

had been first a learned Ollamh, and afterwards King of [Fodhla i. e., of] Ireland." Dr. George Petrie cites the testimony of Tighearnach indicating "that a Monarch known by this cognomen did really exist," notwithstanding the incredibly remote date to which the foundation of the "Assembly of Temur" and the *Mur Olmhan* has been assigned, i. e. the bardic history of Erin. (*History and Antiquities of Tara Hill*, Dublin, 1 vol. 4to. 1839, pp. 29-30). An ancient poem, quoted by Dr. Geoffrey Keating, and by him credited to Eochaidh O'Finn, a poet of the tenth century of our own era, treats specifically of the *Feis*, or triennial meetings at "regal Temur." (See *Keating's Ireland*, translated by John O'Mahony, New York, 1857 pp. 232-233). A different rendering of this ancient poem is given by Wm. Halliday. (*Keating's Ireland*, translated by Wm. Halliday, Dublin, 1 vol. 8vo. 1811, p. 330) and yet another version by Prof. Eugene O'Curry, who attributes the poem to Eochaidh O'Garra, also of the tenth century (*Lectures on the Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish*, Dublin, 3 vols. 8vo., 1873, vol. 2, pp. 12-13). Prof. O'Curry argued "that Ollamh Fodhla was a man of power and distinction as a legislator and a scholar, may be, I think, very fairly allowed, as we find this character given to him in a very ancient poem of thirty-two lines, preserved in the Book of Leinster, and ascribed to the Ultonian poet Ferceolrnie, who was attached to the Court of Cormac MacNessa, the celebrated King of Uladh, and flourished so long since as about the time of the Incarnation of our Lord." (*Id.*, p. 8). An English version of this remarkable poem is supplied by the Professor. (*Id.*, p. 89). Thomas Moore regarded Ollamh Fodhla, of all the earlier Kings of Erin, as "almost the only one who, from the strong light of tradition thrown around him, stands out as a being of historical substance and truth.".....LAFFAN is always glad to hear from his correspondents of the "olden time," which he, too, holds in vivid and loving recollection. Around him, those valued friends form a circle of his own genuine stock, of which he is most assuredly—he hopes, becomingly—proud.

G. H. LILLERIDGE, Washington, D. C.—From this correspondent LAFFAN has received a note of inquiry as to the origin of his surname. Our correspondent adds that his ancestors emigrated from Scotland during the early settlement of this country, and settled in New England. The surname is considered local, and is not prominent in the British Islands. It is not a prevalent surname even in New England, where it does not appear as of record among the names of the first three or four generations of the settlers and their descendants. It turns up there within a century, but is not of other than local note. Neither Mr. James Savage nor Mr. S. G. Drake makes mention of it, in treating of the early settlers of New England.

WM. MACCOURT, Albany, N. Y.—Your surname is distinctively Celtic, most prevalent in Ulster and the south-west of Scotland. We have already noticed the name, which is in no way connected with the historic Munster surname of MacCurtin, famous as that of the illustrious *ollamhs* and historians of Thomond.

JOHN LENIHAN, Utica, N. Y.—Mr. O'Hart gives "Mac Lenihan (Irish, Mac Longchain; also Anglicised Long), Chief of Crota Clich, and Hi-Coonagh, which territory he describes as having been "situated partly in the barony of Coonagh, county Limerick." (*Irish Pedigree*, pp. 239-240). We have already noticed the name of Mac or Mag Longchain, which the Tipperary peasantry pronounce as if written O'Lonnain, or Lunegain, and which has been regarded as the original of Lanigan, and of which stock, by the way, was Dr. Lanigan, author of the standard *Ecclesiastical History of Ireland*. This is not at all the original of your surname, of which the well-known ancient form was *Ua* or O'Leannachain, now Lenehan, or Lennahan, or Lenihan. This old surname, in its Anglicised form, is yet prevalent in ancient Tuam-mna, now the parish of Tuama, bordering on the Shannon, barony of Boyle, county Roscommon, where the O'Lenaghans long held sway, and where the tradition is that the old parish chapel was built by them, and placed under the patronage of the Virgin St. Eatalin of Tuama, whose festival the O'Clerys placed under July 5th, and whose grave, according to O'Donovan, is yet "shewn in the church-yard." Of this stock was Mulkeran O'Lenaghan, "a noble priest of Tuam-mna, who kept a house of hospitality for the clergy and laity." He died, in A. D. 1249, "on the way as he was going to Ardcarne, to hear a sermon, on the Friday before Lammas, and was interred with pomp and honour on Trinity Island (*Oilean na Trinitide*), in Lough Key (Loch C6"). Maurice Lenihan, an Irish journalist of our own time, has placed his people under lasting obligations to him, for his valuable work on *The History and Antiquities of Limerick*—a work which, in most particulars, may be regarded as the best of the very few local or county histories, of which our national literature can boast.....LAFFAN is pleased to hear from his correspondent at any time.

JAMES O'CONNELL, New Haven, Conn.—Your distinguished old Irish surname has been already noticed by LAFFAN. Sir J. Bernard Burke gives in detail the lineage of the illustrious Liberator. (*Landed Gentry*: title, O'Connell of Derrynane Abbey). Sir Bernard, in speaking of the removal of these O'Connells from "the districts of Upper and Lower Connelloe, county Limerick," to Iveragh, in county Kerry, says they "remained there * * * until the rebellion of 1641 transplanted them, with many other victims of that disastrous event, to the county Clare." In noticing Jeffrey O'Connell, Lord of Bally Carbery, High Sheriff of the county Kerry, *tempore* James I., the same author adds that his son, Daniel O'Connell, of Aghgore, "having taken no part in the insurrection of 1641, preserved his estate. He married Alice, daughter of Christopher Segrave, Esq., of Cabragh, county Dublin." The "elder son and heir" of this Daniel, John O'Connell, Esq., of Aghgore and Derrynane, Sir Bernard further relates, "raised a company of foot for the service of James II., and embodied it in the regiment of his cousin, Colonel Maurice O'Connell. He signalized himself at the siege of Derry, in 1689, as well as at the battles of the Boyne and Aughrim; and, returning to Limerick, with his shattered regiment, was included in the capitulation of that city." Through his second son, Daniel O'Connell, of Derrynane, who "married Mary, daughter of Duffee O'Donoghue, Esq., of Anways, county Kerry," by whom "twenty-two children" were born to this Daniel, he was the grandfather of the Liberator, whose father was Morgan O'Connell, of Carhen, barony of Iveragh. Mr. O'Hart classes these O'Connells, with the O'Falvey, O'Shea, O'Donoghue and their relatives, as of the Clann-na-Deagha, "also called Degadians, and Ernans" originally of Ulster, who became "celebrated chiefs in Munster." (*Irish Pedigree*, p. 217).

JOHN MASTERSON, Newport, R. I.—The Mac-Tiernans, anciently Mac Tighearna, of Cavan and Leitrim, have Anglicised their name Mac-Kiernan, Kiernan, Kearns, Masterson, Lord, &c.—The old name is said to come from the root word *tighearna*, more correctly *tiarna*, which Dr. O'Brien defines lord, sovereign, prince, ruler, &c., &c. We have previously noticed the name, of which Mr. O'Hart makes mention. (*Irish Pedigree*, p. 256, where also allusion is

made to the ancient Mac Samhradhain surname also of Cavan, now rendered Magauran, Mac Gauran, Magovern, &c.).

PATRICK CASSIN, Portland, Me.—Your surname is old Irish. O'Casain was the ancient form of the name, which was borne by a prominent sept, deriving from *Sodhan Salbhuidhe*, son of *Fiacha Araidhe*, King of Ulster in the third century of our era. The O'Casains were of the Six Sodhan septs, whose territory, according to O'Donovan, was "nearly co-extensive with the barony of Tiaquin" county Galway,—of which territory, not the O'Casains but the O'Mannins, and Mican-Bhairds or Mac-Wards, were the chief or dominant septs. Of the Six Sodhans were these Mac-an-Bhairds, O'Scerry, O'Lennain, O'Malgin, O'Dunagan or Dugan or Duggan, O'Gialla, and O'Casain. The O'Malnnins held sway, for generations, in Sodhan, first established at Clogher, but, after the middle of the fourteenth century, at Menaigh O'Malnnin, parish of Killaskeo, barony of Tiaquin. These Sodhan septs, though found in Hy-Many, through all the reach of authentic history, were not of the descendants of Maine, ancestor of the O'Kellys, and their co-relatives of the Hy-Maine stock. Mr. O'Hart classes the Cassains with the "families descended from Ir." (*Irish Pedigree*, p. 98). He, however, did not commit the blunder of specifically stating that "the O'Casains were chiefs of the district known as the Six Sodhans." On the contrary, he correctly named the O'Malnnins, as "Chiefs of Sodhan,"—(Ib.)—to whom the O'Casains were in subordination. A brother of *Sodhan Salbhuidhe*, named Cass, was of the ancestry of the distinguished MacGuinness or Magenis sept, of Iveragh, which derived their name from Aongus or Eceas Mor, who was of the twentieth generation in direct descent from the said Cass. Another O'Casain sept, of Dalcaasian stock, once flourished in Munster, but sank into obscurity long ago. It is said to have been subordinate to the MacComaras or MacNamaras.....LAFFAN is grateful for your kind wishes.

We cannot, under any circumstances, take notice of anonymous communications. Those who are not willing to trust us with their real names, as a confidential guarantee of what they write, need not expect to see their productions in print.

Correspondents will also please notice that we cannot undertake to preserve or return manuscripts sent to us. Who. It is especially requested in writing, we always endeavor to satisfy our contributors in this respect; but we cannot be responsible for the loss of manuscripts in returning, or otherwise.

All letters and papers for LAFFAN must be addressed to Box 558 P. O. New York, or to the IRISH-AMERICAN Box, 3025, P. O. New York.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MARTIN PAYNE, Lowell, Mass.—Your surname is of the Anglo-Irish element, and eminently historical. The name, in one of its several forms of Payne, Paynes, Pain, Paine, Pagani, Paganel, Paganus, Paganellus, Pagnol, Paynel, Fitz Payne, or Filius Pagani, has been a prevalent name in the British Islands, especially in England, and also on the Continent. A very interesting sketch of this celebrated name was published, some years since, by J. Bertrand Payne, Esq., an English genealogist. The name is traceable in the English connection back to remote ages. All forms of the name are regarded as derivatives of Pagan, from *pagns*, &c. In the Fitz-Pagan form it first presented itself in our native land. Connected with the furnishing of supplies to the dependents of King Henry II., in Ireland, A. D. 1185, was Robert Fitz-Pagan. In the reign of Henry III., and A. D. 1229, Roger and Richard Fitz-Pagan are on record as litigants for law claims or grants "against the Ab. bey of Dunbrothy, * * * and against Adam. Christopher and Walter Abernyn." Ralph and Adam Painel put in an appearance in connection with Anglo-Irish affairs, same reign, and A. D. 1230. Lieutenant Paynes was one of the Undertakers for Armagh, in the reign of King James I. An Anglo-Irish constable for our native barony of Gowran, in A. D. 1868, was Melorus Payne, described as "of Ballynobally." Nevill Payne, an agent of James II., said to have been concerned "in a plot," was "brought before the Scots' Parliament," in 1633. Anselm Payen was a prominent French chemist and writer on chemistry in the first half of the present century. John Payne, —1606-1648,—was an English engraver, first of his line or profession in England of prominence. He was a pupil of Simon de Passe the Elder. Rev. Dr. Wm. Payne, of the Anglican Establishment, and a Fellow of the Royal Society, who died in 1696, was a very prolific theological writer. An English translation was published, in the last half of the last century, by John Payne of the *Imitation of Christ*, by Thomas à Kempis. Dr. George Payne was prominent in our own days, as a writer on mental and moral science, divine sovereignty, election, original sin, man in nature, &c. Dr. Martin Paine, of New York, eminent as a physician, also won distinction as a writer on mental and moral science. John Howard Payne A. D. 1792-1852—was of note as a dramatist, poet, and doctor. A statue to his memory was erected, a short time ago, in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, by the Faunt Club of that city.....LAFFAN is grateful for your good wishes.

PATRICK WHELAN, Fall River, Mass.—In his presentation of the *stemata* of O'Farrell, Mr. O'Hart names as No. 44 of the line of descent, *Ollamh Fodhla* (Ollav Fola), of whom the same writer says: "This Ollav was the 27th monarch of Ireland; began to reign before Christ, 1317, and reigned forty years. Ollav Fola, as the name implies, was so called from his great learning and deep knowledge in the sciences, and instructing his people; his first name was Crimthann. It was this monarch who first instituted Triennial Parliaments at Tara" (*Feis Teamrach*, or the Parliament of Tara), and which "was strictly observed from the first institution thereof by *Ollav Fola*, for upwards of 2,500 years, up to the submission by the Irish to King Henry II." (*Irish Pedigree*, pp. 84-85). This is substantially what had been said, generations ago, by Donald MacFirbis, in his *Book of Genealogies*, as cited by the late Professor Eugene O'Curry, to this effect: "*Ollamh Fodhla*, is the King of Erin, who was so called from the extent of his *Ollamh* learning; for Eochaidh was his first name. It was he that made, the first *Feis* at Tara, which was the great convocation of the men of Erin, and which was continued by the Kings of Erin from that down, every third year, to preserve the laws and rules, and to purify the history of Erin, and to write it in the *Sliathir* (or psalter) of Tara that is the Book of the Ard Righ (chief King or Monarch) of Erin." (*Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History*, Dublin, 1861, p. 218). Mageoghegan, in his old translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise, made "Ollav Fodla, of the house of Uister" * * * "the first King of this land that ever kept the great feast of Tarragh, which feast was kept once a year, whereunto all the King's friends and dutiful subjects came yearly; and such as came not were taken for the King's enemies, and to be prosecuted by the law and sword, as unfaithful to the state." His death is said to have occurred in A. M. 3922. The Four Masters, following the Annals, or Book of Clonmacnoise, say: "Eochaidh was the first name of Ollamh Fodhla; and he was called Ollamh (Fodhla) because he