

THE PARISH OF DONOGHMORE.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the east by the Parishes of Derrygalvin and Cahernarry; north by St. Nicholas; south by Cahervalla and on the west by the Parish of

Knocknagaul. It is about two miles from the City of Limerick.

NAME. The name of this Parish is written Domhnach Mór in the Book of Lismore and in the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick published by Colgan. It signifies "the Great Church" Dominica Magna. — J. O'Donovan.

In Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History, Vol. 1, we read (pp. 287, 288) "While St. Patrick remained in Ara-Chliach (a territory lying to the east of the City of Limerick) he foretold, if we are to believe the Tripartite, divers circumstances relative to future occurrences in that country and among others the foundation of a Monastery at Kill-Ratha and of a Church at Kill-Teidhill (77). Next we find the Saint in that tract which lies to the east of Limerick and we are told that he was there hospitably entertained by a chieftain named Lonan (78) and that he met with young Nesson, whom after some time he placed over the Monastery of Mungret, which he had founded (79). Some inhabitants of Thomond or North Munster (Clare) having heard of St. Patrick's being in these parts crossed the Shannon for the purpose of seeing him and, when instructed in the Christian religion, were baptised in the field of Tir-Glais (80). He was also waited upon by Prince Carthen, son of Blod (83). This Prince likewise is said to have been converted and baptized at Saingéal near Limerick (82). St. Patrick did not cross the Shannon on this occasion but, according to the Tripartite, having ascended Mount Fintine near Donaghmore and looking over the Country of Thomond blessed it and foretold the birth after some years of Senan of Inniscatty (83). Afterwards the Saint went to Luachra (on the borders of the Counties Limerick and Kerry) beyond which he did not continue his course in any other part of West Munster."

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(77) Archdall, p.291, has these places in the County of Limerick. Kill-Teidhill was, I dare say, the same as Kiltel in the Barony of Coonagh; although he has made them two distinct places. As to Kilrath it would be difficult to find out at present. Archdall has no right to call Coeman, its founder, a Disciple of St. Patrick. The Tripartite does not mention him as such.

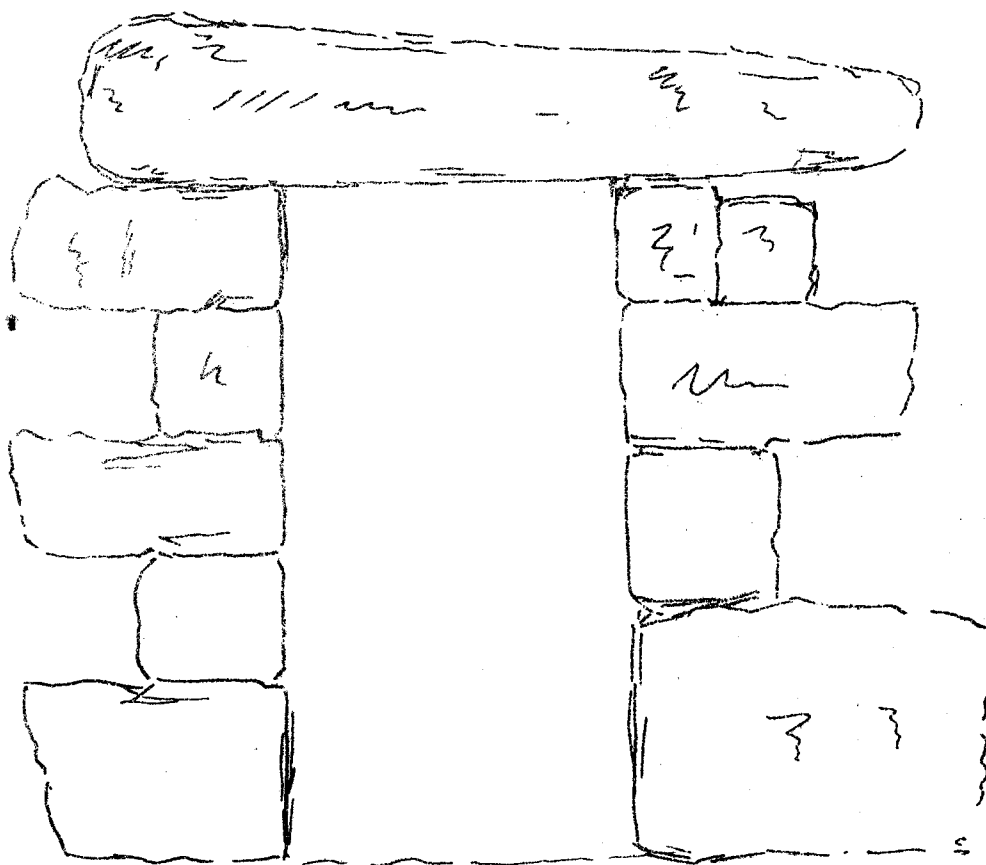
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(78) etc.

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(83) Tripart. Life p.292, 3, C.46. This alone is sufficient to show the falsehood of certain stories about the high antiquity of Senan, some of which Archdall has at Inniscattery. Of Senan more elsewhere. What Mountain Fintine was I cannot determine. There is a Donaghmore very near Limerick.

For the reference to Domnach Mor in the Book of Lismore, see St. Patrick's.



*Doorway in the old Church.
Donaghmore*

Of the old Church of this Parish the walls are perfect with the exception of the west gable, which has lost about six feet of the upper part. This Church is thirty three feet eight inches in length and twenty feet in breadth. There is no window on the east gable nor is there any sign or mark of any ever having been on it. On the south side wall, at the distance of eight four inches from the east gable there is a window, the features of which are now destroyed. On the west gable, about ten feet from the ground, there is another window in the pointed style, the features of which are destroyed on the outside; on the inside it is about four feet high by eight inches and is formed of cut limestone. The doorway, which is on this west gable, is square and has a large lintel. It is six feet high by three feet on the inside and formed of old brown cut stones. On the outside it is seven feet high by three feet and formed of large hammered limestones.

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See sketch opposite.

The lintel is six feet ten inches long; eighteen inches in depth at the north end, fifteen inches in the middle and one foot at the south end, and enters the wall three feet which is the entire thickness of the wall. This lintel appears to be limestone but it is so timeworn that it is not easy for one who is not an experienced geologist to know for certain. It looks much older than the lime stones which support it on the outside but of the same age with the brown stone of which the inside of the doorway is constructed from which it may be inferred that this doorway was remodelled. The walls of this Church are about fourteen feet high, three feet in thickness, built of large hammered lime stone and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a small graveyard very much in use attached to this Church.

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Of the old Castle of Drumbanny which was situated on the top of the hill which gives name to the Townland and about three quarters of a mile southwest of the old Church there are scarcely any traces remaining with the exception of about ten feet in height of the south wall. The length or breadth could not be determined.

Rathurde Castle, which is situated on a rise of ground in the Townland of the same name (This Townland is partly in the Parish of Donaghmore and partly in St. Nicholas. The castle is in the portion which lies in the latter Parish) about half a mile northwest of Domhnach Mór old Church is a most remarkable building, being round on the outside and square inside. It measures twenty feet seven inches by twenty feet three inches inside. The first floor over the ground floor is boarded and the third floor is arched (underneath). Whether

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the middle floor was arched or not we could not determine. It appears to have had another story above the three that now remain. The present height of the walls is about thirty five feet and their thickness thirteen feet. These walls have been measured on three sides and found to have the same thickness.

There is an old fort now nearly level with the ground, about thirty yards northwest of this old castle.

The antiquities in this Parish were examined by Mr. A. Curry and his notes arranged into the present form by Mr. O'Keeffe.

J.O'D.