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A short guide to the
principal classes of documents
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HELPS FOR
STUDENTS
OF HISTORY.



THE PUBLIC RECORD
OFFICE, DUBLIN

ROBERT H. MURRAY

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HELPS FOR STUDENTS OF HISTORY. No. 7.

EDITED BY C. JOHNSON, M.A., AND J. P. WHITNEY, B.D., D.C.L.

A SHORT GUIDE

TO THE PRINCIPAL CLASSES OF

DOCUMENTS

PRESERVED IN THE

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, DUBLIN

BY THE REV.

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PREFACE

AT the present moment there is no complete official catalogue to the documents in the Public Record Office, Dublin. Mr. Herbert Wood, B.A., of this Office has written an admirable guide which he has not yet published. He has been good enough to allow me to avail myself of his great learning, and for his kindness I warmly thank him. My guide is based on the Reports of the Irish Record Commissioners, the Reports of the Deputy Keeper, and personal knowledge. In an Appendix I add short notes on Marsh's Library, and the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin; and on the Public Library, Armagh.

Many partisan pamphlets on Irish history have been written. In them scraps of evidence have been chewed and rechewed by writer after writer, and have long ago ceased to be nutritious. This reflects grave discredit upon our country. The materials for the exploration of the past are abundant—if a competent scholar takes the slightest trouble to find them.

ROBERT H. MURRAY.

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A SHORT GUIDE TO THE PRINCIPAL CLASSES OF DOCUMENTS

PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD
OFFICE, DUBLIN

ACCORDING to the evil custom of our ancestors public correspondence was often kept in the private possession of the official to whom the letters were addressed. So far back as the reign of Henry VII. a statute was passed with the object of providing for the safe custody of records (10 Hen. VII., c. 15). In the 36th year of Elizabeth a "fiant" was issued appointing Commissioners of Records. Judging, however, by a dispatch of the Earl of Strafford, dated March, 1635, the measures taken were not efficacious (*cf.* Strafford's Letters, Vol. I., p. 527, Dub. ed.). On March 23, 1671, a letter of Charles II. was enrolled, and it ordered the making of inventories and indexes to the public records and the lodging of transcripts of them in the Surveyor General's Office. The matter occupied the attention of the House of Lords in the years 1703, 1715, 1728, 1739, and 1758, and of the House of Commons in the years 1711, each successive session from 1715 to 1723, 1739, 1756, 1758, 1771, 1777, 1780, 1782, 1786, 1789, and 1791-3. The papers had been kept in various places in the Irish metropolis, *e.g.* in the Bermingham Tower, Dublin Castle, St. Mary's Abbey, etc. There was loss of documents arising from the laxity of officials, but there

was also grievous loss arising from fire, notably in 1304, 1711 and 1739.

In the first decade of the nineteenth century interest in the deeds of the past revived, and received powerful support from the pen of Sir Walter Scott. Irish Record Commissioners were appointed, and from 1810 to 1825 they issued fifteen most valuable reports. Suddenly, to the great loss of Irish history, this Commission ceased to exist, leaving its important labours in an unfinished condition. From 1825 to February 12, 1869, there were no more reports issued. In the latter year, Sir Samuel Ferguson, the Deputy Keeper, published his first Report, and in it he gave a short survey of the great institution over which he presided. It is plain from it that the contents cannot claim, like those of the Public Record Office, London, to excel all others "in age, beauty, correctness, and authority." Down to the year 1640, that landmark in the age of pamphlets, the records are largely legal in character, furnishing abundant material to the student of the growth of legal and, to a lesser extent, parliamentary institutions. They are essentially dry in their character to the middle of the seventeenth century, and this dryness arises in no small degree from the fact that the correspondence between the heads of the Government in London and Dublin are for the most part in the Record Office of the former place. In London there are twelve volumes of letters and papers for the reign of Henry VIII., four for that of Edward VI., two for that of Mary, and no less than 480 volumes covering the period from 1558 to 1771. It is true that some of these have been published, but the majority have not. These volumes consist largely of letters and papers, but they also contain the Conway Papers, Hanmer's and Williamson's Collections of Irish notes, Colonel Blaquiere's Registers, warrants by the Lords Justices and the Council, accounts of money

received and paid, adventurers for land, Letter Books of Secretaries, Entry Books of Proclamations, ecclesiastical regulations, Dublin petitions, three volumes of maps, fourteen folios with miscellaneous contents, 75 volumes of Entry Books, and 252 volumes dealing with the correspondence from 1782 to 1837. The complete list is in "Lists and Indexes, No. 43" (1914). Now it is too much to expect that the Record Office, London, will present these invaluable documents to Ireland, but why should they not be lent to the Record Office, Dublin, for the convenience of historians requiring them? The Irish profess to have many grievances, but here is a very real one.

There is an instance where Irish documents came first to the London authorities, and Lord Romilly suggested that they ought to be sent to Dublin—a suggestion which was carried out. When Mr. Hepworth Dixon was in America (before 1867) he saw in the library of Philadelphia five volumes of Irish State Papers, which had been presented to that library in 1799. He suggested to the Librarian that it would be a graceful act on the part of the authorities of the library if they were to restore these books to the British Government. To their credit the directors immediately and unanimously agreed with this proposal, and accordingly by Lord Romilly's advice they were sent to the Record Office here. Their contents are:

1. Original Correspondence, Irish Government, 1603-15.—These are chiefly letters and copies of letters from the Lords of Council in England to the Lord Deputy, or the Lord Deputy and Council in Ireland, and the dates range from 1592 to 1609-10. Among the matters discussed are the payment and victualling of the army; papers relating to arms and ammunition, military appointments, forts and fortifications; the currency; the settlement of customs; the treatment of the fugitive

Earls; the punishment of priests and the restraint of the Popish religion; the establishment of a learned ministry in Ireland, and the reform of the clergy; fines for recusancy; the apprehension and punishment of pirates; motives and reasons to induce the city of London to undertake the plantation in the north of Ireland, etc.

II. Letters, James I., 1603-15.—They consist of royal letters, warrants under the sign manual and copies of warrants; grants of land, rent, and annuities, in Ireland, to various persons, either for services or personal favours; the Church; military establishments, with three lists of the royal army; the reduction of the army; the improvement of the customs; the summoning of Parliament, etc.

III. Correspondence, Irish Government, March 10, 1610 to December 24, 1615.—In addition to the important official documents there are letters, petitions, and copies of petitions and memoranda, chiefly from private individuals. Much of this correspondence bears on the plantation of Ulster, furnishing considerable information as to the means by which that scheme was carried out, the conditions laid down for the undertakers, the settlement of citizens in Derry and Coleraine, and a series of questions addressed by the Lord Deputy to the Lords of the Council in England, testifying to the lively interest of James I. and his Privy Councillors. Other papers relate to piracy, the cutting and export of timber, the making of pipe-staves the dilapidations of ecclesiastical buildings in the dioceses of Waterford and Lismore, the non-residence of the clergy thereof, a charge made against the Bishop of Down, and the like.

IV. The Documents cover the Period from 1612 to 1615.—In all there are about 150, while each of the other three volumes contains about 250. At the beginning there is a brief and imperfect calendar of the letters. They consist of letters and warrants from James I to

Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy in Ireland, concerning grants of escheated lands in Ulster to certain undertakers, the planting of that province, appointments to various Irish offices, the allowance of annuities, pensions, and rewards, commercial matters, the accusations made against Sir Arthur Chichester, the dissensions in the House of Commons, etc.

Most of them are endorsed twice. One endorsement is in Sir A. Chichester's own hand, indicating the date of the letter, its nature, and the time of its receipt by himself, and the other in the ordinary hand of the Patent and Close Rolls, stating that the warrant or letter was enrolled by James Newman, clerk to the Master of the Rolls, on the Rolls of the Chancery of Ireland.

V. The Diary of the Marquess of Clanricarde.

That little of the governmental correspondence remains in Dublin is evident from the following list, which is practically complete: British Departmental Correspondence, 1683-1759 (*cf.* the 3rd, 5th, and 9th Reports of the Deputy Keeper); miscellaneous papers, 1643-1799 (*cf.* the 5th Report); the state of the country, 1701-1800 (*cf.* the 6th Report), 1710-1803 (*cf.* the 15th Report), 1658-1824 (*cf.* the 16th Report), 1600-1750 (*cf.* the 17th Report), and correspondence in the all-important offices of the Chief Secretary and the Privy Council. In 1898 purchases were made from the library of that magnificent collector, Sir Thomas Phillipps, and they help toward a better understanding of the life of the people from 1616 to 1744, notably during the Williamite period (*cf.* the 30th Report). These MSS., chiefly connected with the Southwell family, include two entry books of correspondence, one of inquisitions post mortem, twenty-seven bound volumes of letters, and six portfolios of unbound letters. The inquisitions deal with the period 1616-27, though there is one of the year 1587. The narrative of Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards Earl of

Clarendon, of the history of Ireland from 1641 to 1653, is in this collection: this narrative formed the foundation of his printed history. The papers and correspondence of three generations of the Southwells are both important and interesting. The estates of this family lay near Kinsale, and there is naturally much in the papers about trade and shipping, and piracy and privateering, in the south of Ireland: the commanding position of the harbour accounts for its pride of place. There are sidelights on the Nine Years' War and the War of Spanish Succession. Sir Robert Southwell accompanied King William in his campaign of 1690, and he held office as Secretary of State for Ireland to his death in 1702. Therefore his letters discuss the problems of government, his relations with the military, naval, and revenue authorities, the instructions for convoys and embarkations, the movements of privateers, the defences of the country, the penal laws, the foreign priests and friars, the Presbyterians, the Huguenots, and the Palatines, the Protestant refugees from Germany. During Anne's reign these "Palatines" came in large numbers: from September 4, 1709, to February 7, 1710, no less than 3,073 persons landed in Dublin, and the population of the capital was only 41,000 that year.

There are five instruments of record written in Irish, and these are the only documents in that tongue in the Office (*cf.* the 29th Report). There are only two accounts of private collections in the Deputy Keeper's Reports: the Fane Collection (*cf.* the 16th Report) and the Annesley Collection (*cf.* the 33rd Report). The fewness of these reports testifies to the comparative paucity of material in the hands of private people throughout the country. So far the Historical Manuscripts Commission describe papers in the possession of the following:

B. R. T. Balfour	Earl of Granard
J. W. Bayly	Galway Corporation.
R. Caulfield	C. Haliday.
Earl of Charlemont	T. Hewitt.
M. L. S. Clements	Kilkenny Corporation
Corporation of Cork	„ Rothes Register of
Diocesan Library of Derry	Duke of Leinster
Desmond, Geraldine, Earls	R. D. Lyons (Abp. King's
of	Collection)
Earl of Donoughmore	Limerick Corporation
Marquess of Drogheda	Limerick Black Book
Major-General F. P. Dunne	Lord Macartney
Dublin, Corporation of the	Rev. E. Molony
City of	The O'Connor Don
„ College of Irish	Sir R. O'Donnell, Bart.
Franciscans	Marquess of Ormonde
„ Jesuits' Archives	See of Ossory
„ See of	Lord de Ros
„ Trinity College	Earl of Rosse
Lord Emly	Lord Talbot de Malahide
Earl of Fingall	W. T. M'C. Torrens
Sir G. FitzGerald, Bart.	Mr. Willes
Viscount Gormanston ¹	Waterford Corporation

The Record Office, Dublin, contains transcripts of the papers of T. Carte, which are preserved in the Bodleian Library. Thirty-nine volumes cover the period from November 22, 1626, to October 28, 1682, and two more the period from December 24, 1570 to February 18, 1593-4. *Cf.* the 25th, 27th, and 28th Reports of the Deputy Keeper (England).

The Second Report of the Irish Record Commissioners contains a survey of the documents in the hands of Corporations, etc., pp. 202-60. Attention may be drawn

¹ *Cf.* the Calendar of the Gormanston Register, c. 1175-1397, edited by J. Mills and M. J. M'Enery, Dublin, 1916.

to those of Kilkenny, pp. 219-22, Youghal pp. 241-3, and Waterford, pp. 248-51. On the important Headfort Books and Papers, *cf.* the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 14-32.

Mr. John Lodge, a former Deputy Keeper, compiled MSS. containing abstracts of records, chiefly from the Chancery Rolls, and these were purchased by the Government from his representatives in 1778, and printed in the "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ," which is indexed in the 9th Report of the Deputy Keeper, pp. 21-58, by Sir J. T. Gilbert. It is a repertory of a vast quantity of record material bearing on the general and administrative history of Ireland. There are 1,757 pages of folio size.

PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS.¹

The Statutes in the Chancery Rolls go back to 1427: those formally printed are the Statutes (Public),² 1634-1800, and Statutes (Private),³ 1660-1800. The 331 Private Bills are generally for the sale of settled estates incidentally setting forth the settlements, the state of the family, and genealogical information. There is also an inventory of the 1,992 Statute Rolls (Public) in the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 353-80, and of the Statute Rolls (Private), pp. 380-3. From James I.'s reign to 1715 the Public and Private Acts were promiscuously engrossed together on the same Rolls, but from 1715 to 1800 the Private Acts were enrolled separately by themselves. Editions of the Statutes have been published by Sir H. Sydney in 1572,

¹ In the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners there is a fine account with a good index of the papers in this collection, pp. 153-216.

² *Cf.* the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 197-207.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 207-11.

by Sir R. Bolton in 1621, and by B. Grierson, the King's printer, in 1765: the last edition was continued to 1800 and indexed. These three editions omitted many ancient statutes, and in order to remedy these omissions Dr. H. F. Berry has edited three volumes which contain the statutes and ordinances of the Parliaments of Ireland or those transmitted from England from the days of John to those of Edward IV. These he prints in the original Latin or Norman French, with a translation. Dr. Berry points out that out of 1,300 chapters of the laws of the Anglo-Irish Parliaments down to the reign of Richard III., only 66 are to be found in the above three editions. The Red Book of the Exchequer forms the principal source of Parliamentary Records before the reign of Henry VI., and the greater part of the text of the Red Book is printed in Vol. I. of Dr. Berry's fine edition.¹ The Red Book contains a set of "Articuli Cleri" which are twenty-five years earlier than the English. Out of 448 chapters of the enactments of the reign of Henry VI. only 36 have previously appeared in print. The sources Dr. Berry employs are the "Liber Albus" of the Corporation of Dublin, the Carew MSS., Lambeth Palace Library, a MS. abridgement of the statutes in Trinity College, Dublin, and a Memoranda Roll of the Irish Parliament. In the Acts of Henry VI. there are few of importance to the historian and many of them are private in their nature. The editor adds 406 chapters to the 16 already printed from the first to the twelfth years of the reign of Edward IV.

Transmisses were the Bills transmitted by the King in Council to the Council Board in Ireland, as having the King's sanction to be debated and passed by the

¹ On this important book cf. the 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 158-62, with facsimiles; the 24th Report of the Deputy Keeper; and J. F. Ferguson's article on it in the *Kilkenny and South Eastern Archæological Society*, 1854.

Parliament in Ireland.¹ This was in consequence of Poynings' far-reaching Act. The Bills took their rise then with the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland, and were sent over for approval of the King in Council in London. On approval there, they were transmitted to Ireland as sanctioned by the King, and hence their names as "Transmisses." As Bills were public and private, Transmisses were public and private. There are over 2,500 Transmisses. To the Transmiss for the Act of Uniformity, 17 and 18 Car. II., c. 6, is attached the MSS. copy of the Book of Common Prayer: it is a folio volume consisting of 238 leaves. It has been edited in facsimile by A. J. Stephens, 1849. The Parliamentary Records also contain the Bills and Heads of Bills passed from 1634 to 1800,² and those rejected during this period,³ the reports on Bills (Public), 1692-1800, and the Rolls of Bills (Public) rejected, 1697-1800. Here are to be found the Bills and Heads of Bills (Private) rejected, 1640-1800,⁴ and the Rolls of Bills and Heads of Bills (Private) rejected, 1697-1797.

A slight acquaintance with a few of the above documents establishes the fact that from 1497 to 1782 the Irish Parliament was as much under the control of the Privy Councils of England and Ireland as the Parliament of Scotland had been controlled by the Committee of Articles. Poynings' Law was passed to protect the Anglo-Irish against the tyranny or the treason of the Deputy. The Irish did not benefit or suffer by it, for the statutes of the Irish Parliament were not enforced beyond the Pale. The address of the House of Commons

¹ The Transmisses range from 27 Hen. VIII. to 1800.

² Some of these are copies, especially after 1784. The Heads of Bills are summarised in alphabetical order in the supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 162-72.

³ They are summarised in alphabetical order in the above Report, pp. 174-81.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 172-4.

to the Viceroy marked the beginning of the claim of Parliament to originate legislation.¹ For then ordinary members began to introduce the Heads of Bills, passed them through their own House, and submitted them to the Viceroy, with a request that they might be transmitted by the Privy Council of Ireland to that of England. On re-transmission they were submitted to both Houses, and when passed they received the royal assent in the same way as Bills which had originated with the Government of the day. After 1703 when three or four members of the Lower House agreed to present the Heads of a Bill—in practice this became the Bill itself—on the second reading it was referred to a committee.² If the latter approved of these Heads they came before the House for a third reading. The impotence of the Irish House of Lords is shown in the last stage, for it was ignored. The Heads of the proposed measure were sent direct to the Viceroy, asking him to transmit them from the Privy Council of Ireland to that of England. Even after 1703 the Privy Councils of both countries could alter the Heads of the Bill both before and after transmission to London. On the return of the Heads from the metropolis to Dublin the House of Commons might accept or reject them, but could not amend them. Directly, then, the Irish lords were impotent, but indirectly their power was not inconsiderable, for some of them belonged to the Privy Council.

There are the following Journals of the House of Lords: Original Journals, 1634–1799; original fair copies, 1634–1794—these are engrossed and beautifully bound—printed copies indexed, 1634–1797; and the English Journals, 1509–75 and 1634–98. There are the following

¹ House of Commons Journals, i. p. 58. Cf. *Ibid.*, October 22, 1692, ii. pp. 22–3.

² *Ibid.*, ii. p. 112.

Journals of the House of Commons; That of 1585 (*cf.* the Carte Papers in the Bodleian); original Journals, 1613–1776; original fair copies, 1613–1800; printed copies, 1613–1800; indexes and digests, 1613–1800; MSS. extracts, 1614–95, and the English Journals indexed, 1648–1778. There are Minute Books of the House of Lords from 1634 to 1800, with gaps November, 1643 to October, 1749; December, 1751 to April, 1771; March, 1780 to January, 1786; and July, 1790 to January, 1792. There are claims to the peerage and other papers, 1544–1800. They contain forms of introduction, 1634–1792; lists, 1639–1800; pedigrees, 1779–91; privileges, 1779–91; protests, 1713–1800; proxies, 1776–97; trials, 1734–1800; and writs of summons, 1715–1800.¹

The letters in this collection range from 1634 to 1800. Among them are drafts of the Irish Parliament, transmitting Bills to England 1725–1800. These letters deal with accounts, affidavits, appeals and writs of error, the Bank of Ireland, coin, the Lower House of Convocation, corn and flour, insolvent debtors, the embargo on corn, King's letters, Queen's letters, letters of Peers, letters of Members of Parliament, letters of Military officers, letters of State Affairs, letters from Sheriffs, and letters from private individuals.

The first reported conference between the two Houses was in 1614, and there are a number from that date to 1737, especially from 1695 onwards.² The House of Commons was as jealous of its dignity as the Parlement of Paris, and the conferences between the Houses turned largely on the procedure and ceremony to be employed when peers and commoners met. From the Journals it is clear that the Irish House of Lords required more deference from the Commons than the English lords did

¹ *Cf.* the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 191–2.

² *Ibid.*, p. 187.

from the Commons of the English Parliament. In 1614 there was a squabble, for example, on the point whether it was the will of the Lords that the Speaker should bring up messages from the Commons. The Commissioners were as interested as the Duke of Saint Simon himself on the covering or the uncovering of the head at a conference. The Lords sat covered, and therefore the Commons determined that their representatives should also sit covered. In 1737 the Commons claimed, that their delegates should stand within the rail of the conference hall. The Committee Books and Papers, 1634-1800, are more interesting, as they contain evidence on controverted elections, privileges, etc.¹ There are papers relative to the elections of members from 1692 to 1800, and these are alphabetically arranged.

The accounts deal with money grants from 1708 to 1800 for the Board of Public Works, Military Accounts, Harbours, Streets, Churches, Inland Navigation, Schools, Fisheries, Linen Manufacture, Bounties, Collieries, First Fruits, etc.² There are accounts, estimates, etc., in connection with national expenditure from 1604 to 1801. On this expenditure Mr. M. J. M'Enery writes an illuminating appendix to the 33rd Report of the Deputy Keeper. There are lists of the appointments to offices from 1450 to 1794: these are as diverse as the appointment of a Judge of the Admiralty Court, of an Escheator, of an Agent to Half-Pay Officers, of a Hearth-Money Examiner, and the like. The Motions cover the period from 1749 to 1800, and the Orders from 1662 to 1800.³ There are lists of precedents from 1633 to 1800 and lists of proclamations from 1690 to 1798. The Petitions are given from 1634 to 1800,⁴ and the Resolu-

¹ Cf. the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 186-7.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 153-5.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 190-1.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 192-5.

tions from 1689 to 1800. They contain *inter alia*—Accounts of Absentees, the Church (Clergy and Parishes), Divorce, Freeholders, Indictments, Invasion, Palatines, Rebels and Revenue. The speeches from 1692 to 1800 are given.

Not the least important item are the newspapers and gazettes from 1714 to 1798. These include the *Athlone Herald*; *Belfast Mercury*; *Belfast News-Letter*; *Clonmell Gazette*; *Connaught Advertiser and Journal*; *Drogheda Journal*; *Dublin Chronicle, Evening Post and Journal*; *Freeman's Journal*; *General Evening Post*; *Hibernian Journal*; *Limerick Chronicle*; *Magee's Weekly Packet*; *Press*; *Pue's Occurrences*; *Saunders's News-Letters*; *Sligo Journal and Morning Herald*; *Star*; *Rights of Irishmen*; *Westmeath Journal*; *Wexford Journal*; *The Dublin Gazette*; Original MS. Advertisements, and some printed Advertisements.

The records bring home to the reader the irregular intermissions of Parliament which characterise the end of the sixteenth and the whole of the seventeenth century. No Parliament sat from 1586 to 1613, from 1615 to 1634, from 1648 to 1661, and from 1666 to 1692. The records ignore the Parliament of James II. It is therefore clear that power did not rest with Parliament: it did rest with the Privy Council, the real governing body of the country.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE.

As members of the House of Lords peers possessed little influence, for they could exercise no power in amending Bills sent up to them: they had to accept or reject the measure *en bloc*. Membership of the Privy Council was within their reach, and there they could insist in Council on alterations in the Heads of a Bill before they were transmitted to the Privy Council in

England. Parliament met intermittently, and from the time of Queen Anne till 1787 it met only in alternate years. There was one curious dissimilarity between the working of the Committee of Articles and the Scots Parliament and the working of the Privy Council and the Irish Parliament. The one body was like the other in practice, yet the effects in Edinburgh were to shorten the duration of the session whereas the effects in Dublin were the reverse. Heads of Bills might originate with Parliament or the Government, which meant the Privy Council. Practically there were from 1692 to 1782 two classes of Bills, Government and Non-Government Bills. The Privy Council Office contains Bills and Heads of Bills from 1711 to 1842,¹ Minute Books of Heads of Bills from 1725 to 1789, and Rough Books thereof from 1777 to 1793. The latter contain minutes of the proceedings on the Bills laid before the Privy Council. The Minute Books proper are the minutes or memoranda of the proceedings at the Council Board on the Heads of Bills sent from either House of Parliament, or upon the Bills that have taken their rise at this Board. There are draft letters transmitting Bills to England from 1735 to 1780. These are the original drafts of letters which the Irish Council sent to the English Privy Council, recommending the approval of Parliamentary Bills which were to be returned as Transmisses to be read and passed by the Irish Parliament. The Letters state the object of the Bill, the circumstances of its introduction or preparation, and the reasons for its adoption.

There are records of the Council going back to 1392-3, and 1542-1609. The Marquess of Ormonde possesses the earliest record of the Council in the Roll, 1392-3, printed in the Rolls Series. According to Sir H. Sydney,

¹ Cf. the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 244-5.

there was a Red Council Book, commencing in 1542-3, but it has disappeared. There is a table to its contents in the 15th Report, App., Pt. III, of the Historical MSS. Commission, and it terminated on October 19, 1609. This Report also contains the Acts of the Privy Council of Ireland, May 26, 1556, to March 22, 1571, with Sir William Ussher's table of its contents: these Acts are now in the Royal Irish Academy. It contains tables of the contents of the two missing Council Books, which dealt with the periods April 1, 1571, to May 11, 1605, and 1589 to October, 1597 respectively. There is a Council Book in the Record Office which covers the years February, 1581, to January, 1586, and it appears from it that there was a Black Council Book which has disappeared. A complete calendar with index has been made to this "Book of Entries": its title is "A Giornal for Entrie of Daylie and Ordinary Actes of the Council and Matters of State." According to a memorandum it was the gift of Sir Henry Wallop, Treasurer at War for Ireland.

Later records deal with such matters as abstracts of business done before the Council, 1773-81; accounts, 1702-95; Approbation Books, 1711-1842, seven volumes; the orders of the British Council, 1711-1806; miscellaneous lists and returns, 1626-1813; wool export licences, 1697-1780, twenty-seven volumes; licences to carry arms, 1692-1780; and certificates, 1686-1796.

There are interesting bye-ways in this collection. For example, there is an account of shipping from 1630 to 1638. This was the period during which Sir Adam Loftus and Richard, Earl of Cork, were Lords Justices. The letters concern principally the guarding of the coasts against pirates, Turkish and other sea rovers, furnishing ships with stores, etc. We are on the main road when we meet with documents bearing on the Cromwellian settlement and the Confederation of

Kilkenny. Most offices deal with these outstanding events, but the Privy Council Office is one of the most valuable in ascertaining their significance. On the Commonwealth Books there are exceedingly valuable accounts by Sir Bernard Burke in the 10th and 14th Reports of the Deputy-Keeper. His writing is always vigorous and informing in the highest degree. These Books deal with orders for money, 1651-3 and 1656-8, four volumes. The issues of money from 1651 to 1661 are contained in two volumes. This series is complete, and is important because each order or warrant for payment is prefixed by a wealth of detail of the reasons for making payment. Two volumes furnish details of the issues of money out of the tithe revenue from 1656 to 1661. On these and other matters there were petitions from the people concerned: these petitions cover the period from 1653 to 1659, eleven volumes. The orders resulting from these petitions are extensive and varied. One volume gives the General Orders, 1654-5, and five the Orders for 1651-3, 1654-5, and 1659. The Orders, Declarations, and Proclamations of the Commissioners seem to have had the force of law. The Council Board sat usually at Cork House or Dublin Castle, though now and then it toured, *e.g.* to Kilkenny and Athlone. The orders comprise not only the daily routine of the Government, but also such matters as the setting down of soldiers as planters, the differences between the several regiments and companies in their disputes over lands and those which arose between the soldiers and adventurers, the transplantation of the Irish into Connaught, and the answering of the petitions of the Irish. The references of Petitions, Reports, and Orders, 1653-4, 1655-6, occupy two volumes, and the Orders of the Lord Deputy and Council, 1654-7, occupy another.

There is a survey of the Civil List, 1654-8, in three

volumes. These give the Establishment for 1655, the salaries of judges, schoolmasters, etc., and the allowances of ministers and pensioners for 1657-8. Another book furnishes elaborate information on the ministers of the Gospel, their appointment, removal, salaries, etc., for 1658-9.

The Commissions and Instructions, 1650-8, are in two books. These are the instructions given to each set of Commissioners, as they were successively nominated to the post of Governors. There is a Journal or Order Book of the Commissioners for Ireland, 1651-2. There are letters of or from the Lord Protector, Council of State, or Parliament of England, 1654-9. These are the warrants addressed to the Commissioners for the Affairs of Ireland in favour of particular individuals for grants of land or of particular bodies. There are letters of the Lord Deputy and Council, 1651-4. Two books contain the domestic correspondence for 1651-4. The index contains about 450 entries. These letters embrace the correspondence of the Council with His Highness the Protector, the Council of State, the Lord Deputy, the Commanders of the Army in the Field with the Commissioners of the fifteen different Precincts.

One volume contains the examinations of the delinquent proprietors of the Precinct of Athlone, 1654; another the list of forfeiting proprietors in the various counties, 1657; another the accounts of soldiers stated singly, 1654; and another the pensions granted to soldiers' widows and orphans, 1651-3.

The original Minute Book of Colonel Thomas Herbert, Clerk of the Council, 1653-8, is in four books. He seems to have handed these minutes to his clerks, who engrossed the entries. These books are in shorthand, or rather a contracted form, not difficult to decipher.

The "Mallow Proceedings" began June 27 and ended September 27, 1656. This book gives the proceedings

of the Court erected at Mallow for trying the qualifications of the Irish inhabitants of Cork, Kinsale, and Youghal, who defended these places against the Irish during the war, and were expelled by the garrisons on their adhesion to Cromwell in December, 1649. The Irish inhabitants, for their remarkable loyalty to the English, were excepted from the rest of the nation, and, instead of being sent to Connaught, were retained for special sessions at Mallow.

There are Transplanters' Certificates for the Precinct of Limerick, 1653-4. Each certificate is an account furnished by each proprietor about to be transplanted into Connaught of himself, his family, his stock of horses, sheep and cattle, and the sown crops he was then leaving behind him in the ground. This book contains 4,000 entries.

A volume deals with the Grants of Land, 1656-8, and another with the Orders for Land, 1653-9. The grants of land are special grants to officers and other distinguished persons. At the end of the volume concerning the orders for land there is a collection of orders concerning the "composition" of Royalist landed proprietors 1655-9. A book contains the names of the Roman Catholic inhabitants of the County of Cork, their names and residences, 1654-5. The index gives the names of 1,300 townlands. Another book furnishes the rent roll of lands, houses, tithes, etc., belonging to His Highness and the Commonwealth 1657-8. It gives the rent of the forfeited houses in corporations, the lands within their Liberties. The index contains the names of 7,000 persons and places. Lastly, there is a volume dealing with the persons subscribing the Engagement in the County of Roscommon and the town of Athlone, 1652-3. The index contains 4,000 names, with the rank, trade, or occupation of each person.

The Kilkenny Confederation records are to be found in the Books of Entries, 1644-99. In the reign of

Charles I. there are Orders on Process, 1644-9, the Arrears of Assessments, 1645-9, two volumes, and the Assessments and Assignments, 1647-9, two volumes: these five volumes relate to the Kilkenny Confederates. In the reign of Charles II, the Books of Entries deal with the Excise Acts, May 1, 1658, to June 24, 1662; the Affidavits of Service of Orders of Council, 1661-9, two volumes. In the reigns of Charles II. and James II. there are Affidavits of Service of Orders of Council, 1682-3. In the reign of Charles II. the Books of Entries contain domestic letters, Lord Lieutenant and Council, 1667-78, and passes for ships, 1677. They also contain in the reigns of Charles II., James II., and William and Mary domestic letters, Lord Lieutenant and Council, 1678-89; the addresses to the King, 1682-5; and the wool licences, 1699.

The Kilkenny Confederates records comprise the Roll of Association, with the names and signatures of the members of the General Assembly; the books of the Supreme Council, with all the entries of appointments to office, and other entries. Colonel Solomon Richards, one of Cromwell's officers, seized some of the documents in January, 1654, but he was unable to secure many of them. By the order of the Commissioners for the Affairs of Ireland they were carefully catalogued and indexed, and were then sent to Athlone, and there used at the Court of Transplantation to discriminate the conduct of the various proprietors who were to receive equivalents of their former confiscated estates. They were called the Books of Discrimination or the Black Books of Athlone, where they were used. These books were also used by the Court of Claims, 1662-9, which checked the claims of the Irish to innocence, for an innocent was entitled to the immediate restoration of his estates.¹

¹ Cf. the 18th and 20th Reports of the Deputy Keeper.

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

The Church papers begin in 1679 and end in 1847. They deal with the unions, divisions, and other modifications of parishes, removals of sites of churches, petitions, consents of bishops in all the dioceses. There is a list with dates on p. 230 of the Supplement to the 8th Report. The Church valuations or Ministers' Money is given from 1672 to 1857.¹

The domestic correspondence of this Office covers the years 1667-89² and 1711-1841. This correspondence is largely formal, consisting of letters from the Lord Lieutenant and Council forwarding Proclamations to the Sheriffs of counties and towns. There are also orders from the same authorities for distributing arms out of the stores of the Militia, or corn or meal to the garrisons, addressed to the Presidents of Minster and Connaught. The Fiant Books deal with the years 1711 to 1832. As a rule the fiant in this Office were brought to it in order to have the Privy Seal affixed thereto, and were then carried to the Lord Chancellor. In 1810 D. Campbell records that the Fiant Book is his private property. There are three MS. volumes of letter books out of England, 1711-1832. These are the letters and warrants from the Queen and the Secretary of State in England to the Lord Lieutenant and Council in Ireland for payments out of the revenue, swearing in and removal of Privy Councillors, the issuing of proclamations, the regulation of foreign coin, directing forms of prayer and thanksgiving, orders for the observance of fasts, correspondence concerning the dispute about the electing of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the enlistment of men for the Pretender, and extraordinary payments to be made by concordatum. There are seven MS. volumes of letter books into England, 1711-86.³ These are

¹ There is a list of the dioceses with dates on pp. 230-1 of the Supplement to the 8th Report.

² Cf. the Appendix to the 17th Report of the Deputy Keeper.

³ There are letters and orders of Wentworth when Lord Deputy.

letters from the Lord Lieutenant and Council to the Principal Secretary of State in England, exclusively confined to transmitting Heads of Bills, under the Great Seal, both public and private, to be proposed in Parliament. There are minutes and memoranda, 1713-1809; thirty-one volumes of Minute Books, 1711-1808;¹ Orders of Parliament, 1705-99; twenty-two volumes of Order Books, 1711-1810;² and Orders, 1711-1813. The last deal with general matters, engrossing Acts, drafting proclamations, issuing money, regulating wine duties, embargoes, quarantine, oaths, etc.

The Petitions range over the years 1685 to 1820. There are about 18,000 papers arranged alphabetically. The Petitions are addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, or the Justices and Council of Ireland, by various public authorities and private persons, including Governors of Counties and Castles; High Sheriffs; Justices of the Peace; Naval and Military Officers and authorities; Mayors and members of Corporations; Local Officials; merchants and traders; inhabitants of Counties; manufacturers; Government Officials; State Officers; Captains of ships; French refugees; Law Officials, etc. The subjects include the exportation of goods; the recovery of estates; the reversal of outlawries; rewards as to the capture of Tories, robbers, rapparees, and pirates; protection against French privateers; houghers of cattle; the issue of proclamations; raising a fund of credit by charging estates and fortunes to circulate Bills for answering the exigencies of the kingdom occasioned by the scarcity of coin and the want of employment for the great number of the poor in the country; renewals of patents; pensions; military aids, divisions of parishes;

¹ Cf. the Supplement to the 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, p. 64, for a list of the dates covered by each of these Minute Books: they are partly indexed.

² Cf. the same Supplement, p. 64, for a list of the dates covered by each of these Order Books: they are partly indexed.

removals of the sites of churches, and the like. Forms of Prayer were issued from 1797 to 1803: they were printed forms of Church services on days set apart for prayer and thanksgiving on certain special occasions. There are documents bearing on presentations, examinations, etc., from 1698 to 1813.¹

There are twenty-seven bound and indexed volumes of Proclamations, 1618-1829.² This collection consists of engrossments of proclamations on parchment as well as printed copies in broken sets. There are also thirty volumes of Warrant Books, 1699-1777. These books contain warrants discharging from Crown rents; the appointment of High Sheriffs; the return of persons to France; the creation of peers; Commissioners of Inquiry for the various counties of Ireland; wool licences; fairs; bishoprics; licence of absence; pardons; presentations to livings; reprieves; Commissioners of Array, and the like.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

As the governance of the country rested with the Privy Council, the Chief Secretary exerted his vast influence through this body. The correspondence in his Office reveals how minutely he watched over different interests. The miscellaneous collection of Church papers, 1652-1795, testify to his vigilance in looking after the letters and petitions bearing on presentations and promotions, etc.: these are indexed and calendared. There are at least thirty-three MS. volumes of correspondence dealing with civil affairs, 1697-1823. They contain entries of warrants of the Lords Lieutenant and the Lords Justices for the payment of moneys, the apprehension of prisoners, appointments, pardons, pensions, and committal grants of land, peerages,

¹ Cf. the 6th Report of the Deputy Keeper.

² Cf. Reports 22-4 of the Deputy Keeper.

ecclesiastical presentations; fairs and markets; the swearing in of bishops, the administering of oaths, free schools, Oyer and Terminer, Proclamations, etc.¹

There are at least fifty-four MS. volumes giving the Civil Petitions from 1696 to 1833. These Petitions are addressed to the Lords Lieutenant and to the Lords Justices, and are in many cases accompanied by certificates, etc. The references to and the reports by the Law Officers, Judges, Archbishops of Dublin and Armagh, the Commissioners of the Revenue and Forfeitures, the Surveyors-General and various other authorities, are also entered in these books. These petitions are distinct from the great mass of original Petitions preserved in the Privy Council Office. They refer to forfeitures of lands, ejectments for the recoveries of lands, the claims of discoverers, payment for bringing witnesses and claims not to be comprehended within the Articles of Limerick, claims for ground, the cutting down of woods, French Protestants, briefs for collection of losses sustained by plunder, fire, etc.; fairs and markets; exemption from Duty or Customs, protections, manors, reliefs, pardons, reprieves, leaves of absence, various military matters, such as the half-pay of officers, the clothing of regiments, accounts, etc.²

There are 126 volumes of Country Letters, 1701–1827, and they are indexed. They contain letters written to various persons and to all Offices in Ireland that are not entered in particular books appointed for such Offices—viz., the Treasury, Customs, Excise, Stamps, Post Office, and Police. These letters are from the Lords Lieutenant and the Lords Justices and their secretaries, dated from Dublin Castle, to Lord Mayors, Commissioners of the Revenue, Governors of Counties and Forts,

¹ Cf. the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, p. 220.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 220-1.

High Sheriffs, the Auditor-General and his Deputy, Commanding Officers, Judges of Assize, Offices of the Ordnance, and Commanders of ships. They refer to forfeitures, pensions, enlistment for foreign service, outlaws, quarantine, prosecutions, transportations, civil and military appointments, enlistment for the Pretender, outrages, piracy, rapparees and Tories, butlerage and prize, Popish priests, recommendations, the calling out of the militia, courts martial, the apprehension of robbers, French privateers, the maiming of cattle, the embarkation of troops, the landing of Scots rebels, etc.

In the miscellaneous Civil Correspondence, 1643 and 1685-1799, there are no less than 7,108 letters, covering almost every conceivable subject of administration. There are few letters written before 1700 and after 1760, though there are many in Queen Anne's reign.¹ The correspondence comes from all parts of the country and is addressed mainly to the authorities at Dublin Castle, especially the Lords Lieutenant or the Lords Justices or their secretaries. Among the points discussed are those raised in the Country Letters section. Other subjects include banks for saving; borough compensation; corn; courts of law and equity; currency; descriptions of abductions, murders, robberies, smuggling and other offences against the law; distress; excise; emigration; ecclesiastical matters; education; Genevan Commissioners; health; house of industry; inland navigation; lunatic asylums; linen board; lotteries; Maynooth College; Palatines; proceedings against priests; Roman Catholic claims; Roman Catholic Association; Presbyterian Synods; secret service; suffering loyalists; trade and manufacture; tithes; the Wild Geese; waste lands, and yeomanry. Indexed.

In order to possess the clue to the government of the country the Departmental Correspondence (British)¹

¹ Cf. the 4th and 5th Reports of the Deputy Keeper.

1683-1759, possesses high value. In it there are letters from James, second Duke of Ormonde; the Duke of Bolton; Right Hon. E. Southwell; Sir W. Robinson, Bart.; Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke; the Lord Treasurer Godolphin; the great Duke of Marlborough; Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester; Sir S. Fox; Sir Cyril Wyche; Charles, Earl of Sunderland; Thomas, Earl of Pembroke; George Doddington; Joseph Addison;¹ Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford; Sir John Stanley; Samuel Dopping; I. Pulteney; Agmondisham Vesey, etc. Of course the bulk of these letters discuss public matters, still there are in them human touches, notably in the correspondence of E. Southwell, J. Pulteney. G. Doddington, B. Butler, Charles Dering and Joshua Dawson, Secretary to the Lords Justices. As in the King correspondence. Trinity College, there are abundant references to and description of events in the Nine Years' War and the War of Spanish Succession. The French invasion of Scotland or Ireland, privateers, details concerning the attainted Duke of Ormonde, the case of *Annesley v. Sherlock*, the seditious nature of Lord Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in Ireland," the obtaining of tall Grenadiers, Protestant or Papist, for the King of Prussia, the danger of the plague, the enlisting of soldiers in Ireland for France or Spain, the rumours of a rebellion to be raised in England on behalf of the Pretender, the building of the new Parliament House, a navigable canal to be constructed from Lough Neagh to Newry, the Union of Scotland and England, the prospects of Whigs and Tories, the intrigues behind the scenes, the visit of Prince Eugene, are among the matters discussed by the writers.² There is also the Departmental Correspondence (Irish), 1685-1798.

¹ I published all Addison's letters in *The Nineteenth Century*, May and June, 1914.

² Cf. the 9th Report of the Deputy Keeper.

There are *Dockets and Fines*, 1697-1830; ecclesiastical affairs, 1777-1831, indexed; law reports, 1697-1793; letters and papers, 1253-1700—there are scarcely any before 1700; *Letter Books*, 1696-1789; *Minute Books*, 1711-1839, forty volumes; and *Order Books*, 1711-1876, forty volumes.

There are sixty-one volumes of Governmental Correspondence, 1766-1827. They deal with Army states; addresses; exchange of livings; pensions concordatum; embargoes; linen manufacture; demands of Great Britain on Ireland, and of Ireland on Great Britain; reports of Genevan Commissioners, etc.¹ There are about 6,000 King's and Queen's Letters, 1649-1820. There are few before April 22, 1697, but after that date they are continuous. The royal letter of April 23, 1687, grants William Spencer, grandson of Edmund Spencer, the forfeited estates of Hugolin Spencer (another grandson of the poet), outlawed for high treason, to whom the petitioner was the next heir. In the later years the Royal Letters refer more especially to appointments, legal, civil, ecclesiastical; creation of peers, baronets, Knights of St. Patrick, appointments of bishops and deans, etc.; changes of name, etc. There are King's and Queen's Letters and Reports, 1697-1829, and they are distinct from the King's and Queen's Letters to which an index has been made. They refer to hospitals and schools, pensions, levy money, appointments, the encouragement of the discovery of concealed forfeitures, etc. There are also Petitions entered in these numerous volumes.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

The Chancellor used to be the King's principal Secretary, and was naturally in charge of foreign affairs. As a rule he was a prelate, was the King's Confessor, and

¹ Cf. the 12th Report of the Deputy Keeper.

therefore has been called the Keeper of the King's Conscience. He supervised all royal charters, letters, and other public instruments, and the custody of the Great Seal fell to him. He supervised and sealed the writs and precepts that gave rise to proceedings in the King's Court, and authorised the issue of money from the King's Exchequer. Clearly he was an executive rather than a legal official, and was usually in attendance on the sovereign. Legal memory in England begins with the reign of Richard I., and it is fitting that the establishment of the Court of Chancery as a Court of Justice takes place towards the close of this reign. In Ireland such establishment comes later.

When John was Lord of Ireland some of his deeds were witnessed, among others by Stephen Ridell, the King's Chancellor, who was in attendance on him. This appears from a charter, 14 Hen. III.¹ On September 28, 1232, comes the earliest intimation that what happened in England in Richard's time happened in Ireland in Henry III.'s time. The Ralph, Bishop of Chichester and Chancellor of England,² became also Chancellor of Ireland. The latter office he was permitted to execute by his deputy, Geoffrey de Turville, Archdeacon of Dublin and Chamberlain of the Exchequer, whose appointment was subject to the approval of the King. The deputy Chancellor, however, was to have the seal with which the business of the King and of the land of Ireland was transacted. He was to be a member of the Council and of the executive government: he was also to have a clerk in the Exchequer and in the Justiciar's Court, and to keep counter rolls of the proceedings of these Courts. His duties were so various, after true medieval fashion, that he was given officers to assist him in their discharge, and one of the most important of

¹ Cf. *Cal. of Documents, Ir.*, 1171-1251, p. 267.

² *Ibid.*, p. 296.

these was the "clerk of the rolls," who developed into the Master of the Rolls. The first clerk whose name remains is William de Bardelby.¹ The preparations of the documents to pass the Great Seal and the sealing of them devolved on another official, the Clerk of the Hanaper.

The jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery was both ordinary and extraordinary. In ordinary jurisdiction the Lord Chancellor employed the order and method of Common Law, and in extraordinary jurisdiction he employed the rules of equity. A suit in the latter was commenced by filing a bill by the plaintiff. If the suit was a public one the Attorney-General presented an information. The earliest record goes back to the year 1536. As a rule bills and informations have always been in English, and hence such suits have been called English suits, whereas in the ordinary jurisdiction they are entered and enrolled in French or Latin.

Among the Chancery enrolments are the Catholic Oath Rolls, 1778-1853. These contained the names of those Roman Catholics who took certain oaths prescribed by law in order that they might enjoy various rights, offices, and privileges. The Statute 13 and 14 Geo. III. c. 35, enacted that from and after June 6, 1774, any Roman Catholic might take and subscribe the oath and declaration of allegiance set out in this Act. These rolls were prepared by certain officers in the Courts of Chancery, King's Bench, and Common Pleas, and by the several Clerks of the Peace throughout the country, who sometimes returned them in so illegible and incorrect a state that it was impossible to decipher the names on them, thus deliberately defeating the object of this and other Acts. Such returns make one wonder how far the Penal Laws were actually operative. The Certificates of Conformity, 1701-82, contain the enrol-

¹ Close Roll, 18 Edw. II., Nos 50-1.

ments of the Bishops' and Ministers' Certificates, which stated that A.B. has renounced the Roman Catholic religion, and has been received into the communion of the Church of Ireland. The Bishops' Certificates end in 1782, and the Ministers' then begin, and continue regularly to the Roman Catholic Emancipation Act, 1829. They contain certificates from Clerks of the Peace, and from other officers, before whom affidavits were made, stating that A.B. had taken the Sacrament and oaths, and made a declaration before a Minister of the Church of Ireland, who certified it to the Chancellor. There are Convert Rolls, 1703-1838, and Prothnotaries' Certificates, 1700-89. The latter are certificates of the prothnotaries of the King's Bench or Common Pleas or the Clerks of the Crown and Peace for the various counties that A.B. had lodged his Sacramental Certificate in court, taken the oaths and made the declaration in open court.

There are Decree Rolls and Enrolment Decrees, 1536-1881. This is a series of enrolment decrees, orders, and dismisses of the Court of Chancery. In Chancery the practice seems to have been to lodge in the Office the original docket or decree engrossed on parchment. The Lord Chancellor or the Master of the Rolls then signed it, and it was lodged in the Rolls Office by one of the Six Clerks, who prepared it and made it up into a bundle. From 12 James I. the Six Clerks began to make up their decrees in large rolls, comprising several decrees in each roll, and this custom continued to the rebellion of 1641. There is a chasm in the Decree Rolls caused by this rebellion. From that time to the Restoration there are Rolls of the Decrees and Adjudications of the Commissioners for the Administration of Justice in Ireland. The Decrees or Certificates of the Commissioners appointed for the execution of the Acts of Settlement and Explanation are separately preserved,

and are in good order. After the Restoration the old practice was revived and continued to 1775, when the decrees were once more made up on separate sheets of parchment. There are repertories and books of indexes of persons and places. These Decrees were engrossed on irregular skins of parchment, were written on both sides in handwriting which is often illegible, and they are full of clerical errors. There are Decrees, 1559-1679, with some indated. Of particular note are the Decrees (Act of Settlement¹), 1665-79.

Fiant, 1521-1891, are the warrants of the Chancery, authorising the issue of letters patent under the Great Seal. They are warrants so-called from their opening words: "Fiant literæ domini Regis Patentēs." They correspond with, and are similar in form to the "Signed Bill" in English Chancery procedure, taking the place of the English Signet Bills and other warrants connected with the Privy Seal. They were made for indentures, grants of leases, warrants for grants of pension, grants of office, presentations to benefices (bishopsrics excepted), commissions for local government, for taking musters, for martial law, the division and the formation of counties, ecclesiastical courts, protections, licences of absence, licences for alienation, authority to impress victuals, forage, etc., denization of foreigners, grants of English liberty to the Irish, etc. Some were signed by the King, some by the Lord Deputy, and some by a competent authority. Except in the reign of Henry VIII. the first class is scarce: there are only three examples in Queen Elizabeth's reign. It is like the English fiant,

¹ Of this Act and the Act of Explanation *cf.* the 15th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 29-340. On pp. 329-37 there is an index of persons in the grants under these Acts; on pp. 338-40 there is an index of the baronies, cities, towns, and Liberties in their respective Counties; and on pp. 341-7 there is an index of the names to the original certificates in the Court of Claims. *Cf.* the Exchequer, the Revenue side.

though there are a few without the petition, and one has the words "Fiant Litere domini Regis patentis in debita forma tenore verborum sequentium" inserted before the word "Rex" in the granting portion. The second class is common though peculiar to Ireland. The third sometimes deals with important matters, *e.g.* the valuable collection of grants made in connection with the Munster Plantation. The most numerous of this class are the leases and wardships, and they are made as in the case of the Munster Plantation under commissions. The fiants of the reign of Edward VI. are the same in form as those of his father, but are much more abundant, amounting to over 1,257. This is 65 more than seem to have existed in Charles I.'s reign, which is most unusual in the annals of records. Nearly half of them consists of pardons (619), leases (227) being the next largest collection: then come grants of English liberty (99), presentations (86), grants of office (77), grants of pension (39), liveries (38), pardons and licences of alienation (35), grants in fee (9), appointments to bishoprics and miscellaneous documents. As some of the present counties of Ireland were not formed in the days of the boy King, there are not a few instances of townlands described as in counties other than those to which they now belong. For the period from Henry VIII. to Elizabeth the fiants have been calendared in the Reports of the Deputy Keeper.¹

There are Inquisition Rolls, 1625-98, Books of Inquisitions, 1629-34, and Inquisitions, 16 Ric. II. to 1760. Inquisitions post mortem or Escheats consist largely of the inquests which were taken under the direction of Commissions on the death of any of the King's tenants in capite, by the Escheators of each

¹ Henry VIII., 7, App. 10; 18, App. 6; Edward VI., 8, App. 9; Philip and Mary, 9, App. 4; Elizabeth, 11, App. 3; 12, App. 5; 13, App. 4; 15, App. 1; 16, App. 2; 17, App. 4; 21, App. 3.

province to ascertain, by oath of a jury, what lands they died seized of, by what rents or services they were held, the name and age of the next heir, in order that the King might take advantage of his right of escheat or wardship. They are the best evidence of descents and property, and the rights and privileges formerly dependent on property. At the Restoration feudal tenures were abolished and this class was therefore abolished.¹ Like the Inquisitions post mortem, Inquisitions on Attainder were taken under commission, and show whether a person was attainted, in which case his lands were seized into the King's hands. Strafford's Inquisitions, 1635-7, found the title of Charles I. to the province of Connaught. They found all the leases in this province, with the exception of the county of Leitrim, where no Inquisition appears to have been taken.²

The records of the Palatinate Court of Tipperary run from 1328 to 1715. The Palatinate jurisdiction had been created originally by grant by Letters Patent of November 9, 1328, to James le Botillier for life, and had continued by various grants and modifications until seized by the Crown by process of Quo Warranto in 1621. The original extent of the jurisdiction excluded the Cross of Tipperary and the barony of Owny and Arra, though these were added in 1606. The original grant of Edward III. reserved the four pleas of arson, rape, forestalling, and treasure-trove. The Royalties and Liberties of the County were restored by patent 14 Chas. II., confirmed by the Statute 14 and 15 Chas. II. c. 20, conferring upon the Duke of Ormonde, among others, the right to hold "a Court of Record to try and determine all actions, to levy Fines, suffer Crown Recoveries, and to perform all other duties appertaining

¹ Cf. the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners and the Revenue Side of the Exchequer Court.

² Cf. the Supplement to the 8th Report.

to a Court of Record." This Court of Chancery consisted of a Seneschal or Chief Justice, and a Second Justice, and held four sessions in the year about April, July, October, and February respectively. The Sheriff's Courts were the Courts of Turn, Leet, and County Court, The Rolls of the Chancery of the Regalities and Liberties contain fee-farm grants from the Duke of Ormonde. The Duke made these grants in order to pay his debts, and they are in the form of Deeds of Lease and Release: their dates are from April 2, 1703, to April 6, 1714. The titles of the causes and the dates of the bills throw welcome light on the Cromwellian settlement of the county of Tipperary and afford independent information concerning the practical working of the Acts of Settlement and Explanation. The only case in which a suit pending in the local court seems to have been continued in the High Court of Chancery, in pursuance of the powers given by the 2 Geo. I., c. 8, sec. 8, is that of Boate and others *v.* Boate and others. The attainder of James, Duke of Ormonde, in 1715, brought this interesting Court to an end, for the Statute 2 Geo. I. c. 8, abolished Palatinate privileges.¹

The Patent and Close Rolls begin in 31 Edward I. and end in 1893. The Patent Rolls, the *Literæ Patentæ*, were written on open sheets of parchment with the Great Seal pendent at the bottom. These grants from the Crown were open to the inspection of all, and hence called patent. The Close Rolls, the *Literæ Clausæ*, were folded up and the seal placed outside. These writs from the Crown were sealed and directed to the officers by whom they were received, and to whom alone they were open. On the whole the Patent Rolls were public in character while the Close Rolls were private. The former are therefore next to the enrolments of Acts of Parliament in importance to the historian, for they

¹ *Cf.* the 5th and 6th Reports of the Deputy Keeper.

contain almost everything of note in the department of government. They contain the enrolments of grants in fee or perpetuity, for lives or years, of Crown lands, abbey lands, escheated lands; patents of creation of Honour, grants of charters of incorporation and Liberties, grants of offices, denizations, patents for inventions and specifications thereof, licences and pardons of alienation, presentations, grants of wardship, wills, grants of land under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation, and under the Commissioners of Grace of Charles II. and James II.; grants from the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates, grants of manors, with all their appurtenances; summonses to Parliament; grants in custodiam, bonds, obligations, replevins, treaties, papal Bulls, letters of protection, commissions for the conversion of lands held by the Irish custom of gavelkind into the English custom of tenure, etc.

In the Patent Rolls lie some of the letters of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth to the Lord Deputy and the Irish Executive. Chancery proceedings are set forth—the bill, answer, replication, rejoinder, decree, mandamus and injunction, and the removal of suits from regions without the Pale to the jurisdiction of the Lord Deputy and Council when the petitioner was afraid of a failure of justice. These Rolls also contain such ecclesiastical matters as the nomination of bishops and clergy, the removal of the incompetent, the establishment of the Reformation, etc.

The Close Rolls¹ consist of writs of liberate to the Treasury and Barons to “deliver” money out of the Treasury for official salaries and other purposes, writs to allocate and computate, or other writs connected with revenue, writs of various kinds, pardons of alienation,

¹ There is a partial Repertory in the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 49-50.

recognizances, deeds, an article entitled "Statutum de Hibernia." They begin in the 20th year of the reign of Edward II., and end in the 13th year of Charles I., but were never continued in regular succession. The Close Roll of the 20th year of Edward II. contains liberates, writs of various kinds, pardons of alienation, recognizances, and a few deeds. After the Roll of the 13th year of Charles I. the distinction between Patent and Close Rolls was completely discontinued, though at no time was it closely observed, for the Letters Patent were often enrolled on Close Rolls and *vice versa*. For example, the Close Roll of 12-3 Chas. I. contains enrolments of King's Letters, deeds, and other memoranda, scarcely differing from the contents of a Patent Roll. There are extremely few instances of a Close and Patent Roll for the same year or period, and if they were meant to be distinct in their nature there must have been many examples. The last Close Roll is that of Henry VII., though there is one for 12-3 Chas. I. Since the fire of May 27, 1304, the earliest extant Chancery Roll is that of Edward I., with the exception of a roll endorsed "Antiquissimæ litteræ patentēs," containing entries of grants, etc., from the time of Henry II. to the 32nd Edward I. Mr. Lodge entered the latter in his list as a Roll of Edward III.¹

¹ Cf. Report of searches of the English Sub-Commissioners in 1806, p. 85, note B; Harris, "Essay on the Improvement of Irish History," p. 285, and his "Hibernica," p. 212. In 1838 the Irish Record Commissioners issued a public calendar of the Patent Rolls, Hen. II. to Hen. VII. In 1861-3 Mr. J. Morrin calendared the rolls, Hen. VIII to Elizabeth. The Irish Record Commissioners issued those for the reign of James I., not printing the index of the names of places and persons. In 1846 Mr. Erek calendared all the Patent Rolls, 1-7 Jas. I. In 1863 Mr. Morrin published a calendar of the Patent Rolls for the first eight years of the reign of Charles I. In 1838 Mr. Hatchell published calendars of the Act of Settlement, Commission of Grace, Trustee Duds of 1702, and the reign of William IV. There is an inventory of the Patent and Close Rolls in the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 383-430.

PLEA ROLLS.

These ancient rolls contain the judicial pleadings of the Common Law Courts, which used to be kept in the Treasury of the Exchequer. These pleadings are arranged in chronological order. There are three seventeenth-century repertories to the collection: the first two contain brief abstracts of almost all the rolls to the end of the reign of Edward II. The third makes inadequate reference to selected entries on 200 rolls to the end of the reign of Elizabeth: it is well indexed. The Irish Record Commissioners made MSS. calendars of these rolls to the end of the reign of Edward II., perpetrating sins of omission and commission. They omitted many entries and confused others by calendaring Plea Rolls among the Memoranda Rolls. In their 8th Report, pp. 79-125, they published a catalogue arranging the rolls into three classes: Plea Rolls, Miscellaneous Plea Rolls, and Fragments.¹ These Plea Rolls contain pleas of the crown, assize of novel disseisin, mort d'ancestor, darrein presentments, inquisitions, pleadings in real actions, respecting manors, lands, and hereditaments, many of them anciently the property of the Crown and Church; prosecutions for trespasses in royal forests; actions of dower; waste; writs of right of advowsons, quare impedit, and certiorari from inferior courts. They also contain enrolments of appointments of the Justices and Officers of the Courts; charters, patents, and deeds; with many subjects of a miscellaneous nature.

JUSTICIAR'S COURT, COURT OF CHIEF PLACE
OR KING'S BENCH.

The Court of the Justiciar in Ireland corresponds to the Curia Regis in England which in that country

¹ Cf. their partial Repertory on p. 149, and the 26th and 28th Reports of the Deputy Keeper.

followed the King wherever he went. The earliest rolls record the proceedings before the chief governor and his counsellors, just as the rolls of the Curia Regis in England do, retaining this character much longer than in the sister isle. In Ireland, however, the King was seldom present in his Court, nevertheless it followed the Justiciar wherever he went. The Justiciar presided in the Supreme Court of this country, and naturally the proceedings of the other Courts might come before him. Great officers, like the Chancellor, Treasurer, and Escheator, seem to have been in attendance at this Court. The Justices in Eyre, when not holding separate sittings, followed in the train of the "capitalis justiciarius." He was a judicial officer: he was also an executive one, inasmuch as the government of the land was committed to him. He or his assistant held the Court, receiving the assistance of a skilled justice, who was described as "justiciarius ad placita justiciarium nostrum Hiberniæ sequentia tenenda assignatus." In the reign of Edward II. it incidentally appears that this justice received a colleague, and in the reign of Edward III. one of these justices was styled "capitalis justiciarius ad placita justiciarium nostrum Hiberniæ sequentia tenenda assignatus." They probably were more completely responsible for the hearing of cases, though the rolls testify to the fact that executive business was still transacted. Some cases were reserved for the consideration of the Council and some were heard before the Council of the King and before Parliament. The name of the first justiciar which has survived is Hamon de Valoignes, *temp.* Henry II., and the earliest surviving roll of the Court is that of 23 Edw. I.¹ Each membrane of the Justiciary Roll is still entitled "Placita," etc., "coram (A.B.) Justiciario," or "locum tenente Regis" or by whatever other title the Chief Governor was

¹ Cf. the 26th and 28th Reports of the Deputy Keeper.

designated. During the visit of Richard II. in 1394 and in the King's presence the roll was headed "Coram rego," and this title was henceforth retained, thus assimilating the form to those of the Court of the King's Bench in England. Mr. Mills in his calendar of the Justiciary Rolls of Edward I. records at least two cases where judges in Ireland held that a statute, *e.g.* that of Mortmain, operated here from the time it became law in England. The Statute against Champerty, 28 Edw. I. c. 11, and the Statute against Fines (27 Edw. I.) are quoted as law, although these statutes were not authorised in Ireland. The law, in fact, administered in the Justiciar's Court was the Common Law of England. The bulk of the rolls contain civil proceedings under the headings, *Placita de Juratis et Assisis, Communia Placita, Placita Querelarum and Essonia*. The rolls dealing with criminal business are to be found under the headings *Placita de Corona and Deliberacio Gaole*. Medieval men were not systematic, and consequently the early rolls include both civil and criminal business.

The Justiciary Rolls¹ contain proceedings before the chief governor of Ireland, usually styled in the earlier reigns "Justiciarius Hiberniæ," and they include entries akin to those of the *Coram Rege* Rolls in England. In general they contain civil proceedings only under the headings, *Placita de Juratis et Assisis, Communia Placita, Placita Querelarum and Essonia*. The criminal side is smaller, and is dealt with under the headings, *Placita de Corona and Deliberacio Gaole*. Several rolls contain proceedings before Parliament; and Acts of Council are numerous on some of the Rolls, especially those for the 33rd and 34th years of the reign of Edward I.²

¹ These rolls include *Placita*, 23 Ed. I. to 18 Ric. II., and *Placita de Corona and Gaol Delivery*, 25 Ed. I. to 18 Ric. II.

² Mr. Mills edited the Justiciary Rolls of Edward I. from the 23rd to the 31st and from the 33rd to the 35th years (2 vols, Dublin, 1905 and 1914).

There are Coram Rege Rolls or King's Bench Rolls¹ and miscellaneous rolls. Among the latter are files of writs of error and pleadings returnable to this court, pleadings removable from inferior courts by writ of certiorari, etc.

JUSTICES ITINERANT.

There are references to these Justices in 1207 and 1218.² Before the year 1221 there was only one justice; after that there were added two more justices, Thomas Fitz Adam and Bartholomew de Camera by name.³ The rolls⁴ of this court correspond to the Assize Rolls and Coroner's Rolls in England, containing entries of proceedings in civil actions under the titles of *Essonia* and *Placita*, and in Crown business under the title of *Placita Corona*. Under the latter head are included returns of findings on Inquests and lists of persons outlawed and exigent, corresponding to the Coroner's Rolls in England. Some rolls also include *Gaol Deliveries*. Except Pipe Rolls the earliest public Roll in Ireland is 36 Hen. III. Its date is Trinity term, 1252, and the place of sitting is Limerick. Though the series ends in 1305-6, there are circuits of itinerant justices in later reigns.

JUSTICES DE BANCO; OR, COURT OF COMMON BENCH, LATER CALLED COMMON PLEAS.

Its rolls⁵ contain proceedings of the regular term sittings of the Court of Common Bench, established here about the beginning of the reign of Edward I. The first clear reference to it, however, in Ireland is to be

¹ They include *Placita*, 18 Ric. II. to 5 Jas. I., *Placita Corona*, 18 Ric. II. to 20 Jas. I., *Attornies and Bails*, 23 Eliz. to 45 Eliz., and *Recognizances and Bails*, 26 Hen. VI. to 44 Eliz.

² *Early Statutes, Ireland*, Dr. Berry's edition, pp. 3-4.

³ *Calendar of Documents, Ireland*, 1171-1251, p. 151.

⁴ 36 Hen. III. (1252) to 34 Ed. I. (1305-6).

⁵ 6 Edw. I. to 17 Jas. I.

found in the Great Charter of Ireland, where it states that "Common Pleas shall not follow our Court, but shall be held in some certain place."¹ Dublin was the certain place for some time, then it was Carlow from 1366 to 1394. Such changes entailed loss of records, and a fire which broke out in the Bermingham Tower, c. 1739, destroyed many of the Plea Rolls of the reigns of James I. and Charles I. In the seventeenth century two volumes of Repertories were prepared, and these furnished good abstracts of the contents of nearly all the records of this mixed collection to the end of the reign of Edward II.² Mr. J. Hardisty prepared in the seventeenth century another Repertory containing selected entries on 200 Plea Rolls in the reign of Elizabeth, but his is not nearly so valuable as the other two volumes. Calendars of the Plea Rolls and Memoranda Rolls were begun by the Irish Record Commissioners. The Calendar of the Plea Rolls was continued in twenty MSS. volumes, entitled "Rotulorum Placitorum Calendarium," and they go to the end of the reign of Edward II. These are unpublished, but available to the public. The Justices Itinerant did not make the circuit of the country often enough, and their services were supplemented by those of the Justices of Assize.³

THE COURT OF THE KING'S BENCH.

This Court grew gradually out of the Justiciar's Court: it has a Crown side and a Plea side. In the Iron Chest of this Court have long reposed the records of outlawry for high treason, largely for offences committed

¹ Early Statutes, 1 Hen. III., Dr. Berry's edition, p. 11.

² Vol. I. is from 44 Hen. III. to 31 Edw. I. (including by mistake two Rolls of Edw. II.). Vol. II. is from 33 Edw. I. to 20 Edw. II. (including by mistake one Roll of Edw. III.).

³ Their irregular rolls occur only for the period, Hen. VIII. to Chas. I.

during the rebellions of 1641 and of 1688.¹ For the first period its contents consist of Writs of Exigent with the returns thereon, and Writs of Capias, with Entry Books and Index Books relating thereto and to enrolments of the same class among the Enrolled Pleas of the Crown. The Writs of Exigent and Returns thereon seem to be complete for the Counties of Cork, Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Queen's County, and Wicklow, while the preliminary Writs of Capias only are available for the Counties of Down, Louth, Monaghan, Westmeath, and Wexford, and five of them are missing in the case of Wexford.

The Books of Entry or Indexes consist of five volumes. The first contains an alphabetical list of persons indicted of treason in the King's Bench from Hilary term, 17 Chas. I., 1641, to Easter term, 19 Chas. I., 1643, and of persons indicted at sessions held at Killyleagh, co. Down, Cappoquin and Youghal. Often the names are noted as outlawed or not, waived, bailed, acquitted, imprisoned or hanged. The counties concerned are Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Down, Dublin, Fermanagh, Kildare, King's County, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Queen's County, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow: these counties are also included in Vol. III., and usually in the margin is the statement whether the persons are indicted upon evidence or upon knowledge of the Grand Jury. Vol. IV. contains an alphabetical account of the outlawries in the Counties of Dublin, Kildare, and Meath.²

The documents relating to the rebellion of 1688 consist of Bills of Indictment for the Counties of Antrim, Armagh, Carlow, Cavan, *Cork, Down, *Drogheda, Dublin, Fermanagh, Kerry, *Kilkenny, Kildare, *Londonderry, Louth, Meath, Queen's County, Tyrone, *Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow, and

¹ Cf. the 17th Report, App. I. of the Deputy Keeper.

² Cf. the 18th and 20th Reports of the Deputy Keeper.

of the cities with the names asterisked. They are poorly preserved. The Commissions of Inquiry were issued to ascertain what persons were in rebellion in parts beyond the seas on February 13, 1688, and at the date of the Commission. All Ireland, save Tipperary, is included. The Six Commissions have 36 Inquisitions attached to them. The Writs of Exigent and the returns thereon fall into two series: those proclaimed during the years 1691-4 in respect of indicted persons, and those proclaimed in 1696 in respect of those named in the Inquisitions to the Commissions of the same year. There are two volumes of Indexes to these exigents and returns.¹

For a detailed account of the officers of the Court of Common Pleas—and indeed of other Courts—*cf.* the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the duties, etc., in the Temporal and Ecclesiastical Courts of Ireland, 1818.

COURT OF EXCHEQUER.

The first reference to this Court occurs on July 8, 1203:² it records the grant to William de Breouse of the custody during pleasure of the King's city of Limerick, with its appurtenances, which the King had retained in his demesne. The condition of the grant was the yearly rendering at the King's Exchequer, Dublin, the amount which William de Burgh ought to have rendered. The officers were the Justiciar, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, and the Barons. The Justiciar and the Chancellor, through pressure of other work, ceased to attend, and the clerk of the latter discharged the duty, ultimately becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer. Naturally it was largely a Revenue Court with its two sides, the Exchequer of Account and

¹ *Cf.* the 2nd Report of the Deputy Keeper.

² Calendar of Documents, Ir., 1171-1251, p. 29.

the Exchequer of Receipt. Before the Exchequer of Account came the sheriffs to settle their accounts and to hear judicial decisions. Before the Exchequer of Receipt came officials making payments.

Law did not favour the trying by the Court of Exchequer of common pleas between party and party, though the passing of statutes to forbid the practice indicates that it was usual. Of course the Exchequer might try cases where the King or his officers were concerned. The result was that in Elizabeth's reign the prohibitions disappeared. In the reign of her successor there are pleas between party and party who are not the King's Ministers pleaded in Exchequer, though the fiction holds good that the plaintiff was a debtor to the King, unable to discharge his obligations through the damage he had incurred by reason of the action of the defendant. In other words, the Plea side has begun. If it is the mark of a good judge to increase the jurisdiction of his court, then the Exchequer judges were emphatically good. They began in the reign of James I. to hear "English Bills," that is, they begin the Equity or Chancery side, employing a similar fiction to that employed to create Plea business. That is, there are three sides to the work of the Court of Exchequer—the Plea side, the Equity side,¹ and the Revenue side.

Like the Court of Common Bench, it was a movable court, held at Carlow in 1365-6 and 1395, then at Dublin, at Drogheda in 1460, when it returned to the capital. It was presided over by the Lord High Treasurer, the Chancellor of the Green Wax of the Exchequer, and the Barons.

THE REVENUE SIDE.

There is "A Booke of Orders with the true answerings of the Quene's Mats. Revenue, 10th, in the Realme of

¹ Cf. the 2nd Report of the Deputy Keeper, pp. 87-8.

Irelande, 1574," 16th Eliz. The Black Book of the Exchequer contains forms of oaths of office: the Red Book of the Exchequer has already been described.¹

An enumeration of some of the sources of the revenue will show how many-sided it was: writs of attachment, bonds and assignments, consents, constats of fines, custodiams, estreats, ex-annual rolls, first fruits, benefices and bishops' rents, causes ecclesiastical, the Valor Beneficiorum, homage, inquisitions, memoranda rolls, pipe rolls, outlawries, forfeitures, petitions, etc. There are bonds and assignments and revocation of bonds, 1638-1806: the earliest bond is dated 1638 and the earliest assignment 1663. There is an account of the taxation of benefices, 14 James I., a book of bishops' rents, 1656, part of the Hearing Book of ecclesiastical causes in Meath and Westmeath, 1706-7, and the Valor Beneficiorum, 29 Hen. VIII. to 5 Car. I. The last contains an account of the taxation of the several livings, extracted from the usual Inquisitions or valuations of First Fruits. There are Orders for the remittal of First Fruits and Twentieth Parts, 1663-5; the First Fruits Office Book, 1782-1804; and the Sheriff's Cost Book of First Fruits, 1805-6. The revenue of First Fruits, the first year's value of every living in the Kingdom, was formerly a tax paid to the Pope until it became vested in the Crown under the Act of the 28th of Hen. VIII.; and so continued until the 10th of Anne when the annual produce of this revenue was transferred to trustees for disposal thereof, and the Twentieth Parts, which had also been vested in the Crown, were abolished.²

The Consents, 1776-1849, are Consents to dissolve custodiams, vacate recognizances and other matters connected with the casual revenue. The Constats of Fines, 1696-1808, are fines on the Plea side, and those

¹ Cf. Parliamentary Records.

² Cf. the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, p. 305.

estreated into the Exchequer were delivered to the Summonister, and those in the Chief and Second Remembrancers' Offices to the Clerk of the Pipe. Constats of Fines were the certificates of the fines from the Office of the Clerk of the Pipe and Summonister, which those officers made when it was intended to plead or move for their discharge. Custodiams are leases from the Crown under the Seal of the Exchequer, whereby the lands and tenements of a person outlawed are forfeited and seized into the hands of the Crown, and are afterwards made over to the plaintiff for and towards satisfying his debt. The Custodiam Books, 1685-1850, contain the original grants of custodiams with the Exchequer Seal attached. They are alphabetically indexed in the name of the defendant. Custodiam Constats, 1775-1831, are formal certificates of the existence of custodiams, signed by the Clerk of the Pipe. Custodiam Enrolment Books, 1716-1835, contain copies of custodiam grants for the purpose of enrolment. To 1785 the enrolment of custodiams was written on parchment rolls, and after that date they were enrolled in books. The Entry Books of custodiam rents, 1711-1809 and 1830-4, contain the entries of custodiam rents, arranged in counties, with the amounts and other details, and notes in the margin indicating when the custodiams were dissolved. Injunctions on custodiams, 1724-1836, are the writs issued by the Chief Remembrancer to the sheriffs to put custodees in possession.

Estreats, 1631 and 1691-1835, are the estreats of all recognizances forfeited at General Sessions and Assizes: they are arranged according to counties. There are Estreats of Outlawries and Inquisitions, 1667 and 1685-1835. These contain the estreats of the returns of the sheriffs to writs, directing them to return what property in their respective counties was held by A.B., an outlaw, at the time of or after his outlawry. The estreats of outlawry are uniform and regular from 1685

The estreats of inquisitions from the other courts occur, but seldom are annexed to the files of the estreats of outlawries. The Ex-Annual Rolls, 1686-1728, contain entries for each county of the casual revenue due from it.

There are Book Entries of acquittance for homage, 1632-9, a book of lands passed on surrenders of Connaught chargeable with respite of homage, 1616-32, books of homage fines, 1610-65, books of respite of homage fines, *temp.* James I. and 1625-41, roll of forfeitures in default of homage, 1632-41, and writs of distringas for arrears of homage, 1682.

There are Inquisitions,¹ 35 Hen. VI. to 2 Will. III., and 1799-1816: many of them relate to the dissolution of the monasteries. On the Memoranda Rolls,² 31 Edw. I. to 1784, were entered the King's Writs and Precepts relating to revenue, tenures, etc.; commissions of bailiwicks, custodies, farms, etc.; presentations, admissions of office in the Exchequer and other departments; pleadings and allegations of parties, judgments and awards of the barons, recognizances of debt; accounts and views of accounts; inquisitions of sheriffs, escheators, and others; memoranda to control accounts or save the King's rights; and in general everything comprised under common business. They are more miscellaneous than those of the Exchequer in England.

There are part of the book of outlawries, 1618-28, estreats of outlawries, etc., 1667-1835, and certificates of the reversal of outlawry, 1738-99. There are also petitions and orders thereon from 1662 to 1835. Among the early dates the orders alone exist. The petitions and orders are directed to the Commissioners of Reducement, praying for reducement, discharges, etc., from fines, rents, etc.

¹ There is a catalogue in the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 562-612.

² Indexed by Sir William Betham, William Lynch, and J. Morrin. There is a classified schedule and a general inventory in the above Report, pp. 552-8 and 622-6.

In the business of collecting money the work of the sheriff was all-important. By means of writs of attachment, 1682-1835 and 1867-1901, the Pursuivant of the Exchequer could bring him before the court for various cases. The Certificates and Consents, 1730-1848, contain certificates from the Clerk of the Pipe of the sheriffs having paid their tots or accounts, and of fines imposed on them; and Consents that the sheriffs might have their recognizances vacated. Nils, 1708-1833, are transcripts of the Nils (*i.e.* nihil in manibus), which are all the sums for which the sheriffs do not tot or account (totum in manibus). The sheriffs had each to enter into recognizances (1707-1855) of £500, with two sureties, in order to secure that they fully discharged the duties of their office concerning the King's revenue, and also to take oaths to furnish true accounts of their office. There are estreats of recognizances, 1786-1826; forfeited recognizances, 1788-1821; and recognizance books, 1640-1882.

The sheriffs' accounts, constats and transcripts, 1592-1848, are the accounts made out and brought in by the sheriffs for their year of office: the early entries are of course in Latin. There are sheriffs' account books for 1655-6, 1789-1812, and 1844-50; the Clerk of the Pipe's book of sheriffs' acquittances, 1680-94; and sheriffs' debets, 1696-1834. The entries in the last give the date of the debets and acquittances, made out by the Clerk of the Pipe: there is an alphabetical index in each volume. The sheriffs' Quietus Est, 1683-1833, contains a summary of the accounts of the sheriff of each county. The sheriffs' Account or Tot Rolls, 1695-1834, contain the accounts of the sheriffs made out by the Comptroller of the Pipe, of the amount of their proffers and tots, with the receipt of the Vice-Treasurer for tots paid. There is a small parchment roll for each year and county.

The Pipe Rolls are so important a source of revenue

that they demand separate notice.¹ The Pipe Rolls, 13 Henry III. to 1739, are principally composed of the return of the receipt and expenditure of the royal revenue, contained in the escheators' and sheriffs' accounts, among which are to be found references to grants of money and land made by different sovereigns; the value of ecclesiastical livings seized into the King's hands, by vacancy of sees or otherwise; frequent exemplifications of the Statute of Westminster against absentees, *temp.* Henry VI.; accounts of laymen's lands seized into the King's hands, and very curious topographical information, prisage of wines, King's customs and revenues, quit rents, wardships and escheats; and both the Plea and Pipe Rolls throw light on the history of private property and the development of Anglo-Norman jurisdiction. The Pipe Rolls or Bundles run from 1740 to 1818. From 1740 to 1791 these "Great Rolls" were kept in yearly rolls; and from 1792 to 1818 they were kept in county rolls. The Clerk of the Pipe made out these noteworthy rolls of all rents and debts whatsoever brought into any of the other offices of the Exchequer, and accounted for in the Court, and of all the debts that are in arrear, and unanswered for by the sheriffs on passing their accounts. Though the Patent and Plea Rolls are much injured by damp, the Pipe Rolls are in a state of good preservation. They are continued from 1792 onwards as Great Rolls and Sheriffs' Entries, and contain not only custodiam rents but also lists of process issued to the sheriffs: they are parchment books. There are accounts of debts drawn from the Pipe Rolls, 1655-7 and 1668; Order Books (Pipe), 1623-1778; Order Books (Pipe Reducement), 1790-1816, indexed

¹ There is an inventory of the Pipe Rolls in the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 125-36. They are being catalogued in the Reports of the Deputy Keeper:—Henry III., in the 35th; Edward I., in the 36th to 39th; Edward II., in the 42nd; and Edward III., in the 43rd to the 45th and in the 47th. *Cf.* the 2nd Report of the Deputy Keeper and Howard's "Revenue Exchequer."

alphabetically: Order Books (Pipe Discharge), 1779-1827; Order Books (Pipe Custodiam), 1773-1835, seventeen volumes; and Order Books (Pipe Dissolving) 1792-1835. The Originalia Rolls, 9 Eliz. to 1713, are the schedules of Nils for the Pipe, containing the original of process, transmitted from the Pipe Office.

The Revenue side of the Court of the Exchequer contains the decrees of the Court of Claims, June 6, 1654, to March 10, 1655; the Orders of the Court of Claims, July 25, 1654-8; and the alphabet of the claimants' names in this Court, 1654-5. The Fourth Journal of the Commissioners of the Act of Settlement, 1666-7, gives additional information on the working of this measure. The 15th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners¹ gives a transcript of the first Patent on Roll No. 1 of the enrolments of the grants under these Acts, and Mr. Lodge's abstracts of the grants of land and other hereditaments under these Acts, 1666-84.² There are supplementary orders under the Act of Settlement, 1668.³ The Connaught Certificates are enrolments of the certificates of the Commissioners appointed for hearing and determining the claims of transplanted persons in the province of Connaught and the county of Clare.

The two great forfeitures are the Caroline and the Williamite.⁴ There are lists of the adventurers in the former, Car. II. The adventurers were such as had advanced sums of money on the credit of the Act of 17 Charles I.: the soldiers were those who served under

¹ Pp. 29-340.

² Cf. the 15th Report, pp. 648-94.

³ Cf. the Fourth Journal of the Commissioners under the Act March 11, 1666, to December 13, 1667.

⁴ Cf. the catalogue of the Reports and schedules addressed to the Court of Claims (the Supplement to the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 248-300), the Decrees of Innocents, Certificates for Adventurers, Certificates of Reducements of Quit-Rents and Connaught Certificates (*Ibid.*, pp. 559-61), the 15th Report of the same Commissioners for Certificates for Adventures, Soldiers, etc. (pp. 400-694), the 19th Report of the Deputy Keeper, pp. 35-87. Cf. also the documents printed in "Ireland under the Commonwealth," by R. Dunlop, 2 vols., Manchester, 1913.

Cromwell. There are Capitulations, 1647-55; certificates of the Court of Claims, 1666-8, inclusive, two books; decrees of this Court, 1663-6, with six volumes for 1663; Order Book of this Court, 1661; Commission of Grace Order Book, 1684; and lists of debts and credits, 1666-9.

The Forty-Nine officers were those who had served in the King's army, from the beginning of the rebellion of 1641 to 1649, and hence called the Forty-Nine officers. They claimed arrears of £1,800,000; and on account of their loyalty none of these arrears had been paid when Cromwell assigned lands to satisfy the rest of the army.¹ There are accounts of payment of £1,000 made to each of the forty-nine officers² and there are their certificates, 1672-3.

There are Order Books, dealing with incumbrances and concealments, of the Sub-Commissioners for 1661; an alphabet of decrees of Innocents and certificates of Adventurers and Soldiers, etc., 13-14 Car. II.; a roll of Innocents, 1662-3;³ an abstract of lands omitted from the roll of Innocents, 1662-3; an abstract of lands granted to Adventurers and Soldiers, 1666-7; Letter Books (Commissioners of Revenue), 1650-60; and Limerick Lots, 1667. The last is a roll containing the decree of the Commissioners, applotting the Limerick Lot among the Trustees of the Forty-Nine officers.

There are Order Books (Council), 1651-61; Order Books (Commissioners of Revenue), 1651-3; Order Book (Surveyors), 1651-8; Orders (supplemental) of the Commissioners for executing the Acts of Settlement and Explanation; particulars of lands, 1649-1703; Sir William Petty's Register, 1655-70; instructions and petitions as to regicides' estates, October 24, 14 Car. II.; schedule of arrears of rent in Carlow, 1659; a book of

¹ Cf. the 15th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 616-47.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 610-5.

³ Cf. the 15th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 522-75.

fee farm rents due to the Lord Protector, 1656; satisfactions, 1656-9; certificates and orders of the Commissioners of Subsidies, 1666-7; and transplanters' certificates, 1653-4.¹

FORFEITURES, 1688.²

There are returns of the Sub-Commissioners on Forfeitures of 1688 for Armagh, Carlow, Kildare, No. 1, Kilkenny, Londonderry, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Westmeath, and Wicklow, and there is the Indenture of the Trustees of the Forfeited Estates, 1703. This was the last great settlement of the land question until Queen Victoria's reign: since the Land Acts of her reign the whole process has been steadily reversed. There is an enormous mass of material dealing with the Williamite plantation from every point of view. There are twenty-two books dealing with the claims of forfeited estates since 1688; three books dealing with arrears in Connaught, Munster, and Leinster; a book of additional claims, an alphabet of claims of those disallowed on full hearing and of those disallowed for want of prosecution, a docket to the enrolment of the claims, an entry book of the claims, and a list of the claims as they are entered with the Trustees. There are certificates of shares of £21,000, and five books giving the contracts with purchasers, April 1, 1702, to June 22, 1703: the latter have been injured by fire at the old Custom House. There are seven books of conveyance of forfeited estates: the first five of these books are printed on vellum. There are

¹ Cf. the 8th Report, p. 306, and the 15th Report, pp. 576-609, of the same Commissioners and the Report on the Manuscripts of the Marquess of Ormonde, Vol. II. (1899), pp. 114-77, for a list of the transplanted Irish, 1655-59.

² On these forfeitures cf. the 2nd Report, pp. 145-9, the 8th Report, pp. 334-52; for a catalogue of the Maps, pp. 613-21; for the Documents relating to the forfeitures, and the 15th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 348-99; for abstracts of the conveyances from the Trustees of the forfeited estates and interests in Ireland in 1688. There is an index of persons to these abstracts.

160 imperfect conveyances. There are conveyances of forfeited rectories and tithes to the respective bishops, conveyances to Protestant purchasers, and an abstract of conveyances where credit is given for two thirds. There are nine books of decrees on forfeited estates since 1688, and a docket to the books of decrees. There are seven books of discoveries entitled debts, goods, lands, lands in possession, and orders. There is an inventory of the Office of Forfeitures with an alphabetical list at the end; forfeitures, 1696; and leases of forfeitures with an alphabetical list at the end. There are four books of letters, July 17, 1690, to March 23, 1716; fourteen books of minutes, indexed, June 8, 1690, to May 6, 1708; two books of miscellaneous, indexed, March 16, 1694, to February 17, 1698; two books of orders, October 15, 1703, to June 30, 1730; two books of orders, petitions and reports, May 5, 1704, to December 15, 1738; two books of Exchequer orders, May 9, 1693, to November 10, 1696; three books of interlocutory orders, June 14, 1700, to January 14, 1701, with an alphabetical list at the end; four books of rent rolls, 1691, 1695, 1697-8, and 1700; and three books of reports, August 19, 1700, to June 9, 1703.

LIBERTY OF SAINT SEPULCHRE.

The earliest charter, granting this jurisdiction, civil and criminal, to the Archbishop of Dublin and his successors, is one by John, Earl of Morton and Lord of Ireland, to John, Archbishop of Dublin.¹ It ended in 1856.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN.

The records of this Cathedral amount to several thousand in number, relating for the most part to the possessions and privileges of the Dean and Chapter, or

¹ Cf. the 1st Report of the Commissioners on the Municipal Corporations in Ireland, and the 24th Report of the Deputy Keeper: the latter contains a schedule showing the classes and dates of the records of the Liberty. On the Manor of St. Sepulchre, cf. the 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, p. 202.

their predecessors, the Prior and Convent of the Holy Trinity. Among them are statutes, ordinances, royal and private grants, charters, King's letters, conventions, inquisitions, wills, rolls of accounts, rentals, and a large number of papal bulls and indulgences, beginning about the time of Henry II. and continuing with little interruption to the Reformation. The deeds run from 1174 to 1684, and are calendared in the following Reports of the Deputy Keeper: 20, 23-4, 27, 35-6, 38-9, 41 and 43; there is an index in the 27th. On the back of an ancient roll, No. 325, is written an early English poem, which is regarded as the earliest known moral play in English. In an account of the priory of the Holy Trinity, 1337-46, Mr. J. Mills edited this play, "The Pride of Life" (Dublin, 1891). Among the earliest of the records are a Charter of Henry II. to the community, and two Bulls of Pope Urban, to confirm the Constitutions of Archbishop Comyn and the possessions of this Cathedral, dated in 1186. The records contain articles relating to the tithes of merchandise and tithe fish of the Liffey, for which the Dean and Chapter obtained a decree against the Corporation of Dublin, curious lists of prices, a dispute between the clergy of the two Cathedrals, etc. Dr. Lyon made abstracts of them in English and digested them chronologically in his *Registrum Novum*, three volumes. Two vellum books contain entries of the benefactions and of the leases respectively belonging to Christ Church. There are Acts of the Dean and Chapter from 1634 to 1703, some Books of Hearings in the High Court of Chancery during the Protectorate, and some other Court Books. There are also a Charter of Henry VIII. for changing the Prior and Convent to the Dean and Chapter; a copy of the Bill transmitted in 1643 to confirm the rights of the latter; the King's letter granting one hundred pounds, in 1679; ordinances of the King's Commissioners on creating the Dean and Chapter; a special verdict respecting the Liberties of

Christ Church, found in 1613; Orders in Council concerning this Cathedral, etc. The Repertorium Viride is a book respecting the Churches and Religious Houses in the Diocese of Dublin, composed by Archbishop Allen in 1532. The Liber Albus is a vellum folio, bound in wood, written by Thomas Tyche about 1490, containing grants, statutes, and other documents relating to this Cathedral, its lands, immunities, and rights. For example, there is (f. 23) a Bull of Pope Nicholas in 1277, recognising the right of the King of England to grant a licence to the Prior and Convent of Christ Church, and the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's to elect an Archbishop of Dublin. Lastly, there is the remarkable Liber Niger, which is also a vellum folio, bound in wood, and written in a Court-hand, containing almost 500 pages closely written, with many illustrated capitals about the year 1340. Its contents are very miscellaneous, comprising charters, statutes, Norman French poems, Latin verses, registries of writs, calendars, chronicles, martyrologies, legends, grants, letters, memoranda, lists of tenants, copies of Magna Carta, Carta de Foresta, Confirmation Cartarum, and the principal early English statutes, differing from the corresponding Acts published in the statutes of the Realm, a curious treatise of arithmetic, articles concerning the antiquities of Christ Church, etc. For the contents of the Black Book with facsimiles, *cf.* the 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 307-12: on pp. 227-9 of the Liber Niger there are a taxation and a value of the revenues of Christ Church and St. Patrick's, Dublin.

CONSISTORIAL COURTS.

There are records of the Consistorial Courts of Dublin, Glendalough, and Kildare, *e.g.* eighty-eight volumes of Rule Books, 1681-1861, and seventeen volumes of these books (draft), 1777-91. There are annual and triennial

Visitation Books for the different dioceses, *e.g.* the triennial Visitation Books of Kildare diocese, 1757-1857; and the triennial Visitation Books of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, 1742-1868. The 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners describes the following Courts: the Metropolitan Court of Armagh, p. 271; the Consistorial Courts of Dublin, pp. 272-6; of Cashel, p. 277, of Tuam, p. 277-9; the Consistory of Clogher, pp. 280-1, of Meath, pp. 282-3, of Down, pp. 283-5, of Connor, pp. 285-6, of Derry, p. 286, of Raphoe, p. 287, of Kilmore, pp. 287-8, of Dromore, pp. 289-90, of Kildare, pp. 290-1, of Ossory, pp. 291-2, of Ferns, pp. 292-6, of Leighlin, p. 297, of Limerick, Ardfert, and Aghadoc, pp. 297-8, of Waterford, pp. 298-9, of Cork and Ross, pp. 299-300, of Cloyne, pp. 300-1, of Killaloe and Kilfenora, pp. 301-3, of Clonfert and Kilmaedduagh, p. 304, and of Killala and Achonry, pp. 304-5.

COURT OF DELEGATES.

The Court of Delegates owes its origin to the Act 28 Hen. VIII., c. 6. Under it the Lord Chancellor was empowered to appoint delegates to hear and determine the appeals formerly made to the see of Rome. There are precedents for 1770-1824 and rule books for 1673-1870. The 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners briefly discusses this court.¹ It may be said here that there is much historical matter in the records of extinct commissions, *e.g.* the Irish Church Commission.

PREROGATIVE COURT.

On the abolition of the jurisdiction of the Court of Rome, commissioners were appointed, under the Act 28 Hen. VIII., c. 19, 1536, to issue the faculties, dispensations, etc., formerly issued from Rome, but now given by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As Commissioners

¹ Pp. 279-80.

of Faculties Ackworth and Garvey received the power of proving wills and granting administrations.¹ Though this grant was revoked in 1578, it was restored in 1589 to the Archbishop of Dublin and Dr. Forth according to the use and custom of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. By Letters Patent of 20 Jas. I. the Archbishop of Armagh and his successors for ever received the jurisdiction of the Prerogative Court in ecclesiastical causes and the Court of Faculties in Ireland. There are administration books, 1595-1809; administration bonds with wills annexed, 1632-1846; the minute book of the Upper House of Convocation, January 1, 1703, to October, 1711; entry books of faculties, 1661-1870; entry books of petitions for faculties, 1678-1748; rolls of oaths, 1692-1869; processes, etc., from Diocesan Courts, 1627-39; transmisses from the Dioceses, 1627-39; fifty-three Regal Visitation Books for the years 1615 and 1633-4;² triennial visitations, 1663-1782;³ and wills, 1536-1858.⁴

PARISH REGISTERS.

Extremely few of the parish registers and deeds go back to an earlier date than 1640. The parishes of St. Werburgh (1243-1715) and of St. Nicholas Within (1234-1859), Dublin, are happy exceptions. There are lists of parishes, giving up their registers, in almost all the Reports of the Deputy Keeper, especially in 12-13, 18, 23, and 28. There are references to ecclesiastical records in Reports 4, 6, 8-10, 15, 21, and 33-4. There are many accounts of the valuation of parishes.

¹ *Fiant*, 2996 Eliz., 157.

² *Cf.* the extracts from Bishop Ram's account of his dioceses of Ferns and Leighlin in the 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 263-71; *cf.* also in the 8th Report, pp. 635-6.

³ *Cf.* the 8th Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, p. 637.

⁴ On the wills from the different dioceses *cf.* the 4th Report of the Deputy Keeper, pp. 30-2; and on wills generally *cf.* the index to the Act or Grant Books, and to original wills of the diocese of Dublin to the year 1800 in the Appendix to the 26th Report of the Deputy Keeper.

HUGUENOT RECORDS.

Among the French Huguenot records are the registers of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's, Dublin;¹ the registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, St. Patrick's, 1668-1716; of St. Mary's, 1705-15; of the United Churches, 1716-1830. There are *inter alia* documents relating to the Churches of Lucy Lane, Wood St., and Peter St., Dublin, and the French Church, Cork. Many of the best men in Ulster come from this strong stock. In old farmhouses one may still see a Genevese French Bible or New Testament of the seventeenth century: on the fly-leaf we may still trace the names of the refugees, written in ink browned by age, illegible from time and perhaps from tears. It is the frail memorial of a race that has left an abiding mark upon the north of Ireland.

APPENDIX

MARSH'S LIBRARY, DUBLIN.

Accounts of this Library will be found in G. T. Stokes's "Some Worthies of the Church" (London, 1900), an article in *The Library Association Record*, March, 1899, by Dr. N. J. D. White, and in the Supplement to the 2nd Report of the Irish Record Commissioners, pp. 323-4. Mr. J. R. Scott compiled a catalogue of the manuscripts. Among the important ones are the *Repertorium Viride*, Archbishop Allen's Account of the Churches in the Diocese of Dublin; *Liber Niger*, or the Register of Archbishop Allen of Dublin; State and Revenue of the Bishops of Meath and Clonmacnoishe, as delivered to the King's Commissioners by Ussher, 1622, the same as returned by Ant. Dopping, 1693; *Precedents, etc.*, of the Diocese of Armagh; *Liber Precedentium Dud. Loftus*; An Answer to Tyrone's seditious Declaration sent to the Popish Priests in the Pale, written probably

¹ Published in Vol. XIV. of the Huguenot Soc., London.

by Thomas Jones, Bishop of Meath, afterwards Archbishop of Dublin; Jurisdiction of the Prerogative Court of Ireland; Practice of the Admiralty Court of Dublin; James the II.'s Proclamation for Toleration for Scotland, with Remarks on it; Remarks on two papers on Religion, by Charles II.; Articles of Peace, July 21, 1667, between Charles II., the States-General, Louis XIV., and the King of Denmark; Proposals of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with other Bishops, to James II.; Account of Adventurers in Ireland in O. Cromwell's time; Hearth Money, 1672, 1682-5; Exports for seven years ending March 24, 1716, and Exports and Imports for 19 years ending Lady-day, 1717; Accounts of the Treasury Office, 1714; Diary of N. Marsh, December 20, 1690, to December 8, 1696; many documents, especially those of E. Bouhéreau, bearing on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes; Visitation Book, 1622; *Vitæ Sanctorum Hibernicorum* (*cf.* the Transactions of the R.I.A., 1875); Proceedings in the Star Chamber, 1634; Precedents extracted from the records of Ireland to prove the jurisdiction of the Parliament of this Kingdom to hear and adjudge all Causes; Documents on the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth; Register of Faculties, 1745-1829; Royal Grants in Ireland, 1604-31; D. Loftus's Collection of Irish civil and ecclesiastical Annals; Short View of the State of Ireland, 1640-63; and letters from the Hon. R. Boyle to N. Marsh, 1682-4. In 1905 Dr. White issued a catalogue of the English books printed before 1640; there are some important pamphlets among them. This one would naturally expect, for the library is composed of works from the following collections: Marsh himself, E. Stillingfleet, J. Stearne, and D. Loftus.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ARMAGH.

In 1892 a catalogue was issued. There are some MS. papers, largely dealing with the See of Armagh. Among them are the State of the Dioceses of Raphoe, Derry, and Dromore, 1727; the State of the Dioceses of Armagh, Kilmore, and Clogher, 1733; Regal Visitation of the Dioceses of Down and Connor, 1693; and *Acta Convocationū Hiberniæ*, 1639. There are 145 pamphlets

published before 1640, and 4,178 from that date to 1800. *Cf.* the Supplement to the 2nd Report to the Irish Record Commissioners, p. 320.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, DUBLIN.

It contains Harris, *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, eighteen volumes (MSS.); T. Thorpe, *Original Tracts*, illustrative of Irish History, 1629-1758, twelve volumes; and about 5,000 pamphlets relating to the period 1641-1849.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY, DUBLIN.

It is particularly rich in Irish MSS., which are catalogued in 180 notebooks in thirty volumes (only available at the Library). There is no catalogue of the other manuscripts: there are notes on the seven important volumes bearing on the Jacobite War, 1689-91, in the *Abstract of the Minutes*, 1915-6, pp. 17-25. What George IV. did for the British Museum in giving it the 30,000 Thomason Tracts, Charles Haliday did for the Royal Irish Academy. Haliday's bequest, or rather that of his wife, covers a larger period than the Thomason tracts, for he gathered tracts and pamphlets from 1578 onwards. Pamphlets have been added since his death in 1863, and the collection now comes down to the year 1888. The tracts are in boxes unbound, and begin with the year 1578 and end with the year 1888: there are about 15,000 of them. The pamphlets are bound and cover the period 1682-1859: there are about 20,000 of them. There is no distinction between the tracts and the pamphlets. Haliday was a man with wide interests, and his collection covers English and Scots history just as much as Irish.

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