

and Delilah," Hogarth's "Shrimp Girl," Van Dyck's "Charles I," as well as fine works by Botticelli, Pierro della Francesca, Crevelli, Poussin, etc., were also bought by him for the Gallery.

For his great work he was knighted in 1884 and received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Trinity College, Dublin. He retired in 1894 and lived quietly in Kensington until his death on the 16th March, 1900. He never married but adopted the orphan family of his brother, Rev. Robert Burton of Borris, who had died young.

In the National Gallery of Ireland there are three portraits of Burton, as well as many of his own works in water-colours, chalks and pencil.

## THOMAS CONDON

Thomas Condon, poet, was born in Kilfinane in October, 1836. In 1843 his family went to live at Blackpool, in the City of Cork, and Condon was sent to the Christian Brothers' School at Peacock Lane. He loved the monks here and his first small book of verse was dedicated to his teachers, Brothers Wiseman and Alphonsus O'Dwyer.

Condon was intended for the priesthood, but lack of money prevented his continuing his studies, and instead he began to teach Greek and Latin at the "Select Academy," kept in Robert Street, Cork, by Healy, the well-known linguist. Condon himself had also a great facility with languages, and, in addition to Irish, English and the Classics, he learned five Continental languages and was well read in European literature. In spite of this he remained a keen Irish scholar, and several of his manuscripts, written in a beautiful hand, are still in existence.

Condon was one of those geniuses who was good at anything he undertook. He took up drawing, became a clever draughtsman, and decided to adopt civil engineering as a profession. With this in view, he served his time in a local engineering office, worked for a while in Sir Thomas Deane's office in Dublin, and went to London in 1862.

Although Condon was a man of fine physique, he was constitutionally delicate. A cold, caught in the London fogs, affected his lungs, and he was compelled to give up his work and return to Cork. In the same year he obtained an appointment with a railroad engineer in Spain, but had to turn it down on account of his rapidly-failing health. He continued to live at Sunday's Well with his family, and was at work on a translation of Dante when he died on the 9th of April, 1864.

Condon's greatest work was Gilla Hugh, or the Patriot Monk, a tale of Cork in the 12th century. He also wrote many shorter poems and a beautiful rendering of St. Alphonsus Ligouri's hymns. One of the best known of his shorter poems

was written on "The Grave of Gerald Griffin" in the Christian Brothers' graveyard in Cork: —

Neath the green grassy turf of the Monks' churchyard,  
 By the pathway that leads to the school;  
 Sleeps Griffin, the purest and tenderest bard  
 That ever gave praise to the soft sunny sward,  
 Tall mountains and dark grottos cool,  
 Of a land, all whose brightness and beauty are marred  
 By the proud Saxon's tyrannous rule.

## EYRE COOTE

Sir Eyre Coote, General, was the youngest son of Rev. Chidley Coote of Ash Hill, County Limerick, by Jane Evans, sister of the first Lord Carbery. He was born at Ash Hill in 1726, and entered the army at a very early age. When only nineteen he took part in the war against Scotland.

In 1754 he embarked for the West Indies, where he served with distinction and was promoted Captain. He took part in the battle of Plassey, commanding the 3rd division, and on Clive's recommendation was promoted lieutenant-colonel. In 1760 he gained a great victory over the French under the Comte de Lally of the Irish Brigade, who were besieging them at Wandewash.

In 1770 he went to Madras as commander-in-chief of the East India Company, but shortly after returned to England. In 1779 he took command of Calcutta, and one of the articles in Warren Hastings' impeachment was that he allowed Coote £18,000 a year field allowances, in addition to his salary of £16,000 a year, even when he was not on active service.

Coote's greatest action was that in which, with about 10,000 soldiers, he defeated Hyder Ali and his army of 40,000. This was the beginning of his great campaign of 1780, which was a whole series of successes until Coote had to retire to Bengal in ill-health. He sailed to Madras, but died two days after reaching it on the 26th April, 1783. His body was brought back to England, landed at Portsmouth with great pomp and ceremony, and buried at Rockburne Church, in Hampshire, where the East India Company erected a monument over it.

Coote was married but had no children, and his estate passed to his nephew, also Sir Eyre Coote, and also a famous British General.

## JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY

John Singleton Copley, the son of Richard Copley by his wife, Mary Singleton, of Quinville Abbey, was born in the year 1737, shortly after his parents had emigrated to Boston from the Co. Clare on account of his father's ill-health.

His father died while Copley was still young, and his mother,