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ROUND ABOUT
THE
COUNTY OF LIMERICK:

Illustrated.

BY
REV. JAMES DOWD, A.B.,

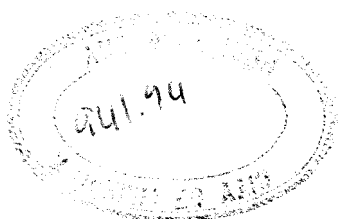
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"LIMERICK AND ITS SIEGES."

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PREFACE.

IN asking my readers to accompany me on an Historical and Archæological Tour Round About the County of Limerick, I have consulted their convenience by grouping events around the places brought under notice. The arrangement may lead to occasional repetition, and the narrative may sometimes be left incomplete, to be resumed and finished elsewhere. But, on the other hand, it possesses the undoubted advantage of fixing the attention of the reader upon the events and occurrences which render the places visited memorable. This little work is intended to be, as far as possible, a history of those places in the County of Limerick about which there is something to be told. The length of time covered ranges from the pre-historic period almost up to the present. Around the hill of Knockainy linger memories of the last remnants of an extinct race. The waters of Lough Gur and the adjacent swamps yield up remains of animals no longer to be found in this country. The same district preserves the rude memorials of men of the Stone Age whose cromlechs, circles and pillar stones have survived all the changes and chances of the intervening centuries. The vigorous heathenism of the early Celts has bequeathed the names of its last heroes to several of the more noticeable physical features of the county. To them succeeded the

Christian saints, whose names at least are preserved in connexion with the numerous churches with which they occupied even the remotest parts. To the cell of the saint succeeded the stately abbey, and domestic architecture is now first represented by the castles of the Anglo-Norman settlers who were soon to become more Irish than the Irish themselves. The Celt, the Dane, and the Norman have made history in this County of Limerick. It is my object to present their doings to the reader in as complete and as interesting a manner as in me lies. Matters of importance, which could not be easily woven into the texture of the narrative, have been reserved as notes at the end of the chapters to which they belong.

It is my duty to thank the Council of the Royal Society of Antiquaries (Ireland), for permission to reprint the first chapter, that on Kilmallock, from their Journal, in which it first appeared. My thanks are also due to the Board of Trinity College, Dublin, for permission to print Lady Dowdall's narrative in Chapter XIV, and to make use of Sir Hardress Waller's deposition, both of which are to be found in the MS. depositions preserved in the College Library. I have also to acknowledge my obligations to Lord Dunraven's Memorials of Adare for information used in the portion of Chapter VII. dealing with the progress of that picturesque village in the present century.

JAMES DOWD.

LIMERICK,

8th December, 1896.

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if at all, mentioned in connection with the incessant warfare of the centuries preceding the Norman Conquest.

On the arrival of the English the Geraldines gradually made themselves masters of the south of Ireland, and with it that tract known as the Golden Vein. It is very probable that Kilmallock owes its existence as a town, at least on its present site, to that branch of the family which settled themselves in the district. The position of the new town was well chosen. It stood in the midst of one of the most fertile plains of Munster. It lay on the road between Limerick and Cork, and in such a position as to command the important Pass of Richair or the Red Gap. The great natural strongholds of the Glen of Aherlow and the wooded mounts of Upper Connelloe were on either side and these same retreats, which afforded protection to the expelled Irish of the thirteenth century, also gave security to the Geraldines when they, in turn, were compelled to fly before the soldiers of Elizabeth.

The earliest distinct references to Kilmallock show that it was a walled town at the end of the thirteenth century, and closely connected with that branch of the Desmond family known as the White Knights. It is not unlikely that it was even then a corporation, for its privileges are recited in a Charter of Edward III., which granted to the Provost and Commonalty certain tolls and auctor, for the repair of the fortifications. Queen Elizabeth granted another Charter in 1584. James I. erected Kilmallock into a borough in 1609, permitting it

to return to members to Parliament—a privilege which it enjoyed till the Union. Amongst the last representatives of Kilmallock occurs the name of John Fitzgibbon, afterwards Earl of Clare and Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

The historic references to Kilmallock, during the reign of Elizabeth, are numerous, and its name is closely linked with the fate of the last of the Desmonds. Here the Lord Deputy summoned Garret, the last Earl, to appear before him and compose his differences with his hereditary enemies, the Butlers (1567). The Earl replied that he would come next summer at the head of 5,000 men. The Earl was arrested, conveyed to London, and committed to the Tower. During his absence his cousin, James Fitzmaurice, assumed the leadership of the Geraldines, and taking advantage of the temporary absence of the Lord Deputy, attacked Kilmallock and totally destroyed it on the 2nd of March, 1571. From the narrative in the "Annals of the Four Masters" it will be seen that the place was possessed of considerable wealth. The writer tells us that James MacMaurice, or Fitzmaurice, captured the town, "not so much from a desire of obtaining its wealth and great treasures, although its riches were immense, but because it had always been the place of rendezvous and rallying-point of the English and Geraldines against him." What follows is a lively description of the warfare of the period:—"The inhabitants," continues the narrator, who had gone to sleep happily and soundly in the early part of the night, were roused from their slumbers before sunrise the following morning by

avery fierce attack made by the warlike troops of the MacSweeneys and the MacSheehys who were in the service of James MacMaurice. They proceeded to divide amongst themselves the silver, gold, various riches, and precious articles which the father would not have acknowledged to his heir, or the mother to her daughter on the day before. They were engaged for three days and nights in carrying away every kind of treasure and precious goods, including cups and ornamental goblets, upon their horses and beasts of burden to the woods and forests of Aherlow, and sent some of them privately to their friends and wives. After having demolished its stone and wooden buildings they set fire to the town, and raised a dense dark cloud of thick smoke over it, so that Kilmallock became the receptacle and abode of wolves, in addition to all the misfortunes which had befallen it before that time."

A town which it took these experienced plunderers three days to sack must have contained a great quantity of valuable articles within its walls. It may be remarked in passing that the writer quoted above makes no mention of the fate of the inhabitants.

Kilmallock was, however, soon rebuilt and restored by Sir John Perrott, who placed a large garrison within its walls. No effort was spared to capture Fitzmaurice, but in vain. Driven by famine, he at length submitted to the English Commander, who determined to make his humiliation complete. The captive chief was brought to the scene of his former triumph. The nobles of Munster and the distinguished officers of the English were gathered

together in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul. The Irish Chief was produced before them, and there, on his knees, at the feet of the President of Munster, who held a drawn sword towards his breast, the haughty Geraldine was compelled to swear allegiance to the Queen of England. In these abject terms he was forced to confess his guilt:—"This earth of Kilmallock, which town I have most traitorously sacked and burnt, I kiss, and on the same lie prostrate, overfraught with sorrow upon the present view of my most mischievous past." From this time onward Kilmallock became, from its position, the chief seat of operations against the disaffected Geraldines. The Earl of Desmond was released after an imprisonment of years, and resisted all attempts to seduce him from his allegiance to the Queen of England. When Fitzmaurice returned from the Continent with a body of Italian and Spanish troops determined on revenge, the Earl refused to throw in his lot with his kinsman, and when the latter was killed in a skirmish with the De Burghos, and his body quartered over the gates of the town, the Earl made a journey to Kilmallock to assure the Lord Deputy of his continued loyalty, and gave his eldest son as a hostage for his future obedience.

The subsequent history of the last Earl of Desmond is well known. He went into revolt, evidently driven to it by those whose object it was to extinguish the influence of this too powerful noble. He wandered a fugitive and an outlaw amongst the woods that covered the sides of the hills southward of Kilmallock. The English soldiers

garrisoned at Kilmallock do not seem to have been anxious to capture the unhappy fugitive. In the "Annals of the Four Masters" will be found several instances of the garrison being called out on the report of spies to hunt him down. But somehow he always managed to make his escape, only to fall by the hand of one of his followers, but not in the County of Limerick.

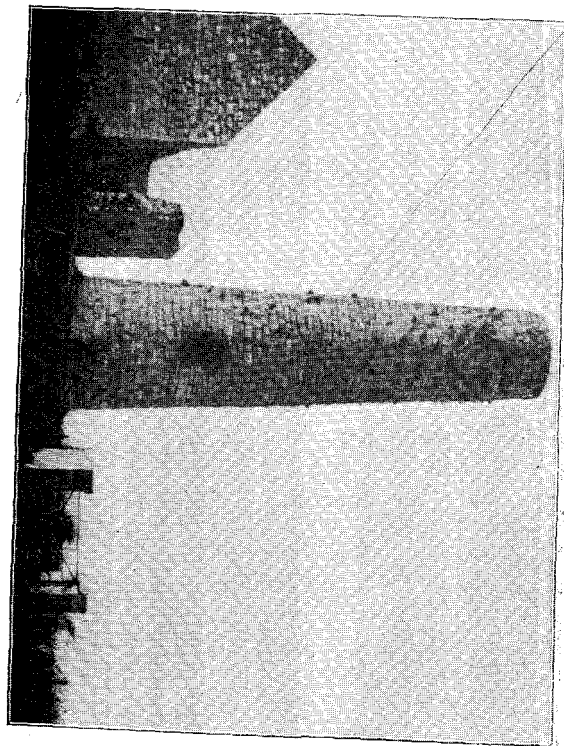
In 1598 Sir Thomas Norris made Kilmallock a centre for raiding, in one of which forays he received a thrust of a pike between the jawbone and the neck in a skirmish with the Burkes of Killeely, and was carried to Kilmallock where he died.

On the appearance upon the scene of the so-called Sugan Earl in the opening years of the seventeenth century, Queen Elizabeth's advisers thought it prudent to restore the lawful Earl of Desmond to the honours of his family. This was the young man who had been delivered as a hostage by his father, and who had been educated at the English Court in a manner becoming his station. Accordingly, in 1600, James, Earl of Desmond, was sent over, attended by the Archbishop of Cashel and Boyle, afterwards Earl of Cork. The following is the account of his arrival in Kilmallock, as given in the "Annals of the Four Masters":—

"The young Earl arrived at Kilmallock on a Saturday evening, and was received with unbounded enthusiasm. At the entry of the town a vast concourse was gathered, the streets were crowded, the windows filled with eager faces, the very housetops were covered with people anxious to catch even a

ROUND TOWER AND CHURCH OF DYSERT.

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passing glimpse of the representative of a line of mighty chieftains. That night the Earl was to dine with Sir John Thornton, Commander of the Garrison, and so great was the number that an escort of soldiers was required to force a passage through the crowd.

“Next day was Sunday; the Earl went to the Protestant service at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul; all the way thither the people endeavoured by words and looks to persuade him not to go. He went, however, not understanding what was meant by their hints; but on coming back again a vast change had taken place in the feelings of the concourse. The favourite of yesterday was mocked, cursed, and spit upon. The town had to be cleared of strangers; there was no longer any respect shown to the heir of the Desmonds; no one took the slightest notice of him, and he shortly afterwards returned to England, where he died in the following year.”

In the events of 1641-1651, Kilmallock did not occupy a prominent place, as general attention was centred on Limerick. It was of course held by the Irish forces for several years, and was one of their chief depots. On the arrival of Ireton the town surrendered without an attempt at resistance, and when the investment of Limerick became protracted beyond the time expected for its surrender, the Parliamentary generals were considering the advisability of retiring to Kilmallock for their winter quarters. The fall of Limerick, however, rendered the movement unnecessary.

It may be a long cry from 1651 to 1867, but the history of Kilmallock would be incomplete without reference to the events of the latter year. During the outbreak of the Fenian insurrection in March, 1867, a fierce attack was made on the police barrack, which was defended by the head-constable and nine men. The attacking party endeavoured to burn down the door by means of paraffin oil, and when this failed they tried to break it through with sledge hammers. A furious fire was kept up on the building for several hours, which was vigorously returned, till on the arrival of the Kilfinane police, the garrison made a gallant sortie and drove their assailants before them.

At the present time Kilmallock is a stirring; prosperous, and rising place. Since the line of railway was constructed new buildings have sprung up, stores have been erected, and Kilmallock wears a look of activity not often to be met with in an ancient town. It is a disadvantage that the station is some distance from the business part, but the streets are extending in that direction, though the intervening workhouse is to some extent an obstacle to progress. That the place was not always as prosperous or as business-like, even in recent times, as it is now, is abundantly shown by the following description of Kilmallock as it appeared in the eyes of Dr. Campbell in 1775:—"Leaving Buttevant, I thought the *ne plus ultra* of human wretchedness was then passed, but Kilmallock was before me. Had such scenes presented themselves on leaving Dublin, curiosity might have proved too weak an incentive to proceed, I should have turned back again to

avoid the sight of misery for which I could not but feel without being able to remove. After riding a few miles and staring at a sight so unusual as a well-planted park, I eventually turned through an arch under an old castle into a spacious street, composed of houses which though magnificent were windowless and roofless. An inn was unknown here. I got, however, a stable for my horse and a room for myself, where I suppose a fire had not been kindled since the last election; for these ruins sent two members to the Irish Parliament at that time, Silver Oliver, Esq., nominating them as patron. Sheds were raised within these noble structures too nasty for the habitation of English pigs. This must have been a place of high antiquity. Sir James Ware relates that an Abbey of Dominicans or Black Friars was built here in the thirteenth century by the sovereign, brethren, and commonalty. It formerly gave a title to an Earl, and of Viscount to one of the Sarsfield family. It preserves a greater share of magnificence even in its ruins than anything I have yet seen in Ireland. There is but one street now standing entire, but from some scattered piles and from the foundation of others there is reason to suppose that there may have been more. The walls round the town, which in many places still remain, art. of an oblong square. At each angle has been a castle, like those under which the traveller passes at the end of the remaining street. One of these is the gaol of the city. What do you think of the gaol of Kilmallock, itself the most dreary of all prisons? The religious houses have been very stately, This town was

abandoned by the Irish during the last siege of Limerick, and then fitted up by the English army as a place of stores."

Such is the description given of Kilmallock a little over a hundred years ago. Some features remain unchanged and unchangeable, others are greatly altered. The numerous ruins which entitle Kilmallock to be called "The Baalbec of Ireland" are as noble and stately as ever, though the hand of time has been heavy upon some of them. The traveller still passes through the same arch under the same castle, but no longer as it was described even so late as 1826, into a "place exhibiting the stillness of a sacked and desolate city." The principal street is wide and spacious as of old, and is lined with good houses, tastefully and neatly kept. In spite of the many changes rendered necessary by the altered conditions of modern life there is no Irish town which contains so much suggestive of the past. It is not a new town built on the site of the old: it is the old town with its old-world associations lingering into the nineteenth century and partaking of its characteristics. The blending of the antique and the modern is striking. The ancient mansions have not been removed or destroyed; they have been assimilated, so to speak. On one entire side of the street even now the houses present peculiarities which show them to be of high antiquity, in spite of the newness and freshness of their appearance. One with the wide projecting roof under which the birds build their nests was an ancient mint, and afterwards the gaol mentioned before. Battlements on the gables reveal the age

of some; and persons still alive remember having seen traces of gilding on the ornamental stonework of one of them since demolished. There are still two old castellated mansions in a state of decay. They are massively built of hewn stone, lofty, and in their proportions, even after the lapse of centuries, still preserve a noble as well as venerable appearance. Of these edifices one belonged to the Earl of Buckingham, and the other to the Godsell family.

The Castle, or rather citadel, is situated in the middle of the town, and blocks up one end of the street. The passage under the castle was not suited to the requirements of the present traffic, and the roadway is diverted to the east. The building is rectangular, the walls much "battered" at the base. The height is about sixty feet, the top being ornamented with light and graceful battlements. This tower was the chief military arsenal of the Irish army under Lord Castlehaven in 1645. Entrance is obtained into the lower story, part of which was the ancient passage, and part the guardroom; this latter was recently used as a blacksmith's forge'. A flight of seventy-three steps, constructed in the thickness of the wall at an angle strengthened for the purpose, gives access to the upper apartments and leads to the battlements, from whence a beautiful view of the surrounding country may be obtained. The prospect is bounded by the Ballyhowra range and the massive front of the Galtees on the south; by Knockfierna on the north; whilst eastward the eye ranges as far as the Tipperary mountains and

Keeper Hill, and westward to the blue summits of the mountains which overhang the Lakes of Killarney. Charleville may be distinguished by its tall, slender church spire, and Kilfinane may be observed nestling amongst the hills; Bruff is concealed from view by an Intervening elevation, as also is Bruree.

Not far from the Castle, where the road branches to the left, a beautiful Roman Catholic church has recently been erected. At this spot the ancient walls crossed the road, and here one of the four gates formerly stood; a piece of masonry at the very corner of the road was part of the original structure. It has now disappeared. About twenty yards up the road, to the left, is a lime-kiln, the representative of a corner tower of the fortifications. From this point the wall extends southwards in an unbroken line for a considerable distance. In some places it is twenty feet high, and the ramparts and battlements are in good preservation. The ditch is partly filled up. A very strong bastion, whose breastworks are nearly as high as the walls themselves, strengthened the defences at this part. Just outside the walls may be observed a very fine cromlech in excellent preservation. The walls extend to the Charleville road, on which Blossom's Gate still stands. After crossing the road the walls turned to the east in the direction of the river; midway was Ivy Gate, the entrance from the south. Water Gate, as the name suggests, was at the river, close by where the bridge now is. Of these two gates not a stone remains, though part of the wall between them is still standing.

The course of the wall ran parallel to the river, at a distance of about ten yards, and can be easily traced at the foot of the small gardens round to the new church from whence we started. The fortifications, it may be seen, were rectangular in shape, and enclosed a considerable area. All the present town, except some recently erected buildings towards the railway station, stand within the original boundaries.

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

The most interesting ruins are those of the two celebrated ecclesiastical edifices. Of these the more ancient is the Church of St. Peter and **St.** Paul, which lies within the walls, and stands in a spacious burying-ground. The church consisted of a chancel, nave, side aisles, and transept, but there does not appear to have been any central tower. The chancel has been fitted up as the Protestant Church, and all traces of architectural ornament have been rigidly excluded. The nave is separated from the side aisles by four lofty pointed arches springing from pillars four feet square. In the north aisle are some very old tombs. The Fitzgerald tomb, lying near a pillar, bears the date 1591, and the inscription runs thus —

NON FUGIAM PRIUS EXPERIAM NON MORS MIHI
TERROR.

Near the church door is another in memory of William Blakeney, who died 1664. A third contains the mortal remains of Thomas Fitzgerald, who died 1630. The top is cracked across, and recently the

curious could peer through and see the skeleton within.

The south transept is almost wholly taken up with a huge pile of masonry, the burial-place of the Holmes family, and a similar structure belonging to the family of Evans occupies much of the adjacent aisle. These two seriously mar the symmetry of the building.

In the transept is the curiously carved tomb erected by Sir Walter Coppinger, in memory of his wife and her first husband. It bears the following inscription in relief around the edge :—

D. WALTERUS COPPINGER EQUES AURATUS NOC
FUNERIS ET AMORIS MONUMENTUM POSUIT ANO DNI
1627 DNO JOANNI VERDUNO EJUSQUE RELICTAE
ILLIS D. ALSONAE HALY CONJUGI SUAE ILLIS D. IOANNES
VERDON OBIT ANO SALUTIS 1614 19 AUGUSTI
ÆTATIS SUAE 63. D. ALSONA HALY OBIT ANNO SALUTIS
1626 OCTOBER 20 ÆTATIS SUAE 60. SURGITE
MORTUI VENITE AD JUDICIUM.

It may be mentioned that a Mr. Henry Verdon was one of the parliamentary representatives for Kilmallock in 1613-1639.

This monument is of elaborate workmanship and design. The figures upon it are almost obliterated, but the following description has been preserved of it, and may be traced. At the top is an emblem of the Resurrection, a man rising from the grave, and an angel blowing a trumpet; between these two occurs the date 1627 above. Near this is a cross resting on the rock of faith, its base beautifully carved, and the whole encircled with a wreath of

olive branches. Then come the Arms of the Healy and Verdon families; a cross and five suns appendant to a staff of maintenance; a lozenge containing five suns and four castles, shaded with roses and fleur-de-lis. Underneath all are the figures of a man and a woman two-and-a-half feet in length, a long spur being conspicuous on the left heel of the former.

Attached to the north-east corner of the nave is a round tower, so thickly covered with ivy as almost to conceal its shape. The tower is in good preservation, and almost all writers have passed it by without notice. The interior is seven feet and a-half in diameter. The walls are five feet thick, and about fifty feet high. The roof is perfect, and traces of four floors may be observed. At the further angle of the west wall is a circular stairs, leading to the battlements with which the outer walls were surmounted.

THE DOMINICAN ABBEY.

On the opposite side of the river, outside the walls of the town, and situated on a flat expanse of meadow, stand the ruins of the Dominican Abbey, the Abbey of Kilmallock, one of the most beautiful and interesting ecclesiastical edifices in Ireland. The gray, venerable, and crumbling walls, the slender but shattered tower: the graceful proportions of aisle, and transept, and window, present a picture which never loses its attractive beauty, whether seen in summer or winter, in cloud or sunshine.

The foundation of the Dominican Abbey of Kilmallock is ascribed by De Burgho to Gilbert, head

of the clan Gibbon, and second son of John of Callan, grandson of Maurice Fitzgerald, the Norman invader. The date of the foundation is fixed at 1291, and the work was carried on by Gilbert, and completed by his son Maurice, to whom, indeed, its establishment has been erroneously attributed. In apparent opposition to De Burgho, the Cotter MS. states that Maurice erected or enlarged a church in the town of Kilmallock, that he was "the person who built a castle outside the walls of that town, commonly called the Knight's Castle, and likewise the Monastery of St. Dominick." The statements need not necessarily be at variance, if we suppose that Gilbert began the work, and that it was finished by his son—a theory which is in accordance with the difference of date which marks certain parts of the venerable pile. It is considered probable that the windows of the transept, the west end of the nave, and the domestic buildings, lying to the north, are the parts added by Maurice, since they are undoubtedly fourteenth century work, and later than the choir and nave. The Knight's Castle referred to in the extract has long ceased to exist, but its site was identified by O'Donovan with some mounds in the demesne of Mount Coote.

This Maurice, son of Gilbert, was the first who bore the title of White Knight, for many centuries connected with the district occupying the south-east corner of the county of Limerick, a saucer-shaped valley, surrounded by steep hills intersected by important passes. Knighthood, in accordance with English law, does not pass from father to son. With regard to three branches of the Desmond

family, we know that it has been transmissible, probably in accordance with some Irish custom, and the Geraldines were more Irish than the Irish themselves. John of Callan left four sons. From the eldest were descended the Earls of Desmond, and each of the others became the heads of families hardly inferior in importance to the holders of the earldom. The earldom, as a distinct title, has long since vanished; the last of the White Knights rests in the Abbey of Kilmallock, but the Knight of Glin and the Knight of Kerry are amongst us still, and bear titles that carry one back to long-distant ages of chivalry and romance.

A hitherto unpublished document of the Geraldine family is to be found in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ireland, for the year 1870-71, and it throws much light on the origin of these peculiar dignities. Early in his reign Edward III. levied war upon the Scots, and applied to his Irish subjects for assistance. Desmond—for so he is styled, perhaps in anticipation—responded to the appeal, and appeared at the head of a considerable force in which his three cousins held important commands. It is said that each was at the head of no less than two thousand men, and that these three Irish divisions bore the brunt of the battle of *Hallidon Hill*, in which the Scots were totally routed. When the victory was complete, we are told that Edward inquired particulars concerning the engagement of the day, and was informed of the gallantry of these cousins. The result was that the Irish heroes were presented to the king "armed as they had fought in the

battle, each of them being somewhat wounded and the blood yet flowing afresh." Maurice, the record continues, "was deeply wounded on the left arm, under the shoulder, which the king perceiving, with his own hands bound up with a white scarf and a black ribbon, and hence it came that the White Knights ever since bear a white and black cross as their field colours. In this manner the king presently knighted him on that field, and called him Maurice the *White Knight*, as a distinction from the other two, by reason that he wore a white glittering armour. He then also knighted the other two, naming them, likewise, after the colour of their armour in which they fought; for the second, wearing black armour, was called the *Black Knight*, and the other, who wore a greenish azure armour, was called the *Green Knight*." The *Black Knight* was the ancestor of the Knight of Glin, and the Knight of Kerry represents the *Green Knight*, the title of knight being perpetuated in these two instances for five centuries and a half.*

The same authority states that Maurice, when "stricken in years," though he does not appear to have been more than sixty, "and in order to avoid the toilsome cares and affairs of the world," took on the habit of St. Dominic in the Monastery of Kilrnallock; that he stayed not long before he re-

*The earliest undoubted evidence that the knightly titles were hereditary is to be found in a pardon granted by Henry VII., in 1496, to the Earl of Desmond and others, including

Domino Mauricio le *White Knight*.
Domino Mauricio *Militi de Kerry*.
Domino Edmundo *Militi de Waley*.

The pardon was granted for complicity in the rebellion of Perkin Warbeck.

moved to the Monastery of Youghal, where he died in 1357, and ordained that his body "should be interred in that monastery, in one tomb, with the princess, his wife, for there she was buried." The words, "that monastery," would seem to point to Youghal, although there is some reason to doubt which establishment was referred to. All ambiguity, however, is removed by the Cotter MS., which states distinctly, "He was, by his own appointment, interred with his lady at Kilmallock in a tomb by him for her erected there in the monastery before-named."

During the subsequent centuries of its existence there are few historic references to be found connected with the Dominican Abbey of Kilmallock. It seems to have been in the world, yet out of the world of war and faction. The community appear to have dwelt in peace, untroubled by the course of events that were taking place around them, when the old order was changing and giving place to the new. At the dissolution of the monasteries it was granted to the corporation of Kilmallock, and it gradually fell into decay, but it took three centuries to reduce it to what it is at present.

The most interesting portion of this noble pile of buildings is the choir, which is also the earliest in point of time. The east window is one of great beauty. It consists of five slender lancets, included under a pointed arch. The south wall is pierced by six double lancets, widening so much within that but an inch or two separates one from the other. The central mullions have disappeared, except so much as to show that once they were

there. Under two of the more easterly of these windows are the remains of sedilia, and in the wall opposite is a remarkable tomb-niche of later date than the choir. This tomb-niche is of elaborate construction, and the tracery of pointed arch, carved finial and rounded shaft, still testify to the loving care once bestowed upon it.

It is highly probable—indeed almost certain—that here we have before us the tomb erected by Maurice “for the princess, his wife,” and within which he desired that his own remains should be laid. Gilbert the founder was buried at Tralee. His son Maurice erected a tomb for his wife in his lifetime, and these he was buried himself. This is the only tomb of the hind in the abbey, and the conclusion is forced upon us that here repose the remains of the warrior of Hallidon Hill, the “toilsome cares and affairs of the world” troubling him now no more.

Not far off, on the floor of the chancel, broken and neglected, is the slab which marks the grave of his descendant, Edmund, the last of the White Knights. There is no difficulty in identifying it, though the inscription is almost worn away by time and the footsteps of those that have passed over it. With some patience the following may be made out:—

Æ
I. W. S.

HIC TVMVLVS ERECIVS FV
IT IN MEMORIAM ILLIVS STE
MMATIS GERALDINORVM QVI
VVLGO VOCANTVR EQVITES
ALBI
JOHANNES CVM FILIO SVO
EDMVNDO ET MAVRICIO FI
LIO PRÆFATI EDMVNDI

The remainder is illegible, but the Rev. Dr. McCarthy, who visited the abbey some thirty years ago, has fortunately preserved a portion which runs thus:—

ET MVLTII ALII EIVSDEM FAMILIÆ
HIC TVMVLANTVR PREF
AT.

The inscription was evidently left incomplete, in order that the dates might be filled in subsequently.

The tenant of this neglected tomb played a part in the affairs of the closing years of Queen Elizabeth's reign, which is not yet forgotten by the people of the district. He secured his own estates by timely submission, and when the earl revolted the “right hand of the Geraldines,” as the White Knights were called, was not to be found in the Desmond ranks. Twenty years after the last Earl of Desmond had fallen by the hands of one of his own followers, there was a new insurrection, and a new earl, commonly called the Sungan Earl, appeared on the scene. After a short, severe struggle with the garrison of Kilmallock, the earl was forced to fly, his followers were either destroytd or dispersed, and a price was set upon his own head. Every effort to capture the unhappy nobleman was in vain; for though there were spies in abundance ready to carry intelligence of his whereabouts, there were others just as active in giving him warning of danger. At length the President of Munster, grown

weary of the chase, summoned the White Knight before him, accused him of remissness in hunting down the fugitive, reminded him that a thousand pounds were to be earned by his capture, and hinted that his own loyalty was suspected—for the Sугan Earl was known to be hiding in his territory.

This was enough. The knight got exact information as to fugitive's whereabouts, which was a cave near Mitchelstown. Hither he repaired with a few followers, summoned his kinsman forth, who came, suspecting no evil. The earl was seized, conveyed to Cork, where he was tried for treason; but his life was spared, only to be passed in the Tower of London, where he died in 1608. The White Knight got the reward of £1,000, and died the same year as his relative, and was buried with his kindred. The title ceased with Edmund, and after a few decades his estates passed by female branches (for the males left no heirs) to Sir John King, afterwards Lord Kingston.

On the arrival of George IV. in Ireland in 1821, the then Earl of Kingston endeavoured to revive the extinct title, and wished to be publicly acknowledged as the White Knight, but in this he was successfully opposed by William Vesey Fitzgerald, afterwards Lord Fitzgerald of Desmond. The reprehensive in the male line of the White Knights is most probably the eldest surviving son of the late Mr. Maurice Fitzgibbon, of Crohanna House, Kilkenny.

In the north wall of the choir may be observed the Burgate inscription in memory of three young men who perished at the battle of Liscarroll—

1642.

Tertia lux cæsos memorat Septembris in anno
 Quem legis heu nondum tres tenet urna senes
 Marte nepos fratresque ruunt tria pignora justo
 Jus patriæ causam rexque fidesque probant
 Integer attritis reperitur candor in extis
 Virginis et veri purpura martyrii
 Lilia purpureos inter sudantia fluctus
 Tres meruere trium nomina marmor habe.

Fres. Georg. }
 d } Burgate.
 Nep. Alex. }

There is a coat of arms, in *relievo*, above the^{SP} inscription. The crest is a boar's head. The inscription is in Roman capitals, also raised.

The following metrical translation is by Archdean Rowan:—

September third, what year these figures tell,
 Saw three slain youths inurned, untimely dead,
 Brothers and kinsmen pledged in just war fell,
 King, country, God approve wherefor they *bled*,
 Youth's virgin purity, true martyr's blood,
 Mark out their corpses from the mangled heap,
 As lilies struggling with the ensanguined flood.
The three deserved well; their names thou marble keep.

The brothers { George
 Edward } Burgate.
 The nephew { Alexander }

To the north of the chancel extends a vast hall, ninety feet long by eighteen feet wide. The east wall contains a large number of windows and arches

The version given above is that of Col. Vigers, in the Report for 1889 of the "Fund for Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead." The words in italics are those substituted by Col. Vigers instead of others current attributed to Archdeacon Rowan, and they make better rhyme and better sense.

of varying form and size, some built up, and some still open. All round the walls, at the height of the eye, extends a series of square holes about six inches wide. A huge and capacious chimney, ten feet wide, is also noticeable. This spacious apartment was probably the day-room of the community.

There are traces of cloisters remaining: the corbels on the outside of the walls show that they existed, and that provision was made for the construction of the roof resting on these corbels.

North of the cloister garth are the remains of a passage or series of chambers. The vaulted roof has tumbled down in some places; but so firm is the masonry that the masses remain unbroken. Alongside is a series of kitchens, and in one of the chimneys is a window, evidently a later insertion. Overhead was a series of chambers, admittance to which is gained by a doorway with ornamented jambs.

The central tower is about ninety feet high, and rests on four lofty arches, the piers of which are five feet thick. One of these arches leads to a transept containing a window of remarkably elegant construction. It consists of five lights, whose mullions are so interlaced above as to form under the arch a series of geometrical figures, commonly called net tracery, whose design is as graceful as it is ingenious.

The window between the mullions had been built up for years in order to save it, but the effort to preserve it almost led to its destruction. The window suffered very much from the storms of winter, in consequence of having been filled up.

The loosely-built masonry was unable to resist the pressure of the wind, and part of it gave way, bringing with it to the ground a considerable portion of the original stonework, and thus leaving an unsightly gap in the middle. The remainder had been very much shaken, and the next storm may bring it all down. (*Written in 1889*). Half of one of the central shafts is gone; another is bent, and looks shaky. One of the lights has totally disappeared, and parts of five others lie strewn about upon the ground. The sixth window of the south-side of the choir, that nearest the tower, shows signs of crumbling away internally, though externally it looks in fair preservation. The east window is in a tottering condition. The lower stones of the two central shafts are split and crumbling, and when they go—and they cannot last long in their present condition—the window goes along with them. The effort to preserve the building has not come a moment too soon. It is a wonder that it has been delayed so long. There are few ecclesiastical monuments that, for beauty of outline and gracefulness of construction, can compete with the Dominican Abbey of Kilmallock, and for the effort that is now being made to protect it from total destruction the society deserves the warmest thanks of the community at large. We must give honour to whom honour is due, and to Kilkenny belongs the credit of originating a project which, we hope, will preserve this beautiful building from being wiped out of existence.*

*Since the above was written the window has been carefully restored and pains have been taken to preserve the whole structure.

A chalice which formerly belonged to this abbey is at present preserved in the Dominican Convent of St. Saviour. Limerick, having been brought thither from Athy, in 1864.

The chalice is of silver gilt. The height is $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and weight $22\frac{3}{4}$ ounces. The base is octagonal, and around the interior are the following inscriptions in three concentric lines:—

Orate pro Mauritio gibbon filio Comitiss Albi

Dom Callaghanus o Callaghan et Juana
Butler vxor ejus fieri fecerunt pro
Conventu Killocensi ord: Pried.
reqst. in pace. Priore Fra Henrico.

Tho Burgat

The date, 1639, is found in large figures under the word Priore.

There are no maker's marks on the chalice.



NOTES.

CHAKTEKS OF KILMALLOCK.

In the Patent Rolls, 27^o Elizabeth, 1684, will be found the following:—

The Queen to the Archbishop of Dublin and Sir Henry Wallopp—referring to a petition of the inhabitants of Kilmallock for a renewal and enlargement of their charter, and to a certificate of their loyalty by the Lords Justices—grants that their charter be renewed as *amply* as that of Kilkenny. so as that no unreasonable liberties be inserted in it: to have return of all writs and mandates, except those concerning the Queen; the sovereign to be justice of the peace and coroner, within the town; to be free of all customs in like manner, as Kilkenny, Clonmel, or other borough, so as no custom due to the Queen be remitted; to have the receipt of chattels, lands, and tenements of offenders, arising within their franchiser, but to account for the same; not to conceal, compound, or remit any of the duties due to the Queen; persons having lands or tenements in the town and residing elsewhere, to pay proportionally to all the town burdens, and the corporation to have a power of compelling the payment of same—(the inhabitants alleging a grant of the fourth part of such lands for 40 years from Edward IV.); to hold the friary of St. Dominic, and 16 acres of land belonging to it, lying within the franchises of the Queen, in fee farm, for a rent of 40s. 3d., sterling; escheated lands in Munster, lying near the town, to the value of about £60 yearly rent, to be granted to them on fee farm; in the mean time, our will and pleasure is—and we authorise you—to cause the old charter of the town to be renewed and continued to then in good and authentic manner, and to

cause the same and the preceding grants to Le passed to the persons that are to be incorporated to the behoof of the town, as in such case is accustomed.

—WESTMINSTER, April 15, 26^o

The Editor's note adds—

The town of Kilmallock is one of the most ancient in Ireland, and the corporation, if not one by prescription, must have been created by a very early charter, as it is recognised as then existing in a charter of Edward III., bearing date 18th of March, in the forty-ninth year of his reign, whereby he granted to the Provost and Commonalty of the town tolls or customs of certain commodities coming to the town to be sold, or passing through it for sale, for a period of ten years, towards the rebuilding, repairing, and fortifying of the town.

By another charter of Henry IV., the King granted to the Portreeve and Burgesses of the town certain customs therein mentioned, for the space of twenty years.

The charter upon which the constitution of the corporation was founded, and by which they governed, is one bearing date the 10th January, in the twenty-seventh year of Elizabeth; this charter is not now of record, but it appears to have been granted in pursuance of the Queen's letter of the 15th April above referred to; it grants to the corporation and burgesses of the town all their former liberties and franchises in as full and ample manner as they or their predecessors enjoyed the same, by virtue of any former charters; and further, that every year—or Monday after the feast of St. Michael—they should assemble within the town, and there, by assent or twelve of the best burgesses forming the council of the town, or by assent of the greater part of them to whom it gave power for the purpose, should elect one of the burgesses of the town to be sovereign of the same, and granted that the sovereign and his successors should for ever, with the burgesses of the town and their successors, be a body corporate, by the name of "The Sovereign and Burgesses of the town of Kilmallock."

The charter gives power to the corporation to levy certain customs to be laid out in the walling, fortifying, and defending the town, and to assess the inhabitants for the same purpose. It empowered the corporation to hold a hundred court within the town from fifteen days to fifteen days, and there hold pleas and personal actions not exceeding amount of £20; to hold a fair in the town once a year "from nine o'clock on the night of Pentecost for five days following"; that the sovereign with the twelve burgesses should choose four men to be barons in a court of piepoudre therein who should have power to hold pleas of debt, covenant, and account arising within the bounds of the town, and that the sovereign and officers on the expiration of their year of office should render an account of the tolls, &c.

The liberties of the town contained 2,142 acres of forfeited lands, besides denominations called the corporation commons containing 133 acres, and Spittal lands 9½ acres, besides the town itself, which is not included in this measurement.

A charter dated 24th April, 1594, recites letters patent of the last day of January, in the 12th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth granting "to the sovereign brethren and community of the town, for the term of 21 years, the site, circuit, ambit and precinct of the late monastery of friar preachers of Kilmallock—a ruined church, a close, a clo-mitory, three chambers, three small gardens, with all buildings, edifices and cartilages thereto appertaining; 9 acres of arable land and 2 of pasture in the town and fields of Kilmallock; a water mill adjoining the town, parcel of the possessions of the monastery, at a rent of £2 13s. 8d., and maintaining two fit archers, suitably armed for the defence of the premises." The charter of 1594 then confirms to Nicholas Meagh, sovereign of the town, to the brethren and community and their successors, the monastery above mentioned with all its possessions, to hold for ever as of the Castle of Limerick by fealty, in free and common socage, and not in capite.

THE DUES OF THE EARL OF DESMOND.

The Earl's accustomed duties in Kilmallock is four pence for every colpe by the quarter, and a horseload of wood of such as bring sale-mood to the town. Also, he is wont to have his lodging with the sovereign of the town for the time being, and to be served there with bread, ale, *aquavita*, candle light, household stuff, and bedding, upon account of the said colpe money; and likewise of his horse or horse groom, to take any horse-meat or man's meat, the same also to be allowed out of the same colpe money for the first night. Item he is wont to have carriage then at all times on his journey upon the like account.

—*Calendar & State Papers*—HENRY VIII.

The following are the references alluded to in page 1:—

1028 Flaithnia Ua Tighearnain lector of Cill Dacheallóg died.

1050 Conall airchinneach of Cill-Mocheallóg and its lecturer previously died.

Annals. 4 MW.

KILMALLOCK TOKENS

In Mr. G. C. Williamson's work on British Coins and Tokens are included the following. An illustration is given of the second.—

KILMALLOCK (Co. Limerick).

O. JAMES CARPENTER. MARC = A church with a spire.

R. OF KILMALLOCK A heart pierced with two arrows.

O MATHEW MEADE. MERCHANT = Arms of the Meade family; a chevron ermine between three trefoils.

Crest, a double-headed eagle displayed.

KILMALLOCK. 1673 = M. M. 1^D.

THE FITZGERALD MONUMENT.

The Fitzgerald Monument referred to in page 13 is almost as elaborate as the Coppinger Monument. On the front is the inscription, "Thomas Fitzgerald, Esquire, died 1630, Ms Joanne Fitzgerald, als Bourke, relict, built this monument." In the centre is the motto: "Coves virtutis invidia." Above all are the crest and arms between what appears to be an oak leaf pattern of much complication. The letters are raised. The top is largely occupied with a figure of Death holding a spade in one hand and an arrow in the other. "Ece finem" is inscribed under the feet. "Sic transit gloria mundi" is to the left of the figure, and above it: "Surgite Mortui venite ad iudicium" and "Memento Mori." What may be intended for angels or cherubs can be observed above and below. Around the edge runs the inscription: "Hic Jacet Muirithus Fitzgerald armiger filius et haeres dicti Thomae qui obiit 17bris 1635 pulchra prole parens ex generosa et nobile conjuge Elinora Fitzgerald als Fitzharyes relictas."



KNOCKLONG.

CHAPTER II.

TO those whose business it is to travel on the Great Southern and Western Railway the name of Knocklong is tolerably familiar. The station, though otherwise unimportant, is but a short distance from the Limerick Junction on the way to Cork and is just inside the boundary of the County of Limerick. On a hill almost overhanging the station may be observed the remains of a Castle and a Church. The former was the principal seat of the O'Hurleys, a Celtic family of ancient descent*, who contrived, though acknowledging the supremacy of the Desmonds, to retain hold of a considerable portion of their ancient inheritance. The name of O'Hurley has been derived from Urthaille, grandson of Cas, the head of the Dalcassian race. Under the Desmonds the O'Hurleys seem to have attained to some importance. Not only did they hold Knocklong but branches of the family were settled at Kilcullane and Killonahan, the castles of which places were built by them in the middle of the fifteenth century. They appear to have escaped the disasters which destroyed the house of Desmond and one of them, Thomas, attended Perrott's Parliament in 1585, a few years after the death of the Earl of Desmond. His second son, Maurice, obtained in 1601 a patent for a weekly market day to be held in

Knocklong, on Tuesdays and also for two yearly fairs to be held on the 28th May and 1st of October. Maurice died in 1632 and was interred in the Churchyard of Emly, where a slab with an inscription was erected to his memory. Sir Maurice joined the Catholic Confederation, and was a member of the Supreme Council of Kilkenny in 1647. On the triumph of the Parliamentarians, the estates were seized by the dominant party and the Knight was banished to Connaught. When the struggle was repeated later on in the century, Sir William, son of Sir Maurice, sat in King James's parliament as member for the adjacent borough of Kilmallock.

The name Knocklong, applied to the village, belongs more correctly to the hill crowned with the old Castle of the O'Hurleys. The original name is Drom Damhghaire or the Hill of the Oxen, though another derivation renders it the Hill of the Oaks. This derivation from Drom na Daraigh explains a feature on the tomb of Maurice already referred to. At one of the lower corners of the slab which commemorates his name, is carved a tree, presumably an oak, in allusion to the ancient name of his family seat.

The hill has borne the name of Knocklong from so remote a period as the third century of our era, and was so called in commemoration of an event partly real and partly mythical. The story of the siege of Drom Damhghaire is frequently referred to in our annals but is now only to be found in the Hook of Lismore. The following summary of it is given by Professor O'Curry in his lectures on the MS. Materials of Ancient Irish History.



events related occurred in the year 220, in the reign of Cormac Mac Art, King of Ireland, and throw much light on the manners and customs of the time.

“Cormac’s magnificence was so boundless that at one time his steward complained to him that although there were many claimants and objects of the royal beneficence, there was nothing for them, as all the revenue appropriated to such purposes were exhausted. Cormac, in the extremity, asked the steward’s advice as to the best means of replenishing his stores. The steward, without hesitation, said that the only chance of so doing was in demanding from Munster the cattle revenue of a second province; that it contained two distinct provinces, but that it had always escaped paying tribute for only one, and that he ought to call upon them for the tribute of the other. Cormac appeared to be well pleased with this suggestion and immediately despatched couriers to *Fiacha Muilleathain*, the King of Munster, demanding tribute for the second division of that province. The King of Munster receive? the monarch’s message in a fair spirit, and sent the courier back with an offer of ample relief of Cormac’s present difficulties, but denying his right of demand, and refusing to send a single beef in acknowledgment of it. Cormac having received the stubborn message, mustered a large army and all his most learned Druids, marched into the heart of Munster and encamped on the hill then called *Drom Damhghaire*. Having established his encampment, he consulted his Druids on the best and most expeditious means of bringing the

men of Munster to terms. The Druids after debate among themselves, assured the monarch that the surest and most expeditious mode of reducing his enemies would be to deprive them and their cattle of water, and that this they were prepared to do on receiving his permission. Cormac immediately assented and forthwith the Druids by their spells and incantations, dried up or concealed all the rivers, lakes and springs of the district, so that both men and cattle were dying of thirst all round them. The King of Munster in this extremity, took counsel with his people and the decision they came to was not to submit to Cormac, but to send to the island of *Dairbre* (Valencia), on the West Coast of Kerry, to *Mogh Kuith*, the most famous Druid of the time who was said to have studied Druidism in the East, in the great school of *Simon Magus*, to request that he would come and relieve them from the terrible distress which they well knew had been brought upon them by Druidic agency. The ancient Druid consented to come and relieve them, on the condition that he should receive a territory of his own selection in that part of the province, with security for its descent in his own family for ever. His demands were granted, and he selected the present barony of *Fermoy*, in the County of Cork (where some of his descendants survive to this day, under the names of *O’Duggan*, *O’Cronin*, &c.). The Druid then shot an arrow into the air telling the men of Munster that water in abundance would spring up wherever the arrow should fall. This promise was verified; a rushing torrent of water burst up where the arrow fell, and the men of

Munster and their flocks were delivered. The Munster men then fell upon Cormac and his hosts, routed them from Cnoc Luinge (the Hill of the Encampment) and followed them into Leinster, scattering and killing them as they went. The place in which the arrow fell is still pointed out in the parish of Imleach Grianan, in the County of Limerick, and the well remains still under the ancient name of Tobar Ceann Moir, that is Well of the Greet Head or Spring, and a river that issues from it is called Sruth Ceann Moir or the stream of Great Head."

Dr. Joyce gives a version of the latter portion of the story which accounts for the name of the well in another manner. According to his reading, the great Druid called for his disciple, Canvore, and ordered him to bring his magic spear, which he cast high up in the air, directing his disciple to watch the spot where it fell and to dig there. Canvore did so and a copious stream of water gushed from the ground. Canvore on asking for his reward was told that his name would ever be connected with the spot.

The reader need not reject this story altogether, although there is so much of the wild and miraculous mixed up with it. It is easy to eliminate this element and arrive at the facts which formed the basis of the legend.

The eminence on which Cormac's army was entrenched, and whence they were routed, does bear the name Knocklong—the Hill of the Camp., Dr. Joyce has also identified the Druid's wall with the present Tobar Canvore. Having personally visited the locality, he says "it lies on the roadside, in the

townland of Glenbrohane, near the boundary of Emly Grennan, three miles to the south of Knocklong, and it springs from a chasm, evidently artificial, dug in the side of Slieve Reagh (where the Munster army was posted) forming a very fine stream." The stream flows into the Morning Star after a short northerly course.

The south-eastern corner of Limerick is more diversified than other portions of the county, and when covered with dense woods was a safe retreat into which pursuit was impossible. It formed the passage connecting the open country with the great fastness of Aherlow lying at the base of the Galtee mountains, and here the Sугan Earl was able for a time to preserve himself and his followers after resistance had been rendered impossible and concealment extremely difficult in other parts of the county. A great saucer-shaped valley is surrounded and enclosed by ranges of mountains rising to a considerable height and pierced by several entrances, now marked by towns, and formerly commanded by castles and fortresses, the remains of which are still in existence. This formed the territory of the White Knights, and was marked as such on the old maps of Munster. The northern boundary of this broad and fertile plain is the range of Slieve Reagh already mentioned, the highest point of which rises to the height of 1,439 feet. Without undergoing the toil of such an ascent there is a very much lower eminence near the village of Kilfinane, on the road to Ballylanders, from which a view can be obtained which well repays the trouble of a steep climb of a few hundred

feet. To the north lie the broad fertile lands of Limerick, which Celt and Saxon long fought for. The silver line of the Shannon may be traced for many a mile from the smoke-enveloped city of Limerick to the estuary of the Pergus. The distant hills of Clare bound the view to the north; nor is the flat-topped Mount Callan, though fifty miles off, too far for the naked eye to make it out. To the west the dark frowning mass of gloomy Ballyhowra closes the view all too soon. On the opposite side the Galtee range rises to its full height of over three thousand feet. The Glen of Aherlow lies at the foot of this mountain pile, and looking up the Glen, away in the far distance, barely discernible, may be observed a faint, grey cloudy outline, which is none other than Cashel of the Kings. To the south extends the now featureless territory of the White Knights, whose southern limit is lost in the haze of the horizon. Looking around on this immense tract, comprising almost the whole of the County Limerick, with portions of Clare, Tipperary, and Cork, one cannot but feel that North Desmond was a county worth fighting for.

Quite close to the town of Kilfinane may be observed one of the finest and most striking forts to be found in the County of Limerick. It consists of a huge earthen mound, sixty feet in diameter at the base: and sloping toward the summit, where at the widest part it is twenty-four feet across. The mound rises about forty feet above the trench from which it ascends. It is encircled by four ramparts fourteen feet high and about thirty feet apart from summit to summit. They are in tolerable pre-

servation on the west side, but partly effaced on the east and north. O'Donovan considers the structure to have been the Dun Cinn Abhra, mentioned by Keating as having been erected by Brian Boru. In the village of Kilfinane are the remains of a church and castle, but they do not possess any features of interest.

The two main entrances to the White Knight's territory on the eastern side were by way of Galbally and Ballylanders. The former contained a Dominican Monastery founded in 1204 by Donogh Cairbreach O'Brien. The monastery was suppressed in 1534 and the lands granted to John of Desmond. In 1601, on the threatened invasion of Munster by the Irish of the Northern province, Sir George Carew fixed upon Galbally as the place to which the Munster chiefs were to repair with all their available forces. The castle of Galbally is in ruins, but that of Ballylanders is still in fair preservation.

To the north of Ballylanders and west of Galbally lies the hill of Duntryleague, where are to be found not only the remains of a fort erected here by Brian Boru, but also a fine cromlech considered to be the tomb or burial place of Olioll Olum, from whom the chief Munster families were descended. The chamber is formed of eight large flag stones covered with two similar slabs. From this structure extend standing stones in a northerly direction and two flags are displaced, which they formerly supported.

The origin of the name Duntryleague is said to be due to the following occurrence:—Cormac Cas, second son of Olioll Olum, King of Munster, and

Eochy, King of Ulster, engaged in battle at Knock-souna, near where Kilmallock now stands. The Northern monarch was slain in the contest and Cormac severely wounded in the head. A dun was accordingly constructed for him, having a clear spring of water in the centre of it. A house was built over the well, and three pillar stones placed around it, so that the King's head was in the midst between the three pillars and convenient to the spring. Here the monarch lay, and one of his attendants stood constantly by him pouring the cold, clear water on his head. Cormac endured this strange hydropathic treatment for three years. Then he died, and was buried in a cave within the dun. Hence the name, Dun-tri-liag, the Fort of the Three Pillar Stones.":

"(l-)-cc's" Irish Names of Places."



NOTES.

THE HURLEY MONUMENT.

Dineley has preserved the inscription on the Hurley monument in the ancient cathedral of Emly, which he visited in the reign of Charles II. The monument, he says, "is seen at the east end of the Abbey Church, on the left hand of the altar and opposite to the pulpit, with this inscription in Roman capital letters on black marble, whereof the whole monument is made." The abbey was afterwards destroyed, and its materials used to build the present church. The Hurley monument was then inserted on the outside of the wall under the large window. The inscription is:—

"Perillustris Dominus D. Mauritius Hurlæus Armiger
Monumentum
Hoc sibi sisq. charissimis conjugibus Graniæ Hoganæ et
Graciæ Thorentonætoti. posteritati posuit elaborari. fecit.

An. Di. 1632.

Hic jacet hospitii columnen pietatis asyllum,
Ingenio clarus, clarus et eloquio,
Laus patriæ, litum suppressor, pacis amator,
Regula justitiæ, religionis ebur.
Hostibus Hurlæus fuit hostis, amicus amicis
Mauritius moderans tempora temporibus,
Fax fidei, fulcrum miserorum, gemma vivorum,
Stemmatis antiquæ gloria magna suum.
Huic decus, huic probitas, suis corporis integra mille
Naturæ dotes unius omne capit.
Vixisti mundo, vives in sæcula vivis,
Fortuna felix prole pereximia,
Ergo vive Deo vivo cui vivere vita est
Sic tibi dante Deo vita prennis erit.
Sumptibus Hurlæi fabricaverunt hoc monumentum,
Patricius Kearing Nicolasque Cowley."

ARDPATRICK.

CHAPTER III.

THE great southern plain of the County of Limerick is separated from the fertile valley of the Blackwater by a series of hills and mountain chains, which form an extension of the Galtees in that direction. They are known as the Ballyhowra Mountains, and occupy the south-east corner of the county. Many of the highest points are over a thousand feet above the sea level, and the lofty crag of Seefin attains an elevation of 1,696 feet. This portion of the county is therefore more diversified and picturesque than the long rolling level which extends northward to the Shannon. The northern slopes were once thickly covered with forest trees and formed the Woods of Kilquaig, so frequently mentioned in the records of the sixteenth century. They connected the fastness of Aherlow with the strong position of Upper Connelloe, and afforded a safe passage from the one to the other. When the Earl of Desmond was attainted, he and his Countess with a few faithful followers sought the shelter of these gloomy retreats in the vain hope that his fortunes might improve. His enemies seldom allowed him to remain long in one place. On one occasion he was so suddenly surprised by some soldiers of the garrison of Kilmallock, acting on the information of some of his own followers,

that he and the Countess could only escape capture by plunging themselves into an adjacent stream and remaining under the shelter of an overhanging bank, with only their heads above water, for some portion of a winter night.

These ranges are intersected by several passes, the most westerly of which is entered from the valley of Glenosheen. A very early reference to this remote and secluded portion of the county is to be found in the "Annals of the Four Masters" in the year of the world 3656. Under that date a list is given of the victories of Tighearna, King of Ireland. Amongst these will be found the "Rattle of Carn Fearadhaigh, in which fell Fearadhaigh, son of Kochorb, son of Gollan, from whom it is called." From a note in O'Donovan's edition of the Annals 4 MM., we learn that in the Book of Lecan the cairn is referred to as being on the southern boundary of Cliu Mail, as the district watered by the Mague and its tributaries was called. Subsequently, Carn Fearadhaigh is mentioned as marking a well-known district in the South of Limerick. The tomb (or cairn) and the names have now disappeared, and the pass which once derived its name from the hero's sepulchral monument, now knows his name no more.

The southern end of the pass lies between two elevations, each over 1,300ft. in altitude, and is named Kichchair on the ordnance maps. This, probably, a corruption of Red Sherd or Red Gap, which again is the translation of the Irish name Barna Derg. In the second century of our era a battle took place at this spot, or near it, between

Olioll Olum and his stepson, Mac Con, in which several leaders on both sides were slain. In addition to the battle of 3656 A.M., the following engagements are recorded :—

622. The battle of Carn Feradhaigh was gained by Faiithe Flann over the Connaughtmen, wherein was slain Conall, chief of the Ui Maine . . . and five others slain at a place called the Ford of the Slaughter of the Six.*

710. The battle of Carn Feradhaigh, by the Northern Desi, wherein Cormac, son of Finghin, King of Munster was slain.

750. The battle of Carn Feradhaigh, in which Babhbhghal, son of Feargal, was slain.

836. Slaughter was made of the foreigners (Danes) at Carn Feradhaigh.

By far the most important historical event connected with the district was the murder of Mahon, King of Munster, and brother of Brian Boru, particulars of which will be found in the chapter dealing with Bruree and its neighbourhood.

The district around preserves to this day the names of three generations of the ancient Feni.

The Feni or Fianna Erin was a military order instituted for the defence of the Kingdom against invaders. They attained their greatest eminence in the reign of Cormac Mac Art in the third century under their well-known leader, Finn Mac Cumhal. A whole cycle of picturesque legends is connected with the chiefs of the Feni, amongst whom are

* To the southward of Seefin is a place bearing the picturesque name of Glenanair, which however means the Vale of Slaughter.

Oisín (pronounced Osheen), son of Finn, the Ossian of Celtic romance, and Óscar, son of Oisín. Glenosheen is the Glen of Oisín. The lofty height which overshadows the valley on the west is Seefin, the Seat or resting-place of Finn. In a remote place to the north-west a fine sepulchral monument is called Labha Iscur, the resting-place of Oscar who fell at the battle of Gavra in 284. These were the last heroes of pagan-Ireland, who, before they vanished, bequeathed their names to the well-marked features of this district, there to be remembered for ever

The fading paganism of Ireland is in this spot closely linked with the dawning Christianity of our island. The lonely grave, the broad valley, and the lofty mountain peak recall the undying memory of the half-mythical heroes of the third century. The rounded hill of Ardpárick, standing out from the dark precipitous range, with its ruin-covered slopes, perpetuates the name of the Apostle of Christianity.

The contour of the valley seems to have suggested the legend which connects the name of St. Patrick with the site of the ancient monastery. One side is bounded by steep and lofty heights, whilst on the other side the Ballyhoura range slopes down to the valley in long and gentle undulations. The present aspect is said to be due to the prayers of St. Patrick. According to the legend, a steep and lofty mountain on the eastern side corresponded to the eminence still existing on the west. In his travels St. Patrick arrived at the hill of Ardpárick, and, impressed with the suitableness of the site, formed the

intention of erecting a church there. He asked the chieftain who ruled the valley for permission to begin building. The chieftain pointed to the imposing mountain mass opposite and told the saint that if he could remove Cenn Febrath so as to give him a view of Loch Longa from where he stood, not only might the church be built but he would become a Christian himself. Patrick then having prayed in the faith of the Lord's promise (S. Matt. xvii., 20), the mountain began to bend from its top backwards, until the lower slopes lay level with the plain, forming a chasm or pass called *Belach Lechta* or *Leghta*—viz., the Road of Melting. Persons content with accepting the ordinary explanation of the formation of glens and valleys translate the name as meaning the Road of the Tomb or Monument, of course the cairn already referred to.

As Oisín, the bard and hero of the Ossianic legends, lived in the third century, and as St. Patrick did not visit Ireland till the fifth century, it would seem impossible to bring the two into personal contact owing to the gap of two centuries which intervene. So it seemed to have struck the ancient bards; but they overcame the difficulty, and in such a manner as to earn the gratitude of students of Irish literature. The missing centuries are accounted for in the beautiful romances in which Oisín is represented as telling St. Patrick the story of his life. It appears that once upon a time as the Feni were hunting near the Lakes of Killarney a beautiful maiden was seen riding swiftly towards them on a snow-white steed. On her approach she announced herself as

Niam of the Golden Hair, daughter of the King of Tirnanoge, the Land of Everlasting Youth. She told Finn that, having heard of the bravery and gentleness of his son Oisín, she had fallen in love with him, and Oisín, when he had looked upon the maiden, declared he reciprocated the passion. "Come then," said Niam, "come with me on my white steed to Tirnanoge. There is abundance of silver and gold, honey and wine; the trees bear fruit and blossoms and leaves all the year round. Lapse of time shall bring neither decay nor death, and you shall be ever young and gifted with unfading beauty and strength." Oisín bade farewell to his father and his companions and mounted the steed which the lady managed and directed. The steed started towards the west, the sea formed no barrier, for he glided over it swiftly and smoothly. They soon reached Tirnanoge where the hero was received joyfully, and after ten days of feasting he was wedded to Niam of the Golden Hair. They lived in happiness for two hundred years, which seemed to pass like so many days. At last Oisín felt a longing desire to visit his father and those he left behind him. Niam with sorrowful foreboding gave her consent with difficulty. He was given the milk-white steed for his journey, with the warning that if once his feet should touch the ground he could never return. Promising to give faithful heed to the warning, Oisín set out and soon was on the green shores of Erin. But all was changed, and he scarcely knew the old places, they were so altered. There was no sign of Finn and his host. That race of giants had passed away, and in their

place he only saw little men and women who regarded him with curiosity, wondering at his great size and the beauty and majesty of his person. On inquiry, they told him that the Feni had lived long ages ago and that their deeds were recorded in books. He passed through the land only to find his father's palace in ruins, his haunts lonely and deserted, the country covered with churches, and every where the little men and women. In his journey he found a number of them trying to move a large stone, but in vain. They asked his aid, and he, stooping forward in his saddle, took up the stone and hurled it seven perches off. But with this effort and strain he broke the golden girth, and bounding forward to save himself he came with his two feet on the ground. The spell was broken. The white steed disappeared in the west and he was left alone. We felt a great change coming over him. The sight of his eyes began to fade, his strength passed away from him, the spell of everlasting youth was broken, and he fell to the earth an old man withered and feeble. St. Patrick found the hero and took compassion on his condition, and received him into one of his monasteries. He lingered for a few years, bemoaning the loss of Niam and lamenting the happy days of his youth. He made but a sorry convert to Christianity, the principles and practices of the new faith contrasting rather unfavourably with the muscular heathenism of former days. "O Son of Colpurn," he says, addressing St. Patrick, "hateful to me is the sound of the bells and the howling of thy lean clerics, There is no joy in

your strait cells. There are no women among you, no pleasant music. Oh! for one hour with the Fians whom I knew. I swear to thee, O lean cleric, that better was one day with Finn and his heroes than a thousand years of the kingdom of heaven."

The hill of Ardpatrik (anciently *Tulach-na-Feinne*, the Hill of the Peni), is where the valley of Glensheen broadens out into the southern plain of the County of Limerick and where the steep mountain sinks to the level. The side of the hill is covered with what appears to be traces of the foundations of numerous buildings, the turf being raised into straight mounds intersecting at right angles. An extensive monastery whose foundation is attributed to St. Patrick flourished here. It was burned by the Danes in 1114. Celsus, Archbishop of Armagh, died here in 1129, and was buried in Lismore. The only remains at present standing are those of a church and round tower. The church is about seventy feet long by twenty-four broad, and is of rude construction. At the north side of the east end is what seems to have been a small shallow transept. At the south side, just opposite, is an arched passage or chamber. The round tower crowning the hill must at one time have been a most conspicuous object. Nothing of it now remains but a portion eight feet high and just enough of the basement to show it was eight feet in internal diameter, and that its walls were four feet thick. In the neighbourhood of the ruins is a well. ✓

The monastery in its palmy days is said to have possessed a peal of five bells of marvellous beauty. When the establishment was suppressed the bells were concealed lest they should fall into the hands of the spoilers. It is believed that long after the dispersion of the brotherhood, on the anniversary of the Redeemer's birth and resurrection, the silver melody of the bells still continues to ring out at midnight, startling the awe-struck rustics with their tones of supernatural sweetness.



THE STORY OF THE ROYAL PORT.

CHAPTER IV.

THAT portion of the County of Limerick extending from the Ballyhowra mountains to the Shannon, watered by the Deel and the Maigue, figures very frequently in our annals. It is now divided into the baronies of Upper and Lower Connelloe and Kenry, and represents the territory of the ancient tribes or clans known as the Ui Fidhgeinte, who appear to have been its first inhabitants. The district was also called Ui Conall Gabhra, and included the present baronies of Shanid and Glenquin. The former is the more ancient designation, though the latter is also used when the descendants of Conall, after whom they are called, became numerous and important.

The seat of the chiefs of the Ui Fidhgeinte was adjacent to the modern village of Bruree, and in former times might reasonably be called the capital of this extensive district. So early as the second century of the Christian era, Oíoll Olum had his royal residence by the banks of the Maigue, and the position he had selected shows that the monarch possessed an appreciation of natural beauty. The river Maigue here flows between steep banks, and its course is interrupted by ledges of rocks over which the stream tumbles in picturesque cascades. From

the time of Olioll Olum onward it continued to be the residence of the chiefs of the Ui Fidhgeinte, and was known as Brugh Righ, or the Royal Fort, a designation which the present name perpetuates. Previous to the time of Olioll, however, it had a still more ancient name and was called Dun Cobhthaigh or Coffy's Fort, concerning whom, however, nothing further is known.

The Ui Fidhgeinte were converted to Christianity by St. Senan of Scatterry Island. They first made his acquaintance in plundering his residence, but in the end they were persuaded by him to embrace Christianity, and they made him their patron saint. The first direct mention of the tribe occurs in our annals in the year 645 in connexion with a battle fought at Carn Conaill (Ballyconnell, near Gort). in which, we are told, two Cuans were slain—namely, Cuan, King of Munster, and Cuan, son of Conall, Chief of the Ui Fidhgeinte. The following entries will be found in the "Annals of the Four Masters"—

713. Aedh Dubh, chief of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

745. Dubhdabhoireann, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

755. Flann, son of Erc, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

802. Murchard Ua Flainn, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

809. Bruadar, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

832. Ui Conall Gabhra plundered by the Danes.

833. A battle was gained over the Danes by Dunadhach, son of Scanlan, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, wherein many were slain.

In *The Wars of the Gaels with the Galls* this battle is said to have been fought at Shanid. A subsequent entry in the same year states that Dunadhach, son of Scanlan, lord of Gabhra, died. The individual meant is evidently the same, and it is left uncertain whether he fell in battle with the Danes or died a natural death or in battle subsequently. This attack of the Danes appears to have been retaliation for the plundering of Limerick in the previous year by the Ui Conall Gabhra.

844. Niall, son of Ceannfaeladh, lord of the Ui Fidhgeinte, died.)

852. Crunnmael, son of Maelduin, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

855. Bran, son of Scannlan, lord of Gabhra, died.

In 858 the chief of the Ui Fidhgeinte, Aedh Dubh, son of Dubh-dabhoireann (both these names have been met with already), joined with the King of Tara in an attack on a northern chieftian near Armagh. The allies were surprised by night and defeated, and Aedh Dubh died of the wounds he received in battle.

In 876 Flannabhra, lord of Gabhra, fell in battle near Clonmel, being defeated by the Deisi of Waterford.

878. Finn, son of Dubhslaine, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, died.

If we can depend upon the identity of a very long and a very peculiar name, which appears in the list of chiefs already given, a member of this tribe

† This entry is repeated under the date 845.

or clan was, for a time at least, King of Cashel. The entry is—

885. Dunchadh, son of Dubh-dabhoireann, King of Caiseal, died.

The latter name occurs previously at the year 858.

914. Gebhennach, son of Aedh, lord of the Ui Fidhgeinte, was slain by the Norsemen.

This event is stated at greater length in *The Wars of the Gaels with the Galls*. The Danes of Waterford, under Ragnall, spread themselves out in three separate parties, one of which killed Gebennach, son of Aedh, King of Ui Conaill, and they carried away his head, wherefore the poet said :

Great is the pity, O God of Heaven !

That the people of Tomar should have it.

Behold the head of Gabhra's king is taken from you,

Illustrious gem of the west of the world.

The Ui Fidhgeinte belonged to the Eugenic branch of the descendants of Olioll Olum. The other branch were the Dalcassians, so called from Cormac Cas. The Eugenians ruled South Munster, whilst the dominions of the Dalcassians extended from Knockainy to Galway, in one direction ; and from Loop Head to the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in the other. According to the will of Olioll Olum, the supreme authority should be held by a member of each family in turn ; but the Eugenians were always the stronger and kept the sovereignty to themselves. Under Mahon and Brian, the sons of Kennedy, the power of the Dalcassians began to be formidable. When the Danes of Limerick, under Ivar, mustered their forces to crush the brave brothers, we find that Molloy, King of Desmond,

and Donovan, Lord of the Ui Fidhgeinte, the chiefs of the rival family, joined the Danes against the Dalcassians. The brothers met the allied Danes and Irish at Sulcoit or Sollohed, near Tipperary, in 968, and inflicted a crushing defeat upon Ivar and his allies, which they followed up by the sack of Limerick and the expulsion of the Danes. A small remnant, headed by Ivar, sought refuge amongst the islets of the Shannon, making Scattery Island their head-quarters.

Mahon now occupied the throne of Munster, and had expelled the foreigners from his dominions. Six years of peace and prosperity followed, Molloy and Donovan acknowledged his power and gave hostages for their loyalty. They did not, however, forget that Mahon belonged to the rival branch of the family, and a second time they allied themselves with Ivar for the destruction of the Munster king. They were jealous of Mahon's success, and Donovan especially feared that the lands by the Mague might be claimed by Mahon who was the rightful owner. They resolved, therefore, to put him out of the way and secure the fertile plain of Limerick for themselves.

The incidents connected with the murder of Mahon are fully given in *The Wars of the Gaels with the Galls* (that is, of the Irish with the Danes), though it is difficult to harmonize the statements, owing to the manner in which speeches and poems are interpolated. Mahon, it appears, was inveigled into a personal interview with Donovan, 976, at his residence, the Brugh Righ, having first obtained a

safe conduct from the clergy of all Munster, and especially from Columb, the successor of St. Barri or Finnbar, founder of the See of Cork. Donovan seized the king and delivered him into the hands of Molloy, who had sent some of his followers forward to meet him at Cnoc-an-Rebhraidh, on Slieve Caien. The better to disarm surprise, Molloy remained at Fermoy, and had sent some of the bishop's followers with his own party. "And now," proceeds the narrative, "when Mahon saw the naked sword about to strike him, having the gospel of Barri (St. Finnbar) on his breast to protect him, he threw it towards the people of Columb with the intent that the blood should not touch it, and the gospel fell unto the breast of a priest of the people of Columb." Molloy, who followed his party, saw the flashing of the naked sword striking Mahon, although, it is said, "they were as far asunder as the eye could see; and he knew it and arose then, and his horses were yoked for him to depart. A priest who accompanied him asked him what was he to do. Molloy tauntingly answered, "cure yonder man if he should come to thee." Molloy went from them, and the cleric, learning what had happened, became angered, and fervently cursed Molloy, and uttered a prophesy thus, while he was cursing Molloy, and said:—

<'Tis Aedh that shall kill thee, a man from the border
of Aifi,*

On the north of the-sun, with the harshness of the wind;
The deed thou hast done shall be to thee a regret,

* The present barony of Small County,

That for which thou hast done it, thou shall not enjoy.
Perpetual shall be its misfortune; thy posterity shall
pass away;
Thy history shall be forgotten; thy tribe shall be in
in bondage;
The calf of a pet cow shall overthrow thee at one
meeting;
Thou shalt not conquer it; Aedhan shall slay thee."

The chronicler tell us how a portion at least of the anathema was fulfilled, though neither has Molloy's posterity passed away, nor has his history been forgotten. We read it was Aedh, the son of Gebennach, of the Deisi-Beg,† that slew Molloy at the ford of Belach Lecta, having found him in an alder hut, after being deprived of his eyes through the curse of the clerk, who also prayed the Lord that his grave should be near that hill. That was likewise verified, for Mahon's grave is on the south side of the hill, and Molloy's grave on the north side, and the sun never shines on it as the clerk the religious had foretold.

Brian mourned for his brother, and promised revenge in a lament which has been preserved:—

The death of Mahon is grievous to me—
The Majestic King of Cashel the renowned;
Alas, alas, that he fell not in battle,
Under cover of his broad shield;
Alas that in friendship he trusted
To the treacherous word of Donovan.
It was an evil deed for Molloy
To murder the great and majestic King;
And if my hand retains its power,
He shall not escape my vengeance.

† From the neighbourhood of Knockainy.

How Brian proceeded to carry out his purpose is then detailed.

By the murder of Mahon in the Ked Gap Brian ascended the vacant throne, "and," says the chronicle, "he was not a stone in the place of an egg, and he was not a wisp in the place of a club, but he was a hero in the place of a hero." In the first year of his reign Ivar and his son were slain at Scatterry Island by his allies, the O'Donnells. Donovan sought the alliance of Harold, successor of Ivar, and invited him to his house, but Brian went on a foray (977) into Ui Fidhgeinte and took cattle innumerable, "and they plundered Cathair Cuan, and they killed its people, and they killed Donovan, the ripe culprit, the King of Ui Fidhgeinte, and they killed Harold, King of the foreigners, and they made a prodigious slaughter of the foreigners, and they carried away with them cattle innumerable." In order to secure his new possessions, Brian erected the fort Dun Eochair Maige (the fort of the bank of the Maigue).

HAVING punished Ivar and Donovan, Brian directed his attention to Molloy, his most formidable opponent. He sent an envoy who was directed to denounce woe upon Molloy and his followers for the murder of an unarmed man, and for preferring to be found fighting on the side of the Danes rather than with their own countrymen. Brian added that even though he himself was willing to forgive the murder of his brother, the Dalcassians would not forgive nor would they permit Molloy to retain the object of his ~~crime~~—

namely, the sovereignty of Munster. In conclusion, Molloy and his followers were challenged to meet Brian and his Dalcassians in battle, and the envoy delivered a special message from Murrogh, the son of Brian, to Molloy himself to meet him in single combat.

The rival claimants to the Munster crown joined battle at Belach Lechta (978), which was on the boundaries of the dominions of both. The issue of the combat was decided in favour of Brian, and Molloy with twelve hundred of his followers lay slain in the Red Gap. It will be observed that there is a discrepancy between the two accounts given of Molloy's death, which may be reconciled by supposing that the monarch lost his eyes in the battle, that he fled for shelter to the alder hut, whither he was followed and put to death by Aedh. The "Annals of Innisfallen" state that Molloy was killed in the battle itself by Murrogh O'Brien, and there is considerable confusion as to the exact place where the conflict occurred, various authorities fixing the site at Fermoy, Mallow and even Macroom; but the nomenclature seems precise, the local allusions in the accounts point to the same place and probability is strongly in favour of the Red Gap, which thus acquired an additional right to the name it bore. This battle transferred the sovereignty of Munster from the family of Eoghan to that of Cormac Cas, in whose hands it remained till the royal title passed away.

In 1013 Cairbra, chief of the district, was slain by Malcolm of Kenry.

In 1031 the ancient tribe of the *Ui Fidhgeinte* fought under the banner of Donogh O'Brien in an expedition he made against Ossory. Two young princes, "both royal heirs," and Malcolm of Kenry were killed by the men of Ossory. The clans appear to have been merged in the *Dalcassians* and so lost their separate existence.

A short distance from the present village by the side of the road to Croom and adjacent to the river may be observed two raths or duns still in a fair state of preservation. Each consists of an internal mound raised some eighteen feet above the bottom of the surrounding trench. The top of each mound is nearly circular, and about sixty feet across. There are two earthen ramparts encircling each mound, and from the top of one rampart to the top of the other the distance is forty feet. The earthen ramparts are at present twelve feet in height. The more southerly of these—that in the direction of the village—is considered by Dr. O'Donovan to be the site of the *Brugh Righ* of the *Ui Fidhgeinte* chiefs and the seat of a sovereignty which dated back to the ages of pagan Ireland. There seems to be no reason for disputing or doubting O'Donovan's identification, and this old neglected rath by the road side is one of the most interesting rude monuments of the past that any country can possess. The other fort is considered by the same authority to be the one erected by Brian Roru in order to secure the territory he had won by the sword.

Under the Desmond branch of the *Geraldines* Bruree did not occupy so distinguished a position

as it did during the previous centuries. Important it was, as the remains still in existence testify, but it was overshadowed by the neighbouring *Kilmallock*, which now began to assume the foremost position in the county.

There are the remains of two Norman castles within a short distance of Bruree. That near the church is erected on a considerable eminence and has been attributed to the *Knights Templars* in the latter part of the thirteenth century. O'Donovan, however, does not consider it to be so ancient, and brings the date of its erection down so late as the fifteenth century. It was then one of the strongholds of the *de Lacys*. The height is somewhat over 70 feet and the walls are five and a half feet thick.

The enclosed area measures only twenty-four feet by thirteen. The north-eastern angle has fallen down, thus exposing to view the interior of the building. A narrow entrance gives admittance to the lower story, at the side of which may still be seen the stone sockets in which the door formerly turned. Two courses of stone corbels show that two floors rested upon them, thus dividing the interior space into three stories. The roof of the third story was arched and vaulted and is still uninjured. A spiral stone stairs, in an angle of the walls, runs to the battlements of the castle.

About half-a-mile down the river is a more important structure, and one somewhat out of the ordinary style of military architecture. It consists of a circular area about fifty yards in diameter, sur-

rounded with a strong wall, with ramparts and battlements, and defended by three castles, only two of which now remain. Dr. O'Donovan says that the wall is much more ancient than the castles, and dates from a period anterior to the arrival of the English. If this opinion be correct, it is most certainly a portion of one of the chief strongholds of the O'Donovans or the O'Briens, as the descendants of Donovan and Brian were called after the introduction of surnames. On their expulsion by the de Lacys, the fortress fell into the hands of the conquerors, and was subsequently strengthened by the addition of the three castles, placed at equal intervals in the wall. Admittance to the enclosure is obtained at a gateway which marks the spot where was the original entrance, defended by the tower which has disappeared. The two existing towers bear no resemblance to one another. That next the river is very similar in construction to the castle just described. Like it, two floors have been destroyed, and the vaulted ceiling has remained to the present day. The stone stairs is in excellent preservation, and the sides are so loop-holed as to command the court-yard and the second entrance. A little more than half way up is a small chamber constructed in the thickness of the wall, and measuring only four feet square by seven feet high. At the farther end is an opening, communicating with the lower apartments. Although the tower is about sixty feet high, the view from the summit is very confined, the steep and high banks of the river shutting out the adjacent country. A legend states that on the top of the tower a royal

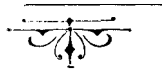
lady showed her resentment in a forcible manner. A daughter of O'Donovan was for some unknown reason greatly displeased with two officers of her father's household. Finding herself standing on the elevated spot one day along with the two obnoxious courtiers, she contrived to push them both over the battlements and into the river flowing below. One was instantly killed, but the other escaped with only a good ducking. In confirmation of the truth of the legend a hallow in a stone was long pointed out by the people of the neighbourhood as having been caused by one of the unfortunate men striking his knees against the stone in his fall.

The second tower is much lower but is broader and stronger than that just described. It is not more than forty feet high, and has a massive appearance. A stone stairs in one corner leads to the top. In the lower story may be observed a small room, probably the guardroom. The dungeon till lately contained in its walls the iron fastenings which secured the chains, but now they have been quite corroded away.

The portion of the encircling wall still standing is twenty feet high at its loftiest part, and more than half the circumference can be traced. The materials of the other portion and of the missing tower have been utilised in the construction of farm buildings within the fortress, and it is not at all unlikely that they may have been pulled down for that very purpose. The carved stonework of de Lacy's castle looks somewhat out of

place in the front of these structures, nor have coats of whitewash diminished the incongruity.

On the summit of the hill above the church may be observed a tumulus like an inverted basin, the burial place probably of some famous chief of the ancient times. The circuit of the base is about one hundred and forty-five paces, and its height above the adjacent field is under twenty feet.



LOUGH GUR.

CHAPTER IV.

THERE are few places which will be found more interesting by the visitor than Lough Gur and its neighbourhood. The scenery is varied and attractive, though sadly denuded of trees. From long distant ages man has found a home here, and the shores of the lake still bear witness to the ancient race whose monuments have survived all the changes that have passed over the county. The Pillar stone, the lonely Cromlech, the mysterious Stone Circle, tell of a people who existed here before the dawn of history, and of whom little is known unless what can be learned from their very graves. The long deserted Crannog, the earthen fort, and the mediæval military works that still bid defiance to time, have each their story to tell. The bed of the lake itself reveals the secrets that have long been buried beneath its waters. Bones and skeletons of extinct animals have been brought to light. Implements of stone and bronze, ornaments of bone and silver, weapons of various kinds, from those of the rudest construction to the gold-mounted spear head and the round shield, bear witness to the number and variety of the antiquities which were discovered when the surface of the lake was lowered by drainage some half century ago.

Nature, too, has marked out this district from the rest of the county. The undulating limestone is pierced by an irruption of earlier rocks, forming a semi-circular range, the summits of which rise to a height of 350 to 550 feet above the sea level. The scenery is therefore of a bolder character than that which prevails over a great part of the county. Scarred, weather-beaten rocks rise suddenly and abruptly from level grassy fields as if thrust up by a force from below. In some places a distinctly columnar formation may be observed, and the rifts and caves tell of geological convulsions before primitive man appeared upon the scene.

Lough Gur at present covers an area of about 230 acres, and its surface is 252 feet above the level of the sea. The shape is roughly that of a crescent, the arms embracing a rugged hill rising nearly 200 feet above the level of the lake. The hill called Knockadoon was at one time an island, or nearly so, as the meadows to the east of it were under water before recent efforts were made to drain them. The shores of the lake are level to the south and west, but they are overhung by considerable elevations to the north and east. Under the Hill of Knockfennell, to the north, is an opening called Red Cellar Cave.

Like many another lake, Lough Gur is said to be under the guardianship of Garret, the great Earl of Desmond. He and his followers are supposed to be sleeping in the recesses of a subterranean cavern of great extent. Each warrior, clad in complete steel, reposes by the side of his

steed, which is ready caparisoned. Once in seven years the Earl and his Knights are to be seen performing military evolutions and riding at full speed over the surface of the lake. The dawn of day sends them back again to their silent abode in the heart of Knockadoon. Not till the silver shoes of the Earl's steed are worn will the enchantment be broken. Then, after the sleep of centuries, the Earl and his followers will issue forth and claim their own again.

THE CRANNOGS.

There are four diminutive islets to be observed, evidently of an artificial character, two of them rising but a foot or two above the surface. Bolin Island lies close to the southern shore of the north-east horn of the crescent. Crock Island lies in a little Bay to the north-west. Garret Island, which is the most conspicuous, is in the centre of the lough, and Church Island is close to the southern extremity. These islands have not been explored, but three of them, those near the shores of the lake, are evidently Crannogs, or lake dwellings. Beneath the usual level of many lakes in Switzerland, North Italy, Scotland and Ireland have been found remains of piles driven into the mud of the bottom. The piles are arranged in a regular manner, and exploration has discovered for what purpose the piles were driven there. From careful examination of the remains discovered on these sites, it appears that at a remote period a race erected dwellings above the surface of the water on an island artificially constructed for the purpose. They drove pointed piles into the shallow bottom near the

shores, and fixed them upright in the water. Cross beams were placed upon these, and a platform erected which was covered with branches of trees, clay, pebbles and any other material that could be conveniently obtained. The space enclosed by the piles was also filled in. The platform was surrounded by a stockade, and on the interior space the occupants erected huts of wickerwork covered with mud or sods of grass and thatched with reeds or straw. A stone slab, outside the dwelling, on the platform, provided a hearth and cooking place. In some cases these islets were connected with the shore by a narrow platform also erected on piles, and in other cases they were entirely isolated, the occupant reaching the shore when necessary by means of a boat. The scientific treatment of the subject began with the study of the finds in the Lake of Zurich in 1853 by Dr. Kellor, and in 1866 the existence of Lacustrine dwellings over large parts of Europe was established. Some of these examined by him included an area of several acres. Over three hundred have been discovered in the British Isles since, and some have been investigated, but without yielding much result. Such dwellings are very numerous along the shores of the lakes of Central Europe, where large communities were formed, each family with its own stockaded enclosure. The varied remains show how civilisation advanced amongst these lake dwellers.

There are two slight elevations perceptible above the level surface of the drained ground east of Knockadoon, and named Balic Islands, which also

appear to be Crannogs, constructed when the surrounding area was a flooded morass. The probable date of these Crannogs could only be obtained by careful exploration and examination of their contents.

Lake dwellings in general may be as ancient as the Neolithic age, through the Bronze age into the early part of the Iron age, and in Ireland especially they were used as strongholds and retreats at so recent a period as the sixteenth century. The earliest may have been erected only as a refuge against wild animals, and subsequently against human foes.

THE ISLAND FORTRESS.

The very strong position of Knockadoon, surrounded by its natural moat, made it a place of importance from the earliest times. In the Book of Glendalough the course of a northern invasion into Munster is described as passing "the grey rocks of Lough Gur." Brian Boru fortified the "island of Lough Gur," which can be no other than Knockadoon. There is room for doubt whether this fortification was a fort erected on the summit of the island, or else some means of protecting it by constructing an artificial approach, as was subsequently made. In the early part of the following century, Donogh, son of Kennedy O'Brien, was imprisoned in Lough Gur for some years. In 1178 this place was plundered by Collins of Clongais, who crossed the county to do so.

On the arrival of the Normans this natural stronghold attracted the attention of the warlike

Geraldines, who constructed here one of their most formidable military works. A causeway was built connecting the southern extremity of Knockadoon with the shore. X gatehouse defended the land side. At the island extremity the approach was intersected by a moat crossed by a drawbridge, and the island was entered through a strongly fortified gateway. A wall connected the gateway with a strong castle called the Black Castle.

The causeway is still in existence, and is nearly a hundred and fifty yards long. It is constructed between two walls of stone, and is higher on the western side than on the eastern. The castle at the south end has disappeared. The Black Castle on the island is still standing, though greatly injured. Internally it measures twenty-four feet by thirteen. The walls are between seven and eight feet thick. The arched roof of the lower storey is still remaining and part of the south wall to the height of thirty-five feet. Adjacent to the castle and gateway may be traced the foundations of an extensive series of buildings.

In 1536, on the occasion of a disputed succession to the Earldom of Desmond, this position was occupied by Lord Grey. He describes it as "situate in an island of fresh water, which is a stronghold, and in no less reputation in these parts than Maynooth, the chief seat of the Earls of Kildare."

At the north-eastern extremity of Knockadoon stands Lough Gur Castle, also like its neighbour to be approached by a causeway. The castle is seventy-five feet in height, and is in excellent

preservation. It was erected either in the reign of Elizabeth or that of James I. by Sir George Bouchier, to whom Lough Gur was granted on the forfeiture of the Desmond possessions. Dineley passed this way when pursuing his journey from Limerick to Cork. We give an illustration of Lough Gur Castle and its surroundings from that point of view, with the Desmond fortifications, as they have been already described, in the background to the left. Almost all traces of the adjacent buildings have disappeared, with the exception of that which he calls the Pigeon-house, which lies to the north.

Dineley thus describes what he learned in the time of Charles II. :—"Lough Gurr, a fair castle in the tenure of John Bailly, Esq. It belonged to the Countess Dowager of Bathe, who built the said new church for the use of the Protestants, and bestow'd a Rich Pulpitt Cloth. Silver Chalice, Plate, Bible and Service Book. It now belongs to Sir Henry Vane, or Fane, part of his estate. The said Countesse was Dowager of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Bathe. The castle during the time of the Irish Rebellion was always a garrison for one side or other; besides being in an island of above a mile in circumference, encompass'd with a large and deep Lough or Poole, it was a receptacle not only for man but beast to defend from the enemy. Lough Gurr is seven miles from Limerick. The lough or large mote which encompasseth this Island and Castle abouncleth in Fishes, Pike, Eeles, but Roches in vast quantity. Mr Henry Bayly, son to the sd. Jno. Bayly, told me of a

prodigious Pike there lately taken of 4 feet and half in length, with one in its belly of above two feet in length."

When Sir George Carew undertook the pacification of Munster in 1599 the stronghold of Lough Gur was then held for the Sagan Earl. It commanded the communications between Kilmallock and Limerick, so that for the two years previous the road was impassable for any one in the English interest. He accordingly stationed a strong body of troops under Captain Slingsby at Kilmallock in order to keep the Geraldines in check and harass them by frequent attacks. One of these incursions, which took place on the 29th of April, 1599, is narrated in *Pacata Hibernia*. Its object was to surprise and carry off the cattle on which the maintenance of the garrison depended. The party, consisting of one hundred and twenty foot and twenty horse, under the command of Captain Slingsby, set out from Kilmallock in the night and concealed themselves in the neighbourhood, waiting till the herds would be led out across the causeway in the morning to graze in the adjacent meadows. The cattle were brought out as usual, and the escort suspected no danger. Suddenly the English, watching their opportunity, overpowered the guards by a sudden and unexpected rush, captured the cattle, and hurried off with them towards Kilmallock. The garrison sallied forth, a sharp skirmish ensued, but the Irish were unable to obtain possession of their cattle, and their supplies must have been seriously diminished till some successful foray on their part restored the commissariat.

In the following ^{WEEK.} year Sir George Carew with the Munster army passed close to Lough Gur in his march to Limerick. The Lord President, with a troop of horse, turned aside to view the famous stronghold, not only to gratify his curiosity but also to inspect the position of the enemy. The President tells us he found it to be a place "of exceeding strength by reason that it was an island encompassed with a deep lough, the breadth thereof being in the narrowest place a caliver's shot over. Upon one side thereof standeth a very strong castle [the Black Castle already referred to], which at this time was manned with a good garrison, for there was within the island John FitzThomas with two hundred men at least, which showed themselves prepared to defend the place, The President having approached within shot, to discover the ground, they discharged some twenty muskets at him and his company, but without any hurt done; and having effected as much as he intended at that time, they casting forth some reviling speeches, he left the place."

The army proceeded to Limerick, which it reached that night, and the President made immediate preparation to reduce Lough Gur. It was necessary to employ artillery, and after great difficulty a piece called a demi-cannon was mounted "and drawn toward the gate of the city that leadeth to the island of Lough Gur." But there was no need for the English army to stir, and the services of the demi-cannon were not required,

One Owen Groome, a member of the garrison, described as a stranger from the North, sent word

privately that ~~in~~ his pardon and a sum of money he would deliver up the castle. The President very gladly availed himself of the offer, but in the meantime a more daring traitor endeavoured to out-do his rival in treachery. Amongst the most trusted followers of John FitzThomas, brother of the Sугan Earl, was one Nugent, who had formerly been in employment of Sir Thomas Norris, a previous President of Munster. Nugent had deserted the English service and attached himself to the interests of the Sугan Earl, and rose high in the favour of his younger brother. Upon the arrival of Carew, Nugent considered that the English service was likely to prove the more profitable, and accordingly he made a secret application for pardon. The President informed him that, as his treason and crimes had been great, he must purchase his life by services as great, and if was more than hinted that the assassination of his friend and leader would be an acceptable atonement to make. He watched his opportunity, and soon found one which seemed to be all that he desired. Immediately after the English army passed Lough Gur, John FitzThomas left the Island to visit the fastness of Aherlow, where most of his men were encamped. He took with him only two attendants, Coppinger and Nugent. The latter took an opportunity of acquainting the former of his enterprise, and thought he had won him over. They had proceeded but a little way on their journey, the leader riding in front, when Nugent drew out his pistoi intending to shoot him through the back, The pistol was levelled, but before he

could draw the trigger Coppinger knocked the weapon out of the assassin's hand and shouted to his leader. The latter turned and perceived his danger. Nugent tried to escape by the fleetness of his horse, but in vain. The animal stumbled and fell, Nugent was taken and hung next day, confessing his treason, but informing FitzThomas that he was not the only traitor, and that many others were ready to carry into execution the scheme in which he failed. The Irish leader, suspicious of all his followers, and not knowing whom to trust, departed for the Earl's camp, committing Lough Gur to the care of Owen Groome, by whom it was promptly betrayed for his pardon and a sum of sixty pounds. Thus a position whose capture Carew himself expected would be attended with great delay and would cost the lives of many of his men, fell into his hands without striking a blow.

PAGAN ANTIQUITIES.

The most striking of the Pagan antiquities in the neighbourhood of Lough Gur are the Stone Circles which are situated almost on the roadside before Holy Cross is reached by the visitor from Limerick. They are to be found on the farm and adjacent to the residence of Mr. Edward Fitzgerald, an earnest student of Archæology, who has bestowed the greatest care on their preservation. The largest and most important of the circles has been surrounded with a railing, and is kept with neatness and free from the trespass of cattle. The care bestowed on these relics of the past and the lively interest which has been taken in the antiquities of

Lough Gur by Messrs. John and Edward Fitzgerald might be imitated by others with advantage.

The principal circle is one hundred and thirty feet in diameter, and consists of 43 stones of various height. The largest of these is about 9ft. high by 6ft. wide, and there are others approaching it in size. The entrance is between large masses towards the east. The whole is surrounded by an earthen moat 5ft. high and 15ft. feet broad at the base.

A short distance to the north, and separated from the road by a narrow field, is to be found a smaller but more perfect circle. It is composed of blocks of conglomerate standing at intervals of about five feet. Some of them are between four and five feet in height. There are fourteen now standing, and the whole is about forty-five feet in diameter.

A third and much larger circle lay partly between these two. The road appears to have interfered with it. This circle was no less than a hundred and sixty feet across, and was composed of sixty stones, none of which were very large. Only eight now remain in position.

North-east of the circles is a massive Pillar Stone eleven feet high by six feet wide and four feet thick. To the south-east is a large stone called Cloghavilla. On the summit of a rock to the west and on the other side of the road may be observed the remains of Grange Castle. The crag and walls are covered with lichen, moss and ivy, and it is barely possible to distinguish the one from the

other. No window or doorway can be found in the little that is left of the castle, and the outer casing of the walls appears to have been removed.

Between the rock and the road may be observed large masses of stone arranged in some kind of order, probably some members of the circle which has been destroyed.

There are the remains of two stone circles on Knockadoon. One lies between the Black Castle and the summit, and the second to the west and much lower down.

In the demesne of Caherguillamore, at the west side of the avenue, is a stone circle 118 paces in circumference, 5½ feet high by two thick. To the north-west is a second of similar character. A standing stone 7 feet high may also be observed.

Circles have also been identified north-east of Carrigalla hill; another is pointed out near the rath at the north border of the lake. Those adjacent to the roadway are, however, the most remarkable.

The origin and design of these Stone Circles is involved in some obscurity. They were until recent times regarded as places of worship set up before the advent of Christianity by the Druids, and it was thought that within these mystic circumferences were celebrated the rites of their religion, and perhaps human victims were immolated on these altars. It is now generally believed that these circles are due to the men of the Stone Age, a people who occupied the greater part of Europe at a date far anterior to the arrival of the

Celts, and that they were intended to surround and mark out the localities in which that primitive race buried their dead.

The Pillar Stones are found in many parts of Ireland, and particularly in the neighbourhood of the stone circles. Their position is not due to accident, and they evidently owe their upright stand to the labour of some ancient people. They have been looked upon as idol stones, as sacrificing altars, as stones of memorial, and lastly as monuments. Taken in connexion with the origin of the circles, the latter supposition seems the more probable.

A very fine Cromlech will be found near the south end of the causeway leading to the Black Castle. It consists of an enclosure formed by flags standing upright, and is divided into two unequal portions. The larger is fourteen feet long by five broad, and was originally covered with flagstones, two of which have been displaced. The one still remaining in position is seven feet long by four feet broad and one and a half thick. The smaller division is still covered, and is about half the size of that just described. A second giant's grave was to be found two hundred yards west of this, but it is now barely distinguishable.

By the peasantry these cromlechs are popularly called Dermot and Grania's Bed. A Celtic legend says that Dermot, a brave young chieftain, carried off Grania the affianced wife of the aged Finn MacCumhal, not without the lady's consent. The pair fled, and were pursued by Finn and his warriors

for a gear and a day, sleeping each night in a different place under a stone structure hastily erected by Dermot, and hence the name. They are also called Druids' Altars, and are supposed to have been used for sacrificial purposes. It is now understood that they are simply tombs, and in some of them have been found urns containing ashes, in others half burnt bones and even whole skeletons. Their general shape is that of an oblong box, with a huge lid of flagstone laid horizontally and resting on the stones which form the sides and ends. The name "Giant's Grave" expresses their purpose with very fair accuracy.

About half a mile off in the direction of Bruff is a burial ground which contains the ruins of an ancient nunnery called Monaster ni Cailliagh. It belonged to the Canonesses of St Augustine. A modern work states that an ecclesiastical establishment was elected here about the time of St. Patrick, but that it was not till 941 the nunnery was founded. This being destroyed during the Danish wars, it was refounded in 1283 by a branch of the

Desmond family.

Near the Abbey formerly stood the family seat of a branch of the Browne family, which highly distinguished itself abroad. One member of the family was Governor-General of Livonia, another—Ulysses Maximilian Browne—born at Basle in 1705, was educated in Limerick, and for his great services was raised to the rank of Field-Marshal by the Emperor Charles VI.

*Lewis's Topographical Dictionary.

Close to the south side of the lake are the remains of what was the New Church erected by the Countess of Bath, and which she endowed with a grant of £20 per annum. The chalice and paten bestowed by the Countess were, on the decay of the edifice, presented to Knockainy Church. They bear the following inscription:—"The Gift of the Right. Hon. Rachel, Countess Dowager of Bath, to her Chapel in the Kingdom of Ireland.—Anno. Dom. 1679."

Certain mounds in the demesne of Caher Guilla-
more have been assumed to be the foundations of
extensive ranges of buildings, and a modern work
refers to them as being "the remains of an ancient
city of great extent." History knows nothing of
the "city." Part of the garden wall adjacent to the
residence of the Viscounts Guillamore is evidently
a portion of some fortified enclosure of considerable
extent, probably the Caher which gives its name
to the place. In 1564 an order was made by
Queen Elizabeth's Commissioners directing that

Dominick Whyte of Limerick should have possession of the lands of Cahiringullemore, which he had redeemed from the late Earl of Desmond and purchased from the rightful inheritors."

Near the avenue is buried Colonel O'Grady's white charger which carried its master safe through the battle of Waterloo, and a few days before saved his life by jumping a formidable ditch during the engagement at Genappe. It was the only jump the horse was ever known to take.

The old church of Tullybrackey lies to the left of the road between Ballynanty and Bruff. The

castle of Tullybrackey, on the right, is now represented by a portion of a wall which serves as the boundary of a kitchen garden.

ROUTE FROM LIMERICK TO LOUGH GUR.

The road from Limerick to Lough Gur passes close to many places of interest which can be visited with ease. About a mile outside the bounds of the city, and to the right, may be observed the old church of Donaghmore, belonging to the early days of Christianity in this island, and in all probability founded by St. Patrick himself. A well dedicated to the saint is near by. A little to the west can be observed the low tower of Rathurd, occupying the site of a fort which, as stated in the "Annals of the Four Masters," was erected by one of Heber's chieftains in the year of the world 3501. From the road the towers of Tuoreen and Drombany may be observed to the right. Having passed through the village of Ballyneety the visitor obtains a glimpse of the demesne of Ballynagarde.

The house cannot be seen from the road. It is erected on the site of a stronghold of the fifteenth century, which was demolished to make room for the present residence. The old castle of Ballynagarde was the scene of a little romance of the seventeenth century. Dineley, to whom we owe its preservation, has condensed a three volume novel into a few lines, and his narrative deserves to be given as he recorded it himself. It runs thus:—
Ballynagarde—Remarkable here is, that one Mrs. Bourke, to be contracted to a person for whom she had no fancy, the night before the in-

tended solemnity, she leap'd out of the window of the castle, marked (a), of about 16 yards high, without hurt and ran away. And afterwards married to the same man she so avoyded, and lived happily with him." The time-honoured ending of a fore story is not wanting.

At this time Ballynagarde was "in the hands of John Croker, Esq., one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Limerick, and one of the greatest corn merchants of the same county." Both castle and estate were the jointure of the widow of Colonel Randolph Clayton.

The same traveller mentions that a mile and a half from Ballynagarde were then to be seen the ruins of "Schuille Castle, said to be buiit by King John, the lands whereof belong to Sir George Ingoldsby,

The castle of Rochestown or Rockstown is a conspicuous object on an eminence to the right. It was probably a signal station in connexion with Shanid Castle in the west, as it is a most striking feature on the distant horizon when seen from the further end of the county. About a mile from the road on the opposite side are to be found the ruins of Ballybricken Court, formerly the property of the Ingoldsby family.

At Six-Mile-Bridge the road crosses the Camoge, a tributary of the Maigue. Near the banks of the Camoge to the east may be observed the remains of an old abbey of Conventual Franciscans founded in the thirteenth century.

Cahirelly Church and castle, and another called the Black Castle, lie about a mile to the east. The foundation of Cahirelly (Cathair Ailbe) is with great probability assigned to St. Ailbe of Emly in the sixth century. It contains a monument in memory of Matthew Heo (O'Hea), dated 1717.

Southward of Cahirelly is Raleighstown Court, a fortified enclosure of considerable extent. The court is 180 feet long by 120 wide, and is surrounded by a strong wall. The adjacent lands are said to have been bestowed by James I. on a son of Sir Walter Raleigh.

The Limerick road leads direct to the circles and then proceeds to Holycross. By taking the branch to the east the Giant's Grave can be visited, and then the Black Castle and Knockadoon. A little to the east of the causeway a road is to be met with by which the visitor can return to Limerick by way of Lough Gur Castle, Raleighstown Court and within a short distance of Cahirelly. This is the old road, and joins the new line farther on. Thus a complete circuit of the lake can be easily and conveniently made.

NOTES.

LOUGH GUR.

The following description of the geology of Lough Gur is from the pen of Mr. G. V. Du Noyer, of the Geological Survey:—

Lough Gur lies at an elevation of 232 feet above the sea, and the trappean rocks which occur over the hilly ground to the north of it are of three well marked varieties—the bedded, or that deposited contemporaneously and interstratified with the limestones; the intrusive, which cuts across the bedding of these rocks; and the volcanic ash or bed of coarse and fine conglomerate and breccia formed of angular and sometimes rounded lumps and small fragments of basalt limestone and grit and crystals of feldspar, the enveloping paste consisting of washed up sandy debris of traps and limestone, or calcareous matter, of a greenish or a purplish colour. As these beds have been deposited under water, they resemble an ordinary sandstone in their mode of occurrence, and lie at the base of the bedded or contemporaneous basalts. To the unequal weathering of the traps and limestone is due the varied and picturesque outline of the hills north of Lough Gur, which rise to a height of about 300 feet above the lake or 532 feet above the sea.

The Lough Gur basalt is in colour a dark greenish or purplish grey, compact in texture, though somewhat vesicular and amygdaloidal with disseminated crystals of feldspar when the rock becomes a pophyry: in the amygdaloidal portion the vesicles are filled with carbonate of lime due to infiltration from the limestones above. One

variety of this pophyritic trap exhibits crystals of feldspar of a reddish tinge. The intrusive variety of trap, or that which is known or seen to cut through the bedding of the limestone, is quite columnar in structure, though not so ponderous a stone as that forming the Giant's Causeway or the mass of the basalts in the County of Antrim. At a distance of a mile to the south of Lough Gur the hill of Knockdirk rises to a height of 486 feet, having a large boggy flat at its western base at an elevation of about 250 feet above the sea. This well-marked eminence is formed almost entirely of reddish and brownish basalt containing specks of dark green hornblende with crystals of pink feldspar and quartz, which may therefore be classed with the Syenites. The trap to the north-east, of Lough Gur occurs on two broad distinct basin-shaped deposits separated by a band of grey (upper) limestone. The upper trap has the lower coal-measure shales of Mountminnett House resting on it, while to the south of Mountminnett the basalt in some instances is intruded among the coal-measures.

A full account of the trappean rock of the County of Limerick will be found in "Memoirs of the Geological Survey," in explanation of the sheets of the district.

FOSSIL REMAINS.

Amongst extinct animals whose remains have been found in this neighbourhood are the Great Deer (*Megaceros Hibernicus*), commonly culled the Irish Elk, which appears to have made this place one of its favourite resorts, and the Great Ox (*Bos longifrons*). In the rock shelters of the eastern shore remains have been found of the Mammoth (*Eliphas primigenius*), and perhaps of the cave bear and the wolf. The district is specially rich in remains of the Red Deer.

BRIAN BORU'S FORT.

Knockfennell puts in a claim for the honour of being the site selected by Brian Boru. Fitzgerald, describing this spot, says—"On the west side of Knockfennell is one of the strongest Danish forts in the country. It is circular,

and about three hundred and sixty feet in circumference. The wall that surrounds it is ten feet in thickness, and must have been proportionately high, from the quantity of stone that has fallen outside. That part of the wall that still remains is built of large stones nearly three feet every way, regularly fitted to each other, and the interstices filled up with small ones, but there is no sign of mortar. From this down to the lake walls of similar construction extend, at about sixty yards asunder, to the north side of the hill, where they terminate at some deep marsh or morass. Those walls are connected by others of the same kind. On the east pinnacle of Knockfennell, which is very high, there is a smaller fortification; and along the valley, which lies between these high points, the remains of walls can be traced, terminating in like manner at the lake to the south and the deep ground to the north."

O'Donovan quotes the passage in his notes on the geological survey of the district, adding the comment that there is nothing on Knockfennell but a small mound on the eastern point

THE O'HEA MONUMENT, CAHERELLY.

The inscription has with great care and skill been deciphered by Mr. J. C. Barry, J.P., as follows:—

Tollitur é Vivis Ululantibus undique Amicis,
Ad Tumulum Corpus, Forma sed Astra Petit.
Invalidi Aerarium Lazari, Spes Certa Salutis—
Pulvere Florescunt; Pamaque Clara Micat.
Agmina Virtutum, Splendentia Continet Urna,
Quam Decorant Pictas, Spes Bona: Firma Fides.
Dotibus Insignis, Musis Comitatus et Arte,
Mattheus Hic Latitat, Stemate Clarus, Heo.

Obiit. 13 Februi, Anno 1717,

Ætatis xxxii.

Mr. Barry gives the following metrical translation:—

[TRANSLATION.]

Lost to the living, Friends around him mourn:
His corpse to earth, his soul to Heaven is borne.
Weak Lazarus' Treasury and sure hope of bliss.
Flowering in dust with stainless fame are his
Bright throng of virtues doth this urn contain,
Firm faith, good hope, with piety in train.
Rare-gifted, graced by Art and Poësy
Here lies Matt *Heo* of fair Pedigree.

Died 13th February, 1717.

Aged 32 years.



KNOC KAINY AND BRUFF.

CHAPTER VI.

PREVIOUS to the arrival of the Milesians, the last colonists of Ireland, the country was in the possession of the Tuath Dedannans, who had come from Greece by way of Scandinavia and the northern parts of Europe. They were supposed to have acquired a knowledge of magical arts whilst amongst the Greeks, and on arriving in Ireland had brought with them the Lia Fail,* which was henceforth used as the coronation stone of the Kings of Ireland. The Dedannans subdued their predecessors the Firbolgs in a great battle, the Southern Moytura, near Cong, and took possession of Ireland, sending the defeated remnant to Connaught, a precedent which was followed considerably later on. In the battle of the Northern Moytura the Dedannans destroyed the power of the Femorians, a race of sea pirates who had long troubled the coasts of Ireland. The Dedannans

*This is the celebrated stone which was supposed to have been brought from Tara to Scotland in the sixth century, and which in the thirteenth century was brought from Scone by Edward I. and is now under the seat of the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. Dr. Petrie has, however, conclusively proved that this cannot be the Irish Lia Fail, which was never removed from Tara, but was standing there in the tenth century, and is standing there still.

were a valiant race, and they seem also to have been a people of considerable enlightenment and civilisation. They are credited with having possessed occult power, which however did not save them from being conquered by the Milesians who came from Scythia by way of Spain, A.M. 3500 in the Chronology of the Four Masters. The new arrivals were for some time prevented from landing by the spells of the Dedannans, who on the second occasion raised a furious tempest which dispersed and wrecked the fleet of Miled or Milesius. One of his sons got on shore at Kerry and another at the mouth of the Boyne, and joining their forces the two brothers totally defeated the Dedannans and took possession of the country which they parcelled out amongst themselves. One of the last queens of the conquered people was Eire, who conferred her name on the country so soon to cease to belong to her race. From Eire is derived Erin, the dative case of the name, and Ireland (Eire-land).

Like all conquered races the Dedannans continued to live in remote out of the way places, leaving their retreats only in the night and endeavouring as far as possible to avoid observation. The wonderful powers they were supposed to possess increased the mystery with which they came to be regarded by their apparently less intellectual conquerors, and gradually they acquired an uncanny and even supernatural reputation. They began to be regarded as beings of another world, and in process of time legends grew up about them which form the origin of our fairy tales. The lonely Dedannans, eluding observation, living in secluded woods and dells,

became the elves and goblins and the good people of popular tradition. Genealogists have traced no Irish families to the Dedannans. and the race has totally disappeared. They have left some remarkable remains, however, in the vast mounds of New Grange, Dowth and Nowth, the great pagan cemetery of Bruga of the Boyne, near Drogheda—a lasting monument of a people that has passed away. Besides the New Grange monuments O'Donovan states that the remains of them are to be found at Knockany and Knockgreine, in the County of Limerick and at the Paps. The memoirs of this ancient race still to be found at Knockany can be no other than the two sepulchral mounds on the eastern top of the hill. They are small and insignificant compared with the gigantic structures by the Boyne, and mark the period when the former masters of Ireland had sunk into comparative insignificance, but still able to leave a monument behind them which would attract attention long centuries after they had totally disappeared. Knockany derives its name from Ainé, a princess of the Dedannan race who resided here in the second century of our era. Her father was killed in battle with Olioll Olum. When the victor attempted violence to Ainé, that princess bit off his ear, whence his surname Olum “of the lopped ear.” The name of the princess lived long in fairy lore, and Ainé has been regarded as queen of the fairies of Munster. The ancient name of the district surrounding the hill was Ainé Cliach,

This was one of the famous hunting grounds of the ancient Irish. The Irish Deer and the Irish

Ox seem to have abounded in this portion of the country. Their remains are to be found in great abundance in the bogs and swamps between Knockainy and Tory Hill. In some instances the skeleton of the Irish Deer with its great branching horns has been discovered perfect almost to the smallest bone.

The ancient Feni knew this district intimately. In the Book of Glendalough occurs a conversation between Cuchullin of the Red Branch Knights and his Charioteer Lee. Both are standing on the Hill of Knockainy, and Cuchullin is pointing out to his attendant the chief features of the country which they see from the summit. The passage is as follows:—

“Tell me, my Charioteer Lee, dost thou know in what country we now are? I know it not, indeed, replied the Charioteer. I know it well, said Cuchullin. The mountain lying to the South is Ceann abrat Sleibhi Cain.* Those mountains to the North are Sleibhte Eibhlinne.† That bright sheet of water which thou seest is the lake of Lime-sick,‡ the hill on which we stand is called Druim Colcaille (Hazlemount), which is also called Ainé Cliach. It is situated in the territory of Deise beag. The army is to the South of us in Cliu Mail mhic Ugauni in the province of Curai Mac Dary.”

The Feni regarded this region as one of their hunting centres. During the winter months they were quartered in various districts and were main.

* Now Slieve Blach.

† Slieve Phelim.

‡ Linn Luimnigh—the expansion opposite Carrig-o-Gunnell.

tained by the local chiefs. In summer they were chiefly employed in hunting. The County of Limerick then as now seems to have been a favourite hunting ground, though the length of the course would try the mettle of the most celebrated Niinrods of our time. A contemporary romance called *The Pursuit of the Gilla Dacker*, a translation of which is to be found in Dr. Joyce's *Ancient Celtic Romances*, a most interesting work, gives an account of a great sporting excursion. "Finn and his chiefs now held council as to which of the Provinces of Erin they should begin with, and they chose Munster for the first chase. Next day they set out, both dogs and men, and they travelled through Offaly . . . till they came to Collkilla, which is now called Knockainy. The chase was now set in order, and they scattered themselves over the broad plains of Munster. They began at Ardpatrik, and they hunted over Kenn-Avrat of Slieve-Keen and over Coill-na-Drua, which is now called the district of Fermoy, and over the fruitful lands of Lehan, and over the confines of Fermorc, which is now called Hy Conall Gavra. Then south to the patrimony of Curoi Mac Dara (near Tralee), and by the shores of Loch Lein (Lakes of Killarney). Afterwards along the blue streamy Suir, by Caher-Dun-Isca (Caher), over the great plain of Femin and across the speckled summit of Slieve-na-man-finn, all over East Munster and West Munster, as far as Balla-Gavran (now Gowran in Co. Kilkenny), on the one side and on the other across the Shannon to Cratloe, near Limerick of the Blue Waters. In short," says the writer, and we can well believe

him, "there was not a plain or a valley, a wood or a brake, a mountain or a wilderness in the two provinces of Munster that they did not hunt over on that occasion."

The chase on the plain of Cliach around Knockainp is described in vivid and picturesque language, which shows that the Feni could write as well as hunt. Not only a high standard of personal prowess but of literary acquirement also was necessary for admission to the ranks of the Order, and candidates were required to pass a severe examination, not competitive, in literary subjects before being admitted to the profession of arms. They were expected to be able to recite long poems and tales, the nature of which may be judged from those which have been preserved to the present time.

The description proceeds as follows :—

"Now it chanced at one time during the chase while they were hunting over the plain of Cliach that Finn went to rest on the hill of Collkilla, which is now Knockainy, and he had his hunting tents pitched on a level spot near the summit. . . . When the King and his companions had taken their places on the hill the Feni unleashed their gracefully shaped sweet-voiced hounds through the woods and sloping glens, and it was sweet music to Finn's ears the cry of the long-snouted dogs as they routed the deer from the coverts and the badgers from their dens; the pleasant emulatory shouts of the youths, the whistling and signalling of the huntsmen, and the encouraging cheers of the mighty heroes as

* Munster originally consisted of two divisions, East and West Munster.

they spread themselves through the glens and woods and over the broad green plain of Cliach."

The description is so striking that one can stand on Knockainy and people the surrounding plain with mighty heroes and listen to the pleasant emulating shouts of the youths and the sweet music of the long snouted dogs.

But the ancient inhabitants of this remarkable spot were not forgotten in the excitement of the chase, for we read that—

"Then did Finn ask who of all his companions would go to the highest point of the hill directly over them to keep watch and ward and to report how the chase went on. For he said the Dedannans were here on the watch to work the Feni mischief by their Druidical spells, and more so during the chase than at other times. Finn Ban mac Bresal stood forward and offered to go; and grasping his broad spear he went to the top and sat viewing the plain to the four points of the sky. And the King and his companions brought forth the chess board and chess men, and set them down to a game."

This brief reference to the hunt may be supplemented by another from the romance entitled *The Fairy Palace of the Quicken Trees*. The Fairy Palace was situated somewhere about the neighbourhood of the present village of Pallaskenry. It will be seen that Finn and his companions were not indifferent to comfort though they chose a very airy place for watching the chase.

"One day Finn and the Feni went to hunt in *the* district of *Fermore* and over the plains of Hy

Conall Gavra (Baronies of Connello). And when all was arranged, and the chase about to begin, Finn himself and a few of his companions went to the top of the Hill of Knockfierna to see the sport; while the main body of the Feni scattered themselves over the plain with their dogs and attendants to start the deer and the wild boar and all the other game of the forest. Then Finn's people pitched their tents and made soft couches of rushes and heather, and dug cooking places, for they intended the hill to be the resting place of all who chose to rest till the chase was ended. After Finn and his companions had sat for some time on the hill, they saw a tall warrior coming towards them," &c.

The events following on the expedition supply the material for the romance.

The historical references to Knockainy and the adjacent district extend a long way backwards. The Annals of the Four Masters mention a battle as having taken place here in the Year of the World 3772, and as they reckon 5200 years in the era of the world, this date would be of extraordinary remoteness. In that year Eochy, who had been King of All Ireland for twenty-one years, was slain by Aengus in the battle of Cliach. In the Year of the World 4422, another Eochy who had been seven years in the sovereignty of Ireland fell by the hand of Airgeatmhar at Aine. The Annals of Clonmacnoise add that Eochy was at the fair of Knockainy when he was attacked unawares and slain with many of the nobility of

Munster. The fair of Knockainy can therefore claim a very high antiquity.

In the year A.D. 666 a battle was fought here between Aradha and the Ui Fidhgeinte of the neighbouring district, in which Eoghan, son of Crunnmael, was slain, but nothing further is known of him.

From this time onward, Knockainy with its adjacent plain was the patrimony of the Kerwicks, and when the power of the O'Briens became dominant, the chiefs of this region still preserved their identity, though they acknowledged the sovereignty of the O'Briens. The Annals of Ulster give the name of Gillailre, King of Aine Cliach, who died in 1109.

In 1115, Murtagh O'Brien having dispossessed his brother of the throne of Munster, led an expedition into Leinster. Amongst those who accompanied him on this occasion was Murtagh O'Kerwick, Lord of Aine, who was slain.

In 1123 Gillereagh O'Kerwick made an attack on Maelmordha, Abbot of Emly and reigning monarch of Aine, which at that time was considered of unusual atrocity. The prelate and king and several chiefs were all collected together in one house in the district of Emly, when the place was surprised by Gillereagh, and seven persons were killed. The chiefs, we are told, escaped "through the miracles of God, Ailbhe, and the church." Gillereagh was slain within a month afterwards, and his head cut off, "for committing such violence on St. Ailbhe." What added evidently to the

exceptional nature of the attack on the successor of St. Ailbhe, was the fact that the aggressor himself might be considered a cleric, for he is spoken of as being a "deacon, nominated." On this occasion the Bearnan Ailbhe, which is translated to mean St. Ailbhe's gapped or broken Bell, was burned.

In the list of forts erected by Brian Boru to secure his Limerick possessions, no less than two were connected with Knockainy. The Limerick forts (in addition to those erected elsewhere, notably Caisel of the Kings, Kincora and Borumha near Killaloe), are as follows:—The fortification of Cenn Abrath (near Kilfinane), the island of Lough Cend (which has been identified with a lake near Knockainy, now dry) and the island of Lough Gair and Dun Eochair Maige (the fort of the bank of the Maigue, namely Bruree) and finally Dun Cliath, which is evidently a fort on the hill of Knockainy, in the territory of Cliath. The latter has been identified by O'Donovan with the fort of one circular rampart, which is still to be seen on the western summit of the hill.

The advantages of this spot did not escape the notice of the English invaders, and a strong castle was erected there in the year 1248, by John of Callan, the ruins of which are still in existence, though very much decayed. Around the castle the village grew, and another stronghold called Desmond Castle was erected much later by

O'Grady,* one of the principal Celtic adherents of the Earl of Desmond from whom he received the lands of Kilballyowen, where a third castle was erected which is incorporated with the modern mansion. On the forfeiture of the Desmond lands the O'Grady portion was granted to Sir Thomas Standish. By a rare stroke of good fortune the lands reverted to the old Celtic family, and with them they still remain to the present time. The dispossessed O'Grady was lucky enough to secure the land and fortune of one of the Knight's daughters, and by this alliance the estates were restored to the original line.

The prosperous market town of Bruff is situated west of Knockainy. Its name shows that a chieftain's residence existed here in early times, how long ago cannot well be even guessed at. The *Brugh* or fort is still to be seen just on the outskirts of the town, and beside the Morning Star, a rivulet which falls into the Maigue. The fort is one hundred and fifty paces in diameter, and is surrounded by a double rampart in some parts twelve feet in height. The whole is thickly planted with elm trees. It still bears its Irish name and an old song refers to "the melodious airy little *lis* of Bruff." The epithet "' '2'" would more appropriately be applied to Dun-

* The O'Grady's were originally settled at Cineal Donghaile, a district north-west of Lough Derg, including part of Clare and Galway. O'Heerin in his *Topographical Poems* says—

O'Grady seized the entire land
Of the profitable Cineal Donghaile;
Yellow hilted and keen his sword,
And sledge heavy are the blows of his forces in conflict.

morisheen, about a mile south-east of Bruff, by the side of the old road to Kilfinane. It is one of the most diminutive of forts, and is hardly five paces in diameter.

Close to the bridge may be observed the remains of the castle, which at the close of the Desmond wars was held by Pierce Lacy, "a wise and malicious traitor," as Carew calls him. Frequent skirmishes occurred between the garrison at Kilmallock and the followers of Pierce Lacy, but they appear to have resulted in very little bloodshed.

The following account of one of these engagements is found in *Pacata Hibernia*, chapter IV. :—

"The same day (20th April, 1600) Captain Francis Slingsby, commander of the Lord President's Foot Companie and Garrison at Kilmallock, when there was the Lord President's two hundred foot, Captain Clares one hundred and fiftie, twenty-five of Sir Anthony Cooke, his troope, and twelve of Sir George Thorntons Horse, drew forth in the night part of that garrison, to take the prey of the Brough, a castle of Pierce Lacies, but three miles from Kilmallock, to expect the coming forth of the prep to grase, which accordingly, at an hower after daylight came forth and they tooke it. Then presently the crie being raised, three hundred foot and fiftie horse, led by Pierce Lacie, skirmished with them for the space of sixe howers; but seeing they could not prevaile, they gave over the pursuite. There was slain of of our men but one horseman of Sir George Thorntons Troope and foure or five of the Lord

Presidents Foote hurt; their losses were more, whereof Con O'Neale, Tyrone's base sonne, was hurt."

For a time Lacy was able to maintain himself in his stronghold by the Morning Star. The submission of the White Knight deprived him of an ally and released some of the royal forces to be employed against him. Florence McCarthy, another Desmond chief, was suspected of treachery. Accordingly when Carew marched to attack him, he pulled down some parts of his castle, set the rest on fire, "and by the light thereof ran into the woods." Pierce Lacy was exempted from the amnesty of 1601, and was taken and executed in 1617. His ~~lands~~ were conferred on Sir Thomas Standish, and the greater portion has descended through the Hartstonge family to the Earl of Limerick.

The Lacys or de Lacys were amongst the most famous Limerick families, and, like the Geraldines, "more Irish than the Irish themselves." They were descended from Hugh de Lacy, who came to Ireland in the train of Henry II. in 1171. Hugh de Lacy is called the first Viceroy of Ireland, having been left by the King as Justiciar on his departure. His marriage with the daughter of Roderic O'Connor displeased Henry, yet under the titles of "Procurator-General" and "Chief Governor" he retained his position till 1184. He was assassinated at Durrow in 1186. Branches of the de Lacys or Lacys were settled at Bruff, Bruree and Ballingarry. In the churchyard of

Athlacca may be seen a tombstone inscribed with the names David Lacy, John Lacy, Thomas Lacy, and the date 1623. The Lacys held to the Irish side in the struggles of the seventeenth century to the very last. A Pierce Lacy was one of the hostages for the performance of the treaty for the surrender of Limerick in 1651, and was amongst those exempted from the general pardon. Again in 1691 a Lacy commanded the party sent from the city to oppose Ginkle's advance on Thomond Bridge. On the surrender of Limerick the Lacys entered the service of Spain. Members of this family obtained high command in nearly every European army. The General, Maurice de Lacy of Grodno, who served under Suvaroff in Italy, and died in 1820, is considered to be the last male descendant in direct line of Hugh de Lacy.



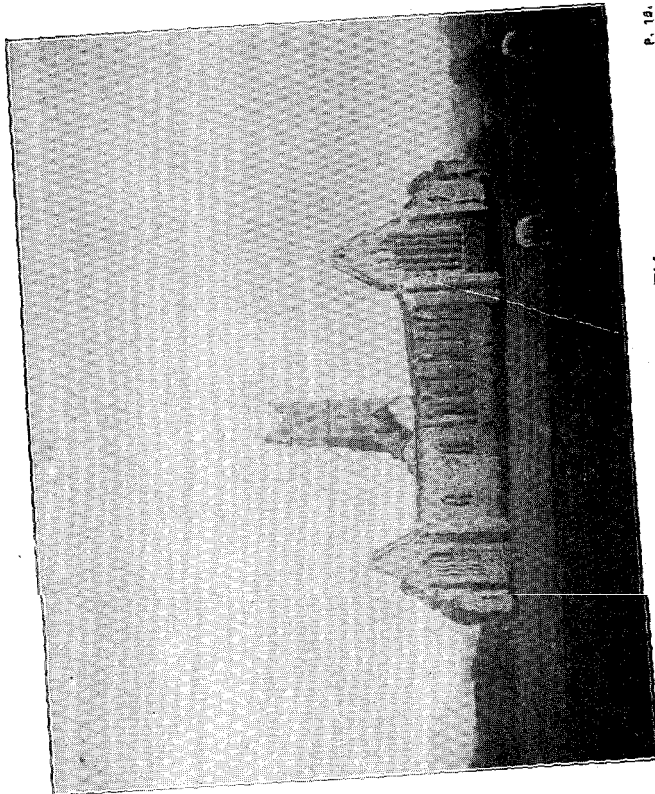
ADARE.

CHAPTER VII.

THE village of Adare derives its name from the ford of the Maigue, near which it is situated, and probably in connexion with a well-known and conspicuous oak tree which marked the exact position of the crossing. Adare represents the ancient *Ath-dara* or Ford of the Oak Tree, *dara* being the genitive of *dair*, the Irish word for oak.

An old legend endeavours to connect the name with an evil spirit in the form of a fire-breathing bull which destroyed itself at this place. The monster had fixed its residence at Carrig-o-Gunneli, whence it ravaged the adjacent country till the arrival of St. Patrick in the district. The saint exorcised the fiend and expelled it from its lair to seek an abode elsewhere. He pursued it wherever it went, and in an endeavour to escape across the Maigue it was drowned at Ath-tarb, the Ford of the Bull, no evil thing being able to cross running water.

Adare is not mentioned by name before the arrival of the English in Munster. From remains that have been found in the moat of the castle it is probable that a rath existed on the site afterwards occupied by the Norman stronghold, and



P. 12.

KILMALLOCK ABBEY.

was one of the series of earthen forts which lined the banks of the Mague, the remains of which can be traced at the present time. One of the many chieftains of the Ui Fidhgeinte probably had *his* residence here, though any attempt at identification is now impossible.

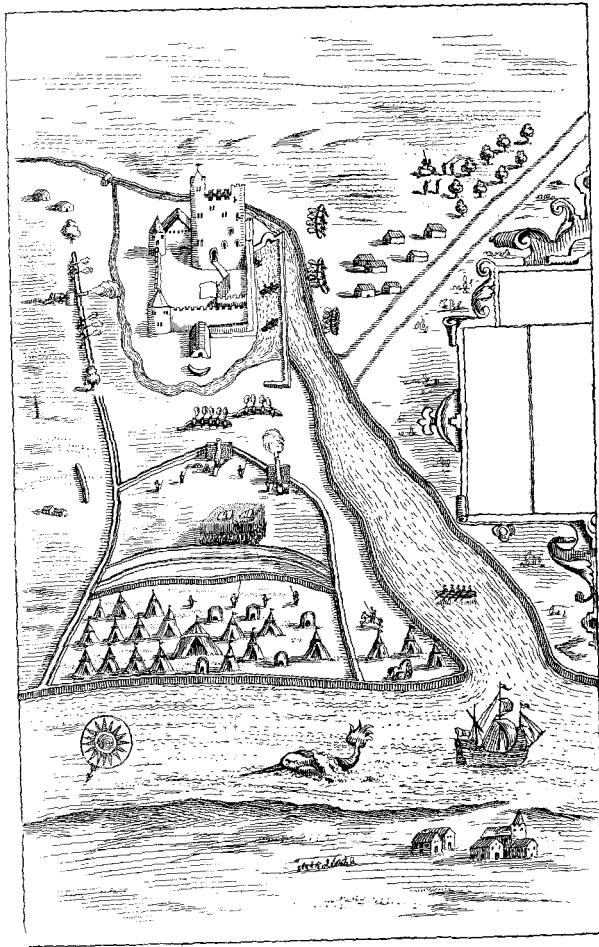
In Norman times Adare was one of the outlying possessions of the Kildare branch of the Geraldines, but there is no record in existence to tell how the Celtic chieftain was dispossessed. In 1226 the place was in the possession of Geoffrey de Morisco, Lord Justice, or as he would now be called, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He **was** succeeded in his office of Lord Justice by Maurice Fitzgerald, second baron of Offaly, who had previously received a grant of Croom from King John. On the authority of the Spanish historian Lopez, the Trinitarian Priory was founded by Thomas Fitzgerald, second son of the second baron of Offaly, in 1230, so that the early years of the thirteenth century find the Kildare branch of the Geraldines settled at Adare. In 1278 Alienor, wife of John de Verdon, claimed a dower out of Adare, Grene and Aleketh (Athlacca). These lands were conveyed to Maurice Fitzgerald, fifth baron of Offaly, on his marriage with Agnes de Valence. The sixth baron of Offaly became first earl of Kildare, and Adare remained in possession of the Kildare family till it was sold in 1721 to the ancestor of the Earl of Dunraven.

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem held lands in the neighbourhood of Adare in the fourteenth century, but whether they had established a com-

mandery there or not is unknown. In 1310 a grant from Edward II. was made to the bailiffs and good men of Adare conferring on them the power to levy tolls during the three ensuing years off all goods coming for sale to the town, the proceeds to be applied to surrounding the town with a stone wall for protection and defence. In the reign of Edward III. the place must have suffered severely, for in a grant made in the year 1376 it is stated that the town of Adare had been "burned, destroyed and laid waste by the Irish enemy." At the request of Maurice FitzThomas, Earl of Kildare, and "in order that the said town may be more quickly built and repaired," the sheriffs and collectors of taxes are firmly commanded not to impose any levy upon the provost and commonalty till the town is ready to receive its former inhabitants again.

Camden mentions Adare in his description of the County of Limerick, and places it third in his enumeration immediately after Limerick and Kilmallock. He describes it as "anciently a little fortified town," thus showing that at the close of the sixteenth century, when he wrote, the walls and fortifications must have been in a ruinous state. Adare was not alone in that respect, for at the close of the Desmond War there was hardly a town or castle in West Munster that had not been destroyed by one side or the other during the prolonged struggle. About this time also the well known Leverous, or Leverus, Bishop of Kildare and

* Camden's *Britannia*, a topographical description of Great Britain, was first published in 1686.



THE SIEGE OF GLIN CASTLE, 1600.

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Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin, who had been deprived of his offices for refusing to accept the Reformation, made Adare his place of residence. He maintained himself by keeping a Grammar School for some time, and subsequently removed to the City of Limerick.

In 1600 the army of Carew on its march from Aslieaton to Limerick halted at Adare, which is described as a "Manor house belonging to the Earls of Kildare wholly ruined by Pierce Lacy," one of the adherents of the Earl of Desmond. A very short time before the town had been burned to the ground by Maurice Stack, an emissary of Carew.

In 1756 John Wesley visited the neighbourhood and describes Adare as "once a strong and flourishing town, well walled and full of people, but now without walls and almost without inhabitants, only a few poor huts remaining." As will be seen later on, the visit of John Wesley is still the subject of annual commemoration by his followers.

THE VILLAGE OF ADARE.

In the early part of the present century Adare consisted merely of a few cabins grouped together near the ruins of the Trinitarian Abbey, and a few houses on the other side of the river near the castle. Opposite the Abbey was the County of Limerick Fox-hunting Club, the scene of many a gay festivity. All these have now been swept

away, hardly even a trace remaining. The town as it is at present was created by the exertions of the second Earl of Dunraven, who strove to bring

it to its original importance, and with such success that at one time the place contained upwards of a thousand inhabitants.

Adare now consists of a broad, wide street with tasteful houses and well kept shops. At the upper end the road branches off to the left to Rathkeale, and is lined with old and lofty elm trees. On the side towards the demesne, and almost included within the demesne, are rows of pretty cottages, peeping out from amongst the trees and shrubs amidst which they are embedded, each standing in its own little garden and bearing every mark of comfort and prosperity. In other directions also may be observed similar cottages either isolated or in small rows, and all looking the picture of neatness. At the other end of the town stands the Trinitarian or Black Abbey, used as a Roman Catholic Church, of which more hereafter. Close beside it may be observed a beautiful drinking fountain surmounted with a memorial cross on a lofty slender shaft. The fountain and cross were erected in 1851 by the Countess of Dunraven, as an inscription states, "in grateful memory of the zeal shown by the people of the village in quenching a fire at the office at Adare Manor, on the 15th of April, 1844."

ADARE MANOR.

The chief entrance to the demesne is but a few yards from the Trinitarian Abbey, and admission is easily obtained on application to Lord Dunraven's agent. On entering one is immediately struck with the magnitude and number

of the fine elm trees which line the roadway and paths and meet overhead in an arch of verdure. Few spots in Ireland are so well wooded, and nowhere have nature and art been more tastefully combined to heighten the charms of a beautiful situation. An avenue through shady woods leads to the Manor House, one of the most imposing residences in the south of Ireland. It was begun in 1832 on the site of the old house part of whose walls were skilfully incorporated with the present structure. The style of architecture is that of the most decorated later English of the Tudor period. The material used in the construction is the grey limestone of the district relieved by blocks of red and brown from the quarries of the county. A striking feature is the tower, the battlements of which are eighty-two feet high, but the top of the steep pitched roof rises a hundred and three feet above the level of the ground. The open stone work of the parapet which surmounts the garden front is formed into old English letters, where one may read the appropriate text of Scripture, "Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it." On the front is also carved the following noteworthy inscription:—"This goodly house was erected by Windham Henry, Earl of Dunraven, and Caroline, his Countess, without borrowing, selling, or leaving a debt, A.D. 1850." It is also worthy of being recorded that the greater portion of the building was designed by an amateur, not a single drawing

having been furnished by a professional architect. Almost *the* whole was erected without a builder or clerk of works, and not a single mistake was made. Everything for twenty years was carried on under the superintendence of Mr. James Connolly, a working mason of Adare.

A short hut beautiful avenue of very large and very old trees leads close alongside the river bank to an ancient bridge over the Maigne. A roadway some five or six miles in length encircles the demesne and sweeps through some of the most varied and picturesque portions of the scenery. From no point can an extensive view be obtained owing to the general flatness of the country, but though the prospect is limited in extent, it possesses attractions which fully compensate for all deficiencies in that respect. There is an ever-changing variety about the scene which enhances its natural advantages. Peeps and vistas may be obtained which the admirer of nature in her softest moods will long linger over and leave with difficulty. The surrounding avenue passes by verdant undulating fields where the cattle graze, through luxurious woods and under broad overhanging trees which almost shut out the sunlight. Again it crosses and re-crosses the river, or skirts its margin, where the waters dash over rapids or spread out into deep calm pools in which the trout lie motionless.

Besides the attractions due to natural beauty there are other sources of interest which place Adare without a rival. There are to be found in this spot some most interesting monuments of

days that have long past away. They form also a happy exception to the almost general neglect and consequent decay which have befallen similar structures in other parts of the country. Two of the ancient abbeys are now in as good preservation as when they left the hands of the builder centuries ago, and are still devoted to the services of religion. The walls of the Franciscan Abbey and of the war-worn fortress by the river side have also been arrested in their decay and may long be expected to remain objects of admiration and affectionate regard to all who have ever visited there. The first of these relics of antiquity which claim particular notice is the Castle, popularly called the Desmond Castle,

THE CASTLE OF ADARE.

When or by whom the structure was erected is not accurately known. As already mentioned, it is believed that an ancient Irish rath occupied the site of the Keep, for in the moat which surrounds it several objects have been found which Dr. Petrie referred to a date anterior to any that can be assigned to the Castle. These, consisting of a spear head, a sword blade and a small hatchet, are similar in form and character to those which are known to belong to the ninth or tenth century. Several Norman leaders are mentioned in connexion with Adare in the early portion of the thirteenth century, and the castle may with great probability be ascribed to that period. For many centuries the castle remained in the possession of the Kildare branch of the Fitzgeralds, whence it passed for about

fifty years into the hands of the Desmonds. In an inquisition taken at Adare in 1331 there occurs the following description:—There is a castle in which is a hall, a chapel with stone walls and covered with thatch, a tower covered with planks, a kitchen covered with slates, a chamber near the stone part covered with thatch.

At various times the original building received many additions, and was strengthened and enlarged by its successive owners. In the fifteenth century it had the misfortune to be burned by Turlough O'Brien in one of his numerous successful forays against the Geraldines. The Earl of Kildare soon recovered possession of his stronghold, which he made the chief southern residence of his family. Thomas, Earl of Kildare, who held the office of Lord Deputy, died here in 1478. and was buried in the Franciscan Abbey which he had himself founded.

From the castle of Adare departed in 1520 another Earl of Kildare, also a Lord Deputy, to answer charges brought against him by Cardinal Wolsey, Minister of Henry VIII. The Earl pleaded his cause so well that his enemies were foiled, and after a short time he was restored to his office and his estates. Again summoned to England to appear before the King, he left Ireland in 1534, entrusting the government in his absence to his son, Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, the Silken Thomas of romance and history. This youth, for he was barely twenty years of age, incited by a false report that his father had been put to death, made a rash attempt at insurrection. He was

seized, carried to London, and committed to the Tower, and he and his five uncles were executed at Tyburn as traitors. By these wholesale executions the Kildare family was almost destroyed." Their estates were forfeited to the Crown, and amongst them the castle of Adare with the adjacent lands, which latter were bestowed upon the Desmond line in whose hands it remained as long as the Desmond power lasted.

In the early years of the struggle between the power of the Earls of Desmond and the Crown, the castle of Adare fell into the hands of the English, who used it as one of their chief centres of operation against the Celtic tribesmen beyond the Maigue. After the defeat at Monaster Nenagh, Sir Nicholas Malby captured the castle after a siege of eleven days.

A garrison of four hundred and fifty men was placed within its walls under the command of Captain Carew, which was constantly employed against the Irish. The character of the hostilities of the time is thus graphically described in an entry in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1579:—"The sons of the Earl (Desmond) proceeded to destroy, demolish, burn and com-

* Henry did not succeed in exterminating the house of Kildare. Two sons of the ninth earl remained, the elder of whom, aged twelve years, was ill of small-pox at Down in Kildare. His tutor, Thomas Leverous, fearing danger at the time of the arrest of his uncles, carried him off

conceded in a large basket and well wrapped up in blankets. He found refuge in Thomond for a time, and though the boy was declared an enemy to the State and a price set upon his head, he eluded the enemies of his family. After many an adventure he was restored to his estates by Edward VI. in 1552, and to his title by Queen Mary in 1584. Queen Elizabeth made Leverous Bishop of Kildare in 1559. See page 104,

pletely consume, every fortress, town, cornfield and habitation between these places to which they came, lest the English might dwell in them; and the English consigned to a like destruction every house and stock of corn to which they came, to injure the Geraldines, so that between them the county was left one levelled plain without corn or edifices."

On the departure of Malby to Connaught, and before his successor could arrive in Munster, Sir John Fitzgerald, brother of the Earl of Desmond, beleaguered the garrison of Adare so closely that "none durst peep nor look out but in danger of some peril." Many skirmishes took place between the two parties, one of which, related by Hooker in his continuation of Hollinshed, is perhaps a fair example of the engagements of the period. We are told that very early before daybreak on one occasion Captain Carew transported a body of soldiers of the garrison across to the other side of the Maigue by means of a small boat which could carry only eight or ten persons at a time. The expedition was designed for the purpose of ravaging the lands of the Knight of Glin, and perhaps inflicting some loss upon the Irish forces. The Knight and the Earl of Desmond then lay at the castle of Ballilloghan, situated in the mountain recesses behind Shanid, and their forces were strengthened by a strong detachment of Spaniards. The royal troops traversed a considerable portion of the country without meeting any resistance, and having inflicted a considerable amount of damage prepared to return home. They had almost reached the

banks of the Maigue when they found their retreat cut off by Sir James Fitzgerald with four hundred footmen and thirty horse. Carew had with him but one hundred and twenty men, and though considerably outnumbered was compelled to fight.

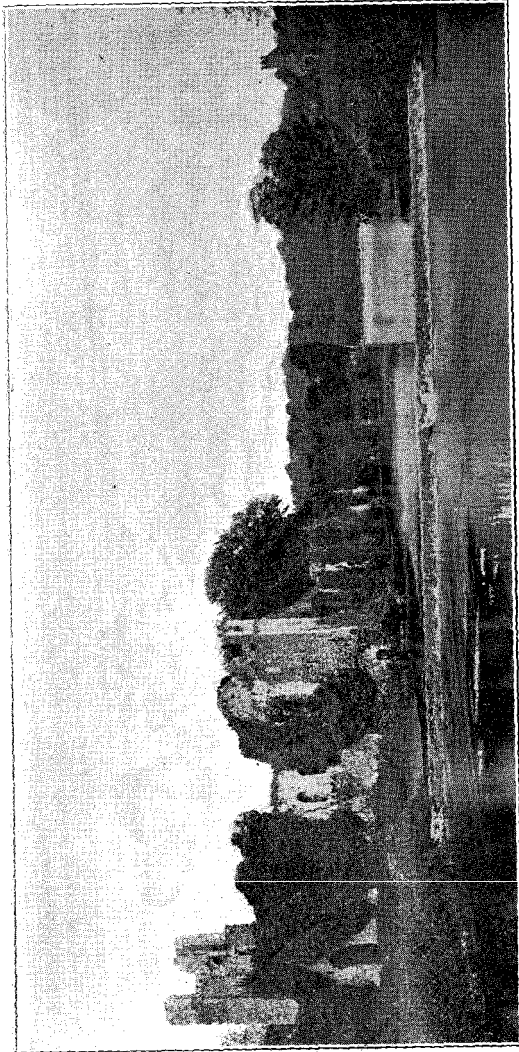
According to the English chronicler, "the two parties most valiantly skirmished at the push of the pike without intermission for above eight hours." At the close of the long summer's day the Irish leader drew off his forces and allowed the English to cross over to the castle unmolested. The loss of the Irish is put down by their opponents as fifty killed and wounded, amongst the latter being Sir James. The English are said to have lost none, though the chronicler adds that "sundrie were shrewdly hurt and wounded." The account, if accurate, somewhat lessens the horror with which one reads of the interminable and incessant battles of the period. According to Hooker, an engagement which lasted eight hours at such close quarters that the pike staves were used for attack and defence, and between combatants actuated with the bitterest hatred, after all resulted only in the death of a few on one side and none at all on the other.

Another foray of the garrison of Adare is related in connexion with the massacre of the Purcells at Ballycane, which will be found in the notice of that place. In the same year also, Nicholas, the receiver of the Geraldines, was slain by some soldiers, but whether in battle or not the chronicler has omitted to state. Fortune did not always

smile upon the garrison, for the close of the year (1581) witnessed the capture of the castle by the Irish and the slaughter of all within it. It was recovered next year by Captain Zouch, upon whose appearance the Irish relinquished the fortress without striking a blow. On the attainder of the Earl of Desmond the castle and its surroundings reverted to their former owners, the Earls of Kildare.

The Earl of Essex having failed in his efforts to reduce the Northern chiefs to submission, turned his attention towards the malcontents in the South. He arrived in Limerick in June 1599, and was there joined by the Earls of Thomond and Ormonde. On the 8th of June he left the city and encamped that night at Adare. The passage of the Maigue was disputed by the Sungan Earl, but Essex succeeded in throwing his advanced guard across and lodged them that night in the Trinitarian Abbey. Next morning the remainder of his troops effected a crossing, and the march westward was begun. So incessant and so successful were the attacks of the Irish that Essex, who came to conquer, was himself compelled to act on the defensive and beat a speedy retreat southward.

On the departure of Essex for England the Sungan Earl recovered many of his towns and strongholds, and amongst them Adare. On the near approach of Carew, who had been appointed President of Munster, the followers of the Sungan Earl took to the woods and burned the castle. Like many others it was allowed to fall into decay from the date of its abandonment. The demesne lands continued in the possession of the



THE CASTLE. ADARE.

From a Photo by W. Lawrence, Dublin.

P. 109.

Earls of Kildare till in 1721 when they passed by purchase to the Quin family, whose representative is the present Earl of Dunraven. The Quins were originally a Clare sept, and trace their descent through Niall, who was slain at the battle of Clontarf, up to a younger son of Cas, the progenitor of the Dalcassians.*

The ruins of the castle consist of an outer and an inner part. An excellent roadway enters under the tower in the western wall, and skirting the moat leaves by a northern exit. The western tower entrance was probably the principal place of ingress and egress in ancient times, as the tower is strong and the gate was defended with a portcullis. Within the entrance and on the right hand stands an oblong building of two stories. The lower apartment was a stable. Its walls are four feet thick, and quite contrary to what one would expect, the upper portion of the walls is nearly a foot thicker than the lower, the additional width being supported on projecting stones. Access to the upper portion of the building was provided by means of an external stone staircase which rose along the side of the wall, and the landing was just above the lower doorway. Adjoining the budding and projecting some little way into the river is a small square tower. The water flows through a narrow passage, a portion of

* A list of the chiefs who followed Brian Boru in his march against the Danes is to be found in *The Wars of the Gaels with the Galls*. Immediately after the names of the members of the Monarch's family, the name Niall Ua Quinn comes first in the enumeration of the Three Rear Guards of Brian. Niall Ua Quinn was slain at the battle of Clontarf, as stated above.

which is still arched. Stepping across to the low wall a good view is obtained of the Abbey on one side and the ancient bridge on the other. Returning to the roadway, a little further on and again to the right, may be observed the foundations of a room which contains in one corner the remains of an oven or boiler, and near this an ancient well supplied with water from the river. This apartment was evidently the kitchen. The Great Hall is just beside it, and measures seventy-five feet long by thirty-seven broad. The walls are fifteen feet high and about three feet thick. The roof which has disappeared was supported on four pillars, traces of which are still visible.

A small wooden bridge crossing the moat replaces the ancient drawbridge and gives access to the inner ward. The farther extremity of the wooden bridge rests on a square gate-tower which is connected with the keep by a thick curved wall. There was another entrance to this tower from the opposite side. The angle formed by the joining of the outer and inner walls was defended by a turret which was the most important point of the whole position, and may be looked upon as the key of the fortress. In case of attack this turret would naturally be defended to the very last, and if the result proved unsuccessful a retreat could be effected into the keep by means of a door on the first floor. To the left of the inner court is a semi-circular tower projecting from the boundary wall which was loop-holed and divided into two stages by a floor. From the gate-tower a small wall runs towards the keep enclosing a courtyard in which is a low

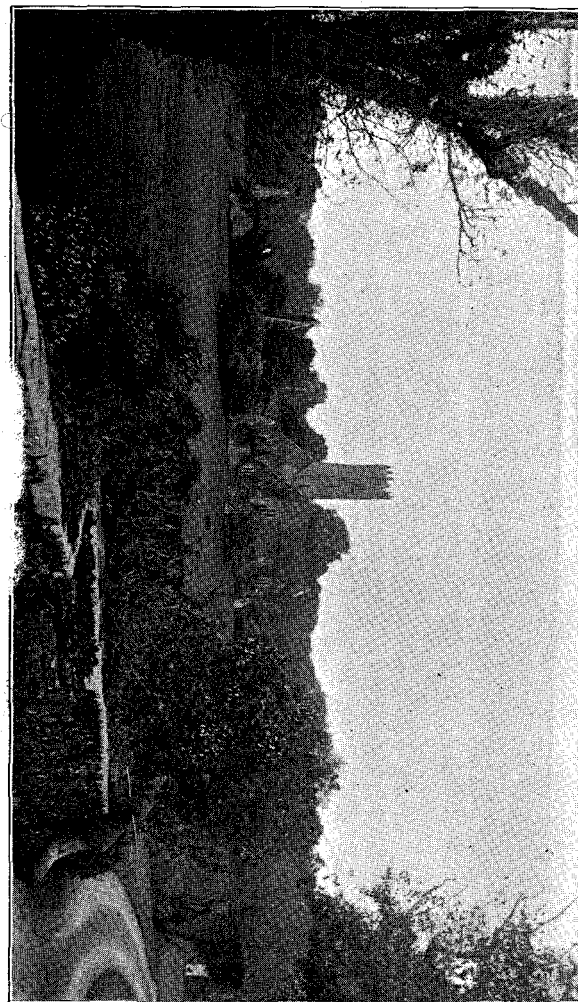
massive wall with steps. These steps most likely gave access to the keep by means of a drawbridge let down from a door in the first floor. No trace of the door remains, as the wall on this side is entirely broken down, but such is the usual mode of entrance to keeps of the Norman period. The tower is about forty feet square and is sixty-seven feet high. There is a doorway leading to the vaults which is considered not to have belonged to the original structure. Under the doorway is an arched roof covering a hole of some depth. One of the vaults appears to have been used as a dungeon. It measures nine feet by seven, and is lighted by a single narrow slit. From the vaults a staircase leads to the upper apartments. The side of the keep next the river has completely disappeared, only the north side and the portions adjacent to it and connected with it retain their original height. The wall still standing terminated in two turrets at the corners. On the interior may be noticed some half arches which formed the foundation on which rested a flight of steps leading from the roof to the turrets. This mode of access is no longer available, the steps having been considerably damaged and in some places entirely destroyed. One turret can be easily reached by means of ladders securely fastened and provided with handrails which bridge over any awkward gaps that may occur. From the summit a good view is obtained of the castle beneath and also of a portion of the demesne and the river.

Near the north entrance to the castle are the graveyard and the walls of the ancient Parish

Church. The latter consists of a nave, chancel and also a third division west of the nave. The dividing wall contains a rude pointed arch, and is surmounted by a gable. It is said that this latter portion of the building was at one time used as a Meeting-House by the Wesleyans of the neighbourhood. Over the chancel arch is a peculiar bell-cot of two openings. The east window is unusually small. The chancel has been used as the burial place of the Quin family. It is considered to be of the twelfth or thirteenth century, and if so must have been the original church built by the first Norman settlers. The nave is much more modern and belongs to the fifteenth century. Divine Service has not been held in this building since 1806.

In the graveyard stands also a small chapel whose walls are deeply battered, which has been ascribed to the fourteenth century. The door is very wide, and the arch is triangular formed by two large stones. The west gable is pierced by a long narrow trefoiled window, the sides of which are widely splayed. Seats have been constructed on the sill, and the building was evidently of two stories, so it is not unlikely that some portion may have been set apart as a dwelling for the priest. Concerning its history or the purpose for which it was built nothing whatever is known.

The bridge is said to have been built by Gerald fifth Earl of Kildare. It was originally much narrower than it is at present, and at some subsequent period its width was fully doubled. At full tide the view from the bridge is one of singular beauty. The



Franciscan Abbey, Dublin

FRANCISCAN ABBEY, DUBLIN

river assumes somewhat the appearance of a placid lake. The prattling of the cascade near the castle is stilled, being obliterated by the rising waters, and all around is calm and still and beautiful. The glassy surface reflects as in a mirror the ivy-covered towers of the old fortress, and far up the river, half-hidden by the trees, may be observed the walls and slender tower of the Franciscan Abbey.

THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY.

The Franciscan or Poor's Abbey was founded by Thomas, seventh Earl of Kildare, and his wife Joanna, daughter of James, Earl of Desmond. The first stone was laid in 1464, and the work was pushed on with such energy that before the year was concluded the church was used for Divine service, and a portion of the cloisters had been erected. The church, two of the chapels, and the cemetery were consecrated in 1466 on the festival of Saint Michael the Archangel, of whom the church was in honour. The chief source of information with regard to this religious establishment is a manuscript in the Franciscan Monastery of Louvain in Belgium, written by Father Mooney, a member of the Order, who visited Ireland early in the seventeenth century, and collected all the information he could find regarding the religious houses of the Franciscan Order. According to this writer the belfry was erected by Cornelius O'Sullivan, who also presented the community with a silver chalice washed with gold. Margaret

* So called from belonging to a Mendicant Order.

Fitzgibbon, wife of Cornelius O'Dea, built the great chapel. The smaller ones were erected by John, son of the Earl of Desmond, and Margaret, wife of Thomas Fitzmaurice. The great Irish chieftains also combined with the English settlers to further the pious and noble work. O'Brien of Ara built the dormitory and Rory O'Dea completed the cloisters, whilst the refectory was the work of Marianus O'Hickey. The united efforts and generous contribution of so many noble families facilitated progress, and the whole of this pile of buildings was completed before the close of the fifteenth century.

The next century witnessed its decay and the suppression of the religious establishment. At the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. the Franciscan Abbey shared the fate of many others. In 1573 the monks returned, but during the subsequent wars they were expelled from their beautiful home, and on the attainder of the Earl of Desmond the Abbey lands were leased to Sir Henry Wallop. During the subsequent years the building was neglected, but fortunately escaped wanton injury. The late Earl of Dunraven arrested the slow progress of decay, and with great taste and skill carried out a series of repairs in such a manner that the hand of the restorer is nowhere visible, and no modernization mars the uniform appearance of the venerable pile.

The entrance to the nave of the church is in the south-west corner towards the river and castle. The central tower springs from lofty arches, and rises to a height of seventy-two feet. It is divided

into three courses externally, and the top is embattled with tall slender steps which give it a light and elegant finish. The tower is not square nor is it of the same dimensions throughout, for it is broader at the base than it is at the top. Near the junction of the nave and tower and in the north wall are three recesses about a foot deep, each arched overhead and surmounted with mouldings meeting together in carved finials. These recesses would seem at first glance to have been originally intended for seats, but underneath the level slabs are to be found arched vaults, which seem to suggest that the upper portion may have been intended to contain monumental effigies of those whose remains were interred in the vaults below. There are no less than fifteen of these recesses to be seen in the building. The principal personages known to have been interred in the Abbey are the Countess of Kildare, already referred to as one of the founders, and Raymond de Burgh. Bishop of Emly, who died in 1562.

The chancel contains an east window much the same as that in the transept. In the south wall are two arched recesses, one of which contains a plain piscina. The arch of one is semi-circular and that of the other a flat ellipse. Between them are three sedilia with curious apertures in the dividing portions.

The entrance to the cloisters is from under the tower. A handsome yew tree occupies the centre of the open space. A staircase in one corner leads to rooms above that were used as dormitories.

The western side of the arcade differs in several

respects from the other three, and is considered to be of more recent date. A door in this side leads to the Prior's rooms and perhaps the kitchen. A handsome and peculiarly constructed fireplace is worthy of attention from the manner in which it is built over a passage arched for the purpose. To the north of the cloisters is the Refectory, and the east side is occupied with a sacristy and three rooms with dormitories above them. A detached building north of the paved court was probably the guest chamber, and north of this again another which seems to have been a kitchen.

One of the gateways on the side next the river is in good preservation, and over the arch may be seen a shield bearing the arms of the Earls of Kildare. Close to the east wall of the church is an old ash tree, under whose shade John Wesley is said to have preached on the occasion of his visit previously referred to. The anniversary of his visit is still observed by a meeting being held early in June, which is attended by a large number of Wesleyans from the surrounding district, and even from places at a considerable distance.

THE AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY.

Close by the river, and so close that at high tide the water has occasionally flooded the church to a depth of six or eight inches, stands the second religious establishment, which formerly belonged to the Augustinian Order. The foundation of the Augustinian or Black Abbey is attributed to John, first Earl of Kildare, in the year 1315. Not a single notice of interest has been recorded in

connexion with this community during the two or three centuries of its existence. In the reign of Henry VIII. its fate was similar to that of the foundation just described, and like it the building shared the same neglect. In the year 1807 the old parish church having fallen into decay the ruined abbey was fitted up and has since been used for the celebration of Divine service, and forms one of the most interesting Protestant churches in the country. In 1814 the refectory, a large and spacious apartment, was roofed over and converted into a parochial school. After being nearly forty years in use, the church underwent a complete renovation in 1852, on which occasion several windows were filled with stained glass in memory of members of the Quin family. In 1826 the family mausoleum was erected in the cloisters.

The church at present consists of nave, south side-aisle, chancel and tower. The aisle was formerly separated from the nave by four pointed arches resting on massive piers. Only one of these piers now remains, as three of the arches have been thrown into two, which are supported on a circular column. In the south wall is a recessed tomb exactly similar to those noticed in the Franciscan Abbey. The rood loft has disappeared, but the corbels which supported it yet remain. The tower is of later date than the chancel, and rises to the height of seventy-eight feet above the floor. The lower part blocks up a window under which are three sedilia and opposite are two recessed tombs.

The cloisters are entered by a door near the

present vestry. The open space is a square of thirty-three feet each way. The east side is the most elaborately constructed, and bears the arms of the Earls of Kildare and of *Desmond*.

During recent years the interior of the church has been considerably improved, so that nothing is wanting to render the building and its appointments worthy of its sacred associations. The porch has been erected in memory of the Rev. H. Jones, a former curate of the parish. The removal of some ivy on the south wall has brought to light some curiously carved heads and other ornaments on the line of moulding under the eaves.

THE TRINITARIAN ABBEY.

The Trinitarian or White Abbey of Adare is one of the most ancient ecclesiastical foundations which can be attributed to the Norman settlers in this country. The period so closely follows the Norman invasion that there is some little difficulty in fixing the exact date. According to *Lopez*, a Spanish writer who gives an account of the religious houses of the Trinitarians in the British Islands, the Abbey was founded in 1230 by the Earl of Kildare. The Trinitarian Order was founded in 1198 for the purpose of redeeming Christian captives from the hands of Mahometan and heathen masters. The Earl of March, whose nephews had been rescued from a life of slavery by the efforts of the Order, bestowed one of his own seats to found the Abbey at Dunbar in Scotland, as a mark of gratitude for the deliverance of his kinsmen. *Lopez* states that

the Earl of March was on a visit to the Earl of Kildare at Adare, and that it was at his request the establishment was founded. Other authorities ascribe its erection to Thomas Fitzgerald, father of the first Earl of Kildare, and fix the date at 1272. The most probable method of reconciling these two accounts is that the abbey was founded in 1230, and that considerable additions were made in 1272. At these dates the title of Earl of Kildare did not exist, and was not created till 1318, but that need not present great difficulty, for the title might easily have been attributed to an ancestor of its possessor. *Lopez* also gives a long list of eminent members of the community connected with the establishment whose talents and learning had gained for them a high position in their Church. He mentions two cardinals, five archbishops and three bishops who had been members of the Trinitarian Community at Adare.

The house continued to flourish till the time of the Reformation. *Lopez* states that in 1539 the prior and his monks refused to take the oath of Supremacy, whereupon the ministers of the King and the justices persuaded the people to call for punishment on the monks. He states that the local authorities, accompanied by a great crowd of persons, proceeded to the convent and put the monks to death. The statement bears the stamp of improbability on the face of it, and the authority of *Lopez* is not regarded as trustworthy by Roman Catholic writers. The Trinitarians, though deprived of their lands, retained possession of the

convent till a much later period than that of the alleged massacre.

At the beginning of the present century the church was used as a ball-alley by the youth of the neighbourhood, and there was even some intention, it appears, of utilising it for the public benefit by turning it into a market-house. The first Earl of Dunraven interfered and saved the edifice from further desecration. He fitted it up as a Roman Catholic Church, and it need hardly be said is maintained in a manner worthy of its original purpose.

The building is remarkable for its massively-built tower, which seems more suited to a fortress than to a church. Perhaps at the time of its erection it might have been necessary to have a part of the buildings so constructed that it could be used as a place of retreat or refuge by the members of the community in times of danger. In the time of Elizabeth we have seen that on one occasion it was occupied by the English soldiers of Essex in face of the Irish enemy. One angle of the tower is prolonged into a turret and is sixty-three feet in height. The battlements are lofty and prevent the whole from having a heavy appearance. Another portion of the ruins has been converted into a convent for the Sisters of Mercy, to which two schools have been attached. The east window is of rich stained glass and represents the offering of the Magi. It was erected in 1854 by the parishioners to commemorate the munificence of Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven.

Near the church is a small structure called the Pigeon House, circular in form, with walls three feet thick. The external diameter is fourteen feet. "The inside at least consists of a species of fire stone, certainly brought from the shore of the sea, as many marine particles are still visible in them. The top is covered with a dome, and a circular opening about eighteen inches in diameter, well secured by a ring of carved stonework, admits the light in the centre." Mr. Lenihan states that this singular building is thought by some antiquaries to be "nothing less than a vestal fire house, built prior to the introduction of Christianity."*

It is no vestal fire house, but the Pigeon House of the ancient community, and as such is described in the grant to Sir Henry Wallope. [See Notes.]

* Lenihan's "History of Limerick," page 714.



NOTES.

PATENT ROLL 25^o ELIZABETH 1582.

THE QUEEN TO THE LORD JUSTICES,

Directing a lease for 40 years to be made to James Gold of the Abbey of Nenagh, the Black Abbey of ADARE, the White Abbey of Adare, called the Redemptio Captivorum, and the Nunnery of Ballanegillagh, formerly the possessions of Sir John Desmond, but which had been granted in lease to John Zouch for 21 years, and by him conveyed to James Gold, Attorney-General of Munster.

PATENT ROLL, 37^o ELIZABETH 1595.

Grant to Sir Henry Walloppe of the site, ambit and precincts of the late friary of the Trinity of ADARE, in the County of Limerick, called the House of Friars of the Redemption of Captives, with all the houses, edifices and buildings thereto appertaining; seven cottages, several gardens, containing in the whole about 40 acres lying within the borough of Adare; 16 acres arable, 4 acres pasture, a small park, pigeon house, in the town and fields of Adare and certain lands lying in Adare, amongst the borough lands containing by estimation one carucate, two messuages, 12 acres arable in Castle Robert, with a ruined castle and half a carucate of land, three messuages two cottages, twenty-four acres of arable land, pasture and underwood, and the foundation of an old water-mill with a watercourse in the town or townland of Kilkoille *alias*

Kilkule, in the County of Limerick, with other lands in Kilkoille containing half a carucate of land; the tithes of the rectory, church, or chapel of Adare, with all manner of tithes, alterages, oblations, profits and commodities to the rectory appertaining which are annually gathered on the lands of Choro, Cloghran, Twothe, Curragh, Kilnag, Boer, Kylcryll, Rallyrobert, Ballyfaring and Ballygell, and in all the towns within the parish of Adare;—the alterages and two couples of grain due to the curate serving the church only excepted;—a weir (gurgitem) or fishery for taking salmon on the river May, all which were parcel of the possessions of the late house of Friar Preachers of Adare; the site, circuit, ambit and precinct of the house of Friars of the Order of St. Augustine of Adare, containing by estimation two acres, sixteen cottages, seven gardens with all houses and building; appertaining thereto, and a parcel of land lying in the parish called Modullie *alias* Modollagie, containing half a carucate of land and the tithes; a weir (gurgitem) or fishery for taking salmon on the May, all which premises were parcel of the possessions of the late Augustinian Friary; the site, ambit and precinct of the late abbey or monastery of Newnaghe in the County of Limerick, with all messuages, cottages, lands, tenements, rectories, tithes and hereditaments to the monastery appertaining; the late convent or religious house of St. Catherine, otherwise called the monastery of Kaylaghe, otherwise Negaylagh, with all messuages, cottages, buildings and lands thereunto belonging; the site, ambit and precinct of the late house of friars minor of the Order of St. Francis in Adare, containing by estimation sixteen acres of land, in which are a church, cloister, hall, dormitory, library, three chambers, kitchen, bakery, a great park or close on the west of the house and certain stone walls surrounding it; two other parks or closes with walls and ditches; a water mill and a water-course; a weir and fishing place for taking eels and salmon on the May, and all the cottages, buildings, lands, tithes and hereditaments belonging to the monastery; with all tithes, churches,

chapels, commons, marshes, waters, water-courses, fisheries, warrens, court leet, assize of bread, wine and beer, the punishment, correction and emendation thereof, herriots, customs, and all other commodities and emoluments, as well spiritual as temporal, of whatsoever kind, nature, or species they be or by whatsoever names they are known, called, or distinguished; to hold for ever ss of the Castle of Limerick, by fealty only in free and common soccage and not in Capite or by military service.—Rent, £26 17s. 8d.—Dublin, Nov. 4.



CROOM AND ITS NETGNEIGHBOURHOOD,

CHAPTER VIII.

THE village of Croom is situated on the banks of the Maigue between Adare and Bruree, but nearer the former than the latter. It lies in the district which anciently bore the name of Assal. Tory Hill was anciently Cnoc-Droma Assal. In the Four Masters mention is made of a battle which was fought at Ceann duin in Assal in the year 4169.

In 1088 an invading army under Donal McLoughlin, King of Ireland, and Rory O'Connor, King of Connaught, having first burned Limerick ravaged the surrounding district, destroying amongst other places Dun Aiched, now Dunachip, in the parish of Dysert, and Drum Ui Cleirchein, that is O'Cleirchein's Ridge, now Dromin.

The name of Croom first occurs in an account of a predatory excursion in 1151, when Rory O'Connor "carried away many cows and burned Cromadh." A chief of the Ui Fidhgeinte had his residence here, which, on the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, was included in the dominions of the newcomers. The rath of the O'Donovans and the O'Briens was replaced by a strong castle in the time of King John.* It is similar in con-

* Caherass, The Fort of the Cataract, preserves the name of another of these Celtic strongholds.

struction to that erected about the same period at Castleconnell, and was a simple rectangle with round towers at the four corners.

The fortunes of Croom and Adare were closely linked together. In the reign of Edward I., on the death of Walter de Lacy, his vast possessions were divided between his two surviving sisters. Margaret, the eldest, married John de Verdon, who thereby obtained part of de Lacy's lordship of Meath, and with it the office of Chief Constable of Ireland. He obtained also possessions in other parts of Ireland, amongst which are included the castles and manors of Croom, Adare and Castle Robert. As in the case of Adare, the lands of Croom were conveyed to Maurice Fitzgerald, and from this place the Kildare branch of the Geraldines took their war-cry of Croom Aboo, words which are still the motto of their head, the Duke of Leinster.

In 1310 the first Earl of Kildare obtained the Royal permission to wall the town of Croom. In 1312 he held a "great, rich and peaceable" Christmas feast at Xdare. The castles of Croom and Adare were too remote from the centre of government to be quite convenient for the Earls of Kildare, and consequently when the castle of Maynooth was enlarged in the early part of the fourteenth century it became the chief seat of the family.

On the attainder of the Earl of Kildare in 1537, Croom was bestowed upon the Earl of Desmond for life, but early in the next century it reverted to

its original possessors. Pierce Lacy, a descendant of its first Norman proprietor, obtained temporary possession of the place in 1600, and according to Carew "gave great annoyance to the subjects there and comfort to the rebels, being erected at the entrance into Connoloe." When Carew marched to the capture of Glin, he turned aside out of his way to get possession of Croom. It must have been recovered again, for O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrone, halted his wearied army here after their long march from near Holycross in the County of Tipperary whilst hastening to join O'Neill before Kinsale. In 1610 the Earl of Kildare was again in possession of Croom, and it remained in the hands of that family till 1721, when it was sold to Mr. Croker of Ballinagarde.*

The principal objects of historic interest in the neighbourhood of Croom are the Church and Round Tower of Dysert and the Abbey of Manister.

CHURCH OF DYSERT.

The Church of Dysert has been pronounced to be undoubtedly one dating from the primitive age of Christianity. In Lord Dunraven's "Memorials of Adare" the date of the erection of the Church is fixed at 780, and it is attributed to Aengus, the Culdee. The distinctive features of the building have been destroyed, but sufficient remains to

* From the Rent Roll of Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, 1518, it appears the right of presentation to the following livings in the Diocese of Limerick belonged then to the Earls of Kildare—viz., the Parsonage of Effin, the Parsonage of Ballingaddy, the Parsonage and Vicarage of Dromin, Vicarage of Adare, Parsonage of Derrygalvin, Parsonage and Vicarage of Croom, Parsonage and Vicarage of Achlerkagh, and the chapel of Chapel Russell.

show that it was rectangular in shape, fifty-three feet long by seventeen wide. The walls are three feet thick, formed of huge blocks of limestone externally and internally, the space between the two casings being filled with rubble. The doorway is in a very peculiar position for an ancient church, not being as is usual at the west end but situated in the south side. It is popularly believed that this is only one church of many which formerly existed at this spot, and the appearance of the adjacent ground would bear out the supposition that an extensive establishment existed here in remote times.

About the period fixed for the erection of the church there did flourish a celebrated anchorite named Aenghus, who was amongst the first, if not the very first, to bear the name Culdee. He was educated at the celebrated School of Clonenagh, in Queen's County, and preferring a solitary life he lived apart at a place called Dysert Beagh, whence he removed afterwards to Dysert Enos, or Dysert Aengus, near Maryborough. The word Dysert is another form of desert, and points to the intimate connexion which existed between the monasticism of the Irish Church and that of the East. There were two classes of monks, those living in communities, and anchorites who led solitary lives remote from their fellows in the deserts of Egypt and Syria. The latter were at first peculiar to Eastern monasticism. In later times they are to be found living their peculiar life side by side with the other monks, but dwelling in enclosed cells from

which they rarely emerged. His solitary cell was the desertum or desert in which the anchorite dwelt in seclusion cut off from all distracting influences of the outer world, and living on the alms of the faithful. This form of monasticism was common in Ireland, as may be seen by the number of places in the country bearing the name Desart, Desert, Dysert or Dysart. The enclosed walled-up cell of the anchorite, in which often he could neither stand up nor lie down at full length, was attached to the church of the monks living in communities. Aengus seems to have been the first of these anchorites in Ireland, who, on account of their extreme piety and rigid self-mortification, were called Culdees, a word derived either from the Latin Cultores Dei, worshippers of God, or more likely from the Celtic, Ceile De, servant of God. From Dysert Enos, in the present Queen's County, Aengus removed to Tallaght, where with St. Mailruan, abbot of that celebrated monastery, he composed various works, and amongst them his Feilere, or the Festilogy of the Saints, which entitle him to be regarded as the most ancient and reliable authority on the history of the ancient saints of Ireland. This must be the saint whose name is connected with Dysert Aengus, near Croom, though there appears to be no particular incident in his life which connects him with this spot, and another place in the Queen's County bears his name.

ROUND TOWER OF DYSSERT.

Close to the church stands the Round Tower,

which, thanks to the Board of Works, is in very fair preservation. It is sixty-seven feet in height. The internal diameter at the base is over seventeen feet, diminishing to thirteen at the top. The tower is constructed of granite blocks hammered into segments to suit the shape of the tower. Those at the base are of considerable size, but they become smaller as they go up. The doorway is at a distance of fifteen feet from the present level of the ground and faces the east. This is one of the very few doorways of any round tower which have any decoration at all, and the only one with a ball moulding in the arch such as this possesses. The arch of the doorway is peculiar. It is not carried through the whole thickness of the wall, but a little more than half way the arch stops short and is blocked up, so that from the inside the doorway has a square top, no curve being visible. The arrangement for lighting the interior admits of every kind of variety of shape and outline. The first or ground floor was not lighted at all, the second only by the doorway just mentioned, the third floor was lit by a triangular headed window on the west side, the fourth by a round-headed window on the south, and the fifth and highest by a square-headed window on the north-east. Although the edifice is in very good preservation it is generally considered that one storey is wanting, as the existing upper storey does not present the usual features found in those round towers that are still perfect. In these the topmost storey generally possesses four windows facing the four cardinal points, and therefore it

may be concluded that the Round Tower of Dysert was originally somewhat higher than it is at present. That after the lapse of probably a thousand years it should be so perfect as it is now, is owing to the remarkable tenacity of the mortar used in its construction. The mortar is composed of pebbles, grits and lime, mixed together in such excellent proportions that the compound has almost the hardness of the granite blocks it is used to unite.

The origin and use of these round towers had long been a vexed question amongst antiquarians. They were considered to be of pagan origin, and some regarded them as being connected with an obscure form of Cuthite worship, or that they were towers erected by the Zoroastrian fire-worshippers. Those who rejected the pagan idea for the Christian looked upon them as being merely belfries attached to the churches, or pillars for saints such as Simon Stylites. The conical top disposes of the latter hypothesis. Of course their erection was attributed to the Danes as forts or places of refuge, for which they were evidently well fitted. Dr. Petrie investigated the history and origin of the round towers, and concluded that they could not be of pagan origin, for the pagan Celts did not possess such a knowledge of building as would enable them to erect such difficult structures. He considers them to be of Christian and ecclesiastical origin, and that the period of their erection extends from the introduction of Christianity to the thirteenth century. As to their use, they were designed to serve a triple purpose, namely, as belfries, as depositories for the safe keeping of sacred utensils

relics, or other valuables, and into which the ecclesiastics could retire in case of attack, and finally as beacons and watch towers. The time fixed by Dr. Petrie for the introduction of the round towers is considered rather early, and Lord Dunraven fixes the date of the earliest at later than the year 800, and subsequent to the invasion of the Danes. This date came very close to that given by Lord Dunraven for the erection of the church, and St. Aengus lived some years after 800, as his Feilere was finished in that year, and it was not the last of his works.

It would appear that, like Dysert close by, the round towers again connect the Celtic Church with the East. It was in Central Syria that the use of cupolas and church towers was first discovered, and whence this mode of construction was derived. From Syria this peculiar style of architecture was carried westward, examples of which are still to be found on the Continent. The type of building exactly suited the requirement of the Celtic ecclesiastics when the invading Danes spread themselves over the county, burning the monasteries and murdering their inmates. As signal towers, as watch towers, as places of retreat for the monks and of safe keeping for the sacred books and vessels, and as belfries, they combined all the requirements of the community dwelling around their base.

A short distance west of Dysert is the low broad tower of Donaman, erected by Catherine, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Desmond in 1506. The

castle is forty-six feet long by thirty-three broad, and the walls are now thirty-one feet high, and were never much higher. The available space within is very small, as the walls are no less than eight feet thick, through which passages and diminutive chambers have been constructed in the upper storey. To the right of the entrance is the guard-room, and on the roof of this passage is a hole by means of which assailants could be attacked from above. On the outer wall of the building may be observed one of those grotesque figures called *Sheela-na-gigs*, representing a female in a very grotesque attitude. A similar figure will be found on the neighbouring castle of Tullavin.

ABBAY OF MANISTER.

The transition from the plain and simple church of Dysert to the Abbey of Manister marks an era in the ecclesiastical architecture not only of Limerick, but of Ireland. Up to the early years of the twelfth century the churches were planned on very simple lines. They were plain rectangles, with or without a chancel, as the case may be, and seldom exceeding forty feet by twenty. The majority of these were of much smaller dimensions and appear to have been oratories or places for the safe keeping of sacred vessels, manuscripts and vestments. They could not contain any congregation, who must have therefore assembled in the open air. None of these churches appear to have been provided with *sedilia*, *piscina*, or credence table.

The earlier half of the twelfth century was

signalized by the introduction of a new style of ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland. Cormac's Chapel on the Rock of Cashel (erected 1134), marks the highest development of which the old Celtic form was capable. The Abbey of Manister is the first in the County of Limerick erected in the style introduced from the Continent. About the year 1138 Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, made a journey to Rome and stopped on his way to visit St. Bernard at the Monastery of Clairvaux, where a community of the Cistercians, a reformation of the Benedictines, had been established. On his return he again visited Clairvaux, and by St. Bernard was persuaded to introduce the Order into Ireland. The first monastery of the Order was founded at Mellifont, near Drogheda, in 1142. Dermot McMorrough founded Baltinglass in 1148. The third foundation of the Order was that by Turlogh O'Brien on the banks of the Camoge, in pious acknowledgement of a victory gained by him over the Danes at Rathmore. The level space is said to have been given some years before to Malachy by his personal friend Cormac Mac Carthy, and appears to have been previously used as a well known place of assemblage. The establishment is called by the Four Masters Mainister-an-aonaigh, which means the Monastery of the Fair or assemblage. It is also referred to as Nenay and de Magio, the Monastery of the Plain (in Irish Magh). It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and was filled with monks from Mellifont. Before the end of the twelfth century the house at Abbeyfeale was made a Cell to Manister. The

establishment de Magio grew into such importance and magnitude that it furnished monks for Holy Cross in Tippzrary and Chore Abbzy near Middleton in Cork, and its head sat as one of the Spiritual Peers of Parliament from the time of King John. The same monarch in 1211 confirmed to the abbey the lands upon which it stood, and some further privileges were granted by his son and successor, Henry III., in 1227. With the exception of the names of various abbots and some minor disputes and renting of lands, there is little to be traced in connexion with the abbey till the middle of the fourteenth century is reached.

In 1365 Turlogh Mael O'Brien succeeded to the sovereignty of Thomond on the death of his elder brother Mahon. We did not long enjoy the crown, for Brian, the warlike son of the late monarch, dispossessed his uncle and drove him from the kingdom. Turlogh fled for refuge to Garret, Earl of Desmond, who warmly espoused his cause and raised an army to restore him to his lost position. Brian marched to meet the coalition of English and Irish formed against him, and the two armies met on the 10th of July, 1369, on a level plain adjacent to the monastery. A bloody engagement ensued, which resulted in the defeat and overthrow of the Anglo-Irish expedition by Brian. Many English nobles and the Earl of Desmond were captured in the abbey, to which they had fled for refuge, and not released till heavy ransoms had been paid. The victory placed Brian in undisturbed possession of the Kingdom of Thomond, and he is generally distinguished from others of

his name as Brian Catha-an-Aenaigh, that is, Brian of the Battle of Nenay. Turlogh accepted an asylum offered him from the the Earl of Desmond, and many years afterwards his descendants had assigned to them by their protectors a district in the County of Waterford, where a distinct branch of the O'Briens have since continued to reside.

Another important battle took place here in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, October, 3rd, 1579. After the death of James Fitzmaurice,* the Spanish troops which landed at Smerwick in Kerry moved eastward into the heart of the county under the command of Sir John Fitzgerald, younger brother of the Earl of Desmond. The latter was unable to make up his mind whether he should remain attached to the English interest or throw in his lot with his more enterprising brother and place himself at the head of his Irish retainers. The Irish and Spanish encamped some time at Slieve Logher, but finding the Earl undecided, the Lord Deputy unable to take the field through illness, and having defeated a detachment at Springfield, they were emboldened to march into the open country and fixed their camp at Manister. The Lord Deputy had placed the Munster forces under the command of Sir Nicholas Malby, who was on his way with his army to secure Askeaton, when he was informed that the enemy were within short distance. He retraced his steps and gave them

battle at Monasternenagh. The Irish and Spanish were drawn up in good order, the former having been well drilled by the foreign officers, and numbered about two thousand men. Malby had six hundred men, whom he drew into a square, with small outlying parties, and his baggage in the rear. Dr. Allen, the papal legate, was present encouraging the Irish and Spanish troops, assuring them of victory and bearing aloft the consecrated banner which he had received from the Pope. Having received the Papal blessing the Irish began the attack, marching in good order with artillery on either wing. The English were able to fire two volleys before the Irish were upon them with the pike. Twice their headlong valour pierced the English lines, and twice they were driven back again. The fierce hand-to-hand encounter lasted some time. and for a while victory seemed now to favour the one now the other. A third and deadly volley from the English ranks fired at close quarters decided the issue, and the Irish retired defeated, but still formidable. They retired to the mountain fastness of Aherlow, severely chastising on their way the garrison of Kilmallock, who had sallied out to attack them. Amongst the slain was found the body of the papal legate, who, according to Leland, like some of the warrior monks of earlier times, had not disdained to grasp the sword in defence of what he believed to be right.

Many refugees sought safety within the shelter of the abbey walls, but in vain. Malby turned his cannon against the massive buildings and a breach

* See further under "Castleconnell."

was speedily effected. The soldiery poured in and gave no quarter either to armed men or to the defenceless monks. The latter crowded into the church seeking an asylum in that sacred place. But no place was sacred to the victorious troops, and all were put to the sword without mercy.

The Annals of the Cistercians, compiled in the seventeenth century contain a beautiful legend in connexion with this event. It is related that an old monk escaped from the slaughter, and concealed himself till evening, which was the eve of the Assumption. Alone he entered the chancel where the butchery had taken place but a few hours before, and flinging himself upon the broken statue of the Virgin wept bitterly that now there were none to keep the festival of her to whom the church was dedicated. Whilst he sorrowed broken-hearted, suddenly it seemed the chancel became filled with light, the dead arose with crowns of victory on their heads and triumphal palm branches in their hands. They took their accustomed places in the choir, and sang the vesper in strains of heavenly music. The monk, overawed, took his part in the service, not daring to raise his head or to look round. All too soon the last chant died away in silence, the radiance faded into the darkness of evening, and his aged eyes rested only on the blood-stained walls and the gashed and gory corpses of his brothers.

Many of the best soldiers amongst the Geraldines perished at the battle of Manister, and the Clan Sheehy suffered severely. The head of the house

of Desmond, and Fitzmaurice, Lord of Lixnaw, looked on ingloriously from the summit of Tory Hill, and the Earl sent a message next day to Sir Nicholas Malby congratulating him on his victory, and advising him to change the place of his camp between the abbey and the river because it was unsuitable. Malby replied by laying the Earl's towns of Rathkeale and Askeaton in ruins. The Earl seems to have been unable to realise that his own fortunes and those of his house were being decided that day on the little plain near the foot of Tory Hill. A Desmond never appeared again at the head of an army, and a few years after witnessed the total overthrow of a house which for centuries had held royal sway in Munster.

From an inquisition of October, 1578, exactly a year before the battle, it is found that Queen Elizabeth granted the abbey with its lands to Sir Warham St. Leger for £22 17s. 8d., though evidently the knight did not interfere with the possessors of the building. The fabric went gradually to decay, but it was not till quite recently that the vaulted roof fell, destroying at the same time the east window and part of the chancel. The progress of the ruin is said to have been very materially assisted by some of the outbuildings being demolished in order that the materials might be used in the construction of stables.

Like other Cistercian abbeys it is constructed on the model of Clairvaux, so that there can be no

difficulty in ascertaining its ground plan and of forming an idea of what it was like before its destruction.

The only portions of this great pile of buildings now standing are the church, parts of the chapter house, and some fragments of wall. The walls of the church are over forty feet in height, and are covered with a luxuriant growth of ivy. The church is a plain rectangle one hundred and seventy-nine feet in length. It is divided into nave and chancel by a wall pierced by a low doorway only six feet in height. On each side of the nave are two lofty arches of reddish grit, which curve off at a height of eleven feet. At the south-west corner a massive square tower is said to have stood. The nave is considered to be the original budding founded by Turlogh O'Brien, the other portions having been added at later periods. The chancel is eighty-one feet in length. The eastern end has been destroyed. The chancel arch was one of the largest in Ireland. It was twenty-five feet broad, the shafts were seventeen and a half feet high, and the apex of the pointed arch was about thirty-five feet above the floor. It was an almost unique specimen of Irish architecture before the arrival of the English. The external buildings have been almost totally destroyed, nothing being left but the foundations, which show they were of considerable extent, and that the cloisters, if any existed, must have been unusually large. In the walls of the church are embedded pillars of red grit and ornamented capitals of the same material, which have been in

some places built up in order to effect subsequent additions.

The abbey of Manister in its present condition does not favourably compare in gracefulness of design and beauty of detail with those of Adare. But it must be remembered it is a very much more ancient foundation than anything they can boast of, and that its erection was begun by an Irish monarch before the appearance of the Anglo-Normans in this county.

Not far from the abbey is the Castle of Rathmore, a square tower about seventy feet in height, strongly built and without outworks. After the battle of Monasternenagh it fell into the hands of the English. The Earl of Desmond, writing from Askeaton, complains that Malby, "being in camp at the abbey of Nenagh, sent certain of his men to enter into Rathmore and there murdered the keepers, spoiled the town and castle, and took away from thence certain evidences and writings."

Eastward of Rathmore, and by the banks of the Camoge, is the strongly fortified enclosure of Glenogra, which derives its name from Ogra, a forgotten Irish chief, whose earthen fort is at a short distance. The enclosed space of the castle measures one hundred and eighty feet long by a hundred and fifty broad, and the wall is in some places still over twenty feet in height. In the north-east corner stands an octagonal tower four stories high, with walls seven feet thick. The second storey is formed by the usual stone-work arch. From one side of the octagon rises a small square tower containing a spiral staircase, and

from another springs a tall chimney whose height rivals that of the tower. Under the north wall are four vaults over which towers originally stood, but which have long since disappeared. On the opposite side is the chief entrance to the enclosure, and here in times of danger the cattle upon which the garrison depended for their supplies could be driven out of the reach of marauding bands. There is no record of the erection of this stronghold, but tradition popularly ascribes it to an Earl of Desmond, and fixes the date about the year 1400. On the opposite side of the road is a ruined church not possessing any features of interest, and concerning which nothing is known.

In the little church of Fedamore is erected an ancient monument the inscription on which is of interest:—"Here lyeth ye body of John Croker, late of Ballyneguard, in the County of Limerick, Esquire, who was the son of Edward, who was the son of Thomas John Croker, of Lyneham, in the County of Devon, in the Kingdom of Great Brittain, Esquire, by Groud, his wife, who died the 12th of July, in the year of our Lord, 1717, being the 93rd year of his age, beareth argent, a cheveron, engraved gules, between three ravens proper, by the name of Croker, of Croker's Hall, in the County of Devon." Rochestown, Williamstown, Balinloughane, the property of Lord Brittas, and Ballynegard, the property of Theobald Burke, were granted by the Crown to Dr. Carteret in 1663. They were purchased from him by Clayton, who shortly afterwards sold them to Croker.

NOTES.

ABBAY OF MANISTER-NENAGH.

The following notes respecting this abbey are found in Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum*:—

Monasternenagh, in the barony of Poble O'Brien. An abbey was founded here to the honour of the Virgin Mary, A.D. 1148 or 1151, by O'Brien, who furnished it with monks, of the Cistercian Order from the abbey of Mellifont, in the County of Louth. The cell of Feal was afterwards annexed to this house.

A.D. 1174 Donatus, abbot of this house, was a subscribing witness to the grant made by Dermot, King of Munster, to Gill Abbey in Cork.

1295. It appears that Adam de Dermoghe was abbot before this year.

1304. Isaac was abbot; for we find that on the 7th of March in this year he granted to John Bathe, the son of Simon, the whole grange of Grangenaw, for the space and term of thirty years, paying annually thereout forty cronnogs of bread-corn, twenty of pease and beans, and twenty of oats, all properly cleansed and winnowed; and also that he should pay snit and service at their court of Mage twice in every year; and if the said John, his heir and assigns, should at any time be annexed in the said court, the fine should not exceed sixpence.

1307. William, the abbot, granted to Robert, Bishop of Limerick, all the land which Laur. Osenyk, held from him in Camysbeg for the term of twenty-nine years, at the annual rent of fifty shillings.

It is recorded that Isaac was abbot the same year, and that in 1311 he alienated several lands belonging to this abbey.

1313. In this year John the abbot petitioned the King to be restored to the lands which Isaac had alienated, and which had been seized into the King's hands, this abbey being a royal foundation.

1317. The abbot recovered the Grange of Mahunaun, in this county, from Maurice FitzThomas.

1366. Henry was abbot some time before this year.

1370. On the 10th of July of this year Gerald, Earl of Desmond, together with the Lord John Fitz Nicholas, the Lord Thomas Fitz John, and several of the nobility were taken prisoners near the monastery, where many other nobles were slain by O'Brien and McComar of Thomond.

1579. This year Marshal Malby, at the head of 100 horse and 600 foot defeated 2,000 of the Irish; although they fought valiantly at first, yet were 260 of them slain. Amongst them we find Dr. Allen, the famous legate from the See of Rome. The action happened near the monastery.

The abbot was a baron of parliament.

At the general suppression the abbot of this house was found in possession of the site of the same, together with five ploughlands, one adjoining the site and called the ploughland of the abbey; another called Bally McStradin and Grange, alias Gransey; two ploughlands called Barmean and one called Booollyboord; Cloghmanagh . . . and all tithes, oblations, &c., of the said ploughlands; the entire parish of Nenay, belonging to the said abbey and extending to the towns of Granshelath, Cammas, Garranamanagh, Knocknecrawly, Cahircriffe, Cloghmenagh, Eilkereby, Bowharany and Lackangrenagh, with the presentation of the aforesaid rectory, a mill-seat and water-course and weirs for eels and pikes on the river Comeage; six shillings yearly rent issuing from Garranamanagh, and £1 and 8d. arising from Grottensillagh.

RATTLE OF MANISTER.

O'Daly, in his History of the Geraldines, written about the year 1650, gives the following account of this battle:—

A few days after this signal victory (Gort-na-Tibrid), Nicholas Malby, President of Connaught, marched through

Limerick and pitched his camp at Ena-beg. The English troops he commanded were few, but he was assisted by Irish auxiliaries who basely drew the sword against their own countrymen. Foremost amongst these were Ulick and John Burke, sons of the Lord Clanricard. Thomas Fitzgerald, son of John, was captain of his father's horse, and deemed it prudent to send out a few squadrons to reconnoitre the enemy's position. On seeing them approach, the English retired to their camp, and then suddenly wheeling about fell on the reconnoitring party and put them to flight. Perceiving this, John of Desmond rode up rapidly and commanded the fugitives to turn and stand. Seeing this the English halted, and did not dare to follow up their momentary advantage. Then John of Desmond commanded his men to attack them on the instant, and so bold and overwhelming was his charge that Malby's troopers were routed and put to flight. But as it afterwards proved, they only feigned a retreat, their object being to lead the Geraldines into an ambuscade. There was not a moment to be lost, and John dashed against the enemy's right wing and caused it to retire. Indeed the thundering of their heavy guns did more at the crisis than their balls, for owing to the broken ground their batteries were badly pointed. Many of the English were slain, and among them a distinguished officer. As for the rest, the Geraldines charged them repeatedly, till at last they took refuge in a bog that was hard by. After a fight that lasted one hour and a half, their artillery and standards were captured by John of Desmond; but he and his brave men had to lament the loss of his son Thomas and also that of Sir Thomas Browne, Knight. After the victory, and when Desmond's men had taken a little sleep and food, they marched from Connellge in the direction of Aherlow.

The following is the account of the same event in the Annals of the Four Masters:—

As for Captain Malby, he, after the death of the Lord Justice (Sir William Drury), proceeded to Limerick to recruit his army and to procure provisions for his soldiers,

and from thence he proceeded to Askeaton; and it was on the same day that the young sons of the Earl of Desmond came to look for fight or prey in the County of Limerick, where they and the Captain met face to face although they could have shunned and avoided him. A battle was bravely fought between them, in which the Irish army were so resolutely encountered and pressed by the Captain's forces that they were finally routed with the loss of Thomas, the son of John Oge, son of John, son of Thomas, son of the Earl, and Omen, the son of Edmond Oge, son of Edmond, son of Turlough Mac Sheehy; and a great number of the constables of Clanu-Sheehy, with a great many of the people of the sons of the Earl. Great spoils consisting of weapons and military attire were left on the occasion to the Captain's people. This battle was fought at Aenach-beeg.

THE TERDON FAMILY.

This distinguished family was for a long period connected with the City and County of Limerick.

1553 William Verdon was Mayor of Limerick. In 1579 John Verdon was sovereign of Kilmallock, and in 1585 he was one of the members for that borough.

A Henry Verdon was included amongst the "nobility, citizens and burgesses of the counties, cities and ancient boroughs of Ireland," who petitioned James I. for the relief of their grievances. He signed for Kilmallock.

In the churchyard at Kilmallock will be found a tomb in memory of George Verdon (*quondam Consulis Killocensis*), who died in 1632, and of Anastasia Verdon, who died in 1597, erected by James Verdon, their son and heir.

The name is not to be found in the Table of the Appendix of the Registrar-General, showing the surnames in Ireland, having five entries and upwards in the birth indexes of 1890.

THE FASTNESS OF CONNELLO.

CHAPTER IX.

WHEN Sir George Carew undertook the pacification of Munster he found it necessary to begin with the portion of the County of Limerick, west of the Maigue, known as Connello. The district was covered with dense forest, the ground was in part rugged and uneven, part marsh and bog. The mountainous recesses afforded shelter to the light armed and active Irish, who could watch their opponents struggling with the difficulties of the way and choose their own time for adding to their embarrassment. The district contained numerous castles, the remains of many of which are to be found at the present day.

In a letter written October 18th, 1569, from Limerick, Captain John Warde informs Cecil of the valiant conduct of Colonel Gyiberte in the relief of Kilmallock, that Lieutenant Crewes was wounded before Garrystown (? Ballingarry), and that the castle was stormed and the garrison of 40 men put to the sword. Then he proceeds to inform the Secretary of the march of the army through Connello and Kenry, "where never any English ensign was displayed." He announces the surrender of the following castles, most of which

can be easily identified at the present time, viz. :—Craghan Castell, the Ralff, Ballegeltgone, Gille-makno of Suppell's Kilfenney, Penston, Lesemottey, Ballangoare, Ballerenowe, the New Towne, Balle-allenay, the New Castell, Killanohwne, Cortenay-towbryte, Dwnmoellen, Shannet, St. Patterick's hill, Corragg, Houne, the Pallyse, Baldon, Robert Towne, Askeaton, Wheyn (?Glyn), Castelltowne, Rynekerkey, Pelleglohane, &c.

The list of castles, though long, is not exhaustive, as may be seen by the &c. at the end. On that occasion the chiefs of James Fitzmaurice's men sued for mercy. Owen McShe (Mac Sheehy) was killed, and Conor McShe and William McShe, his brother, and Lacye were hanged and quartered.

Some idea of the strength of the southern portion of Connello and the mode of warfare pursued at the time may be gathered from the account of an expedition which scoured this district in 1580. In that year the Annals of the Four Masters state that a "great muster was made of the men of Meath, Fingal and Leinster, and of all these who were subject to the laws of England from the Boyne to the meeting of the Three Waters,* by the Lord Justice (Sir William Pelham) and the Earl of Ormond, about the festival of St. Bridget, for the purpose of marching into the territory of the Geraldines. The Earl of Ormond joined this muster with an immense host. He made no delay but marched on to Cork. The Lord Justice proceeded with all his forces to Limerick, and although

* The meeting of the Suir, Nore and Barrow at Waterford Harbour.

it was at that time cold spring weather he delayed in that town only a week to furnish his soldiers with arms and provisions there. Thence he proceeded south-west by Deis-beg and along the salmon-ful Maigue, and pitched his camp in Hy Connello. He sent forth loose marauding parties into Coill More,* into the woods of Claenglaise,† and into the wilds of Delge.‡ These wherever they passed showed mercy neither to the strong nor to the weak. It was not wonderful that they should kill men fit for action, but they killed blind and feeble men, women, boys and girls, sick persons, idiots and old people. They carried their cattle and other property to the Lord Justice's camp, but great numbers of the English were slain by the plundering parties who followed in pursuit of the preys."

The Earl of Essex at the head of a large army, and attended by the Earls of Thomond and Ormond, did not find it an easy task when he set out from Limerick to assist the garrison of Askeaton in 1599. His march from the Maigue to the Deel was one long conflict, as appears from the following :—

"On the first night after they left Limerick in the month of June, they encamped upon the banks of the river of Adare ; and as they advanced westwards on the next day, Saturday, through the bog of Robhar (now Rour), the soldiers and

* The great wood covering the adjacent parts of Limerick and Cork.

† The south-west corner of Limerick.

‡ Delliga, in the barony of Orrery, County Cork, on the borders of the County of Limerick.

warriors of the Earl of Desmond and the Geraldine host showed them their faces. Fierce and morose was the salute and welcome which they gave to the representative of their sovereign on his first visit to them, and to his army; for they discharged into their eyes the fire and smoke of their black powder and showers of balls from their straightly aimed guns; and he heard the uproar, clamour and exulting shouts of their champion and common soldiers instead of the submission, honour and of the mild and courteous words that should have been spoken to him. Howbeit, the result of the conflict was that great numbers of the Earl of Essex's men were cut off, and that he was not suffered to make any remarkable progress that day, so that he pitched his camp a short distance to the east of Askeaton. On the next day, Sunday, he and the Earls of Ormond and Thomond resolved to send a body of cavalry to lay up ammunition in Askeaton, and not to proceed any further westwards into Munster themselves on this occasion. On their return eastwards next day (Monday), when they arrived near Baile-an-Eleteraigh*, they received a stout and resolute conflict and a furious and formidable battle from the Geraldines, and many of the Earl of Essex's people were slain on that day, and among the rest a noble knight of great name and honour, i.e., Sir Henry Norris. The Earl of Essex then proceeded to Kilmallock, and having remained three nights in that town he directed his course

* Now Finniterstown, three miles from Adare, where there are the remains of a castle.

southwards . . . the Geraldines continuing to follow, pursue, and press upon them, to shoot at, wound, and slaughter them. . . . The Gaels of Ireland were wont to say that it would have been better for him that he had not gone on this expedition from Dublin to Hy-Connell-Gaura, as he turned back after the first conflict that was maintained against him without having received submission or respect from the Geraldines."

With such a formidable list of fortified posts as that given above, scattered over a country covered with forests, and held many of them by the Mac Sheehys, who had been introduced into this county early in the fifteenth century, the reduction of Connello by ordinary means was an almost impossible task. Sir George Carew, in reviewing the work that was set before him, was right in his estimate when he says in the year 1600, that "the greatest hope of the arch-traitor Desmond did consist in Connelloe," whose people "did yield him more command and relief than any part of the province beside." Carew ultimately succeeded in destroying the Desmond power in Connello; but by a policy on which he prided himself as being the originator: "He did think that if the heads themselves might be set at variance they would prove the most fit instruments to ruin one another."

The position of the claimants to the Earldom of Desmond at this time lent itself readily to the display of that "witt and cunning" which its author has recorded with frankness.

James FitzJohn, fifteenth Earl of Desmond, was married first to Joan, daughter of Lord Fermoy,

and had a son Thomas. Joan was divorced, and the earl's second wife was Maud, daughter of the lord of Eily O'Carroll, by whom he had Gerald and John. Earl James lived through the reigns of four English monarchs, and on his death in 1558, at an advanced age, he got his second son Gerald secured in the Earldom, thus passing over the claims of Thomas, his eldest son. Gerald, the Rebel Earl, was attainted, his estates forfeited, and he was murdered in 1583. His brother John, who fought the battle of Manister, had been killed two years before. James, the eldest son of Gerald, had been given in youth as a hostage to the English Government, and was now detained in the Tower of London. Thomas, who had been deprived of the title, had never been able to get his claims acknowledged by the Government, and died leaving a son also named James.

When O'Neill rose in revolt against Elizabeth, in order to gain the adherence of the Munster malcontents he acknowledged James, son of Thomas, as Earl of Desmond, and took it upon himself to confer the title upon him. This James, son of Thomas, was called by his enemies in derision the Sugan Earl, and rightly or wrongly he is thus known in history to distinguish him from his cousin of the same name who was the eldest son of Earl Gerald.

The Sugan Earl was the acknowledged head of the house of Desmond, and amongst his most trusted adherents was a Connaught chief named Dermot O'Connor, who brought to his assistance some fourteen hundred mercenary troops called

bonnaghts. O'Connor was considered by Carew to be "one of the most valiant leaders and best commanders amongst the Irish rebels." He was closely allied to the Desmonds, for he had married Margaret, daughter of Earl Gerald and cousin of the Sugan Earl.

This was Carew's opportunity. He placed himself in communication with Lady Margaret, and proposed that her husband should deliver up to him the Sugan Earl in order, he said, to open up the way for the release of her brother James and his restoration to the forfeited Earldom and estates. Her husband. Dermot O'Connor, for his share in the work was to receive a reward of a thousand pounds and a commission in the Queen's army. O'Connor undertook the task, and in order that he might carry it out the more easily Carew gave him a letter addressed from himself to the Sugan Earl as if had been a secret traitor all this time, and asking him to deliver up O'Connor dead or alive. This pretended letter was given to O'Connor, who was to say he had intercepted it, and produce it to Desmond's followers as justification for the seizure.

As the Earl was at this time watching Carew in order to prevent him throwing five hundred men into Askeaton, the latter dispersed his forces knowing that the Earl would do the same. Dermot thus having separated the Earl from his forces contrived an interview with him. The latter came with two hundred foot and Dermot was attended by one hundred and fifty of his bonnaghts. A dispute arose between their men, and Dermot "so blew

the coal that the Kerne of the one and the Bonnaghts of the other were ready to pass from words to blows." To prevent disturbance the Earl dismissed his followers, whereupon he was seized and with two of the Clan Sheehy were conveyed through the fastness of Connello to Castle Lishen, or Ishyn, south of Drumcollogher. Dermot next seized Ballyallinan, near Ballingarry (which was held by the father of the two Mac Sheehys above mentioned), and sent his wife to meet the Lord President at Kilmallock in order to receive the promised reward.

News of the capture of the Sугan Earl spread rapidly, and before Lady Margaret could reach Carew, the Earl's brother John, Pierce Lacy, and William Burke got together a force of four thousand men, including Dermot's bonnaghts, captured Castle Lishen, and set free the Earl.

Such was the treachery of the time that Dermot felt it necessary to write a letter from Ballyallinan to the Lord President assuring him that the escape was without his knowledge.

The President "being out of hope to get this Haggard into his hands by these lime twigs," marched from Limerick into the heart of Connello to Ballingarry to rescue Dermot, who was now himself besieged in Ballyallinan. Before Carew appeared before the place, Dermot surrendered on condition of being received back as before. Carew having captured Croom from Pierce Lacy marched on Askeaton, where he remained four days in expectation of provisions which were to come

from Limerick by water. From thence on the 4th of July hemarched to Glin by way of Ballintare, upon the mountain of Slieve Logher, the enemy to the number of three thousand men accompanying him. The Irish did not attack him on account of the jealousies which he had so carefully fomented between the Limerick troops and the bonnaghts. With the two strong garrisons of Kilmallock on one side and Askeaton on the other. Connello was at the mercy of the English. Parties of troops traversed the county in all directions destroying everything within their reach, and as Carew sagely said, "when famine succeeds scarcity, there is no means for a rebel long to subsist."

In order to sow greater disunion amongst the Geraldines, James, the son of Gerald, who had been detained in the Tower as a hostage, was released. The title of Earl of Desmond was conferred on him by Elizabeth, and he was sent to Kilmallock. This move disappointed the expectations of the English Government (see page 6), and the young man returned to England, where he shortly after died. The Sугan Earl, after wandering about as a fugitive, was delivered up to Carew by the White Knight. He was not put to death, lest his brother should succeed to his pretensions, but he was conveyed over to the Tower of London where he died some years later. So the Earldom of Desmond disappears from the page of history.

Of the numerous strongholds in that portion of Connello which lay between the Mague and Deel, the most southerly was Ballingarry. It commanded an important pass in the chain of hills

which extends from Croom to Newcastle West, and was the chief means of communication between the northern and southern divisions of Connello. An ancient castle still stands there in excellent preservation, the erection of which has been ascribed to the Knights Templars in the thirteenth century. On the suppression of the Order early in the next century it naturally fell into Desmond hands, with whom it remained till the forfeiture.

Ballingarry and its immediate neighbourhood contained a large number of castles and abbeys. One bearing the name of Castle Rag stood near the church, but not a trace of it now remains. North of the town lay Woodstown Castle, a low square tower, still in existence, but nothing is known of its history. The lofty tower of Lissamota rises to the height of seventy feet, and still defies the elements. Two monasteries formerly existed in this vicinity. One called Kilson, or Kilshane, was erected by Fitzgerald, lord of Clonlish, for Conventual Franciscans. It lay to the north-east of the town on the road to Adare, and its site is now marked by some ivy-covered walls bearing all the appearance of great age. The other was an abbey for Cistercians, erected in 1198, but not a trace of it remains. The castle of Ballyallinan, originally belonging to the O'Hallinans, from whom it passed to the Mac Sheehys, lies north-west of Ballingarry between that place and Rathkeale. The communion plate in the Parish Church bears the following inscription:—"The gift of Elizabeth, the wife of

John O'Dell* of Ballingarry, Esquire. Dedicated to the service of God in the Parish Church of Ballingarry, 1681." In the village may be seen a dwelling-house in the front of which is inserted a stone bearing the date 1683, surmounted by three crescents. To the east lies Knockfeerina, 949 feet in height, popularly connected with several well known fairy legends.

South-west of Ballingarry is the church of Cloncagh of great antiquity. The choir has been destroyed and the rest of the building has suffered greatly. It was founded by St. Madoc in the seventh century under the following circumstances. Madoc, a native of Ferns in the County Wexford, was remarkable for his benevolence of disposition as well as for his piety and devotion. Hearing in his native place that some relatives of his were detained in captivity by the cruel chief of Hy Conall Gabhra, he set out to obtain their release. At first the chieftain was harsh and obdurate, but at last he yielded to the saint's earnest entreaties and granted them their freedom. It is also added that, struck with the stranger's goodness and simple but unaffected piety, the chieftain granted him a piece of land called Cloncagh on which to found a monastic establishment.?

Rathkeale, though now the second town in Limerick in point of population, did not in former times occupy a very prominent position. The

* John O'Dell was High Sheriff of the County of Limerick in 1678-9.

† Lanigan's Eccl. Hist., vol. II.

ancient name Rath-Gaela shows that a stronghold had been erected here in Celtic times, and the Desmond Castle, the remains of which are still to be seen, was probably erected on its site. In 1487 the then Earl of Desmond was assassinated at Rathkeale by some of his followers at the instigation of his younger brother John, in the hope of obtaining the Earldom. In this he was disappointed, for Maurice, son of the murdered nobleman, succeeded his father and expelled John and his guilty agents, though he does not appear to have been able to punish them as they deserved. In 1535 Maurice, heir to the twelfth earl, died at Rathkeale. In 1579 the town was plundered and burnt by Sir Nicholas Malby on his way to Askeaton after the battle of Manister. In the following year it was made the rallying point of the Munster forces under Sir William Pelham and the Earl of Ormond preparatory to marching against the second party of Spaniards who had landed at Smerwick. When the camp broke up it occurred to the Lord Justice that a favourable opportunity presented itself for slaughtering some of the Irish. He knew they were to be found in great numbers concealed in the woods around the town, and that on the camp being vacated they would swoop down upon it in the hope of picking up some remains of food. They would be therefore within his reach, and could be attacked at a disadvantage. The main army went on its way, but a chosen body under the command of Captain (afterwards Sir Walter) Raleigh was detached unperceived by the Irish, and returning by a circuitous route fell

upon the natives in the vacated camp and cut them down without mercy. For this exploit the future hero and courtier was presented with the freedom of Rathkeale, and he in return repaired and strengthened the castle, and performed the same service for Castle Matrix, on the western side of the Deel.

In 1642 some of the English colonists settled in Rathkeale were murdered by those amongst whom they dwelt. The chief leader and instigator of the outrages was one Herbert, himself the descendant of an earlier settler. Herbert burned Castle Matrix, a village belonging to Sir Thomas Southwell, who resided on the left bank of the Deel.

In 1654 when the number of parliamentary representatives from Ireland was limited to thirty, Rathkeale was chosen to be the centre where the representatives for the three counties of Limerick, Clare and Kerry were to be elected.

The architectural remains to be found at Rathkeale consist of an abbey and castle. The abbey was a priory of Augustinian Canons of the Order of Aroacia, founded in 1289 by Gilbert Harvey. The original building must have been destroyed, for the present structure is not earlier than the fifteenth century. The ruins now consist merely of the abbey church and the foundations of what may have been a tower at the north side. The east window is still entire and is of four lights interlaced above. It occupies the place of the original window, which was both larger and wider, as may be seen from the traces under the sill of the present

one. The south wall contains five narrow single lights of unequal size. One is raised higher than the others, apparently for the purpose of making room for a recessed tomb or monument. The church is one hundred feet long by twenty-three wide, and contains no trace of chancel-arch, aisles, or side chapels. A tower at the west end was in such a state of dilapidation that it has recently been knocked down to prevent accidents.

The castle adjoins the church, with which it does not exactly square. It consisted of a low vaulted storey with two others above it. A spiral stairs in one corner gave access to the various apartments, and that corner was prolonged into a turret. The vaulted floor has fallen to the ground together with portions of the walls. Only a small piece of one wall of the tower at the north side remains, and some rubble work of a vault. A similar arrangement of church and castle in close conjunction may be observed at Croagh, some two or three miles eastward.

Rathkeale was the chief centre of the settlement of the German Protestants called Palatines, and and many Palatine families are still scattered about the neighbourhood. Owing to the ravages of the French in the Palatinate of the Rhine a large number of Germans sought shelter in Great Britain. In 1709 Queen Anne sent a fleet to Rotterdam which brought over about 7000 of these refugees. Three thousand of them went to America and settled in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Lord Southwell brought over a large number and settled them on his estate in the County of

Limerick, an example which was followed by other proprietors, so that very few therefore remained in England. They were allowed eight acres of land for each individual at five shillings per acre, and the Government undertook to pay their rent for twenty years. Farrar, writing in 1780, thus describes them:—"The Palatines preserve their language, but it is declining; they sleep between two beds; they appoint a burgomaster to whom they appeal in all disputes. They are industrious men, and have leases from the proprietor of the land at reasonable rents; they are, consequently, better fed and clothed than the generality of Irish peasants. Besides, their mode of husbandry and crops are better than those of their neighbours. They have by degrees left off their sour-kROUT, and feed on potatoes, milk, butter, oaten and wheaten bread, some meat and fowls, of which they rear many. * * * The women are very industrious * * * Besides their domestic employments and the care of their children, they reap the corn, plough the ground, and assist the men in everything. In short the Palatines have benefitted the county by increasing tillage, and are a laborious, independent people, who are most employed on their own small farms."

Some fifty years ago large numbers of Palatines emigrated to America, so that at the present time there cannot be more than 700 in the County of Limerick. At present they are to be found in the neighbourhood of Rathkeale, Ballingrane, Askeaton, Adare, and Kilfinane and Ballyorgan in the south-east. The following surnames will be found in

Askeaton — Dobe, Doupe, Ruttle, Shire; in Kilcornan — Bovenizer, Miller, Neizer, Heavenor; in Kilfinane — Steep, Mee; in Kilflynn — Bartman, Schumacher, Legear, Switzer; in Rathkeale — Bowen, Delmege, Lodwick, Phizzle, or Fitzell, or Fizelle, Piper, Ivors, Sparling, Starke, Teskey (at Ballinlina, Court Matrix and Killeheen), Treble, Modler, Gilliard; in Adare — Fyffe, Bowerman. Amongst the Christian names may be included Jedidiah, Julius, Uriah, Gideon, Jonathan, Christopher, Absalom, Jethro, Zachariah, Moses. About the year 1885 there might be reckoned seventy persons of all ages in the parish of Askeaton who bore the name of Ruttle.

The Palatines have lost all trace of their native tongue, owing, it is said, to the custom of the early arrivals having had their bibles buried along with them. They can be easily distinguished from their Celtic neighbours by their darker complexions, black hair, and a harder cast of features. Many are Wesleyans, and are attached to the founder, who preached to them on various occasions. They are thrifty and hardworking, and are in general comfortably off.

Between Rathkeale and the Shannon there are numerous castles occupying every point of vantage that the nature of the ground admits of. Many of these castles were erected by the Mac Sheehys, who had been introduced into Limerick as hereditary Galloglasses. One of the most westerly of these is Lisnacullia, erected on the site of the ancient Fort of the Wood. It stands adjacent to Riddlestown Park, a place which derives its name

from the De Ridels, an English family who resided here in the twelfth century.

The castle of Cappagh is a tall and striking structure. It is erected on a rock of low elevation and commanded an important pass in the line of hills to the north. It was seventy feet in height, and the walls are fully five feet thick. Of the castle only the north wall is still standing. It was held in 1642 by Francis Morton, who, after a stout defence, was compelled to surrender to the confederates. It was blown up probably by order of the Parliamentarians under Sir Hardress Waller.

The banks of the Maigue were well protected on the lower reaches of the river by Cullum Castle, situated on a hill, and by the low square tower of Court almost at the river's edge. Half a mile northwards is the great fortified enclosure of Ballycahane, whose walls are still in very fair preservation. It is a very fine specimen of the structures erected for the safe keeping not only of the family and retainers, but of those herds of cattle which formed the chief wealth of their owner. The building is almost an exact square, each side being sixty-five paces in length. The walls are thirty feet in height, and the corners are strengthened with towers. The whole was surrounded with a moat which was provided with water from a stream which flows into the Maigue.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth a fierce conflict occurred at Ballycahane, and the place was carried by assault, the breach by which entrance was obtained being still open in the walls.

In the year 1581 two bodies of troops left Adare for the purpose of ravaging the left bank of the Maigue. One party proceeded by land, the other by water, and both united at Ballycahane. Here they were attacked by David Barry of the Lake and almost exterminated. News of the disaster was brought to Adare, and the captain of the town, with the assistance of the garrison of Kilmallock, sallied out to take vengeance for the slaughter of his soldiery. Although we are told Ballycahane "was one of the towns belonging to Purcell, who always sided with the Crown from the beginning of the war between the English and the Geraldines till that time," their loyalty did not protect them from the senseless vengeance of the English soldiers. David Barry had succeeded in making his escape, but Ballycahane was assaulted. A breach was made in the lofty walls, the soldiers rushed in and slew all within to the number of one hundred and fifty persons, including women and children. David Barry was afterwards seized at Scatterry Island by the Mac Mahons of Clare, who delivered him up to the English. He was executed at Limerick.

Nothing is known of the tall square tower of Bolane, erected on the side of a steep ridge. Near it and easy of access from the road is the church of Killulta, one of the smallest and most ancient in this part of the county. "There can be no doubt," says O'Donovan, "of its being one of the primitive age of the Irish Church." Archdall states that a monastery was founded here before the arrival of St. Patrick. The building may have been erected

by St. Dima, who gives his name to Kildimo, the parish in which it is situated.

The Castle of Pallas is a very fine structure of the class to which Ballycahane belongs. The keep occupies an angle at the west and is built upon a rock rising more than twenty feet above the adjacent level. One wall has been blown out, and the huge masses of masonry are strewn about in confusion. Within a few yards of the keep is a round tower containing a spiral staircase leading down to a small doorway which opens on the level ground at the base of the rock. This may have been a private exit, or more likely was the means of obtaining water for the inmates from a pool or other source of supply, traces of which are still apparent. The castle was amongst those captured by Sir Hardress Waller in 1650, and it shared the fate of others already mentioned.



NOTES.

GRANTS IN COXNELLO TO ROBERT COLLAM,
1595.

Her Majesty being minded to have the Province of Munster re-peopled and inhabited by civil, loyal and dutiful subjects, grants to Robert Collam, his heirs and assigns, the lands of Ballymuckmore and Rallymuckbeg, in the parish of Kilcollman in Connello in the great County of Limerick, parcel of the toagh of Oleban, late in the tenure of John Supple, attainted; certain lands in Ballyferreis in the Grannaghe upon the mountain of Slelogher in the parish of Castlenowe, *alias* Newcastle; parcel of the toagh of Meaghan, late in the occupation of Tirlaghe and Owen McEdmond oge McShihee, attainted; lands in Glannegowne in the Granagh in the parish of Castlenowe in the tenure of Tirlaghe and Owen McEdmond, the towns and lands of Rathronan and Carrowbolye in the parish of Rathronan, upon Slelogher in Yeaghttraghe, otherwise called the lowest part of the toagh of Meaghan, late in the tenure of Bichard McThomas of the Pallice, attainted; the patronage of Rathronan late in the gift of McThomas; certain lands in Ballyferreis in the parish of Ballingarrie, parcel of the toagh of Gortecallaghan; certain lands in Ballyroe in the parish of Ballingarrie; certain lands in Hathnegor in the parish of Killuradrane, and parcel of the half toagh of Drynan; certain lands in Clonesherry, parcel of the toagh of Tawnagh; Monelenayh in the same parish; Lyskillyn, Gorteskeaghe, Gortinlinagh, Ballynekillie, two Currags and Ballywortagh in the same parish, parcel of the possessions of Thomas Shane McGibbon, attainted; Clonedyne and Clonferte Ballybranagh, late in the tenure of the same Thomas Shane, the patronage of

Mahowne, late in the gift of the Earl of Desmond; the parcel of land in Morragan with the castle, parcel of the toagh of Donmullyn, late in the possession of Edmond McPhillip, attainted; the land of Carrowebegge *alias* Carobeg Rydall in the parish of Rakeyll, parcel of the toagh of Perranshessheragh, late in the occupation of Richard Rydell; certain burgages or tenements in Croghe, called Russell's burgages in the parish of Croghe; the patronage of Croghe, late in the gift of the Earl of Desmond; the towns and lands of Croghnemallagh and Cooroglasse, parcel of the toagh of Meaghan, late in the tenure of Morogh McBrien McTirlaghe, attainted; certain lands called Farrenmollaghe with the site of a water-mill, late in the tenure of the Earl of Desmond, containing 35 acres, in the parish or burgage of Ardaghe, parcel of the toaghe of Ardaghe; one of the eight toaghs of Callowghe, called Churchtoghes, in the said country; certain lands called Reragh, Rudderie, Minitors and the Spittle, containing 33 burgage acres, making 18 Irish acres in the parish, parcel of the same toagh in the same county; certain lands in the same parish, parcel of the same toagh called Burgesland, late in the tenure of Morish McEdmond McShane and Gerald McDavye, of Ardaghe, attainted, containing 35 acres; another parcel of land called Dromranaghe, *alias* Dromcananaghe, containing 10 acres, parcel of the monastery or priory of Rathkeylle; certain lands called Athes and Moymore in the parish of Templecloe, late in the tenure of Tirlagh McEdmond oge Mac Shehie, attainted, containing two quarters; the towns of Ballyrobin and Lyssduffe in the parish of Ballingarrie, parcel of the lands of John Suple, late of Kilmukey, attainted, containing 20 acres; one tenement in the town of Adare and certain lands in Cloneskerbegg called Feck and Clonecurrie; parcel of the lands of Bedmond Wale, attainted, and late in his possession; certain lands in Ballyeolechan and Kinnelowre in the parish of Kyllferns, parcel of the land called Termon-land, *alias* Churchland, a long time concealed, containing 30 acres; certain lands in Killscannell

and Skahannaghe, parcel of the toagh of Kyllscannell; one of the eight toaghies of Calloghe called Church toaghies, late in the tenure of Richard Lyston, containing one quarter and a half; two messuages in the town of Kilmallock, in the tenure of James Fante and Robert Fante, attainted, with certain lands in Ballycollen containing one quarter; 24 acres in BallymacKerye, late in the possession of Richard McThomas of the Pallace, and now in the possession of Connogher oge McShehie; certain lands in Qlanscale, late in the tenure of Donogh McWilliam oge, attainted, containing 20 acres; the patronage of Teclogin, late in the Esri of Desmond's grant; certain lands in Adare called Tonnegye and Cappapeccod, with two tenements, late in the tenure of John Suple, attainted; custom and profit of two fairs or marts in the town of Rakeyle . . . the patronage of Teclogin with the presentation of the vicarage in the County of Limerick, parcel of the possessions of the late abbey of Donhody, the half plowland in Ratiordan in the County of Limerick, commonly called Cowlesheinie, parcel of the possessions of James Mariscall, late of Rathemdan, attainted; certain lands in Rathelowen, containing 30 aures of small measure, and 30 acres of like measure in Courtenecowghie, making in all of Irish measure 20 acres, parcel of the lands of Gerald FitzMoice, attainted; the patronage of Killcornan in the same county; 32 acres of land in Ballynadoke, 15 acres in Ballygawghe, 4 acres in Graig with the site of a mill, amounting in all to 51 acres of small measure, making of Irish measure 10 acres, parcel of the possessions of Thomas FitzGerald, lately called the Knight of the Valley, attainted; certain lands in Garreduffe with the appurtenances of Monaghane, late in the occupation of Tirlaghe McEdmond oge McShehie, containing one quarter, parcel of the toagh of Gortecoughe; certain lands in the tenure of Geffry Tibbot, attainted, containing 26 acres in the town of Welshestowne in the same county; certain lands in Gortegalboy, Gragansallan, Gragan, Portall and Shane-cloghbane, late in the tenure of Edmond Bowen and

William Beg McWilliam oge Bane, attainted, containing half a quarter; certain lands in Kyllbegg, late in the tenure of John Suple, containing 20 acres; certain lands in Ballymullen, late in the possession of Mulroy Roe and Thomas McPhilip McGibbon, attainted; certain lands in Ballyling, Clonemolte, Killehine, Illanemore, in the parish of Rakeyle, late in the tenure of David en Corrick, attainted, containing one quarter of land; and certain lands in Dinganmore and Dingaubeg with the appurtenances in the parish of Mahownaghe, parcel of the lands of Thomas McPhilip McGibbon, attainted, in the County of Limerick; all which premises contain twenty-two plowlands and a half and 45 acres statute measure; to hold for ever by the name of Cullums Vale in fee-farm, as of the castle of Limerick by fealty only, in free and common, and not in capite or by Knight's service. Rent £72 3s. English. License to ship, transport and carry away by way of merchandise or otherwise, from all the ports and havens of Ireland into England and Wales, all such corn, grain and victuals as shall grow upon the lands discharged of custom, subsidy, poundage or other duty; and that the premises shall be wholly exempt and exonerated from all cess, toils, taxes, cuttings, reliefs, refectiions, coyne, livery, kerne tewoe, cosherie, cuddy, gilleline, gillecon, and all other impositions whatever. Cullum covenants to erect as many dwelling-houses as shall be sufficient for 33 English families, whereof one shall be his one principal mansion; two for freeholders, to each of whom shall be allotted 300 acres of land at the least after the rate of sixteen feet and a half to the perch-lug or pole; two for farmers, to each of whom shall be allotted 400 acres; and fourteen others for copy-holders or other base tenures, to each of whom shall be assigned 100 acres at least of the measures afresnid; and to the remainder there shall be assigned 50, 25 acres, or 10 acres at the pleasure of Cullim, his heirs and assigns. Dublin, Aug. 8, 1595.

CHARTER OF T.C.D.

Two caructates of land in the town and Fields of Any with their appurtenances (besides four caructates of land

demised to Edward Fitton, Knight), parcel of the land of Gerald, late E. of D., at a rent of 15s.; half a carucate of land with the appurtenances called Shiggin's land, and the site of a water-mill called "the Knyght's Mill," with moiety of the place called Knight's Street in BALLINGARRIE, at a rent of 11s. 6d.

LAND MEASUREMENTS.

The measurements of land were very indefinite. In a Commission of Survey, issued to Sir Henry Wallop and others in 1584, it is stated that "in some parts of the Great County of Limerick 80 acres do make a Plow-land, and in some 60, and in the Small County of Limerick (the Barony of Small County) 20 acres make a plowland, and one acre there makes seven acres of the Great County. A cantered is a barony; a carucate is a quarter of a chief's possessions, about equal to a modern townland. These designations were of no certain quantity. Togh is also of uncertain quantity, like the modern farm, a tetrityry possessed by the heads of inferior families.

JOHN WESLEY AND THE PALATINES.

The following extracts from Wesley's Journal relate to his visit to this district:—

"June 16, 1756. In the afternoon I rode to Ballygarrane, a town (townland) of Palatines which came over in Queen Anne's time. They retain much of the temper and manner of their own country, having a resemblance of those among whom they live. I found much life among this plain, artless, serious people.

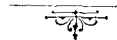
"June 18, 1756. I rode back through Adare, once a strong and flourishing town, well walled and full of people now without walls and almost without inhabitants, only a few poor huts remain.

"June 23, 1756. I rode over to Court Matress, a colony of Germans whose parents came from out of Palatinate about fifty years ago. Twenty families of these settled here, twenty more at Killiheen, a mile off, fifty at Ballygarrane,

about two miles eastward, and twenty at Pallas, four miles further. Each family had a few acres of ground on which they built as many little houses. They are considerably increased in number of souls, though decreased in number of families. Having no minister they became eminent for drunkenness, cursing, smearing and other neglect of religion. But they are washed since they had heard and received the truth, which is able to save their souls. An oath is now rarely heard among them, or a drunkard seen in their borders. Court Matress is built in the form of a square, in the middle of which they have placed a pretty large meeting-house. But it would not contain one half of the congregation, so I stood in a lard-yard. The wind kept off the rain while I was preaching. As soon as I ended it began.

July 9, 1760. I rode over to Killiheen, a German settlement near twenty miles west of Limerick. It rained all the way, but the earnestness of the poor people made us forget it. In the evening I preached to another colony of Germans at Ballygarrane. The third is at Court Matress, a mile from Killiheen. I suppose three such townlands are scarce to be found again in England or Ireland. There is no cursing or swearing, no Sabbath-breaking, no drunkenness, no ale-house in any of them. How mill these poor foreigners rise up in the judgment against those who are round about them.

June 19, 1766. About noon I preached at Ballygarrane to the small remains of the poor Palatines. As they could not get food and raiment here with all their diligence and frugality, part are scattered up and down the kingdom and part are gone to America. I stand amazed! Have landlords no common sense (whether they have common humanity or no) that they will suffer such tenants as these to be starved away from them.



ASKEATON.

CHAPTER X.

THE river Deel takes its rise in the range of hills which separates the County of Limerick from Cork, and flows northward through a broad and fertile plain, till it mingles its waters with those of the Shannon. In the southern part of its course it receives many tributaries from the hills that enclose the ancient territory of Clonglais. The important town of Rathkeale is on its banks. Near Askeaton it tumbles over ledges of rocks forming a series of cascades which give the name to the town and perpetuate the name of a Celtic chieftain concerning whom nothing else is known. Askeaton was originally Eas Gephtine, the cascade of Gephtine.

The river Deel here surrounds a rocky islet on which stands a stately castle of the Desmonds, one of the principal strongholds of that family. It was erected by the seventh earl, and was the last of the castles that passed from the possession of his descendants. Within its walls died, in 1558, James, the fifteenth earl, Lord High Treasurer of Ireland. In recording his death, the Four Masters state that, "his territory could not well spare that good man, for during his time it was not found necessary to infold cattle or to close the door," in all Munster. With him departed the greatness and prosperity of his house.

The castle twice afforded a refuge to Earl Gerald or Garret when closely pursued by his enemies. It was to Askeaton he fled when he eluded his guards in Dublin, and made good his escape to his own dominions. After the defeat of his younger brother at Manister-Nenagh, he and Lord Kerry repaired for safety to the castle on the Deel, whither he was followed by Sir Nicholas Malby. The castle defied all the efforts of the English leader, who accordingly spent his fury on the town and abbey. There is a letter extant written by the Earl of Desmond from Askeaton castle, and bearing the date of 10th October, 1579, in which he bitterly complains that Sir Nicholas Malby and his army encamped within the abbey, and most maliciously defaced the monuments of *his* ancestors, that he fired the abbey and the town, and destroyed the crops in the adjacent territory, all the while ceasing not to shoot against the men in the castle.

Within twelve months after the defeat at Manister, all the Geraldine strongholds in north Munster had been reduced with the exception of Baile-Ui-Gheileacain, Carsigfoyle, and Askeaton. The latter were both situated on islands and impregnable to ordinary modes of attack. A new power, that of siege artillery, was brought to bear on these massive structures, and apparently for the first time in the south of Ireland. An expedition under Sir Henry Pelham and the Earl of Ormond was conveyed down the Shannon, and landed in the north of Kerry for the purpose of capturing Carrigfoyle the most westerly of the strongholds. At the same time some English vessels appeared

in the <harbour of the glassy-waved Shannon," and the place was assailed from both sides. A battery of five guns was formed on the shore, and the guns of the ships opened fire at the same time. The inhabitants of the surrounding county were amazed at the sound of the firing. As the Chronicler expresses it:—"There was not one in the wilds or sequestered glens from the Carn of Breas¹ to Knock Meadha Siuil,² in Connaught, that did not hear the noise of that uncommon and unusual ordnance." The western wall of the castle was battered down in a short time, the place taken by assault, and the garrison put to the sword.

The noise of the artillery struck terror into the hearts of the garrison of Askeaton. The fate of Carrigfoyle showed them that their river-guarded fortress could no longer afford them protection. We are told that when they "heard the awful roaring of that extraordinary ordnance, the like of which they never heard before," they determined to demolish the castle and fly to the woods before the guns could be brought to bear upon them. Whilst they were proceeding with the work of demolition the Lord justice arrived with his army in the neighbourhood, and the garrison fled leaving the gates open. The garrison of Baile-Ui-Gheileacain had previously adopted the same course. Askeaton thus surrendered without a blow being struck in its defence. The garrison did not dare to face the new weapons with which their foes were equipped. They were accustomed to the use of fire-arms and even of light field pieces, but this was the first time

(1) Near Mizen Head.

(2) Now Knockmae, south-west of Trillick.

they were made acquainted with heavy guns that could be brought to bear on the thick walls of their massive castle. By the fall of Askeaton the Earl of Desmond was deprived of his last stronghold. Whatever injuries the castle suffered were repaired by the Lord Justice, who made the place his residence during the summer of 1580.

When O'Neill entered Munster towards the close of the century the English power melted before him, and in seventeen days the work of seventeen years was effaced. The Sungan Earl recovered possession of all the chief seats and castles of his family, with but three exceptions, and one of the three was the castle of Askeaton. The garrison were but few in number, and the supply of ammunition was but slender, yet owing to the strength of their position, they were practically unassailable. For twelve months they held their own without assistance. The Earl of Essex with considerable difficulty was at last able to send them supplies of ammunition, and the place was secured to the English interest.

In 1600 Askeaton was made the headquarters for a body of seven hundred foot and seventy-five horse under the Earl of Thomond. Marauding parties were sent out in all directions, and the country entirely laid waste as has been already described.

The castle surrendered on the 14th of August, 1642, to the Irish Confederation, under Lieut.-Gen. Purcell. The garrison were granted their lives with a safe conduct "with all their proper goods together with one-half of all the books within the castle." The Confederates held possession till it

was taken and demolished in 1650, by Colonel Axtell, Parliamentary Governor of Kilkenny.

The ruins of the castle consist of the lofty tower, the banqueting hall, part of one of the dwelling-houses and another detached building. The tower rises to the height of ninety feet, yet, such is the nature of the adjacent country, that it is nowhere a conspicuous object in the landscape. The summit can barely be seen, merely rising above the high ground close to the river. The tower is almost entirely concealed from view till one comes within a short distance of it. One wall has been blown out leaving the interior exposed to view. It can be seen that it contained six stories, and that the vaulted floor of two of them still remain. Over the first arch is a small chamber measuring eight feet by seven, which is popularly called Desmond's gaol.* The old oak door, three inches thick, and studded with broad-headed nails, is still in its place. Attached to the tower are thirty feet of the west wall of the dwelling-house. This wall is no less than fifty feet in height and has window:: for three stories. The banqueting hall is a short distance from the tower. Its length is seventy-one feet, and width thirty. Underneath are spacious vaults capable of storing large supplies of food and ammunition. A battlemented wall surrounds the whole area, admission to which was gained by a narrow pathway cut in the rock and rising by a gradual ascent to the level

* O'Daly states that shortly after Gerald succeeded to the Earldom he made an expedition into Muskerry in which he was taken prisoner by Edmond MacTeigue, Lord Muskerry's son, and that for "six years he pined in captivity, shut up in the castle of Askeaton," till his release was obtained by the intercession of his wife, who was related to Edmond.

of the court-yard. This path was commanded by the walls for the whole of its length, and any attempt to force the doorway would leave the assailants at the mercy of the garrison, especially as but very few could obtain a footing on the rocky path.

The abbey of Askeaton is situated on the eastern bank of the river Deel, in a sheltered level spot, almost hidden by the adjacent hillocks. It belonged to the Franciscan Order, and was founded in 1420 by the seventh Earl of Desmond. The fifteenth earl was buried within its precincts in 1558, in a tomb, which had been erected by the founder for himself and his posterity. In the year 1564, a Chapter of the Franciscan Order was held here. As already mentioned, Sir Nicholas Malby during his brief stay in Askeaton, burned the abbey to the ground in 1579. It does not appear that any of the monks suffered on this occasion. It is probable they found protection in the castle from the fury of the soldiery. It is stated that the Earl of Essex accompanied the convoy that brought supplies to the beleaguered garrison in the castle, and had a night's lodging in the abbey. Here he is said to have had an extraordinary vision, which some regard as having had more than a subjective existence. Before the eyes of the English Viceroy the ghosts of the victims of the long Desmond wars marched in weird and terrible procession. The shapes of soldiers fallen in battle, the ghastly forms of murdered clansmen, the pallid and famine-stricken frames of women and children that perished miserably of starvation and exhaustion passed in review before the awe-struck gaze of the Viceroy.

Hour after hour the shadowy hosts glided by till the morning light dissipated the sad and melancholy apparition.

Whilst Askeaton and the whole county were in the possession of the Irish army of the confederation in 1641, an attempt was made to restore the abbey to its former magnificence, but very little progress was made, and the defeat of the Irish finally put an end to the work. Many evidences of the attempted restoration are to be observed in the chancel, particularly about the windows.

The abbey was massively constructed as may be judged from the walls still standing, and from the huge masses of masonry that are found scattered about in all directions. Between the transept and church lie huge fragments of the square central tower which is known to have existed. Some of these are as much as twenty feet in length, and their usual thickness is about four feet and a half. Many rest on their ends, so that the courses of masonry are perpendicular, not horizontal, as they were built.

The church occupies the centre of the ruins, and is one hundred and thirty feet in length, by twenty-three in width. It contains a lofty east window of five lights, and six beautifully constructed sedilia may be observed, still almost perfect. In the wall above them is the Stephenson inscription in relief, but the slabs are much shattered, and the lettering almost obliterated. Near where the altar stood, and in the north wall at a height of about nine feet may be observed a curious little figure a foot and a half long. It represents a bishop

holding a crozier in his left hand, whilst his right is raised as in the act of blessing. A similar figure may be seen in the cloisters representing a monk standing under a canopy. The only transept is at the west end of the church, where spring two wide and lofty arches of graceful proportions, resting on a huge circular pillar, two feet and a half in diameter. The cloisters are in tolerable preservation as far as masonry is concerned, but otherwise they are in a disgracefully neglected condition. The floor is so strewn with stones, bits of coffins, and even human remains, that walking is troublesome and in wet weather most decidedly unpleasant. The cloisters form an exact square, the ambulatory being separated from the open space by a low wall, surmounted with rows of arches. Each arch rests on round pillars of dark marble three feet in height, and the total height of the arch is five feet. On some of these pillars may be observed traces of carving, and on one of them the workman had but begun to carry out his design when he had to cease.

The refectory is on a much lower level than the other parts of the building. It is also somewhat eccentric in its windows. The great window is not situated exactly in the middle of the wall as windows usually are. It consists of two lights, is deeply splayed, and the interior forms a huge arch. To the right is a flat-topped window, to the left is one long and narrow, and both are situated at unequal distances from that in the centre. The chapter-room is a plain vaulted apartment, and has been used as the burial place of the Nash family for a very long period.

The Knights Templars had an establishment in Askeaton, dating from the thirteenth century; nothing now remains of it but a curious tower within a few yards of the parish church. The lower part of the tower is square, but at a height of about six feet the corners are cut off and the upper part is octagonal. Internally the angles are strengthened so that the corners are not weakened by the transition. The base of the tower is sixteen feet square, it is loopholed on three sides, whilst on the fourth, a low circular arched doorway connected it with the old church also attributed to the Templars, and long since disused. This church is considered to have embodied in it as its chancel a still older church belonging to the primitive times of Celtic Christianity.

At Old Abbey are to be found the remains of an ancient abbey of Canonesses of the Order of St. Augustine, called *Monaster-na-Galliagh*. It was dedicated to St. Catherine, and is the establishment of that name referred to in the grant to Sir Henry Wallop, on page 129. Archdall mentions this monastery, but makes the mistake of locating it near Lough Gur. Nothing else is known of it, unless that the rectories of the parishes of Drishane, Cullen, Nohavel, Kilmeen, and Drumtariff, in the Barony of Duhallow, belonged to it.



NOTES.

GRANTS TO SIR E. BERKELEY AND SIR ANTHONY ST. LEGER.

The Queen to the Lord Deputy and the Lord Chancellor, informing them that for the better re-peopling of the province of Munster, she desired that Sir Edward Barkley should amongst the rest of the undertakers have assigned unto him the castle of ASKEYTON, in the County of Limerick, with the whole Seignory thereunto attached; which premises had been passed to Barkley immediately before his death, and before the great seal was affixed; Her Majesty, in consideration of the services of his brother Francis, grants him the Seignory, with all the land and tenements thereunto belonging, reserving the castle of Askeyton with 40 acres next, adjoining, which nevertheless Her Majesty commits to his care during her pleasure, and directs that the pay of the fifteen footmen and the constable shall cease.

Richmond, Dec. 18, 1539.

In consequence of having obtained the Seignory, a pension of 5s. a day to Francis Berkeley *was* discontinued.

Demise from the *Crown* to Sir Anthony Senteleger of A castle or chief house called the castle of ASKEATINGE, with all edifices, buildings, towers, gardens, courts, and lawns thereto belonging, and 40 acres next adjoining, in the County of Limerick, late parcel of the possessions of the Earl of Desmond, attainted, and which had been demisad to Sir Francis Berkeley, by patent, dated 18th of October, in the 32nd year of Her Majesty's reign.

Dublin, October 17, 1599.

The Chalice still in use in the Parish Church bears the following inscription:—Ex do: Timos: Eaton Armr. Par: Askeaton, Anno, 1663.

The Chalice of the Monastery is still preserved at the residence of the Parish Priest.

INSCRIPTION ON THE STEPHENSON MONUMENT.

Epitaphium chronographicum.

*Hic Oliverus inest genitus genitorque Richardus
Stephenson clericus uterque choro est*

Ano 1642

D O M

*Maritis suis D. Richardo Stephenson ejus et filio D. Olivero
Stephenson ac posteris suis hoc bustum fieri fecerunt
D. Margarita ni Brien et D. Elinora Browne Ano Do 1646.*

Oliver Stephenson was killed at the battle of Liscarroll. His mother was of the Thomond Branch of the O'Briens, and his wife was the daughter of Browne of Killasneg, ancestor of Lord Kenmare, and grand-daughter of Gerald, Earl of Desmond.



THE KNIGHTS OF GLIN.

CHAPTER XI.

THE Knights of Glin trace their descent from John, second son of John Fitzthomas, first lord of Decies and Desmond, commonly called John of Callan, who was slain at Callan, in Kerry, in 1261. John of Callan was the grandson of Strongbow's companion-in-arms, and by his second marriage with Honora, daughter of Phelim O'Connor (Kerry), had four sons. Gilbert, the eldest, received from his nephew, Thomas AnAppagh, the lands of Mein and Mahoonagh. John, the second son, received the lands of Glyn and Castletown, and was the ancestor of the Knights of Glin and the Lords of Clonlish. Maurice, the third son, received possessions in Kerry, and was the ancestor of the Knights of Kerry. The White Knights and the Sept of the Old Knight, Mac an Shan Riddyry, were descended from Gilbert or Gibbon.

The origin of these designations is involved in some obscurity. Sir William Betham, discussing the Geraldine Knights in his *Irish Antiquarian Researches*, says:—"The peculiarity of the titles, their acknowledged antiquity, combined with the elevated situation of the persons who enjoy them, together with the total dissimilitude from any distinguishing appellation of honour existing in

England, has frequently excited attention and curiosity in no small degree. In the obscurity which hangs over their origin, they resemble those singular Milesian cognomina, or soubriquets, which in a few families have descended to the present day, as in the instance of O'Connor Don, MacDermot Roe, and some others: and, in fact, so ancient are these Geraldine titles, that their very possessors are actually unacquainted with the nature or origin of their own dignities. It has been asserted that these Knights were descended from illegitimate children of an Earl of Desmond; and, it is found so stated in pedigrees bearing the very respectable name (whether truly or not, I cannot say), of Sir George Carew, afterwards Earl of Totnes, Lord President of Munster;* but this statement must be erroneous, for I find the Knights of Glin mentioned on the records before the date of the creation of the Earldom (of Desmond), in 1329.†

Again, he says:—"It has generally been supposed that these were titles granted by the Earls of Desmond, as Palatine Earls of the County of Kerry, but this is not possible, for two of them, the White Knight and the Knight of Glin, are not within the Palatine jurisdiction,† besides they existed in the reign of Henry III, one hundred years before the creation of the Earldom of Desmond, in 1329, in

* This subject is *id(& cussed* in a series of notes on Unpublished Geraldine Documents contributed to the Journal of the R. S. A., Ireland, in the years 1868-9 and '70.

† Though not in Kerry, they were in the portion of Limerick closely adjoining the boundary, and the line of demarkation might not have been as distinctly marked as it is now. The district extending from Newcastle in Limerick to Tralee in Kerry was embraced under the one name of Slieve Luachra.

the great uncles of the first Earl of Desmond. . . . From the frequency of the heads of the noble Geraldines filling the office of Viceroy, they would naturally keep up and support the dignity of the branches of their own families, and the heads of the branches being always Knights, and themselves being Geraldines, and of the same surname, it became necessary for distinction to designate them by particular appellations, which soon became familiar and fixed as their surnames, until their origin was forgotten."

The authority for Sir William Betham's statement that the title, Knight of Glin, could be found in records of the time of Henry III, and a hundred years before the creation of the Earldom of Desmond, cannot now be found; but there is no reason to doubt its accuracy, for many ancient documents existing in his time have been lost or destroyed

No more appropriate name to designate the descendants of John could be found than that of the Knight of the Valley, the place anciently known as Gleann Corbraighe. commanded by the castle, the keep of which even now maintains watch and ward over the entrance to the glen which winds its way amongst the mountainous recesses towards the south.

The Knights of Glin owed a certain allegiance to the Earls of Desmond, consisting chiefly in "divers customs of meat and drink, together with rising of men at the Earl's calling to the number of 60 kearne, certain horsemen, and the finding and sessing" of the Earl's men to be distributed in the county at the Knight's expense.

The extent of the Knight's possessions will be learned from the deed which granted them to William Carter (see notes). An estimate of the importance of the Knights of Glin in the sixteenth century, may be obtained from a glance at the estimate of armed followers maintained by some of the principal magnates in the County of Limerick.

During the presidency of Sir Thomas Perrot the ordinary forces maintained in Limerick were as follows:—

The Knight of the Valley in Kenry, 10 horsemen and 140 footmen; the Gentlemen of Coshma, 12 horsemen and 100 footmen, and the country belongeth to the Earl of Kildare; the O'Briens of Pubblebrien, six horsemen and 60 footmen; the Gentlemen of the Small County of Limerick, and John of Desmond dwelling there, 12 horsemen and 100 footmen; the White Knight's county, 10 horsemen and 100 footmen; the O'Briens of Arlogh, 50 kern and three horsemen; Sir William Burke (of Castleconnell), 16 horsemen and 150 footmen. In Clare, the Earl of Thomond maintained 60 horsemen and 300 footmen. O'Connor Kerry's force was six horsemen and 100 footmen, and Mac Brian (of Ara) maintained 12 horsemen and 120 footmen.

It will thus be seen that the independent forces maintained by the Knight of Glin marked him out as one of the most important of the chieftains of the second rank, the higher position of course belonging to such nobles as the Earls of Kildare and Desmond, and the MacCarthy More, reckoned the second man in Munster.

During the Desmond wars, the Knight of Glin

faithfully shared the fortunes of his house, though with better luck than fell to the lot of the Earl. In 1569 the knight and his son were both attainted and the latter was put to death. All the estates were declared forfeited at the time, but after a while the greater portion were restored to their original owner. When the Northern Earls rose in revolt, the knight threw in his lot with the Sungan Earl, and was present at the battle of Kinsale when the Irish and Spanish forces were routed by Mountjoy and Carew. When the English were everywhere triumphant, and the Earls had fled to the continent, a general amnesty was proclaimed, but the Knight of Glin was excluded by name. The knight retired to his own county, and in 1603 the estate of Glin alone was granted to his son, the manors of Castletown, Beagh, Cappagh, &c., being alienated.

A full and Interesting account of the siege of Glin castle, by Sir George Carew, in 1600, is to be found in *Patata Hibernia*.

In the Spring months of 1600 the Lord President had planned the expedition to the west, and was only waiting for supplies to reach him from England. These having arrived in a vessel under the command of Captain Gawin Harvie, the army set out to capture the threatened stronghold. Sir George Carew had fifteen hundred men under his command, and was accompanied by the Earl of Thomond. In order to avoid the tidal estuaries of the Maigue and the Deel, he was compelled to adopt a circuitous route by way of Ballingarry to Askeaton, whence, proceeding inland again, he reached Glin

by way of the Valley.' The President was accompanied all the way by an Irish army of 3,000 men, who continually hung upon his wings.

On the 5th of July the army reached Glin in safety, where they found Harvey's war vessel with some heavy guns that had been conveyed by water. The English fixed their camp on the rising ground which lies between the castle and the Shannon; whilst the Irish under the Knight of Glin occupied a position on the hills on either side of the entrance to the valley. On the 6th of July two siege guns were landed from the ship and placed in position, and parleys were held between both parties. The Knight visited the English camp for the purpose of having an interview with the President, but the latter refused to see him on any terms short of the unconditional surrender of himself and his followers. The Knight only succeeded in being shown his son, then a child, whom he had formerly given as a hostage for his fidelity.

The Constable of the castle also visited the camp, and informed the President and the Earl of Thomond, that they and their forces would soon be swept into the Shannon, as the Irish were more than double their number, and therefore, the sooner they abandoned the siege the better. On the other hand the earl informed him his threats were useless and advised him to surrender the castle, promising that the lives of the garrison would be saved. The

* The Annals of the "Four Masters" state that the President and the Earl of Thomond proceeded through Clare, on the North bank of the Shannon, to a point opposite Glin, from whence they were conveyed to the opposite bank in boats. The above is the route described in *Pacata Hibernia*.

Constable refused to yield, and on quitting the camp, the President sent him a farewell, to the effect, that since he did not accept the earl's terms, he (the President), expected before two days had passed to have his head upon a pole.

The first day being occupied in this exchange of compliments and in getting the siege guns ready for action, the cannonade was to open on the morning of the seventh of July. The morning of the seventh arrived, and it was found that one of the guns was useless, for the touch-hole was closed. The cannoneer and the smith used all their efforts to bring the piece into working order but without success. At last the President himself was appealed to as the only person in the camp who had any knowledge of artillery. By his directions the piece was set upright, a full charge of powder was put in, and a shot rolled upon the charge. The powder was ignited at the mouth, the charge exploded, and by these means the touch-hole was cleared to the great rejoicing of the army and the increase of the President's fame as an artillerist. Writing an account of this feat of skill twenty-three years after its occurrence, the President's biographer says:—"This particular I thought good not to omit because it may be an instruction to others whensoever the like accident may happen."

The guns being in order, the garrison directed all their energies towards silencing them, and all the shot was directed upon them. Again the President's ingenuity was brought into action. He called for the Knight's child already referred to, and caused him to be placed on the gabions, sending word to the

Constable he would now have a fair mark to shoot at. The Constable sent back word that the evident danger of his master's son would not prevent him directing his musketry on the guns, adding some observations expressed more coarsely than modern usage allows. The President seeing that his contrivance was not likely to effect the end in view, removed the boy before firing began.

All day long the guns were employed on the outer walls, and towards evening a breach was made by which the assailants entered. The great hall was carried by assault, and two turrets over the hall fell into the hands of the English at the same time. Late in the evening the garrison were driven into the keep whither it was too late to follow them. Captain Slingsby who commanded the attacking party was directed to make good his position, and though a dropping musketry fire was kept up for some hours, no harm was done.

About midnight, when all was still, the Constable and the garrison endeavoured to make their escape unperceived. The vigilance of the guards however prevented the success of this *manœuvre*. The English were roused from slumber, and a sharp encounter took place during which the Constable was slain, and all the rest, except two who succeeded in effecting their escape, were forced back again into the castle. The President in fulfilment of his threat had the Constable's head fixed upon a pole set up in the camp.

Early next morning it was resolved to assault the keep as the garrison refused to surrender and were

determined to sell their lives as dearly as they could. Admittance was to be obtained only through the entrance on the ground floor, which was closed by a strong wooden door. Heaps of brushwood and timber were piled up against the doorway and the whole set on fire. When the mass had burned itself out it was found that the door had been consumed, but the tower was so full of smoke that an attack could not then be ventured on. The garrison for the same cause had been compelled to retire to the battlements to avoid suffocation. When the smoke cleared away sufficiently, the English entered the doorway, and in single file ascended the narrow stone stairs that led up to the battlements. Here a severe hand-to-hand fight took place in the narrow gutter between the roof and the battlements. Of the Irish, some were slain, others jumped ~~off~~ the summit into the moat beneath in a vain attempt to escape by swimming, others were flung over and dashed to pieces in the court-yard. The whole garrison to the number of eighty perished, whilst of the English, eleven were killed and twenty-one, more or less severely wounded.

During all this time the Irish army to the number of three thousand men, and under the leadership of the Knight of Glin, occupied a position only two miles off, and were witnesses of the assault and capture of the castle. The same cause which prevented them attacking the army on the march now held them back from making a *diversion* in favour of the beleaguered garrison. Much as they feared and hated the English, they hated and distrusted one another more, and the castle of Glin

was taken before their eyes without the slightest effort being made to relieve it. Having got possession of the Geraldine stronghold, the President and the army remained there five days, during which the breach was repaired, and the castle placed in a position of defence. A company of soldiers under the command of Oliver Stephenson was left in it, and the President and his army moved westward to besiege Carrigfoyle.

In 1603 an act of indemnity passed the great seal, under which Edmond, grandson of Thomas, who was attainted, was restored to a portion of his hereditary estates. These still remain in the hands of his descendants. The present knight is the twenty-fourth in direct succession, and holds lands which have belonged to his family for at least six hundred years.

Of the old stronghold whose siege by Carew has just been narrated, nothing now remains but the keep, the scene of the last and final struggle. Externally it measures thirty-eight feet by thirty-five, and as the walls are eight feet thick, the space enclosed is very limited. At present it is only forty-five feet in height, but the turret which stood at the east corner must have added considerably to its elevation. The outer walls encircling the courtyard were 102 feet in length, by 92 feet in width. The principal entrance was to the north, and it was defended by a semi-circular out-work in front. According to the map in *Pacata Hibernia*, the great hall was to the right, and here under a window the breach was made. If the scale of the map be correct, as very probably it is, for ~~there is~~

not much room for error, Carew's two wonderful siege pieces were planted not fifty yards from the north wall, and the third not more than thirty yards from the east wall. The keep was at the south-west corner of the enclosure, and two turrets defended the angles. The whole was surrounded by a moat supplied with water from the Shannon, and to the north was the mill. In the map the town of Glin is represented by seven small houses in flames, the place having been burned by the Irish on the approach of the English army.

The Knights of Glin took their battle-cry of *Shanid Aboo* not from their ancestral house but from the massively-constructed stronghold which, from the slopes of the hills, kept watch and ward over the fertile manors of Castletown and Beagh.

The castle of Shanid is a striking and interesting object on the line of rounded hill tops running north and south, at an elevation of from four to over five hundred feet. The castle is so situated that it can be distinctly seen outlined against the sky-line from almost every part of the great level tract, which extends from the base of these hills to the Slieve Phelim mountains in Tipperary, and even further. In the opposite direction it is equally conspicuous over a large part of North Kerry, and a fire-signal on its summit could convey an alarm from the Devil's Bit to Listowel, a distance of seventy miles, as the crow flies; whilst by means of Roxtown or Rochestown Castle the intelligence could be passed on over the whole of North Munster. The castle is situated at the lowest depression of the range, and was evidently an

important position long before the erection of the present structure, whose remains still testify to the extraordinary pains taken to render it impregnable. It was from this remarkable fortress, or rather signal station, that the Munster branch of the Geraldines took their battle-cry of *Shanid Aboo* (Shanid for Ever), still the motto of the Knights of Glin.

Shanid castle is easy of access, as the main western road runs within a hundred yards of the base of the mound upon which it stands. The mound is in the form of a blunt cone, and has probably been formed by cutting the hill into this shape. The base is encircled with an earthen rampart and fosse, two hundred yards in circumference, from which the mound rises about sixty feet in height. The northern slope still exhibits the remains of the great earthen ramparts, between which the path lay to the fortress above. They are so arranged that, when one point of the path could no longer be defended by the garrison, they could retreat quickly and easily to a higher point, from which the attack could still be maintained upon those approaching. The stronghold which crowned the mound consisted of an embattled wall of great strength, enclosing an area within which stood the castle. The latter, if the strongest, must have been also one of the smallest specimens of military architecture to be found anywhere. The inner diameter is but twenty-four feet, and the walls are no less than nine feet in thickness. Externally, this building was an octagon, but internally, it was circular. The portion at present standing is about one-third of the circumference, and is thirty-five feet in

height, and may have originally been much higher. There are no windows in the portion still standing, but the side of an opening may be observed.

The outer wall was circular and rises twelve feet up to the battlements. It is three-and-a-half feet thick, and is loopholed in several places. About thirty-nine feet of it are still standing. The internal diameter of the space enclosed by the outer wall is less than seventy-five feet. The castle is not situated in the middle of this area, but considerably to one side, so much so that the outer side of the castle and the inner surface of the wall, in one part, approached to within six inches of each other. The greatest length of the open space could not have been more than twenty-eight feet. The structure was evidently blown up by gunpowder, probably at the close of the sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth. The mortar was of the most tenacious description, and, though blocks of masonry have been blown out and have tumbled down to the foot of the mound, they have not crumbled to bits. On the top of the mound may be observed a mass which has been blown right over, so that the curve is outside. It is twenty-seven feet long, nine feet in thickness, that being the thickness of the walls, and its width is about four feet. The mortar is at present as hard and as firm as if it had never been disturbed, and the block is fit to be put back in its place, practically uninjured by time, or by the explosion which burst it out and overturned it.

Carew, in his *Pacata Hibernia*, does not even allude to Shanid, though he must have marched

near it on his way from Askeaton to besiege Glin. Nor is it mentioned when Sir Nicholas Malby must have passed it by when hastening to capture Askeaton after Carrigfoyle had fallen into his hands. Apparently, it would have been hopeless to attempt to get possession of Shanid, and, if the attempt were successful, the gain would not have been worth the trouble. It was out of the ordinary-class of strongholds. The garrison could not have numbered more than half a score, nor was it capable of affording accommodation to a larger number. Yet, these few defending their lofty eyrie might have kept an army at bay, and an effort to reduce it by famine would be ill rewarded by the surrender of a handful of soldiers. The English commanders evidently passed it by, leaving the mighty watch-tower in the hands of the Geraldines, knowing that for offensive purposes it might be disregarded.

The fields in the adjacent neighbourhood of Shanid exhibit traces of what might have been extensive earth-works in former days, though at this distance of time it is impossible to say definitely whether they were earth-works or not. The presumption, from their general appearance and their relationship to the mound towering above them, would lead one to suppose that something like a great fortified camp might have existed here at some remote period. Many large earthen forts, of a date long anterior to the arrival of the English, are scattered about in the vicinity. A most remarkable structure of this kind lies within a hundred yards of the mound. It is considerably elevated above the level of the field on which it is situated, and is

forty-three paces, or about one hundred feet, in diameter. The enclosed space is divided into four equal quadrants by mounds of earth, radiating from the centre, and of the same height as the ridge which surrounds the whole. These quadrantal compartments did not communicate with one another, their several entrances being from the outside. It would appear as if this were an attempt to solve a problem similar to that which led to the erection of John O'Groat's house and its many doors. In the centre, where the dividing embankments cross one another, may be observed a curious depression, where, perhaps, a standard had been erected. A few hundred yards north of Shanid, and adjacent to the present roadway, formerly stood Lower Shanid Castle, of which no traces are now discernable. South-west of Shanid, on the banks of the White river, stood the castle of Baile-*ui-Geileachain*, which was destroyed by its garrison in 1580, rather than let it fall into the hands of Sir Nicholas Malby, after the capture of Carrigfoyle.

Two important battles were fought in this neighbourhood. In the "Wars of the Gael with the Galls" at the year 884, there is recorded a defeat inflicted upon the Danes, by Donadhach, chief of the *Ui Fidhgeinte*, at a place called *Senati*, *Seannad*, or Shanid. Considerably later, in enumerating the severe defeats which Mahon, elder brother of Brian Boru, inflicted upon the Danes, the same annals mention the "red slaughter of the foreigners" after the victory of *Sen-Gualainn* (Shanagolden), the Old Shoulder, so-called from the shape of the hill.

North of Shanid is Knockpatrick, which is said

to mark the extreme limit of St. Patrick's missionary journey in Munster. From the summit of Knockpatrick he is said to have bestowed his blessing on the west, and to have pointed out Scattery island, in the distant estuary of the Shannon, as a centre where the light of the gospel should radiate to the surrounding districts left unvisited by him. The prediction is supposed to have received its fulfilment in St. Senan. St. Patrick's Well and Chair are still pointed out a short distance below the highest point. The summit is crowned with a grave-yard which at present contains no remains of any antiquity or interest. The view from this point is very fine, embracing large districts of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, and Kerry. The lower part of the Shannon lies spread out like a sea, Scattery island stands out clear and distant and, with its round tower, forms an interesting spot in the broad estuary.

In the neighbouring village of Foynes, near Corrig house, may be observed traces of the castle of Corgroge, near which Carew encamped when on his way back from Glin. He describes it as "belonging to Master Trenchard, the undertaker (or settler), and of strength sufficient to hold out against any force, except the cannon. But the example of the Glynne was so fearful unto the rebels, that upon the first summons they yielded the same, with safety of their lives."



NOTES.

LANDS OF THE KNIGHTS OF GLIN.

An inquisition taken in 1572, gives the particulars of the territory held by the knight. Along with the castle itself he has possession of the town and castle of Castletown, the town and castle of Beagh, the town and castle of Cappagh, and the towns of Kilbriden, Arloman, and Cloingcollon, Ballylougirth, Fnhighe, Clohirane, Mowyh, Ballygawe, and Drologhan, most of which can be identified at the present day. He held the Castle of the Vale with thirteen plough-lands belonging to it. Other lands were leased to tenants who held them under various obligations, the rents in money being very low. Edmond FitzDavid held seven plough-lands belonging to the castle "paying nothing for one of them, and out of the other six three marks per annum when they are inhabited, otherwise, nothing, and paying his portion of corses as others do." Edmond McDavid and Moris Ykhea (Maurice Hickey), were tenants of Shanballymore, with two plough-lands, each of them paying yearly ten shillings, that is to say, five shillings at Christmas and five shillings at Easter, with the proviso, that when strangers are cessed upon the county, they are expected to bear their portion according to the rate of their lands. Garrett McMorris held the town of Ballinogowle, and two plough-lands, for the rent of twenty shillings, and when any strangers should come to the Knight's house to bear part of them according to the rate of his land, for two days and two night. There existed joint tenancies, also, such as that of Edmond Oge and David McPhelipp, for the Newtown called Eallinoe, and one plough-land, for the rent of ten shillings; Oge paying two parts of the sum and McPhelipp three parts.

A plough-land contained about 130 acres, and at this time the value of a beef was 6s. 8d., according to the rate paid by the Earl of Desmond. The Knight also possessed the advowson of the parsonage and vicarage of the church of Kilkernan, and waste mills and waste weirs both at Castletown and Glin.

In the list of pardons on the accession of Queen Elizabeth will be found the pardon of Maurice Fitz-Gerot, Rector of Kilkernan, and Maurice, his son, of the Geraldines, clerks.

1573. Earl of Desmond put his man, James Dore, at the head of all the carpenters and masons in his country, and commanded him to raze down Castleton in Kenry and the Clan (Glin.)—*State Papers*.

GRANTS OF THE KNIGHT OF GLIN'S POSSESSIONS.

Certificate, 18th May, 1587, of the lands in the County of Connelloe allotted to Mr. John Strowde and his associates. *sc.*—The castle and lands called Cloughtredboye, late the White Knight's, and parcel of the Croughe or Toughe, in the County of Limerick; the castle and lands of Kippaugh, late the Knight of the Valley's; the castle, town and lands of Beawghe, otherwise Enbeoughe Yearosseye; the castle and lands of Balleloghan, late the said Knight of the Valley's; 8,000 acres.

A Particular, 18th August, 1587, of the lands in the County of Limerick, being parcel of the Knight of the Valley and Thomas, his son's, lands, attainted in Kenry, long waste and unpeopled as are by us, the undertakers assigned and allotted for the parts and portions of George Beston and Launcelot Bostocke; *sc.* the manor, castle and lands oalled Castletown; the manor of Cloveagh, otherwise Beagh Castle; the castle of Court Rothery near by Kilmallock; the lands called Hallinaghtie, otherwise Ballahaugh; the lands called Garroghloyne and all the land called the Great Wood; to make up two signorier: of 12,000 acres apiece.

A Particular, 1st August, 1587, of the lands in the County of Limerick, parcel of the Knight of the Valley and Thomas, his son's, lands, attainted, lying in Kenry, long waste and unpeopled, allotted to Gilbert Gerrard; *sc.* the manor, castle and lands called Cappagh, otherwise Capigh, containing seven plow-lands, a signory of 12,000 acres.

—*Carew Papers*, 1575–1588.

INVESTIGATING THE KNIGHT'S TITLE.

Directing the Lord Deputy and Lord Chancellor to ascertain the title of the son of the Knight of the Valley to the Signory called Castletown and Glynne, in the County of Limerick, which had been granted to George Beston and Lancelot Bostocke, Her Majesty's servants and undertakers of the eschaeted lands of Munster; but as these lands did not come to the Crown by the attainder of Desmond in the late rebellion, but by a former title, and as Her Majesty is solicitous that justice and equity should be administered, she directs that the title should be examined, and the lands not passed to Beston and Bostocke for the respects above rehearsed.

Somerset House, Dec. 7, 1587.

GRANT TO WILLIAM CARTER.

Grant to William Carter of the manor and town of CASTLETON, a castle, the walls of a ruined hall, three messuages, six cottages, a garden, a water-mill, 561 acres arable lend, 50 acres pasture; Brdlonan—One messuage, eight cottages and 40 acres arable, 340 acres underwood; Kilbride—260 acres arable; Cloughrane—202 acres arable; Ballilongford—36 acres arable; Fahye—12 acres arable and 20 acres near the Shannon, almost inundated with water; the castle and lands of Beagh a ruined castle and old chapel, 254 acres arable, pasture, and underwood; Belvestin—282 acres arable—all situated in the Country called Kenrie, in the County of Limerick; Kepaugh, an ancient castle with a barbican ruined on the south, 320 acres arable, and 44 pasture; in Connylo, certain buildings and 58 acres

of unprofitable bog; the town of Lismuckey, 20 acres arable, 93 acres underwood, 40 acres bog; Ballingoule—86 acres arable, 23 acres underwood; Cloughentrad—86 acres arable, 49 acres pasture, situate in the Country called Connolaght, in the County of Limerick, late parcel of the possessions of Thomas Fitz Gerald, Knight of the Valley, attainted of high treason, and which had been granted to Edmond Fitz Thomas of the Glanne, and his heirs, for the term of 21 years, ending the 3rd May, 1509, who assigned his interest and term of years to Arthur Carter, brother of William, several annuals, rents, duties, and customs, amounting altogether to £4 18s. 9d., issuing out of several lands in the County of Limerick, which lately belonged to the Knight of the Glyn and Valley: to hold, &c.

Dublin, March 2, 1392.

The castle of the Glane and other parcels were granted to Edmond MacThomas.

ABSTRACT OF NAMES OF UNDERTAKERS,

the several counties, quantity of their lands and their yearly rents.

LIMERICK:

Sir William Courtenay,	10,500	acres,	2131	5	0
Francis Barkley,	7,250	"	87	10	0
Robert Ansloe,	2,599	"	27	1	5
Richard hlex. Fitton,	3,086	"	31	10	5
William Mainwaring,	3,747	"	39	0	7
William Trenshard,	12,000	"	155	0	0
George Thornton,	1,500	"	15	12	6
Sir George Bouchier,	12,880	"	134	4	4
Henry Billingsley	11,800	"	147	0	0

—*State Papers, 1596-97.*

IN THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK, THESE CASTLES WERE
FORSAKEN, 1598.

Meane, Pallice, Hallinwylly, of Sir Henry Ughtred, Knight, who, together with his lady, fled to Limerick, having left sixteen men in his house, who within two days

ran away; Edward Fitton, Sheriff of the County, fled to England, and left Glenogher, his house and lands to the rebels; Sir George Bouchier, having Richard Rowley for his tenant in Loughgirre, put in Ulick Browne, who, by treachery, gave all to the rebel; Newcastle, Glancuyn and Portneard of Sir William Courtenay, Knight, who neglected his seignory, and put servants in trust that were careless of the defence; Corrag, Foyne, Shanytt, of Mr. Trenchard (his executors after his decease left all open to the enemy); Tarbert, Ballanecory, of Justice Goold, forsaken; Mr. Aylmer left Kilfinien without men or victual; Captain Colvin left his house and fled to Askelyn; the abbey of Adare, of Mr. George Thornton, where he had thirty men, munition and victual, yet was forsaken, for they all ran away, and the Bruff which he had in lease from Piers Lacy, wherein the President had put eighteen men in ward, upon their running away was given up to Piers Lacy; Fannyngton, of William Mainwaring.

—*Portion of a MS. History of the time.*

—*State Papers, 1598-99. P. 325.*

PELHAM'S MARCH FROM LIMERICK TO GLIN, 1580.

Upon intelligence from the Earl of Ormond of his intention to repair towards me from Cork, where he was treating with the lords and principal gentlemen of that province, I forebare to march out of Limerick until I understood of his departure from Cork. We met not far from the bridge of Rathkell, in Conneloughe, on the 10th (of March), where being advertised that the Earl of Desmond had gathered the most of his strength, we deter- mined to seek him the next day in two companies.

In respect of the passage at the bridge of Rathkell, the river not being passable in the winter time, a ward had been placed by Sir Nicholas Malbie, and after continued by the earl and me in a castle near to the bridge, but a week before Desmond had broken it in a dark night, and the ward was not able to annoy them. I took the ward from thence, setting fire to the castle, and repairing the bridge.

We entered Conneloughe in two companies, Ormond towards the Shennan side, and I upwards towards Newcastle, and marched all the day without offence of any enemy, wasting and spoiling the country to the foot of the mountain of Sliulougher. The people and cattle flying before us in the mountain were followed by some horsemen and light footmen.

We encamped in two places not far distant one from the other, near Desmond's first and most ancient house of Castle Shenet. Finding the country plentiful, and the people but newly fled, we left our camps guarded next day, and searched some part of the mountain. There were slain that day, by the fury of the soldiers, about 400 people found in the woods, and wheresoever any house or corn was found it was consumed by fire.

The next day we encamped before the castle of the Glanne, upon the river of Shenan, where I had appointed bread and drink to meet us from Limerick. Lord Fitz Morris came to that place, and presented his service to her Majesty. Being informed by a bark of Limerick that *The Handmaid*, *The Achates*, and other ships with victuals and ammunition were at Dingle in Kerrie, we determined to pass the mountains towards Dingle. . . . On the 16th we entered Sleulougher, in which mountain (being in the narrowest place 16 miles broad, and accompted 50 miles in length), we encamped one night in Dowran, by the river of Viall near a place of the earls called Fort Renard, from thence we marched the next day to Tralighe.

—*Carew Papers*, 1575-1588.



NEWCASTLE WEST.

CHAPTER XII.

THE present Barony of Glenquin was formerly included in the district so frequently referred to in this work as Connello. It was more anciently known as Clonglass, or Clonglais, and was the patrimony of the family of Collins. Cuilen of Claenghlais was Lord of Ui Connell Gabhra shortly before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. Mahon O'Cuilen is described in 1266, as Lord of Claenghlaisi, showing that his territory had diminished. In 1535, the Lord of Claenglais* is mentioned as in alliance with Mac Gibbon, from which it would appear, that up to that late date, O'Cuilen (or as the name has been Anglicized Collins), continued to maintain a separate position, though with territory very much diminished in area.

This fertile district is almost entirely surrounded by hills, and opens out into the northern half of the County of Limerick where the town of Newcastle now stands. A stately and imposing fortress was erected here shortly after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, and served to secure the beautiful plain to the south-west, which was one of the earliest possessions they acquired by their sword and bow in the county which was to be henceforth their

*The variations in spelling are as in the "Annals of the Four Masters."

home. The castle which gives its name to the town was one of the most imposing of those great military structures which still bear testimony to the skill of the new-comers. Its erection is ascribed to the Knights Templars in the thirteenth century, and at the present day the oak-leaf and acorn are pointed out on the stonework as proving the handiwork of this great order of military monks. They built in a manner to last for ever. The vaulted lower story is still perfect, and the walls which support the structure are from eight to ten feet in thickness. The main building is fitted up as a modern residence. Attached to the building is a round tower, evidently part of the fortifications. A few yards from it stands a square tower still in excellent preservation. On the other side of the pile stands the chapel, and between it and the river are walls and passages the exact use of which cannot now be readily determined. A short distance apart is a building popularly called the Desmond Hall, which was probably the banqueting chamber. The hall is still used for various public purposes.

The earliest descendants of Maurice Fitzgerald found the castle of the Templars ready to their hands on the suppression of the order or perhaps before it. In O'Clery's Book of Pedigrees, a translation of which will be found in the journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association for 1880, occurs a portion, with the heading "Of the Explanation of the History of the Geraldines, of their destruction, and of their death here."

From these accounts it would appear that Newcastle **was** the home of the ancestors of the Earls

of Desmond before the title was created, and continued to be so for many years after. The first notice of Newcastle is as follows:—

"Thomas, grandson of John, was thirty years in lordship, until he died in Caislen Nua O'Conaill, and was buried in Tralee after the carrying away of the Victory from Devil and from World; and, this Thomas is the infant the ape carried off with her on the gable of the monastery of Tralee. He died 1296."

This Thomas was the grandson of John of Callan, the founder of the monastery of Tralee, who with his son was buried there, having fallen in battle with the Mac Carthys, at Callan, near Kenmare.

Thomas was but an infant when deprived of his father and grandfather. O'Daly in his *History of the Geraldines* relates that his nurse, "who had heard the dismal tidings at Tralee, ran about here and there in a frenzy of grief and left the cradle without a watcher. Thereon, an ape which was kept for amusement lifted the infant out of the cradle, and carried him to the top of the castle. There, to the astonishment of those who passed that way, the ape took off the babe's swaddling clothes, licked him all over, dressed him again, and brought him back to his cradle safe and sound. Then coming to the nurse, as it were in reproof for her neglect, it dealt her a blow. But ever after was that babe called 'Thomas-an-appagh,' that is 'of the ape.'" The story is supposed to account for the ape supporters in the arms of Dukes of Leinster, but that branch was not descended from

Thomas. Thomas was the father of Maurice, first earl of Desmond, which title was created in 1329. ✓

The death of Garret, fourth earl of Desmond, is recorded as having occurred at Newcastle, in 1399.

Again, the death is recorded of James, the eighth earl, "head of the hospitality and of the valour of the fair foreigners of Erin in his time; a man who bestowed wealth and numerous gifts; a man who enlarged the earldom and made conquests in many lands. In Caislen Nua O'Conaill he died after the ending of his age, and was buried in Tralee, 1462"

The senior branch of this historic house was, therefore, long and intimately connected with the magnificent stronghold which commanded their possessions in the west of the County of Limerick.

A very important document relating to the possessions of Thomas-an-appagh, or Thomas FitzMaurice, will be found in the volume of the Kolls series, entitled *Calendar of Documents* relating to Ireland, 1293-1301. It is the report of an enquiry held to ascertain the lands and possessions of Thomas in the year 1298. The document is very voluminous. Besides lands in Kerry, Cork and Waterford, Thomas possessed the extensive manors of Newcastle, Shanid, and Glenogra in this County. The portion relating to the manor of Newcastle will be found verbatim in the notes attached to this chapter, together with a short summary of the returns for Shanid and Glenogra.

In a very much later list (1572), of the manors of the Earl of Desmond the name of Newcastle stands

second. The manors were Askeaton, Newcastle, Shanneth, the Island of Foynes, Carrygrayge, Tearebeard, the Fort of the Three Enemies, Clone Ogallyn and Dromearde; also the manors of Lough Garry, Glinoger, Rathmore and Any.

An important offshoot of the family was settled but a short distance from Newcastle. When Thomas-an-appagh felt called upon to provide for the children of John of Callan, by his second wife, Honora, daughter of O'Conor, he granted the lands of Meine and Mahoonagh to Gilbert or Gibbon, the eldest son. The descendants of Gilbert called themselves Fitzgibbon and MacGibbon, not Fitzgerald, probably to distinguish themselves from their cousins who bore the latter name. Gilbert had two sons. The elder, Maurice, was knighted in 1333*; he died in 1357, and was buried at Kilmallock. He was the first who bore the title of White Knight. Gilbert's second son, Gibbon, was the ancestor of the MacGibbons of Mahoonagh, by whom the castle of Meine was erected, the ruins of which may still be seen standing on a slight elevation near the village of Mahoonagh.

Maurice, the first White Knight, remained in Scotland some time after he had distinguished himself at Halidon Hill. He also acquired a reputation for "gallantry and intriguing with the fair sex," and finally married a lady of the name of Bruce, but it is uncertain whether she belonged to the royal line or not. From Scotland he is said to have moved to England, where a daughter of his married.

*See page 18.

a younger son of the Earl of Northumberland. Thence he returned to his native land, only to find a grave there, after a brief sojourn.

The first White Knight left two sons, Maurice and David. Maurice, the elder, when very young was sent to be educated in foreign parts, and on attaining manhood, served in the Crusades against the Turks. For many years he had not been heard of, whereupon, David the younger brother assumed the title of White Knight, and resided at the family castle of Meine. David married an English lady, said (without very much authority), to be a daughter of Percy, Earl of Worcester, and in due time died, leaving an only son, John, residing with his mother at Meine, and destined to bear the title of White Knight. Before he attained his majority, however, his uncle Maurice, his father's elder brother, appeared upon the scene. Maurice, worn out with service in the Continental armies, turned his steps homeward to the possessions he had so long neglected. He quickly learned how matters stood, and travelled direct to Meine. Having arrived within a short distance of the castle he sent one of his attendants to inform his sister-in-law of his being on the road, and that he purposed to pay her a visit that night. The footman knocked at the gate of Meine, and, in reply to an enquiry from the porter, stated that he belonged to the White Knight's retinue and came to give notice of his arrival that evening. The porter, before he opened the gate, went and delivered the message to his mistress, who, according to the Chronicler, called him a fool, and said surely he knew that her son, then present, was

the White Knight, and warned him that if under that title he would admit any other to enter her house she would not only discharge him, but punish him severely. The porter delivered his message to the footman waiting outside the gate, who did not anticipate such treatment. He told the porter to go back and tell the lady that his master was son of the Old Knight, but this was equally unsatisfactory. She argued, with all the strength of a woman's logic, that no other was or should be called the White Knight but her son; and ordered the menial to go and tell the footman it was her directions to inform his master that he might call himself the son of the Old Knight as long as he wished, but there should be no White Knight other than her own son. The lady had her way. Maurice surrendered the title to his nephew, and, after some difficulty, obtained a portion of his inheritance. Maurice obtained a grant of more than twenty thousand acres in the south-east corner of Limerick, lying between Knockcarron and Kilmallock. The head of the family was known as Mac-an-Shan Riddery, the son of the Old Knight. The two branches of the family became united again under one head, on the death of Edmond in 1611, in the person of Gibbon of Ballynahinch. The present representative of both these lines of chieftains is Maurice of Crohana House, Kilkenny, who is thus both White Knight and Mac-an-Shan Riddery.

The descendants of David retained Meine in their possession till 1551, when John, White Knight, was compelled to surrender these lands and transfer

himself to the east of the county.* The names of members of the family residing at Mahoonagh occur in an inquisition held at Limerick during the reign of Elizabeth. On the attainder of the last Earl of Desmond, all the lands passed into other hands. The act of attainder contains the name of Thomas MacGibbon, of Mahoonagh, gentleman. The following lands were included in the forfeiture:—The castle, lands and manor of Meine, late the Earl of Desmond's; the castle and lands called the Pallice, late Richard MacThomas's, otherwise MacThomas of the Pallice; the castle and lands called Mahoonagh, late MacGibbys's; the castle and lands of Ballynoe, in the parish of Clonalty; the castle called Gortnyubbrid, late Thomas Caum's of the Clenlish; the castle and lands of Craushaugh, late the Earl of Desmond's; the castle, tower, and lands of Kilbolane, late David Gibbon's, otherwise David-an-Corrig, lord of the Great Wood—in all 1200 acres. These forfeited estates were granted to Henry Oughtred, brother-in-law of Sir William Courtenay, in 1587. Oughtred, on his dying without issue, bequeathed his estates of Meine to his nephew, the fourth son of Sir William Courtenay, on condition of his taking the name of Oughtred. On the death of the nephew's only son without issue, the lands were inherited by the heir of Sir William Courtenay, from whom they have descended to the present holder,

* In the fourth year of Queen Mary, John Oge FitzGibbon, the White Knight, and his kinsmen David, Gilbert and Thomas, released unto James, Earl of Desmond, all their lands in Connello, viz.: The manors of Meine and Ballytine, the short Castle of Askeaton, etc.—Unpublished Geraldine Documents,

the Earl of Devon. So late as 1670, in a history of the White Knights there is mention of a "Garret Fitzgibbon, heir to Mahoonagh."

When the Desmond survey was taken in 1584, the castle of Meine is described as having been wealthy and spacious before the rebellion in which it was destroyed. "To-day nothing of it remains," says the record, "beyond the stone walls." So it remains at present a strong, low, rectangular tower. The internal measurement is 35 feet by 24½. The walls are 6½ feet thick, and at present 25 feet in height. There appears to have been no arched floor in this castle, and in this it differs from almost all similar structures.

The castle of Gort-na-tiobrad, the seat of the Fitzgeralds, Lords of Clonlish, is now incorporated with Springfield, the residence of Lord Muskerry, and is still in excellent preservation. Though included amongst the forfeitures it continued in the possession of the Fitzgeralds of Clonlish, descendants of Thomas Caum, till 1688. They probably remained tenants of the Courtenays, paying rents for the lands which were once their own. The wife of Sir John Fitzgerald, Bart., of Clenlish, who was killed at the battle of Oudenarde, in 1708, claimed a jointure out of it so late as 1700.

Gort-na-tiobrad is mentioned in the "Annals of the Four Masters," at the date 1579, in connection with the march inland of the Irish and Spanish forces, under Sir John of Desmond. At that time the great plain between Newcastle and the borders of Cork was covered with a dense forest, and was known as the Great Wood. The allies halted at

Gort-na-tiobrad for some time after the march from Smerwick, and the Irish leader learned that the English forces were being assembled at Kilmallock to proceed against him. The Lord Deputy, Sir William Drury, was there, accompanied by such experienced captains as Bagnall and Malby, and he was subsequently joined by the Earl of Kildare, and the Lords of Ormond and Dunboyne. An advance party of over three hundred men was sent forward to try the strength of the Irish, and an Irish detachment was despatched to meet them. The latter knew the recesses of the Great Wood, and planned an ambushade into which the English fell. The party was put to the sword, and but a very few escaped to bring tidings of the disaster to the Lord Deputy. Sir William Drury died soon after, but Malby wiped out the disgrace to the English army, by the defeat of the allies at Monasternenagh.

This dense wood which covered the border districts of Limerick and Cork, played an important part in the closing scenes of the Desmond war. It was at once a place of protection to which the Irish could fly for safety, and also a screen behind which they could watch the motions of the English, whilst remaining unseen themselves. Here James Fitzmaurice fled for safety with his followers after the murder of Davells at Tralee. Into its recesses plunged John of Desmond again and again, after some successful foray, or to escape an enemy more powerful than himself. Here wandered the last earl of Desmond, flitting hither and thither to escape the snares laid for his capture by pursuers

anxious to gain the price set upon his head. In the Great Wood after the defeat at Manisternenagh, perished miserably the papal legate, Dr. Saunders, who had accompanied the Irish and continental troops so far. At this time the Lord of the Great Wood was David Gibbons, otherwise David of the Combat. He died in 1582, according to the annals, which in the same year record what must have been a matter of astonishment that, "Thomas Gerald and John Oge, the sons of John Fitzgerald of Claonglass, all died this year a natural death."

West of Springfield are the remains of Killeedy church and castle. The church consists of nave and choir. The nave bears all the marks of belonging to the earliest style of Irish architecture, and originally formed part of the religious establishment founded in the sixth century by St. Ida, the Brigid of Munster. This saint is also known as Mida and the patron of churches bearing the name of Kilmeedy. It was the habit of the Irish to prefix as a term of endearment or affection the word **Mo**, the Irish for "my," to the names of the more popular religious teachers, hence the change from Ida to Mida. When the name began with a vowel only the 'M' was prefixed. Every form which the words Ida and Mida can be reasonably changed into has been employed to designate the founder of Killeedy, such as Ita, Ite, and so on.

Ida was eighth in descent from the celebrated Felim the Lawgiver, who reigned over Ireland from 122 to 157. He is better known as the father of the still more famous Conn of the Hundred Battles.

Ida was born in the district known as the present

County Waterford, and at an early age devoted herself to a life of perpetual virginity. Rejecting an advantageous proposal of a marriage, and at the bidding of an angel, who appeared to her in a dream, she left her father's house and proceeded to the western borders of *Ui Conaill*, where she preached to the heathen Irish. She established her monastery at the foot of *Slieve Luachra*, and gathered around her a band of devoted virgins. She and her companions were well received by the people of the district whom she persuaded to embrace Christianity with the assistance of *St. Senan*, of *Scattery Island*. There is little definite information respecting any incidents in the life of this saint, though numerous miracles are attributed to her. Besides the notice of her death, there is a single reference to her in the "*Annals of the Four Masters*." It is as follows: "546. The battle of *Cuilne*, in which many of the *Corcoiche* were slain, through the prayers of *Ida of Cluain Creadhail*." The *Corcoiche* were a sept dwelling on the banks of the *Maigue*, of whom, after surnames came into use, the chief bore the name of *O'Macassy*. *Cluain Creadhail* is the ancient name of the district where the saint settled. *St. Ida* died on the 15th January, which day is still observed in the vicinity in which she founded her celebrated monastic establishment. *St. Brendan the Navigator*, was amongst those educated here. The death is recorded of two abbots of *Cille Ita*, namely, *Cathasach*, in 810; and *Finnacha*, in 833. The place was plundered by the Danes who landed at *Ciarraighe Luachra* in 838, and again in 851.

In the extreme west of the County, on the borders of *Kerry*, situated amongst the recesses of the mountains, stands the town of *Abbeyfeale*, so called from the abbey founded for *Cistercians* in 1188, and which was made a cell to the celebrated establishment at *Manister*. The river preserves the name of the wife of one of the earliest *Milesian* invaders, to whom the southern district was assigned. The story is that *Fial*, the wife of *Lugaid*, or *Lewy*, was bathing one day in the river, when her husband suddenly came in sight. She did not recognize him, and, being unable to conceal herself from the view of one whom she thought to be a stranger, she died of fright and shame. Hence the name which the river bears to this day.

A short distance north-west of *Abbeyfeale* may be observed the ruins of *Purt castle*, one of the many fortified posts of the *Geraldines*. It was whilst residing at this castle that a romantic adventure happened to *Thomas*, heir to the earldom of *Desmond*. The young man had been so engrossed in hunting on one occasion that he did not observe that night was falling fast, and that he was a long distance from home. In trying to retrace his steps he lost his way in the darkness, and wandered about on the mountains not knowing where to turn. At length the tired hunter spied a glimmering of light, and making the best of his way towards it, found that it proceeded from a house. He obtained admittance, and asked shelter for the night which was cheerfully granted. His host he learned was one of his father's tenants, named *McCormac*, and he observed that he had an extremely beautiful

daughter, named Catherine. This was but the first of many visits paid to the cottage, for Catherine inspired in the young man's breast a passion he could not subdue. He finally married Catherine, with the result that his kindred all turned against him, and declared that the peasant's daughter should never become Countess of Desmond. The young man and his bride were compelled to fly to the continent where they passed the remainder of their days, and the earldom of Desmond passed to the next in succession. The incident has been immortalised by Moore in his poem, the first stanza of which is:—

By the Peal's wave benighted,
No star in the skies;
To thy door by love lighted,
I first saw those eyes.
Some voice whisper'd o'er me,
As the threshold I crost,
There was ruin before me—
If I loved—I was lost.



NOTES.

EXTRACT PROY INQUISITION OF LANDS OF THOMAS FITZMAURICE, 1298.

Extents of the lands of Thomas FitzMaurice, who died on Wednesday next after the feast of the Holy Trinity. [June 4, 1298].

EXTENT of the MANOR DE NOVO CASTRO, taken there Saturday next after the feast of the apostles, Peter and Paul. [July 5, 1298].

Jurors:—Odo de Valle, Maurice of London, Richard of London, William le Lou, John Smythe, Milo Bouzon, Walter Rathconl, William Rathcoul, Geoffrey Houlyn, Thomas Boscher, William FitzPeter, Henry Major, Philip Laynath, William FitzWalter, John Huberd, Thomas Crispyn, William Courteler, Philip FitzRobert, Osbert le Wyce, John Emly, who say upon their oath that, the castle and edifices, as well within as without the wall, can be extended at no value, because, it is necessary to devote greater sums in maintaining these than can be received on land therefrom.

There are eighteen score acres of arable land in demesne, extended at ad. an acre, a year; twelve acres of meadow at 6d.; a pasture within the demesne at 40d., and a garden with a curtelage at 5s. Total, £9 14s. 4d.

There are at the Grange of Kylrodan, four hundred and eight acres of arable land in demesne, at 8d. an acre; sixteen acres of meadow at 6d. There is no pasture save for oxen of the Grange from which nothing can be received. Total, £16 13s. 4d.

There are at *Nova Grangia* fourteen score and nineteen acres of arable land in demesne, whereof each acre is extended at Rd a year; fourteen acres of meadow at 6d. an acre, and no pasture. Total, E10 6s. 4d.

Free tenants:—Geoffrey, Robert, and Reymund le Blund hold half quarter of land in Deryndromcarne, rendering 24s. 8d. a year, and doing suit of court; William Dundone-sld holds half quarter in Glyngownyn, renders 2d. a year and does suit; William Toost, ten acres in Lysmatleth, rendering 11d. without suit; Philip FitzRalph and Adam de Portesbury, twenty-four acres in le Nanagh, rendering 16s. but no suit; Robert Haket, three and a half carucates. at Glenhom, rendering 1d. with suit; Richard de London, one quarter of land in Cnocbrack, rendering 40d. without suit; Philip de Valle, one carucate in Kilcapely, rendering 26s. 8d. a year, without suit; Ismaena Coterel, one carucate at Anecroygh, renders nothing but does suit; the heirs of Thomas de Clare, one *teodum*,* in Moycavenagh, by the service of 20s. when royal service is proclaimed, the land is now in the King's hand; John de Valle, two carucates in Kylsualeth, by service of 6s. 8d. where service runs and renders 2s. a year.

Total of service, 26s. 8d. Total of rent, 73s. 11d.

Farmers. There are forty acres in Donaly, formerly held by Philip Fitz Robert, extending at 8d. an acre, a year. Total, 26s. 8d.

Land of *Betagii*† A quarter of land at Addouan, formerly held by them, extended in time of peace at 13s. 4d.; a small parcel of land in Glengort extended at 2s. Quarters of land at Rouscathmor, extended at \$4 a year, and Rouscatbeg' at £4 a year. Berne, 60s., Asdare, 40s., Doukone Wall, 13s. 4d., Lyetenbretenaugh, 40s., Rallycoure, 60s., Duffaly (excepting forty acres held by Philip Fitz Robert), 40s. Ballyurlyn, 4 marks, Balyhathern, 4 marks, Kilconleihe and Cnocrath-

* An attempt at rendering the Irish term *tuath*, the lands of an inferior chieftain.

† Laymen holding ecclesiastical lands; or perhaps lands held on a kind of villein tenure.

dermot, 20s., Dromrathnauch, 40s. A parcel of land at Seskenledan. 8s. a year. Quarters at Kylordan, W, Kil-macsnehyn, £4, Dowyll and Rathneconyr, 20s.; Balydaly 5 marks, and 1 quarter at Balygarwyth which they extend at 40s. a year. A parcel of land at Gortinore extended at 6s. 8d. a year; forty acres at Fethbeg and Fethmor, each of which they extend at 8d. a year.

The cottagers de Novo Castro hold sixteen and a half acres, entered at 41s. a year. There are at Ballydouly thirty acres which they extend at 20s.; at Kilnehylin a parcel of land extended at 2s. a year; at Tulauchhalyn, four acres held by Compdin le Tailor, extended at 2s. 8d., and parcels of land at Clonkille, extended at 2s., and Gort-loman at 12d. a year. Total, E48 7s. 6d.

The mill at *Novum Castrum* is extended at 6s. 8d. a year; that of Ardauch, at 10s.; the issues of Land-mills at 13s. M; the sergeancy of Obathan is worth 20s.; that of Corkoygh, 6s. 8d. a year. Pannage* is extended at 10s. a year, perquisites of court, as well of English as of Irish, and as well de Novo Castro as de Killyde, at 100s. a year; perquisites of the hundred de Ardauch at 6s. 8d. Prisage as well of flesh as of ale, de Noro Castro, is worth 2s. a year.

The church *Novi Castri* is yearly worth, with the vicarage, 100s.; the church de Agath' with its chapels, 810; the church de Moynaveaugh with the vicarage, 10 marks; the church de Moyncroo, 80 marks. All four belong to the gift of the fee.

EXTENT OF THE MANOR OF SENEDE, taken there on Friday next after the feast of the apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul, 4th of July, in above year.

Eiguteen score acres of arable land in demesne, whereof they extend each acre at 6d. a year; sixteen acres of meadow and two acres at Adlen, at 6d. an acre; from pasture and park nothing can be received, because no one will rent pasture there. There are nine acres of arable land there near the demesne in Kilbecan, which they extend at 4s. 6d. a year. Total, B9 13s. 6d.

* The food which hogs pick up in the woods, such as acorns, &c.

Land of the Irish. There are quarters of land at **Adthe** held by the Irish, which they extend in time of peace at 40s.; at Manchmore, 40s. in time of peace; half quarter at **Ballauchdram** lying waste and producing nothing, because it lies among the Irish; half quarter at **Cloncarman**, extended at 13s. 4d.; a *Villata* [townland] in **Tolauhartir**, at four marks a year; a quarter in **Punnauth**, at 26s. 8d.; half quarter in **Cloninclouthny**, extended at 13s. 4d. a year; half quarter at **Balimalys**, extended at 20s. a year; half quarter at **Balyloman**, at 16s. 8d. Parcels of land at **Sangenauth** and **Goaitroyth**, extended at 40d. a year; **Balybothyr** and **Cnockeveny**, 10s. a year; **Gerran**, 16s.; a parcel in the old garden, 3s.; a *Villata* of land at **le Creg**, ten marks a year; and five acres held by the smith near the castle, 2s. a year. Total, A19 10s.

Free tenants—**John Fitz John** [Knight of Glin] holds half *Teodum* in **Glancorbuy** for 20s., when royal service is proclaimed, and does suit from quinzaine to quinzaine. **John Clouthram** and **Thomas Crispyn**, twelve acres at **Kerwenger**; **Margery Goer**, half *Teodum*, at **Roherts' Castle**; **Reymund de Valle**, at **Dunmolyn**; **Robert de Lees**, at **Lysmuir**; **John FitzJohn**, at **Mohyrgan**; **Maurice de London**, at **Tilauthaneshan**; **Gilbert de Laundry**, at **Monitirdrynan**; **Robert de Valle**, at **Balyethan**; the heirs of **William Rothelan**, at **Kylcroscran**; **Robert**, son of **Robert Purcel**, half *Teodum* in **Rathronan**, for 20s., royal service and does suit; **John Gradok**, at **Carnhouseragh**; the heir of **David de Capella**, at **Dungeygh**; **Henry de Capella**, at **Ardryn**; **Thomas Boscher**, at **Gortmolkeran**; **Henry FitzRobert**, at **Baligaveryn**; **Milo Bozon**, at **Ogawyr**.

Total of service, £6.

Total of rent, £4 18s 8d.

There is there a garden extended with its *curtelage* at 6s. 8d. a year; hand-mills at 6s. 8d. a year; the sergeancy there is worth 13s. 4d. a year; *pannage*, 6s. 8d. a year; perquisites of court, with heriots, fines and payments of Irish, are extended for 40s. a year; there are no works of *Betagii*, because they are charged with rent for work, *gifts*,

and presents. There is nothing from warrens because the rabbits are destroyed by foxes; a mill at **New Grange** is extended at 13s. 4d. a year.

Total, A4 6s. 7d. Total of totals, A38 8s. 10d., wherefrom are subtracted 8s. paid yearly to the **Bishop of Limerick**, by **Thomas**, for land which his grandfather granted to the nuns of **O'Konyl**, and 26s. 8d. paid to the same **Bishop** to acquit land of demesne which **Sir Thomas** held of him then. Total, 34s. 8d.. And so the manor worth for the King's use, A36 14s. 2d., clear.

THE MANOR OF **GLENOGYR** contained three hundred acres in demesne, fourteen acres of meadow, and "a small grove from which the lord can obtain nothing except brambles and *virgæ ad carucas* [rods for ploughs], which cannot be extended at any value.

The free tenants were, **William of London** in **Cathirgilmore**, who held four carucates for 10s., royal services when proclaimed, and doing suit at the Court of **Glenogyr** from quinzaine to quinzaine; **Archibald Fitz Pankard**, **Philip Slane**, **Thomas Maunsel**, and **Nicholas le Blund**. The burgesses of the Vill de **Glenogyr** hold six carucates of land in their burgages, and render suit for 119s 6d. a year.

There were six pools, the fishery of which they extend for 7s. 10d. a year; issues of turbary are worth 4s. a year.

Total of totals, £37 14s 4d., from which 40s. is to be submitted for royal service, paid to **Agnes de Valence**, at **Athleckath**, when proclaimed.

By an inquisition held March 10th, 1300, to discover the true value of the lands of **Thomas Fitz Maurice**, deceased, who held of the King in *Capite*, who is his next heir, and what is his age, it was found that **Thomas Fitz Maurice** held the manor of **Newcastle**, in the County of **Limerick**, which is worth £98 17s. 5d. a year; the manor of **Kilyde**, in the same County, worth A20 15s. a year; the manor of **Shenede**, yearly worth A36 14s. 2d.; the manor of **Glenogra**, then yearly worth A37 14s. 4d., together with other manors in

Cork and Kerry. Thomas, his son, was the heir, and was of the age of ten years at Easter.

On the death of Thomas, manors were assigned to his wife, Margaret, to the value of £120 3s. 10d. yearly, and in March 20th, 1300, there is the following entry:—Terms for Reginald Rosel, and Margaret his wife, who was the wife of Thomas FitzMaurice, for payment of her fine of 8500, at the exchequer, Dublin, for her transgression in marrying Reginald without the King's license. *Fine Rolls*, 28, Edw. I.

GRANT TO ANTHONY HUNGERFORD.

Certificate of 26th June, 1587, of the lands in the County of Connriloe, allotted to Mr. Anthony Hungerforde, and his associates; *s.c.*, the towns and lands of Killydie and Glancoyne, with the lands of Killabouchier, late Thomas Cams', in the County of Limerick; the castle and lands of Portrenarde, late the Earl of Desmond's; the site of the late cell called Nephelaugh, belonging to the late monastery of Nenaughe. If there lands do not amount to 8,000 acres as appointed to them, they shall have other lands near the premises.

GRANT TO SIR HENRY UGHTRED.

Certificate 16th May, 1587, of the land in the County of Connello, allotted to Henry Ughtrede, and his associates; *s.c.*, the castle, manor, and lands called Meane, late the Earl of Desmond's; the castle, manor, and lands called the Pallice, late Richard McThomas's, otherwise, McThomas of the Pallice, the castle and lands called Mohannogh, late McGybbyn's, the castle and lands of Ballynoa, in the parish of Clonelty, late Owyn McEdmund, Oge McShehi's, and Omen McBryen's, the castle called Gortnetubherde, late Thomas Cams', of the Clenlish, the castle and lands of Cranshaugh, late the Earl of Desmond's, the castle, town, and lands of Kilbolane, late David Gybbyn's, otherwise, Davidencoriyg, Lord of the Great Wood, in all 12,000 acres.

Carew Papers, 1575-1588.

POSSESSIONS OF THOMAS CAWNE JOHN OF SPRINGFIELD.

Livery of seisin of the possessions of Thomas Cawne John of the Geraldines, to Maurice FitzThomas, his son and heir: it appearing by inquisition, taken at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mury, in the City of Limerick, the 24th January, 1596, that the said Thomas Cawne John, late of Gortnetubred, in the County of Limerick, on the 17th of August, in the 24th year of reign, was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor and Barony of Clenlishe, in the County of Limerick, that is to say of the castle, town, and lands of Gortnetubred, the castle, town and lands of Kyledie, the castle town and lands of Lisnekillye, containing 21 quarters, or carucates of land, which said manor or barony, and all the premises were held, of Gerald, late Earl of Desmond, by Knight's service in capite, and that the same Thomas died, so seized at Burdenston, in the County of Cork, and that Maurice FitzThomas is his son and heir.—Dublin, May 19th, 1596.

Calendar & Patent Rolls, Elizabeth.



THE ARDAGH CUP.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE discovery of a noble specimen of ancient

Celtic art has conferred more than a local celebrity upon the name of the village of Ardagh, situated some three miles north of Newcastle West. About two or three hundred yards west of the village, and quite adjacent to the roadway, may be seen the remains of a huge earthen fort. with about a third of the circumference removed, the remainder of the mound rising about twelve feet above the level of the ground. It is very seldom that an ancient fort is ever disturbed by the spade of the improving tenant. Fortunately an exception occurs in this particular case, with the result that "the most beautiful example of Celtic art ever yet found" has been brought to light. In the year 1868, a peasant of the neighbourhood whilst digging through the rampart unearthed the Ardagh Cup, fortunately without inflicting any serious injury upon it, the only harm done having been the disarrangement of a short strip of the fine wire used in working out the design traced upon it.

The Ardagh Cup or Chalice takes its place beside the Cross of Cong, and the Tara Brooch, as being each, in its own department, the highest effort of Celtic art in metal work. Some brooches were also

found at the same place, one of which known as the Ardagh brooch is of a high degree of merit, but its workmanship is thrown into the shade by the superior delicacy of execution which places the Cup in an unapproachable position.

The chalice is considered by Miss Stokes* "to belong to that early class of two-handled cups, described in the old 'Ordines Romani,' as *Calices Ministrales*, a form in use before the tenth century, and meant for communion of the minor clergy and people so long as communion under both kinds was given to the laity."

The chalice is composed of an alloy of three parts of silver to one of copper. It is seven inches in height, nine and a half inches in diameter, the base is six and a half inches in diameter, and the bowl is four inches in depth. It is composed of three hundred and fifty-four pieces, including twenty rivets. The weight of gold used is one oz. two dwts.; of silver, twenty oz. thirteen dwts.; and of bronze, nine oz. The gold is between 18 and 19 carat fine, but the silver is of inferior quality. The body is that of a half globe, and is surrounded by a band of ornamental work thrown into eight bosses, enamelled in quaint designs and colours. Each of these bosses has a network tissue of filigree of different patterns and intricate design. Underneath the band are the names of the twelve apostles executed in very peculiar letters. The stem is formed of a cylindrical piece of silver, on which is carved a most intricate design of a single line, which can be

*Early Christian Art in Ireland. Page 80.

traced through all its windings till the pattern is complete. The handles are perhaps the most beautiful feature of the cup, and are a mass of fine enamels of various colours and designs, held in panels of most delicate workmanship, and secured to the body by very large bosses. Some old settings remain around these containing pieces of amber, which, as a matter of effect in colours, are pronounced to be perfect. The upper rim is of brass, much decayed. The bowl is of silver and is ornamented with an inscription, interlaced patterns terminating in dogs' heads, and at the bottom a circular band of the Greek pattern. The mode of ornamentation is peculiar to this cup, being done with a chisel and hammer. The inscription already referred to contains the names of the twelve apostles, in letters about half an inch in length, in delicate lines, and runs as follows:—

Petri Pauli Andri Jacobi Johannis Piliphi
Bartholomæi Thomæ Mathei Jacobi Tatheus Simon

"The list of the apostles," says Miss Stokes, in the work already referred to, "is found in the commemoration in the Canon of the Mass; but in the Roman Missal the names are placed differently, thus:—

Petri Pauli Andræ Jacobi Joannis Philippi
Bartholomæi Thorns Matthsi Jacobi
Thaddæi Simonis.

It is also in the Litany of the Saints as given in an old Irish MS. at St. Gall; but there is a slight difference in the order of the names. It is also found in the Bobio Missal, printed by Mabillon, the only difference being that the order of names

at the end slightly varies." Before concluding her notice of this beautiful work of art to which the reader may be referred for fuller particulars as to ornamentation, etc., Miss Stokes says that "no example has hitherto been found in Great Britain of the same class as this exquisite chalice. Indeed, with a few exceptions, such as the chalice in the Abbey of Witten, in the Tyrol, this is a unique example of the two-handled chalices used in the early Christian times."

The chalices mentioned in connexion with the earliest period of the primitive Irish church are not of metal. A legend in the life of St. Patrick makes mention of chalices of glass, which were probably imported from the Continent, and, it appears from the manner of their discovery by the saint, had been in use in the Irish church before St. Patrick's time. There are two chalices of stone, of native workmanship, preserved in the National Museum, Dublin. Chalices of bronze were in use in the time of St. Columbanus. King Cormac Mac Cullenan, who died about 908, amongst other bequests left a golden and a silver chalice to Lismore, and also to Cashel. There is no inscription or prayer on the Ardagh Chalice connecting the work with the artist who made it, or the person or church for which it was executed. It comes from the remote past without the slightest clue to link it with any individual or community. The earthen fort which preserved it to the nineteenth century was not its original home. Its connexion with it must have been as accidental as its discovery. The peculiar form of ornamentation on the

Ardagh Chalice, is similar to that on the Tara brooch, and both are considered contemporaneous. This ornamentation is seen in the illuminated books of the seventh and eight centuries, notably in the Book of Kells, the date of which is about 690, and seems to have died out after the year 690. The Ardagh chalice may, therefore, be placed not later than that date.

The Most Rev. Dr. Healy* confirms Miss Stokes's opinion that it is "a two-handled chalice, probably used for the communion of the laity, at a time when the Eucharist was still administered under the species of bread and wine." The learned Author offers an ingenious suggestion towards identifying it with a gift made by King Turlogh O'Connor to Clonmacnoise, by means of the following statements which are here given verbatim, in order that the reader may exercise his own judgment:—

In the *Chronicon Scotorum*, under the year 1111, occurs an entry stating that Turlogh O'Connor, King of Connaught, "presented these precious things to Ciaran, at Cluain, viz.: a drinking horn [inlaid] with gold, a silver cup with gold, and a patina of copper with gold and silver."

In 1125, we read that, "the altar of the great stone church of Cluain-muc-Nois was opened, and precious things were taken out of it, viz.: the Charrachan (model), of Solomon's temple—and the three articles which Turlogh O'Connor gave, viz.: a silver goblet, and a silver cup with a golden cross over it, and a drinking horn, with gold, &c."

* Ireland's Ancient Schools and Scholars. Page 562.

In 1126, it is stated, "that the precious things of Cluain-muc-Nois were revealed against the foreigners of Luimnech, after having been stolen by Gillacomghain, and he was hanged at Dun-cluana-Ithair,* after he had been delivered up by Conor O'Brien, King of Munster." The chronicle states that, the thief endeavoured to make his way across the sea from Cork, Lismore, and Waterford, but the ship in which he might find a place, could not get wind enough for sailing, though all the other ships would. No wonder truly, we are told, for Ciaran would detain the ship in which he sought to escape, and he made a declaration when dying that he had seen Ciaran, with his staff detaining every ship in which he attempted to escape him.

The Four Masters give 1116 as the date of the gift, and 1129 as the date of the plundering. In the Annals of Clonmacnoise it is stated that, the great altar at Clonmacnoise was robbed, this year, 1129, and many jewels sacrilegiously taken from there. . . . The three jewels that King Turlogh gave the church: a cup of silver, a gilt cross, and another jewel. The clergy of Clone "made incessant prayers to God and St. Keyran to be a meane for the revelation of the party that took away the said jewels."

The Most Rev. Dr. Healy considers the cup presented by King Turlogh, to have been a chalice, a supposition which receives support from its being connected with a paten, and that it was kept for

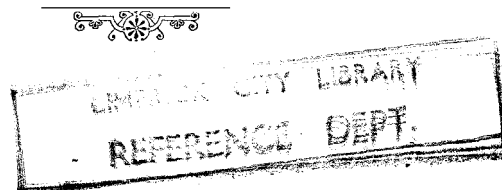
* Identified by O'Donovan with Cloonbrien, a townland in the parish of Athlacca.

use on the high altar, of Clonmacnoise, that it formed part of the plunder of the church, and was "revealed" against the foreigners of Luimneach. "Now it is a curious fact," continues Dr. Healy, "that the Chalice of Ardagh was dug up from the edge of a rath called Reerasta, . . . close to the village of Ardagh, and other smaller cups with five fibulae were found on the same occasion. Were they secreted there by Gillacomghain, or one of his accomplices, the Danes of Limerick, for we are not told the family of Clonmacnoise recovered *all* the plunder? There is a local tradition that Keerasta was occupied by the Danes of Luimneach, and, also, that at later times mass was often celebrated there. It may be then, if not secreted by the Danes, that the chalice was given by the family of Cluain to some of the clergy in the neighbourhood where the thieves were discovered, and that they used it for celebrating mass in this place during the times of persecution, and secreted the chalice on some occasion when forced to fly for their lives." The suggestion of Bishop Healy does credit to that accomplished prelate's learning and acumen, even though the evidence may not appear strong enough to connect, without possibility of doubt, the Ardagh Cup with King Turlogh's gift to Clonmacnoise.

A tradition respecting St. Patrick is current in this locality which is not to be found in the usual lives of Ireland's patron saint. The saint, it appears, was on his way westward towards Knockpatrick, and received a very inhospitable reception from the people of the district. They not only

refused him the shelter of their houses and denied him meat and drink, but, actually stole his watch. At this trial the saint's patience gave way, and he pronounced a solemn curse, that each day would witness the death of some one in the district to the end of time. Alarmed at the terrible sentence, the villagers implored St. Patrick's pardon, restored to him his watch, and begged him to recall his curse. The curse, it seems, could not be completely unsaid, but it was modified and transferred to the starlings, which are very numerous about the place. Accordingly, one of the birds is to be found dead each morning in the adjacent glen, called from the event Glenastar, the Glen of the Stare or Starling, thus testifying to the veracity of the legend.

Glenastar lies about a mile westward of the village of Ardagh, and is exceedingly picturesque. The glen is closed by a high barrier of rock, over which dash the peat-coloured waters of a mountain rivulet called the Dar, or Daar, which falls into the Deel outside Newcastle. The cascade is over eighty feet in height, and immediately after heavy rains when the little river is flooded, it is transformed for a time into an imposing foaming waterfall, not inferior to any other in the kingdom. Dr. Joyce, with little regard to the starling legend, declares that Glenastar (Glen-aes-Dar) is nothing else than the Glen of the Cataract (*aes*), of the Dar.



LADY DOWDALL'S DEFENCE OF KILFINNY CASTLE, 1642.

CHAPTER XIV.

W H E N the Irish insurrectionary movement of 1641 broke out the province of Munster was almost completely denuded of soldiers. The Lord President of Munster, Sir Warham St Leger, had with him in Cork only one troop of horse, and four companies of infantry had been dispersed in garrisons. He was given permission to raise in addition to these scanty forces a further levy of two troops of horse and a thousand footmen, but he was supplied neither with arms nor money for their equipment and maintenance. It was not till March, 1642, that he received any assistance from England, and then Sir Charles Vavasour brought with him a thousand horse to aid the Lord President. Lord Inchiquin also came to his aid in Cork with horse and arms for two troops of cavalry and also with some gunpowder. By means of these supports he was able to put some tenable places in a position of defence whilst he shut himself up in Cork to await the course of events.

The principal adherents of the English cause scattered through Munster under these circum-

stances were compelled to defend themselves as best they could. They shut themselves up with their retainers and allies in their castles or fortified houses, and they awaited the attacks of the confederates. So long as the latter were without cannon they could prevail nothing against the strong walls within which the loyalists were entrenched. Numbers availed little, and a prolonged siege or blockade was entirely out of the question when food was scarce and a successful sally of the garrison might be expected at any moment of the day or night.

The confederates were ill equipped in the beginning for offensive operations. Though they were in the immense majority they resembled a disorderly crowd rather than an army. They were almost without weapons. They were unacquainted with military discipline, though they ranged themselves under their leaders of the "old stock," whom they followed with blind fidelity. The descendants of the recent English settlers were scattered and isolated it is true, but they occupied strong positions and knew not what surrender meant. Left to hold their own against overwhelming odds, they showed they were not unworthy kinsmen of the soldiers who fought at Marston Moor and Naseby a little later.

During the greater part of 1641 the efforts of the confederates seem to have been confined to carrying off the cattle of the English settlers, and it was not till the spring of 1642 that the latter were shut up within their strongholds. There were no English troops available for their relief; their

walls were hitherto practically unassailable, and the defence might have been protracted to any length of time apparently unless the assailants were supplied with more efficient means for battering down the defences. Castletown indeed was forced to surrender owing to want of water, but the other places were amply supplied in all respects, and were prepared to give the confederates a warm reception.

It is impossible to say how long matters might have continued in this condition, neither side gaining an advantage over the other, had not the confederates got possession of the Castle of Limerick. and with it some few guns that they turned to instant advantage. One of these was a piece of cannon which carried a ball of thirty-two pounds, by the terror of which ail the castles in the county were reduced, including even the rock fortress of Askeaton. This celebrated battering piece weighed 892 lb., and had been mounted in the Castle of Limerick for defensive purposes only. The confederates determined to bring it about with them, and extemporised a novel gun carriage for the purpose. A huge trunk of a tree was hollowed out, and within the cavity so formed the gun was placed. Twenty-five yoke of oxen were employed to drag this strangely mounted weapon over bogs and swamps where wheels would have sunk, and where no carriages with wheels had ever been known to pass before. Castle after castle surrendered. Cappagh, defended by Francis Morton, opened its gates to the victorious confederates with their gun. Castle-

Matrix was yielded by Maurice Herbert the younger after a gallant defence of six months duration. Askeaton, which held out under William Eames, the Seneschal, since the middle of November, 1641, surrendered on the 14th of August following to Patrick Purcell of Croagh.* Kilfinny, which had been defended for forty weeks by Lady Dowdall with astonishing heroism, was forced to hang out the white flag. but not till the place had "endured four great shot." As the guns opened fire on the 25th of July, and the place was taken on the 29th, it appears that it took four days to fire the four great shot. ✓

The Castle of Kilfinny, the walls of which are still standing, was a fine specimen of the fortified mansions of the Elizabethan period, so many of which are to be found scattered throughout the county. It lies equidistant from Croom, Adare, Croagh and Ballingarry, in the midst of a beautiful tract of fertile country. The range of which Knockfierna is the highest point lies to the south. The plain to the east is watered by the winding Maigue, whilst on the west the Deel finds its way to the Shannon through the low-lying meadows of Connello and over the cascades of Askeaton. The house is situated on the eastern side of a ridge of slight elevation, by which one would now say it was commanded. Within a circuit of five miles from Kilfinny may be counted at the present day the remains of no less than ten castles. The neighbourhood of the great

* For terms of surrender, see Notes.

natural fastness of Upper Connello rendered it necessary for the settlers on the fertile plain to take every precaution for the defence of themselves and their property.

Early in 1641 Kilfinny Castle was placed in a position of defence by Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Dowdall and daughter of Sir Thomas Southwell. This spirited woman early in the troubled period formed a small force of thirty horse and fifty foot from amongst her retainers and tenants, with which she was not only able to defend her house for about ten months, but even to sally out and attack the confederates whenever an opportunity presented itself. She was able, as she tells us, to succour the garrison of Croom no less than five times, and it was only when ordnance was brought against her castle and the house was in danger of being knocked to pieces over her head, that she yielded to the overwhelming force brought against her. The number of the confederates is stated to have been seven thousand. They were led by Patrick Purcell of Ballycullane, and had with them three pieces of cannon.

A very interesting account of this prolonged siege is given by Lady Dowdall, in a document written by her own hand, preserved amongst the MS. depositions of 1651, in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. In the narrative the "Lord Dowdall" is mentioned but once, and that quite incidentally. The lady gives herself credit for the success of all the military operations and excursions of the little garrison, and probably she has but done herself justice. Borlase, speaking of

her surrender as "commandress and owner of the castle," after her forty weeks resistance, says that "during the trying period she behaved herself in several encounters with more than amazon courage and exemplary conduct." As a picture of the warfare of the period in question, Lady Dowdall's account is probably unique. Her ladyship's spelling is unique also, and, the reader requires the assistance of a glossary as is here provided in order to arrive at the meaning. The following is the narrative, as Lady Dowdall wrote it:—

"A true note of my severall carves (services) done in county Limbrike at my casille of Kilfeni. In the forst I was four scorr stroung, obtained at my owen cost and charge. I was thirty hors and fiftie fot, which I hired a sofesint (sufficient=capable) soger (soldier) to tran and ecariz (exercise) for the Kinge's sarves, if ned had been, redy for the feld, the wares groing hot, and all the Inglisman's prays (preys) being daly tackin away. A mounth afor Crismas (Christmas) last, the Ingle's coming with an outcre to me that the enemie had tacken away ther cattell (cattle), I sent out twenty hors and thirty fot some fef (five) mile from my house and resqued (rescued) the pray, the enemy being thre hondrid strong, took fore (four) prisners and peligid (pillaged) a toune of the enemy, and forced the enemy to ron (run) over the river of Mage to a castall (castle) of one Lues of Tolsuen (? Lee of Tullovin).

"The second sarves beeing of som of my tenantes cattell be tacken som three miles at a touen caled Gragowenne. I sent out the sam hors and fot agane: a found the tsad (said) cattell, and I celed

(killed) ten of the enemy, tock to prisnars, drove to (two) hondred of the enemy off over the river again, tock all the pray of the touen, peligid (pillaged) the tone and restored the Ingles their catell.

"The third sarves, which was within fife days after the enimy cam, coming with[in] sit (sight) of my castell with a cret (great) pray of the Inglemen's catell. I sent out twenty hors and forty fot to persue the enimy, who foloed (followed) them to mile to a plase called the Pole, where they met at lest four hondred of the enimy, which when they saw my forcs com fercley (fiercely) upon them ron all away. My men kiled twenty of them, broft (brought) hom seven presnar, brought back the pray, and a hondred cous of the enemy, twenty horses, and pelegd (pillaged) the town.

"The fourth sar[*vic*]e, I resqued thre mill (miles) of my hous, the Soferant's (Sovereign's) of Kilmallo holl (whole) stock from the enemy, when the enimy was to hondred stronge, and killed a gret many of the enimy, retorned his stocke, and drove the enimy over the river of the Mage and pelegd their houes. Three severell tyems, on after another, I bet the enimy, whey (where) they was to (two) and thre hondred, from beseiging the castell of Crom. On Newer's (New Year's) Day was Captan Francis Cortney sent by the Lord President of Monster to be gounyed (joined) with my forcs for the defeunce of the county Limbricke, which I tried with me but on fortnit (fortnight) but in that tyme we wer both ever day upon sarves, and kiled and hanged many of the Rebels. The He Shre (High Sheriff) of the county and power thought to have betraed Capt.

Cortni and his Compny; but by no mens (means) I would not let him met (meet) them but with my forces goyened (joined) to his company, which when the enimy saw to be to hard for them, thay went away and left them, but confesed to myselfe since if my forces had not ben with him they wold have kiled him and all his company.

"After the departure of Captane Cortny, Ede Lace, of Browrey (Bruree) cam to besege me with a hondred men and tocke away all the cattell that were onbaned (unbawned, out of the bawn,) about my land: but I plaed so thick with my moscater opou him that I put him and his company to the run, and kiled som of his men. Then did Richard Colim, of Balnigori. and Robert Lacy, beseeg me and upon Candmes Day tok away all my flock of shepe and some ten milch coues that I had torned out of my ban (bawn) and orchards, and sent a **mater** (matter) of forte pore (poor) roges (rogues) to take the pray, and layd fore hondred in ambush for ous (us), thinking wee wold have issued out of the castell, to have rescued them wherby they might have cot (cut) us all off, which had not one of my scouts espied, we had ben that day all cot off. The next day, I sent out twenty hors well armed and recovered another pray from the enimy, and the rest of my forces I divided and cept (kept) ten mosceters (musketeers) on the windmii, hel (held) the rest for the defence of the casell, wich opou the the alarm given and the Lord Dowdall in person, wee iscued out and tock thirty horses laden with corne and tocke their sacks, men, and horses. The next day, I toclte som of my own tenenants that

had stolen my stod of horses, and caryed them to the Leftenant General Porcell, and was steling ther corne and goods of my land without paying rent. I tocke their horses, corne, and goods, and hanged thre men. Afther this the enimy cept (kept) a stronge garriason upon me, to kepe me in that I cold not stor out of my gate, but in danger to be shot. They got the posesion of my windmill and my barne, and shot so thick in to my bane (hawn) that we doost scars store for fer of killing. My barne was foll of corne. In the night, I sent out to (two of) my sodgiers with greanads (grenades) and fired my barne and corne, and borned som of the enimy in it, which the next day I got posesion of the windmill hill, which I bet down to the ground. I fired all my own toun, and scirmished with the enimy twes or thres a weeke, wherin I never lost a man during this bitterness [which] I styll continewed between me and the enemy [from] the 8th of Jan. to Gandelmas (Candlemas). Yet in despit of the enimy, I cept above twenty horses in my stabell, and fifty hed of cattell in my bane, and fedd my hay in every day to mantane (maintain) them.

“The 9th of Ganary (January), the hishreve (High Sheriff) of the county and all the pouer of of the contey came with thre tousand men to beseeage me. They brought to soues (Sows) and therty scaling-laders aganst me. They rit (wrote) many atemting (attempting) leters to me to yeld to them, wich I ancered with conte[mpt] and scorn. Thay wer thre weekes and four [days] besiging me befor thay cold bring these soues to

me, being belding of them all that tym upon my own land, yet ever day and night in fit (fight) with me. The Thersday befor Aswneday (Ash Wednesday), the hi (high) Shreuef, Richard Stivenson, came op in the front of the army, with his droms and pipers, but I sent him a shot in the hed that mad him bed (bid) the world god night, and routed the hole army, we shot so hot. The next day, being Ashwensday they began to drag ther soues towards me, which was so hevey that sixteen horses cold hardly drag them. We had ben lick (like) to have ben lost for want of mach (match), but I tock upon me that trade to mach the enemy, and mack good neoue (new) mach with our hand we mad sconces that we hong in changs to give lit (light) and fling lit and standing lits. We made abundance of stra (straw), fagets, to borne (burn) ther sous, bound op with dry wold. Then wee mad fencworks to fling into ther sous. On Thersday thay drue (drew) ther soues nerer, and Friday they came an at night with a foll carear and a gret acclamacion of jooy, even hard to the castell. But I sent such a free welcome to them that turned ther merth into moaning. I shot iarn (iron) bolets that persed thro ther soues, tho thay wer lined with iran gridds (griddles) and flock beds, and bolsters, [so] that I kiled ther pigs: and by the enimy's confesion that night to hondred of ther men. The nex nit being Sattarday thay drue one of ther soues clos to one of my flancke: oneli (only) a littell pese (piece) of a banke hindred them. Thay forced one of ther men to dige it down, which no soner came to the worke but we kiled him. Then thay sent another,

which we kiled also, and fout all the night with them: and by the report of the naibers that nigh we kiled a hondred of them.

“The next clay, be ng the Sabath day, the 17 February, which I have allways reson to remember with thankesgiveing to God for our mity (mighty) deliverance, we borned both ther sous, and tocke away thirty scaling-ladders from them, which so discomfited the gret armey that tha left ous the nex day, the left a garisan of a hondred moscaters to kiepe us in to starve us and tired us out so wich (with) a month's fright and waching that we all fel! sicke and licke to have died. I bored (buried) after this sege of the flix nine and thirty men, women, and children, and had licke all to have been starved for wont of fod, thay kept us in so clos for a holl (wlole) quarter of a yer. At last we bruck out and borned ther garican (garrison) over ther hed and mad the enimey ron away. After that, I cept the contry clear for sixtine [blank]; no enimey dorst com within a mile near me; in wich tim I borned all the contry within to miles round about me, and tocke all ther pray, and wold command the enemie that wer my nabours to pol douen such houes (houses) as I did not licke shoud stand: wich thay did presently. I releved the castell of Crom fiffe times: once with munisen (ammunition) and fouer times with foode, or **elce** they wold have starved. I laed the costabell of the castle in boultis in his own garicen for convaing away the king's monesen (munitions of war) and practicing to betray the garican to the enimey. Thus I held fight forty weeks with the enime **till**

[the] gret armey beseged [me] with ordinance. I fout with them four days before I wold let them plant ther ordnance and kiled som of ther men. I indured four shot of ther ordinance, and thay war **redy** to give fierr agayne, which wold have throw **my** hous over my hed. I was forced to cry quarter but could not get it, but upon condicions that what presners war for the Ingles armey shold be given to them to redeem me: wich my Lord of Incequin most honarble ded and sent a nobell convny of cavalears and thre hondred moscaters, to fetch me off, but the enimey tocke all that ever I had from me save my evening linen. The rest of the castels in the County of Limerick after I was beaten downe, war all tacken with paper bolets (bullets).

ELIZABETH DOWDALL.”

ENDORSED:—The Lady Dowdall's narracion of her acts at and about Kilfinny, written with her owne hand.

Kinsale, 6 Oct., A.D., 1642.

The following is Lady Dowdall's list of “the chiefest of the army that besieged the castle and took it:”

Garrett Barry, Generall; Patrick Purcell, Lieut.-Generall; Sergeant Major General Henishee; Garrett Purcell, Col., late of Kenry; Colonell Ffennell; Colonel Butler, grandson to the Lord of Inkerron; the Lord Viscount Roche, of Fermoy; the Lord Castleconnell; the Lord Viscount Muskery; Colonel Theobald Purcell; Baron Loughma, a Colonel; Richard Butler, of Kilcash, Colonel; Capt. Edmond Purcell, of Kenry; Captain Edmond Fitzgerald, of

the Clonlis; O'Sullivan Beare, Colonel; McCarthy Reagh, Colonel; McDonnough, a Colonel; Mcffinnie, (?) near Glanorogh, a Captain; Captain John Roche, of Fanningstown; Captain Eedy Lacy, of Bruree; Captain John Lacy, of Xlackey; Captain David Poore; Captain Richard Cullum; Captain Edmund O'Shee, of Ballyallin; Captain Thomas McGibbon, of Mahoonagh; Captain Maurice Fitzgerald, of Ballyteige; Captain Edward Fitzgerald, Karras; Captain Oliver (?) Stephenson, of Dunmoylin; Captain Richard Fitzgerald, of Ballinmartur; Captain Lieutenant Patrick Purcell, of Kenry; Garrett Fitzgerald, of Ballecloughan, Esquire; John Baggott, of neere Kilmillock, Esquire; Captain Thomas Hurley, of Knocklong, Esquire; Geo. Thornton, of Dunnaman, Esquire; Nicholas Lillis, of Dysert, Esquire; Leogh, of Tullavine, Gentleman; Garrett de Leogh, of Dunnamane, Gentleman; Edward de Leogh, of Oolagh, Gentleman; William McThomas, of Ballyfoylahe, Gentleman; Erdy Lacy, of Kilmackenarte, Gentleman; Edward Purcell, of The Curragh, Gentleman; Captain Murtagh O'Brien, near Bunratty, Esquire; Trig O'Brien, youngest son of Sir Donnell O'Brien, of Ballikit, in Thomond, Gentleman; . . . John O'Hagan, of Rathmore, Gentleman; Maurice Casey, of Rathkannon, Gentleman; Captain Maurice Herbert, of Rathkeale.



NOTES.

SURRENDER OF ASKEATON CASTLE, COUNTY LIMERICK, TO CONFEDERATES.

Articles agreed by and between Leiftennant-Gennerrall Purcell and the Counsell of his Majestie's Catholique forces for the Province of Munster, of the one partye, and the warders of Askeaton, of the other parte, viz:—the 14th day of Aug., 1642.

Imprimis, itt is agreed that they shall presently yeilde **upp into** our hands theire armes, amunition, and all other **ingines** of warr belonging to the castle or any person theare-**unto** belonging.

Item, they are to deliver unto us all their horses.

Item, they are to restore to all Catholique propriators all such of **theire** goods as are **to** bee had theare in speacie.

Likewise, itt is further concluded that the sayd warders as well English as Irish shall have theite lives with a salfe conduct as well for those that goe a **shipp** board as to such as will goe to Downarayle or Cork with all their proper goods (proportion of victuall for the army only excepted), together with one halfe of all the bookes within the castle.

Item, it is agreedd uppon that the several persons of what **sorte** or state soever shall forthwith respectively take their **oath** uppon the Holy Evangelist never to take **armes** against his majestie either in this or any other service, with an acknowledgment under their hands and seales: and it is further consented unto **that** the said warders shall not be disturbed in theire Protistant religion.

Patrick Purcell.

Maurice de Rupe et Fermoy.

Richard Butler.

Oliver Stephenson.

Castell Connell.

Theobald Purcell.

A COUNTY GENTLEMAN OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY,

CHAPTER XV.

THE early half of the seventeenth century finds the demesne of Castletown in the possession of Sir Hardress Waller, who acquired this extensive tract by marriage with one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir John Dowdall of Kilfinny. He was a member of a family long settled in Kent, and one of his ancestors had captured the Duke of Orleans at the battle of Agincourt.* Sir Hardress Waller came to Ireland early in the reign of Charles I., as a member of the Privy Council. He represented the County of Limerick in the Irish Parliament of that monarch. He and Colonel Henry Ingoldsby were the representatives for Limerick, Clare and Kerry, in the united parliaments of 1654 and 1656. On the capture of Castletown by the Irish Confederation, he appears to have retired to England, and, in the struggle which then convulsed the kingdom, he joined the standard of the Parliamentarians. A cousin of his held the post of Governor of Dover Castle, whose son commanded in the West of England. Sir

* There is preserved at Castletown a genealogical trace of the family, some nine or ten feet in length, drawn up in reign of Charles I., signed by Camden, the antiquary, and ending with Sir Hardress.

Hdress himself rose to the rank of Major-General, and was one of the Judges of Charles I.

When the Parliamentary party found time to attend to the affairs in this country, Sir Hardress Waller was sent to Ireland in 1649, in command of eight hundred troops, and previous to the investment of Limerick, had been employed in reducing the numerous castles in the County of Limerick which were in the possession of the Irish. One incident in connection with these military operations has been preserved and deserves to be repeated.

Within a few hundred yards of the west bank of the Maigue, at the Ferry bridge, near the highest point of a hill, there still stand the remains of a lofty keep, which commanded the direct road from Limerick to Castletown and Pallas. Nothing of it now is standing but the north wall and portions of the other side walls attached. Like almost all the Limerick castles it appears to have been demolished by gunpowder. This is Cullum Castle, and though it is now merely a shattered fragment, a lonely relic of medieval times, in 1651 it was accounted an important stronghold, and was held by a body of Irish troops, under the command of Thady Burke. Sir Hardress appeared before the place and demanded its surrender, which was refused. The artillery was brought to bear upon it, and a few rounds showed the defenders that the lofty tower was untenable in the face of the formidable engines of war with which the besiegers were provided. Thady Burke concluded a hasty surrender, and an English detachment marched into the court-yard to take possession. Those on the battlements of

the keep were not aware that the surrender had been proposed and accepted, and, seeing the English troops entering with Sir Hardress at their head, fired upon them from above, killing two men outright and wounding Sir Hardress in the arm. The English raised a cry of treachery, and were making preparations for instant and bloody reprisals, when the wounded knight himself interposed his authority, and calmed his followers by explaining to them that the soldiers in the keep had fired in ignorance of what had taken place, and that the death of their two companions and the wounding of their leader was purely an unintentional occurrence, and must not be imputed to treachery. The surrender was honourably carried out on both sides.

During the siege of Limerick by Ireton, Sir Hardress had command of the entrenched camp that had been formed on the King's Island. At the Restoration all his estates were forfeited, but his Castletown demesne was saved, as being the property of his wife, whose connexions were all devoted Royalists.

Castletown was formally besieged, or rather blockaded, on the 26th of March, 1642, by the Confederate Irish, under the command of Lieutenant-General Patrick Purcell, of Croagh, Captain John Fitzgerald, younger brother of the Knight of Glin, and Lieutenant-Colonel Garret Purcell, of Croagh. The number of besiegers is stated to have been between two and three hundred, but they were very badly supplied with arms, and had no artillery at this time. Within the walls were collected some four hundred persons, mostly women and children. The

siege operations appear to have been conducted in a very harmless manner. In the deposition of Dame Barbara Browne, daughter of John Boyle, Bishop of Cork, and wife of Sir John Browne of Hospital, who had obtained refuge in the Castle, it appears that but one casualty occurred amongst the defenders, namely, Thomas Hill a shoemaker who was killed by a shot. Owing to the want of water, the place was surrendered on the 18th of May, after a blockade of six weeks. The garrison were granted their lives, and even permitted to carry away their wearing clothes and other commodities. Lady Browne writing of the manner in which she was treated by her captors, says that "after quarter was given, and when the deponent was conveyed to Cork by a sufficient convoy, the said Patrick Purcell conducting her with wonderful civility all the way."

The deposition of Sir Hardress Waller is one of the longest statements in the Limerick book, and covers no less than eight or nine pages. But as some compensation for its inordinate length, the handwriting is more careful and more legible than that in any of the other documents. Some of these are written in a manner which shows that quickness in taking down the statements was of more importance than securing the legibility of what was written. What with the cursive form adopted by the scribe, the obsolete shape of many of the letters, the fading and spreading of the ink, together with interlineations and erasures, it is not at all easy to decipher these manuscripts of two hundred and fifty years ago. The document in which Sir Wardress Waller enumerates his losses is almost as fresh

looking as if it were written yesterday. It is not in the handwriting characteristic of the official or officials who transcribed similar statements, but it appears to be the work of one who could bestow some time on its preparation. The formation of the letters is peculiar, and in some cases very different from that in use at the present time, but once this difficulty is recognised the task of reading the document is comparatively easy. It is amusing to observe that the official who perused the document took upon himself the responsibility of correcting its spelling in one or two cases, though both forms now are alike regarded as inaccurate.

The inventory of cattle, farm produce, and household furniture, with the estimated value of each item gives an unusual insight into the financial position, and, to a certain extent, the mode of living of an Irish country gentleman of the middle of the seventeenth century. The country gentleman of the present time may find it interesting to compare the prices of cattle then with what they are now, and cast a glance at the stock then reared on the lands at Castletown, and the tillage that was necessary for feeding them.

The lands in question were spoiled three times. The first raid was made on New Year's Day, 1641. The second took place a month later, and the remainder of this stock passed into the hands of the besiegers when the castle surrendered in May, 1642. On the occasion of the first plundering expedition there were taken from the lands of Ballyintin (? Ballymartin) two hundred breeding ewes and

others, valued at £100. This was a mere preliminary to the capture of a much larger booty on the 31st of January, 1641, on which occasion the raiders carried off 780 breeding ewes, 50 rams, 20 horses, 100 cows, both milch and dry, and 60 heifers. The value of the whole is put down in a lump sum at £980. Even then the stock on the lands was not exhausted, for on the surrender of the castle there remained still 20 saddle horses, valued at £100, 40 large English oxen for draft, estimated at £120, 100 ewes worth £50, and a stud of 20 mares and "coultis," considered to be worth £100. All these were given over to the confederate troops when the castle was vacated by the defenders. The number of cattle on the lands of Castletown may be estimated at fourteen hundred and then, as now, represented considerable wealth.

In order to feed all this stock very large supplies of provender had to be laid in store. At the time of the surrender there remained within the walls, after feeding 400 persons and the cattle above mentioned, the annexed store of cereals which was valued as follows:—thirty barrels of wheat, £30; ten barrels of barley, £7; seventeen of malt, £8 10s.; sixty of oats, £18; six of beans, £4 16s.; six of whole peas, £6; and eighteen barrels again of barley, valued at £12 12s. There was "a great rick of hay," valued at £7, together with five others, the whole being estimated at £35. The garrison need not have feared famine with fifteen hogsheads of beef in store, worth £32. There were five hogsheads of salt, the value of which is put at £4 4s. The firing consisted of wood

and turf, and the piles of both were considered to be worth £35.

The amount of tillage on the lands of Castletown does not look large, but as the siege began on the 26th of March, the spring farming operations must have been cut very short. The crops in the ground, which must all have been laid down before the date just mentioned, were twenty English acres of wheat, valued at £50; six of barley, £8; six of peas, £12; and twenty acres of oats, £30. It will be observed there is no mention of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, or of many other crops, now invariably found in all farms, large or small.

The castle itself must have enclosed a very large area to accommodate all who sought refuge within its walls. The servants, tenants, and followers of the lord of the manor amounted to four hundred, or thereabouts, in addition to the cattle that had been preserved from the previous raids. In the immediate neighbourhood stood thirty-two good stone houses. Of the buildings of the castle little is known. The damage done to the walls and barbican is estimated at £300. The great hall appears to have been demolished, as there is a sum of £300 put down for its restoration, the materials being a great pile of timber of all sorts to build up the walls of a hall 110 feet long and 30 feet broad. The only other portion of the structure mentioned is a pigeon house with plenty of pigeons. The arms of the defenders appear to have been "twenty muskets and fowling pieces, and a harquebush," a rather small supply with which to defend

a large extent of wall should the place have been attempted by assault even without the aid of artillery.

Very full particulars are given in the depositions as to the furnishing of the dwelling-rooms of the stronghold in which the family resided. The following are some of the chief items with their prices:—

Hangings and tapestry for drawing-room,	£100
Eider down and feather beds and flock do. with bolsters, pillows, blankets, rugs and caddows,*	80
Canopies and Vallances,	15
One dozen of Turkey work cushions,†	3
One dozen of chairs,	26
Half a dozen cushions of satin, very richly embroidered,	8
Six green broadcloth stools, richly embroidered, with a large carpet and cupboard cloth, richly embroidered,	16
Three large cloth carpets and one dozen of chair covers, same cloth; three cupboard cloths of same, consisting of sixteen yards of broadcloth,	5
One large couch with bed and bolsters of rich taffete,	5
Two very rich Turkey carpets,	10
Four copper vessels for brewing, washing. &c.,	26
Four iron pots, valued at	2

* Counterpanes. † From the very moderate estimate placed upon the Turkey work cushions, it would appear they were something in the nature of modern anti-macassars, and had been worked by the ladies of the household.

A great iron jack, being a thing hard to be got in the kingdom,	£3
One pair of great bossed andirons of brass, and two pair bound with brass, ...	10
Three pairs of plain iron andirons, half a dozen spits, and four great dripping pans,	3
In white earthenware of all sorts, basin, ewers, and candlesticks,	10

Literature was not forgotten in this household, for there occurs an item of £60 for a "great chest of books."

The deposition bears the date of 21st May, 1642, eight days after the surrender. The document is signed Hards. Waller, in writing, which shows by its stiffness, that the knight was not accustomed to handle the pen.



CASTLECONNELL AND THE BURKE COUNTRY.

CHAPTER XVI.

CASTLECONNELL is more remarkable for the beauty of its scenery and the excellence of its salmon fishing than for the antiquarian interest it is likely to arouse in the mind of the visitor. The Shannon is here both broad and deep. It has passed through three lakes and received the waters of its chief tributaries, and though the Atlantic is over sixty miles off it exhibits a noble expanse. Just below the village the immense volume of water foaming and surging, rushes over a series of rocks, forming the Falls of Doonass, one of the finest rapids in the Kingdom. The banks on either hand are well wooded and slope gently to the water's edge, interrupted only at one spot by a steep lofty rock, from the summit of which a birdseye view of the swirling, rushing waters may be obtained.

Castleconnell was originally the chief seat of the O'Conaings, or Gunnings, who formerly possessed the fertile tract extending from Knockligreine northwards to the Shannon. The connexion of the Irish sept with their original territory is preserved by the name alone. Castleconnell is the anglicised form of Caislean-ui-Chonaine, and is not to be connected

with the family of Connell, or O'Connell. There is no record connecting the Irish sept with the rock now surmounted by the ruins of a Norman Castle, but their name still clings to it in spite of its various vicissitudes in the hands of Irish and Normans.

It is not certain at what time the O'Conaings were driven from their possessions. The death of one of these chieftains is mentioned as occurring in 1105. Turlough O'Conor passed it by in 1124, on which occasion he transported his Lough Derg fleet "over Eas Danainne," that is the Falls of Doonass, and plundered the Shannon as far as Foynes Island. These Connaught sailors must have been expert in handling their boats and steering them through the rapids in order to bring them in safety to the smoother reaches of the great river. The boats of the twelfth century cannot have been very different from the structures with which modern fishermen entrust themselves to the current. The kind of vessel or cot at present in use is probably the only species of craft that could be steered with safety over the half sunken ledges, and through the rock-guarded passages where the waters rush so madly.

Towards the close of the twelfth century, Castleconnell passed into the possession of the O'Briens, and a terrible crime was perpetrated within the earth-ramparted dun that crowned the rock. In the year 1175, shortly after the victory over the English at Thurles, King Donald O'Brien repaired to Castleconnell where he was received by his uncle, Dermot, with every mark of confidence. In order to make assurance of friendship doubly sure,

Donald had left his usual escort on the Clare side of the river, and presented himself at his uncle's house without his usual train of attendants. In those days the claims of kindred were of little regard, and a man's foes were often those of his own household. It happened to be so in this case. In the dead of night King Donald's followers crossed the Shannon, surprised the fort, and after a feeble resistance made themselves masters of its owners. Dermot and Mahon grandson of Brian Boru, were seized, and their eyes immediately put out by order of King Donald. Dermot survived the mutilation but a few days.

In the time of King John, Castleconnell and the lands adjacent to the extent of five knight's fees, were granted to William de Burgh, who erected a castle to secure his new possession. The founding of the castle has been ascribed to Brian Boru, but with little probability. His own residence at Kincora was of the peculiar Celtic type. The present structure is most probably to be ascribed to William de Burgh, though it may have been strengthened towards the close of the thirteenth century, by Walter de Burgh. The O'Briens did not give up this splendid site without a struggle, and so late as 1261 we learn that Brian Roe O'Brien burned and demolished the castle and slew all the garrison. It was probably in consequence of this disaster that about the end of the thirteenth century Walter de Burgh enlarged and strengthened the castle, which became the chief seat of this branch of the family, and remained in their possession till the middle of the seventeenth century, with

apparently a single exception. In 1315 the place was in the possession of Donogh O'Brien, who offered his services to Edward Bruce in his gallant but unfortunate attempt to gain for himself a kingdom. The Scottish leader and his army were encamped at Castleconnell during the Easter of 1316, and were making preparations to cross the Shannon into Connaught, when the news of the approach of an Irish army in the English interest compelled Bruce to change his plans and move northward. Shortly after he was defeated and slain at Faughart Hill, near Dundalk.

The Burkes of Castleconnell and their kinsmen, the Burkes of Brittas, were descended from Edmond (Mac-an-Iaria) a younger son of Richard de Burgh (or de Burgho), the well-known "Red Earl" of Ulster. By alliances with the O'Briens of Thomond the power of the family was greatly increased. William, the eldest son of Edmond, on the murder of his father in 1337, established himself at Castleconnell and gave his name to the barony of Cianwilliam which extends from O'Brien's Bridge on the Shannon to within a short distance of Lough Gur. Like many other settlers they threw off the English alliance and even laid aside their English names. William assumed the name of Mac William Uachtar, and proclaimed himself lord of Galway. His brother took possession of Mayo, and with it the name of Mac William Iocktar. They were able to maintain their independence till the reign of Elizabeth. In the early Desmond war the Burkes were found on the side of the Desmonds, and Sir William Burke, of Castleconnell, was mar-

ried to Catherine, daughter of the fifteenth Earl of Desmond. On the downfall of that house the Burkes made their submission to Sir Philip Sidney, the Lord Deputy, and were confirmed in their estates.

Four years afterwards their loyalty was put to the test and survived the strain. Fitzmaurice, the most active spirit amongst the Geraldines, had obtained some Spanish and Italian troops, with whom he landed in Smerwick in 1579, in the hopes of retrieving the fortunes of his house. Leaving the foreign troops at Smerwick, he secretly traversed the county westward, gaining adherents to the cause. Getting no encouragement from the Burkes, he endeavoured to make his way into Connaught, passing through Clanwilliam. Fitzmaurice, who had but few followers, attempted to requisition some horses from the Burkes (as his own animals were unable through exhaustion to proceed any further), at a clearing in a dense wood near a ford of the Mulkear river, now spanned by Barrington's Bridge. A fierce encounter took place between the kinsmen. Fitzmaurice was shot by a ball in the chest which caused his death, but though fatally wounded, he slew Richard and Theobald, sons of Sir William, with his own hand before he fell. In recognition of Sir William's services on this occasion, Queen Elizabeth wrote him a letter of condolence on the loss of his two sons, and as a more substantial mark of her favour created him Lord Baron Burke of Castleconnell, accompanying the peerage with a pension of two hundred marks for life.

Richard, the third lord, though loyal to the Crown,

distinguished himself on one occasion by defeating and slaying Sir Thomas Norris, Lord President of Munster. The incident is very characteristic of the proceedings of the period. The Lord President and the garrison of Kilmallock were constantly occupied in scouring the adjacent country where the followers of the Sугan Earl were in great force. The Burkes also endeavoured to take care of themselves, and sent out large parties to protect Clanwilliam. One of these bodies of horsemen reconnoitering on the southern borders of their territory observed some horsemen approaching, and without the slightest hesitation charged them furiously. The others gave them a warm reception, and it was only when the latter were defeated, and the leader slain, that the Burkes became aware of the fact that they had routed a body of English cavalry and killed the Lord President of Munster. Such mistakes seem to have been of little consequence, and the Burkes did not suffer for their impetuosity on the occasion. They atoned for their error shortly afterwards by opposing the march of Dermot O'Connor, who was on his way with fourteen hundred Connaught footmen and some horse to the assistance of the Sугan Earl. Richard assembled the Burkes and encountered O'Connor as he was emerging from the mountain at Abington, and with the assistance of the O'Ryan's they kept hanging on their rear as the party marched southward. O'Connor passed by Lough Gur, the garrison of which joined him and he finally turned on his pursuers at the bridge of Bunbrist, on the boundary between Limerick and Cork. The Burkes were defeated, Lord Castle*

connell and his brother were slain, and O'Connor effected a junction with the troops of the Sугan Earl. When O'Connor was driven from the Desmond ranks as a traitor, he and his Connaughtmen recrossed the Shannon at Athlunkard, not however without escaping the notice of Theobald, who had assumed the leadership on the death of his two brothers. With the assistance of the people of Limerick they severely chastised O'Connor who however, effected the crossing but with the loss of a hundred men and his baggage. The party were overtaken soon after, when O'Connor was slain, and his head sent to be exposed on the battlements of Castleconnell.

When the war of 1641 broke out William sixth Lord Castleconnell and his kinsman Lord Brittas joined the Confederates and raised a regiment of cavalry from amongst their numerous retainers. The titles were attained, and on the suppression of the confederation the estates were forfeited, their owners being transplanted to other parts of the county. On that occasion there were no less than forty-nine Burkes whose names appear as having received transplanter's certificates from the County of Limerick alone, and the estates of Lord Brittas were granted to Sir Charles Coote in lieu of arrears of pay. Lord Castleconnell fled to the Continent, where he served in a royal regiment till the Restoration. On the accession of Charles II. he and Lord Brittas were restored to their titles and estates. The eighth Lord Castleconnell retired with James II. to the Continent and died childless. The title devolved upon Lord Brittas, who served in the Irish Brigade,

and both estates were again forfeited on the fall of the Stuart family. These two titles became extinct on the death of the seventh Lord Brittas and twelfth Lord Castleconnell without issue about the close of the last century.

In 1651 the castle of Castleconnell was in the possession of the Parliamentary party, and a depot of provisions and ammunition was formed there during the siege of Limerick. When William III. appeared before Limerick an expedition was immediately sent to obtain possession of the castle, then occupied by Irish troops. The garrison which numbered one hundred and twenty-six men, surrendered and were brought into the English camp as prisoners of war. When William raised the siege of Limerick an attempt was made to destroy the stronghold with gunpowder, but without success, and it was again garrisoned by the Irish. Next year Ginkle despatched a large force under the Prince of Hesse to obtain possession of the castle, bringing with them five pieces of artillery. The garrison held out two days and finally surrendered to the overpowering forces brought against them. The castle was immediately dismantled and destroyed by Ginkle. The work was so successfully carried out that it is not easy to trace the walls of the structure. The castle was about one hundred and sixty feet long by one hundred wide, and it probably had round towers at each of the four corners of the rectangular area it enclosed. Of these only **two** can now be identified, and their resemblance to the towers of King John's Castle at Limerick is striking.

Brittas Castle was the chief stronghold of the Burkes on the east of their territory, and was the seat of a distinguished branch of that family. The castle is situated on the banks of the Mulkear, which flows into the Shannon midway between Castleconnell and Limerick. It was a place of considerable strength at the close of the seventeenth century, as its crumbling walls and battered keep can still testify. It cannot be ascertained when the structure was erected. The branch of the family connected with the place was descended from Richard, younger brother of the first lord of Castleconnell. Richard married the daughter of O'Mulrian of the neighbouring barony of Owney, and had as eldest son, Sir John, who married Grace daughter of Sir John Thornton treasurer of the English army in Munster. Sir John does not appear to have been so attached to the English interest as his kinsmen of Castlecunnell. When Sir George Carew obtained possession of Lough Gur, he moved with his army into Clanwilliam, which was close by. On the near approach of the English, Sir John sent a message that he would tender his submission, but that he had a scruple of conscience, considering it was sinful and damnable personally to submit to her Majesty. Carew adopted a very effective method of quieting Sir John's scruples. He immediately ravaged his territory, burned the houses of his retainers, destroyed their crops, and fired one of his castles, probably Caherelly castle, near the banks of the Camoge. This summary mode of procedure struck terror into Sir John, who sent a second messenger to the

President imploring an interview and reminding him of his connexion with a prominent English official. The President yielded so far as to permit the suppliant to approach, but was resolved to humiliate him publicly. This was done probably with the hope and expectation of stinging him into revolt in order that his lands might enrich some hungry adventurer. The interview as recorded by Sir George Carew's Secretary in *Pacata Hibernia* gives a glimpse at the means by which Ireland was pacified. It is to be borne in mind that Sir John Burke belonged to a family that suffered much in the royal cause already, and that he was now on his way to tender his submission formally as his loyalty had been suspected. The President prepared to receive the Knight at the head of his army. His officers were gathered around him, when Sir John and his relative Theobald, approached. No notice was taken of their presence. The Burkes dismounted, approached Sir George, and "knelt on the ground, desiring that their submission be accepted. The President seeing, would not see them, and hearkening to the other (with whom he was in conversation), would not attend them until (they creeping upon their knees by the horses side) it was told him that two of the Burkes were there. He, staying his horse, spent some time in reproving them for their rebellious obstinacy, and then (upon four sufficient sureties for their future loyalty), granted them protection." For the next four years Sir John resided at Brittas, and exhibited great zeal for the maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion, which was proscribed by law.

In 1603, Sir John was committed to prison for his refusal to take the oath of supremacy. The imprisonment which was in Dublin Castle did not last long, for a plague broke out, and by the good offices of his father-in-law, Sir John was permitted to return home. In 1605, a law was passed against harbouring priests and regulars, and Theobald of Castleconnell, and Sir Edmund Walsh of Abington made information against him, because his Castle of Brittas became a place of refuge for the proscribed ecclesiastics. Sir John refused to surrender any of his priests, whereupon he was charged with treason, and his castle besieged. At the end of fifteen days, Sir John, at the head of five of his followers succeeding in breaking the ranks of the besiegers, sword in hand, and fled to Waterford. Here he was captured, and on his refusal to take the oath of supremacy, was tried for high treason and hung at Limerick in 1607. His kinsman, Theobald, was rewarded with half his lands, and in 1618 was created Lord Brittas*.

Caherconlish was another seat of this family. It was formerly a place of considerable importance, and Fitzgerald states that it was a walled town defended by four castles, and that it contained an excellent college, the site of which was in his time known as the college field. Fitzgerald says that the foundations of this seminary and a strong gateway that led into the town were still to be seen not

* A memoir of Sir John Bourke of Brittas; Martyr, by Mr. J. G. Barry, will be found in a volume entitled "For Faith and Fatherland," Dublin, Gill & Son. He has also contributed to the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries*, (1889), a valuable paper on the Bourkes of Cianwilliam; to both of these the reader is referred for fuller information.

long before the date of his history, 1826. William III. and Ginkle encamped here on their way to besiege Limerick.

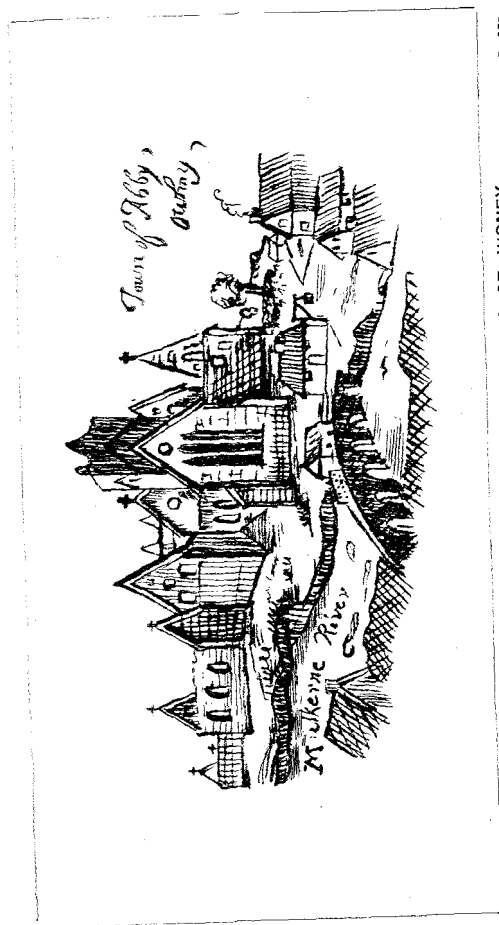
Dineley visited Caherconlish and notes several monuments. One to Annabel Gould, mother of Lady Ingoldsby, bore the date 1672. The inscription on the Burke monument, in the church, he gives as follows :

Hunc tumulum Theobaldus Bourk sibi
et uxori suæ Slanie Brien fieri fecit
Burkhiarum soboles Carolino
sanguine tincte atque Brianor
um nobilitata tribu
hic Theobalde jaces tecum

This tomb is of three niches, the centre one containing a crucifixion with the letters I N R I. The words Sancta Maria are over the right hand niche and St. Johannes over the left.

He has also preserved the following inscription relative to the family of Maunsell, one of the most prominent Limerick names :—" Here lieth the body of Aphra Mansel, my dear mother, daughter of Sir William Crayford, K^t, there also lieth my dear wife, Mary Mansel, daughter of George Booth, of Cheshire, Esquire, and of my sister, Aphra Peacock, and of her daughter, Anne Peacock, erected by me, John Mansell, Esquire, and intended for myself and the rest of my family, this 12th October, 1672."





P. 275.

DINELEY'S ILLUSTRATION OF THE ABBEY OF WONEY.

THE VANISHED ABBEY.

CHAPTER XVII.

THERE are two adjacent districts bearing the name of Owney. The more southerly united with Arra forms the Barony of Owney and Arra, in Tipperary. The other is the Barony of Owney Beg, in the north-east corner of the county of Limerick. These districts, though bearing a common name, have been distinguished from the earliest times. That in Tipperary was called Uaithne (pronounced Ooney) Tirè, and was the patrimony of the Mac Keoghs. The barony of Owney Beg is the ancient Uaithne Cliach "of fine bright land," the home when surnames began to be in common use of the Heffernans and O'Cahallans.

The deaths of two chiefs are recorded.

914, Ainle, son of Cathan, Lord of Uaithne Cliach, was put to death by the foreigners of Loch Dachech.

1107, Cuilin Ua Cathalan, Lord of Uaithne Cliach, died.

'The fertile plain, south of the mountains and watered by the Mulkear and its tributaries, was granted in 1189 to Theobald Fitzwalter, nephew of Thomas A'Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury. This grant, and many others to the same family, were intended as a partial atonement for the murder of the great churchman. The office of Chief Butler

of Ireland was conferred upon Fitzwalter, who became the head of the noble house of Ormond. The district, of which the modern Abington may be regarded as the centre, was a most important one. It was situated between Clanwilliam on one side and Ormond on the other, and commanded the important pass through which communication lay connecting one with the other. A castle was erected here by the Butlers, which was demolished in 1452 by the Earl of Ormond, Lord Justice of Ireland, it then being in the possession of Conor O'Mulryan. The Mulryans appear to have been in occupation of a portion of the district till the year 1600, when their castles were destroyed and the whole clan put to the sword.

In 1205 Fitzwalter founded the Abbey of Woney, which became one of the most important religious establishments in the South of Ireland, and its head was entitled to sit as a peer in Parliament. It was founded for Cistercians, and was liberally endowed, its lands increasing as time went on. The founder was buried here in 1206, and in 1299 his descendant, the Chief Butler, was interred within its walls.

On the suppression of the greater Monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII., the abbey, with the "rectories of Woney, Carlinlishe, Ballyvoley, Raiordane, and Cairrelly," were granted to Peter Walsh. In the same year the Abbot John was presented by the King to the rectory or prebend of Derrygalvin in St. Nary's Cathedral, Limerick.

In 1548, O'Carroll marching from Nenagh "burned the Monastery of Uaithne, expelled the English therefrom, and confounded them very much, and

subdued their strength and power so much, that he commanded them to quit the country," i.e. Ormond.

Edward VI rewarded Walter Aphoell with a lease of this abbey for a term of nineteen years, "in consideration of the excellent service" done by him. Elizabeth subsequently extended the term to twenty-one years.

In 1568 Pierse Walshe had the fee farm of the abbey and its lands, and petitioned the Queen to be discharged of arrears of rent for five years, on the ground that he was kept out of possession by O'Donoyle O'Mulryan, and his appeal was favourably received. This Pierse, or Peter Walsh, died in 1575, in possession of Woney, and a great deal more, and passed the lands on to his son Edmond, as appears from an inquisition taken at Rathkeale in 1592, and recorded in the rolls of 1596.

In 1647 a party belonging to Lord Inchiquin's forces stormed the castle of Woney and burned the abbey. The abbey and lands were granted to the Stepneys, who sometime afterwards demolished the abbey and built Abington House with the materials. Hardly a trace of this once magnificent structure now remains. Fortunately before its final demolition an English tourist passed that way. Thomas Dineley, a gentleman of Worcestershire, visited Ireland in 1681, and noted down a good deal of what he saw during his tour, accompanying his remarks with pen-and-ink sketches, which are the only memorials of a good deal which has since disappeared. Portions of his journal have appeared ~~from~~ time to time in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries*, and it is much to be re-

gretted that this most interesting record has not been published in book form and in full. Dineley visited the neighbourhood on his way from Carlow to Limerick. He took sketches of the abbey and its monuments, copied some of the inscriptions, and seems to have bestowed more attention upon the building and its contents than he was accustomed to devote elsewhere. Dineley's description is as follows:—

Four or 5 miles from Limerick, worthy the sight of y^e curious, are the Ruins of Abby Ony. Abby Ony, als. Owhny, anciently an Abbey of the Order of St. Bernard, (in going to it is crossed a stone bridge of six arches over y^e river.) Att the west end whereof is a small Chappel, unroof'd, belonging to the Walshes, as appears by a fair monument of black marble and Inscriptcons there. Over a door at the entrance into it is read as follows, under his armes, dated 1619,

The armes of Sr. Edmond Walshe, Knight,
And hys Ladye, Ellyee Grace.

The inscription at large is after this manner—
[Around the edge:]

Clarissimo viro D. Dno Edmundo Walshequiteaurato
postridie Kalendas Julias anno Domini MD.CXVIII.
Vita functo monumentum hoc nobilissimæ ejus viduæ
relictæ dominæ Ellyssæ Grace sumptibus erectum.

[In top left corner:]

✠ De obit. clarissimi viri domini Edmundi Walsh equitis
aurati hexasticon chronologicon.

[Below this:]

Viduæ relictæ dominæ Ellyssæ Grace Sumptibus
Erectum

[To the right of top:]

Apostrophe ad defunctum

Sat Walshee tibi vixisti mors tua nato

Te rapuit terris ut fruerere polo

Non sat pauperibus nec amicis mors tua namque

Utrisq. ingentes divitias rapuit.

Patricius Kearin fabricavit.

[Beneath this:]

✠ Jam sexcenti et mille annis septemque decemque

Virgo ex quo enixa est immaculata Deum

Alteraque orta dies juli cum redditur umbris

Inclita Walsheæ lausque decusque domus

Edmundus Torquatus eques vir maximus armis

Major at hospito nec pietate minor.

[He next describes the Barry monument. On it is a shield bearing the arms of Barry, with a crescent for difference, and the date 1633, and crest.] What is wrote on this last monument is all in Roman Capitals. It is erected on the left hand in a chappel, going up to y^e Altar of y^e Abbatial Church.

INSCRIPTION ON THE BARRY MONUMENT:



"Nobilis admodum Dulamus Barry in honorem snorum
Parentum sui ipsius, Uxoris Joannæ Bourck, et filiorum
suorum, hoc sepulchrum fieri curavit.

"Antiqua Genitus Barii de stirpe Dulamus

Quique Apollinea Doctus in arte viget.

Quique fide plenus nusquam languentibus ægris,

Defuit et Patriam qualibet auxit ope

Hæc pius extinctis monumenta parentibus affert,

Quæ sibi quæque deinsint monumenta suis

Tu qui cernis opus mortis memor esto futuræ,

Die præcor hac vivant qui tumulantur humo.

"A.D. 1633."

This last monument and inscription are seen in

this little chappell, without the west end of the Abbey of Owghny, or Anthony's Abbey.

Now, to returne again into the Kuines of the Abby, observe the following monument with these inscriptions, also in Roman Capitall Letters, this is erected on the right side the High Altar, on the top whereof read :

Stemma Aminæ Gibbon als Gerald filiæ militis alei
Some read it :

Stamma Aminæ Gibbon FitzGerald filii militis albi
[Here follows a drawing of a monument of mural and table form combined, bearing the above line, and the first words of the following inscription :]

Nobilissimus dnus. Gulielmus Riiani patriæ suæ
de Ownhii nec oon antiquæ Riianorum familiæ caput
et princeps sibi uxori et liberis suis hanc sepulchri
molem eripi curavit.

Posteritatis honos majorum lausque suorum

Hoc Gulilæ opus struxerat arte Riian

Nobilitas heu quanta toga helloque probata

Sancta fides virtus et decus eximium

Hac Riianorum clauduntur mole sepulchri

Si claudi quæ non sunt moritura querunt

Ossa teguntur humo tantum, Sed caetera mortis

Nescia perpetuos sunt habitura dies.

Lausquæ Riianæ virtus & gloria gentis

Semper honorato nomine vivet honos.

On the left side the sayd altar and opposite to the former is seen this monument, but without inscription.

[To judge from the sketch it was a double-arched recessed tomb, probably that of the founder.]

Dineley pursues his journey through the County of Limerick as follows :

From Abby Owghny to Ballyneclogh, a seat belong-

ing to Jason Whitrow, Esq., one of his Majestie's Justices of the Peace for ye County of Limerick, is 5 miles The Etirnologhy of Ballyneclogh is Stone Town, clogh signifying *Stone* and Carrigg Rock.

Ten miles from Ballinclogh, neer Kilmallock, on the road to Cork City, a mountain (adjoining and part of Clanorphy in the County of Limerick, formerly the estate of Sir Edward Fitzharris, whose son was executed as a traytor at Tiburne, 1681), about February, 1680, before parted in sunder sending forth as it were a river of water.

From Ballyneclogh to Grayne Church is a small mile; here is seen a monument belonging to the Mac Briens of Bally Tarsney and another tombstone under neath the pulpitt.

Grain Church, on the other side of Knock Graine, wch signifies hill of the Sun, being singular good land as any in Ireland. This adjoins to, a town called Pallice, remarkable for a neat mount, anciently a Danes Fort, and upon which hath bin also anciently a Castle. This is in the hands of Mr. James English. From Pallice to Miltown Abbey is two miles. The Abbey was in ancient times a monastery of Carthusians.

It hath nothing besides its Ruines but the Remaines of a monum^t against the wall, s^d to belong to the Morines (Mulryans). From Mil Town abbey, to a fair seate called the Hospitall, is two miles & half. This Hospital belongs to Thomas Browne, Esq., a very worthy gentleman, adjoining to which is an ancient parochial church, with two monuments of Knights Templars, in grey marble.

The importance of the pass in the Slieve Phelim mountains, which led by the abbey, is illustrated by two incidents, one recorded in the "Annals of the Four Masters," the other in *Pacata Hibernia*, and both connected with the effort made by the northern earls, O'Neill and O'Donnell, in conjunction with the Geraldines and a Spanish force, in a last struggle for independence.

The first of these has already been narrated at page 268, and refers to the attack and pursuit of Dermot O'Connor from the abbey to the bridge of Bunbrist, where Lord Castleconnell and his brother were slain. The second incident occurred in the following year.

At the close of 1601, the Spanish who landed to assist the Sagan Earl were shut up in Kinsale by the English troops and thus separated from their allies, the earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell, who were hastening to their aid with all their forces. Tyrconnell, better known as Red Hugh O'Donnell, had proceeded southward as far as Holycross in Tipperary, when he learned that Mountjoy had despatched Carew with a strong body of troops to oppose his further progress and that the English commander was now lying in wait for him at Ardmayle, half-way between Holycross and Cashel and only four miles distant. To increase his difficulties another army under Sir Christopher St. Lawrence was advancing from Leinster to cut off his retreat. It was utterly impossible for him to attempt a passage westward, as the county was both mountainous and swampy, with bogs stretch-

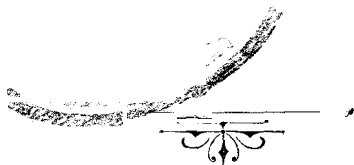
ing in all directions. The Irish leader and his troops seemed caught in a trap from which there was no deliverance. Yet, a means of escape opened itself in the most unexpected manner. A frost of extraordinary severity set in during the night. In a short time the impassable swamps became hard, firm ground. O'Donnell silently sent the word round to his sleeping army, and leaving their watch-fires lighting they crept away under cover of the darkness, westward, over the frozen marshes and marching with great rapidity through the recesses of the mountains, finally emerged into the open ground at Abington.

O'Donnell had not long been on his way when word was brought to Carew of what had taken place. The English leader divined what course the Ulster chief would take and fully expected he would meet him at Abington, as he was emerging from the mountains. Four hours before daylight the English army was in motion, proceeding on the southern side of the Slieve Phelim range, and by eleven o'clock they had reached the abbey expecting to find the Ulster army resting there after their toilsome march. Carew however learned to his disappointment, that though O'Donnell and his troops had passed that way, they did so some hours before and had proceeded southward without stopping. Nor did the Irish leader halt till he reached Croom, thus accomplishing a distance of thirty-two miles, which Carew calls "the greatest march with baggage that hath ever been heard of." O'Donnell was able to complete the object of his journey unmolested, for Carew despairing of coming up with

this "light-footed general," very wisely abandoned the pursuit and O'Donnell was able to join O'Neill before Kinsale.

The bridge represented in Dineley's picture is still in existence, though widened by an addition to the south side. The inscription which is on it was referred by Dineley in error to the Bridge of Athlone, a place which he had apparently left just before. The bridge was erected by Lady Ellice Walsh whose husband was drowned here in 1618.

The inscription runs thus under the arms of Walsh:—The arms of Sir Edmund Walsh and his wife, Bllyce Walsh, als. Grace, who erected this bridge after the death of her husband, for devotion and charitie, prayinge passengers to praye for the rest of their soules in Heaven, A.D. 1621.



NOTES.

EXTRACTS FROM STATE PAPERS.

Charter of Theobald FitzWalter, Butler of Ireland to the abbots and monks of WODEZ, granting lands in the Cantred of Wodezy, Ocathelan and Wedezoefflian, the whole theud of Wedemfidenurde, in the town of Clonken, with half of the water of Molkerne, with sack and sock, tholl and theam, infangthef and outfangthef, judgment of iron and water, and exemption from pontage, stallage and pavage throughout his entire lands. Enrolled at the request of John Ryan, Provost of Wothny. No date—in a roll of 1544.

Letter from the Queen to the Lord Deputy and Council of Ireland. Edward VI. in consideration of the acceptable services done by the bearer Walter Aphoell rewarded him with a lease of the abbey of WONEY for the term of 19 years, upon his humble suit 2 years more are granted.

Grant to Peter Walsh of the site precinct and possessions of the late abbey of Wony; the rectories of Wony, Carkin-hishe, Ballyvoley, Raiordane, and Cairrelly, in Co. Lmk., others in Ormond, Tipperary, and Carlow.

Presentation of John, Abbot of the Monastery of the B. Mary of Wothny, in this Diocese of Emly, to the rectory or prebend of Derrygeallywan, in the Cathedral Church of the B. Mary of Limerick.—Patent Roll 27, 28, Henry VIII., 1536-7.

Instructions from the Queen to Sir Henry Sidney, among others—

Pierse Walshe having in fee farm the monastery of WONEY in the County of Limerick, and desiring to be dis-

charged of the arrears of rent for five years, for that he was by force kept out of the possession thereof by O'Donoye O'Mulrian, being maintained (as he saith by the Earl of Desmond); me, by information duly given to us, that, although he was kept from the possession of the most part thereof, yet he was not kept out of the possession of all the parcels whereupon the arrears do grow; but that he ought to pay unto us for the same £52, and for the rest of the arrears he is to be with our favour considered, for by his commission it hath been found that he was kept out of possession of the greater part.

Greenwich, April 20. 1568.

It appearing by inquisition taken at Rathkeele in the Co. of Limerick, the 23rd Augt, 1598, that Peter Walshe was seised in his demesne as of the fee and precinct of the late abbey or religious house of Wonye, and of all the castles, messuages, lands and tenements in Wonye; Castleneloynage, Killnemenoge, Knocknegurten alias Knockengusten, Rathreagh alias Rathrareg; Kappernowke alias Kappermooke, Kappicullec, Lesemolane, Kyshecurke and Aunagh, and of the rectories churches or chapels of Wony, Karkenlishe. Ballynelye, Riordan, and Chareilly, with all the titles and appurtenances; that Peter Walshe died on the 20th June, 1575, seized of the said abbey which was held of the crown by Knight's service, that is to say by the twentieth part of a Knight's fee, a scutage runs, and that Edmund Walsh is his son and next heir.

Dublin, June 17, 1596.

SIR HENRY SYDNEY TO PRIVY COUNCIL,
FEBRUARY 27th 1576.

All the principal Gentlemen of this County and likewise those that dwell in the lordships adjoining (who are doubtful whether they be of this County or no), repaired to me as namely: the Burkes, Lacies, Sappells, Purcells, the Red Roche, and divers others original English; divers also of the lords of the Irishry as, O'Mulrian, McBrien O'Gonoughe,

McBrien Araghe, O'Brien of Arloe, which do inhabit the south side of Shenan, and many other of note original Irish, all lamenting the waste and spoil of their Countries. They crave to have the forces of their mean lords suppressed; to be equally cessed; to have an English force; to have English laws planted amongst them and English Sheriffs to execute these laws, and to surrender their lands to her Majesty.

Carew Papers, 1575-1588.

THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES ARE FOUND IN ARCHDALL'S
"MONASTICON HIBERNICUM."

An Abbey was founded here A.D. 1205, for Cistercian monks, with which it was furnished from the abbey of Savigniac in France, by Theobald Fitz-Walter, Lord of Carrick and chief butler of Ireland, who richly endowed it and was interred here in the year 1206.

A.D. 1228, William was abbot.

1290. The abbot of this house and his tenants having received and harboured the king's enemies, he was fined in the sum of 60 mares on the 4th or November this year, the said sum to be paid at sundry times by annual payments.

1292. Hugh was abbot this year when he and the convent for a certain sum of money mortgaged to Francis Malesar, Gerard Chambar, and Reginald Rapundi, merchants of the company of the Ricardi of Lucca, the church of Thurles together with all the tithes and other emoluments thereunto belonging for the term of 15 years; the said abbot bound himself in the penalty of £1,000 for the due performance of this agreement; and in the year 1299 the said merchants demised and set the aforesaid premises to the said abbot for the same term he conditioning to pay to them, or their order, in the city of Dublin the annual rent of 80 mares sterling, lawful money of Ireland.

1205. This year a writ was issued to John Wogan, Lord Justice of Ireland, to take the fealty of the abbey.

1297. The abbot Thomas being deposed a license was granted dated April 25th, to proceed to an election.

1299. Theobald the fifth of the family of Butler was interred here on the 27th of May.

1307. It appears that the abbot of this house paid an annual pension of 100 shillings to the prior of Kells in Ossory.

1311. The abbot of St. Thomas, Dublin, recovered from this abbot the advowson of the church of Loghmoy in the County of Tipperary.

1342. The abbot of Owney sued the bishop of Emly for the advowson of the church of Cathirrelny in the County of Limerick.

1363. The abbot recovered the advowson of the church of the Blessed Virgin of Arklow from Jumes, Earl of Ormond.

1365. Henry who was abbot this year having by various methods contrary to the law of the land and to the king's crown and dignity distressed and molested Thomas de Kildare, then tenant to certain lands in Limerick he was this year committed to gaol for the same hut on the payment of a fine of forty shillings he received his Majesty's (King Edward III.) most gracious pardon.

1537. On the 26th June this year the Lord Deputy came to this abbey, where O'Mulrian Lord of the Contry, Ulick Burke of Clanrickard and Thybot Bourke McWilliam made their submissions and took the oaths of allegiance.

1340. One of the articles brought against the Lord Deputy Grey in this year was that he had compelled the abbot of Owney to give him the sum of £40 for the purpose of preserving this abbey from ruin.

December 6th. 5th Queen Elizabeth. This abbey with its appurtenances situate and lying in the vicinity thereof, and the lands of Caslane, Reanaghe, Kilmevenach, Knocknegurtane, *alias* Knocknegustone, Rathreighe, Kappenocke, *alias* Kappenowkey, Kappecullen, Lismullnn and Anaghe, and Clonritte *alias* Clonkill in the County Kerry, together with the rectories of Arklow and Tullaghflynn in the County of Carlow were granted for ever to Peter Walshe in capite of the annual rent of £57 2s. 3d., Irish money who was to maintain one horseman on the premises.

John O'Mulrian was the last abbot and the inquisition taken on the Wednesday next before Palm Sunday, 1st Queen Mary, finds that he was seized of the the following rectories all in the County of Tipperary:—Thurles annual value without reprisals £11; Rahelle, 40/-; Wony-I keirin, 20/-; Twobalysser, 30/-; Enaghe in Ormond, £4; Cnoyaghe, £3; and, on the Friday following it was found that these rectories made parcel of the abbey possessions. Arclo in the County of Wicklow, £4; Tullaghfelym in Carlow, B4

Inquisition 8th May, same year, thus finds the possessions both temporal and spiritual, viz.: the site of the abbey, a church and two chambers of no value, besides reprises; the demesne lands in the townland of Woney, the hamlets of Cassell, Boenagh, Kilnevenore, Knockan and Garinregrag, containing ——— acres of ——— and forty of underwood, annual value 40/-; the townland of Anaghe which the chaplain claims as his property at the annual rent of 5/-; the townland of Keapenock which McRoe claims at the annual rent of 3/4; the tommland of Keaxecalten which Conogher O'Mulrian claims at the annual rent of 5/-; the townland of Cloghan-Kitt in Kerie, annual value by an extent made 5th, King Edward VI., 26s. 8d., and the tithes of all the possessions annual value, £4 18s.; also the following rectories: Woney and Cloghan-Kitt, B4; Karkinlisse, 53/4; Ballinworle, 20/-; Rajordan, 13/4; Kakyrlilly, 26/8; Johenishe-Grene, 2/2; Burres in Dohearre, 3/8, and Burres-Clenekene, 3/8.

On 1st April. 18th King James. Sir Edward Walsh, Knt., in addition to certain townlands [which are enumerated,] was seized also of the rectory, patronage of the vicarage, tithes, glebes, &c., of the churches and chapels of the Abbey of Owney, Cahirkinlish, Caherelliu, Rathsordane, Ballyvelly and Towghgreny, all of the yearly value of 15/-.

THE BARRY MONUMENT, IN THE ABBEY OF WONEY.

Mr. J. G. Barry in a paper entitled Ancient Mural Inscriptions, County Limerick, which appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries*, for first quarter, 1890,

points out that by an inquisition taken at St. Francis Abbey, Limerick, in 1623, Donal Barry who died in 1612, held in fee the lands of Ballyguy and Bohergar, in the Parish of Oowney, and that he was succeeded by his son, Donal. This Donal who erected the monument, married Joanna, eldest daughter of Sir John Bourke of Brittas. His descendant, Daniel, having joined the Catholic Confederation had his lands confiscated, and he and his retainers were transplanted into the County Clare and the lands of Ballyguy and Bohergar were granted to Sir William King. David, second son of Donal, settled down on the lands of Friarstown in the Parish of Caherelly, and it is interesting to learn, that the writer of the paper, eighth in descent from this David, still holds a portion of the lands of Friarstown.

CLONKEEN CHURCH.

This church, dedicated to St. Dimeo, possesses a doorway of remarkable beauty and shows what Irish art was capable of achieving in pre-Norman times. It is one of the finest specimens of its kind to be found, not only in the county but in the whole of Ireland. The following, historical references, will be found in the "Annals of the Four Masters."

1089. Rury O'Connor and Donal Melachlin went in ships and boats and plundered Munster as far as Cluain-Caein-Modimog, so that they scarcely left a single head of cattle so far [as they penetrated] and besides carried off captives.

1135. Many of the men of Desmond fell by those of Thomond, at the causeway of Cluain-Caein-Modimog.



APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

TAXATIONS OF THE DIOCESES OF LIMERICK AND EMLY, 1302-6.

EXTRACTS of ecclesiastical taxation of Ireland relating to the Dioceses of Limerick and Emlly, taken from *Calendar of Documents, Ireland, 1302-1307*, Rolls Series. For these two Dioceses there are two sets of returns of different dates, in which the valuation varies, and some churches taxed in one are omitted from the other, or mentioned under a different name. The Roll upon which the dioceses of Limerick and Emlly are entered bears the endorsement "Vacated as is believed." The column stating the tenth of the value is omitted as unnecessary here. An attempt is made to identify as many of the parishes as possible.

DIOCESE OF LIMERICK.

TAXATION OF ALL THE GOODS OF THE BISHOP OF LIMERICK.

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Rent and revenue of the Bishop of Limerick in all things	£163 3 11½
<i>Taxation of all prebendal churches of the same diocese with vicarages.</i>	
Rent and Revenue of the Dean of Limerick	34 2 8

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Vicarage de Brunrry (Bruree) ...	5 6 8
Vicarage de Mungaria (Mungret)...	20/-
Vicarage de Kylmaclou	6 8
Taxation of Precentor's churches in all things	14 16 76
Vicarage de Kylfychny (Kilfinny)...	20/-
Vicarage de Sengel (Shanagolden)	35/6½
Taxation of Chancellor's churches in all things	£27 8
Vicarage de Clonkeuer (Clonshire)	11/-
De Kylscanyl (Kilscannell) ...	1 mark
Vicarage de Clonach (Cloncagh) ...	13/4
Taxation of Treasuryship in all things	£24
Imlathdreyny (Emlygrenan) ...	40/-
Taxation of the churches of the archdeaconry in all things ...	28 11 6
Kyldyme (Kildimo)... ..	3 6 8
Tulachbrek (Tullybrackey)... ..	7 14 4
Croch (Croagh)	6 0 2½
Vicarage of the same prebend ...	£3
Effryng (Effin)	4 13 4
Vicarage of the same prebend ...	53s 4d
Kyllyd (Killeedy)	3 6 8
Prebend de Kylmonyn (Kilmoylan) in all things	6 13 5
Vicarage de Kymonyn (Kilmoylan) and portions of Kilrus	26s 6
Vicarage de Kilkoan (Kilquane) ...	21s 6½
Prebend de Arctacny (Ardcanny)..	£5 2
Prebend de Balycathan (Ballycahane)	3 6 8
Donenachmor (Donaghmore) ...	5 6 8
Kyleyl (Killeely)	
Portion of Artpatrick (Ardpatrick)	

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Church de Diserto (Dysert) ...	53/4
Portion of Kylbecan (Kilpeacon) }	3 16 8
Portion of Kycomyn (Kilcolman) }	
Portion of Kyllynt	
Taxation of churches belonging to the <i>Communia</i>	35 2 2
<i>Taxation of goods of religious houses of the same diocese, to wit.</i>	
Of the houses de Magio (Manister Nenagh)	60 13 4
Of St. Catherine in O'Conyl (Old Abbey)	40/4
St. Mary of Rathgel	40/-
St. James of Adare... ..	40/-
St. Mary of Limerick	Nothing, because poor

Deanery of Limerick.

Church of St. John of Limerick ...	20/-
Church de Fedemere	£4
Vicarage of same	40/-
Balyoweyn (Part of Fedamore) ..	40/-
Vicarage of the same	40/-
Church de Cretouth (Crecora) for the Vicar's portion	26/8
Kylmihurrok (Kilmurry)	4 marks 10d
Vicarage of same	2 marks 4/5d
Church of Escluen (? Kilkeedy) ...	8 marks
Vicar of the same	4 marks
Deriganan (Derrygalvin)	1 mark

Deanery de Killocia.

Church de Kylmahallok (Kilmallock)	20 marks
Vicarage of the same	10 marks

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Vicarage de Kyicowan (Kilquane)...	21/6½
Church de Glynogre (Glenogra) ...	£10
Vicarage of the same	£5
Kylbryd Minor (Kilbreedy Minor)...	40/-
Vicarage of the same	20/-
Church de Dromyn Claryn (Dromin) in its entirety	£20
Church de Ralygady (Ballingaddy)	£10
Vicarage of the same	40/-
Church Energarr' (Uregare) ...	£12 13 4
Vicarage of the same	£4
Chapel de Uirgedi annexed to same	7 marks
Church de Anedes (Anhed) ...	12 marks
Vicarage of the same	6 marks
Kylbrid Major (Kilbreedy Major)...	5 marks
Vicarage of the same	5 marks
Church de Arthpatrik (Ardpatrick)	4½ marks
Vicarage of the same	5 marks
Church de Kylfynan (Kilfinane) ...	8 "
Deruly	6 "
Vicarage of the same	3 "
Martin's Chapel (St. Martin in Bally- cullen)	6 "
Balytankard (Tankardstown) ...	6 "
Vicarage of the same	3 "
Church de Cloncorth (or Cluincurry)	20/-
Church de Kyllync (or Kylny) ...	20/4
Aylethach (Athlacca)	28 marks

Deanery de Ardach.

The Church at New Grange (Grange) is taxed at	9 "
Rathcathel (Ballyhahill?)..	5 "

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Kyllaylachan (near Dromcollogher)	20/-
Newcastle (Newcastle)	4 marks
Chapel Maurice	2 marks 5½d
Vicarage of the same	1 mark 2/2½
Kyllalechan (Killagholehan) ...	4 marks
<i>Deanery de Garthe (Ballingarry)</i>	
Church de Clonyle (Clonelty) ...	6 marks
Vicarage of the same	3 "
Church of Garth with chapels (Bal- lingarry)	29½ do
Vicarage of the same	10 marks 40 pence
Moycavenach (Mahoonagh) .	4 marks
Vicarage of the same	2 "

Deanery de Rathgel.

Ynskefty (Askeaton)	16 "
Vicarage of the same	8 "
Dunmolyn (Dunmoylan)	2 marks 8/10½
Vicarage of the same	1 mark 4/5¼
Kylbraderen (Kilbraden)	2 "
Vicarage of the same	1 "
Chapel of Robert Guer (de Pago Roberti, Castle Robert)	2 "
Vicarage of the same	1 "
Church of the Castle of Robert de Dundonenylde for the rector and vicar	20/-
Church of Kycolman Inferior (Kil- colman)	20/-
Vicarage of the same	10/-
Church de Kylsmattyre (Castle Martyr)	5 marks
Vicarage of the same	30/-

<i>Deanery of Adare.</i>		
<i>Church.</i>		<i>Value.</i>
Church de Clonany (Cluoin Anny)	2 marks	
Vicarage of the same	1 "	
Church de Athnyde (Athnid) ...	6 "	
Dunkepyhy belonging to Church de Cromych (Dunneman? Dunachip)	30/-	
Kylcurnan (Kilcornan)	8 marks	
Moynhinyn (or Moirgrean belonging to Manister)	4 "	
The Church of Adare with the Chapels of Kylkyrely and Castle Robert	11 marks 4/5½	
Excepting 10 marks of annual and free rent which the Hospitallers have in said church.		
Vicarage of the same	5 marks 8/10¼	
	excepting 4 marks of annual rent which the Hospitallers have in said church.	
Church de Cromuch (Croom) ...	28 marks	
Vicarage of the same	14 "	

DIOCESE OF LIMERICK.

Goods Spiritual and Temporal of the bishop	£94 17 6½
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Communia.

The Church of St. Mary of Limerick for the stipend of vicars there administering	—
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Deanery of Limerick.

Church of St. John	20/-
Church of Fedm' for the rector (Fedamore)	8 marks
The vicar of same vill.	4 "

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
The Chapel de Baliowyn for the rector and vicar (part of Fedamore)	40/-
The Church of Kilmehorok for the rector and vicar (Kilmurry) ...	100s
The Church of Karnathie for the rector (Cahirrary)	8 marks
Sengle (Shanagolden)	20/-
Dounaghmore (Donaghmore) ...	3 marks
Kilm'otan (Kilmoylan)	10/-
Church of Kilkid for rector and the vicar (Kilkeedy)	100/-
Church of Dalgarvan for the rector and the vicar (Derrygalvin) ...	3 marks
Church of St. Michael for the rector	20/-
Kilbegan (near Kilpeacon)	40/-
Crenachmahill (Cratloe Moyle) ...	5 marks
Crecowere (Crecora)	5 "
Manugaria (Mungret)	8 "
Cathirbaghlach (Cahirvally) ...	5 marks
Kelheil (Kileilin near St. John's gate)	20/-
Kilhyntena (Kilfintenan?)	20/-
Kilcohan (or Kailecauin de Achines part of Fedamore)	10/-
Church of St. Nicholas	10/-
Kilrussee (Kilrush near Limerick) ...	10/-
Sum of Taxation £148 10 10½ ...	
<i>Deanery de Killoc (Kilmallock)</i>	
The Church of St. Mary de Killoc belongs to the maintenance of 12 vicars in the Cathedral Church ...	nothing
Portion of the vicarage of the same vill.	100s
The Church of Kilbride Minor for the rector.	26/8

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
For the vicar of the same	13/4
Church of Kilcolyan (Kilcolgan) ...	3 marks
The Church of Glenogra for the rector	5 "
For the vicar of the same	3 "
Dromyn Icherolyn (Dromin)	£10
Baligadi (Ballingaddy)	£10
The vicar of the same	£2
De Inygari (Uregare)	12 marks
Kilbride Major	4 "
For the vicar of the same	4 "
Church de Darmeto (Derrynacoure ? Darragh)	4 "
For the vicar of the same	4 "
Balitancard for the rector and vicar (Tankardstown)	4 "
Church of Killyn (Kilflynn)	20/-
Athlech (Athlacca) for rector and vicar	10 marks
Tholaghbreg {Tullabreedy or Ternple Bredin}	£10
Kilfennan for the rector and vicar (Kilfinane)	5 marks
Eftying for the rector and vicar (Effin)	10 "
Imelachdreym for the rector and vicar (Emlygrenan)	6 "
Athnedessce (Athnassy) for the rector and vicar	£10
De Brunry (Bruree)	12 marks
Balisiward (Ballysiward)	5 "
Ardpatrik and its appurtenances ...	10 "
Sum of taxation	£117 6 8

<i>Deanery of Garthe.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
<i>Church.</i>	
Garthe (Ballingarry)	£10
The Churches of Korkemoyde (Corcomohide), Motasmagh Moyalthi, Clonka (Cloncagh), Drumcolthill (Dromcolloher), Cloncraue (Cloncrew), Clonelthy, are all destroyed by the war	—
Church of Kilnefichny for the rector and vicar (Kilfinny)	£4
Church of Kilmaclou (Kilmacow)...	20/-
Church of Clonchevre (Clonshire)	20/-
Church of Crothewe (Croagh) ...	10 marks
Church of Balisahel	Nothing, because burned down.
Sum of Taxation	£22 13 4
<i>Deanery of Rathgel.</i>	
Church of Rathgel (Rathkeale) ...	12 marks
De Kilcolman Superior (Kilcoleman)	6 "
The Churches de Lanwhull (Loughgill), Kilfarwes (Kilfergus), and Kilmorill (Kilmoylan) are destroyed by war	
Kilscanyll (Kilscannel)	4 marks
Clonagh	3 "
Church of Castle Robert of Dondownyl	20/-
Church of Kilcolma' Inferior (Kilcolman)	2 marks
Kilbradan	4 "
Donmolyn (Dunmoylan)	3 "
Kilmolan (Kilmoylan)	5 "
Schengole (Shanagolden)	5 "
Church of the Castle of Robert Goer	20/-
Church of Disertmardun (Morgans)	10/-
Church of Aruntel	2 marks

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Church of Lismaccyre (Lismakeery)	3 marks
Church of Ineskestyn (Askeaton)...	12 „
Monastery of the Prioress of Oconyl (Old Abbey)	Does not suffice for the maintenance of the Prioress and Convent.
The Church of Nantenan	100/-
Sum of Taxation	£48 3 4

Deanery of Ardagh.

Church of Ardagh	12 marks
Church of New Grange, Novo Castro (Newcastle), Rathkatill (Rath- cahill), and Killolethan destroyed by war	—
Chapel of Maurice (Chapel Maurice)	20/-
The Church of Killid (Killeedy) the Chapels de Monte Maledictionis, Kilhathiagh, and de Feel (Abbey- feale), destroyed dy war ...	—
Sum of Taxation	£9

A dare.

The Church of Adare	10 marks
Killonwyn (Killonetan)	2 „
Ballycathan (Ballycahane)	3 „
Athnyd (Athnid)	40/-
Dissert (Dysert)	40/-
Mowryn (Moirgrean)	40/-
Ardcathny (Ardcanny)	5 marks
Kilcurnan (Kilcornan)	£4
Kildyme (Kildimo)	£10
Jurisdiction of the Archdeacon ...	4 marks
Church of Cromethe (Croom) ...	£10
Sum of Taxation	£46
Sum Total of Taxation of the Diocese of Limerick	£391 14 2½

DIOCESE OF EMLY.

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
The Goods temporal and spiritual of the See are taxed at	£100 40/-
Prebend of the Dean	10 marks
„ of the Precentor	10 „
„ of the Treasurer	6 „
„ of the Chancellor	5 „
„ of the Archdeacon	6 „
„ of Master Thomas Cantok ...	5 „
„ of Maurice Osolewan	3 „
„ of Master Nicholas MacLyn ...	8 „
„ of David Archer	6 „
„ of Nicholas de Dreytene ...	5 „
„ of Master Charles	4½ „

Communia of the Church with pen-
sion of Athnehaden, (Knockainy) 6 „

Sum of Taxation £151 13 4 —

Deanery of Wetheny.

Rent and revenue of the Abbot of Wetheny (Owney)	28 marks
Church of Karkynglissee (Cahircon- lish) with William's Chapel (Wil- liamstown)	£10
Vicarage of the same	3½ marks
Church of Katherelky (Cahirelly) ..	£10
Chapel of Bourewode	2 marks
Rathjordan with the vicar's portion	3 „
Lodyn (Ludden) with the vicar's portion	5 „

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Chapel of Wylde with the vicar's portion	20/-
Chapel of Eustace; Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar ...	1 mark
Chapel of Boyghnagh	3 marks
Sum of taxation £51 6 8	
<i>Deanery of Grene.</i>	
Church of Grena (Grean) with the chapel of Clonboug (Clonbeg)...	20 marks
Church of Carrygmich; Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar ...	40/-
Church of Kiicallan (Kilcellane), Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar ...	24/-
Church of Cathircorny (Cahircorney); Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar	2 marks
Church of the vill of Michael; Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar ...	22/-
Church of Kilfrussee (Kilfrush); Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar ...	2 marks
Church of Liscormyg (Liscormuck) ...	5 marks
(received by the nuns)	
Portion of Cahirelly for the rector and vicar	45 marks
Chapel of Corbaly; Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar	1 mark
Chapel of Cathirussok; Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar ...	1 "
Chapel of Nalhich	2 "
Church of Donmonne	4 "
Church of Mora (Moortown or Ballynumona); Hospitallers are rectors; for the vicar	24/-
Sum of Taxation, £33 3 4 ...	

<i>Deanery of Tipperary.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
<i>Church.</i>	
Church of Tipperary	12 marks
Chapel of Balibouth	4 "
Chapel of Rougorre	5 "
Chapel de Novo Castro (Templenoe) ...	5 "
Church of Swlgotherbeg (Solloghodbeg)	4 marks
Sulgoth (Solloghodbeg)	10 "
Brywys	8 "
Scronhull (Schronell)	5 "
Corrogh	4
Hulles	Hospitallers are rectors.
Portion of the Vicar	2 marks
Kullyn (Cullen)	4 "
Thothlogyn (Tuoluggin)	4 "
Chapel de Lyskill	20/-
Chapel de Kilsethcan	24 marks
Cordeynill? (Cordangan)	6 "
Clonpet	4 "
Sum total	£54

Deanery of Natherlagh.

The Church de Natherlagh, Galbally, alias Aherlow, with the chapel for the rector	£12
Vicarage of the same	4 marks
Church de Clonbyg... ..	2½ "
" de Garth	5 "
Vicarage of the Chapel de Coragh Latherlawe	30/-
Sum of Taxation, £23 3 4 ...	40/-
Sum of all the DIOCESE OF EMLY,	£313 6 8

DIOCESE OF EMLY.

Taxation of all the goods of the Bishop of Emly, made for the papal tenth at Emly, on Saturday next before the feast of St. Gregory (March 9th), in the Year of Grace, 1302.

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Goods of the Bishop of Emly ...	£90 10
Prebend of the Dean	£7
„ of the Precentor	10 marks
„ of the Treasurer	10 „
„ of the Chancellor	£4
„ of the Archdeacon	£8
„ of Master Thomas Cantok	6 marks
„ of Master Maurice	
O'Sowlevan	3 „
„ of Master David Archer	60/-
„ of Martin Nicholas Mac	
Hugh	8 marks
„ of Nicholas Drayton	5 „
Prebend of Dunlesk	60/-
<i>Deanery of Tipperary</i>	
The Church of Tipperary	20 marks
The Chapel. of Rowncor	5 „
The Chapel of Haiybocht	4 marks
Vicarage of the same	on the Rector's part nothing
Chapel of Newcastle (Templenoe)	4 marks
	on the part of the Rector. The Vicar nothing.
Cordengyn	10 marks
The Chapel of Corrg, the Rector's part	3 marks 4/5
Brwys	10 marks
Cullen, on the Rector's part ...	4 „

<i>Church.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Wlys, on the Vicar's part ...	3½ marks
Sologhead	£10
Portion of Master Luke, there	5 marks
Feronhull (Shronell)	4 „
Tohcluggin	3 „
Chapel of Kylgegan	3 „
Clonbeg	4 „
Clonpet	5 „
<i>Deanery of Nathirlach.</i>	
The Church of Netherlach with Chapels	£12
The Vicarage of the same... ..	4 marks
Garthegriffin... ..	6 „
Chapel of Latherach	40/-
Temporalities of the Abbot of Wetheney	20 marks
Catherkenl	£10
Portion of the vicar there	33/-
Rathjordan	7 marks
Doyanach (? Doon) a third part is the vicar's	6 „
Church of the vill. of Wyld ' ...	20/-
Cathercloy	£10
Ludden	8 marks
<i>Deanery of Grene.</i>	
The Church of Grene	£22
The Church of Morton	3 marks
Portion of the rector of Athissel at Carneketil	2 marks 3d
The Church of Any for the vicar...	8 marks
	Hospitallers are rectors.
The Church of Dunmoon	5 marks
Ballylocht	4 marks
Kilkallane with the Chapel of Nalech	48/-
Carruguwys	40/-
Chapel of Liscormuck	6 marks
Cathercorny	2½ do

APPENDIX B.

THE CELTIC TRIBES OF THE
COUNTY OF LIMERICK,AND THEIR TERRITORIES PREVIOUS TO THE ARRIVAL
OF THE ANGLO-NORMANS.*From the Topographical Poems of O'Dugan and
O'Herin.*

THESE topographical poems have as their authors John O'Dugan, Chief Poet of O'Kelly, who died in 1372, and Giolla-na-naomh O'Huidhrin, who died an old man in 1420. The former gave the names of the principal tribes and districts in Meath, Ulster, and Connaught, and the Chiefs who presided over them at the time of the arrival of Henry II. He was unable to carry out his intention of giving an account of the Chiefs of the whole of Ireland, but the work was completed by his contemporary O'Herin. The Munster portion, which includes the following extracts, is by the latter. The metre is pronounced extremely difficult. Each quatrain consists of four verses, each line generally of seven syllables; every line must exhibit alliteration and the lines should end so as to form a kind of rhyme with each other successively or alternately. The adjectives are used apparently without any discrimination, and merely for the sake of filling up the metre in the original. The translation is literal, and therefore necessarily of a rude character.

The portions of the poems relating to the County of Limerick are as follows :—

Let us proceed across Luachair¹ hither,
A journey which is fit for poets,
To the cold and festive Claonghlais
Of the green irriguous wooded land.

The Ui-Conaill² of the Battalion of Munster,
Multitudinous is the gathering,
A great tribe, with whom it is not usual to contend,
Are the battle-trooped host of the O'Coilens.³

O'Billraidhe⁴ who used to bestow cows,
Over Ui-Conaill of the field of Gabhra,
King of truth of fair lands,
The smooth dells of heavy fruit.

MacInnerigh,⁵ hero of gems
Over the mellow Corca Muicheat,⁶
A fine host who constantly ramify
Like the white blossom of the branching apple tree.

Corca Oiche⁷ of beautiful mood,
A fair-surfaced territory of fresh inbher,
A fair land of best showers
Under the vigorous hero, O'Macasa.⁸

O'Bearga⁹ of the fair mansion obtained
The cantred of Ui-Rossa¹⁰ of rich course;
The hero of Caonraighe¹¹ of fair land
Is O'Maolcallann¹² of branches.

1 Barony of Maguinihy in Kerry and adjacent portion of Cork.

2 Barony of Connello, which originally included Glenquin.

3 Collins. 4 Name obsolete. 5 MacEneiry. 6 Castletown MacEneiry.

7 Not identified. 8 Macassey. 9 Obsolete. 10 Iverus. 11 Kenry.

12 Mulholland.

The share of the noble Dal Cairbre Ebha,¹³
Of the Kings of Caisel of white wattles,
Lasting is his profit of the land
The brave pillar O'Cleirchin.¹⁴

Hereditary to O'Donnabhain¹⁵ of the Dun Cuirc¹⁶
Is this land, as a land of pure encampment,
To him, without tribute, belonged [the land] along
the sluggish Maigh,
And the plains down to the Sionainn.

Eoghanacht Aine of warm land,
O'Ciarmhaic¹⁷ is prop of this territory,
Territory of fairest land-roots
Ui-Enda¹⁸ of Aine Aulum.¹⁹

.

Eoghanacht of the sunny field of Gabhra,²⁰
Land of sweetest, smooth-round apples,
The gem of each female band of fame,
To O'Cinnfhaeladh²¹ of red weapons [it belongs.]

Aes-Greine²² of she fine bright land was obtained
By O'Conaing²³ of the territory of Saingel;²⁴
He possessed a cheery land around fair Grian,²⁵
From his noble descent from Eoghan.

Let us speak of the race of Cormac Cas;
Let us pass across Sionainn of the green waves;
From the Sept of Corc, point out our way
To the tribe of Lorc of the lamp.²⁶

13 Coshma. 14 Anglicised Cleary.

15 O'Donovan. 16 Bardic name for Bruree. 17 O'Kerwick. 18 Heney.

19 Situation not known. 20 Ui-Conaill Gabhra. 21 Kinealy. 22 In
Clanwilliam. 23 Gunning. 24 Singland. 25 Pallas Grean.

26 Lorcán grandfather of Brian.

The DeisBeag²⁷ of the Purple Cloak
Is hereditary to the valorous tribe,
The heroes of Claire²⁸ mentioned by us,
Of the fairest bay in Erin.

Three septs of high hilarity
Are over Deis Beag²⁷ of trees,
Fair over the smooth plain of house of Tal,²⁹
The populous tribe of O'Luain.³⁰

The Ui-Duibhrosa³¹ of hot incursions,
The Ui Faircheallaigh³² of the Land of Claire,
True is the blood of the other tribe
By whom the tribe of the Mairtine³³ was subdued.

The Dal gCais in the battalions of Claire
Have pure silver, and with it
Gold purely smelted;
The pleasant host are not indigent.

.

O'Cinneidigh³⁴ who reddens the javelin
Over the wide smooth Gleann-Omra,³⁵
The race of our Donnchuan³⁶ who, with valour
Obtained the lands without dispute.

Muintir-Diubhraic³⁷ of Dun Braine³⁸
Are chieftains of Tuath O'gConghaile;³⁹
Their forts are about the good Borumha;
Locks [of hair] like gold upon them.

P7 Small County. 28 Hill at Duntryleague where Olioll Olum was
buried. 29 People of Corcomroe so called as being descended from
Tal, son of Broc. 30 Loane. 31 Unidentified. 32 Farrelly. 33 An old
sept of the Fírbolgs, of whose territory Emly was the centre.

34 O'Kennedy. 35 Glenomera. 36 Brothers of Brian Boru. 37 Family
of O'Diubhraic now Durack. 38 Unknown. 39 Parish of Ogonnelloe,
alias Aglish-Sinnell. .

The Ui Toirdhealbhaigh⁴⁰ of the house of Tal,
Near unto Flannan's Cilldalua;
Delightful in its woods, generous its lands,
From that west to the Sionainn.

Tuath-Luimnigh⁴¹ about the noble Sionainn;
Two chiefs are over it on one side.
O'Cadhla⁴² and O'Maille⁴³ the swift,
Beautiful ravens of the two inbher.

Ui Aaimrit,⁴⁴ land of hospitality,
Is hereditary to the sept of the O'Duibhidhirs;⁴⁵
Their acquisition is far over Cliach,
They are a branch in every ford.

O'Cedfadha⁴⁶ of the pure heart
Is over the cantred of the Caladh,⁴⁷
The sept of Cluain chosen by Tal,
The beautiful plain of O'Cedfadha.

Aos-tri-muighe,⁴⁸ smoothest of plains,
Is the grassy territory of O'Conaing,
A bright watered plain of noblest aspect,
By the meadowy side of Craoth Cumhraidhe.⁴⁹
From the race of Cormac Cas of the house of Tal
We must henceforth depart;
To approach the Uaithnes⁵⁰ is meet for us,
Noble their fame and their defence.

Over Uaithne-tire⁵¹ of fruit
Is Mag Ceoch⁵² who loved great prospects;
Muintir Loingsigh," people of the lands,
Is this wood at the breast of strangers.

⁴⁰ East of Glenomera along the Shannon.

⁴¹ A district verging on the City of Limerick. ⁴² Kealy. ⁴³ O'Malley

⁴⁴ Unknown. ⁴⁵ O'Dwyers. ⁴⁶ North of the Shannon, near Limerick.

⁴⁷ Keating. ⁴⁸ The people of three plains; the Barony of Clanwilliam.

⁴⁹ The sweet-scented branchy tree, now Crecora. ⁵⁰ Owney. ⁵¹ Owney, in Tipperary. ⁵² MacKeogh, "Ballymakeogh," ⁵³ Now Lynch.

Uaithne-Cliaich⁵⁴ of bright green land
Is the country of O'h-Ifearnain;⁵⁵
Fine land at the side of each hillock,
Beautiful and loved by O'Cathalain.⁵⁶

Chief King of Ara,⁵⁷ over every tribe,
O'Donnagain⁵⁸ of the noble aspect,
The territory yielding heavy produce
For the King of Ara; it is not trifling.

APPENDIX C.

THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK IN 1598.

In a "Description of Ireland and the state thereof as it is at the present in Anno 1598," published from a MS. in Glengowes Wood College, the principal towns, castles and leading men are given as follows:

LIMERICK, a fayre walled City, on the Sheynan.

Principall Townes—

Kilmallock, a walled inland Towne.

Adare } Markett townes
Rakeall }

Army—Carrigmyhe

Croome—Loughyn²

Askton—belonging to Captain Barclay

Carrigigonell to Brian Duff.

Principall Castles—

Shenet

Castleconnell to the Lord Burke

⁵⁴ Owneybeg. ⁵⁵ Hiffernan. ⁵⁶ Cahellan or Callan. ⁵⁷ Barony of Ara, in Tip. ⁵⁸ Donegan.

¹ Perhaps Knockainy. ² Glin or Loughill.

Newcastle to Jordan Roche

Ballynitie

Robertstown to Sir Edward Fitton,
and divers others belonging to the Under-
takers which were howses belonging to the
Earl of Desmond and his followers.

Chief Men—

The Bishop of Limerick

The Lord Burk of Castleconnell

Richard Burke of Castletowne

Burk of Carrig

Lacie of B [ruree]

Lacie of Ballingorie

Lacie of the [Brough]

Roch of Lickdowne

Hurley of Knocklig

McBryan of Connaghe

McKennedie McBryan

McBryan rath. O'Bryan [of Ballyclogh]

The Knight of the Valley, Fitzgerald

Purcell of the crook [Croagh]

Severall Freeholders of the Purcells

Supples, Walshes, O'birnes

Ryans, Fyants, Verdon, Roches,

Whytes, Sheerhes, Arthures,

Sir George Bowcher, Sir Edward Fitton,

Sir William Courtenay, with divers others of the
Burkes, Lacies, Geraldines, Shees,

Foxes, Jordans, Fannings. Of the Undertakers,

Sir John Outrich, Capt. Barclay,

Capt. Collam, Mr. Billinglesloy.

Geo. Thornton, Provost Marshall of Mounster.

APPENDIX D.

**SURNAMES OF THE COUNTY
OF LIMERICK.**

The principal ancient Celtic families of the
County of Limerick were :—

MacArthur, MacEneiry, MacSheehy (more
numerous in Cork and Kerry), O'Billry, O'Brien
(also in Clare, Cork, Tipperary and Waterford),
O'Casey (also in Cork, Fermanagh and Kerry),
O'Clerkin, O'Conlan, O'Cullen, O'Dinnahan,
O'Donevan, O'Donovan, O'Flannery, O'Grady
(more numerous in Clare and Kerry), O'Hallinan,
O'Hartigan (more numerous in Cork), O'Hea (more
numerous in Cork), O'Hely (more numerous in
Kilkenny), O'Honan, O'Hurley (more numerous
in Cork), O'Kinealy, O'Kerwick, O'Mackasey,
O'Moroney (more numerous in Clare and Cork),
O'Mulcahy, O'Quinn (more numerous in Clare
and Donegal), O'Ryan (more numerous in Carlow
and Kilkenny, also in Tipperary), O'Scanlan
(more numerous in Kerry), O'Sheehan (more
numerous in Galway and Kerry).

The relative numerical strength of the principal
surnames in the County of Limerick at present, as
shown by the "Birth Index" for 1890, is as follows :

Ryan 91, O'Brien 78, Fitzgerald 58, Sullivan 50,
Hayes 45, Walsh 45, Collins 40, O'Connell 39,
Murphy 38, Moloney 38, O'Connor 37, Lynch 31,
McNamara 31, O'Donnell 28, Ahern 25.

With these may be compared the returns for the other Counties of Munster, as follows :

Co. CLARE.—McMahon 74, McNamara 61, Moloney 50, O'Brien 47, McInerney 39, Kelly 38, Keane 33, Murphy 29, Griffin 27, Halloran 26, Ryan 23, Lynch 22, Clancy 21.

Co. CORK.—Sullivan 418, Murphy 390, McCarthy 277, Mahony 193, Donovan 182, Walsh 143, O'Brien 139, Callaghan 134, Leary 134, Crowley 116, Collins 115, Driscoll 110, Connell 109, Earry 108, Cronin 102, Buckley 100, Daly 97, Sheehan 97, Riordan 94, Kelleher 92, O'Connor 91, Hurley 86, Regan 85, O'Keeffe 84, Harrington 82, Fitzgerald 81, O'Neill 75.

Co. KERRY.—Sullivan 349, Connor 188, Shea 146, Murphy 95, McCarthy 88, Moriarty 74, Fitzgerald 72, Griffin 58, Connell 56, Brosnan 55, Foley 55, Leary 47, Clifford 45, Walsh 45, Cronin 43, Lynch 41, Mahony 38, Daly 34.

Co. TIPPERARY.—Ryan 277, Maher 74, O'Brien 74, Kennedy 70, Dwyer 64, Hogan 46, Hayes 38, Gleeson 38, McGrath 38, Walsh 38, Kelly 31, Lonergan 31.

Co. WATERFORD.—Power 125, Walsh 97, O'Brien 47, Murphy 35, Ryan 35, McGrath 31, Foley 30, Flynn 28, Morrissey 27, Kelly 26, Phelan 25, Sullivan 25, Whelan 23, McCarthy 22, Butler 21, Tobin 20.

The surnames which are specially prominent and numerous in the County of Limerick, judging from the Birth Indexes of 1890, are:—Ahern (nearly all in Cork and Limerick), Ambrose (nearly all in Cork and Limerick), Earry (Cork contains nearly

half in all Ireland), Bourke (more numerous in Tipperary), Broder (more numerous in Kerry), Cauty (Cork and Limerick), Clohessy (Clare and Limerick), Collins (more numerous in Cork), Con-sidine (Clare and Limerick), Costelloe (with the final letter), Cregan, Culhane, Cusack, Danaher, Dillane, Doody, Dore, Downs (Clare and Limerick), Dundon (Clare and Limerick), Enright, Fitzgerald, Fitzgibbon (half of ail are in Limerick), Franklin, Gubbins, Guerin, Guiry, Hanrahan (Clare and Limerick), Harnett, Harrold (Harold in Cork), Hartigan, Hartnett, Hartney, Hough (Haugh in Clare), Hennessy, Herbert (Dublin and Limerick), Hourigan, Laffan, Leo (in Limerick only), Liston (nearly all in Limerick), Linane, Lysaght, Mack, Madigan, McInerney (Clare and Limerick), Moloney, Moroney (Clare and Limerick), Mulqueen, Murnane, Nash (Kerry and Limerick), Neville, Normile, O'Brien (each County in Munster is largely represented), O'Grady (Clare and Limerick), O'Halloran, O'Keefe (Cork and Limerick), O'Meara (Dublin and Limerick), O'Regan (Cork and Limerick), O'Shaughnessy, Purtill, Quilligan, Quilty, Raleigh, Riordan (more numerous in Cork), Ryan (by far the largest number is in Tipperary), Woulfe.



APPENDIX E.

EXTRACTS FROM THE "BOOK OF HOWTH."*

DESCRIPTION OF MUNSTER.

In the "Book of Homth" the following extract will be found in a description of Ireland:—Mounster was of old time divided into three—East Monster, Ormond; West Mownster, Desmond; South Mownster, Tomond. Here dwell O'Brens, McMorrows [this is corrected by Carew to McNemara], McMahons, and one sept of the Carties. In these quarters lie the countries of O'Carrall, O'Magher, the White Knight, McP'Birne, O'Gaunneth. Watterford containeth the Powars and Daeces. Corke, the Barres' lands, Imokylly Carbery, McCarty More, McCarty Reoghe, L. Roche's lands, O'Scullivans, Mysery, L. Courcey. Lymerycke hath in it the Knight of the Valley, Wm. Bourke, McBryn Ara, part of the White Knight's land, Cosuraries, O'Brenes, and upon the edge of Kereg, the Green Knight alias the Knight of Kerey.

KNIGHTS FEES IN IRELAND IN THE FIRST YEAR OF EDWARD II.

Servicia Domini R. in diversis Com. per totam Hiberniam
LYMER.

De Maur. fil. Ger: 8 servic.
De Galfr. de Marisc 1 servic.
De Johanne fil. Thomæ fil. Maur. pro se 4 servic.
De Hamundo de Valon, 8 servic.
De Johanne Pincerna [of the Butler family] 6 servic. et di.
De Willelmo de Camvyll 3 servic.; sed non debet sum. nisi de 1 servicio, quia Petrus de Bermyngham.

* The "Book of Howth" is a collection of papers, either original or copied, relating to Irish affairs, made by Sir George Carew. The date of these papers cannot now be accurately fixed.

De Hugo Bole, Robertus Dagod pro eo. 3. pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De Herberto de Feredon, 3 pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De her. Roberti de Dundonenold 3. pars unius servic. 1 mar.
De Barone del Naas 1 servic. et 2 partes unius servic. 66/8
De Ger. de Rupe 1 servic.
De Johanne Pincerna tertia pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De Roberto de Sancto Michael 3 pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De Roberto Le Botiller 3 pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De Ricardo de Mora 3 pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De Johanne fil. Philippi com pars unius servic. de Rathfeld.
De Sacho Crompe 8 pars unius servic.
De her. Willelmi de Racleigh tertia pars unius servic., 1 mar.
De Roberto de Petraponte 16d. de 30. parte unius servic.
De her. Thomae de Berkeley 4s. 5d. ob. pro 2 caruc. terrae de Vill Molend.
De Willelmo de Lynns 8. pars unius servic. de Vill. Molend 5s
De O'Bren 16 servicia.
Memd. de servic. Roberti Bagod pro tenementis suis in Comit. Lymer. tertia pars unius servic., 1 mar. ut patet inferius.
Summa denar., £141 7s. 6d. q.
Summa, 70 servic. di. 6 pars unius servic. et 30. pars unius servic.

WHAT IRELAND IS AND HOW MUCH.

Here followeth the names of the chief regions and countries and the chief Irish captains of Ireland as followeth—

Twomont—O'Brene of Two Ibrene, McNamara of Clanghwillan, O'Kynedy of Ormonde, O'Kerowyll of Elye, O'Meagher of Ikeryn, Mc'Maghon of Bruyse alias of Xorkevasky, O'Conor of Corckanro, O'Laghlyn of Boryn, O'Grade of Kenaldownall, O'Brene of Arragh, O'Molryane of Wehen, O'Doyle of Kynemanaghe, McBrene of Ighonaght.

These English noble and worshipful captains wits degenerate from the English laws.

In Kyery: The Earl of Desmond and his Gerotens, Lord Barre de Buttevant, L. Rowche of Arnmoie, L. Barry of

Kynmaley, L. Condon of Arme Vye, L. Barry Rome of the Rouhe, L. Cowsey de Kynsale, L. Cowgan, L. Barrst, White Knight, Knight of the Valley, Desmonds of the County of Vaterford, Pouers. Bourkes in the County of Lymereke. Bwtlers in the County of Kilkenny and the County of Fiddyrd.

Here be the names of the English countries that bear tribute yearly to the Wild Irish.

The County of Lymereke to the Great O'Brene in English money £40.

The same County of Lymereke to O'Brene Aragh in English money £10.

SHERIFFS ACCOUNTS (1255).

For sundry years remaining in Archivis Castr., Dublin.

Account of Co. Limerick for 39. Henry III, by Walter Wansell, Sheriff. Moneys received from various persons and places, viz, for 55 ounces of gold (price of each ounce, 10s.) ; for the war of Marshal ; for not coming at the King's summons against Richard Mareschall ; for the escape of a thief ; for a relief ; as an aid for the war on France ; for arrear of accounts ; from a coroner [for the goods] of a man hanged ; as security for delivering hostages for various fines ; for the ward of the castle of Mayncoud ; as fines for [false] weights and measures, and for selling wheat at mills without regard to the price fixed by the assize, etc. Total £3,486 ls. 4d., whereof there was delivered into the treas ury that year £1,023 4s. 8d.

APPENDIX P.

The following are the names of the landed proprietors in the County Limerick whose lands were forfeited and mere transplanted in 1653

There were 900 transplanted bearing the following names :
Arthur, Barry, Brown, Bourke, Clauchy, Creagh, Cnsey, Comyn, Cantillon, Gould, Harold, Hartigan, Nash, Liston, Fitzgerald, Fitzgibbon, Lacy, Kennedy, McMahon, Mul-

queen, Hurley, Hogan, Walsh, White, Woulfe, Mulcahy, Purcell, O'Hea, O'Mulloney, O'Mahony, O'Madigan, O'Honan, O'Heffernan, O'Dwyer, O'Gavin, O'Connor, O'Brien, O'Grady, O'Shaughnessy, O'Ryan, O'Sullivan, Ptackpoole, Supple, Stritch, Sheehy, Sexton, Parsfield, Scanlan, Ryan, Roche, Russell, Ronan, Rochford, Rawley, Verdon.

APPENDIX G.

HIGH SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

- 1255 Walter Wansell.
- 1371 William Cadygan.
- 1372 James De la Hyde.
- 1376 Sir Thomas Clifford, Knt.
- 1403 Thos. Fitzmaurice.
- 1424 Sir William Fitzthomas, Knt.
- 1425 Sir William Fitzwilliam, Knt.
- 1433 Maurice Fitzthomas Fitzgerot Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald.
- 1545 Teige M'Brene.
- 1658 Gerald Fitzgerald, Thomastown.
- 1613 George Courtenay.
- 1634 James Bourke
- 1661 Symon Eaton.
- 1663 Richard Southwell.
- 1665 Sir William King, Knt.
- 1669 Arthur Ormesby.
- 1670 Robert Taylour.
- 1671 John Maunsell.
- 1672 George Evans.
- 1673 John Bury
- 2674 Hugh Massy, Duntryleague.
- 1675 Nicholas Monckton.
- 1676 Giles Powell.
- 1677 George Aylmer.

- 1678 John Odell.
 1679 John Odell.
 1680 Gerald Fitzgerald, Knight of Glyn.
 1682 John Jephson.
 1683 William Harrison.
 1684 William Harrison.
 1685 Drury Wray.
 1686 Joseph Stepney, Abington.
 1687 Edward Rice.
 1688 Edward Rice.
 1689 Maurice Fitzgerald.
 1690 Maurice Fitzgerald.
 1692 Charles Oliver
 1693 George Mansell.
 1694 Michael Searle.
 1695 Ralph Wilson, Bilboa.
 1696 George King, Kilpeacon.
 1697 Thomas Maunsell.
 1698 Thomas Maunsell.
 1699 Richard Pope.
 1700 Joseph Stepney, Abington.
 1701 John Walcot, Croagh.
 1702 Henry Widenham, Court.
 1703 William Pierce.
 1704 Abraham Green, Ballymacrees.
 1705 Samuel Frend.
 1706 Robert Taylor, Ballynort.
 1707 Richard Southwell, Inniscough.
 1708 Ralph Wilson, Boher.
 1709 Edward Croker, Rawleighstown.
 1710 Robert Ryves, Castle Jane.
 1711 Hugh Massy, Duntryleague.
 1712 John Newell.
 1713 John Gabbett, Rathjordan.
 1714 Henry Baylee, Lough Gur.
 1715 Thomas Muunsell, Mount Sion.
 1716 Richard Taylor, Hollypark,
 1717 Samuel Maunsell, Ballybrood.

- 1718 Francis Drew, Drew's Court.
 1719 William Harrison, Ballyvorreen.
 1720 Nicholas Lysaght, Brickfield.
 1721 William Wilson, Cahireonlish.
 1722 Thomas Evans, Miltown.
 1723 Rice Blennerhasset, Riddlestown.
 1724 Berkley Taylor, Ballynort.
 1725 John Waller, Castletown.
 1726 William Bury, Shannon Grove.
 1727 Edward Taylor, Ballynort.
 1528 Gamaliel Fitzgerald, Cloghready.
 1729 Connel Vereker, Roxborough.
 1730 John Purdon, Tullagh.
 1731 John Lysaght, Brickfield.
 1732 George Green, Abbey.
 1733 Ralph Wilson, Boher.
 1734 Henry Green, Ballymacrees.
 1735 Ed. Croker, Rawleighstown.
 1736 Joseph Gabbet, Ballyvorreen.
 1737 Colthurst Langton, Bruree.
 1738 Anthony Parker, Dunkip.
 1739 Hugh Massy, Lisard.
 1710 Robert Coote, Ballyclough
 1741 William Ryves, Castle Jane.
 1742 John Fitzmaurice, Springfield.
 1743 Hon. J. Evans, Bulgaden.
 1744 George Foshery, Clorane.
 1745 John Westrop, Attyffin.
 1746 Stepney Rawson Stepney, Abington.
 1747 Wyndham Quin, Adare.
 1748 John Creed, Uregare
 1749 John Batemnn, Calow.
 1750 Hon. Henry Southwell, Stoneville.
 1761 John Odell, Bealdurogy.
 1752 Hugh Massy, Cloghsnarl.
 1753 Richard Powell, Newgarden.
 1754 William Green, Ballymacrees.
 1755 John Croker, Ballynegarde.
 1756 Gerald Blenerhasset, Riddlestown.

- 1757 Edward Warter Wilson, Bilboa.
- 1758 Richard Bourke, Drumsally.
- 1759 Hon. Thomas Southwell,
- 1760 John Brown, Danesfort.
- 1761 Anthony Parker, jun., Dunkip.
- 1762 John Thomas Waller, Castletown.
- 1763 Thomas Royce, Nantenau.
- 1764 Silver Oliver, Castle Oliver.
- 1765 Hugh Massy, Ballynort
- 1766 George Rose, Mount Pleasant
- 1767 Edward Villiers, Kilpeacon
- 1768 Richard Taylor, Holly Park
- 1769 Standish Grady, Elton
- 1770 Thomas Smyth, Bohirlode
- 1771 Hugh Ingoldsby Massy, New Garden
- 1772 Simon Purdon, Cloghnedromin
- 1773 Caleb Powell, Clonshavoy
- 1774 John Tuthill, Kilmore
- 1775 William Gabbett, Caherline
- 1776 Benjamin Frend, Boskill
- 1777 Edward Croker, Riverstown
- 1778 William Fitzgerald, Ballinard
- 1779 William Odell, Fortwilliam
- 1780 Hugh Lloyd, Kildromin
- 1781 John Grady, Cahir
- 1782 John Fitzgibbon, Mount Shannon
- 1783 Percival Harte, Coolrus
- 1784 Sir Vere Wunt, Bart, Curragh
- 1785 Darby O'Grady, Mount Prospect
- 1786 James Langton, Bruree
- 1787 Michael Furnell, Ballyelough
- 1788 Sir Christopher Knight, Knt., Limerick
- 1789 Crosbie Morgell, Rathkeale
- 1790 Standish O'Grady, Mount Prospect
- 1791 C. Silver Oliver, Castle Oliver
- 1792 John Waller, Castletown
- 1793 Thomas Fitzgibbon
- 1794 John T. Westropp, Ballystein
- 1795 Michael Furnell, Ballycahane

- 1796 Henry Bevan, Camass
- 1797 M. Scanlan, jun., Ballinaha
- 1798 John Westropp, Attyflin
- 1799 De Courcy O'Grady, Kilballyowen
- 1800 George Evans Bruce, Hermitage
- 1801 John Hunt, Ballynort
- 1802 William Jackson Harte, Coolrus
- 1803 Bolton Waller, Bushy Island
- 1804 Thomas Gibbon Fitzgibbon, Ballyseeda
- 1805 Thomas O'Grady, Belmont
- 1306 Joseph Gubbins, Kenmare Castle
- 1807 Stephen Dickson, jun., Ballynaguile
- 1808 Brudenell Plummer, Mount Plummer
- 1809 Thomas Alexander Odell, Odellville
- 1810 Eyre Evans, Ash-hill
- 1811 Aubrey de Vere Hunt, Curragh
- 1812 Gerald Blennerhassett, Riddlestown
- 1813 William Gabbett, Caherline
- 1814 Richard Smyth, Smythfield
- 1815 William Ryves, Ryves Castle
- 1816 Thomas Royse, Nantenan
- 1817 John Lowe, Castle Jane
- 1818 Richard Taylor, Holly Park
- 1819 Michael Lloyd Apjohn, Linfield
- 1820 Edward Villiers, Kilpeacon
- 1821 De Courcy O'Grady, Kilballyowen
- 1822 John Thomas Waller, Castletown
- 1823 George Tuthill, Faha
- 1824 Joseph Gnbins, Kilfrush
- 1825 Hon. John Massy, Limerick
- 1826 John Bolton Massy, Ballywire
- 1827 Chidley Coote, Mount Coote
- 1828 Samuel Dickson, Limerick
- 1829 William Scanlan, Ballyknockane
- 1830 John F. Fitzgerald (Knight of Glin)
- 1831 John Croker, Ballinagarde
- 1832 Henry O'Grady, The Grange
- 1333 Thomas Lloyd, Beechmount
- 1834 G. M. Maunsell, Ballywilliam

- 1835 K m Monsell, Tervoe
 1836 Vere Edmond de Vere, Curragh Chase
 1837 Stephen Ed. Spring Rice, Mount Trenchard
 1838 James Denis Lyons, Croom House
 1839 General Sir Richard Burke, Thornfield
 1840 Richard Harte, Coolrus,
 1841 James Kelly, Ballynanty
 1842 Michael Furnell, Caherilly Castle
 1843 Robert Maxwell, Islandmore
 1844 Richard Quin Sleeman, Cahara
 1846 Edward Cripps Villiers, Kilpeacon
 1846 Wm. H. Barrington, Glenstal Castle
 1847 Sir David Roche, Bart., Carass
 1848 Francis W. Goold, Dromadda
 1849 Samuel Frederick Dickson, Vermont
 1850 Eyre Lloyd, Prospect
 1851 Henry Maunsell, Fanstown
 1852 John Low, Sunvale
 1863 Hugh Massy, Riversdale
 1854 F. C. F. Gascoigne, Castle Oliver
 1855 Sir R. D. De Burgo, Castleconnell
 1856 John White, Belmont
 1857 George Gavin, Kilpeacon
 1858 Caleb Powell, Clonshavoy
 1859 Heffernan Considine, Derk House
 1860 Henry Lyons, Croom House
 1861 Helenus White, Mount Sion House
 1862 Edward Croker, Ballynagarde
 1863 Joseph Gubbins, Kilfrush
 1864 John Franks, Ballyscaddane
 1865 Sir D. Vandeleur Roche, Bart., Carass Court
 1866 Henry Westropp, Greenpark
 1867 John White, Nantenan.
 1868 Edward Csoker, Grange.
 1869 Edward William O'Brien, Cahernoyale.
 1870 Sir Stephen E. de Vere, Bart., Monard.
 1871 D. J. E. Fitzgerald, Knight of Glin.
 1872 Lieut.-Col. John Howley, Richill.
 1873 The Hon. J. T. W. Massy, Hermitage.

- 1874 William Henry Lyons, Woodville, Co. Cork.
 1875 John Bolton Massy, Ballywire.
 1876 John Coote, Mount Coote.
 1877 Hon. Gerald N. Fitzgibbon, Mountshannon.
 1878 C. B. Barrington, Glenstal.
 1879 John Roche Kelly, Islandmore.
 1880 John Christopher Delmege, Castle Park
 1881 Heffernan F. Considine, Derk.
 1882 Robert de Ros Rose, Ardhu.
 1883 Thomas John Franks, Ballyscaddane.
 1884 William Waller, Castletown.
 1885 Lieut.-Col. George Eyre Massy, Riversdale,
 Galbally—died during year of office.
 Dawson Westropp, Mellon, Pallaskenry.
 1886 John Gubbins, Bruree House, Bruree.
 1887 The Hon. Hugh S. J. Massy, Castleconnell.
 1888 Thomas P. D. Atkinson, Glenwilliam Castle,
 Ballingarry.
 1889 Herbert Sullivan, Curramore, Charleville.
 1890 Major Wm. D. Maunsell, The Glebe, Kildimo.
 1891 Alex. E. Bannatyne, Woodsdown, Lisnagry.
 1893 George Caulfield, Copewood, Pallaskenry.
 1893 James O'Grady Delmege, Castle Park.
 1894 General Thos. Lloyd, Beechmount, Rathkeale
 1895 The Hon. Cosby Trench, Clonodfoy, Kilfinane
 1896 Col. The Hon. Lionel Massy, Cragbeg, Clarina

APPENDIX N.

REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK SINCE THE YEAR 1585.

- 1585 Sir Thomas Norris, Knt.
 Richard Bourke.

- 1613 Rt. Hon. F. Berkley.
T. Bronne Miles
- 1639 Sir Edw. Fitzharris, Bart.
Sir Hard. Waller, Knt.
- 1654 Sir H. Waller, Knt.
Col. Henry Ingoldsby.
- 1656 Sir Hard. Waller, Knt.
Col. Henry Ingoldsby.
- 1658 Sir H. Ingoldsby, Bt.
Sir H. Waller, Knt.
- 1661 Sir William King, Knt.
Robert Olives.
- 1689 Sir John Fitzgerald, Bt.
Gerald Fitzgerald.
- 1692 Sir William King, Knt.
George Evans.
- 1695 Sir T. Southwell, Bt.
Sir Wm. King, Knt.
- 1703 Sir T. Southwell, Bart.
Charles Oliver.
- 1713 George King.
George Evans, jun.
- 1715 Sir T. Southwell, Bart.
Robert Oliver.
- 1717 Eyre Evans succeeded Sir T. Southwell, who
was created s Baron.
- 1727 Eyre Evans,
Richd. Southwell.
- 1729 Hon. H. Southwell, vice Richard Southwell.
- 1759 Hugh Massy, vice Hon. H. Southwell.
- 1761 Hon. T. Southwell.
Hugh Massy.
- 1768 Silver Oliver.
Hugh Massy.
- 1776 Right Hon. Silver Oliver
Sir H. Hrststonge, Bt.
- 1783 Hon. Hugh Massy.
Sir H. Hartstonge, Bt.

- 1790 John Waller.
Hon. John Massy.
- 1797 C. Silver Oliver.
Lieut.-Col. W. Odell.
- 1801 Charles S. Oliver.
Lieut.-Col. W. Odell.
- 1806 Lieut.-Col. W. Odell.
Hon. Windham Quin.
- 1807 Lieut.-Col. W. Odell.
Hon. Windham Quin.
- 1812 Lieut.-Col. W. Odell.
Hon. Windham Quin.
- 1818 Hon. R. H. Fitzgibbon.
Hon. Windham Quin.
- 1820 Hon. H. R. Fitzgibbon.
Capt. Standish O'Grady.
- 1826 Fitzgibbon, S. O'Grady.
- 1831 Fitzgibbon, O'Grady.
- 1833 Fitzgibbon, O'Grady.
- 1833 Fitzgibbon, W. S. O'Brien.
- 1837 Fitzgibbon, W. S. O'Brien.
- 1841 W. S. O'Brien, Caleb Powell.
- 1847 W. S. O'Brien, W. Monsell.
- 1849 Samuel Dickson, in place of Wm. S. O'Brien,
convicted of Nigh Treason at the Special
Commission in Clonmel, October, 1848
- 1851 Windham Goold, in place of S. Dickson,
deceased.
- 1852 W. Monsell, W. Goold.
- 1854 W. Xonsell, Clerk of the Ordnance, reëlected.
- 1855 S. Edw. de Vere elected vice W. Goold,
deceased.
- Feb., 1857 W. Monsell, President of Board of Health,
reëlected.
- April, 1857 W. Monsell, S. E. de Vere.
- 1859 W. Monsell, S. A. Dickson.
- 1865 W. Monsell, John Synan.
- 1868 W. Monsell, John Synan.
- 1874 Wm. H. O'Sullivan, John Synnn.
- 1880 Wm. H. O'Sullivan, John Synan,

The County of Limerick was divided into two Electoral Divisions by the Act of 1885, each division returning one Member.

WEST LIMERICK.

William Abraham. —1885—
 William Abraham. —1886—
 William Austin. —1893—
 William Austin. —1895—

EAST LIMERICK.

John Finucane.
 John Finucane.
 John Finucane.
 John Finucane.

APPENDIX J.

REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT
 FOR THE
 BOROUGH OF KILMALLOCK,
 FROM
 THE YEAR 1585 TO THE UNION.

1585 John Verdon
 Thomas Hurley
 1613 Henry Verdon
 Patrick Kesrney
 1639 Wm. St. Leger
 John Power
 1661 John Bridges
 Brook Bridges
 Murrough Boyle succeeded John
 Bridges, deceased,
 1689 Sir Wm. Hurley, Bart.
 John Lacy
 1692 John Ormsby
 Robert Ormsby
 1695 Standish Hartstonque
 Chidley Coote
 1703 John Ormsby
 Robert Oliver
 1713 Sir Philips Coote, Knt.
 Henry Boyle

1715 Kilner Brazier
 George King
 1723 John Croker succeeded King
 1725 Wm. Blakeney succeeded Brazier
 1727 Robert Oliver
 Wm. Blakeney
 1747 Philip Oliver succeeded Robt. Oliver
 1757 Silver Oliver succeeded W. Blakeney
 1761 Silver Oliver
 Edward Villiers
 1768 Thomas Maunsell
 Wyndham Quin
 1776 Wm. Christmas
 John Finlay
 1783 Rt. Hon. J. Fitzgibbon
 John Armstrong
 1789 Charles W. Bury
 1790 Peter Holmes succeeded Armstrong,
 deceased
 1797 John Waller
 Silver Oliver, jun.
 1799 Sir Richard Quin, Bart.
 1800 Thomas Casey

APPENDIX K.

REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT
 FOR THE
 BOROUGH OF ASKEATON,
 FROM
 THE YEAR 1613 TO THE UNION.

1613 Anthy. Stoughton
 Roger Rice, Gent.
 1639 Maur. Williams
 George Crofton
 1661 Peter Pett
 Rich. Southwell

- 1689 John Bourke
Edward Rice
- 1692 Robert Taylor
John Odell
- 1695 George Evans
Robert Taylor
Chichester Phillips succeeded Taylor,
deceased
- 1703 Robert Taylor
Chichester Phillips
- 1713 Robert Taylor
Philip Percival
- 1715 John Bury
Edward Deuny
- 1723 Berkeley Taylor succeeded Bury
- 1727 Berkeley Taylor
Edmond Taylor
- 1729 Wm. Taylor succeeded Berkeley Taylor.
- 1747 J. Minchin Walcott succeeded Wm. Taylor
- 1753 Edmond Malone succeeded Walcott
- 1761 Joseph Hoare
Sir James Cotter, Bart.
- 1738 Joseph Hoare
John Tunnadine
- 1776 Joseph Hoare
Hon. Hugh Massy
- 1783 Sir Joseph Hoare, Bart.
Richard Griffith.
- 1790 Sir Joseph Hoare, Bart.
Henry Alexander.
- 1797 John Steward
- 1799 Sir Vere Hunt, Bart.

CUSTODES ROTULORUM.

- Bichard, Earl of Clare.
- 1864 Earl of Dunraven.
- 1874 Lord Emly.
- 1894 Thomas Edward O'Brien.
- 1896 Earl of Dunraven.

APPENDIX L.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1891.

COUNTY AND CITY OF LIMERICK.

SUMMARY.

The County and City of Limerick cover an area of **680,842** statute acres, or **3·2** per cent. of the total area of the country.

According to the Agricultural Statistics (Ireland) for the year **1891**, there were **51,629** acres under tillage, **109,621** under meadow and clover, and **425,256** under pasture, making a total of **586,509** acres of Arable Land, or **88·5** per cent. of the total extent of land in the County and City; **8,431** acres, or **1·3** per cent., under Plantations; **11,643** acres, or **1·7** per cent., under Turf Bog; **4,592** acres, or **0·7** per cent. under Marsh, and **24,925** acres, or **3·8** per cent., under barren Mountain Land. The remaining **26,268** acres, or **4·0** per cent., were returned as under "Roads, Fences, &c., &c."

The number of persons in the County and City of Limerick according to the Census, was—in **1841**, **330,029**; in **1851**, **262,132**; in **1861**, **217,277**; in **1871**, **191,936**; in **1881**, **180,632**; and according to the recent Census, **158,912** (**78,607** Males and **80,305** Females), or **12·0** per cent. less than in **1881**.

The number of distinct Families in the County and City at the time of the late enumeration was **29,904** the average number of persons in a family being thus **5·1**; and the number of Inhabited Houses was **27,434**, showing an average of **5·6** persons to each house. In calculating these averages, the Special Inmates of Public Institutions have been omitted.

The following Statement shows, by Baronies and by Poor Law Unions, the number of persons in **1881** and **1891**; and the decrease during the decade:—

BARONIES	Population		Decrease between 1881 and 1891
	1881	1891	Rate per cent.
Glanwilliam, - - -	13,554	11,959	11·8
Connello Lower, - - -	10,119	8,397	17·0
Connello, Upper, - - -	11,540	9,613	16·7
Coonagh, - - -	9,100	8,113	10·8
Coshlea, - - -	18,829	15,867	15·7
Coshma - - -	9,778	8,99	17·2
Glenquin, - - -	21,522	18,779	12·7
Kerry, - - -	4,968	4,226	14·9
Kilmallock, - - -	2,004	1,927	3·8
North Liberties, - - -	2,553	2,335	8·5
Owneybeg, - - -	5,430	4,513	16·9
Pubblebrien, - - -	6,205	5,243	15·5
Shanid, - - -	16,545	14,353	13·2
Smallcounty, - - -	9,923	8,333	16·0
Total of County, - - -	142,070	121,757	14·3
Limerick City, - - -	38,562	37,155	3·6
Total of Co. and City, -	180,632	158,912	12·0

POOR LAW UNIONS.	Population		Decrease between 1881 and 1891
	1881		Rate per cent.
Croom, - - -	15,369	12,539	18·4
Glin (part of), - - -	10,186	8,697	14·6
Kilmallock (part of) - - -	28,052	23,943	14·6
Limerick (part of), - - -	64,833	60,049	7·4
Mitchelstown (part of) - - -	7,024	5,890	16·1
Newcastle - - -	30,233	26,505	12·3
Rathkeale - - -	16,124	13,454	16·6
Tipperary (part of) - - -	8,811	7,835	11·1
Total of Co. and City, -	180,632	158,912	12·0

Of the persons enumerated in Limerick (County and City) in 1891, 88·48 per cent. were born therein, 7·30 per cent. in other Counties of the Province of Munster; 1·42 per cent. in

Leinster; 0·42 per cent. in Ulster; 0·47 per cent. in Connaught; 1·46 per cent. in Great Britain; 0·45 per cent. were born abroad; and 3 persons were born at sea.

Towns having, in 1891, a population of 2,000 and upwards, are classified in the Tables as Civic districts.

Limerick contains three such districts, viz, Limerick, Rathkeale and Newcastle. In 1881, the population of the foregoing amounted to 43,297; in 1891 it was 41,428, showing a decrease of 1,869 persons, or 4·3 per cent.; in the rural district of the County the decrease was 14·5 per cent.

There are two Parliamentary Divisions in the County, viz:—West Limerick and East Limerick, each returning one Member to Parliament; the former division having, in 1891, a population of 56,863, and a constituency of 7,261; and the latter a population of 55,912, and a constituency of 8,001. The borough of Limerick, with a population of 46,135, and a constituency of 4,827, returns one Member.

The following Statement shows, according to Religious Professions, the number of persons in 1881 and 1891, and the increase or decrease during the decade:—

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS	No. of Persons		Percentage of Total Population		Increase or Decrease, 1881-1891		
	1881	1891	1881	1891	Increase	Decrease	Rate per cent.
Roman Catholics, - - -	171,465	150,789	95·0	94·9	—	20,676	12·1
Protestant Episcopalians, - - -	7,808	6,673	4·3	4·2	—	1,135	14·5
Presbyterians, - - -	405	426	0·2	0·3	21	—	5·2
Methodists, - - -	561	629	0·3	0·4	68	—	12·1
All other Denominations (and Religion unascertained) - - -	390	376	0·2	0·2	—	14	3·6
Information refused, - - -	3	19	—	—	16	—	—
Total, - - -	180,632	158,912	100·	100·	—	21,720	12·0

From the above Table it will be seen that of the total population of the County and City in 1891, 94·9 per cent. were Roman Catholics, 4·2 per cent. Protestant Episcopalians, 0·3 per cent. Presbyterians, 0·4 per cent. Methodists, and 0·2 per cent. members of other Religious Denominations. During the decade there was a decrease in the number of

Roman Catholics, amounting to 12·1 per cent. and Protestant Episcopalians declined 14·5 per cent.; there was an increase of 21 in the number of Presbyterians; and of 68 in the number of Methodists.

The following Statement shows the Educational Status of the Inhabitants of the County and City of Limerick in 1881 and 1891, in so far as relates to the degrees of elementary education relative to which inquiry was made on the Census Forms :—

DEGREES OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION	1881		1891	
	Number of Persons	Rate per cent	Number of Persons	Rate per cent
Read and Write, -	103,411	57·2	108,141	68·0
Read only, " -	18,525	10·3	12,046	7·6
Illiterate, - -	58,696	32·5	38,725	24·4
Total, - - -	180,632	100·0	158,912	100·0

From the above it will be seen that whereas, according to the Returns of 1881, only 57·2 per cent. of the Inhabitants could "read and mite," in 1891, 68·0 per cent. could do so; that the per-centage of the population who could "read only" in 1881 was 10·3, and in 1891, 7·6; and that the per-centage of the "illiterate" fell from 32·5 in 1881 to 24·4 in 1891.

The following Statement shows the Population five years old and upwards, also the number and proportion per cent. thereof who were Illiterate :—

	1881			1891		
	Males	Females	Total	Total	Males	Females
Population, 5 years old and upwards,	77,985	82,431	160,416	143,547	70,782	72,765
Number of ditto Illiterate	16,752	21,728	38,480	23,360	10,505	12,855
Proportion per cent, -	21·5	26·4	24·0	16·3	14·8	17·7

From the foregoing Statement it will be seen that, in 1881, 24·0 per cent. of the inhabitants aged five years and upwards were Illiterate (21·5 per cent. of the males and 26·4 of the females), and that, in 1891, the per-centage was but 16·3 (14·8 of the males and 17·7 of the females).

Taking Religious Professions and Education in combination, it appears that in 1891, excluding children under five years of age, 16·9 per cent. of Roman Catholics, 4·1 per cent. of Protestant Episcopalians, 2·9 per cent. of Presbyterians, 4·1 per cent. of Methodists, and 11·8 per cent. of "all other Denominations" were Illiterate.

The number of children attending school in the County and City of Limerick, according to the Census of 1881 (week ending 14th May), was 20,049, or 45·5 per cent. of persons aged 5 years and under 20; in 1891 the number returned (for week ending 30th May) was 87,716, or 49·4 per cent. of the persons aged 5 and under 20.

In 1881 the number of persons in the County and City of Limerick returned as Sick, on the night of the Census, was 1,635, or 1 in every 110 of the population; in 1891 the number so returned was 1,612, or 1 in every 99 of the population; of the latter number 424 were at their own homes, and 1,188 were in hospital.

The number of persons returned in 1851, as receiving relief under the Poor Law System was 8,628 or 1 in every 21 of the population; of this number 3,611 were inmates of Workhouses, and 5,017 were in receipt of outdoor relief; in 1891 the number returned was 7,105, or 1 in every 22 of the population; 2,738 of those being in the Workhouses, and 4,377 on outdoor relief.

For the purposes of Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, the Poor Law Union forms a "Superintendent Registrar's District." Each Union or Superintendent Registrar's District is divided into Dispensary Districts for the Medical Relief of poor under the Medical Charities Act; which Districts, save in a few instances, are identical with the Registrars' Districts. Each Dispensary District is composed of a certain number of Poor Law Electoral Divisions.

According to the Return of the Registrar-General, the number of Marriages registered in the County and City of Limerick during the ten years ending 31st March, 1891, was 6,837, equal to an average annual rate of 4·0 per 1,000 of the population. The number registered in the whole of Ireland during the same period affords an average annual rate of 4·3 per 1,000.

The number of Births registered in the County and City during the ten years was 39,166, affording an average annual rate of 23·1 per 1,000 of the population, the average yearly rate for the whole of Ireland during the same period being 23·2 per 1,000.

The Deaths registered during the decennium amounted to 31,910, being equal to an average annual rate of 18·8 per 1,000; the corresponding rate for the whole of Ireland was 17·8 per 1,000.

The number of Emigrants from the County and City during the ten years (ending 31st March, 1891), amounted to 33,081 (17,013 males and 16,068 females); the number for the decade ending 31st March, 1881, was 22,132, for that ending 31st March, 1871, 46,339, and for that ending with March, 1861, 62,173, making a total of 163,725 for the forty years.

The number of Births registered during the ten years ending 31st March, 1891, being 38,166, and the number of Deaths 31,910; a natural increase of 7,256 would appear to have taken place in the Population; but the Emigrants, during the same period, having amounted to 33,081, the net result shown by this method of calculation is a decrease of 25,825; the decrease in the population, as shown by the Census Returns, is 21,720.



ADDENDUM.

In chapter XI. it is stated that the Knights of Glin are descended from the second son of John of Callan, and the Knights of Kerry from the third son. Some of the genealogies assign the priority to the Knights of Kerry. In fact everything connected with these genealogies is involved in a maze of the most contradictory statements.

The inscription on the Askeaton Chalice may read the first letter of the Christian name of the donor as S, not T, as printed on page 187. In that case the donor might be identified with the Symon Eaton who was High Sheriff of the County in 1661.

The monument referred to as the Fitzgerald tomb, on page 13, should be described as the Verdon tomb. The correct name and date are given on page 152.

The full text of the inscription is as follows:

"Post luctuosum obitum ejus parentum generosi herois Georgii Verdoni quondam consulis Killocensis qui obiit 2^o Maii anno Salutis nostræ 1632^o, necnon matronæ religiosissimæ Anastasiæ Verdonæ quæ obiit 18^o Decembris anno Domini 1597, Jacobus Verdonus filius et hæres eorum hoc monumentum fieri curvavit anno Domini

"Non fugiam: prius experiar: non mors mihi terror."

The date of erection is not given

The High Sheriff of the County of Limerick for 1897 is James Fitzgerald Bannatyne, D.L.



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