

REVIEW.

"A DICTIONARY OF IRISH ARTISTS."

By WALTER G. STRICKLAND.

(Dublin: Maunsell & Co., Limited.)

(Concluded from page 138.)

We continue the short excerpts from the lives of Irish artists connected with our district, taken from these interesting volumes.

JOHN GUBBINS (*fl. early 19th century*), *Portrait Painter*,

Was a native of the County Limerick, and practised as a portrait painter in Limerick, Dublin and Belfast. He copied Rubens' picture of the "Woman Taken in Adultery" for the Dominican Convent, Limerick. A Miss Henrietta Gubbins was an exhibitor in the Royal Academy between 1843 and 1849, when she was living at Leamington. Was she any relation? The date of John Gubbins' death is not recorded.

JOSEPH PATRICK HAVERTY, R.H.A. (*b. 1794, d. 1864*),

Portrait and Subject Painter,

Was born in Galway in 1794. He practised his profession for a time in Limerick, where he received a large amount of patronage. His portrait of O'Connell in the Limerick Town Hall is considered a success. His picture of the "Limerick Piper" is well known from the Art Union engraving now much sought after.

LOFTUS HOWE (*d. 1760*), *Portrait Painter*.

Worked in Limerick, and died there 1st July, 1760.

PATRICK KERIN (*fl.* 1618-1637), *Sculptor.*

His name appears on the tomb of Sir Edward Walsh, Abbey Owney Church, Co. Limerick, and on the tomb of Sir Maurice Hurley, 1632,¹ erected in Emly Church.

PETER KIDD, *Portrait Painter,*

Was practising in Limerick in 1825, and lived in Arthur's Quay.

JOHN ST. JOHN LONG (*b.* 1788, *d.* 1834), *Painter and Engraver,*

Was born at Newcastle, Co. Limerick. In 1827 he abandoned art, and became a quack doctor, residing in Harley Street, London, and made money. After being tried twice for manslaughter, he died in London, 1834.²

WILLIAM MOLONEY (*fl.* 1846-1856), *Portrait Painter.*

He painted portraits in Limerick, but no particulars are given.

JEREMIAH HODGES MULCAHY, A.R.H.A. (*d.* 1889),

Landscape Painter.

A native of Limerick; opened a School of Painting at 19 Catherine Street in 1842. He removed to Dublin, 1862; died there in 1889, and was buried in Limerick. No record of his work is given.

WILLIAM MULREADY, R.A. (*b.* 1786, *d.* 1863), *Subject Painter.*

This well-known painter was born in Ennis, 1st April, 1786. His father, a leather breeches maker, moved to London when the future artist was about 6 years old, and set up business in Compton Street, Soho. In 1815 he was elected an A.R.A., and in February, 1816, a member of the Royal Academy. Some of his works are in the National Gallery of Ireland.

WILLIAM PALMER (*b.* 1763, *d.* 1790), *Portrait Painter,*

Was born in Limerick, son of Alexander Palmer, a linen draper. In 1781 he won a medal in the Dublin Society's School, and after-

¹ Portion of this monument was removed to Cullen Church, and the inscription is set in the boundary wall of the new schools at Emly. (*Emly*, Rev. St. J. D. Seymour, p. 89.)

² His father's real name is said to have been O'Driscoll.

wards went to London and became a pupil of Sir Joshua Reynolds. He exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1784 to 1788. Soon after 1788 he returned to Limerick, and commenced practise as a portrait painter. He died in 1790, and was buried at St. John's Church, Limerick.

JOHN PRITTIE (*fl.* early 18th century), *Limner*.

He practised in Limerick, and died about 1725.

JAMES JOHN RUSSELL, R.H.A. (*d.* 1827), *Portrait Painter*,

Was the son of John Russell, of Limerick, and was born in that city. In 1809 he exhibited at the Dublin Society's House in Hawkins Street. From 1818 to 1823 he was in London, and exhibited at the Royal Academy. He died in Catherine Street, Limerick, in 1827. He painted the portraits of many distinguished men.

Lenihan, in his *History of Limerick*, refers to two pictures in Barrington's Hospital, one of the Good Samaritan, and the other of Christ Healing the Sick, both painted by "John Murphy, a young Limerick artist, and Protégé of Sir Matthew Barrington in London." There is no mention of this artist in the Dictionary.

We notice that the name of the late Henry O'Shea, who was a native of Cork, and practised in Limerick as an artist for many years, and died in that city not long since, is omitted.

In reading through these volumes it is sad to notice the decay of art in Ireland during the 19th century, particularly in the provinces. The artist finding he could not live by his art in this country, was forced to emigrate, and few students cared to persevere in a profession for which there was no opening at home. The patrons of art in Ireland have in the past favoured the cheap and tawdry productions of the foreigner, so that Irish art has been starved out of existence. The future looks brighter, and Irish artists may yet flourish in their own land.

Any notes on the works or lives of these artists from our members will be welcome.

P. J. L.