
Death of a poet

Thursday, March 1

The oldest man in Connemara, a real native Irish poet, full of odd fancies, satirical yet good humoured expressions and whimsicalities, has died in Oughterard Workhouse aged 110. Coluim Wallace was discovered by 'An Claidheamh Soluis' and for the following particulars of his life we are indebted to an article published in that paper from the pen of Mr P.H. Pearse.

Born in May 1796, in Lettermullen - the most Irish speaking spot in Ireland - Coluim lived in a stirring epoch. He distinctly remembered the news of the Battle of Waterloo; the election of O'Connell for Clare was to him quite a recent event; he saw the achievement of Catholic Emancipation, and was past life's prime at the Famine. He was a child of two when the French landed at Killala, and a barefooted gossoon of seven when Robert Emmet sallied from the depot in Marshalsea Lane. He was an old man in the Fenian days, and was almost a centenarian when the Gaelic League was founded.