

elder was an unsuccessful candidate in the last Irish Parliament against the Duke of Wellington for the borough of Trim, both candidates being neighbours in the same county, Dangan Castle, the Wellesley seat, being near Trim. The family of Thompson, according to Burke, descended from the Thompsons of Barton, Cumberland, a branch of which settled about the 16th century in the county of Hertford, England. The Irish branch are descended from those who crossed over to Ulster when that province was first taken in hand by King James, and engaging in the prosperous linen trade made large fortunes. Mrs. Ussher's family history on the male side is interesting, as leading back to the famous Thomas Carter, who took so active a part in the Irish revolution, ending with the battle of the Boyne, 1690. This Thomas Carter was sergeant-at-arms, a partisan of King William III. at the siege of Derry, and battle of the Boyne. He was, as Burke, Ulster King of Arms, says "*a gentleman whose services to his country at the revolution were very considerable, for he not only served King William at the battle of the Boyne (July 1st, 1690), but secured divers useful books and writings belonging to King James and his secretaries.*" These documents he secreted in the vaults of Christ's Church Cathedral, Dublin, until after the disturbances. He married for his second wife, the Countess of Roscommon, widow of Wentworth Dillon, the poet, who was publicly buried in Westminster Abbey. By her he had no family, but his only son Thomas became Master of the Irish Rolls, for twenty-four years, Privy Councillor, and Secretary of State. This Right Hon. Thomas Carter had two sons and three daughters, from the eldest of whom Mrs. Ussher is descended. The eldest sister of this Thomas Carter married Doctor Philip Twysden, bishop of Raphoe, and son of Sir William Twysden, baronet, of Roydon Hall, Kent. The issue of this marriage, Frances, married George Bussey, fourth Earl of Jersey and first cousin to Anna Maria Carter, Mrs. Ussher's grandmother. This latter alliance resulted in the birth of two sons and six daughters, her eldest son being George, fifth Earl of Jersey, and the daughters became Ladies William Russell, Ann Lambton, Sarah Bailey, Lady Ponsonby, Lady Henrietta, who married the bishop of Oxford, and Lady Anglesey, wife of the Marquis of Anglesey, a hero of Waterloo, and

for her second husband the Duke of Argyll, which Duchess of Argyll was cousin german to Mrs. Skeffington Thompson, Mrs. Ussher's paternal grandmother. The Right Hon. Thomas Carter's second daughter, Susan, married Thomas Carter, of Duleek Park and Castle, county Louth, and her grand-daughter, Elizabeth, became Marchioness of Thomond by entering the family of William O'Bryen, descendant from Brien Boromhe, King of Ireland, and whose line was continued by the King of Munster and of Thomond to the reign of Henry VIII. King of England (see Sharpe's Peerage). Mrs. Ussher's family history on the female side is even more interesting. Her mother was Elizabeth Margaret, eldest daughter of the Rev. Joshua D'Arcy, Rector of Lacka, county Kildare. This D'Arcy family came to Ireland early in the 14th century and settled at Platten in the county Meath. In a book "*Maynooth Castle*," written by the present Duke of Leinster when Marquis of Kildare, on page 5, we read, "*Sir John D'Arcy, Lord Justice of Ireland, married the Countess Johanna de Burgh, daughter to the Red Earl of Ulster, and sister to Ellen, wife of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. They had a son, William, born at Maynooth, in 1390, from whom the present family of D'Arcy are lineally descended, and are represented by George James Norman D'Arcy, of Hyde Park, county Westmeath (see Burke's "Landed Gentry," also Walford's "County Families"), the worthy head of both English and Irish families and representative of twenty-eight peerages of Great Britain. The Irish D'Arcys were governors of Ireland in the reign of the three Edwards, with extraordinary privileges, the power to appoint a deputy, which as Fynes Thompson remarks, neither before nor after was granted to any but some few of the royal blood (and which he exercised on two several occasions). A descendant, Sir William D'Arcy of Platten (or Platyn) was the person who carried Lambert Simnel on his shoulders through Dublin after he had been crowned in Christ Church Cathedral, for which he was obliged to do homage to his viceroy, in 1488. This Sir William D'Arcy's descendant, Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, in 1523, was the author of a work entitled, "The Decay of Ireland and the causes of it," the MS. of which is now in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. It is quite beyond the limit of this sketch to give a full history of*