

ROCHESTOWN PARISH.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Clanwilliam and is bounded on the east by the Parish of Caherelly; on the north by Ludden and Cahernarry; on the west by Feddamore and Cahervally and on the south by Cahercorney.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced Baile an Róistigh in Irish, which signifies the Bally or Town of Roche, which latter is a family name. It is not therefore of ecclesiastical origin.

The old Church of this Parish was situated in the north corner of Rochestown Townland. The burial ground belonging to it is still in use. The walls of the Church were razed to the ground. The locality is a small valley. The burial place is in a green field and is enclosed with a wall.

About ten chains east of this place is a well called Tobar an Thúarain, which signifies Spring Well, i.e., Fons Gelidus. It is said to have been frequented as a holy well and that its waters have proved effectual in curing several diseases. Persons were prohibited from visiting it about 1830 by John Croker, Esqr., and it is at present very much injured by cattle.

Fitzgerald in his History of Limerick Vol.I, p.291, gives us the following account of Rochestown. He says:-

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"Rochestown or Ballywilliam, standing west of Lillibeg, is a Vicarage in the Diocese of Huly *** but having no Church or Glebe House, according to the ecclesiastical Reports, this benefice is of very small value and has been augmented by the trustees of Primate Baulter's Fund; it contains a burying place and walls of an old Church which, according to Archdall, was a house for Dominican Friars."

Traversed by Mr. A. Curry; notes arranged by Mr. T. O'Conor.

J.O'D.
