

As Others Saw Us

BY PAT WALSH

(1) Black Tom Strafford, Lord Weuntworth, when he visited Kilkenny in 1631, said: "I have been assailed with the favour of prose and the fury of poetry."

(2) Fynes Morrisson, Secretary to Mountjoy, referring to Kilkenny, says: "Kilkenny a pleasant town; the Chief of all towns within-land; memorable for the civility of its inhabitants for the husband man's labour and in its pleasant orchards fruits and flowers, Kilkenny seems to abound more than other parts."

(3) Ed. McLysacth, in his 17th century history, states: "The bye laws of Kilkenny City before Cromwell's time contain orders designed to restrain the gambling propensities of the citizens which town I may mention is unanimously described by all 17th century writers and observers as progressive and up-to-date and well in advance of other Irish towns in its architecture, its gardens and the civility of its inhabitants."

(4) Luke Gernon, a Minister of Justice, who visited Kilkenny in the 17th century, says: "Kilkenny is an inland town in a pleasant valley and upon a fresh river. It is praised for its wholesome air and delightful orchards and gardens which are somewhat rare in Ireland."

(5) Thomas Molyneux, who visited Ireland in 1707: "Orchards are fairly common, Kilkenny being most up-to-date in this respect."

(6) Rev. J. Cambell, who visited Kilkenny in 1777, says: "Kilkenny values itself upon its superior gentility and urbanity. It is much frequented by the neighbouring gentry as a county residence. It has a stand of nine sedan chairs and is not without the appearance of an agreeable place. I went last night to their weekly assembly and was soon given to understand by one of my partners that Kilkenny has always been esteemed the most polite and well bred part of the Kingdom."

(7) Ed. Lecky, in his 18th century history, states: "Kilkenny was noted for a school which was the most important in Ireland, for its manufactures of frieze, flannel and druggets, for

the purity of its air and water and for its four great annual fairs. (Frieze Fairs.)

(8) Stephen Rynne, in his monumental work, "All Ireland", states: "Kilkenny County might be described as the parlour in our Irish habitation of 32 Counties. It is comfortable, draughtless, and elegant. The typical landscape is mellow, there is only one other county to compare with Kilkenny: Armagh. Both are dominated by beautiful cities and both have that scent of cornucopia landscape where gardens, wheat-fields, groves and orchards look as if they had been spilled out over the gentle slopes. The City is in a true sense the Capital of Leinster. It is hoary with history, the kind that might be described as best selling. It has seen parliaments, pageants, confederations, plagues, sieges and wars. The actors on its stage have been saints, lords, rogues, poets, great overlords and a papal legate."

GIFTS OF BOOKS
RECEIVED RECENTLY, AND VERY GRATEFULLY'
BY THE
KILKENNY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- 3 Vols of Swift's Letters, printed by Faulkner, Dublin, 1767—the gift of Miss Violet Frizelle (member);
- 3 Vols. of Moore's History of Ireland—London—1827. New Ireland, by A. M. Sullivan, 6th edition, 1878. A Tour Around Ireland, by John Barrow 1836—the gift of Dr. Evelyn Downey (member);
- Epitaphs on the Tombs of St. Canice's Cathedral, by John O'Phelan—Dublin 1813—the gift of Colonel Dan Bryan (member);
- An Irish Remembrancer and 2 other Vols.—the gift of Miss Statia McEvoy, Watergate.
- Vol. II of the Nation 1843'-44 (Ja) s. Duffy, 10 Wellington Quay, Dublin). Vol. II Lewis Typographical Dictionary 1837. Guide to Kilkenny, by May Sparks and Eric Bligh (Kilkenny People 1926). Newspapers, photographs and pamphlets of historic interest—gift of Mrs C. Aylward, 26 Wildfield Road, Ballsbridge.