

*AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF POLE COSBY, OF
STRADBALLY, QUEEN'S COUNTY.*

(Continued from p. 99.)

My Father indeed seldom wrote me anything but grumbleing scolding letters because he thought I did spend too much, but my D^r Mother was not so, though neither of them nor my sister wrote half so often as I desired, for I seldom got a letter oftener than onst in 2 months and often longer. I said above y^t I

NOTE DEALING WITH THE BALLYFIN ILLUSTRATION.

Ballyfin lies five miles to the north-west of Maryborough.

In a sixteenth-century hand-drawn map of the territory of Leix, "Balafin" is shown as situated in the district of "FERANODOVLIN" (i.e., O'Dowling's country or land), which was co-extensive with the baronies of Maryborough East and West.

After the subjugation of Leix, the Crown granted a lease of Ballyfin, in 1550, to Edmund Fay, captain of the King's Kern (native foot-soldiers). In 1562 it was granted to one Murrough mac Carroll M'Evoy, who died on the 6th March, 1591, and whose son, Donnell "moyle" (the bald), obtained livery of his father's possessions in 1594.

Early in the seventeenth century the family of Crosbie is found in possession; the ancestors of the present baronet of that name were Patrick and John Crossan, *alias* Crosbie, natives of Leix, who conformed to the Protestant religion. The former became secretary, or clerk, to the Lord Deputy of Ireland, and died *ante* 1613; and the latter from being Prebendary of Dysart-Enos (i.e., St. Aengus's Hermitage, 11th March) in the Queen's County, became Bishop of Ardfert, in Kerry, and died in 1621. Their descendant, Sir John Crosbie, second baronet, having espoused the royal cause of Charles I, was outlawed, and forfeited his estates.

The next possessor of Ballyfin was Periam Pole, second son of Periam, second son of Sir William Pole, Knt., of Shute, in Devonshire, who arrived in Ireland with two brothers in 1660. Periam's son, William, demolished the Crosbie Castle at Ballyfin, and built a house on its site; the modern house was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt by William's son, Periam Pole, whose brother and successor, William, largely added to it in 1778, as it appears in the illustration.

This last William Pole died without issue in 1781; and by his Will left Ballyfin to his third cousin, on his mother's side (she was Anne, daughter of Henry Colley, of Castle Carbury, County Kildare), the Hon. William (Colley-) Wellesley, who thereupon assumed the name and arms of Pole. William Wellesley was the second son of Garrett, first Earl of Mornington; in 1821 he was created Baron Maryborough, and on succeeding his elder brother, Richard, in 1842, he became third Earl of Mornington (a place in Meath originally called Marinerstown).

From the Wellesley-Pole family Ballyfin was purchased by Sir Charles Henry Coote, ninth baronet, in whose family it still remains.

W. FIZG.

constantly went morning and afternoon to the English church, y^t was when I did not go to y^e french Calvinist church, or sometimes that I did use to go to the french Popish Chappel, for the Priest was a Parisian and spoke most excellent French, & he preached in a very familiar way & though very bad subjects still very good french, so by way of edifying in french & out of curiosaty to see the ridiculous worship of the Mass I used to go sometimes there. When I left Holland I could speak french very well, & understood Italian indifferent well, I co'd speak indifferently well in Dutch y^t is Hollands. I hired a french dutch servant whom I brought to Ireland with me.

I was now approaching my one and twentyth year & so my Father wanted me over to levy fines & suffer recoverys & to see me marryed, & so wrote me word to come over to London & stay there some time & to come to Stradbally, accordingly I got ready & set sail from Hellvoet-sluce on a Thursday morning the 26th of X^r (O. style) in the Eagle Packet Boat. it blew very hard when we went on board, but by 10 it blew a storm & at 12 the very greatest storm y^t ever blew out of the heavens & it continued all that night & fryday & had we not spied land about 2 a'clock a fryday we must have turned out to sea & drove with y^e wind, but it pleased the Great & Good Protector our Lord, that we spied land & steples at 2 a'clock in y^e afternoo, the Capt. & ships crew did not know w^t land it was, for the storm was so prodigiously great & violent that they lost their count, some said it was flanders, others said Denmark & others England which it proved to be, & in about 3 quarters of an hour we were out of all doubt, when we found ourselves in y^e Yarmouth Roads, the Crew were against the Capt. in opinion wh course we should take through the roads, but the Captain was obeyed & God derected him right for had the ship gone as y^e Crew have had her, we sho'd have been swallowed up in the sands, we had just the daylight y^t was necessary to carry us in to a safe rideing place where we cast anchor and though we were very safe, still the ship was tossed more than when we were in y^e middle of the sea. A Saturday morning by 5 o'clock, before it was light, the Captain went ashore with the Mail & Col. Henery Crosdale of the County Gallway went with him. I wo'd not venture for y^e storm was as high as ever, About 12 at noon the storm abated, and then I & y^e rest of the passingers went ashore, which when I alighted on I did return my most sincere & hearty thanks to my good God for his delivering us out of this great and extream dangers, for I was very near perishing by being sunk down to the bottom by the Multitude of mighty waves that washed over us. The seamen were so fategued &

numbed that they wo'd not have been able to have work six hours longer than they did, so y^t had it not pleased the Almighty that we got to land before night, why we sho'd have been lost for want of men to work y^e ship, we landed between Yarmouth & Lastoff 3 miles from Lastoff, we walk to Lastoff & carried our Baggage in a cart, in my distress & great fategue I was forced to be more troubled by taking care of a Brocade waistcoat which I put on to save y^e duty, & Lace & Edgings & Cambricks which I put in my shooes & in the Bag of my Wig which I wore for that purpose & rolled the cambrick round my body under my shirt, I landed in England Saturday afternoon the 28th of X^r. O.S. 1723 which night we lay at Lastoff, & next day Col. Crosdale & I hired a four wheeled shaise & went to Colchester where we arrived a Monday night, & next day set out in the stage coach for London, & got a Wednesday night the 1st of January 1721 (*sic*). My father had wrote to my Uncle Will Cosby to take a lodgeing for me, which he did, a very handsome one in Greek street near Soho square, wherein he lived himself, very near to the place where I lodged : & my Uncle Philips very fortunately this winter had an house nearer to my lodgings than my Uncle Wills was, the first thing I did was to deck myself out with fine cloaths to make a good appearance judging that I should be more taken notice of for it, when I left Holland I had the 2 suits mentioned in the page which I made up for my German tour, & which were not y^e worse for y^e wearing & besides I had bought a new black suite of the famous Leyden Black (cloath) & so now I bought a light fine gray cloath which I lined with a cherry colloured shagreen & trimmed with a silver Button and Button hole, & for y^e Queens birthday I bought 16 yards of most extraordinary fine thick crimson Genua Velvet which made me coat, westcoat & 2 pair of Britches, & the cuffs of the coat sleve co'd be taken off & then I put on Brocade cuffs & wore my Brocade westcoat. I bought 4 pair of silver & gold clockt silk stockings in Holland & I bought 6 pair of laced ruffels & I bought some very handsome tied wigs & Bag wigs & had everything else equal to what I have told so was very gently furnished & as good use I made of them, for every day I was dressed out, for while I was in London I did take all the devertions (that is only very innocent ones) y^t was going, I went generally twice a week to Court to the Drawing Roome, onst a week to y^e Opera & onst & mostly twice a week to the play house, besides other devertions as the french play & all the Masquerades y^t were while I was in London. I dined & supped mostly at my Uncle Phillip's, I did not dine 10 times from him all the while I was in London. My

Uncle Will did not show so much kindness to me for I eat at his house but 3 times, at Col. Gardners 4 times & in y^e city 3 times. The affectⁿ my Uncle and aunt Phillips & Cozens showed me was very great, they were most vastly kind, their house was as much my home as my Fathers co'd be, the chief design that my Father had in letting me stay in London was in order that I & all his friends sho'd try to get me a great fortune, but March being come & he not hearing of so much as my addressing one, & I haveing drawn for £200. since I got to London he wrote me possative orders to go for Ireland, & I accordingly packed up & left London the 28th day of March 1724 & arrived at Chester the 1st day of aprill & at Hollyhead the 3rd of Aprill & set sail in one of the Paket boats Saturday the 4th at 9 at night & landed safe at Ringsend near Dublin Easter Sunday morning y^e 5th of Aprill 1724.

My Father came up to Dublin on y^e 8th to meet me, he had y^e gout on him when he left Stradbally & traveling though in a Chair made him much worse so y^t y^e day after he got to Dublin he was very ill & obliged to keep his bed & continued very ill for a few days, all friend & acquiantances that heard of my being come flocked in to see me, we left Dublin the 13th & the 14th we got to Stradbally to my great joy, for it was very great to meet with my Good Mother, tears of joy were Mutual, at Blackford the bounds of the County we were met by several gentlemen, friends and tenants and Garlands and long dancers and my Father invited them all home to dine with him, and gave drink and money to the common people and dancers. The next day the 15th of April 1724 was my Birthday and the day of my being 21 years old, and so there was danceing and long danceing and great joy amongst all the tenants and a great deal of company dined with us, and every day after for a long time there was company dined with us who came to see me on my Returning from abroad. Most of our time this summer was taken up in returning and receiveing visits and in this years Trinity term my Father and I went up to Dublin and levied fines and suffered recoverys and he was so uneasy at being in Dublin and so hasty to get home that he wo'd not stay for the drawing a deed declaring the uses of the fine and recovery, and happy it was that it did happen so, for y^e deed that he wo'd have had wo'd have been my ruin as hereafter shall be told. This summer the Fort came into great vogue. When my father set William Dod Viccarstown he reserved y^e fort and seven acres out of his lease, and there he fixed one Radley, whose father had lived there under my Grandfather and Great grandfather, sence before 1641, by way of a fouler, and my father reserved it & fixed Thomas

Radley there for his fouler, and here he lived till this May when my father turned him out, which he thought a great piece of injustice for he and his father having lived there so long he lookt on it as his own right and inheritance. My Father in or about 1720 let it to one Capt. Harrison who kept Radley there while he held it, but Capt. Harrison's lease expiring by his not liveing there, it came this May into his hands, and very fond he my Uncle Loftus and I were of it, Capt. Harrison was the first who built here, he built a mud wall house of 2 rooms but never finished them, he also made a little avenue through y^e wood, planted a few ash and gave y^e fosse a poor scouring, but my father this year did widen y^e avenue & planted it with limes on each side, he added a large Parlour to Capt. Harrisons house and sashed the whole house, Boarded 3 rooms, ceiled and plastered every room, laid out y^e Garden in y^e fort, built a Kitchen and lather (larder) without doors, and I scoured and widened the fosse, and made a little narrow path walk on each side of the fosse one on the inside and one on the out and I did also make many little meander walks through the woods on each side y^e avenue, and here we used to come with much company and Bring cold meat and dine and go a boateing in two good Boats which my Father had there and my Father mother sister and I and company wo'd lye there for a week sometimes 2 sometimes 3 weeks or a month, and I sometimes wo'd stay there for a week or 14 days by myself and sometimes I would have a friend with me and so my Father kept it till I was marryed, and his fouler Patrick Hyland and Foster used to live here in the Kitchen, my Father also built a stable, and I got a draw Bridge and named it *Monbijou*. Now I must look back to w^t my Father did while I was in Holland, in the year (I think) 1721 the lease of Killrory, Ballynowland and Kealspedoge was out which one Scott held, he had a lease for 31 years at £60 per annum. My father devided y^e farm into 3 parts, Killivory he set to Mr. Arthur Colley for £80, Ballynowland to Richard Bergin for £45 per annum and Keilspedoge to Nicholas Walsh for £17. 10. per annum. The year before I went to Holland, in 1721 he levelled the avenue by the persuasion of Col. John Bland, the Purchaser & Builder of Blandsfort a most intimate & old friend of my Fathers in Spain, and Col. Bland did stand over y^e workmen and did derect y^e whole work and at the same time y^e Bridge or Lougher leading from the house to the avenue was mostly made, y^t is y^e walls were laid higher and filled with y^e earth y^t came from y^e avenue. In 1723 my F: did wenscoat and floor the Drawing Roome which till now was quite unfinished, and he also the 3 years I was

away did plant hedge and ditch a great deal all over y^e demeisne, it was in the year 1718 y^t he built a Gallery at the west end of the church in which he had 5 pews y^e middle for himself, and y^e two on y^e east for his maidservants and the 2 on the north side for his menservants, & in 1723 he mostly at his own expense compassed ceiled the church and did greatly beautifie it to what it was in 1716 for it was then more wilde and naked and Ruinous than any Barn. It was about this time that he set the customs of y^e fairs and markets of Stradbally for £12 per an which before he used to get but £5 and £6 per ann for. It was in Aprill 1722 that he took a lease from Col Samuel Freeman of Esker Coolnebacca at 9s. 4d. per acre, and set it to Coz. Pigot Sands for 5 years at £0. 12. 0. he was to have it for 21 years if he or I did not go to live there, in Novr. 1724 my Father proposed to make a settlement to declare the uses of the fine and recovery which we levyed last Trinity term, he was for tyeing me up to a certain joynture, I think £400. per annum for my wife and £4000. for my younger children, w^h wo'd have been very Bad for me, so would not give my consent or come into it on any acct for which I did suffer his most heavy displeasure for some months, but my mother was on my side & kept up my spirits or I had given way, and she acted by the advice of her brother William Pole. He made this year many proposals of marriage to great fortunes but none Bore, for some I wo'd not have and some wo'd not have me, so that my Fr. and I to my great sorrow had many disagreements which I did not lay so much to his humour or fancy as to my uncle Loftus's who was my Fathers great favorite and who never cared or loved me much. It was in this year 1724 y^t my Father Compelled me to joyn with him in selling the reversion of the inheritance of Garryglas part of y^e lordship of Timahoe, I refused it for some months till at last his anger rose to y^t Height that I feared his turning me out of doors & not giveing me a maintenance, and so was forced utterly against my own consent and my Mothers to sell it to James Wills Esq. before mentioned. He also gave me this year for a present maintenance y^e farm of Rosnemullan w^h was but £58 per annum, this was but a little and poor maintenance for me though I had the run of his kitchen, y^e keeping of a man-servant and 2 horses, but however was pretty well satisfied because his estate at this time was not much risen and he paid £7 per cent. for £7500. Anno 1725, there were severall leases out, Ballymaddock, &c. the interest of which he purchased from Basil rose this year from £180 to £630, I said before that what John Weaver held he paid my Grandfather but £80 per annum for it, but some time after he took the lease from my Grand-

father he sold the interest of his lease to Basil, & after he had sold it Weaver took a lease again from Basil at £180 per annum and so it was but a 21 years lease so that it was expired in May 1725, so that when my Father purchased from Basil in 1720 he only had Basils profit y^t was £100 per annum till his lease to Weaver did expire in May 1725, and then my Father now let all the lands for £630 per an. so y^t for 5 years my Father did not get by £180 per annum so much as he p^d for the loan of the £4000 he Borrowed to pay for the purchase of it. The lease of Knocknecarroll & Knocknebrahan which was let to Denis Delany Father to the Revd. Doctor Patrick Delany for 31 years at £28 per an. did expire and my Father let it to Dr. Delany, for his F^rs and M^rs lives, at £65 per an. and he obliged himself to lay out £200 in building a dry wall round the land, which he did, and at least £100 more on the premisses Aughemaddock was out of lease this year which was set for £30 per an. my Father let it anew for £81 per an. and Garrymaddock & Rahinahone were out of lease this year; Richard Cosby Cousen German to my grandfather held them for many years and paid for the first 31 years £40 and for the last 21 years £60, and my Father now let them to severall tenants for £220 per annum. There were some few more leases out, which in proportion rose considerably, so that by all those leases dropping my Fathers rent roll was £2000 per annum and from May 1726 he gave me the rents of Knocknecarroll & Knocknebrahar which was £65 per an. so that I had £7 per an. more than I did use to have. My Father this, and y^e 2 former years built some very good stone Houses in Stradbally as Mr. Biddolphys, and James Kellys, and it was in y^e year 1719 that he built Moses Wodgers, it was in y^e year 1728 that he built Nicholas Skerrets. Mr. Wm. Dodd's house was built about 1700, Thomas Costigans about 1717, Mr. Joseph Patridge, Tanner in Maryborough Built 2 very good large stone houses on his land of lease of lives renuable for ever, in 1722 and 23 Mr. Israel Mitchell built all the houses from Partriges to the land going to y^e abbey from the year 1719 to the year 1723, Thomas Costigan built houses on each side of his own in 1729, Arthur Roberts senior built his long low stone house about 1798, Mr. Mitchell built Mr. Higgins's about 1799, Wm. Dod built two small stone houses above Wm. Hardys, about 1726, Mr. Mitchell about 1726 27, 28, & 30 built those dog holes of houses [I pulled these houses down July 1766] in the lane going up to the abbey, about 1724, my Father built William Harveys house, in 1728 I built the front part of Mr. Nun's house next the Church, and in 1735 I made one part a double house, built the stable and coachhouse, and in 1737 I

finished it all compleately, in 1730 I built the uppermost stone house on the south west side at the south east end of the town, & built other smaller houses not worth mentioning. In 1730 I built thomas Houghton's House at Fir house, in 1734 I built the bridge at Coz. Franks, y^e County only gave me £20 towards it & same year I widened the 2 town Bridges and their Causeways which before were but 10 feet wide y^e county gave me £35. towards it, y^e town Bridge cost me £27 out of my own pocket, and Coz. Franks Bridge cost me £38 more than the County gave me.

The old Corn Mill in the town of Stradbally though a very good one was not able to grind y^e grist of y^e country by which mains the poor did suffer very much, for it was usual for 'em to wait 3 days (in a dry season) before they co'd get their corn ground, and so I, being willing to give them all the help I co'd, resolved to relieve them, and so in 1732 began to build the New mills, which I finished not till summer 1734, for Capt. Mitchell in the name of his father Israel commenced a lawsuit with me for turning y^e water out of its old course and daming and pounding the water from him by which there was a great loss of Water to his mills and a great damage of sonsequence to his mills, I waged law very stifely for 2 years and doubt not I should have got the better had I wated for the issue but by the interposition of y^e gentlemen of the county I came to an agreement with him which was this, that I would become his tenant during the lease his Father had of them from my Father, and gave him £8 per an. profit that is £24. per annum and Murray who was his tenant I wo'd give him £100., this he agreed to, and so the lawsuite between us ceased and after some time we visited again, but for this unjust trouble he gave me, and for some more odd behaviour of his I never since regarded y^e man (now 1737) & I do believe I never shall, for just, generous, honourable, friendly worthy men, I love and regard, but little poor dirty spirited halfpenny Genius Fellows I cant abide, a selfish creeping hearted fellow was never worth sitting with, especially when he is but weak in his understanding and abilities, and has not y^e least acquired knowledge, this much for that man, Faith it is all truth, every halfpenny he has he esteems part of his soul [or at least it seems so].

In 1725 y^e second time y^t Lord Carteret came over here Lord Lieut. my Father took the house next to the graveyard in Stephens Green for y^e six months of winter from Mrs. Humming Widdow of Dr. Humming and gave £50. for the house ready furnished, and so we my F. M : & sister & I went up to try and get a wife for me, proposals were made to some but I did not

like some and some did not like me, so no wife did I get this winter, but before I left town I saw Miss Mary Dowdall, liked her, and my Father made proposals but the match broke off for she being an heiress and not of age co'd not sell her Estate to turn it into money to pay the debts on the estate, and my Father would not hearken to it, beside the Estate was so distant (he said) and dispersed & not devided that one co'd not be sure whether it wo'd turn out as it was given in, and so 6 weeks before my Father & family left Dublin I came down to Stradbally to improve. The first year I came from Holland I had no one busyness to divert me, sporting of all sorts I did not care for, though for 4 months I had Judge Parnells beagles and used to go a hunting sometimes, my sisters conversation and company was my chief leisure when I was not engaged in company abroad and at home. My Father and us all was this summer 1724 very fond of the Fort, and he permitted me to make some alterations and improvements there, which were I made several Meander winding Walks in y^e Wood on each side y^e avenue, I widened and sunk the fosse round the fort to 9 foot which was before not 18 inches deed [deep] nor 5 feet wide and I made a Path walk quite round on y^e inside next the water and another on y^e outside, removed many rude bushes which stood in the way, made a long ditch to bring a running stream into y^e Fosse, for before the Fosse was supplied with no water but what rain water fell in and w^t oozed out of the banks. I made a draw-Bridge for before there was only a plank lay across. I got a stable built and plastered all the houses and whitewashed them both within side and out and made all might pretty & neat to what it ever was before and we all used to go and lye there sometimes a week, sometimes a month sometimes shorter and sometimes longer and often we wo'd jant there and invite some of our neighbours with us only to dine there, I used to be often there by myself for some nights and would sometimes have a single Gentleman along with me and thus we used to do for this and the succeeding summers only summer 1727 by the Kings death there was to be a new Parliment, and our time was so taken up in parlimentaring that we did not go there above onst 1737 (*sic*), I not having any amusement I begged my Father to give me Coinglass to turn into what form I pleased, which he consented to, and so on the 11th of January 1724 I began to improve at Coinglass which I named Mountpleasant, for Coinglass y^e old name We did not like, and before I stoped I made all the Walke Built y^e Vault on the bank of the river and finished it inside & outside compleatly and prettyly & did in those months make all y^e walks all over Mountpleasant, planted

vast deal of evergreens and over trees & made it very pretty and tho but a trivial sort of improvement there came vast numbers of People a great way to see it, it being a kind of improvement that was entirely new in this Country, it was in 1725 y^t I made y^e wall on y^e S.E. side of the river and the canal facing diagonally y^e Vault down to the Avenue Bridge, & made and planted the Island of the Hermitage, it was in 1728 y^t I planted the Grove behind the Hermitage that is north W & in 1729 I planted the firs and elms from Mt Pleasant to that Grove & it was in 1734 y^t I planted the Yew Circular seat at the end of the firs next to said Grove, When my father gave me y^t spot to improve in Jan. 1724 the first thing I did was to turn y^e road into y^e land (which was on y^e top of y^e bank on the S.E. side of the Great hedge) to the N.W. side of the said hedge (that is y^e paved road on the back of Mt. Pleasant) and then I made the Crab Quick hedge and the ditch, the first that I ever made In 1735 I made the Bowlin Alley & planted the yews there. King George the 1st dyed the 11th of June 1727 by which the Parliment was dissolved, my Father & I went soon after we heard it to Mary-bourough to the Proclaiming King George y^e Second our present King. My father was Knight of the Shire for the Queens County long before he went to Spain and while he was abroad though he was not here to make interest still he was chose again and was chose allways after. When Queen Anne dyed the county agreed that my F: & Richard Warburton of Garryhinch Esq. son of my Great Uncle Warburton sho'd stand for the County, but one day a great many of the gentlemen of the County beeing met to talk of y^t affair, Dick Warbⁿ not careing for expense or trouble (& Ephraim Dawson being ambitious) told Ephraim that he sho'd stand for y^e county if he might come in for Portarlinton & so it was agreed, but it is affirmed y^t Dawson firmly promised y^t for ever a Warburton & a Sands sho'd for ever represent y^e Burrough of Portarlinton, thus it was Dawson got to be K^t: of the Shire and by his cunning management having it allways in vew, he had by making freeholders & other ways & his Scotch insinuating way got a very great interest in this County though he was quite a new comer into this County and a mean very mean Upstart, for his father kept an ale house y^e sign of the Cock in Belfast. But when the King died he wrote to my Father seeking him to joyn him in setting up for the Knights of the Shire. My father gave him no answer for some time though he himself was most Violently bent to join him yes! often in a few days resolved on it, but my uncle Pole, Col. Robt. Pigot and others & Dick Warburton himself all set on my Father to quit Dawson & join Dick

Warburton of Garryhinch son of Dick Warburton before mentioned, and Dick did in a most violent earnest manner set on me to persuade my Father to quit Dawson and join him, and so my Father being Vehemently set on both at home and abroad by all friends went against his own judgment, opinion, and inclination, & did quit Dawson and so all this summer we were employed in rideing y^e County over & over to make interest, and the 12 of October 1727 the election began at the Court House in Maryborough, y^e Election lasted 3 days & Mr. Dawson outvoted Warburton by 80 voices, and so my father & Dawson were declared duly elected & the loss that my father had by quitting Dawson was, that it obliged to spend at least £330 more than he need to have done, for the expense of this affair was to my father £430, had he stuck to Dawson noone wo'd have opposed him, so y^t it would have cost him only y^e expense of y^e day of Election which co'd not be above £100 so that it is truth my father spent £330 to oblige Mr. Warburton & for his interest & a base, ungenerous, dishonourable, unworthy return he & I met with afterwards as shall be told hereafter.

My Father went up to Parliment sooner than he designed because the match for me with Miss Dodwell was Brought about again in July by y^e mains of one Capt. Solomon White, & before the Election everything was in a manner made up, & only waited for my Fathers going up to Dublin to Fix & settle things possatively with her Mother Mrs. Bridges, which he did in a very short time so y^t I was by my Father ordered to go up on y^e 14th Nov^r 1727 to pay my court. My Father for these 2 years past had often proposed matches to me but I wo'd not hearken to any one at all, and told others he employed to speak to me y^t I would never Marry any at all while he lived, unless it was Miss Dodwell & that I was possatively resolved on it, which I was & this was it y^t made him bring about the Match with Miss Dodwell again. When I got to Dublin I took handsome lodgings in Caple Street by myself, my Father took a house ready furnished at £10 a Month in Abby street and then my Mother & sister and the family came up & match went on a pace and when all affairs was finished, all things ready, I was marryed on Friday the 9th day of February 1727 at 9 a clock at night to Miss Mary Dodwell at her Mother Mrs Bridges's house in Bow Street. It was deemed but a private Wedding 'tho it cost my wife £400 for her expenses and £500. for mine. Against my wedding I only got 2 servants in very handsome yallow liveries. The morning after I was marryed I made my wife a present of a single stone dimond ring which cost me £ 4 dimond stay buckles, which cost £115, a dimond Hoop ring

which cost £23, a fine chased repeating gold watch which cost £80. I was married in a grey cloath suite embroidered in silver & a silver damask westcoat also embroidered, & y^e suite was lined with white satin. My wife was married in a white damask mantua & pettycoat. My Father was extremely ill of the gout, worse than ever he was before, for a month before I was married, so y^t he was not nor co'd not be present to see me married, and he was advised to y^e country air as soon as possible, so y^t as soon as all invitations and entertainments were over, which was in about a week, he left town and with much ado got in 3 days to Stradbally & recovered very Fast after he got home, my sister stayed at Mrs. Bridges for 6 weeks after with us.

Dean Persivall Minister of St. Michans did marry us.

March the 10th 1727, my uncle Pole dyed suddenly at his house in Queen street and my Cos desired I wo'd go down with him to see his Father buried at Clonanagh which I did, & was an adviser at y^e funerall which was very handsome. My uncle Pole 47 years old the day he dyed. He was a tall & lusty Bodied man, full large Face & a very honest good humoured countenance, he was a plain man & allways effected it in his dress & behaviour, & very honest just man and vertuous not given to any vice & lead a very harmless life, very good natural parts, very Hospitable and spent much in improvement wh y^e Poor benefited by, he was very affect to his friends & relations, and would have been quite another sort of man had he not been too much governed by his wife who had not y^e best of judgments & not half his sense. His improvements were great grand and expensive and his designs were elegant as the gardens show. He built a fine large park, his estate was very large not less than £3000 per an, but what between his improving at Ballyfin & his wifes going constantly every winter to Dublin, he dyed worth no ready money so that his younger children had but his personal estate more than w^t was settled on them at marriage, that was Mrs Sarah £2000, Mrs Mary £1200, Mrs Betty £800, Mrs Anne £800 and Master William £800.

Towards the latter end of March 1728 I did accompany my sister home & returned to Dublin in a few days, and now I began to buy chairs, tables, beds and all sorts of household stuff for Stradbally & by the 30th of April we had bought a good deal & so my wife & I left Dublin for Stradbally, we lay the first night Kilcullenbridge, and y^e 1st of May 1728 I brought her to Stradbally, we were met at the Bounds of y^e County by a great many gentlemen and others and Longdancers. And great joy there was, bonfires &c. my bringing home my wife, we lived this

summer till the latter end of September with my Father, only in August we went to Dublin for 14 days to pay a visit to my Mother in law Mrs. Bridges, we had not gone to winter in Dublin this winter only we had not sufficient furniture to live at Stradbally, for my (father?) left Stradbally y^e 8th day of October, 1728 to live at Esker and left us w^t he did not want & that was mostly the best he had at Stradbally. When I had left my wife in Dublin I came home again that I might be at Stradbally when my Father quitted it, & I did stay by myself near 8 months to settle things as well as I could & to get some alterations and conveniencys made & then I went to Dublin & stay about 5 weeks & we bought many things for our new house and bought a very handsome Chariot-berlin which cost us £84. 17. 9, and my wife & I left Dublin the 11th of Feb. 1728 and arrived at Stradbally & began housekeeping the 12 of Feb. 1728, all our neighbours came to see us and we went to see them and were happy. I forgot to tell that in Novr. 1728 I went to Athlone where I met Bro. Kenny, Bro. Browne and Cos Digby. We 4 coheirs met to get the estate surveyed and valued which we did in 10 days time. Brother Browne called on me at Stradbally and We went to Athlone in my chaise together, and brother Kenny came from Athlone in my chaise to Stradbally, and stayed with me some days, my Father entertained him at Esker, and he gave me a promise he wo'd as soon as he heard my wife and I were come to Stradbally in the spring, he wo'd bring sister Kenny with him which he did and left her here with my wife while he and I went again to Athlone to get the estate devided which we got done in March 1728. My share which was drawn by lot was the following lands, viz. Milltowndodwell, Cornadrum, Killinwoolagh, the small third of Ballyglass in parish of Disart in the Barony of Athlone & County of Roscommon, Gurtnahoughty in the parish and Barony of Killion & County of Gallaway, a fourth part of Ballykereen &c. in the county of Westmeath, a fourth part of y^e Rosses in y^e county Mayo and the Globe tavern on Cork Hill Dublin, as soon as the lands were devided Brother Kenny & I returned to Stradbally and he stayed a good while with us on condition we would go with him to Newfort, his seat in the county of Waxford, but we were hindered for 14 days.

On the 20th day of April 1729 we went to Newfort and did stay there a fortnight, my Father did accompany us in our journey to the county Waxford as far as Mr. Coopers the Quakers at Sragh in this County, where we lay the first night and this was the last time I ever saw him, he told us while we were abroad he would go and pay a visit to his Kings County

relations and accordingly about the 10 of May he and my sister set out and went to cousin Henry Malones, at Litter in the Kings County, where he stay about 8 days, then he went to Col. Humphrey Minchins at Bushellstown in said county where he was very ill, he fell ill at Coz. Malones at Litter, he got cold two ways as was supposed, one was y^t after dancing county dances while he was in a heat, went lay down on a bed and fell asleep and had no covering on him or curtin drawn and so got cold, the other way was y^t a very great company went from Litter and carried cold meat Wine & musick to an Island in a Lough and that while they were at dinner there my Father got cold, for after those two things he had a short cough and got touches of the gout in hands and feet, before he left Litter at Coz. Minchins he was so bad and in such pain that he was obliged to keep his bed, but was somewhat better on Wednesday the 21st of May 1729 he was so well that he thought he sho'd be able to go home next day and so set out a Thursday and went about half a mile but was not able to go any further for y^e least jolt of the chaise gave him excessive pain, so he turned back again to Coz Minchins and took to his bed and was in great pain with y^e gout in his hands and feet, and was in a way that he never used to be in, y^e gout very hot and uneasy, a friday they thought him much better and its being only the gout as they thought, they had no kind of apprehensions of his death, a Saturday he was very bad and grew weaker and weaker and to their great amazement found him near his end, he was speechless but sensible for some hours before he died, at a little after 10 a clock at night on Whitsunday eve, Saturday night y^e 24th of May 1729 y^t he dyed, just after he dyed there was a great chrack in his head, and immediately out of his ear flowed a great quantaty of thick watery stuff, my father had had the gout ever since he was 39 years old and it every year grew severer and severer, it was in 1711 that he was first seased with it in Holland and by 1720 he used to have 2, 3 fits in a year for 6 weeks 2 months and longer each fit wo'd last, he was very decrepit and all the joynts of his fingers were vastly large and knotted and his hands were a terrible spectacle, all his joynts were too large and some of his fingers contracted and distorted, as well all y^e joynts of his body knotty and large and very large lumps growing out, in 1721 when he went to Holland with me and he advised with the Great the renowned and truly famous Professour Bourhave, who advised him to drink no wines but Renish and Moselle wines, not to eat any but white meats and not much of them but more of puddings and such like victuals and garden stuff and small soups, and my father said that Bourhave told him that if y^t wo'd not do he

must then go into a milk dyet. 1722 my F: kept close to white meats and white wines etc. but this year he was worse than ever for he had 5 fits and some very long ones and so on the 8th of October 1722 he went into a milk dyet and most strickly and religiously he kept to it, for nothing on earth else but milk bread and potatoes and water and y^e wine at sacrement did he put into his mouth for 3 years, but then he indulged with roots Pudding and such like, but this not for a constancy, he was vastly better to be sure & had some comfort for the four first years he had not above a fit a year and co'd walk a mile or two or three very stoutly, but finding himself better than usual in 1726 he eat soups, kid, lamb a little, a small chick, and patridge which he loved mightily, he wo'd not eat these constantly every day but 3 4 or 5 times a week and then but sparingly, but for all that he found it had ill effects for his gout was severer than usually it was y^e four first years of his milk dyet but he was tyred of it and I believe found a decay in himself (which was visable to eveyone else) and so thought to get flesh and strength by eating y^e things mentioned, but his eating 'em made the gout more severe when it came not as to the pain but wore him out and decayed him more than formerly so that he had a visible day (decay?) of his flesh and strength so though y^e gout was the cause of his death still one could not say it was y^e gout that killed him but that he died of a decay, he had fever which helped him off sooner than he otherwise might, the fever was chiefly occasioned by the imposume in his head, which no doubt was aiding to his death, so that it was not one distemper but 4 he died of, viz. gout, fever, decay and impostume in his head, he was one of the most active men when young at all kinds of exercises that ever was in Ireland, many and many have I heard say so, he wo'd vault over anything that he co'd reach to lay the first joints of his fingers on. Five horses set close standing by one another he wo'd lay his hand on the first horses neck, and vault into the saddle on the fifth horse, he wo'd commonly and make nothing of leaping over a fishpond 21 feet wide, he wo'd leap 24 feet on plain ground, he wo'd follow (in pumps and dimity jacket) a pack of fleet Hounds from morning till night and keep closer in with y^e hounds than anyone on horseback he danced on the roaps as well as any roap dancer that ever was, he was a fine Tennis and five player, a most extraordinary fine Hurler and very fond he was of all those things, and practised them very much when he was young and able, and it was to those violent exercises that his violent gout was attributed for he strained his joynts and whole body so much that y^e gout was knotted more in knobs with him than it would otherwise have done. He was a sober

man, did not care at all for drinking above a pint or generally half a pint of wine and that he liked very well, the most easy man on earth in his victuals could be, his Passions were great when he had just cause, but they were short and soon over, in a minite he would be as composed as if he had never been in a Passion, he was quite free from pride, had not the least tincture of it, not that he would do anything beneath himself for he had a spirit great and generous y^t wo'd not suffer him to do anything inconsistent with his character, he was vastly affable, and free which made him much beloved by all, but especially by the lower rank of people, he was of a most charitable compassionate temper insomuch y^t tears wo'd flow from him at seeing a melancholy miserable object and he as freely and as bountifully wo'd relieve them, his hands were never shut nor ears deaf to the crys of the needy, ever ready to serve and redress y^e grievances of y^e distressed. The wars of 1688 in Ireland prevented his having a Universaty education, but for the education he had he had much more knowledge than anyone co'd expect, he was perfectly and well skilled in y^e Christian religion, knew all the controversy of all the different sects, and knew perfectly well w^t was the true orthodox doctrine of Christ's Church, held the keeping of the Christian Sabbath, seldom or never missed publick worship and had most every night worship in his own family, reading y^e scriptures of the Old and New Testament and on Sabbath days other good books, and singing of Psalms and reading of prayers, all w^h he did himself, he did not constantly read y^e Church prayers but sometimes other good prayers y^t he wo'd meet with in good books, but he was (w^t is called) very Low in his opinion of religion and a staunch Wig but not violent either for the House of Hannover, had he been of the other side he would have got more by it, & at the time that he gave £300 for his Commission the Duke of Ormond wo'd have given him a Captains Commission (as he did to Col. Rob^t Pigot, Walter Weldon and others) if he wo'd have voted in Parliament as he wo'd have had him, he was a very generous man, did set no value on money and his greatness of generosity and spirit was such y^t nothing co'd compel him to do a main poor spirited thing, nor never esteemed or cared for poor niggardly spirited people, no sum of money wo'd intice him to do anything in the least, in the smallest or minutest point y^t had the appearance of dishonesty in it, he had a very sound good judgment and a clear head very comprehending & a quick turn of thought ready, and sharp at giveing an answer and allways very aprapo, he had a very good knowledge of the world, and no very good opinion of it, w^h made his friendships rare, he was where he did proffess sincere, he

was a very dutiful child, always spook with respect of not the kindest of fathers, he was a very kind just generous and affect brother to most all his brothers and sisters, my aunt Wall was his favorite sister and my uncle Loftus Cosby his favorite brother, all the rest were pretty equall except one sister that misbehaved whom he never cared for after, he was a kind good father which is testified by the great pains he took in retrieving the estate, for he in a manner did Banish himself from his house home and country for 12 years & lived very sparingly comparatively speaking all that while that he might leave a clear estate to his children, he loved my sister better than me by far (not that I was refractory or disobedient) and used to be the last year of his life in great fits of trouble and concern y^t she was not married and settled before, he was a very good and kind father to me, he was an affect: and very kind good Husband to my Mother, seldom or never had any y^e least disagreements, and those were allways about saving and setting the land, for my mother was ever (for our sakes) for saving much and setting the land to the utmost farthing, 'tho my father did a great deal for his children still my mother was ever inclined to do much more. My father, when he married me, was very kind for he gave me all my wife brought and Stradbally and more than £1200 for my present maintenance but then I was to pay all the debts on the estate and my sisters fortune of £3000, if she married before my father dyed, and he reserved for himself £860. per an: of y^e best rents of the Estate and besides he had his Majors half pay wh. made his annual income above £1000 per an:

He dyed a Saturday night, and early a Whitsunday morning y^e sad News was brought to me, y^e first thing I did was to send off a letter to Hawkins King of Arms in Dublin to provide Escutcheons and Hangings and all things necessary for y^e funerall for he was to be buried a Wednesday, and I got Capt. Mitchel to go with me in my Berlin to Bushertown where I arrived a Monday morning by 6 of the clock, agreed there with one Evans of Rossgray to get coffin, herse & other things and have the corpe at Stradbally a Tuesday night & after giving Coz. Minchin and his lady many thanks for their most exceeding great love and kindness and great love and vast tenderness of my father in his sickness and my Mother and sister all the while, my Mother, sister and I set out in y^e Berlin, Capt. Mitchel in the chair that my Father and Mother went in, and we got that night to Esker, a malancholy journey it was between us three as ever was, a Wednesday my Father was buried with very great pomp (as any y^t ever was in y^e Queens County) in

St. Patricks church of Stradbally, the house below was all hung in Black and Scutchons hung close quite round every room, herse and six horses with all proper ornaments every creature y^t came y^t had the least tolerable appearance had scarfes and gloves, 100 poor were served at the door with bread and ale and great quantatyes of victuals of all sorts within, with plenty of wine.

By my Fathers death he being Knight of the Shire for y^e Q: C: there was a seat void in Parliament, till after he was buried I never had y^e least thought about it though I heard of others setting up, but about two days after y^e Funeral I was persuaded to set up and so declared I wo'd and sent messengers with letters all over y^e county, I myself was averse to it, but however more to please others than myself I pursued it. Coll. St. Leger Gilbert set up as soon as he heard of my father's death, but he declined y^e day he was buried. M^r Dawson gave him his interest, Sir John Byrne Bart set up and Eph: Dawson gave him his intrest as soon as Gilbert declined, and Dick Warburton who had been with my father now set up agst me, so there were three candidates, viz. Sir Jⁿ Byrne, Mr. Warburton and me. And Byrne had little Busyness to set up in y^e Q. C. and about the beginning of July his friends found their error for they co'd not get above 80 votes for him, and so he declined, I held out and worked all I co'd but I was the worst person in the world to sollicite for an elextion, but however underwent vast and great fategues and no less than at least £300 pounds expense, I was pretty strong for I was sure of 200 votes and Lord Montrath had not declared who he wo'd give his interest to, nor Mr. Dawson since Sir John Byrne declined for he complymented my Lord y^t his interest should go as my Lords did, so both Mr. Warburton & I was in suspense and both to be sure using means that could be thought of to gain my Lord Montrath to his side, for that was to determine the affair, I did all I co'd but at last it prove all fruitless, so by the advice of my friends gave it up y^e beginning of October and so the 12 of October 1729 Dick Warburton was elected Knight of y^e Shire for the Q. C. and he was not present but at that time in France.

Now the treachery of Dick Warburton and his Friends came to light and what was their design in getting my Father to quit Dawson in 1727 when K. G. y^e 1st died, for it was evident by my Fathers ill state of health and frequent returns of fits of y^e gout that he co'd not live long, and so by getting him and me to break with Dawson, that would insense Dawson so much that he wo'd ever after do my F: and me all the prejudice in his power and would never joyn with us again and so when y^t interest of Dawson's and my Fathers was unlinked they might

the easier through me out as it did prove, but it was cruelly ungenerous usage to me who had taken so much pains and showed so much friendship to Dick Warburton to be so great a mains of making my father join him, & he after to set up against me, ah ! it was not generous but y^e reverse.

My father ever resolved, when he sho'd marry me, to quit Stradbally & Ballymaddock was the place he did resolve to retire to, but from y^e time he took Esker from Coll. Freeman in 1722 he resolved that Esker should be that place, and so in Autum 1725 before Coz. Pigot Sands quitted it, he began to improve and made the avenue, ditches, hedges and trees, and Spring 1726 he began to build there, he pulled down 2 rooms of y^e old house, broke out lights backwards to y^e old house & built ye Parlour Hall and drawing roome in y^e front, he new floored and wescotted and new sashed and glased the whole house, built the seller vaults and rooms over them, built all new the wall garden scullery, lather, dary, Brew house, giling room and coach houses, Enclosed all the court and yard with walls, new painted y^e whole house put up marble chimneypieces, Built the wall on the N.W. side of the Paddock, stubed a vast dale of the land, scoured the whole river as far as it run through Esker land, made a vast number of new drains and scoured up all the old, Built many pair of stone peers and set up gates & did many more improvemts I cant recollect, all wh cost him about £1100, he did not do this all in one year but from Autum 1726 to May 1729 y^t was in two years and a half's time, he finished all his work very well and good and compleat work it was. My F: before he left Ireland when he was goeing to Holland made a Will which my mother had, and I read it and saw it after his death, but it was lost and what became of it I never co'd hear, but by this will he left all his personal estate to my mother and so Esker being only a lease of years it was my mothers, and my fathers debts when he dyed were, including his funeral expenses, £2078 1. 3. but indeed I was bound with him for £1180, but then I could make his effects to go as far as they co'd to pay first his Bond debts, his effects, besides what the interest of Esker was worth, came to £428. 3. 6. so that would pay off y^e Bonds y^t I joined with in not half, so y^t there remained for me of the Bond debts £551. 16. 6. then there were his own debts including his funeral charges £898. 1. 3d. and not a farthing to pay them except y^e interest of Esker, and so my mother wo'd have a deed between she and I, y^t I should have Esker and all my Fathers effects except y^e coach chariot chairs and as many of the coach and saddle horses as she pleased, y^e furniture of her roome and some other furniture and all the tea plate and a p^r of plated candlesticks, and y^t I should take on me my fathers debts and

w^t pleased her I consented to, and so a deed was got drawn by Mr. James Wills in Dublin & executed I think in July 1729. Long before this I had resolved that 'tho I did not get one doit by my F: I would pay every indevidual debt he owed, and before this I had paid a Good deal and gave out everywhere y^t to whomsoever he owed anything they might come to me and I wo'd pay them, and so I did as fast as I co'd get money. His own debts altogether were, exclusive of the Bonds I joined him in, £898. 1. 3. his effects £928. 3. 6. which I apply to discharge so much of the Bond debts of £1180. and the remainder which is £554. 16. 6d. took on myself to pay without thinking it any Merit because I was bound as well as he for it, but his own Personal proper debt of £898. 1. 3. I paid wholly out of my own pocket, and had no reason but affection to his memory for paying nor co'd not (any more than the Pope) be obliged to pay it, but so Good a Father as he was who left me a large and Plentifull estate wh he brought to be that, for if he had been as other men, I might not have been this day worth £500. per ann; wh^t co'd I do less in Gratitude to him only I will suppose as a benefactor than give him some (By paying his debts) of what he had made himself, but my duty and affection to him as my Father if there had been no other consideration wo'd have obliged me to pay his debts y^t he might not be reflected on by any souls being a sufferer by him. My Mother I knew (on his death) had rather live with me than keep house, and so I did persuade her to come and live with me in July 1729 and all the furniture of Esker was brought here so y^t Stradbally was over furnish, for we had a good deal of our own before, my Mother kept her own Black coach and six, and Coachman, and Postilion and footman, and one maide but in 1732 she laid down her Coach, discharged Coachman and Postilion and took another maide my sister kept a man and a maid, and I shoed all the horses, and my mother gave me £150 per an. for all. We wanted roome much having so large a familly especially an appartment for my sister, so I this summer built her Bedchamber dressing roome and closet at y^e back of my Mothers room. [I pulled this appartment down Jan. 1767.] I also Built this summer a Scullery and store roome, and over them, rooms for the maidservants and I made 6 rooms below in y^e shed behind the big house for menservants, and I did floor them with boards, plaster and glaze them and they are mighty tite rooms. I also this year built y^e Wash house and a new Dary and over them a long landry room. This summer my Mother in law Mrs. Bridges, Bro. and sis^r Kenny, Bro. and sis^r Browne came from Dublin and stay with us some time 3 weeks.

(To be continued.)