

**ANCIENT IRISH HISTORIES: A
HISTORIE OF IRELAND,
WRITTEN IN THE YEARE 1571;
THE CHRONICLE OF IRELAND**

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Ancient Irish Histories: A historie of Ireland, written in the yeare 1571; The chronicle of Ireland
by Edmund Campion & Henry Marlebvrrvogh

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A

HISTORIE

OF

IRELAND,

Written in the Yeare

1571.

BY

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SOMETIME FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, IN OXFORD.

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CAMPION'S
HISTORIE OF IRELAND.

THE FIRST BOOKE.

CAP. I.

The Site and speciall parts of Ireland.

IRELAND lieth a-loofe in the West Ocean, and is deemed by the later Survey, to be in length well-nigh three hundred miles north & south: broad from East to West one hundred and twentie. In proportion it resembleth an egge, blunt and plaine on the sides, not reaching forth to Sea, in nookes and elbowes of Land, as Brittainē doth.

Long since, it was devided into foure regions, Leinster East, Connaght West, Vlster North, Mounster South, and into a fift plot defalked from every fourth part, lying together in the heart of the Realme, called thereof Media, Meath.

Each of these five (where they are framable to civility, and answer the writts of the Crowne,) be sundred into shires and counties, after this manner.

In Leinster lye the counties of Dublin, Kildare, Weixford, Caterlagh, Kilkenny, King & Queenes counties, these two lately so named by Parliament in the raignes of *Philip* and *Mary*, having Shire-townes accordant, Philipstowne and Marryborrow.

Septes, Irish of name planted in these quarters, they reckon, the *Birnes*, *Tooles*, *Cauanagh*, which is the nation of *Macmurrow*, *Omores*, *Oconnores*, *Odempseyes*, *Oduin*.

Citties of best account, Dyvelin: the beauty and eye of Ireland, fast by a goodly river, which *Cambrensis* calleth Avenlifius. *Ptolomy* Libnius, they call the Lyffie. The seat hereof is in many respects comfortable, but less frequented of marchant strangers, because of the bard haven. Kildare hath Kildare and the Naass. Weixford hath Weixford and Ross. Kilkenny hath Kilkenny the best dry towne in Ireland on the Southside of the river Suirus, also Callan and Thomastowne.

Meath is devided into East and West Meath, and the counties of Longford. Here dwelleth ancient Irish families (sometime Princes & Potentates) *Omalaghlen*, *Mac-Coghlan* *Obrien*, *Omulloy*, *Omadden*,

Macgoghigan, the Fox. This whole part, and the veyne of *Finegale* in Leinster, are best imployed with husbandry, and taken to be the richest soyles in Ireland.

Connaght hath as yet but the county Clare, the town of Athenry: & Galway, a proper neat city at the sea side. Herein *Turlogh More Oconner* was a peere, & parted the whole betwixt his two Sonnes, *Cahal*, and *Bryen Oconnor*. In it are now cheife Irish, *Breni Oreh*, *Breni Oruarke*, *Oconnor Sligo*, *Odoude*, *Ohara*, *Macphilippin*, *Mac-dermot*, *Oconnordonn*, *Oconnor-Roe*, the *O-kellies*, *Mac-glomore*, of Langués, *L. Bermingham*, *Omaly*, *Mac-william Euter*, *Oflaherty*, *Clanricarde*.

Ulster wherein *Oneale* & *Odonil* are cheife Irish, contayneth the counties, Louth, Down, Antrim, one moiety of Droghdah (for the rest is in Meath) cheife town of Louth Dundalk, of Down, Down, & Carlingford, of Droghdaghe, Droghdaghe, of Antrim, Cnockfergus, called also Cragfergus.

This part is dissevered from Meath and Leinster by the river Boandus, which breaketh out beside Loughfoyle, a bogge betweene Ardmagh, and *S. Patrickes Purgatorie*. *Cambrensis* reputeth the bogge at 30. miles in length, and halfe so much in breadth, and the same once firme Land, to have beene suddenly ouerflowen, for the bestiall incest committed there, unfit to be told.

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In Mounster lye the counties of Waterford, Limericke, Cork, counties Pallatine of Tipperary, Kerry, and exempt from priviledge the Crosse of Tipperarie.

Waterford hath Dongarvon, and Waterford full of traffique with England, France, and Spaine, by meanes of their excellent good Haven.

Limericke hath Kilmallocke lately sackt by *James Fitz Morice*, and the Citie Limiricum, coasting on the sea, hard upon the river Shannon, whereby are most notably severed Mounster and Connaght.

Corke hath Kinsale, Yowghall, and the Cittie Corke, Tipperary hath Tipperary, Clonmell, Fidderstown, Cassell. Mounster was of old time devided into East-Mounster, Ormond, West-Mounster, Desmond, South-Mounster, Thomond. Here dwell *Obrenes*, *Macnemarraes*, *Mack-mahownes*, and one sept of the *Offlherties*.

In these quarters lyeth the Countreyes of *O-Carroll*, *O-Magher*, the white Knight, *Mac-Ibrine*, *O-Gawnaghe*.

Waterford contayneth the Powers, and Deces.

Corke the *Barries* Lands, Imokillie, Carbarrie, Maccarty-more, Maccarty-reagh, *L. Roches* lands, Osullivan, Muscry, *L. Courcy*, and diverse more, some of Irish blood, some degenerate and become Irish.

Limericke hath in it the Knight of the valley, *William Burcke*, Mac-Ibrine Ara, part of the white Knights Lands, *Cosmay*, *Obrenes*, and upon the edge of Kerrie the greene Knight, *alias* the knight of Kerrie.

Leinster butteth upon England, Mounster and Connaught upon France and Spaine, Vlster upon the Scottish Ilands (which face with *Hebrides*) scattered between both realmes; wherein at this day, the Irish Scot Successour of the old Scythian Pict or Redshancke dwelleth.

The spirituall Iurisdiction ^a is ordered into 4. Provinces whereof the primacy was euer given (in reverence toward Saint *Patricke* their Apostle) to the Archbishoppe of Ardmagha, now called Ardmagh, which custome was since confirmed by *Eugenius* the 3. who sent withall 3. other prelates to be placed, one at Dublin, one at Cashell, & the last at Tuam. To these are suffraganes in right 29. and all they inferiour to the Primate of Ardmaghe: under his province are the Bishopprickes of Meath, Derry, Ardagh, Kilmore, Clogher, Downe, Coner, Clonmacknoes, Rapho, and Dromore.

Vnder Dublin ^b (whereunto *Innocentius* 3. united Glandelagh) are the Bishop of Elphine, Kildare, Fernes, Ossorie and Laighlein.

^a Bishops in Ireland. Bern. in vita Malach. An. 1148.

^b Dublin. an. 1212. S. Pat. booke of Recordes.

Vnder Cashell are B. of Waterford, Lysmore, Corke, & Clone, Rosse, Ardigh, Limericke, Emely, Killalo, Ardferte.

Vnder Tuam the B. of Kilmaco, Olfine, Anagh-doune, Clonfert, Mayo. In this recount some diversities have happened by reason of personall and reall union of the Seas and for other alterations.

An old distinction there is of Ireland into Irish & English pales, for when the Irish had raised continual tumults against the English planted heere with the Conquest. At last they coursed them into a narrow circuite of certaine shires in Leinster, which the English did choose, as the fattest soyle, most defensible, their proper right, and most open to receive helpe from England. Hereupon it was termed their pale, as whereout they durst not peepe. But now both within this pale, uncivill Irish and some rebells doe dwell, and without it, Countreyes and cities English are well governed.

CAP. II.

The temporall Nobility.

BY conference with certaine gentlemen, attendants upon Sir *Henry Sidney*, Lord Deputie, (who excelleth in that knowledge) I tooke notice of the most