

A
Historie
Of
Ireland,

Written in the Yeare

1571.

By

Edmund Campion,

WHAT varietie of choyse matter the affaires of this Kingdome doe affoord to an Historian, especailly since the middle of the raigne of King Henry the VIII. any one that is but meanelly versed in our Histories can testifie : But if we consider how little hath hetherto bin published, wee cannot but blame the slownes of our learned men, who have (for by respects) forborne to take paines in so worthy a subject. England hath had the happines that some parts of her Historie have bin lately excellently performed, by the right honorable Francis late Viscount St. Alban, the right Reverend Francis Lo; Bishop of Hereford, the most learned William Camden and others. Some will hereafter, I hope, doe the like for Ireland : In the meane while we are to accept of these tastes, the one left unto us by Edmund Campion, and the other by Doctor Hanmer, who died (of the plague in Dublin in the yeare M.DC. IIII.) before he had finished his intended worke: out of whose collections, what now beareth his name hath bin preserved by our most Reverend and excellently learned Primate. Other helpes (to passe by those which are already divulged) may be plentifully had by him who will under-take this taske, out of the auncient and moderne recordes, both in this King dome and in England, as also out of diverse manuscript Annales and Chartularies, which are yet extant among us, besides those authors of English birth, as John Wallingford a Monke of St. Alban, Thomas Wike a Canon of Osney, and others, (which I have scene) in that excellent library and treasury of MSS. antiquities, gathered by Sir Robert Cotton knight and Baronett deceased, who doe onely obiter touch upon our affaires. An intention there was not long since by Sir James Ley knight then Lord Chiefe Justice of the Kings Bench in Ireland, (afterwards Lord High Treasurer of England and Earle of Marleburgh) to have published some of our country writers in this kinde, for which end hee caused to be transcribed and made fit for the Presse, the Annales of John Clynne a Friar minor of Kilkenny, (who lived in the time of King Edw. the 3.) the Annales of the Priory of S. John the Evangelist of Kilkenny, and the Annales of Multifernan, Rosse and Clonmell, &c. But his weighty occasions did afterwards divert his purpose. The copies arc yet preserved, and I hope ere long with other Annales and fragments of the same nature will be divulged, Wee come now to the Authors in hand.

Your Lordships

Ever Humbly at Commandment

James Ware

TO THE
RIGHT HONORABLE
ROBERT DUDLEY,
BARON OF DENBIGH,

EARLE OF LEICESTER, KNIGHT OF THE NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER, AND S. MICHAELS,
MASTER OF THE QUEENES MAJESTIES HORSE, AND ONE OF HER PRIVY COUNCELL,
HIGH CHAUNCELLOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

My singular good Lord,

THAT my travalle into Ireland, might seeme neither causlesse, nor fruitlesse, I have thought it expedient, being one member of your Lordships honorable charge to yeeld you this poore book, as an accompt of my poore voyage, happily not the last, nor the most beautifull present that is intended to your Honour by me, but surely more full of unsavoury toyle for the time, then any plot of worke that ever I attempted, which I write, not of vanity to commend my diligence, but of necessitie to excuse mine imperfection. For whereas it is well knowne to the learned in this land, how late it was ere I could meet with *Gerald* of Wales, the onely Author that ministreth some indifferent furniture to this Chronicle, and with what search I have been driven to piece out the rest by helpe of forreine Writers (incidentally touching this Realme) by a number of briefe extracts of rolles, records and scattered papers. These things (I say) con-sidered, I trust this little volume shall seeme great enough in such barren shift, & my defect in penning the same shalbe imputed partly to my haste, who must needs have ended all before I should leave the land, and am now even upon point of my departure. So as to handle and lay these things together, I had not in all the space of ten weekes. Such as it is, I addresse and bequeath it to your good Lordship, for two causes. First that by the patronage of this Booke you may be induced to weigh the estate and become a patron to this noble Realme, which claimeth kindred of your eldest auncestors, and loveth entirely your noble virtues : The fame whereof is now carried by those strangers that have felt them into many forraine cuntryes that never saw your person. Secondly because there is none that knoweth mee familiarly, but he knoweth withall how many wayes I have been beholding to your Lordship. The regard of your deserts and of my duty hath easily wonne at my hands this testimony of a thankefull minde. I might be thought ambitious, if I should recount in particular the times & places of your severall courtesies to mee. How often at Oxford, how often at the Court, how at Rycot, how at Windsore, how by letters, how by reportes, you have not ceased to further with advice and to countenance with authority, the hope and expectation of mee a single Student. There-fore in summe it shall suffice mee to acknowledge the generall heape of your bounties, and for them all to serve your honour frankely, at least wise with a true heart : Let every man es-teeme in your state and fortune, the thing that best contenteth and feedeth his admiration ; But surely to a judgement setled and rectified, these outward felicities which the world gazeth on, are there, and therefore to be denied, praiseable when they lodge those inward qualities of the minde, which (saving for suspition of flattery) I was about to say are planted in your breasts Thirteene yeares to have lived in the eye and speciall credit of a Prince, yet never during all that space to have abused this ability to any mans harme, to be enriched with no mans overthrow, to be kindled neither with grudge nor emulation, to benefit an infinite resort of dayly sutors, to let downe your calling to the neede of meane subjects, to retaine so lowly a stomacke, such a facility, so milde a nature in so high a vocation, to undertake the tuition of learning and learned men. These are indeede the kirkels for the which the shell of your nobilitie seemeth faire and sightly ; This is the sap, for whose preservation the barke of your noble tree is tendered. This is the substance which maketh you worthy of these Ornam-ents wherewith you are attyred, and in respect of these good gifts as I for my part have ever bin desirous to discover an officious and dutifull minde towards your Lordship, so will I never cease to betake the uttermost of my power and skill to your service, nor to begge of Almighty God your plentifull increase in godlines, wisdome and prosperity. Fare you well : From Dublin 27 May, 1571.

Your Lordships
humbly to commaund.
EDMUND CAMPION.

TO THE
LOVING READER.

AT my times of leisure from ordinary studies, I have since my first arrivall hither, enquired out antiquities of the land, wherein being holpen by diverse friendly Gentlemen, I have given th' adventure to frame a Story, which I bring from the very first originall untill th' end of this last year 1570. I follow these Authors, Giraldus Cambrensis, who divideth his worke into two parts, from the first (which is stuffed with much impertinent matter) I borrow so much as serveth the turne directly, the second which containeth two bookes, and discourseth the conquest of Henry Fitz Empresse, I abridge into one Chapter: where Cambrensis endeth, there beginneth a nameles Author, who in certaine short notes containeth a Chronologie until the yeare of Christ 1370. From thence to Henry the Eight, because nothing is extant orderly written, and the same is time beyond any mans memory, I scamble forward with such records as could he sought up, and am enforced to be the briefer. From Henry the eight hitherto, I tooke instructions by mouth, whomsoever I bring besides these helps, either mine own observation hath found it, or some friend hath enformed me, or common opinion hath received it, or I reade it in a pamphlet, or if the Author be worthy the naming I quote him in the margent. Scottish Histories I used these twaine, famous in their times, John Major, and Hector Boethius. For English, wherein the state of Ireland is oft implied, because I am not in place to examine the auncient, I have credited these late writers, Fabian, Polidore, Cooper, Hall, Grafton, and Stowe : diligent and thankesworthy collectors. Touching the rest of all sorts, from whose bookes I picke matter to my purpose, they are mentioned as they fall in line, which here I list not to reckon, being loath to fill the page with a ranke of empty names. Irish Chronicles, although they be reported to be full fraught of lewde examples, idle tales, and genealogies : Et quicquid Græcia mendax audet in historia, yet concerning the state of that wilde people specified before the conquest. I am perswaded that with choice and judgment, I might have sucked thence some better store of matter, and gladly would have sought them, had I found an interpreter, or understood their tongue, til one so rare, that scarcely five in five hundred can skill thereof, th' other so hard, that it asketh continuance in the Land, of more yeares then I had moneths to spare about this busines, my speciall meaning was to gather so much as I thought the civill subjects could bee content to reade, and withall to give a light to the learned Antiquaries of this Countrey birth, who may hereafter at good leisure supply the want of this foundation, and pollish the stone rough hewed to their hand. Notwithstanding as naked and simple as it is, it could never have growne to any proportion in such post-haste, except I had entered into such familiar societie, and daylie table talke with the worshipfull Esquire James Stanihurst, Recorder of Dublin. Who beside all curtesie of Hospitality, and a thousand loving turnes not here to be recited, both by word and written monuments, and by the benefit of his owne Library, nourished most effectually mine endeavour. It remaineth that I request my countrymen to bend their good liking to my good-will, and the English of Ireland to favour the memory of their noble auncestors, both twaine to deliver me from all undue and wrong suspitions, howsoever the priviledge of an history hath tempered mine inke with sweet or sowre ingredients. Verily as touching the affaires and persons heere deciphered, how little cause I have with any bind and corrupt affection, either wayes to be miscarryed, themselves know best that heere be noted yet living, and other by enquiring may conjecture. Farewell. From Droghedah the 9. of June. 1571.

THE FIRST BOOKE

CAP. I.

The Site and speciall parts of Ireland.

IRELAND lieth a-loofe in the West Ocean, and is deemed by the later Survey, to be in length well-nigh three hundred miles north & south : broad from East to West one hundred and twentie. In proportion it resembleth an egge, blunt and plaine on the sides, not reaching forth to Sea, in nookes and elbowes of Land, as Brittainē doth.

Long since, it was devided into foure regions, Leinster East, Connaght West, Ulster North, Mounster South, and into a fift plot defalked from every fourth part, lying together in the heart of the Realme, called thereof Media, Meath.

Each of these five (where they are framable to civility, and answeere the writts of the Crowne,) be sundred into shires and counties, after this manner.

In Leinster lye the counties of Dublin, Kildare, Weixford, Caterlagh, Kilkenny, King & Queenes counties, these two lately so named by Parliament in the raignes of *Philip* and, *Mary*, having Shire-townes accordant, Phillipstown and Marryborrow.

Septes, Irish of name planted in these quarters, they reckon, the *Birnes*, *Tooles*, *Cauanaghēs*, which is the nation of *Macmorrow*, *Omores*, *Oconnores*, *Odempeyses*, *Odun*.

Citties of best account, Dyvelin : the beauty and eye of Ireland, fast by a goodly river, which *Cambrensis* calleth Avenlifius. *Ptolomy* Libnius, they call the Lyffie. The seat hereof is in many respects comfortable, but less frequented of marchant strangers, because of the bard haven. Kildare hath Kildare and the Naass. Weixford hath Weixford and Ross. Kilkenny hath Kilkenny the best dry towne in Ireland on the Southside of the river Suirus, also Callan and Thomastowne.

Meath is devided into East and West Meath, and the counties of Longford. Here dwelleth ancient Irish families (sometime Princes & Potentates) *Omalaghlen*, *Mac-Coghlan*, *Obrien*, *Omulloy*, *Omadden*, *Macgoghigan*, the Fox. This whole part, and the veyne of Finegale in Leinster, are best employed with husbandry, and taken to be the richest soyles in Ireland.

Connaght hath as yet but the county Clare, the town of Athenry : & Galway, a proper neat city at the sea side. Herein *Turlogh More Oconner* was a peere, & parted the whole betwixt his two Sonnes, *Cahal*, and *Bryen Oconnor*. In it are now cheife Irish, *Breni Oreli*, *Breni Oruarke*, *Oconnor Sligo*, *Odoude*, *Ohara*, *Macphilipin*, *Mac-dermot*, *Oconnor donn*, *Oconiior-Roe*, the *O-kellies*, *Mac-glomore*, of *Langues*, *L. Bermingham*, *Omaly*, *Mac-william Euter*, *Oflaherty*, *Clanricarde*.

Ulster wherein *Oneale* & *Odonil* are cheife Irish, contayneth the counties, Louth, Down, Antrim, one moiety of Droghdah (for the rest is in Meath) cheife town of Louth Dundalk, of Down, Down, & Carlingford, of Droghdagh, Droghdaghe, of Antrim, Cnockfergus, called also Cragfergus.

This part is dissevered from Meath and Leinster by the river Boandus, which breaketh out beside Logh-foyle, a bogge betweene Ardmagh, and S. *Patrickes* Purgatorie. *Camhrensis* reputeth the bogge at 30. miles in length, and halfe so much in breadth, and the same once firme Land, to have beene suddenly overflowen, for the bestiall incest committed there, unfit to be told.

In Mounster lye the counties of Waterford, Limericke, Cork, counties Pallatine of Tipperary, Kerry, and exempt from priviledge the Crosse of Tipperarie.

Waterford hath Dongarvon, and Waterford full of traffique with England, France, and Spaine, by meanes of their excellent good Haven.

Limericke hath Kilmallocke lately sackt by *James Fitz Morice*, and the Citie Limiricum, coasting on the sea, hard upon the river Shannon, whereby are most notably severed Mounster and Connaght.

Corke hath Kinsale, Yowghall, and the Cittie Corke, Tipperary hath Tipperary, Clonmell, Fidderstown, Cassell. Mounster was of old time devided into East-Mounster, Ormond, West-Mounster, Desmond, South-Mounster, Thomond. Here dwell *Obrenes*, *Macnemarraes*, *Mack-mahownes*, and one sept of the *Offlherties*.

In these quarters lyeth the Countryes of *O-Carrroll*, *O-Magher*, the white Knight, *Mac-Ibrine*, *O-Gaunaghe*.

Waterford contayneth the Powers, and Deces.

Corke the *Barries* Lands, Imokillie, Carbarrie, Maccarty-more, Maccarty-reagh, L. *Roches* lands, Osullivan, Muscry, L. *Courcy*, and diverse more, some of Irish blood, some degenerate and become Irish.

Limericke hath in it the Knight of the valley, *William Burcke*, Mac-Ibrine Ara, part of the white Knights Lands, *Cosmay*, *Obrenes*, and upon the edge of Kerrie the greene Knight, *alias* the knight of Kerrie.

Leinster butteth upon England, Mounster and Connaght upon France and Spaine, Ulster upon the Scottish Ilands (which face with *Hebrides*) scattered between both realmes ; where-in at this day, the Irish Scot Successour of the old Scythian Pict or Redshancke dwelleth.

The spirituall Jurisdiction^[1] is ordered into 4. Provinces whereof the primacy was euer given (in reverence toward Saint *Patricke* their Apostle) to the Archbishoppe of Ardmagha, now called Ardmagh, which custome was since confirmed by *Eugenius* the 3. who sent with all 3. other prelates to be placed, one at Dublin, one at Cashell, & the last at Tuam. To these are suffraganes in right 29, and all they inferiour to the Primate of Ardmaghe : under his province are the Bishoppricks of Meath, Derry, Ardagh, Kilmore, Clogher, Downe, Coner, Clonmacknoes, Rapho, and Dromore.

Under Dublin^[2] (whereunto *Innocentius* 3. united Glandelagh) are the Bishop of Elphine, Kildare, Fernes, Ossorie and Laignlein.

Under Cashell are B. of Waterford, Lysmore, Corke, & Clone, Rosse, Ardigh, Limericke, Emely, Killalo, Ardferte.

Under Tuam the B. of Kilmaco, Olfine, Anaghdoune, Clonfert, Mayo. In this recount some diversities have happened by reason of personall and reall Union of the Seas and for other alterations.

An old distinction there is of Ireland into Irish & English pales, for when the Irish had raised continual tumults against the English planted heere with the Conquest. At last they coursed them into a narrow circuite of certaine shires in Leinster, which the English did choose, as the fattest soyle, most defensible, their proper right, and most open to receive

helpe from England. Hereupon it was termed their pale, as whereout they durst not peepe. But now both within this pale, uncivill Irish and some rebells doe dwell, and without it, Countreyes and cities English are well governed.

CAP. II.

The temporall Nobility.

By conference with certaine gentlemen, attendants upon Sir *Henry Sidney*, Lord Deputie, (who excelleth in that knowledge) I tooke notice of the most noble English families in Ireland, which heere ensue with their surnames as they stand at this present.

Gerald Fitz Gerald Earle of Kildare, this house was of the nobilitie of Florence, came thence to Normandie, and so with earle Strangbow his kinsman, (whose Armes hee giveth) into Wales, neere of blood to *Rice ap Griffin* Prince of Wales, by *Vesta* the mother of *Morice Fitz Gerald*, and *Robert Fitz Stephens* : with the said Earle it removed into Ireland, one of the speciall conquerours thereof. One record that I have scene, nameth a *Geraldine* the first Earle of Kildare, in anno 1289. But another saith, there dyed a *Geraldine* the fourth Earle of Kildare in anno 1316. the family is touched in the sonnet of Surrey, made upon Kildares sister, now Lady Clinton.

*From Tuscan came my Ladyes worthy race,
Faire Florence was sometime her ancient seate,
The western Isle whose pleasant shore doth face,
Wilde Cambres cliffes did give her lively heate.*

His eldest sonne Lord *Gerald*, Baron of Ophalye, I reade the *Geraldine* Lord of Ophalye, in anno 1270.

Sir *Thomas Butler*, Earle of Ormond and Ossorye : the Butlers were ancient English Gentlemen, preferred to the Earldome of Ormond in the first of *Edward* the 3. Anno 1327. which fell upon heires generall, lastly upon Sir *Thomas Butler* Earle of Wilshire, after whose disfavour it reversed to the name of *Pierce Butler*, whom little before King H. 8. had created Earle of Ossorye. *Theo. Butler* was Lord of the Carricke. An. 1205. And Earle of Tipperarie 1300. or sooner : The Latine History calleth him *Dominum de Pincerna*, the English *Le Bottiler*, whereby it appeareth that hee had some such honour about the Prince, his very surname is *Becket*, who was advanced by H. le 2. in recompence of the injurie done to *Thomas* of Canterburie their kinsman.

His eldest sonne Lord *Butler*, Viscount Thurles.

Gerald Fitz Gerald, Earle of Desmond, *Morice Fitz Thomas*, a *Geraldine*, was created Earle of Desmond the same yeare : soone after that the Butler became Earle of Ormond. The Irish say, that the elder house of the *Geraldines* was made Earle of Desmond, though *Kildare* be the more ancient Earle.

His eldest sonne *L. Fitz Gerald* of Desmond, Baron of Inshycoin.

Sir *Richard Burcke*, Earle of Clanriccard, a braunch of the English family, *de Burge* Lord *Burgh*, who were noble men before their arrivall into Ireland.

His eldest sonne *Ulioke Burge* Baron of Donkeline.

Conegher Obrene, Earle of Tumond : the name of Earle given to *Murroughe Obrene* for terme of life, and after to *Donoghe Obrene*, An. 5. *Edw.* 6. now confirmed to the heires male.

His eldest Sonne *Lo. Obrene*, Baron of Ibrecane.
Mac Cartimore, Earle of Clarcar, created An. 1565.
His eldest sonne Lo: Baron of *Valentia*.
Viscount *Barrie*.
Viscount *Roche*.

Preston, Viscount of Gormanston, whereunto is lately annexed the Barony of Lounders, their auncestour *Preston*, then cheife Baron of the Exchequer, was made Knight in the field by *Lionell* Duke of Clarence, Lieutenant of Ireland.

Eustace alias *Powere*, Viscount of Baltinglasse, Lord of Kilkullen, to him and his heires male An. H. 8. 33. Their ancestour *Robert le Powere* as sent into Ireland with commission, and in his Off-spring hath rested heere since An. 1175. *Powere* alias *Eustace* is written Baron of Domvile An. 1317.

Sir Richard Butler, Viscount Mongaret, to him and his heires males An. Edw. 6, 5.

Viscount *Deces*.

Lord Bermingham, Baron of Athenrye, now degenerate and become meere Irish, against whom his aun-cestors served valiantly in An. 1300.

Sir Richard Bermingham was Lord of Athenrye. 1316.

John Bermingham Baron de Atrio dei, Anno 1318.
Mac Morice alias *Fitz Gerald*, Baron of Kerye.

Lord Courcye a poore man, not very Irish, the auncient descent of the *Courcyes* planted in Ireland with the Conquest,

Lord Flemmynge Baron of Slane, *Simon Flemmynge* was Baron of Slane in Anno 1370.

Plonket, Baron of Killyne : this family came in with the Danes, whereof they have as yet speciall monuments.

Nugent Baron of Delvin.

Saint Laurence, Baron of Hothe.

Plonket, Baron of Doonesawny,

Barnewall Baron of Trimleston : they came from little Brittain, where they are at this day a great surname, upon their first arrivall they wonne great possessions at Beirnhaven, where at length by conspiracie of the Irish, they were all slaine, except one yong man, who then studied the common Lawes in England, who returning, dwelt at Dromnaghe beside Divelin, and his heires are there at this day : from thence a second brother remooved to Sirestone, and so to Trimlestone, and married the Lady Bruns, who caused him to be made Baron.

This writeth the Lord of Donsany.

Edward Butler, Baron of Donboyne, given to *Edmond Butler* esquire, and his heires males, An. 33. H. 8.

Fitz Patricke, Baron of upper Ossory, given to *Barnabie Mac Gilpatricke*, and his heires males, An. 33. H. 8.

Donnate Clonnaghe Mac Gilpatricke, was a peerelesse warriour in Anno 1219.

Plonket Baron of Louthe, to *Sir Christopher Plonet* and his heires males, An. 33. H. 8. This Barony was an Earldome in An. 1316. appertaining to *Bermingham*.

Oneale, Baron of Dongannon, to whom the Earledome of Terone was entayled by gift of H. 8.

Power Baron of Curraghmore.

Mac Suretan Lord Deseret, whom *Sir Henry Sidney* called *Jordan de Exeter*. This was Lord in the time of *Lionell* Duke of Clarence, An. 1361. now very wilde Irish.

Murroghe Obrene, Baron of Insickeyhe, to him and his heires males, An. 35. H. 8.

Mac Costilaghe, L. Nangle, whom *Sir Henry Sidney* called *de Angulo*, now very Irish.

Mac William Burcke, Lord of eighter Connaght, now very Irish,

Baronets.

Seintleger Baronet of Slemarge, meere Irish.

Den, Baronet of Por man ston, waxing Irish.

Fitz Gerald, Baronet of Burnchurch.

Welleslye, Baronet of Narraghe.

Husee, Baronet of Gal trim.

S. Michell, Baronet of Reban.

Marwarde, Baronet of Scryne.

Nangle, Baronet of the Navan.

English gentlemen of longest continuance in Ireland are the race of those which at this day, either in great povertie, or perill, doe keepe the properties of their auncestors lands in Ulster, being then companions to *Courcy* the conquerour and Earle of that part. These are the *Savages*, *Jordanes*, *Fitz Symonds*, *Chamberlaines*, *Russels*, *Bensons*, *Audleyes*, *Whites*, *Fitz Ursulyes*, now degenerate, & called in Irish, *Mac Mahon* the Beares sonne.

CHAP. V

Dispositions of the People.

THE People are thus inclined ; religious, franke, amorous, irefull, sufferable, of paines infinite, very glorious, many sorcerers, excellent horsemen, delighted with Warres, great almes-givers, passing in hospitalitie : the lewder sort both Clarkes and Lay-men, are sensuall and loose to leachery above measure. The same being vertuously bred up or reformed, are such mirrours of holinesse and austeritie, that other Nations retaine but a shewe or shadow of devotion in comparison of them. As for abstinence and fasting which these dayes make so dangerous, this is to them a familiar kinde of chastisement : In which vertue and diverse other, how farre the best excell, so farre in gluttonie and other hate-full crimes the vitious they are worse then too badde. They follow the dead corpes to the grave with howlings and barbarous out-cryes, pittifull in apparance, whereof grew (as I suppose) the Proverbe, to weepe Irish. The uplandish are lightly abused to believe and avouche idle miracles and revelations vaine and childish, greedy of prayse they bee, and fearefull of dishonour. And to this end they esteeme their Poets who write Irish learnedly, and penne their sonnetts heroically, for the which they are bountifully rewarded. But if they send out libells in disprays, thereof the

Gentlemen, especially the meere Irish, stand in great awe. They love tenderly their foster children, and bequeathe to them a childe portion, whereby they nourish sure friendshippes, so beneficially every way, that commonly five hundredth kyne and better are given in reward to winne a noble mans childe to foster. They are sharpe-witted, lovers of learning, capable of any studie whereunto they bend themselves, constant in travaile, advenurous, intractable, kinde-hearted, secret in displeasure.

Hitherto the Irish of both sortes meere, and English, are affected much indifferently, saving that in these, by good order, and breaking the same, vertues are farre more pregnant. In those others, by licentious and evill custome, the same faults are more extreame and odious, I say, by licentious and evill custome, for that there is daylie tryall of good natures among them. How soone they bee reclaymed, and to what rare gifts of grace and wisdomes, they doe and have aspired. Againe, the very English of birth, conversant with the brutish sort of that people, become degenerate in short space, and are quite altered into the worst ranke of Irish Rogues, such a force hath education to make or marre. It is further to bee knowne, that the simple Irish are utterly another people then our Englishe In Ireland, whome they call despitefully *boddai Sassoni's*, and *boddai Ghalt*, that is, English and Saxon churles, because of their English auncestors planted heere with the Conquest, and sithence with descent hath lasted now 400 yeares. Of this people therefore severally by themselves I must intreate. Yet none otherwise then as they stand unfiled, and serve their accustomed humours, with whom I joyne all such as either by living neere them, or by liking their trade are transformed into them.

CAP. VI.

Of the meere Irish,

TOUCHING the meere Irish, I am to advertise my Reader, that hee impute not to them the faults of their Auncestors, which heere I have noted for two causes. First, that when the same are reade in *Cambrensis*, *Solinus*, or others, he confounds not the times, but may he able distinctly to consider their manners, then different from these dayes. Secondly, that it may appeare how much Ireland is beholding to God for suffering them to be conquered, whereby many of these enormities were cured, and more might be, would themselves be plyable.

In some corners of the land they used a damnable superstition, leaving the right armes of their Infants males unchristened (as they tearmed it) to the intent it might give a more ungracious and deadly blow.

I found a fragment of an Epistle, wherein a vertuous Monke declareth, that to him (travailing in Ulster) came a grave Gentleman about Easter, desirous to be confessed and howseled, who in all his life time had never yet received the blessed Sacrament. When he had said his minde, the Priest demaunded him, whether he were faultlesse in the sinne of Homicide ? Hee answered, that hee never wist the matter to bee haynous before, but being instructed there-of, hee confessed the murder of five, the rest hee left wounded, so as he knew not whether they lived or no. Then was he taught that both the one, and the other were execrable, and verie meekelie humbled himselfe to repentance.

Solinus writeth that they woonted (because they would seeme Terrible and Martiall,) to embue their faces in the bloude of their Enemyes slaine. *Strabo* the famous Geographer, who flourished under *Augustus* and *Tiberius Cæsar*, more then fiftene hundred yeares agoe, telleth (without asseveration) that the Irish were great Gluttons, eaters of mans flesh : and counted it Honourable for Parents deceased, to bee eaten up of their Children, and that in open sight they medled with their Wives, Mothers, and Daughters : which is the lesse incredible, considering what Saint *Hierome* avoucheth of the Scots their Ofspring and Allies, and what all Histories doe witness of the Scythians their auncient founders. See *Strabo lib. 4. Geograph.*

Although since the time of Saint Patricke, Christianitie was never extinct in Ireland, yet the government being hayled into contrarie factions, the Nobilitie lawlesse, the multitude willfull, it came to passe that Religion waxed with the temporall common sort cold and feeble, untill the Conquest did settle it, especially in cases of restraints and Discipline. The Honourable state of Marriage they much abused, either in contracts, unlawfull meetings, the Leviticall and Canonically degrees of prohibition, or in divorcements at pleasure, or in omitting Sacramentall solemnities, or in retaining either Concubines or Harlots for Wives. Yea even at this day, where the Cleargie is fainte, they can bee content to Marrie for a yeare and a day of probation, and at the yeares end, to returne her home uppon any light quarrells, if the Gentlewomans friendes bee weake and unable to avenge the injurie. Never heard I of so many dispensations for Marriage, as those men shewe, I pray God graunt they bee all authentique and buylded uppon sufficient warrant.

Covenant and Indent with them never so warilie, never so preciselie, yet they have beene founde faithlesse and periured. Where they are joynd in colour of surest Amitie, there they intended to kill. This ceremonie reporteth *Camhrensicis*. The parties to bee coupled in League, meete at Church, become God-septes, or Allies, beare each other on his backe certaine paces in a Ring, kisse together holy reliquees, take blessing of the Bishoppe, offer each to other a droppe of his owne bloude, and drinke it up betweene them : Even in the doing hereof, they practise mutuall destruction.

They have beene used in solemne controversies, to protest and swear by Saint *Patrickes* Staffe, called *Bachal esu*, which oath, because upon breach thereof heavy plagues ensued them, they feared more to breake, then if they had sworne by the holy Evangelist.

In Ulster thus they used to Crowne their King, a white cow was brought forth, which the King must kill, and seeth in water whole, and bathe himselfe therein starke naked, then sitting in the same Caldron, his people about him, together with them, he must eat the flesh, and drinke the broath, wherein he sitteth, without cuppe or dish or use of his hand. So much of their old Customes. Now a few words of their trade at this present.

Cleare men they are of Skinne and hue, but of themselves carelesse and bestiall. Their Women are well favoured, cleare coloured, faire handed, bigge and large, suffered from their infancie to grow at will, nothing curious of their feature and proportion of body.

Their infants of the meaner sort, are neither swaddled, nor lapped in Linnen, but foulded up starke naked into a Blankett till they can goe, and then if they get a piece of rugge to cover them, they are well sped. Linnen shirts the rich doe weare for wantonnes and bravery, with wide hanging sleeves playted, thirtie yards are little enough for one of them. They have now left their Saffron, and learne to wash their shirts, foure or five times in a yeare. Proud they are of long crisped glibbes, and doe nourish the same with all their cunning : to crop the front thereof they take it for a notable peece of villany. Shamrotes, Watercresses, Rootes, and other hearbes they feede upon : Oatemale and Butter they cramme together. They drinke Whey, Milke, and Beeffe broth, Flesh they devoure without bread, corne such as they have they keepe for their horses. In haste and hunger they squese out the blood of raw flesh, and aske no more dressing thereto, the rest boyleth in their stomackes with Aquavitæ, which they swill in after such a surfeite, by quarts & pottles. Their kyne they let blood which growen to a jelly they bake and overspread with Butter, and so eate it in lumpes.

One office in the house of great men is a tale-teller, who bringeth his Lord on sleepe, with tales vaine and frivolous, whereunto the number give sooth and credence. So light they are in beleiving whatsoever is with any countenance of gravitie affirmed by their Superiours, whom they esteeme and honour, that a lewd Prelate within these few yeares needy of money, was able to perswade his parish : That S. *Patricke* in striving with S. *Peter* to let an Irish Gallo-

glass into Heaven, had his head broken with the keys, for whose releife he obtained a Collation.

Without either precepts or observation of congruity they speake Latine like a vulgar language, learned in their common Schooles of Leach-craft and Law, whereat they begin Children, and hold on sixteene or twentie yeares conning by roate the Aphorismes of *Hypocrates*, and the Civill Institutions, and a few other parings of those two faculties. I have seene them where they kept Schoole, ten in some one Chamber, groveling upon couches of straw, their Bookes at their noses, themselves lying flatte prostate, and so to chaunte out their lessons by peecemeale, being the most part lustie fellowes of twenty five yeares and upwards.

Other Lawyers they have, liable to certaine families which after the custome of the country determine and judge causes. These consider of wrongs offered and received among their neighbours, be it murder, or felony, or trespasse, all is redeemed by composition, (except the grudge of parties seeke revenge :) and the time they have to spare from spoyling and proyning, they lightly bestow in parling about such matters. The Breighoon (so they call this kind of Lawyer) sitteth him downe on a banke, the Lords and Gentlemen at variance round about him, and then they proceede.

They honour devoute Fryars and Pilgrimes, suffer them to passe quietly, spare them and their mansions, whatsoever outrage they shew to the country besides them. To robbe and prey their enemies, they deeme it none offence, nor seeke any meanes to recover their losse, but even to watch them the like turne. But if neighbours and friends send their Cators to purloyne one another, such Actions are judged by the Breighoones aforesaid.

Toward the living they are noysome and malicious, the same being dead they labour to avenge eagerly and fiercelv. They love and trust their Foster Brethren more then their owne. *Turlogh Leinagh Oneale* that now usurpeth, is said to repose in them his greatest surety.

Strumpets are there too vile and abominable to write of, which not onely without feare, but also without remorse doe advance themselves in numbring what noblemen have had liking to their bodies. Hee that can bring most of his name into the field, base or other, triumpheth exceedingly. For increase of which name, they allow themselves not onely whoores, but also choise & store of whoores. One I heard named which hath (as he calleth them) more then ten wives, in twentie places.

There is among them a brother-hood of Carrowes that professe to play at Cards all the yeare long, and make it their onely occupation. They play away Mantle and all to the bare skinne, and then trusse themselves in strawe or in leaves, they waite for passengers in the high way, invite them to a game upon the greene, and aske no more but companions to hold them sport, for default of other stuffe they pawne portions of their glibbe, the nailes of their fingers and toes, their privie members ; which they lose or redeeme at the curtesie of the winner.

Where they fancie and favour, they are wonderfull kinde, they exchange by commutation of wares for the most part, and have utterly no coyne stirring in any great Lords houses. Some of them be richly plated : their Ladies are trimmed rather with massie Jewels, then with garish apparell, it is counted a beautie in them to be tall, round and fat.

The inheritance descendeth not to the Sonne, but to the Brother, Nephew, or Cousin germaine eldest and most valiant : for the Childe being oftentimes left in nonage or otherwise young and unskillfull, were never able to defend his patrimonie, being his no longer then he can hold it by force of armes. But by that time he grow to a competent age, and have buried an Uncle or two, he also taketh his turne, and leaveth it in like order to his Posterity. This custome breedeth among them continuall Wanrres and treasons.

The most auncient Inhabitants of Ireland.

THE honourable Historian *Titus Livius*, yeeldeth certaine priviledge to antiquitie, and will have it held excused, if percase for advancement of their Citties, they straine a point of truth, and derive a first foundation from one or other, of their supposed Gods : wherefore though I can no lesse doe then reject a fable concerning the arrivall of *Noes* Neece into this Island, yet this kinde of forgery being somewhat universall, seeing every Chronicler paineth himselfe, to fetch his reckoning with the farthest let him hardly be pardoned, who led by relation of his elders, committed first to writing so dull a tale. As for the multitude of writers that agree thereon, they are in effect but one writer, seeing the latest ever borrowed of the former, and they all of *Camhrensian*, who affirmeth it not, but onely alleadgeth the received opinion of Irish Histories, yea rather in the foote of that Chapter, he seemeth to mistrust it, and posteth it over to the credit of his authors: so then if the greatest weight hereof doe consist in Irish antiquitiss, which the learned here confesse to be stuffed with such implements, notoriously felt to be vaine and frivolous, I trust I shall not seeme contentious, nor singular in damning such a fable, not onely false, but also impossible. Thus they say, In the yeare of the world, 1536. The Patriarch *Noe* began to preach vengeance upon the people for their accursed lives, to builde his Arke, to enforme his kindred and speciall friends severally, that within few yeares the earth should be sunke in waters, if they amended not. This did he before the generall flood one hundred and twentie yeares, when every man foreslept the monition, onely a Neece of his named *Cesara* misdoubting the worst, and hearing her Uncle prophesie that all should be drowned for sinne, determined with her adherents, to seeke adventures into some forraine Island, perswaded that if shee might happely finde a Countrie never yet inhabited, and so with sinne undefiled, the generall sentence of Gods anger should there take no place. Whereupon she furnished a navy, and fled into Ireland, with three men *Bithi*, *Laigria*, *Fintan*, and fifty women, left unto her after many shipwrackes. The shore where she landed, & where she lyeth entombed, is at this day called *Navicularum littus*. The very stones wherein the memorie hereof hath beene preserved from the violence of waters, were said to be scene of some. Within forty dayes after her footing in Ireland, the deluge prevailed universally, and all this coast was cast away. [3] Now to ommit that part of this device, which is too flat, and ridiculous, if we consider that before the flood, no part of the Earth was knowen, nor touched beside Syria, [4] where the first age dwelled, that sailing was then utterly unheard of in the world, the first vessell being by Gods owne direction \wought, that she might have sped at home, would she repent with more ease and surety, that lajiheth with the Hebrewes, and lason with the Greekes, were the first pilots : that the Records hereof graven in stone, is but a borrowed invention from Iosephus. These things I say considered, it wilbe no hard matter to descry the falshood, wherin I would be more exquisite, were it worth my labour. We need not so ambitiously runne to *Cesara*, to begge a forged evidence, seeing without her helpe, Ireland must be confessed to have been knowen and peopled with the same kinred, even with the first Hands of the world. For within three hundred yeares after the generall Floud, immediately after the confusion of tongues, when *Japheth* and his posterity, imboldened by the example of *Noe*, adventured by ship into divers West Ilands, [5] there was in his retinew one of his progeny, *Bastolenus*, who conceiving stomack and courage at the late successe of *Nemrodus*, *Ninus* his kinsman (then newly intruded upon the Monarch of Assyria) & wandred so farre West, intending to rule without compeeres, till Fortune cast him and his people upon the coast of Ireland. [6] There he settled with his three sonnes, *Languinus*, *Salanus*, *Ruthurgus* active and stout gentlemen, who searching the Land through & through, left their owne names by three notable places, *Languini stagnum*, *mons Salangi* since named S. *Dominicks* hill, and *Ruthurgi stagnum*. Of *Bastolenus* is little remembred, save that in short space with many hands working at once, he plained a great part of the Country, then overgrown with woods and thickets. This posterity kept the Land under the government of these three sonnes & their offspring, about 300. yeares. Together with *Bastolenus*, arrived in Ireland certaine godlesse people of the stocke of *Nemrod*, worthily tearmed a gyant, as one that in bodily shape exce-eded proportion, & used his strength to winne soveraigntie, & to oppresse the weake with rapine and violence: That linage (*Chams* breed) grew to great numbers, & alway bethought them of getting mastery, wheresoever they tarryed. One cause was their bodily force answer-able to their hugeness of quantity : [7] another the example of *Cham Zoroastes*, that magitian, and *Nemrodus Ninus* his Nephew, which two in themselves and their progenies, were re-nowned throughout the world, as victorious Princes over two mighty Kingdomes iEgypt and Assyria. Thirdly they maligned the blessings bestowed upon *Sem* and *Jepheth*, counting it necessary for themselves, to stirre, and prevent Dominions, lest the curse of slavery prophesied by *Noe* should light upon them, as notwithstanding it did at last.

Thus irked, they began to kicke at their Governours, and taking head, set up a King of their owne faction, nourishing the same, and annoying the Subjects incessantlie, the successe on both sides was variable, quarrels increased, the enemie caught handfast, & every day bred a new skirmish. It seemed intolerable, & very necessity compelled them to try their whole force in one Battle, either utterly to weede out the Gyants, or to die free. Peace therefore concluded among themselves, for any private grudge hitherto maintayned, all sorts brake truce and amity with the Gyants, and straited them up so, that from all corners of the land, they must needes assemble into one field and fight for the better, maynelie they tugged certaine houres, but in conclusion the lawfull Kings prevayled, the miscreants done to death. See now the mockery of Fortune, Victors they were, and promised themselves a security. Anger & insolencie overturned all, for what with spoiling the dead carcasses, what with murdering the remaynder of that generation, man, woman, and childe in all parts of the Realme, vouchsafing them no buryall, but casting them out like a sort of dead dogges, [8] there ensued through the stench of those carryons such a mortall pestilence, infecting not onely the places where they lay, but the ayre round about by contagion, that beside those few which by sea returned homeward, few escaped alive, and heereby hangeth a tale. From this plague (say the Irish) was preserved *Ruanus* the Gyant, who from time to time kept true record of their histories, else utterly done away by sundry casualties of death, warre, spoyle, fire, forraine victories, and he (forsooth) continued till the yeare of Christ 430. and told S. *Patrick* all the newes of the country requiring of him to bee baptized, and so died, when he had lived no more but two thousand and forty one yeares : which is above twice the age of *Methusalem*. Had it beene my chaunce in Ireland, to meete & conferre with this noble Anti-quarie, hee might have eased me of much travell. These things I note for no Other purpose, but that the simple stumbling upon such blinde legends should be warned to esteeme them as they are, idle fantasies, wherewith some of their Poets, dallyed at the first, and after through error and rudenes it was taken up for a sad matter.

[1] Bishops in Ireland. Bern, in vita Malach. An. 1148.

[2] Dublin, an. 1212, S. Pat. booke of Recordes.

[3] An. Dom. 1656.

[4] Rab. Iaaac. in Gen. 5.

[5] Anno mundi 1957. after the best authors, which make 300. yeares, and not 100. between Noes floud and Babell.

[6] Bastolenus. Clem, recogn. 1. 4.

[7] Clem, recognit. 1. 4.

[8] Anno mundi 2257.

Ancient Irish histories : the works of Spencer, Campion, Hanmer, and Marleburrough (1809)
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