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Cover: Detail from 'The Castletown Hunt', drawn in grey and white chalk by Robert Healy in 1769. The 1975 Irish stamp 'Castletown' is another detail from the same picture.

Full details of the various membership rates are available from the Irish Georgian Society, Castletown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. All members receive the Quarterly Bulletin, and are entitled to attend lectures, join expeditions, etc.

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PRICE 50 PENCE

REMEMBERING DR. BEAUFORT

BY CANONC. C. ELL ISON

* * *

INTRODUCING THE BEAUFORT FAMILY

* * *

"The Rev. Daniel Augustus Beaufort . . was a most distinguished Irishman, whose name should not be forgotten.

Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, Hydrographer Royal and author of a work on Caramania .. . was a gallant sailor and a cordial friend. He very nearly induced me in 1840 to give up medicine and become secretary of the Geographical Society. Of his three sisters, whose acquaintance 1 was honoured with, one was Mrs. Edgeworth ... the second was ... author of Bertha's Journal and other tales and the third the charming Miss Louisa Beaufort, a writer of distinction and author of an essay in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy on Irish Architecture prior to the Anglo-Norman conquest.

All these have gone to their long rest within the last few years in good old ages, beloved by their friends and admired and respected by all who enjoyed their society. Yet the literature of the social history of this country contains no record of them or their labours." Sir William Wilde, *Memoir of Gabriel Beranger*[1].

* * *

DANIEL CORNELIUS (DE) BEAUFORT, born Wesel 1700, died Dublin 1788, descended from Francois de Beaufort, founder of the Protestant branches of this ancient and numerous French noble family, who migrated from Meaux to Sedan in 1572. Daniel's father, Francois, left Sedan for Prussia in 1685, became Court Chancellor of Lippe-Detmold and was created a Noble of the Holy Roman Empire (1710) in recognition of his antecedent nobility and his services as a cavalry leader. Daniel, after army service, studied at Utrecht to be a Calvinist minister and came to London where he served at several Huguenot chapels. He received Anglican orders in 1731, was Rector of East Barnet in 1739 and came to Ireland as chaplain to William Stanhope, 1st Earl of Harrington, in 1746. He was Rector of Navan 1747-65 and Rector of Clonenagh (Mountrath) 1758-88.[2] His son, DANIEL AUGUSTUS BEAUFORT (referred to below as DAB.) was born in London 1739 and baptised in the Royal Chapel of St. James, educated at Preston

School, Navan, and by Thomas Ball in Dublin, Scholar of Dublin University 1757, B.A. 1759, M.A. 1764, LL.D. (Hon.c.) 1789, Member of Royal Irish and Royal Danish Academies, Freeman of Drogheda 1813. He received Holy Orders from the Bishop of Salisbury 1762-3 and was Rector of Navan 1765-1818 and Vicar of Collon 1789-1821. He married 1767 MARY, co-heiress of William Waller of Allenstown, Co. Meath, and had issue (with two daughters who died young) two sons and three daughters:—

I. WILLIAM LOUIS, born Navan 1771, died 1849. Wanted to be a diplomat, but took Holy Orders and served in Diocese of Cork. Married eldest daughter of Hon. Thomas St. Lawrence, Dean (later Bishop) of Cork.

II. FRANCIS, born Navan 1774, died Brighton 1857. A delicate boy for whom the doctor advised sea bathing. Attended David Bates' Military and Marine Academy, Dublin, and studied astronomy and navigation under Dr. Ussher at Dunsink. Went to sea at the age of 13 and survived numerous wounds during a distinguished naval career. Captain R.N. 1810, Rear-Admiral 1846, K.C.B., F.R.S., etc. Hydrographer of the Navy 1829-55, author of *Karamania* 1817, and originator of the scale of wind forces still used in meteorology. With R. L. Edgeworth constructed Dublin-Galway telegraph 1804. Married 1st Alicia Wilson, 2nd Honora Edgeworth.

1. FRANCES ANN, born Navan 1769, died 1865. R. L. Edgeworth's 4th wife 1798. Went to Mrs. Terson's School, Portarlington, where she learnt to speak French prettily and loved drawing. Studied art under Bowring of Gloucester, West of Dublin and Mons. Raymond Deshouilleres (artist in crayons) of London. Supplied illustrations for the Edgeworths' educational works and helped to edit Maria's letters for *A Memoir of Maria Edgeworth,* printed privately by her daughters, 1867.

2. HENRIETTA (Harriet) born Allenstown 1778, died 1865. Kept house for the Wallers and wrote books for children, such as *Dialogues on Botany* and *Bertha's Journal,* published anonymously in 1819 and 1829.

3. LOUISA CATHERINE born Penylan, Carmarthenshire, 1781, died 1863. A Member of the Royal Irish Academy and author of an illustrated *Essay upon the State of Architecture and Antiquities previous to the Landing of the Anglo-Normans in Ireland,* read in October 1827, and also of *Dialogues on Entomology.*

She was the musical daughter and no mean artist as well. She loved writing and her travel journals and letters are delightful, as are those of her mother. The two unmarried sisters lived for some years with their aunt, Bess Waller, at 31 Upper Merrion St., Dublin — the Hotel D'Amitie, as Maria Edgeworth called it.

Daniel Augustus Beaufort from a miniature

"LITTLE DR. BEAUFORT OF NAVAN
WOULD MAKE A GOOD TERRIER"

Richard, 2nd Earl of Mornington[3]

* * *

With such initials DAB had to be small, energetic and skilful! He was indeed of jockey build — even in middle age weighing under 10 stone — seemingly tireless throughout the many years of his peregrinations. Possessed of an insatiable curiosity, his keen eye and ready pen recorded the passing scene. He could not resist calling at a mansion or a castle, especially if building work was in progress. Usually he found a welcome, a dinner and a bed. Parks, gardens and farms were of special interest and he was ever on the lookout for new methods and machinery to try out on his own land. An art collection, museum or curiosity of any sort drew him like a magnet. He liked to copy old records and try his hand at scientific experiments.

He had so many interests that he seldom concentrated on any of them long enough to make a lasting impact. Perhaps he would have been a good, or even a great, architect, diplomat or bishop had he remained in the one groove. As it was he spent much of his time in running errands for his friends and bearing the burden of their financial affairs, while neglecting his own. A connoisseur of wine, he used his Huguenot connections to stock his friends' cellars, *not* neglecting his own in this respect. A typical shopping list on one of his trips to England might include such diverse items as mistletoe berries and acorns, farm machinery and household appliances, episcopal stockings, a gown for his wife, books and prints or paper and furniture for the Edgeworths. He was pressed into service by Maria Edgeworth as proof reader and literary critic, and is presumed to be the original of Dr. Cambray in *Ormond.*

If there was a pedigree to be puzzled out, an escutcheon to be designed, a good executor to be found, a plan to be drawn, a congratulatory address to be written, or confidential business to be transacted, the solution was often, Ask Dr. Beaufort. But little in the way of financial reward came from any of his numerous services. He lived in a state of chronic debt depending on his wife's family to bail him out. Nor did he seem very much distressed when, in spite of his best endeavours, the bailiffs caught up with him. There was always some Dublin friend to speak for him and he would live to

pay another day. Through his wife's people, the Wallers, and his patrons the Prestons, Stopfords, Maxwells and Fosters he was able to move freely in high society. His contemporaries in Dublin University and his close family ties with the Edgeworths kept him in the mainstream of the rising current of scientific enquiry, exemplified in the founding of the Royal Irish Academy and the growth of the Dublin Society. His many Huguenot contacts fertilised the varied fields of his interests.

DAB sat on Boards and Committees, inspected canals and schools, browsed in libraries and unobtrusively advised high officials of Church and State. Or he might be found herding cattle, selling sheep or tending his garden. He seemed equally at home in an Irish farmyard and a London coffee house. The travels and experiences of this busy little man, so faithfully recorded during a long life, will not satisfy those who crave for scandal or sensation. They do however paint a fascinating picture of ordinary everyday life in town and country on both sides of the Irish Sea in the stirring period of Grattan's Parliament and the early years of the Union.

Black Castle, Navan — Drawing by Louisa Beaufort
(Courtesy Mrs. Colvin)

DAB's Map of Ireland — 1862 edition-detail

TOPOGRAPHER

* * *

It was perhaps an encounter with William Roy of Ordnance Survey fame at Raphoe in 1765 that fired DAB's ambition to become a topographer. He found that the existing maps were incomplete and inaccurate, while the exact boundaries of many counties and dioceses were unknown. A series of diocesan maps for Lord Buckingham and the Commissioners of Education first engaged his attention. None of these seem to have been published except Meath, for the copying and embellishing of which Malton charged him two guineas. His magnum opus was the 'new and more correct', six miles to the inch, map *"Ireland, Civil and Ecclesiastical"*, accompanied by a quarto *"Memoir of a Map of Ireland illustrating the Topography of that Kingdom and containing a short Account of its present State civil and ecclesiastical with a complete Index to the Map"*. These were published in London in 1792.[4]

In the last 20 years of his life DAB worked from time to time on a revised octavo edition of the Memoir, with a series of county maps; a grand topography of Ireland with maps and 24 plates to be published by Richard Phillips, from the pen of "the Irish Genius Dr. Beaufort", as the advertisement grandly asserted; a volume of maps to be produced by another English publisher, Carey; an octavo History of the Diocese of Meath to go with the Map and a Dublin Society Agricultural Survey of County Louth.[5] None of these works were completed. The sheer labour and cost of all the drawing and engraving involved were too much for an old man, enslaved by debt and his old enemy "the demon of procrastination".

"Ireland, Civil and Ecclesiastical" cost DAB over £1000 and the trouble of publication was almost as great as the effort of authorship. First he must advertise the project and get subscribers. Established cartographers such as Vallencey, rather offended at the 'more correct' claim, tended to be patronising and unenthusiastic. But historians like Archdall, Whitelaw and Burton Conyngham encouraged him and many of the Bishops and politicians promised their support. So proposals were printed, business arrangements made, and a trickle of half guinea subscriptions began to arrive. Then to Bath to get Primate Robinson's approval and on to London to see printers, interview His Grace of Canterbury and find a friend

in the engraver Milton, who introduced him to the Royal Geographer, W. Faden, and the printer, T. Rickaby.

Arriving back in Ireland in August 1787 DAB spent the next two years hard at work, making two long tours to collect information. He enlisted the support of Lord Lieutenant Buckingham and his successor Lord Westmorland and at length was rewarded with a treasury grant of 50 guineas. As an early member of the Royal Irish Academy he was elected Librarian and then persuaded his friends, Ussher and Kearney, to get him an honorary doctorate. The Dublin Society made him an honorary member and promised support for his work. His son Francis, among others, made fresh observations of latitude and longitude, being modestly mentioned in the Memoir merely as 'a pupil of Dr. Ussher'.

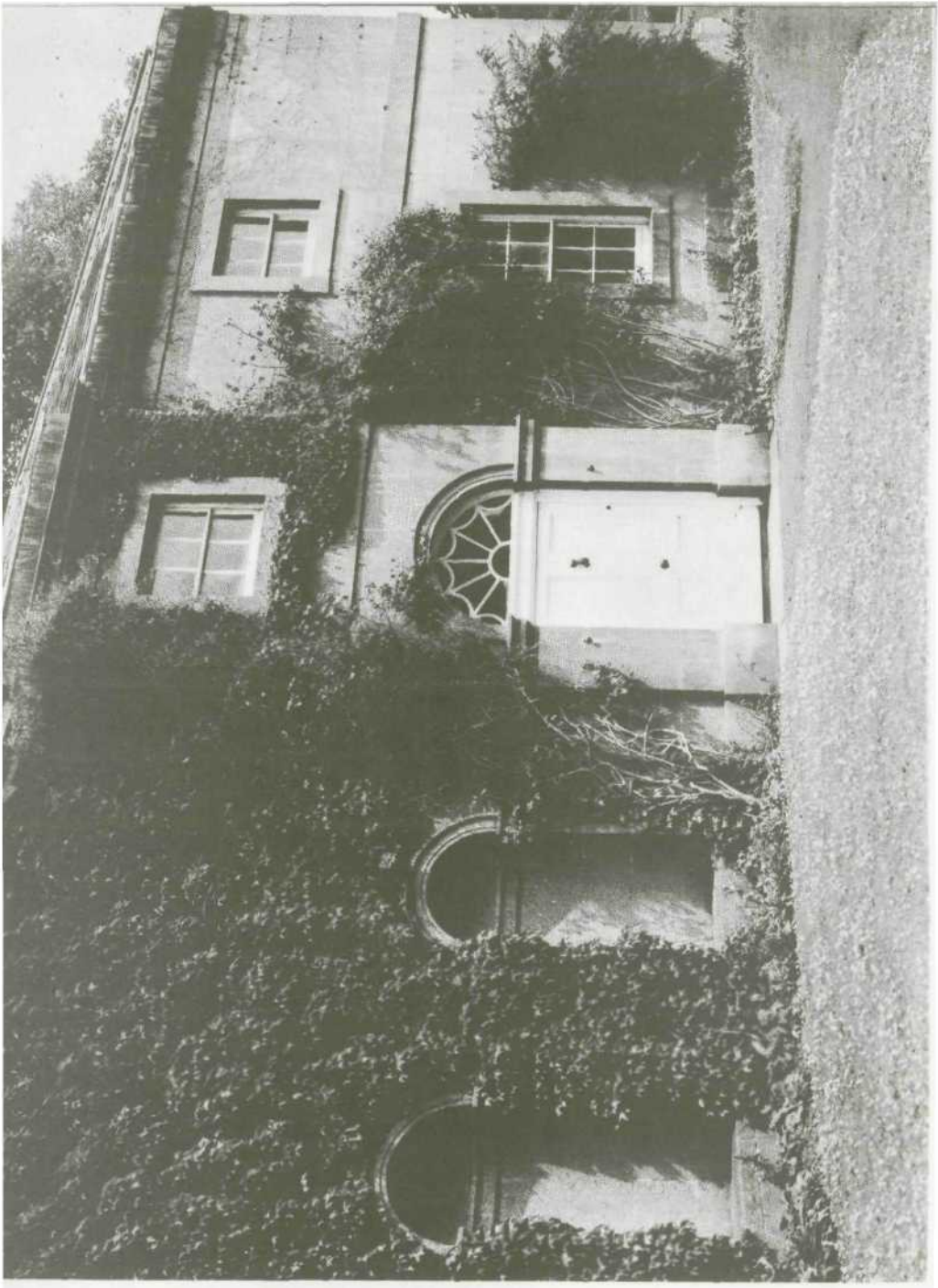
The map was finished in September 1790 and Neale of the Strand began the engraving. Thomas Stothard R.A. was engaged to design the title and another year passed by in making corrections. There was paper to be bought and binding to be arranged. Rickaby promised to print 4 sheets of text and 1 ½ of index per week. At last, just before midnight on 4th May 1792, DAB saw the last leaf put in the press. On the 9th, introduced by Lord Courtown, he proudly presented a coloured Map and a morocco-bound Memoir to George III. And after all his trouble the river Boyne somehow was omitted from the index! The Map proved to be quite a success, 2000 copies being sold within 18 months of publication. A 2nd edition appeared in 1797 attributed to Beaufort and Taylor.[6] The Meath Map was published 1 Jan. 1797[7] but of course had a more limited appeal. It was however reprinted in 1816.[8]

8 Map of the Diocese of Meath by DAB

Ardbraccan House, the hall
(Photo Hugh Doran)

10 Ardbraccan House, Co. Meath
(Photo Hugh Doran)

Ardbraccan House, rere elevation
(Photo Hugh Doran)



Ardbraccan House — detail

(Photo Hugh Doran)

* * *

ARDBRACCAN HOUSE

Early in the 18th century Bishop Evans left funds to build a house on the site of the battered old castle at Ardbraccan, near Navan, where the bishops of Meath had resided since the 14th century. His successor, Henry Downes, come with Dean Swift to "lay out the ground for my new house and gardens".[9] Somehow they could not find time for "so necessary a work" and it was left to Arthur Price to make a start about 1734. He seems to have employed the Huguenot Richard Cassels to erect the wings of a Palladian mansion on a plan similar to his work at Bellinter for John Preston. Before Price could finish he was promoted to the archdiocese of Cashel and his successors lived contentedly enough in one of the wings for 30 years, housing their guests in the other.

The Rector of Navan was a frequent guest at Ardbraccan during the time of Bishop Henry Maxwell (1766-98). The Bishop, who was the brother of the 1st and 2nd Earls of Farnham, determined to complete the residence. He therefore commissioned plans from two architects. One was the almost unknown amateur DAB, while the other was the well known professional, employed by the Archbishop of Armagh, Thomas Cooley. His plans are dated 1773-5 and DAB's 1772-5. Both probably were influenced by the ideas of Wyatt, to whom the central block at Ardbraccan has been usually attributed.[10] The building corresponds closely to DAB's preliminary drawings — J. C. Curwen, who stayed here in 1813, attributed it to him[11] — but even if his plans were adopted he was in no mood to rejoice as he went to attend the formal laying of the foundation stone. Suffering from a bad toothache he soon left to attend the dentist. The date was 1st August 1776. The building progressed slowly, the Bishop requesting DAB to draw his coat of arms to adorn the front of the house in 1778 and a design for the vestibule ceiling two years later. The massive pedimented Ionic portico, which appears in the preliminary plans, was fortunately eliminated and a simple front door with flanking pilasters substituted to harmonise well with Cassels' wings.

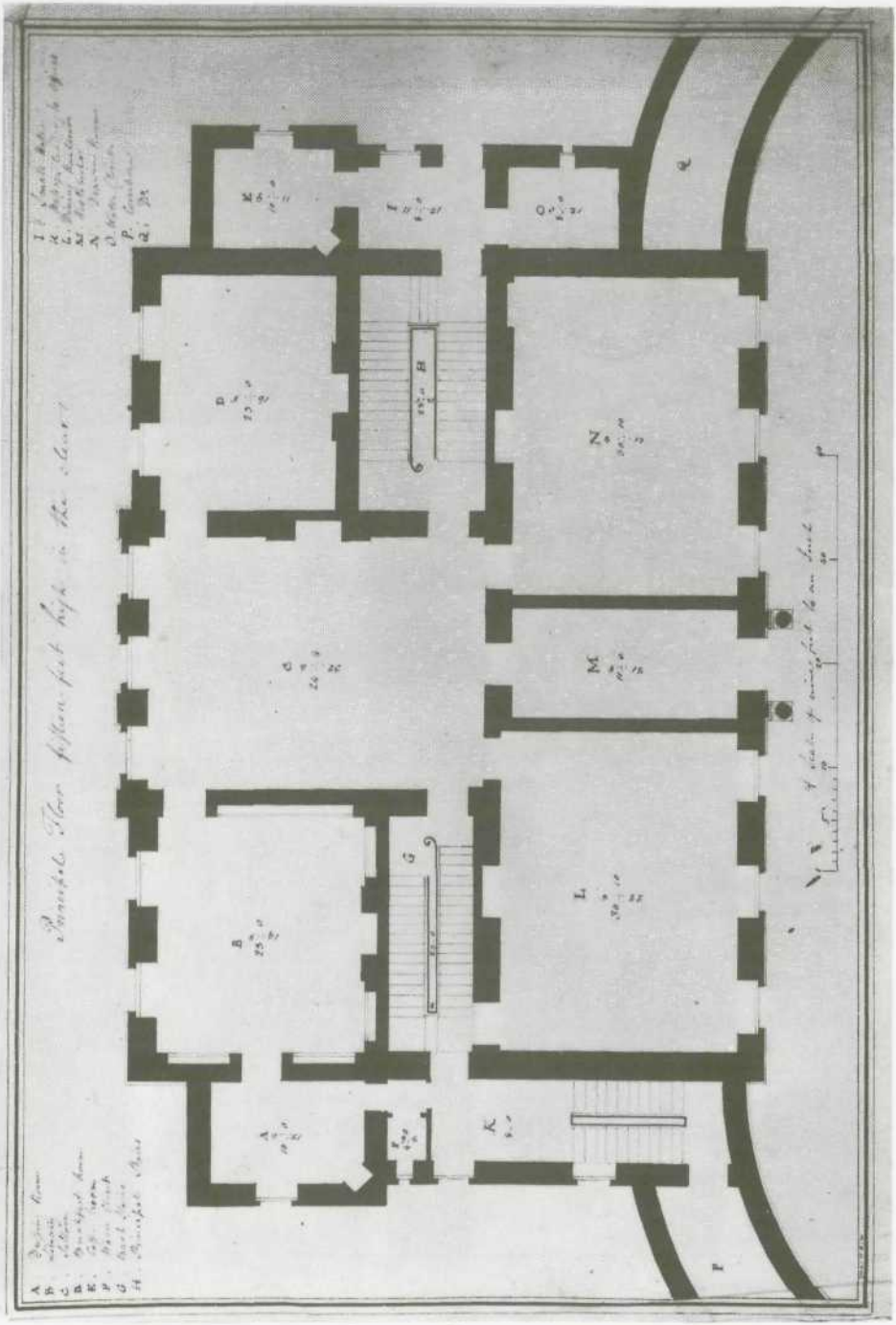
DAB approved heartily and in his Memoir praised the Bishop for building "in a style of superior elegance and yet with such simplicity as does equal honour to his Lordship's taste and liberality".[12]

Bishop Maxwell is said to have boasted that he would build a palace so grand that no scholar or tutor would dare to live in it. Be that as it may, Thomas Lewis O'Beirne, who succeeded him in 1798, had been a humble schoolmaster in his young days, and many of the bishops who lived at Ardbraccan until after Disestablishment were eminent scholars. O'Beirne spent £600 on improvements to the out-offices, with DAB as his adviser, a process continued on a lavish scale by Nathaniel Alexander in the years 1823-40. The finely built farm and stable yards are linked by a tunnel running beneath the garden terrace. When Bishop Stopford arrived in 1842 he found huge bullock sheds and glass houses in disrepair. With the proceeds of demolition he provided a £100 clock in the stable yard, which he hoped would help to keep the Rector up to time with the services in the nearby church. But, what was far more serious, the Palace roofs had to be renewed at a cost of £3000.

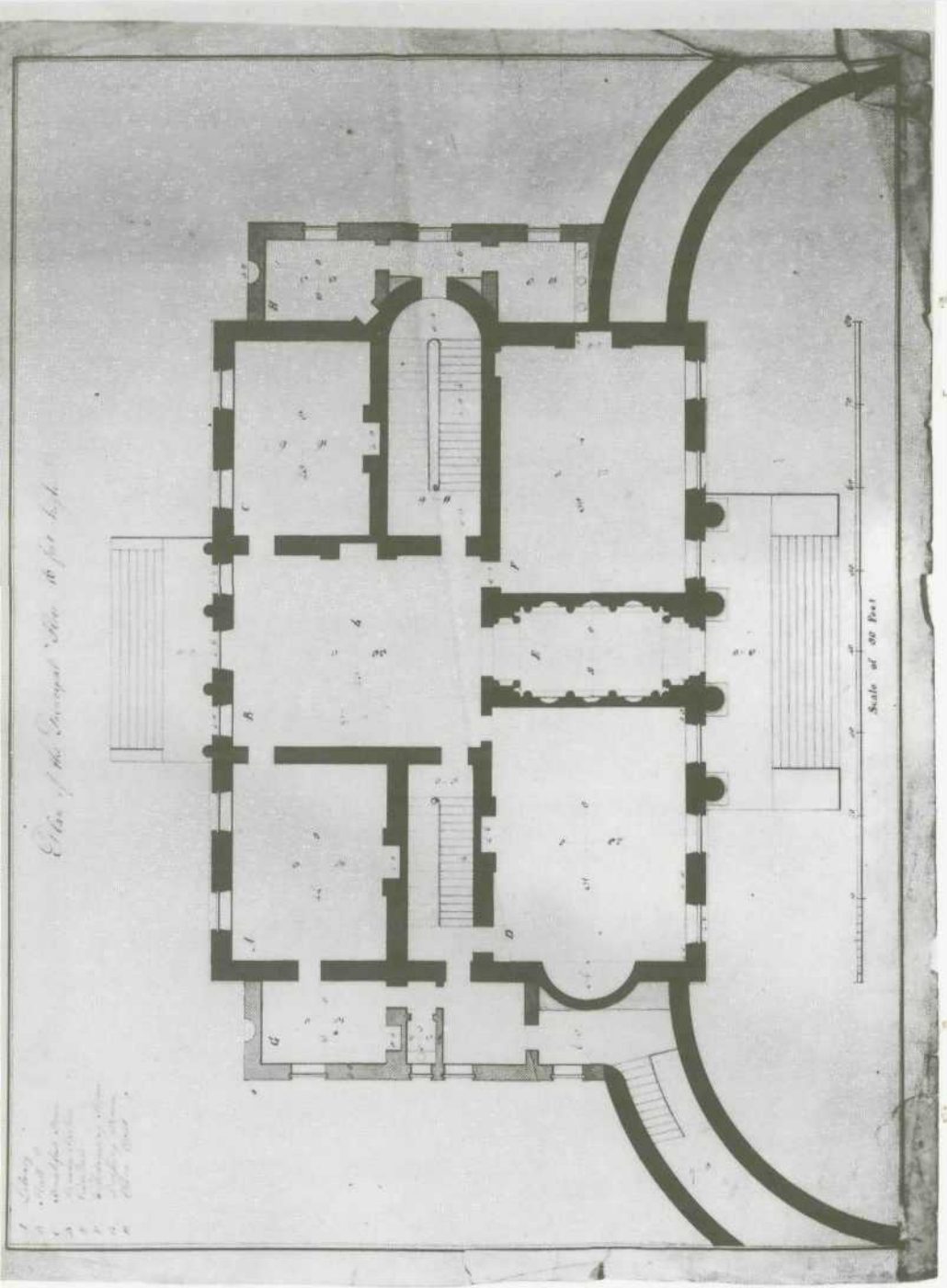
During the 25 years of O'Beirne's episcopate building proceeded on a vast scale all over the Diocese of Meath. A tablet to his memory in Ardbraccan Church records that 57 churches and 72 glebe houses were erected. Also preserved here is the massive tablet of black Coade stone, which commemorates this building boom and in particular the restoration of Kilshine Church in 1815. It was all part of the general campaign to combat the evils of clerical pluralities and non-residence. Incentives in the form of grants and loans came from the Board of Firstfruits, but there was an acute shortage of skilled planners and builders. DAB therefore offered to supply the Board with 20 plans for glebehouses, complete with estimates, and recommended the appointment of a special building officer, who should be a cleric not a professional architect. No doubt he had ambitions!

ARDBRACCAN CHURCH The rebuilding about 1780 as in many other cases regrettably obliterated all trace of the medieval structure, with the exception of the tower, which was then furnished with a wooden, shingle covered spire. DAB's elevation and plan show a structure 100 ft. long with tower and spire 100ft. high at the west end. In the event a smaller building was erected, without the tower, and finished with a plain portico. A glebe house was also built at the same period.

COLLON CHURCH DAB was presented to the Vicarage of Collon in Co. Louth, a few miles north of the Boyne, in May 1789, by Speaker Foster. He had become intimate with the Foster family at Ardbraccan, Mrs. Maxwell being a sister and the Incumbent a



Ardbraccan — the principal floor as executed. Unsigned
(Courtesy Lord Farnham and National Library)

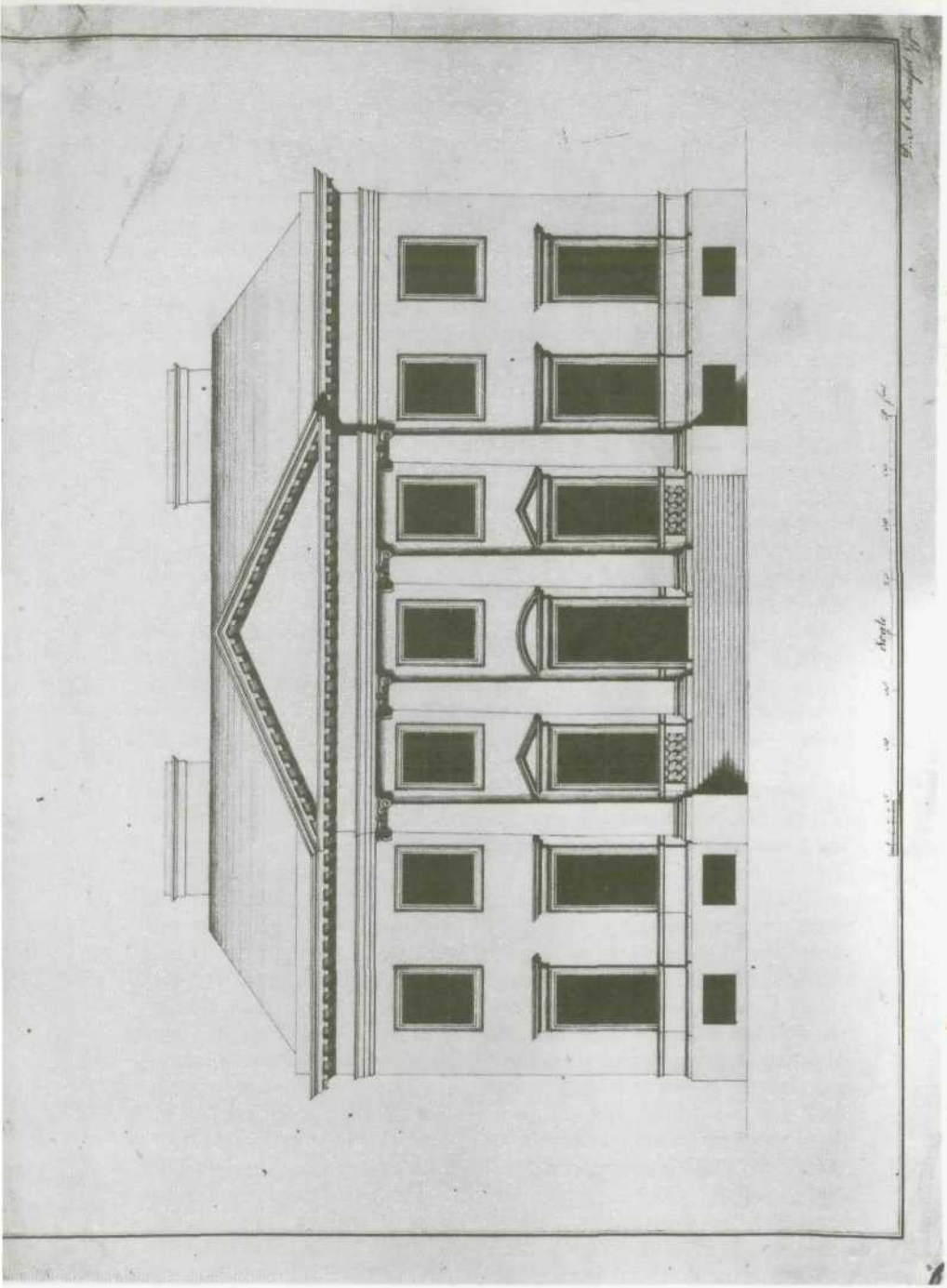


Ardbraccan — a more elaborate plan signed by Beaufort
(Courtesy Lord Farnham and National Library)

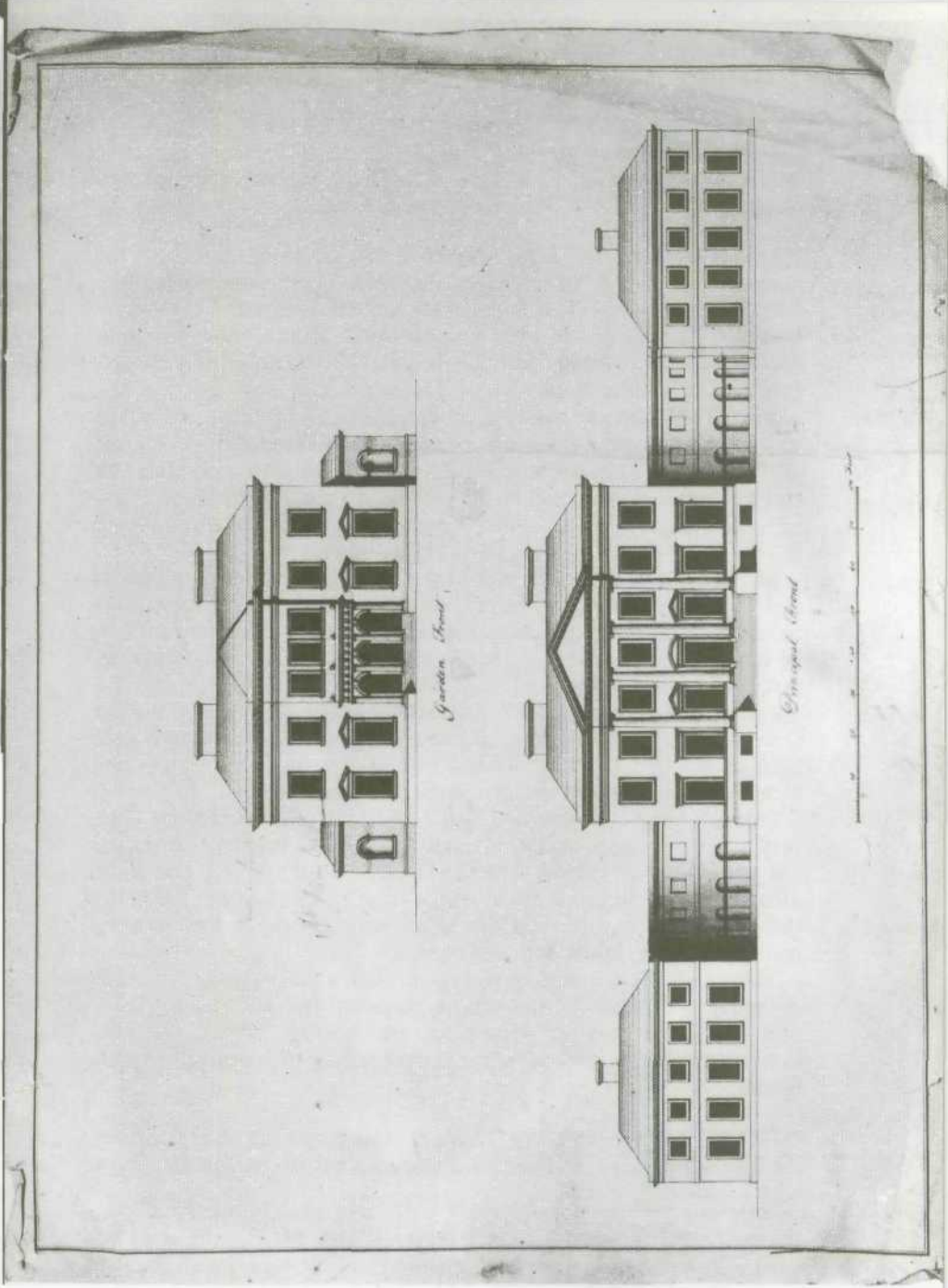
brother of the future Lord Oriel. He now thought himself "easy and happy for life". But he continued to hold the parish of Navan and added the neighbouring sinecure parish of Athlumney to his domains. The disadvantage of Navan was that it had no glebe house, while Collon had a good house and garden. In great spirits he attended the auction of his predecessor's effects ("not carried on very genteely") and agreed to purchase "a great deal of good wine". His exertions during the next few days brought on a mid-summer cold, for which Dr. Hume prescribed Lucan water and a flannel shirt. He moved in August and having collected his tithe of hay, bottled his cider and regulated his cellar, departed to London for over a year. He spent the time arranging for the printing of his map and negotiating with Pitt, on his friends' behalf, a settlement of the estate in Chancery of Thomas Newport, 5th Earl of Bradford. Then he returned to Collon to preach his first sermon and after a few months busy with improvements to the church and glebe journeyed again to the metropolis. As 1791 ended he lamented to himself his folly in furnishing, building and improving merely on expectations.

The church at Collon had been built in 1763, largely at the expense of Lord Chief Baron Foster, enlarged in 1797 by the parishioners and a gallery added by John Foster in 1805. The idea of re-building was mooted in 1809 as John Foster wished to have a new family vault, the old one at Dunleer being full. The Board of Firstfruits granted £800 and a loan of £1700. The Methodists gave the hospitality of their church to the members of the Establishment though DAB had politely discouraged them ever since his arrival. The foundation of the new building was laid in July 1811 but in 1813 DAB discovered to his horror that £760 of his own money had been swallowed up in the work. Strings were hurriedly pulled and the much pressed Board granted a further loan of £2000. It is not surprising that costs soared in the ambitious attempt to erect a telescoped version of that 15th century Perpendicular masterpiece, King's College Chapel, Cambridge, in a remote Co. Louth village! Mr. & Mrs. Edgeworth and Maria visited the Chapel that year and minutely examined the wonders of the stone and timber vaulting and shortly afterwards Edgeworth's engineer son, William, began work on the ceiling at Collon. He also installed a cockle hot air heating system based on Strutt's pioneer work at Derby Infirmary.

The new church was finished in 1815 and opened on Sunday, 17th Sept., and in 1819-20 some stained glass, designed by Louisa Beaufort, was installed by Edward Lowe of Dublin. The building work had been held up for a time by a strike of the itinerant stone masons, who doubted the safety of the scaffolding, and the final payment of the contractors was only settled by litigation. It is said



Ardbraccan — an alternative elevation signed 'D. A. Beaufort 1774'
(Courtesy Lord Farnham and National Library)



Ardbraccan — the garden front (top) and the entrance front.
The corner bearing Beaufort's signature is missing.
(Courtesy Lord Farnham and National Library)

that when DAB was fitting up the interior he asked the carpenter to speak from the pulpit to test the acoustics. The man then mounted the steps and shouted, "When will you pay me?"

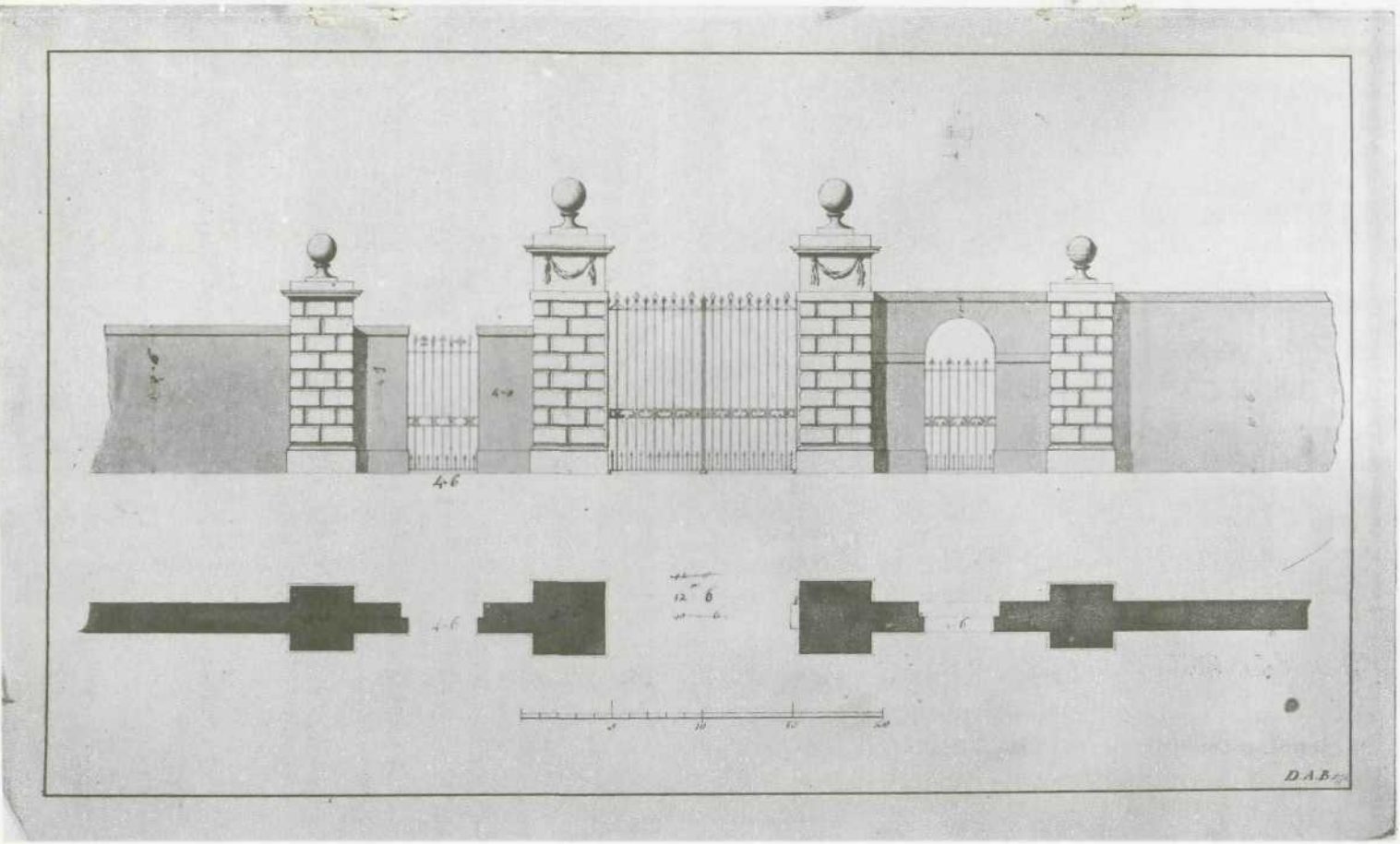
NAVAN CHURCH DAB and his father between them held the parish for just over 70 years and there was much building activity during this period. The small plain church erected early in the century was enlarged in 1766 and the building of a tower begun in 1760 to the plan of the local masons, Edward Morgan and Robert Price. In 1764 the Vestry voted Morgan a bonus of 3gs. for "his extraordinary care in building the steeple". In 1787 Patrick Crosby was adding another story and such care was taken that it was not until 1813 that James Flood put in an estimate for staunching and completing it. A proposal in 1793 to top it with a stone spire, ("less expensive than a wooden one") came to nothing, but not before DAB had paid Mr. Johnson £5-13-9 for a plan.

In 1812 DAB lodged his plans for widening the nave on the north side and providing a porch and vestry.[13] On Edgeworth's recommendation the Board of Firstfruits granted a loan of £1100 to be repaid in 17 years at 6%. But DAB was now involved in building the church at Collon and only visited Navan occasionally. He resigned the parish in 1818 just after his 82nd birthday. Bishop O'Beirne noted in his report of the same year, "A new church on a plan drawn by Dr. Beaufort and built under his inspection is just now finished and is an ornament to the Diocese". In fact a committee regulated the building and coped with the usual legal proceedings by unpaid tradesmen and the gathering in of promised but unpaid subscriptions. The next Rector, Philip Barry, had some difficulty in getting repayment of the large sum he had advanced for the building. He furnished the tower with two bells and in 1823 installed a clock, which is still in service.

The interior was typically Georgian, with a gallery over the north door for the nobility, another at the west end for the organ, a portreeve's seat and a throne for the bishop. Distinction was imparted by a fine rib and panel plaster ceiling with central foliated bosses.

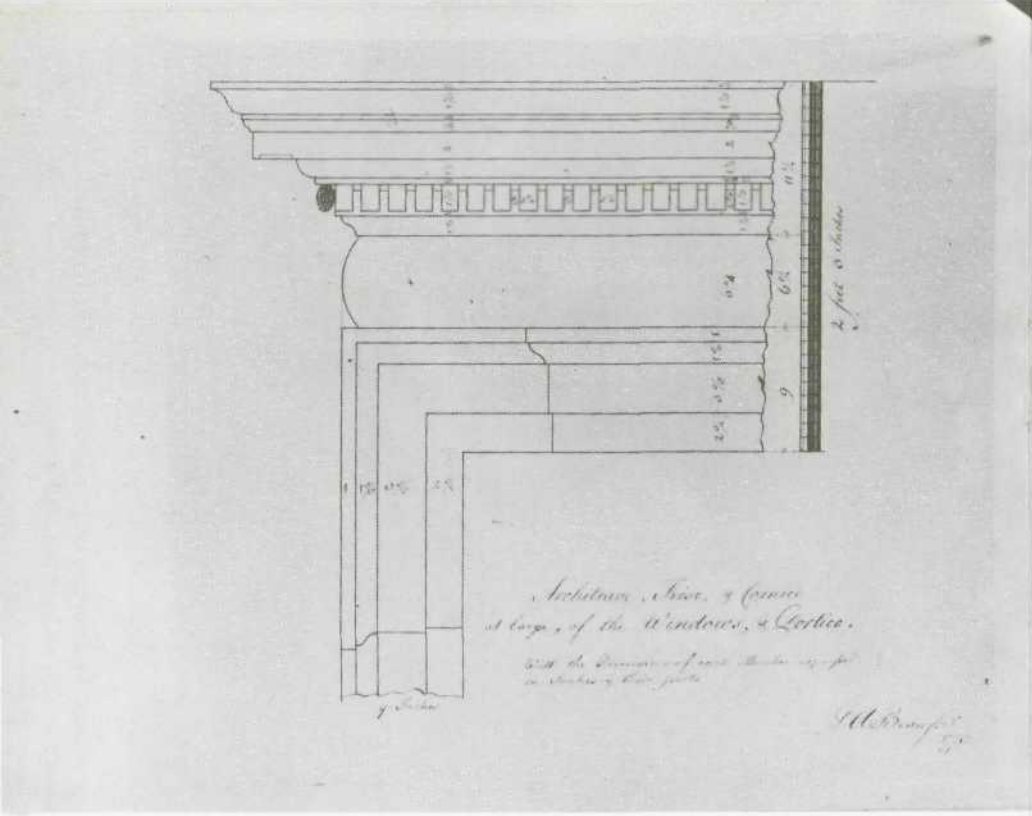
OTHER PLANS Among DAB's extensive architectural activities the following are noted from his diaries. All are in Co. Meath except where indicated.

BEAUPARC HOUSE 1778. "Walking with Mr. Lambart to his garden and planning a method of connecting the house with the two small offices." 1802. "George Lambart borrowed one of my plans."



The Gates at Ardbraccan, a drawing by Beaufort reproduced by courtesy of Lord Farnham. The Gates as put up follow the alternative pier shown at left, and are without balls.

(Courtesy Lord Farnham and National Library)



Ardbraccan — details by the hand of Beaufort, dated 1775.
(Courtesy Lord Farnham and National Library)

PHILPOTSTOWN HOUSE 1781. "Lay out buildings, roads, plantations &c. for Young."

CHARLESFORT HOUSE 1781. "Breakfast at Tisdall's, laid out plan for his addition." 1788. Takes plan of Tisdall's house to alter it.

PAYNESTOWN GLEBE HOUSE 1783. "Planning with Stopford for his glebe." 1784. "To Stopford's about his building."

NOBBER GLEBE HOUSE 1785. "Plan for Nobber Glebe House to consider."

ALLENSTOWN HOUSE 1785. "Planning — put new building in front of present house, keeping old kitchen only. Drawing this all morning."

MOUNTRATH CHURCH (Co. Laois) 1785. "Plans to England for Lord Mountrath's inspection."

GAYBROOK HOUSE (Co. Westmeath) 1786. "Choosing site for new house."

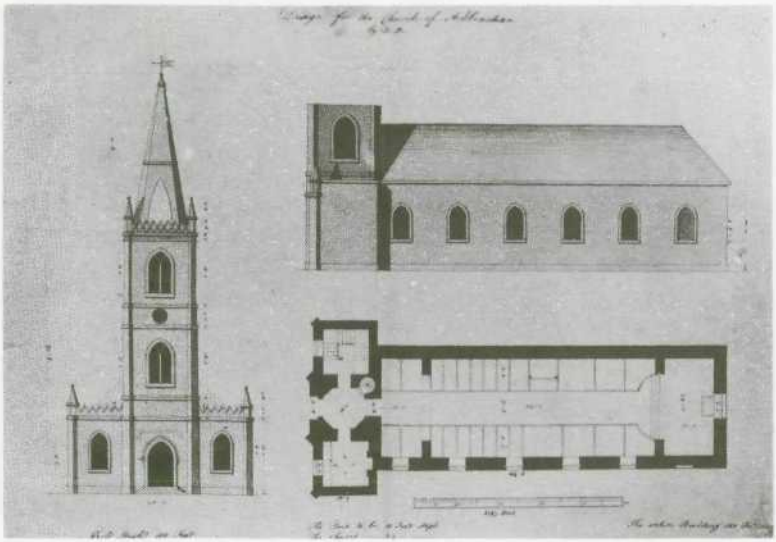
MOYLISCAR CHURCH (Co. Westmeath) 1787. Plan to improve church for Mr. Rotchford.

ALLENSTOWN LODGE 1789. Lays out foundations. 1791. Orders Wyatt window.

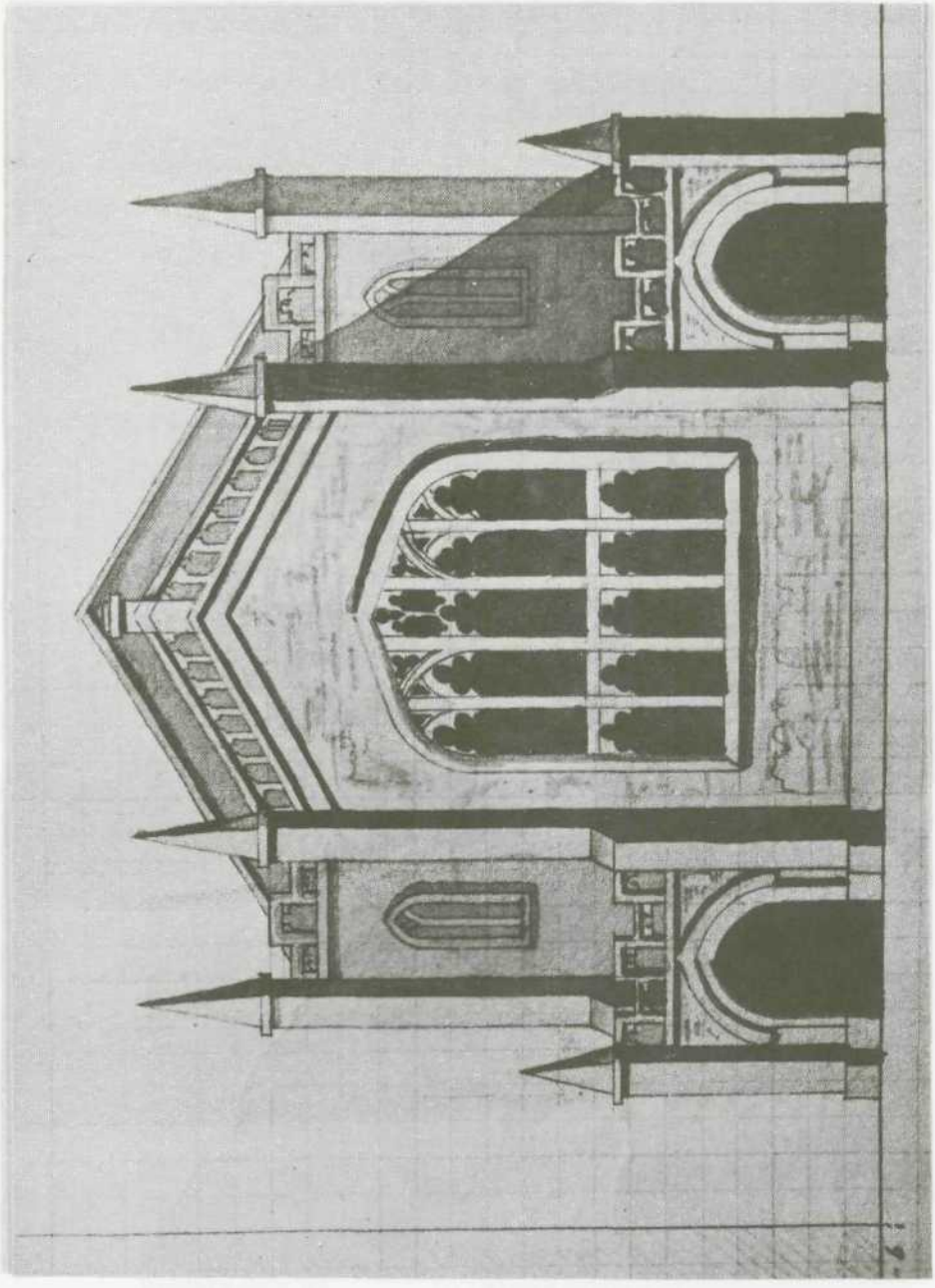
PAYNESTOWN CHURCH 1791. Plans for Dr. Stopford's church.

BLACKCASTLE COTTAGE 1791. "Determine Ruxton's plan for addition."

KILLEEN CASTLE 9/8/1802. "Lord Fingal begs of me to meet him at Navan to see his plans for Killeen." 11/8/1802. "Met Lord Fingal and disliked his plans." 30/9/1802. "Walking with Fingal and planning an addition to his Castle."
10/12/1802. "Carried the plans to Lord and Lady Fingal, who seemed to be much pleased with them."



'Design for the Church of Ardbrackan' — by DAB
(Courtesy the Rev. J.A.G. Barrett)



Collon Church — a preliminary sketch by Beaufort
(Courtesy Rev. F. K. Jennings)

TRAVELLER

" Your Father, who, next to my own, is I think the best and most agreeable traveller in the world . . ." — Maria Edgeworth[14]

* * *

Even among those who could afford to travel, few of DAB's contemporaries can have journeyed so far and seen as much as he did. Riding his own or hired horses, supplemented on occasion by post chaise or public coach, he became a connoisseur of roads, inns and cross-channel packets. In his early twenties he made a long educational tour in the Netherlands, visiting churches, monasteries, art galleries and museums, besides enjoying himself at card parties and balls. He also toured in England and Ulster. From 1779 to 1784 he was an exile in South Wales and Cheltenham, ostensibly for the sake of his family's education but also with the idea of living more cheaply and dodging his creditors. He paid three brief visits to Ireland during this period, one of them being for the purpose of voting in a Meath election, but alas he arrived too late.

Cheltenham was a disappointment education-wise, his two sons being immediately expelled from the Grammar School because of their Hibernian accent! So the Beauforts were persuaded to return and brave the company and temptations of Dublin. They settled in Mecklenburgh Street and the boys went to school at last but not without incident. Francis at once caught the smallpox and passed it on to one of his sisters. DAB celebrated his return with the aid of 10 gals. of 7 year old Jamaica rum supplied by Mr. Dawson at 8/- per gallon. Dublin provided plenty of excitements in 1784 — Crosby's balloons at Ranelagh, Dr. Palme 'electrifying' a deaf girl and Mrs. Siddons playing at Smock Alley. DAB was present at the Command Performance when the great actress was completely drowned by a hostile demonstration against the Duke of Rutland.

In 1787 he went to London to see about his map and visit some of his Huguenot friends. Armed with an introduction from Dr. Usher to Sir Joseph Banks he dined at the Royal Society, chatted with Malone and Boswell, visited theatres, waxworks and a circus, saw Lunardi stunting in his balloon and gave some hints to Ramsden on the construction of the long-delayed telescope for T.C.D. He became friendly with the Chaplain to the Spanish Ambassador, Thomas Hussey, (later Catholic Bishop of Waterford and President

of Maynooth College) and his entourage of Irish priests. After a crowded two months he returned to Dublin to commence a four month, 1300 mile tour of Connaught and Ulster. This was followed next year by a similar tour — round the world, as he termed it, — of Leinster and Munster.

He took his family to London for a year in 1789 and was there again for most of 1792, returning this time to Ireland via Portpatrick and Donaghadee for a change. There were further long stays in England in 1793-4, 1794-6 and 1797, so that the Speaker became very agitated at the state of his parish of Collon. After nearly wearing out the steps of the Treasury DAB had at last negotiated a settlement with Pitt of the Newport affair, though how to satisfy the numerous claims on the estate was not resolved for many years to come. His own commission he invested in the Irish 5% stock, and returned to Ireland for good. The Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire packet sped him across the water in 18 hours — almost his fastest crossing, the longest had been 48 hours — and the ship was his favourite, Bessborough, Capt. Goddard. His wife thought highly of the combination — "a very polite, pretty gent, rooms and beds all neat and no bad smell".

1798 of course was not a good year for travelling, but DAB did go to Dublin in May for the marriage of his daughter to R. L. Edgeworth, then returned to Collon to resume planting his cabbages. After this his formal diary is blank until the end of 1801 and for the next few years his travels were confined to local excursions in Co. Louth to collect materials for a Dublin Society Survey. Then came his last series of Irish tours 1806-10, his wife and daughter, Louisa, being with him and making their own very interesting comments. The last years of his life were spent mainly at his son's vicarage in Co. Cork. Maria Edgeworth sent him a present to pay for hiring horses, but in April 1821 even a six mile drive in his chaise was too much for him and the next month he died.

He had travelled far since as a boy of seven he had first set foot in Ireland. Now the age of speedier travel was dawning as his son and grandson crossed the sea for a last sad visit to Collon in the Liverpool *steam* packet.

VISITORS' BOOK

A selection of DAB's experiences and comments.

* * *

DANGAN CASTLE, Co. Meath 2/9/1776. Dines and sleeps, "after breakfast we walk through plantations to the lake and there embark — Lord and Lady Mornington and second son — and we get a most complete ducking". Hurried departure despite pressing invitation to stay.

HEADFORT, Co. Meath 29/2/1776. "Glorious orange trees, fine olives &c."

BALLYFIN HOUSE, Co. Laois The Beauforts were frequent visitors when in Mountrath. In 1777/8 the artist Sadler was working here and after recovering from an illness painted a portrait of the elder Beaufort. DAB collected it in 1779 when Mr. Pole was finishing some improvements. The new approach was delightful and the new rooms elegant, but Lady Sarah Pole was mortally ill.

ROUNDWOOD, Co. Laois The Floods were, like the Poles, parishioners of Clonenagh. 1/8/1777. Dines at Flood's cottage, 40 people and nothing to eat. 8/8/1777. Dines at Mr. Robert Flood's — "a vile cabin, but sweet garden and very pretty grounds."

DURROW, Co. Laois 1777. "Lord Ashbrook's, a most charming cheerful place with beautiful woods. The house built in 1716 and old fashioned."

ABBEYLEIX 29/8/1777. "Lord de Vesci's gardener gave us several nectarines and peaches."

COOTEHILL, Co. Cavan 1778, "the Moravian church and buildings very neat and decent outside ... in men's lodge there were in one room above stairs 11 neat beds and below 11 looms ... no women now."

BELLAMONT FOREST 1778, "the approach more than a mile long ... on right a small but pleasing lake almost surrounded with wood and when you lose sight of that a river on your left opens to

your view and forms itself into a vast lake .. . (the) house, which though a modern building is very inelegant and ill contrived."

DAWSON GROVE 1778, "a new brick building, neat and well contrived but rather heavy both in its external appearance and inside decorations ... (the rear) looks on a fine wooded island of 150 acres round which between the trees is a broad road for carriages to drive and on the summit ... a mausoleum to the memory of Lady Anne Dawson. It is a square brick building covered with a leaden dome, lighted from top only and contains in a large alcove opposite the door a very fine monument by Wilton, which cost 1000 gs."

CURRAGHMORE, Co. Waterford 1779. "House is of 1707 much altered and modernised, not quite finished. Entrance through double row of magnificent offices, 26 doors and windows each side, 4 coach houses, 1 great gate. Shell House by hand of late Lady Tyrone, whose marble statue is in centre. Room over hall, walls 8-10 ft. thick, over chimney carved copy in wood altorelievo from cartoon of Paul preaching at Athens. Eating room, 40 × 26, fine and painted in great taste. Globe of blue glass set in silver, supposed to come from Holy Land and to cure cattle murrain when put in drinking water."

CASTLEBAR, Co. Mayo 1787. "Church unfinished, ditto one gallery in church, said to be design of Cassels. Lord Lucan's house — lawn small, surrounded by good screen through which winding walks, fine mall for townspeople. Old house burnt many years ago, only two great round towers left, present Lord added rooms to one of them on each side of long corridor. Tolerably good and convenient, furnished with some pictures of which a few have merit, including some excellent portraits in crayons by Lady Lucan, one of her sister Lavinia. Furnishing far from elegant, large heavy chimney piece of black marble from neglected quarry at Turlogh near this town. A picture also deserving notice of Sir Richard Bingham." Castlebar prices — fresh butter 5d., turkeys 6½d., a goose 7d. or 8d., chickens 4½d. a pair, oysters 3d. and 2½d. a hundred.

WESTPORT HOUSE 1787. DAB stayed here. "One or two rooms elegant, but not well contrived nor well furnished. Things do not appear neat. Dinner on plate and two great sideboards, one each end of a room 38 × 24 ft., which remain during breakfast and all day with glasses &c. Two fine black marble chimney pieces here from Turlogh and in drawing room very handsome one in uncommon

style of antique statuary. Shutters in state dressing room pannelled with looking glass. Wolf hounds, almost only ones in Ireland."

CASTLEGORE 1787. "Mr. Cuffe, dinner plain and good, well served, one course and apples. They kill a beef every fortnight, two sheep per week, feed 45 people daily and have French maitre d'hotel."

BARONSCOURT, Co. Tyrone 1787. "New house, furniture all plain, but here is the bed in which the Queen first slept in England, chintz lined with white silk. Kitchen very complete and jack easily wound up by wheel with rope round it, like the wooden clocks. Laundry, three rectangular tubs fixed in one range and lined with lead, having a hole at bottom and two cocks to each for h. & c. water. Water cocks in housekeeper's room and butler's pantry. Steward's room and agent's rooms excellent and tenants' parlour and hall noble."

DERRY 1787. "Bishop's house, saw there West's picture of Gen. Wolfe's death, picture of the Bishop presenting his son to Lord Chatham — copied from a print. Eight pictures of nymphs, satyrs and cupids — all half naked and very indecent. Banqueting house built twice over by Lord Bristol, not finished except large room and all going to rack. Some good chiaroscuro boys and landscapes in brown and blue, fine chimney piece of Enniskillen marble, over it in gilding two doves a billing!"

MUSSENDEN TEMPLE, Co. Derry 1787. "Rotunda, dome supported by 16 Corinthian columns, fine white stone, earl's coronet and mitre and crest alternately over each. Bishop's gate, Chinese wooden one between two piers of two columns and a niche each." The porter, in tartan plaid, refused him entry.

DOWNHILL 1787. Shanahan, Lord Bristol's architect from Cork, showed him round. The Bishop was indisposed but DAB had a small plain dinner, with excellent wines — burgandy, port, claret, madeira & champagne!

BALLYSCULLION 1787. "Lord Bristol building oval house, 100 × 84 ft. — already walls 25 ft. high, cut stone Corinthian pilasters, whitish stone tinged with blue, red and yellow."

SHANE'S CASTLE, Co. Antrim 1787. "Drawing room adorned with magnificent mirrors, off breakfast room is rotunda coffee

room, where in recesses are great quantities of china, a cistern with a cock and water, a boiler with another, all apparently for making breakfast; a letter box and round table with four sets of pen and ink let in for everybody to write. Conservatory joins house, fine apartment along lough, at end alcove for meals, from it a way to h. & c. bathing apartments with painted windows. On other side of house, pretty and large theatre and magnificent ballroom 60 * 30, all of wood and canvas painted, and so sent ready made from London."

BELFAST 1787. "Inhabitants seem busy and are all wealthy."

MONTALTO, Co. Down 1787. "Lord Moira's, gardens — collection of Chinese plants. Library — large and curious collection of books and ancient mss. Curious animals — large white Angora cats, Canada geese, wild boar-type pigs. French cook, live well, eat on plate but *tallow* candles ... collection of shells and fossils, collection of medals — complete set of Popes. Lady Granard lately purchased at Vienna for him complete set of Roman medals from earliest ages to ruin of Empire."

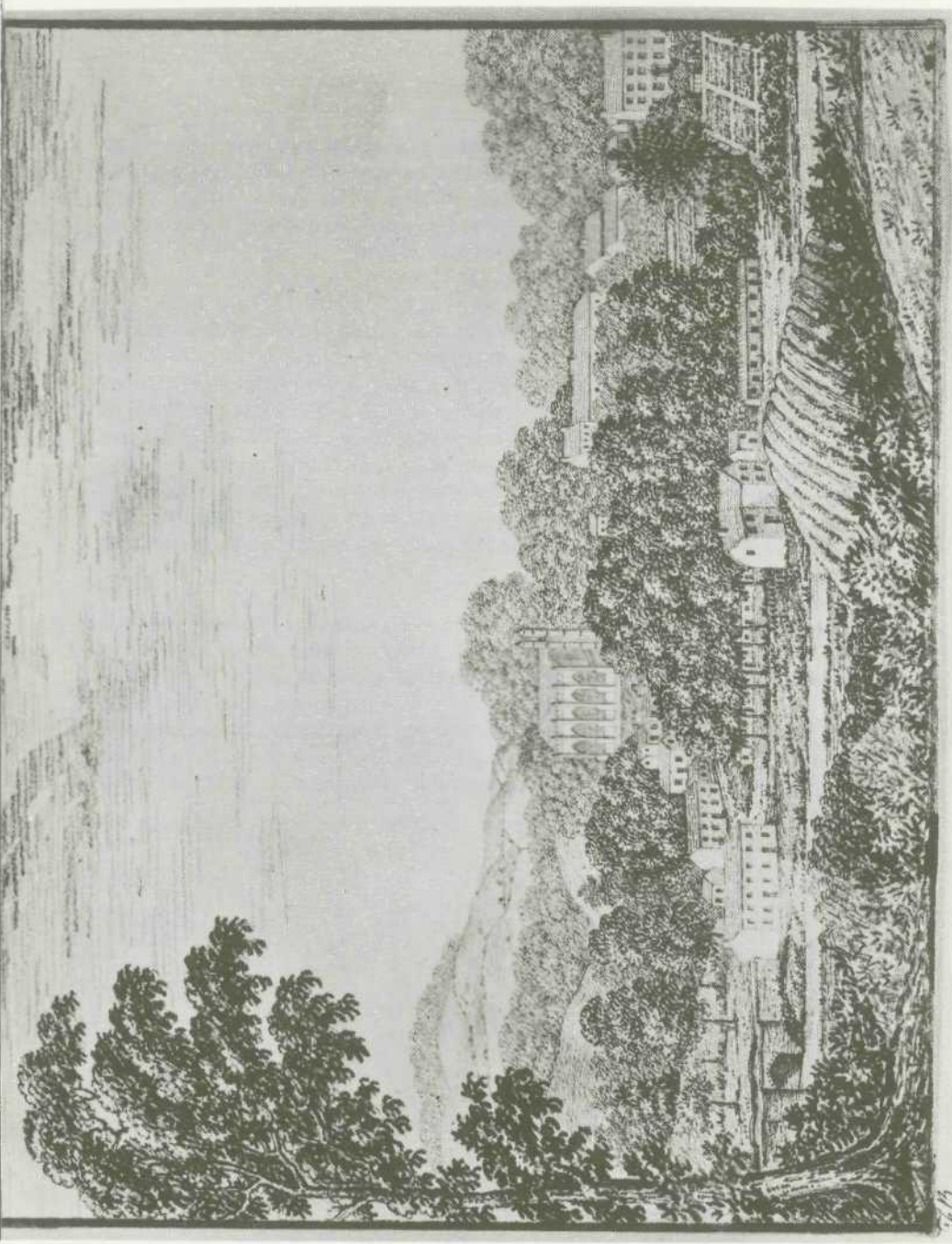
TOLLYMORE PARK, Co. Down 1787. "Lord Clanbrassil, house — centre only of two storeys, built round large court, too many long cold passages, in windows of which much Flemish stained glass, floors all tiled or stucco a l'Italienne."

EDGEWORTHSTOWN, Co. Longford 1787. DAB approved of the cheerfulness of the house and noted many labour-saving ideas. There were sideboards on wheels, a small portable desk-table for each child, pegs for footwear in the hall, leather straps to prevent doors banging, a clock with 60 lb. pendulum and an automatic water wheel, which dispensed ½d. to beggars for each ½ hour at the pump. The house was warmed by air vents over the mantelpieces and there was a plate warming pedestal in the dining room.

COLLON, Co. Louth 1788. The Temple, "beautiful room where De Gree is painting — poor man seems in bad health."

DUNDALK, Co. Louth 1788. The Inn, "large, convenient, well furnished and well attended by an English woman married to a German named Mouritz."

CORK 1788. Shanahan's portfolios, chimney pieces cheaper than Dublin, one making for Lord Bristol.

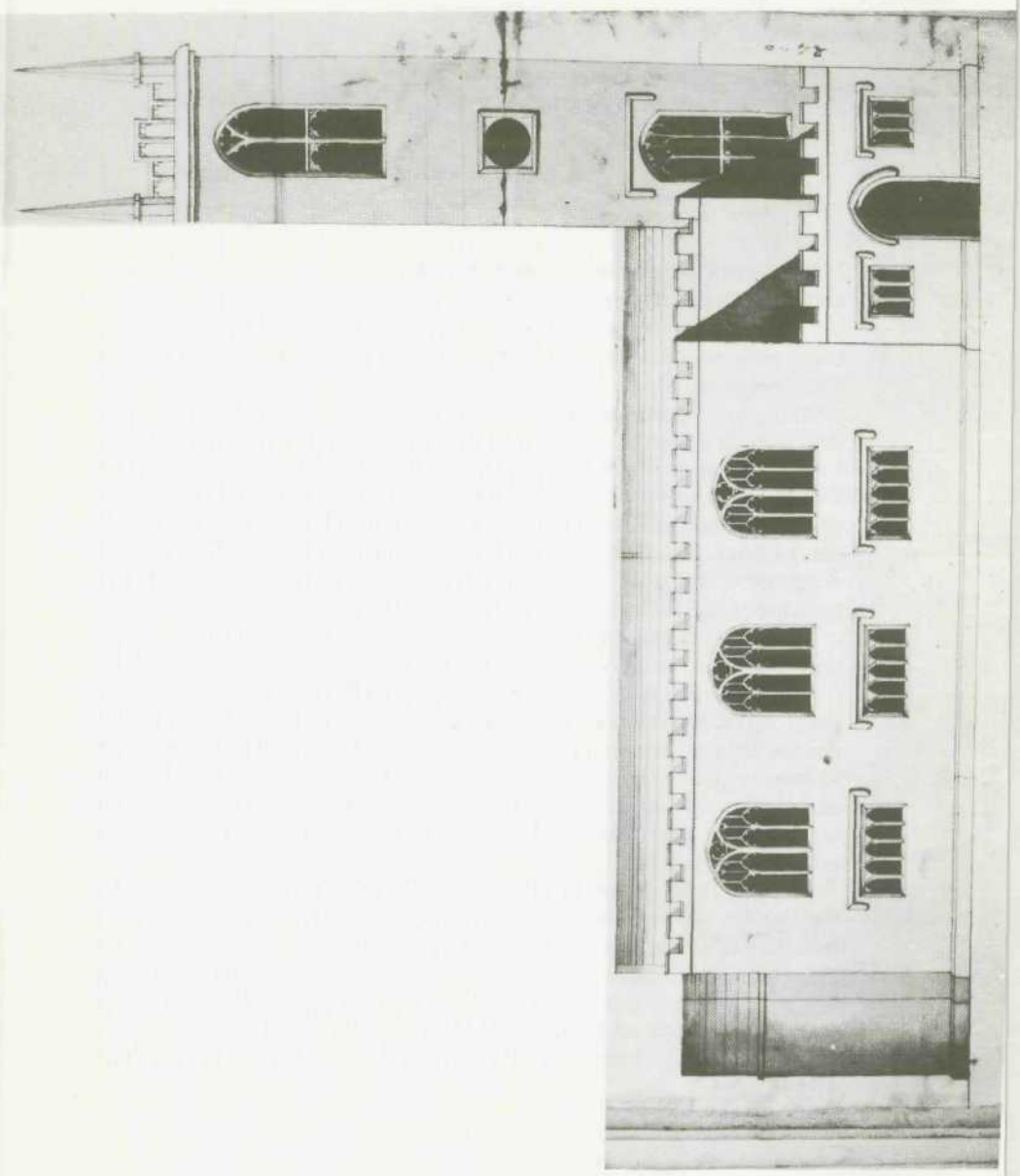


Collon Village, Co. Louth by Frances (Beaufort) Edgeworth
(Courtesy Mrs. C. Colvin)

CASTLE BERNARD, Co. Cork 1788, "good pictures, fine large Teniers — men shooting at a mark — cost him £300, had cost his uncle £1100 and Sir Joshua offered £600 for it. Two small landscapes by Van Eaden, Venetian noble and son — Tintoretto, ugly Claude Lorain and abominable Guido."

DROMOLAND CASTLE, Co. Clare 1788. "Many large and beautiful trees, the place, though old fashioned, cheerful as well as magnificent. Several family pictures ... prodigious spurs of Brian Boru. We saw here in a long tiled gallery full of maps, stag's horns and other things, a very curious massy table of some kind of mahogany with four lions for legs and in the middle Hope on one side, Charity on the other for supporters, all rudely carved ... taken out of one of the ships of the Spanish Armada . .. can be lengthened at both ends in an uncommon manner by drawing out two half leaves which are under it and the great upper leaf falling in between them keeps all level and fast."

SLANE CASTLE, Co. Meath 27/9/1812. "I was refused admittance to new room." 11/6/1813. "Met Mr. Turner by appointment at Slane Castle, who shewed me the ceiling of the great room." 1/10/1813. "I dined at Lord Conyngham's, who shewed me all he could shew respecting the ceiling of his large rotunda. His son, Lord Mount Charles, had a great escape from the falling of the whole scaffold as he was attempting to climb up it."



Navan Church — sketch elevation by DAB
(Courtesy Rev. J. A. G. Barrett)

CLERIC

"An excellent clergyman, of a liberal spirit and conciliating manners, a man of taste and literature."— Maria Edgeworth[15]

* * *

In spite of long absences from his two separate cures, which were served by a succession of sometimes indifferent curates, DAB was a cut above the average 18th century parson. He could not well avoid the excessive dealing with rogueish tithe proctors and the slavish place-seeking, which resulted from current methods of ecclesiastical finance and preferment. He saw no objection to holding two benefices in different dioceses. "I do not serve my cure in person," he told the Bishop of Meath, "because I reside in my parsonage at Collon, but being at so small a distance from Navan I frequently officiate there and visit my parishioners and I generally attend all the Vestries myself. My curate is resident in the town of Navan and discharges his duty, I firmly believe, to the satisfaction of the parishioners." Bishop O'Beirne however thought otherwise.

DAB heard the octogenarian John Wesley preach at Bethesda and was not impressed, but he was sufficiently evangelical in outlook to encourage music and singing in his churches. At Collon there was a barrel-organ with a repertoire of 18 hymn tunes and 2 chants, and at Navan a pipe-organ built by Cornwall in 1784. DAB formed a girls' choir and had a hymn book printed. The Navan sexton was resplendent in a wide coat of strong blue cloth, with a large scarlet cape and gilt buttons. The organ blower also had an official coat and hat.

In 1786 DAB helped to found the first Irish Sunday Schools in the Dublin parishes of St. Catherine and St. Thomas. At this time he often officiated in Dublin churches and was well received as a preacher. His New Year sermon on Methuselah wore well, being repeated 28 years later at Collon "with great applause". "His talents were not perhaps of the very highest order," wrote his famous son, (but) "He always commanded attention and was always listened to with delight."

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 J.R.S.A.I. 1870.
2 He was chaplain to the French Church, St. Patrick's Dublin, up to 1758. In addition to some earlier writings in French of a historical nature he published shortly before his death *A Short Account of the doctrine and practices of the Church of Rome divested of all controversy and humbly recommended to the perusal of all good Catholics as well as Protestants.* Dublin Wm. Watson, 1788. A Dutch translation from the French version of this pamphlet appeared in 1790. National Union Catalogue.
3 *Letter to Sir Chichester Fortescue 1797,* Jour. Co. Kildare Arch. Soc. Vol. **XII.** No. I.
4 The mss. are in the British Library — Add. Mss. 537 i 1 A & B.
5 His volume of notes for this survey is in the R.C.B. Library, Ms. 0 13, and is being edited for the Co. Louth Archaeological and Historical Journal 1974 —
6 National Union Catalogue.
7 British Library, Maps. 183. Q. I. (30)
8 Copies in Meath Diocesan Registry and elsewhere.
9 J. Healy, *History of the Diocese of Meath,* Dublin 1908. Vol. II. 66.
10 A small sketch elevation of the garden front, signed James Wyatt 1773, is with some 40 Ardbraccan drawings signed by or attributable to Cooley or **DAB** in PF 41. I.A.R.A. Collection N.L.I.
I 1 *Letters from Ireland* 1818. Letter XLIX.
12 *Memoir of a Map of Ireland* London T. Rickaby 1792. p 117.
13 His original plan and elevation are in PF 14. I.A.R.A. Collection N.L.I. The Parish has some other preliminary drawings.
14 Letter to Mrs. Edgeworth, nee Frances Beaufort, 1806. Christina Edgeworth Colvin, *Maria Edgeworth's Tours in Ireland,* Studia Neophilologica Vol. XLII. No. 2. 1970.320.
15 R.L. Edgeworth & Maria Edgeworth, *Memoirs of R. L. Edgeworth,* Vol. II. 1820.

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Foster — Massareene Papers, Public Record Office, N.I., Belfast.

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Christina Colvin ed. *Maria Edgeworth Lettersfrom England 1813-44,* Oxford 1971.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the authorities of the following libraries for permission to use mss, in their possession:-

Trinity College. Dublin. Diary vol. V. 1786-90, Diary 1818-20, Travel Journals 1764-79, 1779-84, 1787 — 3 vols., 1788 — 2 vols., 1807-10 — 4 vols.

Representative Church Body, Dublin. Travel Journal 1806 — 2 vols.

National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Beaufort — Edgeworth Papers, I.A.R.A. Drawings.

Huntington Library, San Marino, California. Diary, vol. III. 1776-81, vol. IX. 1796-8, vol. X. 1798-1804, vol. XI. 1805, Diary 1812-14, & 1820-21.
Travel Journal 1779-80, 1792-4.
Letter Book 1794-7.
DAB to his son Francis, 30 letters 1805-11.

Also Miss M. McNeill of Belfast for permission to use Diary vol. IV. 1781-6 & vol. VI. 1790-2.

I am much indebted to Hugh Cobbe of the British Library, John Andrews, Edward McParland and William O'Sullivan of T.C.D., Mrs. Christina Edgeworth Colvin, Francis Beaufort-Palmer and Alfred Friendly for their help and advice.

* * * * *

DAB's papers are now widely scattered and 1 have still not succeeded in locating vols. I & II. 1770-2 and VII & VIII. 1792-6 of his Diary. Can anyone help? C.C.E.

THE PORTRAIT MEDALLIONS OF JOHN VAN NOST THE YOUNGER

BY MICHAEL WYNNE

* * *

Considerable attention has been paid to the monumental sculpture of John Van Nost the Younger (d. 1780), who settled in Dublin about 1750. He was also responsible for three bronze portrait medallions, only two of which are mentioned by either Forrer or Strickland.

It is useful to publish photographs and catalogue details of these small medallions. The profile portrait of George II is a very accomplished piece of low relief carving, while the monuments on the reverse of the Clive and Cumberland medallions bear a very close relationship to the large scale memorials for which Van Nost is chiefly remembered.

1. George II (Obverse, Uniface)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum)

1. George II, 1683-1760 *Diam. 49 mm.*

Obverse: Bust of George II. Around above: FACTA INVICTUM TE PRAEDICANT SEMPER; around below: GEORG. II.D.G. Signed on truncation: I.V.N.

Reverse: blank.

Lit: L. FORRER, *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, vol. 4 (London 1909), p.284.

Note: This medallion was probably done in 1753-54, when Van Nost went to England to work on a statue of George II, who sat for him. The statue in question was the one commissioned by the Corporation of Dublin and erected in St. Stephen's Green. An alternative possibility is that the medallion was done soon after the king's death in 1760.

2. Duke of Cumberland (Obverse)
(Private Collection)

2. William, Duke of Cumberland, 1721-1765 *Diam. 37 mm.*

Obverse: Bust of the Duke of Cumberland. Inscribed around: WILL. D. OF CUMBERLAND.

Reverse: Monument with pyramid top; on the pedestal is inscribed: NAT XV APRIL MDCCXXI OB. XXXI OCTO.R MDCCLXV. Figures of Britannia and War lean against the pedestal Inscribed around: SWEET W1LL.S BLOOM IS CLOSD. Signed in exergue: I.V.N.

2a. Duke of Cumberland (Reverse)
(Private Collection)

Lit: L. FORRER, *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, vol. 4 (London 1909), p.284.

Note: The medallion was struck in 1766. A specimen of the medallion was inserted subsequently into the famous Cumberland Tankard (1746-47), which is preserved in the National Army Museum (Cf. W. REID in *The*

3. Baron Clive (Obverse)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum)

3a. Baron Clive (Reverse)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum)

3. Robert Clive, Baron of Plassey, 1725-1774 *Diam. 42 mm.*

Obverse: Portrait of Clive. Inscribed: ROBERT CLIVE BARON OF PLASSEY. Signed under shoulder: I.V.N.F.

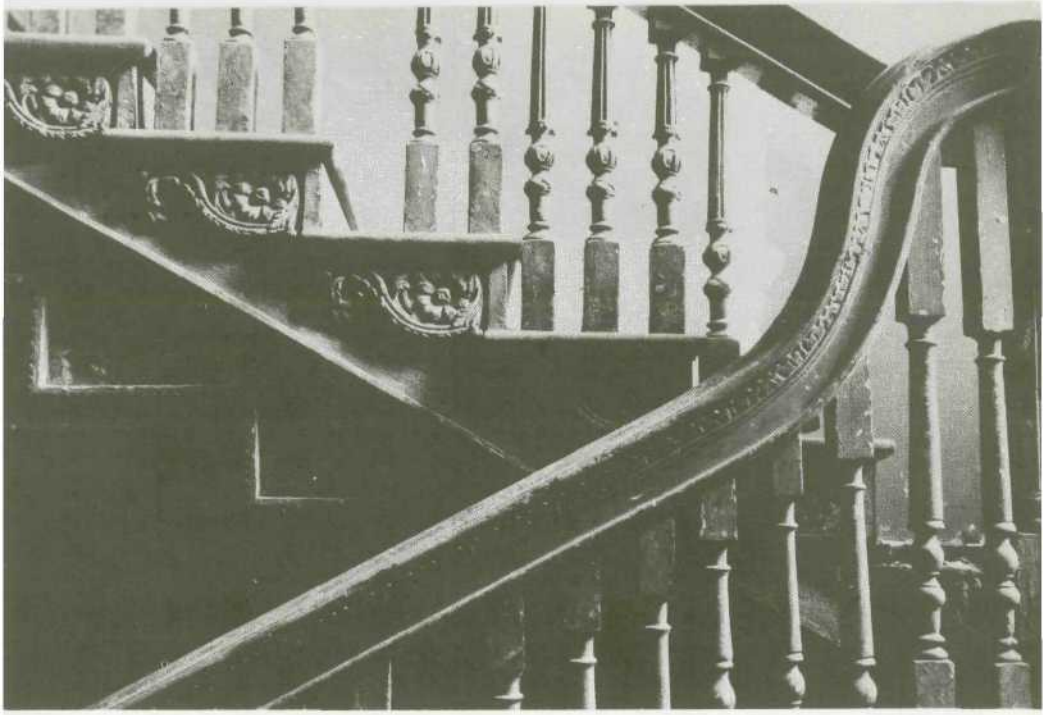
Reverse: Pyramid and figure of Fame. Inscribed around: HONOUR THE REWARD OF MERIT; Inscribed on pyramid: 1757 FEB 5 NABOBS CAMP DESTROYED JUNE 23 VICTORIOUS AT PLASSEY 1765 ESTABLISHED PEACE IN BENGAL AND MADE OMRA OF THE EMPIRE. Inscribed in exergue: ANNO 1766 C.G. (The latter initials may indicate that Gosset designed the reverse or at least prepared it for striking).

Lit: J. R. S. WHITING, *Commemorative Medals* (Newton Abbot 1972), p. 139.

Note: In 1762 Clive was created Baron Clive of Plassey, in the Irish Peerage.

I am very grateful to Mr. J. S. Martin of the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum for telling me about the medallion of Lord Clive.

MICHAEL WYNNE



IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY : OLD ROSCREA SOCIETY

DAMER HOUSE CAN BE SAVED!

At their meeting on 26th February 1974, the Tipperary (North Riding) County Council, Nenagh, decided to lease the Damer House to the Irish Georgian Society for 99 years. The architect is unknown, but the house is a distinguished example of pre-Palladian architecture and contains a very fine carved staircase and some original mantels. Used as a barracks for most of the nineteenth century, and a school in more recent years, it now houses the County Library and Engineering Offices, but no work has been done to make it safe or water-tight. The Council had voted to demolish the building at a meeting in November 1973, and use the site as a car park. The Society intends to save and restore Damer House, in conjunction with the Old Roscrea Society, as its project for European Architectural Heritage Year, 1975.

To the Irish Georgian Society, Castletown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. I enclose £.....as my contribution to the saving of Damer House, Roscrea. I do/do not wish my name to be printed in a list of benefactors.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

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