

# ANCIENT REMAINS NEAR MILTOWN MALBAY.

PART II.—(continued from vol. ii, p. 256.)

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TROMRA CASTLE (O.S. 38.) This conspicuous peel tower is a well-marked object in all wide views of the low central coast of Clare. It stands out, a sharp dark speck, whether we look from the open sea, from the summits of Moher, Callan or Kinnard, or stand on the high ground at the fort of Cahermurphy. This is the more remarkable because the tower lies on very low ground and hardly deserves Canon Dwyer's description—"Tromra castle lifts its lofty, lonely head." (1) It is neither lofty nor lonely, but of heavy proportion, and in a centre of human habitation, surrounded by the white cottages, shining as they only can shine in the clear air of the coast, and with the great coast-guard station between it and the sea.

The same writer derives its name from "Tra-mor-roe," the great red strand, but the sand is not red, nor is the name, save in modern corruptions, other than Tromra, perhaps from the fort topped low ridge beside it. (2)

It is a plain "peel tower" of that small very neat masonry that prevails in the district where the rocks are flagstones, as thin and regular as planks. Rarely are there ornamental architectural features in such castles, and Tromra has suffered not a little from the defacers, the coign stones being in many cases entirely removed. The ragged gap to the south, once an entrance doorway, leads into a little vaulted room, once the store room, now, much of the vault has fallen in. A broken stairway runs from the porch up the wall to the right and turning at the

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(1) Diocese of Killaloe, p. 214.

(2) Tromra or Tromrath, a territory in Thomond—O'Brien's Dictionary.

south-east angle enters the rooms on the second story. The eastern part of the tower forms, as usual, a separate wing, with several small rooms, and (to the north) a broken spiral stair. The latter leads up to the battlements and to a small turret at the angle. The rest of the building is devoted to the larger rooms. Two remain under the upper vaulting, which is also broken in the middle, and another over the vault which had a wooden roof and a trefoil-headed window looking seaward. In other respects the existing features have no mouldings or ornaments. No trace remains of the side building from which the tower was attacked in 1642.

Though the castle is evidently a late fifteenth century building, the place appears in the records from a far earlier period. In 1215 the Norman government (which had then no power in Thomond) granted to the Archbishop of Cashel, Dunmugyda (Dough or Dunmore) inver, or creek—readers will remember that O'Huidhrin in 1420 calls Ibrickan "the land of the two inverts" (3)—Idulculchy, Fumaneyn, Ydoonmal, Treanmanagh, Tromrach, two islands in the sea named Iniskereth (Iniscaoragh or Mutton Island) and Inismatail (Mattle Island) as formerly granted by Donchad Cairbreach O'Brien. (4)

When we next hear of the place it was the residence of the hospitable Teige aluinn O'Brien, and with him in 1276 King Torlough mór O'Brien sought a night's shelter as he fled down the coast to seek aid from the MacMahons, when his deposed uncle, Brian O'Brien, was restored by the power of the Norman de Clares. It is probable that Teige's residence was in the large stone-faced rath not far from the castle.

Teige's descendants held the isles of Aran where the lofty battlements of their castle of Inishere rise over the prehistoric dry stone walls of an early two-ringed fort. The clan was descended from Teige Glæ, son of Dermot O'Brien, King of Munster in 1120. They founded a Franciscan convent on the holy ground among the churches of Killeany on the great Isle of Aran about 1460. The clan Teige might, like the O'Mailleys, their neighbours, have taken the motto "terra marique potens." They were expert seamen, and the citizens of Galway were

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(3) Topography of O'Huidhrin.

(4) C.S.P.I., vol. i.

glad to pay the friendly power, entrenched across their bay, twelve tuns of wine yearly for protecting their harbour from pirates. The alliance lasted unbrokenly from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century, then the most dreaded enemy of the city overcame its friends. "From the merciless O'Flahertys, good Lord deliver us," ran the Galway merchant's litany, and the fierce tribe invaded Aran late in the reign of Elizabeth, expelled clan Teige and seized on the Islands. Too late the "City of the Tribes" appealed to the Queen's government to reinstate their friends and protectors. The Corporation, on March 30th, 1588, petitioned the Queen on behalf of the O'Briens. They recalled how from the time of Dermot More O'Brien, grandson of Teige aluinn, down to that of Murrough, son of Torlough, the chief still living, the clan had protected the city and harbour of Galway. The time was unpropitious, the great war cloud of the Armada was on the point of bursting on England, and the government had other plans to carry out with "abundant scarcity" of men and arms without enraging the O'Flahertys. Then came the terrible end, when the worn, sick Spaniards, with injured ships, poisonous water and provisions, and more deadly disallusionment, were the sport of the storms and the victims of the Irish coast and its tribes. The "Zuniga," one of the finest of the Spanish ships, barely escaped the coast of Clare; two of her companions perished there, one at Dunbeg, the second on the reef between Mutton Island and Tromra castle.

The foundation of the castle must have taken place from 1460 to about 1490 to judge from the remains. It is not, however (to our knowledge), recorded even in the far from reliable "Castle Founders' List"—unless it be the tower erroneously called "Inniskeeragh," or Mutton Island. (5) No castle remains or is elsewhere mentioned as on that Island, and Tromra seems to be the nearest tower which might be called after it. "Inniskeeragh" was founded by Torlough (or Shane) MacCon, his identity is uncertain, but the castle is given after Doonmore and Dunbeg, and before Liscannor and Doonagore castles, so is very probably Tromra.

The only episode of any interest in the later history of the tower took place in 1642. Edmond O'Flaherty, a man of good family, was called by the "Titular" Archbishop of Tuam and Francis Blake, of Galway, to

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(5) Standish Hayes O'Grady's Catalogue of Irish MSS. in British Museum.

serve against the fort of that city. When he was free to go home, he and a number of companions went to Aran, then in the hands of his family, but finding that he wore out his welcome with the Islanders, and having become, like so many others, unsettled for a peaceful life, he began to search for some more warlike career. In an evil moment for himself and others he heard that "a castle named Tromroe was possessed by one Mr. Ward, whom he heard was an honest gentleman and never heard of him before, nor knew of what religion or nation he was of;" but the latter seems hard to believe. Accordingly O'Flaherty got his friends and ships ready and set sail across the bay for Tromra.

It was the spring of the year in the last half of April, or the opening days of May, when they sailed. They reached Tromra, not unperceived, at "the beginning of the night." The garrison fired on them and inflicted some wounds. From Sunday night to Wednesday morning the Galway men assailed the tower from a "hall" which adjoined it. The daring act had meanwhile stirred up some of the Clare men. There had been but little violence used towards the English settlers up to this time. The Earl of Thomond and Daniel O'Brien of Dough, had done their best to keep the peace. Now, however, Teige and Donough O'Brien, the Macdermotts of Tromra, Fitzpatrick, the Earl of Thomond's seneschal in Ibrickan, and others joined forces with the O'Flaherties. Evidently plunder was the only intention of the assailants, for O'Flaherty ordered his men to spare the lives of the Wards, however it was hard to keep in check fierce men rapidly getting "out of hand" in those lawless times, who were impatient and getting exasperated by the resistance of the Wards. John, one of the sons of Peter Ward, saw that resistance was hopeless and urged his father to surrender, having taken on himself to open negotiations with O'Flaherty. Ward only replied: "I will not surrender to Belliaw and Sruell (sic.)"(6) The Irish let out on the Tuesday Peter Ward's two younger sons and two daughters and an Englishman and his wife and let them go in safety. Ward, his wife and one son however held out in the tower. O'Flaherty ordered his men to spare them but to keep them constantly harrassed, keeping Peter Ward awake till he chose to surrender. On the Tuesday the eldest son, George Ward, tried to come out, but he was set upon by Sorrell Folone and

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(6) This probably refers to the slaying at Shrulc of certain persons who surrendered to Lord Mayo. The Irish gentry hurried to save the victims but arrived too late.

fell mortally wounded with eighteen gashes, he lingered to the 20th of April and then died. On Wednesday morning as Mrs. Alson Ward looked out of a window loop she was shot and died in the room where her husband had held out for twenty-four hours after the rest of the tower was in the enemy's hands. Ward, in his agony and despair, opened the door and struck at the men outside, one of whom caught him by the arm and slew him. The seven other inmates of the castle were brought in safety to Richard White, of Kilmurry, and eventually reached Dublin without further molestation. The bodies of Peter, Alson and George Ward were buried beside the castle.

Daniel O'Brien, of Dough, who had failed to save the family, now arrived at Tromra ; he removed the bodies and buried them in Kilmurry church, from which once more they were removed to the graveyard by "D. MacScanlan MacGorman, of Dunsalla, the priest of Kilmurry."

Nemesis commenced soon after the capture. The plunder was being divided among O'Flaherty's adherents when a quarrel arose. A certain John Browne, who had been "commandeered" as drummer by O'Flaherty, demanded a certain silver cup and was refused ; he laid the slight to heart and waited his opportunity for eleven years. Under a new government Browne came forward and swore informations against O'Flaherty. Troops were sent out to search for the latter in the wild country near Renvyle. They searched in vain, and were returning wearied and disheartened when they heard an unusual croaking of ravens in a small, dark wood. They searched and dragged out from the shelter of a shelf of rock two ragged, spectral beings nearly starved to death, they were O'Flaherty and his wife, the daughter of Sir Christopher Garvie, of Lehinch, Co. Mayo. O'Flaherty was brought to Galway, tried and executed, holding to the last that his act was one of legitimate warfare. Indeed it is evident that he only sinned in open assault, tried to spare all, and saved seven, of the hapless residents of Tromra castle.

The castle had been confirmed to the Earl of Thomond in 1652 by the commonwealth, and again (under the Act of Settlement) to him, Col. Carey Dillon and Robert Dixon. It was afterwards held by Samuel Burton, and in 1712 was granted in fee farm to Mrs. Alice Burton by Henry, Earl of Thomond.



KILMURRY IBRICKAN CHURCH  
(With Tomra Castle in the distance)

KILMURRY IBRICKAN (O.S. 40.) This church, as might almost be guessed from its dedication, is of no very early foundation. It is not named in the Papal Taxation of 1302-6, unless it be "Collebonoum," which is not Kilballyowen, and is given immediately before Kilfarboy. We must note that the editor of the calendar in which the Taxation appears, among very many wild guesses, gives Kellmolihegyn as being Kilmurry, but it is in fact Kilballyowen (eoghain) as the name and position in the list equally show.

It is a long very plain building, constructed of sandstone flags, and is a familiar object as seen from the railway. It is surrounded and even buttressed by a village of vaults, and, with the distant Tromra castle, a few wind-beaten trees, and the background of the sea, the sheer Cliffs of Moher, and the surf-torn rags of Inisfitæ, forms by no means so unpicturesque a view as so ugly a ruin might be expected to make. It is  $86\frac{1}{2}$  feet long by 24 feet 4 inches inside. The eastern end had fallen even in 1839 and the south wall has a large gap in the middle. The latter side has a small flat-headed light near the west end and a slightly pointed door 19 feet from the west, 3 feet wide outside and 9 inches more inside. Another window like the more western slit is found 14 feet 6 inches from the door. There is a closed door 10 feet from the east end and a window with a trefoil-headed light, not "pointed" as stated in the O.S. letters. The north wall is featureless and gapped, both side walls having a cornice (or rather water table) of large flag stones. The western end is in a very shaken condition, though plastered for a ball court externally, it has a small flat-topped window, slit high up the gable, and the ragged piers of a very tottering little belfry, with a single chamber, the top of which has fallen. The only ancient carving in the building is the lower part of a figure of the Blessed Virgin with the body of Our Lord on her knee, the heads of both figures and the greater part of the Virgin's body are broken away.

The building is (as we noted) surrounded with vaults and crowded with burials, the graveyard also covers a considerable space to the opposite side of the road. Donald Mac Murcha of Tarrymon was buried here in 1603, the Wards in 1642, and the Stacpooles of Enagh from the time that their ancestor Clement Stacpoole was "transplanted"

from Limerick city by the Cromwellian government. (7)

The type of burial place occurring in various districts has been as yet very little worked, though no uninteresting branch of study. First it is very remarkable how ancient types of the earliest origin are found. We have noticed in western Kerry graves exactly similar in all respects to the long dolmens tapering like the coffins eastward, formed by slabs set on edge, with several covers, and on top a miniature cairn. The modern box tomb of five slabs is very similar to the common type of cists and dolmens. The table slab on four or more pillars, again, is very like a free-standing cromlech. These latter types are too widely spread for specialisation. In Clare there is an archaic looking vault, common in the shale and flagstone districts, closely resembling an early oratory, but with the lintelled door to the east. It usually has a flagged, vaulted, or sodded roof, and often has an arched or square recess for a memorial tablet over the door. This type of vault is characteristic of the shale and flagstone districts, rather than of the limestone region. In the latter the large stone (laid flat on the ground or supported on a base of masonry or slabs) prevails. We of course do not consider the conventional designs of modern tombstones as having any local bearing. For example, the encircled cross, now so common, hardly existed in ancient Clare, we only recal one at Noughaval. A noteworthy fashion in crosses is found in Rathborney graveyard, the arms are each nearly square, and the shaft widens towards the base. This variety is found in the ancient cross at St. Doulough's Church, County Dublin, and is found (as Dr. Munro shows) in Bosnia, Herzegovina and Roumania. In the latter country it may be noted that the encircled cross also occurs, and interlacings are found very similar to those in use in Ireland from the ninth to the twelfth centuries.

As to the later ornamentation of tombs in Munster we find very interesting survivals, interlaced bands forming encircled crosses and triquetras down at least to the reign of Charles I. The Crucifixion and rough figures of local saints, angels, and religious emblems, especially

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(7) Hardiman's Irish Deeds, Trans. R. I. Acad., vol. xv., the Stacpoole Papers at Edenvale, Clare, mention Clement Stacpoole's wife, Elizabeth MacMahon, as buried with others of the family in the Kilmurry church. See also Trans. R. I. Acad., vol. xxvii, p. 57, for Mr. Wilkinson's Paper on "Sepulchral Cellce" he mentions Kilmurry.



those of the Passion, occur. The cock crowing out of the pot is widely distributed. The earliest example known to me in Clare is in the *Eccc Homo* group in Ennis Abbey, made about 1460-1480. The bird sometimes stands on a pillar, but more usually on or in the pot. The pretty or grotesque forms of the legend are well known and are found all over Ireland and even in France. The thirty pieces of silver, sometimes arranged in two rows of fourteen and sixteen pieces to either side of the cross, form a not uncommon addition. The scourge, a very favourite device in the fifteenth century and later, was in little favour after 1650. The hammer, nails and pincers, the spear and sponge, the dice, or "lots," the crown of thorns, and the sun and moon constantly occurred. Sometimes a chalice, a skeleton, or a skull (with or without a bone or cross bones) and cherubs were introduced. Occasionally quaint figures of the Angel of the Resurrection, with skeletons and little shrouded figures rising from their tombs, are carved. Late in the eighteenth century, the fashionable pagan ornaments, urns and inverted torches, crept from the monuments of the gentry to the tombstones of the peasantry. The letters I.H.S. and I.N.R.I. are common, sometimes even by themselves; the hour-glass is very rare after 1700, though common before it.

In the times of Elizabeth, and still more during the following century, emblems of the trade of the deceased man were frequently used, sometimes arranged as a "coat of arms" on the tomb. Ploughs, coulter, pincers, hammers, squares, nails, horse-shoes, and bellows most frequently appear, or, far more rarely, a ship or boat.

The gentry, besides the pagan designs, rarely added anything save clumsy cherubim, roses and coats of arms, with elaborate "mantling," or rather fantastic foliage, to the carvings of their tombs. In very many cases the Clare gentry, even many of the wealthiest and most influential, made plain vaults without carvings, sometimes even without inscriptions.

The heraldry after 1714 is bad, often extremely inaccurate, sometimes reversed, probably having been copied from seals.

To tabulate briefly the occurrence of monuments in this country. The cist of five or more slabs is found from pre-historic times to the present day. The flat tombstone with a cross and epitaph, from the ninth to the seventeenth century. The canopied tomb from the twelfth to the sixteenth century. The vaults rarely date before the eighteenth

century. The Passion emblems are found from the fifteenth to late in the nineteenth century, and the pagan designs from the late seventeenth century to the middle of the last century.

MUTTON ISLAND, or INISKEERAGH (O.S. 38.) There can be but little doubt that this was the Inisfitae on the coast of Corcovaskin, which in A.D. 802 was broken into three by a tidal wave and perhaps earthquake, when some 2,000 persons perished and the main shore was heaped with sand and debris. It has been stated that the third fragment has disappeared since the date of Petty's Survey, 1657. This is not the case—all three remain—Iniskeeragh, the central island; Mattle Island, and the reefs of Carrickaneeliwar and the Seal Rock.

Mutton Island itself is nearly cut across by bays and tunnels. The very picturesque, though low, cliffs near the Telegraph Tower, with the deep clefts full of the churning sea, one with a window-like oblong ope, another branded with the fearsome name of Iffrinbeg, or "Little Hell," are well worthy of a visit. The antiquities are most insignificant. Senan had a church here, and one coarse, late-looking fragment of the west end stood in 1887 in a garden behind one of the houses. Professor O'Looney accredits the place with a round tower (8) known neither to history, archæology, nor local tradition. On the rising ground to the north and north-east are found two small cairns and slabs partly cut to shape, perhaps fragments of a late rude cross.

KILMACDUAN (O.S. 47.) Though to some degree lying outside of the Miltown district, still as within reach of the centre I may describe two churches in adjoining parishes—Kilmacduan and Kilmihil. The first is the Cil mhic an dubhain of the fourteenth century "Life of St. Senan." One of the many foundations attributed to him after his return to Thomond in the sixth century. Territorial bishopricks did not exist till after the Synod of Rathbreasail, 1112; but we may conclude that the "Bishoprick" of Iniscatha, or Scatterry, extended to this parish and Kilmurry, and perhaps up to the Lake of Doulough, if not to the bounds of the bishoprick of Kilfenora or the Corcomroes. The Papal Taxation calls Kilmacduan, Kilmadayn in 1302. The remains show us that a church of the eleventh or early twelfth century was remodelled or even

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(8) New edition of Archdall's "Monasticon" under name.



KILMACDUAN CHURCH  
(With the east and south windows)

rebuilt about 1480, when an unrecorded, but well-marked outburst of church restoration spread over Limerick and Clare in the vast majority of the parishes. The place has otherwise no history, being incidentally called *Cil mic an dubain* and *Cil mhic dubhain* in 1591 by the Four Masters.

When I visited it in 1893 it was in very much the same state as when described in the Ordnance Survey Letters of 1839. It stood on a little hillock rising in a green valley, among low, green shale hills, over a little rivulet. It presents a very picturesque appearance from the village of vaults round the hillock and the dark and shattered little ruin.

Only the east gable and about 21 feet of the sides remain (25 feet in 1839), the church is 23 feet 7 inches wide, and the walls have that typical cornice with neat angular corbels at intervals so often seen in Clare churches. There are two windows, the eastern is of the late fifteenth century, with an ogee head, and neatly moulded outside, and a plain flat arch and splay inside. The splay is 7 feet 4 inches wide, the light 9 inches wide with holes for sash-bars. The south window is far older, probably dating before 1080, of well cut sandstone blocks with inclined jambs, decorated by a simple recess and chamfer; the head is not original, but, though semicircular, is only rudely chipped out of a flagstone. The splay is 5 feet 3 inches wide, and the light 11 inches wide at the base and perhaps 7 or 8 inches at the top, as I could not reach it there, it is 13 feet distant from the east gable. The coign stones at the church angles are removed, it is said they were taken for the angles of Cooraclare chapel. West of the church is a village of 32 vaults forming a square and a street.

An ancient Life of St. Senan (published in Colgan's "Lives") gives a curious legend of *Cill mic an dubhain* church—"Theodorick son of 'Tatheus' prince of Thomond (better known as Torlough Mór O'Brien who defeated Thomas de Clare (being enraged at the monks of Iniscathaigh for permitting a husbandman to take sanctuary invaded the termon of St. Senan. The second night of the raid St. Senan appeared to the Prior of Iniscathaigh and told him that he the (the saint) was setting out to punish the prince. That same night he appeared in a vision to Theodorick and struck him on the leg with his crozier. He rebuked the prince for his sacrilegious violence and disappeared. No

doctor could cure the wound inflicted by Senan till Theodorick died of its effects (in 1306).

The only record of later days is that Margaret, daughter of Donall O'Brien and wife of Torlough Mac Mahon, died at Cill mac dubhain, and was buried at Iniscatiagh.

The old burial ground of Dromelihy lies between Kilmacduan and Dunbeg. I only notice the place to record the reason why the townland is cut up into those extraordinary long sections called after the families of Burton, MacDonnell, Westby and Westropp on the map. Some of the original partition are being among the papers of Col. George O'Callaghan Westropp of Coolreagh. The process was curious, so I venture to abstract these documents though of late date—"Agreed between Lord Conyngham, Wm. Westby, John MacDonnell and Ralph Westropp, that the lands of Dromellighy, now out of lease, shall be divided between the several parties before April 1st next. All costs for law and survey to be borne equally, and on notice (given ten days before) the owners shall draw lots. MacDonnell and Westropp to draw one lot which they undertake afterwards to divide by lot between them. Robert Keane Charles, Esq., to act as agent for all until next May; and all bind themselves to abide by the decision and execute all reasonable deeds at advice of Counsel, under penalty of £1,000. Dated Nov. 14th, 1809." "Map of S.W. division of Dromellehy, in the Parish of Kilmacduane, Barony of Moyarta, taken for John Macdonnell, of Newhall, and Ralph Westropp, of Limerick, 616 acres, this was divided into two lots—151a. or. 3p. bog, and 156a. 3r. 9p. profitable. Fras. Coffee, Registered Land Surveyor, 1813." "North division" (on a slip of paper). "1813 May 4th, I attended this day at Stammers, jun., in the town of Ennis where I met Mr. John McDonnell and threw lots with him for our one-third of the lands of Dromelihy according to Coffee's map, when I drew the north division and Mr. Mc. the S. Mr. Corns. O'Callaghan wrote on two distinct papers "South division" and North division," the latter of which is the identical paper drawn by myself, R. Westropp." (9)

KILMIHIL (O.S. 48) This thriving village, with its wide street,

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(9) Ralph Westropp, Sheriff of Limerick, 1792, and Mayor, 1800-1801, third son of Ralph Westropp, of Lismehane and Attyflin.

good shops and neat houses (a pleasant contrast to some of the wretched decayed "towns" of the west, lies inland about 9 miles from the sea, and not far to the south of Cahermurphy described in the first part of this paper. In painful and unwholesome neighbourhood to its houses lie the ruined church and overcrowded graveyard, horribly neglected and overgrown, and comparable to the worst kept and wildest in the county.

The mediæval lives of St. Senan state that he built the church here in honour of St. Michael the Archangel, who had aided him in his contest with the cata or amphibious monster that had made its den in Scattery. Over this legend Eugene O'Curry waxes amusingly angry and abusive, till, completely carried away by his own eloquence, he insults the memory of the pure, "peace-loving father" Senan, by contrasting the glorious chief of the Armies of Heaven with the founder of Kilmihil "a feeble hermit possessed of all the human frailties" (alas! poor Senan), "and who was as crazy and vindictive as he was austere and pious, though indeed a great and good man for the little and bad times he lived in." (10) O'Curry must have been maddened by red tape from his official superiors, or by rain from Heaven and bad lodging on earth, the evening he penned those lines.

The church is utterly defaced, ragged and broken, of flagstone masonry. The east window has been pulled down, and the other ones defaced since 1839, and I could find no carvings anywhere. The church measures 70 feet by 26 feet. The east window in 1839 had a pointed light 18 inches wide, well cut and with bar holes, the splay being 6 feet 10 inches wide. The north wall is featureless, and the west has only a low rude doorway, 3 feet 8 inches wide, and the piers of a fallen belfry on the top of the gable which has been more than once repaired and rebuilt in parts. The south wall, going eastward, has a window, once square-headed, 4 inches from the west, having a 6 inch light, next it was a door, pointed and of well dressed stone, outside, the weatherledge of a porch is visible. Eastward is a defaced window, the arch of the splay still remained when I saw it; then another round-headed window 3 feet 6 inches from the east end. The monuments so far as I had time to examine them were of purely local interest.

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(10) O. S. Letters, 14, B. 24, p. 42.

The church is not mentioned in 1302, but stood before 1390, and was evidently much rebuilt a century later. Not far to the east is the well of St. Michael. Father Anthony Bruodin tells a curious story of its rediscovery by his relation Lady Mariana, widow of Thomas MacGorman, in 1632. She had long suffered from gout, and at length saw in a dream the great Archangel who directed her to go to his church at Kilmihil and dig at a little distance from it where she should find some rushes growing. Aided by her son, Thomas MacGorman, and the parish priest, Rev. Dermot O'Quealy, she sought for, found, opened and drank of the well and was cured. Many others coming on pilgrimage to the well were also relieved of their complaints. Unfortunately it seems to have soon lost its healing power.

There are several objects of interest around Kilmihil. Two liagauns or pillar stones stand on a rising ground called Termonroe to the south-west of the church, and possibly marked its lands. They rise conspicuously against the sky, and are plain uncut monoliths, over 7 feet high, one being 7 feet 4 inches high. Near these is a fort called Kilbride, perhaps commemorating a lost church of St. Bridget, to which they may have belonged. The defaced ring wall of Cahercanavan lies in the fields behind them to the north-west. Knockalough castle stands on a walled island, probably an ancient crannoge, in a lake, not far to the east of Kilmihil. A considerable fragment of the tower remains in the thick grove of trees which covers the islet, now only the home of coots and cranes. Cnoc an lacha is named during the deClare's wars 1315, in the "Cathreim Thoirdealbhaigh." It was held by Thomas, son of Mortough MacMahon, who in 1621 settled it for his own use and that of his son Murtagh, and the latter's wife More. (11) It was held in 1641 by Murtagh MacMahon, John MacNamara and John O'Gillahinane, from whom it was confiscated in 1652, and was eventually sold in June 1676, to Paul Strange, Marcus MacGrath, Donough MacNamara, Henry Ievers, Teige O'Brien, Edward Fanning and Thomas Green. The local people only know it as the castle of the notorious MacMahon, "Torough Roe, the liar and deceiver, who by one stroke killed his wife and child."

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(11) Inq. Ap. 18th, 1630.

## CONCLUSION.

We are far from having exhausted the interesting objects of the district round Miltown Malbay in this somewhat rambling paper. If a school of local antiquaries arises, it will find profitable work for many years to come in the study of place names, local history, and the lesser field antiquities. The earth forts of this district are numerous, and are usually an oval or circular raised platform with a ring, mound, fosse and outer ring. The names of some of these may be here noted—Lissanure, Liscahaun, Lisballard, Rinbaun and Lissaltha near Milltown; Lisclonroe, Lissykeatry and Lisconry near Tromra; Lisnahoanshee on the bounds of Kilmurry and Kilmacduan; Lisbaun, Lisnaleagaun, a rath near Cahermurphy castle; Lisnaleagaun near the pillar stones of Kilmihil; Lissatuan and Lissyreen near Knockalough.

Of stone forts, besides Cahermurphy and Cahercanavan, which I have noted, there are Caherard, Caherush and Caherogan, now levelled or swept away by the sea.

There are hut sites, rings of stones, hearths and kitchen middens in the sandhills at Miltown and on the shore from Tromra to Dunbeg. Near the latter place is a high mound, some ten or twelve feet high, evidently once an early settlement, and a sort of crannoge, a heap of stones and middens in a marsh in Caherfeenick. The exploration of the shore settlements at Dunbeg, Miltown, Freagh, Dough and the Murrooghs has only been commenced.

Of castles, besides those already noted, only the sites and mere fragments remain at Freagh and Caherrush (a mere angle on the shore likely soon to be washed away) in Kilfarboy; Finnor, Knockanalban, and Doonogan are in Kilmurry. None are of historic importance.

The submerged bogs and forests off Killard and Lehinch are also of interest to geologists and antiquaries. The phenomenon attracted the attention of Giraldus Cambrensis seven centuries ago and is still fresh and far from being fully studied on a firm basis even in our days.

Wells, like St. Lachtin's holy wells near Kilfarboy and Stacpole's Bridge, are also of great interest. The last has been re-dedicated to St. Joseph since 1839. In the middle of the last century it was a centre of riot and faction-fighting at the patterns held there. St. Lachtin's day



was kept on March 19th. He was Abbot of Freshford, Kilkenny, and patron of Lislachtin Abbey in Kerry, and Kilnamona Church in Clare. The beautiful reliquary of his arm was successively preserved at the two latter places, and now rests in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy. The well is a charming spot in a little hollow overhung by bare old trees and bushes, and with the high arch of Stacpole's Bridge in the background. A few poor, old people may be seen, especially on Sundays and Thursdays, making the usual devotions—two sets of rounds, each five in number, the first on the causeway round the well, the latter on a wider circuit. The devotees take off shoes, stockings, hats, and, in the case of women, shawls and bonnets, and starting from the well, "sunwards," repeating the stated prayers, they climb up to kiss a cross on a branch of one of the ancient trees, and finally pour water from the well on their faces, hands and feet.

In offering these rough notes to persons interested in our lesser antiquities, I make no pretence of elaborate research or finality, I only hope to give an increase of interest and an excuse for wider explorations to the sojourners in the quietest, but for its very quietness (and "un-fashionableness,") one of the most pleasing of the sea-side resorts of the Atlantic Coast of Ireland.