

(Limerick NE)

1

FORM A.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Loshma

TOWN OR VILLAGE Adare PARISH Adare COUNTY Limerick

### TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

Adare, "the ford of the Oakes" is one of the most attractive & interesting spots in Ireland. Though lacking the noble settings of mountains or any wide vistas such as we find elsewhere in the county, further south & east, it has a peculiar wealth of quiet beauty apart altogether from its picturesque ruins which alone would lead anyone to visit it.

### GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

The venerable trees and shrubs along the bank of the river; the smooth well kept fields; the water fowl playing on the surface; the leap of the fish to be seen in plenty; the still reaches above the weirs and the chaos of tumbling waters below make a lovely series of pictures. From one point may be seen the lofty tower, stepped battlements and white shafted windows of a monastery; the quaint old bridges; the strong keep & tower of Desmond castle and the magnificent tower mans of the Olanore House.

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

#### OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?  
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

Adare Manor. Seat of Earl of Dunraven and Mount Earl. The founder of the Adare branch of the family was Shady Binn who acquired some of the Desmond Estates in 1683. Originally they were settled at Kilmallock having been driven from Clare (Inchiquin) some hundreds of years earlier by the O'Briens. The Binn are, with other tribes, descended from Shill Oluin, King of Munster in 3rd century.

Oh, sweet Adare; Oh, lovely vale;  
Oh, soft retreat of sylvan splendour.  
Nor summer sun, nor morning gale,  
E'er hailed a scene more softly tender. (G. Griffin)



## ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rath, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Founded in  
 latter years of  
 13th century. Restored  
 in 1871. Was once  
 known as de Howard  
 of St James. See  
 picture

The "White" or Dominican Abbey. This is now the R. C. Church having been restored and presented to the parish by Edwin 3rd Earl of Devon. The stately low old tower; south wall of nave and north wall of chancel; portions of the domestic quarters and a curious low circular turret which was the pigeon house (this latter is at the western angle of convent garden) remain. The rest of the building dates only from the restoration. The original stones however were used. The corbels of the arches under the tower and the cornice along the south wall with its gargoyls are worthy of note. A very beautiful triple light window in E. was replaced at restoration. The convent of mercy at rear of church was originally the domestic quarters. In the walk of convent are many Romanesque heads. In the vestry of R. C. Church is a set of wood carvings - 12 in all - dating from early 16th century, depicting the life of our Lady. These are well worth noting. The stepped battlements of S. wall remain.

The "Black" or Augustinian Abbey. This is now the Protestant Parish Church and has been less altered than the above. It too was restored and presented to parish by Edwin 3rd Earl of Devon in 1807. The tower was erected at a much later period than the building itself. The three original gothic arches of the S. aisle were removed at restoration & replaced by two new ones with a Norman capital. The stepped battlements of E. wall were also removed. The church has many interesting features, chiefly sedilia. The windows are mostly plain with the exception of the W. window of the aisle. The E. window is very much out of line and must have been one of the first of its kind. The apex being about 6 or 8 inches to right of the angle formed by the centre column. The cornice along S. side has a series of crowned lions which are curious & interesting. The beautiful little doise beside church has on each side three recesses and in each

Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information.



## CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

In the gardens south of Adare Manor is a group of six Ughar Stones collected in different parts of Kerry by Edwin, 3rd Earl of Dunraven :- (i) Mangerton. A tall stone 6' 9", now broken & lying on the ground. Found on slope of Mangerton cllth. The surviving letters read :- ONEGBN. Believed to have originally been a name such as BENERONI. (ii) Rockfield. Four stones were found in a cave at Rockfield, Co Kerry and used in building a house. Three of them were afterwards brought to Adare. The fourth was lost. The first of these is a tall stone inscribed on two angles. Rt hand angle has been defaced. Left hand angle reads MAOI RITTE MAOI COLABOT. The complete inscription was possibly MAOI MUCCI RERAI on rt hand angle. The second is a similar stone and reads :- COLLABBOTAS MAOI CORBBI MAOI MUCCI RERAI. Very likely it commemorates the father of owner of first stone. The third is a stone bearing an inscription running up one angle, over top & down the next angle. Reads :- CORBANI MAOI BIVITI. The stone known as Gortmaccaree was also found in Kerry & reads :- NOARRA MAOI VO REDRAN. Is a small stone. See pictures.

### CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

"Upon this spot there stood  
An aged ash tree under which  
John Wesley preached to the people  
of Adare in and about the year 1756."

The above inscription on a slab of limestone close by the ruins of Franciscan Abbey, Adare, marks the spot where John Wesley preached to the people of Adare. It is a place of veneration for members of the Methodist Church.

There are no holy wells or shrines in the district.

(Signed) P. J. Lynch  
Surveyor.

DATE 10/2/43.



## HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

In and about Adare very many battles took place & more than once was the village completely wiped out. It was of course at all times the centre of the Desmond Wars & was visited by both Carew & Essex. Cromwell, however, did not come nearer than the eastern end of the county but he issued instructions for the destruction of Desmond Castle which was duly carried out.

### HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

Curragh Chase, Adare. The home of the de Vere family since 15th century and where the Port Aubrey spent his life of 88 years. One of the loveliest estates in Ireland and open to the public all the year round.

Adare Manor. Home of the Wyndham Knin family (Earls of Dunraven) who are descended from one of the Dalmanian tribes. The present Earl is Head of the tribe of Knin!?

Desmond Castle, Adare. The stronghold of the Geraldines, Earls of Kildare & Desmond & Lords of Offaly. Many members of the family are buried locally but there are no monuments to mark their graves.

### SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public? Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.



## I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.  
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF COSHMA.TOWN OR VILLAGE ADARE PARISH ADARE COUNTY LITRICK

Location and brief description.

Population 500.

Eleven miles from Limerick City is the pretty village of Adare, generally considered one of the loveliest in Ireland. Quaint old thatched cottages with many paneled windows and shingle-roofed bungalow type houses of early 19th century are attractive features. Built on the left bank of the Sibrayellaigue, here travellers and tourists may linger for days and always find something to interest them, from Medieval ruins and buildings to the ultra modern transport vehicles of British Airways Airways Corporation which has made Adare its headquarters.

Is there a Town Hall? Yes

Location

↓ Village Street

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

The demesne of Adare Manor is always open to those with an estate pass, procurable at Dunraven Arms Hotel or Estate Office on payment of 1/-. The proceeds are devoted to a well deserving local charity, the District Nursing Association.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Up to date water supply & sewerage, under care of Limerick County Board of Health. There is a public drinking fountain beside R. C. Church.

## PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Adare Distance ¼ mile Bus? G.S.R. Daily.Public lighting by—Electricity? Yes Gas? —

## DANCING

Dance hall Village Hall Proprietor Rt Hon the Earl of Dunraven.

Use of Hall is controlled by a local committee under the chairmanship of Very Rev P. Canon Thornhill, P.P.

## CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas None Pictures shown —

(cinema shows are not allowed in the Village Hall.)

Travelling Cos however give performances during summer months in Marynes etc.

Theatre Village Hall Kind of shows drama, concerts, etc.  
(Drama, Comedy &c.) at intervals.



LIBRARIES

Public Libraries In <sup>Village</sup> ~~Barrow~~ Hall is a branch of the County Library.

Private Lending Libraries

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

ADARE.

R. C. Church 8 & 11.30 A.M. Services (Sundays) old time all year round.

Church of Ireland 12 noon & 7 P.M. official time.

Methodist Church 12 noon do.

All the above churches situated in village

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Main St of Village

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) All services.

BANKING

Banks Tuesday & Friday 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
(Ulster & Limerick Bank, Sub-office to 6 room.)

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers None nearer than Limerick

Photographic Stores Miss G. O'Leary's Medical Hall, Adare.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? Location

Public Baths? Location



## SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs. While there is no special club, all parishioners and natives of Adare may go to the Village Hall, where there is a Billiard Room, Card Room, Games Room and Reading Room, all free.

Cultural Societies. Adare Dramatic Society. Performances given many times during year - Drama, Comedy; Concerts; etc.

## INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries. There are two old time mills at Clonsilla. One owned by Mr. Sherwood and the other by Mr. Sparling. Here wheat is ground for local farmers during the season. These are water power mills and have been working for many generations.

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

## PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

A village st. beside R.C. Church is a handsome cut stone cross on a tall column of limestone. At the base is a drinking fountain. Erected by Caroline, wife of 1st Earl of Sumner, in commemoration of the work of villagers in extinguishing a fire at Adare Manor in 1844. Date of erection 1855.

## IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The Christian Brothers' School is a handsome building of dressed limestone, in well kept grounds. The Village Hall is a quaint building, partly limestone and partly stone work. Somewhat of the chalet type. The entire village is quite unlike any other village in Ireland, the houses being of very unusual design and construction, mainly wood.

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Irish Christian Brothers' Schools. National & Secondary.  
Sisters of Mercy Convent " " " "  
Adare Protestant School. Primary.  
S. Brumtrade Mixed National Schools.

## HOSPITALS

None nearer than L. Conn which is four miles to east.



FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets

Weekly market day

Half-holiday *Thursday.*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

*W. Doherty, Rathkeale Rd., Adare.*

*J. Harrington, Garage, Adare.*

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis

*J. Harrington, Garage, Adare.*

*B. Suple, The Cottages, Adare.*

Motors (Touring)

*In peace time vehicles are obtainable at Sunniven Arms Hotel.*

Boats (State type)

Bicycles

*While cycles are not generally to be hired, at times, when stock is suitable, machines may be had from Mr. W. Doherty, Garage.*

Caravans

Horses

*During Hunting season, horses may be had from Sunniven Arms Hotel, Adare and from some members of the Hunt Committee. The Master of the Hounds - Mr. Alexander, Clonsilla, Adare, would be able to direct any inquiries in this respect.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location

Landowner

Local Improvements Committee

Secretary

DATE *29-6-43.*

(Signed)

*P. J. Dwyer*

Surveyor.

Juverna Press, Ltd., Dublin.



ACCOMMODATION

PARISH... Adare...

BARONY... Coshma.....

COUNTY... Limerick.....

TOWN OR VILLAGE... Adare.....

Remarks

HOTELS	No. Guest Bedrooms	No. of Baths	No. of Lavs.	No. Public Rooms	Licensed	Remarks
<u>Dunraven Arms Hotel.</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>Lcd.</u>	A most luxuriously appointed Hotel. Presently the Hotel is the Head quarters of the British Overseas Airways Corporation and the Pan-American Co., and there is little accommodation for visitors, in the ordinary sense. Self contained suites may be had, with bath etc.
	<u>32</u>	<u>9</u>				
<u>Guest or Boarding Houses</u>						

29th June, 1943.

R. J. Lynam.



# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Coshma

TOWN OR VILLAGE Adare PARISH Adare COUNTY Limerick

### ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE ellaigue Nearest point to town (distance) Adjoining

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon, Trout

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 12 lbs. Sea trout — Brown trout 3/4 lb.  
(batches up to 5 lbs are frequent)

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon March/April Sea trout — Brown trout May/June  
(depends on weather)

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon Standard patterns

Sea trout —

Brown trout Standard patterns - good dry fly river

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

A stretch west of Bridge is free but is "fishable" only for a short distance as tide comes up to bridge.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

The entire stretch of river within the demesne is preserved by the Earl of Sumner and can be fished only by invitation from the owner. For one mile above Castle Roberts Bridge, the river is preserved by ellaigue Anglers Assoc. but may be fished by visitors to Sumner Arms Hotel on payment of 5/- May be fished only from Denyinnane or left (hand) bank.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Adare; Rathkeale; Broom; Limerick

Local Angling Club ellaigue Anglers Assoc Membership Fee 7/6

Secretary (and Address) Mr David Cantwell N.T., Broom.

only a few hundred yards of the river fished by this Assoc. are in parish of Adare. Visitors to district may fish by courtesy of members & making a contribution to funds, amount not specified.



SEA ANGLING

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

SPORTS AND GAMES

[Crossed out section]

Kinds of fish to be caught :

[Crossed out section]

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

Rosbrien  
Limerick.

The Secretary,  
I.T.A., Dublin.

Recd 19/7/43  
following <sup>weekly</sup> Report

Re Adare Parish.

Dear Sir,

I am of the opinion I omitted to insert section "B", particulars of Golf Club at Adare.

The following are the details and I shall be very glad if you will ~~insert~~ them inserted.

Professional - Robert Wallace.

Green fees - Per day 2/6

" " " week 7/6

" " " month 22/6

There is a Club House on course but it is not led. 9 Holes.

Hoping no inconvenience has been caused you.

Yours faithfully,

P. J. Lynch.

Summer 43.

ing tackle ?

sn.

Club. No. of holes 9.

n of course :

most delightful woodland  
rigid & surrounding the  
Desmond Castle; Franciscan  
les. Considered the most  
and splendidly kept.

Licensed ? NO - Hotel adjacent

Per week



SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

[Crossed out section]

Kinds of fish to be caught :

[Crossed out section]

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

[Crossed out section]

Bait available locally ?..... Fishing tackle ?.....

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.....

GOLFING

Name of Club Adare Manor Golf Club. No. of holes 9.

Situation and brief description of course :

*Situated in the demesne in a most delightful woodland setting. On the banks of the Maigue & surrounding the beautiful medieval ruins of Desmond Castle, Franciscan Abbey and two early churches. Considered the most picturesque course in Ireland and splendidly kept.*

Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course ? yes. Licensed ? NO. - Hotel adjacent

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day..... Per week.....



**RACING**

(Including " Point-to-Point " and " Flapper " meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year.....  
Under which rules?.....  
Situation of course..... *None within the parish.*

**HUNTING**

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *Limerick County Hounds.*  
Harriers *" Stammers.*  
Beagles */*

**COURSING**

Name of Club *Adare Coursing Club* Meeting held annually? *yes.*  
*At Clonmanna are the famous flats over which the Irish Greyhound racing of world wide fame GREYHOUND RACING is held. On the estate of Lord Adare, Kilgobbin, Adare. Usually held in January - 3 days.*

Name of Company *Nearest at Limerick 11 miles distant*  
Races on (nights) *Tu/Sat nights at 8.15 P.M.*

**SHOOTING**

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available :

*Rough shooting to be had free over lands adjoining the demesne and elsewhere, ~~entirely free~~. Shooting to be had within the demesne by invitation only. Bunaghlax, Estate is also preserved but it is not a very good shooting area.*

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses :

*Adare: - Rt Hon the Earl of Dunraven, Adare Manor.*  
*Bunaghlax: Mrs J. G. de Vere, Bunaghlax, Adare.*

Shooting Club..... Secy.....

**CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

Name of Club..... Competitions held? */*

**ROWING AND SAILING**

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.

.....  
.....  
.....



**GAMES AND RECREATIONS**

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :  
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football *Adare Gaelic Football Team. Grounds at Black Abbey.*

Hurling *.. Hurling Club .. .. .*

Handball *.....* Handball alley? *.....*

Soccer *Adare Soccer Club. Ground rented annually.*

Rugby *.....*

Cricket *.....*

Hockey *Adare Hockey Club. .. .. .*

Bowls *.....*

Bowling (on public roads) *.....*

Lawn Tennis *Adare Tennis Club. Kinds of courts Green.*

Croquet *.....*

Billiards *In village Hall.*

Badminton *In Hall attached to Protestant School.*

Table Tennis *.....*

Bridge Club *.....*

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) *at post gate lodge of bunaghelane, Adare, there is a "platform" where "cross roads" dancing takes place.*

**ATHLETICS AND CYCLING**

Name of Club *Adare A. C.* Events held under rules of *N.A. & C.A.*

do. *.....*

**ANNUAL EVENTS**

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.) in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

*Irish Cup coursing meeting Promoters Irish Cup coursing club. Held at b. lounema in January of each year. (estate of Lord Adare)*

*Adare coursing club meeting Adare coursing club.*

*Held in Deer Park, Adare, by permission of Earl of Sumner.*

*Adare Sports meeting (usually in June) Adare Athletic Club.*

DATE *29/6/43.*

(Signed) *J. J. Lynch.*  
Surveyor.



Adare Manor. VI

South of the house are large geometrical gardens, bounded on east by a stone balustrade with urns, & from which broad flights of steps lead down to the river which washes the eastern wall of the house. A shaded walk under fully grown trees leads to the old stone bridge near the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey, Desmond Castle, Desmond Chapel & old church of St Nicholas. To the west of the house is a gentle slope delightfully planted with rare & beautiful flowering shrubs. The big gardens are a few hundred yards to S.W., screened by delightfully matured trees of many colours & species. The outside of the garden walls are covered <sup>with</sup> rare trees & shrubs, all named & catalogued for the benefit of sightseers. The gardens which have much glass are excellently kept & the entire are at all times open to visitors with an estate pass, procurable at Dunraven Arms Hotel or Estate Office, on payment of 1/2. The proceeds go to a well deserving local charity - District Nursing Assoc. Near the gardens are a number of Ogham Stones brought from Kerry by 3rd Earl of Dunraven.

The house is not open except on very rare occasions or by invitation or special arrangement. The estate may be entered from village, lantern lodge or Castle Roberts. It might also be mentioned that Edwin, 3rd Earl of Dunraven, joined the Oxford Movement & was closely associated with leading women in all his efforts.



## Adare Manor V

The family sitting room which is overlooking the river is perhaps the most lovely & charming of all the rooms. In the centre of room is a massive arch. The oak ceiling between the door & arch is exquisitely carved, the beams being supported by angels bearing shields with red & white crosses. The fireplace is in the arch with mosaic heart stone from marble found locally. The space between fireplace & arch is covered with oak panelling, with patterns of Shamrock, Rose & Thistle, with the motto "Sub sole vanitas supra solem vanitas". Room is 25 x 20 x 12 ft high.

The Billiard ~~room~~ is a splendid apartment measuring 65 x 25 x 18 ft high. Ceiling is divided into ~~one~~ square panels formed by carved oak ribs at angles of which are carved pendants. The panels are covered with plaster work in low relief.

There are two very fine fireplaces of red marble designed by Pugin & Hardwick, exquisitely carved. The servants hall is a most unusual apartment, having piers supporting immense arches of early type and forming base of those in the great hall overhead. The kitchen is also a strange apartment of unusual design & architecture.

The Wyndham tower is about 85 ft high to the battlements & 100 ft to top of roof. A spiral stair runs the entire height of the tower. There is also a well stocked library. The bedrooms of which there are very many are also of much striking beauty & design, and have appointments corresponding beautiful with those of the noble apartments already mentioned.



are covered with valuable portraits of the family & connections & amongst the most valuable is a quaint portrait of Anne Elizabeth as a child. Many famous artists are represented. There are very charming (pictures) portraits of the present Earl, Windham Henry Wyndham-Ruin and his daughter, the Lady Ellen Wyndham-Ruin, by the Leo Whelan. At the east end is a valuable library of ancient & semi-modern works. Busts of the following are arranged round the gallery; - Valentine, 1st Earl; Windham Henry 2nd Earl; Edmond Burke; Henry Grafton; Dean Swift; Napoleon Bonaparte; Duke of Wellington; Lord Montagu of Brandon; A Gladiator; Sir Walter Scott; ~~and~~ Sir William Hamilton and William Pitt (the Prime Minister). Arranged through the gallery are many rare & original pieces of furniture in excellent condition, chiefly early oak. Immediately inside front door (off vestibule) is a very charming room; formerly a sitting room and now a cloak room, wherein were once some very quaint carvings of the life of the Virgin, & now in the R.B. Chapel, having been presented by the Late Earl. There is a marble, excellently carved and marble fireplace in this room & a very charming picture of the present head game-keeper by Leo Whelan, a very perfect work. The large drawing room is south of the great hall & is exquisitely furnished in Chinese lacquer & hung with very lovely paintings, including one of Nell Gwynne by Sir Peter Leys. East of this is the dining room, also hung with lovely pictures. In large drawing room is a most lovely fireplace of dull red marble, well carved.



Ascending the stairs, you turn left into an arched stone passage which leads to a balcony over north side of hall, with exquisitely carved oak panels. A very beautiful oak door, the panels of which are carved & pierced, with groups of figures, the subject being from the life of Our Lady, leads into the gallery. This magnificent room, which it would be impossible to describe in detail is over 130 ft long, 21 ft wide & 26 ft to point of gothic ceiling. It has five very tall windows, 3 in north & 1 each in west & east, mostly of excellent stained glass. The west window which was designed by Willement & erected by Wingham Henry Wingham, 2nd Earl in love & honour of his Countess Caroline. It has the inscription, "The stained glass of these windows illustrates the pedigree of the ancient & noble family of the Wighams". The ceiling is done with oak beams <sup>with</sup> bosses & pendants, having cross arches divided into sections which are connected at right angles by side arches. The cornice is ornamented with oak shields with Wingham & Arundel arms, each surmounted by a Knight's head with helmet etc. At western end, inside door to left are some fine stalls brought from Antwerp & opposite them is a second row which ~~was~~ so well copied by local craftsmen that it would be impossible to distinguish them from the originals. There are also some beautifully carved misericords of oak, copied from Cologne Cathedral. There are three beautifully carved fireplaces in south wall, of polished marble from the locality. There are four wonderfully carved walnut 'robes, the subjects being Biblical. One, the judgement of Solomon is especially fine. The floor is oak parquet work. The walls



Adare Manor. 16

obey the Queen, eschew evil and do good" Set in the south wall is a slab with the inscription. "This goodly house was erected by Windham Henry, Earl of Sumner, and Caroline, his Countess, without borrowing, selling, or leaving a debt." The entire works of the house, stone timber, etc were ~~entirely~~ done by the village craftsmen.

At the entrance you ascend a few stone steps to a recessed porch, with two massively carved oak chairs. Inside door is a vestibule with four round arched doorways with jambs of polished marble richly carved and ornamented. The largest leading to great hall has spandrels with scrolls in illuminated letters. "Faisce que dois addienne que ponne" on which all the founders actions were based. The doors in archways are covered with ancient, richly embossed leather. On entering the great hall, you get a feeling of surprise at being in a place totally unlike anything you have <sup>ever</sup> seen before. The dimensions are 55 x 36 ft & 30 ft high. The hall is lighted by many windows of different design & sizes. The walls are covered with bright armor, some very old portraits & horns of the "Irish Elk" of remarkable size, the pair over fireplace measure over 11 ft across. Here also is a complete skeleton of an elk of very remarkable size & found in a local bog. The chimney piece of polished & well carved <sup>dark</sup> grey stone was designed by Pugin. The grand staircase of light grey stone is at south end of Hall, covered with a rich green carpet.



## Adare ellanor. I

The grant made by the Desmonds in 1683 (to Thady Bruin) included the salmon weirs of Mundelkilly; Black Abbey & gardens; Wm Stretches burgers lands; a moiety of White Abbey & Poor Abbey with its salmon & eel weirs. This Thady Bruin was related to John Bruin (or Boyne) who was Bishop of Limerick from 1521 to '51. The present estate comprises some 1500 acres, most of which is delightfully wooded & covered by close on ten miles of well kept avenues. Thady's great-grandson Valentine Richard Bruin, was created a Baronet in 1781 and Baron of Adare in 1800. He was further advanced to Viscount Mount Earl in 1816 and later to Earl of Dunraven & Mount Earl <sup>in 1822</sup> and lastly made Baron Kenry in the Peerage of the U.K. The family have been most munificent throughout their long association with Adare and give employment to a very large number of people from the district.

Adare ellanor which must be one of the most beautiful residences in Ireland is "Dudor" and copied from the best examples of the period. It was begun in 1832 & only completed after 1850. The house is built of large blocks of hammered & dressed limestone of different colours, grey predominating, but relieved by blocks of red & brown, all found in Co. Limerick (most at Dummaman) all the carvings are of limestone. On the parapet of the south front is the following text cut out of solid stone, in large lettering. "Except the Lord build the House their labour is but lost that build it" Part of this front is an open colonnade or loggia over which is the text "Done God only, honour and



Re Trinitarian Abbey, Adare.

It is generally believed that the above was founded in 1230 and was a monastery for Trinitarian monks of the Order of the Redemption of Captives, a society for the humane object of redeeming from the hands of the Moslems, the captives taken in war or by Pirates. It is the only house of that noble order in Ireland and its monks were supposed to have been brought from Aberdeen. It was dedicated to St James and the fair established at Adare in 1235 was connected with his feast & set to the church (which will be later described) and the castle, the oldest building in the district is the Trinitarian Abbey. Its founder is believed to have been Thomas Fitz Gerald, seventh Lord of Offaly.



## ADARE MANOR

Adare means "Yard of the Oaks". In Norman times was a Gaelic outpost. Was sold (1721) to Mr. Valentine Quin.

Adare is a charming region, with objects of antiquarian interest and superb natural views. Avenue in front of house blown down in Nov. 1814. Nearly 700 trees were uprooted by "The Big Wind" (Jan 1829).

There are three Friary ruins - Trinitarian, Augustinian, and a Franciscan (or Grey) Friary. The first Earl of Dunraven

(in 1810) restored Trinitarian Abbey and gave it to Catholics. There is a fine E. Window, representing the Offering of the Magi.

Adare Manor was commenced in 1832. The style is later English Tudor and the material local grey limestone. Was designed by an amateur and erection supervised by James Connolly, a local working mason. Recalled by an inscription on E. front of house.



elkansions, castle, XI

sightseers to refrain from damaging or disfiguring  
any of the trees on the estate. It is her ambition that  
all who can will partake of seeing the beauties of  
the woods & walks of Linnagh, which it is hoped  
will be restored with the return of more normal  
times.

Mrs de Vere is kindly supplying a picture of  
the house as it was prior to burning & this will  
be forwarded to you as soon as it comes to  
hand.



de Vere; a picture attributed to Bartolomeo Ellivilla; (1618-82) a table of Elaine Cintonette the illegit Queen of France; a massive marble aureole table of ~~very~~ old Italian workmanship; the last of Lady de Vere. Sir Vere, the father of Sir Aubrey, owned Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel & amongst other things he started there, was a pottery which turned excellent specimens of china. Some examples of this were also saved. In 1835 the poet's only surviving sister was married & the curtains hung in the saloon for this, were intact & saved from fire. Many of the articles saved are presently on loan to the Museum attached to Limerick City Library.

Overlooking the lake & in full view of the Hall is a beautiful limestone cross in memory of Sir Aubrey de Vere, his wife, five sons & three daughters. In a clearing at west side of the house is a massive Celtic cross erected in memory of the husband of the present owner - Robert Stephen Vere de Vere, who died in 1936. He held many high legal positions in the Colonies & retired to Limerick which he dearly loved & tended in 1935. His death was widely regretted as he like his predecessors was devoted to the uplifting of the poor & needy of his district. During the famine the de Vere family did every thing possible to relieve distress & suffering & gave much needed employment. At northern end of lake is a 400 year old oak tree. Mrs de Vere specially requests all



Mansions, Estates. IX

finest in Ireland and had amongst other things  
fine volumes of Wordsworth's poems, annotated by  
himself & given by him to Ellis Jennick & by Ellis Jennick  
to Aubrey de Vere. There were also many of Jennison's  
first editions & the personal letters of Cardinal Newman  
who was closely associated with Sir Aubrey during the  
Oxford Movement & was a close friend of the family.  
He stayed at Curragh during his visit to County  
Dublin. Amongst the paintings in the library were a  
17th century portrait of Aubrey de Vere; 20th & last Earl  
of Oxford; a portrait of Sir Thomas More, done  
immediately after the death of his wife & with the  
tears still in his eyes.

The great hall was decorated by John  
Flaxman (1755-1826) who was responsible for the statues  
of Nelson in London. The frieze was copied from that  
of the Parthenon at Athens. In centre of Hall with  
the ceiling of Angelo's eloses was a massive, carved,  
marble table. George D. Watts (1817-1904) great painter  
& sculptor spent some time at Curragh & began  
a frieze on the staircase, of Dante & Beatrice but  
only Beatrice was finished. In the Hall was a magnificent  
fireplace of Carrara marble, excellently carved.  
Jennison & Gerald Griffin were constant visitors  
at Curragh.

In the saloon were many lovely things most of  
which were saved. Included were many busts of the family  
by leading sculptors; a collection of old books of Sir Aubrey



The house which was palatial was accidentally destroyed by fire in December 1941 & with <sup>it</sup> countless works of art & priceless treasures were lost. Amongst them a casting of Michael Angelo's Moses, one of three in the world. The house was built between 1710 & 30 but was greatly altered & added to in 1833 by Sir Aubrey de Vere, father of the Poet. It occupies the site of a very old castle, the keep of which was converted into the great hall of the present house. The strongly vaulted dungeon forms the present kitchen. In 1833 the whole south, east & west fronts were faced with cut limestone & the saloon added. The terrace & broad flight of steps leading to it, & hall doors, were also added about this time. The saloon, built over the old castle vaults, was 60 ft long & was specially constructed for music. Sir Aubrey's wife who was the sister of 1st Baron Montagu was a gifted musician and had also a beautiful voice. Sir Aubrey who died in 1846 was followed by Sir Vere, eldest son who was followed by 2nd son Sir Stephen, who died in 1904 at the age of 92. Aubrey the Poet was the 3rd son & while he never had the responsibility of the estate, he never the less spent his entire life of 88 years there & occupied the same room throughout all these years. This room also as Vere turned into a little museum & there were gathered all his belongings & treasured possessions, just as he had left them.

The Library at Lunnashel was one of the



Cunnaghease. Situated about 5 miles west of Adare. Owner Mrs Isabel C. de Vere. One of the loveliest estates in Ireland & open all the year round to visitors, free of charge. Many miles of well kept avenues & woodland walks cover the entire estate of 800 acres in centre of which is a very beautiful lake planted throughout with lilies & other water plants and entirely surrounded by fully grown trees of many species & colours. It may well be called "Limerick's Killarney". A walk about 2 miles long goes right round lake. In the lawn to west of house are many rare & beautiful trees planted by successive generations of the de Veres all of whom have been passionately devoted to trees. The present owner, during the season just passed planted 2,500 young trees. In this lawn is one very beautiful specimen of red larch known as the Poets tree. The under branches have come down, formed fresh roots and again ascended. At this the poet Aubrey de Vere was wont to gaze for hours & from which he drew much inspiration for his lovely works. Beside it is a little mound in a clearing amidst equally beautiful trees & this is called "Little Heaven" here too is used to sit & meditate. A stone slab with suitable inscription marks the spot & it has been railed in & tastefully planted, by Mrs de Vere. The walled-in gardens are presently closed to public, being under essential crops. So much in the tillage district, many acres in excess of quota have been tilled.



Mansions etc.

Cunagh Chase, Adare.

Connect with this the material ~~given~~ in Stonehall parish report (Lucas, 1944).

Reference to Lewis' Topog. Dicty. will probably decide to which parish it belongs, but in any case it would perhaps be better to give the account under Adare.

Note especially Mrs. ~~de~~ de Vere's request re care of flowers, shrubs etc.

R.O.B. 19/5/44



## Adare II

Mondelliship, close by Fort Union & Kilgobbin is the residence of Commander Peter Fitzgerald. Here a very successful Stud Farm is carried on & many famous horses have been bred there. It is a very lovely old place, ideally situated on the banks of the Maigue, & amidst well kept grounds & gardens. Presently Comm. Fitzgerald is serving abroad & the house is let to an official of British Overseas Airways Corporation & I could not gain admittance. The Stud Farm however is being run by the Staff. During normal times the place is open to visitors and is well worth a visit.

When dealing with Kilgobbin it should have been stated that the coursing for the famous "Irish Lup" is run over the estate of Lord Adare. The coursing grounds are well kept, approached by a well kept avenue & nicely planted. There is a stand-house on the grounds with refreshment rooms attached. Although the meeting takes place within Kilgobbin it is however still known as "Blairnanna". The meeting takes place usually in January of each year, for three days.

The County Sheriff's Dog Shows are kept at Blairnanna House, Adare, the residence of the Master, Mr. Alexander. It is a picturesque old house in lovely surroundings & the dogs & puppies are well worth seeing at any time. There is no objection to visitors.



## Adare. <sup>V</sup>

At Fort Union, Adare, is the famous Stud Farm, property of Lord Adare, where many famous horses have stood and where many more famous horses have been raised. Warden of the Marshes stands here presently and at 22 years is still a beautiful animal. Although he, himself was a wonderful horse, his progeny, have not been very successful. Amongst other horses standing there are Panorama, a lovely grey and His Highness, both successful racers. At Fort Union stood Desmond the wonder horse of some years ago & beside the stud farm is his tomb, amongst those of other favourite animals.

Fort Union is set amidst delightful surroundings & the buildings are well kept & surrounded with lovely gardens. Mr Overton, the man in charge will at all times gladly show visitors over the premises & paddocks.

Nearby at Kilgobbin is the most lovely old place "Kilgobbin House" residence of Viscount Adare, son & heir of Earl of Dunraven. It is a picturesque rambling old place, delightfully kept. To assist in the food drive, about 90 acres are under corn, although it being a stud farm would not come under the "order." When I called both Lord & Lady Adare were at their place in Kerry & I could not see house. The gardens which are very fine & well kept are not open to the public.



Curraghmore Castle. There was an ancient castle at Curraghmore but this was embodied in the mansion which was built by Sir Aubrey de Vere in 1833. The kitchens of the present house were originally the castle & the strong vaulted by still remains.

Adare. A strong keep was embodied in the present Manor House, which was begun in 1832.

### Raths, Forts, etc.

There are very many Raths scattered over the parish but none worthy of special mention. At Adare, the site of the old rath is covered by the ruins of Curraghmore Castle but the fosse may still be seen as it was cleared up some years ago and a wooden bridge erected over it, by the Earl of Dunraven. On the lands of Mr George Hewson, Hollywood, Adare, are the remains of a stone fort, very much decayed & nearly all features lost. West of the road beside his entrance gate is an immense standing stone. Measures approx. 7 ft high, 6 feet wide & 1½ thick. Running through his land is an old double ditch or fence, which starts in the bog of Kilgrogan & ends in a neighbouring bog. It is believed to have been an old fortification.



GARRANBOY CASTLE. Situated at rear of residence of Mrs Leahill, Garranboy, Adare. Was an oblong tower, about 46 x 33 ft outside, walls up to 8 ft thick. Surrounded by a small ~~about~~<sup>baux</sup> about 10 ft high, with bastions at four corners. The one at western angle is still perfect. The main wing of castle had wooden floors & the whole was covered by a stone vault. There were loop holes (skew loops) at northern & eastern angles on 2nd & 3rd floors resp. Throughout there were very many ambries or recesses & the slit windows had ogee heads. The stairs (spiral) which was in the southern angle is entirely gone & also all the small chambers which led off it to east as this section collapsed some years ago. It is of the late 15th century and was in turn owned by the Wall (or de Valle) and Stephenson families from both of whom it was confiscated. Fairly good order. No care.

Blonshire Castle. Adjoining farm house of Mrs Shanahan, Blonshire, Adare. It was the castle of the Manor of Croagh & here the Bishop used stay during his visitations in the county about. It was held by St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick from opening years of 13th century. It was leased in 1608 by the Bishop to W. Clarke and then passed to Capt W. Pigott and later to Capt W Alcott. From masonry it can be seen it was built in three sections or added to twice. A perfect spiral stairs in in northern angle. There are neat slit windows with ogee heads. The castle dates from early part of 16th century. (See picture) Blonshire meant "Fairies Plain" No care



# Antiquities

X

Dunnaman Castle. A 16th century edifice. Peel tower with the usual guard room and hole over the entrance. Spiral stairs in eastern angle. Castle 45 x 33 ft approx & 20 ft high. The first family to be associated with the district of Dunnaman were the Trostan or Thurstan family in the early 15th century. It is believed it was built as a residence for a widowed Countess of Desmond. There is a well carved door in east & overhead, two elaborately carved windows with very unusual & well carved drip stones, flowing to either side, each one having different ornamentation. (See picture) Over door to left is a most extraordinary carving of an indecent female figure, usually called a "sheelanaig" which was supposed to bring luck. Castle is on the land & beside residence of Mr Patrick Shier, Dunnaman Castle, Co. Down. In very good repair but in receipt of no care. Of three stories, ground & 2nd vaulted & rude fireplace in top story. The walls were 6 ft thick.

Dinnitaston Castle. On the lands of Mrs Maunsell, Dinnitaston, Co. Down. Only eastern angle to a height of 30 ft remains with a rude vault underneath. The Dinnitaston family who originally held it were in Lincolshire since beginning of 13th century, when one of them was Mayor of St. later passed to the Geraldines & was destroyed after the siege of Askeaton in 1599. It was of 4 stories. In bad repair & quickly decaying. In receipt of no care. Covered over with ivy.



## Antiquities IX

along bank of river are ruins of many apartments including dining hall which has a lovely cinquefoil headed window looking on to river as also are two other double lighted pointed windows & door. One window, broken, also looks towards river. A gate in east wall of rampart leads to an unwall'd enclosure within the moat. The north gate leads to the churches, already described. (St Nicholas & Desmond Chapel) The castle was erected in 1202 and in 1331 the following description was given of it:—"The building consisted of a chapel and a chamber, earl roofed with thatch; a tower covered with planks; a kitchen covered with slates and a chamber near it." The castle was many times besieged and many times changed hands but the Geraldines managed to keep hold of it until 1683 when much of the property was leased to Thady Devin, and later sold to his descendant Valentine. The property still continues in the Devin family (Dunraven). The castle was destroyed by order of the Lord Protector (Cromwell) in 1657. The ruins are very well kept & preserved by the Earl of Dunraven who takes a very deep interest in all the archaeological remains within & adjacent to his wide property.



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Desmond Castle, Adare.

The Geraldines, the Geraldines how royally ye reigned  
 O'er Desmond broad and rich Kildare and English arts disdained  
 Your sword made knights, your banner waved, free was  
 your bugle call,

By Elin's pen slopes and Dingle's tide, from Barrow's  
 bank to Youghal.

What gorgeous shrines, what Brehon lore, what minstrel  
 feasts there were

In and around Maynooth's strong keep and palace-  
 filled Adare.

But not for nite or feast ye stayed when friend or  
 kin were pressed,

And foemen fled, when "brom Abu" bespoke your  
 lance in rest.

The remains consist of a large square keep, but  
 only north wall is intact. The lower vaults of all the  
 keep still remain. It stands in a small ring fort.  
 The edge is fortified by a strong battlemented rampart  
 with a huge semi circular bastion to west. There  
 is a large gateway to south with slides for a drawbridge  
 (see picture) connecting with this is the rampart of the  
 outer water ward. This ward has a gateway to south  
 between a semi circular bastion on western angle & a high  
 water tower at southern angle. Inside the south gate is the  
 hall to right with four very lovely Norman windows  
 intact. Two more are broken. Running east from Hall



Desmond Castle.

VII A.

Peaceful it stands, the mighty pile,  
By many a heart's blood once defended,  
Yet silent now as cloistered aisle,  
Where rung the sounds of banquet splendid,  
Age holds its undivided state  
Where youth and beauty once were cherished,  
And leopards pass the warders gate,  
Where heroes once engaged and perished.  
(Ancient poem)



## Antiquities VII

Kilgobbin Church. Situated beside farm yard attached to Kilgobbin House. It was an ancient parish church. Was of very rough masonry & rather small, 28 x 18 ft. approx. Only the west gable with portions of side walls now remain. On W. gable was a helpy now gone & also a door which had a huge lintel. Door now broken down & lintel on the ground. Lintel measured 7 x 3½ x 1½ feet. This little church was most likely of early 13th century as it was mentioned during the very early years of Norman rule, as also were bloushies of Kilcurly.

Drehidtasna Church. The present ruined 18th century church at Drehidtasna, Adare, stands on the site of a much earlier church, of which there is now no trace. The present ruin is very pretty, having a quaint battlemented tower. It is surrounded by an old burial ground.

Kilcurly Church. A spot near Kilcurly House, Adare is pointed as the site of this 13th century church, which belonged to the house at Adare (Franciscan) was served by the Knights Hospitalers during opening years of 14th century. Was mentioned during early years of Norman rule. No trace of it now.

Castle Roberts. There was also an early church at Castle Roberts, Adare but there is no now trace of it as it was demolished a very long time ago with the castle of same name & the stones were used to build Castle Roberts bridge nearby.



Antiquities VI.

Clonshire Church. Called "Templenacill" This was an ancient parish church 50 x 25 ft approximately outside walls 3 ft thick. In east is a very perfect narrow window, round headed & widely splayed. Windows to S. are defaced. North wall is entirely overgrown with ivy & no features can be traced. In the western gable is a low door with inclined jambs of huge blocks of sand stone, well cut, topped by an immense lintel about 10 ft long running through wall. Over this door is a window about 8 ins wide & 30 ins high. Surrounded by an ancient burial ground. Ruin in receipt of no care whatever.

Dunnaman Church. Late Gothic church in good preservation. Comprising nave & chancel 42 x 20 & 22 x 16 approx. of very rough irregular masonry. Segmental arched doors in N & S. Their arch now <sup>slaps</sup> broken was pointed. Very nice window in E, round headed, which is perfect as also one in S. All had pointed lights. One window to S & one in W. broken. Nave had windows in S, N & high up in western gable. All round headed. Round headed doors of many slabs were in N & S walls close to W. gable. At western end of nave were corbels for a gallery or perhaps ministers house. Holy water stone inside S. door still intact. Ruin surrounded by an ancient burial ground. In receipt of no care whatever. On lands of Mr Patrick Shier, Dunnaman, Co. Down.



Antiquities V (Early Churches)

Church of St Nicholas, Adare. Close by the ruins of the Desmond castle, standing to parish burial ground. Comprising choir & nave. In western gable was a double belfry. Choir 33 x 18 ft, nave 54 x 18. At west end was a large porch or vestibule 21 x 18 ft, probably the minister's house. The choir arch & round headed east (slit) window are early Irish. In north wall of nave, near west end is a low doorway, pointed outside, of cut limestone, segmental arched inside. It is considered of very early foundation but was greatly altered as it was the parish church up to opening years of last century. See picture. (Late 11th century church)

The Desmond Chapel. Slightly to North of above is a pretty little chapel 42 x 21 ft outside. Door in south wall near west end. Pointed outside of cut limestone, segmental arched inside. Two trefoil lancet windows, east & west. Windows in N & S. broken. Walls 3 ft thick. The base of walls on outside is remarkably sloped. See picture. It was built by the Desmond family between the years 1460 & 80. and was alluded to by the Bishop of Limerick, Cornelius O'Sea, nearly <sup>half</sup> a century later. (Bishop 1400 - 1426)

All the foregoing are in excellent preservation & are maintained by the Earl of Dunraven, who had them all repaired & safeguarded.



### Antiquities. III

North of and adjoining cloister was the kitchen with large fire place. Outer wall gone. North east of kitchen was the wardens house. North wall gone but south wall with lovely Norman windows remains. East of ~~the~~ adjoining cloister were a number of rooms including a cloak room & over these was the dormitory. Slightly to north & separated by a paved court was the guest house beside which <sup>from main building</sup> was the kitchen to guest house. Guest house had lovely limestone fireplace. About 50 yards to west of main building was the mill, fragment of which only remains.

The abbey was built for the Order of Friars Minor of St Francis by Thomas, Earl of Kildare & Johanna his wife. It was commenced in 1464, dedicated to St Michael & completed in 1466. The founders died respectively in 1478 & 86. Johanna was buried in the monastery. The abovementioned were responsible for the church, cloister, two sacristies and the cemetery. Margaret Fitzgibbon, wife of Cornelius O'Dea built the great chapel or transept in 1483. Cornelius O'Sullivan who died in 1492 built the very lovely belfry. John, Earl of Desmond & Margaret, the wife of Thomas Fitzmaurice, built the small chapels to east of transept. Donough O'Brien who died in 1502 added the dormitory. The dining hall was built by Mariamus O'Kickey. The Knight of Glin & his wife built the infirmary. See pictures.




Country notes. III

the latter; one with two pointed lights and the other, one round headed light. From transept two pointed arches and from aisle one pointed arch led to Nave. The western window of Nave had three simple pointed lights; pointed door to south; well carved sedilia at east end; ~~over~~ <sup>over</sup> sedilia were two square double lighted windows. The choir divided from nave by the simple arches of the belfry had a beautiful east window of four lights with interlacing shafts. High up on south wall were four round headed windows with double lights. In north wall was a pointed door and high up a double lighted square window. At both sides were delightfully carved sedilia and in recess of one to right a well carved piscina or stone. These latter are worth noting. From underneath belfry a pointed door led to south walk of cloister which is about 40 ft square in the centre of which is a splendid old yew tree. The north, south & east walks have plain pointed arches. The west has more ornamented ones, with bases, capitals & clustered shafts. To west of cloister through a round headed door was the splendid dining hall with two massive fireplaces of limestone. This apartment was about 75 x 18 ft. In west wall were <sup>square</sup> seven windows, some single & some double lighted. There were pointed doors to N & west & square door to hall in south. Over this were a number of rooms with two fine fireplaces of limestone & many round headed & square windows. Slightly to west was the infirmary with small square windows; many ambries; pointed door to east & round door to north. 40 x 18 ft.



The Franciscan or "Poor" Abbey. Situated on the right bank of the Maigue it is perhaps the most beautiful and interesting of all the Adair ruins. Near it is the lovely old bridge leading to Charon. It affords a complete idea of a monastery with its surrounding buildings and enclosures. The plan is intact but most of the buildings to the north are gone. Approaching from the avenue side (south) the old Geraldine gate is first met. This has the Geraldine Shield inset and is known as the Kilmallock gate. It now stands alone. There was a large enclosure between this and the Abbey itself as another & smaller gate is close by south side of the building. An inset slab which bore the Geraldine Arms has been removed from this. The church consists of a choir and nave divided by arches of the belfry. Running to the south is the transept with an aisle at western side & two beautiful little chapels to east. The transept or main aisle was known as the Lady Chapel. The south window in transept or chapel has four lights with graceful interlacing shafts. Underneath this window to left, sedilia beside which is a well carved piscina. Opening to the east are two pretty little chapels which are entered through pointed arches. Windows in both were pointed, with two lights and interlacing shafts. In one of these the altar slab is still intact. The sedilia are beautifully carved & worth noting. South of these chapels was a small window with two lights & interlacing shaft. Three pointed arches separated transept from western aisle. South of this was the sacristy with three windows two to west & two to south, the former has two round headed lights and



are three cinquefoil arches . Along the south walk in the spandrels of the arches are carved shields with the arms of the Desmonds. The cloister now forms the burial place of the Dunraven family. On the banks of the river is a square pigeon tower; an archway which had the Desmond arms and traces of other buildings. Inside the church are some further interesting features in the nature of an 18th century pieta of German workmanship overhead the misericords on left hand side; a very ancient font which is a memorial to a member of the de Vere family; a heavy oak door leading from vestry which was removed from the old church of St Nicholas at time of the restoration and some splendidly carved stalls & misericords. This Abbey was <sup>by John, Earl of Kildare</sup> founded prior to 1317. The domestic apartments were restored in 1814 by the same benefactor & presented to Protestant community for a school which still continues. The stepped battlements of the eastern gable are worth noting & give an idea of what the east gable of church was like before restoration. Underneath the school are many vaults of rude construction. There are no old tombs in church or cloister. In the church are many memorials to distinguished parishioners. The Key of Lhurl may be had at Protestant Teacher's residence beside the church and school. See picture.