

ARDCLAS CHURCH Co. CARLOW.

pect over the counties of Kildare and Carlow, watered by the winding streams of the Greece and the Barrow.

IN one arm of the cross is a small chapel, the place of interment for the Grace family. Engraven on a square copperplate is this epitaph.

Nobilis ingenio, mitis, formosa, pudica,
 Francisca exiguo hic cespite tecta jaces;
 Sed non tota: animus cæli loca læta petivit,
 Solvere virtutis præmia terra nequit.
 Quicquid amor, sincera fides, pietasque jubebant,
 Sedula fecisti, filia, sponsa, parens.
 Non luxus tibi mollis amor, non cura decoris,
 Unica cura inopes, et Deus unus amor.
 Religio flevit, flêrunt virtusque pudorque,
 Matribus exemplum, virginibusque decus.
 Sheffieldus flevit, pangens lachrymabile carmen,
 Quod tibi perpetui pignus amoris erit.
 Æternum flerit, lucis prætesus et auræ,
 Flere Deo vitam, ni putet esse nefas.
 Concordes animas Christus revocabit in unum,
 Pax ubi sancta manet, nec dirimendus amor.

D. Francisca Grace, alias Bagot, uxor Sheffieldi Grace obiit 3 die Maii, A. D. 1742,
 ætatis suæ 32.

Opposite is this inscription:

Here
 Lyeth the body of
 Mrs. Martha Grace,
 Late wife of
 Mic. Grace, Esq.
 She was
 Religious without ostentation,
 Pious without hypocrisy,
 Friendly without flattery;
 To the distressed
 A support,
 To the orphans a mother:

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

In her life, attended with many blessings,

Her death, with many tears.

She was

Faithful to her husband,

Tender to her children,

Forgiving to her enemies.

O passenger! how soon thou shalt resemble

Her in her mortal part,

God knows!

Do thou labour to resemble her in that

Which is immortal.

She lived, she died, she ran the happy race,

She won the glorious prize, immortal peace.

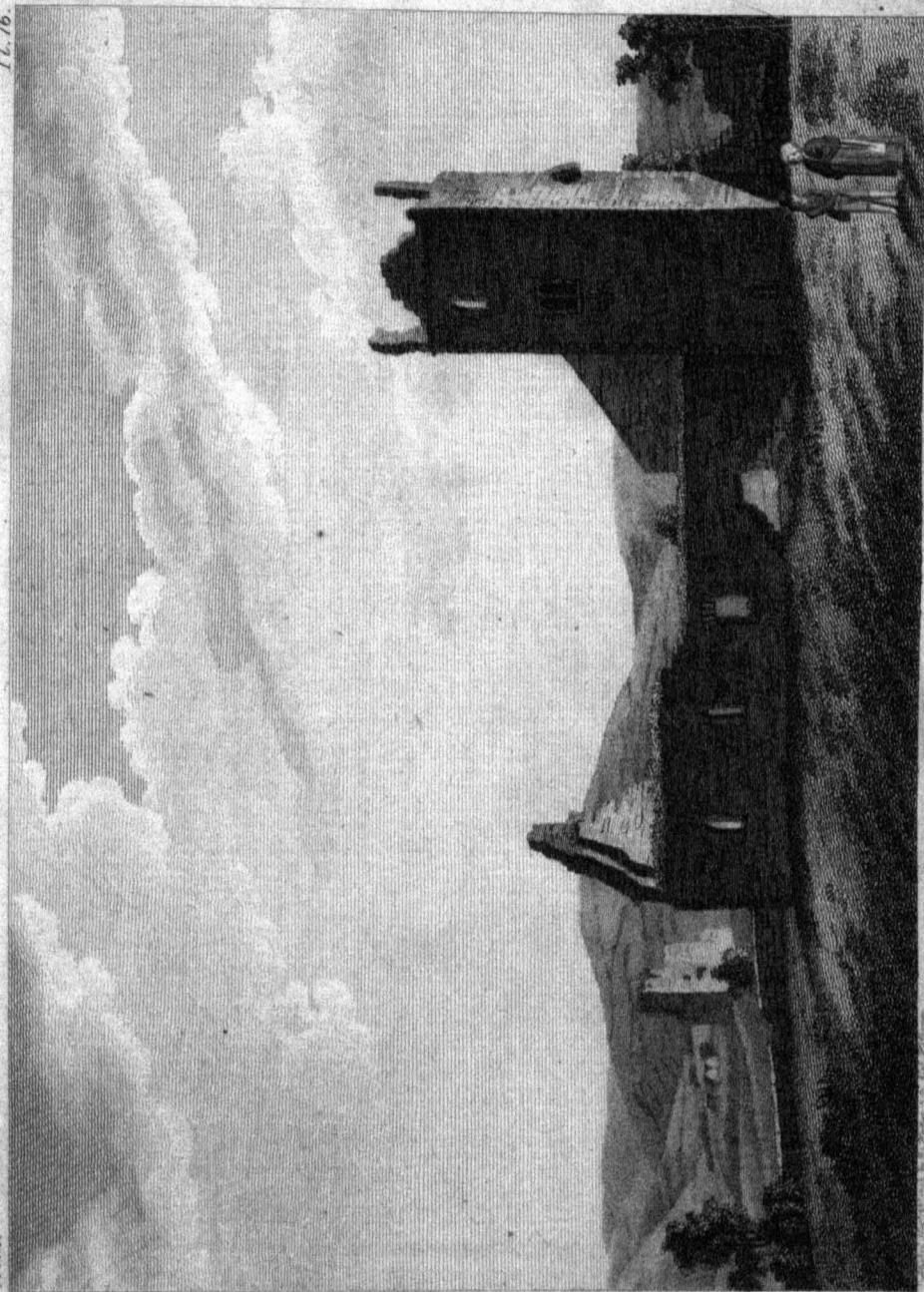
She died

November the 28th, A.D. 1736, in the 55th year of her age.

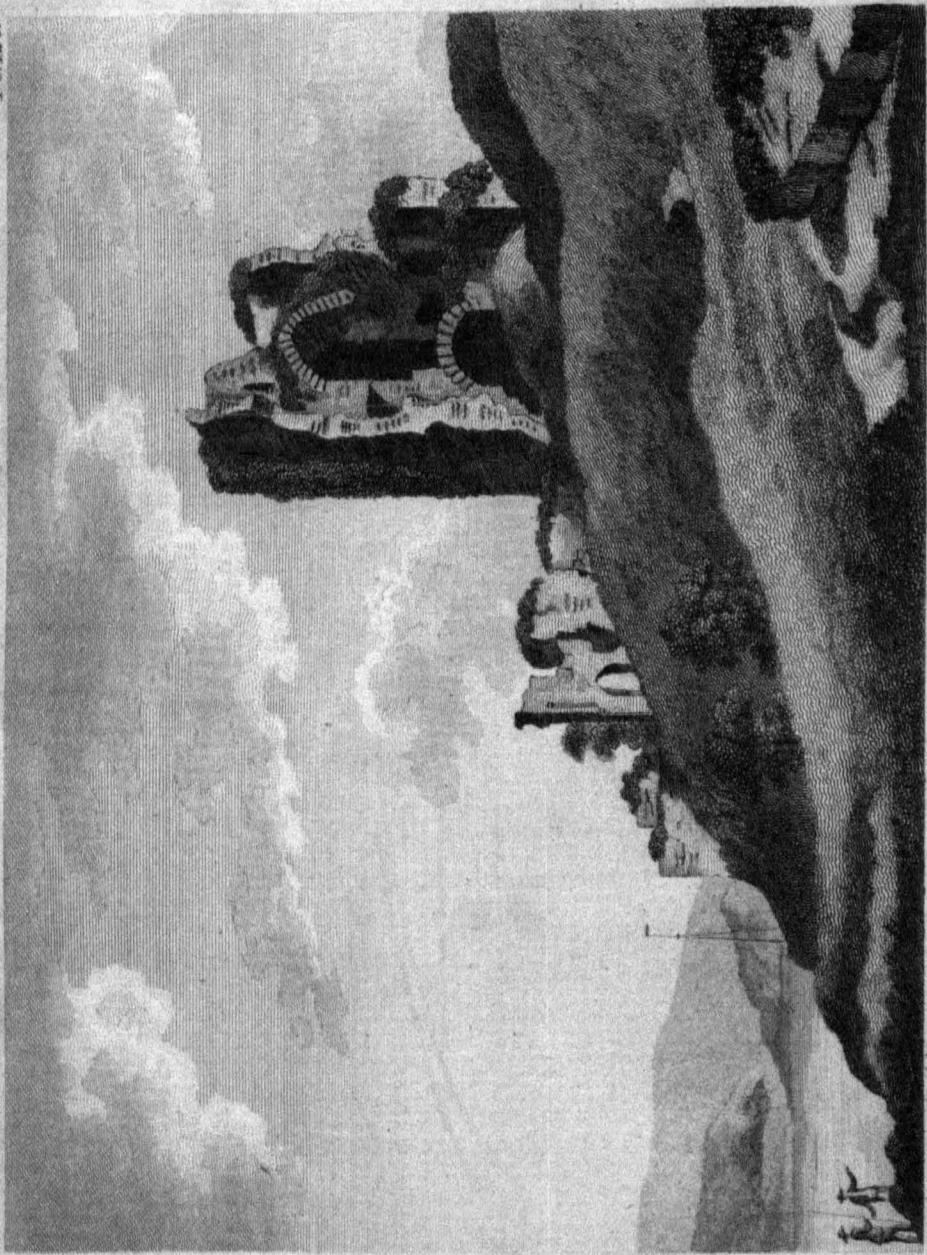
ABBEY OF AGHAMACART.

THIS church, founded about the year 550, is four miles west of Durrow in the barony of Upper Offory. O'Dempsey erected a priory here for regular canons, under the invocation of St. Tigernach. It was the cemetery of the Fitz Patricks, Barons of Upper Offory.

IN the 43d of Elizabeth, a grant was made to Florence Fitz Patrick of this priory and its appurtenances; as the rectory of Aghamacart, the tithes of Cowlhill or Cullanhill, the Dominican monastery of Aghaboe, the rectory of Cowlkerie or Coolkerry, the rectories of Aghenmaghe, Aghtert, Cirke, or Skirk, and Kelline or Killine. All these were part of the princely possessions of the Fitz Patricks long before the arrival of the English, and bestowed on the church by them. This noble family still have the right of advowson to Aghamacart, Cahir, Killine, and Coolkerry; an ecclesiastical patri-
mony



N. VIEW of the ABBEY of AGHAMAGART. QUEEN'S CO.



STRANRAER CASTLE.

Pub. May 16. 1794 by J. Macdonald.

mony perhaps of unrivalled antiquity in any part of the King's dominions.

THE building and vaults were extensive, but now in ruins; part of the walls of the chapel and an inconsiderable portion of the belfry remain: the gate at the entrance is an arch of good workmanship. The inhabitants relate, that a brother of the priory, who had not subdued his passions by monastic austerity and maceration, became enamoured with a lovely nun; her tender heart felt his attachment, and repaid it by reciprocal affection. An illicit connexion could not long be concealed—time revealed the fatal secret; the friar, to prevent the ignominy which his conduct merited, and to atone for his crime, precipitated himself from the top of the belfry and expired. The females, who tell this tale, draw a veil over the fate of the frail sister, and pretend to know nothing of her catastrophe.

AGHAMACART parish is the property of the Right Honourable the Earl of Portarlington, but the church, that of the Earl of Upper Ossory.

STRANCALLY CASTLE

STANDS in the parish of Kilcockan, on the Black Water, which is here of considerable breadth, and makes a beautiful appearance, its lofty sides shaded with woods forming most pleasing landscapes.

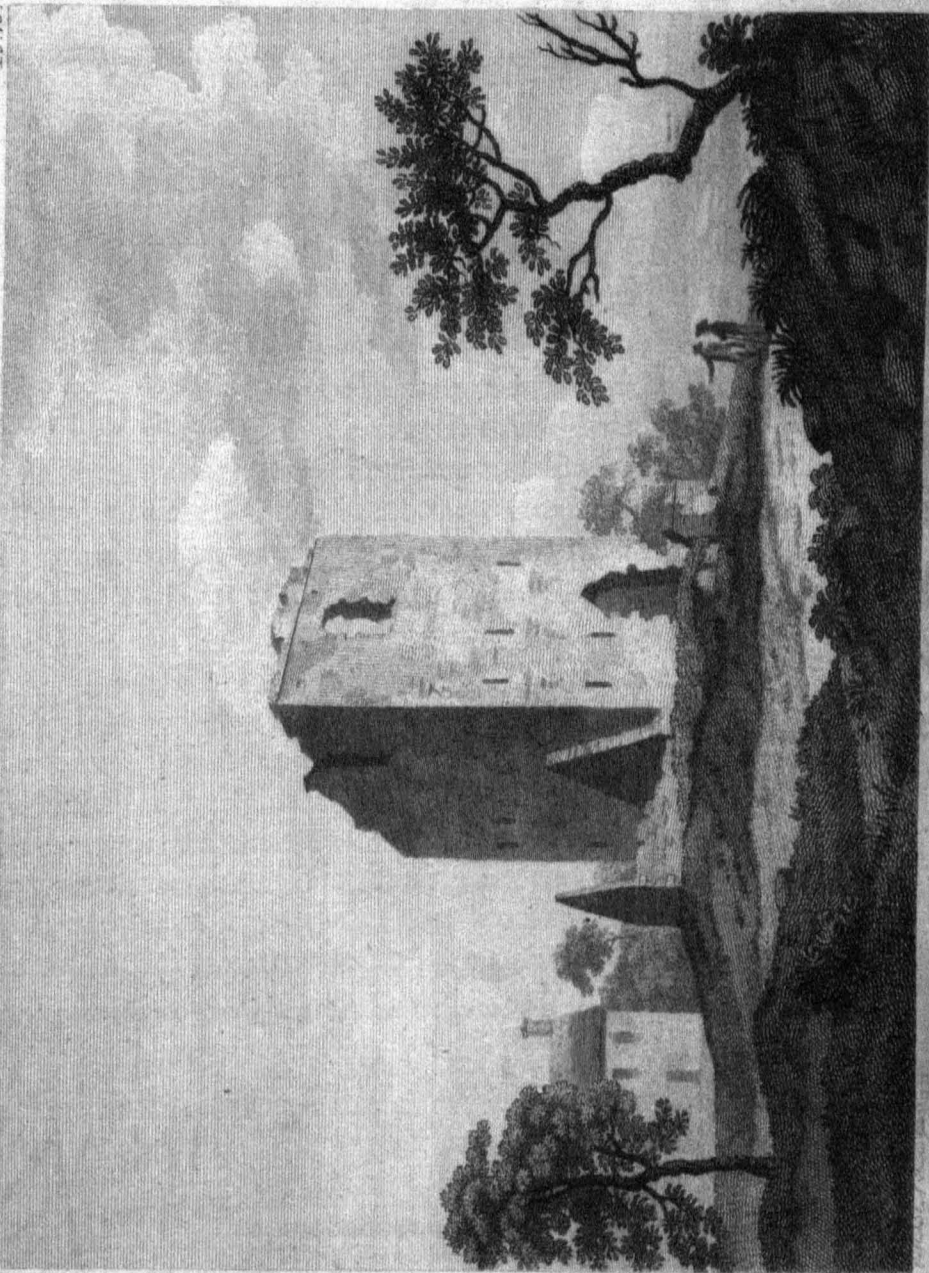
THE castle of Strancally is built on a rock directly over the river. A passage of some length and breadth is cut through the rock to the river, and was formerly used by the Earl of Desmond as a prison. There is an hole cut through the rock in the manner of a portcullis, down which he cast the dead bodies. A person, who

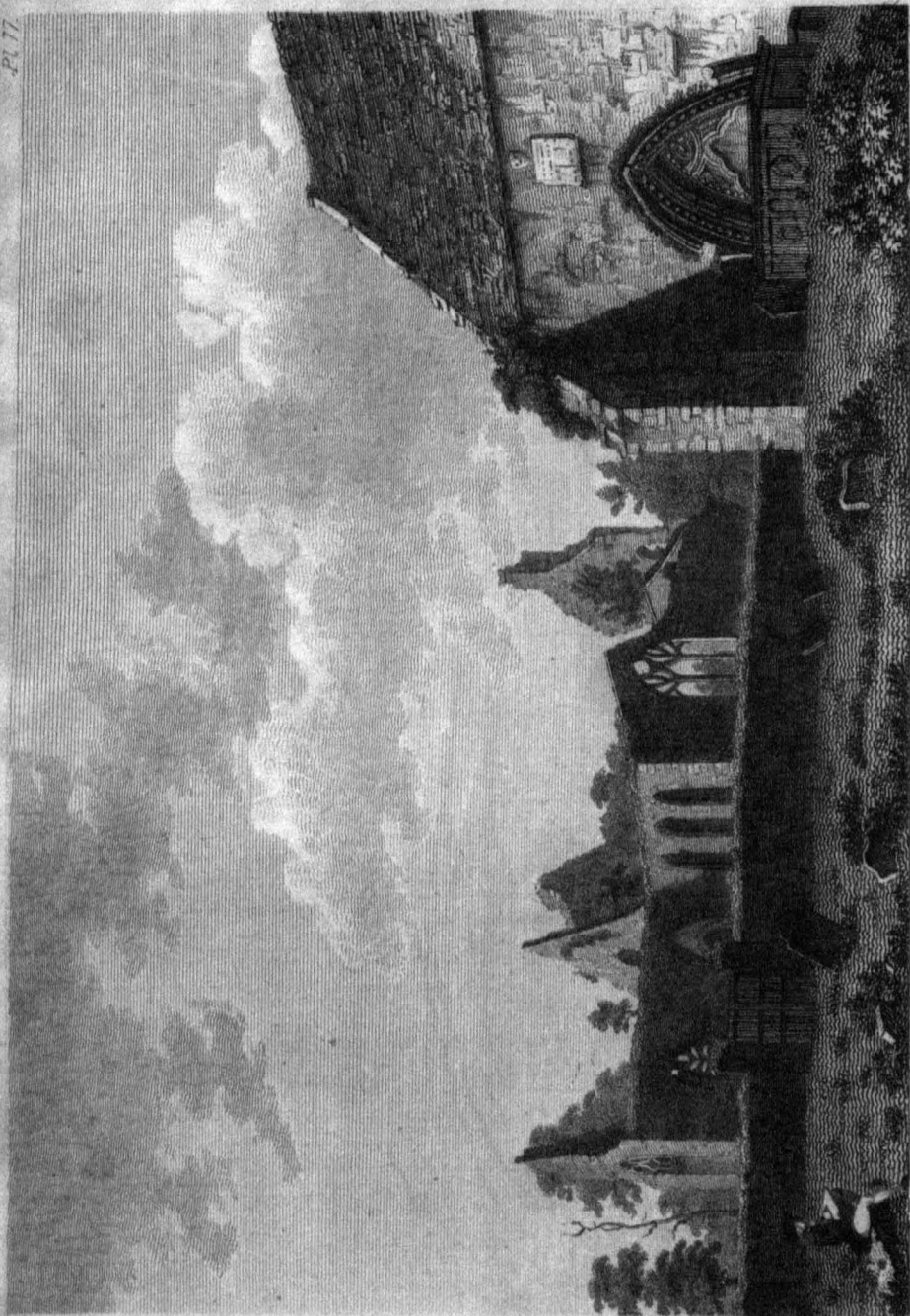
who had the good fortune to escape from this dismal prison, related to government the horrible practices committed here, who ordered both the cave and castle to be demolished. The cave is laid open, and half the castle blown up, the powder splitting it from top to bottom.

BALLAGHMORE CASTLE

Is situated at the foot of the mountains that separate the King's and Queen's Counties, and near the high road to Roscrea, from which it is distant about four miles. It was built by Mac Guil Phadruigs, or Fitz Patricks, ancient Princes of Ossory, and was on the bounds that formerly divided North from South Munster. In 1647, Captain Hedges, who was in garrison at Borros in Ossory, attacked Ballaghmore, which, after a stout resistance, surrendered, and he blew up some part of it, and filled the intrenchments; as he was returning with his prisoners and booty, he was intercepted by a party of Irish, who fell furiously on him in the evening, rescued their companions, and slew many of the party, so that the remainder with difficulty reached Borros. This castle and a large tract of country is now the estate of the Earl of Mountrath, whose ancestors bore a conspicuous part in the wars of Ireland, and, as rewards for their services, obtained large possessions in this county.

THIS View was taken from an original drawing, by Fisher, in the collection of the Right Honourable William Conyngham.





Engraved from a drawing by J. Rogers, 1840.

ACHARD & ABBEY, QUEEN'S CO.

ABBAY OF AGHABOE.

IF the Life of St. Columba, written by Adamnan, be genuine, few ecclesiastical foundations can boast an earlier antiquity than Aghaboe. In this author it is named Achetbou, and in Bishop Otway's Visitation book, in the episcopal palace of Offory, Aghevoe, Aghboy, Aghboe; all corruptions from Achadhbo, in Irish, *the field of the cow*, an appellation given it from the remarkable richness of its pastures. Adamnan places a Monastery here in the 6th century, and makes Cannich its first Abbot. This Cannich is the Welsh Saint Canocus, or Canice, mentioned by Girald Barry, in his Welsh Itinerary. From the intimacy, of which many instances are given by Adamnan, between Cannich and Columba, there is reason to believe it was originally a Culdean establishment; and as the Augustinians always succeeded on the expulsion of the Culdees, so here, Ware tells us, the religious were regular Canons of St. Austin.

THIS old conventual was changed into a Cathedral Church about the year 1050, when the See of Offory was removed from Saiger or Seir Kiran, a village in the King's County, to Aghaboe. Thus the annals of Leinster under this year say—"A Church was built in Achadboe, and the shrine of St. Canice placed in it." This must mean the erection of the Cathedral, which, according to the Visitation book before mentioned, was removed from Aghaboe to Kilkenny the 28 Henry II. so that it continued in the former place for 132 years. During this period, the names of but two Bishops are preserved, O'Fogarty and O'Dullany or Delany; and this is a proof what little dependance is to be placed on our annals or legends for clerical affairs antecedent to the arrival of the English.

THE writer of these pages has been above twenty years Vicar of the

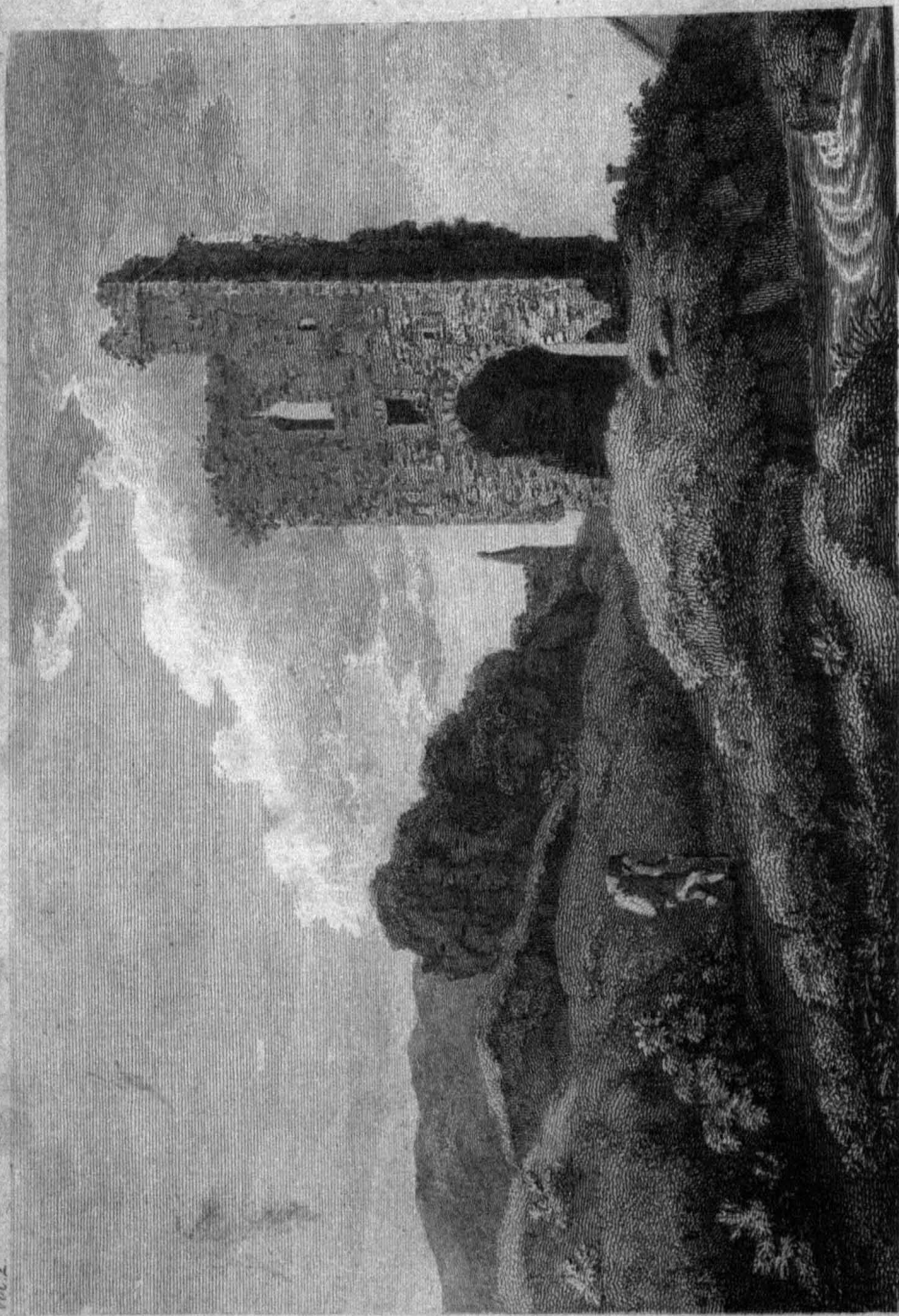
the parish of Aghaboe, and is from circumstances enabled to give an exact account of the fabricks of both Cathedral and Abbey. Of the former only the chancel remains, which serves as the parish Church. The east and south windows are pointed, and seem to have been modernised. The inside walls are adorned with niches, canopies, and concentric mouldings; and on the north side is a Gothic door, four feet high and two wide, and about three from the floor. When the inside is examined, there appears a little cell made in the thickness of the wall, capable of holding one person; it is arched over, and the ribs arise from four pillars, and on the west side is a stone seat. This is a curious confession-box, into which the Priest entered by the door, and in which he was invisible to the penitents. A circular aperture from it opened into the church-yard. The tower is on the north side, and placed where the screen divides the nave from the chancel: it is an hexagon, and arched over, and from the wall a frame of masonry rises for holding the bell. The moulding that adorns this tower, represents the contour of the human body.

ABOUT the year 1380, Florence Fitz Patrick, Baron of Upper Ossory, founded a convent of Dominicans in Aghaboe. The church is one hundred feet long, and twenty-four wide. It has three windows to the south, and one at the east end. At the south side, Pheelan's Chapel stands forward, and is divided from the Church by an arch, resting on a pillar of solid masonry. In this oratory is a niche, wherein stood the statue of St. Canice, the patron; and in the walls are inverted cones with eight grooves for holy water. The large quadrangle, monks cells and cellars were, not many years ago, destroyed by the sacrilegious hands of the writer's predecessor, for the unworthy purpose of inclosing a demesne. Such modern Goths bring an odium on their country.

Et terram altricem sævi execramur Ulyssis.

THIS View, which represents the south-east aspect, was drawn by lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

MELI-



Pub. Jan. 22. 1793 by STEADMAN

MELIFONT CASTLE. Col. Louth.

MELIFONT CASTLE.

SIR Edward Moore, ancestor to the present Marquis of Drogheda, had greatly distinguished himself in the wars of Ireland in the 16th century, and was rewarded by Queen Elizabeth with a lease of the dissolved Abbey of Melifont, with its appurtenances, which he made his principal residence, building a castle there for his greater security, and also a castellated house, where his posterity remained, till the late Earl of Drogheda removed to Monastereven, now Moore Abbey, in the County of Kildare, the seat of the late Viscount Loftus, of Ely, which descended to his lordship as heir to that family.

MELIFONT Castle, seated on the bounds of the English pale, was a great curb on the restless and rebellious natives. In 1641, Lord Moore had a troop of sixty-six horse at Melifont, with which he went to Drogheda, to endeavour to secure that town from the rebels. The latter, taking advantage of his absence, sat down before Melifont on Sunday the 24th of November, with 1300 foot, intending to surprise it. There were only twenty-four musketeers and fifteen horsemen in the place, who, as long as their powder lasted, made a brave defence: at length overpowered, the foot surrendered on quarter, but Colonel Coll Mac Brian Mac Mahon ordered them all to be slaughtered: the horse vigorously charged the enemy, and got safe to Drogheda. The rebels destroyed and carried away of goods and cattle to the amount of two thousand pounds, and killed twenty-eight of Lord Moore's servants, most of whom they would not suffer to be buried.

In 1653, Lord Moore's estates were sequestered; but on the 10th of October the same year, it was ordered that his house at Melifont,

the park with the deer therein, and 300 acres of land, in such places next adjoining and lying close together as he should chuse, should be exempted from extents for the maintenance of himself and family.

THIS View was drawn by lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1791.

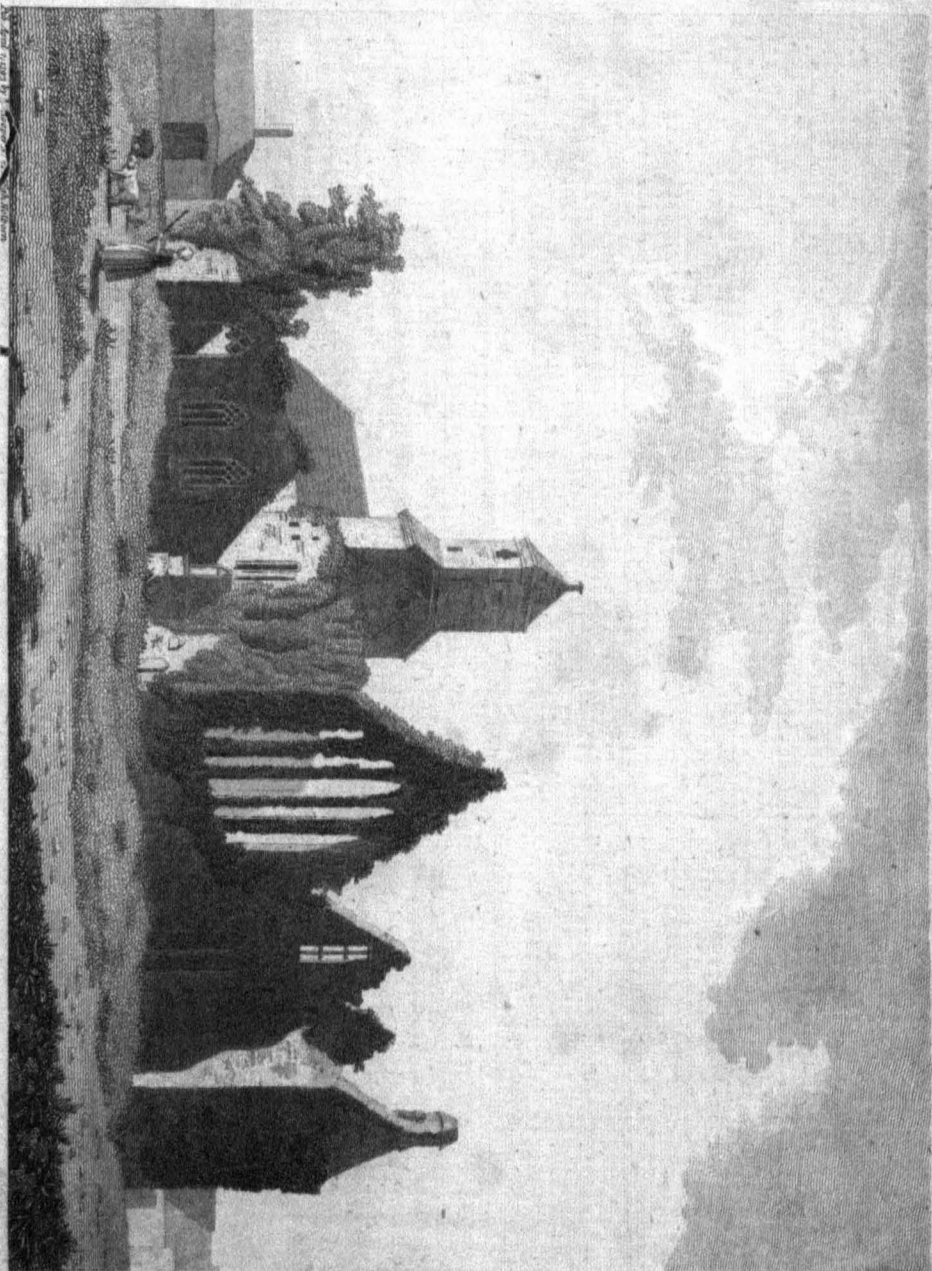
ENNIS ABBEY.

THE long narrow windows, divided by stone mullions, the delicate carving and other architectural ornaments, speak the age and expence bestowed on this beautiful Church. The Abbey was constructed in 1240, by Donagh Carbrac O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, for conventual Franciscan friars. About sixty years after it was repaired and adorned by one of the same family, who presented the Religious with crosses, embroidered vestments, cowls, bookcases, and blue painted windows.

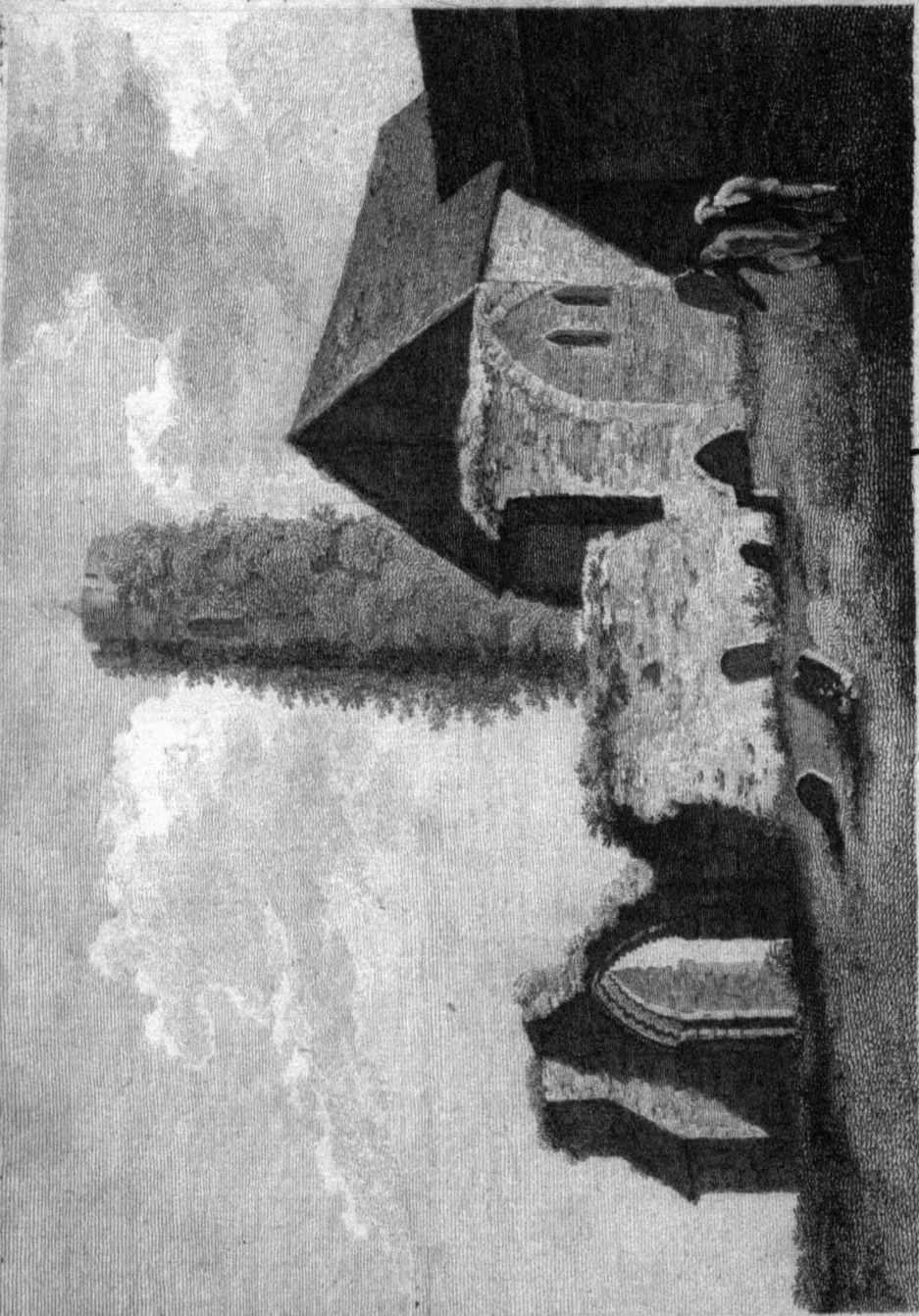
So great was the devotion of the Princes of Thomond towards this foundation, that one of them, in 1311, bestowed the whole revenue of his principality for the support of this monastery, and for enlarging and beautifying it; and in 1350, Pope Clement VI. granted it several indulgences. Letters were encouraged and cultivated in this house: in 1375, Edward III. granted his licence to Marian Currydany, a brother, to go to Strasburgh, in Germany, to study.—Friars of the strict observance succeeded the conventual. In 1577, the crown was in possession of the site of this monastery, a mill on the river Fergus, and the eel and salmon wier, with some houses and gardens in the town; and on the 1st of June, 1621, it was granted to William Dongan, Esq.

THIS View was taken from an original drawing, by Pelham, in the collection of the Right Honourable William Conyngham.

CASTLE-



ENNIS ABBEY. CO. CLARE.



Pub. Dec: 1799. by S. Hooper

Human etc.

CHURCH, and TOWER at CASTLEFERMOT, CO. KILDARE.

CASTLEDERMOT CHURCH AND ROUND TOWER.

WHEREVER we meet a round tower, we may be assured an ecclesiastical foundation existed there antecedent to the arrival of the English. Tradition says, St. Diermit had a Church, or rather a monastic Cell here in the year 500: his festival is celebrated, as the patron, the 21st of June. The place was at first called Discart Diarmuda; and after, for many years, Tristledermot. Here Cormac Mac Cuillenan received his education, and was here interred in 938. About this time, it is probable, the Round Tower was erected, and some ages after the old Church. Tradition reports, that one of the stone crosses in the cemetery was coeval with the Tower.

ON the arrival of the English, Henry II. granted O'Morthy, or O'More's country, the district in which Castle Dermot stands, to Walter Riddlesford, who built a castle there from which the town takes its name. And in the reign of King John, the said proprietor founded a Priory for crouched friars, which, at the dissolution, was given to Richard Keating. In 1264, Richard de Rupella, Lord Justice of Ireland, Lords Theobald Botiller and John Cogan, were taken prisoners by the Fitz Gerald's of Tristledermot, which shews at once the weakness of Government and the power of this family at that period. In 1302 a Monastery for Conventual Franciscans was founded in this town by Lord Ophaley; in fourteen years after it was destroyed by Bruce and his Scots, who carried away its books, vestments, and other sacred ornaments and utensils; but this sacrilege was revenged by their defeat soon after. On the 26th of August 1499, a Parliament was held here, when an act was made for the nobility to use saddles: however, the natives retained their old custom of riding without them, nor two hundred years after did they lay aside their old practice.

ON the construction of the Castle and Monasteries, Castledermot became a market town, and is supposed to have been surrounded with a wall, but no traces are now to be seen. The only ruins are those of the Castle, Franciscan Friary, Round Tower, and Church.

THIS View was taken by lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

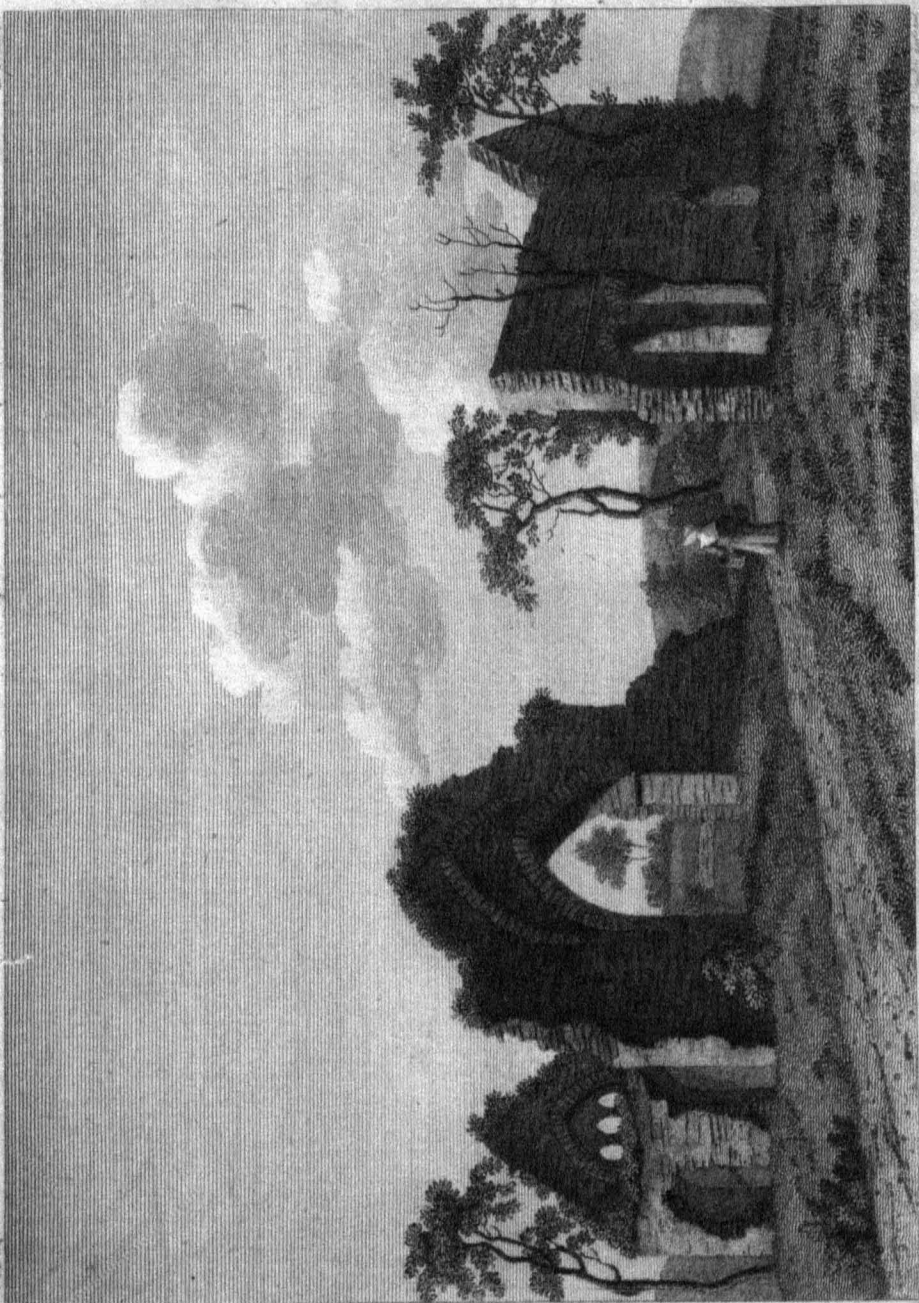
WICKLOW ABBEY.

THIS Monastery was founded in the reign of Henry III. by the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, for Conventual Franciscan Friars. It is situated in the town. Here the Fitzgeralds in 1178, erected a strong fortress, called the Black Castle. In 1301 it was taken and burnt by the Irish. In 1533 the O'Byrnes submitted to Henry VIII. by indenture, and granted him the town and castle of Wicklow.

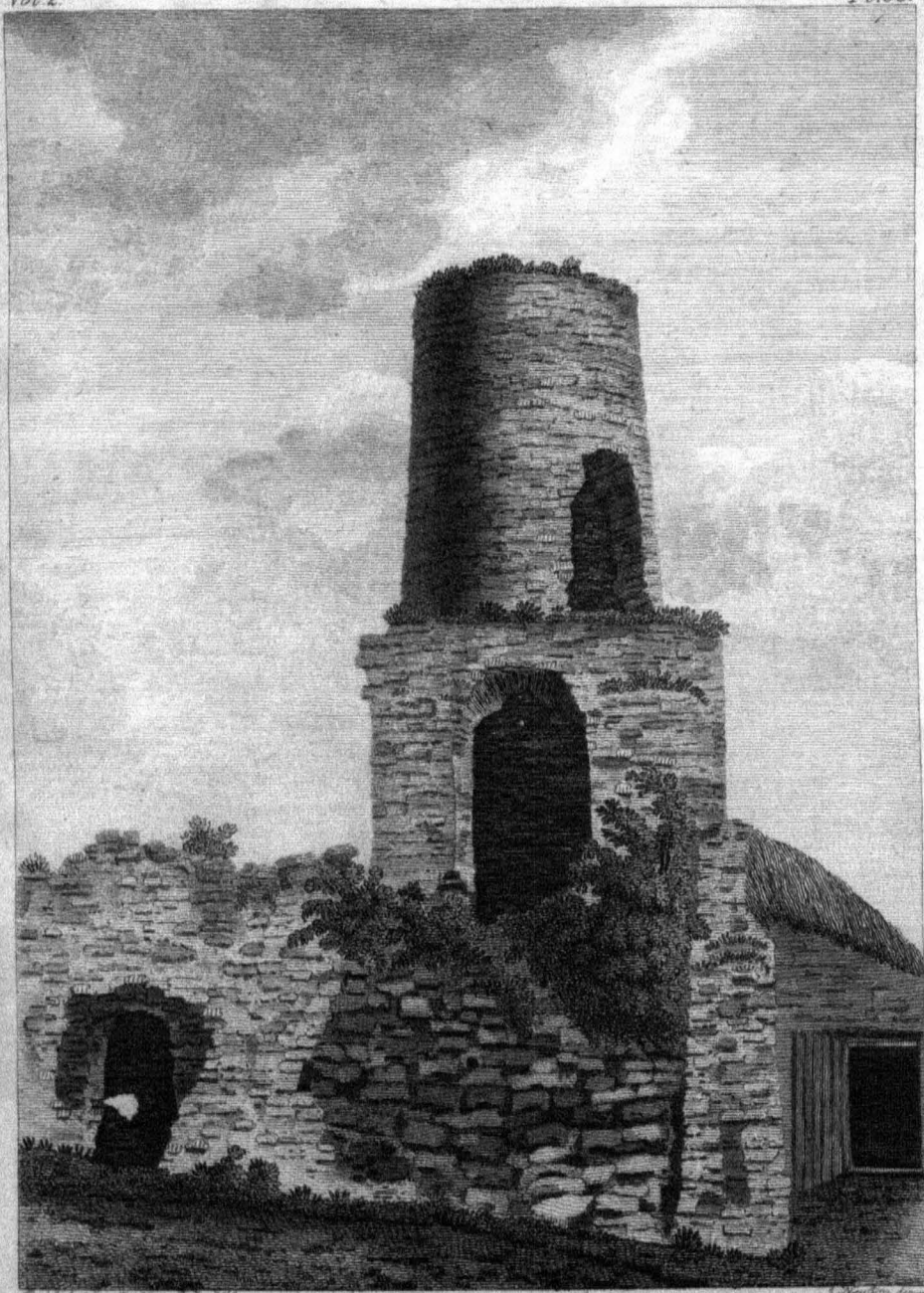
In 1642 Sir Charles Coote marched from Dublin to the relief of this town; the enemy, upon his approach, fled to the mountains.

DIERMIT O'More was the last Warden of this friary, a lease of which was made to Henry Harrington in the 17th of Elizabeth. The walls of this edifice still remain, and are enclosed in gardens. Much praise is due to the proprietor for the care taken of them.

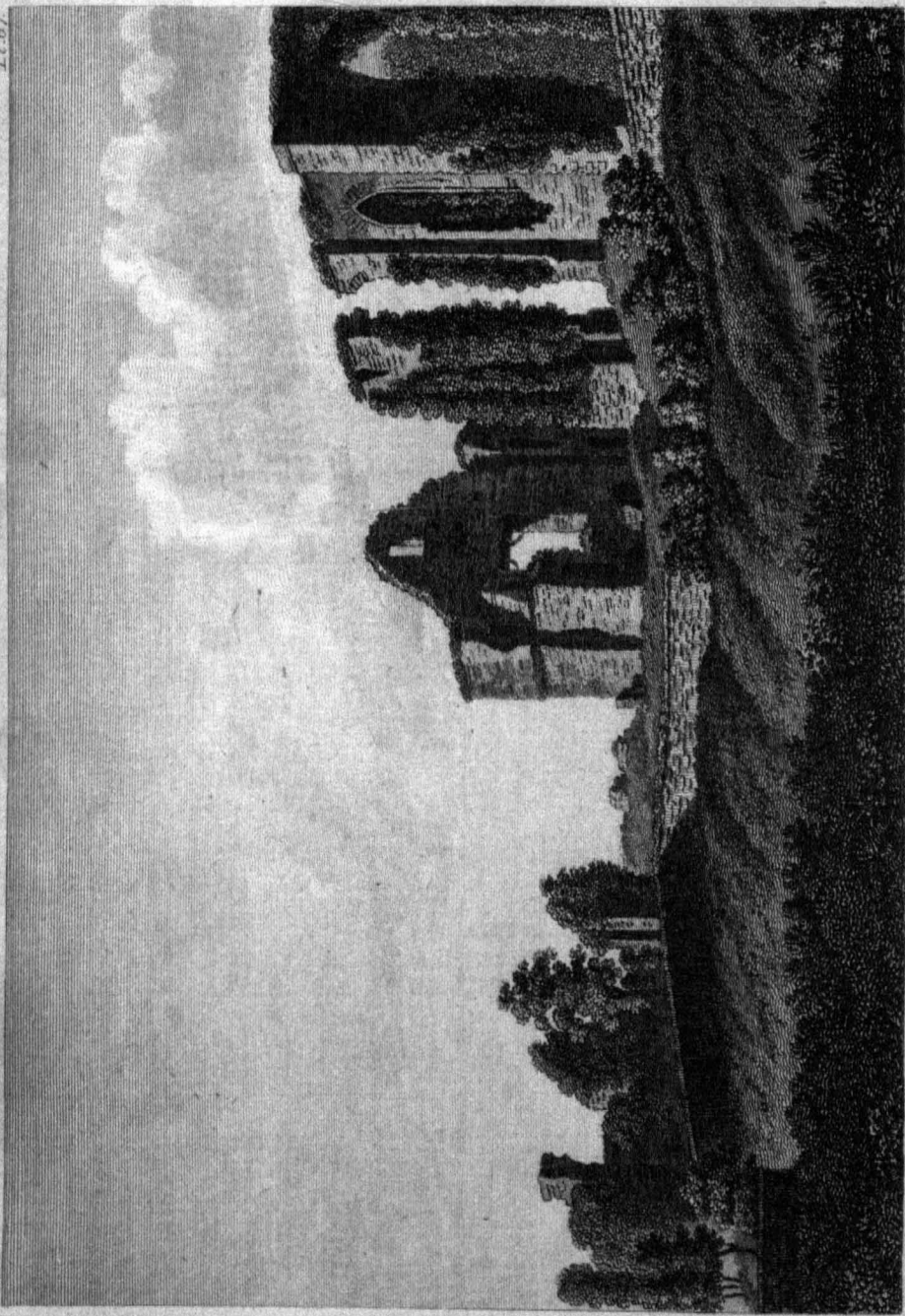
THIS View was taken from an original drawing, in the collection of the Right Honourable W. Conyngham, by T. G. Brien.



The ABBEY at WICKLOW Co. of WICKLOW



FORT in MARYBOROUGH TOWN. Queens Co.



Engraved by J. Knapton

NEW TOWN ABBEY. CO. MEATH.

W. Sparrow del.

FORT IN MARYBOROUGH.

AN act of the 3d and 4th Philip and Mary recites, that the countries of Leix, Slewmerge, Offaley, Irry, and Glenmalire, belong of right to their Majesties, but were of late wholly possessed by the O'Mores, O'Conors, O'Dempseys, and other rebels, but by the industrious travail of the Earl of Suffex, Lord Deputy, were reduced to obedience, and their lands to the disposal of their Majesties, in such manner and such proportions, as by him shall be thought proper. That for the better conserving and keeping those parts in civil government, it is enacted, that the new fort in Leix be called Maryborough; and that Leix, Slewmerge, Irry, and such portion of Glenmalire as is situated on that side of the Barrow, whereon Maryborough stands, be known and called the Queen's County.

A STRONG fortress was erected here to keep the country in subjection, and a numerous garrison placed in it. In 1648 it was in possession of the confederate Catholics, but the year after it was taken by the Earl of Castlehaven. In 1650 the forces of Parliament, under Colonels Reynolds and Hewson, possessed themselves of it, and levelled the works, leaving only a small ruin to mark the place where they stood.

THIS View was taken by lieutenant Daniel Grose, 1792.

COUNTY OF MEATH.

NEWTOWN ABBEY.

A PRIORY of regular Canons of St. Victor was founded here in 1206, by Simon de Rochefort, Bishop of Meath. He after converted

verted the Church into a Cathedral, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Here were made by this Prelate, in 1216, the remarkable constitutions which changed village bishopricks into rural deaneries: the canons of this synod are to be found in Wilkins's Councils. Bishop Simon died in 1224, and was interred in the church. On the 1st of May, 1536, this house was suppressed by Parliament, and granted to King Henry VIII. The Prior sat in the upper house, as a Baron. The remains of the large old Church still exist, and among them is an ancient tomb, said to have been placed there for a daughter of King John.

THIS View was taken by lieutenant Daniel Grose, 1792.

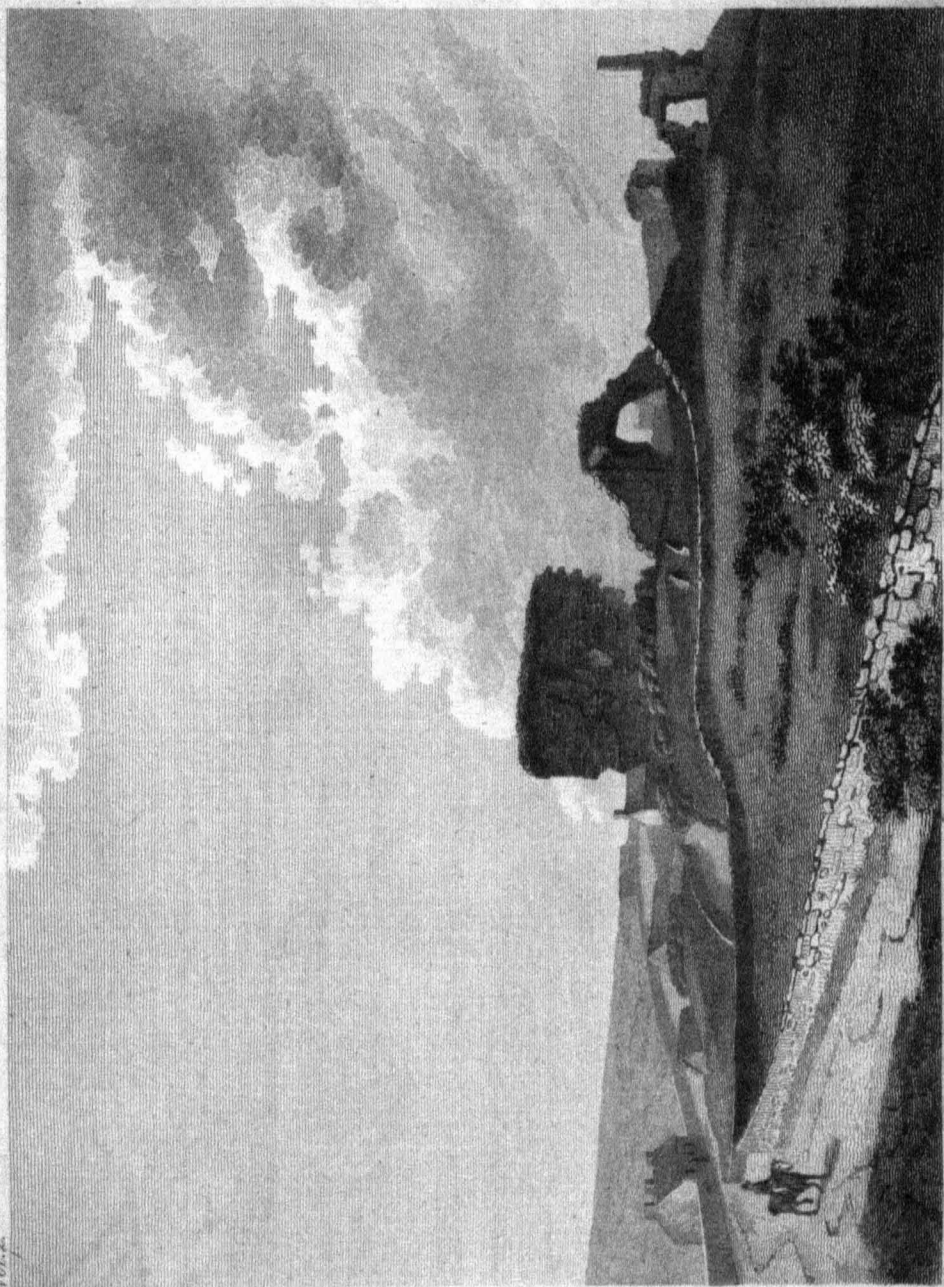
COUNTY OF MAYO.

CASTLE MORE.

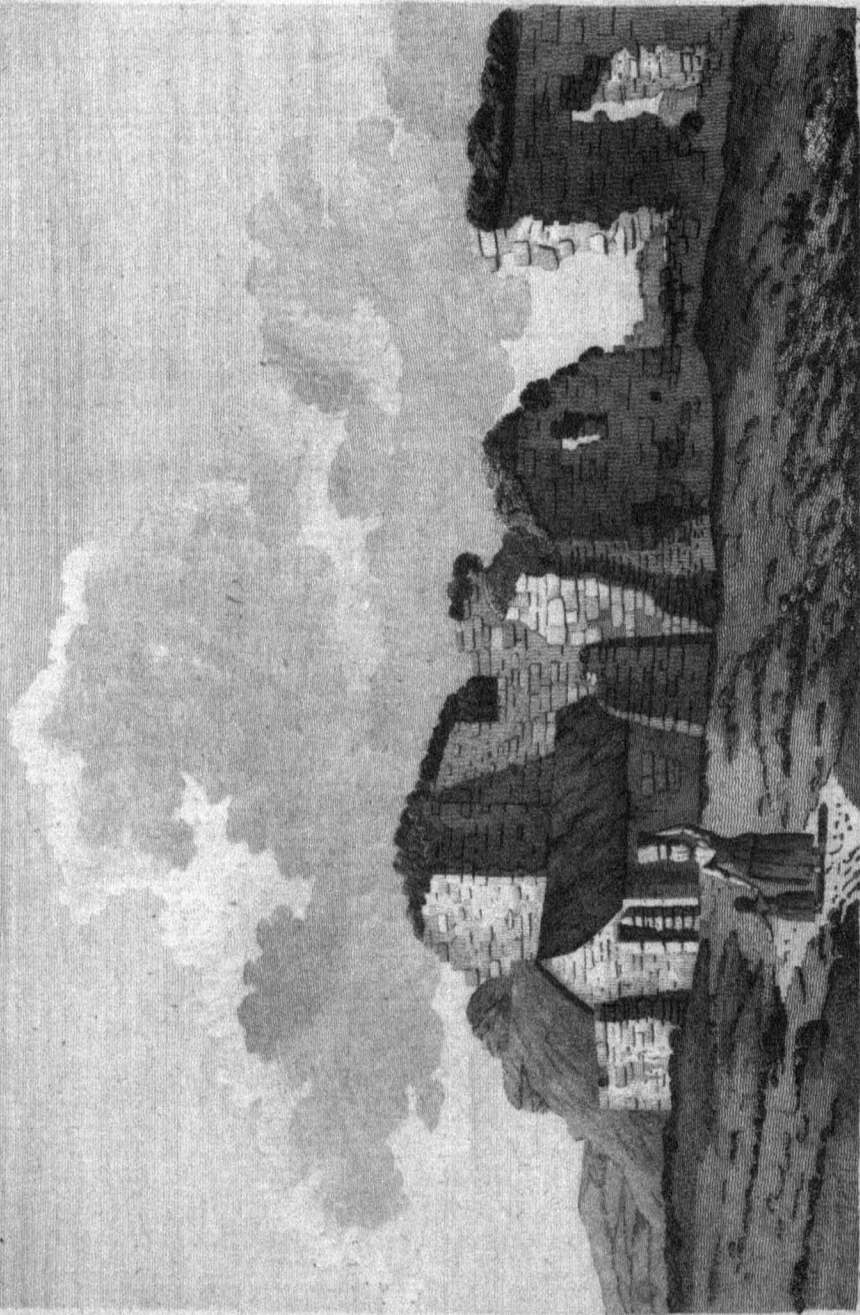
THE family of Dillon, who possessed large estates in this county, constructed every where castles for their defence: this was one, differing very little from the rest. It is situated on a small eminence by the road side, and about a mile from the village of Ballaghadirreen. The country people have demolished the walls and other parts to build their cabins: this practice, if not prevented by landlords, bids fair in a short time to level most of our old fortresses, whose only memorial will be found in this work: this already has been the case with many of them, even during the short period of its publication.

THIS View was taken by T. Cockings, 1791.

CASTLE



CASTLE MORE, CO. MAYO



BALLYHARA CASTLE,

Enl. March 26. 1793. by J. S. G. G. G.

Irish antiquary