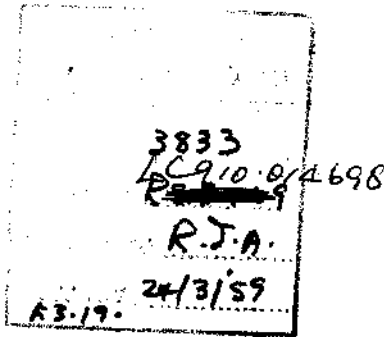


O'DONOVAN, JOHN

Ordinance survey letters, Cavan. 1836.

Photostat negatives of typescript.



Cavan, 1
May 11th 1836.

Dear Sir,

I have received the parcel and am now ready for work. I hope O'Conor will be able to join me without delay, as the weather and country are most delightful here. With respect to him I had thought it might be better that he should work at the eastern part of the County while I should go on with the northern and western, but on second consideration I have satisfied myself that we can go on with more regularity and expedition by stopping together in the same town or village, and going each every day into a different Parish; in which manner I will be able to settle the names in the evenings. If you can suggest a better plan, please to communicate it to me.

I hope that Messrs. Curry and O'Keeffe will lose no time in comparing the Inquisitions or in answering any occasional queries I may have to put. At present I want the following Extracts on square paper like this:-

(1). Colgan's account of the situation of Kill-Naile; does he not place it in Breifnia? I had thought that Kill Nailo, now Kinnealey, was in Fermanagh. Has Nailé's old Church and well appeared on the Fermanagh Map, or are they to be looked for in this County? Immediate information on this subject.

(2). Cambrensis's account of the source and course of the famous River Senanus, which has its source here, and the remarks by Gratianus Lucius on the same. Mr. Petrie has a copy of Cambrensis's Topographia, but where Cambrensis Eversus is to be found, I know not. Three years ago I lent the Rev. R.Y. a copy of a translation of a part of it containing the account of the Shannon, but I fear that it has dipped so deeply into the strata of his books and papers, that he will find it now too difficult to turn it up! at the same time, it is too bad to be obliged to labour under an inconvenience for the want of it. That translation was commenced, but never finished by Theophilus alias Tadhg O'Flanigan, A.B. T.C.D. 2

(3). A comparison of the present Parishes in the County of Cavan with the Irish Calendar.

(4). Norden's Map of the two Breifnys with some of the adjoining districts.

(5). The passage from the Annals about the disappearance (éuloghad) of the lake in Slieve Guaire. Is not Slieve Gorhe on Norden's Map? Also the passage in the Inquisitions giving the boundaries of the mountainous district of Slieve Gorry.

(6). A list of the Irish families of Hy Briuin Breifne as given by McFirbis. 3

(7). That part of O'Dugan's Topographical poem which gives the families and territories of the two Breifnys.

I hope that all these will be sent me as soon as possible. As Cavan here, like Eaniskillen in Fermanagh, forms a central point at which I must often stop, you had better direct all to Lt. Stotherd as long as he remains here.

As I have not the Name Books of the Parishes around Cavan, I shall move this evening to Belturbet, where I will remain till O'Connor joins me (unless he delays too long). I shall then move westwards to Ballyconnell, thence northwards to Swanlinbar and afterwards through the mountains (trans montes domine).

When O'Connor arrives in Belturbet let him call at the Post Office, where he will find a note of mine directing him where to meet me.

I hope all is right with Mr Petrie. Please to send this letter to him that he may get the above Extracts for me as soon as possible. Perhaps Curry could compare the Inquisition, while O'Keefe would be extracting them from the various books above mentioned.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Belturbet,
Saturday May 14th 1836. 4

Dear Sir,

O'Connor joined me last night; we shall now work like two coach horses.

As the progress of the Survey is now so very rapid would it not be better for me to procure the correct names of the places

without delaying to collect and write the traditions connected with them? The writing of long letters must evidently consume much time, and as the Memoir of this County will not (if ever) come on for a number of centuries (years?) I should think it more prudent for me to keep pace with the Survey than to lag behind writing traditions of holy wells and castles. This is my firm conviction, but I leave it to yourself to determine upon what plan I am to adopt.

Drumlane, however, is so imposing that I am tempted to write a few words about it. It is called by the Irish Druim Leathan, Dorsum Latum, a name which is not of ecclesiastical origin, but which alludes to a beautiful ridge in the Townland.

The constant tradition of the country is that the "Round Steeple" was built for a "Belfry". Dean Richardson's story of an anchorite living on the top of it is not now known in the country, and old Kennedy of Killyear House, a very intelligent old gentleman now in the 82nd year of his age, states that he never heard of an anchorite living in the steeple, though he did of a hermit living in a cell near the Church. This tradition of a hermit living near the Church must allude to Brian O'Farrelly, who is recorded by the Four Masters to have commenced the erection of a Cloch Angeoire near the Church.

A.D. 1484. Died John O'Faircheallaigh, a canon of the family of Drumlanan and Brian O'Faircheallaigh, a priest who had commenced the erection of an anchorite's stone-cell at the Templemore of Drumlane.

The O'Farrellys and Mac Gaghans were the hereditary Coarbs and Brenachs of the place, and are still numerous in the Parish.

The door of the steeple is at least eleven feet from the ground and the top is knocked into the steeple which fills it up to a considerable height.

The same tradition which is current in other parts of Ireland is told here also, viz., that the steeple was erected by a woman to a certain height! (vide Clones).

The north side of this steeple exhibits, sculptured upon the stones, a cock and a hen, emblems which would set O'Brien mad as representing the fructifying influence of the sun and moon, emblems of Mr. and Mrs. Buda!

What could have influenced the son of the star, the holy and pious St. Mogue, to get a cock and hen sculptured on his castellated sacristy and belfry, is to me a mystery. What does our friend the Thaumaturgus say about it?

The Bell which spoke (sounded) with a silver tongue in the top of this tower is now in the bottom of the adjoining lake, and it is reported that its silver tongue was found not many years ago.

I cannot but damn the assurance of Dr. Charles O'Connor, who had the daring effrontery to say in Latin that the Cloigtheachs or Campanilla of the ancient Irish were made of wood.

I send the Name Books of Drumlane and Annagh. Look at the plan of the Parish and see if in the Towland of Derrintinny in the west of the Parish there be a well marked under the name of Tober Mogue, and Gloomogue, a flag with the impression of that Saint's hard knee? I think they should appear on the Map

The history of Mogue, (Mo-Aodh-Og* - my dear little Hugh) who was first called Fintan, and who became the Patron of the Diocese of Ferns as well as of Drumlane, and of the periods at which the Claugtheach of Drumlane was first erected and afterwards repaired, must be digested at a future period. Let the above stand on record against Richardson's Anchorite tower.

* St. Mogue or Maidoc was born (according to his life in Acta SS. p. 208 and 216 and the tradition in the country) on the Island of Inis Breaghmuigh in the Barony of Tullyhaw and County of Cavan:-

"Insula Breaghmuighe est Diocesis Kilmorensis sita in Stagno quodam in regiuncula Breffinia Tellach-Ethach vulgo appellata."
- Colgan, Acta SS. p. 216, Col. 1, note 6.

This island is situate in a lake in the Parish of Templeport in the Barony of Tullyhaw and now called Port Island and Mogue's Island. St. Mogue is the Patron of this Parish, as well as of Rossinver in Leitrim, Drumlane in Cavan and Ferns in Wexford. - J. O'D. Sept. 8th 1836.

Of the Town of Belturbet I find no record except that it was a castle built by Hugh Connallach O'Reilly, A.D. 15---. The ford which this castle commanded is called by O'Sullivan Bel-Tarbert and Latinised Os-Tarberti. The castle was called by the Irish Caislen Tairbeirt and the town is still named Belturbert by many of the country people in its vicinity. The ruins of the castle are still traceable near Belturbet Distillery; are they marked on the Map?

The Hill of Mullach na Mallacht, on which the Clergy of Drumlane were wont to curse those who plundered their Churches or lands, has in latter times lost that very ugly name, it being now called Lisnemaine, but old Kennedy of Killycar remembers that it was called Mullach na Mallacht or Collis Maledictionum, though he accounts for the name by a story about a square (Squire) Columb and a blind fiddler. The following story taken from the O'Reilly Pedigree, will account for the name in a somewhat more plausible manner and throw light upon the ferocity or rapacity of Priors prior to the time of peace.

"The Dumb Prior O'Reilly was fostered by the O'Sherridans of the Island. It is said that he was a great bestower and that he continued on one occasion giving away money and horses for three days until at last he was struck dumb (from hard work! I suppose). But others say that he was styled dumb Prior as having lost his speech for quite a different reason; on one occasion he plundered and robbed Drumlane and the Coarb came to him and said that the plundering of that Church of Mogue never yet succeeded with any one and requested him to restore the booty, but the other would not; whereupon the Coarb went to the Chapel of St. Máadhóg to put it in order, and soon after passed down to Mullach na Mallacht or Hill of the Curses and there pronounced the curse of St. Maadhog against the Prior, who in consequence whereof was struck dumb." — O'Reilly Pedigree, page 279.

This hill lies a mile and a half south of Belturbert.

Drummany is another place (a fort and Townland) in this Parish of Drumlane of the name of which the O'Reilly Pedigree affords a legendary explanation:—

"Mahon O'Reilly was a good almsgiver, and after having bestowed a mantle upon a monk, he got a promise from him that he (Mahon) should never die without the priest. It is reported that he desired the Clergy of Drumlane to visit him frequently during his last illness which was long and protracted, but the clergy finding that he was not willing to pay them for their visits at length neglected him and he died without the priest. His body was carried towards Drumlane and when the funeral had arrived at the fort of Druim Manaigh (Dorsum Monachi) two monks made their appearance, of whom one was in vestments ready for Mass; the other came forward and opened the Aileatrum or Hearse, upon which Mahon revived, made his confession to the monk and died immediately after."

These stories were swallowed in Spain without sauce, where Don Antonio O'Reilly was ennobled. After Mahon had been interred at Drumlane Gelasius Roe composed the following Quatraine for him:—

Oh thou! who readeest this flag so heavy
Which presses on the fair and smooth thigh of
 the son of Donnell,
On Mahon it is not meet to place it,
But silk instead and stones of chrystal.

11

The present presiding Saint is Laurence, festival 10th August.

The Parish of Annagh adjoining Drumlane is called in the Annals Banach Garbh. This will assist O'Keefe in finding out the Patron Saint of it.

CAVAN.

"A.D. 1418. Philip the son of Giolla-Iosa O'Reilly, Deacon of Drumlane and Vicar of Annagh Garve, was drowned in Lough Sheelion, etc."

There is a Townland in the same Parish called Killoughter containing the ruins of an old Church of the same name (or rather which gave name to the Townland) of which I find the following very curious notice in the O'Reilly Pedigree:-

"The Church of Kill-Uachtair was erected by Philip, the son of Brian, as a place for Mass, and as a fastness (fortress against the County of Monaghan. It is said that there were seven Bishops present at the consecration of it."

This Church lies close to the County of Monaghan. It is curious to find a Church erected for the double purpose of piety and defence."

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Saturday, May 14th 1836.
3 o'clock, p.m.

Béal Tairteirt, Os Tarberti.

* There are very numerous instances of such in Ireland. The Church and Castle of Tulsk in the County of Roscommon is a very good specimen of the combined purpose and it is perhaps a singular proof of the general tendency in the natives of those days to respect religious exemption from violence, that defence forms the exception rather than the rule. — O'R.

Cavan,
May 19th 1836. 12

Dear Sir,

We arrived here this morning at 8 o'clock, but were much disappointed in not meeting the Name Books of some of the southern Baronies. O'Conor will have nothing to do unless they arrive to-morrow. I write this in a hurry but I shall write again immediately. Send whatever Name Books are ready, and if they be not ready I think it is better to send them that we may procure the correct names as at present pronounced in the country, and finish the comparison with the Inquisitions afterwards. We should have the Name Books as prepared as possible before setting out for the country.

I am exceedingly sorry to hear that Georgie Petrie is not improving; the father is so sympathetic that he is well or ill accordingly as he sees that child improving or otherwise. I often deem it a pity that literary men should be married at all.

I hope that the Books will arrive in time. O'Connor will never be able to meet the expenses attending this rapid tour through Cavan. We expect to get finished before our pay can be sent.

13

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Cavan,
Thursday May 19th 1836.

14

Dear Sir,

On Sunday last we travelled on foot from Belturbet to Bellaconnell, a distance of five Irish miles and stopped there for the night to get the names in the Parish of Tom Regan but to our great disappointment we found the ancient language and the traditions quite extinct in that part of the County. The language is spoken by the old people only, and even these do not understand the meanings of the topographical names (words). The only tradition connected with the Village of Bellaconnell is that it took its name from the ford over which the bridge now stands, and that the ford was called Beul-Átha-Chonail from a chief of the name Connell who was killed at it in the year (God knows what year, but it was long before the wars).

Of the meaning or origin of Tom-Regan they can tell nothing but upon reference to the Annals of the Four Masters it struck me very forcibly that it must be the place called Tuaim Dreacón in that Chronicle:-

"Anne Mundi, 3723. Roehy, King of Ireland, fought the Battle of Tuaim Dreacón in Hy-Briuin Breifny."

15

This is certainly the modern Tomregan (Tuam Dhrecon, tumulus Dreconi) the D being aspirated and as it generally happens, totally sunk in the anglicised spelling and pronunciation.

On Monday we proceeded from Bally or Bella Connell in a northwestern direction through the Parishes of Templeport and Kilnailé, until we arrived at Swanlinbar, called by the Irish Muilleann Iarainn or the Iron Mill.

The tradition in this neighbourhood is that Swanlinbar is not an Irish name but one formed by compact from the first syllables of the names of three ancient proprietors of the Iron works; this may be historical fact, but I should like to procure some more certain record of it than oral and vulgar tradition.

After having procured a kind of a dinner at the head Inn of Swanlinbar, wishing to lose no time in that uninteresting

village we directed our course southwestwards for about three miles through the Parish of Kil Naile, and then turned northwestwards to make our way into the centre of the wild valley of Glen Gavlen, a distance of eight long Irish miles. This is the worst road and perhaps the wildest district I ever saw. Situated between the two lofty and barren Mountains of Cailceach and Sliabh-an-Iarainn, this valley will never induce mankind to run a rail road through it; its sides are precipitous and rocky, defying the exertions of the plough and the wheeled car, and even of the side car! The loy (a peculiar long spade) only can be used to form the nidus for the potato and the grain.

16

The snow lies brooding on the mountains on either side till late in spring (which prevents early tillage) and when dissolving before the south wind warmed by the sun of spring it (i.e., the snow turned into water) overflows and injures the sloping fields, the Misks and Meenies of this Valley of Gavlen.

Its road (if road it might be called) is precipitous and stony, and intersected by many deep and rough glens with their mountain streams (now nearly dried up) which makes it very difficult to run a rail road from the City of Bawnboy to that of the Black Lion. Perhaps the future industry of the men of Hy Briain Breifny may open this important communication after they shall have again set up Magauran as the Lord of the Tribe of Hoehy (Tallyhaw)!

I find it chronicled by tradition that this immortal Glen derived its name from the famous Cow called Glas Gaithlen. This cow, which was evidently the cornucopia of the ancient Irish belonged to a celebrated Tuatha-de-Danon smith, nomine Gaibhnen, who, according to the tradition that still lingers here, kept his furnace in the Townland of Doive na Tuan near the source of the Shannon, where he smelted the ore of the Mountain of the Iron (Sliabh an Iorainn) and where there has been a forge ever since.

His cow supplied all the Glen with milk and when passing out of it (her Udder) which was so vastly large, formed the gap between the two mountains called Beul a Bhealaigh, i.e., the Mouth of the Pass. What caused her to forsake the Glen is no longer remembered by tradition, because the people being now too numerous, must be always at the loy, and cannot spare time to be rehearsing old stories, which, to a people now possessed of no ordinary quantity of cunning and sagacity, appear too silly and worthy only of the folly of their grandfathers who, having little or no rent to pay, spent a great part of their time idle, talking of the wonders of the golden age, when one cow afforded as much curds as would feed a triocho cheud and when Saints were wont, with astonishing success, to revive bodies a long time mouldered and to make stones swim.

17

This wonderful cow is also vividly remembered at Tory Island in the County of Donegal and in Glencolmick in the County of Derry; but famous as she is in Irish Oral Romance, I never yet found any written notice of her in any document, historical, fabulous or mixed, though the smith to whom she belonged is frequently referred to. She is manifestly the Cornucopia of Irish fiction, and it affords a clue to the kind of food the ancient Irish used when they set down a lactiferous cow as their horn of abundance.

We lodged in a farmer's house in Glen Gavlen for two days; on Tuesday we directed our course northwards through the Parish of Templeport, over a very bad, rough, rocky road and indulged our curiosity by visiting the large spring well in the Townland of Derrylahan in which the Shannon (according to tradition) has its source. It is a round deep pool throwing out a stream of considerable size which the country people call the Shannon. The pool itself is called by some Poll Lagan Slonna, and Lag Bhon na Sionna by others. From this pool we directed our course through the Parish of Killoynagh to hear the name of the townlands in it pronounced in Irish by the natives. They speak the Irish very well but retain no traditions connected with the old Church except that it was built by St. Bridget and St. Leyny, from the latter of whom it and its Parish have received their name. There are two wells dedicated to them which are set down in the Name Books and which will consequently appear on the Map.

18

Of St. Leyny nothing is now remembered but that he was a Leinsterman who, falling in love with St. Bridget followed her father, but who, when St. Bridget plucked out her eyes to destroy his beauty, repented, became a Saint and built this Church by which he transmitted his memory to posterity with more success than he would have done by marrying the beautiful-eyed Bridget.

19

When St. Leynie declared that he was in love with St. Bridget she asked with what part of her he was in love. He answered, with her eyes, upon hearing which she plucked out her eyes saying, here they are for you - a wonderful thing for one to do, who was herself a bastard.

After getting the names of the Parish of Kil-Loynie we returned from the Black-Lion and Lough Macnean to our host in Glenn Gaibhlean, and the next morning we remeasured our journey along the craggy and precipitous road between the mountains, the only pass out of this dreary district and proceeded southwards through the Parish of Templeport with a view of seeing Father Philip Magauran, a lineal descendant of the last chief of the tribe of Bochy (Tullyhaw) but he was not at home. We then enquired for the oldest and longest headed man in the southern part of Templeport Parish and soon made out old Morrow, the father of Mr. Morell, who is merchant tailor in Sackville Street, Dublin. He is well acquainted with his own part of the Parish and speaks

the old language remarkably well but he is not learned enough to understand the meanings of the topographical words. He told us however the traditions connected with St. Mogue's Island of Port, which are as indistinct as they are wonderful. Some say that St. Mogue was born on this island, which is, I believe, not true but all agree that in the absence of a currach a flag or flat stone floated on the surface of the lough and conveyed a child of Drum-reilly over to Port Island to be baptised by St. Mogue (see a full account of these miracles in the Life of St. Mogue, now in the possession of Myles John O'Reilly, Esq). 20

From this Parish we proceeded to Bella Connell, from thence to Belturbet, and from Belturbet to Cavan where we now stop in the house of James Reilly of the family of Kilnacrot.

After this description of our wearisome journey through the Barony of Tullyhaw, during which you will observe that we did not lose a second (minute) it may not be uninteresting to shew how it received its name of Tullyhaw. It is to be noted that the ancient Irish did not take names from places but like all nations who were divided into Clans, gave the name of the family to the seigniorship to them belonging, as our learned O'Flaherty doth observe in his Ogygia Vindicated - a work in which he thunders with honest and patriotic indignation against the knavish fooleries of Sir George Mac Kenzie. Now be it known that it has been ascertained from the most genuine and unobjectionable chronicles of the Island of Druids and Saints that Eochy Moyvahaine, the most noble Monarch of Ireland in the 4th century, had a son called Brian, who begat Duach the valorous, who begat Eogan Sreive, who begat Muireadhach, who begat Si Eergus, who begat Duach of the Copper Tongue, King of Connaught, and Brian, from whom all the Hy-Briuin Breifne are descended. This Brian was fostered and educated by the great Saint Columb and from his great proficiency in the various kinds of knowledges then known to the Irish, he received the distinguished appellation of Feargna which is as much as to say Vir Sapiens in the Latin Tongue and Man of Wisdom in the English.

This Brian, surnamed Feargna, had a son Breugnainn, who begat Moithin, who begat Maonach, who had issue Eochaidh. This Eochy became the father of a numerous tribe who from him took the patronymic of Teallach Bathach, i.e., Eochoides or tribe of Eochy, whose name being difficult of utterance to a civilised English tongue was barbarised to Tully-Haw instead of Tellach-Eochy. A few generations lower in the Pedigree appears Samhradhan, pronounced Suran, who, living during the reign of Brian Boru, was obliged to propose it as an injunction upon his sons, grandsons and posterity that they should thenceforward take name from him, an injunction proposed on all the other chiefs and strictly adhered to throughout Ireland in general, as well as at the foot of Slieve Anierin. Now happened that some families preferred the prefix Mac to O' the former meaning son (fitz) and the latter grandson (nepos) and 22

among those who assumed the Mac were the descendants of this Sauran, who thenceforward became Mag-Sauran which among the Normans would sound Fitz-Saurans; but as in the Irish Language the genitive case of a man's name most generally (but not always) suffered aspiration, the S dwindled to the faint sound of H and the whole of the name became Mag-hauran, and in latter ages when men are becoming fond of tidy short monosyllabic names an attempt has been made to anglicise it to Mageuran - which is still (as a member of the family told me) a very ugly name to go to Church with! Should any of the family ever embrace the aristocratic religion of the State I would advise him to alter his ugly name to Sauran (or Summers) which will be strictly analogical. Throughout Meath this family anglicise their name Govern, which is certainly a powerful form of the Cognomen worthy of Brian a Chogaidh.

Baoithin, above mentioned, the grandfather of Eochy, had seven sons the youngest of whom was called Maldoon, who was cursed by St. Dallan and struck barren like the fig tree. "Ar rob é sin andiadhu nair ro easguin Dallán é" - McFirbis. This Dallan must have been the Patron Saint of Kildallan, the Parish which adjoins Temple-an-Phort to the south? Is he not mentioned in the Irish Calendar? Let O'Keeffe examine the Calendar carefully and see if Laigne of Kill Laigneach occurs in it. Let him also consult Colgan's Triad. Thau. for the list of Churches in Ireland in which St. Bridget was revered as the Patron, and see if any Churches in Breifnia are mentioned? Norden gives a better map of the two Breifnies than the one sent me; please to let me have it also. There is a very good map of Leitrim and Cavan in the College, of which I should like to have a tracing. O'Keeffe can look over them and trace whatever he finds bearing upon Breifny.

Shane More O'Dugan, Bard of Hy-Many, in his topographical poem composed before the year 1370, finds Magauran the Chief of Teallach Nachdhach. I give his very words as well as they can bear translation:-

*High King of Breifny of lasting power (sway)
Is O'Rourke to whom the tribute of Connaught is due,
Around whom these chiefs are found:
Mac Tiernan (McKiernan) of the lordly soul
Prop of the genuine Gaels,
Liberator of the clergy and their friend,
rules o'er Teallach Doncha
Magauran, a tie of strength,
Sways over illustrious Teallach Eochy (1)
His country is not rendered ugly by the wind,
(a thir nocha granda o'n ngsoith) (2)
Mac Consnava (now Forde) rules Clan Kenny (3) etc.*

(1) Now barbarised to Tullahonoho and Tullyhonco; I think it should be made Tullydunca!

(2) With every deference to the venerable testimony of Shane O'Dugan, I would venture to affirm that the mountains and glens of Slieve-an-Ierin and Cailceach are ugly enough from the influence of the wind, or whatever other elements war against the fertility and vivid beauty of a district. But the southern parts of Magauran's country is certainly fertile and not rendered ugly by the wind.

(3) One of this name yet living in Glen Gavlen is said to be one hundred and twenty years old; he tells the young people that he saw the Glas Gavlen.

A few Extracts from the Annals of the Four Masters will prove that the Magaurans were fonder of fighting than of making railroads.

"A.D. 1495. Magauran (Felim) Chief of Teallach Eachdhach was drowned in Loch Craannige Coille an Mauillinn (now Killywillin Lough near Ballymagauran) and Donnell Bearnach, his brother assumed his place."

"A.D. 1496. Magauran (Donnell Bearnach) Chief of Teallach Eachdhach was treacherously slain before (at) the Altar of the Church of Teampall-an-Phuirt by Teiga, the son of Hugh Magauran, and the marks of the blows aimed at him are yet visible in the corners of the Altar."

"A.D. 1512. Philip, the son of Torlogh Maguire, joined by the sons of Thomas Magauran, made an irruption into Teallach Eachdhach and took a prey from Torlogh, the son of Hugh Magauran, Tanist of the Territory, and slew Torlogh himself as he followed in pursuit of it. They then proceeded to Ballymagauran which they took; and they made a prisoner of the Magauran himself, who was sick at the time, but they afterwards left him behind because he could not be conveniently brought away, etc."

I hope the Name Books will arrive before we are knocked idle. Can O'Keeffe ascertain from Mac Firbis what was the family name or name of the Tribe of Teallach Gairbhath now Tully Garvey? Do the pedigrees of Mc Caba or O'Sheriden appear?

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Cavan,
May 21st 1836.

Dear Sir,

I find that the Name Books have not arrived this morning either. This is really too bad when we are so anxious to work.

As I am most anxious to collect all the rhymes and rags of Irish history and Chorography, I shall amuse myself by writing a few remarks upon the Shannon's source, and first of all, I shall give Cambrensis's description of that majestic stream and Gratianus Tacius's most unmerciful critique upon the same.

THE RIVER SINNENUS.

"Of all the rivers in Ireland whether modern or ancient (this alludes to the old tradition that there were only ten rivers in Ireland in Bartholomaeus's time) the Shannon deservedly holds the first rank as well on account of its majestic size and long course through so many territories, as on account of the great abundance of its fish. For it has its source in a large and beautiful lake dividing Connaught from Momonia (Ultonia) and extends its two arms towards two opposite points of the world. One of these arms flows southwards by the City of Killaloe, and embraces Limerick, and at the distance of more than one hundred miles from thence separates the two Munsters from each other, and empties itself into the Brendanic sea. The other arm, which is not smaller than the former, divides Meath and the Ulterior parts of Ulster from Connaught, and after many and various meanderings finally precipitates itself into the northern ocean. It therefore, divides and separates from sea to sea the fourth or western part of Ireland from the other three, like a mediterranean river."

"This Kingdom was anciently divided into five almost equal portions, viz, the two Momoniae northern and southern, Lagenia, Ultonia and Conaltia. All which, according to the prophecy of Merlinus, are to be reduced into one. But more will be said concerning these divisions in their proper places. One thing however remains to be noted here that the two Momoniae comprise the southern, Ultonia the northern, Lagenia the eastern and Conaltia the western part of Ireland." — Topographia Hiberniae, Dist. Cap. 6.

On this the celebrated and erudite John Lynch writes the following critique in his Cambrensis Eversus, in most excellent Latin, of which the following is but a bad translation:—

"His errors concerning the River Shannon. I cannot sufficiently express my wonder at his assertion that the River Shannon takes its rise in a very large and beautiful lake and empties itself by one arm into the western sea, and dividing the Ulterior parts of Ulster from Connaught is at length precipitated into the northern ocean, and that the lake from which the Shannon flows divides Conacia from Mommonia. For during the whole course of that river no other lake stagnates between Connaught and Munster, but Lough Dergderg (Deirgdheirc) which spreads itself to an ample extent above Killaloe, and to assert that the Shannon has its source in this Lough is a most glaring

falsehood. With much greater accuracy does Camden and the fact speak:— "The Shannon, he says, the most noble river in all Ireland which flows between Meath and Connaught, is called Senus by Ptolomy, Sena by Orosius and in some copies Saecana, flumen Senense by Giraldus, but Shannon by the natives, a name which some interpret as signifying ancient river. It rises (is poured out) from the Mountains of Therne" (Sliabh an Iarainn) "in the County of Leitrim and cutting its way directly southwards, now expands itself into lakes and now contracts itself into a narrow channel and after forming a lake or two it once again collects itself within its banks and visits the Macolicum of Ptolemy, which is now called Male, as that most erudite Geographer, G. Mercator has observed. It is soon after received by another extensive lake, (Loch Righ) the name and situation of which suggest (subinnuit) that the City of Rhigia which Ptolomy places in that parallel, was not far distant. After having passed this lake it collects itself into a narrower channel and here the Town of Athlone stands upon it. Then the Shannon, after passing the Cataract at Killaloe, becomes capable of admitting the largest ships into its now widened channel and embraces the City of Limerick. From thence for a distance of about sixty miles the Shannon rolls westwards, a straight majestic river abounding in islands, and finally, with a vast mouth it pours its waters beyond Knockpatrick into the western ocean."

Respecting the cataract he says "The waters rush down with great violence and noise, and this cataract prevents the river from being any further navigable."

"Who will therefore deny that Giraldus committed a stupid error by stating that the channel of the River Shannon lay between Connaught and Ulster, and that it empties itself into the northern ocean? But will any one in the world argue against me to defend Giraldus in this error, saying that it may have been that the river flowed in such a direction when Giraldus wrote, for he will (may) say no one doubts that many changes have taken place in nature since the creation of this Globe. Who knows but the waters of that river may have withdrawn themselves from the lands which they had in his time covered and left them to men for tillage? I acknowledge indeed that the summits of mountains have frequently sunk down, and that the ocean has often receded afar. Sometimes fire has parched the fertile fields to such a degree that all labor in tilling them has proved fruitless. Earthquakes have frequently swallowed up many cities and mortals. Many regions which were high with mountains are now flattened into low plains; but the earth has undergone changes from nothing more frequently than from water, which has so corroded it in several places, that where the plough was once employed a ship may now sail. Of such occurrences historians have related several instances. But that the River Shannon has so deviated from its original course there is no vestige (of violent eruption) to be found in the earth, nor a record in books, to prove (shew).

(I doubt after all that Lynch ever visited the district to ascertain the fact.)

"who will therefore expect that he, who has so basely deviated from the truth on a point (in a fact) so clear and so unchangeable will follow the path of truth in his narration of events, and who will not expect inaccuracy in the topography or chorography written by one who has blundered on a point so manifest."

It is evident from the whole tenor of Cambrensis's context that by this beautiful lake he meant Lough Allen, and that "qui Conalician Momonieg disterminat" is a mere mistake of the editor of his MS. for "qui Conattiam Ultonieg disterminat". Lynch might have pardoned him this. Again, by the northern arm of the Shannon which falls into the northern ocean, Giraldus meant that whole chain of lakes which runs in a regular uninterrupted Concatenation from Lough Gawna in Longford to Bally-Shannon, a name which confirmed Giraldus in the opinion that the river which uningles with the ocean there was an arm of the Shannon. Giraldus must have had some rude map of Ireland which shewed the source of the Erne and that of the Shannon in the same lake, but upon examining the direction of these waters it will be found that the source of the Bellaconnell or Woodford River, a tributary stream to the Erne and that of the Shannon are not far asunder, and that they may be both said to have their source in Slieve Anierin.

If again, we look to Lough Gawna on the borders of Longford, the apparent head of the Erne, we will find that a stream falling into it has its source in a place not far from the Shannon; so that although Giraldus was wrong in making Lough Allen send out two rivers in two opposite directions, it must be acknowledged he had an idea of the existence of two very large rivers in Ireland, having their sources near the same point, the one flowing southwards and bearing the name of Shannon (Shanny) and the other equally majestic flowing northwards and seeming to be likewise called Shannon as a remarkable ford upon it near its mouth bore the name of Bella-Shannon (Shanny). But he erred in making them flow from the same lake.

Topography was not much studied in the age in which Giraldus wrote and I doubt very much that many of the Irish themselves knew at the time where the Shannon had its source. At this geographic day ask any of the inhabitants of Dublin where the Poddle rises and you will puzzle them as much as if you should question them about the source of the Nile.

After all Lynch's approbation of Camden's description of the Shannon, it has not its source in the County of Leitrim!

Now, as I have wandered through the very wild district in which the Shannon has its source, it may not be impertinent to say a few words about what I conceive to be its genuine source.

Is the source of a river the mountain stream which contributes to it and lies at the greatest distance from its mouth? No: What then? The largest stream which gushes from the earth near the tributary streams and which continues to spring while the mountain runnels are dried up. If so, the very deep and remarkable pool of Lugnashinna (Lag na Sionna) which throws forth the largest stream of water in the district and which tradition has dignified by the appellation of Head or Pool of the Shannon, Lag na Sionna, must claim the honor of being the source of that imperial stream. Otherwise the Shannon will have countless minor sources. Hundreds of runnels oozing from the sides of Slieve-an-Ierín (Slíabh an Iarainn) and Cailceach descend into Glen Gavlen, and there uniting and forming one stream in winter, of considerable size, flow under the name of Glen Gavlen River westwards and join the main stream thrown out by Lugnashinna in a Townland which from that circumstance has received the appellation of Golagh (Gobhlach) or Forked, and which is situated in the northwestern angle of the Parish of Templeport where it meets the Parish of Killynagh. Their united waters then slide on in a meandering southwestern course, occasionally receiving the tributes of mountain hills from the southwest portion of the Parish of Killynagh, in the extreme southern point of which Parish the young Shannon receives the contribution of a stream of comparatively large size from the County of Leitrim. (Look at the plans and see if I am right; I have seen the direction of many of these streams, but only heard of others). It then winds its course directly southwards to Lough Allen, which is the lacu maximo et pulcherrimo (lacus maximus et pulcherrimus) of the Cambrian Gerald Barry and which may be now called the rational source of the Shannon.

"Oritur namque ex lacu quodam maximo et Pulcherrimo qui Conalician Memoniamque (Ultoniamque) disternit; duoque brachia ad oppositas Mundi partes expandit."

Is there an instance of any lake in the world sending out two rivers in diametrically opposite directions? Is it not contrary to the laws of Hydraulics? I saw a well which poured out two runnels, one to the east and the other to the west.

The distance between Lugnashinna in the Townland of Derry-lahan and Lough Mac Neane, which is really an arm of the Erne, is not more than four miles so that the northern and southern great lakefull (Loch-lionmhar) rivers of Ireland might be shewn on an ancient rude map of that island as connected; and on a very small map of Ireland the source of the Shannon and Lough Macneane must be represented as nearly touching; from which I conclude that Cambrensis, though a lying rascal in other respects, was only mistaken in this instance. I also think that it would do no harm to call the Erne River, which Norden represents as having its source in Lough Gauna, by the name of the northern Shannon, for the Town of Ballyshannon would favour that nomenclature!!

Thus would I peaceably settle the war about the northern and

southern Shannons for as soon as you ascend the hill which vomits out the Shannon, you will observe the mountain streams descending northwards into Lough Mac Neane and swelling the waters of the great Shannon of the north, which the ancient Irish foolishly called Samer from Mrs. Partholan's little dog and Erne from an ancient tribe of that name who happened to be engaged at their ancient sport of fighting on the plain when, the earth giving way, the subterranean waters issued forth in ocean floods and swept them all away. If we believe Irish Bardic history it will appear that the time of this occurrence is not beyond the historic period; but a philosophic enquirer after the truth of early history must, before he gives credence to so remarkable a statement, satisfy himself that the ancient Irish were possessed of the art which would enable them, with certainty, to chronicle such events. 35

Notwithstanding my anxiety to settle the dispute peaceably between the two distinguished priests, Giraldus and his Overturmer, I must, in fairness to the latter, acknowledge that I have never met a single Irish or foreign authority to prove, intimate, hint or suggest that the Erne River was ever called Shannon; for the name Fallyshannon (a modern corruption) has not the slightest connexion with the name of the River Shannon, the former, according to tradition and the etymology of its correct name, signifying Mouth of the Ford of Seannach (See Bellacinnell, Bellatraine, etc.) which was a man's name amongst the ancient Irish latterly anglicised Fox; and the latter the ancient or parent (large) River, if we believe the Irish interpreters consulted by the very learned and trustworthy father of British antiquities. I consequently must come to the conclusion that Giraldus never blistered his toes by travelling up the then almost inaccessible Glen Gavlen to view the source of the Shannon, 36 but that he acquired all his knowledge of Irish topography without venturing outside the limits of the English Pale, from some very rude maps and the descriptions furnished him by Leinster leaders of Gallowglasses and other rovers who then sought favor from the Boy John and his tutor Girald. That Girald never ventured outside the frontiers of the English Pale, he himself furnished us with data to infer; for he says whenever the English ventured outside their own territories they were taken by the Irish and beheaded. — "Ubi capti decapitati non redempti sed interempti."

Imperfect however, as his topographia must necessarily be, it is nevertheless a work of great value, on account of the peculiar motives that induced him to write it and of the very valuable truths which a man of wisdom will see glittering among his falsehoods. I think therefore that it is our duty during the course of this Survey to translate every chapter of it to shew where he has evidently erred and also where Lynch is too severe in his criticism upon his work, and to transmit to posterity a memorial of our veneration for every 37 document that helps to throw light upon the progress of man in surveying religion or superstition, barbarism or civilization. The barbarities committed on both sides between the English and Irish

are too remote from us of the second quarter of the 19th century to make any other use of them than as texts to give caution to the rash, and to supply the wise with additional lessons of wisdom. It has been this long time received as an established fact among historians that the conquerors have in every age attempted to lessen the character of the conquered (vae victis!) that they might with a plausible appearance of justice impose their yoke upon them, and it will clearly be seen from Giraldus's efforts that he had the same political artifice in view; and that he has succeeded is so strongly felt at this day that every honest man must lament the consequence of the writings of him and his successors. Nothing so much injures the cause of a conquered people as an enumeration of their vices, while all their virtues are carefully concealed, for when this is done and believed the conquerors will always be inclined to treat them as a people "ignorant of all virtues" and unworthy of being treated with any lenity or of receiving the liberties and privileges due to a rational and virtuous race.

I have a very strange opinion on these subjects; I believe that when a people have been deprived of liberty for a succession of ages, they become degenerate, and unfit to enjoy liberty! but not unworthy of restoration?

Giraldus's work was never yet translated. Ledwich has made it the ground work of his antiquities; but his Topographia is not yet understood.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

FLUMEN SINNENUS.

Inter omnia vero Hiberniae flumina siue nova siue vetusta non immerito principatu (i.e., tum) Sinnenus obtinet, tam quantitatis sua majestate, longisq; terrarum excursibus, quam foecundissima quoq; piscositate Oritur namq; ex lacu quodam maximo & Pulcherrimo, qui Conalciam Momoniamq; disternat; duoq; brachia ad oppositas mundi partes expandit. Uno namq; versus Austrum civitatem Killelonensem lateraliter permeans, Limericumq; complectens, centumq; hinc; miliarib & amplius duas ab invicem Momonias distinguens, Brendanicum in mare se transfundit. Altero vero nec minore Mediam & Ulteriores Ultoniae partes a Conalcia dividens, multis variisq; moeandris in Oceanum mergitur tandem Borealem; quartam igitur & occidentalem insulae partem a tribus aliis tanquam mediterraneum flumen a mari usq; ad mare separat & secernit. In 5. enim portiones fere aequales antiquitus hae regio divisa fuit; has sc. Momoniam duplicem Borealem & Australem, Lageniam, Ultoniam & Conaltiam. Quas omnes Merlini vaticinium in unum commemorat redigendas. Sed de iis suo in loco plenius dicetur. Hic autem notandum videtur; Duas Momonias Australes Hiberniae partes obtinere, Ultoniam Boreales, Lageniam (Lagoniam?) Orientales, Conaltiam Occidentales. - Cambrensis Topographia Hiberniae, Dist. 1, Cap 6., Camden, page 701.

Topogr. Dist. 1, C. 6 (Ejus de Sannaeco amne errores).

Mirari satis non possum cur Sinnæum amnem e lacu quodam
 maximo & Pulcherrimo oriri & uno brachio in Occidentale se mare
 transfundere ad ulteriores Ultoniae partes a Connacia dividendum,
 in Oceanum tandem Borealem mergi & lacum illum, e quo Sannaecus
 manat Connaciam Mommoniamque disternere asserat. Cum nullus
 alius in toto illo amne lacus inter Connaciam Mommoniamque stagneret,
 prater lacum Dergderg, qui supra Killaloom in ampla se spatia
 diffundit; unde Sannaecum scaturire; tam est falsum quod falsissimum.
 Multo rectius Camdenus, & res ipsa loquitur. Sannaecus, inquit,
 flumen totius Hiberniae nobilis sinus (page 745 in Comitatu Logford)
 Sena, ut nonnullis exemplaribus Saecana, Giraldo flumen Senense,
 accolis vero Shannon dicitur, id est ut Aliqui interpretantur,
 flumen antiquum; E Therne montibus in comitatu Laethrim effunditur,
 continuoque secans in meridiem agros, modo se in stagna refundit,
 modoque in angustias se resarbet, cumque, lacum unum & alterum
 diffuderit, intra margines se colligens, Maccolicum, nunc (ut eru-
 ditissimus Geographus G. Mercator observavit) Male, cujus meminit
 Ptolomæus, invisit statimque ab altero spatioso lacu excipitur
 (Loch - - ith appellant) (covered by artificial margin) cujus nomen
 & situs Rigiam urbem, quam Ptolomæus, eo loci statuit non procal
 abfuisse (covered by artificial margin) quem modo subinnuit Ubi viro
 lacum hunc praetervectus angustiori alveo intra ripas se colligit,
 Athlon oppidum illi insidet. Inde vero Sinnæus, superata ad
 Killalo Cataracta, maximam navium capax diducto alveo Limiricum
 urbem amplectitur. Hinc per sexaginta plus minus milliaria Senus
 rector, grandis, & insulosus in Occasum properat; demum in Oceanum
 Occidentalem vasto ostio ultra Knox Patric (p. 746 Comitatu twomodi)
 id est Patricii collis evolvitur. De Cataracta vero ista; Aquae
 inquit, magno cum strepitu dejectae ruunt, & cataracta ipsa suo
 objecto impedit quo (ut non) minus ulterius amnis navigia deferat.

Hinc Giraldu delirasse quis inficiabitur Sinnæo amni alveum
 inter Connaciam & Ultoniam patuisse, ac cum in Borealem se Oceanum
 exonerasse somniantem; sed quispiam erroris hujus a Giraldo pro-
 pulsandi causa mihi forsitan obloquetur, dicens flumen illud eum
 cursum tum fortasse tenuisse cum ista Giraldu scriberet: remp,
 inquiet, dubitat quin multae rerum factae sint ab orbe condito
 conversiones? Quis scit an illius fluvii fluctus terris quas tunc
 opprimerant se subtraxerint & eas mortalibus incolendas reliquerint?
 Fateor equidem montium juga crebro subsidisse, ac Oceanum aliquando
 procul amovisse. Nonnunquam ignis fecundos agros sic arefecit ut
 in iis colendis (rerum conversio) inanis, omnis opera foret. Terrae
 motu plures urbes, & mortales frequenter absorpti sunt. Regiones
 multae, quae montibus attollebantur, nunc in humilem planitiem
 expanduntur; sed a nulla re magis quam ab undis motatis telluri pro-
 venerat, quae illam plurimis in locis ita corroserant ut ubi olim
 arbutur, nunc navigetur (Sinnæus nunquam decurrit in Borealem
 Oceanum); hujusmodi rerum documenta historici plurima exhibent.

Verum quod Sinnaeus amnis a pristino cursu adeo resilierit, nec in terris vestigium ullum nec in libris memoria deprehenditur. Itaque illum, qui in re tam obvia & mutationis experta, a veritate tam turpiter aberravit, quis in factorum narratione veritatis viam retenturum Sperabit, ac Topographiae, Chorographiaeve integritatem in illo non desiderabit, qui in re tam liquida cespitavit? Cambrensis Eversus, pp. 6 & 7, A.D. 1662.

Cavan,

Sunday, May 22nd 1836.

Dear Sir,

I have received the Name Books of Urney and Castleterra, but we shall have done with them tomorrow; I expect, therefore, that the other Baronies will be sent us that we may work separately at different Parishes. I intend to move in the direction of Killeshandra while O'Connor directs his course to the Town of Cootehill, for we can thus get finished in a very short time.

Upon looking over the Extracts from the Annals of the Four Masters, I find that the Valley of Glenn Gaibhlen is mentioned in them with a slight change in the termination of the name which shows that tradition often corrupts ancient names of places for the purpose of making them agree with old stories, a fact which, I think, I have already fully established in a letter from Maghera in the County of Londonderry. The passage runs as follows:-

"A.D. 1390. The Clan Mortogh and the Teallach Donchadha (now Fullaghonoho) emigrated in despite of the O'Rourke's into Fiodh-nafionnoige, Sliabh-Corran and Kinel Luachain. As soon as O'Rourke, who was then in Gleann Gaibhle, had received intelligence of this, he brought his moveables with him to the upper part of Kinel Luachain where he made an attack upon the people and caused them to fly before him, killing both cattle and people from Béal-Átha-an-Doire (Bellanderry) to the summit of the hills of Breifny."

Touching the Castle of Belturbet.

De munitione de Vado Tarbeti; et Osullevani fuga.

It appears from Norden's Map that the Castle of Belturbet stood on the east side of the River Erne, which agrees with the tradition in the country, videlicet, that Caislean Tairbeirt was a small building which stood on a point of land running into the Erne not far from the Belturbet Distillery. Its ruins are now level with the ground and scarcely visible. Old Mac Donnell of Annagh Parish remembers to have seen a considerable portion of the walls standing but he says that it appeared from the ruins to be seen in his time that Castle-Tarbert was but a small building

commanding that part of the river opposite the Distillery, at which only it was fordable. In his memory some of the rocks were removed from the channel of the river, which renders it now much deeper and more difficult of being forded than it was formerly.

O'Sullivan Beare crossed this ford after his flight from Dunboy and Glengarriff which is the only circumstance that has handed down its correct name of Bel-Tarbert, i.e., Os Tarberti to posterity.

Conor Roe, who was styled the English Maguire, hearing of O'Sullivan's march in this direction with the intention of going to confer with O'Neill then in the fastness of Glendonkine (Ballynasree) hastened with a body of the Queen's soldiers from Enniskillen to this ford to intercept O'Sullivan's passage, but the latter had crossed Bel-Tarbert before the former could reach it. (Vide Hist. Cathol. Fol.).

Concerning the Church of Drumlane.

De Ecclesia de Dorso Lato et nativitate S. Maidoci.

According to the tradition that now lingers in the Parish of Drumlane, St. Mogue was the original founder of the round steeple and the Abbey; still it would appear from the Life of that distinguished Bishop given by Colgan that there had been an ecclesiastical establishment there before he (Mogue) was born.

"There was a certain nobleman in the Country of the Connacians whose name was Setna, and who was married to Eithne of the seed of Aulais (Analgaid). These having no heir entreated God to grant them a son, and for that end they performed many acts of charity, paying frequent visits to the Saints who resided in the Monastery of Druim Leathan. These Saints also interceded with God to bless this couple with a son. Some time after Setna slept with his wife Eithne, and on that night he had a dream; he saw a star falling down into the mouth of his wife, and his wife in a vision saw the moon falling into her husband's mouth. When they awoke they related each in turn what they had seen. And on that night St. AEdanus, who is commonly called Moedoc, was conceived, and who for this reason is called by many the Son of the Star." etc. - Acta SS. page 208, Col.1.

I had expected to find the moon and a star sculptured on Mogue's Belfry instead of a cock and a hen.

What a pity that O'Brien had not this passage that he might prove it the remains of a pagan belief in the prolific influence of the moon.

Colgan in a note in which he gives the situation of Druim Leathan has, I think, committed a strange mistake. He writes:-

"Druim Lethain was formerly for many years a celebrated Monastery; now it is only a Parish Church in the Diocese of Kilmore and County of Cavan on the confines of both Breffnys and a noble burial place of the chief men of both countries. Here was a Monastery until the year 1025, at which the Four Masters record the death of Dubensius O'Forchelluigh (O'Farrelly) Abbot of Druimlahan.*"

Druim-Leathan, however, is not on the confines of both Breffnys, for the Parish of Kildallan and a considerable portion of the Parish of Drumlane lie between the Monastery and Breifny O'Rourke, that is, if we are right in making Breifny O'Reilly coextensive with the present County of Cavan.*

Let this however, remain for future consideration.

De-Castello de Tully-Mongan.

A quo erectum nunc dubium - Gallow's Hill, nunc nuncupatus ejus situs.

In the Pedigree of Count O'Reilly, scraped together by the Chevalier Thomas O'Grattan, I find the following reference to Tully-Mongan:--

"The Castle of Tully-Mongan was erected by Torlogh, the son of Shane the Hospitable. The place was called Tulach-Mongain from Mongan, a Danish Chief, who raised a great hill or moat (fort) there.*"

This passage seems to have been taken from a MS. account of the O'Reilly family compiled from various sources by a Shanachie of the 40 name Brady+ or Mac Brady about the commencement of the last century, but it appears from the strain in which it is written that he penned down the greater part of it from oral tradition as he seldom or never gives dates; now I feel inclined to doubt that Tulach Mongain received that name from a Dane, because I find that Mongan (which, si vocis etymon spectes, signifies a hairy man) was very common among the ancient Irish as the proper name of a man, and is yet preserved as a surname anglicised Mongan and incorrectly Mangan, while I find no such name on record among the Danes who settled in any part of Ireland.

It also admits of doubt that the Castle of Tulach Mongain was erected by Torlogh, the son of Shane O'Reilly; it is true that he is the first mentioned by the Four Masters as having died in the Castle of Tulach Mongain, but they have another passage from

* Colgan is right; it appears from O'Dugan's Topographical Poem that the Baronies of Tullyhaw and Tullyhuncce belonged to O'Rourke. - J. O'D. Sept. 6th 1836.

+ This is an error; see another letter (at page 162). It was compiled originally by Beothius Roe Mac Egan, and -- Hackett, two of the Irish Friars of Lovaine - J.O'D. Sept. 6th 1836.

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which we must infer that it was a seat of the Prince of Breifny before the time of Torlogh, the son of Shane.

"A.D. 1400. Shane, the son of Philip O'Reilly, Lord of Breifny, died of a sudden fit in his bed at Tulach Mongain."

"A.D. 1487. O'Reilly (Torlogh the son of Shane who was the son of Owen) died suddenly in his Castle of Tulach Mongain, and his son Shane was styled O'Reilly as his successor." 50

Here it is to be observed that although Tulach Mongain is not called a castle in the passage at the year 1400, it is nevertheless more than probable that it was a castle, as being the residence of the head of the family. It is certain that other branches of the family had castles at this period, and it is not likely that the Prince of Breifny would entrust his safety to a common house while he knew the art of building a castle in which he could sleep fortified against the nocturnal attacks of Maguire, Mac Mahon and the rivals of his own family. We must therefore infer that Mac Brady or O'Gorman or whoever it was that has ascribed the erection of the Castle of Tully-Mongan to Torlogh, the son of Shane, must have been misinformed on the subject, or have drawn too hasty an inference from the Annals of 1487.

Tulach Mongain, now correctly anglicised Tully Mongan stands over the Town of Cavan to the east. The castle has long since disappeared and the Danish fort or moat referred to by Mac Brady is much lessened (effaced) its mounds levelled, and carried away to fertilize the surrounding farms; I think however, that the site of it should be marked on the Ordnance Map, and there is a tradition 51 that a castle stood within the circle of this fort. It is now called the Gallow's Hill but was anciently called Castle Hill. Mr. Stotherd says that he has laid down the site of another castle in Cavan and also the site of the Monastery, upon the plan. Be sure he has marked the remains of the fort of Tully Mongain for if not he can mark it before he leaves Cavan. De esse mirabili in medio lapidis reporto!

Mr. Stotherd will tell you of a coin found in this neighbourhood in the centre of a stone I saw it today. It is certainly an Eastern coin dropped and perhaps artificially inserted into a stone by some Eastern traveller to puzzle antiquarians. It is quite new and fresh and exhibits a cock and some Arabic characters, which identifies it with the Tower of Drumlane, which also exhibits the cock, but no Arabian or Persian characters. Mr M. Babington, in whose possession this wonderful coin now is, believes that it was found in the centre of a Crawacchie rock, and that it is an Irish coin of remote antiquity.

The young science of Geology, if I remember rightly, will take upon it to prove that this kind of stone has been formed before

man was acquainted with the art of minting. But Irish antiquarians will prove their early acquaintance with coining (forgery) from the period of the antediluvian Kessair to the reign of Con of the Hundred Battles.

Credat hoc Judaeus Apella!

That the Prince of Breifny coined in the reign of Henry VI is certain, as the Pedigree of Court O'Reilly produces an Act of Parliament made 25th Henry VI (A.D. 1447) prohibiting the circulation of O'Reilly's money; but it is equally certain that he (Prince of Breifny) never coined this beautiful piece, though it may have been coined about fifty years ago to puzzle antiquaries.

Mr. Babington would not let it out of his possession lest any one might be so wicked as to take a cast of it, and thus lessen its value. Mr. B. however, only heard that it was found in the centre of a stone, but he is convinced that the man who told him so would not tell a lie, though he would (did) not tell who this truth-loving individual is. If the evidence of its having been found in a stone were weighed, it would appear that there is no connection between this coin and the Tower of Drumlane.

J. O'Donovan.

Dear Sir,

We have received the Name Books of Castlerahan Barony, and we therefore now start for Bally James Duff, a route which will put us several days out of our way, for we must return to Cavan again. I never again intend to start for any County until I shall have all the Books ready to take with me.

What do you intend to do about the County of Leitrim? There are no Inquisitions ready for that County. What state are the Name Books in? Shall we have to go back to Dublin previously to our visit to O'Rourke?

Direct all to Cavan as usual.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Virginia,
May 25th 1836.

Dear Sir,

Is it not a most extraordinary thing that I should be taken for a Methodist? I wear a black coat, a black waistcoat, a pair of black trousers, a black hat, black shoes and most generally a black (dirty, dusty) shirt, a very appropriate color to represent

the dark designs of one who intends to make Protestants of the townlands, and yet the Friars who were holy men belonging to God wore very black clothes. I assure you that I was refused lodgings in several places in consequence of looking so like a swadling preacher. Think you then how hard it was for Saint Patrick to work his point among the sun-worshippers of Breifny.

I addressed a letter to the learned and excellent Mr. Morton of Kilnacrot formerly Professor of Mathematics in the College of --- in America but now the proprietor of the Kilnacrot Estate which devolved on him by the death of his elder brother, and he has sent me the following answer, which I consider worthy of his learning:-

Sir,

It would give me great pleasure, so far from esteeming it a trouble, could I answer in any way satisfactorily your interesting questions respecting the names Mullagh Castle, and Castle Raheen, and the historical facts you mention in connection with them. I am not aware of a castle or Church having existed at Mullaghecastle in Crosserlough Parish and should rather incline to your suggestion of the Parish of Mullagh being the locality you seek for. I have an opportunity however of making enquiry just at this moment from the circumstance of Mr. O'Reilly of Beltrassa (a descendant of the Count O'Reilly you refer to) being with me for a few days, and will acquaint you with the result, as also with respect to Castle Raheen. I shall at the same time have much pleasure in naming to you the best acquainted persons I can find for your purpose in this Parish.

Your very obedient servant,
Pierce Morton.

Kilnacrott,
25th May 1836.

I have to lament that I had not a letter of introduction from Mr. O'Reilly to him. He will direct his letter to the Ordnance Survey Office; please to forward it to me, and then you shall have my commentaries upon it and the other traditions we have heard.

The name Castlerahan (Castleraghan is barbarous) certainly signifies the castle of (at or near) the little fort, as the locality and tradition among the peasantry will prove. The O'Reilly Pedigree also affords a clue to the original orthography.

"The District of Uachtar-Tire or the southeast district of Breifny now called Loch Ramhor or the Barony of Castle Raheen was the patrimony of Felim, the son of Shane O'Reilly." — page 137. 56

Tomorrow we shall make a great exertion to get done here. Tell Mr. Curry that I expect the Books will not be delayed.

CAVAN:
 We shall be in Cavan on Friday, after which I shall take up Tullyhonoho and Clan-Mahon while O'Connor goes to Cootehill to do Tullagh Garvey. This will direct Mr. Curry in preparing the Books.

When I go out again I shall have on me a green coat, a green waistcoat, a white shirt and a pair of chimerically coloured breeches.

We could get no place to stop in but the Head Inns, which has drained our pockets to the last shilling. We have only as much money as will take us to Cavan; a great prospect for a happy old age!

Your obedient humbled servant,
 John O'Donovan.

Bally-James-Duff,
 May 25th 1836.

86

Dear Sir,

Before leaving Cavan we sent the Name Books of the Parishes of Urney containing the Town of Cavan, and Castletorra containing Ballyhayes, in both which the aboriginal language is reeling under the last blow!

Duo Castella in Cavan oppido; monasterium ubi situm.

Besides the Castle of Tullymongan, which according to just (feré) extinguished tradition, stood within the ring of the fort that crowns the summit of Gallow's Hill in the Townland of Tullymongan, ancient Cavan contained another which tradition remembers to have been called "Brogan's Castle" and which stood in the main street opposite Mr. Fitzgerald's house, not far from the Gallow's Hill. Has the site of this been marked on the plan of the town? The site of the Monastery is still pointed out by the burial ground and the "Friar's Walk".

Why the castle in the Main Street was called Brogan's Castle I have not been able to learn though I consulted the oldest and most intelligent men and women in the town about it. In the Pedigree of Count O'Reilly, I find it recorded that:-

"Walter's Castle in Cavan was erected by Garrett Fleming."

but no other castle is mentioned excepting Tullymongan. It is therefore probable that Castle Brogan is a corruption of Castle-Gearroid or Garrett's Castle.

57

In the Pedigree of Mac Brady it is stated that this castle was erected by a Walter Mac Brady, a Justice of the Peace.

- J.O'D. Sept. 6th 1836.

Cavani oppidum igne muliere excitato deletum!

The following passage in the Annals of the Four Masters will give one an idea of the site of the ancient Town of Cavan:—

"A.D. 1576. The great Monastery at Cavan and the town itself from the Monastery down to the River were burned by the daughter of Thomas, the son of the Baron, through jealousy (i.e., during a fit of jealousy). The injury done by this fire was great indeed; so great a destruction had not been witnessed in any town among the Irish for a long time before."

Fabella de origine nominis Castleterrae.

The Irish name of Castleterra is Cois an tSiorraigh, i.e., the Foal's Foot, and contrary to my anticipation, the name has no connection with Castle or even Cashel. The origin of it is attributed to the Patron Saint finding the impression of a foal's foot in some remarkable rock near which he built his Church, but this impression is not now visible. Howbeit Castleterra (vulgarly Castletara) is now so well established that we could not take it upon us to alter Castle even if we could find the rock with the foal's foot. The legend goes on to state that the Patron Saint of Cushtintirra when he was erecting his Church saw to the east of him a crowd of people assembled on a hill, and that he called the hill Drong, for that reason because Drong in the Scotie language sounds crowd or people in the English. Hence the origin of the name Drong which afterwards became the name of a Church and Parish.

Has St. Patrick left us any account of his travels through Breifny? I had the pleasure of his company in Derry, Monaghan and Donegal, but I do not meet with him here at all! I fear he never hallowed Breifny with his presence. Let O'Keeffe (I wish O'Keeffe would) look over Evin's Tripartite Life of him, and see if the Hy-Briuin offered as much opposition to him as they do at present to the Methodists? The Hy-Briuin are so fond of the ancient Faith that they are afraid that my intention is to make Protestants of the Townland names!

As I have happened to mention St. Patrick who, as appears from the discoveries of modern investigators, was deeply imbued with the Pelagian heresy, it may not be impertinent to observe here that the efforts of his successors, the teachers of the Bible through the medium of the Irish language, have created in the minds of the peasantry, a hatred for every thing written in that language and that the society who encourage them could not have adopted a more successful plan to induce them to learn English and hate their own language. Similar causes similarly situated will produce similar effects.

I had a visit from a member of the Synod of Ulster here last

night, who took great pains to explain to me the Divine Doctrine of Predestination:- "Every man has been predestined from eternity either to be saved or damned"; if predestined to be saved he will be saved in despite of the Devil; and if predestined to be damned, no effort of his own can save him; but as man does not know utrum, he must pull away as well as he can." The Doctrine of Purgatory and prayers for the dead is more humane and better fitted for the British mind than this doctrine of the divine Calvin. You will hear from me next from Virginia.

* "There lived the eternal one, then deep retired
In his unfathomed essence, viewed at large,
The images of things." - Plato.

But that divine man had no fixity of eternal condemnation.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Corruptio nominum locorum.

Every ng is pronounced here like gh guttural and there is a Townland in the Parish of Castleterra called Daingean, a fastness, which custom has established as Daggan or Daggan, a name which in the west and south of Ireland would be made Dangan. It is really too bad that one must yield so far to local corruption; but you will find that it is so strongly fixed as Daggan that it would be too violent now to correct it. The Townland of Lisnagowan is called by the Irish Lis O'Gowan, i.e., O'Gowan's or Smith's Fort, but still Lisnagowan is the established anglicised name and, to my great vexation, cannot be touched. As use will render anomalies and unphilosophical expressions inevitable in the spoken and written dialect of a people, so will it with equal authority, establish corrupt names in topographical nomenclature.

Of Ballyhayes I can find no record but the following:-

"From Rory, the son of Felim O'Reilly, sprung a tribe who gave their name of Sliocht-Rory to the district lying between Béal-Átha-Héis (Ballyhayes) and Beal-Átha-na-Cairge (Ballynacargy)."

"Manus, the son of the aforesaid elim, possessed the country lying near Ballyhayes to the west side of the river."

There is no mention of a castle having ever been erected at Ballyhayes.

29
The Heath House,
May 25th 1836. 60

to Mr. John O'Donovan,

Dear Sir,

I learn from Mr. Larcom, who has been so obliging as to write to me, that your labors in the Territory of Breifné have fully commenced and that your summer's researches after ancient topography etc., will comprise both the Breifnés together with Meath. By this you will have ascertained all the local history of the O'Reillys and O'Rourkes and I hope to find you able to add much matter to our family history, tho' principally, I fear, in the department of Patriotism and Privation. I enclose you a note of introduction to Mr. Morton of County Cavan which I want you to personally present to him, and whom I hope may be of use to you.

I shall expect communications from you and shall be glad, if circumstances permit, to join you for a short time in the course of the Summer in your movements through my Principality and claim due allegiance to, Dear Sir, 61

Yours very truly,
Myles J. O'Reilly.

Triallam Tímcheall na Fódhla
"Let us traverse Ierne's Isle around." - Shane O'Dugan. 62

Cavan,
May 27th 1836.

Dear Sir,

I send you the Name Books of the Parishes of Crosserlough, Castlerahan, Lurgan, Killinkere, Mullagh and Munter-Cuhonnaught, from which you will observe that we are losing no time.

I have received Mr. O'Reilly's letter of introduction to Mr. Morton, but you have learned by this time that it will be of no use to me. Indeed I have resolved not to accept of an hospitable invitation from any one because I have learned from former experience that Irish hospitality is calculated to retard my progress. I have got a letter of introduction from some of the Roman Catholic Bishops to the Irish Clergy which will answer my purpose better than one from his most sacred Majesty William IV. At the same time I cannot but feel extremely obliged to Mr. O'Reilly for his repeated efforts to serve me on this as well as on many former occasions.

I am very sorry that you have given up the idea of getting the Inquisitions for Leitrim copied as I find them of great importance in settling doubtful points. Could you devise no plan for

procuring them? I fear that the volume of the Strafford Survey lately recovered does not extend beyond the County of Mayo. I find an authority very frequently quoted in the Cavan Name Books under the title of "Commonwealth Survey" which is amazingly correct in every instance, in fact, the most correct document I ever heard of as far as regards the orthography of names of Townlands (See Cornashesk in the Parish of Lurgan). Can this Survey be had for the County of Leitrim, or does it extend beyond Cavan?

Mr. Hardiman told me that he had a heap of Inquisitions the height of a man, ready for publication, but that he never would give them up until the Government would consent to have them published like the rest. I would rather have recourse to the originals than refer to a copy that has turned out to be incorrect in countless instances.

The signification of the name Crosserlough is unquestionably Crois Air Loch, i.e., the cross on (at or near) the lough, a name which must have allusion to a cross standing near the old Church. Such crosses are very frequently found near very ancient Irish Churches, as at Moville and various other Churches in Inishowen, but no cross of that description can now be found at Crosserlough. There is a little fable afloat about the erection of the mother Church of the Parish which accounts for the name after a very foolish manner, but as it is too indistinct I will not waste time to commit it to the durability of ink. St. Bartholomew is the Patron Saint of this Parish.

St. Matthew is the Patron Saint of the Parish of Lurgan, but as he is not an old Irish Saint we must consider that he has not been long the President of this Parish unless it can be shewn that the ancient Irish were in the habit of dedicating Parishes to Saints who were never in Ireland.

The name of this Parish certainly occurs in the Annals of the Four Masters though I cannot find it among the Extracts which I have before me.

The Patron of Killinkere Parish is St. Ultan, under whose superintendence I have already met more than one Parish in this Province. His day is on the 4th of September so that Colgan has given us no Life of him as he wrote the Calendar only to the end of March. Is his Parish of Cill an Céur (Cillin Céir) mentioned in the Irish Calendar compiled by Michael O'Clery? There is a well dedicated to him in a Townland to which it has given the name of Tober Ultan, which was formerly visited by a great concourse of pilgrims, and even now the old fashioned Brefsnians pay it a few visits, as can be demonstrated from the rags that ornament its sacred thorns.

The purifying essence, however, of water, one of the ancient

Gods of the Irish will soon be deprived of its divinity here, for the upspringing vigor of the Breifneian mind will reject every foolish practise with the single exception of drinking Usquebaugh. **King** John visited Tiopraid Ultain in Meath; can it be this place? (perhaps not). The name Ultan signifies the little Ulster man. **Does** the Calendar give any outline of his life?

The Parish of Mullagh is dedicated (according to tradition) to St. Kellachan, whose festival was observed in Autumn, but the precise day is not remembered. Though the name of this Saint is said to be Kellachan his Church is called Teampull Keallaigh and anglicised Temple Kelly, from which it will appear probable that his real name is Ceallach. In the O'Reilly Pedigree, I find the following notice of this Church:-

"Gelasius Roe had thirteen sons among whom was Cuconnaught, from whom are descended the family of Mullach, etc."

"Contentions arose between the descendants of Cuconnaught (now Munter-Cuconnaught) and the descendants of Gelasius Roe during which they burned Teampull Cheallaigh at Mullach Lough, since which time it has never been re-erected and there was no burial in the Churchyard for a long time after its burning."

The present ruin called Templekelly is a more modern erection. Mullagh Lough is still known by that name and will appear on the **Map**

I find also (from the O'Reilly Ped. corroborated by Norden's **Map**) that there was a castle here:- "The Castle of Mullach was erected by Conor More O'Reilly." - O'Reilly Pedigree, page 269.

There are no ruins of this castle at present but it must have stood on the site of the present little Village of Mullagh and given rise to it. You may observe that monasteries and castles have given origin to most ancient Irish villages, just as Public houses are now beginning to give rise and names to several, as Black Lion, Red Lion, Man of War, Fox and Goose, all named from the signs over the Public houses that gave origin to these villages! Piety and whiskey producing the same effects!

Another place in the same neighbourhood mentioned in the O'Reilly Pedigree still retains its ancient name but a little disguised to the English scholar.

"Conor More O'Reilly (he who erected the Castle of Mullach) had a son Conor Oge of Beal-Atha-an-Fheadha, etc."

Again:- "Gilla-Isa, son of Glasney, died at Bealach an Fheadha." - O'Reilly Ped. page 346.

It is called by the latter name at this day, as pronounced by

the Rev. John O'Reilly, the descendant of this very man. It is a townland in the Parish of Lurgan, now very correctly anglicised Ballygh-an-Eá, meaning the Woody Road or Pass.

The Parish of Munter-Connaught has derived that appellation from the descendants of a Cuchonnaught O'Reilly having settled in it. Its Church was dedicated to the B.V. Mary whose festival was kept there on the 15th of August, and still, strange to say, the holy well there is named after Saint Patrick. It is situated in the Townland of Knocknagarton, and will appear on the Map as Tobarpatrick. Is it not a pity that no list of pagan names of wells have been handed down to us, called after the Gods of the fountains and runnels.

There is a very interesting name of a lake in the Parish of Lurgan, the wild ducks of which are celebrated in the Fingallian poems and romances. It is Loch na dTrí gCaol, lacus trium Augustiarum, a curious lake (the name of which is truly descriptive of its shape) lying on the north west boundary of the Parish. See plan.

"Lachain o Loch na dTrí gCaol." - Ossian.

In the name Lough Ramhar, I fear we cannot follow our established anglicised orthography of Ramer, for I find that the name of this great lough is universally spelled Lough Ramor. Let this however remain for further consideration.

You will have to reserve the name Shantemon in the Parish of Castleterra until I see it again. It seems to be the hill on which the O'Reillys were inaugurated Chiefs of Breifny, though I was always under the impression that Tully-Mongan was the hill. In the O'Reilly Pedigree I meet the following passage:-

"When Malmore (Myles) was at Sean-Tuimin with the nobles of Breifny around him to create him Chief, Torlogh, the son of Fergal, came to offer opposition, but had to desert, etc."

I think it better to anglicise the name Shantummin, but the authorities must first be compared before that spelling be adopted.

I have received your note enclosing £5; and the remainder of the Name Books of Cavan. To-morrow I shall move to Killeshandra and O'Connor to Cotehill. We shall next meet at Bailieboro' whither I now wish all letters to be directed with a note ordering the Post-Master to keep them until we arrive, for otherwise he will certainly forward them to the "Sappers".

I think we had better do the County of Leitrim before Meath, as we have the Extracts from the Annals ready, and that we may give Messrs. Curry and O'Keefe time to have the Extracts for the great

Kingdom of Meath collected. Meath is by far the most important historical County in all Ireland and I should think it a pity to go through it without having the historical and topographical references before us. This is the season for working, not Winter.

Might I ask how the Memoir is getting on? When the poem on ~~Atarah~~ is set up, you can send me a proof of it to the country; I have no wish to get back to Dublin until I shall have finished ~~Atarah~~ and Meath; and as the Memoir is printing (passing) with such a snail-paced speed and preparing with such unrelenting toil, I foresee that I shall not be soon required in Dublin. I therefore propose that the names of Breifny-O'Rourke be next settled and the ~~names~~ rags and rags of history connected with them collected. If I discover the idol Crom Cruach (Dubh) on the Plain of Moy Sleacht, I shall deem myself compensated for all my exertions and not an Idoler.

The tribe of Munter-Malmore have commissioned me to state that when they shall have recovered their ancient Principality of East Breifny they will set up a rival against our friend in Leix. They have sworn by the God Crom Cruach, by the sun and the moon and all the elements to be seen and not to be seen, that they will never suffer him to set his foot on the stone of Cois an tSiorraigh on the Hill of Sean Tuimin, nor reign on Tullymongan because of his strenuous and unoreillylike exertions in support of Tythes, and because of his attachment to the Beresfords and Lord Farnham, the reigning pseudo-Lords of Breifny-O'Reilly, who keep the Tribe of Malmore groaning beneath the iron yoke of slavery.

As O'Conor is not yet up to the established anglicised forms of the names I have dictated to him the spellings that I conceive to be the best, and he has signed my name. This will save me some time.

Your obedient obliged servant,
J. O'Donovan.

Carminis Maceronici Specimen.

Ríoghthaoiseach na ruathar ngarbh
O'Raghallaigh na ruadh arm
Do chluintear acibh a órghuth
Os Muintir Mhaoil mhín Mhórdha.

A potent prince o'er Eastern Breifny reigns -
O'Reilly, red-armed ranger of the plains,
Whose warlike voice and bright, majestic face,
Command Malmora's* proud and mighty race. - Shane O'Dugan.

* Maolmordha, i.e., Maol, i.e., princeps et Mórdha, i.e.,
superbus, magnus seu majesticus. Nunc corrupte Miles.

Canis - Connaciae Nepotes.

Cavan,
May 28th 1836.

Dear Sir,

I send you the Name Books of the Parishes of Lowey (Lavwy) and Annagelliff. The former is called by the Irish Leamhaigh and the latter Banach Gailibh, but as being situated in the vicinity of the Town of Cavan the traditions connected with them are totally forgotten, as indeed the traditions are here in general, for the vigorous Tribe of Malmora now attend more to politics than to the fooleries of miracles and holy wells. When these Hy Briuin Breifne are a little better educated it will be very hard for the Beresfords to tyrannise over them or shew them the divine right of paying tythes. The Tribe of Cuconnaught O'Reilly located in the Barony of Castlerahan are the finest race of men I have yet seen in Ulster; well built, heavy limbed, healthy and wicked, qualifications calculated to render a people formidable. In fact one of them would shake the devil out of his coat if he (not the devil) were as well acquainted with the battle axe as with the old Taltanian exercise of wrestling. But lest I might anticipate what I have to say about the Sports of Tailtean in Meath I shall say no more about the vigor of the race of Cuconnaught O'Reilly nor of their hatred to swadling preachers, lest you might think me inclined to waste too much time about things with which I have nothing to do.

I cannot make out the Patron Saint of either Parish from tradition or any other source. The following are the only notices I can find touching them:-

Irish Calendar. February 10th. Dearlughá (Derloo) Virgin of Leamhaigh.

February 19th. Feichin Mac-Ua-Cainche from (of) Leamhaigh.

Leaviae, Parochiae significatio.

This is certainly our Lowey (Lavwy). The name is pronounced Le-aw-ee the l being very liquid, the m pronounced like w nasal and the aigh in the termination like igh in high. It is not an ecclesiastical name, being derived from Leamhach, which signifies Elm or Elm-producing place. The Irish word Lemh is not unlike the English Elm but that the former underwent more mortification from aspiration than the latter but it would take a Bishop to prove which of them is the transposed form of this parent word 'lem or elem.

The industry of future investigators will prove the Saxons and Irish Scots have descended from the same nation of savages who at various periods sent forth swarms from the north of Europe, as the Russians are likely to do before many centuries have passed over. But if the language of Ireland was ever the same

with the German or Saxon it must have received peculiar features from an admixture with other languages of a different character. The frequent suppression of m, s and t that takes place in the Irish language strongly distinguishes it from the northern languages, and perfectly identifies it with the Welsh and its cognate dialects which reduce hard consonants to mere breathings.

Scotia lingua hybrida, et Walliae, Cognata.

Of the Parish of Annagelliff I only find the following notices in the O'Reilly Pedigree:-

"Richard O'Reilly and his son Owen, together with Philip, the son of Gregory, Deacon of Drumlane and Vicar of Banach Gailbhe, and Donnell Keegan, being in one cot on Lough Sheelion, were drowned."

You will hear from me next from the Town of Killeshandra; please to direct all communications to Bailieboro'.

Your obedient humble servant,
John O'Donovan.

I also send the Parish of Denn which finishes the Barony of Lower Lough Tee with the exception of the Parish of Kilmore, which will soon follow. The Irish name of the Parish of Denn is now Deinn, which is certainly a corruption of Dinn, a topographical word of frequent occurrence in our old authorities, as Dinn Ríogh, the ancient palace of the Kings of Leinster situated on the western bank of the River Barrow, near Leighlin Bridge in the County of Carlow. It signifies a hill and seems originally synonymous with Dun (Vocis Denn significatio). Dinnseanchus, the name of our celebrated legendary topographical work is explained in the oldest Glossaries as Seanchus Cnoc, i.e., the History of Hills. I should like to recall it Dinn to make it agree with the name of the Leinster palace but I fear that use, *norma loquendi*, is too strong against me.

The only remarkable things of venerable (sacred) antiquity in the Parish are three wells anciently situated near the Churchyard and called Tobair na dTri Mic Duach or the Wells of the Three Mac Duaghs (*fontes sacrae tribus fratribus dedicatae*). There are only two wells near the Churchyard at present, the third, being insulted by a woman who polluted it by washing dirty clothes in its sacred water, emigrated to the Townland of Leggan, where it is yet to be seen. The three Mac Duaghs were burned in the Churchyard of Denn and their graves were marked by three rude stones, latterly destroyed by a minister's son who soon after shot himself.

Uxor Gleatha. Mac Brady cognomatus Minister, vir sagax.

The beautiful Mountain of Slieve Glah is in this Parish. It is called Sliabh Gleatha by Philip Minister Brady in his Romance

entitled the Prodigal Son. This Philip Mac Brady, the Dean Swift of Cavan, was a native of the Parish of Drong and a Parish Priest until he embraced the aristocratic Religion of the State, for which he has handed down his name to posterity as Philip Minister. In this Romance he gives the fable which accounts for the name of Beann Eachlabhra now Binn Aghlin and throws great light upon Irish Fairyology. It is preserved in the MSS. in Trinity College, Class H, 1-4; see Catalogue.

You will observe the frequent occurrence of the names Pottle, Pole and Gallon in this County. They were ancient measures of land which seem peculiar to this County like Tate to Fermanagh and Monaghan and Cartrons and Gnieves to other Counties. 75

These measures are of English introduction for they certainly are not Irish. Is there any work that throws light upon what quantity of land each contain?

I rejoice to find that James O'Reilly, Esq., of Beltrasna in the County of Meath is the proprietor of a large portion of this Parish; it must, however, be a purchase, as the whole of Brelfny seems to have been forfeited*.

I fear that he and Mr. Morton will be able to throw very little light upon Mullagh Castle or Castlerahen.

Are the three Mac Duachs of Denn mentioned in O'Clery's Calendar?

J. O'Donovan.

* The great tenth of the Cavan property possessed by the Baltrasna branch of the family had belonged to Colonel John O'Reilly, who represented Cavan in Parliament, commanded a Regt. of Cavalry (principally of his own followers and equipped at his own expense) on the side of King James at the Battle of the Boyne and who was included in the Articles of Limerick. The estate had been settled by the Colonel on the marriage of his eldest son -- in strict settlement under which it would have come to the present Myles J. O'Reilly, his Great Great Grandson, but Councillor J. O'Reilly, who was a tenant for life, contrived to buy fines contrary to the settlement and to effect a sale to -- O'Reilly of Baltrasna and thus defeated the settlement which had by omission not been duly enrolled. 76

There was a long but fruitless litigation mairitand on this subject, the pleadings of which are extant in possession of Myles J. O'Reilly, the person lineally entitled under the settlement dated -- of --

Airdrí Bréifne as buan smacht
O'Ruairc dan dual cios Chonnacht.

77

Arch-Chief of Breifny of lasting power
Is O'Rourke to whom is due the tribute of Connaught.
— Shane O'Dugan 1370.

Cavan,
May 30th 1856.

Dear Sir,

As I am most anxious to collect all the rhymes and rags of history connected with Breifny I shall now attempt to say a few words about the famous Fortress of Clogh Lough Uachtair or the Rock of Lough Oughter.

De Munitione de Clogh-Uachtair in lacu superiori sita.

It is a round castle of the same architectural character with Reginald's Tower in Waterford, and with the keep of the Castle of Dundrum; the Island or rather Carn of stones on which it stands seems to have been made by dropping stones into the lake until a foundation was formed for the castle. The walls are eight feet thick and supposed to be sixty feet high from the level of the lake. It is said that a broad flagged road runs under water from the castle (in a southern direction) to the nearest point of Inish-Gonnell, where the foundations of the outhouses and offices of this castle are still traceable. Are these shewn on the Plan? The lake is thought to be much deeper here now than formerly.

The traditions connected with this very curious fortress are wild, indistinct and various; some say that it was built in the 6th century and before the Claitheach of Drumlane; others that it was built by a Danish prince of a name not now remembered, and a third party heard that it was built by the Sherridans!

78

Traditio de Cromwell Bellatore potente et flagitioso.

All however agree that it was dismantled by the great and wicked warrior Cromwell but they do not agree upon the manner in which he tossed it. According to some Oliver first planted his devilish engine on the Hill of Drummany and (to use Moryson's phrase) beat against the Cloch from the north and after having let fly some balls at that side, he found that it was invulnerable there. He then removed his canon to Gub-a-Rann and played upon the Rock of Lough Uachtair from the west, but he found the Clogh invulnerable there also. It is said that he then removed by advice of some Irish betrayer, to Inish-Gonnell and there having planted his culverins on the hill since called Gub-a-Campa (i.e., Point of the Camp) from the

circumstance; he commenced battering the south face of the castle but in vain, until a false woman who was inside hung out a white cloth opposite the spot where the wall was weak; at this spot he directed all his shots until he made a breach, which exposed the warders inside to the fury of his firing. Others say that the Rock of Lough Oughter was so strong that Cromwell was not able to effect a breach in any part of it until he landed a body of his soldiers and sappers on the stony island, who set a sap to the foundation and thus tumbled the one third part of the circle. The blasted wall was precipitated partly into the water and partly upon the small island, whereon huge pieces of it are still to be seen, most admirably cemented. A small old road leading to this castle through the Townlands of Corracanny and Inishgonnell is still called Cromwell's Road and said to have been made by him for the purpose of drawing his cannon to destroy this castle? Is this marked on the Map? (It is - See Trace).

When was this castle built, and by whom? That is the question! Mr. Petrie in his Essay on Ancient Irish Military Architecture has positively asserted that this is one of the round castles which the Irish had built before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans amongst them, but even though Mr. Petrie is by far the best authority on this subject, still I must express my doubt on this point! In the list of fortresses given in the Pedigree of Count O'Reilly I read:-

Comite Rubro Condita Secundum O'Ragallii genealogiam.

"The Castle of Loch Uachtair was erected by the Red Earl."

Where did the Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman get this passage? I know not, but I would advise Mr. Petrie to examine the subject better before he publishes his Essay.

The following references to Lough Oughter may throw some obscure light upon the period of the erection of this castle:-

"A.D. 1231. Donnell O'Donnell, Lord of Tirconnell, and Angus Mac Gillinnion with the troops of Fernanagh marched against O'Reilly (Cathal). They carried boats with them by means of which they landed on Bo-Inis in Lough Oughter and carried away with them all the wealth and riches of that station (dwelling) besides obtaining pledges of humiliation from O'Reilly" - 4 Masters.

Bo-Inish is now called Eanish, pron. Ai-nish, an island in Lough Oughter, but there is no trace or tradition of a castle (baile) having ever stood on it. (There is a fort).

"A.D. 1327. The Castle of Lough Oughter was taken by O'Rourke but he delivered it up again for 20 cows." - 4 Masters.

I find the following reference to this castle having been in the possession of O'Rourke but I have no clue to discover the date:-

"Fergal O'Reilly said that if he could take Clogh Oughter from the warders of O'Rourke (for at that time O'Rourke had warders within it and Mac Kiernan and Magauran assisting them) he would be able to take possession of the circumjacent country. He therefore stationed his men at a convenient distance from the castle until he observed some of its plebeians going out of it to cut fire-wood. These his men attacked and killed and having stripped them of their habits of skins, they dressed themselves in them and thus disguised entered the castle and put all who were in it to death before they had time to lay hands on their arms. By this manoeuvre Fergal obtained the best territory in Breifny, namely the tract extending from Lough Oughter to Mullagh-Luch."

This is a curious passage, as affording an instance of O'Reilly's cunning in emancipating himself from O'Rourke and as an evidence of the kind of dress the ancient Irish serfs, plebeians, workmen, etc., wore. You have seen in the Dublin Society the remains of a man found in a bog wrapped up in sheep skin.

"A.D. 1369. Philip O'Reilly was taken prisoner by his own brothers, who confined him in the Castle of Lough Oughter where he was bound with chains." — 4 Masters.

"A.D. 1370. Manus O'Reilly was taken prisoner by the sons of Thomas, who was son of Mahon O'Reilly, and confined in the Castle of Lough Oughter."

"A.D. 1390. Manus O'Reilly who had been confined by the O'Reilly (Prince of Breifny) in the Castle of Lough Oughter, effected his escape from it and went to Lough Skur, but the descendants of Mortogh O'Connor having heard of this went to retake him, and slew him as he was leaping out of a cot."

From these passages it will appear probable that the Castle of Lough Oughter is older than the time of the Red Earl of Ulster who, if I remember rightly, was murdered by his own servants and household in the year 1333 (1233?). It is remembered that Bishop Bedell was confined in this castle and that the famous warrior Owen Roe O'Neill breathed his last in it after being poisoned by Cromwell.

There is a tradition in the Parish of Kilmore that the Monastery on Trinity Island was originally intended to be erected at a place called Snámh Lúthair (Name corrupte Sianore). This name certainly occurs in the Annals of the Four Masters; let me have all the passages relating to it without delay.

According to tradition, Felim, the brother of St. Tiernach of

Cloches, is the Patron of Kilmore. Does Colgan, Ware or Lanigan say anything about him?

I had expected to find Columbkille the Patron of the Parish as Colgan informs us that Kilmore in Cavan is the Cella Magna Dithreabh of Adamnan and the Kell More Dithreabh of the Irish writers, a famous Monastery of Columbkille's erection.

Colgan, in a note upon the 50th Chapter of the 1st Book of Adamnan's Life of St. Columbkille where this name occurs, writes:-

"Cella Magna Deithreabh is commonly called Kell-Mor Dithreabh and is a Bishop's See in the Country of Breffny or in the Co. of Cavan."

Does not Lanigan deny this and further add that the exact situation of Cell-Magna Deithreabh was unknown, and that it lay somewhere in Connaught? What are his reasons for this assertion or does he give any? Does Harris in his edition of Ware throw any light upon it? 85

I find that there was a castle at Kilmore in 1226, but there is no trace of it at present.

"A.D. 1226. The Castle of Kilmore was levelled (tossed?) by Cathal O'Reilly." - 4 Masters.

It was re-erected by Philip, the son of Malmore, the son of Hugh Conallach. - O'R. Ped., page 269.

Yesterday (Sunday) we walked from Cavan to the Castle of Cloch Uachtair and hired a cot to carry us over to the island. We enquired for the oldest and longest headed men in the neighbourhood of the castle but could find none at this side of the lake who were acquainted with the language or traditions of the Parish, but were directed to a Mr. Owen O'Rourke who lives near Cavan. I have 86 therefore remained in Cavan today to converse with him about the Rock of Cloch Uachtair and the Princes of Breifny and to write this letter. O'Connor set out this morning for Cootehill. After I shall have settled the orthography of the names of the lakes and Townlands in the Territory of Tellach-Donogha and Clan Mahon, I shall join him at Bailieboro' from which centre we shall finish the names among the descendants of the Blind (Kee, Caoch) O'Reilly, and then prepare for a visit to O'Rourke. After all this wandering I think we should be dubbed vagabunds or Itinerants, two words to which posterity have unjustly attached bad meanings.

I cannot send you the Name Books of the Parish of Kilmore 87 until I see the passages in the Annals about Snamh Luthair. Before setting out for Breifny O'Rourke I must get that passage from the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick which described his visit to Moy Sleacht, and his prostration of the Idol Crom Cruach by

pointing his Backal-Iosa at him (it) O'Keaffe will find the passage in connection with the River Gath-Ara near which this idol stood.

Is there no better ancient Map of Breifny than Norden's? Does not Mercator shew more places than Norden's?

Mr. Owen O'Rourke of Drumella says that Lough Oughter was so called from its being the Upper Lake on the River Erne. This may have been the notion in ancient times, but I believe Lough Gauna is, properly speaking, the Lough Uachtair.

88

I do not however believe that the Irish looked upon Lough Gauna as the source of the Erne River, nor that its source is yet defined.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Cavan-O'Reilly, May 30th 1836.

P.S. I could collect more traditions about Lord Farnham at present in Breifny than about the founder of the Monastery of Trinity Island, but I rejoice that I have nothing to do with the miracles performed by that Saint.

"Ex conflictu et collisione rerum magis elucescat et eruatur
viritas." 89

Mac Thighearnáin na taighean
Fosúgnadh na bhfionn-Ghaoidheal
Ceandach na gcliar 'sa gcara
Ar Teallach ndian nDunchadha. - Shane O'Dugan.

Killyshandra,
June 1st 1836.

Dear Sir,

The following genealogical table will shew you where the ancient distinguished families of Breifny meet, and that the Irish Bards were very clever at forgery, if they forged the entire of it:-

Eochy Moyvahain, R. Hiberniae supremus
|
Duach Galach
|
Eogan Sreave
|
Muireadhach Mal
|
Fergus
|

Fergus (Cont'd.)

Duach Teangamha

Brian, a quo Hy Briuin Brifne, i.e., O'Rourke's, O'Reillys and all their cognate branches.

Breathnan

Baoithan

Maonnan

Aodh Fionn, the common ancestor of O'Rourke's & O'Reillys.

Sganlan

Eochy, a quo
Tullagh-Bahagh
or Magauran

Dunchadh, a quo
Tullagh Dunchadha
or the Mac Tiernan

Creemhainn

Feliasy

These two Tribes were sometimes under O'Rourke & sometimes under O'Reilly

Blamac

Baoithan

Dunchadh

Duvidothra

Cearnach

Seallachan, the ancestor of O'Rourke

Maolmoraha, a quo Munter Maolmora

Cearnall, a quo
Tullagh
Cearnall or
the Mac Bradys.

Fallamhan, a quo
Tullagh-Fallan
i.e., Mac
Connava's now
Fords.

Duverno
Cathalan

Gairbheth, a
quo Tullagh
Gairbhed now
Corrupte
Tullaghgarvey

Ragallach, a quo O'Reilly.

Cloch, a quo Clankee

Mahon, a quo Clanmahon

Cuconnaught, a quo Munter-Connaught.

From this Genealogical tree it will plainly appear that the names of the greater part of the Baronies of this County are old names of tribes. We see that Tullyhaw was the name of the tribe of which Magauran was chief; Tully-Donaghy of Makierman's Tribe; Callagh-Garvey of a tribe of the Munter-Malmora; and Clankea, Man-Mahon and Munter-Connaught were the names of distinct septis of the O'Reillys themselves, derived from the rivals Niall Kee (blind) Mahon and Cuconnaught, to whom distinct territories were allotted. The two remaining Baronies Loughtee and Castlerahan were, according to the English mode, named from the head castles or mansions of (in) these territories; the site of Castlerahan is yet pointed out; and that there was a distinguished residence at Lough Tee (Loch a Toighe, Lake of the House) does not admit of any doubt. It is also certain that the names of two tribes have been sunk in them, though we also know that the Barony of Loughtee was sometimes called Loch'ar Tire or the Lower Part of the Territory of Breifny and Castlerahan Uachtar Tire or the Upper Part. I think that Tullyhaw always belonged to O'Rourke and perhaps Tullagh-Donaghy as Colgan place. Drumlane on the boundary of both Breifnies.

91

Beauford has asserted in the 11th No. of Vallancey's Collection that the ancient Irish took names from places but I can never believe him while I have so much authority to prove the contrary.

92

Many stories are here told about the manner in which Mac Tierman lost his estate, but as they have not even the semblance of probability I shall not waste time to write them. The senior branch of the family is said to exist near Scrabby, where the greater part of the Townland of Dernaferst was bestowed on them by the present proprietor of their ancient Estate. The name Mac Tierman is corrupted from the Irish Mac Thighearnaín, the initial being altogether sunk as in Mag-Shauran (Magauran) and in Mac Troy. The last family are now changing the name to Gilroy, and by a similar analogy the other two might write their names Tiernan and Sauran or Sovereign, or Mac Tiernan, Mac Sovereign!

I shall now shew the situation of all the ancient places in his neighbourhood mentioned in the Annals and in the Pedigree of the O'Reillys, and then hasten to Lough Gawna and Lough Sheelion.

93

I met near this town one of the southern Hy-Carbré Aéva, a Mr. Hugh Donovan aged 76, from whom I received a great deal of information concerning the ancient localities of this neighbourhood. The family have been here since the year 1691 when one of the Arbrians, an officer of - - God knows what (of rebels I suppose) left seven sons in the Parish of Clune in the County of Leitrim from whom several families have descended!

De Castello de Kilmore.

"A.D. 1226. The Castle of Kilmore was levelled (tossed) by Athal O'Reilly." - 4 Masters.

I think I met some evidence of this having been re-erected
 Could it be the ruin in Tinnymore which lies not much more than
 one mile from Kilmore? (No! vide infra).

Of the present name and situation of Achadh Chille Móire;
 Origin of the Mac Cabe.

"A.D. 1429. A war was kindled between O'Rourke (Teige) and
 O'Reilly (Owen). On this occasion the descendants of Mahon O'Reilly
 (Gleomahon) and the English of Meath joined O'Rourke and burned
 O'Reilly's mansion seat. After this O'Reilly prevailed upon O'Neill
 to come to his assistance and O'Neill, with the forces of Criel and
 Fermanagh headed by their respective chiefs, and his own Creaghts,
 marched to Achadh Chille Móire, where they were met by O'Rourke,
 the Clanmahon-O'Reilly, the Baron of Delvin and Mac Cabe. An en-
 gagement ensued in which O'Neill gained the victory, and the Baron
 of Delvin, Mac Cabe, Henry Mac Cabe and Dermot O'Rourke were slain
 and many others taken prisoners." - 4 Masters. 94

Achadh Chille Móire, now anglicised Aghakilmore, is a Townland
 in the west of the Parish of Ballymachugh in the Barony of the
 Clan Mahon.

The Mac Cabes, who are very numerous in this County, are not
 of the Hy-Briuin or even of the Milesian Race, but descended from
 a Danish Chief, nomine Tormod, of whom see Mac Firbis, Lord Roden's
 copy, page 776.

Tradition still styles the Mac Cabes Lochlannachs, for when-
 ever any of the family do anything out of the way, vulgar prejudice
 will exclaim:- "He could not be good, being of the Lochlann Race."
 The Mac Cabes however, are now so out and out Milesian-like that the
 most intelligent old men here will readily grant that tradition has
 erred on this point. I say the tradition is right, for they were
 never more Milesian-like than the Plebeian portion of the Burkes and
 Fitzgeralds, two families of aristocratic Anglo-Norman extraction.

In the O'Reilly Pedigree, page 257, I find mention made of
 oirlíoch Breatan as the residence of "Cathal and Shane, two sons
 of Rory, the son of Cathal, who was the son of Mahon O'Reilly." 95

It is now called Corlisbrattan and lies in the south of this
 Parish of Killyshandra near the Village of Arvagh.

Of Blean Cupa, the site of a battle.

"A.D. 1369. Philip O'Reilly was taken prisoner by his own
 brothers and confined in the Clogh (stone castle) of Lough Oughter
 here he was firmly bound with chains. He was succeeded in the
 lordship by Manus O'Reilly. In consequence of this capture a great
 war and disturbance broke out in Breifny. A great army was mustered

of Annadh the son of Richard O'Reilly, by Mac Mahon and by all the other chiefs of Oriel who united with Annadh for the purpose of forcibly rescuing Philip O'Reilly from Manus. But Manus and his brothers stood forward with their whole forces to contest the sovereignty of the country. A battle ensued at Blen-cupa which ended in the defeat of Manus, etc." 96

Blen-cupa is now anglicised Blencup and is a Townland in the Parish of Kilmore about four miles from this town. See plan of Kilmore and also the Fermanagh Index from which it will appear that Bléap, which means a little creek is borne out by the localities of the places so called. — Rendered Elean in Fermanagh.

The name Cloch-Uachtair is still retained. It appears from many Irish authorities that Cloch was an ancient term for a Stone Castle; the Castle of the Knight of Glen is called by the Four Masters Cloch Gianna and Latinized Vallisapes by O'Sullivan Beare in his History of the Irish Catholics. I had a long conversation today with Michael Laddy, the historian of the district, about Cloch Uachtair; he says that the constant tradition is that it was built by a Danish prince but as he is not a firm believer in tradition, he is inclined to believe that it was rather erected by the hero Conall O'Carraich, from whom the adjoining Townland of Inishconnell, as well as the ford of Bella Connell where he was killed is named. There are other places in the O'Reilly Pedigree which are certainly in this neighbourhood. 97

"Owen, the son of Malmora, died at Loch-a-Tochair." —
O'Reilly Pedigree, 345.

"When Fergal, surnamed of the Tochar, was the O'Reilly it is said that he resided a while at the Tochar (Causey) and another while at Tully-Mongan."

There is a Lough in the Townland of Aghaweenagh in the Parish of Kildallan called Loch a Tochair by the Irish and Togher Lough by those who speak English, a name which is certainly the same with the one mentioned in the Pedigree.

This Town of Killyshandra takes its name from the Parish which was called by the Irish Cill a tSean-Rátha, i.e., the Church of the Old Rath, the original Mother Church of the Parish being situated within the circle of a pagan fort. The Protestant Church which was erected by Sir Francis Hamilton on the site of the old one in 1688 is yet surrounded by this fort (ring) which is now nearly effaced; but my namesake, who remembers to have seen it much more perfect, traced nearly the whole circle for me. As this is the only Index to point out the etymology of the name Kill-a-shan-rath, I think it ought to be shewn on the Map.

Of the name and situation of Mac Thiernan's (Mac Kiernan) mansion seat in Teallach Dunchadha.

98

"A.D. 1411. Melaglin, the son of Brian Mag Thiernan, Tanist of Teallach Dunchadha, died."

"A.D. 1412. Cuconnaught Mag-Thiernan, Chief of Teallach Dunchadha, was killed by the people of Fermanagh in a nocturnal assault in his own house at Cruachain Mhic Thiernain. The assailants slaughtered men, women and children and burned the whole Baile, after which they returned home." - 4 Masters.

It is now called Croaghan and lies about three quarters of a mile northwest of this town; it is the name of the residence of Mr. Carson, the Townland being generally called Cochnasinnagn.

The Parish of Kildallan took its name from St. Dallan who is said to have written a poem in praise of St. Columbkille, but no other particular relating to his life or acts is known here. The site of his little Church will be shewn on the Map.

I shall now start for Scrabby and move southeast through the County, and if possible arrive at Bailieboro' on Sunday evening.

I send you enclosed in this letter the key of my desk; please to send it to Mr. Curry and tell him to open my desk, in which he will find two MSS., the one Irish, giving an account of Breifny in general and the other English, a Pedigree of O'Gowan or Smith. Please to have these and the Pedigree of O'Reilly sent to Bailieboro', that I may give full consideration to the extent and names of the tribes and Baronies of the County before I visit O'Rourke. I send a short letter to Mr. O'Reilly; please to forward it to him.

99

This day promises some showers which will fertilise the thirsting earth and impede my progress. I send the Name Books of Kilmore, Kildallan and Killyshandra. Reserve the name Slanore in Kilmore till I write again.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Killyshandra, June 3rd 1836.

"Triallam timcheall na Fodhla."

100

Tóin la Gaoith,
Killycolly or Bailieboro',
June 5th 1836.

Dear Sir,

This is the Sabbath Day, but I am too busy-minded to dedicate

it to idleness and to the Lord, and perhaps I never shall until the new Act shall have passed for the better observance of the Sabbath. I intent to commit no crime against the law of morality, but I will write or pray on Sunday just as I like until a law shall be formed to compel me to kneel until my knees become as hard as Mogue's, calculated to leave impressions in stones.

I have, since I wrote last, travelled (or rather wandered) over a distance of forty miles from Lough-Oughter to Lough Gauna; thence to Lough Sheelion, from Lough Sheelion to Lough Ramor, and from thence to Bailiebor. where I now sit in very comfortable quarters. I write this to let you know that I have arrived and that we shall be ready for Leitrim before Saturday next.

I send a letter to my friend J.C Mangan; please to have it sent him.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Bailieborough,
June 6th 1836.

101

Dear Sir,

I send you the Name Books of Ballintemple, Drumlumman, Ballymachugh and Kilbride, which complete the Barony of the Clan Mahon O'Reilly, and also those of Scrabby and Loughan, the latter of which you will have to reserve till we go to Meath because it was not sent us until we had moved out of the Barony of Castlerahan. I trust that no such irregularities will occur with respect to Leitrim and Meath.

I am not yet satisfied with the name Kilbride, as there is no probability that it signifies the Church of Bridget; you will therefore reserve it until I shall have some conversation with the Shanachies of Meath who reside on the southern banks of Lough Sheelion. The men with whom I have conversed on the Cavan side of that Lough have nearly forgotten all the tales of old, and regret that I was not out in the time of their grandfathers who could tell a thousand tales about miracles, saints, chieftains and plunderers, which their posterity, being in the progress of becoming sensible and anglicised, think unworthy of treasuring up in the cabinets of their memory. One story about Dan O'Connell is now worth all the miracles ever wrought by Mogue or Patrick and all the victories gained by O'Reilly over the English of Meath.

102

I am strongly driven to believe that this Parish derived its name from the Bradys, and that it is no other than the place mentioned by the Four Masters at the year 1412:-

"A.D. 1412. Mac Brady, Chief of Cuil Brighdh, died."

We have frequently met Gull corrupted by Kil and the final n in Bridin would be easily dropped.

I find that after all my exertions to have all the Extracts from the Annals, I have not a single reference to Lough Gauna or its islands. This is very unfortunate as I intend to lay down all the islands and other places of note in Breifny on a map, for if I do not do so now, few will have the courage to encounter the labour of it hereafter. Let me have all the references to Lough Gauna and its islands in the Annals of the Four Masters, that nothing may be omitted.

I have discovered the situation of Dun da Bheana, the residence of Philip, the Prior O'Reilly. It is situated in Drumlumman Parish in the Barony of Clan-Mahon but very incorrectly spelled Dun-de-Van by some, although it is still distinctly pronounced Dun-daa-Ván (accented on the last syllable) by the Gadelians, who are the real inhabitants, and not Lord Farnham, the Rector or the Boundary Surveyor. Dún da Bheana signifies the Dun or Fort of the Two Pinnacles, a name which will puzzle even a Cyclopean antiquary to reconcile with the form of the fort still in existence there. 103

Beallach an Chaolain (Via Coelani) another place mentioned in the O'Reilly Pedigree is precisely so pronounced at this day by the Irish but most strangely corrupted to Ballyneilan in English. I have spelled it Ballyheelan, as I see plainly that Heelan, not Chaolain will become the pronunciation as soon as the present generation shall go home to their fathers, for they will be succeeded by a race who will not be able to pronounce ch guttural; I therefore thought it prudent to fit (adapt) the name to their organs, but I altogether reject Hillan as incorrect and unanalogical. I find that Lord Farnham, the descendant of Fiahertagh O'Neill, spells names of Townlands very correctly. (De Ballyheelan nunc vico exiguo in parochia de Ballymachugh).

"A.D. — — Conor, the son of the Prior O'Reilly, and John, the son of Torlogh, fell by each other at the Lake of Glen-Coran in Teallach Dunchadha." — O'Reilly Pedigree, page 343. 104

This must be Glen near Scrabby. Is this Lough marked by that name on the Plan? (No).

De territorio de Clan-Mahon nunc Baronia.

The territory of the Clan Mahon O'Reilly, afterwards made the Barony of Clan-Mahon, was anciently much larger than it is at present, the Meathian English intruders having seized upon the southern and most fertile parts of it. The Shanachie Mac Brady, who seems to have written his account of Breifny while Myles the Slasher O'Reilly was in power, tells us this in the following old fashioned strain:—

"Be it known unto every reader that the following is the extent in length and in breadth of the district which the Parents and Plunketts took from the Clan-Manon in despite of the O'Reilly and the sons of Calvaen, the son of Felim, who had the possession and administration of that territory, paying homage and rendering an account thereof to the O'Reilly and the Lord of Clan-Mahon, viz., from the south of the Ford of Finnea in the County of Westmeath to Gearra-Kincora above Baile-Fobhair (Fore) and from Ballinamore to Ballynaganny, and whoever shall be able to annex this territory again to Breifny, has every right so to do." - O'Reilly Pedigree, page 349.

106

Perhaps you could let me have a map of Meath with all the rivers and villages marked on it, and the same of Leitrim, and also a small map of Ireland. I am determined to make out Moy Sleacht and the spot where Crom Cruach and his twelve attendant Gods stood.

Whatever shall happen Leitrim we must not neglect the Kingdom of Meath. I would advise you to send us the Name Books of Leitrim immediately and to keep O'Keefe and Curry working at Meath. Let them compare the Inquisitions carefully and extract from the Annals every single passage relating to the forts, castles, Churches, lakes, territories, monasteries, etc., etc., of that County.

In order to know the ancient Churches in Meath Archdall must be carefully examined, but as he is very often wrong with respect to localities, it is necessary to refer to Colgan's Triad, Thau. and Acta SS., from which Archdall derived the most of his knowledge of Irish topography. O'Connor has already extracted and translated all the passages in Colgan relating to Meath, as far as Kells; O'Keefe can do the remainder and as it would take him too long a time to translate, let him send us the original Latin, that we may translate it with more certainty at each locality described. He will find all the passages in Colgan referred to by Archdall. I also wish that he should read Lanigan through and send us all his hints, conjectures and criticisms on Archdall and Harriss.

106

If all this be not done without delay you will not be able to keep us in work, we are now such active vagabunds. If you receive any letters for me from Mr. O'Reilly or my friend J.C. Langan, I hope you will be able to forward them to me.

Is there any record of Lomanus, the Patron Saint of Drumlumman, in the Barony of Clanmahon.

107

There are various tracts in the MS. Library of Trinity College which would throw light upon the topography of ancient Meath, but as they could not be easily found at present we must do without them. Let me have my translation of Kineth O'Hartgan's account of the ruins at Tara and every other tract that

CAVAN.

will turn up in the course of the enquiry. Irish MSS. are so mutilated, scattered and inaccessible that it would take the industry of a century to reduce them to any order, so as to render them useful to the antiquary. If the ancient localities be not pointed out during the course of this Survey, i.e., before the Irish become totally anglicised, future antiquarians will exclaim against us as a set of stupid idlers, who had the means, but not the industry, to preserve those things for posterity.

I send a letter to Mr. Todd, F.T.C.D. requesting a copy of a curious document in the Book of Kells; please to read it and send it to him if you see no objection to the request.

Your obedient humble servant,
John O'Donovan.

Bailieboro',
June 8th 1836.

Dear Sir,

Before I complete Breifny-O'Reilly, I send a few hurried lines about Breifny-O'Rourke. Please to have all the Name Books sent to Mohill, and to desire those of Charles Street to send me all the notices to be found in Colgan or the Annals, etc., about Cill-Canata, Cill an Iomaire and Sliabh O'n-Aodha.

We have received the half notes and send stamp-receipts. No stamp was enclosed for O'Conor, but he got one here which I hope will do.

Praying that nothing will be delayed, I remain,

Your obedient humble servant,
John O'Donovan.

Bailieboro',
June 8th 1836.

Dear Sir,

My chief anxiety from the beginning of my tours thro' Ulster has been to point out with certainty the sites of ancient raths, Churches, castles and seats of families, because if it be not done during the course of this Survey the probability is that the same opportunity will never again offer itself. Mr. Hardiman however, has frequently argued with me that the industry of local writers would yet point out these places, even if there never had been a General Survey made of Ireland. I grant that this may be if the local writer be very well qualified to make the enquiry; that is,

if he be intimately acquainted with the ancient and modern language of this island and most particularly with the provincial peculiarities of diction and pronunciation; if he have before him all the documents, ancient and modern, that throw light in any way upon the situation of places and the relative position of territories with respect to one another, and if he be also able to sift (analyse) the traditions that still linger in the country so as to separate the truth from the fable. Otherwise (if not) he will be subject to a thousand blunders and childish mistakes such as at present disgrace the pages of Irish history and render it a subject of laughter to the learned of Europe and America (as the Chinese and Africans are and will for ever remain too deeply imbued with the fables of old times, to be able to examine the truth of ancient history). Without this kind of knowledge he will never suspect the assertions of those etymological writers who have founded a specious fabric of Irish history upon false and distorted meanings wrested from words by supposing that the Gaelic is the same as the Arabic or Persian, nor ever doubt their translations of old laws manufactured such in the same way.

Two instances will more than illustrate this assertion:—The Herculean Bally, Pinkerton, the literary Goliath of the Scots or Goths, who was unquestionably well acquainted with the history of these Britanic Isles placed the Fortress of Ailach in the Co. Down! And Charles O'Connor of Blarugare who knew more about Irish literature and topography than any man living in his time or that has lived since, says that Moy-Coine was the present Barony of Carbury in the north of the Co. of Sligo and that Dun-Sinnick is the present Carrickfergus. The former assertion still remains unquestioned and will remain so until I visit that neighbourhood and the latter passed the examination (oral) of Archdall, Beauclerk, Haliday, McSkimin and the Giant Irish Scholar O'Reilly; and I would remain so perhaps for ever (and that would never be demerited by a metaphysician) had not I raised my impertinent voice in a shabby dry little article in a penny Publication against the authority of the Venerable Charles O'Connor in ancient Irish Topography.

I urge these observations in defence of myself and to refute objections which Mr. Hardiman has frequently thrown out in private conversation with me against the importance, utility, of our historical and topographical researches. He says that a knowledge of the ancient territorial divisions of Ireland is of no consequence now, and that I would do more service to Irish history by publishing the Annals of the Four Masters or a translation of the Brehon Laws, than by giving the most accurate maps of all the territories of ancient Ireland with the situation of their Churches rivers and mountains. "These" he adds, "can be done by the future industry of local writers, who will soon come to the hive of literature like so many bees."

The only answer I made to this was that unless the sites of

these ancient places be pointed out during the progress of this Survey that neither he (Mr. Hardiman) nor Crofton Croker nor any other local writer will ever be qualified to do it. That requires a combination of knowledges and a peculiarity of continued habits of research which no one can be possessed of but he who has prepared himself for the sole purpose of doing it.

Let me then after all this preliminary discussion upon my own merits, like one of the knights errants of old, proceed to the old castles and places (shrines) of prayers and pilgrimages.

Of Daingean an Mhanntaigh, the seat of a very celebrated chief.

Mac Brady in his account of Breifny says that before the time of Raghalach, the progenitor of the O'Reillys, there were five chieftains over the two Breifnies, among whom was Gilduff, surnamed the Mantach (de Munitione Mantani - from his having lost his front teeth) who lived at a place called Daingean an Mhantaigh from him. Now this name exists to this day, but see the difficulty of identifying it. It is now anglicised Dig-ni-Vanty, a name which no one could suspect to be Daingean a Mhantaigh unless he were acquainted with the peculiar pronunciation of ng in this County, and with the tradition connected with the place. Every ng in the middle of a word is pronounced here like gh aspirated; and the natives say that the place was so named from its having been the fastness (Daingean) of an ancient chief, nomine Mantach from his speaking thick, but whether he was a Reilly or not they do not know. This immediately identifies the name. It lies in the Parish of Kildrumsherridan near the boundary of Drumgoon. 114

Usher informs us that the Town of Wicklow was called Kill-Maintean by the Irish. Mantan was so called from his having lost some of his front teeth. I, too, once bore that soubriquet.

It is my opinion that the correct orthography of this and two or three other places beginning with Dingin in this County should be restored. It is true that in the south of Ireland the word is corrupted to Dingle, but there is no instance of the ng being sunk in any other County in Ireland excepting Cavan and as the word occurs only three times, I think that as we are sure of the correct orthography, we may at least spell it Dingin and tell posterity to pronounce it as they like, either digging, dagging or degging, or dingle, accordingly as they shall have adopted the Irish, French, English or Russian language! 115

De Castello de Tulach Mhaoin, quod Latiné Collis
Moeni sonat.

At the year 1524, the Four Masters give us to understand

that there was a castle in Breifny O'Reilly which bore the name of Tulach Mhaoin. The following is a translation of their words, which bear all the marks of veracious dryness:-

*A.D. 1524. The son of O'Reilly (Cathal Mac Owen Mhic Cathal) was taken prisoner by the sons of Shane, the son of Cathal O'Reilly in consequence of which Breifny was destroyed during the conflicts between O'R-illy and the sons of Shane. O'Neill (Con) marched twice at the head of an army into Breifny and destroyed that part of it which belonged to the sons of Shane, who in retaliation destroyed O'Reilly's part. During these troubles the Prior Oge, a worthy captain of a band, was killed by a musket ball under the Castle of Tulach Mhaoin."

Also, in the list of the Castles of Breifny given in the O'Reilly Pedigree, it is stated that the "Castle of Tully-Mhaoin was erected by Eugenius Rufus, the son of Cathal O'Reilly, at the request of the wife of his son John." 116

This castle is now pointed out as Tullyvin, a village and Townland in the Parish of Kildrumsherridan where it is said Mac Brady had another castle.

John Brady of the Townland of Congreagh says that he met an Irish MS. in which it was stated that the "Castle of Tullyvin was built by Owen O'Reilly for his son John at the request of his (John's) wife." This is probably the same MS. that Mr. O'Reilly lent me which states the same thing.

De Castello - de Béul Átha na Carráige quod Latine
Ostium vadi Rupis sonat.

In the list of the Castles of Breifny I read that the "Castle of Beul Átha na Carráige was erected by Hugh Connellach O'Reilly." This is now called Ballynacargy and is a village in the Parish of Drung. It is said that the famous warrior Myles the Slasher O'Reilly was born in this castle. I enclose O'Conor's rough note of a wild story connected with this place.

Dun Muireadhaigh ubi sita.

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"Brian Roe O'Reilly, third son of Cathal, had for his inheritance the district extending from Beul Átha na Carráige to Dun Muireadhaigh." - O'Reilly Pedigree, page 144.

Dún Muireadhaigh is now anglicised very correctly Dunmurry, a Townland in the Parish of Drung in which the ancient Dun or Fort of the Pagan Muireadhach, from which the Townland took its name, is still to be seen.

De antiqua Fossa Rath Connach, i. e., Munitione
Kinnethi, dicta.

At the year 1114, the Four Masters make mention of a place
which is certainly in this neighbourhood:--

"Donnell Mac Loughlin (King of Aileach) led an army to Rath
Connach where Eochy Mac Mahon with the Ulsterians (Orionians?);
Dunogh O'Lynch with the Deirgians; Hugh O'Rourke with the
Breifnians, and Murogh O'Mulaghlia with the Meathians, came to
his camp to submit to him. They in their possession by Atrione
to Dun Leodha (Havia Bellinacree) where they were joined by
Torlogh O'Connor and the Connachians, and by Ni-ll, the King's
(Aileach's) own son at the head of the noble of Kinnethinnell.
From Dun Leodha they all went to Talay-O'Day in Delone (Thomond)
and concluded a peace with the Hemonians for one year." 118

There is little doubt that this Rath Connach is the place
now called Rathkeney in the Parish of Drung in this County, it
being a central spot for the King to go in way to Connought to
encamp to receive the submissions of O'Rourke, Mac Mahon and
the King of Meath. The name has been incorrectly printed by Dr.
O'Connor and I am therefore anxious that O'Keefe should send me
a copy of the original as it stands in Dr. Ferguson's copy of the
Annals of the Four Masters in the MS. Library of Trinity College,
Class B, 1. The Fort of Rath-Kenny is still in existence.

Of the situation of the River Eoghach (Eoghach)
pronounced Onagh.

This river is frequently referred to in the Annals of the
Four Masters as a river of Oriel, not Breifny. It is called 119
Eoghach from its having its source in a territory of that name
which Norden has laid down on his map as nearly coextensive with
the Parish of Aghnamullen in the County of Monaghan. The name
of this river is now incorrectly anglicised Annagh. It rises in
Lough Tysker near Ballatrine in the Parish of Aghnamullen, flows
through the Parish of Drumgeon and, I suppose, makes (must make)
its way to the Erne. Please to send me all the passages referring
to this river and territory that I may consider whether or not we
can make it Ough instead of Annagh. I have already the following
reference to the territory:--

"A.D. 1149. Murtogh (Maurice) Mac Loughlin, King of Aileach,
billeted the soldiers of Munster, who had come to his assistance
against Roderic O'Connor, on the inhabitants of Meath, Breifny,
Oriel, Ulidia (Down) Connaille (Louth) and Eoghach, their King.
Torlogh O'Brien, having contracted a disease on the expedition
which prevented them from returning to Munster as they had in-
tended." - Quat. Mag.

In the Townland of Lavvy in the Parish of Lavvy a stream flows out of a Lough called Eas Damhnata, at which there is a station performed during the summer season, and particularly on St. John's Night. Seven altars of stone are shewn at this stream. Are these marked on the Plan? This St. Davnet seems to be the same as the Virgin of Blive Beugh. (See O'Connor's rough notes enclosed).

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Bios an Mhadhma or the Foot near the Chasm, a place mentioned in the O'Reilly Pedigree, is now a Townland in the Parish of Drumgoon; see Field Name Book, No. 30, page 10.

Uliathbhearna is now Anglicised Cliffernagh and is the name of a Townland in the Parish of Laragh. "Nicholas Oge the son of Gilpatrick Mac-Brady, who was Officier of Uliathbhearna, died in 1575." - O'Reilly Pedigree, page 346.

The Parish of Laragh is called Larkree in the O'Reilly Pedigree, which exactly corresponds with the present pronunciation in the Country.

121

We shall leave Enlilbhore', Devovento, on Friday morning and make our way to Mehill as soon as possible. I think, with respect to the Inquisitions of Meath, that the best plan is to keep Mr. Curry comparing them with the Field Name Books, as he has compared Cavan.

Hoping that every preparation will be made to enable us to do as much as possible this summer,

I remain,

Toin-le-Gaoith, Collis ad Ventum,
June 8th 1836.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Mathew Murtogh, native and resident of Lisseny Townland, gave the names of the Parish of Laragh

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St. James is Patron Saint of the Parish. His day is on the latter end of July or in the beginning of August. I think it is either on the 5th or 12th of August, but most probably on the former. There is, however, no well dedicated to him or to any other Saint in that Parish.

There is a stream flowing out of a lough in Lavey Townland (Parish of Lavey) called Eas Damhnat (Cataracta Damhnatae, a female Saint) at which there is a Station performed during the summer season and particularly on St. John's Night. There are seven altars of stone at it; there is one stone in it, similar to a millstone in its rough quality, in which there is a cavity calculated to contain two or three quarts of water in which those

who perform the Station with their knees; it is said to have the virtue of healing wounds; the station is so large as to admit eight persons to kneel on it praying. The cavity is said to be the impression of St. Brigid's knee.

Leath Thráth.

Leath bhíodh Patraic is Brigidh o' bh-muighéil, a bh-Eiríonna, bhean bhí Patraic na bh-cíodh agus Bógáil na bh-cíodh (a bh-dite árd) na Bhrigaid na bh-cíodh íle). Tá sí á cúlú na Laragh, d'fhéaraigh Patraic do bh-cíodh, a bh-cíodh agus a raibh sí, do bh-cíodh a bh-cíodh agus a raibh sí, saidh na n-uisce. Parochie.

There is another Leath Rath (Half Fort) in Feenagh and another in Longford or Anally.

Gill Drum Súirtain, is commonly now called Hill.

The Patron Saint of this Parish is St. Bridget. There is a tradition that there was a castle at Tully, built by Captain Reilly and another at Tullyna, built by Col. Reilly. Col. Reilly it is said had a large property of land in a place called Mantle, Cavan, which was at that time. Whenever he tenants came to the landlord's house to pay rent, his wife, who is said by the people to have been a very good woman, used to examine their dress watch, if it was good, exalted in her ungovernable desire of acquiring them of their increasing wealth. She, upon one occasion, in order to have a clearer knowledge of their property wrote to a few of the tenants that herself and - - O'R. would pay them a visit and remain with them to some time. Every preparation was made for a reception worthy of their landlord and when the day came at an end, Mrs. O'Reilly imperatively commanded them to drive all their cattle to her place and leave them to be possessed by her, which commandment was disobeyed.

The Colonel and his lady repaired home to get their gallow glasses ready for taking (driving) away the cattle. One man, who was the richest of the tenants, as he was walking about the fields in a very pensive state on the morning the gallowglasses were to make the plunder, was met by a red-haired boy who told him that he, on certain conditions, would repel the violence of the plunderers. These conditions being acceded to the boy made his disappearance. When O'Reilly with his forces came, the tenant looked for the fulfillment of his condition which was accordingly done for he soon saw the red boy coming, who as the plunderers entered the land leading to the house, prostrated on the ground both horse and man. The people were so exasperated at this cruel attempt of Mrs. O'R. that when O'R.'s Castle was afterwards

attacked by the enemy, though he often cried out:-

A dhaoine mairneacha, druididhe re choile,
Is tabhairidhe, relief, do choirneal.

Reilly high refused to lend him any assistance, but cried on the other side:-

fear lina nar bfluctach. Iacra abtainnadh 'na bhfairgo,
dhul relief, go Peal Atha na Carrais.

We would rather be scattered and drowned in the sea
Than to go to the relief of Bellanacarrigy.

The Brady of Congragh Townland (Irish scholar in the Parish of Killybeg) who gave the name of that Parish says that he met with a MS. (this is the year 1813, that Myles John O'Reilly lent to J.O'D.) in which it was said that Owen O'Reilly built a castle at Tullyvin, for his son John, at the request of his wife (John's); the date when it was built was mentioned, though J.B. does not remember it; he says the orthography was Caislean Thulligh Bhinn. (He is wrong. J. O'D.)

Jack Reilly (an Irish scholar) of Dunsurry Townland gave the name in the Parish of Drung.

It is called Drung or Paraisle Daring; the origin of this name is ascribed to the story told when Castleterra was (being) described.

Patron Saint is St. Patrick; there is a well dedicated to him at Drumcleerkin Townland; there was formerly a Station at it. It is not frequented now.

At Bellanacarrigy is still an old castle in ruins, which was built by the O'Reilly family. The Col. lived there. Myles the Slayer (bhail me slash air) was born there.

The Townland is called Suidhe (Sedes) by the Irish speaking people because when there was a Seminary there formerly in which Cathal Mac Adhaigh was professor (teacher) the students were wont to come out to this place and sit there, unde nomen. It was resorted to by young men from all parts of the world; France, Italy, Spain, England and Scotland; it was the seat of Léarain.

Philip Minister Brady (the Dean Swift of Breifny) was born in Castleterra Townland; was Parish Priest of Annageliff; lived afterwards a Parish Curate in Belturbet.

As he was going to Cavan Town (to celebrate Mass) he was met by a young damsel who looked earnestly at him; on his return

he was met by the same who looked at him as earnestly as before and smiled; he asked her why did she eye him so earnestly; she answered him, saying that she saw him in a trick she made to discover her future husband. Begone, said he, no more of that discourse. She was the daughter of an Inn Keeper in Cavan; she persevered so much to the end her desire might be satisfied, that by some means Philip was invited to dinner to (at) her father's house. When the punch (and the people) was (were) drunk, Philip and the young damsel was clandestinely married by a minister who was brought for the purpose, and they were put to bed, Philip not knowing what he was doing. On that very night all the strings broke in the harp he used to play on, the noise of which, when they were (being) broke, was heard by his father, who cried out that someone should go in search of the priest for that certainly some accident befel him.

It composed Mac na Mich-shairle and Caineadh Dhochtuir whaley. (No! the latter was composed by a Mr. Ferdinand O'Darley. J.O'D.)

Jack Reilly says that they can't write a history of the County Cavan without his aid; that they must call upon him for information. (Jack is a very clever fellow and ought to be called Kilnacrot. J.O'D.)

Drumgo a Parish pronounced Drum Gún. James McDonal, native and resident of this Parish, together with three other men, gave the names of the Townlands, etc. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of the Parish.

Mr. Henry O'Carrol, native of Knockbride Parish and resident Schoolmaster in Drumeague Townland, gave the names of the Townlands in that Parish.

St. Bridget is Patron Saint of the Parish; there was a well dedicated to this Saint, but Henry did not wish to say anything about it. It seems, however, that it is not frequented now.

N.B. Henry O'Carrol is an Irish scholar and was an Irish teacher of Blue Books.

Francis Reilly of Killan Townland gave the names of the Parish of Shercock alias Killan, and of the Parish of Bailieborough as they are united in one. There were four men present who lived in the neighbourhood of Killan and spoke Irish.

Francis says that an old man who lived near Shercock Town explained the name of it to him, viz., Searc na n-Og the Delightful Place (Resort) of the Youths; it is at present called Searcoog and Searcoig. Killan is called Cill Anna, Cella Annae. In the Townland are the ruins of an old Church; the Patron Saint of the

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Parish of Shercock is St. Anne; there is a well dedicated to her called Tobar Anna; there was a Station held at it about thirty years ago, since which period the Clergy ceased to attend it. Her day is celebrated on the 26th of July.

Bailieborough was anciently called Tóinnre Gáoi; it is said to have derived the present name from a Bishop Bailie; who was he?

The town is now called Bailieborough by the English speaking people and Cille Colaigh by the Irish speaking people. 131

I could as yet learn nothing about the name Clorkee.

F. O'Keefe.

Let me have all the passages in the Annals about Leath-Rath.

J.O'D.

Bailieboro',
June 9th 1836. 132

Dear Sir,

I have now discovered the ruins or sites of all the castles of Breifny except one, viz., the Castle of the Lough. The Castle of Magh, which is stated in the O'Reilly Pedigree to have been built by Conor, the son of Conor More O'Reilly, has given rise to a village in which there is one fair held in the year. It is now anglicised Muff and lies in the Parish of Enniskeen, about four miles from Bailieborough. The ruins of the castle are yet to be seen. I strongly suspect that the Castle of the Lough is situated somewhere near Lough Sheelion. (It is in Lough Sheelion; see letter from old Castle).

In the Townland of Enniskeen is to be seen a well called Tobar Athairne or the Well of St. Arney, who is the Patron of the Parish. I hope that this well is marked on the Plan. Is there any record of this Athairne? The best anglicised spelling of the name of this well is Toberarney to agree with Killarney, a Church named from the same Saint, or else from a Saint of the same name. 133

Athairne athair na h-aoi,
Dallán forgaill an príomh-shaoi. -- Looee O'Clery.

No more at present about Breifny O'Reilly.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

"Quae nunc latent in luce preferentur ulterioris aevi diligentia." Sen.

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Bailieboro',
June 9th 1836.

Dear Sir,

I shall now write the result of our searches in the Barony of Clonkee, for the situation of the mountainous Territory of Sliabh Guaire, where it is recorded a lake disappeared in the year 1084. And first I shall give the various readings of the passage as it appears in the various (3) Annals:-

"Loch Suidi Odra in Sliabh Guaire removed (emigravit?) unobserved towards the end of Michaelmas Night and went into the Febhail." - Tigernach, who was living at the time.

"Loch Suidi Odra in Sliabh Guaire removed unobserved towards the end of Michaelmas Night and went into the Febhail." - Cathal Mac Manus Maguire, 1490.

"A.D. 1084. Loch Suidhe Odhrain (the Lake of Seo-Oran) in Sliabh Guaire removed unobserved (emigravit, eloped) towards the end of Michaelmas Night and went (transit) into the Febhail, which was a great wonder to all." - Four Masters, 1626.

Suidhe Odhrain in monte de Sliabh Guaire.

The situation of Slieve Guaire, proved from Norden's Map from an Inquisition taken at the Castle of Tullyvin (16 Jac. I) and strikingly by the existence of Suidhe Odhrain to this day. Norden, an English Geographer, who seems to have lived in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I has laid down Slew Corke in the northeast of Breifny O'Reilly. This is certainly the Sliabh Guaire of the Annals.

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In an Inquisition taken at the Castle of Tullyvin in the sixteenth year of the reign of James, the boundaries of this mountainous territory of Slew Gory are given as follows, which will enable one to lay it down upon a map with as much certainty as the Barony of Clonkee:-

"It appears from an Inquisition taken at Cavan on the 5th of March in the 11th year of the reign of the now King that Philip O'Reilly of Cavan, at the time of his attainder, was seized of a certain mountain or mountainous Land* called Slew Gory in the

* It is not a high mountain, but may have been then very properly called terra montana.

County of Cavan. The aforesaid mountain or mountainous land of Slew Gory is separated from all the poles, towns or parcels of land adjacent to the same mountain by the general meres and bounds below specified, viz., in the first place by a miry moor and old foss (ditch) lying and placed as a mere between the mountain or mountain land aforesaid, viz., between the parcel of mountain land called Cavanbog, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and a certain parcel of land called Lobene-ly* adjacent to the said mountain and from thence the said foss (ditch) and a certain moor are the meres between the aforesaid mountain; viz., between the parcel of land of the aforesaid mountain called Kedymore, and the pole, town or parcel of land called Kedyroe lying in the Barony of Clanchy (Clankee) in the aforesaid County and adjacent to the said mountain and thus from the aforesaid moor through another miry moor lying and placed as a mere between the aforesaid mountain etc.*

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By a comparison of this Inquisition with the present names of Townlands in this Barony of Clankee, I have discovered that the mountainous Territory of Slieve Guaire, forfeited by Philip O'Reilly, comprise the greater part of the Parishes of Kildrumsherridan, Drumgeon, Drumg, Laragh, Knockbride and Bailieboro'. I enclose the Inquisition with the comparison postfixed to it, to be bound with this letter. (See MS. pages 9 and 19).

Suidhe Odhráin, the place mentioned in the Annals, is so called at this day by the old men who speak Irish but the young people are now beginning to call it See-orum; it is called Swy-Oran in the Commonwealth Survey; Si-oran, Sy-oran, Sy-horan and Shi-horan in the Inquisitions; and Sey-oran in the Barony and Co. Maps, which places its identity with the Suidhe Odhrain of the Annals beyond any question. There is however no tradition of the emigration of a lake from the Townland of See-Oran. It contains two lakes at present the largest of which is called Lough Mushlin but there is no account of its having ever removed. There is however a bog in the Townland, out of which the lough in question may have removed itself by a subterranean journey from Seeoran to the Feball! The examination of the Geological formation of this Townland may hereafter amuse Captain Portlock, who will probably pronounce a Geological censure upon our old Annalist Tigernach who has related this wonderful occurrence which happened in his own time with all the dryness of one who wished to tell the truth. My duty is to point out the situation and extent of the mountainous Territory of Slieve Guaire, and the site of the removal (occurrence) as much as it can be done by reference to records, and by the assistance of the language and traditions of the country; but it is the duty of the young science of Earthology (yn terra) to prove by appearances whether the occurrence ever occurred.

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* Lobene-ly is now called Labbinlee (Lobbinlea) a Townland in the Parish of Kildrumsherridan. See Field Name Book 32 page 36.

See-Oran is a Townland situated in the mountainous Territory of Slieve Guaire and in the Parish of Knockbride. See Field Name Book 180, page 8. But where is the Feabhail? This is the name of Lough Foyle at Derry, but as I know the lie of the country I can swear by the head of Crom Cruach and by my knowledge of Hydraulics that the Lake of See-Oran in Slieve Guaire never emigrated to Lifford or Derry! The direction of all the rivers here is into the Giant Erne and it would take the Crozier of St. Patrick to force one of them northwards as far as Lough Foyle.

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The only place I find corresponding with Feabhail in name in Slieve Guaire is Tonny-Foyle. Perhaps the Annalist intended to tell us that:-

"The Lake of See-Oran in Slieve Guaire disappeared towards the end of Michaelmas Night in the year 1054, and that it was supposed that it passed underground to the Lough of Tonny-Foyle because the latter was observed on the next day to overflow the surrounding straths."

Let Captain Portlock decide all this when he comes to examine the Geological formation of the district of Slieve Gory.

There is not at present a single glimmering of recollection of who this famous Odhran was who gave name to this Townland. That such a personage figured on Slieve Gory there can be no doubt as he has left his name to two other places in this district viz., Rath Odhrain (arx Odrani) in the Parish of Drung (vide Name Book, No. 34, page 18) and Coill Mac n-Odhráin (slyva filiorum Odrani) in the same Parish (Name Book 33, page 49.)

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I have anglicised these names Seeoran, Rahoran and Kilmacnoran. There can be no doubt that Odhran is a proper name of a man in these names; I defy the Ulster King, Doctor Villanueva, Alick Ogilby and all the host of Arabic and Punic Scholars, to prove it any thing else.

Templeorum, a Parish near Carrick-on-Suir, has derived that name from a Saint Odhran to whom it was dedicated or by whom the Church was originally built. The termination Oran in the three names above mentioned will become similarly corrupted to Orum as soon as the Irish Language is forgotten, i.e., in about thirty years hence. The name Cdhran is derived from the adjective Cdhar, like Banan from Ban, Dubhan from Dubh, Ruadhan from Ruadh, etc.

Is there any record of St. Sillanus, Soillanus or Soilghenus who is said to have caused a lake to overflow the land in the Parish of Shercock or Killan?

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This Barony of Clankee derived that name from the descendants of Miall Caoch O'Reilly who was slain in the Battle of Moysleacht in the year 1256; see O'Reilly Pedigree, page 125.

That branch of the O'Reillys who lived in this Barony went by the name of Mac-an-Chaoin until the time of Hugh O'Reilly, Primate of all Ireland, who commanded them under pain of ecclesiastical censure to reject the name of Mac Kee and resume that of O'Reilly.

Let me direct your attention to the name of one Townland in the Parish of Laragh, which seems to me to be too vulgar a corruption to be adopted on our Map, namely Caulfield. This is a peasant translation of Aghadungonna which means Field of the Calf's Ridge. Now I say that this ought to be made Calf-field or its original Irish name should be restored. Calf is pronounced Cauf by the country people in the southern and eastern parts of this County.

I now send the remainder of the Cavan Books with the names decided as well as I could by my own knowledge of Irish nomenclature, aided by all the local information that could be collected. I should be glad, however that you would have a constant watch over my decisions lest I go wrong in the hurry of transcription, or for not having the Indexes of the other Counties. Whenever I felt any doubt I wrote a direction in the Name Book to have such names compared with the Indexes of the other Counties before they be finally decided. The greater part of my time has been taken up by writing letters, which, though they certainly will appear trifling, cost me some serious thinking. 141

I now bid farewell to O'Reilly and shall set out for O'Rourke's Territory on to-morrow morning, Deo volente et ad juvante.

Your obedient humble servant,
John O'Donovan.

Slew Gorlie (Norden's Map) - Sliabh Guaire (Annals 4 Masters) 142

A.D. 1054. Loch Suidhe Odhrain, hi Sleibh Guaire, a eludh in deir, oidhche feile Michil con deach isin Feabhail, gur bho bhiongn mor la cach. - 4 Masters.

Loch Suidhe-Odran i Sleib Guaire do eludh n deireadh aidhcei feile Micheil condecch-isin Fabaill. - Annal Vit.

Loch Suidi-Odran a Sleib Guaire do elud andhred aidce fo fell Micil condecaig isin Febail. - Tigernach.

It appears (compert'est) by an Inquisition (Tullewin 21 Aug. an 16 - Jac. I) taken at Cavan, 5 Mar' an 'regni Regis nunc (Jac. I) II that Phillip O'Rely at the time of his attainder, was seized of a certain mountain or mountainous land called Slewgory in Co. Cavan aforesaid.

The passages in [] are translated verbatim; in the rest some superfluous words are omitted.

[The aforesaid mountain or mountainous (montan) land of slewgory is separated from all the poles, towns or parcels of land adjacent to the same mountain by the general meres and bounds below specified, viz., in the first place by a miry moor and old foss, lying and placed as a mere between the mountain or mountain land aforesaid, viz., between the parcel of mountain land called Cavanbog, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and a certain parcel of land called Lobenely adjacent to the said mountain; and from thence the said foss and a certain moor are the meres between the aforesaid mountain, viz., between the parcel of the land of the said mountain called Kedymore and the pole, town or parcel of land called Kedyroe lying in the Barony of Clanchy in the aforesaid County and adjacent to the said mountain, and thus from the aforesaid moor through another miry moor lying and placed as a mere between the aforesaid mountain, viz., between the said parcel of mountain land called Kedymore and a certain pole, town or parcel of land called Greaghneferney and two Knockneshamers adjacent to the said mountain; and thus from the aforesaid moor through an old foss, lying and placed as a mere between the parcel of mountain land called Greaghnehah, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Knockneshamers adjacent to the said mountain, and thus the said foss is the mere as far as a pool (palud) which lies between Fartagheightragh and Greaghnefarney aforesaid and the said moor is the mere as far as a ford called Bealagreaghneferney adjacent to the said mountain, and thus from thence to another pool placed as a mere between the aforesaid mountain and the parcel of land called Greagrill adjacent to the said mountain and from thence through a little river, which is the mere between the aforesaid mountain, viz., between the parcel of mountain land called Greaghdromsheny, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and the pole, town or parcel of land called Crossyvyduffy adjacent to the said mountain in the said Barony except a parcel of pasture surrounded by an old foss lying within the said parcel of land called Greaghdromshinny but being parcel of Greagrill; and thus the said river is the mere to a pool lying between Crossyvyduffy aforesaid and the aforesaid mountain viz., between the parcel of mountain land called Fartagh-Oughtragh parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Crossyvyduffy aforesaid;] and thus the said pool is placed as a mere between the parcel of mountain land called Greaghneboy and Crossyvybane in the aforesaid Barony and from thence the said pool is the mere as far as the rock (rup') of Dromaghehall, and thus from thence the mere of the aforesaid mountain extends itself through another pool as far as a river placed as a mere between the parcel of mountain land called Siffin and Dromen in the aforesaid Barony; and thus from thence through another pool which lies near the land of Siffin aforesaid and the parcel of land called Tonefoile and from thence through a river which runs between the land of Dromenaspicke in

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the said Barony of Clonchy; and from thence through a vallium on (sup) the Mountain of Greigmacistin, placed as a mere between the parcel of mountain land called Greagmacistin aforesaid and the land of the Barony of Clonchy; and thus from thence through a pool lying between Greaghelitty, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Greaghelagh adjacent to said mountain; and from thence through a little river which is the mere between Greaghelitty aforesaid and Greaghossen in the Barony of Casteraguan in the Co. aforesaid; and from thence through a pool lying as a mere between Fartnemanoge, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Greaghnedoffan; and from thence the said pool is the mere between Greaghneecross, Greaghongeroy, Liscallan and Lisnabruar, parcels of the aforesaid mountain and Cooleneally adjacent to said mountain; and from thence the said pool is the mere as far as a miry moor lying as a mere between Goolagh, parcel of the said mountain and Doreys adjacent to said mountain; and thus from thence the said miry moor is the mere as far as a little river which falls into a lake called Loughylet, [and thus the said lake lying and placed as a mere between the aforesaid mountain, viz., between the parcel of mountainland called Brockley, parcel of the said mountain, and a certain pole called Greaghneroge, adjacent to the said mountain;] and from thence to a little pool which is the mere between Greaghnerottagh parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Greaghneroge aforesaid; and from thence through an old foss lying as a mere between Lenoges parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Kilneevy adjacent to said mountain and from thence through a miry moor which lies between Lenoges aforesaid and the Town (Vill') of Ardone being Churchland; and thus from thence through a pool lying as a mere between Gergaghmadary and Knocknegawnagh, parcels of the aforesaid mountain, and Ardone in the Co. aforesaid; and from thence through a great pool lying as a mere between Bogaisky, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Lurganure; and thus from thence through a river lying as a mere between Knockesholly parcel of the said mountain and Dromsystagh and from thence the said river is the mere as far as another river lying as a mere between the parcel of mountain land called Knocklabar and Sraghmicneba; and thus the said river is the mere between Eddaneroran, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and a certain pole of land called Drovederdaeisky adjacent to the said mountain, and from thence the said river is the mere between Lurgaboy (mountainland) and a certain pole called "the Meritagh of Mullymagavan" and thus from thence through a pool as far as a lake called Loughpicke and from thence to another lake called Loughpack; and thus (so) to another lake called Lough-Bunrousk; and from thence to another pool which is the mere between Greaghloskinligh, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Tirelehode adjacent to the said mountain; and from thence the said pool is the mere between Kedinsheeragh, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Loygitnatty; and from thence through a miry moor lying as a mere between les du' (2) Moylans, leaving one of the same next adjacent to the said mountain, as parcel of the same mountain;

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and thus from thence through the middle of a moor lying as a mere between "the Two Greaghnegibbins" and le Sturrill, parcels of the aforesaid mountain, and Bracklagh adjacent to the said mountain; and thus to a lake called "the Lough of Sturrill" as far as the River of Bealanagiragh, leaving Bealanagiragh aforesaid to the said mountain as parcel of the same; and thus from thence through a little River at Knocktegart leaving Knocktegart to the aforesaid mountain, as parcel of the same; and from thence through a pool and old foss which are the meres between Greaghevuirrin, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Monecass; and thus the said foss is the mere between the aforesaid mountain viz., between the parcel of mountain land called Dromaghevechill, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, as far as another river which runs between the land of Monecass aforesaid, and from thence through the middle of a moor which lies near "Du' (2) Tullylachs" leaving the said Du' Tullylachs to the aforesaid mountain, as parcel of the same; and thus the said moor is the mere as far as the parcel of mountain land called Knockechony, leaving the said parcel of Knockechony to the aforesaid mountain as parcel of the same; and thus from thence through a moor lying as a mere between the aforesaid mountain, viz., between the parcel of mountain land called Moylett, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Cackrickalin; and from thence through another moor to the River of Drumcarplin, lying as a mere between Greagherottagh and Knockshowan, parcels of the aforesaid mountain, and a certain pole called Drumcarplin; and from thence through a miry moor lying as a mere between Tewcness parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Altinegankinagh; and thus from thence through the middle of another moor lying as a mere between Knocknoly, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Cavenard; and from thence through a miry moor lying as a mere between Knockechony, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Banbeg; and thus from thence through the middle of a moor lying as a mere between Fartagh, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Greaghbracke; and from thence the said moor is the mere between Faartaghbane, parcel of the aforesaid mountain and Lissagh; and thus the said moor is the mere between Greaghnecrosse, parcel of the aforesaid mountain, and Faartaghnevenoge; and thus the said moor is the mere between Aghoglass (mountain land) and Dromekilly; and thus the said moor is the mere between Cornegillagh and Cornebehy, and from thence the said moor is the mere between the parcel of mountain land called Greaghanoid and the parcel of Faartaghmore and certain towns called Lohin and Greaghtobber; and from thence the said moor is the mere as far as the miry moor and old foss first mentioned near Carranboy aforesaid.

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SUIPHE ODHRAIN, Sedes Odhrani, is now the name of a Townland in the Parish of Knockbride, vide Name Book of Knockbride B.180, p.8. 181

LOBENELY, now Labbenlee, Leabaish an Laoigh (na Laoigh?) lectus Vituli sea vitulorum, vide Kill Parish, No.32, page 56.

KNOCKNESHAMERS, vide Knocknashamber, Drumgoon Parish, No.29, p.49.

FARTAGHEIGHTRAGH, vide Fartagh, Knockbride Ph., No.179, p.32.

SILFIN, vide Seafin, Knockbride Parish, No.180, page 9.

DROMEN, vide Drummon, Drumgoon, No.29, page 36.

TONEFOILE, vide Tonnefoyle, Knockbride Parish, No.180, page 18.

DROMENASPICKE, vide Drumanespick, Bailieborough Parish, No.181, page 13. 182

BROCKLIN, vide Bracklin, Bailieboro', No.181, page 4.

GREAGHNEROGH, vide Greagheroo, No.181, page 4.

GRUGH CROTTAGH, vide Gracruttha, Knockbride, No.179, p.35.

KILNECRIVY, vide Kilnacrow, Knockbride, No.179, page 42.

ARDONE, vide Ardmean, Knockbride, No.179, page 3.

CARGACHNEMADERY, vide Carricknamado, Parish?

BOGAISKY, vide Boguskey, Parish?

DROMEYSTAGH, vide Drumastagh, Parish?

LURGABY, vide Larginboy, Drumgoon Parish, No.30, page 11.

LOUGHENROUSK, vide Roosky Lough, Knockbride Ph., No.189, p.30. 183

MULLYMAGAVAN, vide Mullamagowan, Lavey Parish.

TIRELEHODE, vide Tierleihod, Laragh Parish, No.35, page 9.

GREAGHNECIBBINS, vide Greaghgibney, Laragh Ph., No. 35, p.38.

STURRILL, vide Lough a Stirril, Laragh Parish, No.36, p.18.

BRACKLAGH, vide Bracklagh, Drumgoon Parish, No.33, page 5.

KNOCKTEGART, vide Knockatagart, Laragh Parish, No.35, p.40.

MONTECASS, vide Moneycas, Lough Parish, No.36, page 5.

CARRICKALIN, vide Carrickallen, Lough Parish, No.35, page 10. 154

DROMCARPLIN, vide Drumcalpin, Lough Parish, No.26.

TEWKENESS, vide Tiewenass, Hill Parish, No.32, page 70.

DROMKILLY, vide Drumanahillion, Hill Parish, No. 31, page 42.
pronounced by the people Droim air Chailleall.

Omnis animal perfectum est quod sibi simile generare potest.

πᾶν ζῷον ὁ, ὅπου ἴσχυται γενέσθαι ὁμοίωτός ἐστι Aristotle.

Ta, gach uile ainmhidhe lar féidic a leithéid féin do
gineamhain, foirbhite.

Gach uile ainmhidhe a ghineas a chéim féin is foirbhite e.

Is foirbhite gach ainmhidhe a ghineas a chéim féin.

Gach uile ainmhidhe, a ghineas a chéim féin, ta foirbhite
- Sacerdos qui cepit anachoreticam cellam.

Brian O'Fairilligh. Sagairt do thionnain cloch angeoire
do construar apud Templum magne Drumlanee, obit. Dhearanh
ag Teampoll mor Drama leathain, d'eco.

Finish the comparison as soon as the County Index is ready. 155

J.O'D.

Mohill,

June 10th 1836. 156

Dear Sir,

Please to tell O'Keeffe to send me all the passages in the
Annals relating to Magh in Breifny O'Reilly, that all the Breifny
Annals may be bound together. He will find many Meghs (Moys) in
the Index, but the one required will be found in connection with
the fights or conferences of the O'Reillys.

The legend connected with the name Moybolg (i.e., Plain of
the Bags or Sacks) shall be written from Meath.

The following passage in the Annals was obscure to me till
this day:-

1111. Creach la Toirdhealbhach Ua Concabhair co beind
Bachlabhra co Sliabh Ruisen agus co Loch Eirne.

Mohill June 10th 1876

Dear Sir, Please to tell Schoffe to send me all the passages in the Annals relating to Magh in Breifny O'Neilly, that all the Breifny Annals may be bound together. He will find many Maghs (Moys) in the Index, but the one required will be found in connection with the fights or conferences of the O'Neillys.

The legend connected with the name Moys-holq i.e. plain of the bags or sacks, shall be expitten from Meath.

The following passage in the Annals was obscure to me till this day:

1111. Cneach la Toirdeallbach na Concubann co Desno Eaclabna co Shab Ruirren deur co loc Eyma.

Lorlogh O'Conor plundered the Country as far as Biv-Eaclabna, Slieve, Rurhen, and "Lough Erne."

I had ^{to-day} a very beautiful view of the extent of Country plundered by King Lorlogh on this occasion, as I stood on a hill in the parish of Cloone within six miles of Mohill

The range of Slieve-an-Divine and Blackbeach forming
in the north the ancient boundary between the Barons of
bound the view on the North, and the range of
Slieve-Bushen (now connected to Inishinnee but before
Raphel) bound the view on the South.

The meaning of the passage is that King Carlough
of Connaught plundered the British as far as the
frontiers of Ulster, which he did not wish to
touch.

The following passage is a very ancient one
but now as clear as mist in the night.

937 Toill do gabáil pop locharb Eigne co po ionpattap
7 co po anpattap ionpattap 7 slenealla go loch Tuinn

"A.D. 937, The Danes made a descent upon
the lakes of ^{the} Connaught and plundered all the
territories and all the ^{territories} as far as
"Lough Lanna."

The true lakes are bounded by
Lough Lanna (dividing the County of Connaught from
the County of Londonderry) to the River of the
Shannon. At this time the Danes and
Irish carried ~~light~~ ^{light} ~~curraughts~~ ^{curraughts} with them
~~which~~ by long, light curraughts which they
launched upon lakes for the purpose of

plundering their islands.

Yesterday (Friday) we walked from
 Millborough to Briginia and met the Coach
 there at 12 P.M. We went on the Coach
 from thence to Swan where we arrived at
 4 o'clock and walked from thence a
 distance of 9 Irish miles to Killashandra
 where we stopped last night. This morning
 we came on to this town a distance of
 14 miles - Called at the "Suppers" office
 but the officer being from home we
 have not received the books yet, which
 will delay us one day, for we do more
 on Sunday than any other day because
 the Millages of the County are al-
 ways idle on that day and willing
 to talk about from breakfast for
 any other subject. I write to Mr
 Shilly, please to send him my letter to
 Mr Dawson &c

Your obed. Servant

John Dawson

Mohill,
June 13th 1836.

Dear Sir,

I find that after all my exertions to get the historical and topographical references to Brifny-O'Rourke collected, I have but very slender materials to work upon and I must therefore request that you will let me have the following Extracts as soon as possible:-

1. Chapter XXX of Lib. II, Tripartite Life of St. Patrick that I may see from what Territory Patrick proceeded into Moy Sleacht. The chapter sent me (XXVI) begins: "Saint Patrick leaving the northern Tract of Teffia proceeded across the waters (ultra aquas) to the regio called Megh Sleacht, i.e., the Plain of Adoration. For there was a great idol called Crom Cruach etc."

The northern part of Teffia is in the County of Longford. What waters then did he cross? Certainly not the River Shannon! I want to know what place in the northern parts of Teffia he set out from, that I may know what waters he crossed, and then go on the scent of Crom Cruach.

2. Let me have every word that Archd-ll gives about the County of Leitrim.

3. I want to know the exact extent of Connaicne-Moy-Rein & Muinntir-Eolais. Were they synonymous or rather alias names for the same Territory. To ascertain this consult Colgan's Acta SS. and Triad. Thau. (the copy in Dublin Society Lib.) O'Flaherty's Ogygia and Archdell's Nomenclatura Hib. MS. To throw further light upon them let me have the pedigrees of all the families of the tribe of Connaicne Moy-Rein, and also those of Muinntir-Eolais, as given by Mac Firbis that I may see where the Connaicne Moy-Rein and Eolaisians meet. Let me have also the pedigree of Mac Flannchadha (Glancey) of Dartree and the spreading branches of the tribe called Dartree (Dartraighte). Also the genealogical ramifications of all the tribes called Calree (Calraighe) that I may discover where they were located.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Lanigan says that Megh Sleacht was a plain near Fenagh in the County of Leitrim. What Authority does he quote for this? If Colgan, let me have Colgan's own words describing the situation of Moy Sleacht.

Mr. Broughton is curious to know when Green Castle in Donishowen was erected. I wish O'Keefe would copy all the

passages relating to it from the Annals; he will find it in the Index under "Caislean nua Inse n-Eoghain."

Was it not erected by the Red Earl? Is there not some reference in the Annals to the prisons of this Castle. Is there any other Authority for the date of this Castle but the four Masters?

You don't tell me how Mr. Petrie is.

Mohill,
June 14th 1836.

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Dear Sir,

Before I enter upon the ancient topography of Munter-Alois! I shall direct your attention to some further particulars relating to Munter-Malmore.

You may recollect that in expressing some doubts upon the date of the erection of Tullymongan Castle I made mention of a Shanachie named Mac Brady as having written the traditions of Breifny; I made this reference from memory, without having the work before me, and I now find that I was altogether mistaken, for the work was only transcribed by a Philip Mac Brady in the year 1736. It is entitled "Extracts from the Chronicals and Histories of the Kingdom of Ireland concerning the antiquity and rank (respectability) of the Cearbhailachs or Mac Bradys, where their pedigree from Dr. Hugh Mac Brady to Milesius, King of Spain, is given; written originally in Latin at Louvain by Boethius Oge (the son of Boethius Roe) Mac Egan, a Friar of the Order of St. Francis, and by Patrick Hackett, a Friar of the Order of St. Dominic."

I shall transcribe here that part of the pedigree which I conceive to be within the historic period.

"The Irish genealogical tables which are still extant carry intrinsic proofs of being genuine and authentic by their chronological accuracy and consistency with each other through all the lines collateral as well as direct: A consistancy not to be accounted for on the supposition of their being fabricated in a subsequent age of darkness and ignorance, but easily explained, if we admit them to have been drawn from the real source of family records and of truth." Enquiry concerning the origin of the Scots in Britain by Barnard, Bishop of Killaloe. 163

- 1 Hugh, the Doctor, the son of
- 2 Owen, who was the son of
- 3 Mahon, the Parson
- 4 Owen
- 5 Mahon
- 6 Owney or Anthony
- 7 Fiachra
- 8 Donogh, a quo Sliocht-Donogh
- 9 Donnell
- 10 Donogh Mear, i.e., the Swift
- 11 Gilleece
- 12 Tiernan
- 13 Galbret
- 14 Donnell
- 15 Brédach, the progenitor
- 16 Niall
- 17 Gestall
- 18 Carvall, a quo the Carvallachs. (O'Reilly in giving the pedigree of Blind Carolan, the Harper, thinking perhaps that it would add to the lustre of the House of Malmora to have the Blind Bard a member of it, makes the family name O'Carrolan be derived from this Carvall. He is followed in this by Hardiman - J.O'D.).
- 19 Malmóra At this Malmora the pedigree of the Carvallachs or Mac Bradys meets that of the O'Reillys, who are reckoned among the noble families of Ireland, for they descend from Malmore by his son Duveron and Mac Brady, by his son Carvall. (But when I come to examine the pedigrees of the tribe of AEolus I shall prove that Blind Carolan had nothing to do with the Cearbhallachs or Mac Bradys. See one of my letters from Derry, where I shew that the Bard was not an O'Cairreallain).

- 19 Malmore, who was son of Ceallachan. Here the Mac Bradys meet O'Rourke, who descended from this Ceallachan by (thru) his son Ceilleachan, while the Mac Bradys descend from Malmore, the brother of Ceilleachan.
- 20 Duv-dora
- 21 Donogh
- 22 Baithin, latinized Baithenn
- 23 Blensac or Florinus
- 24 Felimy
- 25 Crimthan
- 26 Sganlan
- 27 Hugh Finn
- 28 Fearghna. Here the Bard meets Makisernan & Magauran.
- 29 Fergus (Triallain garb triall: lease air chneit go cleinn Fearghasa - O'Duga). By this the Bard meant "let us now visit the Connacian tribes" who are mostly descended from this Fergus). Here the Mac Bradys meet the three O'Conors and many others of the nobles of Connaught, who descend from Fergus through his son Eochy Tircerna, while the Mac Bradys descend from him through Fearghna, the brother of Eochy.
- 30 Muireadhach Mal
- 31 Egan Sreave, who was the son of
- Duach Galach
- Brian
- Eochy Moyvehaine, Monarch of Ireland. Here the Mac Bradys meet O'Neill, O'Donnell and many others of the nobles of Ulster, who descend from Eochy, through his son Niall of the Nine Hostages, while Mac Bradys descend from him through his son Brian.

Mureadhach Tireach
 |
 Fiacha Sraivtinné
 |
 Carbry Liffecair.

At this Carbry the Mac Bradys meet Mahon, Maguire, O'Kelly and many others of the nobles of Ireland, and also the Mac Doncells of Scotland.

The pedigrees of various branches of the family then living are then given, such as:-

1. The posterity of the Bishop.
2. The posterity of the Red Bishop.
3. The descendants of the Official of Srath an Dmhain (Stradone).
4. Pedigree of Councillor Mac Brady.

Then begins the pedigree of O'Reilly and of some other Breifnian families, with many historical anecdotes of their battles, conferences, etc.

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The following list of the Castles of Breifny is postfixed to the pedigree of O'Reilly, which I shall copy here as it differs from the list in the O'Reilly pedigree lent me by Mr. Kyles J. O'Reilly (page 97, 39).

"The founders of the Dangan (Fastnesses)."

1. "The Castle of Loch Uachtair was raised (built) by the Red Earl.
2. "The Castle of Bel Atha na Carraige (now Bellanacargy) by Hugh Conallach.
3. "The Castle of the Lough by Thomas, the son of Mahon, who was the son of Giolla-Iosa Roe. This Thomas had that tract extending from Athlone to Drogheda 'under contribution'.
4. "The Castle of Mullach by Conor More, the son of Shane, who was the son of Philip, who was the son of Giolla-Iosa Roe.
5. "The Castle of Tully Mongan by Torlogh, the son of Shane the Hospitable. The place was so called from Mongan, a Danish Chief who raised a hill (tulach) there. He raised a fort there - J.O'D.).

6. "Castle Toirbert (Belturbert Castle) by Hugh Conallach. 167

7. "The Castle of Bel-Átha-Conaill, by Walter Talbot.
8. "The Castle of Tonnach Mor (Tonrymore) by Patrick, the son of Donogh Mac Brady. This is not in the O'Reilly Pedigree. This is not the Castle of Kilmore, as I conjectured.
9. "Castle-Walter in Cavan, by Walter, the son of Brian, who was the son of Donogh Mac Brady. This is stated in the O'Reilly Pedigree to have been erected by Garrett Fleming. Its site is still pointed out in Cavan, where tradition styles it Brogan's Castle.
10. "The Castle of Magh, by Conor, the son of Conor Mor. This Castle is now called the Castle of Muff. See my remarks upon the same Muff in Dorry, where I have proved that the gh of the Irish sometimes becomes ff in English. In the neighbourhood of this Castle, ick is always pronounced iff even by the native Irish, as Ath na Cloiche, Annacliff, etc., etc.
11. "The Castle of Lismore, by Philip, the son of Malmora, who was the son of Hugh Conallach, in 1639."

I have no recollection of having heard of this in the Co. Consult the Co. Index and let me know if such a name exists.

12. "The Church of Kill Uachtair, by Philip, the son of Brian Roe, as a place for Mass, and as a fastness against the County of Monaghan. It is said that there were seven Bishops at the Consecration of it. 168
13. "The Castle of Coimled, by Malmora son of Hugh Conallach."

So named for his having been fostered by the Kinel Connell. Torlogh Luineach O'Neill was styled Luineach, for having been fostered by the Luinechs; as was Shane, the Proud O'Neill, named Donghileach, from his foster-father O'Donnolly, of the now Castle Caulfield.

The place is now called Kave' or Kevit; see the Co. Index. In the O'Reilly Pedigree it is anglicised Coad, which orthography puzzled me very much. The writer of the O'Reilly Pedigree did not know where any of these Castles were situated.

14. "The Castle of Tallach Mhacoin (Tullyvin) by Owen Roe (the son of Cathal) at the request of his wife for her son John."

"Philip Mac Brady."

Pedigree of McTieran, Hiberniæ Mac Thigheernaín,
Chief of Tullyhunc, formerly Teallach Donnchadha.

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Bergall, obiit 1523

Giolla-Iosa Cgo, 1419

Giolla-Iosa

1 Tiernan, Cathal, Cuccannaught, Philip,
Maur, Teolga, Melaghlín, Flahtach
Rogh and Giolla-Iosa, nine sons of

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 1365. | 2 | Dríon, the son of |
| | 3 | Mahon, who was the son of |
| | 4 | Giolla-Iosa |
| | 5 | Sitric |
| | 6 | Tiernan |
| 1294. | 7 | Duarcan |
| | 8 | Ivor |
| | 9 | Gilchreest |
| | 10 | Amlaff |
| | 11 | Tiernan, Progenitor, a quo familiam
nomen assumpsisse dicitur. |
| | 12 | Maonach |
| | 13 | Angus |
| | 14 | Amlaff |
| | 15 | Cathal |
| | 16 | Godfry |
| | 17 | Rory |
| | 18 | Conor |
| | 19 | Goring? |
| | 20 | Donnchadh, from whom the tribe of
Teallach Donnchadha, now
the Barony of Tullyhunc in
the west of the Co. of Cavan. |

- 21 Maonach
 |
 22 Baoithin
 |
 23 Breannainn
 |
 24 Feargna
 |
 25 Fergus
 |
 26 Muireadhach Mal
 |
 27 Eogan Sreave
 |
 28 Duagh Galach, see Pedigree of Mac Brady.

This family, who are still respectable, anglicise their name Kieran; the R.C. Bishop of Clogher renders it Kernan.

Pedigree of the family, Miles Mac Shachraadháin,
 Chief of Tullylaw, Kilmacisé Teallach Macadh.

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- 1495 Fella, obiit 1506
 |
 1457 to 1415 1 Miles Oge, Donogh Ballach, Melaghlin,
 Cormac and Brian, five sons of
 |
 1383 2 Fergal, the son of
 |
 1313 3 Thomas, who was the son of
 |
 1292 4 Brian Breegach
 |
 5 Donogh
 |
 6 Giolla-na-naomh
 |
 7 Gillae
 |
 8 Gioll-na-raomh
 |
 9 Muireadhach
 |
 10 Sackredan, a quo familiae nomen
 |
 11 Conor
 |
 12 Teige

- 13 Ruairc
 |
 14 Ivcr
 |
 15 Cosgry
 |
 16 Dongaile
 |
 17 Oireachtach
 |
 18 Eochaidh, a quo nomen Teallach Eachdhach,
 seu Nepotes Eochodii.
 |
 19 Maonach. Here Magauran meets his
 friend (hostis) Makiernan.

This name is now variously anglicised Magauvran, Magowran, Magovern, Govern and Magauran, of which the last has become by far the most fashionable spelling, wherefore I have anglicised the name of their ancient Mansion Seat Ballymagauran J.O'D.

Pedigree of Mac Consnava, now Forde.

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Mahon Roe, Hugh and Donogh, three sons of
 |
 Teige, the son of
 |
 Donnell, who was the son of
 |
 Donogh
 |
 Giolla-na-naomh
 |
 Gilchreest
 |
 Murtagh
 |
 Cusnamha
 |
 Murtagh
 |
 Cusnamha, the Progenitor
 |
 Dermot
 |
 Fallon
 |
 Malmora. Here Mac-Connava meets
 O'Reilly and Mac Brady.

It has been Anglicised Ford for no other reason than because Fámha, the latter part of the name, sounds like An Átha, of the Ford! Such is the mania now in existence for complying with the Act passed in the 5th Edward IV (A.D. 1465):-

172

"That every Irishman that dwells betwixt or amongst Englishmen in the Counties of Dublin, Myeth, Uriel and Kildare, should take upon him an English surname of one Town, as Sutton, Chester, Trym, Skryne, Cork, Kinsale; or colour, as White, Black, Brown; Art or Science, as Smith or Carpenter; or Office, as Cook, Butler; and that he and his issue should use such name under penalty of forfeiting his goods yearly." - Harris, Vol. II, page 58.

It will not be found necessary to pass an Act to this effect in the third quarter of the 19th Century. The family of Mac Connava are now so universally called Ford, that none but the very old natives who speak Irish recollect that they were ever called Mac Conshnámha! Cú Shnámha, the name of their progenitor signifies "the Hero of Snamh" probably of Snamh Lúthair; just like Cú Chaisil, the hero of Cashel; Cú Connacht, the hero of Connaught; and countless other names similarly compounded. As soon as the heads of my name become plebeian I have an intention of changing my name to Donjuan. A man of the name Mac Colnin had a son born to him in Enniskillen during the Canning Administration and he got him christened George Canning! Exuno disce plura.

June 17th.

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Yesterday I sent O'Connor to Sligo for the purpose of making his way to Bundoran as soon as possible, whence he will proceed southwards through the County and get the correct names of places and traditions of that portion of the County north of Lough Allen, while I do the southern half. You will find me at Mohill for a few days.

I hope Meath is not neglected.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

Let me have all the passages in the Annals about Baile Coillte Fogmhair or Coillte Fogmhair, and I shall tell all about its modern name and situation.

Let me also know of what Church, Abbey, or Parish was St. Mochoemhog or Pulcherius Abbot or Patron of. I am not half prepared for Leitrim.

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