

THE PARISH OF CHAPEL-RUSSEL.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the north of the Barony of Kenry. It is bounded on the north and east by the Parish of Ardenny, on the south by Kildimo Parish and on the west by the Parish of Kilcornan.

NAME. The name of this Parish is English, and signifies Russel's Chapel. It is otherwise called Pallis-Kenry.

Of the old Church of this Parish not a vestige now remains. The modern Church is situated in the north side of the old graveyard on rocky ground in the Townland of Pallas. There are but few bodies interred here now.

In the Townland of Shanpallas about half a mile east of this Church there is an old Castle, the south wall of which has fallen down to the first arch (i.e., the arch over the ground floor) the rest of the walls are perfect. It measures sixteen and a half feet by fourteen feet and contains five stories. The walls being about sixty feet high and six feet in thickness. It is built on a rock which is not very high, and is about one mile east of the Village (Town) of Pallas-Kenry. 7

Fifteen feet east of this Castle there is a yard enclosed by a wall which in some places (parts) is about thirty feet high and five and a half feet in thickness. This does not join the Castle. It measures fifty three feet by forty feet.

The tradition among the people is that the old Castle of Shanpallas belonged to the Desmond family.

This is the Castle mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters under the name of Caonraighe. In these Annals the following passages occur:-

A.D. 1573. The Earl of Desmond (Garrett, the son of James, who was son of John) and his kinsman John, who had been prisoners in London for six years, were set at liberty by consent of the English Parliament. They arrived in the Harbour of Dublin, but 8

the Earl was taken and put under arrest in the City. *** The Earl of Desmond found an opportunity of effecting his escape on the Festival of Saint Patrick following, against the will of the Council and without their knowledge, nor did they become aware of his escape until after three days' journey he had reached, accompanied by a few attendants from Dublin, the very centre of the Geraldine's Territory. *** In the course of one month he expelled the English soldiers and warders who had been stationed in the fortresses and Castles of the men of Munster, for the President and his Englishmen had until then retained the possession of Caonraighe (Kenry) i.e., Shanpallas, Baile na Martra (Ballymartar) and Castlemain. The Earl took these Castles and their warders, etc., etc.

A.D. 1574. The Earl of Desmond now began to be abandoned by his people and auxiliaries and he resolved upon coming to the Lord Chief Justice and making entire submission to him; this he did and he was obliged to deliver up to the Lord Justice, Castlemain, Dangarvan and Caonraighe, whereupon whatever injuries had been hitherto committed on either side were forgiven.

The Antiquities of this Parish were examined by Mr A. Curry and his notes put into the above form by Mr. O'Keeffe. 9

J. O'Donovan.