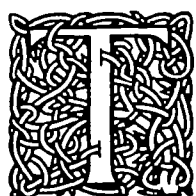


IRISH PROVINCIAL PRINTING PRIOR TO 1701.



THE printing press did not make extensive progress in Ireland for a considerable time after its first introduction. As far as is on record at present printing presses, outside Dublin, were only at work in four cities, namely, Waterford, Kilkenny, Cork, and Belfast, during the seventeenth century, and in the last town only at the very end of that century. There is, however, still too little recorded research to make any decided statement at present. It is only within the last thirty years that special attention has been paid to Irish bibliography, and the results have chiefly taken the form of contributions to antiquarian journals and other periodical literature. In this way I am indebted for most of the information contained in this article to the valuable and persistent labours of Mr. James Coleman of Southampton, as regards the productions of the presses of Waterford and Kilkenny, information which he has published from time to time, for some years past, in the 'Journal of the Waterford and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society,' commencing in No. 17 of vol. iv. Mr. James Buckley (now Hon. Librarian of the Irish Literary Society) also contributed an article to the same 'Journal' upon the three earliest instances of Waterford printing, his article appearing in vol. ii., p. 209. The information as to the Cork presses is taken from the List, three parts of which have now appeared, in the 'Journal of the Cork Historical and Archæological Society' (1900, etc.). This List, though appearing under my name, was compiled from information for which I am mainly indebted to

Messrs. Coleman and Buckley. The pioneer, however, in modern times, of compilers of lists of Irish locally printed books is Mr. John Anderson, formerly Hon. Secretary of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, and his 'Catalogue of Early Belfast-printed Books' (new edition), published in 1890, with a Supplement four years later, is the main source of all information as regards Belfast-printed books from 1694 to 1830.

WATERFORD.

Waterford comes chronologically next to Dublin as the second place in Ireland where printing was introduced. This statement, however, revives the old controversy as to whether the three books stated to have been printed there in 1555 were really so printed or not. Two of them the late Archdeacon Henry Cotton considered were not printed there; one of them he did not question. The two books he rejected are 'The Acquittal or Purgation of the Most Catholyke Christen Prince Edwarde VI.,' by John Olde; and 'An Epistle written by John Scory, the late Bishop of Winchester.' The book which Archdeacon Cotton (no mean authority) apparently admitted to have been printed at Waterford was the 'Confutation of Un-written Verities,' by Archbishop Cranmer. I would here again refer to Mr. Buckley's article, already mentioned, and merely remark that, in my opinion, there was nothing in the historical or political circumstances of the time to cause any hindrance to the printing of these works in Waterford then. The fact that Waterford was an important port, in constant communication, through its merchants, with London and other places, that the presses of that day were portable, that it was by no means unusual for a printer to move from town to town with his press, seem to me to confirm the likelihood of a printing press having been there for a time, and that the works in question were all printed there. It seems to me most

natural that a London printer, having mercantile friends in Waterford, should remove quietly to this latter town, where he could print in safety and send his publications to many ports.

The next instance of alleged printing in Waterford is, I admit, very uncertain. It is a Sermon by the Rev. Robert Daborne, published in 1618. Lowndes, in his 'Bibliographer's Manual,' gives Waterford as the place of its publication, and he is followed by Mr. W. C. Hazlitt; but I am inclined to think that this Sermon was printed in London, from the way it is referred to in the preface to the work written in answer to it, an answer which was printed in Waterford, but not till many years afterwards.

The first certain fact in connection with printing in Waterford is that in 1643 Thomas Bourke set up his printing press there as the authorized official printer of the Catholic Confederation and worked as their printer for a few years. Most of the specimens of his press now extant are political documents, such as Remonstrances, Orders, Manifestoes, Declarations, Letters, Reports, etc., printed by the authority of the Confederation. With these, however, were printed one or two books of historical or literary value, such as the 'Argument delivered by Patrick Darcy in the Irish House of Commons,' 1643. This is a quarto volume containing 144 pages. The only copy that I know of is in the British Museum, but it was reprinted in Dublin in the following century. The following also may be specially noted: (1) a dramatic piece called 'Titus, or the Palme of Xtian Courage; To be exhibited by the Schollars of the Society of Jesus at Kilkenny' (1644, quarto, 2 leaves); (2) 'Alexipharmacoon, or a Sovereign Antidote against a Virulent Cordial,' by Walter Enos, D.D. (1644, quarto, 118 pages + 3 leaves, table); (3) 'The answer to Daborne's Sermon' (1644); and (4) An Almanack for the year 1646, by a Menapian. Dr. Walter Enos also published 'A Survey of the Articles

of the late rejected peace,' etc. The first part was printed in Waterford, and the second in Kilkenny, both in 1646. A copy of the first part, a quarto of seventy pages, is in the British Museum.

After the change of Government brought about by the overthrow of the Royalists and the establishment of the Parliamentary or Cromwellian party, a change may be noticed in the character of the productions of the Waterford press; and we find that in 1652 there were printed and published there by Peter de Pienne, who had come from Cork, first, 'An Act for the Settlement of Ireland' (16 pages, quarto); and secondly, a very curious piece with a long title that may be given shortly as 'Monarchy no Creature of God's making,' by John Cook, of Gray's Inn, Chief Justice of the Province of Munster in Ireland under Cromwell.

One other book is recorded as printed in Waterford in 1654, but after that the press at Waterford appears to have sunk into silence, and no other examples of printing there in the rest of the seventeenth century are now extant.

Before passing from this press I should mention that another very valuable and earlier source of bibliographical information is the late Dr. R. R. Madden's 'History of Irish Periodical Literature.' In vol. i., p. 152, he mentions an Order of the Council for the Affairs of Ireland, directing the Commissioners of the Revenue at Waterford in the year 1652 to secure the printing press belonging to the Commonwealth in that city, locking it up in the room where it was, that nothing appertaining thereto might be embezzled or disposed of until further orders. The Commissioners were also forbidden to pay Peter de Pienne any salary from that time.

KILKENNY.

Closely connected with Waterford printing was that of Kilkenny. Here the first work from the press is a

Tragedy, the second of the kind printed in Ireland. Its author was Henry Burkhead. It is in five acts and in verse, and is entitled 'A Tragedy of Cala's Furie, or Lirenda's Miserie' (quarto). The unique copy known is in the British Museum. Kilkenny was the headquarters of the Confederate Catholic chiefs, and accordingly most of their official Proclamations, Manifestoes, Declarations and documents of a like nature were issued from the Kilkenny press. In the Bodleian Library, Oxford, among the Carte papers are many of these Manifestoes, Proclamations, and Declarations. These political documents are of considerable historical value. In some cases they were reprinted in London by the Parliamentarians, and in one instance the converse is the case, as I possess a Kilkenny reprint (quarto, 1648) of a Declaration of the Commons of England. After 1648 we hear of no more printing during the seventeenth century in Kilkenny.

CORK.

Turning now to Cork, we find that the first work credited to the press here was a sermon preached at the funeral of Richard Boyle, Archbishop of Tuam, in 1644, by the Rev. Edward Worth, Dean of Cork. No copy, however, is now known. The authority for its existence is Walter Harris's edition of Ware's 'Writers of Ireland,' a highly valued source of early information on Irish writers and their books. The next productions from this press, not till 1648, however, were chiefly political documents, Declarations by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Articles of Peace, and the like. There is, however, one most interesting example of printing at Cork, namely, an edition of the 'Eikon Basilike.' This is a duodecimo of 320 pages, and was printed by Peter de Pienne in 1649. The extant copy of it is unique, and Mr. Robert Day, J.P., Cork, is the fortunate owner of it. Cork, too, has the
 23 credit of being the first place in Ireland where a journal

was published. It only, indeed, extended to two numbers; still it was the herald of all other periodical literature in the country. This journal was the 'Irish Monthly Mercury,' known solely by the London reprints. Both this periodical and the succeeding productions of the press were published by the Cromwellian party, the earlier ones by the Royalists. Besides these political publications there are two curious works worth mentioning, viz.: (1) 'A True relation of Mr. John Cook's Passage by Sea from Wexford to Kinsale, in that great Storm, Jany. 5,' and (2) 'Mrs. Frances Cook's Meditations.' These also are only known by the London reprints (both in the British Museum) of the original Cork editions. From this time to the end of the century the works now known to have come from the Cork press are few, and copies of some of them do not appear to be extant. A Sermon by Dean Worth on Infant Baptism in 1653 was in existence in the Cashel Library when Archdeacon Cotton was librarian there, and is given by him in his 'Typographical Gazetteer.' Most of the political productions in Cork at this time, that is, those of which the originals are now extant, bear no printer's name. In 1657 we come upon another Cork printer, William Smith, who appears to have done printing from 1657 down to 1690. He succeeded De Pienne, and is the second known Cork printer. He printed 'The Agreement and Resolution of Severall Associated Ministers in the County of Corke for the Ordaining of Ministers' (quarto, 22 pages). He also printed in 1662 a Sermon preached by the Rev. John Butler, and in 1679 an edition of Archbishop Usher's 'Prophecies and Predictions.' Lastly, about 1690 he printed a very rare little book entitled 'A Chronological Table of the Pedigree and lineall Descent down from Adam of the Right Honourable Justin Lord Viscount Mountcashel,' etc. It is in twenty-fours, and the only known copy was the property of the late Sir John T. Gilbert, Ireland's eminent historian, whose rare library has been acquired by the Municipal Corpora-

tion of Dublin. There were, however, other works published during this period, the 'Inquisitio in Fidem,' etc., by Roger Boyle, and the 'Moderate Cavalier,' said to have been printed in Cork. This latter work is to be found in the British Museum. At the very close of the seventeenth century there were two theological pieces published by John Brent in Cork, one entitled 'Pastoral Admonitions,' and the other a 'Sermon,' both by Bishop Wetenhall. They were certainly published in Cork and sold there, but the printer's name is one which is to be found amongst the Dublin printers of the time.

BELFAST.

Coming lastly to Belfast, we find from Mr. Anderson's valuable catalogue that, though it is believed that printing was carried on there in 1694, no existing specimen from the press is to be found earlier than the year 1697. The works of these last few years of the century were almost entirely of a religious character. The first printer at Belfast was Patrick O'Neill, and it is interesting to note that it appears from Mr. Anderson's catalogue that Patrick O'Neill printed the New Testament in Belfast in 1700, the second separate edition of the New Testament printed in Ireland, I am inclined to think. An edition of the 'Pilgrim's Progress' and another of Bunyan's works were also printed here, but the Belfast press did not reach much eminence until well into the next century.

In concluding this article I should allude to the fact which appears in the preface of Mr. Anderson's Supplement, that it is believed that a travelling press accompanied William III. on his landing in Ireland in 1690. He landed at Carrickfergus, and there may therefore have been some Proclamations, etc., issued from that press there, and also when he moved up to Belfast. In the British Museum there is a Proclamation by William III. and

Mary conjecturally assigned to Londonderry; but it is, I think, at present doubtful whether there was any printing press there at that date.

Very much research is still needed, in England particularly, to throw further light on our Irish presses.

E. R. McC. Dix.