

THE PARISH OF KILLAHOLAHAN.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parish of Mahoonagh; on the east by the Parish of Drumcullaher; on the south by the County of Cork and on the west by Killeedy and Newmarket (Co. Cork).

NAME. The name of this Parish is in Irish Cilleach O'Liathain, which signifies the Church of O'Liathians, a family name of great celebrity. It is probable that the name is compounded of Cill, a Church; Ache, a field, and O'Liathain, the name of a family; ecclesia campuli O'Lethanorum.

Of the old Church of this Parish, which is situated in a valley in the Townland of Lack Lower having high hills to the east and west of it, the walls are nearly perfect. There is a breach of six feet in width on the north side wall near the west gable and another of seven feet on the same wall near the east gable. This Church is forty six and a half feet long by twenty five feet. The east gable contained three windows; of the middle one, which is almost entirely covered with ivy, the lower part only on the outside can be seen. It is formed of cut lime stone. On each side of this, at the distance of four feet from it, are the other two windows, the upper parts of which on the outside and the entire length inside, are concealed by a luxuriant growth of ivy. On the outside they appear to have been ten feet high and are eight inches in width and formed of the same quality of stones with the walls of the Church. On the south side wall, at the distance of seven feet from the east gable, there was a window which is now disfigured. There is a window on the west gable, but its dimensions are concealed by the ivy which covers it. The doorway which is situated on this gable is six feet nine inches high by two feet eleven inches and has a flat arch of thin stones on the inside; on the outside it is round arched, five feet ten inches high by two feet four inches. It is formed on both sides of

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cut lime stone and has a comparatively modern appearance. On the south side wall, twelve feet from the west gable, there is a broken archway which led to a lateral building running to the south. This building, which measures fourteen feet two inches by fifteen feet four inches, had a window on the south end, but it is now disfigured. The walls of this and the main building are about fourteen feet high, three and a half feet in thickness and built of small and large mountain stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. There are two large ash-trees growing inside this Church and several in the grave yard, which is large, but not much in use at present. The Church does not appear to be very old.

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In the Townland of Springfield (Gort na Tiobraid) and adjoining the dwelling house of Lord Muskerry, there is an old square Castle, the walls of which are still perfect. It is four stories high and has one floor (the 2nd) arched. It measures thirty four feet by twenty one feet four inches, the walls being about forty five feet high, five feet in thickness and built of large and small stones. The windows are all square and formed of cut lime stone. This Castle belonged, it is said, to the Desmond family. This is the Gortnitubrid mentioned in the account of "The Second Siege of Limerick" (1691) in Smith's Collections for Limerick (MSS. R.I.A.):-

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"The enemy had strong Castles, as Newcastle and Gortnitubrid in the west of this County (Limerick) which obstructed the communication from the camp into Kerry. From thence they frequently ravaged the country and burnt Ballingarry and Brury" etc.

O'Sullivan Beare in his History of the Irish Catholics mentions this place, which he Latinizes "Ager Fontis". The passage in which this occurs is not among our Extracts, but should be inserted here.

It is also mentioned by the Four Masters in their Annals at the year 1579; they call it Gort na Tiobrat, which is to this day the Irish name of Springfield.

The antiquities of this Parish were examined by Mr. A. Curry and his notes put into the above form by Mr. O'Keeffe.

J.O'D.

Gort-na-Tiobrat - Annals 4 Masters.

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A.D. 1579. (See Limerick at this year, p.455, for the whole of this article).

The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Sir William Drury, was at this time in Cork and with him were also the Earl of Kildare and Sir Nicholas Maulby. These (noblemen) set out towards the

Co. of Limerick and pitched their camp in the neighbourhood of Kilmallock. Hither the Earl of Desmond came to meet them and endeavoured to impress it upon their minds that he himself had not participated in the proceedings of James Mac-Maurice, and had not been instrumental in drawing him into the country or in the crimes committed by his relatives and he delivered up to the Chief Justice his only son and heir as a hostage to ensure his fidelity to the Crown of England. A promise was thereupon made to the Earl that his territory should not be plundered in future, but although this promise was made, it was never adhered to, for his people were slain, his castle destroyed and his corn and edifices burned. The Chief Justice afterwards set out from the camp of Kilmallock attended by three or four Captains and four hundred English and Irish soldiers to search the woods of Coill-mor and try whether they could discover any of their enemies in them. They fell in with the young sons of the Earl of Desmond, viz., John and James Oge at Gort-na-Tiobrat (Field of the Spring, now Springfield) and here a furious engagement took place in which the people of the Lord Chief Justice were defeated and three of their Captains slain, viz., Capt. Herbert, Capt. Eustace and Capt. Spris, together with three hundred of their men. Many made their escape to the camp by flight. The Chief Justice then removed his camp to Bel-Atha-na-nDeise (now Athreasy) which is situate in the very centre of Clu-Mail-Mic-Ughaine and here he contracted a disease which subsequently brought on his death.

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