thought to have some discourse wth you the other day when I was wth you, about our Concernment, but other Discourses diverted it. You know that there is a great part of the money yet unpayd wh should have been payd in March last, and I doubt not but you know likewise that the determination of yor Lease from mee and the last payment of the debt ought to be satisfied the first of March next, whereof I thought fitt to put you in minde, although I doe intend to deal Civelly wth you, and I doubt nott but you will deale as punctually wth mee as you cane, yett necessity hath no boundes, I have been forced to take up mony at interest to supply my present occasions. I would not press too much upon you, yett my present occasions doe soe require that I cannot chuse but press you to helpe mee to thirty or forty pounds before you leave this towne or out of hand if possibly you can and I shall take it as a kindness and should be readdy to serve you in a greater matter and desiering yor answere.

I am Sr,

Yor humble servante,

"31 January, 1666."  

GILB: RAWSON."
(2) Lionel Sweetman to Col. Fitzpatrick.

"Noble Sr,

Though the wind continues most all the East yeu t th there is nott any English packet come in since your departure. I have beene often with Sr. Nicho Plunkett and Mr. Keirevan, and yesterday brought them together to debate their opinions, they agree that all the parties of the acts must (as to all interests provided thereby) receive the judgment or directions of the Comrs. who are appointed to execute the same before it will be proper to stirr up suites thereupon in ye other courtes, especially in the case where the interest of a Protestant in 41 by the same actes is saved, soe as these gentlemen's opinion goes much that you should endeavour to get the clayme receaved for those pcelles you now pretend unto and if there be noe other successe thereupon it would advantage your enedes verie much to be left by the Comrs to law, it will be a work if not of difficultie yet of great favour to procure the clayme to be receaved and proceeded on. It was in discourse that if the Duke had a decree of innocence to be restored to his possession in 41 that it is feared the Comrs will not doe anything to prejudice that decree seeing that nothing was stirred against it hitherto. Mr. Wallise tells mee that he waited at my lord Chancellor's expecting to meete with you that morning you pted, next day he went into the countrie and since his returne not being well keepes his chamber, nott being able to go abroad. I have spoken to severall of the butchers and all of them tells me that they are nott for bringing fat cattle soe farre off, this time of the yeare fatt weathers will sell best, and they said feade oxen is now but a dead commodite, heare the Butchers speake that is Cookessy and Phillipes twoe butchers in Kilkenny supply these heare by way of dealing with the fat cattle of their partes. News came hither yesterday that my Lord Dillon with a particol pursued Dudley Costeloe and killed him and that my Lord Dillon's lciut was lost on that service. Nothing more offers but to take leave and remaine,

Noble Sr,

Yor most humble servant,

(9 March, 1666).

"LYONELL SWEETMAN."
"Postscript:—Mr. Keirevan proposed it att the best to be the more troublesome and tedious (if you be left to law) that the former Duke died seize of the lands wch will bring it to the proceedings on a reall action, and will nott admit of the usual issue of Ejectment for trial of titles."

The above is published in full, though not too correctly, in J. D. White’s Anthologia Tipperariensis. The remaining two letters are here given in brief, as they are also fully printed by White.

(3) Sir William Davys to Col. Fitzpatrick:

"John Bell and Lawrence Walsh have been with me about Alderman Jones’s houses in Damask St. If either title holds firm I think the bargain you have made with them is not bad." Signed "Your affectionate Kinsman," etc. Dublin; 9 June, 1666.

(4) Edward Worth, Bishop of Killaloe, to Col. Fitzpatrick.

Is writing about church matters. "Some lands anciently were held under the Church right by John Duigin, the names of the lands in my records are flarrenduff als Clonfertmullogh, but in ye survey they are called Cloncusse Kell and Bolliduffe, the Earl of Mountrath claims these lands as purchased from Col. Abbott, and I claime them as ye right of the Church. My records are clear that Mauritig O’Brien, Bp. of Killaloe [1576-1613] made a lease thereof to William Duigin for £5 p. an. and refections, and that ye old rent was a noble per annum. But I find the court have not soe much value for Ecclesiastical records as we churchman have, and consequently that it is expected that we should also prove a right by witnesses." As he is a stranger in the country he begs the Colonel to send for John Duigin, or other suitable witnesses. The trial is to be on July 30th, and it will be necessary for Counsel to see witnesses some days previously. Dublin, 20 July, 1666.

For a life of Colonel John Fitzpatrick the reader may consult Carrigan’s History of Ossory, I. (intro.) p. 102 ff.

FINIS.