Notes on the Cathedral of Emly and the Family of Hurly.

(*Communicated by Richard Caulfield, Esq. B.A. of Cork.*)

Those who recollect the Cathedral of Emly some fifty years ago represent it as a highly interesting pile of building. It was, however, different from the general form of such ecclesiastical structures, being in plan a parallelogram, and very narrow in proportion to its length. Its exterior stonework was decorated with many crosses cut deeply in. This venerable edifice was taken down in the year 1827, and the present cathedral erected, a neat little stone church, with small transepts running north and south of the chancel, and surmounted by a spire. Among the few remains of the past which are now to be found, the first presents itself at the gate of the cemetery surrounding the church, on the east pier of which a stone bears this inscription in raised letters:

LOCVS IN ○
QVEM INTRAS
TERRA SANC
TA EST . 1641
R . IONES . P'CENT

The little ornament at the end of the first line consists of six concentric circles. Robert Jones was presented to the precentorship by the Crown in 1620. Dr. Cotton mentions that he was plundered of his property to the amount of 1500*l.* in the Rebellion of 1641, besides his living, worth 140*l.* per ann. On turning to the right from the gate four heads carved in stone present themselves, protruding from the wall, in a very mutilated condition; two are mitred, the others invested with the cowl and tonsure. These are from the old cathedral, and probably represent some of the early ecclesiastics of this ancient see. In the churchyard, to the west, is one of those ancient stone crosses so often met with in Ireland. It is supposed to mark the last resting-place of St. Ailb, who founded the see, and died circa 527 or 541. It stands about ten feet from the ground, and has four hearts incised round the centre compartment, facing the west, and as many shamrocks or trefoils towards the east. St. Alb's well, on the north side of the cathedral, is much frequented on the 12th of September. It is now nothing more than a pump-hole, about 30 feet deep. In former times it probably supplied the college with water.

On coming to the church, high up on the wall outside the south side of the chancel, is seen a beautifully carved representation of our Saviour on the cross. This was also preserved from the old cathedral, and its effect is very striking; but exposure to the weather must shortly cause its destruction.

The only sepulchral monument now remaining worthy of notice is that to the memory of Sir Maurice Hurly and his two wives; it is a slab four feet long and two feet nine inches in depth, inserted low in the wall, about the centre of the south wall of the cathedral, outside. The inscription is as follows:

D. O. M.

Perillustris Dominus D. Mauritius Hurleus Armiger Mōumētū
Hoc sibi suisq; charissimis conjugibus Graniæ Hoganæ et
Raciæ Thorentonæ totiq; posteritati posuit elaborariq; fec.
An. Di. 1632.

Hic jacet Hospitii columen, pietatis Asylum,
Ingenio clarus, clarus et eloquio,
Laus Patriæ, litum suppssor, pacis amator,
Regula justitiæ, religionis ebur.
Hostibus Hurlæus fuit hostis, amicus amicis.
Mauritius moderans tempora temporibus,
Fax fidei, fulcrum miserorum, gemma virorum,
Stemmatis antiqui gloria magna sui.
Huic decus, huic probitas, sors corporis integra, mille
Naturæ dotes unicus omne capit.
Vixisti mundo, vives in sæcula vivis,
Fortuna felix, prole pereximia.
Ergo vive Deo vivo, cui vivere vita est.
Sic tibi dante Deo vita perennis erit.

Sumptibus Hurlæi fabricarunt hoc Mōumētū
Patritius Kerryl, Nicholaus Cowly.

The inscription is cut in relief; and at the lower corner of the tablet is carved an old tree.

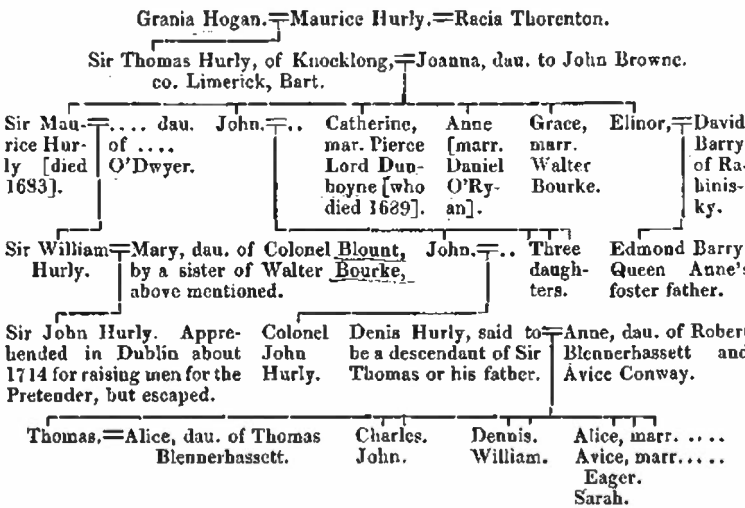
The family of Hurly were of ancient descent, and resided at Knocklong, in the county of Limerick. They were also benefactors to this Church, in which some members of the family held preferment. In 1507 Thomas Hurly was consecrated Bishop of Emly, and he founded a college there. He was an eminent canonist, and there is an account of him in Harris's Ware.

In 1542 William O'Hurly, Dean, was deposed, as holding

his appointment from the Pope. In 1608 Randal Hurly was appointed Precentor, and Edmund Hurly Chancellor, both by the Crown.

The following pedigree was found amongst the papers of the Blennerhassett family—the early marriages are here corrected:

GENEALOGY OF HURLY, OF KNOCKLONG, CO. LIMERICK.



Notes on the Hurlys, communicated by John D'Alton, Esq.

According to the evidence of the native Irish annalists, the Book of Lecan and Ballymote, &c., the O'Hurlys were an ancient Dal-Cassian sept, descended from the same stock as that of the O'Brien of Thomond, each springing from a lineal descendant of Cormac Cas, son of Oiliol Ollum, who was King of Munster in the third century. Their territory extended on the borders of Tipperary, adjoining the Limerick district of the O'Briens, and was latterly better known by the name of Knock-Long, in the barony of Coshlea, county Limerick. Within it stood a castle, for centuries the residence of the chief, and whose ruins still remain. Thence others of the name branched off into the counties of Cork and Kerry. It is true that the surname Hurle or Hurley, with the Norman prefix of "de," is found in English local records even from the time of Edward the First, but a paramount authority of Irish annalists shows the long previous existence of the Milesian O'Hurly.

The ancient name of Knock-Long was Druim-dabhaire, *i.e.* "the hill of the oaks;" and, in a pedigree of upwards of forty unbroken generations, preserved by the present representative of the family, occurs the name of Dermod son of Teigue O'Hurly, then described as the

Chief living "at the Oakwoods," about the middle of the sixteenth century. His daughter Juliana, according to Lodge's Peerage (Archdall's edit. vol. vi. p. 151), was married to Edmund Oge de Courcy, by whom she was mother of John the eighteenth Baron of Kinsale, whose only daughter Ellen de Courcy became the wife of Randal Hurly of Ballinacarrig, while his son Randal Hurly the younger married the widow of Gerald the nineteenth Lord of Kinsale.

In 1502 Thomas Urlehy alias Ourhiley, bachelor of canon law, afterwards Bishop of Emly, and Maurice Urlehy alias Ourhiley, being native Irishmen, sued out a licence entitling them to use the English tongue and law. (Rot. Pat. in Canc. Hib.) The ensuing annals of this family curiously evince the spirit and the negligence with which, after the secession from Rome, the church preferments were filled in Ireland. In 1543 king Henry presented Donogh Ryan, chaplain, to the deanery of the cathedral of Emly, "vacant in as much as William Mac Bryan and William O'Hurly the present incumbents hold the same by the authority of the Bishop of Rome." In 1609 king James presented Edmund Hurly, "notwithstanding his minority and defect of clerical orders," to the chancellorship of that cathedral, with a corps of vicarages united; and in the same year presented Randal Hurly, under similar disqualifications, to the chantorship thereof. (Patent Rolls in Canc. Hib.)

1563. Thomas O'Herlihey, being Bishop of Ross, assisted at the Council of Trent. He died in 1579, and was buried in the abbey of Kilcrea, barony Muskerry, co. Cork. (Ware's Bishops, p. 588; Archdall's Mon. Hib. 72.)

In 1583 Dermott O'Hurly, Archbishop of Cashel, suffered martyrdom in Dublin, and was buried in St. Kevin's church, where his tomb, says De Burgo, was celebrated for miracles. (Hib. Dom. p. 601.) In the *Conciliation* Parliament, convened in 1585 by Sir John Perrott, which the native chiefs were for the first time invited to attend, Thomas Hurly, of Knocklong, represented the borough of Kilmallock. He was the father of Maurice, of Knocklong, who in 1601 obtained a patent for a weekly market, and a fair to be held there twice in every year, granted "by reason of his dutiful affection and good disposition towards Her Majesty's service in Munster, and considering that, for the good of the country and daily annoyance of the rebels, he hath been at such great charge of 'wardening' the castle of Knocklong during the rebellion in Munster." It was also ordered by the patent, that certain lands of Hurly, which he alleged were of ancient freedom, should, if proved on inquiry to be so, be thenceforth exempted from cesses and exactions. The will of this Maurice Hurly, bearing date in 1634, is in the Prerogative Court, Dublin. By his first wife, Grania Hogan, he had two

sons, Sir Thomas, of Knocklong, the first baronet, and John Hurly. Sir Thomas married Joanna, daughter to John Browne, of Camus, by Catharine, daughter of Dermod O'Ryan, of Solloghod, co. Tipperary; and had two sons by her, Sir Maurice, his successor, and another John, with four daughters as above described in the pedigree.

In 1638 James O'Hurly was titular Bishop of Emly. (De Burgo, p. 487.)

The outlawries of 1642 consigned ten proprietors of this name to attainder, while the aforesaid Sir Maurice, described as then of Kilduff, sat in the supreme council of Kilkenny in 1647, and consequently was marked for confiscation. All his estates were seized for Cromwell's adventurers, and himself transplanted to Connaught, where he died in 1683, leaving by his wife, the daughter of — O'Dwyer, Sir William Hurly, his eldest son and successor. In his will, dated in that year, he with "a sweet remembrance" of his ancient patrimony—*dulces reminiscitur Argos*—directs, in regard to "the lands that I have been dispossessed of, and to which I have a just title, and now is depending in law, after the recovery thereof, I leave and bequeath the same unto my sons William and John Hurly, to be equally divided between them for ever, together with the "maine profit thereof;" and in a codicil he further leaves to his said son John, "if my ancient estate be recovered, 200*l.* per annum for himself and his heirs for ever."

That eldest son, however, who inherited the baronetcy, so far from recovering "the ancient estate," attended King James's Parliament of Dublin, in 1689, as representative of the borough of Kilmallock; and early in August of the last year of the campaign, when "the English army marched from Carrick to Golden-Bridge, three miles from Cashel, and Mr. John Grady of Corbray, in the county Clare, arrived there with some intelligence of the posture and strength of the Irish forces; he stated, that Lord Britton and Sir William Hurly were devastating the country." (FitzGerald's Limerick, vol. ii. p. 332.) Again, in the subsequent last struggle at Thomond Gate, where 600 of the Irish perished, besides 150 who were forced over the bridge, Colonels Skelton and Hurly, 16 other officers, and above 100 privates were taken prisoners (Id. p. 370); and Dean Story, in his Impartial History, says that Colonel Hurly was wounded on that desperate occasion, of which wound he probably died; as, when on his attainder, in 1691, the transplanted Galway estate was confiscated, it appears that the claim of his infant heir, Sir John Hurly, was put forward at Chichester House, Dublin, as that of a minor, by Bryan O'Bryan his guardian, who had married his widowed mother. An estate tail was claimed for him of the Galway property, and a jointure for her; but both petitions were dismissed, and the estate was granted in subdivisions to Thomas

O'Connor, Sir Thomas Montgomery, and the Hollow Sword Blades' Company. The persecuted baronet, smarting under the confiscations which had left him landless, attempted to raise men for the service of the Pretender, but was arrested about the year 1714, as stated on the above pedigree.

Others of this name attainted in 1691 were Patrick Hurly of Dublin, Arthur of Grillagh, co. Cork, and John of Lissene, co. Sligo.

Sir William had a brother John, who had issue Grace, married to John Reardon, of Tullagh, co. Clare. Elinor, one of the sisters to Sir William, was married to Green Mulloy, of the Oakport line: see D'Alton's Annals of Boyle, vol. i.

In King James's Army List, 1689, occur, besides Lieut. John Hurly, of Lord Dongan's Dragoons, a second John, Lieutenant in Lord Clare's Dragoons; and a third, Lieutenant in Colonel Charles O'Bryan's; while Daniel O'Herlihey was a Captain in Major-General Boiseleau's Infantry.

The greater portion of the above notices has been derived from a large quarto manuscript of pedigree notices concerning the Hurlys, the Conways, and their connections, which was afforded to me in compliance with a wish that I have often put forward for such family manuscripts as relate to the period of the campaign of 1690 and 1691; and through this I have been able to identify the families and fates of some of the ill-fated Cavaliers upon King James's Army List in 1689. From John, the younger brother of Sir Maurice Hurly, descended John Hurly, who appears on that list a Lieutenant in Lord Dongan's Dragoons, and for whose memoir these pages were drawn, while three of his sisters intermarried with his fellow-labourers in the desperate campaign: Grace with Captain Purdon of the county Clare, Anne with John Bourke of Cahirmoyle, and Elinor with John Lacey of Ballenleighane, father of John and Pierce Lacey of Drommada. I may be allowed here to acknowledge the other manuscript aids I have received from the O'Donovan, from Mr. Haly, and from Mr. D. Carroll Dempster. Would that their example were extended, and my projected volume would be indeed an accession to the History of Irish Families.

The "Hurly Book" suggests that a Dennis Hurly, descending from the Maurice who heads the above pedigree, married Anne daughter of Robert Blenerhasset of Ballyseedy, and continued the now only existing line of this ancient sept to the present representative, Robert Conway Hurly of Tralee.

48, *Summer Hill, Dublin.* JOHN D'ALTON.