

**ANGLO-NORMAN POEM
ON THE
CONQUEST OF IRELAND
BY HENRY THE SECOND**

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& Thomas Wright

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FRANCISQUE MICHEL & THOMAS WRIGHT

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THE
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FROM A MANUSCRIPT
PRESERVED IN THE ARCHIEPISCOPAL LIBRARY

AT LAMBETH PALACE
Franciscus (Kavice) editid.
EDITED BY FRANCISQUE MICHEL

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY ON THE HISTORY
OF THE ANGLO-NORMAN CONQUEST
OF IRELAND

BY THOMAS WRIGHT



LONDON
WILLIAM PICKERING
M DCCC XXXVII

PREFACE.

THE poem which is here printed is taken from a manuscript in the library of Lambeth Palace, where it is marked 596.* The volume is written upon vellum by a hand of the fourteenth century, in double columns, and is unfortunately mutilated both at beginning and end. It belonged formerly to Sir George Carew, who made a very incorrect analysis of it, which was printed by Harris in his *Hibernica*.†

* It is described in *A Catalogue of the Archiepiscopal Manuscripts in the Library at Lambeth Palace*, by the Rev. Henry J. Todd. London, 1812, large folio, p. 94.

† *Hibernica; or some Antient Pieces relating to Ireland (Never hitherto made publick)* by Walter Harris.—Dublin; Printed for William Williamson, bookseller, at Meeenas's Head in Bride Street. MDCCLVII. folio, pp. 1—21. The same, Dub-

Though this poem is faulty in its style, and very corrupt in its language, yet it affords extremely valuable information on one of the most important events of the reign of Henry the Second. The author, who is anonymous and unknown, had a good opportunity of gathering details on the events he commemorates, for he learnt them from the mouth of Morice Regan, interpreter to King Dermod, as he declares in the lines which at present begin his poem. It appears, however, that this rhymist did not confine himself to Regan's oral account only, but that he made use of the history, or *geste*, which Dermod's interpreter shewed to him,* and of the

lin; Printed for John Milliken, (at No. 10) in Skinner Row. M, DCC, LXX. 8vo. p. 9—45. See also Notes to the second and third books of the History of King Henry the Second, &c. by George Lord Lyttelton. The 2nd edit. Lond. 1767. 4to. p. 270.

* L. 7, 327, 1065, 1309, 1779, 2403, 2598, 3003, 3134, 3177. He also calls the account which he fol-

reminiscences of "old men," and other people.* This last circumstance clearly indicates that our poet did not live far from the epoch of which he relates the events. We must add that the late Abbé de la Rue has not mentioned him in his last work on the bards, and the Anglo-Norman *gestes* and *trouveres*.

In order to make this poem of more utility to antiquaries and historians, I have appended to the text a glossary of the most difficult words, which are not to be found in Roquefort's "*Glossaire de la Langue Romane*;" and the notes and illustrations have been added by my learned friend, Thomas Wright, Esq.

lows a song, viz. l. 143, 456, and 1912; and perhaps an old lay, viz. l. 3221. This seems to prove that this song was nothing else than an historical poem, a *chanson de geste* like his own, for he says that he sings, viz. l. 2064.

* L. 1500, 2437, 2584, 2594, 2678, 2686, 2822, 2955, 3053, 3171, 3400.

whose name will ensure the attention of all lovers of antiquarian lore. I am indebted for more than one literary obligation to this gentleman, who, since my return to France, has constantly given his kind assistance to my labours.

I must also return my respectful thanks to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, who graciously permitted me to transcribe the poem for the purpose of publication, also to the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie, his lordship's librarian; and to M. Lewis, for the facilities they kindly gave me whilst making my transcript.

Paris, September 20, 1836.

THE
CONQUEST OF IRELAND
BY THE ANGLO-NORMANS.

It has long been known that there existed, among the manuscripts of the archiepiscopal palace at Lambeth, a most valuable document, though unfortunately imperfect, on the English conquest of Ireland, written apparently at the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, and therefore not long after the important event which it commemorates, in Norman-French verse, by a poet or historian,—we may call him which we will,—who had received the history from the mouth of one who had himself been intimately engaged in the expedition; and who was no less a person than Maurice Regan, interpreter to Dermod Mac Murrrough, the king of Leinster.

Bound up in the same volume with the manuscript of which we speak, is a prose abstract of this poem by Sir George Carew, who was lord president of Munster in the reign of Elizabeth, and who was himself a descendant of the Robert Fitz-Stephen who acts so prominent a part in the history. Of