

Richard Poekrich, inventor of the musical glasses, and an accomplished initiator of projects, was assuredly one of the most interesting of his contemporaries. The Rev. William Maxwell, the friend of Dr. Johnson, was also from Monaghan, as was also Arthur Moore, a politician and statesman of considerable fame in the eighteenth century. Lord Blayney is the only distinguished Monaghan soldier I can find trace of, and the present Admiral Sir George D. Morant is the only man of naval importance. Sir William Whitla and Lieutenant-Colonel William Temple, V.C., are the only men in medical science worth naming, and in art, Henry MacManus, a popular painter and excellent art teacher of his day, and the present Alexander Williams are the principal representatives of Monaghan. Of course, Francis A. Tarleton, the mathematician, must not be omitted. The chief Catholic divine of recent times from Monaghan appears to have been the Most Rev. Patrick N. Lynch, Bishop of Charleston, U.S.A. But to conclude by going back to the seventeenth century, Heber MacMahon, the bishop, and Hugh Oge MacMahon, the rebel, deserve an honoured place in Monaghan annals.

## CHAPTER XXI.—KILDARE.



OTHER inland counties have done so well that Kildare's record is somewhat disappointing. There are very few names of really great note among the Kildare men recorded in the usual sources of information. Many of them are interesting figures, but famous people do not abound. The greatest personage is that of St. Laurence O'Toole, who was probably born in the county, and whose life and death are very familiar to the Irish people. Several other notable ecclesiastics have come from Kildare. One of these was Cardinal Cullen, who is remembered as an administrator rather than in any other capacity. The Rev. Peter Walsh, on the other hand, was a great scholar and writer, and his books are part of the notable literature of the seventeenth century. Almost a contemporary of his was the Rev. Cornelius Nary, another Kildare man of great scholarship, one or two of whose works are very able. It is his translation of the New Testament which chiefly gives him his rank as a scholar, his writings on Catholic and Irish matters being excellent, but of less importance. The Rev. Dr. John Miley, of the earlier part of the last century, is known as O'Connell's friend and spiritual adviser, and as a pious and worthy priest, and the name of the Rev. Charles Aylmer, the eminent Jesuit, must also be added. The only eminent Protestant divine to be named



here is Arthur Price, Archbishop of Cashel in the middle of the eighth century.

As the place of original extraction, if not of birth, of some celebrated men, Kildare is in a peculiar position. Wolfe Tone's family was closely associated with the county, and it is entitled to some of the credit for that fact. It is also generally believed that another famous man of action—General James Wolfe, the captor of Quebec—had family connections with Kildare, but it is impossible to trace his pedigree very clearly, and the matter must remain a conjecture. Certain it is that the name is a common one there, and there is a decided tradition to the above effect. Other Wolfes from Kildare were the Rev. Charles Wolfe, author of "The Burial of Sir John Moore," and Arthur Wolfe, Lord Kilwarden. The first-named wrote nothing else as good as the poem specified, but he is not altogether a one-poem poet, as a recent selection from his writings by Mr. Litton Falkiner shows. One or two of his lyrics are admirable, but "The Burial of Sir John Moore" remains his finest performance. Lord Kilwarden was an amiable and able judge, and his murder was a terrible calamity of the Emmet insurrection, the more to be deplored as it had much to do with the ruin of the national cause. Another family intimately associated with Kildare was that of the Temples, whose most illustrious member was the statesman, Lord Palmerston; Sir John Temple, the author of a well-known "History of the Irish Rebellion of 1641," and Sir William Temple, the statesman and writer under whom Swift worked, were of this branch, and the title of Lord Palmerston was taken from the village of that name. The later members of the family, however, had a merely territorial connection with the county. The ducal clan of Leinster was, of course,

also closely associated with it, and in this way Lord Edward Fitzgerald may be fairly claimed as a Kildare man, though he was not born there. There were other notable Fitzgeralds also of his family, but his name appeals most to Irish people. The great Desmonds were more or less connected with Kildare, but it is difficult to say precisely in what degree. Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald, "the fair Geraldine," the theme of many poems, must not be forgotten in this association.

There were other Kildare families of some reputation—notably that of the Wogans. The Chevalier (Sir Charles) Wogan, who effected the escape of the Princess Sobieski, is the most important. His dashing career and his famous exploit have been, I think, already made the subject of a romance. Certainly such a career would readily suggest itself to the novelist. Captain Edward Wogan, the Royalist soldier of a few decades earlier, was another distinguished member of the family. Other soldiers were Captain Hugh Ware, a gallant Franco-Irishman; Andrew Kennedy, also in foreign service, and Maurice B. St. Leger Keating, a writer of some merit as well as a soldier. Sir William F. P. Napier should, perhaps, be credited to County Kildare, as he was born just within its borders. His great "History of the Peninsular War" will preserve his name in literature. As lawyers, John Keating and Robert Rochford were esteemed, and in politics the names of Lord Cloncurry, William Burgh, and Welbore Ellis, the first Baron Mendip, are the most prominent. Lord Cloncurry, like Lord Charlemont, deserves to be warmly remembered for his patriotic efforts on behalf of Irish Nationality. Lord Mendip held important Government positions, but did not make any special impression on his contemporaries. Another political figure



of some note was Dr. Florence Hensey, who flourished in the middle of the eighteenth century, and who was supposed to be a spy in the French service. He was an able and courageous spirit.

When one comes to literature, one gets upon more familiar ground. Yet Kildare has not done much in that particular direction. Peter Walsh, Cornelius Nary, Charles Wolfe, and one or two other writers have been named. Worthy of notice also are John Wynn Baker, an agriculturist of some authority; Marcus Rainsford, a poet and miscellaneous author of merit; Richard Shackleton, the teacher of Edmund Burke, and his more famous daughter, Mary Leadbeater, author of "The Annals of Ballitore," etc., and her relative, Mrs. Lydia Jane Fisher, who wrote some clever minor verse and other things. Thomas Keightley, the historical writer and folklorist, was probably a native of Kildare, and Thomas Colley Grattan, a once extremely popular novelist and traveller, was certainly one. Richard Griffith, a minor dramatic writer and versifier, may also be named here, chiefly as the father of Sir Richard John Griffith, F.R.S., the geologist, whose name is famous in "Griffith's Valuation," and who was born in Dublin. A very graceful poetess, Teresa C. Boylan, used to write largely for the Irish papers some years ago, and since her departure for America her muse has been apparently silent, which is a pity. A Kildare man, who was hardly a poet, but a couplet by whom has made his name famous, was George Barrington (otherwise Waldron, his real name.) He began his public career by pocket-picking in England, and after some particularly daring thefts was transported to Australia. There he became an exemplary personage, and obtained an excellent official position. In a prologue

which he wrote in the *Antipodes* for a certain play occur these immortal lines:—

"True patriots we, for be it understood,  
We left our country for our country's good."

Barrington (or Waldron) wrote several works of some value, and died highly respected. John Sheehan was another Kildare writer of considerable popularity. His work in the Dublin *Comet*, an anti-tithe journal, prepared him for his London journalistic career. He wrote largely and amusingly for the London press for years, generally over the name of "The Irish Whiskey-Drinker" and "The Knight of Inishowen." His work has never been collected, and is lying scattered through various long-since-defunct periodicals. It is to be feared that very little of it has a permanent value. Thackeray used him as the model of Captain Shandon in "Pendennis." He was one of the Maginn and Kenealy school of writers, uproariously noisy, with considerable gifts (though not approaching those of Maginn—that real genius), but too fond of temporary, personal, and ephemeral subjects for their writings to stand a chance of permanent life.

With Richard C. Wellesley, the first Earl of Mornington, who was born in the county; Christopher B. Lane, the Brazilian engineer; Richard More O'Ferrall, a successful politician and Colonial administrator; Sir Joshua Peter Bell, the Australian statesman; James Gwinn, a distinguished architect; Sir W. H. Rattigan, the Indian judge; John Wolfe, the engraver, and Shiel Barry, the actor, this record of Kildare's services to the various branches of human activity closes.