

Carloviana

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Journal of the Old Carlow Society, December, 1954

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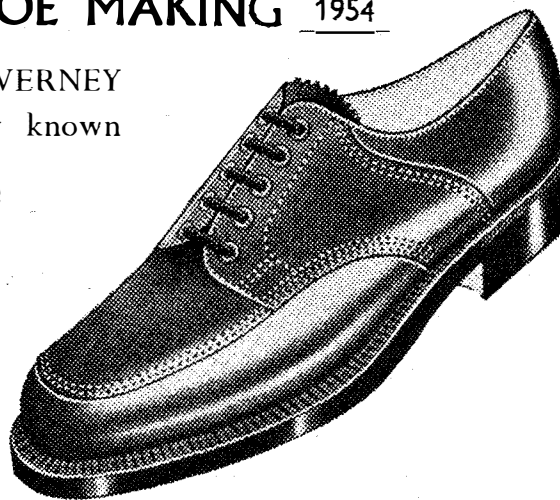
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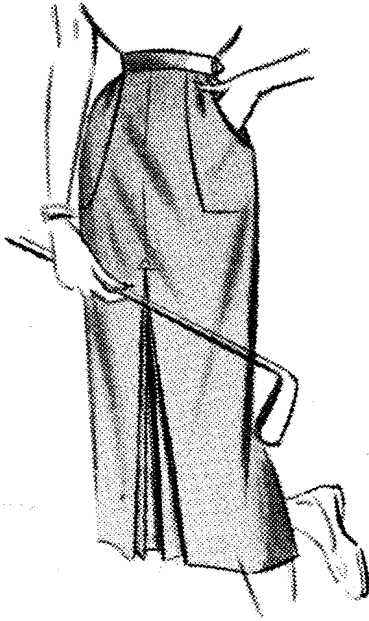
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Remembrance of Things Past

Not enough attention has been paid by our Social Historians to the influence of Sweet Shops on the store of memories we carry over from childhood.

Part of their charm lay in their individual character: there was a distinctive atmosphere about each of them, whereas to-day every shop tends to look the same.

No shop nowadays boasts a vast picture of the little Drummer Boy saying farewell to his war-widowed mother—yet it was an unending delight on the wall of Kitty Kane's.

Was Miss Deegan's the fairy cake-shop in cream and gold that our memory pictures it? Did Dandy Button's owe its appeal solely to the unique personality of the proprietor?

Reidy's vanished many years ago, and now Miss Dillon's has changed hands. We used to be awed by the inscription "Temperance Hotel," and impressed by the crowds of country folk on Saturdays.

The Saturday Market is no more, and cars whisk shoppers home to their meals. The talk nowadays is of "passing trade": rarely of the trade that is past.

Perhaps the children of to-day get their own particular pleasure from the chromium and cellophane which is the dominant note of the age.

This is a terrifying thought, but didn't a little girl write an essay a few years ago expressing the joy it was to buy her sweets at Murray's?

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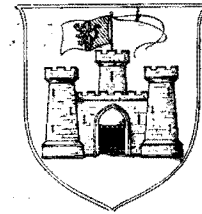
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Tullow Street, Carlow



A Message for Young People

THE much maligned Tóstal has done one important thing: it has helped to arouse some pride of place and interest in local history. Publication of useful brochures dealing with the stories of towns and villages, like Kildare, Abbeyleix and Castledermot, has put information into print and provided useful sources of reference for the people. for the people.

Very little is being done nowadays to preserve a sense of values. Love of family and of parish grow feebler.

Local historical societies can do a little to arrest the decay. Men without nests and deep attachments are lesser men. The strength of our country in the recent past was the ardent local patriotism that burned in the hearts of our people. It is fast disappearing—save from the football pitch.

If we cannot save the Irish tongue, let us at least ensure that the young people are taught to love and esteem national traditions.

Are our schools seriously occupied about the teaching of local history? An enthusiastic master fires his pupils with enthusiasm. One finds little enthusiasm among youth for what is Irish and local in literature and history.

Let us avoid the excesses of exaggerated nationalism. But remember that love of country that is not based upon esteem for one's own parish or townland is little more than an airy abstraction.

Few young people interest themselves in the doings of our local history group. It may be only a straw in the wind, but one asks what are their ideals, what their serious interests?

A sense of continuity springing from knowledge of the past gives balance and brings maturity to the mind. The Old Carlow Society offers its members an opportunity of learning about the growth and the development of to-day's community. Narrow parochialism has been avoided by including in our annual programme lectures on topics of national interest.

In This Issue

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A MESSAGE TO YOUNG
PEOPLE

IN DUBLIN STREET

THE FAMILY OF THE
MACMURROUGH
KAVANAGHS

CHRISTMAS IN CARLOW

TRADERS AND TRADESMEN
IN THE 18TH CENTURY

BEFORE THE PICTURES
CAME

IF CARLOW CATHEDRAL
COULD SPEAK

ADVERTISING IN THE
1850's.

AN EXILE RETURNED

LOOKING BACK ON 1954

Mary Teresa Kelly tells a tale of former days

IN DUBLIN STREET

DUBLIN STREET is one of the two principal streets in Carlow, and no doubt retains its original name, and follows its original direction.

The route of the stage coach from Dublin to Kilkenny was through Dublin Street. In the following pages I will try to trace the former occupants of the houses on both sides of the street.

I start with Nolan's (Chemist) and O'Neill's (Fishmonger). These premises were owned by Mr. Frederick Spong, Seed Merchant and Florist. The nursery was in Pembroke Road, now owned by Messrs. Drummond. Mr. Spong's private residence was "Roseville," Kilkenny Road.

McGrath's Medical Hall, No. 2, was a drapery business owned by Mr. Daniel McGrath. In the days of the stage coach this premises was known as the "Red Cow Inn." Daniel McGrath's son was the late Mr. Joseph McGrath.

No. 3, Brennan's (Victualler), was occupied by Miss Dowling, who was a Dressmaker.

The house No. 4 is famous in the history of Dublin Street. It was here that Arthur Wallace, the felon Postmaster lived. He had an apothecary business as well as the post office. He was charged with the theft of money from postal packets. His trial opened on Tuesday, August 5th, 1800, in the Friends' Meeting House in Tullow Street (premises now occupied by McKechnie's, Atkinson's and Y.M.C.A. Hall). He was

found guilty and sentenced to death. His friends made great efforts to obtain a reprieve. When the condemned man learned that there was no hope of a reprieve being granted, he tried to cheat the hangman by taking a large dose of laudanum which he managed to obtain. He was brought from the Old Jail in a sedan-chair to the place of execution which then stood in Barrack Street. It overlooked some property which Wallace owned in Little Barrack Street. This latter street was known as "Gallipot Row."

Hooper's, No. 5, was a victualling business owned by Mr. Michael Keating. He was known to the "bright boys" as Mickey Old Shirt, a name he resented very much. Michael Keating had a brother John in Burren Street who was a tallow chandler.

Hanley's, No. 6, was T. F. Markey's drapers and gents' outfitters, who was succeeded by Connor, Jeweller.

Cleere's, No. 7, was a tailoring business owned by John Hayden.

WEEKLY NEWS

Brennan's Pork Shop was a newsagency and stationery owned by Mrs. Edwards. She was the widow of Thomas Edwards who was Coach Agent for Mr. Joseph Fishbourne. Here also was printed the *Carlow Weekly News*, as a record of a payment granted by the Grand Jury to Thomas Edwards for advertisement shows.

Restrict's premises were the Coach Offices and Yards owned by Mr. Joseph Fishbourne. The "Fair Traveller" coach left this office daily at 9 o'clock in the morning for

Dublin. The route was through Castledermot, Kilkcullen and Naas. It returned by the same route and arrived in Carlow at 2.30 a.m. The Coach Road ran through the Bruen Estate. In 1849 the contract for making part of a new road from the corner of Oak Park road to Gurteen Cross was given to Charles Nowlan. There was no road from Carlow to Castledermot as we know it to-day before that date. Through the gateway beside Restrict's shop there is a right-of-way to Mr. Good's yard. In those days this lane continued out into Tullow Street at Mr. Good's premises.

The blank wall beside the Royal Hotel (Nos. 10 and 11) was the site of two shops owned by Mr. Stanley Johnson who conducted a large bakery business. Mr. Johnson's father was one of the original members of the first Town Commission formed in Carlow in 1853. Stanley Johnson's son, Charles, was Dr. Salter's apprentice and succeeded him in the apothecary business in Burren Street. Bakers in those days did not use yeast to the extent it is used to-day. They made their own leavening which was called barm. This barm was made from a mixture of boiled potatoes, malt and hops. Nos. 10 and 11 were afterwards an hotel owned by Mr. Maurice Reidy. The premises were demolished some years ago.

The Royal Hotel (No. 12) is the only inn which has survived in Dublin Street as an hotel. It was known then as the "King's Arms," owned by James Cullen.

Miss B. Oliver's, No. 13, now partly incorporated in the hotel, was the private residence of Mr. Wm. Byrne, Solicitor. His father owned the licensed and provision business in Tullow Street



A study of the quieter end of Dublin Street bathed in the rare November sunshine of 1954.

—Photo, Donal Godfrey.

now in the possession of Mr. Shevlin.

Oliver's was P. Bourke and Son, victuallers, hide, skin and wool exporters, with offices and stores in Centaur Street. About 1908 the business was sold to Mr. Jim Oliver's father. Mr. Bourke went to Perth, Australia. A few of his letters written to my late uncle, describing his travels in that vast continent, are very interesting.

No. 15 (P. Kinsella, Radio Dealer) premises were known as Matt Flanagan's Bakery. Mr. Flanagan also owned property in Castle Street. No. 15 was also for a time the office and printing works of the *Carlow Vindicator*, a weekly paper, price one penny. It was later the Commercial Club, originally in Brown Street.

Crossing Brown Street, which was formerly Hunt Street, as may be seen from

a stone plaque on the gable end of No. 15, dated 1776, we come to Miss McElwee's and Mr. J. Cunningham's. These houses, 16 and 17, were formerly one house and were known as the "Globe Inn." In old deeds it was styled "A Stone House" to distinguish it from the thatched houses. It was remodelled in 1699. A stone tablet on the front of the house bears in relief "W.I.R. 1699," the date is that of the renovation of the house, the letters are the initials of the then occupants of the house: Jonathan and Ruth Watson. There is a tradition that King William lodged here and wrote one of his dispatches after the Battle of the Boyne.

About 1870 Miss McElwee's was occupied by John Core; he was known as "The Apple Man" and "Whistling John." He bought orchards of apples around the country-

side. When the fruit was ripe he would bring a number of youths on drays from the town to pull the apples. John would seat himself on a box and give the signal: "Now, boys, start whistling." His idea was that if the boys were whistling they could not be eating apples.

Mr. Samuel Hunt, harness-maker and saddler, occupied these premises afterwards. Mr. Cunningham's was occupied by Mrs. Kennedy, sweets, etc. Mrs. Kennedy's daughter was married to Mr. John Clowry, Tullow St., now Behan's. Mrs. Kennedy was also the owner of the land on which the houses on St. Joseph's Road are built.

Dillon's, No. 18, now being used by Sloan's, was occupied by Robert Power, apothecary. After her husband's death, Mrs. Power gave up the business and started in religious goods.

DISAPPEARED IN 1798

Coleman's, No. 19, is still occupied by the same family. At the time I refer to, they carried on the business of painting and glaziers. The bicycle was only in its infancy, and the motor car was unheard of. An ancestor of Mr. Coleman disappeared in 1798. It was supposed he was murdered by the Rebels. His body was thrown into a quarry at the site of the Courthouse garden. Thirty-two years afterwards the skeleton was recovered from the quarry. It was recognised by a steel plate in one of the legs, the result of an accident. There is a tombstone over the grave in Rutland churchyard.

Dr. McHugh's house, No. 20, was at one time the residence of Edward L. Jameson, Under Sheriff to Carlow Grand Jury. It was later the residence of Mr. Samuel Coleman. His son, Mr. Percy Coleman, was connected with Shackleton's Flour Mills.

No. 21 (Quillinan's) was the private residence of Mr. James R. Lawler, Accountant to Corcoran and Co.

Burtol's, No. 22, premises were the tailoring business of John Woodhouse. His sister was Mrs. Rainsford. Her husband had a coach-building premises in Cox's Lane. Another sister was married to Mr. Samuel Hunt, saddler and harness-maker.

Lewis's, No. 24, were occupied by a man named Donohue who carried on a small grocery dairy.

Murray's, No. 25, was occupied by Condell, carpenter and contractor.

No. 26 was owned by Mr. tailor. Present owner, Mrs. Godfrey.

Bourke's, No. 27, was the private residence of Mr. Geo. Langran. He was reporter

for the *Carlow Sentinel*, a weekly, published on Saturday (price 4d.). The offices and printing works were at No. 1 Athy Street, now Co. Council offices. Mrs. Sarah Carroll was the proprietor. Mr. Langran later became the owner and resided at Athy Street. *The Sentinel* ceased after the first World War.

McDonald's, No. 28. This house was the residence of Mr. James Hade, C.E. He was father of Arthur and William Hade. Arthur Hade was Board of Works Inspector for Cos. Carlow, Wicklow and parts of Dublin, Kildare and Wexford. Wm. Hade was Engineer to the Board of Poor Law Guardians.

Mr. H. O'Donnell's house, No. 29, was at one time the site of the Post Office, probably before it moved to Burrin Street. In what is now Mr. O'Donnell's garden there was a wooden shed. Here Peter Nolan, cabinet-maker, had his workshop. These premises were reached by a laneway beside Nelson's.

No. 30 (County Library Offices) were the offices of Carlow Masonic Lodge and reading rooms. Mr. John Glover, Asst. Clerk to Carlow Union, Kilkenny Road, had apartments here. The corner entrance at Court Place to the Co. Library lending rooms was to a gents' hairdresser's owned by J. Wills.

Crossing to the opposite side of the street we reach St. Brigid's Hospital. These premises were known as "Whitmore Hotel" and Posting Establishment. It was later called the "Barrow Hotel." The owner was Arthur Barrow. Afterwards the premises became known as the County Club House

Hotel and Livery Stables. Hunt Balls were held here, also other functions by the gentry of Co. Carlow and surrounding districts. The Carlow gate stood nearby here.

Mrs. Walshe's house was originally the site of the house in which lived Miss Sally Curran, who was probably the only confectioner in Carlow at that time. This was acquired by a building contractor named Mitchell. On this site he built the present house and resided there.

Tucker's, 36, house was originally a confectionery

Looking up Dublin Street from the Market Cross on a typical weekday scene during the not-too-busy hours.

—Photo, Donal Godfrey.

business owned by Miss Margaret Kane who, with her sister Kitty, carried on dressmaking business before starting the confectionery.

Dr. Doyle's, 37, was the residence of Dr. Thomas O'Meara, father of Dr. W. O'Meara and grandfather of Miss O'Meara, Burrin Street.

Premises occupied by Mr. Donohue and Mrs. Jackson, "Sheaf of Wheat," 38 and 39, were owned by Henry O'Shea who carried on an extensive wine, spirit, grocery and provision business. Mr. Ml. O'Reilly later acquired these premises. Mr. O'Reilly was grandfather of the Misses Carbery, St. Patrick's Flats.

The Technical School was the old Assembly Rooms, on

which we had a paper by Mr. B. O'Neill in 1947.

Crossing Cox's Lane, which was formerly called North Cott Lane, we come to the City Tailors, No. 42. These large premises and private house were owned by Mr. John McQuaide, provision dealer, stationery and fancy warehouse. National Bank same; Mr. Palmer, Manager.



Corless's, 44, was William Douglas, housefurnisher and upholsterer. He was brother of Mr. Marlborough Douglas and uncle of the late Mr. George Douglas, jeweller, Tullow Street.

"The Garden," No. 45, was a licensed premises owned by Robert Booth and known as "Booth's House."

Crossing Centaur Street, which over a century ago was a cul-de-sac and known as "Labour in Vain Lane,"

we come to the Post Office. At the time I refer to, the Post Office was situated in Burren Street in the first big house next to Hanover House. The present Post Office was formerly the private residence of Dr. Charles McDowell before he removed to Otter Holt, Kilkenny Road. Mr. Morris, father of Miss Ruth Morris, Court View, acquired the

house after Dr. McDowell. Miss Morris was born in this house.

Ewing's, 49, was known as the Leinster Woollen Hall, and was owned by Miss Armstrong. Later Miss Armstrong married Henry Walker and went to live at Ballylennon, Pauatine. No. 49 was afterwards owned by Mr. Nicholas Roche.

Cigar Divan, 50, was occupied by Mr. Robt. Humphrey

who carried on an auctioneering business.

O'Rourke's, No. 51, was Donaldson and Co., jewellers. Mrs. Donaldson was a sister of Mr. Joseph Deighton.

No. 52, Bergin's Grocery, was owned by Mr. William Maher, and was known as "The Dublin Bakery." The business got the name from the tradesmen Mr. Maher brought from Dublin to build the ovens, when he decided to open a bakery.

No. 53, Bergin's, was Clancy's licensed premises.

Insurance Office, No. 54. These premises were a tailoring business owned by Mr. Laurence McCaul, Senr. In the days of the stage coach it was known as "The Bear Inn." It was here that James Carter put up when he was sent by Waddy, Solicitor to the Post Office, to spy on Arthur Wallace, the felon Postmaster.

Robinson's, 55, was the office and printing works of the *Carlow Post*. The owner was Thomas Price.

Leverette and Frye, 56, was occupied by C. Edwards, who carried on a fancy warehouse.

The premises of the Provincial Bank, No. 57, were owned by Mrs. Morton, who conducted a hardware and fancy drug store. It was into this house that some of the timbers from Carlow Castle roof were built. In the re-building for the present Provincial Bank, part of the house next door, Leverett and Frye, was taken in, and portion of the Town Wall was found in the old walls. There was a famous market held here in a laneway known as "Fish Alley," which extended from the Provincial Bank to Church Street, Haymarket.

Duggan's Stationery, 58. In the days of the stage

coach these premises were the site of an inn known as "The Blackmoor Inn." At the time I refer to, it was a newsagency and stationery. Later it was the office and printing works of *The Nationalist and Leinster Times*. *The Nationalist* was established in September, 1883, by Mr. Patrick J. Conlan.

Duggan's Grocery, 59, was also an inn known as "The Crown and Sceptre." These premises were later owned by Mr. Anthony Coffey, who was famous for his blends of tea. Mr. Coffey's father was an extensive trader in Burren Street. Anthony and his three brothers were day pupils of Carlow College. A sister of Anthony Coffey married Robert Farrell, Centaur Street, who had a brewery and maltings there, now owned by Mr. McWey. Mr. Coffey was also one of the original members of the Carlow Town Commission of 1853. He also supported John Sadler, elected M.P. for Cariow in 1852. The Coffeys are buried in the Old Graves near Bishop Keefe's tomb. A great grandnephew, Mr. T. McWey, lives at Grange, Mageney, Leix.

W. Mulhall's, 60, was the tailoring business owned by Mr. H. Begley.

Mulrooney's, 61, premises were owned by the Oliver family. Mr. Oliver's father sold it when he bought the present premises. The Oliver family have been in the victualling business in Dublin Street for over a century.

No. 62 (now taken in by Bramley's) was Mrs. Hayden's, green grocer. Her husband was caretaker for Carlow Rowing Club.

No. 63 (Bramley's). This house was owned by Mr. Luke Wynne, who carried on a boot and shoe business.

Here boots and shoes were made entirely by hand.

P. Duggan's, 64, brings us to the last house and back to the Market Cross. The Castle Gate stood at the corner of Dublin Street and Castle Street. No. 64 was occupied by Mrs. O'Neill. Her son, Mr. John O'Neill, owned the Motor Engineer-

ing Works in North King Street, Dublin, still carried on by his family. No. 64 was afterwards acquired by M. and T. Richards, hardware merchants.

I hope that this stroll which I have taken with you along the Dublin Street of former years has been both enjoyable and informative.

The Secretary on the Society's Activities

THE OLD CARLOW SOCIETY has now weathered eight winter seasons and is already getting through a varied programme of indoor functions for 1954-1955. During the period preceding the annual general meeting held in the Foresters' Hall in May, 1954, two R.D.S. lectures were sponsored in association with the Carlow Arts Council. This gave our members an opportunity of hearing Dr. H. Leask on Irish Cistercian Abbeys and Professor O Riordain on the art of the Book of Kells. Dr. Leask's lecture was somewhat disappointing and concentrated attention too exclusively on the technical aspects of monastic buildings. We had hoped for a general historical survey which would give point to the celebration of the eight centenary of the death of St. Bernard in 1153. Local abbeys were scarcely touched on.

Members of the Society last year read papers on the recent history of the town: Miss Teresa Kelly spoke of Dublin Street; Miss Alice Tracey dealt with most of the buildings on Athy Road; Fr. Brophy outlined the story of College Street. A further contribution was made this year by Miss A. Tracey and H. Fennell on the Templecrony and Castle area. This brings us nearer to publication of the projected guide-book to Carlow.

Mr. L. D. Bergin, the then chairman, broke new ground with a talk on travellers' accounts of the Carlow area in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Chance

references in such narrations help the local historian considerably.

Mr. G. Kellett showed lantern slides of photographs taken in the locality. Mr. John Ellis, a valued foundation member whose knowledge of the town is unrivalled, regaled his audience with memories of the theatre of other days.

The annual social held in January was a most enjoyable function. The lighter side of life was seen in the film "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Once again the ladies' committee provided an excellent supper. Four framed photographs of historic buildings were presented to Fr. Swayne on this occasion, as an expression of appreciation of his work for the Society.

At the request of the Carlow Arts Council our members undertook to organise a loan exhibition of paintings from private collections during An Tostal. A most generous response from owners of paintings enabled us to present a cross section of European artistic development with special emphasis on modern trends in Ireland and Britain. This must be regarded as an exceptional activity but its success, especially in bringing works of art to the attention of the schoolchildren, more than justified the work of preparation.

A word of thanks is due to our hosts, the Irish National Foresters. Their comfortable hall in College Street is the venue for our winter meetings.

REV. P. J. BROPHY, B.D.,
Joint-Secretary.

The Family of the MacMurrough Kavanaghs

By IONA MacLEOD
County Librarian, Carlow

KINGS, chiefs and statesmen are numbered among the clan of MacMurrough Kavanagh since the 5th century. This ancient family gave to the world men who distinguished themselves in diplomacy, literature and politics.

Perhaps the figure of especial historic note in the family is Dermot na nGall, so called because he brought the Normans to Ireland in 1167. He is said to have been tall, handsome and impulsive and full of capricious cruelty. His abduction of Devorgilla and the sacking of the sacred Abbey town of Kildare are too well known to be included here. Yet, for his faults against God and country, there remains to his credit the foundation of the Abbey of St. Mary's, Ferns; the Cistercian Abbey of De Valle Salutis which he built at Baltinglass in 1151, and a Convent called St. Mary de Hogges of Dublin erected on the site of the present College Green. The convent named le Hogge, for the mounds or hillocks on which it was built (Hogges) in 1146, was governed by Dermot, then King of Leinster; Malachy, Primate of Armagh, and Gregory, Archbishop of Dublin. The cells of Kilclehin on the Kilkenny side of the Suir at Waterford and that of Aghade near Carlow were made subordinate to Le Hogge. In 1166 Dermot also founded All Hallows priory, Dublin, on the site of Trinity College.

Dermot died in 1171 and was buried at Farna Mor Maodhog (Ferns), where he had a house. Every Irish tribe of nobles had an

attendant guardian saint. St. Maodhog was the protector of the MacMurrough Kavanaghs.

At the time that Dermot left Ireland to seek foreign aid, Hy Kinsella was divided between his brother—called Dermot na nGaedal—and another chief, Donnchad, King of Ossory, and subsequently by his son Donal, "the handsome," who is said to have contributed the second family name Kavanagh. Donal, who served Strongbow as Seneschal of his Irish of Leinster, was killed in an encounter with O'Nolan in 1175. His descendants held land under Strongbow's heirs until the end of the 13th century and were kinsmen of the Bigods, Lords of Carlow, and relatives of St. Laurence O'Toole.

During this period of history occurs the first instance of the introduction of what became known as a "black rent." Mortagh Kavanagh, Donal's powerful descendant, exacted a tribute of 80 marks a year from the English settlement as an insurance against his attacking them.

Art More of the senior line, king after Donal, was captured, fighting with his son against the Duke of

Lionel, and died in prison in 1361.

OTHER NOTABLE FIGURES

Cahir MacArt Kavanagh, Lord of St. Molyns, Baron of Ballyan, was eldest son of Art Kavanagh of St. Molyns and chief of his sept. He took part in the rebellion of the Leinster Geraldines, but submitted to Lord Leonard Grey in 1538. This submission he renewed to Sir Anthony St. Leger in 1540 and asked to be allowed to hold his land in feudal tenure. Although not a baron of parliament, he was allowed to sit in the parliament held by St. Leger in Dublin in 1541.

In 1543 he obtained a grant of the Lordship of St. Molyns for himself and his heirs on condition that he Poulmounty on the borders of Carlow and Wexford, and maintain the friars there and keep a vigilant watch over the pass. In 1553 he was created Baron of Ballymann for life. He thus became the founder of the estate that is still possessed by his lineal descendants. He married Elizabeth, daughter of the fearless Wicklow rebel, Fiach MacHugh O'Byrne.

ART OGE WAS A COLOURFUL FIGURE

Art Oge, who revived the kingship to its former glory, was a very colourful figure. Son of Art More, he outwitted the English by his courage and strategy.

He was inaugurated in 1375 on the traditional site of Cnoc - na - Bogha, near

Ferns. Eoghain MacCraith, a chief poet, wrote a bardic poem which signifies the revival of literature, sadly neglected in the province since the Norman invasion.

Insistent war against the Leinster colonies enabled Art Oge to recover most of

the ancient demesne on the level, fertile plains of Carlow. Black rents had by then become a tradition, and MacMurrough's levy was quite a charge on the exchequer.

MacMurrough in the course of his wars made a lasting acquisition of the splendid feudal Lordship of Idrone in Co. Carlow.

Stretching fifteen miles along the Barrow and six miles east of it, this barony had once belonged to Raymond le Gros Carew. When Carew died in 1380 without a male heir, Art seized it. He also claimed by his marriage with Elizabeth de Veel, heiress of the fief, the barony of Norragh in Co. Kildare.

Art repulsed Richard II, who landed in Waterford in 1394. Surprised and disappointed, the king fled to Dublin, sought terms from Art, and returned to England leaving Roger Mortimer his viceroy. Mortimer tried to retrieve the king's honour by attacking Art, but he was killed in battle near Kellistown, Carlow, in 1398.

HE REFUSED TO SUBMIT

Landing once again at Waterford in 1399, the king tried to avenge his viceroy's defeat. His forces suffered terribly in the trackless hill country on the borders of Carlow and Wexford. Art refused to be drawn into battle. The king then sent the Earl of Gloucester to confer with Art, but the latter refused to come to terms or submit maintaining that he was the rightful King of Ireland.

Facing Gloucester's mail-clad knights, he is pictured in Curtis's medieval history of Ireland with a high conical cap covering the nape of the neck, particoloured cloak, long coat and undercoat, all of gay yellow, crimson and blue.

He demanded peace with-

out reservation.

When the king heard this he paled with humiliation and offered a hundred marks for Art, dead or alive. The king then hearing of the strife in England returned there to his deposition and death. By defiance, Art was

DONAL THE SPANIARD

Yet another descendant of Art Oge who fought to defend his country is Donal "Spainagh," or the Spaniard, so called because of his association with the notorious Thomas Stukley, known as the "Duke of Ireland," who went to Philip II of Spain to get aid for Ireland. Morgan MacBrian Kavanagh of Poulmounty and Brian MacDonagh, also descendants, fought the plumed forces of Essex and defeated them at the well-known Pass of the Plumes.

Sir Murrough MacMurrough Kavanagh emerges as the last leader of the senior branch of Art Oge's line. A great confederate leader, he

ARTHUR KAVANAGH

Of all the members of the MacMurrough-Kavanagh family there are few who approached the distinctions of Arthur. The third son of Thomas Kavanagh, he inherited the family estates in 1853 after his two elder brothers had died.

He was born in 1831 with the physical disability of having no limbs whatsoever. His story is unique. It shows the triumph of the spirit over serious physical imperfection.

As an infant and a youth he showed spirit and intelligence and he was beloved by all. Indoors he used a basket chair and outside he was mounted on a basket saddle on his pony's back.

While still very young he went to Mr. Greer, the Rector of Celbridge, Co.

instrumental in wrecking England for a hundred years.

Art is said to have died either in his fortress in Garryhill or Ferns, after heading his clan for forty-two years, and gaining fame as one of the greatest chiefs who fought for Ireland.

was killed at the battle of Ballinvegga in 1642, and the clan leadership passed to the descendants of Art Oge's youngest son, Dermot Lavderg.

Morgan Kavanagh was M.P. for Carlow 1613-1615. His son succeeded him as legitimate chief of the clan and retained his estates during the Cromwellian wars. His great-grandson, having served in the Austrian army, became, in 1775, Governor of Prague. Thomas MacMurrough Kavanagh of Borris sat for Kilkenny in the last Irish Parliament, and held his seat after the Union until he died in 1836.

Kildare, to be near medical care. While there he used to play with his cousins, who lived nearby, and proved himself the merriest, bravest and most sporting.

As he grew to manhood he devised means of attending to himself. He was strong and broadshouldered. He wore a kilt and a frieze shooting jacket, and by the aid of a steel hook attached to his shoulder and protruding somewhat from his cuff he could fish, hunt, sail and shoot. He wrote beautifully.

He rode with the Kilkenny and Carlow foxhounds and amazed the whole field taking in his stride usually formidable obstacles.

He was often seen driving through Carlow in an improvised tandem or driving



**HE DID NOT EQUAL ANY MAN,
BUT FEW MEN EQUALLED HIM.**

his nieces with a four-in-hand of ponies.

His religious disposition and his great fortitude are best expressed by an entry found in his diary and written when he was fourteen . . . "Though dark my path and sad my lot, let me be still, and murmur not . . ." The lines were followed by a short prayer to the Holy Spirit.

He travelled extensively abroad with his mother, brother and sister. His father died when he was very young. He was quick to acquire languages and make friends. In 1848 he returned to Borris and in the following year went travelling again with his

brother Tom and his tutor, Mr. Wood, to Finland, Russia, Persia and India. His travels are told in his very interesting diary which indicates that the party had no shortage of adventures and experiences. In Persia where he got a fever, he was cared for by a local prince.

In 1854, while he was working as a dispatch carrier in India, his brother Charles died, which left him heir. He returned to Borris and took over the estates. He gave up hunting and devoted himself to the business affairs of his estate and to work on public bodies. He rebuilt the great part of Borris village and Ballyragget on

plans drawn up by himself, which won him a Royal Dublin Society's Medal. He subsidised and managed the railway line from Bagenalstown to Borris until it was taken over by the railway company. Chairman of the Board of Guardians of New Ross poorhouse, he had a Catholic chapel provided for the inmates.

He became High Sheriff of Kilkenny and Lord Lieutenant of Carlow, Member of Parliament for Wexford, and in 1868, one of the two members for Carlow. His maiden speech decided the fall of the Poor Law (Ireland) Amendment Bill of 1869. In 1886 he was sworn a member of the Irish Privy Council.

Unlike many landlords, he recognised that discontent among tenants was due to unjust treatment and that the Penal Laws "designed to reduce the Catholics of Ireland to a miserable population without property, without estimation and without education," to quote Burke, was wrong and unjust. Sir Charles Russell in his famous speech before the Parnell Commission designated him a "landlord of landlords," and Mr. Gladstone praised him publicly.

In 1856 he married Frances Ford Leathby, the daughter of Rev. Joseph Ford Leathby, the Rectory, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth. They lived in Borris where they brought up a family of seven children.

An account of his daily life may be of interest. He arose at 6.30 each morning and rode over the demesne to inspect the work. Later in the day accompanied by his dogs he would go to the courtyard where under a great oak tree he sat on a stone seat and gave counsel and advice to any of his tenants who wished to speak to him. Some came with papers to be signed, others with wills to be drawn up,

many with requests for work, to all their family problems he gave a sympathetic hearing. In the afternoon he would mount his mare, "Miss Nolan," and set out on other duties in Carlow.

HE DIED IN LONDON

He had a small schooner or yacht called the "Eva." In it he made many sea voyages. "The sea washes down all man's annoy" was one of his favourite quotations from Euripides.

A few years prior to 1865 he went on a sea voyage in his yacht, the "Eva," to the coast of Albania. There on the island of Corfu he led a sporting expedition, and afterwards wrote an account of his adventure in a book called *The Cruise of the*

R.Y.S. Eva. It was published with preface, frontispiece and sixteen tinted illustrations by Hodges Smith, Dublin, in 1865.

In his fifty-fifth year his health began to decline seriously, and on Christmas Day, 1869, he died of pneumonia at his town house, No. 19 Tedworth Square, Chelsea, London. With his passing went one of the finest characters of his time. He was buried at Borris in a little ruined church on Ballycoppigan among the hills.

Arthur was succeeded by his elder son Walter, who already had been appointed High Sheriff for Co. Carlow. In 1895 he held the same post for County Wexford, and for County Kilkenny in

1894.

Walter MacMurrough Kavanagh was one of the strongest supporters of the Wyndham Act which was designed to give to the people of Ireland the ownership of their own lands. Perhaps, the recollection of his father, Arthur, sitting under the great oak tree at Borris counselling his tenants and listening to their grievances inspired Walter to befriend the people's cause. In 1908 he entered Parliament as a member of John Redmond's party and for two years he represented Carlow until failing health compelled him to retire. He died in 1922 surviving to see his country achieve an independence long sought.

SOME KAVANAGH HEIRLOOMS

There are several heirlooms in Borris House of great historical interest. They are the Cumhdach (Koodack) or shrine of the book of St. Moling, the Charter Horn, and the "Figeen."

There is a tradition, but without supporting evidence, that a Crown, now lost, was also one of their inherited possessions.

The Charter Horn, Gospel and Shrine were lent to Trinity College about 1790. The Horn and Shrine came back, but the Gospel remained, under what circumstances or conditions the family do not know, no member of the family has ever made any claim for it.

The Cumhdach, that is the Shrine or Book cover, restored in the 15th century, is a small box, 7½" x 6", made of bronze overlaid with

silver. In the centre of the lid is set a large crystal, a small crystal, and settings for others are in the corners. There are also small enamels.

The Shrine originally contained the "Book of St. Moling," who was himself of the MacMurrough Kavanagh family. He was Bishop of Ferns in the 7th century.

About sixty years ago Dr. Abbot of Trinity College deciphered under the great crystal in the Shrine the inscription, "Arthurus Rex, Dominus Lageniae," Arthur, King of Leinster. It bears the date 1402. It probably belonged to the great Art Oge MacMurrough.

The Book of St. Moling itself, a copy of the four gospels, can be dated to the late 7th century and is considered the earliest of all Irish illuminated manuscripts. In style the figures

are very similar to those in the Book of Kells, a century later in date. The painting is done in water colours where soft blues, greens and browns still retain much of their freshness and beauty.

Unfortunately, the Book has suffered through the ages, so that when it was lent to Trinity College many years ago it was found necessary to re-mount the worn loosened vellum pages.

CHARTER HORN

Most treasured heirloom of the Kavanagh family is the Charter Horn, whose origin is uncertain.

It is said to have been given to Donal Kavanagh when he submitted to Henry II in 1175 and was permitted to hold his lands in fief from the Crown.

Dr. Mahr, an eminent authority and formerly

Keeper of Antiquities at the National Museum, Dublin, held that it was a 13th century drinking horn. Twenty-two inches along the convex edge and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the mouth, the horn is fluted and stands on a pair of brass legs fastioned in bird's webbed feet. It is inscribed, on a decorated plate, TIGER-NANS O'LAVAN ME FECIT, DEO GRATIAS.

Some horns were used to denote chieftainship and tenure of land. Drinking horns are supposed to have been used to test the manhood of the head of the clan, who was expected to drink their full in one draught. Other horns were supposed to reveal if there was poison in the wine. There are several others similar to the Kavanagh horn.

FIGEEN

The third treasure preserved at Borris House is the Figeen. The word comes from the Irish, Figín, a twig or point.

This is a very large circular brooch. It is made of silver and tin and has three large thistle-head terminals. Its use was to hold a cloak or plaid in position, and was probably worn on the shoulder.

This type of brooch with thistle-head decoration is Scandinavian in origin, from which country it was introduced into Ireland. The indigenous Irish Ring Pin brooch like the Tara Brooch had triangular terminals, not the thistle shaped one. These latter are found in many parts of Europe.

The Kavanagh brooch was found in the demesne while some men were digging a ditch. It may have belonged to one of the early chieftains and could date to the 10th century.

Christmas in Carlow

By "BROADINCH."

*How small the town
—Just an atom of the big city's complexity—
How slow the pace
—Unlike the wild, mad scamper of city life.
Yet, though young, blood boil with unborn vigour,
My heart says: "Here is home."*

*Why should it be that youth, so free,
So fast and full with life
—As yet unsoured by disillusionment—
So one with city's speed and its anonymity,
Should prefer this town, so chasm-separated from the other.*

*'Tis not the town itself, surely;
Its stones don't equal the city's artifices
—But yet, they tug and say: "We watched you grow and play"—
'Tis not its laziness,
For youth's idealism rushes more—
But yet it somehow slows the feet
And says: "To this place were you born."*

*Perhaps it is the solidarity
Or the depth of friendship,
The "everyone know each other,"
The characters or the personalities,
The honesty or rural simpleness
Of a philosophy that has the depth of soil
And not of book and bottle.
Yes, maybe these.*



*Yet, no. For that can't be complete.
Why hesitate? You're home. Speak free.*

*Ah, yes! 'twas in this town I saw my spirit to unfold itself and spread
And in this place my father lives and makes his living and his life:
For as the body in repose curls into womb shape as before,
The mind in peace longs for its native habitat;
And as the homing dove does ever to its wonted loft return,
The whole man longs for its guiding mentor's presence once again.*

CAESAR or Cicero—or, maybe, it was Horace; at any rate it was one of the classical gents—complained about the Times and the Customs. We are going to discuss the Times and the Materials. The materials available in any age decide what type of tradesmen will practise in that age.

Stone is no longer the useful material it was in Phil Kennedy's day, when he was building and draining and improving at Castletown for Sam Faulkner. Nowadays, we no longer employ the stone cleavers, such as those that he hired to cleave the field stones to make the box shore drains he was putting in the Lime Tree Field and other parts of Castletown.

Perhaps the lack of stone-cleavers in this effete age is what deprives rural life of such fun as the Pattern of Myshall, reported by Bob Cornwall in a letter of 17th September, 1792:

"We had a very bad day for the fair, tho' it was a brisk one, had there been 10,000 pigs and as many (unreadable) of butter, they would have been bought up by the Waterford buyers at a very high price. Fat cattle also sold pretty well. The night did not as usual close without a few broken heads. I was obliged to resort to the riot act, and one of the most turbulent and ill-behaved persons I had to deal with, was a fellow who say'd he belonged to you and was your stone-cleaver. I was obliged to lend him a little of the Bastinado."

A man like Sam Faulkner, who was a land-owner's agent as well as land-owner and improving farmer in his own right, needed maps and surveys made, and he needed levels taken for drainage and so on. For this job he employed Arthur Richard Nevill. We have found an

JOHN MONAHAN eavesdrops on Phil Kennedy's mail and takes us back again to

Trades and Tradesmen in the 18th Century

account of Nevill's dated in December, 1790. For "going to the county of Carlow to survey the lands of Castle-town containing 294 acres, and dividing the same into 30 divisions at 6d. per acre," he charged £7 7s. 0d. For "altering several divisions into new divisions and drawing a map thereof" he

charged £2 5s. 6d. For "drawing and embellishing the map he charged another £2 5s. 6d. For expenses on the road to and from Castle-town he charged Sam £1 2s. 9d. The bill is receipted in Nevill's neat handwriting, "Rec'd in full this 30 of Novmr. 1790. Arthur Richard Nevill."

So much for tradesmen. The word presumably also includes "traders," and there are many bills and accounts from Carlow traders sent to the Faulkners at the end of the 18th century and on into the 19th century. One who was both trader—a seller of goods—and tradesman—a maker of goods, was the saddler Andrew Fitzgerald. Thomas (Buck) Whaley had saddler's work done by Fitzgerald and the bill is receipted "received the conts in full by the hands of Jeremiah Byrne this 27th day of August, 1790—for Andrew Fitzgerald—William Farrell." This is the same Farrell whose manuscript of his experiences was published as *Carlow in '98*. He tells us that he was employed by Fitzgerald, who was related to him by marriage.

Thomas Proctor, "next door to the Market House, Tullow Street, Carlow," dealt, according to his billhead, in just about every article and commodity known to commerce. He lists a weird collection of cloths, such as "Perisians, Florentines, Lenos," and more familiar materials such as "muslins, gauzes." After an extremely tedious list the billhead adds "and a variety of other

Slater and Smith

Other tradesmen worked for Sam Faulkner during the building operations at Castle-town. Jemmy Smith, slater, was in constant demand for roofs. He went to Bunclody to advise Kennedy on the purchase of slate for the roof of the castle-farm house. William Delaney put in a bill for glazing, and one Kearney sent in an account for painting.

Matthew Purser was a blacksmith who was tenant of the forge at Castletown cross-roads, erected by Sam Faulkner. He did all the usual shoeing jobs and made or sharpened many of the tradesmen's tools. On 16th February, 1794, he billed Sam for £1 9s. 6½d. For a set of "4 shoes for the black filly" he charged one shilling. He made seven pins for the "Big Stone," now known as the "Long Stone." It is presumably these pins which still hold this stone vertical at spot height 361 on the ordnance survey. This spot height is known locally as the Long Stone Hill.

articles too tedious to mention." At one time he sold wines, spirits and bottled porter, but the billhead we have has these useful commodities carefully crossed out.

George Sikes heads his bill "Watch and Clockmaker, Tullow Street, Carlow," but confuses things by listing side-lines such as "powder, shot and flints" for the sporting or murderous section of the community. He also was prepared to supply "bolts, latches, handles and rappers for doors." Altogether he dealt in thirty-two different classes of goods. His bill was printed by Mary Kinnier.

Tim Nowlan, Tullow St., Carlow, issued a handbill boasting that he was cutting out Dublin middlemen by importing garden seeds direct from England. He also handled "Stationery and paper" of every kind, and "paper hangings"—which I assume meant wallpaper. This advertisement was printed by William Moore, Tullow Street, Carlow.

A few years later—in 1833—George Faircloth "painter, glazer, paper-hanger and gilder," was in business in Tullow Street. His billhead does not show who printed it. Samuel Corrigan, Brazer and Brass Founder, at the sign of the Tea-Kettle, Tullow St., rendered a bill in 1806. This was also printed by William Moore.

In 1830 William Byrne sent a bill to Castletown for what he called "copering work." This included making wooden stable buckets. Galvanized iron or aluminium was unknown at that time. He also made butter firkins. In those days butter was churned with a horse gear. The cows were on summer grass, and the butter was stored until winter in firkins and sold when it was scarce. No one knew how to produce winter milk in those days.

Stone Cleavers and Cutters

Higher up the scale of stone-workers than a mere cleaver was the stone-cutter, such as Patt Rooney. Patt furnished a bill on the 16th January, 1790, for £9 7s. 5d. for "stone cutters work in the castle for Saml. Faulkner, Esq." An item in this account is for a "dial post."

From other correspondence it is possible to conclude that this is for the sun dial in the garden at Castletown.

There is "A measurement of cut-stone in farm houses at Castletown for Samuel Faulkner, Esq., by Daniel Comerford." So we know that at least two stone-cutters were on the job. Comerford's work covered jobs at "McDarby's House"—we believe this refers to the Green House—and Purser's house and forge.

Having got stones cleaved and blasted by the Brennan brothers, and cut to shape and size by Rooney and Comerford, it was necessary to have masons to actually build the walls and so on. The men who built the garden wall were James Mullen and James Kelly. On 26th May, 1790, they rendered a bill for £60 2s. 9d. "to building 985 perches of

mason work in your garden wall, lined with bricks, at 1/- per perch—£49 5s. 6d." Another item in the same bill was £5 13s. 9d. for building the garden gateway.

All the measurements on these bills were checked by Henry Hayden. He seems to have been a building contractor, carpenter and quantity surveyor all rolled into one. Hayden got involved in at least one row with Faulkner and Kennedy over timber. At one stage Kennedy accused Hayden of changing marks on timber arriving from Monasterevan from "SF" to "HH." Hayden answered this charge in a letter to Sam Faulkner, dated 25th June, 1790. He explained that the Faulkner boards and some intended for Hayden arrived by boat from Monasterevan together. He paid the freight on both and "saw all put in to Mr. Dowling's stores as usual." When Mr. Kennedy sent men to collect Faulkner's boards they mixed up the two lots of timber, and took some of Faulkner's and some of Hayden's out to Castletown. Hayden had to go out to Castletown to see Kennedy and straighten up the confusion.

With a few mild apologies for stepping out of my favourite 18th century, I will go on with the Carlow tradesmen in the immediate post-Sam Faulkner period. In 1805 two saddlers rendered bills to Henry Faulkner, son of Hugh Faulkner, who had succeeded his father and his uncle Sam in Castletown. One was a man named "Jones," the other was Jasper Costello.

A quarter of a century

later Thomas Hughes of Dublin Street boasted on his billhead that he was "determined to dispose of on reasonable terms" a vast list of articles. His lines included cloths, hats and hosiery, which he printed in small type. He also handled tea. Yet his heart seems to have been in another part of his business, for in glaring black type he boasts of his REAL OLD MALT WHISKEY.

In this Article John Ellis tells us of the more spacious days of simple entertainment

BEFORE THE PICTURES CAME

IN compiling this paper on the theatre and entertainment in Carlow, I went over some of the files of the *Carlow Post* to see what entertainment was like in the town 100 years ago, but I could not find that the legitimate stage found any place in the entertainment provided then, for there is no record of any plays being produced either of local groups or visiting artistes.

One-man shows seemed to be the only form of stage show then provided, and some Concerts by Metropolitan and English artistes. It would appear that neither of the halls then in use for public gatherings had a stage of any dimensions, the old Assembly Rooms in Dublin Street (now the Technical School) had a hall capable of holding about 200 people, but the stage was only a platform at the west-end of the room, and the Corn Exchange (now the Deighton Hall in Burrin Street) was of somewhat similar proportions or maybe slightly larger.

STROLLING PLAYERS

While we find advertisements at that time offering tuition in music and singing, we have not been able to discover that the pupils of these self-styled Professors ever gave any public displays of the fruits of their studies or labours. So, Carlow had apparently in those days to rely on the infrequent visits of strolling artistes to provide entertainment on the stage.

In May, 1856, we find this advertisement:

On the evening of May 14th, at the Assembly Rooms, Carlow, which will be fitted out as a Parisian Drawingroom, Valentine Vox, the transformanic ventriloquist, mimic and àialogist, will appear in an entirely new and ingenious wardrobe and appointments in an original entertainment entitled "Vox in Many Shapes" by means of rapid and instantaneous changes of costume. He will impersonate 25 characters illustrative of the life and age we live in.

First-class seats could be had for 2/-; second-class 1/- and third-class 6d.

In October of the same year we read that the inhabitants of Carlow and district were treated to an entertainment of a very rare character in the performance of "a child who, though small of stature, is of great intellect." Martin Bundy (the child in question), said the advertisement, is not more than 29 inches high and about seven years old. His talents were most extraordinary. (Unfortunately, we are not told in what direction his talents lay). But we note that Mr. Millar added greatly to the gaiety of the evening by his sleight-of-hand tricks.

In the following year, April 1857, we had another one-man performance billed as follows:

Mr. Gallagher, the celebrated solo-ventriloquist, will present: "Domestic Perplexities," and will also introduce his new creation: "Paddy Fegan the Irish Waiter," in the Assembly

Rooms on 22nd and 23rd April.

He appears to have got on so well that the following week he advertised a third performance on Monday, 27th April, and headed this advertisement:

"Parting is such sweet sorrow,

I could say fare-thee-well till to-morrow."

According to the *Post* he was accorded a great reception by fashionable and enthusiastic audiences.

In May of the same year a Mr. Rowley was billed to give a Shakespearean reading of *Hamlet*, "the most sublime of all tragedies." He states that "to the intellectual this must be a treat, as it will afford an opportunity to hear interpreted these sentiments of grandeur and beauty which cannot but have delighted all who are acquainted with the writings of the immortal Shakespeare."

MUSIC HO!

Early in the following year, 1858, we find an announcement: the Monsieur Julieus' celebrated Orchestra will give a grand concert in the Corn Exchange. The leader of the orchestra was a Miss Louisa Venning, and the solo violinist was a Monsieur Reminyi, solo violinist to Her Majesty the Queen (no less) and who appeared by gracious permission of Her Majesty. The programme included selections from the following works: Beethoven's overture to *Leonora*, Haydn's *Surprise Symphony*, Mendelshon's *Italian Symphony*, as well as excerpts from Verdi's



The Old Assembly Rooms, now Carlow Technical Schools, which George Bernard Shaw gave to the Vocational Education Committee as a gift.

La Traviata and Il Trovatore.

The prices of admission were: Stalls, 5/- (family ticket for 5, 21/-); unreserved, 3/6; promenade, 1/6. (Note promenade, that was evidently an elegant way of describing standing room).

This type of entertainment prevailed until about the 1870's when the Trustees of the Racquet Court, who were the Committee in charge of the County Club, began to give the use of the premises for dramatic entertainments.

Up to about thirty years ago, when a new concrete floor was put into this building, the marks of the ends

of barrels in the asphalt floor, at the front and back walls of the court, were plainly to be seen. Those at the front wall supported the stage and at the back an elevated platform, which was used for standing room. The upstairs gallery served as the balcony seats as we know them in the cinemas of to-day.

These premises provided space for travelling repertory companies to put on full stage shows, and probably the first of these companies to play there was a well-known one, Maggie Morton's Players, which was later

known as W. L. Dobel's Dramatic Company, which visited Carlow up to 1917 or 1918.

The Maggie Morton Players produced a drama entitled *The Midnight Express* in the Racquet Court in the late '70's and their play ran for a whole week, so great was the desire of the people to see drama. In 1875 we find Mr. Charles Sullivan and his Irish Combination Company presenting *Arrah na Pogue*, *The Shaughraun* and *Charley O'Malley*, with the farces *The Irish Tutor* and *Handy Andy*.

In the year 1885 the Racquet Court was acquired by the C.Y.M.S. from the Trustees, who were the Committee of the old County Club House, the present St. Brigid's Hospital. Mr. Henry Bruen, Oak Park, was the Chairman of the County Club Committee, and he signed the deed conveying the premises to the Committee of the C.Y.M.S. for the sum of £500.

The transfer of the premises took place in April, 1885, and in the following month we find the Carlow Amateur Dramatic Club presenting "the splendid drama in four acts," *Don Caesar De Bazan* (which appears to have been a dramatization of the opera, *Maritana*) "with vocal and instrumental music incidental to the piece."

The *Nationalist* of the following week had a lot to say in praise of the performance. Quoting the paper: *To say that the dramatic and musical entertainments last week were completely successful but very faintly recognises the merits both in a dramatic and musical point of view. We venture to say that the manner in which the gentlemen engaged in the performance acquitted themselves must be a source of pride to Carlow folk,*

for dramatic ability, high musical culture and vocal gifts were conspicuously exhibited on both occasions. We may mention that the gentleman responsible for the management of the drama displayed such a knowledge of Thespian science that the piece went off from beginning to end without a single hitch.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Those taking part were: King of Spain, Mr. M. Tynan; Don Caesar, Mr. J. F. Fenlon; Don Jose, Mr. D. Quinn; The Marquis, Mr. M. O'Connor; Lazarvill, Mr. J. McDonald; Loper, Mr. B. Furney; Captain, Mr. C. Edwards; Judge, Mr. J. O'Reilly; Pedro, Mr. P. Donohoe; Pacola, Mr. W. MacNevin; Maritana, Mr. M. Meaney; Countess, Mr. J. Murphy.

All the parts were taken by gentlemen. In those days it was not considered proper for young ladies to take part in dramatic performances, and this idea prevailed right into the early years of the present century, as can be seen from old programmes of dramatic performances by different amateur groups in Carlow.

The Stewards at the performance of *Don Caesar* were Messrs. M. O'Reilly, P. A. Brown, Solicitor; Joseph O'Brien, James Ryan and Dr. W. H. O'Meara.

In January, 1886, another group, the Carlow Amateur Christy Minstrels, gave a performance in the Racquet Court. Commenting on the performances the *Nationalist* says: "The entertainment certainly proved that musical talent and dramatic skill abound in Carlow, and that on their own merits, without extraneous aid, the 'dusky troupe' were able to afford their friends a treat at once artistic and amusing." We note that in the performance

the late Mr. Wm. Hade (who appeared with the Carlow Choral Society in 1916-17) brought down the house with a comic song: "The Club Had A Meeting To-night, My Love."

In August, 1885, there appears an advertisement:

"From the Royal Polytechnic Institute, London, Professor Peppers Ghost Gompentren's Spectroscope. The entertainment is most popular and is accompanied by a really first-class Spectral Opera Co. The entertainment is designed to refine, instruct and amuse, and aims at not merely beguiling an idle hour, but affording food for intellectual culture. The illusions literally transcend anything yet attempted in this direction." The performance, which took place in the Hall, Burrin St. (the present Deighton Hall) appears to have been a tremendous success.

TOWN HALL

In 1883 we find the Maggie Morton Players again in Carlow with a great new American play, *The Unknown*, "which had played over 1900 times in the States." Also the original translation by Miss Dulcie Douglas of Von Mozer's *Der Bibliotekar*, which is better known as *The Private Secretary*, a play which has continued to run down to the present time, and some years ago was produced as a film.

This was one of the first entertainments given in the Town Hall, which from then on was the venue for such performances.

In June, 1888, we read that Carol's Opera Company opened their engagement in the Town Hall with "The Bohemian Girl." The *Nationalist* says: "It is not often we have such a work presented in a provincial town and we are glad to see that the music-loving people of Carlow duly appreciated the

treat." The other operas presented were "Maritana" and "The Waterman."

On the following Sunday the baritone (Mr. Albert McGuckin) and the soprano (Miss F. Hayward) of the Opera Company assisted the Cathedral choir at last Mass. Miss Hayward sang Gounod's "Ave Maria."

In the same month (June, 1888) the following note appeared in *The Nationalist*: "Valentine Vousden's entertainment in the Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings was an apt illustration of 'how are the mighty fallen.' In spite of years and infirmities the old man struggled bravely through the long and tiring series of characters in which he won fame years ago, but to those who had seen him in his palmy days the contrast gave rise to sad and regretful memories."

The Valentine Vousden above referred to was, in the middle of the last century, a most celebrated character-actor and performed all over England and Ireland. It was from him that the well-known Carlow actor, the late Mr. William MacNevin, took the stage-name Val. Vousden.

"PINAFORE"

The next production of any note was *Pinafore*, the Gilbert and Sullivan light opera, put on by the Irish National Foresters in 1896, and proved most successful.

At the beginning of the 20th century two dramatic groups were formed in the town, the Workman's Club Dramatic Amateurs and the Carlow-Graigue Amateur Dramatic Club. In 1902, '03 and '04 the Workman's Club put on *Ireland As It Was*, *Eily O'Connor* and *Pike O'Callaghan*. The Graigue Players played *O'Neal The Great* and *The Peep O'Day Boys*. The entire cast in

McCormack was cancelled

What might have been a very famous concert had to be cancelled owing to the very small attendance, and that was the occasion when the late John Count McCormack visited Carlow in 1903 to sing in the Town Hall, after his initial successes at the Feis Ceoil in Dublin.

Unfortunately, the night fixed for this concert was the eve of the Gordon-Bennett Motor Race, and as the town could think or talk of nothing but the race, John McCormack and his concert were completely forgotten. I wonder did the late Count think of that night when, on his farewell tour in 1938, he packed the Ritz Cinema, and hundreds had to be refused admission.

In the early years of the century concerts were regularly produced in the Town Hall. The late Dr. Malone held a concert every year, as

did Carlow's the late Miss Julia Kelly. To those concerts the late Joseph and Fred Williams were regular contributors, as well as Miss Colgan and Miss McCaul of Dublin Street. The Rugby Football Club also held an annual concert to which some very celebrated metropolitan singers were always invited.

The annual St. Patrick's Night concert, sponsored by the Gaelic League, was always a wonderful attraction. In the years 1910 to 1913 two famous musical combinations found great support in Carlow: Madame Levant's Ladies' Orchestra and the Welsh Ladies' Choir. The former always divided their programme into two sections, the first high-class music and the second the more popular music and well known operatic selections, while the Choir, as well as singing Welsh songs, gave a popular recital.

these plays was all gentlemen; ladies were still barred from appearing on the amateur dramatic stage.

Several well-known travelling Dramatic and Operatic Companies paid regular visits to the Town Hall in those years.

The Dobell Dramatic Company were regular visitors and always had packed houses. Their repertory included such plays as *East Lynne*, *Alone in London*, *A Girl's Crossroads*, etc. All good, meaty drama, complete with the moustache-twirling villain who was most heartily hissed by the audience.

They also gave such fine

comedies as *Charley's Aunt*, *The Private Secretary* and *Paddy The Next Best Thing*, and made a really great show of that fine comedy-drama, *The Ghost Train*.

Another famous pair were Jimmy O'Brien and Harry Ireland, who always treated their audiences to rousing Irish dramas such as *Lord Edward*, *The Boys of Wexford* and *The Bailiff of Ballyfoyle*.

Opera companies were also regular visitors, the most famous of which was the Elster-Grime Opera Company, which came here every year up to about 1917 or '18.

Their list included *Mari-*

tana, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Il Trovatore*, *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, *The Lily of Killarney*. Their bills always announced doors open at 7.30, commencing sharp at 8. Carriages 10.30. The prices of admission in those years were 3/-, 2/-, 1/- and 6d. standing. I well remember one of their visits.

A friend and myself always tried to manage to get together 1/6 for three visits to the opera. That year (I think it was 1911) the bills announced that on Friday night the opera would be *The Rose of Castille* (recently revived at the Wexford Festival) and owing to the cost of production there would be no 6d. admission. That was a poser for my friend and I. We had either to forego hearing two of our favourites and hear this, to us, new opera, or plump for *The Bohemian Girl* and *The Lily of Killarney*, and let the new one go. We did not hear *The Rose of Castille*, nor have I ever had an opportunity of hearing it since.

In those days less pretentious shows favoured Carlow with visits, one of which was Purcell's Theatre, which in the years before the first World War took its stand in Potato Market. Housed in a wooden-walled, canvas-roofed structure, this "Theatre" seated its 1/- patrons on planks, with a mat covering, the 6d. patrons on planks without the covering, and the 3d. patrons stood on a sloping platform, with battens nailed across into which that portion of the audience dug its heels and tried not to lean on the person in front.

Here, plays of the type of *The Corsican Brothers* and the *Murder of Maria Martin* were staged, preceded by a Variety Concert.

(Continued overleaf)

Sylvesters brought the Living Pictures

Also in those years the Sylvester Bros. (who later gave Carlow its first cinema in the present Technical School) came here with a similar theatre. They included "living pictures" in their programme. Further, they generated their own electric light with a large steam engine, and were the first of those travelling booths to be independent of the paraffin lamps that up to then provided illumination for these set-ups.

On one occasion the engine broke down and the auditorium was plunged into darkness. One of the Brothers Sylvester appeared on the stage holding a lighted candle, and appealed to the audience to remain calm till the lights came on again. However, the only lights that came on were the rest of the cast holding more lighted candles. Then it was announced that patrons would receive tickets to admit them to the show the following night. Some of the 3d. patrons tried to improve the "darkened hour" by scaling the paling dividing them from the 6d. seats, thus obtaining 6d. tickets. Seeing this, the younger Sylvester exclaimed: "Now, gentlemen, if you are gentlemen, be gentlemen."

The 1914-18 war forced most of those travelling companies off the road, and by the time the war was over the cinema had come. The cinema in Burrin Street was opened in 1915, and before that Sylvester Bros. had been running the old one in the Assembly Rooms for a couple of years. This mechanisation of entertainment, I fear, blunted the public taste for the legitimate stage and opera.

This, to my mind, was a

THE Old Carlow Society opened its 1954 outdoor season with a visit to Kilkenny City on Sunday, May 16. The motorcade which pulled away from the Town Hall brought about 45 members, who were joined in Kilkenny by contingents from the Waterford and Clonmel Archaeological Societies.

The party was welcomed at Kilkenny Castle by Rev. T. J. Clohosey who formed an excellent word-picture of the Castle as it appeared almost three hundred years ago, and gave details of its re-construction in the early part of the 19th century.

Father Clohosey traced the activities of the better-known tenants of the Castle. He also described the architecture and lay-out of the building, through which the party was later shown. Afternoon tea and biscuits were served in what was once the gilded picture gallery.

SHEE'S ALMS HOUSE

At the quaintly named Rose Inn Street Mrs. C. J. Kenealy pointed out the crumbling ruins of what was once Shee's Alms House. The Shee family was one of the Ten Tribes or Civic Families of Kilkenny, most of whom were descendants of the Knights who came over during the Anglo-Norman invasion. The Shees, however, were of Irish stock.

The Alms House was opened in 1582 to accommodate about twelve old people, and continued, with varying fortune up to the end of the nineteenth century, to dispense charity.

At the Black Abbey Church of the Dominicans, Rev. Fr. Gaffney, O.P., recalled that four years after the death of St. Dominic, in 1221, the foundation of the Kilkenny Abbey had begun.

It gave Kilkenny the distinction of being the only Irish city which possessed a church

great pity as I can well remember the eagerness with which entertainments of all kinds were anticipated in the years immediately preceding 1914, and the animated discussions that took place on the merits and demerits of the shows and artistes. I suppose people have now got so used to entertainment provided by the silver screen that they are not so discriminating as were those of the early 1900's.

SUMMER

in which Mass was still being celebrated after seven hundred years.

Father Gaffney told how the Dominicans, when they settled on the site, were allowed to draw water from a nearby supply "provided they used a pipe no wider in diameter than the Bishop's ring"; how they fished by lowering the sluice in the river, which flows almost under the Church, and how this practice gave rise to the sly joke: Straight from the water into the pan, and out of the pan into the Friar.

After Henry VIII broke with the Church, the Black Abbey was desecrated; windows, bells, vestments, vessels and everything movable were confiscated and the community was scattered. The Tribunal of the British Judges was set up where the High Altar now stands, and scores of Irishmen were condemned within the building.

The Dominicans returned in 1790, but the place was then in desolation. It was gradually restored by hard work.

THE ROTHE HOUSE

At Rothe's House, the former town mansion of the Rothe family, Miss May Sparkes dealt with its architecture and gave an account of the day-to-day life followed there several hundred years ago. At the time of the Confederation of Kilkenny Eoin Roe O'Neill is said to have stayed in the house. During the re-construction of portion of the house for use as a Gaelic League centre, workmen discovered a flag of the Confederation period, which is now in the National Museum.

Many years later another Irish patriot taught Irish there, Thomas MacDonagh, who was executed for his part in the 1916 Rising.

Afterwards the group was taken to St. Canice's where Mr. J. S.

NOWADAYS

I remember one day some years ago remarking to a Cinema Manager on the number of mediocre films that were being shown, and his reply was: "You must remember that while some people come to see a picture, the majority come to the pictures."

That about sums-up the present-day attitude to entertainment.

TRIPS WITH THE SOCIETY

Gibb explained that the site of the Church was the centre of old Kilkenny, long before the Norman Invasion. St. Canice's, built on ground which previously supported two earlier churches, was finished about 1285 and became the Episcopal seat of the Diocese of Ossory, which was formerly at Aghaboe.

Cromwell is said to have stabled his horses in the Cathedral, and his soldiers defaced many of the statues. It was re-roofed in the seventeenth century and has since remained open for worship.

GRATITUDE

In Kilkenny Technical School that evening the visitors were entertained to tea by the ladies' committee of Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

Mr. B. O'Neill, President, conveyed the sincere thanks of the Old Carlow Society to members of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society for their invitation to see places of archaeological interest in that city.

He also thanked the lecturers.

Mr. O'Neill said this was the third occasion on which the Carlow Society had been invited to Kilkenny, and the number who availed of it—practically the full membership of the Society—was evidence of how much his fellow-members were impressed with the friendliness and generosity shown them on previous visits.

He particularly thanked the ladies committee, and he hoped the O.C.S. would soon have an opportunity of acting as hosts to their Kilkenny friends.

Miss O'Donnell, on behalf of the Co. Waterford Archaeological Society, thanked the Kilkenny group.

GLENDALOUGH

On Sunday, 27th June, about 40 members of our Society joined the

Co. Kilkenny Archaeological Society in an excursion to Glendalough. On a bus drive there short stops were made at Haroldstown to inspect the perfect Dolmen and at Avoca where the members were glad to see the old Copper Mines were again working, but disappointed that they were not lucky enough to find any of the fabled Wicklow gold. After lunch in the Vale View Hotel there the party proceeded to Glendalough and were welcomed by Dr. Phelan, President of the Co. Kilkenny Society. The combined parties made a most instructive tour of the Seven Churches with Dr. Leask, perhaps the greatest living authority on these famous buildings, as guide and most lucid and interesting lecturer. Our sincere thanks were voted to Dr. Leask who came at considerable inconvenience to make the past of Glendalough so clearly known to us. The return journey was made through historic Wicklow Gap, which now boasts an excellent tourist road to Baltinglass, where our party enjoyed an excellent tea in the West Wicklow Hotel after which we were shown over the ruins of the Cistercian Abbey (later referred to by Dr. P. J. Sinnott in our Dunbrody excursion), and enjoyed a lecture on them—unfortunately short because of invading darkness—by Mr. Barron, Principal Teacher, Baltinglass. It was a very full and very pleasant day, indeed.

DUNBRODY ABBEY AND DUNCANNON

Sunday, July 18th.

The Society broke new ground on its third Summer outing of this season by invading the Dunbrody and Duncannon district of Co. Wexford, historic places so closely linked with the coming of

the Normans to Ireland. Despite many counter attractions, a goodly number made the trip, and at Dunbrody Abbey were welcomed by Dr. P. J. Sinnott, Dr. Hadden, Mr. G. Donovan and Mr. E. O'Brien on behalf of the Wexford Archaeological Society, Dr. H. Aughney, C.M.O., filling the role of member of both Societies.

Dr. Sinnott gave an interesting talk on the history of the magnificent Abbey of Dunbrody, still so striking in even its ruined splendour. Given in his own inimitable style, and illustrated by old prints and documents, Dr. Sinnott's talk made the past of the Abbey live again.

DUNCANNON—Later, he showed the party over the nearby Duncannon fort which has been, in its time, in the hands of the Danes, the English and now sleeps peacefully in the hands of a caretaker. Mr. B. O'Neill, President, thanked Dr. Sinnott and the Co. Wexford party for having made the day so instructive and pleasant for the Old Carlow Society and regretted they were unable to hear Mr. G. Donovan's talk on storied New Ross, to which he and his fellow-members would look forward in their first outing next Summer.

THANKS

The Society's three outings in the past summer, all well patronised, were most enjoyable and instructive. For their success we are greatly indebted to our good friends of the Co. Kilkenny and Co. Wexford Archaeological Societies who welcomed us into their territories and provided the lecturers for the Kilkenny and Dunbrody visits. In addition, the Co. Kilkenny Society kindly allowed us to join them in the excursion which they had arranged to storied Glendalough. We hope during the coming summer to make an adequate return to the members of both Societies by inviting them to Co. Carlow.

THE COST OF EDUCATION

An advertisement appeared in the *Carlow Post* in early January of 1854 for the Collegiate and Commercial School, Montgomery Street, Carlow, under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop, Dr. Haley, and resident clergy, conducted by John Douglas Piercey, A.M. (with competent assistant).

Students designed for the professions would be carefully prepared in the classics

and mathematics, French and German. There were preparatory classes for children of under 10 years.

"The school-room, erected by Rt. Rev. Dr. Haley, is most pleasantly and conveniently situated at about three minutes' walk from the town."

At a meeting held on Sunday, 8th, at which Dr. Haley, the Bishop, presided, it was unanimously resolved:

"That a competent assistant should be immediately engaged to superintend the English and Science departments of the Academy, and that the scale of terms should be as follows:

"Classical Course, £1 10s. per quarter; English Course for pupils above 13, £1 per quarter; English Course for pupils not exceeding 13, 15s. per quarter."

Officers and Members of Old Carlow Society

SEASON 1954-55

PATRON :

His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. T. Keogh, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

HON. LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS :

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Millar, D.Ph., V.F., P.P., Newbridge; Very Rev. P. Swayne, M.A., P.P., Kildare.

CHAIRMAN :

Mr. Bernard O'Neill, M.Sc., C.E.O. Vocational Schools, Carlow.

VICE-CHAIRMEN :

Mr. Liam D. Bergin; Mr. Aidan Murray; Mr. Harry Fennell.

JOINT HON. SECRETARIES :

Rev. P. J. Brophy, B.D., St. Patrick's College; Miss Maureen Doyle, The Shamrock.

HON. TREASURER :

Mr. Alec Burns, College St.

HON. EDITORS :

Mr. Liam Bergin, Editor "Nationalist & Leinster Times," Tullow St., Carlow; Mr. Aidan Murray, N.T., Dublin St.

Aughney, Dr. Honoria, County M.O.H., Wexford.

Brophy, Rev. P. J., St. Patrick's College, Carlow; Brophy, Michael, M.C.C., Ardattin, Tullow, Co. Carlow; Burns, Alec, College Street, Carlow; Breen, Miss G., Dublin St., Carlow; Bergin, Liam D., Tullow Street, Carlow; Breen, Miss P., "Heatherlee," Larkfield, Carlow; Broughan, Edward, Coal Market, Carlow; Broughan, Mrs. E., Coal Market, Carlow; Boland, J., Secretary County Council, Carlow; Blake, Miss C., Montgomery St., Carlow.

Carbery, Daniel J., "Glenart," Carlow; Carbery, Mrs. D. J., "Glenart," Carlow; Colgan, Miss M., Athy Road, Carlow; Conroy, Miss M., Castle St., Carlow; Corcoran, Eustace, J.K.L. Avenue, Carlow; Corr, Rev. Joseph, S.J., "St. Ignatius," Preston, Lancs., England; Corr, Ald. M. J., 70 Victoria St., London, S.W.1.; Corr, Jas. J., 9 Bay Ridge, Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A.; Clarke, Rev. Ml., 15 Dalymount, Dublin.

Doyle, Miss Maureen, The Shamrock, Carlow; Doyle, Miss Dillie, The Shamrock, Carlow; Doyle, Mrs. Leigh, Dublin St., Carlow; Doyle, Jas. J., Granby Row, Carlow; Duggan, William L., Solicitor, "Erindale," Carlow; Duggan, Mrs. W. L., "Erindale," Carlow; Darcy, Ml., Castle Hill, Carlow; Doyle Miss D., Doorleys Hotel, Bagenalstown.

Ellis, John, Burren Street, Carlow; Eustace, E. A. R., Newtown, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Fleming, Miss Peg, Lower Staplestown Road, Carlow; Fitzroy, Miss Alice, Montgomery St., Carlow; Fitzroy, Miss Maureen, Dublin Road, Carlow; Fitzmaurice, Major, "Laurel Lodge," Carlow; Fenlon, William L., Montgomery St., Carlow; Fenlon, Mrs. W. L., Montgomery St.; Friedl, Miss Trudy, "St. Gertrude's," Rathnapish, Carlow; Fennell, Mr. H., Everton, Graiguecullen, Carlow; Fennell, Mrs. H., Everton, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

Governey, Francis, "Barrowville," Carlow; Giddy, Mrs. Eric, Athy Road, Carlow; Ginnane, Patrick, College St., Carlow.

Hadden, W. G., "Otter Holt," Kilkenny Road, Carlow; Hadden, Victor, 1 Court View, Carlow; Hadden, Mrs. V. W., 1 Court View, Carlow; Hayden, Thomas P., "Hundred Acres," Killeslin, Carlow; Hanlon, Mrs. John, College St., Carlow; Harding, John, Tullow St., Carlow; Hutton, Francis, Staplestown Rd., Carlow; Healy, Richard, College Street, Carlow; Hughes, Patrick, Barrack Street, Carlow; Hyland, Matthew, B.Agr.Sc., Committee of Agriculture, Thurles, Tipperary; Hosey, Joseph, Governey Square, Carlow.

Kelly, John, St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow; Kelly, Mrs. John, St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow; Kellett, George, "Greystones," Graiguecullen; Kellett, Mrs. G., "Greystones," Graiguecullen; Kelly, Miss T., "The Stream," Dublin Road, Carlow; Kelleher, Miss N., N.T., Dublin St., Carlow; Keegan, Miss E., Vocational Schools, Carlow; Kealy, Thomas, Maryborough St., Graiguecullen.

McCaul, Mrs. A., Dublin St., Carlow; Murray, Aidan, Dublin St., Carlow; Murray, Mrs. Aidan, Dublin Street, Carlow; Murphy, Miss Annie, Castle St., Carlow; Moore, Mrs. W., "St. Anne's," Athy Road; Moore, William, Mental Hospital, Carlow; Mahon, Mrs. James, "Kelvin Grove," Carlow; Millar, Rt. Rev. Msgr., P.P., V.F., Newbridge, Co. Kildare; Monahan, John, Castle-town, Carlow; Monahan, Mrs. J., Castletown, Carlow; MacLeod, Miss Iona, Co. Librarian, Carlow; MacCormaic, Mr. P., Town Clerk, Carlow.

Noude, Miss Eileen, Tullow St., Carlow; Noude, Miss Rita, N.T., Tullow St., Carlow; Nolan, Mr. Thomas, "Molloy's," Tullow St., Carlow.

O'Neill, Bernard, M.Sc., "Innisfree," Carlow; O'Neill, Mrs. B., "Innisfree," Carlow; O'Neill, Thomas P., "Gayville," Carlow; O'Neill, Mrs. Thomas, Granby Terrace, Carlow; O'Neill, Miss Dollie, Sleaty, Graiguecullen; O'Reilly, Mrs. John, "Fruit Hill," Carlow; O'Reilly, Miss Breda, "Fruit Hill," Carlow; O'Keefe, Bernard, St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow; O'Donnell, Hugh, Solicitor, Dublin St., Carlow; O'Leary, Sean, Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny; Oliver, James J., Dublin St., Carlow; Oliver, Mrs. J. J., Dublin St., Carlow; Oliver, Miss Beatrice, Dublin St., Carlow; O'Driscoll, Miss A., Vocational Schools, Carlow; O'Flynn, Barry, Ballylinan, Athy, Co. Kildare; O'Grady, P. J., Rathmore, Tullow, Co. Carlow; O'Grady, Mrs. P. J., Rathmore, Tullow, Co. Carlow; O'Brien, Miss Kathleen, 113 Tullow St., Carlow; O'Donovan, Miss, N.T., Barrow View, Graiguecullen, Carlow; O'Donovan, Miss Anna (P.O. Staff) Pembroke, Carlow.

Poole, Percy, Hanover, Carlow; Peevers, John, Staplestown, Carlow; Purcell, Patrick, Quinagh, Carlow; Purcell, Gerald, St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow; Power, James, "The Garden," Dublin St.

Reddy, James, Lr. Staplestown Rd., Carlow.

Swayne, Very Rev. P., P.P., Kildare; Smith, Mr. T., Leinster Crescent, Carlow; Smith, Mrs. T., Leinster Crescent, Carlow.

Tracey, Miss Alice, "Stella Maris," Athy Road, Carlow.

Woods, Patrick, St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow.

This was a monument to faith and to fatherland raised by a great bishop and his people at the end of three centuries of persecution.

If Carlow Cathedral could speak

Written specially for
Carloviana by
Fr. FRANCIS HICKEY

WE cannot consider the Cathedral at Carlow without remembering the Penal Days, when bishops and priests had to minister from places of refuge. The history of this building takes us back to the end, after three centuries, of the Penal Laws against the Catholic Church. It was in 1829 that these severe laws were abrogated by the concession of Catholic Emancipation.

On March 18th, 1828, Bishop Doyle, the great J.K.L., laid the foundation stone of the Cathedral, the last year of the Penal Laws. In 1833, the fifth year of Catholic Emancipation, the building—apart from the present Vestry—was completed.

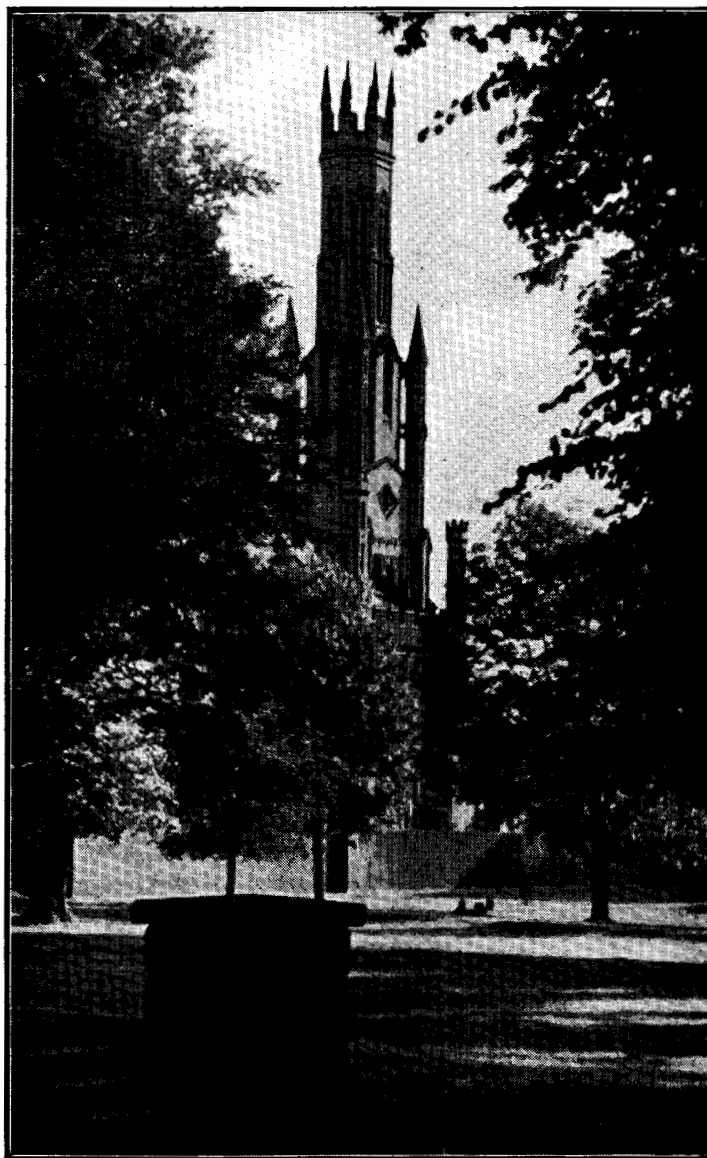
Dr. James O'Keeffe, parish priest of Tullow, was consecrated Bishop in 1751. He was the first bishop since the Reformation who had a residence and parochial church. Built in 1730, part of that church exists to-day in Chapel Lane, Tullow. After his consecration in Wexford (March, 1752) he lived at Aghade, and made Tullow the episcopal town of the Diocese.

Gardener's Relief Bill, 1782, allowed Catholics to open classical schools and acquire leasehold property. Dr. O'Keeffe set about to avail of it and build a Cathedral in Tullow and a Diocesan College to educate priests for several Irish dioceses. When he failed to procure a site in Tullow he

turned to Carlow.

Having taken up residence in Browne Street, Carlow, he obtained a 999 year lease of a four-acre field from Wm. Fishbourne. The lease was signed in 1786 by Wm. Fishbourne and James O'Keeffe. He began building the College, which neared com-

pletion in September, 1787, when Bishop O'Keeffe died. He was the first Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin to live and die in Carlow. Two archbishops and seven bishops attended the obsequies in the old chapel between the College and Dublin Road, of this "soul and guide of the



Irish Prelacy and laity," as J.K.L. described him.

Dr. O'Keeffe is buried in the Old Graves near the Barrow in Carlow. Of Carlow College, his lasting monument, Archbishop Healy wrote in 1895, in the centenary history of Maynooth College, that "such an achievement is worthy of being held in eternal remembrance.

Dr. Delaney, former assistant priest in Tullow and Parish Priest of Ardattin, was appointed Co-adjutor to Dr. O'Keeffe in April, 1783, and consecrated on the 31st August following. Succeeding Dr. O'Keeffe, he lived at a rented house called Bishop's House near the junction of Dublin and Hacketstown roads, Tullow, and used the old parochial church as his Pro-Cathedral. This church was re-modelled and enlarged in 1941-1943. Dr. Delaney founded the Brothers of St. Patrick, converting part of the old parochial school into a monastery and leaving the rest as a school where they taught.



They Kept the Faith

The mouldering remains of 240 churches in the dioceses of Leighlin and Kildare testify to the persecutions of priests and people during the Penal Days. Sixty-three religious houses, including the four great Cistercian Abbeys of Abbeyleix, Baltinglass, Graiguenamanagh and Monasterevan flourished. Two of eight round towers still exist at Timahoe, Laoigh's, and Kildare town.

In the reign of Henry VIII, Leighlin Cathedral and its revenues were appropriated and given over to "the Church by law established." Kildare Cathedral revenues were appropriated in the reign of Elizabeth. The bishops of the two separate dioceses, as they then were, deprived of permanent residence, Cathedral and temporalities, went to live with and minister to their impoverished people. In spite of dire calamities the episcopal succession of each diocese continued.

After 150 years, because the

two dioceses were reduced to extreme poverty by the confiscation of Church property, Dr. Oliver Plunkett, Primate of all Ireland, petitioned the Holy See in 1678 to give administration of Kildare and Leighlin diocese to the Bishop of Kildare Dr. Mark Forstall. He became the first bishop of the united diocese. About £15 a year was the Episcopal revenue of each diocese. According to Dr. Plunkett's letter to Propaganda in Rome, there were fifteen priests in each diocese.

Between 1678 and 1751, seven bishops ruled the united diocese. History does not record that they had a Cathedral or episcopal residence, neither does it record their place of death or burial. If they communicated by letter with their clergy or people, it concluded with the pathetic words: Datum est refugii nostri—"Given from our place of concealment." We know that they kept "the old faith flashing" and died in the peace of God.

The Great Bishop J.K.L.

On the 8th August, 1819, the Rev. Father James Doyle, O.S.A., a Professor in Carlow College, was elected Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin by Propaganda in succession to Dr. Corcoran. On the 14th of November, the Feast of the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin, 1819, he received Episcopal Consecration in the Parish Church of Carlow. The officiating Bishops were the Most Rev. Dr. Troy, Archbishop of Dublin, his Co-adjutor, Dr. Murray, and Dr. Marum, Bishop of Ossory. With the advent of Dr. Doyle a new epoch opened not only for Kildare and Leighlin, but for all Ireland. The life and work and writings of this remarkable Prelate form a great part of the ecclesiastical and civil history of Ireland in the first half of

the nineteenth century.

After his consecration, Dr. Doyle lived in the College until June, 1822, when he removed to Old Derrig House two miles west of Carlow Town, and near to Killeslin. He loved the quiet and seclusion of this beautiful district and house which he used call his Hermitage. In passing, it is of interest to relate that it was in Old Derrig House the first members of the Brothers of St. Patrick made their religious profession in presence of Dr. Doyle on January 31st, 1823. In March, 1825, Dr. Doyle was summoned to London to give evidence before a Committee of the Lords and Commons on the State of Ireland. He made such a profound impression on the Committee by his "self-

possession, clearness of judgment, and dignity of character" that even the most intolerant of them were impressed. Gladstone in his pamphlet, *Vatican Decrees*, refers to Dr. Doyle as "the Prelate who, more than any other, represented his Church and influenced the mind of England in favour of concession at the time of Emancipation." When he returned to Ireland, in May 1825, there were meetings held in various places to congratulate him. The Clergy of his Diocese congratulated him and decided to procure for him a residence that would "fix the attention of posterity on the period and on the Prelate." In accordance with their Resolution they purchased Braganza House, Carlow, as a residence for Dr. Doyle and his successors. In 1826 he left Old Derrig House and came to live in Carlow. Since that year Braganza has been the residence of the Bishops of Kildare and Leighlin.

Preparing the Way

Dr. Doyle at the beginning of his episcopate had in mind the building of a Cathedral for his Diocese, but the building of schools and churches, and the establishing of the Christian Doctrine Society, Temperance Societies, and Chapel Libraries in every parish, claimed the first seven years of his Episcopate.

In 1814 the Very Rev. William Fitzgerald, V.F., succeeded Dean Staunton as Parish Priest of Carlow. Father Fitzgerald died in 1823, and was buried beside Dean Staunton at the Parochial Church, Carlow. When the Cathedral was built their remains were exhumed and interred in the College cemetery. Dr. Doyle did not appoint a successor to Fr. Fitzgerald, but, with the per-

mission of the Holy See, he fixed the parochial boundaries of Carlow and made it a mensal parish.

Plans for Cathedral

In 1827 he put into effect his long-cherished idea of building a Cathedral to replace the old parish church of Carlow. He commissioned Mr. Joseph Lynch of Carlow to draw the plans of the Cathedral. Dr. Doyle at first tried to procure the site now occupied by the Court House at the junction of the Athy and Dublin roads. The site was then a disused stone quarry, but the opposition of the day prevailed against him. He then turned to the site of his Parochial Church and decided to build the Cathedral there. In his "Diocesan Book," writing under date December 14th, 1831, he says: "The Cathedral Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was commenced and the first stone of the building laid on the 18th March, 1828. At the commencement our means were very limited. We had already established a weekly collection through the town, and purchased several hundred cart loads of stone which, with about sixty pounds sterling in cash, composed our entire fund." He tells us that their efforts were greatly delayed and embarrassed by the water from the quarries gushing in with great violence upon the newly-opened foundations so as to cause them to deliberate about relinquishing the attempt. He tells us that they persevered and succeeded through God's help. They laid aside Mr. Lynch's plan upon which they proceeded the first year because it appeared to be too contracted. It was an oblong church consisting of nave and chancel only. Dr. Doyle obtained a part of the

College and Convent ground at each side to extend the Transepts. He then employed Mr. Thomas Cobden, an eminent Carlow architect who designed and directed all the works. Under Mr. Cobden's direction the water was pumped from the foundations and the inlets from the quarries were built up.

Secure Foundations

Under Mr. Cobden's direction large oak piles were driven deep into the bed of the foundations and were tied together with iron bolts. Upon these secure foundations the Cathedral was built. The Cathedral was built around the Parochial Church, which continued to be used for Divine worship. When the Cathedral was completed and roofed, the old church was razed. A part of the transept walls of the old church is incorporated in the end wall of each transept of the Cathedral. This is seen from the College grounds. In the end wall of the north transept we see the "spawled rubble" masonry of uncut stones of irregular size and shape of the old church transept wall, whereas the Cathedral walls are built in uniform courses, and its walls are about a foot thicker. The same is visible in the end wall of the south transept. The round arch in the end wall of each transept is to lessen the weight of the thicker and heavier walls of the Cathedral upon the walls of the former church.

The retention of the walls of the former in the Cathedral walls was for economy sake, because Dr. Doyle's funds were very limited and he could not go beyond the means of a generous but impoverished people. It is a happy coincidence that the old and the new are blended into one, and it will remind future generations of the great

Bishop who raised such a noble monument through the faith and charity of a faithful people just emerging from the Penal Code.

The grayish-blue stone of the Cathedral was got from the now disused quarry about a mile from Carlow near the Carlow-Tullow road. The white granite which blends

so pleasingly with the grayish-blue stone was got from Colonel Bruen's quarry at Graiguenaspodogue in the parish of Tinryland. The Colonel had a very expert stone cleaver at this quarry. He was a Scotchman named Eddy. It was this man who cleaved the granite for the Cathedral and the massive

blocks of its fluted columns. The oak of the great framed roof of the Cathedral was got from Oak Park. Friendly relations existed between Dr. Doyle and Colonel Bruen, and as the latter was a lover and promoter of architecture, he was generous and helpful to Dr. Doyle in supplying the material for the Cathedral.

The poor gave their money and labour

When Dr. Doyle appealed for funds for the building of the Cathedral he met with a generous response considering the conditions that then prevailed. To his appeal the parishes of the Diocese contributed £1,477, and the Clergy £701; in addition there were legacies and donations from friends, one of £200 from Mr. P. Maher, Kilrush, Co. Kildare. The Protestants of the district helped on the work. There is a record in Dr. Doyle's handwriting of "thirteen Protestant gentlemen in Tullow who subscribed one pound each"; there were larger donations from Protestant members of the community in other parts of the country. Brother Serenus Kelly of Tullow Monastery was sent by Dr. Doyle to appeal for help to the public in England, and there was a generous response to the appeal. The Bishop himself devoted all his income to the building fund. In his "Diocesan Book" Dr. Doyle writes in December, 1831: "Our funds consisted of the weekly and annual contributions of the Parishioners, and a general contribution by the people of the two Dioceses, especially by those of the Diocese of Leighlin."

The greatest contributors were the people of Carlow, who gave all they had, by

subscriptions at different times and a weekly collection from the poor which in 1831 realised £316. The poor gave not only generously of their scanty means, but they gave moreover the service of willing hands by carrying stones and mortar and other material to the builders. The people of Carlow helped the local farmers in carting all the stone and sand and other material gratis. Such was the spirit of a faithful people uniting with their beloved Bishop in building Ireland's new Cathedral—a link between the Penal and Emancipation days. They remind us of the Jews on their return from exile in Babylon uniting with their great leader Zorobabel in restoring the ruined Temple and gathering together the scattered stones of the sanctuary.

The Cathedral was completed in the autumn of 1833. It is described by Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary as "an elegant cruciform structure, in the later English style, with a lofty tower at the western end of the nave, surmounted by a lantern of beautiful design, terminating at a height of 151 feet from the base; it occupies the site of the old chapel, and is a rich ornament to the town." The tower with its octagonal

lantern and tapering finials is a work of great architectural beauty. It is said to be modelled on the belfry of Bruges, but there is a striking resemblance also between it and the tower of St. Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Before writing of the dedication of the Cathedral it will be of interest to say something of the furnishing of the Cathedral when it was opened for Divine worship by Dr. Doyle in 1833.

Furnishing

All the windows of the Cathedral were timber mullioned and were glazed with plain glass. Some of the mullioned windows remain to-day—four in the side walls of the Sanctuary, four in the nave, and two at the back of the organ gallery. The floor of the Sanctuary was boarded with pine wood. The wooden High Altar of the old church was erected in the same place that it occupied in the old church, because its sanctuary is a part of the Cathedral sanctuary. The table of the altar was supported by four richly carved wooden legs. The three panels of the altar were filled with coloured

glass. There was no reredos. The altar was approached by three steps, and the predella was spacious. The Episcopal throne was mahogany with a richly moulded square canopy in keeping with the architectural design of the Cathedral. The sides of the canopy were filled with painted glass. The slender side panels of the throne were filled with painted glass. The Episcopal chair was panelled oak got from Oak Park. The chair is now preserved in the Cathedral Sacristy. The wooden Communion rail was arc-formed and was richly moulded in diamond pattern. It was connected with the sanctuary walls by gates of the same pattern. The floor of the nave was boarded. There were three rows of benches in the nave, the central row and one at each side. The passages between the central row and the side ones were paved with granite slabs. The first twelve benches of each row had backs. The remaining seating in each row was forms which belonged to the old church. The organ gallery had three rows of benches. In each transept there were two rows of benches. Some of these were family benches and belonged to the families who subscribed to the building of the parochial church. The same rights continued with them in the Cathedral. The balustrades between the nave and transepts were richly panelled wood in the same style as the balustrade of the organ gallery to-day. The wooden side altars of the old church were re-erected in the Cathedral transepts. Dr. Doyle in using all the furnishing of the old church did so for economy sake, because his funds were limited. He knew that his successors and their faithful people would complete and beautify the work he had begun.

CONSECRATION OF CATHEDRAL AND DEATH OF DR. DOYLE

On the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st, 1833, Dr. Doyle blessed the Cathedral and gave it over to God to be "His House for ever—a House of Prayer, and a House of Sacrifice, the Throne of His Grace and the Fountain of His Mercy." Most fittingly, too, did he dedicate it to God under the invocation of Our Lady of the Assumption.

Writing to a friend on December 10th, 1833, Dr. Doyle says: "We had a solemn Mass in our new church on the first Sunday of Advent. I was (thank God) enabled to assist thereat and participate largely in the satisfaction felt by all who were present. After six years of care and toil we saw our task accomplished and all our anticipations realised."

When he had blessed and dedicated the Cathedral he presided at the first High Mass celebrated in it. The rich vestments used by the celebrant, deacon and sub-deacon were made by the Sisters of the Presentation Convent and are still preserved there. It was the first and, alas! the last

solemn function at which Dr. Doyle presided in the Cathedral. When he penned the above lines he was in the grip of a disease which within six months would bring him to an early grave. The next solemn, but sad, function would be his own obsequies when his remains would rest in the coffin on the catafalque before the High Altar. After a lingering illness he died at Braganza House, Carlow, on Sunday, June 15th, 1834, in the forty-eighth year of his age and the fifteenth of his Episcopacy. On Thursday, June 19th, the obsequies took place in the Cathedral. His remains were interred in the Cathedral in front of the High Altar where they await, we hope and pray, a glorious resurrection. The Cathedral is his monument, and it will keep his name in remembrance throughout all time.

*You've left us here a monument in stone,
That shall resist the stress of years to be;
'Twill serve to keep the glorious triumph known
That you achieved in days of slavery.*

They continued the good work

The Rev. Edward Nolan, Vice-President and Professor in Carlow College, was elected Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin on July 21st, 1834, in succession to Dr. Doyle. Dr. Nolan's Episcopate, 1834-1837, was brief. During his brief Episcopacy there was no improvement or furnishing made to the Cathedral. He is buried in the Cathedral beside Dr. Doyle.

Dr. Nolan was succeeded by Dr. Haly, who was Bishop

from 1837 to 1855. During Dr. Haly's Episcopate the Gothic panelling and choir stalls were erected in the Sanctuary of the Cathedral. This furnishing of the Sanctuary necessitated the building up of the doorways in the end of the Sanctuary at the College side. The triple lancet window of the Sanctuary was filled with stained-glass representing the Crucifixion and Our Lady and St. John. The mullions of the

side windows of the Sanctuary were retained and the windows were filled with stained-glass representing two Angels in each window. These windows are very appropriate as they represent the Angels guarding the Holy of Holies. There is a small shield on each Angel, each of which shows some scene in the Passion and also the instruments of the Passion, such as the scourges and the pillar, the crown of thorns, the seamless robe of Christ with the dice. The end wall of the Sanctuary—each side of the window—was covered with lead on which was painted at the Gospel side the Ascension of Our Lord. At the Epistle side was painted the Assumption of Our Lady. The ceiling and the walls of the Sanctuary were painted in a style in unison with the beautiful stained-glass windows.

In 1855 a powerful organ of exquisite mellow tone was erected in the south transept at the triple lancet window. This organ was bought at the Paris Exhibition in 1855.

In 1840 the statue of Dr. Doyle, Hogan's masterpiece, was erected in the Cathedral at the junction of the nave and south transept walls. These are the furnishings and improvements done to the Cathedral during Dr. Haly's Episcopate. He died on August 19th, 1855, and is buried beside Dr. Doyle in the Epistle side of the nave.

The Very Rev. James Walshe, President of Carlow College, was elected Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin on January 28th, 1856. He was a second cousin of Dr. Doyle. During his Episcopate (1856-1888) many internal improvements were effected in the Cathedral. In 1862 a memorial stained-glass window to the Rev. James Butler, Adm., who died in April, 1860, was erected in the left window of the south transept. The

memorial window depicts the Assumption of Our Lady. In the same year the organ was transferred from the south transept and erected on the organ gallery.

In 1864 the Cathedral was painted, and the sanctuary, painted in Dr. Haly's episcopate, was renewed. Sanctuary, nave and transepts were lighted with gas. Two Caen stone altars were erected—one in each transept—in 1873, donated by Miss O'Keefe of Carlow, a grand-niece of Bishop O'Keefe. They replaced two wooden altars which were placed on the Gospel and Epistle side of the sanctuary at the end wall. In 1878 Miss O'Keefe erected the central stained-

glass window of the north transept in memory of her grand-uncle, Bishop O'Keefe.

Dr. Walshe, who died on March 5th, 1888, is buried in the same grave as his kinsman, Dr. Doyle, in the Cathedral. He was succeeded by his coadjutor, Dr. Lynch, who did not move to Braganza because he was too old, but died in Tullow, where he had lived, on 19th December, 1896. He is buried on the Gospel side of Tullow Church.

Very Rev. Michael Comerford, P.P., V.F., Monaster-evan, was made co-adjutor to Dr. Lynch in the Autumn of 1888. He was consecrated in Carlow Cathedral in 1889 by Most Rev. Dr. Walshe, Archbishop of Dublin, assisted by Bishop Browne of Ferns and Bishop Power of Waterford. Because Dr. Lynch had remained in Tullow, Dr. Comerford went to live at Braganza in 1890.

Dr. Comerford's advent brought many improvements at the Cathedral. He had it re-furnished and artistically embellished and beautified by his valuable gifts and donations.

The High Altar of Sicilian marble was erected in April, 1890 as a memorial to Dr. Walshe, donated by the clergy, religious and faithful of the diocese. It was made by Samuel Daly and Sons, Cook Street, Cork. Eighteen feet high, with a 27 ft. spire, it occupies the place of the wooden altar. Dr. Comerford consecrated the new altar on Sunday, 25th May, 1890, and presided at the High Mass celebrated by the Rev. P. Gorry, C.C. The sermon was preached by Rev. Fr. Bannon, S.J.

The two wooden side altars in the sanctuary were then removed, one to the College Chapel and the other to the Presbytery. (*Nationalist and Leinster Times*, May, 1890).

Dr. Comerford gave and consecrated the great bell of

Dr. Comerford

DR. Comerford wrote the famous history of the diocese, published between 1883 and 1886. Consecrated coadjutor to Dr. Lynch on January 1st, 1889.

He died on 19th August, 1895.

By his refinement of mind and manner, his tact and judgment—without sacrifice of principle—but above all by his unobtrusive charity, he was esteemed and loved by all.

Rt. Hon. Henry Bruen, Oak Park, visited him in his last illness and came to Braganza to offer sympathy on his death. Lord Walter Fitzgerald and Sir Henry Bruen walked in the Bishop's funeral procession to the Cathedral.

A vast concourse of Carlow people followed the last remains of their fellow-townsmen who had done so much for their Cathedral.

For Dr. Comerford was baptized, received his first Holy Communion and was confirmed there. He was the first priest ordained by Dr. Walshe when he became bishop in 1856. In 1889 he received the fullness of the priesthood from Archbishop Walshe. It is now his last resting place.

He is buried in the nave alongside Dr. Nolan.



THE CATHEDRAL AS IT WAS BEFORE 1890.

—By courtesy of Monsignor Miller, D.Ph., P.P., V.F.

the Cathedral. (See box).

In 1894 Dr. Comerford began to paint and re-furnish the Cathedral and fill the windows with stained glass. The people responded to his appeal for funds, and in 1894 a Grand Bazaar in the Town Hall surpassed his expectations. A Mr. Mannix directed the artistic work in the sanctuary ceiling and painted the two large pictures, The Holy Family and The Death of St. Joseph. From a photograph he painted a picture of Dr. Comerford, now in the College.

Mr. Robinson, contractor, made the furniture for nave transepts and organ gallery in his Haymarket workshop. The central tiled passage of the nave is new and from a

design of Mr. Hague. There was no central passage in the nave in the original plan. Now the nave has four rows of benches.

Mayer and Co. of Munich, Germany, made the stained-glass for the great sanctuary window representing the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. A gift from Dr. Comerford, it was erected in 1895. Fr. Butler's memorial window was taken down and re-erected in the nave window where it is now. Stained-glass in the south transept window, depicting the Life of Our Lord, was the gift of Miss Brigid Byrne, Newtown, and was made at Youghal. St. Lazerian's window over the south transept was also made at Youghal.

Two new stained-glass windows by Mayer and Co., Munich, were made in style with the central window given by Miss O'Keeffe. The window of St. Brigid over the north transept door, erected at the same time, was also made by the Munich firm. The mullioned windows of the end wall of the organ gallery were made in Youghal. Musgraves of Belfast installed the central heating and the oak-framed Stations of the Cross erected in 1896 were given by various Carlow families.

In the midst of these renovations and improvements Dr. Comerford was seized with a fatal illness, and died on 19th August, 1895.

Dr. Foley becomes Bishop

Towards the end of Dr. Lynch's episcopate, on 31st May, 1896, Dr. Patrick Foley, President of St. Patrick's College, was consecrated Co-adjutor Bishop by Archbishop Walshe of Dublin, Bishop Brownrigg, Ossory, and Bishop Browne, Ferns. He succeeded to the See in 1896 when Dr. Lynch died, and lived until 1926. It was Dr. Foley who had the beautiful Flemish pulpit made and erected in 1899. It was planned and designed by Mr. C. J. Buckley, of Youghal, in accordance with the architectural features of the Cathedral, which are those of the 15th century, usually called the Tudor period. (For details see special description page 36). On Sunday, 15th October, 1899, the pulpit was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Foley, assisted by Monsignor Murphy, Tynan and Burke. Fr. P. Gorry, C.C., celebrated

High Mass, and Rev. Dr. Keane, O.P., preached.

The month before, Dr. Foley had had the statue of Dr. Doyle removed from its original position on the Epistle side of the Cathedral and re-erected in the second bay of the north transept by Mr. Cleere of Kilkenny. The solid limestone plinth, on which the brick pedestal is built, is new. The pedestal is encased in marble. The panels are in relief. The moulded marble capital of the pedestal and the plinth were made by Hughes, Monumental Works, Carlow, and the inscription on the front, which is new, reads "✠ J.K.L. 1819-1834." The statue is a foot higher than in its former position.

In 1902 the Caen stone baptismal font was replaced by the present marble one, a memorial from the people of Carlow to Rev. John Corbett, C.C., who died on 4th Oct., 1901, following an

accident while out shooting.

Holy Family

In 1902 Hogan's Holy Family group was presented to the Cathedral by Mrs. O'Brien, Tullow Street, in memory of her husband, who died 1889. In the same year, through the munificent benefaction of the late Mrs. and Michael Governey, Carlow, Dr. Foley had the sanctuary floor laid in mosaic and the marble Communion Rails, which stretch the width of the Cathedral (98 ft.) erected in 1903. Both were designed by Mr. Ashlin, Dublin. The floor of the transepts was re-made in breeze covered with pine boards.

Dr. Foley decided to remove the Caen stone altars, as he considered they would not be in keeping with the marble rails. He appealed to the people to donate two marble altars. Miss Mary Agnes Kinsella of the Royal Hotel gave the Sacred Heart altar in the south transept. It is in memory of her brother, Edward P. Kinsella, and was erected in 1903. The Lady altar in the north transept is the gift of the late Michael and Mrs. Molloy, Carlow. It was erected in 1904.

The Caen stone Lady altar is now the High Altar in Tinryland Church, Carlow. The Caen stone Sacred Heart altar is now the High Altar in Paulstown Parochial Church, Co. Kilkenny.

In 1905 the timber balustrades between the nave and transepts were taken down and replaced by the present handsome wrought iron balustrades. In 1906 the oak Episcopal Throne was erected. It was made by medieval sculptors in their well-known studio at Bruges.

NEW SACRISTY

In the Summer of 1913 the building of the new Sacristy was begun, and was completed in 1914, after the designs of Mr. Anthony

THE GREAT BELL

THE great bell of the Cathedral, one of the many gifts of Bishop Comerford was consecrated by him on the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th, 1891. He presided at High Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Gorry, C.C.

The 30 cwt. bell cast by John Warren and Sons, London, has a diameter of 4 ft. 4 inches at the mouth. It is 3 ft. 6 inches high. The clapper where it strikes is 3½ inches, and the clapper weighs 34lbs.

The note, E. flat, forms the octave of one of the two bells in the tower with which it has been arranged to harmonise and chime.

Named after Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, the bell bears the inscription:

MARIA, REGINA S.S. ROSARII, ORA PRO NOBIS, A.D. 1891.

Preaching the occasional sermon, Rev. John Foley, Professor Carlow College said he hoped the bell would peal for Christmas and if not for the new year. Ringing out the old year, he hoped it would also ring out the last trace of dissension, feud and discord, and that with the new year it would bring a holier and more peaceful feeling amongst them all than had obtained for some time past.

Continuing he said: "May the faithful bell in the tower continue to call the people of this town, to assemble in this cathedral, and the clergy to celebrate the mysteries of the New Law until its tongue of iron is worn away by the rust of time. May Divine Providence grant that future congregations in the town of Carlow may be as faithful to the call of the new bell, as their forefathers have been to the calls of the old bells."



This is an impression of the magnificent scene during the Solemn Ordination Ceremonies held at the Cathedral of the Assumption in June, 1954

Scott, Dublin. The structure, like that of the Cathedral, is in hammered stone. The roof is surmounted by a battlemented parapet like that of the main building. The Sacristy ceiling is beautifully groined. Furniture is of polished Austrian oak.

DOWN THE AGES

On the left wall of the Sacristy corridor leading to the Sanctuary is a marble arcade of seven arches, the panels of which are of Sicilian white marble. In the

central panel are the Arms of the United Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin. Under this are the names and the years of Episcopacy of the Bishops who ruled the Dioceses from 1678 to the present day. On the marble panel on the left are the names and years of their Episcopacy of the Bishops who ruled Kildare from St. Conleth down to the year 1678. On the marble panel on the right is a list of the Bishops who ruled the

Diocese of Leighlin from St. Lazerian down to the year 1678.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING

The Sacristy was the completion of the Cathedral. The entire cost was met by Most Rev. Dr. Foley. He completed the work which was so well begun by Dr. Comerford and, like him, was most generous in his benefactions. When the Sacristy was completed, the Cathedral was wired for electric light.

The Pulpit was made at Bruges

FROM the base to the sounding-board the magnificent carved pulpit at Carlow Cathedral measures 20 feet. It is designed in rose-cushioned oak of the finest colour and all the panels depict preaching scenes.

The first panel, next the balustrade, depicts St. Patrick preaching at Tara to King Laoghaire and his chiefs on Easter Sunday, 433.

The Sermon on the Mount is the subject of the second panel showing the Saviour, a figure treated with great dignity and majesty, and showing the attentive and awed congregation.

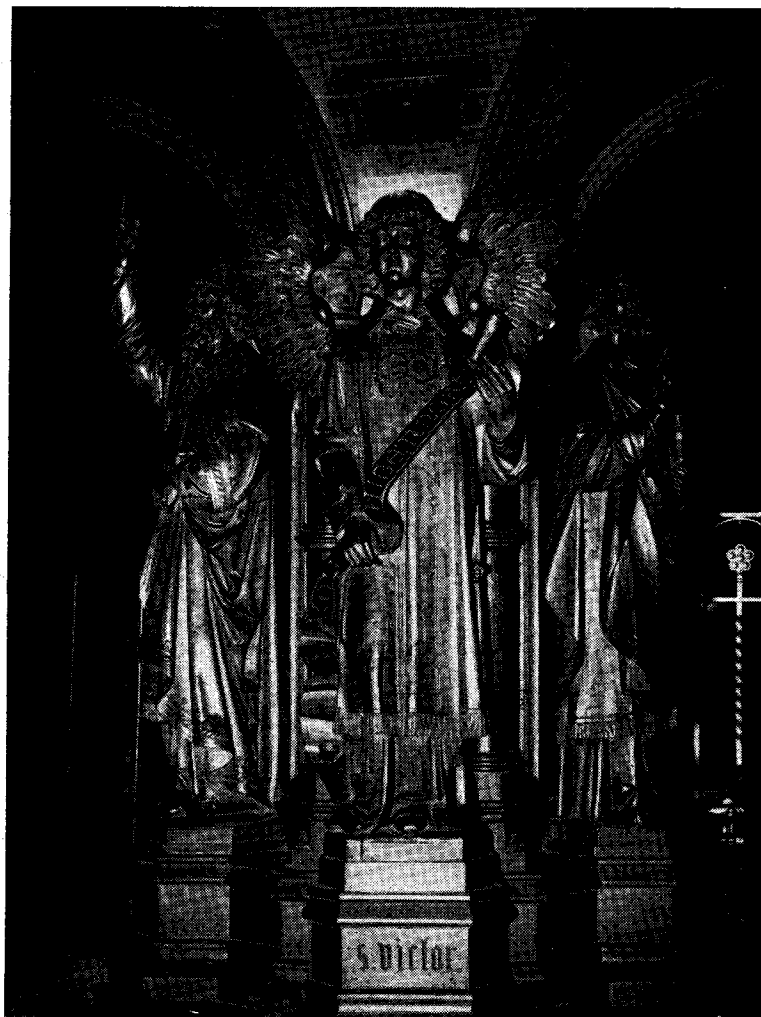
St. Paul at the Areopagus, Athens, in the third panel, is inspired by the famous Raphael painting in the Vatican. It is a carving full of energy and force, showing the saint with uplifted hands speaking to many figures surprisingly compressed into a very small space.

St. Lazerian is shown in the fourth panel addressing the Synod of Leighlin in 630. At the base stand figures of St. Lazerian, St. Patrick's Angel Victor, and St. Conleth. St. Lazerian is at the stairs side with his arm uplifted, drawing attention to the words uttered from the pulpit.

St. Patrick's Angel Victor is in the centre with a scroll in his hands on which are the words "Vox Hibernorum," that is, the voice of the Irish appealing to St. Patrick to return and preach the Gospel amongst them. St. Conleth, clad in ample vestments of the Middle Ages, is depicted giving his Episcopal blessing. Each of the angles of the pulpit, which is hexagonal in shape, is occupied by statuettes resting on figures of cherubim, and surmounted by richly arcaded canopies.

The first statuette at the stairs side represents St. Brigid, the Patroness of the Diocese. The figure of a cow lies at her feet, symbolical of the fact that during her life she was the guardian of the flocks and herds of the Curragh. The other statuettes represent the Evangelists writing the Gospels, and at their feet lie their winged symbols of the Angel, the eagle, the lion, and the bull.

One of the most notable features of the pulpit is the winding stairs from the south transept. The balustrade is a fine specimen of the carver's art. It represents the oak tree of Kildare. The leaves and acorns of the branches are carved out of thick solid oak



BASE OF THE PULPIT

—Photo : P. MacCormaic.

with much skill and delicacy.

The reredos or back panel which supports the surrounding board is richly arcaded and bears an exquisitely carved crucifix taken from Vandyk's painting in the Church of Our Lady at Bruges. Only by a close inspection can the delicacy of this piece be fully appreciated. The right hand of the Crucified Saviour is shown as blessing the penitent thief, and the left hand is clenched in the direction of the impenitent sinner.

The statues of the Angel Victor and St. Lazerian and St. Conleth rest on the many-angled base of the pulpit which rests on a block of dark Belgian marble. The many-angled pedestal is an admirable example of the finest joinery work. The figures of angels on two sides of the sounding-board represented in the act of blowing trumpets are an allusion to the

words of the Psalmist: "Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth: and their words unto the end of the world."

The work was executed by medieval artists under Mr. Buckley's direction in their studio at Bruges, the well-known artistic city of West Flanders. The pulpit is a worthy memorial to Dr. Comerford, who did so much to beautify the Cathedral, from the people of Carlow. No Cathedral or Church in Ireland possesses such an exquisite work of art.

On the front of the pulpit is a brass tablet with the Latin inscription which rendered in English is:—

Pray for the soul of the Most Rev. Michael Comerford, Co-adjutor Bishop Kildare and Leighlin, who died on the 19th day of August, 1895, in the seventh year of his episcopacy and the sixty-fifth year of his age. May he rest in peace.

THE CONSECRATION

In 1922 the Cathedral was painted, but in a different style from that of 1894. The present mural paintings on canvas were then put in. In 1933 the Cathedral was painted in preparation for its Consecration on November 30th, 1933, by Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, the Bishop. Dr. Cullen's intention was to have the Cathedral consecrated to commemorate in a most solemn manner the centenary of its opening by Dr. Doyle on the first Sunday of Advent, 1833. On the first Sunday of Advent, 3rd December, 1933, Solemn High Mass, at which Dr. Cullen presided, was celebrated in the Cathedral, thus commemorating in a very solemn way the Centenary of its opening. An eloquent sermon was preached by Rev. James Foynes, Bursar, St. Patrick's College.

In 1944 the great new organ was erected in the Cathedral to replace the one which was erected in 1855. A considerable portion of the original organ was used in the structure of the new instrument by the contractors, Evans and Barr of Dublin. The new organ is electronically operated, and there is a second manual at the rere of the High Altar which operates the new instrument.

In 1949 the Cathedral was painted. The life-size marble statue of St. Patrick next the Sacred Heart altar is a memorial to the Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of the Diocese from 1896-1926. It is the gift of the priests of the Diocese. In 1936 a beautiful stained-glass window of St. Anne was erected in the nave opposite to Fr. Butler's memorial window. In 1952 a marble statue of Our Lady was erected over the main doorway of the Cathedral to commemorate the Definition of the Assump-

tion of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.

Thus each successor of Dr. Doyle has, through the generous benefactions and contributions of the people

of Carlow, done much to beautify the Cathedral and has shown his love for "the beauty of God's House and the place where His glory dwells."

CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATORS



VERY REV. P. GORRY, P.P.
(Adm., 1906-15)



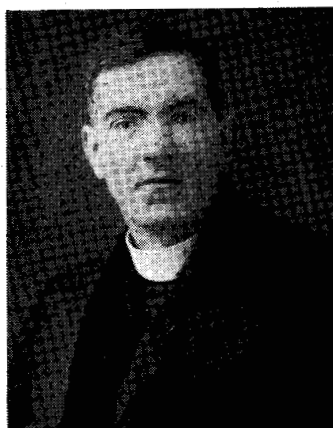
VERY REV. J. J. DUNNY, P.P.
(Adm., 1930-40)



LATE V. REV. A. LYNAM,
P.P., V.F. (Adm., 1915-22)



RT. REV. MSGR. W. MILLER,
P.P., V.F. (Adm., 1940-47)



VERY REV. J. KILLIAN, P.P.
(Adm., 1922-30)



VERY REV. D. B. KENNEDY
(Present Administrator)

ADVERTISING IN THE 1850's

By L. D. BERGIN

OLD advertisements give a certain sidelight on social conditions. A hundred years ago there was no shortage of them, set no doubt with less display and illustration, yet for all that, standing-out by virtue of their serious claims to attention.

There is no music-shop in Carlow to-day. The last one I remember was Mr. J. Craig's in Gale's premises, now Godfrey's, in Dublin Street. This time one hundred years ago Thomas Price, proprietor of the *Carlow Post*, was advertising in detail in his own newspaper a great variety of sheet music. He lists half a column of this in closely-set type, including songs by Leigh Hunt, Henry Bussell and Eliza Cook. Daudson's cheap music instruction books include, I notice, Czerny's 101 exercises (of painful memory), various tutors and Catechisms of Music. Also stocked was a shilling book with "all the leading pieces from *The Barber of Seville*, *Norma*, *Der Freishutz*; *Don Giovanni*, *Lucia di Lammermuir*, and many others.

Vocal duets from Mozart's *Magic Flute* were three for three pence. For the same price you could have solo songs which included *Live and be Happy*, by Donizette, *Never Go Dreaming Aloud*, a comic scene for domestic parties.

NEW AND CHEAP MUSIC is the introductory line of an advertisement which announces Daudson's Musical Dictionary, printed by the patent process which won a large medal at the Great

Exhibition for its mathematical precision, elegance and accuracy, studiously adapted for family use by the rejection of all ribald songs and libidinous prints.

* * *

TO BE PRESUMED

Musical education was advertised in November, 1853, by George Louis d'Aubertin (organist to Carlow Cathedral and College). d'Aubertin gave piano, organ and singing instruction, and taught composition in Carlow, Kilkenny, Bagenalstown, Tullow and Athy. "From his having been early and long an apprentice, Assistant and lecturer to Messrs. Logier and Kalkbrenner, it is to be presumed that his experience must be extensive, and his system well-founded."

In the same issue W. Graham, Burren Street, had "TWO SPLENDID CHANDELIERS for sale, WITH BRANCHES FOR SIXTEEN CANDLES, which would be useful ornaments for any place of worship or public building where gas cannot be supplied."

FASHIONS

Ladies, according to another announcement, were wearing Autumnal novelties "embracing all the latest emanations of Parisian designs, Paris bonnets, ribbons and embroideries, Robes de l' Imperatrice, Eugenie. Paisley and Edinburgh shawls, with a stock of mourning garb replete in all useful as well as fashionable appendages."

Italian kid gloves were then selling at 1/- a pair.

On 3rd December, Byrne and Co., Castle Street, Car-

low, included in their stocks tweed and friezes, flannels and vestings, French beaver, silk and jerry hats of newest shapes and texture.

DANCING, TOO

Mr. Magrath, in the same month, had the honour to intimate that to meet the views of many whom his engagements prevented from attending privately, he would open a select public dancing class on his next visit to Carlow on Monday, 12th Dec.

An advertisement for a NEW WEIGHING MACHINE, BUTTER CRANE, CARLOW, was published that same December.

John Byrne, Proprietor, begged leave respectfully to apprise farmers and others that he had fitted an ouncil of the newest construction . . . to ensure the utmost confidence between buyer and seller. Terms of weighing: a horse load, 2d.; an ass load, 1d.

BAKERS INDICTED

At the end of 1853 a controversy arose in the *Carlow Post* about the price of bread and the bakers of Carlow issued a statement, a manifesto, according to the *Post*, which was couched in very uncivil terms. The bakers claimed that the highest price for a 4 lb. loaf "in the season" was eight pence.

What interests more, however, is that there were no less than 18 bakers' names appended. For your information: Stanley Johnson, Luke Abbott, Patrick Lowry (junr.), Jas. Warren, Michael Dowling, Thomas Doyle, Pat Power, P. Bolger, Patrick Mulloy, Patk. O'Farrell, Barbara O'Farrell, John Crowe, Thos. Crotty, Thos. McGrath, Philip Nolan, W. Brennan, Henry Vaux, Patk. Lowry (senr.).

A notice appeared on 21st January, 1854, announcing the letting to Grocers and Provision Dealers of "that

commodious house and premises Tullow St. (corner Staplestown Road) as lately occupied by Mr. Michael O'Meara in which he carried on an extensive grocery trade."

Tenders were invited the same week by the Town Commission for the erection of 20 lamp-posts with lamps and fittings and for lighting seventeen with gas and the other three with oil. In curious juxtaposition is an advertisement offering five shares in the Carlow Gas Company for sale.

Mr. William Chambers, Saddler and Harness-maker, within two doors of the Market Cross, in an announcement on March 11th, 1854, took leave "to inform the public that he is prepared to execute any orders entrusted to him in the best

manner and without delay or disappointment."

While the owner of the *Post* advertised Crabb's pencils made for use and not for ornament. "... In use since 1818," said the advertisement, "they may be had from all respectable stationers. — Sold by T. Price."

On the first of April—no joke we hope—a notice appeared announcing the Zoological assemblage of WILD BEASTS, birds, reptiles and monsters of the deep, the property of Wm. Manders.

Lately added a hippopotamus (the only living specimen in Europe).

Mr. M. has engaged, at immense cost, that enterprising and daring individual Maccuino Ceur de Leon, who, fearless of danger, will enter the den of the noble African

lion and cause him to crouch like a tender lamb and fondle his keeper (forgetful of his savage nature).

Also listed as attractions: The Alpaca from Chile and the Iceland Foxes from the chilly North. Laughing, striped and untameable hyenas from Abyssinia.

An entire caravan is fitted up for the gambols of the monkeys, headed by Great Pongo — "the Ethiopian Savage." See the horned horse of India, formerly the property of the late Earl of Derby.

A topical note is provided in the market prices in December, 1853. "As usual," says the Dublin market report, "at Christmas a small advance is noted in the price of eggs, 7/6d. wholesale and 8/4d. retail per 124."

AN EXILE RETURNED

Michael Corr, an Alderman in Kent, England, came back last summer to see his old haunts in Carlow

BELLE GROVE, Kent, is a good step from Carlow, but the memory of the native town will never be erased from the mind of Michael Corr.

An Alderman and Mayor of the Borough of Bexley, Kent, he lived as a boy in the Governor's house of Carlow Jail. Son of John Corr, the caretaker of the Jail—now Messrs. Thomas Thompson and Sons, Ltd., Hanover—our friend from Kent wrote to congratulate us about *Carloviana*, which he has enjoyed.

Some time ago, he wrote to us last February, a copy of *Carloviana's* first issue reached me in a roundabout way from a good friend, and

what memories it evoked. The years were rolled back and I was once again a child in Carlow at the latter end of the last century.

Although I was born in the Co. Tyrone, my family moved to Carlow when I was about two years old. How vivid and clear are the recollections of childhood and how vague we are about what happened only a few years ago!

One of my earliest memories was of a big political meeting in Potato Market when feeling was running high between Redmondites and Parnellites. I remember worming my way through the dense crowd until I got almost underneath the plat-

form and gazed up into the face of John Redmond. What "ructions" there were in the town later. But let us leave politics and drift back to the days of long ago.

My first twelve years in Carlow were spent in "Jail"—yes, it is true, and they were the happiest years imaginable. We lived in what was the late Governor's house in the old jail which subsequently became the property of Fred Thompson and his Foundry. As I have said, those were happy days, we made all our own fun and amusements; there was even a Dramatic Society which produced a play called "Pepper Pot's Little Pets."

What names spring to my

mind: the Gartlands, Hopkins, Nevins, Brophy, Quinn, Furrs, Buchanans, Kellys, Bruens, O'Rourkes, Cullens, and, alas, many more that I have forgotten. There were no cinemas, telephones, wireless, radio, motor cars nor bombs—atomic or otherwise. All our fun was self-made—dances, social gatherings, games, etc. I was a member of the old Valetta Dance Club that used to meet in the old Assembly Rooms owned by Jimmy Moore in Dublin Street.

Football Games

And those famous football matches when Cloch played the Quarries, or Bridewell Lane challenged Coal Market. We usually invaded some field, and every lad in each street turned out to make up a side, often some 40 or 50 of us racing after the ball—no one would ever accept the role of goal-keeper; in fact, we rarely had such impediments. Frequently there would be a shout, "Here comes old So-and-so," and whole field disappeared as if by magic as the indignant owner rushed on to the scene. A favourite rendezvous was a field at the end of Montgomery Street belonging to a gentleman known as "Melt" Byrne.

First Freewheel

Another early recollection was the first motor race for the Gordon-Bennet Trophy. It is amusing to look back and see the competitors racing in from the Athy Road doing at least 35 miles per hour and their engines smoking hot. Carlow was check point where they filled up with petrol from cans whilst attendants poured water over the wheels to cool the axles, etc. How we have progressed in the

matter of speed from those days. I well remember the sensation when Mr. Fred Thompson rode the first free-wheel bike, and Abie Connor the first motor-cycle—an old B.A.T. with a wicker side-car.

I see you credit Mr. Lowry (Rate Collector) with teaching a lot of youngsters to swim. It must have been before my time, because the one—*par excellence*—of swimming teachers was a very saintly little man called Luke Daly, or, as he was affectionately known, "Lukee Daly." This good soul regularly in the summer months took a troop of us youngsters up to the River Burren to swim. We all entered the water *puris naturalibus*, but Luke, as a Christian gentleman, always wore a small V-piece as a tribute to the conventions.

At that time there was a small farm up there occupied by a man called Frank Murphy and his wife, and known by the name of "Yellow Cod." We young scamps often plastered our bodies with the soft clay from the bank until we looked like niggers, and then raced across the fields until we got a safe distance away from the house, when we yelled, "Old Yellow Cod." The lady herself eventually emerged armed with a pitchfork and chased us back to the river. Our clothes were already safely parked on the far side and she was too economical to throw the fork at us, but she made up for this by the flow of her abuse. Needless to say, dear little Luke took no part in these unpardonable escapades.

He was sent to Graigue

My first school was St. Joseph's up near the Railway Station. Here the nuns of the Mercy Convent took us at the tender age of three years, and kept us until we were five. The next step in the educational ladder was the Christian Brothers in Chapel Lane, now College Street. In my case, for some reason unknown to me, I was sent to Graigue School and there we acquired knowledge from those two famous teachers, Dan and Jim Fenlon. What we did not absorb freely was injected with the cane or a stout stick.

The technique by modern standards was rough, but we did acquire some knowledge.

I never enter one of our modern schools here in Bexley without contrasting it with Graigue. Here we have palatial buildings, grand and spacious, with every modern equipment and costing about £85,000 to build. Still I often doubt if the taxpayer gets as good value for his money as the supporters of Graigue with all its austerity.

Although the cane was never spared in those days we never harboured any ill-feeling towards our teachers—quite the contrary. The two Fenlons will always occupy a revered place in my memory. God rest their souls.

Then he came back and this is what he wrote

We have replied to Mr. Corr, who subsequently visited Carlow last August. He called to see us, but we were away and unfortunately missed him. We hope he comes again.

He wrote to us in September, and his letter is a sort of pig postscript to his contact with *Carloviana* and later his return to Carlow.

This is what he wrote:

After a stretch of some fifty years I found great changes in the place. It is obvious that the town has expanded and developed greatly, all the grand new houses bear testimony to the good work your local Council has put in the years gone by. They deserve great credit, although I must confess that I had feelings of regret when I saw only the foundations of poor old Mary Carey's house at the corner of Bridewell Lane. My mind went back to the days when Mary and old Dick raised a large family in that delectable spot.

I took my wife and daughter to see what was left of the Old Jail and the house we lived in. The latter is about the only part left of the original buildings. The young man who showed us around was, I am afraid, rather shocked when I pointed out to him that his present quarters were once the "condemned cell" where the unfortunates spent their last night before execution. An elderly gentleman who came along was also surprised when I told him that his factory covered the graves of eight persons executed in those far off days.

Talking of graves, we spent a very interesting afternoon in the Cemetery where I was able to find many old friends. I should like to pay a tribute to the way the place is kept; it is a credit to those responsible. Even in this solemn place I dutifully knelt at the graves of Dan and Jim Fenlon and said a humble prayer for both these grand souls.

The one thing that saddened me was the state of the Rivers Barrow and Burrin. How neglected and choked with undergrowth they looked. Even when I was a small boy there was everlasting agitation about the "Barrow Drainage Scheme," whatever has happened to it. In those days John Bull used to be saddled with the blame for this. Who wears the saddle now? The present state of affairs reflects badly on the riparian authorities concerned.

Another thing that struck me very forcibly everywhere we went was the abnormal number of Chemists' shops in every town and small village, and they all seemed to be doing very well. The only explanation I got was from a friend in Dublin. He said it was entirely due to the sale of cosmetics for the ladies. In the case of the Irish girls I think this is a case of "painting the lily."

Before I wind up, may I thank you for your great kindness in sending me *The Nationalist and Leinster Times*. Like everything else, it has changed profoundly from the days of long ago. It is much better printed and the news presented in an agreeable way. I like your "Leaders" and views on international affairs. Alas, here in England it is very difficult to get a newspaper with an unbiased point of view.

A word of thanks to all

This is an appropriate corner to say thanks to all who helped in the big job of editing "*Carloviana*." The Society is greatly indebted to Father Francis Hickey for his monumental article which he agreed to write for me on the Cathedral, and to John Monahan for his contribution. Donald Godfrey and Pat McCormaic have given great help with the photographs and need I add the name of our esteemed member John Ellis who has fathered this issue through the press. We are printing 1,000 copies of this issue.—Liam D. Bergin.

OUR COVER PICTURE

The picture on the cover is an unusual view of the spire of St Mary's Church taken through an old archway of the Canal Company's disused premises on the Graiguecullen bank of the Barrow. The photo is by P. McCormaic.

Highlights of Last Year

By P. J. GINNANE

WE had more or less gone to press last November when Carlow gave Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York a liturgical reception at the Cathedral. The red carpet was really down.

The Cardinal's visit was beamed on Ballon and Kildavin, the homes of his ancestral grandparents, and he was obviously moved as he stood bareheaded at the family grave in Kildavin.

In the afternoon the Cardinal—a colleague of the Pope and his firm friend—spoke at the Liturgical reception in Carlow Cathedral, where he was introduced by Bishop Keogh.

Another notable visitor during August to St. Leo's Convent was a grand-niece of the Pope, Princess Ursula Pacelli.

In summer, too, came Cardinal MacIntyre, Archbishop of the rapidly growing diocese of Los Angeles. Visiting Irish seminaries on what he called a tour of thanksgiving for the missionary priests they had sent him, he moved on to Kilkenny.

The most impressive and spectacular event of the religious year was the great procession held in May through the streets in honour of the Marian Year.

Two presentations were made to the Cathedral to mark the Year of Our Lady now closing. A magnificent chalice was presented by the County Council staff in memory of the late and well-loved Secretary, Mr. P. A. Lawler.

Again in August, Father Francis Hickey of St. Patrick's, Kiltegan, now the last of his family, presented a beautiful replica of the de Burgo Chalice to the Cathedral in memory of his parents.

Another event of religious significance was the departure of those Carlovians who helped to make up the 250 strong diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in July, led by His Lordship Dr. Keogh.

For the first time in years the annual ceremony of Carlow College ordinations was restored to its full liturgical splendour with a mass ordination of thirty-four students at the Cathedral.

CULTURAL PURSUITS

Interest in music, art and the theatre has been well sustained in Carlow in 1954. The most frequent visitor was Dr. Brian Boydell, who gave five talks on music. He also arranged two visits of the Dublin Orchestral Players—an ensemble of fifty amateur players—founded in 1939.

Early in November, 1954, the

Arts Council arranged with the Music Association of Ireland to bring to Carlow the brilliant New London Quartet. This concert ranks without peer in the musical history of Carlow. The instruments used were a Stradivari violin dating from 1684; a violin by Joseph Guarnerious, made in 1732; a violin by J. B. Guadagnini (1757), and a Violincello by Dominicus Montagna (1733). Several hundred school-children gave the Quartet a great reception.

St. Cecilia's Choir came before the public with several choral works, including Bach's *St. Luke's Passion*, with Michael Ledwith, tenor, the guest soloist; and early this year the Cathedral Choir, directed by Dr. Seeldrayers, promoted a concert.

AN TOSTAL

The most notable single contribution of An Tostal 1954, which had a sunny opening on the Court-house steps, was a loan exhibition of 150 paintings. These were generously given by private collectors and arranged by the Old Carlow Society at the Deighton Hall. The President of the National Arts Council, Mr. P. J. Little, opened the Exhibition.

THE PLAYERS

Carlow Little Theatre Society is now an adult and domesticated group comfortably settled in its own home in Brown Street. The interior of the old house which the Society bought a few years ago is well on the way to complete renovation, and has now become a well-furnished club from which all the Society's influences emanate. This summer the exterior was attractively pebble-dashed and a stonecut of the Society's crest was set into the front wall. Plays put on included *Arsenic And Old Lace* and Myles na gGopaleen's *Faustus Kelly*. The one-act play, *The Marriage Plan*, written by Brian Drumm, a bank official, had the distinction of being the first original work of a member produced by the Society.

Anew McMaster played at the new Town Hall auditorium in the fall of 1953 and stirred our emotions with Shakespearean drama like *Othello* and *Hamlet*.

In the fall of 1953 a Branch of the Irish Film Society was formed.

Other Societies are thriving, and I believe the "Old Carlow" membership has now topped the hundred mark. The Gramophone Society is also pushing forward, while the Photographic Society helps to

illustrate this Journal.

Every year Carlow Arts Council awards prizes for Irish dancing and singing, poetry, drawing, painting and photography, musical composition and play-writing. The Council has now got the co-operation of the Department of Education in arranging concerts for school-children.

MORE HOUSES

In the recent past there have been notable building developments. The East has thrown its head on to the broad plain at Pollerton, where 200 houses have been built.

Another 200 are to be built in what is described as a model village at Graiguecullen, where the site is already developed and where it is planned to avoid ribbon building by breaking up the estate into small self-contained units with plenty of green spaces for grass banks, flowers and shrubs.

Already many of the old artisan dwellings, some of them built with thatch roofs 150 or 200 years ago, have been condemned and cleared and most of them will have become uninhabited after another few years.

The entrance to the town has been improved with the construction of a broad highway, equipped with carpet surface macadam, which extends to the Kildare boundary. Nor is this the only road improvement contemplated. In October we had a four day inquiry into a County Council plan to buy land and buildings along Bridewell Lane in the very centre of the town, across which the Local Authority wants to run a main East-West highway to take the traffic stress off Tullow Street.

On the Bridefell Lane thoroughfare, if it materialises, the County Council visualises a block of administrative buildings, a library and a Fire Station.

The Bridewell Lane proposal was, of course, strongly resisted by business interests and householders who would be affected. Most of them declined to negotiate on the terms offered by the County Council.

A growing school-going population raised its own problem. Late last year the Vocational Committee paid £400 for the Bank Field at the back of the Technical School in Dublin Street, so that the school can be eventually extended.

Last September the Administrator, Very Rev. D. B. Kennedy, called a public meeting

to launch an appeal for the £33,000 needed to build new schools for 300 boys and 200 girls. Work on the boys' school is to begin in the spring on a site adjoining St. Joseph's School at Railway Road, given by St. Patrick's College, but so far there has been no word about the site for the girls' building, which will replace the Presentation Convent Schools, condemned in the nineteen thirties.

Since our last issue the parochial clergy have moved into their new Presbytery built in Greenbank field and facing Dublin Road. The old Parochial House has been sold to the Co. Council and is now used as offices.

The Rowing Club's great June Regatta, with 21 crews, was the most notable event of the sporting year. Owing to ploughed fields, Kellistown point-to-point races were abandoned.

OAK PARK

Contrary to general opinion Oak Park estate was not acquired by force but by purchase by the Bruen family. Col. Bruen tried to buy Knockbeg to extend his estates but Dr. O'Keeffe, then President of Carlow College, got a Protestant solicitor from Dublin to bid against Bruen. The Colonel had hoped to build a bridge across the Barrow to Knockbeg.

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Tullow St., Carlow

Brian Cunningham

PHOTOGRAPHER

17 Dublin Street

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*Your Jeweller's knowledge
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- * Anybody can sell a clock, a watch, or a piece of jewellery, but the customer must depend on the salesman's guarantee that the articles are of the quality stated.
- * When you buy from a reputable jeweller you benefit from the long and searching apprenticeship he has served to the craft. One look is sufficient to convince him of an article's worth.
- * He won't guarantee goods unless he is convinced of their quality: he won't sell an article which he knows can't give satisfaction and service.
- * A qualified jeweller can be trusted to advise you honestly on the quality of the articles he offers for sale, because he knows that the satisfied customer is his best recommendation.

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problem

FOR LADIES—Coffrets by Elizabeth Arden, Yardley, Coty, Lenthalic, Melina, Gala, Max Factor, etc. Perfumes, Soaps and Talcum Powders by Eliz. Arden, Yardley, Coty, Chanel, Lenthalic, Saville, 4711 Coffret, Colognes, Lavender Soap, Dawn, Goya, and numerous other perfumeries; also latest novelties from 4/6. Hair brushes of all designs. Manicure sets, brush and comb sets, powder bowls, perfume sprays, trinket sets.

FOR MEN—Shaving sets, travel sets, electric razors, Rolls razors, badger shaving brushes, shaving bowls, wallets, hair brushes.

This is just a cross-section of our wonderful range. Be wise and see for yourself.

A. Corless, M.P.S.I., Ph.C.

McAnally Pharmacy
CARLOW

PHONE: 34

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PHONE : 159

GRAMS : SHAW'S, CARLOW

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To Old Carlovians

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congenial surroundings

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The Sportman's Bar

Proprietor: Patrick Keay
40 Tullow Street, Carlow

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OLD CARLOVIANS
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