NOTES ON PLACE NAMES
IN NORTH EAST OF
COUNTY LIMERICK.

BY REV. J. F. LYNCH, B.A.

KILTEELY is referred to in the following passage from the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick:—"St. Patrick was at Aradha Cliach at Tedil (the name of a hill). When he was bidding farewell, two of his people remained behind. They were sent for and found asleep under a bush there. This was told to Patrick, and he said, "Here will be their resurrection," which thing is true. Muin and Lornchu, who are buried (1) in Cill Tidil were left there by Patrick."

In the Lismore Lives of Saints, p. 320, particulars are given concerning a visit paid by St. Brigit to a druid in Kilteely district, named MacMidriu, the place being termed Magh Fenamna in Aradha Cliach, and by Dr. Stokes is identified with Kilteely district. Near Kilteely is a well named from St. Brigit (2).

In De Quibusdam Episopis (P.R.I.A., 1870) occurs the following passage:—"Bishop Fairceadal of Cill Tidil, son of Tal, son of Dega, son of Corc, aon of Lughaidh." The seven Bishops of Cill Tidil, or Druim Tidil, are also mentioned in the Donegal Martyrology at November 1st.

In "Cogadh Gaedhel," p. 73, Sidechad, son of Segni, King of Titill, is stated to have been slain by Imar, the Norse King of Limerick. Probably Sidechad was King of Kilteely district. Lewis mentions that Kilteely is also called Listeely (the Chapel of Lyskill of the papal

(1) W. M. Hennessy's Translation.
(2) The local tradition of this well is, that when St. Brigit was at Kilteely taking her dinner with her attendants they had nothing to drink. A messenger was sent to the house of a pagan for water, and it was refused. Then she struck the ground with her staff, when the present well sprung up. Since known as Brigit's well.—Ed.
taxation of 1302, in the deanery of Tipperary), and that on an eminence near the village are some remains of the church by the Knights Hospitallers in 1291 (Lewis has Templars). (3)

The form Kilteely is got from Cill Tidail or Cill Tidil, by taking Tidail or Tidal as a nominative case. Kilteely means church of Tidail or Tidil, that is of Tidal, the old name of the hill, and perhaps may be an old word for hill, as it may not be a proper name, but came to be regarded as such. The late Dr. Olden, however, told me that he thought Tidal was a personal name. Near Kilteely is a rock named Carrickittle, from the Irish Carraig Ciotal, or rock of Ciotal. According to the Four Masters, a castle was built on this rock by the Earl of Kildare in 1510. This rock has nearly disappeared, owing to the attentions of road contractors. A townland in Kilteely parish is named Wonderhill, but the Irish name is Cnocan an fhais, pronounced Knockaunfawsh (4). This name probably means hillock of growth or increase.*

KILDROMIN is the name of a townland, and means the church of the little ridge. There is an old burial ground at Kildromin, called Shanakill, or old keel or burial place.

AGLISHCORMICK.—North of Kilteely is the Parish of Aglishcormick, also called Liscormick (the Liscorney of the papal taxation of 1302), named from St. Cormac, but there were several saints of this name, and I have not been able to identify the saint of Aglishcormick (5). Could he be the St. Corbmac of the Ui Liathain? Aglish means church, and the correct form is Aghlais. In Aglishcormick are cross roads, named Crossalaghta. The leacht or monumental heap, from which the cross roads were named, has been destroyed, but the site is close to a pillar stone, now named Longstone, from the Irish Cloch Fada, a common term. Cloch Fada is the coirthe, or pillar stone of the ancient grave. The relation of the pillar stone to the cairn varies—sometimes

---

(3) The remains of the Church of the Hospitallers, near Kilteely, may still be traced. There are no remains of a church at Kildromin, but there is a burial ground called Shanakill (or old Keel).—Ed.

(4) This we are informed means the hill of the wonderful view or fine prospect. —Ed.

* The history of the Church of Kilteely carries us back to the earliest Christian times. Its lands were Termon lands, and afforded sanctuary, and it held some of its privileges up to the reign of Elizabeth.—Ed.

(5) In 1020, Cormac o Fin, Bishop of Emly; 908, Cormac MacCuillean, Bishop of Cashel.—Ed.
being on the top of the mound, sometimes in the side, sometimes very close, and sometimes a little distance from the heap. There is a stone much shorter than the Cloch Fada, a few yards from it. An old burial ground is not far from this monument, and is named, I think, Killeenavera—probably “vera” means water or stream from the Irish bera. In Aglishcormick is a fine fort, overgrown with bushes, named Caherconreefy, which means stone fort of the grey (riabhach) hound (6). In a bog near this fort was found a necklace of amber beads, which Mr. E. B. Fennessy, of Ballybrood House, had for a long time in his possession.

BALLYBROOD.—Mr. Fennessy has informed me that the fort in Mr. Cunningham’s farm, near Ballybrood church, is supposed to be the brugh, or residence of the brughaidh, the farmer or hostel-keeper, from whom Ballybrood, written Bourewode in the papal taxation of 1291, is deemed to be named.

BASKET HILL.—Proceeding along the road towards Dromkeen we cross a little stream by a small bridge, and reach a hill called Basket Hill, of which the Irish name is Cnoc na Cise, the hill of the cis or basket, i.e. a wicker basket, but the term is also applied to a wicker bridge, and such was the application here.

GARRANEKISHY.—This is the present townland of Basket Hill, which is called Garranekishy in the map of the Down Survey. Garrane, from the Irish Garran, means shrubbery.

ATH-NA-MBRATHAIRINIDHE.—Proceeding towards Dromkeen we meet a bridge, after some time, where there is a ford called Ath-na-mbrathairinidhe, pronounced Ahnamrahereenny, the ford of the little Friars (of the Ballybrood monastery). The stream was, I think, named Bera or Beara, from the old Irish Ber or Bar, water. The name is contained in those of the townland name, Killeenavera and the hill called Knockaunavera.

BALLYVOURNEEN. North of Killeagh or Keilleigh (“the grey church”) is the townland of Ballyvourneen, or darling town, in the parish of Caherconlish. Here is the site of an important castle, which, according

(6) Caherconreefy is named Caherconriffy in the Map of the Down Survey, adjoining it on the north side is Corball. Perhaps here was the Chapel of Corball (Hospitalers), in the Deanery of Grene, according to the papal taxation of 1302. There were several places in the County Limerick named Corball. The word means an “enclosed place” (baile), surrounded by a “coradh” (cor.), a calseal or stone wall.
to Fitzgerald and Westropp, belonged to Clancy, of the Co. Clare family, hereditary brehons to O'Brien. In a field to the west of the castle Mr. C. I. Bentley found, he told me, a number of human bones, relics, doubtless, of a battle. East of the castle were two or three acres of commonage, and here close to the road is a large hole, called Poll a' mhadra (Poullamadra), the hole of the dog. This dog is stated to have been an enchanted black dog, and several local tales are told concerning it. At the foot of Knockfinnell, beside Lough Gur, is a poulavaddra, and at Drumclogher, on the farm of Mr. Richard Devane, about a mile from Cappamore, there is a similar hole, overshadowed by an immense whitethorn bush, concerning which various tales are told. Mr. Patrick Hickey, of Inch St. Lawrence, now hard on ninety years of age, told me that in his young days the cave of Shanacuart, in Inch St. Lawrence Parish, was supposed to contain immense treasure, which was guarded by a black dog.

TEMPLE MICHAEL.—East of the northern portion of Boskill is the townland of Temple Michael—so called from an old church dedicated to St. Michael. The church was built close to the angle, where the three townlands of Boskill, Caherconlish, and Beenwilt meet. There were also ancient cross roads close to the church of Temple Michael. One road ran from Grenane to the Caherconlish Castle, and it is portion of this road that is called the "prince's road" or "King William's road," in Boskill. It served as boundary to that portion of Caherconlish townland east of the River Gruady and South Boskill. The other road ran from Ballyvourneen Castle to Knocknenegh Castle. There is a large portion of this road now called Boskill lane, left between Temple Michael and the Piper's Rock. It entered Beenwilt a little west of the church of Temple Michael, and runs along the townland boundary for a short distance, and goes on direct, passing beside two wells close together, towards a stone fort, near which are two wells in Temple Michael townland, not far from which was Knocknenegh Castle, near the house of Mr. John Hanly, but the exact site is not now known. That portion of the old road in the townland of Temple Michael or Beenwilt is called Bothar na Caillighe, or the Hag's Road, but of this Cailleach no particulars are told. The name of the road was given to me by an old man, and is not generally
known in the district. The mound of Temple Michael (7) burial ground, which is now portion of a pasture field, is commonly called Ginckle's Grave. The people state that many of the English soldiers of General de Ginckle's army perished during an outbreak of yellow fever at Caherconlish in 1691, and were interred at Temple Michael. Some years ago a carved stone, now at Boskill House, with a human face depicted on it, was found near the site of the church. The Rev. St. John Seymour notes that in the Fiants of 1595, G. Sherlock was then granted land which had been formerly granted in mortmain to the church of St. Michael in the parish of Caherconlish, occupied by persons called Converbini. Converbini is from the Irish Comarba. Mr. W. M. Hennessy, in his introduction to the Chronicon Scotorum, says "The word comarba, which appears for the first time in the present Chronicle at the year 895, and respecting the meaning of which Ussher seems to have been entirely mistaken, is correctly defined by the Rev. Dr. Todd, as properly signifying 'co-heir,' or inheritor—co-heir or inheritor of the same lands or territory which belonged to the original founder of a church or monastery; co-heir also of his ecclesiastical or spiritual dignity as well as of his temporal rights." It is generally used in the sense of "heir" or "successor" to a person in the present Chronicle, but sometimes also in that of "inheritor of a place." In a list of the townlands of Caherconlish parish, dated 1822, the name Temple Michael does not occur (8), but instead of it is the name of Beenwiltch, which means horn or peak or the molt or wether, and was primarily applied to the peak in this townland. On the tip of the beann or horn is a large round deep well, now partly filled with earth. In this well it is stated that a woman was drowned, but no details have survived. Mr. Charles O'Neill, of Temple Michael, and Mr. Michael O'Callaghan, of Greenane, both old men, heard only

(7) Temple Michael townland is marked, but not named, in the map of the Down Survey. It is numbered 22.

(8) In the papal taxation of 1302 is mentioned a church of the vill of Michael (Hospitallers), stated, however, to be in the Deanery of Grene, while Karkyngliissi (Caherconlish) and William's Chapel, Borewode (Ballybroad), Lodyn (Ludden), Katherineky (Caherelly), Chapel of Wylde (Ballyncyle, Willetstown, or Carrigparson), are in the Deanery of Uachtane, William's Chapel, Chapel of Eastace (Hospitallers), and Chapel of Boychagh, of the Deanery of Uachtane, have not been identified. There was an old church in Garmanakilly, a short distance south of the College Field, close to the village of Caherconlish. The sites of the College Priory and Garmanakilly Church are on the farm of Mr. Charles Aherne.
the bare statement, and do not know any name for the well. Northeast of the Beann is the well of St. Martin, formerly much frequented. Mr. O'Neil told me that there was an old road near the well, but the track is not now known. A little north of the Beann is a very fine earthen fort or lios. Not far from this is the hill of Knockeen, on which is also a fine earthen fort. The west side of Knockeen is very steep, and in it are two caves named Ouveg, or "little cave," and Pouldorragha, or "dark hole." Ouveg is the south cave, and is narrower than Pouldorragha, but much longer. Mr. O'Neil told me that he remembers having been told sixty-five years ago that a sheep was cast into the hole of Eyon at the east side of the river Mulkear, and not far from Brittas Castle, and that this sheep issued forth from Ouveg.

EYON.—Eyon written Ine in the Down Survey map is from the Irish Adhan, a cauldron, owing to the resemblance of the hole on the hill of Eyon, which is very deep, to a cauldron. An old man told me that at the bottom of the hole are three caves bearing in three different directions. The hole is now partly filled up, as cattle falling into it would be killed by the fall. The hole is now called Pouldorragha.

KNOCKNENEGH.—Knocknenegh townland, according to the Down Survey map, lies north of Temple Michael townland, and circles around it at the east, separating it from Knockeen, and then turning to the west separates Temple Michael from Grenane, save a small portion of the townland near the cross of Grenane. Knocknenegh includes the present townland of Boher, in which is the railway station of Boher, but the name Knocknenegh is now pronounced Cnoc an eich, and means Hill of the Horse. Knocknenegh means Hill of the Horses.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]