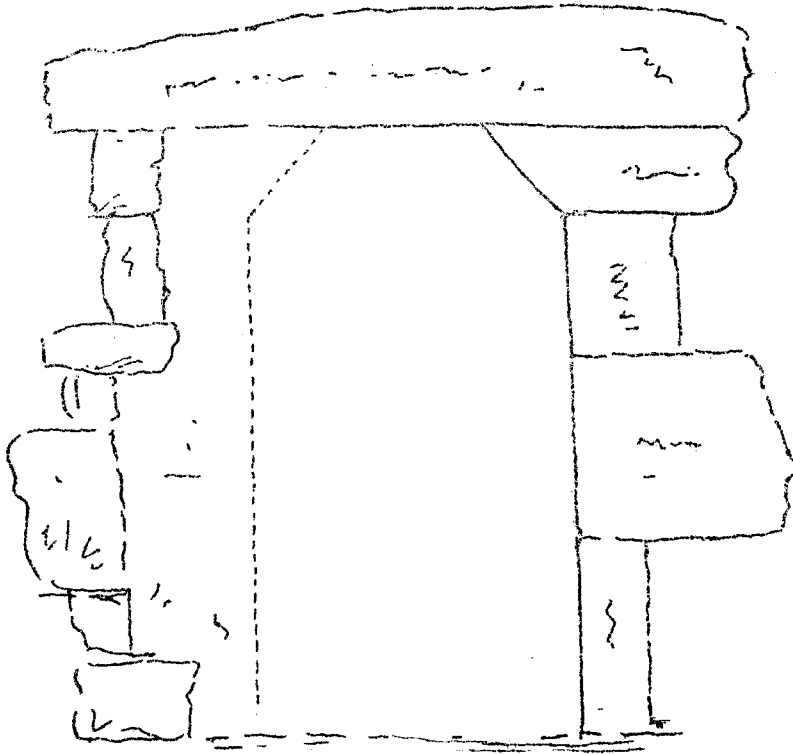


THE PARISH OF KILFINNY.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parish of Croom; on the west by Adare and Croagh Parishes; on the south by Ballingarry and on the east by the Parishes of Croom and Ballingarry.

NAME. The name of this Parish is of ecclesiastical origin



*Doorway on the South Wall
old Church, Kilfinny*

DIMENSION. 40
and signifies the Cell or Church of the Virgin St. Finneach. The name is properly written in Irish Cill Finnche.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry and described by Mr. O'Keefe.

J.O'D.

The old Church of this Parish, situated on low ground in the Townland of Ballynakill and commonly called the Church of Ballynakill, consists of nave and choir. The latter portion could not be measured inside, as there is on the choir arch an iron gate enclosing the choir as a burial place belonging to Mr. Pigott of Kilfinny.

This choir is nineteen feet long by twenty feet on the outside. The window on the east gable is modern having been formed within these 20 years by order of Mr. Pigott. On the south wall nine feet from the quoin stone to the east there is a window, the height of which cannot be determined in consequence of the top being concealed by an ivy tree which grows through the window. It is six inches in breadth and formed of brown cut stone which looks very old. The nave is forty feet long by eighteen feet. On the south wall of this portion of the Church eight feet from the middle gable there is a window which is broken on the inside and on the outside is round arched, three feet three inches high by six inches and formed of brown cut stone. On this wall at the distance of nine feet from the west gable is the doorway, which is dis- 128
figured on the inside and on the western part of the outside, for which reason its breadth cannot be ascertained. Its height to the lintel is six feet; the lintel six and a half feet long, nine inches in depth at the west end, fifteen inches in the middle and at the east end, and enters the thickness of the wall two feet eight inches. This lintel is of lime stone, not cut. The four stones in the eastern side are of the same material, but cut. 129

See sketch opposite.

There was on the north wall opposite to this another doorway, but it is totally disfigured. The quoin stones of this Church are of brown stones and are chiselled. The walls are about twelve feet high, three feet in thickness and have the appearance of very great antiquity. In the south wall there are some stones not less than about one ton in weight. The building is cemented with lime and sand mortar of great firmness. Attached to the old Church is a small grave yard much in use to the present day. 130

Ciarán's Well, situated thirty eight yards to the west of this Church, is much frequented by pilgrims on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Castle of Kilfinny lies about a quarter of a mile south of the old Church and in the Townland of Kilfinny. It consists of two quadrangular towers and court. The tower which lies to the south measures twenty feet by eight and a half feet and contains two arched floors over which there are two other stories, in all four stories. It is about forty five feet high, the walls being three and a half feet in thickness. North of this tower and attached to it is the Court, which measures thirty two feet by twenty feet and contains one arched floor and over this two stories, in all three. Its walls are about thirty five feet high and three and a half feet in thickness. At the north end of the Court there is another quadrangular tower similar to that on the south. These towers contain pointed windows and loop holes. The Castle of Kilfinny is said to have belonged to the family of Mac Eniry, the ancient Chiefs of Corcomohid whose principal Seat was at Castletown Mc Eniry.