

## A QUAIANT OLD CITY

Where Sir Walter Raleigh Once Lived  
and Ruled and Where

## EDMUND SPENSER WON HIS WIFE.

A Lovely Spot in Ireland Hallowed by the  
Memories of

## THE POETS AND COURTIERS OF OLD

ICORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.

MALLOW, IRELAND, May 27.—About a good day's tramp east of Cork along the sea is the sleepiest old city in all Ireland. This is Youghal, "the wood of the yearns," it is true Irish name; for somewhere between 20 and 30 centuries ago, when the Milesians were prowling about here in their leather-bottomed coracles, the surpassing loveliness of the harbor scene was crowned by a noble forest of yews, and these swept from the western heights in billowy curves down to the very edge of the romantic Blackwater, which here reposeful finds its estuary and the sea.

The little old city winds along the Blackwater shore in practically a single street with muddy warehouses and idle wharves at the one side and with cavernous shops at the other, behind which, like brown gypsies in a mountain jungle of fragrance, century old cabins, mansions and villas are hidden in a mass of foliage and bloom. No one can tell why Youghal is here. Your eye may sweep the wide, sunny harbor to the sea horizon in vain for glimpse of a single sail. Even the great round sun looks in from above the ocean over the rippled bay as if with passing, pressing demand for recognition in responsive life.

The white walls of the shops, pierced with diminutive windows, are glaring and dull. There is no sound of footfall upon the stone or dirt streets. Woods and trees are drawn and barred. If they be left within the shadowy silences behind window and door, it must only be perturbed that the stillness may never end.

There is not even at old Youghal left in sephyr or breeze to shake the odors and scents from the buds and blossoms of spring. To the north, and it was an old, old distance so banked with myrtle, so shaded by yews, and so matted and massed by ivy that it could hardly be found by a tip-toeing stranger in the voiceless city that I had tramped all the way from hospitable Cork to see.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S HOME.

But there it stood, this old home of Sir Walter Raleigh, as lovely a picture as one would wish to see; lovelier to-day, no doubt, with its ivy-creamed gables than in the wild and stormy time in which it was built when the vanquished Earl of Desmond resided in the fair valleys of the Bide and Blackwater with the crimson wine of war. This fine old house, although it has undergone many changes and "restorations" is more than 400 years old; for the structure is the identical one originally founded as a collegiate establishment by the Earl of Devon in 1460, and it was given to the Church of St. Mary, which dates back to the thirteenth century. At the foundation of the house the establishment consisted of "a warden, eight fellows, eight singing men, and the endowment was \$600 per year."

Raleigh's first visit to Ireland, those of a few months later, he was probably not below, and since was a soldier of fortune. He first came as captain in a body of troops sent from England in 1579 to assist Deputy Lord Grey de Wilton in quelling the dangerous Desmond rebellion. His rapid rise, remarkable as it was, was due to his qualities which were in demand at Elizabeth's court, and Raleigh's fortunate favor there, under the brilliant and profigate Dudley, shortly gave him 12,000 acres of land about Youghal, in one patent, and under another, in 1586, under the Queen's privy seal, an additional three seigniories and a town, and he became the Earl of Cork and Waterford. This was Raleigh's splendid portion of the most heartless confiscation and plunder which ever occurred in any land. For the vanquished Earl of Desmond was the greatest, noblest and richest subject of that time in all Europe. Excluding the papal states, he was second to no other gentleman of his kind and surname; no equal portion of Europe was so dotted with noble castles and armed and provisioned fortresses, and so rich in the fruits of civilization; while the confiscation of his estates, at his attainder, comprised nearly 600,000 English acres, all of which were parcelled out to Elizabeth's victorious forces.

HE PLUNDED THE IRISH.

With whatever admiration we may contemplate Raleigh's singular genius, his daring and eventful career, with however much commination deplore his melancholy and cruel taking off, it cannot be gainsaid that through his share of this colossal Irish plunder was first provided the means which largely aided, if not actually made possible, the impressive exercise of his tremendous and inspiring influence, and of his power to do just and direct that he was enabled at one time to encase his feet in diamond-studded shoes whose cost exceeded \$80,000.

It is difficult to determine just how many years Raleigh occupied the fine old mansion at Youghal. It is certain it was always more or less his beloved retreat between 1586 and 1600, when the wealthy Richard Boyle, afterward Earl of Cork, for an ignoble sum, he disposed of his entire vast Irish estates; and it is also certain that Sir Walter retired to this spot after his quarrel with the Earl of Essex, in 1597, at the taking of Fawey, in the Azores, which afterwards led to the downfall of Essex, until Raleigh became the English Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1600. To these visits and this residence the world undoubtedly owes its knowledge of the gentle poet, Edmund Spenser. The latter, like Raleigh, was a court follower in a small way, and his real imaginary service to the adherents of Queen Elizabeth, was for a patent of dreary old Kilcolman Castle and manor of about 3,000 acres, some 25 miles to the north of Raleigh's home, in the valley of the Blackwater; but, unlike Raleigh, no fortune or power, and little else in material sense, was lost, tragedy and final poverty and distress came to Spenser's lot in the portion of the Desmond confiscation. But Raleigh, genius and poet that he himself was, generously recognized the greater poet's greatness, warmed his heart with sunny hospitalities, sustained his doubtful dreams with a smile, and heartsome friend and, in 1599, boldly sent the famous Sonnet to London, personally introduced him to the Queen, and that very saw the publication of the first three books of "Faerie Queene."

WHERE SPENSER LIVED.

The old house at Youghal is still occupied. It is owned by, and is the residence of, the widow and family of the late Colonel Faunt, who purchased it from the Duke of Devonshire. It stands today, it is a single-story illustration of the now desolate Elizabethan manor houses, and at first glance one instinctively recalls Hawthorne's "House of the Seven Gables," or rather identifies this mossy old structure in the mind with Hawthorne's idealized house at Salem; for the Elizabethan house has just seven gables, almost entirely hidden by ivy which has completely enveloped the quaint old place in such embracement that, in places, it would almost seem that its guarded branches would in time twist and crush the walls into a ruined mass. Three gables are on each side, and one forms a queer old peak in front. Immense chimneys rise between the side gables, and one in front,

above and behind the bay window of Raleigh's study, pushes up to a great height, the ivy winding about it in swirls of foliage, until it bears a startling resemblance to a diminutive, ivy-clad round tower set up on the peak of some gray old crag.

There is no doubt that below this fairy tower Raleigh composed a number of works which would have given his name the greatest luster with posterity as a writer had not his close association with the material activities of his time remorselessly linked him with those of the great soldiers, discoverers and court diplomats of the Elizabethan era. For here Spenser knew and loved his "princely friend" and brave, "royal," and set the seal of his own fine judgment upon Raleigh's poetical power, in the line admitting no doubt of his genius, "Himselfe as skillful in that art as any."

A LOVELY OLD CITY.

I feel sure that anyone—after loitering about the lovely, leafy, silent old city of Youghal, and then enjoying the glories of the Blackwater with those of its own name, its iron-bound bridge, the Abergavenny, and a tram from old Duncrue town set like a squirrel's nest campment amid gorgeous natural environs, to the level plain where stand the ruins of Kilcolman castle, the surpassing loveliness of the harbor scene was crowned by a noble forest of yews, and these swept from the western heights in billowy curves down to the very edge of the romantic Blackwater, which here reposeful finds its estuary and the sea.

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A POET'S LOVE.

But two things of the greatest importance to poet, prince or peasant, came to this man in his 11 years of practical banishment, between 1587 and 1599. The first of these was the chastening and exalting influence of absolute self-denial. The second was from the top of the castle a view of above half the breadth of Ireland was once commanded. If there was compensation in the sense that Spenser's time, it could hardly be found.

Kilcolman, or Gill-Colman in Irish, means Colman's Church. There were above 60 saints Colman, and any of these, one's thinking, may be the saint of the patron saint of this particular townland. The removal of the church, the tower, the bell, the remote date of construction, must have been neglected. While money is abundant and cheap, there need be no fear that lands and houses will be begged for purchasers.

THE NEW BUILDINGS AT THE CORNER OF WOOD AND DIAMOND STREETS.

The new buildings at the corner of Wood and Diamond streets will soon be under roof. They will cost probably \$50,000. Other costly improvements on Diamond street are in contemplation. Every door is set to fit, and the date of construction, must have been neglected. While money is abundant and cheap, there need be no fear that lands and houses will be begged for purchasers.

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