



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE, whose poems are now for the first time presented in a collective form to the public, was born at Carlingford, County Louth, Ireland, on the 13th day of April, 1825. His father, Mr. James McGee, then in the Coast Guard Service, had married Miss Dorcas Catherine Morgan, the highly-educated daughter of a Dublin book-seller, who had been imprisoned and financially ruined by his participation in the conspiracy of 1798.* Of this union, Thomas D'Arcy was the fifth child and second son. Born and nurtured amid the grand and lovely scenery of the Rosstrevor coast, his early childhood fledged by in a region of wild, romantic beauty, which impressed itself forevermore on his heart and mind, and tended not a little, as we may well suppose, to foster, if not create, that poetic fancy which made the charm of his life, and infused itself into all he wrote and all he said. He was eight years old when the family removed to the historic town of Wexford, where the elder Mr. McGee had received a more lucrative appointment.

"Both on the father and mother's side," says a biographer of Mr. McGee, "he was descended from families remarkable for their devotion to the cause of Ireland. With the exception of his father, all the men of the families on both sides were 'United Irishmen.'"—See "Short Sketch of the Life of Hon. D. McGee," by H. J. O'C. Clarke, Q. C., Montreal.