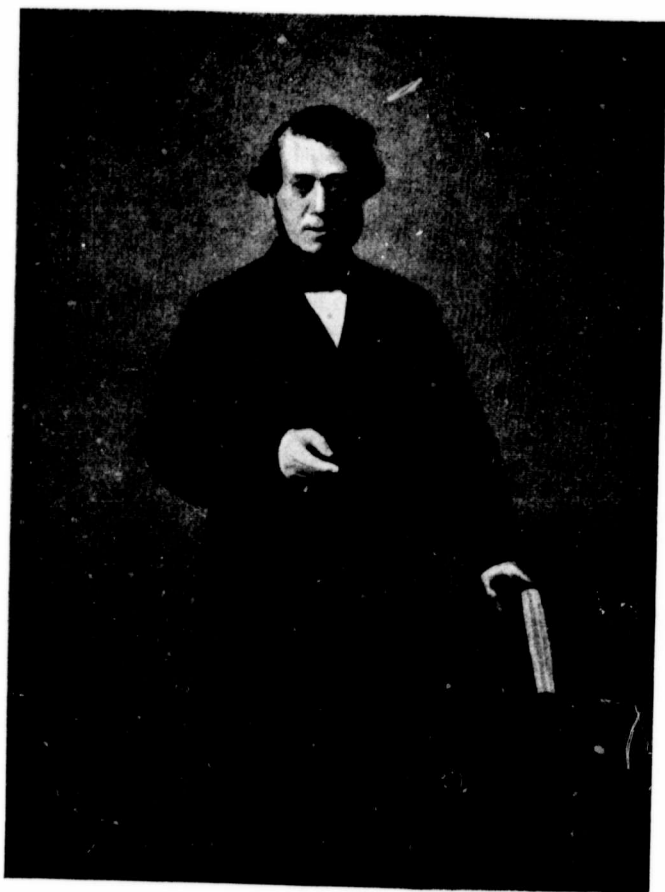


English law in Ireland, the English settlers in Ireland were prohibited from intermarrying with the old Irish, under penalty of outlawry. James, Earl of Desmond, was the first to violate this law. He married a daughter of the old

author's own felicity in his then brief experience of the happy married state had not a little to do with the selection of the poet's theme. However this may have been, the "incident of the white waikit," as it was afterwards call-



THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE.

stock of the O'Meaghers. Earl Desmond was an accomplished poet, and is supposed to have given utterance to the words which McGee has put into his mouth in the ballad. It was also, and perhaps not incorrectly, surmised, that the

ed, was provocative of great merriment and laughter.

McGee was the first called upon to address the large audience. In eloquent sentences, and amid hearty applause, he was expatiating upon the ancient glory of Ire-