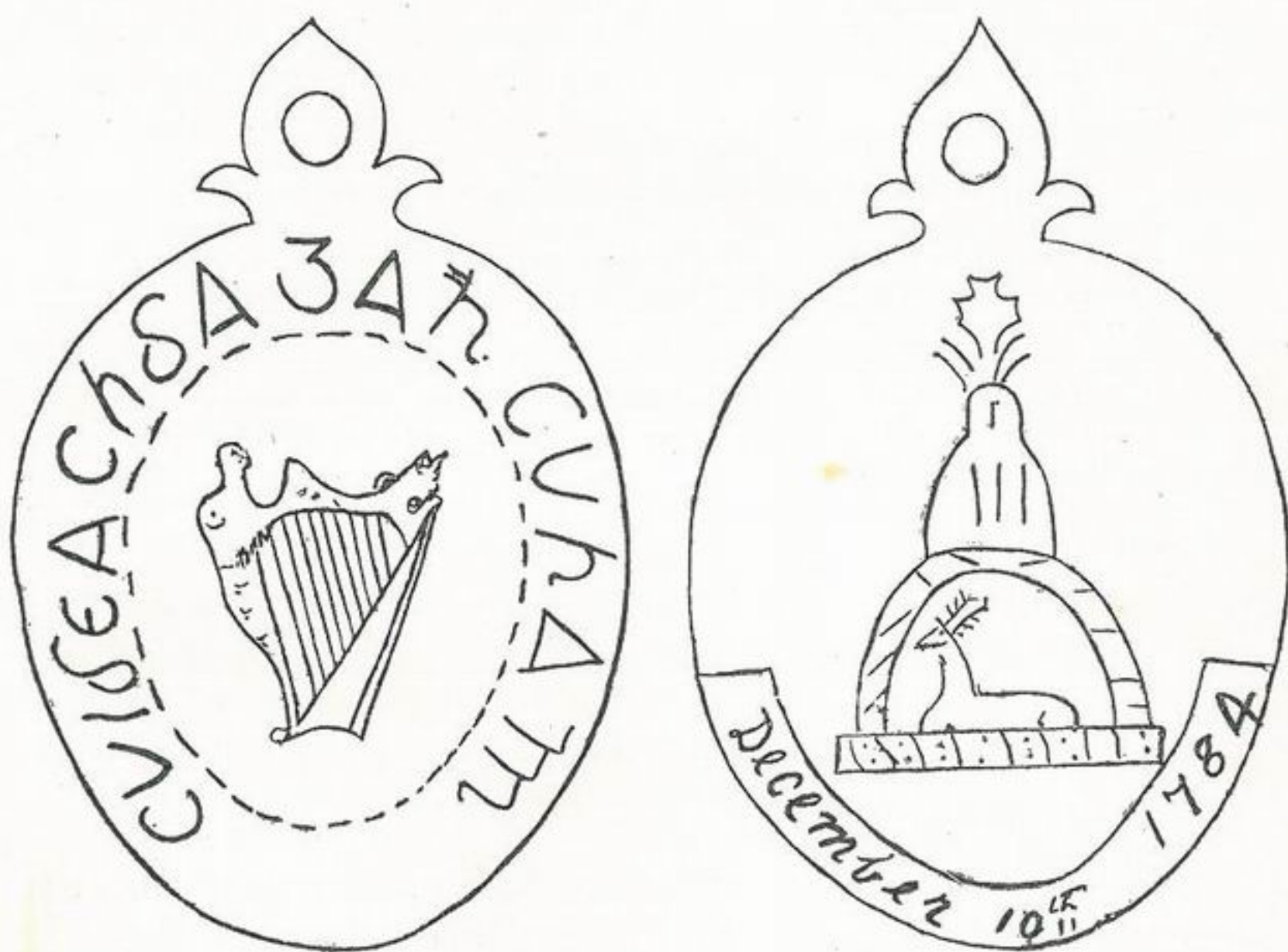


CUIDEACHDA GAN CURAM.

Revd. J. J. O'Kelly, C.C., Newcastle West, picked up a medal some years ago in Limerick, an illustration of which is given here. The *obverse* bears the arms of Ireland in the centre, surrounded towards



the edge with the Irish motto, *Cuideachda Gan Curam*, which literally means "a Company or Gathering without Care." On the *reverse* there is the figure of a deer swimming under an arched turret, and near the lower edge the date December 10th, 1784. It is one inch in breadth and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in length. The material of which it is composed is an alloy of a light yellow colour. It was submitted to experts who failed to trace its origin or significance beyond the fact that it must have been the badge of an Irish Convivial Society somewhere in Ireland.

A few years ago I was permitted to examine the files of the *Limerick Chronicle* and was ageeably surprised to find the following reference to the *Cuideachda Gan Curam* among the advertisements :

“CUIDEACHDA GAN CURAM.

“The Gan Curam Cuideachda are requested to meet the next club night being Saturday at the King's Head Tavern. Such members as shall be that night absent and in Town will not be any longer considered members of this Society.

“Limerick Jan 27 1785.

WALKER JACKSON ESQ
“President.”

“The Cuideachda Gan Curam are requested to meet at the Widow Holland's Tavern on Saturday evening.

“March 10 1785.

COLONEL IRVINE President.”

“CUIDEACHDA GAN CURAM

“Resolved that any member that shall absent himself from this Society three nights successively (and known to be in Town these nights) shall no longer be considered as of the Society unless a satisfactory Apology shall be made for such an absent member.

“Sept 27 1785.”

“The Cuideachda Gan Curam dine at the Club House on Saturday next. Dinner on the table precisely at 5 o'clock.

“Oct 10 1785.”

The Society must have been in existence some months before the medal was struck. Walker Jackson, who figures as President in January 1785, was a well known gentleman in his day. John O'Keeffe, in his *Recollections* (vol. i, p. 183), tells us that “he was a fine gentleman, of great landed property, and a complete musician on the pipes ; they named him Piper Jackson.”

The following are the best known of his musical compositions, and are remarkable for their harmony and expression :—Jackson's Morning Brush, The Turret, The Humours of Castle Jackson, Jackson's Ramble, Roving Blade, and the Cream of the Jest (Ferrar, *Hist. Limk.*, p. 174, 1787 Ed.). O'Keeffe mentions another brother who figured among the “bucks” about town. “The famous Irish bucks of those days were St. Leger, Massy, Richard Dawson, Beauchamp Bagnell, and Hero Jackson—the latter a fine figure of the Hercules kind, but more elegant ; his real Christian name was Miles, but he was called the hero, from having conquered every competitor in exploits of agility and athletic exercises.” He was Sheriff of the City in 1773.

The family residence was at Jackson's Turret, Ballingarry parish, a picturesque object to the surrounding county, being built on a hill. It is now a ruin; having been struck by lightning in the early years of the 19th century.

Though the clamorous notes of Jackson's pipes have long since ceased to vibrate along the hills and the valleys of Ballingarry, the name is still gratefully remembered, for in the time of prosperity he had a feeling heart and did not forget the poor. The Jackson charity is annually distributed in the locality.

Perhaps some reader of the JOURNAL may be able to throw more light on this interesting topic.

J. BEGLEY.
