

THE PARISH OF ATHLACKAGH.

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SITUATION. This Parish is in the Barony of Coshma and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Glenogra, Tulla-bracca and Monasteranenagh; on the east by the Parish of Drummin; on the south by Bruree and on the west by Croom.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in Irish An t-Ath Leacach, which signifies the Flaggy Ford, so called from a ford on the Morning Star River, over which a bridge stands.

The site of the ancient Church of this Parish is occupied by a Protestant Church, which was burned down some years ago by Capt. Rock, but lately repaired. There is nothing about it to attract the notice of the antiquarian.

In the Townland of Rathcannon on a lofty hill in this Parish, are the ruins of an extensive Castle. It consists of an outer wall enclosing a great extent of ground with a square tower and dwelling house now much ruined. The dwelling house is on the west side and is now thatched and inhabited by a poor family. The square tower or castle is in the north west corner, but only its north wall and a fragment of the west and east walls remain. Its north side measures on the outside thirty three feet seven inches and is at present about thirty feet in height. The walls of this tower are four feet seven inches in thickness and well built. The east side of the outer wall or bawn of this Castle is thirty five paces in length and the north side forty paces. The four walls form nearly a square, but they are now so ruined that it is difficult to ascertain their original height or whether they had more than one tower. They are four feet three inches thick and the north wall, which is in tolerable preservation, is not less than seventeen feet high, but no part of the south wall is more than ten feet high. At the north east corner there are two flights of stone steps leading to the top of the wall. Fitzgerald in his Hist. of Limerick says that this noble fortress was built by the family of O'Casey, but Q?

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In the south west end of the Townland of Tullerboy is a rude little Church called Kill Bruaine. It is a mere ruin, but from what remains of it you may ascertain that it measured on the inside forty five feet in length and twenty feet in width. Its west gable is destroyed down to the very foundations, as is also the south wall except two small fragments. A considerable part of the east gable remains, as also of the north wall, from which it can be seen that it was a very rude little building not more than four hundred years old. The east gable has a remarkably rude window, which is now disfigured on the inside and outside. The north wall is three feet thick and about eleven feet high.

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There is a holy well near this Church called Bruaine's Well. For Cnoctuagh see Field Name Book.

THE PARISH OF BALLYNAGALLIAGH.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Small County and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Monasteran-enagh; on the west by that of Tullybracca; on the south by the Parish of Bruff and on the east by that of Knockainy.

NAME. The name of this Parish is locally pronounced in Irish Baile na gCailleach, which signifies the Town of the Nuns.

The old Church of Baile na gCailleach stood on the eastern slope of the hill of the same name, but it is now all destroyed except a fragment of the west gable measuring fourteen feet in height and nine feet in breadth and three and a half feet in thickness, built of stones of regular size cemented with lime and sand mortar. All the other walls are destroyed, and even the foundations are not traceable. There is a small grave yard attached. 374

It is believed that a nunnery stood here formerly from which the place was called Baile na gCailleach, or Nunstown.

About half a furlong to the north of this old grave yard and on the northern summit of the same hill there is a giant's grave or cromlech which has often attracted the notice of the curious. It is now thrown down, but the stones are on the ground and one may easily perceive how they were originally fixed. The flag supported by the gallanns or uprights is nearly of the shape of an equilateral triangle measuring seven feet in height, six feet six inches at the base, and one foot six inches in thickness. The upright stones measure, one, four feet in length and two and a half feet in height and ten inches in thickness; the other, six feet in length, three feet in height and one foot in thickness.

For a description of Teampull Nua or New Church which is situated in this Parish see Knockainy, where it was inserted through mistake, and the Cromlech described as situated near the south margin of Lough Gur is also in this Parish.

Of these Cromlechs Fitzgerald writes as follows in his History of Limerick:- 377

"On Baile na Cailleach Hill in this neighbourhood (nempé of Lough Gur) is a Cromleach, near which a stone coffin was found a few years since, with a human skeleton. At less than half a mile south (north?) of this are two others, one of which has been lately broken down by a farmer, who had two of the stones taken away to make pillars for his gateway."

Archdall's Mon. Hib., V.II, p.433, R.I.A. 375
Monasternicalliagh.

Situated near Lough Gur in the Barony of Small County; here was formerly a Nunnery for Canonesses of the Order of St. Augustine, dedicated to St. Catherine (War Mon.).

We meet with no other account of this Nunnery save that

the Rectories of the Parishes of Drishane; Cullen; Nohavel; Kilmeen and Drumtariff in the Barony of Duhallow and Co. of Cork, did belong to it. (Smith's Cork, Vol.I, p.70). Inquisition 8th March XX Q. Elizabeth, finds that the following Rectories in the Diocese of Limerick were appropriated to the Abbey, viz., Novagrangia, annual value 20s. and Dunmoilyne annual value 20s. Note, the presentation to the Vicarage of Dunmoilyne belonged to the Abbess (Chief. Remem.). This nunnery, with the lands and tenements thereunto belonging, was granted to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight. See the Trinitarian Friary of Adaire.