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RECOLLECTIONS OF WILLIAM ALLINGHAM, THE POET.

BY JOHN READE.

The name of "Ballyshannon" will probably sound as strangely to Canadian ears as some of those old Indian names with which we, on this continent, have grown familiar, would sound to Irish ones. Those who have seen the beautiful "Blue and Gold" edition of William Allingham's Poems, published in 1861 by Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, will find the name with the letters "W. A.," at the close of the brief preface. In Ballyshannon Mr. Allingham was born and bred, and in honor of it he has written one of his most characteristic, national and popular poems—"The Emigrant's Farewell."

His father, who died in 1866, was for many years manager of the Provincial Bank in that place. There his stepmother and her family still reside.

The family settled at Ballyshannon or in its neighborhood in the time of James the First, and its members, in their generations, have held a good position in the County Donegal ever since that time.

The poet's father, as we have intimated, married twice, and had four children by each wife. Of these William, the eldest, obtained at an early age an office in the Customs in his native town. John, his brother, followed the business of his father. Of their two sisters only one is married.

Of the second family, Thomas, the eldest son, after a career of rare brilliancy at Trinity College, Dublin, died in 1863,

while he was acting as tutor in the Royal School of Raphoe, and preparing for the ministry of the Church of England. He was a young man of wonderful talent, and gave good promise of taking a high rank in the world of letters. His original intention was to study for the bar, and with this end in view he had taken the degree of LL.B. In Trinity College he had gained renown, among other things, for his command of elegant latinity; and his Latin and Greek verses were marked by an easy vigor and beauty almost unprecedented. His death, which was sudden, struck with a chill of grief all those who had the happiness of knowing him. The shock to his own family and the circle of his intimate friends may be imagined.

Thomas left two brothers. Edward, the elder, is a clergyman in the Church of England. He, also, is an excellent classical scholar, and has considerable literary taste. But his forte is painting. We can recollect that while quite a boy he painted some birds in a manner so life-like as to induce the belief that the plumage had been neatly pasted to the canvas. Some of Mr. Allingham's artistic productions have gained very favorable mention at exhibitions in Dublin and elsewhere. If he pursue his career, we have little doubt that he will win wide fame as an artist.

Hugh, the younger brother, is engaged in the banking business.