The present time is indeed a critical period for Irish Archaeology; the old guardians (such as they were) of the ancient buildings are vanishing, and no one seems ready to take their places. Had the fear of the fairies been replaced by a rational pride in our ancient remains all could hail the more enlightened protection, but, as has too truly been said, men tear down a stone fort, or level a rath or dolmen, singing "Let Erin remember the days of old," when not only remembrance but preservation is a duty to Ireland. The country gentleman had rarely any regard for antiquity, but a castle or a fort in his demesne was usually protected. Now, as the lands are broken up, one might hope that the descendant of the old tribes would show more tenderness for early relics of his ancestors than the descendant of men of another country and history, but this is far from being the case. Save for the support of the Archaeological Societies even publication might become nearly impossible in Ireland. This is a poor country, the interest in the past is satisfied by poor, often inaccurate, "popular" books, and by sketchy newspaper articles, sometimes, indeed usually, by most incompetent persons, inspired by the wildest and most unscientific theories of the dark days of Vallancey and Ledwich. Our wealthy men spend their surplus mainly on field sports and other amusements, and what has been spent in Clare in one year on hunting and racing may equal all the State grants (and even private benevolence) in support of the study of our past given during many years. In 1898 a short note on the forts of S.-W. Clare drew from the Limerick Field Club the suggestion that this interesting district might be worked; I hoped that this might have been done locally, but nothing came of it. Ten years later I ventured to take up what no one else seemed inclined to do, and harvested (in some
degree) this rich field, so far as its principal forts were concerned. I
now gladly take advantage of the willingness of the North Munster
Archæological Society to publish my notes, not only on the early remains,
but on the castles and churches of the Irrus. Of the castles, none
approaches in interest the residence of the O'Briens, Lords of Clare, at
Carrigaholt.

From almost every point, from the high grounds of Moveen, along
the ridge past Killheagh, and from the Kerry shores across the Shannon,
the thin dark tower of the castle is a conspicuous object. As we pass
through the village, or see it from the fields to the south-west, or go round
the shrubberies of Mr. Burton's pretty villa, and the masses of flowering
hydrangeas, the plain old tower is a striking and even beautiful object;
the most picturesque view (that which we give here) is from the end of
the little pier at the harbour. Unfortunately, when we deal with its
history, the lack of records of the 15th century hampers our first step.
In eastern Clare we have, at least, old (if not infallible) tradition in the
castle founders' list, but its compilers had little, if any, knowledge of the
western peel towers, and Carrigaholt is not given. This castle probably
dates in the closing period of the 15th century, or in the following years.
There are no distinctive features in the earlier work, and most of the
inserted windows evidently date about the same time as the fire place,
_æ._ 1603. The place was of so little note that it is only in 1598 that it is
even named in history, in which, despite its fine position, it finds little
place. The district (leaving out the early tribes (1) and their successors,
the O'Donnells) passed into the powers of the MacMahons, perhaps
about the middle of the 11th century, but every point seems uncertain.
We have their pedigree from Brian to Donchad Carrach, but little more
than the names in the main line of descent (2). In 1277, Torlough
O'Brien, who had deposed his uncle, King Brian Ruadh, went to

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(1) The ancient chiefs of Corcavaskin (so far as recorded) are—717, MacTolam-
nach, slain by Connacht men; 817, Aedh Roin d.; 862, Cermac, son of Cethernach,
slain by the Norse; 913, Lena, son of Cethernach, d.; 918, Murchad, son of Flann, d.;
992, Dunadach, son of Diarmait, d.; 1013, Donall, his brother, slain 1014, at Clont-
tart; from him the O'Donnell chiefs were named; Anesul, his son, slain 1149; Ua
Domnall, slain by O'Conor of Corcomroe, 1158.

(2) For the following see the wars of the Gaedhil with Gall, the Cathreim Thoir-
dhealbhagh. The Annals of the Four Masters; Inquisitions in the Public Record
Office; Frost's History of Co. Clare, p. 65, 74, 75, 78, Book of Lecan, p. 430;
old Kerry Records (Miss Hickson), vol. 1, p. 106.
Corcavaskin to visit Teige Rory MacMahon. While there the alarming news reached him that the exiled prince, aided by Thomas de Clare, had returned and re-taken Clonroad Palace. Torlough, taken by surprise and isolated from his most faithful allies, the MacNamaras, could only make a hasty flight up the coast, stopping at Tromrach with Donall, son of Teige Aluinn O'Brien, and going thence to seek protection from Donall Manach O'Connor, of Corcomroe, before his uncle could pursue and catch him in the corner of Thomond. The Irros was plundered later on in the civil wars of the two houses of O'Brien in 1315. The Cathreim Thoirdealbhach tells how, after the "breach of Drumdearg," Mortogh O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, heard that Donchad (son of Donall and grandson of King Brian Ruadh) O'Brien had fled southward. The prince, with his triumphant army and an English contingent, lent by his dangerous ally, De Clare, "entered the hills of western Irros—churches and holy places excepted—in its outlying parts and hindmost nooks in the hills, in cave and deep glen, from famed Cuchullin's Leap, to enoc an lochá (Knockalough near Kilmihil), they ravaged the land. Nor in all the region they punished left they an unburnt stronghold." In 1359 Morogh Oge MacMahon, heir to the Lordship, was slain by the O'Briens; as his followers lamented, "the sapling blighted by the parent tree." In 1383 died Donough an Chiul, or Donchadh Carrach (3) MacMahon, Chief of Corcavaskin. His son, Dermot, was father of Rory Buide, who left a son, Torlough Bodhar MacMahon, Chief of Corcavaskin, who, in 1426, was burned by his own kinsmen in a night attack. His brother, Donchad na Glaise ("six-fingered"?), continued the line. Teige Mor (evidently his son Teige) died in 1432, while heir apparent. In 1460, the redoubtable O'Maille clan, true even then to the motto: "Terra marique potens," (4) with certain O'Brien allies, attacked Corcavaskin, but were beaten off by the MacMahon, with some loss. The pedigree gives Teige Oge, son of Teige More, as the chief at that time. His son, Torlough, was the next chief. He died in 1488, with the noble record, "a man of grace and wisdom." The same year, when Donchadh, the chief, died, two lines of chiefs were established, and

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(3) It is curious how many unpleasant epithets attach to this family. Carrach, scabby or mangy; glaise, awkward-fisted; na niomadh, long-clawed; bodhar, deaf; casch, blind or short-sighted; and baccagh, lame, all in the chieftain lines alone.

(4) Monument in the Monastery of Cluain (Clare Island), Co. Mayo.
Corcavaskin divided between them—namely, Brian, his son, and Teige Roe, son of his predecessor, Torlough. This was the turning point in the fortunes of the race; both lines suffered, and the Western lost all influence, and sank into nearly complete obscurity till an ill-judged seizure of a ship sufficed to bring about its final ruin. Teige Roe died in 1513; his son, Mortough, in 1545; his son was chief, presumably in 1568, and died in 1594, whence three generations—Torlough Roe d. 1629 (5). Sir Teige, Baronet of Clonderlaw, and Sir Turlough, living to the time of the great civil war, complete the Eastern line of chiefs. The Eastern line was known as "the race of Tuath na fearna" 1589, this being the "Toanefeorna," reserved in Perrot's composition of 1585. That territory was bounded to the north by the Bealacorick river, and lay round the Castle of Dangan Moybulc, a picturesque ivied tower, with a strangely-balanced turret on top, and itself on a boldly-upheaved rock ridge near Ballymacally.

There is even less to be told of the Western chiefs, with whose chief castle we are at present more concerned; nor have I (any more than my predecessors) been able to attach their line to the main stem of MacMahon. Donchadh Baccagh, "the lame," Donchadh and Brien succeeded to the chiefry. Torlough, son of Brien, was "of great fame and character throughout Erin, if we consider the smallness of his heritage, for he had but one triucha caed of land." He died in 1595, and his son, Teige Cacht, "the short-sighted," proved too well deserving in character, if not physically, of his sobriquet. Ignorant (6) and reckless he seized on an English ship, "which had been going astray some time," and put into shelter near his castle of Carraig an Choblaigh in 1598. Teige took it from the crew, "with all its valuables, but the profit was very trivial and the punishment severe." Not content with this the feeblest of the chiefs of Thomond offended the most powerful, the Earl of Thomond, and, as if he had not done enough, he seized on Dunbeg Castle, pledged to a Limerick merchant. Dissatisfied with the enmities he had aroused he sought aid from James, the Sugan Earl of Desmond, and thus reinforced, beat off Torlough O'Brien, who had hired a troop of


(6) "He was bounteous, and a purchaser of wine, horses, and literary works," but he evidently did not realise the trend of events or the strength of the Government.
English soldiers, and attacked Teige for his seizure of the ship. The Earl of Thomond, confident of an easy victory, marched to the west, but MacMahon, not even waiting to be invaded, went to meet him, surprised him at Kilmurry Ibrickan, scattered his forces, and took the Earl prisoner. He confined him in Dunbeg Castle, but after a week had cooled down the angry chief, some slight consideration prevailed, and he set his now implacable captive free without terms; ill-advised in this as in everything. Hugh O’Donnell’s invasions gave the Earl plenty of employment for a while, then came a pause, and the English party could attend to its less dangerous foes. Even still there was room for repentance, but Teige held out. Sir Conyers Clifford, the Governor of Connacht, sent soldiers, under Richard Scurlock, the sheriff of Clare, and others, to reduce various robber chiefs in Thomond. They arrived at Carrigaholt, and were ready to give peace to MacMahon, but he refused and shut himself up in his tower. Unprepared for a siege, and obliged to hurry back to Ennis for the sessions, they left him, after plundering his lands. About a month later the Earl of Thomond fell upon the district, which he plundered from Knockerra (Cnoc doire, four miles from Kilrush) to Leim Chonculainn (Loop Head), and four days after Easter sat down before Carrigaholt. A cannon was sent from Limerick, probably by water. Carrigaholt was besieged, and MacMahon and his son, Torlough, fled in the luckless ship. Having reduced the castle, which surrendered on the fourth day of the siege, the Earl next went on to Dunbeg. The fear of cannon, even of the little feeble guns of the day, was very great in Thomond, and the castle surrendered on terms which were instantly violated, for the Earl had not forgiven his imprisonment, “and the protection they obtained only lasted while they were led to the gallows, from which they were hanged in couples face to face.” He then took Dunmor mhic an Fheormicaigh, and restored other castles to their owners, and the power of the MacMahons was ended. Very briefly must we tell the tragic end of the chief of Corcavaskin. He went to Berehaven in 1602, and sought help from O’Sullivan of Dunboy. Again the unfortunate ship was destined to complete his ruin. O’Sullivan asked for her to send to Spain for help against the English, and Teige refused. The chief of Dunboy accordingly took his visitor with him in a boat, probably as a hostage, and rowed out to the ship. Suspecting a plot to seize his only possession, Teige, as they neared the ship, shouted
to his son, Torlough, to shoot at O'Sullivan. The unhappy young man fired, and shot his father (7). In the confusion the innocent parricide was able to sail away. He fled to Spain, and vanishes from history in agony and remorse.

The peasantry, however, told a different tale (which I reserve for the account of Dunleeky Castle), which attributed the ruin of MacMahon to his attempt to slay an O'Brien, who was making love to his daughter.

Daniel O'Brien, the hero of the legend, certainly stepped into possession the year after the death of his predecessor, the remodelled windows and the fire place, evidently by the same workmen, with "D.B. 1603," attest this. The grant to him of MacMahon's lands was only perfected a year later. It dates in September, 1604, giving him "Daniel O'Brien, brother of the Earl of Thomond," the lands, &c., of Carigkuchowl, Donbegg, Ballekittes, Moyart, Dunlike, Dowagh (at Kilkee), Goer, &c., a very long list (8).

Whether the young man deserved it by any service to the Government, I am not aware, but it is probable that the Earl being the victim of imprisonment by the imprudent, "short-sighted Teige," was able to get the grant for his brother, so as to have a reliable ally in the south-west of Thomond. The Earl was all powerful and all necessary to the English, that he valued their friendship above honour and truth is seen by his conformity to the Established Church, while "a Catholic at heart," for which Father Mooney (9) gives him no more severe censure than "that worldly nobleman." He had been engaged in cajoling, or forcing, the independent communities, such as the O'Conors of Corcomroe, to subordinate their rights to him, and the O'Gormans had confirmed his rights in a remaining third of Dunbeg Castle. So it is evident that he regarded himself as his brother's keeper, and procured Daniel's advancement as a step to his own interest in a far wider scheme.

In our anxiety to keep together the tale of the MacMahon chiefs we were compelled to pass by a small episode of a great event. In the merciless north-west gales of September, 1588, several ships of the Spanish Armada put into the Shannon mouth in their frantic search for

(7) Annals Four Masters. Inquisition, 22nd July, 1608, P.R.O.I. He was shot on June 15th, 1602.
(9) The report of Father D. Mooney, 1619.
water and rest. Sir Richard Bingham reports to the Lord Deputy that he has been informed that seven ships had arrived at Cargecolly, not 20 miles from Limerick, on February 8th. He was evidently uneasy, but six put out to sea on the 10th, after setting the seventh on fire, and letting her drift ashore. Dysentery from bad food and worse water was taking more than its tithe of the crews, and there were probably not enough survivors to man the whole number. The news of the Dunbeg and Mutton Island wrecks, and of the departure of the mighty Zuniga from Liscannor Bay, reassured the Government, and Bingham tells with pleasure how some hundreds of Spaniards, who escaped the sea in County Clare, were taken and put to execution (10).

For Daniel O’Brien there was a long, rather curious career. He was the third and youngest son of Conor, Earl of Thomond, by his second wife, Owney, daughter of Torlough MacIbrien Arra, and was a captain in the army of Elizabeth. He was knighted at Leixlip, July 1st, 1604, and was Member of Parliament for the County Clare, retiring in 1639, in order to take his place as its representative in the Confederate Catholic Parliament at Kilkenny. He took an active part in the war, and did some unspecified services for King Charles. In February, 1642, Sir Daniel helped to besiege Ballyalla, along with his son, Conor, then of Ballymacooda, Conor O’Brien of Lemaneagh, and others. The quaint details of the siege, and the wonderful "lethren goon" concern us not, save that it was Sir Daniel, who, after lighting a number of fires to distract the garrison, sent forty musketeers in the dark to capture the haggard, and cut off the defenders from the water supply. The garrison made the place too hot for the intruders, shot several, prevented food reaching them, and finally the Irish had to send a cot to relieve them across the lake. A little later, in a sally, all the men were killed, save one who swam across the lake (11).

In the depositions Sir Daniel’s acts of hostility to the English settlers find constant mention. Gregory Hickman heard that O’Brien’s followers had murdered William Mor at Kilrush, and he was unable to recover debts owing to him from Conor, of Ballymacooda. Teige Roe O’Brien, another son of Sir Daniel, took part in the Siege of Tromra,

(10) Calendar State Papers, Ireland, 1588.
(11) "Cuffe’s Journal of the Siege of Ballyalla" (Camden Society).
and "imprecated the curse of God upon anyone that did not join
in the Rebellion." Teige was at that time at Newmarket-on-
Fergus. Sir Daniel took away £1,500 of the goods of William
Chambers to Ballykett, and added to his injurious conduct by captur-
ing the complainant, with Jacques Graniere, and the latter's three
sons, and imprisoning them in the same castle. A certain Robert
Abraham complained of being robbed by Sir Daniel O'Brien of Carriga-
holt. He also repudiated his debts to George Waters, of Ennis,
merchant, but on the whole the recorded acts of Sir Daniel and his sons
are either open warfare or somewhat vague ideas as to the sanctity of
the property of non-combatants, no actual murders or atrocities are
attributed to the family.

On June 16th, 1646, after the surrender of Bunratty Castle to the
Confederates, under Rinuccini, the Archbishop of Fermo, Sir William
Penn, father of the famous Quaker, the founder of Pennsylvania, sailed
down the Shannon, frustrated of his attempt to hold the ancient castle of
the O'Briens. He lay at Enniscattery on the 16th, drifted down to Sir
Donnell O'Brien's Castle of Carragholt, whence they sailed away to
Kinsale the following day, leaving the west in the hands of the
Confederates.

In 1651 the scale turned against the Confederates. Limerick was
beset by Ireton, and Ludlow was sent to reduce Carragholt. Just then
an untoward event (unfortunately still common in those parts) delayed
the fall of the tower, but by very little. General Ludlow, in his draughty
tent on a hill near Clare Castle, caught a heavy cold. There was no doctor,
so he nursed himself. It brings "the man of iron" within the limits of our
sympathies to read how he improvised a sort of Turkish bath in a cabin
of which he had taken possession. He put on a buff coat over his clothes,
a fur jacket over it, and over all an oil coat, and went to sleep. Next
morning he was so heated that he had to lie up under the protection of two
troops of horse, the foot soldiers having been sent on to Moyarta. He
was unable to start for some time, and when they came up with the men
it was in a severe gale, with hail beating in their faces till the horses used
to turn their backs on it.

At last they came near Moyasta, near which they met the first and-
only active opposition. The O'Cahans succeeded in killing Captain
CARRICAHOLT CASTLE FROM THE NORTH.
Scaff and cut off his head, fixing it on the gable of Kildimo Church. In fording the arm of the sea at Moyasta, near the Black Weir, they found the crossing troublesome, and the water up to their arm-pits.

At last the army of the Parliament was before Carrigaholt Castle, which Ludlow summoned to surrender. The garrison did not care to bring down vengeance upon them for the sake of an evidently lost cause. Commissioners were appointed, and after some negotiation certain articles were allowed, and the tower was surrendered. Some of the garrison were let cross into Kerry to join Lord Muskerry, the rest went to their homes under Ludlow's protection. The building was maintained for a garrison in 1652, and the dues of oats paid by the Barony were brought to it and Kilquiei (Kilkee) Castle for storage. In 1653 Sir Daniel O'Brien had four cows restored to him by Samuel Burton.

The Parliament had prevailed, and the whole large estate of O'Brien was confiscated, but the exile was a blessing in disguise, as it ingratiated his grandson with the exiled king. When Charles II. sat on his father's throne young O'Brien reminded him of his promise, with better success than many of the ruined royalists, it was fully granted. Sir Daniel (now over 80 years of age) was created Baron of Moyarta and Viscount of Clare, 11th July, 1662. The patent recited that the king acted from his interest felt in the younger Daniel, the grandson of the new peer, who had not stayed at home, but had ventured life and fortune on foreign service in the king's behalf. The family estates were restored and confirmed under Act of Settlement, 27th December, 1666, but the old peer had passed away before the grant. It was made to him the king delighted to honour "Daniel O'Brien, son and heir of Conor Lord Viscount O'Brien of Clare, son and heir of Sir Daniel O'Brien, late Lord Viscount of Clare," confirming Carrigahoultly, and a long list of lands. The date of Daniel's death is unrecorded; it probably took place in 1664. The place of his burial is equally unknown, but may have been in the family vaults at Ennis.

Conor, the second Viscount, was born about 1605, being son of Sir Daniel by his wife Catherine, Dowager Viscountess of Fermoy, daughter of the unfortunate Gerald, Earl of Desmond, by his second wife, Eleanor.

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daughter of Edmond Butler, Baron of Dunboyne. He married Honora, daughter of Daniel O’Brien, of Dough Castle, of whom we had somewhat to tell of his humanity to the English, and his interference after the siege of Tromra, in former papers. Little of any interest is attainable about this nobleman, being nearly 60 years of age when he succeeded to the peerage, he probably yearned for quiet after the long years of strife and exile, and he lived at his old home so obscurely that even the date of his death is unknown, but probably took place in or about 1670. Then, at last, the man for whom the peerage was originally intended succeeded to the title.

Daniel O’Brien, the third Viscount, was destined to bring his family to irretrievable ruin. He held the extensive estates, all Kilballyowen Parish, and much of Moyarta and Killieragh, with other lands through the county, for about 19 years. Then, James II. was deposed and came to Ireland. Daniel’s loyalty to the Stuart line shone out; he raised two regiments of Infantry and one of Dragoons, for the King in 1689, regarded as the “flower of King James’ army,” but the doomed regiments were nearly cut to pieces in an ambuscade near Lisnaskea, July 26th, 1689. Lord Clare fought at the Boyne, and was outlawed in May, 1691, he died in that year (14) before the ruin fell on him, leaving a son, Daniel, by his wife Philadelphia, sister of Thomas, first Earl of Sussex, and daughter of Paul Bayning, Viscount Bayning of Sudbury, she had died 1662,

The estate of 56,931 acres was confiscated, and in February 26th, 1698, was granted by William to his faithful friend, Keppel, Earl of Albemarle, who sold it at once to Francis Burton, Nicholos Westby, and James MacDonnell (15), thus forestalling its resumption by the Parliament, indignant at William’s favoritism.

Daniel, the fourth Lord Clare, a ruined man, retired to France commanding certain Irish regiments there, April 7th, 1699, King James formed them into part of the “Old Brigade,” at their head Lord Clare was mortally wounded at the victory of Marsaglia, gained by Catinat over Prince Eugene and the allies, 4th October, 1693, and died soon afterwards at Pigneron.

(14) His will is preserved in an Inquisition connected with the forfeiture. It is given in the late Mr. James Frost’s History of Co. Clare.

(15) Patent Rolls, Ireland.
His son, Charles, had accompanied Queen Mary, of Modena, to France, fought at Marsaglia, Blenheim, and Ramillies, where he was mortally wounded, and died in the Irish Monastery, at Brussels. Charles the sixth Viscount, like all his race, a brave soldier, was (before he had time to win his promotion) made a Captain at the age of 5, and a Colonel at 21. He was allowed to visit England, and promised restitution of his lands and honours if he conformed to the Established Church, but he refused. He was wounded at Philipsburgh in 1734, and made Inspector-General. His kinsman, Henry, Earl of Thomond, bequeathed him £2,000, and he assumed the title as next in descent, but it was never recognised by the English, and he was generally known as the Mareschal Compte de Thomond. He commanded at Dettingen, 1743, and Fontenoy, 1745, greatly distinguished himself at Roucroix and was made Knight of the Order of the Saint Esprit, 1746. He was Governor of New Brissac in Alsace, Commander and Chief of Languedoc, he died on November 9th, 1761 (16) at Montpellier, and his young wife died two years later, at the age of 20. Their son, Charles, titular Earl of Thomond, seventh Viscount of Clare and Baron of Ibrickan, died unmarried, under age, 29th December, 1774, in Paris; his sister, Antoinette, married the Duc de Choiseul Praslin, and left descendants (17). Truly great were the sacrifices of love and loyalty made to the ill-deserving Stuarts.

The next owners of Carrigaholt were the Burton family, who still hold it. They are descended from Sir Edward Burton, of Longner and Boerton (Burton) in Shropshire, who distinguished himself in the Wars of the Roses, on the side of Edward IV., by whom he was made a Knight Banneret in 1460; six generations later his descendant, Francis Burton, settled at Buncragny, near Ennis, in 1610, and from his brother, Thomas, of Eastwick, Shropshire, Mr. William Conyngham Burton, the present owner, and his cousins, the Lords Conyngham, of Slane Castle, on a beautiful reach of the Boyne, in Co. Meath, are descended.


It only remains for us to describe the Peel Tower. It stands on a low shore formed of long reefs of rock, with a bank of drift clay, into which the waves of the wide, and often stormy, Shannon are working great havoc. Tradition says (credibly enough) that Lord Clare used to drill his famous dragoons in a large and long-vanished field between the Castle and the river. How the place got its name, the Rock of the Fleet (18), or the Ulsterman’s Rock, is lost, the Records (as we saw) only commence at the very end of the 16th century, but shore names often have originated from some very casual circumstance, probably in this case from the drowning of some visitor from the northern province, or the wreck of a ship. The older name found in the rental of “1392,” and still attached to part of the lands, is Roin meic n dirge. The name form runs Carraig an Chobhlaigh, 1598, Carrigaholt in the Castle list, perhaps 1580-84. Carrighoylein, the Hardiman maps from 1590 to 1603. Carrickgoholgy, containing Reinmacderig, in the Visitation of 1622. Rathmacdirigg in the Survey of “1675” (19) with a little view of “Carrigaholt Castle as held by Lord Clare.” The local belief has long favoured the less attested meaning.

The building, as is evident from the 1675 sketch, had a large mansion attached to the western side, and, indeed, apart from the projecting bond stones and other marks on the west wall, the tower evidently forms a porch to some vanished building. The 1675 house evidently replaced the usual main wing of the normal Peel Tower, with three stories, the lower usually vaulted, and the gateway section rising a story higher. The doorway, which we illustrate, faces the east, and is a neat pointed ope, recessed, with a shot hole in the south pier, and two sloping opes for pouring scalding water on unwelcome visitors; the porch is further defended by a “murder hole” in the vault; the inner door is pointed with a projecting slit in the west wall of the turret and there are pointed doorways to each side in the porch. A vaulted cellar, long used for wine till it proved to be too accessible to thieves, lies to the north, while to the south is a room from which a spiral stair ascends in the S.W. corner, with a small room to the east. A door opened into the stair passage from the demolished building, and old

(19) At Edenvale, p. 31.
CARRIGAHOLT CASTLE.—THE EAST DOOR.
iron pikes were discovered built up in the wall of the cellar. The S.E. closet has the original slits to the S. and E. The steps have rounded ends, not a true newel, and are, like the greater part of the masonry, of thin flagstones. We reach the next floor at the 17th step; a side wing opened at the 35th; at the 46th is a window recess to the S., at 57th is a side room, at 68th another window recess looking southward, at 77th we reach the large unvaulted upper room with a stone floor, the large fire-place with D.B., and a turret to the N.W. The west window has a neat diaper pattern cut on its jambs, one of the few attempts at ornament in the plain old house. From this 16 decayed wooden steps lead to the battlements, the roof was in good condition in 1896, but the ends of the beams have since got greatly decayed, and it is dangerously near collapse. The view from the summit, though wide and pleasant, is rather flat and unpicturesque.

Taking the rooms under the main upper room in order, the upper has a pointed vault and decayed wooden floor, the next has a collapsed ceiling and floor, the next has a broken ceiling and a stone floor over the cellar vault, there being five stories in all. The second story has a curious curved passage round part of the spiral stair, the stairs are stepped underneath instead of the smoothly dressed work usual in limestone built staircases, and two of them have marks like mason marks, one an O, the other a centre line with two ribs or branches to each side. The vault under the top room was turned over wicker centres. All the inner doors are plainly chamfered. The lesser rooms have modern fire-places, and I hear that servants used to occupy these rooms in comparatively recent times, though the Burton family have not lived in them since early in the last century. The older windows are all closed, they run one above the other from the east door upward. The windows of the north rooms have angular heads with hoods ending in stepped drops, two oblong lights and lintels over the splays, but modern windows fill the old frames, they are evidently of the 1603 restoration. There is also one of these in each of the five upper stories, and a plain oblong light in the sixth, or basement storey. The windows to the rooms in the S.E. angle and other parts of the tower are plain slits, and there are machicholutions at the N.W. corner of the upper storey, and in the battlements above the east door. The crenellations and chimneys do not seem very old.
I need not describe the forts round Carrigaholt, there is a lofty and well preserved example called Lissanuala, on the summit of the low ridge in Rahona West, visible from the Castle. It is 102 feet across the garth, 176 feet over all, with a fosse of 8 feet deep and 10 feet wide at the bottom and rings, the inner rising some 16 feet above it and 27 feet wide. A low fort hardly 4 feet above the field lies in Reinmacderrig, probably the Rathmacderrig of the 1655 Survey.

The churches and church sites of Kilcredaun, Temple an aird, and Moyarta I must reserve for the concluding section.

(TO BE CONCLUDED.)