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June 15th

Dear Sir,

I dont know whether
you still remember a fellow-
traveller who discoursed to you
of the Eustaces, during a part of
your journey in the north of Ireland
last summer. I then told you
that I had written a paper
on the history of that family for
one of our local archaeological

Societies, and that when it was
printed I should send you a copy.

The copy goes to you by this post.

There was a good deal of delay in
the printing of the number of the
Journal in which it appears. It
is only today the Journal and
this paper have reached me.

So that the delay is no fault of mine.

If you would care to have

photos of the prints given in the
paper very well done, the same
from which these prints were
made, you can get them from
Miss Manders, Castle size, Sallins,
Co. Kildare in any number you
please; ^{price one shilling each.} the size is 8 inches by 5.

There are seven of them. I find the

Others not given in this paper are
photos of a ruined church near fault-
master and portions of the tunnel
opposite p. 121. The print at p. 124 is
not from a photo, but from a drawing,
so that the Lady can't supply duplicates
of that. But if you care to have them,
it will be easy to get these taken from
the print. Photos from such drawings look very
hell.

I need hardly add it gives me much pleasure to
do this little service to a countryman in a foreign land who
repay in a very small way indeed the generous kindness which
we have received from our friends in America.

In our dear love,
Yours very sincerely
Gene's Murphy, S. J.

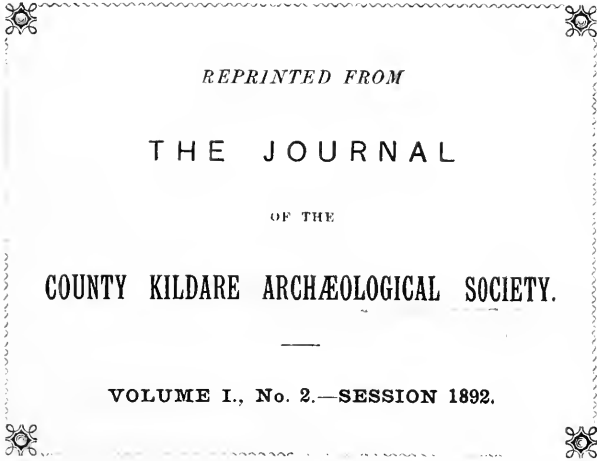


Alexander C. Eustace Esq^r.

Elmira, Albany, N. Y.

With the Author's best respects.

June 15th 1893.



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THE JOURNAL

OF THE

COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

VOLUME I., No. 2.—SESSION 1892.

1155412

*THE EUSTACES OF CO. KILDARE.**

BY THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.

I WOULD set before this Society briefly to-day, not the whole history of the ancient family of Eustace—such a task would far exceed the limits of time assigned me—but a brief sketch of its most eminent members, showing the important part they bore in the public life of the country for several centuries till, owing to the facts of our country's history known to everyone, they, like not only leading families of the old Irish of these parts as the O'Conors Faly and O'Mores, but also of the Sengaill, or old strangers, as our historians style the first Anglo-Irish settlers, the Berminghams and Suttons, have passed away, and the castles and broad lands which once were theirs know them no more.

Of this noble and historic name, says Burke, five have been Lord Chancellors, two Lord Deputies, and one Lord High Treasurer of Ireland: a proud record surely, the like of which few families can lay claim to, and one well worthy of our inquiry.

It is not easy to find who the first ancestor of this family was, or whence he came. The name, I will remark in passing, is written FitzEustace and Eustace; in earlier times the first was used, in later times the latter form exclusively. I have read that he was a relative of Maurice Fitzgerald, the founder of the Leinster family. But nothing further is stated so far as I know, that would enable us to determine the degree of relationship or even its existence accurately. De Burgo, who published his work in 1762, which, though printed at Kilkenny, bears the imprint of Cologne on its title-page—the times when he wrote being full of danger for writers—though he was not professedly a genealogist, yet gives much very curious information, especially in reference to his own and other Anglo-Norman families with which his was connected. When giving the history of the Dominican Convent of Naas, founded by the FitzEustaces about the middle of the fourteenth century, he goes on to speak of the founder of the family:—"The tradition of the place," he

* Read, January 27, 1892.

says, "and of this famous (laudatæ) family is, that the church was dedicated to St. Eustachius, the Roman martyr, whose feast is celebrated on the 20th of September, from whom the Eustaces, in the vernacular FitzEustace, both of England and Ireland, descend in a direct line, as is proved from history, books of genealogy, and other monuments, and specially from the inscription in our church of St. Sixtus, in Rome. In the middle of the pavement of the church is a marble monument bearing the arms of the Irish family of Eustace and the following inscription:—

D. O. M.

Hic Jacet R.D. Jacobus Eustachius, *alias* FitzEustace, sacerdos, ex familiâ sancti Eustachii Romani Martyris, in Hibernia a sexcentis circiter annis stabilita. Obiit v. Februarii, MDCCXII.

"The family," continues De Burgo, "came into England in the time of the Saxon Kings, and passed into Ireland with Henry II. It has spread into several branches, some of whom held a place among the leading men of the kingdom, as Viscount Baltinglass, in Wicklow, and the Baron of Portlester, now deceased. In the county of Dublin there were two families of them, of Dowdingstown and of Ballymore-Eustace. The leading family of the name in Kildare was that of Castlemartin, which has been deprived of its castle and lands by the calamities of the times." So far De Burgo. Sir Bernard Burke, in his "Extinct Peerages," says the founder was John FitzEustace, a Norman Lord, who came to Ireland with Henry II. But he gives no authority for this assertion. Mr. Hore, in the "Kilkenny Arch. Journal" for 1866, puts forward as an opinion that they are the same family as the Poers; this he deduces from their war-cry, "Poerach aboc." The arms of the family, a saltire, would connect them with the Fitzgeralds, while the motto, *Quid me perseceris*, would rather point to the Eustaces, if, indeed, any conclusion worth mentioning can be deduced from it. I am aware that Campian and Carew say the family is descended from Robert le Powere; but in such matters their authority is of very little weight. Keating, too, is of this opinion, though he gives a statement of a certain Maolin O'Bruody, that they are descended from Donough, son of Brian Boroinhe. All this goes to show that it is anything but certain who was the founder of this family.

There is a well-known Norman poem, the author of which is commonly supposed to be Maurice Regan, secretary of Dermot Mac Murrough. It has been republished lately by Mr. Orpen,

with a translation and notes. In that we find the names of all the first settlers, of the lands they settled in, and of the Irish tribes and chiefs whom they dispossessed. If Eustace or Fitz-Eustace was one of those, we might fairly expect to find his name set down there; but it is not. Nor is it given in the appendix by Carew, containing the names of the English and Welsh adventurers during the first sixteen years of the invasion. Yet, strange to say, we find one of the name, the first of the family known in our history, settled at and owner of Castle-martin so early as 1200. He was then styled Baron of Castle-martin. Baronies, however, and other titles of nobility were not so strictly determined as in later times. It has been said that he got these lands from the Baron of Offaly, a very probable statement, for it is not easy to conceive how he could have settled otherwise than by peaceful means in the very heart and choicest portion of the lands then held by Maurice Fitzgerald. Soon after, we find these Eustaces in possession of Kilcullen and Harristown. A writer in the "Kilkenny Archæological Journal" says the Eustaces got through an heiress the estates of Philip Brett, who held the third part of the barony of Naas.

The name of Ballymore has long been intimately connected with that of the Eustaces. In very remote times the manor belonged to the Archbishop of Dublin. He had a castle built there to protect his lands and tenants from the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles in the neighbouring Wicklow hills, which, remember, was not their original home, but the level plains of north and east Kildare, and of course, and most naturally, they looked on those who had seized on their lands as intruders, to put it mildly, even though those who held their lands were Archbishops, more especially if the Archbishop was an Englishman, as happened then. So as early as 1373 we find Thomas, son of Almaric FitzEustace, appointed by Thomas, Lord Archbishop of Dublin, constable of the Castle of Ballymore, with a salary of £10 per annum, provided he resided there with his family. By an Act of the Parliament held in Drogheda in 1468, "the office of castellan should not be entrusted to the Irish. Hence we learn that the Archbishop of Dublin being seized in right of his see of the manor of Ballymore, among the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, Irish enemies, did of ancient times make constables thereof for life or at will, which constables did keep their residence there continually, and especially in time of war, and Richard Talbot, brother of Lord Furnival, Archbishop of Dublin, did by the assent of his chapter constitute Sir Richard FitzEustace constable thereof. The said Richard died, and his son and heir Robert occupied the same office, but did not make

his residence there, but made a sub-constable, one Laurence O'Rogan, an Irishman both by father and mother, who would by nature discover the secrets of the English. Also said Robert FitzEustace lodged his sheep in the vaults of the said castle, and distrained the great tenants and burgesses of the same under colour of the said rent-charge. Therefore, at the petition of Michael, Archbishop of Dublin, it was enacted that the said Robert be compelled to keep a sufficient company of Englishmen, and no Irish, to guard said castle. And if said Robert put any Irishman not having his charter of liberty to ward the said castle, that then it shall be lawful for the said Archbishop to turn said Richard out of said castle, and to give the said office to any one for life or years." That, I conceive, is the origin of the name Ballymore-Eustace.

In 1420 John Eustace, of Newland, and Walerian Eustace were commissioned to inquire into the state of Kildare.

In 1426 Sir Richard FitzEustace was appointed Lord Chancellor. He held the office for a very short time only, but for ten years after he was Deputy Chancellor.

In 1431 Edward FitzEustace, knight, was Sheriff of Kildare, and soon after he was appointed a Privy Councillor, when he was selected to go over and advise the King about the condition of Ireland.

In the reign of Henry VI. the Duke of York was made Lord Lieutenant. In 1452 he went to England to answer the many accusations made against him, the chief being his design of raising an army in Ireland to dethrone the King. The Earl of Ormonde was appointed his deputy, but he died soon after, and the administration devolved on Sir Edward FitzEustace, a warlike knight, fitted for a government which required activity and vigour. The absence of the Duke of York and the death of the Earl of Ormonde encouraged the native Irish to make incursions into several parts of the pale. O'Connor Faly had alarmed the Deputy by an incursion into the heart of Kildare. He was surprised by FitzEustace, and his troops put to the rout. The chief endeavouring to escape fell from his horse. His son, who accompanied him, stopped and placed him on his horse. The father fell a second time. A grievous contest arose between the father and the son, which of them should be left to the mercy of the enemy. The youth pressed his father to take his horse and leave him to his fate, and to seize the present moment of providing for his own safety. The father obstinately refused, commanded his son to fly, and was soon made prisoner. But, as it was shown that he had taken arms merely for the sake of preying, not with any

deliberate purpose of opposing the English Government, he was released unharmed.

In 1462 George, Duke of Clarence, who was then Viceroy, appointed Sir Rowland FitzEustace as his Deputy. Sir Rowland was accused of traitorous acts in reference to the assumption of the kingly authority by the Earl of Desmond, when Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, was Viceroy. An attempt was made to substantiate the charge. On the execution of the Earl of Desmond Sir Rowland was arraigned before the Viceroy by Sir John Gilbert for having incited the Earl of Desmond to assume the kingship of Ireland, and for engaging that he and all the land would accept him in preference to Edward IV. FitzEustace denied the charge indignantly; and when the day to bring forward his proofs came, Gilbert did not appear. Fearing the consequences of his false accusation, he withdrew beyond the reach of FitzEustace's just wrath, and joined the O'Conors in making war on the Deputy. The result was that he was attainted as a traitor by the very Parliament which acquitted FitzEustace of treason. Sir Rowland married a daughter of Jenico D'Artois, ancestor of the Gormanstown family, and he took his title of Portlester from the manor and castle of Portlester, which he acquired through her. Portlester is near Trim. In 1643 the second Viscount Drogheda, commonly known as Lord Moore, ancestor of the Marquis of Drogheda, was killed by a cannon ball fired from this castle by a party of Owen Roe O'Neill's men, who held it against the Parliamentarians. This gave rise to the following *jeu-de-mots* :—

Contra Romanos mores, res mira ! dynasta
Morus ab Eugenio canonizatus erat.

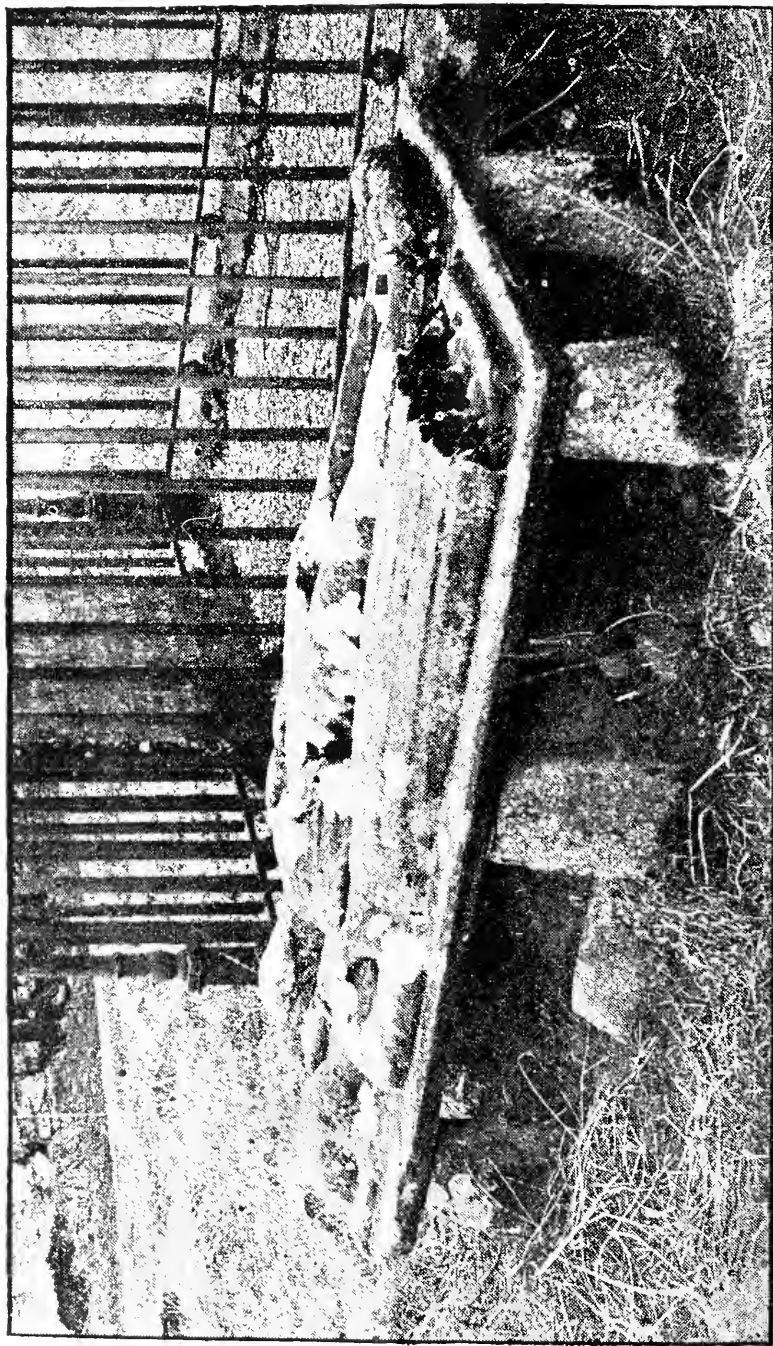
He was appointed Treasurer of Ireland, an office which he held for many years. He received the additional dignity of the custody of the Great Seal in 1474, when his son-in-law, the Earl of Kildare, was Deputy to the Duke of Clarence. Charges were made against him in his capacity of Treasurer. These failing in proof, he was reinstated in his office of Treasurer, but the King transferred the Chancellorship from him to Sherwood, Bishop of Meath.

Sir Rowland refused to deliver up the Great Seal to his successor. The King in a mandment to be showed to Sir Rowland Eustace, Knight, declared "that he should deliver up the Great Seal, being under keeping, unto the said Bishop of Myth, whom he hath deputed and made his Chancellor of his said land in Ireland." The King authorized Lord Grey to have a Great Seal made for Ireland, and to damn, annul, and suspend that in

the hands of Sir Rowland FitzEustace, should the latter disobey his commands, absent himself, or hold the Seal in his custody; the Parliament enacted that all patents, writs, and other documents issued under it should be void until it came into the hands of the Deputy; and Thomas Archbold, Master of the King's Mints in Ireland, was authorized to engrave a new seal as near the other as may be in pattern and fabrie, with the difference of a rose in every part, to be reputed and taken as the Great Seal of the King of England for Ireland until the other had been restored to the Deputy.

In the year 1472, the 12th of Edward IV., an Act of Parliament was passed to this effect:—"That there should be a fraternity of arms of the number of thirteen persons, of the most honourable and faithfully disposed in the counties of Kildare, Dublin, Meath, and Louth, viz. three out of each county and four from Meath, that is to say, Thomas, Earl of Kildare; Rowland Eustace, Lord of Portlester; Sir Rowland Eustace, Knight for the county of Kildare; Robert, Lord of Howth; the Mayor of Dublin for the time being; and Sir Robert Dowdal, Knight for the county of Dublin; the Lord Gormanstown; Edward Plunkett, Senechal of Meath; Alexander Plunkett, Esq., and Barnaby Barnwall, Esq., for the county of Meath; and the Mayor of Drogheda; Sir Laurence Taaffe, Knight; and Richard Bellew, Esq., for the county Louth; and that they and their successors should yearly assemble at Dublin on St. George's Day, and there choose one of them to be Captain for the next year. The which Captain and Brethren should be created a Society, by the name of the Captain and Brethren at Arms. The Captain should have a hundred and twenty archers on horseback, at sixpence a-day for meat, drink, and wages; and forty horsemen and forty pages at five pence a-day for him and his page; and four marks per annum wages. The Captain and Brethren and their successors to support this charge should have twelve pence per pound out of all the merchandize sold in Ireland, whether it is imported or exported, except hides and the goods of the freemen of Drogheda and Dublin; and the mayors of Dublin and Drogheda to be receivers of the said poundage. The fraternity shall have power to make laws for the good governance of the Society, and to elect a new brother in the place of any deceasing, and the Captain shall have authority to apprehend all outlawed rebels, and others that will not be justified by law."

In 1486 appeared the impostor Lambert Simnel, personating the Earl of Warwick, only son of George, Duke of Clarence;



for which Duke (being their countryman born) the Irish had a wonderful respect. "So eager," says Cox, "were the people to follow the fortunes of this mock-king, that Thomas Fitzgerald resigned the Chancellorship to the Lord of Portlester, the better to be at liberty, and they went together to England." Every schoolboy knows the pretender's defeat at Stoke, and his ignoble ending afterwards as one of the king's falconers. Sir Richard Edgecombe was sent over to Ireland as the King's Commissioner. In the great hall of the monastery of Thomas-court the former supporters of the impostor received pardon, and swore allegiance to the King. Amongst them was the Earl of Kildare, round whose neck the Commissioner put a gold chain, which the King had sent him as a present to signify his Majesty's entire reconciliation with him. The like oaths were taken by Rowland Eustace, Lord Portlester, Viscount Gormanstown, the Barons of Howth, Slane, and Trimleston, &c., and then Sir Richard entertained them at a splendid banquet at his lodgings.

He is buried in the New Abbey of Kilcullen, founded by him in 1460 for Franciscans. There is a very fine monument erected to him and his wife there. The knight wears a coat of plaited mail with vizor raised; the lady is in the costume of the time, a head-dress called a coronet bound by a fillet of gold or silver lace of needlework. The fillet is tied behind and ends in long lappels. On the breast is a cross; the dress is a close-fitting kirtle, made fast by a girdle studded with roses; the skirt is plaited round the outer edge. Surrounding the figures was the inscription in Gothic characters:—

Orate pro anima

Rolandi FitzEustace de Portlester

qui hoc monasterium construxit et fundavit et qui

obiit die Decembris 19, A. D. 1496,

etiam pro anima Margaritæ uxoris ejus.

The lower portion of the monument was also sculptured. On one side were three figures in three separate compartments; in the centre was an Irish peasant; the other figures represented two heralds in the dress of their office. There were figures on the opposite side, but they are now too much worn to be defined. A monk in the habit of his Order was at one end, and shields of armorial bearings surmounted by a rising sun near

the corner. Such was the monument just a century ago, as we learn from "Anthologia Hibernica," iii. 256. The print inserted here, from a photograph by Miss Manders, shows its present condition. Lord Walter Fitz Gerald tells me that one of the figures has been removed to Barrettstown Castle to save it from further injury. A Mr. Eustace, who wrote to me from



EUSTACE MONUMENT, COTLANDSTOWN.

Kilkenny, thinks it was because his grandfather, General Eustace, was obnoxious to the people in 1798, that they showed their dislike to him by injuring the family monument.

There are prints of this monument in "Anthologia Hibernica," iii. 225, and in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland." In Cotlandstown churchyard there is a column which com-

memorates the Eustaces. It is about 3 feet long, 2 feet being above the ground. The sides are about 9 inches wide. On three of them there is an inscription on raised letters, now illegible. Under the inscription there are four shields, one on each side. No. 1, "Eustace, Lord Portlester, 1462." No. 2, the arms of Lord Portlester, or a saltire gules, surmounted by a baron's coronet. No. 3, two fleurs-de-lis. No. 4, a snake



EUSTACE MONUMENT, COTLANDSTOWN.

knowned, more probably a double-headed eagle. The two last are probably the arms of his two wives, Elizabeth Brune and Margaret Preston. The Eustaces were living at Ballycotland in 1378. This is very probably the base of a memorial cross. The lettering would show it to be two centuries later than Lord Portlester's time.

In St. Audeon's Church, Dublin, there is a similar monument to Lord Portlester. He built the Lady Chapel when he

was Lord Deputy. The recumbent figures of Lord and Lady Portlester resemble closely those on the Kilcullen tomb. Round the margin is the following inscription :—

Ora te pro anima
 Rolandi FitzEustace de Portlester
 qui hunc locum sibi capellam dedit in honorem
 Beate Virginis,
 etiam pro anima Margarete Uxoris sue et pro
 animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum.

This tomb has been removed from its original position, close by the eastern end of the chapel, to the porch, in order to protect it from the weather. The print inserted here is from a drawing by Mr. T. J. Westropp, to whom I beg leave to express my thanks for his kindness.

Sir Rowland had two daughters. The eldest, Alison, married Gerald, 8th Earl of Kildare. By this marriage the lands of Bright and Rosglas, in the county Down, which had been assigned by John Dongan, Bishop of Down, in 1395, to Janico d'Artois, a Gascon gentleman, one of those who attended Richard II. in his Irish wars, passed into the hands of the Kildare family, she being the granddaughter of Sir Janico. In 1808 Lord Lecale sold them to his stepfather, John Ogilvie, whose great-grandson now possesses them. She died of grief, in consequence of her husband having been imprisoned in the Tower of London. She was buried in Kilcullen Abbey. Her youngest daughter married Marward, Baron of Skreen, and after his death Sir John Plunkett of Bewley. He was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Thomas, who was created Baron of Kileullen in 1541, and Viscount Baltinglass in the following year. He married Margaret, daughter of Peter Talbot of Malahide, and died in 1550. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Rowland, Baron of Kilcullen, and Viscount Baltinglass. He died in 1588, and was succeeded by his son, James, 3rd Viscount Baltinglass, of whom more later.

In the State Papers in the first half of the sixteenth century mention is often made of Dame Jenet Eustace. In the *Carew Papers*, under the date February 16, 1535, Allen writes to Cromwell :—" We have in ward in the Castle of Dublin Dame Jenet Eustace, Sir Walter Delahoyde's wife, which was the Earl of Kildare's aunt, and most of secrets with him, and by



THE EUSTACE MONUMENT IN ST. AUDEON'S.

all probable conjecture she was the chief counsellor and stirrer of this inordinate rebellion. She is the traitor's foster-mother, and by her and her two sons, James and John, Thomas Eustace, who is her nephew, the same was begun and hitherto maintained and upholden." The allusion is to the rebellion of Silken Thomas. Lady Jenet was one of those whom his father, when summoned to appear before the King, recommended to the young Earl as advisers.

Several times during the reign of Philip and Mary commissions were issued to Hugh, Archbishop of Dublin; Gerald, Earl of Kildare; Roland, Viscount Baltinglass; Nicholas Eustace, Sheriff of Kildare, for the government of the counties of Kildare, Dublin, and Carlow, in the absence of the Lord Deputy.

In the 5th of Elizabeth, 1563, a commission was issued to Lord Baltinglass, Maurice FitzMaurice, John Eustace of Castlemartin, and Patrick Sarsfield, for the civil government of Co. Kildare, in the absence of the Earl of Sussex, who was about to proceed to the North to chastise O'Neill and his confederates.

The third Viscount, with several of the Leinster tribes, took up arms when Gerald, Earl of Desmond, revolted in Munster. "For the sake of his religion," says Holinshed, "he did join the Earl of Desmond, in the hope of placing Mary, Queen of Scotland, on the throne of these kingdoms." He urged the Earl of Ormonde to join them. "If the Queen's pleasure," he wrote, "be, as you allege, to minister justice, it were time to begin; for in this twenty years past of her reign we have seen more oppressing of poor subjects under pretence of justice within this land than ever we read or heard (since England first received the faith) done by Christian princes. You counsel me to remain quiet, and you will be occupied in persecuting the poor members of Christ. I wish you would learn and consider by what means your predecessors came up to be Earls of Ormonde. Truly, you should find that if Thomas Becket, Bishop of Canterbury, had never suffered death in the defence of the Church, Thomas Butler, *alias* Becket, had never been Earl of Ormonde."

In 1580 Lord Grey of Wilton came over as Lord Deputy. "Before he was sworn he had notice that one Pierce Fitzgerald (with his company, which he had in the Queen's pay), was revolted to Lord Baltinglass, and being joined with Feagh MacHugh and other rebels, had secured themselves in the fastnesses of Glendalough, in the county of Wicklow, and did daily increase both in number and mischief, he ordered a smart party

to attack them. Cosby, an experienced soldier, dissuaded the attempt; but having positive orders, the foot entered the glens, whilst Lord Grey, with the horse, scoured the plains. But the rebels, being well acquainted with these woods, laid their ambushes so cunningly that the English could neither fight in the devilish place nor retire out of it. Courage could but little avail them; whilst being mired at the bogs, they were forced to stand still like butts to be shot at. Discipline or conduct were of no use in that place, where it could not be practised; in short, the English were defeated, the whole company slain except some few that were rescued by the horsemen, and among the rest Sir Peter Carew, Colonel Moore, and the valiant captains Audeley and Cosby were killed in this unfortunate conflict."

We have in Gilbert's *Facsimiles of National MSS.* a portion of the Journal of the House of Lords, A.D. 1581. Among the Acts registered in it as having received the Royal assent from the Lord Deputy, Sir John Perrott, are those for attainting James Eustace Viscount Baltinglass and the Earl of Desmond, as well as those charged with complicity in their movements. These Acts summarily confiscated and vested in the Crown the entire properties of the persons named therein, and annulled all conveyances made by or in connexion with them during the twelve preceding years. Spenser says the statute with the retrospective clauses in relation to the Desmond confiscation was "wrought out of the Parliament with great difficulty, and were it to be passed again, I dare undertake it would never be compassed." Lord Baltinglass saved his life by flying to Spain, where he was "well used by King Philip II.," but several of those who had taken part with him in the rising were executed, as Nicholas Nugent, David Sutton, John Sutton, Thomas Eustace, John Eustace, William Wogan, Robert Sherlock, John Clinch, Thomas Netterville, and Robert Fitzgerald.

He seems to have died in Lisbon about September, 1594. In January, 1596, a spy in the pay of the English Government reported that the eldest son of Lord Baltinglass's son had died shortly before, and that the other was a priest in Rome. His estates were in 1605 granted to Sir Henry Harrington, Knight, "in regard to that he had been a very good, ancient, and long servitor in the late wars and rebellion in Ireland." They are set down as being 2667 acres in the counties of Kildare and Dublin.

Lord Baltinglass had four brothers. One of them, Edmund, was reported to have died in Spain about 1589; another, Walter, was in prison in Dublin in 1583. In the fee-book

of Dr. Arthur, published in the "Journal of the Kilkenny Archæological Society," Lady Baltinglass is mentioned among his patients. Probably she remained in this country when her husband fled to Spain; or, more probably, she was the wife of the Lord Baltinglass who was one of the Committee sent by the Irish Parliament to England to impeach the Earl of Strafford.

In the Description of Ireland in 1598, a MS. in Clongowes Wood College, among the principal men of county Kildare are five of the Eustaces, of Blackrath, Mullahose, Ballycotland, Confey, and Clongowes.

In 1596 Edward Eustace was owner of Clongowes Wood, and William Eustace in 1636.

In 1608 Oliver Eustace was constable of Blackwood, Edward Eustace of Kylmory. At the same date the following are set down as Jurors for the King:—Oliver Eustace, of Mullaghash; Maurice Eustace, of Clongowes Wood; James Eustace, of Sigginstown; Oliver Eustace, of Blackrath; Alexander, of Crookstown; Maurice, of Colbinstown; William, of Moone.

In an Inquisition on the death of James Eustace, late of Newland in the Co. Kildare, bearing date January 16th, 1613, it is stated that "he was seized in fee of the manor of Newland and of all the messuages, lands, and tenements in the town-fields of Newland, Lippiston, Osmanston, Siginston, Stonehall, Barretstown, Waterton, Yeomanston, Devinston, and Clognanston, and of and in Carnallwey, one castle and 86 acres of land, Caroghe, 12 messuages, and 140 acres of land, and one water-mill, in the aforesaid county." The subsequent portion, dated 1613, goes on to say:—"The premises in Newland and Sheltonstown were held of Viscount Gormanston by military service; in Carnallwey, of William Eustace of Castlemartin by annual rent; Lippiston and Osmonston were held of Walter Weleslie of Norragh by annual rent; Siginston and Stonehall were held of the Earl of Kildare by military service; Barrettstown, Waterton, Yeomanston, Devinston, Carogh, and one water-mill, of William Sarsfield of Tully, by annual rent."

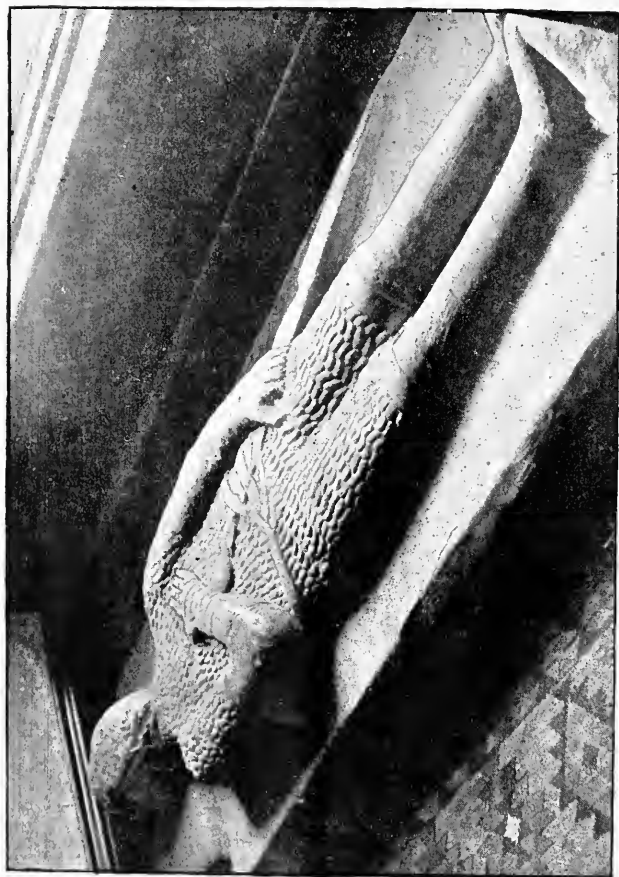
Maurice Eustace, son of William of Castlemartin, was appointed Serjeant-at-law in 1634, and elected Speaker of the House of Commons in 1638—"a wise, learned, and discreet man, and of great integrity." Charles I. appointed him one of the Commissioners to confer with the Confederate Catholics; and in 1647 the House of Commons voted him their thanks for his "singular good affection to the English nation, his public service, and his earnest advancement of the Protestant

religion." In 1644 he was made Master of the Rolls, and at the Restoration he was appointed Chancellor, which office he held till his death in 1665. He was confirmed in his estates by the Act of Settlement. The present Eustace-street, Mr. Gilbert tells us, has its name from his residence and gardens having been on its site. He is buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The attainders of 1642 contain the names of John, son of Christopher Eustace of Baltrasna, Maurice Eustace of Castlemartin, Roland Eustace of Blackhall, and nineteen others of the name in the counties of Kildare, Wicklow, and Dublin.

In the court-book, the record of the court-marshals held in Dublin after the war, in Marsh's Library, we read under the date March 23rd, 1652: "Rowland Eustace accused of holding correspondence with and relieving the enemy; and all evidence being heard and fully debated, it was put to the question whether upon the whole question and circumstances to the Court there are not strong and pregnant presumptions that the said Rowland Eustace is guilty of the several crimes wherewith he is charged; resolved in the affirmative. 2nd, whether upon the whole matter there is sufficient evidence to proceed by judgment against Rowland Eustace or not; resolved in the negative. It was finally ordered upon the question resolved in the affirmative that the said Rowland Eustace be herewith removed with his whole family and dependents into the province of Connaught. It was also further ordered that he be released, giving security to perform the judgment of this court hereby declared, and to appear on the forty days after the notice lodged at any of his houses." On the margin is: "in Jajogstown, in the county Kildare."

The Eustaces were Jacobites. On the 25th December, 1685, Maurice FitzEustace was created a baronet by James II. Dalton says he was married to a granddaughter of the Duke of Tyreonnell. In King James's Parliament, held in 1689, there were two Eustaces, James and Maurice, who sat as members for the borough of Blessington. Maurice raised a regiment for James. Moreover, in the army of James II. we find Richard Eustace of Barrettstown, Lieutenant-Colonel in Lord Gormaston's regiment of infantry. Richard was a captain in Sir Neill O'Neill's dragoons, and Christopher a lieutenant in the same regiment. On May 10th the King wrote to Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, then besieging Derry, "Ten companies of Eustace's will soon be with you, all well armed and clothed." In Walker's "Account of the Siege of Derry," it is said that Lieutenant-



THE EUSTACE MONUMENT, BARRETTOWN CASTLE.

Colonel Richard Eustace was wounded in the attack on the wind-mill. He received several wounds at Aughrim also. On his arrival in France he was made colonel of one of the reformed regiments of Irish infantry. This he commanded up to 1693. It is presumed he died about this time, as King James in that year appointed a successor in command of the regiment. Of course several of the names are mentioned in the attainders of 1691, as Colonel Maurice of Castlemartin, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Eustace of Barrettstown, and others in Kildare, Carlow, and Wicklow.

By the Articles of Limerick, Maurice Eustace of Yeomanstown, and Chevers, Viscount Mount Leinster, then in foreign parts, sent thither upon the affairs of their respective regiments, should have the benefit thereof, provided they returned within eight months, submitted to William's government, and took the oath of allegiance. This will explain why Yeomanstown continued in their possession.

In 1703, James Eustace of Yeomanstown was accused of having brought over from England the manuscript of a seditious book entitled "Memoirs of King James II.," of having got it printed, and sent copies of it to Limerick, Galway, and elsewhere. He denied the charge, but it was proved against him. The book was ordered to be burnt by the common hangman. I do not know whether he suffered in any way in consequence: this is probably the same who is buried in the churchyard of Caragh. De Burgo says the Eustaces of Yeomanstown were a family highly respected in his time (1762): "Etiam nunc floret domus de Yeomanstown Catholica religione et exemplari probitate clara."

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1704, called "an Act for registering the Popish Clergy," priests were obliged to register their names, places of abode, and the several parishes of which they were the parish priests. Sureties entered into recognizance for them. In the Co. Kildare we find that Maurice Eustace of Lepstown, gentleman, was surety for Nicholas Eustace, P.P. of Raharaine, Killmage, Facullen, and part of Tully and of Morristown; and also for James Eustace, P.P. of Old Connell, Ladystowne, Morristowne, and Biller.

Here is a short pedigree of the family, as given by Burke:—

EDWARD FITZEUSTACE,

↓
Sir Rowland, Lord Portlester, = Margaret, daughter of Jenico d'Artois.

↓
Alison = Gerald, 8th Earl of Kildare.

On the death of Sir Rowland, says Burke, the male heir of the great house of FitzEustace was—

SIR THOMAS FITZEUSTACE, Baron of } = Margaret, daughter of Sir P. Talbot
Kilcullen and Viscount Baltinglass, } of Malahide.

Sir Rowland, 2nd Viscount }
Baltinglass, } = Joan, daughter of Lord Dunboyne.

James FitzEustace, 3rd }
Baron Baltinglass, . } = Mary, daughter of Sir H. Travers.

It is foreign to my purpose to enter into the later history of the several branches of the family. Those who care to pursue the subject further will find a good deal of information about it in the notice of “Claimed Peerages,” in Burke’s “Peerage,” and in the traditions which abound in this neighbourhood.





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