

APPENDIX K

HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

Since last I reported a number of publishing events of especial significance for the Church of Ireland has taken place. In November 2004, at the High School, Dublin, Professor Alan Ford, of the University of Nottingham (an old boy of the school, whose work on Archbishop Ussher is eagerly awaited) spoke at the launch of WJR Wallace's *Faithful to our trust: a history of the Ersasmus Smith Trust and The High School, Dublin* (The Columba Press, Dublin). Mr Wallace, who edited *Clergy of Dublin and Glendalough* (Ulster Historical Foundation, 2001), is at present preparing an edition of 'Clergy of Meath and Kildare', which also is based on the pioneering work of Canon JB Leslie. In December 2004, the Archbishop of Dublin spoke at the publication of John Crawford's *The Church of Ireland in Victorian Dublin* (Four Courts Press, Dublin), itself a piece of pioneering historical writing. Canon Crawford is joint editor with Professor Raymond Gillespie of the forthcoming 'St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, a history', which will be in format a companion volume to *Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, a history* (Kenneth Milne, Four Courts Press, 2000) and goes to press early next year. I have contributed to both of the above new titles, as well as to *Christianity : a complete guide* (Continuum, London and New York, 2005) and to *The dictionary of Irish biography* (ed. JI McGuire, under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy) to be published by Cambridge University Press. I have also been invited to contribute to *Encyclopedia of the modern world* (to be published by Oxford in 2008) an overview of the history of the Church of Ireland from 1750 to the present day. I addressed the Compass Rose Society on a similar theme in the course of its visit to Dublin in October 2005.

Already with Four Courts is another companion volume: Toby Barnard and William Neely's book on the clergy, complementing Gillespie and Neely's *The laity and the Church of Ireland, 1000-2000* (Four Courts, 2002). Likewise in the press is '2000 years of Christianity', edited by JR Bartlett, and based on lectures delivered at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in the year 2000, with an introduction by Professor Bartlett and Stuart Kinsella, organiser of the original lecture series.

There has been something of a renaissance of clerical biography in recent years: Patrick Semple, *Believe it or not* (Columba, 2002), Kevin Dalton, with Patrick Semple, *This could never be* (Columba, 2003) and Brian Mayne, *Changing scenes: changing ministry in a changing church in a changing land* (Columba, 2003). Recorded church history having been so heavily weighted in the past in favour of men, it is important to note two publications treating exclusively of women's history: Susan M. Parke's *A danger to the men? A history of women in Trinity College Dublin, 1904-2004* (Lilliput, 2005) and Oonagh Walsh, *Anglican women in Dublin : philanthropy, politics and education in the early twentieth century* (University College Dublin Press, 2005), which draws on a wide variety of sources, many in the RCB Library, demonstrating the value of collecting so much material where it is generally accessible to researchers. Also published in 2005 was *Medieval Dublin VI* (ed. Séan Duffy) with various articles of particular importance for the church. It was published at the annual conference of the Friends of Medieval Dublin where several more papers of interest to Church of Ireland readers were read,

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which will, as is the custom, be published in due course. Also published this year was volume I of '*A new history of Ireland, Prehistoric and early Ireland*' (ed. Daithí Ó Cróinín, Oxford) with much material essential for our understanding of the early Irish church. And, while the study of national events is important, so is the continuing work on the life of the church in the local situation, such as is described in Étain Murphy's *A glorious extravaganza: the history of Monkstown Parish Church* (Wordwell, 2003)

It is, presumably, part of the role of the historiographer to alert the church to impending anniversaries of significance for its self-understanding. Such is the forthcoming ninetieth anniversary of the 1916 Rising in Dublin. While the Church of Ireland community, like much of the Irish population north and south, was deeply disapproving of the rebellion at the time, there were Church of Ireland participants, and some consideration is being given to the possibility that their motivation and involvement in what became a turning-point in the history of Ireland (and consequently in that of the Church of Ireland) should receive scholarly attention.

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