

THE PARISH OF KNOCKAINY.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Small County, and is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Kilcorney and Monasteranenagh; on the west by those of Ballynagallagh, Bruff and Uregar; on the south by that of Athneasy and on the east by those of Hospital, Ballynamona and Kilkillan.

NAME. The name of this Parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the hill near which the original Parish Church was placed and this hill derived its name of Cnoc Aine, i.e., Aine's Hill, from the Lady Aine, the daughter of Eógabhail who is still believed to haunt the hill in the shape of a Banshee. She is the next most distinguished Banshee of Munster after Eevil of Craglea in Thomond and is very frequently alluded to in their elegies by the Munster Bards of the last century. She is even mentioned in Cormac's Glossary as the person from whom the highest ground in the Territory of Cliach took its name of Cnoc Aine. 230

The Church of Knockainy, situated in the Townland of Knockany West is still in good preservation. It is said to have been built in the year 1400.

In the Townland of Lough-Gur near the south margin of the Lake of Lough Gur there is an old Church called Teampull Nua, i.e., the New Church, a name originally given in contradistinction from some older Church in its vicinity. It is well built and measures on the inside fifty six feet six inches in length and twenty one feet six inches in breadth. The window on the east gable is semicircular at top and measures on the inside ten feet in height and five feet six inches in width; and on the outside seven feet eleven inches in height and two feet two and a half inches in width; on the outside it is divided into two compartments (each division being pointed at top and eleven inches in width) is placed at the height of eight feet from the ground. All this window is built of cut lime stones. 231

At the distance of three feet from the east gable the south wall contains a window which is rectangular on the inside and pointed on the outside. On the inside it measures five feet in height and three feet in width, and on the outside three feet five inches in height and six inches in width. It is constructed of cut lime stone on the outside.

At the distance of seven feet four inches from this window the same wall contains another window of much larger dimensions; it is disfigured on the inside but in tolerable preservation on the outside where it is of a quadrangular (an oblong) form, measuring five feet seven inches by four feet six inches. It is divided into six compartments, each measuring one foot four inches in width. 232

The doorway is placed on the same (south) wall at the distance

of twenty one feet seven inches from the west gable. It measures on the inside seven feet two inches in height and four feet three inches in width and on the outside six feet four inches in height and three feet five inches in width; on the inside this doorway forms a flat arch and on the outside a round one, and is built of cut lime stone on both sides. Between this doorway and the west gable and placed within eight feet of the latter, there was a large window, but it is now reduced to a formless breach in the wall. 233

The west gable is surmounted with a round belfry consisting of one round arch and also a small window placed at the height of ten feet from the ground, and measuring on the outside about four feet in height and seven inches in width. It is quadrangular on the inside and roundheaded on the outside.

The walls of this Church are about twelve feet high and exactly four feet thick, and built of stones of a regular size cemented with lime and sand mortar. This Chapel, according to Fitzgerald's History of Limerick, was built by the Countess of Bath. See p. 311. 234

There is a large grave yard attached to this Church but not much in use at present.

In this Parish at the foot of Knockadoon Hill at the south side of Lough Gur Lake, are the ruins of a Castle called "Black Castle". It is a mere ruin, but it can be ascertained that it was a square tower on a strong wall which fortified this hill and rendered access to Lough Gur Castle on this side almost impossible. This tower measures on the inside twenty five feet by thirteen feet four inches. The arch over the ground floor remains and the part of the south wall now standing is about thirty five feet in height; the other walls are destroyed down to about twelve feet. The walls of this Castle are seven feet six inches thick.

There is a gateway on the strong wall above alluded to, a short distance to the east of this tower and through this gateway the road to the great Castle of Lough Gur leads. 235
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The great Castle of Lough Gur is situated at the foot of the same Hill of Knockadoon at the north east side. It is a square Castle of great strength measuring on the outside forty nine feet by thirty three feet six inches. Its walls are about seventy five feet high and seem to have been higher and it consists at present of five stories.

Fitzgerald in his History of Limerick conjectures that this Castle was built in the reign of Elizabeth by Sir George Bouchier, son to the second Earl of Bath, to whom, on Desmond's forfeiture

Lough Gur was granted. This is very likely for Carew mentions but one castle at Lough Gur and this is doubtlessly the one now called the Black Castle.

Dunached - Annals of the Four Masters.

A.D. 1088. Sloigheadh la Domhnall mac Mic Lochlainn la righ Ailigh ce ttuaisciert Ereenn imme hi cConnachtaibh ce ttart Ruaidhri ua Conchobair ri Connacht gialla Connacht uile do. Do deochattar dibhlinibh ce na sochraittibh is sin Mumhain go ro loiscseat Luimneach agus ro indraiseat Machaire na Muimhan .i. ce Imleach Iubhair agus Loch Gair agus Brughrigh agus Dúnached agus ce Druim uá Clercén, agus ruceat ceand mic Cailiech ui Ruairc ochnoaibh Sainceill agus ro tcecaillseat agus ro mursat Ceand coradh agus ro gabhsat ocht bfichit laech etir Galla agus Gaoidheala i ngiallnus agus a naittire agus tangattar dia ttighibh iaramh. Atiád roighne na naittire isin Mac Madhadhain ui Cindeittigh mac Conghalaigh í Occain agus mac Eachdach i Loingsicch. Do radadh, ba, ech, or airgat agus carna tar a cenél o Muircheartach ua Briain ina ffuaslaccadh.

A.D. 1090. Ruaidhri ua Concobhair do iosecadh Dúine Aicheat.

A.D. 1088. For the only notice of Brughrigh see Clunached.

A.D. 1088. For the only notice of Lough Gair see Clunached.

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See this passage as translated from the Annals of Inisfallen (by Charles O'Connor) in the notice of Bruree Parish.

Lough Gair, now Loch Guir.

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A.D. 1088. See Dunached at this year, page 386. Donnell Mac Loughlin and Roderic O'Connor plundered the plain of Munster as far as Emly, Lough Gur, Bruree and Dun Aiched.

The Dun Aiched here mentioned is in all probability the fort now called Dunkip, situated in the south of the Parish of Dysart not far from Croom. Dunkip is one of the highest forts in the County.

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A.D. 1516. A war broke out between the Fitzgeralds and James Fitz-Maurice, the heir to the Earldom, who resided on the borders of Lough Gur and the chiefs of whose army were the following, viz., Mac Carthy Cairbreach (Donall the son of Fingiu) Cormac Oge, the son of Cormac, who was son of Teige; Cormac, the son of Donogh Oge Mac Carthy, Lord of Balla (Duhallow) the White Knight, the Knight of Glyn, the Knight of Kerry, Fitz-Maurice, O'Connor and the (all-sustaining) tower of the battle, Mac Carthy More (Cormac Ladhrac).

John, the son of the Earl, went to complain of his distress

to the Dalcassians; they were united by friendship and marriage, 240
 More, the daughter of Donogh (O'Brien) the son of Brian Duff,
 being wife to this John; and O'Brien, from friendship and respect
 rose and assembled the Thomonians and was joined by Pierce, the
 son of James Butler, and others of his adherents, all of whom
 advanced to meet the Geraldine army. As soon as the son of the
 Earl perceived the nobles of the great army of the O'Brien's
 approaching, he took counsel of his people who advised him not
 to come to a meeting with them, but to leave the town without
 hazarding an engagement, and thus they parted from each other.

A.D. 1579. *** ** (See Limerick at this year, p.455, 241
 for the whole of this article).

With regard to Captain Maulby, he, after the death of the
 Lord Chief Justice proceeded to Limerick to obtain a new supply
 of artillery and to procure provisions for his soldiers. From
 thence he marched to Askeaton. On the same day the young sons
 of the Earl of Desmond came to look for arms or spoils in the
 Co. of Limerick and they and the Captain met each other face to
 face although they had sought to avoid instead of to meet him.
 A battle was bravely fought between both parties, in which the
 Irish army were so resolutely pressed by the Captain's forces, 242
 that they were finally defeated with the loss of Thomas, the son
 of John Oge, who was son of John, who was son of Thomas, who was
 son of the Earl, and Owen, the son of Edmond Oge, who was son of
 Edmond, who was son of Torlogh Mac Sheehy, and a great number of
 the constables of the Clan Sheehy, as well as a great many of the
 forces of the sons of the Earl. Considerable spoils consisting
 of weapons and military accoutrements were left on this occasion
 to the Captain's people. This battle was fought at Aonach-Beag 243
 (now Monasteranenagh). The Captain after this remained almost
 a whole week at Askeaton, the Geraldines threatening every day
 to give him battle, although they did not. The Captain destroyed
 the Monastery of that Town and then proceeded to Adaire where he
 remained subjugating the people of that neighbourhood until the
 new Chief Justice, Sir William Pelham, the Earl of Kildare and
 the Earl of Ormond came and joined him. They all encamped to-
 gether in Hy-Conillo. The Earl of Desmond did not proceed to meet
 them on this occasion because his Territory had been ravaged and
 his people destroyed, contrary to their promise to him that these
 should not be molested.

The English seeing that the Earl had joined his relatives
 consulted together and resolved to station their warders in his 244
 towns, viz., in Lough-Gur, Rathmore, Castlemorrison, Adaire,
 and Kilmallock and depart themselves for their respective homes.
 In consequence of this the whole country from Luachair Deaghaidh
 to the Suire and from Kenfebrat (now the Mountain of Slieve
 Riach) to the Shannon was rendered miserable.

A.D. 1599. The Earl of Desmond took (i.e., recovered) Lough Gur* from the Queen's people.

"Hee (the President of Munster) founde itte too bee a place of exceedinge strengthe bye reason that itte was an Island encompassed with a deep Lough, the breadth thereof being in the narrowest place a Caliver's shot over. Upon one side thereof standeth a verie strong Castle, which at this time was manned with a good garrison." - Pacata Hibernia, Vol.1, p.80.

Annals of Innisfallen:-

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A.D. 1088. A hosting with Donnell Mac Loglinn, together with the men of Tirconell and of Tirone, plundering and preying Connaght to perform his promise to Murchintach O'Bryan, King of Munster; but Muircheartach did not fulfill his engagement; then Domhnall with his host repaired to Rath Cruachan where Rotheric O'Connor paid him homage and obedience and entertained Donnell for a fortnight; then both with their hosts marched to Munster and preyed and wasted Munster to Imleach-Iubhar (Emly) and to Lough Gair (Lough Gur) to Brughri (Bruree) and Droman-Ui-Clerican (Drummin) and Muntgarret (recté Mungret, J.O'D.) levelled Limeric, and they brought the head of Art Uallach O'Ruark from the hillocks of Saingill (Singland at Limerick) and destroyed Clann Corann (Kincora at Killaloe) and they took one hundred and eighty soldiers of the Galls and of the Irish and they brought hostages, viz., Mac Mahon, O'Cinnedy and Congalach O'Hogan and the son of Eochy Loingoy, until a great deal of Kine, Gold, steeds and cups and silver was given by Murtach O'Brien for their redemption. For Murchartach was in Leinster at the time. It was by the direction of Dermot, son of Toirdhealbhadh O'Bryan, these actions were committed. 247

A.D. 1144. Donough, son of Murough Mac Carthy repaired to O'Brien's Bridge to maintain the sovereignty, where he slew Donough, son of Kennedy O'Brien, and repaired from thence to Luachair westward, and returned again into the Deisy's where he was betrayed by O'Flannagan and delivered up a prisoner to be kept in confinement in Lough-Goir (Lough Gur) and died there. 248

A.D. 1178. Loch-Gair (Lough Gur) was plundered by O'Coileán of Cloonglais. (Claenghlais, now Cleanglass near Abbeyfeale. O'Coilean, now anglicised Collins. - J.O'D).

Lough Gur is still frequented by that famous Earl of Desmond,

* Still known by that name. There are the ruins of a very strong Castle on a point of land running into Lough Gurr. The remains of some very remarkable Druidic circles at the same place attract much of the attention of the curious - E.C. 245

called by the Irish Gearoid Iarla, who is believed to have been carried away by the fairies, among whom he now enjoys a hybrid kind of existence being still a man but partaking of the imperishability of the fairies. He is frequently seen by the peasantry riding over the surface of Lough Gur at the head of a body of cavalry!

J.O'Donovan.

Transactions of the R.I.A. - Antiquities, Vol.XV, p.138.

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At Grange, half a mile from Lough Gur near Kilballyowen, Co. of Limerick, there are still remaining in good preservation three circles of different dimensions, which stand so near each other that they probably were employed at the same time in the celebration of the mysteries. On the north east stands the smallest, forty five feet in diameter. A perfect circle formed of stones of large size placed at intervals, all from four to five feet high, and several of them with squared flat tops. Fifty feet south west of this circle there is a second, measuring one hundred and sixty feet in diameter. Sixty stones only are left; in some parts standing quite close together, in others a wide gap between. These stones are all about three feet in height and the ground around and within the circle is perfectly level. About twenty feet south east stands an irregular conical stone four feet high, and at forty five feet due east of this another oblong stone lies prostrate, seeming to have fallen. It is worthy of observation, that the situation in which the conical stone and the pillar stone are here placed is much the same as that in which some remarkable stones of corresponding character are found at a circular temple called Temple Brian in the Co. of Cork. (Smith's History of Cork, Vol.II, p.418).

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An hundred and twenty feet due south of this circle a third presents itself, an hundred and thirty feet across. Only forty five stones of various dimensions remain, forming a perfect circle; some of them are very small, while one in the north east part of the circle is seven feet and a half high by five in breadth; nearly opposite to it stands another very little smaller. Many of the intermediate stones have been removed and a part of the north side of the circumference has been much disturbed by a ditch lately made close to it. The whole of this southern circle is surrounded by a mound about fifteen feet broad and about four feet high, which skirts along the outside edge of the stones, enclosing the area within them as a pit of three or four feet deep. (The Revd. W.L. Beaufort who measured the whole and made a plan of the ground).

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Gough's Camden:-

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Near Lough Gur, the seat of Henry Baylie, Esq., are remains

of a druidical temple (Wilson 358, Twiss 314) three circles of stones, the principal about one hundred and fifty feet diameter, consisting of sixty stones, of which the longest is sixteen feet long, six broad and four thick. Near them on a hill is a small cromlech (Wilson 358).

Near the south side of Lough Gur and not far from Blackcastle is a Giant's grave of great size and divided into two parts, of which the first measures fourteen feet in length and five feet in breadth. This division was originally covered over head with three massy flag stones, of which two are now displaced. The largest of these stones, which is in the middle, measures seven feet in length, four feet in breadth and one foot six inches in thickness. The other division of this grave is on a line with the former and extends westwards; it is seven feet in length and four feet in breadth.

(I think that this belongs to the Parish of Ballynagallagh, J.O'D.).

On the summit of Knockadoon are traces of a small circle of stones, in the centre of which there was a cairn of which a considerable part still remains. 253

On the south slope of the same hill, a short distance to the west of the above cairn and about sixty yards from the water, there is another circle of larger dimensions, but now nearly destroyed.

According to Keating, the Island of Lough Gurr was fortified by Brian Boru. This is doubtlessly the Hill of Knockadoon, i.e., Collis Arcis, i.e., the Hill of the Fort. The grey rocks of Lough Gur are noticed in the most ancient Irish Romances. Thus in the Book of Glendalough, fol. 105 a.b., in a description of the march (course) of a northern army into the south:- 254

"They proceeded from the Green of Dun-Da-Bheann in Ulster by Cathair Oisrin, by Li Tuagha, by Dun Rigain, over the rivers Ollar and along the banks of the Ollarbi into the Plain of Macha, by Sliabh Fuait, by Ath na Foraíre, by Port Noth Concubair into the Plain of Muirthemne, into the Country of Saithe, over Dubid, over the stream of Boyne into the Plain of Bregia and Meath, into the old Plain of Lena (Moylena) over the Brosnach of Bladhma keeping their left towards Bearna Meara, which is now called Eearnan Eile (the Devil's Bit) and their right towards Sliabh Eibhlinne, over the clear stream called Abhainn Ua gCathfadhha into the great Plain of Munster, through the Middle of Mairtine and southwards to Smeartan by the white (grey) rocks of Lough Gur and over the stream of Maig into Cliu Mail Mhic Ugaine in the Territory of Deise Beg in the Province of Curoi Mac Dary." 255

On the summit of the western part of Knockaine in this Parish there is an earthen fort or Doon, which, according to Keating was

erected by the famous Brian Boru. In its present state it has but one circular rampart of earth measuring forty one paces in diameter. It had a ditch and perhaps outer circumvallations, but these have been destroyed. This fort is called Dun Aine Cliach by Keating in the reign of the Monarch Brian:-

"Brian erected many bridges, causeways and made many great roads and erected and repaired many Doons, fastnesses and islands. He fortified Cashel of the Kings, of Ceann Abhradh, Loch a Ce, the Island of Lough Gur, Dun Eochair Mhaighe otherwise called Brughri (Bruree), Dun Iash (Caherbodie), Dun-Tri-Liag, Dun Gort (gCrot?), Dun Aine Cliach, etc., etc."

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On the top of the eastern part of Knockainy there are two small moats evidently of sepulchral origin.

The following passage in a historical tale preserved in the Book of Glendalough, fol. 105 a.b., is exceedingly valuable to the Irish topographer for the light which it throws upon the ancient topography of this part of the Co. of Limerick. It represents Cuchullin and his charioteer Lee, as standing on the summit of this hill and the former telling the latter the names of the mountains, etc., to the north and south:-

"Tell me, my charioteer Lee, dost thou know in what county we now are? I know it not, indeed, said (replied) the charioteer. I know it well, said Cuchullin. The mountain lying to the south is Ceann Abrat Sleibhi Cain; those mountains to the north are Sleibhte Eibhlinne; that bright sheet of water which thou seest is the Pond (Lake) of Limerick; the hill on which we stand is called Druim Colcaill (Hazlemount) which is also called Aine Cliach; it is situated in the Territory of Deise Beag. The army is to the south of us in Cliu Mail Mhic Ugainne in the Province of Curai Mac Dary."

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I examined the Hill of Knockainy on the 5th of August 1840 and I here transcribe my notes on the above passage:-

"Ceann Abhrat Sleibhe Cain, lying due south of Knockainy, is now the mountain called Sliabh Riach extending from Gleann Bruachain in the direction of the Parish of Kilflin in the Barony of Coshlea. Knockainy commands a beautiful view of this mountain. Sleibhte Eibhlinne (Montes Eulindae) described as lying to the north are now called Sleibhte Fheidhlim. They are distinctly visible from Knockainy to-day, but they lie rather to the north east than due north. What is called Linn Luimnigh in the above passage is that expansion of the Shannon opposite the old Castle of Carraigogennell; this linn or expansion of the Shannon cannot be seen to-day in consequence of a fog generated by the heat, which envelopes the Vale of the Shannon, but it can be seen at other times. The Mountain of Gleann na gCros at the Clare side

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is distinctly visible through the fog. Deise Beg mentioned in the above passage comprises parts of the small Co. of Limerick and of the adjoining Baronies, as is evident from many other references as well as this; the Town of Bruff is called at this day Brugh na Deise, i.e., Brugum Desiae, and the Parish of Athneasy is called by the Four Masters and by the natives at this day Beal Atha na nDeiseach, i.e., Os Vadi Desiorum. It is the country lying between Knockainy and Sliabh Riach for the Morning Star River, which rises in Griston Bog in the Parish of Glenbrohaun passes through Athneasy and through Bruff on its way to the Maige, is still called in Irish Abhainn na nDeiseach, i.e., the River of the Desies.

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The situation of the tract called Cliu Mail Mhic Ugainne is evident from a passage in the Annals of the Four Masters which places Beal Atha na nDeise in the very centre of it.

J. O'Donovan.

August 5th 1840.

Bruff na Deise Bige.

Aine - Annals of the 4 Masters.

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A.D. 666. Cath Aine etir aradha, agus Ui Fidhgeante dú in ro marbhadh Eoghan Mac Crundmail. 261

A.D. 1115. Diarmaid Ua Briain, Ri Mumhan, do erghabhail la Muirceartach Ua mBriain, agus Muircheartach Ua Briain do ghabhail a righe doridhisi, agus techt sloicceadh i lLaignibh agus i mBreaghaibh. Muircheartach Ua Ciarmhaic, tighearna Aine, Domhnall Ua Conchobhair Cierraighe, Murchadh Ua Flaind Mac Flandchadha, Tighearna Muscraighe, do mharbhadh.

A.D. 1123. Amus anaithnid do thabhairt for comharba Ailbhe, .i. Maolmordha mac Meic Cloithnia .i. teach do ghabhail fair for lar Imleacha fein agus for mhac Cearbhail Ui Chiarmaic tighearna Aine Cliach, agus ro marbhadh moir sheisear ann. Ténnattar tra na maithe ass tríá mhiorbhail De, Ailbhe, agus na heaccailsi.

A.D. 1167. Sluaicceadh, agus tochastal fear n-Breann, immo rioghraidh la Ruaidhri Ua cConcobhair. Tainic an Diarmaid Mac Corbmaic tighearna Deasmhumhan, Muircheartach Ua mBriain, Tighearna Tuadmhumhan, Diarmaid Ua Maoilseachlaind ri Midhe, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhail, tighearna Oirghiall agus maithe Laighean ar cheana. Rangattar iaramh hi tTir Eoghain, agus ro rann Ua Conchobhair an tír i ndo .i. Tir Eoghain o Shleibh Challain, fo thúaidh do Niall Ua Lachlainn .i. dar ceand da bhraghadh .i. Ua Cathain na Craoibhe, agus mac an Ghaill Ui Bhraín agus Cenél Eoghain o shleibh fo dheas do Aedh Ua Neill dar ceand da bhraghatt oile .i. Ua Maoileadha, do Chenel Aonghusa, agus huá h-Úrthuile do huibh Tuirtre comhaltai 263

Ui Neill fo dheisin. Lotar fir Breann ar ccúla fodheas dar Sliabh Fuáith ar fud tire Eoghain agus Conaill, dar Eassrúaidh i ccoine a ccobhlaigh muiridhe agus ro iodhnaic Ua Conchobhair tighearna deasmumhan, co na sochraide dar Tuadhmmumhain fo dheas go h-Aine Cliach go sedaibh, agus mainibh iomdha léo.

A.D. 1168. Slúaigheadh la Ruaidhri Ua cConcobhair, agus la Tigearnan Ua Ruairc, co h-Aine Cliach, go ttratsat braighde, agus ro randsat Mumha i ndó eistir mac Corbmaic meg Carthaigh, agus Domhnall Mac Toirrdhealbhaigh Ui Briain, agus do ratach dá fichit décc bó fo tri ineanecland Muircheartaigh Ui Bhriain la deasmumhain do Ruaidhri Ua Conchobhair.

Aine - Annals of 4 Masters.

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A.D. 666. The Battle of Aine between the Aras and Hy-Fig-einte in which Eogan, son of Crunmael was killed.

A.D. 1115. Dermot O'Brien, King of Munster, was taken prisoner by Murtoogh O'Brien and the latter assumed his kingdom again. He made an incursion into Leinster on which occasion Murtoogh O'Kerwick, Lord of Aine, Donnell O'Conor Kerry and Murrogh, the grandson of Flann Mac Clanchy, were slain.

A.D. 1123. A strange attack was made on the successor of St. Ailbhe, Maolmondha, the son of Mac Cloithnia, viz., a house was taken on him and on the son of Carroll O'Kerwick, Lord of Aine Cliach in the middle of Emly, on which occasion six persons were killed, but the great men escaped through the miracle of God, St. Ailbhe and the Church.

A.D. 1167. Roderic O'Conor assembled and mustered the men of Ireland with their Chieftains. Thither repaired Dermot, the son of Cormac (Mac Carthy) Lord of Desmond, Murtoogh O'Brien, Lord of Thomond, Dermot O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, Donogh O'Carroll, Lord of Oriel and all the Chiefs of Leinster. They afterwards went to Tyrone, and O'Conor divided the country into two parts between Niall Mac Loughlin and O'Neill giving that part of Tyrone extending from the Mountain of Sliabh Callan northwards to Mac Loughlin, from whom he received two hostages, viz. O'Kane of Creeve and Mac an Ghaill O'Brain, and that part of Tyrone extending southwards of the same mountain to Hugh O'Neill, from whom he received two other hostages, viz., O'Maoilaedha, one of the Kinel-Aengus, and O'Hurly, one of the Hy-Tuirtre, O'Neill's own foster brothers. The men of Ireland then returned southwards; some over Sliabh Fuaid; some through Tyrone and others through Tirconnell across Assroe (at Ballyshannon) to meet their marine fleet, and O'Conor escorted the Lord of Desmond with his forces through Thomond and southwards as far as Aine Cliach, giving them many jewels and precious articles.

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A.D. 1168. Roderic O'Conor and Tiernan O'Rourke marched to Aine Cliach, where they obtained hostages and they divided Munster into two parts between the son of Cormac Mac Carthy and Donnell, the son of Torlogh O'Brien; and Desmond rendered unto Roderic O'Conor three times 240 cows as a mulct for the killing of Murtoogh O'Brien.

Gough's Camden:-

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Any or Knockany, a sorry village on a broad and pleasant, though shallow River, in the Barony of Small County, had a Friary of Augustine Eremites founded in the reign of Henry II. On the river is a noble Castle and a smaller one in the village, both of which belonged to the ancient family of Fitzgerald, Earl of Desmond (Archd. 417 & 418, Farrar 432). An hospital or commandey of Templars is a mile north from the Town (Archd. 420 Farrar H.) the walls of the Church and monument of the founder remain.

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Archdall's Mon. Hib. V.II, p.417, R.I.A.

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A sorry village consisting of a few cabins; it is situated on a broad and pleasant, though shallow river, in the Barony of Small County, where a Friary for Eremites, following the rule of St. Augustine, was founded in the reign of King Henry II by John, the son of Robert, and sundry others (War. Mon.). Inquisition 8th March XX Q. Elizabeth, finds that the Master of Any was seized of the Rectory of Buroughe alias Broffe and is of the annual value of 20s. Aneas O'Heffernan, preceptor of Any, was promoted to the Bpt. of Emly 1543 and died about ten years after. Ware's Annals, p. 109 & 499, 25rd June XXXI Q. Elizabeth, a lease was made to Edward Absley and John and Mary Absley of this Friary, for the term of forty years at the annual rent of £47 7s. 6½. Irish money (Auditor General). The ruins of this building are still visible.

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Here we find a noble Castle on the River and a smaller one in the village, both of which belonged to the ancient family of Fitzgerald, Earls of Desmond.

Knockainy Castle.

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This Castle stands on the south side of the road between Hospital and Bruff and on the south east side of the Hill of Knockany. It measures twenty two feet by thirteen feet seven inches in the clear. It retains at present but three floors; the one over the ground floor is arched. The walls are about forty feet high and seven feet thick.

The people say that this Castle was built by one, Mathew O'Grady, who was steward to the Earl of Desmond, and that he built it while the Earl was on the Continent.



Baggotstown Castle
CO Limerick

This account agrees with what Fitzgerald states in his History of Limerick, Vol.I, p.307, where, speaking of Aney Village, he says:- "Here also are the noble ruins of a Castle on the river, erected by the Earl of Desmond; and in the village is situated a small Castle built by the O'Gradys of Kilballyowen." 270

In a note on this statement he says:- "The estate of Kilballyowen is said to have been granted to Matt O'Grady, the first of that family who came here from the Co. of Clare, by the then Earl of Desmond, for having performed with integrity the duties of a confidential situation in which he placed him whilst absent on State Affairs in England. O'Grady built at that time the Castle in the Village, in which he placed all Desmond's plate and valuable effects, to protect them from the Rapparees who lurked in the woods and infested that part of the country."

About three hundred yards to the east of the above Castle are the ruins of an old Court of the Earl of Desmond. These are the ruins spoken of in the beginning of the above quotation from Fitzgerald.

Baggotstown Castle.

271

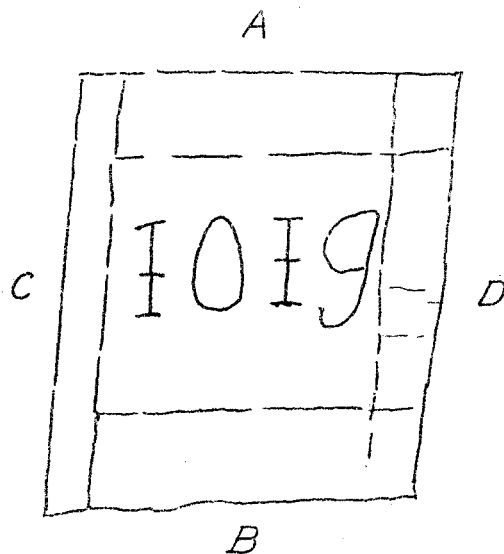
This Castle, now in ruins, stands in the Townland of Baggotstown in Knockany Parish. The east and south walls remain; the north and west ones have been entirely destroyed. It was thirty three feet by twenty three and at its north east corner stands a square tower, equal in height with the rest of the building and measuring fourteen and a half feet by thirteen and a half feet. The first stone arch remains on this tower. This Castle was five stories high; the walls are about sixty feet high and six feet eight inches thick. All the windows are quadrangular and built with well chiselled lime stones. This structure rested on oak beams, two of which are still seen.

On the floor of the tower lies a stone (Fitzgerald says it belonged to one of the chimnies) which was built in the west wall until it fell to utter ruin, having the date 1019 inscribed on it.

See sketch opposite. page 82.

It is more than improbable this date was intended for 1619. Fitzgerald, in his History, Vol.I, p.307 above referred to, gives the following account of this old Castle. He says:- 272

"In the Parish of Aney are the ruins of the fine Castle of Baggotstown, built by the family of the Baggots. It has five chimnies of polished stone in shape of an hexagon, and the top of each is so formed as to have the appearance of an inverted cone; this Castle formed two sides of a square. It has no



Stone with Date unscinded
lies on the floor of Baggotstown Castle

A, B, measures 1ft. 10 inches

C, D. " 1ft. 2 inches

The thickness is 10 inches

appearance of having been defended by outworks, but it was rendered almost inaccessible by the marshy grounds and trenches, by which it is surrounded. John Baggot of this place attended the General Assembly of Confederate Catholics which met at Kilkenny on the 10th of January 1647; he was also one of the Commissioners on the side of the Irish who signed the Articles of Limerick with Ireton on the 27th of October 1651. His son, Maurice Baggot of Baggotstown, was among those who were excepted from general pardon on the surrender of the City at the same time, and the Castle and vast estate annexed to it were then forfeited." 273

"On a square stone of one of those chimnies which has fallen are the figures 1019 in alto relievo, which some imagine to be the date of the year in which the Castle was built; but from every appearance it seems to have been erected at a much later period." 274

On the Townland of Rathany (Ráth Tanaidhe) is situated a green flat moat, twenty two paces in diameter and about ten feet high. There is no ditch around it, nor is there any appearance of an old building at it.

The antiquities in this Parish were examined by me and Mr. A. Curry.

J. O'Donovan.

August 6th 1840.
