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HISTORY
OF
THE QUEEN'S COUNTY

BY
V. REV. JOHN CANON O'HANLON, P.P., M.R.I.A.
AND
REV. EDWARD O'LEARY, P.P.

VOLUME I.

HISTORY OF THE TERRITORY FROM THE
EARLIEST TIMES TILL IT WAS MADE
QUEEN'S COUNTY, BY ACT OF
PARLIAMENT, IN 1556.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS

Dublin:
SEALY, BRYERS & WALKER
MIDDLE ABBEY STREET

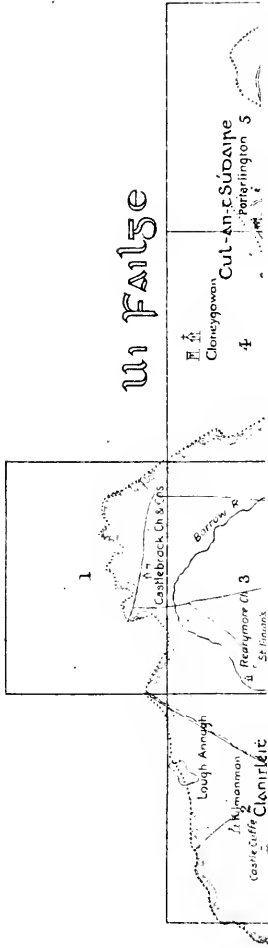
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HISTORY
OF
THE QUEEN'S COUNTY.
VOL. I.

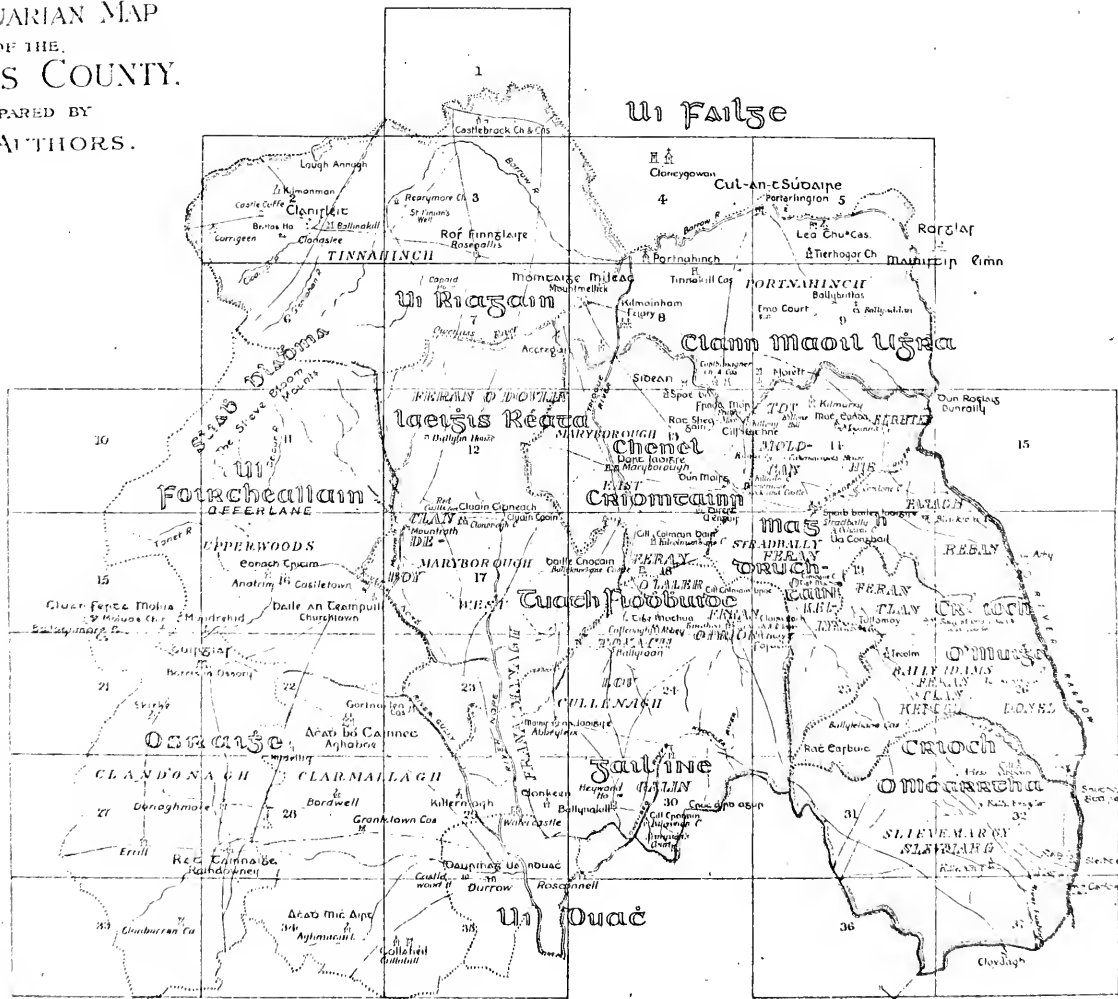
AN
 ANTIQUARIAN MAP
 OF THE
 QUEEN'S COUNTY.
 PREPARED BY
 THE AUTHORS.



AN

ANTIQUARIAN MAP
OF THE
QUEEN'S COUNTY.

PREPARED BY
THE AUTHORS.



Uí Fálge

Uí Anrígan

Clann Maon Uí Séa

Uí Fochéallain

Uí Riada

Uí Sé

Más

O'Seáige

Uí Anrígan

Uí Sé

Uí Sé

Uí Duac

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Uí Sé

Uí Sé

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DUBLIN.

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P R E F A C E .



MANY years have now passed since the project of writing the History of the Queen's County was seriously entertained. But although materials for a work of this kind had been collected and prepared at intervals by the Author, other literary engagements and still more pressing occupations prevented the accomplishment of such a task and almost precluded the hope of time and opportunity being afforded to complete it. Not alone was it required to glean from manuscript and printed sources those records which serve to illustrate the subject and to arrange the topics and chronological sequence of events in a systematic form, but it was found to be most desirable to examine and describe those monuments remaining—many from a pre-historic period—that the archæological problems of each locality might have a more scientific distinctness for the consideration of antiquaries. This independent investigation has been made at various times, and with the greatest exactness within the power of the author.

Personally and at frequent intervals its monuments remaining in their various localities have been examined and described, as also sketched on the spot.

The want for a History of the Queen's County has long been complained of, and fearing that no more competent person was likely to engage on the labour and research requisite to supply that deficiency, the present writer for many past years had conceived the project of collecting and procuring materials for the preparation of such a work. A native of the county himself, and familiar from birth with its scenes, people, and associations, the subject had for him an interest altogether special, and opportunities were afforded by a long-continued residence in and near Dublin for constant and ready access to all its public libraries. From their numerous manuscript and printed sources have been gleaned the records and information that mainly serve to illustrate its archæology, topography, and chronological

sequence of events, from the earliest known period down to the present day.

To render the study of topography and archaeology interesting and satisfactory to the general reader, it is necessary to present fairly accurate maps of ancient territorial divisions in connection with the natural features of a locality where no material changes of depression or elevation have occurred—at least within historic times. This task has been accomplished in the present history of the Queen's County. Before the close of the fourteenth century sufficient descriptions of districts have been furnished to determine the chief boundaries of the tribe lands at that period. Accordingly a map has been prepared to show their relative situations, and drawn to a scale in its general outlines, which corresponds with the measurements on the Ordnance Survey maps. And as those tribe lands are not known to have greatly changed their bounds for many centuries previous to that time, so may we reasonably conclude they preserve a fairly correct representation of the ancient Irish trichaced or cantred, which has been obscured or varied considerably in the modern distribution of local denominations.

The different topics introduced are treated as far as possible in a natural sequence and with scientific arrangement, and the author has been fortunate to secure for his assistants in the Natural History Division gentlemen of the highest scientific and scholarly attainments, to whom respectively he has the honour of acknowledging his deep obligations. Among those he particularly desires to distinguish are the following in the Division of Natural History:—the late Mr. Joseph P. O'Reilly, M.R.I.A., and formerly Secretary to the College of Science, Dublin; Mr. Alexander M'Henry, Geological Survey of Ireland; Dr. Edward Perceval Wright, M.R.I.A., formerly Professor of Botany in Trinity College, Dublin; Mr. Robert Lloyd Praeger, M.R.I.A., Assistant Librarian in the National Library of Ireland; Dr. Robert F. Scharff, B.Sc., Keeper of the Natural History Collections in the Science and Art Museum, Kildare Street, Dublin; Mr. Arthur M'Mahon, Colt Stud Farm, Abbyleix; and Mr. James A. Mulhall, Pass House, Maryborough. Without the co-operation of these gentlemen, so eminent in their various walks of science, the Natural History section of this work could not have been well undertaken and accomplished by the present writer, owing to his deficiency of knowledge for the treatment of these special subjects. In this connection also his acknowledgments are

due and gratefully tendered to Dr. Patrick W. Joyce, M. R. I. A., and Mr. Patrick O'Ryan for their assistance in defining the derivation and meaning of Irish names of places in the county and the Irish names given in botany to trees and shrubs, as likewise to animals under the head of Zoology.

In the Ecclesiastical, Diocesan, and Parochial History those local incidents alone are mentioned that have special reference to these divisions; other particulars that have a general application to more important events are reserved for the subsequent narrative. Under the parishes are included nearly all that refers to their condition, organization, description, townland denominations, chief places and objects of interest, especially their ecclesiastical and civil arrangements. For further details the reader is referred to the Right Rev. Bishop Comerford's valuable work, "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," which contains a great amount of additional and valuable information, and to the valuable and exhaustive work of the V. Rev. W. Carrigan, D. D., "The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory." "The General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," by Sir Charles Coote Bart., compiled at the instance of the Dublin Society, is of undoubted authority on these particular subjects towards the close of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century; but the historical matter is defective and sometimes inaccurate. It throws much light, however, on the social state of the various classes of inhabitants at the period in question. The biographical sketch of the bishops and the account of diocesan affairs is necessarily much abbreviated, as otherwise this work should be enlarged to undue proportions. Yet the sources for further investigation are generally alluded to in the notes.

J. CANON O'HANLON.

ST. MARY'S, STAR OF THE SEA,
SANDYMOUNT,
DUBLIN.

After a long life of intellectual labour the venerable author was, at its close, but midway through the present work. Filled with apprehension for its future completion, he made an appeal to me for help, grounding his claim on a lifelong friendship. The circumstances

were sufficiently touching to oblige me to accept the responsibility which my friend laid upon me, and take up the work where he laid it down. But it was the fear alone that his labours should remain unfinished which could induce me to undertake such a grave obligation, unequipped as I was for such a task. For the rest I can truly say that I have endeavoured to carry out the work in complete harmony with the views of the author, and in strict obedience to the instructions which he communicated from his death bed.

A second map has been provided for the work—an exact copy of the rare and ancient map of Leix and Offaly, now preserved in the British Museum. It is hoped that this will prove helpful to the student, and also that the illustrations scattered through the work will assist him to form a correct idea of the historical remains existing in the county.

With all diffidence I beg to present to the reader Canon O'Hanlon's History of the Queen's County.

E. O'LEARY.

ST MICHAEL'S, PORTARLINGTON,

August, 1907.

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HISTORY OF THE QUEEN'S COUNTY.

BOOK I.—NATURAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.—GEOGRAPHY, BOUNDARIES, EXTENT AND DIVISIONS.

THE present Queen's County is inland, bounded on the north by the King's County, and largely by the River Barrow, along that line; on the east, the same river also separates it from the County of Kildare, except in a small north-eastern portion, where that county protruded beyond it towards the west; still lower, on the east and south-east, is the County of Carlow, beyond the River Barrow; on the south, it is bounded by the County of Kilkenny; while on the west, the County of Tipperary lies towards its south-western line, and the King's County more northerly bounds it—the range of Slieve Bloom Mountains specially marking the latter division as a natural boundary. The Queen's County extends from $52^{\circ} 45''$ to $53^{\circ} 13''$ north latitude, and it reaches from $6^{\circ} 54''$ to $7^{\circ} 47''$ west longitude from Greenwich Observatory.¹ As in the ancient times of Leix and Offally, so at present, the county is attached to the province of Leinster.

The shape of this entire district is very compact and regular; the east, south and west boundary lines being nearly equal to one another, while the north line is considerably smaller—thus presenting the figure of an irregular square. The longest straight line, that can be drawn within its limits, extends $36\frac{3}{4}$ miles south-westward; the next longest extends $35\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-eastward; the longest that can be drawn east to west is 32 miles; while the longest that can be drawn due southward extends $26\frac{1}{2}$ miles.²

Towards the close of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century, the superficies was estimated to contain 235,300 acres,³ Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains, and wastes.⁴ Since then, the whole has been most accurately and scientifically surveyed, but on the scale of English acreage. The surface of the whole district has been found to cover an extent of

¹ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 267. London, 1868, royal 8vo.

² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 97. Dublin, London, and Edinburgh, 1846, royal 8vo.

³ See "The Traveller's New Guide through Ireland, containing a New and accurate Description of the Roads, with Particulars of all the different Towns, Villages, Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats,

Churches, Monastic Buildings, Antiquities and Natural Curiosities," p. 127. Dublin, 1815, 8vo.

⁴ According to the statement which is contained in the Rev. Dr. Daniel Augustus Beaufort's "Memoir of a Map of Ireland, illustrating the Topography of that kingdom, and containing a short Account of its present State, Civil and Ecclesiastical," &c., p. 58. Dublin, 1792, 4to.

664 square miles. The area of the entire county contained 342,422 acres of arable land ; 69,289 of uncultivated land, 11,630 of continuous plantations, 1,117 under towns, and 396 acres are under water.⁵ In all, the county comprises 424,854 acres.⁶

For civil purposes the County at present is divided into eleven baronies : viz. Ballyadams, Clandonagh, Clarmallagh, Cullenagh, Maryborough East, Maryborough West, Portnahinch, Slievemargy, Stradbally, Tinnehinch and Upperwoods. Ecclesiastically, it takes in the greater part of the existing Diocese of Leighlin, as also of a considerable portion belonging to Ossory, and a small area of the Dioceses of Kildare and Killaloe. The parishes or parts of parishes are fifty-three in number ; and under the heading of the Baronies are thus distributed. Ballyadams,⁷ includes two whole parishes, and part of six other parishes ; thus it comprehends the whole of the parishes of Grange and Tecolin, and part of the parishes of Ballyadams, Killabin, Rathaspeck, St. John's of Athy, Tankardstown, and Tullymoy. Clandonagh⁸ takes in four whole parishes, and part of five other parishes. It contains the whole of the parishes of Donaghmore, Kyle, Rathsaran, and Skirk, with part of the parishes of Aghaboe, Bordwell, Coolkerry, Eirke, and Rathdowney. Its towns and villages are Borris-in-Ossory, Donaghmore, and Rathdowney. Clarmallagh⁹ has three entire parishes and part of five other parishes. This barony contains the whole of the parishes of Aghmacart, Kildellig, and Killermogh, with part of the parishes of Abbeyleix, Aghaboe, Aharney, Attanagh, Bordwell, Coolkerry, Durrow, Eirke, Glashare, Rathdowney and Rosconnell. The chief seats of population are Ballycolla and Durrow. Cullenagh¹⁰ has three whole parishes and part of five other parishes. This barony contains part of the parishes of Abbeyleix, Clonenagh, Fossy, Kilcolemanbane, and Rosconnell ; and the whole of the parishes of

⁵ At the present time allowance must be made for the incidental alterations which have taken place, and especially in the general surface features, since the Report had been furnished.

⁶ Such is the actual measurement according to the Report of William Donnelly, Registrar-General of the Agricultural and Emigration Statistics Office, 12th December, 1861. Census of Ireland. "General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland, showing the Number of the Sheet in which they appear ; the Areas of the Townlands, Parishes, and Baronies ; the County, Barony, Parish, and Poor Law Union in which the Townlands are situated ; and the Volume and Page of the Townland Census of 1851, which contains the Population and Number of Houses in 1841 and 1851, and the Poor Law Valuation in 1851." Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. Dublin : Printed by Alexander Thom, 87 and 88 Abbey-street, for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1861. Folio. It is evident, Sir Charles Coote, who wrote in the beginning of the last century, under estimates the area, even taking the Irish measurement which then prevailed : "The gross number of acres in this county make

up 235,300 or 367 square miles, but only 164,520 of these acres pay county cess, and are rated as profitable ground in the county book ; so that there would remain 70,774 acres of bog, mountain, and waste lands, but this being the old estimate we may fairly conclude, that 30,000 acres would be too high a calculation of waste, or lands now remaining unprofitable ; such rapid strides towards improvement have steadily been made here of late years, and the value of reclaimed bog is now so generally understood."—"General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. i., pp. 1, 2, Dublin, 1801, 8vo.

⁷ Ballyadams contains 24,081a 2r. 13p. statute measure, including 81a. 2r. 24p. of water.

⁸ Clandonagh contains 43,733a. 1r. 5p. statute measure, including 18a. 3r. 0p. of water.

⁹ Clarmallagh contains 43,533a. 3r. 19p. statute measure, including 27a. 1r. 20p. of water.

¹⁰ Cullenagh contains 44,094a. 2r. 14p. statute measure, including 13a. 2r. 26p. of water.

¹¹ Maryborough East contains 25,160a. or. 17p. statute measure.

¹² Maryborough West contains 41,914a.

Ballyroan, Dysert-Gallen, and Kilcolemanbrack. The towns are Abbeyleix, Ballyroan and Ballinakill. Maryborough East¹¹ includes two entire parishes and part of five other parishes. The barony of Maryborough East contains the whole of Maryborough and Straboe parishes, as also parts of Clonenagh, Dysart Enos, Fossey, Kilcolemanbrack, and Kiltalee parishes. The only town in it is Maryborough—the capital of the Queen's County. Maryborough West¹² has only a part of two parishes. The barony of Maryborough West embraces the chief portion of Clonenagh parish, and a small part of Abbeyleix parish. Mountrath is the only town within it. Portarlanch¹³ takes in three whole parishes; thus within this barony is Ardea, Coolbanagher and Lea parishes. It also includes a part of Portarlinton town, as likewise a portion of Mountmellick. Ballybrittas and Irishtown are its chief villages. Slievemargy¹⁴ includes three whole parishes, and part of three other parishes; so that this mountainous barony contains part of the parishes of Cloydagh, Killabin, and Rathaspeck, with the whole of the parishes of Killeshin, Shruel and Sicaty. Stradbally¹⁵ has five whole parishes, and part of five other parishes. The whole of the following parishes are included within it: viz. Stradbally, Moyanna, Corclone, Timogue, and Killeany; the following parishes are only partially contained in it: viz., Tullowmoy, Dysart Enos, Kiltalee, Ballyadams and an ancient parish called Ballyquillane. The only town within it is Stradbally, and a small village called Vicarstown. Tinnahinch¹⁶ contains four whole parishes; and the extent of this barony embraces the whole of the parishes of Castlebrack, Kilmannan, Rearymore, and Rosenallis. The only town is a part of Mountmellick; and the principal villages are Clonaslee and Rosenallis. Upperwoods¹⁷ comprises only one commensurate parish, called Omerlane, and it includes the villages of Castletown and Coolrain. Thus it may be inferred, that the diocesan and parochial arrangements were anterior to the baronial; and as they now exist, most probably their formation may be referred, in general, to the divisions made after the Synod of Kells, held in the year 1152. Some of the parishes may date from a much later period; while it is likely, moreover, that their arrangement and boundaries may have undergone various changes and modifications, to suit the exigencies or convenience of former ecclesiastical possessors. Under separate headings, however, their history, antiquities, statistics, state and condition are reserved for subsequent detailed treatment.

¹¹ 39p. statute measure, including 26a. or. of water.

¹² Portarlanch contains 35,835a. 1r. 17p. statute measure, including 48a. 3r. 12p. of water.

¹³ Slievemargy contains 35,490a. 2r. 25p. statute measure, including 52a. 2r. 39p. of water.

¹⁴ Stradbally contains 27,895a. 3r. 34p. statute measure, including 18a. 1r. 30p. of water.

¹⁵ Tinnahinch contains 54,187a. or 15p. statute measure, including 108a. 2r. 20p. of water.

¹⁷ Upperwoods contains 48,926a. 2r. 14p. statute measure. This barony and that of Marlborough East have only small streams, and measured in with the adjoining lands, as being simply loughs; while the large River Barrow has been taken into account for the water measurements in other baronies.

CHAPTER II.—GEOLOGY, MINERALS, PALÆONTOLOGY, AND FOSSILS

UNTIL the last century, although some imperfect descriptions of the Geology of the Queen's County had been published; yet, no attempt was made to obtain a detailed and truly scientific survey and examination of the constituent parts. However, this work has been undertaken since by men of acknowledged abilities and attainments, and their labours must here be briefly noticed.

In the year 1814, Sir Richard Griffith produced a very admirable Report on the Leinster Coal District¹—mainly confined to the Queen's County and County of Kilkenny—and in 1836, he prepared a General Map of Ireland² to accompany a Report of the Railway Commissioners. This Map was elegantly engraved, contoured, and mounted on fine vellum paper of a large size, so that it presents the principal physical features and geological structure of all Ireland. It has been geologically coloured by hand, moreover, and for all practical purposes, the student may find on that portion representing the Queen's County sufficient to arrest his intelligent curiosity. On this Map is marked, likewise, a Synoptical View of the principal fossils of Irish strata, with numerous fossiliferous and mineral localities arranged, as also with reference to the Post Towns adjacent.³ Nevertheless, for a much more accurate and detailed picture of the geological formation of the Queen's County, those Ordnance Survey Maps, drawn on the scale of one inch to a statute mile, and geologically coloured with intelligible references to the various districts, are most of all to be preferred.⁴ Accompanying those Maps are tracts, containing explanations under the head of "Memoirs of the Geological Survey."⁵ These have been prepared from the Reports and descriptions of the surveyors in their various districts.⁶

¹ Published in Dublin, 1814. In compiling the present chapter, chiefly written in the College of Science, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, the writer has to acknowledge his great obligations for the direction and assistance afforded by the Secretary, Joseph P. O'Reilly, M.R.I.A., so eminently conversant with Geological Science, and to Alexander McHenry, M.R.I.A., Geologist of the Geological Survey of Ireland, who has carefully revised it, and added observations of his own, especially on the colliery district of the Queen's County, the late subject of his personal examination for Government purposes.

² This was engraved in 1837-8, and published by Hodges, Smith, and Co., Dublin.

³ Sir Richard J. Griffith, Bart., stated that it had always been his intention to publish a Geology of Ireland, but his official duties pressed so heavily on him that the time to accomplish such a task was never at his disposal. Under these circumstances it devolved on G. Henry Kinahan, M.R.I.A., to attempt it. See Preface to his "Manual of the Geology of Ireland," p. v. London, 1878, 8vo.

⁴ The Queen's County is fully shown on Sheets 118, 119—the northern portion; Sheets 126, 127, 128—the major and middle

portion; and Sheets 136, 137—the southern portion, and bordering on the County of Kilkenny.

⁵ Published by order of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and printed in Dublin, by Alexander Thom, 87 and 88 Abbey Street, from 1858 to 1881.

⁶ Thus the Tract for Sheet 118 was written by Joseph O'Kelly, M.A.; the Tract for Sheet 119 by J. Beete Jukes, George V. Du Noyer, W. H. Baily, W. L. Wilson, Joseph O'Kelly, A. B. Wynne; the Tract for Sheet 126 was written by A. B. Wynne; the Tract for Sheet 127, etc., is a valuable "Explanatory Memoir of the Geology of the Leinster Coal Fields to accompany Parts of Sheets 127, 128, 136, 137, 145, 146, 147, 155, 156, and 166 of the Maps of the Geological Survey of Ireland," by Edward T. Hardman, F.C.I., with Palæontological Notes by W. H. Baily, F.G.S.; the Tract for Sheet 128 was written by J. Beete Jukes, George H. Kinahan, and W. H. Baily; the Tract for Sheet 136 was written by F. J. Foot and J. Beete Jukes; the Tract for Sheet 137 was written by J. Beete Jukes, G. Henry Kinahan, W. H. Baily, G. V. Du Noyer, and also Notes by Messrs. W. W. Smyth, W. L. Wilson, and A. Wyley.

The Lower Silurian—Bala and Llandeilo beds—appear on the higher eastern slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in the Barony of Tiunahinch and in that of Portnahinch; but this formation is not very extensive over the surface of the Queen's County. This Lower Silurian also is the most ancient underlying stratum there discovered. Next to it, in the order of time, must be classed the Old Red Sandstone formation, which extends along the upper ridges and lower eastern slopes of the same mountains.⁷ It has a far wider range than the Silurian rock. Partial sections of Lower Silurian are found in the Slieve Bloom district. These show strong gray and greenish gray grits, interstratified with dark gray slates, flags, and fine olive grits. There are also strong greenish and bluish calcareous grits, with bands of dark gray slate. The Old Red Sandstone of Slieve Bloom consists of coarse yellow, gray, and purplish sandstones, often more or less conglomeritic. They are interstratified occasionally with beds of red shale and thin red sandstone. Some of the yellow sandstones split readily into flags of excellent quality, and are quarried, being taken from their beds in fine slabs.

Mountain Limestone is the chief substratum⁸ in the Queen's County. There seems to be a three-fold division in this County of limestone formations. There are bedded limestones below, more or less like the lower shaly limestones. Those, when followed upwards, lose their bedded character, and take on that of the Fenestella type between the groups. Between such, there may be a distinct boundary; but, on account of the great head of drift or bog, this problem cannot well be proved.⁹ The Lower Limestone strata may be found prevailing very extensively, and chiefly in a direction running from the north-eastern to the south-western angle of the Queen's County; but, it has a very irregular expansion on the Geological Maps.¹⁰ The Lower Limestone shale appears to skirt the Old Red Sandstone of Slieve Bloom, and it lies chiefly at the lower levels of the mountain. The Middle Limestone or Calp is not very extensive; but, it reaches in a narrow stripe from the north of Abbeyleix to near the town of Portarlington.

The Lower Limestone shale is mixed with blue calcareous sandstones and earthy limestones, but containing a band of pure limestone occasionally, with fossils appearing in abundance. The Lower Limestone contains dark bluish gray crystalline beds, often divided by their black shale, while cherty bands are found in it. The upper part consists of massive gray crystalline limestone, in which the bedding

⁷ This is shown on the Geological Map of Ireland, founded on the Maps of the Geological Survey of Sir Richard Griffith and of Professor J. Beete Jukes. By Edward Hull, M.A., F.R.S., Director of H. M. Geological Survey of Ireland.

⁸ See John Bartholomew's "Gazetteer of the British Isles, Statistical and Topographical," p. 653. Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black, 1887, imp. 8vo.

⁹ See G. Henry Kinahan's "Manual of the Geology of Ireland," sect. i., chap. v., pp. 75, 76.

¹⁰ For fuller information on this subject, the reader is referred to that very interesting work, "The Physical Geology and Geo-

graphy of Ireland," by Edward Hull, M.A., F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, and Professor of Geology in the Royal College of Science, Dublin. With two coloured maps and twenty-six wood engravings. The contents are: Part i., Geological Formation of Ireland, in six chapters; Part ii., Physical Geography of Ireland, chapter i. to chapter xvi.; Part iii., The Glaciation of Ireland, chapter i. to chapter vi., with appendix i., List of Authors quoted; Appendix ii., List of the Characteristic Fossils of the Geological Formations of Ireland; Appendix iii., Geological Maps of Ireland. London, 1878, 8vo.

is frequently very obscure. However, it is an excellent building stone, and well adapted for burning into lime. The Middle Limestone or Calp consists of black, earthy, impure limestones, interstratified with bands of black shale, as also with layers and nodules of chert. Generally, the beds are thin and regular, while sometimes they assume a flaggy character. Fossils are very scarce in most of those beds. The Calp is not usually well adapted for building purposes, except in the laying or filling in of foundations; and it is quite unsuited for burning into lime, formerly a great factor as a manure used by the farmers,¹¹ and owing to material so readily accessible, it was manufactured and exported in large quantities.

Magnesian Limestone is to be found in a few isolated positions, but chiefly in a narrow stripe of land running from the south of Maryborough and extending south-westwardly into the County of Kilkenny. Comparatively, it is slowly soluble in dilute acids, and in this respect unlike the common limestone. Geologically, it occupies a definite position among the newest palæozoic rocks.¹²

The Carboniferous Limestone, however, is the prevailing geological formation of the greater proportion in the Queen's County.¹³ The plain that occupies the principal portion of the Slieve Bloom district has for its underlying rock the Carboniferous Limestone. Although occupying the highest ground there, the Old Red Sandstone dips underneath the surrounding limestone, both being deposited in conformable succession. The Old Red Sandstone, however, rests quite conformably on the Lower Silurian rocks. These had been tilted into a highly inclined position and were greatly denuded, before the deposition of the Old Red Sandstone, and both had been subsequently upheaved.¹⁴ The form of those mountains, as they now appear, is not due to that upheaval, however, because at the time it occurred, the Old Red Sandstone was covered by the Carboniferous Limestone. This had been subsequently removed by denudation from the high ground, while it still remains concealing the Old Red Sandstone which extends beneath the plain. The Old Red Sandstone itself also suffered from this wasting action, which occasionally was sufficient to renew it completely from the underlying Silurian, leaving portions of that rock exposed in several places. The Yoredale Carboniferous shales are presented in a narrow and an irregular ambit, bordering the superimposed Millstone Grit, which also presents an irregular circuit, over which are the Coal Measures, to be found chiefly in the south-eastern section of the Queen's County. These are confined to portions of the Baronies of Ballyadams, Slievemargy and Cullenagh.

The Upper Limestone formation is pretty extensive, especially in the district surrounding Stradbally, and it is of a gray, bluish, or

¹¹ As a fertilizer of soil, it is stated by Boate, that having seen in sundry parts of England and Wales, especially in Pembroke-shire, that lime had been used by the inhabitants for the manuring and enriching their grounds, the English living in the Queen's County began the practice in the early part of the seventeenth century of liming their fields, so that the use of it became very common among them. See "Ireland's Natural History," chap. xi., sect. 6, pp. 96, 97.

¹² See W. T. Brande's and Geo. W. Cox's

"Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art," vol. ii., p. 424. London, 1866.

¹³ The carboniferous limestone "was, doubtless, at one time covered by the coal-measures with, perhaps, good beds of coal in their upper parts."—Professor J. Beete Jukes' "School Manual of Geology," chap. xvii., p. 229. Edinburgh, 1863.

¹⁴ Joseph O'Kelly's "Explanation to accompany Sheets 117 and 118 of the Maps of the Geological Survey of Ireland," sect. 3, p. 8. Dublin, 1866, 8vo

whitish colour. The lowest beds next the Calp are not in any place exposed to view; but, generally above these, the limestone is of a light gray or blue shade, usually massive, but sometimes thin-bedded, with layers and nodules of chert, which generally lie between the beds. Yet, in some places, in the centre of a bed may be seen a layer of chert, which suddenly comes to an end—that which first appeared as if it were two smaller beds becoming obviously one large bed. These chert layers are sometimes so frequent, that they make the rock nearly an entire mass of chert. This is noticeable in the Dysart Hills. In the upper beds, and near the Coal Measures, the limestone is often of a dark blue colour, being more argillaceous than below, and distinctly crystalline. The beds immediately next to the Coal Measure shales are nearly an entire mass of chert. The sub-strata of the Queen's County is generally limestone of a superior quality, and carboniferous. It supplies fine material for building purposes, or for conversion into lime. Sand-pits and limestone gravel beds are very numerous, and they are utilized for various purposes.

Underneath and around the Coal Measures is to be found the Upper Limestone formation, and extending in a very extensive belt, especially northwards, and from Carlow onwards to Maryborough. Over all these strata are distributed tracts of bog and drift, yet not very extensive in any single district. The Upper Limestone is known to be cellular. Large spheroids in shales are found in the Cuts of Killeshin,¹⁵ near Carlow. The Dysart Hills consist chiefly of a series of isolated eminences,¹⁶ and the peculiar character of their limestone composition is everywhere very clearly disclosed over their rocky surfaces. The Slieve Bloom Mountains chiefly comprise sandstone, with their beds of limestone and coal. Silurian slate is found in the upper parts.¹⁷

The Stradbally Hills are composed of Carboniferous or Mountain Limestone, which comes out to the surface from underneath the Coal Measures. The country around Stradbally somewhat resembles parts of Derbyshire and other English districts, where the Mountain Limestone forms lofty ground, although in the south of Ireland it is generally found in the valleys and lowlands. Even here, this hilly character of the limestone ground is confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Stradbally, and to the upper beds of the limestone, as the lower portions of the formation are occupied by the valley of the River Barrow. A very fine description of grey marble, interspersed with white shells, is taken from quarries in the neighbourhood of Stradbally, and it has most durable properties. It admits of a high polish, and it is exceedingly smooth-grained. It is largely used for tombs and head-stones, as also for mullions, lintels, and the dressings of public and private buildings. It can be procured in large masses, without flaw or break; yet, strangely too, notwithstanding its proximity to the Grand Canal, this fine marble limestone is almost neglected for purposes of distant exportation. The summit of the Black Mountain, the highest of the Cullenagh range, is 1,045 ft. above sea level. It

¹⁵ See Engraving in "Memoirs of the Geological Survey," Sheet 127, p. 12.

¹⁶ See "The Imperial Gazetteer," etc., edited by W. G. Blackie, Ph. D., vol. ii., p. 704.

¹⁷ See "The National Gazetteer," etc., vol. iii., p. 267.

¹⁸ These were rudely-fashioned boats of oblong shape, and put together by the country carpenters for the purpose of crossing or navigating the Nore and Barrow rivers, or other deep streams. Where bridges are wanting, they are still in use.

is composed of black shales and dark sandstones, which belong to the series of rocks known as Coal Measures, from their occasionally containing beds of coal. Iron ore or clay ironstone is to be found in various places throughout the Queen's County. The material was smelted early in the seventeenth century at Mountrath; and with considerable profit by the local proprietor, who used the little cots¹⁸ of the peasants to bring the products down the River Nore to Waterford, whence they were exported to England for manufacturing purposes.¹⁹ Thus, clay ironstone is said to have been obtained at Cullenagh, and it is supposed to have been the mineral used at Sir Charles Coote's former works. In a division of Gracefield demesne, near Arles, the "iron park"—so called from time immemorial—abounds with iron stones of a strong quality.²⁰

Other minerals to be found are copper and manganese; yet, no smelting works have been established, nor is it probable that from them any profits can be realised. Slate is another production of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Near Clonaslee, also, there is a fine sandstone quarry²¹; and at Boley, in the neighbourhood of Arles, there is a flag quarry.²² Shale is to be met with in nearly all the higher elevations of the Queen's County. Millstone grit, marl, and a fine description of sandstone, with freestone and ochre, are known. Besides, Fuller's earth and fine clays, useful for the manufacture of all kinds of pottery, and earth suitable for making brick, abound. The Slievemargy range of table-land is composed of argillaceous earth, argillaceous and ferruginous stone-slate, basalts, iron-ore, besides its coals. The different strata are bedded at various depths, and lie in irregular and broken masses. Fire and brick clays of the best description exist in unlimited quantities in the coal district. They only require

¹⁸ Such is the account given us, in chap. xvii., sect. 5, pp. 135 to 137, of a very valuable little 12mo. volume written by Gerard Boate, late Doctor of Physick to the State in Ireland, and as set forth on the title page published by Samuëll Hartlib, Esq., for the common good of all Ireland, and more especially for the benefit of the Adventurers and Planters therein. This was entitled "Ireland's Natural History." Being a true and ample Description of its Situation, Greatness, Shape, and Nature, Of its Hills, Woods, Heaths, Bogs; Of its Fruitfull Parts and profitable Grounds, with the severall way of Manuring and Improving the same; With its Heads or Promontories, Harbours, Rodes and Bays; Of its Springs and Fountaines, Brookes, Rivers, Loughs; Of its Metalls, Mineralls, Freestone, Marble, Seacoal, Turf, and other things that are taken out of the ground. And lastly, of the Nature and Temperature of its Air and Season, and what diseases it is free from, or subject unto. Conducing to the Advancement of Navigation, Husbandry, and other profitable Arts and Professions. Imprinted at London for John Wright at the Kings Head in the Old Bayley 1652. This was dedicated to His Excellency Oliver Cromwell, Captain General of the Commonwealths Army in England, Scotland and Ireland, and Chancellor of the

University of Oxford, and to the Right Honorable Charles Fleetwood, Commander in Chief (under the Lord Generall Cromwell) of all the Forces in Ireland. In the year 1664, it was published in a French translation at Paris by Robert de Ninville, au bout du Pont S. Michel, au coin de la Rue de la Huchette a l'Escu de France et de Navarre, 18mo. Its short title is, "Histoire Naturelle d'Irlande." The original was re-printed in Dublin, under its short title, "A Natural History of Ireland," with other tracts, in 1754, small 4to. Later still with its full original title it has been printed in "A Collection of Tracts and Treatises illustrative of the Natural History, Antiquities, and the Political and Social State of Ireland, at various Periods prior to the present Century." In two volumes. Vol. i., Treatises by Boate, Ware, Spenser, and Davis. Dublin, 1860. 8vo.

¹⁹ Sir J. Norris Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., Queen's County, p. 108.

²¹ From this, handsome chimney-pieces were largely manufactured, and they are still to be seen in the parlours of well-to-do farmers in the adjoining districts.

²² From this, flags have been raised thirteen feet in length by six in breadth; and formerly they were exported to Dublin in considerable quantities.

to be developed, and to have facilities afforded for exportation and use of their products; so that local manufactures and industries might become largely promoted in various localities, by intelligent and enterprising individuals or companies.

According to G. Henry Kinahan,²³ the ascertained minerals of the Queen's County are to be found thus distributed: In Dysart district, iron and lead; in Cullinagh, coal and clay-ironstone; near Crettyard, Coal Measure Hills and clay-ironstone; at Coolbaun and Ballickmoyler, lead; at Wolf Hill, coal and clay-ironstone; at Moyadd, near Ballickmoyler, coal and clay-ironstone.²⁴ The chief minerals of this district are anthracite coal or carbon, which is chiefly to be found in the Slievemargy range of hills, and bordering on the County of Kilkenny.²⁵ It is found in seams of considerable depth, while it is both hard and heavy when taken out in large Llocks. It burns without flame or smoke, and it is strongly impregnated with sulphur. The coal is difficult to ignite, but, when lighted, it burns with intense heat, and retains this property for a long time. It is employed in hop and malt-drying, and also in lime-burning to great advantage; but its chief use is in the manufacture of iron.²⁶ Its heating power and durability in furnaces renders it far preferable to bituminous coal. A similar species of coal, but of an inferior description, has been found in small quantities on the Cullenagh Mountains. Also, on the Slieve Bloom range, in rocks of Silurian age, thin layers of coal have been met with, but in such small proportions and value as to be hardly worth the expense of mining.²⁷ The Coal of the Queen's County is made up of grits and dark, sometimes black, shales, with fine clay and coal occasionally, as also with some seams and nodules of clay ironstone. Those beds are interstratified with sandstones and flagstones having various shades of grey. From its occasionally containing beds of Coal, this confirmation is collectively described as "The Coal Measures."

From the western banks of the River Barrow, near Carlow Graigue, the ground slopes upwards rather steeply to Killeshin old church, close to which there is a picturesque cave, in which very fine black fissile shale, covered with thick micaceous grits, is to be seen. In that direction, the mountain road ascends towards the coal district of Towlerston and Newtown. When viewed from a distance, the general appearance of this region is that of a very steep ridge of high land, running in a direct line for many miles, rising from 800 to 1,000 ft. above its base, and apparently flat on its summit.²⁸ When viewed

²³ See "Manual of the Geology of Ireland," sect. v., *Economical Products*, chap. xxi., p. 370.

²⁴ The Ironmills River, near Ballynakill, is doubtless so called from old workings in that locality, although at present, there are no exposures of shales in it.

²⁵ The account of its accidental discovery—apparently in the early part of the seventeenth century—is given by Boate. An iron-ore discovered by Mr. Christopher Wadsworth, having been worked for a long time, on sinking deeper for that ore, coal was discovered, enough to furnish a whole country; but no use had been made of it except by the neighbouring inhabitants, as transportation

by land was considered to be too chargeable. See "Ireland's Natural History," chap. xix., sect. 7, pp. 152.

²⁶ See James Wylde's "Circle of the Sciences," etc., vol. ii., Division ii., *Natural Science*, Sub-Division iii., *The Mineral Kingdom*, sect. ix., *Geology*, p. 1014—London.

²⁷ At chapter xxviii., in reference to the Carboniferous Rocks of Ireland, Professor Hull gives a brief description of the coal beds in the Queen's County, and especially of those about Castlecomber. See "The Coal-Fields of Great Britain, etc.," by Edward Hull, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., with Maps and Illustrations, pp. 326 to 329. Fourth edition revised. London, 1881, 8vo.

from the eminence itself, it resembles a great barren table-land, rising precipitately above a flat and highly cultivated country.²⁹ The Coal Fields of this elevated district lie chiefly in the south eastern part, and west of the River Barrow.³⁰ They extend, likewise, into the County of Kilkenny, and especially prevail in the neighbourhood of Castlecomer. They have, more or less, a basin-shaped arrangement, resting on the Upper Limestone, beneath which is the Middle Limestone, then the Lower Limestone, resting on the Granite. The depth of the Limestone in the centre of that district is about 1850 ft., or more than 1000 ft. below the sea-level, while on the outer slopes of the table-land it rises to an elevation of some 250 ft. above the sea-level.³¹ In this region Mullaghmore Colliery had a number of pits sunk several years ago, but the layers of coal were found to be thin, and the workings have been abandoned.³²

One of the seven coal fields in Ireland commences in the Slieve-margy Hills, and those formations extend into the adjoining Counties of Carlow and Kilkenny.³³ The area of the coal field in this district has been estimated to be over 200 square miles³⁴; but the beds are much disturbed by faults. Of the two lower seams, comparatively little has been ascertained, although they extend over the entire area.³⁵ On the eastern declivity of the ridge formerly called Brennan by inhabitants of the district,³⁶ a number of coal mines lie from twenty-seven feet to twelve fathoms below the surface; they are covered by argillaceous and yellow ferruginous rock, on a bed of black micaceous slate. Gale's Hill has only been worked a little about the outcrop, and there seems no likelihood of its ever being utilised, except, perhaps, round the verges, owing to its great depth. This is evident from the sections. The same observations apply in reference to Kingscote in a great measure. However, Coal must exist under the rushes at about 400 ft. from the surface, also at Courlane about the same, and at Ardentagle.

²⁹ See Sir Robert Kane's "Industrial Resources of Ireland," chap. i., p. 8. Dublin, 1845, Svo. Second edition.

³⁰ See Sir Richard Griffith's "Report on the Leinster Coal District," p. 2.

³¹ The Leinster coal deposit is bounded on the east, west, and south by the two great rivers, the Barrow and the Nore, which run at the base of the Colliery Hills. See Sir Robert Kane's "Industrial Resources of Ireland," chap. i., p. 8.

³² See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Vol. xxiv., Part i., Science. Dr. E. Perceval Wright's Paper read January 8, 1866, pp. 351, 352.

³³ It is marked on the Geological Sheet, No. 128.

³⁴ See "The National Gazetteer," etc., vol. iii., p. 267.

³⁵ By Mr. Henry V. White.

³⁶ It appears to be generally admitted that the classification laid down by Meadows in 1874, and subsequently by Sutcliffe, following in the main Griffith's old arrangement, must be adopted.

The following are the lists of main coals, commencing with the lowest:—

Name:	No. 1	Thickness of Strata.
Gale's Hill	1	30 feet
Kingscote, one foot coal	2	16 "
Modubeagh or Rushes, two foot coal	3	144 "
Ward's Seam, or foul coal	4	483 "
One foot coal with Jarrow channel, or Jarrow coal	5	180 "
Old colliery, or three foot coal	6	111 "
Double seam	7	111 "

All of these have been more or less worked. There are several more known to exist, including a few surface coals. The latter are all worked out. Between 5 and 6 there is a 'crow' coal, called Jarrow crow, which is an indication of the Jarrow below. Similarly, there is a 'crow' Modubeagh between 4 and 5. In the above list Nos. 6 and 7 may also be considered worked out, although still partially existing. The series, then, 1 to 5, is all that practically has to be taken into account in estimating the amount of coal commercially available.³⁷—Paper on the Development of the Leinster Coal Field. By Mr. Henry V. White. Read at Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland, on 13th of April, 1887.

³⁷ Now known as Clogrennan, and facing the town of Carlow.

The Modubeagh Colliery³⁷ is valuable on account of its quality and thickness; while it is good for household and other purposes. It was formerly worked for a considerable extent, while first and second coal was obtained from its beds. The large extent for which this is commercially available gives it a special importance. The layer varies from 15 in. to about 30 in. thick. The Modubeagh is a good, clean coal, but it is soft and flaky. It has been partially worked at the Rushes, Towlerton, Bilboa, Skehanna, Firoda, and Modubeagh, but inconsiderably in proportion to its extent.³⁸ Ward's Seam Coal appears generally either to have been swept away by denudation or to exist at such a depth as to be practically unreachible. It was found at the Rushes 12 in. thick, but unprofitable, also at Mayo. The seam probably can never be of commercial value.

The Jarrow Coal, for quality, is superior to any in the field. It is a hard, stonelike, compact, pure anthracite, giving out very intense and lasting heat. It has been, and is, extensively worked, having been proved at Garrendenny, Kilgorey, Newtown, Doonane,³⁹ Monteen, Massford, Cloneen, Clough, Clonbrock, and Broompark. It is known as the one-foot coal with Jarrow channel. Of the centre basin it comprises a large area not far from the surface.⁴⁰ The general thickness is about 12 in., but the thickest and best portion⁴¹ is that known as the Jarrow channel, averaging 3 ft. thick for about 200 yards wide, thence gradually diminishing. This channel does not rest on fire-clay, as do the other coals, and undoubtedly it was, at one time, the bed of a river, in which the thick formation was deposited. The Jarrow channel course, as proved, proceeded from Geneva, south-west on through Clonbrock, Doonane, Cloneen, Massford, and the Rock, thence north-east to Monteen and Kilgorey, and northward probably to Garrendenny round hill towards Geneva, taking a circular course. However, it has not been proved from Monteen to Geneva. For so much as has been proved, some 10 miles in length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of coal remain to be worked, which may be estimated at full thickness of 3 ft. for 200 yards wide.⁴² At the Wolfhill Colliery, south of Luggacurra, the second coal has apparently been worked out; and, if there be first coal there, it has not as yet been discovered. A very remarkable feature in the district, apparently not generally known, is the existence of a great fault, extending northward from Kilgorey towards Wolfhill, through the summit of the hill next Clonbrock. The displacement must be very great at this hill, as the

³⁷ See "Geological Sheet of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland," No. 128.

³⁸ Mr. Meadows estimates its available area at about 40 square miles, the depths of the seam increasing towards centre of basin, where the maximum depth should be from 250 to 300 yards. It is to be regretted, that sufficient borings have not been made to establish its workable extent with more accuracy.

³⁹ In the southern ridge from Doonane, no coals have been discovered, but on the western or Margie ridge, belonging to the lordship of Castlecomer, coals are found from six feet to four fathoms below the surface.

⁴⁰ With regard to the Jarrow coal generally,

Mr. Meadows estimates it to be profitably workable for an area of 10 square miles; the "Jarrow" is at present being worked at Clonbrock, (Queen's County), and in Kilkenny at Rock, Monteen, and Massford South.

⁴¹ It has been stated, that in his evidence before the Select Committee of Industries (Ireland), 1885, Professor Haill gives the area of the field at 61,440 statute acres, and the workable coal at 118,000,000 tons.

⁴² This was pointed out by Mr. Edge, a gentleman connected with that district. Mr. Meadows' statement would appear to confirm this, as he found the displacement (an up-throw to the west), amounting to 160 yards at Modubeagh, in a pit sunk 167 yards.

Ward's seam comes to the surface, and a bore-hole a little to the east proved to be Jarrow Coal at a depth of 216 ft.⁴²

The Anthracite Coal Measures are largely developed in the South of the Queen's County, and these are extensively worked.⁴³ This coal, however, is not so well suited for domestic purposes; but it suits well the purposes of maltsters and distillers living in the neighbouring districts.⁴⁴ In the Queen's County portion of the Castlecomer tableland, and in the Newtown Colliery, an intra-glacial peat was found by Mr. B. B. Edge, which is probably estuarine, as the gravel associated with it contained marine fossils.⁴⁵ The present annual yield of all the collieries is about 80,000 tons of coal and culm. In former times it appears to have been much greater.⁴⁶ Still, a large amount of coal and culm⁴⁷ is sent annually from the Colliery District.⁴⁸

The most numerous Fossils of the Upper Carboniferous Limestone are Zoophyta or Corals. To the south of the ruined church that lies south-east of Stradbally, there is a thick-bedded, pale and light-bluish gray limestone, thickly bedded, and having in it little chert. Here there are Fossils, which are principally Productæ and Spirifers. To the west of the same church are thick-bedded pale limestones. In the immediate neighbourhood of Arles, various specimens of shell-like stones have been discovered; some of these fossils are pieces of cornel, cockle, and oyster shells.⁴⁹ The black shales in the Colliery district generally contain Fossils belonging to such genera as Aviculopecten, Euomphalus, Goniatites, Bellerophon, &c.; but the beds interstratified with the Coal are found to contain plants belonging to Lepidodendron, Calamites, Sigillaria,

⁴² See "The Imperial Gazetteer," etc., edited by W. G. Blackie, Ph. D., vol. ii., p. 704. Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London, 1860, imp. 8vo.

⁴³ See "The National Gazetteer: a Topographical Dictionary of the British Islands, Compiled from the latest and best sources, and illustrated with a complete County Atlas, and numerous Maps," vol. iii., p. 267. London: Virtue and Co., 1868, 3vols., imp. 8vo.

⁴⁴ See G. Henry Kinahan's "Manual of the Geology of Ireland," sect. iii.; Superficial Accumulations, chap. xix., p. 231.

⁴⁵ Sir Richard Griffith, in his report on the coal field in 1814, uses the following words:—"The annual output may be on an average about 70,000 tons of hard coal, and about 100,000 of soft or culm—the principal markets being Kilkenny, Carlow, and Athy—in distant places the coal being used for malting, for which purposes it is peculiarly adapted, the culm or soft coal being chiefly used for burning lime, being sent for by the farmers of all the surrounding counties, particularly from Wicklow and Wexford." It appears by the evidence given before the Royal Coal Commission in 1872, that the available yield was estimated at 75,000,000 tons.

⁴⁶ This is a local term for the crumbling refuse of the pits, and applied to anthracite mineral carbon, glance and columnal coal. It is largely used for the burning of lime.

⁴⁷ It is estimated, that about 11,000 tons reach Athy, and 10,000 to 17,000 tons reach Carlow. A great deal of the culm going to Athy is used for the manufacture of bricks, and of the fuel going to Carlow a considerable proportion is conveyed by road to the south of the county, and to the counties of Wicklow and Wexford. The value of the coal and culm at the pit's mouth varies from about 1s. 8d. to 20s. per ton—the average is about 9s.; but, weight for weight, its heating and lasting powers are greater than that of any English, Scotch, or Welsh fuel. A large amount is used for malting purposes. The actual cost of carriage to Athy varies from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 8d., and to Carlow from 4s. to 5s. per ton. This coal has been largely used on the Great Southern and Western Railway mixed with Welsh steam coal, and Mr. Aspinall says that to use it by itself it is only necessary to have a special fire-grate with the bars placed very close, to avoid waste. See paper on the Development of the Leinster Coal Field, by Mr. Henry V. White, read at the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland, April 13th, 1887.

⁴⁸ See J. Norris Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," Vol. ii., Queen's County, pp. 107, 108.

⁴⁹ See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Vol. xxiv., Part i., Science. Dr. E. Percival Wright's Paper read January 8, 1866.

Psaronius, Sphenopteris, etc., etc.⁵⁰ Several new species of these latter genera have been described from the Coal of this district.⁵¹

Over forty years ago, many species of fossil reptiles were discovered in the shale beds associated with these coal seams. Respecting these reptiles or sauro-saurichian remains the late Mr. W. H. Baily furnished a most interesting account.⁵² Late in the season of 1864, in visiting the Collieries, Mr. W. B. Brownrigg had his attention drawn to some twisted caudal vertebrae, which had been taken from a recent working. Recognising the interest of the discovery, he, with the ready assistance of Mr. Dobbs, the agent of the property, and with the approval of the lessee, Mr. Samuel Bradley, had a collection made of all the fossil remains. In 1865, a grant of money was made by the British Association to aid in the special digging out of the fossil remains, which occurred in a "sole" that was too foliated to be worked for coal. Mr. Galvan, of the Survey, on a visit to the Collieries, had found a very complete skeleton of a small reptile, of which a drawing by Mr. Baily was forwarded by Professor Jukes to Professor Thomas H. Huxley, who at once returned the sketch with the information, that it represented a new Labyrinthodont Amphibian which he called *Keraterpeton Galvani*. At this time, by systematically working in that part of the pit which yielded the largest amount of fossil remains, a very large series of specimens had been brought together; these packed in cases were conveyed to Dublin free of charge by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, and placed in the charge of Dr. Edward Perceval Wright by Mr. W. B. Brownrigg. Finding that Professor Huxley had named the specimen found by Mr. Galvan, Dr. Wright wrote to him to the effect, that he hoped he would also describe the series which had been sent to him by Mr. Brownrigg, and giving a list of the specimens, Professor Huxley replied, by at once coming over to Dublin and spending some time in selecting the chief forms to be drawn by Mr. Dinkel. In a Memorandum⁵³ kindly communicated in reference to the foregoing subject, Dr. Edward Perceval Wright adds: "The importance of the discoveries thus made in these coal seams may be estimated from the fact, that they had yielded more genera than were known in 1866 from all the American coal fields and nearly as many as had been obtained from Europe generally. They also furnished a new type of Labyrinthodont, *Ophiderpeton Brownriggii*, having a snake-like body. The illustrations of these fossil reptiles by Mr. Dinkel are well worthy of notice, more especially because the original specimens presented to the Museum of Trinity College,

⁵⁰ By W. H. Baily, in "Explanation of Sheet 137 of the Maps of the Geological Survey of Ireland," p. 14.

⁵¹ He then writes: "In the year 1858, when on a visit to the collieries in this district, with my colleague, Mr. G. H. Kinahan, Mr. Pat Finlan, of Clogh, informed us that fossils, like large lizards and snakes with feet," occurred in the kelves and shales over the coal in the first Jarrow Pit. The workings were then filled up with rubbish, and Finlan could not produce any of the specimens he had picked up, except a few ring-

like impressions, which by themselves were obscure. Subsequently, however, after a new pit was sunk, Samuel Bradley, Esq., then manager and owner of the pit, found what appeared to be similar reptilia, which were brought into public notice by W. B. Brownrigg, M.A., in a Paper read before the Royal Geological Society of Ireland." See their Transactions, Vol. I., New Series, p. 145.

⁵² Dated 5 Trinity College, Dublin, 15th February, 1903.

Dublin, have in great measure disappeared by a chemical change in the sulphur pyrites, which formed a great portion of the matrix in which the remains were embedded. It was anticipated, that a second Memoir from the same authors would have appeared, describing some equally interesting new forms, but the owner of the collection disposed of them to the Trustees of the British Museum. There they find a place among their treasures in the great Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London." The newly discovered Labyrinthodont forms were subsequently described in a joint paper, by Dr. Thomas Huxley and Professor E. Perceval Wright.⁵⁴ Illustrations of those Vertebrate Remains, with minute descriptions of their constituent parts have been furnished by Professor Huxley in five lithographic plates, executed under his inspection by Mr. Dinkel, and which are perfectly trustworthy representations of all the well-defined features of the specimens.⁵⁵ Associated with the reptilia were also found numerous well-preserved fossil ferns and other plants, as well as very remarkable fish remains.⁵⁶

CHAPTER III.—CLIMATE, SOIL, SURFACE, BOGS, ESKERS, ALLUVIAL FLATS, SCENERY AND NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

Its inland situation and its general elevation over the sea-level procure a free circulation of air for all parts of the Queen's County; while, especially on the West and towards the South, it is greatly sheltered by the Slieve Bloom mountain range against the winds and rains that so frequently visit it from those directions. As happens in the rest of Ireland, its climate is variable in temperature and degree at different seasons of the year; and considerable changes have taken place, not alone in past historic times, but even within the memory of its oldest living inhabitants. During the first half of the eighteenth century, its Spring seasons were more genial, and not so much affected with eastern winds as at present; the Summers were much warmer; the Autumns generally moister; and the Winters prevaillingly colder, as heavy snows often covered the ground, and hard frost or hoar was to be regarded as more penetrating and keener felt than now come within our experience. But under all the foregoing conditions, as stated, the air was salubrious, temperate, and much more enjoyable and bracing, than that contemporaneously experienced in the adjoining islands of Great Britain and on the European Continent. Not alone for healthy but even for delicate constitutions, it is admirably suited. Since the last two hundred years, its dense woods have wholly and its bogs have mostly disappeared; so that fogs and exhalations are seldom to be seen and in few districts. For greater warmth and shelter, as also to promote the fertility of the numerous fields, not alone the roads,

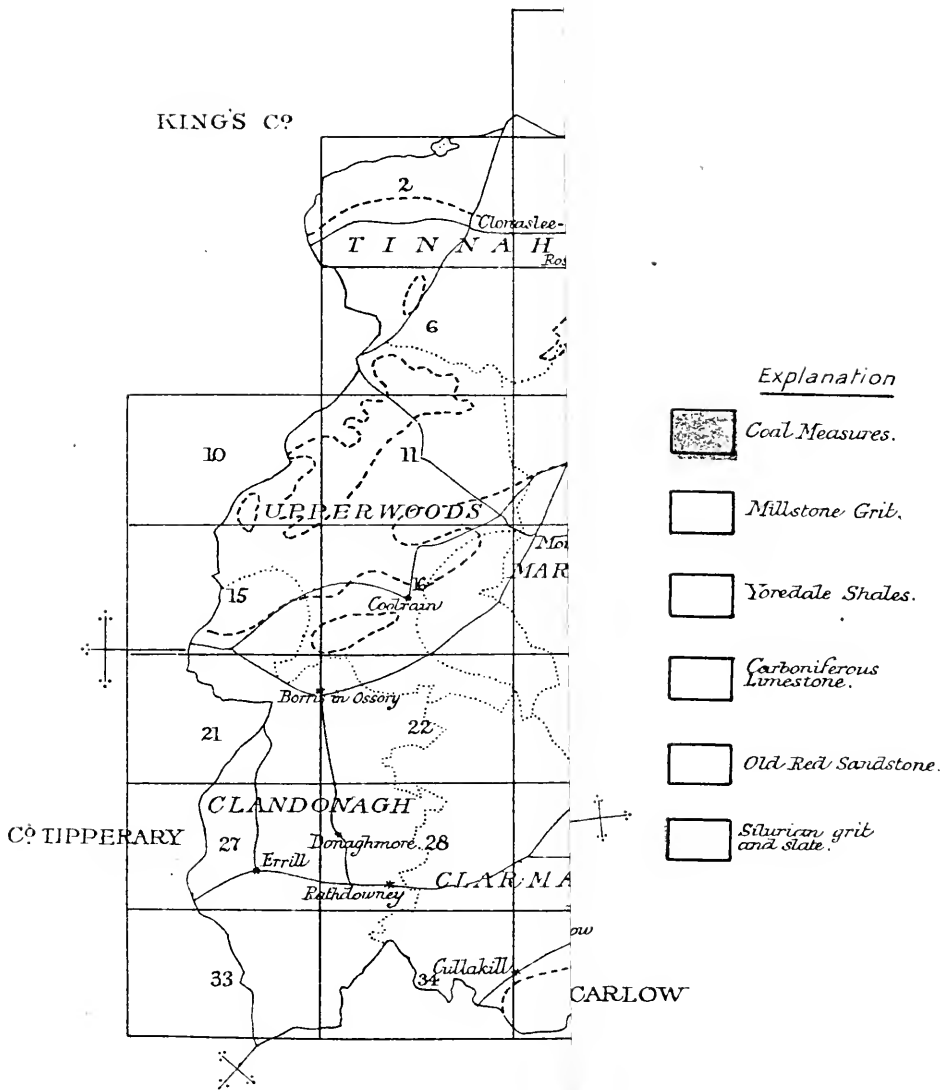
⁵⁴ This was published under the title, "On a Collection of Fossil Vertebrata, from the Jarow Colliery, County of Kilkenny, Ireland. By Thomas H. Huxley, F.R.S., Professor of Natural History at the Royal School of Mines, Jermyn Street; and E. Perceval Wright, A.M., M.D., F.L.S., Lecturer on Zoology, Dublin University."

—"Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Vol. xxiv., Part i., Science. Read January 8, 1866; pp. 351 to 369.

⁵⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 350, 351.

⁵⁶ See in connexion with this subject, "Explanatory Memoir on the Geology of the Leinster Coal Fields," H.M., Geological Survey of Ireland.

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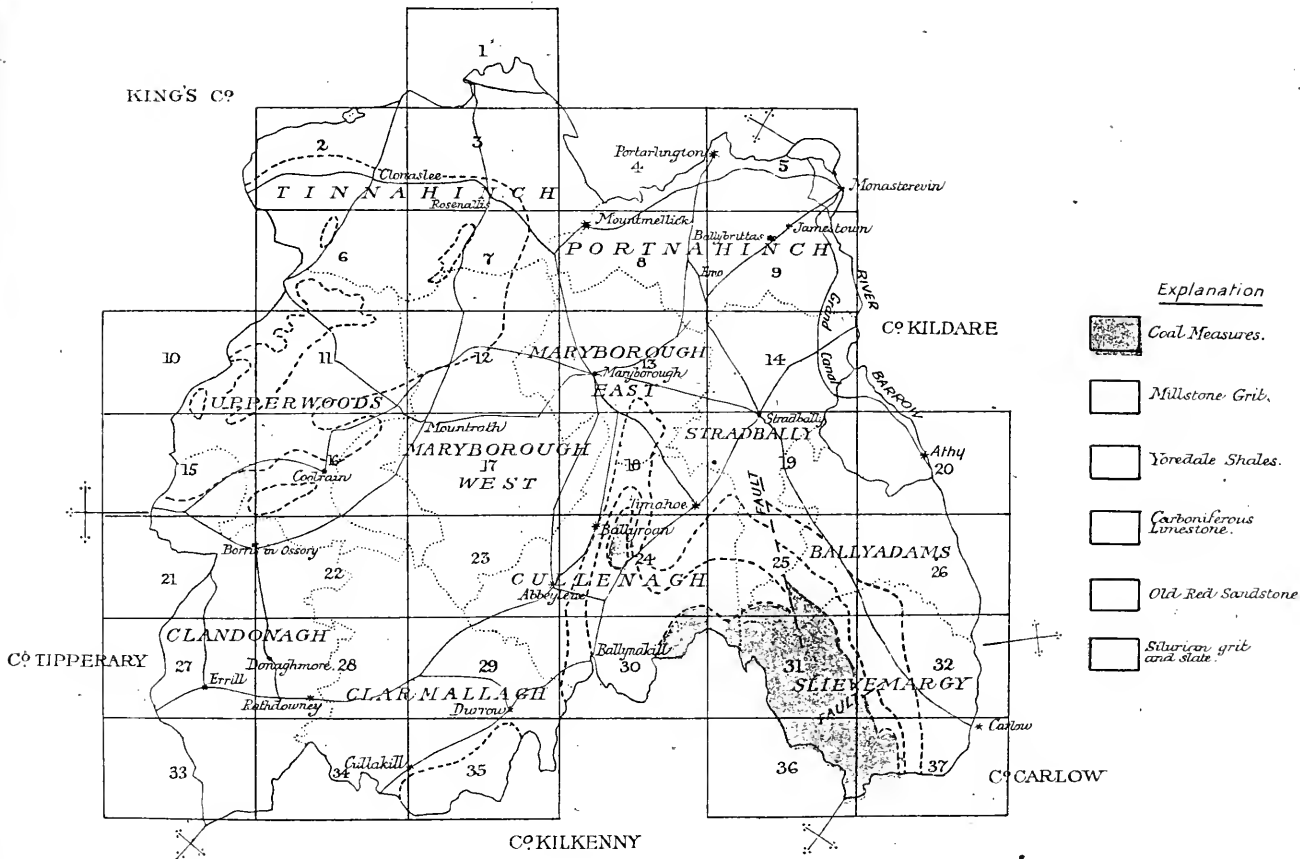


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




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GEOLOGICAL MAP OF QUEEN'S CO

14



Explanation

-  Coal Measures.
-  Millstone Grib.
-  Yoredale Shales.
-  Carboniferous Limestone.
-  Old Red Sandstone.
-  Silurian grit and slate.

(To face page 14)

(REDUCED FROM GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAPS)

but the ditches that enclose the pastures and arable lands ought to be extensively planted with large forest and branching trees. These, however, should be kept apart from the hedge-rows to prevent gaps in the latter. Not alone should such growths be ornamental and add picturesque beauties to the landscape, but their deciduous leaves imperceptibly and gradually deepen and enrich the soils extending beneath them; while by judicious trimming of their branches most useful fire-wood might be obtained, and by seasonable renewal of the plants congenial to the location, even tree-farming as practised in other countries could be rendered profitable to the landed proprietor.¹ The moistures and white mists that arise from the bogs are not alone free from germs of disease, but their constituent elements are antiseptic and invigorating, as proved by the cases of inhabitants living in districts around them, who are generally healthy and robust; while instances of remarkable longevity are occasionally furnished in such situations, by the peasantry occupied in turf-cutting or in cultivating reclaimed bog-lands. The Queen's County climate is usually temperate, and rarely in the extremes of cold in Winter or of heat in Summer.

The variations of natural soil in the Queen's County are very great, and chiefly owing to the circumstances of situation, of geological substrata, and of accidental changes brought by time and treatment. In many instances, the earth produces a stiff clay; more generally it is a sandy loam; while a strong gravelly admixture, very favourable however to the growth of grain, is most commonly prevalent. In some cases, the layers of earth are deep; but large tracts, in particular districts, are shallow, and these mostly rest on limestone sub-strata. The greater portion of the County is admirably suited for arable lands, and has been so cultivated; while, owing to long-continued tillage and manuring with farm-yard composts, their natural fertility has been vastly improved. For many past years, however, tillage has greatly lessened. On the hills and mountain elevations where grass is chiefly produced, pastures most abound, and the herbage is nutritious, even on very light soils. Naturally, there is a considerable amount of heathy and barren mountain surface, with several tracts of bog, marsh and waste lands, yet for the most part capable of partial reclamation. In suitable positions, meadows and artificial grasses flourish, and are sure to reward the agriculturists' care and protection. On the whole, the area of waste land, bears but a very small degree of comparison with that which is fertile and productive.

The great central plain of the Queen's County is comparatively level, although covered with gentle undulations of surface. In several places, isolated hills of moderate eminence are to be seen; but the mountain ranges that bound it towards the West and South form its greatest elevations.

The soil of the Slieve-Bloom mountains on the Queen's County side and the lower declivities is, on the whole, very good; on the King's County side at the extremity it is a cold grit, and this takes a great deal of lime to make it arable. Argillaceous in composition, it is also interspersed thickly with freestone on the King's County exposure. The upper stratum is also pretty deep, and in few places it is less than two

¹ An Act of Parliament applicable to Ireland enables the limited renter of land to register trees planted by himself, and on his

own farm, and afterwards to claim them at any time as his own property or convert them to his own use.

spades from the surface, while a silicious substratum covers the whole summit range. The centre has various soils, it being of a light sandy loam, a stiff yellow clay, or gritty shallow gravel, and a deep brown earth, which is by far the best. The bottom line is a cold, spongy, deep clay, and only productive, where the loam is so dry as to check the springs above; at the foot, where the declivity vanishes, there is a deep, irreclaimable bog, and only to be approached in very dry seasons. This is a general description of the Slieve Bloom range on the King's County side. However, towards the centre of those mountains, the land is very fertile in pasture, and it is grazed the whole year throughout with numerous flocks of sheep and young cattle. The soil is often of limestone quality, and large rocks of that mineral are thickly interspersed; neither is the bottom range boggy, but it produces a stiff clay, from which abundant crops of corn can be procured. On the mountain of Knocknaman such is the case, and also on the range of Castletown, Cumber, and down to Lettybrook, some of the best land is to be found. On the western side towards the King's County the mountain land is generally barren, and is of very little value. In most places the uplands are only nutritious as pasture for cattle in very dry seasons. Yet along the declivities, and chiefly those approaching the lower extended plain, on the eastern face of Slieve Bloom, the lands are mostly of very superior quality.

The bogs, which spread over some districts, contain large tracts, especially in the northern and middle parts; but, they have been of late years so much cut away for cheap and useful fuel, while the remainder has been reclaimed for meadow or tillage, that their limits have been greatly circumscribed, while their dun and heath-covered surfaces are by no means dreary or monotonous to the eye of the traveller. It has been remarked, moreover, that they are quite free from the malaria arising from the fens and marshes of England. The strongly-astringent quality of those bogs is a proof of their being antiseptic and non-putrescent. Trees have been found beneath them at a great depth,² and for ages the bogs have been gradually growing over them; still the trees are in a high state of preservation, and the timber is perfectly sound.³ Moreover, the remains of human beings and of irrational animals, that have been buried there in times unknown, have yet retained their shape and features, but embrowned from the action of the bog water.⁴ Exhalations arise from the bogs occasionally,

² The trunks and branches of decayed trees are very generally found in most of the Irish bogs; however, although the wood be perfectly sound, the bark of the timber has uniformly disappeared. The decomposition of this bark forms a considerable part of those nutritive substances which helped growth in the morasses; still, notwithstanding this circumstance, tan is not to be obtained when analysing bogs. Such is the statement of the distinguished Irish mineralogist and scientist, Richard Kirwan.

³ Some of the Irish bogs are evidently of very ancient formation. There are three distinct growths of timber which have been covered by three distinct masses of bog, as discovered by a careful and scientific examination, according to the Report of the Com-

missioners on the Bogs of Ireland, published now over seventy years ago.

⁴ Their antiseptic quality is indisputable; for animal and vegetable substances, even the products of man's industry, are frequently found, and at a great depth in bogs, without their seeming to have suffered any decay. Many of those substances have been deposited in them at a very remote period. Under the surface of a bog, and at a depth of 17 ft., a woollen coat of coarse but even network was found in 1786; a razor with a wooden handle, some iron heads of arrows, large wooden bowls, some only half made, with the remains of turning tools. These are thought to have been the wreck of a workshop, which might have been situated on the borders of that bog.

owing to the warm rays of the sun, and especially towards evening ; yet, these affect not the health of natives living in the vicinity.

Within the last century, a considerable portion of bog has been reclaimed and converted chiefly into wet or badly drained pasturage. The largest tracts of moorland now remaining are those extending from Monasterevin towards Portarlinton and Emo Park along the western banks of the River Barrow, and that moor between Maryborough and Mountrath, reaching moreover towards Ballyroan and Abbeyleix. Between Maryborough and Stradbally, on either side of the high road, there is a tract covering some acres called Moneyvaugh much of it having been reclaimed. Between Maryborough and Mountmellick a considerable amount of bogland still supplies turf to the country-people and to the towns. West and south of Rathdowney the bogs are extensive. Throughout the barony of Tinnahinch the moors greatly prevail, and in Upper Ossory are bog-lands and mountain moors to a very considerable extent.

The drift-ridges, known as Eskers, are to be met with in the Queen's County.⁵ South of Maryborough is one of the most remarkable, and tending in a northerly direction, until it ends in an alluvial flat east of Mountmellick. This, known as the Ridge of Maryborough, is generally narrow at its base, being sometimes not one hundred yards wide, and sloping upwards very steeply ; yet sufficiently broad on the top to admit the construction of an old roadway, which is even yet travelled, except near Rathleague, where it is now terminated by a wood, through which, however, the Esker continues. On either side of this embankment, there is an alluvial flat, through which a small brook flows. These brooks make a curious gap in the Esker about half-way between Maryborough and Mountmellick, where they unite their streams, flowing northwardly into the River Barrow. However, the Esker continues on the western side in a sinuous but narrow line. An Esker, probably a continuation of the foregoing, although a gap of more than a mile intervenes, commences north of Mountmellick. It is first seen on the south side of the River Barrow, about 300 yards long and 30 ft. in height. It runs north-west and south-east. It is separated from one about 300 yards further to the north-west, by the alluvial flats of the River Barrow. The Esker now forms a very regular ridge along the north-east bank of the Barrow, from 15 ft. to 25 ft. above the flat. It is about one mile and a-half long. It terminates rather abruptly west of White Hill. There a section is exposed in a gravel pit, where it shows a confused mass of sand and gravel, principally composed of limestone *debris*. To the west of where the last Esker terminates, and north of Rosenallis, some curious drift mounds and short Eskers may be seen about Nut Grove and the Glebe House. There is an Esker opposite Pass House, near Ballyroan, while it extends in a westerly and northerly direction. A very large portion of this had been removed, when the new coach-road from Dublin to Cork was formed towards the close of the Eighteenth Century. Since that time its bed of gravel has been drawn on repeatedly for repairs of that road. Probably the Pass Esker had a former connexion with the Ridge of Maryborough. The great Esker or central gravel

⁵ For an account of their supposed formation, and of other interesting particulars regarding them, the reader is referred to

G. Henry Kinahan's "Manual of the Geology of Ireland," sect. iii., Superficial Accumulations, chap. xiv.

mound is traceable near Timahoe; and there is one of very considerable length, commencing at Rathleague, extending to Maryborough, and continuing to Mountmellick, which is especially remarkable, for its extension and continuity. An Esker runs from Stradbally to the south-west, and it is fully three miles long. It passes near Timogue church, and onwards towards Timahoe. Where this ridge comes a little to the north of the latter place, it is almost cut in two by the little River Bauteogue. The ridge is thence continued to the north for about a mile, when it turns round to the west, widens out, and ends. To the north-west of Timahoe, there runs a north and south Esker ridge, to be seen on the road that leads to Cullinagh.

Alluvial Flats are to be found along the River Barrow and some of its tributaries. In many instances, those tracts are extensive. All have been formed from the silt and other matters carried down by the river during floods. After heavy rains, especially in the northern Slieve Bloom mountains, the waters oftentimes overflow the banks and sometimes cover the adjoining fields to a very wide extent, remaining for a considerable time on the callow meadows before they return to their natural channels. As a consequence, the grass of those meadows becomes coarse and sour, in most summer seasons, when it is fit to be mowed; but it is largely used with more nutritious hay and fodder for cattle, by the farming classes in the country around. The soil of those flats is usually marshy, cold and full of rushes. Nearly at the point of the Little Barrow, entering the County of Kildare, the Feagile River, which drains the Bog of Allen, and flows through a desolate-looking tract of country, contributes largely to the Barrow floods. It would be a work of national importance, and tend to reclaim thousands of acres, if a large and judicious employment of capital, skill and labour were extended to those alluvial districts. Elsewhere the marshy lands are not very numerous, and they are usually small in area.

The chief mountain ranges are those of Slieve Bloom, extending from the north to the south, and on the western boundary, as also Slieve Marigue along the extreme south-western line. These are of irregular width and bearing, but on the Queen's County side their surfaces, although broken and uneven, are for the most part productive. The contrary is the case on the King's County or western side, where the escarpments are very numerous and abrupt. They have extensions, likewise, of lesser altitude, and from nearly all the upper points of vantage on the eastern slopes, there is a far stretch of vision, not only over the great central plain of the Queen's County and its diversified prospects, but over various parts of the adjoining counties, and reaching to vast distances, north, east and south. In the heart of the mountains themselves are many delightful lonely valleys and dells, especially near the banks of the several streams that have their source on the upper eminences. The northern and western slopes of the Slieve Bloom mountains are indented by many deep glens, the principal of which are: Glenbarrow—whence the River Barrow draws its head water; two glens which run upwards from Clonaslee; and two remarkable glens to the west of Wolftrap mountain, one of which opens into Cadamstown and the other into Kinnitty. There are two passes across the range, traversed by a main road—one called "The Cut," south of Clonaslee, and the summit of which is about 1,350 ft. above the sea; while the other, two miles westwards, has a height of

1,500 ft. To the west of the River Barrow, near Carlow, the ground rises slowly at first, but afterwards it forms a long line having nearly level heights of about 1,000 ft. in absolute elevation to the table-land of Castlecomer. The views from some points on the east and north are most extensive; and, from the heights above Killeslin, the prospect of the fertile and well-wooded valley around Carlow, backed by the range of Wicklow mountains, with their centre-piece Lugnaquilla, is particularly beautiful. From the northern slopes of the Slieve Marnock range, the view over a vast champaign country presents a most enchanting prospect, while its diversity in lines of walled demesnes and hedge-row enclosures around numerous farm-houses and cottages is most charming, until such objects seem to fade far away to indistinctness. The distant summits of Wicklow mountains close the view. The terrace-road leading from Stradbally to Carlow and stretching along the breast of that range at a considerable elevation forms a delightful route, and has always afforded the tourist of taste and sensibility the highest gratification. Almost equally enjoyable is the direct high-road drive between Stradbally and Athy, by way of Ballykilkavan demesne and Blackford. The contours of the country around Stradbally, Timahoe and Ballynakill have an agreeable diversity of outline, and are much admired for views they present. Several minor ranges of hills and of isolated limestone eminences, with the vales and dells beneath, give an appearance of picturesqueness to the scenery. From the summits of those projections are many charming prospects; and, in several instances, the views extend to vast distances over the great midland plains of Ireland. The scenery throughout the Queen's County district is pleasing and diversified; as, on the whole, the land has been kept in a good state of cultivation, while several beautiful mansions and demesnes are to be seen, with a variety of improved farm-houses and their out-offices. Except when relieved by artificial improvements and planting, the immediate vicinity of the travelled roads on the midland plain, reaching from north-east to south-west, presents few features of scenic interest; although for the most part undulating, and opening picturesque vistas of more distant mountains or hills. Given the advantage of favourable weather, and facilities for making excursions, rarely is the tourist through any part of the county disappointed, or not greatly pleased, with his drive, or ride, or pedestrian exercise.

Among the natural curiosities of the Queen's County may be mentioned the *Muggies*, a vortex within a small glen, near the rock of Dunamase. There an inconsiderable stream, almost dry in warm weather, trickles through the narrow ravine, and disappears from view within the limestone rocks. After heavy rain, a considerable pool is formed over the aperture, before it is swallowed down through the subterranean passage. Its further course has not been traced, nor is it known where the stream emerges to light, after it has thus mysteriously disappeared. However, as the source appears to flow from the Killeale and Dysart Hills, which are well-known to be cavernous beneath their surfaces, so it seems very probable, that springs of water percolate through the rocks and form pools or courses, which find subterranean ducts for their outfall.

Near the vertex of Killone, a conical hill, near the Great Heath of Maryborough, the opening to a cavern was discovered before the close of the eighteenth century. This cavern slopes towards the centre of that

hill. The cleft at its entrance is narrow, but at some distance, there is a steep descent into a large saloon, about 20 ft. or 30 ft. in height, and somewhat more in diameter.⁶ On one side there is a dark and dreadful percipice; and when stones are thrown down into it, these are heard about fifty or sixty fathoms deep splashing in a subterraneous lake or river, which is supposed to communicate with water under the Great Heath of Maryborough.⁷ When lighted only by a few candles or torches, the cavern appears dark and dismal, studded with pendant and projecting rocks, which seem to threaten the spectator with instant destruction; yet, on being fully illuminated, those horrors vanish, and give place to a most brilliant scene. Under such conditions, the sides, roof, and every pointed rock, seem instantly covered with festoons and bouquets of pearls, diamonds, and rubies, with every other kind of precious stone. Such appearance is caused by drops of water issuing from the upper calcareous rocks, although no incrustations are to be seen.⁸

The Dun of Clopooke, surmounted by a stone circumvallation on top, is of limestone; and the form is nearly circular. On one of its sides is a large cavity, which diminishes in size, at some distance from its entrance, and then a narrow fissure is said to lead into a cavern, the branches of which have not yet been fully explored. Near this, on the Dun of Luggacurran, it is said there is a cave 6 ft. high by 4 ft. at bottom and top.⁹ Smaller clefts and cavities are known to exist in other limestone districts throughout the county.

CHAPTER IV.—MOUNTAINS AND HILLS.

The mountain range of Slieve-Bloom, formerly called Sliabh-Bladhma, is on the boundary line between the King's and Queen's Counties. Its gradual ascent, from the southern vicinity of Clonaslee village in the barony of Tinnelinch, reaches for over thirteen miles, chiefly bearing south-south-westward, towards the northern vicinity of Roscrea town, at the northern extremity of the County of Tipperary. It partly takes in the barony of Ballybrit in the King's County; but chiefly is it contained within the baronies of Tinnelinch, Upperwoods, and Clandonagh, in the Queen's County. It occupies in part the parishes of Letterluna, Kinnetty, Roscomroe, and Roscrea, in the King's County. Within it also are the parishes of Kilmanman, Rearymore, Rosenallis, Offerlane, and Kyle, in the Queen's County. The respective altitudes of its chief elevations over the sea-level are Spink, in the parish of Letterluna, 1,087 feet; Carroll's-Hill, in the parish of Kinnetty, 1,584 feet; a height on the boundary line between

⁶ See a description of this natural curiosity given in the "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iii., in an article on the Physical Geography of Ireland, by a writer who signs himself Ambularius, January, No., 1794, p. 4.

⁷ See Wm. Wenman Seward's "Topographia Hibernica," at the word, KILLONE-HILL.

⁸ In his youthful days, the writer made his

entrance into the first descending chamber, and by the light of a candle had an opportunity of witnessing some of the phenomena described in the text; yet the gloom was too great fully to realize all its interesting features, without more sufficient illuminating appliances.

⁹ See Daniel O'Byrne's "History of the Queen's County," chap. v., p. 12.

the parishes of Letterkenny and Offerlane is 1,602 feet. On the line of division between the parishes of Kinnetty and Offerlane are Arderin and another summit respectively 1,733 and 1,601 feet; Farbreague, on the boundary line between the parishes of Roscomroe and Offerlane, measures 1,411 feet in altitude; at the junction of Roscomroe, Roscrea, and Offerlane Parishes, there is a height of 1,332 feet; Knocknastumba and another height, respectively 1,350 and 1,261 feet, are in Rearymore parish, Antonian is in the parish of Rosenallis, and 1,114 feet; Bawnraaghcong rises on the boundary line between Rearymore and Offerlane parishes to a height of 1,676 feet; there is a height, in the centre of the parish of Kilmanman, which attains an altitude of 1,614 feet; a height is also on the boundary line between the parishes of Offerlane and Kyle, reaching to 1,007 feet; in the parish of Roscrea there is an elevation rising to 757 feet. The Cones and the Ridge of Cappard are two elongated heights, which extend respectively towards the east, and along the boundary line between Rearymore and Offerlane parishes; while they reach north-eastwardly between Rearymore and Rosenallis parishes; the highest parts of these ridgy summits are respectively Bawnraaghcong and Antonian. The range is so continuous and proportionately narrow, that it is traversed or crossed only by two roads; both of these lead through lofty elevations or through very steep gaps; the whole screen forms a series of striking features and noble backgrounds for the great central plain which stretches far away from their base towards the east. From Mountrath, and from various other localities on the Queen's County side in their vicinity, the ascent is gradual and their summits are easily reached. From the Cones, the heights of Arderin, and many other vantage-grounds, they command extensive and most varied views of the lower lying country beneath, and over which they have a grand elevation. Even on the upper ridges are many fine views of solitary valleys within them. The Gap of Glendine, immediately to the north of Arderin, is the principal defile to afford a good road between the King's and Queen's Counties. This passage is difficult of approach, and the rise is a steep one; formerly it was not five feet wide upon the bridle-path, but at present the road is sufficiently broad to admit of travelling with ease. Owing to their great extent and height, the leading features of this district are possessed of every natural beauty peculiar to mountains; in the variety of their conformation and winding surfaces their scenery is calculated to excite pleasurable emotions and admiration; while their botany is well worth attention by the naturalist, and their varied strata still require investigation by the geologist.¹

The mountain range which is denominated Slieve Marague or Slieve Margy is situated in the south and south-east of the Queen's County. It is said to comprehend the ancient districts of Dunane, Clogh, Shean Oghragh, Maragheigh, and Brenan. Their hills rather than mountains have generally no extraordinary elevation. Three distinct

¹ Sir Charles Coote very properly observes: "A minute inspection of this great range of mountain would permit ample matter for the attention of a professed mineralogist, and throw a light on that science in this country, of what riches we may possess without knowing their value." "General View

of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the King's County, with Observations on the Means of their Improvement, drawn up in the Year 1801. For the Consideration, and under the Direction of the Dublin Society." chap. i., sect 4, p. 10. Dublin, 1801, 8vo.

ridges enclose in the northern extremities a plain considerably below the vertex of the hills, yet much above the level parts of the adjacent countries towards the north and east. The northern ridge, said to have been anciently denominated the Shean Oghragh, is composed of calcareous stone, towards the vertex, on which is a moorish soil, producing rushes and turf. Somewhat lower, towards the south, the soil changes to a vegetable earth, fruitful in grass, meadow, and corn, intermixed with watery bog producing rushes, but no great quantity of good turf. On this part stood an ancient forest traditionally called Choille Oghragh.² The roots and trunks of trees unearthed lend probability to that tradition. Between the site of that forest and the moory land called Carragh, a kind of slate stratum is found, indicating coals at no great depth. The coal stratum is found about six feet beneath the surface, and it bears in the direction of the hill declivity. However, it is not of a good quality, and in depth it is shallow. The eastern district of Slievemargy is a rich and beautiful back-ground portion receding from the valley of the Barrow, and it comprises the parallel vale of the rivulet Fishoge; but the middle and western districts are a series of uplands, so fused into their respective bases as to make a tumulated tableau of from 500 to 830 feet of elevation above sea-level. Clogrennan, from which most extensive views are presented, rises to an altitude of 1,032 feet.³ The highest grounds on the western border are two elevations of respectively 885 and 895 feet of altitude; while on the southern border there is a mountain reaching to 1,102 feet. Most of the uplands are of the coal formation, and generally they have seams and beds of coal having such positions and thickness, that they can be profitably turned to account by miners. They constitute an important part of the great Leinster coalfield.

Beyond the site of Choille Oghragh, the stratum of coal dips from six feet to five and eight fathoms, and in thickness it varies from twelve to twenty inches. It is covered with argillaceous earth, and a kind of argillaceous rockstone, with black slate and earth. Entering on the lands of Clogh and Doonane, the ground is fertile, and the coal dips to about twenty or twenty-eight fathoms. It varies from twenty inches to over three feet in thickness, and it runs in a direction nearly parallel with the horizon. Here, at about twelve fathoms beneath the surface, a rock of whinstone has been discovered, and it rests on a stratum of columnar basalt, which is perpendicular to the horizon. The columns are from two to six feet in length, while the articulations vary from three to six inches. They form both convex and concave joints of an irregular pentagonal figure; the sides in different joints being plain convex and concave in shape. In several places, these columns rest on a light grey and ferruginous rock or whinstone, and on a slaty rock; a vein of rich iron ore, parallel to the horizon, and from one to three inches in thickness, extends beneath. Under the iron a stratum of slate is found, and then a coal bed. A soft micaceous slate stratum, ten or twelve fathoms deep, is under the coal-bed. A hard rock through which no excavation has been attempted lies still lower. Miners think that the great and principal coal-bed sinks beneath this rock, and about fifty fathoms from the surface. In the eastern ridge of Slievemargy, called Brennan, a number of rich iron

² See the "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. ii., July, 1793, p. 37.

³ See James Fraser's "Hand Book for Travellers in Ireland," No. 12, p. 111.

mines have been discovered. The remains of various shafts make it evident that these mines had been wrought in some remote period, as no tradition remained even towards the close of the eighteenth century of their having been opened at any former time. It is probable the ore was not smelted on the spot, when extracted, but that it had been removed to some more distant place, as no remains of any furnace having been erected there can be found. Owing to the quantity and quality of the ore these mines seem, undoubtedly, to merit the attention of the mineralogist,⁴ and the enterprise of the manufacturer and capitalist.

From the Shevemargy range of mountain extends a chain of hills in a north-westwardly direction towards Stradbally and Ballykilcavan. These have gradual ascents and are of subdued altitude; but their grouping is intersected with valleys of gentle undulation, and varied throughout their whole extent. Belts of woodland occasionally intervene, and lend a special feature of interest to the scenery. Towards the south-west these hills form a connexion with what is known as the Fossy and Timahoe chain, which swells out into many pleasing prospects, enlivened by the slopes and surfaces dotted by numerous farm-houses and rural cottages. The picturesque hills in the parish of Dysart-gallen and around Ballynakill are of minor elevation, and for the most part capable of field cultivation. Their declivities usually retire to banks of the beautiful Owenbeg River, or to the streams that form its many affluents.

The rugged chain of Dysart Hills commences at the Rock of Dunamase and continues in a southward course to Lamberton Demesne, where they terminate at Croshy Duff Hill. Their broken and irregular outlines are studded with furze and thorn brakes, the natural products of their lime-stone formation; and while the traveller on the high-road between Dublin and Cork admires the diversity of view they present on the western side, nearly in a parallel direction but at a still greater distance towards the east, the line of vision is closed by the far-reaching and gracefully declining slopes of the Fossey mountain chain. The intermediate spaces are covered with well-cultivated farms and comfortable homesteads. The Cullinagh Mountains—hardly deserving this popular nomenclature owing to their secondary height and gradual ascent—are a link of three well-distinguished summits, yet united by elevated connecting grounds. From Sliabh Dubh or the Black Mountain in the east, they take partly an eastern direction towards Kilwhelan, and terminate at the Rock of Cashel—a lime-stone crag, and locally known by that name.

The celebrated Rock of Dunamase, with its crowning ruins, stands quite isolated from the opposing range of Killeale hills, covered with copse-wood on the east. Fine pasturage is to be found for cattle and sheep, even on the upper grounds, and the ascent is gradual; while thickets of hazel and hawthorn prevail to an extent, which renders the passage of way-farers difficult except through the paths opened by flocks and herds. To the west and extending northwards is a chain of curiously detached hills, which terminate at the double-coned Hill

⁴The writer in the "Anthologia Hibernica," with very just observation, adds that "if the neighbouring turf and coal could not be charred to answer the purpose of smelting, a branch of the Grand Canal ex-

tends within six miles of the place, whereby an easy conveyance might be had, not only for the produce of the mines, but for such materials as would be necessary for their manufacture."—Vol. ii., July, 1793, p. 38.

of Killone. This latter was once delightfully covered with plantations over a great part of its extent, to those who recollect the scene—not many years remote from our time—but the present bald and naked appearance of the scrubby surfaces presents only a scene of desolation and a feeling of deep regret for the destroyed Sylvan coronet.

In the parish of Aughmacart, and in the extreme southern part of the Queen's County is the Cullohill range—so called from the name of that village—and it separates Kilkenny County along that frontier. Swelling out over a very considerable distance, the eminences are all easy of access and the gradients are never very steep throughout that district. Some small hills south of Portarlington have summits rising from 300 to 400 ft., but large portions of the district around—especially south and west of the Barrow—are flat and covered with peat bog, the dreary surface of which is somewhat relieved by tracts of wood about Emo, Shane, and Ballybrittas. Many other beautiful eminences, which hardly deserve the name of hills, may be seen scattered here and there throughout various districts of the Queen's County.

CHAPTER V.—RIVERS, LAKES, AND WATER COURSES.

The Barrow is the longest, widest, and deepest river in the county ; while, for a considerable portion of its course, lumber boats carrying heavy freights ply on its waters,¹ especially from Athy to Carlow, and downwards to New Ross, where steamers and sloops are found to reach Waterford.² A small brook, which is fed by some springs³ north of Barna, and at a height of 1,500 ft. over the sea-level, may be considered the head water of the River Barrow, which gradually increases in size, fed by several small streams which fall into Glenbarrow. At the foot of the hills, and near Rathcoffey bridge, the Glenlahan River falls into the Barrow. Thence it runs in a northerly direction to the east side of Monettia Bog, where it curves round to the south-east, leaving the district north-east of Mountmellick. Gathering its confluent in the barony of Tinnehinch, the Barrow takes a sinuous eastward course in the plains beneath the Slieve Bloom mountains, and a little north of Mountmellick it receives, at a height of 235 ft., the Owenass stream, which flows through that town. The Owenass rises east of Baunreaghcong, at a height of 1,450 ft., and runs down the east side of Slieve Bloom. Near that point, also, the Barrow forms the boundary line between the King's and the Queen's County, flowing through a level district of country on towards Portarlington, until it enters the County of Kildare and onwards to Monasterevan ; it thence turns southwards and proceeds through a flat surface of country, through callow meadows and marshes, which are often greatly flooded, especially in the winter months, or when heavy rains prevail in the Slieve Bloom mountains.

¹ The Barrow Navigation Company, chartered by an Act of the Irish Parliament, expended nearly £42,000 before the year 1811 in building locks and dams, as also in cutting short canals to improve the navigation of the river, and up to 1838, the sum expended was £177,852. In the year 1800, the tonnage was 19,828 tons, and the amount of tolls was £1,405.

² In 1835, the tonnage was £66,084, and

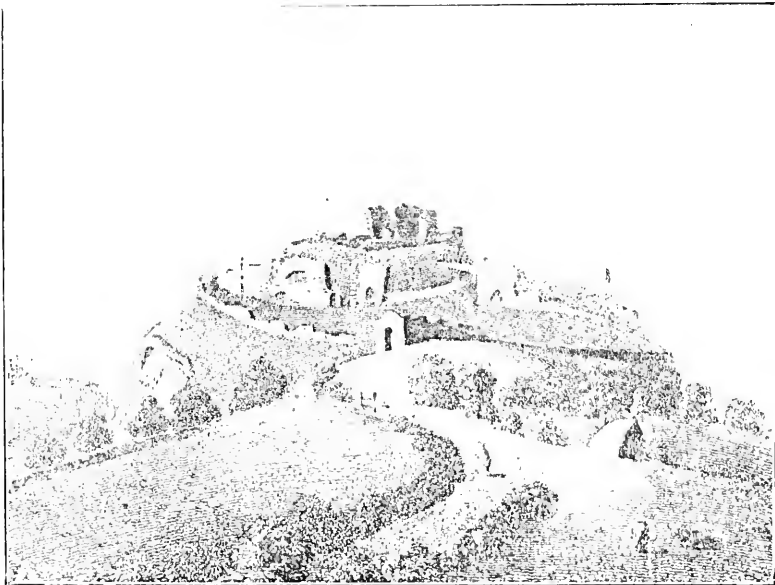
the amount of tolls £4,666. During late years, the traffic and tolls have very considerably diminished.

³ The well of Sliabh Bladhma, or Slieve Bloom, was regarded as the river Barrow's source. A legend states that if any person touched, or even gazed upon it, the sky poured down torrents of rain, until the tutelary spirit of the spring had been propitiated. See the "Dublin Illustrated Journal," No. 4, p. 53.



THE NORE AT DURROW.

See page 25.



THE ROCK OF DUNAMASE.

(From Grose's *Antiquities*).

Vol. I.

See page 75.

In the upper glens and water-courses, the waters are precipitated over rugged beds of sandstone rocks and boulders, and sometimes through steep gorges over limestone gravel. Afterwards, the waters spread out and move slowly through the level plains, where they become sinuous, and in places they are deep, while in others ordinarily they are fordable. However, along the champaign courses are high banks and hills, woods and demesnes, as also cultivated and pasture fields, to form a succession of highly-pleasing and beautiful landscapes. The Little Barrow and its tributary the Feagile join in the vicinity of Monasterevan, and various other streams unite as the Barrow flows southward. From Monasterevan to Athy, the Grand Canal from Dublin continues along the west side of the River Barrow, and near its banks, with some slight deflections from their sinuosity. After leaving Athy, the Barrow still bounding the Counties of Kildare and the Queen's County takes its course southwardly to Carlow, where it has a height of 152 ft. above the sea-level.⁴ Thence this river continues to Leighlin Bridge, Bagnalstown, Graiguenamanagh and New Ross, dividing the County of Kilkenny from the Counties of Carlow and Wexford, and it receives the Suir below Waterford, entering the sea at the opening of Waterford Harbour.⁵ It abounds in fish, especially salmon, towards its mouth; but, of late years, the supply of fish has been greatly diminished, and this is stated to have been occasioned, chiefly owing to an increase of pike in its waters, and that species is well known to anglers, as being most destructive among the more valuable products of the finny tribe.

The next longest and most considerable river and running for a considerable distance within the Queen's County is the Nore, formerly called the Neure, or Oure.⁶ Its rise is from a small spring in the barony of Ikerrin, County of Tipperary, and thence it flows in a north-east course through a level tract of country. Near its source, a little southward from Roscrea, the River Nore passes through a waste tract of bog—which had been formerly an extensive lake—and from which ancient boats have been dug up by turf-cutters. Some portions of it still remain constantly under shallow water. It enters the Queen's County near Borris in Ossory, and afterwards receives as its first chief affluent the Tonet River, rising on the southern slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains; thence it proceeds in a devious course to the village of Castletown, below which it receives the Shannon—sometimes called the Mountrath—River, as passing through that town. This latter has its source in the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Thence the Nore flows southwards through the city of Kilkenny, and joins the River Barrow above New Ross, in the County of Wexford.

The Tonet River takes a solitary and rapid course through the mountain glens and valleys of southern Slieve Bloom. The Tonet rushes through lonely dells uncommonly romantic, and passing Annatrim's ancient cemetery, it unites with the River Nore, about a mile below the small village of Coolrain. Notwithstanding the wild scenery along its banks, seldom does the tourist wander to its solitary sources, although the excursion must afford delight and enjoyment to the lover of nature in her most lonely haunts. The River Tonet gathers

⁴ See Geological Sheet, No. 137.

⁵ On Ptolomy's ancient Map of Ireland, the Barrow is supposed to be described by the

denomination *Birgus* or *Brigus*.

⁶ According to Boate's "Ireland's Natural History," Chap. viii., Sect. 2, p. 63.

some smaller rills from the south-western summits of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, while it rolls through several pretty valleys and glens in an easterly direction, until it joins the Delour River below Coolrain village, in the parish of Offerlane. The district around is mostly broken and pastoral, and the scenery along its banks is remarkable for variety and beauty. Although in fine seasons of the year, the stream is inconsiderable, yet after heavy rains, it pours along in deep and rapid torrents. The Mena stream is a clear mountain rivulet, which after a short course joins the River Nore. Hence a townland bears the name Menadrochid, which signifies "Mena-bridge," as doubtless one had crossed the stream in ancient times. The Delour River and its various branches, coming from the upper middle heights of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, through some picturesque defiles and scenery along its course, falls into the River Tonet a little below Coolrain. Some of the affluents of the Silver River, which flows into the great River Shannon, have their rise on Slieve Bloom Mountains, in the north-western angle of the Queen's County.

The River Erkina, collecting various streams which unite west of Rathdowney, flows thence eastwardly towards Castle Durrow, and passing this town, it falls into the River Nore, near Ballyragget. Its course lies through an interesting and a fertile but level country; while it presents a beautiful appearance, especially in the demesne near Castle Durrow, and through the County of Kilkenny. The River Goul, coming from Aghmacart southwards, joins it on the right bank. The River Gully rises in the low-lying bogs near Aghaboe, and afterwards it takes a southern course, until it unites with the River Erkina, about one mile east of Castle Durrow. Some pleasing scenery may be found, especially along its lower bed.

The streams of less considerable volume and course are the Douglas River, which takes its rise in the Slievemarigue range of mountains; and running eastwardly it falls into the River Barrow, about two miles north of Carlow town. In a south-east course the Fuer stream joins it. The Fishoge River also comes from the Slievemarigue hills and take a south-easterly course falling into the River Barrow about three miles south of Carlow. The Bauteogue River rises in the mountains near Timahoe, and, joined by a stream coming from Luggacurran, passing northwards through Stradbally, it thence turns eastwards, and falls into the Barrow, about three miles north of Athy town. The Knocklead River rises in a small stream on the south side of Fossey Hill, and in a succession of small cascades, it takes a southern direction to join the River Nore. The Trilogue River rises in low marshy ground south of Maryborough, and passing northwards through that town, it joins the Owenass River, about one mile east of Mountmellick town.

From the northern slopes of the Collieries Mountains, dividing the Queen's County from the County of Kilkenny, several small streams flow down their respective deep channels in a succession of tiny waterfalls, and then unite to form the picturesque and rapid current, known as the Owenbeg or Avonbeg, the English rendering of which means "The Little River." This stream flows through a deep and charming valley, on all sides shaded with aged hawthorn hedges and trees, sending forth a delicious fragrance, especially in the May month, when their bloom is at the full, and when primroses in fine blow enamel all the banks. One of the most romantic of mountain rivers is the Owenbeg, as it flows in rapid courses through the valley in which

the ruined church of Dysart Gallen may still be seen.⁶ Afterwards, it flows southwards through the beautiful demesne of Heywood,⁷ near Ballinakill, and by the old church of Kilcronan, until it joins the River Nore, near Rosconnell, in the County of Kilkenny. The little Derryvarragh River rises near the great heath of Maryborough, and, taking an eastern course by Morett Castle, it flows through a flat country and joins the River Barrow beside the remarkable Fort of Dunroly. Many of the minor streams, tributary to the foregoing, are hardly deserving of special description or notice. Minnows and small fish are common enough in all of those water-courses. In many of those streams, and especially in the larger rivers, the fresh water trout abounds, and eels are numerous, especially in the deep pools, and along the sedgy banks, where the current is slow or nearly stagnant.

The only natural sheet of water, which includes many acres, is Annaghmore Lough, on the northern boundary of Timnehinch barony, and through the centre of which passes the dividing line between the King's and Queen's Counties. It has a measured area of 207a. 1r. and 13p. It lies about seven miles north-west from Mountmellick. It receives the drainage of about 4,000 acres of swamp and bog-land; but, for the most part, it is very shallow, and there was a crannog on an island within the lough. On the northern side of this island, over one hundred piles of timber were driven down artificially and in regular lines into the soft mould or mud beneath, and some of these found uprooted showed that the ends had been pointed by some sharp instrument—possibly with small iron hatchets, which have been found near the spot. The average diameter of the piles was only about 5 in., and spaces of about 2 ft. were between each pole. There is a half-submerged pier between the island and the shore, strewn with stones and broken spars, while a few piles were to be seen among this *debris*. Closely adjoining, some well-burned bricks, both whole and broken, were mingled with the stones. Remains of an oak framing over the piles have been discovered, likewise, on that island.

Chartered by an Act of the Irish Parliament, towards the close of the Eighteenth Century, the Grand Canal Company was formed to promote inland navigation, and as a means to develop local resources and trade. Soon after it leaves Monasterevan, the Grand Canal takes a southern course, and crossing the River Barrow by a handsome and well-built aqueduct supported on several arches, it enters the Queen's County, following very closely the direction of the River Barrow's flow, and with few sinuosities along its western bank, to the town of Athy. The tract through which it passes is almost a dead level, and the soil is alluvial. A branch of the Grand Canal extends to Mountmellick.

⁶The greatly admired demesne of Heywood, which formerly belonged to M. F. French, Esq., and which reflects so much credit on the care and skill displayed in its formation, is situated on the right bank of the Owenbeg River. Its charming lakelets and islands are due to artificial arrangement, while various works of art had been set up in prominent positions by the former proprietor, who contrived to bring every adjunct of a naturally picturesque surface-soil into prominent relief. The woodlands and their products, as grouped, add no small attraction to the varied grounds. The "classic Trench"

was the complimentary *soubriquet* bestowed upon the designer in the earlier part of the last century. A beautifully-illustrated work, entitled, "Trench's Views of Heywood, Queen's County," contains twenty-four exquisite plates, etched by the celebrated engraver, Brocas. Within the demesne there is a chalybeate spring, and this lovely spot is frequently resorted to by pleasure parties.

⁷See Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Wood-Martin's "Lake Dwellings of Ireland; or ancient Lacustrine Habitations of Erin, commonly called Crannogs," part ii., pp. 208, 209.

CHAPTER VI.—BOTANY—TREES AND SHRUBS.

In pre-historic times, nearly the whole surface of the Queen's County was covered with woods and forests; and down to the middle of the sixteenth century, their growth was dense in most of the districts. Of those primeval woods few traces now remain, except in the demesnes and pleasure-grounds of large proprietors. Some considerable tracts at Ballykillcavan, near Stradbally, and in the demesnes of Lord De Vesci, near Abbeyleix, of Lord Portarlington, Emo Park, and of Sir Algernon Coote, Ballyfin, are yet covered with a natural growth of trees, sprung from the primeval forests, and never artificially planted. To these have been added, at later periods, ornamental forest-trees and shrubs, especially in the pleasure grounds of enclosed demesnes and gardens.

An old map is to be found in the British Museum, which portrays the principal features of Leix and Ophaly, as these territories appeared, about the middle of the sixteenth century. Among the few ancient maps, which serve to elucidate the topography of the different places in Ireland, and which exist in various libraries and depositories of records, not one—so far as our knowledge extends—equals this in point of completeness, and of interest to Irish topographical students and archaeologists. It presents the picture—although not an exact one—representing a region, almost in a state of nature, inhabited chiefly by the pastoral aboriginal husbandmen, or clans and woodkerne. The broad features of this chart are the natural ones, such as the huge and wide mountains of Slievebloom and Slievecomar or Slievemarigue. Primeval forests, like those denominated, "the Great Wood," and extensive heaths, or morasses, such as those called Frughmore, or "the Great Heath," near Maryborough, are found interspersed on the surface of the Leix portion. The courses of the principal rivers and streams seem depicted with a considerable approach to accuracy, and at a time, too, when geological and topographical surveys were in their infancy. It is sufficiently apparent, from internal and other evidence, that this Cottonian Chart had been compiled about the year 1563. The map-designer does not seem to have penetrated within those almost virgin forests, which might well be regarded as the "backwoods" of the Pale. The sylvan condition of that whole extensive region of country is somewhat remarkable, and it indicates the want of a sufficient population. Several notices of "the great wood of Ofaly" could be cited. The traveller Moryson, mentions it as singularly vast and wild. The entire region of Iregan is found almost in a condition of waste; and traditionally, it is said to have been a continuous forest of oak, of wild pine, and of yew trees. A glance at the chart, preserved in the British Museum, shows that in this instance popular report, over three centuries ago, had not been croneous. The bottom of Lough Anna, a mountain lake on the side of Slieve Bloom, is nearly covered with oak and yew, lying there horizontally, and with many roots or stumps yet adhering to the moory and soft soil.¹

¹ See the Rev. John Baldwin's "Statistical Account of Rosenthalis," sec. i., p. 314, in vol. iii of William Shaw Mason's "Statistical

Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland." This last volume was published in the year 1819 at Dublin.

In a valuable contribution to this chapter, by Dr. Edward Perceval Wright, Professor of Botany in Trinity College, Dublin, he remarks, "it is probable that in pre-historic times the surface of the Queen's County, like the rest of Ireland not under water, was covered with vegetation. The mountain tops were clad in a garment of golden furze (*Ulex europæus*) and purple heather (*Calluna*), mixed with brambles and "fraechans" (*Rubi & Vaccinium myrtillus*). The sides of the hills were clad with forests of oak (*Quercus robur*), elm (*Ulmus campestris*), ash (*Fraxinus Ornus*), and birch (*Betula alba*), with here and there the "rowan tree" (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Down in the valleys and along the river sides were tangled masses of Hazel, Sallows, Hawthorn and Elder bushes. Holly and Ivy added to the verdure of the scene. There seems little doubt, but that here and there groups of Fir trees (*Pinus Sylvestris*) lined the sides of the shallow loughs, but although numerous stumps of those trees have been dug up from bogs, yet, Dr. Joyce mentions, that this tree has not given name to many places in Ireland, from which it is fair to assume, that in ancient times it was not very abundant. Of all the other trees above enumerated, native names are not only in existence, but these have become incorporated into place-names, as may be strikingly seen in Dr. P. Joyce's "Irish names of Places."

In the Library of Trinity College,³ Dublin, there is a copy, apparently drawn from a map of Leix, Orlady, Irry, Clannalier, Iregan, and Sheynarige. This latter seems to be of a more ancient date than that which is found in the Cottonian Collection of the British Museum. Besides the one in Trinity College Library exhibits some local denominations, on paper, and which had been traced in the time of Queen Elizabeth.⁴ This map is coloured, while the denominations are more clearly and correctly written, than are those on that preserved in the great London Repository.⁵ That ancient map, likewise, is significantly and appropriately tinted. The mountains are represented by a brown hue; the rivers receive a blue tinge; the woods are light green; the arable or corn-bearing lands are a greenish yellow; the bogs are coloured with a light purple; the pastures are uncoloured; while the passes or rude roads are marked by short straight lines, which are cast in

¹ "It is possible, that very much of the general vegetation existed in the Queen's County to the middle of the sixteenth century, if it may be judged from an ancient map in the Cottonian collection in the British Museum. This collated with a copy in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, by the late Herbert F. Hore, was published in *facsimile* in the "Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland," new series, vol. iv. p. 345. The spots inhabited were mere specks in a dense tangle of wood. English axes made an unceasing warfare against Irish trees, the demand for Irish oak being very great. The ironworks of the Wandersfordes used up woods of considerable extent, which at one time existed in the neighbourhood of Durrow."

² It belongs to the manuscript department of the Library. To that map this note is appended: "The Queen's County consists of Leix, anciently O'More's lands, Slew-

marge, inhabited alsoe by the O'Mores, Glenmalire O'Demsie's country, part whereof is in the King's County, Iregan and O'Doyne's countrye."

³ See a description of it in "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. xiv., A.D. 1825. Antiquities. James Hardiman's paper, "A Catalogue of Maps, Charts, and Plans, relating to Ireland, preserved among the manuscripts, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, with Preliminary Observations," p. 64.

⁴ The late Herbert F. Hore, Esq., has published a *facsimile* of this ancient map, collated with the one in Trinity College Library, with accompanying valuable notes, in "The Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society," vol. iv., New Series, pp. 345 to 372.

⁵ A *facsimile* was kept in the Museum of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, which has been so laudably and creditably arranged in the city just named.

grey.⁶ Among the most dangerous defiles, for an invader of this territory, were two passes in Feemore, which was situated within O'Morye's country, towards the commencement of the sixteenth century.⁷ Fiadh-mor signifies the "great wood." If the value of this rudely-formed chart to chorographers of those countries it depicts could be questioned, we need only cite the elaborate "Annals of the Four Masters," so ably edited by the late Dr. O'Donovan. By the frequency of reference, that eminent topographer makes to it, we may well imagine, how useful he considered it, as serving to illustrate historical records.

On the old map of Leix and Ophaly, preserved in Trinity College, and made before Ely O'Carroll was reduced to shire ground, the territory of Leix is represented as extending in length, from the river which rises at Morett and falls into the Barrow, opposite the fort of Dunrally, onwards to the River Douglas, which empties into the Barrow, a short distance to the south of Grange or Monksgrange, near Carlow. In breadth, Leix extended from the River Barrow, separating it from the counties of Kildare and Carlow, to the River Nore, which divided it from Ossory, the territory of MacGiolla Patrick. The principality of Leix, therefore, must have comprised the present baronies of Maryborough, East and West, Stradbally, Cullenagh, and Ballyadams.⁸ On this map, the barony of Slievemarigue does not appear to have been included in Leix, according to Dr. O'Donovan;⁹ but I must confess, I am at a loss to discover his grounds for this opinion. On referring to the copy, traced from the Trinity College map, and appended to the manuscript volume, as also to the succeeding sketch by Dr. O'Donovan himself, I find no indication of any intention to exclude Slievemarigue from Leix on the plan, but quite the reverse.¹⁰ Dr. O'Donovan also states, that the statute 3 and 4 of Philip and Mary seems to separate Slievemarigue from the district of Leix. However, Slievemarigue was incorporated within the present Queen's County, although it is said to have been a lordship, situated in the County of Carlow, A.D. 1553,¹¹ when the king's title to the lands of Killishen was sought to be proved.¹² That fine district, formerly called Laeighs or Leix, and including the greater part of the present Queen's County, has a claim on our notice, being endowed by nature with a fruitful soil, and forming, as English colonists thought it, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, and even earlier, an "exceedingly pleasant" tract, "well sorted with woodes and playnes."¹³

In the seventeenth century, many of the Queen's County woods were deforested, while in the beginning of the eighteenth century, leases

⁷ See the description in Chief Baron Finlas' "Breviate of Ireland," written in 1529.

⁸ The barony of Portnahinch, formerly a district belonging to the O'Dunnes, and the barony of Tinnahinch, the country of the O'Dempseys, were a portion of the territory of Ui Failghe—at least in mediæval times.

⁹ See his Letter, among the Ordnance Survey Manuscripts, relating to the Queen's County, in vol. ii., at p. 112.

¹⁰ The initial large letter of Leix, characterising the division, falls within the boundary lines of Slievemarigue, in the Ordnance Survey Manuscript trace.

¹¹ See Inquisitions. Lagenia.

¹² Prior to the English invasion, Slievemarigue or Slievemargie, was called Hy-Mairche. See Grace's "Descriptive and Architectural Sketch of the Grace Mausoleum in the Queen's County," note p. 7.

¹³ See in the "Tracts relating to Ireland," vol. ii. John Dymmok's "Treatise of Ireland, written about A.D. 1600, and edited with notes, by the Rev. Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A., for the Irish Archaeological Society. The original is preserved in the British Museum.

were granted on many properties, it being stipulated, that the tenants should cut, burn, or destroy several acres of wood, to clear their lands for the plough. Oak was the natural growth of the mountains and uplands;¹⁴ firs and alders studded the bogs and marshes; in the most barren and rocky spots heaths and briars grew in abundance; yet, nearly every species of tree known in these temperate regions seems to have been indigenous, as roots and trunks of all descriptions have been found. Towards the close of the eighteenth century, several of the local gentry resolved on making amends for the bare appearance of landscape are unfurnished with the shelter and ornament of trees, although most of the fields are surrounded by excellent ditches and hedge-rows, the latter usually composed of hawthorn.¹⁵ Dr. Wright states, that "in the seventeenth century many trees and shrubs were introduced into Ireland and were planted in the pleasure grounds of the wealthy proprietors, among them the Larch, Spruce, and Chestnut. Flowering Shrubs, such as Lilac and Laburnum, were also planted, but these recent importations left no marked impress on the features of the country. Among fruit trees there was but a small selection, Apple orchards abounded and the Irish name for Apple enters largely into local names. Hazel nuts abounded and were stored as an article of food. The absence of Squirrels may be noticed. Berries of many kinds were to be gathered, among which the "frochans and blackberries formed a great part." To Mr. James Mulhall, Pass House, Maryborough, the writer is indebted for the following list of the best-known trees and shrubs in the Queen's County, to which Dr. Edward Percival Wright has appended, in the most obliging manner, the Latin scientific names, and the dates for introduction of some species; while the learned and researchful work¹⁶ of the Rev. Edmund Hogan, S. J., lately published, has supplied the equivalent terms and in varied forms from the Irish language.¹⁷

¹⁴ The roots of oak trees have frequently been dug from the sub-soil of the Slieve Marigue mountain range, as also from the various bogs. The deposits of deal or pine trees are also very numerous—and in many cases well preserved—as found in the peat.

¹⁵ In 1841, it has been ascertained, that in the Queen's County there were 1,413 acres of continuous woods, and 11,488 detached trees of oak; 95 acres and 121,959 detached trees of ash; 2 acres and 21,323 detached trees of elm; 40 acres and 33,030 detached trees of beech; 1,536 acres and 46,690 detached trees of fir. Besides those of mixed plantations, there were 8,123 acres and 134,663 detached trees, together with 421 acres and 3,862 detached trees of orchards. In all, there were 11,630 acres of continuous woods and 373,015 detached trees, equivalent to 2,331 acres. The foregoing summary makes a total of growing timber comprising 13,961. Of later years, no return has been procured; but, it is safe to state, the quantity of timber now remaining has considerably diminished, while numbers of forest trees, and even whole plantations,

have been cut down; nor have these been replaced even by copse-wood.

¹⁶ See *Luibléabpan*: "Irish and Scottish Gaelic Names of Herbs, Plants, Trees," etc., by Fr. Edmund Hogan, S. J., F.R.U.L., D. Litt., John Hogan, B. A., John C. MacErlan, S. J., Dublin, 1900, 8vo.

¹⁷ The first to present the Irish-Gaelic names of trees and plants for the study of botanists and the public was Caleb Threlkeld, born in Cumberland, England, in 1676. He became a Dissenting Minister and a Medical Doctor in 1712. A lover of Natural History, he removed to Dublin, and published by subscription, "*Synopsis Stirpium Hibernicarum, alphabetice dispositarum, sive Commentatio de Plantis Indigenis, præsertim Dubliniensibus, Instituta*," 1727, Dublin, 12mo. He died in 1728, and was interred in the new burial ground belonging to St. Patrick's Cathedral. His materials were drawn chiefly from a manuscript in his possession, which seemed to him written before the war of 1641, and containing about 407 Irish and Latin or English names of trees, shrubs, plants, herbs and flowers, distinguishing the Ulster, Leinster, Connacht,

- Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), *muam, fearu, fearmós, crann fearnóise.*
- Almond (*Amygdalus communis*), introduced about middle of Sixteenth Century, *almóin, amuinneós.*
- Apple (*Pyrus Malus*), *ábail, crann úbail, craoib úblann, úbail.*
- Aspen (*Populus tremula*), *crann cruí, crann cruíeach, crann cruíir.*
- Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), *fuinne, fuinneán, fuinneóis, oinnreán, oinnreós, uinnur, uinnreann, uinnrean.*
- Ash-mountain (*Pyrus aucuparia*), *crann easpóinn.*
- Beech and varieties (*Fagus sylvatica* and varieties), *beaíos, beir na meaf, crann fearóibile, crann rleanáin, craoib fearóibile, fáidbairne, fearóibile, fearga.*
- Birch (*Betula alba*), *beata, beatais, beir, beiréois, crann beiré, craoib beiré, orum,*
- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), *oir, oirreós, rseach taláin, iur na ngorúdearf.*
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), *oirsean, oirseach, oirseán, oirseóis, rseach óib*
- Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* and *Rhamnus cathartica*), *raíóir-óisean, bréanaóiráin, brén-úbail, maite brén.*
- Chestnut-Horse (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*), introduced about 1629 from Asia, *crann enó-éarúil, crann enó ffrancach, crann seann-chnó.*
- Chestnut-Sweet (*Castanea Vesca*), introduced about 1548, Asia Minor.
- Deal-Scotch (*Pinus Sylvestris*), *siubar, siúr crann siubar.*
- Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) *crann fearna, crann tromáin, crann trumim, craoib fearna.*
- Elm-witch (*Ulmus montana*), *aitm, aitmeós, coll, leáin, leáinán, leáinann, lem, plá, pláinán, rleanáin, tuitm.*
- Furze (*Ulex europaeus*), *aitseann, atenn, comarf, conarf, oir, onn, teine.*
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*), *oirsean seail, rseach, rseiréois, rseis, rseach seail.*
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), *crann coiltín, crann cuil, craoib chatuinn, coll.*
- Heather (*Calluna vulgaris* and species of *Erica*), *fraoch, fraiche, úr, roitbe.*
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) *cunteann, crann cuilinn, craoib chuilinn.*
- Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betula*), *crann rleáin, leáinannbós.*
- Ivy (*Hedera helix*), *airnéán, eadán, eadánán, eibeán, eiréneós, fairsealó, fairseais, soir, soirleós.*
- Juniper (*Juniperus communis*, var. *Hibernica*), *aitiol, beáinán bhuise, biora leacra, iubar beinne, iubar craise, iur taláin.*
- Laburnum (*Cytisus Laburnum*), *bealaró ffrancach*, introduced about 1596.

Munster names, and even those of counties, such as Wicklow, Carlow, Kildare, Leix, etc. Again, in 1735, John K'Eogh, A.B., Chaplain to Lord Kingston, issued a work "Printed and sold by Harrison, at the corner of Meeting-house Lane, Cork. A General Irish Herbal, an Account of the Herbs, Shrubs, and Trees naturally produced in

Ireland, in English, Irish and Latin, with a true description of them and their medicinal virtues." Various other collections and sources, mentioned in the Preface, have supplied the Rev. Father Hogan with materials to compile the most extensive Irish vocabulary of botanic names that has hitherto appeared, and from these the writer has exclusively drawn.

Larch (*Larix Europæa*), *λαρκεας*, introduced about 1630.

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), *εραοθ υατζοριμ ορεαραν*, introduced about 1597.

Lime (*Tilia Europæa*), *ερανν τεϊτε*, *ερανν τεϊτεοιζε*, *εραοθ τεϊτε*, *τεϊτε*, *τεϊτεοζ*.

Oak (*Quercus robur* and varieties), *οαρι*, *εϊτεααη*, *ομνα*, *ραϊτ*, *μ na* *coille*, *ερανν οαρια*, *ερανν οαριαζ* *εραοθ οαριααη*, *φαρεαν*, *φυρραν*.

Peach (*Amygdalus Persica*), *πειτρεοζ*, *ερανν πειτρεοιζε*, introduced about the middle of the Sixteenth Century.

Pear (*Pyrus communis*), *ερανν πιορραοθ*, *πειρε*.

Pegwood? (*Euonymus Europæus*), *φεοριμ*.

Plum (*Prunus communis* and varieties not indigenous), *ερανν बुल्लαι-ριθε*, *ερανν πλυμαιζ*, *οαμπεοζ*, *εραοθ πλυμβιμ*, *πλυμοζ*.

Poplar (*Populus alba*), *ερανν εμτεααη*, *ερανν ποβιτ*, *ερανν ποβυιτ*, *εραοθ εμιοεααν*, *ποβιλεοζ*.

Raspberry (*Rubus Idæus*), *μαοεάν conaire*, *πρεαμ* *ρυζεχηλαοιθε*, *ροβα* *εραοθ*.

Sallow (*Salix nigra*), *ραϊτ*, *πιοεαμνααη*, *ζεατπειτεααη*, *ερανν ραϊτιζ*.

Spruce-black (*Abies nigra*), introduced about 1700 from North America.

Spruce-common (*Abies communis*), *ζηύρ τοεηααννααη*.

Sycamore (*Acer campestre*), *ριεμίν*, *ερανν βάν*, *ερανν βιονν*, *ερανν ρεϊε*, *ριχερρααν*.

Yew (*Taxus baccata*), *ερανν ιυβαρι*, *εραοθ ζηάν-υβαλλ*, *εραοθ ιυβαρι*, *ρινηριομ*.

The topographical denomination of places in the Queen's County, and drawn from a remote period, indicates the existence of special kinds of woods, which seem to have been the prevailing growth in their respective localities. Other evidences remain to illustrate this inference. Thus, the Irish word for "hazel" is Cull, Cole or Coll, and that product gave name to the elevated range of the Cullohill district, near Durrow. The Irish form of Cullion or Cullen, meaning "holly," enters into the local denomination of Cullenagh, formerly a well-wooded district of the Queen's County, as popular tradition still preserves the remembrance; and it had its derivation from the circumstance of that tree there abounding, as still in stunted form it appears frequently in the local hedge-rows. Another district called Cullenagh is in the Barony of Ballyadams, and the origin of its name is similar. But surpassing all others in number are the townland denominations of Derry,¹⁸ meaning "oak" or "oakwood," and Derrin,¹⁹ "little oak-wood" with

¹⁸ Four distinct townlands bear this name on the Ordnance Survey Map; two of these are within the barony of Maryborough East, and two others, still more extensive, are in the barony of Tinnahinch.

¹⁹ Derrin is a townland in the barony of Clandonagh; The compound words Derrinduff (the black oak-wood), Derrinoliver (Oliver's little *derry*), Derrinsallagh (miry or puddle oak-wood) are in the barony of Clandonagh, and Derrinray (the little oak-wood of the mill race), is in the barony of Tinnahinch.

²⁰ Thus there are the following townlands, Derryarrow (the oak-wood of the corn), in

Upperwoods barony, Derrybeg (the little oak-wood) in the barony of Maryborough West, Derrybrock (oak-wood of badgers) in the barony of Stradbally, Derrycanton (Canton's or Cantoun's or Condon's *derry*) and Derry-carrow (rough oak-wood) in the barony of Upperwoods, Derrycloney (oak-wood of the meadow) in the barony of Portnahinch, Derrycon (oak-wood of greyhounds) in the barony of Upperwoods, Derydavy (Dathi's or Davy's *derry*), in the barony of Portnahinch. Derryfore (cold *derry*) in the barony of Cullenagh, Derrygarran (of the shrubbery) in the barony of Maryborough East, Derrygile in the barony of Portnahinch, Derryhay

their compounds ;²⁰ which enable us to understand how prevalent and extensive had been that species of timber in former times, and in places where at present hardly a single tree of it now exists. From the additional compound word we are enabled frequently to determine the characteristics of trees themselves, their species, and the size of the woods in which they grew. The Ordnance Survey Maps of Ireland are notably deficient in giving thousands of local etymons, which should be regarded as distinct townlands, but which have been omitted in the existing large scale sheets, although many have a historic interest and are noted in accessible records.²¹ To the writer's knowledge, there are several other spots locally called Derry, or with a compound word annexed, that are not to be found on those Maps. Moreover, it may be observed, that from forest trees down to the smallest shrubs and plants, all the principal native species are commemorated in local names, and to the present day those places to which they refer produce in great abundance that very growth, which many hundred years ago gave them their distinctive denominations.²² Hence the necessity for a knowledge of the Irish language to guide a student's researches in the various branches of Irish natural history.

In the middle of the seventeenth century, the Queen's County, as well as the King's County and Wicklow County, was full of woods, some of these being many miles long and broad.²³ However, as elsewhere, before the close of that century, the woods in the Queen's County had rapidly disappeared, having been cut down to supply timber for building, and charcoal for founderies established by the Earl of Mountrath, as also firewood for household purposes. Wherefore, an Act was passed in 1698, 10th of William III., in the Irish Parliament, for the planting of 260,600 trees in Ireland; the number to be planted in the Queen's County was fixed at 3,950. Since that time, and especially in the eighteenth century, many fruit trees had been introduced and orchards were cultivated on the old farm-steads; but few of the latter trees are now to be seen, while some plantations of the landed proprietors at that period remain. But of late years, the felling and sale of trees has greatly diminished their number; and in very few instances have efforts been made to supply by replanting the denudation caused by the wood-man's axe on several estates throughout the county.

O'Hea's Derry) in the barony of Upperwoods, Derrykearn (of the kerns or light foot-soldiers), in the barony of Maryborough West, Derrylahan (broad *derry*) in the barony of Cullenagh, Derrylahan (broad *derry*) in the barony of Upperwoods, Derrylemoge (Young William's derry) which is to be found in the barony of Tinnahinch, Derrylinneen (O'Luinin's derry) in the barony of Tinnahinch, Derrylusk (burnt derry) in the barony of Maryborough West, Derrymore (the great oak-wood), barony of Maryborough West, Derrymoyle (bare derry) in the barony of Slievemargy, Derrymullen (Mullin's Derry) in the barony of Tinnahinch, Derryna-funshion (of the ash-trees)—*i.e.*, mixed with ash—Derryna-seera (the oak-wood of the freemen) in the barony of Upperwoods,

Derryroe (red oak-wood) in the barony of Maryborough West, Derrytrasna (cross or transverse *derry*) in the barony of Stradbally, Derryvorrigan (Muireagan's or Morgan's oak-wood) in the barony of Clandonagh.

²¹ Yet it should have been possible to remove such deficiency, by obtaining a transcript of the names of the agricultural tenements on the rent-rolls of the landlords or their agents, if not from the farmers and peasantry who occupy the lands in question.

²² See Dr. Patrick W. Joyce's "Origin and History of Irish Names of Places," Part iv., chap. viii., Plants pp. 473, 474.

²³ See Dr. Gerard Boate's "Natural History of Ireland," chap. xv., sec. v., p. 68, second edition, Dublin, 1726, 4to.

CHAPTER VII.—BOTANY.—FLORA.

The botany of the Queen's County seems to have been undescribed—if at all scientifically and partially examined—until the publication of the *Cybele Hibernica*, in 1866.¹ In the introduction to this work, (Second Edition), and according to the arrangement of the editors, the Third Botanical District of Ireland includes the Barrow, Kilkenny, Carlow and Queen's County, and it embraces an area of 1805 square miles. For this district, 641 species and sub-species of Flora have been enumerated by the editors.² This list has been greatly added to,³ by Robert Lloyd Praeger, Assistant-Librarian in the National Library of Ireland. Later still, the same distinguished Naturalist has issued a more complete and truly researchful work, "Irish Topographical Botany."⁴ The exploration of Queen's County botany was chiefly Mr. Praeger's own work in various parts of the area. We are told, moreover, that no portion of it now remains altogether unexplored, but excepting the neighbourhood of Maryborough, there is no part that ought not bear further exploration.⁵ To that gentleman the writer has to render his most grateful acknowledgments for the following very complete description of the Flora of Queen's County, printed in the form in which it has been received.

"In viewing the native vegetation of the County, its physical and geological features must not be lost sight of. Queen's County forms a characteristic portion of the great Central Plain of Ireland. Though the main watershed of Ireland runs along the western and northern edges of the county, the elevation of the greater portion is but slight, between 250 and 500 feet. This low ground is formed of a slightly undulating drift-covered floor of carboniferous limestone, with occasional great peat-bogs and sinuous esker-ridges, and extensive woods. In the south-east the northern end of the Kilkenny coal-field forms a fertile upland of from 500 to 1000 feet elevation. In the north-west an ancient crumpling of the surface has formed the Slieve Bloom range, which now presents a series of broad heathery ridges formed of Devonian and Silurian slates and sandstones, which attain a maximum elevation of 1733 feet. Rising on the southward continuation of this ridge, the River Nore flows across the plain as a pleasant rippling stream. The River Barrow, rising on the eastern slopes of Slieve Bloom, pursues a more sluggish course through great bogs and marshes along the northern and eastern boundaries. The whole county is drained by these two rivers; lakes are practically absent, but canals supply a habitat for many lake-plants. With this brief description of the conditions under which the flora exists, we pass on

¹ In this year was issued the first edition of "Contributions Towards a *Cybele Hibernica*, being Outlines of the Geographical Distribution of Plants in Ireland," by David Moore, Ph.D., M.R.I.A., Director of the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and Alexander Goodman More, F.L.S., M.R.I.A. Dublin, 8vo. A second edition of this work, edited by Nathaniel Colgan, M.R.I.A., and Reginald W. Scully, F.L.S., was published in Dublin, 1898, 8vo.

² See pp. lx., lxi.

³ See "Irish Naturalist," vol. ii., Queen's County Plants, p. 321.

⁴ This most valuable Treatise has appeared in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Third Series, vol. vii., pp. 1 to 410. With an Introduction, pp. i. to clxxxviii., and six finely engraved and coloured Maps exhibiting Ireland in Forty Botanical Divisions.

⁵ See Introduction, under the heading of "The Subdivision of Ireland." No. 14, Queen's County, p. 17.

to consider its characters. The total flora of the county (Phanerogams and Vascular Cryptogams), as at present known, numbers nearly 600 species; and as the county has been fairly well explored, no great addition to this number need be expected; fifty species certainly represent the total which may eventually be added to the flora. Comparing the Queen's County total with that of the surrounding counties (all of which are, generally speaking, similar in character), we obtain the following result:—

Queen's County	588 species
Kildare	564 "
King's County	558 "
North Tipperary	580 "
Kilkenny	621 "
Carlow	579 "

It will be seen that among these Queen's County is surpassed by Kilkenny alone, and this is largely accounted for by the fact that a number of maritime plants grow on the Suir and Barrow estuaries, and swell the Kilkenny list.

It has been pointed out that Queen's County is physically a typical portion of the great Central Plain of Ireland. Its botanical characteristics correspond likewise with those of the Central Plain. Analysing its flora according to the seven "types of distribution" recently proposed for Ireland⁶ we find that the plants of "Central" type are far more largely represented than those of any of the other groups. These plants are largely water and marsh species, and ones which like a limy soil; they form an essentially lowland group.

To come now to the rarer plants which grow within the county. Many of these may be grouped according to the habitat which they affect:—

PLANTS OF THE RIVERS AND CANALS:—*Ranunculus circinatus* (Circinate Water-Crowfoot), and *Glyceria aquatica* (Reed Meadow-grass) are frequent along the canals. By the Barrow are found *Ranunculus Lingua* (Great Spearwort), *Stellaria palustris* (Marsh Stitchwort), the rare *Spergularia rubra* (Red Sand-Spurrey), *Rhamnus catharticus* (Common Buckthorn), and several rare Pondweeds (*Potamogeton rufescens*, *P. nitens*, and *P. flabellatus*); *Scirpus sylvaticus* (Wood Club-rush), and near Monettia Bog *Carex avillaris*, a very rare species of Sedge. By both the Barrow and the Nore two of the rarest plants of the County, *Nasturtium sylvestris* (Narrow-podded Marsh Cress) and *Campanula Trachelium* (Nettle-leaved Bell-flower) grow sparingly. In the canal near Grattan Aqueduct grow *Ananthe fistulosa* (Common Water Dropwort) and *Potamogeton densus* (Opposite-leaved Pondweed).

PLANTS OF THE MARSHES AND BOGS:—In marshy ground *Juncus obtusiflorus* (Bluntflowered Rush) is often abundant, and in very wet ground two of the rarer Sedges, *Carex teretiuscula* and *C. filiformis*. *Thalictrum flavum* (Meadow Rue) grows amid the Meadow-sweet and Purple Loosestrife, and in wet pastures may be found the beautiful orchid *Epipactis palustris* (Marsh Helleborine). The peat bogs yield *Andromeda Polifolia* (Marsh Andromeda) and *Vaccinium Oxycoccus* (Cranberry). The very rare *Saxifraga Hirculus* (Yellow Mountain

⁶ See Robert Lloyd Praeger's account with the observations which are published in

"Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. xxiv., 1902.

Saxifrage has been found in a bog near Mountrath, and *Drosera rotundifolia* (Intermediate Sundew) at the base of Cullenagh Mountain. *Silene acaulis* *Fraxinella* (Mole Buckthorn), a rare shrub, was recorded by the author in 1732, but has not been found since.

PLANTS OF GRAVELLY PLACES:—The esker-ridge at Maryborough is the home of many plants that love a sandy or gravelly soil. Here may be found *Populus nigra* (Long Rough-headed Poppy), *Elephantopus* (Niger's Broom), *Calamintha Acanthos* (Basil Thyme), *Galium aparine* (Large-flowered Hemp-Nettle) *Lamium amplexicaule* (Mint) and its relation *L. hybridum*, *Ballota nigra* (Black Henbane). The gravelly expanse of the Great Heath of Maryborough is well stocked with *Anthemis nobilis* (Chamomile) and in the hollows below *Polygonum minus* (Narrow-leaved Persicaria). The railway tracks yield two plants which are among the newest arrivals in this country—*Linaria minor* (Lesser Toad-flax) in profusion, and at the bridge *Arenaria tenuifolia* (Slender-leaved Sandwort). On railway banks near Portlington two doubtful natives are abundant—*Carex Mollis* (Great Hedge Bedstraw) and *Pieris hircacioides* (Hawwood Oxtonic).

PLANTS OF THE MOUNTAINS:—The smooth bog-covered slopes of Slieve Bloom are naturally very poor in mountain plants, which love to haunt rocks and chins, and greater elevations than these hills afford. The best ground is Glendine Gap, on the north side of Arderin. Here may be found the beautiful *Meconopsis cambrica* (Welsh Poppy), and two rare ferns, *Polygodium Phlegoideis* (Beech Fern) and *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* (Onesided or Wilson's Filmy Fern). On the summit of Arderin the curious little orchid *Listera cordata* (Lesser Tway-blade) has been found under the heather, and in Glendine another rare Orchid, *Habenaria alba* (White Mountain Orchid). Cullenagh Mountain is of a higher elevation (1045 feet) than Slieve Bloom, but yields one interesting upland plant, *Festuca sylvatica* (Wood Fescue-grass).

A number of rarer plants remain unmentioned, which grow in hedgerows, fields, woods, etc. These may be listed as follows:—*Agrostis vulgaris* (Columbine).—Not common.

Silybium Thidiamum (Thale Cress).—Mountrath, Maryborough.

Veronica later (Wild Mignonette).—Athy.

Taraxacum platymerum (Slender Yellow Trefoil).—Near Durrow.

Prunus Padus (Pied Cherry).—Woods at Maryborough.

Rubus saxatilis (Stone Bramble).—Maryborough and Glenbarrow.

Rosa mollis (Soft-leaved Rose).—Emo.

R. rubiginosa (Sweet-briar).—Abbeyleix and Maryborough.

Pimpinella magna (Greater Burnet-Saxifrage).—Lisduff and Abbeyleix.

Cherophyllum temulum (Rough Chervil).—Frequent on the eastern margin of the county.

Valerianella Auricula (Sharp-fruited Corn-Salad).—Emo.

Carduus crispus (Wetted Thistle).—Frequent.

Centaurea Scabiosa (Greater Knapweed).—Frequent in the south-eastern half of the county.

Erythraea pulchella (Dwart Centaury).—Emo.

Cynoglossum officinale (Hound's-tongue).—Tinahoe.

Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane).—Dunmore and Maryborough.

Orobancha minor (Lesser Broom-rape).—Rathdowney—very rare.

Galopsis Ladanum (Red Hemp-Nettle).—Rare.

Polygonum Bistorta (Snakeweed).—Maganey and Stradbally.

Carex muricata (Prickly Sedge).—Graigue and Shrule.

C. divulsa (*Grey Sedge*).—Dunrow and Graigue.

C. strigosa (Loose-flowered Sedge).—Recorded from Dunmore by Dr. Mackay many years ago.

Bromus erectus (Upright Brome-grass).—Portarlington.

Equisetum hyemale (Dutch rush).—Frequent.

E. variegatum (Variegated Horsetail).—Rare."

CHAPTER VIII.—ZOOLOGY, FAUNA.—WILD ANIMALS.

Zoology teaches the nature and classification of animals, as also their order, succession and distribution over the earth. Those animals peculiar to a country constitute its *fauna*, the term being derived from the Fauni of Roman Mythology. This most interesting branch of study, in its fullest extent, has been treated by many distinguished naturalists in various languages, and in different countries. The term Zoology, practically restricted to a knowledge of the nature, organization, properties, characteristics, habits, and uses of living animals, is in the present case confined to those wild ones, known to visit or exist in the Queen's County. On this subject, the author's partial and imperfect knowledge should avail him very little, were it not that he received most cordial and generous aid from gentlemen of the highest scientific qualifications and accurate observation, combined with local residence and a familiarity acquired by their studies and experience. When, in reference to the difficulties presented in engaging on the present chapter, the author applied to Robert F. Scharff, B.Sc. Ph.D., keeper of the Natural History Collections in the Science and Art Museum, Kildare Street, Dublin, in the kindest and most obliging manner, that gentleman undertook to furnish what was desirable for the general reader to learn, and what must prove to be most interesting for residents and those more immediately connected with the Queen's County. The following synopsis of its wild Fauna is presented in the very words and order of his preparation and subsequent revision; so that, among the foremost authorities in Ireland and in countries still more distant, we have an assurance that the writer has given us the most reliable information on the subject, combined with a scientific and popular treatment:

"In the limited space at my disposal, it is impossible to give more than a very brief sketch of the animal inhabitants found wild in the County. No thorough investigation of it has ever been made by a resident Zoologist, nor has any general account of its Natural History been published, but it has frequently been visited by Zoologists from Dublin, and local Naturalists like the Rev. B. J. Clarke, the Rev. J. M. Browne, Mr. James A. Mulhall of Pass House, Maryborough, and Mr. J. W. Webber, of Kellyville, Athy, to whom I am greatly indebted for much valuable information; these gentlemen have all contributed to give us a fair knowledge of its fauna.

We may roughly divide all the animal forms we meet with in the County into *Vertebrates*, that is to say into those provided with a back-bone, such as the hare, the rook, and the trout, and into *Invertebrates*, which include creatures without a back-bone, such as the snail,

butterfly, beetle and worm. Each of these great divisions of the animal kingdom contains a number of classes distinguished from one another by well-marked characters. Thus the first-class—the Beasts or Mammals—are at once discriminated from the second class, the birds, by their covering of hair, whereas the latter are clothed with feathers. The third class again—the reptiles—possess an armour of scales instead of hair or feathers. In a similar way we can readily separate from each other, by their external features, the various Classes of Invertebrates.

VERTEBRATES—Mammals. These constitute the highest class of the Vertebrate animals, but although the Giant Deer (the so-called Irish Elk), $\rho\epsilon\alpha\upsilon\text{-}\rho\iota\alpha\theta$ $\epsilon\pi\alpha\alpha\eta\alpha\delta$, the Reindeer, $\rho\iota\alpha\theta$ $\tau\upsilon\alpha\iota\pi\epsilon\iota\tau$, Wild Boar, $\tau\omicron\pi\epsilon$ $\rho\iota\alpha\theta\alpha\iota\mu$, Wolf, $\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\pi\alpha\theta\text{-}\alpha\lambda\iota\alpha\theta$, and Bear, $\mu\alpha\tau\tilde{\zeta}\alpha\mu\alpha\iota\mu$ were probably common at a time when early man had already made his appearance in the county, most of the larger members of our Fauna have long ago vanished from Ireland, and only the Red Deer, $\rho\iota\alpha\theta$ $\theta\epsilon\alpha\pi\tau\zeta$, and few of the less conspicuous Wild Mammals are still represented in the country. The Red Deer, $\rho\iota\alpha\theta$ $\theta\epsilon\alpha\pi\tau\zeta$, used to occur in the County, and large deer parks were formerly established, such as the one at Dunamais, for the reception of wild examples of this noble species. Among the larger Mammals which remain more or less confined to the wooded parts of the County may be mentioned the Badger, $\theta\pi\omicron\epsilon$, which still exists, according to Mr. Webber, at Ballyhaleavan, while the Fox, $\rho\iota\omicron\eta\alpha\delta$, $\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\pi\alpha\theta$ $\mu\iota\alpha\theta$, is more numerous. The smaller Marten is becoming very scarce now and so is the Otter, $\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\pi\alpha\theta\text{-}\tau\omicron\eta\eta\eta$, $\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\pi\alpha\theta\text{-}\upsilon\pi\tau\zeta\epsilon$, but the Irish Stoat, $\epsilon\epsilon\pi\omicron\zeta$ —erroneously called weasel in Ireland—occurs in diminishing numbers in the larger estates. These are the only members of the flesh-eating or carnivorous Mammals. The Gnawing or Rodent Mammals are represented by the ubiquitous Rabbit, $\kappa\omicron\iota\eta\eta$, and by the Irish Hare, $\xi\epsilon\pi\pi\eta\alpha\theta$, the Field Mouse, $\tau\upsilon\epsilon$ $\xi\epsilon\iota\eta$, and Squirrel, $\epsilon\alpha\pi\omicron\zeta$, $\omicron\pi\alpha$, $\rho\epsilon\omicron\pi\omicron\zeta$. Whether the latter, which occurs near Portarlington is a true native is somewhat doubtful. Certain it is, that in several parts of Ireland it has been artificially introduced, and has spread rapidly owing to the indiscriminate slaughter of its natural enemies.¹ Another black variety of the Irish Hare—a unique specimen—was shot at Ballyskill, and was acquired by the National Museum from the Rev. P. English. The House-Mouse, $\tau\upsilon\epsilon$, and the Brown Rat, $\tau\upsilon\epsilon$ $\mu\omicron\pi$, and also the Black Rat, $\rho\pi\alpha\eta\alpha\delta$, are supposed to have been introduced, though we possess no direct evidence of such an introduction. There is, however, another Rat—now recognised as a melanic form of the Brown Rat—which is probably indigenous. This was first described by W. Thompson as the Irish Rat,² (*Mus. Hibernicus*); and differs from the Brown Rat chiefly by its dark grey fur. It has not yet been recorded from the County but it is almost certain to occur there. Only two species of Mammals belonging to the insectivorous group are known to occur in Ireland, and both of these, viz., the Shrew-Mouse and the Hedge-hog, $\xi\pi\alpha\iota\eta\epsilon\omicron\zeta$, have been met with in the County. Lastly we have to consider the Bats, $\iota\alpha\tau\tau\omicron\zeta$ $\tau\epsilon\alpha\tau\alpha\pi$, whose forelimbs are modified as organs for flight. A very valuable account of the Irish Bats has been written

¹ See R. M. Barrington, on "The Introduction of the Squirrel into Ireland." Scientific Proceedings of Royal Dublin Society, New Series, vol. ii., 1880.

² See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. xviii., 1835-1838. Also the Dissertation of W. Thompson on "The Irish Hare."

by Dr. Jameson;³ and the volumes of the 'Irish Naturalist' contain also articles on the habits of these interesting creatures by Dr. Alcock and others. Strange to say, however, no bats from the Queen's County have as yet been recorded, though it is almost certain that such species as the long-eared Bat and the small Pipistrelle are to be found there.

Birds.—In speaking of 'Irish Birds,' we mean such birds as have been observed in this country in the wild state. But among the many different kinds which have been brought under the notice of Naturalists, we must clearly discriminate between 'resident birds,' that is to say, those which are found in this country both summer and winter, and 'visitors.' Again we have to distinguish among the latter the summer and winter and also the accidental visitors. There are also species whose breeding grounds are further north than Ireland and whose winter-quarters are further south, and which consequently inhabit our island for a few days or weeks only during migration in spring and autumn. These are known as spring and autumn Migrants.

The following 84 species are known to have bred in Queen's County :⁴

Mistle-Thrush	Spotted Flycatcher
Song-Thrush— <i>Smótaé</i>	Swallow— <i>Ʋanteóς, Ainteóς, Ʋáctóς</i>
Blackbird— <i>Lonoub</i>	House Martin
Stonechat— <i>Carpín Aitinn</i>	Sand Martin
Redbreast— <i>Sproeóς</i>	Greenfinch
White throat	Goldfinch— <i>Cinnín O'ri</i>
Blackcap	House Sparrow— <i>Ʋealbán, Ʋalún</i>
Goldencrested Wren— <i>Opeóitín earbois</i>	Chaffinch— <i>O'peac an t'pil</i>
Chiff-chaff	Linnet— <i>Ʋealbún lion Ʋleoiréac</i>
Willow-Wren	Lesser Redpoll
Wood-Wren— <i>Opeóitín cottle</i>	Twite
Sedge-Warbler	Bullfinch
Grasshopper Warbler	Crossbill
Hedge-Sparrow— <i>Riabois</i>	Cornbunting— <i>Ʋealbán an Ʋuib Ʋamair</i>
Dipper— <i>Tumadóiri</i>	Yellow Bunting— <i>Durdeóς</i>
Long-tailed Titmouse	Reed Bunting— <i>Ʋealbán an Ʋuib Raíair</i>
Great Titmouse	Starling— <i>O'ruio, O'ruioeóς</i>
Coal Titmouse	Jay— <i>Scréacéóς</i>
Blue Titmouse	Margie— <i>Ʋiośair</i>
Wren— <i>Opeóitín</i>	Jackdaw— <i>Caś, Caóς, Caś</i>
Tree-creeper	Hooded Crow— <i>Ʋionnoś, Ʋeanóς</i>
Pied Wagtail— <i>Ʋlaróς</i>	Rook— <i>Ʋréacán</i>
Grey Wagtail	
Meadow Pipit— <i>Cipeín Ʋuiric</i>	

³ See "The Irish Naturalist," vol. vi., 1897. J. L. Jameson on "The Bats of Ireland."

⁴ The information has been derived from "The Birds of Ireland, an account of the Distribution, Migration and Habits of Birds as observed in Ireland, with all additions to the Irish List," compiled by R. J. Ussher and Robert Warren, London, 1900. 8vo. The list of Irish names occurs after the Preface,

pp. xii to xv, yet it is only partial. In this work the scientific names and the names and the habits of those birds to be found in the Queen's County are particularly described; while for fuller general information, and reference, the writers recommend the reader to consult Mr. Howard Saunders' "Illustrated Manual of British Birds," Second Edition, 1899.

Sky-lark— <i>Ψυπεός</i>	Common Partridge— <i>Παιτεμαρξ</i>
Swift— <i>Σοβλίαν</i>	Quail— <i>Σεαππα Συριτε</i>
Night-jar— <i>Τόρνια Ύιν</i>	Landrail
King-fisher— <i>Κυριτεάν</i>	Water-rail— <i>Κυιατ υριτε</i>
Cuckoo— <i>Κυζέ</i>	Moor-hen— <i>Κεαριε υριτε</i>
Barn Owl— <i>Κεαννευτ</i>	Coot— <i>Κεαριε υριτε</i>
Long-eared Owl— <i>Ματέσοεάν</i>	Ringed Plover
Marsh Harrier— <i>Πρωεάν ηεαριε</i>	Golden Plover— <i>Πεατοός, Πρωιός</i>
Hen Harrier	Lapwing— <i>Πιτιβίν, Πιτιβίν, Πιτιβίν,</i> <i>Πιτιβίν</i>
Sparrow Hawk— <i>Ρυαθάν</i>	Woodcock— <i>Κρεαδαρ, Κρεαδαρ</i>
Merlin— <i>Μεορπιτιυ</i>	Common Snipe— <i>Παορξ, Παορ-</i> <i>ξαέ, Παορξε</i>
Kestrel— <i>Πεαευν</i>	Common Sandpipe— <i>Σοβατοάν</i>
Common Heron— <i>Κοηυερξ</i>	Redshank
Mallard— <i>Ύδρωατ</i>	Curlew— <i>Κροταέ, Κυριτιύν</i>
Shoveller— <i>Τεορεαροε</i>	Black-headed Gull— <i>Πεοιτεάν,</i> <i>Κυτιαέ, Κοτιαέ</i>
Pintail	Little Grebe
Teal— <i>Κραντιαέ</i>	Great Crested Grebe
King Dove— <i>Κοτυμ, Κοτύρ</i>	
Stock Dove	
Red Grouse— <i>Κεαριε Πρωιτέ</i>	
Pheasant— <i>Πίσιπύν</i>	

Among these a few, such as the Hen-Harrier, the Pintail, and Quail, have apparently ceased to breed in Queen's County at the present time, though they were known to do so formerly. Several others are exceedingly rare, such as the Blackcap, Wood-wren, *Όρεότιν Κοττε*, King-fisher, *Κυριτεάν*, Peregrine Falcon, *Σεαδαε ρετιξε*, Stock Dove and the Great Crested Grebe. The Blackcap has been observed to breed at Cappard, Portarlinton, and Rynn, while Mr. John Young found the nest and eggs of the wood-wren at Brockley Park.

We are told by Mr. Usher that he saw three Marsh Harriers at a considerable height soaring in circles over the extensive marshes of Lord Castletown at Grantston; and that the Slieve Bloom Range used to be the chief home of the Hen-Harrier in central Ireland. It is interesting, too, to note that the inland-breeding Black-headed Gull *Πεοιτεάν*, rears its young in vast numbers on Monettia Bog near Clonsilla. Most of the above-mentioned birds are true residents; others, however are only visitors, and leave the country again after having reared their young. Some of the rarer visitors which have been shot in the Queen's County have been sent to the National Museum in Dublin for identification and are now preserved there. Thus a Black Redstart and a great spotted Woodpecker, *Σναξ κοττε*, which are irregular rare winter visitors, have both been once obtained in this County.

There are a few birds too, which though exceedingly rare, possess claims to be called "residents." The Wood-lark, for example, which has once been observed by Mr. Croasdaile, near Rynn, belongs to this category. The beautiful Hoopoe, often to be seen on the shores of the Mediterranean, has once visited the County; and several specimens of the rare winter visitor, the Smew, were shot at Grantston and on Lough Annagh. An accidental visitor—the Red-breasted Snipe—*Παορεα ρυαθ*, a native of North America, has only twice been obtained in Ireland, one of these specimens, from Maryborough, is now in the National Museum.

Reptiles and Amphibians.—Only a single species of Reptile $\rho\iota\alpha\rho\tau$, the viviparous Lizard, $\epsilon\alpha\rho\tau\upsilon\alpha\delta\epsilon\rho\alpha$ inhabits Ireland. As everyone knows, no snakes have ever been met with in this country, except such as have escaped from confinement. The Lizard, though nowhere common is widely distributed, and occurs in Queen's County in small numbers. Of Amphibians two different kinds are known to inhabit the County, viz.:—the Frog, $\lambda\omicron\rho\epsilon\delta\eta$, (*Rana temporaria*), and the Newt, $\epsilon\alpha\rho\tau\upsilon\alpha\delta\epsilon\rho\alpha$, (*Molge vulgaris*). The latter is regarded by country people with unfeigned dread, and many are the stories one hears as to its propensities of attacking man. So much so that it is often spoken of as the 'man-eater,' but the term 'dark-leucker' is more commonly heard in country parts, and is probably a corruption of the Irish 'dearc-leuchair.' It is needless to remark, that this animal is perfectly inoffensive, and lives entirely on small insects and worms.

Fishes.—One of the commonest species which frequents every little stream and brook is the Three-spined Stickleback, often called 'Pinkeen,' by boys, but besides this there is another much rarer kind of Stickleback which possesses ten spines on its back instead of the usual three. The latter was discovered near La Bergerie House, Queen's County, by the Rev. B. J. Clarke, and specimens sent by him to William Thompson were described by the latter as the largest he had ever seen.⁵

The Gudgeon, $\zeta\upsilon\sigma\alpha$, $\upsilon\delta\omicron\tau\alpha\iota\eta\epsilon$, has been noticed in the River Barrow, and I am informed by Mr. Webber that the Tench occurs in the lake at Kellyville. We are not certain, however, whether the latter is an indigenous species. It would be interesting to know whether the Minnow occurs in the County. It has certainly not been recorded, and its distribution in Ireland is very local. The Loach, the Pike, $\zeta\alpha\iota\upsilon\text{-}\lambda\alpha\rho\zeta$, and the Eel, $\epsilon\alpha\rho\epsilon\acute{\upsilon}$, have been taken in the tributaries of the Barrow, and are probably widely distributed. The Perch, $\epsilon\rho\epsilon\alpha\zeta\alpha\zeta\text{-}\upsilon\iota\rho\zeta\epsilon$, and Rudd are more partial to lakes and slowly moving waters, and are also frequently met with. The latter is known in Ireland as the 'Roach,' but differs from the true 'Roach' in the position of the dorsal fin.

Finally, the Trout, $\upsilon\rho\epsilon\lambda\epsilon$, is to be met with in every stream in the county, while its near relation, the Salmon, $\upsilon\rho\iota\upsilon\delta\alpha\eta$, has been taken in the Barrow and the Nore and their tributaries. On the borderland of fishes—differing in many respects from true fishes—we have the River Lamprey, $\epsilon\alpha\rho\epsilon\acute{\upsilon}$ $\rho\iota\upsilon\tau\epsilon\alpha\acute{\epsilon}$, which is often found adhering to stones and sometimes to other fishes by means of its sucker-like mouth.

INVERTEBRATES.—*Molluscs.*—Some of these are found in fresh-water, others on land, familiar examples of the former being the fresh water Mussel, $\rho\iota\lambda\alpha\rho\epsilon\delta\eta$, and of the latter the Slug, $\epsilon\iota\lambda\mu\delta\zeta$, and Garden Snail, $\rho\epsilon\iota\tau\rho\epsilon$, $\rho\epsilon\iota\tau\mu\rho\epsilon$, $\rho\iota\upsilon\mu\rho\epsilon$, $\rho\iota\epsilon\tau\rho\epsilon$.

One of the most noteworthy papers which has been written on Irish Slugs was published by a clergyman, the Rev. B. J. Clarke,⁶ resident in the Queen's County; and as all his observations were made in the county they are of particular interest to us in connection with

⁵ See W. Thompson's "Natural History of Ireland," vol. iv., p. 89, 1856.

⁶ See "Annals and Magazine of Natural

History," vol. xii., 1843. Rev. B. J. Clarke on "The Species of Limax Found in Ireland."

this work. He kept slugs in confinement in order to note down their food and method of reproduction, and has given us many valuable hints on their habits. Many of the slugs are decidedly destructive to crops, but while some confine their attention more or less to the leaves, others do injury underground to the roots of plants. Perhaps the most injurious to the farmer is the small grey slug (*Agriolimax agrestis*), which abounds everywhere. Other species like the large black slug (*Arion ater*), and the smaller kinds belonging to the same genus do their share of destruction in a less open manner, and confine their attention more to decaying vegetable substances. I have published a fuller account more recently of all the species occurring in Ireland, and in it are dealt with some forms also to be met with in the County,⁷ but not described by Clarke.

Besides the slugs, a large number of species of snails have been collected in the County, principally by Edward Waller in the neighbourhood of La Bergerie House. A single specimen of the rare *Helix pisana*—a large white shell faintly banded with brown, whose home is on the shores of the Mediterranean—was discovered there, and is now in the National Museum. It would lead us too far to mention all the species which have been noticed in the County, and I would refer those who wish to acquaint themselves with the different kinds of land snails to the account of the Irish species published in the 'Irish Naturalist.'⁸

In the same list the fresh-water forms are also dealt with, and one of the rarest and at the same time the most conspicuous Irish species (*Planorbis cornuus*), was first discovered near Monasterevan, on the borders of the Queen's County. It has since been taken in a few other localities, but the only area in Ireland where it can be said to be common is in the ditches between Portarlinton and Monasterevan.

Insects.—Various groups of insects are recognised among Naturalists, all characterised by easily distinguishable features. Thus the Beetles, *εἰσρός*, have the fore pair of wings modified into hard coverings for the hinder pair which alone are used for flight. Then again we divide these into a number of different families, such as ground-beetles, rove-beetles, click-beetles, weevils, lady-birds, and others. The latter, since they feed on the small Aphis, or green fly, are extremely useful, while many of the other kinds cause much destruction to our fruit trees and crops. A very exhaustive account of the beetles of Ireland has recently been published,⁹ in which the various kinds occurring in the County are recorded. Further detailed references to the local species have been given by the Rev. J. M. Browne in an interesting article.¹⁰

Butterflies and Moths, *πέτιοεάν*, have not been very extensively collected in the County as far as I know, and the few species which have been recorded seem to have been taken by Dublin Naturalists. The Wood white, which has once been observed at Borris-in-Ossory is almost the only rare Butterfly known from the County, but more diligent search would probably yield a more promising harvest.

⁷ See "Transactions of the Royal Dublin Society," vol. iv., 1801. R. F. Scharff, "The Slugs of Ireland."

⁸ See "Irish Naturalist," Vol i., 1802, R. F. Scharff on "The Irish Land and Fresh-water Mollusca."

⁹ See "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. vi., s. 3, 1901. Johnson and Hallert, "A List of the Beetles of Ireland."

¹⁰ See Rev. J. M. Browne, "The Irish Naturalist," vol. x., 1901. "Entomological Notes from Abbeyleix."

An excellent catalogue of the Irish Butterflies, $\rho\epsilon\tau\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\alpha\acute{\nu}$, and Moths, $\mu\iota\omicron\tau\ \epsilon\pi\iota\omicron\mu\mu$, was published a few years ago by Mr. W. F. de V. Kane.¹¹ Of the remaining groups of Insects, viz.: the Bees $\beta\epsilon\alpha\epsilon$, Wasps, $\beta\epsilon\alpha\epsilon\ \epsilon\alpha\pi\alpha\iota\iota$, and Ants, $\Sigma\epsilon\alpha\gamma\zeta\alpha\acute{\nu}$, the ordinary Flies, $\epsilon\iota\tau\epsilon\omicron\varsigma$, the Grasshoppers, $\Theta\omicron\mu\mu\acute{\alpha}\nu$, and allied forms, the Dragon-flies, $\epsilon\iota\tau\epsilon\omicron\varsigma\ \Theta\omicron\mu\alpha\zeta\alpha\acute{\nu}$, and Bugs, $\Sigma\epsilon\alpha\pi\tau\alpha\acute{\nu}$, we know practically nothing so far as the Queen's County is concerned, though a few records may be found scattered among the volumes of the 'Irish Naturalist.'

Spiders, $\tau\omicron\upsilon\beta\acute{\alpha}\nu\alpha\tau\tau\alpha$. No doubt large numbers of different kinds of Spiders, and their near relations the Harvest-men, and Mites, occur in the County, but these also have unfortunately not been found sufficiently attractive by local Naturalists to be collected, and we are at present unable to indicate what species may be found there. To those who wish to acquaint themselves with the Spiders they may be likely to come across in their rambles, I cannot do better than recommend the perusal of Mr. Carpenter's interesting account of the Irish Spiders.¹²

Centipedes, $\epsilon\kappa\mu\iota\ \epsilon\lambda\alpha\sigma\text{-}\epsilon\omicron\pi\alpha\epsilon$.—In his list of the Irish Centipedes and Millipedes, Mr. Pocock refers to over 20 species which are known to him from this country, and several of these certainly inhabit the Queen's County.¹³

Crustaceans.—A search under stones in the field or garden will yield almost certainly a number of wood-lice, $\mu\iota\omicron\tau\ \epsilon\pi\iota\omicron\mu\mu$, and these, together with the fresh-water shrimp-like creatures, and also the crayfish and the marine crabs, $\rho\omicron\tau\alpha\ \eta\alpha\ \mu\alpha\mu\alpha$, and lobsters, $\xi\iota\omicron\mu\alpha\epsilon$ are classed under the term '*Crustacea*.' The Irish Wood-lice have been dealt with in a paper published a few years ago in the 'Irish Naturalist,'¹⁴ and I am assured by Mr. T. W. Webber that there are plenty of Crayfish, $\epsilon\pi\upsilon\beta\omicron\varsigma$, in the Banteogue River, which flows past Stradbally. On the Continent these crayfish are greatly relished by the inhabitants, and are exported in quantities from there to London Hotels and Restaurants, though I have not heard of them as being much eaten in this country, or sent to England, as they might easily be.

Worms, $\mu\iota\alpha\tau\ \rho\epsilon\iota\tau\tau$.—The Worms constitute a very large and diversified group of Invertebrates. In the first place, we have the division to which the Earthworms belong, creatures which, owing to their habit of burrowing in the soil, and thereby breaking up and loosening the earth, are of such immense benefit to the farmer. They have been described in a series of valuable articles which appeared in the 'Irish Naturalist.'¹⁵ Other kinds of worms inhabit our ponds and streams, and serve as food for many of our fresh-water fishes. Then, again, we have several divisions of worms which live parasitically in the bodies of other animals, and frequently produce serious ailments, such as the much-dreaded fluke, which inhabits the liver of sheep. Of the exact distribution of all these worms in Ireland we know as yet but little, and much investigation is still needed to enable us to publish county lists.

¹¹ See "A Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Ireland," London, 1901.

¹² See G. H. Carpenter, in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. v. Third Series, 1898. G. H. Carpenter, "A List of the Spiders of Ireland."

¹³ See an interesting article in "The Irish Naturalist," vol. ii., 1893. R. I. Pocock's

"Notes upon some Irish Myriopoda," p. 309."

¹⁴ See R. F. Scharff on "The Irish Wood-lice," in "The Irish Naturalist," vol. iii., pp. 4, 25, 1804.

¹⁵ See the Rev. Hilderic Friend on "The Earthworms of Ireland," "The Irish Naturalist," vol. ii., pp. 6, 39, 89, 121, 188, 216, 238, 272, 288, published in 1893.

There are, moreover, minute worm-like organisms like the Rotifers and Polyzoa with which Naturalists in this country have not made themselves very familiar. Finally, there are the Leeches, *ῥοιτῶς*, some of which live entirely in fresh-water, while others are able to subsist for a while in damp earth, and which have also been described in the useful journal already referred to.¹⁶

Sponges and Protozoa.—The Irish fresh-waters are also inhabited by a few species of Sponges, *Μυρῶν*, allied to our Bath-Sponge, and by an exceedingly large number of microscopic organisms known as Protozoa, which it will not be possible to deal with adequately in this brief survey.¹⁷

CHAPTER IX.—ZOOLOGY, FAUNA.—DOMESTICATED ANIMALS.

It is now over one hundred years ago, since Sir Charles Coote made a careful and very admirable investigation regarding the varieties and breed of horses, cattle and other farming stock in the Queen's County.¹ As such references are usually in connexion with different districts, and not classed under any general heading; it is hardly necessary to do more than refer to his work, for an account of the domesticated animals that served the purposes of the gentry and farmers of his day, and to compare their condition and usefulness with those which are at present and there to be found. In many respects, great improvements have taken place, and in the following reports of experienced gentlemen present the full opportunities and capacity for acquiring local information of a reliable character, the description given and the accounts furnished are of a special interest for our readers, and claim the grateful acknowledgments of the writer for that labour and they have so kindly undertaken, and that ability they have manifested in dealing with their respective subjects.

As having had a great experience in the rearing and keeping of horses, and also an extensive dealings and purchases, with a study of their different properties, not alone confined to the County; the writer applied to Mr. Arthur MacMahon of Colt Stud Farm, Abbeyleix, for information on the topic with which he is so conversant, and obtained from him the following interesting particulars, which are here submitted for the instruction of the reader.²

"In the beginning of the last century, the breed of horses in the Queen's County was principally that which is still known as the old Irish cart-horse, so universally prized for sound constitution and endurance, as also adapted to carry heavy weights for long distances, and living on very little food. That breed was known in the County from time immemorial. Generally distributed throughout the whole country, when the mare was crossed with a thorough-bred sire, we have been indebted to it for the Irish hunter—an animal famous for its strength,

¹⁶ See "The Irish Naturalist," vol. vii., 1808. R. F. Scharff, "The Irish Fresh-water Leeches."

¹⁷ [In the text of this chapter, the Irish names of Animals, with some additions in the list of birds, have been noted by a com-

petent Irish scholar, Mr. Patrick O'Ryan, Tritonville, Sandymount.] AUTHOR'S NOTE

¹ In his "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County."

² Communicated, to the author in the month of July, 1903.

spirit and fleetness over the whole world. Moreover, it was a breed good for all general purposes, producing excellent carriage, riding and driving horses, sure-footed, while most serviceable for the farmer's use under the common cart or in ploughing. It was an animal of good frame, bony, sinewy and muscular, with well and cleanly proportioned limbs, having smooth hair, and the prevalent colour being bay, brown or sorrel. About sixty or seventy years ago, English thorough-bred sires were introduced into the County, with good results for producing excellent hunters, when crossed with the old Irish breed of mares.

About fifty years ago, Clydesdale sires for draft and agricultural purposes were introduced, and a first cross with the native brood-mares was apparently attended with good results; but a continuation of that mode of breeding has caused undoubted deterioration, in our losing by degrees the old hardy and good type of Irish horses. Instead, we are left with strong and large, but soft in flesh and coarsely-haired animals, which, although fairly serving for heavy cartage and brewers' drays, are altogether unfit for riding, hunting or carriage use, not to speak about general farming operations. About twenty years ago, another English breed, known as Shire sires, were brought into the County, with much the same results as the Clydesdale; both breeds are slow in motion and heavy-looking, their chief recommendation being their size, although their muscular development is not nearly so serviceable in proportion. Somewhat about the same date, another English breeder, called the Suffolk Punch Sire, was introduced, but this animal was not in request, and was found to be most unsuitable, being slow and inactive in movement, and not fitted for trotting; invariably the breed is of a whole chesnut colour. All of these breeds are utterly unsuitable for agriculturists in the Queen's County, nor should farmers for their own special wants favour the propagation of those animals. Moreover, within the last fifteen years, Yorkshire or Hackney coach horses have crept into the County; but as they have not proved satisfactory in keep or action, they are no longer in request.

Thirty years have passed, since excellent hunters were bred and trained by the gentry and large farmers, as hunting was then a favourite pastime. Those animals then reared were not excelled by any in most other Irish counties. At present, they are much fewer in number, many having been sold by their former owners, but as good prices are realized for them, especially in England, there is still a prospect of increase in the breeding of hunters by adopting the requisite methods.

At the present time, a strong desire prevails among experienced horse-breeders and practical agriculturists, that some effective measures be taken to revive and propagate the old Irish breed of horses. For this purpose, a Stud Book of that particular species should be formed, and kept with careful registration of such animals by the Royal Dublin Society. It seems to be very strange, and it is certainly much to be deplored, that a valuable strain of blood and bone should be allowed to become almost extinct, owing to the ill-judged caprice of former importers and the distribution of their fancied animals. It is the universal opinion of Queen's County horse-breeders and farmers, that owing to our mares having been mated with the Scotch Clydesdales, and the English Shire Stallions, more injury has been done to hunter-breeding than can well be imagined. After so many years of trial, and still without a correct knowledge prevailing on the subject, imported draught horses, instead of improving have deteriorated largely the old breed; while

the idea now prevailing is to revive it, and thus to procure an animal of that good type, free as can be obtained from either Shire or Clydesdale blood. During the last fifty years, we had still good thorough-bred sires standing in the County, and when mated with the old Irish brood-mares, their offsprings were invariably animals of rare excellence. There can be no doubt, it is to the thorough-bred sire we have to look, so that we may be able to counteract the bad effects the Shire and Clydesdale blood has produced in our native breed of horses. At present, the standard of our brood-mares has so deteriorated, that it is only in exceptional cases we can find one fitted to mate with a thorough-bred sire, so as to have any reasonable hope of producing a first class animal. Now it ought to be the special care of the Agricultural and Technical Department, to engage their Inspectors to report and select as many good sires and mares of the recognised type as possible throughout Ireland, and register them in a special Stud Book of the breed. Suitable measures should be taken, while it is possible to do so, for the propagation and revival of a breed, endowed with such characteristic and desirable properties. If action of this sort were effected, the Irish horse-breeders and farmers might secure large prices for animals of their rearing, and become owners of mares that should supply the United Kingdom and more distant countries with the best hunters in the world.

For the last two centuries, good and swift race horses were bred and kept in the County, chiefly by the sporting gentry. Among these were some remarkable steeplechasers. In recent years also, many were not alone successful on Irish and English race-courses, but even on the Continent prizes were won by several among them. For some of those racers and steeplechasers large prices have been obtained.

The ponies of Irish extraction have been found useful animals for farmers in the County, and they are very numerous. They are easily fed, of hardy constitution, of shapely form, and of different colours, dun, cream or bay prevailing. Dealers are constantly engaged in buying or selling them, and many of those animals are imported, principally from Connaught. They are of much greater value than some others of their class, which have been recently imported from Iceland and Shetland. The Asses or Donkies in the County are kept mostly by the cottiers and small farmers for drawing light loads of turf, manure, field and garden vegetables; they are also found to be useful for market and fair requirements. They are very hardy, useful animals, and feed on coarse food, which is readily procurable, and almost without cost to their owners. The Genet, a cross between a sire Pony and a female Ass, is also pretty numerous; but the Mule, a cross between a sire Ass and a mare, is now seldom met with in the Queen's County."

Mr. James A. Mulhall of Pass House, Maryborough, has furnished the following very detailed and accurate account of the cattle and stock, native and imported, which are most in request, and he has thus noticed their distribution among the gentry and farming classes:—³

CATTLE.—"The Queen's County is notable for raising and rearing good cattle, principally of the Shorthorn breed, that were introduced into it, over fifty years ago.⁴ The Shorthorn is remarkable for its size,

³ In a communication dated Pass House, Maryborough, June, 1903.

⁴ By the following well known breeders and gentlemen—Right Hon. Lord Castletown,

Granstown Manor, Ballacolla; John Loftus Bland, Esq., J.P., Blandsfort, Abbeyleix; the late Wm. Rowe, Esq., Mountrath, and the late Humphrey Smith, Esq., Mountmellick.

symmetry and its flesh-producing qualities. It is of deep red, white, or roan colour. It has been crossed with the old Irish breed of dairy cattle that are now nearly extinct in the County. The old Irish cow was a low, lengthy animal, of narrow shape, with large turned up horns, of a light red colour, often found with white stripe along the back from shoulder to tail, and sometimes found having streaks of black with light red. It is known as a brindled cow. The old Irish cattle were more remarkable for milk production than for that of beef. Their cross with the shorthorn breed helped to improve cattle very much in the County. The local cattle fairs are much frequented, particularly those of Rathdowney and Ballinakill, which are usually fully stocked with well-shaped and growthy store-cattle. Large numbers of gentlemen, graziers and buyers attend those fairs and make numerous purchases to stock and fatten on the rich lands of the midland counties.⁵ A great number of the well-to-do tenant farmers throughout the County purchase from year to year pure bred shorthorn sires, at the Royal Dublin Society Spring Show, and bring them to their farms, where their service greatly influences the improvement of cattle among the neighbouring small farmers. Aberdeen Angus cattle are also raised in the County. They are of a deep red or black colour, with great length and depth of body; they have short legs and are hornless; they are more intended for beef-production than for dairy purposes; consequently they are not a favourite breed with the farmers, as they are not suitable for his immediate and several requirements.⁶ The Hereford breed is of a red colour with white face, mane and throat; the beef of the Hereford is peculiarly tender and fine grained, but it is often deficient in the quantity of internal fat, and therefore it is not profitable butcher's meat. A cross with the pure Hereford sire, and the old common cow of the County, gives a progeny, which forms splendid butter producers.⁷ The Kerry breed is small in size, of a black or red colour, very hardy, producing a rich milk, and valuable for its suitability to certain localities throughout the County. It is very suitable for cottagers who can afford to keep one cow.⁸

SHEEP.—The Queen's County is notable for the raising of first class sheep and of different breeds. The sheep flocks throughout the County

⁵ At the present time there are a good many breeders of the pure shorthorn. Amongst the gentry are to be found the following—Lord de Vesci, Abbeyleix; Miss Staples, Dunmore, Durrus; and Captain J. L. Bland, Blandsford, Ballyroan. Many large farmers have also taken to the raising and rearing of the pure shorthorn. Amongst these may be named—Alfred Smith, Esq., Mountmellick; T. L. Hodgins, Esq., Brookvale, Maryborough; George N. Jessop, Esq., Maryborough, etc., etc., and are doing so with great credit and success, by carrying off prizes with their exhibits of the pure shorthorn at the Royal Dublin Society Show, at Queen's County Agricultural Society Show, and at other local county Shows. Some of those exhibits and prize-winners are bought at long prices for the Argentine Republic, South America, to improve the native breed of cattle.

⁶ One of the most notable and successful

breeders of the Aberdeen Angus cattle in the county, and even in the United Kingdom, is Arthur J. Owen, Esq., Shanvaghey, Ballacolla, and also of Blessington, County of Wicklow. Other breeders of the Aberdeen Angus stock are Lord Castletown, Granstown Manor, Ballacolla; R. F. H. White, Esq., Aghaboe, Ballacolla, and Captain J. L. Bland, Blandstort, Ballyroan.

⁷ Colonel C. M. Kemmis, C.M.G., Killeen, Mountmellick, is the only recognised breeder of the pure Hereford cattle in the county who goes in for them extensively, and who carries off prizes for his exhibits of the Hereford at the Royal Dublin Society Spring Show.

⁸ We had a large breeder of the pure Kerry cattle in the former Lord de Vesci, Abbeyleix, who kept a large herd, and carried away many prizes with them at the Royal Dublin Society Show, as also at the local shows held in the Queen's County.

have improved much within the past fifty years. Several of the gentry and many well-to-do large farmers have introduced from time to time, to their respective flocks, sheep of a distinct and pure breed. At present the following different breeds are to be found, viz. :—The 'Border Leicester,' 'Lincoln,' 'Shropshire,' 'Cheviot,' 'Roscommon,' 'Oxford Down,' 'Dorset Horned,' 'Kerry,' 'Wicklow,' or mountain sheep. The Border Leicester was first introduced into the County in 1867 or 1868, by William Davidson, Esq., Esker Lodge, Timahoe. The Border Leicester is a large white-faced sheep, with a neat frame, a good fleece of wool, and great aptitude to fatten. The mutton has however too large a proportion of fat, and it is therefore not so saleable as the mutton of other breeds.⁹ The Lincoln or long wool sheep is noted for the great weight and lustrous peculiarity of its fleece. It has a glossiness which is much prized, as that is retained when manufactured into various fabrics. Instances of fleeces weighing as much as thirty-four lbs. have been clipped off from Lincoln sheep, in the flocks of some of the extensive farmers near Maryborough, who are now amongst the largest and most successful breeders of the Lincoln sheep in the County, and who have also introduced, in 1902, the Oxford Down sheep, that heretofore were little known in the County. A specially careful breeder of this class of sheep in the county was William Young, Esq., J.P., Brockley Park, Stradbally. The Oxford Down is a fine sheep, with a large handsome frame, having a black or grey face, close wool and firm mutton. The ewes are moderately prolific, one of the chief merits of their lambs being their size and maturity at an early age.

Numerous flocks of Shropshire sheep and of the pure breed are in the County.¹⁰ The Shropshire sheep has a fine fleece of thick wool and a well-covered head, a carcass long, wide and deep, with plenty of lean flesh. They have robustness of constitution and aptitude to fatten. The colour of their face and legs is black or grey. The ewes are good nurses and very prolific. The rams of this breed are in great demand by many farmers of the County to cross with Kerry, Wicklow, or mountain ewes, and they generally insure a good progeny of lambs that fatten early for the markets. The large Roscommon class of sheep is very scarce in the County. It is the largest of all breeds, while the sheep have shapely and handsome frames, well covered with flesh, and having a great propensity to fatten, but for grazing they require the best of warm limestone land. They handle soft, and their mutton is large but coarse-grained.¹¹ The Cheviot is also very scarce in the County, although a very useful white-faced sheep. The ewes are remarkably good sucklers. Cheviots have not a heavy fleece, but it is very fine in quality, while their mutton is excellent¹². The Dorset horned sheep are very few in the County, although very prolific, as having two births of lambs in the year, viz., in the spring and autumn. The Kerry,

⁹ At the present time the following large and successful breeders of the pure-border Leicester sheep are—Miss Staples, Dunmore, Durrow; Sir Algernon Coote, Ballyfin; Right Hon. Viscount Ashbrook, Durrow Castle, and Matthew H. Franks, Esq., J.P., Westfield, Mountrath.

¹⁰ These are chiefly bred by Colonel Robert Ashworth Godolphin Cosby, Esq., Stradbally Hall; Sir Hunt Walsh, Bart., Ballykilcavan, Stradbally; John L. Bland, Esq., Blandfort;

Robert Hamilton Stubber, Esq., Moyne, Durrow; R. F. H. White, Esq., Aghaboe, Ballacolla. These gentlemen take prizes with their sheep at all the noted shows throughout Ireland and England.

¹¹ William Delaney, Esq., M.P., is one of the largest and most successful breeders of the Roscommon stock in the county.

¹² Robert Onions, Esq., Borris, Maryborough, is a large breeder of the Cheviot sheep in the county.

Wicklow and Mountain Sheep are very small. Large flocks of them pass through the County every year, about July and August, driven by dealers. They are disposed of at the rates of 7s. to 15s. to farmers in the County who keep them for a year or two, for breeding purposes, crossed with a pure bred ram of the Shropshire, Lincoln, or Border Leicester. They are very prolific and great sucklers; moreover, they thrive where other sheep of the pure breed should perish.

GOATS.—The County is well stocked with goats, particularly in the mountain and hilly districts. Their fleece is usually of a black, brown or white colour. Several of them are hornless goats, and of a black, brown or grey colour. Their milk is most nutritious, especially for children, and as their feeding requires little care, their keeping is usually favoured by the cottagers and small farmers; but if allowed to range at large along the road-sides, as they often are found browsing on the hedge-rows and especially on the young hawthorn buds, they are very destructive to fences, and therefore not much in request by the large farmers.

SWINE.—Large numbers of swine are raised and fattened, while nearly every town in the County has a monthly pig-market, where buyers attend, many from Limerick, Waterford and Dublin. Like the cattle, swine have also improved greatly within the past thirty years. Previous to that time, the country pig was a long flat-ribbed animal with good shoulders, rather narrow back, tail placed low, good hams, thick bristly coat, and all placed on long legs. Their colour was white with grey spots, and they never fattened until they were twelve months old or more. Afterwards, however, they reached an enormous weight, sometimes going to thirty or forty stone. During latter years many new breeds from England have been introduced, viz., the Berkshire, which are very hardy, particularly when young, and they require less care than other imported breeds. They are of a black colour, with a star or white flash down the forehead, their feet and tip end of tail white; the neck is muscular, the shoulders are wide, and the ribs flat; they have somewhat narrow loins and hind quarters, a drooping rump; the bone of their legs is thick and coarse. Moreover, the coat is very coarse, and they are rather hard to fatten. Consequently, they are not favourites now-a-days, and they are very scarce. The Tamworth or red pigs are bred in the County, but in one corner of it only, at Emil, on the borders of Tipperary. They are of a red colour, having long head, body and legs, with deep flat ribs, and they scarcely ever fatten until they are twelve months old.

The principal breeds of swine now in the County are the small Yorkshire and the large white Yorkshire pigs. The small white Yorker is short, with upturned snout, and the lower jaws are dished; these animals have prick ears, with heavy jowls or cheeks; their necks are somewhat long, but notably padded with flesh. Their shoulders are well apart and well joined to hoop-like ribs; their hind quarters are long and square, with flesh down to the hocks; the tail is very slender; the legs are short and placed well apart; their whole carcass is covered with soft and silky hair. They are easily fattened, and weigh about twelve to thirteen stone at seven months old. Still on account of their small size and ugly faces they are not general favourites with the people, who prefer the large York breed. These animals grow into pigs of twelve to sixteen stone weight at the age of eight or nine months.¹³ The large Yorkshire pig is purely white, with short square head, and having somewhat drooping ears. It is rather slight in the neck,

it has good shoulders, a long back, good hams, a thick wavy coat, and large bony legs.

Dogs.—The Queen's County cannot boast of any particular breed or variety of dogs. Attached to all the farmers' homes in the County is found the useful, faithful and intelligent collie or sheep-dog, usually black and tan in colour, and of medium size. Irish terriers and English or fox terriers are very numerous, and are very useful for killing rats, mice and rabbits. Greyhounds are to be found in the districts of Maryborough, Mountrath, Ballinakill, Portarlinton, Ballyfinn, Wolfhill and colliery districts, where many sportsmen and coursing men reside. Bull terriers, are very scarce and rarely seen in the rural districts; they are generally kept about towns. Mastiffs are very few, and only to be found about Stradbally and Carlow Graigue. I cannot say if anyone in the County has an Irish Wolf-dog. I made inquiries, and could not find one.

At present there are no Foxhounds in the County. R. Hamilton Stubber, Esq., J.P., and also Colonel Robert Cosby, of Stradbally Hall, used to keep a pack of Foxhounds that hunted the County for many years. At this present time, the County is hunted by the Castlecomer Hounds, owned by Prior Wandesforde, Esq., J.P., D.L., who has a splendid pack of English Foxhounds. During the Hunting season, the Castlecomer hounds meet one day in the week, at the following places: In the Leix division of the County, they meet at Blandsfort and draw Derivore and Cullenagh covers; they meet at Swan and draw Wolfhill and Movadd covers; at Timalhoe they draw Sling, Fossey and Killbule's Glen; at Lamberton, they draw the Croshyduff and Sheffield covers; at Ballykilcavan, they draw the woods surrounding it. The King's County hounds hunt the Ossory division of the County.¹⁹ Several of the gentry in the County keep Pointers, Setters (Irish) and a few English Setters are to be found, but very seldom a Gordon Setter. There are Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Beagles, Basset Hounds, Dachshunds, Skye Terriers, Fox Dogs, Pomeranians, Poodles, Dandy Dinmont and Airedale Terriers, besides various breeds of ladies' lap-dogs, and of foreign extraction. I do not hear of a single Blood Hound or Newfoundland Dog to be met with in the County; but I believe, there are some St. Bernards, and Great Dane Dogs to be found. We have a nasty lot of mongrels to be seen in every peasant's cabin in the County, crosses between sheep-dogs, terriers and greyhounds, ill-bred, ill-fed and ill-used.

CATS.—The general breed of cats, which are good mousers, does not seem to admit of much variety, and they are of the old Irish species, in every variety of colour. Some of a foreign extraction and as "pets" are to be found, chiefly in the houses of the gentry, and chiefly prized for their peculiarity of shape and characteristics.

POULTRY.—Until in recent years, there was no particular class of Poultry in the County, but only a mixed gathering of barn-door fowl of a good laying strain. In later years, however, several distinct varieties have been introduced by many enterprising fowl fanciers, amongst

¹⁹ At the present time, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction offer premiums of £5 each, through the County Councils, and grant these ten £5 premiums for distribution to the ten owners of boars of the true large Yorkshire breed. This is in-

tended to encourage the improvement of the breed of pigs throughout the country.

²⁰ Mr. Moore of Cremorgan keeps a pack of harriers for his own private use in hunting hares over his property, and on the adjoining estates.

the gentry and farmers throughout the County, for their own use and profit. The sale of their eggs at 3s. to 5s. per setting to their neighbours was rather excessive, and with such prices for twelve or thirteen eggs, it was scarcely possible for new breeds to flourish and multiply amongst the peasantry, the chief persons who supply the local markets with fresh eggs and early chickens. However, thanks to the Department of Agriculture, and with the approval of the County Council, they have established several egg stations or poultry farms, where incubators are to be found. Also, by offering and giving premiums of £5 each, to people who undertake the keeping of one pure breed of fowl in their yard or on their farm, and by their distributing the eggs of these purely bred fowl of a distinct breed at one shilling per dozen to their neighbours or to any resident of the County, much practical encouragement has been given to the breeding of barn-door fowl amongst the farmers and peasantry. Already the Committee of Agricultural and Technical Education have appointed and sent a qualified instructress on poultry to lecture in the National Schools during the evenings, in several of the rural districts throughout the County, the people being admitted free to all of those lectures. In 1903 five poultry farms had been established in the County; and one of these was placed in each union district, viz., of Abbeyleix, of Mountmellick, of Roscrea, of Athy, and of Slievemargy, respectively; and thus they were lately stocked with thirty-three pure bred fowl of Buff Orpington and Black Minorca breed. The Buff Orpington is a large and buff-coloured fowl, and it is one selected for general purposes. It is equally good for laying and for table use, and especially it is a great winter layer. The Black Minorca is a small black fowl, and it is prized principally for laying.¹⁵

TURKEYS.—These birds are raised and reared extensively throughout the County. Nearly every farmer rears from ten to thirty young turkeys each year. Some very industrious wives or daughters of farmers are known to rear over one hundred turkeys in the year, and to dispose of them in local markets at Christmas, from 10s. to 22s. a pair. Turkeys' eggs are eaten, but are looked on more or less as a luxury, because the good housewife does not like to use a turkey egg, that possibly might produce a bird worth 10s. or 12s.

GEESE.—These also are very generally reared, and their eggs are often eaten, but these are not thought so much about as duck eggs. However, geese are getting to be scarce in the County, owing to the fact, that farmers do not like to have them on their land, as they are thought to damage it much in a variety of ways. Ducks are very numerous, and particularly the breed known as the Indian Runner. These birds are of small size and of graceful appearance, while they are wonderful layers. Also the Queen's County Canadian duck is a species peculiar to the County.¹⁶

¹⁵ All of these departmental fowl were imported from England. Other breeds of imported fowl in the county are the Plymouth Rock, White and Brown Leghorn, the Dorkings, the Black Spanish, Blue Andalusian, Wyandotte, etc., etc.

¹⁶ This breed is supposed to have been first introduced by the late Rick Kennedy, Esq., when residing at Pass House, Maryborough. He was a great fowl and bird fancier. He used to keep wild birds in captivity, until they

became tame, such as partridge, pheasant, and wild duck, with a crossing of the wild drake and the Indian Runner duck. He produced by this method the wonderful hardy, graceful bird, which proved such an extraordinary layer, and that he called the Canadian Duck. At present we often see advertised for sale in the *Weekly Freeman's Journal* duck eggs of the Queen's County Canadian breed, and they are greatly in request.

We have also the Aylesbury, Pekin and Rowen duck; these are more adapted for table use than for laying purposes.¹⁷

BEEs.—Formerly in almost every comfortable farmstead throughout the County, and frequently in the smaller holdings, the hives of domesticated bees, as distinguished from honey-bees that in a wild state built their nests in the meadows, were to be seen. At the present time, nevertheless, the bee or honey-industry is greatly neglected, and you might travel from north to south, from east to west, over the County, and not notice in a score of gardens, attached to dwelling-houses, any stock of bee-hives.¹⁸ It is expected, that instructors in the Bee industry shall soon be appointed by the departmental Committee of Agricultural and Technical Education, to instruct the people of the County in this profitable occupation of bee-keeping. In reference to this subject, I cannot specify any distinct class or variety of those most industrious, useful and valuable insects.”

¹⁷ The following breeds of Poultry are
be found in the County:—

- (1) Dorkings (scarce.)
- (2) Plymouth Rocks (plentiful.)
- (3) Brahmas (scarce.)
- (4) Black Minorcas (plentiful)
- (5) White Leghorns (numerous)
- (6) Old Irish Game (very scarce)
- (7) Butt Orpington (very plentiful)
- (8) Wyandottes (scarce)
- (9) Indian Game (numerous)
- (10) Favorelles (scarce.)

All these varieties of domesticated fowl were exhibited by the gentry and farmers at the Queen's County (by residents of the County) Agricultural Show, held

at Maryborough on the Asylum grounds.

¹⁸ A small farmer lives near the Rock of Cashel in the barony of Cullenagh) and a near neighbour of mine, has this present year, 1893, thirty hives of busy bees working with all their might, going back and forward daily to the Cashel and Cullenagh bogs, bringing their sweet stores from the heather and wild flowers. Moreover, all of those thirty hives resulted from a swarm that came to him by accident about four years ago. He has a numerous and young family, who are doubtless regaled with it, and the farmer in question stated, that he never sells any of the honey.

BOOK II.—ANTIQUARIAN AND PAGAN HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.—MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES.

THE Pre-historic remains in Ireland are considered to have been those which existed previous to, or within a limited period after, the introduction of Christianity in the fifth century, and they consist chiefly of cromlechs, oghams, cairns, tumuli, stone forts, stone circles, beehive stone-huts, pillar-stones, rock-markings, urns, weapons, and other ancient instruments.¹

The surface of the Queen's County is very thickly strewed with different Forts or Rathes, which are shown on the Ordnance Survey Townland Maps, and many of these are remarkable in size and construction. For the most part, they seem to have been erected as enclosures for former strongholds or houses of individuals. They are usually circular in shape, and outlined by an embankment covered with a thick growth of hawthorn or briars, and having a deep circumvallation as the outer boundary. The peasantry had a prevailing superstition, that they were habitations or places for fairy resort, and that ill-luck was sure to betide those who should seek to remove them. It is probably owing to this popular belief, that so many still remain; but nevertheless, a great number of the field-raths have been levelled within the last century, and chiefly to enlarge the area for pasturage or agriculture.

The remarkable Duns² or Forts³ and truncated cones, so marked as features of a very remote age in Ireland, are to be met with in certain parts. In some instances, those are primarily of natural formation, and when of stone, artificial surroundings of escarpment have been wrought, as in the case of the very remarkable old Forts of Dunamase, of Clopoke and of Luggacurren. In like manner, where rounded earthen elevations had been formed, these were shaped into higher truncated cones by digging the soil around their lower sides and piling it on the top. Generally mounds and circumvallations are to be found enclosing very old cemeteries and church sites; but, it is greatly to be regretted, that in many instances, the poor-law guardians when enlarging several of the rural grave-yards have also destroyed those ancient remains. At Aghaboe, towards the north of the church, there is a very remarkable truncated cone, and it is surrounded by a deep fosse. At top, it is about forty-five feet in diameter. A wall ran round its summit, and the ascent to it was by an undulating pathway. It probably served as a fort, to protect the inmates

¹ See Wakeman's "Handbook of Irish Antiquities," Third edition, by John Cooke, M.A. (Dub.), chap. i., p. 2. Dublin, 1903, 8vo.

² An old Celtic word, meaning "hillock," whence comes the Latin, *dunum*, and the French *dune*. In an

antiquarian sense, it is usually applied to a fortified hill.

³ They were small protected places, surrounded with a ditch, rampart or parapet. In Ireland, where they are exceedingly numerous, Moats had nearly the same meaning.

of the monastery or the townspeople about it, during the Northmen invasions, if indeed it had not a still earlier origin. An ancient fortification, called the Rath of Lara, or otherwise the Moat of Monacoghlan,⁴ is within the parish of Aghaboe, and its circumvallations are very curious. On the highest point of the Boley Hills, and not far from the woods of Gracefield, there is an extensive and elevated earthwork mound called Dundrum, "the fort of the ridge." The summit is 130 yards in diameter, and it is enclosed by a high bank. Within this enclosure, there is a well of fine water. At the base, a fosse thirty feet wide at the bottom surrounds the Dun, from which there is an uncommonly vast range of view.⁵

The Cashels or strong stone-built forts were numerous, and usually they gave name to the townlands in which they had been situated. A specimen is still to be seen in the parish of Offerilane, and which has a large fort named Cashel.⁶ Near the old church of Killeshin, there is a very remarkable elevated mound, the ascent to the top of which from the lower ground-level is exceedingly steep. It was surrounded by a deep fosse, but at present it is much reduced in depth. A very remarkable moat and cone shaped is to be seen at Ballyroan. This is circular in form and flat on the top. A winding pathway is carried round the sides, from the lower level to the topmost stage. It presented a picturesque appearance beside the town, as finely grown trees had been planted around the sides.

Towards the close of the early Stone Age, the custom of burning the bodies of the dead seems to have been practised by the inhabitants of the British Isles. The dead were also disposed of by ordinary burial, and by placing the body in a horizontal, sitting, or perpendicular position. Such methods were practised throughout the whole succeeding archaeological period, or Bronze age, as numerous remains testify. When cremated, the calcined remains were placed in an urn, and then deposited, often as stated with a small food vessel, within an artificial chamber, called a Cist or Kistvaen. This was usually a small rectangular chamber made of flags or rude stones. Over these chambers it was customary to cover with earthen mounds or to raise a cairn of stones. However, the Cist has been frequently found in open fields and in other unexpected places.⁷ In the townland of Grange and parish of Dysart Enos, Mr. Daniel Byrne described a sepulchre of unusual shape,⁸ and presented sketches of it to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. The monument lay about two feet beneath the surface, and in sandy earth. It was formed of three lime stones, which were set on their edges, and covered over with smaller stones. This sepulchre contained a great quantity of ashes, oak, charcoal in small portions, and some few bones. Fire seemed to have had great force within this chamber, as the stones composing it appeared crusted with lime. In his very complete and learned work, "The Dolmens of Ireland," William Copeland Borlase mentions a supposed Dolmen, in the townland of Manger, adjoining that of Coorush, and in the

⁴ Copper-plate engravings of its appearance, and a ground plan, are given by Rev. Dr. Ledwich, in a Memoir which has appeared in his "Antiquities of Ireland."

⁵ In the year 1798, a party of insurgents occupied this as a position, but only for a short time.

⁶ See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 22.

⁷ See "Wakeman's Handbook of Irish Antiquities," Third edition, edited by John Cooke, M.A. (Dub.), chap. ii., p. 49.

⁸ Said to resemble the print of a shoe for the right foot. That part answering to the heel of the shoe was made by small stones set one over the other. The circular part of this tomb was about nine feet in circumference.

parish of Tullomoy.⁹ It is marked Ass's Manger on the Ordnance Survey Townland Map.¹⁰ In the townland of Monamanry and parish of Tullomoy, about a mile and a-quarter west from the Ass's Manger, there is a Dolmen marked Druid's Altar on the Ordnance Survey Townland Map.¹¹ The Cromleac on the top of Coolrus Hill, in the parish of Ballyadams has been described by Mr. Daniel Byrne. The removal of earth from the south side of this Cromleac caused the upper stone to slip from its original position, and it now rests with its southern edge on the roadside, the other end being supported by two upright stones measuring respectively four and five feet in height. Many rectangular Cists containing burned bones were opened near that Cromleac, but in them was no trace of urns, arms or ornaments.¹² At no time could the upper stone, in Mr. Byrne's opinion, have been more than one foot six inches above the surface of the hill. Underneath it however, was a square pit sunk about five feet, faced with large flags and dry masonry. The upper edges of the flags which formed this pit were level with the surface of the hill, and when the upper stone was in its original position, about two feet of the pit was left uncovered to the north. The upper stone measured eight feet by six feet and a half, and it was twelve inches thick. To the east, a passage like a sewer, and about three feet square, extended nine feet in an easterly direction from the pit, and opened on the hill's surface. It was formed by flags and dry masonry, well built and covered over, and had not any communication with the pit, being separated therefrom by the large flag which formed the east side of it. Adjoining the west side of the pit, two flags about three feet high were firmly fixed in the earth in a chair-like fashion. Close to these were discovered the calcined remains of a considerable quantity of bones belonging to some large animals. At a radius of about one hundred and fifty feet from this monument, formerly stood a circle of upright stones, now removed.¹³ Mr. Borlase, who regards this monument as of a most instructive character, thinks that itself and that of Grange already described had been burning places, in which bodies were consumed, rather than Dolmens.¹⁴ He also compares the Coolrus monument to a *crematorium* he had examined at Tregiffian in West Cornwall, and in which fire had been kindled for the burning of dead bodies.¹⁵

The pagan custom in Ireland of interment in *Kistvaens* or *Cists* has been proved by several discoveries of these in the Queen's County.¹⁶ As the word *cist* signifies a box or chest, those receptacles generally

⁹ See vol. ii., p. 374. *Mainsair Asal*, i.e. Asses' Manger, is also the name of a dolmen at Galway in Kilkenny.

¹⁰ Sheet 25.

¹¹ See sheet 25.

¹² See "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society for the year 1850," vol. i. part ii., pp. 131, 132.

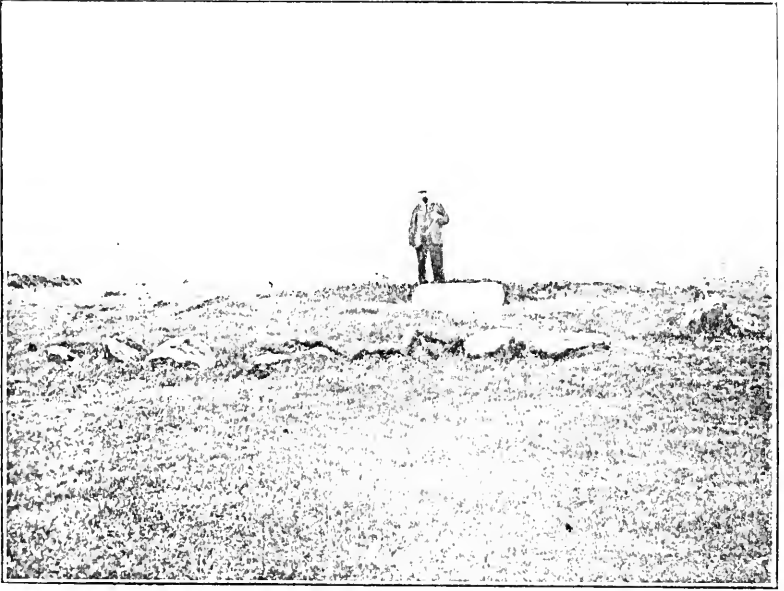
¹³ An old man, and a resident on the spot, assured Mr. Byrne, that he had found and opened to the south-east of the structure many small rectangular cists, formed of six flags, and containing burnt bones, but no urns, or arms, or ornaments.

¹⁴ In some parts of France, as for instance near Toulouse, dolmens are termed *cibournies*, meaning piles of

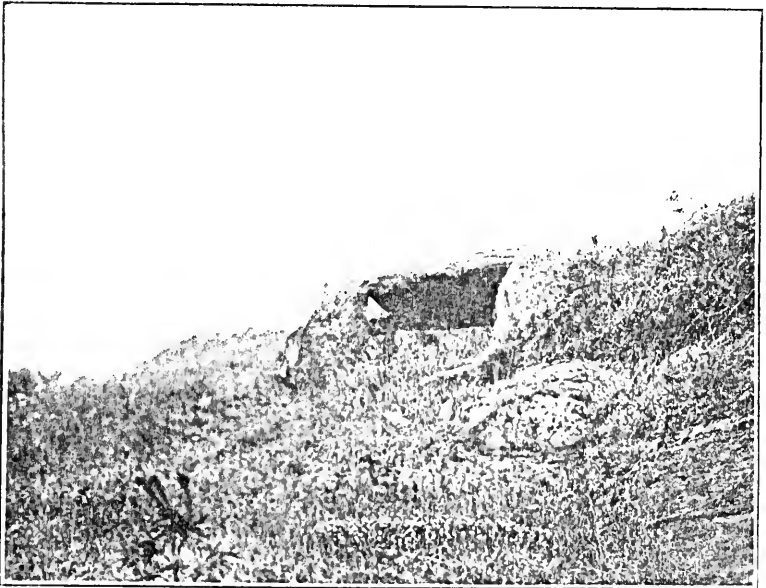
cinders or ashes, from the ash-heaps that lie around them. See Alex. du Méga, "Archeol. Pyrénéennes," vol. iii., p. and n. p. 26.

¹⁵ See "The Dolmens of Ireland: their Distribution, Structural Characteristics, and Affinities, in other Countries together with the folk-lore attaching to them; supplemented by Considerations on the Anthropology, Ethnology, and Traditions of the Irish People," vol. ii., pp. 374, 375, 446, 447. This valuable work has been published in three royal octavo volumes, and it is furnished with Four Maps and Eight hundred illustrations, including two coloured plates. London, Chapman and Hall, 1897.

¹⁶ In any that have been hitherto



THE DRUID'S ALTAR.



Photos by]

THE ASS'S MANGER.

[Rev. E. O'L.

had been formed by upright stones, in the former Celtic times, and disposed in the shape of an elongated box, or as sometimes happened, they have been found cut into a harder material than ordinary earth. Flags or flat stones are usually placed transversely over them as a covering. There were formerly many hillocks or mounds of earth, usually of circular form and artificially constructed in a cone-like shape.¹⁷ Several of these have been removed, but it is to be regretted, as human remains have been found buried beneath, that no antiquarian investigation regarding their appearance or position has taken place, or that even a record of the facts survived their removal. However, in one instance, early in the last century, when the proprietor of the lands of Cuffsborough, in the parish of Aghaboe, had determined on levelling a mound then existing in one of his fields, the labourers having cleared away a considerable portion of earth came to a beehive-shaped structure of rough stones. Three or four of these being removed gave entrance to a sepulchral chamber. This measured about five feet in diameter, and it was formed by placing a circle of large stones on edge, at the back of which clay and small stones had been carefully rammed down; these stones were about three and a half feet in height from the floor of the chamber. On the upper edge of that circle, and with a slight projection over its inner face, another circle of large flat stones was laid horizontally; above these another row had the same projection over the former; and this arrangement continued upwards, until the dome was closed at the apex with a single large stone. The floor of this chamber perfectly dry was covered by about an inch of very fine dust; and, lying confusedly in the centre were the bones of two human skeletons. When the chamber was first opened the bones were quite perfect, but when exposed to atmospheric action for a short time they crumbled away. It seemed as if the bodies had been placed in a sitting posture, and that during the process of decay, the bones had promiscuously fallen.¹⁸ One of the skulls, considerably smaller than the other, was supposed to have been that of a female. As no door or other aperture appeared in that sepulchral chamber, whereby the bodies could have been introduced, it was supposed to have been built over them after interment. The bones showed no trace of cremation, and that impalpable dust covering the chamber-floor proved, that in the first instance, the bodies had been placed there entire, and after sepulture had undergone the process of decay. Subsequently to the completion of the rude stone-work already described, a mound of earth was heaped up over all; thus forming a sepulchral *tumulus*.¹⁹ Such is substantially the account given by the learned antiquary, the Rev. James Graves, A.B., on the 7th of

opened, no emblems of Christianity were discovered, and they have been found apart from Christian cemeteries.

¹⁷ In Irish, these sepulchral hillocks are known as *Tulachs*, and whether simply or in composition they give names to many Irish localities.

¹⁸ In the *barrows* of Britain, corresponding in use and origin with the *tulachs* of Ireland, bodies are said to have been found buried in a sitting position, as also in the chambered barrows of Scandinavia, while in the Channel Islands, bodies were in some cases found interred in a kneeling

posture. See William Greenwell's "British Barrows, a Record of the Examination of Sepulchral Mounds in various parts of England," Introduction, pp. 24, 25.

¹⁹ All trace of that interesting sepulchral chamber above described is now obliterated. Soon after its discovery, some persons, expecting to find a "crock" of gold, began to excavate beneath the upright stones which formed the sides, and this caused a subsidence, which at once reduced the whole structure to a mass of unrecognizable ruin.

January, 1853, at a meeting of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.²⁰ Those *tumuli* and death-chambers are referable to the pagan period, and are of remote antiquity.

In 1784 a Cist or stone coffin was found at Clonaslee. It had a covering stone or flag of enormous size and shaped like a lozenge: in length it was 8 ft. and in breadth 5 ft. 4 in.; in some portions it was 11 in. in thickness, a small portion at one end only 7 in. The side stones or flags were from 8 in. to 10 in. in thickness. On opening it, a very old skeleton was discovered, the skull being placed eastwards.²¹ About the year 1840, Mr. James Lalor discovered, while ploughing on his farm near the rock of Dunamase, an ancient grave, formed by stones placed upright, and covered over with flat ones. These were nearly on a level with the furrow. On removing some of the top stones, the skull and bones of a human skeleton were found beneath. This rude sepulchre was thought to have been formed in remote pagan times, and it served to illustrate the ordinary mode of interment at a period now unknown. It seems probable, however, that when persons of distinction had been interred, *tulachs*—meaning burial-places—or *tumuli* had been erected over the "fearts" or graves. On the 7th of October, 1849, Mr. Richard Lalor unearthed a curious sepulchre of an irregular shape, at Clash Field, in the townland of Grange, about two miles from Stradbally. Its length was about twenty-one feet, with a breadth and depth varying from about one foot and a-half to two feet. It contained oak, charcoal, ashes, and only a few remnants of bones.²²

The Cromlech was another form of tumular erection, and underneath its massive upright stones and rude covering have often been found curiously-shaped urns, containing human calcined bones and ashes.²³ On the Marquis of Lansdowne's estate at Luggacurran there are the remains of a Cromlech, consisting of five upright pillar-stones over 4 feet in height with a table-stone 8½ feet in length by 7 feet in width, it being 2½ feet in thickness. Formerly it was supposed, the Cromlechs had been used as Altars for sacrifices of the Druids; but since it has been ascertained, they were erected as sepulchral monuments, and it seems probable, the size and shape of the earth-covering over them indicated the distinction of the individual they were intended to commemorate. It is thought, moreover, that the pillar stones, many of which are still standing, were erected as monuments. Thus, on Froghney Hill, near the Dun of Clopooke, there is a pillar stone.²⁴ and it is known as Cloughleeken, and in Slat, there is another near the Wolf's Hill road. Both are on the estate of the Marquis of Lansdowne. In Dysart Gallen there are eight pillar stones at a place called Cluain-ach, interpreted the Field of Misfortune.²⁵ Two

²⁰ See "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society," vol. ii., 1852-53. Part ii., p. 358.

²¹ See Michael Carey's "Antiquities of Queen's County and County Kildare," p. 8.

²² See Mr. Daniel Byrne's account in "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society for the year 1850," vol. i., part ii., p. 139.

²³ These remains serve to show, that cremation of the body after death was a usual practice of our ancestors at a remote pagan period.

²⁴ It is said, that the pillar stones were

used from earliest times to mark the graves of distinguished persons. In very early times, it is related, that Tea, the daughter of Lughaidh, son of Ith, and who was married to Heremon in Spain, requested as her dower a place she should chose, that she might be interred there, and that a mound and a grave stone should be raised thereon. The place she selected was Druim-Caoin or the Hill of Caen, and after her interment it was designated Teamhair. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 30, 31, and nn. (c, h), *ibid.*

stone circles are near the stones, one of those on the summit of a heathy hill. The other is on Knockbawn, and it has three concentric circles. Also on a high hill in Skeirk, there is a circular area surrounded with a stone rampart, and in the centre, there is a pillar stone six feet in height.²⁶ Certain curious traditions remained in reference to the retreat of the Munster Army, A.D. 138, when vanquished by Cu-Corb, King of Leinster and Lugaidh Laighis; and it was asserted, that wherever they made a stand and fought a battle, pillar stones marked the graves of heroes that fell in it.²⁷

As a specimen of an ancient dwelling, and among the antiquities of the Queen's County, it may be observed, that on the side of Fossey Mountain, about one mile and a-half from Timahoe, there is a valley, which contained a tract known as the White Bog, and which formerly was many feet deep in its centre. The neighbouring people got their fuel from that bog, which is now almost cut away. About the year 1830, while some turf-cutters were taking sods from it, having got to the very bottom layer, and to a considerable depth, they came upon a square structure, about 10 feet by 8 feet, and made of oak poles, resembling stakes, closely set one after the other, and all of equal height, about 7 feet, and so resting as to allow those who constructed the work to interweave switches. The turfy substance was then carefully cut from the outside and inside of the structure, without disturbing the wooden stakes. When the turf had been thus carefully removed, the wooden building remained in as perfect a state as the decay of ages permitted. A further examination found, that the poles were sunk about 2 feet in a stratum of solid earth, which lay beneath the bog. Rising on the original surface, with a wooden frame work, and resting upon it, a beam of oak was discovered, with a wooden wedge sticking in one of its ends. A mallet not perforated and originally part of a tree, its handle having been a branch growing at right angles from the stem, was found beside the the old erection, and it bore marks of having been much used. Since the time of that occurrence, these most interesting antiquities have been lost or destroyed.²⁸

In deepening the River Nore near Borris-in-Ossory,²⁹ the remnants of an old oak bridge, about twelve feet below the modern channel of the river, were discovered. Near Shanagoona Bridge were also found four or five ancient bronze swords double edged, with a peculiar leaf-shaped enlargement of the blade towards the point, together with the remains of a conical iron helmet, and a skull of very peculiar shape, much flattened at the apex and produced posteriorly.³⁰ Several iron spear-heads also turned up during the work. At Rathaspick and under the site of its ancient church, three vaulted chambers were found and there also was discovered a well. Moreover two large keys, with curiously constructed wards, an ill-shaped drinking cup, a dagger of brass, a pin with a chased

²⁶ A tradition exists, that a battle was fought here, and which led to the severing of Ossory from the kingdom of Leinster.

²⁷ See Michael Carey's "Antiquities of Queen's County and County Kildare," p. 49.

²⁸ See Mr. Daniel Byrne's paper read at a meeting of March 6th, and published in the "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society for the year 1850," vol. i., part. ii., pp. 133 to 136. Also pp. 207, 208.

²⁹ See the account furnished on the foregoing subjects, in Dr. P. W. Joyce's "Social History of Ancient Ireland," vol. ii., chap. xxxi., pp. 539 to 579.

³⁰ Daniel Byrne of Timahoe in "Proceedings of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, 1852." Vol. i., pp. 207, 208.

³¹ This operation was carried on by the Board of Public Works in deepening the river-bed for drainage purposes.

³² See "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, for the year 1849," vol. i., part i., p. 30.

broach of brass, and adorned with yellow stones, as also some coins, were found near the old church.³¹ At Cullohill were found a curious bronze pin, a bronze belt, and a silver coin of Queen Elizabeth, with some human bones. Numbers of such objects have been discovered in the fields, and many old coins especially are in the keeping of individuals. A very curious specimen of bog-butter was found, nine feet below the surface in Grallagh bog, near Abbeyleix.³² It was enclosed in a single-piece wooden vessel considerably broken. This find was presented to the Members of the Royal Irish Academy, by a former Lord de Vesci, and at present, it is to be seen in their collection in the National Museum. That bog-butter has a rancid taste resembling that of spermacetti, and owing to long immersion in bog-water, it has been converted into a hard yellowish-white substance.³³ A curious collection of jet beads was exhibited,³⁴ at the great Dublin Exposition of 1853. These were found, during the spring of 1848, at the depth of seven feet below the surface in Moyne Bog, Queen's County.³⁵

Of a much later date, but as interesting memorials of an extinct process of manufacture, are yet to be seen, along the course of the River Nore, and at the base of the Slieve Bloom Mountains not far from Mountrath, the waste or slag of the former iron furnaces there erected in the seventeenth century.³⁶ We learn, that wooden scoops were found in an old working³⁷ for bog-iron in the Queen's County. Three of the Irish Round Towers are known to have existed in former times: one of these was at Rose-nallis, and the other at Killeshin; this latter fell in the beginning of the eighteenth century. Another fine specimen was erected at Timahoe, and still it is in a good state of preservation. Before the end of the eighteenth century, the Rev. Dr. Ledwich was able to reckon the remains of eighty ruined castles in the Queen's County, and he was sure there were more.³⁸ A closer examination should be certain largely to extend that enumeration; and more especially, if we take into account the ruined mansion houses of proprietors or occupiers, who formerly dwelt in them, even down to the earlier part of the nineteenth century. The vestiges of church ruins, ancient or mediæval, are also very considerable, and the grave-yards on which such churches formerly stood are still more numerous. However, we reserve for subsequent and detailed mention, under the heading of their respective parishes where found, such notices as may be necessary to invest those various objects with a special interest for the student of antiquities and for the general reader.

³¹ See Michael Carey's "Antiquities of Queen's County and County Kildare," p. 37.

³² See Sir William R. Wilde's "Descriptive Catalogue of the Antiquities in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. i., Class iv. Animal Materials, &c., p. 268.

³³ See "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. vi. Paper read by W. R. Wilde, Monday, May 26th, 1856. Introduction and General Use of the Potatoe in Ireland, with some notice of the substance called Bog-

butter, p. 369.

³⁴ By John Francis Shearman, Esq., Kilkenny.

³⁵ See "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society" for 1849, vol. i., p. 32.

³⁶ See "Proceedings of the Dublin Society," 1886. Part iv., October, Irish Metal Mining, by G. H. Kinahan, M.R.I.A.

³⁷ Some of these are now preserved in the Royal Irish Academy's Collection in the National Museum.

³⁸ See "Antiquities of Ireland," p. 197.

CHAPTER II.—LOCAL LEGENDS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD.

HOWEVER strange it may appear, not alone the doubtful but even the manifestly fabulous traditions of every country have some interest and importance, with a direct or an indirect bearing on the true facts of its history. Although we may not be able to ascertain their origin, or the cause that first gave them circulation, the imaginative and credulous people of generations long past have received mythical reports without any disposition to deny or criticise their accuracy. Many of those recorded fables, if not the actual inventions of bards and chroniclers, have probably been transmitted to them from times very remote, and when historic credence, for a primitive people, did not require genuine historical material or evidence. To account for the names of various places in Ireland, and some of which are still in vogue, a very old tract known as the Dindsenchas¹ professes to give the derivation of some localities within the Queen's County. In a legend for the name given the River Barrow, the story goes, that three serpents were in the heart of Mechi, son of the Great Queen Berba; Diancecht, a magician, killed them; afterwards they were burnt, and their ashes (*luaithe*) flung into the river, so that it boiled (*co ro-m-berb*) and dissolved every animal within it. Thence, as we are told, came the names of two plains—Mag Mechi and Mag Luadat—as also the name Berba, for the river.² However, a different version is given in the Book of Ballymote, where it is written *Bir-balb*: the word *Bir* being glossed to mean *water*, and "*balb*"³ is *just* as rendered in O'Davoren's Glossary. An ancient Poem is also contained in the Dindsenchas, which relates to the river Barrow.⁴

There is a Dindsenchas of legendary story which states, that the mountain of Sliabh Bladma was so called from Bladma or Blod Mac Con, the son of Caiss Chlothaigh. Having killed one Bregmael, he took ship and fled from Ath Cliath in Galway to Ath Cliath in Wicklow. Afterwards, he fled to the range of mountains that subsequently bore his name.⁵ There is also a Dindsenchas for Belach Gabran,⁶ said to have been called from the coursing of a famous hound, that went in pursuit of a great half-blind pig, which disappeared under ground. Nevertheless, it was followed by the dog, and finally he killed it, but on his return he died and was buried there. Belach Gabran seems to have been the former name for a road along the side of Slieve Bloom.⁷ In the Dindsenchas,⁸ the name Slieve Mairge is derived from Margg, steward to the King of the Forde, who came to Ireland in the time of Eochu Munisti, King of Leinster, to seek tributes due to his master. Having become half-mad with thirst, Margg flung his head on a rock there, and died of the blow. Two ancient poems in Irish, and having reference to Sliabh Mairge, are to be found in the Book of Leinster.⁹

Among our old Irish manuscripts, we have various accounts of the origin

¹ This Irish word has the meaning of Popular Tradition or Story.

² See the version of it in the "Book of Leinster," edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., p. 159 b.

³ The whole word in Irish is set down as *Umpéba, buanabáirbe*

⁴ This begins with the line *urpce batbe*, at p. 159 b. of the published

Book of Leinster, while the end of this Poem is at the beginning of p. 161 a.

⁵ See the account given in Book of Leinster, p. 192 a.

⁶ It begins *Inman, bam in Gabran stán*

⁷ "Book of Leinster," p. 190.

⁸ See that version in the "Book of Leinster," at p. 159 b.

⁹ At p. 216 b., *ibid.*

of names or places near the Barrow and Nore. Likewise, have we similar statements regarding Sleumargie and Leix.¹⁰ Also about Magh-Raighne, a district situated in the present Queen's County.¹¹ There is a story told of one Raigne Romanach, who came from Italy to Gallia Narbonensis with three implements, his "bacc," his "rama" and his "tuag." The people of Gallia imposed on him the task of clearing the plains from forests and also other labour, all of which he is said to have accomplished in three days. Afterwards, he is related to have gone to Ireland, and there too he cleared the woods from a district, that from him bore the name of Mag Raigne, a portion of which was within the present Queen's County. Among the fables of Irish tradition is an account of a celebrated hero of romance named Goll, who killed Cumbhall, the father of the still more renowned Finn, in a battle at Cnucha,¹² near Dublin, and who is said to have been buried in Magh Raighne; but whether this interment was in the Queen's County or Kilkenny portion of it has not been determined.¹³

There is a legendary account of Lege, now Lea in Offaly, in the Dindsenchas,¹⁴ and which derives its denomination from Liag,¹⁵ the sister of Morc, son of Dela the Fomorian chief, who is celebrated in connexion with Conand's Tower. She seems to have requested of Fergus, that her name should be imposed on the territory, where the decisive battle was fought. A prose legend at the end, however, refers the origin of the name to Lege Mac Scandail, the former owner of the land, and who had here died. The legendary account¹⁶ for the original denomination of Straboe is, that a mighty man of Daire Leith, in Offaly, and who was named Liath Lurgan, having heard during his travels a cow bellowing as it came out of Loch Sithgail, followed it, until he came to Scrúb Bó, in the west of Mag Rochet.¹⁷ There he came up with the animal and killed it. The owner, who is called Sithgal, followed in pursuit, and he arrived after this occurrence. Liath was worsted in an encounter that ensued, and he was brought back bound to the loch. A great terror then seized on Liath, who feared he was to be drowned; but, making a mighty effort, he burst the bond that was around his arms. He then attacked Sithgal, who flung the cow's carcass before him into the loch. Sithgal and Liath renewed their struggle, but the former was vanquished and his body was thrown into the loch. The people of Sithgal then endeavoured to pull the cow by the tail and into the loch; but Liath held it by the head. The carcass was torn in two parts, but the strength of Liath availed him to carry off the cow's head. He then returned to the place where it had been killed, and there he left the head as a memorial of his strength. This preternatural incident is said to have given name to the place.¹⁸

¹⁰ See Eugene O'Curry's "Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy," vol. iii., pp. 852, *et seq.*

¹¹ See *ibid.*, p. 854.

¹² Now Castleknock.

¹³ See Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," Lect. xiv. p. 302, and App. No. xcii., p. 594.

¹⁴ That version in the Book of Leinster," fol. 205.

¹⁵ Her pedigree is traced up to Noah, the son of Lamech.

¹⁶ Contained in the Dindsenchas of the "Book of Leinster," fol. 160 a.

¹⁷ Now Morett.

¹⁸ The term *spuá bo* means "the cow's snout."

CHAPTER III.—ANCIENT CLANSHIPS, LAND DENOMINATIONS AND OLD ROADS.

IN the succeeding pages we shall have occasion, especially in the earlier ages, to use historic terms applicable to those chiefs and tribes that originally occupied the Queen's County, as also to the different divisions of land, which retained their denominations even to a much later period. Therefore some previous explanation is required the better to elucidate our narrative. The tribal system of Ireland, aristocratically formed, was composed of families related by blood, and having a common genealogical origin, but owning allegiance and submission to chiefs of their race, and also of their selection. The tribes had an Eponymus or hero as an ancestor, of whose valour and merits they preserved traditional accounts, and to whom they felt proud of being related even in a remote degree. Their tribal names are derived from a distinguished common ancestor. Thus in nearly all cases, the names of Irish territories, and of the tribes inhabiting them, were identical. Their families were usually known as the inhabitants of a certain Tuath or Territory, in which they lived; and as the Cinél or Cincál, meaning "people,"¹ they gave name to it.² They were generally closely connected by kinship and social ties, while boasting of their respectable pedigrees. With them also lived clients, retainers and dependents, who were devoted to their interests and service; the union of all forming what was recognised as the Clann,³ meaning "the children" of their Tuath.⁴ This genealogical and geographical term was applied to a people occupying a district which had a complete political and legal administration, under a Rígh or Chief, who could bring into the field a battalion of six or seven hundred armed men. Moreover, it was applied to a larger division of territory, consisting of three or four, or even more Tuaths called a *Mór Tuath* or great Tuath, associated for purposes of policy, and the troops of which were united in war under one commander.⁵ The term *Féran*, meaning "land," was likewise applied to the sept names

¹ *Maistré*, "kin-tribe," "race," "descendants." See Dr. O'Donovan's introduction to the Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagáin and Giolla na Naomh O'Huidhrín, p. 6.

² Thus the Cinél Eoghain, means the "race of Eoghain"; the Cinél Conaill, means the "race of Conaill"; each tribe deriving its origin from an ancestor so named.

³ It also signified race or progeny; thus the Clann Colman, meant the race of Colman, which was the tribe-name of the O'Melaghlinns of Meath.

⁴ See the very learned and judicious observations on this subject by W. K. Sullivan, Ph.D., in his Introduction to Eugene O'Curry's posthumous work, "On the Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish," vol. i., pp. lxxviii, lxxix., lxxx.

⁵ As applicable to the Irish Tribes or Clans, we also have the terms *Cora*, or *Cora*, "a race," or "progeny," as the Corca Bhaiscinn, "the race of Bhaiscinn," in the County of

Clare; the *Dal*, "a tribe," or "progeny," as the Dal Cais, in Munster; the *Muir*, "sons," in old Manuscripts, as Dubthach Macu Lugair, "Dubthach of the sons of Lugair"; the *Muintir*, "family," or "people," as Muintir Maoilmardha, "people of the O'Reillys of East Breifne"; *Síol*, "seed," or "descendants," as the Soil Muircadhhaigh, the tribe-name of the O'Conors and their relatives in the County of Roscommon; *Sliocht*, "progeny," as Sliocht Aedha Slaine, "the progeny of Aedh Slaine," in Meath; *Tealach*, "family," as Tealach Eachdhach, the tribe name of the Magaurans in the county of Cavan; *Ua*, "grandson," or "descendant," plural *Ui*, dative or ablative, *Uibh*, as in the instance Ui Neill, the descendants of Niall, the tribe name of families descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages. See on this subject Dr. John O'Donovan's introduction to "The Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagáin and Giolla na Naomh O'Huidhrín," pp. 6 to 8.

or families who occupied it, and this was especially used in the Queen's County medieval denominations.

The different old civil denominations of Irish tribal land divisions are thus distinguished: viz., the Tuath, also known as the Tricha-ced⁶ or Cantred;⁷ the Bailebetaich⁸ or Ballybetagh, meaning Victuallers-town, sometimes simply Baile or Bally, a town; the Seisreach⁹ or Ploughland;¹⁰ the Baileboe¹¹ or Ballyboe, meaning "Cow-land" literally, but usually denominated Townland, and it¹² was the lowest subdivision, yet not defined by any fixed number of acres.¹³ Likewise, the designation *Bally* in Irish, has the signification of "a town" in English, and this latter term has been derived from the Saxon word "ton," or "tun," originally meant to indicate a settlement.¹⁴ In the country districts of northern England and of southern Scotland, it meant a farm-steading or inhabited enclosure, frequently consisting of only two or three houses.¹⁵ It was a place usually surrounded by a hedge or a rudely formed fort and trench. The term township naturally had its nucleus from the town itself, and included a portion of the adjoining lands. At a very early period, the township became an area of local government, and it was used for the purposes of opening and maintaining roads, and for combining the efforts of the people for necessary and useful local improvements.¹⁶ However, as among all early nations,

⁶This word is Latinised "Treuca" by O'Sullivan and O'Faherty; while *ced* is rendered "centuria" by the latter. See "Ogygia," pars. i., p. 24. The word means "thirty-hundreds," and sometimes it is to be found simply as "Tricha," or Thirty, as one Tricha contained thirty Ballybetaghs. Giraldus Cambrensis states, that in the twelfth century, the number of Cantreds in all Ireland was one hundred and seventy-six. See "Topographia Hibernica," Lib. iii., cap. v. It was supposed to contain one hundred villas or towns. Even Colgan translates Triucha-ced by *Cantercedus* or *Centivillaria Regis*, as if each *Ceathramhadh* or quarter of land constituted a villa. See "Trias Thaumaturga," Prima Vita S. Patricii, n. 5, p. 19. Each Tricha-ced was composed of thirty Ballybetaghs, of three hundred and sixty Seisreachs, while it was estimated to contain 43,200 acres.

⁷Sir James Ware remarks that the Cantred was both varied and uncertain in its measurement. See "De Hibernia et Antiquitatibus ejus," cap. iii., p. 13.

⁸The *baile biataigh* was an established denomination in Ireland in the twelfth century, and allusion is made to it in Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., at A.D. 1176. According to an ancient custom, the Biataig, or purveyor, was obliged to keep a house of hospitality, subject to certain regulations, for the accommodation of strangers and travellers, at a time when inns were not known, and his land was held subject to such conditions. The term seems to have an analogy with the Saxon Hundred, although not derived from it.

⁹This word is supposed to have been derived from *Seisear*, "six," and *cah*, "a

horse"; and it was understood to denote the extent of ground a six-horse plough could turn up in a year at so much per day. However, this derivation requires further examination. The number of *Seisreachs*, or ploughlands, in Ireland is stated to be 66,600; and it is a remarkable approximation to that sum, especially in such high figures, when the number of townlands as now defined, named, and laid down on the Irish Ordnance Survey Townland Maps is found described as 62,205. The *Seisreach* was represented by the carucate, or hide of land among the Saxons.

¹⁰Twelve plough-lands it is said were in each Baile Betaich.

¹¹It appears to be analogous in meaning to the Latin *locata*, and to the Saxon *avgang*.

¹²To Ollamh Fodhla, monarch of Ireland from A.M. 3883 to A.M. 3922, has been attributed the placing of a Chieftain over every cantred, and a Brughaidh, or "farmer," over every townland, who were to serve the King of Ireland. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 52 to 55.

¹³The etymon Bally, Baille, or Bal, which enters so largely into the names of places in Ireland, has the understood meaning of townland.

¹⁴See the Rev. Isaac Taylor's "Words and Places, or Etymological Illustrations of History, Ethnology, and Geography," p. 126.

¹⁵Formerly in Ireland, such small groups were frequently united in close proximity for purposes of mutual assistance, convenience, and protection, and the custom has come down even to our own times.

land in Ireland was estimated and measured more by quality of soil than by area.¹⁷ As elsewhere remarked, formerly there were more townland denominations known in the Queen's County than at present; the number now being only 1154, with an average extent of 368 acres for the whole.¹⁸

The most ancient historic account we have of a road passing through Leix, is that of one running southwards from the Hill of Tara in Meath towards Ballaghmore, on the southern slope of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and which extended westwards from the latter range. It may be premised, that this was merely an opening through the woods or the cultivated spots, but rendered somewhat smooth and levelled for the passage of the primitive chariots and carts, as well as for horsemen and pedestrians. At what particular northern point the road from Tara entered Leix does not appear to have been determined, as few traces of its original simple construction could now be expected to remain, after the lapse of so many ages. That it crossed the River Barrow at some fordable pass on its upper course seems probable, and within the modern barony of Tinnahinch. It passed through Upper Ossory, which was formerly a portion of Leix. It also continued in a southern direction north of the Nore, and afterwards it bent westwardly towards Roscrea and through the territory of Ely O'Carroll.

According to an ancient tradition, on the night of the birth of Conn of the Hundred Battles, the following five great roads extending in various directions from the Hill of Tara are recorded to have been found or perhaps made; viz., the Slighe-asuil, Slighe-midhluchra, Slighe-cualann, Slighe-mhor,¹⁹ and the Slighe-dhala. According to the Danes, however, the Sligi Dala was discovered by Setna Serc-derg, the son of Dairbharthe, before the Druids of Immuhain, on their way to Teannin, or it was Dala himself that watched for him.²⁰ It is stated, by Dr. Petrie, that the Slighe Dala led from the southern side of the Hill of Tara in the direction of Ossory and East Munster; and, it is most probable that the track at its junction with Tara is still preserved in the northern road from the Hill.²¹ But, whether the meeting of the Sligi Dala by the Slighe-Mor meant continuing in its course or

¹⁷ See Thomas Hunter's "Yorkshire, Past and Present," a History and a Description of the Three Kingdoms of the Great County of Yorkshire, vol. i., chap. viii., pp. 384, 385.

¹⁸ *Antiquities of the Anglo-Norman Invasion*, a number of terms applying to measurements of lands were introduced. Among these may be enumerated the *cartron*, or townland, estimated at from 60 to 160 acres; the *cartrone*, or *carren*, the prevailing contents of which were from 60 to 120 acres; *manlands*, or *teghowans*, and *penny lands*, having a certain conventional meaning not well understood; *quarters*, equivalent to townlands, the *tath*, or *tath*; *capell lands*; *villes*; *colliers*; *hamlets*; *meadowes*, consisting of a dwelling-house, with a small portion of land attached; *tullagh*, consisting of a townland and a third of it; a *horse-led*, or *horseman's led*, containing 20 or 30 acres of the well-known division *acre*. There is an interesting MS. in the Lambeth Library on "The Sundry Denominations of the Measur-

inge of Land in Ireland." See the Carew Collection, No. 614, p. 197. In 1846 it was copied by Dr. John O'Donovan, and it was printed by Captain Larcom as an Appendix to his valuable "Memorandum" on the Territorial Divisions of Ireland.

¹⁹ See the valuable and learned paper of the Rev. William Reeves, D.D. "On the Townland Distribution of Ireland," read before the Royal Irish Academy on Monday, April 22, 1861. "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy."

²⁰ To this is added the observation, "ubi Eskirrieda se obvium offert."—Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., p. 314.

²¹ Such is the account in that copy contained in the "Book of Leacan," fol. 239, p. 6, col. 1.

²² See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. xviii. Antiquities. No. iii. On the History and Antiquities of Tara Hill. By George Petrie, Esq., R.H.A., M.R.I.A., p. 230.

crossing it, does not seem to be a matter of easy solution.²² Merely indications of passes through the woods, and very partially displayed, are to be found on the most ancient map of Leix we now possess; but so incorrect and irregular is the outline of country traversed, that no accurate idea is afforded to trace their direction and connexions. Ballaghmore was one of the ancient highways of Ireland, and leading from Leix into the territory of Ely O'Carroll. An ancient castle may be seen near it, and alongside the modern road leading from Borris-in-Ossory to Roscrea. The ruined church of Dysart-Gallen and its surrounding cemetery are situated beside the Owenbeg, the ford of which at this spot is crossed by a bridge uniting two very ancient roads. These are again crossed by four other old roads, and all radiating in different directions from the church up and down the river's course.

An ancient road led from Athy to Blackford, and it seems to have been replaced by the modern one, which takes the direction of Stradbally. From this latter town, or at least from Noughval onwards in the direction of Carlow, an old steep road led over the Windy gap towards Tecolm, and yet it remains, but now almost disused, as it runs nearly parallel with the present high-road, which has been better engineered; at the eastern side of the gap, its course is in part traceable over the fields, but it is no longer travelled. A very ancient road extended southwards from near Mountmellick over the Esker to Maryborough, and thence through Lambertton demesne to the Pass of Cashel, and onwards to Ballyroan, whence it proceeded to Kilkenny. From this diverged two old branch roads; one of these led to the old grave-yard of Kilvahan, and doubtless to the old church, which it is probable had been built within it, while the other old road led towards Kilwhelan, on the western slope of the Cullenagh Mountains. An ancient road likewise led from Clononagh to Cremogue, and it has been utilized to form a more improved modern one across a moory surface. Although entirely removed or greatly obliterated at present, traces of ancient roads are yet discoverable in various localities, and the investigation of their structure and bearings should be a curious and an interesting subject for the antiquary's investigation.

CHAPTER IV.—ANCIENT TRIBES AND TRIBAL DIVISIONS.

THE present Queen's County has been formed chiefly from the whole or from parts of four distinctive and very ancient territories, viz. : Osraighe, Laioghse, Clannmalugra and Ui Regain. To trace its anthropological history, so far as recorded in chronicles and bardic stories, it may be desirable to begin with the mythic period. However, the judicious and learned Tighernach remarks, that the annals of Ireland to the time of Cimbaoth¹ are uncertain,² and therefore not wholly reliable as authorities.

²² Facing p. 152 is an engraving, plate 7, showing the Monuments of Tara Hill, restored from ancient Documents. On this, too, is shown the position of the five roads, that of the *Slíge Uata* alone, extending southwards. The *Slíge Mór* is represented as taking a western direction. See *ibid.*

¹ This monarch of Ireland is stated by some Irish chronologists to have flourished three hundred and fifty years before the Christian era. See Arch-

deacon Lynch's "*Cambrensis Eversus*," vol. i., cap. viii., p. 443, Rev. Dr. Matthew Kelly's edition. However, Dr. O'Connor, who has examined the list of ancient kings, arrives at the conclusion, that Cimbaoth's reign cannot be carried back to a remoter date than two hundred years before our era. See Moore's "*History of Ireland*," vol. i., chap. vii., p. 106.

But where it is not possible to authenticate their accuracy, yet difficult to point out their misrepresentations, or to reconcile their divergencies of statement, we can only follow the generally received accounts of Irish historians, regarding the original inhabitants and their tribal distribution.

The celebrated monarch of Ireland, Ugainé Mór,³ who flourished, according to our annals, more than five hundred years before the Incarnation of our Lord,⁴ was of the Heremonian line, and he left two remarkable sons; his elder son named Cobthach,⁵ from whom descend all the chief families of Connaught, as also the O'Donnells, O'Neills, and others of Ulster; while from his second son, Laeghaire,⁶ are derived the chief families of Leinster. Ugainé Mór is said to have married Cesarea, a Gaulish lady, who bore him no fewer than twenty-two sons, named respectively, with their territorial grants:—1. Cobthach Coel, of Bregia; 2. Cobthach Murthemn, of Murthemne; 3. Roigne, of Moy-Raigne; 4. Laoghaire, of the Liffy; 5. Fullcus of Feibh; 6. Cuan, of Airgetros; 7. Nar, of Moy-Nair; 8. Norba, of Moy-Norba; 9. Fafeus, of Moy-Femlin; 10. Tarra, of Moy-Tarra; 11. Triath, of Moy-Tretherne; 12. Mail, of Cliu-Mail; 13. Sineus, of Luachair; 14. Bard, of Corcagia; 15. Fergus Cnai, of the Southern Desies; 16. Aidne, of Aidnea; 17. Moenus, of Moen-Moy; 18. Sanb, of Moy-Eoirdric in the Northern Decies of Meath; 19. Carbre, of Corann; 20. Laoghaire Line, of Linea; 21. Lath, of Latharne; 22. Manius, of Meath. The following are the names given to the daughters, with their several places:—1. Aifea, of Moy-n Aite; 2. Muresca, of Moy-Muirske; 3. Albea, of Moy-n Ailbe.⁷ From the foregoing statement it may be seen, that for the most part well-known ancient districts in various parts of Ireland have been called after them. To one or other of these, all the later Leinster families trace their pedigrees. Among the strongest of their fortresses was that situated on the western bank of the River Barrow in the County of Carlow, and denominated by our oldest chroniclers Dinriugh or "the Hill of the Kings." It is mentioned by O'Huidhrin, after describing the chiefs and districts of Leix.⁸ This was one of the most ancient palaces of fortresses belonging to the kings of Leinster.⁹

¹ *Quædam monumenta Sotorum super Cobthach incerta erant.*—Dr. O'Donovan's *Hibernicarum Scripturæ*, Tomus ii., Tigernach *Annals*.

² He was born to Eochuadh Buadhach, and he ascended the throne A.M. 4567, and he reigned fully forty years to the end of A.M. 4607. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 74, 75, 77.

³ The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Keating places his accession to the crown, at A.M. 3586. See "General History of Ireland," part i., p. 183.

⁴ Pronounced nearly "Còv-a," now supposed to be represented in the family name of Coffey. He was also surnamed Coel, or "the Slender."

⁵ Pronounced nearly "Lea-ry." He was likewise surnamed Lore, meaning "herce" or "cruel."

⁶ See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. xxxviii., pp. 260, 261.

⁷ See Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures

on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," lect. x., pp. 207, 208.

⁸ In his Chronographical poem we read:—

Ἐπιὰλλ' ἐπὶ βεάρβῃ ἀν' εὐρυῖο ἐδαλαῖς
 Ὀ τὴν ἰοθητῶν ἄρμεδαλαῖς,
 Ὀ τὸν πρὸς κο μαρτῖν ἴνιρ,
 Ὅσ' οὐκ ἔμ' ἀρτῖν ὁ δ α-ναρτῖν.

It is thus translated into English:

"Pass across the Béarbhá of the cattle borders,

From the land of corn and rich honey,

From Dinriugh to Maistin the strong,
 My journey is paid for by their nobility."

⁹ The Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagáin and Giolla na Naomh O'Huidhrin," edited from the original Irish, by John O'Donovan, LL.D., M.R.I.A., pp. 88, 89.

¹⁰ The remains are in the townland of Ballyknockan, on the west side of the River Barrow, about a quarter of a mile to the south of Leighn Bridge.

After a long reign, Ugainé Mór was slain by his brother Badhbhadh, son of Eochaidh Buaidhaigh¹¹ but Loighaire Lorc his own son immediately succeeded him as monarch of Ireland. Nor did he enjoy this distinction for more than two years,¹² when his brother Cobhthach treacherously killed him and his son Oilill Anye. The latter is said to have reigned for many years,¹³ and to have resided in his stronghold at Dun Rígh until Maoin—also called Labhradh Loinseach,¹⁴ the grandson of Laoighaire Lorc—raised a force of Munstermen with whom he landed in the harbour of Wexford. Thence he marched towards the River Barrow, and by a surprise he captured that fortress, putting the old usurper, and his own uncle, to the sword with all his retinue.

According to the Rev. Dr. Jeofiry Keating, all those princes that governed the province of Leinster were lineal descendants of the Irish monarch Labhradh Loingseach, except O'Nuallain who descended from Cobhthach Caolmbreagh.¹⁵ The people of Laigin or Leinster, who are also called Galion and Domnand, are said to have taken their name Lagen from the *lagui* or long lances, which were borne by the troops who followed Labhradh Longseach, when he returned to conquer his patrimony from Cobhthach, whom he killed at Dind Rígh. The pedigree of Labraidh is traced in the Book of Leinster,¹⁶ back to Milidh of Spain, and up to Adam. The tribes of Leinster and their branches are also recorded.¹⁷

In Ireland, about one hundred and fifty years before the Christian era, a chieftain called Bresal, surnamed Breac or the Speckled, lived. He had two sons, respectively named Lughaidh Lothfínn, the Eponymus of the Lagenians or men of Leinster,¹⁸ and Connla, progenitor of the Ossorians or men of Ossory.¹⁹ Previous to the establishment of Leix as a separate territory, a renowned son of Crimthan Mór²⁰ and known as Aengus,²¹ surnamed Osraighe, *a quo* Ossory, had disputed the right of the Munstermen to possession or subjection of that territory, supposed then to have been bounded by the River Suir on the west and south, and by the River Barrow on the north and east.²² It has been said that it comprised three extensive plains separated from each other by parallel ridges of mountains.²³ However, besides the questionable historic

¹¹ According to some accounts, he reigned as a usurper for one day and a-half. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 76, 77.

¹² These were A.M. 4607 and 4608. See *ibid.*

¹³ From A.M. 4609 to A.M. 4658. See *ibid.*

¹⁴ He was son of Oilíall Anye, and he was carried away to Munster when young, to save him from the death Cobhthach had designed for this prince.

¹⁵ See "General History of Ireland," part i., p. 189.

¹⁶ Edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., p. 311.

¹⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 311 to 341.

¹⁸ These are said originally to have occupied the country eastwards from the River Barrow to the Irish Sea.

¹⁹ They are stated to have planted themselves as early settlers in that tract of country, lying between the Barrow and the Suir, and at present

embracing the whole of Kilkenny County.

²⁰ He was eighth in descent from Connla—the patriarch of the aboriginal Ossorians—son of Bresal Breac or the Speckled.

²¹ His mother was Cingit or Kingit, daughter to the famous chief Daire the Plunderer, and descended in the seventh degree from Aengus Tuirmeach, who died monarch of Ireland, A.M. 3819.

²² The derivation of *Uiscreaghdha*, pronounced Ossory, is said to have been derived from the Irish words *uisce*, "water," and *reoghda* "kingdom," owing to its ancient water boundaries, by the rivers Barrow, Suir and Nore.

²³ See "Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall," No. xlviii, A catalogue of saints connected with Cornwall, with an Epitome of their Lives, and List of Churches and Chapels dedicated to them, by the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, M.A., Part iv., St. Kieran, Abbot, Confessor.

accuracy of that statement and name derivation, the geographical position is both undefined and incorrect.²⁴ Aengus incited his tribesmen to resist that encroachment, and to throw off the Munster yoke. Whereupon, Feimhin, from whom Magh Feimliin in that province is said to have derived its denomination, appeared in arms to oppose them. However, Aengus engaged his army at the battle of Magh Reighna, and having slain their leader,²⁵ he drove the Munster forces over the River Suir. This decisive engagement enabled Aengus to recover the plains known as Magh Feimhin and Magh Reighna. Afterwards, he formed that entire tract of country between the Barrow and the Suir into a distinct principality, alike independent of Leinster and Munster. These events are thought to have occurred during the latter half of the first century of the Christian era. According to the Book of Leinster, the grave of Aengus Osraighe is on the height over Cill Culind. This valiant founder of that principality was succeeded by other rulers, who long maintained its territorial independence.²⁶

So far back as the time of St. Patrick, and in the oldest of his Lives, the territory of Ossory is described as having been in the western part of Leinster.²⁷ But it would appear, that the kings of Munster claimed jurisdiction over Ossory, so far as Gowran;²⁸ while on the other hand, the Ossorians contended, that their country of Osraighe should comprise all the lands extending from the River Suir to the lower River Barrow, and from the mountains of Slieve Bloom to the meeting of the Three Waters in Waterford Harbour, by virtue of the conquest made by their ancestor Aengus Osraighe over Magh Feimhin. However, this claim was never established; and the territory does not appear to have comprised more than that included within the present diocese of Ossory, at least since the time of St. Patrick.²⁹

Ancient Ossory seems to have comprised the former barony of Upper Ossory—now divided into the baronies of Upperwoods, of Clanchowry and of Clumallagh in the Queen's County—as also nearly the entire of the present County of Kilkenny,³⁰ before the Anglo-Norman invasion. Since this latter period, the O'Dubhshlaine, O'Dullany or

²⁴ It is called "Nethermost is the Magh Feimliin, Arget Ros, extending south to the Dunluke chain. The middle plain is Magh Reighna, bounded on the north, by the Dunleig range, twelve miles below Kilkenny. Magh Feimhin is the third or southernmost plain, and in the front of it is the Rock of Castel."

²⁵ It is difficult to find the date, for this event.

²⁶ See John Hogan's "St. Columba," Patron of Ossory, His Life and Times," Part II., chap. III., pp. 54 to 59. Kilkenny, 1879, 8vo.

²⁷ Thus:—"Occidentalis Lagenensium placā"—Archbishop Ussher's "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," cap. xviii., see pp. 895, 999. Dublin edition of 1639, 4to.

²⁸ About two hundred years after the birth of Christ, the Momonians made inroads on Leinster, and are said to have conquered a great part of it;

but, they were afterwards expelled by Cucorb, the king of that province, aided by Laoghseach Cean Mor, son to Connall Cearnach. See Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Keating's "History of Ireland," under the reign of Cormac Mac Airt.

²⁹ See Dr. John O'Donovan's *Leabhan na 5-Ceapt.* or Book of Rights, ii. (a), pp. 17-18.

³⁰ It is thus described by O'Huillirín:
 mac Giolla-phatraic puic puic dheas,
 iat orraige ar so ar uirceab,
 O blaoma amaé sup an muir,
 Calma a caé or na caéuib.

To Mac Giolla-phatraic of the Bregian fort,

The land of Osraighe is due,
 From Bladhna out to the sea,
 Brave is his battle over the battles.

³¹ After this period, the Butlers wrested a great portion of Kilkenny from the Mac Giolla Phadraigis and formed it into a new territory, known as Ormond.

Delany³² was a sub-chief over the cantred³³ of Coill Uach torach, now the barony of Upperwoods. Two other sub-chieftains were under him,³⁴ O'Cearbhaill or Carroll³⁵ and O'Donnchadha³⁶ or O'Dempsey. These leading families, with the tribes of Leix, constituted the chief former inhabitants of the present Queen's County.

Before the Christian era, the territory of Leix had no separate existence, but it formed a part of the Kingdom of Leinster, apparently inhabited by a people under the immediate jurisdiction of its chief rulers. At times, it is thought to have been subject, at least in great part, to the kings of Munster. The circumstances that gave origin to the principality of Leix, we shall endeavour to relate, as they are found in ancient Irish story. Although necessarily obscured by distance of time, and possibly by bardic fictions accepted as authentic narratives; on the whole, the ancient annals and genealogies of Leix are not often inconsistent with the general traditions and known facts of Irish history. The antiquities and monuments still remaining prove sufficiently how remote most have been the period, since its aboriginal inhabitants occupied and cultivated its agricultural lands, or hunted through its dense and primeval woods. The people of Leix trace their early origin from a northern stem to Ruidhrigh Mór,³⁷ descended from the line of Ir, and he was remarkable for his warlike prowess.³⁸ From him the Clann Ruidhrigh descended. Before and after the Christian era, the princes who belonged to that line for the most part occupied the Royal Fort of Emania. They held an extensive sway for a long period in Ulster, until Colla Uais, or Colla the Noble, restricted their power.³⁹ Afterwards, many of the Clann Ruidhrigh left Ulster, and settled in other parts of Ireland. Among these, not the least remarkable were the warriors who, under the leadership of Lug Laighseach, transferred themselves to the territory of Laighis in Leinster.⁴⁰

³² Thus noticed by O'Huidhrin:—

ΑΡΘ ΤΑΟΙΡΕΑΧ ΤΩΑΙΤΕ ΔΗ ΤΟΡΑΙΘ,
ΟΝ ΧΟΙΛΛ ΔΟΙΒΗΝΝ ΤΑΧΤΟΡΑΙΣ,
Ο'ΔΟΥΒΡΛΑΙΝΕ, ΡΙΑΛ ΔΗ ΡΕΑΡ,
ΟΝ ΡΕΛΙΑΘ ΑΡ ΔΙΛΛΕ ΙΝΒΕΑΣ.

The high chief of the fruitful cantred,
Of the delightful Coill Uachtorach,
Is O'Dubhshlaine, hospitable the man,
From the mountain of most beauteous
rivers.

³³ Giraldus Cambrensis states, that this division of land was supposed to contain one hundred "villas," and that its name was derived from the compound word in the British and Irish language, "Cant," meaning *centum*, and "Tref," *villas*. See 'Itinerarium Cambriae,' Lib. ii., cap. 7., p. 867, and Cambriae Descriptio," cap. iv., p. 884. Edition of Camden. According to this, the Irish compound should be *ced-trebbh*.

³⁴ Thus described by O'Huidhrin:—
Ο'ΣΕΑΡΒΑΙΛ ΤΩΑΡ ΣΟΡΕΙΑΘ ΕΡΗΘΝ,
Ο'ΔΟΝΝΧΑΘΑ ΥΡΕΑΕ ΘΙΟΣΘΟΗΝ,
ΣΤΟΙΣ ΛΙΑΣ ΑΡ ΒΟΝ ΤΗΡ ΤΟΡΑΙΘ,
ΤΩΑ ΡΙΛΣ ΙΑΘ Δ ΗΑΟΝΧΟΝΑΡ.
O'Cearbhaill for whom trees are ruddy,
O'Donnchadha of honest aspect,

Whose rock-like hosts possess the
fruitful land.

Are two kings of the same territory.

³⁵ He is said to have been a descendant of the celebrated Cearbhall, chief lord of Ossory from 845 to 885. The O'Carroll of this district is to be distinguished from O'Carroll, of Ely O'Carroll, seated at the other side of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. He belonged to a different race.

³⁶ This name is sometimes incorrectly rendered O'Donoghue. The Ui Donnchadha were also a tribe on the Dodder, near Dublin.

³⁷ According to Rev. Dr. Jeffry Keating's 'General History of Ireland,' book i., he filled the throne of Ireland, A.M. 3850, and reigned for thirty years, some writers giving him a reign of seventy years. See part i., p. 195, Duffy's edition.

³⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 84, 85, and notes.

³⁹ See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," part iii., cap. lxxv., lxxvi., pp. 359 to 366.

⁴⁰ Liöseach Lannmor, son of Conall Cearnach, and brother of Irial Glunnhar, is said to have been the head

Among the Ultonian champions of Irish heroic times, and largely blended with the bardic and romantic literature of Ireland, few are more celebrated than Conall Cearnach.⁴¹ He flourished about the time of the Christian era; and he was renowned among the Craebh Ruadh, or the Red Branch Knights. He was also leader of Conor Mac Nessa's army, and he conducted the war against King Oilioll and Queen Meave of Connaught. This contest lasted for seven years. The Knights of the Red Branch had engaged with the men of Leinster at the battle of Ros-na-Righ, and had defeated them there; so that afterwards, the conquerors extended the bounds of the northern province beyond the River Boyne, and southwards to the River Rye.⁴² They had also made an irruption into the Province of Munster, where they destroyed the ancient fort of Teamhair Luachra. There is an account of a northern poet Aithirné Ailghesach having embroiled Mesgedhra, the King of North Leinster, who lived at Naas, with the Ultonians. The siege of these latter at Howth, and the death of his brothers Mesdead and Laeghaire brought Conall Cearnach on the scene, with his Knights of the Red Branch. The Leinster men then fled, the hero Conall Cearnach went in pursuit of them to avenge his dead brothers, Mesdead and Laegaire, and at Claen, a ford on the Liffey, he slew Mesgegra,⁴³ King of Leinster.⁴⁴

A renowned potentate of Leinster was Cuchorb, and he is said to have been married to Meadhbh Leithdberg, or "Meave the half-red," daughter to Conan of Cualann. It is stated, that he fought no less than seven battles for his principality; three of these at a place called Ath Finn Fáil,⁴⁵ and also a battle at a place called Ath an Scáil,⁴⁶ one at Fossud,⁴⁷ one at Magh Maen,⁴⁸ and one at Glais Criché.⁴⁹ According to a poem or death elegy, attributed to his Queen Meave, he also fought a battle at Bernas,⁵⁰ while he raised a contest to conquer Gailian.⁵¹ When Cu-Corbh, the son of Mug-Corbh,⁵² was king of Leinster⁵³—owing

of this name. See John O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees," part vi., cap. i., vol. 15, p. 154. Third edition.

⁴¹ See an account of him in Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," part iii., cap. viii., pp. 275 to 281.

⁴² The boundary between the present counties of Meath and Kildare.

⁴³ See Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," lect., xii., pp. 269 to 270.

⁴⁴ This account is contained in "The Book of Leinster," sometimes called the Book of Glendalough, edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., fol. 116 b.

⁴⁵ This is interpreted *the fair or white ford of Fáil*. Its situation is unknown.

⁴⁶ Interpreted *the ford of the champion*.

⁴⁷ A gloss has φορμω οα ζυρετ i.e. *the camp or residence of the two fields*.

⁴⁸ Or *the plain of Maen*.

⁴⁹ It means *the boundary stream*. Professor O'Curry states, that this stream was in the County of Kildare, and that it formed the eastern boundary of an ancient territory, which extended

from it to a place called Uada in Leighis (Leix), in the present Queen's County. For this he quotes the Book of Lecain, fol. 93, 109.

⁵⁰ Bernas (ubi Laighes Reta Mor).—Bernas means literally *a gap in a hill*. Reta Mor in Laighes, or Magh Reta is said to have been the plain about Morett, near the Great Heath of Maryborough, in the Queen's County. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., A.M., 3529, note.

⁵¹ An ancient name for Leinster, according to Professor O'Curry. But within the territory of Leix itself there is a tract yet called Guileen, while there was another district near Ballinakill called Gallen.

⁵² In "The Book of Leinster," at fol. 44, b. 23, there is a tract descriptive of what is here stated.

⁵³ According to the Irish Annals, when Eidersceal, or Eidersceal—otherwise called Feargnus Scannel, Ard-Righ or High King of Erin—son of Eoghán, son of Oiholl, had reigned from A.M. 5085 to A.M. 5089, he was slain by Nuadha Neacht at the Hill of Allen,

perhaps to his refusal to pay them tribute⁵⁴—the people of Munster declared war against him.⁵⁵ This happened during the reign of the monarch Feidlimidh Reachtmair over Ireland.⁵⁶

From the powerful monarch Cathair Mor,⁵⁷ his son, Ros Failge, or Ros of the Rings,⁵⁸ inherited that extensive territory, which after him was called Ui Failge, or the descendants of Failge. He is described as a valiant warrior and of impetuous temperament, in that composition said to have been the Will or Testament of his father Cathair Mor.⁵⁹ According to the Irish genealogists, the latter had three wives⁶⁰ and thirty sons; but only the ten mentioned in his will left issue.⁶¹ These are severally named in the following order:—1. Ros Failge,⁶² the eldest, from whom the O'Conors of Hy Failge,⁶³ O'Dempseys, chiefs of Clann Maolughra, or

in the County of Kildare. But Nuadha Neacht did not long enjoy his triumph, for he was slain at the battle of Clíach, in the Barony of Idrone, in the County of Carlow, A.M. 5090, by Conaire Mor, son to Ederusel, and who afterwards ruled for seventy years, from A.M. 5091 to A.M. 5160. After the fall of Nuadha and the defeat of his people, Conaire Mor levied a fine off the Leinstermen, and there resigned, by a solemn treaty to the kings of Munster, that tract of Ossory extending from Gowran to Grian. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 88 to 91, and nn. (x, y, z.)

⁵⁴Besides the cession of part of Ossory, which formerly appears to have been included within the jurisdiction of the kings of Léinster, they entered into other engagements, binding themselves to atone for the murder of Ederusel, and this they swore to observe by the air, earth, sea, land, sun, and moon. See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. xlv., pp. 271, 272. However the Ossorians and Leinstermen appear to have resisted successfully the imposition of such a tax, while they carried encroachments into the Munster province on various subsequent occasions.

⁵⁵It would seem that he had carried battle over Clu Mail, which Professor O'Curry states to be Clu, an ancient district in the barony of Coslea, in the County of Limerick. It received the additional name of Mail, from Mal, son of Ugaire Mor, having been there slain.

⁵⁶He reigned nine years over Ireland, from A.D. 111 to A.D. 119. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 102, 103.

⁵⁷He flourished in the second century of the Christian era, and was recognised as monarch of Erin from A.D. 120; but after a reign of three years, he was slain by the celebrated Conn of the Hundred Battles and the Luaighni

of Teamhair in the battle of Magh h-Agda. The victor then succeeded him as sovereign.

⁵⁸It is difficult to ascertain, why he was so called, unless we regard the suffix to Ross' name as having had some reference to the Ring-money, which has been thought by antiquaries to have been a metallic circulating medium of value in ancient times. A great number of fine golden rings of much intrinsic value has been recovered from time to time, and these are to be seen in the collections of our museums.

⁵⁹There are no less than three copies of the *Cimna Chathair Mhor* extant on vellum in our Irish libraries, besides another in the book of Lemster, as also two copies used by Dr. John O'Donovan when he was engaged in editing the *Leabhar na Rí-Gaele*, or Book of Rights, for the Celtic Society of Dublin. In that ancient compilation, the Will of Cathair Mor is included and annotated at pp. 192 to 203.

⁶⁰These are said to have been Marnia, daughter to Morand, a Pictish prince; Mauda, the daughter of Bressal, and mother of Ros Failge, of Daire Barrach, Eochaidh Timine and Bressal Enachglas; as also Crimanda, daughter to Achais Dentinger, or Eochy of the Black Tooth and of the Ultonians.

⁶¹See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. lix., p. 311.

⁶²The O'Conors of this race are to be distinguished from those of Silmurray, in Connaught, and from various other families who bore the same name, but who were from totally different stocks, such as O'Conor of Kerry, O'Conor Corcomroe, O'Conor of Glen gevin, etc. See Dr. O'Donovan's note 407, to the "Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagáin and Giolla na Noamh O'Huidhrin," p. 1.

⁶³According to the O'Clerys, St. Diarmaid, founder of the Church of Gleann Uissen, was sixth in descent

Clanmalire, and O'Dunnes of Hy Regan, derive their descent. 2. Daire Barrach,⁶⁴ from whom spring the O'Gormans, or MacGormons. 3. Crimthann, from whom are the Hy Crimthann,⁶⁵ 4. Bressal Enachglas,⁶⁶ 5. Achaias, or Eochaidh Timine,⁶⁷ 6. Oilill Ketach,⁶⁸ from whom the country called Crioch-na-Ketach takes its name. 7. Fergus Loscan,⁶⁹ 8. Dearcmaiseach, whose posterity occupied the country near Dublin. 9. Aneas Niger,⁷⁰ or Aengus Nic; and, 10. Fiacha Bah-Aidh, Latinized Fiachus Bacchus. The latter was youngest of his sons.⁷¹

The territory of Ui Failghe, usually anglicized Offaly or Ophaly, formed a large level tract of land in Leinster, comprising the present baronies of East and West Offaly in the County of Kildare, as also those of Portnahinch and Tinnahinch in the Queen's County, with that portion of the King's County, comprised within the present diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. While the O'Conor Faly was head chief over this territory,⁷² he had subject to him O'Duinn or O'Dunne, chief of Ui Regan, which is now Anglicised Iregan. Oregan and Dooregan. It still retains the ancient name,⁷³ and it is co-extensive with the present barony of Tinnahinch, in the north-western part of the Queen's County.

In like manner, the sub-chief of Clann Maoilughra⁷⁴ or Clanmaliere, named O'Diomasaigh or O'Dempsey, was tributary to O'Conor, chief of Hy Failge. His territory of Clanmalire extended on both sides of the River Barrow, north and south. It contained the barony of Portnahinch, on the south side, in the Queen's County, and the barony of Upper Philipstown, on the north side, in the King's County. The ancient territory of Leghe⁷⁵ was commensurate with the present barony of

from him, and St. Fiach of Sleibhte is said so have been his great grand-son.

⁶⁴ Chiefs of Ui Barche.

⁶⁵ Occupying the tribe lands, about Dunamase, Queen's County. He is said to have been ancestor to St. Colam Fia Crimthann, venerated on the 13th of December.

⁶⁶ From him are derived the Ui Leneachluis or Ui Leneachlas, who were seated in the present barony of Ardow, in the County of Wicklow.

⁶⁷ He does not appear to have inherited any tribe land.

⁶⁸ This is possibly the Ceathach, after whom the district or barony of Ui Ceathach, or Keathy, in the north of Kildare, was called.

⁶⁹ He is not known, as having acquired tribe land.

⁷⁰ Also called Aengus of the Black-tooth—a personal deformity. He did not obtain tribe-land.

⁷¹ Roderick O'Flaherty adds—"Cui ex Bressaho Belach filio Enarus Nialh Lauradius Hy-Kensahorum sator duo nepotes secutos Lagema reges genuerunt."—"Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. lx., pp. 310, 311.

⁷² In the Irish poem of O'Haidhrin, it is thus described:—

CRÍOÍ Ó BPAÍGE AN FÚINN EALLAÍG
 NÍ H-ANFPÍR É U' FÍLEADÁIN,
 O'CONCÓBÁIN CUIG AN ÉLÁIP

ΔΗ ΣΩΜΗ-ΤΥΛΑΪΣ ΕΥΡΗ ΚΡΥΑΧΙΑΝ.

Lord of Ui-Failghe the land of cattle—
 It is not unknown to poets;

O'Conchobhair is hero of the plain
 On the green round hill of Cruachan.

⁷³ It is thus described by O'Huidhrin:

ΔΗ ΤΗΣ ΡΙΑΣΑΙΝ ΝΑ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΕΡΜΟΝ,
 ΞΑΡΡΑ ΜΕΑΡ ΜΥΡΩΕΑΡ ΚΟΜΛΟΝ,

O'Duinn, τειορεαδ να τοξλα,
 CUIG NA CEPAIOPEAD CAΘOPIA.

Over Ui Riagain of heavy routs,
 A vigorous tribe who conquer in

battle,
 Is O'Duinn, chief of demolition,
 Hero of the golden battle-spears.

⁷⁴ It is thus described by O'Huidhrin:

CLANN MAOILUGHRA OY ΞΑΕ ΠΕΑΘΑΝ
 ΥΑΡΑΙ ΕΕΙΜ Α ΕΚΕΙΝΑΘΑΪΣ,

CLÁP MÍN AN CUAN TO ÉOPÁIN,
 TÍP AP YUAI Y' O'DIOMOPAIΣ.

The Clann-Maoilughra over every
 tribe,

Noble the degree of their race;
 A smooth plain this sept have defended.

The land is hereditary to
 O'Diomasaigh.

⁷⁵ O'Huidhrin thus describes it:—

ΔΟΙΘΙΝΝ ΑΝ ΚΡΙΟΧ, ΕΙΣΑΝ ΠΟ ΕΛΟΡ,
 ΤΥΑΘ ΛΕΓΕ ΝΑ ΤΕΑΥΣ ΡΟΛΟΡ,

O'CELLAÍG LEIGE, ÓN TPÁÍG ÉAIP,
 ΕΕΙΛΕ ΑΝ ΕΛÁΠ ΕΑΝΣΑΪΣ ΥΒΡΑΪΣ.

Delightful the territory, long since it
 was heard,
 The cantred of Leghe of bright slopes,

Western Offaly in the King's County and it took in a small portion of the present barony of Portnahinch in the Queen's County. In this latter district, the great castle of Leighe, Lea or Ley, on the south bank of the River Barrow, was situated, and in it the chief of that cantred, named O'Kelly, seems to have resided.

The Ui Bairche are descended from Daire Barrach, the second son of the Irish monarch, Cathair Mor. Originally, they were probably exempt from the jurisdiction of the Kings of Leix, although subsequently, they became incorporated with his clansmen and extended territory. They possessed the present barony of Slievemargy, in the Queen's County, and lying west of the River Barrow. They are said, also, to have held a district extending from Ath Truistean, a ford on the River Greece, near the hill of Mullaghmast, six miles east of Athy, in the County of Kildare, to the ford at Cill Corbnatan—where this latter was has not been ascertained.

The Ui-Foircheallain were anciently seated in a plain, known as Magh-Tuathat, and they are alluded to in the Irish Annals. Whether or not they had been exempt from the ancient territory of Leix, and the rule of its kings at some former period, seems to be matter of great uncertainty. In after times, they belonged to Leix, and according to an ancient Irish usage, they gave name to the parish of Offerrilan, extending along the eastern slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in the Barony of Uperwoods, Queen's County. Another district Ui-Buidhe, now Ballyadams barony, lay within the bounds of Leix, and it is noticed in the Irish Annals.

The sept, or seven-partite system,⁷⁶ was a curious peculiarity of Irish civil life, and it appears inwoven, likewise, with the ecclesiastical customs of division. We have only to instance those numerous entries of seven churches and of seven bishops, connected with particular localities, as found in the pages of our Calendars and Annals. The word "sept" has been derived from the Latin "septum" by Dr. Johnson, who considers the term as being peculiarly Irish.⁷⁷ This term is thought by others, however, not to be exclusively Gaelic, but to have been derived from the French *cep*, "a stock," "scion," or "plant," more especially employed as referring to a vine sucker or shoot. Besides the instance of seven septs in Leix and Offaly, it is worthy of remark, that the Fermanagh territorial extension was also divided into seven "tuatha," or people-divisions.⁷⁸

This great territory of Leix was originally distributed into seven tribe-lands, and its bounds are said to have met at a stone, denominated Leac Riada, on the plain of Magh Riada.⁷⁹ For purposes of description, this is not only inaccurate, but it is likewise unintelligible. The plains of Magh Reicheat—said to be Morett⁸⁰—and of Magh Riada are mentioned in the Irish Annals, at A.M. 3520. The latter is stated to have been a plain in

O'Ceallaigh of Leghe, of the eastern bank,

Is sub-chief of the plain of dells and yews.

⁷⁶ The seven-partite, or seven-fold division, is also a peculiarity in the British and Caledonian Heptarchies.

⁷⁷ He derives the word "heptarchy," however, from the Greek *ep̄ta*, seven, in his English Dictionary.

⁷⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., at A.D. 648.

⁷⁹ Thus lay about the present old Castle of Morett. See notes to Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," at A.M. 2520, vol. i., and at A.D., 1196, vol. iii.

⁸⁰ According to Dr. O'Donovan.

⁸¹ A very ancient poem in the "Book of Leinster" mentions "Bernas, uli

Leix, and which contained the forts of Lec-Reda and Rath-Bacain, where the chiefs of Leix resided, while the church there was called Donnachmor. From Magh-Riada also the chiefs of Leix were styled Kings of Riada.⁸¹ This Celtic Heptarchy was under the government of seven subordinate and petty chiefs, who were subject in turn to the jurisdiction of an arch-king called the Righ Riada or Reta. Over these septa, for centuries, the O'Moores ruled, and these were chief seigneurs or patriarchal and powerful dynasts. The Archon of Leix—at least during mediæval times—had his customary chief residence at Dun Masc,⁸² now that remarkable castled crag, where the ruined fortress of Dunamase may still be seen.

The seven original divisions of Laoighis, Latinized Lagisia, and now Anglicized into Leix, probably continued for centuries without much change of boundary. In the beginning of the fifteenth century,⁸³ the whole territory was comprised within seven cantreds, and they are distinguished, by Giolla na Noamh O'Huidrin,⁸⁴ he having previously described the district of Ophaly.⁸⁵

1. Laoighis Reta. This sub-division of the territory was probably the portion retained in possession of O'More, the Ard-Righ, and his clansmen. Besides the territorial possession of Laoighis Reta,⁸⁶ it would seem that the Chief Tanist had a certain tribute paid him from the subordinate divisions of ancient Leix.⁸⁷ The territory of Laoighis Reta was commensurate with the northern half of the barony of Maryborough West, and the north-western half of the barony of Maryborough East. This was the most distinguished cantred of the seven districts, constituting the former principality of Leix. Here, too, was probably the chief fortress, known as Dunamase.⁸⁸ According to the Dindsenchas,⁸⁹ Cáinén Masc

Laighes Reta Mor." Professor Eugene O'Curry, in his "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," Appendix ii, pp. 471, 482, notes, that "bernas" means a gap in a hill while "Laighis" signifies Leix, and "Reta Mor," is identical with the present Morett.

⁸² According to Duaid Mac Fírbis' Genealogies, and under the head of Eoghan Laighean.

⁸³ Giolla na Noamh O'Huidrin or O'Herrin, a learned Irish historian and topographer, as also a poet, has left as a supplement to the Topographical Poem of John O'Dubhagáin or John O'Dugan, while his added portion deals chiefly with the principal tribes and territories of Leinster and Munster, O'Huidrin died at an advanced age in 1420.

⁸⁴ See "The Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagáin and Giolla na Noamh O'Huidrin," edited by John O'Donovan, LL.D., and published by the Irish Archaeological and Celtic Society, in 1802. Dublin, 8vo.

⁸⁵ The following is O'Huidrin's Irish text, with the English translation:—

Ó'Éir Ó bFaisgēna fFonn pean,
 Ó'púreacáin pe Laoisgēir Laighean,
 Laochparó bárruonn óa fFéar fFuar,
 Tabhrom peat ar a peanáir.

After Uí-Failghe of the ancient lands,
 Let us approach Laoighis of Leinster,
 Brown-haired heroes for whom showers
 fall.

We shall devote some time to their
 history.

⁸⁶ O'Huidrin thus alludes to it:—

móireuath Laoisgē na Lann rúim,
 Laoisgēir Réata, ar ma paróim,
 O'mordha co ceterith caéa,
 An peat órda donuatha.

The great territory of Laoighis of slender
 swords,

Laoighis Reata, of it I speak,
 Belongs to O'Mordha with bulwark of
 battle,

Of the golden shield of one colour.

⁸⁷ In an Inquisition of the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, taken at Maryborough, on the 17th of June, we find an account of the lands, customs, duties, perquisites and profits, belonging to Rory O'More, in right of his chieftainry. We also find a list of the town lands, which he held of his own proper inheritance, and not as captain.

⁸⁸ It is said to have derived this name from Masc, son of Augén Uirgnaidh, the fourth son of Sedna Siobhhaic, ancestor of the people of Leinster. See Dr.

one of Ugen Urgnaid's sons,⁹⁰ gave name to Dun Mase, where he built a fort. It is a lotty isolated rock, on which formerly was a large fort or stone cathair, but which the English crowned with a strong castle, now in ruins. This division contained the fort of Rath Bacain,⁹¹ and the rock originally known as Leac Reda.⁹² Here too, the O'Mordha⁹³ had its chief residence.

II. Kinel Criffan, the division in which, according to some, "the Castle Crag" of Dunamase was situated, received also the denomination Ui Crimthainn, or Hy-Criffan.⁹⁴ The sub-chieftain O'Duff was ruler of the Kinel-Crimthainn.⁹⁵ These were the inhabitants of this territory, comprising probably at present the greater part of the barony of Maryborough East.

III. Tuath Fiodhbuidhe belonged to the clan O'Deevy,⁹⁶ sometimes called Devoy.⁹⁷ The name is yet common in this part of the Queen's County. This territory contained the northern part of Cullinagh Barony and the southern half of Maryborough West Barony.

IV. Magh Druchtain was the country of O'Kelly. It would appear to be identical with the district marked Feran O'Kelly on the old map of Leix and Ophaly.⁹⁸ Magh Druchtain is now identical with the barony of Stradbally.⁹⁹ In the earlier part of the last century this territory was locally known by its traditional name; and it is considered the most fertile district in the whole Queen's County, extending from the ford of Athbaiteoige and the ford of Ath-fuiseoige to near Luggacurren. Mr

O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," at A.D. 843, vol. i. n. (a).

⁹⁰See that version in the "Book of Leinster," edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., fol. 160 a.

⁹¹According to a brief note in "The Book of Leinster," p. 162 b.—Ugen Urgnaid was son of Setnu Sithbacc, and he had six sons: viz., Ladru, Noe, Finteng, Luad, Cúar and Alb. All of these names have entered into a separate topographical combination. Yet, the name of Cúarín Mase is here omitted.

⁹²It may be questioned, if this be the Rath-Marthi granted to De Constantine, after the Anglo-Norman Invasion.

⁹³See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., A.M. 3529, and vol. ii. at A.D. 958, n. (a.)

⁹⁴This name is usually Anglicized O'Moore or O'More, at present; however, the prefix O' is generally omitted, and Moore only retained.

⁹⁵This is stated by O'Huidhrin:—

ῤα Οὐν μαρεε αρ μίν ϕυμν.
Ο'Ουιβ ϕορ Chenel cCrimthainn,
ῤμαθ αν τῆρε ϕα εοραδ,
ιαθ αρ μίνε μεαρηοσαδ.

Under Dun Mase of smooth land, O'Duibh is over Cinel-Crimthainn, Lord of the territory which is under fruit, Land of smoothest mast-fruit.

⁹⁶Their territory is said to have been near the fortress of Dunamase.

⁹⁷O'Huidhrin thus characterises its soil and inhabitants:—

ῤεανταε ϕιοδδουθε αν ϕυμν ζιλ,
μαρθ αν τῆρεαρνυρ ταοιριζ,
μυντηρ ϕιοδδουθε αρ τουατ υι,
ῤτααζ ϕιων ουρο να ϕετι.

The old Tuath-Fiodhbuidhe of fair land is a good lordship for a chief;

The Muintir Fiodhbuidhe are its inheritors,

The yellow-haired host of hospitality.

⁹⁸Such was the opinion of Mr. O'Donovan, at the time when he was engaged on the antiquarian department of the Ordnance Survey for the Queen's County. But at a subsequent period of life, he asserts, that the situation of the Muintir Fiodhbuidhe had not been determined. Their name means, "The People of the Yellow Wood," and is one of many instances, in which clans had other than patronymic denominations, such as "The Old Evil Children of the Wood," near the City of Limerick; and the Clan Ceitherne, or "Children of the Kerne or Caterans," in Ulster.

⁹⁹Now preserved in the library of Trinity College.

⁹⁰O'Huidhrin thus speaks of it:—

Ορ μωζ Ορμαχεταν αν ουιν ζιλ,
Ο'Ceallaiz αν ελαιρ εζρωζ,
αρ ϕαιμναι μιν αν μωζε,
ρε τῆρ ταρσαδ εταρησυρε.

Over Magh-Druchtain of the fair fortress, Is O'Callaigh of the salmon-full river, Similar is the smooth surface of the plain.

To the fruitful land of promise.

O'Donovan identifies it with the district—on the map now published—called Feranokelle,¹⁰⁰ as extending from Ballymaddock southwards to the hills of Slewmargie, and as comprising the Park near Stradbally, the churches of Grange and Oghteoge, and Craogh Castle. The words of O'Heerin clearly show, that he was well acquainted with the fertility, beauty and local features of this territory.¹⁰¹

V. Gailine, now Gallen,¹⁰² or Dysart-Gallen, in the barony of Cullenagh, was also the territory of another O'Kelly.¹⁰³ It extended from near Abbey-leix to the boundary of Slievemarigue, and it is marked Galin on the old map of Leix and Ophaly.

VI. Crioich O'Muighe, the country of O'Caolluidhe,¹⁰⁴ lay along the River Barrow. In the old Life of St. Abban, published by Colgan, the Church of Kill-Abban is mentioned as being situated within this territory. The scholiast on St. Aenghus, however, places that same church within the territory of Hy-Muireadhaigh. Dr. O'Donovan hesitates in accepting the latter account, preferring the testimony of St. Abban's Life. O'Heerin describes the river Bearbha or Barrow as the boundary line dividing the territories of Laoighis and Hy-Muireadhaigh. The topographer and poet, having treated on the territories of Offaly and Leix, says, that he will cross the river Barrow to Maistean, now Mullamast, to give a description of O'Toole's country, Hy-Muireadhaig. Thus, it would seem from O'Heerin's lines, that this territory of O'Kelly extended along the west bank of the Bearbha¹⁰⁵ in Leix, and that it contained the church of Kill-Abban. Dr. O'Donovan is of opinion, that it must have comprised the barony of Ballyadams, and that portion of the County Kildare, which extended westward of the river Barrow.¹⁰⁶

VII. Crioich O'm-Bartha signifies the country of the Hy-Barrtha or Hy-Bairche, the descendants of Daire Barrach,¹⁰⁷ the son of Cathaoir Mor, King of Leinster, and of all Ireland, in the second century of the Christian era. The Abbé Mac Geoghegan and other Irish historians have placed this tribe in the barony of Slievemangue.¹⁰⁸ According to the Will of Cathair Mor,¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁰ Feranokelle means the land, or rather country, the men of O'Kelly. The former reputed head of that family is said to have been Mr. Denis Kelly, of Carrick-an-O'Levy.

¹⁰¹ The streams uniting in the demesne of Stradbally Hall, and the river flowing thence to the Barrow, abound in trout, eel, and different other species of fresh water fish.

¹⁰² O'Huidhrin observes regarding it :
 Saine na ppeab' porleab',
 O'cheallais no comorghceab',
 Trom as ppeach an ppe
 An ponn n'spianach n'saine,
 Gailine of the pleasant streams,
 To O'Ceallugh is not inhereitary,
 Mighty is the tribe at hunting
 On the sunny land of Gailine.

¹⁰³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," at A.D. 1349, vol. iii., p. 733, n. (s.).

¹⁰⁴ This name has been Anglicized O'Cayley or O'Keely, and it is still common in the province of Leinster. It has been incorrectly Anglicized O'Kelly or Kelly.

¹⁰⁵ The River Barrow, which flows between this territory, and that of Hy-Muireadhaigh, which latter is called O'Murethi by Giraldus, and it was the tribe name of the O'Tuathails, or O'Tooles.

¹⁰⁶ Thus writes O'Huidhrin regarding this territory:—

Crioich O'Muighe an fóro pinnriú,
 Bearbha buis b'raomlinnriú
 O'Caolluidhe ar caom an crioich,
 Doíompe nár fáom eirpíot.

Crioich O'muidhe of the fair sod,
 Along the Bearbha of the bright pools,
 To O'Caolluidhe the territory is fair,
 A shepherd prepared to encounter enemies.

¹⁰⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's *Leabhar na g-Ceart*, or "Book of Rights," pp. 212, 213 n. (m.)

¹⁰⁸ Dr. O'Donovan inclines to the opinion, that they may be correct in this statement, although he is convinced the name Hy-Bairche bears no analogy with Shabh Mairge.

¹⁰⁹ Of this document, three copies

it would seem, that there had been several families of the *Ui Bairche* seated about Cloncurry, Kill and Kilossy, in the County of Kildare.¹¹⁰ However, the great antiquity of that composition has been questioned;¹¹¹ while it is supposed in its present form, to have been drawn up some centuries after the death of Cathair Mor, and when the race of his sons had more definite territories in Leinster.¹¹² According to the *Dinnseanchus*, the appellation of *Mairge* is derived from *Marga*, the son of *Giustan*, Lawgiver of the *Fomorians*, who was killed on this mountain. The exact situation of the *Hy-Barrtha* has not been clearly defined.¹¹³ After the establishment of Irish surnames, the chief family there took the name of *O'Gorman* or *MacGorman*.¹¹⁴ However, it seems rather doubtful if this latter territory belonged to *Leix*, as originally constituted; but, in course of time, it is certain, that it became annexed to the principality of *Ui Mordha* or the *O'Moores*.

The *Ui-Duach* of *Argad-Ros*,¹¹⁵ people known as living in the territory of *Idough*, also written *Odach*.—supposed to have been co-extensive with the present barony of *Fassadinin*,¹¹⁶ County *Kilkenny*—had a part possession of the *Queen's County*; namely, that in which the town of *Durrow* is situated. Nevertheless, the district was formerly much more extensive,¹¹⁷ and it was a lordship under *Cathal*, son of *Dubhan*, who died A.D. 850¹¹⁸ or 851.¹¹⁹ It was likewise the territory of the *O'Braoinains* or *O'Brennans*, descended from *Cathair Mor*, King of *Leinster*, and afterwards monarch of *Ireland*. *Carrol*, the twelfth in descent from *Bresal Breac*, the son of *Cathair Mor*, was the great-grandfather of *Giolla-Padruig*, Prince of *Ossory*. We learn through *Keating*,¹²⁰ that from *Bryan*, the son of *Carroll*, are descended the *O'Braonain* of *Uibh Duach*, distinguished by their military achievements, and who were some of the most renowned champions of the times in

on vellum exist, besides two copies used by Dr. John O'Donovan in editing the *Leabhar na S-earde*, or the Book of Rights. See Introduction, pp. xxxiii to xxxv.

¹¹⁰ See Rev. Denis Murphy's article on *Killashee Church*, in the "Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society," vol. i., No. i. p. 17.

¹¹¹ It is certain, there are great differences in the texts of those copies we now possess; while another copy, differing from any known, seems to have been consulted by *Roderick O'Flaherty*, in his "*Ogygia*," pars. iii., cap. lix.

¹¹² See the *Irish of Cathair Mor's Testament*, with the English translation and notes of Dr. O'Donovan in *Leabhar S-earde*, or the Book of Rights, pp. 192 to 203.

¹¹³ *O'Uidhrin* treats of the territory, in the following quatrain:—

Críoch o mbairetha an t-úrda slóin,
 Do ríol t'áirpe binn dárrmaid,
 O'íormáin uo sláe na fúinn,
 Da ppap i comáit comúinn.

The territory of the *Ui-Barrtha* of the fine glebe,

Of the race of the melodious *Daire Barrach*;

O'Gorman received the lands,

Rapid was he in the battle meeting.

¹¹⁴ This family was driven from their territory here after the *Anglo-Norman* invasion, and the chief of them ultimately fixed his residence in the *Barony of Ibrickan*, in *Thomond*, *Clare County*.

¹¹⁵ Rendered the *Silver Wood*, a district on the *River Nore*. In it was erected the *Fort of Rath-Beothaigh*, by *Heremon* and *Heber*, the sons of *Milidh* or *Milesius*, A.M., 3501. It is still known as *Rathbeagh*, on the *Nore*, and in a parish of the same name, in the *Barony of Galmoy*, *County Kilkenny*. See Dr. O'Donovan's "*Annals of the Four Masters*," vol. i., pp. 26, 27, and nn. (g, h).

¹¹⁶ The Irish name, *Parpaeh Óneen*, means the desert or wilderness bordering on the (river) *Dinan*.

¹¹⁷ By *O'h-Uidhrin*, the *Ui Duach-Osraighe* is alluded to as the "fair wide plain of the *Feior* or *Nore*." See Dr. O'Donovan's edition of "*The Topographical Poems of John O'Dubhagáin and Giolla na Naomh O'Uidhrin*," pp., 94, 95.

¹¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "*Annals of the Four Masters*," vol. i., pp. 482 to 485, and n. (e.).

¹¹⁹ A second entry. See *ibid.*, and n. (k.).

¹²⁰ See p. 112. Edition of 1725.

which they lived. From Ruman Duach,¹²¹ descended from Aengus Osraighe,¹²² the territory and tribe of Ui Duach derive their name.¹²³

There are several references to those various districts, into which Leix had been formerly divided, by our chronographers. Besides the territory of Ui Creamhthann, in Leix, and which lay in and around Dunamase, there was another territory so called in Meath.¹²⁴ Therefore, owing to the similarity of denominations, but in different places, it becomes difficult sometimes to determine the exact locality connected with names, persons and incidents, which are noticed in our Irish Annals. However, from the circumstances of names and position, this inference of place can sometimes be fairly conjectured. Thus the battle of Sliabh Beatha,¹²⁵ in Ui-Creamthainn, fought by Conmael, who died A.M., 3579,¹²⁶ has undoubtedly reference to a territory so called, and distinguished from that in Leix. Lough Aenbeithe¹²⁷—which has been Anglicized "Lake of the one Birch Tree"—in Ui-Cremthainn, broke out in the reign of Aengus Olmucadha, who was killed, A.M. 3790. In A.D. 650 was fought the battle of Fleascach,¹²⁸ by Crummael, Chief of Kinel Owen, in which Cumascach, son of Oilíoll, Chief of Ui-Creamthannan,¹²⁹ was killed. Flaun Sifuna Ua-Colla, Abbot of Clonmacnoise, one of the Ui-Creamthainn, died A.D. 726.¹³⁰ In 738, Maenach, son of Conmalach, lord of Ui-Creamthainn, was killed in the battle of Magh-Seirigh, said to be near Kells.¹³¹ Most probably, this Ui-Creamthainn was in Meath. In 832, Ruaidhri,¹³² son of Maelfothartach, half-chieftain of Ui-Crimthainn,¹³³ died. In 848, Braen,¹³⁴ and his two brothers, Fogartach and Bruadar, sons of Ruadrhach, lord of Ui-Cremthainn,¹³⁵ were slain by their own tribes. Muireadhach, son of Cathal, lord of Ui-Cremthainn,¹³⁶ died of paralysis, A.D. 895.¹³⁷ Cumascach, son of Muireadhach, lord of the Ui-Cremthainn,¹³⁸ was slain by the Ulidians, A.D. 875.¹³⁹ Maelcaere lord of Ui-Cremthainn,¹⁴⁰ died A.D. 876.¹⁴¹ Anrothan, son of Murchadh, lord of Ui-Crimthainn,¹⁴² died A.D. 885. Fubhthadh, son of Murchadh, lord of Ui-Crimthainn,¹⁴³ died A.D. 899.¹⁴⁴ Cele, son of Anrothan,

¹²¹ This king is said to have been a pagan, although his seven sons have been venerated as saints. See his pedigree in John Hogan's "The Clann, Faction of O'Leary," Part I., pp. vi, vii, p. 35, and Part II., chap. x, p. 114.

¹²² He lived in the first century of the Christian era.

¹²³ This territory is thus described by O'Halloran:

In Ui-Creamhthainn, an pointe de protection parait s'elever, et separe d'un grand fleuve par une barriere d'opozition. Ua Duach of O'Leary, of the warm soil, The fair wide plain of the Fen, Not easily passable is the wood of the plain, Its protecting chief is O'Braunain.

¹²⁴ Now known as the barony of Slane.

¹²⁵ Not identified. Sliabh Beatha was on the borders of Monaghan and Fermagh.

¹²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. I., pp. 38, 39, and n. (d.).

¹²⁷ Not identified. Possibly, Bellahoe Lough, on the confines of Meath and Monaghan; but this is a doubtful conjecture.

¹²⁸ Not identified.

¹²⁹ This has been identified with the territory in Meath by William M. Hennessy in "Chronicon Scotorum." See pp. 94, 95, and Index, p. 418.

¹³⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. I., pp. 322, 323, and n. (a.).

¹³¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 338, 339.

¹³² See *ibid.*, pp. 448, 449, and n. (t.).

¹³³ Although Dr. O'Donovan states that this territory was in Meath, we may question, also, if it had not been in Leix.

¹³⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 480, 481.

¹³⁵ It seems doubtful if this were in Meath or Leix.

¹³⁶ The exact locality has not been ascertained.

¹³⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 502, 503.

¹³⁸ Its position as a district is not determined.

¹³⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 522, 523.

¹⁴⁰ Its position has not been determined.

¹⁴¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 522, 523.

¹⁴² In the Index to Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," it is set down as belonging to Meath.

and of Ui-Crimthannain, died 921.¹⁴⁵ If this latter belonged to Leix, so most probably did the former, to which allusion has been made. Flaithchius, son of Scorachan, lord of Ui-Crimthannain,¹⁴⁶ died 923.¹⁴⁷ Entries more pertinent to the territory of Ui-Creanthann in Leix shall subsequently appear, as the foregoing have a doubtful localization.

Great changes of boundary took place during the lapse of ages in the extent of Leix, and after its first formation as a distinctive territory. Thus, Ancient Ossory is said to have comprised the three districts called the Three Comauns.¹⁴⁸ If so, they appear to have formed a considerable part of Leix in aftertimes. However, we know not on what authority it is stated, that those extended northwards to Ballydavis, in the parish of Straboe, barony of Maryborough, Queen's County, until the beginning of the ninth century, when they were united to Leix.¹⁴⁹ Nevertheless, our Annals throw some light on their position, and especially our Ecclesiastical Records; for we find in more than a single instance allusion made to the deaths of the Bishops who ruled over Togh Mochua and the Comauns. Again, we know from allusions to the chiefs of Leix before the close of the ninth century, that they ruled also over the Comauns. Thus the death of Cinneidigh, son of Gaethin, lord of Laignis and of the Comauns,¹⁵⁰ is chronicled at the year 898.¹⁵¹ Hence it would appear, that his jurisdiction extended beyond the limits of Leix proper, and that he likewise governed the district known as the Comauns. Through many subsequent generations, the tanists of Leix ruled over the Comauns. Where this latter district was exactly situated may admit of question.¹⁵² To us, the Comauns appear to have extended along the hills eastward from Timahoe and Fossey; and it is likely enough they were to be found

¹⁴⁵ Its exact position not determined.

¹⁴⁴ At 916, Fergus, son of Muirigen, with many others, were slain at Loch-Dachaech. He was chief of Ui-Crimthannain, in the barony of Slane, Meath. See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 188, 189.

¹⁴⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 608, 609.

¹⁴⁶ Position not determined.

¹⁴⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 612, 613.

¹⁴⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's tract "On the Tribes and Territories of Ancient Ossory," published in the "Transactions of the Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archæological Society."

¹⁴⁹ See Rev. Michael J. O'Farrell's "Popular Life of St. Patrick, Apostle and Patron of Ireland," chap. xiv., p. 200, note.

¹⁵⁰ At the year 870, the lords of the foreigners are stated to have plundered the men of the Three Plains, and of the Comauns, as far as Sliabh Bladhma, during the snow of Bridgetmas. This happened about the 1st of February, St. Bridget's Day. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 516, 517. Now, Dr. O'Donovan states, that these Three Plains of Magh Airbh, of Magh-Sedna, and of Magh-Tuathat, were situated in the baronies of Cranagh and Galmoy, in the county of Kilkenny, as also in the barony of Upper Ossory, in the Queen's County. Magh Tuathat, he says, is

at the foot of Sliabh Bladhma, or Slieve Bloom. He also states, that the Three Comauns were three septs seated in the north of the present county of Kilkenny. See *ibid.*, nn. (k, l). To the writer it would seem the Three Plains are distinguished from the Comauns in the annalistic passage referred to, while other evidences appear to establish the conclusion, that the Comauns had not been within any considerable portion of Kilkenny County, but rather that they must be sought for mostly—if not altogether—within the southern limits of the present Queen's County.

¹⁵¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 558, 559. This entry is preceded in Dr. O'Connor's edition by two quotations, referring to a chief of Laeighis; but, Dr. O'Donovan has omitted them, as being irrelevant to the connection in which they have been placed.

¹⁵² At the year 931, the death of Cosgrach, son of Maelchoirghi, Bishop of Teach-Mochua (Timahoe), and of the Comauns, is recorded. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 626, 627. The name of such a bishop does not appear among the bishops of Scir-kieran, of Aghavoe, or of Kilkenny; and, consequently, it does not seem that the Comauns should be placed within the ancient diocese of Ossory, in the tenth century.

within the present barony of Cullinagh, possibly separating Leix proper of the tenth century from the territory of Ui Bairche, along the borders of which they lay. Besides, the Commons of Fossey was a term applied very generally in the late century to a large tract of freehold land formerly held there in commonage, and lying among the mountains.

CHAPTER V.—PAGAN INCIDENTS OF QUEEN'S COUNTY HISTORY.

IN Pagan times, among the several allusions to individuals and to old places, few notices of the territories comprised within the present Queen's County are to be found in our Irish Annals. Nor can the following, in reference to particular persons or localities at such remote dates, be regarded as sufficiently authenticated. According to the Chronology of the Four Masters,¹ in the Age of the World 3520, the plain of Magh-Reicheat² is stated to have been cleared, during the reign of Irial Faidh over Ireland.³ By this, we are to understand, that it must have been prepared for purposes of cultivation.⁴ During the reign of Eithrial,⁵ who succeeded him, among the plains cleared for cultivation in Ireland is mentioned Magh-Geisille, in Hy-Failge, said to be represented at present by Geashill, in the King's County.⁶ In the pre-historic period, also, A.M. 3549, it is related, that a battle was fought at Raire,⁷ thought to have been the present Rearymore,⁸ where fell Eithrial, son of Irial and monarch of Ireland, in the twentieth year of his reign. The victor was Conmael, son of Emer, who succeeded him, A.M. 3550. Among the plains cleared by Eochaidh Faebhar-glas,⁹ or Achaius Foebarglas, son of Conmael, is mentioned Magh-Smeathrach,¹⁰ or Moy Smethrech,¹¹

¹ Their computation is formed from the Septuagint, as given by St. Jerome in his edition of *Eusebius' Chronicon*, which places the Deluge at the Age of the World 2242. However, the computation of the Hebrews had from the Creation to the Flood 1656 years, and this has been followed by the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," and by various Irish historical tracts. See Dr. Charles O'Donovan's *Prolegomena ad Annales, in "Reverend. Hiberniarum Scriptores,"* I. 165, p. 16, and pp. cxxvii. to cxxxv.

² By Dr. Geortrey Keating the date A.M. 2770 is given, in his "History of Ireland," and regarding Magh-Reicheat, it is placed in Loughglis or Leix, and was known as Lex Mach Neilm in Feinster, in his time. By Dr. O'Donovan, it has been identified with Morett, a manor in the barony of Portnabanch, adjoining the Great Heath of Maryborough. See "Annals of the Four Masters," Vol. I., pp. 34, 35, and n. (1).

³ He is called the son of Eremon, the son of Miledh or Milisius. Irial is said to have been King over Ireland for ten years.

⁴ According to the Chronology of Archbishop Ussher, about 3000 years intervened between the Creation of the World and the Birth of Christ. This he

has followed in "Annales Veteris et Novi Testamenti." This calculation has been adopted very closely by Rev. Dr. Geortrey Keating, Roderick O'Flaherty and other modern Irish writers. On the general subject of Chronology the reader is referred to that most learned work of Petavius or Petau, "Opus de Doctrina Temporum;" 3 Tomi folio, Antwerp, 1703, Editio nova. Also, "L'Art de Veneir des Dates."

⁵ He is said to have ruled twenty years over Ireland, from A.M. 3530 to 3549.

⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 30 to 39, and n. (b).

⁷ Roderick O'Flaherty places his reign at A.M. 2961 to 2981, and states, that Rair was the name of a hill in Hyfdgia. See "Ogygia," pars. ii., p. 86.

⁸ By Dr. O'Donovan. See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 36 to 39, and n. (r).

⁹ He is said to have ruled over Ireland for twenty years.

¹⁰ This place has not been clearly identified, nor is it known to have been within the Queen's County portion of Ui-Failge.

¹¹ See "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. xxiv., p. 205.

in Ui-Failghe, A.M. 3727.¹² Roderick O'Flaherty has his reign at A.M. 3085. A battle is said to have been gained over the Martini and Ernai at Moin-Foichnigh,¹³ in Ui-Failge, A.M. 4169, by Sirna Saeghlach,¹⁴ son of Dian, and monarch of Ireland.¹⁵ Sedna Siothbac,¹⁶ the forty-fourth King of Ireland in descent from Miledh, is said to have built Dunn Aillinn. He had thirteen sons,¹⁷ and one among them named Masg is said to have built, in Ua Crimthannan, Dunmaisg¹⁸—called after him, and now known as Dunamase. Again, Setnu Sithbacc is called the father of Ugen Urgnaid.¹⁹ He had six sons, according to one account; viz., Ladru, Noe,²⁰ Finteng,²¹ Luad, Cuar,²² and Alb.

The chronology of Irish history becomes less confused when we arrive at the opening of the Christian era. The celebrated Borumha or Tribute imposed on the Leinster province by Tuathal Techtmar, King of Ireland,²³ led to various wars in aftertime; and, as the people of Leix owed allegiance to the Kings of Leinster, they were no doubt involved in those contests, although their race was of Ultonian origin. However, among the battles²⁴ fought by the race of Neill against the Leinstermen, who opposed payment of the Borumean tribute, from the period of Oilioll Molt's death²⁵ to the reign of Muirheartach, son of Muireadhach,²⁶ is mentioned the battle of Dun-Masc, now Dunamase. There exists a tract, known as "Duan Eireannach," which was an ancient legendary poem on the early colonization of Ireland. It was composed, as would seem, in the ninth century.²⁷ From this we learn, that "The seven Laigse of Leinster the wealthy" were originally Picts. The bard declares, that Eri²⁸ "is full of the race of Ir." He then proceeds to enumerate

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 44 to 46, and n. (l).

¹³ No such bog is now known bearing this name in the territory of Offaly.

¹⁴ By Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Keating he is said to have reigned from A.M. 3212 to 3233. See "General History of Ireland," book i., pp. 171, 172. Duffy's edition.

¹⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 58, 59, and n. (g).

¹⁶ This must have been intended for Seadhna Innarraigh, said to have been in the sovereignty of Ireland from A.M. 4271 to A.M. 4290. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 62, 63 and n. (a). The chronology of Roderick O'Flaherty is from A.M. 3453 to 3467. See "Ogygia," pars. iii., pp. 447, 448.

¹⁷ Others of them are thus named in McFiris's Pedigrees, at p. 186: Lagra of Ard Lagrain, now said to be Ard Latran, or Ardcamhan, at Wexford Harbour, Nui of Rathnew, in Hy-Garrchon, Nar of Dunnair, Ucha, the father of Gabhran, *a quo* Beallach Gabhrain, and Roigen Ruadh *a quo* Magh Roigne in Ossory. See Rev. John Francis Shearman's "Loca Patriciana," No. ii., with the Genealogical Table, No. i., of the Dal Messingcor Tribe,

and some of the older Leinster Pedigrees.

¹⁸ According to MacFiris's Pedigrees, p. 346. Manuscript in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

¹⁹ See the version of the Dindsenchas, in the "Book of Leinster," edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., fol. 162 b.

²⁰ He is said to have given name to Ráth Núi.

²¹ He is said to have given name to Dun Finteign.

²² He is said to have given name to Dun Chuair.

²³ He reigned thirty years from A.D. 76 to A.D. 106. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 98 to 101.

²⁴ These are noticed in the ancient historical tale called the Borumha Laighean.

²⁵ He was killed in the battle of Ocha, fought A.D. 482 or 483, according to the Annals of Ulster.

²⁶ He began to reign A.D. 504, and his term lasted twenty-four years, until A.D. 527; he was burned in his house at Cleiteach. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 164 to 177.

²⁷ See the "Irish Version of Nennius," edited by Dr. Todd and the Hon. Algernon Herbert, p. 265, n. 9.

²⁸ The name of Ireland.

those clans, whose descent is traced from that patriarch. Regarding the name "Ir," it is supposed by some to have been purely mythical, and to have been invented as the name of a pseudo-patriarch of the Irish, just as "Brito" was said to have been progenitor of the Britons. Other similarly supposititious appellatives have been assigned to the presumed originators of various nations. There is a poem²⁹ on the Kings and Families of Leinster descended from Cathair Mor, and his thirty sons, in the Book of Leinster.³⁰ By Edward O'Reilly this has been ascribed to the famous antiquary John O'Dugan, who died in 1372;³¹ but it is evidently older in date, by at least two centuries. The Irish historians state, that Conall Cearnach³² of the Ultonian Clan Rury family was chief of the Craebh Ruadh or Red Branch warriors, in Ulster, during the first century of the Christian era.³³ This prince, distinguished for his valour in several battles, then bore sway in that provincial realm.

At this time, however, the men of Munster resolved on the invasion of Leinster, over which province Cucorb³⁴ then ruled. The monarch Feidlimidh³⁵ Reachtmarh or Felim the Law-giver was then Ard-Righ. Then also lived a warrior named Eochaidh Fionn Fuathairt,³⁶ brother to Conn of the Hundred Battles,³⁷ and to him Cucorb appealed in his distress for assistance against the invaders.³⁸ Complying with his entreaties, Cucorb also promised a grant of lands in return for such service.³⁹ Eochaidh Fionn summoned his friends and allies to muster a large number of troops to engage with him in this expedition.⁴⁰ Now Conall Cearnach had two renowned sons, Irial Glunmhar and Laoiseach Caenmor,⁴¹ sometimes written Lammor. The latter had received his education with Eochaidh Fionn,⁴² and had been invited as a volunteer to join his forces. Cucorb also rallied to his standard the men of Leinster, and when all were united, such reliance was placed on the military

²⁹ It begins with the words

Rogpar, laigén clann Cecaomp

³⁰ Edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., H.D., fol. 174.

³¹ See Edward O'Reilly's "Chronological Account of nearly Four Hundred Irish Writers," p. c.

³² His descent has been drawn in the sixth century, from Ir, the son of M. n. or Midheras.

³³ He is said to have had four different wives, viz. 1. Linncaia; 2. Landabaria; 3. Marna; and 4. Eithlen.

³⁴ Son of M. Bhachair.

³⁵ According to Dr. O'Donovan's edition of the "Annals of the Four Masters" this monarch began to reign A.D. 111, and he died A.D. 119. See vol. 1, pp. 102, 103. However, in O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," it is stated, that he did not commence his reign until A.D. 104, and it is there said his rule continued to the tenth year, viz., to A.D. 174. See pars. iii., cap. lvi., pp. 306 to 308.

³⁶ He had been banished from Midhe or Meath by Art, monarch of Ireland, who reigned from A.D. 166 to A.D. 195. See Dr. O'Donovan's work, vol. i, pp. 106 of 111.

³⁷ Monarch of Ireland from A.D. 123 to A.D. 157. See Dr. O'Donovan's

"Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 102 to 105.

³⁸ See *Leabhar na g-Ceap* the Book of, Rights, edited by John O'Donovan, Esq., M.R.I.A., Barrister-at-Law, pp. 214 215, n. (p.)

³⁹ These lands, afterwards known as the Fotharta, seem to have been distributed in localities apart from each other.

⁴⁰ Eochaid Finn Fuathairt took refuge in Leinster, where himself and his descendants called Fotharta, acquired considerable territories. The barony of Forth, in the County of Carlow, still retains its name in the present modified form, and it was formerly called Fotharta Osnadhaigh, from its chief church, Cill Osnadhia, now Kellistown, but more frequently Fotharta Fea, from the plain of Magh Fea, in which that church was situated. See "The Book of Ballymote," fol. 77 b. In like manner, the barony of Forth, in the County of Wexford, was one of their possessions.

⁴¹ His mother was Lonncaia, and he is sometimes called Lagisius—Anglicized Lewis—Lannmore. See O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. xlvi., p. 278.

⁴² See Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Keating's "General History of Ireland," book i., p. 271. Duffy's edition, 1854, 8vo.

qualifications of Laoiseach Lannmor, that he was appointed Commander-in-chief of the whole army. Other accounts have it, that Lughaidh Laoighis or Laeiseach,⁴³ the great grandson to the celebrated hero Conall Cearneach, was the chief leader,⁴⁴ who procured Leix by his valour; yet, his father Lioseach Lannmore—otherwise Laoighise Cean Mor—was recognised as head of the famous Leinster tribe, the Ui Mordha or O'Mores of Leix.⁴⁵ Meantime, the men of Munster had advanced so far as Athtruistean,⁴⁶ said to have been a ford near Mullaghmast.⁴⁷

As the Leinster forces marched to meet them, the Munstermen took up a position on that hill. Both armies soon engaged, and a bloody battle was fought with great bravery and determination on both sides, so that it was difficult to decide for some time who had the advantage. At length victory inclined to the confederate army, when the ranks of their enemies were broken, and they were pursued with terrible slaughter from the top of Maistean to the River Bearbha.⁴⁸ This place is said to have derived its name from the circumstance of Oi or Eo, the son of Dergabal, a Leinster hero, having been there slain. The memory of this event caused it to be perpetuated in the etymon Ath-Oi-Berbha. "Oi's ford on the Barrow." Animated by that success, the Lagenians continued the pursuit. A strong body of the enemy having rallied, drew up in order at Cainthine on Magh Kiada; but the victors fell upon them with fury and again put them to flight. Afterwards, they were pursued to Slighe Dala, or Ballaghmore in Ossory, where the forces of Leinster made such a dreadful slaughter of the Momonians, that few escaped destruction. This series of victories settled the state of Leinster, and so discouraged the men of Munster, that they never attempted subsequently to enlarge their boundaries, but were glad to confine themselves within their own territories. Being thus restored to his dominions through the assistance obtained from Eochaidh Fionn, Cucorb out of gratitude bestowed on him the seven Fothortuaths, and confirmed this donation in perpetuity to his posterity.⁴⁹ According to an ancient Tract,⁵⁰ it was Cucorb's queen, Meadhbh, that divided the Loigsi and the Fotharta into seven divisions respectively, as she did not desire those tribes to be united, so that their power against the King of Leinster might be weaker. Her strength and influence over the men of Erin were very great;⁵¹ and we are informed that she would not

⁴³ Among the Genealogies of the Leinstermen or people of Laigin, the genealogies of the tribes of Leix may be found, in "The Book of Leinster," sometime called the Book of Glendalough, edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., &c., fol. 318. This most interesting of Irish Codices has been published in elephant folio, Dublin, 1880.

⁴⁴ See Lady Ferguson's "Story of Ireland before the Conquest," chap. iii., p. 111. Dublin, 1800; second edition, 8vo.

⁴⁵ See John Hogan's "St. Giaran, Patron of Ossory; a Memoir of his Life and Times," part ii., chap. iv., pp. 57, 58.

⁴⁶ On the River Griese, now written Greece.

⁴⁷ See O'Donovan's "Leabhar na h-Éireann, or Book of Rights," p. 215, and "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 103, 106, n. (f). The reader is also

referred to the translation by Mac Geoghegan of the Annals of Clonmac noise, at the reign of Felym Rightwar, and to Keating's "General History of Ireland," at the reign of Cormac Mac Art, or the bardic account of this acquisition of the territory.

⁴⁸ According to Keating, this battle was fought at Athrodain, which he identifies as the present Athy on the River Barrow.

⁴⁹ See Lady Ferguson's "Story of Ireland before the Conquest," chap. iii., p. 111.

⁵⁰ Beginning *macc moza-corb ceap clú* in "The Book of Leinster," at fol. 44.

⁵¹ See Professor Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," appendix ii. p. 480.

permit any king in Teamair or Tara without his having herself for wife.⁵² Still, as it was acknowledged, that the success of the expedition was chiefly owing to the valour and skill of the general whose military experience gave him such advantages over the enemy, an extensive territory was bestowed on him as a reward for that assistance he afforded in expelling the men of Munster, who had invaded and seized on Leinster. From him it derived the subsequent denomination of Laoighis, usually Anglicized Leix and pronounced Lease. Whatever may have been its original extent, this territory, in its later independent existence, comprised the eastern and southern baronies of the present Queen's County, while it excluded those of Upperwoods, Clarmallagh, Claudonagh, Portnahinch, and Tinnahinch.⁵³ At the earliest period of its organisation, its boundaries were more enlarged in a direction extending westwards, while they changed at different times. Moreover, this concession was to be enjoyed for ever by Laoiseach Lannmor and his heirs, with the title of Kings of Leise or Leix, and certain other privileges and dignities,⁵⁴ which were to receive a return in fealty and service to the Kings of Leinster.⁵⁵

We have no means for ascertaining the original boundaries of Leix as these had been fixed in the time of Lughaidh Laoghseach, and conjecture has been employed in vain to define its exact extent and area. Perhaps

⁵² She is said to have erected the Royal Rath by the side of Teamair, known as Ráith Méidhbhe or Maeve's Ráith. Within that rath she built a house, in which kings and the chief masters of every art used to assemble.

⁵³ According to Sir Charles Coote, the whole of the present Queen's County was originally called Leix territory. No doubt, however, nearly all, or the vastly greater part, of that shire, at one period or other, was included within the dominions of Leix. The same authority most correctly states, that about the close of the sixth century Leix had its name—certainly not for the first time—and that it was then all church lands. See his "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," Chap. VI., sec. 4., p. 62. He is the classical schoolmaster, who by Tim Arty and General Vallancey, are supposed to have led Sir Charles Coote astray when defining the boundaries of ancient Leix.

⁵⁴ It was established by decree, that the Kings of Leix, in memory of the services received from Laoiseach Lannmor, should have a just claim for ever to a sirlon of every Leive that was killed in the royal slaughter-house for the use of the Leinster Kings; that one of the galleglachs or receivers of the Leinster King should attend in his court with a salary allowed to supervise and collect such tribute for the King of Leix. Moreover, it was ordained, that the King of Leix for the time being should be allowed a place at the council-board of the Leinster King, and should take

his place at all public assemblies and entertainments in the fourth degree, only three being admitted to sit above him nearer the King. He was to enjoy the chief office in the treasury, and to distribute the King's bounty to the chiefs, the antiquaries, the poets, the musicians, and to those learned in the arts and professions, whose abilities entitled them to a reward. It was regulated, that whatever presents or acknowledgments were sent to the King should pass through his hands. It was further decreed, that seven of the Leix royal family should constantly attend on the Leinster King's person as a fixed body-guard, for which service they were to be honourably maintained at the charge of the Leinster Crown. See the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Keating's "General History of Ireland," Reign of Cormac Ulfada, A.D. 213, pp. 270 to 272. Duty's edition.

⁵⁵ The King of Leix was bound to maintain at his own expense one hundred and fifty stout soldiers, to serve in the King of Leinster's army. Those were bound to execute the most difficult and dangerous commands; to force the enemy's lines though with the utmost hazard; to beat them out of their quarters, and to distinguish themselves in the hottest part of the battle. He had the privilege to lead the van in the army of Leinster, when entering an enemy's country, and to hold in battle the *bearna baeghail* or "gap of danger." See Lady Ferguson's "Story of Ireland before the Conquest," Chap. III., p. 112.

the nearest approach to that problem might be a supposition, that the River Barrow from near its source among the Slieve Bloom Mountains formed the northern boundary and thence drew its increasing course on the eastern side towards the south, until it received the River Douglas, or perchance the Fishoge River, a little below the present site of Carlow. Thence, an irregular line, over the summits of the Slievemargue range of mountains towards the River Nore, and along the upper waters of its course to the Slieve Bloom Mountains, formed the southern and south-western boundary of Leix,⁵⁶ in all probability; while the highest crests of the Slieve Bloom Mountains were undoubtedly the separating features of its division from the territory of Ely O'Carroll. By some the old barony of Upper Ossory bounds have been excluded altogether from Leix;⁵⁷ but, sufficient historic evidence remains to prove, that the Ossorians made inroads on the Leixians' ancient possessions, centuries after their earliest formation, and thus contracted the territory, at least towards the north and west, in subsequent ages. It is related, that the first division of Leix was four-partite; and that Lug Laisach had it divided into Dubh-Laighis, Tulach Breogain, Laighis-Lethnada and Fuinnle-Laighis.⁵⁸ Were this even so, at the present time, it is impossible to define their respective limits. It is related also, that Cucorb was killed in a battle fought in the second century, somewhere in Leinster,⁵⁹ but probably at the mountain called Sliabh Suidhe Chonchorb⁶⁰—otherwise Sliabh Uighé Chonchorb⁶¹—where he was buried. Feidhlimidh Reachtmar is said to have been his slayer; but of the battle itself our Annals preserve no account.⁶² His wife Meave bears a very bad character. She is said to have given poison-drink to Lugaid Laigse, son of Laigseach Cendmore, and to have eloped from her husband, Cucorb, with the man who afterwards slew him.⁶³

Thus, according to the bardic accounts, the Ua-Laeighis formed a tribe, which gave denomination to the country of Laeighis, Laeis, or Leix. These people are said to have descended from Laeighseach, or Lewis Ceannmhor, who was the son of Conall Cearnach.⁶⁴ As in most of the

⁵⁶ Thus, in the sixth century, the Dynast of Leix bestowed the site of Cloufert Molua, a little north of the Nore, on St. Molua, in the sixth century; while Mena Drochit, on the River Men, is placed within Leix, by the commentator on the Calendar of St. Ángus, as found in the Book of Lecain. See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i., part i., on the Calendar of Oengus, by Whitley Stokes, LL.D., p. cxlvi.

⁵⁷ See John's Hogan's "St. Ciaran, Patron of Ossory: a Memoir of his Life and Times," part ii., chap. iv., p. 58.

⁵⁸ Three other divisions are also named, according to the Rev. Patrick M'Loughlin's "Épitome of the Leabhar Lecain," p. 156.

⁵⁹ According to the Rev. John Francis Shearman, Cucorb was slain at Cliu, at the base of Mount Leinster, which is crowned with a sepulchral chair, that probably marks the grave of the Toparch. See "Loca Patriciana," No. viii., p. 143, n. 2.

⁶⁰ The former name of Mount Leinster, between the counties of Carlow and Wexford, and also called Suidhe Laighen, interpreted "the seat of the Leinster people." Professor O'Curry thinks it may be identical with Sliabh Suidhe Chonchorb.

⁶¹ Interpreted "the Mountain of Conchorb's Fate" or "Death."

⁶² See Professor Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," appendix ii., p. 480.

⁶³ She is said, however, to have composed some elegiac and eulogistic stanzas in Irish on the death of her husband, Cucorb, at Raith Maidhbhe, and which are to be found in "The Book of Leinster," fol. 44. That poem was composed at the setting up of the stone which was over the grave of Cuchorb at Sliabh Uidhe Chonchorb.

⁶⁴ This ascribed descent from a hero who flourished in the first century, was always a matter of family belief among the O'Moores.

tribal traditions of Ireland, their origin and authenticity are uncertain; and as the family pedigrees—especially in the more remote times—are confused, unchronological, and sometimes apparently irreconcilable; so must we premise, that the following attempt in reference to our particular branch of enquiry should be received with some distrust, as many of the names given do not appear in our Annals that are accessible. Yet, proceeding according to the order of pedigree in the kings of Leix, we are informed, that Lug or Lugh-Laoghseach or Lugaid Laighse, already mentioned, had a son named Lug or Lugh-Longach. He flourished towards the close of the first or beginning of the second century of the Christian era. He, too, was regarded as a common ancestor of the seven tribes that branched from him and from the Archon who in course of ages was named More or O'Moore. The genealogy of Laigis Laigean, from Lugaid Laighseach, son of Conal Cearnach, of Ultonian origin, is given in the Book of Lecain, a manuscript belonging to the Royal Irish Academy.⁶⁵ There seems to be a gap in the line of Leixian succession as preserved for us by the genealogists; for we cannot accept the statement, that Lugh-Longach was the immediate progenitor of a son, who, by some it is said, flourished in the fifth century. However, we are told, that the foregoing Lugh-Longach had a son named Baccan, who was renowned in his day. But it is likely, the acts of a later Baccan in succession have been attributed to him. A Baccan seems to have flourished in the time of St. Patrick; for when the Irish Apostle passed through this part of Leix on his way to Ossory, a work was in course of erection, near which the Church of Donnachmore afterwards stood. This Baccan, it is said, built the Fort of Rath-Bacain,⁶⁶ in Magh-Reda, and its foundations were being laid at that period. St. Patrick endeavoured to dissuade the king and people from erecting that structure as intended for the royal residence. The legend relates, that in the spirit of prophecy the Irish Apostle declared an evil spirit should haunt it.⁶⁷ It appears probable, that Baccan lived and died a pagan.

The earlier Baccan had a son, who is called Eare or Eric, and he had a son named Guaire. The son of Guaire is called Eoghan or Owen. Eoghan

⁶⁵ Father O'Kelly, chief of the College of Lecturers in Paris, procured the *Leabhar Lecain* for use of the Rev. Patrick M'Loughlin, of Inshowen, who was patronised by several distinguished officers of the Irish Brigade. Of this he made a digest, rather than a translation, and this manuscript is now preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, classed 24 C. 13-34, cat. p. 18. We have no date left us to ascertain when this manuscript had been compiled, but it was some time in the eighteenth century. After this work had been completed, Father M'Loughlin returned to Ireland, and he was Parish Priest in Inshowen. He was offered the Irish Professorship in the College of Maynooth, but he would not accept of it. Note by John O'Donovan, dated January 27, 1835, and prefixed to this manuscript.

⁶⁶ At present, there is no place bearing this name about Morett in the

Queen's County; but, there are several large Rath's to be found in the lands adjoining. Magh-Rechet or Magh-Riada was in Oitaly, according to the Preface of the *Féilire-Aengus*; yet, in the earlier centuries, it seems to have been in the principality of Leix. However, both statements are perfectly reconcilable; since the plain of Morett took in the boundary line between ancient Oitaly and Leix, while it formed a part of both territories.

⁶⁷ The account as given in Colgan's "*Trias Thaumaturga*," adds: "*nisi singulis diebus Missæ in ea celebretur officium nec ab ullo inhabitabitur donec ventus ab inferno exortus adveniet.*" He alluded to Goithan the son of Kinaid, who, while Fedhlimid and Conchobar ruled at Tara restored that fortress. For, according to the Irish word, Goithin means "windy" or "stormy." See "*Septima Vita, S. Patricii*," lib. iii., cap. xxvi., p. 155.

had a son named Lugna. Lugna's son is called Cuire. It is also stated, that Lugna, son of Eogan, and the sixth descendant from Laigsech, had seven sons, to whom he distributed his *fearan*, or land. To the three eldest—Ruadan, Garban and Colum—he gave Rath Ruadan, Rath Coluim, Ceall Methne, and Ard mbruchais.⁶⁸ The fourth, Nise, had Bile methis and Cluain mac Nis. The fifth, Laignech, from whom O'Baith and O'Brocain, had Loch Lainig and Cluain Conaid. Ere, the sixth, from whom O'Diamrain, O'Forandla and O'Cormac, had as a fearan Teach Declain, Donnach finchon and Cealbothar, and Cluain da fiach, and Cluain Dartada, and the estates of O'Foranla.⁶⁹ Cuire, the son of Lugna, we are told, had a son named Cormac. Cormac had a son called Carthann. The son of Carthann is named Seirbealagh. Seirbealagh was father of Bearrach. He is also called Barr, and he is said to have been the first Christian King of Leix. From this latter ancestor, the O'Moores were denominated the Sil-Bearaigh, or the people of Bearrach.

The author of the "Duan Eireannach" mentions, among other descendants of "Ir," those seven septs who inhabited Leix, or "Laigne of Leinster." According to a note, by the editor of the poem, this tribe comprised the seven septs, bearing this name, which agreeably to tradition, alter the establishment of surnames, were denominated the O'Mores or O'Moores,⁷⁰ O'Kellys, O'Lalors, O'Devoy's, or O'Deevys, MacEvoy's, O'Dorans, and O'Dowlings.⁷¹ Their descendants are still very numerous in and adjoining the Queen's County. Their heptipartite condition is thought to form a strong proof, establishing their Pictish origin. This is likewise affirmed, by a paragraph in the Book of Lecan.⁷² This account enumerates "the seven Laighsi" among "the Cruithnians of Eri," who are synonymous with the Picts. Some writers believe, that these people retained their appellation of Picts, because they continued a practice which had originally caused their race to be known by such name. A continuance of painting their bodies probably distinguished them from other tribes of Celtic race. Besides the Leix heptarchy, among the Cruithnian caste, "The seven Soghans," are enumerated.⁷³ A tribe, inhabiting part of Meath and Connaught, the Dalaraid, or aborigines of Ulster, the Conailli, and numerous other clans in the five provinces, are mentioned. Like this under view, the last named tribe sprung from that hero of romance, Conall Cearnach. In order to conceal the Pictish extraction of those clans, it is thought an unworthy device was resorted to by Gaelic genealogists. They appear to have been unaware, that the words Pictish and British are synonymous, while they fancied, that some disgrace attached to the British origin of Irish families.

⁶⁸ At present, it seems impossible to identify those places.

⁶⁹ According to the Rev. Patrick McLoughlin's "Summary of the Leabhar Lecain," p. 150.

⁷⁰ This chief family of Leix is said to have taken its surname from *Mordh*, i.e., "the great" or "big." A pedigree of the O'Moores is to be found among the MSS. belonging to the Royal Irish Academy. See Eugene O'Curry's Catalogue, Vol. i., p. 203.

⁷¹ In Eugene O'Curry's "Catalogue, Descriptive of Irish MSS. belonging to the Royal Irish Academy," Vol. iii.,

is to be found, An Account of the Settlement of Leix, at p. 933; the Genealogies and Pedigrees of Leix, at p. 947; the History of Magh Leige, or Plain of Leix, Queen's County, at p. 1019; and the History and Genealogies of Families of Leix, at p. 1075. These refer to the original documents on the subject matter in the "Book of Lecain."

⁷² See the "Irish Version of Nennius." Additional notes p. lxxiii.

⁷³ Of these, the Magenis clan was most renowned in later times.

⁷⁴ See an admirable paper writer

Therefore, they particularize a certain woman named "Loinceadha." Her they feigned to have been daughter to a Caledonian Pict, and to have been espoused by several patriarchs. From such a circumstance, those perverters of history stated, that their offspring were called Cruithnians.⁷¹

by Herber F. Hore, Esq. "Notes on a Facsimile of an Ancient Map of Leix, Oualy, Irry, Clanmalier, Iregan, and Slievemaigy, preserved in the British Museum." It was published in "The Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society," Vol. iv., new series, pp. 349, 350.

BOOK III.—ECCLESIASTICAL, DIOCESAN AND PAROCHIAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.—EARLY BISHOPS AND SEES WITHIN THE QUEEN'S COUNTY, AND SUBSEQUENT ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRIBUTIONS.

AT an early period after the introduction of Christianity, St. Patrick is related to have sought the territory of Leix for the conversion of its pagan inhabitants. In the Latin Lives of that saint,¹ there is a confused narrative of his journey thither, after he had engaged on his Leinster Mission and visited Naas,² about the middle of the fifth century.³ The people, however, were addicted to their Gentile superstitions, and are related to have at first resisted his entrance there, and to have even formed a plot against the saint and his disciples destined for their destruction.⁴ This account, however, is largely blended with fable. Nor would it seem very certain that the Irish Apostle, although it might have been his original purpose to visit Leix, ever set foot upon its ancient territory. It seems to be more credible, that immediately after leaving Naas, St. Patrick went to visit his former friend, Dubhtach Mac Ui-Lugair, the arch-poet of King Laeghure, who had been present when he preached at Tara, and who had been already baptised. Dubhtach then resided at Domhnach Mor,⁵ of Magh-Criathar, in Ui-Cinnsealaigh. The King of this district at the time was Crimthann, who received the saint and his disciples most willingly, and he became a zealous convert to Christianity. Under the patronage of Crimthann which extended to Slieve Mairge, St. Patrick was enabled to establish a church and congregation at Sletty,⁶ over which he placed St. Fiach.⁷ We are told, that seven of St. Patrick's disciples were left with Fiach.⁸ These were all men of distinction in the Calendars of the early Irish Church—viz.,

¹ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga." Septima Vita S. Patricii, Pars. iii., cap. xix., xx., p. 152.

² Then said to have been the seat of Leinster's King.

³ See this subject more fully treated in "Lives of the Irish Saints," by the author. Vol. iii. March. xvii. Life of St. Patrick, Apostle and chief Patron of Ireland, chap. xviii., pp. 689 to 697.

⁴ The story runs, that water-pits had been prepared by the sons of Laighis on the road leading to their territory. It is stated, that Brig, the daughter of Fergnad, son of Cobtach, had reported to the saint the malevolence of those youths. She belonged to the Ui-Ercain tribe, which seems to have been seated in the south of the present County of Kildare. Patrick,

not only blessed herself, her father, and her brothers, but likewise all the tribe of Ui-Ercain, and he said they should never be without distinguished laics and clerics.

⁵ In the "Leabhar na g-Ceart," or "Book of Rights," Dr. O'Donovan places Domhnach Mor near Sletty, in Ui-Cinnsealaigh, p. 208.

⁶ About two miles north of Carlow, and on the western bank of the River Barrow.

⁷ His feast is kept on the 12th of October. See his acts in the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," Vol. x., October xii. Life of St. Fiach.

⁸ See more on this subject, in Rev. John Francis Shearman's "Loca Patriciana," No. V., Dubhtach Mac Ui Lugair, and his Sons, p. 76 to p. 90.

St. Mochatoc, of Inisfail,—thought to be not different from Cadoc, who is honoured as an Apostle in Wales and Brittany; St. Augustin of Inis-Bec, who was one of Palladius' companions; St. Tecan who is venerated on the 9th of September; St. Diarmait, on the 10th of January; St. Nainnid or Nemidh, who was surnamed the pure-handed, and who administered the Holy Viaticum to St. Brigid; Paul, who is said to have retired to a desert island, where St. Brendan afterwards visited him; while Feidilmidh was venerated as the patron of Kilmore, where his feast is kept on the 9th of August.⁹ Again, we find an account of St. Patrick having visited Magh-Reta¹⁰ or Magh-Reicheat—supposed to have been identical with Morett, near the Great Heath of Maryborough—and where the people of that district had laid the foundations of a royal fort called Rath-Bacain, but of which no traces have been found. In after time, it is stated, that the church of Donnachmore or the great church had been there erected. On leaving Laoighis and on his way to Munster, St. Patrick is said to have passed through the territory of Uí-Duach. In his acts, there is but a scanty account of the success that attended his preaching and labours within the Queen's County. Nevertheless, the Christian religion was early established there, by other missionaries; but to enter upon details of its rise and progress must be referred to the accounts given of its various localities.

Within the limits of the present Queen's County in the early Christian ages, there seem to have been several sees or places where bishops,¹¹—whom we may chiefly regard as Chore-episcopi¹²—had been stationed, and who have been mentioned as bishops in the Irish annals.¹³ Among those places may be enumerated Sleibte or Sletty, Teach Mochua or Timahoe, Achadh-boe or Aghaboe, Coolbanagher, and Rath na n-Epscop or Rathaspick. Their bounds and the nature of the jurisdiction exercised are left in obscurity, but where and when our records refer to them, they shall be treated under the several parochial divisions that were subsequently formed. In the year A.D. 1111, when the Synod of Fidh mic Aenghusa¹⁴ had been convened during the reign of Muirchertach Mor O'Brian¹⁵ over Ireland, and afterwards when a general Synod of the Irish prelates and clergy had been assembled, A.D. 1118, at Rath Bresail,¹⁶ the bishops and sees in Leix acknowledged the Archbishop of Cashel for Metropolitan. Then the numerous small

⁹ See Miss M. F. Cusack's "Life of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland," Chap. iii. pp. 46, 47, and pp. 462, 463.

¹⁰ From this denomination has been derived the division of Laoighis-Reta, extending around the Rock of Dunamase.

¹¹ Their number and the episcopal sees established in Ireland during the life-time of St. Patrick cannot now be satisfactorily determined. After his death, the episcopal sees were at different periods augmented in number. See Rev. P. J. Carew's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," chap. iv., p. 129.

¹² This title was formerly conferred on priests, who exercised some episcopal functions in districts and villages, and who were regarded as vicars of the bishop. Some of them could ordain clergy in the minor orders and as

subdeacons, and conjointly with the diocesan bishop confer deaconship and the priesthood. All of those chore-episcopi, however, had not received episcopal consecration, but they had only some degree of jurisdiction over other priests. See L'Abbé Bergier's "Dictionnaire de Théologie," Tome i., *Choreveque*, pp. 412, 413, Lille, 1844, 8vo.

¹³ According to Dr. Lanigan the Irish had only this name for Bishops and Choreepiscopi. See "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," Vol. ii., chap. xi., sect. ix., n. 104, p. 129.

¹⁴ This is said to have been a place near the Hill of Uisneach, County of Westmeath.

¹⁵ Great grandson to the celebrated Monarch Brian Boromhe.

¹⁶ The site of this place has not been identified.

sees,¹⁷ which had previously existed in Ireland, were reduced in number to twenty-six, rearranged and consolidated.¹⁸ We learn in a general way, that a diocese of which Kilkenny became the head, reached from Sliabh Bladma or Slieve Bloom to Miledach or Waterford Harbour, and from Grian Arib or Greane in Crannagh barony, County Kilkenny, to Sliabh Margi or Slieve Marge in the southern part of the Queen's County; another diocese of which Leighlin was the head reached from Sliabh Bladma to Sliabh Uighe of Leinster, from Sliabh Margi to Belach Carerach, and from Belach Mughna or Ballaghmoon to Tigh Moling or St. Mullin's, in the County of Carlow and its Termions; another diocese of which Kildare was the head extended from Ros Finn-glasi or Rose-nallis to Nas or Naas of Leinster, and from Naas to the Cumer of Clonard on the southern borders of ancient Meath. But when a Synod under the Papal Legate Cardinal Paparo had been held at Kells in 1152, a new arrangement of the Irish dioceses took place, and it was decreed, that the number of sees should be properly designated and fixed at thirty-eight. At present, within the Queen's County there are fifty parishes, or parts of parishes; and of these seven parishes belong to the Diocese of Kildare; twenty-seven belong to the Diocese of Leighlin; fourteen belong to the Diocese of Ossory; one parish belongs to the Diocese of Killaloe; and part of one parish belongs to the Diocese of Dublin.¹⁹ As the chief dioceses, that cover the extent of the Queen's County since that period, are Kildare, Leighlin, and Ossory; before treating of the parishes and their churches, we shall commence with the succession of bishops that ruled over them, so far as can be traced from the Irish annals and archives.

The Queen's County is estimated to contain, so far as the suffragan See of Kildare is concerned, about 49,000 acres of it; the suffragan See of Leighlin extended over 122,000—by far the largest division; ²⁰ while the suffragan See of Ossory extended over 60,000 acres of its soil.²¹ The County contains about 600 acres, lying within the Metropolitan Diocese of Dublin; and likewise the parish of Kyle, which belongs to the Diocese of Killaloe.

¹⁷ In his *Vita Sancti Malachie*, St. Bernard complains in the strongest terms of the inconvenience that resulted from the extraordinary number of ecclesiastics who in his time exercised the functions of bishops in Ireland. See cap. x., col. 673. "Opera Omnia," Vol. i. Editio Johannis Mabillon, Parisiis, 1719, fol.

¹⁸ The principal affairs enacted in this Synod were related in the "Book of Clonenagh," to which the Rev. Geoury Keating had access, but which has been unfortunately lost.

¹⁹ See Rev. Dr. Daniel Augustus Beaufort's "Memoir of a Map of Ireland, illustrating the Topography of that Kingdom, and containing a short account of its present State, Civil and Ecclesiastical," p. 59, Dublin, 1792, 4to. The finely-engraved and coloured map accompanying, mounted on linen, and folded in a case, shows the respective boundaries of all the Irish Counties, Baronies, and Dioceses at that time.

²⁰ The diocese of Leighlin is of a very irregular form, varying from eight to sixteen English miles in breadth, and extending fifty in length. Its estimated superficies amounts to 318,900 acres, comprehending the entire of Carlow County, a very considerable portion—more than half—of the Queen's County, and small portions of the counties of Kilkenny and Wicklow.

²¹ According to the statement in Rev. John C. Erek's "Ecclesiastical Register," containing the names of the Dignitaries and Parochial Clergy of Ireland; as also of their Parishes, and their respective Patrons, and an Account of monies granted for building Churches and Glebe-Houses, with Ecclesiastical Annals, annexed to each Diocese; and Appendixes, among other things several cases of "Quare Impedit." Edited under the sanction of the Board of First Fruits, Dublin, 1827, 8vo.

CHAPTER II.—THE QUEEN'S COUNTY PORTION OF KILDARE DIOCESE.

THE Diocese of Kildare is about forty-six English miles in length, and twenty-nine in breadth. It contains an estimated superficies of 332,200 acres.¹ The See had been formerly in the town of Kildare, and attached to the Cathedral were seventy-two acres and three roods of episcopal mensal lands, and three acres adjoined the Cathedral precincts.² These latter were denominated the palace; but for a long period no episcopal residence stood there. Previously to the restraining statute for tithes, the Protestant Bishop Craik had alienated the see-lands; and so small was the income of the Protestant Bishops of Kildare, that they were permitted to hold other preferments with this See. The constitution of their chapter was singular. It consisted of a Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, Treasurer, and four Canons, who had no more distinctive titles than those of first, second, third, and fourth. The deanery was elective, and no other person than one of the Canons was eligible for that office. The Archdeacon and eight Prebendaries had a voice in the election of a Dean; yet, they formed no constituent part of the Chapter.³ The Queen's County parishes of Kildare Diocese are situated within the Baronies of Tinnahinch and of Portnahinch. Those parishes are Rosenalis, Rerymore, Kilmanman, Castlebrack, Lea, Ardee, Coolbanagher, and Clonaslee.⁴ At a very early period after the introduction of Christianity, there was a bishop who seems to have had a residence in the territory around Kildare, even before a religious establishment had been formed there by St. Brigid,⁵ its first Abbess. The Red Book of the Earl of Kildare has it, that one Lony or Lonius was the first bishop of the See; and this too is stated, by Richard Stanihurst,⁶ but on the same authority. His period and his acts, however, are alike unknown.⁷ The list of Kildare Bishops given by Stanihurst is quite incomplete; but probably, it was the fullest that he was enabled to furnish.

The second Bishop of Kildare, in like manner, is said to have been

¹ According to the Parliamentary Returns of 1797, p. 136.

² According to the Registry of this See.

³ According to the Protestant arrangement existing before the Dis-establishment of this See.

⁴ See John C. Craik's "Ecclesiastical Register," vol. 1, under the sanction of the Board of First Fruits, pp. 101 to 104.

⁵ Her feast occurs on the 1st of February. She was born about the middle of the fifth century; she received the religious habit from St. Mel, Bishop of Ardagh, and a disciple of St. Patrick; she founded a nunnery at Kildare probably between A.D. 480 and A.D. 490; she departed this life about A.D. 525. See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. 1.

⁶ He flourished in the beginning of the sixteenth century. He wrote a description of Ireland, in which this account is contained, and it is to be found in Holingshed's "Chronicles of England,

Scotlande, and Irelande." This interesting work was first published in 1577, in two folio volumes, having curious engravings from wood. These are not to be found in the second edition, published in 1587, and after the author's death.

⁷ The Rev. John Francis Shearman considers he may have been the same as Lonan, a reputed son of Dubhtach Mac Uí Lughair, and he thinks it as not unlikely, that Lonan had for a time the spiritual guardianship of St. Brigid's monastery until a permanent pastor had been appointed. The Martyrologies of Tallagh and Donegal have a feast for a Lon of Cill Gabhra, and the Rev. Mr. Shearman thinks he is probably the same as Lonius, Bishop of Kildare. And, as Cill Gabhra was located in Slieve Mairghe, in the neighbourhood of Sletty, Lon or Lonius might be identified with Lonan, the son of Dubhtach, who had been associated for some time with his cousin, St. Fiach. See "Loca Patri-ciana," No. v., pp. 83, 84.

Ivorius, more usually called Ibar or Ivor by the Irish.⁸ The twelve sons of Barr, dynast of Leix, and the tenth in descent from Laigneach, are said to have been baptized by a bishop named Ibar—possibly the same, yet distinct from St. Ibar,⁹ Bishop of Beg-Erin, although the supposition has been that an identity is probable. St. Brigid had relations with a St. Ibarus, a bishop,¹⁰ who lived in the plain of Gesill.¹¹ It need not necessarily follow, that he was, on that account, a bishop over Kildare.¹² The first celebrated and authenticated bishop over this See appears to have been a recluse named St. Conlath or Conlaeth, who was chosen for that office by St. Brigid herself.¹³ His previous name is said to have been Ronnchenn, and he was called, likewise Mochanna-Daire, of the Dal-Messincorb tribe. He is related to have been a skilled artificer in gold and silver.¹⁴ Having been appointed bishop in or after A.D. 490,¹⁵ he governed the See for about twenty years, and departed this life on the 3rd of May,¹⁶ A.D. 519.¹⁷ After the death of St. Conlaeth, the succession of bishops in the See of Kildare appears to have been lost, although Peter Walsh¹⁸ mentions one Maelcoba as Bishop of Kildare, under the date A.D. 610. However, Sir James Ware thinks,¹⁹ that he has been mistaken for another bearing the same name, and who had been Bishop of Clogher.

There is great difficulty in tracing the succession of the Kildare bishops or abbots, as sometimes they seem to have been indiscriminately styled in the Irish Annals.²⁰ It is quite reasonable to suppose, that many—if not most—of the abbots at Kildare had been invested with the episcopal office. This was usual also, whenever bishops had monasteries annexed to their cathedrals. However, Cogitosus, who lived it is said in the sixth century, has a statement, that the episcopal succession had not been interrupted until that time when he wrote.²¹ After St. Aedh,

⁸ Hammer copies from Standihurst's account the following list of the early bishops of Kildare, viz.: Lony, Ivor, Colnie, Donatus, David, Magnus, Richard John, Symon, Nicholas, Walter, Richard, Thomas, Robert, Boniface, Madogg, William, Galfride, Richard, James, Wale, Barret, Edmund, Lane. See "Chronicle of Ireland," p. 90.

⁹ His feast is held on the 23rd of April.

¹⁰ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga." Tertia Vita St. Brigidæ, cap. liv., pp. 532, 533. Also Quarta Vita S. Brigidæ, lib. ii., cap. xxiii., p. 553.

¹¹ Now Geashill, a parish in the King's County.

¹² See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. i., chap. viii., sect. xi., n. 134, pp. 411, 412.

¹³ According to Cogitosus, to whom is attributed the Second Life of St. Brigid. See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga." Secunda Vita S. Brigidæ. Prologus, p. 518.

¹⁴ A very ancient crozier, said to have belonged to St. Finnbharr of Termonbarry, in Connaught, and believed to have been made by Conlaeth, the artificer of St. Brigid of Kildare, is still to be seen among the Irish Antiquities belonging to the Royal Irish Academy.

See Professor Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," lect. xv., p. 338.

¹⁶ See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. i., chap. viii., sect. xi., p. 410.

¹⁷ This is the date for his festival.

¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 170, 171.

¹⁹ In his "Prospect of the State of Ireland from the year of the World 1756 to the year of Christ 1652," part i., p. 224.

²⁰ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 4.

²¹ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 225.

²² The name of Archbishops is even conferred on the prelates of Kildare; but this is probably to be taken in a wide sense, as only indicating some pre-eminence of rank or station as contrasted with that of other bishops. "Quam semper Archiepiscopus Hiberniensium Episcoporum, felici successione, et ritu perpetuo dominantur." Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Secunda Vita S. Brigidæ, Prefacio, p. 518. See also n. 7, p. 525, *ibid.*

who is said to have been at first a king of Leinster, and having quitted his royal state to have become a monk; subsequently both Abbot and Bishop of Kildare; ²² the next who appears on the list is Lochen, surnamed Meann Maenns, "the silent," ²³ styled Abbot, but supposed have been also a Bishop of Kildare. His feast is set down in the Martyrology of Tallagh at the 12th of January, and again at the 12th of June. He died on the 12th of June, A.D. 694, according to the Four Masters; or A.D. 695, according to the Annals of Ulster. By the latter it is stated, that he met with a violent death. ²⁴ Farannan, Abbot, and perhaps Bishop of Kildare, died in 697. ²⁵ His memory is celebrated on the 15th of January, in the Calendars, ²⁶ and this was probably the day of his death. Maeldoborchon, bishop of Kildare, died, according to one account A.D. 704; ²⁷ according to another calculation, on the 19th of February, A.D. 708. ²⁸ In the Annals of Ulster, his death is placed in the year following; some writers record it, at A.D. 704. Tola, Bishop of Kildare, and thought to have been identical with the Abbot of Desert-Tola, and Bishop of Clonard, ²⁹ died on the 3rd of March, A.D. 732. ³⁰ However, the Rev. Dr. Lanigan does not believe that St. Tola was Bishop of Kildare. ³¹ A St. Diman or Mo-Dimoc, styled Abbot of Kildare and Clonard, died March 3rd, A.D. 743. ³² By Colgan, he is styled Dodimocus and Modimocus, and he is said to have been an anchoret. ³³ His being styled Bishop in the annalistic entry affords strong grounds for concluding that he was Bishop of Kildare. ³⁴ In the year 747, St. Cathald, the son of Forannan and Abbot of Kildare, died. ³⁵ Eichtingius was Bishop of Kildare. As he was celebrating Mass at St. Brigid's altar, he was killed by a priest, A.D. 762. This murder took place between the altar and the Crocaingel, or latticed partition between the clergy and laity. Afterwards a priest was prohibited from celebrating Mass in Kildare, in presence of a bishop. ³⁶ The Annals of Ulster have this event at the year 761; while those of the Four Masters record it at A.D. 755, and those of Clonmacnoise at A.D. 756. ³⁷

Lomtuile or Lanwill, Bishop of Kildare, died A.D. 782, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, but *recte* A.D. 787, according to

²² However, it is thought more probable he was not King of Leinster, but that he was of the Royal. See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collectanea relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 4, 5.

²³ In some accounts, he is called Lochen the Wise.

²⁴ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., Annales Ulsterenses, A.D. DCXCIV., "Lochenus Sacerdos, Abbas Cille-daro, jurgatus est."

²⁵ See Erick's "Ecclesiastical Register," p. 223.

²⁶ See Harris's Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 121.

²⁷ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 225.

²⁸ See Harris's Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 132.

²⁹ Colgan has an account of him in

his "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii iii., p. 793.

³⁰ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 225.

³¹ His reasons for such an opinion are stated, in the "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. iii. See chap. xix., sect. viii., n. 108, p. 174.

³² See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 225.

³³ See "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 629.

³⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i.

³⁵ According to the Annals of Tighearnach, and this is said to have been the true year.

³⁶ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 225.

³⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 358, 359, and note (y), *ibid.*

Dr. O'Donovan,³⁸ or in the year 785, according to others.³⁹ His name has been Latinized Lomtuilius.⁴⁰ In 782 is also recorded the death of Muireadhach, son of Cathal, and Abbot of Kildare.⁴¹ Bishop Lomtuile was succeeded by Snedbran, who did not long survive, but died A.D. 782, the year of his accession.⁴² The Irish Annalists make no express reference to a bishop of Kildare, between the years following to A.D. 833. Eudus Ua Dicholla, or Eudocius O'Diocholla, Abbot of Kildare, died A.D. 793, or more correctly, as it is stated, in 798.⁴³ Foelan Mac Ceallach or Kellach, Abbot of Kildare, died A.D. 799;⁴⁴ or as stated more correctly, A.D. 804.⁴⁵ Colgan has it, that his festival was celebrated on the 28th of May, or on the 9th of June.⁴⁶ Whether or not, the foregoing individuals, or any one of them, represent the episcopal succession in this See must remain a matter of uncertainty.⁴⁷ According to Harris's Ware, Muredach O'Cathald, called Abbot of Kildare, died A.D. 782.⁴⁸ Lactan O'Muctigern—also called Lasran M'Moetigern—Bishop of Kildare, is said to have died A.D. 813 or 814.⁴⁹ In the year 816, Airbheartach of Cill-dara, died. What particular rank or station he occupied in Kildare is unrecorded: but we may fairly assume he was an ecclesiastic, and a person of distinction. According to the Annals of the Four Masters,⁵⁰ Laisren of Cill-dara died, A.D. 817. Harris thinks it probable, that this is the Lasran MacMoetigern, Bishop of Kildare, whose death is recorded at A.D. 874, and he would account for the discrepancy, by supposing a change of figures to have occurred while copying MSS.⁵¹ However, the Most Rev. Bishop Comerford supposes it to be much more probable, if a mistake did take place, that it was in assigning the death of Lasren to 874, in which year a Bishop of Kildare, but bearing another name, is stated to have died.⁵² In Harris's Ware, as Murtoigh or Murtach O'Kellach, this Abbot's death is placed at A.D. 820.⁵³ At A.D. 821 is entered the death of Muireadhach, son of Ceallach, Abbot of Cill-dara, in the Annals of the Four Masters.⁵⁴ In 826 died Aedh, son of Ceallach, Abbot of Cill-dara.⁵⁵

In the year 828 died Siadhal, son of Fearadhach, also styled Siedhuil

³⁸ See his edition, vol. i., pp. 388, 389.

³⁹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 225.

⁴⁰ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga." He is referred to as by some called Bishop of Kildare. Appendix Quinta ad Acta, S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 629.

⁴¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 388, 389.

⁴² See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 225.

⁴³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 400, 401.

⁴⁴ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 224.

⁴⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 406, 407.

⁴⁶ See "Trias Thaumaturga." Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 629.

⁴⁷ See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 6.

⁴⁸ See vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 382.

⁴⁹ He is named again as having died in 874; but Archdeacon Henry Cotton thinks, that probably there is a mistake in a figure, and that the same person is meant in both statements. See "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 225.

⁵⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 428, 429.

⁵¹ See Harris's Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," pp. 382, 383.

⁵² See "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 6, 7.

⁵³ See vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 383. Also Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁵⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 432, 433.

⁵⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 440, 441.

O'Feradach or M'Ferag.⁵⁶ Abbot of Cill-dara.⁵⁷ This Abbot's name has been Latinized Sedulius by Harris, and it has become the Irish family name of Shiel. We are informed, that he was the author of Annotations on the Epistles of St. Paul, and which are still extant.⁵⁸ He is not to be confounded with a still more renowned man bearing the same name, who flourished in the fifth century, and who was a poet and theologian.⁵⁹ It is probable, however, that the present Siadhál was not a bishop. Tuathchar or Tuadcar, Bishop and Scribe of Cill-dara, died, A.D. 830⁶⁰ or 833.⁶¹ In the year 837, 839, or 840, as variedly stated,⁶² Orthanach, Bishop of Cill-dara, died.⁶³ Ædgene, surnamed Brito, and also called Owen Britt, indicating that he was a Briton by birth, styled a scribe, a Bishop and an Anchorite of Kildare, died A.D. 862, having nearly attained the very advanced age of 116 years.⁶⁴ He is also called Æidhgenbrit.⁶⁵ This venerable Prelate departed this life on the 18th of December,⁶⁶ at which date we find in the Martyrology of Tallagh the entry of an Ædgin Arda Lonain⁶⁷—most probably the present Bishop.

In the year 868, Cobhthach,⁶⁸ Abbot of Kildare, who was a wise man and a learned doctor, died. He was commemorated in some lines by an Irish poet, of which the following is a literal English translation :

- " Cobhthach of the Cuirreach⁶⁹ of races, intended
King of Liphthe of tunics.
" Alas! for the great son of Muireadhach, Ah, grief!
the descendant of the comely, fair Ceallagh;
" Chief of Scholastic Leinster, a perfect, comely,
prudent sage,
" A brilliant shining star, was Cobhthach,
the successor of Conladh."⁷⁰

The Annals of Ulster style him Covhach MacMureai, and prince of

⁵⁶ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁵⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 442, 443.

⁵⁸ See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 7.

⁵⁹ The Rev. Dr. Langan gives satisfactory reasons for arriving at the conclusion that he was an Irishman. He was the author of *Carmen Paschale*, also several beautiful Latin hymns, which have been introduced in the Divine Office. See "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. i., pp. 17, *et seq.*

⁶⁰ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁶¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 448, 449.

⁶² See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226. Also Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 7.

⁶³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 460, 461.

⁶⁴ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Bishops of Kildare, p. 225.

⁶⁵ See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 7.

⁶⁶ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 629.

⁶⁷ See Rev. Dr. Kelly's "Calendar of Irish Saints," p. xxxviii.

⁶⁸ Called Cobhthach O'Muredach, by Archdeacon Cotton. See "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁶⁹ A large plain near the town of Kildare. The ancient Irish had chariot races here, according to Cormac's Glossary. In that work, it is conjectured that *Coispeach* is derived a *curribus*. This plain has been celebrated from times remote for its horse-races, which are still continued at different seasons of the year.

⁷⁰ The first Bishop and patron of Kildare, venerated on the 3rd of May.

Kildare⁷¹ placing his death at A.D. 809.⁷² According to Harris's Ware,⁷³ Moengal, Bishop of Cill-dara, died A.D. 870.⁷⁴ This entry at the same year, is not found in the published Annals of the Four Masters. In the year of Christ 873 died, according to the Four Masters and Colgan, Robertach Mac Ua-Ceartha, from whom the Island known as Inis-Robertaigh⁷⁵ was named.⁷⁶ He was a Bishop of Kildare, Scribe and Abbot of Cill-Achaidh.⁷⁷ According to Harris' "Ware,"⁷⁸ he was Abbot of Achonry—but this is evidently a mistake for Cill-Achaidh. The same authority places his death at A.D. 874; and it has thus been copied by Archdeacon Cotton, as he states, that Robertach M'Naserda, who was a Scribe and Abbot of Achonry, became Bishop of Kildare. He died A.D. 873, or 874.⁷⁹ Sir James Ware calls this prelate Robertac MacNaserda, and states, that he died on the 15th of January. On the same day is an entry of a festival for Robertaigh in Inis More.⁸⁰ This very same year is recorded the death of Lachtman, son of Moichtighearn, Bishop of Cill-dara and Abbot of Fearná. By Colgan, he is called the Abbot Lasran M'Moetigern, and in another place he is styled the Bishop of Kildare. However, this entry may refer to the Lasran, whose death is recorded to have taken place A.D. 817,⁸¹ and inserted at the year 873, through an error of the copyist.⁸²

In the year 878, Suibne Ua Finnachta, Bishop of Kildare, died, according to the Annals of the Four Masters⁸³ and Colgan,⁸⁴ on the 27th of September. On that day, he is registered among the saints of Ireland in the Martyrology of Tallagh.⁸⁵ According to Harris's "Ware"⁸⁶ and Archdeacon Cotton, Suibne O'Fianachta died A.D. 878 or 880.⁸⁷ Scannal, Scannail, or Scandalus, Bishop of Kildare, died in 881, according to the Annals of the Four Masters⁸⁸ and Colgan,⁸⁹ but in 884, according to the Annals of Ulster. His festival is set down in the Martyrology of Tallagh,⁹⁰ at the 27th of June.⁹¹

⁷¹ Thus "Coochach mac Mureai, Prince of Kildare."—Cod. Tom. 40.

⁷² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 512 to 515, and nn. (a, b, e).

⁷³ See vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 383.

⁷⁴ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁷⁵ Supposed by Dr. O'Donovan to have been in the Bog of Allan. Probably from it, Robertstown, in the County of Kildare, has taken its name. See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., Dr. O'Donovan's edition, pp. 518 to 521, and n. (u) *ibid.*

⁷⁶ See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 8.

⁷⁷ Now Killeigh, in the King's County.
⁷⁸ See vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 383.

⁷⁹ See "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁸⁰ See "Martyrology of Tallagh," in Rev. Dr. Kelly's "Calendar of Irish Saints," p. xii.

⁸¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 520, 521.

⁸² See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relation to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., Bishops of Kildare, p. 8.

⁸³ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 526, 527.

⁸⁴ See "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 2, p. 620.

⁸⁵ This must have been an addition to the original Martyrology of Tallagh, supposed to have been compiled by St. Melruan and St. Ængus, the Culdee before this date.

⁸⁶ See vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 383.

⁸⁷ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁸⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 530, 531.

⁸⁹ See "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 2, p. 620.

⁹⁰ See Rev. Dr. Kelly's edition.

⁹¹ See Harris's "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 383. Also Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

The next successor appears to have been Largis or Largisius Mac Cronin, Bishop of Kildare.⁹² During his term, we find recorded the deaths of St. Muredach, the son of Brian, King of Leinster and Abbot of Kildare, A.D. 882; of Tulelatia, daughter to Hualgalach, Abbess of Kildare, this same year; and of Tuetaluis, Abbot of Kildare, A.D. 883.⁹³ During his period, also, the Danes were formidable enemies to the princes and people of Ireland; and a battle was gained over Flann, son to the monarch, by the Danes of Ath-Cliath or Dublin, in which fell Aedh, King of Connaught; and Lerghus, or Largisius Mac Cronin,⁹⁴ Bishop of Kildare, who was slain in this battle by the Danes, A.D. 885.⁹⁵ The Annals of Innisfallen assign this event to A.D. 888. About this time, Suibhne, son of Dubhdabhoireann, the Prior of Kildare, and 280 persons were made captives by the Northmen invaders, who carried them off to their ships⁹⁶—probably with the view of having a ransom paid for their release. In the year 900, Dubhan, Abbot of Cill-dara, died, according to the Annals of the Four Masters.⁹⁷ Various raids of the foreigners are recorded as having taken place in 887, 889, 895, and 920.⁹⁸ Whether or not a Bishop had been in Kildare during these troubled times may be questioned, for such account is not found in our Annals. In 903, the death of Suibhne, son of Dubhdabhoireann and Prior of Cill-dara, is recorded.⁹⁹ Flanagan O'Regan, Prince of Einster and heir-apparent, Abbot of Kildare, died A.D. 920.¹⁰⁰ Crummhael, Bishop of Cill-dara, or Crummoel, surnamed Boeth, died December 11th, A.D. 920.¹⁰¹ On this day, his feast is celebrated in the Irish Calendars. Malinneonus succeeded as Bishop of Kildare, according to the statement of Sir James Ware.¹⁰² However, we do not find the entry of his death in Dr. O'Donovan's Annals of the Four Masters. We are informed, that Maclinan died A.D. 949,¹⁰³ or 950.¹⁰⁴ He was Bishop of Kildare. In 924, the Danes of Waterford plundered this place, and repeated their outrage in 926, carrying away numerous captives and the richest booty; while the Danes of Dublin pillaged the town in 927.¹⁰⁵ In the year 953, the town of Kildare was again plundered by Blacan, the son of Godfred, at the head of the Danes of Dublin &c. It is thought, that Culenius or Culean MacKellach, Abbot of Kildare, was slain on this occasion by the Danes, A.D. 953.¹⁰⁷ Such

⁹² See Mr. D'Alton's *Fasti* p. 616, and Mr. Harris's *Ware*, vol. i., p. 383, and Archdeacon Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's *Annals of the Four Masters*, vol. i., pp. 624, 625, and Colgan's *Trias Thaumaturga*, Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 2, p. 629.

⁹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's *Annals of the Four Masters*, vol. i., pp. 816, 817.

⁹⁵ See Archdeacon Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

⁹⁶ See Colgan's *Trias Thaumaturga*, Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 2, p. 629.

⁹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 60, 61.

⁹⁸ See Mr. John D'Alton's article in *The Irish Penny Magazine*, vol. i., No. 16, p. 274.

⁹⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's *Annals of the Four Masters*, vol. ii., pp. 564, 565.

¹⁰⁰ See Harris's *Ware*, vol. i., *Bishops of Kildare*, p. 383, and Archdeacon Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

¹⁰¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's *Annals of the Four Masters*, vol. i., pp. 624, 625, and Colgan's *Trias Thaumaturga*, Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. ii., p. 630.

¹⁰² See *Ill.*

¹⁰³ This year is assigned for his death, in the Annals of Ulster, Codex Clarendon, Tome 49.

¹⁰⁴ See Harris's *Ware*, vol. i., *Bishops of Kildare*, p. 883.

¹⁰⁵ See *The Irish Penny Magazine*, vol. i., No. 35, p. 274.

¹⁰⁶ See Colgan's *Trias Thaumaturga*, Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 2, p. 630.

¹⁰⁷ See Archdeacon Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

repeated outrages must have caused nearly the ruin of those religious establishments there, with great loss of life and property to the inhabitants.

It was a custom very common with the Irish annalists to designate their bishops under the title of Abbots.¹⁰⁸ The Irish Church having been originally constructed on a monastic model, the bishops frequently combined the abbatial with the episcopal office, and hence as the annalists were for the most part monks, they often chronicled the death of the bishop as that of their abbot, since it was in his abbatial capacity that he was more intimately connected with them.¹⁰⁹ Wherefore, it may fairly be considered, that a long lapse of time, without record of a bishop's existence in several Irish dioceses, must not lead to the inference of the See having been continuously vacant during such period. This must be borne in mind as the following notices occur. The next superior we read of was Mured Mac-Foelan, Abbot of Kildare, and he belonged to the Royal Family of Leinster.¹¹⁰ He was killed during an incursion by the Danes, A.D. 965; ¹¹¹ while the Confederates on this occasion, were Amlave, their king, and Kerbal MacLorcan.¹¹² The next bishop of Kildare is variously styled St. Anncha, or Aunchad, Latinized Annchadius and Animosus. He was a very holy man, and to him is ascribed the authorship of a Life of St. Brigid.¹¹³ He is also called Amucaid or Ancaid, Bishop of Kildare. He lived to a good old age, and died A.D. 980¹¹⁴ or 981.¹¹⁵ At this latter date, Sir James Ware, who styles him Amuchaid, places his death.¹¹⁶ Murchad or Muiredhaeh MacFlann, styled Comorban of Conlaeth,¹¹⁷ or Bishop of Kildare,¹¹⁸ died A.D. 985.¹¹⁹ The Abbot of Kildare,¹²⁰ or Bishop, as called by Sir James Ware, and who was named Moel Martin, or Moelmartan, died A.D. 1028,¹²¹ or 1030.¹²²

Through reverence for the Patroness of Kildare Diocese, St. Brigid,¹²³ we may assume the following name to have been taken—Moel Brigid Mœlbrigde, or Brigidian,¹²⁴ meaning "the servant of St. Brigid," and

¹⁰⁸ An instance may be found, where the Annals of Ulster when recording the death of Celsus or Cealach, Archbishop of Armagh at A.D., 1129, state that he died in the twenty-fourth year of his abbotship.

¹⁰⁹ See the Very Rev. James O'Laverty's valuable and very learned work, "Historical Account of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Ancient and Modern," vol. v., p. 73, n.

¹¹⁰ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvi. Januarii, n. 6, p. 107.

¹¹¹ See "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

¹¹² See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 630.

¹¹³ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," pp. 9, 10.

¹¹⁴ According to Colgan. See "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 630.

¹¹⁵ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti

Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

¹¹⁶ See "De Præsulibus Lageniæ" Episcopi Darenenses, p. 43.

¹¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 718, 719.

¹¹⁸ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 630.

¹¹⁹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

¹²⁰ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. 2, p. 630.

¹²¹ See "De Præsulibus Lageniæ" Episcopi Darenenses, p. 43.

¹²² See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

¹²³ See Harris's "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 383.

¹²⁴ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," Bishops of Kildare, p. 10.

who died 1042.¹²⁵ Colgan calls him bishop of that See as also Sir James Ware.¹²⁶ Again, at the year 1076, we find recorded in our Annals the death of Kelius, son to Donegan, Bishop of Leinster; and that such a title at this period had been attached to the See of Kildare cannot be questioned. Kelius, although not mentioned by Colgan in his list of the Kildare Bishops, is represented as a distinguished elder among the ecclesiastics of Ireland, and he died in the reputation of sanctity at Glendalough, in the year already mentioned.¹²⁷ It would seem, that some near connection had existed at this period, and at times previous, between the monastery of Killachaid, or Killeigh, in the King's County, and the See of Kildare; for we are informed, that a bishop of the latter See named Finn M'Gussan, called M'Gorman, died at the former place. Through mistake, however, Colgan, Sir James Ware, and after them other writers, state, that he died at Achonry, A.D. 1085.¹²⁸ Nevertheless, it has been pointed out, that there is manifestly a mistake or confusion in such an entry, because at A.D. 1160, a bishop of Kildare, bearing the same name, is recorded, and who died at Killeigh, where he was interred. As, at the latter date, there was undoubtedly a bishop of Kildare similarly named, it appears most probable, that his name and death had been twice entered through some error of a copyist, and wrongly, at the year 1085.¹²⁹

The next Bishop of Kildare appears to have been Ferdomnach, who assisted at a council held in Ireland, A.D. 1006, by King Moriartach O'Brien, together with Iduan, Bishop of Meath, Samuel, Bishop of Down, and other Prelates.¹³⁰ All of these subscribed an Epistle to Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, recommending for consecration Malpas, the first Bishop of Waterford. It is thought Ferdomnach resigned the See of Kildare this same year, as he lived until 1101, while in the year 1007,¹³¹ the death of Madbrighda Mac Antire O'Brolchan, a learned Doctor, Bishop of Kildare and of Leinster died, and in the year 1100, Aed O'Heremon, Bishop of Kildare, are stated to have died. Meanwhile it is supposed, that Ferdomnach retained the title, without having resumed the administration of the Diocese.¹³² In 1108, Mac-nae-Donnghail, Bishop of Kildare, died.¹³³ In 1146, Cormac O' Cathsuigh, styled Bishop of Leinster, died.¹³⁴ In 1148, Ua Duibhin, Bishop of Kildare, died.¹³⁵ He is called Abbot by Colgan.¹³⁶ His successor

¹²⁵ See Archbishop Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 219. At A.D. 1047, Colgan has an entry for the death of another Kelius, "Mac-brighnig, presbiter Kellaren, obit."

¹²⁶ See "De Prasulibus Lagenie," pp. 94, 95, 96, 97.

¹²⁷ See Colgan's "Tras Thannaturga," Appendix Quarta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 2, p. 610. Also *ibid.*, Septima Appendix ad Acta S. Patricii, pars. iii., p. 308.

¹²⁸ See Archbishop Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., Diocese of Kildare, p. 226.

¹²⁹ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," Bishops of Kildare, p. 10.

¹³⁰ See Archbishop Ussher's "Britan-

nicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," Index Chronologicus, ad An. MXXVI., p. 545.

¹³¹ According to the Annals of Ulster and those of the Four Masters. The former style him Arch-priest or Bishop of Kildare, and of all Leinster. The reason for this added title appears to have been, that Kildare had been considered, at that period, to have been the most respectable or distinguished See in Leinster.

¹³² See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xxiv., sect. v., n. 51, p. 454.

¹³³ This very year, also, the death of MacInnen, Archbishop of Leinster, is announced in Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 986, 987.

¹³⁴ See *ibid.*, pp., 1080, 1081.

appears to have been Fim MacGormian, who had been Abbot over the monks of Inbhair-chinn-trachta. This monastery has been variedly called Monasterium Nevorensis, Dubhar-chinn-Triagh, and Monasterium de viride Ligno, or Greenwood,¹³⁷ and it is now known as Newry, County of Down. This prelate assisted at the Synod of Kells, or Mellifont, in 1152. He is supposed to have been the tutor of Dermot Mac-Murrough, for whom he compiled the celebrated Manuscript, still preserved, and now known as the Book of Leinster.¹³⁸ He died A.D. 1160.¹³⁹ Malachy O'Birn, or O'Brin, succeeded. To him allusion is made in the Life of St. Laurence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin. It is stated by Giraldus Cambrensis,¹⁴⁰ that when FitzStephen had been besieged in Carrig, near Wexford, A.D. 1171, this prelate and O'Hethe, Bishop of Ferns, made oath to him of Dublin having surrendered to the Irish, which caused him and his party likewise to surrender.¹⁴¹ This apparently groundless fabrication has been omitted by Sir James Ware,¹⁴² in his account of both prelates¹⁴³; but Harris did not neglect to foist the slanderous tale into his edition of that honest writer's works.¹⁴⁴ We are told, by Harris, that O'Brin is called Bishop O'Brien in the Annals of Leinster, and that his death is placed in the year 1175.¹⁴⁵ Other accounts have it, that he died on the 1st of January, 1176.¹⁴⁶

In the year 1177, Nehemiah was promoted to the See of Kildare, which he governed about eighteen years.¹⁴⁷ We have no account afterwards of a bishop in that See, until the appointment of Cornelius MacGelan,¹⁴⁸ which is assigned by Sir James Ware to A.D. 1206. It is thought, that the death of Nehemiah must have occurred about 1195;¹⁴⁹ although Sir James Ware could find nothing certain regarding the date.¹⁵⁰ There

¹³⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 1084, 1085.

¹³⁶ See "Trias Flaumaturga," Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidae, cap. 2, p. 630.

¹³⁷ Na juar is another name given to it in Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 126, n. (2).

¹³⁸ This MS., preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, had been called the Book of Glendalough, until Professor Eugene O'Curry ascertained that in reality, it was the Book of Leinster, while he fixed the age of its composition and the name of the writer. This MS. contains 205 loose folios in its present state, while these embrace historical tracts, tales, poems, and genealogies. It has lately been published in fac-simile lithograph, and it was edited by Dr. Atkinson, T.C.D., who has prepared an explanatory introduction. See Rt. Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," Bishops of Kildare, p. 12.

¹³⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1136, 1137.

¹⁴⁰ See Giraldi Cambrensis' "Opera," edited by James F. Dimock, M.A., vol. v., Expugnatio Hibernica, lib. i., cap. xxv., pp. 270, 271.

¹⁴¹ Regan seems to tell more correctly the story, that after FitzStephen had sent thirty-six of his men to aid Earl Richard, the traitors attacked him, killed most of his men, taking himself and five other cavaliers prisoners. He has nothing regarding the bishops in his account of this transaction. See Harris' "Hibernica," p. 85.

¹⁴² In his "Annals of Ireland," at A.D. 1171.

¹⁴³ In his work "De Præsulibus Lageniæ."

¹⁴⁴ See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. iv., chap. xxix., sect. xi., n. 72, pp. 231, 232.

¹⁴⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 384.

¹⁴⁶ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 43.

¹⁴⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 384.

¹⁴⁸ At first he was Rector of Cloncurry, and afterwards Archdeacon of Kildare. See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 44.

¹⁴⁹ See Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," p. 13.

¹⁵⁰ See "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 43.

is evidence in the Close Rolls, that Cornelius MacGelan¹⁵¹ was living on the 29th of July, A.D. 1222, since his name occurs in a Papal Decree of Honorius III. of that date.¹⁵² He did not long survive; for we find, that on the 12th of March, 1223, the King of England, Henry III., empowers the Archbishop of Dublin to approve of his successor in the See, Ralph of Bristol, so called, probably, because he had been a native of that city. He is thought¹⁵³ to have been Treasurer of St. Patrick's, Dublin, at the time of his appointment. Ralph of Bristol underwent great expense in repairing and beautifying the Cathedral of Kildare. Some ancient sculptures still exist, which are supposed to date from this restoration.¹⁵⁴ To him has been attributed a Life of St. Laurence O'Toole, a manuscript copy of which is still extant among the Manuscripts of Archbishop Ussher, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. Ralph of Bristol died in the year 1232.¹⁵⁵

In November, 1232, a licence was sent for the chapter of St. Brigid, Kildare, by their messengers, to elect a Bishop in their church to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ralph, their late prelate. John de Tanton,¹⁵⁶ Canon of St. Patrick's, was elected, and on the 6th of August, 1233, the Royal assent was given. On the 10th of November following, a Mandate issued to Maurice Fitzgerald, Justice, to give the Bishop seizin of the See and of all lands and tenements thereto belonging, whereof Ralph, his predecessor, had been seized at the time of his death. Mandate was also given to the knights, free tenants and others of the See, to be intensive and respondent to the bishop as their lord.¹⁵⁷ During the episcopacy of this John, A.D. 1254, the Earl of Kildare founded the Green (Grey?) Monastery at Kildare; and in its chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a superb tomb was erected for that noble family.¹⁵⁸ Bishop John died about the beginning of summer, 1258, and he was buried in his own church.¹⁵⁹ One of the Canons of Kildare, Simon of Kilkenny, and so called, because probably he had been born in that city, was now elected successor, and he obtained the Royal assent on the 21st of October, 1258. It seems to be doubtful whether he died in April, 1272,¹⁶⁰ or in the year 1275.¹⁶¹ The See remained vacant for some years after the death of this prelate.¹⁶²

¹⁵¹ See Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collectanea relative to the Dioceses of Kildare and Doughty" pp. 13, 14.

¹⁵² According to the Close Rolls of 9th Henry III.

¹⁵³ By Sir James Ware, in "De Ecclesia et Lagenia" Episcopi Patensis, p. 44.

¹⁵⁴ Illustrations of these remains are to be found by Rev. E. O'Leary, in Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collectanea relative to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leathlin," at p. 14.

¹⁵⁵ See "Annales de Monte Fernandi," or Annals of Mullfernann, edited by Dr. Aquila Smith, for the Irish Archaeological Society, p. 12.

¹⁵⁶ Sir James Ware calls "fort Stanton"

¹⁵⁷ Close Roll of 18th Henry III.

¹⁵⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 352, 353.

¹⁵⁹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 385.

¹⁶⁰ This is stated in a short Chronicle of the Dominicans.

¹⁶¹ Harris states, that he found by the accounts of John de Samford, Escheator of Ireland, in the Chief Remembrancer's Office, that he accounted for the profits of the See of Kildare only from the Vigil of St. Michael 9th Edward I., A.D., 1275, to the 19th of February, 9th Edward I., A.D., 1281, at which time the Temporalities were restored to Nicholas Cusack. Nor did Harris find any account rendered in the Exchequer from 1272 to 1275. So that he infers, either Simon did not die until the latter year, or the Escheator did not account for the full time of the vacancy. See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 385.

¹⁶² See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lagenie," Episcopi Darenese, p. 45.

After the death of Simon, the Chapter of Kildare had an election: one part of the Canons elected Stephen, Dean of Kildare, while another elected William, Treasurer of that church. This proved a cause of tedious contest at Rome, and it occasioned a long vacancy in the See. However, after prosecuting the respective claims at Rome, both candidates resigned—William by letter and the Dean personally—before Pope Nicholas III.¹⁶³ The latter, to prevent further contests, appointed Nicholas Cusack, Minorite and a native of Meath, to be Bishop of Kildare, on the 27th of November, 1279. On the 24th of December, A.D., 1280, the king intimated to the knights, free and other tenants of the Bishopric of Kildare, that he had collated and taken fealty from Nicholas, having restored the Temporalities, with a Mandate to be intente and respondent to him as their bishop, and also an order to Stephen, Bishop of Waterford, as Royal Treasurer, for 100 marks to be paid to Nicholas as the king's gift. The assessment known as the Taxation of Pope Nicholas III., to promote the meditated Crusade, caused this prelate, with Thomas St. Leger, Bishop of Meath, to be joined in a commission, A.D. 1292, to obtain a Disme or tenth of all ecclesiastical rents, profits, and oblations in Ireland, according to their true value to be paid the king for relief of the Holy Land.¹⁶⁴ Such valuation was accordingly made in the course of three years and it is yet extant.¹⁶⁵ In the year 1294, the whole country around Kildare was miserably wasted both by the Irish and English,¹⁶⁶ the Castle of Kildare was taken,¹⁶⁷ while its Rolls and Tallies were burned.¹⁶⁸ Bishop Nicholas Cusack died in September, 1299,¹⁶⁹ having sat about twenty years after his advancement by the Pope, and he was buried in his own church.¹⁷⁰

On the 5th of January, 1300, Walter de Veele, the Chancellor of Kildare, was confirmed Bishop of that See by King Edward I., and he was consecrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.¹⁷¹ He sat upwards of thirty years in the See. During his episcopacy, in 1310, a Parliament was held in Kildare.¹⁷² He died in November, 1332, and he was buried

¹⁶³ This Sovereign Pontiff was elected November 25th, A.D. 1277, and he was crowned the 26th of December following. He died August 22nd, A.D., 1280. See Sir Harris Nicholas' "Chronology of History," p. 202.

¹⁶⁴ The history of the crusades has been treated by many writers; but hardly have any succeeded in giving so complete and reliable an account as M. Michaud, whose work on the subject has passed through several editions. In 1854 appeared at Paris in four 8vo. vols. the "Histoire des Croisades" par Michaud, de l'Académie Française. Nouvelle édition faite d'après les derniers Travaux et les dernières Intentions de l'Auteur; précédée d'une Vie de Michaud par M. Poujoulat, et augmentée d'un Appendice par M. Huillard Bretholles.

¹⁶⁵ "This estimate is, in a legal point of view, the more important, because all the taxes, as well to the successive kings as to the Popes, were regulated by it down to the 20th year of the reign of Henry VIII."—John D'Alton's

"Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin," p. 108.

¹⁶⁶ See Jacobi Grace, Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hibernice," edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, pp. 42, 43.

¹⁶⁷ One Calwagh is connected with these transactions. See *ibid.* He was undoubtedly the brother of Murtagh O'Connor, King of Offaly, both of whom were killed afterwards at the Court of Peter Bermingham at Carrick in Carbery, as related in the Annals. See *ibid.*, pp. 48, 49.

¹⁶⁸ According to Sir James Ware's "English Annals," at 1294.

¹⁶⁹ See Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," p. 16.

¹⁷⁰ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageme," Episcopi Daresnes, p. 45.

¹⁷¹ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., the Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 228.

¹⁷² See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 386.

in the Cathedral at Kildare.¹⁷³ Richard Hulot, or Howlot, a Canon, and afterwards Archdeacon of Kildare, was elected, in 1333, as successor, and he obtained the approval of Pope John XXII on the 18th of October. On the 26th of April, 1334, he obtained the temporalities.¹⁷⁴ He sat nearly twenty years. He died June 24th, 1352. His *obit* was celebrated at Christ Church, Dublin.¹⁷⁵ The same year Thomas Giffard, Chancellor of Kildare, was elected and confirmed as Bishop of Kildare by a Bull of Pope Innocent VI., and dated from Avignon, December 31st, 1352. According to other accounts his consecration took place in 1355.¹⁷⁶ After the death of Bishop Giffard, the See continued vacant for more than one year.¹⁷⁷ Robert of Aketon, an Augustinian Eremit, had been elected Bishop of Down in 1365, but the Pope annulled that election.¹⁷⁸ He was afterwards promoted to the See of Kildare in 1366, by the Sovereign Pontiff. He died either in the next or the following year.¹⁷⁹ He was living in 1367, but how long he survived does not appear. He died on the 25th of September, 1365,¹⁸⁰ and he was buried in the Cathedral of Kildare.¹⁸¹ However, according to Harris, certain short Annals of the Augustine Hermits, which he had seen, state he died Bishop of Kildare in 1368.¹⁸² A Bishop named George is said to have succeeded, and to have died A.D., 1401.¹⁸³

In the year 1376, a representation of the clergy and laity of Ireland was convened by King Edward III. at Westminster, to deliberate on the question of granting a liberal subsidy and on the state of the kingdom. The clergy who represented the diocese of Kildare were William White and Richard White. The diocese of Leighlin sent no representative.¹⁸⁴ On the 4th day of the Ides or 10th of December, 1401, the Pope appointed Henry of Wessenberg, a Franciscan friar, as Bishop of Kildare.¹⁸⁵ It has been suggested, that perhaps Thomas and Robert are only one and the same person, but under different names.¹⁸⁶ Thomas is said to have succeeded Henry, and to have died in 1405.¹⁸⁷

¹⁷³ A drawing of the seal of this bishop is in the archives of Christ Church, Dublin. See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., Bishops of Kildare, p. 16.

¹⁷⁴ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 386. Also Theiner, "Vetera Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam illustrantia," pp. 258, 259, 261.

¹⁷⁵ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., the Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 228.

¹⁷⁶ See Theiner, "Vetera Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam illustrantia," p. 301. Also Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 17.

¹⁷⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 386.

¹⁷⁸ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., Bishops of Kildare, p. 17.

¹⁷⁹ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., p. 228.

¹⁸⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 386.

¹⁸¹ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., p. 228.

¹⁸² See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 386.

¹⁸³ See *ibid.*

¹⁸⁴ The representatives for the County of Kildare, on this occasion, were John Rochford and Peter Rowe; those for the County of Carlow, were Geoffry de Valle and Peter de Valle. See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 17.

¹⁸⁵ According to Luke Wadding's *Annales Minorum Ordinis Franciscani*, tomus v., p. 3, ad annum 1401.

¹⁸⁶ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*, vol. ii., the Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, pp. 228, 229.

¹⁸⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 387.

Robert appears to have been bishop, and to have resigned in this year; for the king presents a clerk to the treasurership, the Temporalities of the See being in his hands, owing to the resignation of Robert, the late bishop.¹⁸⁸ A bishop succeeded in the See of Kildare, but his name is not recorded, and this appears from the Archives preserved in the Vatican.¹⁸⁹ On the 26th of October, 1419, one Donald Orici (O'Reilly) was appointed his successor. It has been stated, but incorrectly, by John Bale, that a Carmelite, named Quaplod, had been Bishop of Kildare about this time. However, Quaplod was Bishop, not of Kildare, but of Derry; and the Latin names of the two Sees *Derriensis* and *Darensis* being so nearly alike, the one may have been very readily mistaken for the other.¹⁹⁰

John Madock, educated at Oxford, and who was Archdeacon of Kildare, filled the See.¹⁹¹ He died A.D. 1431.¹⁹² William, Archdeacon of Kildare, was appointed to this bishopric by Pope Eugene IV., August 8th, 1431.¹⁹³ He died in April, 1446.¹⁹⁴ There is a seal inscribed, "Sigillum Willmi. Dei Gracia Kyldarens. Epi.," supposed to have belonged to this bishop.¹⁹⁵ Geoffry Hereford, a Dominican friar, through the instrumentality of Henry VI., was appointed Bishop of Kildare, and he was consecrated upon Easter Day, A.D. 1449.¹⁹⁶ He sat for about fifteen years, and he died in 1464.¹⁹⁷ He was buried in his own cathedral.¹⁹⁸ Richard Lang, a man of noble birth and of great learning, succeeded in 1464. He had been selected for Archbishop of Armagh on the death of John Bole, in the year 1470.¹⁹⁹ His character stood so high, that the Dean and Chapter of Arinagh earnestly petitioned the Pope to promote him to that archbishopric. Their suit, however, was rejected. He retained the See of Kildare till the time of his death, which happened in 1474.²⁰⁰ In 1474 one David was appointed Bishop of Kildare. However, it does not appear he ever took possession of his See, as he died almost immediately after his appointment.²⁰¹ On the 5th of April, 1475, James Wale, D.D., a Franciscan friar, was

¹⁸⁸ According to the Rolls, Pat. 7, Henry IV.

¹⁸⁹ The record thus runs: "Sept. Kal. Novembris, 1419, provisum est ecclesie Daren. in Hib. Vac. per mortem, de persona Danaldi Orici, Minden" (Miden?),—William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession in England, Scotland and Ireland, A.D. 1400 to 1875, with Appointments to Monasteries and Extracts from Consistorial Acts taken from MSS. in public and private Libraries in Rome, Florence, Bologna, Ravenna, and Paris," Vol. i., p. 348. In Three Volumes, Rome 1876, 1877, 8vo.

¹⁹⁰ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 18.

¹⁹¹ See Bishop Comerford's Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 18.

¹⁹² See Archdeacon Henry "Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii. Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 229.

¹⁹³ See Dr. Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., Vol. i., p. 349.

¹⁹⁴ Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 229.

¹⁹⁵ An engraving of it is to be seen in the "Irish Penny Journal" for 1849.

¹⁹⁶ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 387.

¹⁹⁷ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare, p. 18.

¹⁹⁸ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 229.

¹⁹⁹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Archbishops of Armagh."

²⁰⁰ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 229.

²⁰¹ Even before his Apostolic letters were completed, according to Luke Wadding's "Annales Ordinis Minorum," tomus vi., p. 830.

promoted to this See. He resigned it in a very short time.²⁰² To him William Barret succeeded, but at what precise time seems to be unknown. He resigned in or before 1482. Afterwards he appears to have taken up his residence in France, as in the year 1493 he was Vicar to the Bishop of Clermont.²⁰³ Edmund or Edward Lane was promoted to this See in 1482. He was a great benefactor to its church. He founded a college at Kildare for the residence of the Dean and Chapter. This prelate had been induced to assist at the coronation of Lambert Simnel through persuasion of the Earl of Kildare. For this he was pardoned in 1488.²⁰⁴ Bishop Lane occupied this See for upwards of forty years and he died about the close of 1522. A drawing of his episcopal seal is in the archives of Christ Church, Dublin.²⁰⁵

The Earl of Kildare asked Cardinal Wolsey to procure the bishopric of Kildare for the Dean Edward Dillon.²⁰⁶ This request was not granted, but the preferment was obtained by a namesake, perhaps a brother, and named Thomas Dillon, who succeeded in 1523. He was a native of Meath, but he was educated in Oxford.²⁰⁷ He is said to have died A.D. 1531²⁰⁸; but, probably, it was at an earlier date. A Dominican friar, Peter Stoll, D.D., was promoted to the See of Kildare, by Pope Clement VII., March 15, A.D. 1529.²⁰⁹ The name of this prelate has been omitted by Sir James Ware and by his editor, Walter Harris. The next who succeeded was Walter Wellesley, commonly called Wesley, Prior of Conall, in the County of Kildare, and for some time Master of the Rolls.²¹⁰ As he was designated for the See of Kildare from the 1st of July, 1520, according to the Barbarini Archives in Rome, it would seem, either that Dr. Stoll had declined the proffered dignity, or that his selection had not been confirmed by the Pope. His being an Irishman was probably a disqualification, and a more pliant instrument for English Court policy,²¹¹ King Henry VIII. being the monarch, was required. Walter Wellesley had been one of the King's Privy Counsellors; he was promoted to this bishopric by royal favour, and appointed by Pope Clement VII. In virtue of a Dispensation, he held the Priory of Conall during life.²¹² He died in 1539, and he was buried

²⁰² He lived until April 28th, 1494, and he was buried in the Franciscan Convent in London. See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 229.

²⁰³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Fasti of Kildare," p. 388. Also Martene's "De Episcopal Succession," vol. i., p. 42.

²⁰⁴ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Collectanea relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Dublin," vol. i., Bishops of Kildare, p. 32.

²⁰⁵ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 229.

²⁰⁶ According to the State Papers, vol. ii.

²⁰⁷ See Anthony Wood's "Athene Oxonienses," vol. i., p. 693.

²⁰⁸ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 230.

²⁰⁹ See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. xiii., sect. lviii., p. 485.

²¹⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 389.

²¹¹ The following uncomplimentary reference to Dr. Peter Stoll is found in the State Papers, vol. iii., p. 141. Cowley to Wolsey: "Anthony Knevet hath obtained the Bishoprick of Kildare to a simple Irish preste, a vagabounde, without learning, manners, or good qualite, not worthy to bee a hally water clerk." This office of Aquæbajulus was by a constitution of Archbishop Binnace to be conferred on poor clerks. "As I here the Kinges Highnes wol pay for his bulles out of his owne cofers; whereof others in Ireland would greatly marvaille, soche as have don the Kinges grace good service."

²¹² See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 49.

in his Priory of Conall, where an altar tomb to his memory still remains.²¹³ It bears the figure of a bishop with mitre, and pastoral staff in low relief with a Latin inscription.²¹⁴ On the death of Dr. Wellesley, Donald O'Beachan, a Minorite, of the Convent of Kildare, was provided for his See by the Pope, on the 16th of July, 1540. However, he died a few days after his appointment. After his death, Thady Reynolds, Rector of the Church of Olmar, in the Diocese of Meath, was appointed Bishop by the Pope, on the 15th of November, 1540. At this time, King Henry VIII., in open revolt against the Pope, refused to acknowledge Dr. Reynolds; and, styling himself Supreme Head of the Church of Ireland, he undertook the promotion of Thomas Miagh,²¹⁵ whom he afterwards called into his Privy Council of Ireland. He is reckoned as the first Kildare prelate of the Protestant Reformation. He died on the 15th of December, 1548.²¹⁶

When the See had continued vacant one year and seven months, Thomas Lancaster was appointed Protestant bishop by the king, and by virtue of a Commission dated July 11th, he was consecrated on the 20th of that month by George Brown, the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin.²¹⁷ On the 3rd of September following, he obtained a faculty to hold the deanery of Kilkenny, together with this bishopric. The Oxford antiquary, Wood, makes him also Treasurer of Salisbury.²¹⁸ This, however, is a mistake, as Thomas Lancaster, Archbishop of Armagh, was really that person. In 1554, because he was a married man, a Commission, composed of George Dowdal, Archbishop of Armagh, Thomas Leverous, and others, deposed Lancaster,²¹⁹ under Mary, Queen of England.

Thomas Leverous,²²⁰ a native of Kildare County, and Dean of St. Patrick's Dublin, just then restored, was nominated Catholic Bishop of Kildare on the 1st of March, 1555; yet, this was not confirmed by the Pope's Bull until the 30th of August following.²²¹ But it seems probable, that he had received episcopal consecration some years previous to his appointment to Kildare. In 1541, information reached Rome, that Dr. Saunders, Bishop of Leighlin, had died; whereupon Dr. Leverous was appointed to succeed him. The information which led to his election for the See of Leighlin proved to be unfounded, as Dr.

²¹³ This is built into the wall enclosing the burial-ground, at the entrance gate. See "Journal of the County Kildare Archæological Society and Surrounding Districts," vol. i., p. 149.

²¹⁴ These are the words: "Hic jacet frater Walterus Wellesley, quondam Episcopus Darenensis, hujus Domus Commendatarius, cujus animæ propitietur Deus Qui obiit Anno Domini M.D. . . ." In English: "Here lieth brother Walter Wellesley, late Bishop of Kildare, Prior of this House, to whose soul may God be merciful. He died in the year of our Lord, M.D. . . ."

²¹⁵ He was a native of Cork, according to Sir James Ware. See "De Præsulibus Lageniæ." Episcopi Darenenses, p. 49.

²¹⁶ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 300.

²¹⁷ A full account of this prelate is to

be found in John D'Alton's "Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin," pp. 196 to 235.

²¹⁸ See "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. i., p. 175.

²¹⁹ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," Bishops of Kildare, p. 23.

²²⁰ In a passage from the Consistorial entry, preserved in the Barbarini Archives, he is called "Thomæ Lenros," so that probably his real name was Lewry or Lowry.

²²¹ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Darenenses, p. 50.

²²² His instrumentality in saving Gerald from falling into the hands of the English is recounted fully in "The Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare.

Saunders lived until 1549; still it would appear, that the mistake had not been discovered until after the consecration of Dr. Leverous had taken place, as in his appointment to the See of Kildare, the official record styles him "olim Episcopus Leghlinensis." Dr. Leverous had been the tutor and guardian of Gerald, half-brother to Thomas, Earl of Kildare, and his successor in the title.²²² This prelate had been mainly instrumental in organizing that great confederacy of Irish chieftains, Desmond, O'Brien, O'Donnell, and O'Neill,²²³ which, in 1537 and 1540,²²⁴ had well-nigh overturned the English power in Ireland.²²⁵ Although his nomination received the sanction of the Holy See in August, yet the Bull for his appointment did not arrive in Ireland until the 19th of December, 1555, owing to the illness of the messenger. By Act of Parliament, Queen Elizabeth was made supreme Head of the Church in Ireland, and the oath of supremacy was enacted. Refusing to take that oath, Dr. Leverous was deposed from his bishopric and deanery, January 1559.²²⁶ Afterwards, he was obliged to teach a school, in the town of Adair near Limerick, for his livelihood,²²⁷ while he exercised episcopal faculties and ministrations under the prevailing system of rigorous proscription. During this period, Dr. Richard Creagh, Archbishop of Armagh, received faculties from Rome, April 10th, 1575, for administration of the entire ecclesiastical Province of Dublin. Dr. Leverous died at Naas, about 1577, in the eightieth year of his age, and he was buried there in the parish Church of St. David.²²⁸

From the death of Dr. Leverous to the year 1629, the See of Kildare was administered by Catholic Vicars Apostolic. During this interval, the Rev. Robert Lalor was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Dublin, Kildare and Ferns from 1594 to 1606. He was arrested and brought to trial, December, 1606, accused of exercising foreign jurisdiction, and of denying the King's spiritual supremacy. Sentence of death was pronounced against him, and a few days later he was executed.²²⁹

By Letters Patent, issued by authority of Queen Elizabeth, one Alexander Clarke, a Bachelor of Divinity, and Dean of St. Patrick's,

²²² See Rt. Rev. Patrick Francis Moran's "History of the Catholic Archbishopric of Dublin, since the Reformation," p. 87.

²²³ See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xlv., pp. 230 to 237.

²²⁴ Referring to the Acts of the Irish Parliament of this period, and the attempts of King Henry VIII. to establish the Reformation in Ireland, no less an authority than Lord Clare observes, that they could not be reconciled to any principle of sound policy and he adds, "it was a declaration of perpetual war, not only against the native Irish, but against every person of English blood, who had settled beyond the limits of the Pale, and from motives of personal interest or convenience had formed connexions with the natives, or adopted their laws or customs; and it had the full effect, which might be expected; it drew closer the confederacy it was meant to dissolve, and implicated the colony

of the Pale in ceaseless warfare and contention with each other, and with the inhabitants of the adjacent districts. It was equally hopeless and impolitic to call upon the people at once to abjure the religion of their ancestors, and to subscribe to new doctrines." "Speech of Lord Clare in the Irish House of Lords, 10th February, 1800," p. 7.

²²⁵ His reasons to the Lord Deputy for refusing to take such an oath are to be found in a book entitled "De Processu martyrii," &c., printed at Cologne in 1649.

²²⁷ See William Monck Mason's "History and Antiquities of the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, near Dublin," book ii., chap. iii., sect. iii., pp. 163, 164.

²²⁸ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 391. Also Rt. Rev. Bishop Moran's "Spicilegium Ossoriense," vol. i., p. 82.

²²⁹ See Rt. Rev. Bishop Moran's "History of the Archbishops of Dublin," p. 219.

Dublin, was made Protestant Bishop of Kildare, while retaining both benefices. But not content with these, he exchanged almost all the manors and farms belonging to the See with Patrick Sarsfield for some tithes of little value. By this exchange, he reduced the revenues of Kildare to a shameful state of poverty. He sat for only three years and some months, when he died, A.D. 1563, according to Sir James Ware,²³⁰ or in 1564, according to his editor, Walter Harris.²³¹ He was buried in St. Patrick's Church, Dublin, under the altar, at the north side.²³² By Letters Patent, and dated May 2nd, 1564, Robert Daly, Prebendary of Clonmethan, succeeded, in the sixth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. He held his prebend *in commendam*, and the rectory of Swords in the Diocese of Dublin, during his life. He was driven from his See three different times, by the Irish enemy, and despoiled of his goods.²³³ In the winter of 1582 he died. Daniel Neylan, Rector of Iniscathy, in the Diocese of Killaloe, was advanced to this See by the Queen's letter, dated the 3rd of July, in the twenty-fifth year of her reign. He was consecrated by Adam Loftus, Archbishop of Dublin,²³⁴ in November, 1583. He died on the 18th of May, 1603, having sat for nineteen years and six months.²³⁵ By Letters Patent, dated 9th of August, 1604, William Pilsworth, a native of London,²³⁶ and educated in Magdalen College, Oxford, was appointed to this See, and he was consecrated on the 11th of September following, at Balscon, in the County Meath, on account of a plague, which then raged in Dublin.²³⁷ He preferred a petition to the Privy Council, for some remedy to recover the lands alienated by his predecessor Craike from his See, but without success; and therefore, he was determined to have a share in the spoil, by leaving his bishopric poorer than he found it.²³⁸ He died at Naas, on the 9th of May, 1635. He was buried at Dunfert, in the County of Kildare.

During his incumbency in 1615,²³⁹ Dr. James Talbot was Catholic Administrator of the Kildare Diocese, and Vicar-General of the Dioceses of Dublin and Kildare. Over the latter Diocese he was appointed Vicar-Apostolic in 1617.²⁴⁰ On the 11th of March, 1621, Donatus Dowling was appointed Vicar-Apostolic. Again, the name of Dr. James Talbot appears as Vicar-Apostolic of Kildare, June 5th, 1623. Both Dr. Matthews and Dr. Fleming, Archbishops of Dublin, made application to the Holy See to have him appointed Bishop of Kildare, but that appointment did not take place. On the 17th of November, 1629, Dr. Talbot was informed by J. A. Cardinalis Sti Onofrio, that his

²³⁰ See "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 51.

²³¹ See vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 391.

²³² See William Monck Mason's "History and Antiquities of the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, near Dublin," book ii., chap. iii., sect. iv., p. 165.

²³³ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 51.

²³⁴ See an account of him in John D'Alton's "Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin," pp. 240 to 250.

²³⁵ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 52.

²³⁶ According to Anthony Wood, he was born in Fleet street, A.D. 1560, and was admitted into Magdalen College, in 1578. See "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. i., p. 736.

²³⁷ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Daresens, p. 52.

²³⁸ According to Bishop Dopping's Notes to the Latin Edition of Ware's Bishops, quoted in Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 92.

²³⁹ At this year he is named in the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²⁴⁰ According to the Manuscripts of Father Luke Wadding, preserved in the Franciscan Convent, Merchant's Quay, Dublin.

office of Vicar-Apostolic of Kildare had ceased by the appointment of Rocco della Croce, viz., Roche or Ross Mac Geoghegan, a distinguished Dominican, on January 8th, 1629, to be Bishop of Kildare. During his term, he suffered much from persecution, being obliged to fly from place to place, thus concealing himself from his persecutors. He was paralysed and helpless owing to other infirmities a considerable time before his death, which happened before the month of June, 1644.²⁴¹

Robert Ussher, son to Henry Ussher, Primate of all Ireland, succeeded William Pilsworth, as Protestant Bishop of Kildare. He was educated in Trinity College, Dublin, and regarded as a learned and an amiable man. He was Prebendary of St. Audoen's Church, Dublin, in 1617, and he was elected Provost of Trinity College, on the 16th of October, 1629,²⁴² Archdeacon of Meath, he was consecrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, on the 25th of February, 1635. He took great pains in soliciting the Parliament for an Act to recover the lands of his bishopric, alienated through Craike and Pilsworth, but without success.²⁴³ When the Irish Insurrection of 1641 broke out, he fled from his See to England, and he died at Pantabirsly, September 7th, 1642. William Golbourne, born in Chester, a Bachelor of Divinity of the University of Dublin, and Archdeacon of Kildare, was consecrated Protestant Bishop of the latter Diocese in St. Patrick's, Dublin, December 1st, 1644,²⁴⁴ by Archbishop Lancelot of that See. He died of the plague in Dublin, A.D. 1650, and he was buried in the Church of St. Nicholas Within the Walls.²⁴⁵

During this time and after the death of the Catholic Bishop Mac Geoghegan, his Vicar-General, James Dempsey, got charge of Kildare Diocese. In a congregation of Propaganda held at Rome, June 15th, 1655, it was proposed to make him Vicar-General of Kildare Diocese.²⁴⁶

During the time of the Commonwealth, no Protestant Bishop of Kildare seems to have been promoted. Next in succession to Golbourne, however, was Thomas Price, a native of Wales, but educated in Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Divinity and became Senior Fellow.²⁴⁷ He was ordained by Bishop Bedell, of Kilmore, to which See he was appointed Archdeacon, and he officiated as chaplain to the celebrated James, Duke of Ormond. Through his interest, Price was promoted by Letters Patent, dated March 6th, 1660, English style, to the See of Kildare, and the same day had his mandate for consecration, and writ of restitution to the Temporalities. He was consecrated on the 10th of that month in Christ Church, by James Margetson, Archbishop of Dublin. Bishop Dopping states, that through the negligence of himself or of his Registrar, he left the Diocese of Kildare indebted to the king for subsidies, in the sum of £217, and the Preceptory of Tully, which he held *in commendam* with his Bishopric, in the sum of £40, which his successor was obliged to pay. By virtue of a clause in the Act of Settlement, all the manors and estates formerly belonging

²⁴¹ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 29 to 32.

²⁴² See an account of his administration, in Dr. John William Stubbs' "History of the University of Dublin," chap. iv., pp. 61 to 67.

²⁴³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 393.

²⁴⁴ See William Monck Mason's "History and Antiquities of the Col-

legiate and Cathedral Church of St. Patrick," book ii., chap. iii., sect. xii., p. 187.

²⁴⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 393.

²⁴⁶ See Dr. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession."

²⁴⁷ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiae Hibernicae," vol. ii., "Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare," p. 233.

to the See of Kildare, and which had been forfeited to the king through the Irish Rebellion of 1641, might have been recovered.²⁴⁸ These were the manors and lands, which Bishop Craike had exchanged, before the restraining act,²⁴⁹ with Patrick Sarsfield for some tithes of small value, and which through the rebellion had been forfeited by the latter. By Letters Patent, dated May 30th, 1667, Thomas Price was translated to the See of Cashel, and the same day had his restitution to the Temporalities.²⁵⁰

During his term, the Catholic Primate appointed the Abbé Geraldine to superintend the Diocese of Kildare, there being then no Vicar-General.²⁵¹ On the 12th of May, 1671, Propaganda selected Patrick Dempsey to be Vicar-Apostolic of Kildare, and the Pope ratified this appointment on the 26th of that month. Recommended by the Emperor of Austria, and owing to his own personal qualifications, Dr. Mark Forstal was elected Bishop of Kildare by Propaganda on the 8th of October, 1676. In his time we learn, that his Diocese had only fifteen priests, and that his income was only £15 a year, so that owing to the representations of the Primate, Dr. Oliver Plunkett, and other Irish Bishops to the Roman See, a Brief was issued on the 5th of September, 1678, whereby Dr. Forstal might hold the adjoining poor Catholic Diocese of Leighlin *in commendam* together with Kildare. Even afterwards, his life was one of misery, being obliged to dwell in a hovel or thatched hut, rudely constructed and in a marshy wood, until, on the 25th of February, 1681, he was arrested, without having any accusation brought against him, but that of his having exercised Papal jurisdiction in the Kingdom. When, after a long imprisonment, he was at length liberated, the violence of religious persecution at the time obliged him to seek safety in the woods and mountains, until on the 7th of February, 1683, as an exile his earthly career was closed in the Diocese of Cashel. After the time of Bishop Forstal, in the Catholic arrangement, the two Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin have been united under the rule of one Prelate.²⁵²

On the 1st of June, 1677, by Letters Patent, Ambrose Jones,²⁵³ son to Lewis Jones, Bishop of Killaloe,²⁵⁴ and brother to Henry Jones,²⁵⁵ Bishop of Clogher, and then Bishop of Meath, was made Protestant Bishop of Kildare, and had his writ of restitution the same day. Together with it, he held the Preceptory of Tully and the Prebend of Maynooth *in commendam*.

²⁴⁸ "But either through his miserable spirit," remarks Bishop Dopping, "or mere slothfulness (who would not consult the interest of his See) an opportunity for this end was lost, which never can be redeemed. For being by the Duke of Ormond made sure of his succession to the See of Cashel, he refused to expend a penny, or even to interpose his interest or solicitation in so good a work; although Ralph Wallis, and others, offered to take the burden and charges of the whole business upon themselves."

²⁴⁹ Of King Charles I., sess. 4, stat. 10, II, chap. 3.

²⁵⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," pp. 393, 394.

²⁵¹ See Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," vol. ii., pp. 345 to 349.

²⁵² See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 37 to 42.

²⁵³ He was a native of Ireland, and he was educated in Trinity College, Dublin. On the 4th of February, 1660, he was promoted by King Charles II. to the Archdeaconry of Meath, then in the gift of the Crown by lapse.

²⁵⁴ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., "Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare," p. 233.

²⁵⁵ He was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Dublin University in 1646, and he continued to act as such, but did not assume his title of Bishop. See Dr. John William Stubbs' "History of the University of Dublin," chap. iv., p. 90.

He was consecrated in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, by Michael, Archbishop of Dublin, assisted by Henry, Bishop of Meath, and Edward, Bishop of Killaloe, on the 29th of the same month. As Thomas Price, on his advancement to the Archbishopric of Cashel, had left a charge upon the See of arrears due to the Crown, Bishop Jones was obliged to pay them without any re-imbusement made by the Archbishop. Bishop Jones preferred petitions to the Duke of Ormond for augmentation of the revenues of his See; but a bad state of health checked his endeavours, and thus his applications failed of success. He died in Dublin, December 15th, 1678, and he was buried in St. Andrew's Church.²⁵⁶

In 1683 Edward Wesley was appointed by Propaganda, Catholic Bishop of Kildare, with the See of Leighlin united under his administration. He seems to have died towards the close of 1693, and in January, 1694, he was succeeded by John Dempsey, the date for whose death has not been ascertained, but it happened several years prior to 1713.²⁵⁷

Andrew Dopping, a native of Dublin,²⁵⁸ Fellow of Trinity College,²⁵⁹ and Chancellor of the University, was made Protestant Bishop of Kildare, by Letters Patent, dated January, 1678.²⁶⁰ He was consecrated in Christ Church, February 2nd, and enthroned on the 25th of the same month.²⁶¹ In February, 1681, he was translated to Meath.²⁶² He then was admitted into the Privy Council on the 5th of April following, and he continued there until the death of King Charles II., and the dissolution of the Council by King James II., on the 2nd of February, 1684. Dopping was one of the few Protestant Bishops who remained in Ireland during that monarch's brief reign, and he was a stout defender of the interests of his co-religionists. As one of the five Protestant bishops in the Irish House of Lords in the Parliament of James II., 1689, he led the opposition to that monarch's measures with great courage and pertinacity.²⁶³ After the arrival of King William at Finglas, accompanied by others favouring the Revolution, Dopping presented an address of congratulation.²⁶⁴ He died in Dublin, April 24th, 1697, and he was buried in the family vault in St. Andrew's Church.²⁶⁵

He was succeeded in the See of Kildare by William Morton,²⁶⁶ an

²⁵⁶ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 394.

²⁵⁷ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 113, 173.

²⁵⁸ Born there March 28th, 1613, and educated in the school of St. Peter's Cathedral. He was admitted to the University, May 5th, 1656.

²⁵⁹ Elected in 1662, and in 1669 he was made Vicar of St. Andrew's, Dublin. He became chaplain to the Duke of Ormond. See Harris' Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 394.

²⁶⁰ See Rowley La Plé's "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part. v., p. 107.

²⁶¹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., the Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 233.

²⁶² See W. B. S. Taylor's "History of

the University of Dublin," chap. x., sec. ii., p. 376.

²⁶³ He resisted all the principal measures, and procured great changes in them, as appears from the Journals of the House of Lords. See Thomas Davis' "Patriot Parliament of 1689, with its Statutes, Votes and Proceedings," chap. ii., pp. 16, 17. Edition of Charles Gavan Duffy, London, 1893., sm. 4to.

²⁶⁴ This is still preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. See Dr. John William Stubbs' "History of the University of Dublin," appendix, pp. 337, 338.

²⁶⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Meath," pp. 160, 161.

²⁶⁶ He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, and he came to Ireland as chaplain to the Earl of Oxford. Afterwards he became chaplain to James, Duke of Ormond. In 1677, he was promoted to be Dean of Christ Church, Dublin.

Englishman, promoted by Letters Patent, dated February 13th, 1681.²⁶⁷ Owing to the poverty of this See, he was allowed to retain his deanery of Christ Church, *in commendam*, and the preceptory of Tully, in the County of Kildare,²⁶⁸ a practice which continued from that time till the year 1846. Bishop Morton retired with all his family to England, during the reign of King James II. In 1705, he was translated to Meath.²⁶⁹ On the 23rd of September, 1705, Welbore Ellis,²⁷⁰ D.D., succeeded by Letters Patent to the See of Kildare, and to the Deanery of Christ Church, Dublin.²⁷¹ He was installed on the 12th of November. For upwards of twenty-six years he presided. He was translated to the See of Meath the 13th of March, 1731. He died on the 1st of January, 1733,²⁷² and on the 3rd, he was buried with great solemnity in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, where his monument is still to be seen.²⁷³

On the recommendation of "King James"—generally known as the old Pretender—Propaganda appointed Edward Murphy, Vicar General, to be Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and he was accordingly consecrated by Edmund Byrne, Archbishop of Dublin, on the 18th of December, 1715. In September, 1724, he was translated to the Archiepiscopal See of Dublin, over which he presided for the five succeeding years. In 1724, Bernard Dunne succeeded as Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and he died A.D. 1733. That same year, Stephen Dowdall succeeded him in office; but he resigned the government of both Dioceses before his death, and in May, 1737, Dr. James Gallagher, Bishop of Raphoe, was translated to Kildare, being also declared administrator of Leighlin. Before his death, which happened in 1751,²⁷⁴ he lived much of his time in a small cabin, near the Bog of Allen.²⁷⁵

On the 16th of March, 1731,²⁷⁶ by Letters Patent, Charles Cobbe, D.D., an Englishman, Protestant Bishop of Dromore,²⁷⁷ was translated to Kildare. He was installed on the 22nd. In 1743, he was raised to the Archbishopric of Dublin. In that city he died, on the 14th of April, 1765.²⁷⁸ George Stone, D.D., an Englishman, Dean of Derry, and afterwards Bishop of Ferns, was translated to Kildare, by Letters Patent, dated March 19th, 1743.²⁷⁹ In 1745, he was translated

²⁶⁷ See Rowley Lascelles "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part. 5., p. 197.

²⁶⁸ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Kildare," p. 395.

²⁶⁹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 234.

²⁷⁰ He was an Englishman by birth, and educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where his portrait is preserved in the hall.

²⁷¹ See Rowley Lascelles' "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., par. v., p. 197.

²⁷² See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Meath," p. 164. Also "Bishops of Kildare," p. 396.

²⁷³ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Dublin, pp. 45, 46, and n. (b). Also Diocese of Kildare, p. 234.

²⁷⁴ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 73 to 82.

²⁷⁵ Letter of his successor, Rt. Rev. James Doyle, dated Allen, 6th of May, 1823, in William J. Fitzpatrick's "Life, Times and Correspondence of the Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., chap. ix., p. 239. Dublin, 1880. New edition.

²⁷⁶ See Rowley Lascelles' "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 197.

²⁷⁷ He had previously filled the See of Killala by Letters Patent, dated May 30th, 1720. See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Killala, p. 656.

²⁷⁸ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, the Diocese of Dublin, p. 45. Also the Diocese of Kildare, p. 234.

²⁷⁹ See Rowley Lascelles' "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An.

to Derry, and in 1747, he became Primate of Armagh.²⁸⁰ In this capacity, he was charged with care of the English interest in Ireland, and he was a man of talent, but of an ambitious, arrogant, and a resolutely obstinate character. These dispositions rendered him unpopular in the country at large.²⁸¹ This prelate died in December, 1764.²⁸² Thomas Fletcher, D.D., Dean of Down in 1739, and in 1744 Bishop of Dromore, was translated to Kildare by Letters Patent, dated May 14th, 1745. He died in Dublin, on the 18th of March, 1761, and he was buried in the Cathedral of Christ Church.²⁸³

During his time, the Rev. James O'Keeffe, Parish Priest of Tullow, County of Carlow, and Vicar-Capitular of the Diocese of Leighlin, was elected Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin by Propaganda, and his Brief is dated January 19th, 1752. He founded St. Patrick's College, Carlow, which he had nearly built at the time of his death, September 19th, 1787, at the age of 85. In 1781, the Rev. Richard O'Reilly, Parish Priest of Kilcock, was consecrated Coadjutor, Bishop of the Diocese, but two years afterwards he was made Coadjutor and Administrator of Armagh, *cum jure successionis*. Afterwards, Bishop O'Keeffe selected the Rev. Dr. Daniel Delany, C.C., of Tullow, to be his Coadjutor, and he was there consecrated Bishop on the 31st of August, 1783.²⁸⁴

Thomas Fletcher, D.D., Protestant Bishop of Down, was succeeded by Richard Robinson, D.D., son to William, of Martin, Surrey, arm.,²⁸⁵ and a student of Christ Church, Oxford,²⁸⁶ who came to Ireland as Chaplain to the Duke of Dorset, Lord Lieutenant. He became Bishop of Killala in 1751; and in 1759 he was translated to the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns. In 1761, by Letters Patent, dated April 13th, he was translated to the See of Kildare and to the Deanery of Christ Church. On May 10th, he was enthroned. Afterwards, he was elevated to the Primacy, by Letters Patent, dated January 19th, 1765.²⁸⁷ That same year Charles Jackson, D.D., a native of Northamptonshire, and educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, having been Chaplain to the Duke of Bedford, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and advanced by him to the bishopric of Ferns in 1761, afterwards became Bishop of Kildare, translated by Letters Patent, dated February 25th, 1765. He was enthroned on the 6th of June following. He died A.D. 1799.²⁸⁸ By Letters Patent, dated June 5th, 1790, the Rt. Rev. George Lewis

1132 *supra* vol. 127," vol. ii., part v., p. 127.

²⁸⁰ See Archbishop Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 131. See also Later Diocese of Kildare, p. 234.

²⁸¹ See Francis Howden's "History of Ireland, from its Invasion under Henry II. to the present time," chap. vi., pp. 113 to 129.

²⁸² See *ibid.* chap. vi., p. 128.

²⁸³ See Archbishop Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Dublin, pp. 46, 47. Also the Diocese of Kildare, pp. 234, 235.

²⁸⁴ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 72 to 87.

²⁸⁵ He was a lineal descendant of the Robinsons of Rokeby, an ancient family

of respectability, and born in 1709, he was eighth in descent from William of Kendal. A very full and complete account of this remarkable prelate's career is to be found in James Stuart's "Historical Memoirs of the city of Armagh," chap. xxv., pp. 444 to 487.

²⁸⁶ See Joseph Foster's "Alumni Oxonienses," Later Series, L—R., p. 1214.

²⁸⁷ He died at Clifton, near Bristol, in October, 1794, and he was interred with due solemnity in a vault under Armagh Cathedral. See James Stuart's "Historical Memoirs of the City of Armagh," chap. xxv.

²⁸⁸ See Archbishop Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii. The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 235.

Jones,²⁸⁹ D.D., was translated from the See of Kilmore to that of Kildare, and he was enthroned on the 10th of August. He died in London, March 9th, 1804, aged 84 years.

On the death of Bishop O'Keeffe in 1787, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Delany immediately succeeded him. This pious and amiable prelate departed this life, July 9th, 1814. The Rev. Michael Corcoran, Parish Priest of Kildare, succeeded to the Sees of Kildare and Leighlin, on the 12th of March, 1815. He died at Tullow on the 22nd of February, 1819, and he was there interred in the parish church.²⁹⁰

The Hon. Charles Dalrymple Lindsay, D.D., was son to John, Earl of Balcarres, in Scotland, and he was educated at Baliol College, Oxford.²⁹¹ He came over to Ireland as chaplain and private secretary to Earl Hardwicke, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1803, he was appointed Bishop of Killaloe; and by Letters Patent he was translated to Kildare, on the 14th of May, 1804. He was installed Dean of Christ Church on May 18th; but this patent being judged defective in point of form, a second was issued, dated August 1st, when the Dean was admitted on August 2nd, and installed on the 4th. He was a man of acute mind, of singular industry, and of great talents for business. He was a good scholar, of a refined taste, and a great proficient in and a promoter of Church music. He was a man of wide and general information, and fond of literary pursuits. He was enthroned Bishop of Kildare, July, 6th, 1804. For forty-two years he watched actively over the rights and privileges of Christ Church Cathedral. He died in his house at Glasnevin, near Dublin, on the 8th of August, 1846, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. After his death, the revenues of the deanery of Christ Church Cathedral were transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the Dean of St. Patrick's became also Dean of Christ Church. He was buried in this cathedral, where a monument bearing a suitable inscription has been erected to his memory.²⁹² On his death the Protestant See of Kildare was suppressed by Act of Parliament, and it became united to that of Dublin,²⁹³ while the revenues of the Kildare bishopric and also those of the deanery of Christ Church were transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.²⁹⁴

On the 22nd of March, 1819, the Catholic clergy of the Diocese assembled for the purpose of nominating a successor to Dr. Delany, and chose James Warren Doyle, Professor of Theology in Carlow College as *dignissimus*. On the 8th of August the same year he was approved by the Pope, and on the 14th of November succeeding, he received Episcopal Consecration in the old Parish Church of Carlow. The public career of this illustrious Prelate has rendered him generally and justly celebrated. Notwithstanding declining health, especially towards the close of his life, Dr. Doyle's labours were unremitting; but on the 21st of April, 1834, a meeting of his clergy was summoned to select for him

²⁸⁹ He was educated at Cambridge, and he became chaplain to Earl Harcourt Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1775, he was made Bishop of Kilmore. He was installed Dean of Christ Church on the 31st July, 1790.

²⁹⁰ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 87 to 92.

²⁹¹ See Joseph Foster's "Alumni Oxonienses," Later Series, l.—R. p. 853.

²⁹² See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii. The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Dublin, pp. 48, 49.

²⁹³ By the Act 3 and 4 of William IV., chap. 37.

²⁹⁴ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii. The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Kildare, p. 235.

²⁹⁵ See a full and very interesting

a Coadjutor Bishop in the person of Rev. Edward Nolan *dignissimus*, and this choice was afterwards confirmed by the Pope. Dr. Doyle expired on Sunday, June 15th, 1834.²⁹⁵ Dr. Nolan was consecrated Bishop on the 18th of October following, but his Episcopal career was of short duration, as he died of typhus fever on the 14th of October, 1837. The Rev. Francis Haly, Parish Priest of Kilcock, and his cousin, was elected as a successor, and on the 25th of March, 1838, he was consecrated in the Cathedral of Carlow. This accomplished and venerable Prelate died on the 19th of August, 1855, in the 74th year of his age.

The Rev. Dr. James Walshe was nominated to succeed, approved by the Pope, and consecrated Bishop, March 30th, 1856. His strength failing, he applied for a Coadjutor, and Dr. James Lynch of Glasgow Diocese was appointed as such in 1869.²⁹⁶ The Most Rev. Dr. Walshe died on the 5th of March, 1888,²⁹⁷ and his Coadjutor, Dr. Lynch, succeeded. But as he had borne the burden of the episcopacy for many years, being now at an advanced age, and with enfeebled health, he required a Coadjutor Bishop, and accordingly the Very Rev. Michael Comerford, P.P. of Monasterevan, was nominated in 1888, and consecrated on the 1st of January, 1889. He was the author of several works, the chief one of these being "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," which appeared in three octavo volumes, 1883-1886. This very learned work, compiled and arranged with great labour, skill and research, has proved most useful as a book of reference for many of the statements herein set forth. The Most Rev. Dr. Comerford did not long survive his advancement to the episcopal dignity, and he departed this life on the 9th of August, 1895.²⁹⁸ The Very Rev. Patrick Foley, D.D., President of Carlow College, was selected to fill the position rendered vacant by his death; and, on the 31st of May, 1896, he was consecrated Coadjutor, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. The venerable Dr. James Lynch departed this life on the 19th of December, the same year,²⁹⁹ and the Most Rev. Patrick Foley immediately succeeded him as Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

CHAPTER III.—THE QUEEN'S COUNTY PORTION OF LEIGHLIN DIOCESE.

As a considerable portion of Leix is included in the Diocese of Leighlin, it may be well briefly to designate the Bishops who governed that See in early times, so far as the list can be rendered complete from authentic records. The first Bishop, St. Laserian,¹ the founder, flourished early in the seventh century. He chose old Leighlin, within the present barony of Idrone West, and in the County of Carlow, near the western bank of the River Barrow, as the site for a religious establishment, around which in aftertimes grew a considerable town. He died on the 18th of April, A.D. 638 or 639.² The list of his immediate successors

account of him in William J. Fitzpatrick's "Life, Times, and Correspondence of the Right Reverend Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin," in two volumes, 8vo. New edition, Dublin, 1880.

²⁹⁶ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of

Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 92 to 164.

²⁹⁷ For his Memoir see the "Irish Catholic Directory" for 1889.

²⁹⁸ See the "Irish Catholic Directory" for 1896. Memoir, pp. 360, 361.

²⁹⁹ See the "Irish Catholic Directory" for 1898. Memoir, pp. 354 to 357.

does not seem to be known. However, the Anna's of Leinster record the death of one Manchin at A.D. 865. Again, Concla MacDunecan, called Bishop and Prince of Leighlin, is noticed at A.D. 943. Daniel died in 969. Cleirec O'Muinic died A.D. 1048.³ Concla O'Flain died A.D. 1113. Sluagad O'Catán died A.D. 1144.⁴ Dungall O'Cellaic, Bishop of Leighlin, assisted at the Synod of Kells in 1152, and he died that same year. In 1158, Donat was Bishop of Leighlin. He died A.D. 1185, and he was buried in his Cathedral Church. A Cistercian monk, named John, Abbot of Monasterevin,⁵ was canonically elected to be Bishop of Leighlin, in the year 1198. It would seem, that John, King of Ireland and Earl of Moreton, through his Lord Justiciary of Ireland, Hamon de Valois, or Hanno de Valois, opposed that election. The Bishop-elect was obliged to go to Rome for his consecration. Pope Innocent III. wrote a sharp letter to the Earl of Moreton on this matter, commanding the Earl not to molest, either in spirituals or temporals, a Bishop consecrated by himself. In another letter he orders, that the Bishop shall be subject to no excommunication, save that of the Pope only. This Bishop died about the year 1201.⁷

That same year, Herlewin, a Cistercian monk, became Bishop of Leighlin. He died in 1216 or 1217.⁸ In the latter year, Richard o' Robert Fleming became Bishop of Leighlin. He had a great contest for some lands and tithes in Leix,⁹ with the prior of Conall. It was settled by composition.¹⁰ He died in 1226. Without a royal licence being first obtained, the chapter and clergy of Leighlin Diocese elected William, its Archdeacon, as bishop of the vacant See.¹¹ Afterwards, they were obliged to sue out letters patent, certifying what was contrary to the fact, that a *congé d'elire* had been issued, lest such a precedent should turn to the prejudice of the royal prerogative. It would seem, that before the year 1247, the mountains adjoining Leighlin afforded secure retreats for predatory bands, who caused great losses to fall on the clergy and people frequenting that city. Whereupon, the Bishop and Chapter represented to Pope Innocent III., the desirability of removing the Bishop's seat to some place, which might afford better security.¹² Bishop William died A.D. 1251, and he was buried in his own church.¹³

¹ His feast occurs in the Irish Calendars at the 18th of April.

² See Rev. Michael Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., Bishops of Leighlin, pp. 43, 44.

³ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Leghlinenses, p. 92

⁴ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. ii., pp. 25 to 33.

⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 454, 455.

⁶ It was also called the *Monasterium de Rosea Valle*.

⁷ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 46, 47.

⁸ According to the Annals of St. Mary's Abbey near Dublin.

⁹ These he claimed as belonging to his See.

¹⁰ The Bishop gave up the lands and tithes to the Prior, reserving a pension of ten marks payable annually to him and to his successors in the See of Leighlin.

¹¹ Patent Rolls of Chaucery 13, Henry III. membrane 12 *intus*.

¹² On this subject the Pope desired further advice in a letter addressed to the Archbishop of Dublin and to the Prior of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity. This was written from Lyons on the 8th of the March Kalends and in the fifth year of his pontificate, A.D. 1203. See Augustine Theiner's "Vetera Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam illustrantia," CXXX, p. 49. Romæ, 1864, fol.

¹³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 456.

¹⁴ See Theiner's "Vetera Monumenta

A certain Thomas was elected by the Chapter Bishop of Leighlin on the 22nd of April, 1252, in virtue of the King's *congé d'elire*. He was the first who bestowed Prebends among the Canons. He died April 25th, A.D. 1275. On the 16th of November, 1275, Nicholas Chevers, a Franciscan friar, and Archdeacon of Leighlin, was elected by the Chapter, as Bishop of that See; and Pope John XXI. issued a commission on the 28th of September, 1276, to enquire if he had been canonically elected, before confirmation should be obtained.¹⁴ However, he was not consecrated, nor restored to the Temporalities before the year 1277. He died July 20th, A.D. 1309, at a very advanced age. Having been lawfully elected on the 13th November, 1309, Maurice of Blanchevill, Canon of Leighlin, was confirmed Bishop of that See. He died A.D. 1320. On the 5th of November, 1320, Miler le Poer, Chantor of Leighlin, was elected Bishop of that See, the King having issued his licence to the Dean and Chapter. On the 29th of January, he was confirmed by the Metropolitan, Alexander Bicknor, Archbishop of Dublin. Afterwards, on Palm Sunday, 1321, he was consecrated at Waterford.¹⁵ He died in 1341. In 1341, William St. Leger was elected Bishop of Leighlin. His death took place in the beginning of May, 1348.¹⁶

In 1343 there is a brief of Pope Clement VI. given at Avignon, and dated February 16th, which appoints one Radulphus over this See.¹⁷ In the year 1345, he was translated to the Metropolitan See of Cashel.¹⁸ Bishop William died at Avignon about the beginning of May, A.D. 1348. In 1349, Thomas of Brackenbury, a Franciscan friar, was advanced by papal provision of Clement VI., 18th of March, in the seventh year of his pontificate, to be Bishop of Leighlin. On the 5th of August of that year, he was restored to the Temporalities of his See. He died about the month of July, in the year 1360. From 1360 to 1363 the See of Leighlin was vacant, when, by papal provision, John Young, Treasurer of Leighlin, succeeded as Bishop. He was restored to the Temporalities of the See by King Edward III., on the 21st September, 1363.¹⁹ He appears to have resigned the administration. This See became vacant before the 3rd March, 1731, as we learn from a Brief of Pope Gregory XI. from Avignon, and bearing this date, appointing as his successor one Philip Peter,²⁰ about whom little seems to be known. For the twenty-one years John Young survived, this Bishop was successively deputy to Alexander Balcot, Bishop of Meath, and to John Troy, Lord High Treasurers of Ireland. He died towards the close of the year 1384. In 1385, John Griffin, Chancellor of Limerick, was appointed to the See of Leighlin. He was likewise made Chancellor of the Exchequer, by the King in 1391. On the 26th of August, 1389, King Richard II. issued a writ in his favour,²¹ as the Bishop had no place for his abode in the

Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam illustrantia," p. 117.

¹² See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ." *Episcopi Leghlinenses*, p. 97.

¹⁶ See *ibid.* p. 97.

¹⁷ See Theiner's "Vetera Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam illustrantia," p. 280.

¹⁸ See *ibid.* p. 284.

¹⁹ According to Friar Clym.

²⁰ See Theiner's "Vetera Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam illustrantia," p. 342.

²¹ He obtained the village of Galroestown, with all its appurtenances, in the County of Dublin. This was part of the possessions of the See of Killaloe, and then in the King's hands during that vacancy caused by the death of the late Bishop, the Bishop succeeding having been a mere Irishman and abiding among Irish enemies. Under such *custodiam*, Bishop Griffin held Galroestown until September, 1391, when Matthew MacCragh was restored to the temporalities of Killaloe.

²² See William Maziere Brady's "Epi-

Diocese of Leighlin, it having been destroyed by Irish enemies. This See the Bishop resigned in 1398, he having been translated to that of Ossory.

On December 1st, 1400, having been appointed by Pope Boniface IX.,²² Richard Rocomb or Bokum, *alias* Bookam, a Dominican friar,²³ became Bishop of Leighlin. While he governed this See, it was reckoned, that there was eighty-six burgesses, who inhabited that city. However, it was plundered and destroyed, owing to the wars then waged by the Irish against the English. In 1420, Richard, Bishop of Leighlin, resigned his See.²⁴ It having been vacant for two years, John Mulligan, Rector of Lynn in the Diocese of Meath, by provision of Pope Martin V., became Bishop, and on the 1st of September, 1422.²⁵ He is said to have instituted four petty Canons in his Church. He died, in 1431, at Leighlin, and he was buried in his own Church,²⁶ beside the tomb of Gurmund the Dane.

By papal provision of April 28th, 1432, Thomas Fleming, a Franciscan friar,²⁷ became bishop of Leighlin.²⁸ However, Dowling says that he was an Augustan Canon of St. John the Evangelist, at Kilkenny.²⁹ Soon afterwards, the ancient Priory of Leighlin, by authority of Pope Eugenius IV., was dissolved, at the instance of Nicholas Coal, Dean of Leighlin. Its lands were afterwards annexed to the deanery. In 1450 this Bishop was fined for non-attendance at a Parliament held in Dublin, by Richard, Duke of York. Thomas Fleming was in the See, A.D. 1458. The next Bishop was Dermicius, or Dermod, of whom nothing more appears to be known,³⁰ he being only mentioned in the provision of his successor.³¹ Milo Roch, or De Rupe, who was distinguished for his love of poetry and music, became Bishop of Leighlin, by papal provision of Pius II., on the 3rd of February, 1464.³² Between himself and his chapter mutual discords arose. He died in the year 1480, and he was buried in his own Cathedral, before the image of St. Lasarian.³³ By papal provision, Nicholas Mac Gwire, born in Idrone, educated in Oxford University, and distinguished for his learning, was advanced to the See of Leighlin, 21st April, 1490, when he had not yet completed his thirty-first year. He wrote a Chronicle;³⁴ from which Thady Dowling³⁵ derived great assistance in compiling his annals.³⁶ Bishop Mac Gwire began many other learned works, but he did not live to finish any. He died A.D. 1512.³⁷

copal Succession in England, Scotland and Ireland, A.D. 1400 to 1875," &c., vol. i., p. 383.

²³ See De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. xiii, sect. xxix, pp. 468, 469.

²⁴ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," p. 98.

²⁵ See *ibid.*, p. 99.

²⁶ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," pp. 455 to 459.

²⁷ See Luke Wadding's *Annales Minorum*, tomus v., p. 244. Also *Regest. Pontif.*, *ibid.*, p. 198.

²⁸ See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 384.

²⁹ This statement, however, is erroneous.

³⁰ See Rev. M. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 51.

³¹ See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 384.

³² See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 384.

³³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 459.

³⁴ It was preserved in the MS. known as the Yellow Book of Leighlin, together with further collections made by Thomas Waterfeld, Archdeacon of Leighlin.

³⁵ He was Protestant Dean of Leighlin and he died there in 1628, in the 84th year of his age.

³⁶ Intituled "Annales Breves Hiberniæ," edited by the Very Rev. Dean Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A., and published by the Irish Archæological Society, Dublin, 4to, 1849.

By provision of Pope Julius II., and at the instance of Christopher Bambridge,³⁸ Cardinal Archbishop of York, Thomas Halsay was appointed Bishop of Leighlin, in 1515. However, Halsay never saw his bishopric. He assisted at the Lateran Council in 1515 and 1516. He governed Leighlin through his Vicar-General, Charles Cavenagh, Abbot of Duisk. Bishop Halsay was appointed the Pope's Penitentiary for Ireland. He died about the year 1521,³⁹ and he was buried in the church of the Savoy Hospital, in London.⁴⁰ Maurice Doran, or O'Deoran,⁴¹ was born in Leix, and he was either a Franciscan or a Dominican friar.⁴² He was appointed Bishop of Leighlin, January 28th, 1524.⁴³ He was eminent for his probity of manners, and for his eloquence in preaching.⁴⁵ He governed the See for one year and eight months only, when about the end of 1525, he was villainously murdered by his own Archdeacon, Maurice Cavanagh,⁴⁶ whom he had reproved for his insolent obstinacy and other crimes. This murder took place on the high road, near Glen Reynold. Afterwards, that traitor and parricide was apprehended, and by order of the Lord Deputy, Gerald, Earl of Kildare, he was executed on the very spot where he had committed such a detestable crime. By provision of Pope Clement VII., on April 11th, 1527, Matthew Saunders became Bishop of Leighlin.⁴⁸ He was born near Drogheda. He rebuilt the choir of the Cathedral of St. Laseian, and he also erected and glazed the south window. Afterwards, it has been supposed, he renounced the Pope's authority, and supported the Reformation, during the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. But, there does not appear to be any direct proof that such was the case. He died on the 24th of December, 1549. He was buried in the Cathedral Church, under a marble monument.⁴⁹

In 1550, Robert Travers was appointed Protestant Bishop of Leighlin by King Edward VI. He is described by Thady Dowling, the Protestant Chancellor of Leighlin, as "cruel, covetous, vexing his clergie."⁵⁰ Being afterwards charged with his marriage, contrary to the Catholic discipline, by George Dowdal, Archbishop of Armagh, William Walsh, Bishop of Meath, and Thomas Leverous, Bishop of Kildare, he was deprived of the See in 1555,⁵¹ during the reign of Queen Mary, who came to the throne in 1553. Translated from the See of Achonry on the 30th of August, 1555, Thomas Field, or O'Fihely, a Franciscan friar, and a native of the County of Cork, was appointed to succeed him, by

³⁷ See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., pp. 384, 385. The life of this learned and respected prelate was written by his chaplain, Thomas Brown. It seems to have been lost.

³⁸ Then resident Ambassador at Rome from King Henry VIII.

³⁹ See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 385.

⁴⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," pp. 460, 461.

⁴¹ See Sir James Ware "Episcopi Leighlinenses," pp. 101, 102.

⁴² Sometimes called Durand.

⁴³ According to De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. xiii, sect. lvi., p. 485.

⁴⁴ See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 385.

⁴⁵ Thady Dowling adds "castus a nativitate."—"Annales Breves Hiberniæ," p. 34.

⁴⁶ Called Mac-an-Abbaidh Mac Murrough, by the Four Masters, at A.D. 1525.

⁴⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 461. Also W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., pp. 385 to 387.

⁴⁸ See Rev. M. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., p. 56.

⁴⁹ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xviii., p. 101.

⁵⁰ See "Annales Breves Hiberniæ," p. 38. Edited by Dean Butler.

⁵¹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 461.

papal provision. It is stated, that he conformed to the Protestant religion after Elizabeth succeeded to the English throne, A.D. 1558. About 1565, he was joined in Commission with the Earls of Kildare, Ormond, and others, for the reformation of religion. However, there are no positive proofs to show that he acted upon it, or that this Bishop abandoned the Catholic faith.⁵² He died the Friday before Palm Sunday, in the year 1566. He was buried in the same tomb with his predecessor, Saunders.⁵³ Bishop O'Fihely was succeeded by a Catholic Bishop of Leighlin, named William Ophily, about whom little is known. After his death on the 11th of September, 1587, a Spanish Franciscan friar named Francis de Ribera was nominated at Rome to succeed. He died at Antwerp in 1604; but there is no evidence to show that this prelate ever came to Ireland.

By letters patent of Queen Elizabeth, and dated 7th of May, in the ninth year of her reign, Daniel or Donald Cavanagh was appointed Protestant Bishop of Leighlin. He made long leases of the see-lands, for which he exacted large fines, which caused only small rents to be reserved for his successors. He died on the 4th April, 1587. After his death, the Queen granted the See of Leighlin, *in commendam*, and during the vacancy, to one Peter Corse, Archdeacon of Leighlin.⁵⁴ For two years, the Protestant See of Leighlin was vacant, as Cavanagh had left it destitute of a suitable revenue. At that time Sir John Perrot, Deputy, had a Welsh chaplain, named Richard Meredith, appointed Rector of Loughrea, in the Diocese of Clonfert, who accepted the charge in 1589, by Queen's Elizabeth's letters patent,⁵⁵ which contained also a clause granting the deanery of St. Patrick's *in commendam*, "on account of the poverty of the See." However, the very year of his advancement, he was confined a close prisoner to the Tower, and fined £2,000 in the Star Chamber. In consideration of this fine being remitted, he granted to the Queen 300 marks *per annum*, out of his deanery, for ten years. He repaired the episcopal residence at Leighlin.⁵⁶ He died in Dublin, on the 3rd of August, A.D. 1597, and he was buried on the north side of St. Patrick's Church, under a marble monument, near the steeple.⁵⁷ Having been vacant for nearly three years, Robert Grave, Dean of Cork, was selected as Protestant Bishop of Leighlin, in 1600; however, that very same year, intending to sail for Wexford by sea, a storm arose and the vessel was cast away in the harbour of Dublin, where he perished.⁵⁸ Soon afterwards, the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns were united, in the Protestant arrangement, July 17th, 1600. This step was suggested no doubt, through the detriment done to the revenues of the former diocese.⁵⁹

⁵² See Rev. M. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 58, 59.

⁵³ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xx., p. 103.

⁵⁴ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 462.

⁵⁵ Dated 13th of April, in the thirty-first year of her reign.

⁵⁶ The economy estate, although producing an income of sixty pounds per annum, was demised, however, about this time to a son of Bishop Meredyth for a term of sixty-one years, at a reserved rent of £4 12s.; in a similar way

was the income of the deanery reduced to a very small amount, the Bishop and chapter having joined with the Dean in confirming a fee-farm lease of its possessions, at a rent of ten pounds per annum.

⁵⁷ Being decayed through lapse of time, a new monument was erected in 1734, at the expense of three of his descendants, *viz.*: Richard Meredyth, Esq., Shrowland, County Kildare, Charles Meredyth, Dean of Ardferit; and Arthur Francis Meredyth.

⁵⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 462.

⁵⁹ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xx., p. 104.

Nicholas Stafford, who was Chancellor of Ferns, succeeded Robert Grave, in the united See of Leighlin and Ferns, by letters patent, dated July 19th, in the forty-third year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. He was consecrated March 18th (old English style), 1600. He governed the united Sees, on the death of Bishop Grave, for three years and eight months.⁶⁰ He died November 15th, 1604, and he was buried in St. Mary's Church,⁶¹ Wexford. He was succeeded by Thomas Ram, who had come over to Ireland, as chaplain to Robert, Earl of Essex, in 1599.⁶² He was consecrated Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, May 2nd, 1605, by Henry Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.⁶³ In a return he made to a Regal Visitation held in 1613, he complains, that at the time of his advancement, the revenues of his See had been reduced from £400 or £500 per annum to £66 6s. 8d.⁶⁴ He built an episcopal house at Old Leighlin, for the benefit of his successors, and left behind him a library for the use of his clergy. He acquired an estate for himself in 1615,⁶⁵ at Gorey, on which he built a chapel. From the Regal Visitation Book of 1615, it appears that the Diocese of Leighlin then consisted of seventy-eight parishes, and it was divided into the six following rural deaneries, *viz.*, 1, Odrone deanery, containing twenty-five parishes; 2, Tullophelim, sixteen parishes; 3, Forte, nine parishes; 4, Lexia, seven parishes; 5, Omboy, seven parishes; and 6, Margee, *alias* Bargee, seven parishes. Of the parishes three were prebendal, *viz.*: Tullomagrinah, Ullard and Aghold. To the Cathedral belonged an economy fund arising out of the rectories of Balleroyle, Caringston, Crecoyne, Monelecuffe, Painstowne, Rathill, Tullowcrine, and Sleguffe. During the time of Thomas Ram, a Rev. Matthew Roche seems to have been the Catholic Vicar-Apostolic over Leighlin, and his name occurs in documents bearing date 1623, 1624 and 1630. At the Provincial Synod held at Tyrocher, on July 29th, 1640, the Diocese of Leighlin alone was unrepresented. Thomas Ram died in Dublin, November 24th, 1634, in the seventieth year of his age, and his body was buried in his own chapel at Gorey.⁶⁶ As a punishment for his opposition to the Earl of Strafford, the Dean of Limerick, George Andrew, was appointed to be Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns;⁶⁷ and accordingly, he was consecrated on the 16th of May, 1635,⁶⁸ by Lancelot, Archbishop

⁶⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," p. 447.

⁶¹ Under the same tomb with his predecessor, John Devereux, who was Bishop of Ferns from A.D. 1560 to 1578.

⁶² See Sir Bernard Burke's "Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland," for 1882, vol. ii., pp. 1331, 1332.

⁶³ The See of Dublin was then vacant.

⁶⁴ At a Visitation held afterwards in 1622, he attributes its decay to the fact that his predecessors—especially Alexander and John Devereux—had passed away, in fee or by long leases, the manors and lands belonging to the See and with smaller reserved rents than lay on them in 1415. See MS. Loftus, in Marsh's Library, Dublin.

⁶⁵ The Plantation of Wexford, by James I., had then taken place, and that

estate descended to his children. Bishop Ram married *first*, Jane Gifford, widow of Mr. Thompson, and by her he had one son, Thomas, and four daughters, Grace, Susan, Jane and Anne. He married *secondly*, Anne, daughter of Robert Bowen, Esq., of Ballyadams, Queen's County, and had three sons by her, Robert, Abel,—who succeeded to his estates—Henry, and one daughter, Elizabeth.

⁶⁶ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," pp. 447, 448.

⁶⁷ As chairman of a committee in the Lower House of Convention, he had opposed establishing the articles and canons of the Church in Ireland upon the same footing with those in England, as Archbishop Laud had desired. Strafford characterized his bishopric as one of the meanest in the whole kingdom.

⁶⁸ See William Monck Mason's

of Dublin, in St. Patrick's Cathedral. During the Insurrection which followed in 1641, he was obliged to fly into England, where he lived in obscurity for several years, and he died in London, October, 1648.⁶⁹ After his death, the Protestant Sees continued vacant until the restoration of King Charles II.

On the 10th of March, 1642. Dr. Edmund Dempsey or O'Dempsey, who belonged to the Dominican Order,⁷⁰ was appointed at Rome Bishop of Leighlin. His early studies were made at Douay and Louvain. In 1624, he entered on the Irish Mission; and in 1635, he was unanimously chosen as Provincial of the Dominican Order in Ireland. He took an active part in the proceedings of the Confederate Catholics after his episcopal appointment, and he was opposed to the party of Ormond. When the Papal Nuncio, Rinuccini, sailed from Galway Bay on the 23rd of February, 1649, the persecutions, sufferings and privations of the Irish Catholics under the Cromwellians commenced; but Dr. O'Dempsey remained in the country for three years afterwards, constantly exposed to great personal risk and danger, until destitute of all human aid, he escaped to Spain before the year 1653. He remained in Galicia until his death, which took place at St. Mary's, Finisterre, in or before the year 1661.⁷¹

Robert Price, a native of Wales and Dean of Connor, was consecrated Protestant Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, January 27th, 1660.⁷² He died in Dublin, on the 26th of May, 1666, and he was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral.⁷³

In that year John Deoran was the Catholic Vicar-General of Leighlin.

Richard Boyle, Dean of Limerick, was made Protestant Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, by letters patent, dated June 7th, 1666.⁷⁴ He was consecrated in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, January 10th, 1667. He died of palsy, at Leighlin, in January, 1682, and he was buried there in the Cathedral.⁷⁵

In the year A.D. 1670, a National Synod of the six remaining Irish Catholic Prelates was held in Dublin, with the Vicars-General of the other vacant Sees. For these they recommended certain ecclesiastics, whom they deemed worthy of being advanced to the Episcopal dignity, and among them Dr. William Phelan, Chancellor of Ossory and Prothonotary Apostolic, was proposed for the Bishopric of Leighlin. However, this See was reserved *in commendam* for Dr. Mark Forstall, Bishop of Kildare. On his death in 1683, the clergy of Leighlin to the number of twelve petitioned the Holy See, that the Diocese might be given in administration to Dr. James Phelan, Bishop of Ossory. However, the Holy See thought fit to make another arrangement that year, by appointing Dr. Edward Wesley, Bishop of Kildare, to be also administrator of Leighlin.⁷⁶

"History and Antiquities of the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, near Dublin," &c. Book ii., chap. iii., p. 187.

⁶⁹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," pp. 448, 449.

⁷⁰ See De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. xiii., sect. lxxvii., pp. 489 to 491.

⁷¹ See Dr. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i.

⁷² Eleven other Bishops were consecrated at the same time and in the same place; the particulars of which

unusual spectacle and ceremony were afterwards published by Dr. Dudley Loftus in a tract "The proceedings observed in order to, and in consecration of, the twelve Bishops, in St. Patrick's Church in Dublin, on the 27th of January, 1660," London, 1661, 4to.

⁷³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," p. 449.

⁷⁴ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxiv., p. 190.

⁷⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," p. 449.

Narcissus Marsh was born at Hannington, Wiltshire, December 20th, 1638. After various promotions in England, 77 through favour of the Duke of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he was nominated by King Charles II. to the Provostship of Trinity College, Dublin, December, 1678. He sought to encourage there the study of the Irish language. 78 He was made Protestant Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, by letters patent, dated February 27th, 1682; and he was consecrated in Christ Church, Dublin, May 6th, following. 79 However, on the expulsion of King James II. from the English throne, Archbishop Marsh, with many others, fled from Ireland when the deposed King arrived there; while his adventures and distress when in England are related in a Manuscript Diary, still preserved in the Library he subsequently founded near St. Patrick's Church, Dublin. 80 On his return to Ireland, when King James II's cause had failed there, Dr. Marsh was translated to be Archbishop of Cashel on the 26th of February, 1691. 81 Bartholomew Vigors, educated in the University of Dublin, and Dean of Armagh, on the translation of Bishop Marsh, was promoted by letters patent, dated the 27th of February, 1691, to the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns. 82 He was consecrated in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on the 8th of March, following. He purchased for the benefit of these Sees a fee-farm in the manor of Old Leighlin, and otherwise he increased the revenues. He died on the 3rd of January, 1721, and he was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. 83 Josiah Hort, an Englishman, and domestic chaplain to Thomas, Marquis of Wharton, 84 Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, after much litigation to defend his patent for the parish of Kilskir, in the Diocese of Meath, at last succeeded in his suit in 1717. After various removals, he was appointed to the Deanery of Cloyne, in 1718, and to that of Ardagh, in 1720. On the 10th of February, 1721, by favour of the Duke of Grafton, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he was advanced by letters patent to the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns; 85 and he was consecrated on the 26th of that month, in the church of Castleknock. He was further translated to the Sees of Kilmore and Ardagh, by favour of Lord Carteret, 86 Lord

⁷⁶ See Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., pp. 68, 69.

⁷⁷ See an interesting memoir of him, in James Wills' "Lives of Illustrious and Distinguished Irishmen," vol. iv., part ii, Ecclesiastical series, pp. 267 to 275.

⁷⁸ See Rev. Dr. John William Stubbs' "History of the University of Dublin, from its foundation to the end of the Eighteenth Century," chap. v., pp. 114, 115.

⁷⁹ See Harris' Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," pp. 449, 450.

⁸⁰ See W. B. S. Taylor's "History of the University of Dublin," chap. vii., sect. ii., pp. 242, 243.

⁸¹ In 1694, he was promoted to be Archbishop of Dublin, and in 1702, he became Archbishop of Armagh. He died November 2nd, 1713, aged 75, and he was buried in a vault in the churchyard of St. Patrick's, Dublin, adjoining the Library he had founded. See Alfred Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 332.

⁸² See John Ryan's "History and An-

tiquities of the County of Carlow," chap.

⁸³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops xxvi., p. 238.

of Ferns," pp. 450, 451.

⁸⁴ He came over as Lord Lieutenant in 1708, a notorious profligate. According to the sarcastic sketch given of him by Dean Swift, he "dropped his religion and took no other in its stead." Again, "he contracted such large debts that his brethren were forced, out of mere justice, to leave Ireland at his mercy where he had only time to set himself right."—"History of the Four Last Years of Queen Anne," book i. Still more severe upon him is the Dean, in his "Short Character of his Excellency Thomas, Earl of Wharton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland," a pamphlet secretly distributed in London, and dated August 30th, 1710.

⁸⁵ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxviii., p. 269.

⁸⁶ He was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1725 to 1732. See Francis Plow-

Lieutenant of Ireland, by letters patent, dated July 20th, 1727.⁸⁷ The vacancy thus occurring, John Hoadly, Archdeacon of Salisbury, in England, was advanced to the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns by the letter of King George I., dated June 3rd, 1727.⁸⁸ However, the King died on the 10th of that same month, before either he or his predecessor Bishop Hort, could pass patent for their respective preferments. Afterwards, both procured letters patent from King George II. John Hoadly was consecrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on the 3rd of September, 1727; but he was translated to the Diocese of Dublin as Archbishop, on the 13th of January, 1729.⁸⁹ Arthur Price was translated from Clonfert to the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns in 1729, as successor to Bishop Hoadly.⁹⁰ Afterwards, on the 4th of February, 1733, he was translated to the See of Meath.⁹¹

A friend of Dean Swift, Dr. Edward Synge, Bishop of Cloyne, was translated⁹² to the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns, February 8th, 1733,⁹³ with clause to hold the Rectory of Killeban, on the same day.⁹⁴ He was appointed to the See of Elphin, in April, 1740.⁹⁵ A former Dean of Ferns, and the Dean of Derry, George Stone, D.D., was appointed Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, by letters patent, dated June 5th, 1740, and he was consecrated on the following 3rd of August,⁹⁶ in the Parish Church of Chapelizod, near Dublin, by the Archbishop of Dublin.⁹⁷ In 1743, he was translated to Kildare. Afterwards, he became Bishop of Derry. By letters patent, dated March 13th, 1747, he was created Archbishop of Armagh.⁹⁸ He took a leading part in public business and was a strong supporter of English Governmental measures in Ireland.⁹⁹ However, it must be observed, he entertained enlightened views with regard to the Irish Roman Catholics; by resisting eloquently various attempts made in the Irish House of Lords to add still more rigorous and unjust penal laws than those in force against them, by vindicating their character for peaceable and good conduct, by desiring for them the enjoyment of every advantage in common with the rest of his Majesty's subjects, by making fair concessions, to unite them in senti-

den's "History of Ireland, from its Invasion under Henry II. to its Union with Great Britain," vol. ii., book iii., chap. iv., p. 90.

of Leighlin," p. 451.

⁸⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops
⁸⁸ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 269.

⁸⁹ See Harris' Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," p. 452.

⁹⁰ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 269.

⁹¹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ferns," p. 452.

⁹² According to Harris, by letters patent 8th of February, 1733. See Harris' Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Cloyne," p. 582.

⁹³ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 269.

⁹⁴ While occupying this See he published "A Sermon preached before the House of Lords, at Christ Church,

Dublin, on the 5th of November," Dublin, 1737, 4to.

⁹⁵ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of the Prelates and Members of the Cathedral Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, p. 339, Dublin, 1848, 8vo.

⁹⁶ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 270.

⁹⁷ Soon afterwards, he published "A Sermon, preached at Christ Church, Dublin, on November 5th." Dublin, 1741, 4to.

⁹⁸ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of the Prelates and Members of the Cathedral Bodies in Ireland, vol. iii., The Province of Ulster, Diocese of Armagh, p. 26. Dublin, 1849, 8vo.

⁹⁹ He died in London, December 19th, 1764, and he was interred in King Henry VII.'s Chapel, Westminster Abbey, January 4th, 1765.

¹⁰⁰ See the account of him in James

ments of loyalty with other subjects of the Kingdom, whom the leaders of the English Party in Ireland deemed it a wise policy to estrange.¹⁰⁰

Dr. William Cotterell,¹⁰¹ Dean of Raphoe, became Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, by a patent bearing date March 24th, 1743.¹⁰² The following June 19th, he was consecrated in Christ Church, Dublin, by the Archbishop of Dublin. He died in England, on the 21st of June, 1744.¹⁰³ Dr. Robert Downes, Dean of Derry, was appointed Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, by letters patent, August 1st, in 1744.¹⁰⁴ He was consecrated the 19th of that same month by the Primate, in St. Michael's Church, Dublin.¹⁰⁵ In 1752, he was translated to the united Sees of Down and Connor.¹⁰⁶ In 1752, October 28th, Dr. John Garnett¹⁰⁷ received his patent of donation, and became Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns. He was consecrated November 12th, in 1752,¹⁰⁸ by the Archbishop of Dublin, in Christ Church Cathedral, and on November 20th, he was enthroned by proxy. In 1758, he was translated to Clogher.¹⁰⁹ In 1758, Dr. William Carmichael, Bishop of Clonfert, was translated by patent dated April 5th, to the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns.¹¹⁰ That very same year,¹¹¹ however, he was translated to Meath, and afterwards he was created Archbishop of Dublin, by patent dated June 14th, 1765.¹¹² The vacancy thus occurring, Dr. Thomas Salmon chaplain to the Duke of Bedford, then Lord Lieutenant, became Bishop of the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns by letters patent, dated May 30th, 1758.¹¹³ On the 11th of June he was consecrated at St. Bride's Church, Dublin. His episcopal career was a short one; for he died while holding a confirmation in his native town of Tiverton, England, on March 25th, 1759.¹¹⁵ By letters patent, dated April 19th,¹¹⁶ 1759, Dr. Richard

Stuart's "Historical Memoirs of the City of Armagh," &c., chap. xxv, pp. 437 to 444.

¹⁰¹ Son of Sir Charles Cotterell, Master of the Ceremonies.

¹⁰² See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 270.

¹⁰³ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of the Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii. The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, p. 340.

¹⁰⁴ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 270.

¹⁰⁵ He published "A Sermon preached before the Irish Protestant Schools in 1750."

¹⁰⁶ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of the Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii. The Province of Leinster Diocese of Ferns, p. 340.

¹⁰⁷ Chaplain to the Duke of Dorset, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

¹⁰⁸ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 286.

¹⁰⁹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti

Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of the Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, pp. 340, 341.

¹¹⁰ See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1152 usque ad 1827 vol. ii., part v., p. 50.

¹¹¹ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 286.

¹¹² He died at Bath, December 15th, 1765. See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., the Province of Leinster, Diocese of Dublin, p. 24, and Diocese of Ferns, p. 341.

¹¹³ According to Archdeacon Cotton, dated June 10th.

¹¹⁴ See Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab an. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 59.

¹¹⁵ See Archbishop Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii. The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, p. 341.

¹¹⁶ According to Archdeacon Cotton, the "Liber Munerum," &c., has the date for his transfer, March 27th, 1759.

Robinson,¹¹⁷ Bishop of Killala, was translated to the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns. In 1761, he was translated to the bishopric of Kildare,¹¹⁸ and in 1765, by patent dated February 8th, he became Primate, and Archbishop of Armagh.¹¹⁹ This illustrious Prelate was a great public benefactor to that city, in which he effected so many great improvements,¹²⁰

As successor of Dr. Richard Robinson, Dr. Charles Jackson was nominated by letters patent for the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns, March 20th, A.D. 1761.¹²¹ He had been chaplain to the Duke of Bedford, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was consecrated in St. Bride's Church, April 19th, by the Archbishop of Dublin. He was translated to Kildare, in 1765, by a patent dated February 25th.¹²² In 1765,¹²³ March 4th, by letters patent, Dr. Edward Young, Bishop of Dromore, succeeded in the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns. He wrote and published two sermons, Dublin: 1763, 1766, in 4to.¹²⁴ He died in Dublin of pleurisy, August 29th, 1772.¹²⁵ In 1772,¹²⁶ by letters patent of September 19th, the Hon. Joseph Dean Bourke, succeeded Dr. Edward Young, as Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns.¹²⁷ He was translated to be Archbishop of Tuam in 1782, by letters patent, dated August 8th. By the death of his elder brother, he became third Earl of Mayo.¹²⁸ In 1782,¹²⁹ by letters patent of August 9th, Dr. Walter Cope, Bishop of Clontarf, was translated to the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns.¹³⁰ He died July 31st, 1787, at Dromally, in the County of Armagh. In 1787,¹³¹ by letters patent of November 9th, Dr. William Preston, then Bishop of Killala,¹³²

¹¹⁷ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxix., p. 286.

¹¹⁸ See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1172, usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 50.

¹¹⁹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, p. 341., and vol. iii., The Province of Ulster, Diocese of Armagh, pp. 26, 27.

¹²⁰ See James Stuart's "Historical Memoirs of the City of Armagh," &c., chap. xxv., pp. 444 to 457.

¹²¹ According to the "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hibernicæ ab An. 1172 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 51. However, Archdeacon Cotton has the patent dated April 16th, 1761.

¹²² He died in London, March 9th, 1804, aged 84. See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., Diocese of Ferns, pp. 235, 341.

¹²³ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxx., p. 303.

¹²⁴ See S. Austin Allibone's "Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British Authors," &c., vol. iii., p. 2897.

¹²⁵ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical

Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, pp. 341, 342.

¹²⁶ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxx., p. 303.

¹²⁷ He was consecrated in St. Thomas's Church, Dublin, October 11th, by the Archbishop of Dublin. See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, p. 342.

¹²⁸ He died at Kilbeggan, in the County of Meath, August 17th, 1794. He was interred in the burying-ground of his family, Naas. See *ibid.*, vol. iv., The Province of Connaught, Diocese of Tuam, p. 18. Dublin, 1850, 8vo.

¹²⁹ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxx., p. 303.

¹³⁰ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Members of the Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, p. 342.

¹³¹ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxx., p. 303.

¹³² He had been Private Secretary to Charles, Duke of Rutland, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

¹³³ See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti

succeeded in the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns. He died on Sunday, April 19th, 1789, in Dublin. A handsome monument, with a suitable inscription, was erected to his memory in the Cathedral of Ferns by Mary Isabella, Duchess of Richmond.¹³³ Dr. Euseby Cleaver, Bishop of Cork and Ross, was translated and appointed by King's letter to the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns, June 5th, and patent issued on June 13th, 1789.¹³⁴ In 1809, he was translated to the See of Dublin, by patent dated 25th of August, that year.¹³⁵ In 1809, the Hon. Percy Jocelyn M.A.,¹³⁶ was appointed by King's letter, dated St. James's, July 31st to succeed to the Sees of Leighlin and Ferns.¹³⁷ He was consecrated in Christ Church, Dublin, September 13th, by the Bishop of Kildare. In 1820, he was translated to the See of Clogher, by King's letter dated April 3rd,¹³⁸ In 1820, the Hon. Robert Ponsonby Tottenham Loftus, commonly called Lord Robert Loftus, Bishop of Killaloe and Kilfenora, was translated¹³⁹ to the united Sees of Leighlin and Ferns.¹⁴⁰ Like his predecessor, he was translated to Clogher in 1822, by letters patent dated December 21st, and admitted December 30th.¹⁴¹ Thomas Elrington,¹⁴² Bishop of Limerick, succeeded Lord Robert Tottenham,¹⁴³ in the Diocese of Ferns and Leighlin, by letters patent, dated December 21st, 1822. He had been a distinguished student, professor, and fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated. He wrote many tracts, chiefly of a controversial and political character. * He became Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, in February, 1811.¹⁴⁴ He died at Liverpool, on the 12th July, 1835, while on a journey to take his seat in the House of Lords, London. His body was conveyed to Dublin, and it was interred in Trinity College Chapel.¹⁴⁵ Under the provisions of the Church Temporalities Act passed that year, upon the death of Bishop

Ecclesie Hibernicæ." The succession of Prelates and Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., The Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, pp. 342, 343.

¹³⁴ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxx., p. 303.

¹³⁵ He was enthroned at Christ Church, August 29th, and immediately afterwards at St. Patrick's. He died at Tunbridge Wells in Kent, December 1819, aged 73 years, and he was buried at Fulham, near London. See Archdeacon Cotton's "*Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ.*" The succession of Prelates and Members of Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Dublin, pp. 27, 28, and the Diocese of Ferns, pp. 343, 344.

¹³⁶ He was second son to Viscount Roden. He had been Treasurer of Cork, and Archdeacon of Ross.

¹³⁷ His patent was signed August 26th, 1809, by John Philpot Curran, Irish Master of the Rolls.

¹³⁸ In 1822, he was deposed. He died at Edinburgh, in December, 1843, and he was buried there in the new cemetery. See Archdeacon Cotton's "*Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ.*" The succession of Prelates and Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of

Ferns, p. 344. vol. iii., Province of Ulster, Diocese of Clogher, pp. 83, 84.

¹³⁹ Carleton House, 3rd April, of George IV. Sidmouth, entered at the Signet Office, 6th April. King's Letter Book at the Irish Department Office, Westminster.

¹⁴⁰ Patent Rolls of Chancery in Ireland.

¹⁴¹ See Archdeacon Cotton's "*Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ.*" The succession of Prelates and Members of Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ulster, Diocese of Clogher, p. 84.

¹⁴² He was born near Dublin, in December, 1760.

¹⁴³ See "*Liber Munerum Publicorum Hibernie ab An. 1172 usque ad 1827.*" vol. ii., part v., p. 199.

¹⁴⁴ See W. B. S. Taylor's "History of the University of Dublin," &c., chap. vii., sect. ii., pp. 257 to 260.

¹⁴⁵ A handsome marble tablet has been there erected to his memory, with a Latin inscription. See Archdeacon Cotton's "*Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ.*" The succession of Prelates and Members of Ecclesiastical Bodies in Ireland, vol. ii., Province of Leinster, Diocese of Ferns, pp. 344 to 347.

Erlington, the Protestant Dioceses of Ferns and Leighlin became united to the Diocese of Ossory, under which title we have to present the succession of Protestant Bishops.

CHAPTER IV.—THE QUEEN'S COUNTY PORTION OF OSSORY DIOCESE.

THE Diocese of Ossory, estimated to be about forty-six English miles in length, by twenty-nine in breadth, is calculated to have a superficies of about 346,000 acres. It comprehends the City of Kilkenny and almost the whole county of the same, the entire old undivided barony of Ossory, forming about one-third of the Queen's County, and a small part of King's County, occupied by the parish of Seir-Kyran. The Deanery of Aghaboe comprises that and the Queen's County parishes of Aghaboe, Donoughmore, Offerlane, and Skeirke.¹ The See of Ossory was planted at Saigir, in the King's County,² by St. Kieran,³ at a very early period of the Irish Church. He was the first bishop, and he is the patron of that Diocese. He flourished in the fifth century, and he was born in Clare Island, off the south coast of Munster.⁴ His institute was situated in that ancient district known as Eli O'Carroll. A celebrated school was there established. After the founder, Saigir took the name of Seir-Kieran, and his successors were called *Episcopi Saigerenses*, i.e., Bishops of Saigir. There are but slender accounts of the early bishops who succeeded; ⁵ but it is stated, that St. Carthach, the elder, and either son or grandson to Ængus, King of Munster, comes next to him in order. Kieran is said to have departed this life, on the 5th of March, A.D. 540. If we take Abbot and Bishop as being one and the same superior at Saigir, we find the following named in the Annals of Ireland, as holding rule in the Monastery which was there established. In the Latin Life of St. Molua,⁶ Abbot of Clonfert Molua, mention is made of Sedna, also styled Sedonius, as the Bishop of Saigir who succeeded St. Carthach. He flourished about the year 570, and his festival is kept on the 10th of March.

Afterwards we learn, that with forty other prelates, Killene Mac Lubney, Abbot of Saigir, assisted in the year 695, at a synod convened at Armagh,⁷ by the Archbishop Flan Febla. The festival of St. Killene Mac Lubney is observed on the 12th of April. Laigdene Mac Donnach,⁸ Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 739.⁹ Tuntgall or Tnutghall,

¹ See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 46.

² See an account of it in Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," pp. 404 to 406.

³ Venerated on the 5th of March.

⁴ For fuller particulars regarding this patriarchal founder, the reader is referred to the exhaustive memoir by John Hogan, "St. Ciaran, Patron of Ossory: A Memoir of his Life and Times, comprising a preliminary Enquiry respecting the period of his Birth; an historical Commentary on the Legend of his Life; some notes on his death, and on the surviving Memorials of Mission." Kilkenny, 1876, 8vo.

⁵ See Sir James Ware's "De Hibernia

et Antiquitatibus ejus Disquisitiones," cap. xxvii., p. 162. See also his work "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Ossorienses, p. 69. See also the Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland." Sixth Century, chap. ii., pp. 73, 74.

⁶ His feast occurs on 4th August.

⁷ Colgan had in his possession the decrees of this synod. See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Appendix ad Vitam S. Kierani, cap. iv., p. 473.

⁸ By Archdall he is called Laygnen, the son of Donenny. See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 404.

⁹ See the "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 340, 341, Dr. O'Donovan's edition.

¹⁰ See *ibid.*

Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 771.¹⁰ Mocoach, or Maccog, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 783.¹¹ Cuccathach, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 788.¹² Cobthach, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 801, according to some accounts, but Colgan places his death in 807.¹³ Feredach, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 809, and Conchovar, Abbot of Saigir, died the year following.¹⁴ It may be, that some of these had retired from office, and by courtesy held their former titles till the time of their death. Connach O'Lochene, Abbot of Saigir, died in 826. Irgalach, or Jorgalach, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 832.¹⁵ Subsequently the Abbey here was burned, and pillaged, by the Ostmen.¹⁶ Anluain, Abbot of Saigir, died in 846. Cormac Mac Eladhaig, Abbot, Bishop, and Scribe of Saigir, died A.D. 867.¹⁷ Geran, the son of Dichoscha, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 868.¹⁸ Sloghadhach Ua Raithnen, Abbot of Saigir, died in the year 885.¹⁹ Cormac, Bishop of Saigir, died A.D. 907.²⁰ Fergall Mac Maelmorra, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 919.²¹ Fogartach, Abbot of Saigir, died A.D. 941.²² Kenfoelad Mac Swiny, Abbot of Saigir, died on a pilgrimage at Glendalough, in the year 951.²³ The year following, this Abbey was plundered and burned by the Munstermen.²⁴ Flathlem, Archennach of Saigir, died in 984. Fogartach, Abbot of Saighir and Glendalough, died A.D. 1004.²⁵ Dunchiadh Ua Kellechuir, Comorban to Kiaran of Saighir, died in 1048.²⁶ In the year 1079, Kellach-Ramhar, i.e. the Fat, Comorban to Kiaran of Saighir and to Brendan of Birr, died.²⁷

In the year 1152, Donald Fogarty²⁸ assisted at the Synod of Kells, held under Cardinal Paparo. In a catalogue of the Bishops then present, he is styled Vicar-General as well as Bishop of Ossory.²⁹ He is also called Comorban of Kiaran. However, his successor in the See of Ossory, Most Rev. Patrick Francis Moran, is of opinion, that his position at the Synod must have corresponded in some way with that of an Auxiliary or a Coadjutor Bishop at the present time.³⁰ We are informed, that he

¹⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 374, 375.

¹¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 379, 391. However, Dr. O'Donovan has the correction of date [*vide*, 709].

¹² See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," Martii v. Appendix ad Vitam S. Kierani, cap. iv., p. 473.

¹³ See *ibid.*

¹⁴ See *ibid.*

¹⁵ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 495.

¹⁶ See *ibid.*

¹⁷ He is thus designated in Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," at that date. See vol. i., pp. 310, 311.

¹⁸ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 495.

¹⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 535, 537.

²⁰ Colgan has the date incorrect, as A.D. 997.

²¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," Martii v. Appendix ad Vitam S. Kierani, cap. iv., p. 473.

²² See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 405.

²³ See *ibid.*

²⁴ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga "

Appendix Quinta ad Acta S. Brigidæ, cap. xx., p. 634.

²⁵ In recording his demise, Walter Harris remarks: "The founder of the church of Clonmacnois, being also a Kiaran, leaves one in some doubt as to the Bishops of this See; least one may apply to this what belongs to that, and so the term Comorban of Kiaran is not a sufficient guide to us in this particular, unless where Comorban of Saigir or Clonmacnois is specified to distinguish them." "Harris' Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Ossory, p. 402.

²⁶ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," Martii v. Appendix ad Vitam S. Kierani, cap. iv., p. 473.

²⁷ He belonged to the tribe of Ua Fogarta of Eilie, and apparently he was a native of that territory, having been ecclesiastical superior of the monastery of Seirkieran, previous to the Synod of Kells. See John Hogan's "Kilkenny: The Ancient City of Ossory, the Seat of its Kings, the See of its Bishops, and the site of its Cathedral," Kilkenny, 1884, 8vo.

²⁸ See Rev. Geoffrey Keating's "General History of Ireland," part ii.

went to rest in the peace of Christ, and in a good old age, on the 8th of May, A.D. 1178. The Annals of Leinster have his death at that year. Sir James Ware is of opinion,³¹ that he sat upwards of twenty-six years in the See of Ossory.³² In 1178, a Cistercian monk, named Felix O'Dullany,³³ who lived in Aghaboe, and who is called Abbot of Ossory, found the city of Kilkenny in ruins, with its ancient church of St. Canice.³⁴ Having at first fixed the seat of his See in Aghaboe, and in proximity with his own family tribe-lands, he resolved on a restoration of the fallen city, and this he was enabled to effect, with the aid of Earl Mareschal and his Countess Isabella, together with their Anglo-Norman retainers.³⁵ He accordingly removed the Episcopal See, it is stated; to the City of Kilkenny, where he laid the foundations of a Cathedral, afterwards dedicated to the Abbot and Patron St. Canice. For about twenty-four years he presided over this See, and he died in 1202,³⁶ in the Monastery of the Blessed Virgin at Jerpoint,³⁷ where he was buried.³⁸ He was succeeded in that same year, by Hugh Rufus, an English Augustinian Canon,³⁹ and he had been the first or second Prior of Kells, then lately founded by Geoffry FitzRobert. He granted a great part of the city of Kilkenny to William Marshall the elder, Earl of Pembroke, reserving as rent an ounce of gold for himself and his successors in the See. During the time of Bishop Hugh Rufus, in 1210, Kilkenny was made Shire-ground, and Sheriffs with other officers were appointed for it after the English manner.⁴⁰ In 1218, this prelate died, and he was buried in the Abbey of Kells, to which he had been a great benefactor. After his death, the Dean and Chapter of Ossory elected Peter Mannesin to succeed, and his election was confirmed by the King,⁴¹ on the 8th of December, 1218. He purchased the wood of Aghlong, near Clonmore, with the adjoining farm, and left it to his See. He sat

³⁰ For additional illustrations on the subject of the present Bishop, and much more extended biographical notices of other Diocesan prelates, the reader is referred to that learned and researchful contribution to the "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," headed *The Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day*, by Most Rev. Dr. Moran, Lord Bishop of Ossory. See vol. ii., pp. 200, 201.

³¹ See "*De Præulibus Lageniæ*," *Episcopi Ossorienses*, p. 69.

³² See Harris' "*Ware*," vol. i., *Bishops of Ossory*, p. 403.

³³ He belonged to an ancient clan seated in Coill-Uachtarach, now Upperwoods, in the Queen's County. The family name has been Anglicized Delany.

³⁴ For much valuable information regarding the history of Ossory Diocese, the reader may consult the learned work of Very Rev. John Francis Shearman. "*Loca Patriciana*," parts xi., xii., pp. 264 to 394, Dublin, 1879, roy. 8vo.

³⁵ See John Hogan's "*Kilkenny, the ancient City of Ossory, the Seat of*

its Kings, the See of its Bishops, and the Site of its Cathedral," part iii., pp. 175 to 198.

³⁶ See Archdall's "*Monasticon Hibernicum*," p. 356.

³⁷ This was a Cistercian foundation of Donald Regulus of Ossory, A.D., 1180. See Sir James Ware's "*De Hibernia et Antiquitatibus ejus Disquisitiones*," cap. xxvi., p. 156.

³⁸ "*Ad ejus tumulum, qui a septentrionali parte summi Altaris visitur, multa olim patrata ferunt miracula*,"—"*De Præsulibus Lageniæ, sive Provinciæ Dublinensis*," *Episcopi Ossorienses*, p. 70.

³⁹ See John Hogan's *Kilkenny*, part iii., p. 198.

⁴⁰ See Harris' "*Ware*," vol. i., *Bishops of Ossory*, pp. 403, 404.

⁴¹ Henry III. who at this time was a minor, while the Earl of Pembroke acted as Regent. See Charles Knight's "*Popular History of England, Civil, Military, Political, Social, and Biographical*," vol. i., chap. xxiv., pp. 356 to 358.

⁴² See Sir James Ware's "*De Præsulibus Lageniæ, sive Provinciæ Dublinensis*," *Episcopi Ossorienses*, p. 71.

eleven years, and he died A.D. 1220.⁴² He was also a benefactor to the Cistercian Abbey at Duisk, now Graignemanagh.⁴³ Having obtained the King's licence to elect his successor, the Dean, and Chapter selected from their body the Chancellor William of Kilkenny. He presided only for a short time, as in the beginning of 1232 he abdicated the office, and it is stated, owing to the persuasion of his successor, Walter de Brackell, who had been Rector of Strettonedal, in the Diocese of Hereford. His promotion was due to the favour of King Henry III.⁴⁴ This Bishop died on the 5th of December, A.D. 1243, when he had ruled for a little over eleven years.

Galfrid or Geoffry of Turvill, Archdeacon of Dublin, and Treasurer of Ireland, was lawfully elected Bishop of Ossory and consecrated in 1244. He purchased for his See the Manor of Dorogh,⁴⁵ and the lands belonging to it. There he built an episcopal palace. He died in London about the Feast of All Saints, A.D. 1250, having governed this See about six years. He was buried in the Inner-Temple Church. He was succeeded by Hugh de Mapilton, also Archdeacon of Dublin, who was consecrated towards the end of May, 1251. The following year he was created Treasurer of Ireland. The building of the present Cathedral of St. Canice⁴⁶ in Kilkenny had been carried on slowly by his predecessors, but this prelate incurred great expense in the work, which he did not live to finish, as his death took place in 1256. He was buried in the Cathedral, near St. Mary's Chapel, where the tomb is still to be seen. A Dominican, called Hugh III., was his successor, and he was a benefactor to the monks of his Order in Kilkenny, but he did not long survive, having been called out of this life in 1250. He was buried in the Dominican Church, near the high altar. In turn, Galfrid or Geoffry St. Leger succeeded. He was descended from a noble family, and he was Treasurer of St. Canice's Cathedral. In 1260, he was consecrated Bishop, and applied himself earnestly to finish the Cathedral, at no small cost. He also founded a college of vicars choral, and in many ways he was a benefactor of the See.⁴⁷ He there presided for twenty-six years, and died in the month of January, 1280. He was buried in the Cathedral, and his tomb is near that of Bishop Mapilton. The Dean of Kilkenny, known as Roger of Wexford, was his successor, and elected with the King's approbation on the 3rd of November, 1287. He died on the 12th June, 1280. Michael of Exeter, a canon of Kilkenny Cathedral, was elected Bishop of the See, September 28th, 1280, and on the 2nd of November following, the King's assent was obtained. His liberality to the canons of the Cathedral is greatly praised. He died about the Feast of Pentecost—as others state on the 12th of July, 1302, having sat for thirteen years.⁴⁸

Next to him came William FitzJohn, Canon of Kilkenny Cathedral,

⁴² See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 352.

⁴³ The reign of this monarch commenced on the day of his coronation, the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, Friday, the 28th of October, 1216, and lasted to the Feast of St. Edmund the Confessor, Wednesday, the 16th of November, 1272. See Harris Nicholas' "Chronology of History," pp. 309, 310.

⁴⁵ Now probably Castle Darrow, in the Queen's County.

⁴⁶ For a full and very complete account of this grand Gothic building,

the reader is referred to that learned work, "The History, Antiquities, and Architecture of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice," compiled by Rev. James Graves and John G. Augustus Prim. Dublin, 1857, 4to.

⁴⁷ See John C. Erek's "Ecclesiastical Register, containing the Names of the Dignitaries and Parochial Clergy of Ireland," p. 113.

⁴⁸ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ, sive Provinciæ Dublinensis," Episcopi Ossorienses, p. 75.

⁴⁹ See Fratris Johannis Clyn "Annales

and he was consecrated there in 1302, on Sunday within the Feast of the Epiphany.⁴⁹ Having governed the See for fifteen years, by the Pope's provision he was translated to be Archbishop of Cashel in 1317. It is said, one Peter succeeded in the See of Kilkenny; but if so, it must have been only for a very short time, since Richard Ledred, a London Franciscan Friar, was consecrated at Avignon in 1318, by mandate of Pope John XXII. The term of this Bishop was a troublesome one, but after various disputes with the Archbishop of Dublin, Alexander de Bicknor, and King Edward III., Bishop Ledred was exempted by the Pope from the jurisdiction of the former in 1348, while his church, people and himself were placed under the immediate protection of the Apostolic See.⁵⁰ Having endured imprisonment and much persecution from the King and his ministers, Bishop Ledred died at a very advanced age, in the year 1360, and he was buried on the Gospel side of the high altar in his own cathedral church.⁵¹ After his death, Milo Sweetman, Treasurer of the Cathedral, was elected, but the Pope annulled the election,⁵² and promoted John of Tatenale, by some called John of Oxford, to this See. He died in 1370. He was succeeded by Alexander Balscot, a man of learning and ability, who filled various public offices, and he sat in this See about fifteen years, when he was translated to that of Meath in 1386. His successor was Richard Northalis, a Carmelite Friar of London, who greatly enjoyed the favour and confidence of King Richard II., by whom he was appointed Inquisitor-General for the King's service in Ireland, being Chancellor for a time. Ruling about nine years in this See, he was then translated to that of Dublin, and became its Archbishop.⁵³

Thomas Peverell, a learned Carmelite Friar, succeeded, A.D. 1307. but he sat only for a short time in this See, for, in May, 1398, he was translated to that of Landaff, in Wales, and thence in 1407, to the Bishopric of Worcester. John Griffin, Bishop of Leighlin, was translated by the Pope to Kilkenny in 1398, but he died the year following. In 1399, John Waltam, an Augustinian Hermit, was advanced to this See by a provisional Bull of Pope Boniface IX., but he sat only for a short time, having died the year following. Then came Roger of Appleby, advanced to this See by the aforesaid Pope, on the 26th of September, 1400. He died A.D. 1404. John Volcan, Bishop of Dromore, was then translated to this See, but he died about Michaelmas, 1405. Thomas Snell, Archdeacon of Glendalough, and afterwards Bishop of Lismore and Waterford, was translated to Kilkenny soon afterwards, and he died in Waterford, October 16th, 1416. Next came Patrick Ragged, Bishop of Cork, translated to this See in 1417, and he died on the 20th of August, or as some say, on the 20th of April, 1421. Denis O'Dea, Bachelor of the Civil and Canon Laws, as also a man of great knowledge in the municipal laws of the country, was elected to this See on the 26th of November, 1421, and he died A.D. 1427. In 1428, Thomas Barry succeeded, and he died, it is said, on the 3rd of March, 1459. David Hacket was next in order, and sat about eighteen years, having died on the 24th of October, 1478. John O'Hedian succeeded, and

Hiberniæ," p. 10, edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A., Dean of Clonmacnoise.

⁵⁰ See Rev. Sylvester Malone's "Church History of Ireland," chap. ix., pp. 250 to 265.

⁵¹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Kilkenny, pp. 407 to 411.

⁵² Afterwards he was promoted to be Archbishop of Armagh.

⁵³ See "Annales Breves Hiberniæ auctore Thaddeo Dowling cancellario

having sat about seven years, he died on the 6th of January, 1486.⁵⁴ After his death, owing to the Rebellion of Lambert Simnel and the unquietness of the times, the See of Kilkenny remained vacant about two years. At length, Pope Innocent VIII. appointed Oliver Cantwell, a Dominican Friar, as bishop, in 1488; but this was not confirmed by King Henry VII., until the 28th of February, 1495. Worn out with old age, Bishop Cantwell died early in the year 1526, having governed this See almost thirty-nine years.⁵⁵ In 1528, Milo FitzGerald, an Augustinian, as also Canon and Prior of Inistock or Inisteaigue, was appointed Bishop by Papal Brief, dated June 8th of that year,⁵⁶ and accordingly he was consecrated Bishop of Ossory. He is also called Milo Baron, as he belonged to that Branch of the FitzGerald family who were Palatine Barons of Burnchurch, in the County of Kilkenny.⁵⁷ His priory was held by dispensation, until the Visitation of Religious Houses in the time of King Henry VIII. It was then surrendered by deed to that monarch. Milo died at a good old age in 1550; some have it in 1551. He was buried among his ancestors in the monastery at Inistiogue.⁵⁸

The celebrated John Bale,⁵⁹ was made Protestant Bishop in Christ Church, Dublin, by George Brown, Protestant Archbishop of that See, and advanced to Ossory on the 1st of February, 1553.⁶⁰ During the reign of King Henry VIII., he had been imprisoned for preaching against the Catholic Religion, but he was set at liberty through the interest of Lord Cromwell. A little later, September, 1553, he was forced to fly into Lower Germany, where he lived for eight years.⁶¹ Thence he returned to England, and through procurement of King Edward VI., he was nominated for the See of Ossory, and with his family, he went

Lechlinensi, p. 25. Edited by the Very Rev. Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A., Dean of Clonmacnoise.

⁵⁴ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Kilkenny, pp. 411 to 414.

⁵⁵ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ." *Episcopi Ossorienses* p. 84.

⁵⁶ See Dr. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," vol. i., p. 362.

⁵⁷ They were originally created by the Earl's Palatine of parts of the country. An account of them may be found in the Reports of Sir John Davis, p. 65.

⁵⁸ Some writers have it, that John Bird, Provincial of the Carmelites, had been translated from the See of Kilkenny to that of Bangor, on the 31d of September, 1539; but this is incorrect, for Milo Fitz-Gerald or Baron was then and for long before Bishop of Kilkenny. See Godwin's "De Præsulibus Angliæ Commentarius." &c., p. 540. It is added, that Bird was promoted from Bangor to Chester in 1533, because he preached sermons before King Henry VIII. against the Pope's supremacy. He was deprived in the reign of Queen Mary for being married, and he died at Chester in 1566.

⁵⁹ He was born in England at a village called Cove, five miles from

Dudwich, in the County of Suffolk, November 21st, 1495. He was educated for a time at Norwich, where he became a Carmelite friar. He afterwards studied in Jesus College, Cambridge. There, as he states, a temporal Lord, Thomas Wentworth, had caused him to renounce Popery; and "to throw off all marks of the beast, he married a faithful wife, according to the Divine precept, *he that hath not the gift of continence, let him marry.*" Such is the account in a Book of Persecutions written by himself, and also in his more celebrated work: "Scriptorium Illustratum Majoris Britannicæ." &c., Cent. viii., cap. 100, p. 702. However, Bishop Nicholson pleasantly remarks: "In truth, his wife Dorothy seems to have had a great hand in that happy work."—"English Historical Library," part ii., chap. viii., p. 130. London edition, 1776, 4to.

⁶⁰ See the particulars of that ceremony in Very Rev. Dr. Laurence Renchan's "Collections on Irish Church History," edited by the Rev. Daniel MacCarthy, vol. i., pp. 29, 30.

⁶¹ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ." *Episcopi Ossorienses*, p. 86.

⁶² See "Transactions of the Ossory

into Ireland. Afterwards he repaired to Kilkenny, but there his preaching of the Reformed Doctrine excited hostile demonstrations on the part of the clergy and people. He enjoyed the profits of his See only six months, when King Edward VI. died, and Queen Mary ascended the English throne. Then one John O'Thonory, a native of Kilkenny and a Canon Regular of St. Augustine, became the next Bishop in the Catholic succession, having been appointed by the Queen's licence, dated October 14th, 1553, but his election did not take place until the 26th of December. He was consecrated early in 1554 and restored to the temporalities on the 4th of January. In May, 1559, he was one of the Commissioners appointed for civil and military purposes for the County of Kilkenny. His name is also found in the list of those summoned to Parliament in 1560.⁶² John Bale was obliged to fly from Kilkenny, and thence to Dublin. He became a refugee for the second time, and after many strange adventures, he escaped to Basil, in Switzerland.⁶³ There he remained for five years,⁶⁴ until the accession of Queen Elizabeth to the English throne caused his return to England; but he did not desire a return to Kilkenny.⁶⁵ He was made a prebendary of the Church of Canterbury on the 1st of January, 1550-1560.⁶⁶ He published many works both in Latin and in English, of which he furnishes a catalogue in his book on the Writers of Britain.⁶⁷ He died at Canterbury in November, 1563, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and he was buried there in the nave of the Cathedral.⁶⁸ As a historian, he has borrowed the ground plot of his principal works on the Writers of Britain from John Leland; ⁶⁹ and, as Bishop Nicholson justly remarks: "the chief of his own superstructure is malicious and bitter invectives against the Papists."⁷⁰ On this score, he is also condemned by Sir James Ware,⁷¹ who allows him to be a learned man, nevertheless a constant preacher, and addicted to antiquarian studies. Moreover, he took care to have the ancient charters of his See transcribed, and confirmed with his own seal. He was otherwise a benefactor to the Diocese. He died in 1565.⁷²

Archæological Society," The Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day, by Most Rev. Dr. Moran, Lord Bishop of Ossory, vol. ii., pp. 251, 252.

⁶³ See M. Le Dr. Hoefler's "Nouvelle Biographie Générale," tome iv., col. 275. His career is set forth, in The Vocacyon of John Bale to the Bishopricke of Ossorie in Irelande, his Persecutions in the same, and final Delyveraunce. See "Harleian Tracts," vol. vi., pp. 437 *et seq.*

⁶⁴ During this time, he there published his best known work, "Illustrium Majoris Britannicæ Scriptorum, hoc est, Angliæ, Cambriæ, et Scotiæ, Summarium," 1548, fol. Referring to it, Dr. Thomas Fuller states, that he "much advantaged himself by his folio edition of his Centuries" — "Church History of Britain," vol. iv., book vii., cent. xvi., pp. 230, 231. Rev. J. S. Brewer's edition, Oxford, 1645, 8vo.

⁶⁵ See Charles Knight's "English Cyclopaedia: A new Dictionary of Universal Knowledge, Biography," vol. i., col. 501.

⁶⁶ See Rymer's "Fœdera," tom. xv., p. 563.

⁶⁷ See Dr. Thomas Fuller's "History of the Worthies of England," vol. ii., p. 332.

⁶⁸ See Bishop Tanner's "Bibliotheca Britannica-Hibernica," p. 68.

⁶⁹ His work is intitled "De illustribus Britannicæ Scriptoribus," in Four Books. John Pits says of Bale: "Hic Lelandi catalogum non tam proluxe auxit, quam prodigiöse de prauavit. Omnia namque foedissimus scurra mendaciis et calumniis replevit. et opus Lelandi politissimum pollutissimo stylo turpiter conspurcavit."—"Relationvm Historicarvm de Rebus Anglicis," toms primus. Nota de Joanne Balæo, p. 53.

⁷⁰ "The English Historical Library," part ii., chap. viii., p. 130.

⁷¹ He states "in scriptis vero (ut alibi dixi) efrenata usus est libertate."—"De Scriptoribus Hibernicæ," lib. ii., cav. v., p. 136.

⁷² See Sir James Ware "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," Episcopi Ossorienses, p. 87.

The See of Ossory remained vacant for two years, until Queen Elizabeth issued Letters Patent, dated May 7th, 1567, for the succession of Christopher Gafney, Prebendary of Tipper, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.⁷³ That same month, he was there consecrated. He died on the 3rd of August, 1576, and he was buried in a chapel on the north side of the choir. Nicholas Walsh, the son of Patrick Walsh, formerly Protestant Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, who had received his education at Cambridge, and who had been Chancellor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, received his Letters Patent, dated January 23rd, 1577, and he was consecrated Protestant Bishop of Ossory in the beginning of February following. While Chancellor of St. Patrick's he and the Treasurer of that Cathedral, John Kerney,⁷⁴ were the first to introduce Irish types for printing into the kingdom of Ireland. An order was obtained, likewise, that the prayers of the Church should be printed in that language and characters, and that a church should be set apart in the shire town of every diocese, where they were to be read, and a sermon preached to the common people. With the assistance of Nehemiah Donellan, afterwards Protestant Archbishop of Tuam, and the said John Kerney, he set about translating the New Testament into Irish.⁷⁵ A profligate wretch, James Dullard, whom Bishop Walsh had cited into his court for adultery, stabbed the prelate with a skein in his own house, on the 14th of December, 1585. Soon afterwards the murderer suffered the punishment justly due for that crime. The bishop's body was buried on the south side of the great aisle in the Cathedral of Kilkenny. There a monument was erected to his memory.⁷⁶ The See continued vacant for nine months after his death.⁷⁷

During the term of the Protestant Bishop, Dr. Walshe, Catholic interests were confided to Vicars who received their appointments from the Primate or other Representative of the Holy See. At length, Thomas Strong, a native of the City of Waterford, was appointed Bishop in 1582,^a and he was consecrated at Rome on the 5th of April. His name is also found written Stronge, and Strang, and Strange. He remained in Ireland only for a few months, but in disguise, and subject to various trials and persecutions; so that he was obliged to seek refuge in Spain where he lived in exile at Compostella to the date of his death, January 20th, 1601.^b

While the Dean of the Cathedral of St. Canice held a kind of episcopal jurisdiction over the Vicars Choral,⁸⁰ similar to that of the Dean of the metropolitanical Church of St. Patrick, Dublin; the Archdeacon formerly

⁷³ See Sir James Ware "De Prasulibus Laginæ" Episcopi Ossorienses, p. 87.

⁷⁴ He wrote an Irish Protestant Catechism, thought to have been the first book ever printed in the Irish characters. He also translated the Bible into Irish, and in Ware's time, this was extant in manuscript. He died about the year 1600, and he was buried in St. Patrick's, Dublin. See Harris' "Ware," vol. iii., "Writers of Ireland," book i., chap. xiii., p. 98.

⁷⁵ This was afterwards done from the Greek text by William Daniel, Archbishop of Tuam. See Sir James Ware, "De Prasulibus Laginæ," Episcopi Ossorienses, p. 88.

⁷⁶ See Dr. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," vol. i., p. 304.

⁷⁷ See "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., The Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present day, by Most Rev. Dr. Moran, Lord Bishop of Ossory, pp. 258 to 261.

⁷⁸ It bears the following inscription in Gothic characters: "Hic Jacet Reverendus Pater Nicholaus Walshe, quondam Ossoriensis Episcopus; qui obiit die Mensis Decembris 14 Anno Domini 1585."

⁷⁹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Ossory, pp. 415 to 419.

⁸⁰ By ancient prescription he was also lord of the manor over the Glebe,

exercised an ordinary prescriptive jurisdiction each year over the whole Diocese of Ossory, from the 30th of September to the 3rd of the following February, and he had a moiety of the procurations paid to the bishop in his ordinary visitation.

John Horsfall, a native of Yorkshire, received the Queen's Letters Patent, dated September 15th, 1586, and was restored to the temporalities of the See on the 17th, with a retrospect to the previous March 25th.

During the exile of Dr. Strong the Catholic See was governed by Vicars General; first by the Rev. George Power, afterwards by the Rev. Laurence Reynaghan about the year 1599. During his time on the death of Queen Elizabeth, the 24th of March, 1603, the Catholics of Kilkenny, with the approval of their Sovereign or Chief Magistrate William Archer, took possession of their former churches; but for this the latter was thrown into prison, when he contracted a disease which proved fatal on the 24th of August, 1604. However, Bishop Horsfall continued to reside within the Diocese, and to declaim against the free exercise of their religion by the "Romish caterpillars," as he styled the Catholic clergy. Meantime, the Rev. William Brennan was Vicar General until he entered the Franciscan Order in 1609. The Rev. Richard Fitzgerald succeeded him in office, and held it till the appointment of Dr. David Rothe.⁸¹

Having governed his See twenty years and about five months,⁸² Bishop Horsfall died on the 13th of February, 1609, and he was buried in St. Canice's Church.⁸³ His successor was Richard Dean, born also in Yorkshire, and educated at Oxford. He sat but three years in this Sec, and he died on the 20th of February, 1612. He was buried there in the same cathedral,⁸⁴ and a marble tomb was erected over him.⁸⁵ The next in order was Jonas Wheeler by some said to have been a native of Oxford and by others of Devonshire.⁸⁶ He was advanced to be Dean of Christ Church, Dublin, by Letters Patent, dated March 9th, 1594. This he held *in commendam* after he had been consecrated Bishop of Kilkenny in St. Patrick's Church, by the Archbishop, Thomas, of Dublin. Bishop Wheeler recovered several See-lands alienated from his Church, at considerable trouble and expense. He lived to the extreme old age of ninety-seven years, and died at Dunmore on the 10th of April, 1640. Thence his remains were conveyed to Kilkenny, and buried in the Cathedral.⁸⁷

His successor in the Sec, Griffith Williams, born at Caernarvon in Wales, had a chequered and stormy career⁸⁸ both before and after his elevation to the Sec of Ossory, by Letters Patent of King Charles I. and dated July 19th, 1641, confirmed by Letters Patent dated the 11th of September following. On the 26th of the latter month, he was con-

where lived the inhabitants about the cathedral. Previously to 1641, he had a senechal, as also courts, leet and baron.

⁸¹ See "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 261 to 265.

⁸² See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," *Episcopi Ossorienses*, p. 89.

⁸³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 419.

⁸⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 419, 420.

⁸⁵ See Sir James Ware, "De Præsulibus Lageniæ," *Episcopi Ossorienses*, p. 89.

⁸⁶ See *ibid.*, p. 90.

⁸⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 420.

⁸⁸ In 1674, he published a book, which may be regarded as an Autobiography, and this contained an account of his persecutions and sufferings, but in an unbridled spirit of enmity and railing against those from whom he had received real or fancied injuries. He was a zealous loyalist, and he inveighs bitterly against the Puritans, "the long Parliament and their whelps," who robbed him of all he possessed.

secrated by Launcelot, Archbishop of Dublin. He had also a licence to hold the Deanery of Bangor *in commendam*, which he did until his death. This bishop had but a short enjoyment of his See, when the great Insurrection of 1641 broke out, in less than a month after his consecration. The City of Kilkenny was one of the first that fell into the hands of the Confederates; and Griffith Williams having spent nearly £300, without any return of revenue, was forced to fly into England. Meanwhile, the Bishop had suffered many tribulations after leaving Ireland. He was arrested by the Parliamentarians, and kept a prisoner for some time at Northampton; but on being released, he became chaplain to King Charles I., and in that capacity he was at the battle of Edge Hill, fought on the 23rd of October, 1642. Afterwards, he stayed most part of the winter at Oxford, and thence he went to Wales, returning to Ireland, where he continued until after the battle of Naseby in 1645.⁸⁹ On a mission from the Marquis of Ormond, he again went to England, and once more he visited Dublin with letters from the king to the former. From Ormond he received a sum of money, and resolved on going to Wales; but he was taken prisoner again, robbed of all his money, and cast upon Ireland's Eye. Thence he made his way to Dublin, when Dr. Loftus once more supplied him with money to go to London. After many adversities, he resolved on returning to Ireland, and at Holyhead, he received news of the preparations making by Parliament for the Restoration of King Charles II. On the Sunday morning, landing in Dublin, he preached the same day at St. Bride's, and he there prayed publicly for the king. The next morning he posted to Kilkenny, where he waited on the Marchioness of Ormond, and on the following Sunday he preached in Kilkenny. Having mortgaged his lands in Ireland for one hundred pounds, he again hastened to London, where he printed a work, known as his Great Antichrist, which he presented to King Charles II., who very graciously received it. When public affairs had thus been settled, Bishop Williams returned once more to Ireland, intending to live in his diocese. He then found the cathedral in ruins, and also his episcopal palace. In the latter, he fitted up one room to live in, and he laid out large sums to repair the cathedral. Afterwards, the bishop instituted various suits at law to recover See-land that had been alienated, owing to the action of his predecessor Thonory. As the evidences for the See had been destroyed during the great Insurrection, he was for the most part unsuccessful in those attempts, and he lost a large sum of money in law expenses.⁹⁰ By an Act of Parliament,⁹¹ which disabled all spiritual persons from holding benefices in England and Wales, and in Ireland, at the same time, there was a particular proviso in favour of Bishop Williams, who was enabled to hold the Deanery of Bangor together with his bishopric, until the augmentation of £400 a year, mentioned in the Act of Settlement, should be accomplished for him and for his successors.

⁸⁹ The career of this celebrated man is set forth fully in Thomas Carte's "Life of James, Duke of Ormond," published in London, 1735, 1736, in three folio volumes. This valuable biographical and historical work has been republished in Oxford, 1851, in six large 8vo volumes, and this new edition has been revised and carefully compared with the original MSS.

materials. Our future references are to this latter re-issue.

⁹⁰ An account of these transactions is given in a treatise he wrote, intitled, "A Small Part of the Great Wickedness and Sacrilegious Dealings of the Great Antichrist acted in the Diocese of Ossory."

⁹¹ Passed in the 17th and 18th, Charles II., chap. 10.

Notwithstanding his various litigations and troubles, Bishop Williams lived to an old age, engaged in acts of good nature, munificence, and charity. He died at Kilkenny, on the 29th of March, 1672, in his eighty-third year, and he was buried on the south side of the chancel in the Cathedral of St. Canice.⁹²

The last Catholic bishop of Ossory, Thomas Strong, died in 1601, nor had a successor to him been appointed, until in a consistory held under Pope Paul V., it was determined that provision should be made for the vacant See. Accordingly, at the instance of Cardinal Ferallo, protector of the Church in Ireland, David Rothe,⁹³ was nominated and promoted soon afterwards to the See of Ossory, in 1618.⁹⁴ His rule was memorable, owing to the revolution caused in public affairs by the rising of October, 1641, which throughout the greater part of Ireland transferred power from the Puritanical party to the Catholics; and Kilkenny more especially became the centre of their government, when the Confederation was there established. Several of the Protestant citizens in alarm fled for their protection to the well-fortified Ormond Castle; but, Lord Mountgarret and the Catholics offered to secure their safety should they chose to return and occupy their houses. However, they asked permission, and it was readily granted them, of retiring to the stronghold of Carrick Castle. A guard of Catholic troops accompanied them thither, but soon afterwards, most of the fugitives resolved on proceeding to Waterford, thence to embark for England.⁹⁵ As presiding over the diocese, Bishop Rothe took possession of the ancient Cathedral of St. Canice, and held it during that memorable period, while the Supreme Council of the Irish Confederate Catholics ruled in Kilkenny.⁹⁶ He was a very learned prelate, and he wrote several valuable works. Chief among these was his "Analecta," the first part of which was published in 1616; the other part followed in 1617 and 1619, in Cologne, making the work complete.⁹⁷ He figured prominently on the stage of public life, in the varied events that took place during his episcopacy.⁹⁸ Towards the close of his life, the Confederate Catholics were driven to the last extremity, and besieged in Kilkenny. Sir Walter Butler, with a small garrison of only three hundred men, had made such a brave defence, that Cromwell granted honourable terms to them, and even complimented them for their gallantry. After the taking of Kilkenny by the English on the 26th of March, 1650, Axtell's regiment was quartered in the Cathedral, where the soldiers destroyed the sumptuous tomb of the Ormond family

⁹² See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," pp. 420 to 427.

⁹³ He was born in the City of Kilkenny, A.D. 1568, and he belonged to a wealthy family.

⁹⁴ See W. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 364.

⁹⁵ See the Rt. Rev. Bishop Moran's account of Dr. David Rothe in the "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 307, 308.

⁹⁶ See Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," Seventeenth Century, chap. iii., p. 519. Second edition, Dublin, 1864, 8vo.

⁹⁷ Latterly the "Analecta of David Rothe, Bishop of Ossory," has been

republished, and edited with an introduction and notes, by Most Rev. Patrick F. Moran, Bishop of Ossory, Dublin, 1884. 8vo.

⁹⁸ A full account of him we have in the Rev. Charles P. Meehan's "Rise and Fall of the Irish Franciscan Monasteries, and Memoirs of the Irish Hierarchy, in the Seventeenth Century," with Appendix containing numerous original Documents. Fourth edition, 1872, 18mo, Irish Hierarchy, &c., chap. vi., pp. 174 to 197.

⁹⁹ See an account of this siege in Thomas Carte's "Life of James, Duke of Ormond," &c. Vol. iii., Book v., pp. 536, 537.

and committed many other sacrilegious depredations.⁹⁹ This venerable prelate lived but a short time after the overthrow of the Supreme Council.¹⁰⁰ He died in Kilkenny on the 20th of April, 1650, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.¹⁰¹ While Cromwell's army was in occupation of the city, Bishop Rothe's interment took place with religious ceremonies, and it was unmolested. He left a work in manuscript, intituled, "Hierographia Hibernicæ," treating on the Irish Saints,¹⁰² which now appears to have been lost.¹⁰³ Several years passed after the death of Bishop Rothe before his successor could be appointed, in the person of James O'Phelan, Prothonotary Apostolic and P.P. of Callan.¹⁰⁴ His episcopal career was distinguished for the many Synods he was able to hold, under very trying difficulties. In April, 1689, he welcomed King James II. to Kilkenny.¹⁰⁵ He died A.D. 1695.

On the 28th of April, 1672, John Parry, son of Edward Parry,¹⁰⁶ Bishop of Killaloe,¹⁰⁷ born in Dublin, and educated there in Trinity College, was consecrated Protestant Bishop of Ossory, in Christ Church, by Michael, Archbishop of Dublin, and he was enthroned in Kilkenny the September following. He was reputed to be a learned man,¹⁰⁸ and as a bishop, he was popular among his clergy, and a great benefactor to his church. During his incumbency, this prelate obtained many immunities and impropriations for the benefit of his See; while the Duke of Ormond was his chief patron and adviser, in the proceedings necessary to be adopted in attaining such ends. He also obtained a charter to confirm privileges belonging to the ancient Corporation of Irishtown, Kilkenny, of which the Ossory bishops were deemed to be prescriptive lords, claiming a right to approve its chief magistrate at elections.¹⁰⁹ However, it is not greatly to Bishop Parry's credit,

¹⁰⁰ See Dr. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., book vi., chap. i., p. 362.

¹⁰¹ For a very complete Memoir of this illustrious Bishop, the reader is referred to that account of him contained in the Most Rev. Dr. Moran's Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day. "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 199 to 410.

¹⁰² Archbishop Ussher had seen it, and quotes a considerable passage from its pages in his work "De Primordiis Britannicarum Ecclesiarum," cap. xvi., p. 737.

¹⁰³ See Harris' "Ware," vol. iii., "Writers of Ireland," book i., chap. xiv. 125.

¹⁰⁴ His succession as Bishop took place in 1669. See Wm. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 366.

¹⁰⁵ See an account of him by Most Rev. Dr. Moran in the Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day. "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," Vol. ii., pp. 416 to 451.

¹⁰⁶ He was a native of Newry, Co. Down; a B.A. of Trinity College.

Dublin, in 1620, and he became Fellow of T.C.D. in 1624; however, as he held an ecclesiastical benefice and a college living more than three miles from the college, contrary to the statutes and the oath of a Fellow, in 1628 his Fellowship was declared vacant. See Rev. Dr. John William Stubbs' "History of the University of Dublin," &c., vol. i., chap. iv., pp. 55, 56, and notes, p. 343.

¹⁰⁷ He became Dean of Lismore in 1640, and Bishop of Killaloe in 1647, holding the treasurer'ship of Christ Church *in commendam* with his bishopric. He died in Dublin, of the plague then raging there, on the 20th of July, 1650, and he was buried in St. Audoen's Church. He wrote a book, published after his death, by John Parry, his son, and it was intituled "David Restored, or an Antidote against the Prosperity of the Wicked, and the Afflictions of the Just, shewing the different ends of both in a seasonable Discourse on the 73rd Psalm," Oxford, A.D. 1660. Svo.

¹⁰⁸ He wrote several treatises, enumerated in Walter Harris' "Ware," vol. ii., "Writers of Ireland," book i., chap. xiv., p. 106.

¹⁰⁹ See W. B. S. Taylor's "History

that he ordered the handsome monument¹¹⁰ erected to David Rothe in the Cathedral to be defaced, because an inscription¹¹¹ on it stated, that he had driven heresy out of Kilkenny in 1642. The arms and images on that monument shew the remains of curious gilding.¹¹² The Will of Bishop Parry is dated October 19th, 1677,¹¹³ and by it he left various bequests for charities and ecclesiastical purposes to Kilkenny and Dublin. He desired especially, that he should be buried in or near his deceased father's grave, in St. Audoen's Church, Dublin. In this city he died, on the 21st of December, in that same year, and, as he had desired, his body was buried in the same tomb with the remains of his father.¹¹⁴ His brother, Benjamin Parry, also born in Dublin and educated in Trinity College,¹¹⁵ was, through the influence of the Duke of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, advanced to the See of Ossory by Letters Patent, dated January 24th, 1678.¹¹⁶ Three days afterwards he was consecrated in Christ Church, Dublin.¹¹⁷ However, he did not long survive his brother; for he died in the palace at Kilkenny on the 4th of October, of that same year. His body was conveyed

of the University of Dublin," chap. x., sect. ii., pp. 369, 370.

¹¹⁰ This monument is of black marble. A ledger, consisting of a cavetto and ovolo, with their lists, serves for the base of the monument, and upon it there is a frieze adorned with foliage. At each end, there is a plain field or coat designed for coats of arms, but it is left blank. Over each end of the frieze springs an abutment, upon which originally stood two columns of the Corinthian Order, which are now taken away, and the entablature is at present supported by two plain pilasters, which stood behind the columns. Between these pilasters are two impostes, on which an arch rests, in form of a gate or flat niche. That which represents the gate contains the inscriptions. Over the corner of the left impost is cut the *effigies* of Saint Kieran, with a mitre on his head and a crozier in his hand, his name being carved underneath. Over the corner of the right impost is the *effigies* of Saint Canice, with a mitre at his foot, a crozier in his hand, and a monk's hood on his head, with his name underneath. The pilasters support an entablature composed of an architrave, frieze, and cornice, the frieze being adorned with roses. Over the entablature there is another table, on which is carved a representation of our Saviour on the cross, and on each side a woman weeping. From each side of that table springs a scroll, which rests upon the extremities of the entablature; and over the table is a large ovolo, which serves for a cornice to it. On each side of the ovolo, there is a block or cube adorned with flowers, and between there is another table arch-wise. Upon this the Rothe family coat of arms is fixed, and it con-

sists of a stag trippant, gules, leaning against a tree *vert.* Over this coat hangs a canopy, with strings pendant, and terminating with fringed knots. A small pedestal stands on top of the arch, and upon its die are the letters I. H. S. This crowns the whole monument.—See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 427.

¹¹¹ The only part of this remaining are the following words:—
Deo optimo Maximo,
Et Memorie Davidis, Episcopi Ossorien-
sis, qui,
Hanc Ecclesiam Cathedralam S. Canico
Sacram.

A.D., 1642.

The following distich also remains:—
Ortus cuncta snos repetunt, Matremque
requirunt,
Et redit ad nihilum, quod fuit ante nihil.

¹¹² It seems probable this tomb and inscription had been prepared during Bishop Rothe's lifetime, and that the latter had been of his own composition.

¹¹³ Still preserved in the Prerogative Office.

¹¹⁴ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," pp. 427 to 429.

¹¹⁵ His first promotion was to a prebendal stall in York Cathedral, which he resigned, when appointed Chaplain to Capel, Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The latter promoted him to the Deanery of St. Canice, in 1673, and to that of St. Patrick, Dublin, in 1674. See W. B. S. Taylor's "History of the University of Dublin," chap. x., sect. iii., p. 370.

¹¹⁶ By several writers the year has been erroneously set down as 1677—doubtless through mistaking the entry 1677-78 new style.

¹¹⁷ He wrote a book intituled :

to Dublin, and there it was deposited with the remains of his father and brother, in St. Audoen's Church.¹¹⁸

Next to him in the See of Ossory was Michael Ward, a native of England, but whose education was received in the Dublin University; and by the Duke of Ormond, he was advanced through Letters Patent dated the 8th November, 1678. On the 24th of that same month, he was consecrated by Michael, Archbishop of Dublin, in Christ Church Cathedral. Afterwards he was translated to the See of Derry, by Letters Patent, and dated January 22nd, 1679.¹¹⁹ Michael Ward was succeeded by Thomas Otway, a zealous Royalist, translated from the united Sees of Killala and Achonry to the See of Ossory on the 7th of February, 1679, to which he was in various ways a benefactor. He died in the Episcopal House, Kilkenny, on the 6th of March, 1692, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.¹²⁰ He was buried near the west door of his Cathedral, where an humble marble stone bears a simple inscription,¹²¹ cut in curiously-flourished and large italic characters.¹²²

On the recommendation of the exiled monarch, James II., William Daton or Dalton was appointed Catholic Bishop of Kilkenny in 1696,¹²³ and in a Consistory held on the 23rd of January, for exercising the office of his ministry, he was arrested and sent into exile in April, 1698, when at Mans in France he resided, and died there on the 26th of January, 1712.¹²⁴

Next in order of Protestant succession after Ward came John Hartstonge, born at Cattan, near Norwich, in England, and son of Sir Standish Hartstonge, Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland. He was educated, however, in the schools of Charleville and Kilkenny.¹²⁵ From the latter, he was admitted to Trinity College, Dublin. Afterwards he went to Cambridge, where he became a Fellow of Caius College in 1781. Soon afterwards, he was appointed chaplain to James, Duke of Ormond, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. After his death in 1688, Hartstonge acted as chaplain to his grandson, James, Duke of Ormond, during his four first campaigns in Flanders. Through his influence, King William III. advanced Hartstonge to the See of Ossory, by letters patent, dated April 8th, 1693.¹²⁶ He was translated to the See of Derry, by letters patent, dated March 3rd, 1713.¹²⁷ He was succeeded by Sir Thomas Vesey, born at Cork, was son of Dean John Vesey, afterwards Archbishop of Tuam. His early studies were at Eton, and afterwards at Oxford, where he became a Fellow of Oriel

"Chymia Cœlestis. Drops from Heaven; or Pious Meditations on several places in Scripture," London, 1659, 1672, 12mo.

¹¹⁸ See William Monck Mason's "History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, near Dublin," book ii., chap. iv., sect. iii., p. 200.

¹¹⁹ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," pp. 429, 430.

¹²⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 430, 431.

¹²¹ It reads thus: Hic jacet Thomas Otway Ossoriensis Episcopus qui obiit sexto die Martii, 1692-3, Ætatis suæ 77.

¹²² See the "History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John Augustus Prim, sect. ii., chap. ii., p. 315.

¹²³ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 366.

¹²⁴ See Most Rev. Bishop Moran's Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day. "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 452 to 476.

¹²⁵ In the diocesan Grammar school, known as the College, and founded by the celebrated James, Duke of Ormond.

¹²⁶ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, pp. 282, 283.

¹²⁷ He died in Dublin, January 30th, 1716.

¹²⁸ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 283.

College. He was created a baronet on the 13th of July, 1698, before he entered for orders. Having been appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Vesey was received into the family of the Duke of Ormond, who recommended him to Queen Anne. She advanced him to the See of Killaloe, on the 12th of June, 1713, and on the 12th of the following month, he was consecrated in Christ Church, Dublin. He was translated to the See of Ossory by letters patent, dated April 27th, 1714,¹²⁸ and enthroned on the succeeding 9th of May. On the 6th of August, 1730, he died in Dublin.¹²⁹

On August 6th, 1713,¹³⁰ the Propaganda selected for the vacant Catholic See of Ossory the Rev. Malachy Dulany; and he was consecrated Bishop at Dublin, February 17th, 1714. He died in the year 1731.¹³¹

The Protestant See of Ossory remained vacant for several months. Edward Tennison, Doctor of Divinity in Cambridge University, Archdeacon of Caermarthen and Rector of Sundrich in Kent, was promoted by letters patent of King George II., and dated June, 1730. He was very zealous for the propagation of the Protestant religion.¹³² He died in Dublin November 29th, 1735,¹³³ and he was buried there in St. Mary's Church.¹³⁴ In January, 1735, Dr. Charles Este¹³⁵ became Bishop of Ossory,¹³⁶ on recommendation of the Duke of Dorset, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was consecrated at St. Werburgh's, Dublin, on the 1st of February, and he was enthroned at Kilkenny, March 1st. He expended a large sum on the improvement of his See residence. In 1740, he was translated to Waterford.¹³⁷

The Brief of Dr. Patriek O'Shea's appointment to the Catholic See of Ossory is dated July the 28th, 1731.¹³⁸ His episcopate only lasted for five years. He died in 1736.¹³⁹ Through the influence of the Pretender,

¹²⁷ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Ossory, p. 432, and Bishops of Killaloe, pp. 598, 599.

¹²⁹ See Wm. Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," vol. i., p. 367.

¹³¹ For an account of him see Most Rev. Dr. Moran's "Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day," "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 476 to 488.

¹³² By a codicil to his will, and dated June 23rd, 1735, he left to one Michael Stephenson, a deacon, during his life £40 *per annum*, to catechize the children of Papists in Killeasy Parish. This was a wild and mountainous part of the Diocese. Stephenson was obliged to reside there under the penalty of forfeiting his pension. Also £20 was bequeathed to the Incorporated Society for promoting English Protestant Schools. To every incumbent and curate in the Diocese of Ossory, the Bishop bequeathed one copy of the latest edition of Chillingworth's "Religion of Protestants." Moreover, he left £10 to each parish towards buying red-ir barks, laths, and slates, for covering small oratories to be built, and for enlarging the roofs of those oratories, which at the time of his death

should be built within the ruined walls of the churches of Aghmacart, Rosconnell, Kildermogh, Kilbeacon, Listerling, and Killeasy.

¹³³ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., p. 283.

¹³⁴ See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Ossory, pp. 432, 433.

¹³⁵ He was born at Whitehall, and educated at Westminster School, and thence he entered Oxford. In 1724, he became domestic chaplain to Hugh Boulter, Archbishop of Armagh, and through his influence, he held various benefices in that diocese. See Harris' "Ware," vol. i., Bishops of Ossory, p. 433.

¹³⁶ See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hibernie ab. An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 46.

¹³⁷ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice," vol. ii., p. 284.

¹³⁸ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," vol. i., p. 367.

¹³⁹ See Most Rev. Dr. Moran's Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day, "Transactions of Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 488 to 491.

¹⁴⁰ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," vol. i., p. 368.

on the 5th of October, 1739,¹⁴⁰ a Brief was obtained at Rome for the appointment of Father Colman O'Shaghnessey, a Dominican, to the bishopric of Ossory.¹⁴¹ He died at Gowran, on the 2nd of September, 1748,¹⁴² and he was interred, it is said, in the cemetery attached to St. John's Catholic Church, called St. Stephen's cemetery.¹⁴³

In 1740, Dr. Anthony Dopping,¹⁴⁴ son of Anthony, Bishop of Meath, became Protestant Bishop of Ossory, on July 10th. He was enthroned on the 14th of August of that year. He died in January, 1743, and he was buried at St. Andrew's, Dublin.¹⁴⁵ In 1743, Dr. Michael Cox was appointed to the See of Ossory. He was the son of Sir Richard Cox,¹⁴⁶ Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Having become Chaplain to the Duke of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he was made Rector of Callan and Chancellor of Kilkenny. He was advanced to the See of Kilkenny by Letters Patent, dated April 14th, and on the 29th of May, he was consecrated Bishop in St. Patrick's, Dublin. In 1755, he was translated to the Archbishopric of Cashel.¹⁴⁷

On December 17, 1748, the Rev. James B. Dunne was appointed by Apostolic Brief to the Catholic See of Ossory.¹⁴⁸ He appears to have suffered much through illness, and he retired from active duty in 1753. He sailed for France in 1757, and died there on the 30th of April, 1758.¹⁴⁹ Bishop Thomas Burke, or De Burgo, born in Dublin about the year 1709, was sent to Rome for his education when quite young, and in 1724, he was invested with the habit of the Dominican Order. In 1741 commissioned by the Irish clergy, he obtained from Pope Benedict XIV. the confirmation of ten new offices for Irish saints. In 1743, he returned to Ireland. In 1749 and in 1757 he was definitor in a provincial chapter of his order. In 1759, he was promoted to the See of Ossory.¹⁵⁰ This very learned prelate compiled an invaluable work in Latin, and known as "Hibernia Dominicana," which was printed by subscription in Kilkenny, A.D. 1762, although the title page states at Cologne, and it had to be surreptitiously circulated, owing to the *Index Expurgatorius* against the issue of Catholic books at that time. A "Supplementum" was added in 1772. These books furnished a very complete History of the Dominican Order in Ireland. Yet, strange to state, the work was condemned by seven of the Irish bishops as tending to weaken allegiance to the Protestant government, to disturb the public peace,

¹⁴⁰ See Most Rev. Dr. Moran's Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present Day. "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. i., pp. 491 to 501.

¹⁴¹ See De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," chap. xiii, sect. lxxviii, pp. 500, 506.

¹⁴² Such is the statement of De Burgo, and I am informed by the Rev. William Carrigan, C.C., Durov, that his monument is to be seen in Maudlin Street churchyard, Kilkenny.

¹⁴³ He was born in 1675, and he was educated in Trinity College, Dublin.

¹⁴⁴ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, p. 284.

¹⁴⁵ He was born at Bandon, County of Cork, A.D. 1650. He wrote a celebrated

work, intitled, "Hibernia Anglicana" or the History of Ireland from the Conquest thereof by the English to the present Time." It appeared in two parts, one published in 1689, and the other in 1700, in 4to. He died in 1733.

¹⁴⁶ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, pp. 284, 285.

¹⁴⁷ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 368.

¹⁴⁸ See Most Rev. Dr. Moran's Bishops of Ossory from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to the present day, "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 501 to 504.

¹⁴⁹ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 369.

to sow the seeds of dissension, and to give a handle of offence to those who differed in religious principles from the author. He died in Kilkenny on the 25th of September, 1776.¹⁵¹

The Rector of Attanagh, and Precentor of Ossory, Dr. Edward Maurice,¹⁵² obtained letters patent for the Protestant See of Ossory January 24th, 1755, and on the 27th he was consecrated in St. Patrick's, Dublin. He composed a poetical version of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey¹⁵³ in blank verse, which has not been published.¹⁵⁴ It is preserved among the Trinity College MSS. By his will, Bishop Maurice bequeathed all his printed books to the Diocesan Library of Ossory,¹⁵⁵ and left an annual salary of £20 for a librarian, to be appointed by the Bishop of that diocese. While engaged on his parochial visitation, he died at Charleville, near Tullamore, February 4th, 1756. On March 19th, 1756, Dr. Richard Pococke¹⁵⁶ succeeded him as Protestant Bishop of Ossory, and he was consecrated on the 21st, in St. Peter's Church, Dublin. He was a learned writer, especially on the subject of Eastern Antiquities.¹⁵⁷ He travelled through many countries of the Orient, and among these were Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Cyprus and Candia. During the exercise of his episcopate in Ireland, he devoted much attention towards the illustration of Ireland's monastic antiquities. He promoted the Rev. Mervyn Archdall¹⁵⁸ to be his chaplain, and conferred on him the living of Attanagh, while the bishop's encouragement and patronage enabled that learned writer to undertake his valuable "Monasticon Hibernicum."¹⁵⁹ Bishop Pococke left narratives of his Travels in Scotland and Ireland, which contain much valuable topographical and antiquarian information.¹⁶⁰ He never married, but a sister of the Bishop became wife of the Reverend and very learned Joseph Bingham, celebrated author of the "Antiquities of the Christian Church." In July, 1765, Bishop Pococke was translated to the See of Meath.¹⁶¹

Dr. Charles Dodgson¹⁶² succeeded him in the See of Ossory, by Letters Patent, dated July 18th, 1765. He was consecrated August 14th.

¹⁵¹ See Alfred Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 59.

¹⁵² Born in Ireland, he was educated in Trinity College, Dublin.

¹⁵³ A brief notice of Bishop Maurice's version of Homer occurs in a letter, published in the "Anthologia Hibernica."

¹⁵⁴ For some extracts, the reader is referred to Rt. Rev. Bishop Mant's "History of the Church of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. iv., sec. ix., pp. 620, 621.

¹⁵⁵ Founded by his predecessor Bishop Otway. See Archdeacon Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, p. 285.

¹⁵⁶ He was son of the Rev. Richard Pococke, Rector of Colmer, in Hampshire. Born in 1704, in Southampton, he was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1725, he became Precentor of the Diocese of Lismore, and in 1734, he was appointed Vicar-General of the Dioceses of Waterford and Lismore. In 1745, he became Precentor of Waterford. Having become Chaplain to

the Earl of Chesterfield, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he was promoted by the Crown to the Archdeaconry of Dublin.

¹⁵⁷ See S. Austin Alibone's "Critical Dictionary of English Literature," vol. ii., pp. 1613, 1614.

¹⁵⁸ Born in Dublin, April 22nd, 1723. See Alfred Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 5.

¹⁵⁹ Published in Dublin, A.D. 1786, in a thick 4to of 820 pages, with an index.

¹⁶⁰ The Life of Bishop Pococke has been written by Mr. Cumberland.

¹⁶¹ He did not long survive; for during the ensuing month of September, while engaged in a visitation of his Diocese, he was suddenly seized with an apoplectic stroke, which soon terminated fatally. See the Right Rev. Richard Mant's "History of the Church of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. iv., sec. ix., pp. 623 to 627.

¹⁶² He was an Englishman, educated at St. John's College, Cambridge. He became Chaplain to the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

He was translated to Elphin, in 1775.¹⁶³ Dr. William Newcome, Bishop of Down, was translated to the See of Ossory, by Patent dated April 13th, 1775. In 1776, by Patent November 8th, and consecrated on the 14th of that month, in St. Patrick's, Dublin, Sir John Hotham¹⁶⁴ became Bishop of Ossory, when Dr. William Newcome was translated to the United Sees of Waterford and Lismore. In 1782, he was translated to Clogher.¹⁶⁵

On the death of Bishop de Burgo, another Dominican Father, John Thomas Troy, became Catholic Bishop of Ossory in 1776.¹⁶⁶ During his episcopate, he energetically denounced the disturbances created by the Whiteboys, and caused them to be solemnly excommunicated in the churches of his diocese. His pastoral letters also succeeded in restoring order.¹⁶⁷ On the death of Dr. John Carpenter, Archbishop of Dublin, in 1789, Dr. Troy was transferred from Ossory, and appointed to fill the vacant See.¹⁶⁸ He died on the 11th of May, 1823. The Rev. John Dunne, born near Ballinakill, Queen's County, succeeded Dr. Troy in the Diocese of Ossory, 1787.¹⁶⁹ After a brief episcopate, and in the forty-fourth year of his age, he was called out of this life March 15th, 1786. He is buried in the cemetery of St. Canice, Kilkenny, where his tomb and its inscription are still to be seen.¹⁷⁰ The Rev. James Lantam was his successor in 1786.¹⁷¹ He died in 1812.

William Berestord, brother to the first Marquis of Waterford, Bishop of Down, was made Protestant Bishop of Ossory, in 1782, May 21st, by Patent. After sitting twelve years, he was advanced to the Archbishopric of Tuam, and subsequently he was created Baron Decies. It is stated, that on the death of Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh, Dr. William Berestord had been designed to succeed him in the Primacy.¹⁷² When the latter was made Archbishop of Tuam, in 1794, Dr. Thomas Louis O'Beirne,¹⁷³ on the 26th of January became Bishop of Ossory by Patent,¹⁷⁴ and he was consecrated at Christ Church, Dublin, on the 1st of February following. In December, 1798, he was translated to Meath.¹⁷⁵ In 1799, January 24th, Dr. Hugh Hamilton,

¹⁶³ See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., p. 215, p. 29.

¹⁶⁴ He was member of an old York-shire family, and born in 1735. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. He became Chaplain to the Earl of Backingham, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

¹⁶⁵ He died on the 3rd of November, 1795. See Archbishop Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hiberniæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, p. 278.

¹⁶⁶ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 370.

¹⁶⁷ See Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," Eighteenth Century, chap. i., p. 507.

¹⁶⁸ See a very satisfactory account of him in John D'Alton, "Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin," pp. 450 to 487.

¹⁶⁹ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 370.

¹⁷⁰ See "Transactions of Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. ii., History

of the Catholic Schools of Kilkenny, by the Rev. Nicholas Murphy, pp. 151 to 157.

¹⁷¹ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 370.

¹⁷² However, Bishop Newcome was selected for that position, and translated from Waterford and Lismore in January, 1795. See Bishop Mant's "History of the Church of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. v., sec. vi., p. 733.

¹⁷³ He was born in the County of Longford, about the year 1748. His father, a Catholic farmer, intended him for the priesthood, and sent him to St. Omer's; but the son renounced the religion of his family and ancestors. He then was appointed Chaplain to the British Fleet, under Admiral Lord Howe. In 1782, he returned to Ireland, as Private Secretary to the Duke of Portland, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

¹⁷⁴ See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ ab An 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 47.

Bishop of Clonfert, was thence translated to Ossory.¹⁷⁶ He died December 1st, 1805, at Kilkenny, and was buried there in his Cathedral.¹⁷⁷ A distinguished Fellow, and subsequently Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. John Kearney,¹⁷⁸ succeeded in the See of Ossory, January 20th, 1806, by Letters Patent. He was consecrated in Trinity College Chapel, on the 2nd of February, by the Archbishop of Dublin. He died at Kilkenny, on the 22nd of May, 1813.¹⁷⁹

The Rev. Kieran Marum was appointed Catholic Bishop in 1814. *a* He departed this life in 1827. The Rev. William Kinsella became Catholic Bishop in 1829. He died in 1845.

Dr. Robert Fowler, Rector of Urney, in the Diocese of Derry, and Archdeacon of Dublin, became Protestant Bishop of Ossory,¹⁸¹ by Patent on June 17th, 1813.¹⁸² He was consecrated in Christ Church, Dublin, by the Archbishop of Cashel. Owing to the death of Bishop Elrington in 1835, the Sees of Ferns and Leighlin became united to the See of Ossory by Act of Parliament. Bishop Fowler died December 31st, 1841, and he was interred in the Cathedral of St. Canice. *b*

After the death of Bishop Fowler, the Dean of Cork, James Thomas O'Brien, D.D., was made Protestant Bishop of Ferns, Leighlin, and Ossory, by letters patent dated March 9th, 1842.¹⁸⁵ He was consecrated in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin, on the 20th of March, by the Archbishop of Dublin, assisted by the Bishops of Meath and Cork. He was enthroned at Kilkenny, April 16th, and at Leighlin, by proxy on September 12th of that same year.¹⁸⁶ Bishop O'Brien was a man of great intellectual ability, a forcible controversialist, and the author of many theological treatises. He died in London on the 12th of December, 1874, in his eighty-third year, and on the 19th of that month he was interred in St. Canice's Churchyard, Kilkenny.¹⁸⁷ The Rev.

The Rev. Edward Walsh became Catholic Bishop in 1846.¹⁸⁸ He died in 1872. The next to succeed him was the Very Rev. Patrick Francis

¹⁷⁵ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, pp. 288, 289.

¹⁷⁶ See Bishop Mant's "History of the Church of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. v., sec. vii., p. 742.

¹⁷⁷ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, p. 290.

¹⁷⁸ His appointment as Provost was made by the Marquis of Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He succeeded Dr. Richard Murray, who died June 20th, 1799. See Dr. John William Stubbs' "History of the University of Dublin," chap. xiv., p. 278.

¹⁷⁹ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, p. 290.

¹⁸⁰ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 371.

¹⁸¹ See Patent Rolls of Chancery in Ireland.

¹⁸² See "Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ, ab. An. 1152 usque ad 1827," vol. ii., part v., p. 47.

¹⁸³ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, p. 290.

¹⁸⁴ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 371.

¹⁸⁵ A very complete biographical account of this prelate has been set forth by Rev. William G. Carroll, Ex. Siz., Ex. Schol., A.M., the late respected Incumbent of St. Bride's and St. Michael le Pole's, Dublin, and it appeared originally in the *Irish Times*. With additions it has been published with the title: "A Memoir of the Right Rev. James Thomas O'Brien, D.D. (late Lord Bishop of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin); with a summary of his writings, and Notices of his Fellow-Townsmen: (the late) Provost Lloyd, Bishop Doyle, J. K. L., Rev. G. W. Carr, R. S. Graves, Esq., M.P.; and of the town of New Ross," Dublin, 1875. 8vo.

¹⁸⁶ See Archdeacon Henry Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ," vol. ii., Diocese of Ossory, pp. 290, 291.

¹⁸⁷ See Rev. W. G. Carroll's "Memoir of the Right Rev. James Thomas O'Brien, D.D., (late Lord Bishop of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin), Dublin, 1875. 8vo.

¹⁸⁸ See William Maziere Brady's "Episcopal Succession," &c., vol. i., p. 371.

Moran in 1872. In 1884, Dr. Moran was translated from the See of Ossory to the highly responsible position of Archbishop of Sydney, in Australia.¹⁸⁹ He was created Cardinal in 1885.

The Right Reverend Robert Samuel Gregg was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took out his degree of B.A. in the Spring Term of 1857, and became M.A. in the summer of 1860.¹⁹⁰ He was Dean of Cork in 1874-75. He was elected Protestant Bishop of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, on the 4th of March, 1875. In the year 1878, he was transferred to Cork,¹⁹¹ and, after a service of sixteen years, he was elevated to the exalted position of Archbishop of Armagh and Primate and Metropolitan of all Ireland. On the 30th of August of the latter year, succeeded the Right Rev. William Pakenham Walsh, educated in Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained the degree of B.A. in the Spring Term of 1841, and became M.A. in the Summer Term of 1853.¹⁹² He was Dean of Cashel from 1873 till 1878,¹⁹³ and having resigned, the Rev. John B. Crozier was elected to succeed, and consecrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on the Feast of St. Andrew, 1897.¹⁹⁴

The vacancy caused in the Catholic See by the translation of Bishop Moran was filled by the Rev. Abraham Brownrigg, in 1884.¹⁹⁵

CHAPTER V.—PAROCHIAL DIVISIONS.—PARISH OF ABBEYLEIX.

THE origin of parishes is very ancient; it seems to be traceable even to the Pagan times of Greece¹ and Rome,² when small districts were set apart for public purposes.³ In the time of St. Patrick and the early Irish missionaries, ecclesiastical parishes were not formed in Ireland, although the churches were numerous, and ruled by chorepiscopi, or priests approved and appointed by their spiritual superiors. It is quite evident, that formerly the distinctive parishes in the Queen's County and

¹⁸⁹ See the "Irish Catholic Directory" for 1885.

¹⁹⁰ See Rev. Dr. James Henthorn Todd's "Catalogue of Graduates who have proceeded to Degrees in the University of Dublin, from the earliest recorded Commencements to July, 1860, with Supplement to December 16th, 1868," p. 236, Dublin, 1869, 8vo.

¹⁹¹ See Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory for the year 1876, p. 900.

¹⁹² See Rev. James Henthorn Todd's "Catalogue of Graduates," &c., p. 591.

¹⁹³ See Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory for the year 1879.

¹⁹⁴ See "The Irish Church Directory," for 1898.

¹⁹⁵ See the "Irish Catholic Directory," for 1885.

¹ The ecclesiastical term, *παροικια* means a collection of many houses or of many villages under a pastor who serves them in a religious sense, and who officiates in a particular church,

which is called the parochial church. During the first four ages of the Christian Church, it does not appear that parishes or their pastors were generally established. However, in the time of the Emperor Constantine, in nearly all the great towns of the Roman Empire churches had been founded, and priests were appointed to govern them. In after times, the erection, the rights, the revenues and the administration of parishes, being matters of discipline, were regulated by the Canon law. See Thomassin's "Discipline de l'Église," *Première Partie*, Liv. I., cap. 21, 22.

² Thus both parishes and parishioners are described as *parochi* by Horace, in that amusing account he has given of his journey from Rome to Brundisium, in the time of Augustus. See "Satiria," Lib. i., v.

³ See Rev. Joseph Bingham's "Antiquities of the Christian Church," Book ix., chap. viii., *et seq.*

⁴ It is represented on the "Ordnance

the number of parish churches were far more numerous than at present; and several of these have undoubtedly been merged into existing parochial arrangements. As more convenient for reference and description, the alphabetical order has been adopted in the ensuing enumeration, and only what is relevant to the local bounds, features, remarkable objects, statistics, antiquities, and ecclesiastical history of each parish has been selected; other matters of more general accidental interest and of political or historical importance being reserved for a subsequent division.

The extensive parish of Abbeyleix,⁴ comprising 13,547 statute acres, lies chiefly in the baronies of Cullenagh,⁵ and Clarmallagh,⁶ and partly in Maryborough West,⁷ and also in Fassadining,⁸ County of Kilkenny.⁹ Its general elevation above the sea-level is not considerable, much of it ranging only from 298 to 324 feet. A great part of the ground is flat and of poor quality, comprising much red bog or fibrous peat, of a wet and spongy nature, interspersed with pools; yet capable of improvement and drainage, as it lies in great part contiguous to the River Nore. Yet ever, in the vicinity of the town of Abbeyleix, there is good arable soil, and much of it is under cultivation.

The parish of Abbeyleix appears to have been formerly called Clonkeen, under which name, but written incorrectly Cloneheene, it appears on the Engraved Map of the Down Survey.¹⁰ At a remote period, there was an ancient ecclesiastical establishment in the present townland of Clonkeen,¹¹ near Clonenagh,¹² which circumstance probably caused Sir Charles Coote to fall into the great error of ascribing a religious foundation in Abbeyleix to A.D. 600, whereas the latter erection took place many centuries later. There is a Clonkeen townland in the present parish of Abbeyleix, but no record exists that notices an early ecclesiastical establishment there, although the ruins of a medieval church are still to be seen; ¹³ and probably it gave the name of Clonkeen to the parish, before it obtained the name of Abbeyleix.

The old village of Abbeyleix, in the southern part of the Queen's County, was situated on the river Nore.¹⁴ From the religious foundation there, the place was called Mainister Laoighise, or the Monastery of Leix. It is said to have been in that part of Leix formerly called Lease Carraghain.¹⁵ At present, it is in the barony of Cullinagh, about seven

Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 17, 23, 24, 29, 30, and on those for the County of Kilkenny, Sheets 1, 5.

⁵ There it covers II,245a. 3r. 25p.

⁶ It contains 1,475 a. or. 26p. of the parish.

⁷ In it are only 144a. 1r. 29p. of the parish.

⁸ In it are 680a. 2r. 30p. of Abbeyleix parish.

⁹ The township of Corballyogue is five miles distant from other parts of the parish; separated from it by Ballinakill; and surrounded on other sides by Clonenagh parish.

¹⁰ See Mr. Thomas O'Connor's letter dated Carlow, December 26th, 1838, in his account of Abbeyleix Parish, pp.

280 to 295, "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., p. 287.

¹¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," Februarii xvii., Vita S. Fintani de Cluain Eidneach.

¹² And in that parish, yet not very remote from Abbeyleix.

¹³ They are marked on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 29, 30.

¹⁴ Sir James Ware adds: "in ea parte comitatus Regina, quæ *Leasia* vulgo appellatur."—"De Hibernia et Antiquitatibus ejus," cap. xxvi., p. 162.

¹⁵ According to Thady Dowling's "Short Annals of Ireland," at A.D. 1105,

miles south-east from Maryborough. In 1183,¹⁶ a Cistercian abbey was founded here, by Cohegernus O'Moore,¹⁷ in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.¹⁸ Some writers—such as Thaddens Dowling¹⁹—place the foundation at an earlier period,²⁰ and others two years subsequent, viz., at A.D. 1185.²¹ The founder filled this house with Cistercian monks from the Abbey of Baltinglass.²² A flourishing religious institute appears to have succeeded, and the old town of Abbeyleix—as usual in the case of such establishments—dates its origin from this monastic house. It was called also the *Abbey de Lege Dei*.²³ It has been stated, that the founder was himself interred there;²⁴ but little seems to be known about him, at present. An ecclesiastical Taxation of Ireland had been directed by Pope Nicholas IV., in March, 1291, which was designed to levy a fund for the maintenance of a war against the Saracens to prevent them from obtaining possession of the Holy Land; the amount thus collected was, however, detained by the King's Justiciaries in Ireland, and Pope Boniface VIII. wrote to complain of that violence, but he received no redress. At that time the Church in Ireland was greatly impoverished. Yet it appears, that a fresh assessment of the Tenth was imposed on the Irish clergy for three years, in 1302.²⁵ Among other livings, the Church of the New Village of Leys was valued at Twelve Marks, and returning as a tenth only 16d.; while the portion of the vicar, valued at Five Marks, was returnable at one-half Mark.²⁶ The Four Masters have it, that Mainister Laoighise in Leinster and in the Diocese of Leighlin was founded in 1447 in honour of St. Francis by O'More, who selected a burial place for himself and his posterity in it.²⁷ This seems to conflict with the statement, that it had been originally founded in 1183, and in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary; unless, indeed, we are to assume, that the ancient Cistercian Abbey had been deserted, and that a new Franciscan Convent had been established to

¹⁶ See Jacobi Grace, Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hiberniæ," pp. 16, 17.

¹⁷ He is called Cohehor O-Moor, in Harris' "Ware," vol. ii. "Antiquities of Ireland," cap. xxxviii., p. 274.

¹⁸ According to Christopher Pembroke's "Annals of Ireland," published by William Camden, in his "Britannia," folio edition, published at London, A.D. 1607.

¹⁹ He was Chancellor of Leighlin, and he died there A.D. 1628, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. He wrote "Annales Breves Hiberniæ," and in this Tract, under A.D. 1105, we have the following entry:—"Circa hoc tempus Cowkaggrig de O-Moardha principalis de Clannelaghlen in Basca fundavit et dedicavit monasterium de Lege Dei in Lease Carraghain in Lagenia."—See p. 7, Edition of 1830, by Very Rev. Richard Butler, B.A., M.R.I.A., Dean of Clonmacnoise.

²⁰ See Sir James Ware's Tract "Cænobia Cisterciensia Hiberniæ," p. 74.

²¹ See Dr. Hanmer's "Chronicle of Ireland," p. 330.

²² See Sir James Ware, "De Hibernia

et Antiquitatibus ejus," cap. xxvi., p. 162.

²³ See Sir James Ware's "Cænobia Cisterciensia Hiberniæ," p. 74.

²⁴ See Archdall, who cites War. Mon. for his authority, in "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 586, n. (d.)

²⁵ See that account of the origin of this Taxation in the Introduction to the Rev. William Reeves' "Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor, and Dromore, consisting of a Taxation of those Dioceses, compiled in the year mcccvi.; with Notes and Illustrations," pp. x. to xxiv. Dublin, 1847, 4to.

²⁶ See "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London, 1302-1307, edited by the late H. S. Sweetman, B.A., Trin. Col., Dublin, M.R.I.A., Barrister-at-Law, and continued by Gustavus Frederick Handcock, of the Public Record Office," p. 248, London, 1883, Roy. 8vo.

²⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 954, 955, and n. (d.) *ibid.*

²⁸ As we find no record of a Fran-

replace it.²⁸ During the reign of King Henry VII. died John O'Moore, who is said to have been interred in or near this Abbey. His tomb was supposed to have been seen in the village of Old Abbeyleix, during the eighteenth century.²⁹ However, this is incorrect, as the tomb in question has since been removed to the garden at Abbeyleix House, and the inscription on it has been more accurately deciphered.³⁰ Beside it lies at present another altar-tomb, and probably erected to a chief of Magh Druchtain, named Willalmus O'Kelly,³¹ about whom nothing further seems to be known. Along the centre on the upper slab there runs the shaft of a cross, having on the base inscribed the name of the carver.³² At the upper portion, and at the joining of the cross-arm to the shaft, two more transverse arms form a double cross there, so that seven plain finials appear at the heading.

In the year 1551,³³ the Abbot here was found seized of a church and other buildings; also of four hundred acres, English measure, of arable and pasture land; two parcels of wood called the Two Parks, containing twelve acres; three hundred acres of moor and marsh in the townland of Abbeyleix; one hundred acres of arable land and nine of wood, called Dromaclowe; six acres of moor and marsh in Clonekene; ³⁴ one hundred acres of arable and pasture in Ralysh; one hundred acres of arable and pasture in Ravele or Rathevoyle; ³⁵ ten acres of arable and pasture and ten of wood in Lysnebegnet, or Lesvigne; ³⁶ one hundred and ten acres of arable and pasture, and two of underwood, called the half of Clownecore; eleven acres of underwood called Clone John; two acres of underwood called Dyrrelaen; one acre and a-half of underwood called Clonghill; and forty acres of moor and marsh in Cloghok; the whole of the annual value, besides reprises, of £21 4s. 9d.; the rectories of Abbeyleyse, and Leawhill appropriated to the said abbot

ciscan Convent in Abbeyleix, perhaps the *Mampreth Laoisgh* may have reference to its location in Stradbally, where a Franciscan house had been founded by an O'More.

²⁹ In the street of Abbeyleix, as we are told, there was a raised tomb, with this inscription on the margin of the upper stone:—"Hic jacet Johannes O'More, an. dom. 1502, cujus animæ propitiatur Deus. Amen." See Gough's "Camden's Britannia," vol. iii., Queen's County, p. 533.

³⁰ On the tomb, there is a full-length recumbent figure of a chief in armour, and on either side at the edge runs the following inscription carefully examined and copied by the Rev. William Carrigan, C.C., Durrrow, *verbatim* and with contractions lengthened, *literatim*: "Hic iacit Malacias Omouer filius Eugenthii qui tumbam fieri fecit anno domni M°oooooiiicuis aie propicietier des. Amen." Some few of the letters are obliterated at the corners, but are easily restored from the context, as shown in an accurate trace of the upper slab. The following is Father Carrigan's translation into English: "Here lyeth

Melaghlan, Mac Owey O'Moore, who had this tomb made in 1502. On whose soul may God have mercy. Amen." He has thus correctly rendered Malacias into Melaghlan, the proper anglicized form of the old chief's name, as his son is called Conyll mc Mallaghlen in the Inquisitions, Lagenia, 1 temp. Eliz.

³¹ The inscription running around the edges of this tomb is broken off at two of the corners, so that at present it reads: "Hic iacet Willalmus O'Kella q me fieri fecit (lost) M°ccccxxxi Orate pro" (lost). It is thus rendered into the following English translation by Father Carrigan: "Here lyeth William O'Kelly who got me made in the year 1530. Pray for him."

³² The inscription is "Willalm' O Tunny me fabricauit." Translated "William O'Tunny made me."

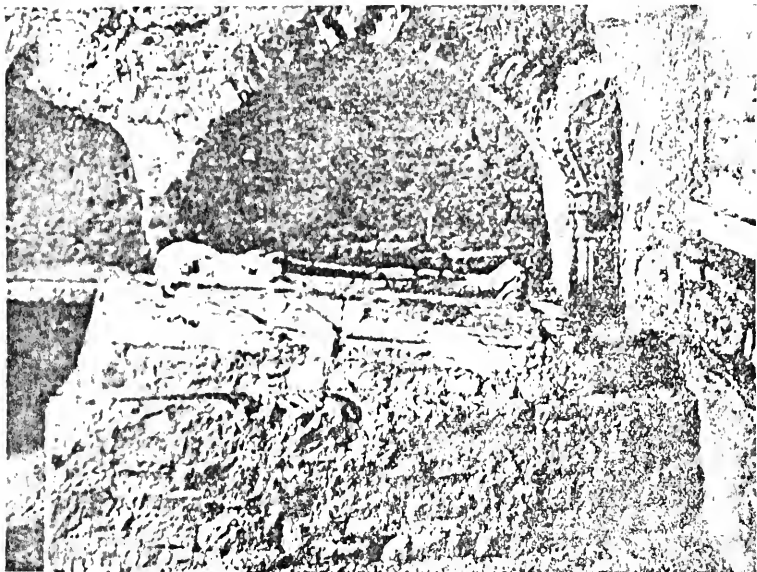
³³ On the Wednesday next before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, and in the 5th of King Edward VI., this Inquisition sped.

³⁴ Now Clonkeen townland.

³⁵ Now Rathmoyle.

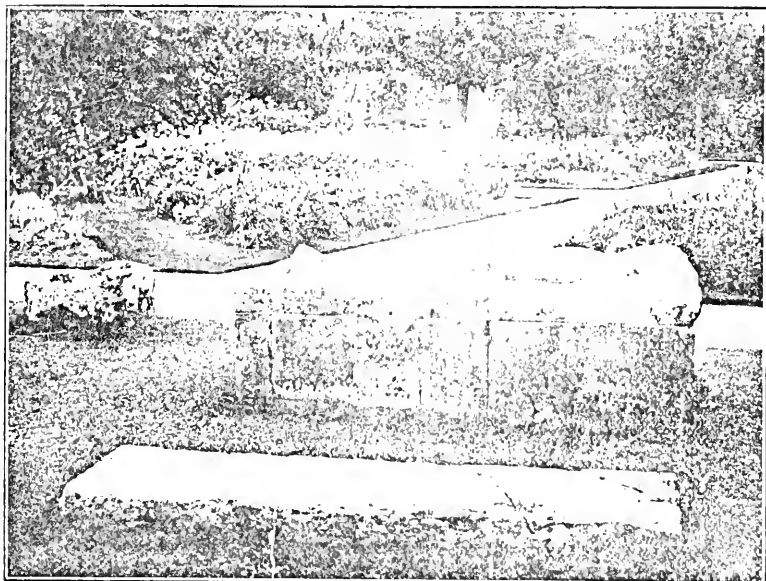
³⁶ Now Lisbigny townland.

³⁷ The foregoing enumeration was

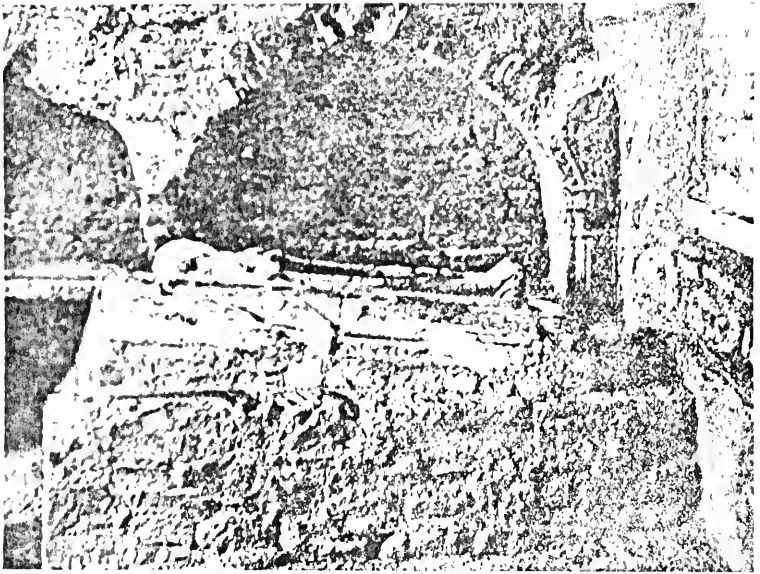


Bishop O'Dulany's Tomb, Jerpoint Abbey.

See page 132.

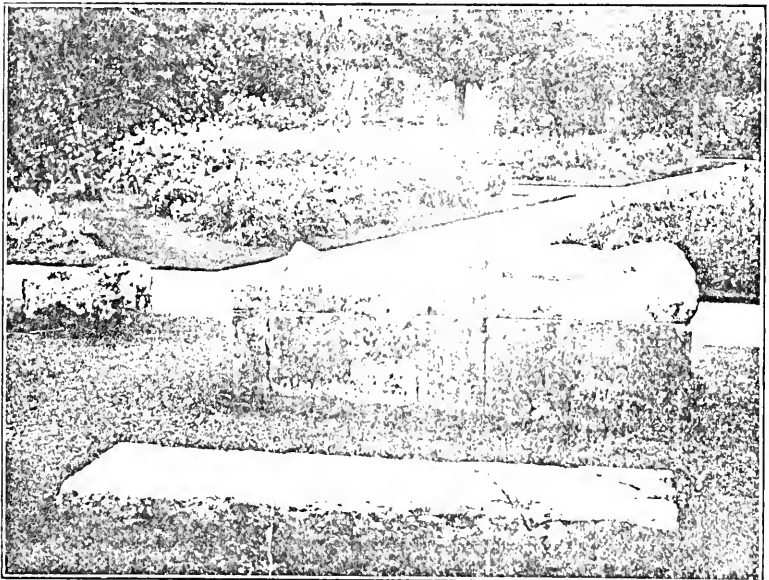


Melaglan O'Moore's Tomb, at Abbeyfeix.



Bishop O'Dulany's Tomb, Jerpoint Abbey.

See page 132.



Melaghtlan O'Moore's Tomb, at Abbeyleix.

and his predecessors, were found of the annual value, besides reprises, of £10. And the Abbot, on the Monday next before the feast of St. Catherine, in the same year, was seized also of twelve acres of arable land, called Knockbracke or Kiltybreny, in the parish of Tuadewy, of the annual value, besides reprises, of 6s. ; and ten acres of arable and pasture in Rahinconoghoe Duff, called Gullardleghe, lying on the river Gulle, of the annual value, besides reprises, of 5s.³⁷

This abbey, with twenty acres of arable land in the towns of Leix, Clonekine, Ralyse, Ramoyle, and Clohoge, in the Queen's County, was granted, A.D. 1562,³⁸ to Thomas, Earl of Ormond, at the yearly rent of £6 16s. 8d., for thirty-seven years, to commence from the date, and afterwards at the rate of £10 5s. The lands belonging to this abbey were then estimated at 820 acres, as stated in a document contained in the Chief Remembrancer's Office.³⁹ This grant was subsequently assigned to Sir John Vesey,⁴⁰ ancestor of the present family, deriving the title Lord De Vesci. The Rectory of Clonekine and Domus Legis Dei were inappropriate in the Earl of Ormond. The serving vicar of both was Thomas Smith, Minister and preacher, in 1616.⁴¹ The value of this benefice was £15 with a residence. The church was in repair, having books and other things requisite.

On the large map of Clonkeene or Cloneheene, prepared by Sir William Petty, among its townland denominations we find—Abbeyleix, Clohoge, Boyley,⁴² Clonekeen⁴³ Grealagh bog, Ballimullen,⁴⁴ Ralish, Rathmoyle,⁴⁵ Ballitarsney,⁴⁶ Toniduff,⁴⁷ Balligegill. Abbeyleix was a vicarage in 1657, the rectory being then inappropriate.⁴⁸ A trace or ruin of the Cistercian Abbey could not be found towards the close of the eighteenth century.⁴⁹ However, tradition has left some reminiscences of its site ; for the inhabitants of the modern town of Abbeyleix have a belief, that Lord De Vesci's fine modern mansion, within an extensive and well-wooded demesne, occupies the exact position of the ancient Abbey. In the garden attached, it is said, some of its former walls and memorial ruins are still preserved. In the grave-yard attached to the site, and even beyond its present precincts, numerous human remains have been unearthed. There was a tradition among the old inhabitants, that portions of the former Abbey were retained in the wall that encloses a burial ground, in which stands a deserted Protestant church now closed, and contiguous to the mansion of Lord De Vesci.

The mansion of Abbeyleix House, the seat of Viscount De Vesci, was built in 1774. It is quadrangular in shape, four storeys high, and faced with cut stone. The noble demesne around it comprises over 700 acres, covered with forest trees of indigenous growth, with a variety

taken by Archdall, from the Auditor-General's Records. See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 57, n. (f.)

³⁸ On the last day of February, 5th of Queen Elizabeth, this grant was made, according to the record, in the Chief Remembrancer's Office.

³⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 587 and n. (g.)

⁴⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. ii. "Antiquities of Ireland," cap. xxxiii., p. 274.

⁴¹ See "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

⁴² Now Boley.

⁴³ Now Clonkeen.

⁴⁴ Now Ballymullen.

⁴⁵ Now Rathmoyle.

⁴⁶ Now Ballytarsna.

⁴⁷ Now Tunduff.

⁴⁸ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i. sect. 3, p. 13.

⁴⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 588.

⁵⁰ It was near the River Nore, but for many past years it has been closed.

of exotics, where splendid avenues and open spaces do not intervene. Some trees are of enormous proportions, and others are disposed in ornamental groups. The modern town called at first New Abbeyleix, to distinguish it from the former collection of thatched houses, was laid out by Lord De Vesce, after the middle of the eighteenth century. Since that time, old Abbeyleix—a little distance from it and towards the south-west—was levelled, and it has fallen into decay. Near it were flourishing flour-mills, and a woollen factory in the beginning of the last century, belonging to a Mr. Leach.⁵⁰ The fine mansion of Knapton⁵¹ is also to be seen in the vicinity, with several other handsome residences. The houses of Abbeyleix present a neat appearance on the Main street, which is wide; and excellent water, from an ornamental and memorial fountain, erected to the founder Lord De Vesce, and in the semi-circular market-place, is abundantly provided. Garden plots are attached to each of those dwellings. It is a post and market-town,⁵² having fairs throughout the year,⁵³ while it is a station on the Maryborough and Waterford line of Railway, and sixty statute miles from the terminus at Dublin.⁵⁴ The Protestant established church was built originally by a loan from the Board of First Fruits; but since that time, it has been enlarged and renovated in a beautiful Gothic style, and it is near Lord De Vesce's demesne, with ornamental grounds surrounding it, and convenient to the town. Abbeyleix was declared the head of a Poor-Law Union, December 3rd, 1839, having as electoral divisions Abbeyleix, Balinakill Timahoe, Ballyroan, Raheen, Castletown, Aghaboe, Killeermogh, Coolkerry, Aughmacart and Durrow.⁵⁵ The Workhouse was contracted for on June 16th, 1840, to be completed for £5,850 and £1,050 for fittings and contingencies.⁵⁶ Several dispensary districts are under medical residence and supervision. A police barrack, bridewell, session house, hotel and market house, as also the Preston endowed School, and National Schools, with branches of Dublin banks, are notable features. The Brigidine nuns were here introduced, after their convent had been built beside the former chapel and on an elevated site, in 1843. Besides a boarding school for young ladies, they conduct the Female and Infant National Schools in the town.⁵⁷ The old chapel showing signs of decay was removed, and the present beautiful structure of Irish-Romanesque design was erected on its site by the Very Rev. James Lalor, P.P.⁵⁸ The first stone was laid in the year 1893,⁵⁹ and the church was speedily completed exteriorly

⁵¹ There the celebrated Sir Jonah Barrington was born, about the middle of the 18th century. See "Personal Sketches and Recollections of his own Times," vol. i., cap. i.

⁵² On Saturday, weekly.

⁵³ On the 26th of January, the 17th of March, the 5th of May, the 20th of June, the 20th of September, and the 4th of November. See "The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland," vol. i., p. 3.

⁵⁴ Formerly the Dublin and Cork Mail Coach passed through Abbeyleix to the middle of the last century, before the opening of the Railway; while there was a caravan in transit to Mountrath and Dublin, with a car

passing daily to and from Maryborough.

⁵⁵ The *ex-officio* guardians amount to eight, and the elected guardians to twenty-four.

⁵⁶ It occupies an area of 5a. 3r. 11p., and it was projected to accommodate 500 paupers.

⁵⁷ Their new National Schools cost over £1,300, and these are of great benefit to the town.

⁵⁸ This church reflects great credit on his taste and indefatigable exertions, liberally seconded by the generous contributions of his parishioners.

⁵⁹ It is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

⁶⁰ The site for the church, with a large

and interiorly in a manner that has commanded universal approbation.⁶⁰ The architect was the late Mr. Haige, and the cost of erection and decoration amounted to about £6,000, including the New Tower to accommodate a grand-toned Bell lately procured. In the Protestant arrangement this parish was a vicarage and a separate benefice in the Diocese of Leighlin, the Patron being Lord De Vesci, the rectorial tithes belonging to him.⁶¹ The vicarial tithe composition was £169 4s. 7½d. with a glebe valued at £5 15s. 5d.; the gross income being £175 0s. 0½d. nett £138 11s. 6½d. At present the incumbent has a stipend of £470 annually. For a more detailed account of the Catholic parish of Abbeyleix and its dependency Ballyroan, the reader is referred to the work of Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford.⁶²

Not far distant from the present town of Ballinakill, but within the parish of Abbeyleix, Leamchuill—now known as Lowhill or Loughill—was situated on the borders of Hyduach and Leix; however, the old church there lies within that portion of Abbeyleix parish, in Fassadinin barony and in the County of Kilkenny. It seems probable, that Leamchoill, which means “Elm Wood,” was formerly within the old territory of Leix, at least through an ecclesiastical arrangement. In the fifth year of King Edward VI’s reign, the rectory of Leawhill was found to be a dependency of the monastery at Abbeyleix.⁶³ The ruins are now to be traced beside a stream, which runs through the demesne around Loughill House. In ancient times, the church there seems to have been of considerable importance. A St. Fintan, surnamed Corach, is said to have been Abbot over it, towards the close of the sixth century. Corach, in the Irish idiom, signifies under different respects, “the changeable,” “the giver of a promise,” or “the melodious.” His name is connected, not alone with this place, but with Clonenagh and Clonaitchin, or Clonkeen, both in Leix. He is likewise called Bishop of Clonfert Brendan, in the County of Galway. Little is really known concerning his life, so that it seems difficult to reconcile his connection, in point of time, with the several places already mentioned.⁶⁴ His festival occurs on the 21st of February,⁶⁵ but there is no certainty regarding the year of his death and the place of his interment. From the Irish Calendars we find, likewise, a St. Mochonna, Bishop, who was venerated at Leamchuill on the 13th of January. Some doubt seems to exist regarding his being identical with a St. Conon, Bishop in the Isle of Man, and who was also revered on this same day.⁶⁶ We find a St. Culleann, Bishop of Leamchuill, venerated at the 22nd of April. A female saint called Duthracht, of Leamchuill, had a festival

piece of land adjoining for a cemetery, was given by the late Lord De Vesci on a lease for ever, and at a merely nominal rent.

⁶¹ The rectorial tithes were compounded for £338 9s. 2½d.

⁶² See “The Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903,” p. 124. Dublin, 1903. Svo. Also “Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin,” vol. iii., pp. 55 to 65.

⁶³ See Archdall’s “Monasticon Hibernicum,” p. 587.

⁶⁴ See some notices regarding him in

Colgan’s “Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ” xxi. Februarii. Vita S. Fintani Abbatis et Episcopi Cluainfertensis, p. 385

⁶⁵ According to the *Feilire* of St. Ængus, the Martyrologies of Tallaght, of Cashel, of Marianus Gorman, and of Donegal.

⁶⁶ See his acts in Colgan’s “Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ,” xiii. Januarii, Vita S. Connani Episcopi Manniæ, pp. 59, 60.

⁶⁷ See Dr. Todd’s and Dr. Reeves’ “Martyrology of Donegal” at the respective days mentioned.

likewise at the 25th of October. Again, a St. Fionntain, of Leamchoill, is venerated at the 16th of November; while the feast of St. Aedh, belonging to this same place, is set down at the 19th of December.⁶⁷ Three of those saints are placed by Duald MacFirbis in the following order, viz.: Fintan Corach, Cuilleinn, and Mochonna.⁶⁸ It seems no easy matter to determine the exact periods when the foregoing saints flourished, in connexion with this place, or in what order of time they lived.

In this parish there was an old castle, which in the beginning of the eighteenth century had undergone repairs, had been enlarged, and converted into a dwelling, now called Watercastle House. A townland takes name from it.⁶⁹ Near Abbeyleix there is a remarkable fort site, with circumvallation around its summit, and it gives name to the townland of Rathmoyle,

CHAPTER VI.—PARISH OF AGHABOE.

THIS parish in ancient times was written Achadh-bo, or Ached-bou; and, at later periods, in former records referring to it, we find Aghboo, Aghboye, Athebo; in more modern times, it was usually noticed as Aghevoe or Aghaboe. By Adamnan, it has been Latinized "Campulum Bovis."¹ From the name of its patron saint, it was frequently called Achadh-bo-Cainnech, in early Irish records. The soil of this parish is mostly good, but in it is a large tract of bog and moory land. This place was anciently called Achadhbho, or the Ox's Field; probably because of the rich pasturage, which abounded, and which at the present time is so greatly prized for its cattle-feeding qualities. A very interesting description of this place has been furnished,² by the Rev. Edward Ledwich, LL.D., who for a considerable period was incumbent of Aghaboe.³ This treatise was so greatly esteemed, that reprints of it, with Sir John Sinclair's Account of Thurso,⁴ were circulated among the clergy of Ireland, as models for their contributions to an Irish Parochial Survey. Aghaboe was formerly situated in the Barony of Upper Ossory; but, at present, it lies within the newly formed baronies of Clandonagh⁵ and Clarmallagh⁶—heretofore known as Cantreds—and about four miles south⁷ from the town of Mountrath.⁸

⁶⁸ See "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish MS. Series, vol. i., part i., p. 117.

⁶⁹ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," Mr. Thomas O'Connor's letter dated Carlow, December, 26th, 1838, vol. ii., p. 295.

¹ See Rev. Dr. Reeves' Adamnan's "Life of St. Columba," Lib. ii., cap. 13, p. 121.

² For William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," drawn from the communications of the clergy. This work was first published in 1814, 8vo, when vol. i. appeared. In this was issued, as No. ii.,

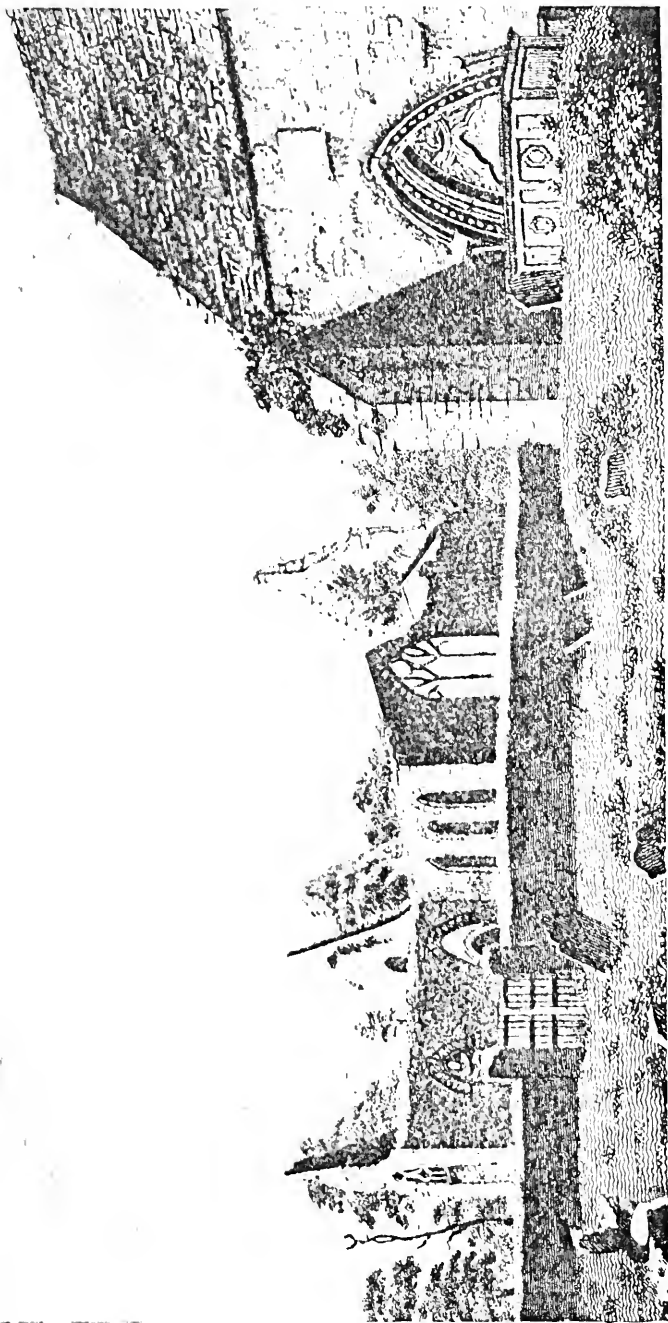
"Parish of Aghaboe, Queen's County and Diocese of Ossory,"⁵ by the Rev. Edward Ledwich, LL.D., member of many learned societies, author of the "Antiquities of Ireland," and editor of Grose, on the same subject. This contribution is under twelve different headings, together with an Appendix, a Map, a view of the Dominican Abbey, as also of other antiquities, see pp. 13 to 78.

³ His work on Irish Antiquities is regarded, at present, as one justly open to unfavourable criticism, in many of its statements.

⁴ See the old "Statistical Survey of Scotland," vol. xx., p. 493, and p. xii.

⁵ This portion of the parish contains 6,510a. 1r. 21p.

⁶ This portion comprises 12,192a. 1r.



AGHABOE.

Ancient Parish Church to right; ruins of Abbey, Abbey Church, and Phelan's Chapel to left.
From engraving in *Gosse's Antiquities of Ireland*, 1791.

In the pre-Christian times, we find no record of Aghaboe, and therefore we must treat of it only from the earliest period of its ecclesiastical origin. It is recorded, that St. Kannech, also called St. Canice, Caimneach, or Kenny, was born, in Keenaght territory,⁹ in the northern parts of Ireland, about the year 515,¹⁰ 516,¹¹ or 517¹²—while some accounts have the date at 527,¹³ on the authority of Archbishop Ussher. ¹⁴ Glengiven is said to have been St. Kenny's native place.¹⁵ He was the son of Laidic or Laitech Lecerd,¹⁶ an eminent poet—others say his father's name was Lugayd¹⁷—and his mother's name was Mell,¹⁸ Mella, or Melda. When very young, St. Kannech passed over to Britain, where the Life ¹⁹ states, he was instructed by a holy man, known as Doc or Cadoc,²⁰ who had established a monastery, at Llanearvan, on the Severn, and in Wales. After some time spent there, he returned to Ireland. After their conversion to Christianity, the princes or chieftains of Ossory²¹ were conspicuous for their religious zeal and munificence towards the clergy. Descended from Heremon,²² the son of Milesius their genealogy descends to Mac-Giolla-Phadraig,²³ "the son-servant of Patrick," who was so-called to manifest devotion for the great Apostle of Ireland. In course of time, the Irish family name Mac-Giolla-Phadraig was changed—owing to their intercourse with the Anglo-Normans—into Fitz-Patrick; the Gallic-Norman Fitz corresponding with the Irish Mac, "son," and the word Giolla, "servant," being suppressed. This family is credited with the erection of Aghaboe to be their head church, and its episcopate therefore is found called, even in the Provinciale Romanum—a catalogue of uncertain date—by the territorial title of

3*p.* The parish of Aghaboe is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 34.

⁷ Most incorrectly and unaccountably, Archdall has stated, it lay north of Mountrath.

⁸ The account of Aghaboe Parish by Patrick O'Keefe, in a letter dated Mountrath, November 20th, 1838, is to be found in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., pp. 1 to 37. Excepting some extracts given in it from printed works, the local information is exceedingly meagre.

⁹ Now the Barony of Keenaght, in the County of Londonderry.

¹⁰ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 588.

¹¹ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 38, 39.

¹² O'Flaherty has it at this year.

¹³ See Rev. Alban Butler's "Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs, and other principal Saints," vol. x., Oct. xi.

¹⁴ See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," cap. xvii., p. 495.

¹⁵ See Alfred Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 70.

¹⁶ He is said to have been of the

Mocudalan Sept. See O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," Pars. iii., cap. xlvi., p. 275.

¹⁷ According to the Manuscript Life in what has been called the Codex Kilkennensis, in Marsh's Library, Dublin.

¹⁸ She is said to have been a descendant of Mac Guais or Mac Nais.

¹⁹ In 1853, the Marquis of Ormond published a "Vita Sancti Kannechi," in a small 4to form, but only for private circulation.

²⁰ See Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," chap. iii., p. 90.

²¹ By John Hogan their line is derived from Breasal Breac, A.M. 3871, and it has been traced in his Genealogical Table of the Kings of Ossory to the English Invasion. See "Kilkenny: the Ancient City of Ossory, the Seat of its Kings, the See of its Bishops, the Site of its Cathedral," part ii., p. 172.

²² See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. iii., n. (p.), p. 298.

²³ Called also Gillaphadraig I., who flourished A.D. 995, and from whom the Mac Gillaphadraig clan derived its title. See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., part ii., p. 172.

²⁴ See Rev. Edward Ledwich, on the

Ossinensis. This, however, is a mistake for Ossoriensis.²⁴ According to some accounts, the see of this district was first at Sagir²⁵ or Sier-Kieran, in the King's County, and thence it was moved to Aghaboe, in the eleventh century.²⁶

About the year 520,²⁷ the celebrated St. Finian had built his monastery at Clonard, in Meath; and soon a great number of students were attracted to his school. Among the rest, St. Kannech became his disciple. There he was a schoolfellow, with most of the great saints, who were his contemporaries. He is said to have written—besides the Life of St. Columbkille and a collection of Hymns—a copy of the Four Gospels, with a valuable Commentary.²⁸ His great wisdom, sanctity, and zeal, soon enabled him to become a teacher of others. This saint afterwards gave name to the City of Kilkenny. The Abbey of Aghaboe, however, specially owes its foundation to him, between the dates of 558 and 577.²⁹ He was the first abbot,³⁰ and while there, he ruled over a numerous community of monks, giving great edification, both by his instructions and example. Owing to his well-known intimacy with the great St. Columba,³¹ whose moral and religious influence reached far and wide, while Scanlan, King of Ossory, was in an especial manner indebted to him, we may well suppose, that the domestic rules and polity of St. Canice's monastery were modelled on those of the illustrious archimandrite who ruled in Iona.³² St. Canice or Kenny—as, he is popularly called—continued to preside here until 597,³³ 598,³⁴ or 599,³⁵ when he died, in the seventy-second year of his age, according to Archbishop Ussher's computation; ³⁶ but, in his eighty-fourth year,³⁷ according to a writer of his Acts, and several of our Irish Annalists.³⁸ The Clarendon Manuscript *Vita S. Cannechi* states, that he departed this life, A.D. 600. This is also the date assigned for his decease, at Aghaboe, by Sir James Ware.³⁹

In the immediate neighbourhood of Aghaboe Protestant Church, tradition yet points out in the fields the position and direction of former

"Parish of Aghaboe," in William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i., No. ii., sect. iv., pp. 32, 33.

²⁵ See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. i., sect. xii., p. 18, n. (k).

²⁶ See the Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," chap. ii., p. 83. Second edition, Dublin, 1804.

²⁷ See L'Abbé Ma-Geoghegan's "Histoire de l'Irlande Ancienne et Moderne," Tome i., Seconde Partie, chap. ii., p. 283.

²⁸ This was called Glass-Cainech, or the Chain of Canice. See Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," chap. iii., p. 90.

²⁹ See "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, sect. i., chap. i., p. 16, and n. (c.) *ibid.*

³⁰ See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia

Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. i. and n. (a), pp. 296, 297.

³¹ His festival occurs on 9th June.

³² See "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, sect. i., chap. i., p. 17.

³³ The Annals of Clonmacnoise have this date.

³⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 224, 225.

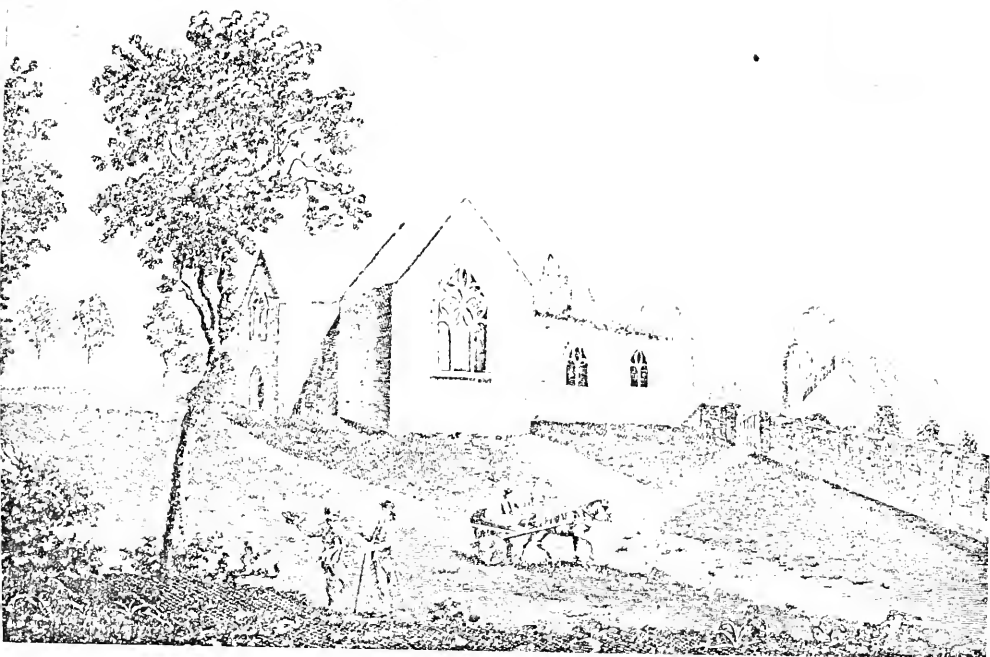
³⁵ The "Annales Ultonienses," Pars. i., have entered this year. See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., p. 34.

³⁶ See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," cap. xvii., p. 495.

³⁷ See Alfred Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 70.

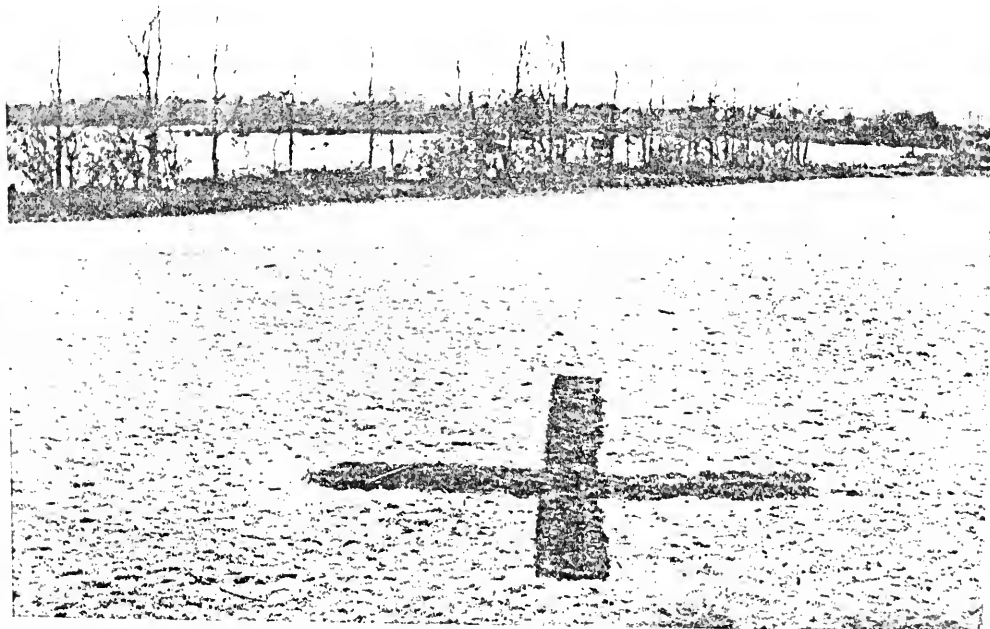
³⁸ According to the Annals of Clonmacnoise.

³⁹ He writes: "Obiit ibidem 5 Idus Octobris anno 600"—"De Hibernia et Antiquitatibus ejus Disquisitiones," cap. xxvi., p. 162.



AGHABOE.

(From Ledwich's *Antiquities*, 1804.)



[From Photo by]

THE CROSS, AGHABOE.

[M. O'Toole.]

roads, that led to his old monastery. In some cases, the inhabitants have found traces of ancient stone foundations, disposed in groups. These are supposed to indicate sites for houses, belonging to the effaced City of Aghaboe. The writer was assured of such statements as being facts; for his attention had been directed to various spots in confirmation, by a respectable resident and local proprietor. There, too, were objects to be found, said to have been associated with the memory of St. Canice, and a popular veneration was paid to him. In part of a rich pasture well sown and hawthorn branches were to be seen, and beneath them there was a small pile resembling a stone cairn. My informant⁴⁰ told me a tradition, that the coffin of St. Canice had been laid there before his interment by the people of Aghaboe. When the writer visited that spot⁴¹ one of the aged hawthorns had fallen ten years previously, and it lay across the ordinarily travelled roadway. Although the trunk was greatly decayed, yet its branches were partially covered with green leaves, and although this tree caused considerable obstruction owing to its position, the proprietor of the farm obliged his drivers to take a detour when passing by the spot, nor would the poorest person in the locality dare to remove any of the rotten branches for firewood. This feeling was generated by a long-established reverence for the sanctity of holy Canice, and through a fear of desecrating any object however remotely connected with him. Somewhat removed from this spot, and in the centre of the same field, a depression in form of a cross was shown, and there it is said, the saint's coffin was laid a second time, while the citizens of Kilkenny and Aghaboe were about to engage in a deadly conflict for possession of Blessed Canice's remains.⁴² Before they came to blows, however, the marvellous apparition of a strange man moved down over the ditch, which fenced a former road, now completely obliterated, according to popular tradition. He besought all present to go into the adjoining field, where their differences might be adjusted. On complying with his request, they were then told to return, when they found two coffins remaining on the cross, where St. Canice's remains had been deposited. They were told to remove one coffin to Kilkenny and the other to Aghaboe. The mysterious stranger, supposed to have been St. Canice, then disappeared; whereupon the contending factions departed, both bearing a coffin respectively to either destination. Hence, the people of this place contend it is not possible to say, whether St. Canice had been interred in Kilkenny or in Aghaboe, although they hope it was in the latter place as being his earliest foundation. Such is the local legend, while it is so interesting and popular, we cannot omit placing it on record.

As the parish of Aghaboe, now and since its ecclesiastical origin, lay apparently within the territory of Ossory, and has been united with this diocese since the year 1152, it would seem to have been a distinctive mother church or ancient episcopal see, for a period long after the foundation of his monastery there by St. Cainnech. A learned local historian and topographer⁴³ states, that the pre-Christian territory of

⁴⁰ Mr. Jeremiah Dunne, J.P., who was owner of the place on which this object might be seen.

⁴¹ August 2nd, 1869.

⁴² This is also mentioned in the Latin life of St. Canice, and it is a curious

illustration of what the writer has found in so many instances throughout Ireland, how closely existing popular traditions coincide with the written records of several hundred past years.

Magh-Airget-Ros was an extensive plain, stretching from the stream of the River Barrow, where it forms the northern boundary of the present Queen's County; and, it extended southwards to the Drumdeilgg or Thornback ridge, three miles above the City of Kilkenny. It included, according to him, the whole flat country of the present Queen's County, comprising the modern baronies of Maryborough East, Maryborough West, Stradbally, Cullenagh, with the old barony of Upper Ossory, now represented by its more recent divisions, called the baronies of Upperwoods, Clarmallagh and Clandonagh;⁴⁴ it even embraced parts of Galmoy, Fassidinan, and Cranagh baronies, which border on the River Nore, and lie within the present County of Kilkenny.⁴⁵ This wide extent of territory is said also to have been anciently called Magh Laoighis. Admitting the correctness of this statement, which, however, is far from being well established, it may be seen that the parish of Aghaboe, lying south and west of the River Nore, must in early times have been included within the Leix territory.⁴⁶

Historical information regarding the ancient see and monastery of Aghaboe, of its bishops, abbots, saints, and learned men, will be found in a magnificent modern work and of great local interest, compiled by two accomplished and researchful antiquaries.⁴⁷ We shall now proceed to unfold the annalistic memories of this historic spot. In 618,⁴⁸ or 619,⁴⁹ the Abbot Liber, or Liberius—probably the immediate successor of St. Canice⁵⁰—departed this life. He is ranked, also, among the saints, and his feast has been assigned to the 8th of March. The death of Myn Baireann, Abbot of Aghaboe, is recorded, at A.D. 690, in the Annals

⁴⁴ Allusion is here made to the lamented John Hogan, Mayor of Kilkenny, distinguished for his researches into the antiquities of his native Ossorian territory. Besides some papers, issued in the Kilkenny Archæological Society's "Proceedings," and in the "Transactions of the Ossory Archæological Society," he published a valuable work, "St. Ciaran, Patron of Ossory: A Memoir of his Life and Times," Kilkenny, 1876, 8vo, pp. i. to xviii., and pp. 2 to 260. Not less so is his posthumous work, "Kilkenny: the Ancient City of Ossory, the Seat of its Kings, the See of its Bishops, and the Site of its Cathedral," Kilkenny, 1884, 8vo, pp. i. to xiv., and pp. 5 to 462.

⁴⁵ According to John Hogan, the Upper Valley of the Nore, or Airgid Ros, did not form part of the kingdom of Osraighe, for some period after its original establishment. In the "Will of Cathair More," purporting to be as old as the second century of the Christian era, Airgid Ros is claimed as belonging to that king of Leinster. Duach, king or chief of Ossory about the middle of the sixth century, seems to have wrested it from the dominion of Cathair More's successors. From the conqueror, it assumed the title *Ui-Duach*, or Land of Duach, and it is now called

Odogh. See "Kilkenny: the Ancient City of Ossory," &c., part i., p. 81.

⁴⁶ See John Hogan's "St. Ciaran, Patron of Ossory: A Memoir of his Life and Times," part second, chap. 1., pp. 44, 45.

⁴⁷ However, a little before or after the time for the building of St. Canice's Monastery at Aghaboe, Duach seems to have annexed much of the southern Leix territory to that of *Ui-Duach*. The Rev. Nicholas Murphy has written an interesting paper, "The O'Brenans and the Ancient Territory of *Hy-Duach*," published in "Transactions of the Ossory Archæological Society," vol. 1., pp. 393 to 407.

⁴⁸ Allusion is made to "The History, Architecture and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, Esq. See sect. i., chap. i., pp. 14 to 21, with accompanying notes.

⁴⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 240, 243.

⁵⁰ The Annals of "Clonmacnoise" have Liber's death at this year.

⁵¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii viii. De S. Libero sive Liberio Abbate Achadhboensi, p. 56.

⁵² See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 110, 111.

of Clonmacnoise. In the "Chronicum Scotorum,"⁵¹ it is set down as 641. But according to other accounts, in 603,⁵² the Abbot Meann Bonne departed; while, the Annals of Ulster⁵³ have his death, at A.D. 604.⁵⁴ According to the Annals of the Four Masters,⁵⁵ in 777,⁵⁶ died the Abbot Scannal Ua Taidhg,⁵⁷ Abbot of Achadh-bo, after having been forty-three years in the abbacy. It is noted, that he died on the Festival of St. Comgall, on the 10th of May. The true year for his departure, however, is said to have been A.D. 782. In 784,⁵⁸ according to the O.C.C.,⁵⁹ died the Abbot Ferghil—otherwise called Virgil—*i.e.*, the Conventual Abbot of Achadh-bo, and the famous Bishop of Saltsburg, as stated by Dr. O'Donovan.⁶⁰ If this admission be correct, he was one of the most celebrated scholars of his age. We are told, likewise, that he died in Germany, and in the thirteenth year of his bishopric, or episcopacy.⁶¹ The Annals of Ulster enter his death under the year 788; but, it is stated that the true date is A.D. 780. At A.D. 808, the Annals of the Four Masters⁶² place the death of the Abbot Fearadhach, the son of Scannal or Scannal, and chronographer of this abbey.⁶³ He is also called scribe and abbot. However, the Annals of Ulster record the happy departure of Feradhach Mac Scannail, scribe, priest, and abbot of Achaboo, at A.D. 812.⁶⁴ It is said the true year was A.D. 813. In the year 820,⁶⁵ the Abbot of Achadh-bo-Cainnigh, who is called Forbhasach, departed this life. The Annals of Ulster, at A.D. 821, relate, what the Four Masters have under 820.⁶⁶ In 835,⁶⁷ died the Abbot Robhartagh Mac Maeluidhir, Abbot of Achadh-bo-Cainnigh. At A.D. 843, the Annals of the Four Masters⁶⁸ state, that the Abbot Robhartagh Mac Bresail died. In 853,⁶⁹ it is stated, that Aihill, Abbot of Achadh-bo, departed this life; but his death is recorded in the "Chronicum Scotorum,"⁷⁰ at A.D. 855. In 857,⁷¹ or 858,⁷² died the Abbot Suairlagh or Suairleach, Superior of Achadh-bo-Cainnigh. The "Chronicum Scotorum,"⁷³ narrates his

⁵¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 279, 287.

⁵² *Abbas Meann Bonne* is Latinized "papa meannus" or "little Burren."

⁵³ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonienses," pars. i., p. 196.

⁵⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 282, 287.

⁵⁵ O'Donovan incorrectly credits the Four Masters with the entry of an Abbot Meannal of Ach. at 774. In Dr. O'Donovan's edition, however, there is no such record.

⁵⁶ Anichall calls him the Abbot Scannalua Taidhg. See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 685.

⁵⁷ In Harris' "Ware," vol. iii. he is said to have "died" on the 24th of November, 782, or 784. See "Writers of Ireland," book i., chap. vi., p. 30.

⁵⁸ See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 320, 301.

⁵⁹ According to Harris' "Ware," he was canonized in 1233, by Pope Gregory IX. See vol. iii., "Writers of Ireland," book i., chap. vi., p. 31.

⁶⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 420, 421, and n. (h.), *ibid.*

⁶¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," p. 784. Martii xxviii., De S. Conallo sive Conallo Episcopo, n. 5.

⁶² See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonienses," pars. i., p. 193.

⁶³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 430, 431.

⁶⁴ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonienses," pars. i., p. 203.

⁶⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 452, 453.

⁶⁶ See *ibid.*, vol. i., pp. 404, 405.

⁶⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 486, 487.

⁶⁸ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 154, 155.

⁶⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 490, 491.

⁷⁰ According to the "Annals of Ulster." See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., pars. i., p. 224.

⁷¹ See William M. Hennessy's edition pp. 156, 157.

death at A.D. 859. With a high commendation for his talents and virtues, at A.D. 874, the death of Abbot Cinaedh is recorded, in the Annals of the Four Masters.⁷³ They quote an Irish verse,⁷⁴ referring to his departure, and the following is Dr. O'Donovan's translation of it into English :—

“Great grief is Cinaedh the revered chieftain, son of
Cosgrach of beaming countenance,
The gifted torch, enraptured Bard, the exalted Abbot of
Achadh-bo.”

His death is recorded, however, under A.D. 875,⁷⁵ in the Annals of Ulster; but, we are told, the correct year is 876.⁷⁶ In 885, died the Abbot Maolmarten, or Mailmartain,⁷⁷ “Servant of Martin,” and Abbot of Achadh-bo-Cainnigh. At A.D. 901,⁷⁸ the prior of Achadh-bo-Cainnigh, named Celi Mac Urthuile, or Urthuili, died. In 913,⁷⁹ the Abbey of Achadh-bo was plundered by the strangers, or Danes,⁸⁰ apparently for the first time; ⁸¹ and, about that period, a fresh horde had entered the estuary of the Nore, Suir, and Barrow, then known as Loch-Dachæch. In 914,⁸² died the Abbot of Achadh-bo-Cainnigh, Maenach Mac Dailigein. In this year, also, the abbey was plundered by the Gentiles, according to the “Chronicum Scotorum”; ⁸³ but, this probably has reference to the strangers' raid already recorded. In 915, the Abbey of Aghaboe was again plundered by the Danes, according to certain Anonymous Annals, quoted by Archdall ⁸⁴ for the statement; we are told, however, Archdall makes two plunderings here out of one outrage,⁸⁵ viz., that in 913. In 926,⁸⁶ died the Abbot of Aghaboe, and who was named Ciaran. The Annals of Ulster ⁸⁷ call him Ciaran, Coarb of Cainnech, at A.D. 927 *alias* 928,⁸⁸ their date for his death.

In 933,⁸⁹ the Abbot Cormac Mac Maeny or Maenach, Abbot of Achadh-bo, was slain by the people of Eoganaght.⁹⁰ In the year 969,⁹¹ or 970, died the Abbot Maelsamhna, or Maelsavna,⁹² successor of Cain-

⁷³ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 520, 521.

⁷⁴ It runs thus:—
mór uaé cionaeó sraeta minto mac
cosgrach co ptechaib rnaú,
in bpeo buasa, baite baru, comaribha
aró decharó bó.

⁷⁵ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's “Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores,” Tomus iv., pars. i., p. 232.

⁷⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. i., n. (x.)

⁷⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. i., pp. 536, 537.

⁷⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. i., pp. 562, 563.

⁷⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. ii., pp. 584 to 587.

⁸⁰ See Colgan's “Trias Thaumaturga,” p. 633.

⁸¹ See “The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny,” by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, sect. i., chap. i., p. 17.

⁸² See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. ii., pp. 586, 587.

⁸³ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 186, 187.

⁸⁴ See “Monasticon Hibernicum,” p. 588, and in n. (z) Annal. anon.

⁸⁵ See “The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny,” by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, sect. i., chap. i., p. 17.

⁸⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. ii., pp. 618, 619.

⁸⁷ The Codex Clarendon Copy, Tomus xlix. See n. (a), *ibid.*, p. 621.

⁸⁸ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's “Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores,” Tomus iv., pars. i., p. 259.

⁸⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. ii., pp. 630, 631.

⁹⁰ See Colgan's “Acta Sanctorum Hibernie,” xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Vitam S. Cormaci, cap i., p. 360.

⁹¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. ii., pp. 694, 695.

⁹² According to the “Annals of Ulster.” See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's “Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores,” Tomus iv., pars. i., p. 279.

neach. In 1003,⁹⁴ the Abbot Enghus, the son of Bressal, successor of Caimneach, died on his pilgrimage, at Armagh. At A.D. 1007, the Annals of Ulster,⁹⁵ and of the Four Masters,⁹⁶ record the death of Maclmaire Ua Geargáin, successor of Caimneach. In 1008,⁹⁷ died the Abbot Cathal, the son of Carlus or Charles, and the successor of Caimneach. At this year, also, in the Annals of Ulster,⁹⁸ the death of Cahal Mac Carbra, Coarb of Caimneach, is recorded. In 1011,⁹⁹ *recte* 1012, died the Abbot Cian, successor of Caimneach. In 1012,¹⁰⁰ died the Abbot Cian Ua Geargáin or O'Geargáin, successor of Caimneach. In the year 1018,¹⁰¹ Carlus Ua Comhghilláin, successor of Caimneach, died at Rome. In 1018,¹⁰² Cahal, a noble priest of Aghaboe, died. In 1050,¹⁰³ died the Abbot Dubhdhála, the son of Meleadhá, or Milidh, successor of Caimneach. If we are to believe the Rev. Edward Ledwich, the old conventual was changed into a cathedral church about this time.¹⁰⁵ In the year 1052, a church was erected here, or rather the church of the monastery was rebuilt,¹⁰⁶ wherein the shrine of the patron St. Canice was placed, according to the Manuscript Annals of Leinster, quoted in Harris' "Ware."¹⁰⁷ In 1056,¹⁰⁸ died the Abbot Cassach,¹⁰⁹ or Cathasach,¹¹⁰ son of Geargarbhan, successor of Caimneach, in Cianachta,¹¹¹ but he does not appear to have had any further connection with the locality of Achadh-bo. Yet, he is styled the chief among the foremost of the Munster clergy.¹¹² In 1066, the Abbot Caomh Óran, or Coemhoran, successor of Caimneach, and Abbot of Aghaboe, died; while on this very same year, Fogottach, a noble priest of Achadh-bo, departed this life in a good old age.¹¹³ In 1069,¹¹⁴ Eaclan, the blind Ua Mordha,¹¹⁵ the son

⁹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 748, 749.

⁹⁵ See the Codex Clarendon, Tomus xlix. See also Rev. Dr. O'Conor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., pars. i., p. 332.

⁹⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. ii., pp. 748 and 749, p. 750, 751.

⁹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 750, 751.

⁹⁸ Copy in the Codex Clarendon, fol. 204 v. See also Rev. Dr. O'Conor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., pars. i., p. 227.

⁹⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 754, 755.

¹⁰⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 756, 757.

¹⁰¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 834, 835.

¹⁰² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 848, 849.

¹⁰³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., p. 836, 837.

¹⁰⁴ He is called Dushach mac Míleata, Coarb of Caimneach, in the Codex Clarendon copy of the Annals of Ulster, at A.D. 1150, Tomus xlix. See Rev. Dr. O'Conor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonenses," pars. ii., p. 332.

¹⁰⁵ See Gresse's "Antiquities of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 39.

¹⁰⁶ See "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, chap. i., p. 17.

¹⁰⁷ See vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 308.

¹⁰⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 870, 871.

¹⁰⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 589.

¹¹⁰ He was Abbot of Dromachose or Termonkenney—dedicated to St. Canice—in the Barony of Keenaght, and County of Londonderry. See Rev. Dr. Reeves' "Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor and Dromore," p. 374, and n. (6).

¹¹¹ He is called Calasach mac Gírrgabáin, Coarb of Caimneach, in Kyanachta, in the Codex Clarendon copy of the Ulster Annals, at 1056, Tomus xlix.

¹¹² See Rev. Dr. O'Conor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonenses," pars. ii., p. 336.

¹¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 888, 889.

¹¹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 896, 897, and n. (c), *ibid*.

¹¹⁵ He descended from Mordha, the progenitor of the O'Moores of Leix.

of Aimirgin,¹¹⁶ died at Achadh-bo. This year, most probably, Macraith Ua Mordha was killed at Muilleam-na-Crossan,¹¹⁷ in the vicinity of Achadh-bo; thus being punished for an act of impiety and murder committed at Timahoe.¹¹⁸ In 1090, died the Abbot Cian O' Buachalla,¹¹⁹ successor of Cainneach in Ciannachta;¹²⁰ but, he does not appear to have been locally connected with Aghaboe. About the year 1100, Aghaboe was noted as a place of resort for religious pilgrims.¹²¹ In 1105,¹²² died Aedh O'Ruadhan, a priest of this abbey, as also another priest of Aghaboe, named Ailillan Ua Spealain. In the year 1106, the Annals of Clonmacnoise state, that the family or community of Kilkenny—which must here mean the monastic community of St. Canice at Aghaboe—gave an overthrow to the community of Leighlin.¹²³ This must mean in the matter of some ecclesiastical privilege or endowment. In 1108, died Celech Ua Caemhorain, successor of Cainnech. The Annals of Ulster,¹²⁴ at this same date, record the death of Ceallach O'Cyvoran, Coarb of Cainnech, or rather Celsus O'Coemoran.¹²⁵

In the beginning of Lent, in the year 1116,¹²⁶ the Abbey or Oratory of Achadh-bo-Chaimnigh was destroyed by fire.²⁷ This devastation is also recorded in the Annals of Ulster,¹²⁸ at the same date, and in the Annals of Loch Cé.¹²⁹ In 1125, Archdall states,¹³⁰ that the Monastery of Aghaboe was plundered by Turlogh O'Connor, and, for this he quotes the Annals of the Four Masters; but, we do not find such a statement in Dr. O'Donovan's edition. In 1154,¹³¹ Cian Ua Gerachain, the successor of Cainneach, died. About the year of Redemption 1180, the episcopal see of Upper Ossory, which had been at first in Saigir, and subsequently at Aghaboe, was removed to Canicopolis, or Kilkenny; which city was named after its patron St. Canice, and where, in after times, was erected that beautiful cathedral dedicated to him, and which, for magnificence or fine architectural proportions, was second to no other in the kingdom.¹³² But the original church there, and dedicated to St. Canice, was burned in the year 1085, as may be gleaned from a passage, in Dr. O'Donovan's edition of the "Annals of the Four Masters."¹³³ and the place seems to have been of some importance towards the close of the eleventh century.¹³⁴

¹¹⁶ He was slain, A.D. 1026.

¹¹⁷ Interpreted, "the mill of the Crossans."

¹¹⁸ See *ibid.*

¹¹⁹ Now Anglicized, Buckley, without the prefix Ua or O.

¹²⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 938, 939, and nn. (m n) *ibid.*

¹²¹ See "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, chap. i., p. 18.

¹²² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 978, 979.

¹²³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 986, 987.

¹²⁴ The Clarendon Codex, Tomus xlix. See n. (o) *ibid.*

¹²⁵ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum

Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonienses," pars. ii., p. 372.

¹²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1002, 1003.

¹²⁷ See "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., and John G. Augustus Prim, sect. i., chap. i., p. 18.

¹²⁸ Codex Clarendon, Tomus xlix. See also Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonienses," p. 379.

¹²⁹ See William M. Hennessy's edition, vol. i., pp. 106, 107.

¹³⁰ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 589.

¹³¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1108, 1109.

¹³² See Bishop de Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. i., p. 297.

Half the town of Aghaboe, and half the cantred in which it was situated, were given by King Henry II. to Adam de Hereford; and the lands lying between Aghaboe and Leighlin were given to John de Clahull, the Mareschal of Leinster.¹³⁵ That is, the monarch gave what he had not possessed, but, if these favoured adventurers were able to subjugate the districts assigned them, so much the better for the English crown, and they were regarded as safe occupants in its interest. We do not hear, however, that they were able to take possession of their royal grants. About the end of King Henry II.'s reign, the Bishop of Ossory, who was then Felix O'Dubhlain,¹³⁶ or O'Dullany,¹³⁷ formerly a Cistercian monk, translated the see of Ossory from Aghaboe to Kilkenny. He seems to have been the prelate who first laid the foundation of a cathedral in the latter city, and others of his episcopal successors there laboured in the work of its erection.¹³⁸ The Rev. Father Felix O'Dubhlain,¹³⁹ or Dullane, Bishop of Ossory, and whose cathedral church was then at Aghaboe, in Upper Ossory, died in the year 1202,¹⁴⁰ at Jerpoint Abbey,¹⁴¹ to which he is said to have been a great benefactor, as also its first abbot. He was buried in St. Mary's Abbey, at Jerpoint, and his tomb was placed at the north side of the High Altar.¹⁴² In the year 1206, died the Abbot Maelpeader O'Colman, according to the Anonymous Annals, quoted by Archdall.¹⁴³ We are at a loss to know the author or title of these chronicles. Again, according to the certain Anonymous Annals, cited by

¹³⁵ See vol. ii., p. 623, and n. (r).

¹³⁶ See "The History, Architecture, and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, Kilkenny," by the Rev. James O'Grady, A.B., and John G. Augustin, Esq., 8vo. 41, chap. iii., pp. 24, 25, and 26.

¹³⁷ See William Staley M.A.'s "Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i., p. 105; F. Ryan, F.R.S.W., in "The Parish of Aghaboe," No. ii., p. 10.

¹³⁸ See a generally written Delany, "Statistical Account of Ireland," in M. J. Ryan & F. M. Smith's "History of Ossory," p. 10; the *Annals of the Inhabitants of the Upper Ossory*, in "Transactions of the Oxford Archaeological Society," vol. ii., pp. 23, 24.

¹³⁹ He was created Donald O'Fogarty, which he bore from A.D. 1142 to A.D. 1178. His name appears in the list of prelates, who took part in the Synod of Kells, in the former year. See an account of him, *ibid.*, pp. 122 to 125.

¹⁴⁰ See "Ossory," "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 122.

¹⁴¹ He is so called in William M. Henney's edition of the "Annals of Ireland," at A.D. 1202, when recording his death. See vol. i., pp. 222, 223.

¹⁴² See "The Whole Works of the Most Rev. James Usher, D.D., Lord Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of all Ireland," by Dr. Hurdington, vol. vi., "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiqui-

tates," cap. xvii., p. 526. A mistake here occurs, in printing MCH for MCCII.

¹⁴³ Many years have elapsed since Mr. S. C. Hall published, but only for private circulation, his exquisite, "Lines written at Jerpoint Abbey," and dedicated to his friend Sheffield Grace, Esq., F.A.S. This poem was issued at London, A.D. 1820, and as well in the Stanzas, as in the accompanying notes, there is a wealth of local description and of historic lore. The poem opens with these lines:—

"How the earth darkens! not a day-beam cheers
Its pensive look, or gilds the evening sky;
While through the gloom, from other worlds appears
No smile to bid the gathering shadows die.
All is so sadly still! the cooling breeze,
That from yon mountains their mild freshness bears,
Now breathes not—floating through the blossomed trees,—
To fan the sable garb which Nature wears."

¹⁴² "It was reported that many miracles were formerly wrought at his Tomb."—Harris' "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 403.

¹⁴³ See "Monasticum Hibernicum," p. 589, and n. (r) *Ann. Annon, ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ See "Monasticum Hibernicum," p. 589, and n. (s) *ibid.*

Archdall,¹⁴⁴ in the year 1234, the great church of Aghaboe was built by the Abbot. In the opinion of the Rev. Edward Ledwich, this was probably on the site of the present parish church, the architecture of which bears some traces of that age. It appears to have been the church chancel, for there is no west window to it; but, a Gothic arch of red grit, filled up, clearly marked a chancel, as the foundations of the walls show a continuation for the edifice. Beside the present Protestant church there is a small hexagonal belfry, closed with a cap of masonry, and it is on a line with the church roof. Except on the south, buttresses support the fabric; but, on that side there is a door, having concentric arches, enriched with carving and foliated. There are three windows; the eastern window is divided by stone mullions, and it branches into trefoils. Within the church, its northern wall is adorned with niches, canopies, and concentric mouldings. Near the communion table, there is a curious confessional, it is stated,¹⁴⁵ in the thickness of the wall. There are no sepulchral monuments deserving notice, within or without the church.¹⁴⁶

In 1250 the cathedral seat of S. Canice was translated from Aghaboe to the town of Kilkenny. It is no easy matter to ascertain at what particular time Aghaboe became an episcopal see; but, it is said to have had under its superintendence the following parishes, in its neighbourhood, viz:—Offerlan, Bordwell, Rath saran, Rathdowney, Kildelgy, Skirk, St. Nicolas, Killahy, Clomantigh, Aghmacart, Donamore, Eirke, Killermogh, Tubrid, Cahir, and Killeen.¹⁴⁷ It afterwards, on the removal of the see to Kilkenny, became the head of a rural Deanery. Geoffrey St. Leger, who ruled over the see of Kilkenny, from A.D. 1260 to 1286, and who is said to have completed its cathedral commenced by Felix O'Dullany, repaired and beautified the episcopal palaces of Aghaboe and Durrow.

While Sir James Ware attributes the foundation of Aghaboe Dominican Convent, in Upper Ossory, to the Fitzpatrick's,¹⁴⁸ who were lords of the soil,¹⁴⁹ he does not specify the time of its erection; however, his editor, Walter Harris, sets it down under the thirteenth century.¹⁵⁰ He seems to have followed L. Aug. Alemand¹⁵¹ in this statement; but Bishop De Burgo supposes,¹⁵² that a typographical error crept into the

¹⁴⁵ At the time of various visits to the place, the writer had no opportunity for examining the interior of the Protestant Church.

¹⁴⁶ Such is the description furnished by Rev. Edward Ledwich, in No. II., "Parish of Aghaboe," for William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i. See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 589.

¹⁴⁷ Bishop Otway's Visitation Book is quoted for these statements, by Rev. Edward Ledwich, in his paper No. II., on the "Parish of Aghaboe," p. 34. See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i.

¹⁴⁸ See Harris's "Ware," vol. i., "Bishops of Ossory," p. 406.

¹⁴⁹ For a long series of years, and to

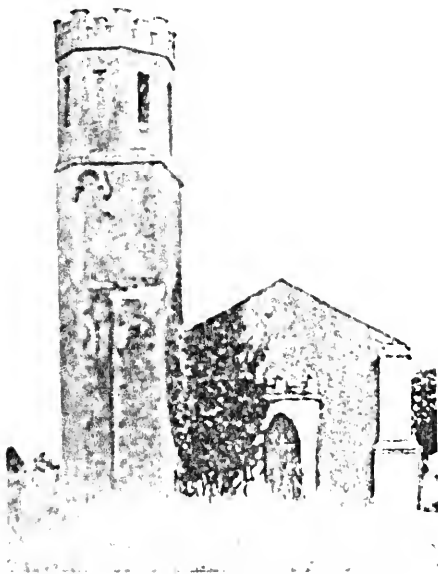
the time of Henry II.'s arrival in Ireland, A.D. 1172, they were kings of Ossory. Afterwards, too, they were regarded as the chiefs or dynasts of their territory, although sometimes opposed by their Anglo-Norman neighbours. In the year 1522, Brian Gilla-Patrick or Fitzpatrick sent a message to King Henry VIII. to complain of the wrongs inflicted on him by the Lord Deputy of Ireland, Peter Butler, Earl of Ormond.

¹⁵⁰ See "De Hibernia et Antiquitatibus ejus Disquisitiones," cap. xxvi., p. 162.

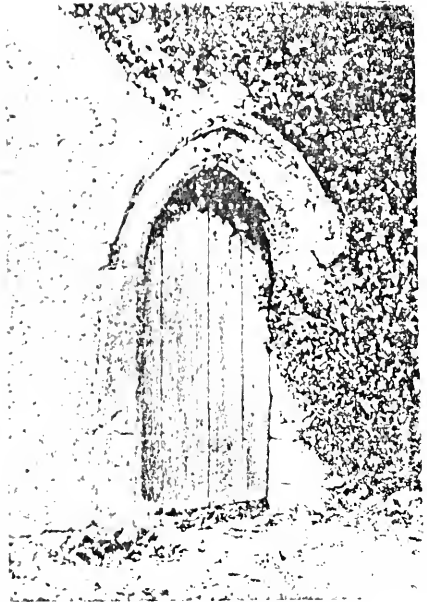
¹⁵¹ See Harris's Ware, vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xxxviii., p. 276.

¹⁵² See "Histoire Monastique d'Irlande," p. 219.

¹⁵³ See "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. iii., pp. 297, 298.



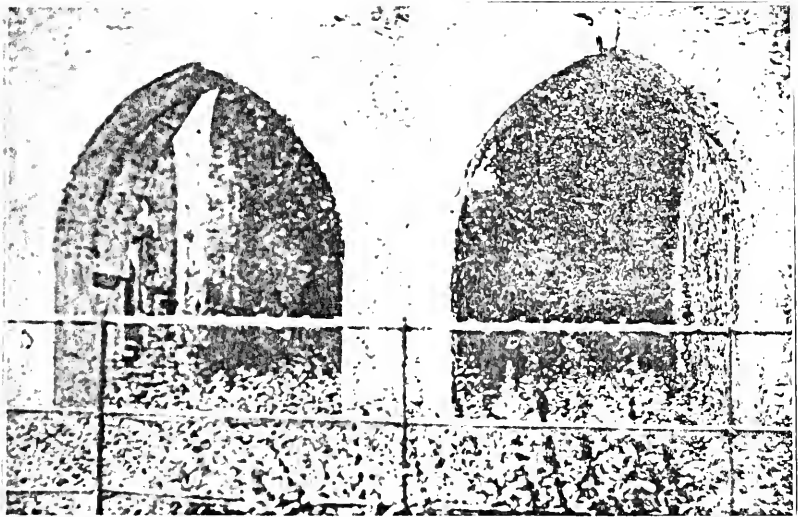
ANCIENT CHURCH TOWER,
AGHABOL.



DOORWAY OF CHURCH TOWER,
AGHABOE.

8 1 2 17

See page 160.



VIEW INTO PHELAN'S CHAPEL, FROM ABBEY CHURCH.

Monasticon of the latter writer, or that he deemed the figures 1300 or over to be referable to the thirteenth century, whereas they should rather be assigned to the fourteenth century. Allusion is made by Sir James Ware to certain Annals of the Order of Preachers,¹⁵³ brought down to the year of Christ 1274, when their anonymous author flourished.¹⁵⁴ These Annals begin from A.D. 45 to the year indicated, and they are now generally known as "Annales Montis Fernandi," or Annals of Multifernan,¹⁵⁵ and they are regarded as the production of a Monk.¹⁵⁶ Sir James Ware gives also a very exact list of all the Houses of the Dominican Order,¹⁵⁷ and which were in Ireland before the year 1300.¹⁵⁸ Among these,¹⁵⁹ however, the mention of Aghaboe is not to be found; which proves sufficiently that it had not then any existence. During the year 1325 the death of Dovenad or Donnel Duff Mac Gilpatrie is recorded.¹⁶⁰ In that year, or during the following, it is stated that Fitzpatrick, ancestor to the Lords of Upper Ossory, erected a monastery on the site of the ancient cathedral, and under the invocation of St. Canice.¹⁶¹ It was destined for friars of the Order of St. Dominick,¹⁶² and after a lapse of two hundred years, since the episcopal see of Ossory had been moved to Kilkenny, the Dominicans restored the original Church at Aghaboe, and they built a House for their Order conventient to it, under the invocation of St. Canice.¹⁶³

In the year 1349, on May 13th,¹⁶⁴ according to Archdall,¹⁶⁵ Dermot MacGillepatrick—the one-eyed—a man remarkable for his villainies, for his plots and treasons,¹⁶⁶ burnt this town; when the shrines, bones, and reliques of the blessed St. Canice—the founder and patron of this holy place—were lost in that conflagration.¹⁶⁷ According to Friar Clyn, the

¹⁵³ These were preserved among the Manuscripts of Archbishop Usher.

¹⁵⁴ This was attested, likewise, from the form of the characters in which they had been written.

¹⁵⁵ These have been edited by Aquilla Smith, M.D., M.R.I.A., with a Preface and Notes, for the Irish Archaeological Society, A.D. 1842.

¹⁵⁶ Sir James Ware suspects him to have been Brother Stephen de Exonia, said to have been born A.D. 1249, and to have received the habit on the day of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, A.D. 1263.

¹⁵⁷ The sequence of foundation, in each case, is dated according to the order of time.

¹⁵⁸ See "De Scriptoribus Hiberniæ," Lib. i., cap. ix., pp. 61, 62.

¹⁵⁹ This list has been republished by Bishop de Burgo, in his "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ii., sect. i., subs. vi., p. 38.

¹⁶⁰ It is said, he was treacherously killed by his own relations, on the Sunday which immediately followed the Octave of Saint Laurence. See "Annalium Hiberniæ Chronicon, ad Annum MCCCXLIX.," dressit Frater Joannes Clyn, Ordinis Minorum ex Conventu Kilkenniensi, p. 17. Edition

of Very Rev. Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A., Dean of Clonmacnoise, Dublin, 1849, 410.

¹⁶¹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 589.

¹⁶² See the account of Aghaboe Convent, in Bishop de Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., pp. 296 to 299.

¹⁶³ Bishop De Burgo adds, "Ad hanc usque tempestatem retenta, ut semel iterumque *Aghaboe* versans didici: Neque ullus alterius Cœnobij aut Monasterij, ejusvis ordinis, aut Instituti, vel minimum Rudus, aut Monumentum invenit est *Aghaboe*, aut in Finibus ejus."—*Ibid.*, subs. ii., p. 297.

¹⁶⁴ This date does not agree, however, with Frater Johannes Clyn's "Annalium Hiberniæ Chronicon, ad Annum MCCCXLIX." There it is said, this transaction took place, "die Veneris iii. Nonas Maii." This corresponds with May 6th. See p. 32, Very Rev. Richard Butler's edition.

¹⁶⁵ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 589.

¹⁶⁶ The Chronicler Clyn adds, "tanquam degener filius in patrem crudeliter deseviens, igne crudelissimo combussit et consumpsit."—"Annalium

delinquent was a perjurer, who associated O'Carroll with himself in this impious act, while they dared to profane both cemetery and church.

Archdall¹⁶⁸ gives an exact and detailed list of the Abbots at Aghaboe from the year 1382, and as he seems to have drawn it from the account furnished by the then existing incumbent, the Rev. Edward Ledwich, we should greatly desire to ascertain how the latter obtained it, and we should also feel anxious to have the respective dates for their presidency, as he appears to have a very exact order of their succession.¹⁶⁹ The lands annexed to the abbey, such as those of Aghaboe, with the Cross and Friars' land, were of a considerable extent, and of the best quality.¹⁷⁰ On the 8th of October, 1537, Brian Fitzpatrick, son to the Brian already mentioned, took an oath of allegiance to King Henry VIII.; and, as a reward for this submission, he was created by the said King, Baron of Upper Ossory, on the 11th of June, 1541. He married Margaret Butler, daughter to the Lord Deputy of Ireland, Peter, Earl of Ormond, his father's great enemy and oppressor.¹⁷¹ From this marriage a son was born, at first known as Sir Barnaby Fitzpatrick, second Baron of Upper Ossory, who died without male issue, and Florence then became the third Baron of Upper Ossory. He married Catherine, daughter to Sir Patrick O'Moore, of Abbeyleix, in the Queen's County. By her he had five sons, Thaddeus, his successor and the fourth Baron; John of Castle-town; Galfrid of Ballyraghin; Barnaby or Brian of Watercastle; and Edmund of Castle Fleming.¹⁷² At the dissolution of Irish Monasteries, the Anglicized Fitzpatricks were not forgotten, when dividing the spoils of the expelled Friars of Aghaboe. By an Act of Parliament, passed in the 33rd year of Henry VIII.'s reign, commissioners were appointed to assign lands and titles for vicars nominated by the Crown, out of those formerly belonging to dissolved abbeys. Thus, the Baron of Upper Ossory had the patronage of Aghaboe in 1581, when he bequeathed to his brother Florence, among other things, all the furniture of his castles of Borreidge and Killinye, with all his titles in Ossory, excepting those of Aghaboe, which were left to his wife. On the 10th of April, and in the forty-third year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, this Monastery of

Hiberniæ Chronicon ad Annum MCCCXLIX," p. 33.

¹⁶⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 14.

¹⁶⁸ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 590.

¹⁶⁹ This may have been obtained from Bishop De Burgo, or from some other Dominican, who had access to the Records of his Order. The names thus follow, and the last mentioned—it is clear—lived after the middle of the eighteenth century:—John O'Faelain, Michael Cashin, Patrick FitzPatrick, John O'Gara, James O'Hahir, James FitzPatrick, Ambrose FitzGerald, Patrick Gorman, Thady O'Kelly, Stephen Lynch, Patrick McDonagh, Patrick Coigly, Donat O'Cuiffe, John Tuohy, Manus O'Dempsey, Dominick Nolan, Stephen Burke, John O'Theige, Thomas O'Sullivan, Richard FitzPatrick, Kyran Leynachan, Michael Keoghy,

Maurice Fitzpatrick, Hugh O'Kirvan, Dominick Phelan, James Horan, Walter Ryan, Denis Cahasy, Anastasius Beacon, Patrick Comerford, Rory FitzPatrick, Christian Conally, Felix Magrath, James O'Cleary, James Cavanagh, Nicholas Garavan, Francis McFarrel, Thomas FitzPatrick, Hugh Cashin, Darby Creary, James Williams, and Patrick Keely.

¹⁷⁰ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 590.

¹⁷¹ According to Lodge, when the messenger of Brian Fitzpatrick appeared before King Henry VIII., in the Royal Palace at London, he spoke these words in Latin: "Sta pedibus, Domine Rex, Dominus meus Gillpatrickius me misit ad te, et jussit dicere, quod si non vis castigare Petrum Rufum, ipse faciet bellum contra te."—Vol. ii., p. 240.

¹⁷² See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., num. iii., n. (p), p. 208.

Aghaboe, with its appurtenances, and the advowson of the rectory of St. Kenase of Aghaboe, were granted to Florence Fitzpatrick, at the annual rent of 25 l.¹⁷³ He was third Baron of Upper Ossory, and the concession was dated 21st of July, 1600,¹⁷⁴ according to Harris¹⁷⁵ and Lodge.¹⁷⁶ The fourth Baron of Upper Ossory was Thaddeus Fitzpatrick, who married Joanna, niece to James Butler, ninth Earl of Ormond. Their four sons were Brian or Barnaby, Dermot or Dermoid, Terence or Inlaga, and John. Brian or Barnaby became the fifth Baron of Upper Ossory, and he married Margaret Butler, daughter to Walter, eleventh Earl of Ormond. Their sons were Brian or Barnaby, Edward and Dermot.¹⁷⁷ These flourished in the seventeenth century. Aghaboe in Upper Ossory had forty-five townlands,¹⁷⁸ and it was worth, in 1640, 1760 p. tennant.

In 1640, in this parish the Duke of Buckingham was proprietor of the following denominations: viz.—1. Shanbogh, arable, pasture and shrub, 294 a., a bog. 2. Burris, arable and pasture, 660 a. 3. Derreenishanagh, arable, pasture and moor, 254 a. 0 r. 4 p. Muncultipenan, arable, pasture and moor, 223 a. 5. Dermeslough, arable, pasture and moor, 64 a. 6. Ballydeemodery, arable, pasture and moor, 63 a. 0 r. 20 p. 7. Roed, arable and pasture, 37 a. 3 r. 0 p. 8. Derryborgin, arable and pasture, 100 a. 3 r. 20 p. 9. Bardnasallogh, arable, pasture and shrub, 80 a. 10. Balluorquin, arable and pasture, 80 a. 2 r. 2 p. 11. Ballykeran, arable, pasture and shrub, 71 a. 2 r. 0 p. 12. Cappagh, arable, pasture and shrub, 114 a. 13. Kilbeg, arable, pasture and shrub, 171 a. 14. Knockroe, arable and pasture, 49 a. Next comes 15 Mrs. Pigott, Magherinstart, arable, pasture and moor, 124 a. 1 r. 29 p. The next in order, 16, is Terence FitzPatrick, Lismore, arable and pasture, 692 a., a bog, 842 a. 2 r. 0 p. 17. The Duke of Buckingham, Ardnarny, arable and pasture, 31 a. 3 r. 0 p. 18. The same, Grancemore, arable and pasture, 280 a., a bog, 118 a. 0 r. 0 p. 19. Mrs. Pigott, Grangebeg, arable and pasture, 325 a. 20. Duke of Buckingham, Ballybrogy, arable, pasture and shrub, 394 a., a bog. 21. The same, Kiltrotton, arable, pasture, moor and shrub, 210 a. 1 r. 2 p. 22. Morgan Cashin, Carran, arable and pasture, 689 a. 23. Parson of Aghboe, Keallagh, arable and pasture, 1571 a. 24. Mr. Carpenter, Aghaboe, arable, pasture and moor, 295 a. 25. F. Fitzpatrick and Ant. Cashin, Knockmullen, arable and pasture, 96 a. 26. Barnaby Fitzpatrick, Gurtnebooke, arable, pasture, wood, moor and meadow, 487 a. 27. Parson of Aghaboe, Farranagh, arable and pasture, 69 a. 2 r. 10 p. Half the Chapter. 28. Anthony Cashin, Cross, arable and pasture, 147 a. 29. Mr. Carpenter, part, Friar's Land, arable and pasture, 50 a. 30. Thomas Hovenden, Boherard, arable, pasture, moor and shrub, 341 a. 31. Morgan Cashin, Coolbally, arable,

¹⁷³ According to the Auditor-General's Records.

¹⁷⁴ "Post Domorum Regularium omnium Ordinibus Instituti in Hibernia Suppressionem," &c. "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. iv., p. 299.

¹⁷⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xxxviii., p. 276.

¹⁷⁶ See his "Peerage of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 245, 246.

¹⁷⁷ See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., num. iii., n. (p), 298.

¹⁷⁸ This number, however, is considerably under that of the denominations given, and describing the state of the parish in 1640, as found in the Down Survey, and quoting proprietors, denominations, quality of land, profitable and unprofitable. See the Appendix to the Rev. Edward Ledwich's "Statistical Account of Aghaboe," pp. 76, 77.

pasture, moor and shrub, 260 *a.* 32. Sir Charles Coote, Palmer's Hill, arable and pasture, 113 *a.*, a bog. 33. Theobald Butler, Billiegiebane, arable, pasture, moor and shrub, 135 *a.* 34. Florence FitzPatrick Towrooe, arable, pasture, moor and shrub, 12 *a.* 35. Morgan Cashen, Ballygoudanbeg, arable, pasture and moor, 50 *a.* 36. Thomas Hovenden Ballygoudanmore, arable, pasture, moor and shrub, 88 *a.* 37. Geoffry FitzPatrick, Kilmulfoyle, arable and pasture, 266 *a.* 38. John FitzPatrick, Ballygihen, arable, pasture, wood, moor and meadow, 1,430 *a.* 39. Morgan Cashen, Larah, arable and pasture, 124 *a.*, a bog, 11 *a.* 2 *r.* 0 *p.* 40. Daniel FitzPatrick was proprietor of Knockfin, arable, pasture, moor and wood, 250 *a.* 41. Kileneseare, arable, pasture, wood, and moor, 246 *a.*, a bog 25 *a.* 0 *r.* 0 *p.* 42. The same, a wood. 43. The same, Clonkinahanbeg, arable, pasture and moor, 29 *a.*, a bog, 19 *a.* 0 *r.* 0 *p.* 44. Florence FitzPatrick, Clonkinahanmore, arable, pasture and moor, 129 *a.* 3 *r.* 0 *p.* 45. The same, Kileteloga, arable, pasture and moor, 182 *a.* 46. The same, Oldglass, arable, pasture, moor and shrub, 303 *a.*¹⁷⁹

In 1657, Aghaboe was set for the use of the Commonwealth at £60 per annum. A church was there, at the time; but it had no minister.¹⁸⁰ In Rev. Dr. Ledwich's "Antiquities of Ireland" there is an interesting account of the Church of Aghaboe,¹⁸¹ to which is prefixed a copper-plate engraving of the old Abbey and Church by J. Ford from a drawing by W. Beauford. There is also an engraved map of the parish of Aghaboe in the Queen's County, Barony of Upper Ossory, copied from the actual Survey of Sir W. Petty in 1655. This latter is very interesting, as showing the parish extension in 46 numbered plots—Coolkerry townland being separated at some distance from the bulk of the lands, yet forming a part of Aghaboe Parish.¹⁸² There is a convenient Index to each number which sets forth the names of the proprietors in 1640, the denominations, the quality of the land and the number of acres.¹⁸³ In the year 1667, the Earl of Ormond made a lease of the rectories of Aghaboe,¹⁸⁴ Offerlan, and Rathdowney from the 14th of January, 1603, for the remainder of 200 years, to the Deans of Ossory. Dr. Neylan, Protestant Bishop of Kildare, died A.D. 1603; and his son, Daniel Nilan or Neylan, was dean of St. Canice in 1667.¹⁸⁵ The following list of Protestant

¹⁷⁹ See Rev. Edward Ledwich's "Antiquities of Ireland," p. 511.

¹⁸⁰ See the Inquisition at Maryborough in 1657, given in Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 8.

¹⁸¹ See pp. 509 to 515.

¹⁸² The relative position of the adjoining parishes is also shown.

¹⁸³ This is called the Down Survey, as Petty explains it in "Reflections on some Persons and Things in Ireland," p. 74, London, 1666. It was a measurement of land by the chain and needle of the mile in length, and not by the thousand acres of superficial content. In other words the base of downs or hills were only surveyed; a method which he seems first to have used. Lord Chancellor Clare had the Down Survey printed at his own expense by Græber,

in Dame Street, but unaccompanied by notes or illustrations. Wherefore it is almost unintelligible to a common reader; for it requires an extensive and accurate knowledge of the civil and political affairs at the time, and of Petty's personal history to supply either entertaining or useful information. See Dr. Ledwich's "Antiquities of Ireland," p. 510.

¹⁸⁴ The Rev. Dr. Ledwich adds, "Ware omits Aghaboe in this grant, but it is, and always was, part of the corps of the deanery, as I well know."

¹⁸⁵ The chalice belonging to the church has this inscription, "Ex dono Ursulae Carpenter, viduae Ichoschulæ Carpenter, nuper de Sigginstowne, in com. Kildare, armig. ecclesie parochialis de Aghaboe 14. Maii, 1663, Daniele Nilan, sac. Theologie doctore Rectore." The patten has only the word "Aghaboe"

clergymen, connected with the church of Aghaboe, has been furnished by the Rev. Dr. Ledwich; and, it was taken, most probably, from the parish register or from some other record in his keeping:—The incumbent of Aghaboe, in 1663, was John Cull; the incumbent of Aghaboe, in 1670, was Thomas Hill; the vicar of Aghaboe, in 1674, was Benjamin Parry; in 1675, the vicar of Aghaboe was John Pooley; the incumbent of Aghaboe, in 1686, was William Whitehead. The next in order, after William Whitehead, appears to have been a rector named Wilson, but no date is assigned for his incumbency. Immediately after him appears the name Arthur Lewellin, without a date; the vicar of Aghaboe, in 1744, was Thomas Carr.

In 1756, the Rev. Dominican Father and Brother James Williams was titular Prior there—an excellent missionary, in the fortieth year of his religious profession, and in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He laboured well among the poor Catholics of the place.¹⁸⁶ Towards the close of the Penal Days, only a single Dominican friar, who had been transferred from the convent of Burrishoole, in the County of Mayo, lurked in the neighbourhood of the deserted friary at Aghaboe. In the year 1762,¹⁸⁷ Bishop De Burgo, praising the beautiful site of Aghaboe, declares, that the monastic walls and church there were fairly well preserved, and presented evidences of a very fine architectural group. They were soon destined for the miserable spectacle they now present, and at the instance of their legal guardian. The former city of Aghaboe dwindled down to a village, consisting of about twenty houses and cabins, in the years 1762¹⁸⁸ and 1786;¹⁸⁹ and, at present, not one-half that number of human habitations adjacent to the ruins can there be found.

The incumbent of Aghaboe, in 1772, was Edward Ledwich, the most celebrated of the rectors belonging to that church, and especially known on account of his writings. This seems to have been the first year of his installation. There can hardly be a doubt, but that he took an intelligent interest in the welfare of his parishioners, and that he was desirous to promote industrial and economic advantages for them. He built an improved luncheon, and thus contributed to encourage tillage among his three thousand parishioners, the vastly great majority of whom were Roman Catholic farmers, artisans or labourers. By all of these he was greatly loved and respected, living with them on friendly terms, and as a true benefactor.¹⁹⁰ To the cottagers' wives and daughters, with the generous aid of Dr. Drought, of Ballygihen, he gave at different times above 400 woollen or flax wheels and reels; as he believed, that these were treasures to the industrious, and superior to money donations, or even to woollen garments, as both of the latter were often misapplied.

186 See Rev. Dr. Ledwich on the "Parish of Aghaboe," in William Staw Mason's "Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i., num. ii., pp. 37, 38.

187 See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. v., p. 270.

188 The year in which the "Hibernia Dominicana" was published, ostensibly, on the title-page, at Cologne, but surreptitiously at Kilkenny.

189 See Bishop De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," cap. ix., sect. xxx., subs. i. p. 297.

190 See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 588.

191 There is an interesting memoir of the Rev. Edward Ledwich, written by Norman Moore, M.D., for the "Dictionary of National Biography," edited in the beginning by Leslie Stephens, and afterwards continued by Sydney Lee, vol. xxxii., p. 340.

In his time, there were ten wool-combers, ten stuff weavers, twelve linen weavers, and forty-eight spinners, within his parish; all carried on their operations contemporaneously, while most of their manufactures were used by the parishioners, yet there was an overplus of woollen yarn, spun by the young females, who frequently wanted work. Still he complains of the decay of local manufactures; and he tells us, that the town of Borris-in-Ossory, as indeed the whole parish, had been filled with combers, spinners and weavers, before the jealous prohibition of exporting wool and woollens to the continent had been promulgated by English Acts of Parliament, in the reigns of Henry VIII., of Queen Elizabeth, and later still in William III.'s time. The English House of Commons addressed the Crown on this subject, in 1698; Acts were passed, and the exportation of Irish wools was prohibited. This reduced the nation to great distress, and threw back the improvement of the country for at least a century. On obtaining the vicarage, the Rev. Dr. Ledwich, in lieu of his tithes, proposed to the parishioners his acceptance of one shilling an acre, although this should have lessened his income; but, he flattered himself, that he ought to have been compensated by the respect and regard of the people. He deemed, also, it should be a means for securing harmony between himself and those who were legally bound to pay the tithes. The small and middling farmers, he declares, were quite willing to submit to such an arrangement; but the more opulent, who had considerable tracts under dry cattle, and who were protected by the law of agistment, passed in the Irish Parliament, refused the offer made by him.

By an Act passed in the Irish Parliament, in the 11th and 12th years of George III.'s reign, permission was given to establish Corporations for the relief of the poor in each county, with power to punish vagabonds and sturdy beggars, while houses of industry might be built, when grand juries granted sums of money for that purpose. Through the zeal and industry of the Rev. Dean Coote,¹⁹¹ he procured a house of industry to be erected at Maryborough, and besides the county presentments, he solicited subscriptions for its support. The Rev. Edward Ledwich, then vicar of Aghaboe, lent him willing aid. The newly formed Queen's County Corporation adopted the idea, and sent circular letters to the different parishes, requiring returns of two descriptions of the poor; the one class of persons, who was owing to age disabled from working, and the other, who was willing to work had it the means. On the 22nd May, 1775, the Rev. Edward Ledwich convened a vestry, and appointed a committee, consisting of sixteen respectable parishioners, to inquire into the state of the poor in their respective districts. Two of those were to form a quorum. Accordingly, they prepared reports at another vestry, held on the 1st of June following. After due deliberation, their reports were consolidated and forwarded to the Corporation in Maryborough.¹⁹²

¹⁹¹ He lived in the present ruined Castle of Coolbanagher, during the eighteenth century.

¹⁹² The following return, regarded as their report on the poor, is here submitted:—

“ Parish Church of Aghaboe,
“ June 1st, 1775.

“ At a vestry held this day, to receive

and examine the reports of the parochial committees, the following appeared to be the state of the poor in this parish:—
First class, consisting of those who through age and infirmities are unable to contribute to their own support, and are therefore objects of charitable benevolence, viz. John Austin and fifteen more; second class, who, though aged

In 1776, the Rev. Dr. Ledwich,—far in advance of the social and economic ideas of his day—prepared a small pamphlet, as the first annual Report of the Corporation, and it was printed in Kilkenny. In this, he detailed provisions of the statute under which the Corporation acted, and gave an account of their proceedings, with observations on provision for the poor, during the flourishing periods of Greece and Rome. He also glanced in it at the state of the poor in Ireland from the reign of King Henry VIII. to subsequent periods. However, it was found that the scheme in contemplation did not work satisfactorily, and the Grand Jury of the Queen's County, learning that England was already heavily burthened by its annual poor-rates, feared to countenance a project which might lead to the introduction of poor laws for Ireland. They declined supporting the House of Industry,—although admirably devised to encourage work, and to suppress pauperism—so that the institution soon ceased to exist, and thus were frustrated the benevolent desires of the projector.

The following is a description of the Abbey as it appeared in 1786.¹⁹³ The west and south windows were handsome Gothic work; the church was one hundred feet in length, and twenty-four in width. It had three windows to the south, one to the east, and one at the west.¹⁹⁴ That to the east was ramified, the western door had concentric arches, and the walls of the abbey were not ornamented. In the centre, to the south was a small oratory or building, called Phelan's Chapel, and it was divided from the church by an arch, resting on a pillar of solid masonry. Between the east windows of this chapel was a pedestal, above the altar, intended for a statue.¹⁹⁵ Under it was a stone, hollowed and shaped like an inverted cone, with eight grooves, supposed to be for holy water. To the present writer it appears to have been a piscina. A door in the north side led into a quadrangle of sixty feet; the cells for the friars, usually ten in number, lay to the east, and opposite thereto was the kitchen, with apartments for servants and necessary officers; the cellars were large, and over them was the prior's apartment, measuring forty-six feet by seventeen. At the end of this was a bed-chamber, seventeen feet square. Whether or not this large room was the refectory could not be determined. The last vicar¹⁹⁶ and predecessor of the Rev. Edward Ledwich in the parish demolished

and sickly, are willing to work had they the means and materials, viz., John Dillon and seven more. The committee beg leave to observe that, alarmed at the inquiries now set on foot, many sturdy beggars who incumbered the parish and intercepted charity from real objects, have either withdrawn to other parts or taken themselves to labour, as they find both the Corporation and parishioners are determined to enforce the statute. The committee further remark that, since stocks have been erected in Aghaboe, and a resolution made public of punishing strange and sturdy beggars, not one has appeared for some time; so that the most sanguine hopes are entertained that if the Corporation of the

county proceed as they have begun, honesty and industry will be established in the place of pilfering and idleness, and the execution of the statute will prove a blessing to this parish as well as to the county.

“EDWARD LEDWICH, Vicar.

“DANIEL LAWLER, } Church-

“WILLIAM CONNOR, } wardens.”

¹⁹³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," pp. 589, 590.

¹⁹⁴ This description had been originally prepared for Archdall's work by the Rev. Edward Ledwich.

¹⁹⁵ On this, the Rev. Edward Ledwich supposes the statue of St. Canice stood, and he says there are two tabernacles.

¹⁹⁶ He had the fee of the land and the advowson.

much of the building, and made use of the materials to enclose a demesne.¹⁹⁷ Originally there was a fireplace at the south end, and a stone staircase made a communication with the church and cellars. A very interesting copper-plate drawing of the old ruins at Aghaboe in 1792, when they were much more perfect than at present, may be found in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland."¹⁹⁸ This south-east aspect was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose.¹⁹⁹

The festival of St. Canice is still celebrated, on the V. of the Ides—corresponding with the 11th of October²⁰⁰—which is stated also to have been the date for his death, at Aghaboe.²⁰¹ During the eighteenth century, on that day, crowds of persons came from all the neighbouring parishes to celebrate his memory; but, owing to the abuses which prevailed at these patrons—as they have been called—their meetings were discountenanced by the Catholic bishop and priests. At St. Canice's Well, in Rev. Dr. Ledwich's orchard at Aghaboe, the pedlars were accustomed to lay down their packs and to say their prayers. About a quarter of a mile from the town was a group of thorn bushes,²⁰² where the poor people performed their devotions; but the Rector very ignorantly assumes, that these were heathen practices, derived from the earliest ages.²⁰³

The denominations of the townlands, with their respective number of acres and the names of their proprietors, as these stood in 1796, were contained in the Vestry Book of the parish.²⁰⁴ The vicar of

¹⁹⁷ See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i., No. II. Description of the "Parish of Aghaboe," by the Rev. Edward Ledwich, LL.D., pp. 38, 39.

¹⁹⁸ See vol. ii., p. 39. The descriptive article was written by the Rev. Edward Ledwich.

¹⁹⁹ In Rev. Edward Ledwich's "Antiquities of Ireland," there is a distinct view of the ruins at Aghaboe, as they appeared towards the close of the eighteenth century, with a description; see pp. 509 to 515, Second edition.

²⁰⁰ At this date it is found, in the "Martyrologies of Tallaght and of Donegal."

²⁰¹ See the Marquis of Ormond's "Vita S. Kanechi," p. 46.

²⁰² To these we have already made allusion.

²⁰³ See Rev. Edward Ledwich's paper, on the "Parish of Aghaboe," in William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. i., No. ii., sect. iv. pp. 41, 42.

²⁰⁴ These are given as an Appendix to the Paper of the Rev. Edward Ledwich, LL.D., and they are also to be found in his "Antiquities of Ireland," pp. 512, 513, as here given:—The following townlands belonged to the Chandos (Duke of Buckingham) family: viz. Shanbough, 264 a.; Borros (Borris), 600 a.; Derrensishnagh, 257 a.; Dunmunne and

Monesat, 237 a.; Curraghmore, 8 a.; Barnasallagh, 80 a.; Cappagh, 123 a.; Kilebeg and Derreen Oliver, 171 a.; Knockaroe, 49 a.; Ardvarney, 34 a.; Grangemore, 111 a.; Grangebeg and two Ballyrilies, 270 a.; Ballybrophy, 276 a.; Kilecotton, 219 a.; Knockamullen, 96 a.; Derreensollogh, 60 a. The following townlands belonged to Lord Upper Ossory,—Knockamullen, 96 a.; Kilmuntoyle, 103 a.; Oldglass and Clonkinahanmore, 250 a.; Park, 50 a.; Ballycolla, 50 a.; Newtown, 57 a.; Ballyhenode, 50 a.; Kiletelague, 160 a. The following townland belonged to Sir Erasmus Burrows, Bart.—Mahernaskagh, 125 a. The following townland belonged to Richard Grace, Esq.—Lismore, 60 a. The following townlands belonged: Carran, to Thos. Carr, Esq., Carroreig, to Robert Stubber, Esq. Carran and Carroreigh, 680 a. The following townland belonged to the Vicar of Aghaboe, Keilagh Glebe, 157 a. The following townlands belonged to Thomas Carr, Esq.—Aghaboe and Frier's Land, 445 a.; Cross, 148 a. The following belonged to Lord Mountmorres, Gurtinaclea, and its members, 487 a. The following belonged, Part to the Dean of Ossory, and Part to the Vicar, Farran-Eglishe Glebe, 65 a. The following belonged to John Rotton Esq., Boherard, 215 a. The following belonged to Earl Annesley, Coolbally,

Aghaboe, in 1707, was John Morris. Near the church of Aghaboe were some lands, claiming exemption from tithes, about the beginning of the last century. As a curious instance, illustrating the manner of escaping this very unpopular impost, ewes were brought to yearn there from other lands, and by this ingenious device the payment of tithes was legally evaded. In the immediate neighbourhood of the ruins, there is an artificial, and indeed mound of a flattened cone shape, surrounded by a fence, and encircled with remains of a wall on the top.²⁰⁵ At some distance from this is the Rath of Lara or the Moat of Monacoghlan, a representation of which, with its remarkable circumvallations, is given by Rev. Dr. Leitch in a copper-plate engraving.²⁰⁶

Several other ancient forts were in the parish of Aghaboe; and there are some ecclesiastical ruins besides those on the townland of Aghaboe.²⁰⁷ On a beautiful and an elevated site are only to be seen a trace of the old foundations of Knockseera, with graves surrounding it.²⁰⁸ Beside the House and Demesne of Lismore there is a ruined church and burial-ground.²⁰⁹ On Kildellig townland, there is a church in ruins, within a graveyard.²¹⁰ Within Farraneglish Glebe, there is also a church in ruins.²¹¹ On Coolkerry townland there are remains of a ruined church as also of a castle.²¹² The remains of Gortnaclea Castle yet may be seen beside the River Gully.²¹³ The town of Borris-in-Ossey lies within this parish, on the south-bank of the River Nore.²¹⁴ The Great Southern and Western Railway passes near it, having a station at Ballybrophy. A weekly market is held in the village, which consists of one long street. Formerly the FitzPatricks erected a castle here, and in ruins it is yet an imposing object. A recently-built Protestant church of Irish-Romanesque design, with a round tower for a belfry attached, is in the town. There is a court-house, a police station and a dispensary in the town, while Quarter and Petty Sessions are there summoned. Fairs are held on the 25th of January, the 21st of March, the 31st of May, the 24th of June, the 15th of August, the 11th of October, the 21st of November and the 20th of December.²¹⁵ About 1878 the church was enlarged or partly rebuilt, and the Board of First Fruits granted a loan of £500 for that purpose. The same board gave £100 to build the glebe-house, and a loan of £1,350. There were

205 a. The following belonged to Lord Mountrath, Palmer's Hill, 106 a. The following belonged to Robert Stubber, Esq., Deligibawn, 60 a. The following belonged to Peter La Touche, Esq., Tooreigh, and Tereragh, 37 a. Baunoge, 70 a. The following belonged to Henry Grattan, Esq., Ballygowdenmore 188 a. The following belonged part to Henry Grattan, Esq., Part to Dr. Draught, Ballygheen and its Members, 1430 a. The following belonged to — Despard, Esq., Larah, 50 a.; Garryduffe, 125 a. The following belonged to Lord Portarlington, Knocklin, 179 a. The following belonged to Gerald Fitz-Gerald, Esq., Kileneser and Clonkinnabeg, 249 a. The following belonged to the Parson of Killermogh, Ballygarvin, 80 a. Besides Coolfin, 36 a., omitted since 1768.

205 See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 31.

206 See his "Antiquities of Ireland."

207 Besides the old Dominican Abbey ruins, Aghaboe House, as also the Rectory not far distant, are shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 22.

208 See *ibid.*

209 See *ibid.*

210 See *ibid.*

211 See *ibid.*, Sheet 23.

212 See *ibid.*, Sheet 28.

213 See *ibid.*, Sheet 23.

214 It is shewn on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 21, 22.

215 See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 315.

216 See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 11.

two glebes—comprising altogether 185 acres—in this parish, and belonging to the vicarage.²¹⁶ In 1837 the tithes of this parish amounted to £789 4s. 7^od., of which amount £526 3s. 1d. was payable to the dean and the remainder to the vicar. The vicarial tithe composition in 1846 was £263 1s. 6^od., glebe, £277 4s. 4d.; the gross income was £540 5s. 10^od. nett, £461 18s. 5^od.—the patron being the Rev. George Carr.²¹⁷ In 1831 the population of this parish was 6,198, and it increased to 6,310 in 1841.²¹⁸ Since these times, it has greatly diminished in number.

CHAPTER VII.—PARISH OF AUGHMACART.

THIS parish is situated about four miles west of Castle Durrow; formerly it was in the Barony of Upper Ossory, but now it is in that of Clarmalagh. It contains 9,600 *a.* 3 *r.* 5 *p.*¹ The ancient name of this place was Achadh-mic-Airt, rendered the Field of the Son of Art, by Dr. John O'Donovan,² who places its old ruined church, however, in the Barony of Galmoy, County of Kilkenny, but on the borders of the Queen's County. The name of this parish is found written Aughmacart, and also Aughamacart.³ There an abbey is said to have been founded about the year 550.⁴ It is stated, that the O'Dempseys⁵ founded a priory on the ancient site for Canons Regular of St. Augustine, and it is said to have been placed under the invocation of St. Tighernach,⁶ John O'Donovan very justly suspects that O'Dempsey, whose country was at least twenty-five miles distant, was not the founder of this priory, but that its erection should rather be ascribed to MacGiolla Patrick, Lord of Ossory.⁷ There is no record of its original erection, or list of its abbots.⁸ A fine square tower, used for a belfry, with some portions of the walls and passages into the vaults, are still to be seen.⁹ A few hundred yards to the eastward of the priory, the massive tower of the Fitzpatrick's former castle may be noticed; while the monastic and military ruins form doubly picturesque objects to the eye of a visitor.

A village or town seems to have been here before the middle of the twelfth century, for, in the year 1156, the Annals of the Four Masters¹⁰ record the burning of Achadh-mic-Airt. The priory here paid £2 annually to the Bishop of Ossory for proxies. It was the burial-place for the Fitzpatricks, lords of the barony.¹¹ On the 10th of April, in the

²¹⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i. p. 14.

²¹⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 13.

¹ It is defined on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 28, 29, 34, 35.

² See his edition of "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., p. 1119, n. (y).

³ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 109.

⁴ Such is the statement of Archdall, who quotes Conry, as an authority, in the "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 591, and n. (z).

⁵ According to Alemande, "Histoire Monastique d'Irlande," p. 378.

⁶ See Harris "Ware," vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xxxviii., p. 264.

⁷ See his communication dated Mount-rath, November 28th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 94.

⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 95.

⁹ There is a rude wood engraving of these from a drawing made by Lieutenant Daniel C. Grose, for the "Irish Penny Magazine" of Dec. 7th, 1833. A description accompanies this sketch. See vol. i., No. 49, pp. 385, 386.

¹⁰ See Dr. John O'Donovan's edition, vol. ii., pp. 1118, 1119.

¹¹ See the "Irish Penny Magazine," vol. i., No. 49, p. 385.

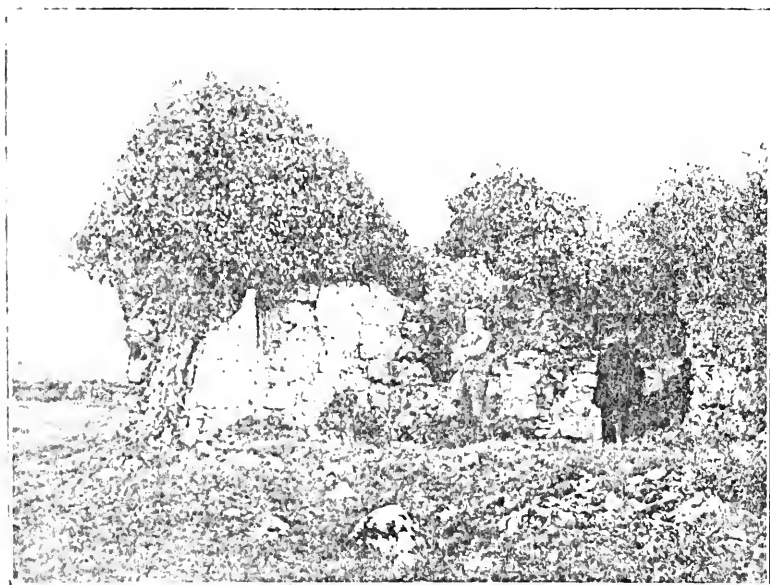
¹² Said in Grose's "Antiquities of



NORTH VIEW OF AGHMART PRIORY.

From Goose's *Antiquities*, 1791.

See page 176.



Antiquities
Vol. I.

KILMAINHAM PRIORY.

[Rev. E. O'L.]
See page 180.

43rd year of Queen Elizabeth's reign a grant was made to Florence Fitzpatrick of this priory, with the appurtenances and the tithes of corn and hay; also the rectory of Aghamacart, with the tithes of Cowlhill,¹² together with the monastery of Aghaboe,¹³ and the rectory of Cowlkerry,¹⁴ parcel of the monastery of St. Thomas, near Dublin, at the annual rent of £23 8s. 2d., the rectories of Aghenmaghe, without the alterages, at the annual rent of 26s. 8d.; Aghtert, *alias* Cirke, 13s. 4d., besides the alterages; and the rectory of Kelline,¹⁵ at the annual rent of £10; to hold the same in fee-farm.¹⁶ Killeny is said¹⁷ to have been situated in Upper Ossory; but, if so, we cannot find any corresponding name for a parish there at the present time. Yet, in this parish there are two townlands, named respectively Killenny Beg or Knocknagrally, containing 130 *a.* 3 *r.* 33 *p.*, and Kilenny More or Toberboc, containing 621 *a.* 1 *r.* 18 *p.*; ¹⁸ these probably forming the old rectory. We are told, however, that the living was worth, in 1640, £15 per annum. In 1657 it had eleven townlands and a parsonage impropriate, with a vicarage belonging to the church. Then it was worth £47 per annum, and it was held under letters patent. The vicarage was worth £23 per annum, and the whole was set at £14 for the use of the Commonwealth. In an old document, taken at Maryborough, in the ninth year¹⁹ of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and dated June 17th, it is stated that at the death of Rory O'More²⁰ himself and his father²¹ had from MacGilpatricke on mortgage, "Killenye for nyne score marks." This seems to be the Killenye to which the foregoing statement refers; ²² while the chieftain of Leix, to whom allusion is made, must have been Rory Caech or "the one-eyed," as he is styled by the Four Masters, and who is spoken of ²³ as having been recently dead in 1546. After this period, the territories of Leix and Offaly were oppressed by the English, while their chiefs, Gilla-Patrick O'More and Brian O'Conor, who had risen in arms to oppose them, were obliged to flee for protection into Connaught, in 1547.²⁴ Aghmacart had 22 acres and 79 perches of glebe, in the year 1657.²⁵ In 1745, Ephraim Dawson, Esq., was the assignee of its lands.²⁶ It contained fifteen townlands, and it was an impropriate vicarage, worth £91 in the year 1640. The parsonage, church,

Ireland" to have been Cow-hill or Cullan-hill.

¹³ To this we have already alluded in the preceding article.

¹⁴ Now Coolkerry.

¹⁵ Or Kiline.

¹⁶ According to the Auditor-General's Accounts.

¹⁷ In Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, pp. 7, 8.

¹⁸ They are shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," sheet 35.

¹⁹ The regnal years of Queen Elizabeth are dated from November 17th, 1558. See Sir Harris Nicolas' "Chronology of History," p. 338. This year, therefore, should be 1568.

²⁰ He was killed at a place called Killnesperokye—probably the townland

now named Kylespidodge, in Moyanna Parish.

²¹ Connell McMelaghlin O'More.

²² Mr. Thomas O'Conor wrongly supposes it has relation to Killeany Parish near the great heath of Maryborough, in his letter, dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., pp. 183, 184.

²³ By Walter Cowley.

²⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1500, 1501.

²⁵ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 7.

²⁶ See Harris's Ware, vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xxxviii., p. 264.

and monastery, in this parish, were then totally demolished. The parish, not being two miles long, had no minister. Its patronage was vested in Lord Upper Ossory and in Florence Fitzpatrick, Esq. This noble family held the right of advowson to Aghmacart, Cahir, Killine, and Coolkerry; the church presentment resting in the Earl of Upper Ossory, even when the parish itself became the property of the Right Hon. the Earl of Portarlington.²⁷

Several ruins of the old building yet remain. They stand on a gentle eminence in the midst of a rich and well-cultivated country.²⁸ A gate at the entrance, with a well-turned arch of good workmanship, is a remarkable feature, with stone sockets for the gate to move in. Through the attention and care of the Right Rev. Dr. Poccocke, whilst he presided as Protestant Bishop in the See of Ossory, a part of these ruins were repaired, and were used as the parish church.²⁹ In the townland of Cullohill in this parish are the ruins of an old castle, about ninety feet in height, which tradition supposes to have belonged to the Butlers.³⁰

The living of Aghmacart was a vicarage, in the diocese of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin, and with the vicarages of Cahir and Killeen, it was united episcopally and by act of council; ³¹ the rectory became impropriate to the Fitzpatricks. In 1837, the tithes of the union amounted to £466 13s. 4d. of which £300 was payable to the impropiators and the remainder to the vicar.³² In 1831, the population of this parish was 3,373; in 1834, the Protestants of Aghmacart were 107 in number, the Roman Catholics, 2,171; while in 1841, the united population was 3,667. The houses were 858.³³

CHAPTER VIII.—PARISH OF ARDEA OR ARDREA.

THE area of Ardea or Ardrea parish, in the barony of Portnahinch, is estimated at 7,726 a. ¹ It contains a part of the town of Mountmellick, and the village of Irishstown. It lies along the road leading from Maryborough to Monasterevan, and it is nearly midway between these towns. Also the road from Mountmellick to Monasterevan passes through it, each being about five miles distant. The Triogue River runs through it northwards to where it joins the Barrow. A branch of the Grand Canal leads through it from Monasterevan to Mountmellick. The

²⁷ See the "Irish Penny Magazine," vol. i., No. 49, p. 386.

²⁸ Towards the end of 1833, Lieutenant Daniel C. Grose adds that it rose "by degrees into hills covered with crops of grain, waving in rank luxuriance interspersed with dark green fields of Ireland's favourite root, the potato; relieved at intervals by the more lively tint of the gracefully bending flax, with here and there a patch of bog, the deep purple of its surface forming a striking contrast to the variegated green that covers the upland, the meadows, and the pasture."—"Irish Penny Magazine," vol. i., No. 49, p. 385.

²⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 591.

³⁰ See John O'Donovan's communication already quoted, p. 95.

³¹ The value of this living was £210 in the patronage of the Ladies Fitzpatrick who lived in Aghmacart Cottage. See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i. p. 33.

³² See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 93.

³³ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., pp. 109, 110.

¹ Its extent is defined on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 4, 7, 8.

sites of old churches and of a friary are marked on the Ordnance Survey maps as being within the bounds of Ardea parish.² Yet it is not locally known by the name as a distinct parish, it being merged at present in that of Coolbanagher. The soil is fertile in part, although a considerable portion of it is under bog and marshes. In the northern part of this parish, and to the south of the River Barrow, is the townland of Portnahinch, which gave name to the whole of the Barony.³ As its English equivalent means "the island-fort," it seems likely that there had been a fort or castle here on the Barrow in former times, although no trace or tradition regarding it now remains.⁴

This parish—also written Ardee—was usually included under that of Coolbanagher, and the same Protestant incumbent had charge of both. The glebe-house,⁵ built in 1790, and the church were in the Ardee district, while the crown was reputed the patron. In 1804, the Rev. Robert Vicars was the incumbent,⁶ and this year Ardea or Ardea was united with Coolbanagher, the tithes amounting to £276 18s. 5½d. per annum. The extent of the union, as apportioned under the Tithe Act, was 15,763 statute acres; while the tithes for the whole amounted to £536 6s. 1½d. per annum. The Protestant church was erected at the expense of a former Earl of Portarlington, and it stands on the summit of an eminence, not far from the southern extremity of this union. The village of Emo lies within it, and there, a very handsome Catholic church in the Gothic style has been lately erected. The recumbent figure of the Countess of Portarlington, on her marble altar-tomb within it, is a much admired work of sculptural art.

In this parish are several remains of antiquity. The venerable ruins of Shane or Shehan Castle—formerly called Sion—are to be seen. This was the head of a manor in 1397, and it was in possession of Sir Robert Preston. It was seized in 1641 by the Irish Confederates, but in the following year, it was taken from them by Sir Charles Coote. Owen Roe O'Neill again took possession of it in 1646, but, it was finally surrendered to Colonels Hewson and Reynolds in 1650. These demolished the out-works and only left the walls as they now appear on a high, conical hill. During the eighteenth century, the old castle had been reclaimed by Rev. Dean Coote, who converted it into a very pleasant residence.⁷ On Tinekill townland is shown the site of an old castle, still in a tolerable state of preservation. It appears on the old Map of 1781 and 1782, and to the South-west of it there is a church marked *Killogan*.⁸ The castle of Tinekill⁹ was tenanted by the MacDonnells in the seventeenth century, and the interior presents illustrations of

² The parish of Ardee or as written Ardrea, thus given on the authority of the House of Commons Population Returns for 1821, is briefly described by Thomas O'Connor in a letter dated Stradbally, December, 8th, 1835 in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. 1, pp. 192 to 195.

³ This is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 4.

⁴ In Portnahinch townland there is an old church in ruins, within Portnahinch House demesne.

⁵ The glebe comprised 26½ acres.

⁶ See John C. Erck's "Ecclesiastical Register for Ireland, 1827," p. 103.

⁷ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i.

⁸ Mr. O'Connor could not identify the latter with any of those old churches mentioned, nor with any name or feature in the parish of Ardea. Perhaps, he says, it may be one of the churches which having lost its ancient appellation

former masonry. Access to the roof is by a winding stone stairs, which enables the visitor to see from the top battlements over a flat extent of country. The ruined castle of Moret, on a gentle elevation and formerly possessed by the Fitzgeralds, is yet to be seen.¹⁰ Its owners shared in some of the troubles of warfare, carried on in the seventeenth century.

Several churches were formerly within this parish, now only to be traced by their ruins.¹¹ Thus on the townland of Acragar is a ruined church locally known as the Ivy Chapel—doubtless, because the walls have been covered with ivy—and a much resorted grave-yard surrounds it. The ruins of a church are on the Commons of New Church. There is a Friary site in ruins on Kilmainham townland. Within Ardea, there was an old church now in ruins on Dangan's townland. An old burying-place is in Killeen townland.¹² Moreover, in the Ecclesiastical Taxation of Ireland, 1302-6, there was a church at Moyrett, valued at 100 shillings, the Tenth of which was 10 shillings; ¹³ but no trace of its site is now known. The vicarage being rated for only 30 shillings did not come within the limit of taxation.¹⁴

In 1841, the population of this parish was 5,185, and living in 845 houses. The inhabitants of the rural districts were in number 3,603, and living in 594 houses. Ardea was a rectory charged in the King's Books at £10 3s. 10½d.,¹⁵ and it was a *quoad civilia* parish included in the ecclesiastical parish of Coolbanagher.¹⁶

CHAPTER IX.—PARISH OF ATTANAGH.

THE parish of Attanagh, which is situated partly in the Barony of Clarmallagh in the Queen's County,¹ but chiefly in that of Fassadinning in the County of Kilkenny,² lies to the south-east of Castle Durrow. The lands within it are well cultivated, and tolerably fertile. There was a tradition regarding an old church having been within its bounds; but there seems to be nothing of antiquarian interest at present.³ On the west the parish is touched by the River Nore, and south-westerly it is traversed by one of that river's affluents.

now goes by the modern name of the Ivy Church. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 194.

⁹ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 8.

¹⁰ The reader may find some humorously sketched reminiscences of this old castle and its occupants in Sir Jonah Barrington's "Personal Sketches and Recollections of his own Times." See the chapter headed "Elizabeth Fitzgerald."

¹¹ These are noticed by Thomas O'Connor in a communication, dated, Stradbally, December, 8th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's

County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 193.

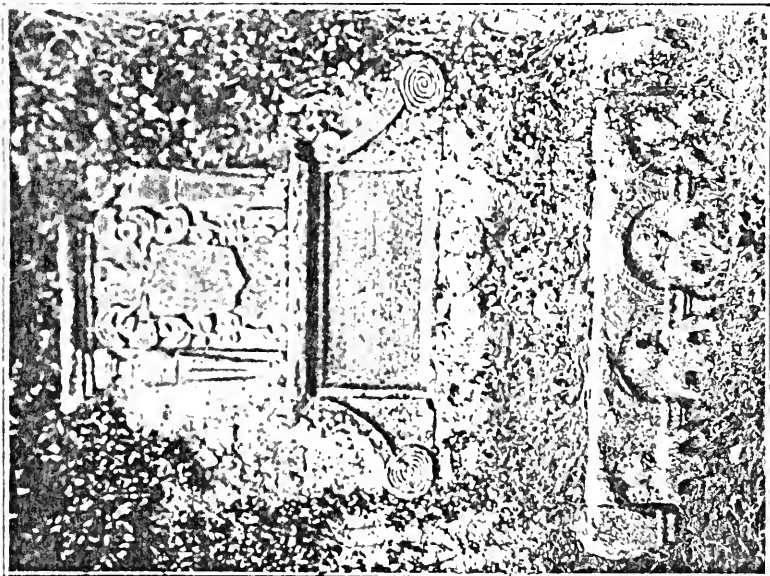
¹² All the foregoing sites are shewn on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 8.

¹³ See "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London, 1302-1307," Edited by the late H. S. Sweetman, B.A., Trin. Coll., Dublin, M.R.I.A., Barrister-at-law, and continued by Gustavus Frederick Handcock of the Public Record Office, p. 248. The editors have identified the place with Morett, in the Barony of Portmahinch, Queen's County. See p. 247.

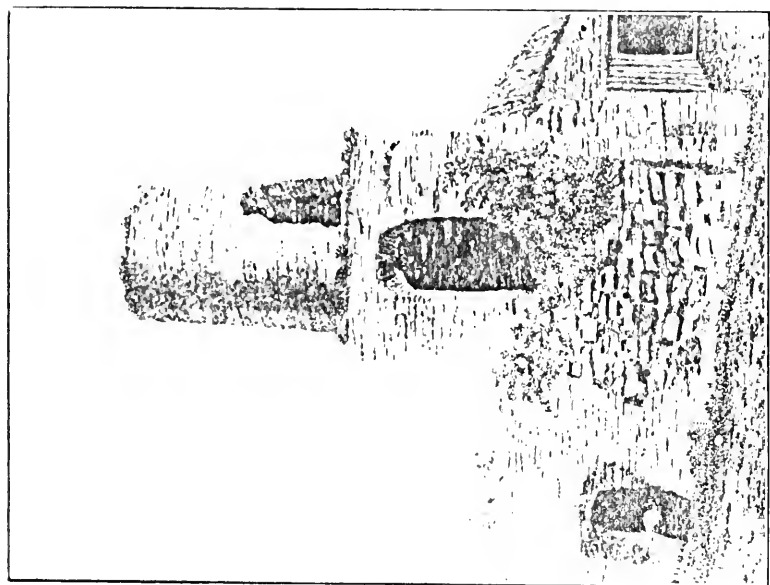
¹⁴ See *ibid.*

¹⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 64.

¹⁶ See *ibid.*, p. 497.



THE BOWEN MONUMENT,
Ballyaddams Church. [Rev. E. O'L.,
Photo by]



MARYBORO' FORT,
From Grose's *Antiquities*.

In the Protestant arrangement this parish was a vicarage in the Diocese of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin;⁴ and with the vicarage of Aharney and the rectories of Kilmenan and Rosconnell it constituted the benefice of Attanagh. Before the Disestablishment the vicarial tithes were compounded for £46 3s. 1d.; the rectorial tithes were appropriate, but their value is not stated. The gross income was £541 6s. 3½d.; the nett, £453 8s. 7d. The diocesan was patron. The church, situated in Attanagh was built in 1821, by means of a loan of £738 9s. 2½d. from the Board of First Fruits.⁵ At Balyoukel in this parish was a Roman Catholic chapel of ease, attended by from 730 to 750 worshippers, and served by the priests living at Ballyragget. In 1834 the Protestants of Attanagh parish amounted to 68, while the Roman Catholics numbered 721⁶.



CHAPTER X.—PARISH OF BALLYADAMS.

THE Parish of Ballyadams has given name to the barony, in which it is situated;¹ but it also extends, in a lesser proportion of area, into the adjoining Barony of Stradbally.² This place is written Baile Adam, when reference is made to it in A.D. 1546.³ According to John O'Donovan, the Irish name is resolvable into Adam's town, or *bally*, or residence;⁴ but we have no account regarding the Adam from whom its name has been received.⁵ There is a considerable portion of good land arable, with some bog and woodland, within this parish.

At present this district includes an ecclesiastical parish, formerly called Ballintubbert or Ballintobber, also designated Fonstown; but, as both parishes have been long consolidated into one benefice, and as their respective limits cannot now be exactly ascertained, it becomes necessary to treat the civil and social condition of this union under the heading of Ballyadams.⁶ However, its original bounds seem to be

¹ This portion containing 630 a. 2 r. 14 p. is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 29, 35.

² This portion containing 1,930 a. 0 r. 29 p. is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Kilkenny," Sheets 1, 4, 5.

³ Such is the statement of John O'Donovan, who dismisses it with a brief notice in a letter dated Mountrath, November 20th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., pp. 102, 103.

⁴ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 124.

⁵ It contained sittings for 150, while the average attendance varied from 40 to 80.

⁶ The Protestants of the Union amounted to 115, and the Roman

Catholics to 3,967, at that time. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 105.

¹ This parish is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 19, 20, 25, 26. This portion contains 6,313 a. 2 r. 19 p.

² This portion only comprises 395 a. 1 r. 1 p.

³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1496, 1497, and n. (1).

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, pp. 1 to 4.

⁵ "Perhaps," suggests Mr. O'Donovan, "he was Adam O'More?"—*Ibid.*

⁶ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 151.

⁷ Rosbran, Shrouquill, Ratherique,

determined by the succeeding denominations. Besides Ballyadams townland, we find the following townlands—Loughlass, Fallaghmore, Drumroe, Garroonagh, Whitebog, Killyganard, Ratherrig, Rathgilbert, Cappanafeale, Sronscull, and Parkaboughill—which appear to have constituted its original parish. The limits of Ballyadams Barony are coloured red on Sir William Petty's Map of the Queen's County. The following churches are represented on it, as lying near the River Barrow, *viz.*:—Donbrin, Tankardstown Killebban, and Monksgrange. Also the following castles, *viz.*:—Ballintlea, Cronagh, Ballyadams, Kilmacready, Milltowne, and Ballilehan. Likewise the following denominations are found, *viz.*:—B:tuber, Fontstown, Monyscriban, Shronquila, Rossban, Rathkilliganer, Rathirique, Feramore, Rathgilbert, Rathaspug, Oldcort, Clonepeirc, Shehanagh, Coolegaragh, B:foyle, and Killteen. A stream is represented as passing south-westwards to the Barrow. This map appears to comprise five divisions.

The old church of this parish was situated within a cemetery, and on an eminence. It is now in ruins, and from old records, Kilmackeady seems to have been the original name of Ballyadams old church. It may mean "the Church of MacAedh." ⁷ The ruined building of Ballyadams was about 66 feet long, and 18 broad. It consisted of a nave and choir, the latter being 22 feet in length.⁸ The most remarkable object in the grave yard of Ballyadams was the monument of the Bowen family, who were colonists in the neighbourhood, when the tribe-lands of the O'Mores had been parcelled out among the early English settlers in the Queen's County. The country traditions, regarding the cruelties practised by this family against the native Irish, have caused this tomb to be pulled asunder, within the last century, and now its former characteristics are scarcely distinguishable. On the entablature were the Bowens' arms quartered with those of Hartpole, and the crest is composed of those representing Bowen and Harpole; that is, a helmet for the former, and a hart or stag for the latter.⁹ In the Bowens' arms are the insignia of the order of Baronets; though Sir John, and not his father Robert, was the first who bore that dignity.¹⁰ On the sarcophagus lay the effigies of Robert Bowen, Esq., and Alice Harpole. Mr. Bowen was dressed in the buff armour and morion, and Mrs. Bowen in the close dress of the times. In the front of the sarcophagus, under four distinct niches, were the figures of their four children, that is, Joan Bowen the 2nd, Margaret Bowen, Thomas Bowen the 4th, and Oliver Bowen the 3rd. At the foot end were Sir John Bowen the eldest son, and Thela Ellis Bowen, wife to Sir John. At the head were Alles Bowen and six more, with Margaret Bowen the third. The names of all these were

Rathgilbert, and Feraghmore, with Rathkilliganer, are found on General Vallancy's Map of this Parish.

⁸ In the year 1838, Mr. O'Donovan deemed this old church to have been "about three or four hundred years old."—"Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1839," vol. ii. Letter dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, p. 3.

⁹ In the "Anthologia Hibernica,"

vol. iv., p. 161, there is an excellent copper-plate engraving of the Bowen monument, erected by Sir John Bowen to the memory of his father, Robert Bowen, Esq., and to the wife of the latter, Alice Harpole, or Hartpoole. This lady was the daughter of Sir Robert Hartpoole of Shruel, the Comtable of Carlow Castle in 1577, and member of Parliament for the Queen's County in the year 1585. A description of this tomb is given by a writer in the foregoing monthly periodical.

carved on the arches over their heads; yet it did not appear that they were all dead on the erection of the monument, but rather they were the children then living and dead; that is, three sons and four daughters. The daughters were Alice, Joan, and two Margarets. The sons were John, Thomas, Oliver, and Thomas, of whom one, Thomas, died before the birth of the other. The monument was about eight feet high, of grey stone, and but indifferently cut.¹¹

The Parish of Ballyadams is situated along the road, leading from Carlow to Stradbally. The living was a rectory and a vicarage in the diocese of Leighlin, with the rectory and vicarage of Ballintubber united from time immemorial. The patronage was long disputed, under the protestant establishment, but the Bishop presented during late years.¹² The tithes of the united parishes amounted to £553 10s. 11d.; but there was neither glebe nor glebe-house in this parish.¹³

As to whether or not the manor of Ballyadams was one of their original grants we have no information; but Robert Bowen was possessed of it in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, although the castle is much older than that time. He built the church in which his monument was erected by his son. His family were as expressed on the monument. His eldest son John Bowen was knighted, and not created a baronet. As the arms seem to imply. He married, first, Thalia Ellis, daughter

¹¹ Underneath the arms are, in Roman capitals, ROBERT BOWEN AND ALICE HARRINGTON. Mr. O'Donovan, however, has the date 1579 in his Ordnance Survey Letter, dated Carlow, September 10th, 1837. On the south wall was the following epitaph, in Roman capitals and in a Latin —

AN EPITAPH ON THE GRAVE OF ROBERT BOWEN

"His name prevent not, every reader's eye."

Man well perceive it in this tomb

How long he lived, how long he died, whose

name was written on his grave within

Whose worth & that, but itself on

Whose great descent was first from

Whose ever-lasting virtues live;

Whose name's eternal, he can

¹² The name of Bohun family is very ancient, being originally descended from the Norman Kings of England.

Humphrey de Bohun, in the reign of Henry II, by right of his wife Margaret, eldest daughter of Milo, Earl of Hereford, was hereditary high constable of England, an office retained in that family ten generations, until the reign of Edward III, when the male line of the Bohuns terminating in the person of Humphrey de Bohun, the last of that

name in England, the office of high constable devolved to the Duke of Buckingham in right of his descent from the eldest daughter of the last Humphrey de Bohun, whose claim, however, was not admitted by Henry VIII., and the office was discontinued. Humphrey de Bohun the elder, and first high constable of that name, came into Ireland with Henry II, and was by that Prince made governor of Waterford, having under him Robert Fitz-Bernard and Hugh de Gunleville; but it does not appear he settled in this country or obtained any grants therein. Humphrey de Bohun, his descendant and Earl of Hereford, married Elizabeth, the fourth daughter of Edward I, from whom the Bohuns or Bowens, who afterwards settled in Ireland, are supposed to be descended. Though we have no particular account of their establishment in this country, it was probably one of the sons of the said Princess Elizabeth, as the name became extinct in the person of her grandson about fifty years after. On which account the Bohuns quarter their arms with those of Edward I, two lions passant; their own paternal arms with a nag's head, which they quartered with those of Milo, Earls of Hereford, as expressed on the former monument.

¹³ In 1846 the Patrons were successively Miss Southwell, P. Maguire, Esq., and — Brierley, Esq.

¹⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. 1, p. 121.

¹⁵ His memory is held in detestation

of — Ellis, Esq., who died without issue; and, secondly, Margaret, daughter of Sir William Donvile, Attorney-General of Ireland. Sir John was active in keeping possession of the country during the Irish Insurrection of 1641; and from being, on constantly going abroad, armed with a pike, he obtained in Irish the name of *Shawn-a-Ficha*, or John with his pike.¹⁴ His eldest son by his second marriage, William Bowen, Esq., died 11th April, 1686, without male issue, leaving three daughters co-heirs, his son having died some time before his father.¹⁵ Lucy, the youngest, married Colonel Southwell, who distinguished himself at the siege of Monjuich, in 1705. The eldest married — Butler, Esq., and the second Arthur Brereton, Esq., of the Queen's County, whose descendants occupied in three divisions the Ballyadams estate. A short distance towards the north-west of this church stands the old Castle of Ballyadams—said to have been built by O'More—and it belonged to one of this name in 1546, when it was taken by the Lord Justice who proceeded from Athy, with a numerous army, into the territory of Leix. He was assisted on that occasion by the Earl of Desmond and a large army. They remained for fifteen days plundering the country, and they left warders in the Castle of Ballyadams.¹⁶ The ruins of the embattled walls of the castle are embosomed in venerable trees. The keep consists of several storeys, and it is of very commanding height, being inhabited in the last century. Its projecting towers produce an interesting and a highly picturesque effect.¹⁷ Some little distance north-eastwards from the old castle are the remains of a large rath. During the Insurrection of 1641 this castle was besieged.¹⁸

Kilmackeady had four townlands, and it was an entire rectory, worth in 1640 £40 per annum, and worth only £12 in 1657.¹⁹ Its church was out of repair, at this latter period, and it had no minister. Among other antiquities in the parish, there was a ruined chapel at Doonbrin, which may be Anglicized "The Fort of Bran," in this parish, and it lay on the western bank of the Barrow. Within the townland of Lower Dunbrin, there is a remarkable Rath or Dun, which is easily reached by a road near Heathfield House, and which leads eastward from that high road between Athy and Carlow, on the west side of the Barrow. In Upper Dunbrin there is a smaller Rath, within a planted enclosure. Near Ballyadams grave-yard and within a copse wood are two wells; one of these is called Toberneeve, and the other Tobernasool. The Roman Catholic Chapel of this district, and a National School are not far removed. Ballyadams is the head of a Catholic parish, having also chapels at Luggacurren and Wolfhill. On the townlands named there is also a large circular rath. The parish of Ballyadams contains

by the country people, on account of his alleged cruelties

¹⁵ There is another family of the BOWENS in Ireland, but whether descended from any of the younger sons of Sir John Bowen before mentioned, or from another branch of the BOWENS, is not known. See the "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iv., pp. 161 to 163, for the month of September, 1794.

¹⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1496, 1497.

¹⁷ See J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 103.

¹⁸ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 122.

¹⁹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General view of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect 3, p. 12.

²⁰ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 151.

²¹ See *ibid.*

some handsome residences. Among these may be enumerated Kellyville, Ballintobber, Tallyho, Southfield, Rathgilbert, Popefield, and Heathfield. In 1831, the population was 2,165.²⁰ The tithie composition and gross income was £437; the nett was £407 15s. 4d. The curate had a stipend of £75 per annum in 1846.²¹ In 1841, the population of Ballyadams parish was 2,051,²² and the houses were 374.

Within this parish is the district called and written Ballintubbert or Ballintubber, which may be Anglicized "the town of the well." In the beginning of the seventeenth century, it appears to have been a separate parish and rectory, although now included as a townland within the parish of Ballyadams. The Irish name of Ballintubber, after the settlement of Leix by the English colonizers, was changed into Fonestown: but the former name, which the native population used, is now the only one remaining. Fonestown had a non-resident rector, but a resident vicar, in 1616.²³ The rector was Robert Ram, Master of Arts, and a college student at the time. This living was worth £10. The vicar was Arthur Bladesmith, a reading minister. The church and its chancel were in good repair, with books, etc. The site of its ancient church is not now remembered. A Protestant church and school-house at present are situated close by Ballintubbert House and ornamental grounds; while this serves also for the union of Ballyadams. A small village is near it. The two parishes of which this benefice consisted have the *alias* appellations of Ballyadams of Ballintobber and Fonestown of Ballintobber.²⁴ Fonestown or Fonestown had five townlands,²⁵ and the Commonwealth received the profit in 1657, when the parish had no church and no minister.²⁶ In Fonestown parish, are the townlands of Cronagh,²⁷ having a stone house in repair; Kilmalea,²⁸ Ballintubber,²⁹ and Monastriban.³⁰ In the latter places, a slated house and a ruined church are noted. It is possible Monastriban means "the monastery of Abban." It is not far from Killabban Church.

A modern structure, called Cobler's Castle, is built on the summit of a remarkable rock, called Carrigatuder, within Ballintlea townland. This nondescript and solid-stone pile was erected some time during the eighteenth century, to give employment for labourers in that neighbourhood, and it may be classed with one of the many Irish "tollies," which are still shown as a distinctive class of unmeaning objects, yet

²⁰ See Fullarton's "Gazetteer of the W. of I." vol. 1, p. 34.

²¹ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. 1, p. 147.

²³ Four of these townlands are accounted for in a subsequent paragraph. There is another called Rathmore evidently an ancient denomination, and derived from a rath of considerable size, to be seen within it. Also, on this townland is to be seen the site of Kilmalee graveyard. The denominations of Kellyville and Southfield townlands are evidently modern, and taken from out of the older divisions.

²⁴ See Sir Charles Coote's "General

View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 12.

²⁵ Evidently Crannagh townland, in the parish of Ballyadams.

²⁶ Now Ballintlea, in the parish of Ballyadams, and still pronounced Ballintlea by the country people.

²⁷ Otherwise Ballintubbert. The translation of this is Fonestown, and it is a townland now lying within the parish of Ballyadams.

²⁸ Now the townland of Monastriban, in the parish of Ballyadams. It is spelled Monestribban on General Vallancy's Maps, vol. ii., No. 66, Irish Record Office, Dublin.

²⁹ A very favourable account of his

designed for the purpose of employing labour. The beautiful demesne of Kellyville, formerly the seat of Judge Kelly,³¹ of the Common Pleas, and Southfield House,³² are within this present division of Ballyadams parish. The rectory and vicarage of Ballintubbert,³³ in the Diocese of Leighlin, are united with those of Ballyadams, and its tithes were included in the composition for the latter parish.³⁴ Further illustrations of the Catholic History of Ballyadams parish relating to its old divisions, including Tullomoy, Ballyquillane, Fontstowne or Ballintubber, Tecolme, and part of Rathaspick, are to be found in the Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's work.³⁵

CHAPTER XI.—PARISH OF BALLYROAN.

THIS parish is situated in the north-west border of the barony of Cullenagh, and it contains 9,682 *a. or.* 1 *p.*¹ of land, about 800 of which is under bog, and the rest arable or pasture. A town or village, bearing the same name, appears to have been of some antiquity.² The parish is traversed south-south-westward by the old coach-road, leading from Dublin to Cork.³ Near the village is a remarkable moat, which ascends to a considerable height, and which has a terraced passage, winding around its sides to the topmost plateau. A deep trench surrounds the raised enclosure, which is planted over with trees. A castle is thought to have been here, as on the margin of a loose folio vellum Manuscript in T.C.D.,⁴ there is a note in Irish which states, that Conall, the son of David O'More, King of Leix, re-erected the castle of Dunmase (*i.e.* Cainen Mase) after having taken it from the English: and built the castle of Baile atha in roine—supposed⁵ to be a mistake for an Irish rendering of Ballyroan.⁶ On the old Map of Leix and Ophaly, Ballyrone is marked, as also Tolouer, now Tullore, and Dromselege, now Drimashellig, a townland in this parish. Coulinleigh and Koulinagh is marked on the old Map of Leix and Ophaly.

We find, that Ballrony was an impropriate rectory, with residence in 1616.⁷ Thomas Mauby (*idem*) was minister and preacher, with books

high character and wit is contained in Sir Jonah Barrington's "Personal Sketches and Recollections," in the chapter "Anecdotes of Irish Judges."

³² Formerly the residence of the respected and accomplished Richard Grace, Esq., M.P., of Boley. See J. N. Brewer, "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 103, 104.

³³ The ruins of Ballintubbert old church are marked on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 19.

³⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 120.

³⁵ See "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 124 to 134.

¹ It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 18, 23, 24, 30.

² There is a castle and church called Basuone—we suppose it is a misspelling—in the division of Tovachlov, on the old Map of Leax, published in the "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society," vol. iv. New series, part ii., p. 345. This denomination is probably intended for Ballroan.

³ Thomas O'Connor, in a letter dated Carlow, December 23rd, 1838, describes Ballyroan parish in "Letters containing information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., pp. 250 to 266.

⁴ It is classed H. 2. 18.

⁵ By Mr. O'Connor in his letter of December 23, 1838. See vol. ii., p. 260.

⁶ Thus set down, Baile a'á m'áin.

designed for the purpose of employing labour. The beautiful demesne of Kellyville, formerly the seat of Judge Kelly,³¹ of the Common Pleas, and Southfield House,³² are within this present division of Ballyadams parish. The rectory and vicarage of Ballintubbert,³³ in the Diocese of Leighlin, are united with those of Ballyadams, and its tithes were included in the composition for the latter parish.³⁴ Further illustrations of the Catholic History of Ballyadams parish relating to its old divisions, including Tullomoy, Ballyquillane, Fontstowne or Ballintubber, Tacolme, and part of Rathspick, are to be found in the Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's work.³⁵

CHAPTER XI.—PARISH OF BALLYROAN.

THIS parish is situated in the north-west border of the barony of Cullenagh, and it contains 9,682 *a. or.* 1 *p.*¹ of land, about 800 of which is under bog, and the rest arable or pasture. A town or village, bearing the same name, appears to have been of some antiquity.² The parish is traversed south-south-westward by the old coach-road, leading from Dublin to Cork.³ Near the village is a remarkable moat, which ascends to a considerable height, and which has a terraced passage, winding around its sides to the topmost plateau. A deep trench surrounds the raised enclosure, which is planted over with trees. A castle is thought to have been here, as on the margin of a loose folio vellum Manuscript in T.C.D.,⁴ there is a note in Irish which states, that Conall, the son of David O'More, King of Leix, re-erected the castle of Dunmase (*i.e.* Cainen Mase) after having taken it from the English: and built the castle of Baile atha in roine—supposed⁵ to be a mistake for an Irish rendering of Ballyroan.⁶ On the old Map of Leix and Ophaly, Ballyrone is marked, as also Tolouer, now Tullore, and Dromselege, now Drimashellig, a townland in this parish. Coulmleigh and Koulinagh is marked on the old Map of Leix and Ophaly.

We find, that Ballrony was an impropriate rectory, with residence in 1616.⁷ Thomas Mauby (*idem*) was minister and preacher, with books

high character and wit is contained in Sir Jonah Barrington's "Personal Sketches and Recollections," in the chapter "Anecdotes of Irish Judges."

³² Formerly the residence of the respected and accomplished Richard Grace, Esq., M.P., of Boley. See J. N. Brewer, "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 103. 104.

³³ The ruins of Ballintubbert old church are marked on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 19.

³⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 120.

³⁵ See "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 124 to 134.

¹ It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 18, 23, 24, 30.

² There is a castle and church called Basuone—we suppose it is a misspelling—in the division of Tovachlov, on the old Map of Leax, published in the "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society," vol. iv. New series, part ii., p. 345. This denomination is probably intended for Balliroan.

³ Thomas O'Connor, in a letter dated Carlow, December 23rd, 1838, describes Ballyroan parish in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., pp. 250 to 266.

⁴ It is classed H. 2. 18.

⁵ By Mr. O'Connor in his letter of December 23, 1838. See vol. ii., p. 260.

⁶ Thus set down, Baile a'á m'iom.

The church and chancel were kept in repair. The parish and town of Balliroane are represented on Sir William Petty's Map of Cullenagh barony. A few houses mark the site of the town; and a considerable stripe of bog is marked. In the next map to Clonkeene or Cloneheen on an enlarged scale is Ballroane parish. Its town is represented by a group of seven detached houses near its celebrated moat. The town-land denominations are, Balliroane, Rahinbroge, Ballinlogh, Cloncullan, Crubin, Ballmone (?), Cashell. The arable, meadow, pasture and bog lands are shown in the number of acres, roods, and perches, as admeasured by Ambrose Yorke, A.D. 1650. The detached Balligormill of Fossey parish is shown in like manner on this map.⁸

In the village, there was a Protestant school, endowed by Alderman Preston with lands in Cappaloughlan. The school was a large slated building erected at a cost of £500. The schoolmaster was a Master of Arts from Trinity College, Dublin, who, with an usher, gave a classical and English education in 1834, 1835, 1836,⁹ to about fifty boarders and day scholars.¹⁰ His stipend was £55 per annum.¹¹ In subsequent years the school was removed to Rockfield House near the village; while a Police Barrack and Dispensary have been built on the former site. The Preston foundation of late has been removed to Abbeyleix, where a new school has been provided, under altered regulations.

The Cullenagh Mountains lie within Ballyroan parish, on the eastern border; and these consist of three distinct peaks, distinguished as the Black Mountain, the Middle Mountain, and Slieve Bawn, the former, which is the highest, attaining an altitude of 1,045 feet. Coal appears to exist in this highest mountain, where shafts have been sunk and a level made at some remote time. Indications of coal are in other parts of this parish especially near the town of Ballyroan, on the bank of a rivulet. On the slope of the Black Mountain, the Barringtons, who had a splendid estate in Cullinagh Barony, built a castellated mansion, the remains of which are still to be seen. In it they lived for generations and through stormy times in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the eighteenth century, it was called by the peasantry, Cullenaghmote House. When young, Sir Jonah Barrington¹² lived in it with his grandfather, Colonel Jonah Barrington. Many amusing local anecdotes are introduced, in "Personal Recollections and Sketches of his own Times," in connexion with this house.¹³ The remnant of their large estate was sold to Sir John Parnell, and when the Barringtons

⁸ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitations."

⁹ Nearly corresponding with the foregoing is General Vallan's Map of the barony of Cullenagh, vol. ii., No. 67.

¹⁰ During these years the head-master was Mr. Arthur Hutchins, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin.

¹¹ The Protestant day-boys, according to the stipulation of the founder, received a gratuitous education; the Roman Catholics paid £1 a quarter for their day schooling.

¹² See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 163.

¹³ In the biography of Sir Jonah Barrington, LL.D. and which is con-

tained in W. D. S. Taylor's "History of the University of Dublin," chap. xi., sect. i., pp. 484 to 488, he is called the youngest son of Colonel Barrington, of Cullenagh, incorrectly placed in the County of Kilkenny.

¹⁴ In boyhood, the writer of these articles had a personal knowledge of some of the characters mentioned, who were then living.

¹⁵ The writer, when very young, well recollects some amusing anecdotes of this gentleman, told by old peasants who remembered him. He was remarkable for ready wit and humour, as also for kindly sympathies and charities towards the people, which made him highly popular.

left their family mansion, a Mr. Anderson,¹⁴ the Catholic agent of Sir John, lived in it, and fitted up a small chapel in the hamlet of Cullenagh adjoining, for the accommodation of himself and the Catholic tenants.¹⁵ Afterwards, Sir John Parnell sold the estate to John Toler, the well-known Lord Norbury; whose descendant holds it in possession.

One of the earliest religious foundations in Leix appears to have been the church, which derived its name from St. Faolan, and which afterwards distinguished the now almost forgotten site, where it had been erected, as Kilwhelan. This townland lies upon an elevated ridge, on the west of the Cullenagh mountains.¹⁶ The mound of an old disused burial-ground—in the eighteenth century of considerable height, but now almost level with the surrounding field—may be observed on the spot; while tradition avers, that an ancient church formerly stood there, and gave the locality even greater prominence.¹⁷ The patron saint of this place seems to have flourished at a very early date, and we are informed that he descended from the race of Ængus, son of Nadfraech, King of Munster. It may be inferred, as stated, that this saint was restored to life through St. Attracta's merits, and after he had been drowned.¹⁸ By one writer¹⁹ he is designated as St. Foillan, surnamed the Leper; while, in the "Martyrology of Donegal," he is called Faolan the Stammerer,²⁰ of Rath Erann in Albain, and of Cill Fhaelain,²¹ in Laoighis, in Leinster. On the 20th day of June, his feast occurs in our Calendars.²² Some doubt seems to remain, however, that he may have been identical with the celebrated St. Foilan, Felan, or Fillan, Abbot in Scotland, and who is venerated on the 9th day of January.²³ The Earl of Essex's army passed near Kilwhelan, after the celebrated engagement at "The Pass of Plumes," and on its march to Ballyroan. The townland of Tullore, in the parish of Ballyroan, and barony of Cullenagh, contains 199 *a.* 2 *r.* 28 *p.*²⁴ of good arable land. Here there is an old place of interment, held in great veneration by the people from time immemorial, and yet greatly resorted to on the occasion

¹⁵ At the time Cullenagh was within the Catholic district of Ballynakill, and served by a priest from that town.

¹⁶ These are three in number, and called respectively Shieve Dubh, or the Black Mountain, the Middle Mountain, and the White Mountain. The latter is of lesser elevation than the other two mountains, and on its side is Kilwhelan, now completely unenclosed; and even, like many celebrated Irish places, not named nor noted on our Irish Ordnance Survey Maps.

¹⁷ Archdall asserts, that the place is unknown; yet, if such were the case so far as he had been concerned, the name and local traditions preserve it in the recollections of the neighbouring peasantry. See "Monasticum Hibernicum," p. 595.

¹⁸ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," ix. Februarii. Vita S. Attractæ, cap. xi., xii., and n. 16, pp. 279, 280, 282.

¹⁹ Archdall. By this author of the

Irish Monasticon, the foundation of St. Foillan's Church is assigned to the time of St. Patrick, and he is styled abbot, apparently on no good authority.

²⁰ The "Breviary of Aberdeen" states, that it had been a prophecy, the Scottish St. Fealan should be born with a stone in his mouth, and this caused his father to regard him as a monster.

²¹ The old form of Kilwhelan, as now written and pronounced.

²² In the Rev. Matthew Kelly's "Martyrology of Tallaght," we have the following entry at this date, "Faelani amlabair i Sraith Eret Albain," p. xxvii. See also "The Martyrology of Donegal," edited by the Rev. Dr. Todd, and Rev. Dr. Reeves, pp. 174, 175.

²³ His life will be found at that date, in Rev. John Canon O'Hanlon's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. i., pp. 134 to 144.

²⁴ See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 24.

of death. On the old Map of Leix,²⁵ Tolouir is marked near a church, which appears to have stood there, early in the sixteenth century, and in the former territory of Tovachlov. It seems very probable, that this had been the place alluded to, in that Litany attributed to Engus Céile Dé, where he invokes the Seven Bishops of Tulach Labhair,²⁶ who must have been buried in the cemetery there previous to the ninth century, and whose memories were even then in benediction. If so, the burial-ground, where it is certain a church formerly arose, must boast a very great antiquity. In summer time, the spot is garnished with fine hawthorns, which are of great beauty while in blossom. The townland of Kilvahan is situated, partly in the parish of Ballyroan,²⁷ and partly in the parish of Kilmolmanbane,²⁸ in the barony of Cullenagh. The graveyard of Kilvahan occupies an elevated situation, and it is surrounded by a nearly circular fosse, which was formerly entered by an old road leading from the adjoining village of Monceenafullagh, "the little marshy spot of blood," on the direction from Ballyknockan Castle. It is some little distance removed from the former mail-coach road, between Dublin and Cork. At the village already named, the chief brunt of contest at the Pass of Plumes was sustained, and hence the name it afterwards bore.²⁹ The passage of funeral processions to the cemetery, at present, leads along a headland of the adjacent field to the *boreen*, where traces of the old road are to be seen. In the month of May fine ancient hawthorn trees are in the richest bloom, on the ditch which fences the moat, and isolated thorn bushes grow among the graves. Of late a wall of calcarene has been built around the cemetery by the Poor Law Guardians. A few head-stones of marble-limestone are seen, and from constant friction of the fleecy flocks that formerly resorted to shelter there, those sepulchral memorials assumed a jet-black lustre, and the inscriptions are most clearly legible. We have not been able to discover any historic record, which might serve to illustrate the former history of Kilvahan. Mr. Thomas O'Connor, who visited this place in 1838, was of opinion that Kilvahan³⁰ probably derived its name from a St. Meathon,³¹ thus making it the Kill or Church of St. Meathon. However, this name cannot be found in our Irish Calendars. Formerly, and, indeed, to the beginning of the present century, an old named church was to be seen, within the burial enclosure of Kilvahan. From a perfect local knowledge of the spot, the writer has not been able to trace a single vestige of those ancient walls, which

²⁵ See "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archaeological Society," vol. iv., new series, part ii., p. 345.

²⁶ See "The Irish Ecclesiastical Record," old series, vol. iii., June, 1867, pp. 474, 475. "The Book of Leinster" contains the original Irish, which has been copied and translated by Professor Bryan O'Looney.

²⁷ This portion of the townland contains 342, 27, 39 $\frac{1}{2}$.

²⁸ This portion of the townland contains 802, 27, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Kilvahan is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 18.

²⁹ See "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," second series, vol. i., Polite Literature and Antiquities, for a Paper "On the Identification of the site of the Engagement at the 'Pass of Plumes,'" No. XLIII., pp. 279 to 288. There is a map of this locality prefixed, and which shows the position of Kilvahan Graveyard.

³⁰ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., p. 263.

³¹ See letter, dated Carlow, December 23rd, 1838.—*Ibid.*

appear to have been uprooted from their foundations, by the contractor for an erection on behalf of Sir John Parnell, Bart., who had some time before purchased this property from the Barringtons of Cullenagh. The materials were used to build a tuck-mill for the manufacture and dressing of friezes and druggets, on the rivulet in a valley beneath the graveyard, and at no great distance removed from it. The writer knew an old peasant, who stated, now many years ago, that he had a perfect recollection of the ancient church, as its walls then stood. Happily, at the present day, such a desecration, as that here alluded to, would not be thought of, much less perpetrated, by gentle or simple folk; but the prevalence of like practices, during and before the last century, has contributed to deface, and even utterly to destroy, some of the most interesting vestiges of antiquity. Nor have the features of these objects been preserved for us, by any delineation whatever, either of the pen or pencil.

This living was a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Leighlin, and in the patronage of the crown; the Protestants amounted to 326, and the Roman Catholics to 3,139. In 1841, the population was 3,680, the houses were 628. The area of Ballyroan town was 56 acres, and, in 1831, it had a population of 714; in 1841 the census makes it of 637, the houses being 119. The population and houses have since greatly fallen away in number. In the Roman Catholic arrangement, Ballyroan is united with Abbeyleix, and Catholic churches are in both towns. The chief seats here are: Blandsfort, Rockbrook, and Derryfore. In 1831, the parochial population was 3,544 persons.³² In 1834, the tithe composition amounted to £415 7s. 8½d.³³ The church was a plain edifice, near the moat and surrounded with a graveyard, with a scriptural and a national school attached. There is neither a glebe-house nor a glebe attached.

CHAPTER XII.—PARISH OF BORDWELL.

At the present time, the parish of Bordwell—or, as sometimes written, Boardwell—is situated, in part, in the barony of Clandonagh,¹ but chiefly in that of Clarmallagh.² The land within this parish is generally of a good description. There is a small tract of bog, and limestone abounds.³ The road from Durrow to Donaghmore, and that from Mountrath to Rathdowney, intersect each other in the interior. Towards the south-east lies Lough Grantstown, near which is the handsome mansion called Grantstown House, within a fine demesne, and ornamental grounds. This is the seat of the Earl of Ossory.

A church in ruins is on the townland of Bordwell Big, as distinguished from Bordwell Little. The remains are to be seen there, within an ancient graveyard. This is now enclosed; but while the upper portion of the

³² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 192.

³³ The nett was £390 4s. 4d. The curate had a stipend of £75.

¹ This portion contains only 113a. 2r. 13p. See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 28.

² This portion contains 2,690a. 2r. 30p. See *ibid.*

³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 313.

⁴ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 12.

old church is greatly levelled, its dimensions may be traced, and its plan is still recognisable. In 1057, it is reported, that Bordwell—in Upper Ossory—was worth £16 per annum in 1640; and that it had 80 acres and 148 perches of glebe. The Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, was then patron.⁴ In 1831, the population was 869. In 1834, the Protestant inhabitants numbered only 49, while the Roman Catholics were 842. In 1837, this parish was a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Ossory, the Protestant Bishop being the patron, and the tithes amounting to £137 10s. As applopped under the Tithe Act, it was held to contain 2,549 statute acres.⁵ There was neither glebe-house nor glebe at that time. At Grantstown and Kilbredy are the ruins of old castles. There is a roomy Roman Catholic Chapel to accommodate the inhabitants of that district in the union of Aghavoe. In 1841, the population of Bordwell parish was 957, in 157 houses.⁶

CHAPTER XIII.—PARISH OF BORRIS.

THE parish of Borris occupies a considerable division in the Barony of Maryborough East.¹ It has two townlands, respectively denominated Great Borris² and Little Borris.³ On the engraved Map of the Petty Down Survey these are spelled Little Burres and Great Burres. It seems most probable, that there was a still more ancient Irish name for this parish; for it is stated, that Borris, Burris, Burges, or Buirghes, entering into the composition of local denominations in Ireland, was a word introduced by the Anglo-Normans, and applied by them to small borough towns, which they established after the twelfth century. It signifies a burgage, or borough, and it was brought into the Irish language. As Anglicized, it forms the whole or part of names in several of the Leinster, Munster, and Connaught counties; but, it does not occur in Ulster.⁴ It is difficult, however, to believe, that in the case of the special local denomination here, it could have had an Anglo-Norman origin,⁵ since the history of Leix attests, that only the original Irish inhabitants had control of that territory, until the present Queen's County had been formed into shire-ground; the chief fortress established in it by the English having been called Maryborough, also, in honour of Queen Mary. This is the only town within the bounds of Borris parish; but it contains some remarkable natural and artificial curiosities. The parish of Burress, drawn by Ambrose Yorke in 1657, contains the town, castle, and fort of Mariburrough. Cloanrehir and Rathnamanagh

¹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 219.

² In the Clandonagh section there were 53 souls—houses 8. In the Clarinallagh portion, there were 904 persons, and 149 houses. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 267.

³ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 7, 8, 12, 13, 18. It comprises 7,040*a.* 1*r.* 28*p.*

⁴ This contains 529*a.* 3*r.* 20*p.* See *ibid.*, Sheet 13.

⁵ This contains 419*a.* 1*r.* 20*p.* See *ibid.*

⁶ See Dr. P. W. Joyce's "Origin and History of Irish Names of Places," part iii., chap. iv., p. 340.

⁷ A note of Dr. O'Donovan simply states, "The Irish name is doubtless *Buirgh*," in a comment appended to Thomas O'Connor's account of the place, in his Queen's County Letters for the Irish Ordnance Survey.

⁸ Menelew bog is represented. The lands are marked as forfeited.

appear to have had fortified houses or castles.⁶ On another map⁷ is a trace of Burres parish on a larger scale. There are as denominations, *viz.*, Rathnamanagh, Great and Little Burres, Ballintogan, Gurtin, Ross-leachan, Cloanrehir, Monelew, Knocknagroneh, Cultoryn, Balitogin, Killeclonhoban, Monebalycaroll, with the commons of Maryborough, consisting of over 300 acres of pasture.⁸ There was a chapel in Kyle townland, also called Kyleclonhobert,⁹ in the parish of Borris, about one mile northwards from Maryborough, and on the left side of the road from that town leading to Mountmellick. This was probably a Roman Catholic Chapel in the penal days or somewhat previous. Only a heap of stones now marks its site.¹⁰

Within the old parish of Borris, to which allusion has been made, the fort of Maryborough had been erected in the middle of the sixteenth century, as a protection for the English settlers introduced, when the Queen's County was erected into shire-ground, in the seventh and eighth years of the reign of King Philip and Queen Mary. A town was then commenced, and while, to compliment the latter, the shire was called the Queen's, its intended chief town was named Maryborough. An ancient graveyard occupied the site of "the ridge," near the town, but no trace of a former church now remains on that spot.¹¹ Extending from Maryborough towards Mountmellick, an elevated ridge or Esker of lime-stone, gravel, and sand is a very remarkable object, and geologists have not hitherto accounted satisfactorily for its formation. The country on both sides of it is level, and in many places moory. On the very summit of this Esker is an ancient highway, known as the "ridge road."¹² The Esker runs above eight miles uninterruptedly, and above twenty with small chasms towards Tullamore town and beyond it. Skirting Maryborough towards the east, and issuing from this ridge, near Rathleague, there is a "holy well,"¹³ which was formerly much frequented by pilgrims. The ridge appears to have been formed by the ebbing and flowing of water, and in some places it divides the upland from the moor.¹⁴ This natural barrier varies from over two hundred feet to about sixty feet in width at the base, and it slopes gradually to the summit where it measures over twenty or thirty feet in breadth. There are several of these Eskers well-defined and bearing in different directions throughout the Queen's County. These appear to have had no distinct connection with the historic Esker Riada, said to extend from Dublin to Galway. On the site of Great Borris townland not far from Bloomfield House lay the old church,¹⁵ only a heap of stones remaining there to

⁷ Admeasured by Ambrose Yorke, A.D. 1657.

⁸ Some differences of spelling and entry of denomination will be found in Vallance's Maps, copied from the originals in the National Library, Paris, vol. ii., No. 64, Public Record Office.

⁹ See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 13.

¹⁰ See letter by T. O'Connor, and dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 160.

¹¹ Several head-stones and tombs are to be seen there in an elevated position.

¹² In the beginning of the last century, it was a leading county road. See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. ix., sect. 4, p. 107.

¹³ The local denomination of this well, according to Thomas O'Connor, was Toberagaddy, *τοβαν α ξαυαγς*, *i.e.*, "the well of the thiel." At present it is more usually called the "holy well of Maryborough."

¹⁴ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 346.

indicate its former site.¹⁶ Some remains of the old Castle of Clonrear still exist in the western part of this parish. It now lies in ruins off the high road leading from Maryborough to Mountmellick, about two miles from the former town. The ruins are to the left on a bye-road. Formerly it seems to have been a fortification of some importance. That old Castle of Clonreher in this parish is found marked on the old map of Leix and Ophaly, of earlier date than 1608.¹⁷ A short walk along the "ridge road," and over that natural embankment from Maryborough, will bring the tourist to Cnoc-na-greo, a hill which eminently merits its name, for its verdant slopes are covered with the richest pasture, and it is still grazed by cattle. Turning to the right at the foot of this hill, the pedestrian comes to Ranamanna, an old fort presenting several very remarkable features. The fosses that sweep round it are amazingly deep, and its floor is perfectly level, free from shrubs and covered with verdure. It may be fairly termed a magnificent rath, on account of its ambit and considerable elevation.

The ancient Irish name for Maryborough was Port Laoighse,¹⁸ meaning "the town of Laoighis."¹⁹ This portion of country had been reduced to English subjection by the Earl of Sussex. Then a suitable site was selected within it, to have a fort built for the protection of English settlers, and its name was determined by the circumstance. The Protector Fort of Maryborough was of oblong quadrangular shape.²⁰ It had only one opening, at a lane, towards the west of the town. The walls battened upwards for a considerable height from the foundations. A round turret flanked the north-east angle, the castle was well within the walls, near the south-east, a square turret stood at the south-west angle. A draw-well was within the enclosure, and near the round bastion. Soon after the building of the fort, a church seems to have been erected just outside of the enclosure. Whether serving as a Catholic or a Protestant Church, in the early days, it was used for the latter denomination until the beginning of the last century, and a cemetery—now deserted—had been attached. A charter of Queen Elizabeth, granted in the twelfth year of her reign, A.D. 1570, erected this town into a borough, and assigned its municipal bounds. These were an extent of 8,000 feet on every side of the castle, in its centre. It obtained a Corporation, consisting of a burgomaster, two bailiffs, an indefinite number of burgesses, and a commonalty; the burgomaster was constituted a justice of the peace within the borough; it was also granted a court and a market, with tolls and customs.²¹ The burgomaster was assisted by a town clerk, a sergeant-at-mace, and inferior officers. The burgesses, by a majority of and from their own body, were annually

¹⁶ Its position is noted on the town-land map, Sheet 13.

¹⁷ See letter of T. O'Connor, and dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 160.

¹⁸ See *ibid.*

¹⁹ In the Irish language it is spelled ποιτ λαοḡρε.

²⁰ Mr. Laurence Byrne, of Fallybeg,

stated that, in his time, the old inhabitants of the Queen's County called Maryborough Port Laoighse, when speaking Irish.

²¹ A ground-plan tracing is to be found in the "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, pp. 160 to 178.

²² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 738.

to elect on Michaelmas Day the burgomaster and bailiffs, and they filled up vacancies in their ranks, freemen being admitted only by favour. By charter, the burgomaster and bailiffs were obliged to take the oaths of office before the constable of the fort or castle of Maryborough, or, in his absence, before the burgesses and commons of the borough. The burgomaster, with the two bailiffs, was escheator, clerk of the market, and coroner. The burgomaster appointed the town clerk as sergeant-at-mace, billet-master, and weigh-master.²²

In 1580, Port Laoighse was plundered, and a party of its keepers was killed, by John, son to the Earl of Desmond. Arms, armour, horses, and other property were carried away.²³ The garrison of Port Laoighis was beleagured in 1590, by the O'Moores and their confederates. Provisions were required to support the besieged, and, accordingly, the Earl of Ormond organised a considerable force to bring relief. However, on the way, he was met by Owny Mac Rory O'Moore, Captain Tyrrell and James Burke,²⁴ who intercepted the convoy, with a great loss of men, horses, arms, and provisions. The Earl of Ormond being wounded was obliged to fly from the Irish enemy, and he had a narrow escape in not being made a prisoner. In the year 1597, and on the 7th day of December, two bands of soldiers stationed in Port Laoighis were slain by Captains Tyrrell and Nugent, as also by the Kavanaghs, O Moores, O'Conors Faly, and by the Gaval Ranall,²⁵ who were, in a state of insurrection.

A public school had been established at Maryborough, early in the seventeenth century, and in 1616 it was conducted by a schoolmaster named Taylor.²⁶ Maryborough formerly returned two members to the Irish House of Commons, the burgesses and freemen being the electors. In 1635, the Corporation of Maryborough obtained from King Charles I. a grant of two fairs.

Burrisse was an inappropriate rectory to Peter Crosby, in 1616.²⁷ The serving vicar was David Good, a reading minister. The value of the living was £10. The church and its chancel were in proper repair, and furnished with books. In 1640 this rectory was worth £90 per annum, and the parsonage was worth £60; the vicarage was valued at £30, and the whole was then valued at £48 per annum; one-third part of these revenues in this and other parishes was allowed to ministers and for church repairs, the rest was enjoyed by the patron of the parish, who was Sir K. Crosbie, Kut. Then, it had seventeen townlands; it was also an impropriation, having three acres of glebe.²⁸ In 1642, Ormond relieved the fort of Maryborough,²⁹ which had been in danger of falling into the hands of the Confederate Catholics. On the surrender of Birr Castle, Jan. 20th, 1643, to the Confederation, William Parsons,

²² See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 345.

²³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1750, 1751.

²⁴ Son of Richard Saxonach Burke.

²⁵ It means a branch of the O'Byrnes.

²⁶ "There is a publique schoolmaster in this Diocese placed in Marlborough, the chiefest Towne, in the Queen's County. The schoolmaster's name is Taylor, a Bachelor of Art of good

sufficiency. He hath a good number of schollers resorting to the schools by reason of the English plantacon in the same, and good disposicon of the inhabitants."—"Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²⁷ According to "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²⁸ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3., p. 9.

the Governor, stipulated for safe-conduct to Maryborough,³⁰ the fort of which was kept by Sir William Gilbert, Knight. That cessation of arms, dated from Dublin, on the 26th of September, was received by him, and directed in his absence to the chief officer commanding his Majesty's forces there.³¹

It is related,³² that having received the Papal Nuncio's blessing, Owen Roe O'Neill and his men marched on Monday, September 28th, 1646, "to Droichead a deignei, and to B. Shean in Laois, where they staid four nights." Thence they proceeded to Coilleadh a Laois³³ and Caislean na Cuilenthói.³⁴ The general treated the captain of that place very leniently, and placed a garrison of his own there. From this spot they went to Port Laois. Sir Phelim, Colonel of the Horse, called on the garrison to surrender. They refused to do so, until they saw the general with the cannon. The troops now arriving, a drummer was despatched to demand formally the surrender of that place. The governor demanded hostages from the general, and, accordingly, Brian O'Neill, McHenry, and McTurlogh of the Fewes were sent. Sir William Gilbert then came to the army. On seeing their forces and the cannon, he agreed to capitulate. He received permission for the garrison to carry away all their moveables. Port Laoighse was then given in charge to Felim O'Neill, McDonnell, and McHenry.³⁵ Towards the close of that year, Owen Roe O'Neill, who had failed to effect the capture of Dublin, owing to the imbecility or bad faith of his colleague Preston, returned with his troops to Maryborough.³⁶ From Kilmensie, in the vicinity of this town, on the 27th of May, 1648, the Papal Nuncio Rinuccini pronounced sentences of excommunication against all who should accept the cessation of Kilkenny.³⁷ Subsequently the town was retaken by Lord Castlehaven. In 1650, Maryborough was taken by the Parliamentary forces under Colonels Hewson and Reynolds. The fort was then demolished, and the castle was deserted. An agreement, bearing date the 12th of May, 1652, assigns Marlborough to be the place where "Colonell Lewes Moore's foote and some troupes of horse" should surrender their arms to the Parliamentarians.³⁸

According to the Maps and Books of the Down Survey, the forfeited lands of Burres, to the amount of 302 acres of profitable lands, with 6 additional acres, were assigned as commons for the Corporation of Maryborough, after having been surveyed by the Commonwealth sur-

²⁹ See "History of the Irish Confederation and the War in Ireland, 1641-1643," &c. Edited by John T. Gilbert, vol. i., p. 79.

³⁰ See *ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 145.

³¹ See *ibid.*, p. 385.

³² In the Journal of the Irish Rebellion of 1641.

³³ This has been identified as Coille, a townland about two miles eastward of Ballynakill, where there had been an oak-wood, the last of which had been cut down in 1704. Adjoining the same place was a mill, the old church of Dysart Galen, and the remains of an old castle over it, called *Cnoc ára ásuiri*. It is said, this castle had been called *Caislean mháirígeao inísean úomnáit*.

³⁴ No doubt, the Castle of Cullenagh, probably held there by the Barringtons.

³⁵ See letter of Thomas O'Connor, and dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., pp. 172 to 174.

³⁶ See Rev. Charles P. Meehan's "Confederation of Kilkenny," chap. vii., p. 201.

³⁷ See *ibid.*, chap. ix., p. 253.

³⁸ See the "Aphorismical Discovery of Treasonable Faction," sixth book, chap. vii., p. 99., in "A Contemporary History of Ireland, from 1641 to 1652." Edited by John F. Gilbert, vol. iii., part i.

veyors. But this valuable estate was afterwards usurped by the families of De Vesci, Parnell, Coote, &c.³⁹ This tract was formerly known as the Green of Maryborough.⁴⁰ In the days of duelling, it was the scene of several hostile meetings. One of these occurred about 1759, between Colonel Jonah Barrington⁴¹ of Cullenaghmore and a Mr. Gilbert. It was fought on horseback before a great concourse of persons, with holster pistols and broad-bladed swords, both combatants receiving slight wounds, but escaping with life, and agreeing to shake hands as friends. Another ridiculous affair of the kind, between a Mr. Frank Skelton and an exciseman, occurred in 1783, during an election contest for the Queen's County.⁴² The living of Maryborough is a rectory in the diocese of Leighlin. In 1721, it was episcopally united to the rectory and vicarage of Kilcolmanbane, and to the vicarage of Straboe. It was then in the patronage of the bishop.

Formerly a considerable trade in cotton flourished in Maryborough, but it has long since disappeared; still, owing to a favourable position, the town enjoys a fair distribution of local traffic.⁴³ During the eighteenth century, and far into the last, here and in the neighbouring town of Mountmellick, woollens and durants, or broad stuffs, furnishing a good material for women's wear, had been produced; while some extensive flour mills were in and near the town. These have since fallen to decay, and the local trade is now inconsiderable. Fine grain markets on each Thursday and large fairs were known in past years, but these likewise have declined. Many interesting election anecdotes are told of contests for the representation of Maryborough, which, for the last time, was contested by Lord Castlecoote and the famous Sir Jonah Barrington, in the beginning of the year 1800. Before the close of the eighteenth century, the borough court of Maryborough—having jurisdiction to any amount—was discontinued. When the borough was disfranchised, at the time of the Legislative Union of England and Ireland, Sir John Parnell and the Right Hon. Charles Henry Coote received between them, in two equal portions, the whole of the £15,000 compensation allowed, as in similar cases of political effacement.⁴⁴

In the eighteenth century, horse races and games were often held

³⁹ In reference to the De Vesci acquisitions, we are thus informed:—"The first usurpation was brought about by a breakfast given to the exclusive and monopolising burgesses, who, having made an illegal transfer of a large portion of the property on that occasion, the shrewd Lady de Vesci observed, perhaps rather greedily, 'as they,' the burgesses, 'had given so much for a breakfast, why not now try the effect of a dinner.' There are other amusing facts and anecdotes, that must enliven those who have to unravel these iniquitous proceedings." See Peter Gale's "Inquiry into the Ancient Corporate System of Ireland," chap. iii., p. 80, note, and p. 100, *ibid.*

⁴⁰ It was enclosed after the Union in 1800, and the common of 200 acres near

the town was divided between Lord Castlecoote and Sir John Parnell, Bart. The remainder was distributed equally among the thirteen freemen who were there, with the reservation of a small rent for the widows of freemen. Since that period, no freemen have been elected. See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 346.

⁴¹ Grandfather to Sir Jonah Barrington.

⁴² Both of these rencontres are told with much particularity and humour by the facetious Sir Jonah Barrington, in "Personal Sketches and Recollections of his own Time," in the chapter headed "Duelling Extraordinary."

⁴³ See the "National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 700.

⁴⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 738.

on the Green. In the beginning of the last century, a great hurling match was played there, between the most celebrated hurlers assembled from all parts of the Queen's County. So vast was the concourse of spectators who flocked to witness it, that all the bakers' and victuallers' shops in Maryborough were run out of bread and meat, while the townspeople and visitors there were obliged to fast for a whole day or more before the shops were again supplied. In the interim, extortionate prices were demanded and given for provisions. In 1821, the Right Hon. William Wellesley Pole—who had so frequently been returned as member of Parliament for the Queen's County—was created Baron of Maryborough.⁴⁵ He was second son of Garrett, first Earl of Mornington, and elder brother to the famous Duke of Wellington. Through his influence at the War Office, he succeeded in getting military commissions for many sons of the Queen's County voters, who supported him at the elections. Numbers of those officers distinguished themselves during the Peninsular War, in the regiments composed almost exclusively of Irishmen, and who fought with such determined bravery under the command of Lord Wellington. In 1829, the members of the Corporation of Maryborough had so diminished in number, that no legal election of officers took place; however, the townspeople elected a burgomaster, bailiffs, and other corporate officers. In 1830, one burgess and two freemen of the old Corporation held a meeting, at which the former was elected burgomaster by the latter, who were also elected bailiffs by the former; and the townspeople also elected the same number of officers without having had any legal authority in either case.⁴⁶

During many years preceding the date of the Municipal Inquiry Commission, the only jurisdiction of any kind exercised within the town as a borough was by the burgomaster, simply in his magisterial capacity. When that report was published in 1833, it was stated, "The internal regulations of the town are deplorably bad. False weights and measures are in general use, by which all classes, and particularly the poor, suffer severely. This is a subject of well-founded and very general complaint. The town is not lighted, and the Act of 9 George IV., cap. 82, has not been put in operation here."⁴⁷ About the year 1835, the last vestige of the old castle, that remained within the Fort of Maryborough, was cleared away:⁴⁸ but the place where it stood is still pointed out by the old townspeople. It was about 200 ft. distant from the ere of a large business house,⁴⁹ which faced the leading street in Maryborough. However, the office of constable of that fort, although a sinecure, was still retained.⁵⁰ The area of Maryborough town is about 300 acres. Its principal street is irregular in width; nevertheless it contains some respectable-looking houses. The streets which branch from it are few in number, but they contain some good houses with a great many ill-ventilated and wretchedly built, as also many that are scarcely above the class of mere thatched cabins. However, there are some imposing public buildings, among which may be noticed the old gaol⁵¹ and courthouse,⁵²

⁴⁵ This nobleman was constable of the fort and castle of Maryborough.

⁴⁶ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 345.

⁴⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 738

⁴⁸ By a Mr. Graves.

⁴⁹ It then belonged to a Mr. Colman.

⁵⁰ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 345.

⁵¹ This has been converted into a police barracks and a briewell.

⁵² Both of these buildings are off the main street of the town.

the infirmary,⁵³ the infantry barracks,⁵⁴ the new county gaol,⁵⁵ the district lunatic asylum,⁵⁶ the Episcopalian,⁵⁷ Methodist and Roman Catholic churches⁵⁸ with the Presentation Convent⁵⁹ and Christian Brothers' Schools. This town is the seat of the Queen's County assizes, courts of quarter sessions, during Hilary term, usually in January, during Easter Term, usually in March or April, during Trinity Term, usually in June, and during Michaelmas Term, usually in October, while weekly courts of petty sessions are also held. It is the residence of a stipendiary magistrate, and the head-quarters of the county constabulary force.

In 1831, the population of the town was 2,223, in 1841, it reached to 2,633, in 559 houses. The country around Maryborough is rather level, and devoid of ornamental demesnes. Near it, however, is Rathleagu, formerly the fine residence of Sir John Parnell, and later still of his son, Sir Henry Parnell, afterwards Lord Congleton, but it has now greatly gone to decay; Sheffield, the seat of the Cassans; and Lamberton Park, finely wooded and picturesquely surrounded with wide ranges of scenery. Maryborough has a weekly market on Thursday, and fairs on January 1st, February 24th, March 25th, April 14th, May 12th, June 5th, July 5th, August 5th, September 4th, October 23rd, November 13th, and December 4th. In 1831, the population of Borris parish, including the town of Maryborough, is returned as 5,300; ⁶⁰ in 1841, it is set down as 5,264, and living in 806 houses. This parish was a rectory in the diocese of Leighlin, and the tithe composition was £392 6s. 2d. in 1846.⁶¹ The Triogue River effects the drainage northwards into the River Barrow. The other chief seats in this parish are Annbrook, Portran, Bloomfield, Newpark, and Borris. In general, the land is only of a middle quality in this parish, and it is chiefly bog in the northern part. The tithes amounted to £392 6s. 1³/₄d. in 1837. The glebe in the parish of Kilcolmanbane comprised only one acre, while the gross value of the benefice was £667 16s. 4³/₄d. The value of the Maryborough living is now £450.² The Great Southern and Western Railway at present leaves Maryborough within a two hours' run from Dublin, the metropolis of Ireland.

CHAPTER XIV.—PARISH OF CASTLEBRACK.

THE parish of Castlebrack forms the eastern portion of Hy-Regan territory.¹ This tract was also called Dooregan, as shown on the old Map of Leax and Ophaly. Castlebrack was a part of the latter district lying north-east of Ely O'Carroll or O'Carroll's country and not shire-ground, but comprising a part of the Slieve Bloom range. The source of

⁵³ It is a large building of three storeys, and built just outside the town in the beginning of the last century, having been opened in 1808.

⁵⁴ These are intended to accommodate a company of infantry, but they are seldom occupied by the military.

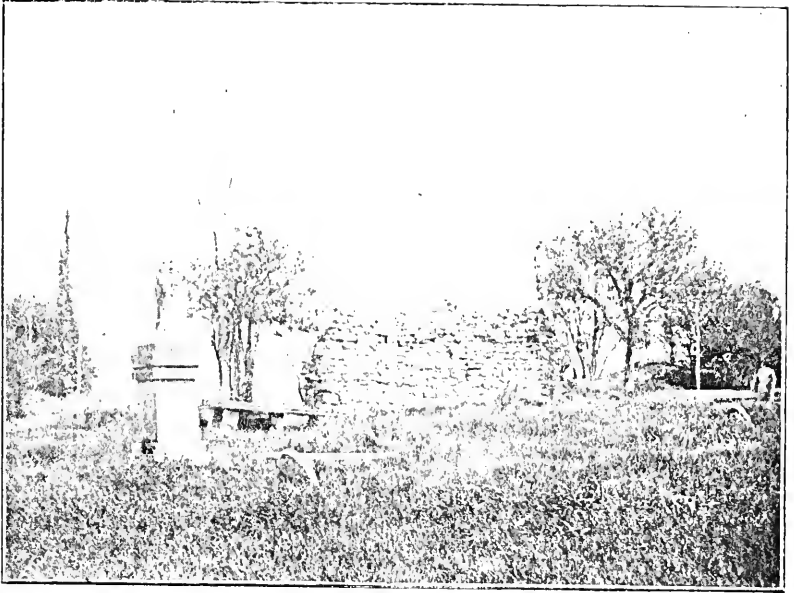
⁵⁵ This was completed in 1830, at a cost of £18,500. It is built on the radiating plan, and surrounded by a high wall.

⁵⁶ It is intended for the King's and

Queen's Counties, as also for those of Westmeath and Longford. The expense of building and 22 acres of ground was £24,172.

⁵⁷ The new Protestant church was built in the beginning of the last century. The Board of First Fruits contributed £500 towards its erection.

⁵⁸ This was at first erected by the Very Rev. Nicholas O'Connor, P.P., of Maryborough; but considerable additions were made by his successor, Very



RUINS OF CASTLEBRACK CHURCH.



Photos by

SITE OF CASTLEBRACK CASTLE.

[Rev. A. O'L.]

the Barrow is also shewn within it. On that Map it is marked YREGAN—O'dun, and Baun Regan is written across it, near the source of the Barrow; but that name is not to be found in any part of the territory at present. According to John O'Donovan it is not of ecclesiastical origin, and in his opinion is not of great antiquity as it does not appear to have had a patron saint. He also thinks, that this parish had been formerly divided between the parishes of Rosenallis and Rearymore, and that the old church which lies ruined in the townland of Castlebrack had been only a chapel-of-ease to the castle, from which its name had been received.²

The parish of Castlebrack, situated in the barony of Tinnahinch, contains 9,275 a. 3 r. 24 p.,³ in the most northerly part of the Queen's County. A large portion of it is under bog, and the surface is mostly level, the highest ground being only 488 ft. above the sea. The River Barrow flows some miles on its western boundary. Castlebrack had five townlands with 200 acres of profitable lands, and a glebe rated at £15 per annum, worth £6 in 1657.⁴ Barnaby Dunne, Esq., was then the patron. Here a castle, once strong and stately, had been erected by the Dunne family. Its last inhabitant was a Colonel Dunne.⁵

This parish had its name from that castle, which has been long since in ruins. A little to the north of this building stands—but of a more modern date—another old castle called Roskeen, of which little now remains. The only remarkable mansion in this parish is Cappalough. There is a remarkable moat at Castlebrack. In the beginning of the last century, the occupying tenant of the farm on which it was situated, L. M'Évoy, found under it some subterraneous passages.⁶ In the village annual fairs are held on the 16th of May, on the 12th of August, and on the 15th of November.⁷

This parish was a vicarage, and part of Oregan benefice, in the

Rev. James J. Taylor, D.D., and P.P. of the parish.

⁵⁹ Founded by the Very Rev. Nicholas O'Connor, and since his time greatly enlarged and improved.

⁶⁰ The Ecclesiastical Authorities state it at only 5,234.

⁶¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 737.

⁶² See the "Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903," p. 125.

¹ An account of the division of Iregan into four parts, places Castlebrack and its appurtenances in the first division, and it is thus described: "The Castle of the towne of Castlebracke, the hall, the parlour, att the end of the hall, the kitchen, the brewe-house, the back-house, and the west of the houses, within the Bawen, the haggart, the barnes, on the south side of the castle, the garden, the orchard, the parke, the stable, and the houses for cattell on the west syde, and all others the houses and tenements, for tenements, and other uses, situated on the north and west partes of the said towne of Castlebracke in the territorie of Iregan, and in the Queen's Countie."

² See the letter of John O'Donovan, dated Stradbally, December 8th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., pp. 212 to 216.

³ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 1, 3, 4, 8.

⁴ See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. iii., No. xvi. "Union of Rosenallis or Oregan, Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," by the Rev. John Baldwin Curate, sect. iv., p. 318.

⁵ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

⁶ See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. iii., No. xvi. "Union of Rosenallis or Oregan, Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," by the Rev. John Baldwin, Curate, sect. iv., p. 318.

⁷ See the "National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 508.

dioceses of Kildare, Dublin and Glendalough. The glebe-house of Castlebrack consisted only of the house and a small garden adjoining the burial-ground. The population in 1831 was 1,855. In 1834, the Roman Catholic population was found to be 1,724; the Protestants numbering 126. In 1837, the tithes amounted to £210 2s. 6d., of which £140 1s. 8d. was payable to the impropriator, and the remainder to the vicar.⁸ In 1841, the population reached 1,924, living in 318 houses.⁹ In 1846, the vicarial tithes were compounded for £70 os. 10d., and the rectorial tithes for £140 1s. 8d., the latter being impropriate in General Dunne of Brittas. In the Roman Catholic parochial arrangement, Castlebrack is united with Rosenallis.

CHAPTER XV.—THE PARISHES OF CLONENAGH AND CLONAGHEEN.

THE very extensive and now united Parishes of Clonenagh and Clonagheen,¹ spread into the baronies of Cullenagh² and Maryborough East,³ but chiefly into the barony of Maryborough West.⁴ The greater part of its surface is boggy or of second-rate quality; it includes some minor elevations of the Slieve Bloom range towards the west. The River Nore in great part flows through it, and a small tributary called the Shannon, on which the town of Mountrath is situated; while the Ownass stream, which joins the River Barrow, describes the northern parochial boundary. The former excellent coach-road from Dublin to Limerick intersects Clonenagh and Clonagheen⁵ south-westerly, passing through the town of Mountrath. The public road as also the railroad, from Maryborough to Abbeyleix, runs through the eastern verge of Clonenagh and Clonagheen Parishes; much bog, with poor reclaimed land, and some fir plantations, extending on either side.⁶

During the eighteenth century the village of Clonenagh was the nucleus of a parish so named, in the Barony of Maryborough West, and situated about two miles eastward from the town of Mountrath.⁷ It has now dwindled to a few scattered houses and cabins, still standing near the site of its "Seven Churches," formerly so celebrated. All these have long since disappeared; however, some ruins remain, and three places for interment.⁸ Two of these are yet greatly frequented

⁸ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 290.

¹ They are shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24.

² This portion contains 773*a.* 3*r.* 23*p.*

³ This portion contains 4,645*a.* 1*r.* 16*p.*

⁴ This portion contains 41,770*a.* 1*r.* 10*p.*

⁵ On Sir William Petty's maps, the parish of Clonkeene or Cloneheene is represented on a larger scale, with its townland denominations, and the various acres of arable, meadow, pasture, bog and shrub lands. This particular

Map was admeasured by Ambrose Yorke; the date, however, is burned off. Boyley is the only church to be seen within its bounds.

⁶ See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 18.

⁷ See the account of Clonenagh Parish in the letter of John O'Donovan dated, Mountrath, November 24th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County in 1838," vol. i., pp. 38 to 80.

⁸ One of these, on a mound of steep ascent, seems now to be seldom disturbed, although a few rude head-stones are to be found in it.

and used by people living throughout all the adjacent country. A number of surging hillocks rise here to a considerable elevation over bogs and declivities that surround the site, which forms a very beautiful configuration of ground. Cluain-Ædnach or Cluain-Eidhniach is stated to have been in Laighis or Leix,⁹ according to old documents. That it was a place of great importance formerly is known, not only because it was styled the great Cluain-Eadnach, but owing to the historic interest with which it has been invested, and the frequent recurrence of its referential entries in our Irish Annals. We are told, but incorrectly, that Clonenagh was anciently called Cluain-Aitehin.¹⁰ Cluain-Ædnach, however, was the former mode for spelling this name; and Cluain-Aitehin—not far from this place—was another form for Clonkeen. Some writers have rendered the denomination of Cluain-Eadnach, in Latin, “*Latibulum Hæderosum*,”¹¹ or in English, “*The Ivied Retreat*,”¹² but without sufficient warrant. The foundations of various old buildings are yet traceable at this place. However, the ruins of any church, having an antiquity of more than four centuries, are not to be seen there at present.¹³

The great monastery of Clonenagh owed its origin to the celebrated St. Fintan, the son of Gabhran.¹⁴ He was born, it is supposed, at Clonkeen in Leix, not far from Maryborough, according to a local tradition, nor is this opinion disproved by any ancient record. It has been stated, that he and St. Brigid are derived from a common ancestor,¹⁵ both of them descending from Eochaidh Finnfuathairt's race.¹⁶ The stone whereon Fintan had been baptised was shown, or at least there was a tradition regarding it, in mediæval times.¹⁷ From early youth he was distinguished for his remarkable virtues, and his religious training began at Tirdaglas, near Lough Derg, on the River Shannon, where Columba,¹⁸ the son of Crimthann, had founded a celebrated monastery, early in the sixth century.¹⁹ According to Colgan, St. Columba,

⁹ Nothing can be more inaccurate than Abbe MacGeoghegan's statement, that it lay within the country of Hy-Regan, and that St. Fintan founded also the Abbey of Achad-Ardglais, otherwise called Achad-Finglass in the same territory. See “*Histoire d'Irlande, Ancienne et Moderne*,” tome i., seconde partie, chap. iii., p. 298.

¹⁰ See Rev. Mervyn Archdall's “*Monasticon Hibernicum*,” p. 591, n. (g).

¹¹ See Ussher's “*Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates*,” cap. xvii., p. 498.

¹² See Rev. M. J. Brennan's “*Ecclesiastical History of Ireland*,” sixth century, chap. ii., p. 81.

¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's “*Annals of the Four Masters*,” vol. i., n. (g), p. 371.

¹⁴ Colgan has published an old Life of this saint, illustrated with notes, and an Appendix, in five chapters. See “*Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ*,” xvii. Februarii; Vita S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, pp. 349 to 357.

¹⁵ Such at least is the account given

by the glossographer to the Feilire of St. Ængus, in the “*Leabhar Breac*” copy, who states that Finntan was the son of Gaibrene, son of Bresal, who was son of Den, and that here he and Brigit meet in their pedigrees, as Fintan said :

“*Δμπα μινθεομ βασυρα
 Όρηατα πορμιτερι [lege πορμ
 μεθηρ-ρι]
 Cere impar ponn πορρι
 Όερβ πορη πορμιρε.*”

In English it is thus rendered—

“*Wondrous this anvil of victory
 Which has come on my time!
 Whosoever turns here thrice
 Will surely come again.*”

See “*The Calendar of Oengus*,” edited by Whitley Stokes, LL.D., p. lii., in “*Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*,” Irish MS. Series, vol. i.

¹⁶ See Colgan's “*Trias Thaumaturga*,” Appendix Quarta ad Acta S. Brigide, cap. 3, p. 613.

¹⁷ See *ibid.*, n. (f).

¹⁸ His feast occurs at the 13th of December.

¹⁹ See the Life of St. Fintan.

the son of Crimthann, was the first Abbot of Clonagh, and afterwards he became the first Abbot over Tirdaglass, having died A.D. 548.²⁰ However, it seems quite clear, from the old Life of St. Fintan,²¹ son of Gabhran, which Colgan has published, that the former saint was the spiritual director of the latter, whom he counselled to erect his habitation, and in this particular situation.²² In former times, even dating back to St. Fintan's, rather inconvenient recourse was had to Clonagh, by people who disturbed the retirement of its founder. As a consequence he sought a more secluded position among the adjoining recesses of Slieve Bloom, until directed by St. Columba, the son of Crimthann, to seek the place first chosen for his habitation. Thus begun the religious career of the renowned St. Fintan, the son of Gabhran, who was abbot here, and he flourished about the year 560,²³ presiding over a number of laborious and fervent monks. From its earliest foundation the monastery became remarkable for the austerity of that rule²⁴ established by St. Fintan; but it was also distinguished for a seminary, which trained St. Comgall,²⁵ afterwards Abbot of Bangor, and some early fathers of the Irish church, as also several foreigners, who resorted thither from distant countries. As Gaul furnished a considerable contingent, Clonagh was called the Gallic school. Hospitality was a virtue recommended to the monks of this establishment,²⁶ although their own manner of living was very strict, and frequent fasts were enjoined. So rigorous were the practices of those inmates, that many aspirants to a recluse life found themselves unable to comply with its rules of living. Still St. Fintan himself never swerved in a single instance from the observances he had instituted.²⁷ The holy founder of Clonagh died on the 13th of the calends of March,²⁸ having served the Almighty in a most perfect state. Immediately before his decease, Fintan appointed another St. Fintan, surnamed Maeldubh, as his successor, to rule over that monastery, already founded at Clonagh.²⁹ However, some mistake has occurred in supposing that a St. Fintan, son of Crimthann, and also abbot here, made such an appointment.³⁰ It has been conjectured, that St. Fintan, son of Gabhran, departed this life before the year 590, and on the 17th of February.³¹

Afterwards, the Abbot St. Fintan, the son of Crimthann, called also Corach,³² who was bishop of Clonfert, it is thought, ruled over the

Abbot and Patron of Clonagh, for fuller particulars than can be here inserted, in Rev. John Canon O'Hanlon's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., February xvii., Art. i., pp. 574 to 598.

²⁰ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Vitam S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

²¹ It is said to have been taken *ex codice* "Kill-Kenniensis."

²² See chapters iii., iv., v.

²³ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

²⁴ The monks partook not of any kind of food or drink, save the roots of the

earth or water, according to the Litany of St. Angus.

²⁵ His feast occurs on the 10th of May.

²⁶ See Rev. M. J. Brennan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland from the Introduction of Christianity into that country to the year MDCCCXIX." Sixth century, chap. ii., p. 81.

²⁷ See *ibid.*, chap. iii., p. 90.

²⁸ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Vita S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. xxiv., p. 353, and n. 28, p. 355.

²⁹ According to the Life of St. Fintan, taken from the Book of Kilkenny, chap. xxiv.

³⁰ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

³¹ See *ibid.*, n. 26, p. 355.

monastery of Clonenagh.³³ However, it does not seem to be well established, that he could have been more than a simple monk in this place. He is said to have died, according to some accounts, on the 21st; ³⁴ others have it on the 17th of February, in the year 603.³⁵ At this latter date, Ussher places the death of St. Fintan, Abbot of Clonenagh; yet he does not seem to distinguish this personage from the first founder of the monastery.³⁶ It is stated, also, that the Abbot of Clonenagh, Fintan Moeldubh, died A.D. 625.³⁷ From various calendars and lives of Irish saints, Colgan supplies the memorials of holy men and superiors, who were connected with this monastery during the sixth and seventh centuries,³⁸ nearly in the order we have adopted for their periods. On the 21st of October died St. Munna, the son of Tulchan, who was called Fintan. He was bishop and abbot over Clonenagh monastery.³⁹ His departure from this life has been assigned to A.D. 634. About the year 639 died St. Gobban, who at first had founded a monastery at Old Leighlin. Having resigned this place to St. Laserian, he chose another habitation at Killamery, in Ui-Caithrenn in the west of Ossory. It is said that he had a thousand monks under his direction. Whether he held jurisdiction over those of Clonenagh or not seems to be unrecorded; but it is likely he died there, as in it his relics were preserved.⁴⁰ St. Aidan, the son of Conrad, was set over Clonenagh. On November 21st, died the abbot,⁴¹ and, as is supposed, some time about the seventh century.⁴² About the middle of that century, the Abbot Moasacra, son of Senan, flourished. He is said to have been Abbot of Clonenagh; while he belonged also to Tegsacra, or Saggart,⁴³ and Fionnagh in Leinster. His feast occurs at the 3rd of March, when Colgan has some notices regarding him.⁴⁴ At the year 685, the Abbot Ossen is incorrectly introduced, as belonging to Clonenagh; ⁴⁵ rather is he called Bishop of Mainister where his death is recorded.⁴⁶

The Abbot Maclaithgen next appears on record, and he is venerated as a saint at the 21st of October. The great monastery of Clonenagh, under direction of the saintly Abbot Malathgenius, had enjoyed a high reputation, both for the number and sanctity of its inmates. During the time of Maclaithgen's rule over this house, and about the middle

³² Because of his melodious voice, it is thought, and of a supposition that as a chorister, he taught the monks a new style for singing psalms.

³³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

³⁴ See some account of him, at that date, in Rev. John Canon O'Hanlon's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., Art. ii, pp. 657 to 660.

³⁵ See Harris' "Ware," vol. iii., book i., chap. xv., p. 302.

³⁶ See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," cap. xiii., p. 237, cap. xvii., p. 498, and index Chronologicus, p. 536, at A.D. DCIII.

³⁷ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

³⁸ See *ibid.*

³⁹ See *ibid.*

⁴⁰ He is also called Gobban-Fionn, and his feast is entered at the 6th of December, in the "Martyrology of Donegal." See Drs. Todd and Reeves' edition.

⁴¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁴² See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁴³ Near Tallaght, and about six or seven miles from Dublin.

⁴⁴ See "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," Martii iii. De S. Sacro sive Mosacro, Abbate, p. 454.

⁴⁵ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁴⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 292, 293.

⁴⁷ His supposed festival and acts have been set down by Colgan at the 11th

of the eighth century, Ængus, the celebrated son of Oengobhan, more generally known as the Culdee,⁴⁷ preferred his suit for admission within its enclosure, and his request was favourably received. But his early noviciate, in the exercise of all virtues, had preceded the care bestowed by that holy abbot, on his youthful disciple. His daily progress in the paths of Christian sanctity, and his advancement in sacred learning, were aided by application and capacity, to such an extraordinary degree, that in a short time he bore the reputation of being one among the most sanctified and erudite men, of whom Ireland could then boast. St. Ængus must have been a disciple of St. Malaithgen before the year 767.⁴⁸ That other Ængus, who wrote his eulogy in elegant metre, has told us, Ængus the Culdee had studied from boyhood in the monastery of Clonenagh. Afterwards, when he had been celebrated for his miracles, he lived in the monastery of Tallaght, before St. Melruan's death, which occurred A.D. 787. It is supposed therefore to follow, that he studied in the monastery of Clonenagh under St. Malaithgen; ⁴⁹ and most probably he was a religious there, even after the death of that holy Abbot. From Clonenagh, he went at first to Dysart Enos, as has been supposed—and thence he proceeded to Coolbanagher, not far distant. From this latter place, he went to Tallaght, near Dublin. There he is thought to have laboured, with the holy Abbot, St. Maclruain,⁵⁰ in compiling the famous "Martyrology of Tallaght," which has come down to our time.⁵¹ The distinguished superior Maclaithgen,⁵² *alias* Moetlogan,⁵³ Abbot of Cluain-Eidhneach, died in the year of our Lord 767. His name is Latinized Maelathgenius.⁵⁴ After leaving Tallaght, according to some accounts, the celebrated anchorite St. Ængus retired to his first chosen place, near the Abbey of Clonenagh. From him it afterwards

of March; but in reality we have some reason to doubt that many of those conjectures regarding him are well established.

⁴⁸ The death of "Maclaithgen, Abbot of Cluain-Eidhneach," occurred in the year 767. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 370, 371. The feast of St. Malathgenius is observed on the 21st of October, according to our Irish Calendarists.

⁴⁹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii, in. 4, p. 582.

⁵⁰ His feast occurs on the 7th of July.

⁵¹ This work was contained in the "Book of Leinster," a MS. of the twelfth century, preserved in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, but it has long disappeared from that volume, which is now very imperfect. Nevertheless, the Rev. Dr. Todd states: "During my visit to Rome, in 1862, I found eleven of the missing leaves of this precious manuscript (which I recognised at once), among the documents kindly shown me by the superior of St. Isidore's convent. These leaves contain some of the curious tracts attributed to Aengus Ceile De, together with a copy

of the Calendar or 'Martyrology of Tallaght,' referred to by Colgan, which is, however, itself also unfortunately imperfect, owing to the loss of a leaf. The defect includes the whole of November and the first sixteen days of December. This Calendar is a transcript of a very ancient martyrology, containing a list of the saints and martyrs of the universal Church under each day of the year, the Irish saints being added at the end of each day, and separated from the rest by a peculiar mark. The Calendar commences on Christmas day, and not as is more usual, on the Kalends of January. At the beginning is this title in rubric:—

"Incipit Martira cenghusa mc Oiblean et Maolruain ic" (*i.e.*, *h.c.*).

Here begins the Martyrology of Ængus Mac Oiblean and Maolruain.

⁵² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 370, 371.

⁵³ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii, De S. Ængusio Hagiographo, Episcopo et Confessore, n. 4, p. 582.

⁵⁴ See *ibid.*, xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

bore the name of Disert Aengus, or Dysart Enos. Thence he returned to Clonenagh. It is not known at which of these places he wrote the well-known *Feilire*, or *Festilogy*.⁵⁶ That the writer of this poem was abbot at Clonenagh, as also at Disert-Aengus, is possible; and Colgan observes, that his own hints are even stronger as to the latter place. This matter can easily be settled. As both places lay near each other, within the barony of Maryborough, Aengus might have been connected with both these establishments. Disert-Aengus, which commenced with himself, may be considered simply as a cell to the older and greater monastery at Clonenagh; or most probably it formed one of these earlier missionary stations, when a priest lived in connexion with the church, and ministered to the spiritual necessities and consolations of a rural population. The early Christian pastors of former Irish parishes seem to have lived in a very simple and austere manner. Yet it is possible the spot chosen for his last retreat was Disert Bethach, or Derrbegh, not far from the River Nore.

Before the commencement of the ninth century, no less than eight Britons, commemorated as saints, were buried at Clonenagh; while it was found impossible to count other monks who were there interred, as stated in the Litany attributed to St. Aengus the Culdee.⁵⁶ This holy and learned anchorite died, it has been supposed, on the 11th March, between the years 819 and 830.⁵⁷ According to some, his life ended at Clonenagh; others have it at Disert Bethach, not far from that monastery.

Quoting MacGeoghegan for his authority, Archdall states⁵⁸ that the Abbey of Clonenagh was destroyed by the Danes, A.D. 838. Another entry has it, that the foreigners plundered Clonenagh in 840.⁵⁹ It seems, that in a double capacity over Clonenagh ruled Aid, a venerable abbot, who was also the abbot of Tirdaglass, near Lough Derg, in the County of Tipperary. Having in the year 843 destroyed the fortress of Dunamase, in this country of Leix, the Danes carried him into Munster,

⁵⁶ In his Introduction to "Martyrology of Donegal," the Rev. Dr. Todd thus describes the *Feilire* of Aengus Ceilí De: "Four lines in rhyme are devoted to each day of the year, and the author has imposed on himself the task of introducing into those four lines the names of the saints commemorated on that day. The copy of this work preserved in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, and a still more perfect copy in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, are accompanied by a copious inter-linear gloss and scholia, containing some very curious legends and traditions, which throw great light on the ancient state of religion and of society in Ireland down to the eleventh century."

⁵⁶ "The Litany of Aengus," written about 798, is described by Sir James Ware, as "A book of litanies in which, in a long series of daily prayers, are invoked some companies of saints who were either school-fellows under the same master, or, who joined in society under the same leader, to propa-

gate the faith among pagans, or who were buried in the same monastery, or lived in communion in the same church, or lastly, who were joined together by any other like titles." The vast number of foreign saints who were buried in Ireland, whose intercession is invoked in this Litany, affords the strongest proof of the great influx of foreign ecclesiastics to Ireland in the fifth and sixth centuries. The Litany has been published in the "Irish Ecclesiastical Record," First Series, vol. iii., p. 385.

⁵⁷ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii, De S. Aengusio, Hagiographo, Episcopo et Confessore, cap. xvii., p. 582.

⁵⁸ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁵⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 462, 463.

⁶⁰ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

and there, on the 8th of July, they crowned him with martyrdom.⁶⁰ The abbot Laichtene, of Clonenagh monastery, died A.D. 866.⁶¹ The abbot Ainbhechellach,⁶² son of Fonascach, also styled Ainbecally MacFonasky, died in the year 872. His name is Latinized Anbhechellachus, filius Fonaschii.⁶³ The Abbot Colga, son to Caithniadh,⁶⁴ also called Colge MacCothnia,⁶⁵ died in the year 890. His name is Latinized Colgus filius Cathnice.⁶⁶ In the year 898,⁶⁷ the abbot Maelcarain, or Moel Kieran, of Clonenagh, departed this life.⁶⁸ He also was abbot of Tirdaglass. His name is Latinized⁶⁹ as Moel Kieranus Abbas de Cluain-ednech et Tyrdaglas. Tibraide,⁷⁰ or Tiopraide,⁷¹ Latinized Tipradius, bishop of Cluain-ednech, departed this life in the year 909.⁷² That a bishop, as distinguished from the abbot, usually resided at Clonenagh, is very clearly shown, not only from the circumstance, that at this year and in the same place, another monastic superior departed to another world beyond the grave, but his name even is quite a different one from that borne by the bishop. In the year 909⁷³ the abbot of Cluain-eidnech, who is named Litheach, was called away from this life.⁷⁴ The monastery was plundered and destroyed, according to Archdall, in both the years 909 and 919, but this appears to be an error, in the first instance due to a typographical inaccuracy in Colgan's work. In the year 919, the abbey of Cluain-eidnech was plundered,⁷⁵ while the oratory of Mochua,⁷⁶ and Fearnam-mor-Maedhog⁷⁷ were burned by the foreigners.⁷⁸ In 922⁷⁹ died Duibhlitir,⁷⁹ abbot of Cluain-eidnech. His name is Latinized Dubhlitirius Abbas de Cluain-edhnech.⁸¹

In the year 927⁸² departed the abbot of Cluain-eidhnech, Tuathal, son of Maelcarain, or, as rendered otherwise, Toole MacMaoileirian.⁸³

⁶¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 504, 505.

⁶² See *ibid.*, pp. 518, 519.

⁶³ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ" xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Vitam S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356. A typographical inaccuracy has substituted T for F in his father's name.

⁶⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 544, 545.

⁶⁵ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁶⁶ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Vitam S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁶⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 556, 557.

⁶⁸ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁶⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁷⁰ See Duaid MacFirbis in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish MSS. Series. Vol. i., Part i., pp. 100, 101. See, also, Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 580, 581.

⁷¹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁷² See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁷³ A typographical inaccuracy in Colgan's work has the date 919. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 580, 581. Archdall has rightly corrected the error in his "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁷⁴ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁷⁵ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 633.

⁷⁶ Now Timahoe, Queen's County.

⁷⁷ Now Ferns, County Wexford.

⁷⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 606, 607.

⁷⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁸⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 610, 611.

⁸¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁸² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 620, 621.

⁸³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁸⁴ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum

This name is Latinised Tuathalius, filius Moel-Kierani.⁸⁴ In the year 937, Ceallachan, the King of Cashel, assisted by the Dames of Waterford, laid waste the country of Meath as far as Clonard.⁸⁵ They pillaged and sacked this monastery of Clonenagh,⁸⁶ with that of Killachaidh,⁸⁷ making the abbots Conchaur and Muredach prisoners. These are called, likewise, Muireadhach Ua Conchobhair, and Coibhdeanach, son of Beargdha. Owing to the apposition of the Four Masters, we may consider the first-named to have been the Abbot of Clonenagh.⁸⁸ Again, Ceallagh, the son of Eporan, Bishop of Clonenagh,⁸⁹ died in the year 940.⁹⁰ This entry is Latinized as Ceallachus filius Eporani, Episcopus de Cluain-edhnech.⁹¹ Gormghilla, the son of Ceandubhain, became arch-prior of this abbey. He was barbarously murdered by the neighbouring inhabitants⁹² in the year 965.⁹³ Some of the Ossorians are charged with this murder.⁹⁴ Muireadhach Ua Conchobhair, or O'Conor,⁹⁵ who was bishop and successor to Finntan of Cluain-eidhneach, died A.D. 970.⁹⁶ It seems most probable, that he was the abbot already named, and who had been taken prisoner in the year 937, thus surviving that event thirty-three years. He was probably very old at the time of his death. By Colgan⁹⁷ he is called Muredachus Oconchubhair. We are informed that Diarmid, who had been a lector or professor at Kildare, and a man of uncommon erudition,⁹⁸ became abbot over Clonenagh. He is called likewise a scholastic of Kildare, while he was remarkable for his exquisite literary acquirements.⁹⁹ His fame and virtues were recorded in an Irish poem, from which the following lines have been translated:—

“Diarmaid, stronghold of noble wisdom, a man of generous fame,
of great battle;

Pity, O king of the righteous laws, that death has now approached
him.”¹⁰⁰

Hibernia,” xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁸⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 638, 639.

⁸⁶ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

⁸⁷ Now Killeigh, in the King's County.

⁸⁸ Colgan, however, has "Conchuarus et Muredachus de Cluain-Edhnech et Kill-Achaidh capti," &c. See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁸⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 593.

⁹⁰ See Duaid MacFirbis in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish MS. Series. Vol. i., part. i., pp. 100, 101. Also, Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii. pp. 644, 645.

⁹¹ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁹² Thus is it stated in Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 593.

⁹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 688, 689.

⁹⁴ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, cap. iv., p. 356.

⁹⁵ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 593.

⁹⁶ See Duaid MacFirbis, in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish MSS. Series. Vol. i., part. i., pp. 100, 101. Also, see Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 694, 695.

⁹⁷ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Vitam S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv. p. 356.

⁹⁸ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 592.

⁹⁹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. iv., p. 356.

¹⁰⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 728, 729.

¹⁰¹ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 633.

He died in the year 991.¹⁰¹ In the year 1007, Tuathal O'Conchobhair, successor to Finnian—most probably of Clonenagh—died.¹⁰² The noble Donghal Ua Coibhdheanaigh, or Donnghal O'Coibhdheany,¹⁰³ a priest of Cluain-eidhneach, departed this life in the year 1071.¹⁰⁴ By Colgan he is styled Donnghalius Ocorbhdheanaigh, presbyter de Cluaineidhnech. Thenceforward we find no historic accounts, and we may probably attribute the circumstance to a gradual decline, until a succession of monks had failed to support this ancient establishment. After the monastery disappeared, Clonenagh was converted into a parish church. A valuable compilation, comprising some historic tracts, and known as the Book of Clonenagh, had long been preserved, after the dissolution of the monastery. It is thought to have been written by the monks, nor does it appear to have been completed until after the twelfth century.

When Dr. Geoffry Keating wrote his History of Ireland,¹⁰⁵ early in the seventeenth century, he refers to it as amongst the books "that are to be seen at this day," and he quotes many passages from it in the course of his work. The following extract from the Book of Clonenagh,¹⁰⁶ relating to the synod of Kells, is given by Keating:—"In the year 1157, from the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, being bissextile, was celebrated in the Spring, a noble council at Ceannannus, in which presided Cardinal John, a priest of St. Laurence; there were present—twenty-two bishops, and five bishops-elect, and very many abbots and priors, on the part of the blessed Peter and Paul, and our apostolic Lord Eugenius. The synod condemned usury and adopted every means to extirpate it, and commanded that tithes be paid by apostolic authority. He delivered four palliums to the four archbishops of Ireland, namely—of Dublin, Tuam, Cashel, and Armagh. Moreover, he constituted, as was proper, the Archbishop of Armagh primate over the rest. As soon as the council was ended, Cardinal John at once set out, and on the ninth of the Kalends of April, crossed the sea." Then follow the names of the bishops who took part in the council, amongst whom we find Finn MacTireagain, bishop of Kildare, and Dungal O'Keilly, bishop of Leighlin.

In the year 1657, a map of Maryborough barony, in the Queen's County, was ad-measured by Ambrose Yorke. It appears to include the present baronies of Maryborough East and West. The latter seems to have comprised the parish of Clonenagh, with Cloneheene, which latter extended into the barony of Cullenagh. Monerath's church—now the site for Clonenagh—is marked on the map.¹⁰⁷ Of

¹⁰² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 758, 759.

¹⁰³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 593.

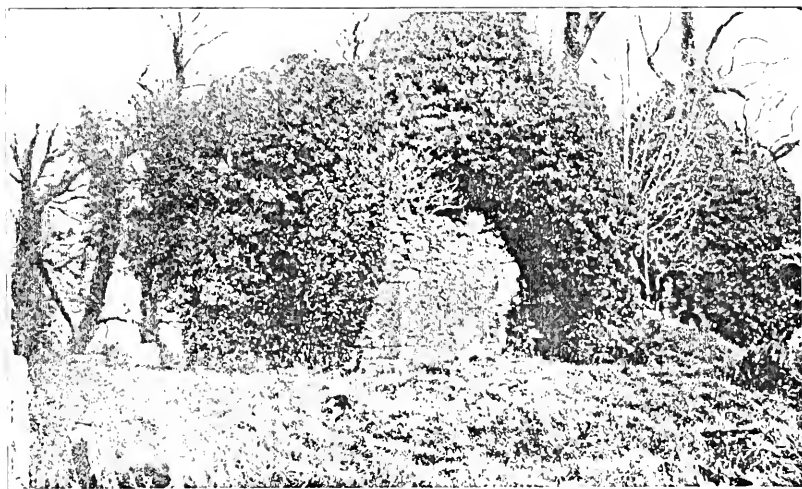
¹⁰⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 900, 901.

¹⁰⁵ See Part. ii., edition of 1841.

¹⁰⁶ There are reasons for thinking that this precious historical treasure was at one time preserved in the library of Ballyfin house, and consequently that it may still exist. See "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., p. 591.

¹⁰⁷ Not far away is Ballinfinne House (castellated) with its surrounding timber and bog characterized as forfeited lands. The River Ownassa bounds them on the north.

¹⁰⁸ Not far from it, on the same stream, is the iron mill at Dysertbeagh. Westward of these denominations the castle, from which Castletown derives its name, is situated on the right bank of the Nore, and a church is on the left bank, within the present townland denomination of Dysertbeagh. The Red Castle of Upper Monerath is near Clonenagh.



ST. FINTAN'S CHURCH, CLONENAGH.

See page 209.



SHANE or SHEHAN CASTLE.

(From Grose's *Antiquities*.)

course the town of Monerath, designated by a few houses on a stream,¹⁰⁸ is now known as Mountrath. Much of the parish of Clonenagh is there represented as forfeited lands. To the south appear denominations of several townlands. Among these are named Cloanadogas, Roscoltean, Cromoge and its church, Cappabegkinny, Killeany, Scotchrath, where there is a fort, Iron Mill in Dysartbeagh, Tinnekilly, Couilty, with woods and bogs. Knockmey and Clonrusk are also represented as forfeited, on the verge of Burres parish. The remainder of Clonenagh parish consisted of unforfeited lands.¹⁰⁹ Clonenagh was a parish, and it had preserved an old church, within the diocese of Leighlin, during the eighteenth century.¹¹⁰ This was used for the purposes of Protestant worship during the earlier years of the last century, but it was suffered to lapse into decay, and it was finally unroofed, when another building to replace it had been erected in the town of Mountrath. The adjoining grave-yard is used as a place of interment, chiefly for Protestants; on the opposite side of the road, is another cemetery, in which Catholics exclusively are interred. At least three priests lie interred here; the tomb-stones are so over-run with weeds and grass, that it is very difficult to decipher them.¹¹¹ On the roadside, the well of St. Fintan is pointed out. It does not, it is said, occupy its original site, which was in the adjoining field; the owner of this field contrived to divert the spring to the place it occupies at present. An old tree opposite the well is popularly supposed to be sacredly connected with it. In some cavities within the trunk, water is said to be at all times found, and to which healing properties are ascribed.

Formerly the Protestant Church was at Clonenagh; but in 1706, one more commodious was designed and built, chiefly at the expense of the Earl of Mountrath¹¹² in the town from which his title had been derived. The incumbent has an annual income at present of £575.¹¹³ The town had been founded by the Coote family in 1628. The large bogs of Derrymore and Derrybeg—the names of which indicate a former growth of oak-woods there—extend eastwards from Mountrath. The principal seat near the town is Forest House, in a park similarly named. The living in the patronage of the crown was a rectory in the diocese of Leighlin, and formerly valued at £1,125. The Great Southern and

¹⁰⁹ Very nearly corresponding are the denominations on the maps copied by General Vallancy from the originals in the National Library, Paris. See vol. ii., No. 64, Record Office, Dublin.

¹¹⁰ See Rev. Mervyn Archdall's "Monasticum Hibernicum," pp. 591 to 593. This work was published in Dublin, A.D., 1786, 4to.

¹¹¹ After a vigorous application of brush and water, one of these revealed the following interesting inscription:—"Here lieth the body of the Revd. Lawrence Colleton, Pastor of Clonenagh, Bachelor of Divinity in the Sorbonne, and Archdeacon of the Diocese of Leighlin, who departed this life, the — of September, in the year of our Lord, 1788, aged, 66 years. Requiescat in Pace.

Hæc est requies mea in aeternum ;
Hic habitabo quoniam elegi eam."

Two other stones mark the graves of priests, bearing the following inscriptions:—"Here lieth the body of the Rev. Daniel Horohan, who departed this life the 13th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1749, aged 60 years." Also "Here lieth the body of the Rev. Denis Lalor, who departed this life the 26th March, 1762, in the 44th year of his age."

¹¹² See the "National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 895.

¹¹³ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 124. The town and environs of Mountrath are shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 17.

Western Railway passes near Clonenagh, and has the station named Mountrath and Castletown. The town of Mountrath, with its fine-looking, capacious old houses, is of considerable size, and one hundred years ago was a hive of busy industry, especially in the weaving of stuffs and tammies—the latter a mixture of home-grown flax and imported cotton. A monastery of Patrician Monks has long been established here, and they conduct a boarding as well as a day-school for the education of boys. Even previous to this foundation, a convent for Brigidine Nuns was provided on the 18th of April, 1809, by three Sisters, who proceeded thither from the mother house in Tullow, County of Carlow. The Catholic history of Mountrath which is the head station—and of the parish of Clonenagh, is fully set forth in the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. III., pp. 291 to 304. A fine Gothic Catholic Church has been erected in the town by a former Parish Priest, Very Rev. James Dunne; the architect was Mr. John Butler, Dublin. In 1868, there were five or six chapels and meeting-houses for Presbyterians, Quakers, and Dissenters. There were also nineteen day schools, nine of which were National.¹¹⁴ In the town are a market-house, mills, a brewery and a police station; also a dispensary, which last is within the Mountmellick Poor-Law Union. Saturday is the market day, and fairs are held on the 17th of February, St. Fintan's Day, on the 8th of May, on the 20th of June, on the 10th of August, on the 19th of September, and on the 6th of November.

In Kilbrickan townland, south of Mountrath, and on the banks of the River Nore, there is a church in ruins.¹¹⁵ It is within the ornamental grounds surrounding Kilbrickan House.¹¹⁶ Near Clonenagh is also the site of the ruins of Red Castle, probably erected in the sixteenth century.

The very ancient church formerly called Cluainchaoin, and now written Clonkeen,¹¹⁷ was situated a few miles eastward from Clonenagh, and near to Bochuain. The site is still traditionally remembered; and it is at a place now called Churchfields,¹¹⁸ where an old burial-ground was still used in the early part of the last century.¹¹⁹ Another name by which this locality appears to have been recorded, was Cluain-Aitchenn. Anciently it would seem to have been united as a parish with Clonenagh, and most probably after the monastery disappeared at the latter place.¹²⁰ In old documents this union is called Clonehine or Clonkeen and Clonenagh. We are told that Cluainchaoin was an ancient monastery, not far distant from Clonenagh.¹²¹ It is not improbable, that, besides a church, some religious establishment there existed in remote times. It is possible, too, that the celebrated St. Fintan,¹²² founder and first Abbot of Clonenagh, was born at this Clonkeen.¹²³ Father Hugh Ward has

¹¹⁴ See the "National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 605.

¹¹⁶ See the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 17.

¹¹⁸ See *ibid.* Sheet 23.

¹¹⁷ It is in the Barony of Maryborough West, and defined on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 12, 17, 18.

¹¹⁸ The place has been identified by Dr. O'Donovan.

¹¹⁹ See a wood engraving and a description of the spot in Rev. John Canon O'Hanlon's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., Art. i. Life of St. Fintan of Clonenagh, chap. i., p. 576.

¹²⁰ We lose historic trace of its existence after the eleventh century.

¹²¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hi-

placed the following saints at Clonkeen; but as there were other places so called in different parts of Ireland, we may not too hastily conclude that all of those whose names follow belong to this place:—Thus, Arunus or Aaron, said to have been venerated at the 15th of August,¹²⁴ Daghdus,¹²⁵ whose feast occurs on the 18th of August; and Dimocus or Modimocus,¹²⁶ who was commemorated at the 10th of December,¹²⁷ are all styled bishops at Cluain-Caoin.¹²⁸ It is evident, however, that the foregoing saints were not all connected with the present locality. Duaid MacFirbis places a bishop named Lugach at Cluain-Aitchenn, in Leix, assigning his festival to the 6th of October.¹²⁹ He would, therefore, seem to be identical with a St. Lugech or Lughaidh, mentioned in the Martyrologies of Tallaght and of Donegal, at this same date. The latter martyrology, however, says he was of Cuil Beannchair,¹³⁰ and of Rath Muighe Tuiscirt.¹³¹ But we are not able to ascertain the period when these saints flourished. It was, however, most probably at a very early date. It is said a St. Fintan had been venerated here¹³² at the 11th of May.¹³³ He died, it is thought, in the year 860,¹³⁴ uncertain if he be the same as Finan of Cluain-Caoin, bishop and anchorite.¹³⁵ However, Dr. O'Donovan states, that he belonged to Clonkeen, near Ardee, in the County of Louth. The saint, whose feast is recorded at the 11th of May, is called simply Fionntain, of Cluain-Caoin, by the O'Clerys. By Colgan, he seems confounded with a St. Fionntain, Priest of Cluaoin-Caoin,¹³⁶ who is venerated in our Calendars at the 7th of February;¹³⁷ but we deem them to have been distinct personages.

berniæ," xvii. Februarii; Vita S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, n. 4, p. 353.

¹²² He died on the 17th of February, and in the sixth century.

¹²³ See *ibid.*, Appendix, cap. v., p. 356.

¹²⁴ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves, "Martyrology of Donegal," at this date, for Arun, Bishop of Cluaincaoin, pp. 208, 209.

¹²⁵ According to the O'Clerys, he belonged to Inis Caoin Deagha, in the County of Louth. See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 222, 223.

¹²⁶ The same authorities have the entry of his feast at the 10th of December as Modimog, bishop and confessor of Cluain-caoin-Aradh, in Munster (see pp. 330, 331), so that he did not belong to the Leix Clonkeen.

¹²⁷ Archdall has it the 8th of December. See "Monasticum Hibernicum," p. 593.

¹²⁸ See "Sancti Rumoldi Martyris Inelyti, Archiepiscopi Dubliniensis, Mechliniensium Apostoli," &c.; "Acta;" "Dissertatio Historica De Patria S. Rumoldi," sect. 9, p. 158.

¹²⁹ See "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish MSS. Series, vol. i., part i., pp. 100, 101.

¹³⁰ Now Coolbanagher, in the northern part of the Queen's County, although this has been questioned by the O'Clerys, who find another Cuil-Beannchair on

the brink of Lough Erne. See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 226, 267.

¹³¹ This place is said to have been in Ciarraighe Luachra; see *ibid.* The district here mentioned is now the County of Kerry.

¹³² The Martyrologies of Tallaght and of Donegal record this St. Fintan of Cluaoin Caoin (Clonkeen) at the 11th of May. Probably it was Cluain-Aitchenn, in Leix, and where Fintan is yet a favourite name in many families.

¹³³ See Archdall's "Monasticum Hibernicum," p. 593. This writer in mistake places four other saints in connection with this monastery, not appearing to have known there were other Cluainchaoins or Clonkeens in different parts of Ireland. As usual, his references to dates and authorities are very inexact.

¹³⁴ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," ix. Januarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Finani, Episcopi Lindisfarnensi, cap. i., p. 46.

¹³⁵ See *ibid.*, xvii. Februarii. Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, Abbatis de Cluain-Ednech, cap. i., p. 355.

¹³⁶ See *ibid.* In the similar names of Irish Saints and their places, many inaccuracies of identification occur.

¹³⁷ An ancient name for Kill-o'-the-Grange, near Kingstown, was Clonkeen.

The Church of Clonkeyn is represented here on the old Elizabethan Map of Leax and Ophaly. In the year 1616,¹³⁸ the rectory of Cloncline and Clonenagh was inappropriate in one Peter Crosby, who probably lived at Ballyfin. The serving vicar of both places was Dermot Horoghan, an old and infirm man at that time. The value of this living was then £16, which represented more than ten times that amount at the present day. James Waller was then the curate. At this period, too, the Church of Cloncline was found to be ruinous, while the chancel was kept in repair; and the church was furnished with books. We read that Clonena and Cloncline (in Maryborough) hath thirty-eight farms, united and inappropriate, in 1640. The union was worth £150, the vicarage £50, the parsonage £100, and then valued at £75 per annum. The patron was Sir K. Crosbie Knt.;¹³⁹ but as he was opposed to the Cromwellian party, who afterwards obtained power, his estates in the Queen's County were forfeited to the Poles, the Coote family ultimately succeeding in possession of that district. Now no trace of the former church at Clonkeen appears, nor even the vestige of a grave, although in a corner of the open field very rank grass still grows over the burial place of multitudes who there lie interred. The parish of Clonkeene in Sir William Petty's Maps has a representation of Boyly Church, with bog and what may be presumed more profitable land.¹⁴⁰ On another map of Clonenagh and Cloncheene the denominations already set forth on the barony map are repeated, and the ad-measurements of arable, pasture, wood and bog lands are given in acres, roods and perches, A.D. 1657. The edges of this map are burned. The castles, houses and churches are also marked. Knockinay and Clonrusk are marked.

On the northern or left bank of the River Nore, which separates Castletown from it, the townland of Dysartbeagh,¹⁴¹ southwards from the town of Mountrath, yet preserves the former denomination of old Dysart Bethech. At a very early period, this place seems to have been a dependency on the great monastery at Clonenagh; and probably, a hermitage had been established there for those monks who chose to live in seclusion, yet near the parent house. The site of Castletown on the River Nore has its ruined castle and church presented on Sir William Petty's Down Survey maps; while on the opposite bank is marked there the exact position of Dysart Bethech.¹⁴² At present, not a single vestige of the former religious house can be traced, as the writer has been informed by people living in that neighbourhood. However, a careful search, with such a recorded clue as remains, might result in the wished-for discovery. Little more than two centuries have

In the "Liber Niger" of Archbishop Alan, this church is said to have been dedicated to a St. Fintan.

¹³⁸ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

¹³⁹ Inquisition taken at Maryborough on the 13th of October, 1657, before Sir Chartes Coote, Knight, Baronet and President of the Province of Connaught. See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 9.

¹⁴⁰ In a detached portion of this

Parish is Balligegill townland, with a house there shown. Nothing else is to be seen. This Map was ad-measured by Ambrose Yorke, A.D. 1657.

¹⁴¹ It lies within the united parishes of Clonenagh and Clonagheen. It is shewn on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 16.

¹⁴² See the copies by General Vallancy from the original maps, now preserved in the National Library, Paris. Vol. ii., No. 63, in the Irish Record Office, Dublin.

clapsed, since it had a local position as a prominent land-mark. On Sir William Petty's maps a church is represented within the present townland denomination of Dysertbeagh, on the left bank of the River Nore, and near to Castletown, a short distance from Mountrath.¹⁴³ Old Dysert Betach may have been somewhere within or near the woods, which grow at present along the river bank; and even if the walls have disappeared, their foundations, or the relics of an old grave-yard, may still be discovered. If one were not in existence before his time, the celebrated St. Ængus the Culdee may be supposed to have established a hermitage, not far distant from Clonenagh, and at that place called Dysert Bethech. After returning from Tallaght to Leix, it has been stated, that he became Abbot over Clonenagh; but it is possible enough, that previously he occupied the retired place beside the River Nore. Certainly that hermitage had an existence towards the latter part of the eighth century. Moreover it seems to have been inhabited by St. Ængus, about the beginning of the ninth century; and here, too, it is probable, he wrote a considerable portion of his *Feilire*—at least, from the account succeeding, he finished it at Dysartbeagh.

It would appear, that the poem of St. Ængus had not been issued until after the death of holy Abbot Maelruan, which took place A.D. 792, according to the best computation.¹⁴⁴ This fact appears still more evident, as in the *Festilyg*, the name of Tallaght's venerable superior is found recorded, with a suitable eulogy. According to the best accounts, Ængus wrote his poem in or before A.D. 798; for, so far as can be ascertained, the name of any saint who died after such date cannot be discovered in it.¹⁴⁵ At the head of a large army, Aid or Aideus the Sixth, surnamed *Oirdnidhe*, undertook his expedition against the Leinster people, A.D. 804, according to the most correct supposition. He had summoned the clergy, as well as the laity, to join this hosting, and twice within a month the monarch devastated Leinster.¹⁴⁶ He marched to this spot, and on the Leix side of the River Nore, the monarch Aid seems to have selected a site for his encampment. This was during the hosting of Dun Cuai into the borders of Meath and Leinster.¹⁴⁷ A very learned man, who appears to have been high in favour with the king, travelled as the monarch's companion, while engaged on this expedition. This was Fothad or Fothadius, surnamed the Canonist, owing to his special knowledge of Canon Law, or because of the modifications in Irish Church discipline, of which he was the author at that period. The king promised to abide by the award of Fothad na Canoine, who composed an Irish poem on the subject, and in which his opinion was forcibly expressed, yet in terms of justice and persuasiveness. At this very time, it so happened, that St. Ængus resided at Dysert Bethech, and, no doubt, his reputation and position caused him to have had interviews with the Irish monarch. Just then the Culdee had finished his *Festilyg*. A friendship was here formed between

¹⁴³ This particular map was drawn by Ambrose Yorke, A.D. 1657.

¹⁴⁴ Such is the correction of Mr. O'Donovan, although the Four Masters place his death at A.D. 737. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 392, 393.

¹⁴⁵ See Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on

the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," Lect. xvii., p. 362.

¹⁴⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 408, 409.

¹⁴⁷ See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. i., Irish Manuscript Series. On the Calendar of Ængus. By Whitley Stokes, LL.D., p. iii.

the saint and Fothadh the Canonist, who showed the poem he had composed for Aedh's decision. Before presenting it to the king, he desired and received the warm approval of his brother poet.¹⁴⁸ Fothadh the Canonist is said to have received a present of the Feilire, which had been first shown to him, from our saint's hands. Having read it with great delight, Fothadh solemnly approved and recommended it for perusal by the faithful.¹⁴⁹ The Canonist returned this compliment by the bestowal of another work, of which he was the author. This latter treatise is said to have been the famous Remonstrance he drew up, as addressed to King Aidus. It inveighs against the employment of ecclesiastics in military services. At this time, the clergy had complained of the grievance inflicted on them; because they had been obliged—contrary to the spirit of their calling—to take up arms and to engage in scenes of violence and of bloodshed. Commhach, Archbishop of Armagh, and the northern clergy, were among the chief remonstrants. Ængus Ceilé De first published or circulated his Festology that very year, when Aedh Oirdnidhe obtained his full demand from Finsneachta, King of Leinster, who gave him hostages and pledges.

After the commencement of the ninth century, and when he was somewhat advanced in years, St. Ængus Hagiographus died. Whether this event occurred at Dysart Betach, Dysart Enos, or Clonenagh, is uncertain. Sir James Ware names one or other of the years 819, 824, or 830, conjecturally, as referring to this saint's death, from the circumstances of the 11th March, falling on the *feria sexta*, or Friday,¹⁵⁰ at each of these dates.¹⁵¹ Professor Eugene O'Curry thinks St. Ængus Ceilé De must have died about the year 815.¹⁵² Nearly all our writers seem to agree with the account furnished in his Acts by Colgan,¹⁵³ that he had been buried at Clonenagh.¹⁵⁴ A scholiast on the Feilire asserts, that he was both educated and buried at Dysart Enos.¹⁵⁵ However it seems very probable, that the latter place has been mistaken for Disert Bethach, and that here he really died. A very ancient Irish poem

¹⁴⁸ See Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," Lect. xvii., p. 354.

¹⁴⁹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii, De S. Ængusio Hagiographo, cap. xiii., p. 581.

¹⁵⁰ "Ængus in the assembly of Heaven

Here are his tomb and his bed;

It is from this he went to death,

In the Friday, to holy Heaven.

It is at Cluain-eidnech he was nursed

At Cluain-eidnech he was buried;

At Cluain-eidnech of many crosses,

He read his psalms at first."

¹⁵¹ "There being good reason to think that Ængus survived the year 806, Colgan conjectures that the year of his death was either 819, 824, or 830; whereas in each of them the 11th March fell on a Friday."—Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xx., sect x., n. 100, p. 249.

¹⁵² See "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," Lect. xvii., p. 362.

¹⁵³ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii, De S. Ængusio Hagiographo, cap. xvi., p. 582.

¹⁵⁴ The "Martyrology of Donegal," at the 11th of March, thus refers to St. Ængus:—"Ængus-na-heblen, bishop, who is called Ængus Celé-de. It is he that composed the Feilire. He is of the race of Irial, son of Conall Cearnach; and it was at Cluain-eidnech, on the bank of the Eoir (the Nore), in Laoighis, he was fostered; he read his psalms first, and he was afterwards buried, according to this verse, which is in the poem which begins:

"Delightful to sit here around him,

By the side of the cold, clear Eoir."

See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' edition, p. 73.

¹⁵⁵ Colgan has remarked, that the Dysart where he died was possibly not different from Clonenagh; if, however, it was a distinct place, he considers Ængus may have died at Dysart, and may have been afterwards interred at

states, that it was his death-bed, and that here also was his leacht or monument. No doubt, in past ages, it was long the resort of the pious pilgrim; at present, the very cemetery in which it stood is unknown. In an old Irish poem, this place is called, "sacred Desert Bethach," and "a religious city, by crosses enclosed." Not one of these can now be found. It was held in such reverence, that it was exempt from plunder, although populous.¹⁵⁶ When its church fell into ruins the site became solitary, and it presents all around at present the features of rural loneliness.

Almost forgotten at present, but yet situated near the old coach-road between Maryborough and Mountrath, is the former burial-ground of Bocluain. It is surrounded by high hedgerows of hawthorn, with some larger trees of that species now shading the grass-grown graves, and several rude headstones there, are now scarcely visible; yet, in former times, some kind of a church must have been erected on this site. In our Calendars, a St. Fraechan, Bishop of Bochlúain, to the east of Clonenagh, in Laoighis, seems to have been venerated on the 20th day of November.¹⁵⁷ The period when he flourished is not known to the writer; but it must have been during or before the eighth century; for he is mentioned in the "Feilire"¹⁵⁸ of St. Ængus, at the same date, and assigned to the same place. A scholiast on this passage states, that besides Bochlúain in Leix, he was also venerated in Druim Daganda in Dalaradia. According to one tradition, he came from the north, accompanied by a saint called Escon.¹⁵⁹ Others think the latter term is a corruption of the text, and that *Episcop* should be read, which should simply imply Bishop Froechan. His place is described as having been right before Sliabh Bladhma, now the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The etymon Bo-Chluain, in Irish, has been translated "the Cow's Lawn" or "Meadow." The spot here referred to lies about two miles south-west from Maryborough.¹⁶⁰ It is within the united parishes of Clonenagh and Clonagheen, in the barony of Maryborough East.¹⁶¹ The people formerly had a great veneration for this ancient abode of mortality; and the neighbouring inhabitants had their family places for interment well defined. But, in the famine years, the old wayside inn and stables for Frederick Bourne's coach-horses were converted into an auxiliary workhouse. Numbers of paupers died there, or on the

Clonenagh. See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii xi., De S. Ængusio Hagiographo, n. 6, p. 582.

¹⁵⁶ See the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. iii., March xi. Art. i. St. Ængusius Hagiographus, chap. iv., n. 20.

¹⁵⁷ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 314, 315.

¹⁵⁸ There we read—

Suró Epcon ta Froechan
An Dleoma bala.

It is rendered into English thus:—
"Beseech Escon with Froechan before Strong (Slieve) Bloom."

¹⁵⁹ This term is said to mean "impure," and it is thought, because he was thirty years without baptism; but another version has it, he was called

Escon, because he slew a king of Leinster, *i.e.* by the dipping (read threatening?) with his staff, which he made at him, while he, the saint, was at Bo-Chluain, and the king in a bathing-tub at Naas. See "The Calendar of Oengus," edited by Whitley Stokes, pp. clxiv., clxix., clxx. "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i.

¹⁶⁰ Thus identified by William M. Hennessy, M.R.I.A. See "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish MSS. Series, vol. i., part i., pp. 90, 91.

¹⁶¹ The grave-yard, but without a name, is noted on the "Ordnance Survey Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 13.

roadside; they were buried indiscriminately in Bocluain, and the people of that locality disliked ever afterwards commingling the dust of their relatives with that of strangers. Elsewhere they sought burial-places, and the old cemetery ceased opening its over-crowded loam for the reception of new occupants. It is now quite disused, for even few visitors ever stroll among the lonely graves.

The union of Clonenagh and Clonaghen contains the two chapelries of Ballyfin and Roskelton. The church of Roskelton in the townland so named is a prominent object over a bleak and level landscape.¹⁶² The village of Raheen, containing a good Catholic Church, has but a few houses, most of rather an humble appearance. In the immediate neighbourhood are Raheen House and Tinnekill House, within ornamental grounds.¹⁶³ The old Church of Cremogue¹⁶⁴ and an adjoining graveyard are within the union, and about two miles distant from Clonenagh.¹⁶⁵ Beside it is a remarkable well reputed to be "holy," and still frequented by pilgrims, who usually carry away one of the pebbles found in the bottom of that clear spring. In addition to some already named, the principal seats within this union are Ballyfin,¹⁶⁶ the beautiful demesne of the Coote family, Woodbrook, Newpark, Woodbine, Springmount, Shanahoe, Anngrove Abbey and Mount Eagle.

CHAPTER XVI.—PARISH OF CLOYDAGH.

THIS parish is situated, partly in the barony of Slievemargy, in the Queen's County, but chiefly in the baronies of West Idrone and of Carlow, in the County of Carlow. The former section contains 788 *a. 0 r. 28 p.*,¹ and of these 245 *a. 2 r. 33 p.*—a small part of Cloghgreann—are detached in the Queen's County, yet contiguous to the Carlow portions of the parish; while 1 *r. 32 p.* are islands in the River Barrow, which flows from north to south through it.² The Carlow barony section contains 1265 *a. 2 r. 11 p.*, and of this area 27 *a. 1 r. 32 p.* are in the River Barrow; while the West Idrone barony section comprises 2889 *a. 2 r. 29 p.*, and of this area 22 *a. 0 r. 8 p.* are islands in the River Barrow.³ It is also called Clody or Clogrennan, as the Clogrennan hills lying to the east and south of the Slievemargy range slope down steeply on the Queen's County side to the River Barrow. The principal peak is 1038 feet

¹⁶² It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 17.

¹⁶³ See *ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ Wood-cut illustrations of Cremogue Clonenagh, and Mountrath Catholic Church, with additional details, have been already published by the author, and are to be found in "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii. February xvii., Art i. Life of St. Fintan, Abbot and Patron of Clonenagh, pp. 574 to 598.

¹⁶⁵ We fail to find them on Sheet 17 of "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," where they should have appeared.

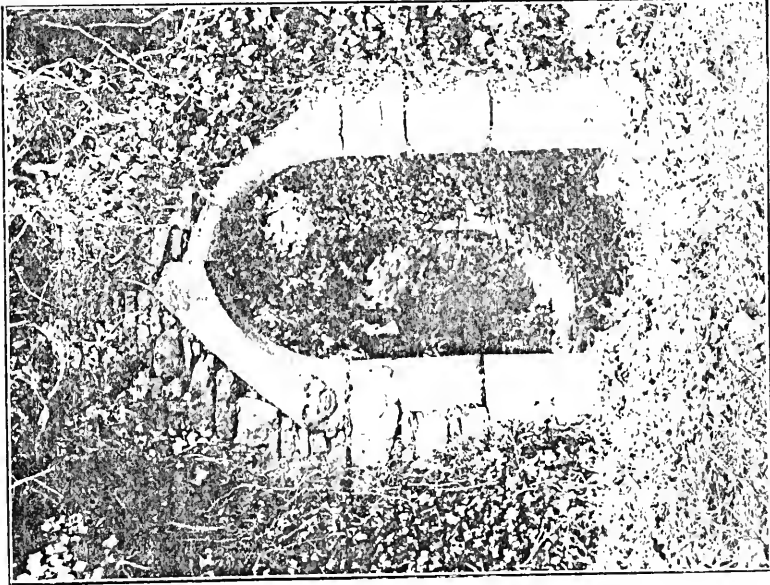
¹⁶⁶ Ballyfin House and Demesne are

described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 12.

¹ This portion is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 37.

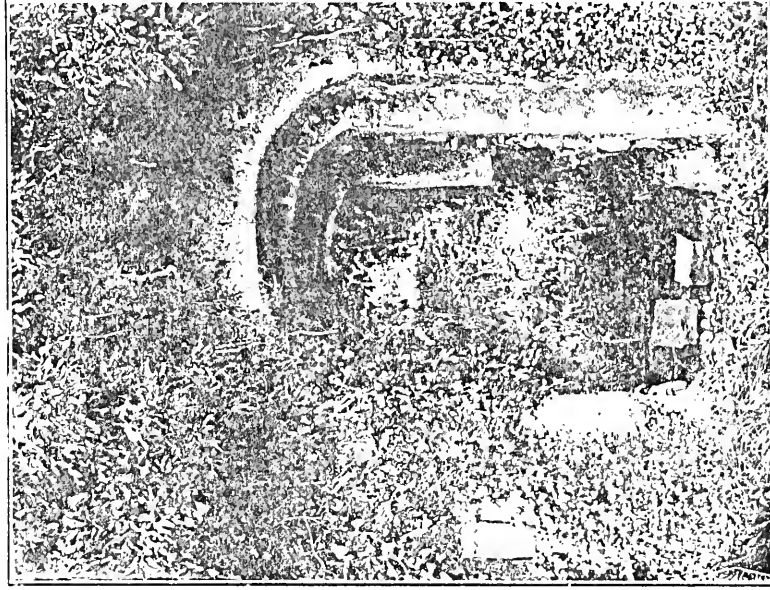
² The parish of Cloydagh is described by Mr. Thomas O'Connor in a letter, dated Leighlin Bridge, June 20th, 1839, in "Letters relating to the Antiquities of the County of Carlow containing Information collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1839," pp. 122 to 132.

³ These divisions are to be traced on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Carlow," Sheets 6, 7, 11, 12.



Photos by **CLOYDAGH CHURCH.**

South Door.



CURRACLONE CHURCH. [*Rev. E. O'L.*

West Door.]

above the sea-level. The soil is good with limestone substratum. Coal is procured at the Bilboa colliery.⁴ The lands along the Barrow are very fertile, as are those uplands immediately near, but they become barren as you ascend the summits, from which most charming scenic effects are obtained, as in one place the elevation is considerably above the district lying eastwards.

This parish was a vicarage and a separate benefice in the diocese of Leighlin, the diocesan being the patron. Popularly, it is now called Clogrennan. Cloydagh had a residence in 1616, and it was an impropriate rectory,⁵ Keating being the vicar. The church and chancel were in good repair, and a Communion Book was possessed. That old church of this parish is now to be seen in ruins, and surrounded by a burial-ground, within the beautiful demesne of the Rochfort family.⁶ The ornamental grounds skirt the public road from Carlow to Leighlin Bridge, and they extend along the western banks of the River Barrow. They lie also on the slope of the Cloghrennan Hills. The former old church of this parish was in a good state of preservation in the summer of 1839; and at that time the measured length of the structure inside was 59 ft. 6 in., and its breadth was 18 ft. On the east gable was to be seen a large window, topped with a pointed arch. On the inside it began within two feet from the ground, and was 5 ft. broad in the lower part. On the outside it commenced within 4 ft. from the ground, and was 4 ft. broad in the lower part, rising to a height of no less than 12 ft. Near the west gable and in the south side wall there was a door having a pointed arch. There was another door opposite to it in the side wall, the opening running to the top of the wall, the upper part of which had been destroyed. The church was built of chiselled granite.⁷

Here, also, on the banks of the River Barrow is to be seen Clogrennan Castle, now in ruins and covered with ivy.⁸ This formerly belonged to the Ormond family. Sir Edward Butler had raised the standard of revolt against the English Government in the sixteenth century. He held this castle, but it was taken from him by Sir Peter Carew in 1568. In 1641, it was besieged by the Irish. It was relieved, however, by Colonel Sir P. Wemys. At this place, the Marquis of Ormond mustered his forces, before proceeding to Dublin in 1649, when the battle of Rathmines took place. It is said, that after his defeat at the battle of the Boyne, James II. encamped at a place known as Bawn Ree;⁹ however, for this statement, there seems to be no confirmation. There is a grave-yard in the townland of Cloghrea in this parish, and it is only a short distance eastwards from the River Barrow. No vestiges of a church are within it.¹⁰ The Protestant church here was built in 1800, through a gift of £461 10s. 9½d. from the Board of First Fruits.

⁴ See the "National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 614.

⁵ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

⁶ Some inscriptions on the tombs are given in Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xxxi., pp. 334, 335.

⁷ See Thomas O'Connor's description at pp. 122, 123.

⁸ There is a fine copper-plate engraving of the ruins of Cloghrennan

Castle, as presented in 1794 in the "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iii., May, 1794, at p. 319.

⁹ In the year 1819, at a ford over the Barrow, and about one mile and a quarter distant, various relics of antiquity were found. Among these were brazen swords and arrow-heads. See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 381.

¹⁰ See Thomas O'Connor's description, p. 131.

Some thirty years later, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners added a grant of £167 5s. 11d. for repairs. The glebe-house was built, in 1813, by a gift of £400, and a loan of £360, from the Board of First Fruits. The glebe comprised six acres, subject to a rent of £4 4s. an acre.¹¹ The hamlet of Milford on the River Barrow is within this parish, and celebrated for its extensive flour-mills, which in the beginning of the last century carried on a flourishing trade by means of canal-boat communication with Dublin. At another spot, Killeeshal Fort on the west side and near the Barrow is a remarkable circular enclosure.

In 1831, the population of this whole parish was 1422; the number in Carlow barony being 204, and in West Idrone barony being 903. Consequently the remaining 315 lived in the barony of Slievemargy. In 1834, the Roman Catholic population was 1,168 for this whole parish, while the Protestants numbered 343.¹² In 1837, the estimated area of this parish was 4737 statute acres, of which 290 were woodland and 324 moorland, the remainder being arable and pasture; while 3764 acres were apportioned under the Tithe Act, and they were valued at £3774 per annum.¹³ In 1841, the population of this whole parish was 1499, living in 240 houses. The population was thus distributed, viz. :- That of Carlow barony section was 211, in 27 houses; that of Idrone West section 997, living in 161 houses, while that in Slievemargy barony was 291, living in 52 houses.¹⁴ In 1846 the rectorial tithes were compounded for £184 12s. 3¼d., being inappropriate in Colonel Henry Bruen and W. Fishbourne, Esq. The vicarial tithe composition was £92 6s. 1¼d., with a glebe valued at £25 4s.; the gross income being £117 10s. 1¼d., and the nett being £77 17s. 8¼d. At present the incumbent has an annual stipend of £250.¹⁵ A Catholic chapel is in this parish, belonging to the Union of Old Leighlin, Wells, Clonmulsk, and Cillinane; ¹⁶ and the religious history of the Union is traced under the heading of the Parish of Leighlin, by the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford.¹⁷

CHAPTER XVII.—PARISH OF COOLBANAGHER.

THIS parish is now within the barony of Portnalinch; and its old church, for many centuries back, seems to have been included within the bounds of Clanmalier,¹ in the district of Offaly. It lay, however, immediately without the border of Leix, and it has connexion with early Irish ecclesiastical history, having an existence in the eighth century, if its period of foundation be not traceable to even an earlier date. The surface consists of good land, with bog and limestone formations.²

¹¹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 381.

¹² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 470.

¹³ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 381.

¹⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., pp. 469, 470.

¹⁵ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 124.

¹⁶ See the "National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 614.

¹⁷ See "Collections relating to the

Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin." Third Series, pp. 1 to 32.

¹ The territory of the O'Dempseys.

² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., pp. 645, 646.

³ In Rev. Dr. Kelly's "Calendar of Irish Saints," the "Martyrology of Tallaght," &c., he is noticed simply as Lugech Sci, at the 6th of October. See p. xxxvi. Also at the same date, we find Lugech Sci, in that copy, contained in the "Book of Leinster," at p. 363.

In our Irish Calendars, the festival of Lugech,³ Lugach, or Lughaidh, Bishop of Cuil-Beannchair, is recorded at the 6th of October.⁴ His parents were Lucht,⁵ who was his father, and Medhbh,⁶ who was his mother. Still some doubt has been felt regarding the site of that Cuil-Beannchair, with which he had been connected.⁷ To us it appears probable, this was not a place different from the ancient monastery which stood at the present Coolbanagher.⁸ That Lugach flourished at an early period, seems established, from the circumstance of his having been entered in the *Feilire* of St. Aengus the Culdee, who calls him "Bishop Lugdach the gentle."⁹ The old commentator formed some idea, that he had relations both with Leix and Offaly;¹⁰ although, indeed, his observations are confusing enough, in the attempt at identification.¹¹ From the epithet applied, it would seem probable St. Aengus the Culdee had some personal acquaintance with him, or, at least, he had some reliable knowledge regarding his character.

It is said, that such a concourse of people flocked to visit St. Aengus the Culdee in that retreat he had chosen at Dysart Enos,¹² that he wished to seek a place where he might live wholly unknown.¹³ But, previously, he visited and stopped at Coolbanagher Church, situated near the extreme northern bounds of Leix. Here he had an angelic vision, which induced him to compose his *Feilire* or Metrical Hymn in honour of the Irish saints. At Coolbanagher, in Morott,¹⁴ and in the territory of Offaly, the gifted Culdee began his celebrated work, according to the writer of an Irish Preface to it¹⁵ as furnished in the "Leabhar Breac" copy;¹⁶ and the Laud Manuscript copy¹⁷ partly supports that

⁴ See Rev. Drs. Todd's and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 266, 267.

⁵ He is also called son of Anrodhan son to Maeltuille, son of Aithcleach, son of Ferb.

⁶ She was daughter to Garbhan, son of Brocan, son to Garbhan, son of Dubhchertan of the Ui-Saithghil of Ciarraighe Luachra, now in the county of Kerry.

⁷ The O'Clerys conjecturally observe, that he was Bishop of Cuil-Beannchair, on the brink of Loc Erne, and of Rath Muighe-tuaiscirt in Ciarraighe Luachra; or of Cuil-Beann-chair in Ui-Failghe, and of Tuaim-fobhair in Luighne. See their Martyrology, at the 6th October.

⁸ This parish is shewn on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14. The townland proper is on sheets 8, 13.

⁹ In the "Leabhar Breac" copy he is styled *episcop lugdach ugach*.

¹⁰ The original gloss in Irish and Latin has thus been rendered:—"Ludach," *i.e.*, of Daire na Fland in Eoganacht Chaisil, *i.e.*, Lugdach, bishop in Cluain Aithein in Leix, or in Cuil-Bennchair in Offaly, et quod verum est, and, moreover, the same

Bishop Lugdach is in Cuil-Bennchoir in Lurg on the brink of Lough Erne, and he is in Rath Maige Tuaiscirt in Ciarraighe Luachra, *i.e.*, at Daire Mochua on the brink of the Feile."

¹¹ The reader is referred to Dr. Whitley Stokes' "On the Calendar of Oengus," in "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy." Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i., part i., pp. cxlix., and clv.

¹² However, it does not seem at all to be perfectly clear, that the celebrated Aengus the Culdee, either lived in retirement at or afterwards gave name to Dysart Enos. Perhaps, indeed, this place may have been thus named before he had been called away to enjoy the bliss of immortality. Another Aengus, who was almost contemporary with this saint, has left an elegant poem in praise of him. From this poem Colgan derives a great part of St. Aengus Ceilé De's Acts.

¹³ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii xi. De Aengussio Hagiographo, Episcopo et Confessore, cap. iii., p. 579.

¹⁴ Where there is an old castle, connected with which some amusing anecdotes are related in Sir Jonah Barrington's "Personal Sketches and Recollections of his own Times."

statement, although this latter text is somewhat ambiguous.¹⁸ Inspired by a devotional feeling and poetical genius of no mean order, St. Aengus took up his pen, and he commenced a composition in the Irish language, since known as the "Feilire," or, in Latin, as the *Festilogium* of St. Aengus. In this extended poem he enumerates some of the principal saints, whom he calls Princes of the Saints. The *Festilogium* commemorates saints' festivals assigned to each day of the year, with allusions to characteristic virtues or actions of some holy individuals therein commemorated.¹⁹ Various other archæological works, but especially relating to Irish hagiology, have been attributed to St. Aengus the Culdee.

When this renowned writer left the district of Leix, and had remained for some time at Coolbanagher—where there seems to have been a sort of monastic establishment at the time—afterwards, as we read, he went to Tallaght, near the present city of Dublin, and there concealing his name and former place of residence, this humble man became a monk under St. Maelruan, then abbot. At Clonenagh and Disert Enos, or Disert Aengus, Archdall has inverted the order of Aengus' transactions. After making Aengus found an abbey at Disert-Aengus, Archdall sends him to Tallaght, where, it is said, he died.²⁰ Now, it is clear from the *Acts* that Aengus was no more than a simple monk, when he removed to Tallaght. As to the place of his death it could not have been Tallaght; for, as we find in said *Acts*, he was buried at Clonenagh, or at Disert Bethach. After having spent some time at Tallaght, his name and literary qualifications were discovered by St. Maelruan. Afterwards both those holy men composed that valuable hagiographical and historic record, known as the "Martyrology of Tallaght."²¹ St. Maelruan died on the 7th of July, A.D. 792, and, afterwards, St. Aengus took the resolution of returning to Leix.

Over its great monastery of Clonenagh, in due course of time, it is stated, that the humble monk and disciple of St. Maelruan was chosen abbot. St. Aengus is said to have succeeded Melathgenius, who died in 767, or rather in 768, according to Sir James Ware.²² He was also elevated to the episcopal dignity.²³ It was a very usual practice then

¹⁸ Thus it is rendered in English: "*Locus hujus artis* (was) Cool Banagher in Morett: in the territory of Oifally its beginning, in Clonenagh, however, its continuation (?), in Tallaght Libren its entire completion *ut alii.*"

¹⁶ See Dr. Whitley Stokes "On the Calendar of Oengus," "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i., part i., pp. iii., v.

¹⁷ The English translation runs: "Place, forsooth, first for it: Cool Banagher in Morett in the border of Oifally, and it was in the kiln in Tam-lacht wherein some of it was made. In Clonenagh its beginning, in Cool Banagher, and its completion in the kiln in Tallaght."

¹⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. v., viii.

¹⁹ A copy of this poem is preserved

in the "Leabhar Breac," which is in the Royal Irish Academy's Library. There is a commentary or series of notes found in various copies of this work yet extant. These comments relate many traditions regarding those saints who are named in the *Feilire*.

²⁰ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," pp. 592, 594.

²¹ Owing to this joint authorship, the work is frequently cited as *Martyrologium Aengusii filii Hua-Oblenii et Moelruanii*, "the Martyrology of Aengus and Molruan."

²² It is not probable, that St. Aengus the Culdee was the immediate successor of Melathgenius. By his namesake, however, Aengus Ceilé De is called abbot.

²³ At least such a statement is contained in our Irish Martyrologies



COOLBANAGHER CHURCH.



Photos by

COOLBANAGHER CASTLE.

[Rev. E. O'L.]

prevailing in Ireland, to invest the superiors of all great religious houses with this exalted rank. Probably, however, we may regard this dignity he obtained as qualifying him to be classed only with the inferior prelates, known as Chore-episcopi, in early times. We can find no mediæval accounts of Coolbanagher; but, we conclude, that its monastic life fell into decay, and that only a parish church afterwards remained.

The old mediæval church of Coolbanagher—portions of which we believe to present evidences of very remote antiquity—remains in a ruinous state, and its surrounding grave-yard is now used as a place of burial. Tradition assigns to the building an early date of erection. There are two divisions in this church yet visible—most probably the nave and choir. A wall appears to have separated both, but a large pointed doorway afforded a communication. The nave, on the outside, measures 32 ft. in length by 22 ft. in breadth. The outside wall of the choir measures 28 ft. in length by 16 ft. in breadth. The inside of the building is filled with loose stones and rubbish. A narrow, low door, now stopped up with masonry, appears beneath an overshadowing mass of ivy, on the western gable; and a door seems to have been subsequently opened on the southern side wall, probably, when the former one had been closed. A splayed window opened on either side of the nave. A splayed and ruinous east window formerly lighted the choir, the side walls of which are now nearly level with the ground.²⁴ The spot is not far removed from the great Heath of Maryborough, and near the ecclesiastical ruins are to be seen the stately remains of Coolbanagher Castle.²⁵ There are no tombs, at present, in the grave-yard or within the church, but such as bear modern inscriptions.

In 1657 Coolbanagher is reported as having twenty-five townlands, and that it was an impropriation. Gilbert Rawson, Esq., was the patron; it had been rated at £25 per annum, and then it was worth £16. It had 15 acres of glebe attached.²⁶ The living is a rectory in the Diocese of Kildare, formerly valued at £454, and in the patronage of the crown. The church there erected dates for 1786,²⁷ and it occupies a commanding site. At present, the incumbent has an annual salary of £224.²⁸ With an interesting early account of Emo Parish—which is the title for it in the Catholic distribution—the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford treats its religious historic records in his valuable work.²⁹ The old castle of Morett has an interesting record,³⁰ and its ruins are on a slight elevation. In the early days of the writer its four quadrangular walls were in a good state of preservation, but at present much of the remains having fallen, the rest of this interesting castellated mansion must probably soon disappear.

²⁴ These are some descriptive particulars noted during a visit to the spot, on the 10th of December, 1853. On that occasion, the writer took a pencil sketch of the old church ruins, as they appeared from the south-east side of the building.

²⁵ In Sir Charles Coote's "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," we are simply informed, that "at Coolbanagher are the ruins of a church and also

of a castle." Chap. x., sect. 4, p. 136.

²⁶ See *ibid.* chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

²⁷ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 646.

²⁸ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903," p. 114.

²⁹ See "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., pp. 144 to 154.

³⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 146 to 148.

CHAPTER XVIII.—PARISH OF COOLKERRY.

THIS small parish¹—formerly situated in the barony of Upper Ossory—is now chiefly in the barony of Clarmallagh,² while a very insignificant area³ is in the barony of Clandonagh. It lies a short distance to the east of Rathdowney, and along the right or south bank of the Erkin rivulet. A part of Aghaboe parish intervenes, so as to cut Coolkerry parish into two mutually-detached districts. As applotted under the Tithe Act, it comprised 1,720 statute acres.⁴ A castle was formerly here, but it has now been destroyed.⁵

Coolkerry had 30 *a.* 9 *p.* of glebe, and it was anentire rectory, in 1657, while the value was £50. The tithe was set for the use of the Commonwealth. It contained eight townlands, and the value of tithe was forty shillings per annum. It had no church.⁶ In 1837, the tithes amounted to £110, which were paid to the impropiators, the Ladies G. and A. Fitzpatrick; ⁷ although no church or glebe residence was in the parish. Its old church was then in ruins, while the Protestant parishioners attended the church at Rathdowney.⁸

In 1831, the Clarmallagh barony section of Coolkerry contained 375 inhabitants, while the Clandonagh barony section remained uninhabited.⁹ Coolkerry was a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Ossory; while it was entirely impropriate in the Fitzpatrick family.¹⁰ In the Roman Catholic arrangement, Coolkerry fell within the parochial union of Aghaboe.¹¹ In 1834, the Protestant inhabitants of this parish amounted to 23, while the Roman Catholics numbered 361.¹² In 1841, there were 67 houses in this parish, with 457 inhabitants. Middlemount and Erkina are two handsome residences within it, as also a castle and the old church in ruins.¹³

CHAPTER XIX.—PARISH OF CURRACLONE OR CORCLONE.

THE parish of Curraclone—sometimes written Corclone—adjoins that of Stradbally, towards the north-east. Its name is thought to have been derived from Currach¹ and Cluana,² interpreted to be “a bog island,” by Thomas O’Conor.³ This parish contains 3,644 *a.* 3 *r.* 1 *p.*,

¹ It is shown on the “Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen’s County,” Sheets 28, 34.

² This portion contains 1,615 *a.* 2 *r.* 6 *p.*

³ It contains only 4 *a.* 2 *r.* 12 *p.* See a description of this parish in “Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen’s County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838,” Letter of John O’Donovan, dated Mountrath, November 30th, 1838, pp. 110, 111.

⁴ See “Lewis’ Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,” vol. i., p. 397.

⁵ This site is shown on Sheet 28.

⁶ See Sir Charles Coote’s “General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen’s County,” chap. i., sec. 3, p. 7.

⁷ They allowed an annual stipend of £10 10s. to the vicar of Aughmacart, for performing the clerical duties.

⁸ See “The National Gazetteer,” vol. i., p. 646.

⁹ See “Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland,” vol. i., p. 499.

¹⁰ In 1837, the impropiators were the Ladies G. and A. Fitzpatrick, who are now represented in their large landed possession by the Earl of Ossory.

¹¹ See “Lewis’ Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,” vol. i., p. 397.

¹² See “Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland,” vol. i., p. 500.

¹³ See on Sheet 28 of the Ordnance Survey Maps.

including those portions covered by the Barrow's water margin.⁴ A light clay or a substratum of limestone or gravel predominates.⁵ The extensive woods of Ballyduff—as part of the Ballykilcavan estate—cover a considerable surface. The castle of Blackford, erected as a defence against the Pale incursions by the O'Moores, is now in ruins near the boundary stream.

There is an old church within a cemetery in this parish. Only one gable of it now remains; and this was repaired in the beginning of the late century, to preserve it from total ruin. A doorway is in it, and this exhibits two concentric arches at top. In the rude process of repairing, plaster was put over the masonry, which renders the ruin an unsightly object. An earlier church stood there, the foundations of which are now scarcely recognizable. Yet, the remains are in the centre of the grave-yard, and they rise considerably over the surface.⁶ At the end of the church—now unroofed and disused, as a new Protestant church on an elevated site has been erected near it.⁷—modern masonry appears. The grave-yard is exceedingly old, and it has been much used for interments. The graves are chiefly on the south side, where the entrance from the road opens. Numbers of old head-stones are to be seen. Ash trees grow around the grave-yard. A beautiful view of Ballykilcavan woods is presented from this lonely site, which is partially elevated over the surrounding plains. Ballymanus house is quite near. On the east side of the Grand Canal, which runs through a part of this parish, is shown the site of Ballymanus Castle, said to have been dependent on Dunamase.⁸ The river of Stradbally passes beneath the site of the old church, and thence makes its way eastward to the River Barrow. Another historic townland in this parish is Blackford,⁹ situated on the eastern boundary, near a small stream. This separates the Queen's County from the County of Kildare. In the year 1404,¹⁰ Giolla Patrick O'Mordha gained a victory over the English at this spot, and many of their people were slain there. Spoils of arms, armour, and horses were also taken from them. Blackford is marked on the old map of Leax and Ophaly. There stood an old castle on its site. In the beginning of May, 1599, Owny Mac Rory O'More had thrown up some entrenchments at this place to oppose the progress of the Earl of Essex and his army into Leix. Finding the position indefensible and the opposing force too powerful, O'Moore changed his cantonments,

¹ Written in Irish Cúppach.

² Written in Irish Cluana.

³ In his letter, dated Stradbally, December 9th, 1838. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 356.

⁴ See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 14, 19.

⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 504.

⁶ The ruins at some not very remote date appear to have been modernized to serve for a Protestant church. At the east end is the family vault of the Walshes of Ballykilcavan. On a lime-

stone over the entrance is inscribed "1794 C. H. W."

⁷ This church was built at the expense of the parish in 1804. See "Letters of the National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 715.

⁸ According to Sir Charles Coote.

In the Irish Annals, it is called *Atch Dubh*.

⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 780, 781.

¹⁰ See "On the Identification of the Site of the Engagement of the Pass of Plumes," published in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," second series, vol. i., "Polite Literature and Antiquities," No. xliii., p. 281.

¹² According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

and retired before him to Stradbally, which the Earl of Essex reached on the evening of May 15th, having crossed at Blackford unopposed.¹¹

The Rectory of Corclone, *alias* Blackford, was inappropriate with a residence in 1616.¹² The vicar was John Moren, a reading minister. The value of this living then was £15. The church, with its chancel, was in a good state of repair, and furnished with books. This townland is called Corclone in an Inquisition taken in the time of Charles I. We find, that A.D. 1640, Corkclone—in Stradbally—had eight townlands and thirty-four acres of glebe. Then it was worth £40 per annum.¹³ Tradition holds, that on the site known as Chapel Hill, in the townland of Garrans, a Roman Catholic Chapel of rude structure stood in the Penal Days, to which the worshippers in the adjoining town of Stradbally were obliged to resort. The parish was a rectory and a separate benefice in the Diocese of Leighlin, the patron being the Diocesan. The living was formerly united to that of Killeny. In 1837, the tithes amounted to £233; while there was a glebe comprising 2 a. 3 p., but, no glebe-house was built upon it.¹⁴ A new and neat Protestant church—to replace the old church which had become ruinous—was built on a fine eminence, and it is now surrounded by planted trees. Two very beautiful mansions and demesnes are within the parish of Curraclone, *viz.*, Ballykilcavin, the seat of Sir Hunt Walsh, Bart., and Brockley Park, the seat of Mr. Young. Ballymanus is also a handsome residence of Mr. Dunne, and it is surrounded by ornamental grounds. In 1831, the population was 650; and in 1834, there was a hedge school here, having on its books eleven boys and nine girls, while the Protestant population was 53, and the Catholic numbered 593.¹⁵

CHAPTER XX.—PARISH OF DONAGHMORE.

THERE is a parish called Donaghmore, in the barony of Clandonagh, Queen's County. It consists of 3,528 a. 3 r. 22 p.¹ The village which bears its name is partly in the same parish, while part of it lies within Rathdowney parish, the town of which is only one mile and a-quarter distant. Five fairs are held annually in the village of Donaghmore; ² *viz.*, on the 28th of March, on the 12th and 13th of June, on the 31st of August, and on the 12th of December.³ Generally speaking, the land is of good quality for agriculture and pasturage. A work-house was built there, and occupied for some years by inmates; but of late it has been closed. A description of this parish will be found in the material provided for it in the Irish Ordnance Survey Records.⁴ Here

¹³ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

¹⁴ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 401.

¹⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 504.

¹ See its extent defined on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 22, 27, 28.

² In 1831, it had a population of 383, and in 1841, it had 496, the houses

being 81. Of these 71 persons lived in the Rathdowney section in 13 houses. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 30.

³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 777.

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan dated Mountrath, November 28th, 1838, pp. 87 to 89.

there is a very old graveyard, enclosed with a modern wall. The burial-ground rises to a considerable height, above the outside earth; and the modern Protestant church is placed in its centre. This probably stands on the site of an ancient building, every trace of which has now disappeared. The situation is a beautiful one, and rising over the Erkina River, which flows through the village of Donaghmore.

The ecclesiastical state of this rectory is omitted from the returns made in 1657. This parish was formerly a separate benefice in the Diocese of Ossory. The diocesan was patron. An older Protestant church having been removed, a new one was built in 1822 at a cost of £480, of which £462 10s. 9½d. was borrowed from the Board of First Fruits, while the rest was raised from the sale of materials belonging to the church which had been pulled down.⁵ Apportioned under the Tithe Act, the parish was returned as containing 3,226 statute acres. There was a glebe of 193 acres, with a glebe-house, in 1837. The tithes then amounted to £154 9s. 7½d. At that time, there were extensive corn mills and a large starch manufactory within the parish;⁶ but these have since gone to decay. In 1831 the population of this parish was 1,211; that of the rural districts, 828;⁷ while in 1841, the population had increased to 1,620, in 255 houses; that of the rural districts being 1,199, in 187 houses.⁸ Manufactures and agriculture were then very flourishing. This parish is traversed north-north-westward by the high road from Rathdowney to Roscrea. In the Roman Catholic parochial arrangement Donaghmore is united to Rathdowney and Grogan.

CHAPTER XXI.—PARISH OF DURROW.

THE parish of Durrow is situated partly in the barony of Clarmallagh in the Queen's County, and partly in that of Galmoy, in the County of Kilkenny. It has some good land, but the surface has much woodland and bog. The Queen's County section contains 5,859a. 3r. 29p.,¹ while that in Kilkenny County has only 668a. 2r. 9p.² Within the former portion is the town of Durrow, surrounded by the woods and demesne of Castle-Durrow, the seat of Lord Ashbrooke. Several other beautiful mansions and grounds are within the parish, which has an ornate and a picturesque appearance. The town is pleasingly situated on the banks of the River Erkina, which joins the River Gully at Castlewood House and demesne. An oblong square is the predominating feature of the town, and it is flanked with several neat and well-built houses. This parish is noticed in the Ordnance Survey Records for the Queen's County.³ It is supposed, that at an early period a monastery was in Durrow; but, little seems

⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 30.

⁶ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 482.

⁷ In 1834, the Roman Catholics of this parish numbered 1,132, the Protestants amounted to 109.

⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 30.

¹ This portion is described on the

"Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 29, 35.

² This part is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Kilkenny," Sheet 4.

³ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of Thomas O'Connor,

to be known of its history.⁴ However, a St. Fintann Moeldubh, of Dermhuighe Ui Duach, is said to have been from Northern Ossory.⁵ He was of Eoghanacht Caissil, and he descended from the race of Brian, son of Eochaidh Muiglumedhoin. He had a festival at the 20th of October.⁶ In the "Martyrology of Tallaght"⁷ we find the names of Fintan and of Maelduibh separated, as if they had been different saints,⁸ as also in the O'Clerys' Calendar, while St. Engus in his "Festilogy" has no notice of either name, at that date.⁹ In the year 626, as we are told, Finntan Maeldubh died.¹⁰

The country about Durrow formerly belonged to the Fitzpatricks; but, although surrounded by the Queen's County, the Earl of Ormond procured an Act of Parliament to make that tract a part and parcel of the County of Kilkenny. This was done to remove the Fitzpatricks from their connections, so that when they were apprehended on real or presumed crimes, they were immediately taken to Kilkenny, and dealt with by the powerful Butler family.¹¹ At Kilkenny, they often suffered the extreme penalties of the law, and sometimes with little regard to justice.

In 1640, the vicarage of Durrow was worth £6 6s. 8d. Durrow was situated in Upper Ossory in the year 1657, and then it contained 16½ townlands. It had a parsonage impropriate, worth £13 13s. per annum. The Protector was the patron. The church was then out of repair, and it had no minister.¹² A Protestant church was built here in 1703, at a cost of about £646 3s. 1d., raised by parochial assessment.¹³ A Wesleyan meeting-house was also built in the town. The chief part of this parish, inclusive of the town, was transferred by the Act 6 and 7 of William IV., from the County of Kilkenny to the Queen's County. The living became a vicarage in the Chapter of St. Canice, Kilkenny, while the rectory was appropriate to the economy estate of the cathedral. In 1837, the tithes amounted to £360, of which £240 became payable to the lessee under the economy estate, and £120 to the vicar. There was a glebe-house, with a glebe of more than 18 acres. These were valued at £40. Thus the gross income was £160, while the nett was only £143 4s. At present, the value to the incumbent is £350.¹⁴ The Dean and Chapter of St. Canice's Cathedral were patrons in 1846; the rectorial tithes being compounded for £240, and were appropriated to the Dean and Chapter of St. Canice's Cathedral, but demised for a term of years to the Vicar of Durrow. The curate had a salary of £69 4s. 7½d.

A weekly market on Friday, and several fairs throughout the year

dated Mountrath, November 30th, 1838, pp. 97 to 102.

⁴ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 348.

⁵ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Februarii xvii., Appendix ad Acta S. Fintani, chap. i., p. 355.

⁶ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 278, 279.

⁷ Edited by the Rev. Dr. Kelly. See p. xxxviii.

⁸ This is probably a mistake. In their Calendar, the O'Clerys signalise Maeldubh as being son of Amhalgaidh, of Cluain-Immorrois in Ui-Failghe, or of this place. When Fintan follows, he is

said to have been of Dermagh-Ui-Duach, which territory lies around Durrow.

⁹ See this matter treated in the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. x., October xx.

¹⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 248, 249.

¹¹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 349.

¹² See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 8.

¹³ In 1846, the sittings were 300, the attendance being 130.

were held in the town of Durrow, it having formerly had an infantry barracks, an inn, and a posting establishment. Extensive flour mills were on the Erkina, and altogether a considerable local business was transacted. In 1831, the population of this parish was 2,911. In 1834, the Protestants amounted to 456 and the Catholics to 2,519. In 1841, the whole population was 2,977,¹⁵ while the houses were 499.¹⁶ The town contained an area of 51 acres, while its population in 1831 was 1,298 persons, and in 1841, 1,318 in 239 houses.¹⁷ A market-house is in Durrow; also a police-station and barracks; mills and a dispensary are likewise here. Fairs are held on the 2nd of January, on the 4th of March, on the 22nd of May, on the 21st of August, and on the 20th of November.¹⁸ A commodious Catholic chapel is in the town, and, in the Catholic parochial arrangement, Durrow has Aughmacart and Cullohill united with it.

CHAPTER XXII.—PARISH OF DYSART ENOS.

THE elevated range of limestone hills between the celebrated Rock and Castle of Dunamase, and extending to Lambertton Demesne, is conspicuous as a feature of the scenery in the parish of Dysart Enos. Beneath that elevation the surface slopes to a well-cultivated plain, which reaches to Stradbally Hall Demesne. This parish is in the barony of Maryborough East, and it lies about two miles south-east from the county town.¹ An account of Dysart Enos parish may be found in the collections for the Ordnance Survey Records.² The topographical etymon of Dysart or Disart, is Latinized *desertum*, and corresponds oftentimes in meaning with the English word "desert"; yet it is frequently found in ancient Irish manuscripts, to denote a hermitage, or an asylum for pilgrims, penitents, and saints.³ Broken and rugged rocks surmount the heights, only suitable for sheep pasturage, and presenting at the present time aspects of solitude, but commanding magnificent and extensive views. In the earlier times, this tract must have been still wilder and more romantic.

We find the *Tombeau de Fingal*, or "Tomb of Fingal," marked on a poorly-furnished map of *Comté de la Reine* or Queen's County,⁴ attach-

¹⁴ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903," p. 120.

¹⁵ Of these, the rural section of the Queen's County contains 1,436 persons, the Kilkenny section having only 232.

¹⁶ Of these, 223 were in the Queen's County portion, and 37 in the Kilkenny division.

¹⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 165.

¹⁸ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 849.

¹ It is described on "The Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 13, 14, 18, 19.

² See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the

Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Stradbally, December 9th, 183, pp. 280 to 353.

³ It occurs in this latter sense in the "Leabhar Breac," fol. 100, a. a., and in the Book of Leinster, in the MS. Library of Trinity College, Dublin, classed H. 2, 12, fol. 113, b. a.—"Irish Charters in the Book of Kells," n. (g), p. 112.

⁴ See Comte Charles Denis O'Kelly-Farrell's "Les O'Toole: Notice sur le Clan ou la Tribu des O'Toole, Princes d'I Muréday et d'I Mailey, dans la Province de Leinster en Irlande," &c., p. 12. Published at La Rôle, France, 1864, fol.

ing to a more enlarged chart, purporting to give the former territorial possessions of the O'Byrne and O'Toole families, in the modern counties of Kildare and Wicklow. So far as can be conjectured, the position should cause it to be on or near the hills of Dysart; however, the foregoing statement, as also that it had been a seat of Dermod MacMurrough, King of Leinster,⁵ is utterly devoid of historic credit. The parish of Dysart Enos seems to have derived its name from St. Ængus, who there first established his church or hermitage. A very general opinion prevails, that he was a holy and learned man, who chose to lead the life of a hermit in this lonely place, and who flourished at a remote period. He appears to have founded a church or cell on the western slope of the Dysart hills, as is thought, towards the close of the eighth or the commencement of the ninth century. Most of our Irish writers suppose this personage to have been the celebrated Ængus Hagiographus. However, the locality of this cell derived its denomination Dysartenos, or the desert of Ængus, which it yet retains, apparently from some one bearing that name, which was a prevailing appellation in the old land of Leix. If he were the great Irish Hagiographer, his earlier course of studies was passed at Clonenagh. From every point of view, his history is a very interesting one, as related for us; but here we can only chronicle some few of its particulars.

Sometime about the middle of the eighth century, Ængus the Culdee, likewise named Ængusius Hagiographus, or Æneas the Hagiologist, was born. Following the accounts of our early records, his pedigree is found in the Festilogies,⁶ Martyrologies, Calendars, and Genealogies,⁷ that have come down to our times. He is said to have been the son of Oengoba—also called Ængavan or Oengobhane⁸—son of Oblen, son of Fídrú, son of Diarmuit, son of Ainmire, son of Cellar, son of Oengus, son of Natsluagh, son of Caelbad.⁹ This celebrated ancestor of Ængus ruled as monarch over Ireland, and he was slain in the year of our Lord 357. From the dawning perceptions of childhood, the holy Ængus was well deserving that appellation Culdee, or "worshipper of God," which surname he afterwards bore. Even as a child he conceived and cherished the most exalted ideas of Christian perfection, the attainment of which was an object ever uppermost in his mind. Ængus practised mortification to an extraordinary degree in his youth, so that after a very short trial of the world's inquietudes, he felt a most earnest desire of devoting himself to a religious life.¹⁰ He entered the monastery of Clonenagh, and conformed to its religious rules. After

⁵ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 852.

⁶ The anonymous scholiast on the Feilire of St. Aengus gives us the pedigree of its presumed author, in a Preface to that copy contained in the "Leabhar Breac."

⁷ His pedigree, as found in the "Sanctilogium Genealogicum," chap. xxiii., is given in these words: "S. Ængussius filius Ængavani, F. Hoblenii, F. Fídrai, F. Diermitti, F. Anmirechi, F. Cellarii, F. Ængussii, F. Natsluagii, F. Coelbadii, F. Crunnii Badhraí, F. Eochadii Cobhae, F. Lugadii, F. Rosaii,

F. Inchadii, F. Fethlemidii, F. Cassii, F. Fiach Aradhí, a quo Dalaradiorum familia nominatur."—Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii. Vita S. Ængussii, nn. 1 and 3, p. 582.

⁸ See Harris' "Ware," vol. ii., "The Writers of Ireland," book i., p. 51.

⁹ He was the son of Crumbadraí, son to Eochaidh Cobai according to another account, and sprung from the Dalaradian race of Ulster. See Professor Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History," lect. xvii., p. 363, and Appendix, No. cxi., p. 609.

spending some time in holy exercises, he resolved on selecting another place for his habitation. The distant ranges of hills at this place were thought to be suited for retirement. An extensive tract of morass and bog now intervenes between the ruins of Clonenagh's old monastery and Dysart Enos. Both sites still lie within view of each other, a few miles only separating the localities. So late as the seventeenth century, a vast skirt of wood surrounded Clonenagh¹¹ on every side, and trunks of bog oak and fir are frequently turned up from a wide tract of bog, which spreads between both places.¹² This moorland and wood must have rendered access from Clonenagh to Dysart a matter of some difficulty to the saint, who chose the latter spot for his hermitage. In this favourite retreat, we are told by his biographers, St. Ængus the Culdee was in the habit of making three hundred genuflections each day, and of reciting the entire Psalter. This latter office he divided into three separate portions: the first was said within the cell: the second under a spreading tree of large growth, that cast its branches over his rude habitation; and the third he repeated whilst tied by the neck to a stake, with half of his body plunged in a tub of cold water. After all it may be consistent with truth to assert, that these and other great mortifications had been practised by Ængusius Hagiographus, not at Dysart Enos but rather at Dysart Betach, which was still nearer to Clonenagh's great monastery, and which is said to have been a hermitage, where this celebrated saint also lived.

That particular cell built or inhabited by the St. Ængus, who was at Dysart Enos, probably occupied a site on which the former Protestant church of Dysart may now be seen, and as a comparatively modern ruin.¹³ This latter remains unroofed, but within the enclosure of its standing walls, the traces of a still older foundation are manifestly discernible; having been levelled and concealed under the timber flooring of the dilapidated modern church. An ancient graveyard is to be found there, even yet much resorted to for the interment of persons deceased, who had belonged to the neighbourhood, and adjoining towns and villages. No doubt, the very old parish church occupied this site. We cannot learn, that any regular monastic establishment ever existed here. From or near that elevated position occupied by Dysart Enos cemetery, the ruins of Clonenagh's "seven churches" are yet clearly visible under favouring circumstances; and the graveyard, which is considerably elevated over the exterior surface of the fields, is regarded with reverential feelings by the country people. It is stated, that here Ængus

¹¹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi. Martii. Vita S. Ængussii. cap. 1.

¹² See Harris' "Ware," vol. ii.; "Writers of Ireland," book i., chap. v., n. (d), p. 51.

¹³ Dysart Ængus, the name of which Harris thought to have been lost, is said to have been a part of this great wood. See *ibid.*, p. 52.

¹⁴ When Sir Charles Coote wrote his "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," in 1801, he described Dysart Church as standing "on one of the lofty hills of the same name, with a

square tower or steeple, which has a very picturesque appearance." Chap. ix., sec. iv., p. 117. Within the writer's memory, this church had been roofed, and frequented by a very small congregation of Protestant worshippers. A new and much more architectural structure was built at a very recent date, under the celebrated Rock of Dunamase. Since the death of the rector, who lived in Kiltale glebe-house, this new church has been closed, in accordance with the provisions of the Disestablishment Act for the Irish Protestant Episcopal Denomination.

had built a cell for himself to pass his days in solitude. Thither he frequently retired, to spend his hours of prayer, and to put in practice, unknown and unnoticed, those rigorous observations which he followed, and the anonymous scholiast on the works of this saint calls the spot *Disert Ængus*: while another Ængus, said to have compiled our saint's eulogy, writes it down as *Disert-Bethech*, in his metrical eulogy on St. Ængus the Culdee. He likewise indicates, that its position lay very near to Clonenagh. Colgan adds, moreover, how this other Ængus says, that the Culdee was both educated and buried at Disert-Bethech. Hence, it is thought to be doubtful, whether this desert might not have been identical with Clonenagh. Such a conjecture was allowable to Colgan, owing to the ambiguity of statement regarding St. Ængus the Hagiologist. The annals and records of our country render it manifest, however, that the Disert-Oenghusa, or a *Desertum Ængusii*, must be altogether distinguished from Clonenagh.

Besides the place so named within the bounds of ancient Leix, there was another of like denomination in a more distant locality, but seeming to have no special connection with St. Ængus the Culdee. Thus, our annals record that Conn, son of Maelpadraig, Archinnech of Disert-Oenghusa and of Mungairit, died A.D. 1033.¹⁴ The learned Dr. O'Donovan fell into an error,¹⁵ by identifying the latter Disert-Aengusa with Dysart-Enos, in the Queen's county.¹⁶ It may, indeed, be questioned, whether the saint, who gave name to Dysart Enos in Leix, was the celebrated Irish hagiologist, or another bearing the name of Ængus, and who wrote a poem in praise of his more renowned namesake. His verses indicate great antiquity. It is related, that the author of this metrical life, in the penultimate verse of his panegyric on the illustrious Culdee prays, that he may enjoy with his namesake the bliss of eternal life. He extols St. Ængus with surpassing praise, stating that the holy subject of his encomium was often engaged in colloquies with celestial spirits. If we take into account the concurrences of time, of neighbourhood, and of great erudition, the writer of the "Metrical Eulogy" probably had been no other than that Ængus, Abbot of Cluain-fearta-Molua, who died in 858.¹⁷ Whoever the composer of the renowned Hagiographer's panegyric may have been, his admiration for the subject of his verse is almost unmeasured, and he styles St. Ængus, moreover, the Sun of Western Europe. On account of those things related, regarding the studies of St. Ængus the Hagiographer during his youthful days, his daily and wonderful exercises, his rare humility and austerity, the day of his death, being *feria sexta*, the place of his burial, and such-like notices, Father John Colgan is under an impression that the writer must have been a friend of St. Ængus, and have lived contemporaneously with him. From the metrical panegyric, and the statement of a scholiast, who wrote a preface to the Festilogy of Ængus, Father John Colgan derived all his materials for the life of that saint. A few particulars only are excepted, and these were drawn from other sources.¹⁸

¹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 826, 827.

¹⁵ See note (y), *ibid.*

¹⁶ It is evident that the Disert-Aengussa and Mungairit, already named,

were both situated within the present county of Limerick. The former lay near Ballingarry, and the latter near Limerick city.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

In the year 1657, this parish of Disert is described as the remaining part of the parish of Kiltel or Kiltéal, which is in Maryborough barony. Disert contained three townlands at the time, and worth £20 per annum; while the vicarage had an annual value of £10. Sir Robert Pigot, Knight, was the patron,¹⁹ and he seems to have resided in the old castle of Dysart, the fragmental ruins of which are yet to be seen, beside a farm house, on an elevated site. The impropriate rectory of Disert Enos had a residence. The vicar Thomas Waller was a preaching minister there in 1616.²⁰ The worth of this living was £15. The church, its chancel and books are reported to have been in good condition. This living is a vicarage in the Diocese of Leighlin, formerly valued at £157, the patron being Lord Carew. A church, which was built about 1752 on the summit of one of the Dysart Hills,²¹ is surrounded by a graveyard, in which probably stood the still more ancient ecclesiastical building. That erected in the middle of the eighteenth century is now a ruin, and it was replaced by another built near the Rock of Dunamase one hundred years later. A fair used to be held on the green field beside the graveyard on Whit-Monday, and on the 12th of October; but for many past years, the fairs have been discontinued. In the Roman Catholic arrangement, this parish is united to that of Maryborough, and its chapel is in the townland of Raheenanisky.²² Lamberton House and the chief part of its demesne is in the parish of Dysart Enos.

CHAPTER XXIII.—PARISH OF DYSERT-GALLEN.

ON the southern border of the barony of Cullenagh, the extensive parish of Dysert-Gallen¹ spreads over a very hilly and diversified surface of country. It contains 10,781 a. o r. 28 p.;² much of this runs in hilly and mountainous land, the two chief summits of which have, respectively, over the sea-level an altitude of 869 feet, and 1001 feet. Except in the valleys and on some rolling uplands, the soil is of a secondary quality. The Owenbeg River receives its confluent streams from the higher Collieries district north of Castlecomer and from Cullenagh mountain; it then flows south-westwardly, until it joins the River Nore, in the County of Kilkenny. The considerable town of Ballinakill is within the bounds of this parish. In a very beautiful and sheltered valley, near the Owenbeg River, is the old church of this parish, within a still more ancient cemetery, well crowded with graves, and of triangular shape.³ An old road crossed the river ford, and there is a temporary

the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 492, 493.

¹⁸ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xi, Martii, n. 5, p. 582.

¹⁹ See Sir Charles Coote's "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

²⁰ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²¹ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 852.

²² The history of Dysart Enos is to be seen in Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's

"Collections for the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 275 to 278.

¹ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 24, 25, 30, 31.

² Of this 13 a. 2 r. 26 p. are under water.

³ For a fuller description of this place, with an engraving on wood of the old church, by William Oldham, the reader is referred to the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. i., Second Day of January, Art. iii., pp. 38 to 41.

bridge over it, yet only sufficient for the accommodation of foot passengers. This place has been called Disert Chuillin by Colgan; ⁴ and when introducing a saint, known as Manchen the Wise, ⁵ the O'Clerys state, that this sage, whose feast occurs on the 2nd of January, belonged to Disert-mic-Cuillinn, now Disert Gallen of Laeighis in Leinster. ⁶ His period is not distinctly known, but there is a tradition in the neighbourhood, that a monastery was here in ancient times. Among the Ordnance Survey Records, ⁷ there are notices of Disartgallen parish, in the barony of Cullenagh. It had six townlands and two English acres of glebe, the valuation of which was not determined in 1657. Sir Robert Pigot was then patron. ⁸ As apportioned under the Tithe Act, this parish comprised 10,557 statute acres. ⁹ In an Inquisition, taken A.D. 1607, the Rectory of Gallen, *alias* Dysert Gallen, comprised the townlands of Ballanekilly, Kileronan, Kilnashane, Ralishe, Clogheoge, Killrush, Ballahancarr, Castlemoat, Graige, Athanacrosse, Graghmahone, Gragnasmuttan, Moyarde, Knoghorocroughan, Doghill, Bouleybeg, Leaseconnan, Boulanabane, and Ballanageragh, with all other hamlets to the same belonging. To the rectory of Gallen belonged also two-thirds of the tithes, and five great acres of land, of all which tithes and five acres the vicar of Gallen had a third part. ¹⁰ In the deanery of Leix proper, the church of Gallen is noticed as a rectory impropriate, with a residence in 1616. ¹¹ The Vicar was Thomas Manley, minister and preacher, with books. Value £8. The church was in repair, while the chancel was in ruins. Wherefore, the fruits were sequestrate. That old church is now a picturesque ruin. It consisted of a nave and choir; the former measuring 40 feet by 20 feet, the latter 20 feet by 14 feet, while only the dilapidated foundations are now visible. The walls are about 3 feet in thickness. A beautifully turned arch connected the nave and choir. In the two side-walls—a great part of them destroyed—there are traces apparently of two doors and two windows. In the west gable was a large window, and over it was a belfry. The church was built of limestone and grit, which were well cemented with mortar. ¹²

It was a rectory and a separate benefice, in the diocese of Leighlin. ¹³ In 1810, the glebe-house was built by a gift of £100, and by a loan of £550 from the former Board of First Fruits, while the glebe itself comprised 30 acres. ¹⁴ A Protestant church was built in the town of Ballinakill, which belongs to this parish, in 1821, at a cost of £1,558 4s. 3½d., of which £198 10s. 3¼d. only was raised by subscription;

⁴ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xiv. Februarii, Vita S. Mancheni, n. 6. p. 333.

⁵ In the "Martyrology of Tallaght," at the 2nd of January is the entry—*Mancheni Sapientis*.

⁶ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 4, 5 and pp. 440, 441, Appendix.

⁷ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Carlow, December 24th, 1838, pp. 267 to 670.

⁸ See Sir Charles Coote's "General

View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

⁹ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 593.

¹⁰ See John C. Erck's "Ecclesiastical Register," &c., p. 131. Dublin, 1827.

¹¹ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis," 5th and 6th of July returns.

¹² These observations were made by the writer on the spot.

¹³ See John C. Erck's "Ecclesiastical Register," &c., p. 131.

¹⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 593.



DYSART ENOS CHURCH.

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Photo by]

DYSART GALLEN CHURCH.

[Rev. E. O'L.

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£344 6s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. being raised by parochial assessment; while £1,015 7s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. was borrowed from the former Board of First Fruits.¹⁵ However, we find £1,100 the amount borrowed for this parish in another account.¹⁶ In the year 1824, Rev. Stewart S. Trench became the rector of Dysert Gallen.¹⁷ In 1846, the tithe composition was £406 3s., the glebe £52 5s.; the gross income being from this source £458 8s., and the nett being £411 19s. 7d. The curate had a salary of £70. The Earl of Stanhope was patron.¹⁸ The church then had 150 sittings, the attendance being estimated at 250 persons. There are no returns of income for incumbent of the parish of Dysert Gallen, including Ballinakill.¹⁹ There were nine daily schools in 1846. Two of these were salaried with £24 each from the National Board; while one school had £7 10s. from the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and it was reported that 429 boys and 407 girls were on its books. In 1831 the population was 4,014; and of these 2,087 lived in the rural districts. In 1834, the parishioners were thus distributed in the return of religious denominations: Roman Catholics, 4,200; Protestant churchmen, 228; and Dissenters, 3. In 1841, the population of this parish was 4,342, living in 731 houses. The inhabitants of the rural districts numbered 2,802, in 457 houses. There are some very beautiful residences within this parish. The chief one of these is Heywood, greatly beautified by its former proprietor, M. F. Trench, Esq. It is situated quite near to the town of Ballinakill. Valleyfield House in the vicinity is also an attractive place. At Ballinakill and at Knockangurt were the Roman Catholic churches, having an estimated attendance of, respectively, 3,000 and 717. Under the head of Ballinakill, its religious history, with that of Dysert Gallen, is set forth in the work of Most Rev. Bishop Comerford.²⁰ The scenery of Dysert Gallen, especially along the course of Owenbeg River, is highly picturesque and romantic.

Among Sir Willi m Petty's Maps we find one²¹ representing the barony of Cullenagh: the greater part of which is indicated by unforfeited lands. On these the parish of Dysert Gallen is to be found, while Ballinakill town is shown as having a castle and a few houses; these, and a castle, represented at Sampson's Court, are the only objects to be seen. The town of Ballinakill is situated in the parish of Dysert Gallen, on the southern verge of the barony of Cullenagh, Queen's County. The River Nore is about two miles distant. The Owenbeg, which above Ballinakill has been formed into a succession of delightful artificial lakes and miniature cascades within Heywood demesne, is a tributary, which, passing near the town, joins the Nore at Rosconnell. Ballinakill is surrounded by a very beautiful and fertile country, situated south-west by south from Dublin, from which it is distant about fifty miles by way of Timahoe. From Maryborough, the county town, it lies ten miles south-south-east.²² It is a market and post-town—the

¹⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 168.

¹⁶ See John C. Erck's "Ecclesiastical Register," &c., p. 131.

¹⁷ See *ibid.*

¹⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 168.

¹⁹ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903," p. 144.

²⁰ See "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 102 to 109.

²¹ Ballygormill, in Fossy parish, enters the northern part of this map in a small angle.

²² See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 109.

market held on Saturday—having wide streets and an elevated market-square. Fairs are held in it monthly throughout the year.²³ It contains a Roman Catholic and a Protestant church, both handsome and solidly-built structures, and in immediate proximity, divided only by a high wall. They open on the principal street. This town has a dispensary within the Abbeyleix Poor Law Union. A military barrack, having accommodation for two troops of cavalry, was there in the beginning of the last century, but at present it is unoccupied. National schools also have been there erected and maintained.

Although of some antiquity, only in the year 1606, a grant was made by King James I. to Sir T. Coatch, proprietor of the Manor of Galline, to hold a weekly market on Wednesday and Saturday, as also fairs in Ballinakill. Soon afterwards, Sir Thomas Ridgway, baronet, planted an English colony here, and a castle was built for their protection. The same monarch, in the 10th year of his reign, A.D. 1612, granted a Charter of Incorporation to Ballinakill, whereby it was constituted a borough, with the privilege of sending two members to the Irish Parliament.²⁴ The sovereigns, burgesses and freemen formed the constituents. However, by this charter, the site of the castle was excluded from the corporation's jurisdiction. The limits of the quondam borough, measured from the centre of the town, extended on the north, about one English mile along the road to Dublin; on the east, about sixty perches to Comerford's former brewery, near the Owenbeg River; on the south, one hundred and twenty perches; and on the west, about one hundred and twenty perches to Mr. Stubbard Mullin's demesne wall. During the Insurrection of 1641, the castle of Ballinakill, at first successfully resisting an attempt on it by General Preston,²⁵ at length fell into the possession of the Confederate Catholics. However, it was cannonaded from Warren Hill, adjoining Heywood demesne, by General Fairfax. Although bravely defended, the garrison was at length compelled to surrender.²⁶ The castle was then destroyed. In 1680, another castle was built on its site, by the Dunnes; but, it was never inhabited, and only its ruins at present remain.

In the year 1800, when the Marquis of Drogheda the proprietor had appropriated this pocket-borough, for the purpose of opening the doors of Parliament to his nominees, he received the whole of the £15,000 of compensation money, which was given by the Act of Union for the loss of its franchise. At that time, all the burgesses, and most of the freemen, were non-resident; even the sovereign was generally non-resident; and this mockery of a corporation ceased to exist the instant its parliamentary franchise was destroyed.²⁷ A borough court, held by the sovereign or his deputy, ceased also in 1800. About twenty-two years later a manor court held in Ballinakill ceased; and a quarter sessions and petty sessions, formerly held in the town, have been transferred to Abbeyleix. Towards the close of the eighteenth and beginning of the last century, considerable trade was carried on here, it being then a fine market and fair for grain, horses, cattle, sheep, and all other

²³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 151.

²⁴ See the "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 131.

²⁵ See Thomas Carte's "Life of James, Duke of Ormond," vol. ii., book iii.,

pp. 385, 386. Oxford edition, 1851, 8vo.

²⁶ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 109.

²⁷ See the "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 131.

agricultural products. Three tanyards, a bolting mill, a brewery and several woollen factories²⁸ gave steady employment to numbers of the townspeople. Those are nearly extinct at present. Formerly fairs were held on the 16th of January and February, on the 22nd of March and April, on the 13th of May, on the first Thursday after Whit Sunday, on the 13th of June and July, on the 12th of August, on the 16th of September, October, November and December.²⁹ The weekly market formerly held on Wednesday has long been discontinued; that which is held on Saturday has also greatly declined, owing to the attractions of a new market on that same day, in the not distant town of Abbeyleix. The Earl of Stanhope is Lord of the Manor, and chief proprietor of Ballinakill, at the present time. The beautiful demesne of Heywood, now possessed by Lieutenant-Colonel Poe, is remarkable for its romantic site, growth of timber, natural and artificial adornments.³⁰ The old mansion-house is undergoing quite a transformation, and wings are being added to it of large extension; the whole when completed must form one of the most elegant and architectural residences in the Queen's County.

In Dysert Gallen parish about one mile and a-half south of Ballinakill, and situated beside the river which flows past Ironmills, is the greatly crowded graveyard of Kilcronan, at the angle of two roads.³¹ Near it, a bridge crosses the river. Fine flowering hawthorns were around the burial ground in the month of May, when visited by the present writer, now many years ago. There, too, a shocking spectacle was presented, as the River Owenbeg had carried away in its flood a great portion of the graveyard, composed chiefly of the rank loam earth, formed by decaying human remains from very remote times. Pieces of coffins and bones were to be seen protruding in thick layers, where the soil had given way. This sight alone revealed the great antiquity of the cemetery, or at least its frequent use in past ages. It was the favourite burying place, not alone for families in the adjoining town of Ballinakill, but in all the surrounding country. The old church arose within the graveyard, but now it is almost levelled to the ground. It measured 42 feet in length by 17 feet in breadth interiorly; while the walls were 3 feet in thickness. The traces of the old foundations yet remain, with a fragment of the west end and south side-wall. In the

²⁸ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. vii., sect. 4.

²⁹ Fairs were entitled to be held likewise on April 3rd, July 22nd, November 5th and December 18th; but, in most instances, these only exist on paper, since the trade of Ballinakill declined.

³⁰ "In forming this demesne, due advantage has been taken of the natural features of the ground. These features are the lovely little verdant hills, knolls, and valleys, which kind nature has liberally scattered around."—James Fraser's "Hand Book for Travellers in Ireland," No. 84, p. 410.

³¹ It is shown on the "Ordnance

Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 80.

³² See "Leabhar Breac, the Speckled Book, otherwise styled Leabhar Mor Duna Doighre, the Great Book of Dun Doighre; a collection of pieces in Irish and Latin, compiled from ancient sources, about the close of the fourteenth century," p. 21, col. 4. This magnificently-produced volume, in elephant quarto and thick paper, was published for the first time in Dublin, A.D. 1876. The original manuscript, of which this is an exact reproduction, is now in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy.

³³ See "Irish Ecclesiastical Record," vol. vii., No. lxxix., April 1, 1871, n. 23, p. 342, old series.

latter was the customary alcove for altar requisites. The history of this church seems to have been buried in oblivion; but, from the name, we suppose it to have been dedicated to one of the numerous saints, called Cronan, as found in the Irish Calendars. From an account of the Saints of Erin, as found in the "Leabhar Breac,"³² we read about Crocha, one among the seven sons of Torben, son to Nuachadh. This Crocha is said to have been from Cill Crochan—probably owing to some connection he had with such place—on the boundary of Leix and Ossory.³³ We are strongly inclined to suspect, there is some error of spelling in the "Leabhar Breac"; and that Crocha may be an error for Cronan, and that Cill Crochan may have been substituted for Cill Cronan. The situation indicated well applies to the present place, and we know of no other locality as described suitably agreeing with the description.

CHAPTER XXIV.—PARISH OF ERKE OR EIRKE.

THIS parish is situated, partly in the extreme south-western angle of the Queen's County, within the baronies of Clandonagh¹ and Clarmalagh,² and partly in the County of Kilkenny, in the barony of Galmoy.³ About 2,000 acres of this parish are under bog; in other places, the land is of fair average quality, and a considerable portion of it may be regarded as excellent. The highest land—reaching to 555 feet—is in the Clandonagh section of Eirke parish. Some notices of it are to be found in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁴ Eirke, reported to have been situated in Upper Ossory in 1657, contained fourteen townlands, and it was then estimated to have been worth £50 per annum. One moiety of the parsonage in title was possessed by Florence FitzPatrick, Esq.; another share belonged to Mr. Edmond Shea; and another was held by Lord Upper Ossory. At that period the church was in ruins.⁵

This living was a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Ossory, the patronage being in the Crown, and the tithes amounting to £602 6s. 1³d. in 1837. The glebe-house was built by aid of £100 as a gift, and £800 from the Board of First Fruits. The glebe comprised 15a. 25b. As apploited under the Tithe Act, this parish was valued at £1,370 6s. A Protestant church—a plain building—was erected here in 1824,⁶ and towards its erection, the Board of First Fruits lent £650. In 1831 the population of this parish was 5,565 persons; those of the Galmoy section amounting to 3,802 of that number. In 1834, there were 5,535 Roman Catholics in this parish: the Protestants numbered 154. In 1841, the population had increased to 5,678, the houses being 925—of these 640 were in the Galmoy section.⁷ The tithe composition was then

¹ This portion contains 3,685a. or. 8p.

² This portion contains 2,304a. 1r. 10p. See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 33, 34.

³ This portion forms by far the largest division, and it consists of 12,595a. or. 10p. See it described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Kilkenny," Sheets 3, 7, 8, 12.

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the

Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Mountrath, November 28th, 1838, pp. 92, 93.

⁵ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect 3., p. 8.

⁶ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. i., p. 914.



Photo by]

FOSSY CHURCH.

[Rev. E. O'L.

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(From Grosé's *Antiquities*).

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£602 6s. 3d.; the glebe was valued at £22 10s.; the gross income was £724 0s. 10d.;⁸ the nett was £613 3s. 7d.; the curate having a salary of £70.⁹ Two Roman Catholic chapels were then in the parish. Also the houses and demesnes of Mount Pleasant, Bagswell, Rathpatrick, Ballydonnel, Kyle, Lavally, and Ballinfrost, are pleasing features of its scenery. The surface is generally very hilly, and the soil is of varying quality, with an abundance of limestone, and coal,¹⁰ that as yet has been only partially worked.

CHAPTER XXV.—THE PARISH OF FOSSY OR TIMAHOE.

THE parish of Fossy receives its name from the townland in which the old parish church—now in ruins—was situated. According to a conjecture of Mr. O'Donovan, the name seems to be Anglicized from Fassach,¹ *a wilderness*. Such an etymological derivation might probably apply to the place, when the church was first founded there; and even at the present day, there is a wild and desolate-looking hill appearing to the south-east. At present, the neighbourhood around is tolerably well populated. The surface is generally very hilly, and the soil is of varying quality, with an abundance of limestone, and coal² that as yet has been only partially worked. There is an account of this parish in the Ordnance Survey Records.³

The existing ruined church at Fossy is a building of no great antiquity, being a chapel probably built, or at least remodelled, a little before or about the commencement of the seventeenth century. No tradition or historic record remains regarding the founder or patron saint. On the interior, this church measures about 38 feet in length by 18 feet in breadth. The eastern gable contained a large pointed window, which is now almost reduced to a breach, whilst we can only reasonably infer that the western gable contained an entrance doorway, no part of which now appears, if we except a few distinguishable corner fragments near the foundations. From the apex of the roof to the very ground, the central portion of this gable has given way, and the more original windows in the north and south walls have crumbled to decay. There is a square window, however, in each of these walls, apparently of a more modern date than those already destroyed. An Inquisition, taken at Maryborough in the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, states that the district comprised in this parish was named Ferane prior, or Prior's land, from a respectable family of the name living in that country. It is also thus designated, on the old map of Leix and Ophaly. The patron of this parish was Mochua, also called Mogue. In the "Martyrology of Tallaght,"⁴

⁷ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 597.

⁸ The Clandonagh Queen's County section contained 1,133 souls and 182 houses.

⁹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 173.

¹⁰ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 55.

¹ In the Irish language written *Fapach*.

² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 55.

³ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. John O'Donovan's Letter, dated Stradbally, December 9th, 1838, pp. 264 to 270.

⁴ Edited by the Rev. Dr. Kelly, p. xxxix.

at the 24th of December occurs a festival in honour of Mochua MacLonain, *i.e.*, Cronan. It seems to have been Colgan's intention, as we learn from his list of unpublished MSS., to have inserted a life of St. Mochua at the 24th of December. At the same date, the "Martyrology of Donegal"⁵ also registers Mochua, son of Lonan, of Tigh Mochua, in Laoighis, in Leinster. He descended from the race of Eochaidh Finnfuathairt, from whom Bright is descended. Fineacht, daughter of Loichin, son to Dioma Cliret, of Cill Chonaigh, was his mother. From him, Timahoe and Timogue derive their denominations.

One of the earliest and most celebrated, among the local saints of Leix, was Mochua, Mochoe, or Cuan, the son of Luan, who derived his descent from the illustrious race of Lugne.⁶ Mochua descended from the posterity of Cathaoir More.⁷ At first, he was a warrior, but at thirty years of age, he became a Christian convert, and afterwards he embraced the monastic profession. He also assumed the clerical habit. Admonished by divine inspiration, he came to a place, where he erected a religious house, called after him Teach-Mochua,⁸ and at present known as Timahoe. An uninhabited house, which served as a hospice, was near the monastery or cell. Here he seems to have permanently resided, until towards the close of his career. Then he wished to seek a more retired spot; and, as we are told, he journeyed towards the north to visit St. Patrick.⁹ At a place called Dayrinis,¹⁰ he finally settled and built a church. He there remained for a lapse of thirty years, and departed this life on the Kalends of January, having attained the extreme age of ninety-nine. He is said to have erected thirty churches, with 120 cells, in Ireland. St. Patrick most assuredly did not live

⁵ Edited by Drs. Todd and Reeves, p. 347.

⁶ The Acts of this saint were communicated to the Bollandists by Father Hugh Ward. The Life is said to have been compiled from old Irish records deserving of credit. Yet, in it some anachronisms may be detected. See "Acta Sanctorum," tomus i., Januarii i., p. 45 to 47.

⁷ According to Rev. Dr. Geoffry Keating's "General History of Ireland," second book, p. 397, Duffy's edition.

⁸ Anglicized, "Mochua's House." See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., p. 530, n. (q).

⁹ If he arrived there, while St. Patrick was living, this seems inconsistent with the account in those Acts, that he was intimate with St. Fintan Munnu, the Leper, who died on the 21st of October, A.D. 634. He is likewise said to have been visited by a noble-born and wise cleric, Colman Eala, who had a cell at a place called Glernssen. There is a St. Colman Eala, Abbot of Lynally, who died on the 26th of September, A.D. 610. But, it may be questioned, if he be the cleric mentioned in St. Mochua's acts. Perhaps Glernssen may prove to have been a mistake for Glenn-

Uissen, now Killeshin, which lay among the mountains of Maigr, noticed in this old Life. When a certain St. Kienan had completed his church, St. Mochua went over the mountain called Maigr to assist at its consecration. There are three saints bearing the name of Kienan in our Calendars. One is venerated at the 25th of February, and who flourished in Armoric Britain, about the middle of the sixth century, according to Colgan. Another is St. Kienan, Bishop of Duleek, who died on the 24th of November, A.D. 488, according to the Four Masters. Another St. Cianan, but undistinguished, has a festival at the 29th of November, in the "Martyrology of Donegal." A holy man, named Molua, probably the founder of Clonfert Molua, now Kyle, near Borris-in-Ossory, is stated in the life of Mochua to have departed before him, and his death is placed at A.D. 605, by the Annals of the Four Masters, or at A.D. 608, in those of Ulster.

¹⁰ Dairinis or Molana, formerly an island in the River Blackwater, is now united to the shore, and its position is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Waterford," Sheet 37.

beyond the close of the fifth century; and, if it happened, that St. Mochua was a contemporary, his life must be assigned to that, or to a period perhaps not long subsequent to it. But there is no warrant for Archdall's statement,¹¹ that he died A.D. 497; this being the date of death recorded for St. Mochai, Abbot of Aendruim, or Mahee Island, in Strangford Lough,¹² and with him the founder of Timahoe appears to have been confounded. Although the period of St. Mochua has been referred to the sixth century; yet, it is even more probable, he lived so late as the seventh century; for we are informed,¹³ that he died during the reign of Domhnall, or Daniel, as monarch over Ireland. This term of sovereignty lasted from A.D. 624 to 639.¹⁴ There may be reasons to suspect, however, that the patron of Timahoe has been again mistaken for St. Mochuda, Bishop of Lismore, who died May 14th, A.D. 636, or perhaps for St. Mochua, Abbot of Balla, who died A.D. 637.¹⁵ Nor does it seem certain, that the feast of St. Mochua, venerated at Timahoe, should be assigned to the 1st of January, since in the Irish Calendar of the O'Clerys, it is set down at the 24th day of December.¹⁶ We do not meet with any further notice of the religious house erected at Timahoe, in our Annals, until towards the close of the ninth century. Then, the death of its Abbot, Focarta, son of Dubhdacheal, is commemorated, at A.D. 880.¹⁷

Formerly, no doubt, a church and a monastic establishment were situated beside the fine and well-proportioned "pillar-tower," which still proudly lifts its head on high. A place for burial is known to have been near. Notwithstanding those human remains, which are frequently disturbed about the place by persons when engaged in digging, yet, the old cemetery has long been disused as a place for interments; so that, not a single vestige of a tomb or of a grave can be seen at present. Still it seems probable, that portions of the former religious buildings are there traceable. Surrounded on every side by mountain ranges of considerable height, and having a clear gurgling stream called the Bauteogue River descending from them, the present village of Timahoe and the interesting ruins still there are situated within a beautiful valley. The parish itself, otherwise named Fossy, is in the barony of Cullenagh. The village flanks a fair green with a few well-built houses and these too surround the decayed vestiges of its former history.

In the parish of Fossy, are situated the ruins of Timahoe Round Tower, in a tolerable state of preservation, with the military and ecclesiastical remains in its immediate vicinity. The tower rises to the height of 96 feet, and measures round the base 57 feet, on the outside circumference.¹⁸ Six offsets appear on the inside, each one of which seems

¹¹ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

¹² According to the Annals of Tighernagh. In those of Innisfallen, at A.D. 490; in those of Ulster, at A.D. 493, and again at 498; in those of the Four Masters, at A.D. 496, his death is recorded.

¹³ By Rev. Dr. Keating in his "General History of Ireland," second book, p. 397.

¹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 246 to 257.

¹⁵ According to the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," at that year, and his feast is assigned to the 30th of March.

¹⁶ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' edition of the "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 346, 347.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 530, 531.

¹⁸ There is an engraving of the round tower and castle at Timahoe,

to have sustained a landing. The two first stories were not lighted by any window or aperture; the third story was lighted on the eastern side, or very nearly so, only by the doorway, the base of which is exactly 16 feet from the ground; the fourth story was lighted by a window, opening on the south side, projecting somewhat, and having a pointed top; the fifth story received light from a small square window, placed exactly in the north; whilst the sixth story was lighted by a square window, much injured on the exterior, and opening on the west side of the tower. Four triangularly-headed windows, each about 7 feet in height, and nearly facing the four cardinal points, occupied a place in the highest story, being situated immediately under the conical roof or *beann-chobhar*, which was very much injured. Of late years, the Board of Public Works undertook the repair, and completely destroyed the original coved roof, of which the author took a sketch in December, 1853. This he has preserved, and on comparing it with the engraving in the "Anthologia Hibernica," he finds the latter coved roof had been too much elevated. However, the Architect of the Board of Public Works has brought it to a pyramidically-rounded cone and to a mere point at the apex—a shape it did not originally possess. The doorway of this tower measures from the turning of the arch to the base, 5 ft. 10 in.; from the outer centre of the arch to the base, 7 ft. 9 in.; from the inner centre of the arch to the base, 7 feet 2 inches; from the opposite side to the springing of the arch, 2 feet 7 inches; and from the opposite sides at the base, 2 feet 9 inches. The outer part of the doorway contains two concentric arches, the internal one of which is elaborately carved. The internal arch which spans the top of the doorway is ornamented with lozenge-shaped tracery, presenting a beautiful appearance to one looking upwards, and standing on the lower sill at the entrance. It springs from columns, with ornamental capitals, grotesque heads, and spiral ornaments, somewhat resembling a true-lover's knot, and forming the decorative features. The doorway projects 4 inches from the wall, and its entire thickness is 4 feet 6 inches. One of the characteristics of ancient Irish doorways, being more narrow at the top than bottom in round towers and old churches, is here exhibited, but not in a very marked degree. The internal part of the doorway, opening on the inside of the tower, is lower, and more narrow than the external part. It consists of two columns, from which an elaborately ornamented semi-circular arch springs. The height to the top of capitals where the arch springs is 5 feet, the breadth 1 foot 9½ inches, and the breadth below, 1 foot 11 inches. The two capitals of this internal—unlike the external—part of the doorway, are without sculptured heads. The lower part of the columns exhibits very curious gyral and lozenge-shaped decorations. Between the external and the internal parts of this doorway, on either side, two little flutes or staffs project from the wall. They are exactly the height of those columns on the internal part of the doorway, and they exhibit very curiously sculptured faces on each. One face is at top, and the

Queen's County, from a view by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, A.D. 1792, in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 11, 12.

¹⁹ In Mr. O'Donovan's opinion the

doorway is one of the ninth or tenth century, and differing materially in size and other characteristics from all the doorways of other round towers examined by him.

other at bottom. It is difficult to understand how the door of this opening was fastened.¹⁹

Among the structures of its class throughout Ireland, the Round Tower at Timahoe is one of the most remarkable. Not only accurate pictorial illustrations of very great interest but even descriptive particulars of its architecture, of its admeasurements, and of its style, are to be found in an archæological work, distinguished by learned and careful research.²⁰ For a long period, Timahoe seems to have been the seat for a monastery and a bishop's see, as we find recorded in our Annals. At A.D. 915,²¹ is noticed the death of Mughron, son of Cinneidigh, Lord of the three Comainns and of Laighis,²² who was killed at the battle of Ceannfuait, together with six hundred of the Leinster forces, by Sitric, the grandson of Imhar, and by his foreigners.²³ Strange to say, the tower is built of freestone, which is not a geological product of the district. A considerable portion of the western side being better built than any other part, leads to the natural conclusion, that the whole building had been re-modelled.²⁴ The Round Tower at Teach Mochua has been referred to the close of the eighth or to the beginning of the ninth century, as the period of its erection.²⁵ It is said, the O'Moores of Leix established a religious house there in the tenth century. At all events, we read, under the year 919, that Cairbre, son of Fearadhach, head of the piety of Leinster, successor of Diarmaid, son to Aedh Roin, airchinneach of Tigh-Mochua, and an anchorite, died after a good life at a very advanced age.²⁶ This same year is recorded the burning of the oratory of Mochua, together with that of Cluaineidneach, by the foreigners.²⁷ The Abbot Meoyllekevin died at Teach-Mochua, A.D. 925,²⁸ according to one account; but, the O'Clerys have the death of Maelcaimhghin, son to Scannlan, Abbot of Teach-Mochua, entered at A.D. 928.²⁹ In 931, died the Abbot Cosgrach, the son of Moilmochairy; ³⁰ by the O'Clerys, he is styled the son of Maelchoirighi, Bishop of Teach-Mochua and of the Commans.³¹ In a note to Duaid MacFirbis' entry, at this same date, William M. Hennessy states, that the Three Commauns were three septs originally settled in that district comprising the southern part of the Queen's County and the northern part of Kilkenny.³²

In the Irish Annals, we read sometimes about the Bishop of Timahoe,

²⁰ See "The Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland, anterior to the Anglo-Norman Invasion, comprising an Essay on the Origin and Uses of the Round Towers of Ireland." By George Petrie, R.H.A., part ii., sect. iii., sub-sect. 2, pp. 233 to 239.

²¹ The Annals of Ulster have the date 916, *alias* 917.

²² In the old English translation of the Ulster Annals, he is called simply Ogran MacCinnedi, King of Lease.

²³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 588 to 591, and n. (i).

²⁴ A view of this Round Tower, and the ruins adjoining, drawn by Robert O'Callaghan Newenham, Esq., and lithographed by James D. Harding,

appears in a quarto work, published in London, 1830.

²⁵ See Dr. George Petrie's "Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland, anterior to the Anglo-Norman Invasion," &c., part ii., sect. iii., sub-sect. 2, pp. 232 to 234.

²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 600, 601.

²⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 606, 607.

²⁸ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

²⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 622, 623.

³⁰ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

³¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 620, 627.

³² See "Proceedings of the Royal

and of the Commauns.³³ The celebrated Irish scholar, John O'Donovan, LL.D., has supposed that the Commauns were in the northern part of Kilkenny County; whereas, the Rev. Dr. James Henthorn Todd is of opinion, that they were situated also in the southern part of the Queen's County. It seems to us, that the mountainous district adjoining Timahoe, and designated the Commons of Fossy, must have been identical with the Commauns named in connection with the former place. Even at this present time, the Commons of Fossy, which were immediately near Timahoe, are yet traditionally remembered by the people of that neighbourhood, as freehold properties, long possessed by their ancestors, until their titles were extinguished, after the beginning of the last century. The following succession of ecclesiastics in Timahoe is thus registered in our Annals: Finguine, son of Fubhthaidh, son to Donnagan, son of Fogartach, son to Duinechdha,³⁴ son of Bearach, son to Mescell, and the Vice-Abbot of Teach-Mochua, died A.D. 936.³⁵ He was also Lord of Mach-Abhna.³⁶ As we learn from the annalistic entry, a school existed at Timahoe, in the middle of the tenth century. In 951, died Gormgall, prelector of this abbey; ³⁷ while, at the same year, the O'Clerys place the death of Gormghal, Lector of Teach-Mochua and Inis Robhartaigh. In 969, died the Abbot of Teach-Mochua, Finguine O'Fiachrach,³⁸ or Ua-Fiachrach.³⁹ In 1001, died the Abbot of Teach-Mochua,⁴⁰ Conaing O'Fiachrach,⁴¹ or Ua-Fiachrach.⁴² In the year 1007, the Abbot of Teach-Mochua, Finsneachta O'Fiachrach,⁴³ or Finsnechta Ua Fiachra, died.⁴⁴ From the latter annalistic entries, the dynastic rule of a particular family seems to have prevailed in a succession of abbots.

The sanctuary of Teach-Mochua-mic-Lonain—another name for Timahoe—was violated in the year 1041. MacConin slew Cuciche Ua Dunlaing, lord of Laeghis, his son, and his wife Cailleoc; but, on the day following, their death was avenged by Ua Broenain,⁴⁵ who killed MacConin, and this was regarded as a great miracle, through the intervention of St. Mochua.⁴⁶ In the year 1142, Teach Mochua was burned,⁴⁷ and we are told that afterwards it was re-founded by the O'Moores.⁴⁸

Irish Academy." Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i., part i., pp. 102, 103. See also pp. 128, 129.

³³ Such mode of expression indicates, that the distinguished jurisdiction of the local Bishop consisted of contiguous districts.

³⁴ He was the brother of Cathal, ancestor to the O'Mores of Lacighis or Leix, in the Queen's County.

³⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 634, 635, and nn. (m, n).

³⁶ This is probably a mistake for O m-Buidhe, or Omuih. This latter was the ancient name for that district, in which Teach-Mochua, or Timahoe is situated. See "Leabhar na g-Ceart," or the Book of Rights, " edited by John O'Donovan, p. 213, n. (a).

³⁷ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

³⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 668, 669.

³⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

⁴⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 694, 695.

⁴¹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

⁴² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 744, 745.

⁴³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

⁴⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 758, 759.

⁴⁵ Anglicized O'Brennan.

⁴⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 840, 841, and n. (o).

⁴⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 1066, 1067.

⁴⁸ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 625.

⁴⁹ See "Expugnatio Hiberniæ," by Giraldus Cambrensis, cap. xxv.

In the reign of Henry II., among many castles built in Leinster by Hugh de Lacy, he erected one at Tachmeho in Leix, which he gave to Meilerius, as also he gave his niece to be wife of this same Meyler Fitzhenry.⁴⁹ A coarb of Mochua—it is doubtful if this means of Timahoe—had a son named John O'Hughroin, who became bishop of Elphin, and who died at Rath-Aedha-mic-Bric, now Rathugh,⁵⁰ in 1246. The taxation for Taghmoh (Timahoe) in 1302-1307 for the Holy War was 8 marks—the Tenth being 10s. 8d.⁵²

It is related, that the Cosby family—when in possession of the manor of Timahoe—built a castle there, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.⁵³ At the period of the Suppression, that Queen granted the abbey, with the lands appertaining, to Sir Thomas Loftus. He died there, in the monastery or castle, at Tymoghoe, A.D. 1635.⁵⁴ During the War of the Confederation, Colonel Lewis, O'Moore and his men held possession of this place.⁵⁵ However the English general Monk defeated the Irish, under General Preston, in a battle fought near this town, A.D. 1642.⁵⁶ The ruins close beside the Round Tower are in great part traces of the former castle, which stood there, in the seventeenth century. We find it stated, that Anne the daughter of Sir Thomas Loftus, married Francis, son of Richard Cosby. This latter received a grant of the monastery lands of Timahoe in 1609, probably by assignment.⁵⁷

Timahoe was an inappropriate Rectory, having a residence. Its vicar was Richard Meredith, a Master of Arts, and a preaching minister. The worth of this living was £10. The church and its chancel were in good repair, and furnished with books. In the Report of the Commission, issued from the Lord Protector's Court of Chancery, and dated Dublin, July 30th, 1657, we learn, that Tymoge,⁵⁸ or Timahoe, in Cullenagh, hath four townlands worth £16 per annum, and that the patron was the Earl of Kildare.⁵⁹ A tradition holds, that friars dwelt in the abbey at Timahoe until A.D. 1650, when Colonels Hewson and Reynolds over-ran the Queen's County.⁶⁰

The Round Tower of Timahoe is yet in a good state of preservation, and many of its details are of exceeding great beauty. Beneath it are other crumbling walls, not dating back apparently to the age of its erection. We are presented with a well-finished engraving, purporting to represent the Round Tower and ruins at Timahoe, as these stood

⁴⁹ It means the Fort of Hugh, the son of Brec; he was a saint who flourished in the sixth century.

⁵¹ A parish in the barony of Moycashel, and in the County of Westmeath.

⁵² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 316, 317, and n. (i). Also see the "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland," preserved in her Majesty's Public Record Office, London, edited by Henry S. Sweetman and G. F. Handcock, p. 248.

⁵³ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 625.

⁵⁴ See "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iv., p. 349.

⁵⁵ See Richard Belling's "History of the Irish Confederation and the War in Ireland," 1641-1643, &c. Edited by

John T. Gilbert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., &c., vol. i., p. 91.

⁵⁶ The pursuit was stopped by Colonel Lewis O'Moore, who arrived opportunely with a party of horse, not far distant from Mr. Barrington, of Cullenagh (Cullenagh), where there was an English garrison. See *ibid.*

⁵⁷ See "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iv., p. 349.

⁵⁸ It now forms a distinct parochial denomination, and it lies north of Timahoe; it is also conterminous.

⁵⁹ See Sir Charles Coote's "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. i., p. 11.

⁶⁰ Amongst their other acts of cruelty and devastation, these leaders are said to have murdered all the friars of this

towards the close of the last century.⁶¹ However, the subject of that etching is not easily recognisable by comparing it with the existing ruins.⁶² East of Kilcolmanbane there is an angle of Timahoe or Timechoe Parish shown,⁶³ on Sir William Petty's Maps. Timahoe, including Luggacurren and Timogue, brings £210 annually to the incumbent.⁶⁴ In the Catholic arrangement, Timahoe and Fossey are united to the parish of Stradbally.⁶⁵

One of the most remarkable feats of human agility, nerve, courage, endurance, and skill combined, happened here on the 2nd of July, 1827, when a young country man, named Daniel Keane, climbed the Round Tower on the outside without any assistance whatever, and crowned the exploit by standing on his head when he reached the topmost cone. He there fastened, and left his coat on the top, as a memento of the performance.⁶⁶ It is stated, that the adventurous climber had been a sailor. He safely descended also, and in the presence of a large concourse of spectators.⁶⁷ He won a large sum of money through the wager made for the occasion. About that period, also, the Rev. Cornelius Dowling, P.P. of Stradbally, and of Timahoe, commenced the erection of a handsome new Catholic church in the latter village, which he lived to see completed, and in which that venerable ecclesiastic now lies interred. The church is dedicated to St. Patrick, and it replaces a wretched thatched house, which stood dismantled, but which was to be seen, within the writer's memory.

CHAPTER XXVI.—PARISH OF KILCOLMANBANE.

PARTLY within the Barony of Cullenagh,¹ but chiefly within that of Maryborough West,² lies the Parish of Kilcolemanbane, sometimes written Kilcommonbawne. It is traversed by the road from Maryborough to Ballinakill. The land is of middle-rate quality, for the most part, with a considerable surface of bog. In it Sheffield, Rathleague and Woodville are the chief residences. This parish is noticed in the Ordnance Survey Records.³ A saint named Colman Ban, or the "white" or "fair Colman," is noted in our Irish Calendars as having been venerated on the 19th of October; ⁴ and to us it seems most probable, that he was the first founder of a church in that place, which derives its denomination from him. That he flourished at a very early date, is

place, and to have dismantled this abbey. The spot, where they were massacred, is still pointed out and called "Boher a wurther," or *the murdering road.*"

⁶¹ See the "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iv., p. 349.

⁶² Their site is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 18.

⁶³ Nearly corresponding with this, is Vallancy's copy of the Maps in Paris, vol. ii., No. 64. Record Office, Dublin.

⁶⁴ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903," p. 125.

⁶⁵ See an account of its religious history in Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 306 to 372.

⁶⁶ See "Picturesque views of the Antiquities of Ireland," drawn on stone by James D. Harding, from the sketches of Robert O'Callaghan Newenham, Esq., vol. i., p. 19.

⁶⁷ Although very young at that time, the writer has a distinct recollection of crowds leaving Stradbally to witness that feat so successfully accomplished.

manifest from the fact, that he has been recorded in the "Martyrology of Tallaght."⁵ The exact period, however, is unknown.

There are ruins of a very old church within the graveyard, with its divisions of choir and nave yet exhibited; but they are in a sad state of dilapidation and decay. To the east lie the beautiful demesne and old house, once inhabited by Sir John Tydd, later on by Judge Moore, and at present owned by the Sweetman family. Near Kilcolmanbane commenced that fierce attack of Owny MacRory O'Moore on the Earl of Essex and his English forces, and which is known in Irish history as the battle at the Pass of Plumes, fought May 17th, 1599.⁶ This parish is marked as Kilcolmanban on the old Map of Leix and Ophaly, and Kilcolmanbane on the engraved Map of the Down Survey. Also, the Castle of Ballyknoekan, now in ruins, is within the extreme southern limit of this parish, and on every side of its slightly elevated position it is surrounded by reclaimed bog or moorland. In this parish likewise is Ballycarney, marked on the old Map of Leix and Ophaly, often referred to as Ballycaran, and placed in the country of the O'Lalors, called Feranlolalor.⁷ By patent of Queen Elizabeth, dated the 16th of October in the nineteenth year of her reign,⁸ Sir Robert Pigott of Dysert,⁹ among his other grants had the "rectory of Kilcolmanbane together with all the churches, chapels, etc., to the same belonging, and also the presentation of a vicar to the church of Kilcolmanbane aforesaid, to whom belongeth the third part of all the tithes of the aforesaid parsonage."

During the reign of James I., Kilcolmanbane was an impropriate rectory, with a residence. The vicar was then Thomas Haslam. The worth of this living was £7. The church and its chancel were in good repair, but there were no books except those the vicar carried with him.¹⁰ It had six townlands, and it was an impropriation, worth, in 1640, £60 per annum. Then it was set, for the use of the Commonwealth, at £20. Besides it had one acre of glebe.¹¹ On Sir William Petty's Maps and within the East Maryborough barony division is represented the Parish of Kilcolmanbane, with its parish church, Balleknoekane Castle, Ballecharnane House, and a skirt of Red Bog; all represented as forfeited land.¹² On another Map¹³ Kilcolmanbane Parish is given, with the denominations and numbers of acres, shrubby pasture and

¹ This portion contains 638 acres, 1 rood, 23 perches.

² This portion contains 3,054 acres, 3 roods, 26 perches. The parish of Kilcolmanbane is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 13, 18.

³ See "Letters containing information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," Vol. i. Letter of Thomas O'Conor, dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, pp. 186 to 189.

⁴ See "Martyrology of Donegal," edited by Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves, pp. 278, 279.

⁵ See Rev. Dr. Kelly's edition, p. 37.

⁶ See an account of it, in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy"; second

series, vol. i., No. xliii. "On the Identification of the Site of the Engagement at the Pass of Plumes," pp. 279 to 288.

⁷ See Thomas O'Conor's letter of December 6th, 1838, vol. i., p. 189.

⁸ And by indenture, bearing date the 2nd of May, 1605, transferred to Thomas Allen.

⁹ Inquisition taken at Maryborough, 7th of September, 1607.

¹⁰ See "Liber Regalis Visitationis," A.D. 1616. A copy is preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, classed 23, F., 1.

¹¹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 9.

¹² General Vallancy's copy of Sir

bog. Ballyknoekane Castle has two other houses near it. The ruins of a church on the lands of Ballecharnan are there represented.¹⁴ This parish, in 1837, was a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Leighlin, forming part of Maryborough Union, valued at £485, the tithes amounting to £160. The bishop was patron.¹⁵ It had then a population of 1,223 inhabitants,¹⁶ in 1831; in 1834, the Protestant population amounted to 151, and the Roman Catholics to 1,093 united to their parish of Maryborough. The population of the Maryborough section in 1841 was 788, living in 126 houses. The total population then was 962, living in 153 houses. In 1846 the tithe composition was £160, and the glebe worth £1 7s. 6d.¹⁷ Rathleague Lodge, formerly the seat of Sir John Parnell, Bart., is in this parish.

CHAPTER XXVII.—PARISH OF KILCOLMANBRACK OR CREMORGAN.

THE small parish of Kilcolmanbrack adjoins that of Kilcolmanbane towards the east, and it lies within the barony of Cullenagh. It only contains one townland, Cremorgan, comprising 905a. 3r. 26p.¹ It is traversed by the road from Monasterevan to Kilkenny. The land in this parish is generally of good quality, with some bog.² This parish has been noticed by John O'Donovan, in the Ordnance Survey Records.³ It is probable the name was derived from some Colman, who first built a church there, and who was *breae* or "freckled," to distinguish him from his namesake "the fair," who appears to have founded the adjoining church, known as Kilcolmanbane. If so, however, the period when the present church was founded does not seem to be discoverable. The former church of this parish is situated within the demesne of the Moores of Cremorgan, and the parish is also called by the latter name, while it likewise bears the spelling of Kilclonebrook. Several tombs of the Moores—said to be descendants from the former dynasts of Leix—are to be found within the chancel of the former church, which is now dismantled. It is walled off from the road leading to Timahoe, which is near, and enclosed within a graveyard, now seldom used or even frequented.

In 1616, Kilclonebrook—a former false spelling for Kilcolmanbrack—had a rector named Thomas Haslam, a reading minister with a residence. Thus was he distinguished, as not being a preacher of the Gospel. The church and its chancel were then in good repair and furnished with books.⁴ The small village of Cremorgan,⁵ which often gives name to this parish, is old of date, and it existed in the sixteenth century.

William Petty's Maps in Paris corresponds. See vol. ii., No. 64, in the Record Office, Dublin.

¹³ On a detached part of this Map is marked 62 acres of Ballygormoyle in the parish of Timochoe.

¹⁴ Admeasured by Ambrose Yorke, A.D. 1657.

¹⁵ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 410.

¹⁶ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 64.

¹⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 379.

¹ It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 18.

² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 410.

³ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., Letter of John O'Donovan,

Near it is Crenmorgan House and Demasnoe, the residence of the Moore family. In 1834, there were only ten houses, the population consisting of seven Protestants and the Roman Catholics of seventy-six, while there was neither church, chapel, nor school in the parish. The nett income of the incumbent was £39 *gs.* 3*d.*, while he was stipendiary curate of Maryborough and chaplain to the Queen's County Gaol.⁶ In 1837, this parish only contained eighty-four inhabitants. It was then a rectory, in the diocese of Leighlin, and the patronage was in the Protestant bishop; the tithes amounted to £38 *2s.* 4*d.*⁷

CHAPTER XXVIII.—PARISH OF KILLABBAN.

ABOUT four miles south-west from Athy, in the barony of Ballyadams, is Killabban old church, and in the territory of Hy-Muiredheigh, if we are to trust Archdall; ¹ but he mistakes the true district of Ui Buidhe for the former denomination. That territory called Ui m-Buidhi is said to have comprised the present baronies of Ballyadams and of Slievemargy, Queen's County.² The River Douglas flowing from the hills in a rapid course through this parish joins the River Barrow. Killabban has been described by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.³ This parish⁴ is situated partly in the Barony of Ballyadams; ⁵ but for the most part in the barony of Slievemargy.⁶ There is much fertile soil along the river Barrow, which forms its eastern boundary; the surface has also a proportion of moorland,⁷ the upper district being rich in minerals⁸ not yet sufficiently worked.

In the sixth century the country about the present site of Killabban was a desert; and in the middle of the following century,⁹ it is said, the celebrated St. Abban, the senior, here founded his church or cell. The local denomination has been derived from him, or from some one bearing that name. The senior St. Abban is held to have been the son of Cenendan, or Cenfinnan.¹⁰ That saint derived his origin from a respectable lineage, the Dalmacorb race of Leinster. He is stated to have been the nephew of St. Ibar,¹¹ on the mother's side, and she is called

dated Stradbally, December 9th, 1838, pp. 255 to 260.

¹ See "Liber Regalis Visitationis," in the time of James I.

² In the time of Queen Elizabeth this was probably more populous than at present, and was the place where Irish insurgent bands assembled.

³ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 542.

⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 61.

⁵ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 595. Archdall spells the name Killebbane.

⁶ See Dr. James Henthorn Todd's *Cois na nGaeboel le Sallabh* or "War of the Gaedhil with the Gaell." Introduction, pp. clxiii., clxiv., and n. 1 (*ibid.*), and pp. 144 to 147.

⁷ See "Letters containing Information

relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, pp. 4 to 20.

⁸ It is shewn on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, 37.

⁹ This portion contains 7,290 *a.* 3 *r.* 3 *p.*

¹⁰ This portion contains 18,705 *a.* 0 *r.* 6 *p.*

¹¹ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 425.

¹² These include coal, iron, lime and building stone.

¹³ About the year 650, according to Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 626.

¹⁴ See Rev. John Francis Shearman's "Loca Patriciana," No. viii., p. 166.

Mell, or Mekla.¹² Regarding the saint himself, much misconception appears to have prevailed.¹³ An uncommonly great number of monasteries and churches are recorded to have been erected by him in various parts of Ireland; many and astounding miracles are attributed to him, while he is said to have attained the extraordinary age of over 300 years. The Bollandist, Father DeBuck, has endeavoured to explain those various statements made, with the probability of more than one St. Abban having flourished and lived at different times and places.¹⁴ A city is said to have sprung up near St. Abban's monastery, which was situated within the bounds of the Ui Buidhe, in Northern Leinster. The territory itself is called Crioich O'Muighe, or Crioich Ua m-Buidhe, and it was situated on the west side of the River Barrow,¹⁵ which divided it from Ui Muireadhaigh.¹⁶ Again, it is found written Huamidhi, Huamudi, or Ui Muighe, in old records.¹⁷ The feast of St. Abban, senior, is variously given at the 16th of March, and at the 27th of October, in the Irish Calendars. Whether St. Abban had been interred at this church, called after him, or at another foundation of his, known as Magharnoidhe, now Adamstown,¹⁸ is not certain.¹⁹ In the "Les Petits Bollandistes," the editor states, that while one St. Abban was the patron of Kill-Abban, another belonged to Magharnaidhe, in Leinster.²⁰ The monastery and city of Killabban seem to have fallen into decay after the death of their patron saint, for no annalistic entries regarding either of them can now be discovered. Both merged into a parish.²¹ At Killabban the saint is no longer remembered as patron or founder of the old church. There was a place called Sen Leas Abain, or "the old fort of St. Abbain." This was built on the River Douglas, a stream which is tributary to the Barrow.

After the establishment of surnames, the chief family in this territory of Ui m-Buidhe took the surname of O'Caelluidhe,—now Kealy and Kelly—this name is to be distinguished, however, from O'Callaigh or O'Kelly.²² In the course of time, the monastery at Killabban became a parish church, in the Diocese of Leighlin.²³ Killabban was an inappropriate rectory, in 1616,²⁴ having for its vicar John Moren, a reading resident minister. Its value was estimated at £25. It is also remarked,

¹¹ His festival occurs at the 23rd of April.

¹² Her pet name is stated to have been Bronfionnbec, *i.e.*, "the little white speckled raven." See "Loca Patriciana," No. viii., p. 166.

¹³ At the 16th of March, Colgan has published an old and extended life of this saint. This has been drawn apparently from more ancient sources. See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvi. Martii. Vita S. Abbani, pp. 610 to 627.

¹⁴ See the Bollandists' "Acta Sanctorum" Octobris xxvii., where the Acts of this saint are given.

¹⁵ This has been inferred by the learned editor of the "Leabhar na g-Ceart, or Book of Rights," from the situation of the old church and parish of Killabban, of Tullamroy (Culluac'ua m-Buidhe) and an old church near Timahoe, in the Queen's County.

¹⁶ See "Giolla na Naoimh," O'Huidhirin's Topographical Poem, edited by Dr. John O'Donovan.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Leabhar na g-Ceart, or Book of Rights," n. (n), p. 214.

¹⁸ Such is the identification of the place by Dr. O'Donovan, who states it is pretty clearly proved from the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

¹⁹ See the County of Wexford Extracts belonging to the Irish Ordnance Survey, and now preserved in Library of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. i., p. 109.

²⁰ See "Les Vies des Saintes," tome xii., p. 655.

²¹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 597.

²² So states John O'Donovan, a high authority on Irish family surnames.

²³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 505.

that as many Anglicans lived in this parish, the vicar allowed from his living £10 for a preacher, assigned him by the ordinary. In 1640, Killebane in Slewmargin was an entire rectory, and worth £200 *per annum*, but only £60 in 1657.²⁵ It comprised thirty-eight townlands, and it had three acres of glebe. The commonwealth then received the profit, while the Lord Protector was the patron. It had a church, which stood within five miles of the remotest part in the parish. However, there was no minister then attached to it.²⁶ There is a map containing parts of Killeabban and of Rahaspuge²⁷ parishes, admeasured by John Mason, in 1657. There is also remaining a trace of "Slewmargin Barony in ye Queen's County," but without date, drawn by the same surveyor.²⁸ In that portion of the former map comprising Killeabban parish, we find the denominations of various townlands.²⁹ Their respective acres of arable, pasture, wood, decayed wood, shrub, and bog-land, are designated. A very considerable portion consists of Protestant lands,³⁰ but these are not specially named on the map. In that part of Killabban parish in this barony, a ruined church and some cabins are seen; in Clonpierce, a few cabins; in Skehanagh,³¹ a castle out of repair. In Ballefoyle, near the Barrow, appears a church and castle, not however described in Sir William Petty's maps.³² The old church of Killabban lies about five miles north of Carlow. The ruins are considered³³ to indicate a building not much older than the Reformation. They consist of a nave and choir. The former measures 45 feet in length, and the latter 33 feet. The breadth of the building was 24 feet, and within it there is a rounded choir-arch. In the western gable there is a large window, pointed at the top, and covered with ivy.³⁴ The doorway and all other windows were destroyed or disfigured, in the beginning of the last century.

The church, called Killinny, boasts of considerable antiquity. A saint,

²⁴ See "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²⁵ When the Inquisition was taken at Maryborough.

²⁶ See Sir Charles Coote's "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," chap. i., sec. 3, p. 11.

²⁷ In this portion of it we find the denominations of Barneslatty and Dun-nae over 1,186 acres arable and pasture land, with more than a third of Rathaspug parish, or over 735 acres under timber. No church, castle, or house is found marked on this part of the map. Robert Hartpole, an English Papist, is set down as proprietor of all its reclaimed and wood land, which appears to have been forfeited.

²⁸ In it we are informed that the parish of Killeabban contains the houses or castles of Garrindenny, Crottinteagall, Ballinagall, Ballukmoyes, Shiagh, and Killinie; a shrubby wood and bog and decayed timber being noticed as on certain sides.

²⁹ These are enumerated as Garrandenny, with a house or castle; Towler-ton, Ballickinoyler, and a house there; Cudany, Shiagh, or Sliagh, with a

house; Old Leagh, Crottenteigle, with its castle; Rathilligge, Ballinraha, Killynoy, with a house; Clonagh, Rosnagh, Tyrernan, Ballynegall, with its castle; Guriyus, Clonebeckane, Coolencowl, Farnan.

³⁰ All the other denominations of forfeited lands were the property of Thomas Hovenden, English Papist; Robert Hartpole, English Papist; Mortagh Lea, English Papist; Thomas Keating, English Papist; and Robert Hartpole, Irish Papist.

³¹ This is probably Ballylebane, in an adjoining townland, which seems a corruption of Ballykillebane, derived from St. Aibán, in the opinion of William M. Hennessey.

³² General Vallancey's map nearly corresponds.

³³ By John O'Donovan.

³⁴ In a letter dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, John O'Donovan thus described the appearance of Killabban, which he visited, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County." See vol. ii., pp. 4 to 6.

named in the "Feilire" of St. Aengus, Finneach Duirn, seems to have been the founder.³⁵ He is therefore distinguished as "the excellent." The commentator places Cell Findich in Ossory, and he states, that this saint was of Ath Duirn Buide—rendered "the ford of yellow Dorn."³⁶ At the 2nd of February, the O'Clerys' Calendar³⁷ has a feast of St. Finneach of Cill Finnich or Cill Finneche. This place was situated in Hy-Scellain, in Slabh Mairge, according to the scholiast on the "Feilire," contained in the "Leabhar Breac" copy. This has been identified with Killinny, in the present parish of Killabban, by John O'Donovan,³⁸ and his authority may be accepted as best determining the locality. The living of Killabban was a rectory and vicarage in the Diocese of Leighlin, valued at £967, and in the patronage of the crown. A church was erected here in 1801.³⁹ The village of Ballickmoyler⁴⁰ is on the high road from Stradbally to Carlow. It has a church, school and court-house. Near it is the house and beautiful demesne of Ashfield Hall. On Clonagh is the site of an ancient church. Cooper Hill house and demesne are tenanted by the Cooper family. Rosena House, Providence Lodge, Ballyharman, Herondale, Moorefield and Mayfield houses are handsome residences.⁴¹ The village of Ballickmoyler was growing into importance, until disturbances broke out in 1798;⁴² after that period, more than half of it was laid in ruins, while its weekly market was altogether abandoned.

The village of Ballylinan stands on the eastern verge of the parish on the road from Dublin to Kilkenny, and about three miles to the south-west of Athy.⁴³ In its vicinity are the ruins of an ancient church, measuring about forty feet in length, by sixteen feet in breadth. The western gable nearly perfect is pierced by a small stone-cased window, and it terminates in a bell-turret with opes for two bells. Portions of the side-walls remain, and also the east gable in which there is a deeply splayed window; while in the south wall, about midway, another window may be traced.⁴⁴ A grave-yard adjoins.⁴⁵ On the north side of Ballylinan are the house and plantations of Rahin, the seat of the Weldon family, reputed to have settled here in the reign of James I. A cotton factory conducted by a Mr. Grace was here before the close

³⁵ See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i., part. i., p. xli., edited by Whitley Stokes, LL.D.

³⁶ He adds that Dorn Buide was the name of a great hill in Mag Raigne. See *ibid.* p. xlvi.

³⁷ See "Martyrology of Donegal," edited by Drs. Todd and Reeves, pp. 36, 37.

³⁸ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter dated Carlow, December 17th, 1838, p. 73.

³⁹ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 425.

⁴⁰ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 32.

⁴¹ See *ibid.*

⁴² See J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 124.

⁴³ See the "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 176.

⁴⁴ In June, 1786, an earthen urn was dug up in a field beside these ruins, containing a great number of small silver coins, believed to contain references to Irish Kings and chieftains, between the years 862 to 900. An account of these is given in the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," and in Gough's "Camden's Britannia." Several of them are preserved in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin.

⁴⁵ See Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., p. 74.

⁴⁶ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County."

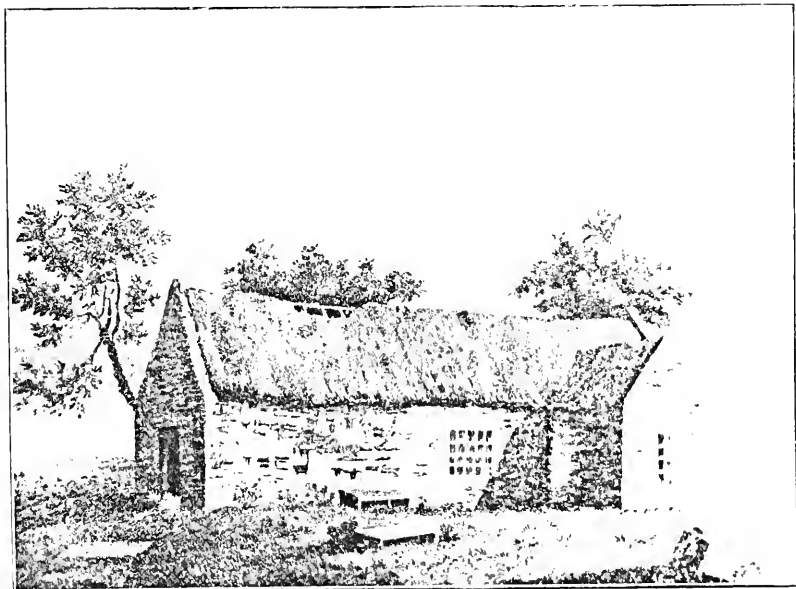


Photo by]

BALLYLYNAN CHURCH.

[Rev. E.O'L.

See page 250.



ARLES CHURCH (Penal Times).

(From Grose's *Antiquities*.)

of the eighteenth century.⁴⁶ In the townland of Clonpierce, adjoining Ballylinan, there is an extensive ruin called the Abbey of Shanecourt, but nothing is known of an abbey having been built there. It was, however, formerly an episcopal residence of the Bishops of Leighlin, and this seems to have dated back from the time of Edward I.⁴⁷ At the distance of about half-a-mile due east is the burial-ground of Clonagh, where the ruins of a monastery are said to have been seen early in the last century.⁴⁸ Castletown Protestant Church, on the site of a more ancient one, and a grave-yard, as also Castletown house and Maidenhead house, are in this parish.⁴⁹ A remarkable mound is at a few paces distance from the church. Newcastle, in ruins, and Towleron House are also here. On the road-side from Carlow to Castlecomer there is a Protestant Church, and a Roman Catholic Chapel rises near it.⁵⁰ Near Crettyard and a small hamlet is Garrendenny Castle and demesne.⁵¹ Ballylebane Castle, now in ruins, is referred to by Clyn at the year 1346.⁵²

The village of Arles, in which the Catholic Church of this parish is situated, lies on the high road from Stradbally to Carlow. It is an elegant structure, with a burial-ground circumjacent. On a hill opposite is the Protestant Church, and near it the Grace Mausoleum. The Rector of Killabban Parish has an allowance of £395 per annum from the sustentation fund.⁵³ Near it also is the house and demesne of Gracefield, possessed by the old family of Grace.⁵⁴ The handsome Catholic Church in the Gothic style has lately been built in Arles, which, in the Catholic arrangement, is the head of Killabban parish.⁵⁵

The situation of the old church of Cill-Gabhra—supposed to have been connected with a saint, mentioned in the O'Clerys' Calendar as Lon-Garadh, venerated at the 3rd of September, has been a subject for former enquiry and speculation. He is said to have been of Disert-Garadh, in the north of Ossory,⁵⁶ *i.e.*, of Magh-Garadh, in Ui-Fairchellaigh,⁵⁷ and of Cill-Gabhra, in Sliabh Mairge.⁵⁸ Lon-Garadh was remarkable for his learning, being versed in history, in laws, and in poetry. He is called of the White Legs, and he flourished during the time of the great St. Columbkille, who paid him a visit.⁵⁹ He is supposed to be the same as Lon of Cill-Gabhra, venerated at the 24th June, according to the "Martyrology of Donegal."⁶⁰ However, St. Lon-Garadh is venerated in "the Irish Metrical Calendar" of St. Aengus at the 3rd of September, where

⁴⁷ See Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., p. 74.

⁴⁸ According to Sir Charles Coote.

⁴⁹ Represented on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 26.

⁵⁰ See *ibid.*, Sheet 31.

⁵¹ See *ibid.*, Sheet 30.

⁵² See "Annales Hiberniæ."

⁵³ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 124.

⁵⁴ Sheffield Grace, Esq., has produced an elegant and now a rare volume on their origin and descendants.

⁵⁵ See an account of it in Rt. Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 66 to 78.

⁵⁶ According to another account, he belonged to Magh Tuathat, in this region.

⁵⁷ Now Offerillan or Offerlane, a large parish, west of Mountrath, in the Queen's County.

⁵⁸ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 234, 235.

⁵⁹ See "The Book of Obits and Martyrology of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ's Church, Dublin," edited by John Clarke Crosthwaite and Rev. James Henthorn Todd, D.D., pp. lxx. to lxxii.

⁶⁰ See edition of Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves, pp. 178, 179.

⁶¹ See "Transactions of the Royal

he is called "a delightful sun."⁶¹ The old church of Cill-Gabhra was situated in Sliabh Maíge, and it seems to have been discovered under a modern form. According to John O'Donovan, it is to be identified probably with Kilgory, in the parish of Killabban.⁶² This townland contains 363a. or. 32p.,⁶³ and it lies in the midst of a picturesque country.

CHAPTER XXIX.—PARISH OF KILDELLIG.

FORMERLY within the Barony of Upper Ossory, about two miles south-west from Aghaboe, and about three and a-half miles south-east by east of Borris-in-Ossory, was placed the small parish of Kildellig,¹ also written Kildellegly. It is now in the Barony of Clarmallagh.² Its total length south-eastward is only two miles, its extreme breadth is only one mile. The soil is generally good.³ This parish has been noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁴ The patron saint of this old parish in the deanery of Aghaboe at Kildellig—also called Kildelgy—is stated to have been St. Ernanus or Senanus, who is styled an Abbot, and whose festival has been assigned to the 1st of January.⁵ Yet, the only saint bearing that name we can find in our Irish Calendars at the date is Ernan, Abbot of Druim-Tomma, or Drumhome, in the County of Donegal. His being called an Abbot, and in connexion with Kildellig, seems to favour a supposition that some sort of early religious community lived here under his direction. His period, however, is unknown. An old cemetery is here, but the adjoining cultivators have considerably encroached on its space, as we learned several years ago, on the spot, and when it was unenclosed. Some ruins are there of an oblong shape, and which measure about 30 ft. in length by 18 in width. Only a few vestiges of the walls now remain, and these are moss-covered. They seem to have been nearly 4 ft. in thickness, and the building evidently is very ancient.⁶

The original name for this parish was probably Cill-Dealga, or Cill-Deilge; but our annalistic entries of this name may have more reference to the parish of Kildalkey, in the Barony of Lune, County of Meath—formerly written thus, as also Killelga—than to the present place.⁷

Irish Academy," vol. i., part i., edited by Dr. Whitley Stokes, p. cxxxvi.

⁶² See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter dated Carlow, December 17th, 1838, p. 73.

⁶³ It is shown, on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 36.

¹ It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 22, 28.

² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 405.

³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 416.

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the

Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Mountrath, November 30th, 1838, pp. 107 to 110.

⁵ See His Eminence Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran's "Spicilegium Ossoriense; being a collection of Original Letters and Papers illustrative of the History of the Irish Church from the Reformation to the year 1800," First Series, ii. Patron Saints of the Churches of Ossory, p. 7.

⁶ Its position is shown on Sheet 22. Garryduff House, a modern ruin, is on Sheet 28.

⁷ See Rev. Anthony Cogan's "Ecclesiastical History of the Diocese of Meath, Ancient and Modern," vol. i., chap. xxv., pp. 141 to 145.

Under such a heading, we meet with a St. Sillan⁸ and a St. Cuanan of Kildelge,⁹ the latter of whom died A.D. 721.¹⁰ However, we suspect these belong to Kildalkey, in the County of Meath, more frequently mentioned in our Annals. It is thought,¹¹ that the following entries in the "Annals of the Four Masters" have reference to the Cill-Dealga or Kildellig in the Queen's County. In A.D. 753, Fidhbhadhach of Cill-Delge died.¹² In 774, Cill-Delge was burned.¹³ In 794, Suibhne of Cill-Delge died.¹⁴ In 836, Fedach, Abbot of Cill-Delge, died.¹⁵ In 837, Egnech of Cill-Delge, bishop, abbot and scribe, was killed, with all his people, by the Gaileanga, otherwise known as the Gaileangamora, who were seated in the present barony of Morgallion, in the County of Meath.¹⁶ We are of opinion, however, that the latter entry had reference to Kildalkey in Meath.

In his annalistic entries, under the head of Kiledellig, in the Queen's County, Archdall has at 866, the death of Abbot Congal MacFeadaigh.¹⁷ At the same date, it is entered in the "Annals of the Four Masters";¹⁸ but the exact place where he lived is not there defined. In 885, the Abbot Donough MacMaoiledun was slain by the Ostmen,¹⁹ or foreigners of Ath-cliaith, in a battle, which they gained over Flann, son of Maelsechnaill, the Monarch of Ireland.²⁰ We rather think that the ecclesiastic in question was connected with the Church of Kildalkey, in Meath. The oldest ecclesiastical building at Kiledellig, in the Queen's County, afterwards became a parish church, but it is now in ruins, and it seems to have been so for many past centuries. In 1640, the rectory here was estimated to have been worth £15 per annum. In the time of the Commonwealth, the Lord Protector was designated patron of this church, then denominated Kildelliggy and Kildelly. It comprised six townlands, being a propiate rectory, with two acres of glebe, yet having no church or minister. In 1657, the glebe was set for use of the Commonwealth, at £5 per annum.²¹

Applotted under the Tithe Act, this parish is set down as containing 1,103 statute acres—the Irish Ordnance Survey gives it 1,251a. or. 28p.—and a rectory in the diocese of Ossory, forming part of Rathdowney Union, the tithes amounting to £57 10s.²² The patron was the bishop. In 1831, its population was 303; in 1834, the Roman Catholic population was 304, Protestants 6; while in 1841 the entire population was 342, living in 56 houses.²³ In the Catholic arrangement it belongs to the parish of Aghaboe.

⁸ His feast is set down, in the Calendars, at the 31st of January. Some notices of him and of Kildalkey may be seen in the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. i., January xxxi., Art. iv.

⁹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Februarii iv. De S. Cuanua sive Cuannacheo Abbate, n. 2., p. 251.

¹⁰ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 381.

¹¹ By John O'Donovan, in his letter dated Mountrath, November 30th, 1838, p. 110.

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 356, 357.

¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 378, 379.

¹⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 402, 403.

¹⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 454, 455.

¹⁶ See *ibid.* and n. (p.) pp. 456, 457.

¹⁷ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 594.

¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 504, 505.

¹⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 504.

²⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 536, 537.

²¹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manu-

CHAPTER XXX.—CHURCH OF KILLENNY.

THE small parish of Killenny—sometimes written Killeany—is in the barony of Stradbally. The road from the latter town runs through it, on the way to Portarlington.¹ Its area is only 945 a. 3 r. 12 p.² The soil is for the most part good.³ The limestone hills of Killone rise here to a height of 720 ft., and they are covered for the most part with thorns and brushwood, although in the last century crowned with a thick and picturesque plantation of fir-trees; but the average land is mostly arable, and of a fairly good description.

The old church of Killenny is at present in ruins, and it is within a cemetery, now almost deserted,⁴ on the verge of the Great Heath of Maryborough.⁵ The derivation given for its name⁶ is Kill-Eithne, i.e., the Church of St. Eithne: for it is assumed, that several other Killinnys or Killennys throughout Ireland have a patron saint similarly named. On the old map of Leax and Ophaly, Killein is marked. The inside of Killenny's quadrangular old ruin is 36 ft. in length, by 16 ft. in breadth; the thickness of its walls is about 3 ft. On the east gable there is a small narrow window, splayed inwards, and the south wall is almost destroyed.⁷ The remaining walls are thickly mantled over with ivy.

In 1831, the inhabitants of Killenny numbered 121; while in 1841, their number had increased to 154, living in 25 houses. This small parish was a separate rectory and benefice, in the diocese of Leighlin, the patron being the diocesan; while in 1846, the tithes composition and gross income were £50, and the nett was £46 6s. Then the incumbent held the licensed curacy of Carnew, in the diocese of Ferns.⁸ Within the townland of Killenny, and near the old church, as shown on the Ordnance Survey Map, rises a very steep limestone hill, covered over with hazel and other dwarf shrubs.⁹ When last visited, tufts of beautiful primroses and violets grew under the sheltering branches. So thickly matted together were these, that it was difficult to track any passage through them, except by following the rather devious sheep-walks, which are interlaced in every conceivable form up to the top, when you stand on a depressed cone, from which the eye ranges, with

factures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, pp. 12, 13.

² See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 87.

³ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 405.

⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 135.

⁵ This parish is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 9, 13, 14.

⁶ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 433.

⁷ Especially since a new Catholic Church has been built near it, with a burial ground attached, about the year 1835. The Very Rev. Nicholas O'Connor, V.F., and P.P. of Maryborough, carried both to a completion.

⁸ Celebrated in former times and at present for the races, which are occasionally held there, and always numerously attended.

⁹ By Thomas O'Connor, in a letter dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 181.

⁷ According to Thomas O'Connor's letter. See *ibid.*, p. 182.

⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 465.

⁹ The ancient name of this hill seems lost or unknown. At present it is called Lyons' Hill, from a gentleman farmer who holds the lands. Not very long ago, it was called Carter's Hill,

pleasure, over a most enchanting prospect.¹⁰ Some small, undefined, and unnamed object on this hill is noted on the Ordnance Map. This is probably intended to show the site of some remarkable remains, which consist of building and limestones, scattered in great profusion, over a circular area of about fifty feet in diameter. These stones are intermixed with a great proportion of what appeared to the writer to have been mortar or cement. But a specimen procured establishes the fact, that it is only broken surface rock, worn away by long exposure to the elements. It is possible that, those stones are the disjointed remains of some very ancient building—possibly one of those rude *caishols*, so frequently met with in the south-western parts of Ireland. The neighbouring people say, there was formerly a castle belonging to the O'Moores on the top of that hill.

The old mansion of Killone—not far removed—was tenanted by a respectable and respected family of the Dunnes, with whom the celebrated John O'Donovan, LL.D., was on very intimate terms, at a time when he lived in the adjoining Heath House, as family tutor to the children of Myles O'Reilly, Esq., in 1833. There, in John O'Donovan's time, lived Joseph Dunne, about 89 years of age, and who in youth had been an officer in the French service.¹¹ He was one of the largest and tallest men in Europe; while he had several sons, remarkable for their great stature, strength, courage and intelligence, as also three daughters, most graceful, tall, highly educated and refined. All, however, died unmarried.¹² In 1834, the parishioners were all Roman Catholics; but in the parish of Killeay there was neither church, chapel, nor school. Afterwards, however, a handsome and commodious Roman Catholic chapel was built there, by the Very Rev. Nicholas O'Connor, V.F., and P.P. of Maryborough, under whose parochial guardianship this district was placed.

CHAPTER XXXI.—PARISH OF KILLERMOGH.

THIS parish is sometimes called Kildermay,¹ and it is now within the Barony of Clarmallagh. Formerly, however, it was within the Barony of Upper Ossory. It is a small parish; ² its average length being about two miles, and its breadth only one mile and a-half. The surface is chiefly of a light soil.³ It is traversed by the road leading from Durrow to

from the name of a previous occupier,

¹⁰ The late learned and lamented Dr. O'Donovan, whose earlier years were passed in the Heath Lodge, the residence of Myles O'Reilly, Esq., and adjacent to this hill, must have often ascended its summit, if only to enjoy the view presented. Yet, he seems either to have passed unnoticed, or forgotten, the antiquarian object here described; for, often as the writer of this paper conversed with him regarding the localities and people near the Great Heath of Maryborough, he never once

alluded to this vestige of a period long passed.

¹¹ He descended from the chiefs of Hy-Regan.

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv. The family pedigree is traced under A.D. 1448, in n. (g), pp. 957 to 960.

¹ The local pronunciation for this parish is *Kyle-ermc*. It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 28, 29.

² The area is about 2,746a. 3r. and 36p.

Mountrath.⁴ The former name of this parish was doubtless Cillarmuighe,⁵ when Irish was spoken in this part of the country.⁶ This parish is incorrectly located by Archdall, who tells us that it is situated two miles south of Durrow, and in the Barony of Upper Ossory; ⁷ whereas, it should have been placed rather to the north-west of Castle Durrow. The conventual or monastic history of this place is quite obscured. In the year 1838,⁸ an old church was there, the south side wall of which was nearly destroyed, but on the east gable a small quadrangular window was observable. No other features of the church were observable.

Some popular traditions in the locality are not sufficiently explicit to present the name of the patron.⁹ However, it is generally supposed, that a religious establishment was founded here, in the time of St. Columbkille,¹⁰ who had conferred a great favour on Colman, the King of Ossory, whose son was a hostage with Aidus, or Aedh Slaine,¹¹ the monarch of Ireland. By the latter, his rank and position were totally ignored, when Colman consented to deliver his son to Aedh's honourable keeping. This Scanlan, also called Scandlanus, son to Colman, was regarded as the prince of Ossory. He had been retained rather as a captive than as a hostage by King Aidus, who treated him with great cruelty, when St. Columbkille visited the captive, and prophesied his release.¹² According to some accounts, the prince was bound hand and foot, and also kept prisoner within a dark prison.¹³ For greater security, Scanlan was imprisoned at a place, called Dubh-Eaghluis, in Inis Eogain.¹⁴ now Inishowen, in the extreme north of Ireland. It is said, that when the great Abbot of Iona begged the release of the heir-apparent of Ossory from the Monarch Aedh, the latter peremptorily refused to grant the favour. Scarcely could St. Columb persuade the monarch to act humanely toward Scanlan,¹⁵ and to a remarkable miracle was his deliverance afterwards ascribed. After his release, Scanlan and his posterity had a devoted affection for St. Columbkille, and received him as their special patron. It is thought, that as a manifestation of his gratitude, lands and material means were afforded the great Abbot, by the Prince of Ossory, to establish a centre there for Columban monks. St. Columb founded a monastery or convent, at a place called Armuighe,

³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 434.

⁴ See "The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 473.

⁵ Thus written in the Irish characters *Cill armuighe*.

⁶ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., p. 105. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Mountrath, November 30th, 1838.

⁷ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 595.

⁸ According to Thomas O'Connor, in his communication already quoted.

⁹ According to Thomas O'Connor, the patron day of Killermogh was *lá 't muigheín—muigheín—muigheín—nó muigheín*, as seemingly conformable to the variations of local pronunciation, and

therefore, the last word has been differently spelled, in the Irish characters.

¹⁰ His festival day is at the 9th of June.

¹¹ The "Annals of the Four Masters" place his reign from A.D. 595 to A.D. 600. See vol. i., pp. 220 to 227. See Dr. O'Donovan's edition.

¹² See Rev. Dr. Reeves' "Adamnan's Vita S. Columbae," Lib. i., cap. xi., pp. 38, 39.

¹³ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Prince O'Donnell's or Quinta Vita S. Columbae, Lib. iii., cap. ii., p. 430.

¹⁴ See Dr. Geoffry Keating's "General History of Ireland," Book ii., p. 382, Duffy's edition.

¹⁵ The wonderful particulars of his release from prison are set forth in Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Quinta Vita S. Columbae, Lib. iii., cap. xi. xii., xiii., p. 433.

in the country of Ossory, according to the Rev. Geoffrey Keating; ¹⁶ and this spot has been identified with the present Kill-ermogh. According to Archdall, ¹⁷ that foundation took place A.D. 558, but most probably much later. There was kept the staff of St. Columba, as a guarantee of protection for Scanlan, against any further attempt against his liberty, on the part of the Irish monarch, who died A.D. 598, ¹⁸ or according to others, A.D. 600. ¹⁹

In 1657, Killermogh had ten townlands, and it was an entire propriate rectory. It had then 80 perches of old glebe, lying under the church of said parish, and 255 acres of new glebe, lying in the fields of Ballygarvin, worth in 1640 £49 per annum. In 1657, it had been set for the use of the Commonwealth, and then it was valued at £11 10s. per annum. The Lord Protector was the patron. ²⁰ Before the close of the eighteenth century, the church there fell into ruins, ²¹ and a new Protestant church was erected in 1796, by aid of a gift from the Board of First Fruits. In 1817, from the same source £100 was granted, with a loan of £500 for the building of a glebe-house; the glebe then comprising 306 *a. 2 r. 23 p.* In 1837, this parish was a rectory and a vicarage, under the patronage of the Ladies Fitzpatrick. ²² The living was valued at £446; ²³ at present the incumbent of Killermogh has an allowance of £200 per annum. ²⁴

CHAPTER XXXII.—PARISH OF KILLESBIN.

ABOUT two and a-half miles westward from the town of Carlow lies the old church of Killesbin; which gives name to a parish of considerable extent, ¹ comprising the southern portions of Slievemargy barony, in the south-eastern extremity of the Queen's County. The land within it swells upwards from the River Barrow to elevated ranges, and it is generally of a rather poor, unproductive quality, although much of it is useful for mountain pasturage. This place has been thoughtlessly indentified with Gleane or Glin, on the River Brusna, and near Ferbane, in the Barony of Garrycastle, and King's County, by Rev. Mervyn Archdall, ² who has wholly omitted all notice of it, when treating about the churches and monasteries of the Queen's County. It is situated in the ancient territory of Ui-Bairche, which comprised a considerable tract of country, in the south-eastern part of the Queen's

¹⁶ See "General History of Ireland," Book ii., p. 383, Duffy's edition.

¹⁷ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 595.

¹⁸ According to the Annals of Tigernach. See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus ii., A.D. DXCVIII.

¹⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 226, 227.

²⁰ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 12.

²¹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 595.

²² See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 142.

²³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 434.

²⁴ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year-Book for 1903," p. 121.

¹ This is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 31, 32, 36, 37. The townland proper, bearing the designation, is marked on Sheets 32, 37.

² See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 398.

County, lying west of the River Barrow. The territory of Hy-Duach comes within a mile of this church.³

Over the mountain stream, which runs through a deep ravine, tradition has it, that a former considerable town had been built; and, some ruins seeming to be foundations of former buildings are shown, which lend confirmation to that statement. Not far from a remarkable mound, and on a knoll overlooking a little waterfall, which tumbles over a ledge of rock in the ravine, the graveyard and ruins stand. The church now measures 90 feet from end to end. The eastern part to the distance of 24 feet was evidently added at a much later period, than that at which the original building had been erected. This modern portion may be termed the chancel, and it is 1 foot 6 inches narrower than the nave. The walls are 3 feet 8 inches to 4 feet thick. The masonry is of large stones, and it shows little trace of the hammer. The building has deep granite quoins and pilasters, at the west end, projecting 9 inches, and they are 3 feet 2 inches wide. In the modern work, the stones are small and hammered, while the quoins are of limestone. The western gable is partly broken away.⁴ The old church of Killeshin is situated at the foot of Knockarah; but, although it has been remodelled at three different periods, enough of the old work remains, to give an idea of its original construction. On the inside, the walls measure 25 feet 8 inches in breadth, and the building formerly measured 66 feet in length.⁵

The name of this church and parish are said to have been derived from that of the valley in which it was built, for it is commonly called Gleann Uisceán, in the Irish Annals and Martyrologies. The ancient pillar-clustered doorway, arch recessed within arch, is to be seen under a covering of ivy and long grass, which wave over the surface of the gable, in which it stands, and over the side walls of the ruin. Not only have the features of Killeshin been admirably described by Miss Margaret Stokes;⁶ but, a full page auto-type of this west doorway, with two most beautiful and accurate wood engravings, have been introduced,⁷ to convey its characteristics to the eye. It has sculptured traceries, mouldings, and bas-reliefs. It is of four orders: the inmost being 2 feet 10 inches wide at the base, and 2 feet 8½ inches at the springing of the arch, by 6 feet 8 inches in height; the second is 7 feet 4 inches; the third is 8 feet 1 inch, and the fourth 8 feet 11 inches high. It has a pediment, which rises 6 feet above the hood moulding; the latter, which is square, measuring 4 inches by 1 foot 6 inches, dies into the barge course of the pediment, this barge course terminating at each side by monsters' heads. Inside, the door is of two orders; it is formed of a singular mixture of granite and sandstone. The keystone of the outer order bears a venerable human head carved in relief. That design known as the trumpet pattern, or divergent spiral, appears among the

³ See "Notes on Irish Architecture," by Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven, edited by Margaret Stokes, vol. ii., Cill Uisceán, p. 83.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. ii., Cill Uisceán, pp. 81, 82.

⁵ This was during the last century, as old men in 1838 assured John O'Donovan that he had seen the entire of the north wall standing. See "Letters containing Information relative

to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow, December 17th, 1838, p. 73.

⁶ See her edition of "Notes on Irish Architecture," by Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven, vol. ii., Cill Uisceán, Plate cix., pp. 81 to 85.

⁷ Besides sectional and ground plans of doorway.

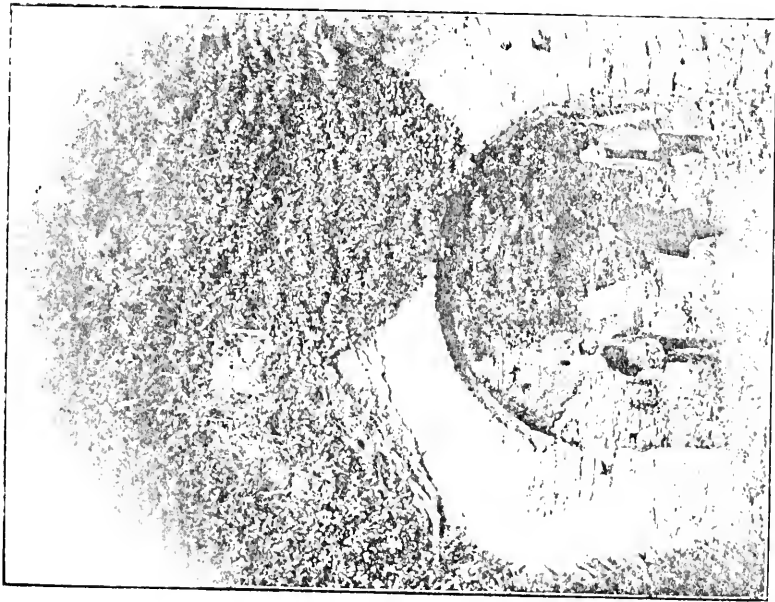
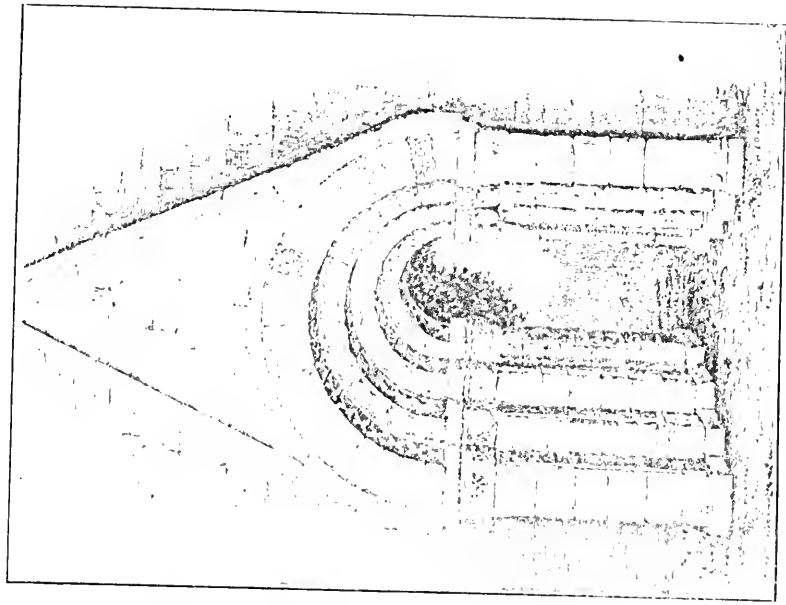


Photo by KILLAUBBAN CHURCH. [*Rev. E. O'L.*] I

Vol. I.

See page 249.



Drawn by KILLESBIN DOORWAY. [*Rev. E. O'L.*]

See page 258.

other ornaments of this doorway. The jambs are rounded, but the orders of the arch preserve their square form, and they are enriched with surface ornament. The entablature which runs along the tops of the jambs is carved at the salient angles into human heads, the long interlaced hair of each head covering the surface of the stone back to the re-entrant angles. Each order of the doorway has engaged shafts at the angles. The bases have the beautiful feature of leaves, connecting the bulbous portions with square plinths at the angles.⁸

The early foundation of this church appears to have escaped from historic record. In the Irish Calendars of Tallaght⁹ and of the O'Clerys,¹⁰ there is an Abbot of Gleann-Uisean, or of Killeskin, called Muirghen, whose feast was kept on the 27th of January, as a saint, although his period is not known, and his Acts have perished. He probably flourished at an early date. In the year of our Lord 843, the death of Aedhan of Gleann-Uisean is recorded.¹¹ This is the first annalistic entry of an abbot's name at this place; although, Father John Colgan states, that St. Diermitius¹²—whose death is set down at a much later period—was the first abbot of the Monastery of Gleann-Ussen.¹³ Next to him is placed St. Comgan,¹⁴ and afterwards in order St. Murgenius.¹⁵ However, we consider this to be a purely arbitrary arrangement. In the year 874¹⁶ is noticed the death of Diarmaid, Abbot of Gleann-Uissean. He was also a bishop, and a descendant of Cathair Mór, Monarch of Erin, of the Lagenians. He is regarded as a saint, and his festival has been placed at the 8th of July,¹⁷ probably the day of his death. A saint called Comdhan, otherwise Comgan, the son of Dairmaid, son of Deghaidh, and descended from Cormac Cas, son of Oilill Oluim,¹⁸ was connected with Gleann-Uissen, and his feast has been assigned to the

⁸ Along the abaci at each side ran the following inscriptions; while the beginning of another inscription occurs on the front of the jamb of the second order on the north side. This appears to have been continued to the top of the jamb:—

OR DO ART RIG
LAGEN ACUS DO
. . . . ON AERCHINNEC
[H] . . . OR DO
LENA UAMEL . . . DUACH
. . . . OR DO CELLAC [AMI
. . . .]

The first inscription may be read:—
‘Pray for Art . . . King of Leinster, and for . . . Steward. Pray for . . . lena Ua Mell[ach, Prince of Hy] Duach. Pray for Cellac’ Sir Charles Coote incorrectly describes these letters to be “very old Saxon characters, but so battered and abused as almost totally defaced.” See “General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen’s County,” chap. xiv., sect. 4, p. 191, and also, “Notes on Irish Architecture,” by Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven, edited by Margaret Stokes, vol. ii., Cill Uissean, pp. 82, 83.

⁹ In the Franciscan copy, kept at Merchant’s Quay, Dublin, the entry is *margen ab’ s’inni u’pen* at January 27th. He is also noted in Rev. Dr. Matthew Kelly’s “Calendars of the Irish Saints,” p. xiii.

¹⁰ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves’ “Martyrology of Donegal,” pp. 28, 29.
¹¹ See Dr. John O’Donovan’s “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. i., pp. 494, 495.

¹² Venerated at the 8th of July.
¹³ See “Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ,” Februarii xxvii. De S. Comgano Abbate de Gleann-Ussen, Appendix, p. 418.

¹⁴ Venerated at the 27th of February.
¹⁵ His feast occurs at the 27th of January.

¹⁶ See Dr. John O’Donovan’s “Annals of the Four Masters,” vol. i., pp. 520, 521.

¹⁷ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves’ “Martyrology of Donegal,” pp. 183, 189.

¹⁸ Such is the pedigree made out for him, in the “Genealogies of the Irish Saints,” chap. xxxv.

¹⁹ According to the Martyrologies of Tallaght, of Cashel, of Marianus O’Gorman, and of the O’Clerys.

²⁰ See Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves’ “Martyrology of Donegal,” pp. 58, 59.

27th of February.¹⁹ His mother was Ethne, daughter of Feidlimidh, son of Tigernach, according to the O'Clerys' "Calendar."²⁰ Little appears to be known regarding this holy abbot, with any degree of certainty; however, Father John Colgan²¹ has collected, from various sources, whatever memorials he thought might be adduced to illustrate his Acts. In order of time, Comgan is thought to have succeeded Diarmaid, as abbot over Gleann-Uisean;²² but at what particular date has not been ascertained. A very ancient cemetery, yet much frequented for interments, surrounds the old ruined church of Killeslin.

In the year 915,²³ a remarkable battle was fought²⁴ between the Northern and the Leinster Irish at Ceannfuit.²⁵ In this encounter the latter were defeated. It appears that Niall, the son of Aedh, who was monarch of Erin, led an army of the North and South Ui-Neill to aid the men of Munster; while, the men of Leinster were engaged in besieging Sitric, grandson of Imhar, who had taken up a position at Ceannfuit. Niall had pitched his camp at Tobar-Glethrach,²⁶ in Magh-Femlin,²⁷ on the 22nd of August; and the foreigners entered that territory on the same day. About nine o'clock, the opposing forces met, when the Irish began the engagement. A fierce battle ensued, and the Irish were victorious, while 1,100 were slain,²⁸ the greater part of these being foreigners.²⁹ Meantime, considerable reinforcements had set out from the Northmen's stronghold to relieve their people, under the leadership of Ragnall, King of the Black Foreigners. But these arrived too late, and only when the Irish had returned victorious to their camp. Then, Niall set out with a small force against the newcomers; but he seems to have been unable to do more than merely hold his ground encamped before them. However, he requested the Leinstermen to continue their siege against Sitric and his followers. Notwithstanding, the latter marched out to meet their opponents, and a great slaughter of the Leinster men ensued. About 600 of these were slain, and among the chiefs were King Ugaire, son of Ailell, Maelmordha, son of Muireagan, lord of Airther-Life, Mughron, son of Cinneidhaigh, lord of the three Comainns and of Laighis, Cinaedh, son of Tuathal, lord of Ui-Feineachlais,³⁰ with many other chieftans, besides the Archbishop³¹ Maelmaedhog, son of Diarmaid,³² Abbot of Gleann-Uissean. The latter—who probably attended the Irish hosting in a spiritual capacity—was

²¹ See "Acta Sanctorum Hibernia," Februarii xxvii. De S. Comgan Abbate de Gleann-Ussen, pp. 417, 418.

²² See the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., at 27th day of February, Art. i.

²³ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 588 to 591, and nn. (e, f, g, h).

²⁴ In William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," these events are placed at A.D. 916, see pp. 188, 189.

²⁵ Dr. O'Donovan identifies this place with Confey, near Leixlip, in the barony of Salt, and County of Kildare.

²⁶ This place has not been identified.

²⁷ The plain extending around Cashel, in the County of Tipperary.

²⁸ Among the Irish of note who fell

were the chief of Carraig-Brachaidhe, Maelfinnen, son of Donnagan, chief of Ui-Cearnaigh, and Fearghal, son of Muirgen, chief of the Ui-Creamhthainn. ²⁹ They are called, likewise, the Foreigners of Loch-Dachaeach, in William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 188, 189.

³⁰ This was a tribe, seated in the barony of Arklow, in the south-easter part of the County of Wicklow.

³¹ He is called so, not probably in an official character, but as distinguished among the Irish prelates of the time.

³² He belonged to the Ui-Conannla tribe.

³³ An Irish poem was composed on the battle of Ceann-Fuaid, by which it should seem that this place was near

a distinguished scribe,³³ anchoret, and an adept in the Latin learning and in the Scotie language.³⁴

In the year 917³⁵ died Domhnall, Abbot of Gleann-Uiscean. Ainbith, son of Domhnall, Abbot of Gleann-Uiscean, died A.D. 938.³⁶ In 946,³⁷ Cathasach, son of Domhnall, Abbot of Gleann-Uiscean, died. In 951³⁸ died Feidhlimidh foster-son of Maelmaedhog,³⁹ Abbot of Gleann Uiscean, the sage of Leinster. In 977, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters,"⁴⁰—*recte* 979—Flann, son of Maelmaedhog, airchinneach of Gleann-Fuaid, died. In the year 986—*recte* 987—Caencomhrac, son to Ainblithe, Abbot of Gleann-Uiscean, died.⁴¹ In the year 1016,⁴²—*recte* 1017—died Diarmaid Ua Maelmaedhog, Abbot of Gleann-Uiscean; and, also, the same year, Caencomhrac, rector of Gleann-Uiscean.⁴³ This latter entry shows, that a school of learning existed there, during the eleventh century. In 1041,⁴⁴ Donnchadh, son of Brian, burned Fearnamoredhog, while it appears, Murchadh, son of Dunlaing,⁴⁵ was associated with him in that sacrilegious act. In revenge, as we are told, Diarmaid, son of Mael-na-mbo, lord of Ui-Ceinnsealaigh—himself a great devastator of churches—plundered and burned Gleann-Uiscean,⁴⁶ breaking down the oratory, killing 100 persons,⁴⁷ and taking some hundreds of others prisoners.⁴⁸ The "Annals of Ulster" record this devastation under the year 1042; while the "Chronicum Scotorum"⁴⁹ has it at A.D. 1039.

In 1045,⁵⁰ Cathasach Ua Corcraim comharba of Gleann-Uiscean—according to the "Annals of the Four Masters"—or Cathasach O'Cathail, coarb of Coevgin—according to the "Annals of Ulster"⁵¹—died. At this same year, the "Annals of Clonmacnois" have the death of "Cahassagh, cowarb of St. Kevyn."⁵² In 1077,⁵³ Gleann-Uiscean, with its yews, was burned.⁵⁴ The existing early remains of Killesbin church were probably the work of a period, soon after the destruction of the old buildings in 1077, or towards the beginning of the eleventh century.⁵⁵ In the year 1082,⁵⁶ Conchobhar Ua Uathghaile, lector of Gleann-Uiscean died. He is also called Conchouran, a professor in this

either Tigh-Moling, *i.e.*, St. Moling's House, St. Mullin's, on the eastern bank of the Barrow, or Timolin, near Moone, in the County of Kildare.

³⁴ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 398.

³⁵ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 592, 593.

³⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 638, 639.

³⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 658, 659.

³⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. 668, 669.

³⁹ Probably, he, who had been slain in the battle of Ceann-fuit.

⁴⁰ See Dr. John O'Donovan's edition, vol. ii., pp. 708, 709.

⁴¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 718, 719.

⁴² See *ibid.*, pp. 788, 789.

⁴³ Archdall styles him "professor in this abbey,"—"Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 398.

⁴⁴ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 840, 841.

⁴⁵ Domhnall Reamhar is also named as an accomplice.

⁴⁶ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 633.

⁴⁷ This is stated in the "Annales Ultonienses," at A.D. 1042. See Dr. Charles O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," tomus iv., p. 327.

⁴⁸ While the "Annals of Ulster" have 400 captives, those of the Four Masters have so many as 700.

⁴⁹ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 274, 275. The true year, however, is 1041, as O'Flaherty has noted in the margin. See n. 1. *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 848, 849.

⁵¹ The Clarendon Codex copy, tome 49.

⁵² See *Ibid.*, n. (q).

⁵³ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 633.

⁵⁴ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 912, 913.

⁵⁵ See "Notes on Irish Architecture," by Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven, edited by Margaret Stokes, vol. ii., p. 85.

abbey.⁵⁷ We are told that Cogganus, patron of the church of Killuskin—*aliter* Killeshin—in Margee Lagenie, flourished A.D. 1147; ⁵⁸ and, as Nicholaus Magwyre testifies, he wrote the Acts of Malachy of Armagh,⁵⁹ and of Bernard of Clairvaux.⁶⁰

Killeshin had Thomas Underwood for its reading minister, a resident, and Oliver Keating was vicar and a reading minister in 1616.⁶¹ The living was then returned at £7 value. The church and chancel were in good repair, and furnished with books. Killeshin having twelve townlands, and being an entire rectory, was, in 1640, worth £100 per annum; but it was worth only £40 in the year 1657. The Commonwealth enjoyed the profits. The church at Killeshin, in ruins, was then about two miles distant from the furthest part of the parish. No minister was there, in the last-mentioned year; ⁶² and, we may well suppose, the war of the Confederate Irish Catholics was a chief reason why it had been deprived of a minister.

The map of the parish of Killeshin, admeasured ⁶³ in 1657, contained a considerable portion of Protestant lands, while the other forfeited denominations are Killishin, Rosmore, Ballihide, Old Dorrock, Ould Dorrockes, Clonemore, Garrough, Curragh, Harristowne, Logh, Ballihormer, Rosneligan, Capananroge. The different acres of arable, pasture, shrub, mountain, bog, and wood lands, are here shown. The proprietors who forfeited these lands—amounting to over 3,404 acres—are Thomas Davills, English Papist, Robert Hartpool, English Papist, Oliver St. Leger, English Papist, Robert Hartpoole, English Papist, Martin Skelton, English Papist. The ruins of the church and a castle are only seen on Killeshin denomination. We are told also, that some cabins were there. On the 9th of March, 1670, we find an instrument, so dated, to settle for ever on the incumbent and his successors in Killeshin the inappropriate titles of this parish, subject to their paying such rents, reservations, and duties, as were formerly paid for the same; and also subject to such increase of rent as the Chief Governor with six or more of the Privy Council should judge reasonable and convenient, within two years, and not after, from the passing of the Act of Settlement and Inrolments.⁶⁴ According to Sir Charles Coote,⁶⁵ Killeshin was the chief town in the Queen's County, during disturbed times; while a county gaol and court-house, with a governor's mansion—a fine building—were here, although no trace of them remained.⁶⁶ The parish of Killeshin is represented, on Sir William Petty's maps, with a castle or house, near the bridge of Carlow, and another is near the old church; but, with the exception of a mossy

⁵⁶ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 918, 919.

⁵⁷ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 398.

⁵⁸ See "Annales Breves Hibernie," auctore Thaddeo Dowling, Cancellario Lechlincensi, edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, Dean of Clonmacnoise, p. 8.

⁵⁹ The celebrated St. Malachy O'Morgair, Archbishop of Armagh, in the twelfth century. His feast occurs on the 3rd of November.

⁶⁰ His festival has been assigned to the 20th of August.

⁶¹ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

⁶² See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 13.

⁶³ By John Mason.

⁶⁴ See "The Ecclesiastical Register, containing the Names of the Dignitaries and Parochial Clergy of Ireland," &c., edited under the sanction of the Board of First Fruits, by John C. Erck, A.M., LL.B., p. 132.

⁶⁵ See "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. xiv., sect. 4, p. 194.

bog, and a clump of trees, no other features of interest are presented on those maps.

About twenty yards to the south-west of the old church entrance stood a belfry. This was a round-tower of great height and beauty. Its door-way faced the church. It was pulled down, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, by a Captain Wolseley.⁶⁷ Writing in the year 1709, Molyneux thus alludes to this tower:—"Near the foot of the mountain on this road stands the old church of Killeskin, which is a very old building. Here lately stood, over against the Doore of the Church, one of the old round steeples, which I am told was very high, old and well-built, so that when the owner of this place had it fallen, it came to the ground in one solid piece, and was not even by the fall against the ground so broke, but that several vast pieces yet remain sticking together so that you easily discover what this building was. It plainly appears to be of the same building and age with the adjacent church, and this was certainly an Irish building, as appears by two Inscriptions at each side of the door as you enter, which I transcribed."⁶⁸ An anonymous writer, who made additions to a copy of "Ware's Antiquities" upwards of a century ago, states, that these buildings were of the same age.⁶⁹

It would seem, that the local tradition, which referred the pulling down of this round tower, by the landlord of the place, to about the year 1750, was incorrect; nor do we know how true was the popular statement,⁷⁰ that it had been built on four pillars,⁷¹ which are slender in comparison with the lofty pile raised over them.⁷² The greater part of the stones in this tower—which fell prone over a length of ground like a huge gun⁷³—were afterwards taken away, and used to build little

⁶⁶ In the beginning of the last century, when the old people pointed out the sites of stone stocks and a gallows. Then, on turning up the sods, immense heaps of stones covered with mortar were found, while these were dug up to repair the roads.

⁶⁷ This fact is preserved, in the fly-leaf of a copy of the Irish Statutes, abridged, and printed by Crook, Dublin, in 1700. It is now in possession of Clayton Browne, Esq., D.L., Browne's Hill, Carlow. This manuscript entry runs: "Munday ye 8th Day of March 170²/₃. That day the Steeple of Killeskin undermined and flung down by one Bambrick employed by Capt. Wolseley in Three Days Worke.

"170²/₃ 8th March at 3 of the clock in ye afternoon ye steeple fell to ye ground, being measured it was 105 foot highe or in Length."

⁶⁸ See Journey to Kilkenny in the year 1709, from Manuscript Notes of Dr. Thomas Molyneux, "Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 302, second series.

⁶⁹ The name of the "barbarian" has

been preserved, as "one Colonel Wolseley." The writer adds "for which act, the Bishop of Leighlin was very much displeased with him." So states Dr. Petrie in a letter to Dr. O'Donovan.

⁷⁰ Given to John O'Donovan, when describing the antiquities of this parish. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow December 17th, 1838, p. 96.

⁷¹ This information naturally surprised Mr. O'Donovan, who was anxious to know if Mr. Petrie knew of any Irish Round Tower similarly constructed, as he believed the Killeskin one to have been a real *Cloithreach Clegas*, or round Castello-campanile tower, coeval with the door-way, in the west gable of the adjoining old church.

⁷² The people told Mr. O'Donovan, that the landlord threw down the tower, because he feared, lest his bullocks going under the supporting pillars to scratch themselves might overturn the superstructure and thus be killed or kill others.

⁷³ It was cracked, however, in various

houses in the neighbourhood. Many of the stones which formed its external face were shown,⁷⁴ scattered about its immediate site, in 1838; and, they were dressed with convex surfaces, so as to suit the outer courses of a round tower structure.⁷⁵ More than seventy years ago, when the inscriptions on Killeshin old church were much more perfect than at present, William Morrison made drawings of this church and its doorway for Dr. Petrie.⁷⁶ In the beginning of last century, the chancel arch of this church was pulled down; while a great part of the south wall was destroyed. It is said to have contained two round-headed windows, which were widely splayed on the inside. Two windows of the same character still remain in the north wall. The most perfect of these windows is 7 feet in height, by 3 feet 6 inches internally, and it is placed at a height of 9 feet from the ground. There is a third window, near the top of the west gable, rather smaller, but of the same form and character.⁷⁷ Adjoining the old church of Killeshin, and on the subdivision called Castlequarter, there is a moat of considerable size, and tradition⁷⁸ stated that a castle formerly stood there.⁷⁹

The mountains of this parish rise 1,000 feet over the River Barrow, which bounds it on the east. Sandstone and limestone are found here, with extensive collieries. Formerly there were smelting furnaces, which have long since been discontinued owing to the want of fuel. Some few acres are under wood and bog; but, the soil admits of agricultural treatment up to the very summits of the mountains, especially on the eastern slopes, which have a fine and varied appearance from the Carlow side of the River Barrow. In the beginning of the last century, the celebrated Cut of Killeshin was to be seen near the old church, and this led from Carlow to the collieries district of Slievemarigue. It was a natural pass, commencing on the rise of the mountain, about three miles from Carlow; and, it ran for over half a mile in length, from 10 feet to 40 feet in depth, according to the ascent of the ground. It was only 4 feet 4 inches wide, cut through the solid rock, and so narrow, that a single car could only pass, the wheels scraping either side, and the axle-trees of the cars were formerly fitted to that measure.⁸⁰ The constant flow of water through it, and the friction of the wheels, had sunk the level to a great depth, after the use of thirty years.⁸¹ This

places, as the people had it from traditions.

⁷⁴ To Mr. O'Donovan, who has drawn the outline of some in his letter.

⁷⁵ When the tower was about to be pulled down, the people of the adjoining houses assembled to witness its fall on the summit of Knockarath, standing over the site.

⁷⁶ See Dr. William Stokes' "Life and Labours in Art and Archaeology of George Petrie, LL.D., M.R.I.A., &c.," p. 204. London, 1868. 8vo.

⁷⁷ See "Notes on Irish Architecture," by Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven, edited by Margaret Stokes, vol. ii., Gill-Ussean, p. 84.

⁷⁸ According to the old people there living in 1838.

⁷⁹ When this spot was visited by

Mr. O'Donovan, no trace of the castle was visible. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow, December 17th, 1838, p. 105.

⁸⁰ When the carriers approached either end of the gap, they hallooed loudly, as the sound was easily conveyed from one end of the pass to the other. By a law of the road, only one car could enter it; but, as it sometimes happened, the drivers met, when it was expected the empty car should back out of this rough and narrow pass. Sometimes the drivers fought a battle, when the vanquished was obliged to give way.

remarkable Cut has given place to a considerable widening, and a new road of a very excellent character has been carried through the spot, on to the collieries.

The large sweep of mountain land extending through this parish is usually called Clogrennan; and, at Everton, near Carlow, the gifted Irish poet, J. J. Callanan, was usher for a time, in the once celebrated academy of Mr. Lynch.⁸² In this parish, also, at Old Derig, resided for a considerable time, Right Rev. James Doyle, D.D., the celebrated Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.⁸³ From this retreat, many of those letters signed "J. K. L." issued. Under the Act of 1812,⁸⁴ the population of the entire of Slewmary barony is set down as 12,750 persons, living in 2,137 houses.⁸⁵ So late as 1827, neither Protestant church nor glebe house was in this parish, the incumbent of which was then Rev. James Langrishe.⁸⁶ However, in 1826, a church was commenced through aid given by the Board of First Fruits.⁸⁷ The population of Killeskin parish, alone, in 1831, was 5,152.⁸⁸

In 1837, the living was a rectory and a vicarage in the Diocese of Leighlin, the rectory being in the patronage of the Crown, and the vicarage in that of the bishop; they were then held by one incumbent, the tithes amounting to £461 10s. 9½d.⁸⁹ This parish, including the part of Carlow suburbs called Graigue, contained 5,152 inhabitants in 1837. It is also situated in the Deanery of Carlow.⁹⁰ As apportioned under the Tithe Act, this parish comprised, in 1837, no less than 10,520 statute acres, and it was valued at £7,765 per annum. The population in 1841 amounted to 5,278, and the houses were 861; the inhabitants of the rural districts being 3,286, and the houses numbering 553.⁹¹ Near the old cemetery and ruins a modern Catholic chapel has been erected, within the ambit of an elevated and a circular mound, which appears to have been an old fortification. This parish is the head of a union or district—comprising Sletty—in the Roman Catholic arrangement; and it has chapels at Graigue and Killeskin. Here, too, there is a very strong chalybeate spring, which formerly was held in great repute for its medicinal properties.⁹²

⁸¹ In the eighteenth century, Mr. Fitzmaurice, owner of the grounds, had previously abandoned a similar cut over the mountain. See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. xiv., sect. 4, pp. 192, 193.

⁸² While here was composed his little poem addressed to "A Sprig of Mountain Heath," containing this local allusion:—

"No more the morning mist shall break,
Around Clogh-grenan's towering peak," &c.
—"Poems," p. 67, new edition, printed at Cork in 1861. 12mo.

⁸³ He commenced to reside here from the summer of 1823, and he left it for Braganza House, Carlow, in Michaelmas, 1826. See William J. Fitzpatrick's "Life, Times, and Correspondence of the Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, Bishop of

Kildare and Leighlin," vol. i., chaps. ix. to xx. Second edition, Dublin, 1880. 8vo.

⁸⁴ An Act for Ascertaining the Population of Ireland.

⁸⁵ See J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 84.

⁸⁶ See "The Ecclesiastical Register, containing the Names of the Dignitaries and Parochial Clergy of Ireland," &c., edited under the sanction of the Board of First Fruits, by John C. Erck, A.M., LL.B., p. 129. Dublin, 1827. 8vo.

⁸⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 476.

⁸⁸ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 143.

⁸⁹ See Erck's "Ecclesiastical Register," etc., p. 129.

⁹⁰ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 143.

⁹¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 475.

On the western portion of Killeshin parish runs the former mail coach road from Dublin to Castlecomer, on by the Newtown collieries, and over table-lands of very considerable elevation.⁹³ In the Catholic arrangement, the parish of Slatty is united with that of Killeshin; the church is near the more ancient ruins, adjoining the high road from Carlow to Castlecomer.⁹⁴

The town of Graigue in this parish stands on the east verge of the county, and on the west bank of the River Barrow, united by Wellington Bridge with the town of Carlow on the opposite side. It extends chiefly in a continuous street about one-half mile along the margin of the river. It contains handsome Roman Catholic and Protestant churches,⁹⁵ a convent, and schools. The area of the town was 127 acres; ⁹⁶ and, in 1831, the population was 1,976; in 1841 it was reduced to 1,675.⁹⁷ It has fairs January 6th, February 18th, April 1st, and October 6th. During Hilary Term, usually in January, during Easter Term, usually in March or April, during Trinity Term, usually in June, and during Michaelmas Term, usually in October.

CHAPTER XXXIII.—PARISH OF KILMANMAN.

THIS parish lies in the barony of Tinnahinch, and in the extreme north-western angle of the Queen's County. It has an area of 16,848 *a. 3 r. 19 p.*; and of these 96 *a. 3 r. 1 p.* are under the waters of Lough Annagh, in the northern part.¹ About one-half of the land in Kilmanman parish is fairly good; but the remainder forms very indifferent tillage and pasture-ground, while a great extent of surface is under bog and mountain land. A portion of Monettia bog lies in the north-east corner; while the bogs about Lough Annagh occupy the north border. The country north of Clonaslee is flat, bleak, marshy and uninteresting; but that on the south is highly and agreeably varied by slopes of the Slieve Bloom mountains. The highest ground of this parish is in the south, and it has there an altitude of over 1,300 ft. above the sea level. A good mountain road from Clonaslee runs to the summit of Knockachorra and Wolftrap Mountains; and even bye-roads conduct the tourist in quest of wild scenery to the upper ascents of Barradois Mountain, from which several miniature cascades descend. The interior is traversed westwards by the road from Dublin to Birr. Lough Annagh is about three miles in circumference, and it abounds with pike, roach and perch. It has an area of 207 *a. 1 r. 14 p.*, and it receives the drainage of about 4,000 acres of bog.

⁹² See Gough's "Camden's Britannia," vol. iii., p. 536.

⁹³ Shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 31.

⁹⁴ Further information and an engraving of the old Killeshin door-way may be seen in the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 241 to 266.

⁹⁵ The incumbent of this Protestant parish has an income of £202 per annum.

See "The Irish Church Dictionary and Year Book for 1903," p. 124.

⁹⁶ Shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 37.

⁹⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 282.

¹ This parish is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 1, 2, 3, 6.

² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 33.

³ See "Letters containing Information



KILMANMAN CHURCH.



CORRIGEEN.

[Photos by]

[Rev. E. O'L.]

Its superfluent waters escape by the Clodagh stream, which has some picturesque falls within the demesne of the Earl of Charleville, and after a north-easterly run of fifteen miles it falls into the Brosna River. The lake is seldom more than from 5 ft. to 8 ft. in depth. The bottom is boggy, and interspersed with innumerable roots of decayed trees. This parish has been noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.³

It is said that this parish derives its name from a patron saint, called Manman, who, it is thought, founded a church here in the seventh century. Under such form, however, his name does not occur in our Irish Calendars; so that he appears to have been a saint only of local celebrity. About two miles west from Kilmanman church, according to tradition, he built the monastery of Lanchoil or Lahoil, and he called it Corrigeen, or "the hermitage of the rocks." Near it is a barrow called "the Giant's Grave."⁴ On the return of the annual festival of St. Manman—we are not told, however, at what day it took place—the Roman Catholic clergyman celebrated a Mass in this parish, about the beginning of the last century. This Mass was attended by the friends of those who were to be interred in the burying-ground of that parish.⁵

In the middle of Lough Annagh, and where it is most shallow, appears a low island, which was formerly fortified, and on which oak framing and stockades are yet visible. In 1641, a party of insurgents had a wooden dwelling thereon erected. Thence they often sallied out by night in a boat, and plundered the surrounding country.⁶ In former times this district, called Oregan or Yregan O'Dunne,⁷ and now called Dooregan, seems to have been densely wooded. It was one of the seven cantreds of the Kingdom of Ophaley, and it is co-extensive with the entire Barony of Tinnahinch. In the years 1302 to 1307, Oregan had a church of which the Hospitallers were the rectors, and the value of its vicarage was assessed at £30; but no Tenths were returned, as it did not exceed the limit.⁸ Queen Elizabeth is known to have thanked one of her commanders for having conducted a party of her cavalry in safety through the woods of Oregan.

The village of Clonaslee, in 1846, was regarded as head of a *quoad sacra* parish⁹—a separated benefice and perpetual curacy—comprising the *quoad civilia* parish of Kilmanman and two townlands of Rearymore parish. That village is on the Rivulet Barradois, which rises in the Slieve Bloom Mountains. A Protestant church was built here in 1814, by means of a gift of £738 9s. 2½d. from the Board of First Fruits, and

relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Stradbally, December 8th, 1838, pp. 207 to 212.

⁴ A peasant, named Purcell, is said to have explored this mound more than a century ago, and to have found therein a spur of rude and antique workmanship, composed of solid gold.

⁵ According to Rev. John Baldwin's account.

⁶ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 175.

⁷ See the old Map of Leix, Ofaly, Irry, Clanmalier, Iregan, and Slievemargy, preserved in the British Museum, and a copy of which has been engraved for "The Journal of the Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archæological Society," vol. iv., new series, 1862-63, at p. 345, with letterpress illustrations, by Herbert F. Hore, Esq.

⁸ Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London, 1302-1307." Edited by H. S. Sweetman and Gustavus Frederick Handcock, p. 248.

⁹ It has an area of 9,422½ acres.

with a loan of £276 18s. 5½d. It is surmounted by a tower and spire. The village has an area of 23 acres. It has fairs on February 27th, May 16th, August 15th, and November 6th. The scenery northwards is over levels, dreary, boggy, and uninteresting; but southwards, and up the slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, several noble and picturesque views may be obtained. The beautiful demesne and fine mansion of the Dunne family and the ruins of Castlecuffe are quite near Clonaslee.¹⁰ At Clara Hill, about one mile from the village, are the ruins of an old castellated mansion, formerly the residence of a younger branch of the Dunne family; and near the east bank of the Barradois or Clodiagh river are the ruins of Ballynakill Castle, built in 1680, by Colonel Dunne.¹¹ A list of incumbents for the Union of Oregan, extracted from the First Fruits' Records, with the dates of their appointment, is here subjoined: Gulielm. Lightbound adm. 16 April. 1619 v. de Oregan, £16 4s. Georg. Chapham, institut. fuit 25° die Aprilis 1662, ad vicar de Oregan als. Rossenollis cum capell. annex. in dioc. Daren. £12 3s. Georg. Chapham, institut. fuit 3° die Jan. 1675, ad vicar de Oregan in dioc. Daren. et com. Reginae. £12 4s. ob. Ricus. Hall, cler. in Artib. Magr. adm. fuit 20° die Jan. 1684, ad vicar de Oregan als. Rossenollis, dioc. Daren. et Com. Regni. £12 3s. ob. Ricus. Harwood, institut. fuit 18° May, 1709, vic. Oregan als. Rosenallis £12 7s. ob. Jeremiah Marsh, jun. institut. 21 June, 1788. v. Oregan oth. Rosenollis, Rerymore, Kilmainan, et Castlebrack. James Saurin, institut. 15 Sept. 1801, v. Oregan, als. Rosenollis, £12 3s. and of the ch. of Kilmanman, Ballintemple oth. Rosemore, Castlebrack, King's Co., Rev. Thomas Pigott, instituted 20th January, 1812, to the vicarage of Rosenallis, Rerymore, Kilmanman and Castlebrack, in the dioc. of Kildare and Queen's County, vice James Saurin, who vacated by resignation.¹²

In 1819 we find the following enumeration for this entire Union: Houses, 2,150; families, 2,240; families chiefly employed in agriculture, 1,783; families chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, and commerce, 379; males, 5,622; females, 6,018; total number of inhabitants, 11,640.¹³ At a place called Killyshane, about half a mile south-east of Kilmanman church, it is stated, there was a house for religious women, and a burial-ground was discovered there in 1768, by some labourers of General Dunne. Several monumental stones of great antiquity were then unearthed.¹⁴

In 1831 the population of Kilmanman amounted to 3,186, and of these 2,672 lived in the rural districts. In 1841, the census gave 4,565, living in 787 houses; while of those 4,004 inhabited 691 houses in the rural districts.¹⁵ In 1837, this parish contained 5,817 statute acres of arable and pasture lands; and besides, between six and seven thousand acres of bog and mountain. The parish was in the diocese of Kildare, and the rectory was inappropriate in the O'Doyne or Dunne family. The vicarage formed part of the union of Rosenallis or Oregan; ¹⁶ and there

¹⁰ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. 1., pp. 426, 427.

¹¹ See Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., p. 114.

¹² See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. iii., No. xvi. Union of

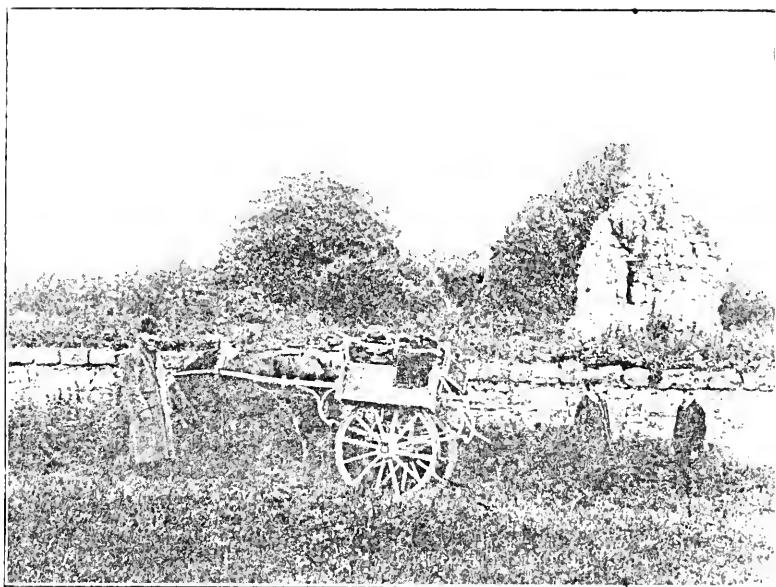
Rosenallis or Oregan, by Rev. John Baldwin, curate, sect. xi., pp. 329, 330.

¹³ See *ibid.*, Appendix No. 1.

¹⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 319, 320.

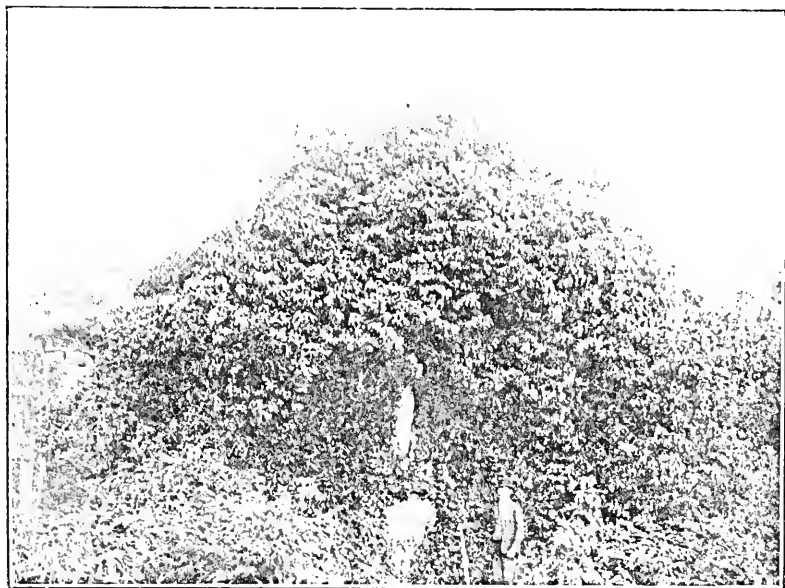
¹⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 508.

¹⁶ The union was valued at £575. See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 440.



KILLENY CHURCH.

See page 254



Photos by]

KILTEEL CHURCH.

[Rec. E. O'L.

was a perpetual curacy, consisting of Kilmanman parish and two townlands of the parish of Rerymore called Clonaslee, which were in the patronage of the vicar. The tithes amounted to £283 7s. 8½d., of which £177 8s. 1¼d. was payable to the impropiator, £59 16s. 6d. to the vicar, and £46 3s. 1d. to the perpetual curate.¹⁷ The Protestant church in Clonaslee had been repaired a short time previous, by a grant of £377. from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The present incumbent has a provision for £165 a year.¹⁸

The demesnes in this parish besides Brittas, belonging to the family of Dunne, are Broeka Lodge, Castlecuffe, Coolnabanch and Edgchill. According to the Roman Catholic arrangement, Kilmanman parish forms the greater part of the Union of Clonaslee, where the chapel is situated.¹⁹ In the year 1734, a remarkable tumulus was found near Clonaslee, and it has been described by Walter Harris;²⁰ while two other mounds similar to this, and not far distant, were then unopened. The high road from Dublin to Birr passes through the village of Clonaslee, and along the northern slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains.

CHAPTER XXXIV.—THE PARISH OF KILTEAL.

THE Parish of Kiltéal is defined on the Ordnance Survey Maps for the Queen's County.¹ One portion of it is within the Barony of Stradbally,² and the other within that of Maryborough East.³ It is crossed by the road from Stradbally to Portarlinton. This parish has been noticed by Thomas O'Connor in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁴ The land of this parish is suited mostly for agriculture, and it is of middling quality, on some farms fairly good. Kiltéal Parish, with Dunamase Castle, on its high rock, is shown a little to the north-east of Kilcolmanbane, on Sir William Petty's Maps.⁵

Sheltered beneath the celebrated rock and ruined fortress of Dunamase, in the barony of Maryborough East, are the cemetery and mediæval church of Kiltéal. The latter measures 36 ft. in length by 20 ft. in breadth, on the interior. The remaining walls are about 3 ft. in thickness. Only the end gable and portions of the side walls now stand. On the north side wall there is a small window; it measures 3 ft. in length, by 1 ft. in breadth, on the outside, but it is further splayed interiorly. Directly opposite to it, on the south side, the wall is quite ruined. In

¹⁷ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 175.

¹⁸ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 114.

¹⁹ The Catholic history of this parish is more fully set forth in Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., pp. 115 to 123.

²⁰ See Harris' "Ware," vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xviii., p. 149.

¹ See Sheets 13, 14.

² That contains 1,561a 3r. 24p.

³ That portion contains 1,991a. 2r. 14p.

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Stradbally, December 9th, 1838, pp. 354 to 359.

⁵ The Rev. Edward Ledwich has contributed a paper "Memoirs of Dunamase and Shane Castle in the Queen's County," to General Vallancy's "Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis," vol. iii., No. vi., sect. 3, pp. 147 to 159.

⁶ See General Vallancy's copy of those Maps, now kept in Paris, vol. ii., No. 64. Irish Record Office, Dublin.

the gable remaining, there is a large opening near the ground. A short distance over it, there is a narrow window, 1 ft. in width, and 3 ft. in height, splayed on the inside. So far as a conjecture may be hazarded on present appearance, a choir-arch had been turned a short distance over the lower opening, and under the upper window. By a more modern adaptation, much of the space had been filled up with masonry, somewhat old. A narrow doorway was formed in it, and a portion of its turning arch is yet visible. In the thirteenth century, it seems probable, when William Mareschal granted a charter to the priory of Great Connall⁷ in the County of Kildare, the prior and community obtained sundry lands and tithes situated in Leix, and belonging to the Sec of Leighlin, as its Bishop Richard Fleming contended. However, this prelate gave them up to the prior by a composition, only reserving to himself and to his successors an annual pension of ten marks. Richard, the bishop, died A.D. 1226, having governed his See for about nine years.⁸ At the period when monasteries were suppressed, the large possessions of this abbey passed into other hands. The priory with all its possessions was granted to Edward Randolfe, and in reversion to Sir Edward Butler.⁹ On the 3rd of December, 1561, the third year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, it was re-granted to Sir Nicholas White, in reversion for the term of sixty-one years, at the annual rent of £26 19s. 5d. Irish money.¹⁰

In the year 1577,¹¹ or 1578,¹² Robert Pigot obtained an extensive grant of lands in the parishes of Dysart Enos and of Kiltéal, to hold by knight's service. It would seem, that he obtained other lands, tithes and rights of presentation to vicarages, which formerly belonged to Great Connall priory, as we find from the Irish Inquisitions. He built—or at least inhabited—the Castle of Dysert, the ruins of which are yet to be traced, not far removed from the old church of Dysert Enos. The extent of those possessions is fully set forth in a document drawn up in the time of King James I., and printed in the Inquisitions,¹³

⁷ Meyler FitzHenry, Lord Justice of Ireland, founded this house A.D. 1202. See Jacobi Grace, Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hibernie," edited by Rev. Richard Butler, pp. 20, 21.

⁸ See Harris' "Ware," vol. 1., "Bishops of Leighlin," p. 456.

⁹ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 321.

¹⁰ According to the Auditor-General's accounts.

¹¹ This corresponds with the nineteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who ascended the English throne on the 17th November, 1558. See Sir Harris Nicholas' "Chronology of History," p. 338.

¹² His letters patent bear for date October 16th, falling within this year.

¹³ It is thus headed, "Maryborough, 7th September, 1607: Robert Piggott of the Disarte in the Queen's County, Esq., by force of letters patentts, from our late sovereigne Queen Elizabeth, bearing date at Dublin the 16th of October, in the nineteenth year of her reign, is seized in fee of the castle,

towne and lands of Desert, *alias* Disert, and of the hamlet of Rathbegg and Rahinhoyley, parcell of said towne and lands; and also of the townes and lands of Kiltteclogh, *alias* Kiltteale, Ballykerrold, *alias* Ballyearroll, Cowlarne, the hamlets of Rahintowghan, Ballinreigh, and Pallipettecisk, Molleneknaw *alias* Mullinnekaw, the hamlet of Kileromen, the towne and lands of Carrickneparke, *alias* Carryneparke, the hamlet of Clonedamphe, the towne and lands of Coolkey, *alias* Cawlechreigh, and the hamlet of Keilnebrone, the town and lands of Dirry, *alias* Rainaspoke, *alias* Rahinaspickure, and the hamlet of Ballymoyne, the town and lands of Rahinpeske, *alias* Rahiniskdughmullegan, and Ballyclayder, the advowson, &c., of the vicarages of Kiltteale and Disertenes, all which the said Roberte Piggott holdeth from His Majesty by virtue of the letters patenttes before mentioned, and by the yearlie rent of ʒ9 11s. 6d., and four horsemen, and other services in said letters expressed, and also by knight's service.

from which it has been extracted.¹⁴ Kiltale, or Kiltal, also written Kiltale, in the barony of Maryborough, had four townlands; and, it was an impropriation, in 1640. Then it was possessed by Sir Robert Pigot, Knight, who was the patron. At that time, this vicarage was worth £15 per annum, vicarial was worth £10; in 1657, all the foregoing was valued only at £3.¹⁵ Inside and outside the old ruin's remains are traces of plaster; so that, probably about three hundred years ago, the church had been used for services, and perhaps even at a later period.

A range of hills, on the northern border of Leix territory, swells out like

The said lands are meared and bounded as followeth in the original:—The said Roberte, by indenture bearing date the 2d May 1605, hath, together with his footcees, demised unto Thomas Allen all his and their castles, howses, &c., situate lying and being within the villages of Carriekneparke, Kiltalagh, Ballecarrold, Cawlarane, and Roughin, for 61 years—John Wesley, late prior of the priory of Connall in the County Kildare, [] of fee, in right of said priory, of the rectory of Disertenes, and of all churches, tithes, &c., thereto belonging (which said rectory extendeth into two thirde partes of all the tiethes and alterages issuing out of the severall townes and lands of Disert, Gra [] Rahineduff, the old mille, Ballinegorbane, Rahineniske, Laughticoe, Loughdrudnie, Munneghane, and Coolekneagh), and of the presentation of a vicar to the church of Disertenes aforesaid; the rectory of Kiltal (which said rectorie extendeth itself into the two third partes of all the tiethes and alterages issuing out of the severall towns and villages of Kiltale, Carriekneparke, Ballecarroll, Coolarne, Kilmartire, Kilpatrick, Killmorry, and Ballymadocke), and also of the presentation of a vicar to the church of Kiltale; the rectory of [] which said rectory extendeth into the two third partes of [], and of the presentation of a vicar, &c., as above; the rectorie of Noughwall, *alias* Stradbally, together with all churches, &c., to the said rectorie belonging, and of the presentation of a vicar in and to the church of [] to which vicare belongeth the other third parte of all the tiethes aforesaid; and also of the rectory of Gallen, *alias* Disert-Gallen, together with all churches to the said rectory belonging which said rectory extendeth into the two partes of all the tiethes, &c., issuing out of the severall townes of Ballanekilly, Kileronan, Kilmashane, Ralishe, Clogheoge, Killrush, Ballahanecarr, Castlemoat, Grage, Athlacrosse, Graghahone, Gragnasmitten, Moyarde,

Knoghorocroughan, Doghill, Bouleybegg, Leascocannan, Boulanabane, and Bullanagragh), together with all the other hamlets to the same belonging; and also of the presentation of a vicar to the church of Gallen *alias* Disert-Gallen aforesaid, to which vicar belongeth the other third parte of all the tiethes aforesaid; and ther belongeth to the rectory of Gallen aforesaid 5 great ackers of land, where of the vicar hath a third parte; the rectory of Aghatobret, together with all churches, chappells, &c., to the same belonging, and of the presentation of a vicare to the church of Aghatobret, to whome belongeth the third part of all the tiethes of the said parsonage; the rectory of Clonkine, together with all churches, chapells, &c., to the same belonging, and also the presentation of a vicare to the church of Clonkine, to whome belongeth the third parte of all the tiethes of the said parsonage; the rectory of Ballycullane, together with all churches, chapells, &c., to the same belonging, and also the presentation of a vicar to the church of Ballycullane, to whom belongeth the third parte of the tiethes of the said parsonage; the rectory of Kilcolmanbane, together with all churches, chapells, &c., to the same belonging, and also the presentation of a vicar to the church of Kilcolmanbane aforesaid, to whome belongeth the third parte of all the tiethes of the said parsonage; all which severall rectories, above written, were appropriate to the prior and convent of the said priory of Connall." See "Inquisitionum Cancellariae Hiberniae Repertorium," vol. i., Lagenia, printed A.D. MDCCC., xxvi.

¹⁴We have lengthened out the contractions, but blanks occur, where the deed became undecipherable. Most of the townland denominations are clearly traceable on the spot, yet not always on the Townland Maps of the Irish Ordnance Survey. The compilers of these seem never to have thought, that the local landlords' rent-rolls might have more fully and accurately furnished those

vast billows against the sky, as seen from the cemetery. Rising over a hill, called Slieve Bawn, and near Kiltéal, may be found remarkably high entrenchments, with concentric fosses and dykes, now overgrown with hawthorns and briars. Those entrenchments are thought to have been erected by Colonels Hewson and Reynolds, when they besieged Dunamase in 1650.¹⁶ The trenches are fully 8 ft. below the upper part of the ditches. The situation of Kiltéal ruin is a very charming one, on the slope of a hill, and near the highway. It is well walled in and fenced, while the graveyard rises high over the adjacent fields and road. Dunamase frowns proudly near. Hills surmount it, towards the east and north. Beside the old ruin and grave yard was built the former glebe-house, now the property of a farmer. At no great distance, a modern Protestant church had been erected, to replace that of Dysart Enos, and on a commanding knoll, about the year 1850. Great festoons of ivy hang around the remaining walls of the more ancient church at Kiltéal. The east gable is totally obliterated. Large elder trees and thorns grow within and without the ruin. Venerable hawthorns are spread over or around the cemetery, which is a very old place of interment; although, only some comparatively modern headstones are now to be seen, within its enclosure.

The old denomination of Kilmartyr,¹⁷ yet familiarly pronounced by, and well known to the people, has been obliterated from the "Ordnance Survey Maps of the Queen's County." It seems there to have been sunk under the extensive bounds of Ballymaddock townland. What is still more extraordinary, the foundations and basement cellar of the old castle of Kilmartyr are yet to be seen in the middle of an open field; but no mark to indicate their site can be traced on the map. Yet this castle and its denomination, in connexion with a townland, have place in our historic rolls. At an early period, it was a dependency on Dunamase. When made over to the Cosbys, a certain John Johnson became their tenant of the lands for a term of 21 years, by a deed dated 2nd of June, 1614. Yet, two years later, one Thomas Warde seems to have obtained the tenancy of Kilmartyr for a term of thirty-one years,¹⁸ commencing after the expiration of the former deed. Again, we find sixty acres of the lands of Kilmartyr and Ballymaddock, assigned by Alexander Cosby, through a deed, bearing date the 2nd of June, 1636, and drawn in favour of Francis Willoughby, of St. Dominick's Abbey, of Francis Slingsby of Kilmore, and of his son and heir Francis, as also of William Dodwell, of the Grange. An ancient village site near the wood adjoining the Rock of Dunamase¹⁹ is still traceable.²⁰

existing known names, and with their proper admeasurements, which the officials have so carelessly suppressed.

¹⁵ According to the Inquisition, taken at Maryborough, on the 13th of October, 1657. See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, pp. 10, 11.

¹⁶ See "Irish Penny Magazine," vol. i., No. 3, p. 18.

¹⁷ In the Inquisitions it is called Kilmarten or Kilmarter. See "Inquisitionum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ Re-

pertorium," vol. i., Lagenia. Com. Regine Temp. Eliz. Reg. Marebrough, 17th August, 1596; Temp. Car. 1 Reg., 15 Mar. 1631; and again, in an undated Inquisition, apparently taken about April, 1646.

¹⁸ By a deed bearing date 2nd of December, 1616. This Thomas Warde, or some representative of his family, appears to have paid the rent of Kilmartyr, to a Richard Cosby, who lived in the year 1640.

¹⁹ The derivation of Dunmascor or Dunamase in the Queen's County is

The townland of Kilmurry,²¹ situated in the parish of Kiltéal and barony of Stradbally, contains an ancient church in ruins, and within a small grave-yard, now disused for interments, although traces of many graves and headstones are to be seen. The old church measured 39 ft. 6 in. in length, and 17 ft. 6 in. in breadth, on the interior. The gable walls were over 3 ft. in thickness, but the side walls were not more than 2 ft. 10 in. The north side wall is much dilapidated, but at one part of it are the traces of a doorway, and it seems splayed internally. On the south side wall appears a ruined window. A sort of alcove in one of the side walls may be seen, and it is near the eastern gable. From the name of the church we suppose it had been dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This old church lies southwards on the road-side, leading from Killone to Stradbally, and it is in a picturesque situation.

The townland of Ballymaddock is situated within the parish of Kiltéal, and in the barony of Stradbally. The surface of this townland is gently undulating—the soil is of good quality—and the scenery, immediately surrounding the neighbourhood, has a pleasing and picturesque character. The antiquarian remains of Ballymaddock are its castle and adjoining ruins. These are placed in rather a low situation, but at the head of a pretty valley, which winds along in a north-eastern direction. Those ruins consist of two distinct ancient buildings, erected at different periods, yet, situated in a position quite contiguous to each other. One of those buildings is locally denominated the "monastery;" although it bears no external traces of having been designed for ecclesiastical purposes, nor does the writer know of any historical reference to warrant such designation. The end wall only remains, with a part of the side wall, which is perforated by a small window. The other portions have been removed; and they were probably employed in the erection of a barn, which occupies the space between the "monastery," and the gable wall of the old mansion.²² The walls of the "monastery" are of great thickness. The gable end appears to have been breasted on the interior with a massive pile of masonry, which must have served the purposes of a chimney; although, at present, it is in so ruinous a condition, that the use for which it had been intended cannot be very accurately conjectured. The great probability is, that the "monastery," as locally denominated by the peasantry, was only a portion of an ancient castle or mansion. A few small perforations for windows, which yet remain, would serve to confirm this impression, as in style they are altogether unlike openings to be found in old ecclesiastical ruins. Human remains have been turned up frequently from the earth near these buildings.

The house called Cahernacapol's on the Ordnance Survey Map, is now popularly known in the neighbourhood as "Squire Weaver's House." This name it acquired from having been held by a former tenant. Richard Cosby, by a deed bearing date the 15th of June, in the fourteenth year of James I.'s reign, let the lands of Ballymaddock

noticed in Eugene O'Curry's Catalogue of MSS. in R.I.A. p. 341. See also Hodges & Smith's MSS., at p. 484.

²⁰ It is even noted on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 13.

²¹ It contains 467a. 3r. 7p., and it is

shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 14.

²² It is designated "the house of Cahernacapol," (*in ruins*), on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 14.

to one John Allen for a term of twenty years.²³ This tenant must have held from about A.D. 1617. The old castle now standing there seems to have been built about that period. In the year 1691, John Weaver Esq., lived in Ballymaddock, and he was an active partisan of King William III. during the Irish wars with James II.²⁴ Squire Weaver—formerly a distinguished member of the Irish House of Commons²⁵—is now forgotten by persons long residing in the surrounding country. We have some particulars recorded, however, regarding Cahernacapol in connexion with Ballymaddock. Owing to reverses of fortune, the O'Dempseys, who had been formerly the Lords of Glenmalire, were reduced to indigence. Nevertheless, some members of this family clung to their home, and resided in the Castle of Lea, in which the famous O'Neill is said to have lodged A.D. 1645. About the commencement of the eighteenth century, one of the O'Dempseys was distinguished among the people, having been called Cahir-na-Coppail, or Charles the horse-stealer, from his many depredations committed on that species of animals. This desperado, associated with others was watched closely by the Government. It is stated, that a *posse comitatus* was organized under the sheriff to apprehend the leader and his gang. These were beset, at last, in a wood near Monasterevan; but it was found impracticable, for some time, to force the pass. Then a stratagem was conceived it is said, and the trunk of a large tree was cut down; it was painted and mounted in the shape of a cannon, and placed at the entrance of the Rapparees' Pass. This so much deceived and intimidated them that all surrendered at discretion, except Captain O'Dempsey, who made his escape. He then, it is said, took up a residence in the Castle of Ballymaddock. In this castle he was secreted, and after some time he died.²⁶

There is another traditional account, referring to Caher-na-capol, or Charles the horse-stealer, in connexion with the Castle of Ballymaddock. An intelligent farmer, Mr. Patrick Moore, who rented a considerable portion of Ballymaddock lands, and who died at an advanced age, in the year 1839, gave the following statement of his acts to the writer: In the time of Caher-na-capol, a gentleman named Fitzgerald—probably one of the Morett family of that name—was tenant of the lands, and a resident in Ballymaddock Castle. He was an uncle to the outlaw, Charles O'Dempsey, who was frequently obliged to take refuge in the Castle. There, or in some out-offices attached, this notorious bandit was obliged to conceal himself from the officers of justice. It was stated, as well as the writer can now recollect, that Fitzgerald possessed such power and influence with certain officers of the law, that these were believed to have connived sometimes at Cahir's escape, even when fully aware of the exact place in which he was to be found.²⁷

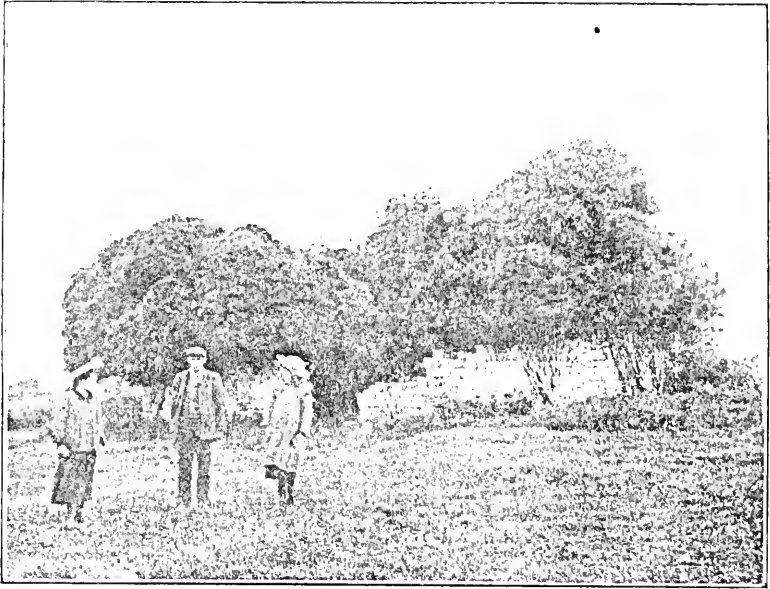
²³ See the "Roll of Inquisitions of the Irish Court of Chancery," dated the 15th of March, 1631. *Lagenia*, Vol. I. Queen's County.

²⁴ See Walter Harris' "History of the Life and Reign of William III." Appendix, Nos. LVII., LVIII., pp. lxxi., lxxii.

²⁵ He took an active part in its proceedings.

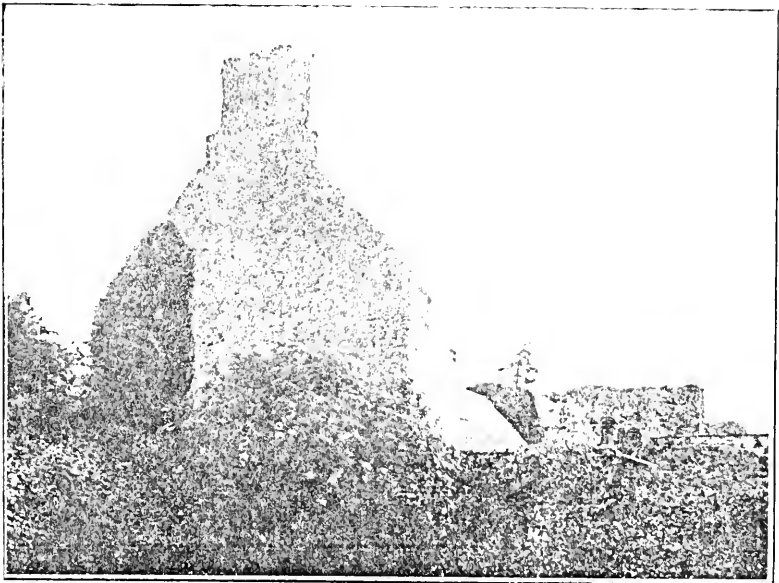
²⁶ See O'Byrne's "History of the Queen's County," chap. xxi., pp. 61, 62.

²⁷ The ancestors of Mr. Patrick Moore had lived in the neighbourhood of Ballymaddock for generations before his own time; and the farmer alluded to was accustomed to state that he was a lineal descendant of the O'Moore's, the Chieftains of Dumamase. Besides a fund of classical and traditionary knowledge



KILMURRAY CHURCH.

See page 273.



Photos by

CAHIR-NA-COPPEL'S HOUSE.

[*Rev. F. O'L.*]

Vol. I.

See page 273.

Before the castle finally went to ruin, it was tenanted by a Mr. Michael Dolan, about the beginning of the last century. Having become quite ruinous, the old building was in part pulled down, and the materials were used in the construction of a dwelling-house, within the courtyard or bawn of the former castle. A gable, and a portion of the side wall, are now the only remains of what the country people call "Squire Weaver's House." The walls are of great thickness; and from joist-holes in the interior, the castle appears to have only consisted of two storeys. In the interior may be seen one of the old open chimneys, running up the middle of the gable wall, until it terminates in a ruinous and threatening pile of three distinct square flues, angularly joining each other. This gable appears on the outside to rest on a very insecure foundation—the loamy earth having been thence removed for manure, within the memory of the writer. Portions of the gable have given way on the interior, a considerable part having fallen during the severe winter storm of 1852.²⁸ Hence, it had been considered advisable to pull down the overhanging portion of the ruins to a more secure level; but this attempt, when made, had been attended with much danger to a man employed for the purpose. As this gable encloses out-offices, in part, and rises immediately over a passage or gate, leading to the field represented in the foreground of a sketch procured, it was feared that injury to life or property might occur, by its suddenly and unexpectedly giving way. However, the danger to be incurred by its demolition almost equally counterbalances that to be apprehended from its casual fall. In some of the courses of masonry may be seen a sort of yellow clay, which had been used for cement, although an excellent lime-mortar for the most part predominates throughout the building. The remains of extern square towers, of no great altitude, are yet to be seen, on the angles of what constituted a courtyard of quadrangular shape. This bawn extended in front of the entrance door to the old mansion. Walls yet standing in a parallel direction with the gables of the old house, communicated between the latter and the extern towers. On the outer angles of both these towers, may yet be seen chimneys, characteristic of the style which prevails in the standing gable. These towers are now used as farm offices; ranges of houses extending in a line between them. Without, the inner court appears to have been a larger quadrangular bawn, which must have been used for the out-offices pertaining to the castle. The walls which enclosed this bawn have not entirely disappeared; and even yet remain in a well-preserved state, on one side of the quadrangle. There appears to have been only one large gateway entrance to this bawn, which was towards the east, and nearly opposite the front of the old mansion. As it is remarked, regarding all tracts of land in the immediate neighbourhood of old castles, the field behind that mansion far surpasses all others in the townland for richness and fertility of soil. This is accounted for, because it is supposed that cattle were

which he possessed, this senior was a correct and learned Irish scholar and historian.

²⁸ It is to be regretted, that some effort would not be made, to secure this portion of the ruins of Ballymaddock Castle. A very trifling outlay,

in the matter of pointing the walls with mortar, and under-pinning the foundation with solid mason work, should suffice to preserve the gable for many years to come. The gable in question forms the boundary between the farms of neighbouring tenants.

frequently congregated there to be fed, milked, or perhaps placed under more secure protection from the raids of robbers.

Mr. Patrick Moore, already mentioned, informed the writer, many years since, that a sort of road or avenue formerly wound through the glen, in a north-eastern direction. This road led towards Stradbally, which town is about two miles distant from the Castle of Ballymaddock. The avenue was thickly planted with ancient yew-trees. These no longer remain, excepting a pair of yew-trees growing within the enclosure of the courtyard, now the sole representatives of that sombre forest, which surrounded or opened before the old mansion. Other particulars of curious interest were derived from tradition, which my informant took great pleasure in communicating. These have now escaped my memory altogether, or have left such faint recollections behind, as to prevent my hazarding statements, with any great pretensions to accuracy. The late Dr. John O'Donovan informed the writer, that Ballymaddock must be anglicized into "the town or townland of Maddock." This name is now usually written Maddocks, or Maddox; and some representatives of the family are yet found in various parts of the Queen's County. Hence, we may suppose, that this townland was held by possessors of this name, under the O'Moores of Leix, whose Castle of Dunamase was only a mile and a-half distant. The history of Ballymaddock is consequently involved in all the changes of fortune that befel the various Chiefs or occupants of Leix territory, both of Irish and English origin, until its lands became vested in the Cosbys, who yet hold possession under their original grant. Not far from Ballymaddock Castle, a fine old rath may yet be seen, and in a direction leading to the gate,²⁹ by which the field is entered from the road. In this place, also, springing corn or grass is noticed in summer to have assumed a tinge of deeper verdure and of higher growth than in other parts of this same field. Human remains, in great quantity, have been discovered there; and many think the place must have furnished a site for some battle, not known in historic records. Again, in a field adjoining the rath, a sort of elevation, having some disjointed stones on the summit, is to be seen; and around the cone, in a very regular circle, the grass always partakes of a similar dark colour, about the months of June and July. This is thought to have been a former place of interment, and the upper surface somewhat resembles a dilapidated cairn.

On the townland of Carrigeen, north of the road, leading from Stradbally to the Great Heath, and within a wood planted about the beginning of the last century, the country people point out an object, which they have been accustomed to call a Druid's Altar. It lies on the south side of Killone Hills, sheltered under a nearly semicircular sweep of rock, near a little ravine. It rests one edge partly on a ledge of rock; while its other edges are supported by three or four large upright blocks of limestone. Of this material, too, the covering flag is composed. On top, it has an irregular lozenge-shape, and it measures diagonally 8 ft. 9 ins. in length, while the extreme diagonal breadth is 7 ft. 4 ins.

²⁹ Locally called "the bone gate," because a large pile of human bones was placed there, about seventy or eighty years ago, until they were removed,

and burned in one of the midsummer bonfires.

³⁰ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 211.

In thickness it varies from 8 inches only to 17 inches. It slopes at an angle of about 20 degrees.

Before the late Irish Church Disestablishment Act, Kiltéal was a vicarage, forming part of the union of Dysart Enos, in the diocese of Leighlin, and the rectory was inappropriate in Lord Carew. The tithes amounted to £176 3s. 9½d.; and of this sum £117 9s. 2½d. was payable to the impropriator, with remainder to the vicar.³⁰ The vicarial tithe composition was £58 14s. 7½d., and the glebe was valued at £10 10s. per annum. This parish was part of the benefice of Tecolme.³¹ The patronage was in the bishop.³²

CHAPTER XXXV.—PARISH OF KYLE OR CLONFERT MOLUA.

THE parish of Kyle,¹ in the Barony of Clandonagh, is situated the most westerly in the Queen's County, and adjoining the County of Tipperary. This parish belongs to the Diocese of Killaloe,² and it is traversed by the old coach-road from Dublin to Limerick.³ There is a considerable proportion of mountain land within it. The soil is described as good arable and pasture in various places, while waste and bog lands, with woods, are represented on the higher slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. This parish has been noticed by Patrick O'Keefe in the Irish Survey Records.⁴

On the southern declivity of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and commanding a vast range of prospect, St. Lua⁵ or Molua⁶ obtained a site for his once celebrated monastery from Berach, the ruler over Leix, in the sixth century. There, within the townland and parish of Kyle, is the old cemetery, well filled with graves, and some old fragments of an ancient church, not far removed from the celebrated Ballaghmore, or "great road," which was the much-frequented highway between Leinster and Munster. Formerly Kyle Parish was within the bounds of Upper Ossory. From the founder, the place was anciently known as Clonfert Molua. The highest ground is in the north-western border, and it has an altitude of over 1,000 feet. The drainage is effected eastwards, by head-streams of the River Nore.⁷ This monastery of Clonfert Mulloe has been incorrectly located in the present King's County, by Archdall.⁸ Molua is called Lughaidh Mac hUi-Oiche, or Mac Ui Oche,

³¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 541.

³² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 460.

¹ It is represented on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 15, 21.

² Being the only parish in the Queen's County so circumstanced, it is simply necessary to give the ecclesiastical particulars immediately connected with its history, and therefore the Bishops of that Diocese have not been enumerated.

³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 516.

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the

Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of Patrick O'Keefe dated Mountrath, December 1st, 1838, pp. 116 to 121.

⁵ The Life of this saint is published in Fleming's "Collectanea Sacra," in 55 Chapters or paragraphs, pp. 308 to 379.

⁶ Molua is compounded of the devotional prefix *mo* or "my," and *Lua* put for Lughaidh, which is pronounced *Loo-ee*.

⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 583.

⁸ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 379.

⁹ Edited by William M. Hennessy, see pp. 50, 51.

and Lua's birth is recorded at A.D. 554, in the "Chronicum Scotorum." 9 However, the life of this saint, as published by Fleming, states, that his father was named Cartach, commonly called Coche, while his family belonged to the Hy-Fidhgente, and his mother was named Sochla, from Ossory. He is called the son of Carthar of Munster, by Archdall,¹⁰ and he was educated at Bangor Monastery, in the County of Down, under St. Comgall. After some time, he resolved on the erection of a monastic establishment at Clonfert Molua. According to a rumour, which reached St. Bernard,¹¹ that holy patron founded no less than one hundred monasteries; but, Rev. Dr. Lanigan is of opinion, that all of these were not immediately founded by himself, and that probably several may have been the work of disciples belonging to his order or institution.¹²

While the Annals of the Four Masters¹³ place the death of St. Molua at A.D. 605; the Annals of Ulster have the date, at A.D. 608;¹⁴ and the "Chronicum Scotorum"¹⁵ has A.D. 609 for his "quies." The festival of St. Molua was on the 4th of August, in all our calendars. His death is entered by Archdall, at the year 622; and, at this period, also, that writer names St. Lactan, a disciple, as having charge of his monastery.¹⁶ The immediate successor of the founder was indeed this Abbot Lactan,¹⁷ whose feast has been assigned to the 19th of March. Under him appears to have lived a very holy and celebrated monk, called Laidgen, or Laidcend son to Baith Bandaigh,¹⁸ who died on the 12th of January, A.D. 660.¹⁹ At this same year, in recording his demise, The Annals of Ulster call him *sapientis*, or "the wise."²⁰ He was buried in Clonfert Molua, and there, too, his memory was held in great veneration, while all our ancient Martyrologies and Kalendars²¹ record his feast, at the day assigned for his departure from this world.²² Even the Scottish Kalendar of Drummond commemorates him, at the same day, observing, that on it the holy confessor Laidcend ascended to the stars.²³ The Annals of the Four Masters record the death of Saergal Ua Dugnae, Abbot of Cluain-fearta-Molua, at A.D. 776.²⁴ The true year, however, was 781. The Abbot Momagh, or Maenach, died A.D. 790,²⁵ 792,²⁶ or 795 as variously stated.

The Abbot Finghin or Fingene²⁷ a son to Laidgene, or Laidhgin,

¹⁰ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 379.

¹¹ See his "Vita S. Malachie," cap. vi., p. 670. See Benedictine edition, vol. i. Editio Parisus, 1719, fol.

¹² See "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. xii., sect. vii., p. 206.

¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 330, 331.

¹⁴ See Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv.

¹⁵ Edited by William M. Hennessy, see pp. 72, 73.

¹⁶ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 379.

¹⁷ This appears from the Vita S. Luani, See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," xii, Januarii De S. Laidgenno Confessore, ex diversis, n. 3, p. 58.

¹⁸ According to the "Feilire" of St.

Ængus, who commemorates him at the 12th of January.

¹⁹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," xii., Januarii, Vita S. Laidgeni, pp. 57, 58, and n. 5.

²⁰ See Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv., "Annales Ultonienses."

²¹ Such as those of Tallagh, of Cashel, of Marianus O'Gorman, and of Donegal.

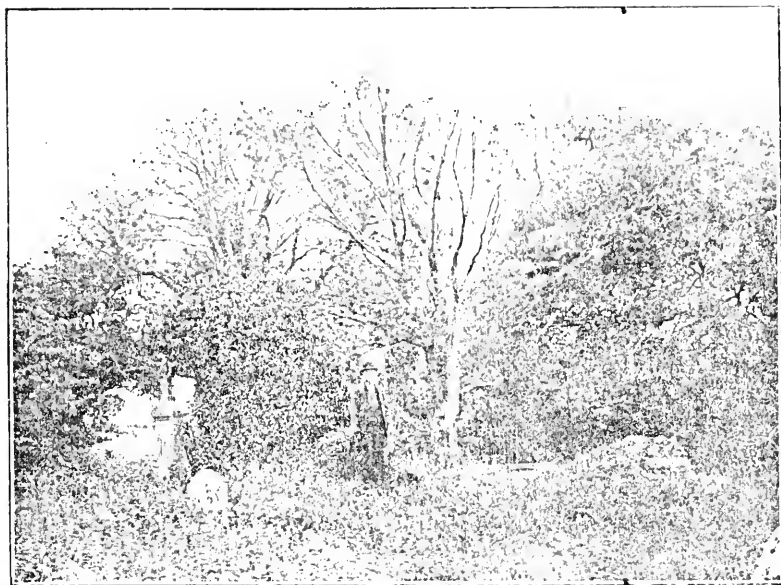
²² See an account of him in Rev. John O'Hanlon's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. i., January xii., art. i.

²³ See Bishop Forbes' "Kalendars of the Scottish Saints," p. 2.

²⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 380, 381.

²⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 396, 397.

²⁶ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 379.



SITE OF ST. MOLUA'S ABBEY.
(Accent on U.)



Photos by

ST. MOLUA'S GRAVE.

[Rev. J. O'V.]

(At right angles to the other graves, and between the boulders
on which the men's hands are placed.)

died in 850.²⁸ Colgan also has allusion to him.²⁹ There was an Ængus, who composed a poem in praise of his more celebrated namesake, who lived as Abbot over Clonenagh and at Dysert Enos. That panegyrist of Saint Ængus the Culdee may have been, as Colgan conjectures, an Abbot, known as Ængus, surnamed the *Wise*.³⁰ He belonged to Clonfert-Molua, not very far removed from Clonenagh Monastery, and he died in 858³¹ or 859, according to our Irish annals.³² He was held in very high estimation.³³ Neassan, the son of Ceallach, Abbot of Cluain-fearta-Molua, died in the year 878.³⁴ In the year 925,³⁵ died Mael-peadair, Abbot of Cluain-fearta-Molua. It is probable the monastic establishment there began to decline, in the succeeding years of the tenth century, and that the Northmen wars effected its extinction, is not altogether improbable.

That Inquisition, taken at Maryborough in the time of Cromwell, finds that Kilclonfert, also called Molow, and Kyle, in Upper Ossory, hath ten townlands, and an impropriate rectory worth £4 5s. per annum. The Lord Protector is termed the Patron.³⁶ The present parish of Kyle is called Kilballyduff in Sir William Petty's Down Survey; and, at Ballaghmore and Ballintlea a ruined castle is there noted. At Clonerosse or Kilballyduff, townland proper, a castle and a church out of repair, and at Castletown a ruined castle, are noted.³⁷

Various popular traditions yet survive respecting St. Molua, and his connexion with Kyle. A curious upright rock, called St. Molua's stone by the country people, is to be seen in a field near the cemetery. St. Molua's Trough is still shown; it seems to have been some sort of an ancient font. According to Archdall,³⁸ Clonfert Mulloe was in the ancient diocese of Roscrea, afterwards united to Killaloe, and it became a parish church, or rectory, as a part of that benefice.³⁹ With Roscrea this parish was valued at £466, the patronage being in the bishop.⁴⁰ At present, in the Catholic parochial arrangement, it is united to the parish of Roscrea, having a chapel to accommodate that special district.⁴¹ The parish of Kyle contained 6,225 statute acres, as apportioned under the Tithe Act, and it was valued at £2,802 per annum. Here are the remains of an encampment.⁴²

²⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 482, 483.

²⁸ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 379.

²⁹ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," v. Februarii, De B. Fingeno Abbate, n. 1, p. 258.

³⁰ See "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii xi., De S. Ængussio Hagiographo, Episcopo, et Confessore, n. 5, p. 582.

³¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 492, 493.

³² See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xx., § x., n. 98, pp. 248, 249. In a succeeding note, Dr. Lanigan remarks:

"Considering the Irish practice of promoting eminent abbots to the Episcopacy, we need not look for any other See for him than one of the above-mentioned monasteries." *Ibid.* n. 99, p. 249.

³³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 379.

³⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 526, 527.

³⁵ See *ibid.*, vol. ii., pp. 614, 615.

³⁶ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 6.

³⁷ In addition to the foregoing denominations are, Ballintaggutts, Rabin, Beath, and Munymore, on Vallancy's Maps, copied from the originals in Paris, vol. ii., No. 63, Irish Record Office, Dublin.

³⁸ See "Monasticon Hebernicum," p. 379.

³⁹ In 1846, the tithe composition was £111 16s. 10d.

⁴⁰ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 516.

CHAPTER XXXVI.—PARISH OF LEA.

THIS parish is situated in the north-eastern part of the barony of Portnahinch, and, with the single exception of Spire Hill¹ and Windmill Hill,² its surface is generally level, a considerable portion being on the flats extending south and west from the River Barrow. It contains 18,488a. and 3rp.; of these 28a. 2r. 7p. are comprised within the measurement of that river.³ The parish is popularly divided into Upper Lea and Lower Lea; the former division has 16 townlands, and the latter only 11.⁴ Lea parish contains the greater part of the town of Portarlington, lying south of the River Barrow, and also the village of Ballybrittas. Besides these, the principal hamlets within it are Jamestown, Old Ballybrittas, Old Lea, Kilbride, and Bracklan—the latter was once a separate village, but now it is a suburb of Portarlington. This is the chief and most populous town in the parish. There are antique church ruins at Ballyaddan, Tierhogher and Old Lea.⁵ Tillage land throughout the area is alternated with meadow, pasture lands and bogs; good limestone is also to be found there for building purposes. This parish has been described by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁶

The original site of Portarlington town was uninviting in appearance, it being a flat plain or callow on either bank of the River Barrow. The town itself now lies, partly in the parish of Cloneyhurk,⁷ barony of Upper Phillipstown, and King's County;⁸ and partly in the parish of Lea,⁹ barony of Portnahinch, in the Queen's County.¹⁰ The former and present name of that townland in the King's County, on which the town was built, is Kilmalogue; while the Queen's County townland denomination is Cooltaderra or Cooletederry. In Sir William Petty's Survey this name is to be found, while it is yet retained in the quit rent and county books. Although prevailing flat and featureless, the environs of Portarlington have been brought into comparative beauty through cultivation, and the erection of many pleasant villas within ornamental lawns and pleasure grounds.

The town itself was very regularly laid out; the streets¹¹ are fairly wide and kept very clean; while comfortable houses and well-dressed

¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 583.

² See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 241.

³ It is so called from a spire built on its summit, by a former Earl of Portarlington. The hill is wooded, and intersected with pleasant walks.

⁴ This is near Ballybrittas.

⁵ Shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 4, 5, 8, 9, 14.

⁶ See "The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 595.

⁷ For a very detailed description see "The Parish of Lea," by Rev. John Jones, in Wm. Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account of Ireland," vol. i., pp. 515 to 548.

⁸ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter dated Stradbally, December 9th, 1838, pp. 240 to 255.

⁹ This section comprises 167 acres.

¹⁰ This portion is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the King's County," Sheet 34.

¹¹ This section of the town contains 288 acres.

¹² This portion is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 4, 5.

¹³ The principal street on the Queen's County side commenced at the canal-bridge on the road to Dublin, and it extends 1,000 yards north-westward.

inhabitants are its conspicuous features. The market house *is a commodious structure, and in its upper story are several large rooms used for quarter sessions and assemblies. The Protestant Church, serving as a chapel-of-ease for the parish church, and called the English Church, is to the east of the market-square, and it is an elegant structure. Another called the French church was built for the colony of Huguenot refugees who sought an asylum here; and in the beginning of the last century, as the French language was much spoken in the town, so services were conducted in it. A branch of the Grand Canal from Monasterevan to Mountmellick passes the town, and the Refreshment Station of the Great Southern and Western Railway is about one mile distant. From this point too starts a branch railway to Tullamore. Several useful local institutions were there established, although few considerable manufactures took root. A tanyard, tobacco, soap and candle works were formerly conducted. However, there were handsome shops for merchandise, and many tradesmen obtained a good livelihood, owing to employment obtained from the resident gentry. The weekly market was held on Wednesday and Saturday; the fairs are held on January 6th, March 1st, Easter Monday, May 22nd, July 4th, September 1st, October 12th and November 23rd.¹² The town has branch and savings' banks, a hotel, dispensary within the Mountmellick Poor Law Union; courts of Quarter Session for the Queen's County and Courts of Petty Session for the King's and Queen's Counties are held there, as formerly manorial Courts leet¹³ and baron.¹⁴

The old Castle of Lea, situated on the south bank of the Barrow, stands lonely in ruins, and conspicuous for a considerable distance along

520 north-north-westward, and 120 northward. Over the first of these stretches, it is but partially or stragglingly built upon; and over the last it contracts and is comparatively narrow in width. A street of 180 yards in length runs westward from the point where the main street makes its second deflection; a square of about 70 or 80 yards on each side, with a church on the east, terminates the main street; a line of 120 yards in length goes off eastward from the middle of the eastern side of the square; a very short street goes northward from the middle of the north side of the square towards the bridge over the Barrow on the road to Rathangan; while a street 160 yards in length branches westward from the middle of the west side of the square to a bridge over the Barrow on the road to Mountmellick. A street 920 yards in length, and extending west by south, from the bridge over the Barrow and along the road to Mountmellick constitutes very nearly the King's County section of this town. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 81.

¹² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 236.

¹³ An ancient Saxon institution for the

trial of offences and the abatement of nuisances, also for the preservation of the peace and the prevention of crime, characteristic of the English Hundred to which the Irish Barony closely corresponded, and usually held by a bailiff or steward of the Sheriff. It also properly belonged to a borough which ranked as a Hundred. See further in "A Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art," by W. T. Brande and Rev. George W. Cox, vol. ii., pp. 341, 342.

¹⁴ Courts Baron are so called either from the baron or Lord who presided over them, or from the freemen, who were called barons in ancient times. Their origin seem to have arisen from notions of patriarchal jurisdiction. In the first instance they were attached to every manor, and were held by its lord, or his steward, assisted by his freeholders, to decide on the purely civil controversies that arose between them. A court baron also belonged to every Hundred or County, and in many cases to particular franchises or lordships, which might include several manors. As the cause in dispute might be removed to a higher tribunal, courts manor have long fallen into disuse. See *ibid.*, vol. i., p. 576

the river. It is said to have been one of the first Anglo-Norman settlements in Ireland. Here the castle is stated to have been built, about the year 1260,¹⁵ by the Anglo-Norman family of De Vesci, to protect the Pale on the north and north-west; but, its origin seems referable to a still earlier date. Others have it, that William, Earl Marshall, was the founder, or William de Braosa, to whom it came by marriage with one of the earl's daughters.¹⁶ As this fortress figures in the general history of the Queen's County Wars, we reserve to that account, further particulars of its vicissitudes. In the Irish Union Magazine,¹⁷ a very interesting Memoir of Leix Castle,¹⁸ with an elegant lithographic engraving,¹⁹ will be found. It consisted of a quadrangular building, having three storeys. Formerly it was flanked by round bastions, of which only one tower now remains. In the centre was an inner ballium, in which it is said there were a tennis-court and a tilt-yard. The outer entrance is still in good preservation, and a gate there was defended by a portcullis. The north side was sufficiently protected by the River Barrow, which supplied water to the wide ditch extending round the other sides. The mount on which the castle stood had thus been formed into an artificial island. Wherefore, it was called Portnahinch or the Castle of the Island, a name subsequently applied to the whole barony. The castle precinct was surrounded by a lawn, within which cattle were secured for the night.

In the years 1302-1307, the parish of Leya or Lea stood assessed for support of the Crusade War at the value of 10 marks, with a tithing of 1 mark; while its vicarage was rated at 30s., but because the latter did not exceed the limit, no return was expected.²⁰ Lea, in the barony of Portnahinch, had twenty-three townlands in 1640, and it was an impropriation. Lord Chancellor Loftus was the patron; and it was worth £15 per annum, at that time. In 1657 it was valued for £10, and it had twenty acres of glebe.²¹ In former times the Pass of Bellatride,²² over the River Barrow, was in this locality. The tract of country in which it was situated formerly belonged to the powerful family of the O'Dempseys. In the sixteenth year of the reign of James I., A.D. 1618, Terence O'Dempsey was found to be in possession of these tracts. Subsequently, he was created Viscount Clanmalire, after that considerable territory which was held by his ancestors. Afterwards, this territory descended to Louis Lord Clanmalire, who held the entail of that estate as tenant. However, this same Louis, with his brothers, Barnaby and Henry Dempsey, espoused the cause of the Irish Confederation in the year 1641. Those lands he held were afterwards declared forfeited; while they were parcelled out among the adventurers and soldiers in the time of Oliver Cromwell. Nevertheless, this settlement was not destined to last for a long time.

¹⁵ According to a writer in the "Dublin Penny Journal."

¹⁶ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 247.

¹⁷ Published in Dublin, 1845, 8vo.

¹⁸ See vol. i., No. 1., pp. 29 to 38.

¹⁹ As a frontispiece.

²⁰ See the "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London,

1302-1307," edited by H. S. Sweetman, B.A., F.C.D., and Gustavus Frederick Handcock, P.R.O., p. 247.

²¹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

²² It is now indicated, by the upper bridge, which connects the northern and southern sections of Portarlington town.



LEA CHURCH.



Photos by

LEA CASTLE FROM THE EAST.

[Rev. E. O'L.]

On the restoration of Charles II., and in the fourteenth year of his reign, by letters patent, dated November 5th, this large estate was granted to Sir Henry Bennett, afterwards created Lord Arlington. Subsequently the trustees of forfeited estates awarded it to him. Lord Clanmalire urged a claim of innocence, which was not allowed. The Act of Explanation, passed in the seventeenth and eighteenth of Charles II., states,²³ that Louis Viscount Clanmalire's title had been that of tenant entail, it being doubtful from former proceedings that his title had not become extinct, and that Lord Arlington, having claimed the title in fee, by virtue of his patent 5th of November, fourteenth of Charles II. ; to obviate that doubt, a section was inserted in the Act of Parliament, which enabled Lord Arlington to enter upon and possess the lands of Louis Lord Clanmalire, as fully as if the estate tail had been spent or expired. Who can doubt Lord Arlington's agency in framing and confirming such a clause, as also in the provision to remunerate and remove from the lands the adventurers and soldiers for the purpose of giving him absolute possession ? He obtained a second patent of those lands, which bears for date 27th of July, in the 18th year of King Charles II.'s reign. Power was given by the last section in the Act of Explanation for the Lord Lieutenant and the Council of Ireland, to direct in the passing of all letters patent, that new and proper names, more suitable to the English tongue, might be inserted, with an *alias* for all towns, lands, and places throughout the Island. It was decreed that such new names hereafter should be the only ones used. Wherefore, in accordance with this decree, Cooltotoodera received the name of Portarlington, in honour of Lord Arlington, after whose title it was called. The prefix of Port was suggested by the circumstances of its locality having a small quay or landing place on the River Barrow. Through his influence, likewise, the town, which he then founded and intended to colonize with English settlers, was erected into a Parliamentary Borough.

A charter which bears date the 3rd day of August, 1667, and in the 19th year of Charles II.'s reign, is enrolled in Chancery, as the deed of incorporation.²⁴ After reciting the adjudication of the forfeited lands, formerly belonging to Lewis Lord Clanmalire, to Henry, Lord Arlington, and to his heirs for ever, as also the patent of the 27th day of July, in the eighteenth year of the reign of King Charles II., it states, that Lord Arlington had expressed a desire that those lands should be planted with English. It then ordains, that certain of these lands in the King's County should be erected into a manor, to be called the manor of Charles-town. It provides, that the lands of Cooltotoodera *alias* Portarlington, and other lands therein named, which were all in the barony of Portmahinch and Queen's County, as also that the Clourroke, *alias* the Portarlington woods and other lands in the barony of Philipstown and King's County, should be one entire manor, to be called and known by the designation of the Manor of Portarlington. According to the charter, the Corporation consisted of a sovereign,²⁵ two portreeves or bailiffs, twelve burgesses, and an unlimited number of freemen,²⁶ while the Corporation was described as "The Sovereign, Bailiffs, and

²³ See chap. ii., sect. 78.

²⁴ See "Patent Rolls of Chancery," 19th of Charles II., p. 5, m. 5. d.

²⁵ The sovereign was elected annually from among the burgesses

²⁶ Or so many as the burgesses may choose to nominate.

²⁷ In consequence of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

²⁸ See "A Most Interesting Historical

Burgesses, of the Borough and Town of Portarlinton." According to their charter, the limits of Portarlinton Borough "extend into the King's and Queen's Counties in every direction, from the Pass over the River Barrow, commonly called Bellatride, near Cooltederry *alias* Portarlinton, 100 acres of Irish plantation measure in the whole." Notwithstanding, they actually reached to a much greater extent, northwards, to the common's drain near Derravilla, eastwards, to Old Brackland Bridge, southwards, to the mearing of Drug-hill, on the River Barrow, and westwards, to Butlersford.

Together with English families, there likewise settled a colony of French and German immigrants. On the reduction of the army, a very considerable number of French Protestant emigrants, banished from their own country,²⁷ formed a colony in a glade situated in the centre of a hazel-nut wood, on the present bend of the River Barrow at Portarlinton.²⁸ This was about one mile from the Castle of Lea. The town of Portarlinton soon began to flourish under the fostering care of its new proprietor, but chiefly owing to the energy, skill, and industry of its foreign element. As a borough, at first, it sent two members to the Irish Parliament. This it continued to do, from the year 1692 to the epoch of the Union.

The Earl of Arlington, however, disposed of his interest in the town to Sir Patrick Trant. He took sides with King James II. during the wars in Ireland. Upon his attainder, his possessions became forfeited to the Crown, and King William bestowed them on his brave companion in arms, General Rouvigny, whom he created Earl of Galway. However, the estates were taken from him, afterwards, by the English Act of Resumption. His tenants had acquired leases, which were secured to them by an Act of Parliament passed in 1702. They were also made partakers of the rights and privileges of the borough.²⁹ King William III. brought to it a colony of French Calvinists from Holland. The estate of Lord Arlington thus reverted to Rouvigny, Earl of Galway; he greatly improved the town. He endowed two free schools for its use—one for boys, the other for girls. A classical and a French School were established; while lands had been leased at low rents, which produced for the French Church £90 per annum, for the Classic school £40, and for the French school £12 per annum. The first master of the French school, Mons. Le Fevre, was a worthy gentleman of great ability, a friend and correspondent of Rt. Rev. Dr. Henry Maude, Protestant Bishop of Meath, the original founder and promoter of the Charter Schools. Le Fevre's son bore a commission in the army. It is said Laurence Sterne, in his "Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy," has drawn his character of that Lieutenant Le Fevre, so well known to most readers of classical English.³⁰ Rouvigny also erected there two Protestant Churches or chapels of ease—one for the French and one for the English residents, while these were called respectively St. Paul and St. Michael. The former was intended for the use of the French and Flemish, who were Calvinists, and it was known as the French church, the sermons and services being conducted in that language. St. Michael's served for

Account of the Castle of Lea, Queen's County," p. 17.

²⁹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 464.

³⁰ See "A most Interesting Historical Account of the Castle of Lea in the Queen's County," pp. 20, 21.

³¹ See *ibid.*, p. 18.

worship, and to accommodate the English Protestants, and therefore it was known as the English church. The estate here of the Earl of Arlington was sold to the London Hollow Sword-blade Company. From them it passed to Ephraims Dawson, Esq., ancestor to the noble family of Dawson,³¹ a lineal descendant of Marmaduke D'Ossone, a Norman nobleman, who came to England, in the train of William the Conqueror. A number of respectable gentlemen, finding the facilities of education for their sons and daughters to be very desirable, located themselves in and immediately near the town, where yet a considerable group of handsome villa residences may be seen. The social attractions of the place were additional inducements for residence, especially during the eighteenth century,³² when balls and assemblies were fashionable, notwithstanding the rigid observances of the old Huguenot families and many of their descendants. In 1770, Henry Dawson, Esq., member of Parliament for Portarlinton, was created Baron Dawson, of Dawson-court, in the Queen's County, and in 1776, he was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Carlow. The privileges of parliamentary representation for a long period were then allowed to vest in this family. In the year 1785, John, the eldest son of Henry Viscount Carlow, was created Earl of Portarlinton. From 1800, the Borough of Portarlinton was partially disfranchised, and it returned only one member to the British Parliament. During the eighteenth century, the public classical schools of Portarlinton had acquired a great reputation for excellency—sons and daughters of noblemen with several distinguished persons received their education in them. Among others, the renowned Arthur, Duke of Wellington, and his brother the Marquis of Wellesley, were scholars in their youthful days. The Bonnivaux had established an academy for youths and boys at Portarlinton. Along with Calvinistic doctrines, they had introduced a spirit of military discipline in their classes, which made it resemble the Ecole Polytechnique of modern times, more than the Sorbonne or Port Royal. Besides the foregoing sons of the Earl of Mornington, young Bailey, who died Marquis of Anglesea, received there his rudiments of education.

Another pupil of the Portarlinton school was the Right Hon. J. Wilson Croker, LL.D., F.R.S.³³ He was connected as a critical writer with the *Quarterly Review*; while, in return for his ill-natured and partisan critiques, he was frequently obliged to bear the lash of Lady Morgan's finished and satirical touches in her Irish novels.³⁴ A lady of talents and culture, named Madame Terson, presided over a flourishing Huguenot seminary for young ladies and girls in this town; but, her methods and success in teaching induced her to take a fine mansion known as Clontarf House, near Dublin, and thither she removed, as it had many superior advantages both for her pupils and herself, affording sea-air and bathing on the brink of Dublin Bay. While here, the celebrated and witty Sydney Owenson, afterwards better known by her married name of Lady Morgan,³⁵ became one of her pupils, together with her

³² This is set forth in Sir Jonah Barrington's "Personal Sketches and Recollections of his own Times."

³³ See an account of him and of his writings in Alfred Webb's admirable "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 104.

³⁴ See William John Fitzpatrick's "Friends, Foes, and Adventures of Lady Morgan," pp. 99 *et seq.*

³⁵ Leigh Hunt celebrates her in a charming poem, which made the subject of his lines declare, that she could not decide whether it was a portrait or a

sister Olivia, afterwards Lady Clarke. The daughters of the Right Hon. Henry Grattan were her schoolfellows. Among the pupils also were many girls of rank and some of distinguished talent. The character of Madame Terson and her boarding school are drawn for us, by her accomplished and patriotic pupil,³⁶ who became so remarkable for her proficiency in studies, and whose works are so well known in English literature.

In the beginning of the last century, Parliament augmented the income of the French church by £50 per annum. The English Chapel of ease in Portarlington became ruinous, and it was rebuilt in 1832; while the Board of First Fruits increased the stipend of the English Church minister to £100 per annum. Formerly the right of election for the Borough Members vested in the Corporation; but by the Reform Act, 2nd of William IV., it was extended to the £10 householders. As the ancient bounds of the borough had been very imperfectly defined, and as they had little relation to the elective franchise, a new boundary was drawn around the town. The more recent limits of the Parliamentary Borough extended beyond those of the old, in some points; yet, on the whole, they are more circumscribed. They included, however, the entire town as built upon, with a small surrounding district,³⁷ comprising an area of 933 statute acres. Thus were the boundaries defined: From the bridge over the Grand Canal on the Monasterevan-road, along the canal to the bridge over the same on the Maryborough-road; thence in a straight line to the point called Butler's Ford, at which a small stream crosses the Mountmellick-road; thence in a straight line to a small bridge on the Cloniquin-road, which is distant about 500 yards (measured along the Cloniquin-road) to the west of the point at which the same leaves the Mountmellick-road; thence in a straight line to a point on the Bog-road, which is distant 500 yards (measured along the Bog-road), to the west of the point at which the same leaves the Rathangan-road; thence eastward, along the Bog-road to the point at which the same joins the Rathangan-road; thence, southward, along the Rathangan-road to the bridge on the same over the River Barrow; thence along the River Barrow to the point thereof, which would be cut by a straight line to be drawn thereto due north from the bridge over the canal on the Monasterevan-road; thence in a straight line to the said bridge on the Monasterevan-road.³⁸ The sovereign was the returning officer, and he was also a justice of the peace within the precincts of the borough. The lord of the manor had power to appoint a seneschal, and to hold courts leet and baron, for the recovery of debts not exceeding 40s. There

caricature, but that there was a national idiosyncrasy about it, which she could not deny:—

“And dear Lady Morgan, see, see when she comes,
With her pulses all beating for freedom like drums,
So Irish; so modish, so *mixtish*, so wild;
So committing herself as she talks—like a child,
So trim, yet so easy—polite, yet high-hearted,
That truth and she, try all she can, won't be parted;

She'll put you your fashions, your latest new air,
And then talk so frankly, she'll make you all stare.”

³⁶ See “Lady Morgan's Memoirs: Autobiography, Diaries, and Correspondence,” edited by W. Hepworth Dixon, vol. i., chap. viii. and xii.

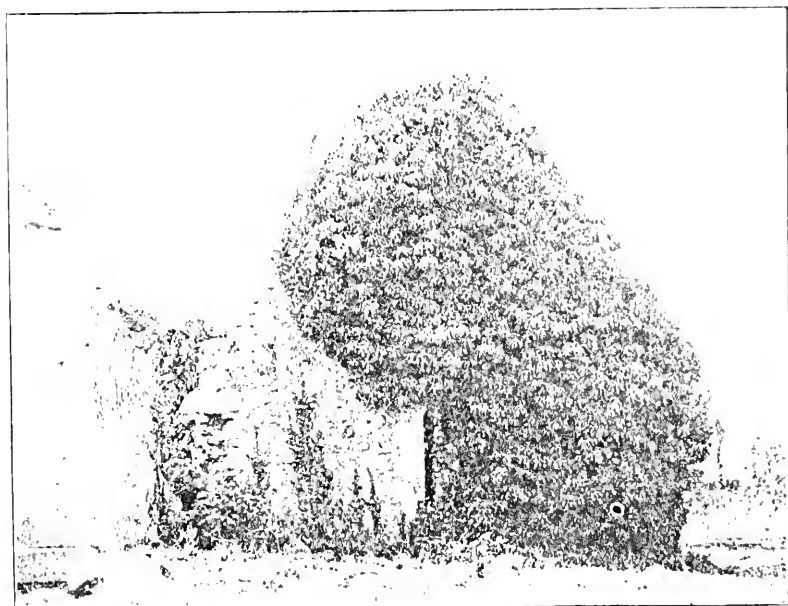
³⁷ “See The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland,” vol. iii., p. 82.

³⁸ See Lewis' “Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,” vol. ii., appendix, p. 736.

³⁹ Of these, the families chiefly employed in agriculture were 15; in



BALLYADDAN CHURCH FROM THE SOUTH.



Photogr. BALLYADDAN CHURCH FROM THE EAST. *Rev. E. O'F.*

was also a court of record, for the determination of all pleas or actions, wherein the debt or damage does not exceed the value of £200. All decrees or executions issuing from these courts were directed against the goods of the defendant, as no prison was within the manor. An appeal from the decision of these courts was referred to the judge of assize on the circuit. These courts were held in a suite of rooms, in the upper part of the market-house, in the centre of a large square. Here also petty sessions are held every Wednesday, and are usually well attended by the local magistrates. The number of electors registered up to June, 1836, was 202; of these, 189 were £10 householders, and 13 resident freemen or burgesses.

Portarlinton was the head of a union or district, comprising besides the town itself Emo and Killynard, with parts of the parishes of Clonehorke and Coolbanganher, also the parish of Lea, with the exception of the townland of Inchcooley. Catholic churches are in the town of Portarlinton, as also at Emo and Killinard. Of late years, a fine church has been erected at Emo, now formed into a separate Catholic parish. In 1831, the whole population of Portarlinton, living in the King's and Queen's Counties, was 3,001; of these 1,004 persons were in the King's County, while the Queen's County section comprised 1,997 persons. In the year 1841, Portarlinton had a population of 3,100, living in 516 houses. In the King's County division there were 1,112 persons,³⁹ living in 195 houses. In the Queen's County section, there were 1,904 persons,⁴⁰ living in 321 houses.⁴¹ Of late years, Portarlinton has been extinguished, with many other towns having a limited population, in reference to the matter of Parliamentary representation. At present, by the last Reform and Redistribution Bill, its area has been thrown into the Parliamentary Division of Leix, comprising nearly the eastern half of the Queen's County.

Within the Parish of Lea, near the former Mr. John George Adair's beautiful mansion of Bellegrove, modelled on an antique Roman fashion, and within a graveyard enclosure, is the old church of Ballyaddan. The remains measure 14 yards in length on the outside, by 7 yards in width. The east gable is perfect, with a very narrow lancet window and pointed top, splayed on the inside. The west gable is half destroyed, one small portion of a dressed doorway remains below. This church is seemingly of the thirteenth or fourteenth century; but, it may be still older, for we trace not its history to the date of construction. In the north side wall, there is a narrow Gothic window, pointed and mullioned; it is still perfect. The south wall is destroyed at top, and it is consequently lower; here, too, was a similar window, but the upper part has been removed. The graves of "the rude forefathers of the village" are chiefly on the south side of the church, and this is almost an invariable rule in all our Irish cemeteries. Malefactors and unbaptised infants were usually buried on the north side. We may ask, was it as a consequence of his malpractices, the site of the notorious Cahir na Copals

manufactures and trade 52; in other pursuits 154. Families chiefly depending on property and professions 33; on the directing of labour 74; on their own manual labour 104; and on means not specified 10.

⁴⁰ Of these, the families chiefly employed in agriculture were 102; in

manufactures and trade 163; in other pursuits 92. Families chiefly depending on property and professions 44; on the directing of labour 186; on their own manual labour 113; on means not specified 18.

⁴¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 83.

grave is here pointed out—at least it was to the writer—as lying beneath a thick covert of hawthorn bushes, at one end of the old church, and completely isolated from all the other graves? No raised mound was to be seen over it.⁴² It is said by some, however, that Cahir was buried in the valley of Glendalough, in the County of Wicklow, where there was a large stone cross called by the guides Na Copal's grave; but, this is highly improbable. The other, and more likely place, assigned for his interment is in Ballyaddan, where his tombstone was shown in a nook off the enclosure.⁴³

At a place called Tierhogar, are to be seen the remains of a church, surrounded by a still-used graveyard. The church measures about 60 feet in length by 20 in breadth. The east gable, in which there is a window, still remains; also portions of the other walls.⁴⁴ The O'Dempseys had a strong castle in this parish at Old Ballybrittas, and which was distinguished from the modern small village of Ballybrittas. Also about two and a half miles from Portarlinton are to be seen the ruins of an old church within a graveyard at Cloneyhorke; the foundations are now almost the only portions remaining, and these measure about 40 feet in length by 18 in width.⁴⁵ The castle of the O'Dempseys is in ruins, and to be seen not far apart.⁴⁶

The living of Lea was a vicarage, as also a separate benefice, in the Diocese of Kildare, valued at £238,⁴⁷ and in the patronage of the bishop; while the rectory was appropriate to the dean and chapter, the tithes amounting to £830 15s. 4½d. in 1837.⁴⁸ Of this amount £553 16s. 11d. was payable to the lessee of the dean and chapter, the remainder reverting to the vicar.⁴⁹ In 1846, the vicarial tithe composition was £276 18s. 5½d., the glebe valued at £38 10s.; the gross income was £315 8s. 5½d., and the nett being £271 16s. 5d. The rectorial tithes were compounded for £553 16s. 11d., being appropriated to the dean and chapter of Kildare Cathedral.⁵⁰ The Protestant church, a small and neat edifice, was built by subscription, and this was aided by a loan of £350 from the Board of First Fruits, in the year 1810. Some thirty years later, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners granted £375 for its repair.⁵¹ The church was erected on a conspicuous site, pretty central in the parish of Lea, and it was opened for religious purposes in November 1809. The glebe house—on a glebe of 25 acres—was built by a gift of £369, and by a loan of the same amount from the Board of First

⁴² While the writer was on the spot, a man named Lalor told him about a curious old book, which was found by one of his neighbours in a rabbit-hole! It was said to have been given to a man in Louth. The writer was unable to ascertain, whether this was a printed book or a manuscript.

⁴³ See the "Irish Union Magazine," vol. i., No. i., p. 37. This statement we doubt, and on the spot could find no corroborative evidence to support it.

⁴⁴ In this church was formerly held a Synod of the Province of Dublin on the 29th of July 1640, and it was presided over by the Most Rev. Thomas Fleming, Archbishop, assisted by David Rothe, Bishop of Ossory, Roche Mac Geoghegan,

Bishop of Kildare, and William Devereux, Vicar of Ferns.

⁴⁵ This church was formerly dedicated to St. Columbanus.

⁴⁶ In the list of the General Assembly of the Confederate Catholics in 1647, the name of Barnaby Dempsey appears.

⁴⁷ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 553.

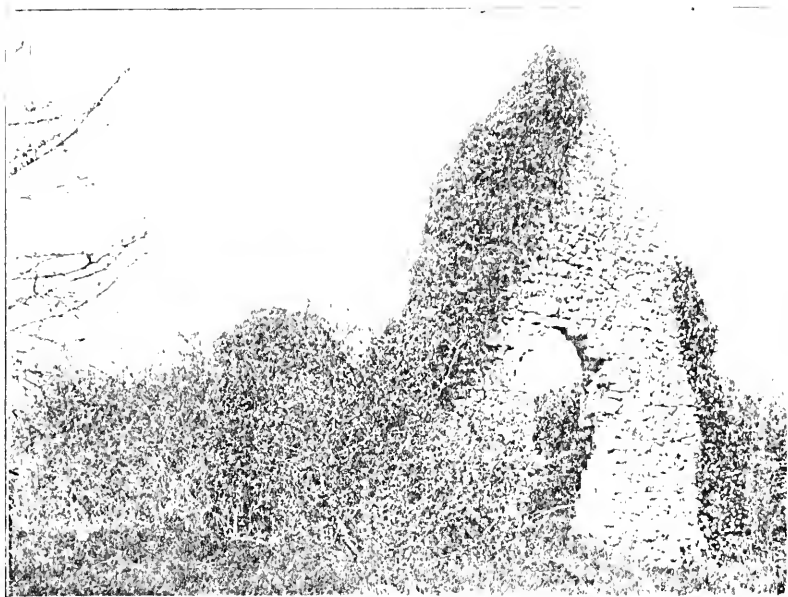
⁴⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 595, 596.

⁴⁹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 248.

⁵⁰ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 596.

⁵¹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 248.

⁵² See "A most interesting Account



TIERHOGAR CHURCH.



Photos by

CLONEYHURKE CASTLE AND CHURCH. [*Rev. E. O'F.*]

Fruits, in the year 1829. The population of Lea in 1831 was 7,926; of these 5,761 were in the rural districts. In the year 1834, the parishioners of Lea numbered 1,561 Protestant Churchmen, 6 Protestant Dissenters, and 6,263 Roman Catholics.⁵² At present the Protestant rector of Lea has a stipend of £336, per annum.⁵³

In 1841, the population of Lea parish was 7,787, and the houses were 1,310; while of these 5,667 lived in the rural districts, and they inhabited 965 houses.⁵⁴ The Grand Canal passes for three miles through this parish; and, the River Barrow, at a comparatively trifling expense, might be rendered navigable from Portarlington to Monasterevan, while by a suitable system of drainage, much valuable soil might be reclaimed along its banks. The parish is traversed by the old mail-coach road from Dublin to Limerick. According to the Roman Catholic arrangement, the whole of Lea forms a part of the union of Portarlington, Emo, and Killeynard, where respectively there are churches.⁵⁵ There are also some old forts in this parish; severally, at Rath, Ballybrittas, Garryvechum, Ralisk, and Windmill-hill. The History and Antiquities of the Queen's County, Barony of Portnabinch—containing the three parishes of Lea, Coolbanagher and Ardea—have been most exhaustively and researchfully treated by Lord Walter Fitzgerald, and to his treatise on the subject, the reader is referred for much fuller information than has been compressed within this chapter. Moreover, Maps of the Barony are given, specially to illustrate the antiquarian remains and their sites, with a chart Pedigree of the MacDonnells of Tinnakill, and illustrations of their ancient castle.⁵⁶ To this has been appended a very complete history of the town of Portarlington.⁵⁷

CHAPTER XXXVII.—PARISH OF MONKSGRANGE.

By a transposition of syllables, this parish has been written Grangemouk, in some of our modern gazetteers. The present denomination of Grange, or, as more generally called now Monksgrange, in the barony of Ballyadams, was placed in the parish of Killaban formerly. Monksgrange lies to the north of Shrule, and along the Barrow River to the west. It consists of only one townland, containing 863*a. 2r. 2p.*,¹ and it mostly comprises arable lands, and they are very fertile. Its church is shown as a large one on the Map of Leax and Ophaly, a short distance to the north of where the River Douglas falls into the River Barrow.² It is called Graunge o managh or "Farm of the Monks" on that map, and its church

of the Castle of Lea, in the Queen's County," &c., p. 18.

⁵³ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 114. For Portarlington is separate entry of £280, with £55 endowment. See *ibid.* p. 115.

⁵⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 595.

⁵⁵ In the Catholic arrangement Portarlington and Emo are at present distinct parishes; and the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford has set forth more fully an account of the former in his "Collection relating to the Dioceses of Kildare

and Leighlin," vol. ii., pp. 308 to 319. Emo and its dependencies he treats at pp. 144 to 153, *ibid.*

⁵⁶ See "Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society," vol. iv., No. 3, January, 1904, pp. 184 to 215.

⁵⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 216 to 229, with promise of a continuation.

¹ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps of the Queen's County," sheets 26, 32.

² See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Pro-

is shown surmounted by a square tower.³ There, too, it is located, in the ancient division of Leix, which is denominated *Feran Claudidoniil*.

The Hartpoles were of an early English family and settled in this part of the country during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir Robert Hartpole was appointed Constable of Carlow Castle and Governor of the Queen's County. When Rory Oge O'Moore took Captain Harrington and Alexander Cosby prisoners in 1577 Robert Hartpole planned a surprise for their deliverance, which proved effective.⁴ In the ecclesiastical economy, we learn that Monksgrange was an impropriation, and that it once belonged to the Abbey of Baltinglass. Grange, near Caterlogh had in 1616 the same curate, Samuel Mosely⁵—he who attended Shrowle.⁶ The town of Monksgrange, a castle, and a mill in repair, are noticed on Sir William Petty's Maps. The same may be seen on General Vallancey's copy of his Map, relative to this district.

By an Inquisition taken at Maryborough in 1632, the possessions of George Hartpole of Monksgrange, are enumerated in this quarter. Besides the town and lands of Le Grange of Killmagobbock, *alias* Monksgrange, with the tithes of same, containing one castle, one water-mill and 40 acres, he claimed the rectories of Killabban and Corelone, and all the tithes belonging to them, together with the advowson and right of presentation to the vicarage of Killabban aforesaid. He died on the 24th of January, 1631, and then his son and heir Robert, at the age of twenty-five and married, succeeded. The remains of their old castle are incorporated with a modern dwelling-house. The ruinous church of Grange, still to be seen, is near the castle. In 1640, Monksgrange belonged to Robert Harpole, an English Papist. Then, it was worth £4; and, in 1657, it was valued at £5 per annum. There was no church, and no minister there, at the latter period. The Commonwealth enjoyed the profits. It was estimated to be worth £15 per annum. The Lord Protector was then the patron.⁷ The Hartpoles continued in possession of Monksgrange and Shrule during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Towards the close of this latter, Robert, and afterwards his son George, were the last surviving male descendants of the name. George Hartpole was high sheriff for the Queen's County in 1794, and his romantic career is given with melancholy details by his relative, Sir Jonah Barrington.⁸

In 1831, the population was 241; and in 1834, the Protestants amounted to 15 only, while the Roman Catholics were 232. There was neither church, chapel, nor school, at that time within the parish.⁹ As appotted under the Tithe Act, it comprised 841 statute acres, valued at £490 per annum. It was a vicarage in the diocese of Leighlin, valued at £20,¹⁰ and as the gift of George Hartpole, Esq., in whom the rectory was

gress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, p. 44.

³ See "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archaeological Society," vol. iv. New Series. Part ii., p. 345.

⁴ See John Ryan's "History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow," chap. xx., pp. 109, 110.

⁵ See "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

⁶ Afterwards, it is remarked, that in the diocese of Leighlin there were

eleven preachers, of which number nine were resident. The number of reading ministers was twenty-three.

⁷ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 11.

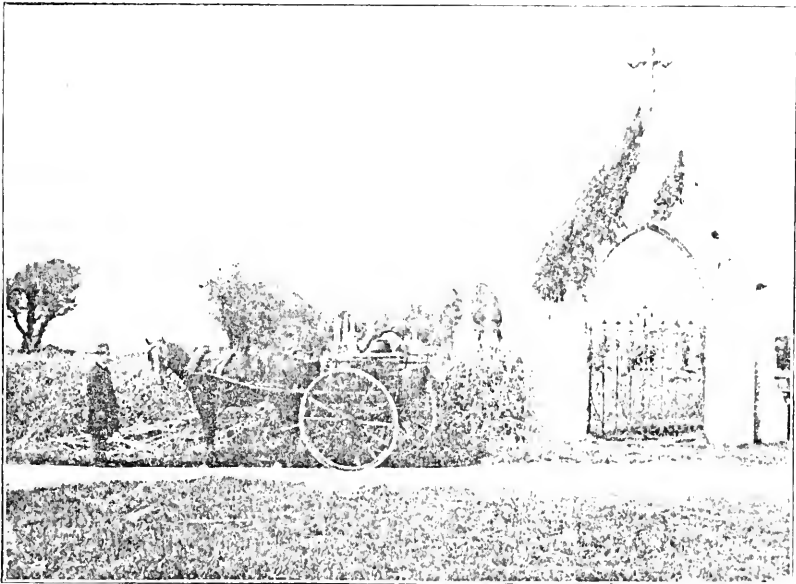
⁸ In "Personal Sketches and Recollections of his own Times," under the heading George Hartpole.

⁹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 286.



MONKSGRANGE CHURCH.

See page 290.



Photos by MOYANNA CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD.

[*Rev. E. O'L.*

improperly, in 1837.¹¹ At that time, the tithes amounted to £55 7s. 8½d., of which £36 18s. 5½d. was payable to the impropriator, and the remainder to the vicar; although there was neither church, glebe, nor glebe-house. In 1845, the patrons were Messrs. Bowen and Leckey, as representatives of the Bowen family. The vicarial tithes composition and gross income were £18 9s. 2¾d.; nett, £17 10s. 9½d. The incumbent then held the benefice of Fontstown, in the diocese of Dublin.¹² In 1841, there were 276 inhabitants, and 48 houses, enumerated in the census. In the Roman Catholic arrangement, this parish forms a part of the union of Arles and Ballylinan.¹³ In the taxation for the Crusades in 1302-1307, this latter is called Balylonan.¹⁴

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—THE PARISH OF MOYANNA.

THE rural parish of Moyanna,¹ in the barony of Stradbally, lies about 2¼ miles north-north east from the town of Stradbally; and, it contains a measured area of 6,824*a.* 1*r.* 6*p.*, while of these, 15*a.* 18*p.* are in the River Barrow, which traces the eastern boundary of this parish.² There seems to be no certain clue to the origin of this parochial designation;³ but, it is shown on the old Map of Leax and Ophaly⁴ as Moyanna. The old church of this parish is on the townland of Moyanna, and it is surrounded by an ancient cemetery, even yet much frequented. Formerly, the latter had a circular hedge enclosure. On the old Map of Leax and Ophaly, the whole of Moyanna parish, and that tract lying between the river at Dunrally and the river of Stradbally, are designated Eughter Hir.⁵ It is noticed by Thomas O'Connor in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁶

One of the oldest historic notices of the place in our Annals has reference to Longphort-Rothlaibh, or the Fortress of Rothlaib, afterwards called Dun-Rathlaigh, *Anglice* Dunrally.⁷ There a deep trench

¹⁰ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 867.

¹¹ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. i., p. 670.

¹² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 286.

¹³ Its *memoranda* are given by the Most Rev. Bishop Comerford, in his "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 72 to 74.

¹⁴ The value of the benefice of the chapel of Balylonan is set down at 40s., and the tenth at 4s. See "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London, 1302-1307," edited by H. S. Sweetman and Gustavus Frederick Handcock, p. 248.

¹ The parish of Moyanna is shewn on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 9, 14.

² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 813.

³ According to Thomas O'Connor, the local pronunciation was Mwec-annah,

interpreted with a query μάς εαννα, *i.e.*, the plain of Eanda.

⁴ John O'Donovan has traced a map of Leix in its latter state of independence, and its bounds are there shown, so as to be easily traceable on the modern Ordnance Survey Maps for the Queen's County. This is to be found appended to "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., p. 306.

⁵ In Irish written *uaeter eire*, by Thomas O'Connor.

⁶ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838." Vol. i. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838.

⁷ It lies close to the boundary, between ancient Leix and Clanmalire. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, it was surrounded by woods on every side, north and south of Derryvarragh River and on the western borders of the River Barrow.

surrounds the steep circular sides of a fort, now artificially improved and capable of being filled with water to a great depth, as being in communication with the Derryvarragh stream. On the 5th of the September Ides—9th of that month—A.D. 860, Cimedidh, son of Gaithin, lord of Leighis, slew Conall Ultach and Luirgnen there, with many others; ⁸ but, we know not the motives or circumstances for that action. In the later times of Leix's chieftainry, the parish of Moyanna formed its north-eastern angular division, having been bounded on the north by the River Derryvarragh, which flows into the River Barrow: and, the latter running through a flat tract of border country, which is frequently overflowed by its waters in the winter season, forms the eastern boundary there at present separating the Queen's County from the County of Kildare. Just at the angle, where both rivers unite, and considerably elevated above a surrounding swamp-ground, is the singularly curious and historic moat of Dunrally, which was a fortress of great strength in the ninth century, and probably for many centuries previous. The townland of Garrymaddock contained a castle or a large house, in the sixteenth century: ⁹ and, the old inhabitants used to point out the spot where it formerly stood. ¹⁰ On the old Map of Leax and Ophaly, the townland of Derrybrock, now at Vicarstown, is shown; and, as we may infer, it owed its denomination to the oak woods, which formerly grew there.

When the O'Moores had been dispossessed from their old territories of Leix, a Royal grant of Moyanna estate was made to the Cosbys of Stradbally. In the Deanery of Omboy, the church of Moyanna had for rector Thomas Berry, minister and preacher, with a residence, in 1616. ¹¹ The value of the living was £15. The vicar was William Hilton, a reading minister. The church and its chancel were in good repair, and furnished with books. In 1657, Moyanna parish had nine townlands, and it was worth £12 per annum. The patronage was then vested in Trinity College, Dublin. ¹² After the Right Hon. Henry Grattan had obtained his grant of £50,000 from the Irish Parliament in 1782, advised by his trustee and friend Sir John Tydd, ¹³ he purchased the estate of Moyanna from Lord Sydney Cosby. Although the place possessed few attractions of scenery, yet, the new proprietor conceived the idea of building a country house, within the enclosure of the old Fort of Dunrally, and he laid out garden-

with a road plashed through the woods running near it, as shewn on the old Map of Eri Claunmalir given in the "History and Antiquities of the Queen's County-Barony of Portnalinch," by Lord Walter Fitzgerald in "Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society," Vol. iv., No. 3, p. 199.

⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 496, 497, and *na. (x. v.) ibid.*

⁹ It is shown on the Map of Leix and Oifaly.

¹⁰ Although Thomas O'Connor states the site should be marked on the Ordnance Survey Maps, yet, this is only conspicuous by its absence from the townland trace.

¹¹ According to "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

¹² See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

¹³ He lived near Maryborough, at Lamberton, a beautiful retreat, which he dearly loved. When death was fast approaching, as the country people there used to relate, the proprietor requested his servant to wheel out his invalid chair before the house, where he took a last view of the fine woods and scenery around him. Then, feeling exhausted, the tears rose to his eyes, as he motioned the servant to bear him home. Gazing once more at the house and demesne, he exclaimed in a faint voice, but full of emotion: "Oh! Lamberton, Lamberton, must I leave you for ever!"



DUNRALLY FORT.



Photos by **Bridge erected by James, son of Henry Grattan, [Rev. A. O'Z.]
over the Barrow.**
(In flood when photographed.)

plots around it to the very upper slopes of the fortress, and then he contrived a circular walk on the elevated rampart. He also laid out an artificially elevated avenue to the high road, over the banks of the River Barrow, and he planted trees on either side, which have now attained a venerable growth. The illustrious patriot and orator greatly loved retirement; so that occasionally, he resorted to the hermitage he had here erected. The very oldest inhabitants are now of a later generation; but, their fathers and grandfathers often related, how old Henry Grattan used to take his daily meditative walks through the shrubbery, and how he used to drop in frequently, to hold a friendly chat with his tenants in their homes.¹⁴ However, he preferred Timnehinch, as being nearer to Dublin, for his family place of residence.¹⁵

A very handsome bridge, near Dunrally, with a span of several arches over the River Barrow, has been erected at considerable expense by James Grattan, Esq., M.P.,¹⁶ son to the Right Hon. Henry Grattan. The road leading from Stradbally to Monasterevan passes over it, from the Queen's County into the County of Kildare. In the beginning of the last century, a toll-house¹⁷ stood on the Queen's County side of the Barrow, and on Mr. Grattan's estate; but, that has long since disappeared, and the approaches by this road are now quite unobstructed. The surface of this parish is almost a dead level; and along the River Barrow, as also along the River Derryvarragh, bounding it on the north, the low banks are often submerged with the overflow of water, especially during the winter months. As a consequence, the meadows there produced only a coarse and less nutritious grass; in other parts of this parish, the land was more of an agricultural character, with a limestone subsoil, but, on the whole, rather of an unproductive description. A branch of the Grand Canal passes through the parish,¹⁸ leading from Athy to Monasterevan, and over the River Derryvarragh through the Grattan Aqueduct. This afforded great facilities for conveying Dublin manures to the place, and it has much contributed, in the past, towards fertilising the soil.

The old church is in a very ruinous state. On the west gable, there is a circular doorway of masonry. A window, the form of which not being clearly visible,¹⁹ was covered with ivy, matted within and without. In this sequestered graveyard, the Right. Hon. Henry Grattan desired his remains to be interred, as it was on the estate he got from the Irish people in 1782; and, on the very day before his death, in London, June 3rd, 1820, when informed of the very general desire of distinguished persons, that he should rest in Westminster Abbey, "Oh," said he, "that will not be thought of, I would rather have Moyanna." However, it was ruled otherwise by his great political friends and opponents in

¹⁴ From some of these oldest tenants, the writer often had a description and anecdotes, relating to that celebrated man.

¹⁵ See "Memoirs of the Life and Times of the Right Hon. Henry Grattan," by his son, Henry Grattan, Esq., M.P., vol. iii., chap. xi., pp. 331, 332.

¹⁶ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 401.

¹⁷ This was formerly kept by an old man named Keogh, a servant of the Right Hon. Henry Grattan, and he was fond of relating conversations with his

illustrious master, whose habits and usages he had many opportunities for witnessing, during his days of retirement, at the old fort of Dunrally, whither he often went while preparing for the more stirring scenes of his eventful public life.

¹⁸ The Right Hon. Henry Grattan gave the land to the company without compensation, as he knew the construction of the canal should improve his newly-purchased estate.

¹⁹ When visited by Thomas O'Connor, in 1838.

Parliament, that he should be buried next to Fox in Westminster Abbey.²⁰ A simple inscription of his name on the flag-stone over his grave is the only memorial here erected; and it is a matter of interest to state, that quite near has been interred the illustrious English statesman, William Ewart Gladstone, whose life has been so admirably written by the Rt. Hon. John Morley.²¹

In later years, the cemetery of Moyanna had been enlarged by Mrs. Bellew, the granddaughter of Right Hon. Henry Grattan, and it has been enclosed with a wall, while a portion of it has been set apart for a family place of interment. Her residence is at Vicarstown House. This parish of Moyanna is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Leighlin; the rectory was inappropriate in the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, while the vicarage formed part of the union of Stradbally, valued together at £100.²² The tithes amounted in 1837 to £417 8s. 4d.: of which two-thirds were payable to the impropiators, and the remainder to the vicar. Kylemahoe, with its disused graveyard and site of an old church, is represented within the townland of Vicarstown, not far from the Grand Canal Bridge, and a little distance in a field off the road leading from Vicarstown to Emo and Mountmellick. The place is in the parish of Moyanna,²³ as also Rath House, the handsome residence of Edmund Dease, Esq., D.L. In the Roman Catholic division, Moyanna belongs to the union of Stradbally; ²⁴ and a handsome chapel has been erected, within the last seventy years, by the Very Rev. Cornelius Dowling, P.P., at Vicarstown, near the Grand Canal, for the accommodation of those living in that district.²⁵ In 1846, the vicarial tithes were compounded for £138 9s. 2d., and the rectorial for £245. In 1831, the population amounted to 1,659; in 1834, the Roman Catholics were 1,479, and the Protestants 125; in 1841, the inhabitants numbered 1,708, while the houses were 273.²⁶

CHAPTER XXXIX.—PARISH OF OFFERLANE.

THE large parish called Offerlane,¹—comprising an extensive ancient district—in the western part of the Queen's County, was formerly within the barony of Upper Ossory, now denominated Upperwoods. This parish, sometimes written Offerlan, was anciently regarded as being within the bounds of Leix; and no more beautiful or romantic land can be found than that lying along the upper banks of the rivers Nore and Delour, which flow from the sides of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The cantred was anciently called Coill Uachterach, translated, Upperwoods,

²⁰ See "Memoirs of the Life and Times of the Right. Hon. Henry Grattan," by his son, Henry Grattan, Esq., M.P., vol. v. Diary subjoined to chap. xv., pp. 549, 553, 554.

²¹ In three large octavo volumes, published by Macmillan & Co., London, 1903.

²² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 899.

²³ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 14.

²⁴ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 401.

²⁵ See a further account in the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 375, 376.

²⁶ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer for Ireland," vol. ii., p. 813.

¹ It contains 48,926 a. 2 r. 14 p., and its whole extent is defined on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 6, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23.

and it formed the tribe-land of the O'Delaney's or Delaney's;² a name still numerous throughout this elevated district. The higher eastern slopes lie within it, towards the north, and some fine fertile lands border the lower course of its rivers, nearly all of which flow into and become merged in the Noze or the Barrow. There are three summits of the Mountain Range, which are respectively 1,733, 1,681, and 1,676 feet of altitude over the sea level.³ This parish has been described by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁴ It was also called *Ui Foirchellain's*, and it comprised 53,131 statute acres, of which 36,987 were applopped under the Tithe Act. 311 being woodland, 8,000 brown mountain and bog, 4,000 green mountain and moor, 16,820 arable, and 24,000 pasture. Gritstone is in great abundance there, as also limestone quarries and a slate quarry, together with a quarry of fine stone, similar to that of Portland. The greater part of its higher lands is too barren to admit of cultivation.⁵

Several ancient churches and ruined castles are to be found within this district, as also many curious rathis, mounds, and other antiquities. Among those in the first classification may be noticed Annatrim which lies three miles west of Mountrath, and it was a parish church, in the diocese of Ossory, during the last century.⁷ Annatrim is now only a small village.⁸ Formerly this place seems to have been known as Enaig or Enach,⁹ without any other distinguishing appellation. A holy man who was named Coemoc¹⁰—afterwards better known as Mochoemoc, or, as the name has been Latinised, Pulcherius¹¹—sought for a suitable site whereon to found a monastery, and he came to Sliabh Bladhma, now Slieve Bloom. Here he selected, on its south-eastern slope, the spot to which allusion has been made. In ancient records, it is generally called Enach Truim, now Anglicised Annatrim. The ancient church is now in ruins, and near it has been erected the Episcopal Church.

² Charles O'Connor of Balanagar in his "Ortelius Improved" has fallen into an error in placing them within the former territory of Ely O'Carroll. In this he has been followed by Thomas Lalor Cooke, in his "Picture of Birr." However in the posthumous edition of this latter work, "The early History of the Town of Birr or Parsonstown," &c., by his son William Antisall Cooke, and published by Robertson and Co., Dublin, 1875, the former statement has been altogether omitted.

³ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 45.

⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, pp. 122 to 150.

⁵ The O'Delaney's were located in the northern part of Ossory. Having joined with the men of Leix against Tuathal, ancestor of the O'Tooles of Hy Muir-eadhagh, the latter was victor, A.D. 950. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii.

⁶ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 446.

⁷ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 598.

⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 36.

⁹ Thus, at the 3rd of November, St. Angus in his "Feilire" notes *Ua Feit Coeman ENAIG*, or "the festival of Coeman of Enaig." The Scholiast at this passage adds—and the notice shows that he lived at a somewhat remote period—that Coeman of Enach Truim in Leix of Leinster, was brother to Coemgen of Glendalough, while Coemlog was their father's name, and Coemgel their mother's. Nataim of Tir-da-glas was their brother. See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," Irish Manuscript Series, vol. i., Dr. Whitley Stokes on the Calendar of Oengus, pp. clxii., clxviii.

¹⁰ He was instructed by St. Congall, Abbot of Bangor, whose feast occurs on the 10th of May.

¹¹ His Acts are set down by Colgan, in "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," at the 13th of March, the day for his feast.

Both are situated near a tributary of the River Nore.¹² Outside the cemetery there was St. Kevin's well, and near it was a large flat stone, marked with a ring and two bullauns, called St. Kevin's stone.¹³ According to Archdall,¹⁴ St. Mochoemoc, *alias* Pulcherius, founded an abbey here, about the year 550.¹⁵ This he resigned to Coemhan, who was brother to St. Coemgin or Kevin,¹⁶ Abbot of Glendaloch. The Calendar of Cashel supports this statement. He was a pupil of St. Columban Mac Crimthannan,¹⁷ Abbot of Tir-da-glas, now Terryglass, near Lough Dearg on the Shannon, and in the County of Tipperary. The monastery of Coemhan was situated within the territory of Leix, and province of Lagenia,¹⁸ in the time of Marianus O'Gorman, the celebrated Irish Martyrologist. This place, in an old Life of St. Fintan,¹⁹ was called anciently Eadcrui, or Enachtruin, according to Ussher²⁰ and Archdall.²¹ However, in the Life of that holy Abbot of Clonenagh—who lived contemporaneously with St. Coemhan—his monastery is named Enach-truim.²² The *Feilire* of Ængus places the festival of St. Coemhan of Enachtruim at the 3rd of November; and the succeeding Irish Calendars have a like arrangement.

Within this parish, Mondrehid²³ or Monadrehid is a townland in the south-west end of a plain, once called Magh-Tuath, now known as Offerrilan. It is said to have been so called, from a bridge which spanned a small stream, called the Men or Meana. It is situated about two English miles north-east of Borris-in-Ossory. This place, according to a scholiast on St. Ængus,²⁴ was formerly within the territory of Leix, although for a long time past it is known to have been included within the bounds of Ossory. St. Laisren or Lasren was here venerated on the 16th September,²⁵ and his death took place A.D. 600.²⁶ St. Mainchen, or Maencha, Abbot of Meanadrochit, or Menodrochit, died A.D. 648, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters,"²⁷ or A.D. 651, according to those of Ulster. This saint has been considered as possibly identical with one similarly named, and belonging to Disert-Gallen,²⁸ in Leix.²⁹

¹² They are described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 16.

¹³ A rough drawing of this has been given by John O'Donovan in his description of Offerrilane Parish, at p. 141.

¹⁴ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 501.

¹⁵ This was the date given by Ussher, and when he is said to have flourished. See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," Index Chronologicus, at A.D. DL., p. 531.

¹⁶ His festival is assigned to the 3rd of June.

¹⁷ His feast is held on the 13th of December.

¹⁸ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii. xiii. Vita S. Mochoemoci Abbatis de Liath-Mor in Helia nn. 15, 16, p. 597.

¹⁹ His feast belongs to the 17th of February.

²⁰ See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," cap. xvii., p. 498.

²¹ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 591, n. (e).

²² See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Februarii xvii. Vita S. Fintani Abbatis de Cluain Ednech, cap. iii., p. 350.

²³ It is to be traced on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 15, 16.

²⁴ The "Feilire-Ænguis" is the work of his, as annotated in the Leabhar Breac copy, and at the 16th of September.

²⁵ See Dr. Todd's and Dr. Reeve's "Martyrology of Donegal" at this day, pp. 250, 251.

²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 224, 225.

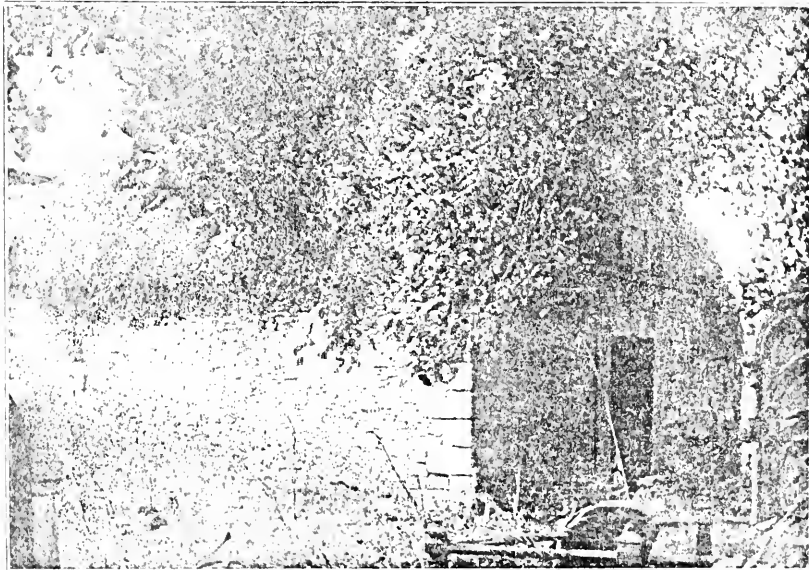
²⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 262, 263.

²⁸ Incorrectly Archdall has Disert Chuilin in his "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 596.

²⁹ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xiv., Februarii; Vita S. Mancheni, n. 6, p. 333.



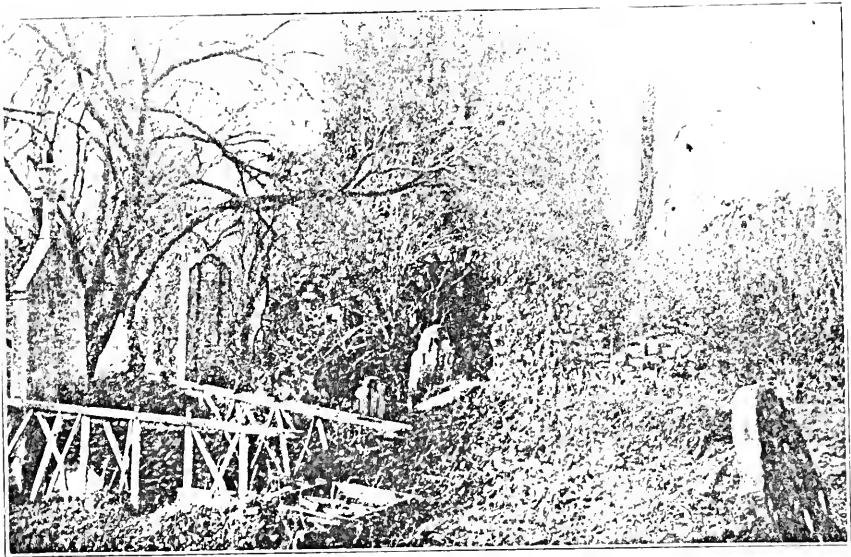
ST. KAVAN'S WELL AND STONE,
ANATRIM.



ANCIENT STONE-ROOFED BUILDING IN ANATRIM
CHURCHYARD.



BARONY CHURCH, LISDOWNEY.



CHURCHTOWN CHURCH. SOUTH VIEW.



SITE OF ST. KIERN'S MONASTERY, ERRILL.

Manchen the Wise is an epithet applied to both—if, indeed, they be distinct persons: and it must be remarked, the places here named are not many miles distant, while both lie within a former extension of the territory of Leix. Mundrehid seems to have been in ruins for centuries past, nor does it appear to have been a separate parochial church.

Delightfully situated on the southern slope of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and about five miles from Mountrath, near the former boundary lines between Munster, Leix, and Ossory, are the foundations of Mundrehid old church. An ancient cemetery surrounds it, and several small enclosed fields, with high hawthorn fences. These were formerly appertaining to the church or monastery there, as may be judged by a close inspection of their divisions on the site itself. In the early part of the last century, some ruins of St. Laisren's Church were visible; and the building—for towards the middle of the century only the foundations were traceable³⁰—seems to have measured over 30 feet in length, by 12 feet in breadth, as measured. An old cemetery marked with rude heading stones surrounded it. At present, not even a vestige of church or cemetery is to be seen.³¹ The Turtawn stream runs close to the site on its course to join the River Nore, and some of the richest fields in Ossory surround the cemetery. One of these is called Gortavoragh or the Friars' Garden, and on it was a rath, which has been removed and levelled. On the approach to the graveyard, and on a mound, was Skiogh Bush, at which coffins containing the dead used to be laid, and prayers said, before their removal for final interment.

The village of Castletown, on the southern bank of the River Nore, is also included within this parish.³² The houses are tasteful in appearance, and arranged in triangular fashion,—a fair green in front, on which fairs are annually held on June 29th and October 18th. Two miles distant is its station, the Great Southern and Western Railway, and the high road from Dublin to Limerick passes through it. The ruins of the old castle of the Fitzpatricks are to be seen there, and from it the village takes its name, which is also communicated to a Catholic parish. The Brothers of the Christian Schools have lately built a fine house for their Novitiate, and it is known as the De La Salle Retreat. Near it there is an old ruined church covered with ivy, and a much frequented grave-yard is around it. From this circumstance, the townland is called Churchtown, the modern designation, and adjoining is another townland called Churchfield.³³ In the vicinity, corn-mills were on the Nore, and formerly were successfully worked. In 1831, the population was 376, and in 1841, it amounted to 403 in 67 houses.³⁴

For many centuries back the district of Offerlane seems to have been wrested from the territory of Leix, and to have been subjugated by the Ossorians. The Mac Giolla Phatraic—also known as Anglicised Fitz-Patricks—then became chieftains, and these were afterwards recognised as Barons of Ossory. The powerful family of Butler contended for possession with the FitzPatricks, who held rule through the middle ages, as various entries in the Irish Annals attest. Through the

³⁰ They merely rose above the earth-level when first seen by the writer in 1859.

³¹ Mundrehid old church is now probably represented by English friary (*in ruins*) on the Ordnance Survey Maps of the Queen's County

³² It is to be seen depicted on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 16.

³³ See *ibid.*

³⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 374.

instigation of Mac Richard Butler, in the year 1443, the two sons of Mac Gillpatrick, lord of Ossory, Fineen, and Dermot, were treacherously slain at Kilkenny,³⁵ and afterwards Richard Butler's sons cruelly ransacked Ossory.³⁶ The Earl of Ormond and the dynast of Ossory, with their relations, friends, and followers, waged a fierce war with each other towards the close of the fifteenth century. Sir Oliver Morres, styled Mac Morres, Lord of Muinagh, of Lateragh, &c., and Baron de Montemarisco, was married to Lady Ellice, daughter to Peter, Earl of Ormond, and he took an active part in the campaign. He was a man of gigantic stature, of surprising bodily strength, and of undaunted courage. It is said that these qualities procured for him the Irish title of Fearleoghannaghus Laghan, or "the broad man-lion." We are even told, that the portion of Ossory, formerly possessed by Sir Oliver, and in which Castle-town is situated, is often called Offarlaghan parish. To this period of history are referred the war-cries of the Fitzpatricks Gear-Laidir-aboo, *i.e.*, "the cause of strong and sharp," or Fear-Laidir-aboo, *i.e.*, "the strong man uppermost," and of the Morres family Fear-leoghannaboo, *i.e.*, "the man-lion uppermost."³⁷ However, intermarriages between the Butlers and the Fitzpatricks cemented a family alliance.

We are informed, that in the year 1640, Annaghim or Annatrim and Offerillan or Offerlan—for so the parish seems then indiscriminately to have been called—was within the barony of Upper Ossory. It had, at that time, 101 farms, townlands and villages. The vicarage was propiarte, and worth then £50 per annum. The whole was set for the use of the Commonwealth for £50 per annum in 1657.³⁸ It was mostly waste at that time.³⁹ In 1640, Offerillan or Offerlan and Annaghim or Annatrim had a parsonage worth £100 per annum. After the confiscations in 1657, the whole was set for the use of the Commonwealth, at £50 per annum. Then the parish had 21 *a.* 1 *r.* 6 *p.* of glebe.⁴⁰ During the great civil war of 1641, the Fitzpatricks joined the Confederate Catholics and their cause. Owing to this, under the Commonwealth their lands were marked out for confiscation,⁴¹ as we thus find them designated on Sir William Petty's Maps. It only remains to compare those seventeenth-century names with the more modern etymons, which may be found on the Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County. Castles and houses are noticed in the parish of Offerlan at the time, while at Annatrim and Churchtown were two churches out of repair. Other denominations are Clononcen, Clonquillin, Ballintragh, Gurrin, Ballytarsny, Castlegarrow, Farrandonoghery, Ballyraghell, Clasnemurk, Manin, Fiarafin, Rathloran, Cloquin, Loran, Derryhanin, Ballymoye, Garrankiehl, Clartane, Shraungarry, Cargin, Clonefadda, Cuddaghibeg, Cuddaghamore, Rathfealan,

³⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 928, 929.

³⁶ See *ibid.* n. (w.)

³⁷ See Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 91 to 93.

³⁸ Then this parish had 21 *a.* 1 *r.* and 6 *p.* of glebe.

³⁹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 9.

⁴⁰ See *ibid.*

⁴¹ However, Colonel John Fitzpatrick contrived very dishonourably to make conditions with the Parliamentarians in 1652, which drew forth an indignant protest from the confederate nobility, gentry, clergy, commanders and officers of the Leinster Province. By this act he secured the reversion of his own Ossory estate. See John T. Gilbert's "Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland from 1641 to 1652," vol. iii., part ii., pp. 389, 390.

Kilbrickan, Cameloan, Ballyclory, Innishikiell, Loghanagtory, Boherkeigh, Knockanatee, Aghafin, Cloncasherivan, Knockyclear, Cranagh, Derryeant, Cappacrumbeigh, Camell, Curmagower, Inchinorke, Culederquill, Kildrinagh, Capanaherny, Derryarcoe, Knockbrack, Gurtanapishy, Shangowny, Cooleroan, Adirrin, in the Bog of Mondrehitt, Annaghmore, Derrynesirry, Tinnikilly, Dirrinboy, Ballyhoraghan, Kylanure, Lecige, Larkagh, Gurtinamalagh, Clondaglass, Knockanayatt, Garafna, Rasnadoughy, Lonford, Camrosse, Magherybeg, Mongaghibeg, Rosnacloy, Mongaghmore, Derrylocan, Woods and Commons of Ballinrally, Kilharrod, Monriny, School Lands of Ballinrally, Rosnacrin, Derryeraroe, Derryloske, Shrahanbo, Lackytarsny and Cappa.⁴² In Sir William Petty's time, a ruined castle but no church is noticed at Mondrehitt and Eglisli. Then woods, bogs and mountain wastes thickly studded this district; but cultivation and improvements have since been in progress to remove some of those features from the landscape.

Offerlane is regarded as a vicarage and a separate benefice, in the diocese of Ossory. It was in the patronage of the bishop, while the rectory was appropriate to the Dean and Chapter of St. Canice, Kilkenny, in 1837.⁴³ The tithes amounted to £900, of which £600 was payable to the Dean and Chapter, while the remainder was given to the vicar. The old church, then at Annatrim, was condemned, at that time, as being unsafe for use.⁴⁴ Soon afterwards, a new Protestant church was built beside the old one by a subscription obtained from private parties of £324, while the Ecclesiastical Commissioners advanced £1,211 7s. 5d.⁴⁵ The rectorial tithes of Offerlane were compounded in 1846 for £600, appropriated to the Deanery of St. Canice's Cathedral; while vicarial tithe composition was £300: glebe, £318 8s. 9d.; nett, £584 14s. 9d. The incumbent then held the benefices and rectories, which constituted the corps of the deanery of St. Canice's Cathedral, while he held likewise the sinecure precentorship of Waterford Cathedral, and he resided in the City of Kilkenny. There was another place of meeting also used as a parochial place for worship, and there were two curates, each receiving a salary of £75.

In 1834 the parishioners consisted of 1,334 Churchmen, 46 Protestant Dissenters, and 8,788 Roman Catholics. Two Sunday schools were usually attended by about 75 children. There were eight daily schools, one of which was aided with £8 a year from the Society for the Suppression of Vice, and £5 from the Dean of Ossory; one was aided with some advantages from a Mr. Kemans: one was aided with £8 from the National Board, and £6 from the Ladies Fitzpatrick; while two were in connexion with the Kildare place Society. These schools had on their books 393 boys and 237 girls. Then there were Catholic chapels at Comross or Comeris, Castletown, Rush Hall, and Killenore, having an attendance respectively of 1,300, 1,000, 700, and 500 persons; these were parochially united, and under the care of three priests.⁴⁶ The residence of a Parish Priest is at Comross, and he has charge of that extensive Parish in the Catholic arrangement.

⁴² Yet a close inspection of Sir William Petty's Map of Offerlane Parish and of General Vallancy's copy of the original Maps in Paris will not exhibit all the foregoing denominations, which are only to be found on the index sheet. Marked differences of spelling also occur.

⁴³ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 447.

⁴⁴ See *ibid.*

⁴⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 40.

⁴⁶ See *ibid.*

⁴⁷ They are shown on the "Ordnance

Colerain or Cooleraine is a small village within this parish, and near it the Protestant Church of Annatrim is to be seen.⁴⁷ The incumbent of Offerlane and Colerain has an annual grant of £325.⁴⁸ The village stands near the east edge of a large expanse of bog, about $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles west-south-west of Mountrath, and a little above it is the confluence of the Delour, the Tonnet and the Nore rivers.⁴⁹ In 1831, the population of Colerain was 324, and in 1841 it diminished to 194, living in 38 houses.

Several very beautiful residences and finely situated are to be met with scattered over the extensive parish of Offerlane. Among these may be enumerated—Rockview House, Springhill House, Castleview, Mannin House, Newtown House, Moorfield House, Rush Hall Court, Peafield House, Brookfield House, Mondrehid House, the Lodge, Danesfort House, Hazlepit House, Laurel Hill, Altavilla, Shanderry, Coolrain House, Coolnagour, Badger-Hill House, Derrynascera, Crossbrook, Mount Salem, Giltfield House, Tinnakil House, North Grove House, Ash Grove House, Lacka House, Deer Park House, Cardtown House, Mountainy House, Moran's Grove, Sallybrook, Westfield Farm, Donore, and Roundwood House. In 1831, the population of this parish was 9,915; in 1841, it increased to 10,491, the houses being 1,670. Since these periods, the population has very considerably diminished.

CHAPTER XL.—PARISH OF RATHSPICK.

THE parish of Rathspick¹ or Rathasbuck lies, partly in the baronies of Ballyadams² and Slievemarigue³ in the Queen's County, and partly in the barony of Fassadinan,⁴ in the County of Kilkenny. The Slievemargy and Fassadining sections of this parish, with the south-western and western portion of the Ballyadams section, are prevailingly mountainous,⁵ and adapted generally for pasturage rather than tillage, the higher summits are barren in soil but rich in minerals, hardly as yet well developed. However, some of these are extracted, but with rather primitive methods and without improved machinery. This parish contains stone-coal quarries at Doonane, Newtown, Rushes, Maudubeagh, Corgee, and Wolfhill. This last-named pit is drained by a level, and all the other pits by steam engines. The collieries of Mullaghmore are situated near the centre of the Ballyadams section; and several extensive collieries are situated in the Slievemargy section, immediately in connexion with Doonane and Newtown collieries in the adjoining parish of Killabban. Those collieries formerly supplied stone-coal to all the surrounding country; and this was conveyed by means of carriers, while numbers of colliers were employed at the pits. The

Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 16.

⁴⁸ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 121.

⁴⁹ See the "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. i., p. 501.

¹ It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 25, 31; and on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Kilkenny," Sheet 2.

² The portion of Rathspick parish

within this barony measures 4,138 a. 3 r. 17 p.

³ This portion of the parish measures 3,438 a. 2 r. 15 p.

⁴ This portion measures 639 a. 3 r. 30 p.

⁵ Hackett's Hill, near the centre of the Slievemargy section, has an altitude of 885 feet above the sea-level; while one mile northwards is a height of 805 feet. In the Ballyadams section the highest point is at the church, having an altitude of 375 feet.

shafts are first sunk through clay; then succeeds a hard green rock; afterwards comes a slaty strata, in contact with which is the coal. It was worked on either side by regular gangs of colliers; the number of each gang was about thirty, and when the pit was double worked there were sixty. Each crew worked ten hours a day, and each number had a specific duty.⁶ There are excellent quarries of building stone and flags, within the bounds of this parish.

The name of this parish is derived from Rath Easpuic, or the "Bishop's Rath." At present, however, there are no ruins of ancient ecclesiastical buildings there; but, tradition has it, that an old church stood in the graveyard, where the present Protestant church has been erected. There too are to be found the vestiges of a fort, which has probably given name to the place.⁷ This had been at first erected, probably in Pagan times; and, if we are only able to connect the following items of our ecclesiastical biography with this locality, it had likewise an ancient Christian history.

In our Irish Martyrologies, at the 16th of February, we find the feast of Aedh Glas,⁸ who was Bishop of Rath na n-Epscop.⁹ But, as there are several places in Ireland, denominated Rath na n-Epscop, or Rathnaspick, it is not easy to fix the locality; yet, it seems probable enough, that it was here situated. Aedh Glas is thought to have been the son of Mured, the son of Fortchern, and to have had for his brothers, Diernit, Foebarch, Maclairse, Manchin, Tarchell, and Finne, all of whom are said to have been bishops.¹⁰ They are reputed to have been of St. Declan's family.¹¹ According to Marianus O'Gorman and other Calendarists, all of these are stated to have been venerated at Rath na n-Epscop, and they are found ranked among St. Patrick's disciples.¹² They are supposed, in all probability, to have lived in the time of St. Kieran,¹³ Bishop of Saigir, since a Bishop Aidus is recorded in his Acts.¹⁴ However, we find it stated, also, that Rathene, commonly called Rathnane-pscop, was in the diocese of Raphoe, that a St. Aedglass fixed his residence there, and that his festival was observed in that place on the 16th of February.¹⁵ Besides the foregoing entry, at this latter date, the Martyrology of Tallagh¹⁶ has the Festival of Oengus, Bishop of Rathna nae Espuc, only another rendering of Rathnaspick. However, the Martyrology of Donegal¹⁷ enters Aenghas—without assigning his locality—at the same date. But, a commentator on this Calendar adds,¹⁸ that perhaps he was Aengus Laimhiodhan, Bishop of Rath-

⁶ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 487.

⁷ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of Thomas O'Conor dated Carlow, December 23rd, 1838, pp. 256, 257.

⁸ In Rev. Dr. Kelly's "Calendar of Irish Saints," and in the Martyrology of Tallagh, at that date, he is simply designated Aedh Glas, without any locality. See p. xv.

⁹ In Rev. Drs. Todd's and Reeves' "Martyrology of Donegal," Aedh Glas is thus distinguished. See pp. 50, 51.

¹⁰ According to the Book of "Gene-

alogies of the Irish Saints," chap. xvi.

¹¹ His place was at Ardmore, in the County of Waterford, and his feast was held there, on the 24th of July.

¹² See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Quinta Appendix ad Acta S. Patricii., cap. xxiii., p. 268.

¹³ His feast occurs at the 5th March.

¹⁴ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Martii v., Vita S. Kierani, cap. xii., n. 20, p. 459.

¹⁵ See Dr. James M'Parlan's "Statistical Survey of the County of Donegal," p. 118.

¹⁶ See the edition of Rev. Dr. Kelly, p. xv.

¹⁷ See the edition of Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves, pp. 50, 51.

na-nespoc, who derived his origin from the race of Bresal Brec, from whom the Osraige descended. It has been conjectured by Colgan, that Aengus was identical with Aengus, surnamed Laimhiodhan, the son of Flann, son to Bairrind, son of Finchad, son to Degad, son of Drona, son to Buan, and an Ossorian by descent.¹⁹ He was a monk of Durrow, and he is classed as one of St. Columkille's disciples.²⁰ If this conjecture be correct, Aengus must have flourished in the sixth century. If the Aengus mentioned in the Calendar be connected with the present locality, it seems not improbable, he may have been that one, who wrote some eulogistic verses on his more celebrated namesake, St. Aengus the Culdee. It seems probable, that the panegyrist, if not intimate with the subject of his poem, was at least contemporaneous. It may be observed, likewise, that the feast of St. Aengus, Bishop, was observed on the 16th of February,²¹ in the village of Clough, County of Kilkenny. That place lies not far removed from the Queen's County Rathaspick.²²

The beautiful mansion of Gracefield is in this parish. The family of Grace, who gave name to this manor, are descended from Raymond le Gros, who accompanied Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, to Ireland.²³

Formerly some monastic ruins, on the estate of Sir William Grace, Bart., presented an interesting object from his house at Gracefield. About half-a-mile to the north, a high belfry, a large eastern window and ivy-mantled walls were conspicuous.²⁴ The monastery was apparently on a small and an humble scale, and to the family of O'Moore the foundation was ascribed; as also a more considerable religious establishment at Old Court, on the townland of Clonpieree, which is thought to have been the head of the former, which was only a cell. The distance between them is only two miles. This, however, may be regarded as a very doubtful conjecture of Sheffield Grace; and other writers have adopted it, without much examination.²⁵

Rathaspick, in Slewmargy, had nine townlands, and it was an entire rectory in 1640. Then it was worth £33 per annum. It had a church at that time, although no minister.²⁶ In Rathaspick parish, the habitable castle of Miltown is the only object seen or described on Sir William Petty's Maps.²⁷ Part of the Rathaspick Parish has boggy wood and timber wood, on John Mason's "Trace of Slewmargigh barony, in ye Queen's County," and with clumps of trees defined around its borders. The Papist proprietors of these lands were Thomas Dauills, of Ballyknockan Castle, Robert Hartpole, Thomas Hovendon, Thomas Keating,

¹⁸ See *ibid*, n. 3.

¹⁹ Such is his pedigree as found in the "Genealogies of the Irish Saints," chap. xxi.

²⁰ See "Trias Thaumaturga," Quarta Appendix ad Acta S. Columbe, cap. x., p. 487. Likewise, Quinta Appendix, cap. iv., sect. 11, p. 507.

²¹ According to the "Statuta Diocesis Ossoriensis," sect. 8, p. 25.

²² See, on this subject, the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., February xvi., Art. ii., iii.

²³ See an account of the Grace family, in J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 109 to 123.

²⁴ A faithful representation of these ancient remains, as they appeared previous to 1813, was preserved in the Topographical Collections of Sheffield Grace, Esq., the accomplished author of "Memoirs of the Family of Grace."

²⁵ See J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 109.

²⁶ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 11.

²⁷ The same may be observed of General Vallancey's copy of the Maps in Paris.

Oliver St. Leger, Mortagh Lea, Martin and Stephen Skelton. The barony of Ballyadams is represented on Sir William Petty's Maps as containing Fontstowne, Killmackeady, St. John's, Tankardstowne, Monksgrange, Killeban and Rathuspug parishes.

Ballylebane Castle is an object of antiquity, now in ruins. It is said to have been a possession—if not an erection—of the Hovendens, who were an English family among those seven adventurers, who invaded Leix, in the sixteenth century.²⁸

Boley, which adjoins Gracefield, had a rath on the top of a hill, with large double entrenchments.²⁹ Dundrum commands a most extensive prospect, and it rises over the woods of Gracefield. This circumstance caused a party of insurgents in 1798, to occupy it with a rude encampment.³⁰ Several heads of halberets and brass rings have been found at Milltown.³¹ Here, too, are the ruins of a castle³²—also called Ballyvuilling—which seems to have been of considerable antiquity; but its history is not known. One square tower constitutes the principal remnant of this structure. Most of the outworks, consisting of walls and earthen mounds, are now levelled. Stagnant fishponds occupy the site of its surrounding fosse. The building was placed by the side of a shallow rivulet, and it is well sheltered by hills in every direction, except towards the south. The situation of the castle seemed more calculated for domestic comfort, than for defensive warfare. A modern dwelling-house has been attached to it.

Inch House was the residence of William Conner³³—a dissenting Protestant minister—who in the earlier part of the last century was distinguished for his eloquent advocacy of Tenant Right and for the abolition of Tithes, on many public platforms, before these questions became ripe for settlement. He was also the author of several political and social tracts.

The Protestant church was built here in 1813, by means of a gift from the Board of First Fruits, to the amount of £553 16s. 11d.³⁴ It was erected out of the ruins of ancient religious buildings, under the site of which were formerly three vaulted chambers. In one of these was a well of the purest water.³⁵ In those vaults have been discovered some curious antiquities,³⁶ as also in the fields adjoining.³⁷ The parish

²⁸ In Duffy's "Irish Catholic Magazine" there is "A Legend of Ballylebane Castle," attributed to the pen of Burrowes Kelly, Esq., author of the "Manor of Glenmore," the "Polish Mother," &c. See vol. i., December, 1847, pp. 307 to 310.

²⁹ See Gough's Camden's "Britannia," vol. iii., p. 536.

³⁰ See J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 113.

³¹ The Rev. Edward Ledwich supposed these to have been tokens of an engagement at Ballylhanane—a townland in the parish of Killabban—and which took place during the Irish Rebellion. See Gough's Camden's "Britannia," vol. iii., p. 536.

³² The Irish name for it is *Baste an muintinn*. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities

of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of Thomas O'Conor, dated Carlow, December 23rd, 1838, p. 250.

³³ He married the former occupant, a widow named Mrs. Mitchell.

³⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 117.

³⁵ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 487.

³⁶ Among these were two cumbrous door-keys, with curiously constructed wards and handles, together with an ill-shaped drinking vessel and some coins.

³⁷ Among these were many pieces of ancient coin, a short sword or dagger of brass, a pin 5 in. long, with a chased brooch of the same metal, and adorned with four yellow stones.

was a rectory and a separate benefice in the Diocese of Leighlin, in 1846. The patron was the diocesan.³⁸ The tithe composition and gross income constituted £300; the nett income was £258 16s. 11d. In 1831, the population of this parish numbered 4,032; the census for that year stating, however, the number of inhabitants at 3,556, but omitting to enumerate the Fassading section.³⁹ In the Slievemargy section, the inhabitants were 1,697; and in the Ballyadams section 1,859.

In 1834, the parishioners consisted of 78 Churchmen, 13 Protestant Dissenters, and 3,941 Roman Catholics.⁴⁰ In 1841, the population was 4,133, houses 720; that of the Fassading section being 500 inhabitants, houses 91. The Slievemargy section had 1,760 people, houses 313. The Ballyadams section had 1,873 people, houses 316. According to the Roman Catholic parochial arrangement, the chapel at Wolfhill is united to two chapels in the parishes of Ballyadams and Tullowmoy; the chapel at Dunane being united to the chapel of Killashane.

CHAPTER XLI.—PARISH OF RATHDOWNEY.

THIS extensive parish is chiefly situated in the barony of Clandonagh,¹ with a small portion in that of Clarmallagh.² Excellent tillage and pasture land abounds throughout this parish, while there is little bog and no waste land. It contains a town of some importance, through which passes a small stream, which flows into the Erkina River not far distant. This parish has been briefly noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.³

The town of Rathdowney is situated on the road from Mountrath to Thurles, and has a weekly market, besides fairs on the 27th of January, 1st of April, 6th of May, 10th of July, 12th of September, 1st of November and 15th of December. A Petty Sessions Court is held here. A police station and a brewery, which does a considerable trade with the surrounding country, are in the town.⁴

In the year 874,⁵ the death of Flaithri, son of Maelduin, Lord of Rath-Tamhnaighe—the ancient name for this place—is announced. Again, in A.D. 909, the death of Maelptraig, son to Flathrai, Lord of Rath-Tamhnaighe, is recorded.⁶ In 1000 died Gillamohua Ua Bruaideadha, Lord of Rath-Tamhnaighe.⁷ There are ruins of ancient castles at Ballagh, Clonbyrne, and Castle-Fleming. Rathdowney, represented as being in Upper Ossory, was worth £210, in the year 1640, while in 1657, it had forty-six townlands and villages, a parsonage and vicarage in the possession of one person. The whole was then

³⁸ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 285.

³⁹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 117, and note.

⁴⁰ See *ibid.*, p. 112.

¹ This portion, containing 17,116 a. 2 r. 28 p., is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34.

² This contains only 108 a. 2 r. 18 p.

³ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the

Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Mountrath, November 28th, 1838, pp. 90, 91.

⁴ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 287.

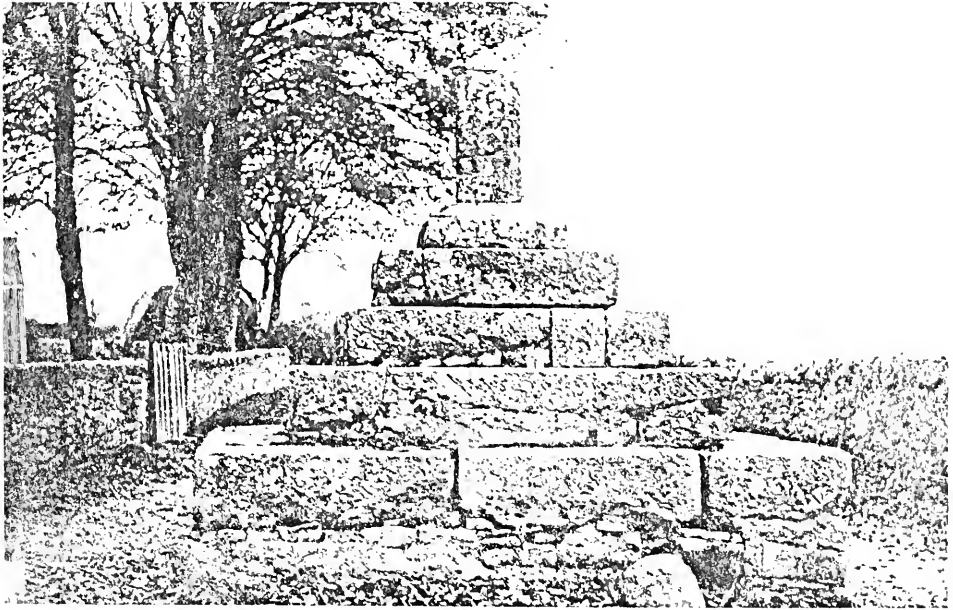
⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 520, 521, and n. (x.)

⁶ See *ibid.*, vol. ii., pp. 580, 581.

⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 896, 898.



ERRILL CHURCH, FROM SOUTH-WEST.



ERRILL CROSS.

t, as being most part waste, at £55 5s., for use of the Commonwealth. The church was out of repair, and there was no minister.⁸

The chief seats are Harristown, Beckfield, Lackland, and Johnstown Glebe. At Errill are said to be the ruins of a church and monastery, also the remains of a very ancient cross. At Cloneve, near Harristown, are some trifling remains of an old church and of a burial place.⁹ The Rev. Edward Ledwich, the well-known writer on Irish Antiquities, was formerly curate of Rathdowney. In 1814, the Board of First Fruits granted £100, and a loan of £1,200, for building a handsome glebe-house. In 1815, the Board of First Fruits granted a loan of £1,000 towards building a church in the Early English style, and it is surmounted by a well-proportioned spire. In 1816, this living was united to the rectories of Glashare and Kildellig, and it was appropriate to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral of Kilkenny, being in the patronage of the Bishop. In 1831, the population of this parish, united with the rectories of Glashare and Kildellig, was returned as 7,576.¹⁰ The gross income of the vicarage was given as £866 6s. 9d., the nett £758 3s. 7½d., its patron being the Bishops, and the curate receiving a salary of £69 4s. 7½d.¹¹ In the year 1834, the inhabitants of this parish consisted of 6,210 Roman Catholics, 609 churchmen and 5 Protestant Dissenters; while the inhabitants of the whole union were 7,144 Roman Catholics, 617 churchmen, and 5 Dissenters. As apportioned under the Tithe Act in 1837, this parish comprised 13,406 statute acres, and the living was then a vicarage in the diocese of Ossory, the tithes amounting to £750, of which £500 were payable to the Dean and Chapter, and the remainder to the vicar. The glebe then comprised 267 acres, the gross income of the benefice being £950. At that time, the parish contained 6,654 inhabitants, of which number 1,214 lived in the town. The present incumbent of Rathdowney has a grant of £440 per annum, with a grant for service at Rathsaran £20.¹² In 1841, the population of Rathdowney parish was 6,756, living in 1,058 houses; those living in the rural districts being 5,267, in 836 houses.¹³ According to the Roman Catholic arrangement, Rathdowney chapel was united with the chapel of Grogan in the parish of Rathsaran.

CHAPTER XLII.—PARISH OF RATHSARAN.

THIS small parish¹ is situated² in the barony of Clandonagh, and it lies about two miles west of Rathdowney. The land is generally of a good quality, and the highest ground in it is situated north-east of the centre, having an altitude of 450 ft. This parish has been briefly noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.³ Castle-Grogan House is the only fine mansion within it. St. Kieran's well is the only

⁸ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 8.

⁹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 494.

¹⁰ Its proper population was then 6,654.

¹¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 126.

¹² See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 121.

¹³ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 126.

¹ It contains only 2,291 a. or. 22 p.
² It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 27, 28, 33.

³ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the

object of antiquity marked on the map of this parish; and, perhaps owing to this circumstance, it may be regarded as having been formerly under the patronage of the Ossorian saint and first bishop, whose feast is held on the 5th March.

Rathsarran, described as being in Upper Ossory, had seven townlands, and it was an entire rectory, in 1640. It contained 114*a.* and 80*p.* of glebe, valued at £20 per annum, the whole parish being worth £8, in 1657. The whole ecclesiastical benefice was then set for use of the Commonwealth, and there was no minister in the parish.⁴ In 1807.5 the Protestant church here was built by means of a gift of £461 10*s.* 9*d.* from the Board of First Fruits. It has also a Catholic chapel, united to Rathdowney. In 1820 the glebe-house was erected, by aid of a gift from the Board of First Fruits amounting to £250, with a loan of £550. The glebe comprised 114 acres. As apportioned under the Tithe Act, the whole parish contained 2,065 statute acres.⁶ In 1831, the population of this parish was 868. In 1834, the Protestants amounted to 152, and the Roman Catholics to 723. In 1841, the population reached 965, living in 155 houses.

This parish was a rectory and a separate benefice in the Diocese of Ossory, valued at £265.7 with a tithe composition of £130, and a glebe valued at £168; the gross income was £298, the nett £254 11*s.* 7*d.*, the diocesan being patron in 1846.⁸ The road from Thurles to Dublin runs through this parish.

CHAPTER XLIII.—PARISH OF REARYMORE OR RERYMORE.

THE parish of Rearymore, situated in the barony of Tinnahinch, contains 13,943*a.* 2*r.* 7*p.*,¹ and thus spreads over a considerable tract in the north-western part of the Queen's County.² This parish was a vicarage, and part of the benefice of Oregan, in the diocese of Kildare, and valued with Oregan or Rosenallis at £575.³

The southern part of this parish extends along the Sleive Bloom range, and some of the scenery there is wild and broken, with many glens and streams abounding. It contains many of the rivulets which serve to form the River Barrow near the central parts, whence it takes a north-north-eastward course through the interior of the northern district. It flows along a new channel to the east of its former course, and then it so deflects, as to continue eastward along a considerable part of the northern bounds. The lofty line of summits called the Cones extends along the southern boundary; while the line of summits

Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Mountrath, November 28th, 1838, p. 86.

⁴ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 8.

⁵ This is stated in the "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 140; but, in Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," it is stated that the church was built in 1797 by aid of a gift from

the Board of First Fruits," vol. ii., p. 508.

⁶ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 308.

⁷ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 291.

⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 140.

¹ Of this surface 11*a.* 3*r.* and 19*p.* are in Lough Duff.

² See it described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 1, 2, 3, 6, 7.

³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 299.



REARYMORE CHURCH.

See page 307.



Photos by]

ST. FINIAN'S WELL.

[Rev. E. O'L.,

Vol. I.

See page 307.

called the Ridge of Capard runs along the south-eastern boundary. At the south-east corner is Baunreagheong Mountain, having an altitude of 1,676 ft. above sea-level. At the eastern boundary is the Antonian Mountain, rising 1,114 ft. In the interior of the southern district are Knockanastumba, 1,359 ft. in altitude, and another mountain 1,261 ft. There is a water-shed between the River Barrow and the Shannon's affluent, the Clodiagh river. The Gorragh rivulet traces the southern part of Rearymore's southern boundary, and after leaping down a waterfall, it has still an elevation of 888 ft. above the sea-level. It joins the Clodiagh. The Glenlaghan and Glenbarrow rivulets rise close on the southern bounds, and proceed through deep valleys to unite their respective streams with the River Barrow. The northern parts of Rearymore parish are for the most part low-lying, and they contain a large proportion of arable land. Much of it is disposed in pasturage, and a considerable part is boggy.⁴ This parish has been noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.⁵

The ruins of Rearymore church are still to be seen. The people of this parish used annually to assemble on the 12th of December, at St. Finian's Well, to celebrate the festival of their patron saint. The Well consists of three or four apertures in the solid rock, and these are always full of water. It is surmounted by old hawthorns, and these are preserved by the people with great veneration. In the beginning of the last century, it was customary for pilgrims to go round the Well on their bare knees, by way of penance and mortification.⁶

Besides the ruins and much frequented cemetery of Rearymore church, in the grounds of Rearymore,⁷ the site of another church is to be seen within this parish. The ruins of Rathcoffey bridge also in this parish are of some interest.⁸ In May 1691, an engagement took place in this parish between the forces of King William III. and King James II., in which the latter were defeated.⁹

In 1831, the population of Rearymore parish was 2,729. In the Roman Catholic divisions, this parish is partly in the union of Rosenallis, and partly in that of Clonaslee.¹⁰ In 1834, the Roman Catholics were 2,499, the Protestants amounting to 197. In 1837, the land was generally of good quality, chiefly under tillage, and in a profitable state of agricultural cultivation. In 1841, the population reached 2,916, living in 489 houses. In 1846, the vicarial tithe composition was £73 7s. 6d.; the glebe of about forty acres being valued at £80. The rectorial tithes were compounded for £146 14s. 11½d., and were inappropriate in General Dunne, of Brittas.¹¹ The chief seats in this parish are Rearyvale House, Rearymore, and Barrow House. The road from Mountmellick to Birr crosses the interior, at the base of the mountains.

⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 148.

⁵ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Stradbally, December 8th, 1838, pp. 202 to 206.

⁶ See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. iii., No. xvi. Union of Rosenallis or Oregan, by the Rev. John

Baldwin, curate, sect. vi., p. 322.

⁷ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 512.

⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 148.

⁹ See an account of this battle in Walter Harris's "History of the Life and Reign of William III." Book ix., pp. 316, 317.

¹⁰ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 512.

¹¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 148.

CHAPTER XLIV.—PARISH OF ROSCONNELL.

THE parish of Rosconnell is situated partly in the baronies of Clarmallagh and Cullenagh² Queen's County,³ only a small portion of it being in the barony of Fassadinin,⁴ in the County of Kilkenny.⁵ The land in this parish is of second-rate quality, and the highest ground occurs near the centre of the Fassadinin section, having an altitude of 407 feet above the sea-level. Rosconnell parish is watered by a tributary of the River Nore, and traversed by the road leading from Ballynakill to Ballyragget.⁶ There was a local tradition,⁷ that as the parish went by the denomination of Ros Chonaill Uí Mordha, rendered the Ross of Connell O'More, he was supposed to have been its former proprietor.

On Glebe townland there is a ruined church 80 ft. in length, of which the part erected in 1646⁸ makes 36 ft. The western or old part is 20 ft. wide; the eastern or new part as it is called is 18 ft. six inches in width; both portions were separated by a standing gable in 1839.⁹ Then the west gable was levelled to the ground. At the distance of 38 ft. from the west end and in the south wall, there was a pointed door-way 5 ft. 10 ins. high, and 3 ft. 6 ins. wide on the inside; it was 6 ft. 3 in.,¹⁰ and 4 ft. 4 in. wide on the outside.¹¹ In the middle gable there is an archway about 11 ft. in height and also in width, built with well cut stone. The site of an old castle was shown on this townland, and a moat is near it. The living of Rosconnell was a rectory in the Diocese of Ossory, and valued with Attanagh at £408, in the patronage of the bishop.¹²

In the Clarmallagh section of the parish there is an old castle in ruins on the north bank of the River Nore.¹³ In the Fassadinin section of this parish an old castle is likewise to be found. In 1831, the population of Rosconnell was 795, and with one exception, in 1834, the parishioners were all Roman Catholics.¹⁴ In 1841 the population of the Fassadinin section was 393, living in 67 houses; that of the Cullenagh section was 23, living in 3 houses; and that of the Clarmallagh section, — living in 76 houses. The tithe composition was formerly

¹ This portion contains 1,214 a. 2 r. 34 p.

² This portion contains 214 a. 0 r. 20 p.

³ Shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 29, 30, 35.

⁴ This portion contains 761 a. 1 r. 25 p.

⁵ This is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Kilkenny," Sheets 1, 5.

⁶ The parish of Rosconnell is described by Eugene Curry in a communication, dated Ballyragget, 20th August, 1839, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the County of Kilkenny, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1830." Vol. i., pp. 77 to 82.

⁷ According to Eugene Curry. See *ibid.* Thomas O'Connor has written also an account of this parish in a letter

dated Mountrath, November 30th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i., pp. 103 to 105.

⁸ This was inscribed as the date of erection on a tablet inserted in the front of the south wall over the door.

⁹ As described by Eugene Curry.

¹⁰ Of which the arch, rounded and flat, made 6 inches.

¹¹ Diagrams of this door-way and of some windows in the Church are given by Eugene Curry.

¹² See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 314.

¹³ See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 35.

¹⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 174.

valued at £143 1s. 6½d.; the glebe at £123 15s. In the Catholic arrangement it is united with Ballyragget. Near the old church was Lady's Well at which a patron was held on the 15th of August and on the 8th of September in the beginning of the last century.

CHAPTER XLV.—PARISH OF ROSENALLIS.

THIS parish, situated within the barony of Tinnahinch, is of considerable extent,¹ containing 14,118a. 3r. 5p. The River Barrow runs along its northern boundary; the Owenass rivulet flows along its southern boundary, while the Murgrash rivulet passes through the interior; all of those water-courses running in an easterly direction.² The summit ridge of Cappard forms the western boundary, and lifts its loftiest ground, the Antonian Mountain, to an altitude of 1,144 ft. above the sea-level. Numerous small streams descend its eastern slopes, and find their way, through broken and romantic glens, into one or other of the streams already mentioned. This parish has been noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.³

Although commonly denominated Rosenallis, the proper name of this Union is Oregon; and it consisted of four parishes, episcopally united in the Protestant Established Church, until after the middle of the last century. This union embraces the parishes of Rosenallis, Castlebrack, Rearymore, and Kilmanman, extending over the whole barony of Tinnahinch. This parish contains the prettily-situated village of Rosenallis on an elevated site, near the mountain slope. The chief part of Mountmellick town also lies within its bounds. The village of Rosenallis⁵ is about three miles west-north-west from the town of Mountmellick, on the high road between Dublin and Birr. The ancient Irish name seems to have been Ros-Finghlaise.⁶ It contains an old church in ruins, and said to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary.⁷ However, we are informed, that in the beginning of last century, the inhabitants observed the 1st of February as a festival in commemoration of their patroness.⁸ Hence, we may infer, that she was the Irish St. Brigid; and Rosenallis is situated in the diocese of Kildare, of which she is the special tutelar saint. In the year 1819, a round tower con-

¹ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.

² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 177.

³ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i. Letter of John O'Donovan dated Stradbally, December 8th, 1838, pp. 196 to 201.

⁴ We are told, but most incorrectly: "It was anciently called Hy-Regan and Do-Regan; Hy and Do being synonymous in the Irish language, and importing personal property: so that Hy Regan means the property of O'Regan, an Irish chieftain, who is said to have lived in the beginning of the

fifth century."—William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. iii., No. xvi., Union of Kildare and Oregon, Diocese of Kildare and Queen's County, by the Rev. John Baldwin, Curate, sect. 1, p. 311.

⁵ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 3.

⁶ By John O'Donovan this has been interpreted "the wood of the clear stream."

⁷ See William Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," vol. iii., No. xvi., Union of Rosenallis or Oregon, &c., by Rev. John Baldwin, Curate, p. 319.

⁸ A holy well in the vicinity of Rosenallis is called "St. Brigid's Well."

⁹ From a personal inspection, no

nected with the ruined church of Rosenallis is said to have remained; but being described as a narrow steeple of rough masonry, not so high or well built as that of Timahoe, and Sir Charles Coote⁹ stating it was not one-third so high, nor evidently built for the same purpose as the remarkable circular towers seen through the kingdom of Ireland, it is doubtful if it can be regarded as one belonging to that class.¹⁰

There are many interesting relics of antiquity in this parish, and in others belonging to this union, such as old churches, old castles, duns, moats, and barrows. Rosenallis and Killamban or Kilmeman in the barony of Tinnelinch, had eleven townlands and 200 acres of glebe, in 1640. This and Castlebracke parish were in the patronage of Barnaby Dunn, Esq., and rated at £15 per annum. This parish was worth £6 in the year 1657.¹¹

The once flourishing town of Mountmellick is situated partly in the parish of Ardea¹² and barony of Portmahinch, but it lies for the greater part¹³ in the parish of Rosenallis and barony of Tinnelinch. It is built on the Owenass rivulet, a tributary of the River Barrow.¹⁴ The country around it is low, and largely composed of bog and marshy land; ¹⁵ but towards the west, the ground gradually rises towards the acclivities of Slieve Bloom. The town is of comparatively modern growth, and its site had been selected for purposes of trade by enterprising English settlers, about the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1660, George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, visited Ireland, and travelled over several parts of it, with the results of which he expressed himself as greatly pleased.¹⁶ A community of Quakers—who probably fled from persecution of the English Government—appears to have established themselves here, and to have carried on various branches of trade and industry with great success. During the year 1659, under the direction of William Edmundson,¹⁷ John Edmundson, Richard Jackson, John Pim and sundry others from the County of Cavan settled in or near Mountmellick, and founded a Quakers' meeting, which was afterwards largely increased.¹⁸ William Edmundson was a stout upholder of the interest of his particular denomination against George Clapham, the rector of Mountmellick in 1665; but having the sympathy and support of his neighbours generally, he succeeded in securing toleration from the Irish Chancellor and Primate Boyle for his congregation.¹⁹

A parochial school of the Leinster Society of Friends was established in Mountmellick in 1788. A branch canal extending through Portarling-

doubt, his description has been given. See "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," p. 149.

¹⁰ Some years before 1838, it was pulled down by the minister.

¹¹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

¹² This portion has an area only of 58 acres.

¹³ This portion comprises 163 acres.

¹⁴ Mountmellick and its environs are seen on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 8.

¹⁵ Before a town had been on it, the

place received the Irish name of Mointaghe Melicke, or "the boggy lands of Meelicke," according to John O'Donovan.

¹⁶ See his interesting "Journal," at vol. ii., pp. 108 to 115. Sixth edition. Leeds: 1836, 8vo.

¹⁷ He came originally from England for the purposes of trade, and was the first of the people called Quakers that settled in Ireland. His Journal contains an account of his career. See John Gough's "History of the People called Quakers, from their first Rise to the Present Time," vol. i., Book ii., chap. xiii., p. 302. Dublin, 1789 to 1790, in 4 vols., 8vo.

¹⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 320.

ton and Monastrevan to the Grand Canal had been opened in the earlier part of the last century : and this enabled the manufacturers and tradespeople to transmit and receive goods with great advantage to the town and locality. This also gave a great impetus to commerce, and considerable quantities of home manufactured articles were produced in the local factories—woollen cloths, friezes, blankets, rich twilled stuffs, tabinets, checks, gingham, corduroys, cottons, linens, printed calicoes, shawls, plaids, &c.,²⁰ were produced from the numerous looms employed, and weavers constituted a large proportion of the population. The weekly wages paid to the workers soon gave Mountmellick precedence as the finest market town in the Queen's County. This created a demand for butcher's meat and agricultural produce, which encouraged the farmers around to improve their naturally poor lands and homesteads ; so that scarcely was there a surplus of cattle, potatoes, grain or vegetables for export on the canal, it being covered with lumber boats loaded with country supplies for that flourishing inland town. The city of Dublin—distant about 42 miles—was largely availed of as a mart for the Mountmellick manufactured goods ; nay more, fabrics were exported to England, and orders were furnished in abundance, even from its most busy manufacturing towns, so greatly prized were those articles for their durability, as also for skillful and tasteful manipulation.

In the neighbourhood of the town—which contains many fine shops and dwellings—there were several seats of gentry, traders, and manufacturers during the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century. Coaches from Dublin to Birr passed through it, and passenger boats plied daily on the canal. The streets are laid out in broad regular lines, and evidences of former prosperity still remain in some fine public buildings, such as the Protestant Church for Rosenallis Parish, the Catholic Church,²¹ a Court House, the Dispensary, Banks, Schools, a house of worship for the Society of Friends, as also a chapel for the Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists. In the year 1770, the Catholic Parish of Mountmellick was erected, and besides the town it included portions of Rosenallis, Castlebrack and Coolbanagher.²²

In 1831, Mountmellick contained 4,577 inhabitants ; and of these 3,196 lived in Rosenallis parish, while only 1,381 lived in Ardea Parish. In 1834, Messrs. J. and D. Roberts, from Anglesea, established an iron and a brass foundry here, on an extensive scale ; it gave employment to about forty persons. Here was carried on for some years the manufacture of steam and locomotive engines and machinery in general.²³ In 1837, the weaving of cotton alone gave employment to about 2,000 persons in the town and neighbourhood.²⁴ An iron and a brass foundry was at this time working ; a machine factory, a tan-yard, a distillery,

¹⁹ See *ibid.*, vol. ii., book iii., chap. xx.

²⁰ Among the chief local manufacturers were the Messrs. Beale, Pim, and Miller.

²¹ The Catholic parochial district of Mountmellick has a Chapel of Ease at Castlebrack.

²² See Most Rev. Michael Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., pp. 247 to 255. In this account we have an

interesting return by the Protestant curate, Peter Westerna, April 25th, 1766, of the names of Papists, men and women heads of families, with the number in each family, within the town and liberties of Mountmellick. The Catholics then numbered 508 persons.

²³ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 395.

²⁴ This manufacture was largely carried on by the Messrs. Dunne.

soap-houses, potteries, corn mills, breweries, &c., were among the industries of the town. Two markets were opened each week; while fairs were held on February 1st, March 17th, May 12th, July 20th, August 26th, September 29th, November 1st, and December 11th. Around the town were Irishtown House, Summer Grove and Grange Lodge—all handsome seats. The Quakers or Society of Friends were then numerous and influential, being mostly employers of labour; and indeed it was quite a pleasing sight to witness the number of artisans and labourers passing to and from their respective workshops at certain hours of the day. The roads which radiated from Mountmellick in various directions were usually covered with carts, drays and vans, conveying the home manufactured goods to the shops in adjoining towns. The promotion of industry led to great moral improvement and home comforts; the townspeople seemed to be well clad and fed, nor were many wholly destitute persons to be found in Mountmellick. Unhappily, nearly all those sources of employment for the people have disappeared of late years, and Mountmellick has ceased to be the Manchester of the Queen's County, as once it was very generally designated.

In 1841, the population increased to 4,755.²⁵ living in 740 houses.²⁶ In the Rosenallis portion of the town were 139 families, employed chiefly in agriculture; in manufactures and trade, 417; in other pursuits, 130; in directing labour, 404; in manual labour, 188; dependent chiefly on property and professions, 37; on means not specified, 57.²⁷ In the Ardea section of the town were 112 families chiefly employed in agriculture; in manufactures and trade, 140; in other pursuits, 39; in directing labour, 135; in manual labour, 139; dependent chiefly on property and professions, 5; on means not specified, 12.²⁸ After the passing of the Irish Poor Law Act, Mountmellick was selected as the site for a Workhouse on the 7th of December, 1839. It was designated the 90th in the rank of Poor Law Unions, and it was destined to include portions of the King's and Queen's Counties. This Union has an area of 220,968 ac. s.²⁹ Its electoral divisions in the King's County are Portarlinton,³⁰ Cloneyhurk,³¹ East Ballykean,³² and West Ballykean,³³ in the Queen's County, Mountmellick,³⁴ Maryborough,³⁵ Coolbanagher,³⁶

²⁵ Of these 3,359 were in the Rosenallis section, and in the Ardea section 1,396.

²⁶ Of these 514 were in the Rosenallis section, and in the Ardea section 226.

²⁷ Among the foregoing sectional population were:—Males at and above five years of age, who could read and write, 852; who could read but not write, 231; who could neither read nor write, 338. Females at and above five years of age, who could read and write, 587; who could read but not write, 448; who could neither read nor write, 524.

²⁸ Among the foregoing sectional population were:—Males at and above five years of age, who could read and write, 241; who could read but not write, 132; who could neither read nor write, 211. Females at and above five years of age, who could read and write, 145;

who could read but not write, 214; who could neither read nor write, 248. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 806.

²⁹ In 1831, its entire population was 63,601, and on this, too, the relative population for the succeeding division is based.

³⁰ Population 4,736, elected guardians

3.

³¹ Population 1,499, elected guardian

1.

³² Population 870, elected guardian 1.

³³ Population 1,750, elected guardian

1.

³⁴ Population 10,390, elected guardians 4.

³⁵ Population 10,378, elected guardians 4.

³⁶ Population 2,705, elected guardian

1.

Ballybrittas,³⁷ Castlebrack,³⁸ Rosenallis,³⁹ Rearymore,⁴⁰ Clonaslee,⁴¹ Ballyfin,⁴² Mountrath,⁴³ East Upper woods,⁴⁴ and West Upperwoods.⁴⁵ The number of elected Guardians is 30, and 10 *ex-officio* Guardians. The Workhouse was contracted for August 18th, 1840, to be completed in February, 1842; to cost £6,915 for building and completion, and £1,381 for fittings and accommodation. It was estimated to lodge 800 paupers. It stood on a site of six acres, and this was obtained at an annual rent of £37 1s. od. The Workhouse was not opened before the year 1844. The former prosperity of Mountmellick has gradually declined since that time, and with the manufacturers its skilled artisans have unhappily disappeared.

During the reign of William III., the Rapparees—as the undisciplined partisans of James II. were called—were very numerous and aggressive about this neighbourhood. A garrison of 300 regular infantry and 50 cavalry, with a local militia, had been stationed in Mountmellick, in the beginning of 1691, when ten or twelve of the English soldiers and inhabitants were surprised and massacred within a mile of that town.⁴⁶ The only vestige of antiquity in or near Mountmellick is an old church in ruins, about two miles from the town, and it is surrounded by a graveyard, yet much frequented. It is popularly called the Ivy Church, because its walls have been veiled with that creeping plant. Its history the writer has not been able to investigate.

The Protestant church in the village of Rosenallis was built in the year 1797, at a cost of £923 1s. 6½d., provided by the parish. It received the addition of a tower and spire in 1816, by means of a loan of £230 15s. 4¾d., contributed by the former Board of First Fruits. The Glebe House is nearly a mile from it. Besides the Protestant church at this village, a chapel of ease in the Rosenallis section of Mountmellick was built in 1828, by means of a loan of £1,384 12s. 3¾d. from the Board of First Fruits, and the sum of £184 12s. 3¾d. was raised through the sale of old materials. In the Roman Catholic arrangement, Rosenallis is the head of a parish, which also takes in a portion of Rearymore, and a succession of its pastors is given in the work of the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford.⁴⁷ In 1831, the population of this parish was 8,463; that of the rural districts being 5,166. In 1834, the parishioners consisted of 6,391 Roman Catholics, 1,724 Churchmen, and 193 Protestant Dissenters—the latter composed chiefly of members belonging to the Society of Friends⁴⁸ and Methodists. The glebe-house at Camira was a commodious building, on an elevated piece of ground, near the village of Rosenallis; it had a glebe of 180 acres of land annexed to it, in 1837, and the church at Rosenallis had been lately repaired at that time, by means of a grant of £578 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.⁴⁹

³⁷ Population 3,087, elected guardian

1. ³⁸ Population 1,540, elected guardian 1.

³⁹ Population 3,128, elected guardian

1. ⁴⁰ Population 3,609, elected guardians

2. ⁴¹ Population 3,186, elected guardian

1. ⁴² Population 3,284, elected guardians

2. ⁴³ Population 7,591, elected guardians 3

⁴⁴ Population 2,768, elected guardians

2. ⁴⁵ Population 3,080, elected guardians

2. ⁴⁶ See the account in Walter Harris'

"History of the Life and Reign of William III.," Book ix., p. 312.

⁴⁷ See "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., pp. 326 to 329.

⁴⁸ Their meeting house had an attendance of 140.

Then, also, the patronage of this living was in the gift of Thomas Kemmis, Esq. The Society of Friends had an enclosed burial ground near the village. Brass coins had been dug up a few years previously near Cappard House. These were struck in the reign of James II.⁵⁰ In 1841, there were 8,505 residents in this parish; the number of houses being 1,417. Of these 4,907 persons belonged to the rural districts, and these lived in 858 houses. The rectorial tithes were improprietate in the Dunne family of Brittas, and were compounded for £265 16s. 11½d., in the year 1846; the parish being then a vicarage and part of the benefice of Oregon. The living was a rectory and vicarage in the Diocese of Kildare, and valued at £575.⁵¹ The vicarial tithe composition was then £132 18s. 5½d., the glebe being valued at £91 4s.⁵² From the sustentation fund, the present incumbent has £336 per annum.⁵³

The chief seats in this parish are: Cappard House and demesne, belonging to the Pigott family,⁵⁴ Summer Grove, Nut Grove House and demesne, and Crabtree Farm. Some handsome mansions are built also, within and near the town of Mountmellick. A fine deposit of silicious white sandstone is found in the neighbourhood of Rosenallis, and a quarry there was formerly worked, to procure slabs for chimney-pieces, hearths, and architectural ornaments for public and private buildings. It gave at one time very considerable employment to stonemasons and labourers.

CHAPTER XLVI.—PARISH OF SHRULE.

At an early period, an ecclesiastical establishment seems to have been formed in this district, which consists of very good land. The very small parish of Shrule¹ or Sruille—sometimes written Shrewl—lies to the north of Sletty. It verges on the River Barrow to the west, and it is situated at the north-eastern part of Slievemargy barony. The natives pronounce this denomination, as if it were written Sroohill. It is remarkable, as Mr. O'Donovan observes, that all the historical Sruthairs in Ireland have their final letter *r* changed to *l*; although in the beginning of the seventeenth century, the final *r* was retained, even in the Anglicised form.² Sruthair, also called Sruthair-Guaire,³ was the ancient name for Shrule, in the barony of Slievemargy.⁴ The patron saint of this parish is called Guaire,⁵ and his memory is still in the neighbourhood. A well dedicated to him exists near the old church of Kilgory, which was another of his churches. At A.D. 864, Sruthar,

⁴⁹ See Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 529.

⁵⁰ See *ibid.*

⁵¹ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. ii., p. 345.

⁵² See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 178.

⁵³ See "The Irish Church Directory and Year Book for 1903," p. 115.

⁵⁴ Within the grounds of Cappard House, there are several ratlis.

¹ It contains only 682*a*. 1*r*. 24*p*. It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 32.

² See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, p. 42.

³ From the patron saint.

⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., n. (n.), p. 669.

⁵ Probably Guaire Beg, venerated at the 22nd of June. See "Martyrology of Donegal," edited by Rev. Drs. Todd and Reeves, pp. 174, 175.

⁶ Colgan shows Sruthar to be near Slehte in his "Acta Sanctorum Hiber-

Slebte, and Achadh-Arglais, were plundered by the Osraighi.⁶ In the year 901, the death of Maol-poil, Abbot of Sruthair Guaire is recorded.⁷ It would seem, that an abbot, named Caencomhrac, of Cill-Easpuig Sanctain⁸ and of Sruthair,⁹ died A.D. 952.¹⁰ These places are far apart, and whether he ruled over both religious houses successively or simultaneously is matter for conjecture. The massive and once important structure of Shrule Castle was erected during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Robert Hartpole, who was appointed constable of Carlow Castle and governor of the Queen's County.

Shrowle, near Catherlogh, is set down in 1616, as a living belonging to the treasurer of Leighlin diocese.¹¹ The preaching curate was Samuel Mosley, a Bachelor of Arts, residing in Carlow. Shrule in Slewmarginy consisted of Shrule only; it was an entire rectory, worth in 1640, £20 per annum, and in 1657, only £6. The church was then demolished, and there was no minister. The Lord Protector was the patron. It had eight small acres of glebe.¹² The parishes of Sleaty and Shrowle, drawn by John Mason in 1657, have no sub-denominations described. Sleaty has no church marked on the surface, but it is represented as containing over 415 acres of arable and pasture land, the joint property of Martin Skelton, an English Papist, and Stephen Skelton, an Irish Papist—probably son to the former—and all this land was forfeited.

The parish of Shrowle belonged altogether to Robert Hartpoole, an English Papist, who held over 739 acres of land there; while these are described as arable, pasture, and shrub lands. A house or castle is also represented near the River Barrow.¹³ There are few ecclesiastical remains at Shrule, but there is a graveyard¹⁴ near Shrule Castle. In it are the ruins of an old chapel, and within its nave are the tombs of the Hartpoles and their connexions. Many of the inscriptions there are defaced and illegible.

We find a lithograph, designed and drawn by John Hewetson, of the tomb of Sir Robert Hartpole of Shrule Castle, 1504. It represents the recumbent figure of a knight in armour, with the hands crossed over the breast, a hunting horn on the left side, a cushion under the bared head, and an animal resembling a dog beneath the feet. On the entablature there is an inscription in Gothic letters.¹⁵ In four compartments—in the side presented to view—are four kneeling figures in armour, each

nia," xi. Februarii, De S. Canoco Abbate n. 11, p. 313.

⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 562, 563.

⁸ At the head of the Dodder River, on the side of the Dublin Mountains.

⁹ This may be a different place from Sruthair Guaire, by which name Shrule in the Queen's County is known.

¹⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 668, 669, and nu. (t. u.).

¹¹ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

¹² See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 8.

¹³ On General Vallancey's Map of the

Barony of Slewmarginy, vol. ii., No. 68, nearly all the denominations described are to be found with little alterations.

¹⁴ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, p. 41.

¹⁵ It reads: *Ihic jacet robartus hartpole constabularius de cathelagh Septuagenarius interit 3 Octobris mcccclxxxiiii.*

¹⁶ This drawing is to be seen in the large 4to volume of "Memoirs of the Family of Grace," by Sheffield Grace, Esq., F.S.A., belonging to the Royal Irish Academy. Printed in London, 1823.

under a canopied niche. On the end, under the feet, is a raised shield, with the family arms sculptured.¹⁶

During the eighteenth century, Robert Hartpole¹⁷ was possessor of Shrle Castle, in which he lived; and, in 1791, he was succeeded by his son George Hartpole, who was the last surviving male of that name. His tragic history is fully and vividly related, by Sir Jonah Barrington.¹⁸ The property he inherited has since passed through female heirs into other families.¹⁹ The old castle is yet habitable, although it seems to have undergone various architectural alterations, since the first period of its erection. The rectories of Shrle and Slatey or Sletty constituted the benefice of Shrle, in the Diocese of Leighlin.²⁰

In 1831, the gross income of the rectory was £112 3s. 1d.; the nett being £105 15s. 6d. The patron was the diocesan; while the incumbent held the stipendiary curacy of Carlow. In 1831, the population of this rectory was 372. In 1834, the Protestants of Shrle parish amounted to 32, and the Roman Catholics to 158.²¹ In the Catholic arrangement it belongs to the parish of Arles.²² The tithe composition of Shrle was £46 3s. 1d., in 1837.²³ Neither church nor chapel is in this parish. The population of Shrle in 1831 was 183, and in 1841, it was only 165, with 25 houses.²⁴ This parish—traversed by the road from Athy to Carlow—contains a large proportion of villa and demesne ground; the principal residences being Annville Cottage, Cherryville House, and Hollymount House.

CHAPTER XLVII.—PARISH OF SKIRK, OR SKEIRKE.

THIS parish, situated in the barony of Claudonagh, contains 3,337*a*. or. 6*b*.¹ The road from Borris-in-Ossory to Templemore runs through it. The land is of a good quality, and very suitable for tillage. Some handsome seats of gentlemen are within it. This parish is noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.²

In Skirk are some antiquities. On the summit of a high hill, there is a circular area enclosed with a stone rampart and surrounded with a fosse. In the centre of the area there is a pyramidal stone about 6 ft. high, with fragments of several other stones. Towards the eastern side are the remains of a cromlech, and towards the north there is a high mound, with a flat summit. These remains have been regarded as Druidical. Some ruins of the old castle of Garran are likewise to

¹⁷ He was married to a sister of the Earl of Aldborough.

¹⁸ See "Personal Sketches and Recollections of His own Times," by Sir Jonah Barrington.

¹⁹ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 555.

²⁰ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 408.

²¹ The Protestants of the union amounted then to 37, and the Roman Catholics to 396; and there was a pay daily school in Slatey. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., pp. 233, 234.

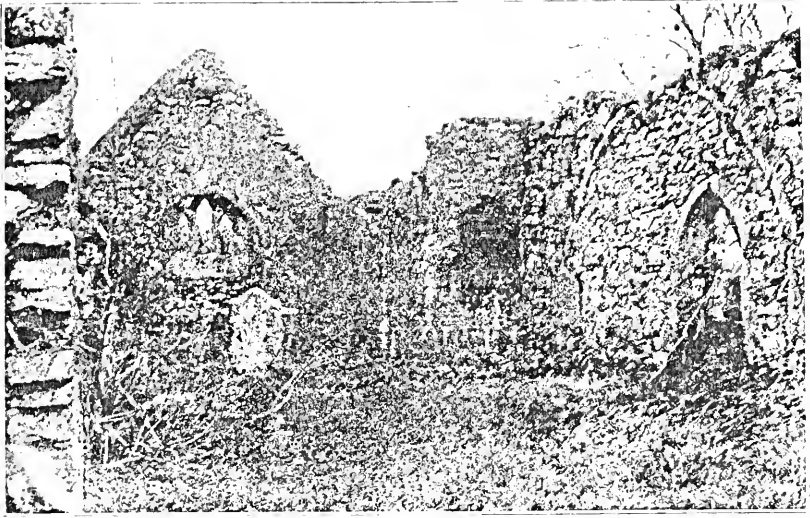
²² See, for an account of it, Most Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 72 to 74.

²³ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 555.

²⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 233.

¹ As shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 21, 22, 27, 28.

² See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. i.



ROSCONNELL CHURCH.

See page 308.



THE MOAT OF SKIRKE.

be seen.³ In the year 1657, Skeirke—then in Upper Óssory—had thirteen townlands, and it was an impropriate vicarage, worth £25 per annum. It had no minister at that time, nor church.⁴ The Protestant church here was built in 1831, by means of a loan of £461 10s. 9d. from the Board of First Fruits. That year the population of this parish was 911, while the attendance there was reported as 50 persons. In 1834, the Roman Catholics of the parish numbered 896, and the Protestants were 27.⁵ In 1837, the tithes amounted to £135, of which £90 were payable to the impropiators, and the remainder to the vicar; while the glebe comprised 188 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. As apportioned under the Title Act, this parish comprised 1,922 statute acres.

In 1841, the inhabitants grew to 1,056, living in 172 houses. This living was a vicarage valued at £377.⁶ in the diocese of Ossory. The rectory was impropriate in the Corporation of Kilkenny. In 1846, the vicarial tithe composition was £45, and the glebe was valued at £344 7s. 10d. The gross income was £389 7s. 10d., and the nett was £352 14s. 1d. The Crown was the patron. The incumbent held the benefice of Gowran, and was non-resident in Skirk, while a curate received a salary of £83. According to the Roman Catholic arrangement, Skirk forms the union with Rathdowney. The highest altitude rises to 046 ft. above the sea level, and this is on the southern border of the parish.

CHAPTER XLVIII.—PARISH OF SLEATY OR SLETTY.

So far as we can glean from Irish historic records, one of the earliest religious foundations in Leix is that of Sleibhte, now called Sletty. This parish has been described by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.¹ The following account will introduce us to its history.

It is related in his Irish Life,² that St. Patrick spent a Sunday at Donnach-mor, of Magh Reta. It has been assumed, that the plain so-called is identical with Magh-Rechet, or Magh-Riada,³ which, according to Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Keating, was within the territory of Laoghliis or Laise,⁴ although, if we rely on a statement contained in a Preface to the Feilire-Aenguis, its position was rather within the bounds of Offaly. A very great authority on Irish topography,⁵ and one, too, very well

Letter of John O'Donovan, dated, Mountrath, November 28th, 1838, pp. 91, 92.

³ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 556.

⁴ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 8.

⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 237.

⁶ See the "National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 479.

⁷ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, dated,

Carlow, December 15th, 1838, pp. 21 to 40.

² Translated into English by William M. Hennessy. See Miss M. F. Cusack's "Life of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland," pp. 464, 465.

³ At an early period of Irish history, and after A.M. 2756, this plain was cleared of its woods. See Dr. Geoffrey Keating's "General History of Ireland;" Book i., p. 153. Dermot O'Connor's translation; Duff's edition.

⁴ Also called Laise Riada. At Caim-thine, within this district, Laoghiseach Ceán More, son to Connall Cearnach, gained a great victory over the Memonians. See *ibid.*, p. 270.

⁵ The celebrated Irish scholar, John

acquainted with the special district he alludes to for identification, has stated, that Magh-Reicheat, which he seems to confound with Magh-Riada, is now called in English Morett, a manor in the barony of Portnashinch, near the Great Heath of Maryborough, in the Queen's County. This lay near the northern border of Leix, in the territory of Offaly.⁶ Magh-Riada is said to have been the ancient name of a plain in Laoighis, within the present Queen's County. It contained the forts of Lec-Reda and Rath-Bacain,⁷ and the church called Domnach-mor.⁸ In our annals, the plain of Magh-Reicheat is manifestly distinguished from that of Magh-Riada; for, in the year of the world 3,520, according to the computation of the Septuagint, both of these plains are stated to have been cleared for the first time.⁹

Many particulars, contained in the foregoing account, appear to be legendary and confused; nor does it seem probable St. Patrick delayed in that part of the country until St. Fiacc had moved from Domnach-mor to Sletty. Consequently, it is not likely the Irish Apostle entered the territory of Leix. He passed southwards, however, on his missionary career, and along the eastern bank of the Barrow, gazing with admiration, we can have no doubt, on the magnificent ranges of the Slievemarigue ridge, in the territory of the Hy-Barche, and with a prescient forecast of mind, regarding the triumph of Christianity which should take place, when St. Fiacc and his disciples had established their monastery within its bounds. And, in a short time, religious foundations were gradually formed, in various eligible sites throughout the whole Leixian district.

St. Fiacc afterwards resided for some considerable time at Donnach-Fiacc, which appears to have been identical with Domnach-mor,¹⁰

O'Donovan, who spent some of his early years in the Heath House, a fine mansion, which was formerly tenanted by Myles John O'Reilly.

⁶ This appears certain, from the known circumstance of Coolbanagher Church lying within its bounds. The following is an account given by Mr. O'Reilly, in his "Chronological Account of nearly Four Hundred Irish Writers," pp. liii., liv., when treating of the celebrated St. Angus, the Culdee:—"He wrote a *Pétre*, or Hierology, in Irish verse, giving an account of the festivals observed in the Church in his time. The *reimsceul*, or preliminary discourse, prefixed to this performance, gives the pedigree of the author, through several generations, by which it appears he was descended from Caelbach, King of Ulster, who defeated and killed Muiredhach Fíreach, monarch of Ireland, at the battle of Pert Righ, and succeeded him on the throne. The *reimsceul* gives the time and place in which the author wrote this poem." After quoting a portion of this *reimsceul* in Irish, the following translation is given: "There are four co-necessaries in every learned treatise, *i.e.*, place, time, person, and cause of writing. Therefore, the place of this piece was first Cul Banagher, in the plain

of Rechet, in the country of *I Failge*, or O'Faly, and its reversal in Tamhlacht (now Tallaght, near Dublin); or else in Chuin Eibhnach it was begun, and in Cul Banagher it was finished and revised in Tallaght."

⁷ We are informed in the Irish Life, that while St. Patrick was in Magh Reta, the people were engaged in building on a Sunday, Rath Baccan, the royal fort of the district. Patrick wished to prevent this, but no heed was taken of his remonstrances. Then he said: "Its building shall be troublesome, unless 'offering' be done there every day." He also said, "This fort should not be inhabited until the wind (*gaoth*) should come from the lower part of hell." This, it is added, was Guithini, son of Cinaed, who rebuilt the fort in the time of Fechtlimidh and of Conchobhar in Tara. The latter portion of narrative is very enigmatical. See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Vita Tripartita S. Patricii, pars. iii., p. 155.

⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 34 to 37 and n. (d.).

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Arcindall, however, makes it identical with Sletty. See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 596.

and to have been situated somewhere within the present county of Carlow. There he remained until three-score of his disciples died. An angel then appeared to him, and said, "It is on the west of the river (Barrow) in Cúlmaighe, thy place of resurrection shall be." He likewise told Fiacc, that their church must be built where a hind should be met, while their refectory ought to be erected where they should meet a boar. Fiacc then told the angel he was unwilling to go thither, until St. Patrick had marked out the boundary of his place, and had consecrated it, so that he might obtain its possession. To this proposal the Irish Apostle assented; he fixed the spot, as Crimthan, son of Enna Ceinn-selach, King of Leinster, a convert, had presented it to him. There St. Fiacc, as we are told, was afterwards ordained¹¹—most probably consecrated—bishop, and there also reposed in after time the remains of Crimthan. This king had persecuted the Ui-Ercan, and forced them into exile. From their tribe was descended the *manachs*, or monks, that settled in Hy-Crimthann, a portion of Læighis, now included in the present barony of Maryborough east.¹² To this tribe, Fiacc, with his four brothers, Aengus or Eochaidh Guineach, Ailill Mar, Conal and Etirsel belonged, while their father is denominated the son of Erc. Through St. Patrick's interference, King Crimthan is said to have given St. Fiacc the fifth part of his father's possessions, together with the land, on which Sleibhte was built.¹³ The position of this church is one mile north¹⁴ of Carlow town, but on the west side of the Barrow, and its graveyard is on a sloping site, some little distance from the river-bank. The historic and descriptive notices given by Archdall¹⁵ are very brief, and somewhat inaccurate; for he states, that all St. Fiacc's disciples rest here.¹⁶ St. Patrick bestowed on him some sacred furniture, including a ministerial bell, the Epistles of St. Paul, and a pastoral staff.¹⁷

Although such a benefactor to the Irish Apostle as to bestow sites for innumerable churches within Hy-Cennselaigh, and although he had endowed St. Fiacc's Church at Sletty, it is stated that King Crimthan was killed, in 465,¹⁸ by the brother, Eochaidh Guineach,¹⁹ to avenge the exile of his family. This, however, seems to conflict with other accounts; for Crimthan is related to have killed Oilíoll Molt, at the great Battle of Ocha,²⁰ in 478, and after the latter monarch had enjoyed the

¹¹ In a subsequent passage, this event is fixed after St. Patrick had founded churches and establishments in Leinster, and had given his blessing to the people of Ui-Cennselaigh and of Leinster.

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Leabhar-na-gCeart, or the Book of Rights," p. 216, n. (d.).

¹³ Hence, it would seem, that Mac Erc either originally held land west of the River Barrow; or it may be, that having been driven into exile from its eastern side, he retired into the district of Hy-Bairrche, where he was allowed to acquire landed property and a residence.

¹⁴ Archdall has it west.

¹⁵ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 596.

¹⁶ For this he quotes Colgan, who has no such statement. See "Acta Sanc-

torum Hibernia," xxv. Januarii, De B. Paulo Eremita, cap. iii., p. 106.

¹⁷ See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Septima Vita S. Patricii, pars. iii., cap. xx., p. 152.

¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 146, 147.

¹⁹ He is called one of the Ui Bairrche, the descendants of Daire Barrach, second son of Cathair Mor, Monarch of Ireland, in the second century. They were seated in the barony of Slievemarique in the Queen's County, while they also possessed some adjoining districts. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Leabhar-na-gCeart, or Book of Rights," n. (k), p. 212.

²⁰ Thus the matter is stated, in that ancient historical tract, called "Borumha-Laighean."

sovereignty of Ireland for twenty years.²¹ Again, the death of Criomthann, called King of Leinster, is found referred to 484, when he was mortally wounded by Eochaidh Guineach,²² of the Ibh Bairrche, who was assisted by the men of Aradh Cliach,²³ a part of Idrone, in the County of Carlow. He also took part in the Battle of Cill Osnaigh, now Kellistown, fought in 489, and where Eithne, the hateful, daughter of Criomthann was slain, with her husband Aengus Mac Nathfraeich, King of Munster.²⁴ Eochaidh Guinech was a warrior on the victorious side of Muircertach Mac Erca, King of Royal Ailech.

The situation of the church at Sletty was on the White Plain, according to Ussher;²⁵ but we incline to doubt his authority on this matter, as the place so designated was rather near Old Leighlin. A short description and an engraving of the ruins at Sletty will be found in the "Dublin Penny Journal" of 1834.²⁶ After the death of St. Fiace, about the close of the fifth or the beginning of the sixth century, we find few accounts of his church, and of that monastery he there established. In 698 is entered the death of Aedh,²⁷ Anchorite of Sleibhte.²⁸ In 862, Brocan, son of Coinhsudh, Abbot of Sleibhte, died.²⁹ In 864, Sruthar Sleibhte was burned by the people of Ossory.³⁰ In 1055 we find recorded, the death of Maelbrighde Ua Maelruain, airchinnech of Sleibhte.³¹ These are the annalistic entries we meet with to illustrate its records.

After the suppression, we have an account of the locality, in virtue of a commission appointed by King James I. and dated 22nd of June, 1615. Owing to this inquisition—in common with other places throughout Ireland—we have information regarding denominations, state, repair, or condition of the several churches, with their incumbent's and vicar's names or qualifications, the nature and value of the living, besides other particulars respecting the deaneries of Leighlin diocese, within the former boundaries of Leix.³²

From Carlow, the following return was furnished on the 5th and 6th of July, 1615, when the value of Sletty Rectory is set down at £8. The Rector was Walter Skelton. In the year 1640, this parish was worth £15 per annum; while in 1657 its value fell to £6 only, and it had no minister.³³ It was an entire rectory, however, and the Commonwealth enjoyed its profits. The old church, then disused, was allowed to fall into the present picturesque ruin. In a trace of "Slewmargh Barony in ye Queene's County,"³⁴ by John Mason, Sletty parish is marked out, yet without its church. The living of Sletty was a rectory

²¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 148 to 151.

²² His father Mac Erc was married to a daughter of this King Crimthann, and consequently this latter was slain by his own grandson.

²³ See the "Chronicum Scotorum," edited by William M. Hennessy, M.R.I.A., pp. 30, 31.

²⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 152, 153, and un. (n.o.). "The Chronicum Scotorum" places this battle at A.D.

487.

²⁵ See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum

Antiquitates," cap. xvii., p. 864. Dublin edition.

²⁶ See vol. iii., No. 118, p. 112.

²⁷ Archdall, quoting Ward, p. 153, states that his feast was held on the 12th of October.

²⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i. pp. 297 to 301.

²⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 498, 499.

³⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 500, 501.

³¹ See *ibid.*, vol. ii., pp. 868, 869.

³² In the "Liber Regalis Visitationis,"

³³ See Sir Charles Coote's "Statistical Survey of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 2., p. 13.

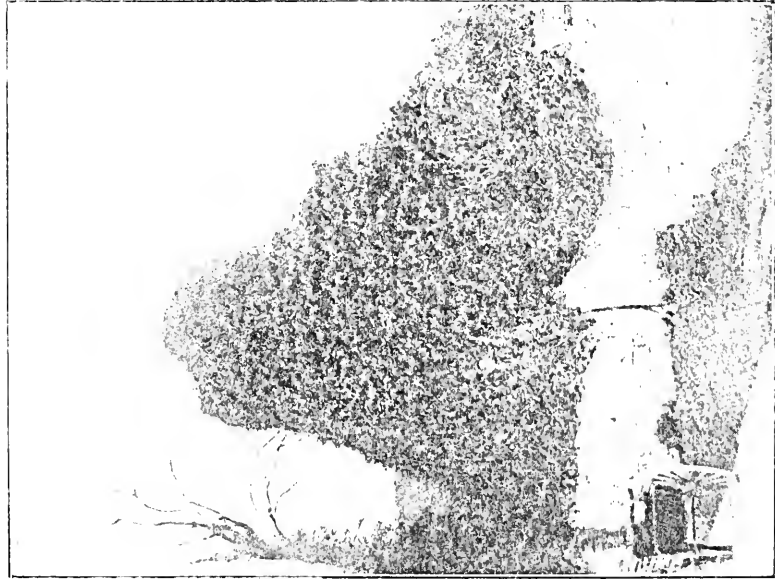


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STRABOE CHURCH.

[*Rev. E. O'Leary.*

Vol. I.]

See page 321.



Photo by

SLEATY CROSS.

[*Sherrwood.*

See page 320.

in the Diocese of Leighlin, united with Shrule; both unions lying westwards of the River Barrow.³⁵ The town of Sleatygraigue is united by a substantial bridge to the town of Carlow.

In the list of "Popish Parish Priests" who were registered at a "General Sessions of the peace held at the Tholsel, the 13th of July, 1704," we find the name "Walter Skelton," described as "residing in Bridge Street, aged 40, pretended to be Parish Priest of St. Peter's, ordained in 1688 by James Whelan, titular bishop of Ossory, at Kilkenny," had for his "sureties" Laurence Eustace of High Street, merchant, £50; and Patrick Dooling of Fishamble Street, £50. This distinguished priest died in Dublin on the 31st of October, 1737, but with his ancestors departed his remains were deposited in Sletty.³⁶ An ancient tumulus or arched receptacle for the ashes of the dead was discovered in a field adjoining the cemetery early in the last century; and it was found to contain a number of earthen vessels or antique urns and arranged in rows, while each urn was covered with a small round flag.³⁷ While the Very Rev. James Taylor, D.D., was President of Carlow College, he founded an auxiliary institution for the education of lay students, upon the Termon of Sletty, and adjoining the old church. It is finely situated on the banks of the River Barrow, and it is known as the College of St. Mary. In the Catholic arrangement, Sletty is included within the parish of Killeslin.³⁸

CHAPTER XLIX.—PARISH OF STRABOE.

THIS parish lies north-east by north, about 2½ miles from Maryborough town, and in the barony of Maryborough East. Its name is locally pronounced Straboe—with the accent on the last syllable—and its English equivalent is said to be the Strath or Holme of the Cows.¹ Sometimes it is called Shane or Shean. On the old map of Leix and Offaly, Strabo and Shian are both marked. The northern part of the Great Heath of Maryborough was in the barony of Portnahinch, while the southern part was in that of Maryborough East. The line ran between them across Rathshane. Killeny was in Leix. The old church of Straboe is now in ruins, a graveyard surrounding it. Only one ivy-capped gable stands beside the public road, with a few fragments of side walls. On the great Heath of Maryborough, now a commonage, there is a remarkable rath, which measures forty-three yards in diameter. It lies on the boundary line of Straboe and Coolbanagher parishes. It is called Rathshane² on the Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County.³

When Lord Mortimer usurped the lands of Leix,⁴ he found it necessary

³⁴ This Map has no date attached.

³⁵ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 483.

³⁶ See Harris' Ware, vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," Chap. xxxvi., p. 255.

³⁷ See "Dublin Penny Journal," vol. iii., No. 118, p. 112.

³⁸ Much additional information regarding Sletty may be found by consulting Most Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of

Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 248 to 265.

¹ Thomas O'Connor writes it in Irish *Srath bó*. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter dated, Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, p. 179.

² Thomas O'Connor writes it in Irish *Rath Sheáshain*, i.e., "Shane's" Rath, in

to build a castle at Shean; and this seems to have been one of the eight castles afterwards taken by Lysach O'Moore, who recovered his former territory. In the year 1397, in right of his wife Margaret, Sir Robert Preston⁵ instituted the Manor of Shean, and as being dependant on Dunamase, during the various revolutions, it shared the fate of the principal fortress. The former castle, at Shean, was situated on a commanding site; but, it fell into a state of decay during latter centuries.⁶

Struthboe or Straboe in 1657 had thirteen townlands, and it was an impropriation worth £45 per annum in 1640; the parsonage was then valued at £30; the vicarage at £15; while it was valued at £15 in 1657; the whole one-third part was then let for use of the commonwealth. The patron was Sir Robert King, Knight.⁷ Shayne Castle is marked on the engraved Map of the Down Survey, on which is also written Shraghboe. The castle here was taken by the insurgents in the war of 1641, but in the following year it was surrendered to Sir Charles Coote, from whom it was retaken by Owen Roe O'Neil. In 1650 it finally surrendered to Colonels Hewson and Reynolds, who demolished it.⁸ On Sir William Petty's Maps, Shrugbloe Parish, with Shayne Castle⁹ and Kilminie House are represented. This and Kiltally Parish consist of unforfeited lands.¹⁰ On Shane Hill, in Shane townland,¹¹ there was formerly an old castle, and its ruins were traceable,¹² although now utterly demolished. It was afterwards re-edified, and embellished at great expense by Dean Coote, who converted it into a delightful residence. After the middle of the last century, Arthur Young, an intelligent English traveller, describes this part of the country as being remarkable for the numerous manufactures and industries of the inhabitants, and altogether irrespective of their agricultural pursuits.¹³ Nearly all of these handicrafts have since disappeared, and the earth products are sadly diminished.

When Sir Charles Coote wrote his "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," in 1801, there was a famous well; ¹⁴ but when, thirty years later, John O'Donovan lived ¹⁵ in Straboe parish, he could find no "holy well" there, nor one notable for any other property.¹⁶ In 1831, the population amounted to 2,176; in 1834, the Protestants were 64 in number, and the Catholics 2,175; while in

his Letter dated, Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, p. 184.

³ See Sheet 13.

⁴ See Sir John Davis's "Historical Tracts."

⁵ His Castle is called Shara, in Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 577.

⁶ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. ix., sect. 4. p. 137.

⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. i., sect. 3, p. 9.

⁸ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 577.

⁹ The Rev. Edward Ledwich has furnished some notices of Shane Castle, in General Vallancey's "Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis," vol. ii., No. vi., sect. 3, pp. 158, 159.

¹⁰ See General Vallancey's copy of Sir William Petty's Maps now preserved in Paris, vol. ii., No. 64, Irish Record Office, Dublin.

¹¹ Sróeán is Thomas O'Connor's Irish writing of it.

¹² On the Name Book of Straboe Parish, p. 23, this is stated.

¹³ See "Tour in Ireland."

¹⁴ See chap. xi., sect. 4, p. 137.

¹⁵ In the Heath House.

¹⁶ In his notes to Thomas O'Connor's Letter, dated Stradbally, December 6th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., p. 180.

¹⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 282.

1841, the population was only 2,002, and the houses 341.¹⁷ Some handsome seats of gentry are in this parish, especially those of Shean House, Bloomfield House, Straboe House, Derry, and Knocknagrove. In 1837, Straboe was a vicarage in the diocese of Leighlin, valued with Maryborough at £485, in the patronage of the bishop.¹⁸ It formed part of the union of Maryborough, the rectory being impropriate in William Lewes, Esq. The tithes amounted to £300; of which £200 was payable to the impropriator, and £100 to the vicar. In the Roman Catholic divisions, this parish forms part of the union of Maryborough.¹⁹ In 1846, the rectorial tithes were compounded for £184 12s. 3½d., and the vicarial tithes for £92 6s. 2d. The parish was apportioned under the Tithe Acts for 5,335 statute acres, but the measured area is 5,757*a.* 2*r.* 31*p.*, the surface comprising a large quantity of bog, and consisting, in general, of only indifferent land.

CHAPTER L.—PARISH OF STRADBALLY.

THE town of Stradbally is nearly surrounded by finely curved and warmly tinted hills. Its two chief streets are very spacious; and a fine bridge with three arches spans the river flowing through it,¹ while the roadway and parapets are continued a considerable length to an extensive pond which works a fine water-power mill,² built on a paddock intervening. Again, there is a submerged arch, to allow free passage to the higher water of the mill-race, having dams for overflow. This is a delightfully situated town, which gives name to the barony, and which has its situation about five miles eastwards from Maryborough, the chief town of the Queen's County. Formerly it was included in the ancient parish of Ougheval, also called Ochmills; and only since the seventeenth century it had a distinctive parochial name.

Immediately on the right side of the road leading from Stradbally to Carlow, the present enclosed graveyard of Ougheval and the singular-looking erection, which has risen on the site of a very early church, may be seen, and about half-a-mile south-east from the former town. Formerly, this spot, to which allusion is made, was called Tulach-mic-Comgail. The Irish denominations of Tulla, Tulach, Tullow, Tullagh, or Tully, designate a "little hill;"³ and, connected with the present compound, it signifies, that the son or sons of Comgail had some connection with this locality. Near this site ran what was formerly called the Ballaghmore, or "great road,"⁴ which led from Stradbally to Carlow, early in the eighteenth century. Ougheval is now only a townland,⁵

¹⁸ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 565.

¹⁹ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. 1., p. 576.

¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 283.

² Originally this was built as a cotton factory, and it gave employment to over 200 workers in the first quarter of the last century. When this industry, under the direction of a Mr. Calcutt, ceased, the building was taken possession of by Mr. Richard Ledbeatter,

and fitted up with machinery for a flour-mill. After this gentleman's death, Abraham Shackleton, Esq., T.C. Dublin, resumed the business. It has since been used for malting purposes.

³ See Dr. Patrick W. Joyce's "Origin and History of Irish Names and Places," part iv., chap. i., p. 375.

⁴ It has for long years back been superseded by the new road, which debouches over the mountain range, by what is locally called the Windy Gap.

⁵ It contains 327*a.* 1*r.* 20*p.*, while it is

in the parish and barony of Stradbally; but, it was formerly the head of a parish, merged in later times, under the denomination of Stradbally, when the latter town grew to be a place of greater importance. The parish church of Ochmills—a name for Ougheval—was deserted, and it fell into ruin, in the earlier part of the seventeenth century, when Richard Cosby built a new Protestant Church, in the town of Stradbally. However, the Cosby family have preserved a vaulted enclosure, beneath the deserted church, as their mortuary crypt.⁶ Ougheval is still a favourite place for interment, and used by many of the old families of Stradbally and its neighbourhood. Many tombs and headstones, the material for which is taken from the fine marble limestone quarries near this place, are spread over the surface of that very ancient cemetery. The former name for Ougheval was Ua-Congbail⁷ or Nuadh Chongbhail,⁸ which signifies “nova habitatio,” or “the new habitation,”⁹ This denomination is common to several other places in Ireland. The name Ougheval as given on the Irish Ordnance Survey Map, is an incorrect Anglicising; but, it seems to have been derived from Noghwale, as spelled in the Inquisition. Much more so, the local pronunciation and writing, Oak Vale—as may be seen in various monumental inscriptions within this ancient cemetery—is a complete misnomer. The ecclesiastical origin of this place may be traced back to the sixth century. Contemporaneous with St. Fintan,¹⁰ Abbot of Clonenagh, lived a certain young religious, called Columbanus, belonging to the Province of Leinster.¹¹ He was also called Colman Mac Ua Laoighse, and descended from Laoighse, son to Conall Cearnach. His pedigree is given¹² in the Genealogies of the Irish Saints,¹³ but it is thought to be defective in several generations. His feast occurs on the 15th of May. This holy man was a disciple to the great St. Columkille.¹⁴ Colman's or Columban's church formerly stood within the cemetery of Ougheval; and the place was at that time called Druimnetogha—more correctly, Druimtogher, “the ridge-road”—probably from the ancient road, which even in very olden times ran near this place. He flourished in the sixth century, and he went to visit St. Columkille, in the Island of Iona, while he remained for some time with the latter holy abbot, before he returned to Ireland, where St. Columba advised him to take St. Fintan of Clonenagh as his spiritual guide. By Adarnan he is called “Columbanus, episcopus Lageniensis.” We are informed, that he survived St. Fintan, who is thought to have died long before the end of the sixth century.¹⁵ The original church erected here has long since disappeared, but down to our own times remained the old *caisil* or circular fence of Nuadh Cong-

to be seen on the “Ordnance Survey Townland Map for the Queen's County,” Sheet 19.

⁶ It is stated, in the “Anthologia Hibernica,” that Pole Cosby, Esq., who was lord of the soil, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, converted this spot into a family vault. See vol. iv., p. 184.

⁷ In Irish written *ua Congbail*.

⁸ In Irish written *nuadh Congbail*.

⁹ According to Father John Colgan. See “Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ,” xx. Januarii, Vita S. Fechim, n. 8, p. 141.

¹⁰ His feast occurs on the 17th of February.

¹¹ See Colgan's “Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ,” xvii. Februarii. Vita S. Fintani, cap. xxii., p. 353.

¹² Thus: “S. Colmanus de Druimnetoga, *i.e.*, Nuadh-Chonghbail, filius Lugnæ, filii Eugenii, filii Gauri, filii Erci, filii Beccani, filii Lugadii, filii Laighisii,” &c. See *ibid.*, n. 25, p. 354.

¹³ Chapter xxiv.

¹⁴ His feast occurs at the 9th of June.

¹⁵ See Rev. John O'Hanlon's “Lives of the Saints,” vol. ii., Seventeenth



OUGHEVAL, STRADBALLY.

See page 324.



Photos by]

TANKARDSTOWN CHURCH.

[Rev. E. O'L.

bhail or Ougheval monastery; it has now been removed, and even completely obliterated by the Poor Law Guardians in late years. A square and tasteless stone wall has been built to enlarge the graveyard's dimensions; but, it has detracted, also, from the former archaeological and scenic interest of this place. This vandalism is greatly to be regretted; nor do our commissioners for the preservation of historic monuments exercise sufficient vigilance or effort, to prevent many similar dilapidations in several other parts of Ireland, and which the writer has witnessed. St. Columban was a dear friend of St. Columkille, who predicted his death at Iona; although he was far away from the great abbot, and living in this place.¹⁶ After the middle of the sixth century may be assigned the era—most probable—for Columban's departure to Christ.¹⁷ The subsequent history of the *Cenobium* here established cannot be easily traced; but, it appears to have been destroyed—perhaps during the Scandinavian invasions.

Towards the close of Queen Elizabeth's reign, allusion is made to Noghwale and the Ballaghmor beside it, as having been in the possession of Francis Cosby,¹⁸ who first came to Ireland in the reign of Queen Mary, and soon after the Queen's County had been erected into Shire-ground. In this part of Leix, Francis Cosby was assigned large landed possessions, which he held by military service from the Crown. He was appointed General of the Kerne of Leix by letters patent, and dated September 10th, 1558. He also obtained an extensive grant of lands, which were taken from the O'Moores. He was a valiant captain, but when over seventy years of age, he was killed with many of the English in 1580, at Glenmalur in the County of Wicklow. Although Cosby was the first to warn his companions, regarding the danger of penetrating into its fastnesses, where the Irish forces of the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes lay, yet he encouraged that advance.¹⁹ The whole English force, under Arthur Lord Gray, the new Chief Justice in Ireland, was completely overthrown; while Cosby was one of the first to fall, bravely contending in the foremost ranks.²⁰

Nowhwall, *alias* Stradbally, was a Rectory, with residence in 1616.²¹ The same Thomas Berry and William Hilton, who officiated at Moyanna, were Rector and vicar. The value of this living was £15, but the vicar appears to have had £8 additional. The church and its chancel were in good repair, and furnished with books. After the church of Ougheval had been deserted, it is a local tradition, that Pole Cosby rendered it the nondescript ruin, which it now seems to represent.²² A very

Day of February, Art. i., St. Fintan's Life, chap. iv.

¹⁶ See Rev. Dr. Reeves' Adamnan's "Life of St. Columba," Lib. iii., cap. 12, and nn. (k. l.), pp. 212, 213.

¹⁷ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," xvii. Februarii. Vita S. Fintani de Chuain-Ednech, n. 25, p. 354.

¹⁸ A historical notice regarding both places is found in the "Inquisitionum Cancellaria Hiberniæ," under the head of "Catalogus Inquisitionum Com' Regine, asservatarum in officio Rotulorum Cancellaria Hiberniæ." This document was issued, in the time of

Queen Elizabeth, at Maryborough, and it bears date the 17th of August, 1596.

¹⁹ These particulars are furnished by William Camden, in his "Annales Rerum Anglicanarum et Hibernicarum, regnante Elizabetha," Pars ii., A.D. MDLXXX., pp. 309, 310. Lug Batavorum, 1625, 8vo.

²⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1734 to 1739, and n. (d.) *ibid.*

²¹ According to "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

²² In his early youth, the writer had this statement from a very intelligent old man, whose family for generations,

large and a singular stone sarcophagus is under the crypt of that old building. It may be seen through narrow apertures in the side walls. This tomb encloses the coffins of the early Cosbys, from the time of Alexander, who obtained the Manor of Stradbally, after the death of his brother Francis. It is now quite filled with their remains. Latterly the deceased members of that family are interred in the earth, but within that closed vault; and the interior has been arranged in a manner somewhat differing from that seen by the writer in his younger days. The wall on the south side of the ruin, and running to the west of the family vault of the Cosbys, is supposed to be coeval with the monument walls or vault raised over their remains.²³ The part of the north wall to the west of the vault is thought to be of some antiquity, and it has on the outside at the western extremity a square tower, apparently of equal age, attached to it. A part of this tower standing on the north wall is destroyed. There are some quadrangular openings on that portion remaining. The north wall towards the vault is nearly pulled down. From this to the west extremity, it is 24 ft. in length. The monument walls of the vault are at the east end of the ruin. These have a high stone roof, and towards the west there is a high circular arch.²⁴ A coved stone ceiling is over it, and the whole interior is covered by a heavy mass of masonry, resting on strong buttresses, with end and side-walls having like characteristics.

The town of Stradbally is situated in a pleasant country, and about three miles from that branch of the Grand Canal leading from Monasterevan to Athy. Consequently, it is convenient for manufactures, as the rivulet which runs through the centre of the town might be made to work any mill or factory, and at no great expense. According to one account, the place takes its name from an ancient ford over the River Straid,²⁵ which, rising in a part of the Margy Hills, flows into the River Barrow.²⁶ It was formerly called Sraidbaille Laoghise, which it is said signifies the street town of Leix.²⁷ It bore this name among

lived in or near Stradbally, and from whom, doubtless, he derived that information.

²³ On one of the side walls, and placed at a considerable height, looking towards the south, there is a large slab inserted. It was necessary to procure a ladder in order to read the inscription, which is now almost obliterated, owing to the fact that moss and lichens have grown over the surface. After taking great pains to clear these away, some ten years ago, the writer perched on the ladder, and *in situ*, was only enabled to note down the following portion, some of the words being illegible to him; yet, quite capable of being recovered did further time permit:—

“Here lies interred ye Lord Thomas Douglas, born in Edinburgh. He lived years in Stradbally Hall with Alexander Dudley Pole Cosby. The monument erected by his friend Pole Cosby, Esq.

Psalm 12 v. 6.”

²⁴ See “Letters containing informa-

tion relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838, vol. ii. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, pp. 60, 61.

²⁵ This seems to be a misnomer, as on the Ordnance Survey Maps for the Queen's County, it is called the Bauteogne River.

²⁶ See “Anthologia Hibernica,” vol. iv. September 1794, p. 184.

²⁷ The same appellation is bestowed on it in the “Annals of the Four Masters,” which tells us, that in 1596, Owny, son of Rory Oge O'More, devastated Leix, including both its corn and dwellings, so that there was nothing without his power in the whole territory, beyond the locked gate or the bawn. He slew a gentleman of the English, Cosby, the son of Master Frans, at Sparabate Laoispe (*Stradbally Leix*.) See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. vi., pp. 2006, 2007, with nn. (c. d. e.) *ibid*.

²⁸ The Irish name of Stradbally is

the people of the neighbourhood at no very distant date.³³ A religious house was founded here by the chieftains of Leix, at an early period. We read that, in the twelfth century, Lord O'Mora founded the monastery of Mon-au-bealing,²⁹ or, as more generally called, Stradbally,³⁰ for conventual Franciscans, or Friars Minor. Sir James Ware supposes this convent to be identical with one denominated Luasia by Pisanus.³¹ The mediæval history of this religious foundation is not very clearly ascertainable; but there can hardly be a doubt the Franciscans had a fine establishment here and an extensive estate in lands to support it. During the middle ages, one of the strongest castles of the O'Moores was in this place.³² This castle was surrounded by a fosse, and it is said to have been called the Castle of Palace.

In that treaty,³³ formed by the English with the O'Moores of Leix, in 1538, we find a curious covenant inserted, which has reference to an archaeological fact of interest, in connection with a church in this town. Certain conditions have reference to a campanile, called "clogas," possibly a Round Tower, at Stradbally, which seems to have existed early in the sixteenth century. That it was considered an ecclesiastical structure seems evident from the terms of this treaty. That the rector or curate of the church should have the guardianship of this "clogas," and that neither the Irish or English should have its exclusive possession, were formulated into a clause, binding on both parties.³⁴

The fifth son of Connell O'Moore, denominated Rory Caech, or "the blind" or "the one-eyed," is so styled, by the Four Masters. By an order of the Dublin Council, issued in the thirty-fourth year of King Henry VIII.'s reign, this chief was made captain of Leix, he being next heir to his brother Kedagh.³⁵ He is described as living at Stradbally, in a grant of English liberty which he procured for 20s., in the thirty-fifth year of King Henry VIII.³⁶ He seems to have been the King's O'More, or a chieftain "loyal to the crown," in opposition to the popular chief, when in June, 1544, as "captain of Leix," he addressed a statement to Henry VIII. In this, he recounts the services of his ancestors and of himself, and he complains of ill usage received from the Lord Deputy, who, to his extreme prejudice, had behaved in a partial manner towards the rebel O'Conor. During the ensuing year, either he or the opposition

Στραβάλλε Λαοίσιπε, which signifies the *street-town of Leix*. Laurence Byrne of Fallibeg, in the parish of Tullamoy and barony of Stradbally, who died in the month of January, 1838, said that such was the Irish name of this town, even in his own time. See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii.—Letter of T. O'Conor, dated, Carlow, December 15th, 1838.

²⁹ This compound denomination points to a bog being near the river, and such was evidently the condition of the soil, before it had been converted into meadow and pasture-land.

³⁰ According to Sir James Ware's Manuscripts, still preserved.

³¹ See Sir James Ware's "De Hibernia

et Antiquitatibus ejus," cap. xxvi., "Monasterologia Hibernica," pp. 162, 163.

³² See J. N. Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. ii., Queen's County, p. 101.

³³ Its terms are set forth in a document which appears in the "Calendar of State Papers," vol. ii., part iii., p. 541.

³⁴ "Item: concordatum et assensum est per partes predictas, quod campanile, alias dictum clogas, de Stradbally, in Lexia, semper erit in custodia et possessione gubernatoris seu curati ecclesie ibidem; et quod neuter partium predictarum ullum jus aut titulum eidem vendicabunt." See State Papers, vol. iii., p. 88.

³⁵ See State Papers. Carew MSS., p. 602.

³⁶ See the printed Patents.

chief entered into a secret combination with the Earls of Ormond and Desmond. This Rory Caech appears to have been "the O'More," who is mentioned by Walter Cowley, in 1546, as having been much devoted to the Earl of Ormond, and as having lately died. He left three sons, Rory Oge, Keadagh, and Calvagh. In Gough's Camden, we are informed that this town, formerly belonging to the O'Mores, was taken from them, in the reign of Queen Mary and given to the Cosbys.³⁷ During the Desmond insurrection, some of the Ormond family became the adherents of that powerful Munster house. Sir Edmond Butler, with his brothers Piers and Edward, on breaking into revolt about this time, turned against some of the colonists in this district. On Friday, the 1st July, 1560, Francis Cosbie wrote from Stradbally to the Lord Deputy,³⁸ and informed him, that the insurgents on last night had burnt Stradbally, Ballyknockane, Ferny Priory,³⁹ and Loughteoge, while they slew the warden, and all the ward, of Ballyknockan Castle.

August 18th, 1592, the Queen being seized of this friary and all its appurtenances, and also of a mill with the mill-race in Stradbally, and the several castles, messuages, cottages, gardens, and orchards,⁴⁰ with 345 acres of land in the town-lands of Stradbally, Ballenowlan, Kilrorye, Ballerereader, Loghill Park, Ballecolman, Ballemaelock, Kilmarter, the Grange of Garremadock, Clonvenoak, Ballenvickar, Kylmoghoo, Moyannoghe, Correill, Racreaghen, Clodust, Noghmal, Shannmollen, Ballemacintaubs, and Derebrock—all in the Queen's County—the same were granted to Francis Cosbye⁴¹ and his heirs and assigns, to hold as of the castle of Maryborough, in capite, by knight's service or the 20th part of a knight's fee, and at the annual rent of £17 6s. 3d. Irish money; they to find yearly nine English horsemen.⁴² The O'Mores' castle was pulled down by the Cosbies,⁴³ and a fortified house was built in its place, which is now demolished. According to Father Mooney,⁴⁴ Francis Cosby destroyed the whole Franciscan convent and with the materials

³⁷ The seven original English tribes, who colonised Leix, at this period, were the Cosby, Barrington, Bowen, Rush, Hartpole, Hetherington, and Howendon families. See John O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees; or the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation," part x., chap. vi., p. 576. Third edition, 1881, Dublin.

³⁸ See "Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth, 1509-1573." Edited by Hans Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., p. 412, in vol. xxix., 1560, July-December.

³⁹ It is marked Fernoprior, on the old map of Leix, preserved in the British Museum.

⁴⁰ In the early part of the last century orchards were very numerous about all the large farm-houses, but, they have since been destroyed or have gone to decay, long leases being refused to the farmers; consequently, these latter had no motive or interest for planting or preserving them.

⁴¹ See Harris' Ware, "Antiquities of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. xxxviii., p. 278.

⁴² See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 597. For this statement Archdall cites, "Chief Rememb." It is certain from the subsequent entry, as found in the Rolls, that Archdall committed some mistakes in the foregoing statement. It will be only necessary to observe that he gives 345 acres as constituting the extent of the townlands collectively; whilst in the Rolls, as published in the "Inquisitionum Cancellarie Hibernie Repertorium," vol. i., f. 169a, A.D., MDCCC. XXVI., the number of acres is set down at 1380. Differences will also be observed in the orthography of the names of the various townlands contained in that grant to the Cosby family.

⁴³ For some curious incidents regarding the Cosby family, see Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., n. (d.) pp. 1738, 1739, and vol. vi., n. (c.) pp. 2006, 2007.

⁴⁴ An exiled Irish Franciscan, who lived at Louvain, in the seventeenth century.

⁴⁵ See O'Sullivan Beare's "Historie

he built a secular house. He was killed in 1580, at Glenmalure, when Alexander Cosby succeeded to the inheritance of his estates. Both were regarded as fierce and cruel exterminators of the Irish, and the accounts in our annals confirm such a conclusion.⁴⁵ Even oral tradition in Stradbally bears out the historic narratives that have come down to us. In 1596, Owny Mac Rory O'More, the chieftain of Leix, demanded a passage for his men over the bridge at Stradbally; but, the request, regarded as a challenge to fight, was refused.⁴⁶ Hearing that the O'Mores were on the march, Alexander Cosby,⁴⁷ with his eldest son Francis,⁴⁸ at the head of their kerne, proceeded to defend the bridge.⁴⁹ As Alexander pressed forward in the engagement, which took place on the 19th of May, he was shot, and dropped dead. With loud outcries, his kerne began to give way. Apprehensive of being abandoned, his son, Francis, endeavoured to save himself by leaping over the bridge. The moment he climbed the battlements, however, he was shot, likewise, and he fell dead into the river.⁵⁰

A further confirmation of the foregoing grant bears date the 17th of August, 1596, and it was issued at Maryborough in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It runs as follows:—Francis Cosby, late of Stradbally, was seized of the fee, of the site and of the circuit lately belonging to the brothers at Stradbally, with a water-mill in the same village, and comprising 1,380 acres of land in the same village of Stradbally, Ballynowlane, Kilroury, Ballyreder, Loughell-Park, Ballycolman, Ballymadok, Kilmarten, le Graunge, Garrymadok, Cloneveok, Ballyviear, Kilmogho, Moyanagh, Corryell, Ratherchin, Cloduffi, Noghwaile, Ballaghmor, Shanemollan, fifteen acres excepted belonging to Edward Brereton, and with the castle of Derrybrock, all of which are now held from the Queen, *in capite*, by military service. The aforesaid Francis Cosby was killed by the rebels, and he died after his father Alexander had been slain, in like manner, at Stradbally, on the 19th of May, 1596. William Cosby is son and heir of the aforesaid Francis, while the said William was nine weeks old, at the time of the aforementioned death of Francis, and not married. Dorcas Cosbye, *alias* Sydney, of late wife to the said Alexander, father of the aforesaid Francis, has a dowry on the third part of all the aforementioned lands and tenements. Helen Hartpoole, *alias* Cosbye, of late wife to said Francis Cosbye, has also a dowry on the third part of the remaining aforementioned lands.⁵¹

Catholicæ Iberniæ Compendium," tom. ii., lib. iv., cap. v., p. 98; cap. vi., p. 99, and cap. xiv., p. 112. Ed. Dublin, 1850.

⁴⁶ The account of this engagement is taken from a manuscript, which belonged to Admiral Cosby.

⁴⁷ He was married to Dorcas Sydney, who would never allow herself to be called Cosby.

⁴⁸ He was married a year before to Helena Harpole, of Shrule, and by her he had a son, named William, who was born but nine weeks before this fatal battle.

⁴⁹ It is stated that Dorcas Sydney and Helena Harpole placed themselves at a window of the abbey to see the fight, and for some time they beheld their re-

spective husbands bravely maintaining the ground. Sir Charles Coote, who seems to mistake the family genealogy, adds, that after their death, "one of them, at the instant her husband was killed, called out to other witnesses, 'Remember my husband did not fall first, consequently, the estate descended to him and is now the property of my eldest son.'"—"General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. xiii., sect. 4. p. 173.

⁵⁰ See James Hardiman's "Irish Minstrelsy," vol. ii., p. 165.

⁵¹ See "Inquisitionum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ Repertorium," under the head of "Catalogus Inquisitionum Com'

The infant, William, having died, his uncle, who was named Richard, succeeded to the estates. On the 4th of December, 1609, a new patent or grant of these lands was made to Richard, son of Alexander Cosby,⁵² together with the townland or lordship of Timohoe.⁵³ That patent, issued in the time of James I., under the Commission to take surrender of lands, &c., and to grant new titles, &c., granted to Richard Cosby, Esq., son and heir of Alexander Cosby, Esq., defunct, and nephew and heir to Francis Cosby, Esq., defunct, as also to Arnold Cosby, his son and heir, with their heirs and assigns, the site, &c., of the house of friars at Stradbally, Queen's County, and likewise various lands⁵⁴ in or near it.

The O'Moores and their adherents having been expelled from Leix, while the early provisions for military service, required from the first English colonists, were dispensed with, this letter sets forth several curious regulations and decrees, which were intended to isolate from the subjugated remnant of Irish dwellers those English undertakers that obtained grants of land in their territory. These were drawn up as a precaution, and they were still deemed to be prudently devised; for, it was known, that bitter memories and feelings were rankling in the hearts of those, who had witnessed the wholesale deportation of their tribes and kindred. Wherefore, the said Richard Cosby, his heirs, and retainers, were obliged to attend the Governor of Ireland, when warned. He was required to appear with the greater part of his domestics and tenants in defensive array, supplying provisions for three days, in defence of the said Queen's County, and parts adjacent. He was directed to answer to all warlike exercises, called "Hostings," according to the value of his lands. He was pledged to maintain, as a military contingent, nine able horsemen of the English name and nation; these were to be well horsed, and armed, offensively as well as defensively, for the better inhabitation and defence of the aforesaid district; the Cosbys paying therefore a small annual money rent, in the current money of Ireland, with the customary labour called "Ploughday," for each acre arable, or such labour as the Constable of the Castle at Maryborough should appoint, or 3s. in lieu thereof at the option of the said possessors of the granted lands. The chief governor, or those appointed by him, had power given them to cut timber for building, &c. Moreover, it was ruled, that the said Richard Cosby and his heirs shall not use the law called, "le Brehowne lawe," in any cause, against any person subject to the laws of this kingdom. His sons and able servants were obliged to use on their lands, and in their houses, for the most part, the English tongue, apparel, and equipments. No person of Irish blood, used to carry arms, and born without the said country, should be retained by him or by his heirs, without license of the Constable of the Castle of Maryborough, and the greater part of the free tenants

Regine, asservatarum in officio Rotorum Cancellariae Hibernie."

⁵² According to the Chief Remembrancer's Records.

⁵³ See Archdall's "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 597.

⁵⁴ These are denominated the lands of Stradbally, Ballynowlan, Keltrowrie, Balreder, and Loughill, Parkehallegohuan, Beallemadocke, Kilmarten, als Kilmarter le Grange, Garimadocke, Clone-

boocke, als Glanmevenmocke, Ballinevicar, and Kilmoho, Moyannagh, Carriell, Ranchine, Clonluffe, Nongvall, Ballaghmore, Shammollen, and Bally M'Manus; also the castle, town, and lands of Derribroocke, in the Queen's County, and a water-mill in the town of Stradbally, except the lands in the said ville of Shammollen lately granted to Edward Breton, with all legal rights thereto belonging.

belonging to the said county. The aforesaid Richard and his heirs were not to pull up or to prostrate any castle, bridge, paved causeway, or togher, nor shall they plash any passage, being in or upon the said lands, unless the said passage be adjacent to some Irish country. Again, neither he nor his retainers should receive pay, or attend and serve in war-like fashion, or to be the followers of any person whereby they might be compelled to aid him in any incursions or raids.⁵⁵ Jealously apprehensive of native or foreign European influence and power extending within Ireland, at the time, the English Government, in the Letters Patent direct, that matrimony or gossiped shall not be contracted with any Irish person, residing outside of any country of this kingdom, and not answerable to its laws; nor were the patentees to permit those exactions and requisitions, called "Coyny and Liverie," to be taken on the granted lands by any strangers. In addition, it was decreed, that if any dowried or jointured female should marry any Irishman, her dowry in such case must cease and determine. The patent then gives power, likewise, to erect a manor at Stradbally, together with its officers, courts, and rights; it also grants a free market in the town of Stradbally to be held on Saturdays,⁵⁶ and an annual fair ⁵⁷ to be held at the same place, on the vigil and feast of St. Peter the Apostle.

In a deed, bearing for its place and date of issue, Maryborough, 15th of March, 1631, and in the reign of Charles I., it is stated, that Richard Cosseby⁵⁸ was seized in fee entail, for himself and his male heirs, with reversion to the crown, of the village and lands of Stradbally, and of which the lands of Noghavall and Ballaghmore are a parcell, containing one house, ten messuages, one fuller-mill, two water-mills, and 120 acres of land, village and lands of Killrowry, of which the hamlets at Ballynowlan and Glannerenmock are a parcell, the village and lands of Ballyryder, with the hamlet of Lawghill parcell of the same, the village and lands of Park, Ballycollmon, Killmarten, *alias* Killmarter, le Grange, Garrymaddock, Ballyvickarr, with the hamlet of Killmachoe, parcell of the same, Moyannagh, Corryell, Racrehen, Cloduffe, the castle of Derrybrock, Shianinullen, Ballymacmanus, Ballymaddock and Ballykyna, all of which comprise two castles, forty messuages, and 485 acres of land. The aforesaid Richard was also seized of the fee entail, for himself and his male heirs, with reversion to the crown, of one castle, twenty messuages, and 170 acres of land, in the village of Tymochoe,

⁵⁵ Besides those lands already enumerated, the king granted to Richard and his heirs, the lands, &c., of Moynerath, Cloneneynagh, als Clomenagh, Rosseshelton, als Rossequellan, and Tromroe, with Esker, Clonekyny, and Eskerbegg, with their appurtenances, and the advowson of the rectory and vicarage of St. Mocho of Timocho, als Farrere priory, in the diocese of Leighlin, with their appurtenances, on the same conditions. The said Richard and his heirs to have his principal their appurtenances, on the same conditions as before recited. The patent also grants to Richard Cosby and his son and heir, Arnold Cosbie, the lands, etc., of Tymogho, als Farrere priory,

Ballyneclough, Ballentle, Rathnebaron, Garriglas, Gosse, Ballclare, als Ballifarra, Balliscare, and Owlortes mansion, upon some part of the said lands, and to live there for the greater part of each year.

⁵⁶ Some sixty or seventy years ago, this weekly market was greatly frequented by the inhabitants of Stradbally and its neighbourhood, while business was exceedingly brisk and flourishing in the town. Now it has fallen into insignificance.

⁵⁷ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 578.

⁵⁸ This Richard Cosby did not survive the date of this record for many months, as he died on the 5th of December, 1631.

Ballynecloughe, Ballentlea, Rathnebarron, Garryglas, Fosse, Ballyclare, *alias* Ballyfarra, Ballyseare *alias* Ballenseare, Dowlart, Esker, Clonekynye and Eskerbegge, all of which are reputed to be parcells of the manor of Stradbally, in reversion after the death of Lady Ellen Loftus, now the wife of Thomas Loftus knight, and all of which lie in the Queen's County. The document then proceeds to enumerate the various demises and letting of the several townlands, with the nature of the tenure and term of years, the names of the tenants, and description of their holdings.⁵⁹

On the death of Richard Cosby, towards the close of 1631, his son Alexander succeeded to his possessions in Stradbally.⁶⁰ In 1636, he appears to have made a deed, bearing date the 2nd of June, whereby Francis Willoughby, knight, of St. Dominick's Abbey, Francis Slingsby, knight of Kilmore, Francis Slingsby, Esq., son and heir to the said Francis Slingsby, knight, with William Dodwell, of the Grange, and heirs, obtained a mansion house and 80 acres of land in the village of Stradbally, 40 acres in Rathconny, 44 acres in le Grange and Ouldmill, 60 acres in le Parke, 6 acres in Viccarstown, *alias* Ballyviccar, and 4 acres in Ouldton, adjacent to Viccarstown, for the purpose and intention specified in the same deed, and which said original document and purport clearly set forth. The death of Alexander Cosby took place on the 6th of August, 1636.⁶¹ Lieutenant Arnold Cosby with others named was authorised⁶² to bring as traitors to London, in 1642,⁶³ Lord Maguire and his confederates.⁶⁴ Father Mooney⁶⁵ could collect in his time nothing which was specially interesting regarding the Franciscan Convent at Stradbally, in the Queen's County and Diocese of Leighlin, as that whole country about it was then in the possession of enemies. However, after the destruction of their former religious establishment there, the Franciscans seem to have lived in that town or its neighbourhood; for, it is recorded, that Patrick O'Connor had been constituted superior at their residence in Leix, A.D. 1645. In the year 1646, towards the close of September, the Confederate Catholics invaded Leix, when a force of horse and foot commanded by Colonel Lewis Moore destroyed or took nearly all the English garrisons. Francis Cosby surrendered his house at Stradbally on the 1st of October, that year, to Colonel Moore, when he was allowed to depart with his arms, retainers, and provisions. His effects that were abandoned, the Confederates bestowed on the Friars Minors, who formerly owned his house. In 1647, P. F. Paul O'Moloy was their guardian. In 1648, there is no return, or it was probably a vacancy. During this year, as Francis Cosby falsely represented to General Preston that the Friars at Stradbally had unjustly appropriated his goods, the general sent an order to the commandant of the garrison, to have the claimed goods restored to his enemy in action and religion. One Father

⁵⁹ See "Inquisitionum Cancellarie Hibernie Repertorium," vol. i., Lagenia.

⁶⁰ The Cosby Manuscript, to which allusion has been already made, states, that at one time, the Cosbys possessed half the Queen's County and a township over.

⁶¹ See "Inquisitionum Cancellarie Hibernie Repertorium," vol. i., Lagenia.

⁶² By the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland.

⁶³ The letter is dated 11th June, 1642. MSS. of Reginald Cholmondeley, Esq., Condober Hall, Shropshire.

⁶⁴ See John T. Gilbert's "Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland, from 1641 to 1652," vol. i., part ii., p. 499, note.

⁶⁵ His Manuscript is now preserved in the Burgundian Library, at Bruxelles.

⁶⁶ See a curious account of this transaction, in the "Aphorismal Discovery

James proceeded to his camp at Athy, to present a petition or protest; but, he was rudely ordered to leave, without being heard, and sent back with insults to Stradbally.⁶⁶ In 1650, P. F. Antonius Geraldinus, or Anthony Fitzgerald, was superior at Stradbally; while, in 1661, we find mentioned in the same capacity P. F. Antonius Darcy.⁶⁷

On Sir William Petty's Barony Map of Stradbally we find the vastly greater portion marked off as Protestant lands, on which a church, with three other objects, apparently castles, are depicted. In a part of Corcloane appear the denominations of Bawne, Inchy, Garrans, Blackford with its castle, Drumine, Ballyduffe, Ballykilkavan with its castle, and Munkfarish, where the ruins of a church are shewn. Both of these latter objects are beside the stream which runs from Stradbally through the present demesne of Ballykilkavan. All this land belonged to Robert Hartpole, Irish Papist, to the amount of over 1,867 acres, arable and pasture, with a comparatively small proportion of 228 acres under wood and bog. Over 15 acres of glebe land were in this part of Corclone Parish, and these were mortgaged to Oliver Walsh, an English Protestant. A detached part of Ballicullan Parish is shewn, with Cloghpook and Thomaslavan denominations, comprising over 270 acres of forfeited land, the inheritance of Thomas Davills of Ballyknoekan, an Irish Papist. Upon Cloghpook stands a castle.⁶⁸ In 1657, Stradbally had seven townlands, rated at £18 per annum; the parsonage was worth £12 and the vicarage £6. The patron was Trinity College, Dublin.⁶⁹ In 1764, the present Protestant church was erected by subscription.⁷⁰ In 1771, Lord Sydney Cosby began a noble house a little without the town, and S. W. of the site of the ancient castle, but he lived only to finish the offices and one wing. That house which stood in the writer's recollection was pulled down after the year 1840, and a most beautiful and architectural mansion was erected on the site by Sydney Cosby, Esq. The demesne of Stradbally Hall is finely planted and highly ornamented.

In 1771 Stradbally contained 100 houses; but, in 1794, it had 216, most of which were neat and well built of limestone taken from the neighbouring quarries. About a mile west of the town there was a charter school⁷¹ for 50 children; ⁷² and this had an existence during the earlier part of the last century. In 1774, by act of council, this living, a vicarage in the Diocese of Leighlin, was united in the vicarage of Moyanna.⁷³ It has been stated, that towards the close of the eighteenth century, some remains of the Franciscan

of Treasonable Faction." Third Booke, chap. xxxiii., pp. 257 to 259. Edited by John T. Gilbert, Dublin, 1879, 4to.

⁶⁷ The foregoing information has been kindly furnished to the writer, by the Very Rev. Theobald Carey, Guardian of the Franciscan Convent of St. Isidore, at Rome, in 1886.

⁶⁸ Nearly corresponding with the foregoing denominations are those on the Map of General Vallancey, copied from the original in Paris. Vol. ii., No. 65, Irish Record Office, Dublin.

⁶⁹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manu-

factures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

⁷⁰ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 578.

⁷¹ The erection of this institution cost £3,000; of which sum £800 was a gift from Poole Cosby, Esq. See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 578.

⁷² According to the "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iv., September, 1794, pp. 184, 185.

⁷³ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 578.

⁷⁴ See an account of this sale and

Monastery were visible, and that the modern house, built on its former site, still retains the name of the Abbey. At the death of Lord Sydney Cosby, a considerable portion of his inheritance had been sold to the Right Hon. Henry Grattan, who obtained a grant of £50,000 from the Irish Parliament in 1782, for the important services which this illustrious man had rendered to Ireland.⁷⁴ The remainder of this estate belonged to Admiral Cosby,⁷⁵ towards the close of the eighteenth century. He was a resident and most popular landlord, who gave great encouragement to improvements in Stradbally, and to the agricultural tenants holding direct from him. Their descendants still relate with grateful feelings, his humanity during the disastrous rising in 1798, when he most judiciously and kindly procured protections for many, who were deeply implicated in the insurrection, and it is quite certain he thus prevented its formidable outbreak in this neighbourhood. The town of Stradbally was then a manor, to which appertain a court baron and a court leet.

The soil of Stradbally parish mostly consists of good tillage land, and the occupiers are thrifty and industrious. The farm-houses present an appearance of comfort and convenience. There are now few bogs in the neighbourhood of the town. The soil is calcareous, and limestone rock containing several good quarries,⁷⁶ which might be rendered productive to a large amount, is in the vicinity.⁷⁷ These quarries were formerly worked to a considerable extent, and in the earlier part of the last century, a colony of skilled stone-cutters had settled in the town, and who were chiefly engaged in the monumental carving and lettering of tombs and headstones for all the adjoining cemeteries, and even for places very remote.

In the early part of the eighteenth century, the remains of the belfry belonging to the Abbey of St. Francis, at Stradbally, are said to have stood.⁷⁸ Report then said, that vaults were beneath it, and subterranean passages under the bed of the River Ceallach or Kelley, quite to Knock-na-brahir, "the hill of the brotherhood." A handsome dwelling-house was built on the site of the abbey, to which some remains of the ancient building are attached. In Stradbally there was another religious foundation; and when the present Protestant Church had been rebuilt in 1764,⁷⁹ a fine old arched gateway was taken down. This gateway was the former entrance to the cemetery; and a plain gate afterwards supplied its place.⁸⁰ In 1801, a brewery⁸¹ here supplied an excellent

purchase in the "Memoirs of the Life and Times of the Right Hon. Henry Grattan," by his son, Henry Grattan, Esq., M.P., vol. iii., chap. xi., pp. 331, 332.

⁷⁵ Of him Sir Jonah Barrington relates the humorous anecdote of a half-blind Dr. Jenkins, who sat beside Admiral Cosby at dinner, and who mistook his brown clenched hand on the table for a French roll of bread. Without further ceremony, the doctor thrust his fork plump into the admiral's fist, which caused a tremendous uproar among all who were present. See "Personal Sketches and Recollections of His own Times," chap. v.

⁷⁶ Some of this stone is brought by the Grand Canal from Vicarstown to Dublin,

where it is converted into lime and cement of a very superior quality.

⁷⁷ See "Anthologia Hibernica," vol. iv., September, 1794, pp. 184, 185.

⁷⁸ Since the Abbey has passed into the possession of the Presentation Nuns, the writer has seen many of the stone-arched vaults which formerly were part of the Franciscan house; but these have of late been removed, and on their site has been built the present lambrery of the convent. In making this alteration in the yard adjoining, several human remains have been unearthed, which seems to indicate that it had in former times been used as a place for interments.

⁷⁹ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 566.

beverage.⁸² At this time, Stradbally was regarded as being the nearest inland town of the Queen's County, or of any other place known to Sir Charles Coote.⁸³ In 1831, the population of Stradbally was 1,799; in 1840, it was only 1,682, and the houses were 288.⁸⁴

The old market-house, which stood in the present market-square to the year 1830, has since been destroyed; but markets are still held weekly on Saturdays. Fairs also are chartered or held on the 21st of February, 6th of May, 10th of July, 21st of August, 14th of September, 21st of November,⁸⁵ and 26th of December. The time for Quarter Sessions held by the County Court Judge, is usually in June, and during Trinity term. The living was formerly a vicarage in the Diocese of Leighlin, and valued with some others at £190.⁸⁶ Before the late Irish Church Disestablishment Act. Stradbally was a rectory, inappropriate in the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin. The tithes amounted to £208 14s. 2d.; of this sum £139 9s. 7d. were payable to the impropiators, with remainder to the vicar.⁸⁷ A handsome glebe-house was near the church, having twelve acres of good land attached.

In the Catholic arrangement, the Parish of Stradbally includes the Union of Tinalloe, Timogue, Corclone and Moyanna.⁸⁸ The chapel of Stradbally in 1721 was a very humble and thatched structure. This is said to have been maliciously burned by the Orangemen in 1794 and on the 12th of July. However, Thomas Cosby, Esq., granted a lease for the plot of ground on which it stood, and in 1796, a chapel of much larger dimensions was built on that site. The latter being greatly out of repair, and the roof especially, showing signs of collapse, a handsome Gothic Church was erected⁸⁹ on a site granted by Colonel Robert Godolphin Cosby, in a different part of the town, at the other side of its bridge, and facing the main street, adjoining the Presentation Convent. The latter was founded by the Very Rev. George Hume, P.P., Stradbally, on the 25th of February, in 1852; and besides having charge of the Female and Infant National Schools, a Female Orphanage and Female Industrial School, the nuns have started and promoted domestic occupations and pursuits, admirably calculated to serve the interests of home workers in the town and neighbourhood. They now have possession of the Abbey—formerly belonging to the Franciscan Friars—and its grounds beside the river. Stradbally Hall, the residence of Colonel Cosby, proprietor of Stradbally and the Cosby estate, adjoins the town and rises on an elevated site over the Bauteague River. Brockley Park, formerly tenanted by the Earl of Roden, and now the property of Mr. Young, has also a beautiful mansion with finely wooded grounds surrounding it. Ballykilkavan House and Demesne, the seat of Sir Hunt Walsh, Bart., have been greatly admired for the tasteful appearance they present to the eye of a traveller along the high

⁸⁰ See Mrs. St. John's "Elkuna," Canto I., n. 21, pp. 94, 95.

⁸¹ It belonged to Doctor Lamphier.

⁸² See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. xiii., sect. 4, p. 170.

⁸³ See *ibid.*, p. 169.

⁸⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 283.

⁸⁵ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 596.

⁸⁶ See *ibid.*

⁸⁷ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 578.

⁸⁸ A fuller account of these several parishes may be found in Most Rev. Bishop Comerford's "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. iii., pp. 356 to 378.

road from Stradbally to Athy, the grandly wooded heights around lending a great charm to the landscape. The old mansion of Raheen-duff is likewise near the town.

CHAPTER LI.—PARISH OF TANKARDSTOWN.

THIS parish lies partly in the barony of Ballyadams in the Queen's County,¹ and partly in the baronies of East Narragh and Rheban² and Kilkea and Moone,³ in the County of Kildare.⁴ It is within the Poor Law Union of Athy. The surface in general consists of low-lying land; the two chief altitudes in the County of Kildare section are respectively 243 ft., and 239 ft. above the sea-level.⁵ The soil is usually light, but fairly productive. The River Barrow divides the Queen's County west portion of this parish from that eastward in the County Kildare. Within the latter, a canal, formed by the Barrow Navigation Company, extends along the left bank of that river.

An old castle and a church, with some ruined houses, are marked in Tankardstown Parish, on Sir William Petty's Maps. Coolegaragh and a glebe are inscribed on General Vallancey's copy of it, from the maps in Paris. Within the large townland of Tankardstown, Queen's County, on the west side of the River Barrow, are to be seen the old church, at present in ruins, and within a graveyard. Near it is St. Thomas' Well. On the north side of it the site of a castle is to be found, while about one quarter of a mile to the south, the site of another castle may be traced; both of these former erections seem to have been intended to command the passage over the River Barrow.⁶ Tankardstown, said to have been another name for Ballyadams, had six townlands, and it was an inappropriate vicarage, one-third of all profits belonging to the minister; while two-thirds, in the year 1640, belonged to Thomas Ovingdon, an English papist; it was then worth altogether £34 per annum. In the year 1657, it was worth only £11, and it was set for the use of the Commonwealth.⁷

The parish of Tankardstown was within the Omurthy deanery, and in the arrangements of the Protestant episcopal establishment it left the Archbishop of Dublin the patron, in 1827;⁸ but, no church nor glebe-house was then within it. The chief residences in the Queen's

⁶⁹ By the Very Rev. Michael Brennan, late P.P. of Stradbally from May 1888 to the period of his death in October 1902.

¹ This portion is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 20, 26. It comprises 3,472*a.* or. 13*p.*

² This district contains only 440*a.* 3*r.* 17*p.*

³ This division contains 4,437*a.* or. 10*p.* However, 40*a.* and 3*r.* of this whole parish are in the water, chiefly in the River Barrow.

⁴ See the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the County of Kildare," Sheets 35, 37.

⁵ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 311.

⁶ See "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii. Letter of John O'Donovan, date I Carlow, December 15th, 1838.

⁷ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, pp. 11, 12.

⁸ See John C. Erek's "Ecclesiastical Register," p. 74.

⁹ In the County of Kildare district, the chief residences are Heath House, Leinster Lodge, Dollardstown House,

County part of this parish are Barrow Lodge, Moneybrook House, Milford House, and Kilmorany House.⁹ In 1831, the whole population of this parish was 1,918; and the houses were 313, according to the census of that year. It had 8,938 statute acres, as appotted under the Tithe Act, and it was valued at £456 per annum.¹⁰ In 1841, the Queen's County section had a population of 947 persons living in 164 houses; while in the Narragh and Rheban section, there were 29 living in 4 houses, and in the Kilkea and Moone section there were 938 persons living in 145 houses.¹¹ In 1834, the Roman Catholics living in this parish amounted to 1,866 souls, and the Protestants to 97. This parish was a rectory and vicarage, forming part of the benefice of Athy, in the diocese of Dublin.¹² With Athy it was valued at £420. The Archbishop had the patronage.¹³ In 1846, the tithe composition was £325 19s. 4d.¹⁴ Within the bounds of this parish are some good quarries of limestone. There are also the remarkable remains of a fort or rath.

CHAPTER LII.—THE PARISH OF TECOLM.

THE small parish of Tecolm, or Tecolme—sometimes written Tekolm—seems to have derived its denomination from a St. Colum or Columba. It may probably be deduced also from the compound word Teach, “a house,” and Colum, the proper name. To us it appears, that the patron was probably that St. Columban, already mentioned as the founder of Ougheval, and from which spot the old graveyard and its church were not far distant. The traces of an ancient road are yet pointed out, as forming a direct line of communication between both places. The old quadrangular church—of small dimensions—stood as a tolerably perfect ruin, until the great storm, on the night of January 6th, 1830, completely levelled one of its gables, which for a long time was spread unbroken over the adjoining graves. It was even afterwards a picturesque ruin for many subsequent years; now, excepting a ruined gable mantled over with ivy, hardly a single fragment of wall remains above the ground, although the foundations are still recognisable.

The parish of Tecolm is situated within Ballyadams Barony towards the west. The high road from Carlow to Stradbally passes near the former church of Tecolm. The early history of this place is obscure. We learn, however, that the Deanery of Margee, *alias* Bargee, had one of its parishes Tecolme, an impropriate rectory, without a curate in 1616,¹ and its fruits are declared sequestrated. This parish is noticed by John O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Records.² Tecolm

Snugborough House, Spring Lodge, Faruhill, Grangemellon House, Grangejord, and Levittown House; and the other objects of chief interest are the site of St. Leger's Castle, a burying ground and a police barrack. See “Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland,” vol. iii., p. 311.

⁹ See Lewis's “Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,” vol. ii., p. 595.

¹¹ See “Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland,” vol. iii., p. 311.

¹² See Lewis's “Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,” vol. ii., p. 595.

¹³ See “The National Gazetteer,” vol. iii., p. 613.

¹⁴ See “Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland,” vol. iii., p. 311.

¹ See “Liber Regalis Visitationis.”

² See “Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838,” vol. i. Letter of John

was an endowed vicarage in the year 1640, when it was worth £20 per annum. Then it was waste, and the church was in ruins, while the Commonwealth received the profit in 1657.³ It comprised only two townlands, in the time of the Commonwealth. Altogether the parish contains only 1,022*a*. 3*r*. 11*b*.

This vicarage formed the corps of Tecolme prebend in the diocese of Leighlin, and it was in the patronage of the Protestant Bishop in 1837, the rectory being inappropriate in the representatives of Thomas Fitzgerald, Esq. The tithes amounted to £100 7*s*. 8*d*.; of which amount £66 18*s*. 6*d*. was payable to the impropiator, and the remainder to the vicar.⁵ The population in 1831 was 228, and in 1841 it comprised 239 persons living in 37 houses, in the Diocese of Leighlin. The vicarage of Tecoline—another name for this place—Dysart Enos and Kiltale constituted the benefice of Tecoline,⁶ the incumbent holding the prebend of Tecoline in Leighlin Cathedral.⁷

CHAPTER LIII.—PARISH OF TIMOGUE.

IN this parish, which lies about two miles south south-west from the town of Stradbally, there is a very ancient cemetery, within which most probably stood an exceedingly old church, on the very site of the Protestant one which has replaced it. This parish has an area of 2,490*a*. 3*r*. 32*b*.¹ The land, in general, is of a very good quality, and the scenery is pleasingly diversified. The site of an ancient castle is to be seen near the graveyard, and beside a former flour-mill on the stream. The mill is now disused, and fast crumbling to decay. It seems impracticable to recover the early ecclesiastical history of this place; but, that it was important in former times may be inferred from the veneration attaching to its burial-place, and the crowded state of its inclosure, the graves rising nearly to a level with the windows of the Protestant Church, and considerably elevated above its flooring. The name of this parish, situated in the barony of Stradbally, has been derived from St. Maidoc,² the patron of Ferns, by Thomas O'Conor.³

Within the church, there are various tombs, lying in a horizontal position. One of these is a marble flag, close to where the communion-table is placed. Armorial bearings are at the head, with the motto, "Certavi et vici" under them. Then follows the inscription:—"Beneath this marble stone lyeth the body of Sir Daniel Byrne,⁴ Bart., who died the 25th of September, in the year 1715, and of his age the

O'Donovan, dated Stradbally, December 9th, 1838, pp. 261 to 263.

³ See Sir Charles Coote's "General-View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 12.

² It is described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheets 19, 25.

⁵ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 599.

⁶ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 622.

⁷ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 319.

¹ According to the Irish Ordnance Survey measurement.

² Thus $\tau\iota\mu\acute{o}\gamma\eta\ \mu\alpha\delta\acute{o}\varsigma$, *i.e.*, Domus S. Maidoci, $\mu\alpha\delta\acute{o}\varsigma$ signifying "Mi parvule Aide," "my little Hugh."

³ In a letter, dated Carlow, December 15th, 1838, in "Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County, collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838," vol. ii., p. 62.

⁴ His career was rather a remarkable one, and from traditions of this neighbourhood, which in his earlier years, John O'Donovan heard related, this

39th. He married Anna Dorothea, eldest daughter of Edward Warren, of Pointon, in the County of Chester and Kingdom of England, Esq. He was a singular instance of conjugall affection; A kind and indulgent father to his children, and in the discharge of promises, which in the practice of the World meets with too little regard, a great example of Justice. Here also lieth the Body of Charles his eldest son, who was a youth of very promising expectation. He died the 1st of November, 1713, and in the 9th year of his age." ⁵ A marble flag, lying horizontally between this last one and the door, has this inscription on it:—"Here lieth the body of Thomas Fitzgerald, of Morett, Esq., who departed this Life the Twenty Second of September, 1766, Aged 20 years, son of Stephen Fitzgerald, of Morett, Esq.; he was a most dutiful son and valuable youth, for which reason his Mother, Catherine Fitzgerald, youngest Daughter of Sr. Daniel Byrne, Bart.,—lays down this stone in regard to the great tenderness he had for his Mother and her most parently Love for him." ⁶ Alongside this, to the right, lies a flag stone of a blackish colour, which exhibits this inscription:—"Here lieth the body of Stephen Fitzgerald, of Morett, Esq., who departed this life the Second of August, 1771, aged 63 years. He was a most tender husband and affectionate parent and sincere friend. His widow, Catherine Fitzgerald, youngest daughter of Sr. Daniel Byrne, Bart., Lays down this stone in regard to the high value she has for His Memory." ⁷ Between this last one and the door is this inscription:—"Here lieth the body of M. Martha Fitzgerald, wife of Stephen Fitzgerald, Esq., who died the 25th day of December, Anno Domini, 1713, aged 54 years. Here lieth the body of Stephen Fitzgerald, Esq., ⁹ who died the 20th day of June, Ano. Dom., 1710. Aged 54 years." ¹⁰ Between this and the door is the following one:—"Here lieth the body of Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald, of Moret, & one of the daughters of Sir Gregory Byrne, Bart., Decd. She departed This life ye 19th day of Octobr. An^o. Domi. 1723, & in ye 40th year of HER age. By this stone lieth the Body of the abovename Thomas Fitzgerald, of Moret, Esq. He dyed the 18th Day of Apl. 1754. Aged 68 years." ¹¹ Affixed to the wall, and to the left of the communion-table, on marble, is this inscription, with armorial bearings on it ¹²:—"In this vault and ground lie the Remains of Gerald Fitzgerald, of Moret, Esquire, and of his wife, a daughter of John Bowen, of Ballyadams, Esquire (He was murdered and his castle burned there in the reign of Queen Elizabeth), and of his only son, Gerald Fitzgerald, of Timoge, Esquire; & of his wife, a daughter of O'Dempsey, Lord

parvenu baronet has attained much celebrity, in a note to the "Annals of the Four Masters." Some very curious particulars—we know not if altogether correct—are found in reference to himself and his family, in Daniel O'Byrne's "History of the Queen's County," Chap. xxviii.

⁵ See Thomas O'Connor's Letter, December 15th, 1838, pp. 63, 64.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

⁷ See an account of the ancient family of the O'Byrnes and their descent, in Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., n. (l.), pp. 1746 to 1748, and n. (n.), p. 1840.

⁸ See Thomas O'Connor's Letter, December 15th, 1838, p. 66.

⁹ It is possible that this was the Stephen Fitzgerald of Moret Castle, about whose wife Elizabeth, a great aunt of Sir Jonah Barrington, he relates such an extraordinary adventure, in his "Personal Sketches and Recollections of His own Times," chap. ii. However, if such be the case, he must have been at least twice married.

¹⁰ See Thomas O'Connor's Letter, December 15th, 1838, p. 67.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 68.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 69.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 70.

Glanmaliere; and of his eldest son, Thomas Fitzgerald, of Moret, Esquire; and of his wife, a daughter of John Pigot, of Dysart, Esquire. His eldest son, Stephen Fitzgerald, of Moret, Esquire; and of his wife, a daughter of Henry Gilbert, of Killminchey, Esquire; & of his wife, a daughter of Sir Gregory Byrne, Bart. He died the 18th day of April, 1754. This monument is erected here, in honour to their Memory, by his eldest son, Stephen Fitzgerald, of Moret, Esquire, A.D. 1764." 13

In 1657, the parish of Tymoge seems to have been united with what was regarded as a separate one, Timahoe; and the living was worth £16 per annum, the Earl of Kildare being patron.¹⁴ The road from Stradbally to Ballynakill passes through this parish, while the Straid River runs along its west side. The living, in 1837, was a rectory valued at £119 15 in the diocese of Leighlin, and in the patronage of the Marquis of Lansdowne; the tithes amounting to £158 10s. 0d.¹⁵ In the Roman Catholic arrangements, Timogue is united with the parish of Stradbally.¹⁷ In 1831, the population was 300; in 1834, the Roman Catholics then numbered 280, while the Protestants were 29; in 1841, the total population was 367; ¹⁸ and since then it has considerably diminished.

Ballyquillane was an ancient parish, lying three miles south of Stradbally town, and touched or traversed by the road leading from Thurles to Athy. It was formerly a rectory in the diocese of Leighlin, and it was valued in the king's books, at £1 5s.; but it has been so completely incorporated with some adjoining parish, that no trace of it appears in documents of the present century.¹⁹ To us it seems, that the present townland of Ballycoolan,²⁰ in the parish of Timogue, represents it, and if so, that ancient parish probably included 722*a. or.* 32*b.* The position as described proves also the correctness of this identification. This townland is for the most part hilly, but it comprises some good land. The impropriate rectory of Balleaquillan, or Balliquillane, in Stradbally barony, had a residence in 1616.²¹ Its vicar was the same Bladesmith, who resided in Fonestown. The living was worth £8. The church and its chancel were ruinous. Anthony St. Leger was bound to build the chancel, before the Feast of All Saints. There were no books there, but what belonged to the vicar.

CHAPTER LIV.—PARISH OF TULLY OR TULLOWMOY.

THE parish of Tullowmoy—sometimes abridged in denomination to Tully—lies partly in the barony of Stradbally,¹ and partly in that of Ballyadams.² It is situated about four miles south by east from

¹⁴ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 10.

¹⁵ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 661.

¹⁶ The nett tithes were £115 3s. 10d.

¹⁷ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 625.

¹⁸ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 354.

¹⁹ See *ibid.*, vol. i., p. 191.

²⁰ It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," sheet 19.

²¹ According to "Liber Regalis Visitationis," A.D., 1616. There is a manuscript copy of it in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, classed 23, F. 1.

¹ This portion contains 5,330*a. 1r.* 20*b.*

² This portion contains 677*a. 3r.* 32*b.* The parish is fully described on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County." Sheets 19, 25, 31.

Stradbally, and on the road to Castlecomer, in the County of Kilkenny.³ The southern district and part of the central form part of the Slieve-marigue mountain range, the highest ground in the south having an altitude of 1,079 ft. above the sea level. In a general view the other districts are ornate and champaign ground. The rivulet Straid rises among the mountains near the southern boundary, and it flows northwards, running through a romantic glen by Clopoke, in through the interior of the parish,⁴ until it joins the Bauteogue River, at Stradbally Hall demesne.

In the reign of James I.,⁵ the Rectory of Tymoge and Tullowmoy had for its Rector Walter Fulham. He was a reading minister.⁶ The value of Tymoge was £8, while that of Tullowmoy was £6. The church and chancel of this union were in good repair,⁷ and furnished with communion books in English and Irish.⁸ In 1640, the rectory here was worth £15 per annum. In 1657, Tully or Tullowmoy, in Ballyadams Barony, consisted of Tully only, and it was an entire rectory at that time. Then it had fallen to £4 in value. The Commonwealth received the profits. The church was reported to be in bad repair, and having no minister.⁹ Tullamoy is interpreted to mean the hill of the plain, and it is bounded on the north by the parish of Timogue, on the north-east by the parish of Ballyadams, on the south by the parish of Tecolm and Rathaspick, and on the west by the parishes of Dysert Gallen and Cullenagh. The two side walls of the old parochial church of Tullamoy remain.¹⁰

The hamlet of Luggacurren contains a Catholic chapel. The people show a Druidical altar—most probably, however, a sepulchral monument—together with two ruined churches, within the bounds of Tullowmoy. One of these objects was the former church, which took the same parochial denomination; while the other is known as Clopoke. The Piper's Pit and Ass's Manger are among the local curiosities.¹¹ There is a remarkable Dun, at Luggacurren, on the north side of which, we are told, is a cave 6 ft. high, by 4 ft., at bottom and top. The rock roof is perfectly level, as also the rock floor of the cave, which winds in a serpentine form. It is 80 ft. below the level of the plain, and 200 ft. below the summit of the Dun,¹² which has a very remarkable appearance, as if in part artificially fashioned.

³ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 636.

⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 421.

⁵ According to the "Liber Regalis Visitationis."

⁶ As distinguished from a preaching minister.

⁷ From this statement, it is difficult to say, whether the church at Tymoge, or that at Tullowmoy, be meant; but, it was most probably the former.

⁸ We are anxious to ascertain, if an Anglican Church Communion Book, or Book of Common Prayer, had been printed at this period. Perhaps it was only in manuscript; but, great efforts were made by the Government of England at the time to secure ministers for the appropriated churches, and who

could read and preach in the Irish language.

⁹ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i., sect. 3, p. 12.

¹⁰ See Letters containing Information relative to the Antiquities of the Queen's County collected during the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1838, vol. ii. Letter of Thomas O'Connor, dated, Carlow, December 23rd, 1838, pp. 248, 249.

¹¹ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 421.

¹² See Daniel O'Byrne's "History of the Queen's County," chap. v., p. 12. Afterwards follows some curious Folklore, in reference to this Dun, or Doon, as pronounced by the inhabitants.

The parish of Tullowmoy was a rectory, valued at £334,¹³ and a separate benefice, belonging to the Diocese of Leighlin, before the Disestablishment of the Protestant Church, the Diocesan being patron, the Tithe Composition and gross income being £300, the nett £283, although there was no church, the incumbent being non-resident, while a curate received a salary of £10 for performing occasional duties. In 1834, the Protestant inhabitants only numbered 15; while the Roman Catholics were 1,494 in number.¹⁴ That population has since very considerably diminished. In the Catholic parochial arrangement, this parish is united with the old parishes of Rathspeck and Ballyadams.

The old church at Clopook or Clopoke¹⁵ occupies a very beautiful situation, on a high hill, rising over the bank of the River Straid. Not far removed is the famous Dun or Doon of Clopoke. This stood on an isolated rock, and apparently its sides were scarp'd, to render it nearly circular on the top. There, the diameter is said to be nearly 110 yards; and that surface is now nearly level. However, around the edges are the remains of a circumvallation, built with stone and lime cement. It is stated, that near the verge of the circle stood a castle in former times, and that at its foundations were two compartments; the principal chamber being 15 ft. by 14 ft. The name in Irish is said to have been Dun-Cluain-Phuc, interpreted "the fortress of the lonely spirit." No wonder that the country people have many curious traditions regarding this interesting old fort and its surroundings; while those legends have been amusingly introduced by the local historian,¹⁶ as if they were grave matter for history. The height of the Dun from the adjoining surface of the land is more than 140 ft. on the north and east; while, it is nearly of equal height in other directions. The steep sides of the Dun are thickly studded round with blackthorns, whitethorns, saplings and briers, so as to render access quite impossible, except at an opening which is near the cave, on the face of the rock and far below the old fortification. This is at the south-west side. The opening is about seven yards in width, and about three in height. As a person advances inwards, the cave contracts to from four to five yards in breadth. At thirteen yards from the entrance, it becomes very narrow; and there it is closed up with dry stones, to prevent cattle from descending into what is thought to be an inner bed for this remarkable natural cavern. Tradition has it, that the Dun, which is ascended by a series of irregular steps, was once a strong fortress of the O'Moores.

It is stated, in the Egerton Tripartite Life of St. Patrick, that his disciple, St. Fiacc,¹⁷ was wont to retire from Sletty in the beginning of Lent, and to dwell in a retired place, at Drum Coblai, where he had a cave. The introduction to the Hymn on St. Patrick states, that it was at Duma Gobhla, to the north-west of Sleibhte. Now, the Rev. John Francis Shearman asserts, that Duma Gobhla is identical with the remarkable hill called the "Doon of Clopook," *i.e.*, the Fort of the Phoca's Rock, which is directly north-west of Sletty, from which it is distant about seven miles.¹⁸ In reference to it, we are informed,

¹³ See "The National Gazetteer," vol. iii., p. 697.

¹⁴ See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 421.

¹⁵ This townland contains 342a. 17. 35p. It is shown on the "Ordnance

Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 19.

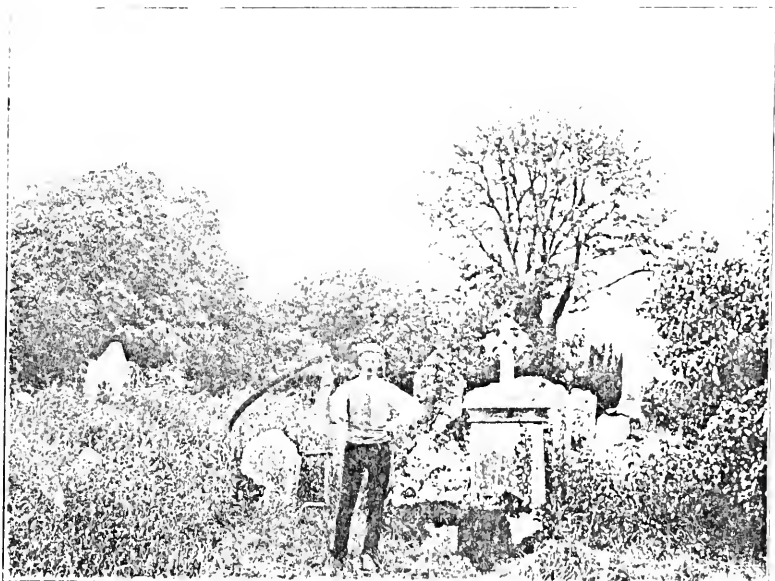
¹⁶ See Daniel O'Byrne's "History of the Queen's County," chap. iv., pp. 10 to 12.

¹⁷ His feast in our calendar is at the 12th of October.



TECOLM CHURCH.

See page 337.



Photos by]

CLOPOOK CHURCH.

[Rev. E. O'L.

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furthermore, how a legend still lingers in the locality, that at a time now long past, a saint used to retire to this cave for the purpose of prayer and of fasting, and that having spent some time in these penitential exercises, he used to return to his church by a subterranean passage leading towards the south, and which the peasantry yet believe to be in existence.¹⁹

The old church near this spot is now a ruin, the nave of which measures 38 ft. in length by 20 ft. in breadth. The walls are 3 ft. in thickness, and although built with surface stone, and not wholly perfect, the portions remaining are well preserved and covered with ivy. The west gable and wall are gone. The door was in the south side wall. A window was on either side wall. There is a choir attached, and it is 20 ft. in length by 14 ft. in width. There is an end window in its gable, but the side walls are greatly ruined. There is a beautiful choir arch, connecting with the nave, having been built with chiselled stones, and elegantly turned. At present, it is about 5 ft. over-ground from the springing of the arch; but the soil beneath has been filled up with graves. The origin of this church is involved in great obscurity. It was probably used as the parish church before the time of the Commonwealth, when, as we are informed, Clopoke or Cloghpoke in Cullinagh had five townlands annexed.²⁰ Within the choir may yet be seen the flag-tomb of Rev. Roger Moore, said to have been born in 1640, and to have died December 28th. A.D. 1706²¹—another account has it in 1720.²² There is not a more touching inscription in all Ireland, than the few lines inscribed on the rude tomb-stone that covers the grave. It runs thus:—"Roger Moore, Priest, to our greefe is dead, and in this narrow grave now takes his rest, let all that reads this with devotion, pray God rest his soul in peace. Amen say." According to tradition, he was one of five brothers, who were priests. They are said to have been the last male heirs of the O'Moores of Stradbally. Two or three of these are thought to have been buried beneath this flag. One of the five, Father Bryan O'Moore, is said to have built a Catholic Church at Arless, where he lies buried. A cemetery surrounds the old church, and it is yet much resorted to for interments. Here lie the remains of the Rev. James O'Byrne, said to have been a relative of Sir Daniel O'Byrne, formerly of Timogue. Ash and hawthorn trees cover the graveyard, which is filled with tombs and headstones, inscribed and uninscribed.²³

¹⁸ See "Loca Patriciana," No. IX., p. 195.

¹⁹ See *ibid.*, p. 196.

²⁰ See Sir Charles Coote's "General View of the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Queen's County," chap. i, sect. 3, p. 11.

²¹ According to Daniel O'Byrne's "History of the Queen's County," chap. xv., p. 38.

²² According to a writer, in the *Leinster Leader* of April 21st, 1883.

²³ Besides the foregoing parishes, only a small portion of Aharney Parish,

1,392 a. 2 r. 27 p. in the Diocese of Ossory comes into the Queen's County, and that is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County," Sheet 35. The remainder, containing 5,546 a. 1 r. 21 p., is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Maps for the County of Kilkenny," Sheets 4, 5, 9, 10. Still smaller is the portion of Glashare Parish near it—only 432 a. 1 r. 27 p. in the Queen's County, shown on Sheets 34, 35; while that portion in the County of Kilkenny, 2,326 a. 0 r. 22 p., is described on Sheets 3, 4, 8, 9.

BOOK IV.—GENERAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.—ANNALS OF THE FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH CENTURIES.

THE first Christian King of Leix, named Barr, is stated to have been the tenth in descent from Laignseach, son of Sairbile, son of Carthan.¹ Again we are told, that Ibar,² the Bishop, baptised Barr's twelve sons, viz.,—four at Liana, five at Maig Reta, and three at Feib. Barr gave Ibar his *ua* and his *indua* for ever, in return for that favour. By *ua* we are to understand "principality" or "district," by *indua* a proper tribute or reward. The ancient Kings of Leix and their order of succession and jurisdiction here require some notice. One prince governed the seven septs of Leix to the time of Barr.³ The genealogist in the Book of Leinster repeats the privileges of the Princes of Leix, in the person of Barr, and says the Prince of Leix was not obliged to entertain the royal giollas of the King of Laigen, but the giolla of the King of Laigse Reta, and he was not obliged to entertain the King of Leinster but only on his journey. The chiefs of Leix are represented, among the other chiefs of Leinster, with their respective musters of men.⁴

About the beginning of the sixth century, Christianity appears to have been generally established in Leix, as we find various religious erections and holy persons within its bounds at that period. One of the most celebrated saints and prophets in the early Irish Church was Bec-Mac-De, who is said to have been eighth in descent from Niall of the Nine Hostages. Accepting such statement, as Niall of the Nine Hostages lived early in the Fifth Century, so eight generations should bring Bec-Mac-De at least into the seventh century.⁵ Another pedigree derives his descent from Noem or Noah, son to Cas Mac Tail, ancestor of the Dalcassians, and of Olioll Olam's race.⁶ One of his reputed predictions has reference to the district of Leix.⁷ The feast of this Bec occurs on the 12th of

¹ According to the Rev. Patrick M'Loughlin's Abridgement of an Extract copied in the Book of Lecan, and taken originally from the Book of Leinster. See at p. 156. At fol. 93, in the Leabhar Leacan, begins the Genealogies of Leinster, taken from the Leinster Book, and they finish at folio 109.

² Supposed to have been the patron of Beg Eri, and whose feast occurs at the 23rd of April. He flourished about the time of St. Patrick's Mission in Ireland.

³ According to the Rev. Patrick M'Loughlin's "Summary of the Book of Lecan," at p. 157.

⁴ In a Manuscript of the Royal Irish Academy and classed No. 40, 5, a Paper Quarto. See the "Catalogue of Manuscripts," there preserved. Vol. ii.

⁵ Yet his death is chronicled at A.D. 557, in Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 196, 197, and n. (z.) And in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., it is stated, he began to "prophesie," A.D. 550. See p. 83. Dublin, 1806, 8vo.

⁶ See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. lxxxii., p. 386.

⁷ In the Leabhar Breac we have an account of the Prophet Bec-Mac-De's first prediction, in which amongst other adverse events foretold, relating to various parts of Ireland, we read *leix op chach*, which means, *Leix above all others*. And soon afterwards, it is said, that from this general period of depression, Ireland will be without good to the day of general judgment.

October, and he flourished about the middle of the sixth century, having lived contemporaneously with St. Columkille. Among the sons of Barr, according to tradition, one named Eochaid was married to Sanctlethan, who is called queen to that king of Leix. With her St. Coeman—having from her the surname Sanctlethan postfixed—lived as a little gille in bondage. With great difficulty did Bishop Ihair obtain from her the boy, and apparently to train him for the ecclesiastical state. She consented, however, at last, but with the condition, that he should also bear her name. She predicted, likewise, that Coeman should draw Bishop Ihair's monks away from him, although he was then so anxious to take him for the monastic life. This prediction was afterwards verified, when Coeman founded a monastery on the brink of Loch Carman, now Wexford Lough, in Hy-Cennsaleigh.⁸ From him the place was called Airne Coemain, now Ardavan, near Beg Eri. St. Coeman's feast is held on the 12th of June.⁹

We find published from an old document a list of parishes in the territory of Laisia,¹⁰ from which it would seem, that the portion of the Queen's County, now comprised within the Diocese of Leighlin, formerly belonged to Leix. But, in addition to these parishes, a very considerable portion, if not the whole, of the present Offerilan and Kyle parishes, Queen's County, now in the Dioceses of Ossory and of Killaloe, once appears to have belonged to Leix. In the time of St. Molua, who flourished towards the close of the sixth and commencement of the seventh century, Berach is related to have been the ruler over Leix. At the desire of the holy man, this Berach bestowed a site for a monastery, on the southern slope of Slieve Bloom, and just on the borders of the Leinster and Munster provinces. In fact, adjoining the regions of Heli, of Ossory, and of Leix—but within the latter—the religious establishment of Clonfert Molua,¹¹ now Kyle,¹² near Borris-in-Ossory, was erected. This serves to define the south-western boundary of the territory about the period indicated. Near Clonfert Molua, likewise, was situated on the little River Mena, in the present townland of Monadrehid,¹³ the monastery of St. Laisren.¹⁴ The Mena also flowed through the territory of Leix, into the River Nore. Now it would seem this latter stream, just near its source, must have divided the ancient territory of Leix from that of Ossory, at that quarter, about the beginning of the seventh century; for, at a subsequent period, the lands of Ossory included Offerlane¹⁵ and Kyle parishes. It is also probable enough, that the River Nore continued to be the south-western boundary of

⁸ See "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy." Irish Manuscript Series. Vol. I., Part I., On the Calendar of Oengus. By Whitley Stokes, LL.D. Scholia, pp. ci., cii.

⁹ According to the Irish Calendars.

¹⁰ See Seward's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland." Appendix.

¹¹ See Fleming's "Collectanea Sacra," Vita S. Molue, cap. xxx., p. 374.

¹² In the Barony of Clandonagh, at present; formerly it was in Upper Ossory.

¹³ A district in the Barony of Clandonagh.

¹⁴ His feast occurs at the 16th of September. See "Martyrology of Donegal," pp. 250, 251.

¹⁵ In his "Feilire" or "Festilogium," St. Aengus places the festival of St. Caomhan, at the 3rd of November. His monastery was situated at Annatrim, in the Parish of Offerilan. The scholiast of St. Aengus describes his church as coming within the antient territory of Leix. Hence, too, we may infer, that a considerable part of Offerilan Parish, and the Barony of Upperwoods, though now belonging to Ossory, at an earlier period lay within the Leix district.

Leix, in the sixth century, and even earlier, until the present southern line of Offerlane parish and of Upperwoods Barony left its banks near the junction of the Mena stream, for the line of the River Gully, which was followed down to its junction with the Nore. An old popular tradition prevailed, moreover, that the former territory of Leix extended from the River Gully to the River Barrow; ¹⁶ and, indeed, these should have formed the natural defensive boundaries, or at least lines of demarcation.

While Berach was ruler over Leix, he is said to have offered his own castle and lands to St. Molua for the establishment of his monastery. This generous gift was refused, however, and the holy abbot asked for a site on the southern slope of Slieve Bloom, where Kyle graveyard is now to be seen. This was immediately granted to him, and Berach imposed a tribute on his people, moreover, for the support of this institution. The monastery erected there was afterwards called Clonfert Molua, from the name of its founder, and it became most celebrated for the great number of monks that flocked thither, and who led holy lives. The feast of this great saint was held on the 4th of August—probably the date for his death—while the year of his decease is set down at A.D. 605, by the Four Masters,¹⁷ and at 608, in the Annals of Ulster,¹⁸ and by Archbishop Ussher.¹⁹ Bearach or Barr had a son named Nadsier, who had a son called Aongus, while the latter was father of a son also named Aongus. This latter Aongus the second was father to Beannaigh. His son was Bearnach. He had a son named Maolaighin, who had a son named Meisgil; yet according to another account, Meisgil is called the son of Maelaithghin, son of Baccan, who built the fort of Rath-Bacain in Magh-Reda ²⁰ according to some accounts. Meisgil is said to have been father of Eochagan.²¹ We also learn from our Annals, that St. Oena or Oenus, the son of Eoghan,²² of the Laighis Rete and called Mac Ua Laighsi, was Abbot of Clonmacnois, on the banks of the River Shannon, King's County. After holding the abbacy 36 years, he died. A.D. 570.²³ According to the Four Masters and Colgan,²⁴ his death is placed at 569.

Much uncertainty appears to exist regarding the extension of ancient Leix towards and beyond the south-eastern barony of Slievemarigue, in the Queen's County. This was probably a more widely-enlarged

¹⁶ Such is the statement the writer has heard from an humble peasant, who yet had a great pride of family ancestry, and a vast range of local historic and traditional lore, in connexion with the old tribes and lands of Leix. His name was Patrick Lalor, of Cullinagh, but much better known as "Paddy the Hurler," owing to his activity and proficiency at the game of "hurling," once the chief pastime of the Queen's County gentry and peasantry.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition of these Annals, vol. i., pp. 230, 231.

¹⁸ See Rev. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv. Annales Ultonienses; at that date.

¹⁹ See "Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates," and "Index Chronologicus," p. 536.

²⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., p. 539. n. (h.)

²¹ See the foregoing series of genealogies set down in John O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees; or, the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation," vol. i., part iii., chap. iii., Ir. Genealogies, p. 324. Fourth edition. Dublin, 1887. 8vo.

²² According to the Dublin copy of Tighernach, he is represented as ruler of this district of Leix. Manuscript in Trinity College, Dublin, classed H. I., 18.

²³ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 58, 59, and n. 4.

²⁴ See "Acta Sanctorum Hibernie," xxix Januarii. Vita S. Gilde Badonici, n. 13.

region in earlier times, and reaching more southwardly into the present county of Kilkenny; for, as in the case of many Irish territories, the vicissitudes of tribal complications and fortunes had caused contractions or expansions of outlying districts in several well-known instances. So far as Leix itself was concerned, its earliest bounds were certainly more extended, and as centuries rolled over, its boundaries were reduced to a narrower compass. Especially in this direction, we submit the following accounts, which may serve to enlighten us respecting its remote topography. The mountain range of Slievemargue seems to have been formerly known as Maigr Laighean.²⁵ This may be inferred from a historical tale, contained in the Book of Leinster,²⁶ a MS. of the twelfth century. There two champions in conversation are introduced, while standing on the banks of the River Liffey. Connall Cearnach is thus addressed by Lughaidh Mac Na d-tri Con:—"I shall go," said Lughaidh, "upon Bealach Gabhrain,²⁷ till I get on Bekach Sinechuin. Now go thou upon Gabhair on Maigr Laighean, that we may meet on Magh Airgead-Ros." According to Dr. O'Donovan, the latter plain was situated on the River Nore, in Ossory; whilst its position was marked by the fort of Rath Bheathaidh or Eoir i n-Airgead-Ros, now Rathveagh²⁸ on the River Nore. He conjectured, likewise, that Gabhair was the name of a road, which probably extended from a point somewhere near Carlow and across the Slievemargue hills in the Queen's County. This, he thought, determined the boundary between *Laighin Tuath-ghabhair*, or "Leinster north of Gabhair," and *Laighin Deas-ghabhair*, or "Leinster south of Gabhair," although the exact position and extent of Gabhair cannot be correctly ascertained.²⁹ That old roads led in various directions on or through the Slievemargue mountains may be admitted; for, not only ancient settlements, at different points there, must have had some such means for intercommunication, but even the existing remains of former *bealachs*, *bohars*, and *toghers* are yet traceable. But, as Dr. O'Donovan has not determined the English equivalent for Gabhair, it has been contended that this denomination means not a road, but a mountain. The word is thought to be cognate with Gabhrann,³⁰ Gabhra, Gabhraun, and some one or other of these

²⁵ The plain of Magh Ailbe is stated to have been situated eastwards from Sliabh Maighi. See Ussher's "Primordia," cap. xvii., pp. 936, 937.

²⁶ The original is now preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and classed II. 2, 18, among the manuscripts.

²⁷ According to Dr. Ross MacGeoghegan, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, in his account of the Diocese of Colgan he has Bealach Garbhaim in the Slieve Bloom Mountains. See "Trias Thaumaturga," Appendix to St. Brigid's Acts.

²⁸ See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., for the situation of Rath Beathaigh, at A.M. 3501, pp. 26, 27, and nn. (g. h.), and pp. 34-35.

²⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Leabhar na g-Ceart, or Book of Rights." Introduction, p. lx.

³⁰ We are told by William Tighe, that in ancient times the whole of Kilkenny

county formed part of the kingdom of Ossory. He adds: "The name of *Uisraigagh* modernised in Ossory is supposed to be expressive of its local situation, being compounded of the Gaelic words *Uisce*, water, and *riogachd*, kingdom, as lying between the rivers and extending to their junction. The portion lying between the Nore and Barrow is sometimes excluded from the kingdom of Ossory; it was anciently styled *Hybreoghain gabhran*: the southern part of this county was some times called *Comar na tri uisce*, the high district of the three waters. The countries of Ely O'Carrol and Hy-carthim comprised some of the north-west portion of this county. The kingdom was sometimes tributary to Leinster, and sometimes to Munster."—"Statistical Observations relative to the County of Kilkenny, made in the years 1800 and 1801." Part i., sect. 2, pp. 11, 12.

etymons appears to designate different districts, and frequently the same place, on that mountainous tract extending from near Athy in the County of Kildare, to Gowran in the County of Kilkenny. As Gabhair has been identified with a portion of Mairg, it has been asserted that the title of Mairg or Mairgi was not confined to the present barony of Slievemargue, but that it included continuations of that hilly district southwards, and even so far as the present town of Gowran.³¹

Assuming that St. Goban, who is described as of *Mairgi o Tigh Scuithin*, i.e., Tigh Scuithin or Teach Schotin on Sliabh-Mairgi, and who is venerated there on the 23rd of May, must be identified with the locality of Tascoffin, in the Johnswell Mountains, County of Kilkenny, it does not seem necessarily to follow, that Gabhair must have been co-extensive with this entire ridge of hills. Far better are the inferences from the "Will of Cathair More,³²" or rather from the poem of Benean, "the gifted sage," following it, that "the Ui-Drona of Ceann Gabhra" were placed at the head of Gabhra or Gabhair. Dr. O'Donovan says that *Ceann Gabhra*, i.e., "head of the horse,"³³ must have been the name for some remarkable hill in Idrone, which was not known to him.³⁴ The same poet Benean records one of the stipends, "ten steeds to the King of blue Gabhran," which was the King of Cashel's right of award. This is construed to imply the King of Ossory's rule over the shadowy "blue" ridge of the Sliabhmargy or Gowran hills. At various periods of the day, owing to geographical position, their summits cast varied shades over the vales beneath; as in the forenoon, the eastern slopes are illumined by the morning sun, while the western or Ossorian side, when viewed from the direction of Munster, appears as if shrouded in a garb of blueish clouding. When the meridian altitude has been attained, the sun dissipates the morning fogs, and shedding his golden rays on the "district of glens," as the valley of the Nore has been poetically called, the eastern or Leinster sides of the mountain merged into "blue" shadows, when observed from beyond the Barrow.³⁵ It appears sufficiently established from the "Will of Cathair Mor," this monarch bequeathed to his "fierce vigorous" son, Daire Barrach, who was ancestor to the family of MacGorman, chief of the Ui Bairrche, the charge of sitting "with boldness" on the frontier of Tuath Laighean, or North Leinster, and of harassing the lands of Deas Ghabhair, or South Leinster. This latter was another name applied to Ui Ceinnsealaigh, and the Ossorians appear to have been included within it.³⁶ Daire Barrach is also enjoined to "be a powerful champion over the green Gailians."

³¹ The reader is referred to a very interesting paper on this subject, and intitled, "Topographical and Historical Illustrations of the Suburbs of Kilkenny," by Mr. John Hogan. See "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society," New Series, vol. iv., part ii., p. 253.

³² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Leabhar na g-Ceart, or Book of Rights," pp. 193 to 203. This monarch flourished in the second century of the Christian era.

³³ In each form of the word Gabhair Gabhra or Gabhran, the "b" is aspirated, leaving the sound Gaurair,

Gaura, Gauran, remarks Mr. Hogan; and from which comes the name Gowran in Kilkenny county. The word Garran or Garrawn, he says, more usually applied to an "old horse," comes from the same root.

³⁴ See "Leabhar na g-Ceart, or Book of Rights," pp. 212, 213, and n (l).

³⁵ See the observations of Mr. John Hogan, to whose communication allusion has been already made, at p. 254, and n. (4) *Ibid*.

³⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., at A.D. 916, pp. 592, 593, and at A.D. 920, pp. 606, 607

Dr. O'Donovan asserts this to be an old name for the Laighnigh, or Leinstermen. To the writer it seems applicable to those people who dwelt on the western slopes of Slievemargue, and about those lovely green dells, within the present district or parish of Dysart Gallen.³⁷ In case such a supposition should prove rightly founded, we may form a tolerably fair estimate of the territorial extent of the country assigned to him. We also very easily ascertain, that his portion skirted along a very considerable and defensible quarter of North Leinster, in which the whole of ancient Ui Bairrche was probably situated. In former times, this territory and sept seem to have included a large tract of country, extending from Ath Truistean, on the River Greece, near the Hill of Mullach Maistean,³⁸ six miles eastward from Athy, in the present County of Kildare, to the ford at Cill Corbnatan. Three families of this race were seated at Cluain Conaire,³⁹ and Cill Ansaille;⁴⁰ while three families were living at Cill, namely, O'Laidhgheim, O'Caise, and O'Duibhchilline; while one family of the O'Mathaidh dwelt in the territory of Ui Eineachghlais Muighe. Such is the account furnished by Duaid MacFirisigh, in his pedigrees of the Ui Bairrche. So early as A.D. 484, Eochaidh Guinech of the Ibh Bairrche and the men of Aradh Cliach mortally wounded Criomthann, son to Enna Cennselach, King of Laighen.⁴¹

Formerly these people were seated between the Ui-Drona and the Ui Muireadhaigh, and the churches of Ballaglmooon and Killeslin were situated within their bounds.⁴² Hence, it would follow, that they lived on either side of the Barrow at an early period. But at a later date,⁴³ they were placed solely on the western side of that river. After the establishment of surnames, the chief family took the name O'Gorman or MacGorman; ⁴⁴ but shortly after the English invasion, they were driven from a great part of their original territory by the Baron Walter de Riddleford, who became master of all the lands about Carlow. Then, they seem to have taken refuge chiefly in the mountainous district of Slievemargue.⁴⁵ For some centuries, they disappear nearly altogether from the Irish Annals. A party of them proceeded towards Ulster, and another towards Owney, in the County of Tipperary, where they became very numerous, at a place called Doire Seinkath. Thence they again removed, and afterwards they settled under the O'Briens, in the territory of Thomond, now Clare County. There is a curious account of their dispersion and settlement in Munster, given by Macl-in Og Mac Bruaidhadha or Mac Brody, who in 1563 succeeded to be chief poet ⁴⁶

³⁷ It contains 10,781 acres.

³⁸ Now better known as the Rath of Mullaghmast.

³⁹ Now Cloncurry, a parish in the County of Kildare.

⁴⁰ Now Killashee, near Naas, and in the plain of the Liffey.

⁴¹ According to the Marquis of Drogheda's copy of McFirisigh at p. 397, as stated by Dr. O'Donovan. See also William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 30, 31.

⁴² Dr. O'Donovan quotes the "Feilire Euginis" at the 27th of February, 4th of April, 8th of July, and 20th of October, to prove this statement.

⁴³ See "Leabhar na g-Ceart, or Book of Rights," n. (m.) p. 212.

⁴⁴ They are called chiefs of Criche m Bairre, or Hy m Bairre—another name for Slievemargue. See "Annals of the Four Masters," edited by Owen Connellan, Esq., and Philip MacDermott, Esq., M.D., p. 249, n.

⁴⁵ There O'Hudhrin places these westward of the Barrow.

⁴⁶ He died A.D. 1602, and he was considered the best poet and historian of his time in Ireland. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. vi., pp. 2,320, 2,321.

to the tribes of Ibh Breacain,⁴⁷ or the O'Gormans, and Ibh Fearmaic, or the O'Gradys. His poem on the O'Gormans contains two hundred and seventy-six verses.⁴⁸ He traces their pedigree back to Cathair Mor,⁴⁹ and, indeed even to Heremon, son of Milesius himself, who first landed in Ireland, A.M. 2935. It was composed on the occasion of electing Donald O'German, as chief of his tribe. From this noble stock sprung the O'Phelans or O'Whelans, the O'Dunnes, the O'Dempseys, and the Clan Colgans. Few allusions are made to Teach Schotin in mediæval times. From it, the present parish of Tascoffin is named.⁵⁰ Yet, no doubt, events of some interest must have transpired here. Thus James, the second Earl of Ormonde is said to have defeated the MacMurroughs at this place in 1362, having slain 600 of their sept.⁵¹ The ancient religious community at Tascoffin does not appear to have continued there for many centuries after its foundation, as we can find few of its abbots or monks noted in our annals. However, according to an ancient tradition, seven bishops are said to have been buried within Tiscoffin mur or rath, a large circular enclosure near the present Protestant church, which was erected not far from that spot in 1706.⁵² The site of ancient Teach Schotin was exceedingly picturesque, and it was on a considerable height over an adjoining stream. Formerly it was a retired spot, and the hills around were covered with thick woods.

Although the present parish of Tiscoffin or Tascoffin is now within the barony of Gowran and County of Kilkenny, yet, its old monastery is placed by Archdall within the barony of Slievemarigue, near to the mountain known by that name, and in the Queen's County.⁵³ Following this statement, and owing to a very natural mistake, many writers have located Teach Schotin—the more ancient name for Tascoffin—in the south-eastern part of the latter shire. However, it may be observed Tascoffin is only a corruption for Teach Schotin, meaning "the House of Schotin," an early saint, whose religious establishment first gave it the name so long preserved. The holy man Schotin or Schotinus was born towards the close of the fifth or about the beginning of the sixth century. In youth, his piety was remarkable, and to increase his virtue and knowledge he resolved to place himself under the direction of St. David, Bishop of Menevia, in Wales.⁵⁴ After his course of sacred instructions, Schotin returned to Ireland, when he sought out a place to erect a religious establishment. He selected a spot among the Slievemarigue Mountains, where he built a cell. This locality, however,

⁴⁷ Now Ibrickan, in the west of Thomond, or Clare County.

⁴⁸ See Edward O'Reilly's "Chronological Account of nearly Four Hundred Irish Writers," pp. clxiv., clxv.

⁴⁹ He was monarch of Ireland, A.D. 174. From him the pedigree is traced to Hugony the Great. It is mentioned, that from Conn of the Hundred Battles, the twentieth in descent from Hugony, are sprung the Clan Colla, the Clan Colman, kings of Meath; the O'Neills, the O'Conors, of Connaught; the O'Rookes, the O'Reillys, the O'Mealys, &c. See *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ According to the Irish Ordnance

Survey. It is shown on the "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for County of Kilkenny," sheets 11, 15, 20.

⁵¹ See Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 293.

⁵² The Board of First Fruits gave £461 10s. 9½d. for this purpose. See "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland," vol. iii., p. 319.

⁵³ See "Monasticon Hibernicum," p. 597.

⁵⁴ A curious story is told of St. Scuthin or Yscolan, as he was called by the Welsh, who saved St. David from being poisoned. See Rees' "Lives of the Cambro-British Saints," p. 409.

has not been identified in the present barony of Slievemaigue. Still an ingenious writer asserts, that Tigh Scuthin or Teach Scuthin on Sliabh-Mairgi must be sought for beyond the bounds of that barony, but within its mountainous range, extending on towards the parish of Tascoffin, in the County of Kilkenny. There Sliabh-Mairgi terminates in the present Johnswell Mountains. There, too, we are told, St. Scuthin built his house on the brow of a mountain stream, and most probably on the site of the present Tascoffin Church, near Frenystown.⁵⁵ The legend of this saint's life states, that he made more than one journey across the sea to visit his former master, St. David, and that he even went to Rome in a miraculous manner. In that elegant and masterly poem of Denis Florence MacCarthy, allusion is made to his stated mode of transit, in the narrative recording the "Voyage of St. Brendan":—

How the winds became the willing slaves
Of those who labour in the work of God;
And how Scuthinus walked upon the waves,
Which seemed to him the meadows' verdant sod.⁵⁶

St. Schotín's festival day is assigned to the 2nd of January, by St. Ængus the Culdee, and our later Martyrologists; but the year of his death is not known. His feast was celebrated at Teach Schotín,⁵⁷ regarding which place few other records remain. However, a St. Gobán or Goibhenn of this place was venerated here⁵⁸ on the 23rd of May, according to our Calendars.⁵⁹ He probably flourished about the early part of the seventh century, having lived contemporaneously with St. Lasherian, patron of Leighlin diocese.⁶⁰

A singular legend seems to have prevailed,⁶¹ that so early as the sixth century—A.D. 590 is the date—one Gurmund, said to have been a chief pirate of the Norwegians, and an African, acquired a part of Ireland from the Norwegians, and then caused himself to be proclaimed King of Ireland.⁶² He built a Castle at Gormagston. He had a son and heir Burchard, who was chief of Lagenia. His successor was commonly called Gormagheyn, held to be chief⁶³ of Leinster and baron of Margee. Moreover, that Gurmund is said to have conquered Ireland, to have first opened a way to the men of this country in the Irish Sea, and afterwards, to have been sent for by the Saxons, who waged a war with the British

⁵⁵ See Mr. John Hogan's learned contribution, "Topographical and Historical Illustrations of the Suburbs of Kilkenny," published in the "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society." New series, vol. iv., part ii., pp. 253, 254, and n. (4).

⁵⁶ See "The Bell-Founder, and other Poems." Stanza 8, and note 61, pp. 182, 231, 232.

⁵⁷ See Colgan's "Acta Sanctorum Hiberniæ," Januarii ii., p. 10, and notes. *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ He does not seem to have lived long here, and it is said he afterwards moved to Killamorey. See Rev. John Francis Shearman's "Loca Patriciana," No. xi., p. 287.

⁵⁹ See "Martyrology of Tallagh,"

edited by Rev. Dr. Kelly, p. xxv., and "Martyrology of Donegal," edited by Drs. Todd and Reeves, p. 137.

⁶⁰ See the remarks of Mr. John Hogan, in the article already quoted. n. (4), pp. 253, 254.

⁶¹ See the account, taken from the romance put into circulation by Geoffrey of Monmouth, and contained in the "Annales Breves Hiberniæ," by Thady Dowling, Chancellor of Leighlin, pp. 3, 4. Edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A.

⁶² It seems pretty evident, that this story had been heard by James Grace, who imperfectly introduces it, in his "Annales Hiberniæ," pp. 5, 6, and nn. (h. i.)

⁶³ He is styled, likewise, "dux montis Onergi."

King Cereticus or Carecticus. Gurmund conquered him in war, and followed the Britons beyond the Rivers Severn and Dee.⁶⁴ Burchard, the son of Gurmund, commonly called O'Gormagheyn, is asserted to have been Duke of Leinster, to have built the Grange of Gurmund and his own palace on Mount Margee; he is said, also, to have founded the Cathedral Church of Old Leighlin.⁶⁵ In it, too, tradition stated he had been interred under a marble tomb, having his name inscribed on it.⁶⁶ This was at the upper wall of the choir, and near the stall of the treasurer of the chapter.⁶⁷

It is now time to resume the genealogical procession of the kings of Leix, from him whose name has been last mentioned. Following the order of Leixian descent, Eochagan had a son named Cathal,⁶⁸ which has been *Anglicised* Charles; and like Laoighseach, *Anglicised* Lewis, these have always been favourite Christian names in the O'Moore families. Cionadh or Kenneth was the son of Cathal. Gaoithin Mordha was the son of Cionadh. He was ancestor of the Mordhas, and from him the O'Moores derive their family name. King Conchobar⁶⁹ was monarch of Ireland, while he ruled over Leix, and Fedlilemid,⁷⁰ son of Crimthann, was king over Munster. The hereditary family name Mordha has been Latinized *majesticus* or "the Majestic," and it is stated, Gaoithin was the twenty-eighth in descent from Conall Cearnach.⁷¹ He is reputed to have been the restorer of the fortress in Leix, called Rath-Bacain.⁷² The origin of the O'Mordha, O'Morra, O'More or O'Moore is deduced from the most remarkable royal house of Erin, in the heroic times; that of the kings of Uladh, who reigned at Emania,⁷³ until the destruction of that fortress by the brother Princes Colla Colla, of the Heremonian line of Conn of the Hundred Battles, A.D.

⁶⁴ The Annalist then adds, that he gave Lloggia to the Saxons, and that he there built Gurmondcestria, and afterwards according to the history of Ireland, he sailed over to conquer Gaul, *et cetera*, and that he there died; but there were Irish antiquaries who maintained, that he was not monarch of Ireland, and that he only subdued Lagenia and Midia, which they did not regard as a conquest.

⁶⁵ However, Thady Dowling adds:—"Sed quidam nomine Lazerianus, episcopus et confessor, pro fundatione et erectione ecclesie cathedralis ibidem anno domini 651 fuit procurator. *Vide record. Leighlin.*"

⁶⁶ Then follows:—"Witnesses lyving 1589 Karolus Rowac *alias* Makeyigan clerk, Donagh M'Gilpatrick, and Gillerimoy carpenters saw the tumb with their eyes, and Thady Dowling cancellar: ecclesie found his epitaph in simple verse as followeth:—

Hic jacet humatus dnx fundator
Leixie, *id est* Leighlenie.

⁶⁷ Thady Dowling states, also, that other evidences regarding that villa of Gurmund were extant, in his day, such as the names of places, *e.g.* Gormondus grove, Gormondus foord, *et cetera*.

⁶⁸ Dr. O'Donovan makes him, however, the son of Bearach; but, this we must suppose to be in a remote descent. See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., p. 539, n. (h.)

⁶⁹ He was son of Donnchadh, and he ruled fourteen years, from A.D. 818 to A.D. 831, when he died after the victory of penance. See *ibid.*, pp. 428 to 447.

⁷⁰ He was a celebrated warrior, and in our Annals he appears mostly in the character of a raider, not sparing even the churches and monasteries. He died on the 18th of August, A.D. 845, being styled an anchorite and a scribe. See *ibid.*, pp. 472-473. Giraldus Cambrensis makes him King of Ireland, in his "Topographia Hibernica" Dist. iii., cap. xlv., p. 188. See "Opera," vol. v., edited by James F. Dimock. Our annalists, however, do not confer such distinction on him.

⁷¹ See the "Story of the Irish before the Conquest," by Lady Ferguson, chap. iii., p. 111.

⁷² See Colgan's "Trias Thaumaturga," Septima Vita S. Patricii, Pars. iii., cap. xxvi., p. 155, and nn. 53, 54, p. 186.

⁷³ A celebrated fort, now known as the Navan, near the city of Armagh.

332.⁷⁴ The description of their crest seems characteristic of the O'Moore's warlike proclivities.⁷⁵ This account is introduced in the funeral entry of John Mackney, of Carnagh, Queen's County. He is said to have been descended from "the O'Moores of Leasy."⁷⁶ Another account has it, that the arms of the O'Moores Lords of Leix, are: Vert, a lion rampant, or, in chief three mullets of the last. *Crest*: a dexter hand lying fessways, couped at the wrist, holding a sword in pale, pierced through three gory heads all ppr. Their *Motto* was: Conlan-a-bu.⁷⁷ Certain it is, they were a powerful and warlike sept for many centuries; while their heroic achievements fill many a page of our military annals. In civilization, political influence, bravery and talents, the Dynasts of Leise are said to have equalled, if not surpassed, other native chieftains. Their former castles and religious edifices now lie in ruins, scattered over their broad domains. Yet, those relics evince taste and munificence, on the part of their founders, and worthy of their great social pre-eminence. The actions of these chiefs might fill a historic chronicle of very considerable extent.⁷⁸

Osraighe or Ossory territory in former times embraced a considerable portion of the Queen's County. Adjacent to Leix, the first historical notice we find regarding the people of Osraighe is in the "Annals of the Four Masters," A.D. 571.⁷⁹ when united with the people of Eile,⁸⁰ they were both defeated by Fiacha, Son of Baedan,⁸¹ in a battle fought at Tola, or Tully,⁸² a plain lying between Clonfert Mohua or Kyle⁸³ and Saigir.⁸⁴ In the year 582, Fearedhach, son to Duach, lord of Osraighe or Ossory, was slain by his own people.⁸⁵ In the year 601⁸⁶ is recorded the death of Colman, son to Fearadhach, chief of Osraighe. He was father of Scannlan, who was kept as a prisoner⁸⁷ by Aedh, son of Ainnire,

⁷⁴ See John Cornelius O'Callaghan's "History of the Irish Brigades in the service of France," Book ii., p. 62. Glasgow, 1876, 8vo.

⁷⁵ We read:—"The crest is a man-slaughtering of his enemies, and cutting off their heads, and his man behind, with a polle full of their heads. This man was Conall Cearnagh, my ancestor." The document was signed, "Roger Moore." The interpretation given of that crest's emblazon by the celebrated Colonel Roger Moore or O'Moore, seems to be incorrect. It probably dates back only to the time, when Cinnedith, son of Gaithin, Lord of Leix, A.D. 865, obtained a great victory over the Danes at Clondalkin, when he cut off the heads of one hundred of the best chiefs among the foreigners. "William, eldest son of John Mackney, of Carnagh, was of Ballynelingskeagh, Co. East Meath. Esq." is recorded in the entry. Willskeagh is mentioned in the Meath and other inquisitions. This surname is a form of MacAodha buidhe, or MacHughboy; of which the clan name was Clanaodha-buidhe, or Clandibuoy."

⁷⁶ See Carew MSS. 625.

⁷⁷ See John O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees;

or, the origin and stem of the Irish Nation;" vol. i., p. 323. Fourth edition.

⁷⁸ See Charles O'Connor's "Dissertations on the Ancient History of Ireland." The Irish Race, p. 292. Third edition.

⁷⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 206, 207. The "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S. J., have this event at A.D. 599, p. 80.

⁸⁰ Also known as Ely O'Carroll, the ancient territory extending west and south from the Queen's County.

⁸¹ In the Annals of Ulster under A.D. 572 and again at A.D. 573, it is said to have been fought "in regionibus Craithne." The victor was king of Ulidia.

⁸² In the parish of Kinnitty, barony of Ballybritt, King's County.

⁸³ In the southern part of the Queen's County.

⁸⁴ Now Scirkieran, in the barony of Ballybritt, King's County. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i. m. (i., k, l.)

⁸⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 210, 211.

⁸⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 230, 231, and n. (s.)

⁸⁷ See Adamnan's "Vita S. Columbae." Lib. i., cap. xi.

Monarch of Ireland; but, who had been liberated at the period of the Convention at Druimceat, through the intervention of St. Columkille.⁸⁸ From Cinnafacla, the brother of Colman, the family of MacGillaphedraig, *anglice* Fitzpatrick, are descended.⁸⁹ In 640 died Scannlan Mór, son to Ceannfaeladh, Chief of Ossory.⁹⁰ This was not the Scannlan, King of Ossory, mentioned by Adamnan as a hostage in the hands of Aedh mac Ainmirech, but his cousin german. Scannlan Mór was the son of Rumann, whose brother, Fearadhach, was grandfather of the other Scannlan. Scannlan Mór, son of Ceannfaeladh is the reputed ancestor of all the MacGillapatrik septs or the Fitzpatricks of Ossory. According to the *Chronicum Scotorum* and *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, Fovlan or Faelan, King of Ossorie, was killed by the Leinstermen, A.D. 656. The O'Clerys place this event at A.D. 658.⁹¹

In treating about the ancient Tribes and Tribal Divisions of the Queen's County, we have already seen that the O'Conors of Hy-Failge or Offaly derive their descent and the name of their territory from Ros-Failge, the eldest son of Cathaer Mór, the powerful monarch of Leinster. The first annalistic notice we have of that family occurs A.D. 600,⁹² when a great battle was fought at Faithche-mic-Menenain,⁹³ on the brink of Loch Semhdidhe,⁹⁴ where Conall Guithbhinn, son of Suibhne,⁹⁵ slew Aedh Roin, chief of Ui-Failghe, together with Aedh Slaine, monarch of Ireland,⁹⁶ Aedh Buidhe, chief of Ui-Maine, and many others. The *Annals of Ulster*, quoting the Book of Cuanach as authority, have these events at A.D. 602, while the *Chronicum Scotorum*⁹⁷ and the *Annals of Clonmacnoise* place them at A.D. 604. In 648, the battle of Cuilcorra,⁹⁸ by Aeldeith and Onchu took place, and in it Cillene, son to Forannan, chief of Ui-Failge, was slain.⁹⁹ At the year 674, the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" simply state, that Twaymsnawa, King of Ossorie, died.¹⁰⁰ His death and its cause are set forth by the O'Clerys at 676, where it is stated, that Tuaimsnamha, chief of Osraighe, was slain by Faelan Seanchostol. "The Annals of Ulster" place this event at 677. "The Annals of Clonmacnoise" under the year 688 relate, that a battle was fought between the Leinstermen and those of Ossorie, wherein Foylchor O'Moyloyer was slain. The O'Clerys have the death of Faelchar Ua Maelodhra at 600,¹⁰¹ while this battle is noticed in the "The Annals of Ulster" at 602.

⁸⁸ Afterwards he reigned over Ossory for thirty years and three months.

⁸⁹ The chiefs of this clan in subsequent years figure largely in local history.

⁹⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 257, 258, and n. (h.) In the *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, the death of Scannlan Mór Mac Keanfoyle is entered under the year 642. See edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, p. 103.

⁹¹ See the "*Chronicum Scotorum*," edited by William M. Hennessy, pp. 94 to 97. Also Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 268, 269 and n. (o.)

⁹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 226 to 228, and nn. (f, g, h.)

⁹³ Interpreted, "the Green of the Son of Menenan," and called *Faictl Macnaen* on the brink of Locha Seindide, in the "*Annals of Ulster*."

⁹⁴ Now Lough Sewdy. It seems probable Faithche-mic-Menenain occupied the site of the present village of Ballymore-Loughsewdy, situated nearly midway between Athlone and Mullingar, in the County Westmeath.

⁹⁵ Son of Colman Mór or Beg, son of Diarmaid, son of Cearbhall.

⁹⁶ He reigned over Ireland, joint monarch with Colman Rimidh, for six years. This death of Aedh Slaine is referred to by Adamnan in his *Vita S. Columbae*, Lib. i., cap. xiv. See Colgan's "*Trias Thaumaturga*," and n. 54, p. 376.

CHAPTER II.—ANNALS OF THE EIGHTH AND NINTH CENTURIES.

THE succeeding events connected with Queen's County history introduce to our notice annalistic entries regarding the chiefs and people of Ossory,¹ as having a large portion of their territory² within the present boundaries south and west. Thus the Ui-Duach territory—a sub-denomination containing the present barony of Fassadineen in the county of Kilkenny, and the present parish of Durrow in the Queen's County—was the patrimony of the O'Brenans³ in the ninth century. They descended from Braenan, King of Ossory, who was slain by the Deisi, A.D. 887. The existing territory of Ossory had still an earlier record,⁴ since its kings date back to a time long prior to the introduction of Christianity. Moreover, the Ui-Failghe⁵ or people of Offaly come also for historic consideration, in relation to our subject, during the eighth century and subsequent periods. Yet, it is not to be assumed, that all the incidents afterwards related respecting the aforesaid territorial divisions, took place within the bounds of the present Queen's County. Wherefore to commence, we find the death of Cucerca, King of Osraighe, is marked in the "Chronicum Scotorum," at A.D. 708.⁶ In the "Annals of Ulster,"⁷ his death is entered at A.D. 712.⁸ Again is noted, in 713, the death of Forbasach, descendant of Congal, King of the Ui Failghe, who was slain by the men of Midhe.⁹

At 731, there is an entry in the "Annals of Ulster," that Cellach, son of Tuathal, king of the Ui-Crimthain, was slain.¹⁰ In A.D. 734,

¹ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 68, 69.

² Interpreted, the corner or angle of the Weir or Dam, now Coolarn, near Galtrim, in the County of Meath.

³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 262 to 265, and n. (i.)

⁴ See the Rev. Denis Murphy's edition p. 109.

⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 294, 295, and n. (i.) *ibid.*

⁶ Bresal Breac is reputed to be the common ancestor of the Ossorians and Lagenians. From him descended Aengus Osraighe, from whom the territory and people of Ossory take name. See John Hogan's "St. Ciaran, Patron of Ossory: A Memoir of his Life and Times," Part i., chap. i., pp. 3 to 9.

⁷ The succession of their kings is traced in the "Book of Leinster," edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., p. 40, col. 5.

⁸ See an interesting paper by the Rev. Nicholas Murphy on "The O'Brenans and the Ancient Territory of Hy-Duach," in the "Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society," vol. i., pp. 393 to 407. Kilkenny, 1879, 8vo.

⁹ The fullest account of ancient Ossory, its kings, people, and their history is that contained in the "Loca Patriciana," by the Rev. John Francis Shearman,—himself a native of Kilkenny city. See Part xii., pp. 322 to 394. This is followed by two folding Maps, containing the Eoghanaclit Genealogy, from which he derives the pedigree of the Ossorian Kings. Besides these there are two other folding sheets of the Ossorian Genealogy at p. 264. Dublin, 1879, Roy. 8vo.

¹⁰ In the "Book of Leinster," edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., the descent of the Kings of Ui-Failghe is given at p. 40, col. 3.

¹¹ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 116, 117.

¹² See the "Annala Uladh," edited by William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 162, 163.

¹³ The O'Clerys place his death at A.D. 710 and again at A.D. 711. The latter is said by Dr. O'Donovan to have been the true year. See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 310, 311, and nn. (y.c.) *ibid.*

¹⁴ See William M. Hennessy's edition of the "Annala Uladh," or "Annals of Ulster," pp. 164, 165.

¹⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 186, 187.

Ailill, son of Tuathal, lord of Ui-Creamthann, died.¹¹ Possibly the district here alluded to was in Leix. This latter event is placed at 738, in the "Annals of Ulster."¹² At the year 734, the "Annals of Clonmacnoise"¹³ state, that between the death of Hugh Allan and the death of Hugh Ffinleic, monarchs of Ireland, there reigned in Ossory seven kings, viz., Dungal, Ffoylan, Moyldeyn, Ffergall, Dunleen, Twahall, Dunlen, Karvell and Ffiaghna. In 734, the "Annals of Ulster"¹⁴ also record a battle between the Munstermen and Leinstermen, in which many perished on both sides, and among these, Ceallach, son to the King of Ossory, was slain. In 735¹⁵ or 737¹⁶ is announced the death of Fforbosach McAileala, king of Ossory. At this same time, the O'Clerys commemorate the devastation of Cinel-Fiachach and of Dealbhna by the Osraige.¹⁷ In 740 the "Annals of Ulster"¹⁸ record the killing of Ailill Corrach, son to Flann, king of the Ui-Failghe, and better known to the students of Irish manuscript history as Flann-Dachongal, king of the Ui-Failge for fourteen years.¹⁹ The "Annals of Ulster"²⁰ state, at A.D. 741, a devastation of the Cinel-Fiachach²¹ and Delbna,²² by the people of Ossory. This has been already placed by the O'Clerys at A.D. 737.²³ At 752 is recorded the slaying of Cumasgach, lord of Ui-Failge, by Maelduin, son to Aedh Beannain, king of Munster.²⁴

In 753 the devastation of the Fothartha-Fea,²⁵ by the Osraige,²⁶ is on record. In 750 or 754,²⁷ the death of Flaithnia, son to Flann Ua Congaile, king of the Ui-Failghe, took place.²⁸ The battle of Bealach Gabhrain was fought between the men of Leinster and Ossory, in which the son of Cucerca had the victory, when Donngal, son to Laidhgnen, lord of Ui-Ceinsealaigh, and other chieftains along with him, were slain, A.D. 756, according to the O'Clerys, or A.D. 760, according to the Ulster Annals.²⁹ At 762 is entered the battle of Ard-na-mBreac³⁰ in Ossory, fought by Tuaimnamha, son to Flann.³¹ The next year we find recorded through mistake, the death of this lord of Ossory; but it is found again at

¹¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 336, 337.

¹² See William M. Hennessy's edition of "Annala Uladh," pp. 196, 197.

¹³ Edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 115.

¹⁴ See William M. Hennessy's edition of "Annala Uladh," pp. 190, 191.

¹⁵ According to Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 336, 337.

¹⁶ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 117.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 338, 339.

¹⁸ See William M. Hennessy's "Annala Uladh," pp. 200, 201, and n. 1.

¹⁹ See the "Book of Leinster," edited by Robert Atkinson, M.A., LL.D., p. 40, col. 3.

²⁰ See William M. Hennessy's edition of "Annala Uladh," pp. 200, 201.

²¹ The territory of the descendants of Fiacha, son to Niall of the Nine Hostages, comprised some of the southern portion of the King's County adjoining. In

later times it was known as Mageoghegan's country.

²² It adjoined the former territory, and was known as Delbna-Ethra, now represented by the Barony of Garrycastle, King's County.

²³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 338, 339.

²⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 354 to 357.

²⁵ This was the tribe-name of a sept inhabiting that district, and now represented by the Barony of Forth, in the County of Carlow.

²⁶ See William M. Hennessy's edition of the "Annala Uladh," pp. 218, 219, and n. 2, *ibid.*

²⁷ See at this year Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 352, 353.

²⁸ See William M. Hennessy's edition of the "Annala Uladh," pp. 218, 219.

²⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., and n. (a), pp. 358, 359.

³⁰ This place has not been identified.

³¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 366, 367, and n. (d) *ibid.*

A.D. 765,³² in the "Four Masters," while the "Annals of Ulster" have it at A.D. 769.³³ At 767 is noticed the death of Dunghal, lord of Osraighe.³⁴ The "Annals of Ulster" record a destructive fight among the people of Ossory themselves in 768, where the sons of Cellach, son to Faelchar, were put to flight. Toimnsnamha³⁵ escaped victorious.³⁶ But his triumph seems to have been of short duration, as he was slain the following year.³⁷

In A.D. 776 (*recte* 781) Conga, son of Ceallach, lord of Ui-Creamhthann, died;³⁸ but we cannot state whether the district was in Leix or Meath. The O'Clerys at 777³⁹ record a battle fought at the Cuirreach, by the side of Kildare, on Tuesday, the sixth of the Calends of September,⁴⁰ between Ruadhriach, son to Faelan, and Bran, son to Mureadhach, wherein Mughron, son to Flann, lord of Ui-Failge, and Dubhdachriach, son to Laidhgnen, were slain in a combat. At 781 (*recte* 786) Faelan, son to Forbhasach, fell in a war, which broke out among the Ossorians themselves.⁴¹ The "Annals of Ulster" place this event at A.D. 785.⁴² In the year 798, the O'Clerys have the death of Oengus Ua Mughroin, lord of Ui-Failghe, who was slain through the treachery of his own people.⁴³ The "Annals of Ulster," however, refer his death to A.D. 802,⁴⁴ but the true year is said to have been A.D. 803. In 799, the death of Fferall McAnmcha, king of Ossory, is recorded.⁴⁵ The date is transferred to A.D. 802, by Dr. O'Donovan.⁴⁶

In the beginning of the ninth century, the Danes and Norwegians,⁴⁷ who had already invaded the coasts of England⁴⁸ and Ireland, began to make formidable raids on the interior of our island, where they attacked the inhabitants, slaughtering and plundering them, burning their towns and churches; thus causing general devastation and alarm, while hordes of Scandinavians constantly arrived in their vessels to reinforce those fierce adventurers. However, to resume the annalistic order of dates, in the year 817 is recorded the death of Muireadhach, son of Crummhael, Abbot of Disert-Ternog, in the "Annals of the Four Masters."⁴⁹ The situation of St. Ternog's⁵⁰ Church was west of the Barrow;⁵¹ but we

³² See *ibid.* and n. (r.), *ibid.*

³³ See *ibid.*, pp. 368, 369, and n. (r), *ibid.*

³⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 372, 373.

³⁵ Son of Flann, king of Ossory.

³⁶ See William M. Hennessy's edition of the "Annala Uladh," pp. 234, 235.

³⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 236, 237.

³⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 380, 381.

³⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 382, 383, and nu. (o, p.)

⁴⁰ These *data* are said to indicate the year 782, although the Ulster Annals have this entry at A.D. 781.

⁴¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 386 to 389, and n. (o.), *ibid.*

⁴² See "Annales Ultonienses," A.D. DCLXXXV. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv.

⁴³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 406, 407, and n. (z), *ibid.*

⁴⁴ They also state "*jugulatus est dolose a sociis Finsnechte filii Cellaich,*

consilio Regis sui." "Annales Ultonienses," A.D. DCCCLII. Dr. O'Connor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv.

⁴⁵ In the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 128.

⁴⁶ See his "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 404 to 407.

⁴⁷ See an account of these people and of their piratical expeditions to Ireland in L'Abbé Ma-Geoghegan's "Histoire de l'Irlande, Ancienne et Moderne," Tome i., partie ii., chap. v. vi., pp. 374 to 429.

⁴⁸ See Henrici Archidiaconi Huntendunensis' "Historia Anglorum," edited by Thomas Arnold, M.A. Lib. v. "De Bellis Dacorum," pp. 137 to 173. London: 1879, 8vo.

⁴⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. i., pp. 428, 429.

⁵⁰ His feast occurs on the 8th of February.

⁵¹ According to a gloss on the "Felire" of St. Angus.

know not if it were within Leix.⁵² In 823, a victory was gained by the foreigners over Ossory,⁵³ and in 836, they burned the churches of Kill-Finche⁵⁴ and of St. Lachtain.⁵⁵ During the year 839, Dinn gall Mc Ferall, prince of Ossory died,⁵⁶ or in 841,⁵⁷ and he was immediately succeeded by Cearbhall or Carroll MacDunghall.⁵⁸ His accession to rule was coincident with the most galling period of Northman domination in Ireland. His sister Lann was the wife of Maelseachlainn or Malachy, king of Meath, who had to bear the ruthless oppression of Tuirgis, Latinised Turgesius. This fierce leader reduced the principality to a state of servitude, which had become intolerable, and Maelseachlainn is said to have formed a plot to subvert his power.⁵⁹ This plan proved to be successful,⁶⁰ and resulted in the death of Turgesius.⁶¹ Soon after this event, which gave a great check to the Danish invaders throughout Ireland, we find, that Cearbhall MacDunghall made a great slaughter of the foreigners of Ath Cliath at Carn Brammit,⁶² where twelve hundred of them were slain.⁶³ Moreover, in the year 842, the "Chronicum Scotorum" chronicles the death of Dungal, son of Fergal, king of Osraige.⁶⁴ And at A.D. 846, a defeat was given by Echthighern and the Leinstermen to the Osraige at Uachtar-Garadha,⁶⁵ said to have been identical with Outrath, near Kilkenny.⁶⁶

Gaoithin Mordha, or Gaoithin the Proud, is said to have been the first chief of Leix or Laeighis, who took possession of the three territories of Comainn. During his time, and afterwards, the peace of Ireland was greatly disturbed, owing to the invasions and ravages of the Danes and Norwegians. In the year 843,⁶⁷ the foreigners plundered Dun-Masg, now Dunamase, where Aedh, son of Dubhdachrich, Abbot of Tir-daghlass and of Cluain-Eidhneach, was taken prisoner. They carried him into Munster, where he suffered martyrdom for the sake of God. During the same plundering excursion, Ceithearnach, son of Cudinaisg, Prior of Cill-dara, and many others, were killed. Notwithstanding the celebrity of Gaoithin Mordha, yet his name does not figure greatly in the Irish Annals. In 854, Faelchadh, son of Forbhasach, lord of Ui-

⁵² The name of its territory is not given. See *ibid.*, n. (r).

⁵³ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny: the Ancient City of Ossory, the Seat of its Kings, the See of its Bishops, and the Site of its Cathedral," Part. ii., p. 107.

⁵⁴ Said to have been on the present site of Sheepstown, near Knocktopher.

⁵⁵ Achadh-ur, now Freshford. See *ibid.*, p. 108.

⁵⁶ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 138.

⁵⁷ According to John Hogan. See "Kilkenny," &c., Part ii., p. 108.

⁵⁸ From him, the Ossorian dynasts became potentates, and three great septa or families furnished kings to the principality of Ossory, for about three hundred years before the Anglo-Norman Invasion. These were known by the denominations of the clann Cearbhall, the clann Donchadh, and the Mac

Giollaphadraig. The last was but a patronymic assumed by the Clann Donchadh as a family title. See *ibid.*, pp. 108, 109.

⁵⁹ See the account given by Giraldus Cambrensis in "Topographia Hibernica," Dist. iii., cap. xl. p. 185. See "Opera Omnia" Giraldi Cambrensis, edited by James F. Dimock, M.A., vol. v.

⁶⁰ The romantic story current has no place in the old Irish Annals; but at A.D. 844, the "Annales Ultoniensis" state, that the tyrant fell into the hands of Maelseachlainn, and was by him drowned in Lough Uar—now Lough Owel, near Mullingar.

⁶¹ See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. xvi., pp. 32, 33.

⁶² Identified by John Hogan with Bramblestown, the Irish equivalent for which is Bally-Brammin, and near it is Carn, in the County of Kilkenny.

Bairrche-Maighe,⁶⁸ is mentioned. In 850, the death of Céarnach, son of Cinaeth, lord of Ui-Bairrche-tire, is recorded.⁶⁹

It appears, that a royal meeting of the chiefs of Erin had assembled at Rath Aedha-mic-Bric, A.D. 859, to establish peace and concord amongst themselves, and doubtless it was convened in view of the persistent devastations of the Scandinavians at that period. Besides Maelseachlainn, king of Teamhair, Fethgna, Archbishop of Armagh, and Suarlech, comarb of Finnen, attended; and at that convention Maelguala, king of Munster, and Cearbhall, king of Osraighe, tendered allegiance to the monarch of Ireland.⁷⁰ In the year 860, Maelseachlainn, after he had been sixteen years in the sovereignty, died on Tuesday, November 13th, and he was succeeded by Aedh Finniath as Ard-Righ. With him Cearbhall, king of Ossory, was allied.⁷¹ At the year 860, also, our Annals commemorate the destruction of Longphort Rothlaibh, by Cinnedidh, son of Gaithin, lord of Leix, on the 5th of the Ides of September, corresponding with the 9th of that month. The place mentioned has been identified with Dun-Rathlaigh, or the Fortress of Rothlaibh, now Dunrally, situated close to the River Barrow, in the townland of Courtwood, parish of Lea, and barony of Portnahinch, Queen's County. It lies close to the boundary at a stream separating Leix and the Clann-Maelughra, or Clanmalier, in Ophaly. It formed the extreme north-eastern angle of Leix territory.⁷² We read, that in the year 864, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters,"⁷³ Cinnedidh, the son of Gaithin, and the people of northern Ossory slaughtered the foreigners at Mindroichet, now Monadrehid, near Borris-in-Ossory. In the year 865, this same son of Gaithin appears to have obtained a victory over the foreigners of Ath-Cliath, now Dublin. In this battle, Odolbh Mice was found among the slain.⁷⁴ About this time, also, assisted by the son of Ciaran, or Maelciarain, son of Ronan, he burned Dun-Amhlacbh.

⁶⁸ This event is referred to A.D. 845. See "Kilkenny," &c., Part. ii., pp. 110, 111.

⁶⁹ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 144, 145.

⁷⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 470, 477, and n. (f), *ibid.*

⁷¹ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., Part. ii., p. 111.

⁷² The "Annals of the Four Masters," have these incidents so dated. In "Chronicum Scotorum," edited by William M. Hennessy, they are at A.D. 845. See pp. 144, 145.

⁷³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 488, 489. But the editor remarks this latter denomination should be "Ui-Bairrche," and "Ui-Maighe," representing Ballyadams and Slievemarigue baronies. Perhaps, however, the latter compound may have been a mistake of entry for the word "Maighe."

⁷⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 488, 489.

⁷⁵ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 156, 157.

⁷¹ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., Part. ii., p. 118.

⁷² Here it would seem from the account contained in Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 496, 497, Conall Ultach, and Luirgen, with many others, were killed. But, in reference to this historic incident, Dr. O'Donovan is undoubtedly in error, by making the Gaithin mentioned that one referred to in an interpolated passage in the "Tripartite Life of St. Patrick," as having rebuilt the fort of Rath-Bacain during the Irish Apostle's lifetime. See Miss M. F. Cusack's "Life of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland." Tripartite Life, part iii., p. 465. Again, although this was near the church founded by St. Patrick at Domlnachmor, it does not appear to have been in the plain of Magh-Reda, now the manor of Morett, but rather in a different plain, viz., that of Magh Riada. See Dr. O'Donovan, nn. (x, y), p. 496. Gaithin seems to have been the immediate progenitor of Cinnedidh.

⁷³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 502, 503.

or Aulaff's Fort, at Clondalkin, near Dublin. One hundred heads of the foreigners⁷⁵ were exhibited by the chieftains after that slaughter at Cluain-Dolcain. This son of Gaithin probably engaged in some of those warlike operations against the Leinstermen to the south of Leix, which are recorded at the year 868. At this date, the Leinstermen attacked the fort of Cearbhall,⁷⁶ and of the son of Gaithin, while many were slain by them. But when the people of the fort⁷⁷ perceived this, they fought bravely against the Leinstermen, and compelled them, with their chief Bran, son of Muireadhach, to retire, after numbers of their people had been slain.⁷⁸ Yet, this was not the sole revenge taken; for in the year 875, Cinneidh, son of Gacithen, lord of Laeighis, plundered Ui-Ceinnsealaigh, and numbers of its people were slain by him.⁷⁹ In 866, Conn, son of Cinaedh, lord of Ui-Bairrchi-tire, was slain while demolishing the fortress of the foreigners.⁸⁰ In 867, Cian, son of Cumasgach, lord of Ui-Bairrchi-tire, died.⁸¹ Again in 883, Treasach, son of Beacan, chief of Ui-Bairrche-Maighe, was slain by Aedh, son of Ilguine. Of him Lann,⁸² son of Lonan, said:—

"A heavy mist on the province of Breasal, since they slew at the fortified Liphe,
Heavy the groans of Assal, for grief at the loss of Treasach.
Wearied my mind, moist my countenance, since Treasach lies in death,
The moan of Oenach-Lifi all, and of Leinster to the sea is the son of Beacan." ⁸³

In the year 869, the Lochlann or Danish kings marched with a great host through Munster, which they ravaged. However, Cennedigh—the fiercest and most victorious man against the foreigners in Erin at this time—came upon them with the Laeighis and a party of the Osraighi. He attacked their camp, and slaughtered their best men in the middle of it. A feat of personal valour is recorded of Cennedigh. Seeing one of his men attacked by two Lochlanns, the chief rushed immediately to relieve him, and cut off the heads of his adversaries.⁸⁴ During the snow of Brigidmas, A.D. 870, the lords of the foreigners plundered the men of the Three Plains⁸⁵ and of the Comauns,⁸⁶ as far as Sliabh Bladhma.⁸⁷ Such inroads did not prevent internecine quarrels among the Irish themselves; for in 873, we read of an incursion and a plundering of Connacht, by Dunchadh, king of Cashel,⁸⁸ and by Cearbhall, with the

⁷⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 504, 505.

⁷⁵ In the "Annals of Ulster" these are called the best of the foreigners, or the chiefs. See *ibid.*, pp. 502, 503, and nn. (x, y).

⁷⁶ Probably son of Dungal, and lord of Ossory.

⁷⁷ Which of the two forts previously distinguished does not appear from this obscure statement in our annals.

⁷⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. 512 to 515.

⁷⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 522, 523.

⁸⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 510, 511.

⁸¹ See *ibid.*

⁸² The death of this poet is twice noticed in the Four Masters; first, at A.D. 891, and again, at A.D. 918.

⁸³ See *ibid.*, pp. 524, 525.

⁸⁴ See "Three Fragments, copied from ancient sources by Dubhaltach

Mac Firsigh," edited with a Translation and Notes by Dr. John O'Donovan, pp. 164 to 167.

⁸⁵ The Three Plains were Magh-Airbh, Magh-Sedna, and Magh-Tuathal. These were in the Baronies of Crannagh and Galmoy, in the County of Kilkenny, and in the Barony of Upper Ossory, in the Queen's County. Magh Tuathal was at the verge of Sliabh Bladhma or Slieve Bloom.

⁸⁶ Also designated in Irish na Trí Comann, *i.e.*, the Three Comanns. According to Dr. O'Donovan, these were three septs, seated in the north of the present County of Kilkenny.

⁸⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. i., pp. 516, 517, and nn. (k, l).

⁸⁸ This also meant that he was King of Munster.

Osraighe.⁸⁹ At 885, is mentioned the mortal wounding of Maelchertaigh, son of Fiachra, lord of Ui-Bairrche. At 886, Gormacan, son of Flann, chief of Ui-Bairrche-tire, died.⁹⁰ In 896, Dubhlachtna, son of Ceirine, lord of Ui-Bairrche, died.⁹¹ Cinaedh, son of Maclruanaidh, and Aedh, son of Ilguine, chief of Ui-Bairrche, were both slain by Candubhan, son of Maelecan.⁹² We are informed, that Cinnedeach had a son named Cearnach, who was father to Maolmordha. This latter was progenitor of the O'Maoimordha.⁹³ Maolmordha had a son named Cenneth. In the year 886, Cinaedh, son of Cennedidh, and the heir-apparent of Laeighis, was slain. Two Irish lines are quoted in his praise, and they are thus translated into English by Dr. O'Donovan:—

“Alas! for the comely descendant of Cathal, deprived of joy are the race of Bearach,
Son of the king of lasting Rath-Bacain, the hero of the pass of Gabhruan.”⁹⁴

This prince was probably the eldest son of Cennedidh, but how he was killed, we do not find recorded.⁹⁵ This Cenneth had a son named Cearnach. Again, it is stated, Cinaedh was the son of that Cearnach.

In the year 888, Cearbhall, son of Dunlaing or Dunghall,⁹⁶ king of Osraighe, died suddenly, according to the “*Chronicum Scotorum*.”⁹⁷ In A.D. 897, Dunghal, the son of Cearbhall, was mortally wounded by the people of Laeighis.⁹⁸ In the “*Annals of Clonmacnoise*,” at 897,¹⁰⁰ is the record, that Lann, mother of the king of Ossory, and Kennydy McGoyhinn, lord of the country of Lease, then lived, and that the same Kennydy broke down Donn Awley, now known as Clondalkin, near Dublin, killing many of Awley's men, and chasing himself into the city of Dublin. Awley was then the Chief Dane in Ireland, and his residence was in Clondalkin. In 898, the death of Cinnedigh, son of Gaethin, Lord of Leix or Laighis and of the Conauns, is recorded.¹⁰¹ Cenneth was father to Faolan. The latter had a son named Amergin, who is considered to be the ancestor of Bergin.¹⁰² In the year 899, Finbuidhi, son to Cuileannan, lord of Ui-Foirchellain, was mortally wounded.¹⁰³

⁸⁹ See William M. Hennessy's “*Chronicum Scotorum*,” pp. 104, 105.

⁹⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's “*Annals of the Four Masters*,” vol. i., pp. 538, 539.

⁹¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 554, 555.

⁹² See *ibid.*, pp. 500, 501.

⁹³ He was a progenitor of the O'Moores and the son of Bearach, from whom the O'Moores were called the Sil-Bearaigh.

⁹⁴ Dr. O'Donovan states, that this was otherwise called Bealach-Gabhrain, an old road extending across Sliabh Mairge, in the Queen's County. See “*Leabhar na-gCeart*,” or Book of Rights. Introduction, p. lx.

⁹⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan, *ibid.*, pp. 538, 539, and n. (h).

⁹⁶ So he is called in the “*Annals of Ulster*,” and the title is adopted in the “*Annals of the Four Masters*.” This name likewise agrees with that in the

ancient list of the Kings of Osraighe, as found in the “*Book of Leinster*,” at fol. 20, *et seq.*

⁹⁷ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 170, 171.

⁹⁸ He renewed the fair of Magh Raighne in Ossory, A.D. 859. See Dr. O'Donovan's “*Annals of the Four Masters*,” vol. i., pp. 494, 495, and n. (t).

⁹⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 550, 557.

¹⁰⁰ See the edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 144.

¹⁰¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's “*Annals of the Four Masters*,” vol. i., pp. 558, 559.

¹⁰² See John O'Hart's “*Irish Pedigrees*; or, the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation,” vol. i., part iii. 1r. Genealogies, p. 324. Fourth edition.

¹⁰³ See Dr. O'Donovan's “*Annals of the Four Masters*,” vol. i., pp. 560, 561, and n. (o), *ibid.*

CHAPTER III.—ANNALS OF THE TENTH CENTURY.

THE accounts contained in the Irish Annals during this century reveal a series of disorders and crimes, having their origin in a state of social disunion and the clan system of semi-independence, which gave free scope to the ambition and passions of rival chiefs and factions. The Northmen invasions had their share in producing this demoralization, as the invaders formed settlements in the country, and had sometimes been the allies of the native chieftains in their acts of inroad, spoliation and ambition. Thus we read, at the year 901,¹ Cervell mc Moregan, king of Leinster, and Cahall mc Connor, were deceitfully killed; ² and again at 902, the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" ³ state, that Wallaghan or Holahan mc Cahall, prince of Alfalie (Ophaly), was killed.⁴ The cause for these murders, however, is not more specifically assigned. In the celebrated battle fought at Ballaghmoon,⁵ A.D. 903,⁶ in which the Mononians, under the leadership of King Cormac Mac Cuilenaan of Cashel, were utterly routed by a combination of the Meathmen,⁷ Connaicians,⁸ and Lagenians,⁹ Ceallach, of "the hard fights,"¹⁰ son of Cearbhall, King of Osraighe, fell, with many others. This event is placed at 907, in the "Chronicum Scotorum";¹¹ and it is stated, that six thousand of the Munster forces fell in this sanguinary encounter.¹² According to the Abbé Ma-Geoghegan, this battle was fought on the 6th of August, A.D. 913.¹³ In the year 906, Gaithine, son of Aughran, Tanist of Leix, died.¹⁴ Also in the same year, Buadhach, son of Gusan, Tanist of Ui-Bairrche-tire, died. This very same year also Aedh, son of Dubhghilla, lord of Ui-Drona of the Three Plains, Tanist of Ui-Ceimsealaigh, was slain by the Ui-Bairrche.¹⁵ During the year 908,¹⁶ Ughran, son of Cennedigh, was King of Leix.¹⁷ He fought with the conquering Leinster

¹ This event is placed at A.D. 904, in the "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 572, 573. See Dr. O'Donovan's edition.

² Afterwards is obscurely added: "It is thought that he was so killed by Murtagh O'Neale Anno Dni. 909 by Danes."—"Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 144.

³ See *ibid.*

⁴ By the O'Clerys this death of Ullachan is set down at A.D. 905.

⁵ Situated near the eastern brink of the River Barrow in the County of Kildare, and about four miles north of Carlow town.

⁶ See a detailed account of it, in Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., and nn. (b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i) pp. 564 to 571.

⁷ Under king Maelseachlainn, also recognised as Monarch of Ireland.

⁸ Under Cathal, son to Conchobhar, king of Connaught.

⁹ Under Cearbhall, son to Muirigin, king of Leinster.

¹⁰ Thus styled by an ancient Irish poet. He is called Ceallagh mc Keavill, prince of Ossory in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," where the battle at Bealaghmoon is set down at A.D. 900. See edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 144.

¹¹ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 180 to 183.

¹² From a historical tract intitled, Cath - Bealaigh - Mughna, Dr. Geoffry Keating gives an account of this battle in his "General History of Ireland."

¹³ See "Histoire de l'Irlande," Tome i., partie ii., chap. v., p. 398.

¹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 576, 577.

¹⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 574 to 577.

¹⁶ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Three Fragments, copied from ancient sources by Dubhaltach Mac Firbisigh," with translation and notes, pp. 212, 213. Dublin 1860, 4to, L.A.S.

¹⁷ He is styled Ugran, of Mairge, the great-deeded, by Dallan, son of Mor, and poet to Cearbhall, King of Leinster. See *ibid.*, pp. 216 to 219, and nn. (h, v).

host, against Cormac, King and Bishop of Cashel, at the battle of Bealach Mughna, now Ballaghmoon, in the southern part of the County Kildare.

When Niall III., surnamed Glundubh, began his rule over Ireland, A.D. 915, the Northman incursions proved exceedingly disastrous to the people of this island.¹⁸ That monarch, in the very commencement of his reign, led his northern forces, with the men of Bregh¹⁹ and Midhe,²⁰ into Munster, where, united with the people of that province, the foreigners were defeated. This occurred, after an obstinate conflict, in Magh-Feimhin, on the 22nd of August. However, on this occasion, he lost a great number of his people, together with the King of Teabhtha and the King of Carraic-Braichaidhe. Meantime, the Irish of Leinster, at his request, pressed the siege of Ceann-fuait,²¹ in the east of the province, and near to where Sitric, grandson of Imhar, with his fleet, lay.²² But this leader and his forces attacked the Leinstermen at Ceann-fuait, and signally defeated them, with the loss of many among the most celebrated of their chiefs. Niall III. was amongst the slain on this Wednesday, 16 kalends of October, A.D. 917.²³ Six hundred Leinstermen fell in that battle; and distinguished among their host was Mughron, son of Cinneidhigh, lord of the three Conauns and of Laignis, as also the Archbishop Maelmaedhog, son of Diarmaid, who was one of the Ui-Conannla, Abbot of Gleann-Uisean, a distinguished scribe, anchorite, and an adept in the Latin learning and in the Scotie language.²⁴ In 918, Teig mc Faylam, King of the west of Leinster,²⁵ died; and that same year, Kenny mc Connor, King of Affalie, was lost in the wilderness of Athlone,²⁶ with many of Donnogh's army that went to Connaught.²⁷ This Donnachadh was then recognised as King of Ireland.²⁸ In 920, Maelmordha, son to Riagan, Tanist of Ossory, died.²⁹ At 922, the "Annals of Clonmacnoise"³⁰ announce the death of Colen Mc Ceally, prince of Ossory. However, the true year is said to be 927.³¹ Again, Dermott Mac Kervall, king of Ossory, died A.D. 924.³² The O'Clerys place this event at A.D. 927,³³ and in 928 is recorded the death of Diarmaid, son

¹⁸ For an account of their invasions the reader may consult that work published by the Irish Archeological Society "COΣΑΘ ΖΑΕΘΙΛ RE ΖΑΛΛΑΘ." "The War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill," edited by Rev. James Henthorn Todd.

¹⁹ That territory, at present known as the County of Louth, and the northern part of Dublin County.

²⁰ Meath. See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 188, 189.

²¹ Dr. O'Donovan says this was Confy near Leixlip, in the County of Kildare. It lay on the borders of Leinster.

²² This was in Dublin Bay.

²³ See Gratianus Lucius, "Cambrensis Eversus," vol. ii., cap. ix., p. 31. Rev. Dr. Matthew Kelly's edition.

²⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 588 to 591.

²⁵ This account, contained in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," seems to have been another name for Ophaly.

However, the O'Clerys, who have his death at 920, call him lord of South Leinster, Deasgabhair, or Ui-Ceinn-sealach. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 600, 607.

²⁶ Also called Duibhthir-Atha-Luain or the Black District of Athlone.

²⁷ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 147.

²⁸ He reigned from A.D. 919 to 944, twenty-five years. See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. xciii., pp. 424, 425.

²⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 608 to 611.

³⁰ See edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 148.

³¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., p. 618, n. (y).

³² According to the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 149.

to Cerbhall, king of Osraighe, in the "Chronicum Scotorum."³⁴ In the year 926, Cinaedh, son of Oghran, lord of Leix, was killed.³⁵ In 928 is also recorded³⁶ the slaying of Finn,³⁷ son to Maelnordha, heir-apparent of Ui-Failghe, and Flann, his brother.

At 931, the death of Cathal, son of Odhraun—most probably Oghran also—lord of Laeighis, is recorded.³⁸ Moreover, Cuilen,³⁹ son of Ceallach,⁴⁰ king of Osraighe, died the same year.⁴¹ The "Chronicum Scotorum" has this death of Cuilen at A.D. 932,⁴² and it calls Cuilen the son of Oghran. The "Annals of Clonmacnoise" have his death at A.D. 923. These also relate at 932, that Conor Mc Moylekeyne, King of Affalie, and his two sons were killed by Lorcan Mc Foylan.⁴³ The following year is recorded the death of Maelnuire, son to Ceandubhan, Tanist of Leix.⁴⁴ In the year 933, the celebrated Ceallaghan,⁴⁵ King of Cashell, and a rival for supremacy with Muirheartach,⁴⁶ son of Niall Glandubh, made a great slaughter of the people of Ossorie, according to the "Annals of Clonmacnoise."⁴⁷ This event is referred to the following year by the O'Clerys.⁴⁸ Again, in 934, Mortough mc Neale with the forces of the north spoiled Ossory, and the same year the people of Ophaly and the Kynaleagh⁴⁹ killed 1,200 Danes.⁵⁰ In 937, Flann, son to Ceallach, Tanist of Ossory, died. Also, Cian, son of Aenghus, was slain by the Ui-Failghe, and Murchadh,⁵¹ son to Finn, was mortally wounded by Tuathal. This year, likewise, Ceallachan, King of Cashel, with the men of Munster, Macca-Cuinn and the foreigners of Port-Laighe⁵² made an incursion into Meath, and took a great prey. During this foray, they plundered and spoiled the monasteries of Killeagh and Clonenagh, and made prisoners of their two abbots, Muireadhach Ua Conchobhair and Coibhdeanach, son to Breagda; but they left behind as a hostage Oilill, son to Aenghus, lord of Ui-Fothaid,⁵³ and many others in the hands of Ainhergin, lord of Ui-Failghe.⁵⁴ In 938, a great slaughter of the Osraighe was made

³² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 622, 623.

³⁴ See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 198, 199.

³⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 620, 621.

³⁶ See *ibid.*, 624, 625, and n. (k).

³⁷ He was the ancestor of O'Conor Faly. Brian O'Conor Faly, who lost Offaly by his attainder in the reign of Philip and Mary, was the twentieth in descent from him.

³⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 626, 627.

³⁹ He is styled "optimus laicus," in the "Annals of Ulster."

⁴⁰ See "Annales Ultonienses," Dr. O'Conor's "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores," Tomus iv.

⁴¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 626, 627. This too agrees with the ancient list of the Kings of Ossory in the "Book of Leinster."

⁴² See William M. Hennessy's edition, pp. 200, 201, and n. 3.

⁴³ See the edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 151.

⁴⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 630, 631.

⁴⁵ He is regarded as the ancestor of the O'Callaghans, Mac Carthys and O'Keefes.

⁴⁶ See Thomas D'Arcy McGee's "Popular History of Ireland," vol. i., Book ii., chap. iv., pp. 79 to 83.

⁴⁷ See Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, p. 151.

⁴⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 630, 631.

⁴⁹ Doubtless resolvable into Cinel Lea—a sub-denomination of Ophaly.

⁵⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 152.

⁵¹ This Murchadh was brother to Conchobhar, ancestor to the O'Conors of Offaly.

⁵² The Irish name for Waterford.

⁵³ Now the Barony of Ila and Offa West, in the County of Tipperary.

⁵⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii. pp. 638, 639, and nn. (n, w, x), *ibid.*

⁵⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 640, 641.

⁵⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 640 to 643.

by Ceallachan, King of Cashel.⁵⁵ In 939, Muirheartach, son of Niall, with the men of the North and Bregia, went into the territories of the Osraighi and the Deisi, totally plundering and ravaging the country as far as Leas-Ruadrach. The inhabitants submitted to him. In this year also the Osraighi and the Deisi gained a battle over the King of Cashel, and in it many were slain.⁵⁶ Moreover, a slaughter was made of the foreigners by Aimhergin of the Ui-Failghe and by the Cinel-Fiachach, who slew twelve hundred of them at Magh-Cisi.⁵⁷ The same Aimhergin gained another battle over the foreigners of Ath-cliaith, where a thousand of them fell, with Aedh Albanach, and many other chieftains.⁵⁸ In 941 died Awargin Mc. Kynaye, King of Affalie.⁵⁹

In 943, Cuileannan, son to Coibhdhenach, lord of Ui-Bairche, died.⁶⁰ From A.D. 944 is dated the first year of Comghalach, son of Maelmithigh in the sovereignty of Ireland.⁶¹ In the year 945, according to the O'Clerys,⁶² a battle was gained by the renowned Donnchaith I.,⁶³ son to Ceallach,⁶⁴ king of Osraighe, over the Lagenians, in which were slain Braen, son to Maelmordha, King of Laighen, Ceallach, son to Cinaedh, King of Ui-Cennsealaigh, with many others.⁶⁵ The "Chronicum Scotorum" has these events at 946.⁶⁶ In 946,⁶⁷ Muirheartach, son of Niall, with the men of Fochla and of Bregh, invaded Ossory. A victory was gained over the Ui-Failghe at Birra in 949.⁶⁸ There many were slain, with Cinaeth Cruach.

We read that in the year 950,⁶⁹ a victory had been gained over the people of Laighis and the Ui-Faircheallain, by Tuathal, son of Ugaite, in which many were slain, and Cuilen, son of Gusan, was taken prisoner. This Tuathail was the King of Leinster, and he was progenitor of the O'Tooles. He died in 956.⁷⁰ At the year 953, it is noticed, that Donnell Mc Moylemoray, King of Affalie, died.⁷¹ At the year 956⁷² is recorded a victory obtained by the Ui-Failghe and the Clann Ceallaigh⁷³ over the Ui-Dunchadha⁷⁴ at Fidh-Chuilin,⁷⁵ now Feighenllen, a small parish,

⁵⁵ The ancient name of a plain near Raham in the King's County.

⁵⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 644, 645, and n. (o).

⁵⁷ See "Annals of Clonmacnoise" edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 154.

⁵⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 654, 655.

⁵⁹ He reigned for twelve years, and was killed in war with the Danes, A.D. 956. See Roderick O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," pars. iii., cap. xciii., p. 435.

⁶⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 656, 657.

⁶¹ He was head of the Clann Donnchadh or O'Dunphys of Ossory, and over this principality he had a prosperous rule of forty-seven years. See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., pp. 132 to 142.

⁶² He was slain in the battle at Ballaghmoon.

⁶³ According to an Irish poem, four hundred is mentioned as the number,

and the battle is stated to have occurred at Ath-Chlath.

⁶⁴ Edition of William M. Hennessy, pp. 206, 207.

⁶⁵ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 202, 203.

⁶⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 664 to 667.

⁶⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 666 to 669.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 676, 677.

⁶⁹ According to the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 157.

⁷⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 676, 677 and nn. (q, r, s).

⁷¹ Otherwise the Ui Ceallaigh Cualann, seated in the northern part of the present county of Wicklow.

⁷² This tribe was settled in that district of the present county of Dublin, through which the Dodder flows.

⁷³ The O'Clerys continue the account, namely, over Domhnall, son of Lorcan, and Domhnall, son of Maelmordha,

situated near the Hill of Allen, County of Kildare. Also during this year, Clonvickenois was preyed by the people of Ossory.⁷⁶ In 957 died Domhnall, son to Maelmordha, lord of Ui-Failghe.⁷⁷ The departure of Fearghal, son of Aughran, and Lord of Laoighis-Retæ, is chronicled, at A.D. 958. This Laoighis-Retæ is said to have been the most distinguished of the seven septs of Leix.⁷⁸ During A.D. 958, Faclan, son of Fearghal, Tanist of Laoighis-Retæ, was slain.

In 960, Eoghan, son to Muireadhach, was slain by the Ui-Failghe.⁷⁹ Also, Clonmacnoise was plundered by the Osraigh.⁸⁰ In 962,⁸¹ the latter gained a victory over Amleibh, son of Sitric, at Inis Teoc,⁸² where many of the foreigners were slain, together with Batharr, son of Nira. In 965,⁸³ Maelruanaidhe, son of Flann, Tanist of Ossory, and who aided Mathghamhain, son of Ceinneidigh, in his victory over the Danes at Limerick, was slain in the heat of conflict. Meantime, Murchadh, son to Finn, King of Leinster, led an army into Ossory, where he remained four nights, and plundered Magh Raighne; but Mathghamhain and the men of Munster, with the Deisi and Osraighi, overtook him from Ath-Buanna⁸⁴ to Commur,⁸⁵ nevertheless he escaped in safety without leaving horse or man behind.⁸⁶ In the year 967, Echthighern, son of Eitech, lord of the Comauns, died.⁸⁷ He was most probably a sub-chieftain under the O'Moores of Leix. In 969 Domhnall Ua Neill, with the forces of Tyrone and Tirconnel, marched against the Meathians and foreigners, when he plundered all their forts, and left a camp in every Cantred of Meath from the Shannon to Castlekieran,⁸⁸ near Kells. On this occasion he also spoiled Ui-Failghe.⁸⁹ In the year 972,⁹⁰ a victory was gained by the people of Osraigh over the Ui-Ceinnsealaigh, in which their King Donnchadh, son to Ceallach, with some chiefs and a great many others, were slain. Immediately afterwards follows the account, that a slaughter was made of the Osraigh in Iarthar-Liphi,⁹¹ in which were slain two

by the Ui-Faclain; namely, by Murchad, son of Finn; in which were slain Cearnach, son of Iorcan, chief of Clann-Ceallaigh, and Naeideanan Ua Domhnaill, with many others of the nobility.

⁷⁶ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 157.

⁷⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 676, 677.

⁷⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 678, 679. Dr. O'Donovan says it contains the fort of Rath-Becain and the rock of Leac-Reda. *Ibid.*, n. (a). This, however, is not so certain.

⁷⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 680, 681.

⁸⁰ The monastery of Clonmacnoise, founded about the middle of the sixth century by St. Ciaran, was for a long time the most celebrated religious community in Ireland. A chief seat of learning, it was singularly rich in objects of art. For a history and illustrations, the reader is referred to that admirable work, "Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language,"

chiefly collected and drawn by George Petrie, LL.D., and edited by Margaret Stokes. Dublin, 1872, Roy. 8vo. This plundering seems to have been placed at A.D. 956 in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 157.

⁸¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 686, 687, and nn. (s, a).

⁸² Now Inistioge, on the River Nore, County of Kilkenny.

⁸³ See *ibid.*, pp. 686 to 691.

⁸⁴ Now Aughboyne, a ford on the River Suir.

⁸⁵ Now Castlecomer, a town in the County of Kilkenny.

⁸⁶ This, as a repetition, is more circumstantially related at 967, and through an oversight the entries were probably copied from different sources.

⁸⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 692, 693.

⁸⁸ The Irish name, Bealach-duin.

⁸⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 694, 695.

⁹⁰ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 222, 223.

⁹¹ Western Liffey.

thousand men and sixty young lords, among the rest Diarmaid, son to Donnchad, Tanist of Osraigh. Again, the Ui-Ceinnseauaigh were plundered in Osraigh, where Domhnall, son to Ceallach, lord of Ui-Ceinnsealach and many others were slain.⁹²

In 973,⁹³ Muireadhach, son to Donnchadh, son to Ceallach, Tanist of Ossory, died. The next year⁹⁴ his celebrated father Donnchadh died, and he was succeeded by his son Gillaphadraig I. in that principality.⁹⁵ In 976, *recte* 978, Conghalach, son to Flann, lord of Leighe⁹⁶ and Reclach,⁹⁷ with many others, was slain, in a battle fought at Bithlam⁹⁸ by the foreigners against the Leinstermen.⁹⁹ At 977, *recte* 979, Conchobhar,¹⁰⁰ son to Finn, lord of Ui-Failge, died.¹⁰¹ The same year, Dunghal, son to Donnchadh, Tanist of Ossory, died.¹⁰² In 981, *recte* 982,¹⁰³ Osraigh was plundered by Brian,¹⁰⁴ son of Ceinneidigh, still better known in Irish History as the celebrated Brian Boromhe. Again, in 982,¹⁰⁵ Gilla-Phadraig¹⁰⁶ plundered Leighghlinn; but in atonement for this, besides doing penance, he gave his two sons to Molaisi for ever. This was the Irish name for St. Lascian, patron of Leighlin; and the sons of that chief seem to have embraced the religious rule of the place. That same Gilla-Phadraig joined the people of the Decies, and the Danes of Cork and Waterford in hostility against Brian, son of Ceinneidigh, who invaded Ossory, and took him a prisoner. Hostages were also given.¹⁰⁷ In 985, the Leinstermen led an army into Ossory, the northern part of which they plundered, and they slew there Riagan, son to Muireadhach, and the son of Cuiiun.¹⁰⁸ As no mention is made of Gillaphadraig, it may be inferred that he had not then been liberated from captivity.¹⁰⁹ The "Annals of Clonmacnoise" incorrectly antedate at 991 the death of Gillapatrik Mc Donnogh, lord of Ossory.¹¹⁰ His elected successor or Tanist was his brother, Tadhg, slain by the

⁹² Dr. O'Donovan states, that the foregoing events belong to A.D. 794. See "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 698, 699.

⁹³ Dr. O'Donovan adds *recte* 975. See *ibid.*, pp. 700, 701.

⁹⁴ See *ibid.*

⁹⁵ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," etc., pp. 142, 143.

⁹⁶ Now Lea, in the barony of Portua-hinch, Queen's County.

⁹⁷ Now Morett, adjoining the Great Heath of Maryborough, Queen's County.

⁹⁸ Now Belan, about four miles east of Athy, County of Kildare.

⁹⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 704 to 707. The "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, notice this battle, at A.D. 971. See p. 158.

¹⁰⁰ According to Dr. O'Donovan, he was ancestor to the Ui-Conchobhair Failghe, or O'Conors of Offaly, and evidently the progenitor, from whom they took their surname, although Duaid Mac Firbis says that the surname was taken from his grandson Conchobhar son to Conghalach. His father, Finn, was slain in 928.

¹⁰¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., and n. (6) pp. 708, 709.

¹⁰² See *ibid.*, pp. 710, 711.

¹⁰³ See *ibid.*, pp. 714, 715.

¹⁰⁴ This was the celebrated Brian Boromhe, an account of whom and of the period when he lived, may be found in the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. iv., at the 23rd day of April, pp. 276 to 450.

¹⁰⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 714, 715, and n. (d).

¹⁰⁶ Meaning the Servant of Patrick. This was Gillaphadraig, son to Donnchadh, and the progenitor after whom the Mac Gillaphadraigs or Fitzpatricks of Ossory have taken their hereditary surname.

¹⁰⁷ See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. ii., chap. xx., pp. 91, 92.

¹⁰⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 718, 719.

¹⁰⁹ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., p. 143.

¹¹⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J.,

men of Munster in 900.¹¹¹ At A.D. 903 is recorded the slaying of Conn, son to Conghalach, lord of Ui Failghe.¹¹² In 904,¹¹³ or 905,¹¹⁴ Gilla-Padraig, son to Donnchadh, King of Osraighe, was slain by Donnabhan,¹¹⁵ son to Imhar, who it would appear had afterwards been slain by the Lagenians.¹¹⁶ This record in Tighernach at A.D. 906 represents Gilla-Padraig as having been slain by Donnabhan, son of Imar, and by Domhnall, son to Faelan, king of the Deisi. Gilla-Padraig ruled twenty-one years over Ossory, and left behind him four sons, viz., Dunghal, Tadhg, Muirheartach or Mortough and Donnchadh. By the latter, he was succeeded in the principality, and in the order of chieftain descent he is recognised as Donnchadh II.¹¹⁷ In A.D. 908, Maelseachlainn Ua Maclruanaidh, lord of Creamhthainn, was slain by the Ui-Ceallaigh;¹¹⁸ yet it is not known if the district in question be referable to Leix or Meath. In 909, a great hosting was led by Brian, son to Ceinneidigh, against Maelseachlainn II. monarch of Ireland. In this confederacy were united the chiefs and forces of South Connaught, the men of Osraighe and Leinster, with the Danes of Dublin. The latter set out before the arrival of the Irish contingents at Tara, and sent a plundering party into Magh Breagh,¹¹⁹ where Maelseachlainn opposed them. After a spirited battle, the foreigners were defeated, and few of them escaped. Afterwards, Brian proceeded to Fearta-neimheadh¹²⁰ in Magh Breagh, but returned back without battle, without plundering, and without burning.

CHAPTER IV.—ANNALS OF THE ELEVENTH CENTURY.

WHEN Donnchadh I. was King of Ossory, he had a son named Diarmaid, who had been elected as Tanist or his successor in that principality, but who had been killed, A.D. 972, in a battle fought in Magh Liphí, by one of the Wicklow O'Tooles. He left a son named Ceallach, probably a minor at the time of his father's death, but who, on the death of Gilla Phadraig I., twenty-one years later, obtained the headship of his tribe, which he held from A.D. 995 to A.D. 1002. However, he had a first cousin, a man of cool, cruel and unprincipled ambition, who violently removed him from that position, and usurped his principality.

p. 194. The O'Clerys record his death at A.D. 997.

¹¹¹ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., p. 143.

¹¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 730 to 733.

¹¹³ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 234, 235. Again this record is entered at A.D. 996, apparently an oversight. See *ibid.*, pp. 236, 237.

¹¹⁴ According to the O'Clerys. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 734, 735.

¹¹⁵ Anglicised Donovan, and thought by Dr. O'Donovan to have been the grandson of Donovan, *rex Nepotum Fidhgenite*, who was slain by Brian Boroihme in 977. Ivor, king of the

Danes of Waterford, was married to a daughter of this Donovan.

¹¹⁶ He was killed by Cnduiligh, son to Cinaedh, one of the Ui-Failghe, at the end of a week, and in revenge for his slaying of Diarmaid, son to Domhnall, lord of Ui-Ceineascaigh.

¹¹⁷ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., p. 143.

¹¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 738, 739.

¹¹⁹ Called the Beautiful Plain, and extending from the northern part of Dublin County into the County of Meath.

¹²⁰ Supposed by Dr. O'Donovan to have been Feartagh, in the parish of Moynalty, barony of Lower Kells, County of Meath.

¹²¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 742, 743.

In 1001, according to the "Chronicon Scotorum,"¹ or A.D. 1002, according to the O'Clerys,² Ceallach, son to Diarmaid, King of Osraigh, was killed by the son of his father's brother, i.e., by Donnchadh, son to Gilla-Phadraic I. Whether this unnatural action was the result of private assassination, or of open rebellion, is not known: but Donnchadh II. immediately succeeded his victim, and this happened nearly contemporaneous with Brian Boroiimhe's usurpation of the sovereignty of Ireland.⁴ In 1008, Gusan, son of Ua Treassach, lord of Ui-Bairreche, died. There is a double entry of his death, at this year.⁵ Moreover, in the year 1010, Fealan, son of Dunlaing, lord of Ui-Buidhe, died.⁶

When in 1012, Maelmordha, King of Leinster, having quarrelled with Murrough O'Brian,⁷ angrily quitted the court of Brian Boroiimhe at Kincora, the messenger of this latter monarch, Cogaran, overtook the former guest at the plank bridge of Killaloe, on the east side, whilst mounting his horse. The King of Leinster, stung with the fancied insult he had received, not only refused to listen to explanation or apology, but he actually struck the messenger with a stick, and "broke all the bones of his head." He then returned in all haste to Leinster, while leaving Killaloe he rode without stopping, and he spent the first night at Sen Leas Abaim, or Killabban in the Queen's County, where dwelt the son of Berdai, King of the Ui m-Bhuidhe. After a long and fatiguing journey, thus to his house⁸ escaped Maelmordha. Soon afterwards Maelmordha formed a confederacy with the Danes of Dublin, and their allies in Scandinavia, when Brian Boroiimhe led an army of Munstermen who encamped on Sliabh Maige, and they plundered Leinster as far as Ath-Cliath.⁹ Ossory was ravaged in 1013,¹⁰ by Maelseachlainn, and the Ua Neill, and by Ua Maeildoraídh, who led a hosting into Leinster, when they gave that kingdom to Donnchuan, son of Dunlaing.

In the beginning of 1014,¹¹ Brian Boroiimhe assembled a great army of Memonians and Connacians, with the forces of Maelseachlainn, King of Meath; and, marching into Leinster, they advanced to Dublin where,

¹ See edition of William M. Hennessy, pp. 249, 241.

² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 748, 749.

³ His death at A.D. 1002 (alias 1003) is simply commemorated in William M. Hennessy's *Annala Uladh*, vol. i., pp. 508 to 511.

⁴ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., pp. 143, 144.

⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 760, 761.

⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 704, 705.

⁷ Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Keating has a romantic account of the causes which originated this dispute between Brian Boroiimhe, the supreme Monarch of Ireland, and Maelmordha, King of Leinster, in his "General History of Ireland," Part ii.

⁸ The distance between this place and Killaloe cannot be much under sixty miles, which may be regarded as an unusual day's journey on horseback. Here, doubtless, under the influence of

irritated feeling, Maelmordha spent the night at the house of the chief of Ui m-Buidhe, who was named Mac Berdai, now Barry. See the *Cogarth Saebhel Re Saibh*, edited by Rev. James Henthorn Todd.

⁹ See at A.D. 1012 (alias 1013), William M. Hennessy's *Annala Uladh*, vol. i., pp. 530, 531.

¹⁰ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 244, 255.

¹¹ The O'Clerys place the battle of Clontarf at 1013, but Dr. O'Donovan gives the true date at A.D. 1014, adding a number of illustrative notes to their account in his edition of the "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 770 to 787.

¹² Marianus Scotus fixes the date at "Pasceve Paschae, sexta feria 9 Calendas Maii" in his *Chronicon*. Hence, Roderick O'Flaherty with other data gives the 23rd of April, 1014. See "Ogygia," Pars iii., cap. xciii., p. 435.

¹³ There are a variety of accounts in

under the command of Maelmordha the Lagenians and Forthuatha had concentrated, and united with the Danes and other Northmen, that had arrived from Scandinavia and the Isles of Scotland. Without the walls of Dublin a sanguinary and long-contested battle took place on Good Friday, April 23rd,¹² on the plains of Clontarf,¹³ in which many chiefs with their followers on both sides were slain.¹⁴ This celebrated battle has been placed under the heading of 906, in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise,"¹⁵ where it is stated, that with Mulmorey McMurogh McFinn, King of Leinster, his ally McBrogarann, prince of Affalie, and many others were slain. Among these, doubtless, were many Chiefs and clansmen of Leix and Ossory, as these were ranged on the King of Leinster's side.¹⁶ Soon after the battle of Clontarf, the victorious Munster forces under the leadership of Donnchadh O'Brian, son to Brian Boromhe, took their journey homewards, and marched into Magh Cloinne Ceallagh, in the territory of Uí Gaibhlá, represented by the O'Kelly's territory.¹⁷ There Donnchadh Mac Giolla-Phadhraig had drawn out the men of Ossory to oppose them;¹⁸ but finding a resolute determination on their part to advance, the Ossorians declined the battle and withdrew from obstructing the Dalcais.¹⁹

In the year 1014 or 1015,²⁰ Flaithbheartach O'Neill came into Meath to aid Maelseachlainn, and afterwards they led an army of the men of Meath and Bregia into Leinster. He plundered the country as far as Leithghlinn. He carried off spoils and prisoners. During this expeditionary raid, he slew the lord of Uí m-Bluidhe and many others.²¹ Maelseachlainn brought away the hostages of Leinster.²² Cinneidbigh, son of Fearghal, Lord of Leix, died in the year 1014.²³ Gaeithín Ua Mordha²⁴ was slain A.D. 1016 [*recte* 1017].²⁵ In 1016, Conmhach, lector and abbot of Achadh-Urghlais,²⁶ was slain by the Uí-Bairrehe.²⁷ Cearnach Ua Mordha, Lord of Laeighis, was killed A.D. 1017.²⁸ In A.D. 1018 [*recte* 1019], Gillacacimbghin,²⁹ son of Dunkaing, son of Tuathail, royal heir of Leinster, was slain by the Leinstermen themselves; *i.e.*, by the people of Laeighis. In 1021, the "Annals of Ulster,"³⁰ record a shower of wheat to have been shed in Osraighe. This appears to have been the

reference to this celebrated battle, and several details given, characterised more by exaggeration than accuracy.

¹⁴ See William M. Hennessy's *Annála tUaoh*, vol. i., pp. 530 to 535.

¹⁵ See the Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, pp. 165 to 167.

¹⁶ It is to be remarked, that the Irish Annals seldom have distinctive mention of the Leix chiefs or contingent in connection with the Leinster forces, as from old engagements and tribal affinities they usually served as allies.

¹⁷ See Rev. John Francis O'Searman's "Loca Patriciana," No. xii., pp. 305, 306.

¹⁸ It is also stated, the men of Leix and of Leinster, were their allies on this occasion.

¹⁹ Various versions of this affair are given, and different places within the Queen's County are named for the position selected by the Ossorians to

oppose the Munstermen. The O'Kelly's country lay westwards from Athy.

²⁰ According to the Annals of Ulster.

²¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 782, 738.

²² See William M. Hennessy's *Annála tUaoh*, vol. i., pp. 530, 537.

²³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 784, 785.

²⁴ Anglicised Gahan O'More.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 790, 791, and n. (i.)

²⁶ Now Agha, where the ruins of an old church may be seen, in the barony of Idrone East, County of Carlow.

²⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 788, 789.

²⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 792, 793.

²⁹ The denomination Gillacacimbghin means the Servant of St. Coeimbghin or Kevin. He was the grandson of Tuathail, the progenitor after whom the Uí-Tuathail, or O'Tooles of Leinster, took

incident alluded to in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," where it is referred to 1014.³¹ Perhaps this was only a figurative way of expressing an abundant harvest.

Donnchadh, son of the monarch Brian Boroinhe, in 1024,³² led a hosting to carry off hostages from Midhe and Bregh, as also from the foreigners, the Lagenians and Ossorians.³³ This same year, Aimbhigin Ua Mordha, King of Laighis, was slain.³⁴ In 1025,³⁵ Donnchadh, son of Brian Boroinhe, led a division of his Munstermen against the Ossorians, but he was signally defeated, and a great number of his adherents was then slain. This event is placed at A.D. 1027, in the "Annals of Ulster."³⁶ In 1024, the people of Ossory and the Leinstermen went to Taylchoynne—interpreted the Tolka River—and brought a rich booty of jewels and prisoners from the Danes.³⁷

In or about the year 1026, a battle was said to have been gained by the O'Brenans over the O'Moores, at a place called Boherovora, or the Bloody Road, a quarter of a mile, north by east, from the village of Timahoe. According to other accounts, the Ui Duach were defeated. In this battle were slain Aimbhigin O'More,³⁸ Lord of Leix, and Cuiduilegh O'Brenan, Lord of Ui Duach, with many others.³⁹ If we may judge, however, as in the instance of the Offaly O'Conors, by the *ghairm-sluagh*, *i.e.* "call of the tribe," or slogan, the O'Mores had for their war cry, "Conlan-aboo," and this seems pointing to some patriarch bearing the name of Conlan. No such name appears in the "Annals of the Four Masters." Hence, the origin of this clan slogan has still to be discovered. In the year 1026,⁴⁰ among the other hostages held by Donnogh, the son of Brian Boroinhe, were those of Ossory.⁴¹ During this century many shameful acts of perfidy and barbarity—even among members of the same family—are on record. In 1027 Teige McGillepatrick had his eyes put out by Donough McGillepatrick.⁴² The same year,⁴³ Donnogh McBrian with his forces went to Ossory, where the inhabitants of that country gave an overthrow to some of the army of Prince Donnogh, and killed several of his adherents.⁴⁴ In A.D. 1020,⁴⁵ Maelseachlainn, son of Maelruanaidh, lord of Crumthann,⁴⁶ was killed by Brian O'Conor, royal heir of Connaught, who afterwards fell by his own people.⁴⁷ Moreover, Donnsléibhe, son of Brogarbhan, King of the Ui Failghe, was slain by his own people this same year.⁴⁸ His name occurs in that list of the Kings of Ui-Failghe contained in the "Book of Leinster," where he is said to have reigned for three years.⁴⁹ In 1031,

their hereditary surname. The O'Tooles descend from his brother Donn, or Donnegan, who was appointed King of Leinster, by the monarch Maelseachlainn II., in 1015.

³⁰ See William M. Hennessy's edition, vol. i., pp. 546, 547.

³¹ See Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, p. 170.

³² See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 264, 265.

³³ This expedition is placed at A.D. 1026 in William M. Hennessy's edition of *Annala Uladh*, vol. i., pp. 556, 557.

³⁴ See *ibid.*

³⁵ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 264 to 267.

³⁶ See William M. Hennessy's edition, vol. i., pp. 556, 557.

³⁷ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 174.

³⁸ This Aimbhigin was the son of Cinaeth, who was son of Ceinneidigh, who was son of Mordha, the progenitor after whom the family of O'Mordha, or O'More, took their hereditary surname.

³⁹ According to "The O'Brenans and the ancient territory of Hy-Duach." A lecture delivered to the members of the Ballyragget Temperance Club. By the

a hosting was led by Donnchadh, son to Brian Boroinne into Ossory, where a slaughter of his people was made, including Maelcolaim Cairraighech,⁵⁰ and many others.⁵¹ In 1033, after assuming the Kingship of Leinster, Donnchadh Mac Gilla Phadraig celebrated the Fair of Carman.⁵² This same year, a quarrel took place among the people of Eli O'Carroll, in which fell Braen Ua Cleirigh and Muiredach Mac Gilla-Phadraig, with a great many more.⁵³ In 1034, Donnchadh, son to Brian Boroinne, plundered all Ossory.⁵⁴

A barbarous action of Donnchadh Mac Gillapadraig is recorded at A.D. 1034.⁵⁵ He blinded Donnchadh, son to Dulaing, King of Laighen.⁵⁶ In the "Book of Leinster,"⁵⁷ it is stated, that this outrageous act was committed after the victim had been brought out of the Church of Disert-Diarmata,⁵⁸ where he had probably taken refuge. At A.D. 1037,⁵⁹ the death of Donnchadh Mac Gillapadraig, chief King of Laighen and Osraige, occurred. This event is set down in the "Annals of Ulster," at A.D. 1039.⁶⁰ The King of Leinster, Donnogh McDowlen, had his eyes put out in 1037, by McGillapatrik, King of Ossory, and soon after he died from grief.⁶¹ In 1039, Glenn-Uisnenn, now Kileshin, in this territory, was plundered, its oratory was broken, 100 persons were slain therein, and 700 persons were taken out of it by the son of Mael-na-Mbo.⁶² In revenge for the plundering of Ferna.⁶³ The "Annals of Ulster" have this outrage at A.D. 1042.⁶⁴ In 1041, the Ui-Ceimnsealagh undertook a preying excursion into Ui-Bairrche. But, Murchadh, son of Dunlaing, overtook them, and defeated them with great slaughter at Cill-Molapoc.⁶⁵ Domhnall Reamhar, *i.e.*, the Fat, heir to the lordship of Ui-Ceimnsealagh, fell with them.⁶⁶ In 1041,⁶⁷ Muirchertach Mac Gilla-Phadraig was treacherously slain by the Ui-Caellaidhe or O'Kellys.

In the year 1041, Donnchadh, son of Aedh, chief of Ui-Bairrche,

Rev. Nicholas Murphy. See also the "Annals of Loch Ce," edited by William M. Hennessy, M.K.I.A., vol. i., pp. 28, 29.

⁴⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 174.

⁴¹ This is also stated in the *Annata Utaoh*, edited by William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 556, 557.

⁴² See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J. p. 175.

⁴³ See *ibid.*

⁴⁴ See the *Annata Utaoh*, edited by William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 556 to 560.

⁴⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 816, 817.

⁴⁶ It is not known if this refers to the Leix district of Ui-Creamthainn.

⁴⁷ See the *Annata Utaoh*, edited by William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 560, 561.

⁴⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. 558, 559.

⁴⁹ See at p. 49, col. 3.

⁵⁰ That is of Caenraighe, a tribe and territory now represented by the barony of Kenry, County of Limerick.

⁵¹ See William M. Hennessy's *Annata Utaoh*, vol. i., pp. 564, 565, and n. 3.

⁵² According to William M. Hennessy, this place was in the present County of Carlow.

⁵³ See *ibid.*, and n. 8, pp. 556, 557.

⁵⁴ See *ibid.*, 568, 569.

⁵⁵ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 272, 273.

⁵⁶ This is recorded at A.D. 1036, in the Annals of Ulster. See William M. Hennessy's edition, vol. i., pp. 570 to 573 and n. 8.

⁵⁷ At p. 39, col. 3.

⁵⁸ Now Castledermot, County of Kildare.

⁵⁹ His death is recorded in the Annals of Clonmacnoise at 1039. See Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, p. 176.

⁶⁰ See William M. Hennessy's edition, vol. i., pp. 574, 575.

⁶¹ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 170.

⁶² Apparently by Diarmait, at first King of Ui-Ceimnsealagh, and ultimately King of Leinster.

⁶³ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 274, 275.

⁶⁴ See *Annata Utaoh*, edition of William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 578, 579, and n. 7.

took Faelan Ua Mordha, lord of Leix, prisoner. The captive was then delivered up to Murchadh, son of Dunlaing, King of Leinster, who barbarously blinded him.⁶⁸ And at the same date, Cuciche U Dunlaing, lord of Laeighis, and his son, and Cailleoc, his wife, were slain by Mac Conin at Teach-Mochua-mic-Lonain.⁶⁹ Mac Conin himself was killed on the following day, by Ua Broenain, for this act.⁷⁰ The circumstance was regarded as a great miracle by Mochua,⁷¹ probably owing to the providential retribution which followed after such murders. Speedy retribution seems likewise to have overtaken Murchadh, son of Dunlaing, King of Leinster, and Donnchadh, son of Aedh, Lord of Ui-Bairrche, for their deeds of treachery. They fell in the year 1042, by Gilla-Phadraig, son of Donnchadh, Lord of Ossory, and Cuccoigeriche Ua Mordha, Lord of Leix, and Macraith Ua Donnchadh, Lord of Eoghanacht, at Magh Muilceth,⁷² in Laeighis. In this battle of Magh-Muilceth, Gilla-Emhain Ua h-Anrothain,⁷³ Lord of Ui-Cremthannain,⁷⁴ and Eachdunn, son of Dunlaing, Tanist of Leinster, with many others, were slain.⁷⁵ In 1042, Macraith, son of Gorman, son of Treasach, Lord of Ui-Bairrche, and his wife, were slain at Castle Dermod,⁷⁶ by the Ui-Balkain.⁷⁷ In 1043 at Maclcoennaigh⁷⁸ on the brink of the Suir, a victory was gained over the people of Ossory and Ormond,⁷⁹ by Carthach,⁸⁰ son to Saerbrethach.⁸¹ In which Ua Donnacain, King of Aradh, was slain. In the year 1046, Conchobhair Ua Loingsigh, or Conor O'Longsy, Lord of Dal Araidhe, was slain in Ui-Buidhe, in Leinster, by the son of Domhnall Ua Loingsigh, or Dorell O'Longsi. This happened, also, in violation of a guarantee given by Niall, son of Eochaidh, King of Ulidia, and of Diarmaid, son of Macl-na-m Bo.⁸² A hosting was led by the son of Brian to Magh-n-Airb in 1047,⁸³ when he carried off the hostages of Laighen and Osraighe.

In 1050 Donnchadh, son to Gilla-Faelain, King of the Ui-Failge, was slain.⁸⁴ Again, Donnchadh Ua Ceallachain, royal heir of Cashel, was killed by the Osraighe, A.D. 1053.⁸⁵ This same year, the death of Gillapadraig, King of Osraige, is recorded.⁸⁶ In 1055, Gillepatrick, King of Ossory, died of grief.⁸⁷

⁶⁸ An old graveyard in the townland of Donore, parish of Lorum, and County of Carlow.

⁶⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 840, 841.

⁷⁰ See William M. Hennessy's *Annala uLaoib*, vol. i., pp. 578, 579 and n. 3.

⁷¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 838, 839.

⁷² Now Timahoe in the Queen's County.

⁷³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 840, 841.

⁷⁴ See *Annala uLaoib* edited by William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 580, 581.

⁷⁵ Dr. O'Donovan states, that this place, which he Anglicises "Muilceth's Plain," is now unknown in Leix, or the Queen's County.

⁷⁶ Now Anglicised O'Hanrahan or Hanrahan, a name still known in the Queen's County.

⁷⁷ Around the rock of Dunamase this tribe was seated.

⁷⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 840 to 843.

⁷⁹ This ancient town is in the southern part of the County of Kildare.

⁸⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 842, 843.

⁸¹ Dr. O'Donovan thought this was the place where the river Multern unites with the Suir, about three miles to the west of Cashel, County Tipperary.

⁸² See William M. Hennessy's *Annala uLaoib*, vol. i., pp. 580 to 583, and nn. 13, 14, 15, 1.

⁸³ From him the Desmond Mac Carthys derive their name.

⁸⁴ Literally "noble-judging." Hence the southern MacCarthys have adopted their favourite Christian names of Justin and Justinian.

⁸⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 850, 851.

⁸⁶ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 278, 279.

⁸⁷ See William M. Hennessy's *Annala uLaoib*, vol. i., pp. 588, 589.

In the year 1063, Laeighseach, son of Fealan Ua Mordha, Lord of Leix, was slain.⁸⁸ In 1064,⁸⁹ Muirheartach Ua Neill, Lord of Tullaghog, was slain by Ui Crimthainn.⁹⁰ In 1065,⁹¹ Culen O'Domhnallain, chief brehon of Ui Failge, was slain by the Ui Crimthannain. Most probably this territory was in Leix. Moreover, Gillamaire, son of Dubh, chief of Crimthannain,⁹² was slain at Timahoe, by O'More, A.D. 1069.⁹³ About this time also the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," state that Murtagh O'Connor of Aifalie was blinded of both his eyes, and by his own brother.⁹⁴ In the year 1069, Maciainn, son of Dubhach, Lord of the Comanns, died. This very same year, also, Fealan, *i.e.*, the Blind, Ua Mordha, died at Achadh-bo.⁹⁵ He was the son of Aimirgin, slain A.D. 1026; and he probably sought a religious retirement at Aghaboe, to be the more consoled for a privation, which unfitted him to discharge the active duties of his worldly station in life. In the year 1069, according to the "Chronicon Scotorum," the battle of Odhbha, in Meath, was fought.⁹⁶ Diarmaid, son of Mael-na-m Bo, King of the Foreigners, of Laighen and of Leth Mogha, at the head of a confederated force, seems to have entered the territory of Conchobar Ua Maelsachlainn, King of Meath. The contending forces met at a place called Muillenn-Chul,⁹⁷ or "the Mill of Cul," near Navan, on Tuesday, the seventh of the Ides of February, A.D. 1072, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters,"⁹⁸ where a desperate engagement took place, in which the King of Leinster was defeated and slain,⁹⁹ together with hundreds of the foreigners and Leinstermen. Among others on his side, the valorous King of Riada was slain. This title he derived from Magh-Riada of Laeighis or Leix. We likewise read, that Lorcan, son of Flaithniadh Ua Duibh, Lord of Creamhthannain—apparently of Leix—with many others, was slain in battle, A.D. 1071.¹⁰⁰

In 1074,¹⁰¹ King Turlough O'Brian, with all his forces of Munster and Ossory, and with a great army of Meathmen, Connaughtmen, Leinstermen, and Danes, invaded Ulster, to get hostages for its submission to his rule: but he was defeated with great loss of his army at Athfirdie,¹⁰² and obliged to return without accomplishing the objects

⁸⁸ See *Annala Uladh* edited by William M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 594, 595.

⁸⁹ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 282, 283.

⁹⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 178.

⁹¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 184, 185.

⁹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 886, 887.

⁹³ Possibly of Meath.

⁹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 888, 889, and n. (s) *ibid.*

⁹⁵ This territory was undoubtedly in Leix.

⁹⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 896, 897.

⁹⁷ See edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 180.

⁹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 896, 897.

⁹⁹ See William M. Hennessy's edition pp. 290, 291.

¹⁰⁰ There is no place near Navan, at the present time, bearing this name.

¹⁰¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 902, 903.

¹⁰² Carade, of Lancarvan, has referred his death incorrectly to about A.D. 1068. He is called there "*Dermitium Macken-Anel, dignissimum et optimum principem qui unquam in Hibernia regnavit.*"

¹⁰³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 900, 901.

¹⁰⁴ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 181.

¹⁰⁵ This place has not been identified. In Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," the place of his defeat with great loss was at Ardmonnan. See vol. ii.

¹⁰⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

of his expedition. In 1078,¹⁰³ a victory was obtained over the Ui Crenlithainn¹⁰⁴ by the men of Fearnmhagh, at Sliabh Fuadh. In the year 1079,¹⁰⁵ it is stated, the men of Teathbha and of Cairbre set out on plundering excursions into Hy-Failge, and took many cows; however, the people of this district overtook them at Chuain-fearta-Molua.¹⁰⁶ There a battle was fought between them; and the Hy-Failgeans killed MacCongeimhle, the King of Teathbha and Cairbre, while they made a great slaughter of his followers.¹⁰⁷ In 1087,¹⁰⁸ Conor O'Conor, Prince of Offaly, killed Donnogh McDonnell Reawar (the fat), King of Leinster, and Donnogh McDonnell McGillpatrick, Prince of Ossory.¹⁰⁹ In 1089, Donnchadh, grandson of Gilla-Patraic, King of Ossory, was slain by his own kinsmen. He was son to Donnell or Dornlinal, who died in 1087.¹¹⁰

In the year 1091, Cineath Ua Mordha,¹¹¹ Lord of Lacighis, and the son of Maclruanaidh, son of Cucoirne, who was head of the Ely-O'Carroll, mutually fell by each other in the house of Ua Briain, at Caiseal.¹¹² In 1094, King Moriortagh O'Brian assembled the people of Munster, Leinster, and Ossory at Dublin, together with Donell McFlynn O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, Donnogh O'Heaghie of Ulster, and Godfrey of Dublin, with ninety ships. Connor O'Connor of Ophaly, called King of Leinster, was made a captive by him.¹¹³ In the year 1096, Gilmurry McDuff, the chief of Hy-Crimthannan, was killed by Magrath O'More, in the doorway of the Penitentiary or Oratory of Tech-Mochua, after both had first mutually sworn on a reliquary, called the *caimin*. At the time, this was in the possession of McDuff. Unless the doorway in the Round Tower be that of the penitentiary already alluded to, no other now remains. On recording this act of treachery, the annalists remark, that the *caimin*, at the time of this murder, was stained with McDuff's blood, and that it should continue for ever so marked. It is a common belief among the Irish, that a stain caused by the blood of a murdered person can never be removed. Duff was the ancestor of O'Duibh, now O'Deevy or Devoy, a family seated in Ui-Crimthannain, at present the barony of Maryborough East in the Queen's County.¹¹⁴ The etymon of the word *Caimin*, meaning a *crooked little thing*, might

the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 912, 913.

¹⁰⁴ Apparently the people in Meath.

¹⁰⁵ This event is placed at A.D. 1078⁴ in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," which state, that they preyed and spoiled the whole Termonland of Killeigh in the King's County. See edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 182, and n. 2.

¹⁰⁶ This appears to have been a wrong insertion, as the true place was Chuain-fearta Mughaine, now Kilkoufert, in the barony of Lower Philipstown, and King's County.

¹⁰⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 912 to 915.

¹⁰⁸ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 184.

¹⁰⁹ See the *Annála Uladh*, vol. ii., pp. 42, 43. After the death of William M. Hennessy, the Council of the Royal Irish Academy entrusted to Very

Rev. Bartholomew MacCarthy, D.D. the editing of the Second and succeeding Volumes of these valuable Annals. This most critical and learned of living Irish scholars assumed the task, which he completed in a highly satisfactory manner.

¹¹⁰ See the *Annála Uladh*, edited by Very Rev. Bartholomew MacCarthy, D.D., vol. ii., pp. 46, 47, and n. 3.

¹¹¹ Anglicised Kenny O'More, lord of Leix.

¹¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 940, 941, and n. n. (v. z.).

¹¹³ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 185, 186.

¹¹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 896, 897, and nn. (f. g.)

¹¹⁵ Said to be Anglicised "the mill of

become the local name for a crozier. We find it related, that in punishment of his treachery and impiety, Magrath O'More was afterwards killed at Mullen na Crosan,¹¹⁵ in the vicinity of Aghaboe, having the caimin then in his possession. His death was a consequence of having violated or disrespected the saints Fintan, Moehua, and Colman. Hence, we may infer, that the caimin was some venerated reliquary, either belonging to one or more of the aforementioned saints, or containing a portion of their reliques. Nothing is now known of this sacred object in the neighbourhood of Timahoe, and it is probably lost or destroyed.

In 1006¹¹⁶ or 1007, Aimbirgin Ua Mordha, Lord of Laiighis, died.¹¹⁷ The following year, the son of Gaithin Ua Mordha, Lord of Leix, was killed by his own people.¹¹⁸ In 1007 is noticed the death of Dervorgill, daughter to Teige McGilla-Patrick, mother of Moriartach O'Brien, Monarch of Ireland, and of Teige O'Brien.¹¹⁹ The battle of Magh Cobha took place in 1000,¹²⁰ when the King of the Cinel Eoghain Domlmall the son of Mac Lochlain, attacked the invaders of Ulster who were there, and these were defeated, with the loss of several of their kings and chiefs slain in that battle. Among the Lagenians and Ossorians fell Muirertach Mac Gillamocholmog, King of Laignen, and Gilla-Padraig Ruadh, King of Ossory.

CHAPTER V.—ANNALS OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY.

At the commencement of the twelfth century two powerful rivals contended for supremacy in Ireland. These were Muircertach Ua Briain, King of Munster,¹ and Domlmall Ua Lochlainn, King over the Northern Cinel-Eogain.² The latter invaded Munster, and caused great destruction of life and property; but soon was Muirchertach in a position to retaliate on the North. In 1100 the forces of Ossory and Leinster were joined with those of Muircertach or Murtoigh O'Brian, King of Munster, in that destructive invasion of Ulster, where he ruined many towns and forts—among the rest Royal Aileagh³—and took hostages to enforce his supremacy in Ireland.⁴ The "Annals of Ulster," refer this northern invasion to A.D. 1101. The following year the Cinel-Eoghain marched to Magh Cobha,⁵ but peace for a year was made between them and the

the Crossans," so called from the family of Crossans or Mac Crossans. One of these became distinguished in the reign of Charles II., and he took the name of Crosby. See *Ibid.*, u. (h.).

¹¹⁶ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 187.

¹¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 954, 955.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 960, 961.

¹¹⁹ She is also styled Queen of Ireland in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 187.

¹²⁰ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 306 to 309.

¹ He succeeded Turlough on the throne of Munster, A.D. 1086, after the expulsion of his brother Dermot to Connaught, where his cause was espoused by the King of that province, and by Donnall Ua Lochlainn. With united forces they marched against Muirchertach, and laid his palace of Kinvara in ruins. See James Wills' "Lives of Illustrious and Distinguished Irishmen," vol. i., part ii., pp. 230 to 241.

² He belonged to the Hy Niall race, and survived his rival Muirchertach, when he was acknowledged as supreme monarch of Ireland for a short period, having died at Derry, A.D. 1121, in the seventy-third year of his age. See

Ulidians, for which hostages were given. Again in 1103, Muircertach Ua Briain, having united under his leadership the men of Munster, of Leinster, of Connaught, of Ossory, and of Meath, with their chieftains, marched against the Ulidians, under Domhnall Ua Lochlainn, to Magh-Cobha. The army of the north held a position in Uí-Bresail-Macha,⁶ and the Cinel Eoghain forces were assembled at a place called Cell-na-Conraire,⁷ on the Plain of Armagh, where they remained for a week besieging Armagh. Not being able to obtain his request, Muircertach turned into Magh Cobha, where he left the fifth part of his Leinster forces with a detachment of the men of Munster, and then applied himself to pillaging in Dal-Airaidhe.⁸ However, during this expedition he lost Donnchadh, son of Toirdelbach, and the son of Ua Conchobuir, King of Ciaraidhe and Ua Beoin, with other brave warriors. Meantime, Domhnall Ua Lochlainn seized the opportunity of this division of forces, and led the Ulster army into Magh-Cobha, where on the 5th of August, he fell upon the Lagenians, Ossorians, Mononians, and the Foreigners allied with them. There he inflicted a disastrous defeat, attended with great slaughter. The Cinel-Eoghain⁹ returned in great triumph and with many spoils and trophies, including the royal pavilion and banner of Ua-Briain.¹⁰

About the year 1105, Cowkagrig de O'Mordha, chief of Clannmelaghlen in Basca, founded and dedicated the monastery de Lege Dei in Lease, known also as Carraghain in Lagenia.¹¹ In 1107,¹² the Uí-Cremhthainn¹³ wounded Cathasach Ua Tuamain, lord of Uí-Briain Archaille, and he died in consequence. In 1100 Domhnall MacGilla-Patraic the Red, King of Ossory, was killed by another youth in playing a game.¹⁴

In 1111, the celebrated Synod of Fidh-Mic-Oenghusa¹⁵ was held under the presidency of Cellach MacHugh, Archbishop of Armagh, and there Mac-Muire Ua Dunain, the eminent senior of Ireland,¹⁶ with more than fifty Bishops, together with three hundred and sixty priests and priors.¹⁷ Moreover, we are told, three thousand ecclesiastics met Muircertach Ua Briain, together with the nobles of the Half of Mogh, to enjoin rule and good conduct on every one, both laic and cleric.¹⁸

L'Abbé Ma-Geoghegan's "Histoire de l'Irlande," Tome i. Seconde Partie, chap. vi., vii., pp. 429, 430.

³ A celebrated fortress in the present County of Londonderry, a few miles north of the City of Derry.

⁴ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 188.

⁵ Rev. Geoffry Keating places it in Uí Eathach, i.e. Iveagh in Ulster.

⁶ A territory in the present County of Armagh.

⁷ The name of an old church near Armagh, but its exact position has not been identified.

⁸ A well-known territory in the east of Ulster.

⁹ The people of Tyrone.

¹⁰ See *Annála Uladh*, edited by Very Rev. B. MacCarthy, D.D., vol. ii., pp. 66 to 73, and nn. *ibid.*

¹¹ See Thady Dowling's *Annals*, p. 7, Rev. Richard Butler's edition.

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 984, 985.

¹³ It seems uncertain whether they were the septa so denominated living in Leix or in Meath.

¹⁴ See *Annála Uladh*, edited by Very Rev. B. MacCarthy, D.D., vol. ii., pp. 82, 83.

¹⁵ The wood of the Sons of Engus.

¹⁶ He belonged to the province of Munster.

¹⁷ See Dr. Geoffry Keating's "General History of Ireland," p. 510, Duffy's edition.

¹⁸ See *Annála Uladh*, edited by Very Rev. B. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 84 to 87.

¹⁹ This is placed at A.D. 1115, by Dr. Geoffry Keating in his "General History of Ireland."

The exact site of Fídh-mac-Oengusa is unknown, but its location is thought to have been near the Hill of Usnecagh, in the County of Westmeath. Soon after this, another General Synod¹⁹ was assembled at Rath Breasail,²⁰ under the presidency of Gille or Gillebert, Bishop of Limerick.²¹ The locality of Rath Breasail has not been identified; but, as there was a district called Hy-Bressail, that formed part of Hy-Failgia in Leinster, it may have been there.²² The principal affairs transacted at the Synod of Rath Breasail were recorded in the ancient Book of Clonenagh.²³ In it, the number and boundaries of the former dioceses in Ireland are defined, with their respective grouping under the primate of Armagh's jurisdiction, and under that of the Archbishop of Cashel.²⁴ Twenty-five bishops sat in that assembly, and they passed very necessary and useful decrees for the good government of the Irish Church. Clerics of various ranks and distinguished laics were present at this council, which was convened A.D. 1118,²⁵ and it appears to have been the earliest systematic attempt to mark out the dioceses of Ireland with precision.²⁶

In 1113,²⁷ Domhnall, son of Donnchadh, grandson of Gilla Phatraic, King of Ossory, was killed by his brother Goll Gabrain. In 1115²⁸ a battle was fought by Domnall Ua Briain and the foreigners of Ath-cliath against the Leinstermen, in which Conchobar Ua Conchobair, King of Uí-Failgi, Donnchadh, grandson of Mael-na-mbo, King of Uí-Ceinnsealaigh, their sons, and many others were slain.²⁹ In 1118,³⁰ Toirdelbach Ua Conchobhair took pledges from the Danes of Ath-cliath and from Leinster and Ossory. This year a mermaid was taken by fishermen of the Weir of Lisarglinn³¹ in Ossory, and another was taken at Port-Lairge.³² In 1119³³ Donagh MacGillpatrick's son and heir of Ossory was killed by the Ossorians themselves.³⁴

Toirdhealbhach Ua Conchobhair, King of Connaught, in 1122 made an incursion to the south of Osraighe, when he effected a slaughter of the people, together with Ua Caróe.³⁵ In 1123,³⁶ Donnchadh Mac Gilla-Patraic the Red, King of Ossory, was slain by his own kinsmen. In 1124, Muireadhach Mac Gormain, lord of Uí-Bairreche, the ornament

¹⁹ Dr. O'Donovan was of opinion that this was the ancient name for Mountrath in the Queen's County; but Professor O'Curry shows that Rathbrasil was the name of a place contiguous to the City of Cashel, and in the territory then subject to Murtagh O'Brian.

²¹ He was then apostolic legate in Ireland.

²² See Rev. Dr. Lanigan's "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," vol. iv., chap. xxv., sect. xiii., p. 38.

²³ From it Dr. Geoffrey Keating derives his account of the Synod of Rath Breasail.

²⁴ See an account of these divisions in the Life of St. Gille or Gillibut in the author's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. ii., at February 4th, Art. v., pp. 322 to 336.

²⁵ See Rev. William Reeves' "Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor, and Dromore," Appendix, p. 139.

²⁶ See *ibid.*, p. 141.

²⁷ See *Annala Uladh*, edited by

Very Rev. B. MacCarthy, D.D., vol. ii., pp. 88, 89.

²⁸ See *Annala Uladh*, by Very Rev. B. MacCarthy, D.D., vol. ii., pp. 92, 93.

²⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., p. 1,000, 1,001.

³⁰ See *Annala Uladh*, Rev. Dr. MacCarthy's edition, vol. ii., pp. 98, 99.

³¹ Now Listerlin, near Inistiogue, in the barony of Ida, and County of Kilkenny.

³² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1006, 1007, and n. (t).

³³ See "Annala Uladh," Rev. Dr. MacCarthy's edition, vol. ii., pp. 100, 101.

³⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1,008, 1,009.

³⁵ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicon Scotorum," pp. 326, 327.

³⁶ See *Annala Uladh*, edition of Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 109 to 111.

and glory, and the chief old hero of Leinster, died.³⁷ In 1127,³⁸ a vacancy having occurred in St. Brigid's nunnery at Kildare on the death of the abbess, a quarrel arose between the *Ui-Faelain* and the *Ui-Failgih* in the centre of Kildare, regarding the succession of a nun to represent either tribe. In this contest, Ceerball, son of Mac Faelain, and several were slain.³⁹ However, this very same year, Diarmaid Mac Murchada had his revenge; for collecting the *Lagenians*, the people of *Hy-Kinsellagh*, and the Scandinavians of Dublin, he marched against Conor O'Briain and the Munstermen, with the people of Ossory and the Foreigners of Port-Lairge, when the latter were defeated with great slaughter. Several of the Ossorian chiefs fell in this battle. In the year 1133, Donnogh O'Conor of Offalie was killed by the *Clannalire* people. This same year also, King Turlough O'Conor spoiled portions of Leix and Ossory.⁴⁰ In 1135, the "*Annals of Clonmacnoise*"⁴¹ only repeat what the *Chronicum Scotorum* has at A.D. 1130, regarding the war between the *Lagenians* and *Ossorians*.

Toirdealvach O'Conor, the fierce and cruel King of Connaught, was recognised as supreme monarch of Ireland from the year 1136.⁴² His warlike proclivities and vigorous proceedings maintained this ascendancy for the twenty years succeeding, and these were marked by continuous disturbance. During his reign also the infamous Diarmada Mac Murchadha, through treacherous and barbarous acts, contrived to subjugate the chieftains of Leinster, by killing Domhnall, Lord of *Ui-Faelain*, royal heir to that principality, and Murchadh Ua Tuathal. He also blinded Muirheartach Mac Gillamochoilmac, Lord of *Feara-Cualann*. At the same time, no fewer than seventeen of the Leinster nobility, with many others of interior rank, were either killed or blinded by him.⁴³ The people of *Laeighis* appear to have resisted the tyrant's power. This same year likewise Donnchadh Ua Conchobhair Failghe was killed by the *Clann Maelughra*.⁴⁴ In A.D. 1141, an army was led by Conchobar Ua Briain to *Ath-Cliath*, and the foreigners submitted to him as their king. Some of his people died on their return from the east, after having eaten the green corn at a certain place in *Laeighis*. A predatory excursion was made by Diarmaid Mac Murchada into *Laeighis*; and the people of *Laeighis* defeated him, after he had carried off a great prey from them. In the year 1142, an army was led by Toirdhealbhach Ua Conchobhair, King of Ireland, accompanied by the men of Meath, Breifne, and Leinster, to march into Munster; but they returned without cows or hostages—save

³⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "*Annals of the Four Masters*," vol. ii., pp. 1,018, 1,019.

³⁸ See *Annala Uladh*, by Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 116, 117.

³⁹ See William M. Hennessy's "*Chronicum Scotorum*," pp. 334, 335.

⁴⁰ See the "*Annals of Clonmacnoise*," by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 192. The year following this raid is apparently repeated with a statement that he burned "som cornes in the countrey of Lease and Ossery"—*ibid.*, p. 193.

⁴¹ See the edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 194.

⁴² See Roderick O'Flaherty's "*Ogygia*," Pars. iii., cap. xciv., p. 439.

⁴³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "*Annals of the Four Masters*," vol. ii., pp. 1064, 1,065.

⁴⁴ He is called son of Goll Gaibhle the Blind Man of Fidh Gaibhle, a famous wood along the River Figile, in the parish of Cloonsast, barony of Coolestown and King's County. See Dr. O'Donovan's *Leabhar na Seceart*, or *Book of Rights*," p. 214, n. (o).

⁴⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "*Annals of the Four Masters*," vol. ii., pp. 1064, 1065, and n. (g).

only the hostages of Leinster—after having traversed Osraighe and Laeighis, and destroyed some of their corn. In the year 1146.⁴⁶ Gillapatrik, son of Donnchadh Ua Gillapadraig, King of Osraighe, was slain by the sons of Conghalach Ua Brenain, in Cill-Chainigh. In the year 1140, Laeighseach Ua Mordha,⁴⁷ Lord of Laeighis and the Comauns, died after penance.⁴⁸ He was the son of Aimirgin, son to Fealan. The wife of this chief, a daughter of Ua Ceallaighe, died A.D. 1152.⁴⁹

King Murtagh O'Brian of Munster and his forces invaded Ossory in 1153, and we are told that they wasted and spoiled it without respect of church or chapel.⁵⁰ This same year, he compelled Dermot McMurogh to give him hostages.⁵¹ In the year 1153, Niall Ua Mordha, Lord of Laeighis, who had previously been taken prisoner by the infamous Diarmaid Mac Murchadha, was released from his fetters. But, notwithstanding the guarantee of the laity and clergy obtained for him, the unprincipled Mac Murogh blinded his unfortunate captive.⁵² In 1156, died Toirdhelbach or Turlough O'Conor, surnamed the Great, Monarch of Ireland, and he was buried in Clonmacnoise, beside the altar of Temple-Ciarain.⁵³

In the year 1156⁵⁴ or 1157, an army was led by Muirheartach, son of Niall Ua Lochlainn, accompanied by the people of the North of Ireland, into Leinster; and the King of Leinster, Diarmaid MacMurchadha, gave him hostages, while in return he was allowed to rule over that principality. The Cinel-Eogain and the Oirgialla also went to the Plain of Derrymore in Ossory, where its chiefs made submission to Ua Lochlainn. The people of Laeighis, Uí-Failghe, and of the half of Osraighe, then fled into Connaught.⁵⁵ In A.D. 1158, an army was led by Ruaidhri Ua Conchobhair as far as Leithghlinn, and he took hostages of Osraighe and Laeighis: and he fettered Macraith Ua Mordha, Lord of Laeighis.⁵⁶

Soon after this period were maturing those events, which led to

⁴⁶ See William M. Hennessy's "Chronicum Scotorum," pp. 344, 345.

⁴⁷ In English, Lewis O'More. This name Lewis is still a favourite one among the families of O'More or Moore in the Queen's County.

⁴⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., p. 1088, 1089.

⁴⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 1104, 1105.

⁵⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 201.

⁵¹ See *ibid.*, p. 202.

⁵² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1106, 1107.

⁵³ See Miss Margaret Stokes', "Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language," vol. i., p. 79 and n. (c).

⁵⁴ According to *AnnaLa Uladh*, edited by Very Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 128, 129.

⁵⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1124, 1125.

⁵⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 1130, 1131.

⁵⁷ He is named Maurice Regan.

⁵⁸ It has the following introductory lines, in the old Norman French:—

"Parsoen demande Latinner
L'moi conta de sim Historie
Dant far ici la Memorie,
Morice Regan iret eclui
Buche a buche par la alui
Ri cest gest endita
Lestorie de lui me mostra
Jeil Morice iret Latinner
Al rei re Murcher
Ici lirrai del Bachelier
Del rei Dermond, vous voil conter."

The foregoing has thus been put into English by Sir George Carew:—

"At his own desire the Interpreter
To me related his History,
Which I here commit to Memory
Maurice Regan was the man,
Who Face to Face indited to me
These actions of the King,
And of himself shewed this History.
This Maurice was Interpreter
To the King, King Murcher.
These things this Batchellor
Of King Dermol read to me;
This is his story."

the Anglo-Norman Invasion of Ireland, and the territories of Leix and Ossory were destined to suffer also, from the troubles which ensued. The servant and interpreter ⁵⁷ of Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, prepared a composition, afterwards put into French metre ⁵⁸ by one of his acquaintance, and this well-known Norman poem, describing the Conquest of Ireland, declares "O Mortha le sire de Leys" to have been loyal to his sire, or senior, Dermot MacMurrough, while the "Mac Donchad seigneur de Osserie," or King of Ossory, was a most determined and formidable enemy to the King of Leinster. With him was associated "Mac Kelan roi de Offelan." Both of these were rebels to MacMurchad's authority. This same year Hugh O'Dempsey, Prince of Clanmalier, died.⁵⁹ In 1160, Melaghlin MacMurrough, King of Meath, took hostages from Offaly to ensure its subjection to him.⁶⁰ Domhnall III., King of Ossory succeeded his father as dynast in the year 1162.⁶¹ He was the son of Donnchadh, the fourth of the name, who had been King of Osraighe. This Mac Donchad, also called Donald, as likewise Donall Ramhar, or the Fat, had a quarrel with O'More a little before that period, when the Anglo-Norman Invaders had landed in Wexford. Having engaged some of the newly-arrived warriors, Mac Donchad invaded Leix, which he overran for four days. These ravages were only arrested by O'More's submission. This chieftain, however, to be revenged, presently applied to Dermot for protection, although he had been obliged to give hostages to the King of Ossory before his departure. Accordingly, the King of Leinster marched thither, with his Anglo-Norman allies. Their united bands chased the King of Ossory away. Then, by way of precaution, hostages were taken from the "sire de Leys," whose fidelity Mac Murrough appears to have doubted. In 1163,⁶² Cerball Ua (*recte* Mac) Gilla-Patraic, King of the South of Ossory, died. In 1164 died Donnogh McGillepatrick McDonnogh, King of Ossory.⁶³ This same year, also, when Robert Fitzstephen landed in Ireland, with twenty English Knights, and fifty Welsh archers, and a great army, besides those Leinstermen that joined them, he preyed and spoiled the territory of Ossory, and gave the inhabitants a great overthrow at Slieve Margie.⁶⁴ In the year 1166 we read, that Domhnall Mac Gillaphadrig, Lord of Osraighe, was slain by the people of Laeighis Uí Mordha, *i.e.* by the O'Mores of Leix.⁶⁵ This entry occurs the previous year in the "Annals of Ulster,"⁶⁶ in which it is said, that the same King of Northern Ossory and Conchobar Ua Broichte, King of Cenn-caille, and Paitin Ua Aedha, the candle of all

⁵⁹ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 203.

⁶⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 205.

⁶¹ See John Hogan's "Kilkenny," &c., p. 161.

⁶² See *Annata Uladh*, edited by Very Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 142, 143.

⁶³ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 206.

⁶⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 206, 207.

⁶⁵ "This chieftain is often surnamed Magh Laeighis, *i.e.* of the Plain of Leix.

He reigned but three years."—John Hogan's "Kilkenny: the ancient City of Ossory, the Seat of its Kings, the See of its Bishops, and the Site of its Cathedral." Part II. The Rise and Fall of the Clann Mac Gillaphadraig in Osraighe, p. 161. Kilkenny, 1884, 8vo.

⁶⁶ Edition of Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 147, 1447.

⁶⁷ This is set forth in the "Annals of Boyle."

⁶⁸ See *Annata Uladh*, edited by Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 158, 159.

⁶⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. ii., pp. 1180, 1181.

Ui-Ceinnsealigh, were killed by Mac Craith Ua Mordhai, and by the Laighsi for evil causes. This same year 1166, Ruaidhri Ua Conchobair with Diarmait Ua Maol-Schechlainn and Tighernan Ua Ruairc, came into Leinster, Ossory, and Munster, when the Kings of Mogh's Half proclaimed him their Arch-king.⁶⁷

In 1168,⁶⁸ Ruaidhri Ua Concobuir led a hosting to Athlone, where he was met by Mac Gilla-Patraic, King of Ossory, who on that occasion gave him four hostages. We read, that Petrus Ua Mordha, Bishop of Cluain-fearta-Brennainn, who, at first, had been a pious monk, was drowned in the Shannon, on the 27th December, A.D. 1171.⁶⁹ He belonged to the family of Leix, and he is called a man of authority in the "Annals of Loch Cé."⁷⁰ In 1171,⁷¹ Donnall Ua Focarta, King of Southern Ely, was killed by the Ossorians.

Notwithstanding the apparent fidelity of O'More to the Anglo-Normans, and to Dermot MacMurrough, his territory was invaded and conferred by Strongbow upon a comrade in arms, named Geoffrey de Constantine.⁷² To him Kelberi and Rathel Marthi were granted.⁷³ The first of these local denominations represents Kilberry, on the River Barrow, a few miles above Athy, and in the present county of Kildare. By the second, the rath of "O'Morthe," as that chieftain's principal fortress, or residence, is called, must be sought for in the modern denomination of Rathmore. And there is such a place, not far from Dunamase; while it seems to have derived its etymon either from the very extensive circular entrenchment, yet visible, and shaded all over with aged hawthorns, or from the family name of the ancient Dynasts of Leixy. Kilbixie,⁷⁴ however, as Kilberry is found incorrectly written, is thought to have been elsewhere located, according to the supposition of Harris;⁷⁵ and, a charter from Walter de Lacy to Geoffrey de Constantine is cited, to prove that these lands were in Meath.⁷⁶ However, this statement is quite erroneous. We learn that Leix, the land of Geoffrey de Constantine,⁷⁷ had been assigned by Henry II.⁷⁸ It was granted to pay feudal suit and service at Wexford, and as a part of the lordship of Leinster. Notwithstanding, the grantee's descendants lost possession of that territory, after a brief tenure. Hugh de Lacy, who was appointed to govern Ireland, built a castle at Tah-melis,⁷⁹ or Thaghe Mechoe for Meyler Fitz-Henry, to

⁶⁷ Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 144, 145.

⁷¹ See *Annata tlaoh*, edited by Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, vol. ii., pp. 168, 169.

⁷² He was one of the magnates of Ireland in the fifth year of Henry III. See William Lynch's "View of the Legal Institutions, Honorary Hereditary Offices, and Feudal Baronies established in Ireland during the reign of Henry II., chap. x., pp. 289, 297.

⁷³ As the Anglo-Norman poem states.

⁷⁴ In the year 1192, the Castle of Kilbixy, in Meath, was erected. This place afterwards became a town of very considerable importance. See Sir Henry Piers' Chronographical Description of Westmeath.

⁷⁵ See "Hibernica," a Fragment of the History of Ireland, by Maurice Regan, n. (F.), p. 42.

⁷⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 92 to 94, and n. (x.), *ibid.*

⁷⁷ See "The Miscellany of the Irish Archaeological Society," vol. i., p. 28, quoting Hoveden.

⁷⁸ His reign dates from Sunday, December 19th, 1154, to his death on the 6th July, 1189. See Sir Harris Nicholas' "Outlines of History," pp. 98, 300.

⁷⁹ Probably Timahoe in the Queen's County is here meant.

⁸⁰ It is possible, this may stand for Omev, a district west of the Barrow, between Athy and Carlow. See "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts, preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth," edited by J. S. Brewer, M.A., and William Bullen, Esq. The Book of Howth, p. 98.

whom his niece was married; another at Obovry,⁸⁰ or Obeye for Robert de Bygaz: a third at the Barrow River, and a fourth at Norrach.⁸¹ But among the rest, it is said, he fortified an ancient castle called Donemavvs.⁸² This is known to have been in Lease, characterised as a woody and a boggy district.⁸³

After 1173, Meiler Fitz-Henri changed Kildare for Lease, in order to subdue the Omoordha by force; for Harvey could not effect this object, as they were little disposed for peace.⁸⁴ Soon after the Anglo-Norman Invasion, the adventurous colonists came in great numbers, and having established themselves in Dublin, Wexford, and Waterford, they overpowered the natives of Leinster and Munster in various districts. They took possession of many fertile plains, where strong castles were erected, and they drove the aborigines into waste or remote places. During that time, the Clan O'Moore and their adherents seem to have been chiefly confined to the woods,⁸⁵ to the skirts of Sliabhblloom,⁸⁶ and probably to some villages and lands, where they were allowed to settle, so long as they observed neutrality, or rendered services to the invaders. Here they were mostly employed in tillage, or in the pursuit of a pastoral life; while some of the most expert were engaged in handicraft employments. The clergy and religious appear to have discharged their sacred functions without hindrance or molestation.⁸⁷ In 1193,⁸⁸ the death of Cubrogam Ua Diunasaigh (O'Dempsey) chief of Clann-Mailighra (Clanmalire), and for a long time King of Ui-Failghe, took place.

One of the first entries in the Irish Annals respecting the O'Mores, and subsequent to the Anglo-Norman Invasion, is at A.D. 1196. At this date, we read, that Mahon, or Mathghamhain, the son of Conor or Conchobhar Maenmbaighe or Moim moy, Roydamna⁸⁹ of Connaught, was slain by Domhnall or Donnell O'Mordha, and the men of Leix, who attempted to prevent him from bearing off the spoil which he had taken from the English. This act was perpetrated by a mercenary of the Laighis. But O'More was killed by Cathal Carrach O'Connor, in revenge for his brother Mahon's death.⁹⁰ Donnell O'More was then seigneur among the tribes of Leix. He is declared to have resisted in defence, and to have

⁸¹ Probably Narraghmore, in the present County of Kildare.

⁸² This undoubtedly means Dunamase.

⁸³ See a curious little work which has been published, and this Elzevierian edition is intitled, "Respublica sive Status Regni Scotiae et Hiberniae." Diversorum auctorum, pp. 167, 168. Lugd. Bat. A°CLDCCXXXVII. Cum Privilegio, 24 mo. The information in this tract is usually from Camden and Speed.

⁸⁴ See Thady Dowling's "Annals," p. 13. This is differently expressed in the Book of Howth. See "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts, preserved in the Archbishop's Library at Lambeth," edited by J. S. Brewer, M.A., and William Bullen, Esq., p. 98. London: 1871, 8vo.

⁸⁵ In the commencement of the fifteenth century, we find as an etymon,

"The people of Yellow Wood," applied to a sept of Leix, by O'Huidhrin; but his learned editor, Dr. O'Donovan, had not been able to determine its exact situation.

⁸⁶ Mr. Herbert F. Hore conjectures that these mountaineers had been called "The Claudebuoy."

⁸⁷ See "The Topographical Poems of John O'Dublagain and Giolla na naomh O'Huidhrin." Edited by John O'Donovan LL.D. M.R.I.A., pp. 86, 87, and n. (425), p. li., *ibid.*

⁸⁸ According to the "Annals of Loch Cé."

⁸⁹ This word *Roydamna*, in Irish *Rioċdamna*, signifies in Latin *materius*, i.e. of a king. Such term is applied to the sons of a king. A prince is the modern acceptation of the word.

⁹⁰ See "Annals of Loch Cé." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. i., pp. 196, 197.

killed, as a manifestation of loyalty to the Anglo-Normans, that Irish chief. Thus, when Mahon was bearing off spoils, taken from English people, the "Annals of Kilronan"⁹¹ state, that he was slain by an archer of Donnell O'More's people, and that Donnell O'More fell in the same day by the hand of Cathal Carragh, in revenge of his brother. The "Annals of Boyle" refer this incident to the year 1197,⁹² while Mahon's death is attributed to one of O'More's archers.

CHAPTER VI.—ANNALS OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

THE alliance of Dermot MacMurrough, through the marriage of his daughter Eva with Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke,¹ brought the whole province of Leinster under Anglo-Norman domination; and soon it was parcelled out among the leading invaders, so that during the whole of the thirteenth century, the original possessors of the Queen's County, the O'Moores, the MacGillapatricks, the O'Conors Failghe, etc., take no prominent position in our Annals, under that suzerainty established over them. By the Lady Eva, Strongbow left only one daughter Isabel, who married William Maréchal, Earl of Pembroke in 1198, at the age of fourteen, and as a consequence of that marriage, he claimed the proprietorship of Leinster. The result of this connection was the birth of five daughters,² who married respectively great barons of the period. Maurice Fitzgerald,³ who had preceded Strongbow in the invasion of Ireland in 1169, obtained a grant of the barony of Offaly and the territory of Offelan in the County of Kildare,⁴ in 1176. He had a son named Gerald,⁵ who succeeded him, and sat in the Irish Parliament as Baron Offaly. He died A.D. 1205. Raymond FitzGerald, surnamed Le Gros,⁶ had already secured large landed pos-

⁹¹ In these we read at this year 1196 :
 ματζάμιαμ μαζ ένεόβαν μασημαίζε
 το μαρβαδ το περρεναχ .α. Κοζόβαν, το
 μαντιρι Όομναλλ υι Μορβος. Όομναλλ
 υι Μορβος πέ το τυτιμ ιρ ιν ναιρ εενα
 το Λαμν έαταρ έαρηαιζ.

⁹² It is thus entered, "A.D. 1197 :
 ματζάμιαμ μαζ ένεόβαν μασημαίζι
 οερισυς αβ αλιγυς σαγγαριο δε familia
 Όομναλλ υι Μορβος, et in eadem hora
 Όομναλλ υι Μορβος cecidit de manu
 έαταρ έαρηαιζ."

¹ Also known as Richard Fitz-Gislebert. His marriage took place in 1170, soon after his arrival in Ireland, and when Waterford had been captured.

² "On this extinction of the male line of the Maréchal family, the Lordship of Leinster was partitioned as follows, according to Anglo-Norman law, between Anselme's five sisters, King Dermot MacMurrough's great granddaughters, who married into the noblest houses of England; to Matilda, Catherlach, or Carlow; to Jeanne, the County of Wexford; to Isabella, Kilkenny;

to Sibilla, Kildare; and to Eva, Dunamase, comprising the greater part of Leix, subsequently called the Queen's County,"—John T. Gilbert's "History of the Viceroys of Ireland," chap. i., pp. 101, 102.

³ Descended from the noble family of the Gherardini of Florence, of whom some account may be seen in the "Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland," vol. iv. Fourth Series, 1877, pp. 246 to 264.

⁴ Maurice FitzGerald, baron of Offaly, was ancestor of the historic Geraldine family in Ireland. An interesting account of him and his descendants is given in the Marquis of Kildare's "Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors," two vols., 8vo. Dublin, 1858-1862.

⁵ Married to a daughter of Hamon de Valognes, an Anglo-Norman of Suffolk, allied to Theobald FitzGaultier, ancestor of the Ormond family.

⁶ He was son of William Fitzgerald, and a nephew to Maurice Fitzgerald.

sessions in Wexford. On the death of Strongbow in 1176, he marched from Limerick to Dublin, where the King's council chose him as successor.⁷ In 1199, when John succeeded to the crown of England, that and his lordship of Ireland centred in his person; and he entrusted the viceroyalty of the latter kingdom to Meiller FitzHenry,⁸ who had received from Strongbow a grant of Kildare and adjoining lands. This grant he subsequently exchanged for Leix, where a strong castle was erected for him by Hugh de Lasci.⁹ We are told that by desire of Geoffrey de Costentin, the land of Leis and Houkreuthenan¹⁰ were granted by King John to Meyler Fitz-Henry, in exchange for a cantred in Connaught, called Tirieghrachbothe.¹¹ He was to hold of the King in fee, by the service of five knights. This grant¹² is dated November 6th, A.D. 1200,¹³ and it is said to have been accepted by that vigorous commander, to repress the native septs of Leix, who were formidable foes, and on the borders or marches of the Anglo-Norman settlements.¹⁴

Meantime other brave and adventurous Anglo-Norman nobles were engaged pursuing their career of ambition and confiscation in different parts of Ireland; sometimes waging war with the native chiefs, sometimes taking advantage of their mutual dissensions, and profiting by the occasions that continually offered for rapine and conquest. The strong government already established in Dublin, and the security of that position, formed a sure basis for enterprises which at worst could result only in partial failures against the disunited and frequently warring septs. The clashing interests of the invaders led to broils of frequent occurrence. Thus a great feud broke out, which developed into a war,¹⁵ between Meyler and Geoffrey De Marisco¹⁶ and William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke, in 1207,¹⁷ during which both Leinster and Munster suffered severely. Meyler and Hugh De Lacy had also a contention in Meath, where siege was laid against the strong castle of Ardnurcher.¹⁸ The castle of Athronny¹⁹ in Lease was spoiled by Moriortagh McBryen an Heyre and the sons of O'Connor of Connaught in A.D. 1207; many of its inhabitants were slain, and after taking away all the cows, sheep, harnesses and other things therein, the town was burned.²⁰ During the first encroachments of the Anglo-Norman colonists, it may be supposed, many of the old septs of Leix took into cultivation and settlement those almost inaccessible heights

⁷ See Alfred Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," p. 180.

⁸ He was so named because his father had been the illegitimate son of Henry I., King of England.

⁹ Uncle to his wife.

¹⁰ This locality has not been identified.

¹¹ Unknown by this name.

¹² This deed is witnessed by S. Bishop of Bath, Godfrey Fitz Peter, Earl of Essex, Hugh Bardolf, Hamon de Valoignes, Geoffrey de Marisco. Leabury. Chart., 2 John. m. 20.

¹³ See "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London, 1171-1251." Edited by H. S. Sweetman B.A., Trin. Coll. Dublin, M.R.I.A. Num. 137, p. 22.

¹⁴ See John T. Gilbert's "History of

the Viceroys of Ireland," chap. ii., pp. 58, 59.

¹⁵ This is related in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," translated by Mageoghagan, and edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 221.

¹⁶ Also called Geftry De Mariscis by English writers. See Meredith Hammer's "Chronicle of Ireland," pp. 343 et seq. 382 to 385. Dublin edition of 1809, 4to.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 154, 155.

¹⁸ In Westmeath.

¹⁹ By Rev. Denis Murphy, this is identified with the present Ballyroan, four miles south of Maryborough.

²⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 222, and n. (4).

of Slievemargy, which were then gradually reclaimed from a state of comparative waste. The entire province of Leinster was granted by King John, in the ninth year of his reign,²¹ to William Mareschal or Marshal,²² Earl of Pembroke. He had a son, William Marshall, who succeeded him in the title, and who married Alienor or Elenor, sister to King Henry III.²³ This William appears to have died about or a little before the month of April, 1231.²⁴ When his brother Richard came from Ireland to England in 1232, the King conferred with him regarding a dowry to Elenor in Ireland, and among other possessions to be assigned her was the new vill of Leys.²⁵ Measures were taken, that the countess should obtain her right dowry, and lands of reasonable extent.

In 1212 we read in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise,"²⁶ that Murtagh O'Bryan, Donnell McDonnell O'Melaghlin, Cowlen O'Dempsye and Donnell Clannagh McGillepatrick gave an overthrow to Cormack McArt O'Melaghlin, and that on this occasion Gillechrist McMurrough McCoghlan and Donslevic McConnor McCoghlan with many others were killed. In 1213²⁷ Finn O'Dempsy and his brother Donogh were treacherously taken by Gefry March and conveyed to Dublin. There he was bound to a horse's tail, dragged through all the streets, and afterwards hanged. In 1215,²⁸ the people of Offaly killed Morough O'Mollov, prince of Fercall.

When the five sons of the Elder William Mareschal died without issue,²⁹ the principality of Leinster devolved on their sisters by Anglo-Norman tenure. That nobleman had five daughters, who were co-heiresses, and each inherited severally the lordship of a county as a dowry, excepting Eva, who was the eldest daughter, according to some writers,³⁰ though others state she was the youngest. Sybil, the fourth daughter, is said to have married Thomas, Earl of Derby, and to have had the lordship of Kildare for her inheritance.³¹ Eva married William De Braos,³² or Braese, lord of Brecknock, and it is said they inhabited Dunamase,³³ supposed to have been the Dunum of Ptolemy,³⁴ in remote times. It is stated that it had been erected into a fortress by Laignseach O'More, about the beginning of the third century, and it is thought to

²¹ A.D. 1208.

²² He is called Maxfield by Hanmer, who gives his pedigree in the "Chronicle of Ireland," pp. 343, 344. Dublin edition of 1809, 410.

²³ See "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland," 1171-1251. Edited by H. S. Sweetman, B.A., Num. 1886, pp. 280, 281.

²⁴ See *ibid.*, Num. 1872, p. 278.

²⁵ This seems to mean the Castle of Lea, and an English settlement around it on the banks of the River Barrow. See *ibid.*, Num. 1950, p. 271.

²⁶ See Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, pp. 225, 226.

²⁷ See *ibid.*, p. 227.

²⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 228.

²⁹ According to Hanmer, "He had five sonnes and five daughters, his sonnes all succeeded him in the Earldome of Pembroke, and office of Marshalsie, together with the Principality of Leinster

and dyed all without issue."—"Chronicle of Ireland," p. 344.

³⁰ Dr. Meredith Hanmer makes her the first daughter of William, Earl Marshall.

³¹ Her daughter by this Earl was married to William de Vesey, who became possessed of the Kildare estate as a palatine.

³² His name is found attached as one of the witnesses to the Royal Charter of King Henry II., granted to the city of Dublin, 1171-1172. See John T. Gilbert's "Calendar of ancient Records of Dublin," vol. i., p. i. Dublin, 1889, Roy. 8vo.

³³ It has been Anglicised "the Fort of the Plain," and this epithet well applies to the district lying between it and the Sleave Bloom Mountains, towards the west.

³⁴ The geographer.

³⁵ See an interesting engraving of the

have been the patrimonial residence of the chiefs of Leix to the period of the Anglo-Norman Invasion. William De Braose erected Dunamase into a manor, and there established a court-baron, to which tenants should resort, for the purpose of rendering suit and service.³⁵ Eva became entitled to the manor of Dunamase and its dependencies, with certain other lands, situated in the County of Kildare. Her heiress Maud³⁶ married Lord Mortimer.

In 1225,³⁷ Moylmorey O'Connor of Offaly was killed at Rossglassie, now Monastrevan, by Cowlen O'Dempsey. In the year 1226,³⁸ or 1227, Gilla-Colum O'Mulloy was slain by O'More,³⁹ and Melaghlin O'Conor Faly was slain by Cuilen O'Dempsey. With the particulars of their deaths, however, we are unacquainted. In the year 1227, Dionysius or Denis Ua Mordha—probably one of the Leixian O'Mores—and Bishop of Elphin took the cross as a crusader; his object apparently not being to go in person to the Holy Land, but to gain an indulgence, by attaching himself to some religious sodality, and by contributing to the Crusade.⁴⁰ This Denis or Dionysius O'Mordha appears to have been consecrated bishop of Elphin after the death of Denis O'Mulkyran, who departed A.D. 1224.⁴¹ Bishop O'Mordha resigned the See in 1229. He embraced a religious life to apply more sedulously to devotion, in Trinity Island, Lough Key,⁴² where he died on the xviii of the kalends of January—corresponding with December 15th, A.D. 1231.⁴³

At the year 1249, the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" have the following notice: "Donnagh mc Annchey mc Donnogh mc Gillepatrick the best head of a company that ever descended of Ossery of the race of Colman mc Patrick Keigh or Scanlan mc Kinfoyle Donne, both for manhood, valour and bounty, was killed by the Englishmen of the forgie as he deserved of the English divers times before, for he killed, preyed and burnt many an Englishman before that day. Donnogh was the third Irishman that warred against the Englishmen after their first footing in this land, *vidz*. Connor O'Melaghlin, Connor of the Castle mc Coghlan and this Donnogh mc Annchey, for the sone of Annchey in his owne persone did use to goe to take vew of the Englishmen's towns and fortes in the Habbitt of a poore man, Carpenter, Turner or other Tradsman."⁴⁴ "In the year 1250 Mac Canewei, a son of Beliall, was killed in Leix."⁴⁵

In the year 1260,⁴⁶ William de Vesey is said to have built the castle of Lea, on the banks of the River Barrow. This fortalice was intended

Barbican of Dunamase, in "The Irish Penny Magazine," vol. i., No. 3, with an article accompanying it, and written by John D'Alton, pp. 17, 18.

³⁶ See John T. Gilbert's "History of the Viceroy's of Ireland," chap. iv. p. 136.

³⁷ See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 231.

³⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 232.

³⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 242, 243.

⁴⁰ See *Annals of the Four Masters*, edited by Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, D.D., vol. ii., pp. 278 to 287.

⁴¹ See Harris' Ware, vol. i., "Bishops of Elphin," p. 628.

⁴² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 252, 253, and n. (m.), pp. 258, 259.

⁴³ See "Annals of Loch Cé." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, M.R.I.A., vol. i., pp. 308, 309.

⁴⁴ See edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 240.

⁴⁵ See Jacobi Grace, Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hiberniæ," edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, pp. 34, 35. To this account, Peimbridge adds, "sicut bene meruit."

⁴⁶ According to a small Tract, intituled "A most interesting Historical Account of the Castle of Lea, Queen's County, including some entertaining Antiquities of the Rock of Dunamase, the Castles of Geashill, Maryborough, Carlow, etc.

to secure his property from the claims of other daughters of Earl Mareschal and their heirs, as also to protect it from the incursions of the Irish. Its foundations were laid in the marshes of Ince or Inch; wherefore it was called *Port na Ince*, or the castle of Ince, and from it the present barony of *Portnahinch* is said to have derived its name. However, the English more generally denominated it *Lea*, *Ley*, or *Leigh*, from having been erected on the frontiers of *Leix*. It consisted of a quadrangular building of three storeys, flanked by round bastions. The whole was surrounded by an outer ballium or court, and each corner had a round bastion, flanking its curtains or sides. The outer entrance was a gate or barbican, defended by a portcullis, and flanked by round bastions. In the rear of the castle was an inner court, a tilt-yard, a tennis court, with other places for recreation and convenience. In the outer court or lawn, the horses, cows, and other cattle were secured in times of disturbance or during the night. The walls of the castle are 8 feet in thickness. There was a town in front of the barbican or great entrance. Its inhabitants were chiefly farmers, artisans, and labourers, appertaining to the castle and its domain. These townspeople were trained to the use of arms, and they formed in case of need the ward or garrison of the castle, while they acted under the command of the governor or warden. In the year 1264, a war raged in Ireland between the Geraldines⁴⁷ and *Walter De Burgo*, Earl of *Ulster*. The latter seems to have prevailed in the west of Ireland, for he took all the castles that *Fitzgerald* possessed in *Connaught*, burned his manors and plundered his people.⁴⁸ This involved the kingdom of Ireland in great family dissensions, which brought it to a state bordering on utter ruin; and reprisals naturally followed, on the outbreak of hostilities. During this year also *Maurice Fitzgerald*, son of *Maurice*, took *Richard de la Rokeley*⁴⁹—also called *Richard de Rupella*, or *Capella*—who was Lord Justice of Ireland, *John de Cogan*,⁵⁰ and *Theobald Butler*, prisoners from the consecrated church of *Castledermot* in the county of *Kildare*. He confined them in the dungeons of *Dunamase* and *Lea* castles,⁵¹ then in possession of the Geraldines.

In the year 1265,⁵² *Hugh O'Conor*, King of *Connaught*, made his first and regal prey upon the country of *Offalie*, and there burned many houses and committed other outrages. Jealous of the encroachments of the English, in 1284, the Irish attacked and destroyed the Castle of *Lea*, on the *River Barrow*.⁵³ However, it was again repaired, and taken possession of by *De Vesce*. At that time he was Lord Justice of Ireland. The *O'Dempseys* and their followers, in that part of *Offaly* known as *Glenmalire*, claimed those lands of which they had been dispossessed; and accordingly, they rose in arms, A.D. 1284, when the Castle of *Lea*

and a Description of the Town of *Portarlinton*, copied from an old Manuscript in the Possession of a Gentleman of that Town," pp. 7, 8. *Maryborough*, 18mo, no date.

⁴⁷ Their head at this time is called *MacGerald*, in the "*Annals of Clonmacnoise*," at A.D. 1264.

⁴⁸ See *Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters,"* vol. iii., pp. 394, 395.

⁴⁹ He is thus named in the *Annals of John Clyn*.

⁵⁰ The Four Masters call him *John Goggan*.

⁵¹ See *Fratris Joannis Clyn's "Annales Hibernie,"* p. 8. Very Rev. *Richard Dean Butler's* edition.

⁵² See *Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise,"* pp. 245, 246.

⁵³ *Fratris Joannis Clyn's "Annales Hibernie,"* p. 9. Edition of Very Rev. *Dean Richard Butler*.

⁵⁴ See *Jacobi Grace, Kilkenimensis, "Annales Hibernie,"* edited by *Rev.*

was besieged by them. They succeeded in burning the town, and they are said to have destroyed the castle.⁵⁴ In 1285, Gerald FitzMoreyshe was taken by the Irishmen in Offaly.⁵⁵ There is extant an allocate⁵⁶ to the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, Dublin, to allow in the account of John de Saundord, escheator of Ireland, for going with the Justiciary of Ireland, Robert de Ufford, so far as the new vill' of Leys, to resist the Irishmen of Offaly, rebels against the King Edward I. He was attended by 23 sutlers and 46 horses, for which service he was allowed 29s. 11¹/₂d., remaining there two days; also, for going with the said Justiciary to the vill of Leys, with 38 sutlers, 40 horses, and 171 retainers, on February 9th. 1278-9, and on the three following days, to conquer the said Irish. However, when the town and castle had been wrecked, both were soon afterwards repaired, and they came into possession of the founder William de Vesey, Lord Justice of Ireland. Finding the maintenance of his Irish estates too troublesome and expensive against the attacks of the natives, and that they were likely to be litigated by the heirs and successors of the Earl Mareschal's daughters, in the year 1294, William de Vesey delivered them up into the hands of the King. The latter devised and granted them to John Fitz-Thomas FitzGerald, Earl of Kildare, who, as a consequence of such grants, obtained the castle of Lea and its appurtenances. In it he was obliged to maintain a ward or garrison for the King, and to act as lord of the Marshes. Meantime, a dispute arose between William de Vesey and John Fitz-Thomas. They mutually accused each other of treason and mal-practices; while their case came to a hearing in the King's court.⁵⁷ However, the cause proved to be so frivolous that it was dismissed.⁵⁸ Wearied and disgusted with the troubles in which he was involved, and wishing to go abroad for the benefit of his health, after the surrender of his Irish estates, De Vesey sought refuge in France, where he resided for some time.⁵⁹

In 1283, Lord Theobald Butler lost his horses and family in Ophaly, where many of the English were killed.⁶⁰ This event is placed in the "Annals of Clonmacnoise"⁶¹ at 1285, when McGerald Geifry Gennil and Bermingham made up a great army and with the forces of Meath, marched to Ophaly, where they seized upon a prey of cows. The inhabitants sent to Carbury O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, Clann Colman and the Irishry of Meath, to come and help them against their plunderers. The Offalians took possession of the straits and passages of the country to defend them. Under the leadership of Carbury O'Melaghlin, the Irishry of Meath and the men of Offaly attacked the English army, and

Richard Butler, M.R.I.A., pp. 40, 41, and n. (d.). It was taken on the morrow of St. Barnabas, June 12th, according to Pembridge. This event is placed at 1285, in the Book of Howth. "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts in the Archbishop's Library at Lambeth, p. 125.

⁵⁵ See *ibid.*

⁵⁶ This is dated September 13th, 1284. See "Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland," 1252-1284. Edited by H. S. Sweetman, B.A., Num. 2291, p. 520.

⁵⁷ See an account of this transaction in Rev. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland from the Invasion of Henry

II." vol. i., book ii., chap. ii., pp. 251, 252.

⁵⁸ There is a curious account of the dispute and of a duel between William de Vesey, Lord Justiciary of Ireland, and John Fitz-Thomas, Earl of Kildare, in Holinshed's "Chronicles," vol. vi., p. 241. London edition of 1808.

⁵⁹ See Grace's "Annals of Ireland," edited by the Rev. Richard Butler, p. 43.

⁶⁰ See "Annales Breves Hiberniæ," auctore Thaddæo Dowling, edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, p. 16.

⁶¹ See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," pp. 255, 256.

gave them a great overthrow, in which numbers of the invaders were slain. McGerald and Sir Adam Petit were taken prisoners, with about three score knights and freeholders. In the year 1294, Richard Earl of Ulster was taken prisoner by John Fitz Thomas⁶² soon after the feast of St. Nicholas (December 6th) and detained in Lega or Lea Castle to the festival of Pope St. Gregory (March 12th),⁶³ following, when he was set at liberty by the King's Parliament held in Kilkenny, and as a penalty, John lost his possessions, Sligo and whatever else he had in Connaught, as also the Castle of Kildare.⁶⁴ In the year 1297, the Irish of Slewmargy burned Leighlin.⁶⁵

CHAPTER VII.—ANNALS OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY,

1300 TO 1350.

THE brief record of events, contained in our Irish annals, is for the most part unsatisfactory and obscure, because unaccompanied by a statement of their causes and consequences. This is especially the case in the centuries about which we are now treating. Yet, as in medieval times, Leix, a great portion of Ossory, Clannmalire and Hy-Regan were the denominations included within the Queen's County, wherever reference is made to them, their chiefs and people properly belong to its history, which it is desirable fully to give in annalistic and chronological order, however meagre in detail and isolated in position the entry may appear. And in this connection must also be placed the O'Conors, and their territory of Offaly, although outside the bounds; yet, the O'Dempsys of Clannmalire—if not the O'Dunnes of Hy-Regan—owed fealty and service to them. Besides the O'Mores, chiefs of Leix, were usually on terms of friendship and alliance with them; more particularly when throwing off their submission to English domination, motives of mutual interest and policy united their action in the local wars waged at that period. The authority of the English deputies^t sent over as rulers was scarcely acknowledged beyond the confined limits of the English Pale, and some of the Barons of English descent or birth had practically asserted their separate independence, and conformed to Irish laws and usages.

When the power of the Irish septs had increased, while the strength of the colonists waned, the aborigines emerged and reassumed large portions of their ancient territories. This they were the better able to accomplish, as nearly all the great barons of Ireland and their retainers attended King Edward I. in the invasion of Scotland, which took place early in the fourteenth century. In 1303, the death of Garrett Fitzgerald,

⁶² On the Saturday before the Feast of St. Lucie, Virgin, according to Friar John Clyn's "Annals of Ireland," edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, p. 10.

⁶³ According to Pembroke's Annals.

⁶⁴ See Jacobi Grace, Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hiberniæ," edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, pp. 42, 43.

⁶⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 44, 45.

¹ The reader, who desires to see a

full enumeration of the Chief Governours, or Lords Lieutenants, Lords Chancellors and Lords Treasurers of Ireland during the several reigns of English monarchs, from the Anglo-Norman Invasion to A.D. 1745, will find it in Walter Harris' edition of Ware's works, vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xv., pp. 102 to 116.

² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the

the eldest son of John Fitz-Thomas, Baron of Offaly, is recorded.² In 1305, Mortagh O'Connor of Offalie, Maellmorey his brother, and Callagh O'Connor, with twenty-nine of the chiefest of their family, were treacherously killed by Pierce or Peter Bermingham within the Castle of Carrick Feorais, near Castle Carbury,³ County Kildare. This massacre is referred to in the Remonstrance sent by the Irish Chieftains to Pope John XXII. It is stated, that Bermingham invited these victims to a banquet, which in the spirit of unsuspecting hospitality they accepted, and were set upon unexpectedly when they arose from table. Complaint of this foul deed was made to King Edward I., but no redress was ever obtained.

In 1307, Thomas Fitz Maurice,⁴ the Lord of Offalie, built the castle of Geashill; and this was justly interpreted by the O'Conors as a menace which threatened their territorial possessions. In like manner the building of the strong castle of Lea was an infringement on the inheritance of the O'Dempseys. Wherefore, in 1307, the Irish chieftains and people of Offaly rose in arms, and pulled down the Castle of Geashill. They also burned the town of Lea, and laid siege to its castle.⁵ However, an English force, commanded by John Fitz-Thomas Fitzgerald and his son-in-law Edward Butler, appeared, and raised the siege.⁶ The Earl of Kildare then rebuilt the town, and repaired the castle. He also erected there a new church, to which was added a steeple or tower furnished with bells. John the son of Thomas, and Edmond Butler soon afterwards removed the depredators,⁷ who had sacked the town and castle of Lea.

To counteract the jealousies of his English nobles, and to quell the prevailing disorders of the period, Edward II. sent over his favourite Piers de Gaveston as his vice-gerent to Ireland, in 1308.⁸ He sailed from Bristol with a large reinforcement of men-at-arms, and kept great state in Dublin. The hostile Irish septs soon engaged his soldiers with some of the English colonists in scenes of actual warfare. Soon after his arrival, an Irish chief of the O'Dempseys had the hardihood to encounter Piers de Gaveston. However, O'Dempsey was signally defeated with his forces.⁹ He was slain on the field of battle.¹⁰ Besides his hostilities against the Irish septs, Gaveston was obliged to contend with the mutinous Anglo-Norman nobles.¹¹ In 1308, the coroner of the county of Kildare, being aged, was superseded. The reason assigned for this

Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 478, 479 and also Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," or the History of Ireland, the conquest thereof by the English to this present Time, p. 87. London, 1689. Folio. This event is placed at A.D., 1304.

² A portion of its ruins yet remains. See the Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 260, and n. 3. And Dr. MacCarthy's *Annála Uladh* or Annals of Ulster, vol. ii., pp. 402, 403, and n. 2.

³ See "The Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors from 1057 to 1773," by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 20. In this year also died Edward I., King of England having reigned thirty-four years, seven months, and twenty-one days, having completed the sixty-eight year of his age, with twenty days in addition. See Matthew of Westminster's "Flores

Historiarum," p. 405.

⁴ See "Annales Breves Hibernie," auctore Thaddeo Dowling, p. 18. Very Rev. Dean Richard Butler's edition.

⁵ See John Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. i., p. 78. Archdall's edition.

⁶ "The Book of Howth," p. 160.

⁷ See Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," Part i., p. 60.

⁸ See "Annales Breves Hibernie," auctore Thaddeo Dowling, p. 18.

⁹ See Rev. Dr. Lehind's "History of Ireland, from the Invasion of Henry II.," vol. i., book ii., chap. iii., p. 293.

¹⁰ See John T. Gilbert's "History of the Viceroy's of Ireland," chap. iv., p. 129.

¹¹ This is even stated in the printed Patent Rolls.

¹² She was wife of Mortagh

dismissal is alleged to have been his inability to execute his office, because of the turbulent behaviour exhibited by Irish enemies in Leys.¹² By a patent, dated 1310, Edward II. committed to Leyssagh Omorthe the custody of his ancestral lands, which then belonged to Patrick de Rochfort, at Kildebrenyn, in Leys. In 1310 Joan, daughter to O'Conor of Offalie, died.¹³ Sir Edmond Le Botiller was appointed Viceroy, in 1312, and in that station he continued until he was succeeded by Sir Theobald de Verdon on December 31st, 1314.¹⁴ The Earl of Kildare had a dispute with Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, and war was waged between them. The latter was taken prisoner, and confined in one of the round towers of Lea Castle. There he was detained, until the meeting of an Irish Parliament in Kilkenny, A.D. 1311. His case was then considered, and as it appeared his imprisonment was owing to private malice rather than from a regard to the public weal, the Earl of Kildare was ordered to release him without ransom. The chieftains of the O'Mores were then primarily obedient to the crown, and the records bear testimony of the confidence reposed in those Celtic clans.

An epoch of great importance in Irish history opened when Donall O'Neill and other northern chiefs, together with De Bisset and the De Lacys, resolved on offering the Kingdom of Ireland to Robert Bruce's brother Edward, the brave and ambitious Earl of Carrick. He readily accepted the proffered Crown, King Robert promising to co-operate in the project, and accordingly in May, 1315, Edward Bruce landed on the Ulster coast, near Carrickfergus, with several knights and an army numbering about six thousand men.¹⁵ He laid siege to the castle, while Donall O'Neill and the Irish allies stormed Dundalk; after a determined resistance Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, was also defeated, and Edward Bruce was crowned Monarch of Ireland, at Carrickfergus. During the invasion of Ireland by Edward Bruce, the O'Mores laid waste a part of Leix, in Leinster; but they were defeated by Edmund Butler, Justiciary of Ireland. Having killed a great number of them, he brought back 800 heads as a trophy of his victory to Dublin. The Scottish invasion, by the Bruces, and which created great commotion in Ireland from 1315 to 1318,¹⁶ had the effect of greatly weakening the Strongbowinian settlement and power in Leix, and to such an extent, that the English settlers there were driven from their castles and lands. Among others Lord John Bisset died in the New Town of Lexe and the bells of the church were burned by the Scots.¹⁷ Thus it became an easy matter for the Leix and Leinster chiefs and people to throw off their yoke, so long impatiently borne, and to take rank as independent possessors. The English colonists were then pressed on all sides. During that invasion, we read that James Earl of Ormond received a gratuity because he had bravely contended with the O'Mores, O'Byrnes, O'Nolans, and MacMurrroughs. These various clans had taken up arms to espouse the Bruce's cause. In

Mageoghegan, chieftain of Kinnaleagh. See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 260.

¹⁴ See Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," Part 1., pp. 92, 93.

¹⁵ The account of Edward Bruce's invasion of Ireland is most fully set forth in the Annals of Clonmacnoise. See Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, pp. 268 to 282.

¹⁶ See the account of this Invasion, in Rev. Dr. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland, from the Invasion of Henry II.," vol. 1., book II., chap. III., pp. 203 to 278.

¹⁷ See "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts, preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth, edited by J. S. Brewer and Wm. Bullen, Esq. The Book of Howth, p. 134.

¹⁸ See Jacobi Grace, *Kilkennensis*,

1315 the Scotch army under Edward Bruce laid siege to the castle of Lea, and it was soon destroyed, for he set it on fire.¹⁸ In such cases we are to understand probably that the floors, roof, and some out-buildings were burned, as the walls seem to have withstood the destructive element. During the Scottish invasion of Edward Bruce, Roger de Mortimer,¹⁹ who was lord of a moiety of Meath and who claimed Leix in right of his wife, Jeanne de Joinville, as inherited from his grandmother Maud,²⁰ had arrived from England to defend his Irish lands.²¹ Having sacked the Castle of Lea and beleaguered that of Kildare, Bruce and his allies marched against him and signally defeated De Mortimer at Kells. Then abandoning his possessions and deserted by a great part of his army, Roger de Mortimer fled to Dublin.²² After a series of successful encounters with the English, during the three years his invasion of Ireland lasted, they assembled a great army which marched to Dundalk where Bruce awaited their arrival. Sir John Bermingham, with several distinguished officers in his train, met him at Faugart, and a fiercely contested battle took place October 14th, 1318, which terminated in a complete victory for the English. Edward Bruce fell in this battle, which ended the invasion.²³

In 1319, John, son to Donat O'Morthe, and his other brothers were slain. He is said by his adversaries, to have never loved peace or those who were peacefully disposed. In 1321, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, a great defeat was given to the sons of the Chieftains of Offaly by Andrew MacFeorais Bermingham and the English of Meath²⁴ in which 300 of the O'Conors fell.²⁵ In 1324 is recorded the death of Donough Mac Gillpatrick Lord of Ossory.²⁶ In 1324 the death of Cuilen Ua Dimasaigh is recorded in the Annals of Ulster.²⁷ In 1325 about the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, Bren O'Bren, with the assistance of the English forces in Ely O'Carroll, took a great prey in Ossory, on the confines of Slesblainé (Slievebloom), from the people of Aghaboe and Aghmacart. They killed many faithful Englishmen²⁸ who were engaged defending their property.²⁹

"Annales Hiberniæ," pp. 68, 69, edited by Rev. Richard Butler, M.R.I.A.

¹⁹ He was also styled Baron of Wygemore.

²⁰ She was second daughter and co-heir of Guillaume de Braose, by Eva, daughter of William Mareschal or Marshal, Earl of Pembroke.

²¹ See Rowley Lascelles "Liber Manerum Publicorum Hiberniæ," ab An. 1152, usque ad An. 1827, or the Establishments of Ireland from the Nineteenth of King Stephen to Seventh of George IV., vol. i., Part. i., p. 20, London, large folio.

²² See John T. Gilbert's "History of the Viceroy's of Ireland," chap. iv., p. 136.

²³ See John Speed's "History of Great Britaine," &c., Booke 9; chap. ii., p. 570. Hector Boetius' "Scotorum Historiæ a prima gentis origine," Rev. James Taylor's "Pictorial History of Scotland," vol. i., chap. viii., pp. 141 to 148. London, 1839 8vo. Also Joannes De Fordun's "Cronica Gentis

Scotorum," cap. cxxvii, cxxviii, pp. 347, 348. Edited by William F. Skene, Edinburgh, 1871, 8vo.

²⁴ See "Annalium Hiberniæ Chronicon, ad Annum MCCCXLIX," digessit Frater Johannes Clyn, Ordinis Minorum ex Conventu Kilkenniensi, p. 14. Very Rev. Richard Butler's edition, Dublin, 1849, 4to. The *Annála Uladh* places this event at A.D. 1318. See Dr. MacCarthy's edition, vol. ii., pp. 436, 437.

²⁵ According to Friar Clyn.

²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 530, 531.

²⁷ See Dr. MacCarthy's edition, vol. ii., pp. 442, 443. This entry is placed at A.D. 1327. "Cullen O'Dempsey died," Rev. Denis Murphy in "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 285.

²⁸ The Latin "fideles Anglicos" may be rendered loyal Englishmen, as distinguished from those, who were on the side of Bren O'Bren.

²⁹ See Frater Clyn's "Annalium

In the year 1325, it is stated, the bold and enterprising chieftain, Lysagh O'More, emancipated himself and his clansmen from a state of dependence. It is said,³⁰ that he had been retained by the absentee—by whom is understood Mortimer, Earl of March, and heir to Eva de Braos over the lordship of Dunamase—in order to act as his captain of war in Leix, and to serve in defence against the Irish on the borders. Betraying his trust, it is related, that Lysagh O'More seized on Dunamase, the principal castle of Lord Mortimer, and recovered that whole tract of country which depended on it for protection.³¹ These events, however, cannot have been correctly narrated, as must appear from the sequel. They are referred to the beginning of the reign of Edward II.³²; but we should rather read towards its close. The surprise of Dunamase and its subordinate castles must have been very cleverly planned and very promptly executed; when, as has been stated, no less than eight of these strongholds were taken and destroyed on one evening.³³ Thus, was Lysagh O'More enabled completely to reverse the fortunes of opposing races within that land, so long held by his forefathers before the Anglo-Norman invasion.³⁴

In the year 1329, Donough Mac Gillpatrick was slain by the Earl of Ulster.³⁵ On the Sunday before the Feast of the Apostle St. Matthew, the sun being in the zodiac sign of Libra, the Castle of Lea was captured by O'Dempsey.³⁶ However, we are informed, that in this very year, the Castle of Lea, which had been occupied by O'Dempsey, was given up to Maurice, Earl of Desmond.³⁷ Another account has it, that in 1330 the Castle of Lea was retaken from the O'Dempseys, by Maurice Fitz-Thomas, Earl of Desmond, and the O'Brians, who with 10,000 men were engaged in war with some of the combined Irish septs in Leinster.³⁸ There are scarcely any other notices in our native annals, regarding the O'Mores until towards the middle of the fourteenth century. But, on inspecting that interesting and brief chronicle, compiled by Friar Clyn, who lived in Kilkenny until that period, and to whom the contemporaneous chieftains in question may have been personally known, some characteristic particulars regarding these are found on record.

In the year 1332, John Darcy was made Justiciary of Ireland,³⁹ at a

Hibernie Chronicon, ad annum MCCC XLIX," edited by Very Rev. Richard Butler, A.B., M.R.I.A., Dean of Clonmacnoise, p. 17.

³⁰ In Harris' "Hibernica," by Chief Baron Finglas, in his Breviate of Ireland, written in the year 1529.

³¹ See John T. Gilbert's "History of the Viceroys of Ireland," chap. v., p. 189.

³² Edward II. succeeded his father Edward I., on the 7th of July, 1307, and he was deposed on the 20th of January, 1327. On the 28th of the same month and year, Edward III., received the great seal of England from the Chancellor, and he continued to reign until the day of his death, June 21st A.D. 1377. See Sir Harris Nicolas' "Chronology of History," pp. 314 to 320.

³³ See *The Irish Penny Magazine*, vol. i., No. 3, p. 18. According to a

popular tradition on this great fortress of Dunamase depended the minor castles of Morett, Dysart, Palls, Shean, Coolbanagher, Ballymanus, Kilmarter, Garrymaddock, and Ballyknockan.

³⁴ See Cox "Hibernia Anglicana," Part i., p. 103.

³⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 544, 545.

³⁶ See Friar John Clyn's "Annales Hibernie," p. 21. Very Rev. Dean Richard Butler's edition.

³⁷ See Jacobi Grace, Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hibernie," pp. 116, 117.

³⁸ See Rev. Richard Butler, M.R.I.A., "See Thomas Moores' "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xxxvii., pp. 84, 85.

³⁹ See Jacobi Grace Kilkenniensis, "Annales Hibernie," edited with a translation and notes, by the Rev. Richard Butler, M.R.I.A.

time⁴⁰ when great disorder prevailed among the Irish chieftains, no less than among the great English barons in their various settlements.⁴¹ On the Saturday which was the eve of St. Remigius' feast, A.D. 1333, Galfridus de la Frene⁴² was slain by the O'Morthys or O'Mores of Slemargys, or Slievemarigue. About this period, the Annals of the Four Masters fail to give us particulars relating to Leinster, and we are obliged in a great measure to follow the statements of the Anglo-Irish chroniclers.

We read in Friar Clyn's Chronicle⁴³ that on the 4th May, A.D. 1335, Raymund le Ercedekne, or Arsdekin,⁴⁴ with his two sons, Patrick and Sylvester, and Willelm le Ercedekne, or Arsdekin, with eleven other persons of that family, had been killed by Leysagh, *i.e.*, Lewis O'More, his sons, and retainers, at what appears to have been intended as a conference. Thomas de Bathe, Gerald Bagot, with fifty other persons, also were slain. The place, called Clar-Goly,⁴⁵ where this event took place, is probably that now known as the Gully River, which passes the old castle of Gortnaclea and falls into the River Nore. It runs through the present barony of Clarmallagh, in the Queen's County, and it passed along the border lines of ancient Leix and Ossory. This slaughter of two distinguished Kilkenny knights and their kinsmen, at a parley, aroused great apprehension in Dublin, while it created a mortal feud between O'More and the English. It is noticed in the same Chronicle,⁴⁶ that the O'Mores were persuaded, encouraged, and aided by the Irish of Leinster and of Munster to engage in war. The noble knight, Fulco de la Frene, appears to have led the Anglo-Norman settlers of Ossory to this encounter, and to have been aided by Scanlan Mac Gilpatrick, the dynast of this Ossorian territory, and Herry O'Regan, perhaps, of the Iregan district. We are left without sufficient accounts of this desperate contest, which seems to have been a desultory and an exhaustive one, between the several parties committed to its prosecution. The result, however, was favourable to the native clans of Leix, who achieved their independence from the Saxon yoke. This they bravely maintained for more than two succeeding centuries.

It would seem, that John Darcy, the Justiciary of Ireland, felt called upon to organise a force, in order to aid De la Frene and to avenge the

⁴⁰ "Intravit Hiberniam xiii. die mensis Februarii." Pembroke, "Annales."

⁴¹ See Rev. Dr. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland from the Invasion of Henry II." vol. i., book ii., chap. iv., pp. 284 to 305.

⁴² According to Friar Clyn, "qui heredem de Obargi, Joannem Purcel duxerat in uxorem."—"Annales Hiberniæ," p. 25.

⁴³ The following entry occurs in it, at the year of our Lord 1335:—"Die jovis in crastino Inventionis Sancte Crucis, occiditur dominus Remundus le Ercedekne, cum duobus filiis suis Patricio et Silvestro, dominus Willelmus le Ercedekne, et de illo cognomine xi. per Leyath O'Morthe, filios et familiam suam in parlamento apud Clar-Goly; et Thomas de Bathe, Geraldus Bagot, et alii, usque circiter quinquaginta."—"Annales Hiberniæ"

p. 26.

⁴⁴ Archidiaconus; *alias* MacOolo, *alias* Cody, according to John O'Donovan. See *ibid.*, n., p. 61.

⁴⁵ It is marked Gouly F. (flumen) on the old map of this district, preserved in the British Museum.

⁴⁶ We find the following account presented at the year 1336:—"Item in estate illa fuit guerra inter dominum Fulconem de le Frene, tenentem et et feventem partem Anglicorum Ossorie, et Leysaght O'Morthe; que ortum habuit ex morte domini Remundi Lercedekne et suorum; nam idem O'Morthe omnes Hibernicos communiter totius Momonie et Lagente suasionibus, promissionibus et muneribus alexit ad guerram; solum autem Scanlan McGilpatrick et Herry O'Regan partem tenebant Anglicorum et pacis."—"Annales Hiberniæ," p. 27.

murder of Galfridus de la Frene and the Arsdekins⁴⁷ For this purpose it was necessary to form a confederacy with some of the chiefs bordering on Leix, and who probably felt a personal interest in curbing the ambition of Leysach. In November, 1336, O'Dempsey, who became one of his allies, had an order for £10 to defray his expenses in going with John Darcy, Justiciary, against Lessagh O'Moyche and the other Irish who had aided this formidable insurrection. Yet, strange to relate, the English, soon after the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, during the year 1338, slaughtered O'Dempsey and many of his people⁴⁸ were killed. In 1337, Donough son of Murtough More Maceoghegan, Lord of Kinel-Fiachach, was slain by the people of Offaly.⁴⁹ In 1339, the O'Dempseys were engaged in the Leinster insurrection, which was suppressed by Maurice the fourth Earl of Kildare.⁵⁰ This defeat they experienced, apparently from the men of Kildare,⁵¹ whom they invaded, and about three hundred of the Irish perished in the River Barrow.⁵² It seems most likely that, flying from their pursuers thither, they found no ford at the place, so that they might escape to their own country of Clannalire, and consequently they were for the most part drowned in attempting to cross it. In 1339, Lord Maurice Fitz-Thomas of Desmond invaded the O'Mores with a large force. They gave pledges to keep the peace. At this same time, the Castle of Lea, that the O'Dempseys took and kept, was given to Lord Maurice.⁵³ Friar Clyn gives a succinct account of Lysagh O'More's heroic and puissant acts, when relating the inglorious and probably accidental, circumstance which caused his death, in the year 1342.⁵⁴

In the year 1346, Dermot O'Dempsey was killed by a soldier named Robert, the son of Maurice, on Friday, within the Easter Octave. The slayer seems to have been of Anglo-Norman birth or descent; and soon we find, that a fierce spirit was roused among the neighbouring chieftains. Thus, on the week ensuing after Low Sunday, O'More, O'Conor, and O'Dempsey, on the day of Jupiter, on the morning of the Feast of the Holy Cross captured and destroyed the castles of Lea, of Kilmehyde, and of Ballylethan.⁵⁵ O'More was succeeded by his son Rury, or Rory. This appears to have been a favourite christian name among the members of this great family. This chief inherited that

⁴⁷ See Rymer's "Fœdera," vol. ii., p. 951.

⁴⁸ See Friar Clyn's "Annales Hiberniæ," p. 29.

⁴⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 562, 563. And Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 291.

⁵⁰ See John Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. i., p. 80. Archdall's edition.

⁵¹ It would seem these Anglo-Irish settlers were led by the Earl of Kildare on this occasion. See Thos. Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xxxvii., p. 94.

⁵² Such is the account given by James Grace in his "Annales Hiberniæ," at A.D. 1339. We can have no doubt, but it forms one and the same event, referred by Friar Clyn, to the preceding year. See p. 133.

⁵³ See "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts preserved in the Archbishopal Library at Lambeth," edited by J. S. Brewer, M.A., and William Bullen, Esq., "The Book of Howth," p. 150.

⁵⁴ "Parum ante Natale Domini obiit Leysart O'Morthie, a proprio servo in ebrietate occisus vir potens, dives et locuples, et in gente sua honoratus. Ille fere omnes Anglicos de terris suis et hereditate violenter eiecit, nam uno sero, viii., castra Anglicorum combussit; et castrum nobile de Dunmaske domini Rogeri de Mortuo Mari destruxit, et dominum sibi patrie usurpavit; de servo dominus, de subjecto princeps effectus."—Friar Clyn's "Annales Hiberniæ," pp. 29, 30.

⁵⁵ See Friar John Clyn's "Annales Hiberniæ," p. 32. Very Rev. Dean Richard Butler's edition.

restless spirit of enterprise which so much characterised his father. He, too, waged war on the Saxon colonists. In 1346, he was made a prisoner by Fulcan de la Frene.⁵⁶ The insurgent clans of Leix were active during the troubles of contending Irish and English factions in recovering their former patrimonies. During this century, their chief fortress of Dunamase,⁵⁷ formerly in the possession of Lord Roger Mortimer, had been held by Lysagh O'More. Even some of those native septa, who a short time before contended in opposite camps, seem to have united for the purpose of destroying certain strongholds, in 1346.⁵⁸ This raid occurred in the month of April.⁵⁹ These feudal castles served to command that inland country, when the Irish were avenged on their Anglo-Irish masters. The governor, Sir Walter Bermingham, the Earl of Kildare, and the principal noblemen of the Pale, as the chronicle records, led an expedition this very year against the O'Mores and the O'Dempseys of Clannalier, to re-establish the English power.⁶⁰ The invaders, however, killed but few men, although they succeeded in taking Rory O'More a prisoner. The lands and produce of Leix were devastated and plundered relentlessly during this expedition. The annalist, Grace, writes that Justiciary, and the Earl of Kildare⁶¹ invaded O'More, who had burnt the castles of Lea and Kilmehede. They compelled him to yield, although he resisted obstinately.⁶² The O'Mores were obliged to give hostages for their future good behaviour.⁶³ Towards the expenses of this expedition, the clergy and religious orders were obliged to furnish a subsidy, which, however, they strenuously resisted.⁶⁴ Yet, it was the fate of the O'More family, to find their worst foes within their own household. Friar Clyn relates a domestic tragedy, which casts a deep stain on those persons implicated by it. In the beginning of the year 1348, two brothers of the O'More family, whose sons had been held as hostages by the chief dynast, Connell O'More, treacherously murdered the latter at a banquet. But this base act was soon afterwards avenged by the English of Ossory, who, entering Leix, with the unanimous consent of the people

⁵⁶ See *ibid.*, p. 33.

⁵⁷ In a very elegantly-lithographed series of "Picturesque Views of the Antiquities of Ireland"—drawn on stone by Jas. D. Harding, from the sketches of Robert O'Callaghan Newenham, Esq.,—vol. ii., there are two views, one of the Fort of Dunamase and one of the Round Tower and Abbey of Timahoe, Queen's County, in which, however, some outlines are exceedingly defective. London, 1830, 4to.

⁵⁸ "In hebdomada post Dominicam in Albis," says Friar Clyn at this year, "castra de Ley, Kilmehede, et Ballylethan, capiuntur et franguntur per O'Morthe, O'Konkur, et O'Dymisey, die jovis in crastino Sancte Crucis."—*Annales Hiberniæ*, p. 32.

⁵⁹ See Jacobi Grace, *Kilkenniensis*, "*Annales Hiberniæ*," edited with a translation and notes, by the Rev. Richard Butler, M.R.I.A., pp. 140, 141.

⁶⁰ At 1346, Friar Clyn writes:—"Item in hyeme illa fuit guerra inter Anglicos, videlicet, W. Bermegham comitem

Kildarie, et O'Morthe et O'Dymisey et terras eorum invaserunt et combusserunt paucos tamen homines occiderunt."—*Annales Hiberniæ*, p. 33.

⁶¹ Grace says the Justiciary was Darcy, but Sir Walter Bermingham was Lord Justice at the time. See "*The Earls of Kildare*," etc., by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 33.

⁶² See "*Annales Hiberniæ*," edited, with a translation and notes, by Rev. Richard Butler, M.R.I.A., pp. 140, 141.

⁶³ See John Lodge's "*Peerage of Ireland*," vol. i., p. 86. Archdall's edition.

⁶⁴ See *ibid.*, n. (a)

⁶⁵ Treating about the disorders of this period, an impartial and a scholarly Irish historian has remarked, that "it must be observed, for it may be of use in guarding against national prejudice and partialities, that the internal disorders of England during the same period were not only as grievous, but precisely of the same kind, and derived from the same sources with those which strike us

there, elected Rory, eldest son of the murdered chieftain, to succeed as head of the sept. The murderers were either slain or banished from the territory.⁶⁵

CHAPTER VIII.—ANNALS OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY,

1350 TO 1400.

THE newly-appointed dynast of Leix, Rory O'More, did not long continue his rule.¹ It was an age not only of truculent, but even of unnatural violence. This domestic tragedy was one among numberless cases, in which the system of tanistry led to the commission of ferocious murders, that could scarcely be surpassed in the most savage state of society. Yet, these atrocities were not confined to Ireland; and feudalism in both England and France as in Europe generally, produced plentifully its own crop of crime. It was neither the first tragedy in this family of the O'Mores, nor the last. Again, we find it recorded, that in 1354, Rudhraighe O'Mordha, or Rory O'More, Lord of Leix, died.² Another account tells us, he was perfidiously slain by his own kinsmen and household.³ Whether this was in consequence of the former feud does not appear. The same Annals and those of Clonmacnois have the following entry, under the year 1358, and it most probably refers to an invasion of Leix, at that date, by some organised expedition from Dublin.⁴ We are told that, O'More of the country of Lease gave a great discomfiture to the English—who are also called foreigners—of Athliath. On that occasion, 240 of them were killed⁵ on the field of battle.⁶ The place where this remarkable encounter took place is not stated. During the long reign

so forcibly in Ireland."—Rev. Dr. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland from the Invasion of Henry II.," vol. i., book ii., chap. iv., p. 285.

¹ At 1348, the following account of the foregoing transactions is furnished: "Die Martis in crastino Purificacionis, Connili O'Morthie, patrie sue princeps et dominus, per germanos ejus in quibus confidebat, cum quibus ipso die simul epulabatur confidenter, quorum filios pro fidelitate et subjeccione sibi servanda tunc habebat obsides, natorum suorum necem non formidantes, et in perjuri crimine incidere non verentes, ambicio dominandi fratrum fedus disjunctit et seperavit; et ripto vinculo fraternitatis, spreto amore et federe sanguinis, cum prodiciose occiderunt, et quos venter et uterus unius mulieris suscepit, tota illa terra et patria recipere non valebat; nec auferitur nec etiam differtur inde vindicta, nam octavo die Anglici de Ossorie, qui partem ipsius Conyl fovebant, patriam intrantes, communi consensu populi filius ejus primogenitus Rury in principem est electus et acceptus, et Anglicis Ossorie ad sua ut volebant revertentibus, David O'Morthie, occisi germanus, eis obstitit cum quibusdam Anglicis comitatus

Killarie et Cathirlaht, in quodam passu areto aliquos equos, qui sarcina et arma Ossorienisium portabant, abstulerunt, et ibi occisus ipse David, vir potens, dives et discretus post Conyl de sanguine parem non habens, et sic vitam perdidit, regnum et germanum; alii viro fratres omnes consentientes exulati patriam dimittere coguntur." Friar John Clyn's "Annales Hibernie," pp. 39, 37.

² See "Annals of Loch Ce." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 10, 11. In 1353. See the Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnois," p. 298.

³ See *ANNA LAOTH*, or Annals of Ulster, Rev. Dr. MacCarthy's edition, pp. 496 to 493. And Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii. pp. 604, 605.

⁴ This event is placed at A.D. 1355, in the Annals of Ulster, Rev. Dr. MacCarthy's edition, pp. 506, 507.

⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 612 to 614 and n. (x). Also "Annals of Loch Ce." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, M.R.I.A., vol. ii., pp. 18, 19.

⁶ See also Mageoghegan's "Annals of Clonmacnois," at the same year. Also Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 612, 613.

of Edward III.⁷ the affairs of Ireland were greatly neglected, and were in a state of the utmost confusion. Yet the Annals of Ulster state, that the son of the King came into Ireland in 1457, in Grace's Annals, he landed, Sept. 15th, 1361.⁸

The Annals of Ulster state, under the year 1358,⁹—*recte* 1361¹⁰—that Art Mac Murchada, King of Leinster¹¹ and Dominall Mac Murchada, surnamed the Swarthy,¹² were treacherously captured by the English King's son, Lionel duke of Clarence, in his own house. They died prisoners with him, according to some accounts; according to others, Art Mac Murchada escaped to resume his wars with the English, until he raised up his dynasty in Leinster to a great eminence.¹³ Again, the O'Cleries state at A.D. 1375, that Donugh Kavenagh Mac Murrough, King of Leinster, was treacherously slain by the English, among whom he had often before spread desolation.¹⁴ In 1358,¹⁵ Maurice, the fourth Earl of Kildare, had charge certain forces assigned him to defend the County of Kildare, and with other Commissioners he was empowered to levy a tax for the maintenance of twenty-four men-at-arms and their horses at 8d. a day, 200 hobellars at 4d., and 400 foot at 1½d. per diem for a fortnight, or as long as the war should last. He received 60s. from the County of Carlow, in 1358, for preventing the O'Mores from burning the town of Killaban.¹⁶ At 1367, the Annals of Clonmacnoise¹⁷ state, that "Melaghten mc Geffray fitz Patrick of Ossery was sincerely killed by the English." Again, it is related that Laisech son to David O'Mordha died in 1368.¹⁸ In 1367, according to the Annals of Ulster¹⁹—*recte* 1370¹⁹—Cahir O'Conor²⁰ and Mortough O'More were killed on a predatory excursion by the English of Leinster. The English subjects of the Pale in 1367 convoked a Parliament at Kilkenny under Lionel, Duke of Clarence, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which was intended to restrain the English from forsaking the English language, manners, laws and usages for the Irish, and forbidding marriages and alliances with them.²¹ Yet these had no binding force, as there was not sufficient authority to support them. From entries in the Patent Rolls it seems—as they were often harried by the Anglo-Norman colonists—that Slemargy was a chief place of resort for the

⁷ He ruled from January 25th, A.D. 1327 to the 21st of June, A.D. 1377.

⁸ This was Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III.

⁹ See *Annala Ul. xvii.*, edition of Rev. Dr. MacCarthy, pp. 512, 513.

¹⁰ See the "Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, and Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 618 to 621.

¹¹ He was father of the still more celebrated Art MacMurchada Kavanagh, King of Leinster, born in 1357. See Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee's "Memoir of the Life and Conquests of Art Mac-Murrough, King of Leinster, from A.D. 1377 to A.D. 1417," chap. ii., p. 7.

¹² Heir-apparent to the kingship of Leinster.

¹³ See *ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 666, 667.

¹⁵ See "The Earls of Kildare," by the

Marquis of Kildare," p. 34.

¹⁶ See Borlase's "Reduction of Ireland," p. 53.

¹⁷ See the edition of Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 303. And Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 638, 639.

¹⁸ See "Annals of Loch Ce," Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 38, 39.

¹⁹ See Rev. Dr. MacCarthy's edition, vol. ii., pp. 544, 545.

²⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 650, 651.

²¹ The "Annals of Ulster," remark that he was "one fit to be king of Uí-Faighe."

²² See "A Statute of the Fortieth year of King Edward III., enacted in a Parliament held in Kilkenny, A.D. 1367, edited by James Hardiman, M.R.I.A., for the Irish Archaeological Society, from a Manuscript in the Library of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury,

most persecuted or turbulent of the native Leix inhabitants. The O'Mores were in great force and held their own territory during the reign of King Edward III.²² However their lands and possessions were not always secured from their invaders. In 1370 Cathal O'Conchobhair royal heir of Ui-Failghe and Muirechertach O'Mordha fell in a foray by the foreigners of Laighen.²³ It should seem that both chieftains had confederated for defence on this occasion.²⁴ The Patent Rolls contain an entry respecting lands in this region of Leix held by colonists. There is one referring to John Wolf and dated in the year 1377. It decrees, that he has no right to lands or lordships in Ballymagyllewan or in Loghdyok.²⁵ Such an acknowledgment shows a provision made for the O'Mores, and this may have been provided for a politic purpose, to pacify or conciliate those rampant chieftains, as also their clansmen, who could not have been conveniently evicted from their houses and lands within that territory.

Faghtna, son of David O'More, royal heir of Laighis, died in 1377.²⁶ The Annals of Ulster connect with him Mael-Donnaigh the vigil keeper.²⁷ In the year 1398, the son of Maurice Boy O'More, Lord of Slieve-Margy, fosterer of the learned and destitute of Ireland, departed this life.²⁸ He does not seem to have been identical with Maelchlainn O'Mordha, King of Laighis, who died this year.²⁹ A writ was issued to Maurice, fourth Earl of Kildare, to remove O'Conor, son to Dough O'Dymsey, and the King's Irish enemy from the Castle of Kildare, where he was detained, to the Castle of Dublin. This was to secure his safer custody, as his escape from prison might have dangerous consequences.³⁰ In 1376, the death of Cunifne O'Conor Faly, a worthy heir to the lordship of Oilaly, and Bebinn, daughter of Donnell O'Dunne, and wife of O'Dempsey, is recorded.³¹ In 1378, the same Maurice presented a petition to the King, in which he states, that having accompanied the Lord Justice, the Earl of Ormonde, in a certain great hosting upon the O'Morchloes³² of Slewmary, he had lost six men, and four coats of mail, and other armour, for which he asked compensation. Accordingly, he received a grant of £10 out of the Exchequer.³³ David O'Doyn or O'Dunne, chieftain of the country of Irragann or Iiy Regan,³⁴ was killed by the son of Caroll O'Dunne, in 1379. Again we read that in 1381,

Lambeth, with a Translation for the old French, the court language used by the English at that time. This is preceded by a learned introduction, and accompanied by valuable notes. Dublin, 1843.

²² He ruled over England from the 25th January, 1340 to the 21st June, 1377. See Sir Harris Nicolas' "Chronology of History," pp. 316 to 320.

²³ See "Annals of Loch Ce." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 44, 45.

²⁴ See at the same date, Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iii., pp. 650, 651, and n. (b).

²⁵ The latter place, doubtless, was the Loughy, Luchtighe, or mensal land of O'More.

²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 668, 669. Also "Annals of Loch Ce." Edited by

W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 54, 55.

²⁷ See Rev. Dr. MacCarthy's edition, vol. ii., pp. 560, 561.

²⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 762, 763. Also, "Annals of Loch Ce." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 86, 87.

²⁹ See "of Loch Ce." Edited by W. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 82, 83.

³⁰ See John Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. i., p. 81. Archdall's edition.

³¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 666, 667.

³² ? O'Mores.

³³ See "The Earls of Kildare, and their Ancestors; from 1057 to 1773," by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 34.

³⁴ Now included in the present barony of Tinnahinch, in the north-west of the Queen's County.

O'Doyne was killed by the people of Fearkeall, as he was taking their prey.³⁵ The same year, the death occurred of Dowcouley, daughter to O'Conor of Affalie and wife to Donell Mac Theobald O'Molloy, who was ancestor of the sept of Balle-ath-boy.

In the year 1383, a plague prevailed in Ireland, when Mac Gillepatrick prince of Ossory, and son of Keallagh Fitzpatrick, tanist of Ossory, became its victim.³⁶ Also, this same year Dermott O'Dempsey prince of Clann Maliere was killed by the English.³⁷ In 1384, Murtogh O'Conor, prince of Affalie, died in his decrepid old age.³⁸ In 1385, Murrough O'Conor³⁹ prince of the territory of Offaly, and the inhabitants of Kinaleagh and of Ferkeall gave a great overthrow to the English of Meath at Clogher Croughan. There Chambers with his son, and Nugent of Meath, with many others, were killed.⁴⁰ This same year, Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, the great favourite of Richard II., was nominated Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and invested with powers almost royal and despotic.⁴¹ These were set forth in a patent, and extended to the year following, when he was created Duke of Ireland, and he came over to exercise in person those unheard of powers.⁴²

At A.D. 1390, Father Luke Wadding⁴³ writes regarding the Franciscan convent at Stradbally—which account he derives from a work of Bartholomeus Pisanus,⁴⁴ a writer of the Franciscan Order—that it was then distinguished as the "Conventus de Mortoto,"⁴⁵ while the inhabitants were accustomed to call it Stradbhaile Laoise.⁴⁶ Great numbers of the English settlers of Ossory fell by MacMurrough, King of Leinster in 1386.⁴⁷ In 1389, Morish or Maurice (the Bald) Conor of Affalie was killed with an arrow by one of the O'Kellys of Lea in Clannmaliere.⁴⁸ Among the Irish enemies of King Richard II. in the year 1392 is ranked

³⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 672, 673, and pp. 682, 683.

³⁶ See "The Annals of Clonmacnoise," edited by Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., p. 307 to 309.

³⁷ See *ibid.*, p. 309.

³⁸ See *ibid.*, 310.

³⁹ Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee says "in prowess and success" against the English he was hardly inferior to Art Mac-Murrough, king of Leinster. See "A Memoir of the Life and Conquests of Art Mac-Murrough," chap. vi., p. 74.

⁴⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 700, 701.

⁴¹ The provisions of the patent of his appointment are found in Harris' Ware, vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," chap. xiv., pp. 90, 91.

⁴² See *ibid.*, p. 92.

⁴³ This celebrated Irishman was Jubilate Lector and Chronologist of the Franciscan Order. Wadding's great work was published, and the first volume was printed, in 1625. At Lyons and at Rome, it issued in folio 8 vols. to 1654. Again, it was printed at Rome in xix folio vols., A.D. 1734 to 1745. Editio Secunda completior et accuratior opera et studio

Rmi. S. Josephi Mariae Fonseca ab Eboræ.

⁴⁴ This catalogue of his was compiled, A.D. 1399. The statement in question is taken from "Catalogus Conventuum Provincie Hibernie."

⁴⁵ It is difficult to attach any other meaning for this seemingly proper name, than that it has reference to the O'Mores; and, indeed the local tradition has it, that these chiefs were the founders of that convent. It stood on the actual site of the present Presentation Nuns' Convent, in Stradbally, and it is still denominated the Abbey. Some portions of the former cells lately existed.

⁴⁶ Father Luke Wadding adds to the account given, "in oppido rurali Diocesis Leghliensis in comitatu Regine, de quo nihil memorabile occurrit. Totum illum tractum incolunt heretici, et Monasterium diruit Franciscus Cosmus Anglus, ex cuius cæmentis domum construxit."—"Annales Minorum seu Trum Ordinum a S. Francisco Institutorum." Antore a R. P. Luca Waddingo Hiberno. Tomus ix., sect. xxi., p. 98.

⁴⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 700, 707.

Omore, who with others and with a great host ravaged the town and County of Carlow, as also a great part of the County of Kildare, which they gave up to "fire and flame": when Robert, Archbishop of Dublin, with two hundred men-at-arms and archers in his company came on two different occasions to Naas. Then the Irish enemy retreated, for which service he afterwards claimed compensation from the King.⁴⁹ An army was led by Art Mac Murrrough, King of Leinster, against the English in 1394, when he burned Ros-mic-Treoin, now New Ross, County of Wexford. He carried away from it gold, silver, and hostages.⁵⁰ Carlow and the mountains of Wicklow were filled with his retainers and aids.⁵¹ He had married a daughter of Maurice fourth Earl of Kildare, and by her dower, he laid claim to large tracts of land in the county, which had been seized on by the English crown and declared forfeited.⁵² This same year, we read, that Thomas O'Dempsey, heir to the lordship of Clann-Maoilughra, was slain by the English, and that Hugh O'Dempsey, while in pursuit of a prey, was also slain by them.

On the 2nd of October, 1394, Richard II., King of England, landed at Waterford with a great armament, consisting of 30,000 archers and 4,000 knights⁵³ to repress the inroads of the Irish chiefs on the English Pale. Thence he marched direct to Dublin, the force under his command being too formidable to encounter any effective resistance. He held a Parliament there.⁵⁴ A number of the Irish and the Anglo-Irish chiefs made their nominal submission to him, and were feasted sumptuously. Four of the principal Irish chiefs were created knights, the King wishing them to adopt the English habits and customs.⁵⁵ The King conducted him-self in a conciliatory manner, to gain the good will of the people whom he came to govern, and left for England the following May. With little profit, he spent a great deal of treasure, not having increased his revenue in the slightest degree, nor enlarged the English territory by a single acre.⁵⁶ Having spent his birth-day in Dublin, in 1395, he left his young kinsman Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, with ample powers to act as Lord Lieutenant.⁵⁷ In 1394, Thomas O'Dempsey was killed by the English.⁵⁸

In the year 1394, the Earl of Ormond mustered a force and marched into Leinster to spoil it. He burned and spoiled Gailine territory, which extended from near Abbeyleix to the boundary of Slievemargue. It comprised the entire rectory of Gallen or Dysert Gallen in the barony of Cullinagh.⁵⁹ He also despoiled the territory of O Kelly of Magh Druchtain,

⁴⁸ See *ibid.*, p. 313.

⁴⁹ See "A Roll of the Proceedings of the King's Council in Ireland, for a portion of the sixteenth year of the reign of Richard II., A.D. 1392-93, with an appendix." Edited by the Rev. James Graves, A.B., M.R.I.A., pp. 41, 42. London, 1877, 8vo.

⁵⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 730, 731.

⁵¹ See Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee's "A Memoir of the Life and Conquests of Art McMurrrough," chap. i., p. 15.

⁵² Lynch's "Fendal Dignities," p. 248.

⁵³ Charles Knight's "Popular History of England," vol. ii., chap. vi., p. 27.

⁵⁴ John Capgrave's "Chronicle of England," p. 259.

⁵⁵ A Frenchman, Sir Henry Castide, related in detail some highly interesting particulars of which he was an eye-witness, regarding King Richard II.'s stay in Dublin to Sir John Froissard, who has recorded them in his "Chronicle of England, France, Spain, and the adjoining countries," etc., vol. iv., chap. lxiv.

⁵⁶ See Plowden's "History of Ireland," vol. i., chap. viii., p. 230.

⁵⁷ See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chaps. xxxviii., p. 150.

⁵⁸ See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 316.

traditionally said to have been the most fertile district in Leix. It extended from the ford of Ath-Baiteoige to the ford of Ath-fuiscoige, near Luggacurran. It comprised Ballymaddock, the Park, near Stradally, the church of Grange, and Ochteogue, the church of Clopoke, and the castle of Coragh. Although distinguished from Dysart-Gallin, there is a townland Gailine within it.⁶⁰ After this devastating expedition, the Earl of Ormond returned home.⁶¹ This very same year, after the celebrated Art Mac Murrough Kavenagh, King of Leinster, had waged very successful wars with the English, at the solicitation of the English and Leinster Irish, he went, we are told, to the king's house, which was the Castle of Dublin. But he was there detained as a prisoner, on account of a complaint made by the Lord Justice, the Earl of Ormond. Afterwards, he was liberated, but O'Brien, O'More, and John O'Nolan, were detained as prisoners. This O'More, was probably a chief belonging to the tribe of Leix, then in alliance with Art Mac Murrough.⁶² Afterwards, we are told, that the English of Leinster attempted to make Art MacMurrough prisoner by treachery, but without avail; for he escaped from them by the strength of his arm and by his valour, without receiving any injury.⁶³ Brian, the son of O'Connor Faly and Murtough Oge Mageoughgan killed Maurice, son of Pierce Dalton in 1395.⁶⁴ This year also died the son of Maurice Bov O'More, Lord of Slieve-Margy, fosterer of the learned and destitute of Ireland.⁶⁵

In 1398,⁶⁶ Callogh or Calvagh McMurrugh O'Connor and the horsemen of Affalie took Gerald, the fifth Earl of Kildare prisoner.⁶⁷ He was kept in confinement by O'Connor, until he had been ransomed, when he was liberated.⁶⁸ In 1399, Phelim, the son of Cabir O'Connor, Tanist of Offaly, died of the plague, in O'Reilly's house.⁶⁹ Art McMurrugh, king of Leinster, made an inroad upon the English Pale in 1398. He was overtaken by the English of Leinster and Meath; and many on both sides fell in that battle. Among the slain of the retainers of McMurrugh were the sons of Donogh O'Doyne, Karoll and Owen, with the chiefest of their people, and also William McKaroll FitzPatrick.⁷⁰ But Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, the King's cousin and appointed heir to the Crown, being Lord Lieutenant of Ireland at this time, was slain on the 20th of July, 1398, by the O'Byrnes at Kenlis in Ossory. The King now resolved on avenging his death, and leaving the government of England in the hands of his uncle the Duke of York,⁷¹ prepared an expedition

⁵⁹ Its extent in 1607 is set forth in Erek's "Ecclesiastical Register," p. 131. The present boundaries appear to be the same.

⁶⁰ Mr. Patrick O'Kelly, author of the "General History of the Rebellion of 1798," and assumed translator of Abbe MacGeoghagan's "Histoire de l'Irlande," is said by Dr O'Donovan to have been head of the Magh Druchtain family of the O'Kellys. However, the translator of Mac-Geoghagan was an accomplished daughter, and an excellent French scholar, Miss O'Kelly still living in Dublin. Her father who was a highly educated gentleman, revised it for publication, by James Duffy, of Dublin.

⁶¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 732, 733.

⁶² See *ibid.*, pp. 732, 733.

⁶³ See *ibid.*, pp. 740, 741.

⁶⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 758, 759.

⁶⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 702, 703.

⁶⁶ See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 320. Also "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 700, 701.

⁶⁷ He succeeded his father Maurice in the title, A.D. 1390.

⁶⁸ See "The Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 35.

⁶⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 704, 705.

⁷⁰ See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 322.

on an extensive scale, which he conducted in person. On the 1st day of June in the year 1399⁷² Richard King of England arrived in Ireland, and landed at Waterford, with a large army. He marched through the country of the MacMurrough Kavenaghs, Kinsellaghs, O'Byrnes and O'Tooles to Dublin. On the way his forces were much distressed for food and want of carriages, which were withdrawn from him by the Irish, who retired on his approach. Having arrived in Dublin, bad news from England soon reached him, that the Duke of Lancaster was an aspirant to his throne. He then hastened to return,⁷³ without having effected anything of importance in Ireland.⁷⁴ About this period, according to the Annals of Clonmacnoise, Art MacMurrough, King of Leinster, was mightily weakened and brought low.⁷⁵ But his retirement, while the English King was at the head of an army so vastly superior to any force he could oppose to it, shows his discretion as a skilful leader, in the wild country which he still occupied. He maintained the independence of his principality through a long term of years to the very close of his life. Even his subordinate chiefs and allies, the O'Mores, O'Conors, O'Tooles and O'Byrnes, were securely protected from aggression by the English of the Pale, although constantly exposed to their well planned and unexpected surprises.

CHAPTER IX.—ANNALS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY,
1400 TO 1448.

THE King of England, Henry IV., sent his son Thomas, Duke of Lancaster, to Ireland, on the 13th of November, 1401.¹ The following year, during the month of September, Thomas held a Parliament in Dublin.² But the chiefs and their clans in Leix and Offaly, under their own Brehon law,³ had little regard for enactments, that were framed in a spirit of jealousy and hostility to them, so long as they could maintain their native condition of independence. Under the suzerainty of Art Mac Morrough over Leinster, the O'Moores, O'Conors, O'Byrnes, O'Tooles and Kavenaghs seem to have confederated, when Richard II. and his large army left the Irish shore.

The victory of Ath dubh was gained by Gillapatrik O'More, king or lord of Leix, over the English, 1404.⁴ Here many persons were slain,

⁷¹ See Rev. Dr. Lingard's "History of England," vol. iv., chap. iii., p. 256. London, 1837. 8vo.

⁷² See Cox "Hibernia Anglicana," Part i., p. 141.

⁷³ See David Hume's "History of England," etc., vol. iii., chap. xvii., pp. 38, 39. Edinburgh, 1792. 8vo.

⁷⁴ See John Capgrave's "Chronicle of England," pp. 268 to 272.

⁷⁵ See Rev. Denis Murphy's edition, p. 322.

¹ See Harris' Ware, Vol. ii., "Antiquities of Ireland," p. 106. The "Annals of the Four Masters," have the date 1400. See Dr. O'Donovan's edition, vol. iv., pp. 770, 771.

² See Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," p. 144.

³ The Royal Commissioners appointed in 1852 to translate and publish the Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland, have already issued five large 8vo. volumes, which serve to make them practically intelligible to English readers. They throw great light on ancient Irish social life and usages. An instructive popular digest of them will be found, in "The Brehon Laws," A Legal Handbook, by Laurence Ginnell, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law. London, 1894, 8vo.

⁴ "Annals of Loch Cé." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 108, 109.

and a great spoil was taken in horses, arms, clothing, and armour.⁵ The place is now known as Blackford, a few miles eastward of Stradbally, and on the very borders of Leix in that direction. This very same year, too, the daughter of O'Connor Faly, and wife of Gillapatriek O'More, died.⁶ In the year 1405, Richard Butler, usually called Coscruidh or "Hardfoot,"⁷ was slain by the son of Faghtna O'More.⁸ This name Faghtna is usually Latinised Festus.⁹ In 1404, Owen O'Connor Faly, the son of Murrough, son of Cathaoir, was slain by Gerald the fifth Earl of Kildare.¹⁰ This was in a raid, most probably undertaken to avenge his imprisonment suffered some years before from Murrough O'Connor Faly.¹¹ In 1405, Art MacMurrough waged a fierce war against the English. He devastated their settlements in Wexford, called by the Irish "the County Reagh," and Carlow; he also plundered and burned Disert-Diarmada, now Castledermod.¹² At length he resolved on marching on Dublin, and having collected a numerous army of his clansmen and allies he advanced to Kilmainham, in the neighbourhood of the city. Lord Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, had summoned a council of the chief men of the Pale, to take measures for defence, and accordingly a large force was assembled, with which it was intended to march outside the walls and give the Irish battle. They were formed in four divisions: the first was commanded by Lord Thomas himself; the second, by Jenicho d'Artois, surnamed the Lawless; the third by Sir Edward Perrers, an English knight, and the fourth by Sir Thomas Butler, the lame Prior of Kilmainham. The English were arranged in two columns: the one passed by Oxmanstown and the Park, on the north side of the city, the other by the Priory of St. John, on the south side of the Liffey. The numbers engaged on either side were nearly equal, and computed to have been from 12,000 to 15,000 men. A long and vigorously contested battle ensued. In the commencement of the engagement Lord Thomas was dangerously wounded, and carried back to Dublin. Jenicho, Perrers and Butler continued the battle, but the English were finally routed and fled within the city.¹³ The Irish were not prepared for to lay siege to its strong fortifications, still so numerous and effectively garrisoned. They buried their dead, destroyed some castles of their enemies around Dublin, and disbanded the large army they had collected.¹⁴

In 1406, Murrough O'Connor, Prince of Offaly, entertained Cahall Duff and Teige O'Connor, two sons of the King of Connaught, O'Connor Roe, with their followers and dependants.¹⁵ This he did, as well to offend

⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 780, 781.

⁶ See "Annals of Loch Cé." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 106, 107. Also see Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 324.

⁷ He is so styled in Mageoghan's version of the Annals of Clonmacnoise, and Rev. Denis Murphy's, p. 325.

⁸ See "Annals of Loch Cé." Edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 110, 111.

⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 784, 785.

¹⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 780, 781.

¹¹ See "The Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 35.

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 784, 785.

¹³ The thickest of the fight was on the Liffey's side; and the site was afterwards known as Atheroe, or "the bloody Ford."

¹⁴ See "A Memoir of the Life and Conquests of Art MacMurrough," by Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee, chap. vii., pp. 77 to 79.

¹⁵ They came with a troop of cavalry on this visit, according to the Four Masters.

the English of Meath as to defend himself and his country from them. He gave a great defeat to the Abbot O'Connor's son, Owen, and his retained kearne of Connaught. The said Abbot's son with his route of kearne went to a place called Clon-Imorris,¹⁶ in the upper parts of Geashill, to the town of one Gilleboye McMoyle Corra, where they were overtaken by Cahall McMurrugh O'Connor, with Cahall O'Connor, son of O'Connor Roe, and six horsemen only. There they found Owen's kearne despoiling Gilleboye of all his goods. Among other things, one of the kearne took a great cauldron that Callogh had lent for the purpose of brewing to Gilleboye; and seeing him carry it out of the house, in presence of Callogh. Gilleboye said, "Callogh, there is your cauldron, take it, and discharge me from my loan." Callogh replied, "I take it as sufficient satisfaction from you." Suddenly one of Callogh's people flung a stone,¹⁷ and hit the cauldron, which caused a great noise to be made. This created a panic, together with the unexpected arrival of the enemy, as may be supposed, when the kerne broke out of their ranks and fled, hotly pursued by the inhabitants of Offaly. At a bog adjoining the town, and between it and Clonanie, near the hill of Croghan, in Keighna-Kedagh in Offaly, they lost no less than three hundred of their men both English and Irish. The Abbot's son was killed at the bog, north of the town.¹⁸ They lost also, a relic of St. Patrick, called Buacach-Patraig, formerly preserved at Elphin, and counted by them to be the chiefest relic of all Connaught. This discomfiture was given them on Saturday, the 16th day of July.¹⁹

In 1307, Cahall O'Connor of Offaly was killed by the family of the Berminghams,²⁰ or the Clann-Feorais.²¹ Art Mac Murrugh waged a successful war against the English, in 1408, and O'Connor Faly also joined with him and plundered them, carrying off great spoils.²² In 1411, the Sheriff of Meath was taken prisoner by him, and a great price was exacted for his ransom.²³ In 1413, Turlough, the son of O'Connor Faly, died from a fall, and we read, that Art Mac Murrugh gained a victory over the English in the County of Wexford; many of them were slain, and others were taken taken prisoners.²⁴ His son, Art Kavanagh, heir to the Kingdom of Leinster, died the following year.²⁵

The renowned Sir John Talbot of Hallamshire, who was Lord Furnival by courtesy through his wife, had married the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Neville, by Joan the sole daughter and heiress of William, the last Lord Furnival. This great warrior was constituted Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on the 24th of February, 1413,

¹⁶ This name is now unknown, although it was formerly a townland in the parish of Killeigh, King's County.

¹⁷ The Four Masters say, it was Callogh himself flung the stone.

¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 786 to 791.

¹⁹ Brian O'Connor that lost Allalie by his attainer was descended from that same O'Connor Lynally. Bryan was the son of Cahire, the son of Conn, the son of Callogh, who was the son of Murrugh, then Prince of Offaly. See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," pp. 325, 326.

²⁰ See Rev. Denis Murphy's "Annals of Clonmacnoise," p. 327.

²¹ They occupied the barony of Carbury, County of Kildare, and founded the monastery of Muinistic Fheorais, near Edenderry, King's County, which derived its name from them. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 792 to 794 and n. (n.) *ibid.*

²² See *ibid.*, pp. 796, 797.

²³ See *ibid.*, pp. 806, 807.

²⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 814, 815. These entries seem to be repeated by the Four Masters at 1416.

²⁵ See *ibid.*, pp. 818, 819.

and he landed at Dalkey in September, 1414. He remained in Ireland for six years, during which time he was active in reducing the Irish chiefs, making of each successive chief that fell into his hands a tool and a scourge for the subjection of his fellows.²⁶ Afterwards he became the celebrated Earl of Shrewsbury. Nor was he long settled in Ireland, until he organised an expedition against the O'Mores. In 1415, Leix, O'More's territory, was devastated by him, and he took the castle of the son of Faghtna O'More. The oppressions of this nobleman were severely felt in Ireland,²⁷ and his tenure of office was distinguished for his rapacity, and consequent want of popularity, especially when he departed from the country in 1419.²⁸ At the year 1417, the death of the renowned Art Mac Murrough Cavanagh took place. The Four Masters record this event in the following terms—"he had defended his own province against the English and Irish from his sixteenth to his sixtieth year; a man full of hospitality, knowledge, and chivalry; a man full of prosperity and royalty; the enricher of churches and monasteries, by his alms and offerings, died (after being forty-two years in the Lordship of Leinster) a week after Christmas. Some assert, that it was of a poisonous drink which a woman gave to him, and to O'Doran, Chief Brehon of Leinster, at Ros-Mic-Briuin²⁹ that both died. Donough his son, assumed his place after him,"³⁰ as ruler over Leinster. Murrough O'Conor, heir to the lordship of Offaly, died in 1416. In the same year Donough, son of Art Mac Murrough Kavanagh, Lord of Leinster, was taken prisoner by Lord Furnival, which was a great misfortune to the Irish; Calvagh O'Conor Faly also was treacherously taken prisoner by Libned Prene or Freyne, and sold to Lord Furnival, but the night after his capture, he escaped to his own house, with a person who was confined along with him.³¹

In the year 1421, Mac Gillpatrick and the son of Libned a Prene, or Freyne, one of the English, set out with twelve score soldiers on a predatory excursion into Leix. However, they do not appear to have proceeded much farther than the monastery of Leix,³² when Murrough O'Conor Faly happened to come in contact with them in that country. He attacked Mac Gillpatrick and the English, defeating them with great slaughter. His people obtained great spoils of the armour, arms, and accoutrements, belonging to the invaders. Murrough O'Conor then returned home; but, he was attacked by a dangerous disease, and he afterwards took the habit of a friar in the monastery of Killeagh, where he happily died, soon after his religious retirement.³³ The 7th of May,

²⁶ See "Original Letters illustrative of English History," edited by Sir Henry Ellis, second series, vol. i., letter 19.

²⁷ See Dr. Leland's "History of Ireland," vol. ii., Book iii., chap. i., pp. 12, 13.

²⁸ At this year is noted: "On the feast day of Mary Magdalen, the Lord Lieutenant, John Talbot, went over into England, leaving (as) his deputy there the Archbishop of Dublin" (Richard Talbot), "carrying along with him the curses of many, because hee being runne much in debt for victuall and divers other things, would pay

little or nothing at all."—Henry of Marlborough's "Chronicle of Ireland."

²⁹ This is an error for Ros-mic Triuin, which is the ancient and present name in Irish of the town of New Ross (not old Ross in the County of Wexford).

³⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 830, 831.

³¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 840, 841.

³² Now Old Abbeveix, on the River Nore. Near Lord de Vesey's mansion, and just outside his gardens, stood the former Cistercian abbey of that place.

³³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four masters," vol. iv., pp. 850, 851.

A.D. 1421, the Earl of Ormond, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, was defeated near this abbey by Omordris, otherwise O'Moore. A great slaughter of his English retainers was made. Twenty-seven men lost their lives, chief of whom were Purcell and Grant.³⁴ Ten persons of superior rank were made prisoners; while two hundred other men were saved by flying to this Abbey.³⁵ To revenge that discomfiture, the Lord Lieutenant, leading a very great army, invaded O'More's country, in 1422, when he was met by a force of defenders at the Red Bog of Athy, on the 7th of June. A battle took place, in which the Lord Lieutenant proved victorious. He afterwards preyed and burned the lands of Leix for four successive days. The O'Mores then sued for peace, and released the prisoners they had taken.³⁶ Rory O'Dunne, Chief of Hy-Regan, died in 1427.³⁷ After Donough Mac Morrrough, son of Art and Lord of Leinster, had been imprisoned nine years in England, he was ransomed by his own province in 1428.³⁸ About this time, O'Dempsey took possession of the strong castle of Lea, which had been held by the Earl of Kildare. The Earl of Ormond, then Lord Lieutenant, forcibly expelled him, and restored it to the Earl of Kildare.³⁹

Donnell Mac Gillpatrick, Lord of Ossory, died 1431. This year, likewise, Art Mac Morrrough, Lord of Leinster, made an incursion into the County of Dublin. The English mustered their forces to oppose him. The Irish were under the leadership of Mac-an-Mhidhigh, the son of Teige, one of the O'Briens, and two sons of O'Conor Kerry.⁴⁰ In the early part of the day, Art routed the English, killed a great number of them, and deprived them of much booty. Returning, however, on the evening of that same day, the English rallied and re-assembled their men. Having overtaken Mac Murrough, they attacked him and killed many of his retainers. O'Toole was taken prisoner.⁴¹ Again, in 1432, Mac Murrough greatly ravaged the territory of the English. The Palesmen attacked him but they were signally defeated; many were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, among these latter was Walter Tobin.⁴² Before this period, the English citizens of Dublin were sorely distressed to keep their walls and fortifications in good repair, and complained bitterly of

³⁴ See Henry of Marleborough's "Chronicle of Ireland," p. 31.

³⁵ Now known as Abbey-Leix, in the barony of Cullinagh, Queen's County. From the religious institution there, it was called *monasterium laicorum* or "the Irish monastery," most likely to distinguish it from the adjoining English religious foundations in Kilkenny. It was situated on the River Nore.

³⁶ See Cox's "Hibernia Auglicana," Part I., p. 153.

³⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 870, 871. The pedigree of the O'Duins, O'Dunne's or O'Doyne's—as the clan name is differently written—is derived from Cathair Mor, monarch of Ireland in the second century, by the celebrated Irish antiquary Duaid Mac Fribis. From the time of Henry VIII. downwards, the names and succession of the chiefs

has been given by Dr. O'Donovan, in a lengthened note, (g.). See *ibid.*, pp. 957 to 960.

³⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. 872, 873.

³⁹ The date for these occurrences is not given by Cumpion, who relates them in his "Historic of Ireland," chap. vii., p. 144. Dublin edition, 1809, Sm. 4to. Of late, there has been published a valuable historical work by Thomas Matthews intituled "An Account of the O'Dempsey's, Chiefs of Clannaliere," Dublin, 1903, Hodges, Figgis & Co., 8vo. It gives a full and most interesting Memoir of this Queen's County family, together with the origin, rise, expansion and alliances of the O'Dempsey Clan.

⁴⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 884, 885.

⁴¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 886, 887.

⁴² See *ibid.*, pp. 892, 893.

the heavy expenditure they were obliged to incur on works requisite for defence against their enemies. Accordingly on April 1st, 1427, King Henry VI. granted twenty pounds per annum, during the ensuing twenty years, to be deducted from the Crown Rent of Dublin, for the necessary repairs.⁴³ In 1436, O'Connor Faly waged war against the English, during which he did them much injury by burning, plundering and slaying. This was intended to avenge their confinement of O'Donnell, his relative by marriage.⁴⁴ At this time also the statement is made by an Irish Parliament that their enemies and rebels had conquered and put under their obeysance and tribute in the parts of Munster well-nigh all the Counties Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford; and in the nether parts, well-nigh all the Counties of Carlow, Kildare, Meath and Uriel; so that there is left unconquered, and out of tribute, little more than the County of Dublin.⁴⁵ In 1437, a war broke out between O'Connor Faly, and Cahir O'Connor, his brother. Cahir went over to the English, whom he afterwards brought into Offaly. They burned the town of Dermot O'Connor and other towns. They killed and wounded many persons during this foray.⁴⁶ Meantime O'Connor Faly carried on a great war against the English, in which he committed many depredations, and slew many persons.⁴⁷ This state of things continued in Meath during 1438, when peace was made with his brother Cahir.⁴⁸ A Justiciary or Deputy of the King of England came to Ireland in 1439. He was taken prisoner by Cahir, the son of O'Connor Faly. After remaining for some time in custody, he was released by the English of Dublin. The son of Plunket was given up to Cahir in his stead,⁴⁹ who probably retained him as a hostage.

After the Anglo-Norman settlement, for several centuries the state of Ireland was disordered and very much disturbed. During these times, while the O'Conors of Offaly were despoiling the Strongbownian colony on their eastern frontier, and even the O'Mores to the west, these latter were no less predatory over their own borders. In the year 1440, O'Connor Faly, his sons, and his brother Cahir, went upon an incursion of this description into Leix, the O'More's territory; but, after having sent the prey on before them, they were overtaken by the Earl of Desmond, and by Mac Gillpatrick, who defeated O'Connor, and killed his son Con, together with sixty of his soldiers. In 1443, or 1444, after the two sons of Mac Gilla Patrick had been killed by Mac Richard Butler's direction in Kilkenny, their father and one of O'Moore's sons, with Con O'Connor, made a preying excursion westwards beyond Slievardachy.⁵⁰ But Richard Butler's son overtook and defeated them, with the loss of some leading men, who took part in the encounter. Their horses and cattle were also captured. It was probably to avenge this reverse that O'Moore's sons gave a defeat to the County of Kilkenny, where Piers,

⁴³ See "Calendar of Ancient Records of Dublin, in the possession of the Municipal Corporation of that city," by John T. Gilbert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., vol. i., pp. 29, 30. Dublin, 1889, 8vo.

⁴⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 906, 907.

⁴⁵ See Dr. Leland's "History of Ireland," Book iii., chap. i., pp. 22, 23.

⁴⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 908, 909.

⁴⁷ See *ibid.*, pp. 910, 911.

⁴⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. 912, 913.

⁴⁹ See *ibid.*, pp. 912, 913.

⁵⁰ See MacFirbis's translation of the "Annals of Ireland from the year 1413 to 1468." "Miscellany of the Irish Archaeological Society," vol. i., pp. 200, 201.

the grandson of Piers Butler, and two or three of the murderers of Mac Gilla Patrick's sons were slain, this same year.⁵¹ At this time, the principle of primogeniture in the male succession was beginning to be adopted by this family. As one consequence of it, the lord of Leix, firmly seated in his territory, assumed the right of chieftainship over his clansmen's country. The heir to the Lordship of Leinster, Murrough Kavanagh, was slain by the English of the County Wexford in 1442. The King, after the death of his son, made war upon them and upon the English of Leinster. He forced them to pay eight hundred marks as an *eric*, or indemnity for his son they had slain, and to liberate seven prisoners taken by them the day on which the occurrence took place.⁵²

In 1445, Dermot O'Toole, Lord of Clann-Truathail, was slain by the grandsons of Tomaltagh O'Dempsey, in the eightieth year of his age, and while in pursuit of a prey.⁵³ About this time, also, several chief men of the Pale sent a petition to the King to depose the Earl of Ormond from the position of Lord Lieutenant, because among other charges it was alleged, that he had caused certain subjects of the King to be imprisoned in the castle of O'Dempsey, with a view to exact payment from them to procure their ransom.⁵⁴ A great war broke out in 1446, between O'Conor Faly and the English of Meath. During this war a great part of Meath was plundered and burned; many of its inhabitants were slain; and marauding parties overran the country as far northward as Tara, and as far eastward as Cul-Maighe-Claraigh. Brian, son of Calvagh O'Conor, was taken prisoner in the course of this war by the English.⁵⁵ Finola, the daughter of Calvagh O'Conor Faly, and of Margaret, daughter of O'Carroll, who had been first married to O'Donnell, and afterwards to Hugh Boy O'Neill, was the most beautiful and stately, and the most renowned and illustrious woman of her time in all Ireland, her own mother only excepted. She retired from this transitory world, to prepare for life eternal. In 1447, she assumed the yoke of piety and devotion in the monastery of Cill-achaidh.⁵⁶ In the Pale, while a rivalry for the post of Lord Lieutenant was maintained between John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and James, Earl of Ormond, the latter was displaced, and in 1446 Talbot was sent over from England for the third time, as it was felt, that his warlike and vigorous character was likely to restore the power and authority of the crown within the Pale, and to restrain the encroachments of the Irish enemy without it.⁵⁷ In the year 1447, the monastery of Laoighis, in Leinster, and in the diocese of Leighlin, is said to have been founded in honour of St. Francis, by O'More,⁵⁸ who selected a burial-place for himself and his descendants in it. It was erected beside the river which runs through Stradbally, and the site is locally denominated "The Abbey." Considerable ruins of the Franciscan Friary remained here until the close of the nineteenth century, when they were removed by the Presentation Nuns, who now occupy the

⁵¹ See *ibid.*, p. 207.

⁵² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 928, 929.

⁵³ See *ibid.*, pp. 942, 943.

⁵⁴ See L'Abbe Ma-Geoghegan's "Histoire de l'Irlande, Ancienne et Moderne," Tome ii., Troisieme Partie., chap. xi., p. 180.

⁵⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 946, 947.

⁵⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 952, 955.

⁵⁷ See Thomas D'Arcy McGee's "Popular History of Ireland," Book vi., chap. vii., p. 287. Glasgow edition, 12 mo.

⁵⁸ Ware states, that a monastery had been founded at Abbeyleix, in 1183, by Corchagar (Corchobhar O'More.)

grounds. No traces of this building, at present, are to be found.⁵⁹ He also designed this to be the place of interment for himself and for his descendants. We learn that he endowed it with an estate, perhaps a portion of his own patrimonial lands. This does not preclude, however, the possibility of his having effected such a foundation, without the full concurrence of his subordinate chiefs and their septs. Conal, son of O'Connor Faly, was slain by the English of Leinster in 1448,⁶⁰ and the same year, Niall O'Molloy was slain by The O'Donnes.⁶¹

CHAPTER X.—ANNALS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY,

1449 TO 1500.

UPON favourable terms of his own making, and confirmed by indenture between King Henry VI. and himself, Richard, Duke of York and Earl of Ulster, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for ten years, and accordingly he came over and landed at Howth on the 5th of July, 1449.¹ But, he discovered very soon, that the allowance for the maintenance of his state was not only small, but it was even very irregularly paid; ² yet notwithstanding, having ulterior designs on the Crown of England, he contrived to ingratiate himself with the nobles and subjects of the Pale, among whom he was especially popular. The Duke of York had large possessions in Ireland. During the reign of Henry VI., he was sent there on a pretence of quelling Irish disturbances, but in reality to prevent his executing ambitious intrigues in England. His personal influence and character were greatly respected by the Palesmen, who afterwards held himself and his family in the highest respect.

Meanwhile the rivalries and contests of the Houses of York and Lancaster seem to have excited little interest or sympathy beyond the inhabitants of the Pale, who held closer relations with England than the native Irish had done. The following are the only entries contained in our Annals at this period, as germane to the subject of our history. We read, that in 1451, died Margaret, daughter of Tieghe O'Carroll and wife of Calvagh O'Connor Faly, the best woman in her time in Ireland. She it was, we are told, "who had given two invitations of hospitality in the one year to those who sought for rewards." After the victory of Uinction and Penance, triumphant over the world and the devil, she departed this life. Likewise, Felim O'Connor, son of Calvagh by this Margaret, and heir to the lordship of Orlaly, a man of great fame and renown, died, having been for a long time ill of a decline. Only one night intervened between the death of both.³ Also, in 1451, O'Connor Faly alarmed the English by a sudden inroad into the district of Kildare. He was surprised, however, by Sir Edward Fitz-Eustace, a warlike knight, and his troop was routed.⁴ O'Connor's father was thrown from his horse in

⁵⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 954, 955, and n. (d.), *ibid.*

⁶⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 956, 957.

⁶¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 956, 957.

¹ See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," Part i., p. 160.

² See the complaint set forth in his letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury,

written at Divelin (Dublin) June 15th, the year is not given, in Campion's "Historie of Ireland," Booke ii., chap. vii., pp. 146 to 148.

³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 972, 973.

⁴ Willis' "Lives of Illustrious and Distinguished Irishmen," vol. i., Part ii., Third Period, p. 403.

the course of the pursuit, and was in imminent danger of being taken by his pursuers, who were fast approaching. His son, who was by his side, stopped and remounted him, but unhappily the father fell a second time to the ground. With a generous contempt of danger, the son offered O'Connor his own horse, thus insuring captivity for himself. The father refused to accept this proffered means of escape; the son persisted to press, and the father to refuse. Neither would be saved at the cost of the other. At last, the escape of the father became impossible; and his stern command was obeyed, when obedience itself had become a dangerous duty. By an exertion of great steadiness and activity the son finally escaped. His father was made prisoner, but he was afterwards released when it appeared, that the incursion was *bona fide* in pursuit of prey—a venial transgression in those times. It is likewise recorded that David O'More,⁵ son to the lord of Leix, was killed by a fall in 1452,⁶ but where this happened is not stated. The Earl of Ormond, who was Lord Justice of Ireland, took Caislein Leige (Lea Castle) in the year 1452,⁷ from the O'Dempseys, who permitted him to pass onwards to Hairem⁸ or Irry,⁹ whence he rescued the son of MacFeorais, who was there imprisoned, and he burned that place. In 1452, More, daughter of O'Connor Faly, and wife of MacWilliam of Clanrickard, died of a fall.¹⁰ In 1452, Brian, the son of Calvagh O'Connor, by Margaret, was killed by a fall.¹¹ In 1451, the Duke of York returned to England, and left the Earl of Ormond Lord Justice of Ireland.¹² In his wars with the Irish he broke down the castle of Owny at Abington in that barony, and county of Limerick. He then proceeded to Offaly, whereupon O'Connor came into his house, with an assurance that the son of MacFeorais should be set at liberty. In 1455 Cahir, the son of Murrrough O'Connor Faly, was slain by Tieve, the son of Calvagh O'Connor; and Cuilen O'Dempsey was slain by him on the same day.¹³ In 1458, Calvagh More O'Connor Faly, son of Murrrough-na-madmann, Lord of all Offaly, died. He was a man who never refused the countenance of man, says the annalist, and who had won more wealth from his English and Irish enemies than any Lord in Leinster. Con O'Connor, his son, was elected in his place, before his father was buried in the monastery of Killeigh.¹⁴ A great defeat was given in 1459, by Thomas the seventh Earl of Kildare¹⁵ to Con O'Connor Faly, the son of Calvagh, in which Con himself was taken prisoner; and the grandson of William O'Kelly and many others of his people were slain.¹⁶

When Edward IV., son to Richard, Duke of York, came to the throne

⁵ See "Miscellany of the Irish Archaeological Society," vol. i., p. 231. Dudley MacFirbis's "Annals of Ireland from A.D., 1443 to 1468."

⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 980, 981.

⁷ See Dr. John O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 978, 979.

⁸ So it is written by the Four Masters.

⁹ Thus is it marked, near the River Barrow, on the old Map of Leix and Offaly, made in the reign of King Philip and Queen Mary.

¹⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of

the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 980, 981.

¹¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 982, 983.

¹² See L'Abbé Ma-Geoghegan's "Histoire de l'Irlande, Ancienne et Moderne," Tome ii., Troisième Partie, chap. xi., p. 185.

¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 992, 993.

¹⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 1000, 1001.

¹⁵ See "The Earls of Kildare, and their Ancestors," by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 38.

¹⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1002, 1003.

in 1460, no change was made in the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, as the occupant was known to be attached to the House of York. The seventh Earl of Kildare, notwithstanding the king's explicit prohibition, presumed to summon a parliament, in which a subsidy was levied and acts were passed.¹⁷ A great defeat was given to the English, in 1460, by Con O'Connor Faly, the son of Calvagh, in which the Baron of Galtrim, and many besides were slain.¹⁸ The Public Revenue at the Seat of Government was very low, because the whole Kingdom was in possession of the Irish at this time, except the Pale, and some few places on the sea-coast of Ulster; and even those parts were so far from being quiet, that the colonists were fain to buy their peace by yearly pensions to the native chiefs, and to pay tribute and contributions to them for protection. Their engagements, nevertheless, were but very ill observed in many instances towards the English, through inability to enforce them. Amongst the various Tributes recorded as due to several of the leading chiefs, the King's Exchequer paid to Mac Morough 80 marks, and besides the County of Wexford paid to him the sum of £40; the County of Meath paid a tribute to O'Connor Faly of £60, and the County of Kildare—the stronghold of the Geraldines—paid to him £20, to ensure peaceful relations and his protection.¹⁹ War broke out in 1461 between the English of Meath and those of Leinster, during which war a considerable part of Meath was destroyed. O'Connor Faly and Mac Richard Butler²⁰ went to Druim-Tuirleime²¹ with one thousand horsemen, or more, all wearing helmets, and remained there, without fear, shooing their steeds. Their army and marauding parties plundered and burned Meath in every direction. During this war, the son of Felim, son of Calvagh O'Connor, was taken prisoner by John, son of Mac Thomas O'Connor. He obtained great rewards from the English for making peace with them, as had been usual with his predecessors.²²

In 1463, Cuilen O'Dempsey was slain by the English.²³ Where this action took place is not stated, but it happened while the Earl of Desmond was Deputy in Ireland to King Edward IV.²⁴ In A.D. 1464, Kedagh O'More, lord of Leix, died of the plague.²⁵ We are also informed that

¹⁷ See "Letters and Papers illustrative of the reigns of Richard III., and Henry VII.," edited by James Gairdner, vol. i., preface xxxi.

¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1006, 1007.

¹⁹ See "Hibernia Anglicana," Part i., pp. 165, 166.

²⁰ He was a distinguished chieftain of the Butler family, who took an Irish surname from his ancestor, Richard. He had residences at Kilkenny, Dunmore, Gowran, Kill-Fraich, on the Banks of the Nore, and at Dun-Aengusa-mic-Nadfraich, otherwise called Rath-an-Photaire, which he purchased from the Earl of Ormond. Rath-an-Photaire, *i.e.*, the Potter's rath, is now vulgarly called in Irish, Rath-an-Photaille, and anglicised Pottlerath. It is a townland, containing the ruins of a rath, castle, and church, in the parish of Kilmanagh, barony of Craugh, and County of

Kilkenny. A copy of the Psalter of Cashel, which was made for this chieftain in year 1453, by John Boy O'Clery, at Rath-an-Photaire, is still extant, in rather bad preservation, in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Classed Laud. 610.

²¹ Now Drummhutin, situated in the Parish of Taghmon, barony of Corkeare, and County of Westmeath. It is represented on the Ordnance Townland Survey Map of that county, sheet 13.

²² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1014 to 1017, and *nn.* (p.q.) *ibid.*

²³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters, vol. iv., pp. 1024, 1025.

²⁴ From 1461 to 1467. See Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," vol. i., Part. i., pp. 168 to 170.

²⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," at the same year, Vol. iv., pp. 980, 981.

in 1468, O'More and Mac Gillpatrick died of the plague.²⁶ An army was led by the English of Meath and Leinster into Offaly in 1466. Con O'Connor Faly, the son of Calvagh, assembled his forces to oppose them; and, first of all, he slew John Mac Thomas, the best and most illustrious captain of the English, whose death was an omen of ill success to the them, for the Earl and his English were defeated next day, and the Earl himself was taken prisoner, and stripped of his arms and armour. Tieve O'Connor conveyed the Earl, his own brother-in-law, and a great part of his army along with him, to Castle-Carbury. Christopher Plunkett, and the Prior of the House of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Trim, William Oge Nugent, Barnwall, and many others were prisoners along with them. The Irish were disposed to treat Desmond with the respect usually paid to one of their own great chieftains; and happily, the son of O'Connor O'Faly, who on a former occasion displayed so generous a concern for the safety of his father, considered the noble prisoner as his kinsman, by fosterage, or some of those artificial bonds of connexion, held so sacred by his countrymen, and which, in despite of laws, had in several instances united with English families. He had now a fair occasion to repay the indulgence shewn to his father; and he had the generosity to embrace it. He conveyed Desmond—his brother, as he called him—to a place of security, and afterwards dismissed him with a considerable number of his followers.²⁷ The English of Dublin subsequently came and carried off all that had, after this defeat, been sent unto the castle of Carbury, despite the efforts of the defenders. After this, marauding parties from Offaly repeatedly overran the country northwards, as far as Tara, and southwards as far as Naas. The inhabitants of Breifny and Oriel continued for some time afterwards to devastate Meath in all directions, without opposition or pursuit.²⁸ In 1467, Domhnall O'Mordha, king of Laighis, died.²⁹ In 1468, O'More died of the plague.³⁰ War broke out in Offaly between O'Connor and Tieve O'Connor, in 1471. Tieve went over to the English and brought an English army with him into Offaly; and the whole country was spoiled by them.³¹

Among many false accusations brought against King Henry VI., who died 25th May, 1472, one of the charges relating to Ireland was, that by the instigation of divers Lords, he had written letters to some of the Irish enemy, whereby they were encouraged to attempt the conquest of the said land of Ireland.³² Murtough, the son of O'Connor Faly, was slain,³³ in 1473, in some battle then fought. The same year, Conor, the son of Dermot—O'Connor Faly—most likely a brother of the chieftain Con—died; ³⁴ and in 1474, Con O'Connor Faly, the son of Calvagh, died in Autumn. His son, Cahir, was inaugurated in his place. We are told, that the Country of Mageoghegan was ravaged by O'Connor Faly, who demolished the castle of Baile-mhá,³⁵ and expelled the descendants

²⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 1054, 1055.

²⁷ See Leland's "History of Ireland," vol. ii., Book iii., chap. 3rd, page 51.

²⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1042, 1043.

²⁹ See "Annals of Loch Cé," edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 108, 109.

³⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1054, 1055.

³¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 1074, 1075.

³² Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," Part I., p. 106.

³³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1082, 1083.

³⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 1084, 1085.

³⁵ Now Newtown, situated to the east of Killeeggan, in the barony of Moycashel, County of Westmeath.

of Farrell Roe.³⁶ In the year 1477, the son of Owny O'More was slain at Baile-Daithir, now Ballydavis,³⁷ by Mac Pierce Butler and Art O'Conor.³⁸ Garrett, the eighth earl, succeeded as Lord Deputy in the later years of Edward IV., and he was continued in that office during the brief reign or rather violent usurpation of Richard III.³⁹ During this period, the O'Mores of Leix and the O'Conors of Offaly appear to have enjoyed quietness and peace; although the Earl of Kildare lost possession of the Castle of Lea, about the beginning of the sixteenth century, and it is said to have been taken possession of by the O'Mores.⁴⁰ However, it seems more likely the O'Dempsys were the retainers, as it lay within their district. In 1477, a great war broke out between the English of Meath and the English of Leinster. During this war, the son of John, son of Mac Thomas, was slain, as were also his three brothers; and the son of Art, son of Con O'Melaghlin, and the son of Maurice, the son of Mac Pierce, were taken prisoners by O'Conor Faly.⁴¹ In consequence of the depredations of the O'Mores in 1480, Gerald, the eighth Earl of Kildare, attended by the Mayor, Bailiffs and citizens of Dublin, made a hosting into the country of Leix.⁴² In 1481, Cahir Kavanagh, the son of MacMurrrough, was slain by the inhabitants of Contae Reagh or Wexford.⁴³ In 1483, Art O'Conor Faly, the son of Con, the son of Calvagh, defeated Con, the son of Art, son of Art O'Melaghlin, in a battle. The two sons of Rory Carrogh O'Carroll, and many others, were slain in this encounter.⁴⁴ In one of the Parliaments, held in 1484, by Gerald, Earl of Kildare, during the short reign of Richard III., we find that O'Conor had a grant out of every ploughland in Meath as a reward towards the charges he had been at, and the services he had rendered the Lord Deputy in the wars against the Irish, wherein he was a partner.⁴⁵ In 1484, Murrrough O'Conor Faly, the son of Cahir, son of Con, son of Calvagh, was slain by one of the sons of Edmond Darcy, in Cricoch na-g-Ced-ach,⁴⁶ by one cast of a javelin.⁴⁷

When Richard III. lost his kingdom and his life,⁴⁸ the Earl of Kildare still continued to govern in this country. During the reign of King Henry VII., Ireland almost belonged to the Department of Foreign Affairs; the governing race in it, indeed, acknowledged their allegiance; yet, from the nature of things, they were hardly under English control. Ireland could only be ruled in Ireland, in spite of all the efforts made to govern it from England. The Earl of Kildare had preferred a request to have the deputyship of that kingdom confirmed to him for a term of

³⁶ See *ibid.*, pp. 1086, 1087. and n. (1.)

³⁷ In the parish of Straboe, barony of Maryborough, Queen's County. See "Ordnance Survey Townland Maps of the Queen's County," sheet 13.

³⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. vi., pp. 1104, 1105, and n. (n.).

³⁹ It commenced on the 25th of June, and terminated on the 22nd of August, 1485. See Sir Harris Nicolas' "Chronology of History," pp. 326 to 328.

⁴⁰ See "A most interesting Account of the Castle of Lea, Queen's County," &c., p. 13.

⁴¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1102, 1103.

⁴² See "The Earls of Kildare," etc., by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 45.

⁴³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1110, 1117.

⁴⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 1,126, 1,127.

⁴⁵ See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," Part 1., p. 1751.

⁴⁶ A territory in the North of the present King's County, adjoining the conspicuous Hill of Croghan, and in the county of Westmeath.

⁴⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1128, 1129.

⁴⁸ See "Letters and Papers illustrative of the Reigns of Richard III. and Henry VII.," edited by James Gardner, vol. 1., preface, p. xxxii., and n. 1.

nine or ten years. As the earl had rendered good service to King Edward IV., especially after he had visited that monarch in England; so he felt mistrustful regarding the exact object of King Henry VII., who at the very commencement of his reign sent John Estrete as his messenger requesting a visit and interview with the Deputy in England. The pretence was, that the earl's long experience in Ireland should render his counsel both interesting and necessary for the king, who promised on his compliance to confirm him in the lieutenancy, to entail on him the manor of Leixlip, and to give him the custodianship of Wicklow Castle. However, the earl demanded written assurances, under the seals of the king and some of the nobles, for his security while he was in England. This was declared to be inconsistent with the King's honour. The earl was informed that he must content himself with an ordinary protection under the sign manual.⁴⁹ On another occasion—some time between 1489 and 1493⁵⁰—Henry summoned him to England,⁵¹ but Kildare took no notice of the letter for ten months. At last, he sent an excuse, that his presence was so essential to the peace of the country, that he could not be absent.⁵² The lords spiritual and temporal of the parliament in Ireland endorsed this statement, in a letter addressed to the king,⁵³ and it was supported by the Earl of Desmond, Lord Roche, Piers Butler and Lord Curcy.⁵⁴ It would seem, that Malachias O'More had ruled for some period, previous to 1486, over Leix; for, it is said, the epitaph on his tomb,⁵⁵ at Abbeyleix places his death in that year. There is an inscription bearing his name, but of uncertain date, and an altar-shaped tomb⁵⁶ of curious old carving, still standing in Lord De Vesce's garden,⁵⁷ at Abbeyleix. It has a brief memorial inscription carved on its surface, and around the edges.⁵⁸ Many portions of it are blank or broken, and these have been filled up, in a great measure with cement.

About this time was formed the celebrated conspiracy of Margaret, sister of Edward IV., and widow of the Duke of Burgundy, to revive the Yorkist cause in England and Ireland, by spreading a report that Edward, Earl of Warwick, the last male Plantagenet, had escaped from the Tower,

⁴⁹ The true date of the year is now known to be A.D., 1491.

⁵¹ In Sir James Ware's "Annals of Ireland," this is incorrectly placed at the year 1486. The year is not given during the term of this correspondence.

⁵² Dated vte day of June. See *ibid.* Appendix A. Supplementary Papers, No. II., pp. 380, 381.

⁵³ Dated iiii. day of Juny. See *ibid.*, No. i., pp. 377 to 379.

⁵⁴ Dated x. day of Juyl.

⁵⁵ There is a drawing of it to be found in the large 4to volume of "Memoirs of the Family of Grace," by Sheffield Grace, Esq., F.S.A., belonging to the Royal Irish Academy, London, 1823.

⁵⁶ There is a lithograph design, by John Hewetson, of the tomb of O'More, dynast or sovereign of Leix, 1486. This represents the recumbent figure of an Irish chief in full armour, with a short sword and cross-hilt resting over the abdomen and grasped in the left hand. The helmeted head and cased

feet have a block of stone beneath. On the entablature over a deep cornice is stated to be read the inscription:—
Malachias O'Mora fassie princeps
requiescat in pace amen. mccc.
lxxxvi.

This inscription is incorrect, as may be seen by referring to note 30, chap. v., Book iii., of this work, under the heading Patrick of Abbeyleix. The tomb appears to be massive and quadrangular and of altar-shape. On the side presented to view is carved a raised shield, with a lion rampant, and over this figure are three stars.

⁵⁷ It is quite convenient to the old Cistercian abbey site and cemetery, adjoining Lord De Vesce's garden.

⁵⁸ There is an interesting engraving of Malacas O'Mora's tomb, with a description by Mr. Thomas O'Gorman. See "Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Society of Ireland," vol. iv., new series, No. 30, April 1877, p. 274.

in which he had been kept as a prisoner by King Henry VII.⁵⁹ Lambert Simnel, who closely resembled the young prince, was instructed to personate him. But the design was frustrated in England. However, in 1487, Lambert Simnel landed at Dublin, with several English noblemen, and an army of 2,000 German troops, furnished by the Duchess of Burgundy, under Martin Swartz. The Earl of Kildare, then Lord Deputy to the reigning King, either implicitly believing his pretensions to the crown, or being a party to the scheme, acknowledged Simnel as rightful heir to the Throne, and this example was followed by most of the Palesmen. An invasion of England was resolved upon by a Parliament summoned, in Dublin, a large force of Anglo-Irish and Irish retainers were embodied, and all placed under command of the Earl of Lincoln.⁶⁰ They landed, and encountered the royal forces under the Earl of Oxford, at Stoke-upon-Trent, June 4th, 1487, and after a desperate conflict, they were completely defeated. Lords Thomas and Maurice Fitz-gerald, brothers to the Earl of Kildare, with the Earl of Lincoln and Martin Swartz, the German leader, fell on the field: with 4,000 men, mostly inhabitants of the Pale. Lambert Simnel and his tutor, the priest, were made prisoners.⁶¹ The Earl of Kildare and the other lords of the Pale sent letters to the King, acknowledging their crime and imploring pardon. Aware of the Earl's influence over the Lords of the Pale and other Irish chiefs, Henry not only thought it advisable and politic to pardon him, but to retain him in office as Chief Governor of Ireland. In the year 1488, on the 23rd of June, Sir Richard Edgecombe sailed from England, bearing the King's authority to pardon those Lords of the Pale who would take an oath of allegiance to him.⁶² After a stormy passage, on the 27th of that month he arrived at Kinsale and received the fealty of the Lords Barry and Courcey; thence he sailed for Waterford where he was cordially welcomed by the Mayor and chief citizens. He sailed for Dublin in July, and summoning the Earl of Kildare, the Archbishop of Dublin, and other Lords to his presence, he obliged them in a most solemn manner to swear allegiance to the King before they obtained his pardon. He then took his departure for England.

In the year 1489 died Rury, the son of David O'More, tanist of Leix, and Ross, the son of Owney O'More.⁶³ This Ross was slain by Cahir, the son of Laoighseach,⁶⁴ son to Cahir O'Dempsey.⁶⁵ Towards the end of November, 1491, the Earl of Kildare appointed the Friday after the approaching Feast of the Epiphany, for holding a Parliament at Trim; but of its acts and laws nothing is known to exist.⁶⁶ In the year 1492, the Earl was removed from his office of Lord Deputy, the King having received information of fresh plots that had been formed in Ireland,

⁵⁹ See Sir James Ware's "Rerum Hibernicarum Annales, Regnantibus Henrico VII., Henrico VIII., Edwardo VI. & Maria. Ab anno scilicet Domini MCCCCXXXV. ad annum MDLVIII." A.D. 1486, pp. 5 to 7. Dublin, 1664, small folio.

⁶⁰ See "The Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare, p. 48.

⁶¹ See Charles Knight's "Popular History of England," vol. ii., chap. xiii. pp. 212, 213.

⁶² A full and detailed account of The Voyage of Sir Richard Edgecomb into Ireland, in the year 1458, and pro-

ceedings there was written by himself, and will be found in Harris' "Hibernica," Part i., pp. 59 to 77. Dublin, 1770, 8vo.

⁶³ This name would now be Anglicised Anthony O'Moore or Moore.

⁶⁴ This name would be Anglicised at present, Charles, the son of Lewis O'Dempsey.

⁶⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1166, 1167, and nn. (l.m.)

⁶⁶ See Sir James Ware's "Rerum Hibernicarum Annales," &c., pp. 28, 29.

against him, and he suspected the House of Kildare of being still favourably inclined towards the Yorkists. He then nominated Walter Fitz-Simon, Archbishop of Dublin, with the title of Deputy to Gaspar, Duke of Bedford, called Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. At the same time he sent the Earl of Ormonde, a trusty adherent of the Lancastrian family, over to Ireland, at the head of some troops, the better to secure his interests.⁶⁷ These proceedings revived the old feud between the Butlers and the Geraldines. Rival factions were formed in Dublin, whereby many citizens were slain.⁶⁸ Meantime, the Earl of Kildare marched through the Pale destroying the property of the Butlers and their supporters; while in reprisal, the Earl of Ormonde, with the O'Briens and other allies, plundered and burned the town and county of Kildare.⁶⁹

In 1492 Con the son of Art, son of Con O'Conor Faly, was slain by the people of the Earl of Kildare, for having in jest thrown a pole at the Earl. This no doubt they took for an evil intention on the part of O'Conor.⁷⁰ In 1492, Turlough O'Conor Faly, the son of Con, son of Calvagh, died. Calvagh O'Conor Faly, the son of Cahir, son of Con, son of Calvagh, was slain by Master Gart, one of the people of James, Earl of Ormond, the son of John, son of James Butler. Master Gart was himself taken prisoner immediately afterwards by the Earl of Kildare.⁷¹ This year, in consequence of the Earl of Kildare being removed from the Lord Lieutenancy, the native Irish renewed their attacks and depredations on the English borders.⁷² Connell, the son of David O'More was slain at the castle of Baile-na-m-Bachlach,⁷³ in Crioch-Bulbach, which was the denomination of a district, lying on the east side of the Barrow, between Athy and Monasterevan. Its English meaning is "the country of the Bulbys," an old Anglo-Irish family, who lived in that territory, but now long extinct.⁷⁴ A party belonging to Garrett, son to Thomas, Earl of Kildare, effected this deed.⁷⁵ Niall, son of Donnell, was then made the O'More.⁷⁶ In 1493, Cahir O'Conor Faly, the son of Con son of Calvagh, was defeated by James Mageoghegan, the son of Conla, son of Hugh Boy. The son of Teige, the son of Cahir, son of Turlough Ballagh O'Conor, the son of Art O'Conor, and the two

⁶⁷ See *ibid.*, p. 31.

⁶⁸ Holinshed gives a curious account of an attempted reconciliation between the Earls of Kildare and Ormonde, at St. Patrick's Church, Dublin. History of Ireland, Book iii., p. 77.

⁶⁹ See "The Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare, pp. 53, 54.

⁷⁰ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1190, 1191.

⁷¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 1194, 1195.

⁷² See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xlv., p. 215.

⁷³ Anglicised "the town of the shepherds." This castle was situated in the parish of Kilberry, near the Barrow, in the County of Kildare.

⁷⁴ Its position appears from a poem describing the martial achievements of O'Byrne, in the Leabhar Branach, a M.S. preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, H.F. 14. The following

translation of an Irish stanza is by Dr. O'Donovan:—

"Kilberry after thee is void of cattle,
And Baile-nua in which Bulby used to be.

Not softly didst thou pass from the two towns,

Glassealy and the Nurney."

The Baile-nua here mentioned is Newtown, near Athy, which with Glassealy lies near the Barrow, in the Barony of Western Narraghand, Rhelan, Narney, lies in the barony of Western Ophaly, County of Kildare.

⁷⁵ A mistake occurs in the original Irish of the Four Masters by here inserting in mórbá, *i.e.*, the genitive case of úa mórbá, after Garrett, the son of Thomas.

⁷⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. iv., pp. 1200 to 1203. The entry runs as follows in the Dublin copy of the "Annals of

sons of Maenaigh,⁷⁷ were taken prisoners in the conflict and deprived of eighty horses.⁷⁸ Sir Edward Poynings was sent over to Ireland with sufficient forces to quell the partizans of the House of York, and to reduce the native Irish under English rule. But the latter were able to elude his efforts, by retiring into their woods, morasses and mountains. He summoned a Parliament in Dublin, which enacted the supremacy of the English government over Ireland, and decreed, that all the previous laws made for that country should have force in this; while no bill could be introduced into an Irish parliament, unless it had previously received sanction from the Privy Council in England.⁷⁹

The Earl of Kildare and his adherents were attainted in an Act of Parliament summoned to be held at Drogheda. He was arrested, on suspicion of treasonable practices, sent to England, and detained two years in the Tower of London. At length, he was brought before the Council, to meet his numerous accusers, where he justified himself to the satisfaction of the King, who restored him to his honours and estates. He was re-appointed Lord Deputy, by letters patent, dated the 6th of August, 1496, but the King, however, retained his eldest son Gerald as a hostage. Subsequently, as the Earl gave proofs of his services and loyalty to the King, he received further marks of the royal favour.⁸⁰

A new adventurer, in the person of Perkin Warbeck⁸¹ arrived in Ireland, representing himself as the Duke of York, escaped from the Tower. He landed at Cork city, in 1493, and was received and entertained by the Mayor, with every mark of honour due to a royal prince. The Earl of Desmond declared in his favour. But his stay in Ireland on this occasion was only of short continuance, being called into France by King Charles VIII., to serve a purpose of his own. Warbeck renewed his visit to Cork, on the 26th of July, 1497, but found the feeling in favour of the Yorkist party had greatly subsided. Hearing that the Cornish men in England had risen in his favour, in the beginning of September, he sailed from Cork accompanied by the Mayor and one hundred and twenty soldiers, whom by the countenance of Desmond he had enlisted into his service. The issue was unsuccessful; and Warbeck with the Mayor of Cork, being taken prisoners, were hanged at Tyburn.⁸²

Whilst feuds and petty warfare prevailed among the independent chiefs and their clans, in various districts throughout Ireland during this century, as related in our Annals; the O'Mores, O'Dempseys, O'Dunnes, Mac Giolla-Patricks and their retainers, within the bounds of the Queen's County, seldom appear as disturbers of the public peace in the narrative of events. Feeling secure in their possessions, owing to the weakness of the English Pale, and to the powerful Leinster Confederacy, which informally allied them with other surrounding septs, they had usually neither the ambition nor the provocation which should urge them to

Ulster": "A.D. 1493. O'More, *i.e.*, Connell the son of David O'More, was killed this year at the Castle of Baile-na-m-Bathlach, by a party of the people of the Earl of Kildare, *i.e.*, of Carret, the son of Thomas, and O'More, was made of Niall, the son of Donnell O'More."

⁷⁷ This name is now anglicised Mooney.

⁷⁸ See *ibid.*, pp. 1206, 1207.

⁷⁹ See David Hume's "History of England," vol. iii., chap. xxv., p. 367.

⁸⁰ See "The Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare, pp. 50 to 60.

⁸¹ For a full account of this impostor, see Lord Bacon's "History of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh," pp. 276, *et seq.* Vol. iii. "Works"—Pickering's edition, London, 1825, 8vo.

⁸² See Plowden's "History of Ireland," vol. i., Book i., pp. 272 to 280.

engaged in local hostilities. Besides, there seems to have been a tacit, if not a well understood, agreement, with their powerful neighbours of Anglo-Norman origin, the Geraldines and Butlers, to observe an all-round neutrality, based upon motives of politic consideration, lest its violation might place in peril their mutual public and private interests.

CHAPTER XI.—ANNALS OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, 1500 TO 1547.

In the year 1501, Rury, the son of O'Connor Faly, *i.e.*, the son of Cahir, son of Con, son of Calvagh, died.¹

In the year 1503, the Earl of Kildare went to England, and returned home with success, bringing with him his son, who had been in the custody of the King of England.²

In 1504, we read that O'Connor Faly joined his forces to those of the Earl of Kildare in his celebrated expedition to Connaught, where a battle was fought on the 19th August at Knockdoe, in the parish of Clare-Galway, about eight miles north-east from the town of Galway.³

The same Earl of Kildare—for a brief period superseded by Sir Edward Poynings as vicerent⁴—maintained his position in the government of Ireland, when Henry VIII. came to the throne on the 22nd April, 1509,⁵ and he was continued in power, as his influence and services were deemed necessary to quell various commotions in different parts of the island.⁶ Entrusting his charge to Lord Gormanstown, for a short period, Kildare went over to England, where on conferring with Henry and his council, he received directions for his future conduct, when he returned to Ireland. Although English laws, English dress, and English customs might be imposed by authority; although Kildare might be displaced by Poynings as Lord Deputy; although every act of the Irish Parliament might be dictated by the English council, it was found, that the practical business of government could be carried out only in Ireland.⁷

On the 28th of July, the King wrote from Greenwich, that he desired the Earl to repair again to his presence; and to this message, Kildare wrote from Dublin that he had been desired by his cousins the Earl of Desmond and the Lord Burke of Connaught not to depart, but to stay and appease the rancour between them.⁸

In the year 1511, O'Connor Faly, referred to above, who was a general patron of the learned, and a distinguished captain among the English

¹ Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1238, 1259.

² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1270, 1271, 1271.

³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1270, 1277.

⁴ From A.D. 1494 to A.D. 1496.

⁵ See Sir Harris Nicolas' "Chronology of History," p. 333.

⁶ On the 8th of June, 1509, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Council of Ireland wrote from Dublin to King

Henry VIII., that the Earl of Kildare, the late King's Deputy Lieutenant, had purposed to repair to the King, but that they had entreated him to abide and protect them from the Irishmen. They also signified that they had elected him Lord Justice. See "Calender of State Papers," p. 6.

⁷ See "Letters and Papers illustrative of the Reigns of Richard III. and Henry VII.," edited by James Gairdner, vol. 1., preface, pp. 30, 31.

⁸ See "Calendar of the State Papers," p. 1.

and Irish, was slain by a party of his own tribe, namely, by the sons of Tieghe O'Conor and the sons of John Ballagh O'Conor, beside Mainistir-Fiorais.⁹

In 1513, as the celebrated Gerald, eighth Earl of Kildare, was watering his horse in the River Greese, at Kilkea, he was shot by one of the O'Mores of Leix. In consequence of this wound, he moved slowly by Athy to Kildare, and having lingered for a few days, he expired there on the 3rd of September.¹⁰ As it was he, who, in 1512, built St. Mary's Chapel in the choir of Christ Church, Dublin, he was honourably interred there, near the altar, on the 16th of October.¹¹ The council and nobles then nominated his son Gerald to be Lord Deputy in his stead, and this selection was approved and confirmed by the king. That nobleman had been frequently distinguished in the wars conducted by his father, and inherited all his martial spirit. The very first year of his accession to office furnished an occasion for calling out the troops, to engage in a series of manœuvres, which were destined to reduce some of the Irish clans, and to prevent their further inroads on the English Pale.

At the end of 1513, several of the Irish chiefs having ravaged parts of the Pale, Gerald, who had been appointed Lord Justice of Ireland by the Council, set out against them, and in the beginning of 1514, defeated O'More and his followers in Leix.¹² In 1514 he led his army into Breifny, where he vanquished the O'Reillys, and killed a great many of their chiefs and people.¹³ At this time we find him engaged in a dispute with his step-mother, Elizabeth, Dowager Countess of Kildare.¹⁴ She charged him with having granted a tribute out of her lands, denominated Coyle, to the King's Irish enemy, "The Great O'Neill," as he was called. It was also alleged, that he had suffered the lands of his brethren, to fall into the hands of the wild Irishmen, to the utter destruction of complainant and of her children.¹⁵

⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1308, 1309.

This was Monasteris near Edenderry, in the Barony of Coolestown, in the North-east of the King's County. This abbey was founded in the year 1225, for Conventual Franciscans, in the territory of Totmoy in Offaly by Sir John Bermingham, Earl of Louth who was called Mac Feorais by the Irish and after whose Irish surname the monastery was called.

¹⁰ See "The Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors, from 1057 to 1775," By the Marquis of Kildare, pp. 68, 69.

¹¹ See John Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. i., pp. 86, 87. Archdale's edition. The Four Masters have erroneously entered the death of the Earl of Kildare under the year 1514, and relate simply that he was taken with a disease of which he died on returning from Leap Castle in the barony of Ballybritt. See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1326, 1327.

¹² See *ibid.*, p. 82. In the rental book of Gerald Fitzgerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, there are some curious entries, regarding duties or tributes paid him, and admitted by some of the O'Moore and other residents of Leix, to secure his protection, in the beginning of the sixteenth century. This rental book was begun in the year 1518. Edited by Herbert F. Hore for the "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society." New series, vol. iv., part i., pp. 123, 124, folio xvi.

¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1328, 1329.

¹⁴ She died June 28th, 1516.

¹⁵ See "Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. 1509—1573." Preserved in the State Paper Department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office. Edited by Hans Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., p. 2. London: 1860, 8vo.

In 1517, O'Conor Faly (Brian, the son of Tieghe, son of Calvagh), died; and Calvagh, the son of Tieghe, was appointed in his place¹⁶

In 1520 Maurice, the son of Thomas of Laccagh, son of the Earl, and choice of the English Geraldines,¹⁷ was slain by Con, the son of Melaghlin O'More, as were also many others along with him.¹⁸ The year before, he had been appointed Justice of Ireland, by his cousin, Gerald Earl of Kildare.¹⁹ At this same time, 1520, intrigues were set on foot by the Earl of Ormond. Through the influence of Cardinal Wolsey, Kildare was set aside, and Thomas Earl of Surrey was appointed Lord Deputy in his stead.²⁰

In the following year, A.D. 1521, O'Moore is stated to have marched with a considerable force from the Castle of Lea, to join the army of O'Neill in the north. Not far from that place, he was met by the Earl of Surrey, in a wood, and surprised. A gunner of O'Moore's party took post at its entrance, and fired at the Lord Deputy, striking the visor of his helmet, but without doing him further injury. This gave O'Moore an opportunity to retreat; but his brave and faithful follower manfully stood his ground, refusing to surrender, and the soldiers hewed him into pieces. The Castle of Lea was afterwards taken by the Lord Deputy, who retained it for the crown.²¹

In January, 1523, Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, returned to Dublin, and obtained permission from the Lord Deputy, the Earl of Ormond²² to invade the territory of Leix. In this expedition he was accompanied by the Mayor and several of the Dublin citizens. They marched into that country and burned several villages. However, they were surprised in an ambuscade, where they lost many men, and retreated with much difficulty to Dublin.²³ In the same year Garrett,²⁴ and Con O'Neill (son of Con, son of Henry, son of Owen),²⁵ led a great army of the English of Meath, against O'Conor Faly, Connell O'More, and the Irish of Leinster in general. Terms of peace were arranged between the latter and the Earl by O'Neill, who delivered the pledges and hostages of the Irish into the keeping of the Earl, in security for the performance of every demand he had made of them,²⁶ and so they parted in peace.²⁷ One of the parties to the above treaty, Kedagh, son of Lisagh or Lewis, the O'More, died this year, and was succeeded by Connell, who continued

¹⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1338, 1339. Gerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare, had given his daughter Mary in marriage to Bryan O'Connor of O'Haly, and another daughter to O'Carroll, Dynast of Eile O'Carroll; and these marriages were alleged to have been contracted with a view to unite himself more firmly with the native Irish, whose interests he was accused of desiring to favour. See John Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. i., p. 90. Archdall's edition.

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1348, 1349.

¹⁸ See *ibid.* See also "Annals of Loch Ce," edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 232, 233.

¹⁹ See John Lodge's "Peerage of

Ireland," vol. i., p. 83. Archdall's edition.

²⁰ See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana, or the History of Ireland," vol. i., part i.

²¹ See "A most interesting Historical Account of the Castle of Lea, Queen's County," &c., p. 13.

²² "State Papers," vol. ii., p. 88.

²³ See Ware's "Annals of Ireland."

²⁴ See Cox's "History of Ireland."

²⁵ Lisage and Wony (Oweny), his sons, are mentioned in the rental book of the Earl of Kildare, at p. 123.

²⁶ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1366, 1367, and n. (1) *ibid.*

²⁷ See "Annals of Loch Ce," edited by W. M. Hennessy, vol. ii., pp. 242, 243.

chief captain of Leix till 1537.²⁸ From this chieftain downwards the pedigree of the leading men of the clan is tolerably clear. The independence of the kings of Leix, as these potentates are styled by Firbis, at the early part of the sixteenth century, is visible in every record of the time.

In 1530, the O'Moores had been subdued, according to Sir James Ware ; but this event seems more properly assignable to 1531, when the Lord Deputy, Sir William Skeffington, and the Earl of Kildare, invaded the territory of Leix, to punish O'Moore for some acts of hostility, in which he had been engaged.²⁹

In 1534, O'More agreed to suffer Woodstock and Athly to be repaired.³⁰ O'Connor at the same time put in pledges to rebuild Kishavanna,³¹ as also other piles which he had levelled.³² This captain is mentioned in the printed inquisitions of Queen Elizabeth, as having been son to Melaghlín, and the father of Rory. By the "Four Masters" he is called Con, son of Melaghlín, in 1520. The same authorities write Connell in 1523. He had five sons, and the first of these is named Leysaghe. There is a notice of this Lysaghe M'Conyll despoiling the citizens of Kilkenny, on their way to fairs, before 1537.³³ This chief was slain in a tanistic quarrel before 1538. His son, Morris, became lord of Slemargy. This latter was slain in the massacre of Mullaghmast, A.D. 1577. The second of these sons of O'Connor or M'Conyll is known as Kedagh Roo. He is called the eldest and best son.³⁴ He seems to have lived in Stradbally, A.D. 1583.³⁵ His name occurs in the State Papers. The third was called Piers, but he does not appear to have obtained any distinction.³⁶ The fourth was named Gillapatriek, or Patrick, and the fifth was denominated Rory Caech. Between these latter two brothers enmities prevailed, owing to their having espoused opposite interests.

Among the sons of Kedagh Ruadh O'More, we find Lysagh, who seems to have been chieftain of Leix in 1561.³⁷ Another is known as Caher, an outlaw.³⁸ These two sons were treacherously captured, tried, and executed by Sir Henry Sydney.³⁹ Thomas and James were other sons of Kedagh, and these assumed the name of Meagh. The former was a servant of Gerald, of Kildare, and he has left his name inscribed on the walls of the state dungeon in the Tower of London. The fourth son, Connell, known likewise as Gilla-Patrick, or Patrick, was accused, in 1538, by Piers, Earl of Ormond, of having been one of the murderers of his son, Thomas Butler.⁴⁰

²⁸ See "State Papers published under the authority of Her Majesty's Commission," King Henry VIII., vol. ii p. 78, and vol. iii., p. 88.

²⁹ See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xlv., p. 247.

³⁰ See "Calendar of State Papers," vol. iii., p. 26.

³¹ Coissh-a-bhanna, "the passage of the waters," Casheboynne.

³² See "Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the Reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, 1509-1573," preserved in the State Paper Department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, edited by Hans Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., p. 11. London: 1860, 8vo.

³³ See "Annuary of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society," vol. i., p. 107.

³⁴ See "Calendar of State Papers," vol. iii., p. 24.

³⁵ See *ibid.*

³⁶ This third son, named Piers, was the O'More in 1538. His curious submission is found recorded in the "Calendar of State Papers," vol. iii., p. 88.

³⁷ See State Papers, vol. iii., p. 307.

³⁸ See *ibid.*

³⁹ See "Ulster Journal of Archæology."

⁴⁰ See State Papers, vol. iii., page 25 ; and vol. ii., p. 162. Also "Annals of the Four Masters," at A.D. 1532.

In 1531, the Earl of Kildare, who had been for a long time in the custody of the King of England, returned to Ireland, in company with an English Justiciary; and they both continued to do much injury to the Irish. They made a prisoner of O'Reilly, who had gone upon honour to visit them.⁴¹

In 1532, the Earl of Kildare came to Ireland from the King as Lord Justice.⁴² In 1532, Thomas, the son of Pierce Roe, Earl of Ormond, was slain in Ossory by Dermot MacGillapatrik, who was heir to the lordship of Ossory. Not long after this Dermot was delivered up by his own brother (the Mac Gillapatrik) to the Earl of Ormond, by whom he was imprisoned in revenge for the death of his son and for every other misdeed which Dermot had committed against him up to that time.⁴³

In the year 1534, Turlough Duv O'Dempsey was treacherously killed by Murtough Oge O'Dempsey, his own kinsman, although he had been under the protection of God and of St. Evin,⁴⁴ the O'Dempseys' patron saint, and the original founder of Ministir Eimuin, now Monastreven. Soon afterwards, this Murtough himself was slain by O'More.⁴⁵

In those disturbed times, the Irish chiefs opposed to each other often took different sides, according as interest or passion dictated.

In 1534, serious complaints and accusations were transmitted from the chiefs of the English in Ireland and from the Council, to King Henry VIII., against the Lord Justice (*i.e.*, the Earl of Kildare, Garrett Oge, commander of the English power in Ireland). The Earl went over to defend himself before the King, but it was of no avail. He was taken and confined in the Tower, where he remained for one year, and where all the rigours of the law were exerted against him. On his departure for England, the Earl appointed as his vice-deputy his son Thomas, entrusting to him the sword of the King. This youth was born in England in 1513, and had barely reached his one-and-twentieth year.⁴⁶ Others say that it was William Skeffington who succeeded the Earl in the office of Lord Justice.⁴⁷

During his imprisonment the enemies of the Earl spread a report that he had been beheaded, and it was asserted that Lord Thomas and all his uncles and brothers were threatened with a like fate. Accordingly, on the 11th of June, attended by 140 well-armed horsemen, he repaired from Dublin Castle to St. Mary's Abbey, on the opposite side of the Liffey, where the council was assembled.⁴⁸ There he resigned the sword

⁴¹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1400, 1401.

⁴² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1412, 1413.

⁴³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1406, 1407.

⁴⁴ He was patron saint of Monastreven, in the County Kildare.

⁴⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1416 to 1418, and n. (g).

⁴⁶ See Thomas Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. iii., chap. xlv., p. 240.

⁴⁷ See Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland,"

vol. i., pp. 93. Archdale's edition. See O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1418, 1419.

⁴⁸ In that charming series of Irish historical romances, known as the "Hibernian Nights' Entertainments," by Sir Samuel Ferguson, and long since published in the *Dublin University Magazine*, the Rebellion of Silken Thomas forms not the least interesting contribution. The work has been since separately published in the United States and lately—at a very cheap rate—in Dublin, by Sealy, Bryers, and Walker, 94, 95, and 96 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, in 12mo., three volumes.

and robes of state, and solemnly renounced his allegiance to King Henry VIII. Sir William Skeffington was sent from England as Lord Justice, with an army, as also Leonard Gray with a great fleet, to oppose Lord Thomas, now in open rebellion. Several of the Irish chiefs and their clansmen ranged themselves under this banner, and for a time he spread devastation through Fingal and Meath. He also had numerous partisans in Leinster and the south of Ireland.⁴⁹

During the Rebellion, O'Moore, in 1535, appears to have joined the English, and had so posted his own and the king's men at Rathangan, that Fitzgerald might easily have been captured, but for the remissness of Sir William Skeffington. A brigade of English quitted the station assigned to it, and thus the garrison was allowed to escape. The O'Conors of Offaly were on the side of Lord Thomas, although the Government engaged Cahir O'Connor against his brother, by allowing him 12 horsemen and 100 kerns in King Henry's pay.⁵⁰

Following these events Giolla Patrick O'Moore and Rury O'Connor attacked the town of Athy.⁵¹ They burned it, with the monastery. Many of the English and Irish were slain on this occasion. The Lord Justice, Anthony St. Leger, marched into Offaly, plundering and burning the country, as far as the celebrated Hill of Croghan.⁵² There he remained two nights; but he retired from it, without molestation, or without compelling the submission of the midland chiefs. As a consequence of attainer, launched against the great Anglo-Irish house of Kildare, the Geraldines had been expelled from their patrimonies. Probably in sympathy with their cause, on account of family relations, or in hopes of taking advantage of the Pale dissensions, the O'Moores and O'Conors Faly thought it a good opportunity to assert their independence, and fight for the possession of their former rights. In these designs they were unsuccessful, for we find that in 1537, O'Connor Faly (Brian, the son of Cahir) was banished from his country and all his castles were demolished, and numbers of his people were slain, by the English Lord Justice, Leonard. This was done through the envy and machinations of O'Connor's own brother.⁵³

In 1538 there was an indenture between Peter O'More and Lord Leonard Gray. This is dated August 24th of that year.⁵⁴ The chieftain, Kedagh Ruadh, wounded James, Lord Butler, during Silken Thomas's rebellion.⁵⁵ He received a state pardon, however, in the thirty-third year of King Henry VIII.'s reign.⁵⁶ This active insurgent was slain in

⁴⁹ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1418, to 1423, with notes.

⁵⁰ Such is the substance of a statement made in a letter to Lord Cromwell from Chief Justice Ailmer and Allen, Master of the Rolls, dated August 1st, 1535. See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana, or the History of Ireland," vol. i., part i., p. 241. London, 1689, folio.

⁵¹ This was so called, because Ae, the son of Dergabhail, the fosterer of Eochaidh Finn Fnuathirt, had been slain in a battle fought here in the third century, between the forces of Munster, and Laoighseach Conunhor,

ancestor of the O'Moores. Afterwards, this place was called in the Irish language *Baile Aëa doin*, "the town of the ford of Ae." It is situated on the River Barrow, in the barony of Narragh and Rheban, in the County of Kildare.

⁵² He advanced to its Toghher, now the denomination of a townland near to this remarkable eminence.

⁵³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1436, 1437.

⁵⁴ See "Liber Munerum Hiberniæ," at p. 1140.

⁵⁵ See State Papers, vol. iii., pp. 25, 27.

⁵⁶ See Printed Patents.

rebellion before the year 1540, by Donill M'Calhir.⁵⁷ In 1541, he was to have been summoned to parliament as a baron.⁵⁸ We are informed that the recognised O'More acknowledged the king's supremacy on the 13th of May, 1542.⁵⁹

Connell Oge O'More appears to have been the chief of Leix in 1546 as mentioned in the State Papers, and by the Irish annalists. He was married to a daughter of Viscount Mountgarret. The chieftain, Rory Ceach, had been recognised as the O'More, in the year 1546, when he rose in insurrection, and probably consequent on the meditated forfeiture of Leix, the preceding year, or during the contest in which he engaged. During those raids, as we are informed, the Irish chiefs were usually accompanied by trained military followers, who are called kernes. "Every kern had a page or boy, who commonly was nevertheless a man, to bear their mantelles, weapons, and victuals, for two, three, or four days, when they go on a valiant journey."⁶⁰ Patrick O'More invaded Kildare in July 1546.⁶¹ In 1547, he was declared a traitor.⁶² He was taken into England by the Lord Deputy, and received into favour.⁶³ He died within the year 1548.⁶⁴ This Giolla Patrick O'More slew his brother Rory Ceach, as probably supposed, in 1545; but, according to another account, this fratricide occurred ten years later.⁶⁵ He is said to have married a daughter of O'Conor Faly, and to have had a son,⁶⁶—more probably a grandson—named Callagh, or Charles.⁶⁷

CHAPTER XII.—ANNALS OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, 1547-8.

THE chieftains of the great Irish septs of O'More of Leix and O'Conor of Offaly, took the precaution to range themselves, respectively, under the banners of the two great lords of the Pale, the earls of Ormond and Kildare. The date, at which they first entered into this understanding for their better security, is uncertain. It is clear, however, that the O'Mores were often allied, by marriage and policy, to the first-mentioned noble house; while the O'Conors, by similar ties, claimed kindred with the Kildare family. Neither of these chiefs, or kings, however, relinquished their clan customs for the feudal system. Opposed to the laws and power of England, the exigencies of interest

⁵⁷ See "Calendar of State Papers."

⁵⁸ See State Papers, vol. iii., p. 307.

⁵⁹ See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana: or the History of Ireland," vol. i., part i., p. 272.

⁶⁰ According to a document of 7th May, 1344. Irish manuscripts in the State Paper Office.

⁶¹ See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana: or the History of Ireland," vol. i., part i., p. 280.

⁶² See *ibid.*, p. 283.

⁶³ See Sir James Ware's "Annals of Ireland."

⁶⁴ See Sir Richard Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana: or History of Ireland," vol. i., part i., p. 284.

⁶⁵ See printed "Inquisitions of Lagenia Com Regine." In a note to the

Annals of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, vol. i., p. 104, this event is referred to 1555. It is likewise said to have led to the forfeiture of Leix.

⁶⁶ These particulars are mostly verified from Carew's Pedigree of the O'Conors. It states, that Patrick O'More married Elizabeth, daughter to Callogh O'Connor, and that she again espoused Brian, the first Lord Upper Ossory. In Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 335, Elizabeth, the third daughter of Bryan O'Conor, is held to have been the second wife of that nobleman; also to have survived him, and to have had a licence, A.D. 1551, to go to England.

⁶⁷ He is said to have been living at Naples, in 1611.

and security obliged them to seek occasional alliances with, or arbitration from the king's representatives. Evidences of their semi-independent state are abundantly furnished. The highly characteristic "articles," adduced by O'More in 1538,¹ show conclusively to what lengths the urgency of statecraft,² and of native insecurity among the tanists and their clans, obliged both parties to engage in diplomatic courses, which, in many instances indicated hollowness and intrigue rather than sound principle or honest policy. A disturbed state of public and private affairs usually furnished the occasion for temporary and ill-formed arrangements, liable to be dissolved without much previous warning.

As regarded their relations with the crown of England, the bitter enmities of the great Irish chiefs, and their stern, haughty spirit of independence, were never stronger, than at the epoch when the Reforma-

¹ Certayne articulis, alledgide for the parttee of O'More, concernynge how greuously my Lorde Deputie entretytthe hym, and agayne the O'Morres sones." See State Papers, vol. viii., p. 26.

² "Furste, the said O'More, being accordinge to the aunciente custome of that contree, by right lynne successore to the last O'More, withoute contradiction did come to the Erle of Ormonde, and desiride him to be meane to my Lorde Deputie to be his good lord in the denomination of hym to the name of O'More, and by the advis of the said Erle condissendide to give a certayne some for the good will of my said Lord Deputie, and further granntide to bere to the Kinges Deputie perpetually, at certayne seasonys, a nombre of galloglassyne; and at suche season as the said galloglassyne came to levie their dutie the sayde late O'Morre's sones resistide the same, and violently would have expulside them, where Leysaghe, thieldest of the said late O'Morre's sones was slayne, of whiche procedid greate mortalite betweene them.

"Item, the said late O'Moore's sones comytide the sondry enormities dayly to the said O'More and his tenanntes, so that, for reformation to be had theruppon, it was appointide that O'More shold come in at Athy to Stephen Apparry and the others; where he came, and then and there, in presens of Stephen Appare and the others, Rowry, oon of the late O'Moore's sones, cruely assaltide the said O'More, and hade nerehand slayne hym. And finally Stephen Apparry toke hym as prisoner, and conveide hym prively to Rahangan, and from thens to Dublin, and kepe hym there secretly 2 dayes; where my Lord Deputie examynede hym prively, with certayne others, whether the said Erle procuride him to bynde in amite, and to take parthe with O'Connor, whiche mater, being so untruly framyde, the said O'More denied; whereuppon my

Lorde Deputie, in a greate fiene both with words and contenance moche manasside the saide O'More to confesse suche mater, whiche he woulde not; and then the Kinges Highness Commissioners, herynge of the said O'More's entretinge sent for him and examinede the mater, and fynally dismisside O'More, and awardide restytution to hym of suche goodes, as was then takyne from hym at his takynge.

"Then the said O'More bonde him further takynge his dominion of the Kinges Highnes and his successoris, paynge annally certain rente; and theruppon my Lorde Deputie, the Kinges Highnes said Comissioners, the Erle of Ormond, the Lorde Thesaurer, and the Kinges Consaile, orderide the lordshipe of O'More to be peasseable renderide to the saide O'More, with restytution of certayne castelles, and sent to the last O'Morre's sones to conforme them to that, which, by prive comfortho of my Lorde Deputie, as apperithe sethens, they woulde nothing accomplish. Then the said late O'Morre's sones dud not oonly repougn again that order, but also crully murderide the said O'More is messenger, his serjaunte, and his capitaine of his kerne, in the church, moste shamfully, and uppon no maner of complaynte; ne redres folouide, so as no peaxe was performide by the said late O'Morre's sones; and whate so ever O'More dud for the same, was oonly many by the said late O'Morre's sones. O'More wonderithe, that my Lorde Deputie would have mor respecte to a litle reward or profithe by O'More's sones givin to hym, who kepithe a hundrith plowe land of the kinges that the Erle of Kildare peasseably hade, then to the annall rente, and other profithe, is granntide newly to the Kinges Highnes by O'More, that non of his anncesters never condissendide to geve."

tion had been introduced into this country. The ancestors of those Leix and Offaly chiefs succeeded some centuries previously in recovering their ancient clansmen's territories. This knowledge fired the courage of a warlike race, that held these lands by the sword. It even led to the dangerous experiment of opposing Henry VIII. in the field. When Lord Offaly, son of the Viceroy Kildare, rashly threw off his allegiance, and revolted, the O'Moores and O'Conors became his active abettors. But, the Geraldines were quickly put down, their leaders were executed, and their lands were confiscated. Their allies, however, the denizens of the wilds and woods of Leix and of Offaly, would not allow the new lessees and farmers of the Geraldine estates to till, sow, and reap in peace. This struggle, as to whether their lands should be for the Irish or the English was a protracted one. It lasted fully sixty years, and it was contested with remarkable pertinacity on both sides.³ Native annals, with other records and papers of the period, furnish illustration sufficient, regarding its continuance and strange vicissitudes.

From the Exchequer Roll of Extents,⁴ No. 12, and referring to the fourth year of King Edward VI. reign,⁵ the limits of Leix are very clearly ascertained at that period. Then it is said to have come under the dominion of the King of England, although the aboriginal tribes and Anglo-Irish were its chief possessors. At that time, the dominion of Leix extended from Biernegarr, near Cloegremman to Conlan, and it contained by estimate 24 miles in length; while it reached from Cleco-wricke, near Rosconnell to Heyne, near the dominion of Iry, and it was deemed to be 11 miles in width. We find noticed the circuit and limits in the following form:—From Biernegar, near and limiting with the lordship of Doulough to Cnoekancorie, and thence to Klenyn, and so to the water of Clonbroke; then to the lands of Lowhill, belonging to St. Leger, in the County of Kilkenny; thence to the lands of Rosconnell, thence to Aghcore Ycoronegan; thence to Clomocodde; thence to the exterior gate of Cayslan Ynoiske (Watercastle), in Ossory, and thus onward by a certain road to water called "the stream"; thence near and adjoining the same water, on to the water of Noyr; thence to Clonoghill, then near a certain bog on to Iskirekorry; from that to the water of the Gully, and so on by this same water to Gortnaclea; thence near the bog to the aforesaid water of Noer; thence near the same water to the lands of Ballycaishlan Offarille; thence on to the lands of Russhin; thence to Conlan; thence to Asknemakanagh; thence to Aghernagh; thence to Le Tlatt; thence to Bellaoige; thence to Rosnahaily, and so to Cashawsor; then to Moneescawan; thence to Curkanecaryn; then to Dirrenefforres, and so to the lands of Leawhill; then to Monnenasse; then to Le accre gear, otherwise called "the short acre," in Irre; then on to Bulladreit; thence to Eyen, thus to Aghkille fiynnen; then to the aforesaid water of Gláishemarro, and so

³ See "Journal of the Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archaeological Society," vol. iv., new series, 1862-63, part ii. Notes on a Facsimile of an Ancient Map of Leix, Offaly, Iry, Clannalier, Iregan, and Slieve Margy, preserved in the British Museum. By Herbert F. Hore, Esq., pp. 361 to 363.

⁴ This document is now preserved in the Record Office, Dublin, and it has been exactly copied by the writer, who gives its interpretation in the text.

⁵ On the 10th day of December, 1552, Walter Cowley, Supervisor General to the King in Ireland, gives a description of its boundaries.

near the same water of Barro to Berry ;⁶ thence to Rowstokke, and from that place to Aghdove, and so near Le Morerowe to the lands of Rosbranon ; from that place to the river Barrow aforesaid, and then near the same water, on to Biernegarr already mentioned. By reference to the Ordnance Survey Townland Maps for the Queen's County, and with a local knowledge of existing names, it is easy to ascertain the boundaries of Leix, at that time. In the fourth and fifth year of the reigns of King Philip and of Queen Mary, that territory was brought into a larger area, and included within the Queen's County, so called in honour of the reigning sovereign.

In the beginning of King Edward VI.'s reign, the Lord Justice was Sir Anthony St. Leger. He received reinforcements from England in 1547 under the Captain General Edward Bellingham, who landed in Waterford in the summer of that year. Then an attack was made on Leix and Offaly. There he remained for fifteen days, plundering, spoiling, and burning even churches and monasteries. He also destroyed corn and crops. He then left a garrison of one hundred horsemen, one hundred men armed with guns, one hundred with battle-axes, and one hundred soldiers, who were possibly pike or bowmen, together with their common attendants. He left them a sufficiency of food and of other necessaries. According to some account, the town thus garrisoned was Athy.⁷

At the same time the Lord Chief Justice's forces were engaged in erecting a fortification in Leix, around Badham-Riaganach.⁸

In his attack on Leix he was joined by the Earl of Desmond, with a numerous army, who had been reconciled to English rule, with other Anglo-Irish and native Irish chiefs during the reign of Henry VIII., and was gratified with the title of Lord High Treasurer in the government of Ireland. But, this appointment seems to have been merely honorary, and not attended with any trust or confidence. Although ordered by the king to be admitted into the Irish Council, this does not appear to have been complied with,⁹ when the new privy council of King Edward VI., was formed in 1547.¹⁰

The O'Moores and O'Conors were now proclaimed as traitors, throughout Ireland, while their territories were confiscated and transferred to the king's use. Brian O'Conor fled into Connaught, to seek assistance from some of its chiefs, and he remained there until the following Christmas. The English, meantime, demolished the church of Killoderhy, and with its materials, they built Daingean Castle, on the present site of Philipstown, in the King's County.

Dr. O'Donovan is of opinion, that the fort of Daingean, afterwards called Phillipstown, was built on the occasion of Sir Anthony St. Leger's second

⁶ It is doubtful to the writer, if this be not Berry in the original document.

⁷ Sir James Ware and Cox. Sir William Brabazon is the name here given to the Lord Justice, although the "Annals of the Four Masters" call him Anthony St. Leger.

⁸ This has been translated "the bawn of the Hy-Regan," a tribe name of the O'Dunnies, in the barony of Tinchinch, Queen's County. Dr. O'Donovan thinks it probable, that

Castlebrack, near Clonaslee, in this barony, was the place.

⁹ "We find the royal commissions and instructions addressed, not to Desmond but to Brabazon, the vice-treasurer, with the other officers of state." Rev. Dr. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland from the Invasion of Henry II.," vol. ii., book iii., chap. viii., p. 188.

¹⁰ He ascended the throne on Friday, the 28th of January, A.D. 1547.

incursion into Offaly to subdue O'Conor Faly, and that he there left the strong garrison, to which allusion has been made. In the course of the year 1547, O'Conor and O'Moore, who had crossed the Shannon, were met by some of their sons, at Ath-Croich, a ford on this river, near Shannon Harbour.¹¹ The chiefs had collected numerous forces for the purpose of wreaking vengeance on the English, who now possessed their patrimonial lands. These forces they led into Leinster, but they seem to have been insufficient for the work before them. For the English power and jurisdiction so much prevailed, at the time, that no person dared to give food or protection to these outlawed chieftains.

O'Moore, with the sons of Cahir O'Conor, on their return from Connaught, made an irruption into the County of Kildare. Here they burned and plundered the greater part of the Eustaces' territory. At length, the Lord Justice overtook them, when a battle ensued. The Irish were defeated on this occasion and with a loss of 200 foot soldiers. Soon afterwards, having been abandoned by their adherents, Giolla Patrick O'Moore and Brian O'Conor offered to make submission to the English, upon their own terms. They were guaranteed protection by Francis Brian, an Englishman, who married the Countess Dowager of Ormond. He was created Marshall of Ireland, and Governor of the Counties of Kilkenny and Tipperary. With this lieutenant the chiefs went over to England, and thus placed themselves at the mercy of King Edward VI., in 1548. Another account has it that they consented to attend Sir Anthony Saint Leger into England.¹² On the 12th of April, 1548, in letters¹³ to the Mayors of Galway and of Limerick, his recall is announced, Sir Edward Bollyngham, knight, and one of the gentlemen of the Privy Chamber being appointed by King Edward VI., to succeed as Lord Deputy over Ireland.¹⁴ Notwithstanding the promises made to the chiefs, the only favour granted was, that they were not brought to immediate execution. They were committed to prison, and their lands were declared to be forfeited to the Crown. These were even granted to the persons through whose counsel they had surrendered.¹⁵ The monarch gave their patrimonial inheritance of Leix and Offaly to Lieutenant Francis Brian, and to his kinsmen. These erected a large fort or castle located at the Campa, now the town of Maryborough in Leix, and enlarged and strengthened the fort which had been already built at Daingean, now Philipstown, in Offaly.¹⁶ The new possessors proceeded to let the lands at rents to the English and Irish, as if they had been their own lawful and patrimonial inheritance. The followers of the rightful and original proprietors, O'Moore and O'Conor, were banished from their old habitations, with all their adherents and descendants.¹⁷

¹¹ See "Tribes and Customs of Hy-Many." Edited by Dr. O'Donovan, n. p. 5.

¹² See Rev. Dr. Leland's "History of Ireland from the Reign of Henry II.," vol. ii., book iii., chap. viii., p. 189.

¹³ These letters were written from Greenwich.

¹⁴ See "Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the Reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, 1509-1573." Edited by H. Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., p. 79.

¹⁵ See Rev. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland from the Invasion of Henry II.," vol. ii., book iii., chap. viii., pp. 189, 190.

¹⁶ What the English and Anglo-Irish writers call the Fort of Leix is termed Campa by the Irish annalists. What the Irish call Daingean in Ui Faidge, the English writers name "the Fort of Fabe."

¹⁷ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1494 to 1503, and 1506, 1507, with corresponding notes.

The heroic old chieftain of Leix, Giolla Patrick O'Moore, did not long survive his misfortunes, for he died suddenly in A.D. 1548. Were it not for the power of the palesmen in Ireland at the time—the Four Masters pathetically remark—his death would have been a lamentable loss for his countrymen.¹⁸

In this year, also, there is reference in the State papers to a letter, written from Kildare, by Francis Cosby, who was afterwards noted for his contests with the O'Moores.¹⁹

St. Leger adduces, as an instance in proof of the decadence of power among the Irish chiefs, that, "Ould O'More would ride everie day in the week with mob horsemen than all O'More countrie is now hable to make." The Lord Justice made proclamation and invited the sub-chieftains of Offaly, viz., the O'Dempseys, O'Dunnes, O'Hennessys, &c., to come into the territory, and to abandon their chief, O'Conor. On this condition, he offered them pardon, and the chiefs accordingly returned. But not long afterwards, the English acted treacherously towards them, and on returning to Offaly, the invaders deprived them of several thousand head of cattle.²⁰

After the death of O'Moore, a fruitless attempt to escape by O'Conor Faly only made his confinement the stricter and more severe. Those sons of O'Conor, with the kinsmen and followers of the chiefs of Leix and Offaly, who were most likely to revive their claims, were persuaded to join the king's army, as a war had broken out between the English, the French, and the Scots. To supply their immediate necessities and probably under the pressure of their forlorn circumstances, Donough, the son of O'Conor Faly, with a numerous muster of the kerns of Leinster and of Meath, went over to England, and thus they were most conveniently banished from their patrimonial inheritances. The forces of Sir Edward Bellingham easily intimidated others, or chastised their rash attempts. Thus, he had the sole honour of adding two considerable districts to the English territories. He is said to have been the first, for several ages, who had enlarged the borders of the Pale in Ireland. For his reward, the honour of knighthood was conferred, and also the government of Ireland, which he exercised for some time, but it continued in a perpetual state of agitation.²¹

In the beginning of the reign of King Edward VI.²² Bellingham had obtained leave from the English Privy Council²³ to return to England, but as the O'Conors and other Irish chiefs were still turbulent, this permission was withdrawn.²⁴

¹⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1512, 1513.

¹⁹ See "Historical Notes," compiled by F. S. Thomas, vol. iii., p. 1121. The foregoing statement is made in reference to MSS. contained in State Paper Office.

²⁰ This treacherous conduct of the English is not mentioned by Sir James Ware, by Cox, by Leland, or by any of the modern Irish historians.

²¹ See Rev. Dr. Thomas Leland's "History of Ireland from the Invasion of Henry II.," vol. ii., book iii., chap. viii., p. 190.

²² He succeeded to the throne on Friday, the 28th January, 1547, the date of his father's death. See Sir Harris Nicholas' "Chronology of History," p. 334.

²³ In a letter dated Hampton Court, October 24th, 1547.

²⁴ In a letter from the English Privy Council to the Irish Lord-deputy and Council, dated from Somerset-place, December 1st, 1547. See "Calendar of State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth, 1500-1573." Edited by Hans Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., p. 78.

Before the middle of the 16th century, in a letter²⁵ from Robert Dillon to the Lord Deputy Belyngham, a pass in Leix is described as three miles long, and extending through a forest of great timber, which was mingled with hazel.²⁶ Such a road, serving the purposes of the natives for passage, was easily converted into a fortified defile, in case their country had been invaded. Fifty years subsequently, Owny Mac Rery O'More bravely defended such a fastness, afterwards called the "Pass of Plumes," against Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, at the head of his powerful invading forces.

CHAPTER XIII.—ANNALS OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, 1549-1552.

IN the beginning of Edward VI.'s reign, Sir Anthony St. Ledger was Lord Deputy. He, in conjunction with Bellingham, Captain-General—who had landed at Waterford about mid-summer 1547—undertook the final conquest of Leix. The pretence was that Patrick O'Moore and Brian O'Connor had committed great devastation. Two hundred of these chiefs' followers having been killed, it was not difficult to subdue the other chiefs, owing to their own dissensions. That these dissensions were fomented by their avaricious enemies, who coveted their possessions, and thought this the best way to secure them, is now very well known from the State Records. From these same it is also known how completely successful they were. It is to be borne in mind that the State Papers give only "one side" of the question, as will be evident from the following:—

A printed Inquisition¹ gives us to understand, how much discord prevailed among members, and even brothers, of the O'Moore family.² It is set down in this record, that Rory O'More had been appointed captain of Leix,³ and of course in the English interest. Upon a certain controversy pending betwixt this captain and his brother Patrick, also called Gilla Patrick O'More, the latter for his maintenance procured a great number of the O'Conors to invade the country of Leix. This district the confederates are said to have spoiled. The aforesaid Rory resisting them in defence of the trust committed to him was slain in a place within this district. The locality where this occurred is said to have been called Killnesperokye.

Here are some other instances of the same unhappy dissensions: Donall O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, led a hosting into Leinster in 1553. He held a conference with the English at the fort of Leix. This was in Irish Port-Laoighlise, by which denomination the town of Maryborough is even yet traditionally remembered. He parted from the garrison in peace, and he took hostages from O'Carroll, as pledges for the observance of peace.⁴

In the year 1554, William Odliar O'Carroll, the descendant of Mulrony O'Carroll, and Connell Oge O'More, slew Calvagh O'Carroll, the

²⁵ Dated October 15th, 1548, and written from Kilkenny West.

²⁶ See "Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth, 1509-1573," preserved in the State Paper Department of her Majesty's Public Record Office. Edited by Hans Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., &c, pp. 89-90,

¹ See Inquisitions Lagenia Com, Regine, 9th Elizabeth.

² See Morrin's "Calendar of Patent Rolls," vol. i., p. 505.

³ He was so appointed in the thirty-fourth year of Henry VIII.

⁴ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1530, 1531.

son of Donough, in requital of the treacherous conduct he had practised some time before, towards Teige Caech O'Carroll, Lord of Ely. The brother of Calvagh, named Teige Mac Donough, was slain. William Odhar was styled O'Carroll in his place.⁵

In 1549, the Viceroy was desired to displace from the chieftainry of Leix Rory Caech O'More. In his autobiography, Sir Henry Sydney mentions, that the chief Rory Caech or "the one-eyed," married a daughter of Piers Earl of Ormond.⁶ According to Lodge's Peerage, however, he married Margaret, daughter to Thomas Butler, third son of Earl Piers. By this marriage his issue appears to have been Rory Oge (the famous insurgent leader, who was killed in 1578), Keadagh, and Calvagh, or the Callogh, born after his father's death.

The vast wealth and extent of the possessions of the great O'More family, which caused their being ever in turmoil until finally conquered, may be learned from the following taken from the State records:

In an Inquisition taken at Maryborough, on the 17th of June, and in the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, (A.D. 1567) we find it stated, that Rorye O'More,⁷ held at the time of his death the following possessions, viz., the town of Stradbally with the appurtenances, worth to him yearly £10. In right and belonging to his captainship of Leix, the customs, duties, and profits were worth £100 every year. Of his own proper inheritance, he possessed also the townlands Derrybroke and the great wood, with the appurtenances, Derryloughcomer, both the Collenaghs—Collenaghe and Collenaghmore,—Dysartenys, Carrigene-parkey, Ballyknockane, Graignehoye, and the whole parish of Tulloryne,⁸ which land was worth to him yearly three score and ten marks lawful money of Ireland. The same Rory was also possessed of the lands in Swyng, that is to say, the temporalities of Tymoke, also called Farrerepriore, Moynerath, Killegan, Ballenegall, Derrin-Roye, Dromnyne, Moyane, Rathkrehyn, and Garaymading, but what estate he had therein the jury did not discover. Moreover he had the use and profits of the Abbey or Monastery of Stradbally and of the Abbey of Leix, with their appurtenances. Also, at the time of his death, he held in mortgage and in his own possession, the following townships: viz., Ballyadam, in mortgage with the said Rory from Conyll McRossyn for three score kyne, Ballentobrid with the said Rory's father Conyll McMallaghan, from Fargananym O'Kelly, for three score kyne more, and Ballytasneye from the said Fargananym, for twenty kyne, and Kilclery from Fargananym O'Kelly, aforesaid for sixteen marks, and also twenty acres in Ballecaslanegalen from Conill McRorye McNeyle for forty marks. He also had the fourth part of Colt from Gilpatrick O'Doran, in mortgage for twenty kine. The said Rory's father had Bellefenan from Gilpatrick McGillegyn and Donoghliagh McGilleyn for forty marks, and Kylytybriny from David McArt O'More for forty and two kine, and Clone in Clenmalyre from Nyell O'Dowlin for three score kyne, and Killenye from Macgilpatricke, that now is, for nine score marks, Tully from Fargananym O'Kelly

⁵ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1534, 1535.

⁶ The same statement is made in the Carew MSS., p. 635, folio 110a, where two sons, Callogh and Rory Oge, are mentioned as issue of this alliance.

⁷ He had been appointed Captain of Leix, and in an effort to prevent his brother Patrick, aided by the O'Conors, from despoiling the country, he was killed at a place called Killnesperokye.

⁸ Probably an incorrect rendering for Tullomoy.

aforsaid, in mortgage with the said Rory for ten marks and a half, Kileronane from Neyll McRossye McNeyle for twenty kyne, and Graignesmotan and Dowghill from Gilpatrick McRosyne McNeile for thirty kyne. The said Rory's father had also from Caroll McTeig, vicar of Galen,⁹ Graig in Gallin for twenty kyne. The said Rory had of Lysagn McNeyle, Bollenehenybanye for forty marks, and Dysartgalen and Bollebeg from Rorye McLeyse for forty kyne. The said Rory's father had Knockardgorrye from Caroll McNeyll for forty kyne, and Rossogormane from Nyell McRorye for twenty kyne. The said Rory had Kilmalrony in mortgage for six marks, and two milch kyne from Morhertach McOnhyn McKedy, and Moyn-Rath for forty marks from Dermod McDavid, and Kilmeshian from the Rothes of Kilkenny for four score kyne. The said Rory's father had in mortgage Moyany from James McTeig, and Kilgevsyn from Neill Mc []¹⁰. He also had Ballentley from Kedagh McFerish, the moyte or halyndell of Bellarony from Rorye McOnsye. The said Rory's father had Clonheyn in mortgage from Malaghlin O'More's sons, and for what the jury knew not; all of which mortgages, as well obtained by himself as by his father Conell McMalaghlin, the same Rory had at the time of his death in quiet possession. The aforsaid lands were annexed to the Crown by an Act of Parliament.¹¹

Returning from this digression to consider the fate of these possessions of O'Moore, we find that Bellingham, the Deputy, began the conquest of Leix and Offaly by expelling the native horsemen and woodkerne, substituting as many English colonists as he thought could hold their own against the natives. For their protection he built the Fort of Leix, or as it was afterwards called, "the Governor," and also "the Protector," in honour of the Duke of Somerset. Finally it was denominated "Maryborough" in the reign of Queen Mary. Amongst the families introduced by Somerset, as English settlers, were the Cosbys, the Bretons, the Manwarings, and the McDonnells.

For the maintenance of the said Fort Protector, it is noted in the State Papers Vol. CXXV. that during the reign of Edward VI. that there was a cess of wheat and malt, 2000 pecks each, and 400 fat beeves.

But not withstanding the forts and precautions otherwise, to protect the spoilers, their tenure was very precarious. As often as not, the settlers had to win possession of their allotted spoils with the sword. Bellingham himself, whom the "Reformed" Archbishop of Cashel assured the Protector, "opened the very gate of the real reformation," "ever wore his harness and so did all those he liked." Forays were the order of the day. Reprisals were ever being sought and taken by both sides. The chiefs, driven to bay, were forced into acknowledging the invader, and, oftentimes, to retain their possessions, consented to hold them from the Crown, which neither satisfied their own followers nor the greedy fortune hunters. The following were some of these:

In the earlier part of the sixteenth century, Henry Wyse seems to have tenanted the castle of Ballyknockan, in Leix. He is described as a gentleman, and Captain of "the Fort of Lex," A.D. 1552, when his

⁹ Now Dysert-Gallen.

¹⁰ Illegible in the original record.

¹¹ See "Inquisitionum in Officio Rotulorum Cancellarie Hibernie asservatarum, Repertorium," vol. 1.,

Lagania, Com, Regime, 1826, fol.

¹² See Morrin's "Calendar of the Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery," vol. 1., p. 280. Dublin, 1861, 8vo.

pardon is placed on record.¹² The Council of England recommended a lease to Thomas Jacob, his heirs and assigns, for 21 years, "of the manor of Stradballee, Funhowse and demesnes, with their appurtenances, upon a reasonable survey taken by his Majesty's officers," in the reign of Edward VI., A.D. 1550.¹³ In 1550, Gerald Aylmer, Sir John Travers, and others offered to take over the plundered lands of Leix, Irry, Slewmerge, with other possessions of the O'Mores. Those applicants alleged that their lands were then wholly waste; and, to obtain possession, they offered to pay an annual rent of £600, with one nest of goshawks,¹⁴ then much used in the favourite and fashionable open-air amusement of hawking. The year ensuing, Sir James Croft became Lord-Deputy, and he greatly advanced the work of colonisation in Leix.

The accession of Edward VI. re-awakened the expectations of suitors for church lands, especially in Ireland. The Protector Somerset, the Dowager Countess of Ormond, and the young Baron of Upper-Ossory—the King's whipping boy—were all solicitors at one and the same time, for the rich abbey of Leix. The consignment to colonists contains the names of the Earl of Kildare, Captain Portas, Harpoole, John Thomas, Eustace (brother to Viscount Baltinglass), Connell Oge O'More, and the rest of the O'Mores, Murtough O'Dowlyn, Robert O'Fahy, Turlough M'Cube.

CHAPTER XIV.—ANNALS OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, 1553-1557.

THE policy of all the English sovereigns and of all their deputies and representatives was the same, namely, to despoil the natives and enrich their English subjects, at the expense of the former. By whatever name the process might be called the thing itself was always the same. Hence in studying these State Papers, the words "settlement," "quieting," "appeasing," "establishing law," "pursuing and punishing rebels, outlaws, disaffected," etc., etc., are nearly all synonymous, *i.e.*, *despoiling*; and, if objection be made, exterminating. Such opposition is designated, disaffection, disorder, outlawry, and of course rebellion. The Catholic Queen Mary was hardly any better than Elizabeth in pandering to the insatiable greed of the freebooters. The following is evidence of this:

Soon after the accession of Queen Mary, 1553, to the throne of England,¹ she sent instructions² to the Lord Deputy Sir Anthony Senteleger and others of the Council for the Government of Ireland. Among other matters, besides an injunction to restore the old religion,

¹² See Morrin's "Calendar of the Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery in Ireland," vol. i., p. 231.

¹⁴ See printed "Calendars of State Papers."

¹ On the 6th of July, 1553. On her marriage with Philip, King of Spain, on the 25th of July, 1554, it became the first day of the first and second year of the reign of Philip and Mary.

Queen Mary died on the 17th of November, 5 and 6 Philip and Mary, 1558.

² This document has no date, but it was probably drawn up in October, 1553. See "Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland of the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth," Edited by Hans Claude Hamilton, Esq., F.S.A., p. 132.

and to reduce Leinster, he was informed that lands in Leix and Offaley were to be granted in fee-simple, and that garrisons were to be reduced to 500 men. In the beginning of Queen Mary's reign, the O'Mores attacked the English planted by Bellingham and Sir James Croft in their country, and we are told, that they put man, woman, and child to the sword, razing their castles, and burning everything to the gates of Dublin.³ About the year 1555, it had been proposed to commit the Fort of Leix to Ormond, and that of Offaley to Kildare.⁴ On the 30th of September, 1556, the Privy Council in England wrote to Thomas Radecliff Lord Fitzwauter the Lord Deputy conveying the Queen's thanks for his conduct in the submission of the O'Mores, O'Conors, O'Tooles and others.⁵ During the year 1556, orders were issued for the plantation and settlement of Leix as an English colony. The country was to be divided between the English and the Irish. For the O'Mores all the country beyond the bog was provided. Each chief was to nominate those of his sept for whom he was to be held responsible. The tenants were to hold their lands of the Fort, and should answer the laws of the realm as the English did. The freeholders were to cause their children to learn to speak English. They were obliged to keep open the fords, to destroy the fastnesses, and to cut the passes. None of them were to marry or foster with any but those of English blood, without license of the Deputy and under his handwriting, upon pain of forfeiting their estates. Orders were issued, likewise, for the English that were to colonise Leix. They were required to build in every town one church within three years.⁶

The assignment of Leix to the new colonists, was made in the year 1556.⁷ At that date, a castle was erected on the site of O'Conor's fortalice, known as "Dengin." The royal arms of England, with the date 1556, were sculptured on it. Captain Portas—and from him was probably named the "C. (castle) Porter" marked on the ancient map⁸—was one of the consignees appointed that year.

The fort of Maryborough was garrisoned for the first time in 1558; and, from this year to 1765, the keepers are to be found recorded, in an English manuscript, belonging to the Royal Irish Academy.⁹

The names of the consignees¹⁰ of the lands of Leix are thus distinguished:—The Earl of Kildare, Mr. Treasurer for himself and his band, Captain Williamson, Thomas Brown, servant to the Deputy; Shute, Captain Girton, Masterson, Hugh Jones, who had a farm there before; John Glesters, Lippiat, Captain Randolph, John Thomas, who hath ever kept his charge; Captain Portas, Manwaring, William Cantwell; Malbie and Harpoole,¹¹ two gentlemen that can serve, and the one hath had charge; Donnell M'Shane, Dunkerley, Hopwood, Murrough O'Dowlyn, Robert O'Fahy, Turlough M'Cabe, Felim M'Neill Boy, Eustace, brother to the Viscount Baltinglass; Connell Oge O'More, and the rest of the O'Mores. To this document is appended a memoran-

³ Letter of Lord Deputy Sussex and Connell to the king and queen, April 4th, 1557.

⁴ See *ibid.*, p. 133.

⁵ See *ibid.*, p. 134.

⁶ See *ibid.*, p. 134.

⁷ See the printed "Calenders of State Papers."

⁸ Constructed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

⁹ The manuscript is classed No. 26, 6, and at p. 42 this account may be seen.

¹⁰ See *ibid.*, pp. 134, 135.

¹¹ Few descendants, bearing the foregoing names, are now to be found within the bounds of ancient Leix.

dum. that there will be planted in sort above-written 160 men, English subjects in that one country, besides the O'Mores.

Although the official accounts make hardly any mention of the cruelties inflicted on the inhabitants, some shocking episodes filter through, that are typical of a large class of which nothing further will ever be known, as in the ceaseless warring no native writings could be preserved, if, indeed, they were ever made. The following is a sample :

In 1556, Connell Oge O'More obtained the promise of a patent. This very same year, however, he was taken prisoner by the Lord Justice for lands in Leix.¹² Ware states, that in the year 1557, this Conall was sentenced to death as a stubborn rebel, and that he was executed at Leighlin Bridge. Besides, it is stated, that Donnell, son of Laoighseach or Lewis O'More, Lord of Sliabh Mairge, had been slain by Master Sili and the English.¹³ However, it should be known, that the foulest treachery had been practised upon Conall Oge O'More, "chief of his name"; for his father-in-law, Viscount Mountgarrett, had invited Conall to his house. Afterwards Mountgarrett sent the Leix chieftain to Captain Heron, who was governor of Carlow. Without any trial, that commandant executed his captive.¹⁴

In the reign of Queen Mary, Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, Lord Deputy, broke and subdued the O'Mores and O'Connors.¹⁵ He reduced the territories of Leix and Offaly to shire-ground, naming the former Queen's, and the latter King's County.¹⁶

That well known "Act for the Deposition of Leix and Offaly" is dated the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, A.D. 1556, chapter ii. It is an act entitling the king and queen to Leix, Slewmerge, Irry, Glinmaliry, and Offaly, and for making them shire grounds. The fort in Leix is named Maryborough, and the one in Offaly, Philipstown. The Irish statutes of the third and fourth of Philip and Mary have enactments for the better disposition of the districts of Leix and Offaly, which were described as countries recovered from the rebellious Irish inhabitants. Lord Sussex was empowered to grant estates, or leases in them, at his pleasure, and at such rents as he should deem expedient.¹⁷ By another act, these and some adjacent districts were for ever vested in the Crown, and converted into shire-land.¹⁸

On the 17th of November, 1556, the queen sent articles to the Lord Deputy for consideration; and thanking her for these letters, Thomas Radecliff Lord Fitzwauter replies from Leighlin on the 2nd of January, 1557. He gives there an account of his late transactions in Offaley, when he brought all the Irish lords under bonds of Slantv. It appears that at the Dingan, on the 4th of October and on the 15th of December, Rory and Donough O'Connor and other gentlemen of Offaley, surrendered all title to their lands, in the presence of the Lord Deputy, and submitted

¹² See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1542-1543.

¹³ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters" vol. v., pp. 1546-1547, and nn. (y. z.)

¹⁴ Such was the statement of Shane O'Neill, in 1561.

¹⁵ See "Tracts relating to Ireland," printed for the Irish Archaeological

Society, vol. ii. "A Statute of the fortieth year of King Edward III., enacted in a Parliament held in Kilkenny, A.D. 1367," edited by James Hardiman, M.R.I.A. n. (w), p. 75.

¹⁶ Sir John Davies, p. 185.

¹⁷ See Rev. Dr. Leland's "History of Ireland," chap. vii.

¹⁸ See *ibid.*, chap. viii.

to the queen, as also giving pledges.¹⁹ At this time the O'Mores submitted likewise, and without conditions, as also promising obedience and loyalty. He then declares, that he is about to plant Leix, Offaly, Slewmarge, Irry, and Glenmalyre. On the 25th of February, he writes from Dublin, that the O'Conors refused to appear, and that he had proclaimed war against them. He declares, likewise, that the Earl of Kildare, the Baron of Delvin, O'Molloy, and Mageoghegan, should follow the Slanty to the uttermost. On the 4th of April, he observes in a letter, that the O'Mores who inhabit Leix are quiet. This, however, was but the calm which precedes the storm. On the 1st of June, 1557, the king and queen write to Lord Deputy Sussex, approving of the order taken by him for bestowing the lands of Offaley. It appears that two drafts of an act for the assuring of Leix and Offaly had been lost or embezzled, and a third draft was sent June 23rd to the Lord Deputy Sussex, with a request that he should make earnest search to know through whose fault the two former drafts had been lost.²⁰

After harvest in 1557, the natives expelled from the confiscated countries overran them. They destroyed and burnt everything, excepting the two forts.²¹ In the year following, during the month of June, they came in greater force than ever. On the 13th of July, 1558, Queen Mary had sanctioned the appointment of Captain Francis Cosby, to be general of the Irish kerne,²² he had contrived to organise in defence of his possessions in Leix. This appointment is to be found among the manuscripts preserved in the State Papers Office, in London. He was appointed moreover victualler of Leix; and he was also constituted ward of Monester-Even, which was under his charge.²³ The O'Mores now mustered a force to attack Fort Protector, but this band was repulsed by Radcliffe and Francis Cosby.

In a letter of the Lord Deputy Sussex²⁴ we are informed, that the O'Mores and O'Conors cost Henry VIII. and Edward VI. £100,000 sterling—a very large sum in those days. It had been proposed, to make shireland of the countries of Lex and Offaly, so that men there might have states of inheritance by copyhold or fee-farm, and that both their forts should be erected into market towns. It was also suggested, that if other former devices were put in execution, the king's profit should much increase, while the countries should be well inhabited and manured, and his grace's charges should be diminished.²⁵

¹⁹ The particulars of this submission are more fully set forth, in the "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts, preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth, 1515-1574," (edited by J. S. Brewer, M.A., and William Bullen, Esq. Proceedings of the Deputy and Privy Council at Dublin, 25th February, 1556. No. 208, pp. 262 to 264.

²⁰ The draft of an Act of Parliament for the well-disposing and leasing of the lands of Leix, Slewmarge, Offaley, Irry, and Glynmalyry. It is the first in the printed statutes, and the seventh on the roll, 3 and 4, Philip and Mary.

²¹ George Dowdall, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, writing from Termonteekin to Nicholas Heath,

Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor, and to the Privy Council in London, November 17th, 1557, when giving an account of the Scots disturbing the North, states also that the O'Mores and O'Conors "hathe distroit and burned Lexe and Afayle sawing certain forts."

²² See "Historical Notes," compiled by F. S. Thomas, vol. iii., p. 1121.

²³ According to a letter in the State Papers, and dated last of February A.D. 1560-1.

²⁴ Dated April 4th, 1557.

²⁵ See "Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts, preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth, 1515-1574." Edited by J. S. Brewer, M.A., and William Bullen, Esq., May 8th, 1853, No. 200.

A short and only very inadequate account of the doings on the other side is gleaned from the *Annals of the Four Masters*. At A.D. 1557, the killing of O'Conor Faly's hostages, and the plundering of Offaly, are recorded: "It was grievous to the Irish," observe the Four Masters, "that their freeborn noble chieftains should be overtaken by such an evil destiny, but they could not afford them any assistance." Thus, in 1557, Irish acts were passed for the disposition of Leix and Offaly,²⁶ while the O'Mores or O'Moores inhabited Leix.²⁷ These and similar outrages soon kindled a fierce war between the English and Irish in Leinster. The O'Mores, the O'Conors Faly, the O'Carrols of Ely, and the O'Molloys, were soon in arms. From the Shannon to the Dublin Mountains; from Slieve Blcom and the Nore to the Southren shore of Cork; the Irish clans were in motion, and, fired with a sense of the wrongs and treachery practised upon them, they brought devastation and slaughter on their foes. It would be impossible, say the Four Masters, to enumerate the number of preys, plunders, and slaughters committed by them, during the year 1557. The Lord Justice as signally distinguished himself by the amount of destruction he caused in seeking to overcome those irrepressible enemies.²⁸

State of Ireland; "The copy of the Book sent from Sir Thomas Cusake, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, to the Duke of Northumberland's Grace for the present State of Ireland" p. 241.

²⁶ See Cox's "History of Ireland,"

vol. i. p. 301. Also "Liber Munerum Hibernie," p. 4133.

²⁷ See State Papers, at 4th April, 1557.

²⁸ See Dr. O'Donovan's "Annals of the Four Masters," vol. v., pp. 1546 to 1550 and nn. (a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i.).

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