

## THE PARISH OF KILBEHANY.

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**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshlea and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Clonbeg in the Co. of Tipperary; on the east by the Parish of Ballyporeen in the same County; on the south by the Parish of Mitchelstown in the Co. of Cork, and on the west by the Parishes of Galbally and Ballylanders in the Co. of Limerick and Marshalstown in the Co. of Cork.

**NAME.** The name of this Parish is written Cill Beithne in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1502, where the following passage occurs:-

"Donogh O'Brien died." (His character is then given). "He was Lord of that district extending from Adair to Limerick and from Baile Nua to Monasteranenagh and was Lord (also) of Aherlagh and Cill Beithne."

The name Cill Beithne probably signifies the Church of the Birch Trees. 227

The old Church of this Parish is in tolerable preservation. It measures on the inside forty eight feet in length and twenty

one feet six inches in breadth. The east window is on the inside rectangular, but on the outside pointed and divided into two compartments; on the inside it is six feet in height and five feet in width; on the outside four feet seven inches in height and one foot six inches in width; each compartment five and a half inches.

At the distance of five feet three inches from the east gable the south wall contains a quadrangular window measuring on the inside five feet in height and two feet ten inches in width, and on the outside three feet six inches in height and five and a half inches in width.

At the distance of sixteen feet from the west, the south wall contains the doorway which is pointed on the outside and rectangular on the inside, where it is covered with a lintel and measuring on the inside six feet three inches by four feet, and six feet by three quarters on the outside. It is constructed of cut lime stone.

There was another doorway on the west gable but it is now nearly destroyed.

The north wall contains a roundheaded window placed at the distance of four feet six inches from the east gable, measuring on the inside four feet in height and three feet in width, and on the outside three feet four inches in height and five and a half inches in width.

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The walls of this Church are twelve feet high and three feet thick and built of small round brown stones. This Church is situated on high ground and has a large burial ground attached to it.

About half a mile to the west of this Church there is a small burial ground in which the natives believe the original Church called Cill Beithne stood.

On the Townland of Castlequarter to the west of this Church there is a ruin of an old Castle which was built, according to tradition, by Beithne O'Brien, who also built and gave name to the Church of Kilbeahany. Its south and west walls are destroyed down to the very foundations, excepting a small fragment of the south wall.

This Castle measured on the inside twenty four feet in length and eighteen feet in breadth and consisted of five stories. Its walls are about sixty feet high and four feet six inches thick.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry.

J. O'Donovan.

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