

THE PARISH OF BRUREE.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated partly in the Barony of Small County and partly in that of Upper Connello; it is bounded on the north by the Parish of Croom; on the east by Drummin and Tankardstown; on the south by Colman's Well and Hackmeys and on the west by Castletown Mac Eniry and Ballingarry.

NAME. The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from the fort in which the King of Hy-Figeinte resided, near which fort the original Parish Church was placed; it is celebrated in all the ancient Irish histories as the chief seat of the senior representatives of Fiacha Figeinte, who, after the reign of Brian Boru, took the surname of O'Donovan; Brughrigh signifies the Fort of the King - Burgum regis. I shall here transcribe what Gough and Fitzgerald have written about this place, and point out some errors into which they have fallen. Gough writes:-

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"The Co. of Limerick before the arrival of the English was a kingdom or large principality of itself, denominated by the Irish during the middle ages, Aine Cliach or Eoganacht Aine Cliach; the Chief or King of which, O'Kierwick or Hy-Ciaraigh, descended from

Feidhlem, son of Nadfry, King of Munster, who had several dynasts or subordinate Chiefs of the several Cantreds under him (this is false) that is, Uaithne, Carrigoginni^{ol}, Cairbre Aobhdha, Hy-Conn-uil Gabhra and Connalla."

All this vile stuff Gough collected from Vallancey's Collectanea. The region comprised in the present Co. of Limerick was never called Aine Cliach or Eoganacht Aine Cliach, for the Territory so called comprised little more than one Barony! The Country of the Hy-Figeinte embraced the greater and better part of the Co. of Limerick; it extended from the Shannon to the middle of Slieve Loughra and from Kerry to Limerick.

"Uaithne, now the Barony of Owney in the north part of the County, had O'Ryan for its Chief. Carrigoginni^{ol} (a) is now the Barony of Pobal Brien. Donagh Carbreach O'Brien in 1211 received from John, King of England, patents for the estate of Carrigoginni^{ol} in the Co. of Limerick at the yearly rent of 60 marks. The Earls of Desmond afterwards became Lords of this Cantred. Before the settlement of the O'Briens from Thomond in this district, Carrigoginni^{ol} was the hereditary Cantred of the O'Kierwicks." 277

(a) This is certainly wrong, for Carriag O'gCoinneal was the name of the rock on which O'Brien's Castle stood and not the name of a Territory, and the present Barony of Pubblebrien is not the Territory anciently called Eoganacht Aine. It is sickening to have to notice the base blunders perpetuated by the stupid articles on Irish topography in Vallancey's Collectanea, but if I do not point them out now the opportunity may never offer itself again. 278

"Cairbre Aobhdha, now the Barony of Kenry, was also denominated Hy-Dun n'amhain (b) both of which names signify the Rocky District on the River, being situated on the Shannon, the Chiefs of which were the O'Donovans."

(b) So O'Donovan signifies the Rocky District on the River! This is truly amusing but not altogether true, though I believe Donovan, the progenitor of the family, was a rock in battle and as stubborn as a rock, but I do not believe that he was a rocky district. Is it not much more likely that this chief took his name from the color of his hair; Donn signifies brown, and Dubhán means a dark-haired man. Beauford, from whom the above derivation of the name is taken, supposed it might be from Dun-na-h-Abhann, i.e., the Fort of the River, i.e., the Hill of the River, i.e., the Rocky Hill of the River, and by a little stretch of the meaning, the Rocky District of the River! 279

"In this Cantred was situated Brughrigh (c) now Brury, an inconsiderable village, but in ancient times the seat of the Kings of Cairbre Aobhdha and probably the *εστερα Ρηγια* or Altera Regia of Ptolemy, which he says was a city."

(c) This is very beautiful no doubt! If Bruree was in the Barony of Kenry in Gough's time, it has removed itself an awful distance out of it since, for at this day it is no less than twelve Irish miles outside the boundary of that Barony. Is it not provoking to have to deal with writers of this description? The whole of this error originated with O'Halloran, who wrote that O'Donovan's Country was co-extensive with the Barony of Kenry and that his residence was at Bruree! Surely if his residence was at Bruree and if his Territory did not extend beyond the limits of the present Barony of Kenry, he did not reside in his own territory! But O'Halloran is wrong in making his territory coextensive with the Barony of Kenry, for we are informed by O'Heerin that O'Donovan possessed, free of tribute, 'the lands along the River Maigue and all the plains down to the Shannon.'

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'Ba leis gan chíos fo'n Máig moill
Is na cláir síos co Sionoinn.'

'Ille regebat agrum quem lambit Magia segais
Et compos protensos flumen ad usque Senanum.'

"Here Auliff More O'Donoghue, King of Cairbre Aobhdhae (d) was slain by Mortogh O'Brien in 1165. The Prince of this Cantred with his subordinate Chiefs, O'Cleircine and O'Flannabhra, were dispossessed by the Fitzgeralds, now Knights of the Glinn (e)."

(d) This is false; Auliff More O'Donoghue was Chief of Killarney, not of Hy-Cairbre Aobhdha.

(e) This is false; the Knight of Glynn never possessed the one tenth of this Territory.

Let us next examine Fitzgeralds's account of Bruree:—

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"Bruree, anciently called Brugh-na-Riogh, or the Seat of the Kings, is a Rectory and Vicarage. A handsome Church and Glebe house have been lately built here at a short distance from the site of the old Church near the River Maig, over which there is a good bridge. Bruree, now reduced to a village, is remarkable for the half yearly sessions which were held there by the Irish bards, and which, according to O'Halloran, were continued down to 1746.

"Above the bridge is the well improved residence of the Langton family and below it, immediately over the river, a very strong and lofty rath surrounded with a deep fosse, outside of which are three others of smaller dimensions. On an eminence in the vicinity is a large mound in the shape of an inverted basin, from which there is said to be a subterranean passage to the forts. A little farther down the river are the ruins of a curious fortress consisting of three strong Castles, one

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of which is entirely dilapidated; these are surrounded with a very lofty wall with ramparts and battlements constructed of large blocks of grit with which all the Castles and old Churches on each side of the Maig, from this place to the Shannon, have been constructed. The wall is more than one hundred and twenty yards in circumference; one of the Castles is in high preservation and in it are shewn two strong cells, which, according to tradition, were used as prisons by O'Donovan, Prince of Kenry, whose residence this is said to have been, but it is more probable that this fortress was built by a branch of the house of Lacy who possessed an immense Territory around Bruree, and that O'Donovan lived in the great Dun or Rath before mentioned, surrounded by his followers in the smaller ones."

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To this he appends the following note:-

"Doctor O'Halloran relates "that in the year 965 (975?) Mahon, King of Thomond or North Munster, who was brother to the celebrated Brian Boromhe, agreed at the interposition of the Clergy to meet Maolmuaidh, his rival for the crown of Munster, with a few friends on each side in order to settle their differences amicably; the house of O'Donovan near Bruree was appointed for the conference, and thither Mahon repaired with only twelve noblemen and their attendants. Maolmuaidh, who had previously prevailed on O'Donovan to betray his prince, came to the place with a strong body of horse and carried off the gallant Mahon to the Co. of Cork, where he was basely murdered at Leachta Mhahuin near Macroom. After the completion of this act of treachery, Maolmuaidh was proclaimed King of Munster, but Brian avenged the murder of his brother by killing O'Donovan (f) in a pitched battle shortly after, and totally routing his forces, among whom were 1500 heavy armed Danes commanded by their General Alvalus.

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(f) This is wrong; the Chieftain who opposed Brian on this occasion was not O'Donovan, but Donovan, for surnames were not established at this time.

"In 967 Maolmuadh was slain in a fierce engagement at Bealach Lachta by Murrogh, then a young man, who thus secured the crown of the two Munsters to his father, the gallant Brian.

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"Our Annalists inform us that at this period the Kings of Munster gave annual presents to their territorial Chiefs, who in return were bound to furnish their quotas of men and horses when called for. Thus O'Donovan, the Chief of Kenry (g) in the Co. of Limerick, claimed seven slaves, seven freemen, seven swords and seven cups."

(g) O'Donovan was not Chief of Kenry but of Hy-Fidhgeinte or Hy-Cairbre Aobhdha, a territory comprising more than six times the extent of the Barony of Kenry.

"A legend relates that a daughter of O'Donovan standing one day on the top of the Castle near Bruree with two officers of her father's household, with whom she was for some cause highly offended, pushed them off into the river, by which one of them was killed but the other escaped. The people in the neighbourhood pretend to shew a hollow in a stone which was made by the unfortunate man having struck against it with his knee" p.375. 286

I visited Bruree on Thursday the 30th of July and examined all its antiquities with great attention. I here transcribe what I wrote on the spot, as I never trust any facts to my memory. *Litera scripta manet.* 287

The large fort over the River Maigne above mentioned by Fitzgerald lies to the west of the mills of Bruree. It consists of an internal moat (raised to the height of about eighteen feet from the bottom of its trench) and two external ramparts or circumvallations. The internal moat is level at the top and measures from north to south sixty two feet and from east to west sixty six feet; the distance from its base to the top of the first rampart on the south side is forty three feet, and the distance from the top of the first rampart to that of the second or outer one is forty six feet. These ramparts are fully developed on the south east side, but on the south west and west sides they are nearly levelled, especially the outermost one. On the north west side the outermost rampart again shews itself, but it is not very high and it is much closer to the internal rampart than on the south side. On the north and north east sides it is traceable all along to the brink of the river, where it totally disappears. The internal rampart is on this side not less than twenty seven feet in breadth. The external rampart when it turns off from the river on the south side is remarkably high and its ditch or trench very deep. This is the fort which the people call the Brugh Righ or King's Fort or Seat, and it is said to be the site of the house in which Donovan, King of Hy-Figeinte, captured Mahon, the brother of Brian Boru in the year 976. 288

At the distance of one hundred and seventy paces to the north of this fort there is, over the same river, another remarkable one in a much more elevated situation; it was evidently formed by cutting down a natural hill into the shape of a fort of two circumvallations and remarkably deep trenches. The internal part or keep of this fort is considerably elevated above the summits of its external ramparts, and has itself a small Claidhe or rampart of earth (now much injured) around its edge. It does not form a regular circle, it being somewhat longer from east to west than it is from north to south. It measures from north to south thirty paces and from east to west thirty three paces. On the south and west sides its outer ramparts are nearly destroyed but on the north they are strongly developed and their trenches very deep. 289

Still further to the north and in the Townland of Lower Latteragh, there is another fort surrounded with two circular ramparts now so overgrown with white thorns and other bushes and shrubs that it would be difficult to measure them. The internal part of the fort is twenty six paces in diameter from north to south and thirty three paces from east to west. This fort is now called Lios Uilliam, which signifies the Fort of William, but this cannot have been its original name as William was never a man's name among the Irish till after the arrival of the Anglo Normans among them.

Keating asserts in the reign of Brian Boru that Brughri was anciently called Dún Eochair Mhaighe and that Brian erected or re-erected a fortress there. It is my opinion that the first fort above described is the original Brughri and that the second is the one built by Brian Boru.

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About one sixth of a mile westwards of the modern Protestant Church of Bruree, there is a large moat in the shape of an inverted basin, from which there is said to be a subterranean passage to the forts above described.

I now come to describe a class of antiquities at Bruree quite different from those already noticed and which oral tradition refers to a period too remote for the antiquarian to believe. These are the stone Castles. The first of these is called the Castle of Upper Bruree and stands in the Church yard close to the site of the old Church. It is a square tower measuring on the outside twenty four feet six inches from north to south and thirty five feet from east to west. It is five stories high and its walls are five feet four inches thick. I do not believe that this Castle is more than four centuries old, though tradition ascribes its erection to Donovan, the son of Olioll Olum!

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The Castle called Lower Bruree is situated in the Townland of Lower Lotteragh over the bank of the River Maigue and a short distance to the north of the second earthen fort above described. It is a very curious fortress consisting of a strong and high circular wall, on which originally stood three towers of great height and strength. This wall is one hundred and fifty feet in diameter and five feet four inches in thickness; its greatest height at present is twenty four feet, which is on the east side over the river, but it is not near this height on the north side.

The tower which is on the east side of this circle is in tolerable preservation, but the one on the north west side is much injured and the one which stood at the south side is now totally destroyed. The tower at the east side is about sixty feet in height, nineteen feet in breadth on the outside from east to west and twenty one feet two inches from north to south. The circular wall forms its east side to the height of about

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twenty feet. It is entered from the outside opposite the river by a pointed doorway of great strength, measuring seven feet ten inches in height and five feet one inch in width. When you enter the tower by this doorway, you observe an arch very high over head between you and - - - from which there are projecting stones and rests in the wall for three wooden floors, so that the arch above mentioned forms the fourth floor. By viewing this tower on the outside you will perceive that it was at least five stories high.

The tower on the north west side is much injured; it is twenty four feet eight inches from north to south and sixteen feet four inches in the other direction. These towers are built of smaller stones than the circular wall on which they partly stand, and it is highly probable that they are much more modern than it.

Tradition says that this Castle was originally built by O'Donovan, King of Bruree, and that he was driven out of it by the Lacys, who possessed large estates in the neighbourhood of Bruree till they were dispossessed by Cromwell. I would not take upon myself to assert that this circular wall was not built by O'Donovan, who certainly retained possession of Bruree and the plains down to the Shannon until after the arrival of the English. This circular wall is so like the fortress called Caislean na Cailly in Lough Mask, which was built in 1197, that I think it may be an erection of the 12th century, and if so, we have no right to deny without direct evidence that it was erected by the Irish Chieftain of the territory to defend himself against the assaults of the Anglo Normans, who laid an envious eye upon the fertile plains of Hy-Figeinte. I have no historical document to prove the exact period at which O'Donovan was driven out of this glorious country; but I am convinced that he did not retain it many centuries after the year 1178, when the Dal Cais compelled him and his people to fly out of the plains southwards beyond the Mountain of Mangerton. Smith, in his History of the Co. of Cork, states that the O'Donovan family "came into the Co. of Cork from a Barony in the Co. of Limerick called Coshma, where they built the famous Castle of Croom, which afterwards fell to the Kildare family, from which the motto Crom Aboo still used by that noble house was taken."

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I do not know on what authority Smith asserts that the Castle of Croom was built by the O'Donovans, but as he is a writer of considerable respectability it is not fair to reject his testimony without great caution. He does not state when they removed into the Co. of Cork, nor do I find any historical monument to prove directly the period of this removal. The following extracts from the Annals of Inishfallen, as translated by the venerable Charles O'Connor of Belanagare, will shew how the progenitor of

the family laid the foundation of the ruin of his race by attempting to struggle with the Dal gCais.

Extracts from the Annals of Inisfallen as translated into English by C. O'Connor:— 295

A.D. 976. Donovan, son of Cathol, Prince of Cairbre Aobhdha, treacherously seized upon Mahon, son of Kennedy, in his own house, whither he went under the protection of Colum, son of Ciaragan (Kerrigan) Bishop of Corke (in the original it is successor of Barra) who guaranteed his safety, to make peace with Maolmhuadh (Mulloy) son of Broin (Bran) to whom (and to his brothers Teige and Brian) Donovan treacherously delivered Mahon, who was murdered by them without respect to the Saint who had insured his safety. Some antiquaries say that it was at Bearnna Dhearg* (Red Chair - right, J.O'D.) on the Mount of Fearmaighe Feine (Fermoy) this shocking murder of Mahon was committed; and others that it was at Leacht-Mhathghamhna (Mahon's Heap, Monument) on Musire-na-Mona he was betrayed. The Bishop of Corke maledicted all who were concerned in conspiring the murder of Mahon. 296

This gap is still called by this name. It is situated on the borders of the Counties of Limerick and Cork in the Barony of Coshlea and Parish of Kilflin.

* (i.e., Sliabh-Caoin whereon Bealach-Alra. And also Bearnna-Dearg according to the Life of Lochtain from Bealach Abhra. Vide Gen. of the Saints of the descendants of Conaire, son of Mogha-Laimhe).

A.D. 977. Brian, son of Kennedy, marched at the head of an army to Ibh-Fighenté where he was met by Donovan, Dynast of that Territory in conjunction with Auliff, King of the Danes of Munster; Brian gave them battle, wherein Auliff and his Danes and Donovan and his Irish forces were all cut off.

A.D. 1014. Cathal, son of Donovan, Prince of Cairbre Aobhdha, commanded in the Battle of Clontarf.

Cairbre, son of Clearcan (now O'Cleireachain, J.O'D.) Prince of Ibh Cairbre, was slain by Maolholm, Prince of Kenry.

A.D. 1027. Donogh, son of Brian, marched into Ossory where a detachment of his forces was routed; Gadhra, son of Donchadh, Prince of Siol-Anmhadha; Donall, son of Seanchan, apparent heir to the throne of Munster; Malseachlin O'Connor, King of Corcomroe; the two sons of Cuilen, son of Conor; the Prince of Ibh-Conaile Gabhra, etc., were slain in this action. 297

A.D. 1088. Donall Mac Lochlainn, at the head of an army of the men of Tyrone and Tyrconnell, marched to destroy Connaught

according to a treaty made by him with Mortogh O'Brien, King of Munster, who was under a joint promise of doing the like, which he did not perform; then Donall with his forces marched to Raith Cruachan, where Roderic O'Conor submitted to him and gave him a splendid entertainment for a fortnight; then, joining their numerous forces, they marched into Munster and destroyed the country as far as Imleach-Iubhair, Loch-Gair, Brughrigh (Bruree) Dromain-I-Chleircin (now Drummin near Kilmallock) and Mungret; they also demolished Limerick and brought away the head of Art Uallach O'Ruairc from the hills of Fearann Saingil (now Singland).

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A.D. 1136. Kildare was plundered by Dermot O'Brien, and his brothers, and Ceannfaola* King of Ibh-Conaill-Gabhra, brought about a reconciliation of the parties concerned for that plunder.

* This Ceannfaola will be found in the pedigree of O'Donovan. — E. Curry.

A.D. 1151. Cormac O'Cuilean burnt Ardfearta-Branain, in which were the favourites or secretorys of Dermot Sugach O'Conor.

A.D. 1155. Collean O'Colleain, King of Ibh Conaill Gabhra, and O'Cinnfaola, another King of Ibh-Conaill-Gabhra, were killed by each other in single combat.

A.D. 1157. Auliff Mor, son of Aongus O'Donoghue, marched to ravage Owey and Cuimsionach against the O'Briens; he committed great depredations in that country and slew Heffernan, King of the Shire (Callaidh) with many others.

A.D. 1158. The great Church of Aghadoe was finished by Auliffe Mor-na-Cuimsionach, son of Aongus O'Donoghue, having obtained the supreme government of Eoganach Locho-Lein (Killarney) for his posterity.

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A.D. 1166. Auliff Mor-na-Cuimmsionaidhe O'Donoghue (there can be no mistake here — E. C.) was slain at Brury (Bruree) by Mortogh O'Brien, being then King of the west of Munster. His sons and friends carried his corpse to Aghadoe, where it was solemnly interred in the Church which he himself had built in honor of the Holy Trinity, with many Masses and hymns.

A.D. 1170. Dermot, son of Cormac Mac Carthy, with most of the Eugenic nobility, marched with their forces to Waterford (to fight the English) where a bloody battle ensued wherein great slaughter was made of the English and on the side of the Irish were slain Cathal, son of Auliffe Mor O'Donoghue, Artgoill O'Riobhardain, Iomhar, son of Cathal, Coillean O'Coilleain, Donogh O'Mahony, Maccon O'Driscoll and many others of the Eugenic nobility; nevertheless Mac Carthy defeated the English three times successively.

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A.D. 1177. Cuilean O'Cuileain had his eyes put out by Mac Carthy's son in revenge for his son Cormac.

A.D. 1178. Loch Gair (Lough Gur) was plundered and destroyed by O'Coileain-na-Claon-Glaise (Cleanglass). There was a very great war between the O'Briens and Mac Carthys, which proceeded to such excess that they laid waste the country from Limerick to Corke, and all along from the plains of the great grove (Derrymore - Clar Doire Mhoir) of Waterford to Cnoc Breannain, both Churches and Territories, and the most of the Eugenians were forced to fly to the woods south of the Lee in Ibh-Eachoch, and the people of Kerry-Luachra also fled to Thomond; in like manner the people of Ibh-Conoill-Gabhra and Ibh-Donovain (O'Donovans) were forced to fly south of Mangartan. Donall Mor O'Brien marched at the head of his army as far as Cnoc-Breannain and all over Desmond, which he entirely laid waste; Donnall, son of Auliff Mor O'Donoghue and Cuilean O'Cuileain, joined by all the other principal Chiefs of Desmond, destroyed the country around Cashel by way of reprisal for the slaughter and havoc which Donall Mor O'Brien had made of them in Desmond, etc. 301

A.D. 1200. William De Burgo, at the head of a great army, joined by Mortogh Fionn, Conor Ruadh and Donogh Cairbreach, the three sons of Donall Mor O'Brien, together with the English of Munster, marched to Cork and all over the Province of Munster; they remained at Cinneich a whole week and slew Amhlaeibh (Am-laff) O'Donovan, King of Cairbre-Aodhbha. Many of the English were also slain on that expedition, together with Me Cuisdeala. 302

A.D. 1254. Finghin Ranno-Roin, son of Donall Gof (Mac Carthy) assisted by O'Donovan, slew Dermot O'Mahony in revenge for having slain the Crom in Ibis-an-Bheil, on account of a dispute he had with some of O'Mahony's cowboys (shepherds).

N.B. The pedigrees of Hy-Fidginte and of Hy-Carbry or O'Donovan have been already copiously collected as well as every other notice that came within our reach and all sent to the O.S.O. for the purpose of being sent to Limerick, where it is hoped they have arrived long before this. - Eugene Curry, 21st July 1840.

From the passage above given under the year 1200, it is evident that O'Donovan resumed the possession of his Territory after he had been driven beyond Mangerton by the Dal gCais. When he was finally driven to the south does not appear from any document yet discovered, but it is evident that he was not in his original territory in 1420 when the poet O'Heerin flourished, who speaks of him as the person to whom this Territory was due; but it appears from his words that O'Donovan was not then in possession of Carbury Aeva. His words are:- 303

Dual d' O'Donnabháin Dhúin Cuirc
 An tír si'na tír longphuirt
 Fa leis gan chíos fo'n Máig moill
 Is na cláir síos co Sionoinn.

O'Donovanus qui quondam in Corci arce sedebat
 Pro terra castrorum est hac regione potitus;
 Ille regebat agrum quem lambit Magia segnis
 Et campos protensos flumen ad usque Senanum.

In the Leabhar na gCeart or Book of Rights the Chief of Hy-Figeinte is called King of Bruree, and it is added that he was free of tribute, but he received annual presents from the King of Munster (Ireland?) for his services in war. These presents are enumerated in the following quatrain in the Book of Rights, which is ascribed to St. Benignus:-

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Tuarasttol rígh Bhrogha rígh
 O rígh Erind can imshnímh
 Deich n-innair donna dearga
 Is deich ngoill gan Gaedhelga.

The stipend of the king of Bruree
 From the king of Erin without sorrow
 Ten tunics brown, red mantles (tunics)
 And ten foreigners (i.e., foreign slaves) without Gaelic.

Bruree is set down in the Book of Lecan as one of the Ports or fastnesses of the King of Cashel, by which is to be understood that it was one of the forts in his kingdom, but not inhabited by himself.

I shall give some account of the present heads of this family in treating of the extent of the Territory of Hy-Figeinte.

Gough's Camden:-

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Bruree, a poor village in the midst of the richest country in Ireland.

Bruree, a handsome town fifteen miles south west of Limerick, has four yearly fairs and a good bridge over the Maige, and is remarkable for the half yearly sessions held there by the Irish Bards so late as 1740 (Walker, Hist. Mem. of the Irish Bards, 166, Farrar, 438).

The songs, warrants, etc., composed by the members of this court are still extant and many of them are in the possession of a native of Dun Athaigh in the west of Clare, and now living in Mud-Island near Clontarf, Dublin. - J.O'D.

In the Townland of Howardstown in that part of this Parish 306

lying in the Barony of Coshma, there is an old Church called after the Townland, Teampull Bhaile Hobaird. It is a mere ruin, only fragments of its walls remaining. It is seventy three feet four inches in length and twenty two feet three inches in width on the inside. Its east gable is destroyed to the very foundations as is also the north wall, with the exception of a small fragment near the east end. A good deal of the west gable remains, but it contains no feature. A considerable part of the south wall remains, but where the doorway was placed is reduced to a shapeless breach. The south wall is two feet ten inches in thickness and the north one two feet seven inches.

The antiquities of this Parish were examined by me.

J. O'Donovan.

Dear Sir,

We shall remove to Newcastle on Friday after the arrival of the Mail car. It is ten Irish miles to the south west of this village and we must make it our head-quarters while doing the south west part of the County. I am now in the very heart of the Territory of Hy-Figinté, the territory of my ancestors before the arrival of the Anglo Normans. Mr. Curry will be so good as to let me have all the passages relating to that territory in O'Conor's translation of the Annals of Inishfallen, and also to Caenraighe, Brughrigh, Lis Cobhthaigh, O'Donovan, O'Coileain and O'Clerken. Beauford, in the 11th No. of Vallancey's Collectanea, quotes a passage as if from the Irish Annals which I cannot find in any of the extracts before me:- 480

"Here (i.e., at Brughri) Auliff More O'Donoghue (O'Donovan?) King of Cairbre Aobhdha, was slain by Mortogh O'Brien in 1165."

Is this passage to be found in any of the Irish Annals?
Try Inishfallen.

I also want the pedigrees of all the families of Hy-Figinte. They were copied for Clare from the various authorities and I think I left them with Mr. Curry to be sent to me to the Co. of Limerick; if not, I sent them to the Ordnance Survey Office.

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

P.S. O'Conor's translation of the Annals of Inisfallen, above referred to, is in the possession of Messrs. Hodges and Smith. It is much better than O'Flanigan's translation.