

Upper Patrick Street

Some notes of a Tour conducted by Patrick Walsh.

BUTLER HOUSE

Under lease dated 6th of February, 1832, for 32½ years from the 29th of September, 1831, Henry Hartford to James Marquess of Ormonde the premises are described as "The new slated dwelling house now in the possession of the said Marquess."

These premises were let by Frances Jane Marchioness of Ormonde to Doctor Johnson from the 25th of March, 1855, for the continuance of the above Lease which would be to 1863. Previous to Doctor Johnson the premises were occupied by Mr. Lawson. Doctor Johnson was still in occupation in 1867.

Under a Lease, the date of which I cannot ascertain but think it refers to the period 1800 to 1850, the premises were let by Dean Bourke of Ossory to Henry Hanford, Butler House and the house now occupied by Doctor Roche, "Maddens House," were described as two new slated houses with gardens, etc., containing in front 107 feet and lately held by Bibby Hartford.

Map dated 1757 in Castle Office shows only one house in the place of the present two houses occupied by Mrs. Duggan and Dr. Roche. However when Bibby Hartford made his will in 1788 he left to his son Henry Hartford "Maddens House" and this Henry Hartford settled the house on his nephew Henry Hartford on the occasion of his marriage to Charlotte Hartford. This property eventually came into the possession of John Joseph Smith. The reason this house is known as "Maddens" House is that at one period it was occupied by the Rev. Samuel Madden.

Butler House lease was bought by late Richard Duggan from Rebecca Green James in 1922. She was widow of Dr. Charles Edward James who held a lease from 1899 from Henry Hartford Tyndall for 31 years. In 1922 Butler

House was partly in possession of Dr. James and partly in possession of Masonic Lodge 642.

Museum of Kilkenny Archaeological Society was situated in Butler House for many years. The members of the British Association visited the Museum here in 1878. Fr. Meary, Mrs. Langrishe and James Robertson spoke here to the members on that occasion. Mr. Robertson, curator of Museum, lived opposite in house occupied by the Moynihan family up to lately.

Hogan says the old Mass House of St. Patrick looks on Rocque Map as if it occupied the site of the present kitchen yard of Butler House. This is not so, he says. It was erected in waste place made by the blocking of the blind lane from Archer Street to St. Patrick's Church. First Chapel in Kilkenny after Battle of Boyne.

ST. PATRICK'S GATE

The gate was originally built as part of the city fortifications by Robert Talbot in the 14th century. In a document dated 1626, an entry appears granting to Richard Rothe FitzEdward, in consideration of his building of the Castle over the gate and also the two towers upon the part of the wall of the said castle for defence of that part of the city, the castle over St. Patrick's Gate at a rent of ten shillings per annum. It was through this gate that the Papal Nuncio, John Baptist Rinuccini, made his triumphal entry into the city. Cromwell's forces breached the nearby walls but there is no record of their having attacked the gate. The Arch was removed about 60 years ago. Up to this period the Arch House was occupied by the Home Rule Club. The Arch House was removed recently.

A letter written by Mr. Martin O'Carroll, formerly of Patrick Street, states that the Arch was a real gathering place for the lads from Loughboy, Kells Road, Asylum Lane, Jacob Street, etc. When the Home Rule Club occupied the building, many successful concerts were held in the large card-room over the Arch under the late Michael Lennon's capable direction. Splendid programmes of choral and instrumental music were thoroughly enjoyed. The perform-

ers, according to Mr. O'Carroll, included: Willie Ryan, Frank Corry, John White, Michael White, Pat Hennessy, John Norman, Bob Norwood, Paddy Moore, Henry Hetherington, the writer's father, and many others. The dramatic class of the Club also rehearsed in this old building. Among the principal players were John Hickey, John and Ned Kenna, Bill O'Connell, Larry and Bill Bergin, Mike Vaughan Jim Carolan and Tom Carroll. Most of the organising work was carried out by Michael Dunne and T. W. O'Hanrahan. Good billiards matches were held and masters of the cue at that time were James Waide, Matt Kargan, Pat Corcoran, Bill Deegan, Bob Norwood, Pat Kiernan, Mike Dowling, Watt Troy and Jim Bryant. But the best of all the club's social activities were the Summer excursions that left the Arch for Woodstock.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCHYARD

Bishop Rothe writes that the Church of St. Patrick was first known as the Church of St. Mary's of Donoghmore, and there is no doubt, says Canon Carrigan, that St. Patrick's is the Donoghmore of Magh Raighna, mentioned in the life of St. Canice and which was the seat of an important monastery previous to the year 600. It is probable, too, that it is the Martarteach, the Church of the Relics, mentioned in the life of St. Patrick. In the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick it states that "Patrick came into Ossory and founded churches there in a place where Martarteach is this day in Magh Raighna." From the year 600 to about 930, there are only casual references to St. Patrick's, probably due to the Danish incursions and internal strife, but about 927, when Donagh I ascended the throne of Ossory, we find numerous references to St. Patrick's and its environments. Donagh was a wise ruler, just and generous. He was the founder of the McGiolla Phadraig dynasty and his descendants ruled in Ossory until they were banished by the Norman invaders.

Donagh was also Patron of a charitable institution known as Mir Michael which was founded by St. Patrick and Queen Laoghaire. It was this Donagh who placed his house and family under the patronage of St. Patrick and

changed the family name to that of McGiolla Phadraig, **that** is, a servant or follower of Patrick. The name Mc-Giolla Phadraig is known to-day in its English form as Fitzpatrick. About 1202, after Donald Dubh, the last of the McGiolla Phadraigs had been banished by McMurrough, we find the benefice in the possession of Earl Marshall, who had succeeded to the property by his marriage to Strongbow's heiress. The church of St. Patrick's was the church of the fortress and the owner of the castle exercised a degree of lay control over the church. Later we find the Earl exchanging with the Bishop of Ossory the patronage of the Church of Aghaboe and all the other churches of that place for the patronage of the Churches of Blessed Mary of Kilkenny and St. Patrick's of Donoghmore.

In an inquisition held in the new Tholsel in April, 1628, a certain Jac Martin was in possession of a plot of land near the cemetery of St. Patrick's which he held from the Dean of St. Canice's, then residing at his manor of Donoghmore, then known as the Castle of Donoghmore. His residence is also described in documents of the 17th century as the Dean's Castle of Donoghmore. The area was also known as Dean's ground and Deansby. The castle stood within the grounds of St. Joseph's. During the Cromwellian wars, this church was seized by the Cromwellian forces who manned guns on the tower or roof to breach the nearby town walls. There was a church erected here, probably the first to be erected after the Battle of the Boyne. Previous to the year 1782, the church was taken down. In this year Father Joseph Clarke leased a plot of land from Miss Margaret O'Shea of Dublin for the sum of ten pounds per annum. Mr. Walter Butler, then de jure 16th Earl of Ossory, in consideration of his being leased a portion of the plot to square and enlarge his garden agreed to pay Fr. Clarke double the rent and to lease him a portion of ground nearby to erect a Church, dwelling, etc. The erection of the church was commenced in November, 1781 and completed in March, 1782. Mr. Butler was a generous benefactor of the project. Formerly there was a pathway leading from Archer Street to the old Church through the

graveyard, but during the administration of Fr. Hayden, it was continued to Upper Patrick Street and is now known as Father Hayden's Road. The old pathway through the churchyard was closed.

In the graveyard there are many old tombs and altar slabs, the oldest being one with an inscription, "Here lies William, son of Simon, who died A.D. 1292." (translation). Another bears the inscription: "Allen Lovel lies here; God on his soul have mercy. Amen." in incised Lombardic characters. This is also a 13th century tomb. There is a large tomb bearing the Archer coat of arms and a panelled slab belonging to it is built into one of the walls in the Churchyard. The tomb is dated 1580. The base of a wayside Cross, containing the arms of Purcell and Cantwell marks the grave of Edmond Purcell who was killed by Sir Edmond Blanchville at Ballyfoyle. The date on the base of the cross is 1625.

Books of Kilkenny Interest

During the year a few books of local interest have appeared. "*Inns and Taverns of Old Kilkenny*," by May Sparks, is an attractively produced pamphlet with plenty of information and costing only sixpence. "*Romantic Slievenamon*," by James Maher, a book of almost 300 pages, contains a varied collection of articles dealing with South-East Tipperary and especially with Charles Kickham and Mullinahone. All this region has close associations with Kilkenny.

I should like to remind readers again of two books which appeared in 1953: W. J. Pilsworth's *History of Thomastown and District*, and Owen O'Kelly's *Cois Feoire* (Placenames of Co. Kilkenny).