

Methodist Magazine and Review.

APRIL, 1902.

THE IRISH PALATINES.*

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II.



If you go to Limerick, you can readily reach the Palatine settlements of to-day by the railway running south-west. Eleven miles from Limerick you come to Adare, the estate of the Earl of Dunraven, where the magnificent ruins of three old ab-

beys attract your attention, and if you happen on the right day, you will see a Methodist gathering—a picnic—at the old Franciscan Abbey. You will hear an address from some former Methodist minister; you will be struck with the fine appearance of the crowd, and you will be introduced to people bearing the names Ruttle, Switzer, Dulmage, and many others quite as familiar to you.

Six miles farther on you can alight at Ballingrane, where you will find a whole-souled man in charge of the station, Mr. William Brooks, a Methodist. Just opposite the railway station, you will see the neat little Methodist chapel or preaching house—the Embury and Heck Memorial Chapel. Near by

once stood the former home of Paul Heck.

As you take the road for Rathkeale, about a mile distant, Mr. Brooks will suggest that you drop in and call at the old Ruttle homestead. I took his advice gladly, and there I met the two old ladies whose sweet smile, pleasant conversation, and kindly old-fashioned Methodist blessings linger with me yet. They were Miss Barbara Ruttle and her sister, Mrs. Sara Ruttle. This is the house in which Barbara Ruttle Heck was born, though added to since then. You pass from the road through the heavy iron gates into a neat, well-kept country yard. A hedge grows green in front. There stands the old pear tree under which John Wesley used to preach.

In the sitting-room of the house are to be found some good Methodist books, among which I noticed Stevens' History of Methodism. On the wall is the portrait of Barbara, familiar to us in America, and on either side hangs in a frame a certificate of honorary membership in John Street Chapel, New York—for Miss Barbara and Mrs. Ruttle have been thus honoured. They are grandnieces of our own Barbara Heck. They were pleased to hear of the progress of the Palatines in this land, and made enquiries for some of the late settlers in Canada, the Corneils, the Shiers, and others.

* A paper read before the Methodist Historical Society, November 2nd, 1901.