

## History and Archaeology.

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**Limerick 200 Years Ago.**—"The Irish Builder," August 7th, 1909, printed an old Bill of Measurement of Builders' work, prepared early in the eighteenth century, with some interesting notes, contributed by Mr. P. J. Lynch, M.R.I.A.I., Vice-Pres. R.S.A.I., which we think worth recording in our Journal.

### AN OLD BILL OF MEASUREMENT.

It has been suggested to me that this bill of measurement—which lately came into my possession—for work executed in the City of Limerick in the year 1699 would be interesting to many of the readers of the "Irish Builder." I am indebted to Mr. Fitzgerald, Assistant City Surveyor, for this interesting document.

Under an old Act of the Irish Parliament, all valuations of property had to be submitted to the judgment of a jury of twelve qualified citizens. In this case the jury would appear to have been composed of corporate representatives and members of the trade guilds. Such juries were in frequent demand about this time, as various improvements in the city were being promoted. The work in some cases would now be considered vandalism, as it involved the removal of most of the city gates and walls. In Ferrar's *History of Limerick* reference is made to a jury empanelled to value the old houses on Ball's Bridge before their removal. Recent experience of the present law relating to the valuation of old houses required for city improvements affords reasons for regret that this good old system of valuation is not still in force in Limerick, though the owners of slum property have cause for rejoicing.

This valuation, which was prepared for additions to the Vicarage of St. John's in the Irishtown, is written in a good clear hand, and in its form differs little from any small bill of its class at the present day. The spelling in some cases is peculiar. The prices may surprise the modern builder, but it must be remembered that the wages of carpenters, masons, and plasterers then was 1s. 6d. a day; labourers, 6d. a day.

The windows were small, being valued at 1s. 6d. each. The larger windows required iron bars for protection; in this case there was only one such. The provision of "Pewter shelves and dressers" was a part of the fashion of the day:—

The Admeasurmt. and valuation of the severale works done on the backpart (together wth. the out offices) of the Vicaridge house of St. John's in Limk., being built from the Ground in the years 1699 and 1700, by the Revd. Mr. Willm. Twigg, vicar of Sd. Parish, over and above all the Reparations done by him in the front house (being part of Sd. Vicaridge).

Impls. 238 Perch. 14 foot of Stonework, lime, sand, stone, and workmanship at 4s. p. perch	£47	14	8
One stack of Chimneys (with 2 smoaks), stone, brick, lime, sand, and workmanship valued at	04	00	0
14 $\frac{3}{4}$ square of Pantileing, Pantiles, Laths, nails, lime, sand and workmanship at 9s. p. square	06	12	9
10 $\frac{3}{4}$ square of Slating, Slats, laths, nails, lime, sand, and workmanship at 11s. p. square	05	18	3
551 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards of Lath-work and Ceiling, lime, sand, hair, laths nails, and work, at 6d. p. yard	13	15	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
247 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards of wall plastering Lime, Sand, hair. and workmanship at 3d. per yard	03	01	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards of paving stones and work (in the Cellar, Entry, Comon hall, Kitchen, &c.) at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. p. yd.	00	18	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
25 $\frac{1}{2}$ square of Roofing, Timbor, nails and workmanship at 15s. p. square	19	2	6
22 square of flooring, timbor, boards, nails, and workmanship at 25s. p. square	27	10	0
2 storys of staires, timbor, boards, nails, and workmanship at 25s. p. story	02	10	0
4 yds. of Wainscot, Boards, nails, sprigs, Glew, and workmanship at 3s. p. yd.	00	12	0
35 window lights, timbor, and workmanship at 18d. p.	02	12	6
6 plain window boards, boards, nails, and workmanship at 9d. p. yd.	00	4	6
A two light window wth. Iron, barrs, Timbor, Iron, and workmanship valued	00	12	0
17 plain doors and frames timbor, boards, nails, hooks, hindges, and locks at 7s. p.	05	19	0
One Transome door frame and door, timbor, boards, nails, hooks, hindges and lock, and work valued	00	14	0
Two setts of Pewter shelves and dressers, boards, nails, and workmanship at 13s. p.	01	06	0
In the stable 14 foot of Rack and manger timbor boards and workmanship at 12d. p. foot	00	14	0
The Penthouse over ye street door, timbor, slats, laths, nails, lime, sand, and work valued	00	08	0
760 foot of Joycts for ye studs of the Lath partitions at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. p.	04	15	0
159 foot of (small square) glass at 6d. p. foot	03	19	6
In all	£153	00	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

We the underwritten known Measurers and workmen of the City of Limk. Do Cortifie yt all the above admeasuremts. of walls, Pantileing, Slateing, Plastering Ceiling roofing, flooring, windows, &c., in the Lower Part of the Vicaridge house of St. John's in the Irish Town of ye City of Limk. were Carefully and faithfully taken by us to the best of our skill and knowledge. And we Do further Cortifie that the above Computations of the Expenses about the same amounting to the above sum of one hundred fifty Three pounds and eight pence halfpenny is very moderate and in our opinion much short of what Mr. Willm. Twigg, vicar of sd. Parish, was at in ye years 1699 and 1700 in building the same from ye foundaion, as witness our hands this 22nd day of June, 1723./.

SAMLE. JOHNS.  
NOILL TURNER.



At the foot of the foregoing bill appears the following certificate of the jury.

We the underwritten do Certifie that to our knowledge Mr. Willm. Twigg, vicar of the Parish of St. John's in the City of Limk. in the years 1699 and 1700, did build from the foundation, ye back part of ye vicaridge house in the Parish aforesaid, and to the best of our Computation did expend on building the same the above sum of one hundred fifty three pounds and eight pence half penny, and that ye sevre Computaions above mencond together with the above admeasuremts. are right and just, as being taken by the above Persons, Samuel Johns and Neal Turner, well known in ye City of Limk. to be well skilled in affairs of this kind and as such Generally used in this City, As witness our hands this 24th day of June, 1723.

RICHARD CRAVEN *Aldermen.*  
FRAN. SARGONT  
WM. FRANKLIN  
JOHN HIGGINS

THOMAS CASH, *Burgess and Mason.*  
LAURNE. CANTWELL *Carpenters*  
JAMES CARR *and*  
WM. RAYNOR *Joyners*  
RICHARD CURTISS, *Glazier.*  
BARTHOW. MCKEOGH *Masons and*  
JOHN MCKEOGH *Plasterers*  
his  
ROGER R GONAN  
mark.

Of the Measurers, Samuel Johns and Neal Turner, we have no record at this period. They were satisfied to be "well known in ye City of Limerick" as "well skilled in affairs of this kind." The name appears first in 1765, when a Samuel Johns was Sheriff, and in 1773 Joseph Johns, silversmith, was Mayor; but of the jury there are some who have been prominently identified with the civic history.

The Mayor in 1699 was Robert Twigg, a kinsman, no doubt, of the Vicar of St. John's. He was the purchaser of some of the forfeited lands near the city (Scart, Coolreagh, Carrigmartin, etc.), in 1703, for £1,883. Richard Craven was one of the Sheriffs in 1699. In 1706 John Higgins was Mayor; he was Sheriff in 1697. In 1708 Richard Craven was Mayor, and Francis Sargent, Sheriff.

In 1710 Thomas Cash, the "Burgess and Mason" of the jury, was Sheriff. In these days most of the trades held charters from the Corporation, and the members of the trade guilds occupied an important position in civic life. The Masons were granted a charter in 1677; the Plasterers and Slaters in 1674.

In 1715 William Franklin was Mayor. He was a member of the Guild of Curriers and Tanners, which did not receive a charter until 1721. He was suspected of a want of zeal in the cause of the Hanoverian Succession, and in this charge the Protestant Bishop, Dr. Smith, was involved. A public meeting was called by the Mayor and

his party to refute the calumny, and assert their loyalty. Amongst the 250 signatories to the resolution we find Wm. Franklin, Mayor; John Higgins, James Carr, and William Twigg.

In 1716 Francis Sargent was Mayor; he writes his name "Sargont" (probably as he pronounced it). The name is frequently met with in the City Annals. The last Mayor of the name was Joseph Sargent, in 1802. Lenihan states that in some old documents it is written O'Sargent.

The interest in this old valuation increases when it is read in the light of the history of the time, and that we thus identify the jurors whose names appear at the foot of it with the life and progress of the city. We see the merchants and the trade guilds united in the work of municipal government and sharing the honours. The arrangement appears to have been a success in those days, and may find a parallel in our own time.

The Rev. William Twigg was Archdeacon of Limerick. About this time he married the widow of the Rev. Peter Rylands, M.A., Treasurer of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, and Vicar-Choral. She was a daughter of Sir Drury Wray, Bart., of Bramstone, by his wife, Anne Casey, daughter and heiress of Thomas Casey, of Rathcannon, Co. Limerick. By her marriage with the Rev. William Twigg she had two daughters and co-heiresses, the elder, Jane Twigg, married the Rev. Stackpoole Pery, and was mother of Viscount Pery, ancestor of the Earl of Limerick. The younger daughter, Anne Twigg, was wife of Thomas Maunsell, M.P. for Limerick.

**The Twigg Family.**—Having seen the above notes in the "Irish Builder," Mr. W. R. Twigg, Agent to the Bank of Ireland, Limerick, kindly supplied the author with the following notes on the family of the Rev. Wm. Twigg:—

"The Rev. Wm. Twigg's father, Capt. Charles Twigg, was, I believe, a brother of our ancestor Thomas Twigg, of St. Kevin's, Dublin. He married Miriam Ireland, d. of William Ireland, a merchant of Liverpool. He was born in 1617 and d. in 1680. He was among the volunteers in the levy of the Duke of Ormonde to protect Dublin in 1644, and is mentioned in a letter of Bishop Jeremy Taylor, dated October, 1660, as Commandant of the troops at Carrickfergus. Miriam died 1676, and



was buried at St. Andrew's, Dublin. He married, secondly, in 1677, Letitia Martin. The Will of Thos. Twigg, of St. Kevin's, is witnessed by Charles Twigg and Miriam Twigg, dated 1672. In August, 1660, Charles Twigg petitioned the Duke of Albemarle for confirmation of his rank as Captain, and gave as reason his services in promoting the King's restoration, and that his father-in-law, Wm. Ireland, had supplied provisions for 1,500 men for nine weeks in Liverpool, when the town was besieged by the Parliamentarians. He was taken prisoner and placed in irons on board a ship for sixteen months. He also lost much property stored in Drogheda at the time of its siege. Mrs. Twigg's first husband, Henry Worrall, was slain in the King's service. On the 3rd of August, 1661, the King directed that Charles Twigg should have the first company of Foot to fall vacant in Ireland. He was in the King's Guard of Horse in Ireland, commonly called the Lord Lieutenant's Gentlemen. He had also a valuable office as Collector of Revenue.

The Books of T.C.D. state that William Twigg entered as student, aged sixteen years, 27th March, 1674, son of Charles Twigg, gent., and born at Carrickfergus. He was afterwards Archdeacon of Limerick. John Twigg entered 1675, also son of Charles Twigg, and born at Carrickfergus, aged 17 years. He became a Canon of St. Patrick's and Rector of Castleknock. His son Paul Twigg, was appointed Vicar of Carlingford, and was ancestor of the Paul Twigg who lived near Dublin about fifty years ago. The senior representative of Archdeacon Twigg is the Earl of Ranfurly, who descends from a daughter of Viscount Pery, elder brother of Bishop, Wm. Pery, ancestor of Lord Limerick. I think there is no doubt that Alderman Robert Twigg of Limerick, the Mayor of 1699, and Archdeacon Twigg of Limerick were first cousins."

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## NOTES AND QUERIES.

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**Charles Johnston, the Author of "Chrysal."**—Descended from a good family of the same name in Scotland, Charles Johnston was born at Limerick about the year 1720. He received a classical education in his native city, and at the usual age was sent to Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated. After leaving college he came to