CASHEL ANNALS—UP TO 1500 A.D.

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It sometimes helps to see history in tabular form. The following list of dates has been compiled from well-known sources to show when the different architectural features of Cashel were erected, and to fit the story of the ancient city into the framework of contemporary history.

We have ended the story with the familiar anecdote of the burning of the Cathedral by the Earl of Kildare. Perhaps it is fitting that the story should break off at this date, for by then all that is finest of Cashel architecture had been built, apart from the Deanery, the 1730 Palace of Archbishop Theophilus Bolton, which is a fine early eighteenth century domestic building.

409. Fall of Rome to the Barbarians.
432. St. Patrick lands in Ireland.
448. St. Patrick visited Cashel at about this time, coming from Fethard to meet the King, whom he baptized.
461. Death of St. Patrick.
847. Death of Peilim Mac Criomthan, first recorded royal bishop, “King of Munster Scribe and Bishop.”
896—908. Cormac Mac Culleannain, King and Bishop, who died in Cashel. By will he left a chalice of gold and silver to the church. The Round Tower was probably built by him.

Belonging approximately to this era are the bell of Cashel (now the property of the Earl of Dunraven), and the silver brooch of Norse thistle design, the property of Trinity College, Dublin.

977. Brian Boru was crowned King of Munster at Cashel.
1000. The sarcophagus covered with interlaced carving which is now in Cormac’s Chapel was erected during this century. From the same era is St. Patrick’s Cross, built on a base which is reputed to have been the coronation stone of the Munster kings.
1014. Battle of Clontarf, in which Brian Boru defeated and broke the power of the Danes.
1028. Donogh, High King of Ireland, summoned a law-making assembly at Cashel.
1054. The Great Schism between the Eastern and Western Churches.
1101. King Murtagh O’Brien granted Cashel to the Church. It was dedicated to “God, St. Patrick, and St. Ailbe.”
1106. Archbishop Cellach of Armagh raised Cashel to the status of an archbishopric at about this time. The Irish Church was thus divided into two provinces.

1111. The Synod of Rathbreasil (a few miles north of Cashel) which organised diocesan episcopacy in Ireland; according to Keating, Maelisa Ua hAilmire attached his signature as Archbishop of Cashel.

1134. Consecration of Cormac’s Chapel during the reign of King Cormac Mac Carthy (1122-38).

1149. Vision of Tundale of Cashel, which was to influence European conceptions of Purgatory.

1152. The Synod of Kells, which extended the diocesan arrangements of the Irish Church. Here the Pallium, the insignia granted by the Pope to

an Archbishop, was bestowed on the newly-created Archbishops of Dublin and Tuam, on the Archbishop of Armagh, and on Donal O Lonergan, Archbishop of Cashel, who, according to the Annals, was “chief senior of Munster, a paragon of wisdom and piety.”

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1155. The Bull "Laudibiliter" of Adrian IV (Nicholas Breakspear, the only English Pope) which gave permission to Henry II to conquer Ireland.

1160. The oldest volume belonging to Cashel Cathedral Library is a manuscript of miscellaneous learning, once the property of Canterbury, which has been dated at 1160.

1169. Foundation of a cathedral on the Rock by King Donal Mor O'Brien. During this year the first Norman invaders landed in Ireland under Robert FitzStephen.

1171. King Henry II landed at Crook, near Waterford, and at once summoned a synod to be held at Cashel.

1172. The Synod of Cashel.

1174. Strongbow defeated in battle near Cashel by Donal Mor O'Brien.

1185. Archbishop O'Hevey appears as one of the witnesses to a charter granted to Holycross Abbey in that year by Donal Mor O'Brien.

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1199. Accession of King John. To this period the antiquarian Austin Cooper ascribes the building of the town castle—later clock tower—still standing in the Main Street. During the 17th century a clock was inserted here by Benjamin Barrington, the celebrated Limerick clock-maker.

1210. Archbishop O'Lonargan, who erected Cashel into a borough.

1224-38. Marianus O'Brien, Archbishop, who in 1230 created a Corporation for Cashel and gave it extensive property and privileges. (Part of his benefaction is enjoyed to this day by the Cashel schools). Much of
the present structure of the Cathedral on the Rock dates from his
time and from that of his successor.

C. 1230. Leper Hospital outside Cashel founded by Sir David de Latimer.


1250. The Crozier of Cashel was made about this time in Limoges. This is
a gilded copper crozier head, set with turquoise and sapphire. It de-
picts St. Michael and the dragon. Found in the sarcophagus, it is
now in the National Museum.

[Image: Mediaeval altar-tomb figures
(Blocks from John Davis White's nineteenth century guide to Cashel)]

During this century Sir William Hackett founded the Franciscan
Friary of Cashel. During the eighteenth century four Hackett effigies
were removed from it and set in the city walls bounding St. John's
Cathedral churchyard.

1253-89. Archbishop David Mac Carwell, founder of Hore Abbey (Cister-
cian). The cathedral crossing and transepts probably date from his
time.
1275. Erection of a gaol in Cashel (subject of much controversy) beside the Church of St. Nicholas.

1316. On Palm Sunday Edward Bruce of Scotland halted his army and held a Parliament at Cashel.

1317-26. Archbishop William Fitz John. The central tower of the Cathedral dates from this period. Under a "Charter of Murage" of 1319 granted by Edward II the town walls were erected.

1332-45. Archbishop John O Grady, to whose era can be traced the Kearney-Crux Crozier, now in St. Patrick's College, Thurles. He was probably the builder of the north and south transepts of the Cathedral.

1406-10. Archbishop O Hedian, who built the Hall of the Vicars Choral, and Archbishop's Castle, and who repaired the Cathedral.

1453. Edmund Mac Richard Butler caused a copy of the Psalter of Cashel to be made by the scribe O Cleirigh. This is the MSS. now in the Bodleian Library.

1480. Archbishop John Cantwell, who rebuilt the Dominican Priory.

1495. Burning of the Cathedral by Gerald, Earl of Kildare, who excused himself to Henry VII by saying that he would not have done it if he had not been told that the Archbishop (David Creagh, 1485-1503) was inside.