

4. (4)

in this parish, and it is the burial-place of the family of Smyth, ennobled in the person of the present Lord Gort.

MUNGRETT, a parish, partly in the barony of *Pubblebrien*, but chiefly in the county of the city of *Limerick*, 3 miles (W.) from Limerick on the road to Adare; containing 3475 inhabitants. An abbey is said to have been founded here in the fourth century, prior to the arrival of St Patrick in Munster, who, it appears, placed over it St Nesson, who died in 551. He was succeeded by St Munchin, nephew of Bloid, King of Thomond, who was ordered by St Patrick, on account of his unexampled piety and extensive learning, to undertake the instruction of his converts in *Connaught*, and afterwards became the first Bishop of Limerick. The abbey was plundered and burned by the Danes in 820, 834, and 840, and in 934 and 1080 suffered severely by fire; it was soon after restored, but was plundered and sacked by the Danes in 1107. After its restoration from this last attack, it continued to flourish till the dissolution, after which the greater portion of its possessions were granted to the bishop and dignitaries of the cathedral of St Mary, Limerick. The *Psalter of Cashel* states that this monastery had within its walls six churches, and, exclusive of numerous scholars, 1500 monks, of whom 500 were learned preachers, 500 psalmists, and 500 wholly employed in spiritual exercises. The Knights Templars had also an establishment here, which, on the suppression of that order, was granted to the monks of the Augustinian abbey. The parish, which is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, comprises 5927 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act; the greater part of the land is under tillage, and towards the Shannon are some extensive and luxuriant meadows. The soil is fertile, and the system of agriculture improved. Near the church is a turlough of about 42 acres, called Loughmore, which in winter is an entire sheet of water, and in summer a fine common. The lands are well fenced in some parts, and in others enclosed by broken stone walls: there are two very valuable bogs, comprising together about 150 acres. A considerable portion of the parish belongs to the see of Limerick; the late country residence of the bishop, called *Cunegar*, situated in the centre of a fertile district, has been purchased, under the Church Temporalities Act, by Charles Wilson, Esq., and is now in the occupation of a farmer: the entrance lodge has been converted into a barrack for the constabulary police force stationed here.

The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Limerick; the



