

THE PARISH OF BALLINGARRY.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilfinny and Croagh; on the west by Rathkeale and Clooncagh Parishes; on the south by Castletown and on the east by the Parishes of Bruree and Croom.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in Irish Baile an Gharraidh, which signifies Gardentown. There are several places in Ireland of this name.

Part of the east gable of the old Church of this Parish, which fell and so became disused about thirty years ago, remains in a grave yard still in use, which adjoins the modern Church, but is separated from it by a stone wall. The window on this gable consists of two parts, is round arched and formed of cut stone. The traces of the foundation of other parts of this building are observable.

Ballingarry Abbey, situated in the Townland of Kilshaan near the Village of Ballingarry, consists of a nave and choir separated by a tower about sixty feet high. The choir is thirty three and a half feet long by nineteen feet eight inches. On the east gable there is a large window pointed on both sides, but as the entire of its lower part is destroyed, its dimensions could not be taken. Of the south side wall of the choir, a small portion of the east end adjoining the east gable and about twelve feet in length adjoining the tower and

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*Form of Windows in the Tower of
Ballingarry Abbey*

retaining the original height, remain, as also a portion about five and a half feet in height adjoining the latter. The breach between this and the east end is filled up with loose stones. On this south wall, close to the tower, there seems to have been a doorway, but it now presents merely the appearance of a large breach, somewhat round above. There appears to have been a square doorway on the north wall eighteen feet four inches from the tower, but it is now disfigured. The stone which seems to have been its lintel is six feet from the ground. On this north wall, near the east gable, there is a formless breach, which perhaps might have been originally a window; it is seven feet high by about four feet. The walls are about seventeen feet high and two feet nine inches in thickness. The tower, which is square, springs from two large pointed arches about fifteen feet high, seven and a half feet in width and three feet two inches in thickness; these arches are four and a half feet from each other. On this tower there are several windows of the annexed form. 62

There is also a small, square, narrow opening on the tower between the trace of the upper part of the roof of the nave and the top of the arch. A similar opening appears to have been on the opposite or east side of the tower, but it is now much shattered. The west gable of the nave is totally destroyed, but the bare traces of its foundation which are observable, enable us to determine the length of this part of the Abbey, viz., thirty nine feet; its breadth is nineteen feet eleven inches. Of the south wall of the nave about eleven feet in length near the west, retaining the original height, and a portion about four and a half feet high adjoining the former, remain. Only a small portion of the north wall retaining the original height and adjoining the tower, remains. Most of the breaches and features of (on) this Abbey are filled up to the height of four or five feet with loose stones. The stones of this building are of a regular size and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is at present no burial at this place. 63

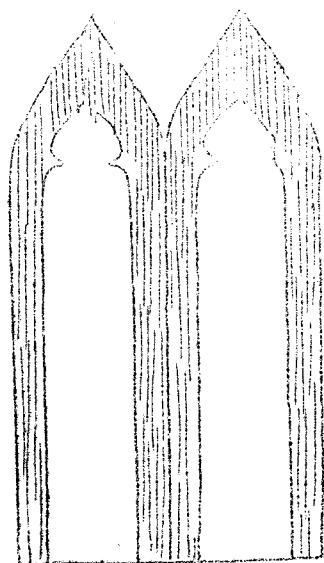
According to Fitzgerald (Hist. of Lim. Vol. I, page 574) the Abbey near Ballingarry belonged to the Order of St. Francis.

Ballingarry Castle, the walls of which are in a state of perfect preservation, is situated in the Townland of Knight Street, immediately adjoining the Village of Ballingarry. It measures thirty eight feet by twenty six and a half feet on the outside. On the south east side there is a window, the frame of which is shaped thus:- 64

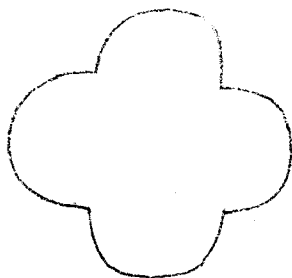
See sketch a opposite page 24.

Some of the glass still remains in it. Towards the east corner

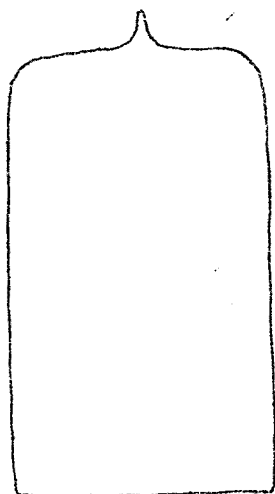
a



b



c



Windows in Ballingarry Castle

of the same side, there is a square port-hole, and over it a small narrow glazed window. On the south west side there is a double pointed window, the frame work of which is of wood; it has a very modern appearance. Above this on each side there are two windows of this form, having still some glass in them.

See sketch b opposite.

On the north west side near the ground there is a window formed somewhat thus:- 65

See sketch c opposite.

and near the top of this side there is a window having ornamental moulding of cut stone. On the north corner there is a square tower, the north west side of which is a continuation of the wall of the castle; this tower is about a hundred feet in height, and contains several narrow square windows. The entrance is at the north east. On this side there is a window of ornamental cut-stone and two plain square windows having the glass still remaining in them. The walls of this castle are about sixty five feet high, three feet nine inches in thickness and built of regular-sized stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. The tower contains the stairs leading to the top of the building. The castle consists of three stories the ceiling over the second floor being arched and plastered. On the third floor there is fixed a large old chimney piece brought from Kilmallock by Mr. Gibbons, who at one period fitted up this castle as a dwelling place. On the centre of the upper part of this chimney piece there is a slab having the following letters and figures raised on it:-

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16.145.38

Towards the edges of the chimney piece on each side of this slab are the letters S.H. on the left, and E.H. on the right.

Ballingarry Castle is said traditionally to have been an erection of the Knights Templars, from whom the name of the townland in which it is situated, and a street in the village is called Knight Street.

The inhabitants say that there was formerly a castle called Castle Rag, the site of which is now occupied by a modern house in the Village of Ballingarry, immediately adjoining the Protestant Church. In the townland of Rylaans, at a spot, the ancient name of which is Árd Eaglais, now under cultivation and near the dwelling house of Major Odell, is pointed out by the people the site of a religious edifice called the "Priory" by some, by others the "Friary". The foundation stones have been met with from time to time, in tilling the ground. The field on which 67

it stood is to this day called the "Friary (Priory) Garden." This establishment is said to have belonged to the Knights Bannerets. Local tradition says that in the time of Cromwell's Wars, the Odells retreated and took shelter here and that the valuable possessions of the Knights and of the Odell family are (have been) deposited at the Friary.

Near the east boundary of the same Townland of Ryleans, there is a well reputed holy and called John's Well.

In the same Townland and near the above, there remains a bastion or turret of an old Castle said to have belonged to the Lacy family. It is popularly called "the Turret."

In the East of the Townland of Grenagh are the ruins of an old Church called Shannaboha (Seana Bhoithe) situated in a large grave-yard still in use. This Church is now all destroyed except a small fragment of the east gable and a smaller one of the north side wall, both of which are featureless.

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In the Townland of Lissamota on level ground about one mile and a half north of the Village of Ballingarry there is an old Castle called by the name of the townland. The walls are still perfect and are about sixty feet high and five and a half feet in thickness. It measures fourteen and a half feet by eleven feet ten inches on the inside. There are two stone arches still remaining over the first and second floors; it originally contained three other floors, i.e., in all five floors. This is a very strong castle; it was surrounded by a Lios or earthen rampart, whence the name Lios a Mhóta. Of this Lios not a vestige now remains, it having been entirely carried away for manure. Lissamota Castle belonged to the Desmond family.

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Woodstock (Bun a Stóigh) Castle is situated in the Townland of the same name on level ground in a valley less than half a mile north of Ballingarry. It measures twenty one feet ten inches by fifteen feet nine inches, the walls being about thirty five feet high at present and five feet ten inches in thickness. The first stone arch remains. This building looks very old and is all covered with ivy. There is no tradition concerning its ancient possessors.

Of the old Church of Kilmacow, situated in the Townland of the same name two and three quarter miles to the east of Ballingarry, the west gable is destroyed, but the east gable and the greater part of the side walls are standing. It is fifty eight feet long and eighteen feet three inches in breadth the walls being two feet ten inches in thickness. The east window is about six inches wide outside, but towards its top it is so covered with ivy that its height inside could not be

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learned. On the outside it is four feet ten inches high and five feet from the ground. It widens to four feet on the inside. At the distance of three feet ten inches from the east gable, the south side wall has a small window which is reduced to a shapeless breach on the outside, where it was narrow. On the inside it widens to four feet two inches, but its top is destroyed. Directly opposite this on the north wall, there is a small window, evidently old, in tolerable preservation, measuring on the inside four feet three inches in width and five and one third feet in height and on the outside four feet three inches in height and six inches in width, being six feet two inches from the ground. It is round headed both inside and outside. There is a breach on the south wall, evidently where the doorway was placed. There is a Castle-like house in ruins in this Townland (i.e., Kilmacow).

For descriptions of Mournan old Church, Kilmacanerla Abbey, Jackson's Turret, St. Patrick's holy Wells, etc., etc., see Field Name Book.

In this Parish is situated the lofty hill of Cnoc-Firinne, which is believed to be inhabited by the great fairy Chief Donn-Firinne, who is often seen marshalling his warlike troops on the side of the hill. Nothing has yet turned up to shew whether this Donn was Dessa or Donn, the son of Milesius.

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I here append a genealogical account of the Odell family from Smith's Collections (MSS. R.I.A.):—

Smith's Collections for Limerick (MSS. R.I.A.).

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Some account of the family of Odell, Ballingarry, County Limerick.

Major John Odell married Elizabeth Kane, by whom he had issue: John, William, Judith, Mary and Grizel.

John married Constance Fitz Maurice, daughter of William, Lord Baron of Kerry, and left issue an only son, John Odell, which last John married Anne Fitz Maurice, daughter to Capt. James Fitz Maurice, son of the Lord Kerry and left issue three sons and one daughter, viz., Thomas, Fitzmaurice, William and Catherine. William Odell, second son of the first John, married Anne Hunt of Clangould, Co. Tipperary and left issue four sons, viz., John, Edward, William and George and two daughters, viz., Elizabeth and Anne. John, the eldest son of said William, married Frances Massey, of Macroon, Co. Cork, and has issue, *** Judith, daughter of Major John Odell, married Capt. Charles Connyers of Castletown and has a son, viz., Odell Conyers, and three daughters viz., Catherine, Margaret and Mary Conyers. Odell Conyers, the first son, is married

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to Jane Langford of Tallaght, Co. Limerick and by her has issue *** Catherine, first daughter, married Mr. John Bunbury, Clk., lived in Mallow. Margaret, second daughter, married to Lieut. John Shelton of Rosse in County Limerick, and has issue *** Mary Conyers, third daughter, is married to William Upton of Ballynabearing, Co. Limerick and has issue. 75

Mary, second daughter to Major John Odell, married Capt. Thomas Browne and by him had a son, viz., Lieut. Thomas Browne. She afterwards married John Langton, Co. Limerick, by whom she has issue.

Grissel, third daughter to Major John Odell, married Henry Graydon of Elverstown near Blessington, has issue two sons, viz., Morrough and Henry, and four daughters, viz., Mary, Anne, Elizabeth and Catherine. Morrough is married to Catherine Graydon of Russelstown near Blessington. Henry is unmarried. The eldest daughter, Mary, is married to Lieut. Thomas Browne and has two sons and two daughters. Anne, the second daughter, is married to John Smith of Baltebois and by him has issue *** Elizabeth is not married. The youngest daughter, Catherine, is married to - - Ormsby, Co. Sligo. 76

The antiquities of this Parish were, with the exception of a few places in the more distant parts of it, examined and described by Mr. O'Keeffe. 77

J. O'Donovan.

THE PARISH OF GLENBROHAUN.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parish of Knocklong; on the east by the Parishes of Galbally and Ballylanders; on the south by those of Kilfinnan and Darra and on the west by that of Emlygrynin.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in Irish Gleann Bruacháin, the Valley of Bruachan, *nom. viri*.

No part of the old Church of this Parish remains but the west

gable but from this it may be inferred that it was a rude building not many centuries old. The foundations of the other walls are not traceable, so that the length of this Church cannot now be determined, but from the impression of the side walls in the gable remaining it can be ascertained that the Church was twenty feet three inches in length on the inside and the walls three feet in thickness. There is a grave yard attached still used. One field to the north west of this Church there is a flat moat twenty three paces in diameter at the top and about ten feet above the level of the field. It goes by no name but the Moat of Gleann Bruachain, Anglicé Glen-Brohaun.

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The antiquities of this Parish were examined by me.

J. O'Donovan.
