-THE-TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE -MAY- 1866

scourges of the early church in these islands-the Northmen and Danes. In A. D. 1836, a Danish fleet of thirty vessels ar-

rived in the Liffy, as did another in the Boyne. The riven in the hilly, as the about in the boyne. The foreigners, with characteristic ferocity, destroyed everything before them, and on this occasion they burned Kildare, carrying off with them the shrines of St. Bridget and St. Oonlasth It may be asked what value could Scandinavian pirates set on relics of the saints of Ireland. These shrines, it should be known, were works of a most exquisitely beautiful and costly character, as we may judge from a few specimens which have descended to our days. The shrine of St. Mauchan, preserved at Lemanahan, in the county Westmeate, is a perfect marvel of artistic design and workmanship. That numbers of the ancient shrines were composed chiefly of the precious metals, and set with gems, amber, and enamel, is a fact beyond all controversy. A few still exist, and bear ample testimony to the taste and skill of our early designors and workers in metals. Notwithstanding the frequency of their unwelcome visit, it is quite clear the Northmen did not succeed in carrying away all the treasures of Kildare. Giraldus wrote in the 12th century: 'Amongst all the miraculous things of Kildare, nothing surprised me so much as that wonderful book, said to have been written from the dic-

tation of an angel in St. Brigid's own time. The book contains the four Gospels according to Jerome's version, and is adorned with almost as many richly illuminated figures as it has pages. Here you see the majesty of the Divine countenance. There the mystic shapes of the Evangelists furnished with six, four, or two wings; here was the eagle, there was the calf: in another part the face of a man, of a lion, together with other figures without number, which, it carelessly surveyed, seemed rather blots than intertwined ornaments (ligaturæ), and appeared to be simple where there was nothing but intricacy. But on close examination the secrets of the art were evident, and so delicate and so subtle, so labored and minute, so intertwined and kno'ted so intricate and brilliantly colored did you perceive them, that you were ready to say that they were the work of an angel and not of man. The more intently I examined them, the more was I filled with fresh wonder and amazement .---Neither could Appelles do the like; indeed, mortal han i seemed incapable of forming or painting them.'

This is not bad from an authority ever hostile to Irish. Alas ! the book alluded to has gone as well as the shrines, and possibly, many scores of books and other sacred belongings to the church which would now be priceless. All that remain at the pre-sent day, as we have said, are the shattered tower and walls of a church and the famous round tower, a portion of which may possibly be as old as the time of St. Brigid. This really noble specimen of cloictheach bears evidence of having been frevuently repaired. Though wanting the original conical stone roof, it stands about 120 feet in height. It terminates in an embattled barabet, similar to that which is usually found upon tower houses or castlei of all periods from the 12th century dowe even to all our ttme.

The doorway, which is placed at an unusnally great distance above the ground, presents an inter-esting example of work, which at first sight might be styled Norman. Upon examination, however, it will be found to pogsets a distinctly Irish character. It consists of concentric semicircular arches, the outer one of which was broken and has been clumsily repaired -not restored. A triangular canopy surmounted the opening upon the exterior, but of this only a portion remains. The latest date which may possibly be assigned to this doorway is the 12th century, yet it is evidently an insertion. How much older than that period the tower may be, it is impossible to say, but that it was considered ancient in the time of Giraldus we have the direct testimony of that writer to prove. The floors were six, as in-dicated in the usual manner by corbels or offsetts. and the single light to each room is a narrow slit with inclined sides. It may be observed that the lower portion of the tower, to the height of about welve feet, is of a totally different kind of masonry from the rest of the building, it being composed of blocks of white granite in the cyclopean style, while the rest is of blue limestone of inferior workmanship. From the existing remains of the cathedral, it will be seen that the original plan of the building was cruciform, with a massive embattled tower at the intersection. The style is clearly characteristic of the 13th century, about which time Lord William de Vescey is recorded to have commenced the erection of a monastery for Franciscan friars, which was subsequently completed by the Geraldines, to whom the king of England granted the town and and manor of Kildare, with most of the De Vescy's other property, in consequence of De Vescy having refused to decide a quarrel between him and the Lord Offaly by the wager of battle. In 1540, the religious houses in Kildare were surrendered to the crown, after which we hear little about them. In 1641, the tower of the abbey was also demolished by cannon, and the whole structure was left in much the same state it presents at present, except that a portion of the ancient choir has since been roofed in and repaired as a place of Protestant worship. An ancient cross of consider-able height remains in the cemetery, but it is quite plain and uninscribed.

FEVER AND AGUE ASTONISHING OURES. Dr. Eg. bert Simms, formerly of the Medical Oollege, Philadelphis, and now one of the most popular physicians in Minnesota, writes to a friend in New York, that BRISTOL'S SUGAR COATED PILLS are working wonders in that region, in cases of Fever and Ague, and Bilions Remittent Fever. The following extract from his remarks is published by permission of the gentleman to whom the letter was addressed : ' I am not, as you know, much in favor of advertised pills. Most of them are wortheless; some dangerous. But BRISTOL'S SUGAR-COATED PILLS are an exception. No better family cathartic could be desired. There is nothing in the pharmacopoia, as far as I am aware, that is equal to them. Nor is this all; the antibilous properties of the pills render them a postively valuable medicine for the bilious remittent and intermittent fevers so common in this region. I have found them exceedingly efficacious in ague and fever. They are tonic as well as aperient, and may be given, with great benefit, in cases where drastic

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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864. PROVINCE OF CANADA, ¿ In the Superior Court. District of Montreal.

In the Matter of Benjamin Shafton Curry, and William A. Curry, Insolvents.

ON Monday, the 25th of June next, the undersigned Benjamin Shafton Curry, as well individually as having been a member of the Firms of Curry Mc-Candlish& Feild, and Curry Brothers & Co. and the undersigned William A. Curry, as well individually as having been a member of the said Firms of Curry Brothers & Company-will apply to the said Court for a discharge under the said Act.

Montreal, 19th April, 1866. BENJAMIN SHAFTON CURRY,

WILLIAM A. CURRY, By their Attorneys ad lilem, ABBOTT & CARTER.

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