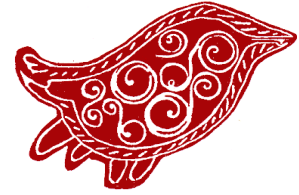


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landed on the Crozet Islands, very many of them, including young Fleming, died from hardship and privation. The news of this calamity hastened the death of his mother. His father, who had resigned his position as Cathedral Organist, died soon after, hastened by excessive grief and depression. The creator of songs that evoked sentiment and delight in the homes of the "sixties" and for many years afterwards, and which were received with vociferous applause at public concerts, is now forgotten and unknown in his native city.

C. CREMEN.

TWO BOOKS OF FERMOY.

The name of Fermoy is stated by Dr. Joyce to be derived from Feara Maighe (pronounced Farr Amoy), its meaning being "The Men of the Plain." But it was also called Armoiy. Its earliest known Celtic settlers were the O'Keeffe's, who, in the 12th century, were dispossessed by the Anglo-Norman Roches from whom Castletownroche, not far from Fermoy, gets its name.

The late Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., in his history of Holy Cross Abbey, records that there was a Cistercian Abbey at Fermoy, founded there in 1170 (a mistake for 1270) by the Roches and known as Castro Dei. Not a vestige is left of this Abbey, but the site is said to have been where the present Abbey Street lies.

Of the early history of the Fermoy district a good deal was preserved in an ancient Irish manuscript collection known as *The Book of Fermoy*, of which the late Rev. Dr. J. H. Todd, Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin (a distinguished Irish Archaeologist) wrote an elaborate account published by the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, in 1870.

Dr. Todd's description of the contents of the *Book of Fermoy* covers fifty-four octavo pages. Its early history is not well known, he states, but it had got into the possession of William Monck Mason, who was well-known in his day, and was sold with other books of his at London in 1858, where Dr. Todd bought it for £70, after which he deposited it in the Academy Library, Dublin. *The Book of Fermoy*, observes Dr. Todd, might be called with equal propriety the *Book of Roche*. It is a loose collection of miscellaneous documents, written at different times, and in many different handwritings. A great part of it relates to the family history of the Fermoy Roches, but it also, contains a number of Bardic poems in prose, tracts on the general history of Ireland, and a very curious collection of legendary, mythological and Fenian tales. It begins with a copy of the *Leabhar Gabhala* or Book of Invasions, written in the 14th or beginning of the 15th century. Then follows that portion which contains the legendary and mythological tales, written in the 15th century, in many respects the most interesting and valuable part of this *Book of Fermoy*. It contains also some historical Bardic poems on the O'Connors of Connaught, the O'Keeffes of Fermoy, the McCarthys, Roches and other southern Irish families. The volume concludes in the usual neat handwriting, peculiar to Irish Medical MSS., fragments which were not in

the original *Book of Fermoy*, and probably belonged to the O'Hickey family who were hereditary physicians, whose name occurs more than once in this part of the manuscript.

Since the above was written by Dr. Todd in 1870, not much use apparently has been made of the *Book of Fermoy* with the exception of the *Leabhar Gabhala*, which was published recently in Dublin. It was utilised also by the late Canon O'Hanlon, in his *Lives of the Irish Saints*, as shown by Colonel Grove White, in his highly valuable *Notes on Doneraile*. But as also stated by Dr. Todd, some of its contents are found in other Irish MSS. Collections.

Quite recently has been published by the Cork University Press, an octavo volume of 125 pages, entitled *Crichad an Chaoille*, being the Topography of ancient Fermoy, printed by Purcell & Co., Cork, 1932, its author being the well-known Professor P. Power, Cork University College. This highly interesting work is based on an ancient Irish manuscript with the above name that forms part of *The Book of Lismore*, which was found hidden in Lismore Castle in 1814, together with the crozier of a former Bishop of Lismore, both being now in the Duke of Devonshire's mansion at Chatsworth, in England. Professor Power, in his reproduction of the *Crichad*, not only gives photographic fac similes of it as well as a rendering of it in Roman letters, but besides its translation he has drawn and supplied a map of the district to which it refers, and has supplemented it with descriptive notes of the places included in it, all of which he personally visited, thus giving exceptionally interesting information of the extensive district around Fermoy. Of the many places he thus visited, he describes the remains (where they exist) of the former parish churches of Catholic days, now in too many instances in ruins and the graveyards near them as in the usual state of neglect common to most parts of Ireland. In addition to eight good illustrations in *The Crichad an Chaoille*, he gives the Latin inscription in Carrigdownan old church, commemorating the Rev. John O'Brien, Priest of Liscarrol, 1769, aged 56, famous for his learning, and as a poet. There is still extant an Irish poem of his, addressed to his cousin and namesake, the Right Rev. John O'Brien, the first Bishop of Cloyne and Ross after separation from Cork diocese in 1746. In the adjacent parish of St. Nathlash (a corruption of Ballynahalisk) Professor Power discovered a table tomb bearing the inscription "erected by order of the R. R. Dr. John O'Brien of C. R., over the Remains of his Parents, A.D. 1752." R. R. are the initials of Right Reverend, and C. R. Cloyne and Ross, so that as Professor Power concludes: it was in this Parish that, doubtless, Bishop O'Brien was born. As regards the unusual Parish name that of St. Nathlah, which to Professor Power seems to be a corruption of Nahalish, it seems to be really a corruption of St. Nicholas, as stated by the Rev. J. H. Cole, in his Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

In the first volume of Dr. Brady's Records is reproduced a paper, compiled by Dr. Matthew McKenna, Bishop of Cloyne and Ross in 1785, which shows sufficiently clearly that this parish was named after its patron St. Nicholas, who was also the patron saint of five other County Cork Parishes.

J. C.