

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1938

CLERGY :

REV. J. W. APPELBE, M.A., B.D., Carrickblacker Ave.

REV. W. F. HAYES, B.A., L.Th., The Bungalow,
Lower Seagoe.

CHURCHWARDENS:

Rector's—JOHN H. TWINEM.

People's—ROBERT MCLEMENTS.

THE CLERGY WILL ESTEEM IT A FAVOUR IF
IN CASES OF SICKNESS THEY ARE INFORMED
IMMEDIATELY.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY.

- February 1st—Service in Bocombra at 8 p.m.
2nd—Mid-week Service in Edenderry at 8 p.m.
3rd—Levaghery Sunday School Prize-giving.
6th—5th Sunday after Epiphany.
8th—Mothers' Union Meeting.
9th—Mid-week Service in Edenderry at 8 p.m.
10th—Prize-giving for Edenderry Morning and
Afternoon Sunday Schools.
13th—Septuagesima.
Service in Drumgor at 3 p.m.
16th—Mid-week Service in Edenderry at 8 p.m.
17th—Drumgor Sunday School.
20th—Sexagesima.
23rd—Mid-week Service, Edenderry, at 8 p.m.
24th—Bocombra Sunday School prize-giving.
27th—Quinquagesima.
Service in Hacknahay at 3.30 p.m.

SEAGOE RECTORY.

On January 4th, 1938, Seagoe Rectory and lands were sold by public auction for £1,105. Seagoe Rectory had a long history; according to the late Chancellor Archer, the Vicars and Rectors of Seagoe resided on or near the present site for about 800 years.

There is, in the present Rector's possession, a notebook composed by Archdeacon Saurin, in his own handwriting, dated 9th September, 1868. In this interesting composition there is a note referring to the "Glebe Houses" which reads:—"The first notice on record of a Glebe House is found in a fragment preserved by a man named Richd. McCaghly, and was found amongst old papers, of his father's, who tho' a Roman Catholic was Parochial Schoolmaster and Vestry Clerk, during which time he professed Protestantism, he died a Roman Catholic, and brought up his children as such.

Dean Dawson here has written in an explanatory note, which reads:—"This fragment is a Terrier of Glebe lands, House, etc., and is in the handwriting of Rev. Arthur Forde, Vicar of Seagoe, 1730-1748. It is dated, i.e., this fragment, 1742]. In this fragment referred to above we read: "A Glebe House, part of which is built with lime and stone, part with brick and a part with clay and straw wrought into a kind of mortar called 'mud.' That part which is built with stone and brick is in good repair, the other part is mostly in a ruinous way, both timber and walls being almost rotten and decayed, some part of said house is covered with shingles, but the greater part is thatched with straw, an iut-house of lime and stone, covered with shingles, which was the ancient Glebe House, but is now of little use, being a long time much out of repair. A cow-house of brick and lime, three stables and a barn, the walls thereof are of mud, and all thatched. A kitchen garden containing about two acres of ground, well enclosed and planted.

"This House is supposed to have been built about 1660 (i.e. the ancient Glebe House mentioned in the

above extract) upon a site near the graveyard. The walls of the present Glebe House were built about 1760 (?) by the Rev. Arthur Fforde, by whom the site was changed to its present position (?) [Dean Dawson has inserted a question mark at the end of the preceding sentence and adds this note:—"The Rev. Arthur Forde was Vicar of Seagoe 1730-1748; if the present Glebe House was built by him it must have been at an earlier date. Probably the house built by Mr. Forde is that described in the extract given above."]

The house has been thoroughly overhauled by the present Incumbent (i.e., by Archdeacon Saurin) under memorial and a certificate signed by the Lord Bishop for £1,160. The cost was borne by the Incumbent, it is at present (A.D. 1868) an excellent House and in perfect repair."

The capital sum paid off on the Rectory some years ago by the parish did not mean that the parish had bought it out for themselves; it meant that they paid down a capital sum to wipe out a yearly charge for repairs or renovations, and very likely this charge was for the repairs carried out by Archdeacon Saurin, which were never cleared off but remained on the parish as an annual charge.

The above historical note is interesting and enlightening. It shows that the parishioners of Seagoe were not responsible for either the building or its reconditioning, but the march of time has brought many changes. Two years after Archdeacon Saurin wrote the above-mentioned note the Church of Ireland was dis-established and disendowed, i.e., the Church lost all state grants, and the Church people had to shoulder the burden of financing their Church—a burden which both laity and clergy alike shouldered with courage, foresight and success. At dis-establishment in 1870 all Church property was vested in the Representative Church Body—the newly-formed corporation to hold and manage all Church property and finance, and so since 1870 Seagoe Rectory has been the Property of the Rep. Church Body.

The Select Vestry of Seagoe ever since 1870 have been simply the Trustees. The income of the Rectors of Seagoe before 1870 was £927 12s 2d per annum. The dilapidated state of the Rectory and gardens in 1937 surely was an eloquent reminder, that things could not go on as they had done during the last sixty-seven years. At the beginning of last year the task of tackling the problem was forced upon the Select Vestry, when at the Vacancy Commission held by the Diocesan Glebes' Committee it was recommended that steps should be taken to acquire or build a modern Rectory as the old one was unsuitable owing to the size and state of repair. Naturally this recommendation came as a surprise and the Select Vestry explored every avenue in order to try and keep the Rectory on the present site. It was no pleasure to the members of the Vestry to take the step they did, but realising their responsibility as Trustees and their duty to the parish and future incumbents they saw that the only practical solution was to sell it if an economic price was secured. This they have done in accordance with the wishes of the owners, i.e., the Rep. Church Body, on the recommendation of the Diocesan Architect and Glebes' Committee, and all the right thinking parishioners of Seagoe are confident that this was the only solution, while at the same time every parishioner naturally regrets that modern conditions and altered circumstances necessitated the change, but after all we cannot live by sentiment nor allow our conduct to be guided solely by it. Nothing in this world is permanent, even our own bodies cease to be useful

SEAGOE PARISH MAGAZINE

to us and we abandon them. To expect a Rectory to last for ever in a transitory and changing world would be madness. Seagoe Rectory served its purpose for centuries, but the time has come, when it could no longer be used as such, and so it passes into the hands of an old Seagoe man whom we are glad to welcome back again amongst us, and we wish Mr. Best and his family prosperity and happiness in their new home.

NEW RECTORY FUND.

We acknowledge below, with thanks, amounts already received. Will all those who have promised yearly or half-yearly subscriptions kindly send them to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Murray Gibson, solicitor, Church Place, as soon as possible.

AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE.

Adams, Mrs. J.	..	..	..	£1	0	0
Binks, D.	..	..	..	0	5	0
Bradshaw, Mrs.	..	..	..	3	0	0
Campbell, Mrs.	..	..	..	0	5	0
Daunt, Rev. G. H.	..	..	..	1	0	0
Duke, Mrs. G.	..	..	..	1	0	0
England, John	..	..	..	5	0	0
Gracey, Miss E.	..	..	..	1	0	0
Montgomery, T.	..	..	..	0	2	6
Montgomery, Miss S.	..	..	..	5	0	0
Mitchell, J.	..	..	..	0	2	6
Mayes, J. H.	..	..	..	1	0	0
Marks, Mrs., Levaghery	..	..	..	0	10	0
M'Kerr, S. M. and family	..	..	..	0	10	0
M'Loughlin, Joseph	..	..	..	0	2	6
M'Kane, Mrs. Margaret	..	..	..	0	2	6
M'Murray, Robert, Levaghery Gardens	..	..	..	0	2	6
Neill, Miss E. and Robert	..	..	..	1	0	0
Preston, E.	..	..	..	1	0	0
Preston, Mrs. E. and P.	..	..	..	1	0	0
Porter, Mrs. M., Seagoe	..	..	..	5	0	0
Richardson, Mrs.	..	..	..	0	2	0
Sinnamon, H.	..	..	..	1	0	0
Stephens, J., Levaghery	..	..	..	1	0	0
Stephens, Miss D.	..	..	..	0	10	0
Sale of Cakes at Rectory	..	..	..	1	0	0
Twinem, J. H. (Mrs. Campbell & Mrs. Allen)	..	..	..	0	8	0
Walker, S.	..	..	..	5	0	0
Quinn, James S., Levaghery Gardens	..	..	..	0	2	6

£37 5 0

DRUMGOR SUNDAY SCHOOL. SOCIAL AND GAMES EVENING.

A very enjoyable social evening was spent by the teachers, senior pupils and friends of above School on Wednesday, 5th February. There was a very large party present and one wondered how games were going to be possible in such a crowded throng. The first item was tea, gracefully served by the teachers and senior girls, who were indeed responsible for the entire catering. Ample justice was done to the good things provided, after which the Superintendent took the chair, and in a brief speech explained the object for which the social was held. Having purchased a new organ for the use of the school and its Services, it was hoped that the proceeds of the social might help to defray the cost. The Rector, being present, stated his pleasure at meeting such a large family party; he congratulated the Superintendent and teachers on their venture of "Faith," and he had no doubt that their effort would be successful; he wished them all a very enjoyable evening. A short but very enjoyable programme was then submitted, to which the following contributed:—Songs, Messrs. W. D. Morrow, Wesley M'Coy, and Norman Lyttle; recitations, Master Sam Crabb. Last, but not least, Mr. Joe Hynes was heard to advantage

in several humorous items, and he was also a tower of strength to the Superintendent in the conduct of the games. A notable feature of the evening was the decoration of the School. Seldom has it been seen to better advantage, and it was greatly admired by all the visitors. In the games which occupied the major part of the evening the fun waxed fast and furious, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The proceedings finally terminated with the singing of the National Anthem. The new organ will be dedicated (D.V.) on Sunday, 13th February, at 3 p.m. A further announcement will be made in the Parish Church.—(W.H.)

DRUMGOR SUNDAY SCHOOL. PARISH OF SEAGOE.

Statement of Income and Expenditure, Jan. to December, 1937.

To Balance, Jan. 1936	..	..	£1	14	8
" Church Services	..	..	2	4	3
" Special Services	..	..	7	5	10
" S. School Collections	..	..	7	2	7
" Collection for Missions	..	..	0	16	0
" Subscriptions to wreath	..	..	1	2	1
" Sales at Social	..	..	0	1	6
" 1 Book of Notes	..	..	0	1	0
" Cash Received (Excursion)	..	..	0	12	8

Total £21 0 8

To Balance on hands, Jan. 1938	..	..	3	14	5
By S. School Prizes	..	..	£4	12	9
" S. School Excursion	..	..	4	4	9
" Printing Expenses	..	..	1	18	6
" Postage Expenses	..	..	0	14	0
" S. School Social	..	..	0	19	6
" Coal and Light	..	..	0	10	9
" Missions	..	..	0	16	0
" School Rent	..	..	2	10	0
" Caretaker	..	..	1	0	0
" Balance on hands	..	..	3	14	5

Total £21 0 8

Amount subscribed by Sunday School to
S. A. Missionary Society .. £1 15 0

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God."

Jan. 2nd—Albert Nicholas, son of James Henry and Emma England, Ballyhannon.

MARRIAGES.

"Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

Jan. 27th—Alexander Quinn, Ballynaghy, and Adeline Mayes, Carrickblacker.

BURIALS.

"Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours."

Jan. 15th—Mary Anne Abraham, Lower Seagoe, aged 90 years, in Milltown.

Jan. 25th—William Brown, Kernan, aged 76 years.

Jan. 28th—Sarah Anne Gillespie, 12, Florence Court, Portadown, aged 54 years.

SEAGOE PARISH MAGAZINE.

THE MOTHERS' UNION.

A general meeting of Seagoe Branch of the above was held on Tuesday, 11th January, in Seagoe P.E. School. The Rev. W. F. Hayes presided in the unavoidable absence of the Rector through illness. The outgoing officers and committee were re-elected, with the addition of Mrs. Appelbe to the committee.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 8th, at 7.30 p.m., when an address will be given by Mrs. McClure, of Tartaraghan.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Will the subscriber to W.F.O. for 1937, who returned envelopes numbered 595 kindly put his or her name on a piece of paper and drop it into the box in the Church porch or communicate directly with Mr. Moses Gilpin, Secretary, immediately, as he cannot trace the name of subscriber who used envelopes with the above number. The name is needed immediately so that it may appear in the Parish Financial Report, which will be printed early next month.

ENTERTAINMENT IN EDENDERRY.

On Thursday, January 6th, there was a dramatic entertainment in Edenderry Parochial Hall, at 8 p.m., when a play written and produced by Miss D. Ashdown was performed, entitled "Gray Matter." It was a great success, the acting was good, and the clever plot kept up the interest of the large audience to the finish. At the end the Rector conveyed an informal vote of thanks to Miss Ashdown, the stage manager, Mr. Mitchell, and the artistes and orchestra for a splendid performance. The proceeds will be divided between the British and Foreign Bible Society and Parochial equipment (probably a lantern for parochial purposes). We print below a statement of the financial result:—

Gross Receipts	..	..	£11 1 0
Expenses:—			
Printing of tickets; Sundries—Hire of piano	..	..	£1 15 6
Hire of Hall	..	..	0 15 6
Printing of play	..	..	2 0 0
Nett Receipts	..	..	£6 10 0

DISTRICT SERVICES.

Bocombra—Tuesday, February 1st, at 8 p.m.
 Drumgor—Sunday, February 13th, at 3 p.m. Preacher, The Ven. A. G. Hannon, M.A., Archdeacon of Dromore.
 The recently acquired musical instrument will be dedicated at this service.
 Hacknahay—Sunday, February 27th, at 3.30 p.m.
 Edenderry—Each Wednesday at 8 p.m.

OBITUARY.

This month we regret to record the passing from among us of three old parishioners. Mrs. Abraham belonged to the Parish of Milltown, but latterly she resided with her daughter, Mrs. Ballantyne; William Brown had passed the allotted span; Mrs. Gillespie had been in failing health for some time. To all the bereaved we offer our sincere sympathy, and pray that our Heavenly Father may comfort and strengthen them in their sorrow.

Reprinted from the Cathedral of St. Anne Parish Magazine, January, 1938.

THE HUGUENOT ANCESTRY OF THE REV. JAMES SAURIN, VICAR OF BELFAST, 1747-1772.

By Professor Savory, M.A.

The Rev. James Saurin was of distinguished Huguenot ancestry on both sides, as his father, Louis

Saurin, was descended from an ancient noble family of Languedoc, while his mother, Mademoiselle Henriette Cornel de la Bretonniere, was the daughter of a nobleman of Normandy, who belonged to one of the leading Protestant families of that Province. The Saurins had taken a distinguished part on the Protestant side in the Wars of Religion in the 16th and 17th centuries. We find that one of them, Jean Saurin, took part in the taking of the town of St. George in 1622, and was killed in the attack on the Bridge of Verune shortly after, while his brother was sent by the Duke of Rohan, the leader of the Huguenots, as his envoy to England in 1625, and returned to France in 1628 bearing letters from King Charles I. in which he exhorted the Duke of Rohan not to accept any terms, and promised him the help of a third fleet stronger even than the two first which he had already sent to his aid. The son of the first of these brothers was also called Jean. He became a distinguished barrister at Nimes where he acquired a great reputation and for three or four years was secretary to the Academy in that town. He married a Protestant lady named Hippolyte Tournier and had three sons. The first, Jacques, who was born at Nimes on the 6th January, 1677, was the great Protestant minister and famous preacher, of whom we shall speak later. The second was a captain in the English Army, and the third, Louis Saurin, was the father of the Vicar of Belfast. The latter's grandfather, Jean Saurin, to whom we have already referred, escaped to Geneva with his three sons after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He spent his time in Geneva in working with La Bastide at a new metrical version of the Psalms, and we learn from the Registers of the Council of Geneva, under the date 1695, that "This work was terminated by Monsieur Saurin, Barrister of Nimes, who is endowed with great wisdom, honesty and learning, possesses the French language in great perfection, and is well-versed in poetry."

Louis Saurin, the father of the Vicar of Belfast, was ordained as minister at Basle on the 17th May, 1705, as we learn from the archives of the French church there. He then received a call to England and became minister of the famous French church of the Savoy. He was also one of the first Governors of the French Hospital. In the spring of 1727 he was recommended to Dr. Boulter, Archbishop of Armagh, by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, and the Irish Primate wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury:—

"On Monday last Monsieur Saurin came to me with your Grace's letter. I recommended him to the Bishop of Kildare who installed him on Thursday in the Chantry of Christ Church, and is ready to do him what service lies in his power. I am glad to hear so good a character of this gentleman from your Grace, and hope he may be of service in this church. I shall very readily show him all the favour I can."

We find his name mentioned very frequently in the Registers of the French churches in Dublin as having taken part in several Baptismal ceremonies. At the date of his death in 1749 he was Dean of St. Patrick's, Ardagh.

He left four daughters and a son, James, who became Vicar of Belfast in June, 1747, and subsequently Prebendary of Connor. The latter married in 1754 Jane, widow of James Duff, and daughter of William Johnston, of New Forge, County Antrim. He was Vicar of Belfast till his death in 1772. He had four sons, all of whom were educated at the celebrated French School of the Rev. Saumarez du Bourdieu, minister for many years of the French church at Lisburn.

The Rev. James Saurin was the third son of the Vicar of Belfast, where he was baptized on the 18th

December, 1759. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, at the early age of 14, on 8th July, 1774, became a scholar in 1777 and took his B.A. degree in 1779. He was ordained Deacon of Downpatrick in 1781, and after being Curate of St. Douglough's, Dublin, became Vicar of Rosenallis, Diocese of Kildare, in 1801, Rector of Donaghmore, in the Diocese of Ossory, in 1807, Dean of Cork in 1812, Archdeacon of Dublin in 1813, Dean of Derry in 1818. He became Bishop of Dromore in 1819, being consecrated at Armagh by the Primate on the 19th December of that year. He was an ardent Protestant, went on a deputation to King George IV. against Roman Catholic emancipation, and voted in the House of Lords against that measure in 1829. He occupied the See of Dromore for 22 years, and died at Kingstown, County Dublin, on the 9th April, 1842. He was the last Bishop of the separate Diocese of Dromore, because at his death it was united with Down and Connor under the provisions of the Church Temporalities Act.

Of his two sons, James, the elder, became Fellow Commoner of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1815, and took his degree of B.A. in 1820. He became Vicar of Aghaderg in 1822, and after holding various other livings, including Seagoe, became Archdeacon of Dromore in 1832. He died at Warrenpoint on the 11th May, 1879. The second son of the Bishop, Mark Antony, resided at Oriulton, Pembrokeshire, and became High Sheriff of that County in 1867.

Let us now go back to the second son of the Vicar of Belfast, William, who was born in 1758, and was also educated at the school of the Rev. Saumarez du Bordieu at Lisburn. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1775, and was called to the Irish Bar in 1780. He made a great reputation for himself as agent for Mr. Ward in the famous County Down Election of 1790. He was offered by the Government in 1798 the post of Solicitor-General for Ireland, but refused to accept this office as he was opposed to the union of the British and Irish Parliaments. After the union, however, the British Government was anxious to secure his services, and in 1807 he accepted the position of Attorney-General for Ireland, which post he held for fourteen years. He acquired a great reputation as an orator in the House of Commons, but he refused both promotion to the Bench and a Peerage, and lived to be Father of the Irish Bar. In "Public Characters" for the year 1799-1800 it is stated that:—

"Mr. Saurin is low in stature; his countenance is characteristic of French origin; it bespeaks strongly a cool and sound judgment, a sagacious understanding and a good heart. He is said to make considerably more in his profession than any other man at the Irish Bar. There appears, however, no obvious or shining excellence in his manner of discharging his forensic duties. His great merit as a bar orator consists in the ingenuity of his statements, his colouring, his selection of facts, and his judicious arrangement of matter. He possesses great legal knowledge, the result of laborious and early reading; and he is characterised by a degree of attention to business to which even a young and poor man is seldom found to submit."

He died in 1839, revered and loved by all.

The Right Hon. William Saurin married on January 21st, 1786, Lady Mary O'Bryen, sister of William and James, Second and Third Marquises of Thomond. His eldest son, Admiral Edward Saurin, married on July 15th, 1828, Lady Mary Ryder, daughter of the First Earl of Harrowby. His third son, Louis, maintained the clerical tradition of the family became a Fellow Commoner of Trinity College, Dublin, in July, 1809, at the age of 17, took his B.A. degree in 1813, and became Rector of Moira in 1821. He died suddenly at

his father's house in Stephen's Green, Dublin, on the 12th July, 1829.

We must now return to the most distinguished member of the family, the Rev. Jacques Saurin, uncle of the Vicar of Belfast. He was born at Nîmes on the 6th January, 1677, and escaped with his father to Geneva at the time of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Scarcely had he attained the age of 16 when he was enrolled as a Cadet in the Regiment of the Marquis of Ruvigny, who became Earl of Galway and founder of the Huguenot Colony at Portarlington, Queen's County. He took part in the campaign in Piedmont where he fought with the Regiment on behalf of the Duke of Savoy and against the King of France, being anxious to avenge the terrible massacres of Protestants carried out by the Dragoons of Louis XIV. of which we have the most appalling descriptions given us by eye-witnesses. I have before me as I write the manuscript of one of these, who relates the outrageous atrocities committed by these Dragoons on innocent and unoffending Protestants at Montauban. After the Duke of Savoy had deserted the Protestant cause and made a treaty with France, young Saurin returned to Geneva to continue the studies which had been interrupted by the campaign. He completed his course of Theology in 1699 and was ordained in 1700. He accepted a call to the French Protestant church in Threadneedle Street, London, in 1701, and married two years later another Huguenot refugee named Catherine Boitout. His health, however, had suffered from the rigorous campaign in Piedmont, and as he could not endure the damp of the London climate he was recommended by his doctors to accept a call to the Hague where, for twenty-five years, he was minister to one of the French churches. He had already acquired a great reputation as a preacher in London, and Abbadié, the French Protestant Divine, who was no mean judge, stated in all sincerity that it was hard to say whether it was a man or an angel who was speaking. His reputation at the Hague was extraordinary. His church was so crowded that there was not found standing room, and people stood outside at the doors and even climbed the windows in the hope of hearing the great preacher. The extempore prayer which he made before the sermon deeply moved his congregation, and another prayer at the close completed the impression that was produced. Even to-day when we read his sermons we cannot help being deeply affected by their evident sincerity, their profound spirituality and marvellous knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. During his lifetime he published at the Hague five volumes of his sermons, and their success was so great that scarcely had an edition appeared before it had to be reprinted. After his death his son Philip published four more volumes of the sermons, of which several editions are known. That of the Hague, published in 1749, is considered to be the best, but we also have the editions published in Lausanne in 1761 and in Paris in 1835. Even Roman Catholic priests such as the Abbe Pichon and the Abbe Gauchet published extracts from his sermons, the former in 1768 and the latter in the following year. An English translation of his principal sermons in six volumes appeared at Cambridge in 1796, copies of which are still to be found in many a country Rectory. He is universally recognised as having been by far the greatest of all the French Protestant preachers, and his eloquence has often been compared with that of Bossuet. His epitaph at the Hague will form a fitting conclusion to this article:—

Saurin n'est plus! par lui l'éloquence chrétienne
Brisait, attendrissait, désarmait tous les cœurs.
Il prêchait comme Paul, il mourut comme Etienne.
Sans fiel, en pardonnant à ses persecuteurs.

D. L. SAVORY.