

## THE PARISH OF ABBEYFEALE.

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**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the west part of the Barony of Glenquin, and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Rathronan, on the east by those of Monagay and Killeedy and on the south and west by the County of Kerry.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is in Irish Mainistir na Féile, which signifies the Monastery or Abbey at the River Feale, and the river has taken its name, according to the Leabhar Gabhala, from the Lady Fial who was drowned in it, or rather died through féile ogos náire, for having been seen by her husband while she was bathing in it. For similar legends see my letters on the Rivers Galway and Inny.

Allemande, and after him Archdall, and after Archdall his humble follower Gough, state that an Abbey of Cistercians was founded here in the year 1188, which was afterwards made a cell to the Abbey of Monasternenagh; but they do not give the name of the founder nor add a word on its subsequent history. I insert what they have said, but as the whole of the evidence rests on Allemande it is worth but little. Of this Abbey, from which the Parish and Village of Abbeyfeale have taken name, not a stone now remains but its site is shewn in the grave yard near the new

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R.C. Chapel. There are old men still living who remember to have seen some fragments of its walls. It does not appear to have been extensive.

The only remain of antiquity in this Parish is the Castle of Port, sometimes called Portanard, which is situated near the bank of the River Feale about one Irish mile to the north west of Abbeyfeale Village. It is forty feet by thirty feet ten inches on the outside and its walls are six feet thick, but its architecture is very rough and mean. The arch over the ground floor remains; it is pointed and fifteen feet in height from the level of the floor. This building is about twenty feet in height in its present state, but it seems to have been much higher. No tradition about its original founder or occupier can now be found in the country.

For the correct names of small burial places and other features in this Parish see the Field Name Book.

Archdall's Mon. Hib., R.I.A., Vol.2, page 414.

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Abbeyfeal. Near the River Cashin in the Barony of Connillo. An Abbey for Cistertians was erected here A.D. 1188 (Allemande) which was afterwards made a cell to the Abbey of Monasternenagh in this County, which see.

Gough's Camden:-

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Abbey Feal, of the same order on the River Feal, in the Barony of Conillo, 1188; afterwards made a cell to Monasternenagh (Archdall 414). A mile from it ruins of Purt Castle (Wilson 165).

The antiquities etc., of the Parish of Abbeyfeale were examined by me.

J. O'Donovan.

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