

THE PARISH OF CAHERVALLY.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated about five miles south of the City of Limerick. It is bounded on the east by the Parish of Cahirnarry; on the north by the Parish of Donoghmore; west by Knocknagaul Parish and on the south by the Parish of Feddamore. It lies partly in the County of the City of Limerick and partly in the Barony of Clanwilliam.

NAME. The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from an old stone fort or caher near which the original Parish Church was placed. It is written in Irish Cathair Ui Bhachalla, which signifies the Caher or Stone Fort of O'Boughil, the name of the ancient occupier of the Townland.

J. O'Donovan.

July 7th 1840.

The old Church of this Parish is situated in the Townland of Raheen. The only parts of it now remaining are the south side wall, a small portion of the east and west gables adjoining the south wall and nine feet in length of about the middle of the north side wall. There is neither door nor window on any part of what remains. This Church was sixty feet long by twenty one and a half feet in breadth. The walls are about nine feet high, two feet nine inches in thickness and built of field stones with coarse sand and lime mortar. This Church is situated on the top of a hill and has attached a large graveyard much in use at at present. 147

About one hundred yards west of the old Church and higher up on the hill is a circular fort with what appears to be the foundation of a castle. The portion of these foundations which

remains is covered over with grass. This is the fort from which the Parish took its name.

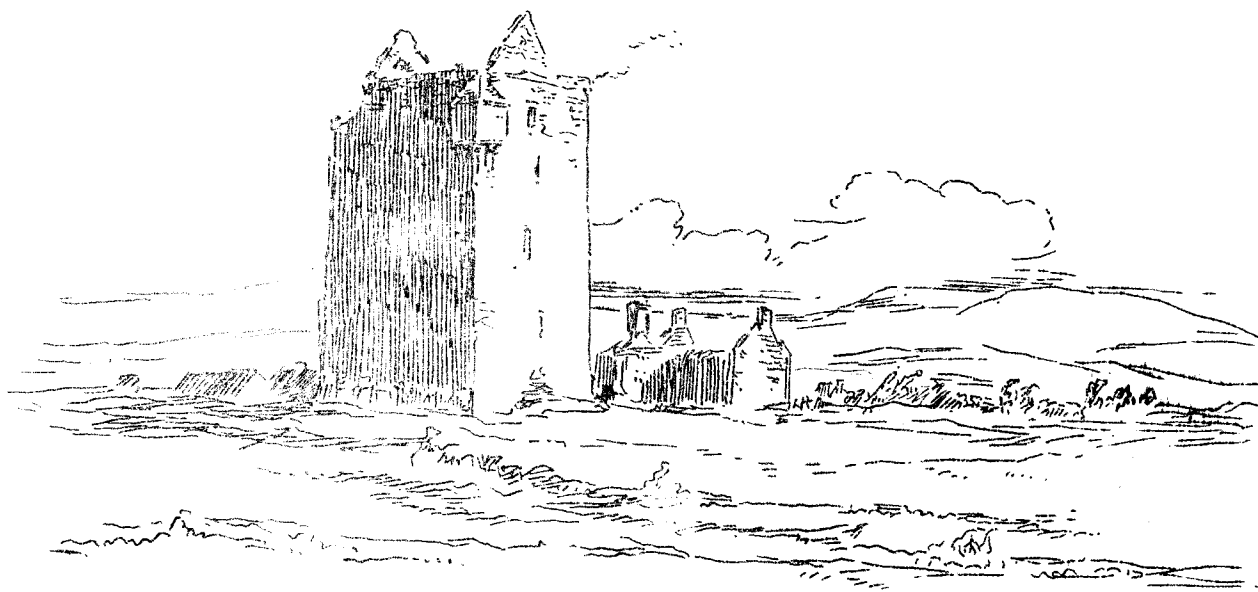
In the Townland of Friarstown are the remains of a religious edifice which the people call "the Abbey". The walls are perfect. This Abbey is eighty one and a half feet long by nineteen feet in breadth. On the east gable there is a window, the upper part of which is a flat arch on the inside where it (the window) is about eight feet high by five and a half feet. On the inside it is divided into two parts by a mullion each part being round above. On this side it is about eight feet from the ground, four feet ten inches high by two feet, each division being in width eight and a half inches. This window is formed of well cut lime stone. On the south side wall, five and a half feet from the east gable, there is another window, the upper part being a flat arch of thin stones on the inside where it is six feet high by five feet four inches. On the outside it is round arched, three feet ten inches high by ten inches and formed of well cut stones. On the same wall, fourteen and a half feet from this, there is another window which was divided into two parts but the mullion is now removed. On the inside it is six feet high by six and a half feet, the upper part consisting of a flat arch of thin stones. Outside it is four feet high by three feet, each part being one foot three inches in width and consists of the same cut stones as the preceding. On the west gable there is a window in two parts, each being round at the top. It is about ten feet from the ground (outside) and about four feet high, each division being about one foot wide. Under this window is the doorway, which on the inside is seven and a half feet high by four and a half feet having above a flat arch of thin stones. The outside is six and a half feet high by three feet eight inches and is formed of well cut stones, being in the pointed style approaching the round-arched.

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There is another doorway on the north wall at the distance of twelve feet from the east gable. This doorway is six feet high by two feet two and a half inches and has a round arch consisting (formed) of a single stone on the inside; on the outside it is seven feet high by two feet six and a half inches; it has a flat arch and is formed of hammered stones. The inside is formed of cut stone and, as will be seen by the measurements given here, narrower than the outside. The walls are about thirteen feet high and are three feet two inches in thickness.

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Attached to the southern wall of this edifice, near the middle, is a lateral building, the entrance to which from the main building is by a square doorway. This building measures twenty nine feet by seventeen feet four inches. It appears to have been a dwelling house as it contains two fire places



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The Castle of Lickadoon
Co Limerick.

and two chimneys. One of the chimneys is raised on the wall of the Abbey; the other is built in the middle of the gable on the south. On the eastern side of this lateral house, three and a half feet from the Abbey wall, is a window which is arched like those of the main building inside and round above on the outside where it is three feet five inches high by nine and a half inches and formed of cut stone. On the same wall, three feet from the south gable there is another window similarly formed inside, on the outside square and three feet two inches high by nine inches. The walls of this building are about twelve feet high and three feet in thickness. It does not look as old as the Abbey. This Abbey was built in a valley. There are no marks of graves about or near it.

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Tobar-Stroke in the Townland of Lickadoon is reputed a holy well and is still visited for the cure of sore eyes, etc.

The old Castle of Lickadoon (Lic a' Dúin) a very strong building, is situated in the Townland of the same name, on a level spot of land. At the eastern end it has a square tower not distinguishable from the rest of the building on the outside. This tower, which contains the stairs leading to the top of the castle, measures fifteen and a half feet by seven and a half (inside). The main body of the castle or western portion measures twenty three feet three inches by sixteen feet three inches (inside). It had five floors, of which the second remains, the three upper ones having been destroyed. The walls are about seventy feet high and eight feet ten inches in thickness.

Williamstown old Castle in the Townland of the same name has almost lost its ancient features, its walls having been repaired and its windows enlarged by Mr. Croker who has it now in use attached to a farm-house. It is situated on the top of a hill and was formerly a strong military castle.

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The antiquities of this Parish were examined by Mr. A. Curry and his notes arranged by Mr. O'Keeffe.

J.O'D.