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English order." It was after this, perhaps in consequence of it, that in 1528, Cormac Oge attended parliament as "Lord of Muscry."

There is no further record found of interest after this up to the death of the tenth lord, which took place in 1537. He was buried with his father, at Kilcrea, and was succeeded by his son Teige McCormac Oge MacCarthy, above mentioned, the eleventh lord of Muskerry, who was fifty-five years old at his accession. He had no brother, and his tanist and lieutenant at Carrignamuck was his eldest son Dermot (born 1501). The sixteenth century, generally, was a period of unrest

in Munster, disturbed by feuds between rivals of the house of Desmond, and by other local commotions, and finally by rebellions against the sovereign power, whose policy of annihilation of chieftainships and dissipation of sept territories was, very naturally, disliked by the chieftains. In these contentions, every family whose home was in the disturbed country took a part. But the Muskerry MacCarthys astutely managed to hold their own during this century, saved thus from the fate of the Desmonds, whose vast territories of over half a million of acres were confiscated at the close of the century.

(To be continued.)

An Ancient Spear-Head.

[Read before the Society by ROBERT DAY, J.P., F.S.A., M.R.I.A.]



HAVE much pleasure in exhibiting on behalf of Alfred William Allen, Esq., of Clashenure, a very well preserved bronze spear-head, which he found when accompanying his ploughman at Mount Zephyr, in the Duhallow country, near Millstreet, county Cork. The man was ploughing a field that had been reclaimed from bog land, when the spear-head was turned up by the ploughshare. It is fourteen inches long, with feather-edge, leaf-shaped blades, that terminate in loops. The socket, which is three inches long, has six concentric circles round its base, otherwise the weapon is without ornament, but it is of beautiful proportions, and is coated more or less over its entire surface with a dark brown patination.

We have it upon the authority of O'Curry⁽¹⁾ that the Tuatha Dé Danaan were armed with sharp-pointed weapons, with which they conquered the Firbolgs, whose weapons "were rounded at the top." A most interesting account of the arms used in the warfare of ancient Erin is given in the description of the great battle fought between the Firbolgs, who were the older

(1) "O'Curry's Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish," vol. ii., p. 241. Williams and Norgate.



occupiers of the country, and their invaders, the Tuatha Dé Danaan, at the first battle of Magh Tuireadh, the date of which is fixed, according to O'Flaherty's chronology, A.M. 2737, or B.C. 1272, and according to the chronology followed by the Four Masters A.M. 3303, or B.C. 1890. From this an idea can be formed of the period in which these bronze weapons were used.

The preservative nature of our peat bogs will account in some measure for the beautifully sharp and clean condition of this spear-head, but the component parts of the bronze used by the people of Northern Europe, being 90 parts of copper with 10 of tin, was singularly hard and durable, and is still capable of bearing a keen and sharp cutting edge.

To illustrate this, I have brought a few from my own collection of the same variety, and with them one which is described in the transactions of the Society of Antiquaries, London, that was dredged from a depth of 17 feet below the mud level of our river, in the Blackrock reach. It was presented to me by the late Alderman William Hegarty, who was on board the dredge when it came up in one of the buckets.