

## THE PARISH OF TOMDEELY.

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the north of the Barony of Shanid, on the south bank of the River Shannon. It is bounded on the north by the said River Shannon; on the east by the Parish of Askeaton, from which it is separated by the River Deel; on the south by Lismakeery and on the west by the Parishes of Morgans and Robertstown.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is pronounced by the natives as if it were written Tom Dnaoile, which signifies the Bush of the River Deel, but I am of opinion that it is a corruption of Tuaim Daoile, i.e., the Tumulus at or near the River Deel. 444

The old Church of Toomdeely is situated in a Townland of the same name about two miles northwestwards of Askeaton and not far from the mouth of the River Deel, from which it takes its name. It was divided into nave and choir, the former measuring thirty four feet in length and twenty four feet two inches and the latter twenty one feet by fifteen feet three inches on the inside. The side walls of the choir are ten feet six inches in height and those of the nave twelve feet six inches.

All the features of this Church are destroyed but one can clearly see from the breaches in the walls where its doorway and windows were placed. The west gable is in good preservation and remarkably sharp at the top, but the east gable is a good deal injured and its east window, which was of considerable size, entirely disfigured. The south wall of the choir contained two windows, but they are so disfigured that no idea could be formed of their extent or characteristics. The choir arch is also completely destroyed. The south wall of the nave 445

contained the doorway which was placed near the west gable, but it is now reduced to a formless breach. There was a small window on the same wall placed near the choir arch, but the antiquarian has to lament that this also is entirely disfigured. The north wall and west gable are featureless. All the walls are built of limestones of considerable size and cemented with lime and sand mortar of excellent quality. The antiquarian has no guide to fix the date of the erection of this Church but the appearance of the masonry, from which it would appear that it is a Church of the 15th century. It may be older, but of one fact I am certain, that it has no claim to an antiquity of more than five centuries. Its grave yard was tilled and is now a part of a green field.

A short distance to the south and by west of this Church is situated the ruin of a castlelike house of a rectangular form, measuring about seventy two feet in length and forty feet in breadth. No tradition of its original founder or occupier. It does not appear to be old.

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For the correct names, etc., of the ancient earthen forts in this Parish, see the Field Name Book.

Antiquities examined by me assisted by Mr. O'Keefe.

J. O'Donovan.