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(4 pages)

From R. Herbert's collection of Notes. (RR)
MANUSCRIPT NOTES BY H. W. RUSSELL. D

The ms. notes of particular events made in this book by Hampden William Russell are in some instances more or less connected with his family; much of the information being traditional, and derived from his father, Hughes Russell, who, if now living, would be considerably over 100 years of age. He took a particular interest in old local historical events, and often narrated to the writer circumstances in connection with this work, which not alone occurred in his own time, but also in his fathers and grandfather's; In some instances references to files of old local newspapers have assisted much in compiling these notes, which are on various subjects, and may be viewed as thoroughly reliable in all they relate. The writer, who is now in his 70th year, has also been assisted by a very clear and distinct recollection of most of the events. HAMPDEN WM. RUSSELL, 1884.

EDITOR'S NOTE. Russell gave Lenihan much material for his History, and some of the episodes related in these mas notes have already appeared, almost verbatim, in the latter's history. I have omitted these in editing the manuscript for publication in our Journal.

X THE RUSSELLS OF LIMERICK.

The following extracts relative to the Russells of Limerick are taken from the local newspapers giving an account of the opening of the Public Park in memory of Richard Russell on the 21st of August, 1877:-

The Russells of Limerick are an old Protestant family that for centuries have held a good position in the City. The 9th and 56th Mayors of Limerick were Russells, and several of the name filled office of Bailiff and Sheriff. By inscription on front of the Old [unclear], Old Francis Street, which was called after Francis

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Exchange it appears it was rebuilt in the year 1777 Walter Widenham being Mayor and Francis Russell and Charles Sargent Sheriffs. Since then, which is exactly a century, nine members of the family have filled the office of Sheriff of the City, namely, Francis, William, Philip, Abraham, Francis Philip, Hughes, John Norris, Richard and Thompson, and for nineteen years the city was represented in Parliament by Francis William Russell, who was returned one of the members at the contested elections of 1852, 1857, 1859, 1865 and 1868. On the 30th August 1871, his sudden death took place at his residence in London, the day after the death of his brother Richard.

In former years there was a branch of the Russells in Limerick who were of this family but the connection was remote, having descended from the brother of one of the progenitors of the present family, Philip Russell born in 1650, being the year that Cromwell's troops laid siege to Limerick. They have long since left Limerick, and until within the last few years, were represented by the late Venerable John Russell, Archdeacon of Clogher, whose eldest sister was married to the Right Reverend Charles Dickinson, Lord Bishop of Meath.

The first extension of the city outside the walls, when it was a fortress, was in the year 1766, West Watergate having been then taken down and Charlotte's Quay formed, on which a range of houses, at present standing, was built by George, Francis, John and William Russell. The Russells have added more to the city in buildings than any other family that ever resided in it, a great part of George Street, as also part of Mallow Street, Glentworth Street, Henry Street, Catherine Street, Thomas Street, Shannon Street, Broad Street, Mungret Street, John Street, Lock Quay, Sir Harry's Mall and Charlotte's Quay having been built by them. And prior to the siege, part of Nicholas Street, Mary Street, Old Francis Street, which was called after Francis

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Russell, and the place known as the Abbey. The name of Russell appears identified with the ancient Cathedral of Limerick so far back as the year 1272, Henry Russell being one of the Canons of the Cathedral at that period. The burial place of the Russells is Saint John's in Limerick, where for many years they used to inter in the interior of the old Church, until such interments were prohibited by Act of Parliament. The last person whose remains were interred in the interior of the Old Church was the widow of a Philip Russell, Miss Fosbery of Clorane, who was niece to George Fosbery, High Sheriff of the County Limerick in the year 1744. Consequent on her decease having taken place a short time after the passing of this act, her remains were interred outside the Church in the morning, and at night with the sanction of the Vicar of the Parish who was a particular friend of the family, they were secretly removed and placed in the tomb near the remains of her late husband. This tomb was situated under the passage leading from the communion table to the vestry room in the old church, on the site of which the new one has been raised. The foundation stone of this edifice was laid by John Norris Russell the year he was sheriff. On the organ loft in the new church is a handsome wheel window with richly stained glass, in the centre of which are the arms of the family. There are now four vaults and a mausoleum in the burial ground outside the church belonging to different branches of the family. One of them has some few years since become extinct by the decease of Francis Philip Russell of Saint Thomas's Island.

The decease of Richard Russell who held the Commission of the Peace, was President of the Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the various public bodies of the city, took place at his residence, Plassy on the 29th of August 1871, to the deep regret of his fellow

citizens, who subscribed £1,400 to erect a memorial, which was appropriated to the forming of the beautiful Public Park now formally opened to his memory. The entrance to the park is artistically designed of cut stone in the Doric Order. Over the centre archway are finely cut in high relief the Russell Arms with the following inscription:- PERY SQUARE. This Public Park was formed by subscription in memory of Richard Russell, the land being given by the Right Honble. the Earl of Limerick.

There have been from time to time, and are at present several of the name of Russell residing in Limerick unconnected with our family.

H.W.R. 1884.