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1953



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1953

by P. MacCormaic.

Journal of the Old Carlow Society
December, 1953
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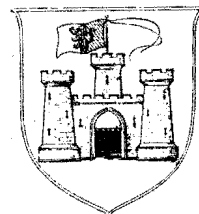
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Year of Progress

THE decision to publish *Carloviana* in a new format last year was taken with some diffidence. A Society concerned with the preservation of tradition does not break lightly with its own, and three excellent Journals had already been published.

The aim of the Old Carlow Society, however, is to interest all the people of Carlow and county in their storied past. Many people fought shy of a journal which they thought could only have a specialist appeal. Last year's issue dispelled that erroneous idea and won for the Society many new friends. It was realised that the Society's approach to history was far removed from the dusty answers carried over from the schoolroom.

Within a few weeks of publication not a copy of last year's *Carloviana* was left unsold. There were many appeals to issue a special Tóstal edition. The considerable preparation of text and illustration counselled caution, and we feel readers of this issue will agree that it was wiser to take time and maintain the high standard established.

During the year we had the whole-hearted co-operation of the Photographic Society, and some brilliant examples of the members' work may be seen in these pages. The photographic survey of historic landmarks which they carried out for our Society is of considerable value. Our excursions gave them further opportunities of building up a permanent record of the places visited.

Much has been said and written of the magnificent Old Carlow Exhibition assembled by Fr. P. J. Brophy and his helpers. It will suffice here to say that it, too, succeeded in convincing many how worthwhile is the work our Society is trying to do.

We would appeal to our fellow townspeople to follow up their pleasure in *Carloviana* and the Exhibition by joining the Old Carlow Society. Above all, we would urge the young people to give the Society their active support. We unveil the past that they may more proudly face the future.

AIDAN MURRAY,
LIAM D. BERGIN,

Joint Editors.

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Phil Kennedy

Over Our Shoulder

Val Vousden

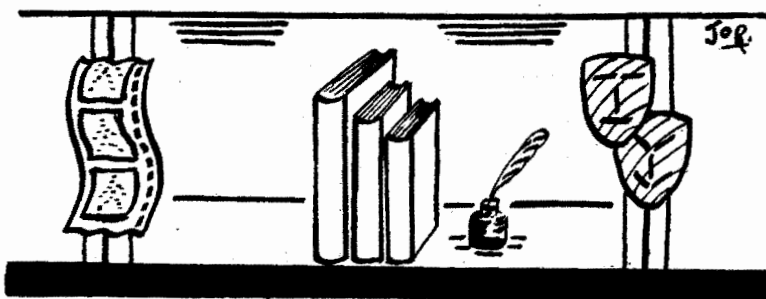
FOR one old Carlovian, now departed, all the world was, indeed, a stage, and his name was Bill MacNevin. His father came from Galway, and he often told how he could find his way around Connemara on the darkest night.

Bill was born in the shadow of the Cathedral, opposite the College gate. His mother was a Carlow lady. His uncle joined the Fenians and had to emigrate to America, and is buried in the Fenian plot in Calvary Cemetery, New York.

This is not to say that Bill followed the band of patriots in defiance of the foreigner. Far from it. His talents were reserved for the foot-lights, and it was as a strolling player and a character actor that he was widely known until his rather early death. If he did not reach the zenith of a player's ambitions it was not for lack of vocation, for since he was a mere "chisler" he had a natural gift for impersonation.

When Bill was six a dramatic troupe enjoying the name of *The Pepper's Ghost Company* came to play in Carlow. Bill, attracted to the Town Hall one day, was given the role of Tiny Tim, until Pat O'Toole, who owned the Imperial Hotel (Bolger's of Brown Street), happened to be in the Town Hall on business and, like a kind neighbour, lugged Bill away from the attractions of Bob Crachet's Christmas pudding.

At ten he was in demand as a juvenile entertainer, and frequently wandered into the College and entertained the professors with his precocious impressions of the local pulpit oratory. Already



A Memoir by
ALEC BURNS

Bill MacNevin was growing up, and the character we knew so well afterwards as Val Vousden was taking his place.

The Gaelic League used to meet then in the Catholic Institute, and as Mrs. MacNevin kept the keys, Bill was often deputed to let the boys in. Michael O'Hanrahan, one of the leaders of the 1913 Rising, and afterwards executed, was one. Others were Willie O'Neill, who owned the bakery now occupied by Miss M. Walsh in Tullow Street, and who was a poet of some distinction; Seán Kavanagh, a native Irish speaker and writer, and Tom Lillis, father of Colonel James Lillis of the Irish Army.

Bill served Mass in the Presentation Convent chapel. He afterwards recalled Mother Borgia, who used to tell him that College Street had nothing but whitewashed houses before the Convent was built. He often recalled Brother Cregan and his old black leather as an agent of classic education. Then there were P. C. Bergin and the late Ned Conlan who soldiered with Bill on many a dramatic adventure and saw him off to Mungret College.

Bill went through the hands of another well-known character of those post-Victorian days, Julia Kelly. Julia was the unofficial arbiter of elocution, dram-

atics, literature, painting and all the polite arts that flourished in her generation. She taught Bill and his pals songs and recitations, and even ballet-dancing was included in the course and was often rehearsed after swimming sessions up the River Burren in a place then known by the name of Kate Yalla Cod's bog at Paupish. In a house beside the Workman's Club Bill's juvenile troupe produced their "Dramas." The "theatre" was outdoor and the scenery, as in the early Shakespearean plays, was left very much to the imagination, though on one occasion a youthful member of the caste purloined a sheet from his father's bed to make a drop-scene.

It is understandable that a character of such imagination found the rather solid life of a scholar somewhat tedious, so after leaving Mungret College, Bill sought other fields of endeavour and joined the Royal Engineers to become a clerk in the pay corps. But that did not last too long either. He subsequently joined a touring company and adopted the name of Bartley Hynes, touring Ireland and England. It was there that he got most of his proficiency on the stage.

He came back in 1910 and appeared at the *Penny Readings* at the Deighton Hall, and on St. Patrick's Night of that year he produced an entertainment called *Art and Laughter* at the Town Hall. The troupe included Bill, the late "Nipper" Toole and J. J. Nolan of Graiguecullen who afterwards emigrated to

America and became, in that land of opportunity, the Irish Troubadour. Bringing up the band was another character from Monaghan who was christened Thomas, but was otherwise known as Kemenia Gormley, the Irish Kubelik, a violinist who is still in the land of the living.

Bill later joined the Carrickford Repertory Company and toured with them until the war came in 1914. Touring in Cardiff he joined the army in a moment of hilarity and saw service in France. One of his comrades, William McKelvin, was killed and the news somehow got back to England that it was Bill. Arriving back in Warrington on leave he visited a digs where he had stayed when playing in that city. Admitted by the maid he observed his picture festooned with crepe. "That's a man by the name of Val Vousden," she said, "who was killed in the war. He must have been a great fellow by all the talk I hear."

When he was demobbed he returned to Dublin and started with Roberto Lena's Company in Newbridge, which I am sure a lot of my readers will remember. He then went on to the Queen's in Dublin where he stayed for a season, after which he joined James O'Brien in the O'Brien and Ireland Company. He stayed for three years with this Company, going all over Ireland from town to town. He returned to the Queen's in Dublin on the invitation of John O'Sullivan, where he played with some of the leading actors, including May Craig, the Abbey actress, and P. J. Bourke, founder of Bourke's, the leading Stage Costumiers, and Peadar Kearney, later Author of our National Anthem; all wonderful people and friends he said, although in those days they often had to work 16 hours a day.

During one of his resting periods Val Vousden, as he

was now known, met Pearl O'Donnell, a Belfast actress, in Derry, and they were later married. She did Scottish turns, and they toured the country together, returning to the Queen's in Dublin. During the Black and Tan days, when on tour many theatrical companies secreted ammunition in the props for *Hamlet* and *Julius Caesar*. Once Val's troupe were caught with the stuff. On



THE OLD TROUPER

one occasion a Cockney Tan in Dunmanway thought he had a find, coming across the case of the producer, Ira Allen, he thought her Christian name had a deeper significance.

When broadcasting began under Seamus Clandillon, Val got in on the ground floor and continued right up to his death as a regular contributor to the programmes.

He was well known as a lecturer in elocution at many schools and colleges, where he gave three and four daily courses. One college friend remarked how the school would vibrate in joyful anticipation of Val's periodic visit.

While his family was young he made Belfast his home and while there formed a great friendship with the late Carl Hardebeck.

Val had the honour during the Eucharistic Congress of contributing at a special concert at which the visiting Bishops and Archbishops of the world were special guests. It was then the custom for the distinguished Churchmen to sit on the stage, with the result that Val was in the middle of his audience, as the stage was packed with prelates.

At one such concert afterwards being conducted by the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association all the artists happened to be members of the Association also, except Val, and when the late Fr. Flynn, President of the Association, rose to introduce him, he said: "And now we have Val Vousden, another of our"—he paused and laughed, then concluded: "another of our very old friends," and the audience rocked with laughter.

He left behind him many verses and monologues: *The Roads Around Rathoe*, *O'Sullivan at the Telephone*, *Mary McCarthy's First Visit to a Theatre*, *The Brown Blades*, and his summing-up of life, *When I Pass On*.

And there was the character of a priest's house-keeper, Josephine. It was into the priest's mouth that Val put the lines on which I close:

She used to hide my battered hats, and my old birettas, too;

Just when I had them broken in, they'd disappear from view.

I wondered where my wardrobe went till once by chance I'd seen

A tramp in full pontificals, supplied by Josephine.

He died on the 6th June, 1951. His funeral to Glasnevin was followed by a great host of troupers who regarded him highly. Oddly enough, his was the only funeral to Glasnevin on that 6th of June, a thing that had not happened for twenty years. So he certainly had the stage to himself.

THE history of a family brings with it the history of the time in which those people lived, and the longer the line of succession, the more we can trace. Families are like barnacles to the social historian, who is often not so interested in what his subjects were or are, as in what they did and how they did it; where they lived and all the details that help to bring us back in our mind's eye to the events that shaped our times.

Percy Poole writes about

The Burton Family

THE Burtons of Burton Hall, near Carlow, were of ancient lineage. There are, in fact, few Anglo-Irish families that can trace their origins back as far as the Burtons, long beyond the centuries that the family dwelt at Burton Hall.

The pages of Burke's *Landed Gentry* tell us that Sir Edward Burton, Knight of Longner, was, with Edward IV, successful in fourteen set battles between the Houses of York and Lancaster. For his great loyalty and services he was made Knight-banneret under the Royal Standard in the field. That was in 1460.

This Sir Edward was lineal ancestor of Edward Burton of Longrer, who died in 1588. Edward's second son, also called Edward, had two sons, Francis and Thomas. They settled in Ireland in 1610. Francis died without issue, but Thomas, who lived at Buncraggy, Co. Clare, married a Herefordshire lady named Anne Shepherd of Boycote. They had two daughters and an only son, Samuel, who married Margery Harris. He purchased portion of the forfeited estates of Daniel O'Brien, third Viscount Clare.

This Samuel Burton, who died in 1712, had three sons, Francis, Charles and Benjamin, and a daughter, Dorothea. Francis, the eldest,

married Alice, daughter of Thomas Tilson. Their son, another Francis, married Mary, daughter of Henry Conyngham, M.P., by whom he became ancestor of the Marquesses of Conyngham.

Benjamin, Samuel Burton's third son, became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1706. He also represented Dublin in Parliament from 1703 to 1723. It was under Benjamin Burton's auspices that a newspaper, *The Anti-Tory Monitor*, was published in 1712-13 to support himself and his fellow-candidates against the Tory candidates, Sir William Fownes and Martin Tucker.

This Benjamin Burton founded the famous Burton's Bank in Castle St. (Dublin). His extensive transactions in money and in estates gained for him a reputation of unbounded wealth, and gave rise to the expression "As safe as Burton's Bank," a simile of solvency.

When Benjamin Burton's partner, Harrison, died in 1725, the Bank's liabilities were found to be £65,000 greater than its assets, a very large sum in those days. Ben Burton took into partnership with him his own son, Samuel, and Daniel Faulkner, securing Faulkner against the above liabilities.

Three years later, however, in 1728, Alderman Benjamin died. The bank continued in

business until 1733, when, heavily indebted to the public, it stopped payment.

The legislature interfered and passed an Act the same year vesting all the real and personal estates of the bankers in trustees. In all, there were four Acts of Parliament passed concerning Burton's Bank, the last in 1757, four years after the stoppage. Creditors had by then received payment at 15 shillings in the pound, and payment of the entire principal was anticipated. The honour of the name of Burton was saved.

Reference to the failure of Burton's Bank is contained in the curiously interesting autobiography of Pole Cosby, Stradbally, Leix (Kildare Archaeological Journal, Vol. V). Cosby, returning from England after fifty days' absence, heard of the bank's failure and wrote in his diary:

On my arrival at home I immediately set about settling my affairs. My good friend, Lewis Moore of Cremorgan, Esq., took on him to receive all my rents except a few, and pay interest and manage my whole affairs and yet without fee or reward; and faithfully and kindly and friendly he did it: I did make him some presents. Mr. Cosby began to prepare for another journey to

England. He arranged that his steward, Will Holdbrooks, in his house should take care of it and manage his demesne of Stradbally and Knocknecarroll. Mr. Cosby was not prepared to trust any of his treasure to the care of a banker.

"The plate," he says, "which I did not carry with me, about £150 worth, I put into a large deal box and Will Holdbrooks and I that night before we went off buried it in the sellar under the big stairs next to the big parlour. My reason for hiding it in this manner was that perhaps had I entrusted it with anyone in the country some accident might have happened to it; nor did I think it much securer had I left it with a banker in Dublin; and by hiding it under ground I was sure to find it as I had left it, safe and unabated."

Cosby in his diary records the marriage of Margaret Meredith (her brother married Cosby's sister) to Charles Burton, third son of Benjamin Burton of Burton Hall in Co. Carlow, Esquire, late banker in Dublin in 1731.

"She had £1,500 to her fortune more than he did at that time deserve as most people thought, but turned out very well, for he (a merchant) was a clever managing man and is now (1737) very rich."

Benjamin Burton's wife— he married 16th May, 1683— was Grace, daughter of Robert Stratford of Belan, Co. Kildare, by whom he had six sons and six daughters. His eldest son, Samuel, was M.P. for Sligo in 1713 and represented Dublin city in 1727. He was High Sheriff for Carlow in 1724.

Samuel Burton's wife, Anne Campbell of Dublin, was accidentally killed by a fall from a scaffold at the Coronation of George I on 20th October, 1714.

Samuel's eldest son, Rt.

"The Post Chaise Companion Through Ireland" (1786) says:

"Three miles from Castle Dermot is Burton Hall, the fine seat of William Burton, Esq.

"The avenue that leads to this beautiful house is at least an English mile long, and the breadth large. On each side is a far extended wood, cut out with a variety of vistas. The house is built on an eminence which has a gradual ascent. The gardens are spacious and well planted. Behind the house lies a beautiful park of near two hundred acres, circled by a stone wall nine feet high, and well stocked. The fine vista here is terminated by a statue of a Gladiator. The wood in this spacious park upon any memorable occasion is illuminated. The beautiful cascade is adorned with elegant statues, some of which are originals brought from Italy.

"The Hall is spacious and built on a little river that divides the Counties, Carlow and Kildare."

Hon. Benjamin Burton, was M.P. for Knocktopher (1741) and for Carlow (1761). He was High Sheriff for Carlow (1763) and filled the lucrative post of Commissioner of the Revenue in Ireland. Married to Lady Anne Ponsonby (9th December, 1734) he had four sons and two daughters.

The eldest son of this alliance was William Henry Burton (married 12th Dec., 1765). He died aged 53 in 1818. He was a strong opponent of the Union. His grandson, William Fitz-

william Burton, Carlow's High Sheriff in 1822, succeeded him and married (1st July, 1825) Mary, daughter of Sir John Power. They had four sons and four daughters.

William Fitzwilliam Burton married secondly Eleanor Mary, daughter of William Browne of Browne's Hill. Dying 15th November, 1884, he was succeeded by his eldest son, William Fitzwilliam, High Sheriff of Carlow, 1849. He was twice married, and his eldest son and successor—the third heir of the Burton family to bear the Christian names William Fitzwilliam—married in 1887 Georgina, daughter of Captain the Hon. William Hy Gee Wellesley, R.N. This Burton was also High Sheriff of Carlow, 1910.

CHURCH OF THE WOOD

Burton Hall was built in 1730, the estate having been bought some years earlier. The lands were formerly known as Ballynakelly (the townland of the Church of the Wood). The Burtons, following the custom on the disappearance of the old proprietors of forfeited lands, substituted a more English name for their estate. Carlow was noted for the number of place-names changed.

John Loveday, an English tourist who travelled through Ireland on horseback in 1732 and came to visit his uncle at Brea, near Athy, wrote of Burton Hall that:

"The gardens are handsome, ye waterworks, though not large, are very pretty; wide shady walks between trees, a park beyond ye garden, a kitchen garden and fruitery to ye front of ye house."

A century later Lewis described Burton Hall:

"approached through a wide and long avenue of trees flanked with deep woods."

While yet another writer, Fraser, in 1854, considered Burton Hall :

"one of the oldest places in this part of the country and the only one laid out in the old, formal style of gardening."

The Burton family ceased to reside at Burton Hall from about 1865. The house was occupied by a Mr. and Mrs. Moore for about ten years afterwards.

It was subsequently let to Charles J. Engledow on a lease that would have expired about the year 1912. About eleven or twelve years before the lease was due to expire, Charles J. Engledow quitted the premises and went to live at Rostellan Castle, Co. Cork.

He was a Justice of the Peace and Poor Law Guardian for Co. Carlow, and was for some years M.P. for South Kildare in the Nationalist interest. He was also a member of the Grand Jury of County Carlow.

The residence had greatly deteriorated as it had been unoccupied for so many years from the time Charles J. Engledow had quitted.

Major W. Mainwaring, eldest son of William Fitzwilliam Burton, and his wife camped in the house for short periods in Summer time between the years 1922 and 1927 or thereabouts. These were the last members of the Burton family to finally occupy Burton Hall mansion.

About 1927 the Burton Estate was taken over by the Land Commission and divided up. The late Harman Herring-Cooper, who had acted as agent for Major W. Mainwaring Burton, purchased the Mansion House, garden, woods and two fields at the back of the woods comprising in all about 95 statute acres. The woods alone comprise roundly about 50 acres and are planted with many and various species of trees.

Through the kind permission of Mrs. Herring-Cooper, many members of the Old Carlow Society had the pleasure on an evening in the month of May (1949) of rambling through these woods.

Mr. Cooper partly demolished the old residence of Burton Hall for the purpose of obtaining some materials to help in the building of the two-storeyed house now standing in the walled-in garden which formerly belonged to the Mansion House.

He had such a keen desire for the beauty and peace of those woods that by his special request he was buried in a quiet spot at the end of the woods in a consecrated plot of ground now railed in. From this place there is a delightful view across the Counties of Kildare and Wicklow.

A secret safe was built in the wall of the Study of the Mansion House and covered over with panelling. There, the plate and other valuables of the Burton family were placed for safe keeping. This panelling as well as the four statues in the back of the house were taken down and sold by the Burton family. The statues were made of lead, not marble, and were evidently painted white as appears in the picture of the back of the house.

The front of the house was always considered to be facing the woods, all the principal rooms in the house

Gainsborough's Lady Ponsonby

In February, 1913, an action was tried in London for the recovery of a portrait of Lady Anne Ponsonby, painted by the famous Gainsborough, which it was alleged was removed from Burton Hall during the tenancy of Charles J. Engledow and subsequently sold at Christies in London under the instruction of Dame Leslie Allen, the Aviator, who was subsequently drowned while trying to fly the Irish Sea.

The picture, valued at 8,300 guineas, was produced in Court during the trial and was safely locked up each night.

Several persons from Carlow were examined as witnesses, and a Dr. Rawson, formerly of Trinity College, Dublin, travelled from France, where he was residing, to give evidence.

Sir Edward Carson had been briefed as Senior Counsel for William Fitzwilliam Burton, the plaintiff, but he fell ill at the last moment, and the brief was handed to F. E. Smith, afterwards Lord Birkenhead.

The plaintiff lost his case probably because the picture that turned up was merely a duplicate of the original, which most assuredly had hung in Burton Hall for so many years.

Timothy Healy, K.C., afterwards first Governor General of Ireland, appeared as Senior Counsel for Charles J. Engledow, one of the defendants, and a prominent English Senior Counsel named Mr. Duke acted for the other defendant, Agnew and Son, Art Dealers, Bond Street, London, who were the executors of Dame Leslie Allen.

faced that way. It is not known whom the statues represented. It is stated that some of them were originals brought from Italy.

In olden times the road across or at the back of the house was a purely private road known as the "Cross

Avenue," and there were gates at either end of it which were always kept closed against the public. However, some member of the Burton family decided to throw open these gates and allow the public to use the avenue without let or hind-

rance, consequently after a number of years the public acquired a right-of-way through the heart of the estate, so that any passer-by could, if he so fancied, sit down and rest and even have a good sleep on the very steps of the Mansion House itself.

Oars on the Feather

I recently culled these interesting lines from the Carlow rowing club from a scrap-book of the late Dan Fenlon, who for many years was principal teacher at Graiguecullen and had long associations with the Carlow Club.

Private boat-houses like those of Boake's, Corcoran's, Governey's and those of Arthur Fitzmaurice and William Clayton Browne existed before a club was formed in the town, writes Mr. Fenlon.

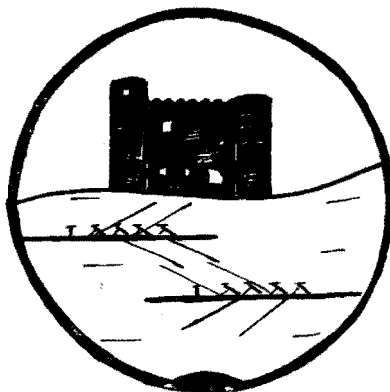
Graigue was represented in those days by Dan, Pat and Michael Foley. One of them, a keen oarsman, brought a boat-builder from London to build a pair-oared outrigger.

Early regattas were held between Cloydagh Church and Milford Weir. The course was later changed from Sandy Hills to Cox's Lane. A marquee for refreshments was usually erected on the grounds of Evergreen Lodge. After regattas it was customary to have a display of fireworks and rockets, and this was followed by a banquet and a dance for the crews and their supporters.

Mr. F. Barnes presided at a meeting on 5th April, 1859, convened to establish a Rowing Club in Carlow. Those present included Dr. Connor, Rowan McCombe, W. A. Cooper, Cooper Hill; D. H. Cooper, Hanover; W. R. Morris, Nathaniel Hone, Marquis of Kildare, W. A. Fitzmaurice, Kelvin Grove; W. Fitzmaurice, Everton;

H. Boake, W. H. Boake, Philip Palmer, Wm. Duggan, Joe Lynch, Hugh Doyle (Secretary); Geo. Bourke, Wm. Kelly, Wm. Jackson, John Keating, Jas. Hendriken, Geo. Langran, Thos. Spong, Dr. Heuston, Robt. Reid (Captain); Gordon Fishbourne, Jack Fishbourne, H. G. Hone.

On 8th May, 1859, the first meeting was held to establish a



regatta at the Corn Exchange, now the Deighton Hall.

By arrangement with Mr. F. Haughton the Committee took over a shed in Skinners Lane and fitted it out as a boat house for which funds were collected. Sir John Acton, M.P., presented a cup for competition. The cup suddenly vanished at one of the Milford Pool regattas and was never recovered. A Carlow oarsman sometime later saw it in a small

jewellers shop in Dublin. He tried to buy it but the shopkeeper refused to sell it.

About 1901-2 the Club was fortunate in having the Rev. I. Stewart and Rev. Radcliffe, members of Dublin University Boat Club. To these men may be attributed the prowess of the famous crew consisting of Robert Bell, (stroke); E. Boake, R. A. P. Orr, Wm. Duggan and T. White (cox-wain).

The crew won at Wexford, Waterford, Ross and Dublin and on their great record were invited as guests to the great Cork regatta of 1901, where they were beaten. A substitute took Duggan's place.

Mr. Fenlon who was vice-captain of the Club then writes that after that the oarsmen members of Carlow Club dwindled in numbers and for over 20 years there were no local regattas. The Club prospered and the thirty pleasure boats were in great demand. A boat keeper was employed to care for oars, sculls, skiffs and canoes. In 1908 there were 168 members.

Mr. Fenlon became a club member in 1881 and was assistant secretary to James R. Lawler, whom he succeeded on the latter's death. He resigned the secretaryship in 1931 after 50 years. The family connection is still maintained by Mr. William Fenlon, a nephew of the one we all knew as Master Dan.

The Smith of St. Patrick



By

M. F. Maguire

THE story of the smith of St. Patrick is the story of a saint—the man who gave his name to the place near Muinebeag we know as Killoughternane.

It is said that the name comes from Vortigern, a king of the Britons. His daughter Scotha married Feidhlimidh the son of Laoghaire, the High King of Ireland, and called her son Foirtcheirn, after her father.

When St. Patrick landed at the mouth of the Boyne he commanded his own sister's son, St. Loman, to remain there with the ship for forty days and nights. He remained a further forty days and nights in addition. Then, according to St. Patrick's command ^(1c) he set his ship up the Boyne till he came to Athruim in the mouth of the citadel of the High King's son.

While reciting the Gospel a youth whose name signified Overlord² or Victory Strength³ approached. He was Foirtcheirn, and he received the Christian faith when St. Loman opened a well in the ground and baptised him.

Foirtcheirn's mother, Scotha, who set out to seek him, was likewise baptised, and when she returned home and told her husband Feidhlimidh, he rejoiced and went to meet St. Loman. He asked the Saint about his religion and race, to which Loman answered: "I am Loman, a Briton, a Christian and a student of Bishop Patrick, who is sent by the Lord to baptise the people of Ireland and to convert them to the faith of Christ." Feidhlimidh at once believed. Foirtcheirn's brother Fear-

ghus, his two sons, Aodh senior and junior, and his daughter Lassara also received the faith.

Foirtcheirn remained with St. Loman and St. Patrick. He helped them to build a church in the twenty-second year before Armagh was founded, and thus Trim became the first bishopric to be erected in Ireland. Foirtcheirn gave up his patrimony, was eventually ordained a priest and advanced, we are told, in sanctity, sagacity and learning.

When St. Loman was dying he appointed Foirtcheirn his successor. But Foirtcheirn resigned after St. Loman's death, and Cathaldus, a Briton, became bishop of Trim.

In the time of St. Patrick no art was as widely practised as that of the smith. Its acme can be ascertained from the objects in the National Museum. Colgan relates that St. Foirtcheirn applied himself so well to this art in "Rath-Aidhne" that he was called the smith of St. Patrick. We do not know if it was before or after his resignation that he was in "Rath-Aidhne."

St. Foirtcheirn retired, after his resignation, to "Roscorensis" which became a place famous for sanctity and wisdom. Thence St. Finnian's parents were bringing the child Finnian to be baptised when they met St. Abban of Ross-mic-truin who baptised him. St. Finnian, afterwards of Clonard, was till he was thirty years

old a pupil of St. Foirtcheirn at this place. St. Foirtcheirn died circa 490 and lies buried in Trim.

We must now try and identify the places referred to in his life. Colgan equates "Roscorensis" with Cill-foirtcheirn,⁴ and O'Donovan in turn states that Killoughternane is Cill-foirtcheirn,^{4(b)} O'Donovan⁵ writes, "I am thoroughly persuaded that Cilluachtarnáin (O'Donovan's own spelling) is the church which was designated from St. Foirtcheirn and in which he was venerated on 11th October in Uí Dróna⁶ in Leinster." He does not give

FOOT NOTES

¹ Colgan: Acta Sanctorum Hiberniae, p. 364, c. 3.

^{1(b)} Ibid, pp. 364-5.

² Woulfe: Sloinnte Gaedheal is Gall, p. 533.

³ Colgan: A.A.S.S., p. 365, N.1.

⁴ Ibid, p. 365, N. 12.

^{4(b)} Archdall: Monasticon, p. 58, agrees.

⁵ Ordnance Survey Papers.

⁶ Martyrology of Cathal Maguire has for 11th October: "Foirtcheirn, son of Feidhlimidh, son of Laogaire, son of Niall, of Kill-foirtcheirn in Uí Dróna in Leinster and of Athrim in Uí Laogaire rested." Mart. of O'Gorman has for same day: "Bishop Foirtcheirn, disciple of St. Patrick, is venerated in Athrim in Uí Laogaire and Kill-foirtcheirn in Uí Dróna in the Kingdom of Leinster."

⁷ Martyrology of Donegal.

⁸ Four Masters.

⁹ Archdeacon.

¹⁰ Comerford: Collections of Kildare and Leighlin, vol. 3, p. 387.

¹¹ Ibid, vol. 3, p. 30.

¹² Ibid, vol. 3, p. 30.

¹³ Lanigan: An Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, vol. 1, p. 427.

¹⁴ Ibid, vol. 1, p. 466.

¹⁵ Ibid, vol. 1, chapter 8, sect. 16.

us the reasons for his opinion. However, modern Irish scholars disagree with O'Donovan's translation. If a person with even a meagre knowledge of Irish heard the natives pronounce the word Killoughternane he would be forced to accept Cill Uachtar Fhionnain, i.e., the Upper Church of Finnian. The word *uachtar* is necessary to distinguish this church from Cill Fhionnain in Leighlinbridge parish. Undoubtedly the church in Killoughternane is very old as it dates back to the 5th century. It is possible, but unlikely, that Killfoirtcheirn was changed to Cill Uachtar Fhionnain in honour of St. Finnian of Clonard, the tutor of the Saints of Ireland.

Roscurensis would remind one of Rosacurra (Ros a Cuirraigh) in Forth O'Nolan, but if this be correct, as it is believed, it cannot be Killfoirtcheirn in Uí Dróna, but would be another foundation of St. Foirtcheirn. There is now no trace of any church ruins in this townland.

In 634 on June 12th St. Torannan,⁷ Abbot of Bangor (Co. Down) and of Tulachfoirtcheirn in Uí Feidhlimeadha Thuaidh, died. In 1050⁸ Diarmaid Ua Cele Airchinneach⁹ of Tulachfoirtcheirn and Achadh-abhall (Aghold) died. Tulachfoirtcheirn later became Tulach Uí Feidhlimeadha and is our present Tullow. Comerford¹⁰ says that Tulachfoirtcheirn got its name from St. Foirtcheirn. This may be the case, but it is not Killfoirtcheirn in Uí Dróna.

We now come to "Rath-Aidhne," where St. Foirtcheirn was a smith. The Diocese's historian connects this "Rath-Aidhne"¹¹ with Rathedon (Rath Aedain) formerly in the parish of Leighlinbridge, now in Muinebeag parish. Rathedon received its name from one of its Rathes which

ECLIPSE

*I saw the moon's pale face
lean back
from a sponge of cloud, and
arms
of light draw tight on nails of
stars;
and that was pain.*

*I saw the same drawn face
grow black
as a clotted vein when the
earth
had tourniquied its source of
light
and that was death.*

*I saw the earth's shadow con-
tradict
the light of sun, and passing
between
the sun and moon it formed
a cross;
and that was hope.*

appears to be the residence of the Lords of Uí Dróna. Sometimes we meet with townlands that have two or even more distinct names, e.g., Dunore, also known as

Kilmolappogue. In 1839 a portion of a very old church was standing in Rathedon,¹² which was perhaps the remains of Killfoirtcheirn in Uí Dróna.

Dr. Lanigan¹³ writes that if the "Tripartite" and Jocelyn, are correct, St. Foirtcheirn lived in the time of St. Patrick. But since he was a disciple of St. Loman of Trim he could not have lived so early, as St. Loman lived in the seventh century. Concerning Bishop Foirtcheirn¹⁴ he says that if he existed in the time of St. Finnian of Clonard he must have been different from St. Foirtcheirn of Trim,¹⁵ and was in all appearance the one of Killfoirtcheirn. It is quite possible that there were two saints of the name whose lives got fused into one. Since the intelligentsia cannot agree about St. Foirtcheirn, I shall not presume to sit in judgment on the matter.



*The stones at St. Mullins give testimony of the days of great glory.
Photo by Geo. Kellett.*

BOATS ON THE BARROW

T. P. Hayden tells the story of navigation on the river after 1792. In his article in the last issue he traced the history of the Barrow navigation since earliest times. In mediaeval days the river was navigable from Portarlinton to its debouchment at St. Mullins.

Trade was carried on in small flat-bottomed boats, called clarachawns, which carried a load of about four tons.

New Ross was in those days the port for the Leinster trade, and Waterford the outlet for that of Kilkenny and the Suir.

EARLY in the 17th century New Ross began to decline, and in 1686 Waterford was granted control of the tidal portion of the Barrow. I mention this to stress that the trade of the area served by the Barrow navigation was with Waterford and not, as to-day, with Dublin. I would also like to stress that this article is not meant to be a history of the Barrow Navigation Company but just a story of the boats that plied their trade on the river.

It was in 1792 that the Barrow Navigation Company was incorporated by an Act of Parliament, with a capital of £50,000 in shares of £50 each. The object of this was to canalise the river and make it navigable for boats carrying up to 40 tons. The Barrow was to be linked up with the recently built Grand Canal at Athy. This canal made it unnecessary to canalise the Barrow above Athy, and the stretch of river above the town became disused for navigation.

This work of adapting the Barrow covered the building of locks and weirs with which most of us are familiar.

In the thirties of the last century the river-bed below Clashganny was deepened by the blasting of the rocks which obstructed navigation.

By T. P. HAYDEN

KILLESBIN

About the same time the new lock below Carlow was built. Apart from these and other minor works, the navigation works remain unchanged since they were completed in the last decade of the eighteenth century.

After 1792 the Barrow Navigation Company were proprietors of the river navigation from Athy to St. Mullins. Trade was carried on by independent boat owners, and the Company derived its revenue from tolls. Carlow was the Company's headquarters. At Athy, Bagenalstown and Graignamanagh the Company's representatives, or collectors, gathered the tolls.

HAND WROUGHT

The boats were expensive, because all the iron work had to be wrought by hand and gave considerable employment. There were dry-docks at Rathellen, near Bagenalstown, at Graignamanagh, and at Carlow for carrying out repairs. These docks have been disused for many years, and all repairs are now carried out in Dublin.

Bargees and men around waterfronts do not, as a rule,

bear too good a reputation in all countries. Barrow boatmen were an outstanding exception. They were highly respected and there was never any crime on the river.

The boat-owners took pride in describing themselves as boat-men. It is interesting to observe that the old English word for ship-owner is a ship-man, and presumably boat-man meant the owner of a boat. As the name was highly esteemed, one presumes that it was the designation of the merchant boat-owners, who operated fleets of clarachans in the pre-canalisation days.

Before the days of the steam engine the boats were provided with long sweeps or oars for propulsion in the tidal waters, and a small square sail was set on a mast stepped forward. The mast could be lowered and removed when not in use.

The crew of a Barrow boat was two men. The rudder was lashed and the two men worked the oars. If the wind was favourable the sail was hoisted and, as the boats always travelled with the tide, this method of travel served well enough.

Privately owned, or "hack" boats used sails and oars as late as 1914.

Until the railways came, the private boat-owners appear to have enjoyed a



period of unexampled prosperity. In 1850 the railways were extended to Carlow. An old boatman who as a child had seen the Grand Canal Packet Boats arriving at Athy, often told the story of the desertion of the river that took place after the railway arrived. Now only an occasional boat passed where but a short while before there were whole trains of laden barges travelling to and fro.

The Directors of the Barrow Navigation Company saw that their undertaking was in danger of being superceded. The railway began the end of the private boat-owner, and the Navigation Company, in order to preserve their revenue, decided to run boats themselves for cargoes. They bought from the private owners the best boats on the river. They erected stores for goods and stables for horses at various points. Collectors at Waterford and Ross were made agents who dealt with traffic like the railway goods agents.

On the tidal waters the boats were towed by steam tugs, but they were too long for the locks and could not ascend the river beyond St. Mullins. About 1902 these tugs, trailing six or seven barges, were replaced by steam-driven wooden barges. These boats were not suitable on the Barrow. They were very dirty and dangerous, as many men lost their lives when they came suddenly on deck, blinded

SOME stories may give the impression that the boatmen of old were inordinately addicted to pilfering. The reverse was true. Many boatmen preserved goods from damage by taking special care of them. What gave rise to a lot of stories about pilfering was the fact that in warm weather casks of ale or porter had frequently to be vented and some of the contents drawn off to prevent them bursting. This practice had the tacit consent of the owners who were only too glad to receive their goods undamaged even if a little under measure.

by the glow of the furnace below they frequently lost their footing and fell overboard.

On the whole, there were few accidents on the river, as the men were very experienced. Navigation in the lower reaches of the river required ability, and the Graig boatmen were classed as skilled workers. An experienced boatman was really a river pilot.

Boatmen employed by the Barrow Navigation Company came mostly from Graignamanagh or Graiguecullen—then called Carlow-Graiguc. About 1870 the then Manager in Carlow, Rowan McCombe, had cottages built for the boatmen in both these places, and many of them are still inhabited.

To-day there are few boatmen from Graiguecullen, but the Graignamanagh men are still numerous upon the river.

No town on the river which supplied boatmen in past years has such a tradition of boating as Graignamanagh. In Graignamanagh

the business of the boatman has been held in peculiar respect, almost like a mediaeval guild. Generations of boat-people have inter-married, a feature of sea-faring and fisher communities in different parts of Ireland and elsewhere.

A further remarkable fact that for as long back as I can trace—that is 150 years—nearly all the boatmen have hailed from the western bank of the river and none from the Pale bank. This applies alike in Carlow and in Graignamanagh.

It is probable that the same was true in ancient times, up to the beginning of inland navigation in Norman times. In pre-Norman times, I have already shown that there was a considerable trade between St. Mullins and foreign ports. I suspect that when the Normans came they probably manned

Private boat-owners in these days were people of standing. They were all well-to-do and, in many cases, wealthy. Old people have told me that the river trade was then lucrative and the principal boat-owners had five or six boats each. Many of them were also corn buyers and malsters.

In Bagenalstown, the building in which the Bank of Ireland Agency is now located was originally built as the private residence of Mr. Singleton, a boat-owner. The Wards of Bagenalstown were also considerable boat-owners. There was one boat owned in Leighlin-bridge by a man named Washington.

Graignamanagh, from its location near the tidal water, took a leading part in the trade. Among the main owners were the Haydens and the Ryans. The former family once operated at least six boats.

their own ships and the Irish seamen became redundant. What is more natural than that they should have found employment as fishermen and longshore-men and on the newly opened river trade.

It seems safe to assert that in Graignamanagh, where there is such a strong tradition of boating, that the boatmen are the descendants of the boatmen of the middle ages.

Indeed, it would appear probable that they derive from the Irish seamen who manned the ships that sailed to Gaul and abroad in pre-Norman times. What makes this seem probable is that at the commencement of the present century a great proportion of the trade on the estuary was transacted by large luggers, called gab-bards (French *gabare*) whose home-port was New Ross. These probably sailed cross-channel in former days.

It seems significant that the Norman French term should have been applied to the sea-going craft, while the Irish word *clarachan* was used to identify boats used on the inland reaches of the Barrow.

During the period of the Barrow Navigation Company the river was kept clear by a dredge consisting of a leather bag let down into the water from a small wooden derrick or crane and operated by a windlass. This primitive contrivance was worked by two men. It was attached to an ordinary cargo boat. It is hard to

A CERTAIN boat when taking in cargo in Waterford in the eighteenth century received, among other items a strong, oblong, wooden case. It was consigned to an address in Dublin.

There was no indication on the case or manifest as to the contents. Nor could the boatmen learn anything about it, except that it had come from abroad.

Now, boatmen are always careful when loading and are anxious to know the contents of their goods. Two of the men examining the case in transit noticed moisture at the joinings. Rubbing some of it on his finger he smelt and tasted it and found it to be excellent rum. He promptly called his companion and they both deliberated as to the contents.

A queer way to send spirits, they agreed. But who knew what new-fangled methods were being adopted in foreign parts.

Such a merciful dispensation of Providence was not to be neglected. With the aid of a gimlet and a bucket they soon had a modicum of the contents for their delectation, which they voted to be the best of rum. Having taken as much as they

could with safety, they added some water to make good the extraction and sealed up the case.

Approaching Dublin they were met by a mounted groom inquiring if they had a case aboard. They said they had, and the groom turned his horse and galloped away. The men were puzzled until coming into the city basin they observed a hearse and a couple of carriages drawn up nearby with a number of grooms and gentlemen standing around. The two boatmen were transfixed. When the boat came alongside, the hearse drove over. Removing their hats, the grooms and gentlemen came aboard and to the horror of the boatmen took possession of the cask and bore it reverently away.

The story bears the marks of probability and dates from pre-rail days. The corpse was apparently shipped on a sailing vessel from some foreign place, perhaps Newfoundland, which had a trade with Waterford in those days of the early eighteenth century. Old-time sailors were very suspicious, and the presence of a corpse on board was regarded as very unlucky. So it was necessary to adopt some subterfuge to ship the pickled remains.

imagine how this could compare with the modern steam dredger. Strange to relate, this antiquated contraption kept the river open from 1792 to 1894. When the Grand Canal Company took over, the river was quite navigable.

Nowadays, the river below Carlow is all silted up and the navigation is imperfect. I have heard old river men say that the proper way to dredge a river is to remove the obstruction and allow the river to dredge itself. Many of these old-time dredgermen knew their river, and their knowledge was the secret of the Barrow Navigation Company's success in keeping the channel free for boats for over a hundred years.

When the Grand Canal Company took over the river in 1894 it was in their interest to facilitate trade

to and from Waterford, as the trade at that time was very extensive. It soon began to decline. In the '70s and '80s of the last century boat-loads of pigs were frequently shipped to Waterford. Pigs from Tullow used to be carted to Bagenalstown and shipped from there. This is the only livestock ever carried on the Barrow boats. There was never a passenger service on the Barrow, though in pre-motor days excursions by boat were popular. Considerable quantities of turf were carried by the privately owned boats up to recent years, but that trade has also declined.

As the Grand Canal Company was merged in 1894 with the Barrow Navigation Company, so in 1950 when Irish transport was brought under one wing called Coras Iompair Eireann, the Grand Canal Company and the

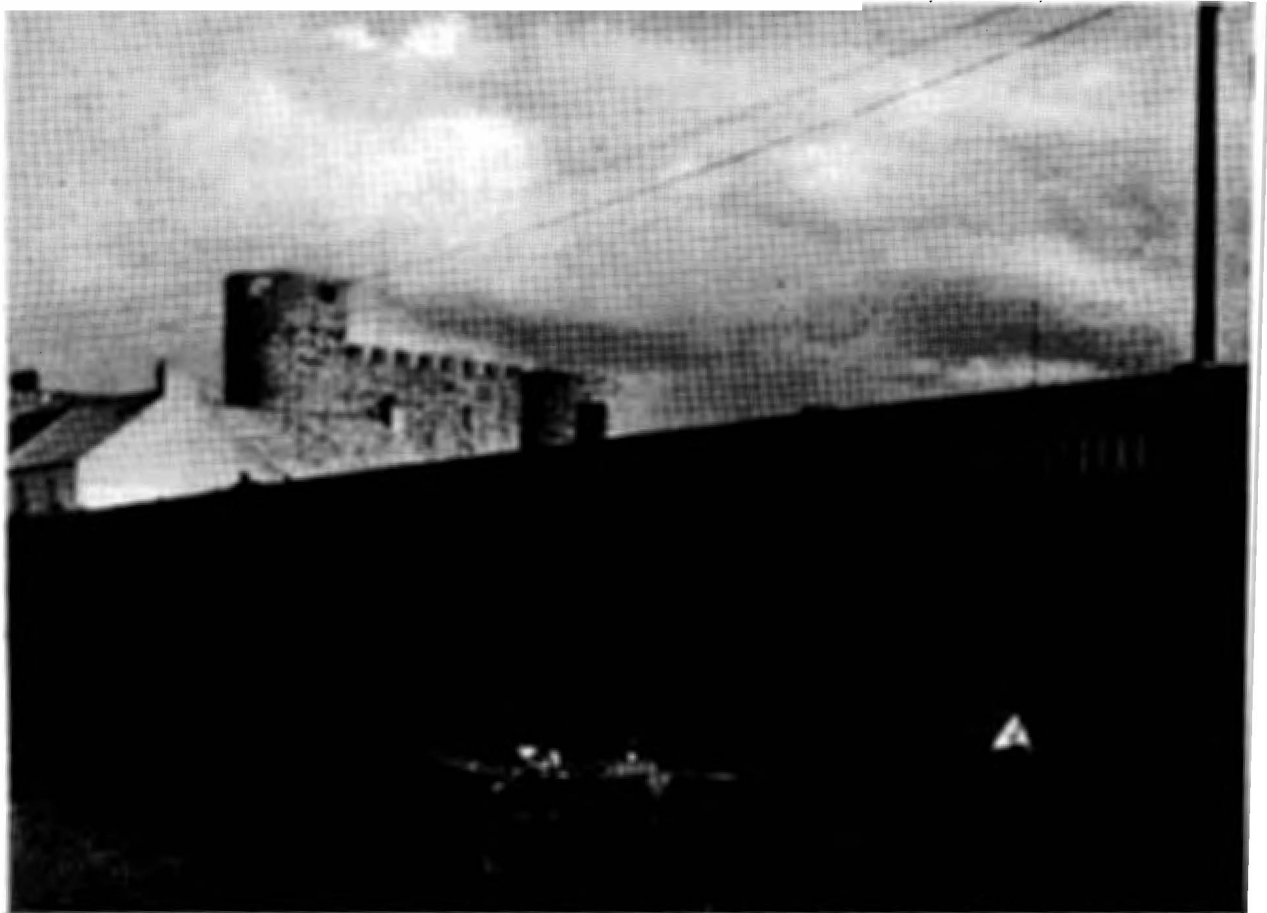
Barrow were acquired by the Government and placed under C.I.E.'s control.

Now C.I.E. can make what is in truth the assertion that one part of its undertaking dates back, tenuously perhaps, to the twelfth century.

The Barrow to-day is a problem. Navigation has grown less and less down the years, and this excellent and cheap means of transport does not seem to get the attention it deserves.

I do not wish to raise contentious matters. Suffice it to say that a study of past history might well assist the powers that be in solving their problems much more easily than most people imagine.

*Graigie bridge and the Barrow and Castle as they are to-day,
by P. MacCormaic.*



The time is the beginning of the sixth century. The place is the present parish of Castledermot. The man is Moran, a local farmer, journeying on horseback by Mullaghcreelan Hill.

What was this Castledermot of ours like one thousand four hundred stupendous years ago? What manner of man was Moran?

Visualise that distant era. The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland was not to take place for another six hundred years. It was more than nine hundred years before Columbus discovered America. There was no England then, no France, Spain or Germany: these countries were merely the disorganised provincial remnants of the broken down once mighty empire of Rome. It was almost four hundred years before the Irishman, John Scotus Erigena—the most distinguished scholar of his time in Europe—taught philosophy in Paris; and John Scotus is now dead for more than one thousand years. It was in the truly distant past—one thousand four hundred years ago near Mullaghcreelan Hill.

In appearance Moran was tall and sinewy. As was the custom he wore his hair long. It was parted in the middle and fell down on his shoulders and back. Across his forehead he wore a fillet or strip of woven cloth to keep his flowing locks in place. His moustache was an eye-taking affair, curled up and pointed at the ends. He wore a beard, forked and narrowing to twin points. Some of his neighbours favoured trim rectangular beards while others, more indifferent, allowed theirs to grow at will in one single mass. Though some were clean-shaven, it was a bearded age. Combs were of bone or horn and often were intricately ornamented.

Moran's horse had a flowing mane and tail. He used no saddle or stirrups but sat astride a sheep skin suitably

To-day the farmlands around Castledermot lie well-tilled to the eye beholding them from local eminences. Motor-cars and lorries snake along the roads. Tractors clatter in the fields. How different it was a thousand years ago

When Moran Rode by Mullaghcreelan

Specially written for Carloviana by Tadhg Hayden

fashioned and secured. He rode with a single rein; twin reins were used when driving chariots.

On his head he wore a conical hat with no brim. A thick woollen cloak dyed red and edged with fox fur—the skins of otters and seals being used for similar purposes at this time—hung from his shoulders. Under his cloak he wore a short tight-fitting jacket with sleeves but no collar. This jacket was green. His trousers narrowed at the ankles where they were secured by straps passing under his feet. He wore leggings of cloth fastened by laces topped with white bronze. His gloves were five-fingered. On his person he was wont to wear ornately carved pins and brooches. His buttons were of horn. His shoes were of soft pliable untanned hide. They had no heels. Like all men of his time he liked colour in his raiment and scorned sombre shades. He wore rings on his fingers—and would wear one even on his thumb. He owned a bracelet for his forearm.

His rings and bracelets were of standardised weight and were used as currency, as also were ingots of silver and Wicklow gold. His smallest unit of weight was a grain of the best wheat, and his unga was the weight of 576 such grains. A full

grown cow was considered the equal—for commercial purposes—of one unga of gold. A person who trespassed on Moran's land was

WOLVES AND WILD BOARS

THERE was no town of Castledermot then. The people lived on the land in houses that tended to cluster together. The place was well wooded. There was more marshy and unreclaimed land. There were wolves east of the Lir, and deer, wild boars and a plentitude of game everywhere. On the slopes and summits of places now known as Barnhill, Knocknagee, Moone Hill and Mullaghcreelan were the residences of the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes, chieftains of the locality.

There were roads—poor according to our modern standards but well cared for and up-to-date for their period. Their heaviest traffic was that of weighty farm waggons and springless chariots drawn by one or two horses; their upkeep was the responsibility of the clan through whose territory they passed.

Not so far away was Sli Dala—one of the five main roads of ancient Ireland—linking Tara and Ossory; and within a short ride from Mullaghcreelan was Ballaghmoone—whose name survives on a locality to this day—one of the thirty-seven link roads mentioned later in the Annals of the Four Masters. Bridges were chiefly of wood where they existed; the Lir and the Barrow were forded.

liable, according to the Brehon Laws, to the fine of one miach, *i.e.*, the contents of a standardised sack of wheat.

Moran was proud of his farm and house. This house was circular, unlike that of his chieftain, which was rectangular. It was of wood. Stone buildings, however, were quite common, the walls being of undressed stones skilfully fitted into each other, and the doorway (wider at bottom than at top) was surmounted by a flat stone lintel. But Moran clung conservatively to wood. As a young man he personally supervised the building of his future residence. The circular site was first marked out and strong poles—peeled, seasoned and polished—were driven into the ground. Twigs were then neatly and firmly intertwined among the poles leaving, of course, door and window space; and the whole was whitened with lime. The house was thatched. It had

only one storey, though two-storeyed houses with walls of planks, carved door-posts and oaken slates were in use among the chieftains.

In Moran's house were couches, low tables and moveable seats. He dined late, his principal meal being in the evening. He used a knife, no fork and a table napkin—the last being an obvious necessity in view of his custom of using his left hand in lieu of fork. His "house" was one roomed, being used chiefly for eating, sleeping and entertainment purposes. Cooking was done in a disjoined kitchen—a small building apart from but near the house.

On the sunniest side was yet a third habitable building—the Grianan or Ladies' Bower for the use of his women-folk. Kitchen, Grianan and house were near each other. Further apart was a kiln for drying corn, a sheep house, a pig house, a calf house and barn—all but the last two being oval or cir-

cular in shape. The rectangular barn was open on one side.

The whole collection of buildings was surrounded by a raised circular bank of earth in which was a stout high gate. On top of this earthen rampart was a palisade of stakes and thorn bushes. Outside, guarded by Irish wolf-hound at night, were the cattle and horses and full grown animals. Inside Moran felt snug and secure after dark as he drank a post-prandial measure of ale, honeyed mead or wine imported from Gaul in exchange for ship-loads of Irish hides.

Moran was interested in foreign affairs. His period had witnessed the aftermaths of the complete collapse of the mighty empire of Rome that had embraced the known world and had reached and made a subjugated province of Eritain at his door-step.

He knew also of the traditional Irish answer to this threat—the raising and equipping long before his time of a permanent standing army of seven battalions with a similar force in reserve under the leadership of a general whose headquarters were on the Hill of Allen and whose name has lingered on to this day: Finn McCool of legendary fame. He sang songs about Finn and Diarmaid, Oisín and Goll Mac Morna—songs that perpetuated their name and fame.

In Moran's time began the Irish colonisation of Scotland. This colony developed until finally it was freely given independence by the Irish monarch Aedh Mac Aonmhir in 574. The Celtic blood of the Scots and the Gaelic language still spoken in the Highlands of that country link them with us and both of us with that distant sixth century and the men and women of Moran's generation.



Moran was near enough to the Christianisation of Ireland by St. Patrick to know of this event almost at first hand. He lived at the end of one epoch and the beginning of another. The older pagan gods: awe-inspiring Crom Cruach, the sea god Manannan Mac Lir whose name survives in that of the Isle of Man, his deputed home, Bride Goddess of Wisdom and Song—these and all the others had just fallen before Patrick's shamrock; and a proud Irish people who had never acknowledged the temporal power of the Roman Empire—who despised it even and assailed its shores and struck at its heart in war-like forays—this conservative haughty Irish nation accepted permanently the tenets of the Roman Faith brought to them by Patrick their erstwhile captive, the Irish speaking emissary of Pope Celestine.

Moran knew also of the pre-Patrician Palladius, who had converted the valley of the Griese so near at hand. In his receptive Celtic ears had sounded the other-world clang of the rectangular iron Mass bell of his period, so starkly nobler in tone than the effeminate tintinabulation of its modern successor, signalling the end of paganism and the beginning of a new Faith sown self-propagating on retentive Irish soil.

Yet unimportant remnants of paganism and superstition still lingered on—and even have endured in folk-lore to this day. The Leprecaun, the fairy shoe-maker, was viewed with cautious credence by Moran. He would not relish a lonely night journey on November eve, but would much prefer the comforts of fireside and company to the chances of ghostly encounter. He firmly believed in the Beanshee and half-believed in the existence

of the evil eye and fairies and fairy raths. He believed it luckier to move sun-wise, *i.e.*, from left to right, than contrariwise; but he had nothing against the number thirteen and would as soon walk under a ladder as around it.

Though he and his race had turned from war-like foreign aggression to peaceful missionary endeavour he still felt dying stirrings of the urge that prompted King Daithi to lead his forces to the foot of the Alps where a bolt of lightning ended his thrust at the heart of the



—M. Smith.

Roman empire, and he approved in many ways of the burial of King Laoghaire, pagan fashion, under the ramparts of Tara, standing even in his grave, fully armed, facing his enemies. He knew of the Great Yew Tree of Moone associated from time immemorial with pagan Druidism, and he was aware of the Druids' rites on Brewel Hill.

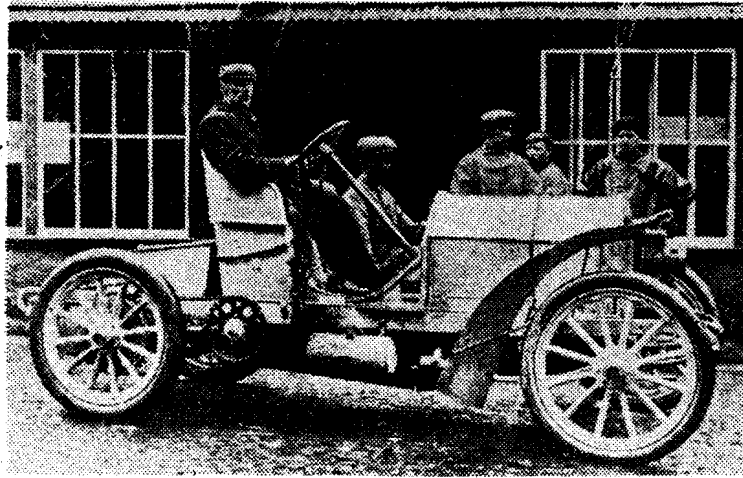
By nature Moran was talkative and good humoured: He was easily provoked to anger and just as easily pacified. He was hospitable to a degree utterly unknown to-day. He gave his primary loyalty to his clan and locality and secondary allegiance to his country.

Our modern conceptions of comprehensive nationality and effective central government were unknown to him. Therein lay his political and national weakness—a weakness that fatally handicapped his race when the Normans struck centuries later. He knew his country's laws and traditions, had a sense of racial unity in many ways, and despised all foreigners not of Milesian blood.

He could neither read nor write; but he possessed a vast store of scholarship in carefully preserved memorised oral records and tales. He was proud of his language and literature, with which he was orally acquainted, and non-Irish-speakers to him were barbarians.

He was a man of spirit, this ancestor of ours, as he rode in his crimson cloak and green jacket by Mullaghcreelan Hill one thousand four hundred years ago. In him, unknown to him, was that spark of invincible perseverance that has sustained all the generations between him and us through those waves of aggressive alien wars and persecutions that mounted century after century to a climax, battered themselves into exhausted frustration against the unconquerable will-to-endure of the Irish race and then ebbed ultimately away ineffective.

We leave him in his crimson cloak and green jacket, his head held high, on the slope of Mullaghcreelan, restraining his horse with his single rein running centrally over its forehead and guiding it with his guide stick, riding into what to him was the immediate prosaic future, but what to us is the distant intriguing past. Moran is dust for centuries. The Hill and his breed remain, changed in many ways but, in essentials, unchanged and unchangeable.



When Jenatzy's Mercedes won the Gordon Bennett Race

IN 1903 it was still the Momentous Motor. Only seven years earlier, in 1896 was motoring emancipated from the 4 miles an hour and the red flag restrictions. Cars were an expensive but exciting novelty, and like the new century, came as a challenge to new achievement.

Motoring was still associated with gallantry, and motorists were still "a little odd." Certainly, to spend 170 guineas on a 6 h.p. Mohawk Manon, and up to £750 on a 4 cylinder, 20 h.p. job, was not within the popular purse. For motoring often meant a chauffeur; it entailed waterproofs, veils, caps, goggles, gauntlets, aprons and leggings. In spelled breakdowns and wettings. The best tyre was guaranteed to last 3,000 miles. A sparking plug cost 5/-, and a 5-hour cartridge for the acetylene gas lamp worked out at 8/6.

Accounts of Gordon Bennett races on the Continent were widely published. In 1899 the cup was presented to the Automobile Club of France by wealthy James G. Bennett of New York to encourage the motoring industry by holding a great annual motor race open to all nations. S. F. Edge, Australian by birth, won the cup for England from 132 starters in the 1902 run from Paris to Innsbruck, and thus had the choice of country for 1903.

Motor racing was banned on English highways, but a special Act of Parliament authorised the closing of certain Irish roads for

the race, which was organised by The Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland, then the strongest (2,400 members) Auto Club in the world.

By May the newspapers were reporting the preliminaries. That wonderful new process of steam-rolling was employed at several points between Carlow-Castledermot and Carlow-Athy, and bends were eased and footpaths removed and brought level with the road. Sometime in June during a trial run across the Kilcullen-Carlow course the cars halted in Potato Market, which was thronged while drivers and crews lunched at the Royal Arms Hotel.

By P. GINNANE

For weeks before July 2 The Race nosed a way into the most trivial conversation, and a rash of advertisements appeared with the Gordon Bennett as the basis of their appeal. We read impassioned letters from Shop Assistants in Tullow and Bagenalstown that business houses there should, as in Carlow, close for the day, and note that among the places barred to the public on race day was St. Mary's Cemetery. Even the dead must wait the passing of the cars!

The road was a danger zone and hundreds of extra R.I.C. constables drafted in to cordon off the route from 6 a.m. saw to it that not even a pedestrian crossed, and as an added precaution heavy ropes were stretched across entrances of

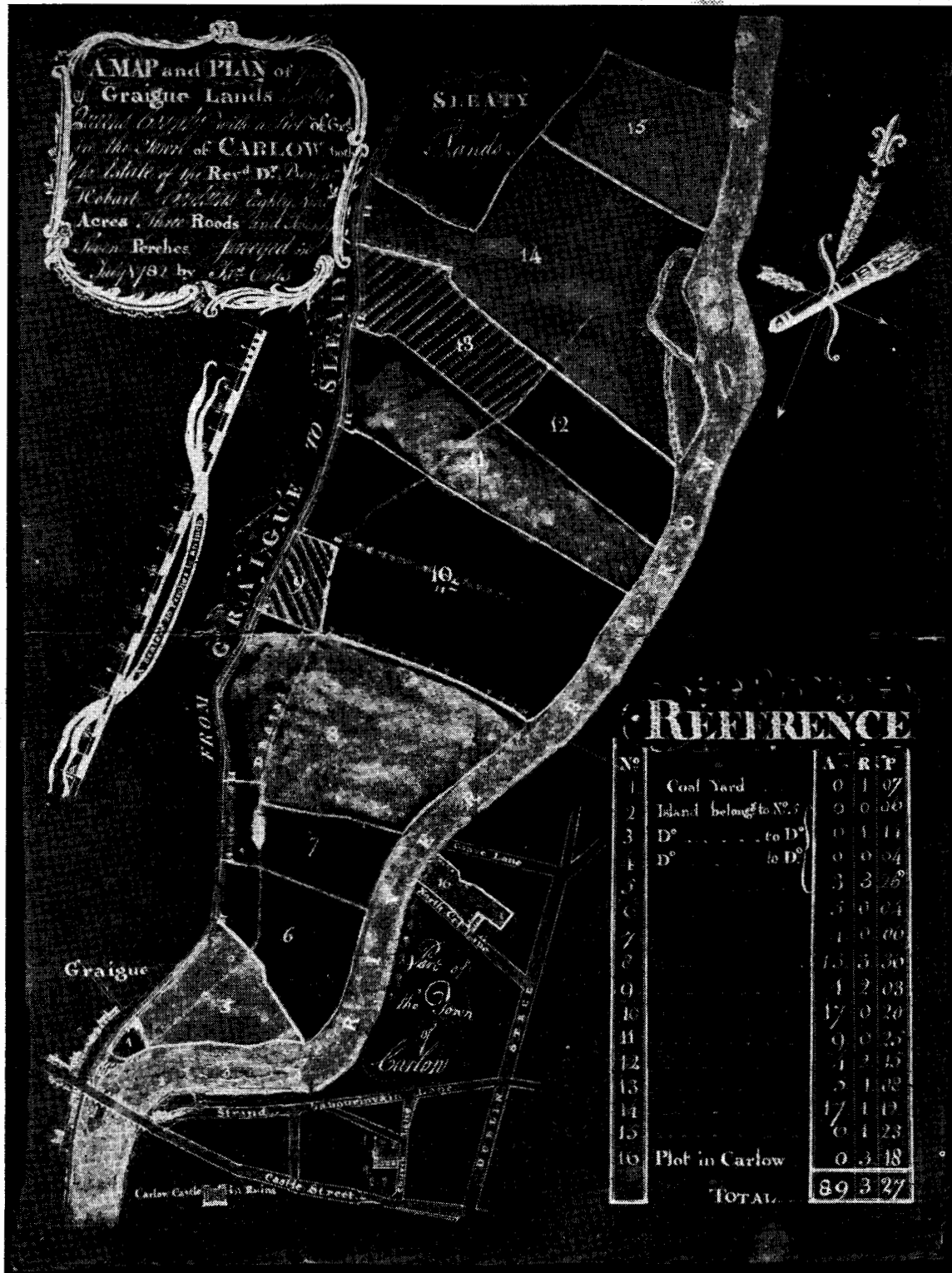
Railway Rd., College St., Dublin St., and Montgomery St., to ensure that the way was kept clear for the cars. Nearby townlands like Evington, Newgarden, Jerusalem, Gotham and Ballaghmoon were isolated.

The 12 competitors started from Ballyshannon at intervals of seven minutes so that the dust could settle before the next car came through. First arrivals on the three runs through Carlow were checked in between 7-8 a.m. Ten came between 12 noon and 2 p.m. and the remaining challengers were through Carlow on the final lap by 4 in the afternoon.

As racing was prohibited through towns, control points were established at the Cricket Field on the Dublin road, and at Braganza on the Athy side, and cars arriving from Castledermot were preceded through the town by a cyclist carrying a stop watch.

For Carlow, the sensation of the day was the crash at Gurteen Cross, at the end of the Castledermot straight. J. W. Stocks, apparently unable to take the bend, tangled with the wire which guarded every cross roads, smashed a wheel and turned over.

Only 5 cars finished the race. The winner M. Jenatzy of Belgium covered 370½ miles in a famous 80 h.p. "ram-you, dam-you" German Mercedes, in 6 hours, 39 minutes, or an average of 49.2 miles an hour. The fastest lap was 52.2 m.p.h. by Foxhall Keene, but the cars reached up to 65 m.p.h. on the Ballyshannon straight, where 4,000 people paid a guinea each for seats on the specially built stands. That, today would not be spectacular, but in 1903, when hotels still billed "stabling for 100 horses," it was certainly momentous.



This map photostat was made in Washington D.C. United States of America, and refers to the Finn property (marked in). It gives a small section of Carlow and will be interesting to old Carlovians. The original map is the property of Mrs. B. Kellock, Washington D.C., who is related to the Finn family mentioned in Farrell's Journal, "Carlow in '98," edited by Dr. Roger McHugh, U.C.D.

Your humble Servant,

PHIL KENNEDY,

born to be hanged

By JOHN MONAHAN

YOU could hardly say he was a man born to be hanged. Yet Phil Kennedy, land-steward to Sam Faulkner at Castletown, Carlow, from 1786-95, met his death at the gallows. It was in Carlow in the memorable year of 1798.

Before he met this fate, however, Phil had carried on a long business correspondence with his employer, which now can give us much light on the life of those closing days of the eighteenth century.

Phil Kennedy left his record not only in writing but on the land. Reading his letters we find that the hedges he planted, the roads he laid out and the drains he dug, even the very trees he planted, are the features of the townland of Castletown to this day.

Until a few weeks ago, although we knew that Phil wrote frequently, we had no definite proof of what his years' correspondence amounted to. Then a twentieth century gale caused a leak in his eighteenth century Bunclody slates. Investigating the leak with a flex lamp led to the discovery of more papers in the garret. Some of the new finds were in the roof of a dormer window, but the wriggle through the beams produced a worthwhile find for the archives—a whole new bundle of "Kennedys," still tied with tape. The bundle contained Phil's weekly letters for the year 1792.

Another bundle turned out to be his accounts and vouchers for the year 1787—the only samples of his accounts we have found so far.

The vouchers include receipts from various Carlow tradesmen such as Henry Hayden, carpenter, and Geo. Sikes of Tullow St., whose bill-head, printed by Mary Kinnier, states that he is a watch and clock-maker. Rather an under-statement in view of the imposing list of other commodities he also dealt in. These accounts are a possible gold mine for research in local and national social history.

Reading Phil Kennedy's papers furnishes us with a number of concrete facts. I will list these before going on to some of the human interest in these beautifully written weekly reports.

1.—Two of the neighbours were Garrett Murphy of Linkardstown, and William Elliot of Rathcrogue. Phil spells them "Linkenstown" and "Racroag," not the standard spelling agreed by the Ordnance Survey in 1829 or thereabouts.

2.—The name of the surveyor who worked for Sam and laid out our watercourse—Mr. Neville—and the name of the miller at Milford—Mr. Alexander.

3.—The name and size of at least one of the horses on the place—"little Grana," that Mr. Kennedy rode to town. She had a fine little horse foal, "likely to do

well," according to Phil's report to his employer.

4.—Phil records the wages paid for farm work, and the names of the men and women he employed. Many of these names have gone from the locality, but some are still found in the parish.

5.—There are a number of points about eighteenth century farming technique that can be extracted from the letters:

- (a) Grass seeds were literally hay seeds—they were shaken out of the hay. Clover seeds, however, were bought each year.
- (b) Threshing was done with the flail, but there was a winnowing machine. It was bought in 1787 for a little over £5.
- (c) Corn was threshed according to the need for straw for the cattle. There were ricks of sheaves in the haggard waiting threshing, but there would have been no ricks of straw as we know them to-day. Grain therefore came on the market in a steady trickle. Now we get an annual tidal wave.
- (d) Lime was used extensively—often on fields which we now can say are definitely naturally alkaline. Such heavy and aimless liming would have produced many bad results.
- (e) Bricks were made somewhere on Castletown. We wonder if the mysterious pit in the Big Meadow is where the brickmakers got their clay.
- (f) Plough bullocks were considered better for ploughing than horses.
- (g) Fattening dry cows on the Lawn at Castletown was a standard method of beef production—and Mr. McDarby, Carlow butcher, was a ready buyer.
- (h) The letters show that wheat and barley were big cash crops.

(i) Cattle were cheap in comparison to grain.

6.—There are a number of small facts that come out of Phil's letters about the trade of those days; for instance, all heavy goods, such as timber and grain, travelled by the river. We also find references to the corn merchants in Leighlin, Milford and Carlow, and, of course, Sam's brother-in-law, who had a mill at Oldtown near Naas, was a frequent buyer of Castletown corn. We can also learn a lot about the course of post in those days.

Hard facts are not the only things in Phil's letters, there are also little human flashes, often tragic, such as this passage :

I must beg pardon for not writing yesterday as usual, likewise for taking the liberty of bringing one of your horses with me to the County Kildare with one of my children which I buried there. I must own it was weakness in me to do so, but I was willing that his dust should mingle with mine one day or the other.

In that same letter of 2nd January, 1792, Phil reports an incident in Carlow :

The day I went to Carlow to pay Mr. Whaley's quit rent some good friend cut the skirt of Peter's saddle which I had on little Grana. I have every good reason to suspect that it was Doyle or someone for him that did it.

Although we can't learn much about Phil from his own letters, his beautiful handwriting and clear reports indicate he was an educated man. He was a Catholic, for he mentions attending Tinryland chapel. He rode about the country on a horse, even if it was his employer's "little Grana," and he had a large seal. The "PK" it imprinted on the letters he sealed is as plain to-day as



The Garden Gate at Castletown.—John Monahan.

it was more than a century and a half ago when the wax cooled.

Sam's "humble and obedient servant" was not only a man of education and business but a gardener as well. He wrote long lists of seeds he needed for the garden. Sam Faulkner got the seeds for him, and they prospered, for there are many letters notifying Sam of the despatch of the stuff from the garden, sent to Dublin by horse and car.

Phil's green fingers were apparent in other places beside the garden, for he was a prodigious forester. He records selecting the site of the Long Stone Wood, which was felled in 1947 when the oaks reached maturity at the age of over a century and a half. Other trees he planted still stand. Incidentally, he never complains of rabbit damage to his trees.

Phil mentions pointing out to the surveyor, Neville, the site on which Sam wanted a forge built for Purser, his blacksmith. Phil observed that a forge would be a very useful thing. It was a successful long-term improvement. For over 130

years, until 1923, the same family operated the forge at the cross at Castletown. Phil's accounts include many bills paid to the smith for shoeing, of course, and also for manufacturing masons' tools, plough parts, and so on.

Mr. Faulkner was constantly complaining to his steward that the wages bills at Castletown were too high. For instance, on February 12, 1792, Phil made a typical report to his employer. That week his men were engaged in winnowing wheat, taking wheat into Carlow for sale, and bringing sheaves into the barn for threshing with the flail on the slate threshing floor. There were eleven men employed that week at a cost of £1 7s. Patt Murphy and Owen Mahon got five pence a day. James Heydon, John Foley, Will Brennan, Thos. Murphy, John Mahon, Edward Doyle and Edward Comerford worked at six pence a day.

We know that Sam replied to this letter, although his answer no longer exists, accusing Phil of too lavish a use of labour. Kennedy replied that the Murphys, who got a shilling a piece,

"were two threshers who were only called on occasionally." He thought that even at the extravagant rate of six pence a day the others were good value. Wages, by the way, were not always that low, for later the same year, during a wet harvest, casual labour was getting 2/2 per day.

Sam got a report from his steward of even worse bills. At harvest time that year of 1792, Phil sent an account for a week's wages amounting to the staggering total of £6 4s .2d. This sum was the total wages of twenty-nine farm workers, seven of them women engaged in binding behind the scythesmen who cut the corn. The women, by the way, were Nelly Kelly, Peggy Kelly, Biddy Doyle, Nancy Mahon

Mary Fanning, Molly Brennan and Nancy Foley.

Buying slates at Bunclody for Sam Faulkner, Phil succeeded in getting himself sued by Barry Maxwell, Earl of Farnham. Kennedy sent a true copy of the court's summons to his employer. He evidently had confidence in his cause, for he told Sam that he thought he could non-suit the opposition. There is no further reference to this legal action, so it must have turned out well for Kennedy and his employer. The copy of the civil bill shows that the Earl's attorney was one Edward Law, and the registrars of the court were G. Dolphin and T. Forde.

Kennedy's departure from Castletown in 1795 followed soon after the arrival from

the North of his employer's brother, Hugh Faulkner. Hugh concurred in Sam's opinion that Mr. Kennedy was involving him in too much expense, an obsession of Sam's for some years before 1795. Kennedy resigned and went to work as gardener and land steward for Butlers of Garryhondon.

The writer of these letters and accounts, which afford such detailed information of life in those last years of the Century of Reason, lost his life three years after leaving Sam Faulkner's service. He was hanged at Carlow in 1798, and Farrell of *Carlow in '98* was an eyewitness of the end of the man who ended his beautifully written letters: "Your obedient and humble servant, Phil Kennedy."

Carlow's Lady Barber

By P. POOLE

THOMAS DINELEY, the English traveller visited Carlow, "that fair, thriving, flourishing town," more than two hundred and fifty years ago.

This observant English Schoolmaster found that in the year 1688 "the whole town has an air of neatness, cleanliness, respectability and comfort"—attributes which the modern visitor will also find—and that "the suburbs were superior to those of our other provincial towns"; while the environs he finds interesting, "as well as from the superior culture of the soil as from the comparatively comfortable state of the inhabitants and the numerous seats therein."

MRS. QUIGLET.

Dineley notices that the manufacture here is very good "sheep's grey freize not at all inferior to that of

Kilkenny city, for that His Grace the Duke of Ormond and his son ye Earl of Arran, are sayd to buy here of it from one Mrs. Quiglet."

In those far off days Carlow could boast of a lady hairdresser, perhaps the first of her sex to follow that profession in Ireland. Dineley seemed astonished at the discovery. He says: "Among the remarkables here is a woman who professeth besides perrukue making, poleing, cutting of hair, trimming and shaving of men, at which she hath a delicate hand and is much resorted to by the Garrison and country gentlemen."

Finally he encourages other tourists to visit Carlow by the information that "Thomas Spaight hath lately built the fairest Inn of the town, of the best accommodation and adjoining the four principal roads.

About a century later another tourist named Bowden gazes with amazement at the beautiful scenery along the River Barrow on the road between Athy and Carlow. Carlow was, in his opinion, a considerable manufacturing centre, particularly noted for the most famous spurs in Europe.

Carlow College had then been lately erected, "a fine structure" and while Bowden was viewing the extensive edifice, Lord Carlow came up and expressed some concern that so fine a building should remain unoccupied, but "he apprehended it would never stand in need of assistance after the first year, because all the principal Catholics would most certainly prefer it to a foreign colleges, especially as France to which hitherto they had sent their children, tainted them with deistical principles."

Looking over our Shoulder

OLD CARLOW SOCIETY members look with pride on their activities in the first Tostal celebrations. His Lordship, the Bishop, who has been the Society's patron from its inception, opened an Exhibition in the Technical School of items from local collections. Carlow Photographic Society arranged its first exhibition in conjunction with us, and the combined attraction prompted suggestions that an annual Exhibition should be held.

Personal souvenirs of J.K.L., his mitre, crozier, ring, top hat, writing desk and writings, were displayed, and also portraits of famous local men, maps, books, manuscripts and old photographs. Popular support suggests that an Art Exhibition would be popular.

Two conducted tours were well patronised; the Sunday tour of Carlow buildings dating later than 1700 drew about 200 people.

The first of three Summer excursions was a tour of the chief historical remains in east Co. Carlow on May 31. Rev. P. J. Brophy, Hon. Sec., spoke on the moat and bailey type fortification, of which Castlegrace, the first halt, is a fine example. He pointed to traces of the ancient habitations in surrounding fields, which centuries of cultivation have failed to eradicate.

At the Standing Stone of Ardristan the party learned that there are many of these stones in Ireland but their origin and purpose is unknown.

Cloch-a-phoill or Holed Stone, which is mentioned in the Book of Ballymore, brought us to Aghade. It is a huge granite block, 12 feet high and 4 feet wide, which derives its name from a hole near one end.

Legend holds that Eochaidh, son of the King of Hy-Kinselagh, offended Niall of the Nine Hostages who, in reprisal, laid waste Hy-Kinselagh and delivered up Eochaidh to the Druid whose son he had killed. The Druid chained Eochaidh to this stone to

die a lingering death, but changed his mind and sent soldiers to despatch him. Eochaidh broke free and escaped to Scotland from where he followed Niall, whom he is said to have slain on the banks of the Loire.

More recently the stone was put to another use by local inhabitants. Delicate children passed through the hole were supposed to thrive afterwards.

After visiting another moat at Castlegrace, the party paused at Aghade Bridge, a noted beauty spot, and from there walked to Aghade fox covert cromlech. Then tea was kindly served at the home of Mr. E. A. R. Eustace, Newtown House.

On, then, to Aghowle, which has been identified beyond doubt with the Teampull Mor of Finian and was the first monastic foundation of that famous sixth century Carlow-born scholar.

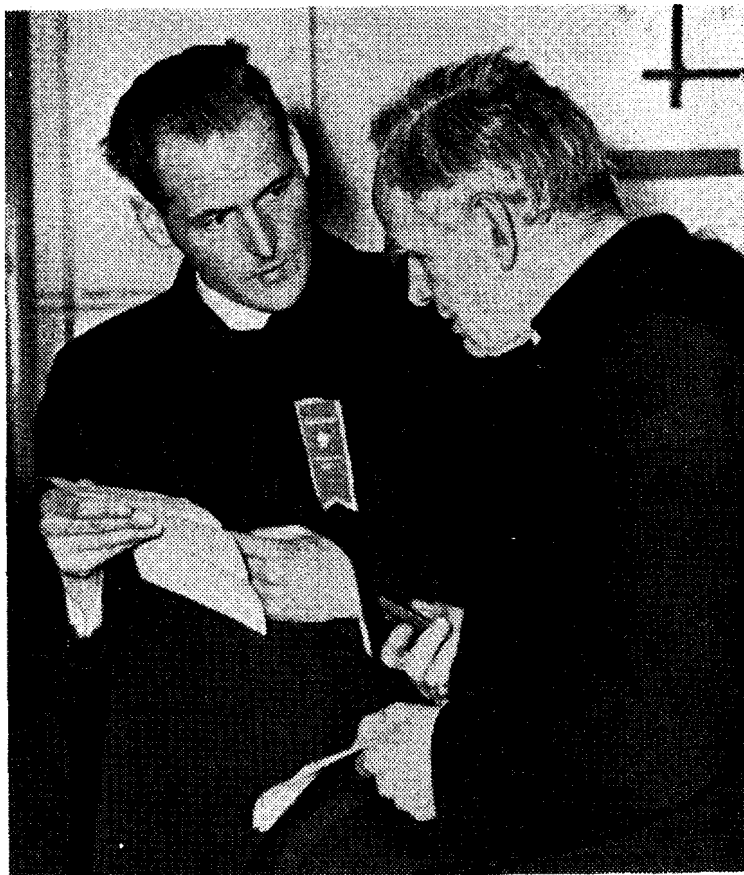
Unfortunately during the last century part of a wall was pulled

down and the stones used to build another across the interior to enclose a burial plot.

In the graveyard surrounding the Church is a granite cross, probably co-eval with the building, also a socket base for a smaller cross, the head of which stands on a nearby grave. There is a stone font and an ancient quern inside the church.

Rathgall, known locally as the Ring of the Rath, was the last place on the itinerary. This is one of the largest stone forts in Ireland and consists of four concentric ramparts enclosing about 18 acres.

The history of this stone fort is unknown, but the late Dr. Goddard H. Orpen believed that Rathgall was the inland town Dunum marked on Ptolemy's Map. He identified Dunum with Dun Galion (mentioned in the book of Leinster) and eventually linked it with Lowrey the Mariner (Labraid Loinseagh).



Dr. Keogh with Fr. Brophy at the opening of our Exhibition.

VISIT TO DUBLIN

FIFTY members visited Dublin on Sunday, June 14. First stop was the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, which was built in 1680-2 as a hospital for old soldiers, and Kilmainham Jail, where many Irish patriots were interned. We saw St. Kevin's Hospital, formerly the South Dublin Union, where fighting took place during 1916; St. Catherines, Thomas St., outside which Robert Emmett was executed; St. Audeon's, High St., the oldest of Dublin's Parish Churches, and the City Hall, formerly the Royal Exchange.

At Dublin Castle, Dr. Little, President, and officers of the Old Dublin Society, greeted us. With Capt. Hughes the party toured the principal Castle buildings and visited the Chapel Royal, the Irish Oak carving of which was greatly admired.

Next stop was the O.D.S. headquarters—the Civic Museum in South William St.—which Carlow should try to emulate. We have the material; a home is all that is needed.

Mr. Liam D. Bergin, Chairman O.C.S., and Mr. W. Duggan thanked our hosts.

After lunch we visited the National Museum where Miss Catriona MacLeod, sister of our Co. Librarian, spoke of the various historical objects.



The Slaney at Aghade—O'Brien.

Chevalier T. McGarry, the Director, met us at the National Gallery (at the special request of our hosts) and his specialised knowledge gave us a deeper appreciation of some of the famous works of art.

Mr. B. O'Neill suitably thanked Mr. McGreevy.

Mr. Meehan, Sec., O.D.S., and Mr. W. Stephenson, pointed out different phases of Georgian architecture around Merrion and Fitzwilliam Squares. Then followed a brief resume on St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christ Church and St. Werburgh's. This was given outside Marsh's Library—the oldest in Dublin—which was founded by a Leighlin man.

After tea we drove through Phoenix Park and concluded our day with a sea-front drive by Fairview and Clontarf to Sutton. This outing was made possible by Dr. Little, Mr. Meehan, Secretary; Mr. Stephenson, Capt. Hughes, and other Old Dubliners. We shall not forget the great hospitality we received from our hosts and their untiring help and kindness.

TO ABBEYLEIX

TWENTY-FIVE members who travelled to Abbeyleix on Sunday, July 26, were greeted by Fr. Murphy, C.C., and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Harney.

The present town was laid out

by the Fourth Viscount de Vesci and dates from the mid-nineteenth century. The old town consisted of a huddle of thatched cottages and a Catholic Church on the bank of the Nore.

On the de Vesci estate we visited the private chapel, which features the fine wood-carving in which the Cross of Lorraine is an ever-recurring motif. This Cross forms part of the de Vesci coat of arms.

No trace remains of the Cistercian Monastery built in 1183 by Conor O'More, destroyed in 1421 and later rebuilt and given to the Franciscans (1447). Tradition says this Monastery stood within the present demesne and two ancient tombs which formerly were in the present gardens have been moved to a nearby grotto.

One of these was the resting place of Malachy O'Moore, Prince of Leix, who died in 1486, and the other bears an inscription to John O'Moore, who died 1502.

At Ballyroan Mr. Irwin, N.T., brought the party to the Pass of the Plumes where O'More ambushed Lord Essex's forces in 1559. Human bones unearthed there occasionally justify the traditional place name: Moneen na Fullagh, the Little Blood Bog.

At Timahoe we saw one of the best preserved Round Towers in the country.

NUN'S ASPIRATION

By JAMES O'ROURKE

*Through convent windows I see dawn's eyes
roll back their cloudy lids to brows of hills.*

*I stoop my head in cowled humility
and try to keep my musings sleeved in peace.*

*Fresh from the folds of a habit sleep
my thoughts are ashed, but poked, will recollect.*

*My prayers are fondled by the fingers
of my mind that rolls them bead for bead.*

*God speaks to me in a universal tongue;
In the language of a bell I hear Him now.*

*Lord, consecrate my life in this ciborium
of souls.*

STORY OF ATHY ROAD

By ALICE TRACEY

CARLOW County Council Offices, formerly occupied by the Langran family of the *Carlow Sentinel*, was once the town house of Bests of Bestfield, and this is the first house on Athy Road.

William Pendred rented the premises in 1835 for £35 a year from Walter Newton. Dunleckney Manor, Bagenalstown, and started a high-class furniture and cabinet making business. To quote Pendred's announcement at the time, 'only the cream of Dublin and London workmen were employed.' An auctioneer also, Pendred was at pains to make known that he cleaned and prepared furniture for auction which, he adds: "Other people in this town did not do!"

Applying in 1837 for registration as a voter, Philip Bagenal at the September Quarter Sessions claimed two dwellinghouses in Dublin Street, corner of Athy Street.

We find Pendred, the cabinet-maker in April, 1842, seeking possession of two rooms in the premises which he had occupied. He claimed that they had been taken over by two agents of Walter Bagenal, Bennekerry House. Bagenal had evidently used these rooms until 1840, at which time Pendred said he got possession of them from Mr. Bagenal's steward.

The house had been divided to secure a vote for Mr. Bagenal, and a door had been

opened facing into Dublin Street. Immediately before the Court case Pendred asserted that two men had broken into these apartments and were holding them on Mr. Newton's instructions for Mr. Bagenal. Newton, acting as agent for his brother Bagenal, repudiated Pendred's claim. His brother had gone to the continent of Europe in 1840, was now returning and wanted to have the house as before.

THOMAS WHELAN, of Rath, near Tullow, was the first Agent of the Carlow Branch of the Bank of Ireland. He must have been a man of substance. To qualify for the post he was required to lodge with the Directors of the Bank £5,000, in either Government or Bank of Ireland stock. Be it noted this was the security required for a second-class office, and Carlow was the first of this class to be set up. Double this figure was demanded from the Manager of a first-class branch.

Prior to 1836, Agents drew a salary of £300 per annum, with an extra £100 for premises and another £100 "in aid of clerks." After 1836, all senior officials were sent to the branches from Dublin and the juniors recruited locally. Sometimes the Agents were permitted to hold offices of trust, and Mr. Whelan was County Treasurer for most of his time as Agent. He appears to have been succeeded in the Bank by a Mr. Wolesley.

The sequel of the proceedings is evidenced by an advertisement in *The Sentinel* of 23rd July, 1842: "To be let by the year or on such terms as may be agreed on, the house and large concerns, formerly the residence of A. C. Best, Esq., adjoining the Clubhouse and opposite the Courthouse. Apply to Beauchamp B. Newton, Rathwade, Bagenalstown."

The portion of the house in dispute was generally in use during elections as the Conservative Party's Committee Rooms, and for a time during Walter Bagenal's occupancy it was the Masonic meeting place.

"SENTINEL" OFFICE

What tenant responded to the 1842 advertisement I cannot tell, but it was later *The Sentinel* Office, and Mr. Langran, the owner and Editor, lived there. I think the last occupier, prior to the County Council taking it over, was Mrs. Jeffares.

The Bank of Ireland premises are built on a site named the Heelmakers Plot, which is the property of Lord Holmpatrick. Originally leased by the Lord of the Manor, Hans Hamilton (an ancestor of Lord Holmpatrick), there is a conveyance dated 1797 from Thomas Gurley to Robert Bayley.

Carlow was the thirteenth branch of the Bank of Ireland, and was opened here

at the request of the business people of the town on 10th February, 1834. Bennet's Bank, presumably a private concern, had previously been operating in the town, but it is uncertain whether the Bank of Ireland took it over or whether it had already closed its doors at this time.

For many years business was conducted in that part of the private house directly adjoining the present office. The mark still shows under the window where the lower part of the door was built up, and a window occupies what was the top portion.

The present office, a red brick annexe to the private house, was built and opened in 1899 during Mr. Henry E. Stuart's term as Agent. Mr. Stuart was a very long time in Carlow. He was succeeded by Mr. J. M. McConkey, who also spent many years in the Bank, and went to live at "The Elms" on his retirement.

In *The Sentinel* of September, 1838, I find notice of an auction of household furniture at the residence of James Wilkins, Esq. (Sub-Inspector of the Revenue Police), in Athy Street, near the new Courthouse, which I think may possibly have been the present No. 3.

For many years No. 3 has been used as the Bruen Estate Agent's residence and office.

THE PRESBYTERY, from which the parochial clergy have now moved to their new house on Dublin Road, was purchased by the clergy in 1899 from Major Tanner.

Thomas Cobden, Architect, designed the Scots' Church. He was also architect of the Cathedral and many other buildings in and around Carlow. The first Service was held on 17th September, 1819. Described in the local press of the time, the building was said to be very light and elegant in design and reflecting great credit on the architect.

One Sunday evening about



Looking up the Athy Road.—Donal Godfrey.

fifteen years ago the pediment of the facade crashed to the ground. It has since been replaced.

GREENVILLE was originally the residence of Messrs. Thorpe, Solicitors. A section of glass in the wall marks what was the fanlight of their office door adjoining the house. The late Dr. Colgan, who also had a private practice, moved in when appointed M.O. to the Fever Hospital. His daughter still resides here, hence it is one of the few houses on the road which has been tenanted by the same family over a long number of years.

ERIN LODGE was the residence and office of another Solicitor, Mr. Ed. Mulhall, who succeeded his father here. The annexe which was used as an office still adjoins the house.

Two red brick Georgian houses at the end of Montgomery Street were at one time the property of Dr. McDowell, who was Medical Officer to Carlow in the 1830's and '40's.

An early tenant was Mr. Matthew Byrne, a Chairman of Carlow Urban Council. The corner house was rented for some years as a residence for the Methodist Minister.

Mr. Moffat (later of Thornville) and Captain Cary lived here together as bachelors. It was as assistant to Mr. Moffat that our valued member Mr. P. Poole came first to Carlow in 1894.

R.I.C. District Inspector Swanzy lived in what is now the B.G.A. head office before his transfer to Lisburn, where he met a tragic end. Mr. W. H. Hadden resided in the corner house from 1911 to 1920.

GURLEY'S PLOT

DANESBY is built on what is marked on the map of the district as Gurley's plot, and forms part of the Shaw estate.

The Captain Cary I have mentioned above came here to reside on his marriage to Miss Fitzmaurice of Springhill, and named the house "Clovelly," as he was a Devonshire man. He later exchanged houses with Mrs. Aylward and went to live at "The Elms." Mrs. Rodgers, a step-aunt of Mr. G. B. Shaw, also resided here, and the late Mr. T. H. O'Donnell (father of Mr. H. O'Donnell, Solicitor) resided here on his retirement as Manager of the National Bank. It is now the residence of Mr. Gerald Brennan.

MR. DOOLEY'S family has occupied the next house for many years. When his father, the late Mr. John Dooley, came to reside there the house consisted of what is now the rear portion, which stood with its gable to the road and workshops. The front portion facing the street was built after he came into occupation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

The next two houses, which almost face the Mental Hospital gate, are built on a site marked on the map as Campion's plot, presumably because in 1842 David Campion, Inspector of Weights and Measures, lived here. It is possible he came as tenant in response to an advertisement in *The Sentinel* of 16th June, 1838: "To be let: A good house, consisting of two underground rooms, two parlours and three bedrooms, on the Athy Road, next Mr. Scraggs, opposite the Lunatic Asylum gate, lately occupied by Mr. Corcoran."

One year's rent was to be given to put the premises in repair. Lowest rent £15 per annum. None but a solvent tenant need apply, or Mr. Cahill would let the whole plot, consisting of two houses like the above, room for three others similar, and three cabins built, to a solvent tenant, and would advance on mortgage half the money laid out in building. Application to be made to Michael Cahill, or to Dr. Cullen, Dublin Street.

FOUGHT IN '98

Grave Lane, nearby, was a name to which George Bernard Shaw expressed his dislike. He suggested on one occasion that the local authorities should call it Bellegravia. The lane leads to the XVIIth century graveyard wherein lie the mortal remains of Dr. James O'Keeffe, the Bishop of Kil-

dare and Leighlin from 1752 to 1787, who caused St. Patrick's College to be built. Dean Guernon, Parish Priest of the then united parishes of Carlow and Killeslin for 36 years, was buried here in 1787. We also find here a Celtic cross erected by the people of Carlow to commemorate James Lawless, who fought in the battle of Wexford in '98 and died on 1st September, 1870, aged 109.

Adjoining the Graves is Cholera Plot, given by Col. Bruen for the burial of victims of the epidemic of 1849. Also buried here in 1903 were innumerable human bones unearthed when a gasometer was being erected at the Gas Works.

Gurley's plot is on the right as we leave the Graveyard gate. For years the town refuse was dumped into a quarry on this plot. The Urban Council purchased the field on the left and converted the entire area into a small Town Park with access to the river.

The property in Grave Lane was owned by Mr. J. Bergin, and his grandchildren still reside there.

Three of the houses opposite the Mental Hospital stand on that part of the Bruen Estate known as the forty acres.

In the first live the niece and nephew of the late Miss Coogan, who was a tenant there for upwards of fifty years when she died in 1933.

In No. 6 Mr. Bishop, draper of Tullow Street resided for many years. In what is now "Stella Maris" two daughters and a son of Archdeacon Jameson, whose rectory and school were in Templecrony in the 1830's lived for a number of years.

The fourth house in the row is built on the plot known as the hundred acres. This house seems to have been erected at a later date than the other three.

The site of the two detached houses, "Mayfield"

RELATIVE to the purchase of Kelvingrove an amusing incident occurred.

Another would-be owner and Arthur Fitzmaurice tendered an equal price, and neither would advance one penny. Some bright spirit evolved an ingenious plan to end the deadlock.

A window in the dining-room was opened, the rivals were placed at the avenue gate, at the word "go" they ran and the first man through the window secured the place. Mr. Fitzmaurice proved the better sprinter, and he lived in Kelvingrove until his death in 1892.

(built 1932) and "Naomh Aine" (built 1934) is a historic one. It was here that the Bruen Testimonial Church, dedicated to St. Anne, stood. It was bought by Graiguecullen Parish in 1927, taken down and re-erected beside the Colletine Convent as St. Clare's. The story is the subject of a special article in this issue.

KELVINGROVE, formerly known as Easton. A Mrs. David Kelly opened a high-class school for girls here in 1810. She is mentioned in the parochial school returns of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in 1824 as being eminent in her profession, and in that year had thirty pupils in her charge. These paid a fee of 30 guineas per annum.

"The House," says the report, "is happily situated and gives the best accommodations." Both Catholics and non-Catholics attended, and the latter read their own Bible under the supervision of a Governess of their own profession.—(From Dr. M. Brennan's *Schools of Kildare and Leighlin*.)

IN FACE OF HEAVEN

In 1832 a number of prominent citizens of Carlow were arrested and held in custody for non-payment of tithes, and amongst them was the President of Carlow College, Father Andrew Fitzgerald and Mr. Thomas



The Athy Road from Mental Hospital Gate.—Donal Godfrey.

Haughton, a Quaker and a member of a Yorkshire family that settled in Carlow at the end of the 18th century, and who were at this time very prominent in commercial circles in the town.

The Bishop, Dr. Doyle (the great J.K.L.) immediately set about making a case for regaining them their freedom. The pen of J.K.L. was a mighty weapon, so he wrote a document and sent it to the prisoners for their signatures.

Thomas Haughton, now living in Kelvingrove and next-door neighbour of the Bishop, took exception to the phrase *in the face of Heaven* which appeared in the document, and he sent word to His Lordship that he would sign nothing in which the words hell, heaven or soul appeared. "Strike them out," was Dr. Doyle's reply, "but tell Tom Haughton from me that he won't get rid of them in reality so easily."

Thomas was a magistrate and was rather a thorn in the side of the majority of his colleagues by reason of his liberal views. They took a poor view of Thomas lending the Repeal Committee a house in Pembroke and attending a dinner there with the Liberator and 170

At a special Road Sessions held on 25th May, 1840, an intimation was received from the Queen's County Grand Jury that they were willing to contribute two-thirds of the cost of building a new bridge over the Barrow.

The Grand Jury suggested that the bridge be built at the same place as the existing bridge, but Thomas Haughton though it would be a better plan to build it further up on the river, whereupon a fellow magistrate interjected, amid laughter: "Yes, somewhere about Kelvingrove, I suppose. That would suit you, Mr. Haughton." This remark indicates that the name of the house was already changed from Easton at this period.

Thomas Haughton had three daughters, the eldest of whom, Anne, married Frederick Grubb, of Cahir Abbey, Co. Tipperary (a member of a well-known Quaker family) in the Friends Meeting House, Carlow, on 7th September, 1842.

Jane, his second daughter, whose name Major Fitzmaurice tells me, is carved on one of the beech trees in Kelvingrove, married another member of this family, Thomas Cambridge Grubb.

Jane died in 1881, and is buried in the Churchyard at Killeslin. Thomas died in

1903 and is also buried there.

On their tombstones their address is given as Suir Island House, Clonmel.

For these further facts relating to Kelvingrove I am indebted to Major Fitzmaurice whose family owned it and resided there for upwards of a century.

His grandfather was the immediate successor of Thomas Haughton, who died in 1851.

When William Fitzmaurice died in 1928, the Mental Hospital Committee purchased Kelvingrove. It is now the annexe to that institution.

Arthur Fitzmaurice made many improvements to the place. He erected a granite front to the house, built the north wing and extensive greenhouses. A gate lodge at the left of the entrance gate has now disappeared.

THE TEA HOUSE

Major Fitzmaurice throws light on something which has puzzled many people taking a stroll along the Barrow past Kelvingrove, the origin or use of the keep-like structure in the grounds. Originally a lime kiln, Arthur Fitzmaurice castellated it, put in and glazed Gothic-style windows, so with suitable rustic furniture it was transformed into one of those tea-houses so favoured by ladies in Victorian days.

Overlooking the Barrow and facing the Slieve Margy hills, it doubtless was a pleasant place to linger on Summer afternoons, but alas, its peace was shattered. A queen wasp built herself a nest therein and her brood increased and multiplied, and with angry buzzing they held the keep.

The efficiency of potassium cyanide in the case was either unknown or overlooked, and fire was resorted to with effective results as regards the invaders, but disastrous for the ladies' bower.

BRAGANZA

BRAGANZA has been the residence of the of Kildare and Leighlin since 1826, when it was purchased for Dr. Doyle as a token of regard and gratitude and to fix the attention of posterity on the period and the prelate. It was also, until the purchase of the old Presbytery (now vacated) in 1889, the residence of the parochial clergy. Indeed, for a short time prior to the purchase of the Presbytery, Braganza housed two Bishops, the Administrator and two Curates.

The duplication of Bishops is explained by the fact that the Prelate of the time, Dr. Walshe, failing in health, had asked for a co-adjutor, and Dr. Lynch, already a co-adjutor Bishop in Scotland, was appointed. After a short sojourn in Braganza he took up residence in Tullow.

Braganza house and its architect (Thomas Cobden) have already been dealt with by Rev. P. J. Brophy in the 1949 issue of the Old Carlow Journal.

I must mention, however, one of its occupants, Dr. Comerford, to whom delvers in the local history of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin owe a very great debt, for he was a pioneer who did a valiant part in preserving in his *Collections* the history of every parish.

Carpenter's Cottage

on the road beyond Braganza was long occupied by a family named Carpenter. They had a small holding on the Bruen estate, and the remains of the out-offices may still be seen. The name is remembered, too, by older folk who still refer to the pond on the river bank near the Sugar Factory as Carpenter's Pond.

Returning from the town boundary, BELGRIFFIN is

the first house on the eastern side of the road. Advertised in the Carlow *Sentinel* of 3rd September, 1836 (and in many successive issues) as: "A most desirable residence, newly-built and commodious, adjoining the town of Carlow, and within the borough, fit for the reception of a large respectable family. The House is situated on the beautiful road, leading from Carlow to Athy, on part of the lands of Strawhall, opposite Braganza House. The compartments are roomy and comprise two parlours, a drawingroom, four bed-chambers, a kitchen, a pantry and two rooms for accommodation of servants. Application to John Ryan, Market Cross. N.B.—The tenant can be accommodated with two or more acres of land, contiguous to the house."

Whether John Ryan succeeded in getting a tenant for his house between 1836 and '40 I cannot say, but another advertisement in the *Sentinel* on 2nd March in the latter year offered the house for sale with 4 acres 1 rood and 3 perches of part of the lands known as the 40 Acres. On house and out-offices, the advertisement states, upwards of £1,000 had been expended. Apply to John Littledale, Auctioneer.

Whether Mr. Alex. Smith, of the "Boot Shop," Tullow Street, purchased it at this time, or later, he owned and lived in it for very many years.

It is now the property and residence of the Hearn family.

The road at the entrance to Belgriffin used be flooded after heavy rain up to quite recently. At the 1840 Special Road Sessions Mr. Forth, the Co. Engineer, applied for £7 10s., the cost of having had water drained from the road near Strawhall. The road was impassable after heavy rain, and a great quantity of water lay in the adjoining

grounds. The Magistrates insinuated that Mr. Forth, who lived in the vicinity, wanted the work done for his own use and benefit and thought he should foot the bill himself.

"The Elms"

"The Elms" formed portion of the Oak Park estate and was also built on part of the 40 Acres. These forty acres, incidentally, are to be found in bits and pieces from the Gas Works to Belgriffin.

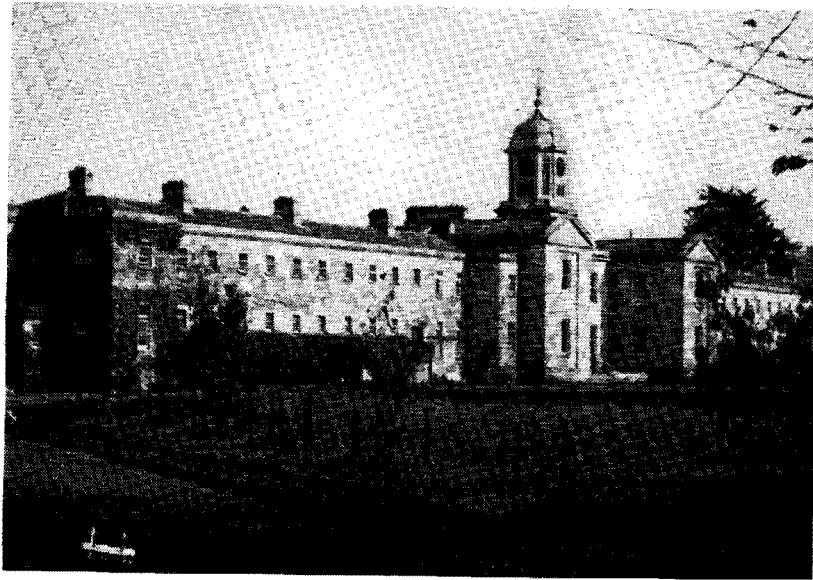
Mr. Michael McMullen, a wine merchant in Browne Street, and later at 33 Dublin Street, was a tenant here in 1836. His son Richard seems to have succeeded him in the house.

During Michael's tenancy a fire broke out in a stable at the rear of the premises, and "the exertions of Messrs. Morgan, Athy road, the constabulary and people of the neighbourhood" in assisting to extinguish it are described in the *Sentinel* of 3rd Nov., 1838, as being beyond praise.

Many military men attached to the various regiments that succeeded each other in the town rented the house. Also a number of doctors. One of these, Dr. O'Callaghan, M.O. to the County Infirmary, resigned his post, and went to London, where he made a name for himself in Harley Street.

Mr. John Hammond, M.P. for Carlow, leased "The Elms," his sister, Mrs. Aylward, lived there and, as I mentioned, exchanged houses with Capt. Carey and went to live in "Danesby." Mr. McConkey was a later tenant. The property was sold to the Irish Sugar Co. in 1926, and was for some time used as a Manager's residence.

The late Mr. Yates, a Director of the Company, also lived here for some years.



—The Mental Hospital

I encountered in my quest many names with addresses on Athy Road, and I give them in the hope that someone may identify them with some of the houses.

RUTLAND PLACE, ATHY ROAD. Opened Feb., 1819. School held in a private house, rented by the master, Rev. John Caldwell, M.A. The schoolroom was 25 feet square. Terms: 50 guineas per annum; 5 gns. entrance. Rutland Place: Private school, teacher Mrs. Hoffman, opened Jan., 1823, terms £4 11s. per year. Rented house, schoolroom 17 feet by 14 feet.—(*Schools of Kildare and Leighlin*, Dr. M. Brenan).

RUTLAND PLACE: Auction of furniture for Mrs Despard, 1837; Jas. Prossor, M.D., 1788; Captain Richard Hoye, 1842; Mrs. Catherine Morgan, 1842; Mrs. Forbes, School, 1842; Jos. Meagher, Attorney, 1842; Shewbridge Connor, M.D., 1842, M.O., Fever Hospital; Jas. Porter, M.D., 1842; Robert McGrath, Dancing Teacher; William Airay, Postmaster, Office, Rutland Place.

Mental Hospital

Carlow Mental Hospital now caters for Co. Kildare patients as well as those of Co. Carlow.

When it opened in 1830, and for ten years, it catered for Carlow and Counties Kilkenny and Wexford.

In 1840 the Mental Hospital or, as these institutions were called for many years, the lunatic asylum, in Waterford was opened and the Kilkenny and Wexford patients were transferred there. It seems amazing to think that they were transferred on jaunting cars, but I have been assured that this was the case, parents of older people remembered seeing numbers of cars leaving the town with patients and keepers bound for Waterford.

Medical Science has made immense strides in the hundred and twenty odd years, and close confinement and barred windows are now things of the past. The

Carlow Hospital has been much extended through the years, and in its spacious, well-wooded grounds it has little resemblance to an institution in the generally accepted sense of the word.

The original grounds of the Asylum were extended when it was found necessary to build a church adjacent to the hospital.

Portion of the hundred acres lying between "The Elms" ("Ellenville" it was named at this particular period) was leased from the trustees of the Byrn estate.

Portion where the church now stands was formerly a nursery owned by Mr. J. P. Nolan, a noted horticulturist in his day, and the rear portion bordering on the Co. Infirmary grounds was occupied by a starch factory and a number of small dwelling houses. These were demolished and an enclosing wall was erected around the entire grounds.

In 1840 a Mr. Wm. Parsons and his wife Lavinia were Governor and Matron. They resided at "The Elms." At that particular time the house was named "Ellenville."

Down the years many resident medical officers have in their turn devoted themselves to the care of the mentally afflicted, and it is good to learn that even in 1833, when these poor people were almost regarded as criminals, that H.M.'s Chief Inspector of Prisons, visiting the Asylum officially, expressed himself as being well satisfied with the conduct of the place.

It was in the Gate Lodge of the Mental Hospital that William Farrell compiled his diary which gives such a vivid picture of life in Carlow in 1798.—(*Carlow in '98*. Edited by Roger McHugh).

Unfortunately, the early records of the Institution were looked upon as being of little value and have disappeared.

Greenbank House was advertised in the *Carlow Sentinel* of 17-9-1836: "To be let, forever, or on such terms as may be agreed on, with or without a fine. Greenbank House, situate on Athy Road, Carlow. A most desirable family residence, newly built, with an acre of garden." The tenant could be accommodated with an acre of town park adjoining the premises. Samuel Haughton, Esq., who was letting the house, also sought proposals for setting a large house in Burrin Street.

In 1801, the two last boarders accepted at Ballitore School were Samuel and Thomas Haughton, sons of Samuel Haughton.

The Quarries

I take it that Thomas was our friend of Kelvingrove, and his brother Samuel the builder of Greenbank. Erected in the locality then known as The Quarries (which extended to the junction of the Athy and Dublin roads) considerable excavation had to be done in the adjoining field to get sufficient material to level up the site. Hence the front portion of the house, the drive and shrubbery are level with the road and much higher than the field.

The first indication of its occupation I found in *The Sentinel* of 15th September, 1838, when a Mr. Colles was registered as a voter, his claim being based on his being a tenant of Greenbank at a rent of £78 per year. I have only come across the name of Colles on one other occasion in connection with Carlow: a doctor Colles whom J.K.L. consulted regarding his health in 1833, so there may have been a relationship between the two. Mr. Colles did not remain long in Greenbank, as his furniture was advertised for auction in 1840.

In 1840 at the Special Road Sessions I mentioned previously Mr. Samuel Haughton offered Greenbank (at a price) for the purpose of a Fever Hospital. The authorities at the time were considering building or purchasing a suitable building.

Mr. Haughton's price was £1,200, which he said was but two-thirds of its value. The Co. Surveyor, Mr. Forth, estimated that £350 would be required for the necessary alterations.

Unfortunately, only £1,000 had been earmarked by the Grand Jury for Hospital purposes. Samuel sportingly reduced his figure to £950 and the meeting unanimously recommended the proposition to the Grand Jury for adoption, but for some reason they turned down the offer.

I am also unable to say if there was any other tenant in Greenbank until Mr. Samuel Wilfred Haughton took up residence there.

Samuel Wilfred was, I think, son of Samuel of Burrin Street, and nephew of Thomas. His sister married the Rev. J. Jamieson who was Rector of Killeshin.

Wilfred (he was usually called by his second name) was an engineer, and was associated with Wm. Dargan, the noted engineer, who lived at the time in Crossleigh House.

Drove Royal Train

Wilfred was very proud of having driven the royal train from Kingstown to Dublin on the occasion of Queen Victoria's first visit to Ireland in 1849. He made many improvements in Greenbank and at one time thought of making a large pond in the hollow field. Several springs were there, and he bored for others, but the gush of water would not rise sufficiently, so he scrapped the idea and

built a couple of pseudo-classical summer houses instead. Then he planted daffodil bulbs in profusion and arranged them to display the disposition of Wellington's troops at Waterloo—another Victorian whimsy.

Quite a number of the bulbs have survived and still make a gallant show in the Spring. It was probably Wilfred who erected the statue on the front walk.

He died in 1898, at the age of 76, and his sister and her husband went to reside in Greenbank. The Rev. Mr. Jamieson died in 1899, and his son who succeeded him in living at Killeshin took up his residence in Greenbank.

Rev. Godfrey Jamieson was a noted rugby player in his day. His wife was a Miss Kidd from Tullow. After living for some little time in Greenbank, his ecclesiastical superiors thought it desirable that he should reside in the rectory at Killeshin, and accordingly he moved back there, and Greenbank was once more vacant. A County Inspector of the R.I.C., Brookes by name, occupied the house for some time until 1912, when it was purchased by the late Mr. Michael Molloy, draper, Tullow Street.

Mr. Molloy removed a dilapidated flat-roofed two-roomed lodge at the left of the entrance gate. He built the outside wall and replanted the shrubbery.

After the death of Mr. Molloy's widow in 1948, Greenbank was purchased by Very Rev. D. B. Kennedy, Adm., and is now parochial property.

The Masonic Hall was erected in the year 1895. The row of small houses adjoining it was purchased by the late Mr. James Ryan, Coalmarket, at the time of Wilfred Haughton's death.

METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Congregation in Carlow for many years held their services in an old Huguenot Church in Cockpit Lane, which runs from Potato Market along the rear of the shops in Lower Tullow Street. (This building is still in existence and has recently been converted into a store). A new Methodist Church was opened in 1789 in Charlotte Street, now Mr. Coleman's garage, but as time went on it was found desirable to make another move.

Mr. Marlborough Douglas, a well-known local historian in his day, was a member of the congregation, and had long noted a central spot on the Athy road on which to build. Unfortunately, the owner of this site was unknown and could not be located.

The place was the site of an old quarry. About this time a non-resident Methodist gave a fillip to the idea of building as he offered a subscription of £500, but still no owner could be found.

During this deadlock, a long assizes was held in Carlow. The judges sat for three weeks and naturally brought a train of legal luminaries, greater and lesser, with their clerks, etc., etc., so that accommodation in the town was soon taxed to its utmost and late-comers had scant hope of shelter.

Perfect strangers knocked on the doors of private houses seeking lodging, and so it was that one night Mr. Douglas opened his door to one of these homeless ones who introduced himself as the Crown Solicitor for Queen's County. Favourably impressed, Mr. Douglas made him welcome to his spare room and soon they found

they had much in common. During the course of their evening chats Mr. Douglas mentioned the quandary of the unknown landlord. The guest was interested and said that he possibly could be of assistance. He went on to explain that he was agent for Lord Arthur Hill, who lived in Belfast. Lord Hill had somewhere in Carlow a totally unprofitable parcel of land.

On his return home he (the Crown Solicitor) would look up its whereabouts and put Mr. Douglas in touch with Lord Hill if it proved to be the coveted site, as he suspected it might be. Amazing coincidence it was! When Lord Hill was approached he was only too willing to give the site for a nominal sum. He had, he said, received kindnesses all his life from many Methodists, and he was only too happy to make this gesture as a token of appreciation.

Mr. Douglas was congratulated by Mr. Wilfred Haughton on his good fortune, and Mr. Haughton remarked that it needed squaring off on the Greenbank side. Mr. Douglas jokingly remarked that Mr. Haughton could assist with the "squaring." "Mark off what you need," was Mr. Haughton's reply, "and fence it." So the required portion of Greenbank land was added. Next came the problem of filling in the quarry before building operations could commence. Mr. Douglas was again the man in the gap. Meeting a contractor who was clearing the debris of demolished houses and carting it to the town dumping ground, Mr. Douglas suggested that he could halve his journey by

depositing the rubble into the quarry on the Church site, and offered to pay him at the rate of a penny per load delivered.

The contractor closed with the offer and duly delivered twelve hundred loads of rubble for which he received £5.

Plans had already been drawn up by a Belfast architect named Phillips, and they included a Minister's residence as well as the Church and school buildings. Unfortunately, the first promised gift of £500 did not materialise for totally unforeseen reasons, so the plans had to be altered considerably.

A member of the congregation who had a farm outside the town offered to supply granite stone for the building, but when quarrying had been in progress for a short while, his landlord filed an action against him for infringement of mineral rights. Explanations followed, and the landlord withdrew his action and gave permission to have the stone quarried. So, in April 1898 the fine grey granite Church with accommodation for 170 worshippers was opened for service.

A lecture hall adjoins the Church, and in the basement there is a tea room, a store-room and furnace-room.

The building was carried out by Mr. J. W. Mitchell, who established his building yard at Dublin Road, where Mr. Shirley now has his garage. Mr. Mitchell built and resided in the house in Dublin Street now occupied by Mrs. Walsh.

The Courthouse occupies an imposing position at the junction of the Athy and Dublin Roads. It is dealt with specially in this issue.

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, once occupying a site next to Kelvin Grove on Athy Road, has now been moved across the river. This may seem strange, but it is true. It went over stone by stone to become St. Clare's, Graiguecullen.

The church is part of Carlow's history and that history brings us back to 1841—the heyday of the Tory landlord.

Colonel Henry Bruen of Oak Park and Thomas Bunbury were returned for the constituency by a close margin against Dan O'Connell, Junior, known as "young Dan," and John Ashton Yates.

Conservatives of Tipperary set the ball rolling by starting a presentation fund for Col. Bruen. Other counties followed suit. A deputation waited on Col. Bruen at Carlow Clubhouse on April

Church that went across the Barrow

2nd, 1852. They had £2,000 in hands and ideas about giving the Colonel a service of gold plate.

Col. Bruen declined to accept any personal favour. Just then he was building a private church in his demesne in the form of a Greek temple, so he suggested that the money be devoted to erecting a free church for the use and benefit of Carlow parish. To this end he donated the field next Kelvin Grove. A meeting of subscribers was held at Morrison's Hotel, Dublin, on 6th May, 1842, and the project was approved. But

even in those days £2,000 was too little to complete such a project.

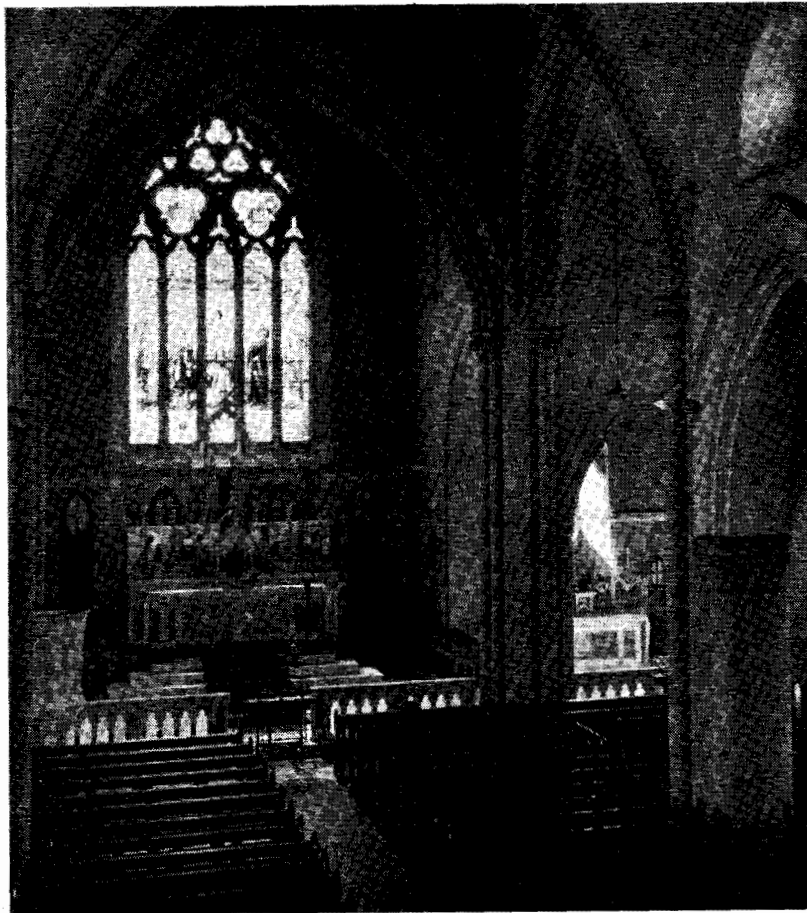
Two years later the Carlow *Sentinel* of July 13th, 1844, wrote that as not half the congregation could find places in the parish church, the Bruen Testimonial Committee should bestir themselves and take steps to build.

Colonel Bruen responded by promising to make good the difference between the £2,000 and the cost of the completed church.

Joyce, wife of John McDuff Derrick, the London architect, laid the stone forming portion of the east jamb of the south of the chancel on May 21st, 1852. The stone contained a scroll and coins of the realm. When found during the demolition of the church in 1923 the scroll was handed to the late Archdeacon Ridgeway and is preserved in St. Mary's Vestry. The fate of the coins is not recorded.

The church, a gem of Gothic architecture, had been closed for worship owing to the lack of a congregation. In 1923 it was purchased by the late Very Rev. James Fogarty, P.P., Graiguecullen, taken down stone for stone, and re-erected in Graiguecullen on what once was Haughton property. It still lacks its spire, the stones of which are awaiting a propitious time for erection. Both at the taking down and the erection of the church a steeplejack was killed.

Col. Bruen was an antiquarian, and though a staunch Conservative he voted in 1829 for the Catholic Relief Act.



St. Clare's to-day—P. MacCormaic



Carlow Courthouse.—I.T.A. photo block kindly lent by Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland.

CARLOW COURTHOUSE offers an imposing external prospect to the visitor. It is said that Dr. Doyle (J.K.L.) coveted this piece of ground as a site for his Cathedral, but he was balked by the spirit of the age, and had to fall back on the ground on which the existing Chapel stood.

Carlow people hug the tradition that the Courthouse was really intended for Cork, but the plans got mixed to Carlow's advantage. Built, like the Methodist Church, on a quarry site, it is raised high above street level and is reached by wide flights of stone steps. (I have been told that the quarry is drained by an underground stream which flows under Dublin Street).

In classical style, the Courthouse is modelled on the Partheon in Athens. The architect, a son of Sir Richard Morrison, died shortly after the building (started in 1882) was completed in 1883.

The contractors, Arthur Williams and Colbourne, figured in a suit against the building committee who were members of the Grand Jury, which was heard at the Car-

low Spring Assizes in March, 1842. They claimed a balance of £700 was due on the contract, and offered to submit to arbitration in preference to going to law.

Their counsel, Mr. Corballis, Q.C., who asked the Chief Justice to direct the Grand Jury to consider the claim and have a fair investigation, said his clients would submit to the adjudication of any three members of the Grand Jury.

The Chief Justice put the case to the Grand Jury, and one member, Mr. Wm. Duckett, said similar applications had been made long since. Divers sums had been paid while work was in progress and a Mr. Morrison, who had since died, reported that the contractors had actually been overpaid.

Another Grand Jury man, Mr. W. R. Steward, explained that several Grand Juries had already decided on the merits of the question, and the Chief Justice summed up: The Jury will not consent to the application.

Courthouse improvements were approved at the same Assizes, but when the Co. Surveyor later ap-

plied to the Grand Jury for two assistants, several voices thundered in unison: Why did the man take the job if he was incompetent to do it? Small wonder that Mr. Forth betook himself to a position in Waterford a little later.

The cannon—a long, obsolete piece of artillery—which stands on the Courthouse steps, saw service in the Crimea. After that war many of these weapons were offered for sale, proceeds going to disabled veterans and widows and orphans of those who fell in battle. The gun remains a memento of the Grand Jury's benevolence.

To the right of the building is a curious chestnut tree which in Spring bears both pink and white blossoms. A caretaker named Rodgers bound two growing chestnut saplings together and the trunks merged, but each has kept its identity.

The magnificent Courthouse railings invariably excite admiration. Standing high on a limestone base, they are topped by replicas of the ancient Roman axe, the fasces, the Roman symbol of Justice.

Lest I Forget

IT is said that in life few people are left out on purpose, many by default. May I hope that I leave none out who helped me in compiling this issue of *Carloviana*. I am grateful to all who came forward with articles. Contributions did not fit within the compass of this issue and go into the advance file for the next issue.

Obviously, with a small circulation of under a thousand we could not make the Journal pay its way were it not that it is a completely voluntary effort.

Articles are given freely or adapted from papers read before the Society. Photographs are given free by members of the Carlow Photographic Society.

The cover picture is an outstanding example of the standard maintained. I wish to thank especially Donal Godfrey who went to such trouble taking special pictures, free of charge, for us. Also George Kellet.

My thanks are also due to a Sister of St. Leo's Community for her remarkable imaginative sketch of Moran, and to Mrs. Smith for her drawing of the hill. James O'Rourke of Graiguecullen drew the decoration for the top of Alec Burns' article on Val Vousden and also the inset for the memoir on the Rowing Club. He also wrote the poems specially for this issue.

Without the help of all these, our advertisers and many others, we could not produce this Journal to sell at one shilling per copy at 1,000 circulation, so remember you are enjoying the benefits of a subsidy that was too generous to be measured in terms of money.

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BOUNDARY IN 1832

IN the last issue of *Carloviana* we published an article dealing with the formation of the Carlow Town Commission in 1852. The town boundary was then under discussion. Our esteemed contributor Miss A. Tracey sends us the following particulars of the boundary of Carlow. It is taken from a map drawn by George Gipps and Thomas C. Duffy, about the year 1832.

From the point (A) below the town where the River Barrow is met by the north wall of the grounds of the house belonging to Mr. Carey Adjutant of the Carlow Militia, eastward along the said wall to a point (B) at which the same meets the Kilkenny Road.

Thence in a straight line to the Southern wall of the Infirmary (C), thence in a straight line to a little above

the Barracks at which the River Burrin is joined by a small stream Aska (D).

Thence up the said stream and across the Tullow Road (E), to a point at which the stream is met by a bridge, which runs down thereto from opposite the southern end of a plantation attached to the house on the Baltin-glass Road which belongs to Mr. Hunt, and is occupied by Mr. Butler, and along the said hedge to a point at which the same meets the Baltin-glass road (F).

Thence in a straight line in the direction of the cupola of the Lunatic Asylum to the point (G), at which such straight line cuts a road which runs between the Baltin-glass road and the Dublin road.

Thence in a straight line to the gate (H) on the eastern side of the Dublin road, which is distant about 100

yards to the north of the north-eastern corner of the enclosure wall of the Lunatic Asylum, to the point (M) to the north of the principal entrance to the Lunatic Asylum, at which the Athy Road is met by a wall which runs therefrom to a burial ground, and which wall is the southern boundary of the pleasure grounds of Mr. Horton.

Thence westward along the last mentioned wall to the point (N), at which the same meets the wall of the said burial ground to a point at which the same meets the River Barrow (O).

Thence in a straight line to the spire of Graigue church (P).

Thence in a straight line to the summer house in Mr. Wilson's garden (Q).

Thence in a straight line to the point first described.

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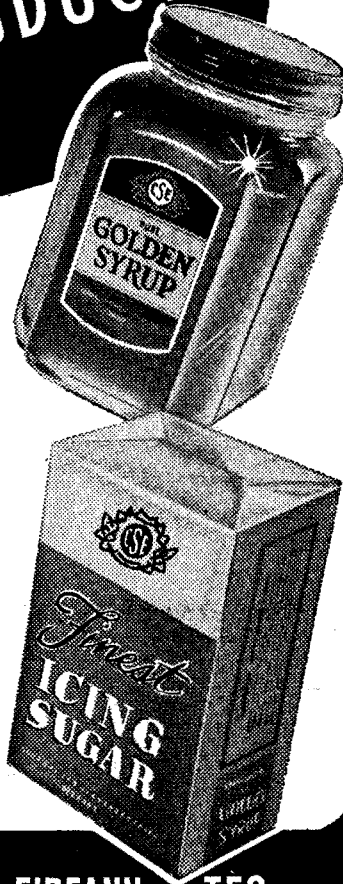
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Nowadays, the flagstones are gone, the tops have gone, the marbles have gone, gone, too, are handball, hopscotch, skipping—and the children.

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