Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

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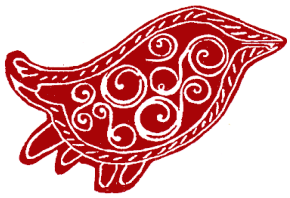

Title: Notes and queries: Query relating to Ross family

Author: Doherty, M. M. Hicks

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Enquiries.

Harper's Prison, Kinsale.—Information about the above, its date, use and history, is earnestly desired. If any reader can furnish any particular, he will much oblige by acquainting the Secretary.

Ross.—Information wanted of the family of Ross of Ross Castle, Ross Island, Killarney.

Quince Cottage, Lower Green, Sandhurst, Kent. M. M. HICKS DOHERTY.

Reviews.

The Legacy of Greece. Edited by R. W. Livingstone, Oxford. At the Clarendon Press, 1923.

This comparatively small book of 400 pages contains a series of Essays contributed by the men most qualified at the present day to write upon Greek work, thought, and literature.

These Essays, twelve in number, bear the following titles. The names of the contributors are sufficient guarantee to the importance of each:—

"The Value of Greece to the Future of the World," by Gilbert Murray, F.B.A., Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford.

"Religion," by W. R. Inge, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's.

"Philosophy," by J. Burnett, F.B.A., Professor of Greek in the University of St. Andrew's.

"Mathematics and Astronomy," by Sir T. L. Heath, K.C.B., K.C.V.S., F.R.S.

"Natural Science," by D'Arcy W. Thompson, F.R.S., Professor of History in the University of St. Andrew's.

"Biology," by Charles Singer, Lecturer in the History of Medicine in University College, London.

"Medicine," by Charles Singer.

"Literature," by R. W. Livingstone, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

"History," by Arnold Toynbee, Koraes Professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek Language, Literature, and History in the University of London.

"Political Thought," by A. E. Zimmern, late Wilson Professor of International Politics, University College of Wales.

"The Lamps of Greek Art," by Percy Gardner, F.B.A., Merton Professor of Classical Archaeology in the University of Oxford.

"Architecture," by Sir Reginald Blomfield, F.S.A., R.A.

The Editor, in his short preface, informs us that this book, "the first of its kind in English," aims at giving some idea of what the world owes to Greece in various realms of the spirit and intellect, and of what it can still learn from her. The work does indeed fulfil its object. No one can read those wonderfully fascinating Essays without entering into the very spirit of the Grecians. Step by step we see Greek thinkers striving after the infinite; we see their simplicity and total absence of self-consciousness. With no effort towards originality, they have yet given to us, Nature lovers, as they were, the true exposition of Nature as she was to them. We can follow them in their thirst for knowledge of things as they are, and their insatiable desire to give explanation to every principle in earth and heaven leading to their wonderful conceptions in Natural Science, Mathematics, Art, Medicine, and Reason. In fact, without Greek philosophy we cannot attain to a perception of our own spiritual past, nor can we understand the present. We may opine ourselves to be the most learned, the most advanced people upon the earth, but when we turn to each essay and read therein the progressive thought and advancement in all that pertains to man's elevation of more than 2,000 years ago, we recognise at once that instead of having attained priority we are actually behind the ancient Greeks, and we find that most of that upon which we pride ourselves has had its origin in the brain of one or more of the great sages in the schools of Greece. Even in their decay they were a race accustomed to take little and to give much. A people owing but very little to foreign influences, unstable, untrustworthy and cruel, but in art, philosophy and poetry, speaking still of beauty unimagined, without conventuality, exaggeration, or morbidity, and yet possessing in every art variety unchained, and expressive of truth and freedom. Few to-day can recognise how unlettered and savage mankind would have been if the civilization of the Greeks had not occurred. Such Essays as these presented to us are essential to awaken with no uncertain call the fact that in Greece, and in Greece alone, are we to find the culture and dignity needed to educate the intelligence and the souls of men. Whensoever the guiding lights of the

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