County Louth Archaeological and History Society

Smarmore

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MISCELLANEOUS.

3. Telescope, in leather case, used by Captain Kelly on the "Dundalk."
54. Jug of antique pattern, got from a Cooley woman.
55. Cup found at fairy well at Slievemore (over Jenkinstown). It is ornamented on the inside : plain on the outside. Otherwise it looks quite modern.
56. Head (skeleton) and horns of deer dug up in Meighfoner bog near Slieve Gullion. Horns measure 3 feet from tip to tip.
57. Bone of sheep's leg fashioned out like a small scoop, and slightly ornamented. Found in James M'Dermott's fort in Dulargy.
58. A photogravure of Mr. MacGrath's grandmother, showing the peculiar dress and style of hair-dressing of the period.
59. Cameo : one of six found in a box dug up in Mr. MacGrath's garden, from under 4 feet of earth. This one has a beautiful, classic, female head in profile, and Mr. M'Grath says the figures on all the others were those of females also.

COINS.

Mr. M'Grath has got several old coins since 1904, the most remarkable of them being :

- (a) A Roman silver coin, showing on one side two horses drawing a chariot, with driver, beneath which is the inscription : *Calg (?) Roma* ; and on the other side the head of a woman, probably a goddess, shown in profile. This was found between Faughart and Moira Castle.
- (b) A silver coin of irregular quadrilateral shape found behind Convent of Mercy, Dundalk. On one side is a cross, and on the other a shield with some heraldic devices almost obliterated. Mr. MacGrath says there are similar coins in the National Museum, also of irregular shape, and that they are called "Rebel money of 1641."
- (c) Two Isle of Man copper coins dated respectively 1732 and 1786, found at Inniskeen.
- (b) Irish halfpenny of Charles II. dated 1682 ; found at Seatown graveyard.

Smarmore.

How many of those who live in Smarmore know the origin and history of the name ? Yet it has a meaning and a history. Here it is. When Cuchulainn was defending Ulster at the ford at Ardee, one of the first of his friends to come to his aid was Cethern, but so promptly did the latter come on hearing the news of Queen Meave's threatened invasion that he had time to arm himself with nothing better than an iron spit. On arriving at the battlefield he rushed on his foes, but in the unequal combat he was overpowered and wounded almost to death.

Cuchulainn got for him at first some physicians from Queen Meave's side, but so little did they serve Cethern that he—wounded though he was—dismissed them with blows.

Cuchulainn on seeing this despatched his charioteer, Leag, for Fingin, King Connor's chief physician, who dwelt on the brow of Slieve Fuaid. Fingin, on examining the terrible nature of Cethern's wounds had, at first, no hopes of curing him, but eventually succeeded in doing so by means of a curious bath, formed of the marrow of a great number of cows which Cuchulainn had killed for the purpose.

The place where this bath was prepared received the name of *Smiramair*, or the *Marrow-bath*, which is still preserved in that of Smarmore in the County Louth.

—O'Curry *Manners and Customs*, vol. iii., p. 101.