

THE PARISH OF KILFLIN.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Coshlea and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Kilfinnan; on the east by the Parish of Darra; on the south by the Parish of Kildorrery in the Co. of Cork, and on the west by the Parish of Particles.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced in Irish Cill Fhloinn, which signifies the Church of Flann, but I could gather nothing in the Parish to prove which of the Saints of that name this Flann was.

The site of the original Church of this Parish is occupied by a modern Protestant Church, and there is no tradition of St. Flann in the Parish.

In the Townland of Abbey in this Parish are the ruins of a small Abbey called in Irish Mainistir na nGall, i.e., the Abbey of the Foreigners. It is in tolerable preservation and measures in length seventy one feet eight inches and in breadth twenty one feet eight inches; walls three feet six inches thick. It has three doorways, one on the west gable and two on the south wall. The one on the west gable is in the pointed style and is three feet five inches in width, but its height could not be easily ascertained. The more western doorway in the south wall is quadrangular; placed at the distance of twenty three feet from the west gable and measures on the inside seven feet four inches in height and four feet four inches in width, but on the outside it is disfigured. The other forms a flat arch at top and is placed at the distance of eleven feet six inches from the east gable. The east window is semicircular at top on the inside, where it is about eleven feet in height and nine feet three inches in width, but on the outside it is entirely disfigured. The south wall contains a window which is roundheaded inside and outside and placed close to the east gable. It is placed at the height of seven feet four inches from the present level of the ground on the outside, where it is three feet nine inches in height and one foot in width; on the inside it is six feet ten inches in height and five feet in width.

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The north wall contains a semi-circular headed window placed at the distance of seven feet three inches from the east gable and measuring on the inside eight feet seven inches in height and seven feet four inches in width, and on the outside, where it is five feet six inches from the present level of the ground, it measures five feet in height and ten inches in width. The same wall contains another semi-circular headed window placed at the distance of sixteen feet to the west of the one already described. It is disfigured on the outside where it was divided into two compartments but it can be ascertained that it was two feet in width. On the inside it is eight feet seven inches in height and seven feet

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six inches in width. Stone steps lead through the thickness of the west gable to the top of the south wall.

In the southern extremity of this Parish is situated the famous gap or pass called Bearna Dhearg. It is about one Irish mile to the south of this old Abbey and on the boundary between the Counties of Cork and Limerick, and the road from Kilmallock to Cork passes through it. This gap is well known to Irish historians as the place where Mahon, the brother of Brian Boru, was murdered by his Eugenian rivals in the year 976. This murder is thus recorded in the Annals of Inisfallen as translated by the venerable Charles O'Connor of Belanagare:-

"A.D. 976. Donovan, son of Cathal, Prince of Cairbre Aobhdha, treacherously seized upon Mahon, son of Kennedy, in his own house (Donovan's own house) whither he went under the protection of Colum, son of Ciaragan, Bishop of Cork (who guaranteed his safety) to make peace with Maolmhuadh, son of 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.

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"Some antiquaries say that it was at Bearna Dhearg (Red Chair) on the Mountain of Fearmaighe Feine this shocking murder of Mahon was committed," etc. See Parish of Bruree.

This gap lies between the Mountains of Killcruaig and Red Chair, the former lying on its east and the latter on its west side.

I here insert what Archdall has collected of the history of this place:-

Archdall's Mon. Hib., Vol.II, p.418, R.I.A.
Ballynegall.

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This was a Town of some note and was built by the English; at present it is only a poor village situated in the Barony of Kilmallock.

The family of Roche founded a Monastery here for Dominican Friars (War. Mon.) in the 14th century (Allemande); Donoghe O'Don-
gane was the last Prior; Inquisitions taken the Monday next after the feast of the Circumcision and Vth Philip and Mary, finds that he was seized of the site of this Monastery containing two
acres and a Church, annual value besides reprises 2s., also a
water mill, annual value besides reprises 5s. 4d., and four acres
of arable land and six of pasture in Ballinegall, annual value
besides reprises 3s. sterling (Chief Remem. MS.). Queen Eliz-
abeth in her 39th year granted the same (which in the patent
is expressly called a Carmelite Friary) with half a carucate
of land belonging thereto, to the University of Dublin (Auditor
General's Office). 204

Gough's Camden:—

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Ballnegal in the Barony of Kilmallock, a town of some note built by the English, though now only a poor village, had a Dominican Friary founded in the 14th century by the family of Roche. This order had another house at Ballyniwillin in this County (Arch'd 419, Farrar, 437).

The antiquities of this Parish examined by me.

J. O'Donovan.
