

CHAPTER III.

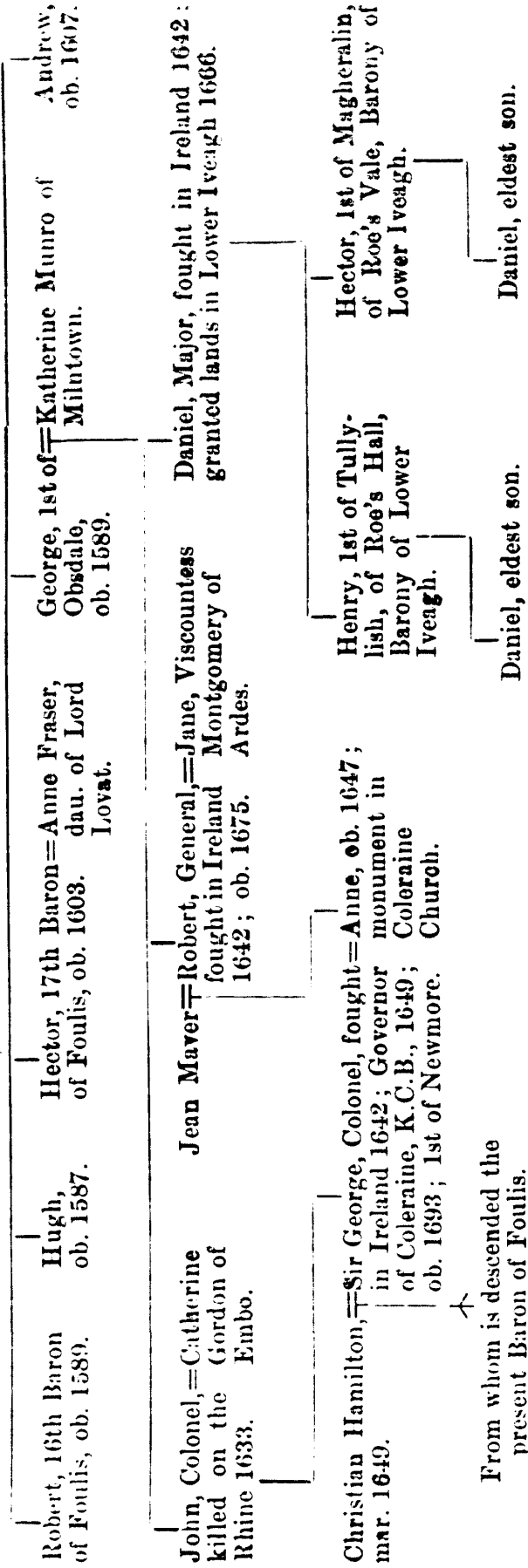
DANIEL MONRO OF LOWER IVEAGH.

The story of the Monroes in Ireland begins with the landing of Scotch troops at Carrickfergus on April 15th, 1642, when a force of some four thousand men volunteered to come to the assistance of King Charles I. in quelling the insurrection which broke out with awful suddenness in October, 1641. Ever since the Plantation of Ulster, in the early days of James I., a resentment had been nurtured in the minds and hearts of the people against a garrison of colonists rooted into and supported by the Irish soil. To cripple or even to ruin the settlers was the secret intention of the insurgents. A conspiracy was organised, and on October 22nd, 1641, a desperate attempt was made to eradicate the colonists by force of arms, forty thousand of whom perished by sword, by famine or by cold. Their houses were burnt, and those who survived the slaughter were turned adrift, naked, to starve.

The expeditionary force which came from Scotland to stem the tide of open rebellion was under the command of Major General Robert Munro of the House of Obsdale in the Clan Munro, and grandson of the 15th Baron of Foulis. With him came George, his elder brother's son, and Daniel, his own younger brother, who was the progenitor of the Monroes of Lower Iveagh. The general, at the head of three thousand men, first encountered the insurgents near Moira, where, under the command of Viscount Magennis of Iveagh, they occupied an important pass on the road to Newry. Here the

THE DESCENT OF THE MONROES OF LOWER IVEAGH FROM THE MUNROS OF FOULIS CASTLE.

Robert Munro, 15th Baron (1) Margaret = (2) Katherine Ross, "Lady Foulis," so designated in an interesting law case concerning witchcraft.*
of Foulis, ob. 1588. Ogilvie.



From whom is descended the present Baron of Foulis.

The tables of the descent of the Tullylish and Magheralin branches in Lower Iveagh will be found on page 28 and facing page 84.

* Pitcairn's "Criminal Trials in Scotland," vol. i., part ii., pp. 192-202.

rebels were put to flight, and Munro, leaving a garrison in Newry, returned to Carrickfergus. He then raised the Siege of Coleraine, a town which later became the centre of military activities and the headquarters of Major Daniel Monro during the years of civil war that followed. In 1644, Lord Ormonde, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in Ireland, was appointed Viceroy, a dangerous and anomalous position at such a time. In the month of March, 1646, Ormonde concluded a peace with the supreme council of the confederate Romanists, a peace which, instead of allaying, only increased the commotions in Ireland. It raised up an extreme party, headed by the Papal Nuncio, in active opposition to the Romanists who had joined Ormonde, and it aroused suspicion in the minds of the Protestants in the North. The new extreme party paid court to Owen Roe O'Neill, reinforced his army and declared against the peace.

There followed the battle of Benburb, where General Robert Munro suffered defeat at the hands of O'Neill and retired to Carrickfergus. His brother, Major Daniel Monro, and his nephew, Colonel George Munro, who were with him in the field,* joined the garrison at Coleraine. Ormonde now desired coalition with the Ulster Scots, and sent an envoy to the North with an urgent letter to Colonel George Munro soliciting a speedy supply of men.

The Scottish officers, however, were reluctant to place themselves and their troops under the command of one who had so recently concluded a peace which they bitterly opposed. They wrote to him on November 10th, 1646, stating the several difficulties and scruples which prevented them from sending him immediate aid, but adding this assurance :

* "Ireland under the Stuarts," Bagwell, Vol. II., p. 118. Reid's "History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland," Vol. II., pp. 26—30.

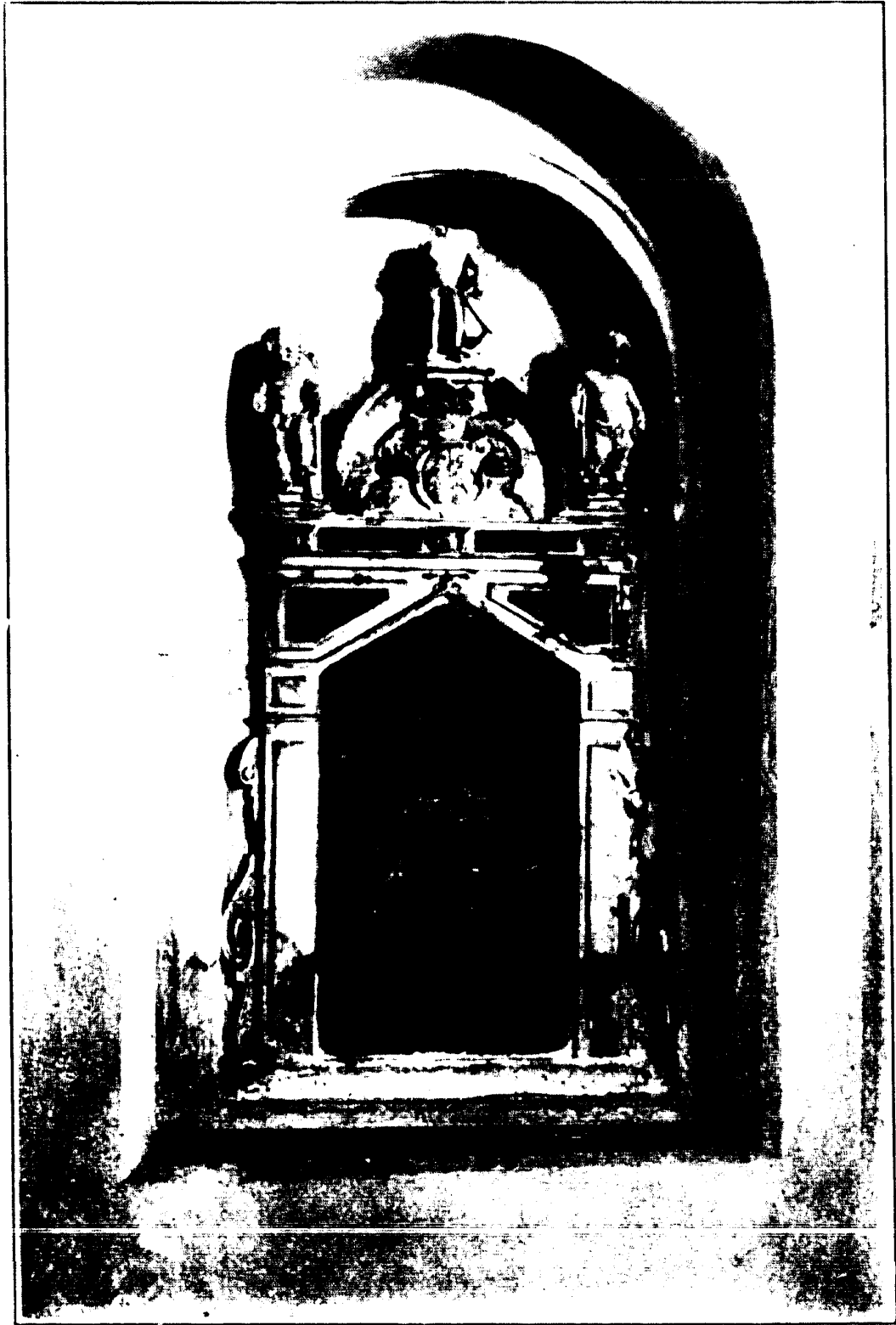
“that those scruples being removed, they would be willing to stretch themselves in the performance of everything that shall be in the power of His Excellency’s humble servants.” This letter is signed by both Daniel and George Munro.

In the following year Ormonde resigned, as Parliament had appointed a Lord Lieutenant under its own jurisdiction. Charles refused to accept Ormonde’s resignation, and armed with a worthless commission he returned to Ireland. Dublin was in the hands of the Parliamentarians, and Ormonde tried to exert what authority he possessed from the provinces. Even after the news of the King’s execution, he fearlessly proclaimed Prince Charles, King and invited him to Ireland with the assurance that his troops could hold that country for him. A letter is still preserved written by Daniel Monro from Castlewood to the Lord Lieutenant on May 3rd of this year, which gives much detail in regard to the campaign. He writes of the danger of putting pen to paper, but is bold to send a letter owing to “the urgent occasion.” It had been rumoured that Lord Ormonde was advancing towards Trim instead of making his way direct to Dublin, and Monro presses the extreme necessity of the presence of the Commander-in-Chief to rally his dependent garrisons and to march on Dublin. “The losse of a day,” he concludes, “may endanger a fair designe, and for aught appearancy yet, your work may end here. May all prosperous success attend your Excellency, so prays my Lord,

Your vassal,
DAN MONRO.”*

This letter was intercepted by the Parliamentary authorities, and the following note appears

* Pamphlet in the Library, Trinity Coliege, Dublin.



THE MUNRO MONUMENT AT COLERAINE.

A.D. 1847.

in the Journal of the House of Commons, October 2nd, 1649 :—

A letter from Dan Monro of the third May 1649 to the Marquis of Ormonde, was this day read. Ordered that it be referred to the Council of State to see the said letter printed, together with such observations as they shall think fit to be made thereon.

During these days of unrest, Ann Munro, wife of Colonel George Munro, died at Coleraine on March 3rd, 1647. She was the only daughter of General Robert Munro, and to her memory a monument was erected in the Parish Church at Coleraine, which after nearly three hundred years remains in good preservation and thus tells her story :—

A
MONUMENT OF THE
RIGHT VERTUOUS GENTLEWOMAN
M^{rs} ANN MUNRO DAUGHT^r TO
GENERAL MAJOR ROBERT MUNRO
& WIFE OF COLONEL GEORGE MUNRO
SHE LIVED TWENTY FIVE YEARES
WAS MARRIED EIGHT YEARES, HAD
SEVEN CHILDREN WHEREOF TWO
SONNES ARE ALIVE. Y^e OTHER FIVE
AS FORERUNNERS DID GO TO POSSESS
HEAVEN BEFORE HER. SHE MADE HER
LIFE A PREPARATION FOR DEATH &
DYING SHEWED TESTIMONIES OF HER
APPROACHING JOYES BEYOND HER
AGE & SEX WHEREBY SHE LABOURED
TO COMFORT HER PARENTS & HUSBAND
LEAVING HER ACQUAINTANCE Y^e MEMORY
OF A GOOD CHRISTIAN A LOVING DAUG^{ht}
A CAREFUL MOTHER & DUTIFUL WIFE
OBIIT MARCH 3RD. 1647.

In the year after her death, Colonel George Monro, accompanied by Major Andrew Monro of Katewell, answered the call of the King to Scotland, and fought in the battle of Preston on August 17th, 1648. Andrew Monro was taken prisoner and

banished to Virginia, but George Monro made a safe retreat; he fled to Holland and visited King Charles II. in the year of his father's execution. He received the honour of knighthood with a new commission from the exiled King, and rejoined Major Daniel Monro at Coleraine. His second marriage to Christian, daughter of Sir Frederick Hamilton of Manner, took place there in 1649, but the ruthless campaign of Oliver Cromwell eventually drove him out of Ireland, never to return.

It is not until after the passing of the Act of Settlement that anything more is heard of Daniel Monro, but when the adjudications were made in favour of the 1649 officers, his name appears amongst those to whom grants of land were made. The grant is specified in the commissioner's report:—

“Major Daniel Monro—the half town land of Dromm Sheagh 165a, Larahderish alias Ladarich 184a, Barony of Lower Iveagh, Co. Down. Total quantity (565 acres 1 rood 12 per. stat.). Total Rent, £4 14s. 3d. Date 3 June, 19th year. Enrolled 28th August, 1667.”*

These and the adjacent lands are shown in the Down Survey† as having belonged to Arthur Magennis, created Viscount Iveagh on July 18th, 1623. It may have been by design rather than by accident that Daniel Monro was awarded the lands of his first antagonist after his landing to quell the rebellion of 1641. The town lands named are situated in the parish of Tullylish, and were in the possession of Colonel Henry Monroe at the time of the Siege of Derry in 1689. A quotation made from the Armagh ballad of the Siege, in an earlier chapter, shows that

* Commissioner's Report, Act of Settlement and explanations 11, 12, 13. Reports, Public Records of Ireland, p. 92, Sec. 26th.

† The Down Survey made by Sir William Petty. Belfast Record Office.

this Colonel Henry Monroe was nephew to General Robert Munro, and the fact that Henry Monroe is found to be in possession of the lands granted to Daniel Monro twenty years earlier, proves that Robert's nephew was his brother Daniel's son.

These facts are confirmed by Thomas Witherow in his account of the battle of Windmill Hill during the Siege of Derry. "At last," he writes, "Colonel Monroe, nephew of Major General Monro who commanded the Scottish forces at Carrickfergus that were sent over to put down the rebellion in 1641, assisted by Captain Michael Cunningham, at the head of a strong body from the city, dashed forward against the assailants, threw them into confusion, and pursued them over the meadows with great slaughter."* The relationship between the general of 1641 and the colonel of 1689 is also referred to by Reid in his "History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland."†

Colonel Henry Monroe undoubtedly inherited part of the 565 acres of land granted to his father Daniel Monro: 165 acres in the town land of Drommsheagh and 184 acres in the town land of Larahderish, both town lands being in the parish of Tullylish. There are still, however, acres which belonged to Daniel Monro to be accounted for, and as the Parish Register of Magheralin contains an entry of the year 1716 showing the name of Hector Monroe as of Toughlumney and Ballym^ckeonan, two town lands at the Tullylish end of the parish of Magheralin, it may be concluded that Hector was brother to Henry and inherited some of his father's lands. Further circumstantial evidence is forthcoming from the fact that these two sons of Daniel Monro both gave their father's Christian name

* "Derry and Enniskillen in 1688-9." Thomas Witherow, p. 136.

† Vol. II., p. 300 note.

to their eldest sons and that the names of their two houses, not many miles distant from each other, were Roe's Hall and Roe's Vale.

Apart from the documentary legal evidence which, since the destruction of documents in the Dublin Four Courts during the insurrection of 1922, can never now be produced, sufficient proof is here given to establish Major Daniel Munro as the younger brother of General Robert Munro and as the progenitor of the two branches of the family in Ireland associated with the parishes of Tullylish and Magheralin in the Barony of Lower Iveagh.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MONROES OF TULLYLISH.

The founder of the elder branch of the family in Lower Iveagh, Henry, eldest son of Daniel Monro, was one of the defenders of Derry in 1689. The city overlooks Lough Foyle, which has been associated with the early ancestors of the Clan Munro since the day they gave the name of Foyle to Foulis Castle. Six hundred years later a Monroe of Lower Iveagh stood guard over the shores of the lough during the famous siege. Henry Monroe, 1st of Tullylish, was a captain of a company in the city on that memorable day, December 7th, 1688, when, acting upon the impulse of the moment, the apprentice boys ran to the entrance of the city, drew their swords, raised the drawbridge, seized the keys and locked the gates against the army of James II. A month earlier, on November 5th, William of Orange had landed in England and soon after his coming James fled to France to look for the support, as he wrote in his letter to the French king, that "one Popish Prince might expect from another." His ally hastened the preparations for James' voyage to Ireland in the hope that his Roman Catholic subjects would rally to his cause. James landed at Kinsale, marched to Dublin and on to the north without delay. William, now proclaimed King of England, had difficulty in finding officers whom he could trust, and Colonel Lundy, who was appointed Governor of Derry, proved to be a traitor. He had been an officer in the army of the Roman Catholic Viceroy appointed by James, Richard Talbot, Earl

of Tyrconnel, and was secretly making plans to surrender the city. On the eve of the arrival of the King, without a throne, before the walls of Derry, on April 18th 1689, Lundy's treachery was discovered. At the same moment news reached the distracted citizens that Captain Murray, a well-known friend to the city and its defenders, was marching with haste at the head of a body of horse to prevent the surrender. Lundy sent orders to Murray to retire; Murray continued his advance, the men of Derry stretching their arms and bodies from the walls and calling him by name to come on to their relief. On he came, entered the city midst the shouts of the people, gave orders to secure the gates, to run to arms, to mount the walls and to point the guns. The die was cast, the siege of Derry had begun. James was an hour too late, treachery had been frustrated and the cause of the baffled king was lost: a shot from the walls killed an officer who was standing by his side and he was compelled to retire. Many historians have told the tale of the one hundred and five days of privation and brave resistance. Amongst them an honoured place is found for Joseph Aicken, whose accurate account of the siege, in rough rhyme, has supplied many details of those days which must otherwise have been lost.

Aicken's manuscript had been hidden after the siege and was discovered at Armagh, in a battered condition, some years later. The poem was first published in Dublin in 1699 and has proved of considerable value to all historians of the time. Of this quaint contemporary narrative John Graham has written:—

The poem found at Armagh records so many names and probable circumstances not mentioned by any of the journalists of the siege, that a transcript of the most curious

parts of it, with a few verbal amendments and some attempt to polish its rustic versification, cannot but be acceptable to all who deem the preservation of the history of our country to be an object of importance to posterity.*

Without any attempt to “polish its rustic versification” the lines quoted in this book which relate the doings of Henry Monroe are transcribed from the earliest printed copy of the poem, now preserved in the British Museum. The most important reference to Henry Monroe from the point of view of family history has already been quoted in an earlier chapter, where reference is made to his relationship to General Robert Munro. The lines are these:—

Whitney's convict ; Monroe his post obtained
Who by his merits had that honour gain'd ;
He's Ma'or Gen'ral Monroe's brother son
Who did oppose the foe in forty-one.†

The opening words refer to the conviction of Colonel Whitney for misdemeanour ; he was deprived of his office on April 27th, 1689, and Captain Monroe was appointed to his command. Aicken writes in his epilogue that “the author values not a poet's fame,” but posterity values his accurate contemporary information, and not least Monroe's descendants for the reference made in these lines.

The following quotations from “Londerias” give some account of Monroe's part in the siege:—

In a few days our general sallies forth
With fifteen hundred men towards the north.

* * * * *

For he attackt their Trenches near Brookhall
And beat them out and burnt their Fascines all.
In this great action Collonel Monroe
Cut down the Irish with a mighty blow.

* * * * *

* “History of the Siege of Derry,” John Graham, 1829, p. 118.

† “Londerias,” Dublin, 1699, p. 52.

Col'nel Monroe was posted near the walls
Brave Campbell's Post upon his left hand falls
Along the Trenches some brave Captains stand
Who valiantly our Forces did command.

* * * * *

In a few hours their granadeers came on
Col'nel Nugent led the Battalion
He briskly us attacqued at the Wells
And brave Monroe as briskly him repells.

In the last month of the siege Henry Baker, a governor of the city, died, and Monroe was one of the pall-bearers at his funeral. On July 31st the long-looked-for relief arrived, and after the pain and privation of many months Monroe retired to his home at Roe's Hall, Tullylish.

He was the father of four sons. Daniel the eldest, named after his grandfather, died in his father's life-time, and Henry Monroe was succeeded by his second son Hector, who was twice married. His first wife, Dorothy Dobbs, was mother of his heir Henry, and of his daughter Frances, who married Henry Loftus, afterwards Earl of Ely. His wife Dorothy died in 1730; he then married Mary Astell, whose son, born in 1733, was father to Henry Monroe who was executed at Lisburn in the rebellion of 1798. The Monroe estates, which had been bequeathed to Hector's first wife Dorothy Dobbs by her marriage settlement, passed to her children. By an order in Chancery these estates were sold in 1772 for the sum of six thousand five hundred and seventy-eight pounds.*

An indenture registered in the Court of Chancery at Dublin, December 2nd, 1772, in connection with this property corrects a mistake made in many peer-

* Registry of Deeds, Dublin. Monroe to Camac, 292, 197, 190, 115.

ages which give the Christian name of Lady Ely's father as Henry. The indenture reads as follows: *--

This indenture made between John Tunnadine one of the Masters of His Majesty's Court of Chancery of the first part Mathew Sleator of the second part, the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Ely and Frances Countess of Ely his wife (and which Frances is the only surviving younger child of Hector Monroe late of Roe's Hall in the County of Down Esquire Deceased by Dorothy his first wife) of the third part....

It is here proved beyond question that Lady Ely's father was Hector Monroe, son of Henry Monroe and husband of Dorothy Dobbs; her brother was Henry Monroe, also of Roe's Hall and father of the far-famed beauty, Dolly Monroe, whose pathetic story follows here.

Dolly Monroe appeared upon the scene of Irish political life during the Viceroyalty of Lord Townshend. The government of Ireland, prior to the appointment of this resident Lord Lieutenant, had fallen into the hands of a certain number of distinguished personages, who were known as the "undertakers" because they undertook to carry the King's business through the Commons and the Lords. The King and his ministers in England, jealous of their power, were anxious to suppress "the undertakers." They, on the other hand, determined to continue to exercise their control by insistence on all Irish affairs remaining under the full direction of the Irish Parliament. The cartoon from a political publication of the day represents the tongue-tied Viceroy under the complete control of Lord North and Lord Bute, who had sent him to Ireland to crush "the undertakers" and to re-establish England's authority in Ireland. A worse

* Indenture enrolled in Court of Chancery, Dublin, 1772.



**“THE TONGUE-TIED VICEROY,”
LORD TOWNSHEND.**

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1707—1772.

The above controlling hands are those of
Lord North and Lord Bute.

choice could hardly have been made. Townshend had fought under Wolfe at Quebec, the death of the hero of the Heights of Abraham placed him in temporary command, he actually claimed the honours when Wolfe fell in the hour of victory, and declared that he had inspired Wolfe's plans and carried them to their successful issue. This was the man chosen by the English Government to break the power of the Irish Parliament.

His first move was to win to his side some of the Irish patriot peers who might yield to all that a Viceroy could offer to those who conformed to his wishes. His eye fell upon Henry, Viscount Loftus, a man of influence in both Irish Houses of Parliament. Lord Loftus was weak and vacillating and Townshend discovered that he was completely under the domination of his wife, a lady of singular spirit and determined will. About this time Lady Townshend died, and the widower began to be interested in Lady Loftus' beautiful niece, Dolly Monroe. Seeing that the aunt was an ambitious woman, the unscrupulous Viceroy determined to play with the affections of this young Irish beauty, who was to be a pawn in the game.

The scene is laid at Rathfarnham Castle. The Lord Lieutenant pays frequent visits to the Lady Loftus; her husband is in the background and the beautiful Dolly occupies the centre of the stage. We shall see the play acted out to its unhappy finish as we study a parody on Don Quixote entitled "Baratariana," published in Dublin in 1773. Cervantes' story tells that Don Quixote promised that Sancho Panza should be made governor of an island. Barataria is the island, west of England, over which the new Sancho had been called to rule, and amongst his courtiers were to be found the Count and Countess Loftonso and Donna Dorothea de Monroso.

And so the narrator begins :—

Sancho, sometime after his arrival in Barataria, sustained an heavy affliction ; which was attended with one notable peculiarity—that of being the single instance wherein the sentiments of the Baratarians and their governour had been united or similar. Death had deprived him of the Baroness Feraro his consort,* a lady of high birth and fortune adorned by the most eminent virtues and amiable manners. To her lord she left everything to lament, she was the splendour of his station, she was the solace of his hours of sobriety, and if anything like refinement grew about his palace or his person it was the hand of the Baroness that planted it there. And here must we give praises which are due to the generosity and candour of the people of Barataria....On this event they lamented that so much virtue had departed, that so little had been left behind.

Though this was a matter of sincere concern to Sancho's heart, it however became a new circumstance of power to his administration. The first situation in female pre-eminence was now unoccupied and there was a vacancy as it were in the first office under the governour—even a participation of the throne of Vicegerency.

As this was the first office open to female ambition it is not to be wondered at that the Countess Loftonzo was the first to aspire to it. She communicated the phrenzy of this sentiment to the Count, adding in an extacy of grandeur “ that the world should see her niece Donna Dorothea del Monroso raise her head above the proudest families in the island—that she would sustain with dignity and embellish by her accomplishments the vacant chair in the Chamber of carousals.” And, thus far indeed, the Countess had spoke the language of truth, and our vows should have accompanied her to heaven were the accomplishment of them to be the felicity of Dorothea. But, lovely maiden, may your charms never be bartered in unwarrantable traffick ! May fortune or artifice never place you in a station to which the most refined attachment shall not select you. May you fill the high rank to which your bright endowments give you title, but never become the splendid mourner of a parent's ambition !

Sancho saw this extravagance growing in the mind of the Countess and determined to cultivate it. Everything that incoherent sentences and a distracted manner could suggest

* Lord Townshend's wife was Baroness Ferrars.

was accepted by the Countess as a confirmation of her wishes, a natural perplexity and embarrassment of elocution were the confusion of real passion, and ambiguous inference as it was unintelligible was supposed to convey a solemn declaration of love.

This, however, was sufficient to satisfy the mind of the Countess, and therefore Sancho obtained the object of his industry. He saw not, it is true, the roses in the cheek of Dorothea, but he enumerated the suffragans in the train of Loftonzo. As to the Countess her imagination was on fire. It already presented to her, her niece, the incomparable Dorothea, crowned Vice-queen of the island of Barataria; her Lord Loftonzo distinguished by all the coronets of all his ancestry and the deputyship of the island conferred upon him at the departure of Sancho. Everything was accomplished in her ardent mind, and sports and pastimes, tilts and tournaments, dance and festivity were proclaimed throughout the Castle and the forests of Rafarmo. The smile of Dorothea was to be the prize of chivalry, and her hand in the dance the trophy of the Governour's pre-eminence.

Thus were the politics of Sancho brought to a fair issue. His confidence in the Count was not now written in the sand of promises, or the frail memorial of benefits conferred, it was now built upon a rock, the bonds of Loftonzo were links of iron.*

However severe the satire of this remarkable document, it is true that Lord Townshend's coach and six running footmen clattered up to Rathfarnham Castle three times a week, and that eventually the designing Viceroy gained his end at the expense of the beautiful girl of eighteen years and her young affections. Lord Loftus crossed the floor of the House, and the plans for breaking the power of the "undertakers" began to work according to the will of Lord Townshend's masters. The new convert from Patriotism to tutelage was created Marquis of Ely, but the Viceroy, who had now gained all that he required of Dolly's uncle, no longer drove in his equipage as the gallant lover to Rathfarnham

* "Baratariana," pp. 177—180. Dublin, 1773.

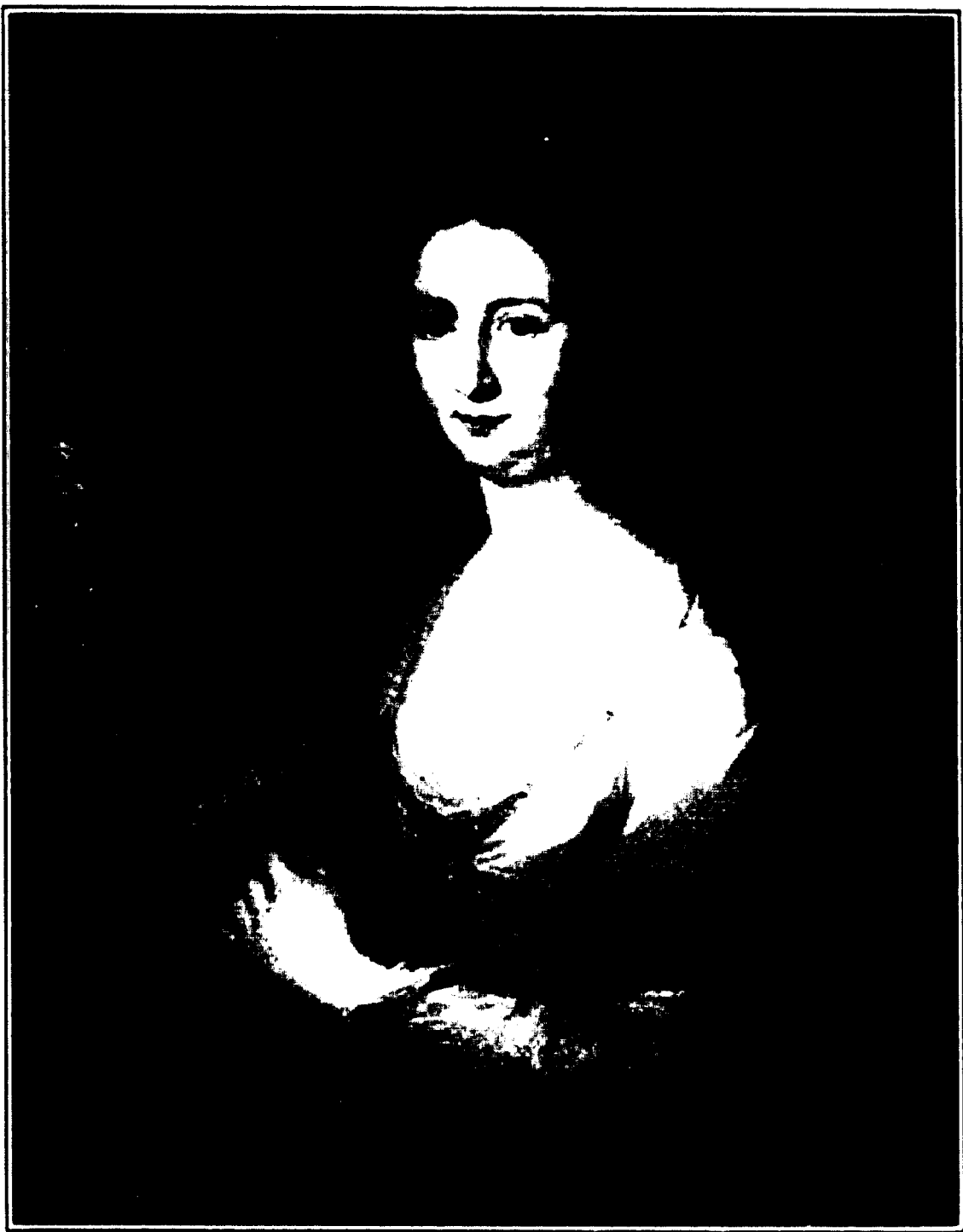
Castle, whence alas! more worthy suitors had been driven ruthlessly away.

Lovely Dorothea [writes the Baratariana scribe], her stature was majestic, but her air and demeanour was nature itself. The peculiar splendour of her carriage was softened and subdued by the most affable condescension, and as sensibility gave a lustre to her eye so discretion gave a security to her heart, and indeed while her charms inspired universal rapture the authority of her innocence regulated and restrained it. The softest roses that ever youth and modesty poured out on beauty glowed on the lip of Dorothea. Her cheeks were the bloom of Hebe, and the purity of Diana was in her breast. Never did beauty appear so amiable nor virtue so adorned as in this incomparable virgin. In her progress through the courts of Arragon and Navarre she had been exhibited to the Princes of the Continent and returned in the possession of humble manners. Several had solicited her in marriage, but the refined policy of her protectors always interposed against her and reserved her to become the innocent instrument of a national evil. But let us not be supposed to glance a thought against your purity, lovely Dorothea! Whatever be your fortune or wherever you go, you will retain *yourself*. If in public splendour and exalted station you will carry with you humility and modesty. If inauspicious destiny sink you to the rank of humble condition your beauties will adorn and your virtues dignify your retreat.*

Sir Hercules Langrish sought her hand in marriage, and young Henry Grattan hung by her chair; to which of these contributors to "Baratariana" do we owe this wondrous tribute to the maiden spurned? Grattan is said to have confessed in his old age that this "beautiful description of a young girl" was written by Langrish and was worthy of the original, but the authorship of "Baratariana" has never been fully acknowledged, and the secret still lies in Langrish's grave.

Dolly Monroe was in her day the reigning toast at every dinner-table in Dublin. A score of young gallants were at her feet, and even Francis Andrews,

* "Baratariana," p. 176. Dublin, 1773.



DOLLY MONROE.

Portrait by A. J. van Kesteren.

By permission of the Government of the Netherlands, and of the National Gallery of London.

the aged Provost of Trinity College, spoke of her beauty in his dying hour and made the following codicil to his will :—

I intreat Miss Dolly Monroe to accept my coloured prints (a fitter ornament for her dressing room than for my library) as a mark of my great respect and regard for her many amiable qualities.*

Lord Townshend's term of office adds no credit to the annals of Irish history : his administration did much to lower political life and he grew tired of the ceaseless opposition of "the undertakers" whom, with all his intrigue and ingenuity, he failed to subdue. At last a number of peers protested, and Flood in the Commons demanded his recall. The day of his departure was the occasion of a hostile display, and he was almost mobbed as he embarked at Dalkey from Bullock Harbour, where his effigy was burnt as he set sail. His departure is thus satirised in "Baratariana" : †—

An inscription on a pillar which is speedily to be erected at the town of Bullock :—

This column was erected at the private expence
Of good Men,
To stand a monument of Irish story, and
A memorial to Posterity
Of our happy deliverance from the scourge
Of insolence and oppression,
By the unexpected, but not unwished for, departure
Of George Lord Viscount Townshend ;
Who resided in this land, as Chief Governour,
For the space of four years : but at length
Departed on the 26th Day of December in the Year
1771.

So ended the ignominious reign of Dolly Monroe's first suitor. Her memory is bequeathed to the

* Will of the Right Honourable Francis Andrews, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, 1772.

† "Baratariana," Letter xxxi, p. 243. 2nd Ed. Dublin, 1773.

world by the pen of Oliver Goldsmith and the brush of Angelica Kauffmann. The Irish poet in the "Haunch of Venison" is mindful of her beautiful form as he writes :—

Of the neck and the breast I had still to dispose
'Twas a neck and a breast that might rival Monroe's.

Her fair features and auburn hair attracted the admiration of Angelica Kauffmann, whose portrait of her is the possession of the Irish nation and hangs with a group of Lord and Lady Ely, Dolly Monroe, and the artist herself in the Irish National Portrait Gallery. In the year 1775 Dolly married William Richardson of Rich Hill Castle, when after life's fitful fever "her beauties adorned and her virtues dignified her retreat."

An Irishman, who expressed a wish that her portrait should be painted, has preserved the following lines :—

From an Epistle to George Howard, Esq., by George Faulkner.

Fond swain, I hear your wish is such
Some painter should on canvas touch
The beauties of Monroe ;
But where's the adventurer will dare
The happy mixture to prepare
Her peerless charms to shew ?

First let the cheek with blushes glow
Just as when damask roses blow,
Glistening with morning dew.
Contrasted with the virgin white
With which the lily glads the sight
Blend them in lovely hue.

And truly then that cheek to grace,
Upon her flowing tresses place
The chestnut's auburn down.
Her lips you may in sort depaint
By cherries ripe, yet ah ! 'twere faint
Should them with hers be shewn.

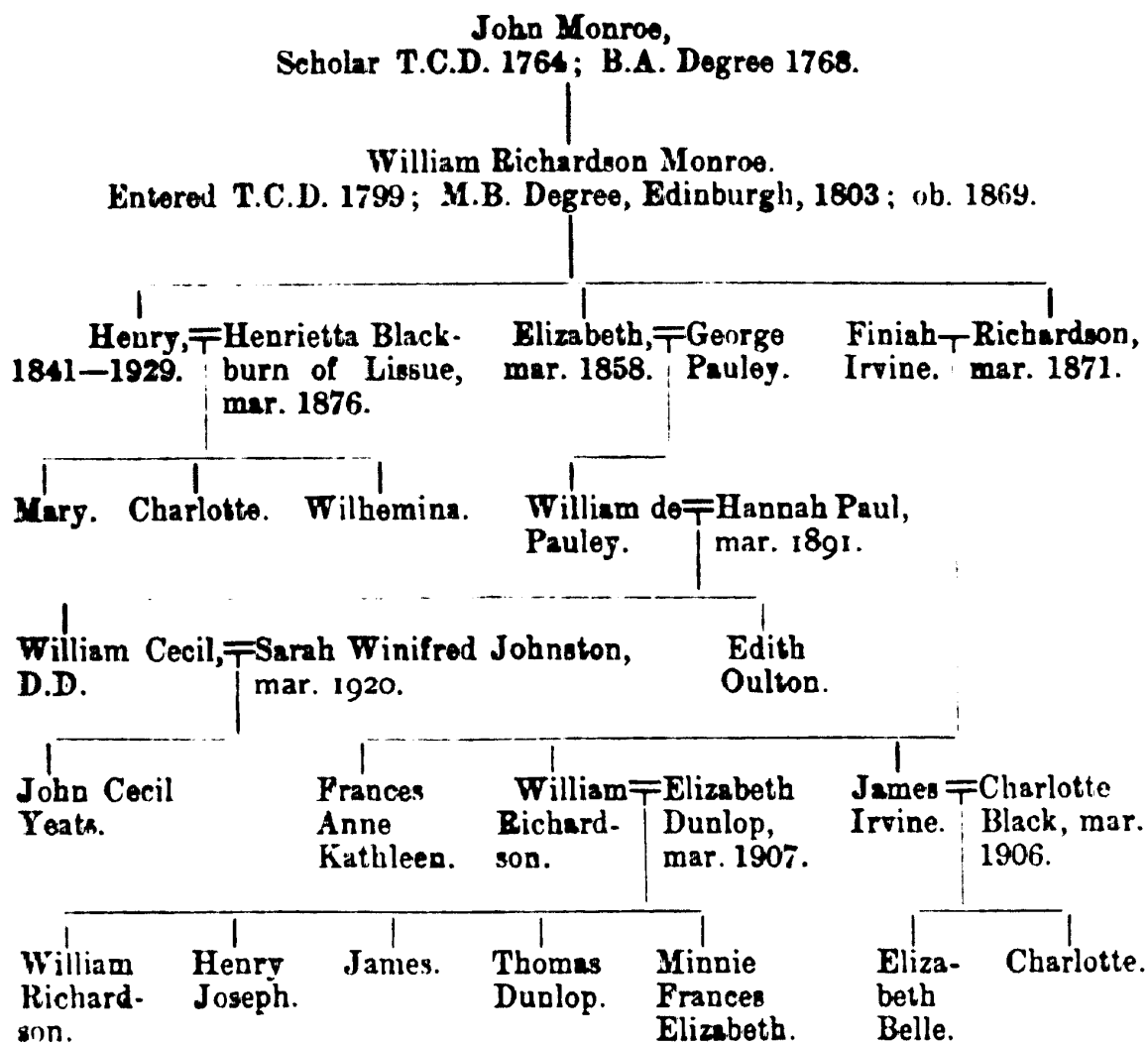


THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF ELY,
DOLLY MONROE AND THE ARTIST.

Painted by James O'Neil, 1780.

Reproduced by the Trustees of the National Gallery of Ireland.

A branch of the Tullylish family represents the Monroes in the Barony of Lower Iveagh at the present day, but no documentary evidence can be found to show the parents of John Monroe, a scholar of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1764. The fact that his only son is named after Dolly Monroe's husband, William Richardson, would lead to the conclusion that this John, who was her contemporary, may have been her brother. The descent is here shown.



CHAPTER V.

HENRY MONROE OF LISBURN.

In the latter days of the eighteenth century Henry Grattan represented the new Ireland. He entered Parliament when the Volunteer movement began in 1775. George III. had embarked upon the American War of Independence without counting the cost, and the increasing demand for troops left Ireland defenceless in case of a French invasion. Self-armed and self-disciplined the Volunteers came into existence in self-defence. When the movement began it had no political end in view, but Grattan's fight for Irish freedom made its appeal to every patriot in the country, and on the day of his first great political triumph the streets were lined with cheering Volunteers. Lord Charlemont called a convention at Dungannon in 1782 when thirty-four thousand volunteers resolved to confirm Grattan's famous declaration of independence: "That the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland alone had the right to make laws to bind this kingdom."

In sympathy with the Dungannon resolution the Lisburn Volunteers assembled on the same day in their own Market Square to fire a "feu de joie." A painting by John Casey of this scene shows Henry Monroe amongst the onlookers. The convention at Dungannon and the celebration at Lisburn had been decorous and orderly, and there was nothing in the resolution passed, or in the organization of the proceedings in either place, which could be described as illegal. In supporting Henry Grattan's fight for freedom the Volunteers knew that on his

ability to control, not less than to lead, the popular cause, depended the legality of its development. Henry Monroe at this time was a man of twenty-four years of age; his father was a younger son of Hector Monroe of Roe's Hall by his second wife, Mary Astell. The historians of his time do not record the Christian name of Henry's father, and the records which would have shown it were destroyed in the rebellion. Madden's reference to Henry Monroe's uncle "who had served in the army," and who had been succeeded in his property by Major Waddell,* taken together with information supplied by a deed of sale of 1769, gives Henry Monroe of Lisburn his rightful place in the family pedigree.

The deed of sale—Registry of Deeds Office, Dublin—reads as follows:—

Monro, Henry, to Waddell....278....448....179,406.
Memorial of Deeds of Lease and Release, 20 and 21 October, 1769, made between

1. Henry Monro, gent., Corporal in the Regiment of Horse commanded by Lieutenant General Philip Honeywood, of the one part.

2. James Waddell, of Springfield, co. Down, of the other part.

The release witnesseth that for the sum of *£621 7s. 6d.* Henry Monro did grant to James Waddell the towns and lands of Dromodoferry alias Dromanaferry alias Drummaferry alias Drummeferry 90 acres Irish plantation measure in the Barony of Lower Iveagh, co. Down, to hold to said James Waddell for the life of Daniel Monro† or lives to be inserted in the lease granted by John Cusack of Rathgar, co. Dublin, to Henry Monro of Mathersfort, co. Down, gent., bearing date 15 November, 1736. This Henry

* Madden's "Lives of United Irishmen."—Henry Monroe, Vol. I., p. 378.

† Daniel Monro, 1716—1804, son of Hector, 1st of Magheralin, and first-cousin to Hector the vendor's father.

Monro, who effected the sale in 1769, was eldest son of Hector Monroe by his first wife, and half-brother to the father of Henry Monroe of Lisburn. Henry was born at Lisburn in 1758; he was trained as a churchman by his mother, Margaret Gorman of County Down. His father was a man of literary tastes* and pursued a successful mercantile career in Lisburn†; he died in that town at the age of sixty years in 1793.‡

His only son Henry was a handsome man of taste who studied the art of neatness in dress and wore his long hair tied with a black ribbon hanging over the collar of his coat.§ Light-hearted and humorous he was popular wherever he went. He was a sportsman and a familiar figure in the hunting field; he was a brilliant athlete and is said to have jumped the lock of the Lagan Canal. On one occasion when four horses were standing side by side at his door-step, waiting for their riders, he ran down the steps and leaped over them all.

Many instances of his bravery are related in his various biographies. One of these tells of his being at the linen market at Lurgan when an alarm of fire on the roof of the church was raised. In an instant he was at the top of a ladder and alone he extinguished the flames at the risk of his life. The Rector of Lisburn held him in affection, and he served in the Cathedral as churchwarden. Monroe was Master of the Lisburn Lodge of Freemasons, a man of many friends and of good reputation. All these qualities were endangered by "a romantic love of adventure and a mistaken idea of honour which impelled him to reject more temperate counsels when opposed to that thirst for heroic action which

* "Ulster in '98," Robert Young, p. 76.

† "Ulster Biographies," W. T. Latimer, p. 21.

‡ "Lives of United Irishmen," Madden, Vol. I., p. 378.

§ "Betsy Gray," W. G. Lyttle, p. 98.



THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS AT LISBURN, 1782.

Henry Monroe is amongst the onlookers with his hand to his chin.

formed the leading passion of his breast.”* Henry Monroe believed in Grattan’s policy for Ireland and enlisted in the Lisburn Volunteer Corps, intending to throw in his lot with constitutional reform. Though a loyal Freemason his great desire was for the emancipation of his Roman Catholic countrymen, and with this object in view he joined the Society of United Irishmen.

It cannot be denied that at this time in Ireland there did exist a rebellious spirit, wrought up to passion by the excitement of the French revolution, which even the passing of Catholic Emancipation through Parliament would not have satisfied, yet a granting of that demand might have saved Ireland from the rebellion.

Instead of any such concession the Viceroy† on his arrival in Ireland in 1790 contemptuously returned an address of welcome from the Catholic Committee because it contained a hope that further relief would be granted to Roman Catholics. In the following year the first society of United Irishmen was called into existence. Lecky records that this Society was originally formed as a constitutional body for the sole purpose of agitating in favour of Catholic Emancipation and a reformed Irish Parliament;‡ as a matter of history it is important that this should be remembered. When the next Viceroy, Lord Fitzwilliam, was appointed in 1794 he came to Ireland with Pitt’s definite promise of a more liberal policy towards Roman Catholics and the hope of a peaceful settlement once more was revived. No sooner had Fitzwilliam entered upon his plan for reform by dismissing certain members of the bureaucracy at Dublin Castle who were definitely opposed to his policy, than Pitt at once retracted, admonished

* “The Irish Rebellion of 1798,” C. H. Teeling, p. 132.

† The Earl of Westmorland. ‡ “Ireland in the Eighteenth Century.”

the Viceroy, reinstated his dismissed officials, and broke the promise he had made in regard to conciliation and reform. Fitzwilliam immediately resigned.

With the ship that carried Lord Fitzwilliam to England departed for ever the last chance of realising Grattan's ideal of a united Ireland.*

Lecky was of the opinion that any possibility there might have been of avoiding a rebellion was immediately diminished by the departure of Fitzwilliam. It was from that time that the United Irishmen most certainly began to turn their thoughts towards an insurrection. Monroe, who had joined the society to promote Grattan's policy of constitutional reform, determined to take no part in such a dangerous movement, even though, as Lord Holland wrote twenty years later, "his country was bleeding under one of the hardest tyrannies that our times have witnessed."†

An exhibition of this tyranny, coupled with the circumstances of the hour, carried the impulsive Monroe headlong into open rebellion. It so happened that on June 11th, 1798, when the insurgents were preparing for an attack, the member of the society who had been appointed leader declined at the last moment to act as commander. Monroe, who was well trained as a Volunteer and who was known to be a man of courage, was elected, in his absence and without his knowledge, to be Adjutant-General for Down. Meanwhile he had witnessed a terrible exhibition on the part of the authorities of arbitrary power and wanton cruelty: he saw a man being publicly scourged in order to make him confess political crimes. He afterwards discovered that this victim of tyranny was a member of the

* "Henry Grattan," Percy Roxby, 1902, p. 119.

† "Memoirs of the Whig Party." Holland.

Masonic Lodge of which he was Master. While still brooding over the incident a messenger reached him with the information that he had been chosen as Adjutant-General of the rebel forces in Down. At such a moment, and in such a mood, Monroe was not the man to refuse to stand with the members of a society to which he belonged. He felt in honour bound, and impelled by force of circumstances he took up a command in open resistance to the State.

Lord Russell, Prime Minister of England in the middle of the following century, speaking of the rebellion, said: "It was wickedly provoked, rashly begun, and cruelly crushed."*

This cruelty is illustrated by the tragic story of Henry Monroe's execution. The Battle of Ballinahinch was fought on June 13th, 1798. On the eve of the battle a council of war was held in the rebel camp, when immediate action was urged by all except Monroe. In vain his officers appealed to him to march into the town and make a night attack. It had been reported that the British troops had been drinking in Ballynahinch and were lying helplessly drunk in the streets of the town. Against an attack in such circumstances Monroe's spirit revolted, knowing that had he assented a massacre would have been inevitable. "We scorn," he said, "to avail ourselves of the ungenerous advantage which night affords. If we are to fight let us take the field like men and do battle with all our might, but a national cause must not be stained by the cowardice of midnight assassins." A scene of confusion followed and a clamour of dissatisfaction was raised. The best armed division of Monroe's men, numbering about 700, were marched off the field by their commanding officer and took no further part in the

* Preface to Moore's Memoirs, Vol. I., p. 18.

campaign. On the following morning Monroe drew up his troops for action. He opened fire against the heavy artillery of the royal forces, and when ammunition was exhausted, charged with bayonet and pike. The rebels forced an entrance into the town under the destructive fire of musketry and cannon, and when the pikemen charged to the very muzzle of the guns the British general ordered a retreat. The blast of the trumpet that announced the general's order to retreat changed the course of the day's events. The undisciplined rebels, unaccustomed to the usages of warfare, enveloped in smoke which prevented them from seeing the movements of their enemy, mistook the sound of the trumpet for a signal to charge. Panic-stricken they turned and fled from the town in one direction, while in the opposite direction the British forces were actually beating their retreat. Immediately, the 22nd Light Dragoons, who had so far taken no part in the operations of the day, charged the flying troops of Monroe, while the infantry changed their retreat into the pursuit of the enemy. Amongst the slain was Elizabeth Grey, a beautiful Irish girl, who had followed her lover into the thick of the fight and fell beside him in the hour of his death.*

The defeat of the insurgents was complete. Monroe attempted to rally his men, but at length retreated with his last division, scarcely numbering one hundred and fifty men. Broken by fatigue and dispirited by defeat, the general wandered for two days in the mountains. A large reward offered for his apprehension failed to induce those who had seen him, in the days that followed the battle, to betray him. Compelled to move on from place to place by the knowledge that search parties were on his track, he found a hiding-place in a farmstead,

* "Betsy Gray" — A Tale of Ninety-eight. W. G. Lyttle.

where a man named William Holmes offered him sanctuary until an amnesty might be proclaimed. No sooner was Monroe laid under some straw, in a state of exhaustion, than Holmes' wife consulted with her husband as to how to make the most of their secret. She set out for Hillsborough, met four members of the local corps of yeomanry, to whom she divulged her secret. They marched at once to the hiding-place, captured their prey, tied his hands behind his back, and led him to Dromore and on to Lisburn. He was confined for the night of June 16th in a temporary prison in Castle Street, where his faithful friend the Rector, Doctor Cupples, ministered to the needs of his body and his soul. Next day he was tried by court martial. Only three witnesses were examined for the crown, and the deposition that the prisoner had led the rebel troops at the recent battle was conclusive. The sentence of death was passed and Henry Monroe was ordered for execution.

On his way from the court he asked that he might receive the Blessed Sacrament. The service, celebrated by Dr. Cupples, being ended, he was led down the street to the Market Square, where a temporary gallows had been erected in front of the house where his wife and mother were living. He preserved a dignified coolness to the last; he made a request that he might speak to a friend, who was standing by, and with him he settled a debt before he ascended the ladder leading to the gallows.

With the old spirit he leaped from the street upon the ladder; the rung on which he alighted gave way and he fell amongst the guards. "It's all right," he cried, and refusing assistance he mounted the ladder again. When he had reached the required height the executioner, whose face was veiled in black, ascended the scaffold and placed the rope

round his neck in such a way as to show that he knew not his business. Without waiting for a second attempt Monroe jumped forward, and the next awful sight was his body swinging to and fro in the breeze. A low wail of sorrow, which the military authorities vainly endeavoured to repress, told how bitterly the tragic end of their fellow citizen was felt by the multitude which thronged that place of execution.

Many merchants who had stood by his side in the Linen Hall were around him in these last moments, and though most of them looked upon his conduct as that of the wildest and most misguided patriot, yet they mourned the death of a man who they knew to have been worthy of a better fate.* But the final vengeance of the law had not yet even been satisfied—an order had been given for decapitation after the execution. When the body was taken down a dragoon seized the head and flung it into the air as he shouted “there goes the head of a traitor.” Monroe’s head was afterwards stuck upon a pike and placed in front of the market house. Some weeks later a visitor passing through the town, and being shocked at the spectacle, arranged for the head to be taken down and buried in Lisburn churchyard. Lecky pays a last tribute to his memory in his *History of the eighteenth century* :—

Monroe died like a true Christian and a brave man, and impressed all who witnessed his end with his courage and manifest sincerity.†

* “Ireland and her Staple Manufactures.” Green. Belfast, 1870.

† “Ireland in the Eighteenth Century,” Vol. IV., page 424.

FROM A COLLECTION OF OLD IRISH BALLADS.

Oh were you at the Battle of Ballynahinch,
Where the sons of Old Ireland arose in defence,
When Monroe and his brave men they all took the field,
And they fought for four hours and never did yield.

Monroe being weary and in need of a sleep,
Gave a woman ten guineas his secret to keep.
When she got the money the Devil tempted her so
That she sent for the army which surrounded Monroe.

The army it came and surrounded Monroe
And they marched him to Lisburn to jail he did go,
And his mother and sister who were passing that way
Heard the very last words that their dear boy did say.

Monroe he was taken and placed in a hall,
It's for his dear life those tyrants did call;
They there did condemn him and led him away,
And stuck his head on a spear that very same day.

Oh I'll die for Old Ireland as I lived for her cause
I don't fear their soldiers, and I don't heed their laws,
And let every true son who loves Ireland so,
Strike boldly for freedom like Harry Monroe.

Here's a health to each hero who for freedom does stand,
May their souls rest in peace who died for our land;
Remember the martyrs were slain by the foe—
Brave Emmett, Fitzgerald, and Harry Monroe.

CHAPTER VI.

THE MONROES OF MAGHERALIN.

The map of the Barony of Lower Iveagh reproduced from the Down Survey* shows the parish of Magheralin in the north-west corner of the Barony, touching at one extremity the parish of Tullylish, where town lands were granted to Daniel Monro in 1666. It has already been stated in an earlier chapter† that Henry Monroe of Tullylish and Hector Monroe of Magheralin were sons of Major Daniel Monro. Hector, the younger son, was the founder of the Monroes of Magheralin, where the early records of his family are well preserved in the Parish Church Register. The first entry is as follows : “ On September 27th, 1716, Daniel, son of Hector Monroe of Magheralin, Baptised.” A connection between this Daniel and Henry Monroe, in the third generation of Tullylish, is shown in a deed already referred to in an earlier chapter, dated October 21st, 1769.‡ The next entry is the baptism of Margaret, daughter of Hector Monroe of Ballym^ckeonan, on March 3rd, 1719. Ballym^ckeonan is a large townland between Magheralin and Moira. The burial of Hector’s first wife is entered on October 12th, 1731, and of his widow on March 15th, 1747; between the deaths of his two wives Hector Monroe died, but there is no record of his burial. From this date the family entries are regularly and carefully made : Daniel, son of Hector Monroe, was married in the Parish Church of Magheralin on

* Map facing p. 24.

† Chapter III., p. 25.

‡ Chapter V., p. 41.

December 26th, 1745, to Elizabeth Wilkinson of Ballymacbrennan. Their sixth son, the third John, was baptised on December 9th, 1757, and by his wife Rachel McKee became father of John, whose will, dated in the year of his death, 1846, supplies some details of family history. He styles himself as "of Ballymacbrennan, parish of Magheralin in the Barony of Lower Iveagh, and names his three children Daniel, John, and Jane, wife of James Morrow. To his elder son he bequeaths the property in the townland of Ballymacbrennan, and to his younger son the property in the townlands of Ballymagarahan and Gartross. He concludes by naming his grandson John, son of his younger son, "now living at Mr. Harvey's," to whom he bequeaths the sum of fifty pounds and "the bed that I now lie on." This bequest in due time enabled John Monroe to enter upon his academic life at Queen's College, Galway, the opening of a career which proved to be the most successful of any amongst those of his many descendants. As a boy full of promise John Monroe was educated by his mother's father, Mr. Harvey, named in the will, whose son Moses Harvey, in response to a missionary call, emigrated to Newfoundland. His nephew, Moses Monroe, brother to John, followed him to St. John's and became a distinguished member of the government, and in the next generation Walter Monroe, son of John, became Prime Minister of the Colony.

On the death of their father in 1846, Daniel Munro entered upon his possession and lived at Roe's Vale, and John Monroe, now of Ballymagarahan and Gartross, lived at Hunter's Hall. The difference in the spelling of the name appears to have no significance: it is spelt in four different ways by many authorities in both Scotland and Ireland, but it is unusual to find two brothers living

within a few miles of each other spelling their name differently, as did these two brothers of Magheralin. Daniel Munro who lived at Roe's Vale had two sons: the elder, John Henry, was ordained and served the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. He married first Josephine Porter who died in 1889, and five years later he married Katherine Newlin Craig; there were no children of either marriage. He was a Doctor of Divinity and a member of the Scotch Irish Society of America; his mother, Rachel Crawford, was also of Scotch descent. He was an historian with antiquarian tastes, and many of his records, preserved by his widow, have been of value in the preparation of this book. His younger brother, Joseph Edwin Crawford Munro, was a science scholar at Queen's College, Belfast; in 1872 he won the Downing Foundation Scholarship at Cambridge, and honours in Law and Moral Science; eventually he was elected President of the Union. He was called to the bar in 1877, appointed Cobden lecturer on political economy at Owen's College, Manchester, and Professor of Law and Economics.

In 1892 Munro was appointed Reader in Roman Law at the Inns of Court in London; he was the author of many legal books, and at the time of his death in 1896 he left notes and memoranda for a book on International Law which were presented to his college at Cambridge. He married Marianne Wallace in 1883, by whom he had two children, a daughter, Belle, wife of George Blagden, and a son, Hector Wallace, who returned from Australia at the outbreak of the war in August, 1914. He joined the Liverpool Scottish Regiment and served in France from October, 1914, until he was wounded in January, 1915, and discharged in the following June. After his recovery he entered upon an engineering career in England, and in 1923 he married

Wenefred Mary Hephherd; his only son, Hector Patrick, is, in his generation, the one representative of the older branch of the Munros of Magheralin. The head of the younger branch, John Monroe of Hunter's Hall, married Jane Harvey in 1837. Of their eight children five followed their mother's brother, Moses Harvey, to Newfoundland. Three sons, all of whom became successful merchants in the oldest colony of the Empire, died leaving no children; the descendants of their two sisters are shown in the pedigree at the end of this volume. One son, William David, emigrated early in life to New Zealand; the youngest, Samuel Holmes, entered upon a legal career in Armagh, where he was Sessional Crown Solicitor until 1919. There were two daughters of the marriage, Sydney and Olive, and one son; the elder daughter married Hans Gilliland in 1915. The only son of Samuel Monroe, James Harvey, was a scholar and exhibitor at Trinity College, Dublin, a senior moderator and auditor of the College Historical Society. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1909, and, having served during the war in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, he accepted a judgeship in the Native Courts of Egypt after peace was declared. The change in Egyptian administration in 1923 led to his resignation, and he returned to take up his work as a King's Counsel at the Bar of Northern Ireland. He married in 1911 Margaret Adeleine McClelland and is the father of one son and three daughters, Ruth, Margaret and Dorothea, the last named after the celebrated beauty Dolly Monroe of the eighteenth century. His only son, Hubert Holmes Monroe, is the sole male representative, in his generation, of the Magheralin branch of the family now living in Ireland.

It only remains to follow the career of the eldest son of John Monroe of Hunter's Hall. On the

night of January 9th, 1839, a storm burst over the Barony of Lower Iveagh which can best be described in the words of an Irish author: "dense black clouds rushed across the lurid sky like the charge of the Black Brunswicks at Waterloo, while piteous moanings of the night wind filled the air."* Owen Glendwyr judged such a disturbance at his birth as authority for saying "I am not in the roll of common men."† Whatever the significance, in that storm John Monroe was born. He was educated at Galway, where he entered the Queen's College in 1854; he obtained a classical scholarship in the beginning of each year of his undergraduate course, and took his degree of B.A. in the Queen's University in Ireland, 1857, with a gold medal in Jurisprudence and Political Economy. In 1858 he obtained a senior scholarship in logic and metaphysics, and in the same year took the degree of M.A., when he was awarded a gold medal for distinguished answering in metaphysical science. He obtained a gold medal at the examination for LL.B. and won the distinction of an honorary LL.D. degree.

In 1860 Monroe entered the King's Inns, Dublin, and later the Inner Temple, London. Here he obtained the scholarship for best answering in all legal subjects awarded by the Inns of Court in 1863, and in the Michaelmas term of the same year he was called to the Irish Bar. He used to the best advantage his early opportunities, displaying a ready knowledge, good judgment, and singular tact in presenting a case, which marked him out early as a man of the future, and in course of time he had a practice at Nisi Prius surpassed by none. In 1877 Monroe had attained to perhaps the largest practice at the Junior Bar when he was made a Queen's

* "The Sham Squire," Fitzpatrick, p. 155

† "Henry IV.," Act III., Scene I.

Counsel. From that time he continued to be in the first rank of the leaders of the north-east circuit and had also a large practice at the Common Law Bar in Dublin. In 1879 Lord Beaconsfield appointed him Law Adviser to Dublin Castle. In the early days of his career at the bar Mr. Gladstone had disestablished and disendowed the Irish Church, and Monroe lived to see the complete fulfilment of Disraeli's words, "it is the first step in a dangerous direction."*

The next step soon followed. In the last year of Lord Beaconsfield's administration Parnell had been proclaiming his new gospel of refusing to pay rent if the amount the tenant chose to offer was refused by the landlord. To give effect to this policy the Land League was formed, its aim being the destruction of landlordism, a system which, according to Mr. Davitt, was responsible for the poverty and periodical famines which have decimated Ireland, and which barred the way to national independence. In April, 1880, when Mr. Gladstone came into power, the new league was busy defending those who were threatened with eviction for not paying their rent. At this time the iniquity which came to be known as "boycotting" was initiated to prevent new tenants entering in where there had been evictions.

"What are we to do," asked Parnell at a great political meeting, "to a tenant who bids for a farm from which his neighbour has been evicted?" "Shoot him," shouted someone in the crowd. "No," said the leader, "shun him! You must show him in the street, at the shop counter, in the fair and in the market place, even in the house of worship, your detestation of his crime by leaving him severely alone, by putting him into a moral coventry, by isolating him from his kind as if he

* "Disraeli," André Maurois, p. 232.

were a leper of old, until no one will be so lost to shame as to transgress your unwritten code of laws.”*

The words were received with a shout of applause, and Captain Boycott, the first man to suffer under this outrageous system of oppression, unwittingly gave his name to this practice of moral coventry by which he and many others suffered such cruel isolation. In its inception “boycotting” might have been checked, but Mr. Gladstone’s objection to coercion, at that time, was a bar to action. In 1881 Mr. Forster’s Suspects Act was passed and leaders of the Land League were committed to gaol. There followed the historic duel between Parnell and Gladstone. On October 7th, 1881, the Prime Minister said that Mr. Parnell and his agitation stood between the Irish people and the prosperity which the Land Act would certainly produce. Within forty-eight hours Parnell poured contempt upon the words of Gladstone and compared them to the whistling of a schoolboy on his way through a churchyard at night to keep up his courage. On October 12th the Irish leader was arrested and lodged in Kilmainham Gaol. In April, 1882, when the country was in a deplorable condition and assassination was a frequent occurrence, Mr. Gladstone changed his whole attitude towards Parnell. He entered into a treaty with his prisoner at Kilmainham Gaol and persuaded his Cabinet to set free his political captive, “who was now desirous to use his influence on behalf of peace.” On May 2nd the Cabinet accepted the proposal to set free the suspects and to allow Forster’s Act to lapse. The Lord Lieutenant, Lord Cowper, and his Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Forster, immediately resigned. The Irish executive was sacrificed to the new policy. The Prime Minister of England made peace with the “invincible agita-

* “Life of Parnell,” Barry O’Brien, p. 186.

tor," and Lord Spencer, with Lord Frederick Cavendish as his Chief Secretary, entered Dublin as the new Lord Lieutenant on May 6th, 1882. On that same night Lord Frederick and his Undersecretary, Mr. Burke, were murdered in the Phoenix Park. The news of this murder shocked the nation and upset the confidence of men in the new policy of the Prime Minister. The sudden horror of the event so shook the Prime Minister himself that he allowed this outrage, because of its political significance, to change his attitude towards the agitators before it had been possible for his "Kilmainham treaty" to give proof of the sincerity of Parnell. An entirely unlooked-for opportunity of putting Parnell's repudiation of crime to the test had arisen, and Parnell denounced the murders in Parliament. An incidental disaster frightened the general into changing his plan of campaign. Mr. Gladstone immediately introduced a "Coercion Act" which contained provisions unparalleled since the Union. The hideous crime of 1882 had caused a lull, during which the forces of violence and disorder were absolutely still, which might have afforded the opportunity of giving Parnell a chance to help in using his influence on behalf of peace, but with Gladstone's Coercion Act the opportunity was gone for ever. It was when the country was suffering under the tyranny of Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1882 that a vacancy occurred in the representation of Monaghan. Parnell, anxious at this moment to invade the north, persuaded one of his followers, the strongest he could select for the task, to resign his seat in the South of Ireland and to attack the unknown North. With the promise of Parnell's personal support in this political enterprise Mr. Timothy Healy resigned his seat for Wexford and presented himself as the Home Rule candidate for Monaghan. Lord Salis-

bury, now leader of the Conservative Party, invited John Monroe, the ex-law adviser in the last Disraeli administration, to oppose Mr. Healy in the interests of the Union.

Ireland was taking herself seriously. "The eyes of Europe are turned upon Monaghan" was the opening sentence of a newspaper article of the day. Interest in the election did certainly extend beyond the shores of Ireland, English statesmen watched the course of events with considerable anxiety. It was an attempt on the part of the Home Rule party to invade the strongholds of the North, and, knowing Parnell's power, his political opponents feared the consequences. Parnell, always of a superstitious nature, arrived out of tune with Healy for being asked to sleep in a room numbered 13; it was characteristic of the candidate to give his room to the leader and to sleep in the unlucky room himself.

I cannot [wrote Monroe in his election address] do otherwise but condemn and oppose a ministry which has signally failed alike in administration and legislation, and which has so mismanaged the affairs of Ireland that to make government possible it has been obliged to have recourse to the most stringent coercion of modern times.

Three strong men ranged themselves against Monroe—Parnell, Sexton, and Healy. In his life story the old opponent of nearly fifty years ago writes that an election joke of Monroe's deserves to be remembered: "Parnell beats the big drum, Sexton plays the clarionet, and Healy blows his own trumpet."* The trumpeter on this occasion did not blow in vain: it was a mighty struggle, but Parnell, at the zenith of his power, was an invincible foe and Healy was elected as member for Monaghan. Many years after Monroe's death, the following

* "Letters and Leaders of my Day," T. M. Healy, Vol. I., p. 190.



JOHN MONROE,

1830—1860

Judge of the High Court of Justice in Ireland.

A member of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

From a portrait by J. B. Yeats in the possession of the Author.

anecdote appeared in a published account of a meeting in Dublin :—

A speaker said he regarded Mr. Tim Healy as one of the ablest men in Ireland and the only man at present able to deal with him is the late Judge Monroe.

Amongst the many letters of gratitude after a valiant fight against tremendous odds, one from the leader of the opposition of that day has been preserved :—

20 Arlington Street,
S.W.

July 6th, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

I hope you will allow me, as one who is deeply interested in the fortunes of the Conservative party, to express to you the great admiration we have all felt here for your gallant fight in Monaghan.

It was a splendid enterprise and near being a splendid victory. As it is, you have done more than any other man could have done to raise the drooping spirits of our party in the North, and to prepare a sure road for future success. I trust that the opportunity of winning it may not be far off.

Heartily thanking you for what you have done.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

SALISBURY.

John Monroe, Esq., Q.C.

It was at the time of this election that John Butler Yeats, R.H.A., son of William Butler Yeats, Rector of Tullylish, and father of William Butler Yeats, the Irish poet, painted his portrait of John Monroe. It represents him at the period which immediately preceded a serious illness that followed the Monaghan campaign. Day after day in the June of an unusually hot summer Monroe stood bareheaded under a scorching sun. The breakdown which followed was thought to be caused by sun-

stroke, but it proved to be the beginning of the malady which caused his death. Political life had to be abandoned, and Monroe never sat in the Imperial Parliament. When Lord Salisbury came into power in 1885 the ex-law adviser was appointed Solicitor General, and in the end of the same year he was elevated to the Judicial bench.