

LUDDEN PARISH.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Clan-William and is bounded on the east by the Parishes of Inch St. Laurence and Caherconlish; on the north by Carrig-parson and Cahernarry; on the west by the latter and on the south by Rochestown and Caherelly.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced Luidin in Irish, which signifies - - - -

The old Church of this Parish stands in ruins near the centre of the Townland of Luddenbeg.

The east gable, and joined to it thirty two feet of the south side wall and twenty eight feet of the north one, yet remain. The west gable and the remainder of the side walls have been razed to the ground. The breadth of the ruin is twenty four feet.

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On the east gable is a window which retains no peculiar features inside, and on the outside it has two points at top, is nine feet from the ground, four feet high and one and a half feet broad. The divided spaces at top measure seven and a half inches in breadth. The walls are about ten feet high and four feet thick and are built with large and small stones intermixed and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is here a large grave yard much in use. Locality is level ground.

Fitzgerald in his History of Limerick (Vol.I, p.289) already so often referred to, gives us the following description relative to this Parish. He says:-

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"Luddenbeg south west of Inch St. Lawrence *** In this Parish are the walls of an old Abbey. The Order of the monks to which it belonged is now unknown. On the south and north walls of this Church is a rude figure of our Saviour on a cross in alto relievo and a little to the south stood the strong Castle of Luddenmore, situated at the foot of Knock-roe; in this Castle lived James Goold, etc." See the rest of Ballybricken Castle above spoken of.

In a Note (ibid) the above writer adds:-

"Mons. Alemand in his Monastical History of Ireland" gives the following account of this Abbey. "There was a knight (says Mathew Paris) called Owin, of Irish birth, who, having served King Stephen in his wars, got licence to repair to his native country to visit his friends; and when he came into Ireland, hearing the fame of St. Patrick's Purgatory, it came into his mind to visit the same. Being in the cave and concavities underground he saw strange sights and making report thereof to King Stephen, he obtained licence henceforth to lead a solitary life; he obtained also of King Stephen a piece of a parcel of ground in Ireland to build a Monastery called Ludden, and Abbey of White Monks, where Gervasius became the first Abbot and where Gilbert, a Monk, trained up Owin in the Order thereof."

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Kyle, in Irish Cill, which signifies in the common acceptance of the word among the people, a burial place, is the name of a spot of ground situated in the north part of

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the Townland of Kilcoolin of a circular form and measuring, as is noted in the Parish Name Book, about one chain in diameter. It is covered with green sod and does not rise much above the surface of the ground about it. It was used about fifty or sixty years since as a place of interment and then only for children. The name of the townland is pronounced in Irish Cill Chuillín and ought to be anglicised Kilculleen.

Traversed by Mr. A. Curry; notes arranged by Mr. T.
O'Connor.

J.O'D.