

PREFACE.

THIS little book does not profess to give an exhaustive history of the locality with which it deals, nor does it make any pretensions to originality. All that I claim is to have brought together from various sources some incidents and events of the past, and put them together in a form that will bring them within the reach of all; and being myself a Lagganeer, connected with the district by many ties, I have done this *con amore*. Should what I have written afford my friends and neighbours in the Laggan a little interesting reading, and lead them to feel that there is no place like home, and to say, with perhaps more pride than they have hitherto done, "This is my own, my native land," and, perchance, to value more highly the principles of civil and religious liberty for which their fathers suffered hardship; or should these short and simple annals of the land that gave them birth reach some poor exiles of Erin who in their young days ran about the braes and paddled in the burns of the Laggan, but who are now

"Scattered far and wide
O'er mount and stream and sea,"

and cause their hearts to warm towards the old country and the old folks at home, my hopes and expectations in compiling these pages will be amply realised.

Writing, as I do, from a Presbyterian standpoint, it may be that I have said some things that will perhaps give offence to some persons of other denominations. If so, I shall be sorry, for I can truly say—"I have not set down aught in malice."

The lists of the names of former generations of Lagganeers, and their places of abode, that are given in the Appendixes, and which never before appeared in print, whilst they must of necessity prove dull reading to those who have no acquaintance with the locality, will not, I hope, be altogether uninteresting to those who bear the same names, or live in the same places, as these old

inhabitants of the land did, and perhaps in time to come they may help to show that "this and that man was born there."

I desire to express my thankfulness and deep indebtedness to Mr. A. Albert Campbell, Solicitor, Belfast, for much valuable advice and assistance, most cheerfully rendered, and without which this little work would, in all probability, never have seen the light; and also to Mr. Archibald Irwin, Secretary in Ireland for the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, without whose wise counsel it would not have appeared in the neat and attractive form that it does.

My best thanks are also due, and are hereby tendered, to the Rev. W. T. Latimer, B.A., the present day historian of our Church; the Rev. F. Chambers, B.A., St. Johnston; the Rev. W. G. Robinson, B.A., Monreagh; the Rev. W. A. Park, B.D., Newtowncunningham; the Rev. John M'Clean, Crossroads; Rev. J. M. A. Beattie, Convoy; Mr. P. J. Bain, Head Master of Raphoe Royal School; Major Baillie, agent to the Duke of Abercorn; Mr. Tenison Groves, Dublin; and also to the Committee of First Ramelton congregation, for supplying photographs, and for the use of blocks from which several of the illustrations are printed, and also for the valuable information on different points with which they have furnished me.

ALEX. G. LECKY.

BALLYLENNON, *December, 1905.*

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