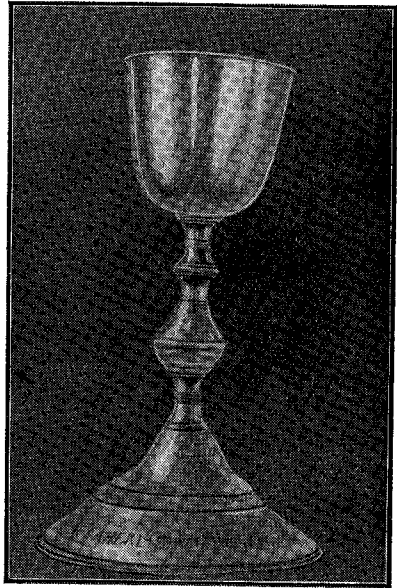


THE BALLYBRICKEN CHALICE—DIOCESE OF EMLY.

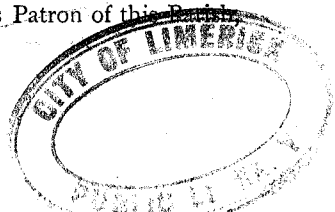
By JAMES G. BARRY, M.R.S.A.

There is nothing very remarkable or artistic about this Chalice except that it is a good example of the transition period after the partial relaxation of the penal laws against Catholics. In 1778, the Legislature passed an Act permitting Catholics to take lands by "Lease, Devise, or Descent for 999 years," and repealed certain enactments of the Reign of Queen Anne, with the *proviso*, "that no Catholic shall take any benefit under it, unless he shall take in open Court, the Oath and Declaration of 1773." Several wealthy landholders residing in the United Parishes of Caherelly and



Rochestown took long leases under this Act, and, encouraged by the security thus gained, built a thatched Chapel in a central position on the townland of Ballybricken, replacing a smaller one which was built before 1760 in a quarry on the same townland. In 1781 the parishioners had this Chalice made for use in their humble House of Worship.

A Church is said to have been built in the time of St. Ailbe at Caherelly, on the same site as the fourteenth century church of which the picturesque ruins only remain. St. Ailbe is Patron of this Parish.



and his Feast was formerly kept on the 12th of September (1) Many years ago, I heard the old people of the district call this Church *Cill-Cathair-Aille*, pronounced *Kill-cahier-elly*, i.e., The Church of Ailbe Seat, or Chair. This is, I believe, the true derivation of the townland name Caherelly (2)

Aille, or Elly, is still retained as a Christian name among certain families of the Diocese of Emly. It was formerly anglicised Alban and Albert, more recently, as Oliver.

Rochestown was known in ancient times as *Baile-an-Roistigh*. The Church is said to have been built by the Roches, who held the adjacent lands from an early date, and who built a castle here in the fourteenth century. The Knight Hospitallers of Aney had the presentation to this Rectory. Local tradition has it that the Catholic service was held in this ruined church up to the date of the penal enactments in the reign of Queen Anne, and that, subsequently, Mass was celebrated in a hollow or glen in the same townland, where a flat rock is still known as *Carrig-an-Offrain* (the Mass Rock). In 1792-3, when Dr. Bray was Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, the then Pastor, Rev. Laurence McGrath, had to officiate in three small, thatched chapels some miles apart, viz.—Ballybricken, Disert Laurence, and Carrig Parson. Caherconlish with Disert, or Inch St. Laurence, was then separated, and Caherelly, Rochestown and Carrig Parson, were united under the name of Ballybricken.

The Ballybricken Chalice is hammered silver, ten inches high. The cup is silver-gilt and three-and-a-half inches in diameter. The bowl on which it stands is six inches in diameter. Over the inscription, which runs round the outer rim of this bowl, there is a figure of the Crucifixion. The stem of the Chalice is plain with the usual knob in the centre. The Chalice unscrews into three parts. The Patten, which

(1) According to Ware, Emly was made a Bishoprick by St. Patrick in A.D. 448, and St. Ailbe appointed by him first Bishop. Usher, in his Life of St. Ailbe, states that *Ailbé*, *Declan*, *Kieran* and *Ibar*, visited King *Aengus* and *St. Patrick* at Cashel, and there held a Synod together, "wherein they made many constitutions profitable for the Government of the Church and the establishment of Ecclesiastical Discipline," but, "though they had derived their Commissions from the same source as St. Patrick, were antecedent to him in point of time, and therefore, with reluctance submitted to his Primatial authority, but for the sake of union in the church, submitted." "Emly was erected into the Archiepiscopal See of Munster and conferred on *Ailbe*." "*Declan* was confirmed Bishop of *Ardmore*, and *Kieran* was settled in the See of *Saigre*, and *Ibar* was created Bishop of 'Beg Eri.'" (Harris's Ware, p. 20)

(2) I find Caherelly called *Kilkerelly* and *Kilcarelly*, in documents of the seventeenth and eighteenth century.

fits into the bowl, is plain, with the letters I.H.S. in the centre. The maker's initials (3) S. T. (Sterling), are stamped on the bowl at the end of the inscription, which runs as follows:—"This Chalice was made by the Parishioners of Caherhiely, and Roachstown, 1781."

A list of the Pastors of the Parishes of Caherelly and Rochestown during the Penal time:—

1. Donogh O'Heyne was P.P. of the Parishes of Caherconlish, Caherelly, Rochestown and Carrig Parson early in the eighteenth century. He was registered at St. Francis's Abbey, Limerick, July, 1704.

The following succeeded during the reigns of George II. and III. :

2. Rev. Denis McNamara.
3. Rev. Laurence Ryan.
4. Rev. Dr. Mitchell.
5. Rev. John Ryan (Minor).
6. Rev. Laurence McGrath.
7. Rev. Elly Hanley, who died in 1806. Father Hanley was noted for his great strength, and also for his gift of versification in the Irish language. He was the author of the celebrated song "The Coolen."

(3) I cannot find among the Gold and Silver Smiths of Cork, Limerick, or Waterford of this date, anyone having the initials S. T. In Dublin, about this time, there was a family of Gold and Silver Smiths named Taylor, residing in Castle-street. A Samuel Taylor was apprenticed to William Currie, Goldsmith, of Dublin, in 1751.