TESTIMONY TO THE EXEMPTION OF SKIDDY'S LANDS, NEAR CORK, FROM THE IMPOSITIONS OF COYNE AND LIVERY, &c. GIVEN IN THE 37 HEN. VIII.

(From the Original in the possession of Thomas Ronayne Sarsfield, Esq. of Doughcloyne, near Cork.)

As a sequel to the collections which have been already given in this volume relative to the services or exactions called Coyne and Livery, the following document will be found interesting. It consists of the depositions of Conoughor MacDermudye gliffe Ymroyhirtye, a "gentleman after the country fashion," (who had been for many years Marshal to Cormac Oge, chief lord of Muskerry, for his cantred of Kyerrycourryhye,) Shilye fitz Donyll O'Mahony his wife, and other aged and experienced persons, to the fact that the lands of Richard Skiddy, chief of his nation, called by his old deeds Rossbeg and Skiddy's Point, and then called Temple Brettayne and Rynnyskiddy, with all others his islands in the cantred of Kyerrycourryhye, near Cork, were and ever had been reputed free from counwe and livery, and all such impositions.

To all true Cristen people to whome this p̃nte w[i]tinge or tres testymonialls shall come, se, here, other red, we Conough[r] McDermudye gliffe Ym[r]oyhirtye, Shilye filtz Donyll Omahowenye, wife to the said Conough[o]r, David fitz thomas Barrye, Maurice Omadygan, Johñe druye, Johñe Callye, Davide fitz David fitz myllon barode, Margarete brenaghe wife (of) Donyll o Cronygane, Williame oKyssane, Johñe fitz Williame fitz Roberte Cogane, and Kaþine twomo widdewe, greating: and where as it is meritoriouse to eu̯ man to testifie the trouth in eu̯ behalf, we therefore, dreding the none[a] certeyntye of o[r] dethe, for a ppetuall memorie to be had in, of, and conserning the libertie and freedome of Richarde Skyddye, chiefe of his natione, is lands, called by his olde dedes Rossbegge and Skyddyes poynte, and now callide this daye tample brettayne and Ryn nyskyddye, with all other Ilands in the lands or Cantrede of Kyerycourryhye, nere Corcke, in the south̄, Do testifie and declare the trouthe in man̄e and forme followinge:—

Firste, I, the said Conough[o]r, gentilmane af̄ the countre facione, beinge of the age of lx yeres or more, do testifie and

[a] known.

declare by the othe I made uppon the holye Evangelistes before the Revende father in God domynicke, busshoppe of Corcke and Clone, m^r. Patricke roche, arschedekene of Corcke and publicke notarye, and Williame Copynger, Recordo^r of Corke fors^d and publicke notarie, that he, being long and manye yeres marshall of that cantrede or lands of Kyerrycourryhye unto the chief lorde of the same, then namede Cormockoge lorde of Muscrye, demãded and seisside[b] certeyne horsmen and others of the Retynue of the said Cormockoge as counwe and liveye on them that were tenants in the said Skyddyes lands, they being boundemen and villeynes to his said lorde Cormockoge; and that he, uppon a tyme, was troublede and arrestide for the same by the said Skyddyes wife, namede Anstas Donyll; and that, uppone his compleynte made thereof to his said lord Cormockoge, he was dischargide by reasone that the said Cormockoge declared not onelye the same lands to be free of all suche counwe and liveye and other impositions, but onely certeyne chief rents to the busshoppe of Corcke for the tyme beinge, but also that he dud not seisse, nether will do, neth^r cause to be done, any man^ne suche imposic̃one on the said Skyddyes lands, but onelye on hys owne Retynue and boundemen where he maye fynde theym.

And I, Shylye fitz Donyll foresaid, gentlewoman, wife to the said Conoughor, of the age of xlvi yeres and more, do testifie and declare on the othe I made before the [aforesaid] busshoppe, Arschedeken, and Recordo^r sevallye, that Thomas of Dessemounde, late deceaside Erll of Dessemounde, being then namede but Thomas of Dessemounde, having the same lands or cantrede of Kyerrycourryhye to his portione of inheritance by his ancestres Erlles of Dessemoundes tyme long afore that Cormockoge had any [estate] in the same, was arrestide and troublede in licke man^r as her said husbande was by Thomas Skyddye, father to the saide Richarde Skyddye, for seissure and de[mand] of counwe and lyvye on the said Skyddyes lands foresaide; and that then the said Thomas, confessing alwayes the said Skyddyes lands foresaid to be free of all such impositions, declared and said that he did not seisse none suche, nether charge the said lands, but onelye chargide his owne boundeman and svante, named Donell o'Mahowenye, fath^r to

[b] demanded and cessed.

the said Shylye, a great gentelman,[c] of the same lands of [Kyerycourryhye?] . . . . . the said Skyddyes lands aforesaid as free tenants to the said Skyddye; and that she harde none of the said lands or cantrede sayng otherwise but that the said Skyddyes lands foresaid is free of all charge, except the busshopes rente as aforesaid.

Also I, the aforesaid David fitz Thomas [Barrye], of the age of liiij^{ti} yeres, do testifie and declare, by the othe I made in fo^{r}me foresaide, that uppon a tyme he was with a great gentelman of lands in the said cantred namede Richarde Cogane, lorde of the mannor of Bernyheylye, in the same cantrede, beinge of the age of lxxxx yeres and more, having the said Skyddyes landes [conferme?] . . . . then; and that he harde the said Richarde, uppon the compleynte of his tenants of the said Skyddyes landes, declarynge not onely the said lands to be free of all suche Impositiones, excepte the busshopes Rente, but also comaundinge his said se^{r}vants and Retynue to . . . . well as manye as shall come to the said Skyddyes lands for anye such intente to take anye suche counwe and lyv̄ere.

Also we, the above said Maurice Omadygan, of the age of lxvi yere, and Johñe druye, of the age of lxviij^{ti} yeres, do testifie and declare, by the othe we made sev̄allye before the said busshoppe, Arschedekene, and Recordo^{r}, that we were pcto^{r}s sev̄allye the space of xvij yere unto Johñe Eylaughe base sonne to the abovesaid Thomas of Dessemounde, in the said Skyddyes lands forsaid, and that they harde the auncienteste psones of the said lands or cantrede of Kierycourrihye, as well as others of the same, declaringe the said Skyddyes lands foresaid to be free of all suche impositiones and exactions of coune and lyv̄eye, and all others except the bushoppe of Corke is chief rente. And that they harde and . . . . the said Skyddyes pooure tenants compleynynge how they were surchargide withe suche impositiones, onelye in the behalf of the said donyll mc mahownye and other boundemen and se^{r}vants to the above said Thomas de Dessemounde and Cormockoge, that had occupyede the said Skyddyes landes withe his said pooure tenants; and that the

[c] It appears from this that "boundemen," mentioned above, did not imply villeinage, but only obligation by deed or contract: as to the word "servant," see House of Yvery, vol. ii. p. 9. For instances in England of retaining by indenture, see Lodge's Irish Peerage, vol. v. pp. 149, 150.

said Thomas of Dessemounde and Cormockoge did not charge the said Skyddyes lands foresaid, but onelye there owne boundemen and servants where they might find them, and not otherwise.

And I, Johñe Callye, of the age of lxxx yeres and more, do testifie and declare, by the othe I made in forme forsaide, that I have been long ꝟvante unto the said busshoppe that now is and dyvse others of his p̃decessors in the same lands or cantrede of Kyerycourryhye, colledginge, rerynge, and leveynge there Rents; and that I harde alwayes all the same, bothe olde and yonge, declarynge and alledgynge the said Skyddyes lands forsaid to be free of all charge, except the busshoppe of Corcke is chief rente, and that I harde none sayng contrarye.

Also we, the abovesaid David fitz Davide fitz Myllan barode, of the age of lxxx^ti yeres, Margarete brenaghe, of the age of xliij^ti yeres, Williame oKisshayne, of the age of lij^ti yeres, John fitz Williame fitz Rob^te Cogan, gentilman of lands of the same Kyerycourryhye, of the age of lxxxii yeres, and Katheren twomoo wyddewe, of the age of liij^ti yeres, doe testifie and declare, by or othes sevallye made in forme forsaide, that they harde throughe all the same [cantred] of Kyerycourryhye that the said Skyddyes lands forsaide [are] and ought to be free of all suche impositiones of counwe and lyveye, and all other exactiones, excepte the busshoppe is chief rente as aforesaide. In witnes wherof we, the said busshoppe, Arschedeken, and Recordor have leide herto or signes manualles and seales at Corcke the viij^th daye of Aprill, in the xxxvij^ti of the reign of the moste pspouse Reigne of King Henrye the viij^th, By the grace of God King of Englande, France, and Irlande, defensor of the feithe, and suppreme hed of the churche of Englande and Irlande in E[rthe.]

Dominic Corcagie et Clone.	Per me mr̃m Patriciū Roche, Archidiaconū Corcagie.	Willm̃s Copyng̃, Recordator civitat' Corke, ac p[ublicus not]arius.

(Seals removed.)

Cork. R. C.