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JOURNAL OF THE OLD CARLOW SOCIETY



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What we are doing

THE Old Carlow Society has completed its eighteenth season. Indoor meetings continue to attract a large number of members, and their friends.

Our Annual and Summer Afternoon Outings are an outstanding success. The enjoyment of these outings is enhanced by excellent organisation.

As a society we have worked together in a friendly, sociable spirit, with everyone active in promoting the common good. A community is as lively and vigorous as the people who compose it.

Activity is the proof of enterprise and we have no lack of either in the society since its foundation.

The society is a living body fulfilling a need in the town and district and making a successful appeal to all our members.

The years have a way of passing by and we want to collect and set down in the pages of **Carloviana** all the data we can before it is lost to us forever.

There are few amongst us who cannot recall hearing tales which were told even in our own locality. No matter how short the story is, it may be a worthwhile contribution to the pages of our journal.

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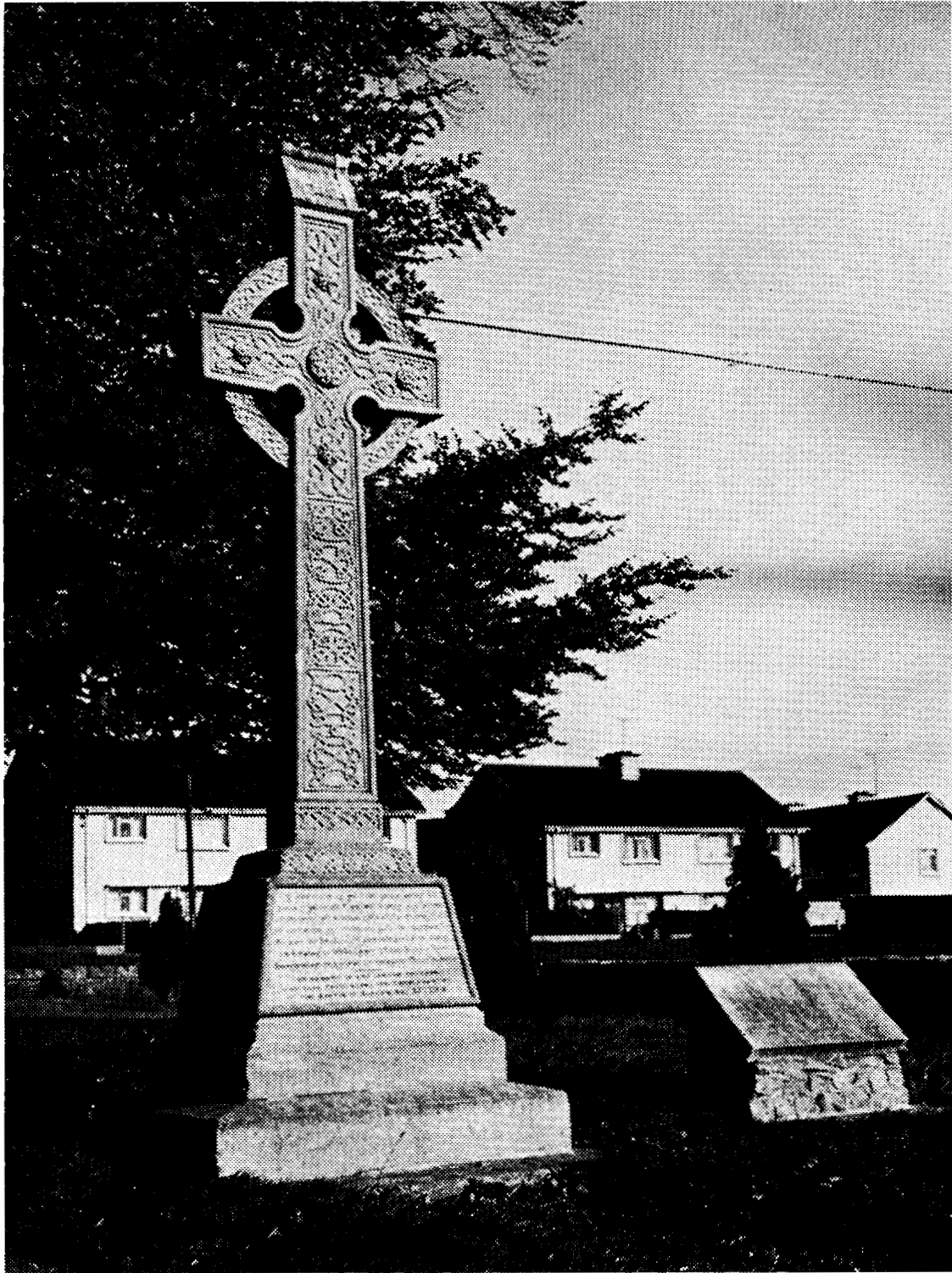
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SUMMER OUTINGS



The Croppies' Grave showing the Memorial Cross and beside it the tablet erected by Rowan McCoombe.

Photo: Godfrey

Carlow Poet or Rhymer

PATRICK PURCELL

SOMEWHERE about the middle or third quarter of the nineteenth century there flourished in Carlow, a poet, or perhaps, it would be more correct to say a rhymer, Rowan McCombe by name. He cannot be termed an altogether forgotten bard, for he is still held in remembrance by the fast dwindling generation amongst which he moved and had his being. He filled the position of local manager, or agent, for the Barrow Navigation Company, and if one can judge from the tone of some of his lyrics, he was a staunch Tory, a firm upholder of British Rule or fervent loyalist, and an ardent admirer of her Majesty Queen Victoria. Some of his emanations touching on local events are distinctly humorous, and must have caused much amusement amongst his contemporaries. In the 'seventies he published a little volume of poems. The book was extremely

well brought out as regards letterpress and binding, and the author and publisher is justified in claiming credit for its production in his own printing office in Carlow-Graigue.

"CROPPY HOLE"

That McCombe had more than one side to his character is proved by the fact that at his own expense he erected a tablet at "Croppy Hole" to the memory of the 640 insurgents of '98, who were slaughtered in their unsuccessful attack on Carlow, and were thrown into unhallowed pits dug for the reception of the bodies. This reads as follows:—

"ERECTED BY ROWAN McCOMBE
Superintendent of The Barrow Navigation
Company and Town Councillor of Carlow
to the six hundred and forty men who gave
their lives in Tullow Street on 26th May
1798 and whose remains lie beneath this
mound, sleeping the sleep that knows no
waking.

Who fears to speak of Ninety Eight"

This kindly act has caused him to be held in grateful remembrance and there is no doubt that it led to the movement for the decent enclosure of the ground where rest the men who took arms and sacrificed their lives in an effort to win liberty for their native land.

We propose to give a few of McCombe's pieces. The first deals with an episode at a meeting of the Carlow Town Commission. It is prefaced by a passage evidently culled from a report in one of the local papers. It is headed:—

CARLOW TOWN COMMISSION SCENE

"An adjourned meeting of Carlow Town Commission was held on Thursday evening. present: Messrs Mathias Tynan (chairman); Edward Clarke, Matthew Byrne, James Bolger, Patrick Bolger, Benjamin Coleman, Edward Tracey, Michael McDonald, Michael Murphy, James Graham and Rowan McCombe.

A FRIEND IN COURT

"William Vass presented in person a bill for £9 odd, for lighting and caring the street (paraffin) lamps, and urgently demanded payment.



Chairman: Unfortunately we cannot pay anything until Mr. Palmer is paid.

Vass: Until what?

Mr. McCombe: We pay Mr. Palmer of the bank.

Chairman: We must pay the National Bank first.

Vass: Can't you renew the bill and pay the amount? How do you think I could work the whole winter and not be paid? I'll just walk away, but you know I've a friend and he's the barrister. (laughter)

Mr. McCombe: Tell me, Vass, does he wear a wig? (renewed laughter in which Vass joined heartily)

Vass: Gentlemen, before I go do youse all say without giving me any more trouble that in a week or a fortnight you'll give me a small amount?

Several Commissioners: Certainly.

Vass: Well, then, no law for me. To h—— with the law. (laughter)

Mr. J. Bolger: You will be the first that will be looked to.

A SCENE

"At this stage of the proceedings and as the Board was about to adjourn, Mr. Duggan, pump contractor, who had made an unsuccessful demand for payment of his account on the previous board day, entered the room and made an urgent appeal for a settlement. Having failed however to entreat any money from the Board he became very excited, and having locked the door of the board-room, he resolutely refused to give up the key until paid his account. The scene, which followed baffles all attempts at description. After considerable parleying and several rather serious encounters in which "fire irons" were rather freely used and the unfortunate Vass, who attempted to pick the lock, was rather roughly handled, the door was ultimately burst in by the Nuisance Inspector, and others attracted to the place by the strange, and noisy proceedings inside. This exciting scene was prolonged for some time, when the meeting broke up in disorder, and fortunately before any severe injuries were sustained by any of the actors in the melee. At one time the affray appeared to be assuming such formidable proportions that the presence of the police was considered advisable but their services were not called into requisition.

TEN

Rowan McCombe's version of the proceedings was as follows:—

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Pump-borer came like a wolf on the fold,
His eyes gleaming fiercely for notes or for gold,
He sought not for favours, he asked but his own;
Appealing oft to them—but cash there was none.

Enraged like a Sampson he bolted the door
And wildly he menaced, and fiercely he swore.
The roar of the lion was ne'er heard so high,
Whilst the fire of a Vulcan shot forth from his eye.

The Lamp-lighter entered, dishevelled and black,
His hair streaming wildly, bent on the same task
He strove with the poker to open the door,
But found himself soon making love to the floor.

The pump-borer flew at this glimmering light—
I hope I shall ne'er again see such a sight;
Imagine a cat in the grasp of a bear
And you have an idea of what occur'd there.

And low lay the Lighter, with nostril all wide,
The poker and tongs were the broad-sword he plied;
The Chairman grew pale, the reporters took flight,
And all the Commissioners fled with the fright.

The angels recording escaped through the roof,
And fleet as a thunderbolt issued their "proof"
The "Sentinel" shook at the tramp of the host,
While the cold sweat of death struck the gods on
the "Post".

And the "polis" of Carlow were true to their post,
And the Watchman was glorious and talked far
the most;
And the Nuisance Inspector, with Herculean
strength,
Cleared out the Town Hall of officials at length.

And the windows and sashes did quiver and quail,
As an old cracked piano rang out "Granuaile";
And the whole Town Commission dissolv'd like a
drum,
And the minutes were tombed by the lamp's
feeble gleam.

HERE IS ANOTHER PIECE IN A DIFFERENT STRAIN

THE BARROW AND THE NORE

O! Erin, my darling, tho' tall folks may dine,
On Switzerland's heights and the banks of the Rhein
Thank goodness we've pastime and pleasure galore,
By the clear winding Barrow and broad swelling
Nore.

Acushla machree, just venture and see
These beauties that nature intended for thee.

One day in a life-time, to shake off dull care,
And see the ould country, so charming and fair,
Is only what nature dictates all should claim—
Then see Erin's beauties—if not, you're to blame.
Acushla machree, just venture and see
These beauties that nature intended for thee.

To view noble Brandon, with peak to the sky,
Blackstair, and Mount Leinster, and Borris hard by;
And the ivy-clad walls of St. Mullins so green
Where the kings of the past lie in slumber between.
Acushla machree, nor Shannon nor Lee
Blackwater, nor Liffey, are nothing to thee.

Sweet vale of Clashganny, where murmuring sweeps
The wild mountain river down rapids and steeps:
Still wending its course o'er the Scars to the sea,
With the Nore and the Barrow in wild jubilee.
Acushla machree, roll on to the sea,
Thy murmuring sounds like some soft lullaby.

O! shades of Bahanna, the perfumes exhale,
And sweet Graignamanagh and fair Brandondale,
Show once and forever how perfect the bore
Of wasting one's time on the rocks of Tramore.
Acushla machree, by land or by sea,
There's no spot in Erin can equal to thee.

The time-honoured tales and legends of yore,
That cling to thy beautiful ruins, asthore,
Shall never from memory's vision depart;
Then drink to old Erin, with full flowing heart.
Acushla machree, a bumper to thee,
Dear Erin, dear Erin, a bumper to thee.

For the sake of the past, could each fair one renege,
But kiss the stone cross of fair Innistague?
They've charms like the "Blarney", a good reason why
They were kissed by the lady of bould Colonel T—.
Acushla machree, none fairer than she,
Then kiss the stone cross, like fair Lady T.

All hail with high welcome the fair coming day,
When light hearts can mingle with all that is gay;
When the hum of contentment, the toast and the song
Shall ring through the air as we gaily steer on.
Acushla machree, if pleasures there be,
A cruise on the Barrow's the pleasure for me.

AND THIS IS A STIRRING ELECTION BALLAD

(Air: 'O'Donnell Abu!')

The hour's at hand when the bold sons of Erin,
No longer shall cower in silence as slaves
The hour has come when our kith and our kinsmen
No longer shall list to those time-serving knaves,
Then up boys, be doing—the Chief who shall
lead you

Is now on his march to the Hustings, hurrah!
Come out, let us meet him, like Irishmen greet him,
Our Chieftain McDonald, the pride of Cloghna.

You all must remember how soon comes November,
And each man that day must appear in the field,
Be mindful of Traitors, and base Agitators,
Be daring as Mars, bearing onward your shield—
That shield shall be borne in triumph that morn
O'er Ossory's plain, in the teeth of their law;
The man of our choice we'll elect with one voice,
McDonald, our Chieftain, the pride of Cloghna.

Come out from the fens, from the mountains
and glens,
Be firm and fear not, for right's on our side;
If foemen should rally again at Stradbally,
Let one faugh-a-ballagh strike fear, far and wide;
From that to Mountmellick, surprise every hillock,
The Heath, Dunamase, strike home terror and awe,
The day shall be ours, if balls come in showers,
We'll vote for McDonald the pride of Cloghna.

The proud autocrat with his lands extending,
For miles o'er the plains may oppose us again;
He'll put on the chain if he finds you but bending,
But woe, to the coward who lets it remain;
The man of our choice is the son of old Erin,
The friend of our childhood, then who should
withdraw?
But rally around him, and foemen astound them
With cheers for McDonald, the pride of Cloghna.

Come down from Killeshin, ye sons of oppression,
The heel of the monster has crushed you too long;
Come down from Clogrennan, and high hills of
Doonane,
Ye sons of Old Leighlin come join in the throng;
Your ground's Ballickmoyler, no artful beguiler
Must lure from the path, but move onward, hurrah!
Your numbers increasing, your efforts unceasing
And cheers for McDonald, the pride of Cloghna.

The day shall be won by McDonald and Dunne,
Fitzpatrick and Digby must march to the rear
The one "agitator", the other a creature
Sent here by the "Church" to bamboozle and 'snare;
The man of our choice we'll elect with one voice.
Hurrah for McDonald, the pride of Cloghna.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

The Editors would be interested to hear from anyone who has old photographs of Carlow and District, no matter how faded or uninteresting these may appear to be. Such photographs sometimes print surprisingly well and may be invaluable when used as illustrations for some article we are considering for the Journal.



Mother M. Catherine McAuley

Foundress, Sisters of Mercy

Photo: Courtesy St. Leo's

IN THE CRIMEA

MARY TERESA KELLY

TO better understand why two sisters from St. Leo's, Carlow, should find themselves in the far away Crimea, nursing and caring for the wounded and dying soldiers, we must first take a look at events in European History in the year 1854.

England and France declared war on Russia in March, 1854; but hostilities did not open in the Crimea. The Russians were attacking the Turks in Sillisia in Rumania; then belonging to Turkey. The British Army was sent to assist the Turks. A base was set up at Scutari; a large village on the shores of the Bosphorus. The chief objective of the Allied forces was the destruction of the Russian Naval Base at Sebastapol. When the British Army landed in the Crimea in September, 1854, there were not enough transport ships to bring the Allied Forces and its equipment across the Black Sea. Only twenty-one wagons were brought for 30,000 men. Tents, cooking equipment, hospital requirements and medical chests had to be left behind.

On September 14th, 1854 the Army disembarked at Calamity Bay. A week later the British and French won the Battle of Alma, but the wounded soldiers paid the price of the abandonment of all hospital equipment; the wounded had to be got back to the base at Scutari across the Black Sea. The General Hospital there was full of Cholera cases; so Dr. Menzies the Senior Medical Officer was ordered to take over and convert the Artillery Barracks into a hospital, an impossible task. There were only ten doctors for the 2,500 wounded in Scutani; there was no equipment, beds, lint, bandages, dressers, no water nor drinking vessels. These horrors the British people would never have heard of but for William Howard Russell, the first War Correspondent of "The Times" with the British Army.

Russell was an Irishman and in the dispatches he sent to "The Times" on different

dates in the month of October he described the sufferings of the sick and wounded. There were no surgeons, no nurses, no dressers, no lints and bandages. The military authorities hated Russell and his paper and chose to ignore it.

WAR OFFICE OUTRAGED

The British people were furious that the French had made arrangements for the French Sisters of Charity to look after their soldiers. The British War Office was outraged, but they could not muzzle the press.

These are the events that lead to a letter arriving at St. Leo's Convent of Mercy, Carlow from Sr. Vincent (Whitty), Mother House, Baggot St., one morning in November, 1854.

Rev. Mother read the letter to the Sisters assembled in the Community Room for Morning Lecture. The contents of the letter was a demand from the Government War Office for Sisters to nurse in the Crimea. Enclosed with this letter were copies of two others, one a request from Mother Vincent (Whitty) to Monsignor Yore for permission for the Sisters to nurse in the East. The second was from Dr. Yore to the Secretary of War granting permission to the Sisters to offer their services. Dr. Yore stipulated that they (the sisters) be conveyed to the scene of their labours and maintained there, that they be accompanied by a chaplain who should remain during their stay, and return with them, receiving the usual appointments of a Chaplain.

When the letters were read, each sister who wished to volunteer for service in the East was asked to put her name in a box left on the table.

Out of all those who put their names down only two could be spared. Sr. M. Aloysius (from whose memoirs this paper has been compiled and Sr. M. Stanislaus; both were young and healthy and well accustomed to nursing

the sick and poor as they had done during the cholera outbreak in the Famine. The next step was to get the Bishop's (Most Rev. Francis Haly) permission. He was kindhearted, but he did not easily give his consent.

He paced up and down the Reception Room saying "Out among the soldiers—perhaps on the Battlefield too, I know they go out among the sick poor of the town, but this is quite a different thing." However after some time he gave his permission. Then preparations were completed for the time when the order arrived from Baggot St., to start out.

ROUGH PASSAGE

A telegram arrived with instructions to leave by the first train. Dr. Dunne, President of Carlow College celebrated an early Mass, and accompanied the Sisters on their journey. They were received by Mother Vincent and the other Sisters who had been busily packing supplies for them—soap, starch, smoothing irons and a medicine chest. The following morning the little band led by Rev. Mother Francis Bridgeman, left Kingstown at 7 a.m. in the morning for London. Sr. Aloysius recounts that they had a very rough passage and were very ill. They were met in London by Mr. Lucas, editor of "The Tablet", a relative of Mother Vincent. Sr. Aloysius and Sr. Stanislaus were housed at the Convent of Mercy, Chelsea.

Despite the stipulations of Dr. Yore there was a difficulty in getting a chaplain. Finally Fr. Ronan, S.J., was named. Dr. Manning (afterwards Cardinal) came to say good-bye and give the Sisters his blessing.

On the morning of 2nd December, 1854, the Sisters arrived at London Bridge Station to meet the Ladies and paid nurses of the party. They all wore the same outfit which appeared to be contract work; and all the same size; so that the ladies who were tall had short dresses and the small ladies had long dresses; these consisted of grey tweed wrappers, worsted jackets, white caps and short woollen cloaks, and to conclude, a frightful scarf of brown Holland embroidered in red with the words "Scutari Hospital".

Crossing from Portsmouth to Bologne the party travelled overland via Paris and Lyons to Marseilles. At Marseilles, the Sisters boarded a French boat called "The Egyptus". It was filled with cavalry bound for the seat of war. Sr. Aloysius described the various places they

passed on their voyage; the Straits of Bonifacio and the Straits of Messina. They anchored at Messina for a while.

Next day after leaving Messina a dreadful storm arose accompanied by thunder and lightening and rain. The Sisters were terrified but Rev. Mother chided them and told them that their Heavenly Father did not take them from their Convent Home to leave them at the bottom of the Mediterranean, that he had work for them to do. The day after the storm the captain put into Navarino for shelter and repairs. There was good weather for the remainder of the voyage. They entered the Dardanelles and cast anchor at a little town called Gallipoli where the English troops first landed; and finally reached Constantinople.

The beautiful city of Constantinople was a delight after the long sea journey. The Marble Palaces and Mosques reflected in the waters of Bosphorus were a veritable garden of Eden. The party of nuns and nurses waited on board for word to proceed to Scutari, but no word came. At last a curt message arrived for the Sisters "Not wanted at Scutari". The War Office had made a mistake in sending out the party. There was no room for them.

ESCORTED ASHORE

Rev. Mother Francis (Bridgeman) leader of the party of nuns; who was always calm in the midst of difficulties wrote to the Sisters of Charity at Galata asking hospitality for her Sisters for a short time until she could make other arrangements. Miss Stanley applied to the British Embassy for her party. Two Sisters of Charity came over in a boat to the ship took charge of their luggage and escorted them ashore and brought them to their convent where their Rev. Mother welcomed her fifteen guests.

It was Christmas Eve, 1854 and the Irish and English Sisters of Mercy spent their first Christmas in the East. Christmas over they awaited news from Headquarters. Rev. Mother was in correspondence with the Authorities; and at last a despatch came to say that five sisters were to proceed to Scutari to the General Hospital; while arrangements were made for the other ten Sisters to proceed to a house on the Bosphorus to await further orders.

At once the five sisters started for Scutari, Rev. Mother Francis, Sr. M. Agnes, Elizabeth, Winefred and Aloysius. Their quarters in Scutari was one little room in a not very agreeable

locality; but they did not complain; they expected to be sent to the Hospital wards at once—but no—Sr. Agnes and Sr. Aloysius were sent to a store to sort clothes that had been eaten by the rats. In a dark gloomy shed the two nuns did the best they could, but the rats had ruined everything. The English nobility had emptied their linen stores to send out bandages. Huge bales of the finest cambric sheets, some came from the Queen's Palace, but the rats had destroyed everything, they were everywhere and the Sisters were terrified of them.

CHOLERA PLAGUE

The cholera plague persisted and the wounded soldiers continued to arrive, after tossing about on the Black Sea for two or three or more days. They were in a dreadful state of dirt and were so weak that they had to be cleaned carefully. Most of them required spoon-feeding; they were issued with wine, sago, arrowroot. The wine and the brandy was issued every morning by the doctors and carried in by the orderlies. The state of the frost-bitten patients was even worse. The men who came from the "Front" as they called it,

had only thin linen suits issued when they left England in the Summer of 1854 for the Crimea; no other clothing to keep out the Crimean frost of 1854-55, but in fact there were blankets enough in store to give a third one to every man; but the men lay on the muddy ground with nothing under them nor nothing over them, since their blankets were lost in battle and the regulations did not entitle them to replacements. During November, December and January 1854-55 when green coffee was being issued to the men, there were 173,000 rations of tea in store at Balaklava; 20,000 lbs of lime juice arrived for the troops in December, 1854 but none were issued until February 1855 because no order existed for the inclusion of tea and lime juice in the daily ration. In January 1855 when the Army at Sebastopol was ravaged by scurvy, a shipload of cabbage was thrown into the harbour at Balaclava on the grounds that it was not consigned to anyone. Small wonder that there were more soldiers in hospital suffering from cholera, Thypus Fever and frost-bite than there were at the "front."

In 1855 the Scutari Hospital was given back

Continued in page 39



ST. LEO'S CONVENT OF MERCY, CARLOW

Photo: Courtesy St. Leo's

News Round-Up 1964

MARY SMITH

THE harvesting of local news items at the end of a year is an interesting exercise for those with time and inclination. How clearly the picture of civic progress is drawn when we view it in perspective. How exasperating "the law's delays" when we see them impede that forward movement, and (let us admit it) how frustrating the apathy and lack of pride which is often evident.

All these facts were highlighted one night in September when Telefis Eireann visited us

for the programme "Open House," and Lt. General Costello stressed the necessity of industrial investment and development in this region if the town is to expand into the city it may very well become.

While the provision of new industries is a more complex problem, the improvement of the town itself is a matter which took precedence in the minds of Manager, Council and Engineers alike during the past year. Already some of the first fruits are to be seen, and



THE OLD GLOBE INN AT THE CORNER OF BROWNE STREET AS IT IS TO-DAY.

a glimpse afforded of what is to come.

The Kilkenny-Dublin bypass, while not yet a tangible fact has moved somewhat nearer realisation and the future will provide a new housing estate in the area lying between Barrack Street and the corner of Granby Row. Here there will be sites for private building, as well as a Council project which will cost an estimated £45,270. A new bridge will carry the road over the Burrin and so to Green Lane where already the road is being widened, 28 houses have been built, and there is provision for a green space of playing pitches and tennis courts.

PROPOSED HOSPITAL

On the Kilkenny Rd., within two or three years Carlow should possess a 3-unit District Hospital, standing next door to a new voluntary Hospital which the Blue Sisters propose to build immediately, on a site given by the Co. Council. Close by, in the near future will arise the regional Technical College which should establish Carlow as an educational centre with few provincial equals. The fact that our town was chosen for this is due undoubtedly to the work of a vigorous and enthusiastic Vocational Committee and their C.E.O., Mr. Waldron.

It is inevitable that a town "bursting at the seams" as Carlow is must envisage very soon a boundary extension, and the blue-print for this is already in the hands of the Council. It will entail a certain amount of annexation from Laois, which should round off the present lop-sided growth. This too pin-points the need for a second Barrow bridge which, as a constructive writer to the Nationalist pointed out,

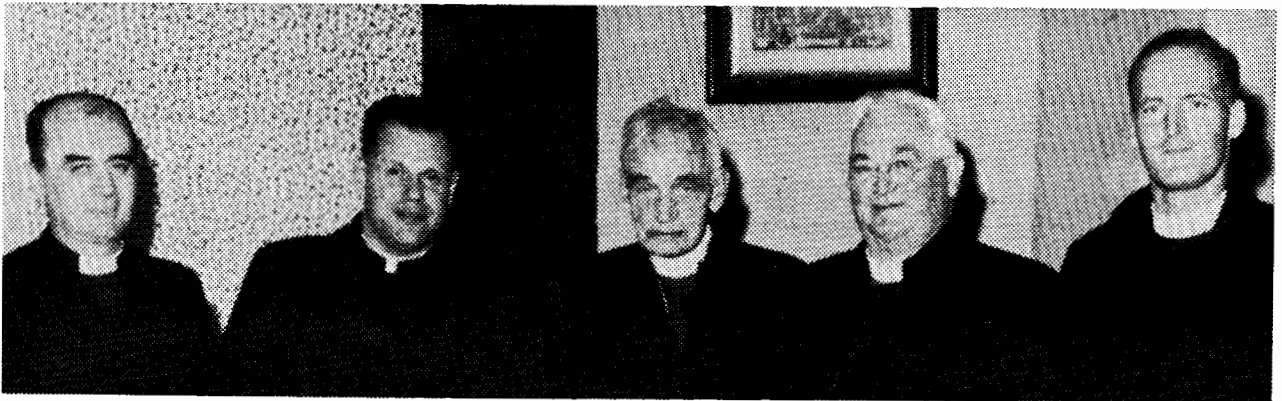
is long overdue as it figured on the Council's plans nearly 100 years ago.

Meanwhile private enterprise is not lagging behind, as the many handsome new frontages in Dublin St., for instance, indicate. The premises of the Royal Hotel, the E.S.B. and Messrs Corless and Hayes have been modernised in such a way as to add beauty and dignity to the street. In Tullow St., a large supermarket replaces the old-established Molloy's, and Messrs Suttons new food-market adds much to the appearance of Centaur St. In Barrack St. Messrs Goods' new show place for agricultural machinery adjoins the cattle mart, and our economic dependence on the farmer is stressed by the appearance of a smiliar establishment on the Dublin Rd., opposite St. Mary's Cemetery

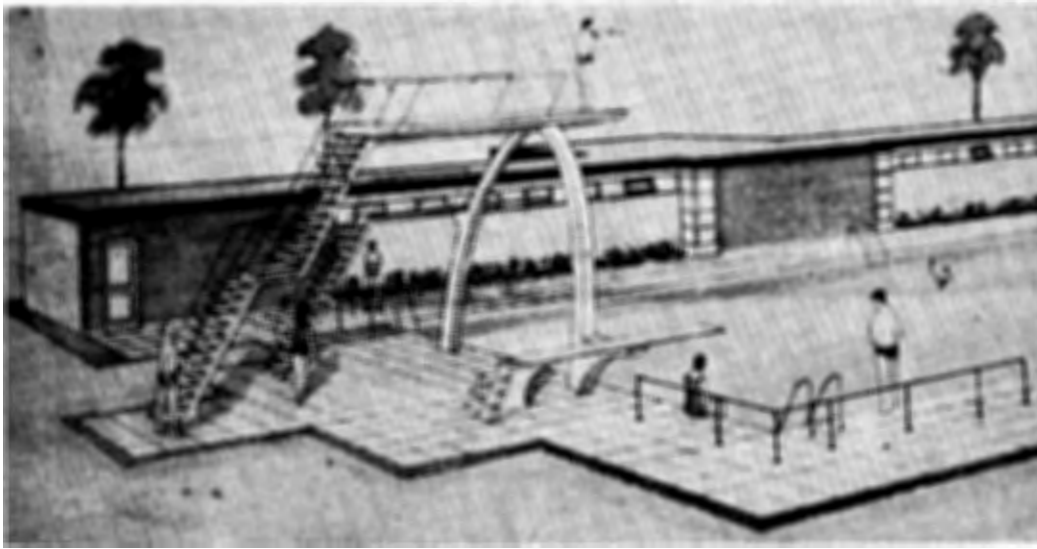
NEW SWIMMING POOL

We are not forgetting the recreational and cultural side of advancement. The plans for a town Swimming pool are complete, and the committee, after magnificent work have handed over to the Council the large sum collected for the project, on which it is intended to spend up to £36,000. The site is still not definitely indicated, but we can be sure of its value and appropriateness.

Most important news is the conversion by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Old Fever Hospital into a Youth Club. It was acquired in May, and much enthusiastic and voluntary help has been transforming it both indoors and outdoors. Carlow boys and girls have been extremely vocal about lack of social amenities in the town, and we hope that Our



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lennon, Rev. Fr. Baum, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Keogh, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Conway,
Rev. P. J. Brophy. *Nationalist photo*



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF NEW SWIMMING POOL

Nationalist block

Lady's Youth Centre will give them something to do with their time and talents.

GOOD WORK

Carlow's societies have been doing good work too in providing entertainment. In May the Little Theatre group gave us an excellent production "The Year of the Hiker", so well supported that they had to play two extra nights. Later in the month Romberg's tuneful "New Moon", the Operatic Society's presentation was a dashing and colourful affair, crowded every night.

In February the Gramophone Society, under the auspices of the Arts' Council presented Dr. Antony Hughes in a piano recital at St. Leo's. It was an unusual and much appreciated treat.

Our own Society, the Old Carlow, continued the tenor of its way, with most interesting and evocative papers read during the winter session, and enjoyable instructive outings in the summer. We shall not easily forget our last such, the ascent of Mt. Leinster through a thick blanket of mist without benefit of ropes, radar or compass. How hospitable and dry seemed the Television station however, when we finally reached the summit and watched the football semi-final from 2000 ft. up!

Carlow had the honour in December of hearing the only public address in Ireland of Father Baum, the eminent priest-expert on the Movement for Christian Unity, on his way

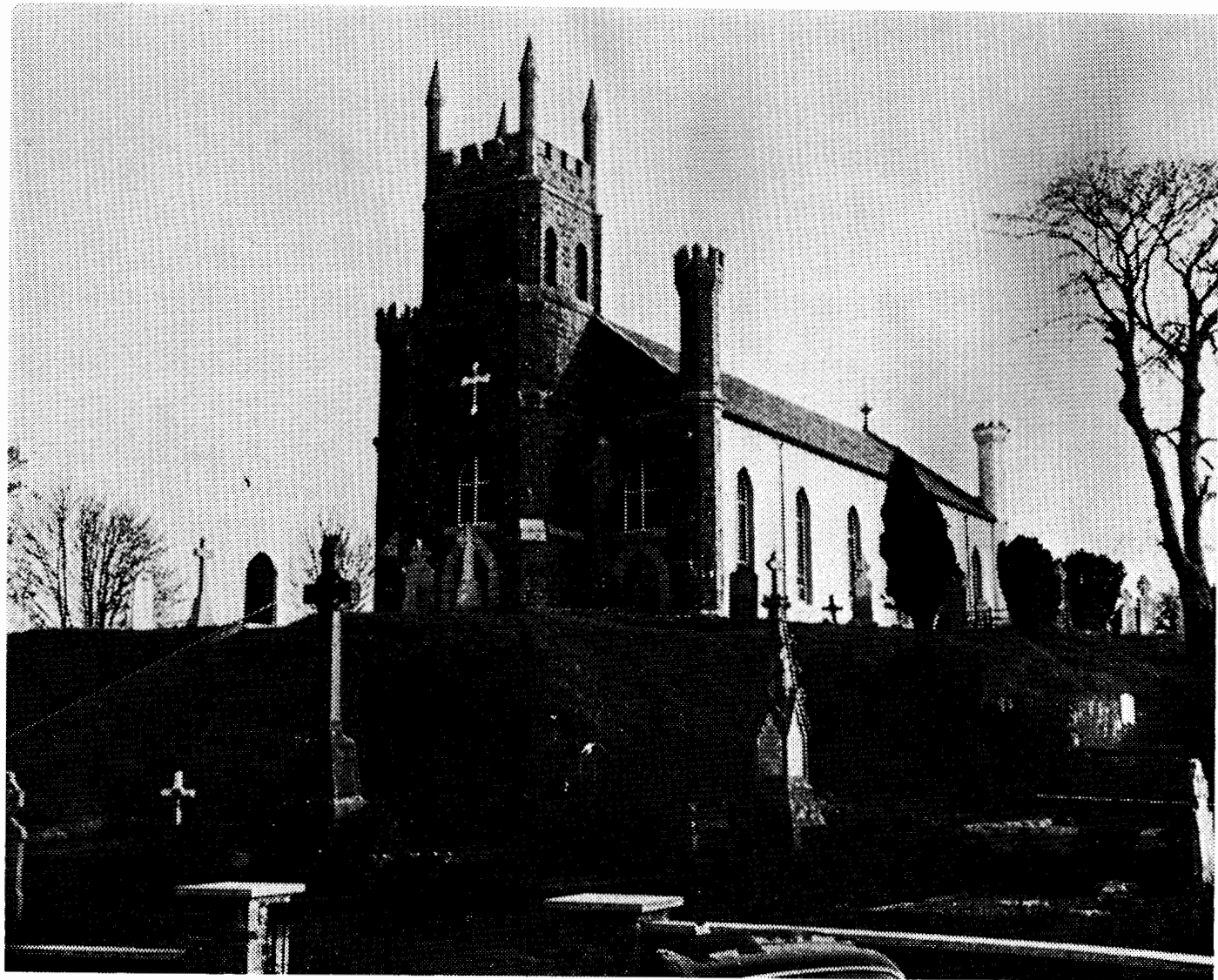
home to Canada from the Vatican Council. In the composition and sympathy of the speakers and audience one experienced a unique and unparalleled occasion.

FLAG AT HALFMAST

The tragic death of President Kennedy in November brought to Carlow as to every corner of the earth a pang of loss. While the flag on the Court House drooped sadly at halfmast, His Lordship, the Bishop, celebrated a Requiem Mass, and business in the town came to a standstill. Some months later the majority of residents in Coal Market decided to rename their street in the late President's honour and call it Kennedy St. Though the change is not yet ratified, the new name is being generally used.

During demolition work in Brown St. in November a curious inscription came to light on an interior wall of a tenement: "Poor children of all persuasions educated here". Local opinion suggests that it may have been a Quaker refuge for children. Whatever the truth, the buildings have now gone, providing a large car park near the town centre.

The sale of McElwee's in May recalls the historical associations of the house and the adjoining premises which in the 18th century comprised the Globe Inn. Popular tradition adds further glamour to the tale by insisting that James II slept there on his flight from the Boyne.



Church of the Holy Cross, Killeshin, which has recently been renovated.

Photo: Godfrey

Those who remembered visits to the local cribs at Christmas were saddened to hear that the Graiguecullen crib had been destroyed by fire in January. It had a special quality of its own and its loss will be regretted by all.

THE CATHEDRAL

The courtyard of the Cathedral is at the moment being repaved. Gone are the old granite paving stones, replaced by hexagonal concrete paving blocks. The effect is smooth and spacious. In this connection one notes the level sward around St. Mary's Church, where head-stones have for the most part been laid flat, surrounded by well-kept grass. There is a suggestion that the Old Graves, long a subject of contention and at last taken over by the U.D.C., might be dealt with in the same way, providing a more fitting resting place for bishop, partiot and townsman alike.

There has been much acrimonious comment on the despoiling of the trees in the Station Rd., which formerly provided a picturesque vista to the traveller arriving at the station. Some were of necessity bulldozed when school buildings went up, but the drastic lopping of the others has produced ugly caricatures of the noble chestnut. They are however in keep-

ing with the new poles of enormous girth and incredible ugliness which the E.S.B. are erecting in Dublin Rd. It is difficult to believe that anyone with the slightest feeling for décor in his own home could be satisfied with monstrosities such as these in his streets.

FIRST INDUSTRY

In March, Governey's Boot Factory completed its sixtieth year a' growing. It was one of the first industries in the town and the fact that it has still an important place in our economy was stressed by the very original window show which Messrs Hadden staged in commemoration, when operatives were seen at work on the production of shoes. In 1904 the leather used was imported, but today 80 per cent of it is of Irish origin, a considerable amount coming from the Milford Tanneries.

Other local industries made the headlines this year. In May the Eagle Light Engineering Co. was represented at the Hardware Trades' Fair at Olympia and they report a growing market abroad. Messrs Thompson of Hanover early in the year began to deal with a £30,000 a year contract for Olympic dinghies for a U.S. firm, and an equally large order for Harvesters for the home market. It is good



OLD FEVER HOSPITAL, NOW THE YOUTH CENTRE

Nationalist photo

to know that our industries are competing and holding their own in an international market.

SELF-GOVERNMENT

With the coming of independence, small new nations can have problems of administration. Towards the end of last year, Carlow was in a small way, helping Northern Rhodesia constructively when Green J. Musonda spent two months here working with the Town Clerk and studying local government administration. Since then his country has attained self-government under the new name of Zambia and we are glad of Carlow's contribution to its constitution.

Is there a chance that Carlow may have a new industry in the offing? In sterner times we discovered for ourselves the possibilities of Rossmore clay in the binding of anthracite slack for coal "bombs". Now comes the discovery that it is suitable for the making of pottery and an industrialist has an option on 48 acres. The day may come when we shall dispense tea from the same yellow clay, "remoulded nearer to the heart's desire."

While in that neighbourhood one must surely comment on the transformation of Killeshin Church. It is now a gem set among the peaceful hills, with a redesigned interior of great beauty and simplicity. Particularly striking is the altar of white marble and polished Carlow limestone, and the altar rails which are the gift of a Carlow donor. Much praise is due to the priests and people of Killeshin and Graiguecullen parish for the generous effort and unstinted generosity which resulted in this remarkable renaissance.

TOURISM

Due to the decentralisation of Bord Failte, Carlow's faith in its power to attract tourists is now pinned on a Regional Board called SERTO. It has the qualified blessing of our Co. Council and has set up a holiday information bureau in the town. Like all bodies going into business nowadays it must present a favourable image to potential customers, and out of this need has come forth a new title for Ireland's South Eastern district—Arcadia. The name was chosen as the result of a competition in which hundreds of people took part. Unlike the columnist in the Nationalist who recoiled in horror from the implications of the title, I have no great quarrel with it except in so far as it has an alien connotation. Perhaps we should be more pleased than otherwise to be recommended to potential holiday-makers as "ideally rustic" or "of pastoral simplicity" (vide Oxford Dict.) There is a great deal more however to be said for Carlow than is implicit in our new regional name. It is a town possessing many men and women of vision and enterprise who have dedicated themselves, on councils, committees, societies and Chamber of Commerce to the improvement and advancement of its interests, and who give generously of their time and native genius for this purpose. They come from every walk of life, and they are the leaven of the mass. They have helped to make Carlow what it is and what it may eventually become. And if our own part is merely the envisaging of that future, it is in the knowledge that our town can be only as good as our aspirations for it.



COVER PICTURE:

Our Cover Picture this year is another study by Donal Godfrey, showing the familiar facade of the Carlow Court House. The gun in the foreground is a memorial to the "distinguished gallantry of the natives of this country, both officers and men" who fell in the Crimean War. It is one of the Russian guns from the Crimea and was placed in this "conspicuous position" by unanimous resolution of the Town Commissioners of Carlow in 1858.

A WORD OF THANKS

The Editors and the Committee of the Old Carlow Society wish to thank all who have contributed in any way to this issue of **Carloviana**. They are particularly indebted to the support of our advertisers, without which it would not be possible to continue the publication of our Journal.

John O'Donovan's work on the

Ordnance Survey

ALICE TRACEY

THE story of John O'Donovan's life is a remarkable one of genius and patriotism blossoming and coming to fruition in the service of the alien government that held his native land in subjection.

At the time of his birth in 1806 at Attateemore in Co. Kilkenny almost six centuries had elapsed since the Norman invaders had first beached their ships on the shelving strand at Baginbun in County Wexford, and although they had long since overrun the country Ireland was still unconquered.

Many uprisings of rebellion down the years give ample proof of this. Indeed two of these

rebellions had taken place a short time prior to O'Donovan's arrival in this world, that of 1798 and Robert Emmett's illfated rising in 1803.

In view of this, the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, inaugurated in 1834 by the English Government, under the supervision of the Royal Engineers seems paradoxical.

A MAGNIFICENT SCHEME

This scheme entailed the covering of the whole country, mapping its contours and physical aspects, taking note of its historical and ancient monuments, churches and high crosses, as well as its primitive fortifications and the traditions and legends still recounted in the homes of its people. Even the names of townlands and villages originating in the ancient native tongue were probed for their meanings and then translated into English.

THE O'DONOVANS OF ROYAL DESCENT

John O'Donovan, the fourth son of his parents Edmond Donevan (sic) and Ellenor (sic) Haterlain was baptised on the 26th of July, 1806, in the parish church of Slieverue by the P.P., Father J. Fitzpatrick and the entry duly made in the baptismal register there.

Neither his parents nor his sponsors Edmond Wall and Ellenor Neale could have foreseen that the delicate infant would one day be recognised as one whose work would be placed on a parallel with that of Geoffry Keating, who compiled in the 16th century while "on his keeping" in the Glen of Aherlow in Co. Tipperary, a history of Ireland which to the present day is an invaluable source of information for historical research.

The O'Donovan's originated in South Cork from whence, one Edmond had migrated as the result of a quarrel with O'Sullivan Beare, to



JOHN O'DONOVAN
Courtesy National Library

Gaulstown, Co. Kilkenny, where lived a distant relative of his Walter de Burgo.

This Edmond claimed descent from Eoghan, son of Oilliol, King of Munster. De Burgo made his relative welcome and in course of time the newcomer married Walter's daughter Catherine. This event occurred during the first half of the 17th century and some few years after the marriage, Oliver Cromwell landed in Dublin with his Roundheads and Ireland was once more plunged into bloodshed.

CROMWELL IN MUNSTER

After the massacre in Wexford, Cromwell headed towards Munster and both Edmond O'Donovan and Walter de Burgo fell fighting in the battle of Ballinrega under the banners of the Duke of Ormonde on the 18th March, 1643. Needless to say the estates of the fallen were confiscated and their families impoverished but Edmond's widow remained in the district which to this day, numbers many O'Donovan's amongst its inhabitants.

There is no mention of how the father of our subject earned his living but he was certainly landless at the time of John's birth though his eldest son William had a farm of forty acres a few miles away, at Ballarourach, when his father died in 1817.

This last Edmond took great pride in his royal lineage and so apparently did his father before him as John was wont to say in later years that his grandfather was "proud to madness" of the family ancestors, which included the Kavanaghs as well as the de Burgos and the earlier nobility.

On his deathbed Edmond gathered his family around him and repeatedly recited the family tree to them with its aristocratic ramifications and urged his sons never to forget it.

The O'Donovan home had ever been the resort of those who loved Ireland and young John drank in the old tales and legends of the countryside from visiting seanachies and as Gaelic was the everyday language, naturally he absorbed that also.

JOHNNY O'DONOVAN, SCHOOLTEACHER AT 16

When his father died his brother William took John to live on his farm and attend school in Waterford city four miles distant, where he learnt, arithmetic, English, grammar, Latin and book-keeping. No mention is made of

his teacher's name nor where the school was situated, but in all probability it was run by one of the many "scholars" of the period who devoted themselves to the education of pupils for very modest fees. At any rate John "graduated" at the age of sixteen and returned to the family home, to which he was indeed no stranger, as he had often visited it from Ballarourach and invariably spent all his school holidays there.

An uncle and his family were now still installed in the residence with John's mother and when John announced his decision to start a school every encouragement was given to him to do so.

The sixteen year old boy valiantly took up the task of passing on the knowledge he had to boys some of whom were older than himself and easily too they may have been more robust as he was spare of build and small of stature and remained so through life. When fully grown his height was 5' 4".

During the time the young master was conducting his school, the lease of William's farm expired and he did not renew it but moved to Dublin where he found a post as a shop assistant.

Deeply attached as he was to his brother, William in the security of his job and regular wages invited young John to join him in the city and renew his schooling. There was no hesitation about accepting the offer but conscientiously John decided that he must give a full year's tuition to the boys in his school before joining William.

DUBLIN AND THE "LATIN" SCHOOL

This term ended in November 1823 and John went to Dublin and was soon enrolled in a "Latin" school, presumably one where the classical language was taught and doubtless the other usual subjects generally on the curriculum.

This apt pupil already had a knowledge of Latin from his early years having "commenced its study at the age of nine, though I was exceedingly delicate". This information was conveyed in a letter to Dr. Todd, R.I.A.M. well known for his work in connection with Irish history and the preservation of the Irish language in the nineteenth century.

At any rate he was thoroughly proficient in 1827 when he got a post in the office of Mr. Hardiman, who was commissioner of Public Records. (Mr. Hardiman was the author of a history of Galway.) He remained there for three

years until his health became exceedingly bad. During his term of employment he had copied manuscripts and Peter Connell's Irish Dictionary as well as doing routine office work.

It was while in this office that he met Lieut., later Captain Larcom of the R.E., to whom he taught Gaelic.

SICK LEAVE

He was ordered to rest by his doctor and accepted an invitation from a friend in Laois, Mr. Myles John O'Reilly of Heath House, Maryborough to spend some months with him in the country to recuperate. The visit proved beneficial and his health responded to the change. Mr. O'Reilly evidently possessed a respectable library for while resting John translated the Book of Fenagh and some extracts from the Four Masters relating to the O'Reilly's besides reading the works of Ussher, Ware and Colgan.

IRRESISTIBLE LURE

While still in Maryboro', he learnt of the death of another Mr. O'Reilly, no relation to his host, who had held a post in the office of the Historical Section of Ordnance in Dublin.

He applied for this position and on the receipt of a reply he discovered that the officer in charge of this section was none other than his erstwhile pupil from the office of Public Records, Captain Larcom, R.E.

He was immediately offered the post but at a small salary. His friends in Laois were averse to his accepting it, as they considered the work entailed was so demanding that it would put a severe strain on his mental faculties and the remuneration was altogether incompatible for the risk of another breakdown in health.

O'Donovan, after due consideration decided to accept, for strenuous as the work would undoubtedly prove, nevertheless it opened a gate to a field of Irish history which had hitherto lain fallow and that lure was to John, irresistible.

TRANSLATIONS AND ARTICLES

Before we launch him on that tide which he took at the flood, but which, alas, did not lead him on to fortune, as we shall see later, I would like to recount some of the successful work he did for Ireland apart from the Ordnance Survey.

He wrote articles on Irish topography and history in the Dublin Penny Journal during 1832/33 and in the Irish Penny Journal during

1840/41. (At least one bound volume of the latter journal is available in the County Library.) He published two historical tales in Gaelic in 1842, viz: The Banquet of Dun an nGael and the Battle of Magh Rath; The Tribes and customs of Hy Many (the O'Kelly country) he translated from a 14th century Mss. The Book of Lecan; in 1842 and the following year published "The Genealogy of Tribes and Custom of Hy Fiachrach from a McFirbio Mss.; 1846 saw in print the Irish charters from the Book of Kells; an Irish covenant and ancient Gaelic poem, attributed to St. Columcille and Duaid McFirbis translation of Irish annals 1443/1468.

He had written a Grammar of the Irish Language in 1845 for the use of the pupils of the College of St. Columba in Trinity College.

This is recognised as the most interesting treatise on modern and mediaeval Irish in the spoken tongue as it is found in the literature of the last six centuries. A small primer of the language was written at the same time.

DR. REEVES

We are indebted to him for the Martyrology of Donegal, which ranks in importance next to the Four Masters. This was edited by Dr. Reeves D.D., Protestant Bishop of Down, another noted Irish scholar and the translator of Adamnaus Life of Columcille, lost for centuries and which was eventually found in the 1880's in Schaffhausen in Switzerland. (Without absolute certainty I have an idea that before being raised to the bishopric Dr. Reeves was Provost of Trinity College).

THE FOUR MASTERS

Pride of place must be given to O'Donovan's monumental work of translating the Annals of the Four Masters, the first volume of which was published in 1848 and this was followed by six other volumes between then and 1851.

Messrs Hodges and Smith, Dublin were the publishers and it was printed in Irish type designed by George Petrie.

These volumes since their publication have been of the utmost value to research workers, not only in Ireland but in other countries as well.

For this effort he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature by Trinity College.

Continued in page 42

A Giant Tree

A giant tree growing on the farm of Harry Fennell, Everton. It is an ash, 22 ft. 9 in. in circumference for 20 ft. up. It is one of 10 trees ordered to be planted on Everton farm by the Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Carlow, who at that time were responsible for re-forestation in the parish, in the year October 1702, so it is now 262 years old. It was the opinion of the committee of the O.C.S. that some of these old trees should be photographed as nearly all the present-day planting is composed of Firs, Pines and Conifers. The tendency nowadays is to use all timber before they are fully matured for commercial purposes, so it is extremely doubtful if any will attain a great age.



Mr. Harry Fennell, Vice-Chairman O.C.S., and one of the giant trees on his land.

Photos: Godfrey

Suffragettes in Carlow

OLIVER SNODDY

IT is amazing how so many of the privileges of democracy which we so readily take for granted were the subject of so much hostility when dedicated people tried to win them for us. So with the Chartists—all of whose aims have been achieved except the apparently impracticable annual parliament. So too with the suffragettes.

Many of the names we revere in Irish history were suffragettes—Mrs. Spring Rice, Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, Helen Chenevix and Louie Bennett. But in 1914 opposition to them ranged from those who would have those who dared to seek a vote for women to be horse-whipped to those so opposed to the aims of these people as to form a National League for Opposing Woman's Suffrage.

On the other hand the apathy and opposition bred with the suffragettes internal dissensions and disagreements, which resulted in the movement having many different organisations striving for the achievement of the same objective. In Ireland for instance there were the Irish Womens Reform League, the Irish Womens Franchise League, the Irish Womens Suffrage Federation, the Irish Womens Suffrage Society, the Church League for Woman Suffrage the Munster Womens Franchise League, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association and the Irish Womens Suffrage and Local Government Association. The activities of these organisations ranged from heckling M.P.'s to having the Abbey "invaded by amateurs" to stage Mr. Cruise O'Brien's suffrage play "Candidates".

The militants, driven by the opposition to what they knew to be right, tended to weigh all things as to whether or not they furthered the cause of woman's suffrage. Because Judge had been known to oppose suffrage the Irish Volunteers were therefore faulty and under pressure from them and from *The Irish Worker*, where they got a good press, Eoin Mac Neill declared 'the Volunteer movement is neither pro-suffrage nor anti-suffrage. (2) This of course, hardly pleased one feminist, Sean O'Casey, who used the Volunteer con-

stitution to score debating points off them for the Irish Citizen Army:

We stand for the people of Ireland, not for half the Nation indicated by the phrase, "the rights and liberties of all Irishmen". The Irish Citizen Army recognises that the woman is as much a citizen as the man.(3)

The various suffrage groups were fortunate in having an advocate, belonging to none of the various groupings listed above, in Francis Sheehy-Skeffington who ran a suffrage weekly *The Irish Citizen* on which all had a platform.

CARLOW MEETING

It is from this paper we learn of the endeavour to launch the suffrage movement in Carlow. It lists a meeting for the Town Hall, Carlow to be held on Wednesday, 25th March, 1914, at 8 p.m. to be addressed by Miss Helen Fraser of the Irish Womens Reform League(4) This was a non-militant body, which boasted having the largest feminist lending library in Ireland. Miss Fraser was busy at this time speaking in Rathmines and Wicklow (to a small audience) before her trip to Carlow and in Kilkenny two days later (5).

Her Carlow meeting is reported as follows:

In Carlow Miss Fraser had a large audience, consisting of all classes in the community. Many had evidently come seeking for so-called "fun" but, as usual, Miss Fraser was able to grip her audience, and she was given an attentive and sympathetic hearing(6).

Her meeting however does not seem to have been a great success. No branch of the I.R.L. was formed and the 'Nationalist' editorial was on the backwash of the Curragh mutiny and the local paper carried neither report nor correspondence about the meeting—the fate of so many small groups in so many newspapers, much to the annoyance of the historian!

- (1) *The Irish Citizen*, 21 March, 1914.
- (2) *Irish Volunteer*, 21 February, 1914.
- (3) *The Irish Worker*, 11 April, 1914.
- (4) *The Irish Citizen*, 21 March, 1914.
- (5) *The Irish Citizen*, 4 April, 1914.
- (6) *Ibid.*

Rambles in Laois

MICHAEL DELANEY

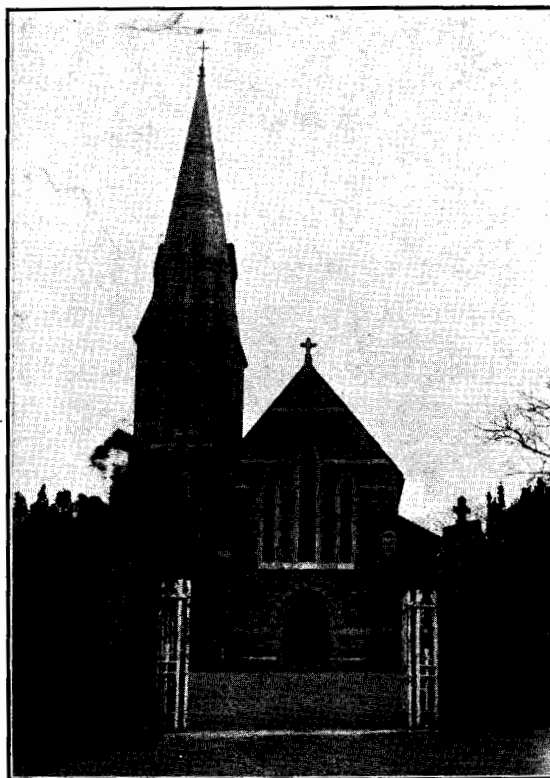
THE Old Carlow Society held its second outing of the season on Sunday, July 19. The itinerary planned was a visit to the following places: Arles, Ballylehane Castle, Rathaspic, Tecolm, Ballyadams Church and Castle, Stradbally Bridge and the Rock of Dunamase. The weather was beautiful and a goodly number travelled by bus and car.

They were met at Arles by Michael Delaney who had a musical reception arranged for them. Mr. Patrick Dempsey played a selection of Irish airs on the fiddle, accordeon and banjo. He also sang a Congo song and wished everyone a very pleasant outing.

Michael Delaney addressed the members and said he proposed taking them through a very historic part of the country. Arles was a suitable taking-off ground as it was much frequented by Irish warriors in former times, and at Arles Lord Mountjoy encountered Owny O More's men in what proved to be a disaster for Ireland in 1600. The following is an abridged account of the talks at the various places.

ARLES

Kilabban was the ancient name of the parish. It receives its present name from the parish church being placed in modern times at Arles. The earliest place of worship here appears to have been a chapel built in 1686. According to tradition, it was built by a lady of the Hartpoles. It was thatched and was built in the form of a cross. In one arm of the cross was the tomb of the Grace family. The Graces were descendants of William Fitzgerald, called Raymond Fitzwilliam, who got the name Raymond le Gros from his great size and strength. They got great grants of land in Ossory and were sometimes styled Barons of Tullaroan. They came to the Queens County over 200 years ago and settled in the ancient district of Shangana, which they styled Gracefield. They were a rich and enterprising family and worked a colliery for many years. They also had a cotton factory which was later transformed into a corn mill. One of them emigrated to South America early in the last century and was so successful in the shipping business that he



THE PRESENT ARLES CHURCH

established the "Grace Line." He returned to Ireland and invited emigrants from Laois, Carlow and Kilkenny to travel on his ships to South America where they would get employment.

The Graces of America now operate an air line known as Pan AGRA to South America.

One of the family came to Ireland a few months ago and became interested in Urney Chocolates Ltd. The last member of the Grace family in Laois married a Captain White and the beautiful mansion and property passed to J. J. Parkenson, the famous race-horse owner. The place passed through many hands since and it was lately purchased from an Italian Countess for £30,500. The family burial place is in Arles, where a massive mausoleum was erected on the site of the old church.

There are some extravagant inscriptions on

the sides of the tomb, the earliest date being 1708 and the last 1796.

The Bohermore or great road from Carlow to Stradbally passes by Arles and it was along this road that Lord Mountjoy led his army on August 16, 1600. The great English army was on its way to Cullenagh Castle and a little further on an encounter took place in which Owny MacRory O'More, the last prince of Laois, was killed and the Gaelic principality of Laois came to an end. The English then proceeded to repair their mansions of stone and lime and settle in the old seats of the race of Connell Cearnach. There was no one like Owny to defend it.

BALLYLEHANE CASTLE

A castle once stood in Ballylethane, some portions of which are still in existence. The period when this stronghold was erected has not been ascertained, but it must have been prior to 1346 as it is referred to by Clyn at that date. He records a great slaughter of the O'Mores and their followers to the number of 300 at Ballylethane in the year 1315. The scene of the battle is known locally, as human remains have been found in a large field beside the Dublin road.

Under date 1346 the Castle of Ballylethane is expressly referred to in which it is stated that in the week succeeding Low Sunday the Castle of Ballylethane was taken and dismantled by O'More, O'Connor and O'Dempsey on the Thursday before the feast of the Holy Cross. As Ballylethane is within the territory of the O'Mores there can scarcely be a doubt that the castle was built by them. It was probably dismantled for the purpose of ejecting foreigners who had arrived in the district at that time. In 1549 an Englishman named Gyles Hovenden obtained a lease of lands at Kilabban, Shanagh, Ballylinan, etc.

In 1570 John Hovenden obtained a grant of land from Queen Elizabeth which included Ballylethane. The chief seats of the Hovenden family were Tankardstown and Ballylethane Castle. Their coat of arms with inscription was over the door of Tierernane Lodge, the residence of the Ffolliott family. The slab was dated 1583. On the entrance piers of the gates to Ballylethane Castle were two armorial slabs, one being the arms of the Fitzpatrick family, as Thomas Hovenden married Margaret Fitzpatrick, eldest daughter of Tady 4th Baron of Upper Ossory. These two carved stones are now laid on the

foot of the grave of the late Lieut. Col. Ffolliott in Castletown graveyard. Lost for ever are twelve ancient carved statues of the Twelve Apostles which survived for centuries in Ballylethane private chapel but are now deeply embedded in the floor of a modern cattle shed.

During the rebellion of 1641 Owen Roe O'Neill marched his forces to Athy where he left four companies of foot as a garrison. They were commanded by Captain John O'Hogan, the Governor; Captain Con Roe O'Neyll, Captain Daniel McCane and Captain Daniel O'Mallan. The army marched on to Castlecomer and Kilkenny, leaving Ballylethane in charge of Capt. O'Mallan. Later he was ordered to burn the castle and repair to Athy where there were only about 200 soldiers to guard the town.

The Hovenden family continued to reside in Ballylethane and worked coal pits. Lieut. Col. Ffolliott succeeded Hovendens. He is dead and the castle field is now owned by Mr. Byrne.

Lord Mountjoy passed by Ballylethane on his journey to Cullenagh Castle and not far from here fell the brave Owny Mac Rory O'More.

We will now move on to Rathaspic by "Pedigree Corner."

RATHASPIC

The name of this place is derived from "Bishop's Rath." There are no ruins of ancient ecclesiastical buildings there, as the present Protestant church has been erected from the materials of ancient monastic ruins. It was built in 1813 by means of a gift from the Board of First Trusts to the amount of £553-16-11. Under the site of the buildings were three vaulted chambers, in one of these was a spring well of the purest water. Several curious antiquities have been discovered, one of which was a very large key. Formerly the monastic ruins on the estate of Sir William Grace presented an interesting object from his house at Gracefield. A high belfry, a large eastern window and ivy mantled walls were conspicuous. The monastery was apparently on a humble scale and to the family of O'More the foundation is ascribed. The southern boundary of the ancient parish extended into County Kilkenny until 1840 when that part of the parish was annexed to Clogh. February 16 is the feast of Aodh Glas, Bishop of Rathaspic. He is thought to have been a grandson of Fortchern; he had six brothers, all bishops. Bishop Aengus was a monk in Durrow and is ranked among St. Columbkil's disciples.

TECOLM CHURCH

The small parish of Tecolm seems to have derived its name from a St. Colum or Columba. He is likely to have been the Colum who founded Aughevel at Stradbally. He was a disciple of St. Columbkille. The church is situated in Ballyadams Barony and has almost disappeared, the end wall only standing. It was waste and in ruins in 1640 and continued so for many years, until the great storm of January 6, 1839, when one of the gables fell and for a long time was spread unbroken over the adjoining graves. Tullamoy church fell that night also. The high road from Carlow to Stradbally passed close to the ruins. The parish contained but two townlands, 1,022 acres. The graveyard was never walled in and is not now used for interments.

CORBALLY

Inch House is not far from Tecolm. It was occupied in the early part of the last century by a dissenting minister who favoured Catholic Emancipation. His name was William Connor. He was distinguished for his eloquent advocacy of Tenant Right and the abolition of the tithes. Cornet Stafford, a relative of Thomas Fitzgerald (Morett), was once owner of Corbally. He was killed in a duel. The estate was encumbered and was cleared by a man named Wilson who sold it to Michael Dunn, an M.P. for Queens County. It was retained by him until 1915 when Arthur McMahan got it. It is now owned by a daughter of McMahan who was married to the late Mr. Masterson.

BALLYADAMS CASTLE

A.D. 1546. O'More and the son of O'Connor, namely Roderick, attacked the town of Athy, burned the town and monastery and committed great destruction by burning and slaughter of the English and Irish inhabitants on that occasion. The Lord's Justice marched a second time and remained fifteen days plundering, spoiling and burning churches and monasteries and destroying cattle and corn. The Earl of Desmond came to him with a very great force and they took a castle belonging to the O'Mores, viz. Ballyadams Castle, which they garrisoned.

A.D. 1500. The Lord Protector and Council in England requested the Lord Deputy and Council in Ireland to proceed to the surveying of the castle of Ballyadams and thereupon make a lease thereof unto William Jasbard for

21 years whose service there had been for long and painful endurance commended. Thomas Bowen was Constable of the castle at that time and his family continued in occupation for ages. The Bowens practised many cruelties against the native Irish, and their castle was a terror to behold, as many victims suffered agonies in the "murder hole" attached. Sir John Bowen was known as Sean a Pica for the free use he made of the pike in dealing with his neighbours.

The ancient name of Ballyadams was Kilmakedy. The old church was built by the Bowens on the site of an earlier church, and their tomb is an object of interest, although much delapidated. The covering slab representing a lady in the dress of the times is broken and is at the opposite side of the church. The main part of the tomb bears the names of Robert Bowen and his wife, Alice Hartpole. There are niches containing the effigies of their four children. The tomb was erected in 1631 and bears the following epitaph:—

"If tears prevent not, every reader's eye
May well perceive that in this tomb doth lie
Friends hope, foes dread, whose thrice victor-
ious hand
Gained love, wrought peace within this joyful
land;
Whose worth doth mount itself on angels'
wings,
Whose great descent was first from royal
kings,
Whose never-dying virtues live for why
Whose fame eternalized he can never dye."

A slab measuring 7½ ft. long by 3 ft. broad by 3 in. thickness was discovered in 1899. It commemorates the Hartpoles—

"Valient Thomas with his sword,
Virtuous Walter by the written word."

STRADBALLY

After a refreshing tea in the newly acquired museum, the members visited Stradbally Bridge where Owny O'More met and killed two of the Cosby family, father and son, while their wives were watching from the window of the Abbey at the other side of the road.

The party then proceeded to Dunamase where Mr. Delaney gave a short account of the history of the famous stronghold. As a diversion some of the members proceeded to walk in the "giant's footsteps" and thus ended a lovely outing in an historic county.

Dublin Street

YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY



We reproduce here a photograph of Dublin St. taken almost sixty years ago. We date this from the shop on right of picture named "Sticky Back." This establishment was opened about 1906, in the premises now occupied by Mrs. O'Neill, green grocer. It had been previously the fruit shop of Mr. David Henry, who then had a hardware shop next door in the premises now Nolan's Pharmacy. The shop next is McGrath's Medical Hall, and beside it is the butcher's shop of Mr. J. Brennan, then operated by Brennan Bros. This house had been for many years in the occupation of Mr. J. Robinson, who carried on a toy-shop trade. He also had a builders' providers yard in Haymarket together with a joinery business there. On the opposite side the first premises is Oliver's butcher's stall, now hairdressing saloon, and

beside it is the late Harry Begley's tailor's shop. This house was completely re-built over thirty years ago by the late Mr. S. McDonald and is now Mr. W. Mulhall's auctioneers office. Duggan's two shops (grocery and stationery), now Drummond's seed and flower store and Hayes's stationery. Then comes the Provincial Bank, at that time a new building, and when the site for it was being cleared, a portion of the old Carlow Wall was found incorporated in one of the old houses there, according to the late Marlborough Douglas. Beside the bank is Leverett and Fry's and then the house at that time occupied by Miss Laffan, where she carried on a millinery and ladies outfitting business. This is now Robinson's jewellery shop.

Further along is McCaul's tailoring premises, now an insurance office, then Bergin's

licensed premises, now Duggan's; and beside that was Maher's bakery, owned by the late W. J. Jackson, later P. C. Bergin's grocery and now the offices of the E.S.B. O'Rourke's confectionery shop was then Donaldson's jewellery, owned by the late George Douglas, Snr., and the last houses were Cigar Divan, N. P. Roche's drapery establishment, now a café, and then the post office.

The butcher standing at Oliver's door is

the late Peter Walker, and the man with the bicycle is the late Pat Kehoe, then porter for the County Infirmity. The sticky back shop supplied six photographs in a strip for 6d. and it also had an assortment of British Army tunics and caps, so that anyone martial-minded could be photographed as a warrior. There were then no parking problems, as the motor car had not yet appeared on the streets in any number.



DUBLIN STREET AS IT IS TO-DAY

Photo: Godfrey

SUMMER OUTINGS—(continued from page 38)

battles fought in that area by the United Irishmen in the 1798 rising, who though untrained and poorly armed but dedicated to their cause and having been goaded into rebellion by the atrocities committed against their families and homesteads had fought furiously against the Crown forces and through adventurous strategy on the part of their leaders they defeated them in several battles. Being

isolated however in the fight from the remainder of the country and the Crown forces being strongly reinforced, they had to give up the fight, return to their homes, or what was left of them, and submit. Most of their leaders received a pardon on condition that they left the country which they did and gained high renown for gallantry while fighting in the service of the French government.

Pre-Christian Dwellings

BRENDAN KEALY

This is the second part of Mr. Kealy's article on "Pre-Christian Carlow", the first part of which appeared in our last issue.

AS one no doubt notices from the foregoing, the most enduring aspect of the life of Bronze Age folk in Carlow is their burial customs and grave architecture. "Monuments of the living", so to speak, i.e., houses, etc., have to a large extent disappeared. In many cases the sites only remain in the form of low circular earthen ramparts. These "ring-forts", as they are called, are very numerous in Carlow. The majority of them, being of rather modest proportions, were used mainly as domestic enclosures and were never intended to withstand strong attack. They served as pens for the domestic animals and kept wild animals at bay. Most of these enclosures are of very much later date than the Bronze Age, and continued to be built well into historic times. Some remained in use up to the 17th century. Beside these enclosures were built the dwelling houses and farm buildings, and since no superficial traces of these remain we may conclude them to have been constructed of wickerwork and daub, supported by stout posts. From other Irish sites we find that the roofs were thatched with turf or reeds. The smoke from the hearth, which was usually centrally placed, escaped either through the doorway or through a hole in the roof. Judging again from excavations outside Carlow, Bronze Age and Early Iron Age man appears to have been none too hygienic in his domestic habits. The floors of such huts when examined, are found to consist of layer after layer of refuse, including animal and vegetable remains. From these deposits, however it is possible to obtain some idea of Bronze Age and Iron Age diet. Oxbone is usually prominent, and deer bones would seem to point to the fact that game supplemented the flesh of domestic animals. Evidence of the growing of wheat, oats, barley, flax and rye, is also found in these hut deposits, and from other sources we learn that the simple and

primitive digging stick was gradually being supplemented by the plough and the hoe. There is, as yet, no definite evidence of domestic fowl, but wild-fowling provided a considerable part of the diet.

For culinary purposes, earthenware vessels were gradually replaced by cauldrons formed of riveted bronze plates and provided with a pair of ring handles. This type of cauldron, Dr. Raftery tells us, was sometimes exported to Britain. According to him these cauldrons may also have been used as a medium of exchange.

GOLD ORNAMENTS

The majority of the gold ornaments in the National Museum have been dated to the late Bronze Age and show an extremely high degree of technical and artistic skill, but so far as I know, no gold objects have ever come to light in Carlow, for this county must surely be one of the most under-excavated in the country. Concerning burials we have information in plenty, but domestic sites, of which there are many, are virtually untouched in Carlow.

The evidence we have for social organisation in this period is only indirect, since we possess no written records, but through the work of Macalister and others it is possible to throw some light on the matter. According to Macalister there is evidence in Early Historic Ireland of two main racial types—a dark and medium statured race, allied to the Mediterranean peoples; and a tall fair-haired race, allied to the Nordic peoples. Macalister takes the dark, medium-statured people as the earliest population of "pre-Celtic" Ireland, and maintains that there are strong reasons for believing that this people was organised on a matriarchal basis. As evidence of this he offers the fact that, without exception, the foundation of all the great royal seats of Ireland were attributed by tradition to women. As additional evidence Macalister puts forward Bede's account of the Scottish Picts, who, quite possibly were cognate with the aboriginal race of Ireland. Among the Picts, Bede tells us, the kings were

succeeded not by their sons but by their sister's sons. The monarchy was therefore organised on a matriarchal or rather a matrilinear basis, the man holding office by right of his descent from, or connection with, a woman. The son reigns by virtue of his mother and the father is of no importance, and as often as not maybe a foreigner and not of royal blood.

A NEW METAL

As we have seen the Carlow of the late Bronze Age was, in common with the rest of Ireland, a land of agriculturalists and pastoral farmers with a high degree of metalurgical skill. To this community the knowledge of Iron penetrated slowly at first, but from about 500 B.C. onwards, the new metal was gradually accepted over the whole country. Metal tools now became available to the poorer classes for the first time, for iron was much cheaper and more easily produced than bronze. Bronze of course continued to be used, but now to a large extent only for ornamentation.

The idea that this Iron Age culture was introduced into Ireland by a celtic-speaking invader from the continent, is today losing ground. At the present time the theory of a gradual, cultural but non-racial, influence from both Britain and the Continent is favoured by eminent archaeologists like Dr. Raftery, who tentatively concludes that "there is no archaeological necessity to postulate a fundamental change of population since the Stone Age, that the development of civilisation in Ireland followed lines common to the whole of Western Europe and that there was no break in continuity of culture. Could it be that Celtic in some form was the language spoken in Ireland from Stone Age times?"

Apart from the celtic invasion controversy, the early Iron Age in Ireland is one of the most obscure periods in her whole history, and so one is not unduly surprised to discover that Iron Age finds in Carlow are not numerous. This is due more to the difficulty of reliably dating finds than to the scarcity of the actual finds. The only authenticated Iron Age find, made in Carlow, so far as I have been able to discover, came from the Rathvilly district east of the Slaney. Other Iron Age sites can be named with even less certainty. Many of the ring-forts, both domestic and military, undoubtedly belong to the Iron Age and the Early Christian period. Of these the most notable is Dionn Righ, south of Leighlinbridge, on the

west bank of the Barrow. This fort quite possibly dates from late Bronze Age times, but it was certainly inhabited during the Iron Age. It is rather larger than the general type of fort found in Carlow, the upper diameter of the flat topped central mound being one hundred and eighty one feet, and the height varying from sixty two to seventy two feet. The incline of the sides of this mound is so steep as to make climbing difficult even today. Surrounding the mound is a ditch varying from ten to thirteen feet in width. The height of the outer rampard of the ditch varies from twenty two feet above the bottom of the ditch on the south side to twenty six feet on the north side. On the whole the fort is in an excellent state of preservation, doubtless because of the dense protective undergrowth, and must have been a formidable place to attack.

Other large forts may be seen in County Carlow and in the neighbourhood of Carlow town itself is an impressive one, Crossneen, the central dish-shaped area being approximately three hundred and fifty feet in its longest diameter and two hundred and fifty in its shortest. The modern public roadway on the west side of the Barrow from Carlow to Leighlinbridge cuts through portion of the outer defence which may be seen in the adjacent fields on either side. The defences to the south and west have been largely obliterated by modern agricultural activities, and on the whole the fort is in a much less perfect state of preservation than Dionn Righ.

DIONN RIGH

Dionn Righ is perhaps the most widely written about of all Carlow's pre-Christian remains, and was intimately associated by many scholars with the now challenged theory of the Celtic invasion. The legend associated with Dionn Righ may be summarised as follows. Cobthach Coel Breagh slew his brother Loegaire Lorc, as well as Loegaire's son Actill. The latter's son Labraid Loinsech Moen, fled to Gaul and returning later with an army of Gauls, he slew Cobthach and thirty other kings in Dionn Righ, and became king of Ireland.

The Labriad Loinsech legend and Dionn Righ presents so convenient a solution to the problems facing a conquerer in a country where the population was thinly distributed over wild and difficult terrain, that it attracts one's immediate suspicion. Labraid instead of having to undertake a long and exhaustive campaign

against some half a hundred petty kings and chieftains, is, in the legend, provided with the perfect solution. He first of all captured and held Dionn Righ, and then invited his father's slayer, Cobthach Ceol Breagh, and some thirty of his vassal kings to a great feast. When his guests arrived, Labraid, according to one version of the tale, the Orgain Dinda Rig", promptly confined them to an "Iron House" and burned them all to death.

The latter part of this legend is almost certainly a fable. The earlier part may have some foundation in fact, for it is clear that some continental influence was responsible for the spread of Iron usage in Ireland. A sudden and large scale invasion must be ruled out, however, because Bronze Age shipping was incapable of carrying an army of sufficient proportions across the sea from France to Ireland. That a small force did arrive is almost certain, but it became integrated with the native population, and was perhaps neither the first nor the last of such small infiltrations.

RATH GALL

Another large fort in the Barrow Valley area, Rath Gall or Rath Geal, just over the Carlow border in County Wicklow, belongs like Dionn Righ to the very late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. It has never been properly excavated and so cannot be dated accurately. It resembles, however, certain hill-forts characteristic of Early Iron Age Britain and perhaps one might not be far wrong in assigning it to this period. Such hill-forts are not uncommon in Ireland but the Rath Gall example is unique in that it is the only one in Eastern Ireland, the rest being confined to the West of the country. It compares favourably with the Western examples and covers an area of some eighteen acres all told, which makes it the largest in Ireland with the exception of Moghare Caher in Co. Clare. The area enclosed by the outer rampart of earth is over one thousand feet in diameter. Inside this at a distance varying from two hundred to three hundred feet, is a second rampart of greater strength, faced on the inside and outside by large irregular granite blocks with dry filling in the centre. Inside this is the third and final rampart of loosely piled stones, with an inside diameter of one hundred and fifty feet.

Dr. Goddard Orpen has shown much interest in Rath Gall and regards it as being, not a fort but a fortified town. He equates with

the town "Durrum" marked on Ptolemy's map of Ireland. (O'Rahilly claims the same distinction for Dionn Righ). Orpen's suggested history of Rath Gall is worth summarising as it is connected with the sack of Dionn Righ and would seem to confirm the above suggestion of a limited, local, foreign settlement.

Orpen conjectures that the Gaulish army with which Labraid Loinsech returned was composed mainly of Manapians, that they landed at Inver Mor, now Arklow, where they first built a stronghold before advancing inland to conquer Leinster. To accomplish this, he says, they would inevitably pass up the valley between the mountains of Wicklow and Wexford (just as did their predecessors, the dolmen building people, so many years before), to the open country around Rath Gall, where they built their great dun. Orpen then applies the Dionn Righ legend to Rath Gall, and says that having slain their master's rival they planted their master upon the throne of Leinster. In time they became known as "the best fighting men in Ireland", and many of them are engaged to assist Queen Madb in the quest of the Doun of Cuailge, but their martial efficiency excites her jealous fears. Fergus Mac Roig however, protects them and allays the queen's fears by distributing them among the battalions of her army. They fight at the battle of Rosuaree against the Ulstermen. According to Orpen the Gallians, as they are now called, are intimately connected with Finn, son of Cuahall, and the Fiana. Indeed, he says that, according to the approved account, Finn himself was sprung from a sept of the Gallians. As foreigners, however, he says they remain a vassel people under the dominion of the Gael and in time join in the revolt of the "unfree tribes of Ireland" and after a brief success fall into obscurity, becoming less and less distinguishable, though continuing to be governed by kings of the race of Messi Corb down to the coming of the Normans. Such is Orpen's suggested history but whatever the truth of the matter, we can be at least certain that Carlow has a considerable connection with an important transitional period of Irish history, no matter if that transition came with the swiftness of invasion or the subtlety of cultural infiltration.

STANDING STONES

Other, more tentative, Iron Age material remains in Carlow consist of some standing stones, confined mainly to the northern half

of the county. These were used, as far as is known at present, for ceremonial purposes and most are of uncertain date. Those in Carlow may extend from the Megalithic building period right down to very early Christian times. A stone of this latter period is the holed-stone at Ardristan. In the Book of Ballymote we are told how Eochaidh, the son of Enna Connsealach insulted the poet of Niall of the Nine Hostages. The High King in pursuing him laid waste the kingdom of Leinster and forced Eochaidh to be surrendered to him. He brought his prisoner to Ath Fadhat in Forthartha Fea, on the banks of the Slaney, and their chained him by the neck to this perforated rock. As Niall withdrew northwards nine of his champions returned to put an end to Eochaidh, but the latter turned the tables upon them, broke the chain and killed the whole nine. Encouraged by his success the Leinstermen thereupon attacked Niall's army and pursued it as far as Tullow, slaughtering the retreating troops all the way. In the Ordnance Survey letters relating to Carlow, O'Donovan reports that in modern times human bones and skeletons, as well as swords and other military equipment have been dug up from time to time all along the route of this supposed "running battle".

Another standing stone, probably of a slightly earlier period than the above, is that at the Hollow, Leighlinbridge. This bears some cup-marks upon the surface and according to Macalister may have been used as an idol. Other notable stones are the Cloghtuckagh, just west of Tullow and those at Ardristan, Williamstown, Fourbeagh and Knocknatubrid. This latter stands in the field in which the Bronze Age burial was found in 1930, so it may possibly date from about 2000 B.C.—1500 B.C.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

As one approaches the Christian era in Ireland, detailed historical narratives, not always reliable, become more and more common, and Southern Leinster including, of course, Carlow, figures prominently in them. From these we learn that around about 100 A.D. South Leinster was invaded by the ruling king of Leinster, who succeeded in occupying much of the territory of the Leinster king, Cu Corb. Cu Corb appealed to the ruling family of Connacht, and Eochaidh Fionn Fortharta, aided by an Ulster chieftain named Loighseach Ceannonhor, son of the famous Conal Cearnach drove out the invaders. As a reward they

were given grants of land in Leinster for themselves and their descendants. Laoighseach's portion comprised the ancient territory of Laoighis. Eochaidh Fionn Forthorta was granted the Seacht Fortharta Laigean and part of this grant is represented by the present Barony of Fort, in County Carlow.

The danger from Munster having been thus dealt with, a much greater conflict approached, the struggle between the kings of South Leinster and the central monarchy. The source of this conflict was the famous tribute, the Borumha Laighean.

Mac Neill advances the theory that Fuathal Techtmar imposed this tribute on the Kings of Leinster to punish them for the part some of their subjects played in the revolt of the "un-free tribes" or because the Leinstermen had not come to his aid in suppressing the revolt. Whatever may have been the real reason, the Annals have as usual, the whole matter neatly tabulated in a rather fanciful little tale. This story recounts how the tribute was imposed as an act of punishment on the King of South Leinster for his treachery towards Tuathall's two daughters. It appeared that the Leinster monarch, Eochaidh Ainceann, was married to a daughter of Tuathall's named Daeine. Some time later Eochaidh went to Tuathall representing that Daeine had died and asked for her sister Fithir as his wife. Tuathall consented, and the two were duly married. But Fithir discovered in the course of time, that her sister was still living. The two ladies promptly died of grief, and Tuathall, like a dutiful father, mustered his forces and marched on Leinster to avenge the outrage. The Leinstermen realising that they had not sufficient strength to meet the opposing army in the field agreed to pay a tribute, themselves and their descendants after them, to Tuathall and to each king who should succeed him. From Tuathall's time every king of Tara regarded it as a point of honour to impose this tribute on the Leinstermen, and the Leinstermen for their part, resisted the imposition and so, we have frequent accounts of battles fought between the rulers of the two kingdoms. The story of the holed stone at Ardristan, recounted above, also belongs to their long period of strife between rival pagan monarchies.

Towards the end of the fifth century A.D. one approaches comparatively firm historical

Continued in page 46

The Secretary Reports

ANOTHER successful year has passed for the Old Carlow Society. We still follow the same pattern drawn up in the rules of the Society; indoor meetings and summer outings and bring out a yearly journal. Indoor meetings are very well attended. Our Summer afternoon outings to places of historical and scenic interest are very successful.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's annual general meeting was held on Thursday, 18th April, Mr. John Ellis, chairman, paid tribute to the officers and committee for their work in making the Society a success. All the outgoing officers and committee were re-elected.

ANNUAL OUTING

The Society decided to pay a return visit to Royal Meath for their Annual Outing on Sunday, 24th May. In Navan the members were met by Rev. R. Abbott, C.C. who gave an interesting talk on the ruins of Bective Cistercian Abbey. After lunch the party went on to Kells where they were met by members of the Meath Historical Society. Dr. T. O'Connell M.Sc., gave a talk on High Crosses, Round Towers and the famous stone house in which the Book of Kells was preserved for many years. After tea Dr. O'Connell took the party to the site of the Ogham stone, and Holy Well outside Kells. Mrs. M. Conway, Meath Arch. Society who made the arrangements for the Carlow party's visit was unable to attend.

SUMMER AFTERNOON OUTINGS

June 28th—Glen of Imaal and Donard district.

Mrs. Rose O'Byrne, N.T., guest speaker and guide.

July 19th—Arles, Ballylehane Castle, Rathaspic, Ballyadams district, Stradbally and Dunamase. Mr. Michael Delaney, speaker and guide.

August 23rd—Mount Leinster and Myshall. Mr. A. Burns, speaker.

Detailed accounts of these outings are printed in the pages of this journal.

VISITORS

A party of members of the Old Wexford

Society visited Carlow on Thursday, 18th June. They were met by Mr. W. V. Hadden, Miss A. Tracey, Mr. H. Fennell, Miss Maureen Doyle and Miss A. Fitzroy.

In the grounds of Carlow Castle, Mr. Hadden showed a model of the Castle, as it used to be and gave a talk on the Castle.

The party then went to Killeshin where Miss A. Tracey gave a description of the beautiful Romanesque Doorway. The party also visited the famous Cromlech at Brown's Hill where Mr. H. Fennell gave a short talk.

The Wexford Society members were delighted with their visit to Carlow and hoped to return to visit other historic sites in the district.

TALKS, FILMS AND PAPERS

In January Rev. A. Murphy, Borris came up to show a film entitled "A parish lives on, some light on a Southern Parish."

Mr. Rupert Cornwall Brady of Houston, Texas whose family hailed from Myshall gave an illustrated talk on a Russian tour—Moscow, Leningrad, Rostov and the Black Sea.

In March Mr. and Mrs. John Monahan gave an illustrated talk on the "Faulkner Papers" in Castletown.

WINTER SESSION

The Society opened its 1964 indoor session on Thursday, 24th September with a paper on "Carlow Cathedral and its Environs". This paper was written by the late Rev. L. Kehoe, P.P., Clane, on the occasion of the consecration of Carlow Cathedral by the late Most Rev. Dr. Cullen; the paper was read by Miss M. T. Kelly..

Thursday, 29th October, "Carlow in Colour", Mr. John Ellis, speaker; slides by Mr. Donal Godfrey.

Thursday, November 26th: Annual dinner and Social.

Thursday 10th December: "The Manchester Martyrs", paper by Mr. D. F. Flemming.

The Society extends grateful thanks to the Officers, Committee and members for their co-operation and help during the year; to our hosts the Irish National Forresters, who look after our comfort at our indoor meetings.

Summer Outings

Miss Rose O'Byrne, N.T., Rathcoyle, Rathdangan, writes on the visit of the members of the Old Carlow Society to Glen of Imaal and Donard district on Sunday afternoon, 28th June.

HAVING left the main Baltinglass-Dublin road at Whitestown Cross, we entered the Glen of Imaal, a glen six miles long and four miles wide, where great events in the history of our land were enacted. This glen got its name from Mal, brother of Cathair Mor, King of Ireland. Mal was chieftain of Imaal in the second century.

Our first stop was in the townland of Castleruddery where the great Clan O'Toole had a castle-stronghold. Here, a short distance from the road, there are pre-Christian remains in the form of a stone circle. Various explanations are given for these stone circles, of which there is more than one example in the area. They possibly mark a burial place, the actual grave in the centre and the stones on the perimeter defining the area allowed to the spirit. Another story has it that the piper (on the outside) and the dancers round the perimeter engaged in a profane dance, were turned to stone—and this version is given substance by the name "Piper's Stones" commonly applied to these circles.

The Protestant Church in Donoughmore, half-a-mile further on, stands on the site of a Church erected by St. Patrick when he visited Imaal.

DWYER'S COTTAGE

Turning right at Knockanargan, three miles away, one faces Keadeen mountain, with Dwyer's Cottage a short distance up its lower slopes. Here in mid-winter 1798 nine United Irishmen, led by Michael Dwyer, marched down to Dernamuck where they were hospitably received in a farmhouse near the roadside. It was decided that only five of the band should remain for the night. Dwyer himself, with Sam McAlister, John Savage and Patrick Costelloe took shelter in a neighbouring farmhouse. No sentry was posted as Dwyer knew that he was safe among his own.

But while they slept, an informer made his way to Hacketstown, where he betrayed the whereabouts of the rebels to the leader of the Yoemen. The traitor guided a force of one hundred Glengarry Fencibles to the hide-out, where they surrounded the house and called on Dwyer to surrender. The officer hoped that Dwyer would surrender without a struggle but instead, the besieged rebels opened fire. A deadly fusillade from the military was resolutely answered by a steady fire from within which wrought havoc on the ranks of the highlanders.

The advantage remained on the side of the insurgents till their ammunition was almost exhausted. At this point a bullet through the window broke McAllister's arm. Eventually the attackers succeeded in setting the house on fire and it was only by the use of an ingenious trick that the leader escaped. His three friends however, perished.

BEFORE ST. PATRICK

We proceeded to Donard, about four miles away. It was here that Palladius, before the arrival of St. Patrick, founded a church in 431. Our first call was to the grounds of the residence of Mr. Norris Davidson, who kindly escorted us to his garden and showed us a fine example of an Ogham Stone, about 5 ft. high. He gave us the translation of the Ogham markings on the stone. "Monument to Echan, nephew or successor of Muccaid (Mochta)"

In the ruins of the old church, in the village, we viewed the tomb which was the original burial place of Saints Solinus and Sylvester, monks left by Palladius to take charge of the infant Christian community he established there (the remains of the monks were afterwards transferred to Dunganstown in East Wicklow). Many old families are buried in the ruins, including the Goddards, Cathrew and McMahon families, ancestors of Mr. Norris Davidson. Towering over the old graveyard and the ruin is the "Ball-Moat," a sepulchral tumulus.

From Donard we took the road to Hollywood Glen. This road was part of what was known in olden times as the "Ballach Dun-

bolg" and here at Dunbolg or Dunboyke, a great battle was fought in A.D. 594. Aedh, Ard-Ri (A.D. 568—594) marched into Leinster to enforce the Borumha tribute. He was met at Dunbolg by Brandubh, King of Leinster, and defeated and slain. Shortly afterwards Brandubh abdicated the throne of Leinster and entered a Monastery to become later Bishop and Abbot of Kildare.

At Athgraney, where the Hollywood Glen road joins the main Dublin-Baltinglass road, we had two views of another very fine set of Pipers' Stones.

We were now on the homeward journey. About a mile down the road, on our right, we could just see the location of the Battle of Glenmama, fought in the year 999. The two Irish Kings, Brian and Malachy, gained an important victory over the Danes, who were led by Harold. Harold was slain and a tall Stone, still standing, is supposed to mark his grave.

ON Sunday, August 23rd, the final outing of the Society took place to Mount Leinster and Myshall. It proved to be the most popular of the season. Over 70 members attended and it was a pity that the weather didn't prove more kind. However this did not damp the spirits of the members who trudged bravely to the top of the mountain, to visit the television booster station, in the teeth of a howling gale and in a heavy mist which made the going very difficult indeed.

They were warmly received by the engineers in charge and later shown over the building and given details of the workings by Mr. P. Jordan in a brief but very interesting manner for which the members afterwards expressed their thanks.

On the return journey a visit was paid to the Adelaide Memorial Church in Myshall, where the Sexton, Miss E. Simpson, gave an explanatory talk concerning it. It was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bernard, Bishop of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin on 29th September, 1913.

A miniature replica of the famed Salisbury Cathedral, it was built with local granite and Stradbally limestone; whitestone from Bath lines the interior, and all carving is done on the site. The complete edifice is very ornate; the interior design is trefoil in many varieties; overhead where the Nave and Chancel

meet are representations of the four Evangelists with the united initials of Mr. and Mrs. John Duguid. Mr. Duguid had the Church built, practically under his constant direction and left several endowments for it on his death in 1912. It was built as a memorial to his daughter Constance, who while visiting her sister in Myshall Glebe became betrothed to a member of the Brady family, Myshall House, the respected landlords of the district, but died rather suddenly before her wedding. She was buried in the local churchyard. Her mother expressed a wish to be buried beside her and was laid there 15 years later.

Her father, who was broken-hearted, spent the last 10 years of his life superintending the building of what he termed his "Memorial to Love." He enclosed the graves within the new church. He died at the age of 80 years.

VERY BEAUTIFUL

The Holy Table is crimson and gold; the Baptismal Font of alabaster, both rest on Connemara marble with Sicilian marble step and are very beautiful. The black marble steps came from Galway and the red granite pillars from Aberdeen; they were all completed by Italian craftsmen and it is to be wondered at why such an architectural masterpiece in our county is so completely and practically unheard of. Let us hope that as a result of this visit, it will become the major attraction that it richly deserves to be.

The members then visited the R.C. Parish Church, where the new marble Altars and Communion Rail were a source of much admiration. After tea in the Hall, kindly placed at our disposal by Rev. J. Kehoe, P.P., Mr. A. Burns read a paper dealing with the MacMurragh Kavanagh family, the remains of whose castles would have been visible to the members from the top of the mountain, had the weather been favourable. The family, on account of Dermot having welcomed the English at Waterford and married his daughter Eva to Strongbow, were much maligned by the other Irish chieftains; but the speaker recounted many of the successful battles fought later by his descendants, bloody battles, even against King Richard, who had to return to England leaving Art MacMurragh Kavanagh unbeaten until he signed a treaty which guaranteed his rights.

The speaker also recounted some of the

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IN THE CRIMEA—(continued from page 15)

to the Sardinian troops. Miss Nightingale had given up charge of a hospital at Balaklava and Rev. Mother Francis was in correspondence with Sir John Hall the Principal Medical Officer in the East about the Sisters going there to take charge of this hospital. Both he and the Purveyor-in-Chief were anxious that the Sisters should make no delay; so on October 7th, 1855 they left Scutari on board the "Ottawa" bound for Balaklava. Sir John Hall made all the arrangements for the voyage. Fr. Woolett, S.J. accompanied them (Fr. Ronan S.J. had returned to England through ill-health). On the morning of 10th October they saw the lights of Balaklava; entry to the harbour was delayed due to other ships also waiting to enter; the entrance was between immense rocks and only one vessel could enter at a time. Finally they did not enter the harbour until 8 o'clock the following evening. Fr. Woolett was waiting to bring the Sisters to their quarters.

NEW HOME

Their new home was a wooden hut up a steep hill; a new hut was to be erected for them—sometime. Sir J. Hall welcomed the nuns and put them in charge of the General Hospital (they had no ladies or nurses in Balaklava). On their third day in Balaklava Sr. Winefred died of cholera. She was buried in a spot of ground between two rocks on the hills of Balaklava, Fathers Woolett, Unsworth and Malony and the sisters led the funeral; soldiers, doctors, officers and officials followed; Miss Nightingale also attended.

The Plague of rats was even worse in Balaklava, huge brutes, the Sisters were really scared of them. One day Fr. Woolett brought them a present of a Russian cat, he had bought it from an old woman for the small sum of seven shillings. It made a particularly handsome captive in the land of its fathers, because the Sisters were obliged to keep it tied to a chair to prevent its escape, but the very sight of their powerful champion soon relieved them of their unwelcome visitors.

Fr. Duffy, S.J. arrived from Dublin and was warmly welcomed by Rev. Mother. An officer informed her that the men of his regiment—the 89th—asked to be allowed to erect a marble cross over Sr. Winefred's grave; this mark of kindness was gratefully accepted by Rev. Mother.

The Sisters had an extra kitchen with a large

oven like a bakers. There were also charcoal stoves. The dinner tins were placed all around these stoves to keep everything hot. Rev. Mother endeavoured to have meals served hot and comfortable in the wards. There were many useful things in the stores, suitable for the kitchens but it was next to impossible to get anything out of them. Rev. Mother was told over and over again that there was no such a thing to be had, but she was not defeated and made a great fight with Mr. Fitzgerald, the Deputy Purveyor until she got what she wanted. "Nothing" she said "was too good for the poor soldiers".

Christmas 1855 came around. The Sisters' second in the Crimea. It was fearfully cold—the soldiers said that the wind blowing from Sebastopol would cut the head off a man. The nuns tried to make that Christmas Day, 1855 as festive as they could. There were nice puddings, even Plum Puddings for the Orderlies. They also had a little money and procured whatever they wanted. But the rats had other ideas, the night before—Christmas Eve—to be exact; they eat one hundred eggs, and killed the few chickens that were kept for the Christmas dinner. Evidently the Russian Cat was not working for Christmas. The nuns were very upset and did the best they could in the difficult circumstances.

During the month of January, 1856 there was a new outbreak of Typhus and Typhoid Fever and there were numerous cases. Sr. Elizabeth fell victim and died on 23rd February 1856. She was buried beside Sr. Winefred. A cross was also erected over the grave. The graves were enclosed by a high iron railing set in cut stone.

RUMOURS OF PEACE

Early in 1856 there were rumours of peace and now in March news was reaching the Crimea that peace was certain. However the doctors wished the Sisters to remain until the last; and Rev. Mother would have done so but for an unexpected event.

Before the nuns came to Balaklava in October 1855 Miss Nightingale had withdrawn her nurses, so that the hospital was vacant. Now Miss Nightingale was named by the War Office as Superintendent of the Nursing Staff in the East, and in April, 1856 she again assumed the charge of the General Hospital at Balaklava, saying that she was directed from

the War Office to so so. Under these circumstances, and as peace was being proclaimed, Rev. Mother made up her mind to leave. The patients were nearly all convalescent and she was anxious to leave before the soldiers and civilians started for England. Miss Nightingale was very anxious the Sisters should remain. However Rev. Mother thought it was not necessary and sent the following letter to Sir John Hall: —

Dear Sir: As it is no longer in your power to continue us here on the terms on which you accepted our services in the Crimea, I beg to resign my charge to you from whom I received it. May I also offer my best thanks for the uniform kindness we have received from you and those who represent you. For it, as well as for the cordial co-operation and appreciation shown to us we shall ever feel grateful. During the sixteen months of our mission in the East our difficulties and trials have been many and often painful and perplexing. But it is due to the Medical Officers, as well as to those of the Purveying Department to say that they did not arise from them;—those we have found ever willing to work with us and kindly and cordially to accept our services. Then the delicate and cautious respect and gratitude ever evinced by the patients of different creeds and countries has been to us a source of constant thankfulness. May I beg you will kindly take the necessary means to arrange for our passage home as soon as convenient.

*Believe me to be dear Sir,
Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ,
Sr. M. Francis Bridgeman.*

This is Sir John Hall's reply:

My dear Madam: I cannot permit you and the Sisters under your direction to leave the Crimea without an expression of the high opinion I entertain of your administration; and the very important aid you have rendered to the sick under your care. I can most conscientiously assert, as I have on other occasions stated, that you have given me the most perfect satisfaction, ever since you assumed the charge of the nursing department of the General Hospital at Balaklava; and I do most unfeignedly regret your departure. But after what has occurred, I would not, even with that feeling uppermost in my mind, urge you to stay.

A letter from Sir William Codrington to Sir John Hall was enclosed with this letter.

Sir William regretted the circumstances that forced Sr. M. Francis (Bridgeman) to quit the General Hospital at Balaklava and return to England, taking the Sisters under her charge with her.

The Sisters came from different communities—Dublin, Cork, Kinsale, Charleville, Liverpool, Chelsea and of course, Carlow. Although the Sisters of Mercy from Bermondsey were with Miss Nightingale at the Barracks Hospital the Irish Sisters rarely met them. The hospital was an enormous place capable of accommodating some thousands of soldiers.

Preparations began for the departure of the Sisters of Mercy from the Crimea and they had many visitors to bid them good-bye. Miss Nightingale, Dr. Beabsin, Dr. Hamilton, Fr. Mansworth, Fr. Duffy, S.J., Fr. Strickland S.J., the Protestant Clergyman from Koulali, the poor soldiers and the orderlies.

DEBT OF GRATITUDE

The Sisters sailed from Balaklava on 12th April, 1856. The day was beautifully fine and the accommodation in the "Cleopatra" was first class. They owed a deep debt of gratitude to Sir John Hall for his great kindness in arranging their homeward voyage. They had a private saloon and the Captain had got orders to see to their comfort in every way.

Fr. Woollett S.J. accompanied them. A two day sail across the Black Sea brought them in view of the minarets and Mosques of Constantinople.

The ship anchored in the Bosphorus for a couple of days. The Sisters of Charity, priests and doctors came over to visit them. As the ship moved out they took a last look at gorgeous Constantinople and their former hospital at Koulali. The ship sailed into the Dardanelles and arrived at Gallipoli continued on down through the Archipelago, passed by Alydos and arrived at Malta that evening.

On the 30th April the ship reached Gibraltar sailed past Cape St. Vincent and into the Bay of Biscay. On the 7th May the party reached Portsmouth and entrained for London accompanied by Fr. Woollett, S.J.

The Sisters stayed at Blandford Square Convent for two days, during that time they visited the nuns at Chelsea and were visited by Cardinal Wiseman. The Sisters then left for Liverpool and spent two days there also. All the Sisters arrived back to Baggot Street Convent on the feast of Corpus Christi, 1856 (22nd May). The Archbishop of Dublin, Most

Rev. Paul Cullen was out of town; he left word that the Sisters were to await his return.

Dr. Dunne, the President of Carlow College arrived to take the Carlow Sisters home as preparations were made in the town to give them a great reception. On arrival in Carlow they proceeded to the Convent quickly, but not without cheers for the "Russian Nuns". The Sisters, they parted from eighteen months before, were all inside the Convent gate to welcome them back. When the Bishop heard of their arrival he sent Dean Hughes to bid them welcome, and to say, he would call himself the next morning, that there would be a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving for their safe return on the following Sunday in the Cathedral to conclude with the "Te Deum".

MEMOIRS

Sr. M. Aloysius' memoirs were compiled from the diary she kept in the Crimea, and written in 1897—forty-one years after the end of the Crimean War. Her memoirs would have been more interesting if she could have seen the other Sister's diaries; but they had all disappeared except one, and her own, which was in great part eaten by the rats at Balaklava.

Carlow was Sr. Aloysius' first Convent home; from there she went to the Crimea and soon after her return she was sent to Gort in Co. Galway. Sr. Aloysius was the only one of the band of Sisters who served in the Crimea alive in the year 1897—the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The following correspondence passed between the Queen and Sr. Aloysius:

Pall Mall, London. S.W.

February 15th, 1897

Madam: The Queen having been pleased to bestow upon you the decoration of the Royal Red Cross I have to inform you that in the case of such honours as this, it is the custom of Her Majesty to personally bestow the decorations upon the recipient when such a course is convenient to all concerned; and I have therefore to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether it would be convenient to you to attend at Windsor sometime within the next few weeks. Should any circumstances prevent you receiving the Royal Red Cross from the hands of Her Majesty, it could be transmitted by post to your present address.

I am dear Madam, your obedient servant,

George M. Farquharson

Sr. M. Aloysius.

St. Patrick's, Gort, Co. Galway.

February 17th, 1897

Sir: I received your letter of 15th, intimating to me that Her Most Gracious Majesty, The Queen, is pleased to bestow on me the Order of the Royal Cross in recognition of the services of my Sisters in Religion and my own in caring for the wounded soldiers at the Crimea during the war. My words cannot express my gratitude for the great honour which Her Majesty is pleased to confer on me. The favour is if possible enhanced by the permission to receive this public mark of favour at Her Majesty's own hands. The weight of seventy-six years and the infirmities of age, will I trust dispense me from the journey to the Palace. I will therefore with sentiments of deepest gratitude ask to be permitted to receive this mark of my Sovereign's favour in the less public and formal manner you have kindly indicated.

I am Sir,

Faithfully yours in Jesus Christ,

Sr. M. Aloysius

Sr. Aloysius died in the year 1901 at the age of 80 years in the Convent in Gort, Co. Galway; the last of a gallant band, who for a time sacrificed the happy and peaceful cloister in following her true calling as a Sister of Mercy.

N.B.—Mr. Hugh O'Donnell, Solicitor recollects being taken by his grandmother, when he was seven years of age from Gort down to the Mercy Convent at Kinvara to meet St. Aloysius. She was a very old lady but quite bright in her mind. His grandmother had told him a good deal about her, before he visited her; and his youthful imagination was filled with the horrors of the war in the snow. Sr. Aloysius told them some stories about her adventures in the Crimea and he remembers his grandmother asking what she thought about Florence Nightingale, Sr. Aloysius replied: She did not like her, she was too "bossy", but that she was a great woman for getting things done for the poor wounded and sick.

Tatler reported the following news item

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ORDNANCE SURVEY—(continued from page 24)

THE BREHON LAWS

A commission had been set up for the publication of the ancient laws of Ireland and again O'Donovan was the obvious choice as translator. He transcribed legal manuscripts in the ancient language, which filled nine volumes and then translated them in twelve volumes. He did not live to see this work in print or indeed to edit it. (This was done by Dr. Reeves.)

CALLED TO THE BAR

In addition to all this he had studied modern law and entered at Gray's Inns, London in April 1844 and was called to the Irish Bar in 1847. He did not practice but felt the knowledge would be an advantage in his undertakings which, as we have seen, were numerous. One of these which I have not so far mentioned was his appointment as lecturer at the newly opened Queen's College in Belfast "in which his lectures were distinguished by eloquence and erudition according to a contemporary.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

This colossal undertaking was commenced in 1824 and was staffed mainly by English personnel, who worked under the supervision of officers of the Military unit, the Royal Engineers, commonly known as Sappers. As already mentioned O'Donovan had already been employed in the headquarters office for some years.

The Director of Operations was Colonel Coltby and his assistant Captain Larcomb.

John's work was mostly the translation of the place names from Gaelic into English and generally preparing to have accurate replies ready for the queries re locations of various landmarks of archaeological interest which were constantly being received from the "fieldmen." Their letters to headquarters often commenced with "Please ask Mr. O'Donovan" and invariably Mr. O'Donovan provided the answers.

SCOPE WIDENED

After a couple of years Colonel Coltby decided with the permission of the Government to widen the scope of the scheme and in 1833 the Irish Topographical Division of the Ordnance Survey was launched.

O'Donovan was transferred from the office for spells at field work and had as his colleague the renowned archaeologist George Petrie. A couple of years later Eugene O'Curry joined

them and the three valiant workers gave dedicated service until the project closed down in 1842.

O'Curry or Curry as his name appears in the records was also a keen Gaelic scholar and historian. Two of his sons, Antony and Austin were fieldmen. O'Curry and O'Donovan were brothers-in-law; one authority states that they were married to sisters and another that O'Curry's sister was John's wife; be that as it may they were firm friends as well as co-workers.

PLOTTING

The various districts were "plotted" and the portions allotted to the field men who fine-combed the areas for both physical and historical features, aided of course by the information from headquarters as to what was known to have existed there.

Reports on the findings were written up each night and forwarded to Dublin. Considering that the days were spent in investigation and the nights in reporting the results, the work was undoubtedly demanding.

Captain Larcom on one occasion visited O'Donovan's area and found him at 2 a.m. writing his report and that after having been in the field the previous day from 8 a.m.

FIRST ARRIVAL IN CARLOW

The first fieldman arrived in Carlow town, by the Tallyho coach on the 6th June, 1839, called at the post office next morning and found there a note asking him to call on Lieut James for the name books. He duly carried out these instructions and was supplied with the name books, extracts and indexes but these were not sufficient for Mr. T. O'Connor, the fieldman concerned.

A "TALL" ORDER

He wrote a demand to Dublin for a diagram of the county to be sent to him without delay. He also listed thirty-seven years between 804 A.D. and 1167 for which he wants Mr. O'Donovan's translation of "what is said in the Four Masters concerning Ui Cinsealach in these" separate years.

Also he wishes that Mr. O'Donovan would give him a list of the ancient territories lying in the county. Also "I want paper, quills, sealing wax and pencils. I commence to work immediately."

His first report is dated 8th June and he announces the arrival of a fellow worker Antony Curry and registers his first of many grievances concerning Carlow, "I can get no good paper in the town." He dictates to Headquarters re the particulars taken from old documents. The next report includes: "Please send me a pencil an article I find it impossible to get good here."

The letter concludes by stating that his health has been very indifferent since he came to Carlow and weather "severe"; the heat is intolerable; I cannot write in the night after walking about in the heat all day."

On June 16th he writes: "It is with much regret, nay shame, afflictions, that I have to tell you that my exertions in getting through the North of the Barrony of Rathvilly, have distressed me severely." He was exhausted, had a feverish tremor, restless sleep. He mentions these briefly to avoid a whining air. "What I have said, I deem necessary to be made known". O'Donovan makes the heartless comment: "This is rich, a longing, yea, a yearning after home."

FINANCIAL TROUBLES

Finances were another worry. "Mr. Curry cannot stir out of Carlow until my pay arrives, all my money is out". The health again: "I cannot get on with the work here. If I don't get in immediately I feel my health will be instantly irrecoverable. One day is too long for me to remain here if I could help it. I hope our pay comes before the third, to wait to such a day will be a great venture for me. I long for an answer to yesterday's request."

At last poor Mr. O'Connor received his recall to Dublin and Mr. P. O'Keeffe took over with Mr. O'Curry. He in turn takes up the cry of ill health almost immediately as an excuse for dilatoriness in sending his reports and O'Donovan describes him as a poor soldier in the field.

CARLOW A FINE HEALTHY COUNTY

In contrast O'Curry was quite content and describes Carlow as a fine healthy county where he would gladly spend an idle month if there was nothing else for him to do.

The tales of woe from O'Connor and O'Keeffe letters were taken from the copy made by the late Mr. Edward O'Toole, N.T., some years ago. This copy which is typewritten was made by him from the originals in the Ordnance Survey headquarters in Phoenix Park and he presented it to the Carlow Co. Library.

However aggravating the complaints must have been for the staff in Dublin, one cannot but feel sympathy with the sufferers. Life was not easy for them living as they were away from their homes and their work was exacting.

Their reports were intended to form the basis of a memoir for each county but in fact only one of these was published—that of the parish of Teampull Mor, which included Derry City. The genius of O'Donovan, O'Curry and Petrie as the practical organisers had gained such a wealth of historical data that when the memoir was published in 1837 the Government of the time at Westminster forbade the publication of others. No reason for this step was forthcoming.

Reluctantly Colonel Coltby and Captain Larcom had to scale down their projects and in 1842 when field work in twenty nine counties was completed and no further survey work was inaugurated.

HARVESTED INFORMATION

The headquarters staff were kept busy for a number of years writing the immense amount of the harvested information in the name books and the key men on the job were of course, O'Donovan, O'Curry and Petrie.

Another worker in the office is well worthy of mention, Thomas Drummond, a Scot, who was one of the first to enter the service.

He mixed with the Irishmen engaged in the work, got to know them and to appreciate their worth, a knowledge that was to serve them well when he was appointed Under Secretary for Ireland, an office he held from 1834 until his death in 1840.

During those years he won a place in the hearts of the Irish people, until then unique in the history of Dublin Castle officials.

He did his utmost to relieve the distress of those poverty stricken days. His death brought sorrow to the homes of those who knew him and his funeral to Glasnevin Cemetery, where he was buried at his own request was followed by thousands. His statue in white marble, by John Hogan, stands in the vestibule of Dublin City Hall, with that of Daniel O'Connell, by the same artist.

BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

Another member of the Ordnance Staff, less exalted, was James Clarence Mangan between whom and John O'Donovan there was a strong bond of friendship, though O'Donovan admitted

that his influence was unable to keep Mangan away from his great weakness, strong drink. "He cannot give up drink", complains John. "Now and again he writes a short poem which he composes as he moves like a shadow along the streets and writes in public houses in which he gets pen and ink gratis. One short poem of his exhibits seven different inks and seven different varieties of handwriting, written in seven different public houses!"

Mangan said of O'Donovan: "In reality no one exists who combines a larger share of imaginative mind with the philosophical than John. Personally I owe him a debt of gratitude I never can repay."

All through his life, ill health dogged O'Donovan. He married in 1840 and had a family of nine sons and in spite of his capabilities his earnings never exceeded £4 per week from all sources, including Queen's College.

IN GLASNEVIN

He died at his home in Marlborough St., Dublin on 9th December, 1861 from an attack of rheumatic fever and he was buried in Glasnevin. In spite of his ill health he had worked intermittently for the office of Ordnance Survey up to the end. A table for the years

1846 to 1861 shows the number of days he was employed in each year. These vary from 105 to the last entry in December 1861, John O'Donovan employed three days (for orthography) at 9/6 pr day.

Poor Johnnie Donovan had finished his last task.

Strange it is that considering the work he did for Ireland in salvaging so much of her early history that no worthwhile biography has, as far as I know, been yet published.

One was written by the late Canon Aylward of Kilkenny but it was still in Mss. form when he died and then passed into the possession of the Royal Irish Academy of which the Canon was a member.

The field name books were stored in the Ordnance survey office for a number of years until in the 1880's a number of volumes were presented to the R.I.A. also.

Still more belatedly, a very welcome gesture has been made by the Ordnance Survey Office in making available (on request) to schools, copies of works and maps dealing with the areas in which these schools are situated. None of O'Donovan's sons married with the exception of one whose only child, a daughter, married a Welsh doctor. Her father was the last survivor of John's family.



IN THE CRIMEA—(continued from page 41)

in the "Nationalist", April, 1889. "Mrs. Margaret Kerwin a heroine of the Crimean War, whose experiences have been published in "Hours" died last week on April 21st, 1898.

"Her tales of the War were most interesting and she had the extraordinary experience of looking at the Malakoff Battle through the telescope of Mr. Russell the celebrated War Correspondent."

Her husband John Kerwin late of Green Lane, died at the residence of his granddaughter Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Killeshin, 7th June, 1905, aged 82 years (Great-grandson lies at Killeshin).

On the headstone over their grave in St. Mary's Cemetery is the following inscription:—

"In memory of Margaret Kerwin, died 21st April, 1898, aged 72 years. She went with 19th Regiment to the Crimea as a nurse and was present at the Battle of Inkerman and

the seige and fall of Sebastopol. John Kerwin, 1st Batt. 19th Regt., died 7th June, 1905. He was engaged in the battle of Alma, wounded at Inkerman and the seige and fall of Sebastopol

Erected by their grandchildren Lieut J. P. Kerwin-Colgan, 3rd Reg. and Margaret Ellen Fitzpatrick.

De Mortuis Nil Nisborum.

A photograph of Mrs. Margaret Kerwin (one of twelve) hangs in the Military Museum in London.

Lieut. John P. Kerwin-Colgan afterwards Major, fought in the Boer War (Bloomfontein) and returned to live in Carlow. He and his wife resided for a time at Fruithill. They later returned to England. Major Colgan died in Colchester. Mrs. Colgan survived him until the Second World War.

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PRE-CHRISTIAN DWELLINGS—(continued from page 35)

ground. Carlow figures quite prominently in the Christianising movement which began in earnest towards the middle of the century. "Rathvilly Moat" to the east of the present village of Rathvilly was the scene, shortly after 432 A.D. of one of the earliest Christian baptisms in County Carlow. Here Crionthan, with his wife and son was baptised by St. Patrick himself, and ushered in a new and splendid age, which, unfortunately, lies outside the scope of this present paper.

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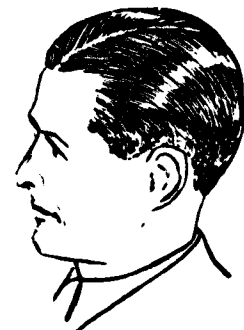
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