

in the Jersey campaigns, at Germantown and at the Brandywine, finally at Yorktown, he rendered signal services. "Moylan's Dragoons," says a contemporary, "were in almost every severe action during the war."

At the close of the war he returned to his home in Chester County, Pa., where he was for a time, Prothonotary of the County Court. But towards the close of his life he seems to have longed for his old haunts, and returned to the city. On the 17th of March, 1796, the society which he had founded twenty-five years before and which had lately fallen away elected him President, and Senator Thomas Fitzsimmons, Vice-President. The next and subsequent year he filled the same office, but after the disastrous issue of '98, it seems to have been abandoned.

General Moylan, who died early in the present century, is buried in St. Mary's, Philadelphia, where there is a monument erected to his memory. He was a true soldier, a good Irishman, and a strict conscientious Catholic.

### STRAY LEAVES FROM HISTORY.

There are certain principles, in the philosophy of history with which every body is more or less familiar; and one of the most popular is, that women have been the prime movers in every great calamity which ever afflicted the earth. How far this is sustainable is a matter about which there must always be vast difference of opinion. Some repudiate it as a gross calumny on those gentle beings who are the ministering angels of all our earthly comforts, as well as the promoters of our higher, and more spiritual, interests; whilst others bring to their service many stubborn facts which they hold perfectly impassible in an argument,—such, for instance, as that of eating the apple in the Garden of Eden, the siege of Troy, and a few other well-known events equally tending to establish the force of their position.

In Ireland, the faithlessness of the Princess of Breffny in running away from her lawful lord with McMurrough, King of Leinster, is generally regarded as the commencement of a long series

of national misfortunes. To this fair lady has been attributed the presence of the invader on the shores of her country. She has, notwithstanding, been celebrated in story and song; and such a web of romance has been woven round her, and so many tributes paid to her beauty, that her countrymen, with characteristic gallantry, have condoned her error, and treat her memory with a certain amount of pitying forbearance.

The picture which history draws of this McMurrough is by no means flattering. He is described as being a cruel tyrant; and his father, from whom he appears to have inherited many qualities, is described in a still less enviable light; for we find that in one year he deprived of life or sight seventeen dependent princes,—a notable example of the sway which a true Irish king enjoyed in days of old. The outrages which McMurrough perpetrated brought at length their retribution. He was hurled ignominiously from his throne; and in order to recover his lost possessions he made his way to England, and from England to Normandy, to beg the assistance of Henry II. in reinstating him. He did not then succeed in getting any more than a recommendation from Henry to all his liegemen; so he returned to Wales, where he found some adventurers, who listened to the story of his wrongs, and were ready to espouse his cause. Amongst these was Fitzstephen, who promised his services and those of his followers. McMurrough after some time returned to his home, and quietly arranged his plans for the coming struggle.

The following year Fitzstephen, true to his word, landed near Wexford with several hundred brave soldiers. Then commenced an era of slaughter and plunder; and those deeds of brutal violence which so frequently darken the page of Irish history were remorselessly practiced on the conquered natives. In one instance we find it recorded that seventy captives were flung from a steep rock by Montmorisco, although a large sum was offered for their ransom. All historians, writing of this time, concur in execrating the memory of McMurrough as a tyrant and traitor.