

# **THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649605095

The History of the Royal Irish Constabulary by Robert Curtis

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Cover @ 2017

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**ROBERT CURTIS**

**THE HISTORY OF  
THE ROYAL IRISH  
CONSTABULARY**



# THE HISTORY

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## Royal Irish Constabulary

BY

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Second Edition.

DUBLIN:

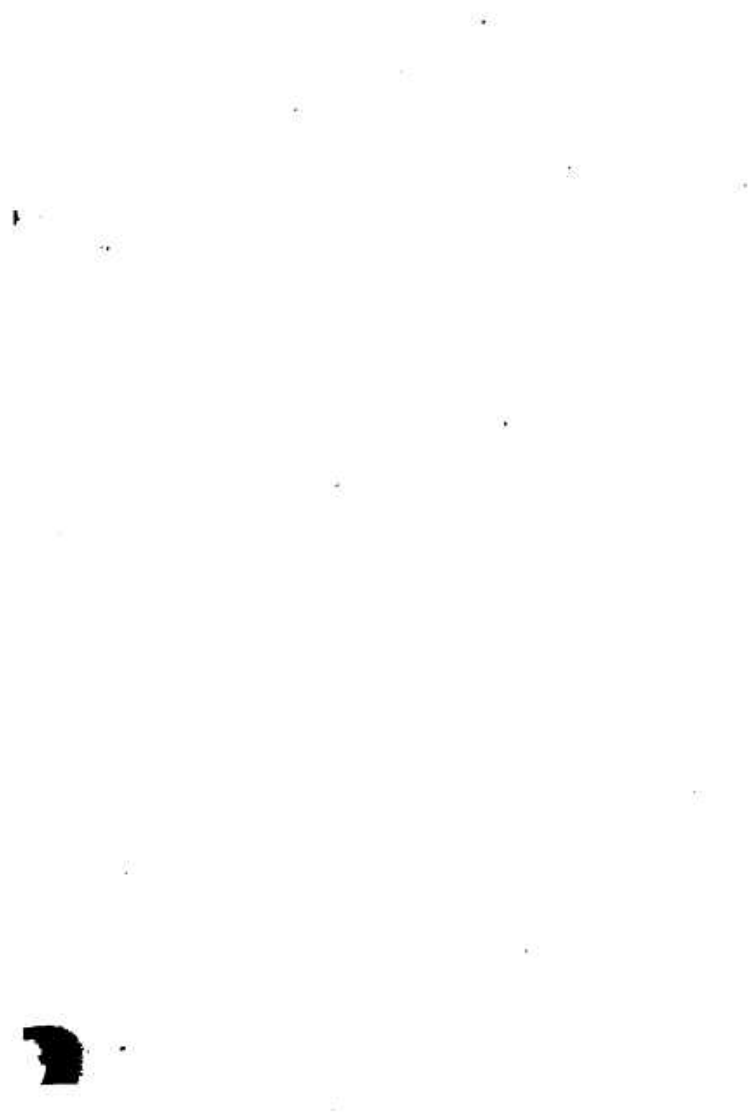
McGLASHAN & GILL, 50 UPPER SACKVILLE-ST.

LONDON: SIMPKIN & CO.

1871.



**Dedicated**  
BY PERMISSION  
TO HIS GRACE  
THE  
DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.







## PREFACE.

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**I**T appears to us that the time has arrived when a complete History of the Irish Constabulary, not only may be, but ought to be written. Many of the younger members of the force—indeed many, perhaps, of those who can scarcely be called the younger members—know comparatively little of the origin and infancy of the force to which they belong. Many of those who joined it along with ourselves have left it altogether, and lost all interest in it except their quarter day's pension; while some—alas! not a few of our contemporaries—have passed away to that country where experience was born of God, and which no Act of Parliament can alter or 'amend.'


When witnessing the ceremony some time ago which took place at the Depôt—that of decorating

some of the officers and men who had more particularly distinguished themselves upon the occasion of the late Fenian outbreak—as we gazed upon the many youngsters around us in their gay uniforms, our thoughts involuntarily passed back to a period of upwards of forty years before, and we wondered how many of those joyous young men would arrive at even the position which we then occupied in the force—and when!

The contrast of the force then drawn up before us from that which we had first joined was so forcible, that the thought struck us, it might not be uninteresting to trace its history from the origin, bringing it, step by step, from its birth, through its infancy, to its youth, and up to the stalwart manhood which at that moment it could boast.

When we began the task, we confess we did not anticipate that it would occupy more than an inconsiderable number of pages in a pamphlet form; but as we progressed, some subjects, so intimately connected with the history of the constabulary, presented themselves—subjects which could not fail to interest the general public, as well as the men themselves, that they fell into their places almost as a matter of course.

But it is not our intention to write a long preface. We have endeavoured to be as concise as could well



be, coupled with completeness of the subject. One thing we will assert,—that we have written nothing with a desire to assimilate anything we have said to the views of any party or person. Upwards of forty years' service may give us some claim to a certain degree of competency for the task which we have undertaken.

We have endeavoured to counterbalance a certain technicality inseparable from such a work, by the introduction of some of the most interesting incidents of the periods at which changes were made in the constabulary organization, and we hope we have not been unsuccessful in imparting a general interest to the subject.

