



## ANCIENT NAAS.

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### I.—THE CHRONICLE.

**N**AAS or Nas (Celtic), or le Nas (in mediæval times), means a fair, a place of meeting, or place of the elders: *Ænach* or Nas was an assembly of the people for any purpose.

Bardic history relates that it was founded by Lewy of the Long Hand, and according to an ancient tradition the original founders commenced the building of the town somewhere in the townland of Broadfield. Naas was the capital of the district called *Airthir Lifé* or *Maistean*, and in the sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries the States of Leinster assembled here after the *Naasteighan* of *Carmen*\* had been anathemized by the Christian clergy.

Tuathal Teachtmair, King of Ireland, who died about 160 A.D., had two beautiful daughters, *Fithir* and *Darina*. Eochy Aincheaun, King of Leinster, married *Darina* and carried her to his palace at Naas. Eochy determined by stratagem to obtain *Fithir* also to wife. For this purpose he shut *Darina* up in an apartment of his palace, and gave out a report that she was dead. He then repaired to Tara, and, with great appearance of grief, informed Tuathal that his daughter was dead, and asked for her sister. Tuathal consented, and Eochy returned home with his new wife. Soon afterwards, however, *Darina*, escaping from her prison, unexpectedly met her husband and her sister. The latter fell dead before her face, and the young queen soon died of a broken heart. Tuathal, at the head of a powerful force, avenged the insult to his daughter by conquering and beheading

\* Stated by some to be the Moat of Mullaghmast, near Athy, but which I believe to be Tara in Meath.

Eochy, ravaging and burning Leinster to its utmost boundary, and laid the inhabitants under a heavy tribute called "*Boromeau*"\* from the great number of cows demanded by it.

This tribute of 6000 cows, 6000 ounces of silver, 6000 richly woven mantles, 6000 fat hogs, 6000 fat sheep, 6000 caldrons strong and polished, continued to be levied every second year until abolished by King *Finachtach* about A.D. 680. It was, however, revived by *Brian Boro*, King of Munster; hence his name *Boroimhe*.

O'Flaherty's *Ogygia* informs us that Naas was destroyed and the inhabitants massacred by Tuathal in 134 A.D. (The Ordnance Survey MSS. give A.D. 82.) O'Flaherty calls Tuathal's daughters *Fidera* and *Darfinia*, and states that *Moyluaghat* or *Rathimil*, otherwise *Garbhthonach*, was the Palace of the King of Leinster at that time, that during the war the Ultonians lost *Fergus Feabhael*, and burnt the Palaces of Naas, *Allen*, *Maistean*, and *Rairenda*. The *Leabhar Gabhala* says the King of Ireland resided at *Rathimil* or *Garbhthonach*, and that the Royal forces burnt Naas, *Aillenn*, *Measten*, and *Bairin*, the *Murs* of *Barc Briasail*, a house of fresh green timber which *Breasel Brathaircheaun* had erected some time before.

About 277 A.D.—The Dun or Fort of Naas (on North Moat), built by *Luighdech Eithlenn*, and hence called *Lys Luighdech*, was burnt by *Cormac Mac* (or son of) *Art*, a powerful King of Ireland, whose laws remained in force throughout the middle ages, to avenge the massacre by *Dunlang*, King of Leinster, of thirty royal maidens with a large number of their attendants.

During the 44 years of St. Patrick's ministry (425 to 469 A.D.) he paid several visits to Naas. The site of his pupal or tent is in the green of the fort, now St. David's Churchyard; his well, where he in 448 baptized *Dubhlang's* two sons, *Oillill* and *Illann*, and *Oillill's* two daughters, *Moaghain* and *Fiedelm*, is in the elder grove at Oldtown. He also baptized at Sunday's Well, near Millbrook, east of Corban's Mill, and half way between Fryary Road and the Railway. The Ordnance MSS. state that a "Patron" was held at stated periods at Sunday's Well in old times.

About 664 A.D.—St. Fechin visited Naas, obtained the release of certain captives, in memory of which the Market Cross was erected in Naas.

705 A.D. (Four Masters)—King *Congal*, or *Conalb*, *Ceann Maghair*, son of *Fergus* of *Fanat*, while making a hosting

\* The cow in ancient Ireland was practically the unit of value. "Bo" is Irish for cow, hence "*Boromeau*."

against the Leinstermen, devastated Naas and carried away hostages, probably for the payment of the Boromean tribute; he composed a poetic farewell to the Liffey, in which he praises the unbroken level grass-producing surface of its plain, as far as the Dun of Naas.

861 A.D.—Muireghan, son of Diarmead, Lord of Naas and Airther Lifé, was slain by Norsemen.

Up to this time Naas was the chief residence of the Kings of Leinster. After Cearbhall's death, 904 A.D., it was occupied by local chiefs. It is recorded that Cearbhall had never exacted rent from the Churches of Naas.

In 1169, Maurice Regan, servant and interpreter to Dermond, King of Leinster, states: "Donnel Kevanigh, Dermond's leader of the vanguard, entered into Offelan, preyed the countrie, and loaden with spoile returned home." The Black Book of the Exchequer states that Offaly, held by Maurice Fitzgerald, though now in King's County, was originally in County Kildare, and Naas-Offelan is frequently mentioned.\*

King Dermond McMurragh, of Leinster, having in 1156 carried off the wife of Rory or O'Rourke, King of Breifne, was driven from his Kingdom, and sought succour in Wales from Richard, Earl of Strigul, who, with a contingent of 300 Welchmen, assisted by Robert Fitzstephen (half brother of the Bishop of St. David's, and of Maurice Fitzgerald), and Myler FitzDavid, son of the Bishop, crossed to Ireland in 1170. Hence the selection of St. David as patron saint of Maurice Fitzgerald's grant in Naas.

1175.—Strongbow gave Carbríe to Meyler FitzHenry (son of Henry I. and the beautiful Nesta), and Naas Ofelin, formerly the estate of MacEithlenn or McKellan or Makelanes, to Maurice Fitzgerald, holding by Knight's service. The McKellans' resided at the Moat of Ardsnull.

Extract from an old French poem:—

Le Nas donat le bon contur,  
Al Fitzgeroud od tut le onur,  
Ci est la terre de Ofelan,  
Ki fut al traiteur Mac-Kelan.

1177.—The grant to Maurice Fitzgerald's son, William Fitz-Maurice, who had married Strongbow's fourth granddaughter, was confirmed by Henry II., in the Cantred (Barony) of land

\* Cf. the paper on the Co. Kildare in this number of the JOURNAL, pp. 166 and 159, where it will be seen that Naas was in Offellan; but that since the reign of Philip and Mary only half Offaly has been in the Co. Kildare.—ED.

which McKellan (formerly King of Naas Ofelin) held, and in which the town of Naas now stands. It was also confirmed by Prince John.

June 24, 1206.—King John passed through Naas (see State papers). "At Naas to the Earl of Salisbury 10 marks pd. to Robin de Camera, when the King (John) lay in a tent."

June 26.—To Robert de Burgage, for play, 5s. on account of a debt due by him (the King).

June 27, 1210.—Bagwell says that King John passed through Naas. About this time Kildare became a separate county.

1316.—Edward Bruce and his Scots burned Naas and plundered the Churches, and opened the tombs in search of treasure.

1373.—Inquisition held on complaint that William de Wyndesore, the Lord Lieutenant, had, at Tamlane (Timolin), imposed a tallage on the Commons of Meath of a crannock (16 bushels or 2 quarters) of wheat on each of 520 carrucates of land, and carried it to Naas, where it was valued at 2s. 8d. less than its value in Meath, and appropriated to the Lord Lieutenant's own use. John Hoke, who received the wheat at Naas, measured it by excessive measure, thereby defrauding Meath of one bushel per crannock.

1409.—A deed was registered appointing a charter to Naas.

1414.—It appears that Naas had a charter and was a Corporation, for in the Patent Roll 2, Henry V., the Portreeve, Burgesses and a commonalty of the town are granted tolls for twenty years of all things coming into the town for sale, for the purpose of walling and fortifying the town.

1419.—A Parliament was held at Naas by R. Talbot, Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Deputy of Ireland. This Parliament granted a subsidy of 300 mares.

The condition of the county in 1435 is described in the missive of that date from the Parliament of Ireland to Henry VI., which states that "within the Counties of Dyvelin, Mith, Loueth, and Kyldare, there are scarisly 30 miles in lengthe and 20 miles in breede ther as a man may surely ride other go to answerre to the Kinges writtes and his commandements."

1454.—The petition which the chief residents in the County Kildare, and amongst others the Portreeves and Commons of Naas, addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, relates:—

"That this lande of Irland was nevir at the poynt fynally

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to be destrued sethen the conquest of this lande as it is now, for the trew liege people in this partiss dar ne may not appier to the Kynges Courtes in the said lande, ne noon other of the trew liege people ther to go ne ride to market townes ne other places for dred to be slayne to take other spouled of thar godes also the mysrule and mysgovernance had done and daily continued by divers persons."

It describes how certain parties "came into the said counte of Kyldare and ther brant and destrued dyvers and many towns and paroches chirches of the trew liege people and toke dyvers of them prisoners and spouled them of their godes and did so gret oppressionne in the county of Kyldare and in the counte and liberty of Mith that vijxx (27) townes and more which was well inhabite in the feste of Seynte Michel lass passed been now wasted and destrued," etc. (See Comerford.)

1457.—Parliament at Naas held by Thomas FitzMaurice, Earl of Kildare, Deputy.

1465.—An Act was passed directing—

"Every Irishman that dwells betwixt Englishmen in Dublin, Myeth, Ureill, and Kildare shall go like to one English man in apparel and shewing of the Beard above the mouth—and shall take to him an English surname of one town as Sutton, Chester, Trym, Skryne, Cork, Kinsale, or colour as white, black, Brown, or arte or science as Smith or Carpenter, or office as Cooke, Butler, and that he and his issue shall use this name, under pain of forfeiting of his goods yearley," etc.

"Every Englishman and Irishman that dwells with Englishmen, between sixty and sixteen in age shall have an English bow of his own length and one fist mele—between the necks with 12 hafts of the length of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the standard, under pain," etc.

"Every such man to muster at the Butts and shoot up and down 3 times every feast day between 1st March and last day of July, under pain," etc.

"Regrators.—None to buy corn in the market, having sufficient store of his own, nor buy to sell again in same market on pain of being adjudged a regrator."

In 1466 marauding parties from Offaly were in the habit of going northwards as far as Tara, and southwards as far as Naas.

1471.—Thomas, Earl of Kildare, Deputy to George, Duke of Clarence, Lord Lieutenant, held Parliament at Naas on Friday, after the feast of St. Andrew.

1472.—Parliament at the Naas.

1473.—Parliament held at Naas, by Thomas FitzMaurice, Earl of Kildare, authorizes friends of persons imprisoned in

England to seize Englishmen in Ireland and retain them as hostages.

1477.—Gerald, Earl of Kildare, Lord Justiciary of Ireland, held Parliament at Naas.

1515.—The boundaries of the Pale were the towns of Dundalk, Darver, Ardee, Sydan, Kells, Dangan, Kilcock, Clane, Naas, Kilcullen, Ballymote, Rathmore, Rathcoole, Tallaght, and Dalkey.

1554.—Lord Deputy Skeffington retook Naas, which had been seized by Lord Thomas FitzGerald, then in open rebellion.

July 18, 1568.—A charter was granted to Naas by Queen Elizabeth.

July 7, 1560.—Sovereigns of Naas, Kildare, and Athy, were granted a commission to take a muster and array, and call before them all the subjects of each barony, and assess them in warlike furniture of weapons, arms, horses, horsemen and footmen, according to the manner and quality of their lands.

June 17, 1572.—A like commission granted to the Sovereign of Naas.

July 16, 1574.—Like commission with following directions. The Commissioners to assemble and divide into companies of two or three to each barony, call for lists of persons from fifteen to sixty years, to be handed in by Barony Constables, and they command the people to appear at same time with all the horse, armour, bows, arrows, guns, and other warlike apparel as they can put in readiness for the service of her Majesty. Penalty for non-appearance, 20s. On the day of appearing they make lists of all appearing, distinguishing archers, arquebusiers, billmen, horsemen, and Kerns, also those who have a horse, jack, spear, bow, sheaf of arrows, bill, gun, sword, or habergeon of mail: all to be ready to muster at six days' warning. Unarmed persons to procure arms under penalty.

1575.—Owing to great heat and long drought from Bealltaine (1st May) to Lammas (1st August) a dreadful plague swept away large numbers of the inhabitants of Naas ("Four Masters.")

1577.—Sydney states that "Rori Oge O'More and Cormacke MackCormacke O'Connor accompanied with not more than 140 men and boys, on the third of the monethe burned between vii. and viii. hundred thatched housies in a markett towne called the Naas. They had not one horseman nor one shot with them.



They ranne through the towne being open like hagg and furies of hell with flakes of fier fastened on pooles ends and so fiered the lowe thatched housies; and being a great windie night one howse took fiere of another in a moment, they tarried not  $\frac{1}{2}$  an houre in the towne, neither stode they upon killinge or spoylinge of any. There was above fyve hundred mennes bodies in the towne, manlyke enough in appearance but neither manful nor wakeful as it seamed, for they confesse they were all aslepe in their bedde after they had filled themselves and surfeited on *their patrone day* (St. David's Day, 1st March), which day is celebrated for the most part of the people of this country birthe with gluttonye and idollatrie as farre as they dare."

Up to the close of the 18th century it was an annual custom in Naas to wear the green leek in honour of St. David. This once nearly led to a rupture with a Welsh regiment marching through the town, who, thinking their national custom was being ridiculed by the men of Naas, were proceeding to violence when the fact of their having a common patron Saint, being explained to them, turned the current of their wrath into a flow of fellowship and alcohol.

August 3, 1580.—Naas garrisoned by 500 men, under Lord Gormanstown.

August 18, 1580.—Lord Deputy Grey proceeds to the Naas.

June 14, 1595.—Robert Ashe, Sovereign of Naas, appeared and took his corporal oath that the charter of the town had been accidentally burnt and received an *inspeximus*. (Patent Rolls.)

1599.—Robert, Earl of Essex, having arrived in Ireland on 1st May, without much wealth, arms, etc., sent a detachment to garrison Naas, before proceeding westwards with his 7000 picked men on his unsuccessful expedition.

August 12, 1600.—The Lord Deputy passed through Naas on his way to Queen's County, and returned on 25th August to Naas, now garrisoned with 700 men.

January 27, 1601.—Lord Deputy Mountjoy writes urgently for reinforcements for Naas to Carew.

June 28, 1608.—The Coroners were James Fitzgerald, of Osberston, and Edward Fitzgerald, of Blackhall. Jurors for the Lord King for Barony of Naas: Oliver Eustace, of Mullagh-cash; Patrick Saunders, of Newtown-o-more; John Harquin, of Littlerath; Michael Brown, of Newtown-o-more; Thomas Sherlock, Robert Kenna, William Latten, Thomas Kelly, and Walter Archibald, all of Naas.

April 16, 1609.—The Sov., Port. and Burg. of Naas pray that the villages of Osberston and Gigginstown be contained within the liberties; also that their successors "might have the presentation to the Viccarage of St. Davides there to the end they might make choice of a schoolmaster" (as Vicar, I presume) "for instructyng the youth of the town."

The above prayers the Privy Council "doe not thinke them fitt to be granted."

But James I. granted a charter, which commences by reciting Queen Elizabeth's charter of 18th July, 1568, incorporating Naas by the name of Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses and Commons.

The Burgesses and Commons every Michaelmas to elect out of themselves a Sovereign and two Portreeves to serve for an entire year, and they to be sworn the same day. The town of Naas to be a free and undoubted borough.

Power granted to the Sovereign to appoint a Sergeant-at-Mace to carry the Mace before him in the limits of the Corporation.

Power to fortify the town with foss, and walls of lime and stone.

Sovereign and Portreeves to have the return and execution of all writs (except at the King's suit) touching the Borough, and no Sheriff, etc., to act in the Borough unless on default of ye Sovereign and Portreeves.\*

Sovereigns, Portreeves, Burgesses and Commons, to hold a Court of Pleas in all causes personal arising within the Borough or the Franchises thereof, to be held before Sovereign and Portreeves, who are to issue process and execution as in Drogheda. Ditto, in nature of an assize of fresh force, and the forfeitures and other profits of the Court of Pleas, which Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons are empowered to receive, also the goods of Infangethefe shall be expended in building and repairing the walls and fortifications and paving the town. The Sovereign to be a Justice of Peace within the borough, and have a market every Monday in such place as shall be appointed. Sovereign and Portreeves to be Exheators and Clerks of ye market, and to correct weights and measures, also to be Coroners. They may by themselves or deputies collect the following customs for everything sold within the town or franchise, viz. A horse, 2d.; cow, 2d.; goat, 1d.; hog,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; sheep,  $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; sack of corn,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; hide or skin to the value

\* In 1696 the Sheriff was defeated in an action brought by the Sovereign for having served writs within the Corporation without the Sovereign's consent.

of an ox-hide,  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ ; body of a cart or plough,  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ ; pair of wheels,  $1d.$ ; two shillings worth of merchandize,  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ ; five shillings worth,  $1d.$ , and all other customs and profits as in Dundalk; the said Sovereign and Portreeves yielding and paying yearly for the said customs to the Queen so much yearly rent as the former who now hath the same doth pay. No person coming to the town to buy on a market day any merchandize or victual except victuals for his present sustenance, but between 8 o'clock a.m. and 3 p.m., except the buying from any Freeman of the town, on pain of forfeiting the thing bought for the repairs of the borough.

No stranger to sell by retail any wares brought from beyond the seas without license of Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons.

Crown rent (reserved), £10 per annum, to be paid into the Exchequer half-yearly, at Easter and Michaelmas. No inhabitant of the Borough to implead or be impleaded in any personal action arising within the Borough, anywhere but in the Borough Court before Sovereign and Portreeves.

Bye-laws may be made and repealed, provided they be not inconsistent with the general laws of the Kingdom. All waifs and strays are allocated to the use of repairs. No man to exercise any trade that is not made free by Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons.

After the above recital King James I. confirms the said charter of Queen Elizabeth, and grants as follows:—

Oath to be taken by Sovereign and Portreeves on their election at the Tholsell on Michaelmas day. You shall swear faithfully and truly to serve the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the people of this Corporation during your being Sovereign or Portreeve of this Borough, and you shall not do or consent to the doing of anything that may turn to the damage or disinheritance of our Sovereign Lord and King, his heirs and lawful successors, you shall not conceal any treason or unlawful conspiracies against the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, but shall endeavour to the utmost of your power to repress the offenders and his or their practices and the same treasons or conspiracies, and the offenders shall reveal to the King's Majesty or to his Majesty's Privy Council within this realm with all convenient speed you can. You shall do equal right to poor and rich without regard to persons or rewards during all the time you shall exercise the office of Sovereign or Portreeve, and defend and keep this Corporation and Borough to and for the King's Majesty, his heirs and lawful successors against all foreign enemies and homebred rebels. So help you God.

The Sovereign to be Saymaster for allowing and sealing of leather, and to punish all offences relating to the same, and to take all fines and profits and amerciaments arising from the same to his own use, and no other Saymaster to act in town or liberties, and the Sovereign shall forfeit to the King for every defect in the execution of this office 20s., Irish money.

Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons, shall not be returned upon any Jury, Assize or Inquisition whatsoever upon any freehold or any matter of trespass or contract without ye said borough, unless in writs or attain, or writs of right, or in causes touching the King, or in such cases where by the laws and customs of Ireland the affair must be enquired into by good and lawful men of the Borough, and also that no foreigners shall be put upon any Jury, Assize or Inquisition, upon any cause arising within the Borough except in writs of attain, etc., as above.

All Deodands\* within the Borough are granted to the Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons, to their own proper use and benefit. (Deodands were abolished by law in 1846.)

Fairs to be held on Ascension Day and two days following, on St. Martin's Day and two days following. But if it happens on a Sunday, then to begin the day following, together with a pied-poudre court,† and all tolls, perquisites, etc., belonging to ye fairs, provided, however, that ye said fairs be no prejudice to ye neighbouring fairs.

The Corporation having surrendered up their lands into the hands of the Crown, they are hereby regranted and confirmed to the Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons.

Rent reserved, £4 per annum to the Crown, and £9 per annum to ye repairs of St. David's Church at Naas.

1628.—Charles I. granted another charter; I can find no trace of it, and it is not mentioned in the charter of Charles II.

Austin Cooper, in 1782, states that the charter of Naas is said to be held by killing a wren on every St. Stephen's day, but this I take to be a fairy tale.

Among the Faints of Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, I have met with many pardons to Naas men in connection with the rebellions and disturbances of those reigns.

\* That is, any chattel, animal, or thing forfeited for having caused the death of a man; for instance, a horse that by a kick had killed a man would be forfeited as a Deodand.

† A court of Py-powder, a rough and ready court held at fairs or wakes, &c., to compel fulfilment of contracts.

Rebellion of 1641.—Few historical events require more careful study than the rebellion of 1641, and the following years. The contending parties were so numerous, their grievances and aims so different, the general state of politics so complicated, that it is hard to conceive by what other means than the sword the inextricable knot could have been opened. "There are," says Carlyle, "Catholics of the Pale demanding freedom of religion under my Lord this and my Lord that. There are old Irish Catholics under Popes' Nuncios, under Abba O'Teague of the Excommunications; and Owen Roe O'Neill demanding, not religious freedom only, but what we now call Repeal of the Union, and unable to agree with Catholics of the English Pale. Then there were Ormonde Royalists of the Episcopalian and mixed creeds, strong for King without covenant, Ulster and other Presbyterians strong for King and covenant, lastly Michael Jones and the commonwealth of England, who want neither King nor covenant."

It will be seen from the following notes that Naas and its neighbourhood suffered considerably during this rebellion; and it must be borne in mind that from first to last the opposing forces were only kept alive by the plunder of the country through which they passed. Even the Government forces when in and near Naas were as a rule, though within one day's march of their base, Dublin, reduced to the most lamentable extremities and compelled to plunder the surrounding country or starve. One of the principal contrivers of the rebellion was Roger, *alias* Rory More, of Ballynagh, in the County Kildare, a man of old Irish family, whose property had been forfeited to the Crown and planted with Englishmen. He succeeded in drawing in most of the chief conspirators, and lost his life during the rebellion.

For years Ireland was the scene of sanguinary massacres and cruel retaliation. Sir William Petty estimates the "number of British massacred during the first year of the troubles at *not more than 37,000.*" A great scarcity of arms prevailed among the English settlers, and in 1641 the three companies raised in the County Kildare, and under the command of the Earl of Kildare, were allotted 300 stand of arms. The greater portion of these 300 men deserted to the rebels with their arms, on receipt of the news of Sir Patrick Wemyss' defeat near Drogheda, on 29th November, 1641; and owing to the non-arrival of the expected reinforcements from England, and the inaction of the Dublin authorities numbers of small parties of marauders infested Meath and Kildare in search of plunder.

The Borough of Newcastle, the adjoining Castle and Village

of Lyons, and the town of Naas, were known to serve as receptacles for the rebels, the last especially being the principal place for meeting and holding councils of war, composed of the prime gentlemen of the County Kildare, for applotting their levies of men money and victuals upon the country for the maintenance of the rebel forces, and for issuing of their orders.

The Earl of Ormonde, Lieutenant-General, with 2000 foot, 300 horse, and 5 small field pieces, quartered on 31st January, 1642, at Newcastle, and having, pursuant to orders, burnt that town and Lyons, marched on the 1st February to the Naas, where the rebels had held a council of war the day before. Finding Naas abandoned by the rebels, he occupied it for two days, during which he sent out parties and burnt Castle Martin, Kilcullen Bridge, and several other villages within a radius of a few miles.\* The inhabitants of the Naas having assisted the rebels, and pillaged and expelled their Protestant neighbours, Ormonde punished them in their goods (they themselves having fled with the rebels), by allowing his soldiers, who were in great straits for clothing and shoes, to plunder the town, but finding it capable of being fortified, and at a convenient distance from Dublin for keeping a garrison there, he determined not to obey the order to burn it. He returned to Dublin on the 3rd February, leaving a garrison in Naas, and taking with him a Franciscan priest, Father Higgins, whom he had found in Naas, and taken under his protection, being assured of his innocence of rebellion and the great services he had rendered in saving the lives of Englishmen in Naas. This unfortunate man, however, falling into the clutches of the Governor of Dublin, Sir Charles Coote, 'a cruel and bloody man,' was hanged without trial; and Ormonde's angry expostulations, owing to the bitter feeling existing among the English in consequence of the massacres of their co-religionists, failed even to get Coote reprimanded or displaced. It was on this occasion that Ormonde received a message from Lord Gormanstown complaining of his having hanged certain persons during his expedition to Naas, and having burnt the country, and threatening to avenge himself on Ormonde's wife and children then in his power. Ormonde proved that no persons had been hanged by his orders, that in burning the country he was acting under superior orders; and informed Gormanstown that if his wife and children should receive injury from men, he would not revenge it upon women and children, which act

\* Twenty-five miles in length and seventeen miles in breadth were devastated, it is said.



would be infinitely below the value he set upon his wife and children.

About this time (February, 1642) bills of high treason were found against 300 persons of quality and estate in County Kildare, many of whom had not joined the rebels at all, but there was no time to inquire into such details.

On 25th February, 1642, the Naas garrison, amongst others, were in great straits for provisions, the town having been plundered and the neighbourhood burnt.

In March, 1642, the Earl of Castlehaven, of Maddinstown, (one mile south-west of French Furze), in County Kildare, having been, like many others, driven into rebellion by the treatment of the Lords Justices, became General of the Leinster Horse, Preston being Commander-in-Chief.

On April 2nd, 1642, Ormonde, commanding an expedition sent to burn and destroy the houses and goods of the rebels who had deserted the County Kildare, lay at Rathcoole with 3000 foot, 500 horse, and five small field pieces. On the 3rd of April he advanced on Naas, which he had saved from burning in February, and secured it with a garrison under Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson. He now placed a new Sovereign, eight Burgesses, and fifty families of despoiled Protestants in the town.\*

January 17, 1643.—Naas garrison, under command of Sir Arthur Loftus, the governor, was in great distress, and it was a question whether it should be abandoned or no; but it was determined to send a month's provisions to Naas from Dublin, notwithstanding the great distress in that city.

The Governor offered to supply it with two months' provisions and to maintain it without relief from the State, if they would send him one troop of horse to scour the country about and fetch in provisions. This offer was refused, because the troops were employed on the officers *Custodiams* and so could not be spared.

These *custodiams* were small garrisons over estates deserted by their owners, who had gone into rebellion, or who had been accused of rebellion by the Lords Justices: the nominal reason of their existence was to preserve the crops for the benefit of the public, but the real reason was to provide comfortable employment for the servants and creatures of the Lords Justices.

\* I imagine this means that he secured the neighbouring Protestant families in the town, for he can scarcely have brought strange families with him.

The Lords Justices, seeing that they must arrange a cessation of hostilities, notified the Irish Commissioners to meet Ormonde on the 17th August, 1643, at Sigginstown, near Naas, for that purpose. The Irish agents having modified their former demands, the cessation was signed on 15th September, 1643.

Sir Philip Percival, of Castlewarning (Castle Warden), in the County Kildare, in his vindication of the cessation of 1643, mentions that, at that time, the garrison of the Naas, one of the chief garrisons of Leinster, where 1000 men had been usually kept, was so ruined and the soldiers become so naked and miserable that, as Sir Fulk Huncks, the governor, related, many of them were starved, and the rest in such distress as raised the pity of everyone that saw them.

21st January, 1644.—Ormonde was sworn Lord Lieutenant.

29th August, 1646.—Ormonde, on his way to Kilkenny, on the invitation of the Irish, passed by Naas with 1500 foot and 500 horse, borrowed eight barrels of powder of Sir John Sherlock, the governor of Naas.\* This was fortunate for him, as, on his discovering that the invitation was a trap laid for him by the Irish, he, on his return through County Kildare, issued to his men the powder supplied by the rebels as part payment of a sum agreed upon as the price of a cessation in 1643; this powder was discovered to be quite useless, and he had to rely entirely on the eight barrels borrowed from Naas. Ormonde quartered his troops at Ballymore-Eustace on 11th September, and Sir Frederick Willoughby's detachment on the same day crossed the Liffey near Kilcullen, the bridge having been destroyed. There being only two thatched houses in Kilcullen, and no supplies, he quartered that night at Naas. The whole army returned on 13th to Dublin.

In November, 1646, Ormonde being threatened in Dublin by Preston's army, made an expedition into Kildare and burnt all mills, bridges, corn, and supplies, within some miles of the town to incommode the enemy.

In March, 1647, Ormonde, unable any longer to make even a pretence of holding Ireland for King Charles, surrendered Dublin to the Parliament.

August, 1647.—Preston, with the Leinster army of 7000 foot and 1000 horse, advanced into the English quarters, took the Naas with some small places thereabouts, on his way to Trim. After his defeat at Dangan Hill by the Parliamentary

\* Of Little Rath, an officer of Charles I. He died in 1652. His half-brothers were on the side of the Irish Confederates.—Ed.

forces under Jones, he deserted and burnt the Naas, and the other places lately taken by him, and retired to Catherlow.

29th September, 1648.—Ormonde having returned to Ireland as the King's Lord Lieutenant, landing at Cork, raised 6000 foot and 2000 horse near Carlow, and on June 11, 1649, took Talbot's town and Castle Talbot, in County Kildare. Jones marched out of Dublin with the Parliamentary army as far as Johnstown, but Ormonde, owing to want of supplies, was unable to advance against him until June 14th, when, having received a reinforcement of 2000 men and £3000, he moved towards Dublin, taking the Castle of *Allon* and the Naas on the way. There he held a council of war, and, leaving thirty horse and thirty foot to block Ballysonan, marched towards Dublin on 19th June, Jones having retired thither.

After the execution of Charles I., Ormonde at once proclaimed Prince Charles king. Cromwell, however, took command of the Parliamentary army in Ireland, landing on August 15th, 1649. His power, ability, straightforwardness, and cruel severity effectually drove his opponents into submission.

In March, 1650, his subordinate, Hewson, marching from Dublin, took Naas, and occupied Ballysonan and other castles. The king's case being hopeless, Ormonde left Ireland on 7th December, 1650, leaving Clanricarde as his deputy. He was, however, after the restoration of Charles II., reappointed Lord Lieutenant in 1661.

1671.—King Charles II. grants a new charter. It takes notice that the charters of Queen Elizabeth and James I. were become doubtful by the wars and disturbance of the kingdom, and incorporates Naas anew by name of Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons, and to have all liberties belonging to any free borough. All lands at that time held to be within the liberties to be always accounted so.

1683-7.—Grants were made of lands and houses in Naas and the neighbourhood which had belonged to the Eustaces then attainted.

In 1687 the Sheriff summoned the Corporation to the Court of Exchequer to explain by what right they have been acting as a Corporation for twelve months past. The Corporation appear and suffer judgment. This was evidently done to compel the Corporation to take out their new charter.

In 1689 the new charter of 1671 was taken out. For eighteen years previous this appears to have been in contemplation, and in 1689 "Edmund Sherlock was appointed Town

Clerk, at £12 per annum, by reason of he having brought out the new charter and other good reasons."

In 1696 the Naas May-pole being out of repair was to be repaired substantially and as cheaply as possible. In 1701, "Ye May-pole to be forthwith pulled down and made a ladder off for ye use of ye towne."

The Grand Canal was commenced 1756, under the auspices of Parliament and the Navigation Board; it progressed so slowly that a number of private individuals, called the Company of Undertakers, subscribed £100,000, and receiving a grant of one-sixth of their expenditure from the Government, were incorporated in 1772, and completed the canal to Monasterevan in 1786. The summit level is 202ft. 4in. above James's-street Harbour, and 265ft. above tide of Liffey in Dublin. Richard Evans was the engineer; Brownrigg the surveyor. In 1789 Guthrie, writing about the commodious packet boats, declares them "one of the most reasonable, expeditious, and social modes of conveyance yet known in any part of Europe." In a Dublin *Evening Post* of 1825, in my possession, the passage boats were advertised to leave Richmond Harbour and Dublin daily, and Dublin and Mullingar three times per week.

1789.—Branch canal from Sallins to Corbally completed at a cost of £12,300.

1798.—On 24th May one of the first overt acts of insurrection took place at Naas, when Michael Reynolds, a farmer, and a party of about 1000 (?) United Irishmen attacked Naas, and were repulsed with a supposed loss of 150 men by Lord Gosford, commanding a force composed of the Armagh militia and local yeomanry.

*Note.*—On that occasion Ennis' holding in John's-lane, Lattin's alms houses in Horse Fair, the Red Cross Inn, next to and north of where Rankin's public-house now stands, Long's holding at corner of New Road, Brewer's two houses (I think on Dublin Road), six cabins on the green were either taken down by the military for range of cannon or demolished during the fighting. The guns were placed on two mounds, probably St. David's Castle and the Fair Green where the old Barrack stood.

Commissioners were afterwards appointed to investigate claims for damage caused by rebellion, rebuilding houses, etc.

1813.—New Barracks built at Naas.

1833.—County Gaol completed; cost, £14,000.



## II.—REPRESENTATION OF NAAS IN THE PARLIAMENT OF IRELAND.

Naas has probably been styled a borough since the invasion of Henry II. In ancient times the word merely meant a walled town; later it seems to have only applied to such towns as had some organization for the transaction of public local business, and at a still later date the name was understood to infer a right to representation in Parliament.

The following persons sat in the Irish Parliaments for the Borough of Naas from 1559 to the Union:—

DATE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
1559, January,	.. Henry Draicotte, Esq., Marmerton, Meath.	
	John Sherlocke, Esq.	
1585, 13th April,	.. James Sherlocke, Naas.*	
	Walter Lewes, Naas.	
1613,	.. William Lattin.	
	Christopher Sherlock, gent.	
1634, 12th January,	.. Do.	
	William Archbold, Tymolin.	
1639, March,	.. Charles Sherlock, Esq.	
	Nicholas Lattin, Esq.	
1642,	.. Sutton (expelled for the rebellion).	
1642, 16th November,	.. Dudley Loftus, Esq., vice Sherlock, expelled for non-attendance.	
1661, 17th April,	.. Sir John Hoey, Knight, Cotlandstowne.	
	George Carr, Esq., Knight.	
1662, 24th March,	.. William Wentworth, Esq., Dublin, vice Carr, deceased.	
1665, 6th November,	.. William Hoey, Esq., Cotlandstowne, vice Hoey, deceased.	
1665, 8th December,	.. Thomas Ratcliffe, Esq., Dublin, vice Wentworth, absent in England without licence.	
1692, 19th September,	.. John Aylmer, Esq., Ballykenan.	
	Nicholas Jones, Esq.	
1695, 12th August,	.. Richard Neville, Esq., Recorder.	
	James Barry, Esq., Dublin.	
1703 to 1713,	.. James Barry, Esq., unseated on petition.	
	Richard Neville, Esq., unseated on petition.	

And by second return:—

	Alexander Graydon, Esq., of Killishee, Naas.
	Francis Spring, Esq.
	James Barry, Esq., in place of F. Spring, deceased.
1713 to 1727,	.. Thomas Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown.
	Theobald Burke, Esq.

\*James Sherlock died in 1595. His name appears in the protest of the Knights and Burgesses in Parliament, who refused to consent to the attainder of Desmond.

DATE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
1727 to 1760,	.. Thomas Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown.	
	John Bourke, Esq.	
	Thomas Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown, in place of Thomas Burgh, deceased.	
	Richard Burgh, Esq., in place of T. Burgh, deceased.	
1761 to 1768,	.. Maurice Keating, Esq.	
	Richard Burgh, Esq.	
	John Bourke, Esq., Junr., in place of R. Burgh, deceased.	
1769 to 1783,	.. John Bourke, Esq.	
	John Bourke, Junr., Esq.	
	Thomas Allen, Esq., in place of John Bourke, Lord Naas.	
1788 to 1790,	.. Honourable John Bourke.	
	Hugh Carleton, Esq.	
	Sir Richard Gorges Meredith, Baronet, in place of Hugh Carleton, Chief Justice of Common Pleas.	
1790 to 1797,	.. Hon. John Bourke, commonly called Lord Viscount Naas.	
	John Bourke, Esq.	
	John Bond, Esq., in place of John Bourke, Earl of Mayo.	
	Sir James Bond, in place of John Bond.	
	Right Hon. George Damer, commonly called Lord Viscount Milltown, in place of the Hon. John Bourke, Earl of Mayo.	
	Hon. William Aglionby Yelverton, in place of Sir James Bond, who accepted office as Escheator of Munster.	
1798 to 1800,	.. Right Hon. Thomas Pelham.	
	Hon. Francis Hely Hutchinson.	
	Sir John Macartney, Baronet, in place of Mr. Pelham, who made his election for Armagh Borough.	

(To be continued.)