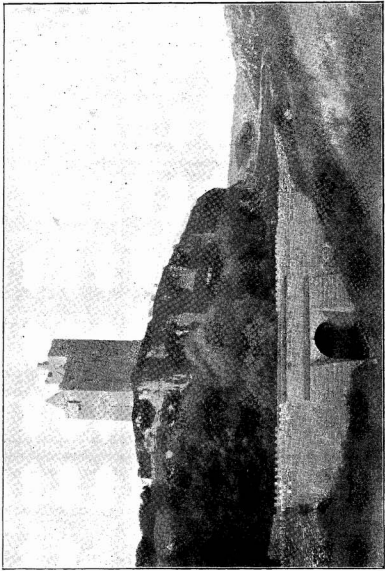


ANCIENT REMAINS NEAR LISDOONVARNA.

(Continued from vol. iii, p. 52.)

BY THOMAS JOHNSON WESTROPP, M.A., M.R.I.A.

Nothing can be more discouraging to an antiquary or more disappointing to his readers than the few dry facts yielded by many years of general research for the history of places of local interest. In the case of castles the popular idea seems to be that they are "big historic places, with plenty to tell about them, if anyone took the trouble to make it out." The idea sprang from a confusion between the great mediæval fortresses, round which early warfare concentrated itself in other lands, and where families taking a leading part in church or state resided, with the little private houses of the smaller gentry, in places which rarely were affected by even a cattle raid or petty local combat. In these far western spots too, the local gentry were very "local," and they took no leading part in public affairs, so their houses were seldom, if ever, attacked. Instead of the grim fortress, with its tales of fierce assault and dogged siege—its dungeons filled with noble, even with royal, captives; great kings, banquetting in its halls; tales of love, fortunate or star-crossed, of fair ladies; tales of the great statesmen, warriors, and churchmen, who consulted there anxiously on great national questions; tales of pathos and terror of the tortured wretches in its dungeons—we would find a tale of simple family life, simple hospitality, vast monotony, endless hunting, occasional visits of equally unremarkable persons, all like the "squire-life" of later days—"ennui, varied by hunting and occasional races" and gatherings. Probably few of the occupants could write, and family "papers" were, doubtless, very rare. How unreasonable then are those who cling to the idea that a sort of "Harrison Ainsworth story" should be told of a place like Ballinalackan. Consideration of the obvious facts



■ [Photo by]

BALLINALACKAN CASTLE

G. Fogarty, R.N.]

that such little towers could play little or no part in battles and great sieges, that the infinitely little "wars" of the remotest west gave little opportunity for the "making of history," would prevent much silly and misleading talk and expectations foredoomed to the utmost disappointment.

BALLINALACKAN. We purposely passed by the ruin best known to the indwellers of Lisdoonvarna, the peel tower or "Castle" of Ballinalackan. One of the spurs of the high brown, Knockauns Mountain runs like a headland into the limestone valleys. The southern side has a small gulley fenced by abrupt cliffs—that to the north so square-edged and perpendicular as to seem artificial. Lower crags mark out a flat-topped oblong platform on its summit, and there, at the abrupt southwest angle of the precipice, rises the perfect little tower, sitting on its outpost watching the glens of Oughtdarra, the ridges towards Moher and the sea, and the Isles of Arran, beyond.

" The spirit of the mountains looks on thee,
Over an hundred hills quaint shadows flee,
Across the marbled mirror brooding lie
Storm mists of infant cloud,
With a sight-baffling shroud,
Mantling the grey-blue islands in the Western sky."

The tower is a very characteristic example of the gentleman's residence as built during the 15th or early 16th century. The beautifully, neat, and solid stone work, the plain, but well-designed and chisel-dressed, doors and windows, the plan and general arrangements, so rarely differing in Ireland, Scotland, and Northern England—all are here, and, from their excellent preservation, can be studied to the best advantage. We will accordingly describe it in some detail.

First, we may consider some points in its history and in the general studies of the towers. It is not certain how they came into such general use in Ireland. They possibly had been built from the 13th century as in Scotland, but in Clare it is precarious to date any as much earlier than the 15th century. They differ strongly from the Norman castles, such as Trim, Maynooth, and (in Western Ireland,) Adare, Limerick and Quin. All such buildings of the Normans were essentially fortresses. The peels were merely houses, only stronger than our safer state of society requires. We have been formerly criticised for using the term "peel," it being alleged that it applies only to towers (like Peel Castle in the Isle of Man)

standing on a bay or creek (pyle). This is absolutely incorrect, as the word is generally applied to towers far from the sea and on uplands. It is akin to "pile," and is used very frequently, "castellum seu pilum," in Tudor documents relating to the lesser castles of Munster. (1) The name however, does not appear to have been used by the Irish speakers who use "cashlaun" equally for certain early forts, the great strongholds, and the little peel towers.

As for the particular case of County Clare, it is noteworthy that the rentals of O'Brien and MacNamara, the latter (dating in the time of Maccon, grandson of that Lochlain MacNamara, who was put to death by his enemies, the Hymbloid, near Lough Colmeen, in 1313, i.e., about 1380-'90), no single castle is mentioned on lands where dozens are still standing. In fact, while the Irish maintained the strict tribal system of redistribution, it would have been most unlikely that any man would build an elaborate residence on land which might be passed over to another (without compensation for the tenant's "improvements") in a few years—even in the lifetime of the reigning chief. Had we a true copy of the "Castle Founders' List" (2) we might speak with less hesitation. As it is, none of the best copies of this document seem to give us any Clare castle earlier than Rossroe, i.e., about 1380. Some copies give Enagh, Maumtalloon, and Trough, as built by Sioda, son of Mahon MacNamara, after 1380, but others attribute them to his son, Flan. One copy only gives the date of Ennistymon Castle as 1306. Certainly about that time King Turlough *had* completed towers at Clonroad and Inchiquin, and some other unnamed towers, (3) but the evidence as against the contradiction of more probable statements is slight, for Ennistymon was probably of the 16th century.

Roughly speaking, and we follow the less doubtful entries, we may put between 1380 and 1402 (contemporaneously with the main building of Quin Abbey), Dangan, near Quin, Rossroe, and Neadanura, or Newtown, near Clonlara, the details of which are, however, much later. (4) The

(1) For example in the great "Desmond Survey" of 1583.

(2) Catalogue Irish MSS. in the British Museum (Standish Hayes O'Grady), p. 72, &c., and MSS. R.I.A.

(3) Cathreim Thoiridhealbhaigh.

(4) This, however, may favour the early date by implying the need of an extensive restoration about 1500.

period from 1430 to 1480 seems to have been the golden age of "castle" building in Clare. The list assigns to it Ballymarkahan, Fortanne (Rosslara), Ballymulcashel (Mountcashel), Drumline, Garruragh, Knap-poge, and others. Their architecture tallies well with the statement. Little, if at all, inferior is the next group, 1480 to 1520: Ballintlea, Ballyhannon or Castlefergus; Bealnafirverna, or O'Brien's Castle, near Crusheen; Danganbrack, Moghane, Ralahine, and Miltown, or Ballymullen, near Tulla. The still later "castles" are, as a rule, poor enough. We would assign Ballinalackan to the period between 1480 and the first years of the 16th century; earlier than the time of Henry VIII.

The obscurity of the O'Connor genealogy (5) leaves us very much in the dark as to the date of the Castle Founders, whose houses lie in this district. The list gives Ennistymon and "Dough in the Sand hills," as founder either by Donogh MacDonall in 1306, or by Donogh MacCon, "Lachticonor and Moherruane," (6) by Cathal of the Red Hand; "Doonagore," by Teige MacTurlough MacCon, and "Ballinalacken and Muing," by Lochlan MacCon. Of these men we have been unable to fix any date. (7)

The O'Brien rental, supposed of 1380 or '90, does not help us much. Dues were claimed off Tuath Glae (or Tooclae) at Ballyna Huamadh, O'Clery's quarter, the short quarter Cragicorrain, Glaishe, Bailie I. Coileim, Duma I. Uanna, I. Buadad, and Baile Na Lecan. (8)

The sum of the cess of O'Brien from Glae, over and above the Galloglasses, royalties, sportsmen, and Gilladuff, viz.:—10 pence and 5 ounces and 12 marks, and the immunities of the family of Clan Flanchadha (O'Clanchy.) (9) The immunities of Sil Flanchadha, and half a mark of the rent of O'Brien are on Craig I. Corradain, so that there are 5 pence and 5 ounces on each of those 14 quarters. The amount of O'Brien's lordship under the stewardship of MacCon also included cattle and swine dues.

(5) For this clan see Mr. James Frost's "History and Topography of the County of Clare," p. 93.

(6) I find no other mention or remains of these castles. There was an ancient promontory fort with a dry stone wall at Moher.

(7) Castle Founders' List, pp 69-74.

(8) Trans. R. I. Acad. 1826, vol. xv., p. 42.

(9) For this family see Frost's "History," pp. 95-98.

The district was held by the O'Conors from prehistoric times down to 1582. Then, probably feeling that in the unsettled and dangerous days that they had fallen on, it was better to subordinate their semi-independence to a family in high favour with the "Red Queen," they granted their lands by deed to Turlough O'Brien, of Ennistymon, Jan. 2nd, 1582; Donell O'Conor, of Fantii; Conor McOwen O'Conor, of Ballyhea; Conor MacConor O'Conor, of Innisdyman; Bryan Mohoone O'Conor, of Liskannor; Brian MacCahill O'Conor, of Down-na-goarr, gent; Donell MacTeige, of Glan (Glen Castle, Ennistymon), and others, granting Dough, Dunnagoar, Liscannor, &c. (10) The deed was witnessed by Boetius Clancy and others.

Two years later "Ballanelacken Castle" was held by Teig MacMurrough O'Brien; Innisdyman and Glan, by Sir Donell O'Brien; Dinnegoir, by Sir D. O'Brien; Dunnycphelim, by Teigh O'Brien; Tuomullen, by Conor MacClancy; Duagh and Liscannor, by Sir Donel O'Brien. (11) In the following year, August 17th, 1585, Sir John Perrot, on behalf of the Queen, made a settlement of the estates of the Clare gentry, among whom Sir Turlough O'Brien, Knight, is named as holding 14 quarters, including Douoghyconnogher, Innyshtiman, and Ballinelackyne, and excluding the lands of the Bishop and Dean of Kilfenora and Boetius Clanchy of Knockfyne Castle.

The place was held at the outbreak of the civil war in 1641-2, by Donough or Daniel O'Brien of Dough. He also held part of Ballynahown, with Carrownaderry, and lands of greater extent in Kilmacreehy parish. We hope at some future time to tell in connection with that castle of his humanity to the English settlers, and his intervention at the siege of Tromroe Castle, and other events of the period.

When once again the English cause had triumphed by the iron troops of the dreaded Cromwell, we find Daniel petitioning Col. Stubber and the "Commissioners for overthrowing and demolishing castles in Connaught and Clare." He had evidently not confined himself to protecting the English settlers, for he claims to have cut off the ears of many plunderers and executed others. After two years he was taken and imprisoned by the "predominant power." Then, since the taking of

(10) Diocese of Killaloe, p. 555.

(11) Castle List, T.C.D.

Limerick, he paid a heavy monthly contribution—sometimes up to £100 for a month—till his substance and livelihood were exhausted. Despite the orders of the governor of the Precinct of Limerick and Clare, five of his castles were “razed down,” and he petitioned to be allowed to build a house in Dough, which is no place of strength, and a little castle, which is already demolished by the Irish, by name Ballenelacken, which hath no bawn or barbican that stands as yet, and not in the lists of the masons, “he was afeard that the said masons out of malice or gain will fall doune the said stearcase of Dough or the ruinous castle of Ballinalacken” to his great prejudice; and he was even willing to save charges by “putting down” at his own expense the “steappes” and to dismantle the ruinous castle of Ballinalacken. Stubber, by an order at Loughrea, 13th September, 1654, ordered the masons to spare the “strand hasse of Dough” and Ballinalacken till further orders (12), and from the remains the castles were evidently preserved. The “Book of Distribution and Survey,” (13) 1655, calls it Ballynalackan alias Carrowreagh alias Clonadowne, arable and rough pasture, of Donnell O’Brien, to Moore Butler alias Bryen.

The Act of Settlement, November 12th, 1667, seems to assign “Ballynaleakin” in Corcomroe to Captain W. Hamilton, but it was at any rate held by the O’Brien family for many generations, and is still in possession of another branch, the O’Briens of Elmvale, Corofin. (14)

It is shown in the “1675,” Survey now at Edenvale, as held by Sir D. O’Brien, on the margin is rough but recognisable sketch, showing the castle from the west. The battlemented tower, with its high gable, the bawn, with its large gateway, and a building to the north side are well shown.

(12) Diocese of Killaloe, p. 218.

(13) Vol. I., p. 248.

(14) In a copy of the 1694 pedigree of the O’Briens, the Dough branch is derived from Daniel, second son of Conor, the King of Thomond, and brother of Donough, the second Earl. His son, Sir Therlough, married Eileen Lynch of Galway; from their two sons sprang the houses of Dough and Newtown. Daniel of Dough had a son, Teige, whose son, Donough, by his wife, Honora (daughter of Conor O’Brien of Lemeneagh), had a son, Christopher, living 1694. The present owners claim descent from Torlough O’Brien and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry O’Brien of Bealacorick, whose great grandson, John O’Brien, of Elmvale and Ballinalackin, was High Sheriff of Clare, 1836, and M.P. for Limerick, 1841-’52, father of the present Lord O’Brien of Kilfenora.

Let us now describe the building itself (15). Having ascended the steep path up the hill, we enter the courtyard by a large, round-headed gateway. Over it are the four corbels of a small gallery, the large slab pierced with holes lies before the gate, but once enabled the defenders to pour scalding water on any assailants. The gateway is 5 feet 8 inches wide, and is further defended by a projecting bastion to the north, pierced with 7 loop holes. The plateau was walled, but little, save a few upturned slabs, remains along the southern cliff. The corbelled pier of a postern gate remains at the north-east corner. The bawn is about 350 feet long east and west, and its enclosure does not seem older than the earlier 17th century.

The peel tower stands at the south-west angle of the platform. It is over 60 feet high, and measures 42 feet east and west and 28 feet 9 inches north and south. It is not (as so often) in two divisions, but continuous, so as to form a simple oblong. The main wing is 27 feet 9 inches long. The staircase or eastern wing 14 feet 10 inches long. The walls are slightly sloped or battered, and embody some upraised slabs. The door has been nearly destroyed; its jambs were rebuilt, closing a shot hole in the north jamb. It leads into a vaulted passage 15 feet 3 inches long, with no trace of the usual "murder hole" in the roof. The porter's lodge is to the south; the staircase to the north; the former is vaulted, and has a pointed door and an oblong slit to the east. The staircase is, as usual, spiral, of 75 steps, to the topmost floor, and some 10 more to the roof. It has a round-headed door, with a raised threshold, and is lighted by oblong slits. A newel, or roll moulding, forming the "hand rail," extends upwards from the 10th step. The doors leading to the rooms in the main wing occur at the 19th, 36th and 53rd steps; the 68th leads to the battlements. The doors to the rooms in the side wing are at the 17th, 34th, 51st, and 75th step. The doors to the battlements and upper room are very properly closed with iron gratings to save the stream of tourists from flowing over the battlements by their habitual recklessness.

The side wing, over the porter's lodge, has three stories under one vault, and one other room overhead. The rooms have ogee-headed lights, one single and one double (the latter with a round arched splay),

(15) A short account appears in *Journal R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxx, p. 286.

to the east. Those to the south have—the lower a flat splay ; the second both light and splay round-headed ; the top round, with lintelled splay. There are skew doors to the stairs, and the middle room has also got one to the main wing. The topmost room has a curious flat ogee arch to the stairs, and small windows to the south and east. It once had a light to the west, which was closed by the ledge of a later roof of the main wing. The windows have ogee heads and round splays, and there is a corbelled cornice.

The rooms of the main wing were four ; the lower is entered by a pointed door, once secured by two bars. There are two stories under the vault, each with a double ogee light to the west ; ambreys in the north and south walls ; oblong and ogee slits in the north side, and rows of corbels supporting the floors and ceilings. A narrow passage runs over a round arch to a garderobe or closet in the south wall of the second room. Over the vault are two more stories. The lower has a defaced fire-place, with windows to either side in the south, and a double and single ogee window to the north. In the upper room are a finely-moulded fire-place, with the date 1541, to the east, and a door from the stairs ; two oblong windows, with one and two shafts to the south ; the north side has a window, with two shafts and a cross bar, now broken ; and a doorway into a bartizan, "flanker," or corbelled gallery ; a corbelled door in the middle of the west wall leads to a second bartizan. These "flankers" each rest on three corbels of two steps each ; they have round shot holes ; two to the outer face and one to each side. All the window shafts are gone. The outer walls are $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick ; the sides $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

THE GLASHA RIDGE. Save to a person specially interested in stone ring forts, the remains along the Glasha ridge, between the road and the sea, from the barrack of Ballyreen to Bealaghaline, would have little attraction. They are described in the journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries (16). We need only note that Cahermaccrusheen commands an ancient road or pass leading to the sea, and was of large and beautiful masonry. To the south lies the only cromlech of this district. It was a great box of four slabs, tapering eastward, with a cover nearly 10 feet by 8 feet. They lie as they fell, and are said to

(16) Vol. XXV., 1905, p. 353.

have been "overturned by a thunder bolt." More probably the removal of the cairn in which they were embedded left them unsupported, and they fell like a house of cards. On the summit of the ridge, Cahermaclanchy, the remains of another fine stone fort, commands a very beautiful view into the Ballyreen and Oughtdarra valleys, and and southward to the cliffs of Moher. These noble rocky ramparts, rising nearly 600 feet above the waves, breast the force of the Atlantic not far to the south, with their dark and perpendicular walls of sandstone.

Several of the forts along the ridge have souterrains or "caves," long passages, with walls of small masonry and great slab covers. They sometimes have side cells, and in one case (Cahermaclanchy) lead to a pit full of water. This is now closed, and the complex passage at Caherglasha, about 64 feet long, was wrecked in an attempt to evict a family of badgers. There are in all remains of over 65 forts. The great rock of Leagwee is a conspicuous natural monument; the largest fort, Caheradoon, near Doolin, was demolished for road metal. It may have been the Caher Galline, held by Hugh MacClanchy in 1579 (17), as it near Bellaghaline.

Passing Tooclae Chapel, a large and well-built church, we recall that we are at Knockfin cross roads, the only relic of the name of the manor established for the ferocious Boetius MacClanchy, sheriff of Clare in 1588, whose merciless executions of the survivors of the wrecked ships of the Spanish Armada have never been forgotten in local tradition. Tooclae also preserves the ancient name of the district, "Glae" or "Tuath Glae," as it is named in the O'Briens' rental about 1380. There are records of a castle at Knockfin, and another at Tomolyn (Toomullin) in 1579 and 1588, but the site of neither can be fixed. Possibly the former was at Aran View House, as the later residences were frequently at or near the sites of castles. This is borne out by the statements that Ballyvoe was at the castle of Knockfin—"Ballyvoe iherogh juxta castr. predict," according to the 1588 Inquisition—and the confirmation to cornet, John Gore of "the castle, town and lands of Ballyvoe alias Knockfin" under the Act of Settlement.

KILLILLAGH. Till February, 1903, when the "great gale" swept across Ireland, leaving destruction in its wake, from the churches on the

(17) Inq. Ch. Remem. No. 9 of Elizabeth, and T.C.D. Castle List, 1588.

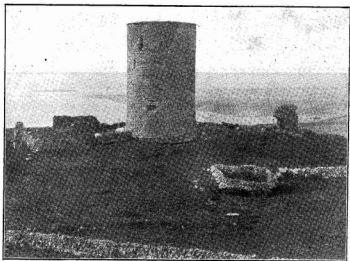


Photo by]

DOONAGORE CASTLE

G. Fogarty, R.N.

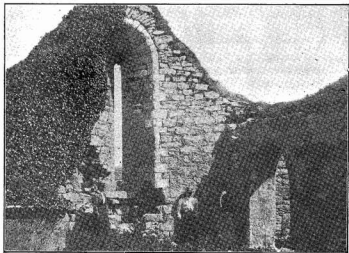


Photo by]

KILLILAGH CHURCH

[T. J. Westropp

Atlantic coast and the larch woods of Clare, to the great elms of the Phoenix Park and the roofs of Dublin—a very perfect church stood near Roadford. It was named Killilagh, and seems to have been founded by a certain Lonan—perhaps that unknown bishop (not Flannan, as so often stated), that gave his name to the church of Killaspuglonane. His well is still venerated at Killilagh by the name of Toberlonan. It was a parish church in 1302, and appears as Killadlack (cil eidlach), along with Wafferig or Oughtdarra, in the Papal taxation. As usual it has little record and no history. In 1411 Dermotus O'Hacharni was priest of Killadmyr (18), and in the same year Thomas Machmachuna was appointed to the living of Killagloich on the resignation of, I presume, his relation, Donat Mechmachunna. Thomas O'Cormacan was also priest of Killadmyr in 1411, so that its spiritual affairs must have got somewhat unsettled by these numerous changes. In 1419 we get more information, which shows us a new element of confusion. John Okathel, cleric of the diocese of Killaloe, was now to be collated to the perpetual vicarage of Killeileagh, not exceeding seven marks, so long void by the death of Cornelius Ohare that it had lapsed to the Holy See under the Lateran Statutes. But the end was not reached, for in the following February new orders were issued to assign Killacgleach in Kilfenora, worth five marks, which had become void by the death at the Apostolic See of Thomas Machmachuna, to one of the Clanchys, Maurice Maclanchaga, a priest. The living had been reserved to Pope John XXIII., who had not disposed of it at the time of his deposition by the Council of Constance. Maclanchaga was of noble birth, and had studied Canon Law, but he had it for a year without getting ordained priest, and the Pope had to rehabilitate him. The parish churches were wont to be governed by one rector, and were Rallergleach (Killagleach) and Vettorach (Uchforach or Uchtdaragh) forming the Rectory of Glæ. It had certainly lapsed to the Apostolic See, either for one of the above reasons, or because Donatus Maclandchaga when holding it had obtained the perpetual Vicarage of Killanasuleach in the diocese of Killaloe.

Visitors will remember its heavily-ivied west gable—a pleasant object in this usually bare district, and how, by the overhang of the ivy, it seemed to lean out eastward. Unfortunately there may have been some

(18) Col. Papal Letters, VI., p.p. 263-4; VII., p. 104; p. 107-8.

truth in appearances, for in some way the "great gale" caught it, and levelled it and its tall early window. It is strange how often this must have occurred in the county. The same gale blew down the east end of Clooney Church, while the east gables of Kilcorney, Kilmurry Ibrickan (19), the oratory and Templeairdnanangel at Scatterry; Kilfieragh, Templenanaeve, at Ross; Kilmihill, Templemochulla, Clonlea, Croaghaun, Dromline, Kilconry, Feenagh and Kilmaleery, have all fallen.

Killilagh Church does not show remains of any very early work. It is probably on an early site, as its graveyard is cut into the base of a rath, on whose summit one usually sees a crowd of cattle enjoying the summer breeze. (20) The building is of neat, thin flagstone masonry, with well-cut coign stones and window dressings. The main wing measures $57\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 19 feet; the north wall, as usual, is blank. The west end has a small oblong slit, and is crowned by a single bell-chamber covered by a flagstone. It is very unusual to find in the churches of this storm-swept coast any large window, and very rarely even a door, in the west end. The east window (of which we give a view, taken about two years before its fall) was lofty, plain, and round-headed—the oldest feature in the church. It is splayed deeply from 8 feet at the light to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inside. The south door has a holy water stoup in the left jamb; it was pointed, but the blocks had been torn out of the arch. Only the right block of the head is in place. This door lies 14 feet from the west, and 13 feet farther east is an oblong window. Projecting from the south wall is a late chapel of about the same age as that at Kilmoon, and the church of Kilbract, near Cahermacnaughten. It measures $57\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 19 feet inside, and is entered by a very neat round-headed arch (21), with

(19) When writing on Kilmurry Ibrickan in these pages (*96 supra*), I had conjectured it to be the Collebonoum or Collebououm of the 1302 Taxation. I have since found in the local name, "Ox Mount," just beside the church, the "Collebovum" of the epithet. It would be formally "Ecclesia S. Marie de Colle-bovum." This shows the importance of preserving even apparently uninteresting local names, whether Irish or English. The case of the supposed late names, Bropark, &c., near Newgrange, Co. Meath, which we have traced back to monastic times, and which probably represent the venerable "Brugh" of the Boyne, is another case in point.

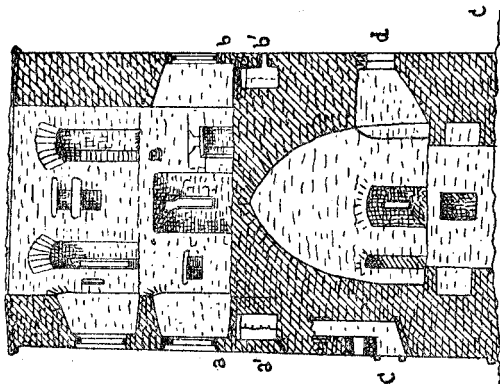
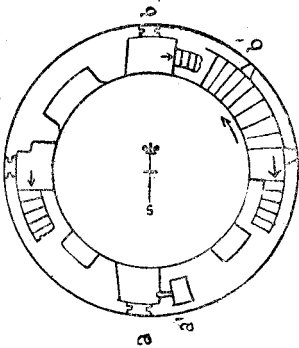
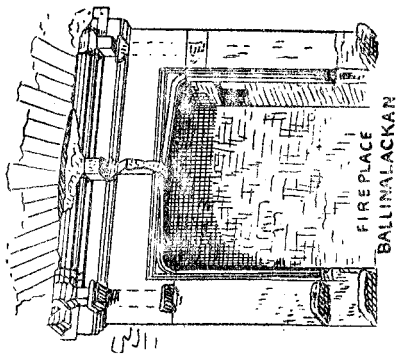
(20) The granting of a chief's rath to the church is a common feature in the history of our early saints. Rathbornev, Templenaraha, Glencolumbcille in County Clare, and Clonagh in Limerick, give material evidence of the custom. See "Ancient Forts of Ireland." Section 42.

(21) Not "pointed" as stated in the Ordnance Survey Letters MSS. R.I.A. The ogee windows are also therein described as "pointed."

beautifully-executed late chisel drafting on the blocks. There are single ogee-headed lights in the middle of the side walls, and double lights under an angular hood ledge in the south wall. There are few monuments of any but personal interest. The large vault of the MacNamaras of Doolin, 1852, lies to the south of the graveyard. A table tomb in the north-east angle of the church has slabs with foilage, and a lion *passant*, but of no great age. A tomb put up by Bryan Kilmartin, in memory of Honora Haverty, December, 1794, lies outside near the corner of the church. Another bears the epitaph: "Pray for the soul of Lott Queely, who died at Towmullin, the 16th of January, 1779, aged 84 years, and for his wife Mary Davoren, who died the 11th of March, 1784, aged 78 years." Yet another at the south-west corner commemorates Fanny Queely, alias Burke, who died April, 1799, aged 53.

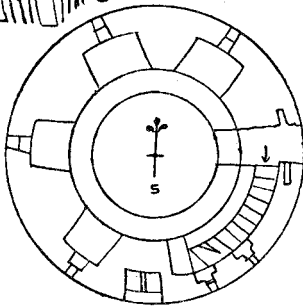
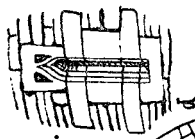
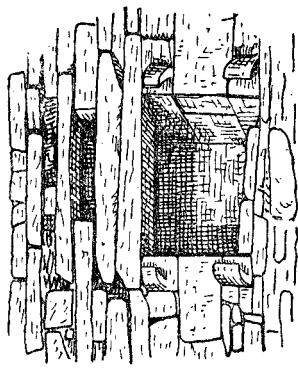
TOOMULLIN. The church of St. Breacan at Toomullin lies inland, not far from the east, and near a pretty little waterfall on the Aille River. From the dedication of its well and the connection of the district with Saints Enda and Breacan of Aran, we may regard its foundation as attributed to Breacan, son of King Eochy Baildearg, the first Christian King of North Munster in the 5th century. As already stated Breacan, was reputed to be the first evangeliser of Thomond. Christianity probably existed among its inhabitants, especially if we accept the statement in the "Tripartite Life of St. Patrick," that the men of Thomond crossed the Shannon in crowds to meet the Apostle of Ireland. Breacan founded three churches, not far to the east of Ennis; Kilbreacan, or Carntemple, whose massive but nearly levelled and overgrown walls lie near the well of Toberdooran, not far from Kilbreacan Chapel; Doora, or Durinierekin, a venerable church, mainly of the 10th or 11th century, near Ennis station, and Clooney Church, where he was venerated as St. Rikin.

He eventually established a monastery in the western part of Aranmore, where his church Templebreacan, his tomb enclosure, "Labba Brecaín," with the fragments of an elaborately-decorated cross, and an earlier slab, figured by Petrie, inscribed with plain encircled cross, and the words "Sci ("Sancti" not "Capiti") Brecaín," confirm the early legends. Legends told of Breacan's kindness and conciliatory actions towards St. Enda, with whom he enjoyed perfect friendship; how he sat at



DOONAGORE

sketch-plans and section.



OPE IN THE TOWER AND OGEE HEADED LIGHT, DOONAGORE

PLANS AND SECTIONS OF BALLINALACKAN AND DOONAGORE CASTLES.

his feet with Enda's other followers to prevent his own disciples boasting of him against his brother saint. How he refused to join Enda in cursing a Pagan chief and won the heathen prince to loyal love for himself and his religion, and of his joyous old age ever growing in "the three dogmas of the Lord—hope, righteousness and love." None save that of the friendly division of Aranmore between Enda and Breacan seems of any great age, but even the shadow shows that a very fair light of a loving useful life is cast down the ages.

The church was parochial, and appears in 1302 in the Papal Taxation under the name "Thuomlynny." It is hardly again named till Stuart times, but may be the otherwise unknown parish of Killmony. "Tomalin, other part of the two sesses; this is part of the parish of Killmony." Pasture, Boetius Clanchy held it in 1641; John Sarsfield, 1655, "Tomaliny, parish of Gleabland." So it stands recorded in the "Book of Distribution and Survey." (22)

The existing building seems even later than the main part of Killilagh. It is a simple oblong; the eastern part forms the church, and is 33 feet by 17½ feet. The western formed the priest's room, and is 10 feet long. It was added outside the original west end, which has a pointed door and a broken bell chamber on the gable. A door in each wall of the church; a south window five feet from the east end, and a narrow trefoil light in the east end, with a simple angular hood ledge and triquetra knots in the spandrels of the head on its outer face still remain. There are no traces of burials, and the well of St. Breacan remains not far away.

On the bold bastion of the hill north end of the cliffs of Moher is the conspicuous earthen fort of Knocknastoolery, a mound partly artificial, with a ditch and other ring. In the centre stands a pillar stone six feet high, with obscure scores supposed to be an ogmic inscription, but so far as I can judge merely weather scoring. The fort rises 12 or 14 feet above the fosse, and has no ramparts on top. The outer line is four to six feet long. It is probably a burial mound. From its summit is a broad view over the field covered by this paper up to Caheradoon fort and back over Lisdoonvarna to the inner ridges of Burren.

(22) P. Rec. Off. Ir. Vol. I., p. 248. Downanhir is also given as in Killmoney parish.

DOONAGORE. In order to complete the notes on the ruins near Lisdoonvarna, I must risk wearying my readers by a description of the very curious round castle of Doonagore. The popular idea that it was named from its owners, the Gores, is absolutely unfounded. The Gores were Cromwellian settlers, who first appear in Clare about 1652 (23), whereas "Downenaghyr" was held by Hugh Clanchy at his death in 1589 (24). By his son Boetius, who died 1580, and the latter's nephew, Boetius, the sheriff. As usual it has no history, merely appearing in the Surveys of 1655, and the Edenvale Survey of 1675, as held by John Sarsfield. John Gore at that time held Ballyvoe, Cragcurridane, Killilagh, Ballycahane, East Glasha, Ballymaclancy, Cahermacreshine, and a few other townlands below the hills. So much for the popular etymology.

There are only three round castles known to me in County Clare. Newtown near Ballyvaughan, Faunaroosca in Killonaghan and Doonagore (25). This last is a well-built turret of flagstones. It is about 46 feet high, and has four stories, being 29 feet in external diameter, and 12 feet inside on the ground level; the walls are $8\frac{1}{2}$ thick. The door is quite defaced, though it was perfect when I first visited the castle in May, 1878. It faced eastward, and was recessed and chamfered. We find traces of bar holes and three recesses partly built up, one being a window. A staircase from the south jamb of the door rises through the thickness of the wall. The lower steps are covered and built over to keep cattle from climbing up. The 19th step of these leads into a curious garde-robe. The stair there turns abruptly, becomes a barrel stair of 2 feet 10 inches radius, and at the 29th step reaches the third floor, which rests on a beehive-like vault, the second floor under this vault having several windows. The third and fourth stories are of greater interest. The stair ran for nine steps up to the fourth floor level, at which a passage ran to the upper garderobe southwards. The drains of this and the lower compartment run down the wall to a large oblong door with stone

(23) See "Diocese of Killaloe," Rev. Canon O'Dwyer, p. 302.

[24] Inq. Ch. Rem. No. 9 of Eliz. Journal Roy. Soc. Antiqq., Irelan., XXXV., p. 353.

[25] See Proc., R.I.A., series 3, vol. V, p. 355, with illustration of Newtown. "Dublin University Magazine," vol. XXI, p. 89. Journal Roy. Soc. Antiqq. Ireland, vol. XXX. p. 287.

brackets or loops to hold a cover and a long ventilating slit over the double lintel. The north window, like its companions on these floors, has an ogee head ; from its right jamb a narrow passage with seven steps leads down to a little cell under the top steps of the main stairs. This cell is three feet wide, the passage being only 26 inches wide.

The west window has in its left jamb a similar flight and small chamber, with an ambrey and small unglazed ope. Its ceiling has a slit in the floor of the recess of the south window. There are several recesses and ambreys in both the upper rooms. Their southern windows are one above the other, but the eastern, western and northern windows are not so regularly placed ; the only fire place is on the third floor. The upper wall is much split and decayed, and the battlements are entirely removed. The south window of the third floor has a little stone sink into the shaft of the drain.

The tower had a bawn, a strong walled enclosure to the north ; much was standing in 1878, but now only a fragment of the south-eastern bastion rises to anything like its full height. It has two recesses. It is much to be desired that the people of Lisdoonvarna should get these notable castles preserved. The people of Tuam and their Council have set an excellent example of enlightened interest in such matters. How is it that the County Council of "historic Clare" did not lead the way, or at least, follow in so creditable and patriotic a movement? (26)

The Bay of Bealaghaline, just below Doonagore, is a charming spot. Its golden sands, facing the dark, cave-fretted cliffs of Moher ; its great sand hills, which have yielded evidences of a human settlement of the stone age, probably preceding the building of the forts by more centuries than some of the latter preceded that of the castles ; the old shattered peel tower of Doonmacfelin, with its under vault and lofty end wall, form scenes full of interest and beauty. The bay, indeed, catching the full sweep of the Atlantic, rarely fails to add the untold grandeur of rolling waves and the feathery silver of the spray, climbing the cliffs at times for over 60 feet, and falling like waterfalls from the rocks. Strange marine creatures, such as the purple-clad "Portuguese man-of-war," swarms of

(26) I have to thank the Royal Society of Antiquaries for the loan of the line blocks in Part I. of this paper, and the Royal Irish Academy for those facing p. 48. Kilcredaun got inserted in error. I must also thank Dr. George Fogerty for the photographs of the two castles and much other kind help.

opalescent jelly fish, and, if tales be true, unexpected objects, cocoa nuts, American timber, and even a turtle—have been washed up on its strand. Similar finds there must have been, announcing to all thinking men in the past that the great ocean of the sunset was not without its limits; for the Irish and Norse alone, held through the ages, the belief in lands of wonder beyond the waves, waiting till the time foretold by Seneca, when—

“In later years shall come a time,
When oceans shall relax their chains,
And a vast continent appear—
A new Tiphys shall find new worlds,
And Thule shall no longer form Earth’s bounds.” (27)

The tendency of ordinary tourists to keep to the roads, and let their drivers tell them what to look at and what to visit, shuts off many from some of the most pleasant nooks and the objects of the greatest interest in the district. We write to diminish if possible the number of those unhappy people who, having exhausted the stock “sights,” have nothing left on six days a week, but weary “amusements” and “constitutional walks.” The naturalist and antiquary, with any degree of fine weather, cannot know ennui on the Atlantic coast.

To those who wander over the grey crags and grassy ridges, when the wild thyme, cranesbills and bedstraw cover the ferts, there is joy in every field. Down in the hawthorn glens of Oughtdarra, through the flowering marshy plains and the deep runnels of the shale land; among the nearly bare crags of the shore near the sprays—where the samphire branches out of every few inches of soil, and the hartstongue and maiden hair, the hermits of the crannies, make their nests in the rock—or on the yellow sandhills, and the smooth sweeps of strand facing the cliffs of Moher, are pleasures and the “companionship of loneliness,” such as can never be found in the fashionable watering place or pleasure resort. We have only written for the antiquary, but the naturalist will find even a richer banquet, and whatever may come to pass in the future, long must be the period before discovery can cease, and even then who can say that the beauty and richness of the neighbourhood shall be found to have been exhausted? Since “for the fresh heart God new-creates the universe every day and every night.”

(27) Seneca, “Medea”—Columbus was the “Tiphys” piloting a new “Argo” to greater riches than the Golden Fleece.