

# LETTERS

CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATIVE

TO THE

## ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

## COUNTY OF WATERFORD

COLLECTED DURING THE PROGRESS

OF THE

## ORDNANCE SURVEY

IN

1841.

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#### THE PARISH OF KILBARRY.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the County of the [1] City of Waterford and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Killottern and Trinity Without; on the east by the Parish of St. John's Without, Ballynakill, Kill-Saint Laurence, Drumcannon, Killure and Monamintia; on the south by the Parish of Drumcannon and on the west by the Parish of Kilburn.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in the original language Cill Bhara meaning "Church of St. Barry". The Saint to whom the Church was dedicated, or by whom it was built, was the celebrated St, Barry of Cork who was otherwise called Finbar.

The old Church called Kilbarry is not one of the primitive Irish times, but a rude structure of the 15th or 16th century. It is now nearly destroyed, the west gable and a fragment of the north wall only remaining. It can be ascertained from what remains however, that this Church was forty feet in length and seventeen feet in breadth. Its walls were three feet in thickness and built of small round stones (evidently not quarried but gathered off the surface of the fields) cemented with lime and sand mortar. The west gable is surmounted with a belfry having two small pointed arches (for two bells to swing in) now so covered with ivy that one could not see whether they are constructed of hammered or cut stone, but it would appear from the rudeness of the parts to be seen that they contain no cut stone. The north wall is destroyed down to the height of five and a half feet and the east gable and south wall [2] are destroyed down to the foundations.

There was a small building seventeen and a half feet by fourteen feet attached to this Church at the southeast corner and built of the same materials in the same rude style with the Church itself.

About a hundred paces to the south of the Church are fragments of the walls of a larger building, locally called "the Monastery" the graveyard of Kilbarry lying between both buildings. It can be ascertained from what remains that this house was fifty eight feet in length but its breadth could not be determined. It consisted of two parts, of which the more western was twenty four feet in length. The fragments of the walls which remain are three feet in thickness and built of the same materials with the Church, in the same rude style, no cut stones appearing.

For the historical references to this place see Extracts from Archdal and Lanigan.

On the Townland of Ballindud, on the opposite side of the marsh near which the buildings above described stand and about two miles distant from them, is a very fine cromlech. The great flag extends east and west and its east end has slipped off its supporters. This flag measures from north to south at its east end now touching the ground fourteen feet from east to west; at its south side eleven feet; at its west side twelve feet six inches and at its north side eight feet six inches. It measures in the middle from north to south thirteen feet and from east to west eleven feet six inches. Its thickness varies, it being [3] three feet thick in the middle of the east side; four feet in the middle of the south side; two feet in the middle of the west side and only one foot six inches in the middle of the north side.

The supporters on the west side on which the end of the flag now rests are two in number; the one at the southwest corner is six feet in height, three feet six inches in width and two feet in thickness; the other, which is placed close to the north of this is five feet in height, seven feet four inches in width and two feet in thickness. The large flag projects two feet six inches over the latter and its very edge rests on the former. The upright stone off which the east end of the large flag slipped still stands perpendicularly and measures five feet four inches in height, two feet eight inches in

width and two feet six inches in thickness at its base. The second supporter has been broken by a farmer who attempted to destroy this monument.

This monument is situated on level ground in the Townland of Ballindud about two miles south of the City of Waterford and about half a furlong east of the road as you go from Waterford to Tramore. The dimensions of it given by Rev. Mr. Ryland are very incorrect.

There is nothing else of antiquarian interest in this Parish.

Examined by A. Curry,

May 25th 1841.

J. O'Donovan.

#### **THE PARISH OF BALLYNAKILL. [4]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north and east by the River Suir; on the southeast by the Parish of Kilcaragh and on the west by the Townlands of Farranshoneen and Grantstown and by the Parish of St. John's Without in the County of the City of Waterford.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Baile na Cille, i.e., Churchtown or Townland of the Church.

The original Church of this Parish stood in the Townland of Ballynakill, to which it gave name, about sixty yards to the south of Ballynakill House but no part of the walls have existed these thirty years. The graveyard only remains in which there are burial places for five or six families. The modern Church stands about half a mile to the south of it.

To this Parish belongs the "Little Island" which is situated in the River Suir and commands a good view of the City of Waterford and the neighbouring mountains. On this island is an ancient castle still in good preservation and latterly fitted up by the landlord, who resides in it for a few months in the year. It stands on the [5] north side of the island about three hundred yards from the river. It is a square structure about forty feet in height and measures on the outside forty seven feet from east to west and thirty four feet from north to south. There is a pointed doorway of cut lime stone in the middle of the south side and all the quoin stones are chiselled. All the windows have been recently repaired and evidently enlarged.

There is a stone over the doorway which originally exhibited a representation of a human face, and an escutcheon, but both are now almost entirely effaced. The walls are four feet ten inches in thickness and well built. No tradition exists in the neighbourhood as to the original founder or last occupier of this castle. Ryland in his history of the Co. of Waterford says that "it is supposed to have been erected in the 16th century and that it was for many years occupied by the proprietors of the adjacent lands" p.235

There are no other remains of antiquity in this Parish.

## **THE PARISH OF FAITHLEG. [6]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated five miles to the north east of the City of Waterford and is bounded on the west, north and east by the River Suir, and on the south by Kill St. Nicholas.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is in the original language Feidlinn and is also written Ffoyling in the Book of Regal Visitation but nothing has been yet discovered to throw any light on its meaning. I have been acquainted with the name since I was a child.

The old Church of Faithlegg stands in ruins to the left of the road as you go from the Village of Cheekpoint to Waterford, five miles from the latter and one and a quarter miles from the former. It is a small rude building not more than three centuries old and scarcely worth the attention of the antiquarian. It consists of nave and choir, the former measuring thirty nine feet in length and sixteen in breadth and the latter seventeen feet by twelve. The west gable is surmounted with a small belfry and contains a pointed doorway. Its other features are remarkably rude and not worth description.

Not far from this but on the lands of Coolbuinga (Cúl Buinne) [7] are the ruins of a square castle said to have been built in the 12th century by the family of Aylward who held it and a very extensive property in the neighbourhood until the time of Cromwell, by whom they were dispossessed.

Ryland has preserved a very interesting anecdote of John Aylward, the last occupier of this castle, which he calls Fatlock, but he cites no authority. See his work. p. 73.

## **THE PARISH OF KILL ST. NICHOLAS.**

**SITUATION.** Is situated in the Barony of Gaulteer and bounded on the north by the Parish of Faithlegg and the River Suir; on the east by the River Barrow and Waterford Harbor; on the south by the Parishes of Croke, Kilcop and Kilmacombe, and on the west by the Parish of Ballygunner.

**NAME.** Signifies the Church of St. Nicholas who is the Patron of the Parish.

The original Church of this Parish stood about three hundred yards to the north of the small village of the same name, but no part of the walls remain. It can be determined however from their foundations that the building was thirty nine feet in length and [8] seventeen feet in breadth. The graveyard is now entirely deserted.

About forty paces to the southwest of it there is a large spring formerly sacred to St. Nicholas but latterly considered a common spring, good only for curing thirst!

In the Townland of Passage East are the ruins of a castle which is said to have been built by the family of Aylward who inhabited it until it was taken from them by General Bolton in the time of Cromwell.

In the ruin is a stone exhibiting the armorial bearings of the family of Aylward.

### **THE PARISH OF CROOKE . [9]**

**SITUATION.** Croke Parish is situated in the east extremity of the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Kill St. Nicholas; on the east by Waterford Harbor; on the south by Kilmacombe and Rossduff and on the west by the Parish of Kilcop.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is in Irish Cruac but its meaning is not obvious as it is certainly not a modification of the word Cruach, a round hill. It may however be from Cruadh, hard. "By Hook or by Crook" is a common saying here, and the people think that they are two English names. Hook is on the other side of the harbor in the Co. of Wexford.

The old Church of Croke is situated on level ground in the Townland of the same name about a quarter of a mile to the west of the Bay. It was divided into nave and choir, the nave measuring thirty five feet in length and seventeen feet six inches in breadth and the choir thirty two feet by seventeen feet six inches. The west and middle gables are nearly destroyed and there are breaches on the side walls. There are three windows on the east gable all [10] destroyed on the outside but in tolerable preservation on the inside where they are pointed and constructed of thin flag stones. The middle one nine feet six inches in height and four feet two inches in width; the other two are seven feet eight inches in height and four feet in width. There is a breach on the south wall at the distance of eight feet five inches from the east gable where there was apparently a window. At the distance of seven feet six inches from the foundation of the middle gable the south wall contains a pointed doorway constructed of thin flagstones and measuring four feet seven inches in height and three feet eight and a half inches in width. At the distance of twelve feet from the west gable the same wall contained another doorway, which is now destroyed excepting four feet of the east jamb.

The walls of this building are two feet eight inches in thickness, eight feet in height and constructed of small grit stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a large and much frequented graveyard attached to it.

At the distance of about thirty five yards to the southeast of this Church is St. John's Well, a clear and beautiful spring arched over head and having a doorway of cut lime stone on the south side. Before the year of the Rebellion a great Pattern was [11] held at this well in honour of St. John annually on the 24th of June, but has been entirely discontinued these thirty years.

About eighty paces to the south of the old Church just described is the old Castle of Croke. Its south and west sides are standing to the height of about twenty six feet, but its north and east sides are destroyed down to the very foundations. It measures on the outside forty three feet four inches from east to west and thirty one in the other



direction. The second floor rested on a stone arch of which a part still remains. The doorway was on the east end and a staircase led to the top in the thickness of the east and south walls. All the windows remaining are quadrangular. The south wall contains five windows of which two are constructed of cut lime stone, one of cut grit and the [12] other two of hammered grit. The west side contains two windows. one constructed of out lime stone and the other of hammered grit. The quoin stones are grit; they are remarkably large and obviously chiselled. The walls are seven feet six inches in thickness and built of large blocks of grit stone laid in regular courses and grouted. The cement is very hard and mixed with broken shells.

This Castle belonged to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and was founded in the 13th Century by Le Poet or Power, the Baron of Curraghmore. It was a very strong and important building.

For the historical references to this place see Extracts p.149.  
June 4th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF BALLYGUNNER . [13]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballynakill and the River Suir, on the east by Cill St. Nicholas, on the south by Kilmacombe and Kilmacleague and on the west by the Parish of Kilcaragh.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is not of eoclesiastical origin but derived from that of the Townland in which the Parish Church was built, which Townland is called in the original language Baile Mheg gConair. meaning Mac Conary's Townland.

The present ruin of the old Church of Ballygunner is of no antiquity, as is obvious from the style of the masonry. It has a doorway with timber lintels on each side wall, and an arch of brick on the west gable. The walls are plastered on the inside and rough cast on the outside. This building was in use till very lately. It is only thirty three feet in length, and sixteen feet four inches in width and its walls ten feet in height and one foot nine inches thick. It stands in a large graveyard which evidently belonged to a far more ancient Church than the present.

In the Townland of Ballymacleod in this Parish stand the ruins of a square Castle of the same name. It measures on the inside twenty feet from north to south and fifteen feet eight inches in the other direction; its walls are built of green and grit stone grouted and are six feet in thickness and at present about forty feet in height. It had three floors of which the highest rested on a stone arch which still remains; the others were of timber, and have long since disappeared. The doorway is constructed of cut lime stone and placed on the west side near the northwest corner. It is five feet seven inches in height and three feet in width. From this doorway a flight of stone steps [14] extends through the west side wall, and the next flight turns through the south wall. This castle has four narrow quadrangular windows constructed of cut stone of a reddish colour on the east side, three on the south side and two on the north side. There is a dwelling house built up against its west side on which side no window is now observable, the house hiding them from view.

There is another ancient castle in the central part of the Townland of Ballygunner. which has been modernised by John Whelan, Esq. (Seáán O'Faéilín) the present occupier.

June 4th 1841.

#### **THE PARISHES OF KILCOP AND ROSSDUFF. [15]**

These very small Parishes, situated between Crooke and Kilmacombe, contain no antiquities of any description, even the sites of the ancient Churches, if ever they had such having been obliterated. It appears certain from the name Cill Copa signifying Church of St. Copa (the daughter of Baodan whose festival was celebrated on the 18th of January) (it appears from the name) that there was a Church in the Townland of Kilcop, but the name Rossduff, signifying black wood or shrubbery is not of ecclesiastical origin and the place seems to have never contained any Church. It consists of only one Townland and it looks very strange that it should ever have constituted a Parish.

J. O'Donovan.

June 4th 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF KILMACOMBE. [16]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Kill St. Nicholas, Crook, Kilcop and Rossduff; on the west by Kilmacleague and Ballygunner, and on the east by Kill St. Nicholas (detached) and Waterford Harbor, and on the south by the Parish of Killea.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is pronounced in Irish by the natives Cill Mochoma. which they understand to mean the Kill or Church of St. Mochoma but as there is no Saint of that name mentioned in the Irish Calendar I take it to be a corruption of Cill Mochonna. The memory of the original Patron Saint is however now entirely forgotten, as the Church was on the arrival of the English dedicated to St. John the Baptist, who is now regarded as the Patron Saint of the Church of St. Mochoma .

The only remains of the olden time in this Parish are those of the old Parish Church lying to the left of the old road leading from Dunmore to Waterford about two miles from the latter. It is an exceedingly rude and uninteresting remain and speaks but little for the civilization of the Desies at the period of its erection. It measures on the inside forty six feet in length and sixteen feet in breadth and its walls, which are built of small stones in a rude and inelegant style, are two feet ten inches in thickness. The [17] north wall is nearly destroyed but a considerable part of the south one is standing, but tottering, and will not resist the shock of elements for many years. The two gables are in tolerable preservation; the west one had a quadrangular window near the top, but it is now nearly destroyed, and the East one had a window of cut stone which is now reduced to a shapeless breach.

This Church is not the original one built by St. Mochoma, but a re-erection on its site about four Centuries old. Its graveyard is deserted.

In the east extremity of the Townland of Kilmacombe and to the west of this Church, there is a holy well dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, at which Patterns were annually held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August.

John O'Donovan.

June 4th 1841.

Ryland mentions a circle of stones on Kilmacombe Hill about two miles from Dunmore but I was not told of it when in the neighbourhood. I trust however that if this circle remains it will be shewn on the Ordnance Map.

### **THE PARISH OF KILLEA. [18]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish forms the south east portion of the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilmacleague, Kilmacombe and Kill St. Nicholas (detached), on the south by Waterford Harbor, and on the west by the Parishes of Rathmoylan and Corbally.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish Cill Aédha, which signifies the Church of Aidus, but it cannot now be determined which of the several Saints of this name the original Patron of this Parish was, as the Church was, after the arrival of the English, dedicated to the Holy Cross, in honor of which "Patterns" (Pautroons) were formerly held at the Church.

The present ruin of the old Parish Church of Killea is not that of the one built by St. Aidus, but a re-erection of the 14th or 15th Century on its site. It seems to have consisted of nave and choir, with a square tower on the north east side of the latter. The nave is forty one feet in length and sixteen feet seven inches in breadth but the dimensions of the choir cannot now be easily determined as its walls are nearly all destroyed.

Of the square tower above mentioned the north side and [19] fragments of the east and west sides remain to a height of more than thirty feet. Its north side is fifteen feet long on the outside and the west one eleven feet but it was originally longer. This tower had three floors, the first of which rested on a pointed stone arch of which a considerable portion still remains, but the others were of wood and have consequently long since disappeared. The walls of this tower are three feet two inches in thickness. This ruin is neither ancient nor interesting for its style.

In the Village of Dunmore in this Parish stands a butt of a very strong round tower which looks very ancient and which is probably an ancient light house. I could not determine its diameter, but I should judge it to be of the same or nearly the same dimension with the tower of Hook which stands opposite it on the other side of the harbor in the Co. of Wexford. The part remaining is about twenty five feet in height. Some suppose that it was built by the Danes of Waterford to watch the harbor, but it is clearly not so old, as its windows are pointed.

J. O'Donovan.

June 4th 1841.

To this Parish belongs the remarkable point of land called [20] by the ancients Ceann Criadain and now Ceann Cniadain in Irish and Credan Head in English. It is mentioned by O'Flaherty as forming the eastern extremity of the Country of the Desies.

### **THE PARISH OF RATHMOYLAN.**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the southern extremity of the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north and west by the Parishes of Corbally and Killea; on the south by the sea, and on the east and northeast by the Parish of Killea. There is another portion of it detached.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in the original language Ráth Mhaoláin, signifying the Fort of Maelan, a man's name formerly very common in Ireland and now used as a surname under the anglicised form of Moylan. The name is not of ecclesiastical origin but was originally that of an earthen fort near which the old Church was placed.

The old Church of Rathmoylan is situated on level ground in a valley about half a mile from the sea-shore. Its walls which are obviously modern are in a good state of preservation. It is an oblong building (not divided into nave and choir) measuring in the clear forty nine feet six inches in length and twenty feet six inches in breadth. The east window measures six feet ten [21] inches in width and about twelve feet in height; it contains no cut stone. The south wall contains two windows, one placed at the distance of thirteen feet from the east gable and the other at the same distance from the west one; they are both eight feet in height and three feet seven inches in width. The doorway is on the north wall at the distance of twelve feet from the west gable. It forms a rude pointed arch constructed of flag stones, and is eight feet three inches in height and four feet nine inches in width. The north wall contains a window of the same size with those in the south wall and placed at the distance of thirteen feet from the east gable, exactly opposite the more eastern window in the south wall. The walls of this Church, are two feet in thickness and about fourteen feet in height, and constructed of, grit stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a small graveyard attached to it, not much in use at present .

Examined by A. Curry.

J. O' Donovan.

June 4<sup>th</sup> 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF KILMACLEAGUE. [22]**

**SITUATION.** Situated in the west extremity of the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Monamintra, Kilcaragh and Ballygunner; on the east by Kilmacombe; on the south by Corbally end Killea and on the west by the Backstrand of Tramore and Parish of Drumcannon.

NAME. This Parish derives its name from St. Mac Liag, the original Patron Saint but it cannot now be determined which of the four Saints of this name he was, as his Festival Day is forgotten.

The old Church of Kilmacleague is situated in Glebe Townland on a fertile point of land extending into the Back Strand of Tramore. It consisted of nave and choir but the walls are in bad preservation. The nave measures thirty two feet in length and twenty feet in breadth and the choir twenty one feet by sixteen and a half feet. The west gable of the nave is destroyed down to the very foundation but twenty seven feet of the south wall connected with the choir remain and twenty five feet of the north wall connected with the foundation of the west gable. The south wall of the choir is nearly perfect and contains a window placed [23] at the distance of three feet from the east end and measuring on the inside three feet eight inches in height and three feet six inches in width; it forms a flat arch rudely constructed of thin flags on the inside, but is entirely disfigured on the outside. The east gable and north wall of the choir are entirely destroyed. The part of the north wall of the nave remaining contained the Doorway, but it is now disfigured. It appears from a part of its west side still remaining that it was rudely constructed of hammered stones.

The walls of this Church are three feet thick and about ten feet high and built of round blocks of grit stone laid in regular courses and cemented with good sand and lime mortar. The stones seem rounded and worn from the effects of the weather which speaks considerable antiquity. The graveyard is deserted.

J. O' Donovan

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1841

#### **CORBALLY PARISH. [24]**

This Parish, which is situated in the southwest extremity of the Barony of Gaulteer, is called by the inhabitants in Irish Corra-Bhaile, which they understand to mean Oddtown or Rugged Town. It contains no remains of antiquity except a few earthen forts which are not remarkable either for their construction or extent. Even the site of the old Parish Church, if ever there was one, cannot now be pointed out.

J. O' Donovan

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF KILCARAGH. [25]**

SITUATION. This small Parish is situated in the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballynakill; on the east by that of Ballygunner, on the south by Kilmacleague and Monamintra, and on the west by the Parish of Killure.

NAME. This Parish is now called Cill Catharach by the natives, but it is certainly a corruption of Cill Carthach which signifies the Cell or Church of St. Carthach who was the founder and Patron Saint of Lismore.

There are no remains of antiquity in this Parish, but the site old Parish Church situated On the top of a rocky hill in the Glebe of the Parish. Nothing now remains but parts of the foundations, so indistinct that the dimensions of the building could not be determined from them. There is no grave yard attached to it.

About half a mile to the southeast of the site of the Church of Kilcaragh there is hill covered with furze called Cnoc an Áir, meaning Hill of Slaughter, which is said to be the site of a battle but tradition does not now remember the period at which, or the people between whom, this battle was fought.

### **THE PARISH OF MONAMINTRA.**

This very small Parish, if Parish it can be called, lying, between those of Drumcannon and Kilmacleague and Killure and Kilcarragh, is called in the Irish Language by the natives Móin na mBaintreabhach i.e., Bog of the Widows. It contains no remains of antiquity of any description and there is no appearance or tradition that it ever had a Parish Church.

### **THE PARISH OF KILLURE.**

**SITUATION.** This small Parish is situated in the Barony of Gautleer and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballynakill; on the east by the Parish of Kilcaragh; on the south by that of Monamintra and on the west by those of Kill St. Lawrence and Drumcannon.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Cill Iubhair signifying Church of the Yew which is the name of several old Churches throughout Ireland.

Killure was a preceptory of Knight Templars in the 12th century afterwards granted to the Knights Hospitallers. The old Church stands on the slope of a gently rising ground. The west gable and side walls are in tolerable preservation but the east gable is destroyed down to the very foundation. This building was fifty feet in length and twenty two feet in breadth and its side walls three feet four inches in thickness and about [27] fourteen feet in height and built of stones of considerable size cemented with good lime and sand mortar. The south wall contains three windows, each about five feet in height and placed six feet from the present level of the ground. They are now so veiled in ivy that their form or the material of which they are constructed could not be seen. The doorway was on the same wall at the distance of twelve feet from the west gable but it is now entirely disfigured. The west gable contains a, high narrow window about ten feet in height and over it is a belfry for two bells, consisting of two pointed arches constructed of cut sand stone of brownish colour. The north wall seems to have contained a doorway and two windows but they are all now disfigured. There is no graveyard attached to this Church nor does it appear that there ever was one.

About forty paces to the south of this Church is to be seen the south gable of another building whose length extended north and south. This was certainly

the dwelling house of the Hospitallers and it is to be regretted that its extent could not be now determined.

Antiquities examined by A. Curry.

June 5th 1841.

J. O'Donovan

### **THE PARISH OF KILL ST. LAWRENCE. [28]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is in the Barony of Gaulteer and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballynakill; on the east and south by that of Killure and on the west by those of Kilbarry and Drumcannon.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish signifies the Church of St. Lawrence, to whom the Church was dedicated.

The old Parish Church of Kill St. Lawrence was thirty one feet four inches in length and fifteen feet four inches in breadth but it is nearly destroyed, all that remains of it being the east gable, ten feet of the length of the north wall and eight feet of the height of the west gable. The east gable contains a rectangular-topped window constructed on the outside of chiselled sand stone and on the inside of hammered green stone. It measures on the inside six feet eight inches in height and four feet seven inches in width and forms a flat or obtuse arch at top constructed of thin flag stones. On the outside it is three feet half an inch in height and nine and a half inches in width. The part which remains of the west gable contains the doorway which forms a flat arch of hammered stone on the inside and a semicircular arch constructed of chiselled brown sand stone on the outside. The ground on both sides of this doorway is raised to a considerable height so that its original height could not be easily determined. As it stands at present it measures on the inside four feet in height and four feet six inches in width; and on the outside three feet nine inches in height and three feet three inches in width.

The walls of this building are three feet in thickness but [29] the height of the side walls cannot be ascertained. There is a large and much frequented graveyard attached to this Church. Patterns were held there on St. Lawrence's Day until about ten years ago, when they were abolished by the Priest.

### **THE PARISH OF DRUMCANNON.**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is bounded on the west and northwest by the Parishes of Islandkane, Kilbride and Kilburn; on the north by Kilbarry; on the east by Monamintra and Kilmacleague and on the south by Tramore Bay.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the hill on which the old Parish Church stands. It is called in Irish Drom Conáin, i.e., Dorsum Conani, the Hill or Ridge of Conan, a man's name formerly common in Ireland. It is supposed that the Conan from whom this hill took its name was the same chieftain who gave name to Dun-Conain or Duncannon on the east side

of the Bay of Waterford in the present County of Wexford, but there is no certainty in this Supposition, nor is there any historical account of the primordiae of either place.

The old Parish Church of Drumcannon stands on a conspicuous hill from which it took its name, about three and a half miles to the south of the City of Waterford. It is a rude building not more than a hundred and fifty years old, divided into two parts of which the more western measures thirty three feet six inches [30] in length and eighteen feet eight inches in breadth; and the eastern forty three feet eight inches by eighteen feet eight inches. The west gable, which looks older than the rest of the building, contains a small quadrangular window and is surmounted with a small belfry consisting of two pointed arches of rude construction. The other windows are large and very modern and it appears from the plastering on the inside that the building is not long out of use.

There is a graveyard of considerable extent attached to this Church but contains no inscription or monument worthy of attention.

In the southeast part of the Townland of Castletown in this Parish is shown a small fragment of the wall of a castle from which the Townland has taken its name but no tradition exists as to who was its original founder or last occupier.

In the southwest end of the Townland of West-town in this Parish are remains of an old entrenchment said to have been used in the last Wars of Ireland.

J. O'Donovan.

At Kilmacthomas.  
June 5th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF KILLOTERAN. [31]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the County of the City of Waterford and is bounded on the north and northwest by the River Suir; on the east by the Parish of Trinity Without; on the south by those of Kilbarry and Kilburn and on the west by the Parish of Lisnakill and the River Suir.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish Cill Fhuathráin which is a corruption of Cill Fhuradhráin, the Church of St. Furaran. There were five Saints of this name, of whom one was a Bishop but it cannot be now ascertained which of them left his name on this Parrish, as the Festival Day of the original Patron Saint is forgotten. It appears from the Down Survey that the Parish Church was under the invocation of St. Peter in the 17th century so that the memory of the original Patron Saint must have been for a long time forgotten. The present R.C. Bishop of Waterford is of the same name with this Saint, but it is anglicised to Foran.

This is a Parish of considerable extent and still it contains no remains of antiquity of any description. The site of the old Parish Church first built by St. Furaran and afterwards dedicated to St. Peter is now occupied by the modern Protestant Church.

J. O'Donovan.

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1841.



## THE PARISH OF KILBURN. [32]

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Middlethird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Killoteran; on the south by those of Kilbarry and Drumcannon; on the east by those of Drumcannon and Kilbride and on the west by those of Kilbride, Kilronan and Lisnakil.

NAME. The original name of this Parish is unknown to the natives but in its place they have substituted that of Teampull a Chnuicin from the situation of the ancient Church in the Townland of Knockeen. In the Down Survey it is called Kilburran, and in an Inquisition taken in the reign of James I it is styled Kilburrin, alias Church Burren. Burren signifies Rocky Ground but the name may be a corruption of Cill Brain as the man's name Bran is generally anglicised Byrne by Metathesis.

The old Church of Kilburrin or, as it is now generally called Knockeen, was forty four feet six inches in length and seventeen feet six inches in breadth and had a square tower at its west end measuring ten feet six inches by seventeen feet six inches but it is now destroyed nearly to the foundations. The south wall of the Church is also destroyed and the east gable is destroyed down to [33] the height of the north wall. The north wall contained a window placed at the distance of eight feet from the east gable but it is now disfigured. This wall is nine feet in height and three feet in thickness and built of small and large field stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a graveyard attached but it is not much frequented nor does it contain any ancient inscription or monument worthy of attention.

In the southeast corner of the graveyard, about twenty five paces from the Church, there is a large cromlech in perfect preservation. It is supported by six standing stones which do not appear to have been ever disturbed from their original position. The three uprights at the east end support a smaller flag and all support a huge flag extending east and west and measuring twelve feet six inches from east to west and seven feet eight inches from north to south. At the middle of its south side it is three feet in thickness and two feet on the north side; two feet three inches at the east end and one foot ten inches at the west and its thickness increases towards the centre. Of the six supporters two are placed at the south side; two at the north; one at the east and one at the west side. Over the east supporter and the two side ones joining it is placed a flag to make a level with the two side ones at the west end so that the horizontal flag or table is nearly as [34] level as a sundial. The supporter at the east end is five feet four inches in height; six feet in width and two feet in thickness. The next to it on the south side is six feet in height, five feet in width and one foot six inches in thickness; the next on the same side nine feet six inches in height; five feet in width and two feet in thickness. The upright at the west end is six feet four inches high; two feet ten inches wide and one foot nine inches thick; its head does not reach the horizontal flag, so that it does not at present support it. The next upright on the north side is nine feet high; seven feet two inches wide and one foot nine inches thick. The upright at the northeast corner is six feet six inches high; five feet eight inches wide and one foot two inches thick. The smaller flag above referred to measures six

feet nine inches from north to south; five feet five inches in the other direction and one foot nine inches in thickness. The length of the bed or grave on the outside is thirteen feet and on the inside six feet six inches by four feet three inches, and its height from the level of the floor to its roof on the inside is exactly nine feet.

This is one of the most remarkable monuments of pagan antiquity in this County, if not in all Ireland.

Measurements by A. Curry.

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1841.

J. O'Donovan.

### **THE PARISH OF KILRONAN. [35]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Middlethird and is bounded on the north and east by the Parish of Kilburrin; on the south by that of Kilbride and on the west by the Parish of Lisnakill.

**NAME.** Is called by the natives in the Irish language, which they speak very well, Cill Ronáin i.e., the Church of St. Ronan but it cannot be ascertained which of the many Saints of this name was the original Patron of the Parish.

The original Parish Church of Kilronan was situated in the Townland of Glebe, about a quarter of a mile to the south of Bukerstown Chapel but nothing remains of it except a small Fragment of the northeast corner. The foundations are not now Traceable and there is no appearance of graves near it.

John O' Donovan

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1841.

### **KILBRIDE PARISH. [36]**

**SITUATION.** Situated in the Barony of Middlethird and bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilronan and Kilburrin, on the east and south by that of Drumcannon and on the west by the Parishes of Islandkane, Riesk and Lisnakill.

**NAME.** Kilbride is the name of countless Churches throughout Ireland and has been often explained before as signifying Church of St. Bridget.

The old Church of Kilbride consisted of nave and choir but all its walls are now destroyed down to the foundations with the exception of the middle gable. It can be ascertained however from its foundations that the nave was thirty feet in length and eighteen feet in breadth and the choir fourteen feet by thirteen feet. The choir arch is eight feet in height; six feet seven inches in width and the wall three feet five inches in thickness. The walls were built of small and large grit stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. Its graveyard is now tilled.

About three hundred yards to the south of this Church are to be seen fragments of the walls of an old dwelling house but [37] they are of no interest to the antiquarian.

In the Townland of Cullen Castle are the ruins of a castle which gave name to the Townland. They are situated on a high isolated rock within a short distance of the Village of Tramore and half a mile to the west of Kilbride old Church. It was a square castle of great strength measuring twenty feet ten inches by fifteen feet nine inches on the inside; the walls six feet thick and built of grit stone well grouted. There is no tradition of its former proprietors.

### **THE PARISH OF ISLANDKANE .**

This Parish is situated in the Barony of Middlethird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Riesk; on the east by those of Kilbride and Drumcannon; on the south by the sea and on the west by the Parish of Dunhill.

NAME. The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from a small island belonging to the Parish and strange to say, this island contains no ruin of a Church. In the Irish language this Parish is called Oileán Ui Chéin, meaning O'Kane's Island. The family is mentioned by O'Heerin as located at the Mahon River.

The old Church of this parish is situated on high ground, about half a mile from the sea and in a Townland which is called Islandkeane, though not an island. It is fifty three [38] feet long and eighteen broad and its walls, which are in good preservation, are three feet three inches thick, nine feet high and constructed of small and large stones not laid in regular courses cemented with lime and sand mortar. The east window is entirely disfigured. At the distance of seven feet from the east gable each of the side walls contained a window now entirely disfigured, and at the distance of seventeen feet six inches from the west gable there was a doorway on each of the side walls but both are nearly disfigured. The one on the south wall measures on the inside five feet eight inches in height and four feet eight inches in width but it is entirely destroyed on the outside. The one on the north side is disfigured on both sides. No cut stone was used in any part of this Church.

There is a small graveyard attached to this Church not much used at present.

Examined by A. Curry.

J. O' Donovan

June 5th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF RIESK. [39]**

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Middlethird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Lisnackill; on the east by that of Kilbride; on the south by Islandkeane and on the west by that of Dunhill.

NAME. This Parish has derived its name from that of the Townland in which the old Church stands, which is a riasg or marshy ground.

The old Church of this Parish was divided into nave and choir but the nave is nearly destroyed so that its dimensions cannot be determined. There remains of this Church but the middle and east gable and three feet of the height of the north wall of

the choir. The choir is twenty nine feet six inches in length and nineteen feet in breadth. The east window forms a semicircular arch constructed of thin flagstones on the inside and measures nine feet in height and five feet three inches in width; on the outside it was divided into two parts by a stone mullion but the southern portion only now remains. It is [40] placed at the height of six feet from the present level of the ground and measures four feet three inches in height and ten and a half inches in width and it appears that the northern portion (now destroyed) was exactly the same width. It was constructed of cut granite.

The choir arch is pointed and constructed of hammered stones; it is five feet six inches in width but its height could not be easily ascertained as the ground is raised as high as the springing of the arch. The walls are three feet in thickness and cemented with good lime and sand mortar. It is several centuries old. There is a large and much frequented graveyard attached to this Church and Patterns are held at it on the second festival of the B.V. Mary occurring in Autumn.

In the Townland of Mathewstown is a large pagan grave now called Leaba Thomáis Mhác Cabha, i.e., Thomas Mac Cabe's Bed, It extends east and west and is formed of ten standing stones supporting three flag stones placed in a horizontal position, and measures twelve feet six inches in length and five feet six inches in breadth. The most eastern of the horizontal flags is four feet seven inches wide, six feet long and one foot six inches thick. The middle one is nine feet in length, four feet six inches in width and one foot in thickness; and the western one: is eight feet long, three feet six inches [41] wide and two feet thick. It is only two feet six inches in height, It is said that a row of standing stones originally surrounded it but these are now all removed except nine which stand in a group at the west end of the grave.

### **LISNAKILL PARISH.**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Middlethird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Portnascully in the Co. of Kilkenny; on the east by those of Killoteran, Kilronan and Kilbride, on the south by that of Riesk and on the west by those of Kilmaiden and Dunhill.

**NAME.** Is in the original form Lios na Cille, meaning Fort of the Church.

The old Church of this Parish is situated on level ground in the Townland of Glebe but it is nearly destroyed, the south wall and a fragment of the north wall twelve feet in length and seven feet in height only remaining; forty five feet of the south wall remains but its original length cannot be determined as the foundation of the west gable is not visible. The breadth of the building was sixteen feet eight inches. The doorway was on the south side but it is now totally disfigured. The walls are three feet thick and built of small and large stones very irregularly laid and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a large graveyard attached to this Church, now much in use as a cemetery, but it contains no monument worthy of attention.

In the Townland of Gaulstown in this Parish, on the west [42] side of a rocky hill called Cnoc a Ghallaigh (i.e., Gaulshill) stands a very remarkable Cromlech in excellent preservation. It consists of six pillar stones supporting a large flag placed southeast and northwest. The large flag measures fourteen feet in length and nine feet

six inches in breadth at the east end and only two feet six inches at the west end, and in thickness two feet at the east end, one foot three inches at the west end and three feet in the middle on the north side and only four inches on the south side.

The upright stone which supports it on the east side is four feet eight inches high, three feet wide and eight inches thick; the one at the southeast side is seven feet four inches high, five feet seven inches wide and one foot nine inches thick; the next one is six feet five inches high, four feet six and a half inches wide and eight inches thick; the one at the west end is six feet eight inches high, four feet six inches wide and one foot three inches thick; the next to the north is six feet eight inches high five feet three inches wide and ten inches thick; and the next and last is eight feet two inches high, four feet eleven inches wide and two feet six inches thick. The length of this bed or grave on the inside is six feet four inches, the breadth five feet and the height at the northwest end six feet four inches and at the southeast end eight feet four inches. Its sides, on the outside, are ten feet four inches in length. The top flag rests only on the two side stones at the east and west end; it does not touch the rest. The east end of this Cromlech is higher than the west which is very rarely the case.

June 9th 1841.

This Townland belonged to the Gaul Bourkagh of Gaulstown in the Co. of Kilkenny from whom both places received the name of Gaulstown.

#### **THE PARISH OF DUNHILL. [43]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Middlethird and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilmaiden and Newcastle; on the east by the Parishes of Islandykeane, Riesk and Lisnakill; on the south by the sea and on the west by the Parish of Kilbarrymaiden.

**NAME.** This Parish is called by the natives Dun-Fhaill which they understand to mean the Fort on the Cliff, a name originally applied to a rock on which the ruins of a castle now stand.

The old Church of this Parish is situated on level ground in the Townland of Dunhill from which the Parish has taken its name. It is now in a state of great dilapidation but it can be ascertained from the fragments of it which remain that it was divided into nave and choir, the former measuring fifty six feet in length and twenty one feet in breadth and the latter twenty one feet in length and fourteen feet three inches in breadth. It had also a square tower at the west end. Nothing remains of the nave but the west gable which formed the east side of the tower and the choir is destroyed except its south wall and the northwest corner. The east window is disfigured on both sides, but it can be ascertained from what remains that it was three feet four inches in width on the inside. At the distance of four feet eight inches from the east gable there was a window on the south wall but it is now entirely disfigured. The west gable has on it a pointed doorway constructed of hammered stones (having the appearance of considerable antiquity) [44] and measuring five feet six inches in height and three feet seven inches in width on the outside and five feet by three feet on the inside. This doorway led into the square tower above mentioned; the doorway leading into the Church was doubtlessly on the south side wall. The walls of the tower

were two feet six inches thick and constructed of large blocks of green stone cemented with lime and sand mortar, and large masses of its walls are scattered about as if it had been demolished by cannon. There is a deep valley between this Church and the sea.

About three hundred paces to the southeast of Dunhill Church, stands on a high rock the ruin of the castle which occupies the site of the original Dun Fhail or Fort on the Cliff. It had a square mansion attached but this is nearly destroyed at present. The castle is of a square form measuring twenty one feet from east to west on the inside and seventeen feet six inches in the other direction. One stone arch remains over the second floor. The doorway was on the east side but it is now totally disfigured. A spiral staircase, now nearly destroyed, led to the top in the southeast corner. It had fourteen windows but they are all now disfigured except one which is on the north side; it is quadrangular and narrow and formed of cut stone. All the quoin stones are also cut. The walls of this building are seven feet thick and about sixty five feet high and well grouted.

This was a very important fortress situated on a lofty [45] rock which is inaccessible on the east side, being nearly perpendicular and about a hundred and sixty feet above the road which passes under it at that side. For a description of this castle as it stood in 1824, see Ryland's History and Antiquities of the Co. of Waterford, pp. 260, 261, 262, and for a tradition still preserved in connection with its last owner see the same work, pp. 78, 79.

June 9th 1841.

In the Townland of Killone in this Parish, is shown the site of an old Church which was dedicated to St. John, from which the Townland derived its name. In the Townland of Castlecraddock there is a holy well dedicated to St. Martin at which Patterns were formerly held. There is nothing else of any antiquarian interest in this Parish though the names of some Townlands would indicate that there were several old Churches.

### **NEWCASTLE PARISH. [46]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Baronies of Uppertthird and Middlethird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Guilcagh; on the east by those of Dunhill and Kilmaiden; on the south by the Parishes of Kilbarrymaiden and Dunhill and on the west by the Parish of Rosmire.

**NAME.** This Parish derives its name from the Tawnland in which the old Parish Church was built, which Townland received its name from a castle which stood on a large rock situated to the northwest of the old Church, but of which no part remains at present.

The old Church of this Parish is situated on level ground, surrounded by rocky hills, in the Townland of Glebe. The east and west gables only of this building now remain, the Bide walls being destroyed down to the very foundations. It was fifty six feet in length and sixteen feet six inches in breadth. The east window is rectangular at top on the inside where it measures six feet nine inches in height and three feet four

inches in width; on the outside it is pointed and constructed of grit stone chiselled; measures four feet three inches in height and eight and a half inches in width and is placed at the height of five feet eight inches from the present level of the ground. The west gable contains a window which is quadrangular on both sides and measures on the inside four feet in height and two [47] feet eight inches in width and on the outside two feet three and a half inches in height and five and a half inches in width. The walls of this Church are three feet in thickness and built of large slate stones cemented with lime and sand mortar.

There is a small graveyard much in use in which stands at the distance of eighteen feet from the southwest corner of the Church a large ash tree, now in full bloom, measuring eleven feet in circumference at the base.

June 9th 1841.

### **KILBARRYMAIDEN PARISH .**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Uppertthird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Rosmire; on the east by those of Dunhill and Newcastle; on the south by the sea and on the west by the Parishes of Rosmire and Monksland.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish by the natives Cill Bara Méidin, i.e. the Church of St. Barry and St. Medin but I cannot find a Saint of the latter name in the Irish Calendar.

The old Church called Kilbarrymaiden is situated on level ground in a Townland to which it has given name. It consisted of nave and choir, the former forty three feet nine [48] inches by twenty one feet six inches and the latter twenty one feet by thirteen feet six inches. The north wall of the nave is nearly all destroyed; the west gable is also destroyed except eight feet of its height and the south wall has two large breaches on it.

The walls of the choir are nearly perfect but the east window is totally disfigured. There was a window on the south wall of the choir at the distance of six feet eight inches from the east gable but it is now entirely destroyed, as is also the choir arch. The walls of this Church are three feet three inches in thickness and about eleven feet in height and built of large long slate coloured stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. This is undoubtedly an ancient Church but it is to be regretted that its features are all disfigured. There is a small graveyard attached to it not much in use as a cemetery.

June 9th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF MONKSLAND. [49]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Uppertthird and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Rosmire; on the east by Kilbarrymaiden; on the south by the same and Ballylaneen and on the west by the same Parish.

NAME. This Parish is called in Irish Fearann na Manach which signifies "Land of the Monks."

The old Church of this Parish is situated on level ground in a valley in the Townland of Ballynagigla. It was forty six feet six inches in length and seventeen feet eight inches in breadth but it is much injured, only the west gable, the north wall and nine feet of the south wall at the west end remaining. The north wall has on it a breach of sixteen feet down to within three feet of the ground. The west gable contains a rectangular doorway placed within one foot one inch of the south wall and measuring five feet seven inches in height and three feet six inches in width on the inside where it is traversed at top by three flags placed as lintels. On the outside it is entirely destroyed. At the height of one foot eight inches over this doorway there was a window formed of hammered stones now nearly destroyed and in the middle of the same gable, about eighteen feet from the ground, there is a quadrangular window of cut stone which looks to be of considerable antiquity; it is about two feet six inches high and eight inches wide on the outside but so veiled with ivy on the inside that its appearance on that side cannot be seen. This gable is surmounted with a belfry but it is entirely covered with ivy so that its form cannot be seen. The north wall is two feet six inches in thickness and about sixteen feet in height and built of brown sand stone and slate coloured stones irregularly laid and well cemented with good lime and sand mortar. This Church looks to be five or six centuries old. [50]

The graveyard is enclosed with a wall and of considerable extent, but not much in use at present. There are four lofty ash trees of considerable antiquity growing in it. The grave yard is about one hundred paces to the east of the Church and in a different Townland, the former being on the lands of Ballynagigla and the latter in Ballyristeen.

June 9th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF ROSMIRE.**

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Baronies of Upperthird and Desies without Drum, and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Guilco and Mothel; on the east by those of Kilbarrymaiden and Newcastle; on the south by Monksland and Ballylaneen and on the west by the Parishes of Fewes and Ballylaneen aforesaid.

NAME. This Parish is called in Irish Ros Maghair, the first part, Ros, signifying shrubbery or underwood but the latter part being uncertain.

The site of the old Parish Church is occupied by the modern Protestant one and there is nothing of any interest to the antiquarian about it. To this Parish belongs the Village of Kilmacthomas in which formerly stood a castle. [51]

Gough, quoting Wilson, p.340, says:- "Here is an ancient castle built by the Poers; taken by Sir Charles Vavasor in 1643." This castle is now totally destroyed and the bank on which it stood, about thirty yards to the northeast of the bridge on the east side of the river, is nearly cut away for the purpose of obtaining gravel for the roads.



The village is called in Irish Coill Mhic Thomáisín, which signifies the "Wood of the son of Little Thomas." It is situated on the old road leading from Waterford to Dungarvan and is built on a steep and ugly hill at the foot of which flows the River Machan, now (9th June) a very inconsiderable mountain stream but it is said that it is subject to great floods in the winter season. In the year 1649 Cromwell, having raised the Siege of Waterford and passing through this village on his way to Dungarvan, the River Machan, as if to impede his progress, rose to such a height that a whole day was spent in conveying the foot soldiers across the swollen flood. There is now a good stone bridge over it whose arch is of sufficient height to allow the most boisterous floods to which the river is now subject to pass through without injury.

At Kilmacthomas.  
June 9th 1841.

J. O'Donovan.

#### THE PARISH OF KILMAIDEN. [52]

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Baronies of Upperthird and Middlethird, and is bounded on the north by the River Suir and the Parish of Clonagam; on the east by Lisnakill; on the south by Dunhill and Newcastle and on the west by the Parish of Guilcagh.

**NAME.** This Parish is called by the natives in Irish Cill Mhiadáin which they understand to mean Church of St. Miadan but I cannot find a Saint of this name in the Irish Calendar.

The site of the old Church of Kilmaiden is occupied by a modern Protestant Church and there is no remain of antiquity in connection with it.

There was a second old Church in the Townland of Kilburney (bunna) but there remains of it at present but a fragment of one of the side walls and the foundations are so effaced that the dimensions of the building could not be ascertained.

In the east extremity of the Townland of Kilmaiden, on the banks of the Suir, are the ruins of an old mansion called the old Court, to which there was a castle attached. This castle was destroyed by Cromwell. Ryland p.77.

In the southeast corner of the Townland of Adamstown there is a field called Bán an Chaisleáin, the Castle Field, in which it is said a castle formerly stood, but there is not a vestige of it now visible.

There was an old graveyard in the Townland of Kilmoyemoge [53] in Irish Cill Modhiomóg, the Church of St. Dimog or Dima but it is now just effaced. The Townland has derived its name from it and it would be well therefore to mark its site on the Ordnance Map. There is a holy well in the same Townland called Tobar na n-Aingeal, i.e., the Well of the Angels.

## THE PARISH OF BALLYLANEEN.

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated partly in the Barony of Upperthird and partly in that of Desies Without Drum, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Fewes; on the east by those of Rosmire and Monksland; on the south by the sea and on the west by the Parishes of Stradbally and Kilrossenty.

**NAME.** This Parish is called by the natives in Irish Baile Uí Laithnín or Uí Fhlaitnén, which signifies the Townland of O'Lahneen. and in the Down Survey it is spelled Ballylanheene, which comes very near the original Irish name.

The old Parish Church of Ballylaneen was situated on level ground in the Townland from which its name was derived but no part of the building is now traceable except a very small part of the foundation of the west end. The graveyard is enclosed and contains several head stones but no monument or remain of antiquity except a holy water font. "Patterns" are held [54] here on St. Anne's Day, the 26th of July, but the Priest will abolish them.

In the Field Name Book of Ballylaneen. No.1 pp.12 and 16, it is stated that "at the south side of the Townland of Carrigcastle are the remains of Carrickcastle; there are only a small portion of the walls standing, about twenty five feet high and in a decayed state." But Mr. Anthony Curry, who examined the antiquities of this Parish, "writes in the name:- "I find that the Surveyors mention an old castle standing in this Townland about twenty five feet high; I am now on the Townland together with two old men who have lived here since they were born and they state that they never saw a stone of a castle on the Townland. But there is a small green rocky hill in the Townland on which it is said the castle formerly stood from which the Townland derived its name, but no vestige of a castle was to be seen there in the memory of anyone now living."

The Surveyors had better look to this again.

In the south side of the Townland of Ballinarrid is a small headland called in Irish Oilean Uí Bhric's, i.e., O'Bric's Island. This is mentioned by Dr. Keating in his description or the extent of the Country of the Southern Desies, which extended, he says "from the River Suir to Uí Bhric, i.e., O'Bric's Island and from Lismore to Ceann Criadáin" (now Credenhead).

This headland is now called in English Dane's Island but [55] always Oilean Uí Bhric in Irish, which is the true name and should be adopted on the Ordnance Map. There is a large rock in the sea about forty yards from the shore called Teampull Uí Bhric, on which the foundations of an ancient building are still indistinctly visible, said to have been the residence of O'Bric, Chief of the Southern Desies. It would however appear from the name that there was a Church on this rock but it is more probable that the Church was on the Townland of Templeyvrick and that the rock derived its name from the Townland.

In this Parish is situated the neat Village of Bunmahon which derives its name from its situation at the bun or mouth of the River Machan which is mentioned by O'Heerin as flowing through the Territory of O' Cein.

J. O'Donovan.

June 10th 1841.  
At Kilmacthomas,  
For Bhrú Machan.

### **THE PARISH OF STRADBALLY. [56]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated partly in the Barony of Desies Without Drum, and partly in that of Uppertird, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Kilrossenty; on the east by that of Ballylaneen; on the south by the sea and on the west by the Parishes of Clonea and Kilrossenty.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is in the original language Sráid Bhaile which signifies Street-town, which is the name of several villages in Ireland. The Irish had the Walled Town (Cathair) the Castle Town and the Street-town, the last meaning Hamlet or Unfortified Village.

The site of the ancient Church of this Parish is occupied by the modern Protestant one and no remain of antiquity is visible at it. Near it are the ruins of an Abbey of Augustinian Friars not mentioned by Archdal. It consists of nave and choir with a lateral house attached to the north side at the junction of the nave and choir. Its walls are in good preservation except the middle gable which is nearly destroyed. The nave is fifty eight feet in length and twenty five feet eight inches in breadth (on the inside) and the choir thirty seven feet five inches by twenty feet six inches.

The east window is roundheaded and measures on the inside where it is constructed of thin stones, seven feet three inches in height and four feet five and a half inches in width. On [51] the outside it is constructed of cut stone placed five feet from the present level of the ground and measures three feet three and a half inches in height and in width ten inches at top and ten and a half inches at the bottom. At the distance of two feet nine inches from the east gable the south wall of the choir contains a window measuring six feet seven inches in height and three feet five and a half inches in width on the inside where it forms a semicircular arch at top; on the outside it is pointed and formed of cut stone and measures three feet four inches in height and eight inches in width; the lower part of it is three feet from the present level of the ground. At the distance of sixteen feet from this window there is another of the same shape and dimensions.

The north wall of the choir contains another window which does not look as old as the others; it is placed at the distance of one foot one inch from the east gable and measures six feet four inches in height on the inside and three feet eight inches in width, and on the outside four feet eight inches in height and seven and a half inches in width; it is rectangular at top on the inside and round on the outside. There is a breach of nine feet on the north wall at the distance of two feet from this window where there was probably another window. The choir arch was thirteen feet ten inches in width but its height cannot be easily determined as only four feet eight inches of its sides now remain. No cut stone was used in its construction.

At the distance of two feet six inches from the middle gable the south wall contained a window which is now entirely destroyed on the outside, but on the inside it is in good preservation and measures six feet seven inches in height and four feet one inch in width; it is rectangular at top. A door-way is placed on this wall at the distance of twenty one feet [58] from the west gable. It is disfigured on the outside but in good preservation on the inside where it forms a flat arch at top constructed of thin hammered flat stones and measures seven feet in height and four feet seven inches in width. The west gable has a window in its middle and a belfry at top cut they are both almost veiled in ivy.

There is another doorway on the north wall nearly opposite the one already described, but not exactly opposite as it is only nineteen feet seven inches from the west gable. It is pointed on the outside and forms a flat arch on the inside and formed of thin flags in a rude style. It measures on the inside seven feet two inches in height and five feet six and a half inches in width and on the outside five feet eight inches by three feet ten and a half inches. At the distance of five feet from the middle gable there is a window on the north wall of the nave measuring on the inside five feet six inches in height and four feet ten inches in width but it is totally disfigured on the outside.

The lateral building above mentioned was obviously the tower of the Abbey; it was fourteen feet eight inches by thirteen feet. Its west and north sides and three feet of its east side remain to the height of about twenty four feet.

The walls of the nave of this Abbey are three feet six inches in thickness and about twelve feet in height and built of grit and slate stones cemented with lime and sand [59] mortar. The side walls of the choir are two feet ten inches thick and about ten feet high and built of the same kind of stones. The nave, however, looks much older than the choir.

There is a large graveyard attached, now much used as a cemetery.

In this Parish is situated the celebrated rock called Cloch Labhrais, which means, as it is supposed "the Speaking Stone." Ryland describes it as "an enormous rock or mountain mass which seems to have rolled down from the adjoining hill, and is now firmly fixed in the centre of a stream near the road" (the old road) "from Waterford to Dungarvan. The stone is split in a remarkable manner, the fissure dividing the mass into two nearly equal parts. There is a tradition that some person as he passed this rock, expressed a wish that it might speak and divide into two parts if the declaration which he was making were not true; the story goes that the stone did split and also speak and the appellant was consequently convicted of falsehood. The rock is a very coarse pudding stone and might have been induced to convict the perjurer by the influence of frost upon water which can easily percolate the mass; whether [60] the sound emitted on the occasion was an articulate one it is not so easy to determine." p.304.

Mr. Ryland describes this stone very well, but he does not preserve the legend connected with it in anything like a correct form. This rock is situated on the west side of the Deehan River, the waters of which were on one side of it. There is a split five feet in width extending north and south nearly in the middle, and dividing the rock

into two nearly equal parts. The east division of this rock is thirty three feet in length from north to south and nineteen feet six inches from east to west, i.e., from the east side to the split and is eighteen feet in height on the east side, eleven feet at the south side, twelve feet at the split and seventeen feet on the north side. The other division is twenty seven feet from north to south along the split and fourteen feet across, and of the same depth at the split with the other division. It is fifteen feet high at the south side, eleven feet at the west and thirteen feet at the north side. At the north end of the split there is a huge spalla about four tuns weight which broke off the west part and which nearly closes the split at the north end. The legend in connection with this stone runs as follows:-

"Cloch Labhrais, during the times of Paganism in Ireland, [61] was not only gifted with the power of forming articulate sounds like a human being, but was acquainted with the truth or false-hood of every point disputed throughout the whole country, and whenever it was consulted on any disputed point it would invariably tell the truth. This was at a period when men were honest and free from equivocation. At length a certain man who had some suspicions of the fidelity of his wife defied her to appear before Cloch Labhrais to attest her innocence, and the wife went along with him before the tribunal, The wife contrived to have her gallant placed on the mountain within sight of the place where they stood before the stone, and kneeling before the tribunal of truth and justice she declared that she had no more to do with the man suspected by her husband than she had with the man who was standing on the summit of the opposite mountain! Is this statement true, Cloch Labhrais, asked the husband, It is the truth replied (responded) the stone but truth itself is often bitter, *bídheann an fhírinne féin searbh*; and this being the first instance of equivocation it had ever witnessed among mankind, it was so horrified at the wickedness of it that it split asunder!"

This legend, which if it had been a Roman one would have received the impress of Ovid's master mind, is known not only throughout the County of Waterford but also in Kilkenny and Cork. It is very difficult to determine how it first started into existence; but it is probable that the name of the stone suggested it originally. My opinion is that Cloch Labhrais does not mean Speaking Stone but that it is the original geo-pudding well stuffed with large bits of fat meat, and the people believed that it was built up of different other stones and that it is not natural!

Could they have had an oracle concealed in this stone in times of Paganism?

At the distance of twenty one paces to the northwest of this rock there is another of the same kind measuring ninety seven feet in circumference and ten feet in height.

In the Townland of Foxcastle on the southwest side of a high rock are to be seen fragments of the ruins of a strong [63] castle but so shattered that the dimensions of the building could not be determined. It occupied a very commanding position strongly fortified by nature.

There was also another castle on the Townland of Carrickahilla, but the ruins are at present so indistinct that the dimensions of the building could not be ascertained.

In the southwest corner of Ballyvooney Townland is shown the site of a building supposed to have been an Abbey but I do not believe that it ever was one. Smith in his History of the County of Waterford. p.95, describes it as "remains of a large building one hundred and fifty feet in length and ninety in breadth" and says that it was thought to have been an house belonging to the Knights Hospitallers.

June 10th 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF GUILCO. [64]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Uppertird, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Clonagam; on the east by Kilmaiden; on the south by Rosmire and Newcastle and on the west by the Parish of Mothel.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the Townland in which the Church was built. The original form of this name is Giolcach, and this word, which in Connaught and Ulster is used to denote reed, is here al used to denote broom, spartium Scoparium, which the Townland is said to have produced spontaneously in great abundance in ancient times. There are some who are of opinion that broom is not an indigenous Irish plant, but I think they are wrong as it is found growing wild in glens and on the sides of mountains where it never was planted.

There are no antiquities in this Parish but a few earthen forts of a circular form, nearly all defaced. There seems to have been an old Church in the Townland of Kilmovee as its name signifies Church of St. Movee but no trace of it or its Church ysrd is now visible nor can its site be pointed out.

J. O'Donovan.

June 10th 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF CLONAGAM. [65]**

**SITUATION.** Situated in the Barony of Uppertird and bounded on the north by the Parish of Fenough and the east by the River Suir which separates it from the County of Kilkenny; on the south by the Parishes of Kilmaiden and Guilco and on the west by the Parish of Mothel.

**NAME.** It is a rural name and not of ecclesiastical origin, written in the original Irish form Cluajn na gCam which means the Clon, Meadow or Bog Island of the Bends or Windings, an appellation truly descriptive of the locality.

The site of the old Church is occupied by a modern Protestant one in use situated within the Demesne of Curraghmore.

The Le Poer Steeple, situated on the summit of Clonagam Hill, is not an antiquity but a round tower built in the year 1785 by George Beresford, Earl of Tyrone, in memory of his son who was killed near the place.

The site of the Castle of Le Poer, Baron of Curraghmore, is occupied by Curraghmore House, the Seat of the Marquis of Waterford, so that there are no antiquities of any description in this Parish, which is nearly all enclosed in the Demesne of Curraghmore.

June 10th 1841.

### **FENOUGH PARISH. [66]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Uppertird, and is bounded on the north by the River Suir; on the south and southeast by Clonagam and on the west by the Parishes of Kilmoleran and Mothel.

The name of this Parish is pronounced by the natives in Irish Fionnúdhach but they do not understand its meaning. It is probably a corruption of Fiodhnach, Woody.

The old Church of this Parish called by the natives Teampull Fhionnúdhach, is situated in the north of the Townland of Curraghmagarraha in a circular graveyard, but only a very small portion of its walls remain at present.

In the north of the Townland of Rah in this Parish there is a large Cromlech consisting of a large flat stone supported by three uprights. There was a fourth supporter but it is now broken.

Near the west side of the Towaland of Ballyquin there are two similar monuments but much injured.

It is curious that these monuments, which are invariably called Leaba Dhiarmada, agus Graine in Connaught and North Munster, are here called either Giants' Beds or Giants' Graves which comes much nearer the truth.

In the north of the Townland of Ballyquin there is a remarkable pillar stone about twelve feet in height called "the Ballyquin High Stone." It was probably placed there to mark a boundary.

June 10th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF MOTHEL. [67]**

**SITUATION.** This large Parish is situated in the Barony of Uppertird, and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilmoleran and Dysart; on the east by those of Guilco, Clonagam, Fenough and Kilmoleran; on the south by those of Fewes and Rosmire and on the west by the Parish of Rathgormack.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish Maothail, pronounced Maehil, which is also the name of a town in the County of Leitrim anglicised Mohill. Nothing has yet been discovered to prove the meaning of the word.

The ruins of the Abbey at Maothail, said to have been originally founded in the 6th century by St. Brogan, covered a great extent of ground but it is all destroyed at present except the south wall and a part, of the middle gable of the Abbey Church. In the south wall there is a beautiful semi-circular arch about twelve feet in height, leading into a small square chamber eighteen feet by thirteen feet. Part of this arch has been built up with modern mason work leaving a narrow entrance, and several sculptured stones exhibiting figures of the Apostles, etc. some years since dug up out of the ground, have been inserted in this modern work and more of a similar character have been inserted in the south gable of the small chamber. In the small chamber there is a tomb stone laid in a horizontal position exhibiting the following inscription in large Roman capitals:-

"Hic jacet Gwalterus Power Generosus oriund, ex antiqua familia. Johannis Gulielmi et uxor ejus Caterina Phelan qui suis sumptibus constuxerunt hunc (hoc) monumentum. 16 Junii 1628. Quorum animabus propitiatur Deus."

From the site of the east gable to the middle gable is [68] ninety feet and the part of the south wall remaining is about twenty feet in height.

On the north side of this wall, and near the round arch above mentioned. there is an ancient tomb stone narrowing to the foot, around the edges of which there is an inscription in black letters but so effaced that I could not read it with any satisfaction. It begins. Hic jacet Mauritius O'Minain \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\* and I could recognise the date MCCCCXXX near the end. To the north of this is the burial place of the Powers of Gorteen, enclosed by an iron railing. Within the enclosure is a very ancient tombstone ornamented with a Cross and exhibiting an inscription in the black Gothic letter. I could observe the name Richardus Power and the Date MCCCCLXXX upon it, but the entire of the inscription could not be read as many of the letters are injured.

In the east side of the Townland of Ballynevin in this Parish is a holy well, a large and beautiful spring dedicated to St. Cuan, who is said to have been the second Abbot of Mohill. Near it are traces of the ruins of a small Oratory called St. Cuan's Church, and an aged ash tree, the trunk of which is hollow and the upper branches decayed though in the middle it is still blooming.

In the Townland of Clonea, Cluain Fhiadh, in this Parish [69] a little more than a mile from Mothel is a very fine castle said to have been erected by the family of Wall. The keep is quadrangular and more than sixty feet in height and outside it is a strong wall with circular towers at the angles and beyond it were a moat and ditch but the outer works are now much injured.

Near the centre of the Townland of Feddans in this Parish are the ruins of another square castle said to have belonged to an order of Priests or Friars; about twenty feet of its height remains. Near it is a moat in good preservation.

It would appear from the names of several localities in this Parish that it contained several ancient Churches, as Kilmurray in the east of the Townland of Joanstown; also Kilcanavy and Killerguile , but even their graveyards are now effaced.



June 10th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF RATHGORMACK. [70]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Country called Uachtar Tire or the Barony of Upperthird, and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Dysart and Kilsheelan; on the east by that of Mothel; on the south by Kilrossenty and on the west by that of Sheskinane.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is a corruption of Rath Chormaic, which signifies the Fort of Cormac, a man's name. The name does not appear to be of ecclesiastical origin. The old Church of Rathgormack is situated on level ground in the Townland of Carrowlea. The entire length of the building was eighty three feet but its walls are destroyed with the exception of the west gable, twenty four feet of the north side wall connected with the west gable and about seven feet of the height of the south half of the east gable. The rest destroyed to the foundations. There seems to have been a tower about the middle of this building, as a large fragment of what seems one is now to be seen prostrate on the ground. The breadth of this Church at the west end was twenty feet but its breadth at the east end could not be ascertained as the side walls have totally disappeared. On the west gable is a doorway which is pointed on both sides; on the inside it is seven feet two inches in height and four feet in width and formed of hammered stones; on the outside it is constructed of cut stone (red grit) and measures five feet four inches [71] in height and three feet five inches in width. At the height of three feet four inches over this doorway there is placed a window which is rectangular at top on the inside and pointed on the outside and formed of chiselled sand stone of a brownish colour. It is six feet in height and four feet four inches in width on the inside and four feet by one foot on the outside. On either side of the lower part of this window is a projecting stone exhibiting a human head rudely sculptured and appearing very old. This gable is surmounted with a belfry consisting of two semi-circular arches of cut stone and the lower stone of the division between them exhibits a rude representation of the human face.

There was another doorway on the north wall at the distance of sixteen feet from the west gable but it is now much injured; it is pointed on the outside and formed of cut stone and measures five feet three inches in height and two feet eight inches in width; it is entirely disfigured on the inside. At the distance of three feet to the east of this there is a window measuring on the inside, where it is rectangular at top, five feet four inches by four feet one inch but it is disfigured on the outside. This north wall is four feet six inches in thickness and about eighteen feet in height including about four feet of a parapet and constructed of hammered slate and pudding stone cemented with lime and sand mortar. The graveyard is still much in use.

“Patterns” are still held here on the 29th of September annually in honor of the Patron of the Church St. Michael the Archangel.\*

\* (This is wrong. It is held on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14th September).

About one hundred yards to the north of this Church there [72] is a square castle but evidently of no antiquity. It measures on the inside twenty three feet by twenty one and its walls are four feet nine inches in thickness but not grouted. It is about forty five feet in height and consists of three stories but its characteristic features are not worth minute description as it is not two centuries old. It is said that this castle was last inhabited by a man of the name Davis, a Protestant. When he died he was interred in the Churchyard adjoining the castle where no Protestant had ever been interred before him; but he did not feel himself at rest there among his dead Popish neighbours, and his spirit continued to annoy the neighbourhood for twelve months, at the expiration of which period he expressed a wish to some of his old neighbours who were still living that his body should be removed to another more neighbourly Churchyard and it was accordingly removed, so that his spirit has been at rest ever since. In the north wall of this castle there are two faces cut in stone, said to represent those of Davis and his wife.

About fifty paces to the east of this castle is the butt of another much older castle, about twelve feet high. It measures twenty nine feet eight inches by twenty four feet and its walls are six feet thick; the first arch still remains. The more modern castle first described is said to have been erected by one of the Powers, whose widow was afterwards married to the Davis above referred to.

Antiquities examined by A. Curry.

June 11th 1841.

J. O'Donovan.

### **OF THE PARISH OF KILROSSENTY. [73]**

**SITUATION.** This Ph. is situated in By. of Desie's Without Drum, and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Mothel and Sheskinane; on the east by those of Fewes and Stradbally; on the south by that of Clonea and on the west by the Ph. of Kilgobnet.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish Cill Rosanta, which seems to be compounded of Cill, a Church, and Rosanta, the name of the locality or Townland on which it was built, signifying Shrubby or Woody.

The old Church of this Parish is situated on level ground within about one furlong of the foot of the Cummeragh Mountain. It was divided into nave and choir, the former measuring fifty six feet in length and twenty three feet three inches in breadth and the latter thirty one feet by nineteen feet four inches. The east gable and thirty feet of the length of the north wall at the west end have been destroyed but the rest of the walls are standing but injured. All the features of the choir are destroyed except the choir arch which is sharply pointed and constructed from the springing points of hammered stones but its sides are of cut stone. The height of the sides of this [74] arch from the present level of the ground to the springing points is three feet six inches and from that to the vertex is six feet six inches so that the entire height of the arch is ten feet. Its breadth is seven feet four and a half inches. To the north of this arch there is a quadrangular aperture placed within eight inches of the ground on the choir side and measuring two feet eight inches in height and in width one foot seven and a half inches at top and one foot nine and a half inches at bottom; but on the nave

side it is one foot eight inches from the ground and measures one foot eleven inches in height and in width five inches at top and five and a half inches at the bottom; on this side it is formed of cut pudding stone. At the distance of three feet from this middle gable, the south wall had on it a quadrangular window measuring on the inside four feet in height and three feet in width but it is entirely disfigured on the outside. The doorway was on the south wall but it is destroyed. The west gable is featureless but is covered with rags inserted into the crevices by people who perform the Stations in and around this Church. There are no less than thirty persons engaged at their rounds and devotions there at this moment. The walls of this Church are two feet ten inches in thickness and about eleven feet in height and built of slate and pudding stone cemented with lime and sand mortar. It is several centuries old. Its graveyard is extensive and much in use.

About fifty paces to the east of this Church there are two holy wells, one dedicated to St. Bridget and the other to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are seventeen paces asunder and it is curious that St. Bridget's, which lies to the north, is considered too be more efficacious than the other! They are both as clear as chrystal and a streamlet flows out of each.

In the Townland of Barnakile, on level ground near the [75] foot of the Cummeragh Mountain, are the remains of an old mansion of considerable antiquity called by the natives "the Castle." It was an oblong building and its west side and half the north and south ends remain to the height of about forty feet and thirty three feet of the east side also remain to the height of twelve feet. Its lie is northwest and south east and it measures sixty three feet nine inches in length and twenty two feet six inches in breadth. It consisted of two stories. The west side wall has six windows, three on each story; the three lower windows are narrow and quadrangular and formed of cut stone, but the upper ones are now entirely disfigured. The part of the east wall remaining contains two quadrangular windows formed of cut stone. The walls of this building are well grouted and six feet in thickness to the height of about eleven feet where it lessens one foot six inches. Tradition says that this house was erected by O'Brien of the Cummeraghs. It looks older than many of the square castles.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry.

June-11th 1841.

J. O'Donovan

In the Townland of Castlequarter there is a small fragment of a castle from which the Townland received its name.

### **THE PARISH OF FEWS. [76]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Without Drum, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Mothel; on the east by that of Rossmire; on the south by those of Ballylaneen and Kilrossenty and on the west by the said Parishes of Mothel and Kilrossenty.

**NAME.** This Parish is called by the natives in Irish Paráiste an Mhídh but there can be but little doubt that this is a local corruption of Paráiste na bhFíodht the Parish of the Woods. Every place in Ireland called Fews in the anglicised form is in Irish Fíodha or Feádha, i.e., Woods, as the Fews in the County of Armagh and the Fews of

Athlone, which was the original name of O'Naghtant's Country, lying westwards of the Shannon in the present County of Roscommon.

There are no remains of antiquity in this Parish but the site of the old Church which is pointed out at the Village of Fewes, immediately to the west of the Chapel, a stream running between them. The graveyard has been effaced and even the foundations of the old Church cannot be traced.

In the Townland of Coum-Mahon in this Parish the River Machan or Mahon has its source. The word Com, which is the name of many localities in the Comeragh Mountains, signifies [77] a nook or hollow in the mountain; the word is used in every part of Ireland to denote the waist of a man or woman and hence when used topographically it means a nook, hollow, glen or dell near the base of the mountain.

The Black Mountain lying to the west of the Village of Jews is called the Mountain of Móin a' Mhullaigh, a name signifying "Bog of the Top Or Summit"; the natives say that it is not a part of the Comeragh Mountains but there can be no doubt that it was originally included under that denomination.

John O' Donovan.

Kilmacthomas,  
June 12th 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF CLONEA. [78]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Without Drum, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Kilrossenty; on the east by Kilrossenty and Stradbally; on the south by the sea and on the west by the Parishes, of Kilgobnet and Dungarvan.

**NAME.** This Parish is called by the natives in Irish Cluain Eich, meaning the Clon or Meadow of the Horse, pronounced as if written Cloon-Eye.

The old Church of this Parish is situated on a rising ground to the north of a large tract of low marshy land. It consisted of nave and choir but it is now nearly destroyed. The nave was forty three feet three inches in length and twenty three feet four inches in breadth but the dimensions of the choir cannot be ascertained as its east gable and side walls have disappeared. The north wall of the nave was also destroyed but a modern wall four feet in height now occupies its place. The choir arch is pointed and formed of cut sand stone of a brownish colour and is ten feet in height and seven feet in width. At the distance of one foot from the middle gable the south wall contains a roundheaded window formed of cut stone, measuring on the inside five feet six inches in height and three feet five inches in width and on the outside where it is eight feet from the level of the ground, one foot [79] ten inches in height and nine inches in width. This window is a very beautiful one and looks ancient. The doorway was on the south wall at the distance of nine feet eight inches from the west gable but it is now destroyed except a small part of its sides on the inside, from which it appears to have been formed in a very elegant style of cut stone, like the window above described; it was four feet five and a half inches in width on the inside.

The west gable is featureless. All the quoin stones are chiselled. The south wall is three feet six inches in thickness and twelve feet in height and built of large and small stones cemented with lime and sand mortar.

This Church is at least six centuries old. It has a small graveyard attached, not much used at present as a cemetery.

Clonea Castle, the residence of Mr. Maguire, the proprietor, is not an ancient building, but it stands near the site of an old military castle said to have belonged to a branch of the Fitzgeralds.

There is nothing else of antiquarian interest in this Ph.

At Dungarven, Antiquities examined by A. Curry.  
June 15th 1841.

John O'Donovan.

### **THE PARISH OF KILGOBNET. [80]**

**SITUATION.** This large mountainous Parish is bounded on the north by those of Seskinane and Kilrossenty; on the east by Kilrossenty and Clonea; on the south by those of Dungarvan and Kilrush and on the west by those of Seslcinan and Colligan. It is in the Barony of Desies Without Drum.

**NAME.** "This Parish" says Ryland, "derives its name as well as its consequence (if it possesses any) from a Saint called Gobnata, who, in the 6th century, was Abbess of a Nunnery in the Co. of Cork; the Patron Day is the 11th of February" Hist. Waterford, p.304.

The old Church of Kilgobnet stands in the north side of a grave yard on the side of a hill about two Irish miles to the north west of Dungarvan. It is now a mere ruin, but it can be ascertained from what remains of it that it consisted of nave and choir, the former being seventeen feet nine inches in length and sixteen feet in breadth and the latter thirty eight feet in length, but its breadth cannot be ascertained as the west gable and north walls have totally disappeared. The south wall of the nave is perfect and measures on the outside forty four feet. The side walls of the nave are also destroyed to the foundations, but its east and middle (west) gables remain in tolerable preservation.

At the distance of fifteen feet four inches from the west **[81]** corner, the south wall of the nave had on it an ornamented doorway constructed of cut stone, but it is now destroyed except a part of its west side. It appears to have consisted of concentric arches like the doorway in the old Church of Kilcash at the foot of Slievenamon in the Co. of Tipperary, but it is so much disfigured at present, that its exact characteristics cannot be determined. At the distance of eight feet from the south east corner of this wall, there is a small quadrangular window formed of cut stone and measuring on the outside two feet eight inches in height and eight inches in width; it widened towards the inside, but its sides are at present disfigured on that side.

The choir arch was pointed and is six feet eight inches in height from the present level of the ground, which is considerably raised, but its north side is destroyed so that its breadth cannot be easily determined.

The east gable is built of square blocks of hammered stone and contains a small window, quadrangular on the inside and pointed on the outside, where it is two feet seven inches in height and five and a half inches in width; it is formed of cut stone.

The walls of this Church are two feet eleven inches in thickness and built of hammered stones cemented with lime [82] and sand mortar. The building is about five centuries.

There is a well near it which was anciently called Tobergobnet but now Tober-Aphoona, the Pound Well, at which Stations were performed on the Festival Day of St. Gobnet, the 11th of February. I think the original name should be given on the Ordnance Map.

There is a small R.C. Chapel close to it near the door of which is the following inscription on a lime stone tablet inserted in the wall:-

"Orate pro animabus R. Jacobi Mc Can, P.P. et omnium fidelium, qui suo sumptu hanc ecclesiam Deo dedicatam sub patrocinio S. Gobinetæ fieri fecerunt 1825." J. Atkins fecit.

On the summit of Coumaraglin Mountain in this Parish there is a mound of earth called by the natives *Súidhe Fínn*, Seefin, i.e. the Seat or Sitting Place of Fin Mac Cool; from it the mountain is often called Mullaghseefin; and there is a similar one on the summit of the Mountain of Cruachan Deseach in the [83] same Parish. This latter mountain is called Cruachan Deiseach as being situated in the Barony of Desies, and to be distinguished from the Cruachan lying near Kilmacthomas, which is called Cruachan Poerach as being in the Country of the Powers.

There are sites of graveyards in the Townlands of Killadangan and Kilbrien from which these Townlands took their names but no ruins of Churches are visible in them at present.

At the west side of the Townland of Carrowncashlaun or Castlequarter is a small portion of a castle from which the Townland received its name. There is nothing else of antiquarian interest in the mountainous Parish of Kilgobnet.

At Dungarvan,  
June 15th 1841.

John O'Donovan.

#### **THE PARISH OF COLLIGAN. [84]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is in the Barony of Desies Without Drum, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Seskinane; on the east by Kilgobnet; on the south by those of Whitechurch and Dungarvan and on the west by the Parish of Modelligo.

NAME. Is pronounced Culleagán by the natives but its meaning is uncertain unless it be a diminutive of Coill, a Wood, in the same way as Doireagán is of Doire. There is a wood at the place.

There are no remains of antiquity at present in this Parish but the site and a few fragments of the walls of the old Parish Church, situated near the modern (new) R. C. Chapel on the west side of the River Colligan. The only part of this building at all in anything like preservation is the middle gable, which contains a pointed arch of rude construction.

The channell of the river is deep and rocky and presents a wild and romantic appearance.

In the Townland of Greenaun in the south east extremity [85] of this Parish, there is a remarkable hill called by the name of the Townland. It is said that there was a stone fort on the summit of this but no trace of it is now observable, which the antiquary has to lament, as it would go to corroborate the meaning of the word Grianán, which, according to some modern visionary antiquaries, signifies "Temple of the Sun."

John O'Donovan.

Dungarvan,  
June 15th 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF DUNGARVAN. [86]**

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Without Drum in several detached portions; the principal portion of it is bounded on the east by the Parish of Clonea; on the north by Kilgobnet; on the South by Ringagouna and on the west by the Parishes of Kilrush and Whitechurch.

NAME. It is generally supposed that the name of this Parish owes its origin to St. Garvan, who is supposed to have founded an Abbey here in the 7th century, but this is by no means certain and has been assumed from a conjecture thrown out by Colgan in the Life of St. Garvan at 26 Mart. (Acta SS. p.750). It is no where stated that the Monastery of St. Garvan was called. Dun-Garvan and it is not yet proved that Achadh Garvan, the name set down in the Calendars as that of his Monastery: is the same with Dungarvan. On this subject the learned Dr. Lanigan has written the following remarks in his Ecclesiastical History of Ireland: -

"Colgan threw out a conjecture that Achad Garbhan was perhaps [87] the place now called Dungarvan. Following this conjecture Harris (Monast.) considers them as one and the same place, and Archdall lays it down as a fact that Garbhan, a Disciple of Barr, founded an Abbey at Dungarvan, although he could not discover any vestige of it. The conjecture itself is very weak; Achad and Dun have quite different meanings; the one signifies a field and the other a fort, and the Town of Dungarvan in all probability owes its name, not to a Monk but to a chieftain."  
Vol. II, p.315.

At the Abbey side, on the east side of the water and opposite the town are the ruins of a Castle and Abbey. According to Lodge and Archdall the Abbey was an Augustinian Friary and owed its erection to Thomas, Lord Offaley, who was Justiciary of Ireland in the year 1296; and Dr. Smith states that the family of Magrath endowed this house with a castle and some contiguous lands and that the O'Briens of the Cummeraghs, who held the rectorial tithes of the Parish, were great benefactors to it. (Smith page 89). [88]

This building was much ruined even in the last century when Archdall wrote his Monasticon; he describes it as follows-

"This Monastery was situated on the other side of the water and opposite to the town. The remaining walls of the Church and steeple show it to have been a neat light Gothic building. The steeple is about sixty feet high, supported by a curious vault sustained by Ogives passing diagonally from one angle to another and forming a Cross with four other arches, which make the sides of the square of the building. The Cells occupied a considerable space of ground and on the north side of the Church near the Altar is the tomb of Donald Magrath who was interred here in the year 1400."

Of this Monastery only the tower and choir now remain; the space occupied by the Cells is now occupied by a modern R.C. Chapel. The choir is forty five feet in length on the inside and twenty feet in breadth. The east window is nearly disfigured; it was formed of cut sand stone of a brownish colour and was ten feet in width and about twenty six feet in height. The south wall contained three pointed windows [89] formed of cut stone but they are now so disfigured that their dimensions and exact characteristics could not be determined.

In the north wall near the northeast corner is the tomb of Donnel Magrath, around the horizontal flag of which, now level with the ground, may be traced in very large Gothic letters :- "Hic jacet Donaldus Magrath" and the date 1400 but it would take a long time to decypher the entire inscription with certainty. The tower is about sixty feet in height and consists of four stories; it is supported by a curious vault sustained by Ogives of chiselled lime stone passing diagonally from one angle to another and forming a Cross with four other arches, which make the sides of the square of the building. This vault or archway is twenty two feet by nine feet six inches and thirteen feet in height from the present level of the floor. The west arch communicates with the modern Chapel which, contrary to the usage of all antiquity, is placed north and south. The nave of this building has entirely disappeared. The walls of the choir are three feet in thickness and about eighteen feet in height and built of hammered lime stone in rather a coarse style. There is a very large grave [90] yard much used as a cemetery at present.

About one hundred and fifty paces to the north of this Abbey stands the Castle which is mentioned above as granted by Magrath to the Abbey. It is a lofty square building measuring on the outside thirty eight feet from east to west and thirty one feet six inches from north to south and its walls are well grouted and eight feet in thickness; it is six stories high and had two stone arches supporting two of its floors. The quoin stones are chiselled sand stones and all its windows are narrow and quadrangular and formed of chiselled sand stone. Its east side is destroyed to the



ground, but the other sides are in good preservation and not less than ninety feet in height.

Opposite the Protestant Church of Dungarvan is the west gable of some large building, now called the Old Church by the natives, but I am of opinion that this is a part of the Leper-house mentioned by Archdall. The part of this gable remaining contains five circular windows, each ten inches in diameter on the outside and constructed of cut stone; it is twenty nine feet long and three feet thick and about thirty feet high and constructed of hammered stones well grouted. [91]

The large Castle of Dungarvan is said to have been built originally by King John, but it presents all the appearance of having been often remodelled and repaired since. This fortification, which was repaired in 1463 by Thomas, Earl of Desmond, is situated within the entrance of the Harbour of Dungarvan and consisted of a Castle placed in the interior of an oblong fort, which was regularly fortified and mounted with cannon and was protected by circular towers at the angles. The external defence is approached by a narrow passage between two battle-mented walls, at the extremity of which is the entrance or keep, a narrow towerlike building flanked on each side by circular Castles. The gateway, which is very narrow, opens into a small quadrangular space from which there are recesses opening into the massy walls. The interior building or Castle was elevated some feet above the external fortifications and was in itself capable of resisting an attack even after the loss of the outworks. See Ryland's Hist. Of Waterford, pp. 306 307.

In the Townland of Cloncoskeran in this Parish about two miles north east of the Town of Dungarvan stands on low marshy [92] ground the ruin of the Castle of Cloncoskeran. Only twenty four feet of the length of the north side, ten feet of the west side connected with it, and ten feet of the south side remain up to the height of about forty five feet. The walls are grouted, four feet in thickness and built of hammered stones in rather a rude style of masonry. Its doorway and all its windows are entirely disfigured.

It is said that this castle was built by a gentleman called Builtearach Dubh, who had more sense than all the men in the Desies put together.

### **THE PARISH OF RINGOGONA. [93]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Within Drum (being on the south side of Drum Fineen) and is bounded on the east and south by the sea and Dungarvan Bay; on the west along the ridge of Drum Fineen by the Parish of Ardmore and part of Ballymacart, and on the north by the Parish of Dungarvan. The south eastern point of this Parish forms a headland called Helvick Head.

**NAME.** Is in Trish Rínn O'gCuana, which signifies the Point or Headland of the O' Cooneys, the name of a family. Some call it Rinn O' gCuanach, meaning Headland of the HyCoonagh (a tribe name).

The old Church of Ringogona is situated on the Townland of Glebe in a glen about half a furlong from the sea. It consisted of nave and choir but all its walls are now destroyed except the middle gable and thirty feet of the south wall of the nave.

Neither its length nor breadth could be now determined. The choir arch is pointed and in tolerable [94] preservation; it is formed of cut brown sand stone and measures eleven feet in height and six feet four inches in width. The south wall contains a window at the distance of three feet from the middle gable; it is quadrangular on the inside and roundheaded on the outside and formed of cut sand stone of a brownish colour; it measures on the inside four feet four inches in height and three feet nine inches in width; and on the outside two feet five inches in height and in width seven inches at top and eight inches at the bottom. The doorway was on this wall, twenty two feet eight inches west of the window, but it is now nearly destroyed, a small portion of its east side only remaining. This wall is three feet in thickness and ten feet in height and firmly built of large slate-coloured stones cemented with lime and sand mortar .

Its graveyard is small but much in use as a cemetery.

About fifty paces to the north of this Church is St. Nicholas's Well, situated on the brink of a small stream; it was enclosed with a wall until the sixth of this month [95] when the wall was swept away by a mountain torrent.

A Patroon was annually held at this well on the 6th of December in honor of St. Nicholas until about ten years ago, when it was abolished by the Clergy.

J. O'Donovan.

Dungarvan,  
June 15th 1841.

The Irish word Rinn, which is pronounced Rin in Connaught [96] and Rhine in Clare, is invariably pronounced Reeng; the ng distinctly pronounced like ng in Icing, ring.

### **THE PARISH OF SESKINANE. [97]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Without Drum and is bounded by a part of the Co. of Tipperary and by the Parish of Kilronan in the Co. of Waterford; on the east by the Parishes of Kilsheelan, Rathgormack, Kilrossenty and Kilgobnet; on the south by those of Modelligo and Colligan and on the west by the Parish of Lickoran.

**NAME.** This Parish is called by the Roman Catholics "the Parish of Sliabh gCua" from a celebrated mountain of that name which constitutes the greater part of the Parish, but the ancient ecclesiastical name of it and which is still retained in the Protestant Nomenclatura is Sescnean's, from the original Patron Saint Sescnenus, who was the Sagart Meisi of St. Patrick.

Some of the natives are impressed with the idea that the present old Church in ruins, bearing the name of St. Sescnen, is the original erection by the Saint himself, but they could not impress me with the same notion, nor could I remove theirs by any arguments I could make use of, because tradition is the strongest evidence to them.

But that the true judges may form the correct opinion of its age I shall here transcribe my notes taken with great care on the spot. [98]

The old Church of St. Sescnen is situated in the Townland of Knockboy, eight Irish miles north west of the Town of Dungarvan and three miles south and by east of the Halfway House. It is an oblong House of considerable extent not divided into nave and choir and its walls are still in good preservation. It measures on the inside seventy three feet ten inches in length and twenty five feet in breadth and its walls are three feet in thickness and about nine feet in height and built of round stones evidently collected from (off) the surface of the fields (not quarried) cemented with lime and sand mortar.

The west gable is surmounted with a belfry consisting of two pointed arches formed of cut stone in rather a neat style and contains two narrow pointed windows placed one over the other, the lower at the height of six feet seven inches from the present level of the ground on the outside and measuring three feet seven inches in height and seven and a half inches in width and the other about two feet over it. At the distance of twenty five feet six inches from the west gable the south wall has on it a pointed doorway constructed on the external side of cut sandstone but the inside is covered with a lintel at the top and formed of hammered stones; it measures on the outside six feet three inches in height and three feet eight inches in width and on the inside seven feet by four feet five inches. There is a holy water font near it on the south or right side as you enter. It is said that there was a stone in this doorway which exhibited in Arabic figures, according to some the date 471, but according to others 1171, supposed to be the date of the erection of the building, but no part of the Church is as old as either date and we must come to the conclusion that if such a stone ever existed the date in Arabic figures [99] must have been cut on it, like that on the doorway of the old Church of Ba.nagher in the County of Londonderry by some modern stone-cutter who was an amateur antiquarian.

At the distance of eight feet nine inches from the east gable there is, on the south wall. a small window formed of cut stone but its top is destroyed so that its height could not be ascertained; it was, however, evidently of the same dimensions with a similar window placed directly opposite it in the north wall, which will presently be described. The east window is formed of cut stone and pointed on the outside but on the inside it is formed of hammered stones and forms a segment arch at the top; its outer part is five feet eight inches in height and eleven and three quarter inches in width, widening to eight feet three inches by six feet four inches on the inside. It is placed at the height of six feet nine inches from the present level of the ground on the outside.

At the distance of eight feet nine inches from the east gable there is on the north wall a narrow round-headed window formed of cut stone on the outside, where it is four feet one inch in height and six inches in width; on the inside it is covered at top with a lintel and formed of hammered stone and measures five feet six inches in height and four feet four inches in width. Directly opposite the doorway already described there is another on the north wall of the same form and nearly of the same dimensions. This Church stands in a large graveyard which is full of modern headstones. The present walls are not more than four centuries old but it is almost

certain that there was an older Church here, erected [100] by St. Sescnen himself; no part of it, however, has been preserved in the present structure.

There was another old Church in the Townland of Ballynaguilkee, called Gill Bnaile na h-Aille, i.e., the Church of Cliff town, but no part of its walls remain at present. Its site (whereabouts) is pointed out by a stone cross.

In the Townland of Kilcooney (Cill Chuana) there was an old Church from which the Townland received its name, but its grave yard only remains. There was another grave yard in the Townland of Kilkeany, but it has been removed.

In the Townland of Reanatampaun there are five large stones, three of which are standing and are supposed to be a monument to mark the spot where some person or persons were killed. These stones are called the Teampauns and the Townland received its appellation of Réidh na dTeampán from them.

In the south extremity of the Townland of Tooreen West, there is a Cromlech, but not so remarkable as to merit minute description, like those already described in other Parishes.

J. O'Donovan.

June 19th 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF MODELLIGO. [101]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Without Drum and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Seskenane and Lickoran; on the east by that of Colligan; on the south by the Parish or Whitechurch and on the west by that of Affane.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in the original language Magh Deilge, which sounds the Plain of Thorns in English; it is a rural name and is not of ecclesiastical origin.

The original Church of this Parish is situated on sloping ground on the west side of a valley in the Townland of Scart and is called Teampull Moighe Dheilge. It was not divided into nave and choir, but was an oblong structure measuring on the inside fifty feet in length and twenty two feet in breadth and its walls three feet in thickness and nine feet in height and built of large and small sand stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. The east window is round headed on the outside and forms a flat or segment arch on the inside; it is formed of cut sand stone except at the top inside, where it has thin hammered flags; it measures on the outside (where its bottom is six feet over the present level of the ground) four feet four inches in height and in width nine inches at the top and ten inches at the bottom and on the inside six [102] feet in height and five feet nine inches in width. At the distance of five feet seven inches from the east gable there is, on the south wall, a small window formed of the same materials with the one just described but pointed on the outside and rectangular on the inside. On the outside its lower part is one foot from the present level of the ground and it measures two feet nine inches in height and seven inches in width and widens to three feet two inches in height by two feet six inches on the inside. The doorway

was on this wall at the distance of eighteen feet from the west gable but it is now nearly destroyed; it forms a flat or segment arch on the inside and measures six feet in height and three feet eight inches in width but its external part which appears to have been formed of cut sandstone is entirely destroyed. The west gable is featureless. There is a very large and much frequented graveyard attached to this old Church and the Parish Chapel is about thirty paces to the north of it.

About half a furlong to the south of this Church is a holy well called Lady's Well, at which Stations are performed on the 15th August.

In the north side of the Townland of Castlequarter in this Parish are the ruins of a square castle said to have been built by Philip Magrath in the year 1628 and dismantled in 1691; it is situated on the east side of a valley through which the River Finisk flows; it is now roofed and in very good preservation and attached to the house of Patrick O'Keeffe, gentleman farmer. It is thirty three feet six inches from north to south and twenty four feet from east to west on the outside and its walls five feet six inches in thickness and probably grouted (but there is no breach on them from which this could be ascertained) and [103] about forty five feet in height .It consists of three stories. It has a pointed doorway on the north side formed of cut sand stone. Only one of the original windows is now visible; this is on the west side and is high and narrow and formed of the same stone with the doorway. All the quoin stones are also of sand stone and chiselled. Two of its lofts, believed to be the original ones, still remain but it is doubtful that they are the very lofts erected by Philip Magrath. Some of the joists, however, may be original.

In the Townland of Slady about a mile and a quarter east northeast of the mountain castle, there is another larger and much more respectable building called Caisleán na Slaedaíge, said to have been erected by the brother of the Philip Magrath who built the former. It is of the form of a Cross.

It was rather a strong mansion house than a Castle, measuring fifty nine feet six inches from east to west and twenty feet eleven inches in breadth and the two (lateral) wings eighteen feet by twelve feet three inches. It was four stories high (that is about fifty feet) and its walls are five feet six inches in thickness and built of large and small stones well grouted.

This was a great house in its day and speaks much for the importance and civilisation of the Magrath in the beginning of the 17th century. Twenty four of its windows still remain; they are all quadrangular and formed of chiselled lime stone and the larger ones are divided, some into four [104] and others in six rectangular compartments, by stone mullions. Nine of its chimneys remain and look very beautiful.

Ryland writes of this Castle as follows:-

"In the Parish of Modelligo adjoining the Parish of Colligan there are the ruins of many ancient buildings, the principal of which were the property of the Magraths, who had large estates in this part of the Country. The Castle of Sledy was built in 1628 by Philip Magrath." Hist. Waterford p. 314.

The history and pedigree of this family shall be given hereafter.

J. O' Donovan

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF LICKORAN. [105]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies, without Drumfineen, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Sliabh Cua or Seskenane; on the east, south and west by that of Modelligo and on the north west by the Co. of Tipperary.

**NAME.** Is now pronounced by the natives Lic Uarain but they think it means St. Deóran's Stone. It is my opinion however, that the name is derived either from St. Odranus or Furaran. but nothing can at present be gathered from tradition on the subject. The old Church which bears the name was situated in a glen in the Townland of Farnaun, but it is all destroyed except about two or three feet of the height of its walls, from which it can be gathered (determined) that it was an exceedingly rude and by no means ancient building, measuring fifty one feet in length and twenty feet nine inches in breadt, and that the walls were three feet thick and built of large mountain grit stones cemented with clay mortar. Its grave yard is tilled and now growing potatoes. It sometimes goes by the name of Teampull Uarain.

### **THE PARISH OF KILRONAN. [106]**

**SITUATION.** Is in the Barony of Gleann na h-Uidhre of which it forms the chief part, and is bounded on the north by the River Suir and the Parish of Abbey; on the east by St. Mary's; on the south by Seskenane and on the west by the River Suir and the Parish of Newcastle in the County of Tipperary.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish signifies Cell or Church of St. Ronan but it cannot now be determined which of the many Saints of that name the original Patron of this place was, as his memory is no longer celebrated at the place, his Church having been re-erected about the 15th century and dedicated to St. Lawrence, who is the present Patron of the Parish. The ruins of this Church are featureless and not worth description.

In the north northwest of the Townland of Kilmanahin in this Parish there is a castle of considerable extent lately repaired by the proprietor, Col. Green, and near it is the site of an old Church formerly dedicated to St. Mainchin ( the St. Munchin of Limerick) but no part of the walls remain at present. The Townland derived its name from this Church and its site should therefore be marked on the Ordnance Map.

In the north side of the Townland of Castlereagh in this [107] Parish is pointed out the site of a castle or fort erected, it is said, in the reign of Elizabeth and destroyed by Cromwell. No part of the walls remain at present.

In the west extremity of the Townland of Graignagower is pointed out the site of another Church called Bennett's Church; it is said to have been erected by a gentleman of the name Bennett as a Chapel of Ease for the more distant parts of the Parish.

In the Townland of Castlequarter in this Parish there is a square castle occupying the summit of a limestone rock on the north bank of the River Nier. It was a building of considerable extent four stories high but its south side and the greater part of its east side are now destroyed to the very foundations; the north side and the greater part of the west one are in good preservation. The north side is twenty six feet in length on the inside and seven feet six inches in thickness at the base and not less than fifty feet in height. This north side contains three narrow windows formed of cut lime stone, of which the highest is quadrangular, the middle one pointed with its head formed of chiselled sandstone and the lowest roundheaded and remarkably narrow, being four feet in height and only three inches in width. The highest floor rested on a stone arch, of which a considerable part still remains; the others were evidently of wood. No tradition exists as to who the original builder of this Castle was.

J. O'Donovan.

June 21st 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF INISHLUNAGHT. [108]**

For the situation and name of this Parish see my letter on Inishlunaght in Tipperary. The part of it which belongs to the Co. of Waterford is situated between the River Suir and the Parish of Kilonan.

The only antiquities in this Parish are the Castle and remains of the Moat of Greenaun. The Castle is rather a strong mansion house built in the reign of Elizabeth by Edward Goff and dismantled by Cromwell's army. It had a square tower of considerable strength, now nearly destroyed at the north east end. The moat is also much injured.

In the Townland of Kilnamach there was formerly a Church and grave yard dedicated to the Seacht Mac Righ, the Seven Sons of the King, to whom I met another Church dedicated on the Middle Island of Aran in the Bay of Galway. The Townland derived its name, Cill na Mac, i.e., ecclesia filiorum, from this Church, but no trace of either it or its grave yard is now visible.

John O'Donovan.

June 21st 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF ST. MARY'S or CLONMELL. [109]**

SITUATION. See Tipperary letters for the meaning of the name and situation of the part of this Parish belonging to Co. Tipperary. The part of it belonging to the Co. of Waterford lies to the south of the Suir and is nearly all wild mountain.

In the Townland of Glebe in this part of the Parish and about half a furlong to the south of the River Suir, there is a small Church in ruins called St. Nicholas's; it is twenty five feet six inches in length and fifteen feet in breadth and its walls are three feet in thickness and nine feet in height and built of small and large quarried stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. The east window is quadrangular on both sides and measures on the inside five feet five inches in height by two feet eleven inches in width; on the outside it is placed four feet three inches from the present level of the ground and measures two feet eleven inches in height and five and a half inches in width and is formed of cut sandstone.

At the distance of three feet six inches from the east gable there was a window on the south wall now filled with old masonry; it was three feet four and a half inches by two feet three inches on the inside but disguised on the outside by the more modern masonry. There was another window on the north wall directly opposite this but it is now disfigured. The west gable contains two small windows, rectangular on both sides but rude and scarcely worth description; the lower one is three feet square on the inside [110] and on the outside one foot six inches in height and three inches in width and placed at the height of three feet eight inches from the level of the ground on the outside. The higher one is about fourteen feet from the ground, about fourteen inches high and five inches wide on the outside. This gable is surmounted with a small belfry for one small bell to swing in. At the distance of seven feet from the west gable there is a doorway on the north wall rectangular on the inside where it is formed of hammered stones and pointed on the outside where it is formed of cut sandstone. It is covered at top on the inside with a lintel measuring five feet in length, nine inches in thickness and entering the wall one foot six inches and measures itself on this side six feet ten inches in height and four feet one inch in width. On the outside it is six feet high and two feet ten inches wide.

There is a small graveyard attached to it which is still used by a few families as a cemetery.

This Church is often called Teampull na Pláighe, an appellation which it received from its Patron, St. Nicholas, having some centuries since removed a plague which raged in [111] the Town of Clonmel, all the townsmen having first invoked him within and without this Church. It is popularly believed to be very old but the architectural antiquary will hardly allow it an antiquity of four centuries.

In the south side of the Townland of Kilgainy Upper there is an old castle in ruins, which goes by the same name with the Townland in which it stands. The name of this Townland is derived from an old Church which formerly stood in it but no trace of it remains at present nor can its site be pointed out with any certainty.

In the east side of Knocklucas Townland there is a holy well called by the strange name of Tobar na Gréine, i.e., the Well of the Sun. Why it received such a name or how long it has borne it, it would now be very difficult to find out.



## THE PARISH OF KILLALOAN. [112]

SITUATION. The part of this Parish belonging to the County of Waterford lies on the south side of the Suire, and is bounded on the west and south by the Parish of St. Mary's or Clonmel and on the east by that of Kilsheelan.

NAME. For the name of this Parish see the account of the part of it lying in the County of Tipperary to the north of the River Suir.

The only remains of the "olden time" in this Parish are the old Castle of Derrinlaur and Kincoran Castle, the former of which is thus described by the Revd. Richard Ryland in his History of Waterford, P.295.

(This description is not very accurate. J.O'D.)

"Nearly opposite the ravine are the ruins of the Castle of Derinlar, thickly clothed with ivy and exhibiting indubitable proofs of age. This was a regularly fortified residence commanding, perhaps, a ford across the river, which it immediately adjoins. The tower (meaning? J.O'D.) which alone remains was protected by four circular castles that projected beyond the curtain and effectually commanded the approach.

"The whole superstructure is raised on arches, probably in consequence of the foundations being defective; several vaults are still in perfect repair, and are a source of constant uneasiness to the superstitious peasantry." [113]

This Castle, which is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1574 as one of the fortresses of the Earl of Ormond, is situated on level ground, about three hundred yards to the south of the River Suir. It was forty eight feet from east to west and thirty feet from north to south and had a round tower at each corner, three of which are still traceable but the one at the southwest corner has totally disappeared. About one half of the northeast tower remains to the height of about sixty feet and about ten feet of the height of the southeast one; these towers were eighteen feet in diameter on the inside and their walls eleven feet in thickness and well grouted. The side walls of the castle were eight feet four inches in thickness and grouted. Tradition ascribes the erection of this fortress to the Butlers. It was a great work when perfect.

Kincoran Castle (which seems to me to be the Ceann Cuirich of the Dinnseanchus) is rather a dwelling house than a military castle. It is situated on level ground, about seventy paces from the bank of the Suir and is said to have been built by the Osborne family. It measures on the outside fifty two feet from north to south and thirty feet from east to west and its walls are four feet four inches in thickness and about fifty feet in height and had three stories. All its windows are [114] quadrangular and formed of chiselled lime stone; they are divided, some into two, some into four and some into six compartments by stone mullions.

This house has a wing on the east side measuring eighteen feet by twelve on the outside. It is said to have been built by the Osborne family.

Lismore,  
June 22nd 1841.

John O'Donovan,

### **THE PARISH OF KILSHEELAN. [115]**

**SITUATION.** The part of this Parish belonging to the County of Waterford lies southwards of the River Suir, and is bounded on the west by the Parish of Killaloe and on the east by that of Dysart.

**NAME.** For the meaning of the name of this Parish see Tipperary Letters.

The only remain of antiquity in the part of this Parish lying to the east of the Suir is an ancient Cromlech; this is on low level ground in the Townland of Gorteen Lower. It consists of five standing stones supporting a large flag placed in an inclined position, all sandstones. This flag lies east and west and measures nine feet eight inches from east to west and eight feet seven inches from north to south and three feet in thickness at the east end, two feet at the south end and one foot six inches at the west end. The up-right pillar supporting it at the east end is six feet high, two feet eight inches wide and nine inches thick. The supporter next to it on the south side is six feet four inches high, four feet six inches wide and three feet six inches thick; the next on the south side is six feet high, six feet ten inches wide and two feet thick; the next five feet eight inches high, four feet six inches wide and one foot one inch thick; the next six feet nine inches high, four feet wide and two feet six inches thick. The large flag now rests only on the southeast, southwest and northwest supporters, having slipped off the northeast one. The Bed or Grave formed by these stones is seven feet in length and four feet [116] in breadth.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF DYSART.**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the County of Waterford and Barony of Uachtar-tire or Uppertird, and is bounded on the north by the River Suir which divides it from the County of Tipperary; on the east by that of Kilmolegan; on the south by those of Mothel and Rathgormack; on the west by the Parish of Kilsheelan.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish, which is that of many other Parishes in Ireland, is written in the original language Díseart which signifies a desert, wilderness and sometimes the retirement of a hermit. Smith, in his History of the County of Waterford. p.92, supposes that this is the Disart Nairbre mentioned by Colgan in Acta SS. p.217, but this is not at all certain.

The site of the original Church of this Parish is occupied by a modern Protestant one and only one small fragment of the south wall of the ancient one is not to be seen; it is fifteen feet long, ten feet high and three feet thick. There is an old tombstone near it with this inscription in raised Roman Capitals around its edges:-

"Here lyeth one Boutlr Fis-Gerot of Bolendisert and his [117] wife Johan Fis-Richad. Anno 1587. To be made."

Near it is another stone inscribed to the memory of Charles Everard, 1643, but these inscriptions have been already decyphered and published by the Revd. Richard Ryland in his History of Waterford.

In the Townland of Ballycloha in the east side of a glen is a round castle nearly perfect. It is ninety one feet in circumference and three stories high and its walls (wall?) are eight feet thick anti about forty five feet high and built of grit stones well grouted. The third floor rested on a stone arch which still remains in good preservation. The doorway was on the west side (but is now destroyed) and a spiral staircase led to the top on the east side. This tower is square on the inside; it has eight narrow round- topped windows all formed of chiselled grit stone. One chimney piece remains in the upper story. It was defended by a square fort of earth, forty two paces from east to west and thirty six from north to south. It is said to have been erected by the family of Butler.

In the Townland of Coolnamuck (Cúil na Muice) in this Parish, at the foot of the mountain and about half a furlong [118] to the south of the River, stands the Castle of Coolnamuck. It is a square castle (structure) measlring on the inside from north to south twenty three feet three inches and from east to west twenty feet and its walls are six feet six inches thick and about fifty feet high and well grouted. The quoin stones are all cut lime ones. It was four stories high; the third floor rested on a stone arch which still remains. Its west side is destroyed down to the foundation but the others are in good preservation. All the windows are veiled in ivy except two which are on the south wall; they are both formed of chiselled lime stone and one is round and the other rectangular at top.

In the Townland of Glen in this Parish, and on level ground over the Suir, there stood a castle which bore the name of the Townland but its dimensions could not now be ascertained as only a small portion of the south side remains. This is six feet in thickness and grouted. It is said that this castle was built by one of the Roche family.

June 22nd 1841.

A Lios Mór, for bhru Abhann Móire.

In the Townland of Kildroughtan in this Parish stood anciently the walls of a Church but the principal part of the building was carried by the fairies across the Suir and placed in the County of Tipperary!

### **THE PARISH OF KILMOLERAN. [119]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Territory of Uachtar-tire now called the Barony of Uppertird, and is bounded on the north by the River Suir which divides it from Carrick-on-Suir; on the east by the Parish of Fenough; on the south by that of Mothel and on the west by that of Dysart.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is now always written Kilmoleran but in a Regal Visitation Book preserved in the MS. Library of Trinity College Dublin, it is

written Kyllmoelurayn from which it is obvious that its original Irish form is Cill Moelodhráin, i.e. the Church of St. Moeloran.

No remains of the old Church of this Parish are visible; its graveyard remains and is situated in the north of the Townland of Carrickbeg near a modern Roman Catholic Chapel built in 1822.

In this Parish is situated the Franciscan Monastery of Carrickbeg which was erected in the year 1336 by James: Earl of Ormond. It stands on the south side of the Suir in the Town of Carrickbeg and is now repaired and converted to a R.C. Chapel. For the History of this Abbey, see Extracts p.77, and for a description of its magnificent ruins before it was converted into a Chapel see Ryland's History of Waterford, pp. 287, 288, 289 and 290.

According to an inscription on a stone tablet inserted in the west gable of this building it was first erected by [120] James Butler, Earl of Ormond, and rebuilt by Michael Power, P.P. and the parishioners of Carrick-on-Suir in 1827.

June 23rd 1841.

J. O'Donovan

A Lios Mór. for bhru Néimhe.

### **THE PARISH OF AGLISH. [121]**

**SITUATION.** Is in the Barony of Desies Within Drum Fineen and bounded on the north by the Parishes of Affane and Kilmolash; on the east by the Parish of Ardmore; on the south by that of Clashmore and on the west by the Blackwater River, which divides it from the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride.

**NAME.** Is in the original language Eaglais na nDéiseach which signifies "the Church of the Desies" an appellation which seems to show that it was once a Church of some distinction, but the present remains of it do not bear out the name. Nothing remains of this Church at present but the east gable and twenty feet of the length of the south wall and five feet of that of the north one to the height of about five feet. There is a roundheaded window on the gable formed of chiselled sandstone and measuring on the inside eight feet in height and four feet seven inches in width and on the out-side (where it is three feet six inches from the present level of the ground) five feet six inches in height and one foot eight and a half inches in width. It was divided into two compartments, each six and a half inches in width, by a stone mullion but this was taken away.

The quoin stones of this gable are chiselled sand stones. The walls are three feet in thickness and built of hammered stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a large graveyard attached to it, now much in use.

It is said that there was an old Friary in the Townland [122] Of Curraheen in this Parish but its site is now occupied by a beautiful pond adjoining a neat modern Friary, belonging to the Franoiscan Order, and built about twenty years since by Brother Lonergan who is still living. "Patroons" were celebrated here on the second of August arid fourth of October till about six years since, when they were abolished.

In the northwest side of the Townland of Dromore. in this Parish there is a small piece of ground never cultivated said to be the site of a Church and graveyard called Cill Tire (Kilteera) but no trace of the walls of a Church are now visible there.

June 23rd 1841.  
At Lismore.

### **THE PARISH OF WHITECEURCH. [123]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is in the Barony of Desies Without Drum Fineen and bounded on the north by the Parishes of Modelligo and Colligan; on the east by the Parish of Dungarvan; on the south by that of Ardmore and on the west by those of Kilmolash and Affane.

**NAME.** Is called in Irish Teampull Geal, of which Whitechurch is a translation, but it is of no antiquity.

No part of the ancient Church of this Parish now remains, its site being occupied by a modern Protestant Church of very small dimensions.

Over a pond or small lake in the Townland of Cappagh in this Parish are the ruins of a building said to have belonged to the Knights Templars but it is much more probable that they are the ruins of the residence of Sir James Fitzgerald, who removed from Cappagh to Dromana where he died in 1581. He was the brother of the Baron of Dromana and Viscount Desies. The people however call this ruin "the Monastery" but it is [124] now impossible to form any idea of its form, extent or characteristics as the fragments remaining are covered with ivy, laurel and various kinds of trees, which disguise the masonry. Its north gable alone remains unshattered.

At the south side of the Rill of Knockmoan stands a small Church in ruins, measuring in the clear twenty one feet four inches in length and fifteen feet in breadth. Its walls are two feet two inches in thickness and eleven feet in height and built of quarried stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. Its doorway is on the east gable, a thing very unusual in Churches of any age; it is destroyed on the outside and its top is off on the inside but it can be ascertained that it was traversed at top by a lintel as its track remains, from which its height appears to have been six feet four inches on that side and its breadth four feet one inch. At the distance of eight feet eight inches from this gable there is a window on both the side walls, measuring on the outside three feet in height and ? feet in width and widening to two feet six inches on the inside and six feet from the present level of the ground on the outside. There is a similar window on the west gable, about ten feet from the ground, and another on the east gable. This building is certainly not ancient. [125]

About one hundred paces to the north of this little Church on the summit of a high and large rocky hill, are the shattered remains of the celebrated Castle of Knockmoan, of which Ryland writes as follows:-

"The Castle of Knockmoan in the Parish of Whitechurch is one of the most picturesque buildings in this neighbourhood and would be esteemed an invaluable object by the admirer of wars and sieges. It is situated on a tall insulated rock

commanding an extensive prospect and perfectly secured by a deep morass which encloses it on every side. This castle is supposed to have been built by a female whose tomb was long shown here, but there being no inscription or record of any kind to confirm the idea, the matter is still involved in obscurity.

"Sir Richard Osborne was besieged in this place in the Rebellion of 1641; it was afterwards taken by Cromwell's soldiers and probably it was by them reduced to the ruinous state in which it now appears." Hist. Waterford, pp. 314 and 315.

The dimensions of this castle could not now be ascertained as it is reduced to a heap of rubbish. Its walls were eight feet eight inches in thickness and well grouted.

At the foot of the hill on which it stands and between [126] it and the little Church, about thirty paces from the latter, there is a large flag of grit and stone ornamented with a Cross in the middle but exhibits no inscription. It lies flat on the ground from east to west and near a pit like a grave; it is seven feet five inches long and two feet eight inches broad and eleven inches thick. It is said that the female by whom the castle was erected lies interred under it.

June 24th 1841.

A Lios Mór Mochuda for bhrú Néimhe.

In the Townland of Kilcloher in this Parish there was Anciently a Church mentioned in the Life of St. Carthagh as belonging to a St. Mochua, but no part of it is now visible. There are also sites of Churches and graves in other Townlands but as their correct names are already set down in the Name Books it is deemed unnecessary to repeat them here.

### **THE PARISH OF KILRUSH. [127]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is in the Barony of Desies Without Drum Fineen and bounded on the north by the Parish of Kilgobnet and is surrounded on every other side by the Parish of Dungarvan.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Cill Ruis, meaning the Church of the Underwood or Shrubbery, Ros having been the name of the Townland before the Church was erected.

The old Church of Kilrush is situated in a Townland of the same name to the right of the road as you go from Dungarvan to Lismore, about three quarters of a mile from the former. It is certainly a Church of the primitive ages but parts of its walls were evidently repaired and plastered not many centuries since. It is of very small dimensions, being only nineteen feet six inches in length on the inside and twelve feet ten inches in breadth. Its walls are eight feet eight inches in height and two feet two inches in thickness and built of very large stones with small spawls to fill up the spaces between them and well grouted. The doorway was, as usual in Churches of the primitive ages in Ireland, in [128] the west gable and evidently traversed at top by a lintel, but this was removed and the external part of the doorway was destroyed with the exception of three stones of the south jamb or side, which are chiselled sandstone. It can be calculated, however, from what remains that this doorway was four feet two

and a half inches in height from the present level of the ground and in width three feet two inches on the outside and three feet ten inches on the inside.

There is a narrow window on the east gable but it is so covered with ivy (which grasps its top and sides so firmly that it could not be removed without going to great trouble) that its dimensions could not be taken or its characteristics observed. It is almost certain, however that it is round at the top and formed of cut sandstone. At the distance of eight feet two inches from the east gable there was another window but it is now entirely destroyed.

There is a small stone coffin now standing erect and serving as a headstone to a grave opposite the doorway. It does not appear where it was originally placed.

There is no Patron Saint remembered in connection with [129] this Church nor "a Pattern" held at it now but it is said that about forty years ago some old fashioned people were wont to flock hither to perform Stations on Good Fridays annually.

In the Townland of Gallow's Hill in this Parish there is a moat about one hundred and eighty yards in circumference at the base and twenty five feet high on which malefactors were formerly executed. On this the Gallows belonging to the Town of Dungarvan, from which it is about half a mile distant, was erected. For some notices of a similar object see my letter on the Parish of Kilbixy in the County of Westmeath.

John O' Donovan.

June 23rd 1841.

A Lios Mór Mochúda for bhrú Néimhe.

### **THE PARISH OF AFFANE. [130]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Without Drum Fineen and is bounded on the north by the mountain anciently called Sliabh Cua; on the east by the Parishes of Modelligo and Whitechurch; on the south by those of Kilmolash and Aglish and on the west by the Parish of Lismore.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is in Irish Ath Meadhain, which signifies the Middle Ford, but it is explained Ford of the Channell in a legend in the Life of St. Carthag of Lismore, which I here transcribe:-

"St. Carthag proceeded through the Plain of Chua to the aforesaid River Nemphe" (now the Blackwater) "to the place which, in the Scotie language, is called Athmedhain, that is Vadum Alvei, the Ford of the Channell, in which none pass across unless a few strong men knowing well how to swim in great drought of summer heat and when the flowing of the sea entirely decreases. For the tide comes up to the City of Lismore against the current of the river almost five miles\* and fills the channel of the river together with its bank. [131] But the holy father Carthag came to the ford on that day a great quantity of water like a torrent fell into the river, which together with tide of the sea then flowing so filled the channel of the river that the waters were scarcely contained within their accustomed banks. St. Carthag asked if there were any accomodation of boat and they said that there was not. Then the holy

father, full of confidence, went nearer to the bank of the river and commanded the sea and the torrent of the river in the name of the Lord Christ, to cease their flowing and violence for a time and return for the servants of their Lord. And he, having made the Sign of the Cross, the tide and fresh water flood divided themselves and the land and sand appeared dry like a hill through the midst of the divided river; and the waters rolled back on each side stood like a wall on the right hand and on the left, and the exposed earth was stripped of their waters. Then St. Carthag ordered his Monks to go by the passage of the flood, [132] \* They reckoned very long miles at this period! J. O' D. and with great confidence they proceeded undaunted and after the Saints a crowd of pedestrians enter and others in chariots as if they were carried by land through the divided strait after the manner of the River Jordan under Josua, proceeded with dry feet. The river rose higher and higher after the manner of a hill and in like manner also the sea, and when the most holy old man had after (behind) all the rest from the shore, he blessed that place and ordered the waters to return to their course, and that place is called in the Scotie language Inad na mBennacht, which in Latin sounds Locus benedictionum. The waters meeting each other caused a very great perturbation."

This beautiful little legend which is an imitation of the miracle about the passage of the Red Sea by the Israelites, is also told with some slight variations in the Irish Life of St. Mochuda. The name certainly signifies the Middle Ford but I do not believe that it had its origin in this miracle, the place being called by that name from its being placed in the middle between two other ford one towards Cappaquin.

The site of the original Church of this Parish is occupied by a neat modern Church which stands in a large grave [133] yard evidently of considerable antiquity. About half a furlong to the west of the Church stand the ruins of the Castle of Affane. Only parts of the east and west ends and fragments of the south wall remain, from which it can be ascertained that it was forty five feet in length and nineteen feet seven inches in breadth. Its walls are four feet in thickness and built of small stones grouted. It was rather a strong dwelling house than a military castle.

### **THE PARISH OF KILMOLASH.**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated partly in the Barony of Desies Within Drum Fineen and partly in that of Desies Without Drum Fineen and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Affane; on the east by that of Whitechurch and on the south and west by the Parish of Aglish.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Cill Molaise, which signifies the Church of St. Molash. the celebrated Saint of Devenish in Laugh Erne.

The old Church called Kilmolash is situated on (in) the Glebe and its walls are in very good preservation but not many centuries old. They are scarcely worth description but as Mr. Curry has taken minute notes of them, I shall transcribe here what he writes:-

"The old Church of Kilmolash is divided into nave and choir, the nave measuring on the inside twenty eight feet four inches in length and eighteen feet eleven inches in breadth and the choir fourteen feet nine inches by thirteen feet eleven



inches. The east window is nearly destroyed on [134] both sides but it can be ascertained that it was four feet eight inches in height on the inside and three feet nine inches in width. At the distance of two feet four inches from the east gable the south wall contains a window which is rectangular on the inside and roundheaded and measuring on the inside two feet ten and a half inches in height and two feet eight and a half inches in width and on the outside (where it is three feet from the present level of the ground) two feet in height and six and a half inches in width. It is formed of cut sandstone in rather a neat style. At the distance of one foot three inches from the same gable the north wall has on it a window of the same form and constructed of the same materials as the one in the south wall; it measures on the inside four feet in height and three feet four inches in width and on the outside (where it is four feet ten inches from the level of the ground) one foot eleven inches in height and six and a half inches in width. Besides these there were two other windows on the south wall and one on the north wall which are almost entirely destroyed.

The choir arch is of semicircular form and constructed of cut sand stone; it is eleven feet three inches in height and nine feet one inch in width and its sides six feet nine inches in height. On the stone next under the capital is the following inscription:-

"Fear God, honer the Kinge. Anno Domini 1635."

There is on the west gable a doorway near the south side wall; it forms a segment arch on the inside where it measures seven feet ten inches in height and four feet five inches in width; on the outside it is nearly semicircular at top and measures six feet four inches in height and three feet nine [135] inches in width. It is formed of cut sand stone. Near this doorway is a holy water font which had some ornaments, now nearly effaced.

There is a window on this gable at the height of eight feet seven inches from the present level of the ground; it is rectangular on the inside where it measures four feet six inches in height and three feet in width and pointed on the outside where it is three feet in height and eight inches in width. It is formed of chiselled sand stone.

This gable is surmounted with a small belfry consisting of two pointed arches of cut sand stone. At the distance of seven feet seven inches from this gable, there is on the north wall a doorway which is formed of cut sand stone and quadrangular on both sides. On the inside it is six feet six inches high and four feet five inches wide and covered at top with a lintel which is five feet long ten inches high and enters the wall one foot nine inches. On the outside it is only five feet high, but the ground is considerably raised and two feet eight and a half inches in width; it is also covered on this side with a lintel which is six feet three inches long eleven inches high and enters the walls eleven and a half inches.

These doorways are certainly older than the date inscribed on the choir arch, as above noticed.

The walls of this Church three feet thick and about twelve feet high and built of very large sand stones with lime and sand cement. The choir is not built of stones as large as those in the nave, nor is it as old as the nave; [136] indeed it is highly

probable that the choir and choir arch were built in the year 1635 and that the nave is some centuries older. The quoin stones are all chiselled.

Stations are still performed here but on no particular day, St. Molaise's being now forgotten.

In the southeast angle of the Townland of Clogh in this Parish there was a large castle said to have been built by King John (má's fíor) but no part of it remains at present but one fragment of an outer wall about twenty two feet in height and only twenty seven inches in thickness, which does not argue any great strength. The foundations of the three walls cannot be traced.

In the Townland of Bewley in this Parish, on the east bank of the Finisk River, are several parts of the walls and the east gable (the gable is featureless) of what is called an Abbey of Knights Templars, but it does not appear to be so old as the time of that order. The building was only twenty feet in breadth; its walls are three feet thick and built of quarried stones cemented with lime and sand mortar.

There is no burial ground attached to this ruin nor anything from which it could be inferred that it was an ecclesiastical building but a holy water font.

Examined by Mr. A. Curry.

June 28th 1841.

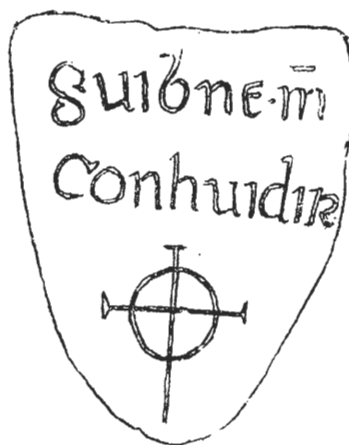
### **THE PARISH OF LISMORE and MOCOLLOP. [137]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride, and is bounded on the north by the County of Tipperary; on the east by the Parish of Affane and the River Blackwater; on the south by the Parishes of Kilwatermoy and Tallow and on the west by the County of Cork and a part of the Parish of Leitrim belonging to the County of Waterford.

**NAME.** The names of this Parish or rather union of two Parishes, are in Irish Lios Mór and Magh Colpa; the former is explained in the Life of St. Carthagh as meaning Atrium Magnum, ie. the Great Habitation, but this is rather a legendary explanation as the name is said to have been first given the place by St. Carthagh who predicted that it would become a great town; the meaning of Lios Mór is obviously the Great Lios or Earthen Fort" and there can be but little doubt that it was the name of the place before St. Carthagh [138] was born. Magh Colpa signifies the Plain of the Collops or Cattle, the word Colpa meaning among the Irish graziers a single cow or six sheep.

Lismore is described as follows by the writer of the Life of St Carthagh as published by the Bolandists:-

"Lias Mór is now an excellent and holy city, half of which is an asylum in which no woman dares enter; but it is full of the Cells and Monasteries of Saints and a multitude of holy men always remains there. For religious men flock together to it not only from every part of Ireland, but from Anglia and Britannia wishing there to go to



*Ancient Irish Monumental Inscriptions,  
indented on rough unchisell'd Stones, in the Cemetary  
of Lismore Cathedral*

R. Armstrong 1841.

Christ; and this city is situated on the southern bank of the river formerly called Neamh, but now Abhann Mor, that is, the Great River, in a tract of the Territory of the Nandesí."

There were many, some say twenty, Churches at Lismore but they are all now entirely removed. The present Cathedral was re-edified in the year 1633, at the expense of the Great Earl of Cork and there is not a feature of the primitive Irish architecture now to be seen in it. Two very ancient [139] tombstones are to be seen in the cemetery with inscriptions in the ancient Irish style and letter, and these may be said to be the only ancient remains at Lismore at present. Facsimiles of them are opposite.

Within the Church is a highly ornamented tomb to (of) the family of Magrath which I took great pains to decypher as Ryland (p.337) states "that the inscription which runs round the stone can be only very partially decyphered." The entire inscription running round the edge is as follows:-

"Hoc opus fieri fecerunt .Johannes Macragh et uxor sua Katherina Thome Prendyrgast sibi et posteris suis qui in ipso sepeliendi sunt Anno Domini 1557. In \*\*\* ecclesia sepultus est Donaldus Macragh Anno Domini 1548."

On the side stones are figures of the Apostles and one [140] of St. Carthag in high relief; the upper stone is elaborately decorated and divided into compartments, in which various characters and devices are represented. In one may be observed a heart pierced with swords beneath the words Ave Maria; in another the figure of our Saviour with the motto Ecce homo and in another a Bishop, evidently intended to represent St. Carthag offering up the host.

The Castle of Lismore is said to have been erected by King John on the site of an Abbey but I see nothing to prove this assertion but tradition. It would appear certain, however, that there was a castle here whenever it was originally built and that it became the residence of the Bishops of Lismore, for Miller Magrath, Bishop of Lismore, continued to reside in it till he granted it, together with the Manor of Lismore, to Sir Walter Raleigh, from whom Sir Richard Boyle afterwards purchased it. It was by this latter that the present Castle of Lismore was built. It is stated that parts of the Bishop's Castle are contained in the present [141] great house but it would be very difficult to point them out at present.

I cannot even find any names in existence at Lismore which would point out the sites of any of the ancient Churches; the only names which I could consider ancient are the following:-

1. Tober Mochuda, i.e., St. Mochuda or St. Carthag's Well, situated near the Castle.

2. Relig Declan, i.e. .St. Declan's Cemetery situated in the Townland of Drumroe; only still-born children are interred here at present.

3. Boher na Neave, i.e., the Road of the Saints, is locally the name of the road leading to Fermoy for an extent of a mile and a quarter.

In the Townland of Lisfinny (in Irish Lios Finghin) in this Parish, near the north bank of the River Bride, stands the Geraldine Castle of Lisfinny, commanding a fine view of the plain through which the River flows. It is a square structure in tolerable preservation, measuring on the outside forty three feet four inches from north to south and thirty three feet from east to west; and is about seventy feet in height and its walls eight feet in thickness and well grouted. It consists of four stories; the first floor over the ground one and the upper floor rested upon stone arches which still remain. The other floors were of wood and have long since disappeared. The doorway was on the south wall but it is now entirely disfigured. A spiral staircase leads to the top in the southwest corner. This castle had twenty windows formed [142] of chiselled lime stone, some rectangular and some pointed at top. The quoin stones are also all chiselled. The walls are built of brown grit stones .all quarried and hammered.

In the Townland of Shianmore in this Parish, stands another square castle which looks older than the one just described. It measures on the outside forty three feet six inches from east to west and thirty three feet from north to south and its walls are eight feet thick and now about forty feet high and well grouted. The stone arch on which the second floor rested still remains. Its doorway which is a very strong pointed one, is on the north wall near the east side and measures six feet six inches in height and three feet ten inches in width; it is all formed of cut lime stones except two and these form the east, side of the arch. It has ten windows remaining; they are all formed of cut sandstone and some are quadrangular and some pointed. The quoin stones are all chiselled.

In the Townland of Kilbree in this Parish, there was an old house called by the people "the Castle" but nothing remains of it at present but one gable with a chimney and some of the outer walls which were seven feet thick and well grouted. This ruin is situated on the south? bank of the River Blackwater and two miles to the east of Lismore.

The ruin called Norrisland Abbey is situated about one [143] hundred yards to the west of the Blackwater but it has no appearance of having been an Abbey, it being obviously an old dwelling house about two centuries. It is not worth minute description.

The Castle of Tooreen is about one hundred and fifty yards to the west of the Blackwater River and is now attached to Sir Richard Musgrave's House. It is a square structure, measuring on the inside twenty three feet four inches from north to south and sixteen feet from east to west; its walls are four feet ten inches in thickness and about forty five feet in height; it consists of three stories and its ground floor or lower story is now used by Sir Richard as a kitchen. Its doorway, which was pointed and formed of cut stone, was on the north side and a spiral staircase led to the top in the northeast corner. Sir Richard Musgrave says that this castle belonged to the family of Roche.

The old Castle of Camphire is over the River Blackwater on the west side near Mr. Usher' s house. It was a square structure, measuring on the outside forty one feet from east to west and thirty four feet from north to south and its walls are eight feet six inches in thickness and well grouted. It had a stone arch over the ground floor now much injured. The highest fragment remaining of its walls is about twenty feet in

height. The doorway has disappeared, as have all the windows with the exception of two which are on the south side; these are narrow and rectangular and formed of chiselled sand stone of brownish colour and look old.

In the Townland of O' Kyle in this Parish are the ruins [144] of a Church which goes by the name of the Townland. Only its east gable and thirty feet of the length of the north wall remain. It was twenty one feet in breadth, but its length cannot be ascertained as no part of the west gable is traceable. The east window is formed of cut sand stone and pointed on both sides; it measures on the inside nine feet seven inches, in height and five feet four inches in width and on the outside, where it was divided into two lights by a stone mullion, seven feet three inches by two feet nine inches, each division (light) one foot two and a half inches. In the north east angle is a small apartment, apparently a hermit's cell or Duirtheach. It is not unlike one of the Cloghans or stone-roofed houses on the Aran and other western islands and if it were not attached to this modern Church I would set it down as of considerable antiquity. It is nearly a pentagon, measuring on the inside five feet eight inches from north to south and four feet ten inches from east to west and is closed at top with two flags exactly like the Cloghans in Aran. It is entered from the inside of the Church by a round-topped doorway measuring three feet nine inches in height and one foot ten inches in width. From the level of the floor to the apex (vertex) of the roof on the inside is exactly seven feet six inches. This remarkable Cell is lighted by five shapeless apertures looking in every direction and placed at the height of four feet two inches from the level [145] of the floor. On the outside this little apartment looks like the butt of a square tower but it was never higher than it is now. It projects one foot two inches from the north wall and the same from the east gable and its north side is eight feet long and its east side seven feet ten inches. Its north east angle is somewhat rounded. I never saw anything like it before.

There was a window in the north wall of this Church at the distance of four feet from the east gable; it was formed of cut stone and was two feet six inches wide in the inside but it is destroyed at top and on the outside. The north wall is nine feet high, three feet four inches thick and built of pebble stones of all shapes, kinds and sizes laid in irregular courses in a very rude style; it nods a good deal from the perpendicular, the foundation having given way.

The Castle of Coill na Carraige (Kilnacarrick) stood on high ground about two hundred yards to the north of the River Bride. This was rather a dwelling house than a castle; it was forty feet from north to south and eighteen feet six inches [146] from east to west on the inside and its walls three feet thick and not grouted. It was only two stories high and the highest part of its wall at present is only twenty feet.

The Parish of Mocollop is now united to that of Lismore though Dr. Smith speaks of it as a separate Parish in his own time. I could meet no one who was able to point out the boundary between them.

There are the ruins of a very important castle at Mocollop said to have been erected by the Earl of Desmond. It is a strong round castle with out-works now much injured. I could not ascertain its circumference in consequence of modern walls being up against it. It is at least eighty feet in height, but the southeast side is destroyed down to within about twenty five feet of the ground. It would be now difficult,

perhaps impossible, to trace the outworks of this castle. There is a considerable part of a square tower on the west side and a part of a strong wall on the north side.

In the Townland of Ballyduffy, on the south side of the Blackwater five miles west from Lismore, there is an old house three stories high, called by the natives "the Castle" but it is not worth minute description.

#### **THE PARISH OF LEITRIM. [147]**

**SITUATION.** The chief part of this Parish lies in the County of Cork, there being only a few Townlands of it in the County of Waterford.

Its name is in Irish Liath Druim, signifying Grey Ridge which is the appellation of countless Townlands throughout Ireland and truly descriptive of the localities.

There are no antiquities in the part of this Parish belonging to the County of Waterford; its old Church is in the County of Cork and will be described in connection with that County.

John O'Donovan.

June 29th 1841.  
A n-Eochail.

In the Townland of Labbanacallee in northwest of the Parish of Lismore is a Cromlech from which the Townland took its name.

For some account of Rian Bo Phadruig in this Parish of Lismore, see Smith and Ryland and Field Name Book of Lismore No.6, p.23. I think it was an ancient road like that extending from Ballintober in Mayo to the foot of Croaghpatrick.

#### **THE PARISH OF TALLOW. [148]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Lismore and Mocollop; on the east by that of Kilwatermoy and on the south and west by the County of Cork.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish Tulaigh an Iarainn. i.e., the Hill of the Iron, and it is said that the great Earl of Cork had an iron mill here.

There are no antiquities in this Parish; the names Kilbeg, Kilmore, Kilwinneen and Kilcalf would seem to indicate that there were Churches in the Townlands which bear them, but no trace of them is now observable.

J. O'Donovan.

June 29th 1841.  
At Youghal.

## **THE PARISH OF KILWATERMOY. [149]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride and is bounded on the north by the River Bride which separates it from the Parish of Lismore and Mocollop; on the east by the Parish of Kilcockan; on the south by Templemichael and on the west by the Parish of Tallow.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Cill Uachtar Maighe, which signifies the Cell or Church of the Upper Plain, Uachtar Maighe having probably been the name of the district before the Church was erected.

The old Church bearing this name is situated in the Townland of Glebe; it was forty seven feet in length and twenty feet three inches in breadth and its walls were two feet three inches in thickness and built of small grit stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. Its west gable, twenty eight feet of the length of the north wall and twenty feet of the south one only remain, the north wall to the height of nine feet and the south one to that of four feet. There was a window on the west gable which is rectangular [150] at top on the inside where it measures four feet six inches in height and three feet three inches in width but totally disfigured on the outside. This Church is not many centuries old. It has a large graveyard now much used as a cemetery.

There is a holy well about half a furlong to the east of this Church at which a Pattern is annually celebrated on the 14th of September in honor of the Holy Cross, to which the Church was dedicated.

Fountain Church, a neat building in this Parish, occupies the site of an older one called Kilfentorly or the Church of St. Fentan or Fintan. Fountain Church is a strange corruption of Kiltentany! but still it cannot be corrected.

John O' Donovan.

June 29<sup>th</sup> 1841.

## **THE PARISH OF KILCOCKAN. [151]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilwatemoy and Lismore and Mocollop; on the east by those of AGLISH and Clashmore and on the south by those of Templemichael and Kinsalebeg.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Cill Chocain, which is supposed to mean Cell or Church of St. Cocán but I cannot find a Saint of that name in the Index to the Irish Calendar of O' Clery's.

The old Church of this name is fifty five feet ten inches long on the outside and twenty six feet broad and its walls are three feet three inches thick and about nine feet high and built of hammered stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. The east window is narrow and pointed on the outside and rectangular on the inside; it is four feet four inches high on the outside and eight inches wide and widens to about four feet on the inside. At the distance of five feet from the northeast corner there is a



similar window three feet six inches high and seven inches wide on the outside and there [152] was a similar one directly opposite it on the south wall but it is now disfigured and built up with modern masonwork. A portion of the west of this Church, nineteen feet in length was repaired and roofed with very large flags of chiselled lime stone by John Kiley Esq., of Strancally Castle in December 1839. He intends it for a Mausoleum for himself and his posterity.

In the Townland of Strancally (Srón Caillighe) in this Parish and on a rocky eminence overhanging the Blackwater on its west side stands the old Castle of Strancally. It measures forty feet from east to west and twenty five feet from north to south and its walls are eight feet six inches in thickness and about twenty eight feet high. There is a small crypt in the west gable cut out of the solid rock not unlike the small Cell In the northeast corner of the old Church of O'Kyle in the Parish of Lismore above described. It is entered by a doorway which is four feet nine inches high and two feet five inches wide and formed of hammered stones.

Higher up on the rock are the ruins of another building which seems to have been originally connected with the Castle but nothing remains of it but the southwest angle of a tower [153] about twenty feet in height with some of the stone stair case which led to the top of it. Its wall is eight feet six inches in thickness. There are large masses of the building tumbled about in every direction. It looks to be a building of considerable antiquity.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry and J.O'. D.

Youghal.  
June 29<sup>th</sup> 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL. [154]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilwatermoy and Kilcockan; on the east by the River Blackwater and on the south and west by the Co. of Cork.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Teampull Mhichíl, meaning the Church of St. Michael the Archangel.

The site of the old Church of Templemichael is occupied by a modern Protestant one and no part of the original one is in existence.

In the east side of the Townland of Ballyantray is situated the Island of Dairinis or Molana, now connected with the mainland. On it stand the ruins of an extensive Abbey, the nave and choir of which are in good preservation but the remainder in a very ruinous state. The nave of this building is fifty nine feet six inches in length and twenty four feet in breadth and the choir sixty two feet six inches and in breadth the same as the nave.

The choir was lighted by eleven windows, of which six are on the south wall, four on the north one and one on the east gable. Those on the south wall are all destroyed on the outside but in good preservation on the inside where they are about fourteen feet high and seven feet five inches [155] wide. Of those on the north wall

two are perfect on both sides and measure on the inside fourteen feet in height and seven feet five inches in width and on the outside twelve feet in height and one foot ten inches in width. The east window is entirely disfigured; it appears to have been a fine one but its dimensions cannot be ascertained.

The choir arch and the gable on which it was are destroyed. The side walls of the nave contained no windows but its west gable had on it a window now reduced to a formless hole about sixteen feet from the level of the ground. There is a modern doorway on the north wall.

The nave looks much older than the choir; its walls are built of large stones irregularly laid and cemented with lime and sand mortar; they are two feet eight inches in thickness and about twenty eight feet in height. A square tower stood at the northeast corner; it is twenty three feet six inches by eighteen feet on the inside and its walls three feet in thickness and now about thirty feet in height; it is entered from the choir by a quadrangular doorway, now modernized. The walls of the nave are in the primitive Irish style but those of the choir are not older than the 14th century, when the Abbey seems to have been enlarged. There is a doorway [156] on the south wall leading into a large area measuring sixty three feet in length from north to south and forty eight feet from east to west. A modern effigy of St. Molanfide in modern costume stands on a square pillar in the middle of it.

For the History of this Abbey see Archdal's Monasticon, p.695.

In the Townland of Templemichael, immediately to the east of the Church and over the River Blackwater, are the ruins of an old castle which goes by the name of the Townland. Its north wall and about half of its western one are destroyed to the very foundations but the east and south ones are standing to the height of about eighty feet. It was five stories high and two of its floors rested on stone arches now destroyed. It was forty feet from east to west by thirty six from north to south on the outside and the walls nine feet thick and well grouted. The quoin stones are chiselled lime ones. Its windows are pointed, rectangular and roundheaded and formed of chiselled lime stone. [157]

This was an important fortress, said to have been erected by the Earl of Desmond; it was the last, according to tradition, that held out against Cromwell on the River Blackwater.

The New Church of Templemichael is about thirty yards to the west of this castle and St. Michael's Well is about one hundred yards to the southwest of the Church.

In the Townland of Rincrew (Rinn Cru) in this Parish on a high point of land over the Blackwater, stand the ruins of a house of Knights Templars. It seems to have been a very extensive building but it is now all destroyed except two apartments, one of which extends east and west and measures sixty feet in length and twenty seven feet in breadth and its walls are well grouted, three feet ten inches in thickness and the highest part now remaining about fifteen feet in height. The other apartment is connected with this at north east corner and extends north and ? but its original extent could not be ascertained as masses of the work are scattered [158] about in every

direction. For historical notices of this place see Archdal's Monasticon. p.698 and Smith's Waterford, p.67.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry.

Youghal.

June 30th 1841.

John O' Donovan

In the Townland of Castlemiles In this Parish is shown the site of a castle from which the Townland has taken its name but no part of its walls remain.

### **THE PARISH OF ARDMORE. [159]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Decies Within Drum Fineen and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Whitechurch, Dungarvan and Ringagona; on the east by the Irish Sea and on the west by those of Grange, Clashmore. Aglish and Kilmolash.

**NAME.** Is in the Irish Life of St. Declan Ardmor, Árd Mór, which signifies "the Great Height" an appellation first applied to the hill on which the original Church was built and afterwards extended to the whole Parish.

The Round Tower of Ardmore, the only one in the County of Waterford, stands in the Churchyard on a rocky eminence and rises to the height of ninety eight feet seven inches sublimely above the Church. It is constructed in a superior style of hewn sand stone and has four projecting belts of beautifully chiselled sand stone around it which are very rarely to be met with in the other towers (indeed I do not remember a single instance). These belts would appear to mark the different stories, each of which gradually diminishes in circumference. The doorway, which is on the east side, is constructed of cut sand stone but not ornamented except on the outer edges with a rope and channel; its head is semicircular; its sides incline and it is of equal dimensions [160] on both sides, viz., five feet ten inches in height and in width one foot eleven inches at top and two feet three inches at bottom. The wall is only three feet four and a half inches in thickness, less than that of any tower I have yet measured. There were four projecting stones with square mortices on the inside (of which one is now broken) to secure the door, and a part of an iron gudgeon may still be seen in one of the stones on the inner corner of the doorway. Some of the stones above mentioned project eight inches and others only six inches and they are seven inches wide. The square mortices in them for receiving the bolts are three and a half by three inches. The bottom of the doorway is seven feet ten inches from the level of the floor on the inside and exactly thirteen feet from the level of the rock (on which the tower stands) on the outside. The diameter of the tower at the level of the floor on the inside is nine feet five inches and across at the doorway nine feet two inches and it gradually lessens towards the top. There are various projecting stones on the inside ornamented with heads and grotesque representations, and there are sticks or bars of



*The Round Tower of Ardmore, Co Waterford  
drawn from nature by W.F. Wakeman  
A.D. 1841*

iron placed across exactly under the conical cap, which are supposed to have been there since the time of St. Declan.

This tower measures fifty two feet in circumference at the base on the outside. Its ground floor was dark unless lighted from the doorway through a hole in the wooden floor (which could be easily done; it probably was). The second floor, that is the first over the ground one, was lighted by the doorway; the third floor by a small quadrangular window placed on the north side at the height of about twenty nine feet from the ground and which is about one foot six inches in height and twelve inches in width. The fourth floor, or [161] third over the ground one, was lighted by an oblong window about two feet in height and one foot two inches in width placed directly over the doorway, about seven feet over the second belt. The fifth floor, or fourth over the ground one, was lighted by a small roundheaded window placed immediately over the third belt on the south side; and the highest story was lighted by four windows or apertures placed immediately over the fourth belt and under the Ben-cover or conical cap. Of these the one on the south side is quadrangular but the other three are rectilineally pointed or triangular-headed. Their sides incline and are, as well as my eye could measure them, five feet in height and in width one foot six inches at top and two feet at bottom. The conical cap is considerably shaken.

Dr. Smith, whose History of Waterford was published in the year 1746, mentions a kind of Cross like a crutch which was on the top of this cap but this is not now to be seen, it having been taken down, as Colonel Mont-Morency-Morres informs us, by "repeated discharges of musket balls!" Mr. Odell is repairing this tower. He intends to floor it to the very top and repair its cap.

To the east of this tower in the extremity of the Church yard is the little Oratory or Shrine of St. Declan; it measures on the inside thirteen feet, four inches in length from [162] east to west and nine feet in breadth and its side walls are two feet six inches in thickness and ten feet in height and built of large blocks of stone and lime and sand cement. It is now roofed and slated, it having been repaired about a century ago at the expense of Bishop Milles.

There was a doorway in the west gable now built up on the outside and forming a recess in the wall on the inside where it measures five feet in height from the present level of the floor and in width two feet two inches at top and two feet four inches at bottom. The ground is very much raised on the outside so that its height cannot be determined but its width at the lintel is two feet one inch. Its lintel is six feet three inches in length. There is a small window in the east gable which is roundheaded on the inside where it measures four feet in height and in width two feet at top and two feet six inches at bottom but it is modernized and made quadrangular on the outside. There are two square pillars at the two corners of the east gable like those attached to the west gable of the Cathedral of Glendalough. In the northeast corner of the interior of this little Chapel, is shewn the Tomb of St. Declan, now (still) held in the highest veneration. Many virtues are attributed to the earth taken out of this tomb, supposed to contain the ashes of the Saint.

The Church lies to the north of the Round Tower and is [163] a structure of great antiquity but remodelled and repaired at various periods. Crofton Croker states that "this Church is evidently very ancient from the massive irregularity of its

architecture and the clumsiness of the buttresses!" But though we acknowledge that Croker is a good fairy antiquarian we must laugh at him for this assertion and come at once to the conclusion that he has no knowledge of ancient Ecclesiastical architecture, for there is no instance of clumsy buttresses in any ancient Irish Church nor were buttresses such as are to be seen here introduced into Ireland till some time after the Anglo-Norman Invasion.

This Church is divided into nave and choir, the nave measuring in length on the outside seventy eight, feet four inches and in breadth thirty one feet six inches and the choir thirty seven feet seven inches by twenty six feet. The nave was lighted by five windows, of which two are on the south wall and two on the north wall placed directly opposite each other, and one on the west gable; they are all roundheaded and constructed of cut stone and are very like the windows of the Cathedral of Glendalough. They are all nearly the same height but vary in width from one foot ten and a half inches at top and two feet at bottom to one foot ten inches and one foot eleven inches. All the features of [164] the choir have been modernized except the choir arch which is semicircular and of considerable height; but the side walls contain considerable parts of the original massive masonry in the semi-Cyclopean style. There are huge buttments built up against the east gable which denote, according to Crofton Croker, the very great antiquity of the building! but these are in reality not older than the fourteenth or perhaps sixteenth century!

There is a doorway on the north wall of the nave near the northeast corner but parts of it have been modernized and the lowest arch of this doorway is now pointed, but two of the original outer semi-circles still remain untouched and shew that it was originally a magnificent doorway. The lowest of these is four feet eleven inches in width at the springing of the arch, and from the present level of the ground to its vertex is exactly ten feet five inches. The walls of the nave are two feet ten inches in thickness and about fifteen feet in height and built of stones of considerable size and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a huge buttment at the northwest corner but it is not many centuries old.

On the exterior of the wall at the west end and immediately under the west window, are twelve figures in bas relief, evidently intended to represent the Twelve Apostles, [165] each under a small round arch. Under these are two semicircular projections within which various figures in bas relief are observable but now much effaced. Among the rest may be observed two rude figures of Adam and Eve standing on each side of the Tree of Knowledge and a figure of a man playing on a harp of antique form.

The Well of St. Declan, at which a "Patron" is annually held on the 24th of July, is situated over the sea shore a short distance to the east of the Village of Ardmore. It is enclosed by a wall and covered over head. To the east of it, in a most romantic situation, is the Church of Disart or Dysart now nearly destroyed. It was sixty seven feet in length but its breadth cannot be determined as its north wall is entirely destroyed. A considerable part of the south wall remains and nearly all the west gable, which is remarkably high and has a quadrangular window evidently of great antiquity and formed of cut stone placed at the height of about sixteen feet from the ground. There was a doorway on the south wall but it is now so disfigured that its dimensions

could not be ascertained. The walls are two feet seven inches in thickness. There is a breach on the west gable where there was probably another doorway.

St. Declan's Stone is situated on the shore; it is a large conglomerate rock resting on two others which elevate [166] it a little so as to leave a space under it into which it is possible for some persons not remarkable for crassitude to creep when the tide is out. This stone measures six feet from north to south and four feet six inches from east to west and is three feet six inches in thickness. This stone is believed to have floated from Rome (after the ship in which St. Declan was) bearing a bell which the Saint had forgotten! If anyone can succeed in creeping under it three times on the Festival Day of the Saint, he will be relieved from all rheumatic pains, má's fíor.

John O ' Donovan

July 1st 1841.

In the Townland of Kilcolman in the south side of this Parish, there is an old graveyard now deserted in which there was a remarkable old tree. An old Church dedicated to Saint Colman formerly stood in this graveyard from which the Townland took its name.

#### **THE PARISH OF GRANGE. [167]**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Desies Within Drum and is bounded on the north, east and partly on the south by the Parish of Ardmore, and on the west by that of Kinsalebeg.

**NAME.** Is in Irish Gráinseach, meaning a granary or store house for corn where the farmers brought the tenth part of their corn for the use of the Clergy.

Of the old Church of this Parish no part remains at present but the southeast corner and very small fragments of the side walls but from the foundations it can be ascertained that it was sixty feet in length and twenty feet in breadth. Its walls were three feet one inch in thickness and built of slate stones and lime and sand cement. Its graveyard is still in use but contains no monument of antiquity.

In the Townland of Baile Eileain or as it is anglicised [168] Ballylane, there is a holy well called Tobernamanrialta (Tobar na mBan Riaghalta) i.e, the Religious Women's Well, at which Stations were performed on the 15th of August. It is said to have been dedicated to the Blessed Virgin but it never bears her name.

There is nothing else of any antiquarian interest in this Parish.

John O'Donovan.

July 1st 1841.

#### **THE PARISH OF BALLYMACART.**

**SITUATION.** This Parish is in three detached portions all lying in the Barony of Desies Within Drum.

NAME. Is in Irish Baile Mhic Airt, i.e. the Town of Mac Art or the son of Art.

There are no remains of antiquity in this Parish.

John O'Donovan.

July 1st 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF CLASHMORE. [169]**

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Decies Within Drum and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Aglish; on the east by that of Ardmore; on the south by those of Grange and Kinsalebeg and on the west by the River Blackwater.

NAME. Is now called Clais Mor, which would mean the Great Trench or Furrow but in the Irish Calendar it is called Glais Mor, which means the Great Stream.

An Abbey is said to have been founded at this place in the 7th century but no part of it is now in existence. Its site (i.e., whereabouts) is preserved by the graveyard. There is a holy well in Mr. Power's yard called Tober Mochua, at which Stations were performed on the tenth of February.

On the Townland of Ballyheeny in this Parish is the south wall of a castle but the foundations of the other walls are not traceable. This wall is thirty five feet in length seven feet six inches in thickness and about forty feet in height and well grouted. It is said to have been built by a [170] person of the name of Sineach Ruadh but nothing is remembered of his period or history.

There is no other remain of antiquity in this Parish.

J. O'Donovan.

July 1st 1841.

### **THE PARISH OF KINSALEBEG. [171]**

SITUATION. This Parish is in the Barony of Desies Within Drum Fineen and is bounded on the north by the Ph. of Clashmore; on the east by that of Grange; on the south by that of Grange and on the west by Youghal Harbour and the Ph. of Clashmore.

NAME. Is in Irish Ceann tSáile, i.e., Head of the Salt-Water and the adjective Beg, small, seems to have been added to distinguish this from the celebrated Kinsale in the County of Cork.

There are no antiquities in this Parish; the site of the original Parish Church is occupied by a modern Protestant one at which no monument of antiquity is to be found. There is a holy well dedicated to St. Bartholomew, who was probably the Patron Saint of the Parish, in the Townland of Moord. "Patterns" were formerly held



at it on St. Bartholomew's Day, the [172] 24th of August, but they have been discontinued since the year 1812.

John O'Donovan.

July 1st 1841.

21 Greet Charles Street, [177]

April 8th 1841.

Dear Sir.

I return you the Volume of Burke's History of the Commoners of Great Britain, which you had the kindness to borrow for me. It does not contain any list of Townlands in the County of Cork as I expected. It merely gives the pedigree of the present, Morgan William O'Donovan of Mount-pelier, near Cork, traced to Donnell, Chief of Clancahil who died in 1618; but it does not give the line of the late General Richard of Bawnlahan who died without issue in 1829. I thought Burke might have published some of the documents which the present O'D, mentioned in a letter to me, but he gives nothing but mere names and dates.

I have various pedigrees of this family coming down to a very late period, and poems addressed to the heads of the family in the 17th century, but I cannot identify anyone given in this pedigree published by Burke with any of them, and I cannot believe that Morgan William is the head of the race in point of seniority of descent until he accounts [178] for the descendants of Donnell, the first son of the Donnell who died in 1618. It is true that on the death of the General in 1829 he had no nearer relatives in the County of Cork than the family of the present Morgan William O'D. of Mountpelier but it is a positive fact, which I will undertake to, prove, that the descendants of Donnell the eldest son of the Donnell of 1618, are not extinct.

Please to look at page 397 of this Vol. where the pedigree of the present O'D. is given as furnished by himself.

Your obedient humble servant,  
John O'Donovan.

Waterford, [179]

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1841.

Dear Sir

I have got a very good Map of the Parishes of the County of Waterford from Capt. Tucker's Office, and I can work away now smoothly enough.

I want Mr. E. Curry to examine Mac Firbis and the other authorities for the pedigree of the family of Power or Poer, who were the great Anglo-Norman family of this County and also for the pedigree of their predecessors. O'Foelan and O'Bric. I also want him to see if he could find any ancient authority for the name Faithleg, which is that of a Parish situated in the northeast extremity of this County in the Barony of Gaill-Tir. This Parish is called in Irish by the Datives Feidhlim (Feilim) as if it were a man's name and a conspicuous hill in the Parish opposite the Meeting of the Three Waters is called Mionan Fheidhlim. The difference between the English or rather anglicised form of this name and its Irish form is very strange and still I believe

that the English form is the more correct one, as it appears in very old documents.  
[180]

O'Flaherty writes in his Ogygia, and I believe Keating also writes the same, that the original territory of the Desies of Munster extended from Lismore to a place called Ceann Craden (Criadain) and from the River Suir to the sea. Can Mr. E. Curry find an ancient Irish authority for this statement? The place which O' Flaherty calls Ceann Creden is now Creden Head, forming the eastern extremity of the County of Waterford.

I have no ancient authority for the spelling of the name Gaill-Tir, which is that of the most eastern Barony in this County; it would appear to mean "the English Country" and it is perhaps the district in this County of which the Red Earl obtained possession; but I have nothing definite on the subject. A branch of the De Burghs located in the County of Kilkenny took the name of Gaul and it is stated on a monument to that family preserved at Gaulskill that they had originally estates in the County of Waterford also. Could it be that they gave name to this Barony?

I have no pedigree of this branch of the De Burghs and I fear that none is preserved as they certainly are not the Burkes of the Suir mentioned by Mac Firbis, for the Burkes called "of the Suir" are unquestionably those of Muskerry Quirk near Athassel in the County of Tipperary. The monument above referred to states that the De Burgos of Gaulstown [181] descend from Sir William Burke, who has estates in the County of Waterford and Kilkenny and who was Chamberlaine to Edward 3rd. Could Mr, Petrie find out for me who this Sir William Burke was? Was he of the Clanrickards?

The arms of this family are to be seen on a stone which originally was placed over the gateway of the Castle of Gauls-town but now built up in the wall of a stable belonging to Mr. Jones of Mullinabro, and I intend to get a drawing of it made to be inserted in my letter on Gaulskill if Mr. Jones will be so good as to give me permission, but I fear he will not as he has fallen out with all my friends here in consequence of elections!

The latest writer on the City and County of Waterford is the Revd. Mr. Hyland, I hope you will be able to let me have a copy of his book.

Your obedient etc., servant,  
John O'Donovan.

The six traces from ancient etc , maps for the County of Waterford have come safe into my hands.

Kilmacthomas, [182]  
June 11th 1841.

Dear Sir,

We have now traversed all the Parishes within reach of Kilmacthomas and we shall move to Dungarvan tomorrow, where you will find us for about nine days Please

to send us some quills, square paper, sealing wax and a piece of Indian rubber to Dungarvan as soon as convenient.

I wish Mr. E. Curry to examine the ancient authorities for the name Cloch Lobhrais, which is that of a huge rock in the Parish of Stradbally about four miles from this village; it is said to have given oracular responses in pagan times! Also for Maothail Bhrogáin and Díseart Nairbre, Can any ancient Irish authority be found for the name Cummeragh, which is that of a long range of mountains in this County. I have no older authority for the ancient spelling of it than O'Brien's Dictionary, which is not much older than ourselves.

I hope the Kerry Name Books will be prepared for us [183] early in July, for we shall certainly have finished here in less than another month, say 26 days, and as Kerry is so extensive and so full of mountains in many places inaccessible, it will be very desirable that we should have the best part of the year to traverse it. I trust also that as good a Map of it as possible, showing all the Parishes, Towns and Villages will be prepared for us and that the extracts will be Indexed and put into as good and convenient form as possible.

Your obedient etc, servant,  
John O'Donovan.

Dungarvan, [184]  
June, 13th 1841.

Dear Sir,

I have to identify a mountain in the Desies often mentioned in ancient Irish history under the name of Sliabh Cua, and it occurs to me that it is mentioned by an Irish poet who lived here in the last century, Donogh Roe Mac Namara; Mr. E. Curry has a copy of his mock Aeneid in which he mentions this mountain and several other localities in the County of Waterford, in different Parishes of which he taught school for many years. I wish he would extract from this poem the references to Sliabh Cua or Sliabh Gua and the other localities. It is also mentioned in Caithreim Cheallachain Chaisil.

The Baronies of the Desies in this County are called Desies Within and Desies Within Drum and the distinguishing additions Within and Within Drum were for a long time a puzzle to me but I find that the reason of their being added [185] is well known in the Country. These two Baronies are separated by a celebrated and beautiful ridge called Drum Fineen, which extends from near Castle Lyons in the County of Cork to Helvick Point, forming the south side of the Harbor of Dungarvan; it is interrupted only by the channel of the Avon-more or Blackwater near Dromana. Let me also have all the references to this ridge. I believe it is mentioned as one of the three beautiful ridges about which the two great fathers of the Irish fought a battle, in which the progenitor of the southern Irish or Momonians was killed. It is a conspicuous, and in some spots a fertile Drum, and the boundry of the two baronies above mentioned extends along its summit.

Is there any pedigree of the O' Briens of the Comarach mountains or any account of the time they settled there? Is there any written account of the family of Magrath of this [186] County? They appear from the traditions preserved in connection with them that they were a family of great importance.

As far as I am able to see my way we shall be ready to go into Kerry on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, and I hope that the Name Books will be ready for me against that time,

Your obedient servant,  
John O' Donovan

Dungarvan, June 13<sup>th</sup> 1841.

Clonmel, [187]  
July 17<sup>th</sup> 1841.

Dear Sir,

I walked hither yesterday over the Mountain of Slieve gCua for the purpose of visiting Glennahira to-day and I have now just returned from it. This County is very barren in antiquities; indeed, as far as we have traversed, we have met nothing in it worthy of minute description with the exception of a few castles and Cromlechs, the Churches, with the exception of three or four, being rude erections of the fifteenth and sixteenth century. This is the most Irish County I have yet traversed and I am sorry to say the less interesting in its antiquarian remains; and the people are not as enlightened as the inhabitants of any County in Connaught. "Deas-ibh i.e., the Beautiful Country" -Sir Gay.

The land is craggy; poor; unproductive; and the people [188] are overworked; they are actually stunted or twisted (casta) in the earth with hard labour and still they are not rich nor happy, but very quiet. Their martial ardor is damped! The Patron Saint of Sliabh gCua is St. Sescnen and his Parish is now called Seskinane in all ecclesiastical documents, but strange to say, this name is not known to the people generally for they all call the Parish Slievegua. I cannot find the name Sescnen in the Index to the Irish Calendar which I have here, but I am sure that he is mentioned in the ancient Irish documents as one of the disciples of St. Patrick. I wish Mr. E. Curry would look through the Feilire Aenguis for any notices of him that may occur. The naives of Slieve Gua think that [189] the old Church called after this Saint is one of the oldest in Ireland, it having been erected as they think, in the year 471 but I think that its present walls, which are in very good preservation, are not six centuries old.

We shall certainly be ready to go into the County of Kerry on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July so that we will expect that the Name Books will be all ready against that time. We return to Dungarvan tomorrow.

Your obedient servant,  
John O'Donovan.

Lismore, [191]

June 23rd 1841.

Dear Sir,

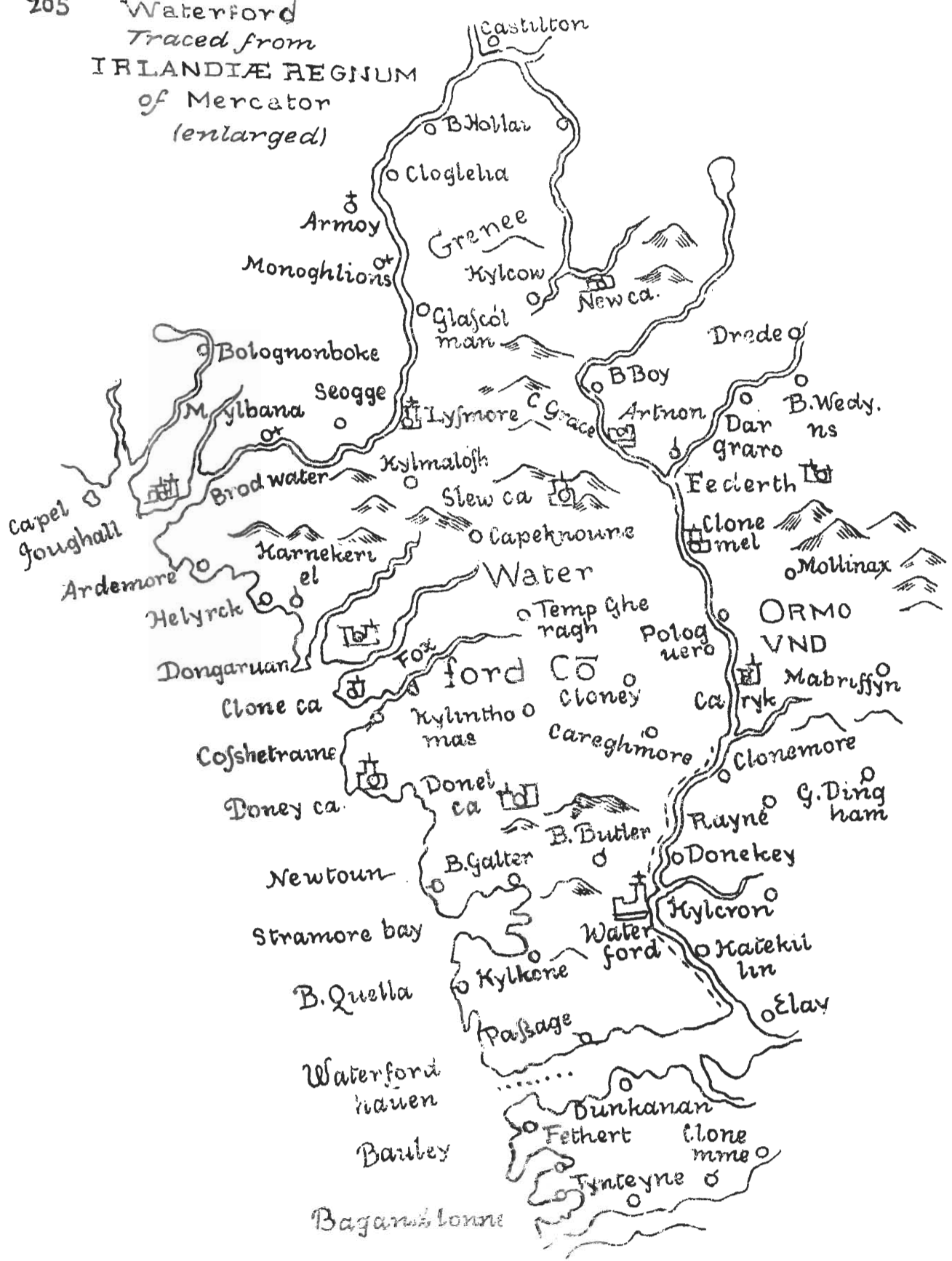
We are bringing this County to a close and will expect that the Kerry Bocks will be ready to send us early in July. Where do you wish us to begin that County, and which will be the best way for us to get into it? Through Cork or Limerick? I have moved with a view to get into it through Cork, but if it be desirable that we should begin it at the northern extremity, as we have most of the other Counties, we should, I think, go first to Limerick and thence to Tarbert; but if you are in no great hurry with the names it will be of little consequence when we start upon it, or where we begin.

I want the Dinnseachus of Sliabh Cua as I cannot find it in any of the papers before me and also the reference to [192] it in the Triumphs of Callaghan Cashel. Mr. E. Curry says that this mountain is not mentioned in this tract but I certainly had the passage in which it is mentioned, either in the County of Limerick or Tipperary when I was not acquainted with the situation of Sliabh Cua. It states that Callaghan set out from Cork for Cashel and passed over the ridge of Sliabh Cua and over the shoulder of Sliabh Crot. The name Sliabh gCua is now applied to the Parish of Seskinane but there can be no doubt that it was originally the name of the whole range of mountains in the northwest extremity of this County, of which Knockmuldowny is the highest part. This appears very clearly from a passage in the Life of St. Carthagh of Lismore which states that when the Saint applied [193] to the Chief of the Desies for a place on which to build a Monastery the Chief, who was then at Ardfinan, told him that he had a place (meaning Lismore) at the other side of Sliabh gCua which might answer him. This settles the question but I should like to have the passage from the Triumphs of Callaghan to corroborate it.

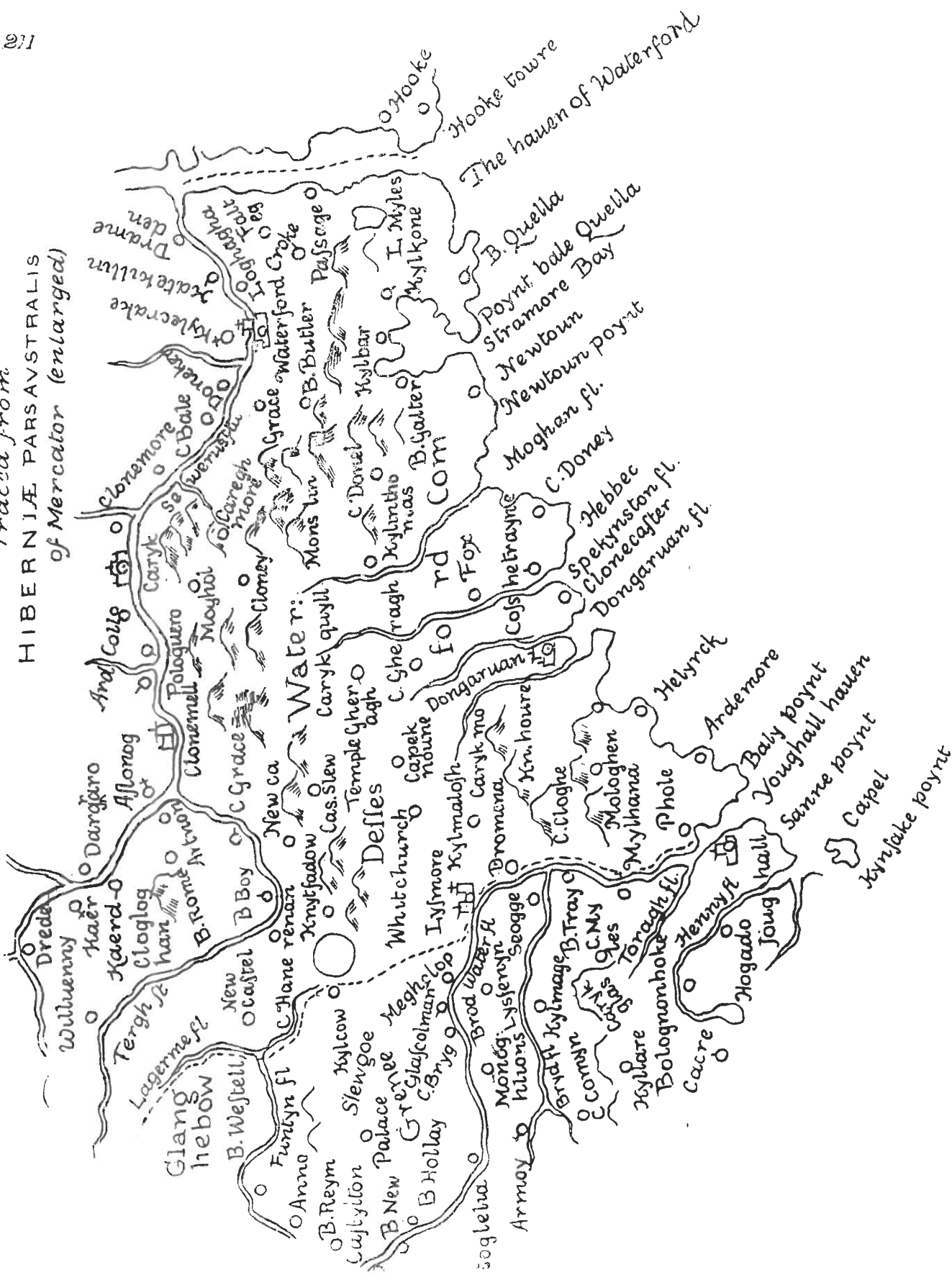
We have now to a demonstration the ancient names of the three great mountain ranges of Munster so often alluded to in the Irish Annals and historical tales, namely Sliabh Caoin or Sliabh Claire, the range to the south of Kilmallock; Crota Cliach or Sliabh gCrot, now the Galty Mountains; and Sliabh Cua, the Knockmuldowny Range in the northwest of this County, nearly parallel to the Galties, the Town of Cloheen and the Village of Ballyporeen being in the middle of the rich valley between them.

Your obedient servant,  
John O'Donovan.

Waterford  
Traced from  
IRLANDIÆ REGNUM  
of Mercator  
(enlarged)



Waterford  
Traced from  
HIBERNIÆ PARS AVSTRALIS  
of Mercator (enlarged)







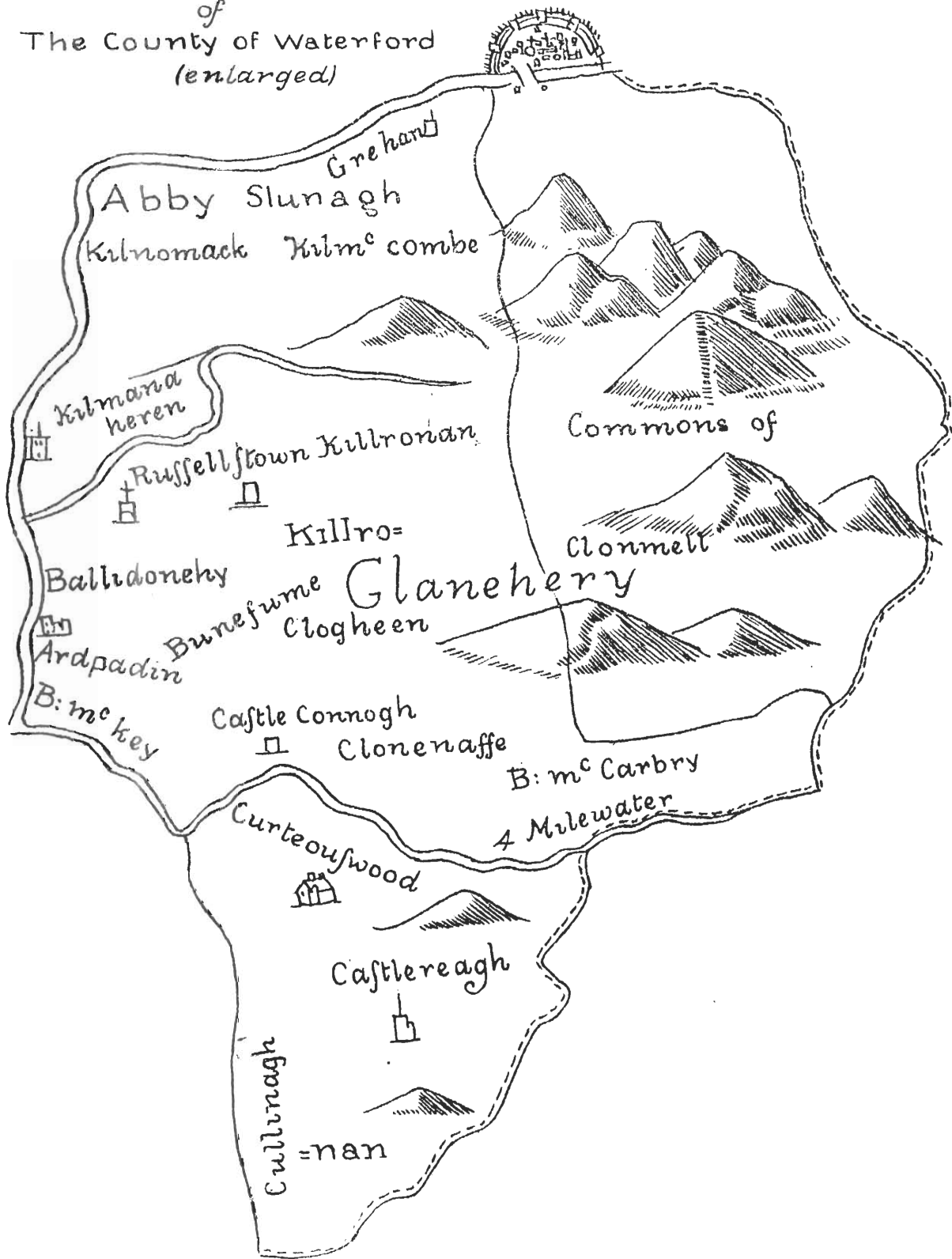
Waterford  
Traced from  
THE PROVINCE OF MOUNSTER

(enlarged)



223 a The Barony of  
 Glaneherly from  
 The Down Survey Map  
 of  
 The County of Waterford  
 (enlarged)

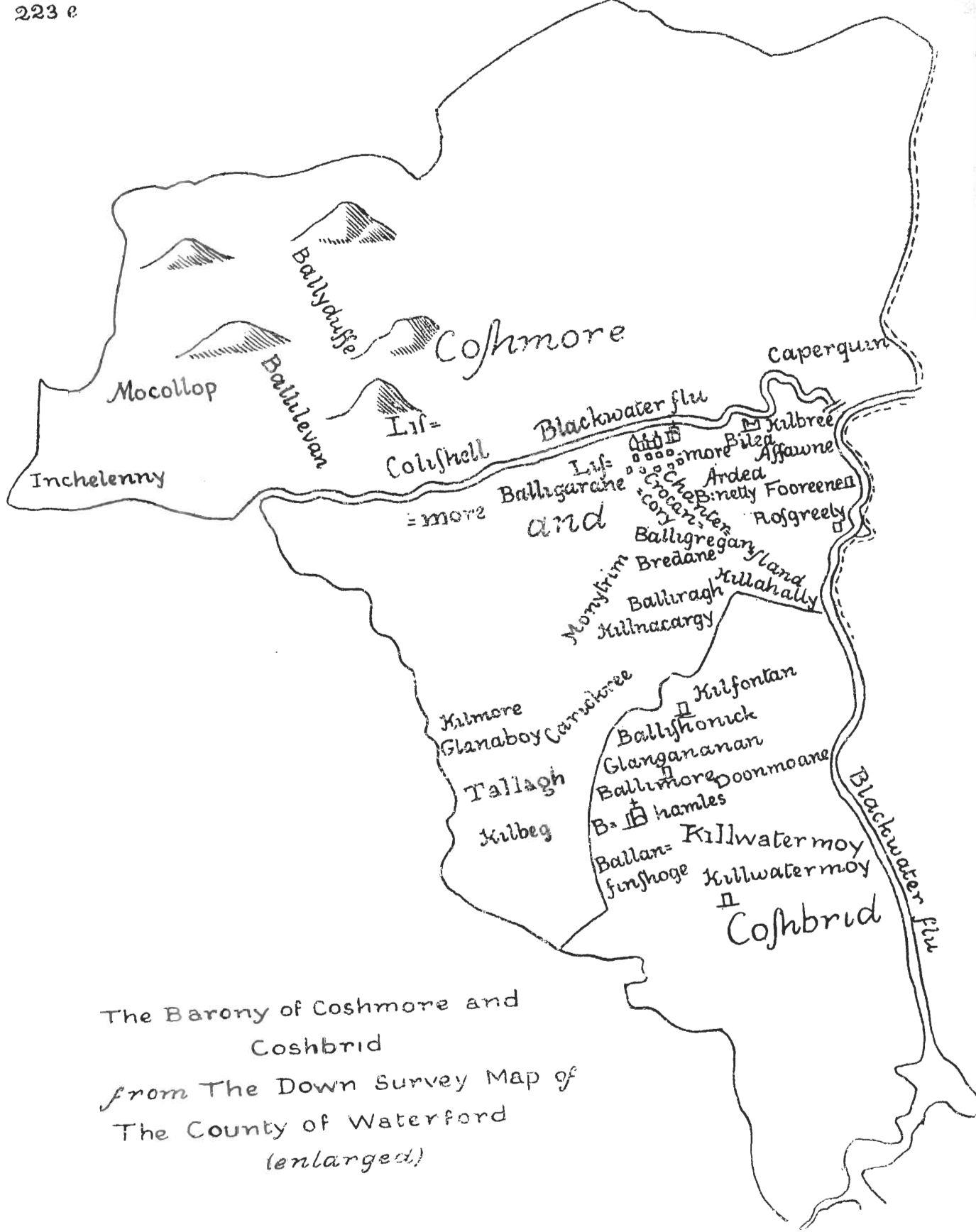
Clonmell City







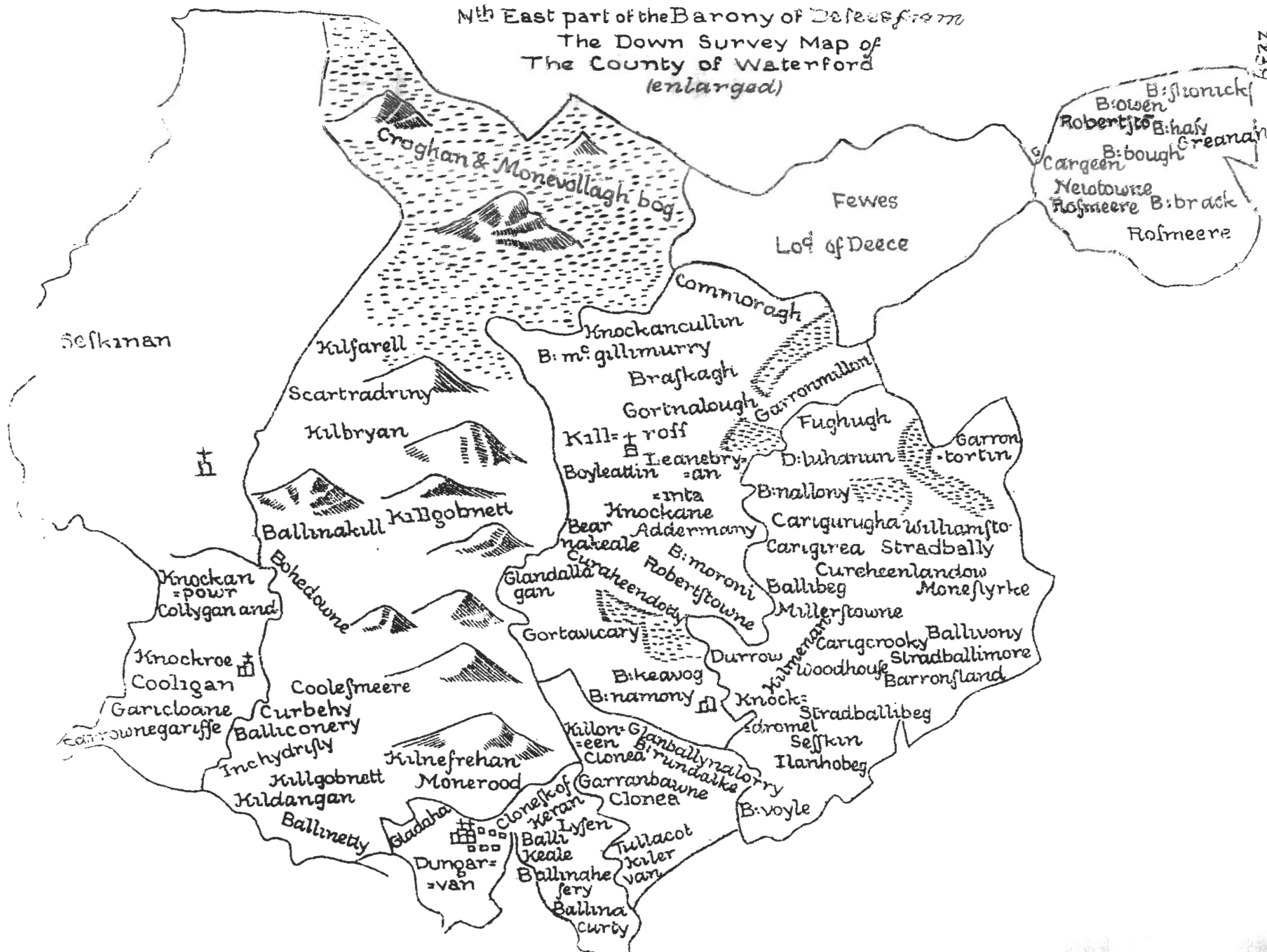




The Barony of Coshmore and  
 Coshbrid  
 from The Down Survey Map of  
 The County of Waterford  
 (enlarged.)



Nth East part of the Barony of Deele from  
 The Down Survey Map of  
 The County of Waterford  
 (enlarged)

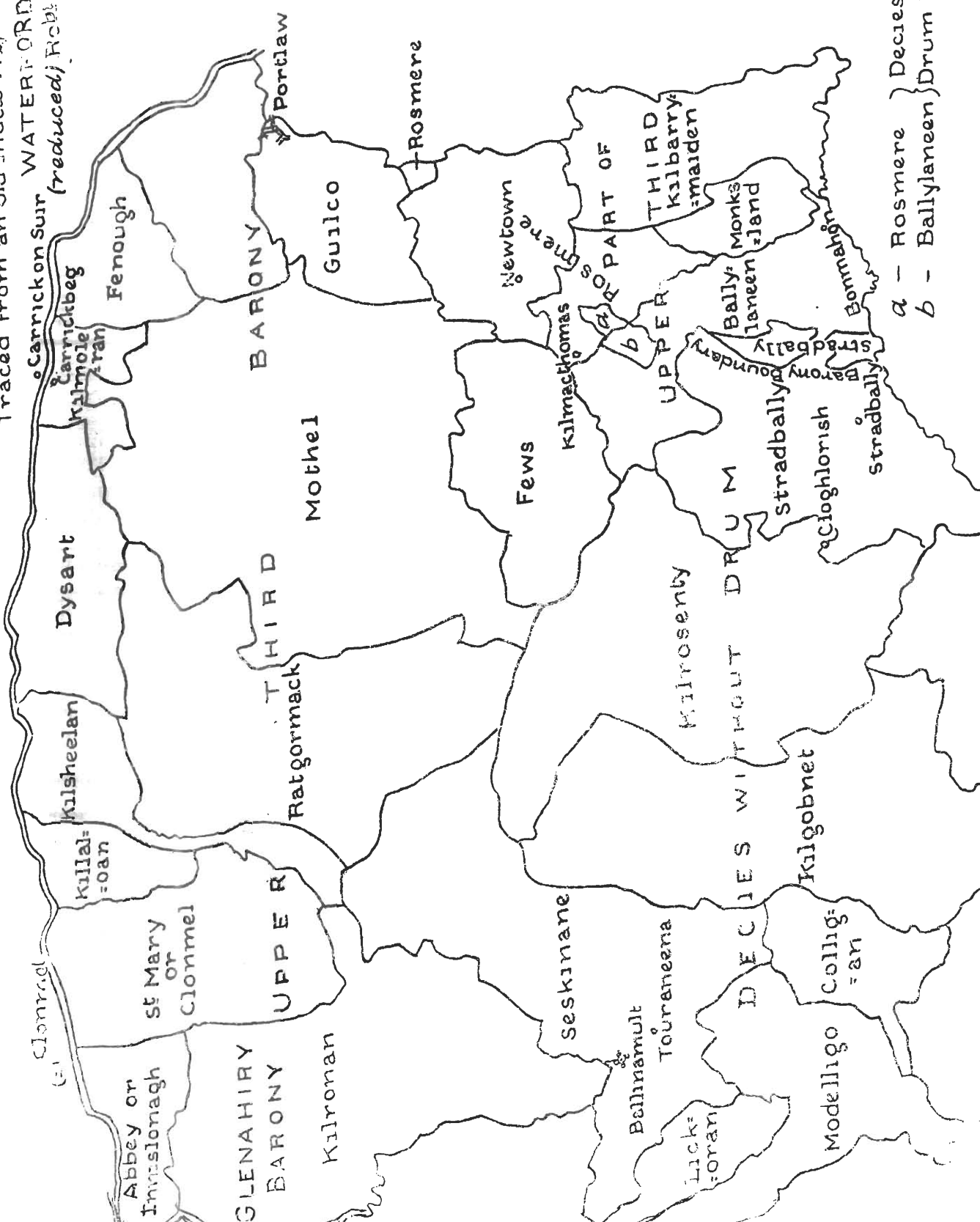






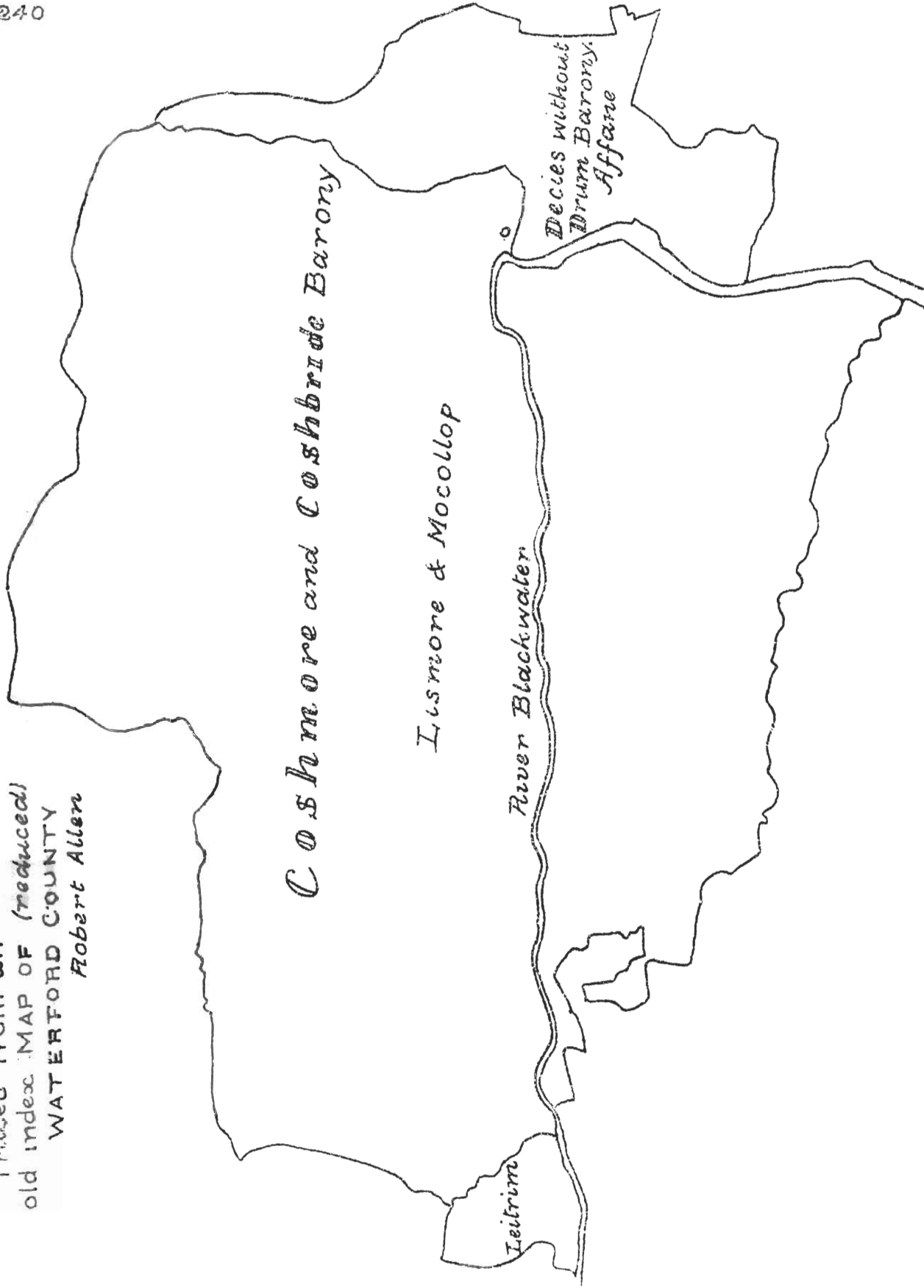


Traced from an old index map of WATERFORD COUNTY (reduced) Robt Allen 1886



a - Rosmere } Decies without  
 b - Ballylankeen } Drum Barony

Traced from an  
old index MAP OF  
WATERFORD COUNTY  
Robert Allen



*Coshmore and Coshbride Barony*

*Lismore & Mocollop*

*River Blackwater*

*Decies without  
Drum Barony.  
Affane*

*Leitrim*

