

of the History of Limerick, which appeared in two editions in 1767, and in a much enlarged edition in 1787. Strange to relate, Ferrar himself printed none of these editions. He was also the compiler of the first provincial Directory to appear in Ireland. This was published in 1769 by himself, "The Limerick Directory."

When Ferrar retired from the printing business he lived as an insurance agent on Sir Harry's Mall for a short while, but soon after removed to Dublin. He was a historian by birth and, although living in retirement in Dublin, he published while here "A View of Ancient and Modern Dublin," as well as the description of "A Tour of London." When only twenty-two, he wrote the usual volume of poems, and although these are by no means works of great genius, it can be truthfully said that they avoided most of the coarseness of their times.

His history is an excellent one, well arranged, moderately well indexed, and with plenty of original material. Although Lenihan, Limerick's later and greater historian, has subjected it to much criticism, it is a far better planned work than the latter's. It is also true that Lenihan copied much from it without acknowledgement, as he did from other sources.

Nothing is known of the date or place of Ferrar's death, or of the whereabouts of his burial; and the only record we have of his appearance is in the "Reminiscences of John O'Keeffe," the Irish actor and dramatist:—

"I knew Mr. Ferrar of Limerick, a printer, bookseller and author; he wrote an excellent history of Limerick, which, a few years ago, I heard read with pleasure. His little shop was at the corner of Quay Lane. Ferrar was very deaf, yet had a cheerful animated countenance; thin; and of the middle size."

A catalogue of Ferrar's book-selling wares in 1774 lists 214 plays for sale at 6½d. each. One would search many provincial cities to-day before finding such a selection to choose from.

## GERALD FITZGERALD

Gerald Fitzgerald, the 3rd Earl of Desmond and Justiciar of Munster, was the son of Maurice Fitzthomas, the first Earl, by his wife, Eleanor Fitzmaurice. In 1356 he was taken as a hostage for his father's good behaviour, to England, but as the latter died in the same year, Gerald was released, and, on the death of his elder brother, Maurice, three years later, was created Earl.

He was confirmed in his large estates in Munster by the King on condition that he married Eleanor Butler, the daughter of the Earl of Ormonde, who was then Justiciar, and with whose family the Desmonds had already started their bitter quarrel. Gerald did so but, although his wife was "a charitable and bountiful woman," he neither made peace with Ormonde or conformed to English ways and customs as was expected of him.

In 1367, as the English Government could rule neither Ireland or Desmond it adopted the weak but subtle policy of attempting to accomplish both by appointing Gerald Justiciar in succession to the Duke of Clarence. Gerald, however, was too interested in personal aggrandisement to make a success of the post from the English standpoint and was soon replaced by Sir William de Windsor.

When Turlough O'Brien was expelled from the Kingdom of Thomond by his cousin Brian, Gerald attempted to show his authority and power by reinstating him. Brian marched into Limerick and inflicted a crushing defeat on him at Mainister-nenagh. Gerald was taken prisoner, and his territory, as well as the City of Limerick, was burned and ravaged by Brian, who was afterwards known as Brian "Catha an Aonaigh."

Although Gerald often acted on the Government's behalf he had no sympathy with their attempts to abolish Irish customs and ruled his own feudal territory by Irish law. He was so powerful that even after the passing of the Statute of Kilkenny, which was to kill forever the hibernization of the colonists, Gerald sent his son to be fostered and educated by the O'Briens of Thomond.

He was a poet and a reputed magician and one of the main causes of his feud with the Butlers is said to have been that a Butler referred to him sneeringly as "Gerald the rhymers." Some of his poetry, written in Norman-French, is still in existence in the Book of Waterford. He was loved by the Irish and many legends have sprung up in the county about him. One is that he never died but went to a magic land and that he reappears once every seven years on the shores of Lough Gur and rides around it on a horse with silver horse shoes, and that he must continue to do so until the shoes are worn out.

He died in 1398 and the Annals of Clonmacnoise wrote his obituary—"The Lord Garrett, Earle of Desmond, a nobleman of wonderful bountie, mirth, cheerfulness in conversation, charitable in deeds, easy of access, a witty and ingenious composer of Irish poetry, and a learned and profound chronicler, and, in fine, one of the English nobility that had Irish learning and professors thereof in greater reverence than all the English in Ireland, died penitently after receipt of the Sacraments of the Holy Church in proper form."

### JAMES FITZGERALD

James Fitzgerald, barrister and Irish member of Parliament, was born in Ennis in the year 1742, son of William Fitzgerald, attorney of the same town. He claimed descent from that branch of the Fitzgeralds known as the White Knights.

Fitzgerald had a brilliant career at Trinity College, where he graduated in the year 1764. He was called to the Bar in 1769 and soon established a reputation as an eloquent and hard-