

CORK CUVIERIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. THE fifth meeting of this society for the session 1866-7, was held in the library of the Royal Cork Institution, on Wednesday evening. Mr. JOSEPH WRIGHT, F.G.S., President, in the chair.

Mr. Robert Day, junior, showed the following:- A number of roughly-chipped-out flint implements, found at the village of Spiennes, near Mons, in Belgium. They were presented to him by John Evans, Esq., F.R.S.; who says they were found on the surface, and that Spiennes is one of the few places in the district where flint occurs; that it would appear in former times the natives chipped out their axes, &c., there, and took them away to grind, leaving the wasters which occur in the process of manufacture on the spot. It is possible that there was a local manufacture of the implements carried on for the purpose of export or trade, with the neighbouring tribes in whose country flint was less abundant. These implements resemble in form those found in Ireland, but from the rich coating of carbonate of lime and oxide of iron, which forms a varnish or enamel on the surface, it is probable they belong to an earlier period than their Irish prototypes which are seldom so richly patinated. He also showed some flint knives and scrapers, or thumb flints, found by Mr. Evans and Mr. Greenwell in their Barrow diggings on the Yorkshire Wolds, an interesting account of which has already appeared in the *Times*. A wedge-shaped pierced stone hammer, weighing six and a-half pounds, which was found by James Walsh, at Ballynamaddy, near Ballymena, from whom it was purchased; it measures 6 inches in length, 4½ inches wide, and is a 3½ inches thick, is made of hard sandstone, and is well preserved. A much smaller hammer of the same type made of hornblende. This was found at Clough Castle, Co. Antrim; has a polished surface, and great care must have been bestowed on its manufacture, as both in form and finish it is equal to any which have hitherto come before the society. Another of similar material, round at both ends, from Kilrea, Co. Antrim; and a curious diamond-shaped stone implement not pierced but similar in outline to a hammer figured in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vol. ix., p. 236. This is also from the County Antrim, and was found in Ballybeg bog, near Bellaghy. An implement resembling it, found at Ardnahue, near Carlow, is now in the collection of Mr. Spong of that town. -*Vide* "Transactions of the Kilkenny Society," vol. V., new series, p. 119, where it is figured. He also exhibited some iron sands from New Zealand, and read the following extract of a letter lately received from his uncle, Doctor Day, of Auckland :-" The iron sand I send. has excited much attention in England, and a Mr. Martin has at length overcome the difficulties of smelting it, has taken out a patent for his process, and is expected here very shortly to carry out his method on the most extensive scale; you are of course aware that ironstone, limestone, and coal all in large fragments are placed in the furnace, the two former to be brought to a white heat by a strong current of air forced through the fuel-fine sand of course could not be treated in this way, it would all run through and out at the bottom. How Martin has overcome that difficulty I do not know. The sand you have is just as it was gathered from the beach, and tens of thousands of tons may be shovelled up along various parts of the coast; none of it however that I have yet heard of is near a good harbour. A very large deposit is at New Plymouth, an open roadstead. What makes it of great value is its containing eleven per cent of titanium, a metal which when mixed in the proportion of five per cent. with iron makes the very best steel, so that this has only to be added to an equal quantity of ordinary iron to produce the desired result; it is doubtless a volcanic product; it exists more or less in every part of the country, and may be seen glistening in every water-rut on our hills; it is a curious problem how it assumed its present form" Photographs from life of some of the New Zealand chiefs who took a prominent part against the government in the late war, were also shown.

Dr. R. Caulfield exhibited two original wills on vellum, the one executed by Edmund Tyrre, of Cork, on the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, 1454; and the other by his son David, on St. Matthew's Day, 1470. Both wills contain inventories of the goods of the testators, and some interesting bequests to the churches of Cork.

Mr. Richard R. Brash; M.R.I.A., exhibited a ground plan and a finely-executed drawing of the ancient doorway of the church of Monaincha or Monainsi

bog isle or inch, which is situated in the county Tipperary, about three miles from the town of Roscrea. It was formerly called Inis-na-m Beo, or the island of the living. Monaincha, however, is no longer an island-the bog by which it was formerly surrounded having been cut, drained, and cultivated; the ruins are now accessible to any foot passengers. Giraldus Cambrensis writing in 1185 thus alludes to this place :-" In North Munster is a lake containing two isles; in the greater is a church of the ancient; religion, and in the lesser a chapel wherein a few monks caned Culdees devoutly serve God. In the greater, no woman or any animal of the female gender ever enters, but it immediately dies; this has been proved by many experiments. In the lesser isle, no one can die-hence it is called 'Insula Viventum,' or the island of the living." The remains to which I would call attention are those of an ancient Romanesque church of small dimensions, to which is attached what must have been a domestic apartment of the monks. This church is exceedingly interesting, as it is a pure and perfect specimen of that style of architecture which prevailed in Ireland before the Anglo-Norman invasion. It stands upon what was formerly called the lesser isle, but from the changes of time it is now the greater, and only marked from the surrounding land by a slight elevation. According to Cambrensis, it was formerly surrounded by water, as boats were employed to convey the sick thither. The church consists of a nave and chancel. The nave is 33 feet in length and 18 feet in width, the walls being 2 feet 9 inches thick. The entrance is at the west end by a semicircular-headed doorway, having three orders of arches sculptured with chevrons and other Romanesque decorations, over which, in the apex of the gable, is an angular-headed window similar to those found in our Round Towers. The nave has three semicircular-headed windows in the south side, of very beautiful workmanship, though now much injured. The chancel arch is 9 feet in width; and as you will see by the accompanying drawing, is of very beautiful and chaste design. Indeed, having examined a great number of churches both in this country and abroad, I can safely assert that I have seen nothing of the same class that exceeds it in beauty and symmetry. It has three orders of engaged columns at each jamb, these columns are (unlike these usually found in Norman work) of classical proportions. They have moulded bases resting on a plinth and sub-plinth. The caps have a bold abacus, the under part of the bell being fluted, as is very usual in Romanesque work. The columns support three orders of arches, which are carved on the faces and soffits, in very beautiful and varied patterns, the entire surfaces of the arches being ornamented. The chancel is exceedingly small, being only 9 feet 6 inches long, and 9 feet wide. It is lighted at the east end by a semicircular headed window, having moulded jambs, and arch; the external reveals are also moulded. In the south side is also a semicircular headed window, the jambs of which are broadly splayed. At each side of this window is a small square aumbry. The external quoins of the chancel are ornamented with three quarter columns, a very unique arrangement, seen only in a few ancient Irish churches. To the north of the nave, towards the east end, and entered from the nave, is a vaulted apartment 28 feet long and 13 feet wide, having very thick walls. This apartment is very dark, being lighted only by one small slit in the north, and in one corner is a stone stairs which led to an apartment overhead, no longer in existence. This building is of a much later date than the church. The dressings of the door and windows of the church are of a light-coloured freestone. The chancel arch was carved out of a reddish freestone. All the work was remarkably well executed. I hope these interesting remains have not been allowed to fall into utter ruin. It is about twenty years since I made the drawings I now lay before you. At that time the arch of the east window had fallen in, and the masonry of the upper part of the walls was much decayed; ivy and other destructive plants and trees had sown their seeds in the masonry, and were bursting out the cut stonework of the windows. The church was certainly erected some time within the twelfth century, the building to the north probably in the fourteenth. The church was originally founded for Culdean Monks, under the invocation of St. Columba. It subsequently fell to the Order of St. Augustine, who removed from thence and built a small monastery at Corbally, about a mile distant, the church of which still exists; its architecture shows this removal to have taken place in the thirteenth century.

The president said-In the early part of last year I brought before the society particulars of an examination I had made of a limestone cutting near Rathkeale Station, on the Limerick and Foynes Railway, which resulted in my finding there no less than ninety-four distinct species of carboniferous fossils, sixty-four of which were additions to those recorded by the Ordnance Survey This result being so

satisfactory, I was encouraged to revisit the spot last December, and have now to add thirty additional species to the above number, making one hundred and fifty in all from that station. The following are of more especial interest to the palaeontologist, viz., a highly curious cephalopod, known under the name of *Cyrtoceras paradoxicum*, the cross section of the shell being triangular instead of circular, the case in nearly all other *Orthoceratites*, *Pleurotomaria Yvanni*, *P. callosa* and *Modiola lingualis*; *Sanguinolitis subcarinatus* and *myacitis Omaliana*, both new to Ireland; *Cucullaea arguta*, which I believe to be also new to Ireland, as the fossil recorded under this name by Professor M'Coy, belongs undoubtedly to the genus *Avicula*. Three rare forms of Entomostraca occur, viz., *Cypridina ananlata*, *Cypris curtis*, and a very gibbous variety of *Cypris subrecta*

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