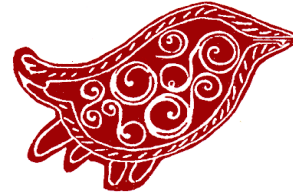


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of the execution both at Broad Lane and Gallops Green of several persons for enlisting soldiers to serve the French king. A very full version of the killing by Murty Oge of John Puxley, the revenue officer, was given, and a minute account of the subsequent 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 Budge," "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.

These coins of James are the only examples in the entire British series upon which the month of the year of issue is stamped. The box contained eleven sixpences—namely, four of January, 1689; four doubtful; two of August, 1689, and one of November. Of shillings there are seven—viz., two of 1689, and one of 1690, doubtful; two of August, 1689; one of December, and one of June, 1690. Of half-crowns there are two of the first issue, one of which is February, with the year defaced, the other 1689, in which the month is obliterated; and three of the latter or smaller type—viz., two of May, and one of June, 1690.

The box with these coins was dug up by a labourer employed in the excavation at New Tipperary. Possibly this box was deposited for safety beneath some thorn tree, or in some marked spot, and was never recovered, perhaps never sought for again until accidentally unearthed by the spade. This money of James, made from the old brass guns, broken bells, old copper, brass and pewter, worth from

3d. to 4d. the lb., but ordered to pass current for from £5 to £10 sterling the pound weight, left a bad impression upon the shopkeepers and farmers of Ireland, who, during his reign, had to accept it, and give in exchange their merchandise and grain. No wonder, then, that in Youghal, before 1690 had passed away, "a proclamation,^(a) crying "down all the base money made by King "James, was published by beat of drum."

Collectors aim at acquiring complete and consecutive sets of this gun-money, commencing January, 1689, and ending October, 1690.

In a discussion that ensued, it was suggested by Mr. Doran that the box was the outer case which was originally used for holding a silver pyx; the sacred heart and doves being emblematic symbols of the Sacrament.

There is a bell or mitre-shaped object immediately over and between the doves which is too indistinct to determine or to hazard a conjecture upon.

(a) *Vide* Proc. Re. Soc. Antiquaries Ireland, No. 1, 1890.

Old Cork Celebrities.

BY HENRY L. TIVY, M.R.S.A., (COUNCIL MEMBER.)



ALTHOUGH the title given to the following notes is "Old Cork Celebrities," it should not be understood that it professes to give anything like an exhaustive history, or even mention, of the many local celebrities associated with Cork history. The main intention of what follows is to give a lead, or offer a suggestion, to other writers who may be able to contribute to this journal biographical notices of the many personages who in various grades of life have been associated with Cork. In several instances, what follows is simply a reproduction of articles found buried in the files of a newspaper, viz. :—"Cork at the Close of the Seventeenth Century," is a pleasing description of Cork, in 1690, extracted from Mr. John George McCarthy's clever "History of Cork," and "The Skiddy Family and Skiddy's Castle" is from the pen of the late Dr. Caulfield. The other notes are derived either from fragmentary records, or from the oral

evidence of gentlemen still resident in the city.

CORK CELEBRITIES MENTIONED BY SMITH AND WINDELE.

Of the celebrities of ancient Cork, Smith makes mention of the following in chronological order, generally making each the subject of a short notice :—

Tundal, or Tungal, a native of Cork in 1159, who, having been entranced for three days, recovered, to give what was thought a valuable report of his visions; Patrick Ragged, 1414, a Cork Bishop; Donald O'Fihily, 1505, an author of Irish annals; Thomas O. Hiernan, 1573, a Dean of Cork; William Thirry, D.D., no date, titular Bishop of Cork; Lodowick Barry, a dramatic writer; Florence McCarthy, an author; William Coppinger, 1526, an author; Philip O'Sullivan, 1621, a writer of invective against Archbishop Ussher; Garret Barry, 1643, a writer on military subjects; Francis Matthews, 1644, a Franciscan friar;