



# LETTERKENNY

*PAST AND PRESENT*

CANON MAGUIRE

1917

*First Published*

Old Seminary  
was at 34  
Lower Main Street.

Rang Isl Studies Ulmhir  

941.693

370764

	NOT	
	FOR	
	LOAN	
	PRICE	

L E A B H A R L A N N

**Dhun na nGall**

DONEGAL COUNTY LIBRARY

This book must be returned on the last date  
shown above. If retained beyond this period a fine of  
20p per week is payable.

\* Renewal may be granted if the book is not required by  
another reader.

*Chapter*

1.	Conwal Abbey	1
2.	Sentry Hill	5
3.	Templedouglas and Glenswilly	7
4.	Letterkenny	10
5.	Bishops	13
6.	The Old Seminary	22
7.	Ancient Proprietors	26
8.	Neighbouring Planters	29
9.	Transformation - Wolfe Tone	31
10.	Godrey O'Donnell	34
11.	Tribes in vicinity	39
12.	Scariffhollis	41
13.	Fearsad Mor	48
14.	Trial of Francis Bradley	53
15.	Tenant Right	58
16.	Letterkenny Great Meeting, 1870	60
17.	The Land League	65
18.	1870 - Then and Now	68
19.	People of Note	78
20.	The Loreto Convent	83
21.	St Eunan's College	86
22.	O Donovan's Letters	89
23.	Place - Names	92

**APPENDICES**

I	Most Kev. Dr. Coyle	95
II	State of Popery in 1731	96
III	Meaning of Conwal	97
IV	Asylum	97
V	Right Rev. Monsignor MacMenamin, Vicar Capitular	98
VI	American Letter: To Hughie Bonar	100
VII	Grand Jury To County Council	104



LEABHARLAIN

IMHIR

370,764

ANG

## *Edward Maguire*

1855	Born in Bonneyglen, Inver.
1879	Ordained
1879	President of Old Seminary
1883	Professor of Rhetoric, Maynooth.
1897 - 1901	Gweedore
1901	Letterkenny
1902 - 1906	Inver
1906	First President of St. Eunan's College
1910 - 1916	Fanad
1923	Glencolmcille
5/7/1926	Died in Carrick

*See Fr. John Silke's article in Raphoe Directory 1995*



## PREFACE

IRISHMEN all over the world feel a daily increasing desire to learn the history of their country's struggles, and a legitimate pride in discovering that illustrious feats were performed by their own kinsmen, or in the neighbourhood of their ancestral homes. And nowhere is this spirit of inquiry into the annals of the past more acute or more permeating in its influence than among the intelligent and progressive people of Letterkenny. The heroic victories of Conwal and Fearsadmor illumine the brightest pages of Tirconaill's proud chronicles; while the sad tale of the crushing catastrophe at Scarriffhollis awakens melancholy memories of the fatal curse of disunion; for the debacle at New Mills was the natural outcome of divided counsels at Kilkenny.

Again, St. Fiacre is better known and more deeply venerated in the remotest hamlet of France, than here on the " Hillside of the O'Canannains," where, in the prime of his youth and in the freshness of his religious ardour, he established, in the sixth century, a fruitful nursery of learning and sanctity. Even his Holy Well, which the envenomed malignity of the bigoted landlord failed to obliterate, has ceased to be associated with the name and cult of the Saint, though it is still much venerated and frequented. St. Columbkille's angelic childhood spread a halo of imperishable sacredness over the precincts of Temple Douglas; hundreds of the parishioners of Conwal live and die in ignorance of the fact that their great Patron Saint was ever there. The boundary walls of St. Eunan's College enclose the hallowed site of the first Catholic Church of Letterkenny, where their grandparents worshipped; and so on. Quite a multitude of healthy thoughts would be suggested or resurrected in our minds, and throw a ray of cheerfulness on our lonely paths as we ramble up and down, if we but knew the interesting history attaching to the various spots we visit.

The little brochure here presented is not a Tourist's Guide, containing scrappy titbits of indigestible knowledge, and enlivened by flights of fancy and graphic pen-pictures. It comprises a very plain, unambitious narrative of events, religious, political and social; a few biographical sketches; a brief survey of architectural and sanitary progress; and a short list of the more remarkable place-names with suggested derivations.

A very limited number of copies is issued in this impression, as the author hopes to receive from some of the more ardent readers, of antiquarian taste, valuable accessions of information, which he will insert in a second edition. Publishing is not, at the present moment, a remunerative recreation.

## CHAPTER 1 — CONWAL ABBEY

The historical associations of Conwal, ecclesiastical, political, claim for this parish a pre-eminence that is amply and lastingly signalised in the exquisite Cathedral of Letterkenny and in the golden page of our country's history that immortalises the heroism of Godfrey O'Donnell. Columba was baptised and fostered within its borders; St. Fiacre planted a fruitful abbey at its centre; Bishop Heber Mac Mahon and the remnant of Owen Roe's gallant troops were here overwhelmed by numbers and tragically defeated. But the faith Columba preached was upheld through long and

dire persecution; the descendants of Conal Gulban bore up manfully against privations and crushing tyranny, and have in the end reached a tolerable level of freedom and prosperity; while the Cathedral and College are concrete testimonies of the resurrection of emancipated religion and learning.

Somewhat over a mile westward of Letterkenny in the middle of the well-known graveyard may be seen the decayed ruins of the old parish church, which occupied the site of Conwal Monastery, and was erected in the last years of the twelfth century, as appears from the following chronicle in the Annals of Ulster: "1204 Sitric Ua Sruithen, herenach of the Congbhal, head of Ui Muirthele and chief of clan Sneidhili, for ability, after a most excellent penance, ended his life happily and was buried in the church that was built by himself." The fact that a herenach existed, whose hereditary duty it was to administer the church estates is an indisputable proof that the original foundation was generously endowed. Further, we are perfectly warranted in drawing the inference that Conwal was not a Columban monastery from the fact that the herenach and not the Abbot is the conspicuous figure. Thus we read in the same Annals at a long anterior date, 914, "Scanlan, herenach of Congbhal of Glen-Suilidhe, died in Christ." The precise meaning of the word, herenach, is fully explained in the chapter on Termon, and it is sufficient for our present purpose to remind the reader that the herenagh lands were managed by the chief of some important sept for the benefit of a monastery or of a parish, and that, in the case of a



monastery the abbot or coarb of the Saint who founded it, usually belonged to the same family as the herenach. Thus in Kilmacrenan the O'Friels, and in Tory and Drumhome the Mac Groarties supplied both these honoured and onerous positions with distinguished occupants for several centuries. The omission, therefore, of all reference to an abbot or coarb would suggest that the original monastery had been discharging the functions of a parochial church, even before the time of Herenach Scanlan, that is, before the tenth century. It is also evident from the history of the times that the endowments in the beginning were the gift of the O'Canannans, as the clan Dalaigh had not established themselves either in Conwal or Scariff Hollis at so early a period of their progressive career. That the estates were rich and extensive, including a very considerable acreage, is manifest from Carew's statement of the merits of Bishop Montgomery's claim to a portion of the lands granted by patent letters to Sir Thomas Coach " Sir Thomas Coach hath 1,500 acres called Lismonaghan. Upon this proportion he hath raised a trench cast up with a hedge upon it, environed with a small brook in which there is a house of cagework, wherein himself with his family and lady are dwelling. There is brick and lime and all other materials ready for the building of a bawne and a house. He hath six good houses convenient to him, inhabited with English families. I find planted and estated 19 families, who have taken the oath of supremacy, and can make 56 British men at arms." The Bishop maintained that the lands lying along the river bank had belonged to Conwal Abbey, and that he was legal successor to the monks, though he was unable to find any assignment or will constituting him their legal heir. " A controversy has arisen between the Bishop of Raphoe and this undertaker, not on any doctrinal questions, but on the subject of debatable lands to which they both lay claims. The lands in dispute are Bominy, one quarter or 128 acres, and the sixth of the sixteenth of the quarter of Creeve; and they are in Sir Thomas's possession by the Deputy's warrant. The Bishop has the full quantity contained in his patent besides this quarter, which I know, for at London we had much debate about the castle called Skarafollis, standing upon this quarter. The Bishop was there satisfied to desist from claiming; and, besides, this land lies in the barony of Rafoe, and the termon of which he now and then supposed this to be parcel, lies in the barony of Kilmacrenan. So this is to be maintained to the undertaker."

St. Fiacre is the Founder and Patron of Conwal, and his feast is noticed in the Irish calendars at the 8th of February. Archdall informs us that he is the same as St. Fiacre of Clonard and that he died between the years 587 and 652; but the Martyrology of Donegal fixes the feast of " Fiachra of Irard (Clonard) in Ui Drona" at May, the 2nd, while the Martyrology of Tallaght assigns the 8th of



February as feast day to Fiachra of Irdar but does not include Conwal in designating his habitation. The Leabhar Breac, however, denominates this Irdar or Western Height an island, and O'Hanlon conjectures that the Saint had established a second monastery in an island, named Irdar, in the Swilly Basin. No doubt, a few centuries ago the tidal waters of the Swilly covered the whole rich alluvial valley from Farsad Mor to Scariff Hollis, and it is significant that parts of this wide expanse of meadow lands reclaimed from the sea, are still called the "isles" Moreover, two of the townlands disposed of to planters in 1610 were called Oileanmor and Oileanbeag lying to the south-east of Letterkenny; but nobody, resident or antiquarian, has succeeded in tracing any vestige of an island or abbey of Irdar in these parts. The weight of authority inclines to the more generally received opinion that our St. Fiachra became later Abbot of the world-famed Cluain Iraird in Meath. That mere distance is no argument against this view, is obvious from the fact that many of our pre-Columban abbeys and churches in Tirconaill owe their origin to great saints from the south, such as Naalis, Carthagus, and Kieran. In fact, St. Fiacre was venerated everywhere in Ireland, notably in Ossory, and throughout Christianised Scotland. Towards the close of his long and laborious life, he settled down near Meaux in France, where the fragrance of his sanctity and the fame of his miracles caused him to be revered down to the present day as the special Patron of Gardeners. The Bishop of Meaux bestowed upon him the seemingly useless gift of a small plot of forest around his cell, on condition that he was not to appropriate more than he could himself unassisted enclose with a ditch in one day. Very early next morning the saint proceeded on a rapid march, keeping the point of his staff continuously penetrating the soil and forming a miniature trench and at sunset he had described an enormous circle. The story goes on to say that, wherever the staff touched the ground, a deep ditch opened up spontaneously, and that the trees fell "to the right and the left," thus rendering the work of reclamation easy and profitable. The mere existence of such a tradition, and the enthusiasm everywhere manifested at the celebration of St. Fiacre's feast-day, abundantly prove that his zeal and sanctity, coupled with his success in elevating the status of the ordinary labourer to an unprecedented level of comfort and dignity, made his name revered for ever on earth, and his patronage in heaven an object of devout and confident petition. It is a curious fact deserving of mention here in passing, that the favourite vehicle for hire in French cities before motors were invented, was called a "fiacre" after the name of the Patron of Conwal. The designation is supposed to have its origin in the fact that the main features of the Fiacre were suggested to the inventor in the light, rapid spring carts in which the gardeners

had their fruit and vegetables conveyed to the factors and customers. St. Fiacre is said to have died in the year 582, and consequently his sojourn in Conwal must have been anterior to the period of Columba's recognised supremacy over the Tirconaill monasteries and contemporaneous with the Abbacy of Bishop Brugach in Rymohy and of Cruitnechan in Temple Douglas. Here, as elsewhere, a town soon sprang into existence around the flourishing monastery, and then a parish was consolidated, nurtured, and governed by the devoted and highly cultured monks. And before Columba had yet been commissioned to lay the foundations of his great monastic and missionary nurseries in Derry, Raphoe, Durrow, and Iona, St. Fiacre had already launched the Conwal community on their laborious career of training up saints and scholars in the glens and slopes of the O'Canannains. Among the numerous pre-Columban monasteries of Tirconaill, Conwal gloried in the unique distinction of a fruitful and beneficent existence for more than seven centuries, down to the introduction of the Franciscans into the neighbourhood. Its temporalities were so considerable and extensive that, notwithstanding the rich slice of territory awarded to Coach at the Plantation, the enormous annual income of £800 was secured to the alien Rector.

The graveyard had been sadly neglected and rarely resorted to for a long period before 1870, when Dr. Mac Devitt became bishop and at once inaugurated a new era of renovation in churches, cemeteries, and parochial houses. He replaced the decayed and broken fences by a graceful stone wall enclosure, with a handsome gate and stile, had walks laid out, some yew trees planted, and the general aspect of the place beautified. Immediately it became the favourite and most frequented burial-ground in the district, with the unforeseen and inconvenient result that in a quarter of a century it was quite overcrowded. Many of the most respectable old families, in and about Letterkenny, possessed in those days burial plots in the more extensive cemetery of Temple Douglas, others in the more convenient churchyard of Aughanishin, and others again in the churchyard at Leck, which is dominantly but not exclusively Catholic, as Leck church was wrested from the helpless residuum of the old population and diverted to Protestant worship, in the early stages of the Plantation. As Leck church, thus desecrated, was amply sufficient and easily accessible, there was no need to appropriate the more ancient building at Conwal, which was encompassed on all sides by settlers and thus unapproachable to the Catholic inhabitants as a centre for public worship.



ESTABLISHED 1825

# Thos. Mulhern & Co.

Importer and Bondor of

WINES, BRANDIES, GINS,

RUMS AND WHISKIES,

And Wholesale Bottler of

BASS'S ALE, GUINNESS'S EXTRA STOUT

Wheatley's Hop Bitters,

LAGER BEER AND CIDER.

## MINERAL WATERS

Of all the Leading Brands  
kept in Stock, including .

*Schweppe's, Cantrell & Cochrane's, Etc.*

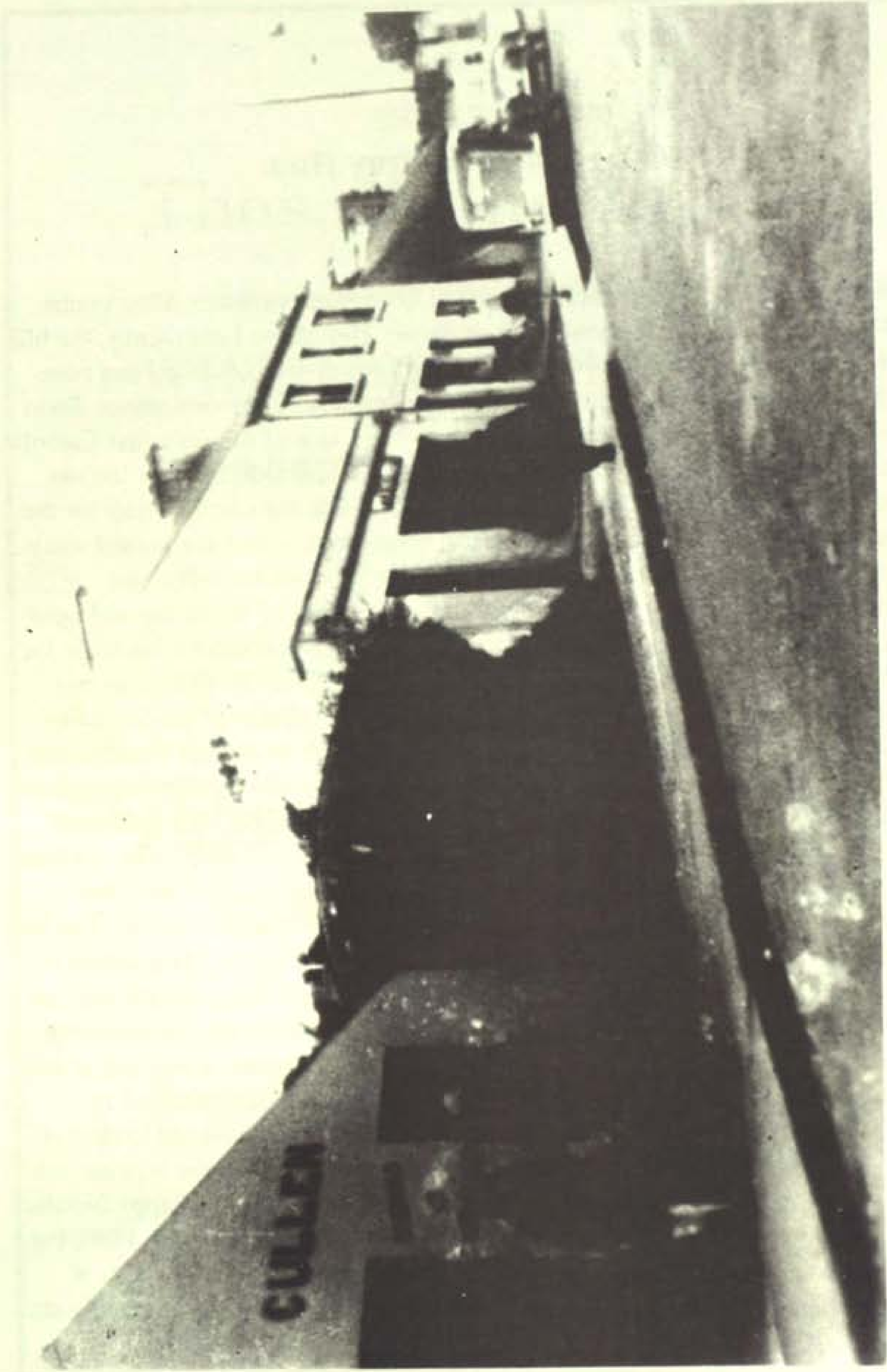
---

THE LARGEST BOTTLER IN THE COUNTY.



## CHAPTER 2 - SENTRY HILL

While the fury of the persecution raged in bitterest violence, Mass continued to be celebrated in a hollow north of Sentry Hill above Letterkenny, the hill deriving its name from the custom of posting a sentry watchman on that commanding height to guard against the stealthy approach of spy or yeoman. Soon as the Penal Laws were somewhat relaxed in 1784, one of the very first Catholic churches erected in a Protestant neighbourhood was constructed near the old unsheltered site, and stood for about sixty years inside the northern gate on the grounds of the new college. Some very old inhabitants, who have passed away only quite recently, used to describe the building as spacious, lofty, and unadorned. The difficulty of reaching it was keenly felt by the feeble and aged and its remoteness from the town rendered its location still more unsuitable for attendance at daily Mass. It was this important consideration rather than any unseemliness of architecture or structural decay, that influenced his Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Patrick Mac Gettigan, in his decision to change the site, and to build a church where the Cathedral now stands. This was a plain t-shaped edifice with three galleries, several times renovated, exceedingly well-furnished, and graced with a very tasteful marble high altar. But it was admittedly nothing more than a very mediocre parish church, growing rapidly out of date, and absolutely unsuited to the splendour of ceremonial befitting a cathedral. The late venerated Primate, Dr. Mac Gettigan, when Bishop of Raphoe, inaugurated in 1865 the project of erecting a worthy cathedral, and with characteristic caution proposed to complete the enormous undertaking by instalments, commencing with the building of a tall and graceful spire. For this purpose, a movement was organised for raising funds, and a sum amounting to £500 was realised in Letterkenny and Derry. A few tons of dressed stones were conveyed to the proposed site in the first feverish outburst of enthusiasm, and then the scheme was abandoned. Cardinal Logue's first engrossing care, soon after his happy installation in Letterkenny, was to struggle with the ravages of the famine in 1880, but this cloud soon passed away, largely through his Eminence's giant efforts at home and his personal popularity in the States. A few years after, a wealthy emi-



*High Road*

grant from Drumkeen, Neil Gillen\*, resident in Glasgow, bequeathed him some valuable property, that realised about £6,000, for the specific object of building a cathedral. The long deferred and almost forgotten project was again mooted, and only awaited the magic touch of the present energetic Prelate of Raphoe to inspire it with life and to steer it rapidly to a triumphant consummation. The Gillen bequest was the first nucleus of the building fund; nearly half of the late Father Mac Garvey's assets became available for the same purpose in 1891; and the undertaking became an assured success. Though it is entirely outside the scope of our design to repeat in these pages the interesting story of the labours and memorable incidents connected with the herculean work of building this peerless cathedral, so inimitably recorded in a well-known pamphlet, there are a few striking features in its history that cannot be too often recalled. The material is Irish, with the inevitable exception of marble, some of which was imported from Italy. The sculpture is modelled entirely on ancient Irish patterns; the stained glass was mostly manufactured in Ireland; the organ and furniture are exclusively Irish; and the painting is altogether Irish, save the embellishment executed on the ground by an Italian, named Amici, resident in Ireland. Another outstanding fact, that appealed irresistibly to the patriotic instincts of the multitudes that attended the Aonach in 1899, was the presentation on the stage of two original Irish dramas of undeniable merit. The "Passing of Conal" was written in skeleton by the late lamented Father O'Growney while in very feeble health in Arizona, and was performed by a galaxy of Letterkenny artistes that would excite Lady Gregory's envy. And an equally high-class treat was presented by the convent girls in the dramatising and staging of the romantic story of young Turlogh O'Boyle and Maolmuire Mac Swine's daughter, Fionnola. These two beautiful plays\*\*, enhanced by local associations, were the first efforts in inaugurating a pure and uplifting Irish theatre, and the most hostile critic will not venture to say they were inferior, in conception or execution, to most of their successors. The consecration ceremony in 1901 was an event of national and historic magnitude.

\* Footnote: Neil Gillen was great grand-uncle of Vincent Callaghan (dentist); and great great grand uncle of Tommy Gillen (post master)"

\*\* Footnote: This aonach was held in the Cathedral, before it had been roofed



### CHAPTER 3 — TEMPLEDUGHLAS AND GLENSWILLY

Templedouglas Abbey was obviously in existence when Columbkille first saw the light in its neighbourhood at Gartan, and, as he was there baptised and later on fostered by one of its monks, it is not unlikely that its founder and Cruitnechan himself were of the same stock as Tirconaill's Patron. Archdall's brief notice of this ancient monastery is a veritable labyrinth of intricate inaccuracies: "Tully, on the map, and Tullyaugnish, in the Visitation Book, in the barony of Kilmacrenan. St. Columb founded an abbey at Tullach dubhghlaise. This is now a parish church in the diocese of Raphoe." It is perfectly true that Colgan designates this place as Tulach Dubhghlaise, or Height of the Dark Stream, the name it bore before any ecclesiastical building or Teampul was erected there, but he also distinctly conveys, in his *Trias Thaumaturga*, that the monastery was anterior to Columba's time and continued to flourish in his early days. That a Columban foundation existed at Tully is a different matter, fairly well established by tradition, and Primate Colton, finding the parishes of Tullyfern and Aughnish, amalgamated, combined their names also into Tullyaughnish. Manus O'Donnell quotes a stanza from the versified Life of Columba by St Mura of Fahan, which informs us that

This son of beauty was baptised  
At the godly Tulach-dughghlaise.

Near the north-west angle of the graveyard enclosue, about 20 feet of wall belonging to the old abbey is still preserved and can be readily distinguished from the modern masonry. This substantial boundary wall was constructed by the Rev. John Campbell, who was the resident curate in Glenswilly for the decade of years between 1840 and 1850, and it was the same cultured ecclesiastic who adorned the graveyard with shrubs and gravelled walks, and erected a sort of mausoleum over the remains of Bishop Coyle. But the chief monument of his zealous life is the Glenswilly Chapel, which he commenced soon after his advent to the parish and completed in 1841. He belonged to the fine old Ballyshannon stock that gave Dean Feely, Monsignor Stephens and the late Rev. Daniel V. Stephens, to the priesthood of Raphoe. Before his time public worship

was conducted in a scallan of the ordinary type, and the congregation was at all times exceedingly numerous. Seeing that Temple Douglas is on the frontier, it is improbable that Mass continued to be celebrated there throughout the penal times, and tradition informs us there was a scallan for some time at Drumbollog. The Rev. John Mac Groarty built the sacristy and renovated the church in 1864, and it is beyond question that this devoted clergyman is more affectionately remembered in the parish than any other in the long list of resident priests. In Doe he was endeared to his flock by his superior talents, his courteous manner, and his powerful advocacy of the tenants' rights against ruthless landlord oppression and calumny. The same struggle in an aggravated form had to be encountered in Glenswilly, and it was absolutely futile to look for justice at the hands of local magistrates, whose class prejudices and boasted ascendancy had eliminated from their minds the last vestiges of consideration for the ordinary peasant. About ten years afterwards, the old obsolete fabric called the bench, got a rude shock, and the country people for the first time were awakened to a conviction that they had some rights, when the gifted and intrepid young solicitor, James E. O'Doherty, triumphantly arraigned Lord Leitrim of unenviable notoriety, and his brother magnates before the Dublin Courts on the charge of corruptly adjudicating in a Termon bog case in which they were personally interested. Father Mac Groarty warned his flock to shun the polluted atmosphere of the Petty Sessions Court, and he invented a hazardous and drastic antidote in the form of a parochial tribunal with a judge, jury, and clerk of the court; volunteer bailiffs were nominated as occasion required.

Down to his time the "Glenswilly decree" was the dreaded and drastic means of recovering debts, sanctioned by usage and probably by an unwritten law of the ancient Ui Murtaili, who inhabited the locality. The outstanding provision of this law sanctioned "occult compensation," where a buyer, for instance, declined to pay an acknowledged debt to the vendor, and it authorised the latter to seize on property of the defaulter, equivalent in value to the article sold. Its application was mostly confined to debts contracted by the purchase of illicitly distilled spirits, and Father Mac Groarty's main object was to suppress altogether the abuse of private distillation by creating a moral atmosphere in which it could not survive, and to secure the hearty co-operation of his flock by erecting a public tribunal in which they would have a share and implicit confidence. The "Glenswilly decree" soon became a memory awakening awe, while the newly established court was viewed with reverence and gratitude.

But the growing popularity of this quiet and determined pastor reached its culminating point, when, almost single handed, he rescued from the gallows, to



which he was foredoomed by universal verdict, a poor peasant, named Bradley, accused of an agrarian murder, in 1863. The prisoner all the neighbours knew to be perfectly innocent of the charge, but to secure his acquittal seemed impossible without sacrificing the life of some other, or without a miracle. Suspicion pointed to this unfortunate victim, as his family had been involved in the Glenveigh evictions and one of them had lost his reason during the ordeal. No doubt it could be proved on oath that the accused was not within miles of the scene of the assassination, when the deed was perpetrated; but the landlords cried for blood and their friends in the government and on the judicial bench wanted them to have it. An alibi is never the most reliable weapon, and in this case it was saturated with suspicion, as the witnesses were sympathisers at least, if not suspected accomplices. A popular ballad, infinitely more accurate in its facts than in its metre, tells us how the Lifford jury, carefully picked and packed, twice deliberated in conclave and failed to arrive at a unanimous verdict, Father MacGroarty very courageously undertook to raise funds for the defence and was most cordially received by English peers, merchants, statesmen, and above all by Irish exiles, in London, Liverpool, and other great cities. At home a collection was held in nearly every parish in the diocese, and ample funds were forthcoming to fee a trio of the most eminent counsel at the bar. The final trial ended in a unanimous verdict of acquittal, and Bradley was set at liberty, with a generous allowance from the defence fund to start him in life. His photograph may still be seen in many country houses with Father Mac Groarty on his right and Attorney Murray of Letterkenny on his left.

## SAMUEL ROULSTONE,

WHOLESALE AND FAMILY GROCER,

HARDWARE TIMBER, IRON AND ::

COAL MERCHANT :: :: ::

*Highest Market Price Paid for Hides.*

**Opposite Oldtown Station,**

**LETTERKENNY.**

*(was Kennedy, now Grier Electric)*

**1918**



## CHAPTER 4 — LETTERKENNY

The cathedral town is not situated within the limits of Conwal parish, and was unknown to the historians of ancient Tir-conaill. Oldtown stands in the parish of Leck, and does not seem to have attained great celebrity at any time, but, when the settlers were planted on the opposite side of the Swilly, the Catholic population swarmed around this unattractive outpost, and eked a precarious existence from the undistributed lands in the neighbourhood. Thus the resident communities on the north and south banks of the river differed in race, religion, and social habits, and to this day a memorial of this partition-wall is preserved in the annual fair of Oldtown. Lewis in his *Topographical Journal*, 1837, informs us very erroneously that "the R.C. chapel of the district of Aughnish, a small plain building, is situate in the town," The town stands well within the boundary of Aughaninshin parish at Sallaghagrean, while the parish church of Aughnish was and is situated at Killycrean, though it is now overshadowed and eclipsed by the splendid new building in Ramelton. Aughaninshin Catholic church was converted into a Protestant temple at the Plantation, but the cemetery has been continuously retained to the present day as a time-honoured receptacle for the remains of the oldest families of the town and district and contains many monuments and inscriptions of local interest. The parish church was undoubtedly very generously endowed, seeing that 300 acres were available for the usurping parson, but, with the seizure of the church and the planting of Scotchmen, the Catholics were swept almost completely off the face of the land, and the very name as well as the boundaries of the parish obliterated from the ecclesiastical map.

In the Special County Sessions held at Raphoe on the 11th of July, 1704, for the registration of Popish Parish Priests, the pastor of Conwal was the first to present himself, furnishing the following replies to the statutory questions:- "James Doherty, resident at Pollans; 60 years of age; ordained March, 1667, in Dublin by Patrick Plunkett, Bishop of Ardagh. "Obviously, there was only one priest available for the entire wide district, and he was obliged to celebrate public Mass on Sundays both at Sentry Hill and in Glenswilly, probably at

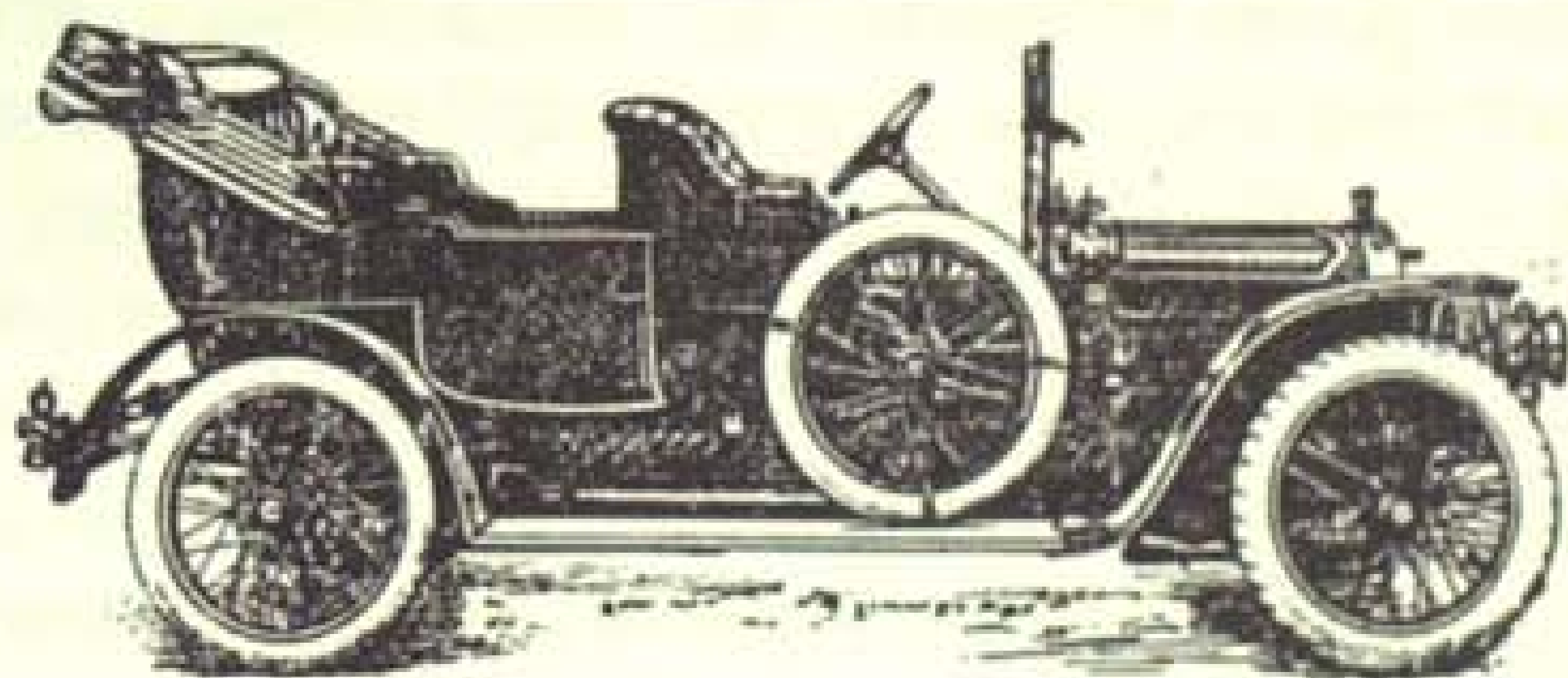
Drumbollog. It is worthy of note that the place where this worthy representative of the clan O'Doherty resided, is still in the hands of a collateral relative of muscular faith and muscular physique, inheriting the noblest traits of his heroic ancestors.

The first Bishop, who took up residence in the parish of Conwal, was Dr. Coyle, who was elected coadjutor with the right of succession to Dr. O'Reilly in 1777. Though Mevagh was the cradle of the O'Coyles, some of the new bishop's immediate relatives resided at this time in the neighbourhood of Letterkenny, and it was here the consecration ceremony took place shorn of its imposing splendour of ceremonial, inasmuch as the consecrating prelate was unattended by two assistant bishops, two parish priests taking their place, and there was no concourse of clergy or laity. But the point is of interest seeing that it was put forward as rendering the consecration irregular, though of course not invalid, on the occasion of the notorious dispute between the Bishop and Fr. Harkin about the benefice of Conwal, to which the latter clergyman had been canonically appointed by Dr. O'Reilly. The Primate, Dr. Blake, was an absentee, and the Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Troy, was exercising the jurisdiction and occupying the position of Apostolic Delegate. This dignitary appointed a commission of inquiry, and the result was the complete vindication of the Coadjutor's action in regard to his consecration, and the confirmation of Father Harkin's indefeasible right to his parish. In a subsequent case, however, the Bishop failed to appear before a Synodal Court in Armagh, and the Parish Priest, who had appealed against his disturbance from the benefice of Stranorlar, was reinstated, Dr. Troy recommending that arbitrators should decide the question of allocating the income accumulated during the enforced vacancy. During all this time, notwithstanding these distracting anxieties, the cultured prelate laboured assiduously in enforcing discipline, and his conference charges to his clergy are convincing testimony of his great learning and zeal. He occupied a handsome villa on a site now enclosed within the Ballymacool demesne, where he died in January, 1801. Whether it was the influence of the Earl of Bristol, Protestant Bishop of Derry, that secured the see for Dr. Coyle or the warm recommendation of the reigning Bishop, Dr. O'Reilly, as is more probable, cannot be decided by documentary proof. But it is a well established tradition that the Earl of Bristol very generously bestowed upon him a permanent and suitable residence in Ballymacool, then included in the Rectory estate. It would appear that the Earl's life was once in imminent danger during an angry altercation that followed a horse-racing event near Paris. Dr. Coyle appealed to the French crowd, as an Irishman, "to respect his noble friend and neighbour." It was somewhat later the Boyds acquired Ballymacool, and they were notorious in old times for their aggressive hostility to the Catholic faith. A classical academy was established in Letterkenny



for the first time by this distinguished prelate, who dedicated his leisure moments to teaching there, and many young men, who afterwards occupied with honour and dignity the most exalted positions, received their early training and inspiration under the modest roof of Dr. Coyle's school.

In the end of his days for four years, a Coadjutor Bishop, Dr. James Dillon, had been discharging the more exacting duties of the episcopal office in Raphoe, and had resided in Ballyshannon. But on the occurrence of a vacancy in the See of Kilmore, this prelate was translated to Cavan, in 1801, and, at the instance of the famous Earl of Bristol, on behalf of the English government, the Rev. John McElroy was appointed to Raphoe by Papal Brief dated 18th Jan., 1801, just three days before Dr. Coyle's death. However, the Bishop elect was never consecrated, as he contracted a malignant disease to which he succumbed in the beginning of the following year - and the Dean of Derry, the Very Rev. Peter Mac Laughlin, Parish Priest of Omagh, was consecrated in December of that year as successor or coarb of Adamnan in Raphoe. This splendid Bishop lived in Ballyshannon, and appointed as Parish Priest of Conwal an eminent ecclesiastic of the O'Gallagher sept, whose name is handed down in benediction among the oldest residents of the district. He laid the foundations of Catholic progress in Letterkenny; raised the social status of his co-religionists, and did not shrink from encouraging a militant attitude of defence, when that was the only course consistent with honourable independence. The professions, industries and business houses gradually ceased to be the monopoly of the ascendancy party, and Catholics daily recovered lands wrested from their forefathers and usurped by alien settlers.



**MOTOR  
CARS  
FOR  
HIRE**

Prompt attention to all Orders.  
Telegrams promptly attended to.

**MODERATE TERMS.**

**BERNARD KELLY,**

**Church Street, LETTERKENNY.**

**1918**



## CHAPTER 5 — BISHOPS

THE illustrious Dr. Patrick Mac Gettigan, who ruled the See of Adamnan for more than 40 years, was consecrated Bishop on the 10th of November, 1820. His appointment was hailed with enthusiastic delight by clergy and laity, first on account of his personality, as he was a brilliant young ecclesiastic of great promise and immense popularity; and, secondly, because this was the very first occasion on which the authorities in Rome effectively endorsed the selection of the diocesan priests. In the case of Dr. Mac Elroy, and again in 1879, British intrigue strained its unscrupulous efforts to choke the popular voice. But it must not be assumed that the election of Dr. Mac Gettigan was unanimous, for the Rev. John Gallagher, P.P., Kilcar, used to asseverate that it was his vote that turned the scales, as, arriving pretty late in Letterkenny, he found two candidates supported by an exactly equal number of parish priests, and, by adhering to Dr. Mac Gettigan's side, he virtually made him Bishop. However this may be, the new prelate fully justified the confidence and hopes of his devoted clergy and people, and his brilliant and energetic episcopacy was marked by widespread reforms and by the gradual growth of churches and schools throughout his ancient diocese. Born in Kilmacrenan parish about 1785, he had witnessed the deplorable results of the Penal Days in their acutest and most appalling forms. The crumbled ruins of the once magnificent Abbey of Kilmacrenan were visible from his parental home, and only a short distance to the north were the desolated site and scattered fragments of the Mac Swine religious foundation near the proud castle of the battle-axe chieftains. The Rock of Doon and the frowning fortress of Doe recalled the pristine glories of Tirconaill, while the unsightly scallan and the dragooning of '98 accentuated the existing conditions of religious and political slavery. His primary education he is said to have received in a Protestant school in Kilmacrenan. He studied classics at first under the direction of a celebrated teacher in Goal, Mr. Mac Grenahan, and later on in Letterkenny, where Dr. Coyle's old seminary still flourished. In Maynooth he was distinguished both as a hardy athlete in the field, and as a gifted and ready exponent of theological and scriptural science, 'Donovan tacitly admits his high

authority as an archaeologist, though he rejects his conclusions on two points on which he consulted him; and he was a celebrated preacher in Irish as well as in English. On the occasion of Cardinal Wiseman's visit to Dundalk, it was the eloquent and eminent Bishop of Raphoe who delivered the address of welcome on behalf of the province of Ulster, and on many other important occasions he was chosen as the capable spokesman for the bishops. An ardent and devoted friend of O'Connell, he denounced and flouted the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and strenuously opposed the establishment of the Queen's Colleges, though he was thoroughly aware that the Primate of the day would have accepted the scheme, provided one of the proposed colleges were located in Arnagh. At the National Synod of Thurles in 1850, and at the Provincial Synod of Drogheda in 1854, his sound judgment and long experience left their impress on many of the most practical decrees. Assisting in Rome at the Canonisation of the Japanese Martyrs in 1835, he was decorated by Pope Gregory XVI. with the insignia of a count of the holy Roman Empire; and, as senior bishop, was selected by Pius IX as one of the assistant prelates at the Te Deum celebration following the Definition of the Immaculate Conception in 1854.

In 1849, he assigned his magnificent residence and beautiful grounds to the Loreto Nuns as a free gift, in order to bring the blessings of higher education within the reach of the young talented girls of the diocese. His name was honoured as a great churchman, a forceful orator, and as the father of his people, but in no department did he accomplish a more needed or more beneficial work for Letterkenny and his diocese than in the noble sacrifice he made in his successful effort to found a high-class convent in the cathedral town. He also erected a suitable pro-cathedral, and encouraged education everywhere and in all its branches. For some years he occupied the desirable villa till recently tenanted by the late Dr Carr, Sprackburn, overlooking the Port Road; but the sunset of his life was passed in a pleasant seaside cottage in Rathmullen, where he died in 1861. The Most Rev. Dr. Mac Gettigan still lives in the affectionate memory of the older generation, who speak of him in terms of admiration and endearment.

Daniel Mac Gettigan was born in the townland of Drumdutton parish of Mevagh, in 1815. His father was Magnus or Manus Mac Gettigan, and his mother was a respected scion of the O'Boyle sept, the herenachs of Clondahorkey, always associated with Fawker. He was educated in early years by a local teacher of great fame, and had already acquired a sound elementary training before he proceeded to Derry at the age of 15 years to study classics in a private school presided over by an esteemed Presbyterian clergyman. As



Clonard in Meath was the Mecca of aspirants to the sanctuary in Columba's days, so Navan was the famous finishing school in Dr. Mac Gettigan's time and during many generations after, for Northern students designed for Maynooth. Dr. Power, the President, was an educationist who commanded universal esteem, both for the uniform and brilliant success of his Seminary in learning, and for his kindly supervision and the physical comforts that softened the rigour of discipline. After one year's strenuous study of Logic in Navan, he matriculated in Maynooth in 1833; and from his first entry into the examination pulpit, his grand physique and towering intellect marked him out as a leading light in his class, combining an easy, confident manner with childlike simplicity and humility. At the close of his first year in the Dunboyne Establishment, he was ordained Priest in 1839, but remained in College for another year to perfect his exhaustive studies of the Scriptures, Canon Law, and Theology.

His first missionary appointment was the curacy of Letterkenny, where, during seven years, 1840-47, he gained universal esteem by his gracious manner and his devotedness to his spiritual work. From 1847 till 1849, he was transferred for a time to Inver, where he resided with the old pastor, Rev. Michael Mac Goldrick but returned as Administrator to Letterkenny till 1853, when he was promoted to the parish of Killymard, and, in the following year, he was appointed to Ballyshannon on the death of Father Cummins.

The suffrages of the chapter and parish priests of Armagh, the unanimous voice of his episcopal colleagues in Ulster, and the unhesitating ratification of the choice by the Propaganda Council of Cardinals, called him to the Chair of St. Patrick, but it was only the firm and irresistible persuasion of Pope Pius the Ninth, during the Vatican Council in 1870, that overcame his reluctance to part with the clergy and people of Raphoe.

The most moving and outstanding incident of his life as curate in Letterkenny was his sensational arrest for declining to divulge the name of a parishioner, who had made him the medium of conveying restitution for a horse to the owner. Of course, the transaction was strictly confidential, but it does not transpire that it was the immediate or even the remote result of sacramental confession. As the story is frequently related with erroneous details, it may be more satisfactory to transcribe here the account given in a contemporary newspaper, with one correction which the late Primate himself always accentuated when the event was referred to in his hearing:—"August 12th 1845. Glenswilly, a mountain district adjoining Letterkenny, was then and long had been famous for the extensive manufacture of illicit whiskey, carried on within its bounds. It sometimes happened that purchasers of the contraband article dishonestly failed to pay for

# THE CENTRAL BAR

MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY.

---

*The Finest Brands of Old Irish Whiskey*

ALWAYS IN STOCK.

---

BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEONS, DINNERS and TEAS  
on shortest notice.

---

CARS, MOTORS, CARRIAGES, WAGONETTES

---

Proprietor - Mr. P. DOHERTY, Jun.

1918

what they had procured, knowing that a prosecution at law could not be obtained against them. In this predicament the distiller issued what was popularly termed a "Glenswilly Decree," and seized by night a horse belonging to the man who refused to discharge his liabilities. As soon as the debt was paid the horse was returned to the owner. It appears that the Rev. Adm. of Letterkenny having been consulted confidentially in a case of this kind, restitution was made to the defrauded party on the recommendation of the priest. The affair having been brought under the notice of the magistrates of the district, Father Mac Gettigan was summoned to give evidence in the matter; and, on his refusal to name the guilty party, a warrant was issued against him on the ground that he had compromised a felony. The worthy priest - although his entire conduct in the matter had been outside the confessional - refused to betray the confidence reposed in him. He was arrested and confined in the county jail of Lifford, after spending a night in the Bridewell of Letterkenny, and finally conveyed to the Newgate Prison in Dublin. However, before the case came for trial, an informality was detected in the warrant by the priest's counsel, the late Chief Baron Pigot, and his client was in consequence released." The error deprecated by the



justice-loving Primate consists in attributing to Chief Baron Pigot what was actually the work of Daniel O'Connell, who further, proffered his professional services gratis, if Dr. Mac Gettigan would consent to the institution of legal proceedings against the magistrates, including J. R. Boyd of Ballymacool, Chairman, for false imprisonment. To this proposal the forgiving clergyman returned a stern refusal, on the ground that such an action would savour of revengeful feelings, which were foreign to his kindly heart. Soon after this memorable episode in his life, he was appointed Pastor of Kilbarron and V.G. of the diocese. During his ten years of incessant labour in that parish, he enclosed and embellished the hitherto neglected graveyard of Assaroe Abbey, introduced the Mercy Nuns to Ballyshannon, and established suitable schools.

The gentle and paternal Dr. Mac Devitt was his worthy successor, called from his professor's chair in All Hallows to preside over his native diocese. Though not the choice of the majority of the parish priests, seeing that the Very Rev. Charles O'Donnell, his cousin, had far outdistanced him in votes, he soon became a universal favourite, and his refining influence reflected the lustre of his scholarly culture in his eminently successful efforts to improve the churches and schools, and to erect parochial residences everywhere throughout the diocese. The Literary Institute was the work of the late lamented Rev. F. W. Gallagher (from Castlegoland, Portnoo) under His Lordship's inspiration and encouragement, marking a new era in the progress of social and educational enlightenment. It was completed and opened with unusual splendour in 1876, and the marvellous eloquence of Lord O'Hagan, the Lord Chancellor of the day, who delivered a charming address, was in itself sufficient to make the occasion memorable. His Lordship's useful and exemplary life was cut short by an insidious attack of pneumonia in the January of 1879, to the heartfelt regret of all who knew him. In the same year, on the 20th of July, the present illustrious Primate, Cardinal Logue was consecrated Bishop of Raphoe in the Pro-Cathedral of Letterkenny, with the full-hearted acclamation of clergy and laity, whose high estimate of his worth has been amply vindicated by his saintly life, his prudent administration, and the verdict of all Christendom. Scarcely had he settled down in the chair of St. Adamnan, when the spectre of famine drove his people in multitudes to seek his powerful aid in combating its threatened ravages. The Hebrews in similar plight were not more unerringly directed by the heavenly voice that commanded them to "go to Joseph." Within fifteen months £30,000 had been well and wisely dispensed through his hands, and the most carping critic failed to find a flaw in the machinery of selection and distribution. Then came the crucial task of suggesting equitable boundaries for the four

Parliamentary constituencies to be created in the county in 1884, when his Eminence's arrangement was bodily accepted by Thomas Sexton, and approved in the main by Unionist and Nationalist alike.

Side by side with the material and political interests of his people, higher education in the diocese clamoured for immediate and radical overhauling. The Intermediate Act had been launched on its exacting career less than twelve months before his accession to the See, and absolutely no preparation had been made to bring the advantages of the Act within the reach of the brilliant boys of Tirconaill. No doubt, a thoroughly efficient and capable head-master, in the person of Francis Gallagher, a distinguished student of Maynooth and the Catholic University, had been conducting the High School with great success until he was attacked by a fatal illness just before Dr. Mac Devitt's death. The new Bishop decided to appoint an ecclesiastic in succession to Mr. Gallagher, and to constitute the existing premises, 34 Lower Main St., a temporary Seminary for the diocese; but the prospect of a respectable muster of students was as gloomy as the old building itself. However, the first year's Intermediate results proved an effective advertisement and the best talent in Donegal sought growth and culture within the walls of this primitive and uninviting academy. By the way, the curious accessories of the bizarre structure were an interesting study as well as a perpetual menace. The underground kitchen contained a deep spring-well, reminding the classical student of the "Pierian spring"; and the "ascent to Parnassus" was rudely commemorated in the stair-case, which was completely left out in the original design, and only built up against the already finished house when it was found by experiment that such communication was a very bad omission. But the most dangerous mantrap of all was the unprotected ruckle of uncemented stones leading from the lobby to the back yard.

The building was erected in 1850 by Dr. Crerand, a member of a respectable family in Illistran, who had lived for many years in Paris where he had received his Degree of Doctor of Medicine, and had acquired an extensive and lucrative practice. A revolutionary upheaval in that city decided his wavering intention of returning home, and devoting his great literary talents to the education of the Donegal youth. He was very much beloved by his pupils and had a flourishing school, where many eminent ecclesiastics received their classical training. He bequeathed his school premises and three small plots of rich land near the Workhouse to the late Lord Primate in trust for the Christian Brothers; whom he designed to take up the work of a secondary school in Letterkenny. The Will was not contested by legal process, but some of his relatives adopted the more summary course of occupying the premises. A few of the young people of the



town, however, taking advantage of the intruders' absence from the house on business, forced an entrance and effectively shut them out for good. These proceedings resulted in a exciting law suit at Lifford, but the buildings and land remained the property of the bishop, who generously defrayed all the expenses of the volunteer defenders of the trust.

Mr. Heron conducted the school for some years with consummate ability and success, until a Professorship in Ennis was offered him, when his departure was keenly regretted throughout the diocese. Then a short period elapsed during which no facilities here existed for higher education, until Mr. Mac Fadden, a Roman student of distinguished name, was placed in charge of the school, to the great satisfaction of the parents of candidates for the priesthood, seeing that students of this class had been previously obliged to read their preparatory course for Maynooth in Maghera, Monaghan, or Navan. Though the continuity of a school for classics was thus occasionally broken, the academy established by Dr. Coyle was succeeded, at short intervals, by educational establishments, one at Sentry Hill, where two bishops at least graduated, and one at Port Road (1841 - 1846)\*, where Father Hugh O'Donnell taught for a time; and, lastly, Dr. Crerand's High School. His Eminence had been long and anxiously casting about for a desirable site to build a new Seminary upon, but his premier desire and ruling ambition was the erection of a worthy Cathedral, for which purpose



## DAWSON'S Monumental Works,

ADJOINING RAILWAY STATIONS.

**Letterkenny.**



### Varied Designs of Headstones & Crosses

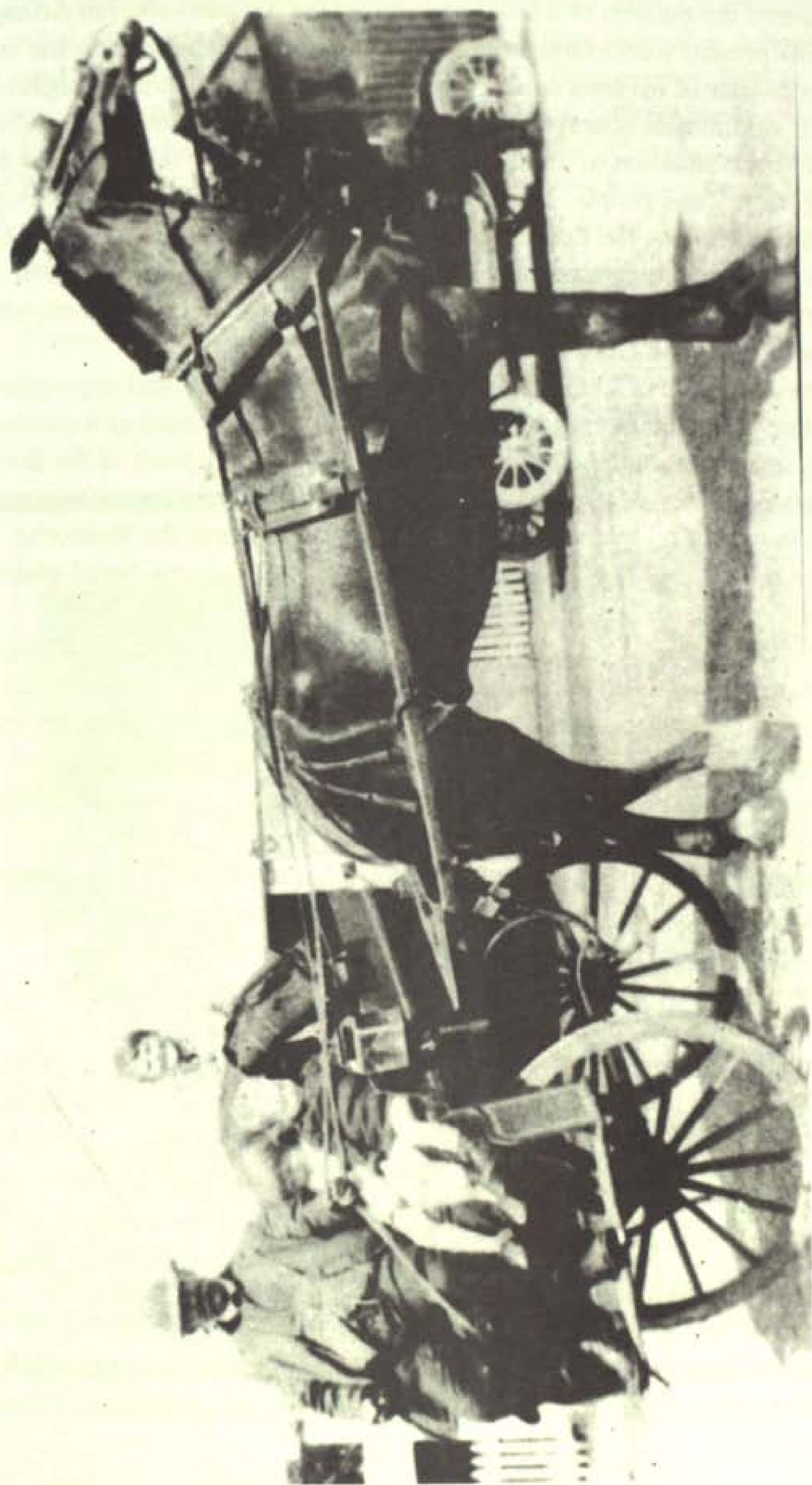
In Marble, Granite, Limestone, and Mountcharles  
Stone may be seen at Yard.



Designs and Estimates Free on Application.

All Classes of Lettering carefully executed, and Inscriptions Cut and Repairs carried out in Graveyards.

1918



*Pat Sweeney at Station*



he had secured the nucleus of a building fund before his translation to Armagh in 1887. The present world-famed occupant of the See of St. Adamnan has signalled every year of his long episcopacy by enduring monuments of his tireless energy and indomitable courage. No parish in the diocese has failed to profit from his vigilant attention to the material as well as the spiritual needs and comforts of his clergy and people. The magnificent Cathedral, St. Eunan's College, the Monastery Schools, the Loreto Schools and St. Columba's Industrial School, are works of gigantic magnitude and usefulness; while, simultaneously with these engrossing undertakings churches and schools have sprung up everywhere, as if by magic, "for the glory of God and the honour of Erin."

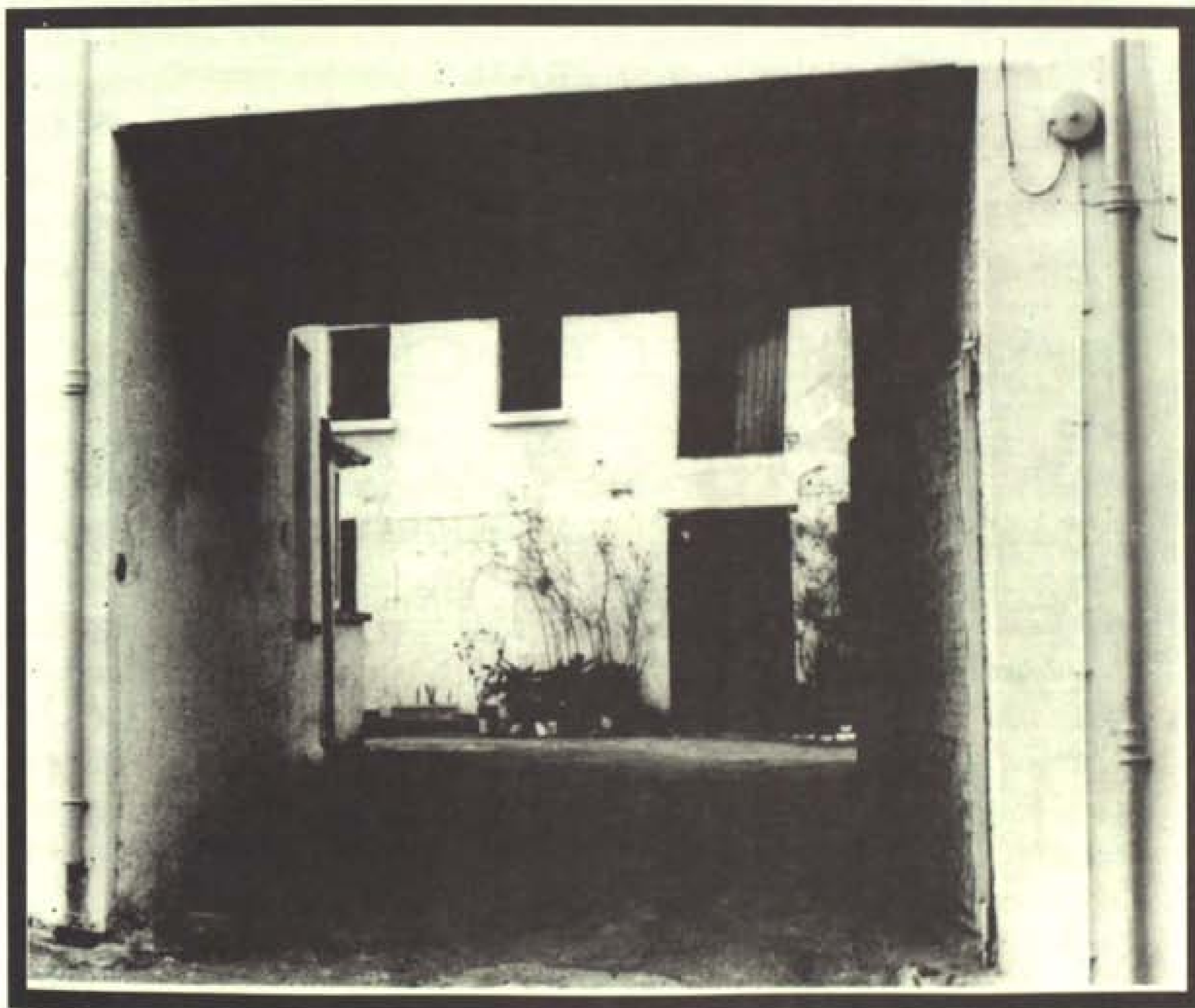
The parish church of Leck confiscated by the government and appropriated by the settlers at the Plantation, still exhibits its roofless skeleton as a monument of ruthless spoliation, in the old graveyard near the southern bank of the Swilly. Though in a decayed and ruinous condition for many years before, it was only in 1840 it was replaced by the present Protestant church near the Stranorlar Road. Even the graveyard is now rarely used, as a beautiful new burial-ground of ample dimensions and tastefully laid out, has been provided by the Letterkenny Guardians to the east of Oldtown. There is no record or tradition that a scallán or other temporary shelter existed anywhere near Leck Church before the Catholic Chapel was erected in Coreenna about 1760. The walls of this building show that it was constructed to accommodate a congregation immensely larger than the surrounding area could now supply, nor are other evidences wanting of a lamentably reduced population.

When the Rev. N. O'Kane was promoted from a curacy in Letterkenny to the pastoral charge of Aughnish in 1836, the Coreenna church ceased to be used for public worship, and the Leck parish was incorporated completely with Conwal: during the episcopate of Dr. Coyle and down to the date mentioned it held the status of a distinct mensal parish.

The office of Administrator in Letterkenny dates back from 1820, the year of Dr. Patrick Mac Gettigan's accession to the bishopric, when he took pastoral charge of the parish of Conwal vacant since the death of the Rev. J. Gallagher, and appointed the Rev. Peter Gallagher as Adm. Then followed in unbroken succession: Revs. Daniel Early, 1827; John Devenny, 1830; Daniel Spence, 1836; Daniel Mac Gettigan (the late Primate) 1840; John Mac Menamin, 1847; Charles O'Donnell, 1859; Bernard Kelly, 1868; Patrick Daly, 1871; F. W. Gallagher, 1874; William Drummond, 1880; William Sheridan, 1891; D. V. Stephens, 1901; Daniel Sweeney, 1904; J. C. Cannon, 1908; John Mac Cafferty, 1909.

The Catholic clergymen at present (1917) officiating in the united parishes of Conwal and Leck, are the Rev. John Mac Cafferty, Adm Rev. John O'Doherty, C.C., and Rev. Hugh O'Gara, C.C. (Glenswilly); Episcopalian; Rev. W. H. Holmes, Archdeacon; Rev. R. Hoffman, and Rev. J. Switzer Presbyterian, Rev. Ross Millar, and Rev. W. J. Logan, M.A.; St. Eunan's College :- President, Rev. M. P. Ward; Vice-President, Rev. P. D. Mac Caul; Professors, Rev. Thomas Molloy, D.Ph.; Rev. W. Mac Neely, D.D.; Mr. J. P. Craig, Mr. T.J. Cooney, and Mr. Theobald Gray.

\* Footnote: Ó Boyce's Shop no's. 74 - 78.



**Entry to Diver's Stables. He owned a few premises at the corner of Church Lane/Main Street e.g. no. 42 (John Robinson's where hotel stood)**



# Tourists' Motel,

**LETTERKENNY,**

*Affords every accommodation for TOURISTS, and others,  
visiting the DONEGAL HIGHLANDS.*

---

**A WELL APPOINTED  
LONG CAR**

STARTS FROM THE HOTEL TO THE HIGHLANDS,

**At TWO o'clock, p.m., DAILY** (*Sunday excepted*),  
Calling at CREESLOUGH, and arriving in DUNFANAGHY at  
6 o'clock, p.m.; returning from DUNFANAGHY in the Morning  
at 8.30, and arriving in LETTERKENNY at 12.45 p.m.

❖ **A MAIL CAR** ❖

ALSO LEAVES

**AT 6.35 A.M., DAILY.**

For GORTAHORK, *via* CREESLOUGH, DUNFANAGHY, and  
FALCARRAGH, arriving at 11.30 a.m., returning at 1.30 p.m.,  
and arriving in LETTERKENNY at 6.25 p.m.

**JAMES DIVER,**  
**PROPRIETOR.**

---

❖ Telegrams and Letters addressed, "*Diver's Van  
Office,*" will receive prompt attention. Long Car awaits  
arrival of Mid-day Train from Derry.

(1893)

## CHAPTER 6 — THE OLD SEMINARY

BARON O'Hagan, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, introduced the Intermediate Education Bill into the House of Lords in 1878, and succeeded in having it passed into law without obstruction or delay. The government was Tory, with Disraeli, now Lord Beaconsfield, as Premier, and as this was a government measure intended in some degree to mitigate the glaring educational grievances of Irish Catholics without any demand on the British Treasury, no opposition was encountered. A capital sum of one million pounds was appropriated from the Irish Church Surplus accumulation, and the interest was devoted to the encouragement of secondary education by distributing exhibitions and prizes to deserving students without religious distinction, and by subsidising the revenues of qualified institutions. The Royal Schools, being all, except Banagher and Carysfort, situated in Ulster, and the Erasmus Smith Schools, being another Protestant monopoly guarded with equally zealous vigilance, were left untouched by the Act. In 1883, however, a Commission consisting of the Lord Chancellor, Judge Fitzgibbon, Dr. Traill, Monsignor Mulloy, and Sir J. B. Dougherty, was appointed to frame a scheme for the redistribution of the Royal School revenues on a more equitable basis, seeing that these were largely derived from Catholic sources. Owing to some inexplicable neglect, no representative of the Catholic interests appeared at the sitting of the Commission in Raphoe, and no claim was there advanced on behalf of the Old Seminary. However, Dr. Maguire, then in Maynooth, at once discovered this extraordinary oversight on reading the report in the Derry Journal, and prevailed on the Lord Chancellor, Dr. Mulloy, and Judge Fitzgibbon, to re-open the question at a session in Dublin. He there obtained a verdict in favour of his contention that the Catholics were entitled to half the rents of the Townawilly estate, on which all the tenants were of that denomination. But Judge Craig, by dint of repeating hearsay talk about Bishop Foster's benefactions, was successful, not in convincing anybody, but in securing the buildings, library, and adjoining grounds for the non-Catholic claimants. The net result was the allocation to the Old Seminary of an annual amount somewhat over £100.



In the September of 1879, the Seminary was opened under very inauspicious and disheartening conditions, resulting from causes already indicated, but chiefly from the absence of public notification, the only advertisement issued being an announcement made to the clergy at the close of their Retreat a fortnight previously. Again, the premises were very unsuitable both structurally and on the score of light and ventilation, not to speak of the total absence of equipment or even grounds for recreation purposes. And lastly, one man was supposed to grind 47 boys - that was the exact number in attendance - belonging to all the grades of the Intermediate System, in eight or ten different subjects; to preside at their studies in the evening, and to pay frequent visits to their lodgings. As many of these students were aspirants to the priesthood, and as all of them were required to show good example, supervision outside school hours was even more essential than mere teaching. During the first academic year an additional professor was appointed in the person of the Rev. James Scanlon, whose earnestness and scholarly attainments very soon impressed his young pupils with a spirit of devotion to their work and of ambition to excel in their respective classes.

Death has since played sad havoc with the senior grade class of that year; the Rev. J. C. Cannon, the Rev. Hugh Gildea, the Rev. Peter Mulloy, Dr. John Mac Fadden, and Mr. A. Mac Gill have all gone to their account; and the only survivors the winter can recall are Mr. Edward Mac Fadden, solicitor; the Rev. A. Gallagher, P. P.; the Rev. D. A. Coyle, P.P., and the Rev. Hugh Dunlevy, Catholic Rector. Mr. Willie Wallace became a Dissenting Minister, the calling he was designed for, and no doubt he achieved merited success. At the close of the second year's work, the institution secured four exhibitions and a large number of prizes, and of the four exhibitioners, two only survive, the Very Rev. J. C. Canon Mac Ginley, Senior Dean of Maynooth College and Mr. William Kennedy of Trinity College. Charles Joseph Mac Ginley was summoned to his reward soon after he entered Maynooth, robed in baptismal innocence, and Dr. O'Doherty was a saint in life and death. Robert Henderson added his name to the roll of exhibitioners, thus making five, the next year, and he, too, was carried off in the bloom of youth.

After two years' energetic labour, Father Scanlon was transferred to the curacy of Kincaslagh, and Mr. Mark Mulloy, M.A., Galway, succeeded him for a term. In 1881, Mr. W. Gallagher got a temporary appointment as Professor, and continued to assist Dr. Maguire until the latter was elected Professor of Rhetoric in Maynooth, in the summer of 1883.

In regard to the financial equipment of the Seminary, it was felt from the

beginning that it could not be made self supporting while the fees charged for tuition were only £5 a year, and the Intermediate subsidy amounted only to £110 10s. 0d. for the first year, the scale of remuneration being then grotesquely inadequate. Mr. Gillic, a National School Inspector, suggested that a meeting should be held to devise means for increasing the annual revenues. His Lordship, now Cardinal Primate, assented and took the chair at the sparsely attended gathering, at which the nucleus of a fund was immediately realised. The Most Rev. Chairman, who never deals in showy promises, planked down £20; Father Martin £5, and Father Collins £3, both guaranteeing these respective sums annually; the President gave £5, but did not undertake to repeat the subscription; Edward Gallagher promised £50, and, faithful to his word, paid the whole sum in less than two years; and Mr. Gillic contributed £1. With the solitary exception of a second cheque for £5 forwarded by Father Martin, no further donations were ever since received or solicited.

The Rev. Patrick Mac Cafferty became President in 1883, while he was yet fresh from College, having been only two years engaged on missionary work, varied and sweetened by intervals of profound study. A level-headed and sympathetic master, he exhibited more ambition to elevate the general body of the students to a uniformly high educational level than to secure exhibitions for the gifted few. During the first year he was ably and efficiently assisted by the Rev. P. J. Brennan, and then the small staff was reinforced by a most amiable and accomplished member of a family of teachers, the late Rev. Joseph O'Doherty of Dungloe. Six years afterwards on a Holy Saturday we laid his remains to rest in Dungloe churchyard amid demonstrations of poignant grief, which it would be impossible to exaggerate. During the frenzied fever of the agrarian agitation the devoted and patriotic priest stood on the platform in Dunfanaghy for hours under drenching rain, and then, without tasting meat or drink, attended two distant sick calls; was stricken down with pneumonia, and died in a few days.

After five years of successful work, Father Mac Cafferty was succeeded by Father Brennan, and the Rev. John Kennedy was appointed professor. Meanwhile, the Intermediate Results demonstrated that Letterkenny was maintaining a highly creditable place in the intellectual march. Dr. O'Doherty was ordained in 1889, and was immediately nominated to the Professorship of Mathematics, his favourite subject. In his zeal to give a practical trend to the Intermediate teaching system, he received without trouble the South Kensington Diploma, and introduced a Science and Art Section, long before the Technical Department was inaugurated. After a year or two, he was promoted to the Chair of Physics in the Irish College, Paris, but returned in 1896 to the old institution



in Letterkenny, to which he always entertained the fondest attachment. In Paris, he won golden opinions from Gael and Gaul not only by the brilliancy of his lustrous intellect but by his humility and saintliness. The Rev. Joseph Boyle succeeded Dr. O'Doherty, both in the Seminary and in the Irish College, Paris; with infinite credit and enhanced reputation. Meanwhile the Rev. Hugh Gallagher had succeeded Father John Kennedy, and the Rev. Charles Kennedy and Rev James MacShane had been appointed professors in 1894; and Father Dominick Canning and Father Mac Caul imparted to the institution the glow of health that precedes the death struggle. Dr. O'Doherty now became President on the transfer of Father Brennan, and continued to direct the destinies of the Seminary for eight years, and, on his withdrawal, committed the responsible and exacting office to the competent hands of the Rev. Hugh A. Gallagher, who had the inef-  
fable satisfaction of seeing the "old Synagogue buried with honour."

In conclusion, it can be claimed with legitimate pride that, from the very first day when the institution was erected into an Intermediate School in 1879, Irish was made a compulsory subject for all Catholic students without excep-  
tion. At the close of the first year, Dr. Mac Ginley was awarded the Maxwell Cleaver Prize of, £10, and Dr. O'Doherty the Second Prize in the all-Ireland competition. The teaching of the native language has been vigorously and consistently maintained, and Mr. Craig's, half a score years in the Old Seminary did not fail to impart additional lustre to its record of literary and patriotic output.

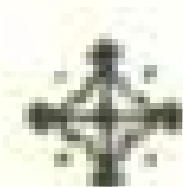
---

ESTABLISHED 1825.

**JOHN GALLAGHER**

**Mineral Water Manufacturer.**

ALL LEADING BRANDS  
KEPT IN STOCK



CANTRELL & COCHRANE.  
SCHWEPPE'S, &c

 The Largest Bottler in the County of Donegal.

---

*(John the Store) now Dolphin.*

Derry Journal 8 August 1888.

**PROSPECTUS**  
*of*  
***The Diocesan Seminary***  
***Letterkenny***  
***Year 1888 - 89***

**This institution is placed under the patronage and  
constant supervision of  
the Most Rev. Dr Ó Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe.**

**STAFF**

<b>Principal:</b>	<b>Rev. P.J. Brennan</b>	<b>Masters:</b>	<b>Rev. P.J. Brennan</b>
<b>Vice-Principal:</b>	<b>Rev. J.J. Doherty</b>		<b>Rev. J.J. Doherty</b>
			<b>Mr. Hugh Ó Donnell</b>

**MANAGEMENT**

- 1st Students are allowed to Board only in such Houses as are specially approved of by the Bishop.
- 2nd The proprietors of such houses are required to give from time to time a strict account of the conduct of Boys staying with them.
- 3rd Catholic students must attend daily Mass and approach the sacraments once a month and are encouraged to become members of the Temperance Society.
- 4th Students enter school each morning at 9.45 a.m. remaining until 3.00 p.m., and they return again at 5.30 p.m. for evening study which continues until 9.00 p.m. under the personal supervision of one of the priests.



*(Management Cont..)*

- 5th Each Boarding-house is visited daily by one of the priests.
- 6th His Lordship the Bishop (when at home) visits the schoolroom almost every day and the local Clergy take an active interest in the prosperity of the Institution. Parents are thus offered the amplest securities that in Letterkenny Seminary their boys will be trained to virtue and to work.

## **COURSE**

- 1st Students are prepared for the Intermediate Examinations for Matriculation in the Universities and for admission into the various Ecclesiastical Colleges.
- 2nd The Curriculum comprises a sound knowledge of English subjects (including Grammar, Composition, Geography, History, Etc.) Latin, Greek, French, Irish, Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, and a Science and Art Course.

## **II FEES AND PRIZES**

- 1st School fees are £5 per annum, payable half-yearly in advance.
- 2nd This year boys entering for the first time and under 15 years on 1st June, have the privilege of competing for two £10 and three £5 prizes to be paid on condition of attaining a certain percentage of marks, and continuing bona fide students of the school.
- 3rd The Institution opens on the 1st day of August when an entrance exam will be held for these prizes, the programme of Examination being the same as required for 1st stage sixth class in National Schools, together with Algebra as far as Quadratic Equations, and the First and Second Book of Euclid.

## CHAPTER 7 — LETTERKENNY, ITS ANCIENT PROPRIETORS

The Cineal Lughaidh, from the death of Sedna, possessed the territory comprised between : "the rapid Dore and the bright coloured Swilly," and thus included Conwal within the boundaries of their dominion; but, down to 1200, the Cineal Ainmire were the overlords. Periodic wars and incursions into their neighbours' lands were quite in harmony with their militant spirit and aggressive aims; and, in the natural order of things, reprisals were neither unexpected nor infrequent. In 1010 " Mulroony Ua Domhnaill was slain by the men of Magh Itha;" or, in other words, by the Cineal Enda, who ruled the district between the Swilly and the Foyle now called the Lagan. O'Donovan, in a note on this chronicle, reminds us that this is the first instance of the surname O'Donnell to be found in the Annals, and that it is derived from Domhnal (or Donnell), who was son of Eineghan, king of Tirconaill, and who died in 905. But the Cineal Ainmire were the most powerful of all the tribes, and had supplied eight High Kings to Tara, while the Cineal-Lughaidh had produced only two; and practically all the kings of Tirconaill, with a few distinguished exceptions, down to 1200, belonged to the Cineal-Ainmire. It is not, therefore, a matter of surprise that this ruling tribe had possessed themselves of such places as Letterkenny, the "Hillside of the O'Canannains," Carrowcannon, "the O'Cannon's Quarter," "Cannon's Point," etc., in the days of their supremacy. But it is a most surprising fact that neither the O'Canannain nor the O'Muldorey Chiefs have left behind them any traces of the castles or fortresses occupied by them, while they exercised supreme power in Tirconaill. The history of the times and O'Dugan's Topography leave no room for doubt that the principal official residence of the reigning chiefs of both these tribes was in Assaroe on the Erne, but even the site of the royal stronghold is untraceable either by remains or tradition. That it was a perishable cranoge on Inis Saimer island is a theory uncorroborated by any reliable authority, though it receives some show of support from a record in the Annals at 1160, "O'Canannain, king of Cinel-Conaill, was 'killed by the Cinel-Conaill themselves, that is, his house was burned by O'Boyle upon him." And that the old castle of the O'Donnell's in the town of Ballyshannon occupies the site of the more ancient chiefs is nothing more than a conjecture; in fact, there is no evidence that the O'Canannains anywhere constructed houses of a massive



and enduring kind. Hence, when we hear of the old castle of Letterkenny, the building referred to is the square Plantation mansion, erected by Sir George Marbury about 1625, and crumbled into ruins so far back as 1752. In that year Letterkenny was visited by the celebrated Dr. Pococke, whose description of the place is at once concise and graphic "The view of Letterkenny, embracing Mr. Spaw's house (Ballymacool) and Captain Chambers's opposite to it (Rockhill), and Major Stafford's above (Gortlee), page to King James II, who has been some time dead, add greatly to the beauty of the prospect. Letterkenny seems to have its name, as some other places, from being the grant to one of the name of Kenny (typical English ignorance of things Irish !); so in Boyleagh, Lettermacaward was probably granted by patent or letter it may be from the head of a family to a man of the name of Mac Ward. Letterkenny is more beautiful in prospect than when one enters it, consisting of one street meanly built with gardens behind the houses; and *there are remains of an old square castle* " The site of the castle is covered by the neat residence till lately occupied by a respectable family named Mac Connell, between the Convent grounds and the town, and was originally circumscribed by a bawn of the usual form and dimensions. " Grant to Patrick Crawford of Lifford, Esq., 20th September, 1611. The townlands of Ballyraine and Letterkevin, one quarter each; Sallanagreen, Gortlea, Cloncaraha, Carnamuggagh, Killosty and Killeslander, in part: 1,000 acres in all, with free fishing in Lough Swilly. The premises are created the manor of Ballyraine with 300 acres in demesne, and a court baron." Hill informs us that " this Scottish family settled in Donegal at the time of Ineen Dugh's marriage. These Crawfords had served in various capacities, not only the then lately deceased Earl of Tyrconnell, but his brother, Hugh Roe, and their father, Sir Hugh. This Captain Patrick Crawford appears to have entered the English army cordially and at an early age, although the other members of the family adhered to the old Irish party in the north. His father, Owen Crawford, was living in 1610 near the town of Donegal, and his brother, David, was servant to Rory when the latter made his escape in the autumn of 1607. This Captain Crawford was a faithful officer, but did not long enjoy his newly acquired estate. He fell at the siege of Dunyvee in Isla in 1614, and Sir John Mulbury, having married his widow, obtained a patent for the estate of Letterkenny in right of his wife."

The two most ancient and most noteworthy forts in the vicinity are to be seen at the Conwal rectory and in the town land of Coreenna. This latter place-name is analysed into the significant English equivalent " Round Hill of Enda or Enna," a designation which unmistakably proves that Conal Gulban's brother, Enda, had constructed here on the confines of his territory a high-placed fortress for its defence on the northern frontier. Like most contemporary strongholds it obviously consisted of a rampart and massive dyke of clay, while the enclosed

building differed widely from modern fortresses in being formed mostly of wood, like the cranog. Though no traces of a fosse survive, the formation of the apex at once suggests to the visitor that it was crowned with an ancient fort. By the way, the most convenient and intelligent guide the stranger visiting this place is likely to find in the neighbourhood is the bearer of an historic but very rare name - Knee. It is a clumsy, distorted corruption of the old Irish family name, Mac na-h Oidhche, or Son of the Night, which occurs here and there in the old Annals, and illustrates the fertility of imagination that produced such an endless variety of poetical names of men and places. Mac Nicholas is the more common anglicised form. The Knees derive their descent and name from Mac na-h Oidhche O'.Mulrooney, lord of Fermanagh 1189, a kinsman of the Maguires.

At Conwal Glebe we discover a charming old fort or dun, this latter name implying that it was a chieftain's residence, and near it a cathair or aggregation of retainers' dwellings. These imperishable vestiges mark the site of an ancient palace and an adjoining hamlet, once occupied respectively by a Nemedian chief and his warlike lieutenants. That the O'Canannan kings of Tir Conaill here lived and feasted in their royal palace, from time to time, both the topography and indisputable tradition furnish convincing evidence. A very conspicuous Monolith standing quite near the dun has been always famed as Cloch-na-Righ, or Stone of the Kings, from the fact that the ceremony of coronation was here performed. The O'Neills were crowned at Tullaghog; the O'Donnells at Doon Rock; the Maguires on the summit of Cuilceach; and the O'Canannans at Cloch-na-Righ. Moreover, we learn from the proud history of Godfrey O'Donnell that, though he possessed a royal residence here at Conwal in succession to the O'Cananns, and another at Ballyshannon, where the O'Muldorys had previously held intermittent sway, his real home was in an island in Lough Veagh, in the midst of his kith and kindred. Thither he retired for rest and medical treatment when wounded grievously at Credran Cille " 1278. O'Donnell was confined by his mortal wounds at Lough Beathach for the space of a year." Thus we see that, as kings of Tirconaill, the O'Canannains lived and reigned at Conwal, and bequeathed their name to the adjoining hillside, Letterkenny or Leitir Canannain. When they supplanted the O'Muldory dynasty, they also occupied Inis Saimer, from which in turn they were ejected for a time by Flaherty O'Muldory in 1188, and permanently by Eigneachan O'Donnell in 1195, with the exception of the brief reign of Ruadhri O'Canannain for less than a year in 1247-48 After this latter date, history takes no further account of the O'Canannains beyond a passing notice of the imprisonment and slaughter of Roderick's son, Niall, in 1250.



# FÊTE AND SALE OF WORK

In aid of the Building Funds of  
the First Presbyterian Church,  
Letterkenny,     ∴     ∴     ∴



For the Erection of a New  
Church and the Repair of  
the Schoolhouse,     ∴     ∴

IN THE

Grounds of the Donegal

Royal Garrison Artillery



(By kind permission of Col. SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE,  
Officer Commanding),

ON

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday,

20th, 21st & 22nd SEPTEMBER. 1905.

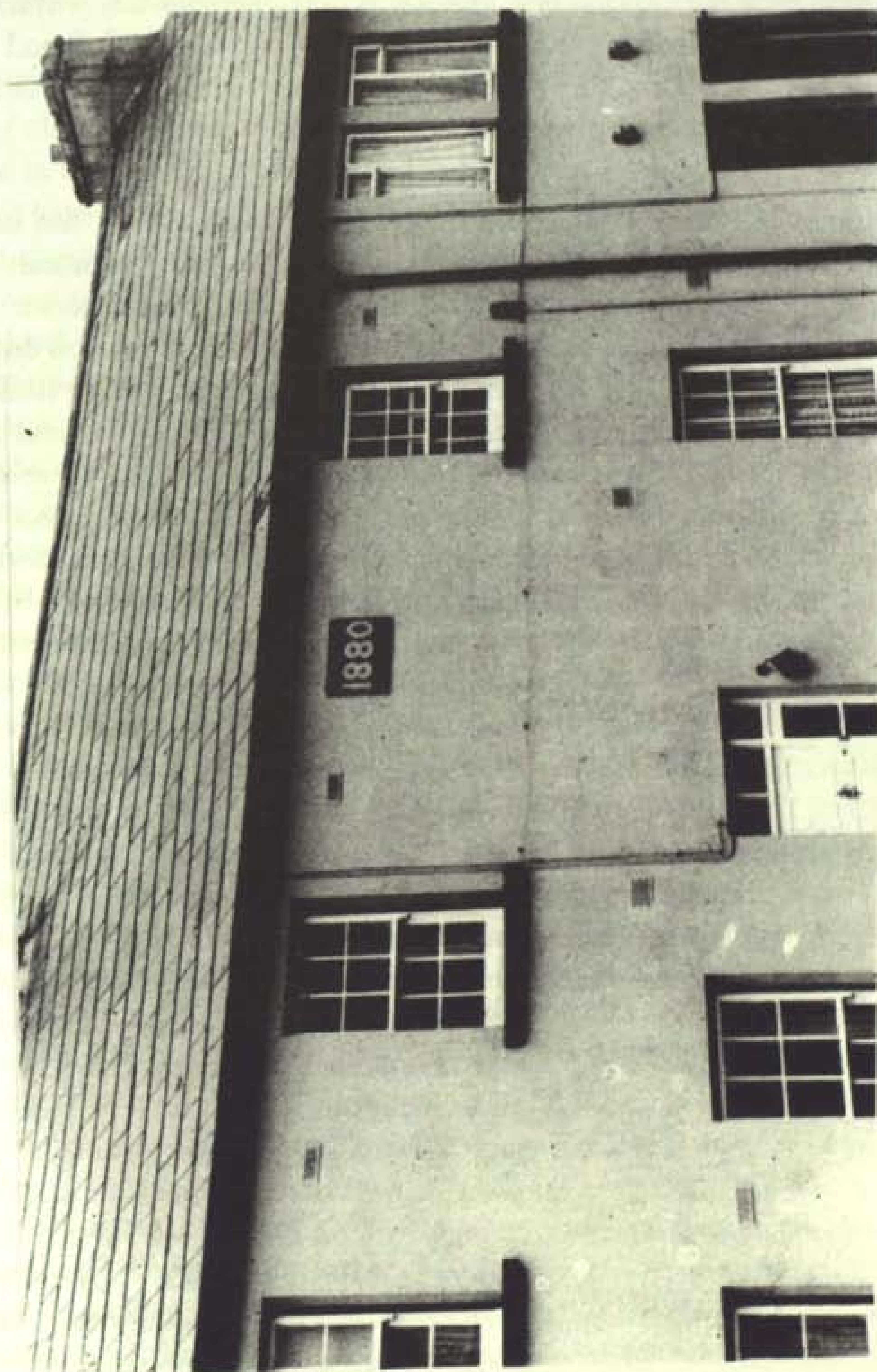
*From 1 p.m. till 10 p.m. on Wednesday.*

*From 2 p.m. till 10 p.m. on Thursday.*

*From 3 p.m. till 10 p.m. on Friday.*

Admission, 6d (Opening Ceremony, 1/-); Children, 3d

Season Ticket     -     -     -     -     2/-



**Royal Garrison Artillery, High Road.**



## CHAPTER 8 — NEIGHBOURING PLANTERS

THE nearest English settlement of any considerable importance had its centre and headquarters at Drumore in the parish of Leck, the two proportions of Dromore and Lurgybrack being amalgamated and assigned to Sir Maurice Bartley, who sold them a short time after to Sir Ralph Bingley :- "Upon this proportion, the Bawn of brick and the House of stone are now thoroughly finished, and himself and family are living therein. It is well seated for service, and within a mile of the place he hath made a village (Bunnageeh), in which there are six houses and a mill already built, and there is more in building in a place which is a continual passage," or thoroughfare on the road crossing the Swilly at Oldtown and leading to Derry. I find planted and estated on this land 29 British families, which have taken the oath of supremacy, and with their sub-tenants are able to make 64 men-at-arms." By an Inquisition held in 1640 it was discovered that Sir Maurice, during his brief tenure, had contravened the statute by planting seven British settlers, who had refused to bind themselves by the oath of supremacy, and had freely leased lands to Irish tenants, most of whom rejoiced in the name of Gallagher, a name for long ages associated with Lurgybreck. Edward Gallagher, son of the more celebrated Joe Gallagher of Letterkenny, was the last proprietor of the clan, having succeeded to his uncle in 1875. Owen Mac Adegana, whose family afterwards impressed their name on Deenystown, and Donal O'Harkin, many of whose descendants entered the sanctuary, were also noted survivals of clearances and inquisitions on these tolerantly managed estates. While the most careful scrutiny of the list of English settlers from Nicholas Apthwyllin to Tristram Emery fails to disclose a single name perpetuated to the present day among the non-Celtic population. Edernacarnan, to the north of Letterkenny, was a subsidiary grant to Basil Brooke, who already enjoyed two important concessions at Donegal and Killodonnell. " Upon this there is a bawn of lime and stone, and an unfinished house, in the which there dwelleth an Englishman." To these estates belonged the greater part of Glenswilly, and until quite lately a remnant of the property belonged to Brooke of Lough Esk, and was managed by a rackrenting, eviction-loving agent of the

old type. Immediately adjoining the lands of Edernacarn was the property denominated Rathdonnell, the name of which bespeaks association with the clan Dalaigh. " Grant to Sir Thomas Chichester ('brother to the arch-spoliator), 1610; Garrycarrow, Rathdonnell, Lurganachoory, and Socker, 500 acres with free fishing in Lough Swilly. The premises are created into the manor of Rathdonnell, with 200 acres in demesne and a court baron" " Upon this there was a bawn built of clay and stone, but now it is fallen and lyeth waste." Sir Thomas, who resided in O'Doherty's castle at Burt in 1616, and his son, who succeeded him, seem to have made the Rathdonnell entrenchment more substantial and enduring, as appears from Dr. Pococke's description of it in 1752" crossed for five miles over two hills excessive bad roads to Kilmacrennan, and on the road I saw a new kind of round fort, made of loose stones well put together. The walls are ten feet thick and about eight high, encompassed with a fosse, and about seventeen yards in diameter within." Eastward of Rathdonnell on the direct route to Milford a manor with the high-sounding title of Kingstown, was planted near Illistran, on a spot where an obsolete-looking village now stands. ' Grant to Sir John Kingsmill (park-ranger), 1612; Ballyivollely, Bochrill, Gortnavern, Arrymore, Letter, Ragh, and parts of Cashelshanaghan, Ichteross, Illistran, and Arrybeg; 1,000 acres with liberty of fishing in Lough Swilly." It has been already explained that the proportion containing parts of Arddrummin, Castleshannaghan, Illenbeg, etc., was first given to Sir Richard Hansard, and eventually became incorporated with the Ramelton estates of Sir William Stewart. John Vaughan, Esq., was the first patentee of Lisnannain, (Cuolbuoy, parts of Illistran, Dromin, and Carnagilla. He had been introduced as sheriff of the county, and a report received currency for some time that he had been lynched by the oppressed natives. But he survived the rumour, attended the Dublin Parliament of 1613 as knight of the shire, was Governor of Derry, and left as his heir his daughter Sydney, who married Sir Frederick Hamilton, progenitor of the Viscounts Boyne of Rossgull. This proportion was sold by the original grantee to John Wray, who built at Carnagilla' a good strong bawn of lime and stone, 40 feet long with four flankers, in which there are good lodgings being two stories high; also a stone house of the same length being two stories high, inhabited with an English gentleman and his family." The Wrays, Harts, and Brookes had representatives of their names and families in occupation of Donegal estates within the last quarter of a century, but at the present day these last remnants of the English Plantation families appear to be extinct.



Gent.'s Suits made to Order,  
£4 to £6.

Ladies' Costumes from £4 to £6.

Pants from 18s to 30s.

---

**W. H. KNIPE,**

TAILOR & COSTUMIER,

Main Street, - Letterkenny

*(OPPOSITE ULSTER BANK.)*

1918

Support Home Industry.

**BALLYBOE ENGINEERING WORKS, CORN & SAW MILLS**

---

Threshing Machines made to Order; cannot be beaten for  
Strength, Durability, Lightness of Draught and Speed.

**GUARANTEED TWO YEARS.**

Churning Machines, Flax and Corn Mills, made and erected  
on the shortest possible notice.

All kinds of Smith Work done on the Premises.

**REPAIRS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.**

FARM CARTS made to Order with best Seasoned Wood.  
District Agent for Imperial Oil Engines.

---

**S. H. FLEMING, Letterkenny**

1918

## CHAPTER 9 — TRANSFORMATION - WOLFE TONE

Some eighty years ago, when Lord Southwell had erected the imposing row of red brick buildings overlooking the market square in Letterkenny and had ornamented the latter elegant space with a clock tower, he conceived no design of insulting any Christian inhabitant by having the pillar crowned with a plain cross. A short time after, this noble man visited his property and was highly pleased with the enhanced appearance of the town; but, during his short stay, a large deputation of the local gentry waited upon him with the astounding object of asking him to have the clock tower removed. They urged two weighty objections; first, that the cross was a symbol that offended their sanctimonious and pharisaical eyes; and, secondly, that the erection was an obstruction to the spectacular circle described by their gorgeous coaches with richly caparisoned steeds on the sabbath. The cross remains, but the last conductor of the circus has made his final bow.

Lewis, writing in 1838, furnishes some items of information that are unknown to the present day inhabitants of Letterkenny "About half a mile from the town and about the same distance from Lough Swilly, is a good quarry of slate, and on the shores of the lough are great quantities of potters' clay and clay for bricks." The slate quarry is disused for nearly a century, but specimens may be seen on the roofs of some very old buildings in the town; the brick-making industry; however, is entirely forgotten. While Ramelton and Ballyshannon enjoyed commercial and industrial prosperity from the investment of local capital and the enterprise of local skill, Letterkenny depended almost solely for its subsistence on the trade done in its shops with the populous districts around, and on its markets for farm produce, the shipping being in the last century an important element of success. Though the Southwells have done something for the embellishment of the town, neither they nor their predecessors in title did much to promote its material progress. Before the original colony of Scottish planters had got sufficient time to lay the foundations of a healthy and growing community, the estate fell into the hands of the grasping Cunninghams, who devoted their time and energies to military life and enjoyed their castles and



lands merely for comfort, pastime, and extravagance, without the faintest regard for the well being of their tenants. Sir John Cunningham was the occupant of Letterkenny Castle during the Williamite war, and it is recorded that Redmond O'Hanlon, the famous Rapparee chief, found refuge there in 1690, until the sleuth-hounds had lost the scent. What is not recorded, but is added by tradition, is the story of the affection for this loyal subject of dastardly James the Second engendered in the heart of Cunningham's daughter by Redmond's noble bearing and chivalry. In any case, he was dismissed in safety and accompanied beyond the danger zone by trusty defenders.

A much more distinguished Irish patriot, in 1798, met with very different treatment in Letterkenny from a Donegal landlord, whose son afterwards posed as a benefactor of the people. Wolfe Tone was the victim; Laird's Hotel (2 Lower Main Street) the scene of treachery; and Wolfe Tone's son is the narrator of the facts. " My father was the only Irishman on board the Hoche, and he refused the offer to escape on the Biche. 'Our contest is hopeless,' they said, 'and we shall be made prisoners of war, but what will become of you ? ' ' Shall it be said,' replied he, ' that I fled while the French were fighting the battles of my country ? 'The Hoche was soon surrounded by four sail of the line and a frigate, and began one of the most obstinate and desperate engagements ever fought on the ocean. During six hours she sustained the whole fire of the fleet, till her masts and rigging were swept away, her scuppers flowed with blood, her wounded filled the cockpit, her shattered ribs yawned at each new stroke and let in five feet of water in the hold, her rudder was carried off and she floated a dismantled wreck on the waters; her sails and cordage hung in shreds, nor could she reply with a single gun from her dismounted batteries to the unabating cannonade of the enemy. At last she struck. During the action father commanded one of the batteries, and, according to the report of the officers who returned to France, fought with the utmost desperation, as if he was courting death. Confounded with the other officers, he was not recognised by the English captors for some time, for he had completely aquired the language and appearance of a Frenchman. Nor was it till some days later that the Hoche was brought (from near Horn Head) into Lough Swilly by order of Admiral Warren but rumours of his being on board must have been circulated for the fact was public at Paris. It was at length a gentleman well known as a leader of the Orange party, Sir (afterwards Lord) George Hill, who had been his fellow student in Trinity College and knew his person, who undertook the task of discovering him. The French Officers were invited to breakfast with the Earl of Cavan, who commanded in that district; my father sat undistinguished among them, when Sir

George Hill entered the room followed by police constables. Looking narrowly at the company, he singled out the object of his search, and stepping up to him said "Mr. Tone, I am very happy to see you.' Instantly rising with the utmost composure and discarding all useless attempts at concealment, my father replied, 'Sir George, I am happy to see you; how are Lady Hill and the family ? "Beckoned into the adjoining room, an unexpected indignity awaited him. It was filled with military, and one General Lavan, who commanded them, ordered him to be ironed, declaring that, as on leaving Ireland to join the French service, he had not renounced his oath of allegiance, he remained a subject of Britain and should be punished as a traitor. Seized with a momentary burst of indignation at such unworthy treatment and cowardly cruelty; he flung off his uniform and cried, ' These fetters shall never degrade the revered insignia of the free nation which I have served. Resuming his usual calm, he offered his limbs to the irons, and, when they were fixed, he exclaimed ' For the cause which I have embraced, I feel prouder to wear these chains than if I were decorated with the Star and Garter of England." Loaded thus with iron fetters, the illustrious patriot was placed on horseback, and conveyed to Derry surrounded by dragoons.

More than half a century after this date, in 1865, Dr. Mac Devitt furnishes the following account of Letterkenny:- " This is a pleasant little town, occupying the side of a hill, and overlooking a large expanse of country; the quarter sessions are held here; and it has a very good weekly market. Its clean street, its range of gas lamps, and other pleasant tokens of an improving spirit, bear honourable testimony to the efficiency of the town-commissioners and their excellent chairman, Joseph Gallagher, Esq." Vast and striking improvements have been effected since then by splendid residences, business houses, public buildings, and a well-designed children's park; and an invaluable boon has been conferred on the inhabitants and their posterity by the introduction of an unfailing water supply from Lough Salt.

## **LETTERKENNY.**

# **HEGARTY'S HOTEL**

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS.

*Famed for Cleanliness and Home Comforts.*

*See Remarks by Author of "JOHN HALIFAX, Gentleman."*

**MRS. PEOPLES, PROPRIETRESS.**

**1893**



## CHAPTER 10 — GODFREY O'DONNELL

The consistent policy of the English from the first moment they found a footing on the soil of Ireland, was to foster internecine strife among the native chiefs, and unfortunately they found ample scope for the exercise of their insidious art. Even the great Godfrey was a blind victim of their wiles, before he was disillusioned by direful experience. In 1247 "Malachy or Maclaughlin O'Donnell, son of Donal Mor, son of Eineghan, was slain by Maurice Fitzgerald in battle at Ballyshannon. The country was then spoiled and plundered by the English and they appointed Roderick O'Canannan to the government of Tirconaill." But before the year had expired, their covenant with Roderick was flagrantly violated, and "Maurice Fitzgerald and the English marched with a great force to Assaroe on the invitation of Godfrey O'Donnell. Roderick opposed them, but he was not sufficiently supported by the people of Tirconaill." Obviously, the majority of the chiefs regarded Godfrey as the legitimate heir to the chieftaincy and treated O'Canannain as a usurper, but both they and Godfrey were playing into the hands of the wily invader. During the next year, "Maurice Fitzgerald led his forces into Tirconaill, which he plundered and devastated. He banished Roderick O'Canannain into Tirowen, and left the government of Tirconaill in the hands of Godfrey, son of Donal O'Donnell. (But Niall O'Canannain took the kingship of Tirconaill this year, say the Annals of Ulster) The men of Tirowen and O'Canannain collecting a force, marched into Tirconaill, and gave battle to Godfrey O'Donnell." But Roderick and many others were slain in the engagement; and, in 1250, Roderick's son and heir, Niall O'Canannain, who claimed the chieftaincy of Tirconaill, met a similar fate, thus terminating the dynasty of the O'Canannnains "Maurice Fitzgerald made a prisoner of O'Canannain, who was under the protection of the Bishop O'Carolan, and they slew O'Canannain while endeavouring to escape." Domestic rivals having been now disposed of, Godfrey was free to punish their abettors and allies, the O'Neilis; and, in 1252, he "marched with a predatory force into Tirowen, and took therefrom many cattle and hostages; but, on his return he was overtaken by Brian O'Neill, and a fierce battle ensued in which the people of Tirowen were

defeated with great loss and many of their chiefs were slain." Again, in 1256, "Godfrey led his forces into Fermanagh, where he took goods and hostages, and proceeding thence into Breffny O'Rourke he exacted submission and they accepted his conditions." But the great ambition of his life was unattained as long as the English invaders proceeded on their career of conquest, which he saw would ultimately lead to their supremacy over all the Irish chiefs. Religion was then no element in the contest, for there was only one religion, equally professed and practised by all the belligerents, and it was this celebrated Maurice Fitzgerald who had founded the Dominican priory in Sligo some years before. "1257. A brilliant battle was fought by Godfrey O'Donnell, Lord of Tirconaill, against Maurice Fitzgerald, Lord Justice of Ireland, and the English in Connacht at Credrain Cille, near Sligo town, in defence of his principality. A fierce and terrible conflict took place, in which bodies were hacked, heroes disabled, and the strength of both sides exhausted. The men of Tirconaill maintained their ground, and completely overthrew the English forces in the engagement, and defeated them with great slaughter, but Godfrey himself was severely wounded, having encountered in the fight Maurice Fitzgerald in single combat, in which they desperately wounded each other. By this fortunate victory the English and the Geraldines were driven from North Connacht. Mac Griffin, a noble knight, was taken prisoner by the people of O'Donnell on the same day, after which they burned and completely plundered Sligo. Donogh, the son of Cormac O'Donnell, was slain in the thick of the fight."

The Annals of Ulster here insert a short, pithy encomium on Donogh, attributing to him those great characteristics that are most to be desired in a capable ruler, and clearly supplying an explanation of the enthusiastic joy with which the unexpected return of Donal Og was hailed by the O'Daly clan and their adherents: "Donal, son of Cormac O'Donnell, tower of hospitality and valour was wounded and died thereof." "The men of Tirconaill then returned home in consequence of the dangerous wounds of O'Donnell, for otherwise he would have pursued the defeated English to the river Moy. Geoffrey demolished the castle at Caoluisce, which the English had constructed to keep the people of Tirconaill in subjection."

The government of Tirconaill now threatened to revert to the same chaotic condition that followed the death of Malachy O'Donnell, in 1247, and continued for three whole years. During that distressful period the English first assisted Ruaidhri O'Canannain to assert his claim to the chieftaincy against Godfrey O'Donnell; almost immediately after, they helped Godfrey to dethrone Ruaidhri; then, Brian O'Neill's aid was invoked by Niall O'Canannain, and the English



again interposed and slew Niall, all the time achieving their main object of weakening the unity and strength of Tirconaill, and widening the fatal gulf of enmity between the sons of Conal and the sons of Eoghan. When Godfrey was at last firmly established in the undisputed rulership of his territory, he found Brian O'Neill enjoying the title and sway of "High-king of the north-west of Ireland." In assertion of his claims as head-king in 1248, Brian O'Neill, Lord of Tirowen (the Ulster Annals designate him Ardrigh Tuaiscirt Eireann) conveyed boats from Lough Foyle into Magh Itha and across Termon Dabeoig (over Lough Derg) until he came to Lough Erne, where he committed great depredations and destroyed a castle." Lurg, which includes Belleek, in Fermanagh, was the scene of this proud demonstration of strength against Godfrey and the English, but the latter immediately retaliated by a plundering invasion of Tirowen, and Brian tendered his submission. Godfrey, however, had personal motives, over and above the honour of his principality, in seeking to frustrate the ambitions and to humble the pride of Brian, who had so powerfully supported his rival, the O'Canannain. Hence, as we have seen, when he had consolidated the forces of Tirconaill, he lost no time until he overran and devastated Brian's dominion, and slew many of his chiefs, bringing others with him as captives. But now Brian saw this opportunity and embraced it: Godfrey, having broken with the English and slain their most renowned and redoubtable general, lay prostrate on his deathbed, and neither tanist nor lieutenant of repute was there to wear the mantle of the expiring warrior. In the middle of January, 1258, Brian sent an embassy to Godfrey bearing an ultimatum, in case his two demands were not immediately complied with; first, that Godfrey should personally acknowledge his submission and obedience to Brian; and, secondly, that the clans should send him hostages to guarantee what he termed the continued obedience, inasmuch as they had no competent chief of their own to succeed Godfrey. The unconquerable old champion replied "never," and his lieutenants pleaded for time to consult their people; and the sequel illumines the brightest page in profane history. War is immediately proclaimed, and the Tironians cross the Swilly to reap an easy victory. But the flickering flashes of expiring life are momentarily quickened into a brilliant flame by the news of Brian's unchivalrous attack; and he ordered his attendants to stretch him out in an ample coffin to be borne at the head of his faithful troops, to cheer them on to victory before his life became extinct. The story of Godfrey's unexampled bravery and noble death is thus narrated by the Donegal Annalists:—

"O'Donnell was confined by his mortal wounds at Glen Beitheach for the space of a year after the battle of Creadrain. When O'Neill heard this, he collect-

ed his forces for the purpose of marching into Tirconaill, and sent messages to O'Donnell, demanding sureties, hostages, and submission from the Tirconallians, as they had no lord competent to govern them after Godfrey. The messengers, having delivered their demands to O'Donnell, returned with all possible speed. O'Donnell summoned the Conallians from all quarters to wait on him, and, when they were assembled at their master's call, he ordered them, as he was physically unable to march at their head, to prepare for him the coffin that would finally enclose his remains, to place him therein, and to carry him in the midst of his people. He exhorted them to fight bravely, remembering that he was among them, and not to submit to the power of their enemies. They then proceeded in array of battle at the command of their lord to meet O'Neill's forces, until both armies confronted each other near the river named Swilly. They assailed each other without respect for friend or relative, until at length the Tironians were driven back, leaving there many men, horses, and spoils.

"On the return of the Conallian force from their victory, the coffin in which O'Donnell was borne was laid down on the place where the battle was fought, where his spirit departed owing to the mortification of the wounds he had received at the battle of Credrain. And his death was not dishonourable, for in all expeditions he was victorious over his enemies."

## **GALLAGHER'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL.**

---

Visitors to Letterkenny will find the above Hotel  
exceptionally Comfortable, combined with  
Moderate Charges.

---

## **GROCERY DEPARTMENT.**

Every Article in the Trade kept in Stock,  
at the Keenest Prices.

---

**JOHN GALLAGHER**                      **Proprietor.**

NOTE ADDRESS :

**MAIN STREET (Opposite Court House), LETTERKENNY**

**1918**



At this point, the Latin Codex D, whose authenticity has never been questioned, contains the following passage:—

"Redeunte O'Donnell cum suis, adepta illa fortunata victoria, prostrato feretro, in quo Godfredus ad tunc vivens existit, apud Congawill, in ipso instante emisit spiritum ex convulsione vulnerum." "When O'Donnell returned after gaining that heaven-sent victory, on the coffin being laid on the ground at Conwal where he was still alive, he immediately breathed his last, from a bursting of the wounds." The precise spot, where the renowned Godfrey expired, cannot be fixed beyond controversy, but it was probably in the now obliterated hamlet on the crest of the hill, that this tragic and thrilling scene was enacted. No public road existed in those days; and, though villages often consisted of a gradual growth of houses clustering around a monastery, as at Glendalough and Clonmacnoise, it is more natural to suppose that, living in so close proximity to the frontier, the chieftain's retainers had secured their families behind a rampart in a position that commanded a view of the surrounding country. A well-known sepulchral slab in the Conwal Graveyard has been always regarded as Godfrey's gravestone, and there is no valid reason for questioning the verdict of tradition. His castle, consisting of clay and timber, most probably stood on the dun at the rectory, for the Cineal Moain had not yet been subjugated, nor had the O'Donnells yet established themselves at Scariff Hollus. The achievements and death of Godfrey would form the subject of a grand epic.

## CHAPTER 11 — NEIGHBOURING TRIBES

The geographical boundaries of Tirconaill, as they existed at the Plantation, were very widely different from those that encircled the narrower territory of Godfrey O'Donnell in 1257, when that renowned warrior defeated and almost annihilated the English army at Creadan Cille, near Sligo. Had he then possessed garrisoned fortresses at Lifford, at Glengevlin, (or St. Johnston, as the village is now named,) and at Derry, the patrimonial territory of the Muintir Lughaidh could not have been invaded without notice and fierce resistance. Hence, a brief sketch outlining the ancient clans and territories between the Swilly and the Foyle will aid the reader in his efforts to comprehend the causes and effects of these interminable attacks and reprisals. And, it must be confessed that the materials for defining the landmarks are neither enlightening nor unconflicting; for, on the very threshold of the inquiry, a huge difficulty, never yet effectively dealt with, constantly presents itself in respect of the original territory of the O'Dohertys, admittedly the most powerful sept of Tirconaill next to the sovereign tribe of the clan Dalaigh. Ard Miodhar it was unquestionably called: but, the name no longer survives, and, while O'Brien appears to identify it with Killaveer or Cranford, Connellan, without any justification, makes it comprise Stranorlar within its limits. One outstanding fact is unobscured by the bewildering mass of conjectures and contradictions - that Ard Miodhar was situated close to Fanad, the capital of which was Rathmullan, and that it embraced Inch, Burt, and the inland district as far as Killea. The Moville coastline belonged to the Mac Dermott\*, who were not of Tirconaill origin, before the O'Dohertys had yet acquired dominion over all Innishowen. Thus the O'Dohertys were isolated from their kinsmen and chieftain, and were not always in a position to give intelligence or immediate assistance in case of a rapid incursion, even when they were so inclined, but frequently they were in sympathy with, and tributary to, the O'Neills and Mac Laughlins of Aileach Castle in their vicinity. Three other tribes of more remote antiquity once peopled the wide and fertile lands now comprised in the barony of Raphoe. The Feara-Muigh-Ith, or Men of Muigh Ith, later called Raymoghy, from a rath overlooking Manorcunningham, were reput-



ed to be the descendants of the companions of Ith (uncle of Milesius), who was here slain in battle by the Tuatha-de-Danaans. Their territory extended from the Foyle at (Glengrevlin) to the Swilly at Fearsad Mor. The Cineal Enda were the descendants of Enda, brother of Conal Gulban, and, in the time of St. Columba, and for centuries after, lived in cordial friendship with the Muintir Lughaidh. They occupied the central division, including the town of Raphoe, between Raymoghly and the Cineal Moain, but, in course of time this latter warlike clan overran and annexed the lands of the two less militant tribes, only to be themselves ejected in turn by the O'Donnells. Moain and his people belonged to the O'Neill stock, he being himself second in descent from Eoghan, and fourth from Niall, while Gormly was sixth from Moain. Thus, it will be seen that the Cineal Moain were no more closely allied in blood with the Cineal Enda, than they were with the clan Dalaigh; and this fact explains, though it does not extenuate, their merciless extinction by the Tirconaill chiefs. The Gormlys were the ruling family of the Cineal Moain, and their hereditary district embraced the parishes of Donaghmore, Clonleigh, and part of Urney being coextensive with the portion of Derry diocese which lies in the County Donegal, besides Innishowen, and extending towards Ardstraw Bridge in the County Tyrone. The Four Masters, Reeves proceeds to explain, always express the dignity of the O'Gormley by the term taoiseach, rendered by O'Flaherty capitaneus, which was inferior in rank to tighearna. or lord. The last chief of the O'Gormleys, whose death is recorded in the Annals (1340), was Melaughlin or Malachy and from this time forward, the O'Donnells usurped the authority and included the name of the tribe in their own high-sounding titles. On account of this declension of the family, the pedigree ceases with Conchobhar, son of aforesaid Malachy. Henry and Niall are mentioned later, in 1401 and 1406, but the sept had gone down, and native records lost sight of them. The Mac Quinns or O'Cuinns were a leading sept of the "Men of Rymochy," according to O'Dugan, and their name perpetuated in Glemacquinn, where there is now a railway station. O'Dugan further informs us that the Mac Devannys were chiefs of Cineal Enda, and we find a distinguished representative of that family an officer in Bishop Mac Mahon's army. The Mac Menamins trace their origin and name to Meanman, son of Gormly.

\*Footnote: Ó Duibh Dhiarmada (locally: Deeyermott).

1908 McKinney, Oatfield.



*Now Paddy Tinney's House, Port Road.*



## CHAPTER 12 — SCARRIFFHOLLIS

" There is a ford on the river Swilly, " Dr. Joyce explains, "two miles west of Letterkenny, which, judging from its position and its being defended by a castle, as well as from its frequent mention in the Annals, must have been in former days one of the principal passes across the river; and as such was no doubt often signalled by lights. The Four Masters write the name Scairbh-sholais, the scariff or shallow ford of the light: it is now called Scarriffhollis, and "the castle, which has disappeared, was called Castlehollis." The castle, which stood on the south side of the Swilly where its ruins were still of pretty considerable bulk a few years ago, was situate in Tir Enda, and was not erected until the O'Donnells had extirpated the chiefs of that territory. Though the O'Gormleys are sometimes discovered side by side with the Tirconaill chiefs on the battlefield in opposition to the O'Neills, still they were kinsmen of the latter, and as such were regarded with jealousy and distrust, when they were not treated as avowed enemies by the O'Donnells. As we saw in the preceding chapter, the last notable chief of the O'Gormley Malachy, died in 1340; his son and successor, Connor, died the following year; then the O'Dohertys became lords of Tir Enda for a brief period. In 1342, the Annals contain the following obituary chronicle: " Donal O'Doherty, chief of Ard Miodhair, and of the cantred of Tir Enda, died and was succeeded by John O'Doherty." But, whatever may be said regarding the possession and effective occupation of Tir Enda by the O'Dohertys, or the continuance of its existence as a territory distinct from the Cineal Moain, it is absolutely undeniable that the O'Donnells became the recognised overlords of the entire district immediately on the extinction of the O'Gormleys. For the Annals, in recording the murder of Tirconaill's prince in the same year, 1342, explicitly ascribe to him this title: "Conor, son of Hugh, son of Donal Og, Lord of Tirconaill, North Connacht, Fermanagh, Cineal Moain, and Inis Eoghain, a worthy heir to the sovereignty of Ireland, in personal figure, etc., was slain by his brother Niall, who had surprised him by night in his fortress at Muirmeach; and Niall himself assumed the lordship." We may observe parenthetically that the Four Masters despatch the record of this revolting crime with singular brevity, out of regard

for the sensitiveness of their patrons, but the Ulster Annalists insert some significant particulars, implying, for instance, that the chiefs were only step-brothers, and append a very pathetic comment, highly eulogistic of Conor as a patron of learning: "Conor was killed by Niall, the son of his own father, after an assault on the fortress. And his death was compassed in this way - fires and brands were put into the palace. O'Donnell came out and fell in the doorway of his own house, after having gained victory from world and from demon. And orphaned are wisdom and science, without a man to support or to foster them, after that deed ! "O'Donovan identified Muir-magh, plain of the sea, as the townland of Murvagh, near Mullinasole, in Drumhome, where the O'Donnell chiefs long resided; while the Annals of Ce place the scene of the horrible fratricide at Fionross or Rossnawlagh. At any rate, the O'Donnells had as yet no castle on the south of the Swilly, and it is not unlikely that Castlehollis was built by Cathbhar, son and heir apparent of Manus, about 1550.

In 1540, Godfrey's ancient stronghold, on the opposite bank, of the river was still tenanted and defended by a chief of the clan: "Donogh Cairbreach and John Lurgach rebelled against Manus, their own brother, and took possession of the Cranog of Lough Veagh, whence they began to plunder the country. O'Donnell took them both prisoners and also Eighnechan at Baile-na-Congabhala. He hanged John Lurgach, and confined Eighnechan and Donogh in chains, and he broke up and completely demolished the Cranog of Lough Veagh." Up to that time, the "pebble-formed" passage had been guarded by the garrison at Conwal or rather Doon but Manus's eldest son and heir, Cabhthar, abhorring his brother's revolt against their father and their dissensions among themselves, withdrew into retirement and established a peaceful home at Scarrifhollis. His death is thus chronicled in the Annals "1580. Cabhthar, son of Manus, and tanist of Tirconaill, a man distinguished for his great donations and hospitality, the patron of the exiles and of the professors of the schools of the north of Ireland, died on the 15th of October, at his own residence in Scariffhollis and was interred at Donegal." Assuming that Cabhthar was elder than Calvach, Hugh, and the others, we can easily conceive him declining the wand of chieftaincy, which the nobles placed within his reach in electing him tanist, and choosing in preference a life of peace, entertaining "exiles and professors." Manus, himself devoted the last years of his life to historical research, and to the composition of his elaborate and erudite Life of St. Columba. But a difficulty of greater magnitude here encounters the student of the Annals, for he will at once recall the earlier passage in that great work, that relates the death of Cabhthar, son of Manus, at the hands of Scotch marauders in 1551, twenty-nine years




before. Now, Cabhthar of Scarriff Hollis was evidently a very notable chief, an uncle of Red Hugh, and his death had occurred only a little over half a century before the Annals were written. Therefore, no error can be conceived as possible in regard to the date and other details of his death and burial, as narrated by these most accurate writers. And, curiously enough, great importance is also imparted to the tragic event of 1551, for the day of the month is actually specified: "Cabhthar, son of Manus, the son of O'Boyle, and the son of Mac Swine of Bannagh, together with a long ship's crew, were slain on the 16th of September by the Scots at Tory Island." The readiest and most natural solution of this difficulty is to suppose that Cabhthar of Scarriffhollis was born after the death of his brother, who was slain at Tory, and, according to a pretty general custom, called after his name. Had he been the eldest son, he would have been mentioned in some connection earlier in his life, especially as he was tanist or heir presumptive to the chieftaincy. This dignity was probably conferred on him during Calvagh's imprisonment, as the intriguing Hugh had not been a favourite either of his father's or of the chiefs'. Cabhthar was a common name in the O'Donnell family from the time of the celebrated Cabhthar, who died in 1006, and who is commemorated on the silver case of the Cathach.

**MRS. M'INTYRE**

**NOVELTY WAREHOUSE,  
ASYLUM ROAD, LETTERKENNY**

Baby Linen and Children's Outfitting.

Ladies' Underclothing in all the New Styles.

 **Wedding Linen Outfits a Specialty.**

Art Needlework, Silks, Thread, &c., &c.

1918

*ORDERS BY POST PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.*

1918

It is explained in the next chapter that it was not here at the shallow ford of pebbles, but farther down the river, at Ath Tairse the tidal part, that Shane O'Neill crossed the Swilly in his ignominious flight after the battle of Fearsad Mor, in 1567, because the more frequented passage was garrisoned by native troops. Shane was conducted by the friendly hand of one of the O'Gallagher sept, who was thoroughly conversant with all the intricacies and dangers of the journey. Cabhthar O'Donnell, Sir Hugh's brother, then occupied Castlehollis, and, though he was not himself a militant chief, the Castle was strongly garrisoned at all times, as it commanded the most important pass into Tir conaill, second only to Ballyshannon, on the whole inland frontier. As early as 550, the Cineal Lughaidh had established a fortified station to the north-east of Letterkenny, to command a view of the Swilly, particularly Fearsad Mor, and, when they had wrested the sceptre of supremacy from the O'Canannains, they never failed to plant one or more of their trusted chiefs in Conwal or in Scarriff Hollis. Nenan, husband of St. Columba's sister, whose sons gave their name to Cill-Mic-Nenain or Kilmacrenan, erected a fortress on a beautiful and elevated site, still named Lisnenain in view of Lismongain, now corrupted into Lismonaghan. Mongan belonged to the clan O'Neill, and was the progenitor of the celebrated sept, who impressed their name on Termon Mongain of which they were the hereditary herenachs. The old boundaries have never been completely obliterated, for, though the O'Donnells became lords and masters of Lismongain on the downfall of the Cineal Moain Castlehollis ruins are situate in the barony of Raphoe. And in the parish of Leck, and the ancient name, Lismongain, is found both in Pynar's Survey and in the Inquisitions.

But Scarriff Hollis derives its melancholy fame not from the castle or the ford, but from the annihilating defeat there inflicted on Bishop Heber Mac Mahon's army by the English troops under Coote and Venables on the 21st of June, 1650. Anti-Irish writers naturally extol the valour and generalship of these military officers, and state categorically that their army was immensely outnumbered by their enemy's forces. Wright's account of the battle is typical and entirely unreliable: "The choice of a general (to succeed Owen Roe) fell on Heber Mac Mahon, Bishop of Clogher. This zealous prelate soon showed that he possessed the courage without the other necessary qualities of a general. His army, according to the Parliamentary accounts, amounted to nearly 5,000 men, all Irish or Papists, for they boasted that they had not a Protestant among them, and, among their officers was another prelate, the Bishop of Down, who served as a Colonel. They occupied a strong position on a hill near Letterkenny. Charles Coote with an army of about 2,500 men, collected from the garrisons of





*Fair Day*  
*Market Square: Major McClintock . . .*

the north, marched against him and provoked him to quit the advantages of his position. Blindly confident in his superiority of numbers, he rejected the advice of his experienced officers, and marched down to attack his enemies. After fighting with obstinacy for an hour, the Irish were defeated with great slaughter. The routed Irish are said to have 'been pursued no less than thirty miles, and very few of the Bishop's army escaped the swords of the victors. The Bishop of Down, Lord Enniskillen, and a number of distinguished officers and heads of Ulster clans, were slain in the field, and many more, among whom was their General, the Bishop of Clogher, were captured in the flight." Unfortunately, it cannot be contraverted that the Bishop declined to be guided by his trusty and more experienced lieutenants, and that the rout was complete and disastrous is equally beyond question. The surmounting summit has been ever since named *Croc-na-neach*, from the fact that the riderless horses roamed there at large after the defeat of the cavalry, and a remote hillside in Glenfin is called *Sraith-na-mbratog*, owing to the loss of some standards at that stage of the flight. But the numerical power of the Irish army had been calamitously reduced mainly by the garrisoning of Charlemont, but largely too by the withdrawal of the troop of cavalry, that accompanied Maolmuirc Og Mac Swine to Doe Castle. On the other side, Coote's army had been immensely strengthened by the accession of Venable's troops, and, of course, superior guns and other military equipment afforded the English an incalculable advantage over their worn-out and ill-accounted opponents.

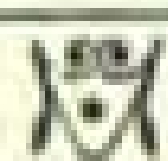
The most trustworthy narrative of the disaster, that has come down to us from contemporary sources, is the account furnished by Colonel Henry O'Neill, who was not himself a participator in the fray owing to serious wounds he had received a few days previously: -" Being under cure of my wounds, I was not an eye-witness of the action at Letterkenny, but what I have by hearsay and by an officer who was in the action, who assured me that the Bishop was 4,000 strong when he marched to Tirconaill. When the army came to Letterkenny, Colonel Miles Mac Swiney made an humble request of the Bishop to give him and his regiment leave to march to Castle Doe, to try if he could gain it for their future security in that part of the country, which was granted, but was afterwards wanted, as were many others that were left in garrisons up and down in those parts, and this very much weakened the army on the day of the action. It appeared to this gentleman that the enemy's horse, Scotch and English, were as many as the Irish had of horse and foot. The Scotch, who were protected by, the Bishop in those parts, and particularly Colonel Saunderson, bore a great share in defeating him on that last day. The first day's engagement a fortnight before, was thus:



The Bishop's army coming to a pass on the river, between Lifford and Derry, while the tide was beginning to flow, the Colonels were commanded to cast dice, to decide who should march first with his regiment across the ford. Phelim Mac Tuathal O'Neill, though it was his turn to be in the rere that day, said he would cast no lots but would venture over, which he did with some difficulty, and beat off the cavalry on the other side, whereby the whole army were enabled to cross over leisurely, some being obliged to swim. All that night they were forced to stand to their arms; next day, Sir Charles Coote appeared with his formidable army, and drew them up by an old Danish fort on a narrow pass leading to Derry. The Bishop also drew up his forces in array of battle, both armies being within musket-shot of each other. Captain Taylor and Captain Cathcarr, two of the best cavalry officers the enemy had, marched with two strong brigades of horse towards the rear of our army in a full career, who were bravely repulsed by our horse and some foot, and beaten back into their own body, with the loss of both their fine captains, which aided most of this day's action, both armies retiring some while after, till the fatal day at Letterkenny. The enemy in this interval continued preparing and increasing till the last blow was given, wherein we lost after quarters given, Colonels Henry Roe O'Neill, Hugh Maguire, and Hugh MacMahon, Art Og O'Neill, MacShane Devenny, and Colonel Phelim Mac Tuathail O'Neill. Quarters were made good to move, but for George Sexton, Quarter-Master-General, who was afterwards executed at Carrickfergus by order of the High Court of Justice, Major-General O'Cahan was killed on the spot, with a great many prime officers, and about 1,500 privates. The Bishop was taken two days after by Major King, near Enniskillen, and afterwards executed in Enniskillen." No mention of the Bishop of Down occurs in any contemporary account, except the report of the Parliamentarians quoted by Wright, and the mistake may be attributable to the fact that Heber Mac Mahon had been Bishop of that See before his transfer to Clogher in 1647. His successor was Dr. Arthur Magennis a Cistercian, and nephew of Owen Roe O'Neill; and his death is recorded in 1652. From all writers of the time, hostile as well as friendly, Heber Mac Mahon's courage and dash received conspicuous acknowledgment; and, in justice to his memory, the reader will recollect that within fifteen days he had reduced the ten most formidable English strongholds (except Derry) in the province of Ulster. Two acts of indiscretion combined to bring about the fatal overthrow of his army at Scarriff Hollis; first, he allowed Maolmuire Mac Swine to gratify a personal ambition at the obvious risk of the national interest; and, secondly, he showed neither generalship nor common prudence in abandoning his advantageous position against the advice of his experi-

enced lieutenants. His nobility of character at no moment of his life shone out so brilliantly as when he walked up to the executioner with unfaltering step and defiant mien to surrender his life for his religion and country. That he was a refined scholar and an ardent lover of his church is abundantly testified by his last letter to Rome, dated the 14th May, 1650, praying that His Holiness may transmit with all possible haste all the necessary faculties for dispensing in canonical irregularities. The illustrious legate, Rinnucinl, had no more attached friends or more strenuous supporters, while he was in Ireland, than John O'Cullenan, Blshop of Raphoe, and Heber Mac Mahon, Bishop of Clogher.

**Wholesale and Family**



**Grocery Establishment**



**L E T T E R K E N N Y**

**The Best and Cheapest House in Town.**

**A TRIAL SOLICITED.**

**ROBERT M'CLURE**

*Now Crossview House*

**1918**



## CHAPTER 13 — FEARSAD MÓR

THE Irish word *fearsad* signifies a shallow passage across a river mouth at low water, and the ford that gave origin to the name is still well known and easily negotiated. But the townland of Fearsadmor on the south side of the Swilly was not the scene of any of the great battles fought in the vicinity of the famous Fearsad, for they were all confined to the north bank of the river. In fresh water streams a crossing of this kind was designated *Ath*, and hence the ford generated by accumulated pebbles at the New Mills, ' was called Ath Thairise or Ford of Security. In 1098, while Ruadhri O'Canannan was king of Tirconaill, the Castle of Conwal was occupied by Cathbharr O'Donnell, who is reputed to have been the first of the clan Dalaigh to assume the name of O'Donnell from his great grandfather Domhnal Mor. In chronicling his death in 1106, the Four Masters describe him as " a pillar of defence and warfare, of the glory and hospitality of the Cineal Lughaidh." The clan Dalaigh were at this period the mainstay of the O'Canannan dynasty, while the O'Boyles were consistent supporters of the O'Muldorys. Consequently, when Cathbharr's territory was invaded and his castle threatened by the O'Neills, the O'Canannan came to his assistance with all his available troops, and the " battle of Fearsad Swilly was fought between the Cineal Owen and the Cineal Conaill, where the Cineal Owen were defeated and the O'Hegarty and many others slain." We have already described the disastrous overthrow administered to the Tyrone invaders in the same neighbourhood by the noble Godfrey O'Donnell in 1258.

Nor was this the only occasion on which the O'Neill chiefs took advantage of Tirconnail's difficulties to make a descent in force on the territory. For in 1392, while O'Connor Sligo was over-running the western half of the principality and had penetrated even to Cranford, Niall O'Neill, with the sons of Henry o'Neill and all the Ultonians, marched with a great force into Tirconaill against Torlogh O'Donnell. They plundered the territory of O'Doherty (about Manorcunningham), both churches and lands, and did not halt until they came to Fearsad Mor, to give battle to O'Donnell (who had now defeated and routed the Connacht forces) . The two armies remained there confronted; but at length

concluded a peace with each other. It was at Fearsad Mor in 1567 that Shane the Proud was hurled from his boasted supremacy as King of Ulster, and his all-conquering army completely crushed and almost annihilated. It was a brilliant victory, no doubt, for Tirconnail, but it was also a triumph for Queen Elizabeth, as it removed the only effective barrier to the extension of her power and the progress of her armies in Ulster. We remember that Shane had imprisoned Calvach and seized on his principal castles and that it was the English troops under Sir Philip Sydney that aided Calvach in recapturing these fortresses and in recovering the territory he had bartered for his enlargement. Naturally, the clans of Tirconnail eagerly longed for an opportunity of avenging the ignominy, and gloried in their sweeping overthrow of the O'Neills, more especially as this historic feat was accomplished without any outside, and above all, alien assistance. It is doing no injustice to the spirit of loyalty manifested by the Four Masters towards the old chieftaincy of their fathers to state that their chronicle would have been less ample and detailed had their own clansmen gone under, as seemed inevitable in the early stages of the fight.

" 1567. John O'Neill, having mustered a very large force for the purpose of marching to Tirconnail against Hugh O'Donnell, his sister's son, and to plunder and devastate the country as he had formerly done, when Manus was not able to protect the principality and territory, through infirmity and sickness and the quarrels and conflicts of his own sons with one another. The place where O'Donnell happened to be with Hugh (of Ramelton) son of Hugh Dubh, his relative, was at Ard-an-Ghaire (Hillock of Laughter, reputed to have got its name from Murrough Mall's smart repartee), on the north side of the bay of Swilly; and having received the intelligence that O'Neill had invaded his country with his forces, he sent messengers to summon his chiefs in the neighbourhood. He himself tarried in expectation of them, for they had not all yet arrived as it was early in the day. Those around him, however, unexpectedly beheld in the distance, on the opposite side of the Fearsad an immense army advancing towards them in troops and companies. They did not halt, but marched onward in battle array and without a pause crossed over the ford as it was low water at the time. O'Donnell perceiving this, drew up his small select force in battle array, and sent a troop of cavalry under the command of Hugh aforesaid to attack the vanguard of the enemy's troops, so that he himself might conduct the infantry to some secure place, where the foe could not invest or circumvent them. Hugh O'Donnell having engaged in a cavalry contest with the front guard of O'Neill's horsemen, Niall O'Donnell, son of Donal Cairbreach, Donal O'Dunlevy, son of O'Donnell's chief physician, and Mac Robhartaigh, keeper of the Cathach, were



slain by O'Neill's troops, but some authors state that Niall O'Donnell fell by the hands of his own people. On the side of the Tironians, the Mac Mahon's son and several others were slain. When Hugh, captain of the horse, realised the superior number of the enemy's cavalry, and observed that his lord and namesake had betaken himself to a place of safety, he relaxed the offensive to await reinforcements and joined his chief. Nor had he been kept long in that great suspense, when he beheld companies of his faithful friends advancing towards him, and was overjoyed at their arrival. Those who came to his aid included Mall Mac Swine in the first place, and then Turlogh Og and Hugh Buidh, sons of the Fanaid Mac Swine, and Maolmuire Mac Swine of Bannagh. Even when these had mustered to the colours, they did not exceed 400 in number. O'Donnell then complained to them of his wrongs and injuries, and said it would be better and more agreeable to him to die on the field than to bear all the insults and ignominious treatment he was receiving by his forcible expulsion and banishment from his fortress.' It may be recalled by the reader that Sir Hugh had himself employed some of the O'Neill chiefs to assist him three years before in capturing Donegal Castle from Con, son and heir of Calvach, while the latter was sojourning in Dublin. Again, it is difficult to discover any manifestation, beyond empty words, of old Hugh's desire to court the glory of an heroic death on the field or elsewhere; he fought by proxy, and wore the laurels that others won."

ESTABLISHED 60 YEARS.

AGENTS  
IN  
TOWN

UPPER—Miss Anderson, Port Road; Mr. J. Gallagher, opposite Courthouse; Messrs. Charles Philson, James Harris, Andrew M'Devitt, Connell Bradley, Mrs. J. Davis, Main Street.

LOWER—Messrs. Connell Bradley, Andrew Crumlish, Robert M'Connell, R. J. Kelly, Main Street.

For Finest Quality Machine-made Bread  
HIGH-CLASS PASTRY, CAKES, &c.,

TRY GALLAGHER'S

Special Cakes made to Order on Shortest Notice.

Sultana, Cherry, Plum, Seed, Lunch, Bride's Cakes, Christening, Birthday Cakes ornamented with Sugar in First-class Style.

PRICES MODERATE.

Gallagher's Machine Bakery  
And FAMILY GROCERY,

LETTERKENNY.

1918

All these chiefs coincided in the noble sentiments delivered by the noble prince, and said that the complaints and opinions he had expressed were true, and that they were willing to attack O'Neill and his forces. Intrepidly bold and bravely determined was the resolution they arrived at, namely, to encounter so great a hazard and danger as awaited them; however, they regarded more their honour and their inheritance than their lives and bodies. With elated magnanimity, they then returned back in a well arranged small body, and amicable united force, to attack O'Neill's camp. When Shane beheld them advancing towards him, he was greatly excited in his mind with compassion for them, and said, 'I am greatly surprised and astonished that these people should not find it easier to submit to us and acquiesce in our terms, than to come before us to fight and to be forthwith annihilated.' While he was indulging in these observations, the troops of Tirconaill rushed forward with boldness and impetuosity in front of O'Neill's forces. This seemed to be no startling sight to O'Neill's soldiers, for they were accoutring themselves as fast as possible until they had marched up to them. When they had come in close view, fierce and threatening were the grim looks they exchanged with each other from their piercing eyeballs, and, having raised aloud their united war-cry, which was sufficient to put to flight unwarlike and faint hearted soldiery, in the terrific onset. They then began to strike heavily, powerfully destroy, fell, and slay one another for a considerable time, until men were laid prostrate, warriors were cut down, youths covered with wounds, and strong heroes hacked in the slaughter. However, the Tironians were in the end defeated by superior feats of arms, so that they were compelled to fly from the field of battle and to retreat by the same way they had come. But it was found impossible for them to return at that time, for the tide had swollen over the passage, rendering it now incapable of being waded over. But the precipitancy of the rout, and the fierce determination of the pursuers to take revenge for their insults, enmity, and injuries, left them no alternative but to face it. So wildly did they rush to the flowing tide that no one took heed for the safety of his kinsman, or nearest relation, although it was in reality no refuge from peril or danger for them to rush into the dark deep ocean bay before them. That experiment was not a heating after cold, nor safely after peril, for a vast number of them were drowned in the deep flowing tide, although everyone fled to it as a protection from the pursuing enemy. Vast numbers of O'Neill's troops perished there slain or drowned, of whom the most eminent were Bryan, son of Henry, son of John O'Neill, and his brother; Mac Donnell the Gallowglass, O'Neill's constable, and a great many of the Mac Donnells along with him; Doalty O'Donnell O'Neill's foster-brother, the man he esteemed and valued above all else in the



world, together with many of his kindred and a huge number of the O'Quinn and O'Hagan clans. In short, 1,300 of O'Neills forces were slain in that battle or drowned in attempted flight; and it is stated other books that upwards of 3,000 perished on that day.

As to O'Neill, he escaped from that battle, but he would have preferred that he had not, for his mind and faculties were ever affected by it. He escaped secretly, unnoticed by anyone, along the north side of the river, until he crossed at Ath Tairise, near Scariff Hollais, by the guidance of a party of the O'Gallaghers who were of O'Donnell's own clans and people and he did not stop but proceeded through unfrequented paths and uninhabited places until he arrived in Tirown. Few houses of residence from Carlingford to the rivers Finn and Foyle were without copious weeping and general lamentation. Immense and incalculable was the booty, consisting of horses, arms, and military equipment, that fell into the hands of the Tirconallians on that day, which was the 8th of May. This memorable contest is known as the battle of the Swilly." Wright in his History of Ireland and other English writers suggest that the O'Gallaghers who piloted Shane O'Neill safe through enraged Tirconaill were ignorant of his identity, but the O'Gallaghers never manifested so gross stupidity as this hypothesis would imply, and the Castlefinn O'Gallaghers, moreover, were bitterly hostile to Sir Hugh, owing to their friendship and family alliances with the house of Calvach.

## CHAPTER 14 — TRIAL OF FRANCIS BRADLEY

The Derryveagh Evictions, executed with more than the customary accompaniments of homeless misery and heartless vengeance wreaked on innocent victims, in the April of 1861, had attracted the attention and sympathy of the outside world to that forlorn district, and most of the adult evicted had been at once conveyed in an emigrant ship to Australia. John George Adair's alleged motive for effecting this wholesale clearance was the murder of his manager, James Murray a Scotchman, in November, 1860. All the neighbouring landlords and magistrates, the Protestant Rector Rev. Mr. Maturin, and the general public, very emphatically and persistently maintained that the hand imbrued with Murray's murder was the hand of a stranger and probably a fellow-Scotchman. Rankin, an assistant herdsman, no doubt, swore at the inquest that it was perpetrated by the Derryveagh people, but he had been shortly before lodged himself in Lifford jail for the attempted murder of James Gallagher and Constable Morgan. No individual was suspected; no arrests were made; and the excitement was succeeded by melancholy desolation in the neighbourhood. Two years had passed away, and just about the anniversary of the evictions, another murder convulsed the district ! Adam Grierson, bailiff and caretaker to Adair, was passing a disused limekiln/on the evicted farm of Frank Bradley, senior, in Maherashangan at dusk on the evening of the 10th of April, 1863, - when three bullets were lodged in his abdomen, and he succumbed to his deadly wounds three days after. In the meantime, John Sheridan Mac Leod R.M. was summoned to his bedside and took his dying depositions. He swore that Francis Bradley, junior, was the man who fired the three shots, and that he clearly recognised him despite the distance and the gathering darkness. The dying man was then confronted with the accused, and he still persisted in saying that young Bradley was the man who fired at him. Bradley was asked by the magistrate if he had any questions to put to his accuser, and he answered " no." At the inquest, confirmatory evidence was adduced in overflowing abundance by Mrs. Grierson, Janet Grierson, daughter of about 12 years, and Willie, a son of 9 or 10 years of age. The widow rehearsed her husband's repeated accusations



against Francis Bradley; Janet had seen the accused in his uncle's house early on the day the shots were fired; and, standing on a knove, she observed him running away after she had heard the report of the rifle; and Willie swore he saw a figure like a grey dog emerge from the lime kiln and spring rapidly up the hillside. The next and most exciting scene in the drama was enacted in Letterkenny Courthouse, when young Bradley was arraigned before a hostile bench of magistrates on the charge of wilful murder. He was now surrounded by a host of friends with the Rev. John Mac Groarty at their head and Mr. Edward Murray, solicitor, by his side. Father Mac Groarty had befriended the Adair tenants some years before, when the bogus sheep stealing charges were preferred against them, and, though he had just been transferred from Doe to Glenswilly about this time, he was still as near and as dear to them as ever. Their own kindly pastor was quite as sympathetic, but his sympathy was not so practical or vigorous. The witnesses for the crown were glib and cocksure, but, on cross-examination, their evidence was a good deal shaken; Mrs. Grierson admitted that young Francis Bradley had been always friendly, and had sometimes brought home her late husband when incapable from drink. She did not know if he would move so openly and carelessly about the place in the early part of the day if he intended to commit murder in the evening. Janet proved altogether too positive, and involved herself in inconsistencies; and little Willie's grey dog vanished into thin air, when subjected to close scrutiny.

The defence was mostly reserved for the Assize trial; but the wave of despair had passed, and Bradley's friends began to cherish some hope of saving his innocent life. Several people declared their willingness to testify on oath that young Bradley could not possibly have been on the scene of the murder at the time it was committed; but young William Maturin, the Rector's son, staggered for the first time the pre-conceived judgment of jury and audience by his clear and unshakable testimony in Lifford. His position in respect to the prisoner was very different from that of the others; he was a complete outsider; he had no conversation with the parties on either side; the time and place he fixed could not be disputed; and his evidence was utterly inconsistent with the depositions of the deceased and the sworn statements of his family. At this first trial, and, indeed, throughout the whole anxious ordeal of three Assizes, Mr. Murray was ably assisted by Mr. Robert Wilson, solicitor, Strabane, with Mr. Carson, Q.C., afterwards Co. Court Judge for Donegal, and Mr. Jame Hamilton, afterwards Recorder of Cork, as counsel. This latter eminent and amiable gentleman gained for himself an enviable fame and immense popularity by his energetic and skilful conduct of the case. The Crown was represented by the Attorney-General,



*Harvesting Corn*  
*Churchill Station in background; the Graham family with hired man (second from right). Early 1900's*



the Solicitor-General, Messrs. Major, Henderson, and Johnston, Q.C.'s and Mr. A. S. Meehan, junior barrister; but it was the Solicitor-General Sullivan, afterwards Master of the Rolls, who mainly conducted the case. The jury was carefully picked and packed, all Catholics and Tenant Right sympathisers being excluded. The Gartan venerable Rector and other Protestant gentlemen, at very considerable inconvenience, attended to testify to the good character borne by the prisoner. Still, the most sanguine of the latter's friends did not expect anything better than a split jury, and even that result was very joyously received, and rapidly communicated to expectant sympathisers at home and abroad.

In preparation for the next Spring Assizes it was essential for securing a conviction that young William Maturin's testimony, as it could not be impugned, should be at least brought into apparent reconciliation with Grierson's depositions. The dying man averred that it was getting dark on the evening of the 10th of April, 1863, when Francis Bradley discharged at him the shots he believed would be fatal. Now, it was ascertained that the sun went down that evening somewhat before 6.30; and young Maturin saw Bradley moving about leisurely at 7 o'clock, as Stewart's workmen's bell was ringing, near his father's rectory close on three miles from the scene of the murder. An athletic policeman succeeded in covering the distance in 30 minutes by running at top speed, and in 45 minutes by rapid walking. Several others saw and spoke to Bradley near the same place before Stewart's bell rang, and in fact Bradley had been around there all the evening. Hence, stronger swearing and more definite particulars were needed; and John George Adair, discovered a not very respectable woman, named Connolly, who was ready both for strong swearing and for digesting all particulars she could gather. Her own statement on oath was, that she saw Francis Bradley near the lime-kiln before the shots were fired, and saw him afterwards flying off at great speed. But why did she maintain silence and aloofness at the inquest and at the preliminary trial? Because, her first inspiration came from J. G. Adair several months after the occurrence, when that soft-hearted philanthropist overtook the tramp casually on his way to Letterkenny; took her up into his trap, and pumped into her the falsehoods she was to discharge in the witness-box. But, when Bradley's second trial came on, there was a miscarriage, not of so-called justice, but of twins at the Lifford Infirmary. Thus, when the case was called, the Solicitor-General applied for an adjournment on the ground that Mrs Connolly could not safely quit her precious twins, "one," said he, "a bright eyed boy, and the other a darling girl." Connolly's twins clogged the machinery of the court, and poor Bradley was recommitted to the dungeon. On this occasion Mac Donagh was specially retained; he applied to Judge Hayes

Mr. J. S. Johnson, Secy.

Wholesale and Family Grocer,

## Provision, Seed, Timber, Iron and Coal Merchant.

190A

Interest Charged on Accounts Overdue.

Feb. 1871

March 13<sup>th</sup> 15 bu of coal @ 22/- £ 16-6

17<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 6 cwt coal. 1/2 14 8

July 22 <sup>nd</sup> to balance on flour	3	0
---	---	---

8	27th	12 car fellows	60
---	------	----------------	----

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 1 ton coal . 11 0

27th 2 1/2 do 11 0

Sept 6th 27 tons " 240

7<sup>th</sup> 2 " "  $\frac{2}{2} \frac{4}{4} \frac{6}{6}$

£ 11. 10 2

15 cwt. of coal at 22/-

**12 cartfellows**

**$1/2$  ton coal**



With 42 subscribers.

*(Now Grier Electric)*



that the prisoner should be admitted to bail, and the jail authorities testified that Bradley's conduct had been so exceptionally good, that they had made him warder over other prisoners for six months past. The Crown resisted the appeal for admission to bail; and four further months of suspense and confinement appeared only to enhance the cheerfulness and freshness of the innocent prisoner, when he stepped lightly into the dock at the July Assizes. It is unnecessary to dwell on the evidence produced, as it was in the main a repetition of that given at the first trial. with the addition of Mrs. Connolly's elaborate and detailed account of Bradley's movements on the day Grierson received his death wounds. On cross-examination, her credit was badly damaged, and she was forced to make some very compromising admissions. It was generally remarked that the local non-Catholics sympathised in a very earnest and practical way with poor Bradley, but that the prominent identification of Catholic clergymen, notably Father Mac Groarty, with his defence, made an unfavourable impression on the jury. Hence, Mr. Hamilton very prudently and tactfully conveyed a hint to them not to make themselves too conspicuous. Besides the respected pastor, the Rev. Daniel Kerr, and Father Mar Groarty, no other priest remained all the time in court except the late Canon Mac Fadden of Cloghaneely. The sectarian spirit aroused by the Ecclesiastical Titles Act still influenced the minds and judgment of unenlightened and unreasoning bigots. With ample funds in hand, a good bar

Sam Roulstone's predecessor

**SAMUEL HENNEEY**



Wholesale & Family Grocer,

**HARDWARE, TIMBER  
Iron and Coal Merchant.**

*HIGHEST PRICE GIVEN FOR HIDES.*

**Opposite OLDTOWN Station**

**LETTERKENNY.**

**1918**

was secured and every effort strained to secure Bradley's acquittal, but the result again was a disagreement of the jury. It must be said, however, that the judge's charge was marked by fairness and a studied moderation of language, almost unexampled in those days of fierce denunciation of agrarian crime, real or imaginary, from the judicial bench.

The third and last trial of Bradley, in March, 1865, attracted the attention of the entire reading public in the United Kingdom, and was awaited and watched by Donegal people of all creeds and classes with strained suspense and nerve-moving interest. More than two years had now elapsed since the accused had been consigned to a murderer's cell, and still his upright bearing and bright countenance proclaimed him innocent. His dignified mien and unperturbed looks made the spectators stare in wonder that such a pleasing young man should be suspected of any crime. Next to the prisoner, the most engaging and attractive figure in court was Richard Dowse, Q.C., his leading counsel, afterwards M.P. for Derry, and later on Baron of the Exchequer Court. His examination of witnesses was superb, and his address to the jury most impressive and convincing. Evidently, the majority of this immovable body were in favour of finding the prisoner "not guilty," but the judge forbade the foreman to declare the numbers for and against.

Poor Bradley spent that night in his old dungeon, but next day he was re-conducted to the dock to be discharged by the judge as a free man. His arrival in Letterkenny was awaited by thousands; old people grasped his hand and burst into tears of joy; young people cheered until they were hoarse; and Father Mac Groarty and Edward Murray received an ovation as enthusiastic as could be accorded to two great generals who had organised and won a glorious national victory on the battle-field.



## CHAPTER 15 — TENANT RIGHT

The Tenant Right Movement was inaugurated under the the most promising auspices at a splendid and most representative meeting held in Dublin on the 6th of August, 1850, presided over by Dr. James Mac Knight, Editor of the *Banner of Ulster*. At that period, such gatherings were extremely rare, and this one was unique in its composition and epoch-making in its results. Evictions following the famine of '47 had desolated the land, crowded the workhouses, and sent the flower of the peasant manhood into foreign climes. Isolated resistance in one parish or county could effect nothing, and the Press was the only means of securing united action throughout the four provinces of Ireland. Sir John Gray of the *Freeman*, Dr. Mac Knight of the *Ulster Banner*, J. F. Maguire of the *Cork Examiner*, James Godkin of the *Derry Standard*, and Frederick Lucas of the *Tablet*, were journalists of dominating ability and unflinching determination, and all these formidable leaders of public opinion entered, with whole-hearted zeal, into the war against unjust evictions and capricious rent raising. For the first time, since the days of the Volunteers more than half a century before, Catholic priests and Presbyterian ministers fraternised in council and on platform; north and south were solidly united in a stern struggle against their common foe.

The raising of troops in Ireland to join the Papal army in 1860, and the Fenian movement some years later, were formidable obstacles to a cordial union of Catholics and Presbyterians in Ulster. But agrarian meetings were held from time to time; the farmers were being gradually convinced that religion had nothing to do with the movement, and that the most glaring landlord atrocities had been perpetrated on Catholic tenants. Therefore, if redress were to be sought in Parliament, the appeal to that assembly must be strengthened by the story of these helpless victims, and, for that end, union is essential. Besides, the *Banner of Ulster* and the *Derry Standard* did constant and meritorious work in their efforts to exorcise the spirit of sectarianism in politics.

The Rev. John Kinnear, Presbyterian Minister in Letterkenny, had spent a long period of his early life in the United States, and it was from an American University he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity about 1875,

from which date he became familiarly known as Dr. Kinnear. At all times extremely popular, he was welcomed with enthusiastic acclaim whenever he appeared on a public platform; for, though he was by no means revolutionary, he was a born demagogue, and his refined oratory was attuned to the ear of the multitude. He was an ardent Tenant Righter; Edward Gallagher was an ideal organiser, but an indifferent speaker, commanding immense influence with all creeds and classes; and Ned Mac Fadden\* was a splendid mob orator, endowed with a clever brain, a deep fund of humour, a love of excitement, and a practical sympathy with the peasant farmer. Later on, this able triumvirate was enormously strengthened by the adhesion of Robert Ramsay J.P., Lisnenain, and his son, Robert Ramsay, Solicitor, to the popular cause. Father Mac Groarty was a more advanced politician than any of the gentlemen mentioned, but he was a genuine and fearless champion of their moderate claims, and a trusty ally in their campaign. The historic meeting they combined to organise in 1870 merits a special chapter.

\*Footnote: brother of the famous Manus (+ 1910).



*Grave of Joseph Gallagher (1803 - 1884)*

*Tailor and Merchant. He had a pub below street level, now 'Downtown'.*



## CHAPTER 16 — LETTERKENNY TENANT RIGHT MEETING

The following interesting account is condensed from the Derry Journal report: - Feb. 5, 1870. To-day one of the greatest Tenant Right meetings ever held in Donegal, perhaps in the province of Ulster, took place in Letterkenny. It was an eminent success, whether as respects the attendance, the tone and spirit of the speaking, or the good sense of the resolutions adopted. A large platform had been erected in the Square, about 14 feet in height, but, in consequence of pressure, a serious accident might have occurred. When the first speaker began his remarks, the structure gave way and fell with a tremendous crash. Several persons were injured, but none very severely. Another platform promptly improvised on Southwell Terrace attracted the tremendous multitude of over 10,000 people there assembled. John Robert Boyd, resident landlord, presented himself rather obtrusively, riding up and down the town on a grey charger, and was hooted and groaned on two occasions. With this admitted discourtesy, neither the inclemency of weather conditions, the collapse of the platform, nor any threatened landlord visitation, personally or through bailiffs, bumb bailiffs, or hangers-on, could for a moment restrain this latest outburst of feeling on the Irish land crisis. The thorough union of clergy, Catholic, Episcopalian and Presbyterian, with one object, the pacification and regeneration of Ireland by legitimate and constitutional means, was a remarkable contribution to the meeting. It was a glad sight in old Donegal to witness this cordial union, this unmistakable and unquestionable manifestation of friendly and brotherly feeling between creed and creed, class and class, to seek justice for their native land. Not only will long delayed justice be established between landlord and tenant, but every other remnant of serfdom must be cast to the winds.

On or near the platform were observed - Rev. B. Kelly, Adm.; Rev. John Sweeny, Rev. Michael Boyle, Rev. Peter Mac Devitt, Rev. P. Daly, Rev. B. Walker, Rev. G. O'Flaherty, Rev. John O'Boyle, Rev. D. Kerr, Rev. J. D. Mac Garvey, Rev. John Kelly, Rev. Oliver Leitch, Rev. Robert White, Rev. Dr. Kinnear, Rev. John Mac Groarty, Rev. James Mac Fadden, Rev. Hugh Devine, Dr. Eames, John Storey, Joseph Gallagher, Patrick Brady, solr, Neil Mac Loone

(Killybegs), Dan Mac Devitt (Glenties), Wm. Witherow, John Mac Kelvey, Robert Wilson, Henry Hunter, George Hunter: Manus Mac Fadden, Tom Mac Fadden, Ned Mac Fadden, George White, Robert Henderson, Dan Mac Veigh, James Diver, Maurice Coyle, William Tease, etc. Lord Francis Conyngham, who had been asked to preside, had not received the invitation in time, and thus apologises:—" Please convey to the meeting my extreme regrets. Ten years ago, when it was not so fashionable, I was one of the few who voted for Tenant Right in the House of Commons. Unavoidable engagements prevent me from doing myself the honour of attending your meeting." On the motion of the Rev. B. Kelly, Dr. Kinnear took the chair amid vociferous cheering:-' Fellow countrymen - Eighteen years ago, we sowed the seed amid the jeering hostility of foes, and with small and chilling audiences; today, we are assembled in our thousands to rejoice in the bright prospects of a good harvest. We meet brimful of hope on the eve of the day when we shall reap that great national harvest of tenant security. To a friend of rather a timid spirit, who accosted me this morning and begged me not to make myself so prominent in this great movement, I said as a Christian minister and as a loyal man, that I must stand by the oppressed, for

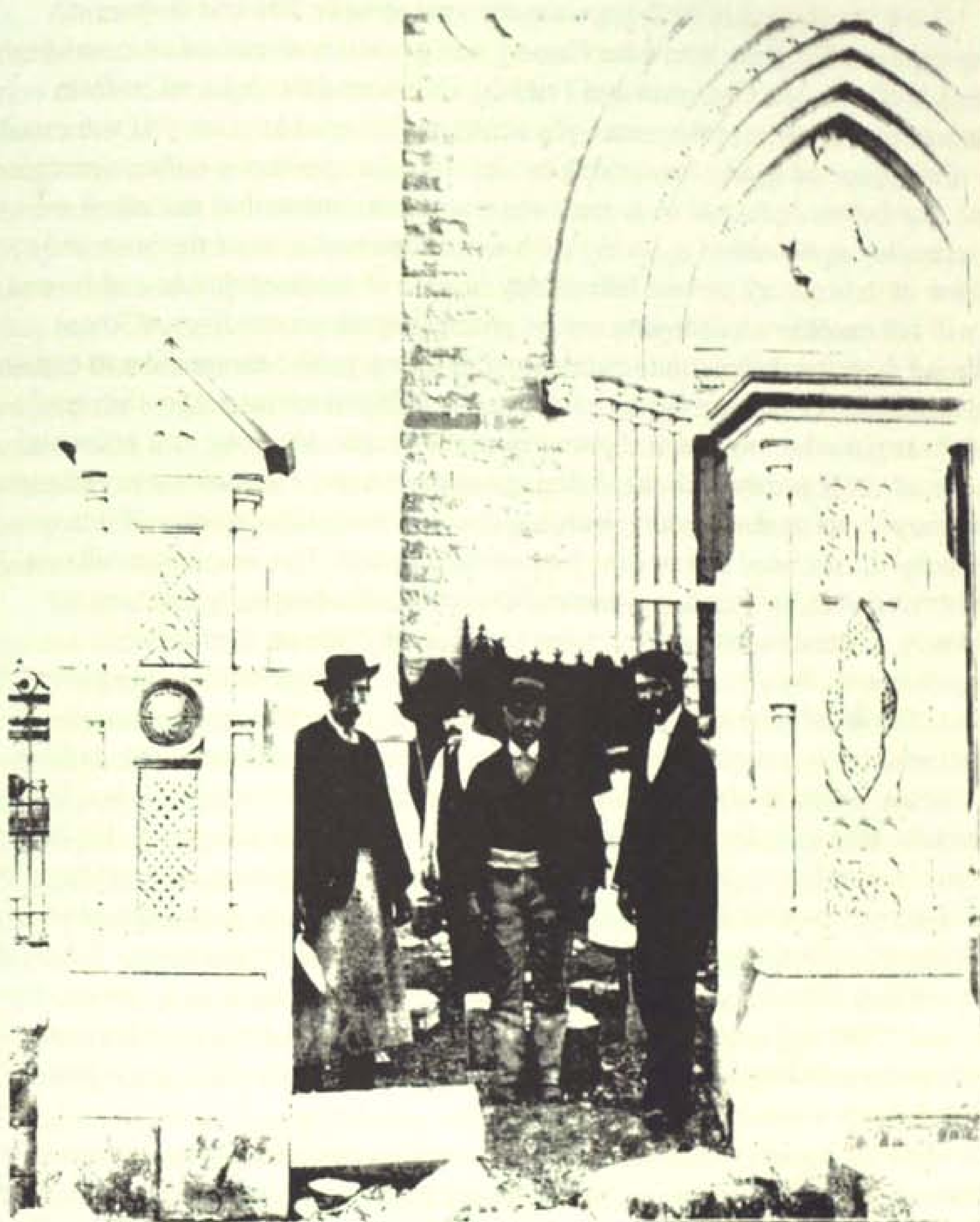
" You see the hand that I can't see,  
That beckons me away;  
I see the hand that you can't see,  
That beckons me to stay.

" And here I am the same uncompromising advocate of tenant justice as ever. There is now at the helm of affairs in this great empire a man who has the mind of a statesman to grasp this whole question, and the moral manliness to grapple with it in all its gigantic proportions, and in all its minutest details - William Ewart Gladstone In him the Irish tenantry repose their hopes and they shall not be disappointed, for here all shades of political thought and all religious denominations are united in demanding redress. We tell the Government that we have borne the badge of tenant slaves, and endured the wrongs of landlord oppression too long. We want capricious evictions to cease, capricious and arbitrary rent-raising to stop; and we want free and unfettered liberty to exercise the franchise. We seek to do no injury to any landlord; we are not spoliators or communists; but irresponsible power is a dangerous weapon in the hands of any mortal man, and we want to have that weapon removed. Fellow countrymen, the tide is surging gloriously in our favour; and soon we shall see the Irish toiling farmers from the Giant's Causeway to the Cove of Cork prosperous and happy, because redeemed, regenerated, and disenthralled by the irresistible genius of



tenant emancipation."

Rev. James Mac Fadden, P.P., Cloghaneely, said: "For the last twenty years I have been identified with the struggling tenantry of Gweedore, Cloghaneely, and Glenveagh I have had the misfortune, perhaps as a missionary priest I should say the good fortune, of having my fate cast among them during that eventful time. Among other crying injustices I have seen the improvements that were effected by their own hands and sweat, ruthlessly confiscated, and even adjudicated by an Assistant Barrister to be an asset of the landlords, Are you prepared to be no longer dead to your own vital interests but to co-operate with united strength against felonious landlordism ? As for evictions, what was the number, think you, of the homeless young men and women I myself conducted to the landing-stages at the Birkenhead and Plymouth docks ? Oh ! 1,300 - 1,300 of the flower of the country ! At Limavady, a strange gentleman came up to me and asked me in a tone of sadness and astonishment - ' where are these fine boys and girls going ? Surely, they are not to be exported from Ireland.' 'Alas,' said I, they have been driven from their happy homes by an alien and heartless landlord. First, he grabbed their mountain pasture, their only means of raising stock, without a penny of compensation; then he raised the rents to an impossible figure; and, to crown his iniquities, he got a sympathetic government to impose on those helpless peasants a sheep-tax of £3,000. (Tremendous groans). Let the landlord have the power of eviction for non-payment of an equitable rent; but let the tenant have the power of counter-claiming for his improvements and of redeeming his holding.' ' What ! ' said my interviewer, are you men or are you slaves, leaving your homes without raising a blaze that would be seen all over Ireland.' ' Understand, my friend,' said I, ' that we have fought at home and in the House of Commons, but the laws are iniquitous. These athletic boys and sprightly girls will return one day to happier homes to live under more humane laws.' I was proud to see my young friends cheered and brightened by this meagre hope; but the next picture I have to exhibit shows no silver lining in the heavy cloud of landlord-wrought misery. I stood on the quay of Dublin with another colony of fresh young men and women: it was a chilly night in the January of '62; but oh ! the Derryveigh emigrants left no homesteads behind them that they could hope to return to; their homesteads, hallowed by many a sacred tie, had been levelled by crowbars, and they themselves driven into eternal void by the cruelty of their landlord and the savagery of his bailiffs. And do not imagine that evictions like these are rare; no, what was the fate of these hapless victims yesterday, may be yours to-morrow. Twenty years ago, Arranmore belonged to the Marquis; the inhabitants were thrifty and happy; their aggregate



*At the Building of the Cathedral  
(Does anyone know the names of these men?)*



rent was £300; he sold it; and the incoming landlord Charlie evicted half the tenants, appropriating their holdings, and raised the rent of the remaining half to £900."

Neil Mac Loone of Killybegs was the next speaker, but said nothing of importance. The Rev. John Mac Groarty was greeted with enthusiastic and prolonged cheers. Mr. Chairman and Friends: The ground has been taken from under my feet twice to-day; once physically in that terrible crash you witnessed a while ago; and again, figuratively by the eloquent speakers who have preceded me. But before I proceed to propose the resolution entrusted to me, allow me to express my gratification at seeing such a vast representation of the bone and sinew of the country present here to-day in spite of landlord threats and frowns. I will not trespass on your patience by prolonging the proceedings. (Go on). Having a personal objection to speak, owing to my public antagonism to certain landlords, I was excused by the committee, but fifteen minutes ago, this resolution was placed in my hands. Sprung from the people, knowing as a priest and sympathising heartily with the sufferings of the people, I consider it my imperative duty to act as their mouthpiece, and I would not be true to myself in any capacity if I declined to enter the lists on their behalf. This resolution calls on the government to interpose a barrier between landlord rapacity and tenant industry, to prevent the landlord from asserting any lien on the farmers' improvements, by a statutory enactment. We proclaim fearlessly to the government, that in view of America, their greatest enemies in this country are the landlords, for it is they who are driving such enormous multitudes into exile in the States, where they will watch for England's difficulties to join the hostile standard. How can any government claim your loyalty and allegiance if it fails to give you effective protection? Every law, civil or ecclesiastical, must have for its object the good of the subjects in general, and not of any individual or of any privileged class. Are our land laws framed for the benefit of the people? And, if not, are they to be obeyed, and are those who contravene them to be treated as disloyal? The day is at hand when we can till our land and reap our harvest, without the prowling bailiff prying into our profits to inform his master how much heavier a burden of rent we can bear."

The Rev. Robert White, Milford, was warmly applauded: "Since this campaign was entered upon, many an old Tenant Righter has gone to sleep the sleep that knows no waking. But our army is growing by the accession of thousands of recruits each day that passes, and victory is already in sight. I have always maintained that when England needed help on the battlefield, the Irishmen were in the forefront and were at least as brave as the Sawneys or the John Bulls.

Would it be good policy for the Government to persist in antagonising a valorous and spirited nationhood ? Let them remember that the trampled worm will at length turn." Ned Mac Fadden seconded the resolutions.

Attorney Brady of Ballyshannon, complained of the immovable apathy of the farmers in his native district, which he attributed to the traditional fraternisation of the Connollys with their tenants. The English settlers were fortified with leases for 21 years or upwards; and on the expiration of that period, these leases were convertible into leases without limit of years, not, mark you, at the landlord's discretion, but under statutory compulsion, if no default were proved. Why were tenants not placed on the same firm footing, in view especially of their work and improvements? Because the landlords were the legislators, and they said, ' Put not your unholy hands on my property." Colonel Connolly denied that his tenants wanted anything more than they already enjoyed; his son echoed the sentiment; the existing state of things they regarded as eternally unalterable. But soon after this oracular pronouncement was made, a part of the Connolly estate was sold, and " notices to quit " came showering over the tenantry, thick as wintry flakes of snow. Legislation is imperative in the interests of humanity and peace.

In the closing months of this year, Gladstone introduced a Land Bill, which passed into law; but this Bill disposed of only the first of the three F's, Free Sale, by making the Ulster Custom universally applicable. Fair Rent and Fixity of Tenure required another famine and the assination of several landlords to secure their enactment in 1881. But in addition to the achievement of their direct purpose, these Tenant Right meetings broke down the partition-wall that had separated the creeds and paved the way for the political extinction of the Marquis of Hamilton and many more objectionable props of the landlord autocracy. Nowhere in Ireland did Toryism and Landlordism receive such a staggering blow as it did in Donegal, when Dr. Kinnear was triumphantly returned as M.P. for the county in 1880; and the victory was entirely due to the exertions of Edward Gallagher, Ned Mac Fadden, and the two Ramsays. Outside the Letterkenny district, the county appeared to be asleep during that campaign, but Letterkenny, to its eternal honour, carried the Tenant Right banner to victory. Dr. Kinnear was an ardent admirer and a devoted follower of Gladstone, but to the Home Rule Bill, adumbrated in 1884, he would promise no support beyond a passive neutrality. Hence he unreluctantly stepped aside, but never forfeited the esteem and veneration of all who knew him, nor the friendship and affection of the people of all creeds and all classes in Letterkenny.



LETTER FROM A WOMAN IN DEBT TO  
A SHOP NEAR CHURCHILL 1909

10<sup>th</sup> March 1909

Mr McAuley do not put on the

Cost of a writ if you must put  
on Cost put on a decree and before  
it would be in Execution we would  
be able to redeem it but if you put  
on the 10 pounds cost for a writ  
we never could redeem it when we  
go with the eight <sup>Children</sup> ~~Children~~ if I was

turned out I will write to Ramsy  
today to see if he could do anything  
we would give you all the Manured  
ground we have if you would  
take it it is that field down at the  
Road it would be Easy Laboured and  
there would be no Destruction on it

Matilda Person

wife of John

## TEXT OF LETTER

Mr Mcauley do not put on the cost of a writ if you must put on cost put on a decree and before it would be in execution we would be able to redeem it but if you put on the 10 pounds cost for a write we never could redem it where would i go with eight helpless children if i was turned out i will write to Ramsay today to see if he could do anything we would give you all the manured ground we have if you would take it it is that field down at the road it would be easy laboured and the would be no destruction on it.

Matilda Sproule  
wife of John.

---



## CHAPTER 17 — THE LAND LEAGUE

The Land Act of 1870 laid the foundation stone of the legislative fabric of reform in the agrarian laws of Ireland; but, as we have already pointed out, the rents could still be arbitrarily raised and evictions were as numerous and as heart-rending after as before the passing of the 1870 Act. Davitt inaugurated the Land League at Irishtown in April, 1879, and in the October of that year a national committee was formed in Dublin, with Parnell as President, to open a vigorous campaign throughout Ireland in favour of just legislation for the farmers of all classes. The bishops and clergy apprehended outbursts of popular passion and reckless acts of revenge, in districts where the landlords had been wantonly provocative and tyrannical; and counselled moderation and patience. During the winter and spring months of 1879-80, the Donegal Relief Committee, and more especially the efficient and indefatigable chairman, the Most Rev. Dr. Logue, were engrossed in the charitable work of adjudicating on applications for assistance in money and in seed for the small farmers, who were impoverished by the failure of their crops. There was no leisure for agitation; but the people were being educated and aroused; and Land League organisers had been visiting Innishowen, and paying flying visits to other parts of the county. Soon as his Lordship had freed himself from the trammels of this gigantic work, he visited Rome, and on his return was accorded an ovation that, for enthusiasm and numbers, had no parallel in the history of the diocese. It was on this occasion, he first touched on politics in any public address; he defined what was meant by the Home Rule movement and declared himself a convinced adherent. The clergy no longer hesitated; and, on New Year's Day, 1881, the most representative Land League meeting yet held in Ulster, not only filled the Market Square with inconvenient compactness but extended far into all the adjoining streets, lanes and recesses. Michael Davitt arrived late, owing to the heavy snow and intense frost, but the patriotic and eloquent Father Collins kept the vast assembly spellbound for more than an hour; while other less familiar figures created a great deal of interest and speculation. The proceedings, moreover, were occasionally enlivened by flashes of humour and by ludicrous attempts at rhetorical display, for the reader must remember that up to this time platform oratory was an unknown art to all save the clergy and professional

politicians.

If the Land League campaign had achieved less success than it undoubtedly did, it cannot be denied that it inspired the people with a feeling of manly independence, and taught them to hold up their heads and speak out their honest convictions whether in the rent office or in open assembly. One very determined-looking Presbyterian prefaced his very brief oration by the quite superfluous apology, "I beg to tell you all here that I am no classical scholar."

Viewing him even cursorily, his worst enemy would not accuse him of such a crime, though he looked very much like a criminal anxious to escape from the dock. Michael Davitt's speech, though it sounded rebellious to the untrained ears of the multitude, was delivered without emotion on his part and with deadly incisiveness; and was constantly and loudly applauded. "Without the Land League," said Gladstone long years after, "the Act of 1881 would not now be on the Statute Book," and decidedly the Letterkenny meeting was one of the most brilliant triumphs of the whole weary land war.

Foster, the Chief Secretary, travelled through Donegal to see for himself the ravages of the famine; to ascertain the causes of agrarian trouble, and to devise adequate and immediate remedies. Now it may be safely asserted that he was both a benevolent and a far-seeing friend of Ireland, though a coercionist for a brief time; and there is no room for doubt that the Arrears Act was the result of *his personal investigations along the western coast, and signally of his prolonged interview with the thoroughly practical Bishop of Raphoe, Dr. Logue.* That important Statute enabled all tenants to rid themselves of the millstone that for generations hung on their necks, and, on payment of one year's rent, to start anew with a clean slate.

Parnell displayed no enthusiasm in support of the Land Bill of 1881, partly because it was linked with a drastic Coercion Bill, and partly because he regarded its provisions as halting and inadequate. A few months after, he was arrested and confined in Kilmainham, where he was soon joined by Dillon, O'Kelly, etc. They collaborated in framing a No-Rent Manifesto, calling upon the Irish tenants everywhere to form a solid combination against the payment of any rent, while tyranny and coercion reigned. In this critical and perplexing crisis the great Archbishop of Cashel, Dr. Croke, lost no time in publishing a powerful counter-manifesto, condemning the policy, as well as pointing out the alarming danger of such a programme; and, strange as it may appear, this manly act, which threatened to cover him with public odium, strengthened immensely his well-earned popularity and enhanced Parnell's profound admiration for his trusty friend, even though they took divergent paths at that critical moment.

Dr. Croke, Dr. Logue, and Dr. Duggan attended during the whole weary trials of the suspects, and tendered the most important evidence and invaluable assistance. Next came the Parnell Testimonial, to which the Archbishop of



Cashel, the Bishop of Meath, and the Bishop of Clonfert promptly subscribed; the Bishop of Raphoe adopted the "wait and see" motto. His position for the moment was puzzling and unenviable; for, on the one hand, Dwyer Gray had been Lord Mayor when the Mansion House Committee had placed thousands and thousands of pounds in the Bishop's hands for the relief of his flock, and Dwyer Gray was the leading organiser of the Testimonial.

Again Charles Dawson, now Lord Mayor, was deeply interested in the Testimonial, and was about to visit Donegal for the purpose of planting trees on some irreclaimable slopes. Lastly, the Bishop had already warmly identified himself with the cause of the "Suspects," and was well known to be a friend to the tenants. On the other hand, he declined to be bound to an organisation in whose name and under whose banner "boycotting" and other extreme measures had been resorted to; and he specifically condemned the Ladies' Land League, except in so far as their operations were directed to the alleviation of the sufferings of "suspects" and other political prisoners. And, though his priests were absolutely free, only two of them subscribed in the beginning, Monsignor Mac Menamin and the President of the Seminary. Father Collins, of course, like some others, was very enthusiastic in the cause, but his contribution was not publicly acknowledged until the Papal prohibition had already appeared. In fairness to the memory of those who are gone, it must be recorded that the Rev. William Drummond, Adm., kept Letterkenny well to the front in the land war, and that Father Doherty of Donegal, and Father Mac Fadden of Gweedore were distinguished generals in the early campaigns. The old Tenant Righters mostly retired from the conflict, but two grand old warriors graced the Land League platform till the end: Mr. Fleming of Inch, and Ned Mac Fadden of Letterkenny.



*Temporary Chapel while Cathedral was being built.*

## CHAPTER 18 — 1870: THEN AND NOW

Few, if any, towns of its size in Ireland, have undergone so sweeping changes in their administration of public affairs, the relative social status of families, and leading business firms, as have marked the steady progress of Letterkenny, if not towards prosperity and affluence, at all events on the path of democracy and of the distribution of wealth. For the purpose of our survey and in order to point the contrast, we shall compare the condition of things in 1870, almost half a century ago, with that which obtains at the present day. The Town Commissioners at that date, and for many years before, were: - John Robert Boyd, Chairman; William Elliott, Robert Henderson, Joseph Gallagher, Edward Murray, William Hegarty, Robert Mac Mullan, John Gallagher, and Henley Thorpe, M.D., with John Storey as Clerk.

The Chairman, who was succeeded in this position as well as in the possession of the Ballymacool estate by Mr. Porter, his nephew, better known by his later name of Boyd, passed over to the majority in the end of the eighties; most of his colleagues had predeceased him; and none of them lived to witness the extinction of the old regime in 1898. Robert Henderson and John Gallagher were the last to quit the municipal stage, and both of these venerable city fathers had at all times commanded the confidence and esteem of their fellow-townsmen. John Storey, (died 22. 3. 1916, aged 99) escaped unscathed, with a comfortable pension from the ascendancy wreck, and long after paced the streets like a Hebrew patriarch who had escaped from the illustration pages of the Old Testament. Joseph Gallagher was an exceedingly courteous and popular man, and wielded so powerful influence with all classes, that he was familiarly known as the " Mayor " of Letterkenny. He had conducted for a quarter of a century, at least, the most celebrated and apparently the most successful business concern in the county, (19 - 23 Lower Main Street) and his son Edward carried sufficient brains to direct all its various branches with skill and energy. But, within a



decade of years, the old gentleman, who had passed the allotted limit, was followed to the grave by his three sons: Henry, Willie, and Edward, all of whom succumbed to hereditary phthisis, and now the premier firm is only remembered to identify a large vacant house. There were two John Gallaghers, John of the Store, (7, Upper Main Street) and John of the Bakery, (15, Lower Main Street) both eminently prosperous in business and both eminently respected; and the families of both have inherited and maintained the high reputation as well as the worldly fortunes of their respective fathers. John of the Store was as rigidly upright in his capacity of Town Commissioner as he was known to be in his enormous mercantile transactions. Nor is it to be inferred from the enthusiastic delight with which the revolution of 1898 was hailed that the old body consisted entirely of inefficient and unprogressive members, for W. R. Boyd, Edward Gallagher, William MacKinney, and old Ned Mac Fadden, in the later stages of its existence, brought energy and up-to-date methods into its councils. Politics played an important part in the change of composition in that body; but religion by itself was no deciding factor. In fact, the Nationalists volunteered to give one-third the representation to the Unionist party, and their proposal would have been accepted but for a controversy raised in regard to the personnel, not the politics or religion of the suggested trio. Two or three Unionists usually present themselves at the polls and are invariably elected on their personal merits, so that the machinery of administration works smoothly, efficiently, and with singular satisfaction to all. Blocks of unsanitary dwellings have been cleared away and their former occupants transferred to commodious cottages, possessing the most modern equipments and very moderately rented; the gas works are the property of the Town Commissioners and are most economically and satisfactorily managed; and the water-supply is pure and copious. Recently telephonic communication with all public departments and important business firms throughout the kingdom, has been most successfully introduced both for the general public and for the private convenience of shopkeepers, bankers, etc. The "call office" has been placed under the capable management of James Peoples, (32, Lower Main Street) an official of courteous manners and great administrative energy. The Urban District Councillors are: Thomas Mac Fadden, J.P., Chairman; Henry Gallagher, Vice-Chairman; Robert Mac Clure, J.P., Philip Carroll, John Gallagher, James Gibbons, Patrick Doherty, senior; Patrick Doherty, junior, and John Ward. Town Clerk and Executive Sanitary Officer, John C. Larkin. Town Surveyor, Patrick Dawson.

The medical profession is strongly represented both in number and in ability, there being four resident practitioners, Drs. Patterson, Walker, Regan, and Mac Ginley; Dr. Patterson being medical officer to the Workhouse, and Dr. Mac Ginley having charge of the Dispensary and Fever Hospital. Lastly, when all the doctors have failed and death suddenly supervenes, recourse is had to the Coroner Edward Mac Fadden, Solicitor. Before 1870, there were two physicians in Letterkenny, Dr. Thorpe, a very eminent and well remembered man, and a Dr. Guinser, whose name savours of German rather than of Glenswilly extraction. For forty years the honoured name of Dr. Tedley Moore, (High Road, above McCarry's) figured at the head of the list of Chemists, but alas he too has gone to the Elysian Plains. An energetic and trusted supporter of every social reform, he was especially keen on the Temperance question. Like his colleague and partner in the pharmaceutical business, the late esteemed Dr. Dunlop, he hailed from the County Derry.

The nationality of a professional man is no insuperable obstacle to the conscientious and skilful discharge of his duties, but it is inconceivable that the *bearer of such a name should not have such a fluent command of the tongue of our country as would enable him to elicit the requisite information from Irish-speaking patients.* In the case of doctors and priests, it ought to be insisted upon as an essential condition precedent to their appointment in districts where Irish is spoken, that the candidate should have a conversational knowledge of the vernacular. This is no new idea; nor is it an original emanation of the Gaelic League spirit of revival; it was enunciated in solemn earnest more than 300 years ago by the illustrious Redmond O'Gallagher, martyr Bishop of Derry. In a letter addressed to the Holy Father from the camp of Red Hugh O'Donnell, and dated the 25th of June, 1600, he urges with great emphasis that "no ecclesiastic, who has not a ready knowledge of Irish can be adequately serviceable to the people, seeing that he cannot fulfil his duty of preaching in the native tongue." And, apart from the question of language altogether, timid country-folk will disclose their physical infirmities with greater freedom and proportionately better results to a doctor who can talk freely to them in their own language and is conversant with their manners and customs.

Doctors Carr and Dunlop gave very great satisfaction and were both very popular; but the greatest friend of the poor and, perhaps, the most practical heal-



er of the physical ailments on occasions as well in those bygone days, was Doctor Petit of the Asylum, a well-known figure in Letterkenny for more than a decade of years.

The Most Rev. Daniel Mac Gettigan, Bishop of the Diocese, while attending the Vatican Council in 1870, was created Primate, and was succeeded by the cultured and paternal Dr. Mac Devitt. The Rev. B. Kelly, Adm.; Rev. P. Daly, C.C., and Rev. J. Mac Groarty, Adm., Glenswilly, were the only priests officiating in the parish, as the old Seminary was still conducted by a very accomplished lay professor, E. Mac Fadden, LL.D.

The Rev. H. Kingsmill was the Episcopalian Rector, and the Rev. S. L. Cousins was his curate. Dr. Kinnear, the Rev. Oliver Leitch, and the Rev. Sampson Jack, Trenta, were the Presbyterian Ministers.

National Schools - No. 1., J. Sweeney, Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Boyle.- No. 2, Henry Miller Endowed Schools, Mr. Stevenson Dr. Mac Devitt, on the retirement of the late Mr. Sweeney, appointed Hugh O'Donnell of Kilcar, principal of the Male School, and in a few years this school took first rank in the county for attendance and proficiency. Mr. Quigg was then principal of the Presbyterian school, (Barkhall, Port Road) and a friendly but earnest rivalry existed for many years between these two distinguished teachers, each of them securing the Carlisle and Blake Premium several times. And on the completion of the Literary Institute Miss Reddy, a very accomplished and energetic lady, conducted the Female School, ably assisted by Mrs. Murphy. For the last twenty years the Presentation Brothers have controlled and conducted the Male Primary Schools with brilliant success and universal satisfaction. And the Female Schools are now for a few years completely under the direction of the Loreto Sisters who had previously charge, since 1898, of all except the Infants. It is unnecessary to say that the same high standard of efficiency, and the same elevating tone of refinement, that are so conspicuous in the Monastery Schools, are equally and consistently maintained in the crowded and well-equipped rooms presided over by the energetic Sisters of Loreto. But the schools are not the only centres of education in this up-to-date and progressive town; the specific object for which the Literary Institute was designed was the education as well as the recreation of artisans and labourers. Of course, a subscribers' reading-room was provided for the more leisured adults, but this was a secondary consideration; and, for many years, the ball-court by day and the bagatelle room by night were by far the most effective attractions.

The Rev. F. B. Gallagher entered on his missionary labours in Letterkenny in 1872, and in four years after the Literary Institute was completed and fully equipped, comprising a grand hall in the second storey, with a stage or dais, and chairs for 250 persons, A spacious school-room and a well-furnished reading-room occupied the first storey, and, on the ground storey were a caretaker's apartments, and a recreation hall. Nor is the Literary Institute the only surviving monument of the zeal and energy of this untiring clergyman; he founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and established the Total Abstinence Association, and the Male and Female Sodalties. Of course, he received willing and capable assistance in the accomplishment of these great projects; and, as most of his collaborators have long since gone to their reward, it may not be invidious to record the names of his two most earnest and prominent lay collaborators - Michael Doherty and James Mac Kenna. (S.V.P. began 1874). The last-named gentleman was President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and, though he was proprietor of the most successful and high-class public-house - (top of Port Road, now a bank) as distinguished from spirit stores - in the town, he associated himself constantly and conspicuously with the Temperance movement. His early demise was a serious loss to the cause of progress, charity, and religion, for, though not a native of the place, he commanded enormous influence, and his example was a lesson to all.

Father Sheridan was an equally active and capable Administrator, of a splendid address, captivating manner, and great organising capacity. A highly gifted and impressive pulpit orator, assiduous in his discharge of the onerous duties of the confessional, and prompt in responding to all professional calls, he was exceedingly popular with his own flock; while his affability, ready wit, and engaging powers of conversation gained for him singular favour among all classes. The magnificent schools for boys were the first great building he carried out with such perfection of detail that they are a veritable marvel of design and execution; even the boundary-walls exhibit a massiveness and finish rarely to be seen in connection with school architecture. Rarely, indeed, was he a moment absent while the work was in progress; and, as soon as it was completed, his already failing energies were directed to the building of the schools for girls. Before the final summons came in 1901, he had the ineffable joy of seeing the dream of his life realised in the provision of superb schools and excellent teachers for the Catholic children of Letterkenny.

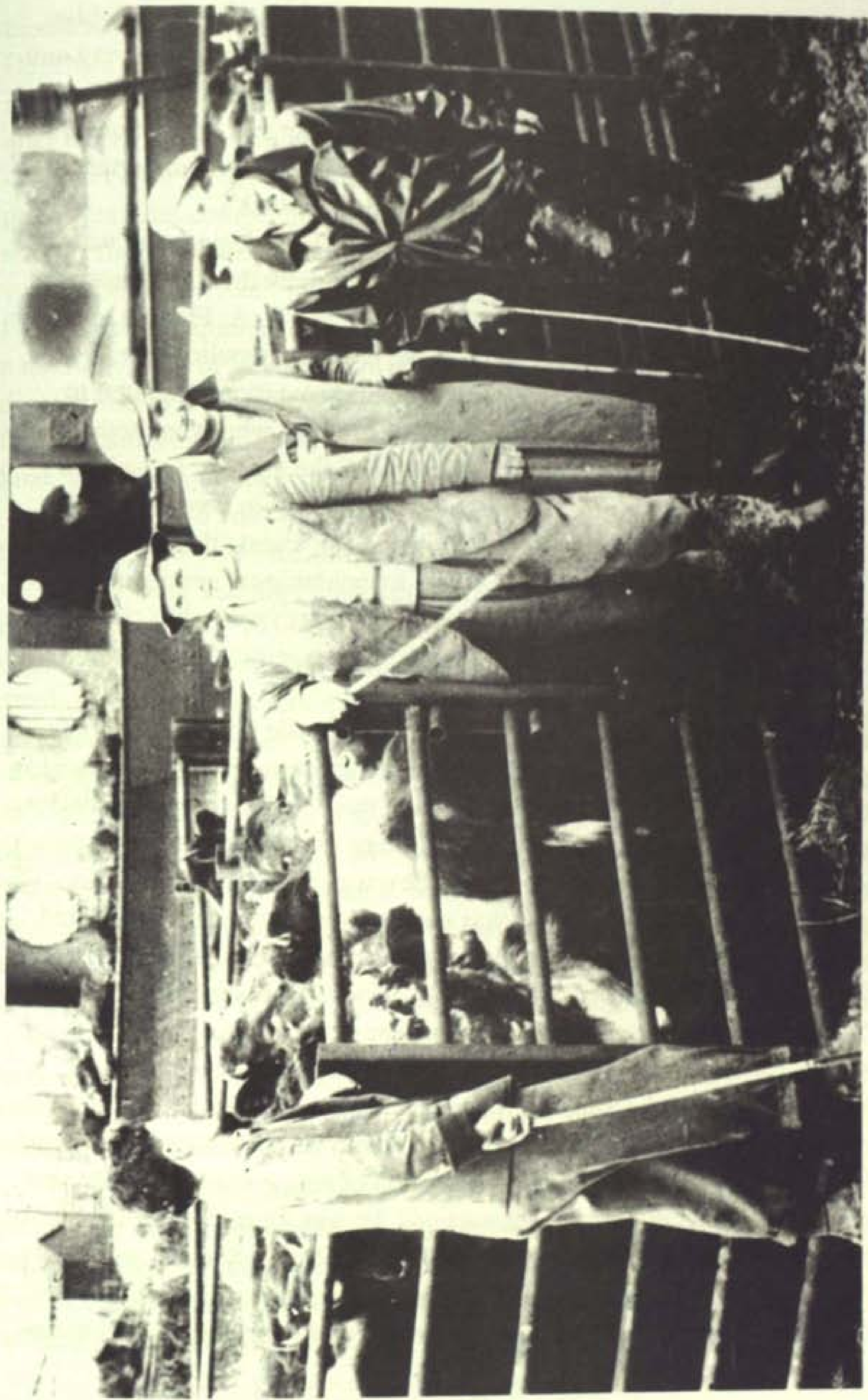
The Belfast Banking Co. (A.I.B. premises) had long established a Branch in



Letterkenny, and no rival institution of the kind existed in the town for a few years after the date of our survey. Mr. R. A. King was the accommodating manager, and with a cashier and a clerk was well able to cope with all the work imposed on him by deposits and loans, for it must be remembered that in those days cheques were almost as rare as sovereigns have become during the lamentable war. The Hibernian and the Ulster Banks, (3 Upper Main Street) were both opened at the same time, about 1873, and of the many Bank Managers that have since done business in Letterkenny, Mr. Ball is the best-remembered. He was a tall man of splendid physique, courtly manner, and cultured mind; son of a stipendiary magistrate and nephew of Judge Ball and of the still more famous Mrs. Ball, foundress of the Loreto Institute of Nuns. Painstaking, sympathetic, and endowed with a clear insight into character, he achieved marvellous success in popularising the establishment of which he was at once a pillar and an ornament.

One Apothecary, Mr. B. Jolly, supplied all the medicinal drugs needed in town and district, for pills were then as rare as cheques; now there are three well-stocked chemists' shops, doing a brisk trade - Dr. Patterson's, Miss Campbell's, and Mr. Stewart's. Only quite recently a highly respected Apothecary, Dr Tedley Moore, reduced the number by his regretted death to these modest dimensions, as he carried on a very flourishing business for a long time in premises now temporarily closed. For more than forty years, he was a familiar and active co-operator in all movements tending to the physical and moral improvement of his fellow-beings. An ardent advocate of Temperance, he was yet unaggressive, kindly, and charitable. Dr. Moffatt, a Covenanting Minister and an educationist of no mean rank, was another friend of progress among all classes and creeds, residing in Letterkenny for more than thirty years till about 1905, when the scene of his labours was transferred to Scotland. He had charge of the Gortlee Church, and conducted classes in an Intermediate School.

Simon Maddock had inherited, from his father a thriving Printing and Stationery concern (45 Upper Main Street), which he conducted with distinguished success and with scrupulous integrity. Though he enjoyed an unthreatened monopoly, with all its temptations to charge exorbitant prices, school-children with their pennies for copybooks or stationery received as good value and as much courtesy as the Grand Jury of the County, who were his customers for printing and official books for decades of years. Mrs. Maddock, too, was a



*Last Train with Cattle for Carlisle.*

*Corney, Bobby & Frank Sweeney, Jack Wilkinson, Willie McFeeley in the train.*



splendid business lady, and all the family were very gifted, refined, and obliging. As Petty Sessions Clerk he was succeeded by Mr. Mac Connell, a very amiable gentleman, whose early death was universally regretted. E. S. Mac Kinney is now the capable Clerk of Petty Sessions, and, in partnership with Michael O'Callaghan, C.E., J.P., he is, also, proprietor and manager of the important Printing and Stationery concern, formerly known as Maddock's.

Edward Murray, or Attorney Murray, as he was usually designated, was the only Solicitor in Letterkenny for nearly half a century; now there are three resident solicitors - Edward Mac Fadden, William Kelly, and C. A. Flattery and a fourth, John Wray, who has an office in town but lives in Ramelton. Mr. Quigg, who had established a good practice and an enviable reputation, migrated to Canada a few years ago, and Messrs Mackey and Mallins, who were both excellent lawyers, are recently deceased. While health and the vigour of manhood sustained him, Mr. Murray enjoyed professional prosperity in a very marked degree, but, in his declining years, fortune frowned and clients thinned. Thus Robert Ramsay, an exceedingly popular son of a popular local gentleman, entered on his career as Attorney in 1871, under the most favourable circumstances, but his warmest friends could not at any time congratulate him on making the most of his professional opportunities.

The firm of Joseph Gallagher and Son did a huge trade both in the wholesale and in the retail departments. Their drapery establishment was the largest in the county, and a traveller was constantly driving through the country, collecting debts and soliciting orders: tailors and dress makers worked on the premises. But the spirit-stores and bar were the scene of even greater activity and the source of much larger profits. The bar was underground, and could be entered from the drapery shop, in what is termed in nautical warfare an atmosphere of low visibility. This structural arrangement was obviously an attractive convenience for thirsty customers, but it was also a dangerous trap for the shop assistants and tradesmen. The bond-stores and corner house were not erected till 1880. John Gallagher of the Store transacted quite as large a volume of business in the wholesale liquor line, with a small staff, whom he personally superintended, and never allowed any approach to a violation of temperance on or near his premises. Though strict in business transactions, he was a man whose charity to the poor knew no bounds. Hegarty's Hotel (opposite Market Square) and Laird's\* were both very efficiently managed, high-class and respectable. The latter has been superseded by a fashionable shop; but the former has still main-

tained its high reputation for comfort and attention to guests. After Mrs. Hegarty's retirement from the arduous duty of superintending this largely patronised hostelry, the late Mrs. Peoples, a capable and highly esteemed lady, and, after her lamented death, her amiable and accomplished daughters, conducted the Hotel with great success and to the satisfaction of all visitors. It has now passed into the competent hands of Mr. Mac Clure, who lacks neither the energy nor the ability needed to ensure its continued prosperity. Dan Mac Veigh kept a very respectable Hotel, (8, Market Square) well-managed, with every comfort, for more than a quarrer of a century, on the Square. His sister, Mrs. Mac Devitt, a matronly lady of great capacity for anticipating the needs and diagnosing the dispositions of the visitors, was an ideal manageress, and made everybody comfortable and satisfied. Mac Carry's Hotel is now the premier establishment of its kind, and, for equipment and good management, leaves nothing to be desired.

In addition to Joe Gallagher's, the leading drapery houses were: - Robert Henderson's, Robert Macklin's, and Macklin and Son's, the first-named being a very flourishing and high class concern, while the others were also very respectable. For the past half-century, John Gallagher's Bakery and Grocery\*\* establishment has achieved a constant and unique success, and has always triumphed in the keenest competition even with Derry firms. John Davis was a good second; and James O'Donnel is well to the front, supplying the staff of life throughout several parishes, while John Ward does a brisk trade in the town and suburbs. The leading grocers are: - John Gallagher, William McCay, Robert McClure, and Joseph Burns, all of whom have well-appointed business houses and a long established reputation. Messrs. O'Mahony Ramsey, Gailey, and Benson are the proprietors of the principal Drapery establishments, and few, if any, towns of its size can boast of more satisfactory or more prosperous concerns in that line of business. Similarly, for Book and Stationery requirements, it is seldom or never necessary to have recourse to the more privileged firms in large cities, for all wants can be supplied by Messrs. M'Kinney and O'Callaghan, The Donegal Printing Co., Miss Fleming, Miss M'Carry, or William Coyle.

The giant strides, with which commodious and well designed houses have progressed in number and finish, would at once suggest to the occasional visitor that these striking improvements were effected under the guidance and supervision of capable and experienced architects. That important profession is very adequately represented; Michael O'Callaghan, Patrick Dawson, and John



McIntyre are men of great practical experience, proved ability, and trusted integrity. Without running any risk of invidious comparisons, it must be recorded to Mr. Dawson's infinite credit, that it was his clearness of brain and marvelous grasp of detail that mastered all the delicate intricacies of architecture involved in the construction of St. Eunan's Cathedral. From start to finish he was the one man, who never flinched before a difficulty or left behind him a defect in plan or execution. He has also established "Monumental Works" near the Railway Station, where his gifted sons have turned out some very artistic specimens of sculpture. Any review of Letterkenny's past generation of prominent citizens would be palpably incomplete, if it omitted to include any reference to Manus Mac Fadden and Sam Fleming, the two most influential buyers attending the local markets\*\*\* for forty years or upwards. Nor was it the markets alone that Manus dominated; for he was always the central figure and guiding spirit in politics, municipal and poor law elections, and Parliamentary campaigns. In 1898, he was a candidate, and, of course, was returned, for the representation of the District on the County Council, and, never wearying his audience by lengthy speeches himself, he extended every latitude to his supporters, with the honourable limitation that no word of abuse should be uttered against his respected opponent, the late Mr. Robinson Auctioneer. Manus owed his immense influence and popularity to the fact that, first, he was straightforward and outspoken; and, secondly, he was always and everywhere the unfailing friend of the poor and the oppressed. Sam Fleming was also a very striking personality; flax-buying was his most engrossing avocation, but he also attended cattle fairs, and was widely and favourably known throughout the north-west of Ulster.

Motor-cars are quite a novel luxury; and, though they are reputed to annihilate space, their introduction into Letterkenny immediately increased the distance to Derry from the old figure of sixteen to twenty, and to Strabane from thirteen to sixteen miles. In 1870, mails and passengers from Strabane were conveyed to Letterkenny, and (such residuum, of both as were not deposited there) thence to Dunfanaghy on a long two-horse van belonging to Mr. Walsh of Sligo, who kept an office and a relay of horses in Letterkenny. James Diver, a very worthy and useful citizen, afterwards took up the contract for the Dunfanaghy mails, but, at this date, he had a day-car plying between Letterkenny and Derry. William Mac Monagle, seven or eight years after, started an opposition car on the same route; the competition resulted in a gradual reduction of the fare, until at last passengers were invited to a free seat to and fro. It

was even said that James Diver went so far, in the rival contest, as to promise their dinner in Derry to such travellers as would elect to occupy seats on his car in preference to Mac Monagle's.

\*Footnote: Malseeds/Centre Spot/First National

\*\*Footnote: Now Joe Gallagher's Shop.

\*\*\*Footnote: For account of Letterkenny Fair Day in 1888 see Christmas Annual 1992, page 24.

#### NOTE:

1. John Davis and John Storey were founder-members of the Plymouth Brethren (Gospel Hall, Church Lane).
2. Storey and Flattery lived in Townsend Cottage, High Road. This house was later occupied by Pauric Henry's family. Almost opposite Ruth's Chemist.
3. John "The Store's" daughter Annie married Dr. John McFadden (son of Manus, Breenagh). Dr. McFadden died in 1897. Annie spent the latter years of her long life - along with her daughter Agnes - at Cathedral Place, where she died in 1960 aged 93.



# ROUTES

## TO THE

### DONEGAL HIGHLANDS from DERRY

---

S.S. Melmore to Downings Bay, every Saturday at 9.35 am.

Train to Letterkenny, thence Long Car to Creeslough and Dunfanaghy,  
at 2 o'clock, pm., daily.

Train to Fahan at 1.30 pm., daily, thence Steamer to Rathmullan,  
and Long Car to Rosapenna Hotel, daily, Sundays excepted,  
at 3 o'clock, pm.

Car to Portsalon Hotel from milford, daily, on arrival of Rosapenna  
Hotel Van.

---

### DISTANCES AND MODE OF CONVEYANCE.

Derry to Downings Pier, - 60 miles,	— Steamer every Saturday.
Derry to Fahan	— 9 miles, Rail daily.
Derry to Letterkenny	— 24 miles, Rail daily.
Fahan to Rathmullan,	— 3 miles, Steamer daily.
Rathmullan to Milford,	— 7 miles, Long Car daily.
Milford to Carrigart,	— 10 miles, Long Car daily.
Carrigart to Rosapenna Hotel,	— 1 mile, Long Car daily.

Rosapena Hotel to Creeslough (Harkin's Hotel),	— 6 miles, special car.
Creeslough to Dunfanaghy (Stewart Arms Hotel),	— 6 miles, special car.
Dunfanaghy to Falcarragh (McGinley's Hotel),	— 6 miles, special car.
Falcarragh to Middletown (McBride's Hotel),	— 14 miles, special car.
Falcarragh to Gweedore Hotel (if open),	— 10 miles, special car.
Gweedore to Dunloe (Sweeney's Hotel),	— 14 miles, special car.
Dunloe to Glenties via Doochary Bridge,	— 16 miles, special car.
Glenties to Ardara,	— 5 miles, special car.
O'Donnell's Hotel,	Glenties.
Nesbitt Arms Hotel,	Ardara

## RETURN JOURNEY

Glenties to Fintown,	— 7 miles, special car.
Fintown to Letterkenny (Hegarty's Hotel),	— 14 miles, special car.
Letterkenny to Ramelton (Stewart Arms Hotel)	— 6 miles, special car.
Ramelton to Rathmullan (Deeny's Hotel),	— 6 miles, special car.
Rathmullan to Portsalon Hotel,	— 12 miles, special car.
Portsalon Hotel to Rosapenna Hotel via Rossnakill and Ferry service,	— 8 miles, special car.

Fares — Two passengers, 8d per mile; Three Passengers, 10d per mile;  
Four Passengers, 1s per mile.



## CHAPTER 19 — PEOPLE OF NOTE

In days not yet long passed, the highest dignity within the reach of any commoner in the British Isles, was that of Knight of the Shire or Member of Parliament; and it is no mean honour to Letterkenny, that in thirty years the ancient " Hillside of the O'Canannains" contributed three worthy representatives of Tirconaill to the Imperial Assembly in Westminster. The eloquent and sturdy old Tenant Right champion, Dr. Kinnear, was returned in 1880 and his triumph sounded the death-knell of Tory ascendancy in Donegal. Though not a Home Ruler, he was a thorough-going and very earnest democrat, who was prepared to make great sacrifices and to forfeit valued friendships in the cause of the people; and it is highly questionable whether any political victory has since been achieved in the county either of greater magnitude, or more directly due to the personality and antecedents of the candidate.

It was no idle boast he uttered on the evening of the declaration of the poll: " I plant here in your midst the standard of freedom from the yoke of Toryism and Landlordism, and that standard shall never be wrenched from your hands, as long as the Swilly continues to ebb and flow." After the Redistribution of Seats and Extension of the Franchise in 1884, three of the Donegal constituencies returned Nationalist candidates to represent them; but the division in which Letterkenny is situated, was won by a local Tory candidate of a mild type, Mr Wilson of Raphoe, personally very popular both in his native district and with the Irish Members. At the General Election in 1892, Arthur O'Connor defeated his Tory opponent by a small majority, which has been augmented very considerably at every recurring election since then, chiefly by the efforts of energetic Registration agents on the Nationalist side. But in 1896, the two sitting members for Donegal constituencies, who were adherents and personal friends of Mr. Healy, received notices to quit at the Letterkenny Convention held in that year, and presided over by Mr. Dillon, who came specially to secure the eviction from their seats of these two prominent representatives, Arthur O'Connor and T. D. Sullivan. Just as Dr. Kinnear was the only Donegal man who could triumph over the Abercorn forces, so Edward Mac Fadden was probably the only candidate

who could have carried the Nationalist banner to victory at this dangerous crisis. His father's name Mr. Manus Mac Fadden of Glenswilly - was one to conjure with, and his own towering ability and transparent integrity had been conspicuously proved. A student of the old Seminary, he was awarded honours in all the leading subjects of the Senior Grade programme in 1880, and at the Preliminary Examinations for Solicitors' Apprentices held in that year he secured second place; at the First Professional he was declared Gold Medallist, and was First at the Final. He served his apprenticeship in James E. O'Doherty's office in Derry, and, since 1885, he has adorned the honourable profession to which he belongs, not less by his broad-minded generosity and candour, than by his brilliant achievements in the public courts. As Chairman of the Urban Council, he combined progress with economy, and effected enormous improvements with an incredible minimum of expenditure. Finding it impossible, after half a dozen years, to attend regularly the sittings of Parliament, without neglecting his professional and other public duties at home, he decided not to seek re-election, and Charles Mac Veigh, a gentleman of culture and independent means, was unanimously selected to represent East Donegal in the House of Commons. No happier choice was possible, and no more assiduous and conscientious Member ever graced the benches of the Westminster Parliament. Though he had received a liberal education in his native parish, reared as he was in Gortnavern within a few miles of Letterkenny, his prodigious grasp of politics was mainly acquired under the Southern Cross. Baffled, however, by British chicanery and diplomatic insincerity, he at length retired, like Coriolanus, to plough the lonely furrow and await his country's summons in the hour of her emergency.

Dr. Robert Patterson, a distinguished Presbyterian divine, was born in Letterkenny in 1829 at the Port Road, and, emigrating to the States in his youth, achieved a high reputation as a preacher and writer. His learned work, entitled "The Fables of Infidelity and the Facts of Christianity," commanded a wide circulation in the United States half a century ago. At home, literature has been cultivated in all its branches, and poetry in particular has attracted many gifted votaries, among whom the most honoured place is accorded to Brigid MacGinley of Glenswilly. Her elegant poems are chaste, refined, and spirited, suggesting a comparison with Macauley's thrilling Lays. Typical of the deep feeling and graceful rhythm, that render her charming verses so well-adapted for recitation, is the following stanza from "The Hills of Donegal":-

I love to muse upon the past,  
 When bravest deeds were done;  
 When martial feats or learning deep



Reward and glory won;  
When brave men answered cheerily  
The Slogan's fiercest call,  
From the heath-clad hills, the cloud-capped hills—  
The hills of Donegal.

She was a member of a very gifted family, and sister of the well-known Gaelic scholar, P.T. Mac Ginley, who did giant work as a pioneer of the Gaelic movement. His very instructive and masterly primer on the Direct Method affords more practical help to the teacher than any work of its kind yet published, and his short dramas are simple, entertaining and racy.

The Rev. Stopford Brooke, whose "Primer of English Literature" was familiar to many of us thirty or forty years ago, first saw the light at the Glendoan Rectory in 1832. He also edited with notes the principal poems of Shelly, and wrote critical reviews of books for several magazines.

Sarsfield Cassidy, though not a native of the Letterkenny district, came to Glenswilly with his revered uncle, Rev. John Magroarty, in 1862, when he was only seventeen years of age and it was there his boyish mind was impregnated with that loathing for landlord tyranny and that deep sympathy for the oppressed, that form the leading characteristics of his earliest essays in prose



*The Target Field, Windyhall.  
(Used by British Army, pre-1922).*

and verse. His graphic descriptions of the reckless savageries of Adair were sought after and read with avidity in the States and at home, and produced a profound and lasting impression. At the age of twenty, he entered on the career of journalist in New York, and was for a long period Editor of the Sunday Mercury, but he never ceased to publish stories, dramas, and occasional poems, always conversant with Irish themes. His father, Andrew Cassidy, of Dunkineely, a man of sterling worth and exhaustless charity, was privileged to see his distinguished son on a short visit to his ancestral home, a short time before both were called to their eternal account, just at the dawn of the new century. His thrilling Elegy on the Death of Niall Mor Mac Swine of Banagh is well known to many of our readers; the following brief extract will illustrate its verve and pathos:-

But now that heart's for ever stilled  
In death, its warm affections chilled,  
And fled's the fearless soul that thrilled  
His bosom mortal grit beyond,  
And swelled and burst each narrow bond —  
Each narrow bond and niggard tie  
Where selfish souls contracted lie.  
Ah ! his could brush the earth and sky,  
Could sweep through space and ride the stars,  
High o'er the winds and world's wars.

Mr. Mac Laughlin of Gleann Domhain wields a homely and prolific pen, and has written many popular ballads of more than merely ephemeral interest; and the youthful poet of Rathdonnell, Mr. Gallagher (H.G. Gallagher, beside William McGonagle's) has woven more than one bright " Garland " of tuneful verses, nor does he show any indication that he will allow his muse to slumber. As an industrious and observant reporter of local news, the late Francis Ward of Letterkenny was for a quarter of a century a sort of General Advertiser, who first published and then modified or contradicted sensational paragraphs, and was the terror of all • evil-doers. At public meetings he invariably introduced himself as " the Press," and took care to remind the janitor that he represented sixteen daily and thirty weekly news papers. And, in addition to the discharge of his self-imposed and not too lucrative duty of reporter, he nearly always abused " the liberty of the Press " by intervening very acrimoniously in heated debates, and impartially growled at both groups of disputants until he was bodily removed, kicking vigorously at his evictors. He first entered into business, about 1860, in



premises recently vacated by Joe Gallagher, opposite the old Seminary where he dispensed " Sprigging," kept a hardware and stationery shop, and he established an office as Auctioneer. Being of an angular and dictatorial disposition, however, he eventually discovered that the amenities of social life could be more easily observed by diffusing his light through the medium of the public newspapers, than by dealing with provocative clients at close quarters. His flights to Parnasus were desultory and unimaginative; at one time he sought plenary inspiration from the whole orchestra of musical divinities -" Ye Muses nine, with me combine"; at another, his wings failed to raise him above the level of the street ballad -" I took a ramble down by yon bramble."

More than once, literary adventurers have made futile attempts to establish a weekly newspaper in the town, and, now that the telephone is installed, local effort might triumph, where strangers not unnaturally failed. The " Ferret " is the best remembered of such enterprises, and during its deservedly brief existence furnished spicy reading for a certain class of gossiping idlers, whose tastes were more in need of correctives than of stimulants. Gaelic literature, always in brisk request in the Cathedral town, has been enormously popularised and augmented by the periodic publication of " An Crann," whose well-edited columns bear the impress of erudition and research.

Letterkenny is ideally circumstanced in regard to education in all its branches up to the vestibule of the University. St. Eunan's College, with its unrivalled staff, the Loreto elementary and Intermediate schools, the Monastery schools, and the well-staffed non-Catholic schools, are an amply adequate and unique provision for boys and girls seeking degrees and aspiring to the liberal professions. Again a Technical school has been recently opened in connection with the Department and under auspices that ensure superlative efficiency, for the training, physical and mental, of the youth of both sexes, in the arts and crafts by which they are designed to earn a decent livelihood.

#### NOTE:

Francis Ward, publisher of "The Ferret" had premises C. 39 Lower Main Street.

## CHAPTER 20 — THE LORETO CONVENT

Material prosperity among the peasant farmers had received a huge reverse by the almost complete failure of the potato crop in 1846 and the less sweeping repetition of the disaster the following year. Professions, shops, and trades naturally shared in the calamitous results; food-stuffs were scarce and unprocurable at anything like their former prices; and the circulation of money was reduced to dimensions that made economy a stark necessity. It was in 1849, just as the shadows of the famine were slowly receding from the stricken valleys and hillsides of his impoverished diocese, that the undaunted and magnanimous Bishop, Dr. Patrick Mac Gettigan, invited a colony of the Loreto Nuns of Rathfarnham to establish a Boarding and Day School for young ladies in Letterkenny. The outlook portended a dismal and immediate failure; wiseacres commented bitterly on the folly of the adventure; and the general feeling was one of hopeful sympathy rather than joyous enthusiasm. From the first day of its opening, the Boarding School realised the most sanguine expectations, and ever since, though a lean year occasionally intervened, it can be safely asserted that few institutions of its kind have enjoyed a more uniform and unruffled career. Sister Josephine daughter of John Gallagher of the Store, and niece of the old bishop, was appointed Superioress in succession to the first Reverend Mother in the early fifties; and this happy selection was the first link in the chain of local associations that proved mutually advantageous. The proximity of the Convent to the old parish church, and to the present Cathedral, which covers the same site, facilitated the arrangement, by which the public choir and the sacristy were committed to the competent and vigilant charge of the nuns. Sister Gertrude, whose recent death was so keenly regretted by all who knew her, discharged the duties of sacristan for more than half a century, with assiduous attention and scrupulous exactness. She came to Letterkenny the second year after the foundation of the Convent, and was still vigorous and active at the age of eighty, never for a moment unhappy or complaining. Later by a decade of years arrived two highly accomplished ladies, of the well-known Dillon family of Strabane, Sister Agnes and Sister Eunan, whose distinguished brother, Father Dillon, died about



1870, on the mission in the diocese of Derry. Sister Agnes still presides at the organ in the Cathedral, and assists her gifted sister in preparing pupils for the Intermediate and the London Musical Diploma examinations. Sister Joachim, too, though youthful in spirits and energetic in teaching, had long ingratiated herself with many successive generations of pupils before the Intermediate Act was dreamt of; and had also won the hearts of children and parents by her gentle and insinuating manner in the National Schools. In this latter department, too, Sister Joanna though only a temporary resident at the close of the century, won golden opinions by her unabating energy, efficiency, and magic attractiveness for children. But, for more than thirty years, commencing about 1860, Mother Xaveria was the gentle ruler and dominating figure both in school and cloister. Her colossal gifts of mind and her impressive personality marked her out as an ideal superioress, and visitor and pupil were alike charmed by her grace and wisdom. She was sister of the prosperous merchants, Charles and George Kelly of Ramelton, and from her relatives and those of Mother Josephine the Convent received liberal benefactions. Like many other heads of religious establishments, she looked askance at the Intermediate system as opposed to conventual privacy and subversive of the established routine of prayer and study. Hence, it was not till after her death and towards the close of the century that Intermediate classes were introduced, and a fresh staff of Sisters drafted from the mother house in Rathfarnham for that special work. Sister Eugenius, member of the gifted and distinguished Derry family of the O'Neills, was for that purpose appointed Reverend Mother, a lady of great genius and wide scholastic attainments, eminently qualified both to teach and to control. The initial efforts were crowned with triumphant success, ever since maintained each recurring year and sometimes exceeded, so that the Letterkenny Convent invariably occupies a prominent and enviable place on the Exhibition and Prize Lists. Another signal evidence of its progressive vitality is the fact that the Superioress is almost, without exception, promoted at the end of her term of office, to the charge of one of the largest and most important branches of the Loreto Institute. Mother Eugenius was transferred to Killarney and thence to Bray; Mother Paul to Kilkenny; Mother Evangelist to Manchester; and Mother Philip Neri to Stephen's Green, Dublin. The last-named was one of the pioneers of the Intermediate system in Letterkenny, and secured many Exhibitions for her students; her successor was responsible for the Science classes, and is a past-master of drawing and chemistry.

As a purely contemplative community, the sisterhood have at all times attracted the admiration and reverent esteem of all classes and creeds; but, it

cannot be denied that a quarter of a century ago its educational activities were hampered by old-fashioned methods that threatened stagnation, and, that ever since the new machinery and new driving power have been introduced, the results have been consistently gratifying and eminently creditable. The Day School always comprises among its pupils a large number and sometimes a preponderance of non-Catholics; occasionally but very rarely, as one might expect, a Protestant boarder is found associating with her Catholic schoolmates in all things except prayer. One remarkable example is present to the memory of the writer: Miss Jack, daughter of the Presbyterian Minister of Trenta, spent a few happy years under the care and roof of the good sisters, and her estimable father, in his frequent visits, showed himself admirably pleased with the arrangement and deeply grateful for the educational benefits she had received. Nor is it to be supposed, in forming an estimate of the probable attendance of resident students, that the area of supply is restricted to Donegal; for some of the brightest and most distinguished pupils of the past, hailed from Scotland, and a few from America, while a very considerable number still come from Dublin, Belfast, and parts of Ireland even more remote. A very faithful oil painting of the illustrious prelate, who sacrificed his earthly comforts to the cause of education by resigning his house and property into the hands of the Nuns, hangs in the Convent parlour, and on the occasion of his subsequent visits, he never failed, speaking in Irish, to address the picture in words that may be referred not inaptly to the institution itself: "There you are, Patrick Mac Gettigan ! You are not eating, and neither are you drinking; and when I am no longer here in the flesh, you will be there to perpetuate my memory."



## CHAPTER 21 — ST. EUNAN'S COLLEGE

The majestic and highly ornate building was commenced in 1904, and formally opened on the 6th of July, 1906; so that only eighteen months elapsed between the laying of its foundation-stone and the singing of the Te Deum in thanks-giving for its happy completion. The Messrs. Lavery of Belfast were the thoroughly competent contractors, and, if that eminent firm needed an advertisement, they could point with pride to this noble triumph of architectural execution. Death has since removed from the industrial and administrative activities of Derry, Mr. Hugh Lavery, the efficient and popular superintendent; and Mr. Murray, the Clerk of Works, had long predeceased him. Mr. Mac Namara of Dublin was the Architect, merely in regard to the technique of the building, for the design was elaborated by his Lordship, the Bishop, not in outline alone, but even to the minutest detail of ornament. Apart from the cost of furniture and the subsequent expenditure on gate entrances, the outlay on the main edifice was roughly £22,000. The original plan was very wisely modified in two particulars - separate single rooms were substituted for dormitories, and the heating chamber was constructed outside the building, instead of being placed beneath the kitchen, as was at first contemplated. In fact, nothing was omitted that was deemed necessary or even desirable in order to achieve the main aim, which was the erection of an institution, at once reminiscent in its architecture of the most famous Irish ecclesiastical edifices of bygone days, and inferior to no existing college, either in interior equipment, or in the outdoor appurtenances of an up-to-date teaching establishment. Mr. Little of Kingstown obtained the contract for the Musgrave hot-water pipes, the gas pipes, and fittings, etc., and completed his work with despatch and satisfaction. Similarly, the well known firm of M. and M. Scott of Derry supplied high-class furniture, durable and tasteful; and Thomas Martin of Dublin installed the technical apparatus in the Science Hall without hitch or defect. In a word, the best Irish brains and workmanship were employed in the designing and execution, as well as in the equipment, of every part of the beautiful fabric, and no cheap foreign or shoddy element received any consideration. Nor were the requisites for the physical development, train-

ing, and comforts of the students either, overlooked or inadequately provided. Ball-courts, a field for hurling and football, etc., were among the subjects that engaged the earliest and most anxious attention of his Lordship and of the organising committee; while the indoor arrangements were perfected to a degree that challenges competition and silences criticism. A cultured and sympathetic matron was secured in the person of Miss Clancy, a lady of great experience, tact, and ability; and, under her tender supervision, the younger boys in particular, are guaranteed the comforts, if not the luxuries of home life.

The first president selected was the same ecclesiastic, who had been placed in charge of the old Seminary in 1879, when the Intermediate Act of the previous year was first put into operation in the diocese. And it is gratifying to record that three of the other five members of the original staff still sustain its continuity with increasing success and credit - the Rev. M. P. Ward is now President, the Rev. P. D. Mac Caul is Vice-President, and Mr. Craig still continues to discharge, with earnest zeal, his arduous duties as professor of Irish. John Magner, B.A., transferred his valued services to another college in 1908, to the intense regret of staff and students; and Denis Murray, whose appointment was only temporary, availed of an offer, that afforded financial advancement, at the close of the first year. Dr. Donaghey entered on his brilliant career as Professor in 1907, and Dr. Michael O'Donnell very capably directed the mathematical course for a period all too short. On his promotion to a theological chair in Maynooth, and following the re-adjustment of classes thereby necessitated, Mr. J. C. Ward was induced to take charge of junior and backward boys, with a view to individual grinding, more especially in Mathematics and Irish, and the appointment was an unqualified success. His urbanity of manner, cheerful disposition, and insinuating sympathy with the ungifted boys, enhanced his influence and enchained attention with astounding effect, while his nobility of character endeared him to all. From the beginning Mr. Ward had been a familiar figure in Letterkenny; for, as the Irish language was permanently guaranteed a foremost place in the activities of the College, a Summer Training School in Irish, mainly designed for National Teachers, was inaugurated here in 1906; and it must be recorded, without the risk of depreciating his colleagues' efforts, that in this movement he was the leading and guiding spirit. May he rest in peace !

Dr. Molloy was a notable and valuable accession to the staff in 1910; and, in the following year, when Dr. Donaghy was elected by the hierarchy to the chair of Physics in Maynooth, no more accomplished or more suitable selection could have been made than that of Dr. Mac Neely. Both these noble-minded and gifted



ecclesiastics have exchanged the toga for the khaki at the call of conscience, and it is the fervent prayer of all that the blessing of a long-delayed peace may soon restore them safe and fresh to the quietude of the College on which they have shed such shining lustre.

#### **NOTE:**

Thomas Molloy: born in Doochary. He was P.P. in Dungloe from 1941 until his death at eighty-five on 10. 10. 1967. He was a W.W.I. chaplain.

## CHAPTER 22 — O'DONOVAN'S LETTERS FROM LETTERKENNY

Three very informative and scholarly communications to the Ordnance Office were addressed from Letterkenny by Dr. O'Donovan on the 21st, 22nd and 24th September, 1835, but they treat mainly of two much-discussed questions that have no special relation to the cathedral town or its vicinity. The Christian origin of the Round Towers and the ecclesiastical signification of "Termon" are dealt with in a profound and masterly presentment of the most convincing arguments. "I would not have written so much," he explains, "had not *Glen Soolie*, the barometer of this district, by his exhibition of a showery aspect in the morning, and verification of his threats by pouring down several successive showers in the course of the day, kept me within doors. Having also met a Virgil and a Livy here, I thought it desirable to concentrate some ideas derivable from them, that have this long time floated in my mind, lest they might escape my memory at a future period." Before the College of St. Eunan's gathered the students and their classical books within its walls, there were few houses in the town and suburbs where a Virgil and a Livy could not be seen in some neglected nook or dusty shelf, awaiting the arrival of the next lodger, who might find them useful, as O'Donovan did.

The following extracts contain all that is deemed interesting to the local reader : - " 21st Sept. To-day we travelled through Glen Swilly to look for the sites of some places mentioned by Colgan and in the Annals; but in consequence of the disappearance of the Irish language from the district extending around the town of Letterkenny and the *consequent* loss of the traditions, we have had but a partial and unsatisfactory success.

The ruins of Congbhail lie in a townland which borrows its name from the church, and which is bounded on the south by the river Swilly and on the west by Tullygay. The ruins stand to the right of the road from Letterkenny to Dunlow, and consist of the south wall about 15 feet high, and a part of the north wall, which is nearly level with the ground. In the churchyard, close to the south wall, is a gravestone, which, by its resemblance to the lid of a coffin, and its exhibition of a cross, ornamented and shaped-after the antique manner, speaks



the antiquity of the place, and shows that there were better stone-cutters in the days of its formation than in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, when the letters are turned reversed on the gravestones in the churchyard of Congbhail.

There is a tradition that a village anciently stood around the old church, and that it was set on fire by a cat and totally destroyed. The destruction of this village, it is said, gave rise to Letterkenny, or the retreat of the O'Canannain, the ancient and powerful chief of Tir Conaill, whose descendants, sinking under the O'Donnells, have dwindled into peasants and shortened their name to Cannon. It now remains to point out the situation and present-day names of the places mentioned in the Annals: -

1. *Sgairbh Sholais*, that is, Ford of Light, lies on the southern bank of the river Swilly, directly opposite the Rector's house, in the townland which the natives call Ardaghea, in the parish of Leck, about two miles west of Letterkenny. The foundation of a castle, called by the natives Castle Sollus, is shown here, and Cahír O'Doherty, in whose farm it lies, says that about fifteen or twenty feet of the walls were standing not many years ago, and that he himself was the very man who tore them down to use the stones for building a barn withal. He pointed out to me some of the corner-stones of this castle in the walls of his barn; they were very large, squared and chiselled, and show that the castle was well built.

The same traditions that exist in the county Derry about the Irish army being defeated by Cromwell are repeated here also, but somewhat more obscurely, in consequence of the loss of the Irish language, for with that tongue the remembrance of things of old vanishes. Many leaden bullets have been, from time to time, dug out of the earth, in the neighbourhood of the castle - which proves that the battle was a mighty struggle. The name of this ford, Scarva, *Scairbhis* well remembered in the County Derry, where it is stated to be " a short distance to the west of Letterkenny "; but here the name is almost entirely forgotten, for the old men only can tell the name of the castle was Skar-Sollus, or Castle Sollus. In Kilmacrenan, however, Manus O'Donnell remembers and pronounces the name distinctly as *Scairbh Sholais*, and tells the story preserved by tradition with great appearance of having retained a considerable deal of truth.

2. *Ard-an-ghaire*, i.e., Hill of Laughter, is a hill in the townland of Rough Park, near the Port road to Rathmelton; now Anglicised Ardnagaary.

3. *Ath-Thairsis*. No ford on the Swilly from Fersat Mor to Scarve Sollus now retains this name, as they are all called after the houses or townlands oppo-

site them.

4. *Fersat More* and *Fersat Swilly* are alias names for one and the same Pass or Ford. *Fersat*, which is translated *vadum vel trajectus* by Colgan, literally signifies a spindle, but it is figuratively applied to a narrow part of an estuary, which is fordable at low water. This *Fersat More* is where the Swilly narrows itself between the parishes of Aghinunshin and Leck. The townland verging upon it on the Leck side has borrowed from it the name of *Fersatmore*. At low water a man may cross without wetting his knees. A tradition indistinctly points to many battles having been fought here, and a bank of sand on the Aghinunshin side, called the *horseman's bed*, sounds a monument of an engagement between the horse troops of contending chiefs, perhaps the battle of 1567."

A close examination of historical documents confirms Dr. O'Donovan's judgment regarding the parochial boundaries. It must, therefore, be admitted that it is not the Sallaghagreena brook on the bank of which, about a furlong from its embouchure, stood, a famous Scallan, but the rivulet which discharges itself into the Swilly at Ballyraine, that forms the dividing line between Glenswilly and Aghinunshin.



## CHAPTER 23 — PLACE-NAMES

- Ardnagappog* comes from ard-na-gceapog, height of the small plots of tillage.
- Ardiganny* - ard-a'gainimhe, height of the sand.
- Ardnagairy* - ard-na-gaire, height of the laughs (after the victory).
- Ardrummin* - Ard-drom-ain, high little ridge or back.
- Arrymore* - forrach-mor, great assembly-place.
- Aughaninshin* - ath-an-uinseann, ash-ford. "There are three names for the common ash, fuinse, fuinseann, and fuinseog. In the north, the 'f' is omitted, and the word always employed is uinseann." - Joyce. There is a lake named Unsheann near Ballyshannon, the source of the Abbey river.
- Ballymacool* - baile-mic-Cumhaill, Mac Cool's Town, where Finn's followers rested after their day's hunting.
- Ballyraine* - baile-rathain, town of the ferns, a plant still abounding east of the Port.
- Ballyvollely* - baile-buaile-liath, town of the grey dairy-ground.
- Bomany* - both-manaigh, monk's hut.
- Brennagh* - breanach, a mal-odorous place containing sulphur springs.
- Bunagee* - bun-na-gaoith, end of (shelter from) the wind, or bun-a'-gaoith, end of the estuary.
- Cark* - cearc, a hen, "in topography always means grouse." - Joyce.
- Carkneedy* - circ-nide, nests of grouse.
- Carnagillag* - carn-na-gcoileach, carn of the grouse-cock.
- Carnamuggagh* - carn-a'-maigh-gaoith. carn of the windy plain. "Windy Hall," Mr. Fleming's residence, is reminiscent of the original topography.
- Cloncarragha* - cluain carrach, rocky meadow.
- Conwal* - congabhail from comh-bhaile (Clery) or congabhail, a habitation, mostly ecclesiastical.
- Cnocabrean* - cnoc-a'-brein, hill of the spa or sulphurous ore.
- Cnocbreack* - cnoc-breac, speckled hill.
- Coolbuoy* - yellow corner or nook.
- Crucknaneagh* - cnoc-na-neach, hill of the steeds (so named from a scene

that followed the battle of Scarriffhollis).

*Cumrick* - comhrac, a confluence of streams.

*Derryveagh* - doire-beithe, birch-wood.

*Dooballagh* - dubh-bealach, black road.

*Dromore* - drom-mor, large ridge.

*Drumbollog* - drom-boilg, ridge of the bellows or windy gusts.

*Ellistrin* - elestar or elestrom, flaggers, or a place abounding in these aquatic, sword-shaped plants. "We find the m final replaced by n in Ellistrin." - Joyce.

*Edernacarn* - eidir-na-carn, or probably a corruption for eidir-da-charn, between the (two) carns.

*Fearsad* - a tidal ford.

*Gartin* - gortin, a little plot allocated to the resident priest or vicar.

*Glencar* - gleann-chairithe, valley of the pillar-stone. This ancient monument is untraceable.

*Glenchaw, or Glencheo* - gleann-cheoigh, valley of mist or fog.

*Glendoan* - gleann-duin, glen of the fort, when applied to the Rectory at Conwal; but "glean-doimhin, deep glen, is now applied to a fine range of mountains (west of Churchill), which must have been so called from one of the deep valleys they enclose." - Joyce. The Rectory is properly named Doon.

*Glenkeeragh* - gleann-caora, glen of the sheep.

*Glenmaquin* - gleann-mic-Coinn, Mac Quinn's Glen.

*Gortlee* - gort-laoigh, calves' field; of similar origin as Clonleigh.

*Gortnavern* - gort-na-bh-fearn, field of the alder trees.

*Killamasny* - cill-a' mas-nach, wood of the long low hill. Nach is an expletive termination.

*Killtoy* - cul-tuaidh. "There is a place called Killtoy, one mile from Letterkenny, whose name is a corruption of the Irish *cul tuaidh*, northern cool or back of a hill."

*Killosty* - cill-loisde, church of the kneading-trough (losad). "A farmer calls a field a losset, when it is covered with rich produce like a kneading-trough covered with dough." - Joyce.

*Killyshander* - cill-a'-seanedair, wood of the old oaktree.

*Leck* - leic, a flagstone. The particular flag is not identified.

*Lecknacoo* - leic-na-cu, flagstone of the hounds.

*Lennain* (river) - lion-ain, little filling, or flowing, "mostly applied to creeks where the tide flows in." - Joyce.

*Lenalee* - leana-liath, grey meadow.

*Lismonaghan* - lis-Mongain, Mongan's fort.



*Listack* - lis-staice, fort of the stake (or boundary mark).  
*Lurgybrack* - leargach-breac, speckled hill-slope.  
*Magherenan* - machaire-Enain, Enan's plain. Enan was son of Conal Gulban.  
*Meenaroy* - min-an-fhir-ruaidh, " mountain-meadow of the red-haired man." - Joyce.  
*Meenatinny* - min-a'-teine, mountain meadow of the Baal fire.  
*Pluck* - pluc, a cheek, a bulge. Viewed from the lake, Pluck resembles a cheek.  
*Rashedog* - ra.th-sheidog, rath of the blast or gust; thus similar in origin to Drumbollog.  
*Rathdonnell*- rath-Domhnaill, Donal's rath.  
*Rooskey* - riascach marshy or moorish (land).  
*Rossbrackin* - ross Brecaín, Brecaín's promontory or point. *Sallaghmagreana* - salach, a slough or marshy place, and greine, of (or facing) the sun. Brick were formerly manufactured from the clammy, soil.  
*Scarriffhollis* - scairbh-sholuis, narrow ford of the light. It was the custom to place lights at all important and frequented fords.  
*Stackarnagh* - "staca a stake or stump and suffix mach." - Joyce. But the local pronunciation unmistakably shows that the second part of the compound is airne, the sloe tree or blackthorn sloe brambles.  
*Templedouglas* - teampul-dubh-glais, church of the dark-green (stream).  
*Trenta* - trein-teach, the champion's house.

## APPENDIX I.

The Will of the Most Rev. Dr. Coyle is a most edifying document; and possesses great interest not merely for local readers, but for Catholics generally, seeing that it reveals the illustrious prelate as a man who practised apostolic poverty during life, and made the poor heirs of the trifling fortune he owned at death. This Will was signed on the 1st of January, 1801, and he died three weeks after, on the 21st of the same month. His executors herein named were the Rev. Hugh Kerrigan, P.P., Stranorlar, and the Rev. John Mac Elwee, P.P., Clondavaddog.

*In the Name of God. Amen.*

I, Anthony Coyle, R. Catholic Bishop of Raphoe, sick in body, though sound in understanding and recollection, after recommending my soul to God through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ and the intercession of the ever blessed Queen of Heaven, do make this my last Will and Testament.

All my household property, together with two cows now in my actual possession, to be disposed of by public auction for ready money; one cream ewer, one table spoon with the tea-spoons that are in being, and one silver-mounted cocoa nut excepted, which I bequeath to Margaret Callaghan, my cousin. My books to be sold by two priests, and to be given for Masses for my intention according to their value. My gold watch I leave to the Rev. Anthony Coyle together with my chalice, vestments, etc. I allow that my cousin, Margaret Callaghan's cow and calf may be furthered out of this place, the hay, if any remains, to be sold. I desire that there shall not be a nail drawn from any fixture in the body of the house. Margaret Callaghan's bed is her own property and let her carry off her clothes-press, chest, and boxes, with the small new table, two chairs and one of the mahogany little tables, a copper pan, her tea things, plates and dishes, one small pot, and let no man molest her. And all the money to be



made out of those goods and chattels, shall be received immediately by Owen Collins (Ballymacool) gentleman farmer, and Andrew Fullerton of Letterkenny, and given to the poor at the will and option of my executors, Rev. John Mac Elwee and Rev. Hugh Kerrigan, without distinction of people or persons except their necessity. In witness whereof. given under my hand.

A. Coyle.

Witnesses present: Hugh Kerrigan, John Mac Elwee.

The within Will was proved and the execution committed to Owen Collins and Andrew Fullerton, they have personally appeared before me, and first duly sworn on this 26th day of March, 1801. Alex. Bull, S.

Endorsements: (a) The last Testament of Right Rev. Dr. Coyle; and (b), 1801. Conwal. Rt. Rev. Anty. Coyle, titular Bishop of Raphoe, his Will.

---

## APPENDIX II.

For some years previously to 1731 the number of conversions to the Catholic faith so alarmed the government that drastic measures were taken to render the practice of that faith more difficult, and to deprive of arms all members of the Church who would fail to secure a licence and to register their names and addresses. The " List of Irish Catholics registered to keep Arms " in 1704 contains only one solitary name from the whole county Donegal, Major John Stafford of Rathdonnell, who, was empowered to keep one sword, one case of pistols, and one gun. But now non-military Catholics were being seen carrying arms " to the terror of loyal subjects of the realm ": and, worse still, Mass was being celebrated openly. Protestant Bishops were required to obtain from the parish Rectors in each place the number of Mass Houses and Popish Chapels and the number of Priests officiating in each; also the number of Friaries, Nunneries, and Popish Schools in their respective parishes The official Abstract of the Returns sets forth Conwal no Mass House; no Friary; no Nunnery; one school in the mountains ; two Popish Priests officiate in the open fields. Leck - one Popish Priest officiates in the open field, or in a poor cabin. Aughininchin - the priest of Conwal parish officiates here once in a month.

In 1600. Charles Kenny was Vicar of Conwal, and Bernard Devine Vicar of Aughininshin.

### APPENDIX III. CONWAL

"The word Congbhail," says Dr. Joyce, "means a habitation, but it was very often applied to an ecclesiastical establishment, and it has been perpetuated in the name of Conwal, a parish in Donegal. The true origin of Congbhail is Congabhail; but I am aware that in O'Clery's Glossary, it is derived from combhaile (compagus, a hamlet). Colgan translates Cong bhail by the word, habitatio." In the Book of Armagh we are informed that St. Patrick received from Daire in addition to the site for his projected cathedral "the grant of a small tract adjacent to it on the eastern side, called Na Ferta," or The Trenches, whereon to build a monastery for himself and his community. Commenting on this passage, Lupart appends the following informative note: "It was thus Patrick measured the ferta - seven score feet in the Lis, and seven and twenty feet in the great house, and seventeen feet in the kitchen, and seven feet in the oratory; and thus he was accustomed always to build *congbhals*." The profound author here most unmistakably applies congbhail not to an aggregation of houses but to one ecclesiastical building.

---

### APPENDIX IV.

On the basis of population, Letterkenny is now the chief town of the county, the number of its inhabitants being 2,370, while the census for Ballyshannon fixes the figure for that town at 2,359. In 1841, the population of Ballyshannon was about 4,350, and that of Letterkenny 2,160. Lifford is the assize capital, and some show of justification could formerly be pleaded in favour of maintaining this inconvenient and absurd arrangement, by which judges and bar, litigants and witnesses, journey to and are housed in Strabane, out side the county, during the days of the Assizes. First, the old county jail was situated in Lifford; and, secondly, the judges, barristers, and the majority of the county magnates found Lifford more easily accessible than Letterkenny. But now, the jail is only an unpleasant memory; the aristocratic Grand Jury is only a shadow; and, what with railways and with motors, the Judges and the Bar would not be seriously inconvenienced by fatigue or inclemency of weather, in advancing a few additional parasangs into the county they are to enlighten and improve.

The County Asylum. has been an important asset of Letterkenny since the early sixties. Besides the profits locally derived from supplying coal, bread,



meat, milk and other necessities to that large institution, it has been the indirect channel of enormous advantages to the town. Without the Asylum it is doubtful whether the gas enterprise could have attained its present flourishing and economic condition; while, it is beyond all doubt that the Lough Salt Water Scheme could never have been embarked upon, with any prospect of success by the Urban Council itself, unaided by county support. It is equally indisputable that a constant and adequate supply of water for the Asylum could not have been obtained at less cost, or from any other source. It is a very astounding and a very melancholy fact that, while the Asylum at Derry was built in 1828 to accommodate 100 patients from the three counties of Donegal, Tyrone, and Derry, (including the city), there are now well above 750 lunatics in Letterkenny Asylum from the County of Donegal alone ! The first Medical Superintendent was Dr. Eames. who was promoted to the charge of Cork Asylum; the next was the well remembered Dr. Petit; and for the past twenty years and upwards, there are two medical men in charge, Dr. Moore, Superintendent. and Dr. Martin Assistant. The energetic Bishop is Chairman of the Board of Governors and the physical and religious interests of the patients are attended to with sympathy, economy, and efficiency.

---

## APPENDIX V.

The most worthy and accomplished ecclesiastic of the diocese of Raphoe, belonging to the last generation, was indisputably the late eminent Pastor of Stranorlar, the Right Rev. Monsignor MacMenamin. Descended from Meanman, son of, Gormley, he inherited all the distinctive and noble traits, mental and physical, of the Cineal Moain chiefs, and was born within a few hundred yards of one of their ancient fortresses, Castle Hollais, near the New Mills, about 1814. His father, John MacMenamin was a lineal descendant of the tribal chieftain, and, amid all the vicissitudes of fortune, continued in possession of a not inconsiderable portion of the family patrimony. Susan Collins, his mother, was a member of the old Catholic stock who were proprietors of Tullygay before the envious eyes of a covetous landlord had settled on that smiling valley and rich hill-slope. On both sides he inherited nobility of character, a robust physique, a strong Catholic spirit, a bright intelligence, and handsome features. Owen Collins, executor of Bishop Coyle, was uncle of the future Monsignor, who was destined to live under six successive prelates of Raphoe, and to take a notable

and often a leading part in diocesan administration during and between the careers of five of these great apostolic rulers.

The precocious brilliancy and fascinating manner of this intellectual youth attracted the attention of the Bishop, Dr. Patrick MacGettigan, and he was sent to the Classical School, then very efficiently conducted in a very modest premises near the present episcopal palace, north of Castle Street, (College Row, below palace, house of Charlie Collins of W.W.1 fame) in Letterkenny. It was here Dr. McGoldrick, late Bishop of Dubuque, and other eminent ecclesiastics received their Intermediate education. In 1834 he matriculated in Maynooth, where he read a very distinguished course, but was not permitted to crown his brilliant curriculum with the laurels of the Dunboyne establishment, owing to the scarcity of priests on the Raphoe mission. Ordained to the priesthood in 1840, he was appointed Curate in Ballyshannon, the following year, and here he devoted himself with untiring zeal and exemplary humility to the discharge of his exacting duties for the prolonged span of thirteen years. transferred in 1854 to Letterkenny, he became Administrator of the Cathedral parish for eight years, and, as Dr. Patrick MacGettigan had ceased to reside in Letterkenny, he was obliged to direct the parochial interests on his own responsibility; and this duty he performed with consummate tact and unfailing courtesy. About a year after the death of the old bishop in 1861, he was appointed Parish Priest of Raphoe where his refining influence and strenuous zeal left a permanent impress on the minds and hearts of his devoted flock. The promotion of the Very Rev. D.E. Coyle to Ballyshannon in 1868 left a vacancy in Stranorlar and Father McMenamin's claim to the appointment was unanimously endorsed by the universal verdict of clergy and laity. In 1880 the discriminating judgement of the great Cardinal marked out Father MacMenamin as the most competent substitute for himself as Master of Conferences during his enforced absence, while in Rome, and, after this date, honours were showered in overwhelming multitude on this simple but great churchman. With absolute and singular unanimity, he was chosen as Vicar Capitular during the interregnum following the Cardinal's translation to Armagh, and, in addition to the warm encomiums of all the clergy on his peerless administration of the diocese, he received very flattering tributes from Rome. It was mainly on this account that the dignity of Pronotary was conferred, and the insignia of Monsignor placed upon him, shortly before his death, when he could only feebly express his reluctant assent and yet his heartfelt gratitude. In 1890 he passed peacefully away, having written his name large on the history of the diocese, and transmitted a legacy of high ideals and noble self-sacrifice.



## APPENDIX VI.

American Advice: to Hugh Bonar of Letterkenny from his brother, in 1929,

General Delivery,  
New Fairview Station,  
Detroit, Mich. U.S.A.  
Apt. 11, 2651 Lycaste Ave.,  
Detroit, Mich.  
3rd April, 1929

Dear Hughie,

By the time this letter reaches you, you will have received my night-cable and the passage money. I have your credit-account here and the amounts against you are:

Night cable:	\$1.50
Passage money:	\$170.00
Cost of forwarding passage-money by cable:	\$7.60
Total (street-car tickets - 18)	\$179.28

'We will square for all this' later.

Now, I want to give you some general instructions about the voyage, your luggage etc. which you are to carry out so as to fulfil the "big idea", which is to land Mr. Hugh B. Bonar safe and sound in Detroit, Mich. You are not bound to carry out these instructions. They are not cast-iron regulations, but I think that if you follow them that the journey will be a lot easier for you.

First the route. Except as already decided, travel Londonderry, Moville, New York. The train-ride from New York to Detroit is roughly 16/17/18 hours, depending on what train you happen to get. Enclosed you will find three street-car tickets and I will instruct you how to use them. Bear in mind that I will meet your train if it is possible for me to find out which train you are on.

But if, per chance you reach Detroit and there is no-one at the station, check your luggage and board a tramcar. You will drop one of these tickets in the box and then hand the conductor one cent - he will give you a transfer ticket which will permit you to board 2 other trams and to get you to your journey's end. Now the tramcar which will bring you to your journey's end is called the Charlevoix - pronounced Charley Boy and the direction is the East side of Detroit. But bear in mind that there is a village ten miles away called East

Detroit. Therefore ask to be put on an eastbound Charlevoix car and your destination will be at Lycaste, pronounced lie-cast. I live three doors from the tram-stop. Now bear in mind that Detroit is a big city like Glasgow and that the traffic runs opposite to what it does in the old country. 4 people are killed here every three days in traffic accidents, so watch yourself getting on the tram and crossing the streets.

I would advise you to get vaccinated and get the doctor to give you a written certificate to that effect. Get your hair cut the day before you rail; and shave, bath and change your socks and underclothing before you land. You may have to strip and be examined by a doctor. Then there may be some formalities or red-tape to be attended to that you might think did not matter much, but get everything in proper order so that there may be no delay.

When you land in U.S.A. the law requires you to have a ticket to your destination and twenty-five dollars, not 24 or 23, but 25 dollars - about £5.80 in English money. I have sent you enough to cover that. See that you have it when you land.

Next of all when you go to the Consul, should he ask you have you a job to do, say no. It is against the law of the United States to bring in pre-arranged contract labour. So just say "No, Sir" and say no more.

Now to return to your luggage. When you land I want you to be dressed smartly with a clean white shirt, polished shoes, suit brushed. This is for the U.S. immigration officers. How you reach me in Detroit does not matter a damn (!!)

What to bring with you is the next question. Bring everything you have already got. Army trousers, jackets, ballions of all kinds, tools. Be sure and bring any army driving-coats, overcoats, underwear. In fact everything you have, bring it along. It will save you a lot of dough when you get here. Clothing is hellish dear over here. And I am grooming you for a truck-driver's job, so in the winter you will need all the clothes you can get.

But, do not buy any clothing to bring out here. If you already have it, bring it along, but do not buy anything in the way of working- clothes. But I want to impress on you NOT to bring any clothes (civilian) or shoes that Father Bonar can wear. Leave them with him. There is plenty of clothing for you in the good old U.S.A.

Bring your war medals, decorations, papers etc. (and bring me two complete sets of the New Irish Free State coinage: new coins from the farthing up, not defaced in any way - and about a dozen of the coin with the clocking hen on it).

Make papa buy you half a pint of good whiskey or brandy to be used by you



when you are finished being sea-sick. It will warm you up and so on. But do not land with any liquor; it is strictly against the law to do so. When you board the ship and are shown your berth, find out where the life belts are, secure one, find out how to put it on and keep it for the remainder of the voyage at the foot of your bunk. Have a second head-dress in your travelling bag - caps sometimes blow into the ocean. Keep your valuables: medals, passports, money, in a big pocket in your outer shirt so that you will never be away from them. Keep your suitcase always locked. Have the pocket made inside the shirt for that purpose.

You will likely find others travelling to Detroit on the same boat so you will have company all the way. But do not lend any of your money to them "to be paid at the journey's end". When you board the train for Detroit do not overload your stomach with food. Also we have iced water over here and in the summer it is very easy to chill the stomach by drinking too much. Therefore, do not overtax your stomach in the train journey with hot dogs, ice-cream or iced water. I want you to land in Detroit with your wits about you and your brain clear. Later you can sicken yourself with this junk if you want to.

Inform the Consul I am employed by the Chrysler Motor Corporation, Detroit and you have my street address. But do not send any letters to this address for I would not get them.

Now Hughie I have a confidential matter to confer about. It is for you, and I do not want to make a great mystery of it but I do not want other members of the family to know about it. So if you can send me an address where you could receive a letter on the quiet I will be only too glad to confer with you about it.

I have heard that when you reach the landing place the U.S.A. immigration officers give you a reading test so do not get flustered or —ed and you will come out all right.

I would like to now mention your mental attitude. Do not come out here with any Letterkenny-made plans; they are no use here. Nor do not expect to do everything in a month. Give the U.S.A. a fair try-out and I have no doubt but you will succeed.

When you leave Letterkenny Do not worry. I can not guarantee to place you next to the main lode of a gold mine but I can guarantee you all you can eat and drink until you draw your first wages. (All stuff to be marked down to your credit account).

Write at once and let me know how much English money for the 170 dollars, also most important of all for me to know is when you are likely to reach Detroit. Also if there is anything else that is necessary to be done to assist you in getting out.

I am enclosing a used detroit tram-car transfer, so that you can see what one is like. Keep this letter for reference.

Submitted for your deep consideration and guidance, I remain your loving brother,

John M. Bonar.

*(Letter courtesy of Jimmy Sweeney, Lismonaghan).*

Hughie Bonar got cold feet, so his brother's detailed intelligent instructions were in vain. I hope he got his \$179.40 back.

---



## APPENDIX VII.

From Grand Jury to County Council: the old order changes.

County House, Lifford,

*15th June, 1898.*

SIR,

At last Lifford Assizes the Grand Jury of the County of Donegal, unanimously resolved that all Grand Jurors of the County should be invited to attend a meeting, to be held during the approaching assizes, in order to take into consideration and determine what should be done with the personal property of the Grand Jury, as it is unlikely that there will be any necessity for carrying on the present arrangements connected with the Mess, after the Spring Assizes of 1898.

In order to give effect to this resolution, the Grand Jury requested us to take the necessary steps to invite the attendance of all Grand Jurors; and to prepare a statement concerning the property and its approximate value to lay before the meeting.

In accordance, therefore, with this direction, we have to request that you will attend a meeting of Grand Jurors of the County Donegal, to be held in the County House, Lifford, at 12 o'clock, on Wednesday, 13th July, the day the Grand Jury will be sworn in for the discharge of fiscal business at the coming assizes.

If from any cause you are unable to attend and desire to express your views on the subject to the meeting, we will be happy to receive from you and submit to the meeting any statement you may forward.

Yours faithfully,

W.H. BOYD, BALLYMACOOL, LETTERKENNY.

W. KNOX, CLONLEIGH, STRABANE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (IRELAND), 1898

---

County Donegal Sheriff's Office,  
Londonderry,

*12th April, 1899.*

**NOTICE TO COUNTY COUNCILLORS OF FIRST MEETING**

---

SIR,

I hereby give you Notice that you are required to attend the first Meeting of the COUNTY COUNCIL of the County of Donegal, which will be held in the GRAND JURY ROOM in the COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LIFFORD, on SATURDAY, the 22nd day of APRIL, 1899, at the hour of TWELVE o'clock Noon.

Your obedient Servant,

**JOHN S. M'CAY,**

*Returning Officer.*

To \_\_\_\_\_

County Councillor



## GENERAL INDEX

### A.

Administrators (Cathedral):- 15, 20  
 An Crann:- 82  
 Ardaghea (Ard a' chaoi):- 90  
 Ard An Gháire:- 49, 90, 92  
 Ard Mfodhair:- 39  
 Ardrummin:- 30  
 Arranmore:- 62  
 Arrears Act:- 66  
 Asylum (St. Conal's):- Appendix IV  
 Ath Tairise:- (?) 44, 48, 52, 90  
 Auctioneers 76  
 Aughaninshin (Ath an Uinseann):- 4, 10, 91, 92, 96

### B.

Bakeries:- 75  
 Ballymacool:- 11, 92  
 Ballyraine:- 27, 92, 91  
 Banks:- 73  
 Battle of Swilly:- 48 - 51  
 Bohurl:- 30  
 Bomany:- 2, 92  
 Brick-making:- 31, 94  
 Bonagee:- 29, 92

### C.

Carnagilla:- 30  
 Carnamuggagh:- 27, 92  
 Castle Solais:- 41, 42, 44, 98  
 Castle Street:- 27, 99  
 Cathach:- 43  
 Cathedral:- 5, 19, 76  
 Catholic Chapels:- 5, 10  
 Classical School:- 11, 99  
 Cloch na Righ:- 28  
 Clock Tower:- 31  
 College (St. Eunan's):- 20, 21, Chapt. 21  
 Commerce (Business):- 12, 31, 72 - 77  
 Conwal (Congbháil):- 1, 2, 4, 11, 20, 28, 38, 42, 44, 48, 89, 90, 92, 96, Appendix III

Coreenna:- 20, 27  
 Courthouse:- 54  
 Credrean:- 28, 35  
 Creeve:- 2  
 Croc na n-each:- 45  
 Cúlboy:- 30, 92

### D.

Deenystown:- 29  
 Derryveigh:- 53, 62, 93  
 Development of Town:- 31, 33  
 Doe Castle:- 45, 54  
 Donegal Evictions:- 62  
 Donegal Relief Committee:- 65, 67  
 Doon:- 28, 42, 80  
 Drapery Shops (1917):- 75  
 Dromore:- 29, 93  
 Drumbolg:- 10, 93  
 Drumdutton:- 14  
 Drumhome:- 2  
 Dunfanaghy:- 24, 77  
 Dunkineely:- 81

### E.

Ednaharnan (Edernacarne):- 29, 93  
 Elections:- 78, 79

### F.

Fair Rent:- 64  
 Famine (1880):- 5, 17, 65, 66  
 Fearsad Mór:- 40, 91, 93, 93, Chapt. 13  
 Fenians:- 58  
 Ferret, The:- 82  
 Fixity of Tenure:- 64  
 Flax:- 76  
 Free Sale:- 64

### G.

Garryharry:- 30  
 Gartan:- 55, 93  
 Gas Lamps:- 33, 69  
 Gleann Domhain:- 81, 93

Glencar:- 93  
 Glendoon:- 80, 93  
 Glengevlin (St. Johnston):- 39  
 Glenkeeragh:- 63  
 Glenmaquinn:- 40, 63  
 Glenswilly:- 1, 7, 8, 15, 29, 54, 89, 91  
 Glenveigh:- 9, 36, 42  
 Gortlee:- 27, 74, 93  
 Gortnavern:- 30, 79, 93  
 Grand Jury:- 74, 97  
 Grocery Shops (1917):- 75  
 Guardians (Workhouse):- 20

## H.

Herenagh:- 1, 2, 44  
 Home Rule:- 64, 65  
 Horseman's Bed:- 91  
 Hotels (1917):- 75  
 Housing:- 69

## I.

Illistrin (Ellistrin):- 30, 93  
 Immaculate Conception, Definition of:- 14  
 Industrial School (St. Columba's):- 20  
 Inis Saimer:- 26, 28  
 Irish Language:- 25, 70, 80, 87, 90

## K.

Kilmacrennan:- 2, 13, 30, 44, 90  
 Killosty (Killylastin?):- 93  
 Killydonnell:- 29  
 Killyshander:- 93

## L.

Lagan (Maigh Ithe):- 26, 39  
 Leck:- 4, 10, 20, 44, 90, 96  
 Legnahoor:- 30  
 Letter (Leitir):- 30  
 Letterkenny Castle:- 27, 32  
 Lismonaghan (Mongan):- 2, 44, 93  
 Lisnennan:- 30, 44, 59  
 Literary Institute:- 17, 71  
 Loreto:- 14, 71, 73

Lough Eske:- 30  
 Lough Salt:- 33, 98  
 Lough Veagh:- 28, 42  
 Lough Veagh House:- 55  
 Lurgybrack:- 29, 94

## M.

Magherenan:- 94  
 Maherashangan:- 53  
 Mail-coach (1870):- 76  
 Manorcunningham:- 39, 48  
 Mansion House Committee:- 67  
 Markets:- 76  
 Market Square:- 60, 65  
 Meaux:- 3  
 Mevagh:- 11, 14  
 Monastery School:- 20, 71, 73, 18  
 Monumental Works:- 76  
 Motor Cars:- 76

## N.

National Schools:- 71, 73  
 National Teachers:- 71, 87  
 Navan:- 15  
 Nemedians:- 28  
 New Mills:- 98

## O.

Old Seminary:- 13, 18, 19  
 Oldtown:- 10, 20, 29

## P.

Parliamentary Constituencies:- 17, 78  
 Penal Times:- 5, 10, 13  
 Petty Sessions:- 74  
 Platform Party (1870):- 60  
 Pluck:- 94  
 Poets:- 80, 81  
 Poor Law Elections:- 76  
 Population Figures:- Appendix IV  
 Port Road:- 19, 79  
 Potters' Clay:- 31  
 Primary Schools:- 71, 72, 73



**P. cont.,**  
Printers:- 74

**R.**

Ramelton:- 49  
Rashedog:- 94  
Rathdonnell:- 30  
Raymoghy (Manor):- 39, 40  
Rockhill:- 27  
Rough Park:- 90  
Royal Schools:- 22

**S.**

Sallaghagrane:- 27, 91, 94  
Scarriffhollis (New Mills):- 2, 38, 42, 43,  
44, 90, 94  
Schools (Post-Primary):- 11, 18, 19, 73, 99  
Chapt. 6  
Sentry Hill:- 10, Chapt. 2  
Shipping:- 31  
Shops (1917):- 74, 75  
Slate Quarry:- 31  
Socker:- 30  
Sodalities:- 71, 72  
Srath na mBratóg:- 45  
Stationers (1917):- 75, 82  
Strabane:- 76, 97  
Sunday Mercury (N.Y.): - 81  
Synods:- 14

**T.**

Technical School:- 82  
Telephone:- 69  
Templedouglas:- 94  
The Ferret (Newspaper):- 82  
Three F's:- 64  
Tory Island:- 2, 43  
Total Abstinence Association:- 71  
Town Commissioners:- 68, 69  
Trentagh:- 71  
Tully:- 7  
Tullygay:- 89, 98

**U.**

Ulster Custom:- 64  
Ulster Plantation:- 2, 12, 20, 29, 30, 31  
Unionists:- 69  
Urney:- 40

**V.**

Vatican Council (1870):- 70  
Vincent de Paul, Society of:- 71

**W.**

World War One:- 87

## INDEX OF PERSONS

### A.

Adair:- 53, 55, 81  
 Agnes, Sister (Dillon):- 83  
 Amici:- 6  
 Architects:- 76

### B.

Bakers:- 75  
 Ball:- 73  
 Bartley, Maurice:- 29  
 Benson:- 75  
 Bingley, Ralph:- 29  
 Boyds:- 11, 17, 60, 68, 69  
 Boyle, Fr. Joseph:- 25  
 Boyle, Fr. M.:- 60  
 Boyle, Mrs.:- 71  
 Bradley, Francis:- 9, Chapt. 14  
 Brady, Attorney:- 79, 83  
 Brennan, Fr. P.J.:- 25  
 Bristol, Earl of :- 11  
 Brooke, Basil:- 29  
 Brooke, Rev. Stopford:- 80  
 Burns, Joseph:- 75

### C.

Campbell, Fr. J. :- 7  
 Cannon (Ó Cannon/Canannainn):- 2, 26  
     28, 44, 90  
 Cannon, Fr. J.C.:- 20, 23  
 Cannon, Niall/Roderick:- 34, 35  
 Callaghan, Margaret:- 95  
 Carr, Dr.:- 14, 70  
 Cassidy, Sarsfield:- 80  
 Cathcart, Captain:- 46  
 Chambers, Captain:- 27  
 Charlie, Landlord:- 63  
 Chemists:- 70, 73  
 Chichester, Thomas:- 30  
 Christian Brothers:- 18  
 Cineal Ainmire:- 26  
 Cineal Enda:- 26, 27, 40, 41  
 Cineal Lughaidh:- 44

Cineal Moain (Gormley):- 38, 40, 41, 44  
 Clergy:- 12, 20, 21  
 Clergy (1870):- 70, 71  
 Coach, Thomas:- 2, 4  
 Collins, Owen:- 96, 98  
 Collins, Fr.:- 24, 65, 67  
 Columbkille/Columba:- 1, 4, 7, 40, 44  
 Commissioners, Town (1870):- 68  
 Connolly, Col.:- 64  
 Connolly, Mrs.:- 55  
 Cooney, T.J.:- 21  
 Coroner:- 70  
 Cousins, Rev. S.L.:- 71  
 Covenanters:- 73  
 Coyle, Bishop:- 7, 11, 12, 13, 20,

### Appendix I

Coyle, M.:- 60  
 Coyle, Willy:- 75  
 Craig, J.P.:- 21, 25, 87  
 Craig, J.P.:- 21, 25, 87  
 Crawford:- 27  
 Cunninghams:- 32, 61

### D.

Daly, Rev. P.:- 20, 60  
 Davitt, Michael:- 65, 66  
 Dawson, Charles:- 67  
 Dawson, Patrick:- 69, 76  
 Devenney:- 40  
 Devenney, Fr. John:- 20  
 Devenney, McShane:- 47  
 Devine, Fr. Bernard:- 96  
 Devine, Fr. H.:- 60  
 Dillon, Fr.:- 83  
 Dillon, Dr. James:- 12  
 Dillon, John:- 78  
 Diver, James:- 61, 76  
 Doherty, Fr. James (Pollans):- 10  
 Doherty, Michael:- 72  
 Dougherty, J.B.:- 22  
 Dowse, Richard:- 57  
 Drummond, Fr. W.:- 20, 67



Dunlevey, Fr. Hugh:- 23

Dwyer, Gray:- 67

## E.

Eames, Dr.:- 60, 98

Earley, Fr. Dan:- 20

Eugenius, Sister (Ó Neill):- 84

Eunan, Sister (Dillon):- 84

## F.

Feely, Dean:- 7

Fiacra:- 1, 2, 3, 4

Fitzgerald, Maurice:- 34, 35

Fleming Miss:- 75

Fleming, Sam:- 76

Fullerton, Andrew:- 96

## G.

Gaileys:- 75

Gallagher:- Fr. A. 23

Gallagher (Rathdonnell):- 81

Gallagher, Edward:- 24, 29, 58, 64, 68

Gallagher, Francis:- 18

Gallagher, Fr. F.B.:- 71

Gallagher, Fr. F.W(?):- 17, 20

Gallagher, Henry and Willie:- 68

Gallagher, Fr. Hugh:- 25

Gallagher, Fr. Hugh A.:- 25

Gallagher, James:- 53

Gallagher, Joe:- 29, 33, 61, 68, 74

Gallagher, John:- 68, 69, 75

Gallagher, Fr. John:- 13

Gallagher, Fr. Peter:- 24

Gertrude, Sister:- 83

Gildea, Fr. Hugh:- 23

Gillen, Neil:- 6

Gillic:- 24

Gormleys:- 40, 41, 44, 98

Gregory XVI, Pope:- 14

Griersons:- 53

## H.

Hamilton, Frederick:- 30

Hansard, R.:- 30

Harkin, Dónal:- 29

Harkin, Fr.:- 11

Hegarty's Hotel:- 75

Hendeson, R.:- 23, 60

Hoffman, Rev. R.:- 21

Holmes, Rev. W.H.:- 21

## J.

Jack, Miss:- 85

Jack, Rev. S.:- 71

Japanese Martyrs:- 14

Joachim, Sister:- 84

Joanna, Sister:- 84

Jolly, B.:- 73

Josephine, Sister:- 83

## K.

Kelly, B:- 20, 60

Kelly, Fr. J.:- 60

Kelly, Charles and George:- 84

Kelly, W.:- 74

Kennedy, Fr. C.:- 25

Kenny, Fr. C.:- 96

Kerr, Fr. Daniel:- 56, 60

Kerrigan, Fr. Hugh:- 96

King, Major:- 47

Kingsmill, Rev. H.:- 71

Kingsmill, John:- 30

Kinnear, Rev. John:- 58, 61, 64, 71, 78

## L.

Ladies Land League:- 67

Laird's Hotel:- 32, 75

Larkin, J.C.:- 69

Lavan, General:- 33

Leitrim, Lord:- 8

Livy:- 89

Logan, Rev. W.J.:- 21

Logue, Cardinal:- 5, 17, 65, 66

- M.**
- Mac Adegana, Owen:- 29
- Mac Cafferty, Fr. John:- 20
- Mac Cafferty, Fr. Patrick:- 24
- Mac Carry, Kate (hotel):- 75
- Mac Caul, Fr. P.D.:- 21, 25, 87
- Mac Cay, W.:- 75
- Mac Clure, Robert:- 75
- Mac Connell:- 27, 74
- Mac Dermott:- 39
- Mac Devitt, Bishop:- 4, 17
- Mac Devitt, Dan:- 61
- Mac Devitt, Fr. P.:- 60
- Mac Elroy, Rev. J.:- 12, 13
- Mac Elwee, Fr. J.:- 96
- Mac Fadden:- 19
- Mac Fadden, Edward:- 23, 70, 71, 78
- Mac Fadden, Fr. James:- 56, 60, 62, 67
- Mac Fadden, Dr. John:- 23
- Mac Fadden, Manus:- 60, 76, 79
- Mac Fadden, Ned:- 59, 60, 64, 67, 69
- Mac Fadden, Tom:- 60
- Mac Garvey, Fr.:- 6, 60
- Mac Gettigan, Daniel  
(Bishop 1861 - 1870):- 14, 15, 17, 20
- Mac Gettigan, Patrick (Bishop 1820 -  
1861):- 5, 13, 14, 83, 85, 99
- Mac Gill, A.:- 23
- Mac Ginley, Brigid:- 79
- Mac Ginley, Rev. J.C.:- 23, 25
- Mac Ginley, Dr. J.P.:- 69
- Mac Ginley, P.T. (Cú Uladh):- 80
- Mac Goldrick, Bishop:- 99
- Mac Goldrick, Fr. M.:- 15
- Mac Grenahan:- 13
- Mac Groarty, Rev. John:- 2, 8, 54, 56, 57,  
59, 60, 63
- Mac Kenna, James:- 72
- Mac Kelvey, J.:- 61
- Mac Kinney and Ó Callaghan:- 74
- Mac Kinney, F.S.:- 74
- Mac Kinney, W.:- 69
- Mac Intyre, J.:- 76
- Mac Laughlin, James Bán:- 81
- Mac Laughlin, Fr. P.:- 12
- Mac Leod, J. S.:- 53
- Mac Mahon:- 50
- Mac Mahon, Heber:- 1, 44, 45
- Mac Mahon, Hugh:- 46
- Mac Menamins:- 40
- Mac Menamin, Fr. J.:- 20
- Mac Menamin, Mons.:- 67, Appendix V
- Mac Monagle, W.:- 77
- Mac Neely, W. (Bishop):- 21, 87
- Mac Nicholas:- 28
- Mac Rabhartaigh, M.:- 49
- Mac Shane, Fr. J.:- 25
- Mac Swine, (Sweeney):- 45, 46, 49
- Mac Swiney, Col. Miles:- 45
- Mac Veigh, Charles:- 79
- Mac Veigh, Dan:- 61
- Maddock, S.:- 74
- Magennis, A.:- 46
- Maguire, E. Canon:- 22, 23, 24, 67
- Maguire, Hugh:- 46
- Mahoney, Eugene:- 75
- Martin, Dr.:- 98
- Martin, Fr.:- 24
- Marbury, G.:- 27
- Maturin, Rev.:- 53, 55
- Medical Doctors:- 69, 70
- Miller, Ross:- 21
- Moffatt, Dr.:- 73
- Molloy, Fr. T.:- 21, 87
- Montgomery, Bishop:- 2
- Moore, :- 73, 98
- Morgan, Constable:- 53
- Muintir Lughaidh:-
- Mulberry, J.:- 27
- Mulloy, Mark:- 23
- Mulloy, Fr. P.:- 23
- Murray, E. (Attorney):- 9, 54, 57, 74
- Murray, J.:- 53
- Murrough Mall:- 49, 50



## N.

Nee:- 28

Nemedians:- 28

Nenan:- 44

## O.

Ó Boyles:- 26, 48

Ó Boyle, Fionnola:- 6

Ó Boyle, Fr. J.:- 60

Ó Boyle, Turlough:- 6

Ó Callaghan, M.:- 74

Ó Carolan, Bishop:- 34

Ó Connell, Daniel:- 14, 17

Ó Connor, A.:- 78

Ó Cullenan, Bishop:- 47

Ó Dohertys:- 39, 41, 48

Ó Doherty, Cahir:- 90

Ó Doherty, Dr.:- 23, 25

Ó Doherty, J.E.:- 8, 79

Ó Doherty, Fr. J.:- 21

Ó Doherty, Fr. Joseph:- 24

Ó Doherty, Rev. Dr.:-

Ó Donnells:- 26

Ó Donnell, Cathbharr:- 42, 43, 48

Ó Donnell, Fr. Charles:- 17, 20

Ó Donnell, Doalty:- 51

Ó Donnell, Eighneachán:- 28

Ó Donnell, Godfrey:- 1, 28, 39

Ó Donnell, Hugh:- 49, 50

Ó Donnell, Fr. H.:- 19

Ó Donnell, James:- 75

Ó Donnell, Malachy:- 35

Ó Donnell, Manus:- 43

Ó Donnell, Dr. M.:- 87

Ó Donnell, Niall:- 49

Ó Donovan, John:- Chapt. 22

Ó Dunlevey, Dónall:- 49

Ó Flaherty, Fr. G.:- 60

Ó Gallagher (Castlefinn):- 52, 44

Ó Gallagher, Bishop R.:- 70

Ó Gara, Rev. H.:- 21

Ó Hagan:- 22

Ó Hanlon, Redmond:- 32

Ó Hegarty:- 48

Ó Muldory:- 28

Ó Mulrooney:- 28

## P.

Papal Army:- 58

Parnell:- 66

Patterson, Dr.:- 69

Patterson, Rev. R.:- 79

Peoples, Mrs.:- 75

Peoples, James:- 69

Petit, Dr.:- 70, 98

Pius IX:- 14, 15

Plunkett, Patrick:- 10

Poets:- 79 - 81

Pococke, Dr.:- 27, 30

Porter (Ballymacool):- 68

Power, Dr.:- 15

Presentation Brothers:- 71

Printers:- 74

## Q.

Quigg:- 71, 74

Quinn:- Quinn 40

## R.

Ramsays:- 59, 64, 74, 75

Rankin:- 53

Regan, Dr.:- 69

Robinson:- 76

Rinnucini:- 47

## S.

Saunderson:- 45

Sawneys:- 63

Scanlon:- 1

Scanlon, Fr. J.:- 23

Sedna:- 26

Sexton, George:- 47

Sexton, Thomas:- 18

Sheridan, Fr.:- 72

Sheridan, Fr. W.:- 20

Sidney, Philip:- 49

Solicitors:- 74  
Southwell:- 31, 60  
Spain:- 27  
Spence, Rev. D.: - 20  
Stafford, Major:- 27, 96  
Stephens, Rev. D.: - 7, 20  
Stephens, Mons.: - 7  
Stewart, W.: - 30  
Storey, John:- 60, 68  
Sullivan, T.D.: - 78  
Sweeney, Rev. Dan:- 20  
Sweeney, J.: - 71  
Sweeney, Fr. J.: - 60  
Sweeney, Mrs.: - 71  
S.V.P.: - 72  
Switzer, Rev. J.: - 21

## T.

Taylor:- 46  
Tease, W.: - 61  
Traill, Dr.: - 22  
Troy, Dr.: - 11

## U.

Ua Domhnaill, Mulrooney:- 26  
Ua Sruithen, Sitric:- 1  
Uí Muirthili:- 8  
Urban Council Members (1917):- 69

## V.

Vaughan, John:- 30  
Venables:- 45  
Virgil:- 89

## W.

Walker, Rev. B.: - 60  
Walker, Dr.: - 69  
Wallace, Willie:- 23  
Walsh (Sligo):- 77  
Ward, Francis:- 81  
Ward, John:- 75  
Ward, J.C.: - 87  
Ward, Fr. M.P.: - 21, 87

Warren, Admiral:- 32  
White, G.: - 60  
White, Rev. Robert:- 60, 63  
Wilson, R.: - 60  
Wiseman, Cardinal:- 14  
Witherow, William.: - 60  
Wolfe Tone:- Chapt. 9  
Wray, John:- 30

## X.

Xaveria, Mother (Kelly):- 84



## ILLUSTRATIONS

### LETTERKENNY PAST & PRESENT

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. John Gallagher                | 14. Hegarty's Hotel            |
| 2. Central Bar                   | 15. Cathedral Gates            |
| 3. Bernard Kelly                 | 16. Dawson                     |
| 4. Samuel Roulstone              | 17. Robert Mc Clure            |
| 5. Thomas Mulhern                | 18. Gallagher's Machine Bakery |
| 6. Oatfield                      | 19. Old Chapel                 |
| 7. Old Semminary                 | 20. Jospeph Gallager           |
| 8. Samuel Kennedy Bill           | 21. Mrs. Mc Intyre             |
| 9. Samuel Kennedy Ad             | 22. Fête and Sale of Work      |
| 10. Target Field                 | 23. Toursts' Field             |
| 11. W. H. Knipe                  | 24. Routes                     |
| 12. Gallagher's Temperance Hotel | 25. Routes                     |
| 13. S. H. Fleming                | 26. Entry to Stables           |

*Thanks to Jimmy (Old Letterkenny) Sweeney for photos.*

