



TOUR OF KING CONOR NA SUIBHNE Ó BRIAIN IN CONCHOIRNE ABHEY.

THE NORMANS IN THOMOND.

their tombs is now apparent; his son Donnchadh succeeded; and they sang his dirge—

"The royal fortress of the house of Tul' falls to the ground, no more to be set up; Coyvda's wars deprived the foe of strength, from Chulachin' eun no Chard' swart the land.

Coyvda's peace gave wealth and corn and milk, strength to the Charrb, asyjun to the poor, after the fight at Quin, that mastilte chief we chose—twelver in

At early dawn, who rolled the battle back on Ferkairt's host, and from the field of

The wronger, who rolled the battle back on Ferkairt's host, and from the field of

Chanel Donough, and from end to end reduced the fields of Dubhghlen and sea-washed Fintona.

Coyvda of the swift steeds won the crown for Turlogh and repelled the English hosts.

Strong Carronish, Breagh, and blue-streamed Grain, with Latorough and Hy Mongaun, he destroyed Moyulain, and Tam Anishin felt his storm.

The great Coyvda of the angry boys stormed Quin's strong castle, though the fight was fierce, till the proud Ouis in clouds of smoke was

Coyvda of the heroes shooas spoll'd Trator, barter'd a tower of high-bait houses seek'd.

He burn'd with fire Beauty's level plain till proud De Clere agreed to have the hand.—"Oath," p. 134.

Two years after the death of Tortough, died Lord Gilbert de Clare. He had been made a ward of his uncle Gilbert's wife, Joha, daughter of King Edward I., July 27, 1294; and in July, 1301, he proved the date of his birth on February, 1291, in Limerick. Sir Maurice Lee who was then in the household, Robert de Insula (who was waiting on Thomas de Clare at table when the news came), and others, proved the fact. However, it was not till March, 1303, that he was recognized as of full age. In 1307 the king gave him a respite of Exchequer dues as going to serve in Scotland under the king's nephew, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester; and in 1308, the older "Annals of Innisfallen" brievely record his death. His widow, Isabella, got dower from the king, 15th September, 1308; Richard de Clare, his brother, succeeded; and in 1309 the king commanded him, "and Donal O'Brian, who calls himself Prince of Pictomond," not to presume to continue the war "in the parts of Pictomond." The next noteworthy event that took place was a civil

i. Donnchadh, his successor, slain 1311, whose son Aodh Ogo was mortally wounded at Corcomroe, 1317. ii. Lochlainn, p. 182, chief 1310; beheaded at Lough Colman, 1312; left a son Maccony chief in 1313; ancestor of the Mc'Sammas of Cragno, Keshmystown, Ranna and Ayle. iii. Donnell, joint chief 1311, died 1312, p. 142, had 1313, a son Meoghachlainn, who succeeded with Lochlainn's consort, and 140, 161, v. Meaghachlainn, a son Donnchadh. iv. Siobhain died at Clontarf, 1317, vi. Henry; and viii. Aodh, p. 182. vii. Malton, an envoy to the Clare, 1309, probably nephew of Coyvda; see Feige, Henry, Donnell, and Malton, p. 182. Of these, Tadhg was father of O'Connell and Malton, slain 1310. Pp. 182, 183. I don't here acknowledge the kindness of Sir Bernard Burke in letting me consult all records of the O'Briens, Mc'Sammas, and O'Grady's in the Ulster's Office. i. "Cis Mac Tadhg," the House of Tadhg; see also "Wars of G. G." ii. "Gal. State Papers, Ireland," 154. iii. "O'Connell," 21 Edw. I., m. 16. iv. "Ibid., 819. v. MSS. T.C.D., F. 1. 18. vi. No. 674. vii. "O'Connell, Dublin," 2 Edw. II., c. 10. viii. "Exchequer Rolls," 3 Edw. II. ix. "Patent Rolls, Ireland," 34. The original order is in good preservation. x. In 1310, the date is doubtful, but Meaghachlainn says that "next year" De Burgho was captured, and Donnchadh Mc'Kinnair slain, which events are placed in 1311 by FOUR, MSS., vol. I., 674, 684.

war in the north-east of Thomond. Stoda Macnamara's troops, under his brother Donohedh, had a skirmish in Kilsurnham, and killed De Burgho's constable; fearing the Earl they fled to 'very religious Moyroe,' and entrenched themselves in its great church of which a fortified gate and a gable with two narrow lancets still stand by a pleasant stream, and shadowed by goodly trees. Being soon in want of provisions they plundered the neighbourhood. O'Connell headed a levy against them, and slew Stoda's foster-brother, O'Chindergan; so Stoda and his brothers Macon and Aeth went to revenge him, and burned all the property. The Hyblond, indignant at the devastation of their principal prey, 'got out from the king, the Kennedy's, Connings-Melroy, and others.' The terrified Clan Cuilin held a meeting. Donohedh, their chief, said:—'Gloom is not always followed by rain; this force may do us no harm; I will go to our king and offer compensation.' He succeeded in satisfying the Hyblond by giving his son and thirteen other hostages to King Donnogh, from whom he received a hurried message the next year, 1311, that the enemy were about to attack the Clan Cuilin. He misadvised the clan at Ballycullen, which, standing on the mountain side, high above the lake, overlooked the expedient route of the Hyblond; a point nearly caused, but Donohedh said:—'You are few but brave, and with better chiefs and cavalry, descendants of Gass and Chasin, take your march straight to Kill Gilmore of our green border.' So they took heart, though the enemy's fires could be seen from the heights of Ballycullen. He then put on his scarlet tunic, a gold-edged hood, his armour, gilt in crystals and gold tassels; his white, embroidered hood, and comical helmet inlaid with gold ornaments. The army in purple tunics followed with gilt weapons and standards sewn to their spears, and marched in silence to the beautiful lake of Killgeary, whither the foe had marched. Macon and Stoda claimed to lead the van, and got their wish. Donohedh restrained his forces till the evening, and then fell on the Hyblond with a shower of arrows, darts, and stones, but they stood their ground, and the Clan Cuilin fled panic-stricken. Then the Hyblond, suspecting a ruse, turned and both armies ran from each other. Donohedh, seeing this, rallied his men, and falling on the invaders killed 200, including seventy chiefs,

"Annals of the Four Masters," Lough Ke, Pambrogh, Grace Dowling, and Hiberniad, Olyn, however, puts De Burgho's capture in 1310. Under the date 1309 I find Gonor, son of Brian William de Burgho, meeting him at Boyle Abbey with a great host, and from the King to Mortestagh O'Brien, 16th May, 1309, at Dook ("Annals of the Four Masters," p. 142.—This shows that the later district of Clan Donogh is then part of Hyblond. The O'Grady's seem to have been called Kilsurnham though not named among De Clare's tenants in 1287. "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 131, and Mahon O'Brien deserted to them in 1315. In the redistribution of Thomond after 1315 they seem to have been driven back to the east of the Hyblond into the extreme east of the royal lordship over the Great Donagh. In any map I show the arrangement of Hyblond in 1315. Margaret quotes much from a contemporary war-song of Hyblond. "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 131, and Mahon O'Brien, 1310, as descendant in a lawsuit concerning damage done by him to the district of Kildare, but he had no goods in Linnacric or Donate which could be distraining "Gabh," p. 155.

within an hour, keeping the paths with the slain. Then King Donnogh sent back the hostages saying that the Hyblond deserved this for breaking the truce. Public opinion blamed the Clan Cuilin, and the tribes flocked to them joined the Hyblond, and called on Donohedh to give up Hyblond to Lochlan O'Dea, to resign his lordship over the Kinel Donaghle, and share his power with his brother Donal, who had joined them. Donohedh offered battle, was defeated by them, and was slain in the flight by a treacherous clansman, and the confederation spread. King Donnogh and M'William de Burgho assisted the Clan Cuilin, defeated Dermot son of Donohedh, son of Brian Roe, and the Hyblond, and slew Donal O'Grady, chief of Kinel Donaghle. Lochlan, Donohedh Macnamara's brother, was chosen chief of Clan Cuilin, 'being a favourite with the chiefs for his bravery, and with the ladies for his affable sweetness of language.' Richard de Clare and Brian O'Brien, who saw in the confusion a way to establish the Clan Brian on the throne, drove Macon and Stoda into Slieve Beahy, and ravaged Kinel Fernate next day. On the Wednesday after Donohedh's murder, King Donnogh and De Burgho marched to the hill behind Bannetty, and next day (being Ascension Thursday, May 26th, 1311) fell on De Clare, who had rashly charged up the hill, and drove him back; but his more took De Burgho prisoner as he was trying on the pursuit, and brought him and John, son of Walker de Lacy, to Bannetty. Brian, son of Brian Roe, meanwhile ravaged the territory of St. Oonagh, while Dermot O'Brien burned Bannis, 'the wide-streets, waulthy, and fruitful town'—'a quiete narathas ab illo'—'the metropolis of every Irishman' and it lay long deserted and overgrown with weeds. De Clare perished in the bay of Concorroo, and found him at Slieve Gann; Dermot camped at Cnyghwall (Gnyghwall), and De Clare at Knock Daghann (Dangan?). The night was disturbed by dreams and apparitions; 'sweet plaintive' 'treachery is infectious, echoed from the forest and rocky streams.' 'Treachery is infectious. The fate of Donohedh M'Namara was to have a parallel; for, as King Donnogh advanced against the foe down the narrow way from Slieve Gann to Glen Cloin, Mahon O'Brien and Murchad Macnechenn, his son, who with the Clan Donaghle formed the rear-guard, set on him and gave him a blow on the head. He fell, and his army dispersed; his

1. "Gabh," p. 170. "Annals of Thomond," MSS. T.C.D., p. 206, and "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 131. "In Thomond Donnogh Mac Neamara and his host of the Clan Cuilin fought O'Brien and the men of Munster; but M'Namara . . . and Donnogh O'Grady, Lord of Clan Donaghle, were slain." "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 131, and other annals 1311. William Burke (Olyn), "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 316, and "Annals of Innishannon," p. 1, A. A., and John, son of John Gonor, who (Pembroke and Grace), "Charter of Innishannon." However, in 1310 of their descent from Annan the customs of Galway, obtained a reduction on condition they should take the war of Richard de Burgho and Richard de Clare, but this is the plea under the walls of Bannetty, and De Clare, but this is not supported by the annals, and is not mentioned by Macnechenn. Burke was set free by the king's accession ("Annals of Innishannon," p. 1, A. A.). MSS. T.C.D., p. 157. 2. "Gabh," p. 157. 3. "Gabh," pp. 191-193.—See also "Annals of Thomond," p. 206, and "Annals of the Four Masters," Donnogh O'Brien, King of Munster, a matter though detected in treachery slain by Donnogh, son of Mahon O'Brien, and though he was detected in his place. "Munster for a King" would have an echo of the Urge in the "Gabh." 2 B 2

berds and priest alone watched the body, and they sang his dirge:—
Tara, Emma, and Croughane weep, for no king will sit in them, Erin
joins their lamentation; the chiefs and ladies are sunk in woe, for the
cursed refulge has slain the happiness of Erin. Dermot was accordingly
inaugurated King by Lochlain M'Namara. De Clare supported him; but
the other English had greatly respected Tortough, and the De Burghes
favoured his son Mortough (Muirreartagh), a handsome, ruddy-cheeked,
dark-haired young prince. He invaded Thomond, and came to Beal an
Fiothail, or Roekloresc, where Dermot and all his forces, except the
Clan Gullen, attacked him, and after a short, sharp skirmish, were
defeated. Dermot escaping "to level-floored Bunratty to keep De Clare
close company;" and Mortough was made king by Lochlain at Moy
Adhar, as if no other king existed. His brother, King Donogh, had
left a son too young to succeed, who was passed over. Macgrath says
Mortough was the peer of Hector, and of our shepherd Brian Boru.
"As the mountains overtopped the plain, so he overtopped the warriors."
Thus commenced his reign, at first of extraordinary vicissitudes, than of
brilliant successes.

King Dermot soon surprised him at Cleenroad. The De Burghes
alone stood their ground, and surrendered to De Clare; but as they were
being brought to Bunratty, the Clan Gullen rescued them.¹ Mahon
O'Brien next invited Lochlain Blabagh O'Dea to a conference at Killa-
scola, and biding him unwilling to support Dermot, brought up the
latter's army. O'Dea, after a brave resistance, "the like of which had
not been fought in the world since the epic-sung fray of Pharsala," was
taken; his tribe surrendered; but some fled to King Mortough at Maon-
mough.² O'Dea was then tried and executed,³ and his tribe lamented in
these words:—

"Defective is the chess-board of Olan Cas, a man is wanting of the green-armed bands;
I sing the hero's fate—the chief of Ce—the brave and worthy Loughlin foully
slain.
In future times his fame shall be enrolled, since he would not King Tortough's
clan forsake.
In truth the loyal go to God's fair home—Loughlin of Lass Brita to the heavenly
house."

Stoda M'Namara plundered Burren in revenge; but he caught "an
urgent malady called a cold" which took a fatal turn; so he died, and
was buried in St. Brendan's Church, Brr; and his tribe shouted thrice
above his grave, and placed a carved tombstone over him.⁴

For Dermot's accession, expulsion ("deposition"), and death, see "Ann. Clonmac-
noise," and "Four Masters," 1311-1313. He is called "Dermot (Kerewagh O'Brien,"
1. Compare "Wars of G. G.," p. 187; another Murdrich O'Brien is "a match for
Hector, son of Priam." King Donogh's son Tortough lived till 1350.

² "Guth," p. 208.
³ Macnamagh, the district round Loughbreagh, gave its name to Mortough's son,
Mahon.

⁴ "Guth," p. 212-217; "Annals of the Four Masters," 1311, Loughlin Ben
O'Dea, slain by Mahon, son of Donall Connachda. Among the notices of 1311
elsewhere I find an unknown "Charles," son of the great De Clare, aided by the
English of Meath, defeats the Siol Aodha (M'Namara's) near Bunratty. Perhaps this
is merely the battle of Bunratty Hill ("Ann. Inst.," R. L. A.). The king grants
county Limerick to Richard de Clare, 1311 ("Abbey Charter," p. 195)—"John Wm.
de Rapa quem M. de O'Brien interfecti ieta sagitta ("Ann. Inst.," T. C. D.,
F. 1. 18).
⁵ "They made tomstones (sachas) upon their heroes (sachra)."—Battles of
Magh Tuaidh.

Teige, the brother of King Dermot, hearing of Stoda's illness, started
in pursuit of him; but the M'Namaras being informed of this by the
family of Giolla Mochoine, took him prisoner while he slept, and con-
fined him and his brother Mahon Donn O'Brien, at Loughbreagh, in
De Burgh's castle.

1312. Donnell M'Namara, son of Coreha, died on St. Patrick's Day.
His son, Malachlain (a nominee of King Dermot but who had obtained
the consent of his uncle Lochlain), succeeded to the joint chieftainship, and
straightway plundered Killesnoelagh. The Earl of Ulster strove to me-
diate between the rivals in August. But a war broke out in November;
Dermot was defeated, rallied, and all through a severe winter prevailed
a series of raids; Lochlain went to Bunratty, and at the instigation of
Dermot was imprisoned and loaded with irons by De Clare; "who de-
manded the prisoner's "two sons and three hundred crumpled-horned
cows" in ransom.⁵

King Dermot next took ill "of relaxed veins." He would not rest,
and went about in his armour till his health failed, and he lay dying.
Maolochlain came to visit him, and was imprisoned by the Cian Brian
and Hyblod. The king was too ill to interpose; his limbs swelled
frightfully. "Death parted him and his disease" at Tulla, and he was
buried in Ennis Abbey in the Franciscan habit.⁶

"Ruin has stretched its chain from the Shannon to Loop Head,
King Dermot, son of Donogh of Dun Caon, has departed;
A day of wrath, dread as the judgment Day—
That day our king in dewy Tulla died."

Loughlin M'Namara was then brought to Lough Colmeen, a lonely
lake, the source of the river Georra, lying high among the hills above
Sixmilebridge, and in the Hyblod territory. He was there beheaded,
and his head thrown into the lake. His nephew Maolochlain was taken
to a wooded valley and slain, and they cut up his body lest the clan
might find it. Maccon, son of Loughlin M'Namara, was chosen to
succeed them, June 1st, 1313.

"I mourn two horsemen of the vaward Adhar; two branches of the cooling Shieve
Eschy?
Two hearts that can no more defend us—two graceful bowers sprung from one
soil.
Ah! Colman's lake! harsh is thy fearful tale, the dismal death of Lochlain is our
run; Maolochlain, our lion, fell in secret beneath the hill; may these verses like stones
guard their graves.
Wee to the abettors of those who slew Lochlain; he fell like a deer among
hounds."⁷

¹ "Many nids made *witch* are not recorded," says Macgrath. "This is valuable, as
showing that the "Records of Thomond," the Macgraths, had documents relating
to the minutes of this war. Indeed the vast mass of dirges and war-songs quoted, and
the complete agreement with all the Annals and enrollments, says much for John
Macgrath's reliability."
² In this year, 1312, the king being informed by John Wogan, "that Richard de
Clare was hindered by the war waged between him and the Irish of Rothmond" from
appearing at the Exchequer, pardoned him a fine of 253. De Clare was then Sheriff
of county Cork (see "Exchequer Rolls," 1310, 1312, vol. vii., p. 10).

³ "Guth," p. 241.
⁴ "Ann. Instablen," T. C. D. MSS., F. 1. 18; also "Ann. Clonmacnoise," T. C. D.
MSS., F. 3. 19; "Ann. Loughkeek"; and "Catherine," p. 250.
⁵ "Guth," pp. 230 and 546.—"Lochlain died the death of the holy St. Paul."