

THE PARISH OF BALLINARD.

SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parish of Rathjordan; on the west by Kilkilllaun; on the south by Ballynamona and Ballinlough Parishes and on the east by the Parish of Kiltteely.

NAME. The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, but borrowed from that of the Townland in which the original Church was erected; it is written in Irish Baile an Aird, signifying the Town of the Height or Hill.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry.

J.O'D.

The old Church of this Parish was situated on the top of a fertile hill in the Townland of Ballinard half a mile south east of the Village of Herbertstown but the foundation of its walls cannot now be traced. The old grave yard in which it stood is still much in use and is called by the people "the Old Abbey."

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About half a furlong north of the old grave yard stood Ballinard Castle, but not a vestige of it now remains. Fitzgerald describes this Church and Castle as existing in his time: (p.306) "On the hill of Ballinard are ruins of an old Church and north of the Church are the walls of a Castle formerly the residence of the Fitzgeralds of Ballinard, the last of whom was William Fitzgerald, Esq., High Sheriff of the County in 1778 and Mayor of Limerick in 1786."