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JOURNAL

OF THE

CORK HISTORICAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY, 1892.

No. 2.

Proceedings of the Society

FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT TO THE 22ND DECEMBER, 1891.

BY THE HON. SECRETARY.

IT has been considered advisable to publish the following, so that those interested may possess the proceedings of the Society in a permanent form. The particulars have been gleaned from the notices of the meetings which already appeared in the newspapers (to which they were officially supplied), and from the Minute Book of Council.

First Meeting—27th May, 1891.

Old Cork Records.

A preliminary conference was held at the School of Science and Art, to consider what steps could be taken to rescue from oblivion what is now available of the records of the past of our city.

There were present—Very Rev. Canon Sheehan, Rev. Canon Evans, Rev. W. Whitelegge, Alderman H. Dale, Miss H. A. Martin, Messrs. Denny Lane, M.A.; W. L. Perrier, O. R. Bergin, F. W. Allman, T. J. Clanchy, C. G. Doran, Joseph Bennett, Basil Hyde, Samuel Wood, George Moore, M. Steed, J. Daly, J. O'Mahony, Patrick O'Shea, J. Fitzgerald, and T. Farrington, M.A.

Alderman Dale, president of the Cork Literary and Scientific Society, was moved to the chair.

The Chairman explained that this meeting had been convened in consequence of the suggestion made by the Rev. Canon Sheehan at the Council of the Literary and Scientific Society. He then called upon Canon Sheehan to make a statement.

Rev. Canon Sheehan said it was occurring to him for a considerable time that it was desirable and necessary that some effort should be made, and at once, to gather information relative to the history of our city for a century or more past. On the one hand, there was a considerable

amount of manuscript and printed matter scattered about in various directions, and by lapse of time it was disappearing altogether. He was informed also that, particularly in recent years, the number of books relating to Cork, and other parts of Ireland, being sent to America was on the increase. The Americans have wealth and energy, and like to get and read the history of the lands they came from. We have also a great amount of information, not in print or manuscript, but in the minds of a number of gentlemen here and elsewhere, who have devoted themselves with energy and success to inquiring into the condition of Cork at the period to which he referred. That being so, he thought some effort should be made without delay to see if it was desirable to collect this information, and if so, the next question would be, what steps could be taken to find and use it? It was agreed to communicate with such gentlemen as they knew possessed the knowledge desired. He had received one or two suggestions, and a letter from Mr. Cecil Woods, recommending that, if possible, an effort should be made to continue Smith's History of Cork, 1750 (at which period it ceased) down to the present, and after that to go back and re-write from 1700. There was one gentleman in the city capable of taking up this work if he could be got to do so. He possessed two copies of Smith's History, one in seven volumes, with annotations by Crofton Croker, the other with annotations by Caulfield. Another suggestion was that an effort be made to publish a series of books relative to the history of Cork. This purpose could be served by publishing a magazine at sixpence a number, provided a circulation of 1,000 could be obtained. The next question would be as to what society should take up the matter. He had found a great deal of information, relative to Cork in the 16th and 17th centuries, in the library of Trinity College, Dublin.

Mr. J. Bennett said it would be desirable to consult Mr. Day on this matter, also to arrange for interviews with gentlemen who would not write on the subject. He had some information acquired from Dr. Caulfield which he would be glad to give. We had Dutch, French, and Portuguese settlements here in ancient times. The particulars of these, with the institutions and habits of the people, would be very interesting, and some of the gentlemen present could give help in that way.

Mr. Denny Lane said the librarian of the Royal Irish Academy, who was a friend of his and of the late Dr. Sullivan, would be glad, he was sure, to help this work. The information sought may be classified under three heads. First—Printed matter, under which head a collection should be made as complete as possible of the books printed in Cork. Second—Manuscripts of which they may be allowed take copies by the gentlemen possessing them. Third—Oral traditions by which gentlemen might give some of their memories to a shorthand writer in a gossiping way, relating things they may have witnessed or heard of. At one time the people of Cork were great dramatic critics. This arose from the fact that while other cities had several theatres Cork had only one, and there the people saw the most eminent actors in the same pieces and were able to compare them. If such a society as that now proposed had been in existence formerly, many of Windele's and Caulfield's books would have been preserved.

Mr. T. J. Clanchy believed that some of the old citizens should be interviewed as suggested, and thought a committee should now be appointed to consider and carry out the ideas given.

Mr. T. Farrington said he had also received letters from Mr. Cecil Woods and Rev. Mr. Hurley, Inchigeela, offering their co-operation. He thought the proposed committee might consist of five or six divisions, each of which would look after a special branch of the subject. In addition to the topography of the city already mentioned, he suggested as other branches of their work, the religious, social and political history of Cork, the state of science and the industrial arts, that of the fine arts, and of literature.

Rev. Mr. Whitelegge said one of the subjects might be a history of the books printed in Cork, the earliest of which was in 1653. He had several of these old books, which he would be glad to give the use of.

Rev. Canon Evans thought it a very happy idea to get oral information from old gentlemen. He was aware that Mr. W. L. Perrier could give valuable help in this way. Cork had been particularly favoured with men of talent in every department, amongst others in the dramatic. It had at one time a corps of amateur performers who gave entertainments for charities, the actors,

attendants, and door-keepers being all professional men of the city. The performances were of the highest character, and if reproduced would be wonderfully interesting to the rising generation.

It was then agreed to form a new and distinct society, to be afterwards named, for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations suggested, and that a provisional committee be formed, consisting of those present, together with Rev. P. Hurley, Messrs. C. Woods, T. Crosbie, H. L. Tivy, and Robert Day, F.S.A., and with power to co-opt any others they wish.

Second Meeting—2nd June, 1891.

Steps for their Recovery.

ALDERMAN DALE in the Chair.

Mr. Farrington (hon. sec.) said that it was announced at the last meeting that those who were then present would be expected to attend any future meeting, while the following who were appointed on the committee—Rev. Father Hurley, Mr. Day, Mr. Thomas Crosbie, Mr. Tivy, and Mr. Cecil Woods—were given notice of that meeting. Mr. Woods had written thanking them for having appointed him on the committee.

The Chairman said he had a letter from Mr. W. R. Atkins saying he would be very glad to join the committee of the society, and perhaps be useful in the line of photography. Mr. Atkins had taken a great interest in photographing old relics. Mr. Atkins had shown him (the chairman) a picture of the crypt under Christ Church, and he also had a register of the burials there extending over a long time. It occurred to him that the most business-like way to proceed, and the way most likely to ensure success, would be to appoint a sub-committee to take such steps as they would deem advisable for promoting the objects of the society. The Chairman's suggestion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Bennett said that Captain Pigott Beamish, if communicated with, could give a great deal of information relative to the south side of the city.

Mr. Day said that he had been a member of the old Cuiverian Society, which had their reunions once a month in the library of the old Cork Institution. Papers were read and relics exhibited which were found in the county, or connected with the county and city. Ancient manuscripts were produced and read, and unreadable manuscripts were translated by Dr. Caulfield. That society co-opted honorary members, and they had some of the very first names in the county on the honorary member roll. They exchanged their proceedings with various other societies. He (Mr. Day) did not see why a society of this kind should not be revived in the city.

Canon Sheehan said they should try and make it a popular movement. There were a number of young men engaged at business during

the day whose co-operation they should invite. They should make the citizens take as deep an interest as possible in the records of old Cork, which he thought was essentially a patriotic act.

Third Meeting—30th September, 1891.

"Lord Edward" in Cork.

VERY REV. R. A. CANON SHEEHAN, President, in the Chair

Mr. H. W. Gillman, A.B., read a paper on the Siege of Cork, materials for its history and incidents connected therewith, which included a list of books on the subject extant in the British Museum.

The Very Rev. Canon Sheehan gave a detailed account of the escape of Lord Edward Fitz-Gerald from Cork in the spring of 1798. At the time a warrant had been issued for his arrest he was passing for a Quaker gentleman in the house of a Cork chemist, who was one of the Society of Friends. This house was situated in Daunt's Square, and the information as to the exit of the distinguished fugitive, while the military were searching the premises, was obtained from the son of one of the gentlemen present at the time. It was presumed that the presence of Lord Edward in Cork at the time was in connection with the appointment of the Brothers Shears on the council of the United Irishmen. While in the vicinity of the city it is stated that Fitz-Gerald hid at Blackrock, Blackpool, and in Sunday's Well, near Shanakiel.

A discussion took place, and a vote of thanks was passed.

Fourth Meeting—13th October, 1891.

Doings in the City Seventy-five Years Ago.

VERY REV. R. A. CANON SHEEHAN, President, in the Chair.

Mr. C. G. Doran read the first part of his paper entitled "Unpublished Records of Cork, 1815-1818 inclusive." This portion of the paper extended from October, 1815, to December, 1816. The records are compiled from a hitherto unpublished diary kept by one Mr. John Young, who acted, during the period dealt with, as one of the market jurors of the city. The market jury consisted of some twelve members, taken alike from the merchants and tradespeople. Each juror kept a record of prices of provisions and marketable commodities, and noted, as well, any remarkable incident that might arise in the discharge of his duty. Mr. Young, however, interspersed his market entries with other entries of a social or political nature, many of which are of a very interesting character. The diary contains a minute record of the proceedings in connection with the period in the present century when Cork was without a mayor, and when the citizens had lost the power of electing one without exceptional legislation. This information is very valuable, inasmuch as Tuckey, in his *Remembrancer*, displays very meagre knowledge of the

transaction. The diary deals in detail with the doings of the "Friendly Club," an organization of freemen who successfully wirepulled the corporation in their own interest rather than that of the ratepayers. It also contains entries of trials, sentences, floggings, transportations, and hangings, which enable us to judge of the state of society and the state of the law at that period.

A discussion of a very interesting nature followed, bearing on the matter contained in the paper.

Fifth Meeting—26th October, 1891.

Old Cork Ballads.

MAJOR-GENERAL H. F. DAVIES in the Chair.

Mr. John Fitzgerald read a paper on "Old Cork Street Ballads," and exhibited many of the original woodcuts with which they were illustrated by the famous ballad printer, Haly, of Hanover Street. He mentioned an interesting incident to show the wide circulation of these productions. A Corkman who took refuge in a deserted log hut in Colorado found posted on the wall the three Cork ballads, "The Green Linnet," "Nell Flaherty's Drake," and "Bold Brennan on the Moor," which had evidently been left behind by a fellow-townsmen. Mr. Fitzgerald gave several specimens of the various types of ballads, including the drinking period, the teetotal time, love songs, faction rhymes, and poems of the old election days.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald for his paper, which, he said, was very valuable for the side-lights it gave of local life fifty years ago.

Mr. John Dalton brought before the meeting an old picture of a ballad-singer at Shandon, bearing date 1809, and signature F. Pyne.

Sixth Meeting—12th November, 1891.

Dripsey Castle.

VERY REV. R. A. CANON SHEEHAN, President, in the Chair.

A paper was read by Mr. Herbert Webb Gillman, Member of the Council, and M.R.S.A., on the subject of the old castles of county Cork, with a particular account of one, Carrignamuck, *alias* Dripsey Castle, a stronghold of the MacCarthys. The paper began by pointing out that the collection of all that is locally known, and of all the information obtainable from public records, and county and family histories, concerning these old castles, will be a material help towards the preparation of what is still a *desideratum*, a correct narrative history of the county. Enough is already known to show that the histories of many such buildings can be pieced together into a continuous whole. The same is expected, though in a less degree, from the collection of local knowledge concerning earlier objects, such as Ogham stones, holy wells, cromlechs, raths, caiseals, and the like; and it is hoped by the Society that those in-

terested in their country will prepare lists of the remains of these structures and other objects in their respective localities, with notes of all that is known about each. Members of the society will probably be able to add to these notes others from different sources. Of the hundred and sixty castles in county Cork, fifty-six were built by native chiefs, and of these latter twenty-six belonged to the MacCarthys. The paper next proceeded to investigate the reason why the Irish lords of countries were slow to adopt the practice of the Anglo-Norman settlers in building these edifices, notwithstanding their obvious advantages in the military occupation of a district. The disinclination of the Irish to leave the comfort of the timber and earth abodes for the cold of stone walls, and the songs of their bards inveighing against castles as disfigurements of nature, delayed the adoption of such buildings. Sir John Davies' opinion, written in 1612, was then discussed, viz., that the customs of tanistry and gavelkind tended to prevent the occupier of any land from building on or otherwise improving it; Davies asking, "Who would plant, or build, or improve on that land which a stranger, whom he knew not, should possess after his death?"—a consequence which followed from both those customs. The paper showed, however, that Davies' inference went too far, for undoubtedly native chiefs had built castles, after the Norman plan, while they held their chiefries under the tanist law of succession, and long before English tenures came into fashion.

The paper contained also an accurate description of the structure of Carrignamuck Castle, placed now on record, because, owing to the care bestowed on it by the Colthurst family, it is probably unique in the county in its excellent state of preservation. The writer, by help of plans prepared by Lieut. Gillman, R.A., and photographs taken by Mr. Warburton Beamish, explained briefly the *enceinte* and the architectural features of the edifice.

A discussion followed, and a vote of thanks was moved to the reader of the paper, and passed with acclamation.

Committee Meeting 17th November, 1891.

Smith's History of Cork.

VERY REV. R. A. CANON SHEEHAN, President, in the Chair.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. Robert Day had been generous enough to place his valuable edition of *Smith's History*, with notes by Dr. Caulfield and Crofton Croker, at the disposal of the Society for publication.

On the motion of Mr. Doran, seconded by Mr. Atkins, it was unanimously agreed "That the best thanks of the Society be tendered to Mr. Day for the manner in which he had readily acceded to the request of the Society, and the incalculable assistance he rendered its objects in agreeing to the publication of this valuable book."

Seventh Meeting—24th November, 1891.

An Early Cork Book.

DESCRIPTION OF AN ANCIENT SPEAR HEAD.

VERY REV. R. A. CANON SHEEHAN, President, in the Chair.

Rev. W. Whitelegge, M.A., read an account of a book, a copy of which he laid before the meeting. It was entitled "Scripture Evidence for Baptizing the Infants of Covenanters, produced at Cork, in two sermons, one preached April 7th, the other June 2nd, A.D. 1653: printed for J. Taylor, widow, and are to be sold at her shop in Cork." The book is a very early specimen of printing at Cork, the Hebrew and Greek words are filled in with the pen in manuscript, no type of those characters having been at the time introduced into the city. The sermons were preached by Edward Worth, dean of Cork (subsequently bishop of Killaloe), at St. Peter's church, and formed part of a controversy carried on between Dr. Worth, Thomas Hacket (subsequently dean of Cork and bishop of Down and Connor), and John Murcot, Independent minister, on one side, against Dr. John Harding, Anabaptist minister, on the other side. The discussion took place at the church, on May 26th, 1659; and, after six hours controversy, was abruptly terminated by Harding accusing Hacket of perfidiousness, in tearing off a bit of paper on which was written one of his syllogisms.

The paper having been discussed,

Mr. Robert Day exhibited a Bronze Spear-head, recently found in the county.

Eighth Meeting—8th December, 1891.

Murty Oge, the Captain of the "Wild Geese."

VERY REV. R. A. CANON SHEEHAN, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Robert Day exhibited a small box containing a number of old gun-metal coins of the time of James II., recently found at New Tipperary.

Mr. John O'Mahony read a paper on Murteach O'Sullivan, of Eyerics, county Cork, commonly called "Murty Oge." He traced the family from its original stem on the main line, and mentioned a number of incidents connected with members of the clan. In reference to the subject of the paper, he recounted O'Sullivan's fighting in the war of the Austrian succession, his personal bravery at Fontenoy, his being wounded at Lauffield, and his presence at Culloden on the side of the Pretender. Mention was made of the presentation, by the Archduchess Maria Teresa, of a richly-mounted sword, for valour, to O'Sullivan; of the sensation in the French court on his introduction by Lady Clare; and to his being raised to a colonelcy in the brigade for personal courage. The paper dealt in detail with Murty's doings in West Cork—smuggling and recruiting for the "Wild Geese." A picture was drawn of Cork city at the time (1750-1754), and particulars stated

of the execution both at Broad Lane and Gallops Green of several persons for enlisting soldiers to serve the French king. A very full version of the killing by Murty Oge of John Puxley, the revenue officer, was given, and a minute account of the subsequent capture and death of Murty himself. Not the least interesting portion of the paper was the stealing of Murty Oge's head off the South Gate gaol, and a peculiar coincidence therewith. The paper concluded with a threnody composed by a servant on Murty Oge and a *caione* said to be translated from the Gaelic by the poet Callanan.

On the motion of Mr. Doran, seconded by Mr. Denny Lane, a vote of thanks was passed.

Ninth Meeting—22nd December, 1891.

OLD CORK CELEBRITIES.

MR. H. W. GILLMAN, M.R.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. H. L. Tivy read his paper on "Cork Celebrities," beginning with a *résumé* of the various celebrities accorded special mention by the historians Smith and Windele, from Tungal, dating as far back as 1156, to Daniel Maclise, the distinguished Cork artist, John Hogan, the sculptor, Rev. Francis Mahony (Father Prout), Richard Sainthill, and many others of the present century. A second section of the paper quoted the description, graphically given by a writer, of "Cork at the close of the Seventeenth Century," with special allusion to a map of that time printed in the *Pacata Hibernia*. A succeeding section reproduced an interesting sketch of the Skiddy family, and their association with Skiddy's Castle, beginning with the mayoralty of William Skiddy in 1365, from researches made by the late Dr. Caulfield. The founder of Skiddy's charity was shown to be Stephen Skiddie, a London vintner and a merchant prince in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The next section dealt in the customs which prevailed in Cork for the election of mayors and sheriffs prior to the Municipal Reform Act of 1840, by which it appeared that the election of

chief magistrate was then accomplished by the aid of a Blue Coat Hospital boy, who drew from a hat the names of five past sheriffs, the senior of whom became mayor of Cork. This arrangement was carried out under the superintendence of a society formed of certain members of the Court of D'Oyer Hundred, called the Friendly Brothers. The sheriffs were elected from among the resident burgesses by a ballot, each being expected to give a supper at the Crown Tavern, near Fishamble Lane, before entering office. The mayoralty of Sir Vesian Pick, in 1796, was then dealt with, and his characteristic mode of administering justice at the old Court of Conscience, and also his hospitalities at the Mansion House (now the Mercy Hospital). In his year of office occurred the attempted landing of the French in Bantry bay, Sir Vesian being knighted in consequence of his activity in organizing the defence of the city on that occasion. A following section of the paper treated of the mayoralty of Sir David Perrier in 1813, marked by a lavish hospitality and great loyalty to the House of Brunswick. The popularity of this mayoralty did not, however, render Sir David Perrier safe from the ridicule of a light-hearted and self-constituted body calling themselves the Ballintemple Corporation, which had its headquarters in a building adjacent to Barrington's Avenue, near Blackrock. The story was told of the burlesque procession to the Mansion House, with the imitation elephant, and the wetting received by the piper who sat astride upon it. A concluding section of the paper noticed some of the best known street characters of the early part of the present century, including "Harry Badger," "Bothered Dan," "Buck Falvey, the Sweep," "Foxy Norry," "Roudlam," and the virago "Blast the Quarry."

A discussion having arisen, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Tivy, on the motion of Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Denny Lane.

On a Hoard of Coins.

By ROBERT DAY, J.P., F.S.A., M.R.I.A. (VICE PRES.)



IN behalf of R. S. Mansergh, Esq., Friarsfield, Tipperary, I have the honour to exhibit an oval copper box, containing twenty-three gun-money coins of the reign of James II.⁽¹⁾ The box, which is thickly coated with a dark green deposit, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by 3 inches wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep. Upon

(1) Through the kindness of Mr. Mansergh, I have been enabled to purchase this from the finder.

the cover is a raised device representing a heart, and above it two birds, like doves regarding each other. The coins are each as thickly coated as the box, and some have suffered not so much from the effects of circulation as from lying by, possibly in wet or marshy ground, so that all are more or less defaced. They consist of the sixpence, shilling, and half-crown, the latter in the large and small size.