

Count Thomas J. O'Loughlin

J. Leo McAdams

“NEITHER Felix O'Dulany nor Earl Marshall of Pembroke, nor William de Druhill, can lay such a solid claim to the undying gratitude of posterity as the member of the O'Loughlin family, who unsolicited and unaided, has defrayed out of his own pocket, every penny of the £40,000 which this magnificent church has cost.” So said the most Revd. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin, in the course of his sermon during the ceremonies which marked the opening and the dedication of the new church of St. John the Evangelist, in the parish of St. John, Kilkenny, on Sunday, 28th June, 1908.

The member of the O'Loughlin family referred to by his Lordship, was Thomas James O'Loughlin, eldest son of Michael and Margaret Laughlin of Castlewarren in the parish of Clara, in the County of Kilkenny. That the Laughlin family had roots in Castlewarren is shown by the inscribed headstone on the family grave in Castlewarren churchyard which reads as follows:—

“Erected by Michael Laughlin, Castlewarren, in memory of his father, Martin Laughlin who died August 15th., 1838 aged 40 years.

His mother Margaret, who died January 7th. 1878.

His daughter Margaret who died July 9th., 1888 aged 15 years.

Pray for the soul of Michael Laughlin who died August 6th., 1903 aged 76 years.”

On the obverse side of the stone is the inscription:—

“Pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Laughlin, alias Cahill, beloved wife of Michael Laughlin who died April 26th., 1904 at the age of 82 years.”

Thomas James Laughlin (subsequently O'Loughlin), was born in 1869. He had a younger brother Martin, and a sister Margaret who died at an early age. Thomas and Martin were educated at the local National School and Thomas was then sent to the Diocesan Seminary of St. Kieran, Kilkenny as a boarder to complete his education.

An uncle of the family, Martin Laughlin, had emigrated to Australia in the early part of the century and, I quote, “Through business acumen allied with remarkable good fortune attending his many undertakings, in the course of years had become one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the State of Victoria.” It was

said of him "that he was so proverbially fortunate and farsighted in all his ventures that whatever he touched turned into gold, he had the Midas touch." He was the owner of three large estates in the State known respectively as, "Glengower," "Lake Menenia," and "Killarney." The first and second named properties, comprising 34,000 acres were on lease to two extensive stock breeding and sheep rearing families. The third property, "Killarney" was Martin Laughlin's home and it comprised 327 acres of rich arable land situated in one of the most prolific localities in the State of Victoria.

From his early days in Australia Martin Laughlin evinced a keen interest in horse racing, a major sport in Australia. An article in an Australian paper stated that, "He was a constant patron of the 'Sport of Kings,' in the best and purest sense of things. he was a rare judge of a race horse and had annexed the Blue Riband of the Australian Turf, the Melbourne Cup. To most sport loving Colonials such an achievement was much dearer than the acquisition of the Commonwealth Premiership." The extensive racing stables attached to the Killarney residence was a massive structure of brick fitted with all the latest and most labour saving appliances which cost a lot of money.

The uncle Martin's death occurred at the end of the century and by his will his vast wealth was left in trust to his nephews, Thomas and Martin. Thomas administered the property, his brother seemed to remain in the background. He also went to Australia but little is known of his life there except that he died in 1925.

Thomas Laughlin arrived in Australia at the end of 1898 by way of the American Continent, no mean feat at the end of the last century. He took up residence at "Killarney" and quickly adapted himself to his new environment. A born administrator, he assumed control of the Laughlin properties. He carried out many alterations and improvements on the estate, not the least was the building of a new residence to replace the old one. A Melbourne periodical, "The Pastoral Homes of Australia," devoted an entire issue to a description of the three Laughlin properties with numerous illustrations. Dealing with the "Killarney" holding, it described the new house "as a magnificent two storied house of brick surrounded on all sides by a veranda and balcony from which a splendid view is obtained of the surrounding country." "The holding is one of the show pieces of the district. Officials of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens laid out the

garden shrubberies and plantations. A wide drive leads to the front door through massive wrought iron gates that are guarded by a substantially built lodge. Acetyline gas is laid on, not only through the house but also in the garden. The premises are sewered by a septic tank system."

Throughout his life Martin Laughlin, Senior, remained a very religious and charitable man. He never lost the religion of his homeland. When making his will, he directed, that after his death, a church should be built to the memory of the Laughlin family either in Australia or in Ireland. The entire cost of the church was to be borne by his estate and the task of seeing that his wishes were carried out devolved on his nephew, Thomas. It rested with Thomas to decide where the church should be built and he selected his native town, Kilkenny, as the most suitable place for its erection.

It has been said that the church could have been erected in Castlewarren but that the Parish Priest at the time, Very Revd. Fr. Cahill was not anxious to accept the offer. Actually the church envisaged by the Laughlin interests would have been too large for a country parish and furthermore, through the generosity of Thomas, the Laughlins had purchased a substantial property in the parish of St. John known as "Sandfords Court." So it came about that the church should be built in St. John's parish to replace the existing parish church, subject to the approval of His Lordship, the Most Revd. Dr. Brownrigg. The church in question was in good condition but the offer of Mr. Laughlin to build a new church, worthy both of the parish and the Laughlin family, could not be lightly turned aside and consequently the necessary permission was granted. The site selected was a spacious stretch of ground on the outer perimeter of the City, opposite the Railway station and large enough to accommodate the proposed church, a residence for the parochial clergy with ample space left for the laying out of grounds in front of the church. The site was part of the Ormonde estate and it was presented free of all charges to the parish by the third Marquis of Ormonde.

On Thursday evening, June 18th, the holy relics of the old church of St. John's were removed and placed in the sacristy of the new church. On Friday morning the ceremony of Consecration by his Lordship, Dr. Brownrigg, commenced at dawn and lasted until noon. Rev. C. McNamara, Dean of St. Kieran's College, was M.C. Rev. W. Holohan was Deacon, and Rev. J. Brady was sub

Deacon. Very Revd. Fr. Treacy, P.P., St. John's was Deacon in charge of the church.

The Cardinal Primate, His Eminence Cardinal Logue, arrived in the City on Saturday, 27th and was received at the City Hall by Alderman Thomas Cantwell, Deputy Mayor, acting for the Mayor, and the Corporation. His Eminence was presented with an address of welcome and received the Freedom of the City.

Sunday, June 28th, was a glorious June day. Decorations in the streets gave a great touch of colour to the scene as the procession, headed by members of Kilkenny Corporation in state followed by the Clergy, the Bishops, and Archbishops, and the Cardinal Primate entered the church. His Eminence presided at the High Mass assisted at the throne by the Very Rev. Canon McCartan, P.P., Donaghmore, and Very Rev. Canon Phelan, P.P., V.F., Slieverue. Among the attendance were: Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of Cashel; Dr. Delaney, Archbishop of Hobart, Tasmania; Dr. Kelly, Co-Adjutor Bishop of Sydney; Dr. Brownrigg, Bishop of Ossory; Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Lismore (Australia); Dr. O'Callaghan, Bishop of Cork; Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and many others.

Mr. O'Loughlin occupied a seat in the Sanctuary. The sacred music was rendered by the combined choirs of St. Mary's and St. John's. The celebrant of the Mass was Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, and the special preacher was Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, of Elphin. The "Kilkenny Journal," commenting on the sermon said: "It was one of the most eloquent pulpit announcements ever delivered in this country."

His Lordship took for his text:— "And I, John, saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven to God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; the tabernacle of God with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall be." Apoc. xx1—2.3.

His Lordship continued: "And to-day My Lord Bishop of Ossory and devoted citizens of Kilkenny and faithful people of St. John's, to-day you behold in this superb temple in which we are assembled, the acme, the consummation, the most perfect accomplishment of your loftiest aspirations for the resurrection of your long persecuted church. May I therefore beg your Lordship's permission to become the medium of conveying the gratitude of the parishioners of St. John's and of the citizens of Kilkenny and of the clergy to the generous founder of this magnificent temple and to pray that God's best blessing in this world and the world to come may reward him for

his unparalleled munificence in erecting this church by his unaided means."

"In this age of cold materialism and calculating economy when schemes of industry and commercial progress and the accumulation of credit at the bankers have become men's chief concern, when too, the carping criticism of the unbeliever and the profane jibes of the scoffer and the coarse sarcasm of every impecunious scribe that stoops to turn a dishonest penny, are being daily used in the Press and on the platform as weapons against the Divine mission and ill requited work of the Church. At such a time, it is I say, a source of strength and an assurance of victory to us to find a layman so strongly animated by Faith, so loftily inspired by Hope, so deeply permeated by Charity, as to donate this gift of unprecedented munificence to God and Holy Church, under the patronage of St. John the Evangelist been dedicated to-day."

After the ceremonies an interesting function took place in front of the new presbytery — the presentation of an address from the priests and people of St. John's Parish to Mr. O'Loughlin. Most Rev. Dr. Brownrigg presided. The Address read as follows:—

Dear Mr. O'Loughlin,

We, the priests and people of this, your native parish of St. John's, beg to offer you a most hearty cead mile failte on your return to Kilkenny and to express the very sincere pleasure we feel at having you again in our midst though your stay must be temporary. We recall that you parted from us and our parish to take up your new residence in your new home in the land of the Southern Cross but your name and memory have remained with us enshrined in the new church of St. John the Evangelist, the outcome of your princely generosity and of your strong and deeply religious faith.

This is a day of exceeding joy for us priests and people of the parish of St. John's and it's to you, dear Sir, that our happiness and our joy are entirely due, for that, like Solomon of old, you resolved and carried into effect "to build a house for the Lord in which He may dwell forever."

Signed: Patrick Treacy, Adm., Chairman; William Healy; John Morrissey, T.C., Hon. Treasurer; Thomas Walsh, T.C., John Tynan, T.C., Hon. Secretaries.

Mr. O'Loughlin, who was enthusiastically received,

said: "My Lord Bishop, Rev. Fathers, Mr. Acting Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, anyone should be pardoned for thinking that I should be the happiest man in Ireland's ground to-day and I believe that I should be the happiest if I were not called on to make a speech, for I assure you speech making is not in my line and I would rather build a church any day (laughter) than make a speech under such circumstances and before so many grave and learned dignitaries."

The three Kilkenny papers published special supplements devoted to the dedication and opening of the new church. The "Kilkenny Moderator" gave a very detailed account of the work carried out and the names of the various firms and local people associated with the project. Mr. William Hague was Architect but he died during the early stages of the work and a Mr. William H. Byrne succeeded him. The builder was Mr. Patrick Nolan, Monaghan and both Dublin and Kilkenny firms between them supplied the Altars, Pulpit and Font and interior fittings. Messrs T. Darcy & Son, Kilkenny supplied the seats and furniture for the Sanctuary. M/s. S. Lalor & Son, Friary St., and Mr. T. Cullen were also associated at various stages with the work. The concrete pathway outside the church was laid down by Mr. T. A. Walsh, John St., Kilkenny. It was highly praised and it was said at the time "that such a pathway could replace the flagged and uneven paths of the City."

The church was built in the Gothic style — the tower 74 feet from the ground — when completed with bell stage and spire it would measure 234 feet to the top of the cross. The length of the church was 133 feet — the cut stone was Bath and the external walls were lined with brick while local limestone was the material used throughout the building. The High Altar and side altars were of Sicilian marble and the Reredos and Pulpit were of Caen stone.

The reasons for the absence of the spire are by no means clear. An early belief held that the foundations of the church would have to settle before the spire could be added. But it was also believed, and with more reason, that the sum of £40,000 which Mr. O'Loughlin had contributed for the erection of the church was exhausted and no further funds being made available the work on the spire was not started and so, the O'Loughlin Memorial Church remains without a spire to the present day presenting a rather unfinished appearance.

An inscribed brass in the porch of the church reads as follows :—

“The O’Loughlin family of Sandsfordscourt in this parish, Michael and Margaret parents, Thomas and Martin, children, founded, built and furnished in all details this spacious and beautiful church unto the honour and glory of God under the invocation of St. John the Apostle, patron of this parish, at a cost of £40,000 in the first place as a mark of their own faith and devotion to God and in the second place as a lasting memorial of their gratitude to Martin O’Loughlin, brother of the above named Michael, who died in Australia leaving them a large fortune which he made there. To all of whom, whether living or dead, may God be propitious and merciful. This church was solemnly consecrated to God by the Most Rev. Abraham Brownrigg, Bishop of Ossory, on Sunday, June 28th, 1908.”

On the Thursday following the opening of the church a special meeting of the Kilkenny Corporation was held in the City Hall to confer the freedom of the City on Mr. O’Loughlin and to present him with an address of welcome.

But in spite of all the jubilation and all the celebrations, and in spite of Mr. O’Loughlin’s glowing tribute to the Mayor, the Hon. Capt. Otway Cuffe, a discordant and jarring note was sounded by the “Kilkenny Journal” of July 4th. In its editorial of that date it censured the Mayor for his absence from all the functions that had taken place in connection with the opening of the new church. An extract from the editorial reads :— “In the unavoidable and on these occasions, rather regrettable absence of the Mayor, Ald. Thomas Cantwell, acting as chief civic dignitary, dispensed the honours of the City easily and gracefully. Nevertheless knowing our noble Mayor’s views of the brotherhood of the Irish race, irrespective of class or creed, we think the occasion was one to which a pronouncement from him would have lent significance, and we are sorry that prior engagements did not permit him to make it.” As well, an article signed by one “Canicoppolites Katholikos” appeared in the same issue of the paper taking the mayor severely to task over his absences.

At the weekly meeting of the Corporation following the publication of the “Journal,” Ald. Cantwell in the chair — Councillor T. J. O’Hanrahan referred to some strictures passed on the Mayor’s conduct in a local paper which he thought were highly undeserved. He regretted that an attempt had been made in the article referred to, to set up a sectarian cry against the Mayor, and as a

Catholic member of the Corporation, he desired to disassociate from this attack. Ald. Cantwell stated that the Mayor was absent from the meeting at which it was decided to confer the freedom of the City on Cardinal Logue and therefore he, the Mayor, could have nothing to do or say as far as the Cardinal was concerned. With reference to the Church ceremonies the Mayor had mentioned to him that as it was purely a religious ceremony the Alderman could do his part just as well as himself and consented to Ald. Cantwell being supplied with the Sword and Mace. Councillor O'Hanrahan then proposed a motion — Verbally disassociating the Corporation from the attack on Capt. Cuffe. Councillor Kerwick seconded. The motion was carried by 9 votes to 2. Councillors Kenealy and Morrissey voted against. Councillor Kenealy was Editor of the "Kilkenny Journal."

On the 18th July, the "Journal" returned to the attack. A second article from "Canicopolites Katholikos" appeared which dealt with the recent resolution of loyalty to the Mayor passed by the Corporation. Paying tribute to Councillors Kenealy's stand at the meeting, the article continued as follows:— "Censuring Capt. Cuffe's absence from all the functions was not a congenial undertaking for the writer. As the actual resolution of the Corporation was unqualified approval of the Mayor's abstention, it is not every individual, even though a sense of public duty honestly prompted him, that would care to encounter the hostility of so formidable a body as the Kilkenny Corporation with a military Captain as chief and with militant members to anticipate, in the ardour of their devotion, his wishes without a complaint from Mayor Cuffe that he had been agrieved by the criticism. Without an iota of information as to how he regarded the ceremonial proceedings, the Corporation proceeded to pass a resolution — a stupid and ineffective resolution no doubt — charging the writer with setting up a sectarian cry against the Mayor." The writer continued:— "It must be admitted that the Mayor's absenteeism gave a feature of civic incompleteness to all the ceremonies. There cannot be a royal function without the attendance of a royal personage. Alderman Cantwell may be as picturesque as Captain Cuffe but the knowledge that he was only a deputy conveyed the impression of an impostor or a mere 'mime'! The public have had not a pronouncement of any kind, in defence or defiance, from Mayor Cuffe. He entirely ignores, if he does not despise popular sentiment, He can, without a charge of inconsistency, in opinion or policy declare in

the language of Glouster — 'Under our feet we'll stamp thy Cardinal's hat, In spite of Pope or dignity of Church'."

At a subsequent meeting of the Corporation, the Mayor presiding, Captain Cuffe explained his reason for being absent from the conferring of the Freedom of City on the Cardinal and on Mr. O'Loughlin. He, the Mayor, had to be in London on the Friday of the week of the celebrations and he had no foreknowledge that the freedom had been decided upon. He wrote to the Cardinal expressing his regrets and received a kind letter from His Eminence in return. Councillor Kenealy expressed himself as extremely pleased with the Mayor's explanation and there the matter seems to have ended.

Towards the end of July news came from Rome which brought a fitting climax to the events of the past weeks. His Holiness Pope Pius X had been graciously pleased, in recognition of Mr. O'Loughlin's magnificent generosity, to confer on him the title of Knight of St Gregory the Great and so henceforth he would be known as the Chevalier O'Loughlin.

Before he left Kilkenny the Chevalier presented two stained glass windows to the Presentation Convent, Kilkenny. Both windows bear the same inscription at the bottom — "In memory of Mr. & Mrs. O'Loughlin, Sandford Court, Kilkenny. Presented by Chevalier O'Loughlin."

Mr. O'Loughlin returned to Australia the following year.

A story is told that on one occasion he was on a visit to a Convent in Melbourne where he met a Kilkenny born nun, a sister of Mr. Nicholas Murphy of Ballybur. She showed the Chevalier a photo of her brother's family and he was immediately attracted by one of the daughters of the family — Kathleen the eldest. On subsequent visits to Kilkenny the Chevalier made the acquaintance of the Murphy family and when his intentions regarding Kathleen were made known no obstacles apparently presented themselves and by 1911 all arrangements had been completed for the marriage of the wealthy Australian landowner to the eldest and lovely daughter of a well known Kilkenny family.

The wedding took place at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, 27th September, 1911, but long before that hour the approaches to the church were thronged. The scene was an animated one and the bridegroom, on his arrival, was inundated with blessings from poor and rich alike.

The short discourse on the holy character of the alliance delivered by His Lordship in a resonant voice

which reached every corner of the sacred edifice was eagerly listened to, as all His Lordship's words of wisdom are. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Brownrigg, assisted by the Very Rev. Canon C. J. McNamara, President of St. Kieran's College; Very Rev. Canon Mackey, P.P., V.F. (uncle of the bride), and Rev. Fr. M. Holohan, Adm., St. John's. Twenty six other clergy were present. The Mayor and Corporation attended in state. An orchestra played Memdelsshon's Wedding March, the members being — Messrs J. Redmond, M. Barrett, J. Lalor, P. Lalor, W. Cassin, and J. Stobin. Sacred music during the Mass was rendered by a select choir under the conductorship of Mrs. Gibbs.

The bride was given away by her father and two of her sisters, Misses Sheila and Daisy Murphy were bridesmaids. The reception and wedding breakfast was held in the Club House Hotel.

Proposing the health of the bridegroom and bride, Dr. Brownrigg referred to the fact that the groom had been educated at their own Diocesan College. He (the groom), did not, like a great many others of this Diocese, run away from his own Diocesan College to seek the education elsewhere which they could have got at home equally well.

Concluding, His Lordship, announced that at his request, the Holy Father, Pope Pius X, made the Chevalier a Count of The Holy Roman Empire as a wedding present.

To mark the occasion the parishioners of St. John's presented the bridegroom with a solid silver tray. The border was richly chased and pierced with Celtic designs in the style of the Book of Kells.

A lengthy list of wedding presents were published and the names of some of the donors may be of interest and evoke a few nostalgic memories :—

Bride to groom — Silver clock, pair of field glasses;

Bridegroom to Bride — Emerald and diamond ring, diamond and olivine bracelet, diamond and aquarmarine pendant with bracelet to match and gold and platinum wrist watch;

Most Rev. Dr. Brownrigg — a magnificent 8 day chiming clock;

Loreto Convent — Prayer book and beads;

Presentation Convent — Limerick lace scarf, Carrickmacross lace handkerchief and sachet, embroidered silk handkerchief and sachet;

Mrs. Coyle, High St. — Prayer book and Rosary beads;

Michael Drea, High St. — Prayer book;

Michael F. Murphy, High St. — Silver cigarette case;



Mrs. Cassin, High St. — Limerick lace handkerchief and satchet.

Count and Countess O'Loughlin left Kilkenny that afternoon by motor en route for Spain where their honeymoon was to be spent. Embarking for Australia they took up residence in "Killarney," Warrenheip, and lived there until 1915. In that year the Count purchased a residence, No. 38, Hawthorne Grove, Kew, which they named "Tara Hall." It became their favourite residence in the years that followed. And they must have been happy years. The Countess was not long adapting herself to her new life in a new and strange country. She proved a wonderful partner to her husband, evincing a keen interest in all his affairs and particularly in all the charities that enjoyed the patronage of the Count. Five daughters were born of the marriage, Kathleen, Margaret, Helen, Agatha and Dorothy. Another baby was expected in 1925 and on the morning of Saturday, August 1st, the Countess gave birth to a son at "Tara Hall," but to the consternation of her husband and family, she collapsed during the day and died that afternoon. The baby son did not survive her.

The Countess was 44 years of age and her unexpected death and the death of her infant son was a crushing blow to her husband and family. "The Melbourne Advocate" reporting her death said — "The deepest sympathy of the whole Catholic community goes out to Count Thomas O'Loughlin, K.C.S.G. of "Tara Hall" on the death of his wife Countess Kathleen Gertrude. Like her husband, the Countess O'Loughlin was of a most benevolent and open-handed nature. Whether at "Killarney," Ballarat, at "Tara Hall" or elsewhere, her hospitality and generosity were unequalled. She was in truth an exemplary Catholic mother and open handed benefactress of the poor. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, Most Rev. Dr. Mannix was amongst the Countess's closest friends."

The death of his wife under such tragic circumstances had a severe effect on Count O'Loughlin. The general state of his health declined and by 1929 he was under constant medical care for heart trouble. In June of that year he returned to "Tara Hall" from a visit to Archbishop Duhig of Brisbane and suffered a severe heart attack from which he did not recover. "The Melbourne Tribune" of June 27th, reported as follows:— "Count Thomas James O'Loughlin died last Friday night from a sudden heart seizure at his residence in Kew. He was 63 years of age. He was attended by Rev. Fr. Frost, S.J. Rector of Xavier College, who administered the last rites. Deep regret is felt throughout

the Catholic community at the passing of its great benefactor and sympathy is extended to the young family of five girls, all pupils of Mandeville College. The name of O'Loughlin will ever be held in the highest esteem in the Diocese of Ballarat which that generous family has enriched with so many notable benefactions."

It was known in Kilkenny for some time that the health of the Count was giving rise for concern but the news of his sudden death came as a shock to the citizens. The weekly meeting of the Corporation was adjourned as a mark of respect, the Mayor, Ald. John Magennis, moving the adjournment said — "that Count O'Loughlin was a princely and generous benefactor to church, county and poor." Councillors Hanrahan, Power and Ald. Jackman associated themselves with the Mayor's remarks.

A large inheritance can bring its own problems and so the trustees and the O'Loughlin girls were to discover. Following the death of the Count trouble arose out of the legal interpretation of the will of Martin O'Loughlin. Senior who had died in 1894. His property, at the time of his death, was valued at £234,000 and by his will the greater portion of his estate was left in trust to his two nephews Thomas and Martin for life and on their deaths the capital and income should be paid to their children or remoter issue. There was a provision in the will that if no person attained a vested interest in the residuary estate after the death of both nephews the residue should be divided into 330 parts and paid to various institutions and charities named in the will. As Martin O'Loughlin, Jr. had died a bachelor an action was taken by the Bishop of Ballarat, Most Rev. Dr. Foley and one trustee, Sir Walter Leitch to have Martin's share divided amongst the named institutions. It was not until 1936 that the action was heard. A Melbourne court, presided over by a Mr. Justice Duffy decided in favour of the charities. Against this decision however, Kathleen Mary O'Loughlin as representing herself and other persons interested in the will appealed to the High Court. The Chief Justice, Sir Francis Mann, Mr. Justice MacFerlan, and Mr. Justice Lowe unanimously allowed the appeal, the order of the lower court was set aside and the costs of the appeal were ordered to be paid out of the estate. As the value of the estate had more than doubled since the death of Martin, Senr., it was estimated that over £100,000 was lost to the institutions and charities concerned. An Australian news item mentioned that the Royal Melbourne and the Womens Hospitals were particularly affected by the loss of the action.

Of the five O'Loughlin sisters, Mrs. Kathleen Fitzgerald died in England in 1970, and another sister is alive there. Mary was married in New York to a Dr. John J. O'Keefe and the remaining sisters continue to live in Australia.

J. L. McADAMS.

Nov. 1971.

AUTHORS NOTE

Many of the events recorded in this paper are still within the memory of a number of our older citizens, particularly the older parishioners of St. John's. In that parish the memory of Count O'Loughlin is still green and St. John's people have a particular liking for the name — the parish G.A.A. club is named after the Count. I am deeply indebted to the Proprietors of the "Kilkenny Journal" for giving me unlimited access to the files of their past issues. Actually the most of my material is taken from those files. Also my grateful thanks to the McDonald family of John St., relatives of the O'Loughlins who supplied me with cuttings from Australian papers, photos etc. Also to Miss Helen Murphy, cousin of the Murphy family for her help, Mrs. Moylan, and of course my thanks to the Hon. President of the Society without whose aid this paper would never have been prepared.



RIPE STRAWBERRIES IN NOVEMBER :

A bed of strawberry plants in the Deanery gardens, in Kilkenny, are in full blossom; but, what is more curious, we have seen specimens of the fruit itself, the white Caroline variety, of large size and of the best possible flavour, gathered in the same garden.

—The Penny Illustrated Paper, Dec 3, 1870