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Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, Clare (Vol.1)

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Curry, Eugene

Assorted letters, extracts, sketches and maps, relating to the history, genealogy, antiquities and topography of Co. Clare, with particular reference to its churches, castles, forts and holy wells.

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O'Curry, Eugene

**Index and title page to the Ordnance Survey letters, relating to county Clare (Vol.1).
Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from
Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Corofin, Co. Clare, concerning his plans to
commence fieldwork in Clare, and requesting source material to aid him in his
work.**

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Letters
containing information relative
to the
Antiquities
of the
County of Clare,
collected during the
progress of the
Ordnance Survey,
in
1839.

Vol. I.

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14/10/23/1 (XVIII) Sketch

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To be at. h.

Est Curry	Ennis	17	Nov	Killone	Clare abbey	} Nov 27
				Templemole	Kilraughtis	
"	OST	Tulla	22	"	Feakle	" 28
"	Curry	Scarriff	24	"	Quin, Tomfinlough	Dec 10
"	OST	Dublin	11	Dec	Cooney, Tansieany	" 10
"	"	"	6	"	Mayno	" 16
"	"	"	7	"	OConnell, Killaloe, Killo Kennedy	" "
"	"	"	9	"	Kiltinanlea, Kilgann, Inmurching	} " "
"	"	"		"	Killely, Kiltintanah, Bunsratty	
"	"	"	10	"	List of Castles	" "
"	"	"	Dec 11	"	Brunline, Kilconry, Kilmaleery	" "
"	Curry	"	6	"	Tulla, Killuran, Kilno,	} " "
"	"	"	"	"	Cloula, Killeely, Troogh, Killeenaghtis	
"	"	"	"	"	Kilmurry, Feenagh, Clonloghan	

11/

Clare
Vol 1
Corofin 10th October 1839

J. A. Larcom Esqr. R.E.

Sir

Mr O'Donovan and A. Barry set off on
yesterday morning from this for the western
and northern parishes of the Barony of Burren,
leaving me ^{to} get over the part of that barony
bordering on this, until the name books of Inquisition
should arrive.

Yesterday, and this chough wet day enabled
me to dispose of the work allotted to me, and
regret to find that the books of this Bar.
have not yet reached me, that no time
should be lost on my hands.

If the books are delayed for the purpose
of comparing the names with inscriptions or
other documents, it is quite unnecessary
as I think we will be able to settle

14/B/23/1(4)

them satisfactorily by the aid of the maps of documents we have already, and the living local authorities still to be met with here.

We want the entire article relative to O'Donnell's plundering expedition into Thomond in the year 1599, as given in the Annals of the 4 Masters and translated by Mr O'Donovan, this to be sent forthwith and the original, as soon as can be afterwards.

I made copies of some original Irish deeds into one of the common place books at Mr. Petrie's, and these should also be copied immediately and sent out.

I hope we will be able to make a tolerable good, though I fear tedious, job of this County. This place is full of historical tradition, and the people by one thousand degrees ^{historically} more intelligent than the Lagenians or Ossingians.

The name books of the baronies of Loo & Looke
and the extracts indexes maps &c for Kilkenny
were sent in to you from Limerick; the remaining
baronies will be soon ready for return.

I send herewith Tighes survey of the County
of Kilkenny.

The rain has come on again here and
promises to be a constant visitor.

I shall not be idle waiting for the books
as I can visit and examine the numerous
ecclesiastical and civil and military ruins
in this neighbourhood in the interim.

I am Sir your obedient humble servant

Engelbary

14/8/23/1(X)

2/ 6
Corofin 15. October 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

We have this day received from you, extracts from G. Massey, and Irish Songs, and we beg further that we may have the entire of the year 1873 (as far as regards songs) from the translated Annals.

If you have O'Brien's Irish English Dictionary at hand we will thank you for sending it; if you have not it, I have a copy at home which may be had at once and sent.

We want to have the account of the O'Brien family as preserved in John O'Mahon's M. S. T. C. D. (which

14/10/23/1 (VII)

7
A. 1. 15 or A. 1. 17. Mr. Petrie knows which.)
It is the book that contains the Annals of
Inisfallen.

We have not written a word on Clare yet.
We can scarcely go by parishes, but by districts,
and there are so large and so much involved
in ~~one~~ each other that we must traverse
the whole before we can describe one.
Mr. O'W. is gone out to Gencolumbkille and
Bothar-na-mias this day and won't
be home till tomorrow.

We have had fine weather of it since
this day week, however we have not
been idle.

I am in your obedient servant

Engene Barry

END

14 B 23/2

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Corofin, Co. Clare, in which O'Donovan refers to his visit to the Burren, his interest in the early Irish churches of the county and hopes that William Wakeman will join them to sketch the local antiquities.

14 October 1839

2p.

24 cm

Included are references to the recent difficulties while travelling due to the incessant rain, and O'Donovan's requests for source material to aid his research of the area.

1/ 4
Thos. A. Larcom Esq. Corofin October 14th 1839.

Dear Sir I returned yesterday evening from the wild rocks of Burren, where I was hurt by a mule, but not very severely. Burren is the wildest and ruggedest district I have yet seen and I found it exceedingly difficult to cross the single lime-stone ^{walls} ditches with which it abounds, but I have not done with it yet. The present lineal descendants of the chiefs of this formidable territory is Malachy O'Loughlin who lives ^{at Newtown near Ballintraughan,} ~~near Burren~~. I am most anxious that Wakeman should join us immediately, as I have met several ancient churches in the primitive Irish style and in beautiful preservation, which it is most desirable, he should sketch with great care. as perfect specimens of the earliest architecture of Christian times in Ireland. There is scarcely any thing in the Baronies of Ida or Iwerk in the County of Kilkeny, worth sketching.

14/B/23/2(i)

I want the pedigrees of O'Heidlin and O'Shaughnessy and all the references Magh Offidhne and to the Fiachrach Aidhne that occur in the Irish annals. Also the story about Bothar na mias in Burren.

I believe they were already copied for the Barony of Kiltartan in the County of Galway.

I have a great deal still to write about the County of Kilkenny, which will retard my progress in this. The rain is incessant here, and I feel very dull from having been under it since last Wednesday. One month of fair weather would now bring us near the end of this season's rambling, but there is no appearance of dry weather.

your obt. servt.
John O'Donovan

RIA

14/B/23/2 (II)

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

R. Engineers

Phoenix Park

Edw.

END

14 B 23/3

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Corofin, Co. Clare, in which he refers to his recent travels in the parishes of Glencolumbkille and Kilkeedy.

17-18 October 1839

2p.

24 cm

Included is a request that copies of the Book of Survey and Distribution and Down Survey be made available to him.

RIA

6/
 Thos. A. Larcom Esq
 R. E.

Corofin Octob^r, 17th 1839

Dear Sir,

Since I wrote last I have been travelling through Glen Columbkille and the parish of Riltkeedy. We shall move on Saturday morning to Inistymon where you will find us for about 8 days.

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan.

I hope that the Down Survey and Back of Survey and Distribution will be copied for us to illustrate the topography of this very interesting County.

14/B/23/3(i)

Corofin October 18th 1839

Dear Sir,

We are now starting for Enistymon having finished the baronies of Burren and Inchaglin. I have now an immensity to write and must stop at Enistymon until I put my notes into some order.

I hope Wakeman will soon join us as there is much interesting work for him in the two baronies of this county which we have traversed.

I send Mr. O'flonor three pounds. Be so kind as to send them to him through Mr. Petrie. I fear he has been distressed in consequence of his long illness. I hope he is now able to attend to his business, if not I shall do every thing in my power to assist him till he

14/13/23/3(11)

he is convalescent. This I consider my
duty, as, while in health, he did his business
like a man,

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

R. E.

Prod. Survey Office.

END

14 B 23/4

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Ennistimon, Co. Clare, concerning the progress of his field work in Co. Clare.

19 October 1839

2p.

24 cm



14/B/23/4(i)

Sup. Diman Anglice Ennistimon

October 19th 1839.

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

Dear Sir, R.E.

I now send you all the ^{field} name books of the County of Kilkenny, and also the book of the parishes and baronies. They have been an incubus on me since my arrival in this County, and still I did not wish to remain within to finish them while I had fine weather to traverse Burren and Boher na mias.

I have not explained the names of the parishes and baronies because that was already done in the letters.

I am now ready to commence the topography and history of the Dal gais, which will turn out very interesting. I want the pedigree of the O'Gathams or O'Hanays of Liatha in the County of Clare. They descend from ^{a son of} Coey naghall of Aireacht Mh Chathain in Ulster, who removed to Thomond in the beginning of the 13th century. It will be found in Shanel O'Hanais MS. in the library

library of the Royal I. Academy, and I think Mr. Petrie has a copy of it, but I am not certain.

Mr. Petrie I want the name books of the baronies of Moyarta which is the next we have to traverse, after Corcomroe. We intend to move ^{to} Milltown Malbay in about five days; after which we shall move to Kilkee and thence to Kibrush from which we shall send fipie to Carrickaholt and Dun athaigh.

I have as much to write now as would keep me occupied for about 10 days working 14 hours a day, but I must shorten my descriptions, as I find that it would take about twelve months to do any thing like justice to this County. All we want at present is the orthography, and if the antiquities or history be ever done, people must be sent to each locality again to investigate it more fully than we can possibly do during our hurried tour for ascertaining the correct names and fixing the ancient localities.

I don't hear a word about Mr. Wakeman, if he does not come soon, we shall be so

far ahead of him that he will never
be able to overtake us - and if he
does not come into this County imme-
diately he can not possibly be able
to finish it this season -

Your obedient &c Servant
John O'Donovan

14/13/23/4 (ii)

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

R. Eng.

Prod. Bureau office

END

14 B 23/5

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Ennistimon, Co. Clare, concerning the traditions, history, genealogy, antiquities, topography and place names of the parishes of Abbey and Ardrahan, with particular reference to Corcomroe Abbey and Ardrahan's connection to the O'Heyne family.

21 October 1839

12p.

24 cm (i-iii), (v-xii); 26 cm (iv)

Included are copy extracts from the Annals of Inisfallen, the pedigree of Shane Reagh O'Kane and O'Donovan's speculations on the possibility that antiquarian John Lloyd forged an Ogham inscription on Slieve Callan. With thoughts on the career of Peter Comyn, insights into the history of Co. Clare, which he regards as unique due to its exemption from the 'vicissitudes and merry-go-round transfers of property' prevalent nationwide and his own poem, written in Irish, 'in imitation of Giolla losa Mor Mac Firbisse.'

4
By John O'Donovan

14 (1)

Ó Oppaige 'n ap h-oilead inn
Tuirillam piap tap Sionáinn
Co epé aobinn Chomairc éap
D'fécham á fíneá dút cháp.
Na págam iníe pío ná gleán,
Póiríe, bealaí na dub-beán
Cácar, lóp, cáirleán ná cloíde
Cen reuítam fm síb p'ápoíde.

S.O.D. in imitation
of Gíolla Iosa mac
Mac Fírbes.

14/8/23/5(1)

15
(3)

Labram do cloim Choppmaic Chair
Tprallom cap Sionainn rput-glarr. O'Herin.

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

Dear Sir,

Having at length shaken off the incubus the County of Kilkenny "in the English pale" with which though it is my maternal solum I have little or no sympathy, I now enter upon a field of topographical and historical research, which is truly romantic and full of interest - the County of the Dal Cair. Its history and ancient topography, are better preserved than those of any County I have yet visited, because its ancient proprietors were never driven out, having always found shelter under the illustrious representatives of Brian Boru, who had the good fortune to retain their possessions and power during all the vicissitudes and merry-go-round transfers of property by which this unfortunate island has been agitated. The ancient traditions are here very vivid

14/B/23/5(II) . and

(4)¹⁶ and the historical extracts already in our hands are copious, but we have not all yet: there are many tracts on the country of the Dal gais in the MS. library of Trinity College, which we have not. The following are immediately requested.

1. Pedigree of O'Loughlin, chief of Burren, as given in the Books of Glendalough, Ballymote, Lecan, and Donald M^c Firb's
2. Pedigree of O'Conchobair - O'honor - of Connemara, as given in the same authorities.
3. O'Flanigan's account of the Ogham inscription on Slieve Gallan, and also Lloyd's account of the same monument. ^{of Dublin, the herbalist and Irish Scorpion} Old M^r Casey frequently told me that it is a well known fact that this inscription was forged by John Lloyd, a school-master in the County of Clare, who composed several political Irish songs, and published an account of this same ^(forged) monument; that O'Flanigan was well aware of

generally credited report
of this, but suppressed it in his paper published
in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy.
and that when Mr. Casey stated before the then
chief antiquaries of Dublin that it was al-
ways believed in Munster that the ogum on
the Ballan mountain was forged by John
Lloyd, O'Flanigan was so hurt that he
exclaimed "May the devil jump into that
fellow's heart! genus irritabile vatum!"

When men acquire fame ^{or even notoriety} by any means, honest
or dishonest, it is an extraordinary fact
that they will do their utmost to maintain
their character to the last. This was the
case with O'Flanigan in the present in-
stance. There is in the possession of Messrs.
Hodges and Smyth an original letter of
Charles O'Conor in which that honest
Irishman proves that O'Flanigan was
acting the part of the Charlatan in his
manner of decyphering this monument. I
wish Mr. Smyth would send me a copy
of this letter. He can very easily find
it.

14/B/23/5 (iii)

(4)

Walter's name

of the parish of Abbey.

Situation.

This parish forms the most northern part of the barony of Burren, and is bounded on the North-west, North and North-east by the bay of Galway; on the East and South-east by the parish of Oghtmama, and on the west by the parish of Drumcreehy.

Name.

The present and apparently ancient name of this parish is Mainister Chorcumruadh, i.e. the Abbey of Corcumroe, but I have never been able to ascertain why it received such an appellation, as it is not situated in the territory ^{now called} of Corcumroe but in that of Burren. ^{Burren} Perhaps Corcumroe was originally a generic name for a territory comprising the present baronies of Corcumroe and Burren? If not it will be difficult to assign a reason for the addition of Corcumroe having been put to the name of this abbey. On this subject however I shall speak more fully when

RIA
Concomrae originally comprised the present
barony of that name and also the barony of Burren.

Nov^r. 16th. 1840. Lod

14/6/23/5(IV)

19 (7)

when treating of the history of O'Loughlin and
O'nor of Corcumroe, who are not of the Dal-
-cassian race, but of the race of Fergius
Mac Riagh, king of Ulster.

In the Guthreim Fhigir dhe abhnaigh or wars
and the Annals of Irish History
of Torlogh O'Brien, it is called the Abbey
of Burren, as will presently appear.

According to a list of Castles abbeys &c. written
by William O'Lionain, it would appear that
the abbey of Corcumroe was founded by
Donogh, the son of Seige O'Brien whose mother
was the daughter of O'Day, but according
to Ware this is uncertain. Archdall states
that Corcumroe is the name of a small vil-
-lage in the Barony of Burren, which was
plundered, according to the Annals of Ulster,
in the year 1088, by Roderic O'nor and Per-
-mot O'Brien; but I deny that Corcumroe was
ever the name of a village, or that it is mentioned
as such in any Irish Annals. I here insert
all that Archdall has collected of the his-
-tory of this abbey.

14/B/23/5 (V)

* q: Is not the meaning of the passage in the annals of Munster that the territory of Corcumroe was thrice plundered by Roderic O'Conor &c. in 1088?

B Let me have the passage in the annals of Irishfallen under the year 1088 which mentions the plundering of Corcumroe; for I think that by the annals of Munster Archdall meant the annals of Irishfallen.

Loq

County
of
C ClareCarcurmroe (i)

A small village in the barony of
 Burren; it was there plundered by Roderic
 O'Conor and Dermot O'Brien in the year 1088^{*} (K)
 (A. D. 1194. Donald King of Limerick founded
 a sumptuous monastery here for Cistercian
 Monks and dedicated it to the Virgin
 Mary (l) others say that Donagh Carbac
 his son was the founder in the year
 1200. This abbey was ^{also} called the abbey of
 the fruitful Rock. and was a daughter of
 that of Duis; it was afterwards made subject
 to the celebrated abbey of Furness in Lancashire;
 the cell of 'Kilsonna, alias Kilstanny' was
 sometime after annexed to this house. (m)
 The founder died the same year (n)
 1267. Donagh O'Brien King of Thomond was
 killed in the battle of ^{that was fought at} Cluainne (o). he was

Solemnly

(i) was called anciently Carcurmroeth.

(K) Ann. Munst. (L) Liber rubr. de Kilken. (m) war mon

(n) Lodge. V. 1. p. 251. (o) In the barony of Burren. 14/3/23/5 (vi)

(10)²² ~~724~~ 130
Solemnly entered in this abbey. where a grand
monument was erected to his memory. the
remains of which are to be seen at this day. (17)
1317. A dreadful battle was fought near
this town in which many of the principal
of the O'Briens fell, amongst the slain were
Tuge and Morteogh Garbh sons of Brian
Ruadh King of Thomond. (2)
1410. The abbot John was made bishop
of Kilmacduagh. (r)

ms. K Henry VIII 1 July anno 35 granted
to Morrogh Earl of Thomond this abbey
containing 15 quarters of land in this Co^{ty}
and 16. Also annual rent in Gortnabanaugh
near Claris & 13. 4 annual ~~rent~~ rent in cor-
=anno & Ballyherin. & 2 messuages with
2 gardens in Killybegh D^y County. Chief men.
ms. This abbey with 11 quarters of land in
corcumroe and Glanemanagh was granted
to Richard Harding. (s).

(17) Collectanea N^o 4. p. 604 (a) id p. 605 (r) near Bishops p. 648.
(s) under Gen Office.

Inquisition 6th Decem. 1720. XXV Elizabetha^{ms}
finds that Donogh M. Murphy O'Brien, of
Promolan in this County, did Seize of
this abbey and all its possessions annual
in account of the depopulation of the County ~~by the~~
value besides, reprises being only 110. Irish
money. (i).

Inquisition 11th June 1721. XXVI same reign
finds that Morcho O'Brien Father of Oarinet
baron of Inchiquin being seized in fee of divers
lands abbeys he did grant to Donat abbeys
Donogh O'Brien his 3rd son the abbey of
Corcumroe with all its appurtenances
annual value besides reprises 30. Chief remem.

(i) Chief remem.

14/8/23/5 (vi)

The present tradition in the country is that the abbey of Corcomroe was founded by the son of Conor na Siudaine O'Brien on the spot where his father was killed in battle by Guary O'Shaughnessy of Dun Guaire near Kinnarra. It is added that an effigy of Conor na Siudaine was placed on the very spot in the abbey where he fell; but there is no truth in this tradition, for it appears from the Annals of Irishfallen as well as from the Wars of Torlogh that this abbey was in existence long before the death of Conor na Siudaine, and that Conor na Siudaine was not killed by O'Shaughnessy. I shall here insert the account of the death of Conor surnamed na Siudaine as given in both these authorities.

14/8/23/5 (viii)

(14) 25

A.D. 1267. An army was led by Conor na Sindaine,
the son of Donogh baibreach O'Brien to Kinel-
-Tearmaic, where they were joined by O'Dea and
O'Hehir at the head of their forces. They went
to the upper Canthred to bring the inhabitants
thereof to submission, and they burned the coun-
try north of Quibh-Ghleann, and proceeded
northwards
to Béal-Chlogaidh near the sea, where they were
met by Conor Carrach O'Loughlin and his
allies, and a battle ensued in which Conor
na Sindaine O'Brien together with a great
many of his people were slain by O'Loughlin
and the race of Donnell Conachtach O'Brien,
and he (Conor na Sindaine) was buried by
the monks in the Abbey of Burren."

Annals of Inisfallen

The same fact is stated in the Caithreim Thoiridheallhaigh
at full length. See page 13 of the Ordnance Survey copy.

*** "When they passed by Béal an Chlogaidh west-
wards and proceeded westwards along the sea at the
south

" north, Conor Carrach O'Loughlin with his allies
 " and numerous forces came to oppose them, and a
 " furious and merciless battle was fought between
 " them, in which Conor (na Sindaine) and many
 " of his people were slain - a catastrophe
 " from which many evils and misfortunes re-
 " sulted to the country, as will appear in the
 " course of this narrative. This was in the year
 " ^{red. 67} 1265. Conor was buried in the monastery of
 " the east of Burren with honor and solemnity
 " by the monks who raised a monument over his
 " grave."

The monument here mentioned is ^{in the choir of the abbey} still in existence, and
 called the monument of brohoor na Sindaine. It is
 very like the tomb of Coey na nGall O'Hane in
 the church of Dungiven but in far better pre-
 servation. Mr. Wakeman should make a careful
 drawing of this tomb, and also of the whole ab-
 bey which is very old and truly beautiful but
 not extensive.

Near this tomb of brohoor na Sindaine is a large
 but rude and modern one inscribed in modern
 letters "the burial place of O'Loughlin. King of
Burren."

(16)

27

In this parish is situated the townland of Bally-
heaghan - baste úr h-Éachúin - in which was situated
 a Castle belonging to a branch of the O' Loughlins.
 In this parish is also situated Corra an Rubha
 (ie the causeway of Rue)
Corquirue in which stood a castle belonging to
 the family of O'Keyne formerly chiefs of Loy
Fiachrach Sidhne. This castle fell in the year
 1755 at the very moment that the Earthquake
 happened at Lisbon. The site of this castle and
 a small part of its ruins, ^(reduced to a formless heap) are still to be seen
 near the village of Corranue but I think it
 is on the County of Galway side of the boundary.
 It should be shewn on the Ordnance Map.

The present representative of the branch of the
 O'Keynes who lived in this Castle, ^{as also in the castle of Ballybranaghan at Kinnvara} is John Keynes
 alias O'Keyne of the New quay house, a very rich
 and sensible man, who is likely to purchase a
 considerable portion of Coill O'b. Fiachrach from
 De Bastro, the present proprietor, who is of French
 origin, and who, I am told, wishes to sell out
 his estate in Connaught, with which he has, of
 course little or no national sympathy.

This gentleman descends from the last proprietor of
Corranue this.

James, a man of chieftain appearance and Herculean strength, aged 28. (17) 28

John, now living at the New Quay aged 55.

James

John, lived at Paulaniscé

Brian

Peter, the last who is said to have lived at Corranrae.

The senior branch of this once powerful family is Mr Keynes of Ardahan, who is well known in the Country as Keynes the process server! This man is the senior representative of Guairé's Kidhne, King of Connaught so celebrated by the Irish bards as a prince of unbounded hospitality. O'Keyne is senior to O'Shaughnessy; he was often chief of all the territory of Eby-Fiachraich Kidhne, a territory coextensive with the Diocese of Kil-macduagh, but O'Shaughnessy never was lord of more than Kinelea na h-Echtghe. O'Keyne built a beautiful little monastery at Kilmacduagh, but we do not find that O'Shaughnessy built any church there, and the reason is because he was never until the reign of James I, but an Urriagh or sub-chief to O'Keyne.

14/3/23/5 (K)

(18) ²⁹ O'Heyne is recorded to have been chief of all the Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne at the following years;

1047. O'Heyne, Lord of Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne, died.

1048. Macfael O'Heyne, lord of Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne, died.

1055. Donnell Roe O'Brien was slain by O'Heyne Lord of Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne.

1121. Torlogh O'Conor made a plundering excursion into Munster, and among other chieftains lost in a battle Hugh O'Heyne, lord of the Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne.

1180. Maurice O'Heyne, lord of the Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne was killed by the men of Munster.

1225. Hugh O'Conor presumptive king of Con-naught sent Felin his brother and others of the chiefs of his people and a great body of English soldiers to plunder Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne, the Country of Owen O'Heyne

1588. Owen Mantach, son of Edmond, son of Filann, son of Conor O'Heyne, Lord of Hy-Fiachrach Aidhne

Aidhne, died, and his son. Hugh Boy was elected to his place. Annals 4 Mast.

The district of Rubha - Rue - in which the castle of Corra an Rubha stood is mentioned in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 1699.

" O'Donnell after having plundered Thomond proceeded on his way homewards across the chain of rough headed mountains of Burren, and passing by Nua chonghail, Turlach, the Abbey of Corcumroe and Carcair na g-clireach, arrived at Rubha (Rue) in the west of Fy Triachrach & Aidhne &c.

All these places are still well known but it is unnecessary to define their situations here, as I shall have occasion to speak of them frequently hereafter. The place called Carcair na g-clireach (Carcer Clericorum) is a pass in the mountain on the verge of the parish of Abbey and the County of Galway, a short distance to the east of Toberpatrick in the townland of Rossaalia. It is now generally called Carcair hill. It should be shown on the

14/3/23/5 (X)

Ordnance map, as a celebrated pass into Thomond." I passed it on my way from Corranue to the valley of Oghtmama, and I can never forget the associations of ideas which I formed on the occasion.

O'Heyne of Ardrahen, who is commonly known in the Country as "Hynes the Process-server," the representative of Guaire Aidhne, and hereditary chief of all the Tey, Fiachrach of Kilmacduagh (Diocese), thus descends from the last O'Heyne, who lived in the Castle of Ardrahen, according to Captⁿ Tyrrell of Kinvara, the local antiquary:

Mr. Hynes of Ardrahen, the process server, is son
 of Martin, who was son of
 George, son of
 Martin, son of
 George, who was born in the castle of Ardrahen
 Martin, the last O'Heyne who was driven out
 of Ardrahen by Eton, the great destroyer
 of Connaught's castles and chieftains.

In this parish is situated the townland of Finnivara, which is mentioned in the list of O'Laughlin's residences preserved in the MS. Library of Trinity College, and in the "Rentals of O'Brien published by M^r. Hardiman, where it is called in Irish Fidh na bheara, the wood of Beara. In an Inquisition taken in the reign of Jac I, it is styled "Manerium de Flyn-Erra". According to the tradition in the Country Donogh More O'Daly abbot of Boyle, lived near Finnivara house in this townland at a place called Parkmore, where a curious monument called the Leacht of Donoghmore O'Daly is shewn and also the site of his house and of a college over which he presided. Many wild stories are here told about Donoghmore, but none sufficiently definite to be committed to writing, for tradition is so extravagant here as to make Donoghmore O'Daly a brother of the sorcerer Macámh Insi Creamha whom he is said to have ^{accidentally} killed.

14/8/23/5 (XI) by

by a "cast of a sharpened scollop". This tradition seems to have been derived from a poem which Donogh more addressed to the shade of the sorcerer, but as I have not a copy of that poem before me I cannot say how it has given rise to the tradition. The clach of Inis Creamha in Lough Corrib seems to have been one of the Tuatha De Danann.

^{The family of} O'Daly is shewn in this very locality on Orielius improved. In this parish near Corranree is the district called the Liatha where a branch of the descendants of Cooney na n-gall O'Kane settled at an early period. Its extent is still well known but I do not find the name in ~~any~~ of the name book of this parish: perhaps it could not be shewn on the map.

The lineal descendant of the last O'hahan who held this district is Shane Reagh O'Kane of Corofin a tailor, patriot, rebel, &c. who thus traces his pedigree.

Shane Reagh, ^{now an old man} the son of

Andreas Reagh, the patriot, warrior, rebel, &c.

Shane Reagh.

Shane Reagh

Shane Reagh, the last who possessed the Liatha

2. Was the last mentioned the Shane or Johannes addressed

34 (23)

by Roderic O'Flaherty the author of the
Ogygia?

There is a small lough on the top of a hill
situated to the South of the abbey of
Corcomroe, called Loch Luire, as appears
from this old Irish stanza

Mannstir Copeumpad' an an taob' ó tuar' do lo' luire,
map a b-fu' an cúpla raop, a táir' an cúpla daop a' cup,

The name of this lough does not appear in the
name book of this parish. Between Munna
and the Behagh hill there is a conspicuous
and well known hill called Lissavaun, on
which the Terry-Alts challenged to fight
the king's troops in 1831. The name of
this is not in the name book, but it is
sufficiently conspicuous and important to
be named on the Ordnance maps.

In this parish lived the notorious gentleman
Peter Camp, who was hanged about 11 years
since for burning his own house. His life
would be well worth writing and publishing

14/13/23/5 (xii)

(24) 35

as affording ^a rare instance of human talent, honor, folly and dishonesty most strongly combined in the one character. Capt. Tyrrell of Kinvara has a curious MSS. found after Peter, which gives one a curious idea ^{his} of industry in collecting local legends and of ^{his} sagacity, talent and candour in describing the habits, morals and superstitions of the primitive and sequestered people among whom he lived. He was of a very respectable family and a native genius, but his profligacy and dissolute habits brought ^{him} at length to the Gallows. I hope Mr. Tyrrell will publish his MSS.

This weather is again assuming a very unfavourable aspect,

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

Winstymon

Oct, 21st 1839.

END

14 B 23/6

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Ennistimon, Co. Clare, concerning the history, antiquities, folklore, genealogy and topography of the parish of Kilnaboy (Killinaboy), with particular reference to its church, castles, burial grounds and the origins of its place name.

21 October 1839

17p.

24 cm

ill. Pencil drawings showing features of Killinaboy church with ink/pencil drawings of the Innewee cross, Killinaboy.

O'Curry's letter provides a detailed description of Killinaboy Church, its holy well, the Innewee Cross, the Bothar-na-mac-riogh (Road of the Kings), and the pillar stone and Baighdean Church graveyard, both located in the townland of Comhad. Also included is a pedigree of the O'Quin family, transcriptions from local gravestones and copy extracts from Hely Dutton's 'Statistical survey of the county of Clare' and the 'Annals of the Four Masters.'

Innistimon 21 October 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

Further
The parish of Kilnaboy is situated in the barony of Inchiquin, County of Clare and province of Munster; its greatest length from Tullycommon townland in the north to the town of Kerspin in the south is $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and from Ballyeightra lough in the east to the townland of Seimeneagh (Seim an eick) South in the west is $6\frac{1}{4}$ statute miles; it is of a tolerably regular form, and is bounded north by the parishes of Carn and Kilkeedy; south by Rath, east by Disert and west by Kilflinora parish. See Namebook.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, and a good anglicising of the original, Bill Inghine Barth, is the

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Church of the daughter of Baath or Boeting, but what her own particular name was we have not yet been able to ascertain.

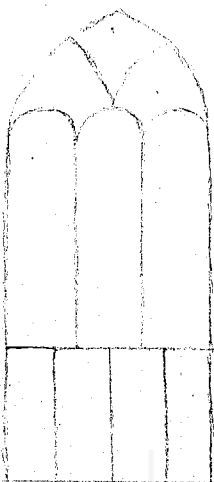
The name Innebhuidhe, pronounced Innevee was a favourite name for females in this parish till within a recent period, and one woman bearing the name still lives near the Church (Emmevee Dillon.)

"The walls of the Church of Kilnaboy remain in full preservation still." It measures 62 feet 8 inches in length and 20 feet 3 inches in breadth. There is a circular doorway in the south side 13 1/2 feet from west gable, measuring 7 feet 9 inches by 4 feet, and having the representation of a dwarf or hunched man on a stone over it in front. There are two ~~small~~ windows in the same side, about 8 feet high, and 4 wide. There is a window in the east gable, of a round flat circular form at top, inside, where it is about 11 feet high, and 7 feet three inches wide, pointed outside and

divided into compartments by mullions
of Cut Stone, in the following manner:

Long, ceanastin
son of Cormac Cas,
from whom are the
Clan Nefer and
Maachtan and
the Daughters of
Bawth, and the
Daughters of Guna
son of Siliolt.

Duold. M. Firby
page 637.



No part of this church appears to be older than
the 14th Century, except the west gable which
appears to be as old as the 11th Century, and
there is a tradition here that the whole
of this church, except the west gable, was
battered down by Cromwell's forces, and
subsequently rebuilt by the O'Briens of Inch-
quin. There is a circular low archway
of Cut stone in the north wall (at the ground)
near east gable, which tradition says was the
entrance to the family sepulchral vault of
of O'Quin, which was inside, but of which

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no vestige remains now. There is a pointed niche in the side wall near the above little arch, the oldest monument in the church, but the flag underneath appears to be a new one inscribed to Joseph Leonard 1773.

Near the latter, to the west, is a monumental stone in the wall, ~~which has been~~ inscribed to Melaghlins Oge O'Keefe and More Hogan his wife, but no date. There is a tomb under this, inscribed to the Reverend Patrick More (Protestant) who died at Cashel in 1816. There is a monumental stone in the south wall, near the east gable inscribed this;

Dermot O'Keefe and Teig O'Keefe his brother, for them and their heirs made this Sepulcher, 1645, and over this another stone with armorial bearing, covered with an incrustation of water and lime, with this inscription: The Achievement of O'Keefe. There is another monumental stone in the same

side, having a rude representation of the
 Crucifixion and two Marys, and the date
 1644 at top, and the following inscription
 lower down: Under these carved marble
 stones lieth Connor O'Flanagan's body
 and bones which monument was made
 by Anabel his wife. Orate pro eis laus
 Deo.

There is another plain monumental stone,
 in the same wall, between the door
 and west gable, with this inscription:

Loughlen Reagh O'Behirs Thornelee
 finished by his son Andrew O'
 Behir ^{ER} INV.V. 1711.

"The butt of a round tower, 13 feet high,
 and 52 feet 5 inches in circumference, at
 bottom, stands, 52 feet north of the middle
 of the north wall of the Church." It is
 built very roughly of square logs of stone
 laid in irregular courses. It has no
 appearance of door or window, and
 the south side looks as if ^{it} had been battered

14/8/23/6 (iii),

with Cannon, as, I have no doubt, it was
 by Leton. There is a holy well a little to
 the east of the Church, called after the patron
 saint, at which a patron and Stations
 were formerly held on the patron day,
 29th December, and which is still
 resorted to for the cure of sore eyes, &
 for delicate children, ^{there is a ~~miserable~~ little stone cross over it.} (There is another holy
 well nearly opposite the church to the ~~road~~ east of
 the little stream, called Tobar Baighdeán, which
 is also visited for the same purposes as the other.]

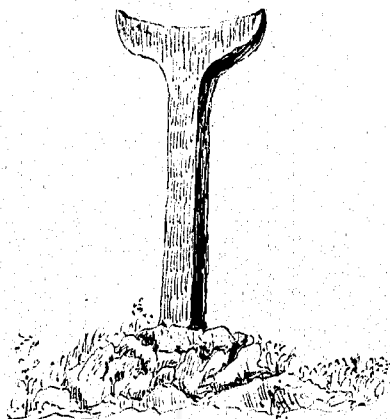
There is another holy well, bearing the patron
 saint's name, about a mile east of the church,
 on the border of the lake of Inchiquin, and
 at which Stations continue to be performed
 occasionally. The patron day is still observed
 as a holy day by several persons in this
 parish, tho' not enjoined by the Church.

About a mile southwest of the church, on the
 left of the road to Seim an Eich, stands a
 small stone cross, fixed in a rough native
 "Rock" about 4 feet in height, the cross is 2
 feet high, 2 feet 2 inches across the shoulder, from 5 to
 11 inches wide and 5 inches thick. Of this
 Cross Buttolph says in his Statistical Survey of Clare

" In a field near the ^{church} ~~house~~ of ^{County} ~~Clare~~
" Kilnaboy, a remarkable cross is fixed ^{Clare}
" in a rock; tradition says that two
" men had a violent quarrel of many
" years standing which by the interference
" of mutual friends they agreed to settle
" here; they met and shook hands and
" in commemoration of the event a cross
" was erected on the spot. The appear-
" ance of it gives some ^{degree of} probability to
" the story. for there are two faces
" in relief looking towards each other.
" on the top of the cross, and two
" hands in the middle like those
" in the act of shaking hands, my
" informant said this happened long

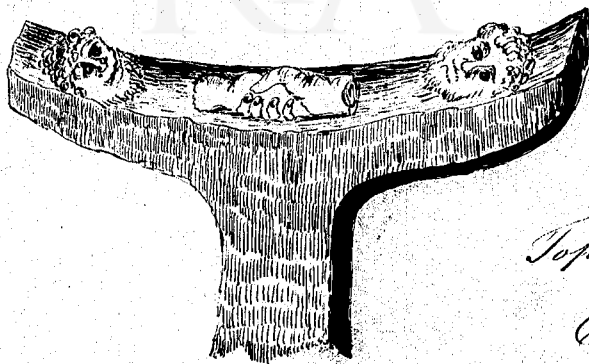
14/8/23/6 ^{before} (16)

" before the building of the tower or
 " church. The following is a representation
 " of it



Cross

J. V. S. del.



Top view of
 Cross.

" It is remarkable how little
 " curiosity there is in the county: not
 " a single gentleman even of those
 who

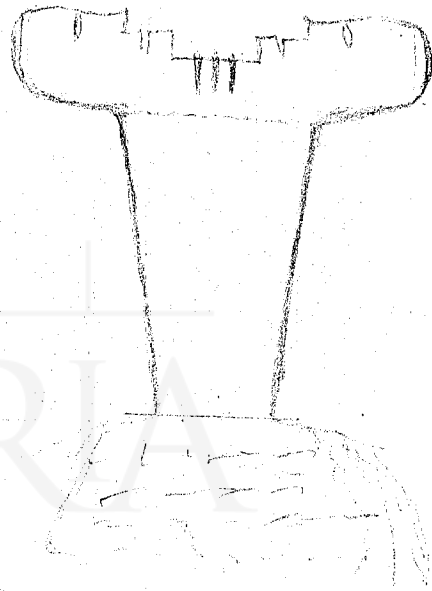
" who passed it by frequently for 110
" years, had ever noticed it though
" not twenty yards from the road."

Mr. Duttons complaint of the
want of antiquarian taste in
the gentleman who never saw
this cross, may be very just, (tho it is
likely that ^{he had} this information and the history
of the cross from the same veritable in-
formant) but certainly his informant is
now dead or he has changed his opi-
nion on this subject, as no person living in
or near Ribblesdale ever heard the story
of this cross given above, but they remember
that about thirty years ago, a gentleman
came to the place to look at the
cross, who said that he had found
the said story and account of it
in a very old book in England.

14/12/23/6(v)

and that he came over to see if it was true, when behold you he found it as true as the nose on his face. Whether this gentleman was Mr. Dutton or not, is of no consequence to me, I have only to say that his (Mr. Dutton's) history and sketch of the stone are both wrong, and appear to me to have been taken at second hand. The Cross is known ~~time~~ immemorial as Gros Innereux, i.e. the Cross of Innereux, and is one of three that marked her Termon on the south and west, namely this; a second which stood near the house of Elm vale, which place was formerly, and is still by the peasantry, called High na Croise, or the House of the Cross, and the third stood about ^{7/8} ~~half~~ of a mile east of the latter at a place still called Gros Ard, or the high Cross.

The following is my attempt at sketching the cross, which ^{is} far inferior to Mr Dutton's, in point of art, will be found much nearer the truth, that is if I can make it be understood.



It will be seen by this rough figure, that there is no such thing as hands, in the act of shaking hands on the top of the cross; in fact there is nothing at all like a hand about it, there are three raised wells across and descending, about 4 inches at each side, as you see

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44
12 above, but surely a blind man would not mistake them for hands. The other two crosses of Innewer, have disappeared long since but their situations are very well known.

There is a large Cahir, called Cahir-More, within a few yards of the Croft, 36 yards in diameter, built of very large, well shaped stones, the walls in some places 7 feet high, on the outside, having a considerable batter or taper, and 8 feet thick at the top [at height of 7 feet] The ground inside is considerably over the level of the field, and there is a very narrow opening near the south ^{interior} side, which leads to some subterranean chamber, inaccessible on account of the narrowness of the passage. They have no tradition about it. The walls of an old church, in perfect preservation, stand in the townland of Corrhead, about half

28
13

a mile to the east of Kilnaboy, measuring 54 feet 3 inches by 22 feet, there is a handsome belfry on the west gable, a pointed door and window in south side, a pointed double headed window in east gable, mullion taken away. There is a tombstone under the window, inside, over the two daughters of Connor O'Brien and Mary Mahon of Seim an eick, who died in the year 1651. Another tomb near it inscribed to Lawrence White, A.D. 1711.

There is a stone with armorial bearings fixed in the wall of a dilapidated sacristy, at the east end of the Church. inscribed to Thomas Mac Gormcan of Caher More, who died 1735. There is another smaller stone within the sacristy, thrown about having the same inscription and arms, but without a date and which appears to have been removed

14/13/23/6 (VII)

to make room for the others, the inscriptions are in Latin. This Church is said to have been built by Catherine Keightley, wife of O'Brien of Inchiquin, and

grandmother to the present Sir Lucius O'Brien of Drogheda, as a Chapel of ease and to vex the Rector of Kilnaboy with whom she had some quarrel.

"The townland of Bomhad, pronounced Boo-ud, was formerly part of Kilnaboy T. L. and had a pillar stone standing in it, which was exactly the height of Feige ^{O'Brien?} O'Brien of Inchiquin, from which circumstance, both Feige and this townland took name, the former being called Faidhg a Bhomhaid ie Feige of the equal length (with the stone) and the stone itself got the name of Bomhad or equal length, which subsequently was

transferred to the T. L. This place was formerly a very celebrated race course. The pillar stone is now prostrate, and fixed in a hedge near its ancient situation, but still retaining the name of Bomphad. The story of this stone or rather of its name resembles the story of the origin of Sileach, as preserved in the Book of Leacain and others, where it is said that the Dagda condemned Borigin to find a block Bomphad or stone of equal length with his (the Dagda's) son whom he (Borigin) had killed in a fit of jealousy, for the purpose of placing it on the grave of the youth.

There is an old burying ground, ^{still in use} called Bill Bhaighdeain i.e. Baighdeain Church, in the townland of the same name. There is no holy well near it, as mentioned in the namebook, but

14/8/23/6 (VIII)

the notice in the pedestal of a cross, standing a little to the south of the burying ground, and containing some water in wet weather, is resorted to for the cure of warts, and hence the idea of a holy well.

There is a small burying place for children on the townland of Leim an Eich, another in the townland of Covin or Cunee, another in the townland of Cahermochunna. This Caher is said to have been the residence of Ashir. "Beside the holy wells already mentioned in this parish, are Bullan Pha draig in the townland of Pollnalar and Tobbar a duibh in the T. L. of Cahirfodda.

This well has its name (the well of the black) from a black wiry sediment which is found at its bottom, and is used by the peasantry for colouring wool, as well as for applying to swellings of the eyes and limbs. I know other places that produce this dye stuff, but they are not held in any sanctified regard nor do I think this well has any better claim to the name of holy.

From a list of castles and their owners in this County, preserved in a Manuscript, without a date, preserved in the M. S. library of Trinity College, Class E. 2. 14, we find the following Castles situated in this parish:

- 1 Castle of Inchiquin inhabited by the Baron of Inchiquin, (now nearly leveled, but the walls of the house remain, 2 stories high, extending south east from the side of the Castle, 90 feet in length and 22 in breadth.)
- 2 the Castle of Ballycrothy, called on Petty's Map Ballycortrea, and now ^{Ballyportree} Ballyportree, inhabited by Mahon M^c Brene O'Brien. (The walls of this castle remain entire still, and afford shelter to a poor family.)
- 3 The Castle of Seim an Eich by Seige Mac Morough O'Brien, (This castle and the walls of an extensive Court attached remain in good external preservation, on the road from Borofin to Kilfenora, within 2 miles of the latter. These pillars of a strong gateway remain at either side of the road

14/8/23/6(IX)

a little to the west of the Castle, and similar pillars in a like position, a mile to the east, and tradition says that no person was allowed to pass between these gates without the permission of the Lord of the Castle, or their ladies, the best remembered of whom are Honor O'Brien and Mary Mac Mahon his wife, commonly called Maire Ruadh or Red Mary, and of whom many deeds of treachery and bloodshed are recorded all over this County. There is a tomb inscribed to their two daughters in the Church of Good, in this parish, dated 1657.

This Castle is set down in the College document, as in Honor's Country.

The following historical references to Kilnaboy are collected from several sources:

There is a square courtyard a little to the south of Kilnaboy Church, 30 yards by 24, the walls 13 feet high, with remains of two square towers at the north west and north east angles. The entrance is by a pointed doorway in the

middle of the north wall, and a chimney
and gable remain on the same wall, to the
west, and traces of a large dwelling place
along the south wall, from this, on the inside.

Tradition says that this was the dwelling
place of the great de Clare, before his
expulsion and subsequent death by the
Peasants. They call it Bobhail an Chlarraigh
Mhuair, or the great de Clare's ruin. +

This story has no authentic proof, nor have
yet met any ^{other} authority for giving de Clare
any other residence in Clare than
Burratty Castle.

The following historical references to Kilna-
boy, are collected from several sources:

Annals of the 4 Masters. 1599. "In the first
week of March, the Governor of the Province of
"Connacht, Sir Conyers Clifford, went to Galway
"with a great army of distinguished gentlemen
"and soldiers. After having delayed nearly
"a week in Galway he sent seven or eight
"bands of English and Irish soldiers to the
"County of Clare, to know who were obedient

20 "to the Queen in that County. He appointed
 "Theobald Dillon, Captain Lester and Richard
 "Scology (Sherlock) the Sheriff of the County
 "of Clare as commanders over them (his
 "troops until they should arrive at the
 "place where Torlogh O'Brien was, who
 "was also to be one of the Commanders.
 "They stopped the first night at Bille
 "Caoidh in the east of the territory of
 "Hy-Fearmaic. As soon as the faithful
 "friends of Seige, the son of Torlogh
 "O'Brien had heard of their arrival
 "in that Country they prepared to oppose
 "them, and as the Queen's party were
 "on the following day marching west-
 "wards from Bille-Caoidh through
 "Bealach-an-Thiadhail, Seige's party
 "made an attack upon them in which
 "many were slain on both sides; and
 "all although more fell on the Queen
 "side it is not ^{said} that any distinguished
 "man of them was slain. On the Irish

RIA

14/B/23/6 (x)

Examine the ^{catopm}
Authorities again on this subject

Edw. - 1841

" side was slain one nobleman of the O'Brien, viz. Dermot Roe, the son of Mough, who was son of Connor. After this attack the Queen's people were suffered to pass, and they moved onwards to Bill-ingham-Whavill where they arrived in the evening and "stopped for some time".

In the same year Red Hugh O'Donnell made a predatory incursion into Thomond and fixed his camp at Kilneboy for a short time.

The following is from the same Authority, Anno. 1573. "All these forces met together (of whom were they) at a place called And-na-gbabog, where the River Fergus mingles with the Shannon. They then to wreak their vengeance on the inhabitants of the upper part of Thomond marched through the eastern part of

14/B/23/6(xii)

" the territory of Hy-Cornaic, touching
 " the territory of Hy-Farmaic, and the
 " cries and shrieks of the unfortunate people,
 " whom they plundered gave warning no-
 " tice of their march in every place through
 " which they passed:- They proceeded
 " onwards by the stony road of Corofin,
 " by the gate of the Castle of Inchiquin,
 " by Botharna Mac Riogh, and some
 " of their people carried various utensils
 " and spoils out of the Church of Bill-ingham
 " Bhaith, but this profanation of the
 " Church of that saint boded ill for
 " the triumph or success of the Dalcassians".

I sent for the entire of this article from
 Corofin, but have not yet got it.

The "Botharna-mac-riogh" or road of the
 sons of the Kings, (mentioned above) is
 that which now passes ^{from} through Corofin
 to Kilnaboy, meeting the gate of Inchiquin

58 23

about half way between the former and
Kilnaboy Church. That this is the road
here mentioned is well proved by the
following passages from the Wars of
Forlogh, Ordnance Survey Copy pages
417 and 555.

In describing the march of Dermot O'Brian,
the son of Forlogh ^{in April 1317} against his Cousin, the
son of Brian Ruadh, the following
localities occur. The army had their ren-
dezvous at Ruadhan, (near Port, the
native place of the Master of the Rolls,
Sir Michael O'Loughlin) and they set
out (towards Burren) from Ruah, thro
Bearna-an-bhaillín (not identified)
to the Leacht (monument, of O'Loughlin's
daughter, (not identified) ~~to the right~~
leaving Tully O'Dea on the left, to
Loch Beasghatan, to Caraidh-mac
amboirion, to the opening ~~ing~~ of
Bothar-na-mac-ríogh, and over

Mullach-gaioil [the hills immediately
to the west of Kilnaboy] &c &c

Now Loch Beagnatan, tho not remem-
bered, has been clearly identified by
us. It lies at the north east extremity
of the temporary lake of Corofin,
immediately where the road crosses
from Tully O'kea to Kells, and the
Garaidd, or weir, or causeway, of mae
Bairicoun is the bridge over the
river Ferguy, between the lake
of Beagnatan and Kells, the
road continuing from that to
Corofin, by the gate of Inchiquin,
to Kill-ingham-Baoith, and to Mullach
Gaioil towards the north to the
Abbey of Corcomroe. &c

And at page 555, same year, and
on the return of the same army
from the battle of the Abbey of ~~Cor~~

6025

Leenamore, to their own Country, in
the eastern part of the County, they
passed to Botha-na-mac-riogh,
where they were opposed by Mahon
O'Brien [of Inchiquin], but allowed
to pass afterwards without battle.

This is sufficient at present to show
the identity of Botha-na-mac-riogh
and the other ^{historical} localities in its
neighbourhood, all of which will
be made to appear hereafter in
a more definite and tangible
manner.

There are many wild legends in this dis-
trict about the lake and family of Inchiquin,
but unfortunately from that source or
any historical authority we have but
very little account of the family of
O'Quin from whom the lake has its
name. The only ^{ancient} historical reference

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to the family on my memory is that
of Giolla-na-naomh O'Heidhris in
his topographical poem, where he
says:

Do chun an ethe ninnar, munnar phar phinnar
in top. an sille sloin, pa cor. phar pleathorah.

To O'Quin of the heart without baseness,
(Belongs) the extensive Muinter Sferman,
The productive territory of the Spill's Chief.
By ^{chun} coraph of the festivities.

Tradition has it here that Conor
O'Quin of Inchiquin had one day
observed a beautiful lady on the
southern bank of the lake, at a place
called; Hill, Dunan-ni-Chuinn,
[not in namebook] in the act of combing
her hair, and being smitten with her
beauty, he made his way round from
his own side of the lake to where
he saw her, but when he arrived
there she had disappeared. He went

back disappointed, and watched the next ^{day} for her reappearance, which happened at the same time as on the day before; on which he made his way round towards her; but when he approached the place she was again vanished from his view. He then resolved not to be foiled the third time, and taking his station the following ~~even~~ morning behind a clump of trees near the spot where she appeared he had not waited long before he saw ^{her} coming up out of the lake, and throwing off a dark hood that covered her upper part she commenced immediately combing her hair. O'Duin taking advantage of her long flowing hair covering her eyes for ornament, made a spring and caught her in his arms, without ever saying your servant madam or any other decent goodmorrow of the

kind, upon which she turned about at him
 and laughing asked him what he wanted
 with her, he said to make her his wife, she at
 once agreed, and giving him her hood to keep
 went over to his Castle with him where they
 lived happily for three years. In the mean time
 the O'Brien of Leimeneagh, and the other
 Chiefs of the Country proposed to hold a tourna-
 ment and race at Boschad, upon which O'
 Quin wife begged of him when he would
 go to the assembly not neither to invite, or reject
 the invitation of any body at the assembly to a
 fight. He promised, but ~~to obey her~~ comply with
 her request, but forgot his promise, for he invited
 O'Brien who came with all his retinue to
 dine with him that evening. The lady
 had plentiful and sumptuous dinner ready
 which when she served up she left the com-
 pany to enjoy, and taking her hood in her
 hand rushed out, plunged into the lake
 and was never seen after. O'Quin and
 O'Brien played deeply at Cards that
 night, when the latter had the good fortune
 to win the former's patrimony, and obliging
 him to quit his castle, allowed him to build
 the place a little to the North west, now called
 by some de Clare's ruin, but by others O'Quin,
 Is the Adore family of this story?

Since penning the foregoing account
of O'Brien the following ^{very few} pedigree
of the family from Duall Mac
Girbis, has come to my hands:

Connor

Son of Donnell

Son of Donnell

Son of Thomy

Son of Donnell

Son of Donogh

Son of Giolla Seanaigh
or Seanan

Son of Donogh

Son of Morogh

Son of Core who was
the preceptor of Morogh
O'Brien

Son of Feidhleachair

Son of Neill, the rear-
guardsmen of Morogh
O'Brien at the battle of
Blontarf where they
both fell.

Son of Donn agus Oluinn } Quin

Son of Donogh

Son of Lioda

Son of Coindlegan

Son of Faolchadh

Son of Hearnan agus
O'Kefferan

Son of Core

Son of Murtach

Son of Uilin

Son of Gemidealach

Son of Colman

Son of Connell

Son of Angus Cinnaitin
or Cinnathrach

Son of Cas

Son of Conall Each-
liath.

14/8/23/6(111)

The following is the pedigree of the ^{Baron} Earl
of Inchiquin, as collected by Mr. Spilley.

" The genealogy of the Earl of Inchiquin
commonly called Baron of Inchiquin.

Morogh Earl of Inchiquin,
and Christopher

Sons of Dermot Baron of
Inchiquin.

Son of Morogh-na-Bearne
Baron of Inchiquin

Son of Morogh-na-Blouiche
Emear, Baron of I. g.

Son of Dermot. Baron of I. g.

Son of Morogh first Earl of Thomond.

Son of Torlogh

Son of Teige

Son of Torlogh Dr.

"On the lowland ^{of} Reabhaichan in the
Morris are ~~are~~ three cromleacs, in the
same field; one of which is prostrate,
of the other two, that on the north
is composed of 4 flag stones in two at
the sides, one at the east end, and one
as cover, the west end is open. Of the
side stones that on the ^{South} ~~north~~ is $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet long,
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and 6 inches thick; the one on
the ~~west~~ north is $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and
6 inches thick, the end flag is 4 feet long
 $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and 7 inches thick; the top one is
broken and part fallen in, the part remaining
measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet and 11 inches in thickness.

A little to the south is a perfect one com-
posed of 5 flags, that on the south $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet
long, 3 feet 9 inches high and 8 inches thick, the
northern one 15 feet long, same height & thickness
and the other, the end one is 4 feet long
3 feet 9 inches high 9 inches thick, the top
one is laid across, and is $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet long
five feet 3 inches wide, and 1 foot thick.

32⁶⁴
There is a large barn on the same townland,
as you go the road to New Quay, 44 paces in
circumference and about 8 feet high, hav-
ing a crane (opened) in the middle,
consisting of the top, sides and cast and
flaps. There is another fine Cromlech
in the townland Boteens or bommony,
composed of 4 flags. It is 11 feet long,
5 feet 8 inches wide and 6 feet high,
and is used as a bed chamber to a hut
attached, inhabited by a poor man of
the name of Michael Conneen.

There is another of the same descrip-
tion on Knocknaglaise in the parish, of
which you have herewith some acc.
from Mr. O'Donovan.

There are several Cahays in this
parish, but the most remarkable is
Cahir more already described in
this letter.

In the northern part of this parish of Kilnaboy is a townland called Teephagh and near it a mountain called Sliabh na gLaise the mountain of the celebrated Cow called Glas Ghaibhleach said to have belonged to the Smith Lor Mac Lionh-tha, the first that ever made edged weapons in Ireland. He was a Tuatha de Danann by nation and lived in a cave in this mountain unknown to all ^{the Scoti} except the few who lived in his immediate vicinity. This Lor was a most extraordinary being, having three hands, and only one leg! Two of the hands were in the usual position, and the third, with which he turned the iron on the anvil while he hammered with the other two, grew from the middle of his breast. He never walked after the usual manner of men, as is obvious from his construction, but bounded from his pedestal by the elastic power of his waist and ham, and whenever he ventured abroad, which was very seldom, he was observed flying over the vallies and bounding over the hills. He ^{had} lived a long time in Ireland before his art was in requisition, for before his time the Irish used no Iron ^{or steel} implements of war but fought with sticks having stone, flint and bronze heads. Lor was for many years supported by his invaluable Cow called Glas Ghaibhleach, which used to graze not far from his forge on the mountain of Sliabh na gLaise which abounds in most beautiful rills and luxu-

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-ricant pasturage. This cow he stole from Spain
 but after having settled with her in various
 parts, he came at length to the resolution of
 spending his life here, as being secure ^{from enemies} by the
 remoteness and natural fastness and ^{then} inaccessible
^{situation} of the place, and as he had found no other re-
 tired spot in Ireland sufficiently fertile to feed
 the Glas but this, This cow would fill with her
 milk any vessel, be it never so large into which
 she was milked, and it became a saying in the
 neighbourhood that no vessel could be found
 which the Glas would not fill at one milking.
 At last two women laid a wager on this point,
 one insisting that no vessel, be it never so large
 could be found in Ireland which the Smith's
 cow would not fill, and the other that there
 could. The beats being placed in secure hands,
 the latter lady went to her barn and took
 out a sieve which she took to Shieu na
 Glaise, and into which by consent of Lan
Mac Liomhtha she milked the cow. And
 behold! the milk passing through the bot-
 tom of the sieve, ^{and even overflowing it} fell to the ground and divid-
 ed into seven rivulets called sedet ppoia na
taépcatige, the seven streams of the overflowing.
Taescach, i.e. the overflowing is now the name of

RIA

14/B/23/6 (XV)

RIA

- (1. Juppau' na ceapd'can)
- (2. ceapd'ca lop m' h'om'ca)

of a townland lying to the west of Slieve na glaise. ^{clear} Streams of water now run through the channels then formed by the copious floods of the milk of the glas, and one of them forms in winter a remarkable waterfall.

On the east side of Slieve na glaise is a small valley in which is shewn a spot called Leaba na glaise in which this cow is said to have slept every night and near it another spot called the bed of her calf. The hoofs of this cow were reversed by which her pursuers were always deceived in the course she took, and the impressions of her feet are shewn to this day in the rocks in many parts of the country around Slieve na glaise.
(for many sought to take her away by force)

In the same valley in a field called Gae-raidh na Cártae is shewn a cave in a rock called Cártae Loinn Mhic Liombhtha, the forge of Lon, son of Liombhtha and within it the cinders and dust of the forge.

This smith had seven sons, one for every day.
14/8/23/6 (xvi) in

in the week, who took care of this cow each for a day in his turn. They held her by the tail, and durst not turn her about, but let her go wherever she wished to graze during the day till sunset when they turned her face towards her bed, and then she returned home directly. No blade of grass ever grew or could be made to grow on the spot called her Bed.

Over Leaba na glaise on the summit of the mountain there is a remarkable Cromlech under which many poor families have lived! It is, like all the other monuments of similar construction, called by the peasantry Leaba Dhiarmada agus Ghraine the Bed of (Dermot of Graine), from a belief that it was originally constructed by (Dermot O'Duinn) to shelter Graine when he took her away from her husband Fionn Mac Cumhail.

To return to the smith Lou Mac Liomhtha. He resided for a long time in Shieve na glaise in obscurity and totally unknown to the Celtic warriors by means of whom only he could turn his art to any account, as his own Dedanite tribe were conquered and compelled to live in the sheep as wizards, ^{and} witches, or in caves and fastnesses as robbers, Tories and ex-artizans. At length he was determined to offer his services to some Irish lord of warlike fame, and hearing of the fame of Fionn Mac Cumhail, who was then stationed with his warriors

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warriors at Binn Edain mic Ghaunlaioigh now called
the Hill of Howth, he set out one fine morning
to confer with him. It did not take him long to
perform the journey for he bounded over every
hill and sprang over every valley until he reached
the far-famed promontory of Bin Bedar, and
when he arrived in the presence of the Fienian
chief he was, as usual, interrogated as to his
name, Country, profession, and business on the
occasion; to which interrogatories he thus
replied "I am Lon, the son of Leefha; I
am acquainted with the intricacies of every
art, but my particular art is that of Smith,
in which capacity I ^{am} at present in the service of
the King of Lochlin." I came to lay a gesa (i.e. an
injunction which every warrior was bound by the most
solemn obligations of his order, to perform ^{on you}) to over-
take me before I reach my forge". He then took
to his heel agus do tug fé enoc do léim agus gléan do túrlós, and
passed a hill in every bound and a valley in every spring
and he delayed not till he arrived at Slieve na glaise,
confident that none of the Fienians would be able
to pursue; but in this he was mistaken for he was
pursued by the swiftest of the Fienians, by name
Caoille of the slender hard legs, who coming up with
the Smith at Leaba na Glaise, just as he was
on the point of entering his forge, struck him
slightly

38 73 slightly with the palm of his hand on the back of his head saying: *For a gaba na terige pa poll as t-áenap, Avast Smith do not go into the cave alone!* Success and welcome, O true soldier of the illustrious Fionn said Lor, for my visit to you was not for the purposes of witchcraft or incantation, of which you are accustomed to accuse my people, the Dedanites, but to induce you to come to my forge that I might make for you swords of valour and edged weapons by which you may the more easily destroy your enemies and extend your fame. Casille and the Smith remained together working in the forge, and at the end of three days Fionn and seven others of his warriors joined them, and the Smith sold them eight iron swords well tempered and steeled. On this occasion Goll, and Conan, the sons of Moirné broke the Smith's anvil they were so powerful in striking with the sledge but not until they had several swords made for themselves.

After this Fionn and his seven warriors proceeded to the summit of Beann Sleibhe where a party of the Tuatha De Danann were stationed, having guards posted on the principal Corras or causeways on the pass leading to that conspicuous, green and beautiful hill. These

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These were the causeways of Cora mhuic Buirrin ³⁹
near the castle of Ballyporty, of Corofin, one
mile to the west of it, Cora mhuic Eoghain one
mile to the west of Corofin, and Cora na maididhe
further to the west. Fiounn and his seven warriors
here attacked the party of the Dedanites who were
there located, and cut them to pieces with the
swords which the Smith had made for them.
There is a spot on the summit of the hill of
Ceam-toleibhe still called Snidhe Frinn i.e.
Sessio Frinni, and the bones of the De-
danites are daily dug out of the graves
in which they were interred.

It is not ^{told} what finally happened Lon
the Smith and his cow, but it is be-
lieved that the cow was shortly af-
terwards stolen from him by a man
from Ulster, and that he was obliged
to depend on his trade only for sup-
port. See similar stories about this
Cow written by me at Ballynascreen in
Derry, the Cross roads opposite Tory island
in Donegal and in Glengaulen in Cavan.

14/8/23/6. (xvii)

This Cow seems to be the Cornucopia of Irish tradition, but it is strange that no written account of her has hitherto been found. A Cow called Glas Teamhrach is referred to by the writers on the ancient Topography of Tara, and it would appear that a mound was erected in honor of her on that hill, but no legend about her has descended to our times as far as I know.

Written at Corofin from the
mouth of Shane Reagh O'ahan
the Senior of the Thomond
O'ahanps. —

The above story has been very correctly taken down by Mr. O'Donovan from the lips of the most illustrious Seanchaidhe of the Kenel O'ahan now living, i.e. John Reagh O'ahan, tailor, of Corofin.

I wrote from the County Kilkenny desiring that the copious extracts made for Clare from the Book of Leacan might be sent out here with the other papers, but they have not yet arrived. I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Curry

END

14 B 23/7

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Ennistimon, Co. Clare, concerning the history, traditions, folklore, topography, place names, genealogy and antiquities of the parishes of Drumcrehy (Drumcreehy) and Oghtmama (Oughtmanna), with particular reference to their churches, castles and holy wells.

22-23 October 1839

9p.

24 cm

O'Donovan's letter also includes references to his plans to travel to and work from Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare and a transcription of the story of the Caileach Cinn Boirne (Hag of Black Head).

14/B/23/7(i)

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

Inistymon Octob. 22nd 1839.

Dear Sir,

We shall be ready to leave Inistymon on Friday morning, after which you will find us for about six days ^{at Milltown Malbay}. All the letters sent us hitherto have been redirected from Corofin though. I gave notice twice that we had left that place.

I want Maslin's age Mac Bruodins poem on the genealogy of Mac Gorman. It was sent before to the Queens County where the Mac Gormans were originally located; but as their history is more immediately connected with this County, I wish the poem already mentioned to be taken from among the Queens County Extracts and sent us hither.

I do not hear a word about Mr. Wakeman; if he does not follow us soon he cannot possibly finish Clare this season.

Your obedient &c. Servant
J. O'Donovan

17/4

We expected O'Brien's Dictionary on Saturday
but it has not arrived yet.

It has just arrived by
this post. Led

78 (1.)
Tristymon Octob^r 22nd 1834.

Dear Sir, This day is so wet that we cannot venture ^{out,} but we have fortunately enough to do within doors so that no time will be lost.

of the parish of Drumreehy.

Situation.

This parish, according to the Down Survey, is bounded on the North by the Bay of Galway; on the west and S. W. by the parishes of Glenunagh and Rathboirneach, and on the South East and East by the parish of Abbey.

Name. This parish is called in the original language *Drum cpiice* which means the ridge of crioch, so called from the situation of the original parish church on a drum or green long hill in the territory of crioch Maile.

The old church of this parish is about 5 centuries old and in a state of dilapidation. It consisted of nave and choir, but all the nave is now destroyed except its south wall of which only 12 feet are destroyed on the west

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(2) 79

west end. This wall contains a round headed doorway constructed of well-cut ^{line} stone, and measuring ^{ft in} 6.2 in height, and ^{ft in} 3.4 in width. In the same wall at the distance of 14.6 ^{ft in} from this doorway to the east is a quadrangular window formed of cut line stones. It is ^{ft} 3.0 from the present level of the ground ~~of the ground~~ and is ^{ft in} 4.1 in height and 10 inches in width.

The east division or Choir of this church is much larger than the western division or Nave; it measuring ^{ft} 52 by ^{ft} 21.6, whereas the Nave is only ^{ft} 36 by ^{ft} 18. It is in tolerable preservation and does not present any of the features of the primitive or middle ages. In its north wall at the distance of 13 feet from the middle gable there is a pointed doorway 7 feet high and ^{ft in} 3.9 wide.

The east gable contains a high window ^{Round inside and pointed outside} constructed of cut line stone and in good preservation. It is ^{ft in} 8.6 high on the inside and ^{ft in} 5.4 wide, and on the outside 7 feet high and 8 inches wide. The south wall contains another window of equal dimensions, which rarely occurs in other churches. The side walls of the eastern part of the church or Choir (if I may so call it) are 14 feet high and ^{ft in} 3.6 thick. They are obviously more modern than the ~~the~~ side walls of the Nave or western part, which are ^{ft in} 3.9 thick and present a more ancient aspect. This church stands in an extensive

grave yard.

In this parish are situated the remains of three castles (which are mentioned in the list of the castles of O'Loughlin Burren preserved in the MSS. Library of Trinity College Dublin, class B 2.14). These are, 1. Ballyneaghane now Ballyvaghan, 2. Shanemuckenes, and 3. Monknesno. The Castle of Ballyvaghan, (called in an Irish Deed published by Mr. Hardiman *Baste uí Bescáin* i.e. O'Beahan's town) stood on the brink of the bay close to the village of the same name. It is now destroyed, and the site encroached upon by the sea. A few fragments of its walls scattered about are the only ^{remaining} vestiges of this castle.

2. The castle of Shanmuckinis is now generally called the Castle of Ballynacregga is beautifully repaired by Capt. Kirwan of Dublin, who intends to live in it during the bathing season. It is a square castle measuring 28.6 by 25.6 and 74 feet in height. Two original chimney pieces of good lime stone remain which are worth sketching. The last O'Loughlin who lived in this castle was, according to tradition, Maithne mor Antonius Magnus, but his period is uncertain, though some are positive that he was living in this castle one hundred years ago.

3. The Castle of Muckinisnoe i.e. New Muckinis is situated in the townland of Muckinish East near Mr. Ryan's house and on the brink of Pouldoody, - a place celebrated for

14/8/23/7 (iii)

* Donald MacTear in his pedigree of the O'Briens places a branch of that family at Bailer near Burren, which is no other than this castle.

for cysters." Only one side of it is standing. It is said to have been built some years after Phannuckinish whence it was called New Muckinish.

"There is another castle at Newtown which is in good repair and inhabited by Charles O'Loughlin locally styled "King of Burren". I cannot identify this with any castle of the O'Loughlins mentioned in the list above referred to, and I incline to think that Newtown is a new name for it, at least not its original name.*

In the north of this parish, in a townland to which it has given its name is situated a lough called Lough Rasg, which is celebrated by Ma-grath in his wars of Thomond. I shall here translate the passage in which this lough is mentioned as a specimen of the bombastic style of the Homer of Ireland.

"The heroes of broad swords advanced ^{silently} in close
array and vast numbers until they reached the
banks of Loch Rasga. All the hosts viewed the
bright lake together, and lo! they beheld on its
white margin a deformed sprite which struck them
with amazement. It was a hag with blue face,
withered aspect, green teeth, rough hair, sharp
bent nails (He exhausts the Dictionary in bestowing epithets
expressive of deformity and ugliness on this hag)

Her hair was fretted, rough, strong and filthy, and of a grey reddish color; her forehead ^{narrow} full of bumps deeply furrowed into irregular ridges; every hair of her eyebrows, which were of a reddish grey color was like unto a strong rough fishing hook; her eyes like red berries with soft and scarlet margins were sharp sighted though flaming with unearthly glare, and looking out between rough bristled eyelashes; her nose large, blue, green, soft, broad, with wide nostrils, from which a copious stream flowed down her furrowed face; her mouth wide, prominent, of green mixed with pale color ^{her upper lip with a beard} and turned up towards her nose; she had two long slender and sharp ^{and green-plumed} teeth in her head which were never cleaned since the day of her birth; her tongue sharp-pointed, rapid, bitter, &c. &c. She had a cain of heads, a load of ^{weapons} arms, and a bundle of shin bones, all which she was washing in the lake, the waters of which were stained with blood and brains and human hair appeared in great abundance floating on its surface. The hosts stopped short to view this sprite, and the King interrogated her fearlessly as follows: What name dost thou rejoice in? of what tribe are thy friends? and of what people are those whose remains thou hast gotten here on the margin of the lake? She thus replied to the King: "Bronach of Burren is my constant name. I am of the Tuatha De Danann people.

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" yours are the heads which I have here in a letter
" and thine own, O ^{fair} king! in the very centre of them!
" for though thou carriest it, it is not thine own; and
" though proud your march to the field of contest
" soon shall ye all perish with the exception of
" very few. The army were startled at the dire prediction
" of the horrid sprite; and they all cried out, let her
" be cast into the lake; but she mounted on the wings
" of the wind, ^{over them} and spoke as follows, fluttering over ^{head} ~~them~~.

" No to those who go on the expedition;

" It will be a pitiful excursion;

" Violent will be the struggle;

" Rough will be the contest;

" Terrible as the last clash of elements

" The impetuosity of the hosts

" Rushing to the contest.

" Thereat shall be

" Many a headless lance

" Sword to the bone;

" ^{fine} Fair hair under foot

" And headless trunks;

" Shrieks and groans;

" Destruction of the race of Cas

" Oppressive news!

" The race of the mighty king

" Shall feel the loss.

" They shall perish in the fight

" Their chief shall fall.

" O' fair Donogh

" Thou wilt not survive the fight

" The comely Brian Beara

" Shall be left on the field

" And Murchestach Mor

" Though rough shall be stabbed

" And his body entombed.

I say unto you

" Perilous your journey

" Passing to East,

" Great shall be the wo!

Wo to those, &c.

" Heed not the flattering predictions of the dire sprites
 " said Donogh to his brave hosts, for she is
 " only a friendly Bádhbh to the lordly clann of
 " Lorlogh, who is endeavouring to strike dismay into
 " your minds by pretended predictions of your
 " deaths. Wherefore my nobles, be not terrified, but
 " proceed on your undertaken journey with firm-
 " ness and valour to meet your enemies. By
 " this wise and calm exhortation of their chief -
 " the generous Donogh, the minds of the nobles were
 " animated, and proceeded on their march with
 " firmness, impetuosity and high spirits.

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This was in 1317. Torlogh O'Brien and his forces were at this time encamped within the precincts of the Abbey of Corcumroe - a phor blát-poppineam na pnuá mamponech. See Ordnance Survey Copy. p. 445.

On this occasion a furious engagement took place between two parties of the Dalcassians outside the abbey of Corcumroe, the site of which is still pointed out. This bog is still well known in the country by the name of Chileach Binn Boine, or the bog of Blackhead. Besides the Castles and old church, the other remains of antiquity in this parish are those of primitive pagan forts called Cahers and sometimes oans (Uamhainn) ^{Spelunce} from their containing artificial caves.

Of these there are several, but in a ^{state of} great dilapidation, as, 1. Caher Laughlin in the townland of Muckinish west; 2. Caher Mahoon (Cathair na h-Uamhainn) i.e. the Caher of the cave in the townland of Ballycahill; ^{(the barle) East of No. 14 of Hardigan's Decors} 3. Oan Knocknagrough in Irish Uamhainn Chnuic na g-Cruach; This is just effaced; 4. Caher ^{an aonán in Newtown} ~~a warrego~~ ^{a margid}, all destroyed and even blotted off the surface of the land. It would appear from the name of this, i.e. Caher of the ^{fair} ~~market~~ ^{market} that a ~~market~~ ^{fair} of some kind was held at it.

5. Lissanard in the townland of the same name.

6. The Caher of Ballyvaghan in the townland of Ballyvaghan and not far from it 3 small ones.

7. Cahermore in the townland of Ballyconry, and (D)
8. Caher-Mash in the townland of Dangan, (Dangan, Hardiman's Deeds) 86

It would appear from these primitive habitations that this part of Burren was thickly inhabited in remote times.

14/8/23/7(VI)

Of the parish of Oghtmama.

Situation. This parish is bounded on the North-west and west by the parish of Abbey-Corcomroe; on the North-east by the County of Galway, and on the South-east and South by the parishes of Carran and Kilcoarney.

Name. The name of this parish is written Oict máma in two Irish Deeds published by Mr. Hardiman in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy vol. xv. It signifies the breast of the Maum or elevated pass, a name truly descriptive of the locality so called at which the original parish church is situated. See my letters from Connamara on the meaning of the word máim, which occurs so frequently in that mountainous district. It means an elevated pass,

The old church of this parish situated in the valley of Oghtmama about one mile to the South of the Abbey of Corcomroe, is one of the most beautiful specimens of the primitive Irish churches I have yet seen, though it is described in the

(10.) 84

the field name book of this parish p. 42 is in the Gothic style! It consists of nave and choir like the generality of the old Irish (Quirk-) liags. The nave measures ^{on the inside} in length 45 feet and in breadth 21.

The west gable contains a beautiful doorway in the Semi-Cyclopean style, measuring in height 6.6, and in breadth ^{ft} 2.6 at top and 3.0 at bottom; the thickness of the wall is 2.11. The lintel is 6 feet long & ⁱⁿ 1.2 high, and extends the entire thickness of the wall. The south wall of the nave contains two rounded headed windows exactly like those in the Cathedral at Glendalough. The north wall is featureless and built of enormous stones not laid in regular horizontal courses.

The choir arch is a beautiful, semicircular one and measures 10 feet in breadth and 8.4 ^{ft in} from the present level of the floor to the head of the Capital or stone from which the arch springs.

The Choir measures in length 21 feet, which is equal to the breadth of the nave, and in breadth 18 feet. The north wall of the choir is nearly perfect and featureless (i.e. contains neither door ^{nor} window, nor orifice nor ornament of any kind) but the south wall and East gable are nearly destroyed. The side walls of this church are about 16 feet high.

Near the Doorway in the west gable in the south-west corner there is a holy water font of great antiquity in which two strange figures of animals are sculptured. Within a few paces of this doorway to the west is a stone in which the top of an arch is formed. It is in all probability the top stone of the window which was in the east gable now destroyed, though now considered a blessed stone and used for superstitious purposes.

At the distance of 27 feet to the east of this church there is another of smaller dimensions, and not a Daimhliag but an oratory. It measures 24 feet in length and 15 in breadth. The west gable contains a beautiful round headed doorway measuring in height from the present level of the ground ⁵⁻⁴ and in breadth ^{ft in} 2.6 at top and 2.8 at bottom. The south wall contains a round headed window ^{which is} broad inside and narrow outside and placed at the height of 6 feet from the ground on the outside, and nearly the same distance from the east gable. The east gable contains a beautiful round headed window measuring on the outside ^{ft in} 5.0 in height and in breadth 5 inches at top and 6 at bottom. The side walls of this church are about 12 feet

in height and 2.6 in thickness. About 140 yards to the north of this church is the pedestal of a cross.

A short distance to the N. E. of this little church are the ruins of another which was evidently of equal age, characteristics and dimensions, but it is nearly destroyed. The west gable and side walls are nearly level with the ground, but the east gable is so far perfect as to retain uninjured its little window, which measures on the outside 2.4 in height and in breadth $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches at ^{the} top & 7 inches at the bottom. It looks very primitive.

Immediately to the east of this last described little church is traceable the site of a village called Oghtmama old-town or in Irish Searbhaile Oghta mama, but nothing is to be seen there but the foundations of small quadrangular houses.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the N. E. of the churches on the slope of the Maum is St. Colman ^{Barry's?} Mac Duach's well, from which it can be with some safety inferred that these churches were dedicated to him. This well has migrated from its original position and broke out a short distance lower on the slope of the hill, where it is now known by the new name of Pruthan na naomh, the rivulet of the saints; but its original locality, which is still called

called Tobar Cholmain, has a square enclosure of stones in the centre of which grows a small, stunted white thorn bush exhibiting votive rags of various ^{colours}. This well is indeed with extraordinary naturally medicinal or supernaturally miraculous virtues, for people have often washed their eyes in it, which were veiled with thick pearls and ere they had completed the third washing these ^{films} pearls fell off leaving the eyes perfectly bright and clear sighted. "Patterns" are held there annually on the 15th Nov. in honor of St. Colman. The stream flowing from this well was once conducted through an artificial channel in the direction of the churches, and at a short distance to the west of them it turned a mill which belonged to the Clergy of Oghlmama, the site of which is still pointed out.

I ^{have} found no historical reference to this place unless it be the place called Beagh in Archdall's Monasticon, in which it is described as a monastery of the third order of St.

14/13/23/7 (XVII) Francis

(14) ⁹¹ Francis, but the place called the hill of Beagh
or Behagh is too far from this to have
given name to it at any period, and the
old churches in this valley were erected be-
fore the establishment of any order of St.
Francis, yea before St. Francis was born.
(according to the natives)

The only Castle that ever stood in this
parish was at the village of Turlagh
called in Irish Turlachan na g-Coileán.
It is mentioned in the list of O'Loughlin
Burren's Castles preserved in a MS. in
the Library of Trinity College, already
more than once referred to, but now nearly
level with the ground.

Gortaclore in this parish is a part of the
Liaha a district which a branch of the
O'Kanes obtained from the abbot of Cor-
muc^{me} Abbey in the 14th century, and a small
lough situated on it is still called Loughan
na Liaha.

Máic Da Cormuige na n-gall idir do fuair na h-áite an
túr ó abba Mairiúpeac Corcumóruad, A.D. 1398"

MS. of Shane O'Kane. Lib. of R.I.A.

On the top of Knockallanan in this parish is a remarkable cairn or sepulchral pile of stones for which I could find no name. It is probably the Carn mhuic Tail of the Annals. (No: it is the Carn Connachdach in the parish of Kilsenny)

About a quarter of a mile to the south of the site of Turlough Castle, on the top of the mountain over Aghawinnáan and between it and Bushame is a place called Crag a' ^{an aorpaigh} ~~mháir~~, the Crag of the Fair. It consists of small circles of stones, and it would appear from its name that it was once a market or fair place.

There are no other remains of antiquity in this parish but a cave around which there was originally a caher in the townland of Turlough from which it is called Hamhainna Turlaighe, i.e. the cave of Turlough, and a Cromlech in the townland of Cragbally-Connoal, called as usual Leaba Dhiarmada agus Ghráine i.e. the bed of Dermot and Graine.

14/3/23/7 (xix)

The original name of these monuments has been lost in the vulgar one of *Bernot and Grania's* head, which popular tradition now imposes and has for some centuries imposed on them. Little doubt ^{however} can now be entertained that they were raised as monuments over Pagan chieftains and heroes slain in battle, and that their original name was Lighe. [†] *Tógat a lig* or a lect. See my letter on the "Table of the Giants" near Ballina Tirawley.

We shall move to Milltown Malbay on Friday morning where we will remain about 5 days.

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

Iris-Diamon

October 23^d, 1839

P. S. The valley district comprising the greater part of this parish of Oghitnanna and that of Abbey is popularly called Gleann na manach, or the valley of the monks. This is the Quibh-gheann so often mentioned in the Wars of Torlogh, according to a marginal notice in the Ordnance Survey Copy of that work. p. 501.

END

14 B 23/8

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Ennistimon, Co. Clare, concerning the history, topography, folklore, place names, genealogy, religious traditions and antiquities of the parishes of Carron and Kilkeedy, with particular references to churches, castles and local saints.

23 October 1839

15p.

24 cm (i-iv), (vi-xv); 25 cm (v)

O'Donovan's letter includes references to the legend of Boher na mias, gravestone inscriptions relative to the O'Brien family of Inchaquin, an O'Brien pedigree and copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning Cluain Dubhain Castle, Derryowen Castle and the pass of Bealach an Fhiodhfhail.

94 (1).
14/10/23/8(1)

Thos A. Larcom Esq.,

Mrs Diomain

R. Eng²⁰

October 23rd 1839

Dear Sir

The next part of Burren which I have examined is the extensive parish of Carron. It is bounded on the West and North west by the parishes of Naughaval, Kilcoarney and Oghitnema; on the North east by the County of Galway; on the East by the parish of Kilkenny, and on the South by that of Killiniboy.

Name. This parish is now called in Irish Paráiste an Cháirn and the old church Teampull a Chairn i. e. the parish and church of Carr or the Sepulchral heap; and yet there is no cairn near the old church, at least in the same townland with it. The nearest cairn to the old church of this parish is about one mile to the west of it, and in the townland of Ballydoory; but the parish was originally called after this or from some other now destroyed, which stood nearer the old Church is a question that cannot be easily answered. Nothing however is more certain than that Teampull a Chairn the present name of the old church means the church of the cairn. The word cairn which is pronounced long in the north of Ireland is

(2)

95

is here pronounced short-capp.

The old church of barn is situated in a townland of the same name about 6 miles to the north west of Corofin. It measures in the clear ^{36 in} 56.10 in length and ^{20 ft 2 in} 20.8 in breadth. The west gable contains no feature but a broken belfry on its top. The south contains a pointed doorway 6.10 in height and 3.8 in width, and two windows one of which is pointed, ^{but} and the other so broken at the top that its characteristics cannot be ascertained, but nothing is surer than that it also was pointed. The east gable contains a pointed window broad inside and narrow outside. It measures on the inside 14 feet in height and 6.4 in width, and on the outside 10 feet in height and 6 inches wide, and at $\frac{2}{3}$ of its height a small ^{stone} extends across, but for what purpose cannot be easily determined. A broken stone altar remains under this window and on its left corner a holy water font of curious formation. In the north wall not far from the east gable are inserted in the wall (from which they project a little) three heads two of males and one of a female. The walls of this church are ^{6 in} 3.6 thick and

and about 14 feet high. This church is of the 15th century.

On the lands of Terman in this parish stands a small church in beautiful preservation, which is nearly as old as Christianity in Ireland. It is called the church of Terman and dedicated to St. Cronan, (who is probably Cronan of Roscrea,) after whom it is generally called in Irish Teampull Chríonáin. It is a small Ormidhe or Oratory measuring in length on the inside 21 feet, and in breadth $12.9\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in. The south wall, which is built of large stones is featureless, but the north wall contains a pointed doorway which was inserted about 4 centuries since. The west gable contains a semi-Cyclopean doorway measuring in height from the present level of the ground 5.6 ft. in, and in breadth 1.11 ft. in at top and 2.5 ft. in at bottom. The lintel which traverses this doorway at the top is 5 feet long and 7 inches high.

The modern doorway, (which was broken on the north wall when the doorway in the west gable was built up) is 5.5 ft. in height from the present level of the ground, and 3.4 ft. in width at the spring of the arch.

The east gable contains a window which pre-

(4) 97
sents all the features of pre-maeval times. It is
quadrangular on the inside and perfectly round-
headed on the outside. It measures on the inside
 $4\frac{1}{2}$ in height, and in breadth at top $1\frac{1}{2}$ and
at bottom $2\frac{1}{2}$. On the outside it is $1\frac{1}{2}$ in height
and in breadth 5 inches at top, and 6 inches
at the bottom. The side walls are $8\frac{1}{2}$ in high.

There are curious human heads done in stone pro-
jecting from the west gable on the outside which
Mr. Wakeman should sketch.

In the church yard there are two cunachs for
bones, said to have been formed by St. Cronan.
They are formed of large flag-stones so placed
as to meet at top like the roof of a church.

About 120 yards S. and by West of this church
there is a holy well called Lobar Chronain
at which stations are performed but no dis-
tinct patron day is now remembered.

To the N. West of the church are ^{to be seen} the pedestal
and shaft of a cross of considerable height,
and it is said that there were others which
marked the limits of the Sermon of Saint
Cronan, but which are now destroyed.

In this parish in the townland of Caol
choille, and within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the bounda-
ry of the County of Galway are situated
the celebrated Boher na miap and the
hermitage of St. Mac Duagh. "What a
dismal and gloomy spot! I walked thither
on the 15th instant from Corofin, and I never
felt so fatigued after having walked for
miles ^{across the country} on the uneven surface of the lime-
stone rocks. What an enthusiastic recluse St.
Colman, the son of Duagh must have been
to have retired from the busy scenes of life to con-
template eternity and the uncertainty of
human fate in this dismal valley then
thickly wooded and haunted by wolves!

The story about Boher na miap and the
dishes of Guaire Aidhne, the hospitable
has been already given from various autho-
rities in my letters on Dun Guaire in
the parish of Kinvara, and it is not there-
fore necessary to repeat it here. It will
be sufficient to state, that Boher na miap
or the road of the dishes is situated in the
townland of Keelilly in the parish of
Carron and Barony of Burren and at the foot of

of a high cliff called Kinn-aillé*. The tracks
 of the feet of men, horses and dogs said to have
 been impressed in the rock by the miracle of
 Mac Duach, are holes of various sizes and
 shapes naturally worked by water in the sur-
 face of the lime stone flag. These natural
 impressions however are sufficiently remark-
 able to have suggested the ground-work
 of the legend about Boher na miap, wh
 though a very wild one is nevertheless
 not without interest to the antiquary
 and lover of legendary lore. But if the
 tracks in the level lime stone rock be
 natural and uninteresting to the antiquary
 the hermitage of Mac Duach and the
 grave of his servant are not. The little
 oratory of Mac Duach in this wild valley
 though much dilapidated is still easily re-
 cognised to be a church of his time. It
 was very small, and only one gable and one
 side wall remain. The gable faces the cliff
 and is featureless, and the side wall contains a
 small, rude quadrangular little window mea-
 suring on the outside 10 inches by 5, which
 looks to the east. This is certainly the original

* This is the very name it is called in the life of Mac Duach, published by Colgan: "He fixed his
 dwelling near a pleasant fountain" (now Boherna Duagh. See) "in the great wood of Boicann", and in that
 part of it which is called Kinn-aillé, about four miles from Durrus, the palace of "Guaise".

* They built there an oratory surrounded with trees. Scholiast of Aengus.

oratory* of St. Mac Duach, and the very one in which Guaire's Sidhné King of Can-naught discovered him when he induced him to remove to Kilmacduach where he built a sumptuous monastery for him.

"Immediately to the east of Templemacduagh at Kinallia is Tobermacduagh" at which stations are performed and a "pattern" held on St. Mac Duach's day, said to be the last day of Summer, but this must be an error as St. Colman Mac Duach's day is the 3rd of February.

"There are also here two altars or penitential stations at which pilgrims perform their turris" or rounds on the "pattern day" or on any day they wish.

Over the little church to the North-west is a cave in a rock called Mac Duach's bed or Leaba clhuic Duach, in which he was accustomed to sleep every night before King Guaire discovered him, and about 20 perches to the south of it is shown the grave of his servant (Leacht-?) who died after partaking of the dinner which flew hither from Guaire's table! The poor man had been so emaciated from eating herbs in the wilderness that when he swallowed a piece of substantial

14/18/23/8(IV)

food

food he died on the spot! This grave is a curious one and could be very easily explored.

" In this parish is situated the beautiful valley of Glen Columbkille, in which there is an old church dedicated to St. Columbkille, about five centuries old. It is all destroyed except the east gable and South wall; the former having a broken Gothic window and the latter a pointed doorway from ^{which} the antiquarian may easily draw his inference respecting the age of the present walls. It is probable however that this church occupies the site of a primitive one erected by the great Thaumaturgus himself. I have no historical reference to Gleann Coluim Cille except two, one from Colgan, ^(Trias Thaum., p. 495, Col. 1) who makes it a distinct parish in itself in the Diocese of Kilmora, and the other from the Annals of the Four Masters in which it is placed on the boundary of Kinel-Faarmaic.

In this valley is situated the residence of Torlogh O'Brien, the next in point of seniority to the Marquis of Thomond. A tomb of this family placed in the S. E. corner of the Church of St. Columbkille

RIA

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This Inscription was composed by
the character Chapman and the
statement in it is false.
The Earl had no brother
named Morogh -

RIA

hibits the following inscription:

" Here lieth the body of Captain Cornelius O'Brien
 " who departed this life anno Domini 1753,
 " who was grandson to General Morthough
 " O'Brien that was brother to Morrough, first
 " Earl of Inchaquin.
 " This monument was erected by Morthough O'Brien
 " in memory of his wife Bridget O'Brien alias
 " Mac Namara, who departed this life July
 " 24th 1800, aged 66 years."

The following is the pedigree of Terence alias Torlogh O'Brien of this place.

1. (Dermot O'Brien) the fourth Lord Baron of Inchaquin, married the daughter and heiress of Sir Edmund Fitzgerald of Ballymulloe in the County of Cork, Bart. by whom he had issue, and General Morthough O'Brien.
2. Morthough, the General, married Mary daughter of Daniel Mac Namara of Ballynahinch Esq. by whom he had issue
3. Daniel O'Brien called Spáineach i.e. the Spaniard from having been born in Spain. He married Mary, sister of Col. John Mac Namara of

14/B/23/8(VI)

- of Moriesk, by whom he had issue
4. Cornelius O'Brien, Captain in the French service, who married Mary, grand-niece to Sir Walter Blake, Bart. by whom he had issue.
 5. Mortogh O'Brien, who married Bridget, daughter of Joseph Mac Namara of Newtown, gent, ⁱⁿ by whom he had issue.
 6. Torlogh alias Terence O'Brien of Glencolumbkille ^{married Mary Anne Mac Donogh} Esq, now living, by whom he has issue.
 7. Mortogh O'Brien Esq, his son and heir, William, Terence, Conor, Edward, James and Charles, all living at Glencolumbkille.

The following genealogical table will shew where the present Marquis of Thomond and this Terence O'Brien of Glencolumbkille, meet.

Dermot 4th Baron of Inchiquin

Morogh 1st Earl of Inchiquin

William O'Brien 2nd Earl of Inchiquin

William 3rd Earl of Inchiquin

Col. James William 4th Earl of Inchiquin

Capt. Edward Morogh 5th Earl of Inchiquin who was created
marquis of Thomond and lord Tiplow
October 2nd 1801.
Lord James, William O'Brien
has no the present
issue? Marquis aged 63,
and has no issue

Dermot 4th Baron Inchiquin

1. Genl. Mortogh O'Brien — 1. Morogh 1st Earl Inchiquin

2. Daniel Spaineach — 2. William 2nd Earl

3. Capt. Cornelius — 3. William 3rd Earl

4. Mortogh — 4. Col. James O'Brien

5. Terence O'Brien — 5. Capt. Edward O'Brien

of Glencolumbkille

6. Mortogh O'Brien — 6. William the present Mar-
quis of Thomond

N.B. The title of Earl of Thomond becoming extinct
in 1741 with Henry, eighth Earl, and lineal descen-
dant from the first, was revived in 1756 in
the person of his nephew Percy Wyndham to
whom

whom it was made to appear by a forged will that he left the reversion of his estates. But the title becoming extinct with him in 1774 (as Brian Born was glad to see) it was conferred on Mordaugh O'Brien 5th Earl of Inchiquin in the year 1800, whose nephew William O'Brien now represents Brian Born and enjoys the adventitious titles Marquis of Thomond and Lord Thomond of Taplow in Bucks.

The present Marquis and his brother Lord James O'Brien will however, die issueless, and after their deaths Terence O'Brien or his son Mordaugh will become the senior representative of Brian Born, for Sir Lucius O'Brien branches off from the main trunk of the pedigree at a remote period, as I shall shew when treating of his locality.

In this parish are situated the ruins of the Castles of O' Loughlin Kurren mentioned in the list already often referred to. These are
 1. Castletown, ^{called in the list Castleton, and} generally called in Irish Caislean Boir - ne, situated on the brink of Lough Tullycumain and about 6 miles north of Corofin. It is much injured but the northern side of it is in tolerable preservation. It is 35 feet in length on this side, but its breadth cannot be easily ascertained. See Wakeman's Sketch.

2. The Castle of Cappagh, called in the list Nacap-aghee, and now in Irish Caislean na Cípaighe stands in a townland of the same name and to the left of the road as you go from Glen Columbkille house to Kinvara. It was a small square castle.

3. The Castle of Brughwill, called in the list Kreaghwill and now in Irish Briuchmhuil. It lies to the left of the road as you go from the Chapel of Carrow to the New Quay, but it is so injured that its ruins are not interesting.

two other

There are other ruins of Castles, or perhaps rather ancient ^{dwelling} ~~small~~ houses in this parish not mentioned in the list. One in the townland of ^{situated in a valley} ~~Fakee~~ north to the left of the road as you go from Castletown to Glencolumbkille, but it is nearly crumbled to a heap of rubbish. The natives say that it was not a regular castle but rather a large house or garrison formerly belonging to O'Loughlin, King of Burren. It was probably built after the writing of the list of O'Loughlin's Castles, which is preserved in Trinity College. The other castle or house not mentioned in this list is in the valley of Glencolumbkille about 150 perches to the North East of Mr. Terence O'Brien's house. M. O.

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(14) 107

O'Brien states that there was an ^{inscription on a} stone placed over the doorway of this Castle stating its erection by Turlough O'Brien, but he never could find out who this Turlough was, but thinks that he was O'Brien of Gleann basin, - Glenquin - in the parish of KilKeady.

Mr. O'Brien also states that the site of a castle is traceable in the townland of Buskéarn at its extreme east end where it merges with the townland of Cappagh. I cannot find this (if indeed it were a castle) in the College list of O'Loughlins residences.

I could hear of no other antiquities in this parish but some broken Cahers, and a ruin church in the townland of Paulcarron, of the origin of which nothing is remembered.

Of the parish of Kilkeedy.

The next parish which I visited is Kilkeedy, and though I have not the Barony of Burren yet finished still I shall take the parishes in the order in which I visited them. The parish of Kilkeedy is bounded on the west by the parish of Barron in the barony of Burren, and by that of Killineebay in the barony of Inchiquin; on the north and east by the County of Galway, and on the south by the parish of Dysart, Tola and Inchacranan.

The name of this parish is written Cill Chaíde by the 4 Masters
Name, ^{and} Colgan understands it to mean Cill

Chaíde, i.e. the church of St. Keedy or Kedda or Ketta, of whom however he has not been able to collect any thing satisfactory. Nothing is remembered about him in his own parish but that he lived at a very early age and that his festival was annually celebrated at his church on the 3rd day of March which is called Lá fét' Caíde.

Is there any St. of his name or like his name mentioned in the Irish Calendars or by Colgan under this day? Perhaps Colgan gives a life of him? I have at present only a mere reference to his church of Cill Chaíde.

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The present church of Kilkenny is by no means, the primitive one, but one erected on its site about five centuries since. It consists of two parts, a church of considerable size, and a small chapel erected against it on the north side. The larger part of this church extends east and west and measures about 60 feet in length and 20 in breadth. The west gable is level with the ground, but the east gable and side walls are in tolerable preservation. The east gable contains a gothic window of considerable size and neatness, and the south wall a rounded headed but decidedly modern one about ^{8 in} 3.5 in height on the outside, and about 4 inches wide. There is a holy water font placed on the middle of the floor of this church, but this is not its original position.

The small chapel attached to this church is perhaps two centuries more modern than the larger part. It is 19 feet by 16, and contains several windows, which are not sufficiently interesting to be minutely described. It had obviously a loft, as appears from the position of the windows, and stones jutting from the walls for the support of joists. A stone in

inserted in the north wall of it exhibits this ¹¹⁰(17)
inscription from which we learn that it was
built by the family of O'Kaslain.

" 17. I H S. 06. "

"This tumber is made by Ta. Con Mullan for
" him and his family, in his ancestors cha-
" ple, to whom God be merciful."

On a more modern tomb near it the name is
spelled Myllan.

"The celebrated castle of Cluain Dubhain is
situated in this parish near Rockvale, the resi-
-dence of James Darcy Esq. Only one side of it
remains, which ^{perfectly} measures 28' 6" in length and
about 60 feet in height. All its outworks
have been long since destroyed. I was en-
tirely disappointed in this castle, for I ex-
pected to find it as large as the castle
of Ballintober or Trim!

The following notices of this castle oc-
-cur in the annals of the Four Masters
from which it would appear to have
been a fortress of great strength, of
which however, it exhibits now but little
appearance.

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(18)

It is situated about 6 Irish miles to the N.E. of Corrofin. The name is now pronounced Gluan uain (the a in uain pronounced like a in dubhan, a kidney). It is probable that this castle had strong and extensive outworks, but they cannot now be traced. I hope Mr. Wakeman will make a careful sketch of the remains of this castle, which was the best fortified in Ireland in 1586.

Cluain Dubhain.

near Glenties (19) Munster

A. D.

1569. The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland,
Sir Henry Sidney, in the Autumn
of this year mustered a great Army
to march ^{against} the Momonians notwithstanding
the covenant and treaty of peace they
had agreed to. + + + + The
Chief Justice remained for some time
in Cork, during which time, those
who had league with James in the
war came under his protection and
requested pardon. From thence the Justice
passed into Limerick, and on his way
from Cork to Limerick demolished
some of the towns of Munster. On

^{this}
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* Baile ui Bheachain, now Ballyvaughan or Ballyvaughan, a village
in the parish of Drumcreehy near which are the ruins of a
Castle. See my letter on that parish. The O'Bearains are now called
Wanghans, &c.

This expedition he took Cluain Dubhain
and Baile ui Bheachain* in Thomond
and afterwards proceeded to Galway
1586. The same Governor Sir Richard
Bingham, laid siege to Cluain Dubhain
then in the possession of Mahon, the Son
of Torlogh, who was son of Mahon, who
was son of Torlogh, who was son of
Mahon O'Brien, from whom the Shrooth-
Mahon are named. A certain number
of the Governor's people were left to
carry on the siege for three months, at the
expiration of which time, that is on
the 22nd of same month they made vigorous
attempts to take the Castle. But while
Mahon

Mahon stood on the Battlements of the Castle throwing down stones and rocks upon those who were around it and applying engines against it to demolish it, he received a Musquet bullet in the head and was killed. The warden after Mahon's death delivered up the Castle, but though they expected quarters, they did not receive it. The western side of the Castle was razed to the ground.

The name and character of Sir Richard Bingham were exalted by this achievement, for there was not an inland Castle in Ireland better fortified and more impregnable than Glavin-Dubhain.

¹¹⁵
(24) Annals 4 Masters

440

Bheachain

Baile ui Bheachain.

A. D. The entry of Dundain is
near the
1569. See Cluain Dubhain at this year.

P. 438.

Baile ui Bheachain signifies the town or
townland of O'Beachain, a family
name now anglicised Vaughan, and
Baile ui Bheachain, which is a fair
town in the parish of Drumcreehy
in the Barony of Kurren is also now
anglicised Wallyvaughan.

In this parish in the north of a town and to which it is named, and about 6½ miles to the E. of Corofin is situated the castle of Derrygamen. It is all destroyed except the west side which is nearly perfect and from which an idea of its origin extent and construction may be formed. It consisted of six stories.

This castle is mentioned in the Annals of the years 1598 and 1599.

"A.D. 1598. Among the nobles of Thomond who were at strife with one another was Torlogh, the son of Mahon from Boill O'bh Flannchadha who took from George Cusack Derrygamen, which was at first the property of the sons of Shuliff the son of Nian O'Flaughnasey.

A.D. 1599. The Earl of Thomond restored to the lawful proprietors the castle of Derrygamen, the two castles of Bluain and the castle of Lios Aodha Finn and many others in Thomond."

Boill O'bh Flannchadha above mentioned at the year 1598 was the name of a ^{adjoining the Co. Galway} woody district in this parish. The remains of the wood were observable in the lands of Bun a Chiopáin and Sit tighé Doithe not many years ago.

14/13/23/8 (XII)

(24) ¹¹⁴ In this parish is situated the Castle of Maotheraigh, which is in tolerable preservation, and also the Castle of Kilkeedy now locally called Caiplean Macl, which is very much ruined ^{and Cluain Sailchern}. These and all the other castles and their proprietors are set down in a list of the Castles of Thomond evidently written in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and now preserved in the Mss. Library of Trinity College, Dublin, thus:

John Subáin

1. Cloynenuayne — proprietor Mahoun O'Brien
2. Dereamen ————— The Baron of Inshiquin
3. Mootherie ^{Cluain Sailchern} ————— Th. Earl of Thomond
4. Cloyneselchern ————— (Dermot O'Brien)
5. Kilkeedy ————— Mahoun, the Baron's son.

Cluain Sailchearnaigh above mentioned is referred to in the annals of the Four Masters as ^{on} ~~forming~~ the eastern boundary of O'Dea's Country of Kinel-Fearmaic.

"A.D. 1599, O'Donnell encamped this year at Killineebo, on which occasion the spoils of all the territory of "Kinel-Fearmaic extending from Diseart" (i.e. Dysart-Tola alias Dysart O'Dea) "to Glencolumbkille and to Tullycummon, and from Cluain Sailchearnaigh to Leim-an-eich were brought to him."

From this we can form a pretty accurate idea of the extent of Kinel Fearmaic, O'Dea's country.

Diseart is now Dysart-O'Dea, Tullycommon is in the parish of Killineeboe on the confines of Burren; Cluain Saillearnaigh called in the Down Survey Cloonesilpherry is in the east of this parish of Kilkeedy on the verge of the county and adjoining the barony of Kiltartan in the County of Galway, and Leim-an-eich is in the parish of Killineeboe on the confines of Burren. From these data it appears that Kinel Fearmaic or O'Dea's Country was ^{nearly} coextensive with the barony of Inchaquin.

In this parish is situated the old church of Kill-Taice which appears to be of the primitive ages, but all its features are destroyed so that nothing remains to the antiquarian to determine its age but the character of the masonry, which certainly looks very old. It would appear from a holy well near this church that it was built by, or dedicated to St. Inneboe, a celebrated Dalcaissian virgin, the patron of Killineeboe, whose memory was celebrated there on the 29th of December, and to whom many wells throughout this County are sacred. Does her name occur in the Calendar of the O'berys. 14/B/23/8 (xiii)

In the townland of elloanraugh in this parish is situated the bridge of Lochaid which is mentioned by Keating as on the boundary of the province of Connaught and the territory of the Dalassians, and by the Four Masters at the year 1564.

"The inhabitants of the country from Sliabh
Oidheadha - an - righ to Luchat, and from
Rinn Eanaigh to Scairbh, rose up to op-
 -pose the Earl of Thomond." &c

The Sliabh Oidheadha an riigh here mentioned is the Cratloe mountain; Luchat is Lochaid in the parish of Kilkeedy; Rinn Eanaigh is in the Shannon ^{near Bynally} ~~at Scattery Island~~ and Scairbh is the village of Scariff ^{in the Bar. of Tyllagh} near the boundary of the County of Galway.

In this parish is situated the pass of Bealach an Fhiodhfháil celebrated in the Wars of Torlogh & in the annals of the Four Masters

"A.D. 1599, In the first week of March in this year the
 Governor of the province of Connaught Sir Conyers
 Clifford went to Galway with a great army of dis-
 -tinguished gentlemen and soldiers. After having
 stopped

" stopped nearly a week in Galway, he went with
 " seven or eight bands of English and Irish sol-
 " diers ⁱⁿ to the County of Clare, to know who were obe-
 " dient to the Queen in that County. He appoint-
 " ed Theobald Dillon, Captain Lester and Richard
 " Scorlock, the Sheriff of the County of Clare, as
 " Commanders over his troops until they should ar-
 " rive at the place where Torlogh O'Brien was
 " who was also to be one of the Commanders. They
 " stopped the first night at Gill Gaeide (Kilkeedy)
 " in the east of the territory of Kinel-Fearmaic, but
 " as soon as the faithful friends of Seige, the son
 " of Torlogh O'Brien had heard of their arrival
 " in that country, they prepared to oppose them,
 " and, as the Queens party were, on the fol-
 " lowing day, marching westwards from Kilkeedy
 " through Bealach an fhiódhfhail, Seige's party
 " made an attack upon them, in which many were
 " slain on both sides, &c. After this attack the
 " Queen's people were suffered to pass, and they
 " moved onwards to Killincenboy, where they ar-
 " rived in the evening and stopped for some
 " time," &c.

Same year.

" O'Donnell marched his forces until he ar-
 " rived unnoticed at the other side of the River"
 (Clarin Bridge River, &c.) " in Blannichard, and
 " in the evening pitched an extensive camp at
 " Ruaidh-Bheitheach between Kilcolgan and
 " Ardrahan. There he remained for some time to
 " consult with the chiefs of his people upon the
 " best means of getting through this to them
 " unknown Country, and also to take refreshments,
 " sleep &c. At midnight O'Donnell ordered them to
 " rise up immediately and remove from that
 " neighbourhood before day light. They did so
 " and proceeded onwards straightways until by
 " break of day they arrived in the western ex-
 " tremity of Kinel-Tearmaic in Thomond. There
 " they formed marauding parties, and sent ^{one} of
 " them northwards into Burren under the com-
 " mand of Teige O'Rourke and Mac Sweeney
 " Bannagh and another southwards to Bally
 " ogan in Coill mor, who advanced to Tully-O'kea
 " and to the gate of the Castle of Baile i' Gharriol
 " tha. &c. O'Donnell himself proceeded, with the
 flower

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" through the very centre of Coill O'bfannachadha
" through Bealach an fhiadhfhail, and before
" noon arrived at Killineenboy in the upper
" part of Dalg Caip. Those who had gone to the
" south returned to the north by Drumfinglas
" and Corofin, and joined O'Donnell at Killineen-
" boy &c.

Fhiadhfhail or Coill an fhiadhfhail (Kylcineal)
is still the name of a townland comprised in
in Rockforest in the parish of Kilkeedy about
5 miles to the East of Corofin. There are still
some remnants of the ^{sylva palustris} Free fall there, and
the road still passes through it.

The ^{name of the} place called Drumfinglas by the Four
Masters, in the above extract, is not set down
on any of the name books but it is shewn
on the engraved map from the Down
Survey as lying due south of Corofin and
between it and Dysart-O'Dea. The surveyors
had better look to this.

In this parish is situated the Townland of
^{in Irish called} Kelly, in which there was formerly a church
but

but its site is now scarcely traceable. It is probably the beandinis which Colgan places in (Dalcassia), but I could find nothing to prove whether it is or not. It is mentioned in the pedigree of the O'Briens as a seat of an branch of that family. For the names of other places in this parish, which are not mentioned in history see Field name books of the parish of Kilkeedy.

We shall move to Milltown Malbag to-morrow at 10 o'clock A.M., where we intend to remain about 3 days, after which we shall proceed to Kilkee.

Your obedient &c. servant
John O'Donovan

3. We want square paper by return of
post as we are nearly out - This County
will take a great quantity.

END

14 B 23/9

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Ennistimon, Co. Clare, concerning the history, religious traditions, folklore and antiquities of the parish of Disert (Dysert), with particular reference to its churches, round tower, holy wells, burial grounds, cross, castle and the origins of its place name.

23 October 1839

20p.

24 cm

ill. With O'Curry's pencil sketches of the round tower and the base of a cross at Dysert and an ink sketch of the tower and church at Dysert, from the north east, by William Fredrick Wakeman.

Included are extracts from Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum' concerning St. Tola, bishop of Clonard and extracts relating to the Battle of Dysert and accounts of folk remedies used by the local populace. With references to gravestone inscriptions copied from the parish church of Dysert and church of Ruadhan.

4/ 125
Ennistimon 23rd October 1839.

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

The parish of Disert in the barony of Inchiquin and County of Clare is bounded on the north by the parish of Kilkeedy, on the east by the parishes of Inchicronan & Dromchieve, on the south by the parish of Kilmurry Irican, and on the west by the parish of Rath.
See Crown Survey map.

The name of this parish, strictly speaking is not of ecclesiastical origin, as ^{Disert} it means nothing more than wilderness, and yet I believe that every place of the name in Ireland is found in connection with an ecclesiastical establishment. This can be easily accounted for by considering that when any of the ancient Irish hermits retired to the wilderness for solitude, the place of his retirement immediately became associated with his name,

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and thence forward was called after him, whether it became an ecclesiastical establishment, which I believe was invariably the case, or not, and hence all the Diserts, such as Disert Bermuda, now called Tristledermot, Queen's County Kildare, Disert Aongusa, Queen's County, with many others, and Disert Tola, our immediate subject, deriving its name from Saint Tola bishop who it would appear was the founder of the first church here, and whose festival according to the Irish Calendar was held on the 30th March.

Tola epp. oon hte an uactap dal ecap. 30. March.
Tola, Bishop from Disert in the upper part of Dal-
Cais.

Doctor Lanigan having found a Disert Tola in this district and another in the barony of Delvin County Westmeath, concludes that there ~~was~~ is some mistake in the account and gets over the difficulty by assuming that Disert Tola was ^{situated} placed somewhere on the confines of Munster and Meath. Hear the Doctor.

Desert Lolo.

St. Lolo bishop of Clonard, died in 734 on the 30th of March, the day on which his anniversary was commemorated. (105) This saint was of the illustrious family of the Galengi, (106) and son of one Dunchad. He led for many years the life of a hermit at a place called from him Desert-Lolo, and situated either in the Southern part of the ancient Meath, or Northern part of ancient Munster, and consequently in the now King's county. (107) Afterwards he was raised to the see of Clonard, but in what year is not recorded. It has been said that he was bishop also of Milder. That this is a mistake may be safely concluded from as much as ^{is} known of his transactions. (108)

(105) Colgan treating of St. Tola (at 30 March p. 793.) quotes the 4 chapters, who assign his death to 733 (734) as to the day of it, which was omitted by them, he does not (etc.) expressly mark it, only observing, that his memory was revered on the 30th of March; but elsewhere (Act. S. p. 407.) we read, according to his printed text, that Tola died on the 3rd of March. This must be a typographical error for 30; whereas Colgan states that he has taken from the calendars of all the obituary days, the Feast of the several saints, whom he names in this part of the Act. Now all the calendars, referred to by him at p. 793, have Tola's name only at the 30th of March, and it is plain that Colgan considered it as his Feast. This mistake of the printer (one of the thousands which have greatly injured Colgan's works,) led astray Ware, (Bishops at Meath) who accordingly assigned Tola's death to the 3rd of March. Besides this mistake Ware fell into another, for which Colgan is not to blame, although he professed to follow him, for, instead of 733, which Colgan has every where for the death of Tola; he, or his printer, has given us 732.

(106) The family of the Galangi inhabited, I suppose, some of the districts called Galenga or Gallan. There was a Gallan or Galian, which comprised a very part of the Queen's county and of the counties of Carlow and Kildare. Considering the situation of the place, in which, as will be just seen, St. Tola commenced his career, it is not improbable that he

he was a native of that territory.
 (107) Colgan observes, that the Calendar of Cashel places Disert-Sola in Meath, while, according to every other authority, it was in upper Dalcassia, that is, the northern part of Munster. He justly remarks, that it lay perhaps at the boundary of both provinces. In former times Meath and Munster met each other in what is now called the King's county, which has been made up of districts that belonged to these provinces. That Disert-Sola was in the now barony of Garrycastle in said county may, I think, be deduced from the circumstance, related by the 4 Masters at A.D. 1034, of Carter lord of Dealbha having been killed by some of his subjects when entering the church of Disert-Sola. This Dealbha was, in all probability, the one surnamed Eathra, the ch' Caghlan country, or barony of Garrycastle. (see Harris, Antiquities ch. 7. and Sewall at Dealbha.)

(108) In St. Iola's acts at 30 March, in which Colgan collected every thing that he could find concerning him, Kildare is not even mentioned. In the passage of the 4 Masters relative to him, there quoted at full length, he is called bishop only of Clonard. The Calendar of Cashel has "St. Iola of Disert-Sola"; the martyrology of Donegall, "St. Iola bishop and anachoret, of Disert-Sola".

But in no calendar whatsoever is he said to have belonged to Kildare. Yet at p. 407. we find and of Kildare, et de Mill-dara, added to the words, bishop of Clonard. It is plain that Mill-dara has slipped in, instead of Disert-Sola. Hence

proceeded
 14/3/23/9 (iii)

proceeded the mistake of Ware and Harris, who
(Bishops at Meath and Kildare), make him bishop
not only of Clonard, but likewise of Kildare. To
show still further that they were mistaken, I may
add that in the very minute catalogue, which
Colgan has, (Tr. H. p. 629.) of the bishops, abbots,
&c. of Kildare, from the beginning down
to the 13th century, no St. Tola is reckoned
among them.

Vol. III. P. 131.

With the doctors difficulties about the situation of Desert Fola I will have nothing to do, but I will here bring together all the evidence that has reached me to show that the present place has a distinct and well founded claim to the name.

I have already quoted the Irish Calendar, and will now give the following from the Annals of the Four Masters:

"Anno. 1589. Dermot oge, the son of Dermot,
 "who was son of Honor, (Bishop of Limerick),
 "who was son of Morogh-an-danna O'Dea
 "died, and was interred in his own town
 "of Disert Fola in the Cantred of Kenel-
 "Fearmaic, in the upper part of Dal-
 "ghais.

The following extract from O'Donnell's incursion into Thomond in the year 1599, as given in the same Annals will identify this Desert with the Kenel-Fearmaic (the O'Dea's) and upper Dalghais.

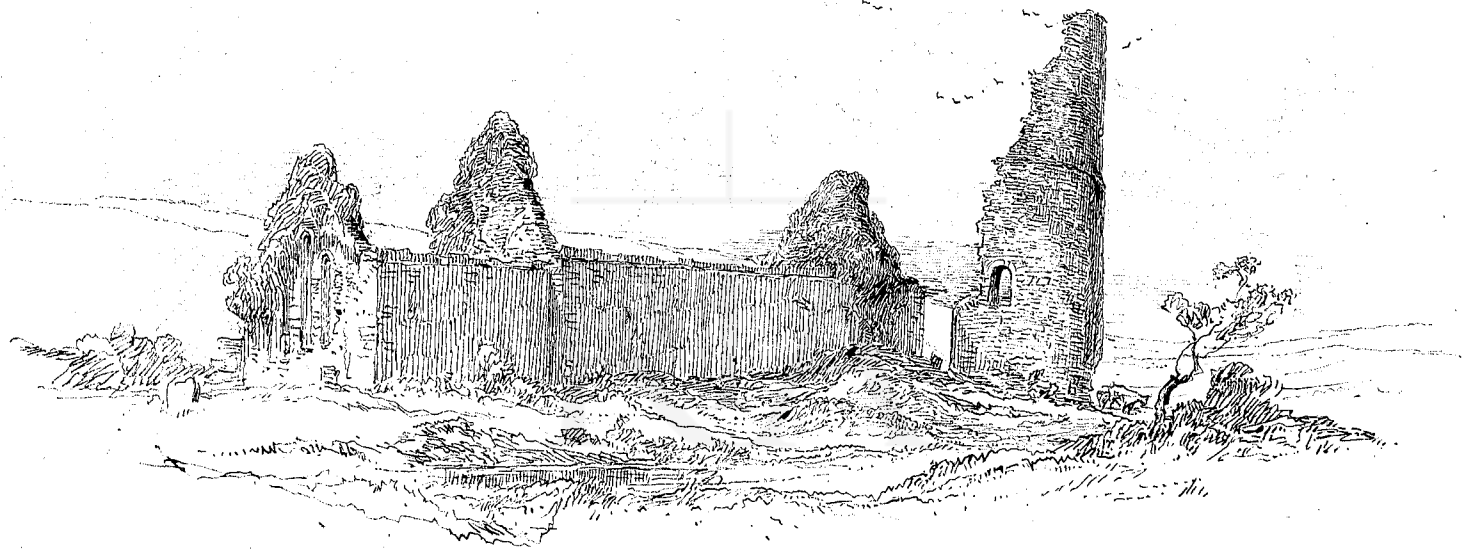
"Anno 1599. O'Donnell proceeded with the

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" flower of the Army through the middle of
 " Coill O'Blanchadha, to Bealach-an-Thiodhfae
 " and before noon arrived at bill-inghine-Bharith
 " in the upper part of Dalgais. Those who had
 " gone to the south returned to the north
 " by Drumfinglais and Corofin and joined
 " O'Donnell at bill-inghine-Bharith. This
 " then the spoils of the whole Country of
 " of Kenel Fearmaic, extending from Disert
 " to Glenacolumbkille and to Tullycummon
 " (north) and from Cluain-Sailchearmaigh
 " (in the east) to Leim-an-eich (in the west),
 " were brought to O'Donnell".

This place at a subsequent period took the
 name of Disert O'Dea from the Chief
 of the Kenel-Fearmaic. (O'Dea) having
 built a castle, and fixed his residence,
 here. Above of its history hereafter.

The ^{main} Church of Disert ~~most~~ consists of nave
 and choir, the former measuring 71 feet by
 24, the latter 25 feet 6 inches by 21 1/3 inches.



Lower church of Dyant to Clare
from the north east.

W. W. R. R. R. R. R.

To be printed in page 102 vol. 1.

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the walls perfect, about 14 feet high and 3 feet one
 inch thick. There is a window in the west
 gable but of what particular form I could not
 ascertain from the quantity of ivy with which
 it is covered within and without. Thirteen
 feet ten inches from west gable on the south
 side is a beautifully sculptured circular door,
 6 feet 10 inches high, 3 feet 2 wide, the front
 having 4 circles, one over the other resting,
 the first or inner on the sides of the door,
 the second arch way supported by a slender
 full column of stone ^{at each side} carved and surmounted
 by a human head; the column on the east has
 disappeared. The third arch is supported by the
 angles of the wall and the fourth by two
 slender columns like those already mentioned
 with heads also. The stones of this arch are 19 in
 number, and project a little from the wall, pre-
 senting 12 human ~~and~~ heads and ^{heads} 7 of some
 animals, the head on the key stone being
 smaller than any of the rest. I believe
 Mr. Petrie has a drawing of this door as I
 remember having seen it in the *Penny*
Journal.

Not by Dr. Petrie and all account

14/13/23/19(vi)

10 The choir arch is a beautiful circular one, built with finely Cut grit Stone, 14 feet 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and I should think the same in height. There is a double headed ^{curvilinear} pointed belfry on this gable built ^{with} the very same kind of Stone and workmanship. The wall around the choir arch appears to have been opening and threatening to fall out, but has been prevented by the timely interference of Mr. Lyngge who some time ago had it well plastered and staunched. There is a pointed window in the north wall of nave near this gable, 7 feet 7 inches by 3 feet ten, inside and 6 feet 2 by 9 inches outside. There is a window in the south side of quire, near the east gable, built up with the same sort of Stones as the ^{choir} ~~Quire~~ arch, pointed inside where it is 6 feet 7 inches high and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ wide, round outside where it is five feet 2 high and 6 inches wide. The window in the east gable is eleven feet 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and about 13 feet high, divided into 3 compartments by two triangular pillars of

masonry, lined all round with the same sort of cut stones as those in the Choir arch, but looking somewhat fresher. These compartments are ^{flatly} bluntly pointed inside and circular in front. Tradition says that this Choir was added to the Church by O'Dea, and the people here always call it O'Dea's Chapel. Indeed this tradition is favored by the appearance of the walls, and its being built up against, not part of, the middle gable, nor would I be able to discover any material difference between the masonry of this gable and the rest of the Choir.

There is a monumental stone inserted in the north wall of the Choir, having the following inscription in plain letter;

" This thombe was erected by Michael
 " O'Dea of Dishest son of Connor Brome
 " O'Dea the second day of May in the
 " year of our Lord 1584 wherein was
 " interred Ioan Dea alias Butler, wife

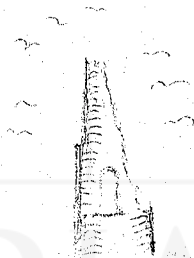
19 " of the Sd Michael O'Dea the eleventh of
 " December following. Est Commune mori
 " mors nulli parcat honori debiliset ~~lunari~~
 " fortis veniunt ad funera mortis".

There is a tombstone near the east gable with
 the following inscription on it: " Here lies
 " the body of Honora Mc Nemara the
 " wife of William Neylan Esquire, and
 " the body of Belia O'Brien the wife of
 " Captⁿ Daniel Neylan. Belia died the
 " 5th day of April Anno. Dⁿⁱ 1728."

Those Neylans were located at Knock-
 na-graige in the neighbouring parish of
 Rath, but are now extinct or dispersed.

At a few feet distance from the south
 west angle of the Church is a ruined
 round tower, about 60 feet in height as it
 stands at present, and 61 feet in circum-
 ference at the height of five feet from the
 ground. The southeast side is down
 to within 12 feet of the ground, where

where the wall is five feet thick, but diminishes there to the thickness of three feet seven inches, by a gradual taper from without and an abrupt shift from within. At the height of about 30 feet it diminishes from the outside abruptly, by about a foot in this manner:



The door is circular, placed in the north east side, at 12 feet 6 inches from the ground, five feet ten inches high, 2 feet ten wide at the springing of the arch and three feet at bottom. It is built up with finely cut stones, resembling in workmanship those of the choir arch in the church and looking quite as fresh. Two cut

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14

Stones of the side of a window appear near the top on the south side, something after this manner:

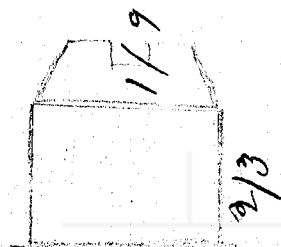


From what remains of this window, if my eye be right, it was built in the pointed style, and the ^{point} angle of the stone cut away, which I believe is not the case in buildings of the supposed antiquity of the round towers of Ireland. There is a modern doorway opened in the west side near the ground.

^{Several} Some years ago the interior of this tower was dug up in search for money, but nothing was found except a good sized bell, a little cracked, which was carried away and placed in the

Church of Corofin, where it remained ~~in~~
in use till about twenty years back,
when
it was exchanged in Limerick for
a larger and better one. I have but
very little doubt that this steeple was
battered down by Helwig's artillery,
sufficient evidence of which remain-
ing on the shattered and shivered
stones in the South side, if I am
not much mistaken. It was built
of large and small stones in somewhat
irregular courses, the mortar much
whiter than that in others that I have
seen. Without assigning any particular
reason for my opinion, I think that
neither the Church nor the tower is
as old as the time of Brian Boru,
and that they were built or rebuilt
by O'Dea when he fixed his residence here.

A little to the east of the Church, on the south side of the old road, is the pedestal of a cross, the lower part built of 7 large Cut Stones, surmounted by another stone in which the cross stood, thus:



4 feet 8 by 3 feet 9.

The cross which was a very fine one, stands in two pieces on the east side of the pedestal, and appears to have been originally formed out of two pieces of stone, as there is a mortice in the top of the shaft for the reception of a tenon from the upper part. The shaft is 4 feet ten inches high, 2 feet wide at bottom, 1 foot 8 at top; one

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14

foot 3 inches thick at bottom and one foot
one inch at top, having ^{the} a raised figure
of a bishop stretching its whole length,
holding a Bachall in the left hand,
and a square hole cut into the body at
the middle near the right side.

The top part stands near this, measuring
4 feet two inches in height, 3 feet
3 across the arms, having a very rude
representation of the Crucifixion ~~on~~
~~one~~ with a moveable head inserted
in the stone, on one side. All
sides of the cross are handsomely
sculptured, as are the north and
south sides of the pedestal. On the
north side of the square part of pedestal
is the following inscription in plain
character: "This Cross was newly repaired
by Michael O'Dea son of Connor Crone
"O'Dea, in the year 1683." This was the

14/3/28/9 (VIII)

Michael O'Dea who erected the monument in the Church about the same time. There is no remembrance of when or how the cross was removed from its proper place and position. The people all about here call it Cros-Bhánaíla, i.e. Bánaíla's cross, and believe that Bánaíla, who they think was ~~the~~ a woman, was the patron saint of this parish, but it is easy to see how this mistake grew up with the corruption of the name. They have a habit of distinguishing ~~an~~ objects ^{+ places} by their colours, as Bóinníthan-an-achnhaigh, White linny Burren; Leampall-dubh-na-hEidh-nighe, the black Church of Eidhneach; Crosa-geola-Chillfhionnabhach, the White Crosses of Kilfenora, and in the present instance, Cros-bhán-ghola, i.e. the white

Croaf of Fola, which subsequently was corrupted into our word Chay, Cros Bhan'ala, which was further altered into Ban'ala, and supposed to express the name of the founder of the Church. There was no person in the parish to whom I explained the progress of this corruption, who did not believe it to be the truth, and acknowledge that doubts were always entertained in the parish on the same subject, as the name of Ban'ala could not be found among any of the words in the Irish Saints. It is curious to find however that the Desert Fola in the County Westmeath is called by the natives Discart Aivla.

There is a holy well a little south east of the Church, called Foban Bhan'ala, at which Stations and a patron were held formerly on the 30th March, Saint Fola's day,
14/B/23/9 (ix)

but the potum has been discontinued for many years. The 30th of March is still held holy by many persons in the parish, tho' it is no longer an obligation to do so. The same holy day was kept in the neighbouring parish of Kilmamma.

I must correct an assertion made above, i.e. that every ^{one} to whom I mentioned the progress of the corruption of the name, Bânala, believed it. Such was not the fact, for Jeremy Kishane, the nearest neighbour to the Church and Cross, would not believe a word of it, for the following reason:

The Church of Rath, half a mile to the west, was built, says he, at the same time with the Church of Disert; the former by a stout saint of a man, who built a fine steeple (Bloghoy) near it, and the latter by poor saint Bânala who tho' she was most anxious to have a

round tower for herself, thought it would take her too long a time to build one; whereupon she cogitated within herself on best means of removing her anxiety on the matter, and after mature considerations resolved on stealing his round tower from her neighbour at Rath.

After praying fervently for strength and resolution to carry her determination into effect, she repaired cautiously at the dead hour of the night to Rath, took the steeple on her back and ran with it at the top of her speed, but when ^{she had} arrived within about 20 perches of her church she heard the footsteps of the true owner of her ^{burden} coming close on her rear, and finding ^{it} impossible to reach the church before she should be overtaken, she flung the tower off her back, forward and fixed it just where it stands now, and by the violence of

18/8/23/9(X)

The effort she felt in a stone, in which the impress of her bare knees was to be seen. About a few years ago a thieving road improver broke it up, as it was in his way when widening a foot path, and there the Steeple remains since to the present day, tho it was not on the spot she intended to place ^{it}, but in a little pit, something like a place that might receive ^{it}, lying a little more to the south, but which she missed in the hurry of the throw.

O'Deas Castle of Desert stands a little to the north west of the Church, 22 feet 3 inches long and 10 feet 5 inches wide in the clear, walls 7 feet thick, containing 28 loopholes and small windows, with one large window with stone lashes on the east side high up, and a smaller one in the west side high up also. Three of its vaulted floors remain perfect, some of them having good fireplaces of cut polished

Stone, these rooms are large and could be easily fitted up for the reception of a family of some pretensions to deceit. The door of the Castle is on the north, and the ascent to the top through the northeast angle by a flight of 96 Stone Steps 8 inches in ~~depth~~ thickness each. The ^{south} east gable of a house stands near it on the northwest, the wall about 4 feet thick, and apparently as old as the Castle, the whole built on an elevated rocky crag, which with the strength of the Castle must have rendered it a place of great security. The under part of the Castle is at present inhabited by a poor family. It was near this Castle that the great de Clare and his son were killed by the O'Neals and their adherents and allies in the year of our Lord 1318 as appears from the Ways of Torlogh, Ordnance Survey copy, p. 611.

14/3/23/9(x)

It appears from the aforesaid authority page 587, that Montogh, the son of Torlogh O'Brien carried away a large prey from the blares territory of Burratty in the above year, and that the latter to be revenged of him and his followers invited Sir William Oge Burke, and some of the disaffected Dalcarnian tribes to join him in totally extirpating Montogh and all his adherents from Thomond. Having assembled all their forces at Quin they marched to the north west towards O'Dea's Country of Ky-Fearnaic, he being the most powerful and warren supporter of Montogh and his father Torlogh, to plunder his territory and either extirpate or destroy himself and all his tribe and retainers. Having arrived at Ruadhan, within about three miles of Disert O'Dea

they encamped here for the night,
waiting for the day light to carry
their terrible design into execution.

Having premised so far I shall
give a free translation of MacGrath's
florid account of the progress and
result of this expedition:

"As for O'Conor ^{at} ^{having} his scouts ^{came}
 "(to desert)
 "to him, with tidings that de Blare was
 "approaching him, he sent immediately
 "to Loghin oge O'Behir and to Feidlimidh
 "O'Conor (of Caranroe) requesting that
 "they would come with all the forces
 "they could muster to his assistance a-
 "gainst de Blare, so that he might be
 "the more induced to give them all
 "better terms of peace, when he should
 "see them all joined in one cause against
 "him. He in the mean time sent

14/6/23/9 (XII)

" Thomas the son of Urthaille Ó'Giobhtha,
 " Chief of leineal-leuallachta to de Clare
 " offering him presents and tribute, but
 " de Clare refused the offer, and said that
 " he should not give peace or accommodation
 " on that occasion to him or any one else
 " who was ^{the} his hereditary enemy of himself
 " and his friends before him. When
 " Conor Ó'Dea heard these bad tidings
 " he summoned his friends from all parts
 " and laid de Clares answer before
 " them, upon which they held a hurried
 " Council in that emergency, and came
 " to the determination to place the gre-
 " ater number of their ^{best} good men in ambush,
 " behind them, ~~in view~~ out of the sight of
 " de Clare's forces, and to defend the ford
 " of the conflict, for the protection of their
 " prey until the arrival of Feidlimidh,
 " and Loghtin óge Ó'Behir to their relief;

" and he sent messengers to them again
 " with de Clare's answer, that they might
 " make the more haste to his assistance.

" As for de Clare at the opening of the dawn
 " he was surprised at the inactivity of the
 " country around him, as if they were at
 " peace with him, and forming his great
 " army into three battalions, to plunder the
 " country on all sides; and to kill its women
 " and children. He ordered one battalion to
 " march to Tully O'Dea, and westward to
 " the Rath; another along the Fergus
 " through Keineat Bualachta to Moghdom
 " naigh, and he himself at the head of
 " the nobles of his great army marched
 " directly westwards to Disert, where
 " the dwelling ^{residence} ~~manor~~ of O'Dea then
 " was, for the purpose of plundering it;
 " and when they had arrived there they
 " perceived a ^{compact or well ordered} troop of ~~army~~ horsemen

14/3/23/9 (XIII)

" and foot driving a heavy prey over the
 " ford to the west in a hurry, whereupon
 " whereupon de Clare's numerous forces
 " crowded after them, and killed a great
 " part of the rear of the ~~armament~~ ^{armament}
 " followers of the prey ere they had clearly
 " got over the ford. Then O'Dea boldly
 " turned to defend the ^{ford}, against his
 " enemies, so that in a very short space
 " of time countless numbers fell on either side.
 " When de Clare saw the ford so well pro-
 " tected by that small force against him,
 " he furiously placed himself in the front
 " of the conflict, to urge his good forces.
 " When O'Dea's little band saw de Clare
 " himself approach, they began to fall
 " back, fighting, towards the ford where
 " the ambush was placed, near them,
 " the English press forward on them slaugh-
 " tering them, until a great number of

" them had crossed the ford to the westward
 " with de Clare. At that moment those in
 " ambush started up suddenly and courageously,
 " and one party of them flew to defend the
 " ford against the passing of the remainder
 " of the heavy forces, and the smaller party
 " of them, together with those of the Conductors
 " of the prey who had ^{survived} escaped the first on-
 " set, furiously set on de Clare and his people
 " [i.e. those who crossed the ford with him] dealing
 " them such furious and heroic blows as ~~soon~~
 " killed de Clare and those who were with
 " him ere the main body of his forces were
 " able to force the ford to their relief. Yet
 " those of the Fearnaicians (O'Fears), who survived
 " were forced to fly into the same wood, where
 " their enemies formed a ^{warlike} circle around them,
 " and at that moment the brave and heroic
 " Feidlimidh (O'honor) came over the ridge of
 " Sgúmhall-na-Ratha, from the west, and on

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30 " being informed of those important deeds
" his own and his followers' courage became
" elated, whereupon he marched without
" deviation or fear into the middle of the
" thick of the conflict where he made a
" jagged severed and broken highway and passage
" through the ^(opposing) army for the Farmacia to come
" to him out of the wood, and having joined
" their forces they fell to hacking and maim-
" ing their bitter enemies, and defending
" themselves, while de laues troops were
" constantly pouring in on them in furious
" troops, leaving their preys and spoils behind
" them. In the mean time these two parties,
" both the English and the Irish continued
" to hack and slash each other, while one
" party of them were closing and pressing for-
" ward to the conflict, another ~~was~~ party
" were flying affrighted from the field of death,
" so that great numbers of their nobles and

„ and brave heroes, ^{were killed} on either side, and sad
„ indeed was the condition of the Gaels at that
„ moment, for on the slaughter of the greater
„ part of their chief heroes who lay exposed
„ and lifeless in their presence, they were com-
„ pelled to form themselves into a compact and
„ invulnerable phalanx, so that their ene-
„ mies could not penetrate through them,
„ while the man of them who had the fewer
„ to contend with, had at least to bear
„ the assaults of four of their fierce
„ enemies. In the mean time the active
„ minded and haughty son of de Clare, becom-
„ ing furious and impetuous after the death
„ of his father, and the generous and heroic
„ Feidlimidh, met in the conflict, but tho'
„ their blows were dealt with equal impetu-
„ sity, still the fight did not long remain
„ doubtful, for Feidlimidh wounded, re-
„ wounded and thrice wounded the
„ fierce Gall, and left him ~~dead~~ ~~dead~~

"a discomfitted corpse on the field, despite
"of all his noble adherents." We have
identified every locality mentioned in
this battle account of the battle of Disert,
and the Country people point out with
great accuracy the ford of the conflict,
but give the death of de Clare in a more
circumstantial manner, thus: It was, Honor
more O'Brien (now Howard) that suggest-
ed the idea of laying the ambushade to
O'Dea, and offered to conduct it himself.

This having been agreed upon Howard repaired
to the ford, threw a hurdle over two cross beams
of timber on it, fastening it slightly by pegs
to only one of the beams, and so placing the
other beam, that one man underneath
could shift it out of its position in an in-
stant, leaving the hurdle at the same time
in apparent security, from above. He then
took his station under the hurdle in a recess
cut into the bank for the occasion, and there
waited until de Clare, as stated already,
was crossing the hurdle, when suddenly

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removing the beam from below, the hurdle gave way, and de Blare with his horse and many of his followers fell into the stream, upon which ^{Loor} Howard in an instant chopped off his head with his battle axe.

I wont take upon myself to reconcile this with the written account, but that honor more Howard performed some remarkable exploit may be inferred from the local tradition which says that, after this battle some time, as one of O'Dea's guests on a certain day was extolling the beauty and spaciousness of his ^(O'Dea's) castle of Disert, wished him to have its full of gold, to which O'Dea instantly replied that he would prefer its full of Howards.

About a mile east of the Church of Disert they shew a deserted burying ground, near the Chapel, which they call Mair-nistir-na-Sratha-duibhe, i.e. the Monastery of the black Sward, and bell Lionain or Thionain. The first three names do not appear in the namebook.

14/6/23/9 (xvi)

There is a holy well near it called Tobar
Díreachta, at which Stations are still perfor-
 med ~~at it~~ and they show a little eleva-
 ted spot near it on the north, called
 locally Cnocan-na-Croise, ^{hill} height of the
 Cross, on which formerly stood a cross, part
 of the shaft of which remains yet stand-
 ing; about 2 feet in height, 6 inches ~~the~~ wide
 and 3 thick. There is another well a little
 to the east of this, called Tobar an Iarainn,
 or the well of the Iron, but why they do
 not know. It is not a holy well.

The ruined Church of Ruadhan stands in
 the townland of the same name in this parish,
 and measures 55 feet 4 inches in length and
 19 feet 6 inches in breadth, walls to their original
 height excepting the west gable, the top of which
 is broken off. There is a pointed doorway
 in the south side near the west gable, and
 a square one in the same side near the
 east gable. There is a double pointed win-
 dow in the east gable, ~~but~~ but its mullion
 is gone. There is a portion of the north
 wall elevated 6 feet above the rest, as if for

the purpose of a ball alley. There is a little Chapel projecting to the south from the south west angle, 19 feet 6 inches long, and 16 feet 3 inches broad, having a pointed door in its east side, and an elevated tomb in its north end, with a monumental stone over it in the Church wall, exhibiting the following inscription:

"This Chapel and Tomb were erected
 "by Donogh O'Kerine the son of Deemot
 "O'Kerine of Dwan for him and his
 "posterities use in the year of our Lord
 "God 1688.

"En mores ante Fores Mundi si Quieris
 "Honores Crimina deplores pro me te
 "deprecor ares."

The O'Leobhthas of Bluain-na-gblechan
 have a monumental stone within the
 Church in the south side wall near the
 west gable.

14/8/23 / 9 (XVII)

The Church of Killcrofs lies in ruins in the townland of the same name, the west gable, and small bits of the sidewalls only remain, the gable having a pointed door^{way} in it, five feet ten inches high and 2 feet 2 inches wide, built up with Cut Stone. The foundations of the building measure 21 feet in length and 12 in breadth. There is a large Barn on the same townland, about 60 yards in Circumference and about 10 feet in height, called after the name of the townland. There is a reputed holy well in the townland of Derrahariv, called after the T. L. name. There is a small burying ground in the townland of Killeen, hence the T. L. name. There is a holy well in the townland of Mucanis, and a small burial place for children. Another burial place for children and a holy well in the townland of Drumanoor.

Another burial place for children in the townland of Garryvohill (Garbh Eochail).

There is a small lake between Baile na-gbonnachach and Ballyashee T.L's, called Loch Lona, into which the peasantry drive ^{sick} cattle on Mondays and Thursdays for the recovery of their health. There is a thorn tree growing on its bank of which the bark is bitten to cure the toothache, while a station is performed at the little well (Tobar Lona) under it. There is a small burial place for children in Knocknakeille in the townland of Ballyen. There is a holy well in the townland of Mogorona called after the patron of Kilnaboy. There is a cromlech, partly prostrated, in the townland of Knockaleasa. There is a burial place in the townland of Killeacan, from which the T.L. derives its name. There

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38 is a holy well in the townland of Tirnea
 call after Saint Mac Duach. There is a
 a small burial place for children in the
 townland of Rannahan. There is a well
 on the townland of Blontohall, called To-
 bar-na-b'Phiana, but not considered, by
 any person that I enquire from, a holy well.

A small burial place for children in
 Killcrossfadda, in the townland of Drum-
 anoor, according to name book 673 page 2p.

There is a small burial place for children
 in the townland of Kilkee, from which
 the T. L. Atkyits name. There is a holy
 well in the townland of Soheen, called
 Tobar a tsagairt, or Priests well. There
 is a burying ground in the village of
 Eighneach, in the townland of Barrow-
 keel, called Teampall-dub-ma-h'Éidhneigh...

The Castles of Dysert and Ballygriffy
 in this parish, ~~the former~~ both in good
 preservation, are mentioned in the list

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of castles in the barony of Tully a' Dea,
evidently made out in the reign of
Queen Eliz. and now preserved in the
M. G. library of J. C. D. E. 2. 14. the
former inhabited by Donell moel o' Dea,
and the latter by A'griobhtha.

Part of the walls of an old castle remain
in the townland of Kiltree; another of
the same description in the townland
of Bromones, another of same description
in the townland of Cahernacree, and
another in like condition in the town-
land of Mogowna.

The following notice of Tully o' Dea,
which is situated about three miles north
of Disert o' Dea, occurs in the Annals
of the 4 Martyrs:

Anno. 1114 Donnell o' Loghlin led an
army to Rath beannaith (Rathkenny),
and Eochaidh o' Mahony came out
(M. Mahon of oriel)

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40 with the Ulidians, to his camp; and
Donogh O'Loingsigh with the Daluradians,
and Hugh O'Kerke with the men of
Breifny, and Morogh O'Melaghlin with
the men of Meath; and they marched
then, all parties over Athlone to Dun-
Leodha (Ballinasloe) where Forlogh
O'honor with the Connacians and Kiole
Meg Loghlin (Donnell's own son), with the
nobles of
Kenel Connell, came to his assembly.

They all went after that to Sealach
nDreadha (Tully o'ew) in Dalcay, where
they made a twelve months armistice
with the men of Mungles; after which
Donnell O'Loghlin passed through Con-
nacht to his own house.

Other notices of this district ~~will~~ ^{shall} come
when we have investigated more of the neigh-
boring territories.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Barry.

There is an old church in the townland of Sughrim, in the parish of Disert, called in Irish. Teampall Aodha Míe bonailé is the Church of Hugh, son of Connell, but why so called no body now remembers.

The overtern gable and about 9 feet of the northern wall attached to are level with the ground, the other parts remain in good preservation. It is fifty feet long and 14½ feet broad. At the distance of 7 feet from the west end, on the south side is placed ^a the doorway, which is angular and half closed up with mason work and rubbish, rendering ^{it} difficult to be measured. It would appear, however, to have been wider at the bottom than at the top. Three feet 7 inches from this, to the east is a pointed doorway of Cut limestone, 7 feet 8 inches high and 5 feet wide, on the inside, and

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$6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and 3 feet 3 inches wide on the outside. At the distance of 4 feet 9 inches from the east gable, in the South side, is a ~~round~~ ^{broken} topped window, which appears to have been round at top. It was about 3 feet 10 inches high, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide on the outside. The window in the east gable appears to be round topped, but it is so covered with ivy that it cannot be closely examined. The walls of the Church are about 12 feet high, and 2 feet 9 inches thick, built of large irregularly shaped field stones.

Strangers and children only are buried here now.

Henry.

END

14 B 23/10

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare, concerning his working schedule, the progress of the survey and the difficulties posed by bad weather.

25 October 1839

1p.

24 cm

O'Donovan writes of difficulties in securing 'a single dirty room here to write in'.

RIA

16th
14/6/23/10

Wiltown Malloy.

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.
B.B.

October 25th 1839.

Dear Sir,

We have arrived here, and find that we can finish ~~here~~ ^{the district within reach of this village} in about three days. We are determined to be constantly in the field as long as the weather remains fine, and to write every night, and on wet days when we cannot venture out. I am very much afraid that the snow will overtake us in the mountains of Slieve Donard, as it did last winter at Glendalough, but I trust we will not be lost now till all is finished.

It is with the greatest difficulty that we could get a single dirty ^{room} here to write in and I am glad to find that our delay will not be long. Tomorrow we shall visit the tomb of Conan on the summit of the Callan mountain, and move to Killee on Sunday or Monday.

Please to direct all letters &c for us thither until we give further notice of our proceedings.

Your obedient, &c. servant
J. O'Donovan

END

14 B 23/11

O'Curry, Eugene

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare, concerning the antiquities, folklore, topography and history of the parish of Rath, with particular reference to its churches, fort, burial grounds, castles and the origins of its place name.

25 October 1839

6p.

24 cm

Included are related copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.

57
 Milltown Malbay 25th October 1839
 Rev. Sir

J. A. Larcom Esqr. R. E.

Sir

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 The parish of Rath in the barony of Trillick and County of Clare is bounded on the north by the parish of Kilmaboy, in the same barony; on the east and south by the parish of Disert in the same barony, and on the west by the parish of Clooney in the barony of Goremanoe. See Down Survey maps.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, tho' the origin of the parish Church is closely connected with it, as may be learned from the Irish Calendar where it is mentioned as follows:

onchu mē blathmhēic mōal zcap. 1. 0

rath blathmē. 9. July. or

Onchu the son of Blathmhac in Dalcais

14/B/23/11(i)

2 is from Rath Blathmac, 9th July; and from the same authority we have T. Blathmac himself venerated on the 24th July, but where is not mentioned. It may be however, presumed, that he was the Blathmac from whom this Church and Rath have derived their names, as the patron day of the parish was kept on the 24th of July and was called, as it is remembered still, Lá-le-Blathmac, or T. Blathmac's day.

Thus we find the father and son ranked among the old Irish saints, the former only, is remembered here.

Of the church of Rath (Blathmac) the sides and middle, or choir gable only remain.

It is rather a modern building, measuring, ^{the nave} 44 feet in length and 24 feet 5 inches in breadth; the choir 18 feet 6 inches in length and 20 feet in breadth. The Choir arch is 10 feet 2 inches wide and about 15 feet high, in the pointed style. There is a large burying ground attached to the church.

The Rath or fort of Clathmac is an earthen one, lying about a furlong north east of the Church, measuring 28 yards in diameter, the inner mound from 4 to 7 feet in height, and encircled by an outer mound at the distance of about 9 feet.

It has nothing at all remarkable about it but the remembrance of its builder, or owner's name.

The hill called Scimhal-na-ratha, mentioned in the account of the battle of Disert, is situated immediately to the south of the old Church of Rath. There is another hill a little to the north west of the Church, in the townland of Barnan, called Knock-a-bharnain, on the top of which is a small cairn, on which is erected a Trig. Station.

There is a small burying ground in the townland of Breggawmbree, called after the townland name. There is a holy well in the same townland called Yohar-Parthanan i.e. Parthanan's well, at which a pation and

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Stations were formerly held on Saint
Bartholomew's day, which they believe
to have been also Saint Blathmac's
day, who was the patron of the parish.

There is a ruined building in the townland
of Machaire, and near the burying ground
and ~~chapel~~ well just mentioned, the west
gable and about half the south wall ~~of which~~
of which have disappeared. It measures 44
feet three inches in length and 13 feet 10 inches
in breadth, having a breach like a broken
doorway in the north side; a broken win-
dow near the east gable in the south side
& a window in the east gable, 7 feet high
and 3 feet 11 inches wide, square at top, in-
side, but having its top and sides broken
on the outside, so as to render it impossible
to ascertain what its form might have been.

There is a ^{semicircular} arch of well cut stone springing
from both the angles at the east end, about 5
feet from the ground, and closing over the
window at a height of about 14 feet. The

^{side} walls are about 15 feet high and 3 feet 3 inches thick, built of small square stones. The people here do not look upon this ^{as a} church at all, and yet some of them call it Teampall - a-chigain-bhuide, is the Church of leaggaun buce. There is no burying ground immediately attached to it.

There is a small burial place for children in the townland of Draighneach, called after the townland name. This little place is set down in the namebook under the name of Killnamuck, but this name is not admitted or known to any person that I enquired of on the spot. There is a small burying place on the townland of Bahercurkane, called bile-chaidhe.

They shew the site of a Castle in the townland of Barhooduff. An angle and part of the walls of a castle remain at the top of Bahercurkane, called Begmother Castle. There is an old ruin in the townland of Maathail, called buint-Mhaathail, formerly the

residence of a family named Hogan. There
is ~~another~~ ruin of a castellated house or 'Carr' in
the townland of _____ called

Carr-both-Neill, and ^{said} supposed to have
been formerly the residence of a family of
the O'Neills from whom it took its name.

This derivation of the name is much to be
doubted, as in the first place if it was called
after a family of the O'Neills, it should be
written and called Both-ui-Neill, and
not Both-Neill, which means nothing
more than Neill's hut or tent, and were
I to venture an opinion I would say that
altho the place might have been inhabited,
by a man of the name of O'Neill, yet that
the name Both-Neill or Neill's hut existed
before any person of the name could have
had any notable residence in this district;
and that the place is more likely to have
been called after Neill O'Duin, the
henchman of Murchad mac Brian Born
in the battle of Clontarf, where he fell at

Both Neill is mentioned in the list of castles in M. S.
I. C. D. 8. 2. 14, as belonging to Seige M. Murchad (O'Brien.)

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at the side of his royal chief while fighting
traudly for his hwt, and his mountain
district. The place is in, or on the border of,
O'Drui's Country. This place is marked
on Petty's map under the name of Both-
Neill, and the following reference to
it from the Annals of the 4th Masters, proves
sufficiently its identity and the antiqui-
ty of the name. This notice of it occurs
in the account of O'Donnell's second hostile
descent on Thomond:

A.D. 1600 *** "On that night O'Donnell pitched
his camp on the banks of the Fergus to
the west of Bluain Ramhfhoda, after
having plundered all Ennis with the
exception of the Monastery. He sent forth
parties to plunder the surrounding districts,
and far and wide did these parties scatter
themselves about the Country, for they traversed,
burned, plundered and ravaged the
district extending from Braig-Ui-Bhiardhu-
bhain in the lower part of the frontier of

"the territory of the Islands to Cathair-Mu-
"Chadha in West Corca-Bhaiscinn, as far
 "as the gates of Kilsnary and the town of
 "Rurk, (Kilrurk) as far as Magha in By-
 "Brachann, as far as the gates of Baile-
 "Eoin-Gabhann in Corcomroe and Both-neill
 "in Benel-Fearmaic." This as well as all
 the other hostile routes mentioned in the
 Annals, and Wars of Inloght, will be laid
 down in their proper place, and all, or
 the greater number of the places mentioned,
 pointed out. "An angle, ^{40 feet high.} and bits of the two
 sides of a Castle remain in the townland
 of Brag-Mothar." This Castle is set down
 in the paper ^{formerly} ~~already~~ mentioned in former let-
 ters, preserved in M. L. T. b. D. Class E. 2. 14,
 under the name of the Castle of Drom-
englassa, and inhabited by Teige
Mac Murogh. (O'Brien) That the
 Castle now called Breg-Mothar is that
 mentioned in the above paper, I shall
 quote ^{to prove} from the O'Donnell route as

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9

given in the Annals of the 4 Masters:

Anno. 1599. * * * * O'Donnell arrived
" by break of day in in the eastern extremity
" of Kenal-Fearmaic in Thomond. Here
" they formed marauding parties, and sent
" one party northwards into Burren under
" the Command of Teige O'Rourke and
" Mac Sweeney Baighineach and another
" party southwards to Ballyogan in Co. Clare
" more who advanced to Tully-O'Dea and
" to the gate of Baile-Uir-Ghríobtha.
" Maguire went forth in another direction
" with a strong body of his forces. O'Donnell
" proceeded with the flower of the Army.
" through the middle of Coill-o'-Flanchadha,
" to Bealach-an-Phiodhfaile and before
" noon arrived at Coill-inghine-Bhavith
" in the upper part of Dal-glais. Those who
" had gone to the South (ie to Baile-Uir
" Ghríobtha) returned to the north by
14/8/23/11 (V) ✓

" Drumfinglas and Corofin, and joined
 " O'Donnells at Bell-inghena-Thavith.

Now there is no other road by which they could have gone from Ballygriffy to Corofin but that which passes from the former by Maghacoma old Castle, between Blontowhill and Cahir-mac-Gormain, on to Disert, through Drumfinglas and in to Corofin. See Pettys Map.

" There is an angle and part of the north and east side of a Castle in the townland of Rath called after the townland name, and said in the paper already mentioned, Mss. D. C. D. Class. E. 2. 14, to be inhabited or owned by Murientagh Garagh (O'Brien).

This Castle ~~was~~ ^{is} situated a few perches to the south west of the Church, on the brink of a handsome lake, which is noted for supernatural ^{home} races, boats, ships, ricks of turf, hay ^{cork} stacks &c.

The site and a portion of the ruins, of

a Castle remain in the townland of Buherscraun
 very near the Church and castle of Rath." This, cas-
 tle is mentioned in the paper or list preserved
 in the manuscript above referred to in T.C.D.
 and said to have belonged to Muiristagh
 Garagh (O'Brien) as well as the Castle of Rath.

The following notices of this Castle is from
 the Annals of the 4 Masters:

"A.D. 1584. Morteogh Garagh, the son of O'Brien,
 "who was son of Feige O'Brien, died at Craigh-
 "Corcraun in the first month of Autumn. He
 "was a sensible sedate youth who had
 "never received reproach or blame, disrespect
 "or insult, from his birth to his death.
 "He was interred in the Monastery of Ennis."
 "A.D. 1601. Connor, the son of Morteogh Garagh, who
 "was son of O'Brien, who was son of Feige
 "O'Brien, died about the first of May at Craigh-
 "Corcraun, and was interred in the Monastery
 "of Ennis."

These extracts from the Annals settle with
 satisfaction, two points, first that the document
~~mentioned~~ as in the college manuscript ^{already referred to} must

14/3/23/11 (V)

have been made out about the middle of Queen Eliz. reign, and so early that the true name of the locality of this castle was Kraig not Cake-bo-crain. The place itself bears out the correctness of the name as given in the Annals, it being a pointed elevated terrace or rather rock, with scarcely room for the site of a castle, and certainly not for a keaher such as may be seen any where in the surrounding district.

"The south end, and about half the side walls of a castle remain to about the height of 50 feet, in the townland of Fir-mac-Brain, and called after the townland name. This must have been a fine building, as may be judged from the character of the pointed doorway, in the east side, and the fine corn-modious windows that remain. This castle is also mentioned in the document in the college manuscript, referred to already, where it is stated to have belonged to Mahon Mc Brene O'Brien, and written thus, Firm Brayne (castle) This castle stands at the east side, at the foot of a ^{conspicuous} remarkable

mountain called leann-Sleibhe, is the Head of the mountain, and they have a tradition here that this head of the mountain was the scene of a romantic Irish tale. Called Fis-rihe-Donain-bhin-Sleibhe, is the seat of the house of leann of the head of the mountain, in which Finn Mac Cool and his faithful hound Bran make a conspicuous figure; and it is believed that ^{local}

the name of Fir-mac-Brain is derived from some great actions performed on that occasion by the hound Bran. This head of the mountain contains some natural caves, and overhangs the lake of Inchiquin immediately on the south. "The Causeway called leobradh-mhic-Deew is very near the old Castle of Fir-mac-Brain, a little below the bridge on the Fergus, near the old mill."

The ^{town} place called Leorain now, stands on the Kilnaboy side of the River Fergus, and borrows its name from the Causeway which anciently occupied the site of the ^{present} bridge across the Fergus at this place; which causeway was always considered, as it still is, part of the

14/B/23/11 (vi)

lowland of Bally-Kin-Corra, in the
parish of Rath. The name of Corofin
is not set down on Petty's Map, nor does
any person here know the origin of the
name, tho they pretend to derive it
from the Finian heros, but this ^{is} all fin-
ian fiction.

END

14 B 23/12

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilkee, Co. Clare, concerning the history, folklore and antiquities of the parishes of Killnamona (Kilnamona), with particular references to its place name, church, holy wells and burial ground.

28 October 1839

1p.

24 cm

RIA

Of the parish of Kill-na-mona.

The parish of Killnamona in the barony of Inchiquin and County of Clare, is bounded on the north, east & west by the parish of Disert, and on the south by the parish of Drumchiagh. See engraved map from the Down Survey.

The name of this parish is partly of ecclesiastical and partly of local origin; kill, meaning a church or bell, and na-mona, of the bog or turf, hence Kill-na-mona, the church of the bog.

The ^{old} church of Killnamona stands in the townland of that name, with its walls in good preservation, measuring $62\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length and 21 feet in breadth. At the distance of 17 feet from the west gable, in the south side is a pointed doorway, one side of which only remains, measuring 6 feet 4 inches in height & $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth, having a large holy water font in the right jamb as one goes in. There is a semicircular window in the same wall, 2 feet from east gable, 6 feet high & 3 feet 11 inches wide, inside, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 8 inches wide at top and 8 inches at bottom, outside, with holes in the sides for cross iron bars. There is a window in the east gable, about 11 feet in height & $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth, inside, 8 feet 8 inches high, 1 foot 3 inches wide at bottom, on the outside, the top so

14/6/23/12

thickly covered with ivy that its form could not be ascertained. This window too has holes in the sills and sides for iron bars. The walls are about 14 feet high, 3 feet 2 inches thick, and built of large and small stones in irregular courses. "There is a large burying ground attached, and a well a little to the south, called Tobar Sachtan, much frequented for the cure of divers diseases. Saint Sachtan is venerated here on the same day that his festival was observed at Freshford in the Co. Kilkenny, namely the 19th day of March. Another holy well called Tobar-na-Faise is the well of the relic lies a short distance ^{to the} south west, shaped like a Coffin, in which delicate children ^{are} laid on the back as if in a coffin, for the restoration of their health. "Part of one side of an old castle stands in the townland of Thallee", but no account of it ~~has~~ appears in any of the documents that we have access to. No other remain of antiquity has been discovered in this parish.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Curry.

END

14 B 23/13

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkee, Co. Clare, concerning the history, place names, antiquities, religious traditions and topography of the parishes of Noughaval, Gleninagh and Killonahan (Killonaghan), with particular reference to their churches, burial grounds, holy wells, cromlechs, cahers and castles.

27 October 1839-17 December 1840

16p.

24 cm (i-ii), (iv-xiii) (xv-xvi); 25 cm (iii), (xiv)

O'Donovan's letter includes a copy of a deed, then owned by Michael Reilly, of Ennistimon, Co. Clare, which he sees as clarifying the location of the townland of Cahermacnaghten as being within the parish of Noughaval. Also included is note (dated 17 December 1840) written by O'Donovan, concerning the parish church at Killonaghan.

(1)

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.
R. Eng.

Kilkee 27th October 1839
14/13/23/13 (i)

Dear Sir, The next parish of Burren to be noticed is that of Naughaval, but it is not necessary to give any explanation of the name, as we have collected as much ^{evidence} as we could on the meaning of it in dealing of Traughanvale in Derry. See also my letters on Naughaval in Westmeath & Mayo. The parish of Naughaval is bounded on the north by the parishes of Rathbarnia and Kilcoamy; on the east by the parish of Carran; on the south by the parishes of Killinacloy and Kilfenora, and on the west by the parishes of Killybeg and Rathbarnia.

The old church of Naughaval called in Irish Teampull na h-Uachomhobhala consists of nave and choir, the former measuring in length 53 ^{ft} and 21.6 in breadth, and the latter 28 feet in length & 29.9 ^{ft} in breadth. The west gable is down except a few feet. The south wall contains a pointed doorway (placed near the west gable) which is curiously ornamented at top, and a square window divided into 5 parts by stone mullions. The choir arch is perfectly semicircular and measures 10.10 ^{ft} in breadth, and of proportionate height. It is built

(2) 185

of well cut lime stones.

The south wall of the Choir contains a semi-circular window measuring on the outside about 6 feet in height and 8 inches in breadth, and between this and the east gable there is a small window or aperture about 3 inches in breadth and 3 feet in height. The east gable contains a round-headed window, measuring on the outside about 8 feet in height and 8 inches in breadth. Under this window on the inside there is a broken stone altar. Thickness of the walls $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

A few yards from the north east angle of this church there is a small stone-roofed chapel measuring 20 feet in length and ¹² twelve in breadth, and containing a ^{painted} doorway and two windows but not worth particular description.

The following inscription appears on a stone placed over the doorway. "This chapel was built by James Davoren of Lisdoonvarna who died the 31st of July 1725 aged 59 years.

at short distance to the east of this Church there is a holy well called Lobar ello ghua at which "a pattern" was annually held on the 10th of February, as well as the natives can now remember, but it is probable that the true name is Lobar M'ic Duach and the true day the 3rd February ^{is} Mac Duach's day according to all the Calendars.

There are ^{the ruins} three castles in this parish said to have been built by the O'Laughlins, viz 1. the castle of Binroe called in Irish Caisleán na Binne ruidhe (i.e. the castle of the red pinnacle), which is now nearly effaced, 2. The castle of Ballyganner, of which only one angle about 24 feet in height remains, and 3. The castle of Ballymurphy, of which the foundations only are visible. I find but one of these castles mentioned in the list of O'Laughlin Burren's Castles preserved in Trinity College Library, viz Ballemoroghee, which is the present Ballymurrighoo or Ballymurphy.

14/8/23/13 (ii)

(4) 1814

In a curious Irish deed in the possession of Mr Michael Reilly of Enistymon the townland of Cahermac Naghten, ^{on which} there is a castle, is placed in this parish of Noughaval, and that townland ^{also} is placed within the boundary of the parish of Noughaval on the engraved map from the Down Survey. I think the Boundary Surveyor is decidedly wrong in placing it in the parish of Rathbormia. Where is his authority? or does he become an authority himself? I shall here copy this deed, and give a literal translation of it, ^{as it was never published, and} in order to prove that the boundary Surveyor is wrong, as indeed he generally is in dividing parishes into townlands!

Ugáet Gíolla na naom óig Uí Dubháboirinn a g-Cáitir mic Neáctam a g-contae an Cláir a m-barúntaét Bóirne, agus a b-poróirte Nuachongbála, a h-a m-bládam d'aoir an t-igearna, 1675, an ceathrúimís lá do mí Aibreán.

Bíos a fíor ag gáe don duine éirteiror, léig fíor agus tuig-fíor an ríribíó seo d'ur ab mar go d'adontuigíodair d'anduígíodair agus do roiníodair clann Gíolla na naom óig Uí Dubháboirinn. ó Cáitir mic Neáctam a b-poróirte Nuachongbála, a m-barúntaét Bóirne a g-Contae an Cláir. 7. Aós mac Gíolla na naom, agus an

cop

Wife of Gillanan and O'Davoren, in
the possession of Mike O'Reilly of
Innisturion

14/8/23/13 (iii)

coisnaisge, mac Giolla na nAom ó'n g-cathair peampráide point ríompaide
 agus coisnaisge ríompaide ar an dá seirriú baile d'feapán a n-áthar
 agus a sean áthar. Do cuas coisnaisge, ~~catoppa~~ péb mair áthar leir-
 -seirreac Cathraí mic Neachtáin a b-poróirte huachondbála, agus
 leir-seirreac lea Dubáin agus lea na luácpána a b-poróirte Dioma
 Cúice, agus leir-seirreac Clomán báire a b-poróirte Cille Córne, agus
 iad sin pe céile agh a m-bairúntaict agus agh a contae peampráide
 Ir í seo an point ar d-túir: ceirime mair ir ríá ríá do cathair
 mic Neachtáin péb mair gabur an ríotán dub ruar agh a t-ríab
 agus an clóide iáirpáic do'n buaile luácpáic ríor do n-uige an
 uplaim mair, clóide na h-uplaim mair féin timéioll ar an d-taob
 ríar ríor do taob na cathraí; agus leir-seirreac lea mic Taisge
 agus ceirime mair do leir-seirriú Cille Clomán báire ar cuas doosa
 mic Giolla na nAom óis sin agus an ceirime mair ir ríá ríor
 do Cathair mic Neachtáin mair gabur an teópa céadna, agus
 leir-seirreac lea Dubáin, lea na luácpána, agus an ceirime
 mair oile do leir-seirriú Cille Clomán báire ar cuas an chor-
 -naisge mic Giolla na nAom do'n feapán ceadno sin.

Ag so point ceannáide Cathraí mic Neachtáin mair
 an g-céadno f. áit tíge mair na cathraí a ríis agus áit
 tísi na Cíoptanach do bí ag an teac mair sin agh a g-cathair
 a ríis, agus áit tíge na seirreac ar an d-taob ríar
 do'n cathair, agus a b-pail ó boitir gárraí Taisge ruar

mrc diolla féc'hin riap dona gartais ar an d-taob amuz do gar-
 -pads Thais pém ar eus dooda do'n cean-ait rin, azur an tis
 atá eirir eadan an tis; móir azur dopur ná cátrach, azur áit
 tis oile ar an d-taob riap ba tuais do'n Chaitir ar tis azur
 an tis móir atá ar an d-taob amuz do dopur ná cátrac, azur
 a b-pul ó beupnán fanáin an taoball ar an d-taob soir do bo-
 -thar garrais Thais puais riap azur an garrais rin pém do
 berit ar eus an Charnuzge do'n cean-ait ceano rin. Tuile oile
 atá fáitce an baile azur an bótar ó'n b-páitce riap do nuzge
 an motar d-turcánac, azur urce an baile feb mar cá an ppután
 dub riap azur tobair an baile ar tis com rair az an g-cean-ait
 rin ne céile. Tuile oile, is é seo conras an dooda azur an cor-
 -nuzge eatorra pém ó túir azur soir a n-oirgeadair do
 drangmáta iona n-dais a rir a d-timéoll an da seirpuzge rin
 a dubrúmar riap, azur a d-timéoll gac fearpoit eile nae iad rin,
 ar alabran cáit a n-athar azur a sean-athar do riap ná n-oin-
 -turpide do bi d'prachair oppa rin ne céile, com-paoctrúgac com-pamail
 com-barrúntac azur com-cordar plédala, azur fearam ná b-fearann rin
 ne céile do berit oppa pém azur ar a n-oirpide iona n-dais do prop-
 -ruide a n-azair gac aon duine d'ar eus nó dá g-cuirpide buais-
 -rit oppa ar ná fearpúair rin ne céile no ar aon eus doob. Tuile
 oile dá d-tigeac buaisrit do taob ná b-fearpúair rin, no plédail
 d'fuirglac fearam céim ar bit iona g-cuillpide aon eus do ná fearpú-
 -air rin, do berit d'prachair ar an dooda rin azur ar an g-cornuzge
 fearpúite azur ar a n-oirpide ná n-dais an comérom rin do bé-
 -nain ne céile mar an g-ceano.

Tuile orle atá d'fíachairb agus do chonradh as an n-
 -nárte céadno sin ar a ciste: má bíon duine díob' as cur as cur a cur
 do na fearannairb sin a n-zeall, no a fíorruitheáit uata féin
 eum duine orle san ar z-cumair do a cur o'n b-peap
 orle má fearann se a réiteach mar do déinrad duine orle
 agus muna b-peadair ní fíorl ar z-cumair do fíanc
 do cur ar an té do réitear í no do d-éirí amfí
 a b-fuarzlarb a fíor. Tuile orle atá do chonradh agus
 d'fíachairb as an n-loos agus as an z-cornárte peam-
 -ráite agus as a n-oigpíorb na n-dairb ar a ciste.
 Fíor do na fearannairb sin a dubhámar no fearann-
 -airb orle nach rád sin do bier anzeall uata aráon
 no o duine díob'; fíor díob' do a d-oicparb sin do
 fuarzlarb ar d-éir do bier d'fíachairb ar an
 b-peap orle a róna féin agus a b-anraic
 do d-abairt do eum do b-fuarzlarb í do fearb a fuarzuilte uatha
 a fíor ar a m-bairb do díobairb fíor. Tuile orle atá do chonradh agus
 do coirgíoll coiripom fíor an n-loos agus an cornárte céadno sin.
 Fíor díob' do ráicairb o oigpíe diongmálta do bier o na collairb
 féin ugean fear orle agus a oigpíe do bier na n-oigpíorb
 agus na fíorodúairb agus na fíorib air an na fearannairb
 sin tuar do fíor mar a labhair lorg a n-uair agus a fíor.
 14/6/23/13 (V) at ar.

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atár doib. Tuile oile gibe meid do éuid an Aodá sin naé áiteócais
fé féin má féicúin an Cornaisgeac a h-áitriúas atá d'fúachais air
an Aodá sin gán coirneairé air bít aúo féin do éur air aóo cion
an áiteócais féoi do fáoirse. Shláine n Shláine do beré ná d'uid
air féoi mar atá bo fáoir aúur lúir fáoir aúur a h-áitriúe m'í
da mbias air áitriúas do'n fáoir do beré aú. Sláine. aúur mar
dearbais aúur mar fáoiriúas air gúe níd dá b'fúil fáoiriúe
an fán ánnur do beré ánnúite, fáoiriúe do fáoiriúe
air an Aod aúur air an h-Cornaisgeac fáoiriúe oppa féin
aúur air a h-áitriúe, air a fáoiriúe, aúur air a fáoiriúe
roia n-áit do fáoiriúe, aúur-se an t-Aodá sin aóo éur
mo láine aúur mo fáoir air an h-áit do'n fáoiriúe féoi,
atá aú an h-Cornaisgeac do'n tóil aúur áonta féin; aúur
ánnur an Cornaisgeac do fáoir mo thóil aúur m'áonta
féin aóo éur mo láine aúur mo fáoir air an h-áit do'n
fáoiriúe ro atá aú an Aodá.

An 3. lá do'n Aibreán 1675.

Stollá na náom óg O'Dubháin

Fúadairiúe

Seánur mac Fáoiriúe

Donnrair Sáirreál.

" Be it known to every one who will: hear, read, and
 " understand this writing that the sons of Gillerneue
 " oge, O'Davoran of Cahermacnaghten in the pa-
 " rish of ^(a) Roughaval, Barony of Murren and County
 " of Clare, viz Hugh, the son of Gillerneue and Cos-
 " my, the son of Gillerneue of the aforesaid Caher
 " consented, ordered and partitioned as follows: viz
 " they made a perpetual division of, and covenant
 " concerning the two ploughlands of the land of
 " their father and grandfather. This covenant
 " was made between them concerning the ^{half ploughland} of Cahermacnaghten aforesaid the
 " land of ^(b) Lismacleige; and the half ploughland
 " of ^(c) Lisduane and of ^(d) Lisnaloughran in the
 " parish of Drumreehy, and the half plough-
 " land of ^{Kill-} Colman Baire ^(e) in the parish of Kilcarney,
 " all lying and being in the barony and County a-
 " foresaid. In the first place this is the partition:
 " viz Hugh the son of Gillerneue oge is to have for

14/6/23/13 (vi). his

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" This share the most western quarter of Bahernac-
" Naughten as bounded by the stream of Druckain
" ^(f) druff flowing from the mountain and ^{by} the most
" ^(g) east ditch of Buaidé Liaganach from that down
" ^(h) as far as Urlinnora, by the ditch of Urlinnora
" thence round on the west side down to the
" side of the Caher; also the half ploughland
" of Lipnacteige, and a quarter of the half plough
" land of Kilcolman-Báire. And Cosny, the son
" of Gillernewa is to have for his share of the
" same land, the most eastern quarter of Bahernac-
" Naughten as defined by the aforesaid boundary,
" the half ploughland of Lisduane, of Lis-
" Inaloughran, and the other quarter of the half
" ploughland of Kilcolman-Báire.

" The following is the partition of the Heann-aib or
" village of Bahernac-Naughten, viz the site of the Big
" house of Caher within, and the site of the kitchen
" house which belongs to that house within the Caher

" and the site of the house of the church y are
 " on the west side of the Caher and all the
 " garden^{westwards} extending from the road of the garden
 " of Teige Roe the son of Gillafahem not in-
 " cluding Teige Roe's ~~own~~ garden. And the house
 " situate between the front of the Big house
 " and the door of the Caher⁽ⁱ⁾, and the site of an
 " other house within the Caher at the north west side,
 " and the large house which is outside the door
 " of the Caher, and all extending from Beannan
 " fánáim^{in tile} and tadhaill which is at the east, west-
 " wards to the^[aforesaid] road of Teige Roe's garden, and that
 " garden itself are to be included in Copny's share
 " of that village.

" Moreover, the ^{fabry} green of the Booley and the road
 " from that green westwards to Cloher-Turtanagh
 " and the water of the town^{village}, as the aforesaid stream
 " called Shuhaunduff, and the well of the village^{within},
 " are common and free to the Beann-ait, i.e. the
 " village or settlement.

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Moreover this is the covenant ^{existing} between Hugh and Cosny
 from the beginning, and which is to exist firmly to
 them and their heirs after them concerning the two plough
 lands into which has been a close woodland and is very
 many other lands spoken of in the ^{deeds} Charters of
 their father and grandfather, who, according to the ^{and these deeds}
 indentures made between them, were bound to till e-
 qually and undergo the same expence attending law
 and other things in ^{defending} maintaining those lands against
 any person who had or should disturb them in those lands
 or any part of them.

Moreover, should any ^{wrangling} disturbance happen concerning
 those lands, such as about law, or to redeem land,
 to such an extent as that any part of them
 should be lost, the aforesaid Hugh and Cosny
 and their heirs after them are bound in like
 manner to observe the same justice with regard to
 each other.

Moreover, the same Hugh and Cosny are by
 this covenant bound to each other thus: should
 one of them ^{intend to} mortgage or sell out to another,
 his own part of those lands it is not in his ^{power}

" it is not in his power to alienate it from the others
 " if he be able to redeem ^{it} as another would, but if ~~he~~
 " ~~he not he cannot~~ (that is if he be able to pay him the
 " same sum as another would give) but if it be
 " not in his power to ~~redeem~~ ^{pay} the price, then he shall
 " until the time for redeeming it shall arrive.

" Moreover ^{the said} Hugh and Cosny ^{and their heirs} are by this Covenant
 " bound to each other thus: Should any of the
 " lands which we have mentioned or other lands
 " be mortgaged from both or one of them, whoever
 " of them shall happen to redeem it first, the other
 " is bound to resign to him his own right and title
 " ^{such time as} until he shall be again enabled to redeem it and
 " pay all damages.

" Moreover it is covenanted and agreed between the
 " aforesaid Hugh and Cosny that, should one of
 " them die without a legitimate heir of his body
 " the other ^{and} or his heirs shall be his heirs, exe-
 " cutors and assignees in the aforesaid lands, as
 " ordered them in the Deeds of their father and
 " grandfather.

Moreover,
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" Moreover, whatever part of the same Hugh's
" share he will not ^{occupy} inhabit himself, if Cosny
" be able to ^{occupy} ~~inhabit~~ it. Hugh shall not be able
" to hinder him, so as the other (Cosny) do take upon
" himself, a part of the burden of Slany off ^{his} ~~the~~ ^{his} ~~the~~
" ^{share?} freehold, that is free-grass for a cow and a mare
" on every quarter of land that shall be occupied.
" ^{that} ~~is~~ proof and evidence of every thing above
" written, is for ever settled, agreed and confirmed
" between ^{ourselves} ~~themselves~~, ^{our} ~~the~~ heirs, executors and assignees,
" I the said Hugh, am putting my hand and
" seal to the copy of this writing which belongs
" to Cosny, by my own free will and consent; and
" I Cosny, by my own will and consent, am put-
" ting my hand and seal to the copy of this
" writing belonging to Hugh."

Witnesses

James Fitz Gerald
Francis Sarsfield

The 3rd day of April 1675,
Giolla na naomh of Davoran

(a) It is also placed in the parish of Naughaval in the Down Survey, and I see no reason why it should be placed in a different parish in the Ordnance Survey without some very strong reasons.

(b) Lismacteige, now called Lismatique or Lahermatique, and placed in the parish of Rathborno by the boundary surveyor. This should be looked to.

(c) Does not exist now in the parish of Drumreehy.

(d) Does not appear in the name book of the parish of Drumreehy.

(e) Kilcolmanvara is not now the name of a T.L. in the parish of Kilcoarney, but St. Colman Vara is well remembered in the parish, and a Caher situated in the townland of Poulnaskagh is called Lipcolman-Vara, after him. His church of Kilcolman-Vara, after which this townland was named is not ^{mentioned} ~~set down~~ in the name Book of Kilcoarney. Is this Saint mentioned by Bolgan?

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(f) The name of this stream is not set down in the name Books.

(g) (h) Neither of these names is set down in any of the name books

(i) This large caher is now called caher vic Naughteen. It is situated in a townland to which it gives name and west of the road leading from Ballyvaughan to Kilfenora.

Besides the old parish church and castles, there are in this parish the ruins of some cahers, which were the defences or fortilegia of the Irish before they built castles in imitation of the ^{Anglo} Normans; 1. Lismohr in a townland of the same name. 2. Caher Walsh not far from the old church of Naughaval. 3. Caher-a-Cuiteen near the last mentioned. 4. Caher-Kyletaun, in the townland of Kyletaun. 5. Caher-an-eden in the townland of Ballyganner north. 6. Caher-na-speekee in the same; 7. Caher-a-Clarig in the townland of Pheshymore ^{and} 8. Caher-vore ^{more} in the same

I do not believe that all these cahers were erected in pagan times, as there is sufficient evidence to

to shew that the Irish chieftains continued to build ^{round} forts even of earth down to so late a period as the middle of the thirteenth century. Thus Donogh Cairbreach O'Brien, the sixth in descent from the monarch Brian Boru, ^{erected,} according to Magrath in the Caitheirim, "a princely palace of a circular form at "Clonroad." And in another place he says that Cro-
"hoor na Sindaine, the son of Donogh Cairbreach
"erected at Clonroad a longphort of earth as
"a residence for himself."

Now it appears very plain to me that the raths and Cahers were built by the same people and many of them at a comparatively recent period, the raths in the plains or rockless districts and the Cahers in such places as Burren, Aran &c. where there is not "clay enough to bury a man".

Who built Caher-Mac Naughten? Did not the O'Davorauns use it down to the period of Crohoor na Sindaine? Did the Firbolgs erect all the Cahers in Burren? Never. The Firbolgs were never more than a handful of men in Ireland, and it must have required a dense population and several centuries to

14/B/23/13 (X)

to erect all the cahers in the west of Ireland.

There are three burial places for children ^(called Killa) in this parish; one in the townland of Kiltinnane, Cill tSeanaí, Cella Sancti Senani, to which it has given name. It is probable that there was a primitive Irish church here dedicated to St. Senanus, the great ^{genius!} patron of the river ^{Ledwich!} Shannon and of the Dalcassians, but not a stone of its now remains to gratify the craving appetite of the antiquarian, and even the church yard has been entirely abandoned. 2. Kilballymahony, in the townland of Ballymahony and 3. Kilbally-murphy in the townland of Ballymurphy. These burial places are probably the sites of small chapels of ease to the parish Church.

The most ancient remains of antiquity in this parish are those of three Cromlechs, one in Deer-park, and ^{the other} two in Ballyganner, ^{the} one in Ballyganner north and the other in Ballyganner south. The one in Ballyganner south is in good preservation, and consists of four upright ^{stones}

supporting a flag stone laid horizontally or
 very nearly so and measuring ^{f ~} 13.4 from
 north to south and ^{b ~} 9.4 from east to west.
 Of the supporters that on the south side
 measures ^{f ~} 18.10 in length, ^{f ~} 4.1 in height and
 1.0 in thickness; that on the north mea-
 sures 17.8 in length and is of the same height
 and thickness with the south one. They are
 not placed parallel to each other being
^{f ~} 7.6 asunder at the west end and only
 6.2 at the east end. This Cromlech is
 certainly a grave and well worthy the at-
 tention of the antiquarian. The other
 two are equally perfect and remarkable,
 but no tradition exists about any of them
 except the vulgar one of their having been
 erected by Dermot O'Duibhne as beds for grain
 who eloped with him from her puissant hus-
 band Fionn Mac Cumhail, but I can scarcely
 believe that this tradition is older than that
 which ascribes the raths and Cahers to the Danes.

* The horizontal flag of the one in Pierrepark is 12 feet long and is supported by stones
 which are 4 feet high and 14 feet long.

(20)

of the parish of Gleninagh.

This parish forms the North western extremity of the Barony of Burren. It is bounded on the west and North by the mouth of the Bay of Galway; on the east by the parish of Drumreehy, and on the south by the parishes of Rath-Bóirné and Killonahan.

Name. The name of this parish is in the original language gleann Eidhneach, which we have good authority for translating the Joyed valley, as the old writer of the life of St. Fintan translates gleann Eidhneach, latibulum h. æderopum. See my letter on the church of Clonenagh in the Queen's County written last winter at Mountrath.

The old church of Gleninagh stands in a T. L. from which it has received its name. It is 38 feet in length, and ^{13 ft in} 13.4 in breadth. The south wall contains a pointed doorway ^{of cut stone} 5.4 in height to the

the vertex of the arch, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth. The same wall contains two windows, one quadrangular and the others round topped, but too modern to merit minute description.

The east gable contains a window measuring on the inside about 8 feet in height and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth. Its height on the outside could be easily ascertained it is so mantled with ivy. Its breadth on the outside is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The thickness of the walls is $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the height about 8 feet.

About 300 yards to the north of this church there is a holy well dedicated to the holy Cross, and called from it Tobar na croiche naoinh, i.e. fons crucis sanctæ, at which stations were performed in honor of the Holy Cross. This well has over it a little turry on the summit of which is the symbol of the Redemption of man. Over it grows a very old elder tree which exhibits a good crop of votive rags, left on it principally by people who performed stations there for the good of their eyes.

Near this well is the castle of Gleninagh, which is

is ~~also~~ mentioned in the College list already often referred to as one of O'Loughlin Burren's Castles. It is a square tower ^{f in} 31.10 by ^{f in} 27.6, now in good repair and thatched with straw, which gives it rather a homely appearance. Its doorway is pointed.

In the townland of Gleninagh north there is a well called Tobar Chornain, which seems to have been originally a holy well.

I find no other antiquities in this parish but two, 1. Dobhach Bhraínn, a large round heap of stones on the top of a mountain in the townland of Aghyglinna. The true name seems to be Dumbach Bhraínn, i.e., the heap of little Brian, (nom. niri). 2. A remarkable ruin of a fort in the townland of Murroogh, called Cathair, Duinn Thearghusa i.e., the Caher of the Doon of Fergus, which contains caves believed by the peasantry to be enchanted by Fergus Mac Rígh and

206 23

many of his descendants, the O'Loughlins
of Burren,
and Barons, of Corcomroe.

The well known ^{Ken-Boarnie} Seam Boirne or Black
head belongs to this parish. I remember
its treacherous squalls well since the even-
ing I was returning from Aran.

Yours obedient Servant

John O'Donovan

29th October 1839

Of the parish of Killonahan.

Situation.

This parish is bounded on the north by the parish of
Gleninagh; on the east by the parish of Kilmoon;
on the south by the barony of Corcomroe, and on
the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

Name.

The name of this parish is in Irish ^{Cill Oncon} Cill Anchain
but nothing has been discovered to prove its meaning

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and etymological conjectures without being corroborated by locality or written monument is worth nothing*.

The original church of this parish is said to have been erected by St. Columbkille after his expulsion from Aran by St. Einné. It is situated in the T.L. of Braggagh. Its two gables are in tolerable preservation, but the side walls are much injured. It is 48 feet long and

21 broad. ^{The walls built of large stones not laid in regular courses, and 2 1/2 in thickness.} The doorway was in the north wall but

nearly destroyed. The only perfect feature remaining is the window in the east gable, which ^{is constructed of cut stones} measures on the inside 10 feet in height and 6.6 in ^{f in} width, and on the outside 8 feet in height and 8 1/2 inches in width.

In the townland of ^{Crimmighlin} Crimlin are the ruins of another old church of greater antiquity, but much injured by the tooth of time. The east gable however, twenty feet of the south wall and 11 feet of the north wall are standing, but the rest level with the ground. The doorway has disappeared, but it was probably placed in the west gable as could be inferred from the characteristics of the other features which remain. The south wall contains a round-headed window placed at the distance ^{f in} 5.6 from the east gable and 5 1/3 feet from the present level of the ground on the outside, and measuring on the inside 6 feet in height and 3.8 in ^{f in} width.

* Colgan calls this Kill-Onchan
which he explains the church of St Onchan.
He places it in the territory of Kairenn,
now the Barony of Burken -

John O'Donovan

December 17th 1840,

and on the outside 2.10 in height and in breadth 4 inches at top and 6 inches at bottom. It is constructed of hammered stones. The east gable contains a window round headed like the one last described but constructed of chiselled stones. It measures on the inside 7 feet in height, 4.10 in width and is placed at the height 5.6 from the present level of the ground. On the outside it measures 5 feet in height, and in width 4 inches at top and 6 inches at bottom. The walls are 2.6 in thickness and the side walls 12 feet in height.

It can be ascertained from the foundations of the west gable still remaining that this church was 33.10 in length and 18.6 in breadth. It is probable that this was the church built by Saint Columbkille after his expulsion from Stran and not Killonahan. It appears from the features just described and from the character of the masonry (for the walls are built of large stones not laid in regular courses, but well grouted with strong mortar) that this church is one of the primitive ages of Christianity in Ireland. The east window may have been inserted in the 10th century, but all the rest looks very ancient.

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In the townland of Tamaroosh in this parish are the ruins of a small round castle which is called after the townland. It is not mentioned in the list of O'Loughlin Burren's Castles often already referred to, and it was in all probability erected since that list was written.

In the townland of Formoyle east there is a small burial place for children called the Rilleen of Formoyle. It is probably the site of a church, but I have no historical reference to it, at least to the name which it now bears.

The other remains of antiquity in this parish are those of stone Cahers or forts of which there are in number, viz. 1. Caher Balliney in the townland of Balliney South, This is a large Caher which has been used since its erection for it is inhabited at this day. (As are indeed many bromblech's also!) 2. Caher ^{west of the} Ballely in the townland of Ballely. 3 Caher Bannagh. Cathair Beannach i.e. the pinna-
^{in the townland of Formoyle east.}
-led Caher; It was a large fort but now so ruined that it furnishes no evidence of the

the meaning of its name. 4. Baher anadurish in the townland of Formoyle west. It is supposed to have derived its name from its having a remarkable high doorway, but this is scarcely credible and I incline to think that it derives its present name, - which I do not at all consider the original one, - from its situation on a subdivision of the townland called Bed-Ros. I do not, however, presume to alter the local name, which I give as it is now pronounced be it right or wrong. 5. Baher nagree, the fort of the horses in the townland of Knockaun Mountain. 6. Lisconera in a townland to which it gives name.

In the same townland of Knockaun mountain there is a hill called Sliabh Oighe h-Arim which is explained by the shankees as signifying the mountain of the death of Arim, because Arim, the son of Fionn Mac Cumhaill died, and was buried on the top of it, but as I do not find that Fionn had such a son I look upon

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upon it as a mere get up to account for
the name, like the stories about the Beds
of Dermot and Graine. There is no doubt
^{that} a mountain in the south of this County
called pliabh aigheadha ^{signifies} an righ is the
mountain of the death of the King, a name
somewhat similar to this; but it is never-
theless more than probable that Sleae
gharrin, means O'Harrin's mountain.

C. We shall move to Kibrush on Friday
morning; please to direct ^{thither} any communications
you may have to send us from next Wed-
nesday tell us give further notice.

Your obedient servant

Oct^r 29th 1839.

John O'Donovan

END

14 B 23/14

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkee, Co. Clare, concerning the history, religious traditions, antiquities, folklore and place names of the parishes of Kilmoon, Killeany, Rath-Boirne (Rathborney) and Kilcorney with particular reference to their church, holy wells, cahers, burial grounds and castles.

27-28 October 1839

14p.

24 cm

O'Donovan's letter also includes a description of a hill known as Lios a tsiodhain (the fort of the fairy hill), located in Lisdoonvarna, references to the cromlech of Cooleamore, a list of the parishes and castles of O'Loughlin Burren, an account of the lore associated with Kilcorney cave with related extracts from William Camden's 'Britainia', and his findings concerning the etymology of the word sidh.

Kilkee 27th October 1839.

Thos A. Larcom Esq
N.E.

Dear Sir,

We arrived in Kilkee this evening at 4 o'clock.
We have received no communication from you since
we left Enistymon and fear that there has been
some mistake in the post. If any letters or par-
cels have been directed to Enistymon for us since
Thursday last, or on Friday or Saturday to Mell-
town, please to order the Post-masters to re-
direct them to Kilkee, where we intend to re-
main for six days. After this we move to
Kilrush.

I wrote a few days since stating that we
wanted square paper; if it has been sent,
it has not reached us.

I sent a letter to Mr. Hardiman requesting
that he will send me a copy of a curious
poem about the Shannon, of which I spoke.

14/B/23/14(i)

in

sent by
mail off post
26 Oct to Mr. Hardiman

in a letter from Galway. Please to have it forwarded to him.

I sent you all the Kilkenny books but I have received no account of whether they arrived safe or not. Are all the Kilkenny books now at the Ordnance Survey Office?

all right
Your obedient servant
John O'Donoghue

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Thos. A. Larcom, Esq.
R.E.

Kilkee October 28th 1839.
R.E. 22.55.

Dear Sir,

I shall make every exertion to finish the writing of the Barony of Burren this day and tomorrow, and move to Kilsruff on the 1st of November. The weather is now dry and favourable to our labours.

Of the parish of Kilmoon.

(Situation).

The parish of Kilmoon is bounded on the west and North-west by the Barony of Corcumroe, and the parish of Killonaghlan; on the east by the parishes of Rath-Bairné and Killeary, and on the south by the Barony of Corcumroe.

Name. This parish is called in the original language cill mūdām which certainly means the church of St. Mudanus, but I have no clue for ascertaining which of the saints of that name it was called after. Does Colgan mention any St. ^{ua-}Mudanus, Mudanus or Muganus of Dalcassia or of Boirinn?

"The old church of St. Mudanus stands in the townland of Kilmoon west." It measures 52 feet in length and 18 in breadth, but all its features are destroyed so that nothing remains to guide the

the antiquarian in his conclusions as to its age, but the character of the Masonry which looks ancient. There is a stone near it exhibiting a mitred head, from which it might perhaps be concluded with some safety that the patron of this church was Muadanus Bishop of Errigal Muadha-
-ain whose day fell on the 30th of August. But this cannot be directly tested, for though there is a holy well near the church to the west dedicated to St. Moon at which stations are still performed, still no particular day of the year is remembered as that of the Saints festival.

A short distance to the east of the church is a standing stone called the Cross, measuring ⁶ 11.6 in height, 13 inches in breadth and 8 inches in thickness. It was perhaps originally a rude cross, though it has little appearance at present of its having ever been one.

There is another ^{holy well in the} townland of Lisdoonvarna dedicated to the great Navigator St. Brendan at which stations are still performed, but St. Brendan's day is not remembered. There is another well in the T.P. of Derrynavaragh which is dedicated to Bishop Lonan or Planan. In the same townland of Lisdoonvarna there is shewn the site of a castle which belonged to the family of O'Davoran, but no part of it remains. The last of

of the O'Donovans who resided here was ^{called} Donogh, ^{216 (3)} but it is not remembered how long it is since he lived. Near the castle is ^{also} shewn the site of a dwelling house belonging to the same family at a later period. The only tradition remembered in connection with this family is that they were very haughty, aristocratical and tyrannical, as indeed all old families of the true game cock breed must have been in barbaric ages.

In this parish is Caheraclogán, which is mentioned in the list of O'Loughlin Burren's Castles, as a castle but no part of it now remains, though a considerable part of the more ancient cáher which gave name to it and the townland, still remains. The site of the castle should be shewn on the Ordnance Map.

There are several other cáhers in this parish besides the one already mentioned. viz Cáher-Bolz two cáhers together in the townland to which they gave name. 2. Two cáhers in the townland of Knockaske-
-been after which they ^{are} now called, but they certainly had a different name originally. 3. Cáher-Barnagh i.e. the gapped or broken cáher in a townland of the same name. This also has lost its original
14/8/23/14 (iii) name

(4) 214

name). 4. A Caher in Derrynavahagh townland and called after. 5. Lisdoonvarna in a T. L. of the same name. The original name of this fort was Dun^a bheárna, the fort at the gap. 6. Caher mael in the townland of Brageagh. 7. Lismoraghawn in a townland of the same name.

In the townland of Lisdoonvarna already mentioned there is a remarkable round hill called Lios a' tpiodhain (Liss-a-tee-aun) i.e. the fort of the Shee-aun or fairy hill. I have seen hundreds of these Sheeauns or fairy hills in Connacht; they are generally beautiful green ^{round} hillocks with the remains of a fort or Bunha on the summit, and always believed to be the haunts and palaces of the fairies. On the belief of the Irish regarding these Sheeauns and their inhabitants the Book of Lismore will throw a flood of light: It will appear from it that the Shee or fairies were not believed to be Demons or fallen angels, but the spirits of the Luatha de Dananns and of some of the Milesian tribes whom they induced to live along with them

them in those hills. It has puzzled the Irish linguists and lexicographers to explain the meaning of the word sídh (shee) which they find sometimes used to signify a hill and sometimes a fairy. O'Flaherty and ^{Solgan} thought that the word was originally applied to a hill and afterwards figuratively a fairy because he inhabited the shee or hill: "The Irish called aerial spirits or phantoms sídh because they are seen to come out of pleasant hills, where the common people imagine they reside, which fictitious habitations are called by us proe or prood." Ogygia. But the original meaning of the word seems to be, spirit, breath, wind like the Latin spiritus and the Greek πνευμα, which signify at one time wind, breath, and another ghost or spirit. Sídh is still used in every part of Ireland to signify a blast of wind and a fairy. Mention is made of the shee ^(in the sense of spirits) in Tirechan's Annotations on the life of St. Patrick in such a manner that one might imagine he understood the shee to be disembodied men:

"Et quocumque spem aut quacumque formâ, aut quacumque plebe, aut quacumque regione non cognoverunt; sed illos viros síde aut deorum Terrenorum aut fantasmam estimaverunt."

14/B/23/14 (IV)

of the parish of Killeany or St. Garry's church.

This small parish is, according to the Down Survey, bounded on the North and North-east by the parish of Rath-Boirne; on the East by the parish of Noughaval; on the South by the parish of Kilfenora, and on the west by the parish of Kilmoone. It is under the patronage of St. Garry or Ginde of Stran.

The old church of Killeany is not the original church erected in St. Garry's time, but one raised on its site about 5 centuries since. It is in good preservation, ^{and} divided into nave and choir. The nave measures in length 35 feet and in breadth 21 feet. The west gable which is in good preservation does not contain a doorway, but a pointed window placed at the height of 14 feet from the ground and measuring as well as one could guess by looking at it from the ground about 2.6 in height and 10 inches in width. The doorway was placed in the south wall at the distance of 10 feet from the west gable but it is now destroyed. At the distance of three feet ^{east} ^{of site of} from this doorway there is a pointed window

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window constructed with cut stone placed at the height of 8 feet from the present level of the ground on the outside, and measuring on the inside 5 feet in height and 4 feet in width, and on the outside 2.8 in height, and 5 inches in width. At the distance of 7 feet to the east of this there is another window of similar dimensions and characteristics.

The north wall of the nave is featureless. At the distance of 8 feet of the west gable there is within the nave a modern wall about 10 feet high and extending from across the. It has a doorway on it near the south side. It was probably erected to enclose a family burial place, but no tomb is now observable in the space it shuts in.

The choir arch is a fine one, in good preservation and constructed of cut lime stone in the pointed style. It measures 12 feet in breadth and about 16 feet in height, and 3.8 in thickness.

The Choir measures in length 19 feet and in breadth $19\frac{5}{8}$ ft. that is $1\frac{5}{8}$ narrower than the nave. Its south wall contains a pointed window placed at the distance of 4 feet from the east gable, and 6 from the present level of the ground

14/B/23/14 (V) on

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on the outside. It measures on the inside ^{ft in} 4.6 in height, and 3.0 in width, and on the outside ^{ft in} 2.6 in height and 6 inches in width. The east gable which is in good preservation contains a round-headed window placed at the height of 6 feet from the present level of the ground on the outside, and measuring on the inside 7 feet in height and 3.8 in width, and on the outside 5 feet in height and 5½ inches in width.

The north wall of the choir contains a quadrangular window placed at the distance of 4 feet from the east gable and measuring on the outside 2 feet in height and six inches in width.

The walls of this church are ^{ft in} 4.9 thick, and the side walls are about 14 feet high.

I find no holy well dedicated to St. Eiride in this parish, but there is one called after St. Colman in the townland of Ballymakerrilla."

There is in the townland of Ballygastell a small burial place for children called the Hill of Ballygastell, but I do not believe that

that it is the site of a church.

In the townland of Ballyconroe in this parish is shewn the ruins of the house of O'Conroe or O'Conway, ^{more} after whom this townland was named; and who, as tradition avers, used to hold a market ^{near} this house while he flourished. In the Coithreim Thoirdealbhaigh or wars of Torlogh O'Brien written by John, the son of Rory Magrath in the year 1459, this family is called O'Conduibh.

There is a ^{modern R. C.} chapel situated in this townland of Ballyconroe called the chapel of Luath Mhachaire, because Luath-mhachaire which is the name of an ancient territory, comprising the parishes of Kilmoone and Killeang, is now a Roman Catholic parish belonging to this chapel.

There is no ruin of a castle in this parish, and the only remains of antiquity now visible there besides the old church just described, are those of stone Cahers of which there are three, but in a state of great dilapidation. These are: 1. Caher Mic Eirilla, i.e. the Caher of the

14/8/23/14 (vi) son

son of Irish, a large fort in a townland to which it gives its name. 2. Caher-Mean (Cathair Meadhain) i.e. the middle Caher, a large fort in a townland of the same name ^{and}. 3. Caher na teinné, i.e. the fort of the fire, in the townland of Lislarheenbeg.

In the townland of Coolámore in this parish there is a Cromlech called, as usual, by the vulgar appellation of Leaba Shiarmada agus Ighrainé, i.e. the Bed of Dermot and Igrainé. The Welsh antiquaries generally call monuments of this description Crom-lechs, from their Crom or sloping position, but when the covering flags are laid perfectly horizontal I don't think they should be called by that name, unless indeed it can be proved that

that they are altars consecrated in times of paganism to the god Crom, but this has not been proved though often asserted, and it will yet be made appear from the Book of Lismore that these remarkable monuments were erected as tombs over heroes slain in battle. See my letter on the Table of the Giants near Ballina-Tirawley.

Of the parish of Rath-Boirné.

This parish is bounded on the north and North-east by the parishes of Gleninagh and Drumcreehy; on the east by the parish of Kilcoarney; on the south by the parishes of Naughaval and Killeany, and on the west by the parish of Kilmoon.

Name. This parish is called in the original language Rath-Boirné, i.e. the fort of Burren. The church ^{was} ~~is~~ built within the ring of an earthen fort or rath, parts of which

14/8/23/14 (Vn) are

are still traceable.

The old church of Kath Bairne is not many centuries old. It is 56.6 ^{ft} ⁱⁿ long and 21 feet broad. The west contains no feature but a small belfry at the top. The south wall contains a pointed doorway placed at the distance of 13.6 ^{ft} ⁱⁿ from the west gable and measuring on the inside 8 feet in height and 5 feet in breadth and on the outside 7.1 ^{ft} ⁱⁿ from the present level of the ground to the vertex of the arch and in breadth where the arch springs 3.8 ^{ft} ⁱⁿ. At the distance of 5.3 ^{ft} ⁱⁿ from the east gable there is on this wall a pointed window at the height of 4.2 ^{ft} ⁱⁿ from the present level of the ground, and measuring on the inside 6.8 in height and 4.5 in breadth, and on the outside 4.7 in height, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth which does not vary.

The east gable contains a Gothic window placed at the height of 6 feet from the

the present level of the ground on the outside and measuring on the inside 8 feet in height and 4 feet in width and on the outside 7 feet in height and ^{f in} 2.6 in width. It is divided into four ^{equal} divisions by stone mullions. The north wall is featureless. The walls of this church are ^{f in} 3.10 in thickness, and the side walls are about 12 feet high. This church was used at a comparatively recent period. It has a large burial place attached to it.

It would appear from a holy well situated in the townland of Paulnagapple near a mile to the N.W. of this church that it was dedicated to St. John.

No ancient Irish Milesian Saint is remembered in connection with it or with any locality in the parish

There are two Castles in this parish which are mentioned in the College list (already often referred to) as belonging to O'Loughlin Burren; one in the townland of Gragan west, and the other in the townland of Lissylishreen. The castle of Gragan is situated in a remarkable valley and to the west of the road as you go from Ballyvaughan to Kilfenora. This was the chief residence of O'Loughlin chief of Burren in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and from it the territory of Burren was called the Barony of Gragan as appears from the College list of Castles. The Castle of Lissylishreen, which is situated in the middle of a townland of the same name is called in the College list Lysiglysin, which is evidently an anglicising of *for m' Ghlin*, i.e., the fort of O'Glinheen.

In this parish the Boundary Surveyor places the townland of Cahermacnaghten which is set down in the above list as the name one of O'Loughlin Burren's Castles, but according to the Down Survey and an Irish Covenant made in 1675 between Hugh and Cosnave O'Davran

it belongs to the parish of Naughaval, as I have already stated in my letter on that parish. The site of O'Loughlin's castle in this townland should be shown on the Ordnance Map as well as that of the Caher. See my letter on the parish of Naughaval in which I give a translation of the Covenant made between the O'Donovans in 1645, in which various localities in this T. L. are mentioned.

In this parish the boundary surveyor places the townland of Faumarook in which there is a round castle not mentioned in the College list of O'Loughlin's castles. It was probably erected since that list was written.

The other remains of the olden time in this parish are the ruins of Cahers and Lisses of which there are several: 1. Cahermore in the townland of Ballyallaban, 2. Doon, a large fort which is planted, in the same T. L. 3. Cahermacnaghten, in a townland of the same name. (See Covenant made in 1645 between Hugh

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- and Cosny O'Davoran in which special mention is made of the door and inside of this Caher, from which it would appear that it was inhabited at the time. 4. Caher-Feeny in the townland of Feeny. 5 Caher-Berneen in the townland of Berneen. 6. a Caher in the townland of Garve-Cloon. 7. a Caher in the townland of Gleninsheen and called after it. 8. A Caher in the T.L. of Lismacteige, from which that townland is sometimes called Cahermacteige. 9. A Caher in the townland of Cloonmartin. 10. A dun in the townland of Croagh North, called Doon-Lorpy. 11. A dun in the T.L. of Dooybardan from which that townland takes its name. 12. Lis-mic-Sheedy in a townland of the same name and 13. A Caher in the townland of Lislarheen.

It is difficult to believe that all these Cahers were raised by the Firbolgs. It is my opinion that they were inhabited by the race of Modhruadh down to the beginning of the 14th century, when they began to build castles.

Of the parish of Kilcorney.

Situation.

This parish is situated in the barony of Burren and is bounded on the north-west and north by the parish of Rathborney; on the North-east by the parish of Oghtmama; on the east by the parish of Carran, and on the south by the said parish of Carran and Naughaval.

Name. The name of this parish is now pronounced Cill Coirne, which is the very orthography adopted in the Covenant made in 1675 between Hugh and Cosny O'Davoran. See my letter on the parish of Naughaval in which I give the original of that Deed with an English translation. The name would seem to signify the church of ^aSt. Coirne, but I cannot find a St. of that name, and St. Colman Bairé seems to be the patron of the parish.

14/8/23/14 (X)

q. Cill Coirne?

(18)

The old church of Kilcorney (which) is now in a state of great dilapidation, ~~was~~ consisted of nave and choir, the former measuring 39 feet in length and 20 in breadth and the latter 16.10. square. All its features are destroyed; and the only part remaining is the north wall, which is perfect but featureless, and the south wall excepting 15 of the west side.

It is said that this is not the original church of Kilcorney, for the site of a more ancient one is shown ^{adjoining it on} a short distance to the west of it.

About half a furlong to the south east of the church there is a holy well called Tobar na n-airgeal, and one furlong to the west of it are the ruins of an old church called Bill Cholmáin Bháire, but no door or window of it remains, the walls being reduced to the height of only 2 feet above the level of the ground. This church ^{of St. Colman Báire} and the quarter of land on which it ^{stood} stands are mentioned in the covenant made in 1675, between Hugh and Cosny O'Davaran:

" Do éuas coṁpas éatoppo péi mór atá leir-ferpeach cáipuc
 " míc Neáctair a b-poporíte Nuáchongbála agus leir-ferpeac leapa míc
 " Taróg agus leir-ferpeac leapa Dubáin agus leapa na luápana a
 " b-poporíte Droma críce, agus leir-ferpeac Cille Colmáin Báine
 " a b-poporíte Cille Cóirne, agus iad sin pé céile aṁr a m-bairnéac
 " agus aṁr a g-conde paimpáite."

" They have ^{inierunt foedere} entered into a covenant con-
 " cerning the half ploughland of Cahermic
 " naughten in the parish of Koughaval
 " and the half ploughland of Lismactega
 " and the half ploughland of Lisduane
 " and of Lisnaluaghanna in the parish
 " of Drumcreagh, and the half ploughland
 " of Kilcolman-Bairé in the parish of Kil-
 " Corney, all lying and being in the barony
 " and County aforesaid (i.e. Burren and Clare)

There is however no division of land
 at present in the parish of Kilcorney called
 Kilcolman-Bairé, though the site of a
 church of that name is well known.

(20).

In the townland of Paulnashagh in this parish there is a caher on the brink of a high cliff called after St. Colman Boire from a belief ^{tradition} that he inhabited it, and in the valley of Glenslade there is a holy well sacred to him, at which stations were formerly but not at present performed. I have no historical reference whatever to this Saint unless he was St. Colman Mac Duach, and I do not believe that he was. ^{g. Mac} ^{not also of the Colman of Oghmama?}

In the same valley there is another holy well dedicated to St. Inywee or Inghuan Bhasith (the daughter of Boetius) the great patroness of the Dalcassians whose memory was ^{annually} revered in various parts of the County on the 29th of December. I have no historical reference to this famous Saintess either, except one notice of her descent from a branch of the Dal g-Cais.

In the valley of Glenslade in this parish was situated a castle of the same name which is now levelled to the ground. It is mentioned in the College list of O'Laughlin Burren's castles often referred to. I shall here transcribe this list of the parishes and castles of Burren as they stand in the original with the modern names placed opposite them.

"The barony of Grogans containing the county of Burren, and is ploughlands after the like rate (see the Barony of Lullagh) and O'Loghlen chiefs in the same.

Parishes.

Vicar of Killoonagh (Killoonaghan?)
 Vicar of Kilrony (Kilmoone)^{led}
 Vicar of Templeglar (Glennamannagh)
 Vicar of Noughmawell (Noughawal)
 Vicar of Killeyme (Killeany)^{led}
 Vicar of Killoonagh (an erroneous repetition)
 Vicar of Rathoernagh (Rathorney)^{led}
 Vicar of Glaneyagh (Gleninagh)

14/B/23/14 (Xii)

Vicar of Glanecolumbkille* (Glanecolumbkille)
 Vicar of Templecreegh (now Drumcreeghy)
 Vicar of Carne (now Carne)

GentlemenCastles

O'Loghlen

of Baherclagan (sic hodie^{doe})

of Lysiglysin (now Lissiglisham)

of Bahervienacty (Bahermaenaghten)

of Ballemorogher (Ballymurphy)

of Moghenees (?)

of Glensted (now Glenstade)

of Lragan (sic hodie)

of Glanynagh (Gleninagh)

of Ballyvaughan (B-vaughan)

of Phannakones (Fedn-muc-mis)

of Monknosio (muc-mis nuas)

of Tynevere (Finnyvara)

of Turlagh (Turlachán na
 5-coileán)

O'Lothlin — of Glancollayn (Glencolumb)
 — of Killy (?)
 — of Macapaghee (now Cappagh)
 — of Castleton (now Castleton)
 — of Ballyheaghan (sic Lodis)
 — of Kneaghwill (now Ringhwell)
 — of Rughan (Rooghan in
 Kilfenora?)

The other remains of antiquity in this parish are the ruins of earthen and stone forts, as, 1.

1. Baher-na-musella in the townland of Poulgorm
2. Baher-an-ard-doraig in the townland of Glenslade
3. Lismandrum, 4. Lis-Colman-Vara, called after the saint, 5. Baher-Lissaniska in the townland of Cautybeg south, ^{and} 6. Baher-lisananima in the townland of Cautybeg north.

In the townland of Kilcorney in this parish there is a remarkable cave about which many superstitious stories are current in the country, such as that an enchanted bird was caught there

(24) 237

which spoke like a human being, of enchanted horses coming out of it which propagated their breed throughout the country &c. I find the following description of this cave in Gaugh's Camden vol 4, p. 366.

"Kilcorney is in a pretty low valley entered at
"the east end. On the north side of a small
"plain of an acre under a steep rugged cliff lies
"Kilcorren" (recte Kilcorney^{do}) "cave. The mouth
"level with the plain about 3 feet diameter,
"a part blocked up with lime and stone widens
"beyond the entrance, the floor pretty even rock, 2
"to 4 or 5 yards broad; sides from 6 to 12 or 14
"high. 40 yards from the door a deep pit 7 or
"8 yards over, after which the floor even for 200
"yards. Dr. Lucas who describes it never ^{passed} ~~went~~
"beyond the pit. The cave pours forth occasion-
"ally deluges over the adjacent plain to the depth
"of about 20 feet, sometimes once in a year or
"twice, commonly 3 or 4 times a year preceded
"by great noise as of falling water. It flows
"with rapidity and great noise for a day or two
"and

"and afterwards returns into the cave or the
 "small holes in the low ground, but slower,
 "is putrid like stagnated pond water, and
 "leaves a rich scum. There is no river
 "or lake near it, and it is six miles from
 "the sea."

(Account by Dr. Charles Lucas Philos. Trans.
 N^o. 456. p. 360.)

I have at length finished the Barony of
 Burren which has cost me an immensity of
 labour of mind and body. I have yet to
 write its history but as this must be done
 in connection with Corcumrae, of which
 it originally formed a part, I must
 defer it till we have traversed the
 whole County, when the extracts will be
 more copious and better digested.

I now return the name books of the
 Barony of Burren and request an ac-
 knowledgment of their being received at
 the Ordnance Survey office 14/8/23/14 (XIV)
 your obed^t serv^t
 John Adonovan

Dec 23/14
 Ackd
 J. Adonovan

(26.)

and genealogies
 I want the pedigrees of the Ui Fidhgainte
 and Ui Chairbre Sabhda, copied carefully
 from the Books of Lecan, Ballymote and
 Duall Mac Firlis, also the pedigrees and
 genealogies of the Ui Conaill Gabha from
 the same authorities. Also the life of St
 Senán from the Book of Lismore.

100

END

14 B 23/15

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkee, Co. Clare, concerning his research into the genealogy and history of Corcomroe, Co. Clare, with particular reference to its association with the O'Daly family.

29 October 1839

2p.

24 cm

O'Donovan's letter includes related copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters' and the Annals of Inisfallen.

14/13/23/15(i)

Thos. A. Larcom, Esq. Kilkenny 29th October 1839.
 R.F.

Dear Sir,

I want copied from Donald Mac Furbis's Book in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, the pedigree of O'Daly of Corcumroe, who lived at Finnyvara near the New Quay in the parish of Abbey and Barony of Burren. The O'Dalys of Dunsandal are descended from this branch, though they know it not themselves. The first of them who removed to Connaught had lived at Finnyvara.

I find the following notice of this family in the Annals of the Four Masters.

"A.D 1404. Carroll O'Daly, ollave of Corcumroe,
 " died.

" 1420. Fergal O'Daly, ollave of Corcumroe in
 " poetry, died."

" 1514. O'Daly of Corcumroe (Teige), the son of
 " Donagh, son of Teige, son of Carroll, a learned
 " poet, who had maintained a house of general
 host

hospitality, died at Sinaigh Bheara, and was interred,
in the Abbey of Corcumroe."

Does it appear from the pedigree of this branch of
the O'Dalys, as given by MacFirbis that Donogh
More, the supposed abbot of Boyle, was one of
them?

Please to insert this into my letter on the
parish of Abbey-Corumroe in the Barony of
Burren.

Your obedient &c. Servant,

John O'Donovan.

The following passage in the annals of Inishfallen
mentions places, which I have noticed in former
letters. I shall here identify them while they are
fresh upon my memory.

"A. D. 1311. A great army was led by Sir Richard de
a Clare to East Corcumroe ^(a) where he encamped, viz
a Dermot the son of Donogh, who was son of Brian
a Roe (O'Brien) at Criothmhail ^(b) with his Irish
a forces and De Clare with his Englishmen at
a Cnoel-Dangan ^(c) behind them ^(d) that night. But
a son of Torlogh, son of Teige Caoluise, king of
North

" North Munster, remained that night on Sliabh
 " Cairn^(e) together with Mahon and Morogh
 " Mainchin and with his people and the tribe of
 " Hy-Donghaile^(f), who remained with him that night
 " consulting together. Very early the next morning
 " he (Donogh O'Brien) rose up, anxious to give battle
 " to De Blare, and commanded that Morogh and
 " Mahon O'Brien and the Hy-Donghaile should
 " be his ^{back?} back guards in the battle. But as they
 " proceeded eastwards ^(h) of Sliabh Cairn to Gleanr Cairn
 " Morogh Mainchin, son of Mahon, son of Brian
 " son of Donnell Conachtach O'Brien gave the
 " king a treacherous blow ^{by} of which he was slain."

Compare with Wars of Torlogh
 p. 187. of Ord. Surv. Copy.

- (a) i.e. the Barony of Burren.
 (b) Now the Castle of Brughmell near the chapel of Carran in the parish of Barran. See my letter on that par.
 (c) ^(d) Cnoc dloghain in the barthreim but incorrectly. It is no other place than Dangan hill or Cnoc-a-Daigin in the parish of Drumreehy, which lies behind, i.e. to the west of Slieve Carr. Brughmell.
 (e) Sliabh Cairn, now Slieve Carr in the parish of Oght-
name
 (f) Hy-Donghaile is the tribe name of the O'Gnady's

(h) The Caithreim has westwards to Gleann
Casín, but this is certainly a mistake, for
Gleann Casín lies in the parish of Killineyboy
 to the South-east of Slieve Carn. In
 copy of the Caithreim, ~~omit~~ Slieve Gleann
Casín is omitted, and it is simply stated
 that Donogh O'Brien was marching west-
wards when he was killed.

END

14 B 23/16

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilkee, Co. Clare, concerning the history, topography, traditions and antiquities of the parish of Kilfenora with particular reference to its churches, holy wells, burial grounds, cahers, cross, ruined castles and the origins of its place name.

29 October 1839

24p.

24 cm

O'Curry's letter includes transcriptions of tombstone inscriptions, and extracts from 'The Annals of the Four Masters', Arcdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum', Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland' and Walter Harris's writings on the bishops of Kilfenora.

Kilkee 29th October 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir

The parish of Kilsenora in the barony of Boremore and County of Clare is bounded on the north by Kilmoon and Killeeny parishes, on the west by Killa and Kilshanny Parishes, on the east by Toaghavil and Kilnaboy parishes and on the south by Kilmanahan, Cloony and Rath parishes. See name book. What of Kiltonight a parish S. E. of it B. O. Loney.

The name of this parish is partly of ecclesiastical and partly of topographical origin; the first part Kille meaning a church and the second being a name given to several localities in Ireland, and which are generally found to be pretty fertile elevations, and if this be the origin of the name, no part of Ireland can lay a better founded claim to it than the place now under consideration.

They have no remembrance of a patron saint here but the name and that only as

14/6/23/16 (i)

being borne by his well, which however is now no longer looked upon as a holy well, but is ~~converted~~^{used} for domestic purposes, as well as if it never had received sanctification from the blessed hands and words of the holy Saint Fachtna whose name it bears and whose festival was formerly kept there on the 14th of August.

Of the old Cathedral Church of Kilfinora 36 feet of the east end is now roofless and given up to the desolation of the winds and weather. (It was after I had left the place that I discovered that the present Protestant Church is part of the old one, newly windowed and finished off.) The breadth of the Church was 20 feet 10 inches, the walls 3 feet thick.

There are two double headed pointed windows in the South side, divided by mullions, and one of them, the farthest from the gable, divided into 4 parts by a stone running across it in the middle.

The window in the east gable is semicircular 14 feet 7 inches wide and about 20 feet high, divided into three compartments.

ments by 2 triangular based pillars, each corner
partment circular headed, and the whole lined
with very finely chiseled stones, on the inside,
about 14 feet high outside, the middle
division 1 foot 4 inches wide each of the
other two 11 inches wide.

In the northeast corner of the church is
a niche in the side wall, formed of 2 pointed
small arches sustained in the middle by a
slender column of stone. In front of this
niche is a tombstone level with the ground
having the figure of an ecclesiastic with
folded arms, a cross on the chest, and clasping
a book. There is another niche in the
north wall, nearly opposite, in the same
style, surmounted by a head and ²roster, in
front of which level with the ground is a tomb
stone having the figure of a bishop in costume.
~~At the base of the figure, on the wall, is a small inscription.~~
~~and~~ In front of this stone is another
tomb with this inscription in plain large
letters; "Here lieth the body of Pygale Lane
14/8/23/16 (11)

"who lived 21 years Deane of this Church and
 "died in September 1638." On another

Stone near the latter is this inscription:

"Here lies the body of John Keylaw who
 "died the 27th of July 1718. aged 24 years."

There is a monumental Stone in the
 north wall inscribed to the Rev Neptune
 Blood [as well as I could understand the Latin]
 having the dates, 1638-1694-1699 on it.

There is a raised tomb in the now south
 west angle with the inscription: "William
 "Mac-an-bharig and his wife Eliza
 "Mr Dea made this tomb Anno Dni 1658."

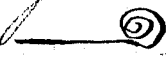
A chapel projects from the north east angle
 of the Church to the north, measuring 28
 feet 3 inches in length and 18 feet ten inches
 in breadth, communicating with, and com-
 municating with it by a ^{low} pointed doorway
 and a pointed archway now closed up.
 It has a pointed low doorway in the ^{west} south
 side, near the Church, and a semi cir-
 cular headed window near the north gable

— No change here —

5

RIA

14/13/23/16 (iii)

closed up with masonry, and measuring 4 feet 5 inches in height and 6 1/4 inches in breadth, in front. There is a pointed window in the east side near the Church, measuring 9 feet 4 inches in height inside and 4 feet 1 inch in breadth, and 7 feet in height and 6 1/4 inches in breadth in front. There is a semicircular headed window near it on the north, measuring 7 feet in height and 3 feet 11 inches in breadth on the inside, 5 feet 3 inches high and 6 1/4 inches wide in front. Between these two windows, within, lying on the ground and the feet to the wall, is a stone Cross, measuring 3 feet 8 inches in length and 2 feet 6 inches across the shoulders, having the figure of a bishop in Canonicals engraved on it, holding a Crozier or ~~W~~ Bachel of the form . One side of another window remaining in the east wall also, near the north gable.

There is a mitred head over the pointed door of the new or newly repaired Church, and within, ^{on} the north side, near the east end is an elevated monument with a stone over it in the wall having the arms of Mac Donogh ~~engraved~~ ^{sculptured} sculp-

lured on it and the following inscription:

"Donaldus Mac Dougl et uxor eius
 "Maria Honor sibi et suis ambobus
 "posteris Hunc tumulum fieri fecere
 "An. Dni 1685."

There is a stone cross near the western side of the burying ground, 4 feet 9 inches high, 2 feet 4 inches across the shoulders, the shaft 1 foot 5 inches broad and 6 inches thick.

There is a ~~very~~ very fine cross standing in a field a little to the west of the Church, sculptured on all sides and having a rude representation of the crucifixion on the east side. This cross is about 13 feet in height, 3 feet wide at bottom, 2 feet 6 inches wide at 6 feet from the ground and 10 inches thick but tapering somewhat to the arms upwards. There were 3 other fine crosses here, one at each of the ^{other} Cardinal points from the Church, but 2 of them fell down and were broken, the third is said to have

14/3/23/16 (iv)

been carried away to Killaloe some years ago by a bishop of that see.

Of the ancient ecclesiastical history of Kilfenora I have nothing to say but what is contained in the following extracts - from Gough. Ware, Lanigan, Haun Master, Annals of ^{Munster} Innisfallen &c.

"The See of Kilfenoragh, Fenebore or Kallumtrach
 "may possibly have been founded by St. Fechnan to
 "whom the Church is dedicated. As it was the least
 "and poorest in the Kingdom, we are not to wonder
 "the accounts of it are so imperfect. It was
 "made suffragan to the Archbishopric of Cashel
 "and since the restoration to that of Tuam, but
 "now to Killaloe." The Cathedral is very ancient
 "but in good repair, the nave full of old family
 "monuments and in the Choir is that of St.
 "Fechnan, its original ^{founder} having his effigy carved
 "at full length. Here are also several crosses
 "each of a single stone and ornamented
 "with very ancient sculpture. d."

vol. 4. p. 365.

I don't believe that the cross mentioned above by myself, covers the body or tomb of St. Fechnan, nor do I think the present its original position

252
[From Harris's Ware]
V. 1. P. 1000

[MS additions
in red ink]

Of the
Bishops of
Kilfenoragh

[There is no valuation of this
See in the Sturge Books. nor
is it so much as mentioned
in them.]

There are no accounts, that
I know of to be depended upon
concerning the time of the
Foundation of the Episcopal
See of Fennabore (as it is
commonly called.) Kilfenoragh

14/6/23/16^{gr}

253 253
or who was the first Bishop
of it. Yet some possibly may
think, that St Fachmud, to
whose memory the Cathedral
is dedicated was the founder
of this Bishopric. But
I must leave the inquiry of
this to others. As this See
is the least in all Ireland,
so it was always reckoned
amongst the Poorest, having
only 13 Parishes Subject to it.

I have found so few memoirs
of the Bishops of it, that
I am under a necessity of
drawing that the following

Catalogue

Catalogue of them is very
 same and imperfect. This See
 in the Book of Relations
 of the Apostolic Chamber,
 published by Centius
Camerasius (who was afterwards
 Pope Honorius the III^d.) is
 called Cellunabrack. [In
 the ancient Distribution of the
 Bishopricks of Ireland, made
 by Cardinal Paparo in 1152.
 it was made a Suffragan
 See to the Archbishoprick
 of Cashell. But ever since
 the restoration of King Charles
 the II^d. it hath been annexed

12

to the Archbishopric of Tuam.

(10) It is situated in the County

of Clare anciently called

Tuamond, in the Barony of

Corcumroe which is washed

by the western Ocean John

Colgan in his division of the

episcopal Sees, at the end

of his annals says that

the Bishop of this See was

also called Episcopus Corcum-

-rothensis Bishop of Corcumroe

[and so it is in the annals

of Immisfall].

One Christian Bishop

of

59

RIA



14/8/23/16 (vii)

(Two leaves wanting here.)

[They have been misplaced in the binding — see farther on.]

RIA

of Kilfenoragh. died in 1254.

and was buried at Limnrick
in the Conventual Church of
the Dominicans.

Henry [rasher Maurice]

[Succ. 1265. ab. 1273]

One Henry being consecrated
Bishop of Kilfenoragh was
confirmed by the Royal agent
on the 12th of February 1265.

(English Style) [But the
Public Records call this
Prelate Maurice. for it was this
year that the Bishoprick of
Kilfenoragh falling void. the
Canons obtained a Conge de

Esleir
14/8/23/16 (vii)

Escheat. and elected Maurice. who
 was confirmed and consecrated
 by his Metropolitan. before his
 election was certified to the
 King for his approbation,
 and a warrant obtained for his
 Consecration. as regularly
 ought to have been done. The
 King pardoned the omission
 to the Bishop; and issued
 his Writ to the Escheator
 to restore him to the Temporalities
 dated the 12th of February
 1065. upon his Swearing
 Fealty. But he directed

(V Pat. 50. Hen. 3. Memb. 29. ind.)

the

the Escheator to take an
acknowledgment from the
Chapter by Letters Patent,
not to draw the omission into
example, to the prejudice of
his Prerogative. In other letters
Patent (c) this Priate is also
called Maurice. He died in
1273.

Florence O Tigernach

[Died... 1273. ob. 1281]

Florence O Tigernach Abbat

of Kilsane, or Kilsoma?

[in the County of Limerick]

of the Cistercian order, was

elected Bishop of Kilfenoragh

and obtained the Royal assent

[(c) Dist. 1. Edw. 1. Pt. 2.]

on 14/3/23/16 (IX)

on the 18th of September 1273. a

[The Conge de Esler had issued
at the Petition of the Dean and
Chapter on the 14th of July
before, and the 8th of October
following a mandate (a) went
to the Archbishop of Cashell
to consecrate this Prelate—
and presently after a writ
issued for his Restitution to
the Temporalities but clogged
with a condition, that he
first sent his Proctor into
England to swear Fealty
to his name. The Bishop
delayed complying with this
condition, and was afterwards

(H) Rot. 1. Edw. 1. Membr. 34

obliged
For page 260 see a few lines back

obliged to sue out another writ (c)
of Restitution dated the 30th of
November 1274. He died in 1281.

One Charles Dean of Kilfenora
was upon his election confirmed
by the King on the 8th of September
1281. [and the same day his
writ of Restitution to the Temporalities issued].

Congal O-Lothlan called Bishop
of Larumree in the Annals of
Loughkee. died A.D. 1300. and left
a good character behind him for
Integrity and Probity—

Simon O Curran who succeeded died
in 1303 and was buried at Limerick
in the Conventual Church of the

(c) Pat. 2. Edw. 1. Mem. 1.

Dominicans
14/3/23/16(X)

Dominicans.

Maurice O'Brien

[Succ. 1303. to 1321]

Maurice O'Brien, Dean of Trillick
nagh, was upon the Death of
 Bishop O'Connor, appointed his
 Successor, and was confirmed by
 King Edward the 1st. on the 8th
 of October 1303. He sat in this
 See 18 years, and was buried at
Limerick in the Conventual Church
 of the Dominicans before mentioned.

[Before the dissolution of Religious
 Houses there was an inscription
 in Monkish Rhime fixed near
 the Place where this Prelate and
 his Predecessors, Simon O'Connor

and

and Christian as also Hubert de
Burgh Bishop of Limerick Donald
Kennedy and Matthew C. Hogan
Bishops of Killaloe were interred.

The Verses were transcribed into
 the Calendar of the Dominicans
 at Limerick out of which being
 a singular Specimen of the
 Choice Poetry I shall Present them
 to the Reader. Viz.

Senos Pontifices in se locus claudis iste.
Illis multiplices te posco praemia Christo.

Omnes hi fuerant patrum laus reges amici
Hubertus de Burgh Praesul quondam Limerici

Donald Matthews Pastores Laomenses
Christian Mauritius Simon quod. Fendalbovensis
Ergo. Benigne Pater. locus has non comprimit alior.

Qui legis ista. Pater dicas et me. reboc lex
 14/8/23/16 (X1)
 Centum

Centum namq. dies quisquis rogitando precatur
 Detur ut his requies. si hunc montes precetur
 Qui legis hos versus ad te quandoq. reversus
 Quid sis. et quid eris animo vigili Meditoris
 Si Minor his fueris. seu Major ejusve sodalis
 Tandem pulvis eris. non fallit regula talis.

They will not bear an exact trans-
 -lation. but for the sake of the
English reader. I will endeavour
 for the to give the sense of them
 as near as may be.

Sic Precates here do lie and in
 their favour

I beg your Friendly Prayers to
 Christ our Saviour.

Who in their life time for this
 House did work.

The first of whom I name was
Hubert Burne.

Who

Who graced the See of Limerick
and Marshall.

With Donaco Bishops both
of Killaloe.

Christian and Maurice I should
name before.

And Simon Bishops late
of Fennabore.

Therefore kind Father let not
any soul

Of these good men be lodged
in the Black-Hole.

You who read this kneel down
in humble Pasture.

Bellow three Aves say one
Pater Noster.

Whoever for their Souls
sincerely Prays.

Merits indulgence for an
hundred days.

14/13/23/16 (xii)

And

And you who reads the verses
on this Stone.

Bethink yourself, and mind the
case you are in.

Then seriously reflect on what
you see.

And think what you are
now and what you'll be

Whether you are greater, equal
less you must.

As well as these he crumbled
into Dust.]

Richard O Loughlin

[Surv. 1323. 81359]

John Olym relates in his

Annals "that a Bishop of

Kilsennoragh was consecrated

at Waterford on Palm Sunday.

1223." But he is silent as to his name. Perhaps it was this Richard O'Leahain who died on the 3rd of February 1359. But I leave the doubt to be cleared up by others—

Patrick

[Dec 1394]

One Patrick Bishop of Kilfenoragh, took the oath of Fealty to King Richard the II^d in the Dominican Monastery at Drogheda, on the 16th of March 1394. (English style). I do not find the least mention made of any of his

Successors either in the Public
1418/23/16 (xiii)
Records

24 267

Records, or Irish Histories, for
about many years after.

Dennis O'Case, or O'Case
resigned 1491.

Maurice O'Brien

[Succ. 1491]

Maurice O'Brien Canon of
Killaloe, a Prelate of noble
Birth both by Father and
Mother, succeeded by Papal
Provision on the 31st of December
in the same year that O'Case
resigned or as some say on
the 26th of August in the
following year. One Maurice
was Bishop of Kilfenoragh
in

in 1523. I do not know whether
it was this Maurice O'Brien.

John O'Hinalan

[Died 1552]

John O'Hinalan was Bishop
of Kilfenoragh on the 16th
of May 1552. But I have
not yet discovered either the time
of his consecration or Death.

One John was Bishop of
Kilfenoragh A. D. 1570. I
do not know whether it was
John O'Hinalan.

Daniel

[Died 1585].

One
14/8/23/16 (xiv)

One Daniel elect Bishop of
Kilfenoragh, was a Subscribed
 to an Indenture of Composition
 for the County of Clare, on the
 14th of August 1585. [by
 which instead of Ceps * &
 Cuttings or other uncertain exactions
 the inhabitants of Thomond
 agreed to Pay ten Shillings a
 year out of every quarter of land
 containing one hundred and
 twenty acres. Besides a certain
 * Ceps is an Exaction in Victuals, ^{number} viz.
 Horse Meat and Man's Meat at the Kings
 Price, and is understood also to signify Provision
 for the Deputys Family, and for Soldiers
 in Garrison at an imposed Rate. See the Earl
 of Staffords Trial — Cutting is a Tax laid
 on extraordinary occasions and is uncertain in its
 Quantity.

number of Soldiers amongst
them at every rising out. Tuomond
was by an Inquisition found
to contain 1259 Plowlands &
agreed to pay £4.3-10 a year.
and to find two hundred foot
and forty Horse armed at
all Hastings in Tuomond.
and fifteen Horse and fifty
foot at all general Hastings.
with competent Carriages and
victuals. This is the account
Sir Richard Coxe (+) out of
a Manuscript in the Lambeth
Library gives us.] The sa

(+) Hist. 1st Vol. p. 388.

was
14/B/23/16 (XV)

was vacant on the 2nd of December
1602. Perhaps by the death
of this Bishop—

Bernard Adams

[Succ 1606. Resign 1617]

Bernard Adams was consecrated
Bishop of Limerick [in April]
1604. and together with the
See of Limerick held this of
Kilfenoraugh. by Dispensation
from the 10 July year 1606 to
18 Augt in the year 1617. in which
he resigned it [See before
p. 513].

John Steere

[Succ. 1617. Resign 1622]

Upon

27 July 1618

Upon the Resignation of Bishop he obtained
Adams, John Ware Master ^{a grant to him}
 of Sts was appointed to Sts to hold it ^{and his successors}
 and was consecrated in 1617. ^{on a Thursday} He
 was translated to Andfert ^{Market 82 fairs}
 on the 20th of July 1622. ^{one and y^e Wednesday} [See
 before 1623]. ^{day Thursday and}

William Murray ^{Friday before}
^{Whitsunday the}
^{other on St. Michl}
^{day 82 days after}
^{at 20 rent (rolls}
^{16-16th 11}

[Succ. 1622. Resign. 1627] Was Promoted

William Murray, Doctor of ^{by P Seal}
 Divinity was consecrated Bishop ^{dat. at West}
 of Kilfenoragh in St Patrick's 27th by Pat
Church Dublin, on the 18th of ^{27 Nov. has}
December 1622. by Lancelot ^{rest and y^e}
Bishop of Dublin James ^{same day as}
Bishop of Meath and Rolant ^{also a grant}
^{in Com of y^e}
^{rectory of Lomest}
^{14/13/23/16 (xv)}
 Bishop

in the Dioc.

of Exeter & Bishop of Gloucester. and retained
any other of living his English ecclesiastical benefices
not exceeding £100

from. but at in Commendam. In 1624 he was
West: 3 June 1622.

he had another translated to the See of Sandaff
grant 24 ^{Nov} ~~March~~ in Wales. [Doctor Heyl (g)
for his next and

cons: as the 13th calls him John Murray. and
of Cashell did

before his Cons: placeth his translation under the
not having appointed

another to do it. year 1628. and so doth Le Neve (h)
(Rolls 2^d & 2^d p. 100).

Upon the translation of Bishop
Murray. King Charles the

appointed first nominated by P Seal dat

26 June 1628 & Richard Betts.

Doctor of Divinity to succeed

him in the See of Kilfenoragh

P Seal dat. Westm: 26th June,

& his Pat dat. Dublin 19th Sept

1628. confirmed in the See & his Cons:

(a) Help to Hist 12.113 (b) Fast. 1522

JF

Rest are dat the 20th (Rolls 4^o
 6. 2^o pt F). But upon his
 arrival in Ireland he came
 to understand the Poverty of
 the See, and would not consent
 to his Promotion, but returned
 home without Consecration. (1)

James Higate

[Succ. 1630. ob. 1638]

James Higate a Native of
Glasgow in Scotland and
 Archdeacon of Clogher. [To
 which the Rectories and 5
 Vicaridges of Clones and
Blantabride were united was
 also Rector of Derryvorklan

(1) See among listers letters N^o 142. and

14/B/23/16(xvii)

and of Tedaunmagh in the
 Diocese of Clogher. 7 was
 consecrated Bishop of Kilferne-
 magh P. Seal dat at Westm.
 1630. 28 Feb 1629. and by Pat
 1630. his Cons. Pres: 1 May B
 the 10th had a grant to hold in
 Com all his former livings (Rolls.
 6^o Cav. 2^o pt 2) together with
Archibald Adair Bishop
 of Killala in St Patrick's
Dublin on the 9th of May 1630.
 by Lancelot Archbishop of
Dublin assisted by the Bishops
 of Ferns and Loughlin and
Clonsart. He died on the last
 of April 1638. and was
 buried

buried at Clarnisk in the
County of Monaghan.

Robert Silthorp

[Succ. 1638. Resign. 1642]

Robert Silthorp D. B. Treasurer
of Killaloe and Rector of
of Maynoth, was consecrated
Bishop of Kilfenoragh in St
Patrick's Dublin, on the 11th of
November, 1638, and on the
7th of April 1642 was ^{P. Seal} translated to the See of Lincoln 1638 at
See before P. 514. — ^{Greenwich}
with direction
to hold in comm
of Killaloe the R of Traderie the treasurer
and one other benefice or dignity such as ye S. D.
should think meet to bestow upon him (Not come
par. 14. Ch. 1. 7. p. 21.) in that diocese

Samuel

14/8/23/16 (xviii)

Samuel Pullen

[Dec. 1660]

Samuel Pullen Doctor of
Divinity of the University of
Dublin and Dean of Clonsilla
was consecrated Archbishop of
Tuam in St Patrick's Dublin
on the 27th of January 1660.
and obtained this See also in
Commendam See before P. 61st

At Nov 1638.

(Rolls 12th

Car. 2^o pt

D: 1)

From this time the See
of Kilsenoragh hath always
gone with the Archbishopric
of Tuam * * * *

On the Death of Edward Synge
Archbishop of Tuam the Bishop
of Kilsenoragh was by letters

Patent

Patent dated June 30. 1741.

given in Commendam to John

Whitcombe Bp of Glouc.

(Dr Whitcombe being translated

to Down & Connor in Jan^y.

1752. the Bp^{ric} of Killfenoragh

was given in Commendam

to Dr Nicholas Synge. Bp of

Killaloe by Letters Patent dat

March 26.th 1732.

[End of Killfenoragh]

Kilfenora

* * * * *

This saint must not, I think, be confounded with the St. Lachman to whose memory the church of Kilfenora has been dedicated. (51) He is said, but without any foundation, to have ^{been} succeeded at Ross by a St. Spinchara.

(51) The history of the see of Kilfenora or, as Ware calls it, Lerabore is so obscure, that he was not able to decide by whom it was founded. In one place (Antig. cap. 29.) he says, "it may be judged that St. Lachman was the founder." In another (Bishops) he merely states that its cathedral was dedicated to his memory. He clearly seems to have met St. Lachman of Ross. And so the matter appears to be understood at present in the diocese of Kilfenora, whereas the festival of the patron saint is kept there on the 14th of August, as if St. Lachman of Ross was he also of Kilfenora. But it is much more probable that they were different persons. That Lachman of Ross did not found

that

14/B/23/16 (XIX)

that see, or even a monastery there, is evident from its not being mentioned in the Calendar, where treating of them notwithstanding the care taken to omit that, besides Ross, he had governed also a house in Darinis. Why not mention ~~also~~ likewise Kilfenora, had he been there? especially as it became ~~with~~ an episcopal see. It may be said that Fachnan was revered there not as founder of the see, but as the saint, in whose name the church was dedicated, long perhaps before there was any bishop of Kilfenora. Yet I can hardly believe that Kilfenora had not a Fachnan or Fachtna of its own. Among the real or pretended disciples of St. Barr, we find besides Fachnan of Ross, ~~or~~ St. Fachtna de Ria (Act. I. p. 450.) He is the Fachtnanus of Asher, (O. p. 971) a distinct person from Fachtna Mongich, or of Ross, there mentioned. Whether this Fachtna, or Fachnan de Ria was a scholar, ~~or~~ or not, of St. Barr, is of little consequence; but it cannot be doubted that such a person did exist in old times, probably in the seventh century. Why may we not suppose, that he was the founder of Kilfenora? Its very name seems to lead to this conclusion. Fachnan is often called

called Lechman Kilfenora is a compound name,
thus probably formed; Kil-fen (a contraction of
Lechman) to do, or from - Ra; or Ria.

Vol. II. P 194.

RIA

The well of Saint Fachtna, there called
 Tobar Fachtna is situated a little distance
 north of the Church, having a small stone
 roofed building over it in the east side
 of which there is inserted a cut stone
 with the following inscription in plain
 character.

"Deo et B. Technano hocce Opus
 "Culum Fundavit Donaldus Mac Donogh
 "Licentia et permissione Episcopi Fines
 "Coreyis Anno Domini 1687."

The common name of this well is Bullan
 Fachtna, Bullan being a general name
 throughout the upper part of this Co.
 for all those circular small springs
 that spout up out of the Limestone
 rocks.

We have the following few notices of
 * Kilfenora from the Annals of 4 Masters:

" Anno. D. 1434. Felim, the son of Malon O'Loghlin,
 Bishop of the Bill-Ferinaabhrach, died."

" 1506. The Bridge of Portcroise, on the
 (on the Lippenary side of the river near O'Brien's bridge)
 Shannon, was erected by O'Brien,

" Torlogh the son of Feige, who was
 " the son of Torlogh) Donnell his brother,
 " the Bishop of Killaloe & the bishop
 " of Kilfenora."

" 1510. Morlogh the son of Morogh, who
 " was son of Torlogh, Bishop of Kilfenora
 " died.

" 1572 The bishop of Kilfenora, (John
 " oge the son of John, who was son of
 " Auliffe O'Kiallain) teacher of the
 " word of God, died and was interred
 " at Kilfenora itself."

" 1591. Morogh, the son of Bonor, who was
 " son of Torlogh, who was son of Feige,

42 " who was son of Torlogh, who was son of Brian
 " bhatha-an-Donnigh O'Brien, died at
 " Cathair Mionain on the 23.rd of February
 " and was interred at Kilfenora.

" 1599 + + + O'Donnell remained that night
 " encamped at Gill-inghene - Phavith and
 " left it before noon on the next day and then
 " proceeded to Kilfenora in the territory of
 " Goreamroe &c &c

" The Annals of Munster tell us that Morogh
 " O'Brien burnt the Abbey of Kilfenora and
 " slew many people therein A. D. 1055."

Archdale. Mon. Bib.

About a quarter of a mile west of Kilfenora is the
 site of Kilbcathrach Church, of the walls of which
 14 feet only of the south side remain, 9 feet high
 and 2 feet 3 inches thick. The extent of the original
 building may still be traced by the foundation from
 which it appears to have been 26 feet long and
 14 feet 6 inches broad. There was a burying
 ground here formerly, of which all appears
 since has vanished except one uninscribed
 tombstone which lies within the church.

No historical reference to this place has come to my hands but the following from Archdale and which indeed could scarcely apply to the place at all.

"There was an hospital or monastery here of which we have no further account than that it was endowed with a quarter of land adjoining thereto, which at the dissolution was granted to John King. Auditor general's office."

"Part of the foundation of an old Castle remains a little to the north of Kilcarrah, called by the residents of the place by the name of Caisteán-an-mhaga in the funny or foolish Castle, because they say that it was well begun but never raised higher than it is at present."

I believe this place has been set down by some writers as the site of an ecclesiastical edifice, with what propriety I know not.

The site of an old Church and burying ground called Bill-Tonachta, lie in the townland of Ballynacarra. The site of an old

14/B/23/16 (xxii)

4) ^{church} and burying ground lie in the townland of Cahermineane, and within the Caher. They call this place Bille-Cháimín at the same time that they don't believe it to have been a church at all. There is a holy well near this place called after Saint Cáimín, at which stations were formerly performed, but now almost given up.

There is a small portion of the side, of an old Castle in the townland of Fanta, within which is a dwelling house.

A heap of ruins and rubbish mark the site of an old Castle in the townland of Cahermineane, the lord of which Mough O'Brien died there in the year 1891, according to the annals of the 4 Masters.

The east side wall of an old Castle stands in the townland of Ballyshanny.

There is another ruined Castle in the townland of Fulacha, and another, in tolerable preservation in the townland Loomore,^t called the Castle of Inchoosigh.

There is a very large cahir in the townland of Bailer cinn-marga is the town of the market, around which were formerly a great number of upright stones forming a circle about it. There is a prostrate Crossleac at little to the south of the cahir.

There is a hill in this parish called Shiabha-na-nyvridha, i.e. the mountain of the Studs

14/8/23/16 (xxiii)

(of hours) and which occurs in the annals
of the 4 Masters at the year 1873 thus:

"A. D. 1873. + + + As soon as Donnell, the
" son of Conor O'Brien and Teige, the son
" of Morogh had heard of the arming of the
" great army to oppose them, they immediate-
" ly assembled all the forces they could com-
" mand and advanced to meet them
" at Carn-mic-Fail. + + + + Teige
" the son of Conor O'Brien and Forlogh,
" the son of Donogh O'Brien, and their
" forces remained all that night un-
" til day break stationed by the side of
" their camp vigilantly and warily. At
" Sun rise they marched forward by
" Sliabh-na-nGrioidheadh, Keeping
" Bel-atha-an-ghobhann on the left
" hand, and the forces of the Coun-
" try marched slowly to meet them."

I wrote twice requesting you
to send me the whole of the

year ~~that~~ from the Annals, ~~that~~ ⁴⁷
 I may be enabled to find the locality
 of, or the identical, Barn-mic-Fail,
 but up to this my request has
 not been attended ^{to}, so that this
 interesting topographical and
 historical feature remains un-
 identified.

The following townlands mentioned
 in Ordinary Irish Deeds No. 14.

are situated in this parish: viz

1. Baile-Cinn-Marga.
2. Baile-ir-Ghamhnaim, now Ballygonew.
3. Baile-ir-Rheabhachain.
4. Baile-ir-Iheanigh.

Remain in your obedient servt.

Engene Barry

14/10/23/16 (xxiv)

48
I have an old Irish deed on parchment, somewhere among my papers at home, which has reference to certain lands situated in the neighbourhood of Kilrush, and I wish that John J. Sullivan would look for it and have it sent to Kilrush for us. It belongs to the collection of Messrs. Hodges & Smith, and might be found in ^{my} O'Reilly's Dictionary or in my portfolios or no matter where. I want also that he should send me Ballidays Grammar which he shall find among my books.

Henry

END

14 B 23/17

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilkee, Co. Clare, concerning the history, folklore, antiquities of the parish of Kilmacreehy (Kilmacrehy), with particular reference to its place name, church, burial grounds, holy well, castles and folklore and history associated with the neighbouring Cliffs of Mohar.

30 October 1839-28 November 1840

10p.

24 cm

ill; pencil sketch of the window of Kilmacrehy parish church.

Also included are transcriptions taken from the gravestones of the parish church of Kilmacrehy and the holy well at Derreen, dedicated to St. Bridget; copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters'; annotations (signed by O'Curry and dated 28 November 1840) concerning the Flannán, bishop of Killaloe and [annotations] signed by B. O'Lovney, concerning Creach-Oilean, located in Liscannor Bay.

Kilkee 30th October 1839
 Rev. & Mrs.

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

or Sir

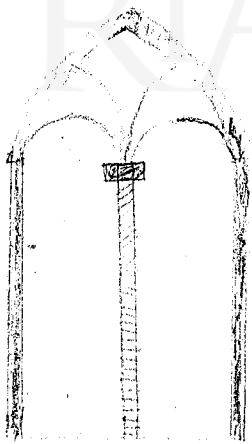
The parish of Kilmacreehy in the Barony of Gorearroe and County of Clare, is bounded on the north by the parish of Killilagh, on the northeast and east by the parishes of Kilshanny and Kilmannah, on the south by the bay of Liscunor and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. See engraved Map of D. Survey.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, and pronounced by the inhabitants of the parish Kill-mhie-Brithes, i.e. ^{St.} Mac Brithes' church, but of this Saint I have no account unless he might be Saint Moctha of Louth, who I believe was called by the alias name of Mac Brithes, and whose festival was kept on the 11th of August. The patron day of this parish was observed on the first Sunday in August, commonly called Domhnach-Chrom-dubh.

14/13/23/17(i)

The ruined ~~the~~ Church of Mac Kerthe stands on the north edge of the Bay of Liscannor, in the townland of Seath Chluain and consists of nave and choir, the former 39 feet 7 inches long and 22 feet 5 inches broad, the latter 35 feet long and 16 feet 11 inches broad, the walls in good preservation and 2 feet 10 inches in thickness. The west gable has a broken belfry on its top. There is a pointed doorway in the south side at the distance of 7½ feet from west gable, measuring 5 feet 11 inches in height and 3½ feet in breadth. There is a square headed window a little to the east of the door, measuring 4 feet 2 inches in height & 5 feet 8 inches in breadth, on the inside and 2 feet 9 inches in height and 4 inches in breadth on the outside. The choir arch is a pointed one measuring 13 feet 9 inches in breadth and about 18 feet in height, built of plain stones interspersed with a few cut ones apparently of an older date than the building. There is a ~~small~~ ~~small~~ window in the south wall of the choir, at the distance of 17 feet from the middle gable 6 feet high

and 2 feet 9 inches wide on the inside, the arch³ formed of three Cut Stones hexagonically fashioned; 3 feet 6 inches in height and 6 inches in breadth on the outside, the arch semicircular and the sides partly broken. There is another smaller window or rather loop hole between this and the east gable, but so much broken that its architectural features cannot be ascertained. Between these two windows is a pointed niche in the wall, built of very well cut Stones, measuring 7 feet 7 inches in height, and 5 feet one inch in breadth, and of the following form:



This is surmounted by a head in Stone, dressed in a flat Cap. There is a window in the east gable measuring 8 feet 9 inches in height and 4 feet 6 inches in breadth on the inside, where it is semicircular

14/8/23/17 (11)

4 at top, 2 feet 11 inches in height ~~overall~~ and 1 foot 5 inches wide on the outside, where it is divided into two curvilinearly pointed ~~pointed~~ compartments by a mullion. There is a niche in the north wall, near the gable & opposite the niche on the south side, all in the pointed style but differing from the other somewhat in the design, measuring 8 feet 6 inches in height and 6 feet 6 inches in breadth, surmounted by a mitred head. At the bottom of this niche is a stone extending from side to side of it, having an inscription in characters very new to me, and from this circumstance and the uncertainty of several of the letters occasioned by the action of the weather and other causes, beyond my power to copy with certainty. The following is a specimen of the characters and the beginning of the inscription.

HI O: IAKI TO HOIROK OIHOPIOTARA

This is only half the inscription, and I hold myself accountable ~~but~~ for the accuracy but of the two first words. There was an erroneous copy of this word some

since
 years by a native Seanchaidhe and a
 neighbouring surveyor, who after they had
 done so covered the stone with rubbish
 bones &c. of this circumstance I had no know-
 ledge when I went to the place, but being
 curious to see what might be at the bottom
 I removed the rubbish and discovered the
 thing anew. I did not examine the
 other niche, but left it for Mr. Walker
 to do when he goes there. The monument on the
 north is popularly called Tollac Buithis, the other S. Mainchinn.

There is a small porch in front of the door,
 way, having a low semicircular headed door
 and a small pointed window. There is
 a vault attached to this porch on the west,
 having a stone inserted in its south side
 with the following inscription in plain
 Characters:

"Here rest^{eth} Nick whose fame no age can blot
 "The Chief of Dorough in old ^{i.e. in Leath Uchagha} Rebers Lot
 "Who while on earth reviv'd of antient fame
 "Of his own line and of all of name.
 "His first Religion was his Actions guide
 "And as he lived beloved lamented died."

"Erected in the year of our Lord God 1745"
 1473/23/17 (iii)

6 They shew a spot on the stream, below the Church, which they call Mac Brittas Bed, and his well lies a furlong to the north west now neglected & infrequent, tho formerly in great repute for curing, ^{diseases of the} ~~fore~~ eyes and other diseases.

There is an old and extensive burying ground in the townland of Kilaspuglinbane, from which the townland takes its name. The name would imply that this was the seat of a bishop and even the Annals of the 4 Masters call it Kil-Easbaig Lonain, or the Church of Bishop Lonan, but still we have no bishop of that name in the Irish Calendar, nor any saint of the name ^{mentioned} in connexion with this locality.

They remember that a day was kept holy for him here formerly, but what particular day it was no body now recollects. There is a holy well named after Bishop Lonan, a little to the south east of the burying ground at which stations ~~are~~ continue still to be performed.

He is no other than Bishop Mannan, the
patron of the diocese of Killaloe. Ld
Nov 28th 1840

14/B/23/17(IV)

A party of O'Donnells marauders made
 this their route from Ennistimon to Kil-
 lenora in the year 1599, as may be seen
 from the Annals of the 4 Masters.

There is a small burying place for children
 in the townland of Kilcornell, from which
 the townland takes its name.

There is a small burying place for children,
 called Ard-chill, the high church, in the town-
 land of Derreen, situated in a field on the
 South side of the road leading from St. Bridget's
 well to Moker.

"There is a holy well in the townland
 Derreen, dedicated to Saint Bridget, the
 patron^{ess} of Kildare, having the following
 inscription in modern characters on a
 stone over it." St. Bridget, V. Abbess
 "and patroness of Ireland lived in a
 "Cell which she built under an Oak
 "Thence called Kill-Daro - or Cell of the
 "Oak her festival is celebrated on the 1st
 "day of February every year." This well is still

much frequented by devotees and diseased persons and the patron formerly held at Se-hinch, very many years ago transferred thither and still continued to be held on its former day namely Domnach-Chroin-dubh ^{ie} the first Sunday in August. This well is popularly called Dalbhach-Brighde ^{ie} Brigids Keen or vat.

The old, ^{ruined} Castle of the O'Conors of Borc-morae, commonly called Caislean-na-Duinche, ^{ie} the Castle of the Sand hills, stands at the mouth of the River Eidhneach, about 2 miles below Ennistimon. The west side of it only remains, to a considerable height, exhibiting a great number of windows, and bearing more the appearance of a mansion built for ease and domestic accommodation than for defence.

The following reference to this place is from the Annals of the 4 Masters:

"A. D. 1422. Rory (the son of Conor) O'Conor, Lord of Borc-morae, was slain in his own town of Caislean-na-Duinche (of Duinche)

"by his own kinsmen viz. the sons of Helim O'Conor."

It may be fairly inferred from the above passage that the Castle of Dumbach was the permanent residence of O'Conor, the Chief of Corcomroe.

It appears from the same authority that at a parliament held at Ennis in this County in the year 1585, the revenue and manor of Corcomroe were granted to Toolegh, the son of Donall, who was the son of O'Conor O' Briev. They show the site of an old Castle in the townland of Fulhamore, and another in the townland of Polladoneen. There is a ruined Castle and ^{a mansion house} ~~Court~~ attached to it, in the townland of Lisannor, supposed to have formerly belonged to the O'Conors of Corcomroe.

The Castle measures 32 feet in length and 13 feet 8 inches in breadth out and out, and stands to about the height of 65 feet. The ^{dwelling house} ~~Court~~ projects to the west from it and measures 30 feet 7 inches in length and 28 feet in breadth, the walls about 60 feet high and 5 feet thick. It has 14 loopholes and 11 narrow windows, 2 of them built up with

14/8/23/17 (vi)

cut stones and in the pointed style. The door of the Castle was on the northeast side but it is now closed up and the communication with the ^{house} ~~Castle~~ was through it.

The celebrated cliffs of Mohar bound this parish on the northwest and are so called from an old baker, commonly called Mohar uir-Ruaidhin, i.e. the Ruined Rath, Sios or Baker of o'Ruaidhin.

This Mohar or ruin stood formerly on the northern cliff near the point of land called Bago Head, and was broken up some 30 years ago to supply materials for building the Telegraph at the Head.

I believe the present form of this name to be no older than about the year 1760, when Michael Connors, a native Sean-chaidhe founded a wild Irish romance on three remarkable localities in this neighbourhood, namely Moheuir-Ruaidhin, Lis-Cannor and Hillstuitheen, a well known reef of rocks that runs across the mouth of the bay here. In this romance Mr. Connors attempted to derive these topos

RIA

14/8/23/17(VII)

Creach-Oileam (recte Creachalam)
This was not an Island but the
bar in the mouth of the bay of
Liscannon a few perches in front
of O'Brien's Bridge where the
people crossed the ferry before the
Bridge was built. The place is very
loosely described here.

B. O'Looney

graphical names from three ^{pagan} brothers 301
called Ruaidhin, Beannir and Stuiffeen,
the two former occupying Mohen and
Liscannor, the latter an enchanted palace
in the mouth of the bay, over which he
had power to draw a watery veil when-
ever he wish or occasion required. On a
certain time these brothers made a plunder-
ing excursion in ^{to} the extreme west of the
County of Clare and carried away a large
prey from three brothers who lived at
Loop-head, who on discovering their
lofs ^{pursued} gave chase to the plunderers and
overtook them ^{not until they arrived} ~~only~~ at the mouth
of the river Eidhreach, just as they
were stepping in on their own territory.
The pursued immediately turned their
prey in upon a little island which stood
ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the mouth of the river, (now vanished)
but place still retaining the name of
Breach-oilean, or the island of ^{prey} plunder, and
turning about on their pursuers a bloody
conflict ensued in which the plunderers
with all their adherents were killed,
and their dwellings, in return, plundered
and demolished, Stuiffeen excepted, who

14/3/23/17 (viii)

on his leaving home took the precaution to draw the sea over his mansion and not having the secret of removing with any of his people in the tower, there it still they remain ever since, with the waves continually breaking over them and seen from the land and by some of the fishermen once in the seven years. It is strange that Cornyn did not see the inconsistency of mixing up the name of a pagan man with a christian ecclesiastical term, as Kilstiffeen must surely mean the Church of Stiffen and cloth as a contemporaneous ^{pagan} term with Lios & Mohar. But we have better evidence for the derivation of the names of Mohar and Kilstiffeen than anything that could be produced on the subject by Mr Cornyn or I believe any of his contemporaries. For the real name or filiation of Mohar we have a pretty and melancholy stanza addressed by some native bard to the river of Mohar and published in the transactions of the Gaelic Society in the year 1808, by ~~Shannon~~ Theophilus & Plonzeau.

who I think ascribes its origin to Hugh
 Mac Martin and produces this isolated
 stanza as the whole of the original. I
 think he is wrong in the first place and
 I can prove that he is wrong in the second,
 as I have seen a beautiful poem on the sub-
 ject in the collection of Miss Mary Smith
 of College Green, to which the above was
 but a concluding stanza, and from its
 correctness in style and sentiment I would
 take it to be ^{superior to any thing that Hugh or Andrew} above the accomplishment
 of either Hugh or Andrew Mac Martin.

The stanza above referred to runs thus.
 acaílm an éaghl b'ronaís gan dún dubh tall
 ar doibh an popán nóríam go fúit do fáinn.
 mo táir ^{surpales} uí n'íorís móir dá na m'íra mbeann
 san coirne san ploís ceolta na lúbaí lann.

Thou melancholy singing done on yonder black dun,
 Dismal and deprecable is the ruin on which you perch
 The ruins of O'Riagh's nobly pinacled mansion
 Without ^{inhabitation} a carol or tramp, music or tilt.

I shall not pretend to say that my version
 of the original stanza is correct, as I only
 have it from memory, but if it be cor-
 rect the translation will be found true

14/8/23/17(IX)

this very unmusical. From this verse it would
 appear that the bard addressed himself to
 the ruined mansion (Rath), of a descendant
 of Fergus mac Roig who was the great
 ancestor of the O'Loghlins, O'Connors
 and their dependents in Burren &
 Corconnue, and according to the division
 of the territories ^{made} between the two Chieftains
 the Moha must have been the ruin
 of an O'Connors mansion and that man-
 sion was very probably a Caher. As for
 Kilstuffean they have another account
 of it on the opposite coast or side of
 the bay, where it is believed that it was
 the name of an ecclesiastical town
 that stood on the land there, but
 was swallowed by an earthquake which
 extended along the coast as far as ^{my cognach} Mutton
 island, which was on that occasion divided
 into three parts, and that several hundred
 lives were lost in the shock. I cannot
 well believe that this is an ancient tradition,
 but rather think it is derived from the acc. of

that earthquake preserved in the Annals of
the 4 Masters which say:

"Anno. Dom. 799. There happened a terrific
"storm, thunder and lightning on the day
"before the festival of Saint Patrick in
"this year, so that one thousand and ten
"persons were killed in the territory of Corca-
"baiscinn; and the sea divided the Island
"of Fitae into three divisions."

It is ^{proper} to observe here that the place
on which Kilstuiheen is supposed to
have stood was no part of the ancient
territory of Corcabaiscinn, still the shock
that overturned or rent Mutton Island
might very well be supposed to extend
so far to the north.

The name Kilstuiheen is not however
in its present form a correct or historical
name, but evidently a corruption of
Kill-Sciothin, that is the bell of Scio-
thin of Liabh-Mairge and I remember
a passage in the Leabhar Breac which
places a Church of Saint Sciothin some-

14/B/23/17(x)

where on the ~~western or southern~~ east,
in the sea, opposite to Fer-n-Arda in
the sea, where the waves are seen to
rise to the top of the Dereach or
penitentiary. I believe it is well known
that the territory of Fer-n-Arda forms
a barony in the County of Louth at
present, but whether that is the only Fer-
n-Arda in Ireland is a question that I
will not at present take upon myself to settle.

There is another place ⁱⁿ at the mouth of
the Shannon called Kill-Tuiffeen and
which is seen, as a tower, once in every seven
years. Baile Uí Phaidín mentioned in D.
Donnell's route in the year 1599, as a fortified
place or Castle is in this parish but has
now nothing of antiquity about it.

I collected the following names of rocks &c
from the fishermen in the bay of Lisannor, and
which have not made their way into the namebook,
viz. Beann Briligh - Poll bann - Seac-na-Sagart -
Tobar-na-Sagart - Sill-a-bhaor - bolbha-na-Feide -
Beann-Toll - Poll-Tir-Ardh - Gabhog-na-Bfailean -
Sill-na-Searach - Cul-roin - Poll-a-Duinin - Seac
-na-mbo - Clab-Eoghain - Poll-na-buasnaoile - Poll
-mhair-ni-bhairin - Aillean - Seac-Ruadh -
Seabu-mhic-Brith

your obedient servant
Eugene Curry.

END

14 B 23/18

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilrush, Co. Clare, concerning the history, topography, antiquities, religious traditions and folklore of the parishes of Kilshanny and Clooney, with particular reference to their place names, churches, holy wells, cairns, burial grounds and castles.

2 November 1839

6p.

24 cm

Includes related copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.

RIA

8)

304

Kilrush 2nd November 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R.E.

Sir,

The parish of Kilshanny in the barony of Boreenmore and County of Clare is bounded on the north by Killila parish, on the west by Kilmacreehy parish; on the east by Kilfenora parish and on the south by the parish of Kilmannakee. See Namebook.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin and originally spelled Bill-Sheanagh, i.e. the Church of Seanach or Saint Seanach of which name there are several mentioned in the Irish Calendar, but I cannot identify any of them with this locality.

The walls of the old church of Kilshanny remain in good preservation in the town-land of that name measuring 68 feet in length and 18 feet in breadth. ^{the walls about 14 feet high & 3 1/2 feet thick} There is a pointed doorway in the west gable, 6 1/2 feet high and 4 feet 3 inches wide on the inside, 5 feet 10 inches high and 3 1/2 feet wide on the

14/B/23/18 (i)

2

There is a small semicircular headed window over the door, at the height of about 12 feet from the ground, about 2 feet high and 4 inches wide. At the distance of 33 feet from the west gable in the south wall is a semicircular headed window 6 feet high and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide inside, 4 feet 4 inches high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide on the outside.

There is a large window in the same side within $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet of the east gable, with the top broken away and, divided into three divisions by 2 mullions, measuring 8 feet in height and 5 feet in breadth on the inside; 6 feet in height outside and each division $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth.

There is a ^{pointed} window in the east gable, ~~pointed~~ ~~round~~, ~~measuring~~ ~~at~~ measuring 10 feet in height and $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth, on the inside, divided into 3 divisions in front, each pointed at top, and measuring $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet ⁱⁿ height and 10 inches in breadth. A stone built altar covered at top with a smoothly cut flag, remaining under this window inside, the ~~flag~~ measuring 8 feet 8 inches in length, 3 feet 3 in breadth and 6 inches in thickness. At the distance of 20 feet from

the east gable, on the north side is a semi-circular headed doorway well built up with cut grit stone and looking a good deal older than any other part of the ruin, measuring 7 feet in height and 5 feet 3 inches in breadth on the inside; 5½ feet high and 2 feet ten inches wide in front. There is a large burying ground attached to it.

There is a holy well about 72 a furlong south east of it, dedicated to Saint Augustine, where a patron is still held on Saint Augustines day, the 28th day of August.

There is a large Cairn called Barn-bonnachtach or the Cairn of the bon-magistrew in the townland of Ballyghealy in this parish, measuring 100 paces in circumference, tapering to the top and about 25 feet in height. The tradition in the neighbourhood is that a multitude of bonnaght men on one occasion followed a large serpent from their own country to this place, where they succeeded

in killing it and each having carried a stone in his hand in the pursuit, they all threw them into one heap here on the death of their prey and hence the name.

This is a very unsatisfactory and must of course be a fabulous account of the origin of the Cairn in question, which is more likely to have been raised by the inhabitants to commemorate some victory over the people whose name it bears, or raised by the Connachians to commemorate a loss. Nor would I be surprised if the following transaction, ^{taken from the annals of the 4 markers.} was the cause or origin of the Cairn Connachtach.

"Anno. Dom. 1088. Corcomroe was plundered
 "by Roderick (O'honor) three, and it is a
 "wonder if either cattle or people were
 "left on that occasion without being
 "killed on that occasion, and there were
 "~~there~~ three of the nobles of Connaught trea-
 "cherously killed on that occasion, viz. Giolla-
 "Coirpthe, the son of Cathal O'luighroin, chief
 "of the blan-bathail and bu-dionna, son
 "of Murchadh-odhar, chief of the blan-
 "Tomattaigh and the son of Giolla-Chriost
 "son Echtighearn, chief of Borca-Achlann."

There is a holy well in the townland of Cahroomannagh, dedicated to Saint Seanan, but it is now entirely neglected.

There is another holy well in the townland of Cahirloosan, dedicated to Inghear-Phaolth, patroness of Kilnaboy. It lies north east of Kilghanny Chapel some distance and is now seldom frequented ^{its water is} still believed to be good for the cure of sore eyes.

There is another holy well in the townland of Ballymacraven, called Tobar-ma-brábhain or Mac-Bravan's Well at which stations are still continued to be performed and cures expected. The Castle of Baile-an-ghobhan i.e. Smithstown, stands in good preservation in the townland of Baile-an-ghobhan and was inhabited within the last 40 years. This castle is mentioned in O'Donnells plundering excursion into Thomond in the year

~~1599~~ as given in the Annals of the
 4 Masters and already quoted in
 treating of other parishes of this bar-
 ony. This castle is also enumera-
 ted in the list of Castles, in Trath-
more in Honor, is the great Lord-
 ship of O'Honor, preserved ⁱⁿ the M.S.
 in Trinity College Clasp. E. 2. 14.

is often referred to while treating
 of this ~~suppose~~ part of Clare, and said
 to be preserved by Seige etc. Murogh (O'Brien).

There are three Galias in this parish
 but not deserving of any particular
 notice.

Blalooney
of the Parish of Blaine

The parish of Blalooney in the barony of Corcomroe and County of Clare is bound-
 ed on the north by the parish of Kilfarsna
 on the east and south east by the parishes
 of Rath and Disert; on the south by the
 parish of Kilfarboy in the barony of Shic
Kew, and on the west and north west by
 the parishes of Killmarnakeen & Killshanny.

See engraved Map of Down Survey.

The name of this place is not of ecclesiastical
 origin, tho the local name blaine is very
 frequently found in connection with eccle-
 siasties and ecclesiastical establishments through-
 out Ireland and so numerous are those
 ecclesiastical blains that it is difficult
 to identify any of them unless the patron
 saint is remembered or the ancient name
 of the district is retained. There is a place
 in the Irish Calendar called blain-
da-acra, which will be found under
 the 21st September and I am inclined

14/B/23/18 (IV)

to think that it is the present Clooney. Let me have whatever is said of that place in the Calendar.

Of the old church of Clooney 25 feet of the side walls remain, attached to the east gable, which also remains in full preservation. It was 19 feet 9 inches wide, the walls 3 feet 2 inches thick. There is a semicircular headed window in the south side near the east gable, measuring 4 feet 10 inches in height & 3 feet ~~wide~~ wide inside; 3 feet 1 inch high and 5 1/2 inches wide on the outside. This window does not appear to me to be of any great antiquity, and the side in which it is inserted does not appear ~~that~~ to be as old as the other side and the gable. There is a semicircular headed window in the gable, measuring 7 feet 6 inches ^{in height} by 3 feet 10 inches in breadth on the inside; 3 feet 11 inches in height, ~~and~~ 5 inches in breadth at top and 6 inches in breadth at bottom on the outside, built up of finely cut stone through and through.

The whole of the gable and that part of the north walls which remain are of considerable antiquity, probably of the 9th or tenth century, exhibiting at the angles the style of architecture called the long and the short and which is said by the celebrated

English Architectural antiquary says does not occur but in edifices of the Saxon times. There is a large burying ground attached and a holy well a little to the south west called Tobair Lonain or Saint Lonan's well, at which stations are still performed and the cure of diseases of the eyes and limbs sought, but on no particular day.

It would appear from the well bearing the name of Lonan, that this Church was called after ~~the~~ Lonan the bishop of Killeasbieg-Lonan in the parish of Killmacreehy ^{already mentioned} but of whom we have not been able to procure any satisfactory account.

There is a small burying ground in the townland of Killeenagh proper, bell-Eidhneach.

"There is a small burying ground for children and strangers in the townland of Mooghna and called bell-mhuch-na, and a holy well near it called Tobar-Mooghna, which is still frequented by persons afflicted with soreness of the eyes.

"The site of an old castle stands on a very conspicuous little hill, not far to the east of Ernistunon, in the townland of Gleann, and called Glan Castle. It appears to have been riddled by cannon or lightning.

This castle is said in the list of castles preserved in M.S. T. b. D. Clap 8. 2. 14, to have been possessed by Lin Donell (O'Brien), of Glan. There is a place mentioned in Hardiman's Irish Deeds N^o. 14, called the Three quarters of Gleann

317

meic-boncuha-na-baille is the Glen
of the son of Conor of the Wood and which
very probably is the Glan above mentioned.

The townlands of builleanach, ba-
thair-theirkin, Muidhi-na-n-Enoch,
Tir-Seithen, Baile-in-boilinn and
Bluain, itself.

I am Sir your obedient servant

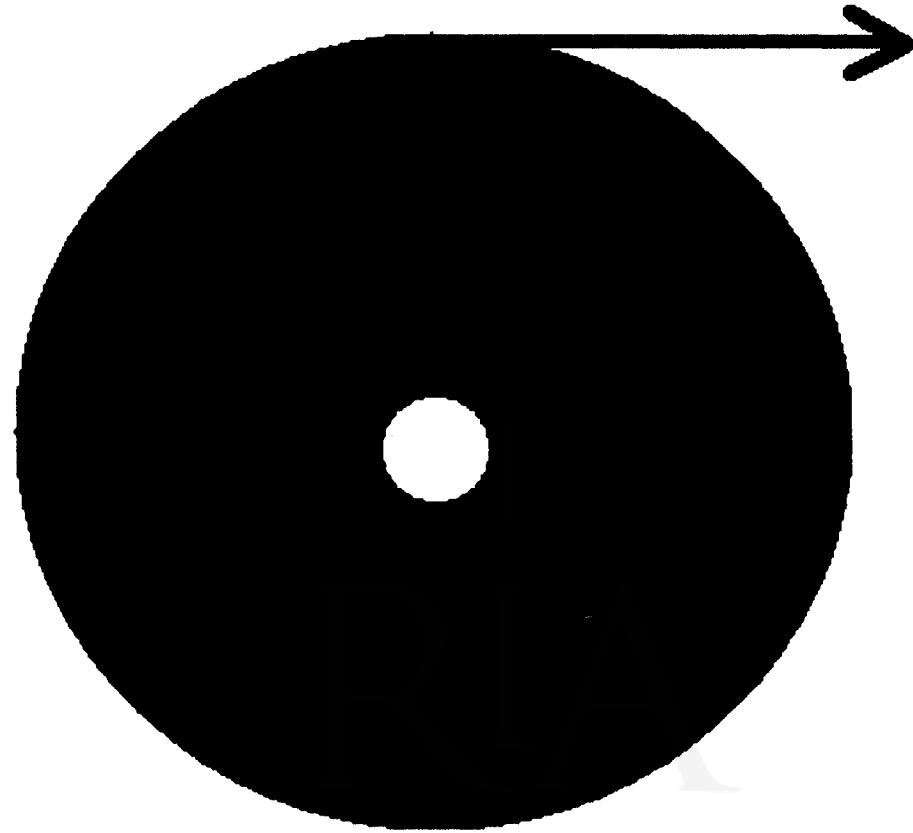
Augustus Curry

The extract from the Annals of the
4 Masters - the year 1573, which Mr O'Shea
says was sent out here has not reached
us yet - I fear they have neglected
to redirect some of those matters
from the Post office behind us tho
we left them directions to do so.

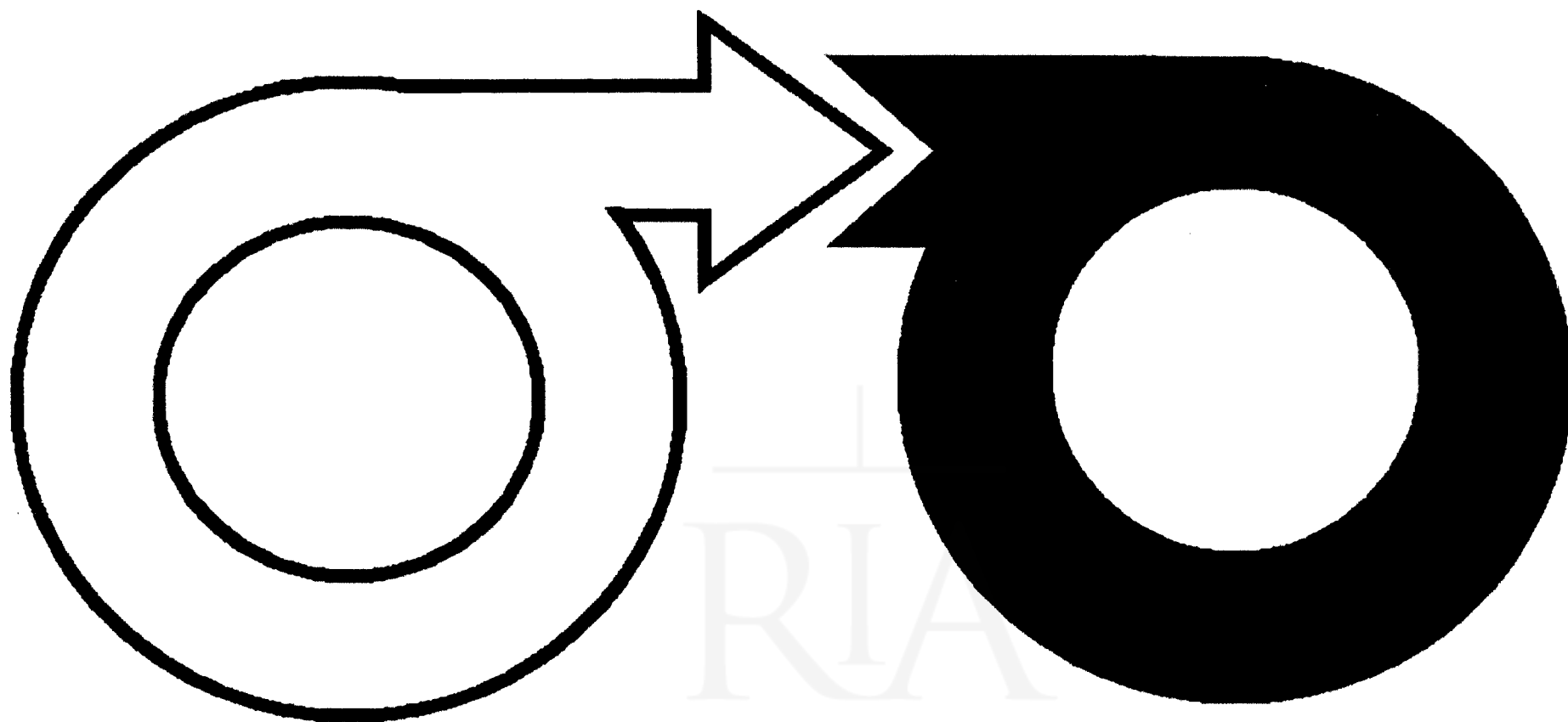
E.C.

14/B/23/18(VI)

END



START OF REEL



CONTINUED FROM
PREVIOUS REEL

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November 2006

REEL N 4010

THIS REEL CONTAINS

14 B 23/19 – 14 B 24/16

Letters; Clare (Vol. I & Vol. II)

14 B 23

Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, Clare (Vol.1)

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Curry, Eugene

Assorted letters, extracts, sketches and maps, relating to the history, genealogy, antiquities and topography of Co. Clare, with particular reference to its churches, castles, forts and holy wells.

ill. 1839-1841; 374p.

Disbound, conserved and boxed by the Delmas Conservation Bindery. Conservation funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, April 2003..

23 cm (approx).

Includes outsize material.

Donated by the Ordnance Survey Office, 1861.

14 B 24

Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, Clare (Vol.2)

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861

Assorted letters, extracts, sketches and maps, relating to the history, genealogy, antiquities and topography of Co. Clare, with particular reference to its churches, castles, forts and holy wells.

ill. 1839; 411p.

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23 cm (approx).

Includes outside material.

Donated by the Ordnance Survey Office, 1861.

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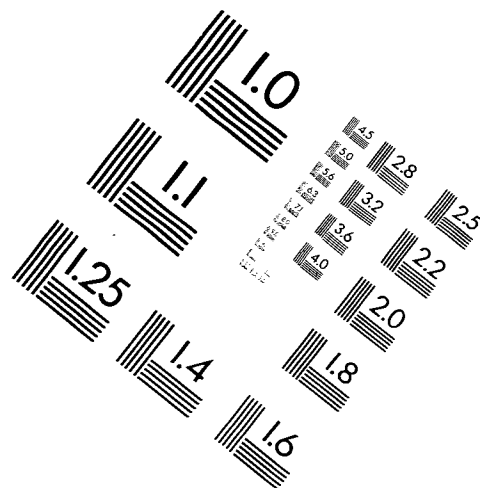
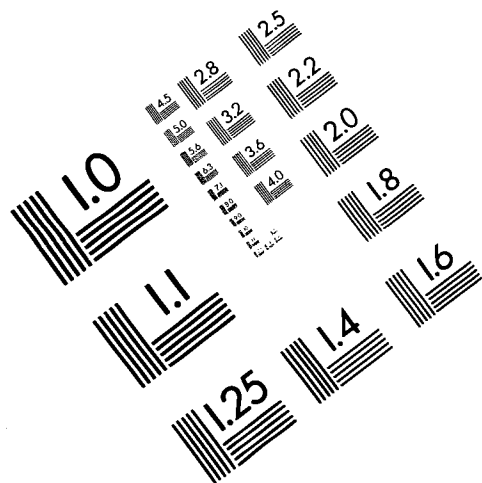


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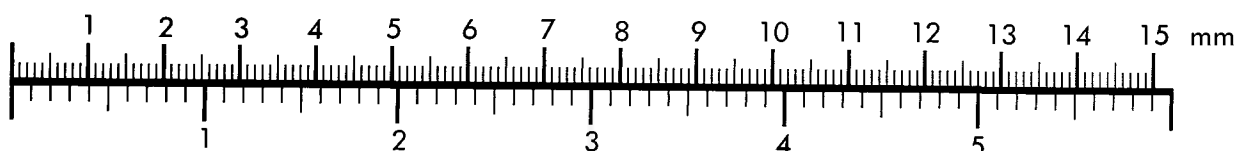
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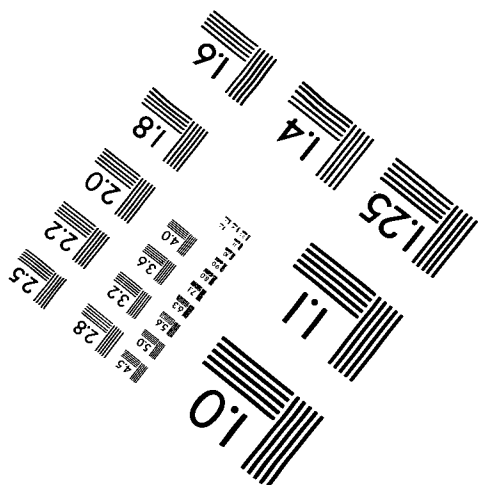
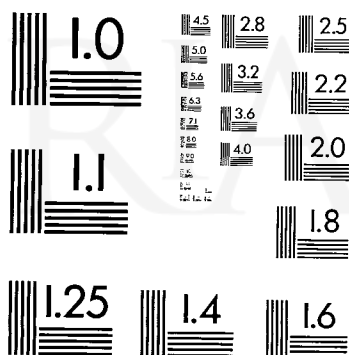
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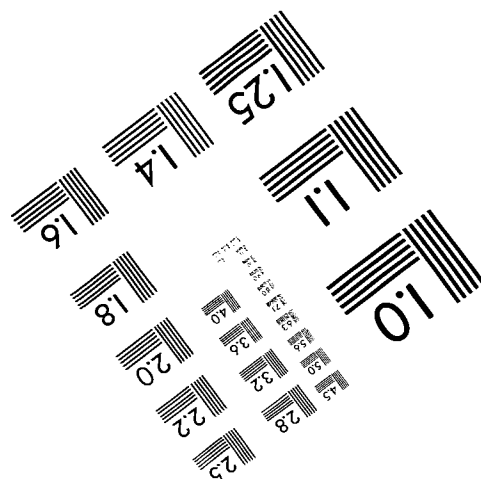


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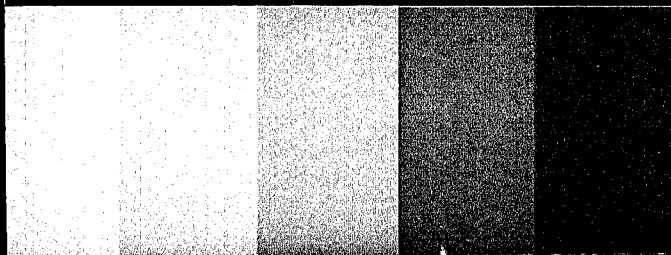


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14 B 23/19

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O' Donovan, written from Kilrush, Co. Clare, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of Inis Cathaigh or Scatterry Island and the parishes of Kililagh and Kilmanaheen.

4 November 1839

7p.

24 cm (i-v), (vii); 25 cm (vi)

O'Donovan's letters includes descriptions of Kilmanaheen's and Killilagh's holy wells, churches, burial grounds, cahers, cromlechs and castles. Also included are copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning the O'Conor family, chief of Corcomroe and a transcription of an Irish deed, dated 1591, in which members of the O'Loughlin family endorse the 'covenant made between Conor, the son of Torlogh O'Brien ...and our ancestors'.

(1)

Kilrush 4th Nov^r 1839.

Dear Sir, Since I wrote last I have visited the celebrated Island of Inis Cathaigh, now barbarously called Scattery island, lying in the Shannon about 2 miles from this town, but on turning to the extracts I find that its ^{history notes} ~~has been omitted~~ ^{collected}. But it belongs to this County and all the historical references to it should be collected at once and sent up.

The Damliag of Inis Cathaigh affords a clear proof that the pointed doorways and lancet and shamrock-headed windows found in Irish churches are not original; but on this subject I shall speak at full length when I come to treat of the island and its history. Has Mr. Petrie seen the Round tower of this island? It is built in a very rude style, and its doorway is as low as the present surface of the field on which it stands, but ^{for many reasons} I cannot at all incline my mind to believe that this is the original doorway. Has Mr. Petrie ever seen a map of Scattery island similar to the one given by Ware of Clonmacnoise and Lough Derg? or does he believe that such a map exists or could be obtained? There is no ancient inhabitant

14/B/23/190

(2) 319

inhabitant at present on the island, and the ancient names of the churches are forgotten. I do not know how this ^{void} defect can be ^{filled up} remedied unless some ancient map can be obtained?

Situation. of the parish of Killilagh

This parish is situated in the North west of the barony of Corcumroe, and is coextensive with the celebrated territory of Tuath Glac now locally called Tuath Glac. It is bounded on the north and north east by the barony of Burren; on the south by the parishes of Kilshanny and Kilmacrehy, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced in Irish as if it were written cill orláic (Kill eye-lagh), but it is highly probable that, like Killelagh near Clarin Bridge in the County of Galway, it is a corruption of cill Fáil, i.e. the church of St. Falia. See my letter on the church of Killelagh in Galway.

I do not however find that the memory of St. Falia or any other virgin saint is venerated in the parish, and the only saint remembered in connexion with it is St. Breacan to whom there is a holy well dedicated of Tomwillin.

The old church of Killilagh stands in good preservation in the townland to which it has given its name.

320 (3)
14/8/23/19 (11)

It measures $57\frac{1}{2}$ feet ^{long} and 19 in breadth. The west gable contains a small square belfry at the top ^{about 7.6 by 8 inches} and a small square window placed at the height of about 12 feet from the ground. The south wall contains a broken doorway placed at the distance of $14\frac{1}{2}$ ^{ft in} from the west gable. It was constructed of cut stones and pointed but now so broken that its dimensions could not be given. The same wall contains a quadrangular window placed at the distance of $12\frac{1}{10}$ ^{ft inch} to the east of the doorway and at the height of $3\frac{1}{6}$ ^{ft in} from the present level of the ground on the outside. It measures on the inside $3\frac{1}{8}$ ^{ft in} by $2\frac{1}{5}$ and on the outside $2\frac{1}{10}$ by 9 inches. In the same wall very near the east gable there is a pointed arch way measuring in height and $7\frac{1}{6}$ in width and constructed of chiselled stones. This archway leads into a small aisle or chapel which is 17 feet in length from north to south and $12\frac{1}{2}$ ^{ft in} in breadth from East to west. It contains two quadrangular windows, and ~~one~~ ^a pointed one. The quadrangular ones

(4) 321
ones are placed ^{in the} ~~one~~ side wall, facing each other, at the distance of 5 feet from the south wall of the church; and at the height of 3 feet from the level of the ground outside. They measure on the inside $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ and on the outside $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 inches. The pointed window is placed in the south end at the height of 4 feet from the ground and measuring on the inside $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ and on the outside $4\frac{1}{2}$ in height and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in width. This window was divided into two parts by a stone mullion which is now broken.

The east gable of the church contains a ^{high} ~~large~~ round headed window, the bottom of which is 5 feet from the present level of the ground outside. It measures on the inside about 12 feet in height and $5\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and on the outside 10 feet in height and 8 inches in width. The north wall is featureless.

The walls of this church are $3\frac{1}{2}$ in thickness and the side walls are about 12 feet high. They are built of large and small stones.

This church is situated in a large grave yard.
 It is decidedly not many centuries old.
 In the townland of Tuamullen* in this parish
 there is another church of greater antiquity
 measuring in length as it stands at present
 43 feet and in breadth $17\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in; originally however
 it was only 33.4 in length for there was a small
 addition $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft. built out of the west gable.
 The original west gable contained no feature but
 a small belfry placed on its top but after
 the erection of the small addition or apart-
 -ment just mentioned ^{pointed} a doorway was broken
 into it close to the south wall.
 The original part of this church had two door-
 -ways placed opposite each other one in the
 north and the other in the south wall at the
 distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in from the original west
 gable but they are now reduced to formless fea-
 -tures. At the distance of 5 feet from the east
 gable there is a round headed window at the
 height of 4 feet from the ground outside
 and measuring on the inside $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. and

14/6/23/19 (iii) on

* In the College list of the Castles of Thomond Tuamullen is mentioned as the residence of (another) Klaglanchy and Knochefyne as the residence of O'Leary MacCollough (O'Brien)

on the outside 4 feet by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The east gable contains a neat window wide and round on the inside and narrow and pointed on the outside. It measures on the inside 7.0 in height and $3\frac{1}{8}$ in width, and on the outside (where it is 7 feet from the present level of the ground) 4 feet in height and 7 inches in width. The north wall is featureless.

The modern apartment added to the west gable contains three windows, but they ^{are} too modern to merit particular description.

There is another small church in the T.L. of Oghtara.

"In this parish are three old castles, one in the townland of Doona g^{ore} which was lately repaired by Counsellor Gore, after ^{from} whose ancestors it is now erroneously supposed to have derived its name." This castle is mentioned in the list of the castles of Thomond preserved in Trinity College as belonging to Sir Donell O'Brien. "The second in the townland of Dunvicfelin, which is mentioned in the aforesaid list as belonging to Sege Mac Murrough (O'Brien), and the third in the townland of Ballymalacken" which is mentioned in the list as belonging to the same Sege.

324 (7)
14/13/23/19 (iv)

* In an Irish Deed which the Right Melaghlin O'Laughlin passed to the Earl of Thomond in 1580, lately found in Dublin Knocklin, a townland in this parish is mentioned as the residence of Boethius alias Blanchy.

Besides the three churches and three castles already mentioned there are in ^{this parish} the ruins of the more ancient dwellings of the Irish as lioses and cahers. Of these there are several, viz

1. A lios in Knockalassa in the townland of Hughiskabeg.
2. A lios in Hughareena townland after which it is called.
3. caher-reagh in the ^{centre of a bog in the} townland of cahercunnella.
4. A fort in the T. L. of Coogulla, called Tonwaur from the name of the subdivision of land on which it stands.
5. A caher in the townland of caher-maclancy, which was the seat of the family of Mac-Blanchy, brehons of Thomond*.
6. A caher in the townland of Doon-mac-felim, generally called caheradoon.
7. There was a doon on the summit of a small green hill in the T. L. of Doonagore, but it is completely effaced.
8. A caher in the townland of Glashabeg.
9. A fort in the townland of Glashamore.

In the Townland of Cahermacrusheen there is a Cromlech called by the usual name of Leaba Dhiarmada agus ghraine. / No H; Red

- (8) I find no other remain of the olden time in this parish but the site of a sepulchral monument in the townland of Laght-murda (^{Margaret's} Margaret's monument) to which it has given name.

Date Of the parish of Kilmanakeen in the Bar. of Cordumroe.

Situation.

This parish is bounded on the Northwest and North by the parishes of Kilmacreehy and Kilphanny; on the east by the parish of Clony; on the south by the parish of Kilfarboy, and on the west by the Bag of Leinch.

Name. The name of this parish is called in Irish Cill mainchín, which means the church of St. Mainchin, the patron saint of the City of Limerick.

Of the church of St. Mainchin (which stood in the townland of Kilmanakeen about $\frac{1}{2}$ to the west of the town of ^{Disdymon} Disdymon) not a stone now remains above another, but its graveyard is still in use. There is no holy well nor other monument of this saint now in existence in the parish, nor any thing from which it could be inferred that he was the patron except the name of the parish.

(10) 327

logh, the son of Donnell, who was son of Honor
in 1585 by a Parliament held that year in the monastery of Ennis.
O'Brien, and it appears from the College list of
the Castles of Thomond that the O'Briens possess-
ed all O'honors property in the barony of Corcum-
roe excepting only Inyodyman, which is set
down as belonging to the O'honor. Even this
however afterwards passed into the possession
of a branch of the O'Briens; and the O'honors
have been left without a single sod of
any kind of property, and there is not one
of the name now in the barony of Corcumroe
above the rank of a peasant.

Oighe uí Róig mórdá na múrtha meánn
Dán cúrrm, dán rpoirt, rloiste ná lúbaó lann!!

The O'Briens of Inisdiman are also extinct and
William Laidie O'Briain left, gidh leabhair a
bhiach, left without an heir! The House ^{and estate} of
Inisdiman are now possessed by M. Finucane Esq.
who descends from the O'Briens in the female
line.

There are no other remains of antiquity in this
parish excepting some earthen forts which are
not sufficiently remarkable to merit particular

} Not true. Younger branches survive -

14/B/23/19 (vi)

description. Their correct names I have set down in the field name books of the parish.

I shall here translate the Irish Deed mentioned above on page which was never published.

"Be it known unto all who shall read or hear read this
 "writing that we all who exist of the race of Melagh-
 "lin O'Loughlin of Ballyvaughan, viz Lial, the son of
 "Rofs, Donogh the son of Brian, and Lewis, the son
 "of Mahon Ballach, - acknowledge ^{that} the Covenant made
 "between Conor, the son of Torlogh O'Brien, the great
 "grandfather of the present Earl and our ancestors
 "holds good between us and thee O'Donogh O'Brien
 "and in witness thereof we hereunto put our hands
 "in the presence of others who will also put their
 "hands on this writing. The following is the Covenant:
 "That the sliocht Melaghlin, ^{of} and Ballyvaughan
 "and Benroe and their clans and dependants and
 "their heirs after them shall be bound to Conor
 "O'Brien and to his heirs after him, that they shall
 "not have the power to mortgage ^{or otherwise sell} any lands or
 "castles, but by the consent of said Conor or his
 "heirs, and that Conor or his heir ~~is the heir~~ ^{the sl. slig and} is the
 "heir of the sliocht Melaghlin; and their adherents
 "are bound to do the will of Conor O'Brien and his
 "heirs after him. Moreover, I, the Earl of Thomond,
 "acknowledge upon my honor, that whatever lands or

14/8/23/19 (vii)

castles

castles belonging to this people should suffer from the inroads of marauders. I, the Earl, shall give them the award of Boethius and Shane O'Tierny and Hugh O'Daly in the restitution they are to receive. We do not include in this Covenant the lands which are in the possession of Boethius Maglanchy.

At Knockfin, this day the 9th of June one thousand five hundred, ^{above} ninety and one we have given our consent to this Covenant, and we have put our hands to this in imitation of the old Covenant; and the heirs of this people are bound to each other for ever

I am Gillernewe oge O'Donovan who made this copy.

" Donogh O'Loughlin Donoghe Thomonda

" Trial O'Loughlin *Copia vera ex aut. per Bat. Blanchy.*
written deade was written, read & published.

" Owen O'Daly testis.
Shane Reagh O'Tierny

" This is a coppie of the Irish writting which the blought
" of Mulloughlin O'Loughlyn past to Conchor O'Bryen,
the original remaining with Boetus oge Blanchy
" of Knockfyn the 16th of October 1604
" For those lands in Burren and Corcimer"

" We shall move to Killadysart on Thursday morning
your obest servant O'Donovan

END

14 B 23/20

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilrush, Co. Clare, concerning the progress of his survey work in the county, and hopes of moving to Killadysart in the coming days.

6 November 1839

1p.

24 cm

RIA

Kilrush.

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

6 Nov^r 1839.

R.E.

(Dear Sir,

We have received the first half of our money here this evening, but we cannot wait here for the other half notes, please to send them to Killa-dysart where we will be Deo volente, on tomorrow evening. Our delay at Killa-dysart will not however be long as we have only three parishes to visit from it. The great delay now will be occasioned by the writing, and the ancient ^{map} both which must be carefully attended to.

your obedient &c. servant

John O'Donovan.

14/13/23/20

END

14 B 23/21

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilrush, Co. Clare, concerning the antiquities, folklore, topography, religious traditions and history of the parishes of Kilfarboy and Killard, with particular reference to their churches, burial grounds, holy wells, and the origins of place names.

6-7 November 1839

6p.

24 cm

Includes related copy extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.

Kilrush 6th November 1839

T. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

The baronies of Inchiquin, Burren
and Corcomroe having now ^{been} disposed
of, we commence the barony of
Stricken.

Of the parish of Kilfarboy

The parish of Kilfarboy in the barony of Stricken
and County of Clare, is bounded on the north
by the parish of Kilmannakeen in the barony
of Corcomroe, on the east by the parishes of
Bloomy in Corcomroe barony and the parish
of Eishmeach in the barony of Inchiquin,
on the south by the parish of Kilmurry
in the barony of Stricken and on
the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

See engraved Map of Down Survey.

14/B/23/21 (i)

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, but whether the component parts are radically correct is more than I am at present prepared to decide. The present form of the name is that by which it is known within the memory of the oldest inhabitant and it is also by that name the parish is set down in the in the Book of Regal Visitation.

The name as it is spoken would be spelled thus, Kill-Fearbaigh is the Church of Saint Fearbach, but of this Fearbach no historical account has reached us.

There is a tradition in the district that this Church is called Kill-Fearabuidhe from a number of (yellow) Spaniards who were drowned at Spanish Point near it having been buried here many years ago. That the Spaniards were drowned, and buried here, is a fact, but whether the peasantry in striving to account for the origin of the name of this Church have not pressed this circumstance in to

to their assistance is a matter that may ³
very fairly be surmised. Kill-Heorbuidhe
would literally mean the Church of the
yellow men.

Archdale seems to think that this is
the bill-Goibric mentioned by Colgan,
(A. S. 99. p. 360) of which Cormac was
Bishop, whose death is placed by the
same authority in the year 837.

He may or may not be right in this,
but he has no proof that bill-Goibric
was situated in the ancient district
of Ui-Bracain. "There is no recollec-
tion of bill-Goibric or of Saint Cormac
here, neither is there of any other saint
^{but} of Saint Lachtair" (whose festival
is still observed in the parish on the
19th day of March, the same as in
Achadh-Uir in Offory and) "whose
well is situated within the church
yard and still much frequented by
devotees" and invalids on Sunday

14/6/23/21 (ii)

and Thursday, nor are those visitors
niggardly of their presents ^{to} the shrine
of the saint. for nothing is seen about
the well but old nails, shells, Warren
blacking pots, bits of old leather, broken san-
cens &c &c

"The old church of Kilfarboy stands in the townland
of Kilfarboy, to which it gives its name, measuring
65 feet ^{9 inches} in length and 17 feet in breadth, the
walls in good preservation excepting the west
gable which is down to the height of the sidewalls.

There is a pointed doorway in the south side
at the distance of 14 feet from the west gable,
6 feet 4 inches high and 3 feet 6 inches wide,
built up in front with well cut stones and
having a Holywater font inserted in the wall
on the right hand side as one goes in. Six
feet 3 inches from the east gable, in the same
side is a pointed window 7 feet high and
3 feet wide, inside; 4 feet from the ground
outside where it measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height &
 $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth at top and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches
at bottom, having its sides perforated for
iron bars. There is a pointed window in the

east gable measuring 6 feet 9 inches in height on the inside and 3 feet in breadth, and 4 feet 10 inches in height and 7 inches in breadth on the outside, the sides perforated for the reception of iron bars. The walls are built, for the most part, of long thin quarry stones.

"There is another ruined church in the townland of Moymore in this parish, called Teampall-inis-dia, i.e. the Church of the island of God," but why it is so called nobody knows.

This ruin stands on a point~~land~~ of land formed by the meeting of two small streams, whence probably the origin of the island part of the name. The church measures 40 feet in length and 19½ feet in breadth, the walls remaining to their original height excepting the east gable, of which half the top is down. The doorway ^{was placed} ~~stood~~ in the south side but none of its features now remain. There is a window in the south wall 6 feet ten inches from the east gable, measuring 5½ feet in height, 3 feet 4 inches wide inside, where it is semi-circular at top; 3 feet from the ground outside where it is pointed and measures 3 feet 4 inches

in height and 10 inches in breadth, built up of cut stones and having its sides perforated for the reception of iron bars. There is a window in the east gable measuring about 10 feet in height and 5 feet 3 inches in breadth on the inside where its top is semicircular and built of well cut stones.

The top is broken in front, but it appears to have been divided into 2 parts by a mullion, which however has disappeared; each division was ~~a~~ feet 9 inches in breadth. No burying ground here.

About half a furlong north of the ruin is a holy well dedicated to Inghen-Bharick of Kilneloy, at which devotions continue to be performed on Sundays and Thursdays up to this time.

"Small portions of the north and west sides of a castle remain in the townland of Moymore in this parish and of which the following notices occur in the Annals of the 4 Masters:

"A. D. 1370. The Earl of Thomond was seized with
 "sorrow and regret for having given up his
 "towns and prisoners, for he now only retained
 "one of his fortresses, viz. Magh- δ^1 -in-Braeain.
 "In this he left faithful and long tried
 "Wardens and having resolved that he would
 "never submit himself to the law or commit

"himself to the mercy of the Irish Council, he chose the
 "alternative of being proclaimed and outlawed
 "and ~~proclaimed~~ of bidding farewell for ever
 "to his patrimonial inheritance rather than
 "appear before them. He accordingly remained
 "for some time concealed in Clann-Maurice
 "and passed from thence about the festival
 "of St. John into France, where he stopped for
 "some time, he afterwards went to England
 "and received favours, pardon and honours from
 "the Queen, who sent by him letters to the Irish
 "Council, commanding them to pay him respect."

1571. +++ "The Earl of Thomond, (Conor, the
 "son of Donogh O'Brien) gave up his country
 "and his Lordship to the President as an
 "atonement for the wrong which he had
 "formerly done him, and also gave up to
 "him Magh-Braccain, the only
 "town then belonging to him."

There is a hill on the border of this parish
 in the parish of Kilnamashon in Corcomroe, in
 the townland of Beathamhan-tideain, ~~in the~~
~~the plain~~ called at present Lenoc-a-Chip
 but mentioned in the Annals of the 4
 Martyrs at the year 1573, under the name
 of Lenoc-bheoil-an-Chip. We thought it was
 in the Parish of Kilfarling.

14/B/23/21 (iv)

Of the parish of Killard

The parish of Killard in the southwest extremity of the Barony of Shickel and County of Clare, is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by Kilrush, south west by Kilferagh, East by Kilmacdoon and northeast by Kilmurry parish. See namebook.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin and means nothing more than the church on the height. (Killi-ard)

We have met with no historical reference to this place, unless the following from the Irish Calendar may have reference to it:

Plann cille ardo (Plann of Killard) 14th March.

"They have no patron saint in this parish, but there is a holy well near the church called Tobar-chruthnoir-an-domhain i.e. the well of the creator of the world. This well is still much frequented by persons afflicted with soreness of the eyes.

14/3/23/21 (V)

The ^{ninth} old church of Killard stands in Killard townland and to which it gave name, measuring 63 feet in length and 14 feet 4 inches in breadth, both gables remaining to the full height and of the north wall five feet remains attached to the west gable and 34 feet to the east gable, and of the ~~length~~ ~~gables~~ ~~remain~~ ~~and~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~south~~ ~~west~~ ~~gables~~ ~~remain~~ ~~joined~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~east~~ ~~gables~~ ~~and~~ ~~21~~ ~~feet~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~east~~ ~~gables~~.

There is a quadrangular topped belfry in good preservation on the west gable and a quadrangular window underneath, at the distance height of 8 feet from the ground, measuring 4 feet in height and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth on the inside; 2 feet 8 inches high and 8 inches wide on the outside. There is a broken window in the south side, 8 feet from the west end. There is another quadrangular window in the same side within 4 feet 4 inches of the east gable, measuring 3 feet in height and 2 feet 11 inches in breadth on the ~~east~~ inside; 2 feet 5 inches high, 4 inches wide at top and 5 at bottom on the outside. There is a window in the east gable measuring 5 feet in height and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet

in breadth on the inside, where it is built up with brown grit cut stone as far as the springing of the arch which is a rectilinearly pointed one composed of two ^{thin} green flags unlike any of the stones immediately around them. On the outside it is semicircular at top, measuring one foot 9 inches in height and 10 inches in breadth, looking very old as does the entire of this gable and the parts of the side walls that attach to it, being built up of large blocks of stones irregularly placed. The ^{side} walls are about 10 feet high and 2½ thick, the west gable appearing more modern than the other parts.

There is a large and much frequented burying ground attached to the ruin.

There is a small burying ground in the townland of Blonmore, called bill-na-gblochan.

There is a holy well in the townland of bluain-na-gbarnán, dedicated to St. Breanainn and called here corruptly Lobbar-Breanail, to which people still resort for the cure of soreness of the eyes.

The castles of Dunmore and Dunbeg within a mile of each other, on the sea shore, remain in good preservation in this parish.

Of these two castles we find the following mention made in the annals of the

12 341

Four Masters:

" A. D. 1599. + + + In four days after the Earl (of Thomond)
 " got possession of the town and when the Solemnities
 " of Easter were over he carried his ~~armoured~~ ordnance
 " to Limerick for the purpose of attacking Dun-
 " beg. When the ordnance was placed against
 " the castle, the warders did not wait the
 " discharge of one shot until they surrendered to the
 " Earl, and all the protections they obtained were, while
 " they were walking to the gallows out of which the
 " Earl hanged them in couples face to face. In a
 " similar manner he obtained possession of Dun-
 " mor-mhic-an-Pharmacagh. After having
 " taken these places in Loosa-Whaycin he sent the
 " heavy ordnance back to Limerick and then
 " returned home to the middle of Thomond &c."

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Barry

Hildysart 7. nov. 39

END

14 B 23/22

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilydysart, Co. Clare, concerning the history, religious traditions, antiquities and topography of the parish of Kilmurry-Ibrickean (Kilmurryibrickane), with particular reference to its church, holy well, and castles.

7-8 November 1839

5p.

24 cm

O'Donovan's letter includes references to the progress of his Survey work and the difficulties he faced in keeping his notes in order as a result of cramped lodgings. Also included are references to the writings of local author Peter Comyn and extracts from John O'Brien's 'Irish English-Dictionary' concerning the O'Brien family and their association with Tromra, Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum' relating to St. Senan and the writings of local poet Andrew MacCurtin.

Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

Kildysart 7 Novr, 1839.

Dear Sir R.E.

I send you the name books of the Barony of Corcomroe with the names anglicised according to our established Scale for Munster. Please to acknowledge the receipt of them.

I have written to Capt^r. Stothers requesting that he would tell Wakeman to go by the Steam boat from Limerick to Kibrush and to remain there until he finishes Scattery island and the churches of Kibrush, Moylough and Killimer, and after this to join me at Ennis, where I shall arrive - Deo volente, in about six days.

The Carlow books will be an awful Incubus on me, having ^{already} too much to write in this County. Could you not keep them back until

14/12/23/22 (i)

J

I could get over a little more of my hurry in this County. I have books and pencil notes about this County scattered about in awful confusion, and if I don't make every effort to put them into something like order before more accumulate upon me, I shall forget ^{the meaning of} them altogether. Having no fixed office or residence we cannot arrange our papers, and we have now few thousand bits and scraps in chaotic confusion. ^{Those of Great Charles St. do not page their extracts.} If you could keep back the Carlow books for even one week, it would give me a great relief.

If Wakeman could sketch even all the primitive churches in the County I should feel much gratified, but if he has lost any of his wonted vigor he will sink under the labour. I will introduce him to gentlemen in the wild part of the County who will take care of him as long as he is in their vicinity.

your obed^t & servant
John O'Donovan

Kildysart 8th November 1839.

Dear Sir, The next parish to which I have to direct my attention is Kilmurry Ibrickan, that is the Church of the Blessed Virgin in the Barony of Ibrickan, the latter part ^{of the name} being added to distinguish it from Kilmurry Mac Mahon in the parish of Clonder^a. This extensive parish is bounded on the west by the ocean and on the east by the barony of Islands. and has the parish of Kilfarboy to the north and that of Kilt-MacDuanne to the south.

The old church of Kilmurry measures in length ^{ft in} 86.6 and in breadth ^{ft in} 24.4. The west gable is nearly perfect and contains a ~~small~~ quadrangular window placed at the height of 14 feet from the ground measuring on the outside about 3.0 ^{ft in} height and 10 inches ⁱⁿ width. In the south wall close to the west gable there are two windows one placed over the other: the lower at the height of 3 feet from the ground, and the upper about 12 feet. The former measures on the outside ^{ft in} 2.6 in height and 6 inches in width.

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(2) 345

and the higher window is nearly of the same dimensions. They are constructed of chipped stones. The same wall contains a pointed doorway placed at the distance of 19 feet from the west gable and measuring in height on the inside 6.6 ^{ft in} in height and in breadth 3.9 ^{ft in}, and on the outside 6.0 ^{ft in} in height and 3.0 in width. At the distance of 14.6 ^{ft in} to the east of this doorway in the same wall there is a window quadrangular inside and outside and measuring on the inside 3.9 ^{ft in} by 3.8 ^{ft in}, but broken on the outside. At the distance of 10 feet from the east end there is a rude quadrangular doorway not stepped up with mason-work. Within two feet of the east gable there is a pointed window of cut-stone placed at the height of 3.6 ^{ft in} from the present level of the ground on the outside and measuring on the outside 4.6 ^{ft in} in height and 8 inches in width.

The east gable is entirely destroyed, and the north wall is featureless.

The side walls of this church are about 16 feet high and 4.2 ^{ft in} thick. The western part of it to the extent 27.6 ^{ft in} is much more ancient than

the remaining part. It is built of thin long flags from 3 to 4 feet in length and about 3 inches in thickness. The eastern part is built of larger stones which were hammered.

"This church, like all those dedicated to the Blessed Virgin in Ireland, is very modern," and does not exhibit one ancient characteristic or feature.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ furlong to the north of it there is a holy well dedicated to our (Blessed) Lady but no stations are now performed at it to the great shame of the Dalcassians.

In this parish is situated the celebrated castle of Tromra, which belonged to the Clan Teige O'Brien of Aran, as we learn from a document in the MS. library of Trinity College, and from Dr. O'Brien's Dictionary under the word Tromra.

"Tromra or Tromrath, a land or territory in
 " Thomond, which was a part of the ancient
 " patrimonial estate of the O'Briens of Aran,
 " descended from Teig gle" (recte gleae) " the
 " third son of Dermot, King of Munster ^{and} an. 1120.
 " &c. &c. &c. The O'Briens of ^{Aran and} Tromra are the third in

14/B/23/22 (iii) rank

(4) 34⁴⁷

"rank, being ~~the third~~ descended from Dermot's
"third son: they were always sovereign lords of the
"isles of Aran in the bay of Galway and of Tromra
"in the County of Clare, until the reign of Queen
"Elizabeth, as appears by an address which the mayor
"and sheriffs of the City of Galway wrote in their
"favour to that Queen, wherein it is mentioned that
"the Corporation of that City paid them an annual
"tribute of a certain number of pipes of wine in com-
"sideration of their protection and expenses in
"guarding the bay and harbour of Galway a-
"gainst pirates and coast-plunderers. An
"authentic copy of that address is possessed
"by John O'Brien of Clontar in the County
"of Limerick Esq. who is now the worthy di-
"rect chief of that princely family."

See also my observations on the Islands of
Aran, where I give a ^{full} copy of the ~~See~~ Ad-
dress above referred to, and the pedigree
of the Clam Teige of Aran as given in
the College MS. See also the annals of Iris-
fallen at the year 1277 and the Wars of Torlogh
where it is mentioned that Tromra then belonged to Donnell the son of
Teige Blinn O'Brien

Belonging to this parish and lying in the Atlantic opposite the townland of Tranna is the island of Inis Caerach or mutton island on which the great St. Senanus founded an oratory as Colgan gathers from the lives of that saint.

"Saint Senanus leaving some holy men of his
disciples in the monastery of Inis mor (at the mouth of the Fergus in the Shannon) and among others Saint Liberius and three Bishops, Dallan, Sedonius and Ercup, he set off to another island called Inis Caorach, where left in an oratory built by himself some of his disciples." &c. Acta SS. p. 534 c. 27.

On the situation ^{and meaning} of Inis Caorach Colgan writes:
"Inis Caorach i.e. insula ovium in Momonia."

Index Topographicus, ad Acta SS.

"Inis Caorach.

"The island called Inis Caorach lies in that tract of Momonia which is called My-breacain" Acta, SS. note 20. to c. 27. v. St. Senanus p. 534. &c. —

The following passage in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 799 is believed to have reference to this island and two others in its vi-

The site of St. Senanus' church on this island is still pointed out but no part of it remains. — 250

799. Tápla gáeth aníos, cóinneach, agus temoteach, is m'ó ^{ante} prá
 péil Pádraice na bliana go go na máibí deíneabair an míle h
 g-éirí Chorca Bairem, agus co na pánd an murr oileán fíde
 i tríb pándab.

"A. D. 799. A great storm of wind, thunder and lightning happened
 " the day before St. Patrick's festival this year, and it
 " killed ten and one thousand persons in the territory
 " of Corca-Baskin, and the sea divided the island of
 " Luis Fitha into three parts."

The more intelligent of the natives are acquainted with
 this passage, and believe that it could have refe-
 -rence to no other place than Mutton island.

If I am not mistaken Connell Mageoghegan in his
 translation of the annals of Clonmacnoise points
 out the very situation of this island which was di-
 -vided into three parts by an earthquake. I
 hope Mr. Smyth of College Green, who has a copy
 of Mageoghegan's translation of the annals
 of Clonmacnoise will send me this passage.

Dunogan, Caherruoh, and Knockanalaban

"In the townland of Ferron in this parish are the
 ruins of ~~the~~ castles bearing the names of the seven
 -lands," but I do not find any mention of ~~it~~ ^{them} in
 the list of the Castles of Thomond preserved in the
 College MSS. nor of any castle or place in the
 Barony of Shrican, which is very strange.

The other traces of antiquity in this parish are the
 ruins of forts, and some holy wells dedicated to
 the Blessed Virgin, and to the Milesian saints
Ernan or Ferresolus, Brigit^{Innybeg}, Laichtin and Gleir
~~thean~~, but ^{none of these are historical and} as ^{their} names ^{of these} are accurately
 set down in the field name books, it is unnecessary
 to repeat them here.

"In the Atlantic ocean opposite this parish
 and belonging to the townland of Caherrush is
 situated the island of Gilean a mhatal "wh^{ch}
 is celebrated by Michael Cummin in his
 Romantic story entitled Adventures of Turill
the son of Starno and his three sons." He
 says that Matal was the name of a wild boar
 which infested the Collan Mountain, and
 which was killed by ^{the sons of} Turill on this island.

In this parish in a townland of the same name is
 the lough called Dubh-loch which is celebrated
 by Cummin in the same Romance and also in
 the life of St. Senanus, as the place into which
 that holy man banished the monster of Inis Cathaigh.

"The command of the holy man is immediately obeyed,
 "for by the power of him "whose power is will" that
 "monster is instantly transported from that is-
 "land (Inis Cathaigh) into a certain deep lake
 "of blackish water near the mountain of Collan

(8) 351

"in Thomond where he (the monster Cathach) is
found to have injured no body ever since".

Canyn relates in his outrageous legend that this
monster of Doalough was killed by the sons
of the Bane Turill the son of Starno!

In the townland of Moyglass in this parish
the poet Andrew Mac Curtin lived about the
year 1730, when he addressed a poem to the
shade of Don of the Daugh or Sandbanks.
It appears from his complaint to Don that he
was at the time in great distress.

Élac a t'eac mé ^{quanguam} úr ^{Stolláige} ácz sup d'aoirpe
úg ~~maicéirí~~ ^{maicéirí} éac do maicéirí de pródá
i s nua fáig fá ceay mé úg teac an t-foirpe
úr scéird Muíse Élac am sppeay ram sp'ronlach.

He tells the fairy chief to take him into his ser-
vice as a gilly or horseboy, the poetical
profession having gone out of fashion!

C3 I send you the name books of the barony
of Lerrickan for the receipt of which I
expect your acknowledgment.

Your obedient &c servant
John O'Donovan.

END

14 B 23/23

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O']Curry, written from Kilidisert (Kiladysert), Co. Clare, concerning the antiquities, topography, history and folklore associated with the parishes of Kilfeeragh (Kilfearagh) and Moyarta, with particular reference to their churches, holy wells, castles, cemeteries, local saints and the origins of their place names.

8 November 1839

10p.

24 cm

O'Curry's letter includes a description of the holy well dedicated to St. Cradann, then thought to be one of the most popular wells in the country. Also included are references to the effects of a famine in 1739, with copy extracts from Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum' concerning the life of St. Senan and the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning Carrigaholt Castle.

Kilidiscort 8th November 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E

Sir,

The parish of Kilfeearagh, in the north side of the barony of Moyarta, ~~and~~ County of Clare is bounded on the north by Killard parish in the barony of Strickew, west by the Atlantic Ocean, south by Moyarta parish and on the east by Kilrush parish. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin as, Kill-Phiachraigh is church of St. Fiachrach, but of this saint there is no recollection in the parish, nor do I find any of the saints of that name as mentioned in the Irish Calendar, connected with this place.

We find Saint Fiachra mentioned in the Irish Calendar at the 25th of March and 4th of September, without reference to any Church and others of the name whose places are set down in different other parts of the County.

14/8/23/23 (i).

Of the old church of Kilferagh there remains not a vestige; its place is occupied by a Protestant house of worship of ~~comp~~ rather modern erection. There is a large burying ground attached to it but no well or cross.

There is a deserted burying ground in the T. L. of Kilimo, from which the townland takes its name. This was probably a church dedicated to Saint Dioma of whom we find the following mention in the Irish Calendar:

Dioma 22nd March: 3rd November.

Dioma dubh Esbug bhom deira to January.

Dioma Mac Pais 13th May.

There is a small burying place in the townland of Bawnmore, called bill-na-mban-ortha is the church of the women of prayers or of the golden hair. There is a holy well here called Tobar-na-mban-ortha at which stations continue to be performed, but on no particular day.

There is a large and much frequented burying ground either in this parish or in the parish of Killard, called bill-t-seanain is St. Senan's Church, but of this place I find no mention.

in the namebook of either parish." I know the place long and well and always heard a townland called after it. It lies about three miles northeast of Kilkee and is very popularly known in the surrounding parishes. This must have been founded by or dedicated to St Senan of Iris-batha, tho there is no mention made of it ⁱⁿ his life.

"They shew the site of a little burying place at Kilkee (Bile-chaoidhe) from which the townland takes its name, and the holy well of Saint Caidhe, called, still, Tobar-Caidhe, lies about 2 miles south west of it on the brink of the Cliff near the Bishop's island, still occasionally frequented for the cure of diseases of the eye." There is another, fine spring, well near the site of the burying place called Tobar-Seanan, at which stations continue still to be performed.

The Bishop's Island mentioned above lies about 2 miles south west of Kilkee opposite the townland of Feathack. It is very high, not far from the main land, having two small edifices of stones on the south east side. Of these two edifices the most easterly is ^{of} an

14/8/23/23 (ii)

4 oblong form~~ed~~ and stone roofed - say about 25 feet in length and 10 feet in breadth. having a square window in the east end and a quadrangular doorway in the south side near the west end. This is used as a sheepfold by ^{such of} the neighbouring lands-men as have nerve enough to be able to transport sheep thither from the mainland. ^{of} The other little edifice scarcely any thing remains but the east gable which contains also a small square window like the other. "There is a tradition in the neighbourhood that there was a small burying place on this island," and surely if it ever had been the residence of man it must have served for the place of his sepulture too as it would be impossible to bring a dead body down (or up) but by a rope. Mr O'Donovan and I went for the purpose of getting on the island, but we were deterred by the storm and the frightful steepness of the cliffs. We were however enabled to see the construction of the little edifices ~~with~~ sufficiently well for our purpose from a point of land immediately opposite. "The popular name of this Island is Oilean-an-Easbaig-Ghortaigh, i.e. the Stingy Bishops Island, but there is no traditional account of the bishop."

There is a burying ground called Beil-na-glaileach i.e. the Church of the Run, lies in the townland to which it has given name. Part of the walls of the Church were standing here within my own recollection, but now there is not a vestige of it to be seen.

Of this Church we have the following account from the life of Saint Leanan of Inis-Cathaigh A. S. I. Chapter XLVII.

"There was among the churches of the man
"of God, one which next after Inis-Cathaigh
"was the most dear to himself and the more
"venerable to [his] people, by name Kill-chail-
"lige, which as the devotion of the common
"people became gradually frigid, was converted
"into a barn, and which, because the man of
"God was offended on this account, was burned,
"being set on fire by a little (or young) sparrow,
"that carried kindled straw from a neighbouring
"conflagration (incendi). While [his] people
"considered on the rebuilding of it after being
"consumed by the fire, and were preparing
"lime and cement for this end, Saint

14/B/23/23 (ii).

" Senamus appearing in a vision to a certain
 " husbandman by name Senanimus O'Gettormain*,
 " bade [him] to dig very deeply near the house of
 " the daughter of bhmacain, that he would find
 " there as much lime as would suffice in the
 " rebuilding of the Church. He obeys the instruc-
 " tions and finds lime enough, as was promised,
 " and they afterwards used it for the building so
 " that how great a quantity soever they might
 " carry away for the use of the edifice, the
 " remaining pile, however would appear
 " without a decrease.

Chapter XLVIII

" If this lime miraculously found, there
 " afterwards existed miraculously virtue in
 " the instantaneous curing as well of diseased
 " persons as Cattle. Which virtue, to omit
 " other [instances], is easily evidenced in
 " the curing of one Kid, which with its back
 " and legs broken, a certain woman, living

* The O'Gettormains are still numerous in the parish
 of Mayarta adjoining and are traditionally remembered
 as the ferry and fishermen of Saint Senan, who it is said
 left them the privilege that none of the name should
 ever be drowned between Inis Cathaig & Kilcaraine,
 nor was any of them remembered to have been drowned within that
 limit, tho they are almost all boatmen. Edw. May.

" in the neighbourhood of the aforesaid Church,
 " threw into deep lime Kiln [or a deep Kiln
 " of the lime] affirming by oath and saying,
 " on my faith thou shalt not ascend from
 " thence until the power of Saint Senanus
 " be seen in thee. Wonderful circumstance!
 " She left the ^{Kid} there that night and when
 " the morning came, she found the Kid
 " with its back and legs fully restored, and
 " its ^{udders} teats (or udder) filled with milk, which
 " milk indeed was afterwards so powerful a-
 " gainst every kind of disease, that being offered
 " to the Princes of those parts, and Bishops, it
 " was looked upon as a great present." See
 Life of St. Legeran for more.

The following places, mentioned in
 Haradinan's Irish Deeds ~~viz.~~ W.^o 14, v. 3.

- 1 Baile-ri-Eoghanain.
- 2 Cill-Chacidhi (Kilkee) and in W.^o 22.
- 3 Cill-Fiabha (Kilferagh)
- 4 Lios-Duibhin — (Lisdeer)
- 5 Lios Loineachain

There is a little burying ground for children
 in the townland of Farraby, called Kill &
 another deserted place of same name in T.L. of Emmala.

14/6/23/23 (iv)

Of the parish of Moyarta

The parish of Moyarta, in the south side of the barony of Moyarta, County of Clare, is bounded on the north by the parish of Kilfeeragh, west by the Atlantic Ocean; south by the River Shannon and Kilballyowen parish and on the east by the parish of Kilrush. See Namebook.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. In the original Irish it is called Magh-Fearta, i.e. the plain of the graves, but whether those graves were of pagans or of Christians we have not been able to ascertain. There is a very popular burying ground in the townland of Moyfearta altho there is a tradition that there was never a church there, and the old inhabitants assert that the place on the south side of the graveyard, said to be the site of the Church, was the site of a Cow house belonging to the Mac Donnelly formerly, some of whom and of the O'Hanes are buried ⁱⁿ that spot.

14/B/23/23 (V)

There are two ruined churches in the townland of Kilcra daun, the most northerly of which is called Teampall Shearlais. from Charles Mac Donnell Esq. having been buried in it." The walls are in good preservation and the edifice measures 23 feet 4 inches in length and 16 feet in breadth. The doorway was in the west gable but all its features are now destroyed. There is a broken bellpy at top. There is a quadrangular window in the south side, five feet from the east gable, measuring 4 feet in height and 2 feet 3 inches in breadth, on the inside; 3 feet 4 inches high and 5 inches wide, on the outside. The window in the east gable is semicircular and built of cut brown gritstone through and through, measuring 5 feet 9 inches in height and 2 feet 10 inches in breadth, on the inside; 2 feet 10 inches high and 9 inches wide, on the outside, the arch here formed ^{out} of one stone. The walls are about 12 feet high, and 2½ feet thick, built of very large stones, intermingled with small ones, and all looking very ancient.

"There is a deserted burying ground attached.

"About a furlong to the south of the latter stands the other Church, called Teampall-an-aid, i.e. the Church of the height, from its situation on the ridge of the little headland of Kilcradane." It measures 23 feet 6 inches in length and 11 feet 6 inches in breadth, the walls remaining in good preservation, ~~measured~~. The doorway was in the south side, but is now quite featureless.

There is a broken window in the same side near the east gable. There is a quadrangular window in the east gable, measuring 4 feet 4 inches in height and 3 feet 10 inches in breadth, on the inside; 2 feet 4 inches in height and 8 inches in breadth on the outside. This appears to be a very modern church, no B. ground.

"About a furlong east of the latter church, at the bottom of a cleft in the very face of the headland, is the ^{fresh water} holy well of Saint Bradann, ranking amongst the most popular wells in Ireland for the cure of all diseases, but more especially diseases of the eyes and limbs. The well is sunk in the solid rock and is overflowed by the salt sea at every full tide, but the moment the tide recedes the water in the well is as

14/B/23/23(VI)

pure and fresh as ever. There is a small cave or recess in the cliff behind it in which people are in the habit of spending whole nights in prayer, in fulfillment of vows made in times of danger from sickness, drowning &c.

There is a large heap of small stones and pebbles on the bank above, deposited there by the votaries while performing the Turras.

~~It is a popular name and is half made up of Irish~~
~~Aladdin & Harry~~

Who the saint Bradann of this place was, nobody who lived within the last eighty years in the district ever knew or heard of, but we find in the life of Saint Seanan of Inis-leathaigh that there was a saint somewhere in this neighbourhood, named Caritan, which name is now very probably corrupted into Bradann, and in the Irish Calendar we find that Saint Caritan was remembered at Drom-lara on the 7th of March, but whether the ridge of land alluded to above, was called Drom-lara in Caritan's time, we have at present no means of showing.

"The old Castle of Carrigahall stands on the very bank of the Shannon, about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Kilsadane point." I don't believe that it was at any time given up to ruin, or deserted. It is now in good repair and made the occasional residence of Mr Burton, in whose family it has remained since the confiscation of the property of Lord Viscount Clare [Donnell O'Brien of Carrigahall Castle] about the year 1690.

The following inscription appears on a chimney piece on the upper floor of this Castle,
DB:1603. The following notices of this Castle occur in the Annals of the Four Masters:

"A. D. 1599. +++ About a week after this
 " the Earl of Thomond came into the Country
 " after having been near a quarter of a year in
 " the Country of the Butlers. Upon arriving
 " in Thomond he was resolved not to sleep
 " two nights in any town until he should go
 " and take revenge of Teige Coach & McMahon

Blind Teige

14/8/23 (23 (vii))

" for the dishonour he had shewn to, and the
 " incursion he had made upon his Brother. He
 " assembled the greater part of the forces of the
 " country and marching into west Connaught
 " Thaiscin encamped before Carrig-an-Chobhlaigh,
 " on the Monday before Easter in the month of
 " April. The cattle and flocks of the whole
 " Country extending from Knock-Doire to
 " Leim-chonchulainn (Loop-head) were
 " carried to his Camp there".

So far the extract from the annals supplied
 to me, but it ought to have gone the whole
 hog.

About 2 miles east of Carrigaholt Castle
 is the old ruined church of Kill-broine
 measuring 17 feet 4 inches in length and 12
 feet in breadth, the walls in good preservation
 about 10 feet high and 2 feet ^{10 inches} thick.

There is a quadrangular doorway in the west
 gable near the South angle, measuring 6 feet
 7 inches in height and 3 feet in breadth on
 the inside and 6 feet in height and 3 feet
 one inch in breadth on the outside.

The lintel stone is 3 feet 11 inches long and 5 inches thick. There are two windows in the south side, but so far dilapidated that no architectural features remaining.

The window in the east gable measures 4 feet 3 inches in height ~~by~~ and 2 feet in breadth on the inside, where it has a pointed arch, and 3 feet 7 inches in height and 8 inches at top and 9 inches at bottom in breadth on the outside, where the top form a small segment of a circle. There is no cut stone to be seen in any part of the building, nor does it appear to be of any antiquity. There is a large burying ground attached to the ruin.

The holy well of Saint Croine is situated within the Churchyard, a little to the west of the Church, at which stations continue to be performed still and the cure of soreness of the eyes expected in return.

They don't know in this parish whether ~~there~~ ^{the name of} Croine was a man or a woman, but the Irish Calendar informs us that there were four virgin, saints, of this name viz. Croine virgin regenerated on 15. October. - Croine virgin of Killcroine, 27 January. - Croine v. from Tamlacht 25. Feb. Croine beag v.

16

There is a burying ground in the south side of Querrin townland, called Teampall Meadhach or Meades Church. This is now a popular burying place, altho within my own recollection no one but children and strangers would be buried in it, because it was not believed to be the site of a church, or consecrated ground. This bury place is traditionally believed to have derived its origin from the following circumstance: After the battle of the Boyne, the discomfiture and dispersion of the Irish Jacobite army, and the location of William's soldiers of fortune on their sword-lands, those soldiers and the proscribed ^{natives} ~~Kearnes~~ continued to harrow and plunder each other for a long time, especially in the remote parts of the country. A Williamite soldier of the name of John Meade got a settlement somewhere about Milltown Malbay, at the same time that one of Lord Clare's Kearnes had located himself in the wood of Querrin, without the sanction or protection of the law as then established. This Kearne, who is believed to be one of the Mac Mahons, was in the habit of paying an occasional friendly visit to the cowhouses and sheepfolds of the

new settlers, and among the rest he favored the aforesaid John Meade with a visit on which occasion he took the liberty of carrying away with him several of the fattest oxen and sheep that could be found in that neighbourhood. Meade, having discovered his loss, collected a party and warmly pursued the plunderer, who, however, was able to gain his own residence before they were able to come up with him, but discovering that he was pursued, he immediately collected as many of his neighbours as would join him, into his house, ~~and~~ which he secured as well as he could and waited the coming up of the enemy. They were not long in waiting when Meade's party came up and without delay commenced tearing down the house, which of course was not a well fortified one. They soon had it stripped of its thatch and small timbers, and then jumping down into the midst of the party below a terrible

14/B/23/23 (ix)

conflict ensued in which victory for a long
 time seemed doubtful. The leaders
 of both parties dealt dreadful blows
 around them, but of the two Meade was
 the braver man, ~~and the more~~ The Kearns
 seeing the havoc that Meade was making
 among his people, and finding him in close
 engagement with one of them stole behind
 him and plunged a long Skean or
 knife into his side, at the same time
 dealing him such a blow as felled him
 to the earth. Meade however recovered
 his legs again and it is said that in
 his rage and writhing he three times
 jumped off the floor, striking the soles
 of his shoes each time against a beam of
 timber which went across the house at
 the top of the wall and then falling
 down, expired on the spot. The fate of
 the battle was then soon decided, for every
 man of Meade's party was killed. Their
 bodies were all carried to about a mile to
 the west, where they were buried on the bank
 of a little creek of the Shannon, where

they remained without molestation or intrusion until within a comparatively recent period, when strangers, then still born infants, then children and then the parents of those children gradually ^{were} intruded on them and thus it has become, now, the burying place of almost all the families in its neighbourhood.

There is another burying ground ^{called Killcosheen} in the townland of Killcosheen in this parish.

This was a deserted burying place in the year 1739, but in the ensuing year when famine and pestilence raged thro the Country and dead human bodies were to be met with by the roads & ditches, my grandfather, Melachlin garbh d'Comhraide, who tenanted, at will (being a papist,) the tract of land now called Moneen and in which Kilcosheen is situated, employed himself, his workmen, his horses and sledges in carrying ~~and~~ ~~burying~~ the victims of the Plague from all parts of the neighbouring district and burying them here,

14/3/23/23(x)

so that it has continued ever since to be a burial place, tho not a popular one.

There is another burying place, for children, in the adjoining townland of Hurroor. There is an old castle called Caislean-duin-Lice, in good external preservation in the townland of Moucer West, but of which I find no mention in the parish namebook. This castle, the Castle of Carrigaholt and the Castle of Moyata (of which there is now no vestige) are set down as belonging to Tirlagh Mac Mahon, in the list of gentlemen's residences preserved in M. S. T.

C. D. Clapp. E. 2. 14. The following places mentioned in Bodleianus Hist. Dues. n. 14 are situated in this parish viz.

1. Moucer (the two)
2. Ceathramha-na-b-Phailean
3. Ceathramha-bhan [v.]
4. Ceithren-builles
5. Cluain Carthainn
6. Leile-bhroine.

There is a small burial place for children in the townland of Killinny and a holy well called after Saint Martin (and at which stations are still performed) in the townland of Clonfield.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Curry

END

14 B 23/24

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to George Smith of College Green, Dublin, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from a lunatic asylum, Limerick, concerning his investigation of forts or raths in southern and western county Clare.

21 August 1835

1p.

24 cm

Included are references to early graves of historical significance in the area and the continued interest in the folklore associated with them.

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retains evidences of the political if not physical dimensions
the persons whom name it bears. It occupies the apex
of an arid ridge which terminates here pretty abruptly
skirted West, South and east by a very little stream. The
extreme edge of the activity is topped by the remains of a
earthen mound - circular and very low - within this circle &
at a radius of about 300 feet another circular mound rises
to the height of about eight feet, on the outside, and about
fourteen on the inside, say mean breadth eight feet -
Between this and the river is a foss about twenty feet wide
which I believe was before full of water, the now it is partly
choked up with the earth crumbling from the stupendous
banks on both sides of it - Within rises the river, about
200 feet in diameter the bank or wall about 7 feet high
on the inside and about twenty on the outside - There is one
large gap or entrance on the east side, there are some appear-
ances of remains of ruins inside, and I am inclined to think that
there are some Tultecan chambers in it too - I know this from
well, being born and reared within 40 paces of it - There are
many spots about this place traditionally known as the graves
of persons slain in combat by Fudo nahuatlapet - such
as Cuerna Zedaz y Kogayte - Cuerna Caxitapetec an Chitapetec
Fudo nahuatlapet still maintains a respectable and prominent
place in the nursery legends of this neighborhood, as my bare
shins and toes could well attest, ^{on many} a hard winter night some
twenty years ago - About half a mile east of this runs another
line of four forts from the river to the bay they are

inconsiderable and namely — About a mile east from this another line of four or five forts runs from the river to the bay, they are inconsiderable, and namely, except the lowest which is called Cóp Hog from its occupying ^a little angle made by armlets but Landron creek with the river —

From this to the "Ferry," within two miles of Kikewick, the lines at the same distances are quite distinct, tho' the number of forts is considerably less — Now, after fourteen years absence my recollection (I write from recollection) touching the forts on the north of the bay is not so distinct, however I am, rather was, very well acquainted with the most remarkable of them — Taking your departure from a point one mile east of Cóp Hog and proceeding due north two miles, you cross the bay and on its northern verge you meet a handsome

looking fort, pari murgge — or hog m falgange —

It is a clean single enclosure, the wall about 10 feet high — It is the principal abode of the "good" people of this quarter and various stories of their good and evil acts are on record, record in the surrounding district,

Passing over many others we come to Kikewick where we find a fort worth looking after. It is called Hog m Cappen — It is a plain hog, the wall about nine feet high, on the outside, the floor, inside, on a level with the top of the walls. This striking circumstance passed unnoticed for ages, until about 14 years ago a cow got into it and remained there ^{off} ~~staid~~ ^{her} companions made their way home in the evening without her — The owner on missing her made his way at once to the field, and lying her up on the fort apparently resting on her haunches he approached and was surprised to find one of her hind legs stuck in the ground. The owner, all his exertions to make her pull it up did not avail, he calling some of the neighbors they proceeded to dig and after striking about 16 inches they came to a flagged floor, and found the cow's legs firmly jammed between two

from inferences from the position of the forts on the bank of the Shannon
But from what I have shown you will perceive that peace and
joy are synonymous — I will not write again till I hear from you
I am and my dear Sir, very truly yours —

The land that with this day held in its arms
a. g. maintainance with as a de aring the last fortifying

Engelbary

George Smith Esq

St Collyer

Edwin

of the flags, they removed them, released the cow and discovered narrow passages,
lined at the sides with stones and flagged over, they descended with lights and
found the whole area composed of narrow passages crossing one another in
various directions — They found nothing but some shells and bones — I have
not heard that it has been visited ever since, and I am sure it was not
fully explored at that time — Concerning this are you interested,
you ought with many others — I will leave you to draw your

4/18/76