KILKEE (CO. CLARE) AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

PART III.

DUNBEG TO KILKEE.

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

(Continued from Page 52).

The coast to the north of Kilkee is less frequented than the southern cliffs, nor is this wonderful as no road runs along their edge, and to see them with comfort a long drive through an unpicturesque country is necessary. As to walking from Kilkee to Baltard the steep hill behind George’s Head repels all the less energetic, and, indeed, few who climb it go much farther than enables them to overlook Farighy to the long headland of Doonegall.

Let us begin by driving to Dunbeg, the farthest point in our district, and work homewards to Kilkee.

DUNBEG AND DUNMORE.

We have been met at every point in the west of “historic Clare” by the difficulty of finding any definite records, and still more, any likely to be of general interest. Dunbeg and its appanage, Dunmore, are no exception. Of course, as I have pointed out, it is unreasonable to expect a romantic tale such as attaches to one of the great English, French, or Rhine castles, at every little obscure peel tower. They are not castles; only the houses of private gentlemen; quiet, obscure people, living out of the stirring world, probably in a mere round of farming hospitality and local sport. Still had one of the Clare gentry in the 16th or early 17th century kept a diary how interesting even its simple, uneventful record might have been to more than antiquaries. The castle founders
THE CASTLES OF DUNBEG AND DUNMORE IN 1893.
list attributes the building of Dunbeg to an unknown Philip MacSheeda More McCon, who is also given as the builder of Dunmore (1). If by "McCon" MacNamara is intended, as some think, then the statement is valueless, as that family had no recorded connection with south-western Clare till much later times.

The only glimpse at the past history of Dunmore and Dunbeg before the later years of Queen Elizabeth lies in the name of the first Dúnmór Mhic an Fearmaigh. This and another record show that a family from Inchiquin of the blood of Cineil Fermaic owned the "Big," and probably also the "little" fort. So obscure was the place that even its forts were nameless save as to their respective size. The castles were probably built about the year 1500. So utterly plain are they that not a moulding or a window head or a cut stone remains to tell us even vaguely of their date. The Scotch peel tower flaunts the arms, the initials or the name of its founder and owner before the eyes of all. But with us native armorial bearings hardly existed, and neither the tribal ensigns nor any record of the founder (2) were carved in stone. So also there is no reason to believe that in the long gap from the English invasion to 400 years, later many of the kings or chiefs, or even of the clergy had their last resting place marked by effigy (3) or epitaph. It is, indeed, most unaccountable, but must be faced, for it has everywhere left us without the help found on every hand in more favoured places. The first event in the records of Dunbeg was in 1588, when one of the Armada ships, having escaped the "shipwrecking reefs" between Mutton Island and Tromra, on which its companion was lost (hopelessly embayed as it was with a north-westerly storm), went ashore near the mouth of the Dunbeg River. The people of the district must have got rich spoils in the estuary and on the strand before the great sandhills, for the Government only strove to secure the guns leaving the human wolves to complete what the waves and storms had so well begun (4). Probably not one of the crew even lived to be hanged so fierce is the surf in the angle of that wild

(1) Founder's list, British Museum. Ed.—S. H. O'Grady.
(2) In the majority of cases the dates and initials found in our western peel towers refer to the insertion of a chimney piece or to later repairs, not to the actual foundation.
(3) One only recalls the effigies of Kings and chiefs in the Abbeys of Corcomroe, Roscommon and and Dungiven.
(4) "Calendar State Papers, Ireland," 1588.
bay. About the same time Mahon, son of Dubh MacGormann, whose remarkable castle and earthworks I have recently described (5), held Dunmore Castle. This in a deed in the Hardiman collection he surrendered to the Earl of Thomond, who, strong in the support of the Elizabethan Government, of which he was so useful a tool, was endeavouring to secure powers over the leading tribes like the O’Conors, the O’Loughlins and the MacGormans. Mahon’s rights were derived through his wife, Judith ni Mhic Gormain, to a third of Dunmor Castle then occupied by Donough, son of Dermot MacFearmacaigh (6) “The Four Masters” tell how in 1598 Teig Caech MacMahon of Carrigaholt, the last chief of West Corcavaskin (so often mentioned in these papers), seized the castle of Dunbeg, which he had mortgaged to a Limerick merchant for a debt. Next year, 1598, the unrest everywhere encouraged him to more inexorable acts. He seized an English ship with a valuable cargo at Carrigaholt, and with little concealment crossed the Shannon, and had an interview with the “Sugan Earl,” James of Desmond, a man of far higher character and ability than himself. Fooled to the top of his bent, and ready to defy all the English power by his own might, he returned to Carrigaholt. Destiny promptly set a trap for him, and he rushed into it. Not many hours ride from Dunbeg at Kilmurry Ibrickan (cill mhuire o mbracain), lay Donnell (Daniel O’Brien), brother of the Earl of Thomond (7). The weakest of Thomond’s chiefs—determined to strike at the strongest, so on the long dark night of February 17th, he marched northward, and, before sunrise, had wounded and captured O’Brien, and slain many of his unwary guards. He brought his prisoner to Dunbeg, and (always vacillating) after a week of cool reflection got frightened at his own act, and released his captive without terms, securities, or even promises. In 1599, his territory was invaded by Theobald Dillon and Torlough O’Brien “to make their peace with Tieve MacMahon,” as they quaintly described it. He refused their terms, so they carried off some spoils and retreated. Doubtless he felt

all the more confident in the impotence of the Crown forces and their Irish allies. The Earl got leisure about a month later to attend to MacMahon, so he set off and reached Carrigaholt the Monday before Easter that April. Blockading the castle, he sent bands to waste systematically all West Corcavaskin from Cnoc Doire (Knockerra) to Leim Chonchulainn (Loop Head) they swept up all the cattle, and drove them to the camp before MacMahon's eyes. How many houses and forts were burned, and people wounded or slain, we can only fancy, but the tribe lay defenceless and no active resistance was attempted. During the week, though carefully observing the great day of Good Friday, the Earl pressed on the attack, and the town surrendered on the 4th day (8)—Easter Saturday. On the next Monday Thomond sent a boat to Limerick for artillery, and on its arrival marched to Dunbeg. No sooner had he planted his ordnance before the dark old peel tower than the garrison, one cannot call them "defenders," surrendered, "they did not wait for a single shot." They gained little by their cowardice for "the protection obtained only lasted while they were led to the gallows from which they were hanged in couples face to face," as the Annalists, with grim sarcasm, note. "In the same manner the Earl obtained possession of Dún mór mhic an Phearmacaigh." He sent back the ordnance to Limerick and, trusting that the MacMahons were reduced to impotence, marched eastward to restore various other castles to their owners—Derryowen, in the north, the two Castletowns near Clooney and Lisoffin (Lis uedha finn) near Tulla in East Clare (9).

As I have so often told, Teige Caech and his son fled, overshadowed by doom, he tried to get refuge with the formidable O'Sullivan Bere, flying to Dunboy in the ship he had stolen from the merchant. O'Sullivan coveted the ship, Teige being with some O'Sullivans in a boat, called to his son to fire and fell shot. When the Spanish invasion of Cork had collapsed and they and some of their Irish supporters left for Spain, we catch the last glimpse of the unfortunate young man, landless, tribeless, his innocent hands stained with his father's blood. "Terlaugh, son to Teige Keagh McMhowny, who slew his father, when Dunboy was besieged, and five Frenchmen that were taken by Teige Keagh when he took the ship and merchant of Galway, left Ireland for Spain." (10)

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(9) Annals Four Masters.
Daniel was well repaid for his week's imprisonment at Dunbeg. By the Earl's influence, in 1604 the Government granted him the Castle of Dunbeg and most of his captor's estates. The short confiscation under Cromwell was cancelled by Charles II. under the Act of Settlement in December 1666. The Survey of 1675 (11) gives rather conventional sketches of Dunmore and Dunbeg, unlike many of its other views which often give the salient features accurately. It omits the lofty turret that so recently fell at Dunmore which is shown like the present Dunbeg while Dunbeg is like neither of the towers. The castles were confiscated in 1688 and sold 1703. As to the tenants of the district—The Inquisition of July 19th, 1609, finds that various persons held lands from Teige Caech MacMahon, slain at Dunboy, June 15th the XLI. year of Elizabeth. Moyadda and Knockerry were held by Teige, son of Shoneen, MacGorman; Doonlickey by Owen MacSweeney; Dough (Kilke) by Owen MacCahane (Keane); Corbally by William MacCraghe; Dunbeg by Nicholas oge Stritch (I presume the merchant mortgagee of the Annals); Owen O'Cahane also held Lisdeen, Liscunaghain, and Kildima. Another important record of Teige Caech's lands dates March 5th, 1613. James Comyn held Doonbeg Castle and lands from the Earl in 1622. In 1641 and 1652 the following land holders may be noted—In Killard Parish, John MacNamara; James Fitzgerald; Glasloone by Mahone Kelly; Caherlean by Maurice Poche; Doonbeg by James Fox and Maurice Roche. In Kilfarragh, Sir Daniel O'Brien held Corbally, Dough, Kilke and Kilfaragh; Hugh MacSweeney held Kilke under him; Farridy belonged to the Earl of Thomond; Lisdeen and Lisluinaghain to Charles Cahane, the last place was sold to Benjamin Lucas and others in 1665 (12)

Between 1659 and 1664, the Earl of Thomond had let among other lands, Doonmore to John MacNamara and James Fitzgerald, and he granted in fee farm at the great sales of 1712. Doonmore to Robert

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(11) Now at Edenvale, an attested copy in Public Record Office.
(12) Confirmations under Act of Settlement. I have a copy of a lease of Samuel Lucas of Esker, Kings County to Thomas Westropp of Ballysteen, and Mountford Westropp of Ballyallion, County Limerick, the lands of Lisloghan in Moylerragh, Jan 15th, 1733 (Reg. Deeds Dublin, Book 78 p 56). Benjamin Lucas, Sheriff of Co Clare in 1670, was confirmed in these lands under the Act of Settlement in 1671. (Roll XIX car II pars 3.) The Lucas family was of standing in Co. Clare, and has left a fine monument at Killone Abbey; a scion of theirs, the Dublin reformer, Charles Lucas, is of more than local note.
Hickman, Doonbeg to John Stacpoole, Glascoo to George Stacpoole and John Neill; Killard and Caherlean were sold to Mountiford Westropp. None of the grantees seem to have lived on the lands.

Hickman was a member of an ancient English family from Bloxam; their pedigree is preserved unbroken from 1377; by 1488 they had obtained Woodford Hall in Essex. Gregory, the third son of Walter Hickman of Kew, in Surrey, was a Hamburgh merchant and got a lease of Barntick in Co. Clare about 1612, being one of the first Burgesses of Ennis named in its charter. His three sons, Thomas of Barntic, Sheriff of Clare, 1678; Walter of Kilmore, Sheriff in 1675; and Henry of Ballykett, Sheriff in 1699, were founders of the families of Barntic, Kilmore and Fenloe.

Stacpoole was a member of a still older family, originally settled beside the pool at the Stack Rock, Stack Pool, on the coast of Pembroke'shire. (13) They appear in the earliest roll of Dublin citizens about 1180 and were well established in Limerick and Kerry by 1250. During the 15th century, and its successor they became some of the richest and most influential of the Limerick Merchants. Bartholomew Stacpoole was Recorder of the city and negotiated its surrender to Irelton in 1651. He was transplanted to Enagh near Sixmilebridge. His cousin Clement, (son of Captain Robert, and grandson of Bartholomew Stacpoole of Limerick in 1595) was brought from Doon near Ballybunion, in Co. Kerry (14) to another Enagh near Kilmurry Ibrickan. He was father of the George above named ancestor of the Duke de Stacpoole and of William ancestor of the Edenvale family.

Westropp was son of Montiford Westropp of Kilkierin, Co. Clare who had (after the death of his father Thomas Westropp of Comborough and Newham in Yorkshire 1657) migrated to Limerick, being Comptroller of its Port from February 1660 (15), and Sheriff of Clare in 1674.

(13) The portrait of their supposed founder Sir Richard Stacpole is mythical—They were merchants in Dublin, and were on the jury that enquired as to the injuries done in the wars of 1250-70 by Conor na Siudhe O'Brien and his sons. (Cal Docs., Ireland).

(14) He had married Alice daughter of Mahon MacMahon of Doon Castle. It is described Journal Vol. XL, p. 23. He and his family are fully described in the transplants certificates.

(15) He appears in a quaint light as examined about an alleged plot of an old Cromwellian officer, Walton, in 1672 to seize Limerick Castle and bring in the Dutch. William Yorke had bullied Westropp, and after two bloody combats, the former was sent home in a very damaged condition. Old Walton delighted with the sight told the victor he would make him a captain if he had a regiment. (Cal Domestic Papers)
The family appear from 1282 in the neighbourhood of Westhorpe at Brompton near Scarborough, and have left a rich mass of quaint wills and other documents (16). Owing to the recommendation of one of them (grand uncle to the above Thomas) Ralph, Serjeant at Arms to Queen Elizabeth and James I, the mote-castle of Clifford's tower in York was preserved from demolition in 1596 (17). His brother James "in wars to his greit charges served oin Kyng and two Quenes (Edward, Mary and Elizabeth) with du obediens, and died without recumpens." (18) In more peaceful fields other members of his family have gone and done likewise. The younger Mountiford's brothers Ralph and Thomas are founders of the families of Lismehane and Fortanne in Clare; Attyfihan, Ballysteen and Mellon in County Limerick and several branches round Cork city.

Of 18th century record of the place and its surroundings little is of interest. In 1816 the invaluable Rev. John Graham tells us much about the union of Kilrush to which Killard was united, the latter "church is unroofed, but the walls are standing," (19) He derives its name from the cliffs of Baltrud, but beyond mention of Dunmore and Dunbeg has little to tell of the castles. These Mrs. Knott merely alludes to as standing near the strands of Killard and Doonbeg. (20) Graham describes Dunbeg Castle as perfect. A spiral stone stair leads to the top which is arched over, and has a grass plot on it. The castle is high, and commands the bridge which is near it. This is one of the castles of the O'Brien's.

DUNBEG. The Castle stands a short distance up the creek, on the shallower river, beside a long old-fashioned bridge of six arches, between the two eastern of which, in a recess, long dwelt a poor old


(17) Calendar of Domestic State Papers. 1596 p 261. The Castle "as standing to a great height on a very rare mount, it is an exceeding ornament to the city." Oh, for such reports and results at present.

(18) Tombstone 1582 Brompton Church, Yorkshire.
(20) Two months at Kilkee, p. 87.
woman named “Mary Belfast,” though washed out of her nest more than once by unexpected spates she always came to shore alive. In 1893, when I first sketched the place, the Castle was said to be inhabited by seven poor families; two lived there in 1907 and one man (much worried by the village boys) lived in one of the small western rooms on my last visit.

Without any real picturesqueness there is something that catches the imagination in the two peel towers, especially before so much of Dunmore fell away. On a showery day about sunset the bleak, bare view, the low coast, on which the fierce waves literally raise walls of foam. The shallow murmuring stream, the sob, or roar of the sea, the cry of the marsh birds, all well harmonise with the bare and gloomy tower and the dark long bridge. Even the irregular houses of the village hardly diminish from the sadness and loneliness suggested by the centre of the picture.

The tower is about 60 feet high, 45 feet east and west, and 33 feet north and south. It stands on the edge of a bank, which is falling away from under it, along the south side; the masonry is good, of the small flat gritstone slabs of the district, with bold batter to each side to withstand the thrust of the lower vault. As I said, it is of the plainest character, narrow oblong slits, no mouldings or carvings, the door is to the south and quite defaced, there are no ancient outworks or buildings. I fear that the crumbling of the bank and the picking out of the lower facing must soon bring down the building. Unlike the rock-like mortar of the limestone districts that along the coast is poor friable stuff with too little lime, and the corner of the staircase at Dunbeg shows signs of settlement and impending collapse which the recent knocking out of a step-stone, by mischievous boys to annoy the solitary tenant, has rendered still more insecure as the steps above the break are now loose. The porch was commanded by a “murder hole,” 3 feet by 1 foot 6 inches wide. The entrance to the spiral stair, which is in the south-west angle, is to the left. The porch leads into a dark vaulted basement with a vaulted recess athwart at the north-west corner under the small rooms, and a narrow recess under the stairs. The main (or east) room has defaced lights to the north and east and had a loft, or store, over it, the floor resting on beams, leaving the basement little
over 5 feet high while the ceiling stood. The loft has a small east light. A side passage, buried in rubbish, leads up at least 5 steps from the porch to the spiral stair; the latter has 61 steps and is lit by unglazed narrow slits, 4 to the south and 4 to the west. Eight steps lead to the next stage. A passage runs past the “murder hole” with 5 steps more up to the room over the basement vault. This has a recess into which the door opened back, there are two ambries in the west wall and one in the north-east corner; a broken fireplace in the south and recesses with windows to the east and north. The room above this rested on beams, supported by rough corbels, above the eastern part, for the western was under a cross arch supporting a passage hereafter noted. Strange to say the upper room is covered by pointed vaults to either end but is left open in the middle for about a third of the length. A passage leads to a small room, now inaccessible, in the north haunch of the eastern vault; the eastern recess runs through the vault like a chimney shaft but there is no other trace of chimney or fireplace. Up the west side of the tower three small vaulted rooms, with slits to the north and west and doors to the stair, lie one above the other. They measure 15 feet by 9 feet inside, their vaults run north and south, they are on the left of the under loft, the stone floor and the upper rooms.

Beside the top rooms runs a cross passage, over the arching above mentioned, it leads to a garderobe in a bending recess at the north wall. The passage was not vaulted. As to the staircase, 8 steps lead to the second floor, 10 more to the third, 13 more to the uppermost main story, 12 more to the small west top room and 5 to the grassy roof. The battlements, gables and chimneys have all vanished.

DUNMORE. Past the village of Dunbeg, in a low field to the west of the mouth of the creek, called Dunmugyda Inver in the charter of King John to the Archbishop of Cashel in 1215 (21) (into which projects a green bank, with an artificial-looking cut, from the east shore) stands the second Castle, Dunmore. Balancing at the south-east corner of the bay and the south _inbhír_ (22) the Castles of Liscannor and Dough, at the north it and Dunbeg are visible from the summit of the

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(21) _Cal. Documents relating to Ireland, Vol I._

(22) _O'Huidhrin ante, 1420, in his “Topographical Poem” calls Ibrickan “the land of the two creeks.”_
DUNMORE CASTLE, 1906.

[D Du Nage*, Westropp]

DUNBEG CASTLE.

[Dr. G. Fogerty]
former. It does not get its name, as some say, from its being larger than Dunbeg. The name long preceded the building of the tower, though to which of the several low earthen ring forts in the townland the name originally applied no tradition exists. "Dunbeg" is an insignificant little 

iss on the rising ground opposite the Castles. The townland absorbed as its western portion the entire townland of Caherleanemore (23). In 1816 Graham (24) says that Dunmore Castle is about the same height and size as Dunbeg. He tells of "the strange and frightful noises made by the sea in the deep vaults under it," and the popular belief as to ghosts of murdered persons haunting these dungeons. "Not one of these Castles is without a deep vault 'the murdering hole' as the peasantry believe" he adds. Now there are no deep vaults in Dunmore or indeed in any other castle among the peel towers of Clare known to me. All stand on the level of the field or above it on a rock. The basements are stores and the present day peasantry apply the term "murder hole" to the ope commanding the inside of the door. So also I have found it used in a document of the reign of James I. It is true that in Cork and Limerick (not to speak of eastern Ireland, Great Britain and France) I have often been told that garderobes both of Monasteries and Castles were prisons and their shafts used for disposing of the dead bodies. That at Quin Abbey was called (at least by the local gentry) "the prison of the rebel monks," and that of Carrigogunnell Castle was where "the Danes used to put the Irish prisoners till Brian Boru put themselves there instead." Crofton Croker in "Florry Cantillon's Funeral" (25) repeats Graham's story with picturesque effect but the whole is as the baseless fabric of a vision.

When I sketched it in 1893 the tall turret stood at the south-west angle: the wall far below it was even then badly broken. It stood, at least down to 1898. Unfortunately, I was not able to photograph it, and when I did so, in 1907, it and the east and west walls above the vault had fallen down. Since then the owner (fearing that the tall side

(23) Earl of Thomond's Rental, 1793; this gave some trouble in the recent sales as for some time Caherleanemore could not be traced.
(24) Parochial Survey loc. cit.
walls might fall on his cattle) hitched ropes over the remaining fragments and pulled them down. The low portion from the stone floor down is all that now remains. It was plainly built of small flag stones, set in very bad friable mortar, which accounts for its collapse. It has a modernized door to the south, and the basement is barely lighted by slits to the north and west. In the north-west corner a lintelled doorway leads to a straight flight of steps rising southward through the east wall; 5 or 6 probably lie buried in rubbish. The passage has a window slit to the east. The stair at the 18th visible step becomes spiral in the south-east angle. On the 22nd step we reach a door to a passage with two lights along the south wall and over the main door. Four steps lead from the spiral stair to another cross passage through the east wall. The passage runs northward to two garderobes in the north-east corner. One is in the north wall, and has an ambry and a north light. The other in the east wall has two east lights, before it is a recess to widen the passage, which has a door into the main room. The third story being over the vault of the basement has a stone floor. The floor of the room above it rested on beams, supported on corbels of two stones each. This was reached by a lintelled door from an upper cross passage, and is under the second pointed vault. The under room has in the south wall a recess to the east and a west window. The north has a similar arrangement. The west light was a ragged gap. The large upper room above the second vault is reached at the 55th step. The floor was evidently boarded, as the crown of the arch rises in the middle, the floor not being brought up level (26). The thin walls of the staircase and passages to the east side are split, and show daylight through the chinks in every direction. The whole, like Liscannor, seems to stand in despite of the laws of gravitation. Another passage runs through the spandrel of the vault. As to the former top room the turret up which led another stair was at the south-west angle, there was a window with a flat arch of thin slabs to the north, near the west end of the wall, and a small slit in the south wall. A corbel, as if for a flanking turret, projected in two steps at the south-east corner. A large defaced window looked westward, and there were narrow slits, two to the east and one

(26) This is not uncommon in other Clare towers, but as a rule the floor is levelled up.
in the south wall near the turret. The turret in 1893 was rigged and broken down the east side and the south-west angle had been broken through below it at the level of the passage in the upper spandrel; this with the bad mortar led to its collapse. The whole angle of the upper room and the facing of the wall for some distance down, both to the west and the south, collapsed or was scaled off by the falling turret.

KILLARD CHURCH.

A long up-hill road, with pretty views of the long range of sand hills and the bay up to Moher, leads to the ancient church of Killard. The building may be partly of the 10th or 11th century, to judge from the primitive character of its east window, but its founder or patron is unknown, and its first record is as "Kellarda" in the Papal Taxation of 1302. The well near it is dedicated to "the Creator of the World," a term confined to the Second Person of the Trinity in local usage. Early Irish churches are never called after other than their founder no matter how highly exalted, so the original dedication is evidently lost here. The church is not at the top of the hill, but down the slope; possibly the position was chosen for the sake of the well. From 1302 to the late 16th century it has no record of any description known to me. The Register of Cashel in 1571, in the Public Record Office, Dublin, gives the procurations of the Rectory of Killard and the adjoining parishes. The 1615 Visitation of the Diocese of Killaloe mentions the Rectory of Killarda as attached to the prebend of Kilarush. The church and chancel were in repair, and the Vicarage worth only £3 a year, served by Robert Tuisden, the minister. In 1622, John Rider, Bishop of Killaloe, returned to the Royal Commissioners another and fuller report. Kilardah Rectory £6, inappropriate to the Earl of Thomond; the rest appropriate to the prebend of Iniskatty (Kilarush). The Vicarage £7, filled by Edward Philips, minister and preacher, a man of good life and conversation; inducted 9th April, 1621, cured served by himself. Thomas Edens, the prebendary, of Inishkatty, therein alluded to, had an uneasy time in maintaining his rights against the Corporation of Limerick, "Graneer ye Dutchman," and "others clayming under ye Earle of Thomond." Abraham Holt, clerk, had been inducted to the Vicarages of Killard and Killfierah on February 3rd, 1619; no old registers had come into the hands of Bishop Rider. It is
The church is of two periods, now separated from each other by the demolition of the middle part of the ruin. The east seems massive, and is very ancient, hardly as late as the year 1000. Unfortunately its large facing blocks are set on their sides, and are really a mere veneer for a small flag “packing” with earthy mortar. The west end is good flag masonry like in the castles. It is strange that the older work should be as dishonest and “jerry built” as any modern villa, though appearing so massive and honest. The church is about 64 feet long and 14 feet 6 inches wide; about 20 feet of the wall adjoining the east gable remains; a defaced window, the sill showing it to have been a narrow slit. The east light has a semi-circular head cut out of a slab, the ope 10 in. wide, the splay tapers from 30 ½ in. to 24 ½ in., and is 3 ft. 2 in. high. The head is angular (of that primitive type seen in Round Towers and early churches) formed of two slabs leaning together. It is 5 feet high in all. One of the stones in its south jamb has late letters I.H.S., and a much older projecting head reputed to be that of Our Lord, to whom in popular belief, the church is directly dedicated. The west end has a neat oblong ope and window slit in the gable, and the traces of a small bell chamber on the summit. The fragment of the south wall adjoining it has another oblong window and the trace of a door.

The monuments are all late; that of the Blackalls of Killard and Killadysart is in the south-east corner of the church. The inscription runs—“This tomb was erected by George Blackall of Kilard Esq* for his beloved wife Marcella Blackall, alias Burnell, who died ye 24th of June 1810 aged 48 years. Requiescat in pace. Amen.” The Blackalls were founded in Clare by Thomas, the son of a Limerick clergyman, who first settled at Leadmore near Kilrush and then got a lease of the two Killards from the Westroppps. His sons divided the lands between them. Some of the slabs in the graveyard have uncouth and curious carvings. The Crucifixion appears on one over three hearts and between the 30 pieces of silver (15 in each row). It is in a frame of plump cherubs with flowers and foliage; angels blowing trumpets are at each corner, and below are the soldiers in modern top hats and boots. Another has a snake looped over the I.H.S. and under it two hearts under a crucifix. The symbols of the sun and moon, the spear and hammer occur, but I did not see the cock crowing on the pot, so favorite elsewhere in Munster from 1460 down.
The tombs are—Catherine Sexton to her sons Lawrence (1814) and Michael (1828); Hegarty, 1840; Blake, 1860; Talty and Corry, 1845; Hough, 1849; Devine; Keane; Kinnerle; Mescall; MacInerney; MacNevin, alias Blacker; Ryan; Clancy; Kitson; Gleeson; Lynch; MacMahon; Byrne of Glascoon and Neylon. Many are later than 1850. One is of Dr. Richard O'Donnell, M.A., T.C.D., born 1873, died 1904.

The holy well, Tobercruhnorindowin (Tobar Cruithnoir an domhain) "the well of the Creator of the World," is a rough little structure, heaped with the usual offerings, chiefly china figures and vessels; it lies in the open field not far from the north-west corner of the church.

The drive to Bealard (or Beltard) is not very interesting, even the upper road gives us no picturesque views of the coast. In a creek of this shore Crofton Croker locates the curious story of the “Soul Cages” how a young fisherman makes the acquaintance of the ugly, drunken merman, Cumarra, visits his submarine abode and releases the souls of the drowned sailors kept in cages like lobster pots. I never found any tale remotely resembling it along the coast. Unfortunately in my "Folk Lore Survey of Clare" my doubt there expressed was omitted in its proper place (27). Mrs. Dorothea Townshend of Oxford pointed out to me that the "legend" was probably imposed by Dr Keightley on Crofton Croker. As the latter however wrote only to amuse thoughtless folk rather than to give genuine and unvarnished folk tales, he may have accepted it as a freak of fancy. Keightley (28) (after a strong attack on Irish "Antiquities," and the credulity and barbarism of our country and its people—"rude, ferocious, barbarous, and Christianity does not seem to have made them much better") proceeds to claim that he composed legends, evidently not to "improve the Irish," but to get his stories published among more genuine ones. He names the "Soul Cages" among the number, but says that it received additions from another

(28) "Tales and Popular Fictions (1834), Thomas Keightley, p. 180." It is probably a slight adaptation of a genuine story in Grimm's Deutsche Sagen which it closely resembles and which was known to its editors.
hand, "the Nonsense Verse" being an "extraneous beauty" (29). So we may retaliate by extreme scepticism about his story and indulge in criticism as to its barbarism and bad taste; qualities rarely found in genuine peasant tales in Ireland (30). The strands of Killard and Dungbeg are famous for their beautiful shells. Among the rest the exquisitely tinted "Portuguese man of war" (or Janthina), long known only at Madagascar, is sometimes washed in. I have only seen it at Kilkee on Duggerna and once, in recent years, at Lehinch, it stains the very stones on which it lies with its magnificent purple blood. Washed up, most frequently in the equinoxes, the shells are rarely unbroken by the waves.

[TOT BE CONTINUED.]

DUNMORE CASTLE BEFORE FALL OF UPPER STORY.

(29) This shows how little Croker is to be taken seriously, for (p. 209) he alludes to the "Nonsense Verse" as "if indeed it be not altogether an invention of the narrator," whereas they were evidently added to Keightley's fiction after it came to his hands.

(30) The worst examples were "rigged to amuse the quality," i.e. the country squires.