

THE PARISH OF RATHRONAN.

73

SITUATION. This Parish is in two detached (separate) divisions, of which one is in the Barony of Shanid and bounded on the north by the Parishes of Nantenan and Kilmoylan, on the east by Ardagh and Monagay, on the south by Abbeyfeale and on the west by the Parishes of Knockanure and Dooagh in the Co. of Kerry. The second division is in the same Barony and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Kilcolman, on the east by the Parishes of Kilbradran, Cloonagh and Kilscannell, on the south by Ardagh and Newcastle and on the west by Dunmoylan.

NAME. The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, but the Parish is called after the Townland in which the original Parish Church was built, which took its name from an earthen fort called probably from a pagan of the name Ronan. Rath Ronain signifies the Rath or Earthen Fort of Ronan, but who this Ronan was it is now perhaps in vain to inquire.

The ancient Church of Rathronan has long since disappeared and its site is occupied by a modern Protestant Church which was 74 erected about fourteen years ago; but the original Church did not survive to this period, for the one which was then pulled down was not many half centuries old. There is a large grave yard attached to the modern Church, but not much used at present as a cemetery.

In the Townland of Ballyvoughaun (Baile Ui Bhuadhacháin) about half a mile to the east of the Church, there is a Castle which goes by the name of the Townland. It measures on the inside twenty four feet by nineteen feet six inches and its walls are twenty five feet in height and five feet eight inches in thickness, but they were originally much higher. The arch over the ground floor of this Castle still remains.

In the Townland of Ballyegan in the same division of the Parish there is another fragment of a Castle of nearly the same size with the former and in the same state of preservation.

In the Townland of Teampull a tSleibhe (Teampleatlea) are the ruins of a Church in a large burial ground, but all its features are destroyed. The name signifies the Church of the Mountain, though they are now beginning to anglicise it Templeatea!

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry.

J.O'D.