EDWARD WHITE'S DESCRIPTION OF THOMOND IN 1574.

By R. W. TWIGGE, F.S.A.

As several incorrect versions of this State Paper (which contains a brief description of Connaught and Thomond, enumerating the several baronies, parishes, castles, and gentlemen therein) are current in Ireland and often quoted as of authority, it seems desirable that a correct copy of White's description of the County of Clare, taken directly from the original document preserved in the Record Office, London (S. P. I., Eliz. xlv., 35, 1,) should be printed in this Journal.

Sir George Carew, when in Ireland, collected many papers relating to native affairs, and possessed a copy of this Return, which is now among the Carew MSS. (611, p. 234) in Lambeth Palace. It is probably from this inaccurate and defective copy that the account contained in MS. E. 2, 14, of Trinity College, Dublin, was taken. The latter was published in 1878 by the Rev. Edm. Hogan, S.J., in "A description of Ireland in 1598, etc." (p. 124), and repeats the errors of MS. 611.

The authorship of this survey has been assigned to Sir Thomas Cusacke (d. 1571), but he sent his book on the State of Ireland to the Duke of Northumberland in 1553; and such statements can only refer to the fact that he was one of the Commissioners employed to make shire-ground of Connaught and Thomond.

The document here printed was compiled by Edward White shortly before March 1574, when it was forwarded by Sir Edward Pyton (Lord President of Connaught and Thomond, 1569-1572, and Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, 1573-1579) to Lord Burghley.
There is a letter from Fytton to Burghley, dated 27th March, 1573 (recte 1574) wherein he writes:

"— since your Lordship requyred at my handes
some notes of the Nobility and Gentlemen with
declaracion of their countreyes and castles ... I
have now as I could sent the same by this bearer
Edward Whyte ... not so perfect as I would
wish ... partly because sundry of the parishes
and castles be so grown out of memorie ... The
said bearer hath been a doer in gathering the notes of
Connaght ... he speaketh the Spanish tongue
very well: he understands also the French tongue as
merchants use, and is indifferent ready with his
penne ... as for his owne tongue I mean th'
Irish he can both well write and speake it and interprete
it; borne in the towne of Lymerik of good parentage
and English nation."

White evidently pleased the Lord High Treasurer of England, for in 1577 he was employed at Galway in the pay of the English government. (S. P. Ireland.)

Despite some omissions and verbal errors, his Description of Clare may be regarded as trustworthy. The correctness of the names of many of the gentry set down by him as owners of castles is confirmed by the despatches of the Earl of Ormond in 1570, when he was engaged in putting down the rebellion of the Earl of Thomond and took sureties for the good behaviour of the inhabitants of Clare. (S.P.I. Eliz. xxx. 68.)

**THE DEVISION OF CONNAGHT AND THOMOND**

as it is now bounded viz: theast and south partes with the river of
Shenon, on the west syde with the greate Ocean sea, on the north with
the greate Logh earne, which all are devided into severall shires or
Countyes as followeth viz.

Thomond into one County to be named the County of Clare.

Connaght into four Countyes to be named the countyes of
Galwaye, Mayo, Slyggath, Roscoman.

Summa of all the countyes.
Which are divided into several Baronies, and the Baronies into plowelandes of so many of the Countyes as have been travailed by the L. President and Counsell of Conaght and the reste are sette forth according such division as hath been made by Sr. Thomas Cusake Knyght and others her Maiesties Comissioners.

THE COUNTYE OF CLARE
conteyneth whole Thomond, being in length from Leymeconcollen to Killalow XLV myles, and in breth from Lymerick to Beallaleynee XXV myles, which of auncient tyme was divided into IX Trogkhyeds or Hundreds, and is now appoynted to be conteyned in VIII Baronies, to be named as soloweth:—

BARONYE.

THE BARONYE OF TULLA NE NASPULIE conteynethe Mac ne mares als Mortymers countreby by East, and is plowelandes after the rate of vii\textsuperscript{xx} [score] Acres to every ploweland—xxviii, the Baron of Inshyquyn and Donell Reogh mac ne mare chiefe in the same.

PARISHES.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENTLEMEN</th>
<th>CASTLES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donell Reogh</td>
<td>Tullagh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund OGrady</td>
<td>Toymegrene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund O'Grady</td>
<td>Muyno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donogh and Rory Macnemare</td>
<td>Fertan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donell Reogh Macnemare</td>
<td>Garougharagh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rory macnenares sonnes</td>
<td>Fyeklenearty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{(1)} The parishes of Kilvoory (Kilmurry in Lower Bunratty) and Kylinaghty (Kilfinaghta in Lower Bunratty) are misplaced, and belong to the barony of Dangean-ul-blighin. White has omitted the parishes of Clonlea and Tomgraney from the barony of Tulla.

\textsuperscript{(2)} In the original MS. Baronies, Parishes, Gentlemen, and Castles, are divided into four columns, and names and particulars set out vertically for each Barony. Space would not permit of our following this arrangement.—Ed.

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GENTLEMEN.

Donagh macnemare of Iland Cahir
Muriertagh : custos of Killalow
The Baron of Inshiquin of Obriens bridge
Shane ne Geyllagh of Castle Logh (2)
Donell Roe of Dunase
Tege oge mcConmea of Cullisteike
Tirillogh mcDonell roo of Neadennury
Donell reoghe of Glanomra

Tirillogh obrien of Short Castell in Glanomra
Shida mcRory of Done
Shane mcnemares sonne of Moyneugeanagh
Donell Reogh of Moyintallone
Shane mcMahown of Tyrovanyn
Shane mcDonell of Enaghouleyne
Brian mcDonell roo of Beallakullen
Comea mcMahown of Ballyarilly
Therle of Thomond of Ballintleyue (3)
Donogh mcConogher of Castell Callogh
Fynyn mcLaglin of Ahereynagh
Tege Owltagh of Rosroe
Covarey mcShane rey of Ballymogashill

Rory mcMahown of Quaronenvyre (2)

Tirillogh Obrien of Cullan (3)
and of Kelkisquin
Shane mcnemare of Lysefyne
Edmund O'Grady of Lysmyghan
Rory moell mcFynnyn of Fomara

(2) *Shane ne geyllagh* is an error, for this castle belonged to Séan, chief of Eastern Clann-Cuilein.

(3) *Ballintleyue* is in the parish of Kilfinnan; *Quaronenvyre* in the parish of Doora; and *Cullan* in the parish of Quin; and these three castles belong rightly to the barony of Dangan-anui-Bhigin.
Baronye.

The Barony of Dangen conteyning West mac ne mares Countrey and is in plowlands after like rate xxviii. Shane mac ne mare Chiefe in the same.

Parishes.


Gentlemen.

Shane mænmære of Dangen
and of Croppoke
Tirilagh Obrien of Dangenbreake
Shane mænmære of Quynhy
Donogh mæMurrogh Obrien of Dromollyn
Corma mæihoun — Beallaheynyn
William Nellan — Castletown Nevenanogh
Brene Obrien of Ballycaslan
James Nellan of Ballyally

Conogher maglanchy of Ballycharolle
Donogh Obrien — Mughane
Donell mæShida mantagh — Ballychara
Shane Omulhonrey — Granaghane
Donell mæShida — Ballynegeyne
Therle of Thomond — Ralahyn
Fynyn mæLaglin — Rosmonagh
Donell mæTege — Legwaro
Shane mænemære — Crathalleng more
Donell mænemære — Crathalleng moelle
Therle of Thomond — Crathalleng Kell

and of Bunnatty
Muriertagh Obrien — Cloyinemoneagh
Donogh maglanchy of Dromlyne
Tege Maglanchy of Cloynloghane
Muriertagh maglanchy of Baleneclogh
Brien na Foriry of Nurlyn

of Fynys
GENTLEMEN.  
Maceneryheny of Ballenecraige  
Donogh Obrien of Raehvaellayne  
Tege mcMurrogh of Ballyconyle  
Donogh O'Gradey — Cloyne  
Shane mcmahoun — Corballe  
Donogh maglanchy — Bodevoher  

CASTLES.  

BARONY.

THE BARONY OF CLOYNETHERALA conteyning East Corkwasken and is plowlands after like rate, xxv. Tege mac Mahone chiefe in the same.

PARISHES.


GENTLEMEN.  
Tege mcMahoun of Dangen my buyrke and of Cloynetheralla and of Cahiracon and of Ballamacollman and of Derecrossan  

CASTLES.

Teg mcConnar Obrien of Corubirighane  
Teg mcMuriertagh Cam — Dunegrock  

BARONY.

THE BARONY OF MOYARTHA which conteyneyth West Corkwasken and is plowelands after like rate xxv: Tirlagh mcMahown chiefe in the same.

PARISHES.


GENTLEMEN.  
Charles Cahane of Inyskhathyn (This man by inheritance is called a Courboe.)  
James Cahane of Ballykette  
Tirlagh mcMahown of Carighowly and of Moyartha and of Dunlykill and of Dunscomayn  

CASTLES.

NOTE. — The parish of Kilnascolagh is omitted, and the following castles are misplaced, viz.: Legwaro (i.e. Leath-ceathramhadh) in Feakle parish, and Bodevoher in Tulla.
GENTLEMEN.
Sir Donell O'Brien Knight —
and of

CASTLES.
Dunmore
Dunbeg

BARONY.
THE BARONY OF TUOGMORE V CONOR: conteyning Corkomroe
and is plowelandes after like rate xii. Sir Donell O'Brien Knight chiefe
in the same.

PARISHES.
Vicar of Owghtory. Vicar of Killaspule. Vicar of Kiltean. Vicar of
Tomolyne. Vicar of Cluny.

GENTLEMEN.
O'Connor
St. Donell

CASTLES.
Insdyman
Glan
Ballighanyre
Tullowmore
Fante
Ballyngowne
Incheovve
Ballighany
Ravyn
Beaunroce
Cahirmenayn
Tullagh
Leymenegh
Dunegor
Dunmycphellem
Knockfyne
Tuomoly
Ballenelakyn
Beallagh
Loghbulugin
Kylmua
Dugh
Lyscanuire

BARONY.
THE BARONY OF GRACANS conteyning the Country of Buren and
is plowelandes after like rate x. Ologhen chiefe in the same.
PARISHES.

Vicar of Temple Crigh. Vicar of Carne.

GENTLEMEN.

Ologhlen of
Cahirlogan
Lysiglisym
Cahiricnacty
Ballemoroghee
Moghences
Glensleede

Ologhlen of
Gragan
Glanoenagh
Ballyveaghane
Shanemuenes
Muknesno
Kynveare
Turlagh
Glancollayn
Killy
Nacapaghee
Castleton
Ballyheaghane
Kreaghwill
Rugham

CASTLES.

BARONY.

THE BARONY OF TULLAGH IDEA conteyning the Troghkeyd of
Kylweroge and is plowelandes after like rate xvi. St. Donell O'Brien
Knight chiefe in the same.

PARISHES.

Vicar of Kylvedane.* Vicar of Kilvilly.* Vicar of Deserte. Vicar of

GENTLEMEN.

The Baron of Inshiquin
S. Donell [O'Brien]

CASTLES.

Inshiquin
Killinbury

* These three parishes are wrongly placed here; they ought to be in the barony of
Dangan, as also the castles of Dunymulvihill and Bealefirvearnayn.
GENTLEMEN.
Mahoun mBrene O'Brien

CASTLES.
Ballycrotrty
Quarrowduffle
Tyr mbrayne
Bohneill
Cahircorkrayne
Rahe
Dromenglas
Beallnelykee
Moghouny
Ballygriffie
Ballyharaghan
Moertheey
Dereowen
Monygriffane
Cloynervayne
Cloyneskerne
Owarow ne gule
Dunymulvihill*
Carigentoghe
Bealesirvearnayn*
Desert
Kilkidy

Owen mSwyne
Owen mSwyne
Donell moell Odea
Mahoun the B: sonne

Mogriffane
Ballygriffie
Ballyharaghan
Moertheey
Dereowen
Monygriffane
Cloynervayne
Cloyneskerne
Owarow ne gule
Dunymulvihill*
Carigentoghe
Bealesirvearnayn*
Desert
Kilkidy

BARONYE.
The BARONY OF CLOYNERRAWDE conteynynge the troghkeed of Cloynrawd and the Ilandes and is plowelands after like rate xvi.
Th'erle of Thomond chiefe in the same.

PARISHES.

GENTLEMEN.
TH'erle of Thomond

CASTLES.
Clonrawde
and of Clare
and of Inish

* See Note on p. 82.
GENTLEMEN.
The Baron of Inshiquyn and of
Connaghbor Maglanchy
Brene dufe of
Tege mcMurrogh of
Tege mcConor Obrien and of
and of
Mac Gylereugh of
Mac Craigh of
Tege mcConor of
The Baron of Ibrikan yे Erle of Towmonds eldest sonne
Th’ erle of Thomond
Tege macConnoghor
Tege mcMurrogh

Castles.
Kylloyne
Balliwecoude
Enenshy
Shally
Moghowny
Inishvacwochny
Inishdaghrone
Inishinvar
Craigmrien
Tirviclaye
Ilandvercaigh
Beallchoricke
Moyobraken
Cahir Riuish
Tromra
Dunogane

Summa of Baronies within this County. VIII.

which conteyne in them plowlands after ye rate of VIXX. acres to the plowland.

Summe of parish churches CXL.

Sum of Castles in this County LXXIX.

Bussopricks within this County

The Bussoprick of Kylalowe:
Muriertagh Obrien, custos

The Bussoprick of Fyneboren, vacant

Abbeys and religious houses within this County viz. :

'Th’ abbaye of Clare possessed by St. Donell and Tege mcConor his brother
Th’ abbaye of Inish by James Nellan
Th’ abbaye of St. Johnes or Nunnye by the Baron of Inshiquyn
Th’ abbaye of Corkomoroe
Th’ abbaye of Iland Chanons by Therle of Thomond
Th’ abbaye of Kiltane
Th’ abbaye of Quynhye—occupied by Freeres
Th’ abbaye of Inish Cronan

Summa of Abbeyes—VIII.

Th’ end of the County of Clare.
After the description of the County of Roscomon, is the following paragraph:

"The names of certain castles and towns within the county of Clare that were builded and erected by Englishmen: —Inshiquyn and O'Brien's Bridge, Inysh and Qwynhy, Clare and Bonratty. In old time these were good market towns and had English jurisdiction in them, and were governed by portrikes and other officers by authority of the King of England: but now they are all wasted and destroyed in a manner — saving the castles, and no part of the towns left but old houses of stone work, broken gates, and ruinous walls."

It is needless to comment on the errors contained in the above statement, or to refer here to the state of ruin brought about by Elizabeth's officials in the country. 

R.W.T.