

Ancient Families - Connaught & Munster

from

Transfer of ERIN

or

The Acquisition of Ireland by England

Thomas C. Amory

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PREFACE.

For a large portion of the period which elapsed from the Anglo-Norman invasion to the reign of Queen Anne, the history of Ireland was little else than a struggle to acquire or retain property and possession of the soil. Conflicts of race and creed, of rival dynasties and ambitious chieftains, of enterprising and unscrupulous adventurers, modified or disguised the issues and the strife, but the root of Irish discontent, resentment and resistance was the systematic spoliation which finally succeeded in divesting the descendants of the ancient proprietors of all interest in their native land. Loyalty to established rule and common nationality too often yielded to this sense of wrong, and had not statesmanship devised methods of readjusting what was objectionable and at times seriously imperilling the stability of the social fabric itself, Ireland would have continued to prove rather a source of weakness than of strength to the realm.

Parliament has been sustained by public opinion, in recognizing the duty of making amends, and the impolicy of leaving any just ground of jealousy to the millions who fight the national battles, and who in time must participate more largely in making the laws. The tenure act is an initial step, which if followed out in the same spirit will soon disarm what remains of disaffection. It cannot be denied that the present state of tranquillity and order is in striking contrast to the restlessness which prevailed before these measures were adopted. As Ireland under just legislation starts on a new era of commercial and industrial activity, without infringement on vested right or disregard of any reasonable pretension the future will discover ways of restoring to the masses, who till the ground, a larger share in its ownership. The plea on which the land is now held, that government may take from one and give to another for national security and consolidation, would justify redistribution, and the increasing value afford a fund for compensation. With the development of its natural resources under good government the wealth of the island would be increased manifold, and landlords derive from less extended areas or less absolute control revenues largely augmented.

Any such course, however, if within the bounds of eminent domain would be denounced as radical and agrarian, and happily is not called for to effect the object. Generations are of little account in the life of nations, and those who shape their destiny may safely leave results to time. With the more general diffusion of education and consequent equalization of property, with modified laws of succession likely to approve themselves to growing enlightenment, what is unreasonable will rectify itself. While, goaded by a sense of injustice, Ireland was ever on the verge of rebellion, the stranger might feel some reserve in intruding his researches into this department of her history. But now that faith in honestly intended reparation has appeased long cherished animosities, and that history, consisting largely of these successive spoliations, cannot otherwise be understood, the selection of the subject needs no apology.

NATIONAL BIAS.

HISTORY, which formerly dealt almost exclusively with political revolutions and religious controversies, with kings and courts, war, its campaigns and battle-fields, of late has extended its province. It tells us more of the inner life of nations, the development of their industry and trade, progress in intelligence and civilization. It condescends to render more clear and intelligible the course and causes of events, by taking into view the origin, character and vicissitudes of families, classes and individuals. Under patriarchal governments like that of Ireland for twenty centuries, knowledge of what concerned the whole would be incomplete without some acquaintance with the annals of each clan, and of its leaders where they chance to be of note. It is also a help to know something of the place they inhabited, its geographical and other physical conditions, the extent of their possessions, and how they became from century to century enriched or impoverished. It is not easy to comprehend with precision the feuds and alliances of this ancient race, their hates and attachments, customs and traditions, for they form a tangled web. But they constituted an important part of what rendered them peculiar, and invest their history with a romantic interest as yet but partially improved.

HOMES OF THE SEPTS .

In order to understand the gradual transfer of ownership in the soil from the races in possession at the time of the invasion, before pursuing further the course of events that brought that transfer about, we must consider the geographical distribution of the clans of whom the population consisted. There have been times not very remote when researches in this direction might well have suggested suspicion of ulterior purpose ; but it is not so now. Laws of limitation both for rights and wrongs are everywhere recognized as indispensable to public tranquillity, and the actual tenures are too intimately interwoven with the whole social structure for any pretention to disturb them. Without apprehension of misconstruction, whatever in this department of Irish lore can be turned to account to elucidate our subject is collected here for convenient reference. The authorities consulted if within reach of diligent inquirers are not equally accessible to all who feel an interest in their progenitors.

The districts occupied by the forty one Scotch clans three centuries ago have been recently mapped. For reasons sufficiently obvious there, not only the clans but the chieftains, in modified relations, continue to exist in their present representatives. In Ireland, from circumstances reflecting no discredit upon the chiefs who from fidelity to principle have been divested, the old race remains under unlineal lords. New conditions and bounds have effaced the ancient landmarks, but the same names familiar for centuries in their respective neighborhoods are still extensively multiplied. Rarely elsewhere can be found in these days more distinctly marked traces of that patriarchal system common to the early stages of social development, for the study of whoever is interested in human progress. In many parts of Ireland not even the incessant strife of ages or disturbing elements of industry and improvement in the arts have wholly removed them, though they have materially affected the character and modes of life.

Keating, the Four Masters, M'Geoghan, following the ancient annals all place the arrival of Heremon and Heber more than ten centuries before the christian era. This great antiquity is disputed by Woods and other English writers, but no good reason is advanced to shake the probability of a period very remote. In other lands at corresponding epochs, legends too precious to be discarded inasmuch as if not true they are founded upon truth and point the way to it, have been handed down by tradition or preserved in such records as they had. Tigernach in 1080 dated the earliest authentic Irish history to which implicit credence could be accorded as three centuries before Christ when Cymbaoth erected the palace of Emania, near Armagh. But before the colony from Spain, Firbolgs, whose nine Kings from Slainge to Eochaid and Tuatha de Danaans, whose eighteen from Nuadat to 2737 A.M. over two centuries ruled over

the land, were numerous and their posterity variously intermingled are still represented in the present population. Keating enumerates three families known in his day as derived from the former, Gadbraigh, Tairsigh, and Galvin. Cromwells notion of hedging in the conquered in Connaught was not original with him for there what remained of the two previously subjugated nations had been relegated by the Milesians. They long remained as distinct communities till Muradach of the race of Heremon, one of whose grandsons Brian was the progenitor of the Hy Brunnes consisting of O'Connors, Rourks, Reileys, Malleys, Flynns and kindred septs, and another Fergus of O'Dowds, Shaughnessies, Clerys and others, was in the fourth century the first king of Connaught after defeating the Clan Morna warriors of the Firbolgs. Conqueror and conquered intermingled, and both alike represented in the present inhabitants.

The early divisions of the island by Partholan, Nennius, and the Firbolgs gave way to lines agreed upon by Heremon and Heber, to the former of whom was assigned Leinster, and to the other Munster. To the son of their brother Ir, drowned off the Skelligs in disembarking, was given Ulster and the Clan Rory, his descendants, held it undisturbed till the fourth century, when the sons of Neal the Great wrested away the larger part of it. To the descendants of Ith uncle of Milesius, slain by the Tuatha de Danaans whilst on a friendly visit to the island, and to revenge whose death his nephews came over from Spain, a district was allotted on the southerly shore of Cork, about Baltimore, where under the name of Driscolls they are still to be found. Ugain the Great, three centuries before Christ, divided the island into twenty-five principalities, the names and boundaries of which are little known unless they are in a few instances the same which from beyond memory have attached to certain districts.

Tuathal in the first century taking a portion from the other provinces had set it apart for the special domain of the monarchs. It did not long, as we have seen, remain inviolate. Near its easterly bound was Tara where the chiefs and kings often assembled for conference and legislation, as they did at Taitan for annual games after the manner of the Greeks, attracting a large concourse of all ages and conditions, and the occasion it is said was improved by the chiefs who were much given to diplomacy in forming matrimonial alliances for their children. Munster was divided by Oliol Olum in the second century between Owen and Cormac Cas, the former receiving Desmond, the latter Thomond while Kian a third son was provided elsewhere. The Keniads posterity of Kien embraced the Carrols of Ossory, Meaghers of Kilkenny, Haras, Garas, Hennessys, Caseys, Conors of Derry dispossessed by the Kanes, Breens of Lune, Flanagans, Corcorans of Cleenish in Fermanagh, Loughlans of Mogalion in Meath and Clankee in Cavan.

SUBDIVISIONS OF THE ISLAND.

It was one of the prerogatives of the king and chiefs to bestow Surnames on those subject to their rule. These may have exceeded two or three hundred in all. The number of Chieftainries was much more limited, computed variously at from sixty to a hundred and eighty-five. These subdivisions varied with the vicissitudes of war, marriage or inheritance. The whole island was divided into sixty-six thousand six hundred ploughlands estimated to average about one hundred Irish acres each.

As usually computed allowance being made for land less productive, one Irish acre was about equal in area to two English, but the more approximate difference is about two-fifths more for the Irish, or as twenty to twelve. This difference proceeds more legitimately from an Irish rod of long measure being equal to seven yards, the English to five and a half. But there is another embarrassment in estimating the extent of a plantation acre when mentioned in historical works. In grants from the crown, the quantity of prime or good land within certain bounds, or embraced in certain denominations was alone estimated, all less valuable thrown in. Under color of his grant of blackacre, whatever of whiteacre or inferior soil the patentee by force or fraud could appropriate, he was permitted to hold, and his title thereto confirmed

and quieted. The average area thus passed has been estimated as high as thrice the quantity actually expressed in the grant. It was not before the seventeenth century that surveys were made on which any dependence could be placed, and then it is easy to see how deceptive they must have proved.

County lines established at different periods by the English, as they extended their rule, corresponded generally to the boundaries now existing. King John created twelve counties, Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Louth, Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Kerry and Tipperary. 34 Henry VIII. Meath was divided into two counties, the westerly portion becoming West Meath ; and the land of the O'Byrnes, before part of the county of Dublin, Wicklow. 3 Philip and Mary, Leix and part adjacent after the O'Moores had been subdued, were formed into Queens ; Offaly with part of Glenmalire into Kings. In 1565 out of Annaly was made the county of Longford by Sir Henry Sydney, who divided Connaught into Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon and Leitrim. Clare, before a part of Munster, was added to Connaught in 1602 at the request of the earl of Thomond. Ulster was divided in 1584 into the shires of Armagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Coleraine, now Londonderry, Donegal, Fermanagh and Cavan. Earlier mention is made of Down and Antrim. Besides these thirty-two counties, the cities of Dublin and Cork were separate shires. For centuries these lines were of little significance. English authority was confined to the Pale as it was first called under the Tudors. It embraced portions of Dublin, Louth, Meath and Kildare, extending along shore from Dundalk to Dalkey eight miles south of the Liffy and inland to Ardee, Kells, Castletown — Delvin, Athboy, Trim, Maynooth and thence to Clane and Bally more — Eustace. [1]

County courts were established wherever protected by military force ; but their jurisdiction could not be sustained even over the king's subjects. Against English rebels or Irish enemies his writ was powerless. The former lords enumerated under Henry the Eighth, as thirty-one in number held their courts palatine, baron or leet, administering common and statute law, or in the Marches, where both races dwelt, these combined with the ancient law of the land and usages growing out of existing need. The latter acknowledged no authority or control over them except that of their chiefs, were governed by their own laws enforced by their own tribunals. These independent chieftainries were, at that time, set down as fifty-eight in all : nine in Ulster, ten in Leinster, nine in Desmond, twelve in Thomond, fifteen in Connaught and three in the western part of Meath then not divided. English process, in a language few understood, if served no one obeyed, and levies where attempted on their cattle provoked reprisal on the nearest English families whose herds were exposed and resentment was only quieted in blood. This arbitrary exercise of power confused every distinction of right, and if in later days property in Ireland has been less inviolate, it is simply the poisoned chalice returned to the lips that sent it.

In the general view now proposed of the geographical distribution of the septs, an approximation to exactness can alone be attempted. If incomplete or occasionally incorrect, it may still afford some guidance amidst the perplexities of a difficult subject. In some instances the name may have become extinct in the locality designated, in more only to be discovered under circumstances greatly reduced. Dispossession, pursuit of employment, increased facilities of intercourse, have carried many into exile, or to other parts of the island. In great cities and larger towns nearly every Irish name may be represented. But generally numerous branches remain in their original neighborhoods, and by assigning each family group to the province and county where they formerly flourished, some idea may be formed of the dwelling places of them all at the time their possessions respectively passed to the stranger.

ANCIENT FAMILIES OF CONNAUGHT.

The westerly projection of the island into the ocean embraces the counties of Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Galway, and before 1602, of Clare. It was set apart by Heremon and Heber for the Firbolgs and earlier races, but in the fourth century was conquered by the descendants of Fiachra of the posterity of Heremon. Muradach, son of Fiachra, was its first king of that dynasty, and from his grandsons Brian and Fergus branched the Hy Brunes and Hy Fiachras ; the former consisting of O'Connors Don, Roe and Sligo, Rourkes, Reillys, MacDermots, MacDonoghs, Flahertys, O'Malleys, Flins and Flanagans, Hanlys, MacManus, Fallons, MacKiernans, MacBradys, Donellans, Garvys, Malonys, MacBrennans, Lallys, Creans, Fahys, Breslans, MacAodhs, Crowleys, Finnigans, Hallorans. The descendants of Fergus were the Dowds, Shaughnessys, Haynes, Kilkellys, Keanaighs, Clerys, Ceads and Lennains.

In Roscommon, between the Shannon and the Suck, at Ballintobber, famous for its abbey, was long one of the chief seats of the O'Connors, kings of Connaught, from whom, through the De Burgs, descends the royal family of England. Another of their regal residences was at Cong, between lakes Mask and Corrib, on the borders of Mayo and Galway. This place was also famous for its abbey, founded by Domnal II., one of the O'Connor kings, who was monarch of Ireland. The duties and responsibilities of government demanding health and vigor, kings and chiefs, as they grew old or infirm, if they escaped the battlefield, retired to the cloister. Roderick, the last unfortunate monarch of the island, spent many of the last years of his life at one of these abbey retreats, dying in 1198 at the age of eighty-two.

In the fork between the two rivers, the Kellys, princes of Hy Maine, ruled over Athlone and Moycarne, part of Mainech, which extended across the Suck into Galway. Dugans, Donegans, MacBrides, Meanys, Fallons, MacKeoghs and Nortons were septs under them. North of Athlone the barony of Roscommon, the more special demesne of the kings, were Donnalans, Bernes, Hanleys, Conroys, Monahans, Flannagans, MacDowells. Farther west were Baltimoe and Ballintobber, divided later between the O'Connors Don and Roe, Connellan, Moran and Fenaghty, and to the north MacDermots, princes of Moylurg. East of the Shannon and forming part of Brefney, Leitrim was the patrimony of the O'Rourks, comprising Dromanaine, Mohill and Carrigaleen under the Reynolds, and Rossclagher under the MacClancys of Dartry, with MacFergus, Meechan, MacGlom, MacKenny, O'Carrols of Calry, Fords, MacGowan of Tullaghar, MacGartlan, MacKeon, MacColreavy, Shanly, MacTeigue and MacDorchy for septs well known but not equally powerful.

Mayo, extending east to Lough Gara and south to Lough Corrib, borders for a long distance on the sea. A large portion of its territory was early under the rule of O'Dowds and O'Malleys, the former furnishing a dynasty of princes to Tyrawly and Ennis, the latter to Barrishole and Morrisk. Below, on Lough Mask, were domains of the O'Connor kings on the easterly side ; the country of the Joyces, a fine race of men originally from Wales, tall and vigorous, on the west. North of the Lake is Curra, where Murrays and Tiernays were chieftains ; and on the east Clanmorris, of which the Burkes, Mac Williams Oughtar, in later days earls of Mayo, were principal proprietors, and where the Prendergasts had possessions ; farther east again, Costello of the MacCostellos or Nangles, and north of the Burkes, Athleathan of the Jordans de Exeter. Finnigans, Gearans, Connegans, Callaghans, Cahany, Rothlans, Ronans, Bradys, Blighs, Quinns, Lennons, Milfords, Mulroys, Mulrenins, Mogahns, MacHales, Flynn, Cummins, Creans, Tooles, Duffys, Gradys, MacDarells, Dorchys, Lavel, Morans, Larisseys, MacGowans, Gormlys, with some other families of English patronymics, such as Lawless, Barret, Cusack, Petit, Lynch and Brown, held under them or succeeded to their possessions.

Sligo, on the north shore, embraced Tireragh, part of the large possessions of the O'Dowds, Gallen and Leny of the O'Haras, Cooltavin of the O'Garas, Corran and Tyrerrill of Mac-Donoghs, Carberry of O'Connors Sligo, and under them were Brogans, Flanellys, Colemans, MacGeraghtys, Morrisons, Morrisseys, Kernaghans, Howleys, Laughnans, Feenys, McFirbis, Morans, Keevans, Durkans, Spillane and MacConways.

The seven lower baronies of Galway, Longford, Clare, Dunkellen, Loughrea, Kiltartan, Athenry and Leitrim were early appropriated by the MacWilliams Eighter or Burkes of Clanrickard, — whose chief abode was at first the castle of Loughrea, and later that of Portumma. They held no exclusive possession, for the O'Shaugnessys, connected with them by various matrimonial alliances, retained portions of Kiltartan, of which they once were chieftains, as did the Mullalys of Longhrea, the Hallorans of Clare or Clan Fugail, Donnellans of Clan Brassail in Leitrim, Maddens and Hoolaghans in Longford, Haverties, Haynes and Connollys in Athenry. To the westward toward the Atlantic stretches a wilderness of rock and bog and mountain, with wild and romantic scenery, intermingled with patches of luxuriant vegetation, kept fresh from its proximity to the sea. In this territory, well known as Connemara, the O'Flahertys once ruled in Ire Connaught and the Mac-Conrys in Moycullen. Farther north and east was Conmayne, the Cross of Tuam, the seat of the archbishops, forming part of Dunmore, from which the Birminghames, barons of Athenry, expelled the O'Connors and O'Flahertys, lords of Dunamore, after the fall of Edward Bruce, at which time the Flynns were lords of Cloinmoelroin. Tyaquin, Kilconnel, Clonmacnoon, Killian, Ballimoe, formed part of Maineech or Hy Maine, of which the Kellys of the race of Heremon were princes, one of whom lord of Aughrim forfeited his possessions. Cowleys, MacHughes, Duanes, Lees, Callanans, Kirwans were other families of Connemara. Heynes, princes of Hy Fiachra, Sheehans, Cullens, Cahills, Fahys, MacTullys, MacNevins, MacEgans, Traceys, Larkins, Coffeys, Doyles, Daleys, Maginns, Cashins, Tourneys, Degans, Connollys, Mulrooneys and Mannings were also names much multiplied in Galway.

Though a large part of the four millions and a half of acres in the five counties are not very fertile, and two-thirds of them only under any cultivation, the population before the famine of 1849 and exodus that followed exceeded fifteen hundred thousand, that of Massachusetts today on the same area. It has of course greatly diminished since by emigration. The traveller attracted into the country by the beauty of its scenery and abundance of its salmon, will observe in the various races traits and lineaments which afford abundant evidence of their different origin. Here in Mayo were once preeminent the Chan Morna, said to be Damnonians as also the posterity of Eadan in Roscommon and of Enda in Sligo.

EUEGENIANS AND DALCASSIANS OF MUNSTER.

After Mogha Nuadat or Angus (81), King of Munster, born A.D. 60, defeated Con of the hundred battles, they divided the island by a line from Dublin to Galway, Con taking Leath-Con to the north, Mogha Leath-Mogha to the south. Leinster or Ensellagh remained subject to tribute for a time under the kings of Munster, but this settlement was of short duration. When Oliol son of Mogha, and son-in-law of Con (82), born in 92, came to die, he gave Fiacha son of his elder son Owen, Waterford, Cork, Kerry and part of Tipperary or Desmond, and Cormac Cas his son next in seniority surviving Limerick and Clare with the rest of Tipperary and part of Kings county or Thomond, providing that the representative of each line alternately should hold supreme sway in Munster.

It may prove serviceable to the reader to have at hand the respective main lines of the Eoghanaght and Dalcassians, from the time this settlement was made to the coming of Strongbow. The former consisted of : (84) Fiacha Mullathan b. 154 (85) Oliol Flanbeg b. 190 (86) Daire Cearb and Luaghuaid b. 228 (87) Corc b. 269 (88) Nadfraoch b. 320 (89) Angus b. 346, the first christian king (90) Felim b. 386 (91) Criomthan b. 423 (92) Hugh Dubb father

of (93) Finghin ancestor of the O'Sullivans and of (83) Falvey b. 511 father of (94) Colga the generous chief b. 555 (95) Nadfraoch b. 597 (96) Daolgiasa b. 640 (97) Doughaile b. 682 (98) Seachnusa b. 723 (99) Artgaile b. 764 (100) Lachtna b. 806 who lived in the reign of Cormac son of Culenán king of Munster, who compiled the Psalter of Cashel (101) Buadh-achán b. 848 (102) Ceallachán b. 886, who conquered the Danes (103) Justin b. 925 (104) Carthach b. 969 (105) Muireadach (106) Cormac b. 1054, who founded Cormac's chapel at Cashel, and (107) Dermot Mórna Cille Baine, king of Cork and Desmond, b. 1008, who married Petronilla de Bleete, an English lady of good family, and who made his submission to Henry the second and was slain in 1185, near Cork, by Theobald Fitzwalter.

The main lines of Cormac Cas who married the sister of the poet Oisín MacCumhale were : (84) Mogh Corb b. 167 (85) Fearcorb b. 198 (86) Angus b. 232, the peacemaker, (87) Luighaid b. 286, who dispossessed the Firbolgs of Clare (88) Conal Eachluath b. 312 (89) Cas (90) Blod (91) Carthin who had a son Angus progenitor of the Currys Cormacans and Seasnans, and (92) Eochy Balldearg, baptized by St. Patrick (93) Conal (94) Hugh Coiheme, or the comely king of Cashel and first christian king of the family. His son Congal was ancestor of the O'Neils of Clare and O'Noons of Thomond ; (95) Cathal, from whose son Algenain derive the O'Mearas (95) Torlagh b. 641 (96) Mahon b. 683 (97) Core (98) Lachtna (101) Loreán (102) Kennedy (103) Brian Boru born at Kincora 926, who conquered the Danes at Clontarf April 23, 1014, driving them out of the island. (104) Donogh was succeeded by his nephew (105) Torlogh, who died 1086. (106) Murtough d. 1119. (107) Dermot, whose wife was Sarah McCarthy daughter of Thaddeus, d. 1120. (108) Conor d. 1142 was succeeded by his brother (108) Torlogh d. 1167. (109) Murtough, slain by O'Brien whose eric was three thousand cows, exacted by his brother and successor (109) Donal King of Cashel who married Orlecam daughter of Dermot king of Leinster by a daughter of O'More of Leix. He founded the cathedral church at Cashel on the existing site. When Henry the second landed he tendered his submission, but in 1176, after that king violated at Oxford his pledge to king Roderick, Donal expelled the English from Limerick. He died in 1134.

The rule of alternate succession between the Eoghanacht [2] and Dalgais [3] was not observed with equal strictness and fidelity as that of a like nature adopted by the northern and southern Hy Níals to the central monarchy. The kings of the southern province, of Cashel as commonly called, while their seat of government was in that city, were more frequently selected from the former, their territories being nearer at hand. Between Conal of the Swift Steeds (87), and Lorcan (101), grandfather of Brian Boru, Dalgais furnished few kings to the throne of Munster. They sorely felt the injustice of this exclusion, and it led to desolating wars. When Cormac MacCuillénán, king and bishop of Cashel, in 908, was preparing for an expedition against Munster, which ended in disaster, he reminded the assembled princes of the law of Olioll Olum, and named Lorcan, king of Thomond, whom he had summoned from Kincora as his successor. But his wishes were not regarded, and though the two lines contended for the throne, seventy years elapsed before Brian Boru, son of Kennedy, conquered the Eugénians in 1078, and obtained the crown of Munster as the prize of victory.

It is not proposed at present to follow either line later down than the invasion. There are manifest reasons on the face of both as we derive them from Cronelly, and from the interesting history of the O'Briens by O'Donoghuc, for doubting their absolute accuracy. The intervals in the many instances are of undue length for average generations ; but possibly this may be accounted for by grandsons, and not sons succeeding. From the similarity of names in the two lists at about the same date, there seems also ground for suspicion of possible confusion. But the historical incidents with which they were severally connected are too well established for any very important error. The mode of numbering the generations, though suggesting a degree of credulity far below the accepted standards of historical scepticism, in beginning at the cradle of the race, is that common to all works of Irish genealogy, and is too convenient not to improve.

ANCIENT FAMILIES OF MUNSTER.

How it chanced that the Milesians are so peculiarly genealogical, may possibly be accounted for from their having retained, down to periods comparatively recent, the patriarchal system of government, the earliest form of civil polity. With their property and independence constantly menaced by strangers ever at hand to take advantage of their weakness, their family ties were drawn closer for mutual protection, and shut out from other pursuits, their shores and larger towns in hostile occupation, clansmen went little from home unless on military service. Their laws of succession, tenure of their lands, hereditary castes and military organization, all demanded an accurate record and transmission of descent, and officials specially qualified and trained and in some instances hereditary were appointed and set apart for this duty. The family lore thus preserved is an important help for the elucidation of our particular subject, and with the tribal boundaries baronial and county lines might better perhaps be presented on map or in tables. Such are to be obtained, but are not everywhere accessible, and we are reduced to the necessity of placing here what information of this description our readers may require to bear in mind.

Enumeration of names and places may prove somewhat irksome and cannot of course pretend to be absolutely exact or complete. Many names are purposely omitted, as simply modifications or repetitions, others through inadvertence, but if we succeed in imparting the knowledge of which we have ourselves felt sorely the need in studying the history of Ireland, our end will be attained. Our subject is the social and political condition of two races, differing widely in character and circumstance, placed side by side for centuries, developing in their mutual relations whatever is good or evil in human nature. If not always at strife, their friendly intercourse was often fraught with greater peril to the weaker and more confiding race than when engaged in actual hostilities. They readily combined for common objects of ambition or resentment, but there was a natural antagonism engendering jealousy and contention, and when the immediate objects for uniting their forces were effected they revived in their original virulence. In this long struggle the chiefs and clans eventually succumbed. The stranger, with a powerful nation of larger and constantly augmenting resources to lend aid when needed, rooted himself in the soil, and like the parasite of the tropics, extended his deadly embrace over his less fortunate and persistent neighbors, absorbing their substance and gaining vigor from their decline, leaving, as time proceeded, his victims helpless. This was the course of events in many parts of the island, it was peculiarly so in Munster.

The northern province defended by bog and stream, with passes impervious to hostile penetration, under its brave and sagacious rulers, kept its gates for centuries barred. If pressure from without aided by internal dissension ever swept in its tide of devastation, it soon ebbed, not again for long intervals to return. From the less homogeneous character of its people, and the hold the De Burghs early gained in Galway, the west if defiant of English authority was more under the influence of English interests. By Irish rules of succession, which excluded females, Eighters and Oughters had better claim than Mortimer or Plantagenet to the family lands of the De Burghs in Connaught, but if feudal law were to govern where it had never been accepted and could not be enforced, they were intruders, and if placed at disadvantage might be compelled to surrender. This led them to form for their security frequent alliances with the neighboring princes, and furnishes the key to the policy which long ruled in Connaught. In the central province and south toward the sea and St. George's Channel, the tenure of the representatives of Eva was constantly disputed and generally with success by the sons of Heremon.

The southerly shore was fringed with harbors, open to a maritime power and easily defended against land attack. We have seen how the map of Munster became curiously checkered with the demesnes of the two races, interspersed. There were septes of other stock than Hebers, English lords Avho did not trace to Nesta, but not many of either with sufficient ex-

tent of territory or influence to control events. From Waterford to Tralee, from Cashel to Derrynane, after assimilation in speech and dress had broken down the barriers which kept the races hostile and distinct, it was not so much two nationalities that were contending for mastery, as Fitzmaurice and Fitzgerald against Eugenic and Dalgais. Even these distinctions were constantly losing force as their houses became knit together by bonds of consanguinity. The line of Raymond lords of Kerry, now represented by the Marquis of Lansdown for seven hundred years, have been gaining in territory and influence. Certainly no English blood has been more largely tinctured by Milesian. It was in the eighteenth century before a baroness of Kerry died of Saxon or pure English stock. The first lord had for wife Grace Cavanagh, grand-daughter of the noted Dermot McMorrogh, King of Leinster, father of Eva, the second Mary McElligot of Connaught, the third, fourth and eighteenth princesses of Thomond, the seventh Catherine McCarthy, the ninth Maud O'Connor, the tenth Una McMahon ; the sixth, eighth and nineteenth Fitzgeralds, also widely connected through Roches, Barrys and de Burghs with both bloods. The wives of the second, ninth and eleventh earls of Desmond were O'Briens, of the twelfth and thirteenth McCarthies, the fourteenth espoused Mora O'Carroll.

Dermot McCarthys More (107) born 1098, king of Desmond at the time of the invasion, had for his wife an Englishwoman, Petronilla de Bleete. His great grandson Donal (110) b. 1204, also king, espoused Margaret daughter of the third Kerry ; Donal's grandson, Cormac (112) born 1271, Honoria daughter of the sixth. In the next generation Donal (113) b. 1303 — 1358 had to wife Joanna, only child and heiress of the second earl of Desmond, and four generations later the wife of Cormac (117) b. 1440 was Ellenor Fitzmaurice, daughter of the ninth Kerry by Mora O'Connor. Of the children of Donal an Druim in (118) b. 1481 Catherine married Finghin McCarthy Reagh, Honoria James fifteenth earl of Desmond, Donal (119) b. 1518 created earl of Clancarre espoused Honoria Fitzgerald, daughter of his brother-in-law. The house of Kincora early selected their brides from O'Connors, O'Moores, O'Cavanaghs, O'Kennedys, MacNamaras, Fogarties and McCarthies, but Torlogh (116) who died 1460, his son (117), and great grand-son (119) married Burkes, while the wives of Torlogh (118), and Conor (121) third, earl, were daughters of Kerry. Another wife of Conor (119) was Alice daughter of Desmond ; Donogh (120) second earl of Thomond married Helena Butler, daughter of the earl of Ormond, and Donogh (122) the fourth Amy Roche and Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of the eleventh earl of Kildare. The Carberry and Muskery branches were also as variously and intimately allied to the English race.

Their sons and daughters intermarried in each successive generation, forming a curious lace work of both races more or less harmoniously blended. With their territory coterminous and intermingled, their abodes not far apart, with constant occasion for social intercourse or friendly interchange, the marriage banquet or funeral rite, hostings, the chase, festivals of the church, to bring them into constant companionship, their stability and security depending in a great measure on mutual support, the religious sense extending far and wide, culture, refinement and civilization, earls of Desmond with their subordinate barons and knights of the Valley, Kerry and Glyn, white and black and five hundred established branches, Roches, Barrys, Condons and Barrets, the twenty powerful houses derived from the McCarthy More, Dalcassian chieftains subordinate to the kings of Thomond, O'Connors, O'Sullivans, Moriarties and Donovans held a singularly complicated sway over Munster.

They experienced strange vicissitudes of fortune, and not the least remarkable what we shall have occasion to allude to later, the last representatives of both earls and kings of Desmond, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, were caged in the tower of London. The Queens earl in 1601 and Sugaun or earl of straw in 1608, seventeenth and eighteenth earls of Desmond died there, and Florence McCarthy Reagh, who had married without Queen Elizabeth's consent Helena, heiress and only child born in wedlock of Donal McCarthy More earl of Clancarre, also ended his days after forty years' imprisonment more or less strict in London. The male representative of the eighth earl of Desmond, beheaded at Drogheda in

1467, ended in James Desmond descended from his fifth son who married an O'Brien and was living in 1687. The lineal representative of the McCarthy Morc, derives from an offshoot from the parent stem in the fifteenth century. Of the McCarthy Reagh there is a branch still residing in France. Justin of Cork represents the house of Muskerry, descended from Daniel of Carrignavar, second son of Sir Cormac of Blarney castle, and the line of Glenachroim now or not long since was represented by Charles Duna (124) whose principal abode is or was in the same city.

We have been tempted to loiter by the way to exhibit some of the modes by which the two races, naturally discordant and antagonistic, were gradually brought together and assimilated at the period under review. The same process was going on throughout the province and all over the country, more of course among chiefs and rulers and principal landholders with whom intercourse was more frequent, than lower in the social scale where the condition kept both sexes at home. It shows how difficult if not impracticable it becomes to expel a stranger race when it grows dominant and domineering, of what doubtful policy it may often prove to allow it to gain a foothold. Historical retributions find vent far apart from the original wrong, and at times the peace and order of America have been rudely shaken by the infusion of large numbers who do not understand how much its liberties and blessings depend for their preservation upon implicit obedience to wise laws justly and honestly administered ; but this will probably correct itself.

THOMOND.

Before crossing the Shannon, from what anciently was all Connaught, Clare, originally set apart with that province for the Firbolgs and other races the Milesians conquered, but which was wrested from them by Luighaid, one of the progenitors of Brian Boru, and, at the request of his descendant, third earl of Thomond, constituted 1602 part of Munster, spreads out its area of 802,352 acres, 500,000 arable land, the rest waste or pasturage. Embraced south and east by the river, its westerly bound extends a long distance by the sea into the bay of Galway. Its nine baronies, subdivisions established by the English government under Queen Elizabeth, and substantially the same in their limits as those previously existing, contained in 1841 three hundred thousand inhabitants, double its present population. In Tulla, its most easterly barony near the southeast corner of Lough Derg, once stood the celebrated palace of Kincora, near the pass of Killaloe, where the Kings of Limerick, when the Danes pressed hard upon them in that their earlier residence, took up their abode. Here Brian Boru was born and held his court as king of Thomond, Munster, or as monarch of the island ; and there also dwelt other generations of his line, before and after him. At the other end of Lough Dearg, twenty-three miles to the north, was the castle of Portumna, one of the strongholds of the Burkes of Clanrickard, with which family the O'Briens were often at war, and as often in amity. The shores of the lake must have frequently resounded to the war cries of the chieftains, often returned the softer echoes of harp and other musical instruments of peace, as processions passed along the lake for festive entertainment or funereal rite. Kincora was frequently demolished and rebuilt, and only abandoned some centuries later, when the Kings of Thomond possessed more convenient residences, and more central as their hold relaxed on Tipperary, in Clonroad, near Ennis, their first castle constructed of stone, erected by Donogh Cairbreach about 1200, Claremore near Clare, Moy in Ibrickan and Bunnratty.

The castle of Bunnratty, erected by Thomas De Clare, soon after his grant from Edward the First, continued the abode of that family during its troubled possession in Clare. After the last fatal battle of Dysert O'Dee in 1318, in which were slain, his son and grandson, the wife of his son Richard gave it to the flames, and the family left the country never again to return. It has since stood many a siege, and experienced the fortunes of war ; but its position in command of the pass of the river Raite was one of importance to defend, and after each fresh disaster it was restored. It was at one time the residence of General Ludlow, the favorite

general of Cromwell, and passed away from the O'Briens in 1712, when the eighth earl of Thomond sold it to a kinsman, not of his own name, who conveyed it in 1728 to the family of its present proprietor. It still stands, its central mass little diminished by time, though long since abandoned as a dwelling except for the constabulary force which occupies its lower apartments. Round about buried in the turf are lines of walls, formerly part of out buildings enclosing its outer wards, or forming part of its defences. What remains of the castle consists of a large square tower, about one hundred feet in elevation, flanked at the corners by four of smaller dimensions and communicating, containing each many rooms. The main structure is chiefly composed of four or five large halls, the length of which is given by Thackeray as seventy feet, though it is probably less, the roof of the upper one now being reversed. On the walls as into the plaister decorations of the smaller rooms are wrought the armorial bearings of the O'Briens. At one end between the towers have been constructed on several floors modern apartments of the fashion of Queen Anne. Not draped with ivy or environed by trees, this castle stands out stern and grim against the sky, and from the solidity of its structure may well, if undisturbed, remain for many ages an interesting historical relic of the warlike age it has survived.

Near by Kincora in Tulla, once extended the territory of the O'Gradys of Cinel Donghaile, supplying many dignitaries to the church, contributing many works of value to the national annals. They have long since passed from their ancient prosperity in Clare, but are now represented by the O'Grady of Kilballyowen Castle, in the barony of small county in Limerick, by Carrol of Shore Park, and by the Viscounts Guillamore, connected with the Blennerhassets. The northern portions of Tulla, and of the adjacent barony of Bunratty, were long the domain of the Macnamaras of the Clan Coilean, or Hy Caisin, one of whose chiefs, Sioda, in 1402 founded the abbey of Quin, among the largest medieval ecclesiastical establishments, and the ruins of which are considered the finest in Ireland. This line of chieftains were hereditary marshals of Thomond, and its several branches, two of whom are honorably represented among the present landed proprietors of Clare, possessed no less than fifty-seven castles. The lower part of Bunratty was called Hy-bluid, from the old name of the O'Briens, and was the early home of the Shannons, Kennedys, Creaghs and Kearneys, and near by were Moloneys, Magraths, Griffins of the castles of Ballygriffy, and Moygowna in Inchiquin. The Hehies or Hares of Hy Cormac possessed Magh-adare between Tulla and Bunratty. Inchiquin or Hy Fermeic was the patrimony of the O'Deas and O'Quins, the last now ennobled as earls of Dunraven, of Castle Adare, and there dwelt the McBrodys, still celebrated as for many centuries earlier as poets and historians; Hogans, bishops of Killaloe, Heffernans and O'Neils of Finlora. In Ibrickan still dwell in prosperity the Moronys and Mac Consedines, derived from Consadan, son of Donogh Cairbreach, of the twelfth century. Kilfenora, along the bay of Galway, was the inheritance of a branch of Clan Rory, divided in the eleventh century between O'Connors Core, of Dough Castle, to whom was assigned the southerly half or Corcumroe; and O'Loghlins, lords of Burren, the northerly. The latter are still represented amongst the present landholders in Clare; but the lands of this branch of the O'Connor name, of which were the O'Connors Kerry, passed under Queen Elizabeth through O'Briens and Fitzgeralds to Gores, Stackpoles and other English families. There are now to be found Mac Lysaghts, represented by the lords Lisle, Cullenans, Davorens, Currans, Liddys, and Gormans, formerly chiefs of Hy Cormac. In the southwest corner of Clare are the Corkavaskins Moyarta and Clonderlaw, of which the MacMahons were long chieftains. From John, born in 1715, son of Patrick and Margaret O'Sullivan Beare, who became Marquis d'Equilly in 1763, descends Marshal MacMahon, duke of Magenta, present ruler of France. This house of Mac-Mahon descends from Mortough More, king of Thomond, who died in 1110, and they are said to be the eldest extant branch of the O'Briens in representation of their great ancestor, Brian Boru. Sir William, late Master of the Rolls in Ireland, and his brother, General MacMahon, are of this race.

Across the Shannon, east and southwest of Clare, Tipperary, with its million of acres, four-fifths under cultivation, has at present but half the population within its borders before the famine of 1849. Its subdivision into eleven baronies corresponds very nearly to the ancient chieftainries. What is Lower Ormond was long under the rule of the Carrols of Ely, from whom descended the noble race distinguished on this side of the ocean, — Charles of Carrolton, being one of the signers of the declaration of independence, and his brother the venerable archbishop of Bahimore, the descendants of the former having intermarried with Englishmen of the highest rank and note for public service. Kennedys were also its chiefs, Breslins, Quinlevans, MacGilfoyles and Donnellyys had possessions, and there, as in many other parts of this kingdom of Thomond, McEgans and McClanchys held lands as brehons or hereditary judges. Upper Ormond was also the territory of the Kennedys, and there Sextons, Gleasons, Cullenans and O'Mearas had their abodes. O'Meaghers, of whom one has held in these present days an honored place in arms and literature, were lords of Ikerrin, Dermodyss being their neighbors.

O'Fogartys were lords of Eliogarty, now represented by the Lanigans of Castle Fogarty, MacCormans, Meehans, Cahills being the names most multiplied. This country early vested in the Butlers, and near Thurles stands one of the most interesting ecclesiastical remains in the island, Holycross, with its beautiful windows, and which long boasted amongst its many relics a fragment of the true cross. O'Deas and Corcorans ruled in Slievardagh, whilst to the southwest, in what is known as Middlethird, was Cashel, with its sacred hill, crowned with abbey and round tower, and the chapel of Cormac, the last of beautiful proportions and of solid stone, dating back to before Strongbow came. Near by are the mouldering walls of Knockgraffon, abode as birthplace of eighteen of the Munster kings, and which, at the time of the invasion, was the chief seat of the O'Sullivans, eldest branch of the Eoghanatch; there also was Hy Rongally, and Shannahans, Slatteryys and Kearneys had their home. In Iffa and Offa resided Keans and Morrisseys, and there is the present abode of the O'Callaghans of Shanbally Castle, Viscounts Lismore, of whom the first created in 1806, married Eleanor, daughter of the seventeenth Earl of Ormond. A branch of the Burkes were long paramount in Clanwilliam, whose castle of Cappa Uniac, memorable for many remarkable incidents in their history, stood midway between Cahir and Tipperary. Among their more powerful neighbors were O'Cuire, lords of Muscry Cuire, Dwyers, lords of Kilnemanagh, Kellehers, Spillanes, Dineens and Lennahans. Along the Shannon, in Owey and Arra, reigned the once powerful house of Mac-I-brien Arra, derived from Brien Roe, whom De Clare murdered. Of this territory O'Ryans and Donegans were previously chieftains and near by were branches of the Hogans, Heffernans and Scullys. This county early passed under the sway of the Butlers, being created their special palatinate, and although its former chieftains retained their lands and rule even as late as the sixteenth century, sometimes exacting tribute, and sometimes paying it, the kings of Thomond relinquished all pretension to sovereignty to a large part of it not long after the invasion.

No part of the country more abounds in relics of the past. Ruined castles and shattered fanes everywhere recall the days of strife and persecution. It was border-land and the scene of many hard fought conflicts. One of the most memorable was the successful defence of Clonmel, now a thriving city of twenty thousand inhabitants, under Owen O'Neil, against Cromwell in 1652. The marvels of the county are not all above the surface. At Mitchelstown are caves of great beauty, extending nearly a thousand feet into the bowels of the earth, turned no doubt to good account in the days of persecution for the concealment of priest or rapparee from the myrmidons of the law.

South of the Shannon extends the fertile region of Limerick, of which the capital, sixty miles from the Atlantic, was a place of strength and consequence in the days of the Danes. It was subsequently the regal abode of the kings and often beleaguered and now and then burnt. Its present population of forty thousand souls appears to be diminishing. Its lace works and

other trades are on the increase. The barony about the city is another Clanwilliam where the Burkes of Castledonnel formerly flourished. East of the town O'Briens were chiefs of Owney Beg, and west another branch derived from Conor, second son of kings Mahon Moinmoy, and who died in 1426, were chieftains down to the sixteenth century. On the opposite bank of the river Kenny were the possessions of the O'Donovans, and there Clerkins and Hannerys dwelt. West and south was the broad domain of Connelloe, originally of the O'Connells lords of Hy-Conal-Gaura, a branch of whom are still prospering in Enneis as also at Derrynane and Dunloh. This was the earliest grant to the Fitzgeralds in Desmond. Here near the Shannon is Askeaton, one of their principal residences and burial places, and remains of their grandeur abound in and around it. One of the five hundred offshoots of the race that made the name of Geraldine famous, the Knights of Glynn, held the northeast corner nearly twenty miles square, and Sheehys, Hallinans, Scanlans, Kinealys, Sheehans, Cullens, MacEninys, Mulcahys, occupied portions of the territory.

In Coshma and Small county ruled the O'Gradys, and Sarsfields viscounts of Kilmallock took their title from that once splendid fortress and abode of the Desmonds. The O'Brians lords of Coonagh derived from Morrogh of the Short Shield, grandson of Brian Boru and grandfather of Devorghal, wife of Tiernan O'Ruarc of Brefny, whose family quarrels were fraught with such woe to her country. Besides the septs or families already mentioned, Hartigans, Honans, Kerwicks, Conlans, Healys, most of them Dalcassians, are still to be found in different localities. The Fitzgeralds then as now are numberless, and intermingled with them are the families of the undertakers, who succeeded with Cromwell's iron-sides and palatines from Germany to the confiscated lands of Desmond.

[1] 1515. 6 Henry VIII. State Papers. Part III. Vol. II., pp. 9-22. The English Pale doth stretch and extend from the town of Dundalk to the town of Dervor, to the town of Ardye, always on the left side, leaving the marche on the right side, and so on to the town of Sydan, to the town of Dengele, to Kylcoke, to the town of Clanne, to the town of Nasse, the bridge of Kilcullen, to the town of Ballymore, and so backwards to the town of Ramore, to the town of Rathenoo, to the town of Tallaght, and to the town of Dalkey, leaving the march always on the right hand, from the said Dundalk, following the said course to the said town of Dalkey.

[2] The Eoghanachts, or Eugenic Families, are : — Mac Carthy Mor, Mac Carthy Muskery, Mac Carthy Carrignavar, Mac Carthy Aglish, Mac Carthy Cloghroe, Mac Carthy Na-Mona, Mac Carthys Mac Donogh, Mac Carthy Mac Donnell, Mac Carthy Reagh, Mac Carthy Duna, Mac Carthy Ballynoodie, Mac Carthy Glas, Keeffe, Mac Auliffe, Donoghue of Kerry, Donoghue of Cashel, Donoghue of Ossory, Collins, Connell, Daly, Mahony, Callaghan, Callanan, Moriarty, Cullen, Sullivan, Mac Gillicuddy, Quill, Riordan, Shea, Lyon, Cronan, Bnadhach, Cahalan, Maolins, Flathniadh, Flynn, Conal, Ceallaghan, Donnell, Duilgin, Hea, Ceanduibh, Mac Trialladh, Longadh, Dubhachain, Neill, Feichin, Flanlaoi, Dudhain, Leary, Rinn, Donall, Caomhloingsidh, Conall, Cronnelly, Dann, Ailgnin, Hooly, Ceitin, Meargan, Aignach, Canty, Eoghan, Agha, Maothagan, Maolerain, Glamhin, Berain, Loingseach, Angal, Finelly, Donovan, Feely.

[3] The Dalcassian Families are : — O'Brien, Mac Lysaght, Ailche, Ahern, Mac Namara Gunning, Kennedy, Meara, Mac Brody, Mulcahy, M'Einery, Liddy, Lenaghan, Lonergan, M'Clanchy, M'Coghlan, Mac Curtin, Grady, Morony, Molony, Griffin, Hanraghty, Hanrahan, Hehir or Hare, M'Innerney, Hartigan, Hickey, Hogan, Hurley, Lynch, Casey Cudihy, Conolly, Cormacan, Crotty, Mac Mahon, Lanigan, Kirwan, Magrath, Neill, Dea, Spelman, Fogarty, Sheehan, Toomy, Regan, Kelleher, Shanahan, Hely, M'Arthur, Sexton, Reidy, Slattery, Kearney, Noonan, Quin, Mac Considine, Scully, Curry, Heffernan, Cahill, Hea, Finnellan, Gloran, Toler, Durcan, Silk, Mulchaoine, Heavy, Caisin, Noon, Larkin, Bowen, Aingidy, Maine, Flaherty, Conroy, Heynes, Hanify.

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