

Topography of Killaloe Parishes

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Bindon Street, Ennis, *March 23, 1878*

The parishes are taken in the order in which they stand under the several rural deaneries, as set forth in the Regal Visitation of 1622, and the particulars to which attention is directed appear in the following order throughout, viz. : —

- 1°. The name or names of the parish.
- 2°. The meaning or etymology of the name, as given by some competent authority in Irish literature.
- 3°. The size, with the actual and relative situation of the parish in each case.
- 4°. The ecclesiastical and other principal ancient remains and documents ; also brief notes of men of mark, old families, natural curiosities, or any historical incidents of importance connected with the parish ; also the inscriptions on old church plate.

I. The Rural Deanery O'Mullod.

This is the same as the territory or cantred of O'Mullod, so called from "*M'Blod, the son of Cas.*"

KILLALOE PARISH.

The name is usually interpreted as *Kill-da-lua*, or *Kill-O'Mollua*, from a famous saint of the 6th century, who is believed to have flourished here. (Lanigan, quoted at Clonfert-Mollua, *infra*.)

The parish is situated on the western side of the Shannon, in size 13,045 acres ; and is bounded on the north by the parish of Ogonello and Kilno ; on the west by that of Killokennedy ; on the south by Kiltenanlea ; and on the east by the Shannon, which separates it from the county of Tipperary.

The ecclesiastical remains are the cathedral, and the stone-roofed oratory, or *duirthrach*, to the north of it, which is not unlike Saint ColumKille's house at Kells, or Kevin's kitchen at Glendalough. Particulars of these structures are given in detail in Appendix on Cathedrals. Killaloe was once the resort of many pilgrims. There is a well dedicated to St. Flannan at the east end of the town. On an eminence, just where the Shannon contracts above the rapids, is the spot where the great King of Ireland, " Brian Boriomhe, fixed his residence, at Chann-Coradh (the Head of the Weir), in the immediate neighbourhood of his own ancestral residence of *Grianan Lachtria*, the ruins of which are still to be seen on the south shoulder of the hill of *Craigh-Liath*, about a mile north-west of Killaloe." (E. O'Curry's "Manners and Customs," vol. 2, lee. vi.) Bishop Mant caused one of the crosses, removed from Kilfenora, to be erected in the demesne at Claresford, with a Latin inscription to this effect : —

Quam spectas crucem
In Agro Fenaborensi vetustate collapsam
Ne penitus incuria situque abolesceret
Hic
Apud sedem Laonensem
Erigi Curavit
Antiquitatis ecclesiasticæ Studiosus
R.M.S.T.P.
Utriusque dioceseos Episcopus
A.D. MDCCCXXI.

“ The Bishop writes that he found two or three out of the five or six stone crosses of Kilfenora broken and lying on the ground, neglected and overgrown with weeds. The clergyman of the parish (Rev. Richard Brew, afterwards Prebendary of Tulloh) proposed to send him one of the crosses, which he said might be done without difficulty or danger of giving offence.” (Bishop Mant and his Dioceses, 183.)

Cragliath Mountain is the widely-known haunt of the great evil spirit, the banshee of Munster and the Dalcassians. Curious that all the saints and bishops have not exorcised her. Has she gone since the potato-blight and the emigration ?

CLONLEA PARISH.

or Clonleagh, or Clonleigh, which means “ The Meadow of the Calves.” The parish comprises 5,355 statute acres. It is 4½ miles north of Six-mile Bridge, bounded on the north by Clonie and Tulloh, on the south by Kilmurrynegaul, east by Kilseily, west by Quin. On the south-west bank of Clonlea Lake are the ruins of the old parish church and the burial- ground. In this parish is also the old ruin of Stackpoole Castle.

KILFINAGHTA PARISH.

Kilfinaghta, or Kilfinaughty. That is to say, *the Church of Finaghda*. Who he was, or where this church stood, seems unknown. The parish comprises 7,212 acres, mostly mountain ; is on the River Ougarnee, and on the old road from Limerick City to Ennis. It is bounded on the north by Kilmurrynegaul parish, on the south by Kilfintinan parish, on the east by Kileely and Kilquane parish, and on the west by Dromline and Finough. A church stands at Bally sheen, which is considered to be the Church of Kilfinaghta. There are some old ornamental slabs in Sixmile Bridge Church.

KILTEELY PARISH.

Also called Kilseily.

This parish is about 10,000 acres in extent, is situated nine miles west-by-south from Killaloe on the road to Ennis, and six miles north of Limerick City ; and is bounded on the north by Killuran and Tulloh parishes, on the south by Kiltannalea and Kilquane, on the east by Killokennedy, on the west by Clonlea. There are extensive slate quarries in the mountain country of Broadford.

KILLURAN PARISH.

This means the Church of *Jubhran* or *Uran*—a saint now unknown to fame. Only some of the south wall remains. The parish is about seven miles to the north-west of Killaloe, and in extent 3,107 acres. It is bounded on the north by Kilnoe, on south by Kilseily, east by Killaloe, west by Tulloh and Clonlea. There are some few remains of old castles—e.g., Monegona and Tierovane.

KILLOKENNEDY PARISH.

The name is obvious. It is about five miles from Killaloe ; contains 9,347 acres, mostly heathy mountain. It is bounded on the north by Killaloe, on the south by O'Brien's B., on the east by ditto, on the west by Kilseily and Killuran parishes. The old church, built of field stones, stands in Glenomera, is partly rebuilt, and not divided into nave and choir. Here is a holy well and old ash tree, which, according to an inscription on a stone, “ was planted by Wm. Doogan, P.P., in 1733.” His tomb was erected by himself, long before his death, with the inscription : —

“ This thomb was erected by Wm. Doogan, Rector of the Parishes of Killaloe, Kilseely, and Killogenncdy, 1723.”

KILNOA PARISH.

Alias Kilnoe, and signifies *the New Church*.

The main road from Scariff to Ennis cuts this parish at about three miles from former town. It comprises nearly 10,000 acres, and is bounded north by Tomgrancy and Feackle, on south by

Killuran, on east by Ogonelloe, on west by Tulloh. The ruins of the church remain at the roadside, near the Lake of Ballinahinch. Here, too, is a well, dedicated to St. Mocollo of Tulla. Possibly this latter was the old name. Some old ruins remain of the Castles of Ballinahinch, also of Coolreagh.

FEAKLE PARISH.

Alias Feacle.

This means “*a tooth*” a name supposed to allude to its being a narrow strip of arable land, running to a point into the wild heathy mountain of Sleive Eichtghe. The walls of the old church were built up into the new Protestant Church in modern times. While the patron saint of Tulla is Mochille ; he of Feackle is Mochunna. In this parish on the Townland of Ballycroum is perhaps the most curious well in Ireland, as fully bearing identification with the well called “The King of Waters,” celebrated in Book of Armagh. Tubber-Graney is resorted to for the cure of sore eyes. Little doubt can be that this was a Pagan well, worshipped by the old idolaters of Ireland, of whom were two kinds—the worshippers of *fire* and the worshippers of *water*. The modern people of Feackle seem to have united these forms of worship in the extensive production and use of *Fire-water*, distilled and imbibed largely until the revenue and police officers interfered. The Lake of Loughgraney is extensive, and its sides are well wooded ; also rare exotics bloom in great luxuriance in Cahir, the romantic residence of Wm. O’Hara, Esq. The late James Molony, Esq., of Kiltanon, opened up this wild district by modern roads. Traditions exist of superior schools being carried on in these wild retreats of the people, whose love of learning was inextinguishable.

TOMGRANEY PARISH.

Alias Termon I graney.

This name is considered by some, and on antient Irish authority too, to have been given in allusion to the worship of *Granæus* Apollo, the Sun-God. Others associate this name with some poetical fancy of the entombment of *The Lady Grain*, which in plain prose is nothing but the fact that a certain mountain stream arising in Lough Graney has its outflow into the Shannon near hand.

The parish is situated on Scariff Bay, a deep indent of Lough Derg, and comprises nearly 8,000 acres. The great N.W. limestone district of Clare dips at Bodyke Hill and reappears across the Shannon in Lower Ormond, near Dromineer. The soil where the limestone and shale blend is, as usual, sound and rich. The parish is distant about 8 miles from the N.N.W. of Killaloe, and is bounded N. by Moynoe and Feackle, S. by Kilnoe, E. by O’Gonelloe and the Lake, and W. by Kilnoe. The ecclesiastical structure still used as the parish church, and more particularly the W. gable, have exercised the skill and elicited the admiration alike of speculative archæologists and of practical architects, from Dr. Petrie to Mr. Marcus Keane and the late Mr. Brash. Lord Dunraven has photographed the western gable as quite a wonder of Cyclopean architecture.

It is but right to mention that Mr. John O’Donovan, in the Letters Ordnance Survey, has committed himself to the opinion that “the present church of *Tuaim Greine* is of no antiquity, and there is no-thing there by which the antiquarian can be interested but a rude castle.” Lord Dunraven’s editors seem to have fallen into an error by following Archdall, who places “Tomgraney Church three or four miles east of Lough Derg,” whereas this church is to the west of the lake and not a mile from the head of Scariff Bay. However, the measurements and descriptions are worthy of attention, as given with accuracy and ability.

To summarise, in the most abstract form, the various statements, theories, historical allusions, and expressions of astonishment exceed the present limits. Suffice it, then, to reproduce from the accurate observations of Mr. Brash, with something added out of Lord Dunraven’s notes and Mr. Keane’s theories. Having quoted from “The Wars of the Gaedhill with the Gaill” that Brian Borhoime erected the Church of Celldalua and the Church of Inniscealtra, and the Clochteach of Tuamgrainey, &c., Mr. B. adds : —

“The terms ‘erect’ and ‘build’ are frequently used in our churches for ‘repair and re-edify,’ and Brian’s works at the two former churches were certainly of the latter description. It is also a curious

fact that though his work at Tomgraney is confined in the above passage to the *Clochteach*, of which there is no trace in memory or tradition [however, Petrie asserts the contrary], yet ‘*the great stone church*’ of that place, which still exists, shows in its eastern end an addition apparently of the same age as the ornamental portions of St. Flannan’s and St. Camin’s. The west end of Tomgraney Church is *the finest specimen of the primitive type in our Island*. Its massive Pelasgic-looking doorway and grand old masonry strike both antiquary and architect with astonishment, while the east end, in its attached quoin-shafts and Romanesque windows, evidences a much later age.”

In Lord Dunraven’s vol. (I., p. 121) it is called —

“ A long building, measuring on the outside 78ft. 6in. in length by 27ft. in width. It is divided by a cross wall into two compartments, which may be termed nave and chancel, though in reality they are separate buildings, the work of different periods and styles. The older portion, or nave, measures 36ft. by 21ft. 6in. It is built of massive polygonal masonry. The stones, which are closely fitted, are of great size, particularly in the north wall, one being 7ft. long by 2ft. deep. There are square pilasters, or antæ, at the W. corners of the building, which measure 2ft. 10in. and 1ft. 11 in. deep. They are capped by a double projecting course of stone. The W. door is square-headed, with inclined sides, built of massive blocks of well-cut stone, which extend the full thickness of the wall, thus being 3ft. in depth. It is 6ft. 5in. high by 3ft. 5in. wide at base, 3ft. 2in. at top. The lintel is 7ft. 4in. long, the only ornament a flat architrave band 9in. wide, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep. There are two rude square-headed windows in nave. In the later-built portion, or chancel, the masonry is very peculiar. The tower portion is fine jointed ashlar, continued for 7ft. or 8ft. above the level of the ground. Over this the work is inferior, and higher still it is laid on irregular courses, such as in the masonry of O’Rourke’s tower at Clonmacnoise. Then of the windows. That in N. wall of chancel is very handsome. In the windows of the S. wall of chancel the mouldings are very curious. They resemble the window at Monaincha, are square-headed outside and round inside, with vertical jambs. The angle chevron and mould roll-moulding may be seen on these windows,” &c.

That the founder was Cronan is deduced from the fact that the Abbots of this place were called “Coarbs of Cronan.” So far in “Notes.” On the other hand, Mr. Marcus Keane, in pursuance of his theory, pronounces upon Tomgraney Church thus (at p. 379 “Towers and Temples, &c.”) :—“There seem to have been two Cuthite (from Cush, son of Nimrod) temples at this place, one of the plain, the other of the ornamented style. Fragments of both are incorporated in the modern church.” Mr. Keane also identifies “Cronan, the founder, with Cronos, the Titan, Saturn,” just as he would identify “Kieran with Chiron the Centaur, and Dichul with the D—l.”

Here it may be well to quote a passage from “The History of the Architecture of all Countries, by James Fergusson” (vol. ii. p. 345).

The identity of Armenian with Irish old ecclesiastical architecture having been established by a citation of particulars as to size, form, grouping, and ornamentation of both, Sir J. Fergusson proceeds to account for this in a *footnote*, for which we make no apology, so great is its value as a clue to the solution of the archæological difficulties involved. “It may seem (p. 345, supra) so wild a speculation to breathe it even in a footnote ; but it is, nevertheless, a fact, that there is a similarity between the styles of Armenia and Ireland that cannot be mistaken. It may, of course, be accidental, but is it not also possible, *that during the Persian persecutions in the 5th and 6th. centuries some exiled Christians may have sought refuge in the green island of the West, and brought with them their arts ?* It is true it may be suggested that the two countries may have derived their architecture from some common source external to both ; but whether this be so or not, it at least seems certain that if there was no communication between Armenia and Ireland, the coincidence is exceptional. There is no other case at present known of two countries whose architecture, without the one borrowing from the other, presents anything approaching to the similarity both in plan and detail that exists between the Churches of Armenia and those of Ireland in the earlier stages of their art.” At the same time, although Sir J. Fergusson may have been a first-rate architect, his assertion or supposition requires an historical substantiation. Can anyone prove historically that these Armenian Christians left their country on account of persecution for religion at the time stated, also that they made their way to

Ireland and set up their religion there, and built churches, &c., on the models of those they are said to have left behind them in their own land. ? When this is done, the controversy will be brought out of the regions of speculation and assertion into the solid standing grounds of fact and history.

In reference to remarkable men connected with Tomgraney, the following is abridged from “ a memoir compiled for and presented by Rev. Wm. M. Brady, B.D., son of the late Chancellor of Ireland, Right Hon. M. Brady, to be preserved along with the Registers of the parish of Tomgraney” (“J. E. Garstin, scripsit”). The late Rev. T. B. Brady, Prebendary of Tomgraney, was the 8th in descent from Sir D. O’Grady, or O’Brady, Knight, chief of his name, who resigned the lands held by his ancestors to King Henry VIII, and had a regrant of them by patent, 5th Jan., 1513, under name of Thoymcreegh Fynnagh, Kyllachullybeg, to him and his heirs in capite by service of Knight’s fee.

Sir Denis’ 3rd but eldest surviving son, John O’Grady, chief of his name (“ The O’Grady,” from whom descend O’Gradys of Killballyowen, Lord Viscount Guillamore, and the other branches of the O’Gradys and Gradys), surrendered to Queen Elizabeth, &c. (see Perrot’s deed, infra), and received regrant with Hugh, his younger brother, and heirs for ever. This Hugh was the Eight Hon. and Most Rev. *Hugh Brady*, or *O’Grady*, Lord Bishop of Meath, the first prelate of the Reformed faith who held that see. He was advanced to it by favour of Queen Elizabeth and Cecil. During his incumbency the See of Clonmacnoise was added to Meath. He died 13th Feb., 1583, and was buried in his native town, Dunboyne, County Meath. His will is preserved. His descendants always called themselves “ Brady.” His eldest son and heir had livery of his estate by patent, 6th March, 1630. From him descended the ancient family of Brady of Tomgraney. The Bishop’s second son, Nicholas, was grandfather of the Rev. Dr. Nicholas Brady, Prebendary of Kilnaglony, Cork, and afterwards Rector of Clapham, London, &c. He translated the new version of the Psalms of David, in conjunction with Nahum Tate, the Poet Laureate. He was Chaplain to King William and Queen Mary, after to Queen Anne, was born 28th Oct., 1659, at Bandon, County Cork, and died 22nd May, 1726, at Richmond. He was great-great-grandfather of Right Hon. M. Brady, Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1859. An original oil-painting was in the Chancellor’s possession of the translator of the Psalms.

MOINOE PARISH.

Alias Moynoe.

This is from two Irish words signifying *The valley of the Yew-tree*, Many places are called from this feature, *e.g.*, Youghal or the Yew of the Stranger. The parish is about 8 miles to the N.W. of Killaloe, and is near the village of Scariff, so called from the *rough and tumbling* waters of the river that runs into the Shannon from L. Graney. It contains nearly 2,000 acres, and is partly mountainous. Is bounded on N. by Feackle, on S. by Tomgraney, on E. by Inniscaltra, and on W. by Tomgraney. The old church still stands, and is in ruins. Near hand is the square building erected by the Reade family as a burying place.

CLONRUSH PARISH.

This must be *the meadow of the Reisk, or wet marsh land*. The parish comprises 11,000 acres, and is situated in County Galway, on L. Derg. It is bounded by Ballynakill and Woodford on N., by Inniscaltra on S., by same on W., and by Shannon on E. There are no ecclesiastical remains or monuments of interest. There are iron mines in the hills, and near Whitegate a curious old building remains, said by the people to have been a smelting house for preparing the iron. This may account, in part at least, for the utter want of old timber.

INISHGALTRAH PARISH.

Alias Inniscaltra. Bishop Rider gives a derivation as *The Island of Altars, or Churches*,

The parish is situated at the south corner of County Galway, and runs along the beautiful shore of Lough Derg. It is in extent 9,000 acres. The ruins on the island are extremely interesting and picturesque, and include Caimin’s Church, the belfry, the oratory, the confessional, St. Mary’s and St. Michael’s Churches, &c. The belfry or round tower is now but 80ft. in height, and is 46ft. in circumference. Dr. Petrie, in reference to the rule of proportion established in the Senchus Mor between the

church and the belfry, observes on this one to the following effect :—“ In cases of churches having a chancel and nave the rule equally applies. Thus the church of Inniscaltra gives a perimeter of 162ft., from which deducting 46ft., the circumference of the tower, we have 116ft. as the prescribed height of the latter, which cannot be far from the actual original height of the tower. For to its present height of 80 must be added 10 or 12ft. for the upper story now wanting, 15ft. for conical roof, and a few feet for portion concealed at its base. (Petrie, R. Ts. p. 366-7.)

Of Caimin’s Church itself, it may be noted briefly that it stands E.N.E. of the belfry, is divided into nave 31ft. by 21ft., and chancel 15ft. by 12ft. 6in., wall 2ft. 6in. thick, E. wall gone, masonry irregular, inside plastered, chancel 8ft. 6in. in height, eave-course partly ornamented by ashlar, flat pilaster buttresses at E. and W. ends of nave, &c. Chancel arch is of fine cut stone, of three plain orders, not rounded off, large pellets, masonry of chancel unlike that of nave, is fine jointed fine on gaged shafts in the jambs, capitals very peculiar. This beautiful arch (now as well as capital at N. side somewhat displaced and in danger) measures 10ft. 2in. in width at bottom, 9ft. 11in. at top of jambs ; the height is 5ft. from ground to capitals. Rev. Jas. Graves pronounces this chancel arch to be work of a date earlier by a century than that in Cormac’s chapel, and has no doubt of its being the inserted work of King Brian. He relies on the absence of profuse surface ornament and on the square-cut plain orders of the arch, &c. (In this respect is there not a striking resemblance to Nouhaval chancel arch ?) The base of a cross may be seen 30ft. S.E. of chancel. It is inscribed —

ILAD IN DEICHEN BOIR.
The Stone Tomb of the ten Persons.

The remains of a stone tomb are to be seen 100 yds. E. of the church, towards the shore of the lake ; one of the stones of which it is built is 4½ft. long by 1ft. thick. It has a narrow doorway of cut stone on E. side ; the walls are down ; dimensions 12ft. 9in.

Can this be the tomb ordered by Sir Teigue Mac O’Brien Arra to be specially erected for his remains according to the direction of his will ? Or can this be the broken-down tomb 9ft. square to the north-west, near the enclosure ?* St. Mary’s Church is larger than St. Caimin’s, and not peculiarly interesting. Lord Dunraven points attention to an inscribed stone with an interlaced cross connected with this island, with an inscription —

OR DO CHUNN
i.e.,

PRAY FOR CONN. Can this be “ Cinnathin, one of the four sons of Cas, 6th in descent from Cormac” ? Lord Dunraven, not without genealogical authority to rely upon, claims this as the head of the O’Quin family. At the same time, the seat of this family lay in the opposite direction at Inchiquin lake. Miss Stokes, in “ Christian Inscriptions,” gives other monumental inscriptions—54 OR DO ARDESI, 55

MOENGAL MAC LODGIN, 56 supra, 57 OR DO DIARMAIT MAC DOLBAD. He was a bishop here early in 10th century, 58 OR DO MAEL PATRICK, not identified, 59 OR DO SAITH-BERTACH.

Extracts from the will of Sir Tirrelagh O’Bryen, Knight and Baronet. Prerogative, 1626.

Imprimis. I bequeath my soule unto Almightye God my Saviour and Redeemer, *and my bodie to he hurled in a chappell to he made for mee near our Ladyes Church in InishKeallrye.* He then disposes of his mortgaged and other properties, &c., inter alia. “ I will and ordain that the said Daniel O’Bryen shall stand and be seized and possessed of the Prebendary (he means the Prebend) of Tullagh, within the Diocese of Killaloe, during my interest therein, to such pious uses as I have appointed.” He leaves all and singular his fishing wares and fishings on the Synyn (Shanon) to his mother, Slanyne Bryen, and after her decease the remainder and reversion to the said D. O’Bryen, without power of reversion. He makes a bequest of 40*l.* sterling that shall accrue and issue out of the parsonage of Castletown, to be given to John O’Duigin Dr. *Mcleaghlen O Quely* (Vicar-General of Killaloe), and Father Bryen O’Bryen to be disposed of, as to them in their conscience shall be thought meete. Some of his personal bequests give a good idea of life in Thomond 200 years ago, and accordingly are abridged. He gives his chiefest bay horse, with his best saddle, to his cousin John O’Carrule of Clonlyske.

To Thomas Hogane, his black mourning suite, new cloak and all, with his wax boots and black spurrs, and 5*l.* sterling.

To his uncle, Oliver Grace, one of his pistalls, and to his cousin, Bryan Duff, the other.

He bequeaths his wife's gowne to his sister, Mary Butler, and the trunk wherein it is kept, his wedding-ring to the Countess of Ormond. He bequeaths to Lewis Walsh his second bay horse, three of his best mares and four English coves, and a cupp of his plate. He bequeaths to his brother John those parcels of plate that his father left him, with his best salt. To his sister Margaret, one of his cupps of plate and a measing (sic) (qu. from maison) pan. Leaves to his sister More one cupp more, and a measing pan.

Leaves his largest cupp of plate he has to our Ladies Church in Inishkeaterye, to be made a chalice of, there to remain for his soule. Item, his sword to his brother-in-law, Daniel O'Brycn, his viall and his viall-booke to his cousin D. O'Bryen, his crossbow and fowling-peece to Philip Grace.

Item, his riding-coate and cullered (sic) hatt to T. McPharrallane, if he will, otherwise to T. O'Hogane. He leaves his black boots and his new spunks to W. Hurley, the other black paire to D. O'Hogane. Leaves the lyninge-velvett of his red cloke to be made into a vestment of to the Church of our Lady at Inniskattery aforesaid.

Leaves his black velvett cloke to Lewis Walsh, with his black satten suite and olde morninge cloak to D. O'Hogane. He leaves his black nag to his servant man, and his beaver hatt to T. Bourke, &c., &c.

Probate granted 29th Nov., 1626, to the Executors.

In the S. wall of the great Church there is an inserted monument of an elaborate kind, with the following inscription : —

“ This monument was erected by the Lady Slaney MacO'Brien, sister to Sir Tirlagh,” and underneath,

“ Here lye the bodies of the noble Knight, Sir Teigue Mac O'Brien-ara, Baronet, who died 28th March, A.D. 1626. And his lady, d. to the Eight Hon. Walter, Earl of Ormond, who died 10th Feb., 1625. Pray for their soules.

Memento mori.

Attention is directed to another inserted slab, which contains the following : —

(The Grady Arms)
“ Vulneratus non Victus.”

(“ JAMES GRADY REPAIRED THESE CHURCHES AND MONUMENTS TO THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF GOD.”)

Bishop John Rider describes the annual gatherings or patterns, in his time, as most objectionable. Mr. P. Dixon Hardy and some of the old people of the place tell stories of very dreadful wickedness done in the present century. Public opinion, fortunately for common decency, has compelled the managers of the lucrative traffic in iniquity, conducted under the name of religion, to suppress the meetings totally.

Of St. Camin hiinself a word may be added. There is a Camin's Church at Aranmore as well as here ; but this is not the only case in which the great educational and missionary establishment of Aran sent forth labourers even far more eastward, as Brendan to Clonfert, Coleman to Roscrea, and Breacan to Meath. He belonged to the 7th century. As one of the authorities states, “ St. Camin flourished here in miracles and virtucs about the year of salvation 610.” (A. 4, M.) But he was also

noted for abstinence, and for learning having written a copy of the Psalms of David in the Hebrew. A few leaves of what was considered to be this identical document were extant even to the time of Arch-bishop Usher, who expressed an opinion to this effect. And these leaves are still preserved in the Franciscan Library, Dublin (so Mr. Meehan states in *Franciscans*, 5th edition).

Mr. Philip Reade, of Woodparks, showed the writer a bunch of keys, large and antique, which were found on disturbing the grave of an old sacristan or sexton. They must have belonged to the old churches.

OGONILLA PARISH.

alias *Ogonnelloe*, This is so called from a settlement made there by the O'Connells, from Limerick ; after whom a barony in same county is also named. It is situated about four miles north of Killaloe, on the road to Scariff, with the lake for its eastern boundary, Killaloe for its southern, Tomgraney its northern, and Killokennedy its western. Its size is about 5,500 acres. In this parish is Belkelly Wood also Cahir Castle which in recent times was bombarded by artillery brought from Limerick, as the building was applied to the very improper use of a distillery of mountain dew.

CASTLE CONNELL PARISH,

alias Stradbally or *Street-town*, Castle Connell or Conings Castle, alias Capella de Judum (quære) Cluain. The parish is in county of Tipperary and principally in Limerick, is about six miles from the city ; is bounded on the east by the Shannon, on the west by O'Brien's B., on the north by Kilmurry and Kilnegarruff, on the south by Newport. It comprises 5,850 acres. This parish, although of remarkable beauty along the banks of the Shannon, is not in its ecclesiastical aspects remarkable, the only ruin being the remains of a friary on an island. Of the castle it is needless to discourse further than that it belonged to the De Burghos, had once four round towers at the four corners, and was destroyed by De Ginkle in 1690. Here is a spa, praised by Ruddy, and once much frequented, but now forsaken. It is chalybeate.

KILLINAGANNUFF PARISH,

alias Kilnegarruff ; doubtless so called from the vicinity of the church to the tumbling or broken waters of a stream, such as that from which Scariff gets its kindred name. This parish is next to Stradbally, on the south or Limerick side, comprising 2,900 acres ; has no monuments of ecclesiastical antiquity, the church having been destroyed by the Cromwellians.

KILTINANLEA PARISH.

Alias Doonassy ; also Kiltonanlea.

This is pronounced to mean the *Church of Senan the Hoary*. Another name like this is to be found in Kiltanon, near Tulla ; doubtless pointing to the same saint. The parish is on the road between Killaloe and Limerick, and is about four miles from the latter city. There are no monuments of ecclesiastical antiquity to be found here. The second name of Doonass, or Doonassy, is interpreted "The fort of ilie rapids." Its situation is unrivalled, in beauty.

There is a curious instrument given by Dr. Theiner, in his *Monumenta*, p. 433, by which Pope Pius II, in 1462, removes Malachias Maconmara from his living and appoints Thady Maconmara instead. Malachias, "Rector Parochialis ecclesie de Clueynlard (Clonlara) Medie-Cantriede (Cantred) do Oblayed (now O'Mullod) dictæ diocesis, publicus et notorius fornicator existit." And then he is to be removed, on proof after trial, from "ecclesia de Killokemedid," which is in respect of the vicarage worth "sex marcharum sterlingorum."

THE RURAL DEANERY OF OGASSIN

This name Ogassin, or Ogashin, is supposed to be derived from CAS, the head of the great DAL-CASS-IAN-race. We find the first parish in this cantred according to Civil, or rural Deanery in ecclesiastical division, to be

QUIN.

Also Choin, or Quinchey, or Cuinche, or Quint.

This is supposed to point to the name of “ a Saint *Conchenna*, a virgin from whom the place took its name, and who is venerated here on the 28th April.” This, however, is disputed ; inasmuch as “ it was prophesied that the place would be named from or by *St. Fineen*.” All this indicates clearly a feeble attempt to reconcile medieval piety with Keltic philology. The parish is about five miles east of Ennis, and is bounded on the north by Cloney, on the south by Tomfinlough, east by Cloney and Clonlea, and on the west by Dowrie. The great feature of ecclesiastical interest is the Abbey, well situated on a fair flowing river, and one of the finest and most complete remains of monastic antiquity in Ireland. It is built of black marble, and the carvings have been remarked for their resistance to the effects of weather ; not so the carving on the tombstones, which are much corroded by the tooth of time, and few of them easily deciphered. An old abbey erected here was consumed by fire in 1278. The Monastery for Franciscans was founded here in 1402, by Sioda (or the Son of Hugh) Con McNamarra, of Glancullein. The best descriptions the writer has met with are now given, being — 1st. King Henry VIII.'s deed to G'Bryen, of Douagh ; 2nd. Queen Elizabeth's renewal ; 3rd. Bishop Poccocke's account in the last century ; 4th. In Modern Times Lady Chatterton's Tour.

18th September, 1578.

Quin,

(1) 2687.

For the term of 21 years or less for and in consideration of the sum of 40s. current money of Ireland, hath demised, granted, and let unto the said Ti MaConnor O'Brien and Tierlagh O'Brien, and their assignes, the scite, circuite, and precincte of the late house of Frances Friars, of *Queyne*, in Thomonde, in County Clare, containing 1 acre ; in which is one great church, now ruinose, covered with sclate and stepill, greatelie daced, and churchyard and cloister and one greate haull, fowre chambers, two cellers, and ruinous *Doctor* (sic)— (query, *dovecôte*), with an orchard, and other edifices, &c., of the said Frieria ; and also one water-mill, now ruinous and prostrate, and ten cottages in the town, village, or hamlet of Quiney, with outgardens and all other lands, &c., belonging to the friery, and woods, under woods, and all kind of mines, advousens of churches knights fees, &c., &c., excepted. Hedge-botte, plough-botte, fire-botte, cart-botte, and housel-botte, reserved to the said tenents, to be expended in and upon the premises and not elsewhere. Tenents yearly to repair sufficiently, and keep up all houses, cottages, chancels, and other buildings.

(Taken from certified copy of original among Ennistymon papers.)

15th December, 1584

(2) 26 Elizabeth.

A surrender of lands, and grant back again of the same, as also grant of the Abbey of Quin and all belonging to it—To Sir Tirlagh O'Brien, of Innisdymene, his heirs and assigns for ever : *provided that he and his heirs shall not conspire with rebels.*

3. Bishop Poccocke states that “ Quin is one of the finest and most entire monasteries that he has seen in Ireland. It is situated on a fine stream, with an ascent of several steps to the church. At the entrance one is surprised with the view of the high altar entire, and of an altar on each side of the arch of the chancel. To the S. of the chapel, with three or four altars in it, is a very fine Gothic figure in relief of some saint. On the N. side of the chancel is a fine monument of the family of the McNamanas, of Rance (Ranee), erected by the founder. On a stone by the high altar the name of Kennedye appears in large letters. In the middle, between the body and the chancel, is a fine tower built on two gable ends. (This square campanile, placed central and so supported, is a characteristic of the Franciscan Abbey.) The cloister is in the usual form, with couplets of pillars, but is particular in having buttresses round it by way of ornament. There are apartments on three sides of it, the refectory, the dormitory, and another grand room to the N. of the chancel, with a vaulted chamber

under them all. To the N. of the larger room is a closet, which leads through a private way to a very strong round tower, the walls of which are near 10ft. thick. In the front of the monastery is a building which seems to have been an apartment for strangers. To the S.W. are two other buildings.”

4. Lady Chatterton, in her *Tour, &c.*, gives her views thus upon Quin Abbey : —

“ We made a detour to visit the ruins of Quin Abbey. It stands in a fine green plain near the clear (?) river. The cloisters resemble those of Askeatony, and are in good preservation ; indeed, the whole building, except the roof, is entire. Most of the chimney-pieces remain ; and a peasant woman, who came up to speak to me as I was examining an old monument, said that her grandmother remembered when it was all perfect. I looked on these cloisters with great interest, as the place where the monk who composed those beautiful lines to Lady O’Brien was wont to meditate and pray.”

The corner of the transept and nave affords a space in which a mountain of human bones was piled up. A good hole has been made in it since bones came into use in agriculture ; so, too, near Bally-vaughan, a Scotch schooner lately anchored and took away a cargo from a churchyard at the seaside. It is not proper to subject the bones of decent Irish Christians to the action of sulphuric acid to enrich Glasgow chemists.

As for tombs and inscriptions, we take the following : —

1. “ This tomb was erected by Matthew McNemara, of Moohane, in the year 1500, and repaired by his great grandson Matthew McNemara, of Summerhill, in the year 1768, in memory of his father Teige and his brother Rowe McNemara.”

2. Here lies the body of Denis McNemara, who died Nov. 17, 1744.

3. There is no inscription on the tomb of Fireball McNemara, the great duellist, as though he had inscribed his mark on many quite deep enough during his lifetime.

4. The name of *Bontet* is on a tomb, date 1751.

5. A tomb also exhibits in deep clear lines an adze, or hatchet, as the implement of a carpenter.

No. 6. “ Here lie (sic) the remains of the Right Rev. Pat. McMahan, R. C. Bishop of Killaloe, who departed this life on the 9th June, 1836, aged 76 years. May the Lord have mercy on his soul.”

CLONEE PARISH.

Alias Cloney, or the parish of Cluain.

This is a cluain, or *meadow*. This parish contains 7,695 acres, and is situated on the direct road between Ennis and Tulla, about 4½ miles from former town. It is bounded on N. by Kilraghtis, on S. by Quin, on E. by Tulla, on W. by Dowrie. The old church near the castle in Cloney demesne is not of much antiquity or interest, and has been disused since Dr. Andrewe’s incumbency under Bishop Rider. In the townland of Toonagh, in this parish, is the field of Maghadhair, where the Dalcassian Princes were inaugurated. (See O’Brien’s *Irish Dictionary*, and *Exodus*, ch. 24, V. 4.)

TULLOH PARISH.

Alias Tulloe, Tullagh, Tulla.

This parish is so called from the old church being built on a *little hill*. It is 9 miles from Ennis on the east, and 16 from Killaloe. It comprises 15,384 acres. The soil is limestone. There are lead mines at Miltown. The church on the hill contains some rather elaborate monuments, and had once a rich black marble carved altar-piece. We copy one of the monuments, leaving out those of the O’Callaghans, Hartes, Brownes, Westrops, &c., for lack of space.

Hoc monumentum fieri fecit
Dominus Jacobus Molony de
Kiltanen die 2 Junii 1702.
Quod ex vetustate ruinam minitatus
Conditoris posterius de domo Cragg
refecerunt.

For a grant to this parish, which became forfeited, see Kilrush infra. The McNamaras held grand state at Ranees, the ruins of their desolate halls still remaining. Here, too, is Kiltanon, or Senan's Church; also the curious excavations made by the Affock River, and called Toomines.

DURY PARISH.

Alias Doora, so called either from Dur (*water*) or Duran (a patron saint). Also called Ballagh-boy, or *Bunown*,

This parish comprises 3,684 acres, mostly bog and crag, and is situated near Ennis, on the E. bank of the Fergus. The old church is situated in the middle of a bog, and is of considerable antiquity, being remodelled early. There is a stone over the doorway outside, with the head of some animal rudely shaped. There is a very ancient kind of window, round-headed in and outside. One of the windows has over it the head of a wolf-dog.

“The base of the N wall is a very fine piece of masonry, and evidently ancient.”

KILRAGHTIS.

This is called from Raghtis, Whether this be a man or a place or what else the authorities candidly confess ignorance.

It is 3. or 4 miles N. of Ennis in the Gort direction, and contains 4,594 acres. The old church still stands in the centre of the burial ground. No part of it is over 400 years old. Ballyalla is in this parish.

KILTOOLAH PARISH.

In Carrowmore is a small old church called Kiltoolah.

TEMPLEMALEY CHURCH.

Alias

This is *Maley* or *O'Maleys* Church (a name not uncommon), situated about 3 miles N.W. of Ennis. Its shape is long and narrow, and it comprises 3,781 acres. There is an old church here in good preservation.

KILMURRYNEGAUL PARISH.

This is *the Church of Mary of the Stranger*. It is N.W. of Sixmile Bridge, on the road to Tulla. Size 2,129 acres. There are the ruins of an old church in the parish, and certain old castles.

INSECRONAN PARISH.

Alias Inchycronane, alias Inis Cronan, or *the Island of Cronan*.

It is in size nearly 15,000 acres, and extends into the wild mountains on the confines between Clare and Galway. The Abbey is not, as Archdall carelessly stated (an error left uncorrected by his recent editor), built “on an island in the Shannon,” but on an island in the Lake of Inchycronane, just at Ballyline, and about a mile from the village of Crusheen. The Abbey is built out of the ruins and on the site of an old church. This was done by order of D. O'Brien, King of Limerick, and for the use of Canons of the Augustinian Order in the 12th century. It looks picturesque from the railway, but is of no architectural importance, *except for a neat double chancel arch*.

IN THE DEANEEY OF TRADRY.

This territory (according to Mr. E. O'Curry's *Manners and Customs, &c.*, II. 220) even to the present day retains the name of *Trad*, forming as it does the Deaneiy *Traid-raid-he*, in the present Barony of Bunratty, County Clare, a tract which comprises the parishes of Tuaimfinnlocha, Cill-ogh-na-Suloch, Cill Mailuighrè, Cill Coirnè, Cluain Lochain, Dromlighin, Fiodnach, Bunratty, and Cill Eoin, and the island of Inis-da-drom in the R. Fergus. And this Trad, who was a kingly chief and Druid, found himself without much land though with many children. So he held a consultation with his wife Aeife, and she went to her father Lugaidh, and requested that he and his six sons should depart out of the country and leave the land to Trad and his growing family for ever. And submitting as though to a fated result (and in this very unlike either the landlords or the tenants of modern times), Lugaidh meekly complied. And luckily Trad made the rich lands his own, which have been called after his name, and there is no record of his being shot or beaten to death for so doing—which is strange indeed,

TOMFINLOUGH PARISH.

This name must have been given from *the tumulus of the clear or bright lake*. It is four miles N.W. from Sixmile Bridge, and comprises 3,424 acres. The ruins of an old church are in the parish, near a small plot of glebe land. Ballycar is in this parish, where the old family of Colpoys had their residence. Though the name is extinct, there are descendants in the female line. Dynely, in his *Tour*, gives a graphic exhibition of this district. About 100 years ago, the day coach from Ennis to Limerick divided the day's journey at Ballycar.

KILNASULAGH PARISH.

Why this is so called is in "Letters" declared unknown, the name being variously spelled in the original Irish. The old church is gone, too, the site being occupied by the parish church. The parish is situated on the road between Ennis and Limerick.

Inscription on the Sacramental Cup of the parish of Kilnasulagh—

Ex dono donati O'Brien, Baronetti in vsvm ecclesiæ Killanasvlalach in comitatv Clare.

Inscription on Patten the same,

KILLMALLERY PARISH.

Who this Mallery or Leery may have been is not stated by the authorities. Also the old church, of not many centuries ago, is nearly gone. The parish is S.W. of Newmarket. The land very rich. The Castle of Clenagh, a lofty square tower, once the residence of the McMahons, is still in being. The last McMahon, when he left it, broke down the stairs, that none else should ever ascend them again, and use them for convenience as a resident.

KILCONRY PARISH.

This is situated at the very junction of the Shannon and Fergus. To it belong these islands in the Fergus : Dynish, Feenish, and Ennish-machauten. The land is of unusual fertility. The ecclesiastical remains are an old church in tolerable preservation, dimensions 55ft. 7in. by 17ft. 9in. On the island of Feenish, or *Insula Sylvæ*, Senanus built a church. Only an old castle now remains.

CLONLUHEIN PARISH.

This parish is situated on the R. Shannon, and is chiefly rich corcass land. It is so called as *the meadow of the Chaff or of the Lough*.

DROMLINE PARISH.

This parish is supposed to have been so called from its situation and the character of the soil, being *The Ridge of the Flax*. The parish is situated three miles S.E. of Newmarket on the Shannon. It com-prises 2,365 acres. The old church here is nearly destroyed to the foundation-stone. A large portion of this parish was the Bishop's mensal.

FFINAGH PARISH.

or ffenagh. This is said by some to have got its name as "the woody place," by others from a man of the name. Who this Finnagh was, or where his church stood, seems unknown, at least so it is confessed by the learned author of "Letters in Ordinance Survey."

BONRALTY PARISH.

alias Bonratty, also Bunratty. This is pronounced as meaning *The mouth of the Raite*—a river also called the Owengarney, which has its rise eastward beyond Broadford, and its course along the N. base of the Broadford range. The parish is six miles W. of Limerick, on the Shannon, and on the direct road to Ennis. The old church measures 66ft. by 36ft. The W. gable is still perfect, but featureless. The old graveyard contains no ancient or remarkable inscriptions. The church is probably coeval with the castle, which was erected by Mucegros in 1277. De Clare's widow forsook it after her husband fell at the bloody battle of Dysert O'Dea. Of this Castle and the sieges, details are given elsewhere. The church field is of extraordinary fertility.

KILLUH PARISH.

Below Clare to the Eastward.

INNISDADROM PARISH.

This is *the island of the two backs or Ridges*, which is now called Coney Island. There are here two churches, not very ancient, name is also given as Kilderrydadrom.

The Diocese of Killaloe from the Reformation to the close of the eighteenth century : with an appendix (1878)

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