Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

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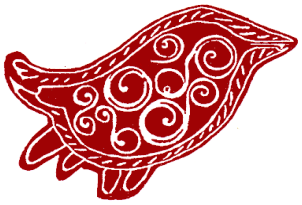

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Notes and Queries.

LOCAL HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, FOLK-LORE, Etc.

Contributed by Sigma Tau: Walloons in Clonmel.
C. Tenison: Jones.
R.D.: Colonel Vigors; Royal Cork Volunteer Banquet, 1799; Street Ballads.
Courtenay Moore, Canon M.A.: Some Distinguished Corkmen.
J.C.: Cork Lighthouses; An Eighteenth Century O'Sullivan Beare; General Arthur O'Connor; William Greatrakes, a Reputed Author of the "Letters of Junius;" Professor Boole of the Queen's College, Cork.
J. Buckley: Arthur O'Leary, "the Outlaw"; Shopkeepers, Traders, etc., of Mitchelstown, 80 years ago.

Walloons in Clonmel.—In 1667, the Duke of Ormonde, the Lord Lieutenant, invited over several families of Walloons from England, to settle in Clonmel and introduce there the woollen manufacture. Several came and started the industry, which flourished for many years. Can any of our readers supply the names of these settlers?

Sigma Tau.

Jones.— In an old Query I find a thrilling account of an attack made by the rebels, in 1798, on the house of Mr. Jones, of Keatley's Close, near Mallow, and of the brave defence made by him and a young girl, his niece, a Miss Turner. I would be glad to know something of this Mr. Jones and Miss Turner.

Hobart, 24th Nov., 1903. C. Tenison.

Colonel Vigors.—It is with deep regret we announce the loss which Irish archæology has sustained in the death of Colonel Philip Doyne Vigors, of Holloden, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, who passed away on December 30, 1903, in his 78th year. His name is best known in connection with the "Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead," of which, in 1888, he was the founder. Its journal, published quarterly, was profusely illustrated with copies of inscriptions, photographs and rubbings from far away lonely graveyards and ruined abbeys. With amazing energy and zeal, and by his own force of character, he inspired others with his own spirit, and they, scattered over the country from Sherkin to the Causeway, were instrumental in saving many monuments from destruction; and placing on record inscriptions which in a few years, from climatic changes, would have been obliterated and lost. Colonel Vigors was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ireland, and a valued contributor to its journal. He was also engaged upon a work on Irish Church plate, which was all but ready for the printer's hands. This, we hope, will be published in the near future. He was a past high sheriff of the county Carlow, and commanded the 19th Regt. of Foot when stationed in Canada. We are glad to know it is the intention of the Council of the Society to carry on the work which he commenced, and continued till his death.

Royal Cork Volunteer Banquet, 1799.—I am indebted to Colonel The O'Donovan, D.L., of Lissard, for the privilege of seeing a quarto pamphlet of 12 pp., three of which are introductory, and the remaining nine devoted to 21 verses of poetry, with "Notes critical and explanatory. Copied from the 'Cork Advertiser, or Commercial Register,' of Thursday, the 7th day of November, 1799."

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It describes an entertainment that was given at the King's Arms Tavern on the 5th of November, 1799, by the Royal Cork Volunteers, to General Myers, commanding the district, and to other public characters in the city. The most perfect unanimity and good order prevailed, and the banquet must have commenced early and ended late, as the toasts numbered no less than twenty-one, and would have taken a considerable time to get through. They were as follows:—

"The King, and may God preserve and bless him"—on which God Save the King was sung in a very superior style by the gentlemen who composed the band of the corps.

"The pious, glorious, and immortal memory"—here Rule Britannia was sung.

"Lord Spencer and the Navy"—here the Navy and Army of Britain was sung by Mr. Prittie, in a style which exceeds all praise.

"The Duke of York and the Army"—the British Grenadiers by a military band.

"Mr. Pitt."

"The Earl of Clare, the Lord High Chancellor of Ireland."

"Lord Shannon."

"Major-General Myers and the Garrison of Cork"—here General Myers, after paying some handsome compliments to the principles and conduct of the corps, begged leave to give the following toast—

"The Royal Cork Volunteers and the 5th of November: health, long life, unanimity, and prosperity to them."

"Our revered friend, Lord Camden, the Father of the Loyal Yeomanry of Ireland."

"General Lake and the Army of Ireland."

"Mayor and Corporation of Cork."

Colonel Longfield, our representative, and the City of Cork, and success to him"—here Colonel Longfield expressed the very high value he placed on the good opinion of so respectable and loyal a body of men, and observed, he preferred having one loyal vote to a thousand others.

"Colonel Rynton of the Berwick Cavalry"—Colonel Rynton thanked the Company, and assured them the Berwick Cavalry which he then had the honour to command would at all times be happy to be led by the Royal Cork Volunteers, to act with them, or to lead them, whichever the service should require.

"Colonel Cole-Hamilton and our firm friends of the Royal Tyrone Regiment"—Colonel Hamilton in a neat manner expressed the satisfaction he felt at finding the conduct of the Tyrone Regiment had met with the approbation of the loyal citizens of Cork.

"Colonel O'Hara and the Antrim Regt.—Colonel O'Hara said he felt highly flattered by the favourable opinion entertained of the regiment by so respectable a society, and he could answer for their endeavours to merit a continuance of it.

Proposed by Captain Hickman—"Collector Shaw and the trade of Cork." The Collector here said he felt extremely honoured by the notice so kindly taken of him, and if anything could add to this compliment it was joining his name with the many loyal toasts they had given this evening.

"The glorious Revolution, and may we never see another."

"George Ogle."

Captain Westropp having here retired, General Myers took the chair, and gave "The Father of the Cork Volunteers"; "Colonel Massey and the 35th Regiment"; the final toast being "Our Worthy Fellow-citizen, Alderman Shaw."

The verses written upon this banquet are imbued with a strong spice of

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sarcasm, and are studded with personal and uncomplimentary remarks, which would possibly give pain, and are excluded; but the two first are given as a mild example of the remainder:—

"Ye good men of Cork, all attend to my story,
'Twill strike you with wonder, and inspire you with glory;
Deeds so renowned, and joys so inviting,
Are surely much better than boxing or fighting.

On the fifth of November, to commemorate Gunpowder Plot,
Mick and his Raspers(1) were altogether got,
With Generals and Colonels and men great in the City,
To eat and to drink, to toast and be witty."

Street Ballads.—The street ballads published in Cork during the first half of the last century were printed on strips of paper about three inches wide, and from twelve to eighteen inches long, having wood-block headings to illustrate the subject of the ballad, which was sometimes sung as a duet, but more generally as a solo. While the singer had usually an admiring crowd of appreciative and attentive listeners, there were others who considered his stentorian efforts as a nuisance, among whom was the Recorder, who, Boyle of the "Cork Freeholder" (Sept. 30, 1824) tells us, "felt great annoyance at the ballad singers." As in every other profession, among these artists there existed various degrees of merit, both in good voices and the reverse, in popular ballads with a lively chorus that charmed the crowd, and funeral dirges that brought passing dogs to a stand and made them howl in unison with the singer's highest note. Among the first class was a man who took Cork in his rounds, and who sung "Russell's Hunt," a panegyric on the Russell family of the county Limerick, which was set to the air of "Moddereen a rhue" (the Little Red Fox). This man had a loud, sonorous voice that suited the ring of the fine old hunting tune. These memories are recalled by a little group of ballads, eight in number, two of which are without printer's name or abode, the remainder have the imprint of "J. and H. Baird, Printers, 21 Paul St., Cork, where ballad singers, country dealers, and shopkeepers can be well supplied with ballads, and all kinds of printing work executed." The titles of the ballads are suggestive. Two are political, the remainder amatory and descriptive:—

1. "A new song on the successful Candidate, Counsellor O'Connell, the Man of the People. Tune, Maureen na Guberlane."
2. "Counsellor O'Connell's Return to Parliament."
3. "A Favourite old Song called Old Adam."
4. "Shaun O'Regan's Portion."
5. "The Green Linnet."
6. "Pretty Polly of Carlow, a new Song."
7. "The Royal Blackbird."
8. "The distress of the [ship] American, New York."

No. 3 has what is intended to be a representation of the Garden of Eden enclosed in a rail fence, and with a modern dwelling house, displaying a high-

(1) Raspers is a name given to the Royal Cork Volunteers by their Commander, Michael Westropp, Esquire, of the City of Cork, Wine Merchant. It is witty of the worthy Captain, but is by no means taken in the general acceptation of the term, but we can vouch they are not all "Raps."

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