

## THE PARISH OF GALBALLY.

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**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshlea and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Emly in the Co. of Tipperary; on the east by the Parish of Clonbeg in the Co. of Tipperary; on the south by Kilbeahanny and on the west by the Parishes of Ballyskadaun, Glenbrohaun and Ballylanders.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is written in the Annals of the Four Masters Gall-Bhaile Eatharlach, signifying the English Town of Aharlagh, so called from its situation immediately to the west of the celebrated Glen of Aharlagh in the Co. of Tipperary. It must have been called Gall-Bhaile or Englishtown from the Fitzgeralds, who seem to have settled here before the O'Briens established themselves in this part of the Country.

The old Church of Galbally is a remarkably long one, measuring one hundred and thirty six feet in length and twenty five feet nine inches in breadth. The east gable which is in tolerable preservation contains a rude window which, for the extent of the Church, is a remarkably small one. On the inside it forms a flat (obtuse) arch at top and is rudely constructed but on the outside it is formed of cut lime stone and divided into two compartments, each of which is shamrockheaded. This Church was lighted by three other windows placed on the south wall, but they are so rude and apparently (obviously) so modern as to be unworthy of minute description. 213

The west gable is destroyed except a small fragment near the south west corner. A considerable part of the north wall is destroyed but more than fifty feet of it still remain.

There is a rude doorway on the south wall placed at the distance of thirty six feet of the west gable; it forms a flat

arch on the inside, but on the outside it is disfigured and not worth description.

The thickness of the side walls of this Church is four feet and the greatest height eighteen feet.

It is a rude Church about four centuries old.

I here insert what the Irish writers have gathered of the history of this place:-

Gallbhaile Eatharlach - Annals 4 Masters. 214

"A.D. 1471. A monastery was commenced by (for) Franciscan Friars in Gallbhaile Eatharlach in the Diocese of Emly in Munster but was destroyed the next year.

Archdall's Mon. Hib., V. II, p. 420, R. I. A. 215  
Galbally (called otherwise Moure).

Situated in the Barony of Coshlea. One of the O'Brien family founded a considerable Monastery here for Gray Friars (War. Mon.) and the ruins of it yet remaining, with those of several other religious foundations, sufficiently shew the ancient magnificence of Galbally (O'Halloran).

XX January XXXV K. Henry VIII; this Monastery, with three gardens, six messuages and six acres of arable land, was granted in capite to John of Desmond for ever, at the yearly rent of 4d. 216  
Irish money (Auditor General). But Inquisition taken 4 September XXVI Q. Elizabeth, finds that James, son of the said John, forfeited the same by high Treason and was killed in that rebellion (Chief Remem. MS.). Inquisition 14th October, 1. K. Charles, finds that K. James, being seized of this Monastery and the whole Territory of Atherloe, with the appurtenances belonging thereto in the Counties of Limerick and Tipperary, did grant the same, 30th March IX of his reign, to Thomas Cantwell and his heirs and 217  
assigns for ever, to be held as of his Castle of Dublin in common soccage, at the annual rent of £90 sterling for the first fourteen years and afterwards at £80 sterling annually (Rot. Canc. Hib. MS.).

#### Holy-Cross\*.

Inquisition 8 March XX Q. Elizabeth, finds that the Prior of this house in the Co. of Limerick was seized in fee of the Rectory of St. John in the suburbs of the City of Limerick, which was annexed to this Priory and was of the annual value of 20s.

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\* This Abbey belongs to the Co. of Tipperary and this description should be transferred to that County - J.O'D.

## Gough's Camden:—

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At Galbally are the ruins of a Monastery of Grey Friars, founded by one of the O'Briens (H. Farrar, 440).

The old Abbey of Galbally is situated about half a mile to the east of the village. It looks more like a large Church divided into nave and choir with a tower over the choir arch than an Abbey. Its choir measures on the inside thirty eight feet ten inches in length and twenty three feet in breadth. Its walls are in good preservation; they are three feet ten inches thick and about twenty four feet high. The east gable contains a large Gothic window divided into three compartments and measuring six feet two inches in breadth and about twelve feet in height on the outside. At the distance of twelve feet from the east gable there is another pointed window on the south wall, which was originally divided into three compartments, but they are now broken. This window is on the outside about seven feet in height and about half that in width.

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Close to the choir arch there is another window on the south wall (there is another pointed window) the outer part of which is divided into two compartments and measures seven feet ten inches in height and in width three feet seven inches.

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There is a rude doorway on the north wall of the choir placed at the distance of thirteen feet from the east gable; it forms a flat arch at top on the inside but on the outside it is disfigured and not worth description.

The arches from which the tower springs look remarkably narrow for their height, being about twenty seven feet in height and only eight feet four inches in width. The lower part of the tower (that is, the part extending from the ground to the tops of these arches) is lighted by two small windows placed on the south side; the one is about six inches square and the other, which is placed over it, is shamrockheaded and measures about two feet four inches in height and ten inches in width. The upper part of the tower was lighted by seven windows, two on the south side, two on the east, two on the west and one on the north side; some of them are now disfigured.

The distance from the eastern face of the eastern arch to that of the western arch is seventeen feet four inches, and the thickness of the walls four feet two inches.

The nave of this Abbey measures forty four feet ten inches in length and twenty three feet in breadth. Its doorway, which was on the south wall, is reduced to a shapeless breach and its west gable, which contained a large window and perhaps a doorway also has a large breach in its middle extending from the ground

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to the top of its present height which is little more than that of the side walls.

There was a large window on the south wall of this nave close to the Tower, but it is now much disfigured and built up with rough mason work. There is a spiral stair case consisting of thirty six steps leading from the south west corner to the top of the south wall. It is lighted by three narrow apertures which are about four feet high and four inches in width.

To the south of Galbally are visible small traces of Galbally Castle but they are too indistinct to give any measurements of them.

In the Townland of Duntryleague, about three miles to the west of the Village of Galbally, are visible slight traces of the Doon which was built here by the famous Brian Boru; they are in the Church yard and to the north east of the Protestant Church of Duntryleague, but they are so indistinct that no definite idea can now be formed of the extent or importance of the Doon. 222

On a hill lying to the east of this Church of Duntryleague, there is in the middle of the heath a very remarkable sepulchral monument universally called Leabaith Dhiarmada agus Ghraine, i.e., Dermot and Grania's Bed. It consists of a Cromlech, formed of three flag stones standing on edge on the north side, two on the east side and three on the south side, covered over head with two massy (massive) flag stones, one towards the north west, the other on the south east; the south east end of the former supporting the latter. The former measures six feet eight inches by five feet ten inches and the latter six feet ten inches by four feet five inches. The greatest height of the first flag from the present level of the ground is five feet ten inches. From this Cromlech standing stones extend in a north and north west direction, and there are two large flag stones displaced, which they evidently supported. 223

This monument presents all the appearance of having been the burial place of a number of persons. The hill on which it stands commands a prospect, a panoramic (wide and various) view of the Country in every direction; of Sleibhte Eibhlinne to the north; of the Galtees, which lie at no great distance to the south east; of Kennfebrat which lies to the south, and of a most beautiful and fertile tract of country in every direction. For the names of the wells and other features of that description in this Parish, see Field Name Books. 224

Examined by me.

J. O'Donovan.