

KILPEACON PARISH.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Baronies of Small County and Pubble Brien and is bounded on the - -

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced Cill Beach-áin in Irish and signifies the Church of St. Beacan.

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There are no ruins of an old Church here. The Protestant Church stands in a grave yard much in use and is not apparently of very modern erection. Locality is level ground.

Fitzgerald in his History of Limerick (Vol.I, p.300) gives us the following account of Kilpeacon, saying:- "At Kilpeacon is a very fine Church ornamented with a handsome tower" ***

(Page 301) "Within the Church is a fine marble monument to the memory of Sir William King, Knt., with a long Latin inscription."

"The Castle which was lately pulled down by the present proprietor, stood near the Church, and adjoining the Castle was the fine old mansion of Sir William King" ***

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(Page 302) "Edward Villiers Esq., the present proprietor has built a noble mansion near the site of the old house. In its vicinity is a place called Bawnachumtha or the Camp Field in which are some raths and circular fortifications. On the summit of Green-Hill in this Parish is a very large rath or dun about three hundred and fifty feet in circumference and from fifteen to twenty feet high while on the flat ground are many of that description denominated a Lios or fortification of the second sort, which is formed by the earth being thrown up from the surrounding trench. They are all within call of each other and it is conjectured that a chain of these fortifications was carried on to Limerick, which was the principal

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station of the Danes from the 9th to the 11th century. The signal given from Limerick could be easily seen at those elevated points and from thence conveyed to others more distant."

"In the summer of 1821 a peasant, whilst trenching potatoes on the lands of Kilpeacon, found a golden crown in the form of a large oyster shell. It weighed five and a half ozs. and was sold to a goldsmith in Dublin by Mr. Villiers for sixteen pounds sterling, which he gave to the poor man."

St. Patrick's Well is situated in the Townland of Kilpeacon and is frequented as a holy well in the present times.

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The "Liber Regalis Visitationis" has the following words respecting Kilpeacon:-

Kilbeacon residens - Rector Georgius Allen Prebendarius curatus Philippus Jenkins. Kilbeacon is placed in the Deanery of Limerick.