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6294
THE
Antiquities

OF

IRELAND

THE SECOND VOLUME.



*Now the bright orb of breezy midnight pours
Long threads of silver thro' her gaping towers;
O'er mould'ring tombs, & tottering columns gleams,
And frosts her desarts with diffusive beams.*

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DEDICATION.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM CONYNHAM,

ONE OF

HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL

AND

A LORD OF THE TREASURY IN IRELAND,

THE munificent Patron of whatever can promote
the honour and happiness of that Kingdom,

THIS VOLUME,

formed, for the most part, from his noble collection
of Drawings, is, with the most respectful gratitude,

Humbly inscribed,

By the Publisher,

M. HOOPER.



570

AN

INTRODUCTION

VII.V.3

TO

ANCIENT IRISH ARCHITECTURE.

TO look for the arts of peace and civilized life among fierce and roving Barbarians, is a striking instance of mental imbecility. Could a people, like the Irish in remote ages, who protected themselves from the inclemency of seasons in the gloom of caves,* or beneath the unbrage of forests—who were clothed with the skins of animals—who were without commerce, and whose greatest mechanical exertion was the fabrication of a stone hatchet, or stone spear-head—could they form durable structures, or participate in the comforts of domestication? It is absurd to suppose it. And yet there are Irish Antiquaries, whose quixotism and ignorance are so great (sheltering themselves indeed under the flimsy plea of patriotism) as to affirm, that we had magnificent palaces in this isle above two thousand years ago, wherein regal splendor, elegance and etiquette were conspicuously displayed; and that the court of Tarah continued to

* The author begs leave to refer to *The Antiquities of Ireland*, published by him in Dublin in 1790, for the proofs of what is advanced in this Introduction: when omitted there, they are here set down.

throw a lustre on Irish monarchy to the year of our Lord, four hundred and twenty-seven.

WHERE are the proofs? If any, they are to be found in the rhapsodies of Bards and Seanachies of the 16th century; for the internal evidence of the language, with the ideas and practices of that period, decisively mark the æra of their composition. I love my country, and am interested deeply in her honour; but I never will sacrifice common sense, truth, and my own reputation, at the shrine of popular prejudices. Such sacrifices, often and liberally made, have degraded our national understanding and national antiquities in the eyes of Europe. It is time to burst the fascinating illusions of romantic fables, and calmly behold our country, rude indeed in its infant state, but in this respect not more degraded than the proudest monarchies of Europe or Asia. Where our antiquities are supported by authentic records and existing monuments, it may be said with confidence, that they are as curious and valuable as those of any other country. The formation of the Irish alphabet, the analogy and etymology of the language, the state of our literature, from the sixth to the ninth century, our round towers and stone roofed crypts, the origin and progress of Christianity in Ireland, our ancient laws and coins, our skill in metallurgy, the lapidary's and goldsmith's arts, with the remains of our primitive superstition, all soliciting our attention and illustration by monuments every where to be found, are topics which would abundantly exercise the ingenuity and erudition of the philologist, grammarian, architect, theologian, and antiquary.

LITERARY memorials testify, that the progress of architecture among the Irish kept pace with their civilization. The Celtes, the primeval inhabitants, were, as their name indicates, woodlanders: in groves and forests they found houses, food and security. Occupied in the chase, and supported by the spontaneous produce of the earth; and above all, living as hunters ever do, in families, and these

these widely dispersed, they never dreamed of stone edifices, or felt the want of them. They had their pallice * or peillice, a temporary booth or tent, made of earth and branches of trees, and covered by the skins of beasts. These were nearly the same as the Shealin, the extemporaneous hut of the Scottish Highlanders.

THE Firbolgs, or Belgic colonies, who succeeded the Celtes, were a very different and more improved people. Like their brethren in Germany, they dwelled a great part of the year either in natural or artificial Souterrains: the number of the latter discovered in Ireland, evinces, that they well knew how to form antrile chambers of dry stones, and cover them with long projecting flags. In these the Firbolgian Priests instructed their disciples, and practised divination; and they always adjoined their stone temples, as at Roscarbury, Killoffy, and many other places. At length they became the Cemeteries of illustrious chiefs and warriors, and as at New Grange, had conical mounts raised over them, surrounded at top and bottom by circles of pondrous uprights. Skilled in the manipulation of metals, the Firbolgs could easily have squared and polished wood and stone, and erected neat and convenient houses; but their rude state of society prevented the proper application of their knowledge.

At the arrival of the Christian Missioners, the Irish had emerged from their subterraneous recesses, and inhabited houses of wood. Then commenced the Irish style of building. The learned reader will probably smile at this use and application of the term, *STYLE*; but he will find it not capriciously adopted, but founded in fact. Palladius, in four-hundred and thirty-one, erected three wooden Oratories. Concubran, describing the old chapel of St. Monenna, at Kildive, in the county of Armagh, A. D. 630, tells us it was made of smoothed timber, *according to the Irish fashion*; "*juxta morem*

* O'Brien's Irish Dict. in voce.

Scotticarum gentium." In 635, Finan, an Irishman, built a church in the isle of Lindesfern, of which he was Bishop, of split oak, and covered it with reeds. St. Cuthbert, an Irishman also, constructed a church in the same island, in 684, of which Bede gives this description: "The building was round, four or five perches
 " between wall and wall. The wall on the outside was the height
 " of a man, made so by sinking of an huge rock, which was done
 " to prevent the thoughts from rambling, by restraining the sight.
 " The wall was neither of squared stone, or brick, or cemented
 " with mortar; but of rough unpolished stone, with turf dug up
 " in the middle of the place; and banked on both sides of the
 " stone all round. Some of the stones were so big, that four
 " men could hardly lift one. Within the walls he constructed
 " two houses and a chapel, together with a room for common
 " uses. The roofs he made of unhewn timber, and thatched them.
 " Without the walls was a large house to receive strangers, and
 " near it a fountain of water."

As yet lime was not used. To say the Irish were not acquainted with the calcination of stone, after an intercourse of some ages with the Saxons, and other continental nations, would not probably be true; it was more than two centuries after this that mortar was introduced, as we shall presently see. No part of Cuthbert's building remains to exhibit to the reader; but I am happy to lay before him two, not inferior in age, and of equal curiosity, still existing. One is, Dun Aengus, in the greater isle of Arran, on the coast of Galway. It is seated on an high cliff over the sea, and is a circle of monstrous stones without cement, capable of containing two hundred cows. The houses having been of wood, have long since disappeared. Tradition informs us, that Aengus, King of Cashel, about 490, gave this isle to St. End. Innis Murry is an island about nine miles from Sligo. A description of it is the only valuable thing in Vallancey's soporiferous "Vindication of the History of Ireland."

b. b. b. THE



Fig. 1.

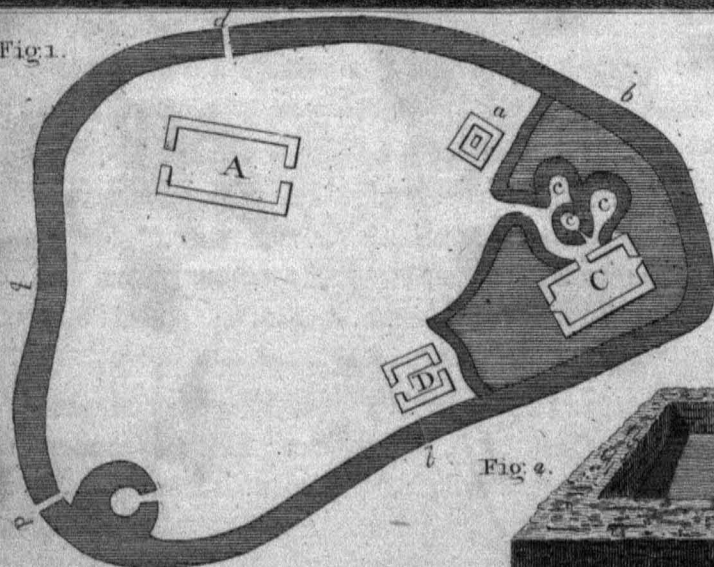
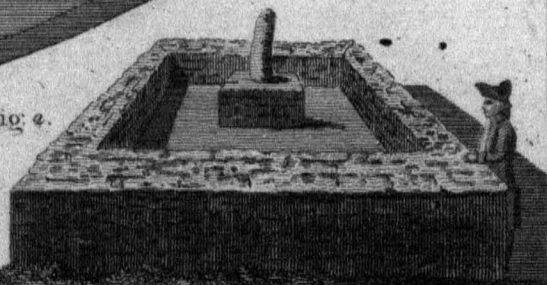


Fig. 2.



Engr. July 5. 1794 by M. Cooper

J. Sparrow

b. b. b. THE walls without mortar of large stones; the walls from five to ten feet thick, and ten feet high. Pl. 1. Fig. 1.

C. C. C. CELLS covered with earth: all that part shaded with a light ink being thrown up, so as to make the cells, in a manner, subterraneous. Some Cells are fallen in; others look horrid and gloomy, having a small hole at the top, and another in the side, seemingly to give air, not light. The cell C. at the entrance is lighted by the door: d. d. the entrance so narrow as scarcely to admit a man to pass.

A. B. St. Molaise's Chapel.

C. St. Columba's Chapel.

D. THE Altar. The chapels are all built with lime and stone, in a rude manner. They are modern to the rest of the building.

Fig. 2. THE upright pillar surrounded by a wall.

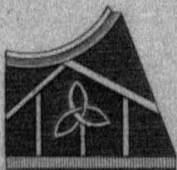
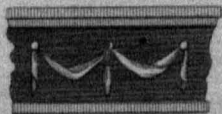
THE large upright, surrounded by a wall to inspire and preserve the most sanctimonious respect, was the great Deity of the Firbolgs. The cells and their uses are the same as those at Roscarbury and Killofhy before mentioned. Tradition gives these works to St. Columba; but from the upright, it is evident the place was sacred to religion in times of Paganism. In these cells the Firbolgian priests resided, and they were succeeded in them by Christian Ascetics.

THE northern Viccingi, or piratical Rovers, before the Christian æra, visited and settled in this isle; nor did a year pass without bringing some of them thither: but in the beginning of the 9th century, an unusual swarm of them darkened our coasts, and soon subjugated the country. They were the authors of a new style, which may be called the *Danish*, and of this there exist at this day some very curious remains. As they were evangelized by Roman teachers, they naturally imbibed the superstitions of that church; the most prominent one of which was the adoration of Reliques. To preserve these from fire and accidents, they erected structures of stone with mortar, and arched or vaulted them over with stone. These

These Ostmén first introduced the use of cement. The reliques were deposited in these stone-roofed crypts; a tomb was formed in, and almost filled the middle of the room, and the flag, that covered the tomb, served for an altar. The *Ordo Romanus*, of this age, directs the mortar, for inclosing reliques within altars, to be made with holy water. At Glendaloch, Portaferry, Killaloe, Saul Abbey, St. Doulach, and Cashel, these stone-roofed chapels may be seen.

SAMUEL HAYS, Esq. Representative in Parliament for the borough of Wicklow, searching, a few years ago, among the ruins of Glendaloch, not far from his beautiful seat of Avondale, fortunately discovered a small arched chapel, of which there was no memory, it having been buried for ages under the ruins of a neighbouring church. Its western portal and only entrance was adorned with sculptures, and the room, about 14 feet by 10, was almost entirely occupied by the tomb of St. Kevin, the Patron of Glendaloch. Mr. Hayes, who to the finest understanding, improved by elegant and useful learning, joins a most perfect knowledge of ancient and modern architecture and love of antiquities, felt the strongest emotions of pleasure on this discovery; he carefully collected the sculptures, made accurate drawings of them, and most obligingly communicated them to me.

Pl. II. No. 1. SHEWS a ravenous quadruped devouring an human head; the head is a living one; its hair, whiskers, and beard, give it a savage appearance. The animal is easily discovered by the following story from the northern Sagas: One of the sailors of the Danish King, Harold, dreamed that a woman of gigantic size appeared to him, riding on a wolf, who had in his mouth the head of a man, the blood of which flowed from his jaws. When he had swallowed that head, the woman put another into his mouth, and so on with many more; all of them he devoured, and then she began the song of death. If these were the notions of this ferocious people



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SCULPTURES at GLENDALOECH

people in the year 1066, they were not more refined two centuries before.

No. 2. EXHIBITS the head of a young man and a wolf, the long hair of the one being elegantly entwined with the tail of the other.

No. 3. Is a wolf with his tail in his mouth. The fierceness of this creature, and his delight in human blood, are the constant themes of Scaldic poetry. Odin, the great Deity of the North, was always attended by two, named Geri and Freki, to whom he distributed meat from his table.

No. 4. ARE two ravens picking a skull. This bird was peculiarly sacred to Odin: he is styled the king of ravens. In the *Epicedium* of ~~Ragnar~~ Lodbrog is recorded an engagement of the Danes and Irish at Vedrafiord, or Waterford.

In heaps promiscuous was pil'd th' enemy;
Glad was the kindred of the falcon. From
The clam'rous shout they boaded an approach-
Ing feast. Marstein, Erin's King, whelm'd by
Th' ir'ny fleet, allay'd the hunger of the eagle
And the wolf: the slain at Vedra's Ford became
The ravens' booty.

IN another battle between the Irish and Danes, A.D. 952, the Saga says:

Bellum gessit populi
Amicus, ætæ sunt multæ
In fugam, lætantibus
Vulturibus, Hibernorum cohortes.

To the same purpose Lodbrog's Ode in Mallat. "We fought
"with swords! When in my youth we went towards the east to
"prepare a bloody prey for ravenous wolves, ample food for the
"yellow-footed eagle: the whole ocean foamed as one wound: the
"ravens

"ravens waded in the blood of the slain. The three daughters of Lodbrog worked a raven on the standard of Hingyar and "Hubba, with many incantations, which was to be invincible." In fine, the old northern chronicles are filled with the encomiums of personal valour, the cruel slaughter of the human species, and the savage delight of beholding the agonies of dying enemies.

No. 5. 5. 5. ARE Runic knots, composed of the segments of circles, their arcs and chords intersecting each other. There is scarcely a carved stone, cross, or other monument, during the times of the Danish power, but shews a knot of some kind.

THAT these sculptures were executed by people but half Christians is plain from the want of symbols, or allusions to, sacred or legendary story, and from the cruel and savage objects here given. They admirably express the sentiments and employment of this rude and ferocious people; and these and similar sculptures are the finest commentary on their ancient poetry. We may observe that these carvings are similar to the Danish ones in Cordiner's Ruins in Scotland, in Hutchinson's Lakes, and Camden. Those at Brideskirk, in Cumberland, are in the style of ours, the cross excepted. No Saxon mouldings, or other decorations of that style are here visible. The sculptor did not recollect that he was ornamenting a religious house, or he gave way to his own uncivilized feelings. Forres Pillar, and the obelisks in Rosshire, afford specimens also of the Danish style; but this at Glendaloch is unique in this kingdom. So holy were these arched chapels esteemed, that as late as the year 1135, Malachy O'Morgair, Archbishop of Armagh, erected two at the Abbey of Saul, each seven feet high, six long, and two and an half wide, with a small window at one side.

OUR round towers are coeval with the chapels, and are also Ostman productions. Various have been the conjectures concerning their origin and use, but from an uninterrupted tradition of 542, I have shewn it is more than probable that they served as belfries from the beginning

beginning; five or six of them at this day certainly do. If they were erected in times of Paganism, some proof ought to be alleged of the art of masonry being then known—or to what particular practice in the Firbolgian ritual they referred, for the Firbolgs alone could build. But this I can safely pronounce to be impossible. The want of Christian symbols is another argument for referring them to the remotest ages: but here the favourers of this opinion proclaim either their ignorance or disingenuity. The round tower at Brechin, in Scotland, has a crucifix, and figures of the Virgin Mary, St. John, and a lamb. Over the door of the tower at Antrim is an ornamented cross; and the doors of the towers at Timahoe and Kildare have that common ecclesiastical decoration, the Chevron moulding. Of these curious buildings above sixty-six remain. Except as to rotundity, each architect seems to have followed his fancy in the height and internal arrangement. Some have their door twenty-four feet from the ground; in general it is ten or twelve. They very much resemble the Norwegian round castles of Giraldus Cambrensis, hereafter to be spoken of, in Grantstown Castle, and were first constructed by the Ostmen about the end of the 9th century, and continued to be built till the 12th. They were the common appendages to wooden churches. Kenith Tower stands 124 feet from the church, Drumboe 20, Downpatrick 48, Kildare 90, Kilkenny 8, and Drumiskin 90. At Glendaloch, we see the great insulated round tower at a distance from the cathedral: at the same place are two other towers—one at the Ivy Church, about four feet from the fabrick; the other at St. Kevin's Kitchen joined to it: here, and in no other part of Ireland, can we trace the gradual approximation of the round tower to the church; a decisive proof of its original designation being that of a belfry.

THE marriage of Donogh, Monarch of Ireland, with Driella, daughter of Earl Godwyn, and sister of Harold, King of England, who was slain A. D. 1066, and the flight of many English noble-

men to this isle from the tyranny of William the Conqueror; the resort of the Bishops of Dublin, Waterford, and Limerick to Canterbury for consecration; with the visits of many of our clergy to Rome, enlarged and improved our architectural knowledge. Then, the regulating the number of Bishops and their Sees in 1100, and the settlement of the Irish Church by Cardinal Paparon in 1152, gave new dignity to the clergy, and set them upon erecting edifices suitable to it. At this time the isle seems to have been first divided into parishes, and patron Saints appointed to superintend each; but even then such division did not extend to the whole kingdom—for the Irish had not as yet every where deserted their old faith: the Culdees were powerful, and their abhorrence of Romish innovations influenced a large portion of the people. A few monastic structures were begun, but these were not important.

CORMAC's stone-roofed chapel at Cashel presents us with the first attempt in lime of a church with a nave, chancel, and choir, with columns supporting the grand arch leading into the choir. These columns are short and thick, with bases, torcs, capitals, and entablatures rudely executed. A lozenge network covers the pillars; the portal is semicircular, with nail-headed and chevron mouldings; the windows also are round, and over the door is an Archer mounted on an ideal quadruped. This grotesque, highly improper in so holy a place, shews how impossible it was to restrain the wayward fancy of the northern architects: it also determines the date of the building to the 10th age. An accurate examination and comparison of Cormac's crypt and Grimbald's, under St. Peter's, at Oxford, will evince that they both are nearly coetaneous. The next church of which we have any authentic account is that of Christ Church, Dublin. In its black book, we find that Sihtric, the son of Ableb, or Ohaff, Prince of the Dublinian Oskmen, gave to the blessed Trinity and to Donat, Bishop of the See, a place on which to build a church, where the arches or vaults were founded. Other records inform us, that

that St. Patrick celebrated mass in these vaults; it is therefore easy to discover what they were, being criptical chapels, having the reliques of saints. Over these, as in every part of Europe, large fabricks were constructed: this church was built in 1038, but little of the original building remains.

DONALD O'BRIEN, King of Limerick, is praised by our historians for his love of ecclesiastical architecture, and for his construction of the cathedral churches of Cashel, Limerick and Killaloe, at, or a short time before, the English invasion. Hardly one of our ecclesiastical buildings are in their primitive state; for besides the injuries superinduced by time, the caprice of fashion adapted them to the taste of the times. Thus the King of Limerick never mixed round and pointed arches, long and short windows, quatre foils, and other ornaments of the Norman style with those of the Anglo-Saxon in the same building; and yet the south prospect of the Cathedral of Cashel exhibits at present these appearances.

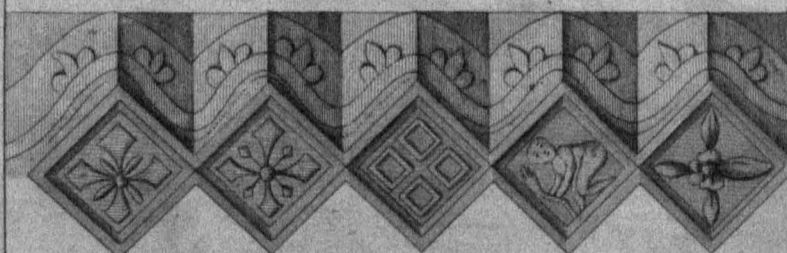
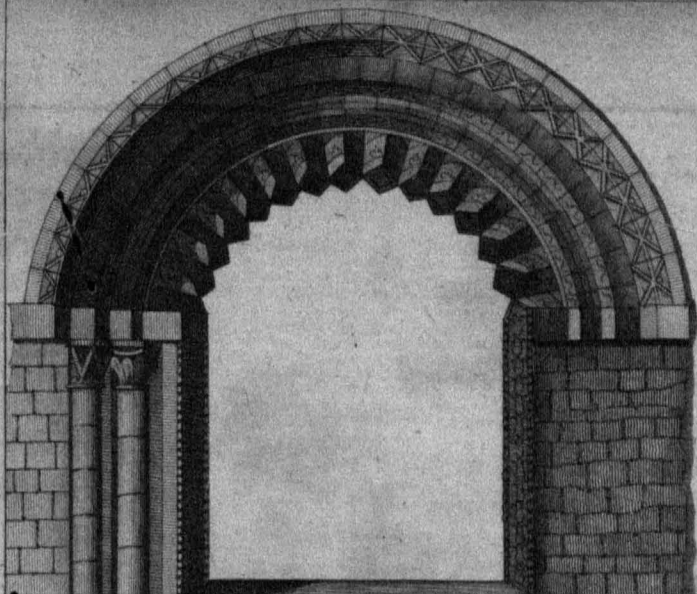
ST. PATRICK'S Cathedral, Dublin, founded in 1190, is in the form of a cross: it was not above seventy years before, that this figure became a favourite one in England—St. Peter's Westminster, being the first in a cruciform shape. "*Nostratibus exemplum dedit (Edward the Confessor) condendi ecclesias in formam crucis Christi passionalis; id est, productiore radio inferiori. Et hoc quidem illud est, quod inquit Malmesburius, dicens eum hanc ecclesiam—illo compositionis genere primum in Anglia ædificasse, quod nunc pæne cuncti sumptuosis æmulantur expensis.*" Spelman Concil. pag. 636.

It is not loaded with the ornaments which became afterwards so common. The windows are long and pointed, but not ramified. The buttresses are of two sorts—one low, to support the walls; the other tall spires, connected to the upper part of the wall by an arc-boutant, to enable it to bear the roof. The nave is spacious and lofty; but the lateral aisles low and dark. It is, in other respects, extremely like the church of Hexham, described in the XV Scrip-

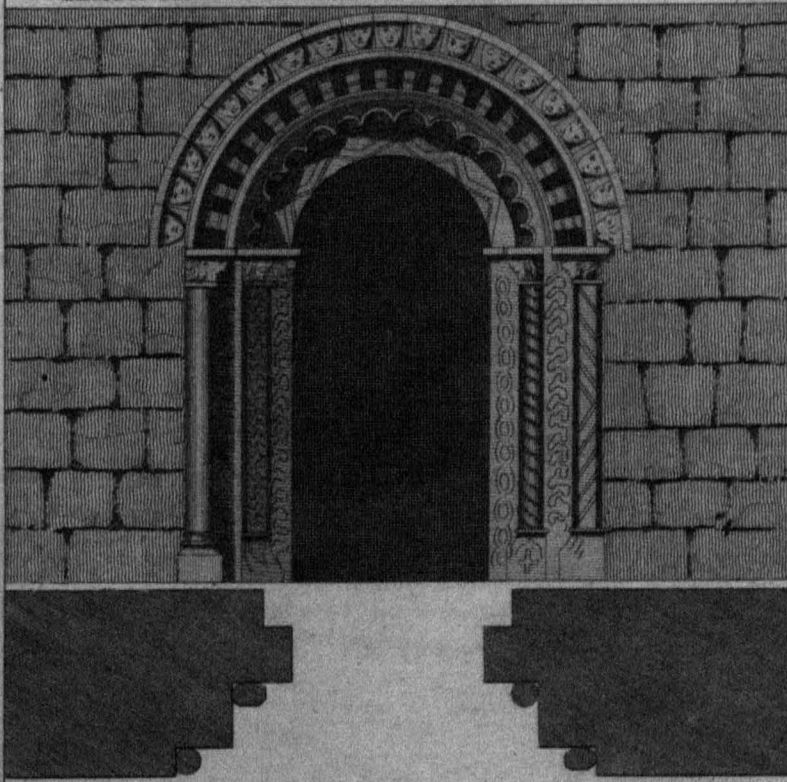
tores. "Its deep foundations and subterraneous crypts; the great variety of buildings to be seen, supported by sundry kinds of pillars and many porticos, and set off by the surprizing height and length of the walls, surrounded by various mouldings and bands, curiously wrought; and the turnings and windings of the passages, sometimes ascending, sometimes descending by winding stairs to the different parts of the fabrick, are not easy expressed or described by words." This account of Hexham is very applicable to our Church.

BOUND in the Barbarian chains of Tanistry, Gavel-kind, and Brehon laws, the Irish made no attempts in architecture, while the English were every where erecting beautiful churches and other religious structures. It is recorded as a memorable fact, the building a lime-kiln seven yards in diameter, by Gelasius, Archbishop of Armagh, in 1145; and a stone Oratory, made by Malachy, successor to Gelasius, was an object of wonder to the Irish. In 1185, Giraldus Cambrensis testifies that they had no stone buildings. Thirteen years before, Henry II. constructed a palace in Dublin, of smoothed wattles, according to the fashion of the country. "*De virgis levigatis, ad modum patriæ illius, constructum*," says Hoveden. Nor did they, if we rely on the authority of Sir John Davis, erect any house of brick or stone for private habitation previous to the reign of the elder James, that is, as he explains it in his "Case of Tanistry," until the abolition of the Brehon law, in the sixth year of that King's reign. So that all our ancient architecture, as was observed of our castles, were planned and executed by English workmen: this consideration supercedes the necessity of describing them, while the labours of Bentham, Ducarel, Warton, and Grose, are so easily referred to.

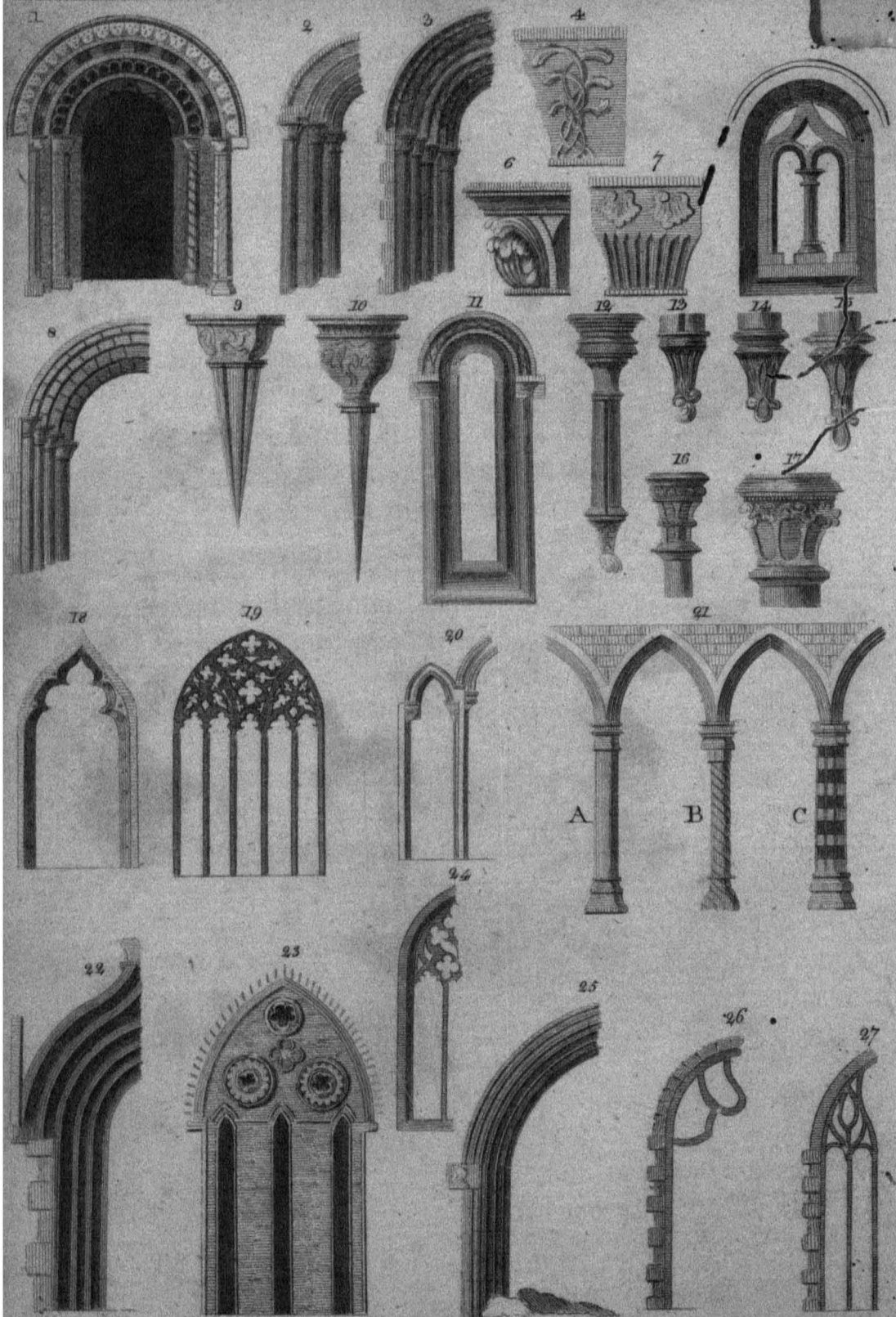
I SHALL now conclude this Introduction by laying before the reader two curious specimens of our ancient architecture. One is the western door of the Church of Disert, in the barony of Inchiquin, in the county of Clare; the other is the arch of the choir, and



ARCH AND ORNAMENTS AT DISERT, CO. CLARE.

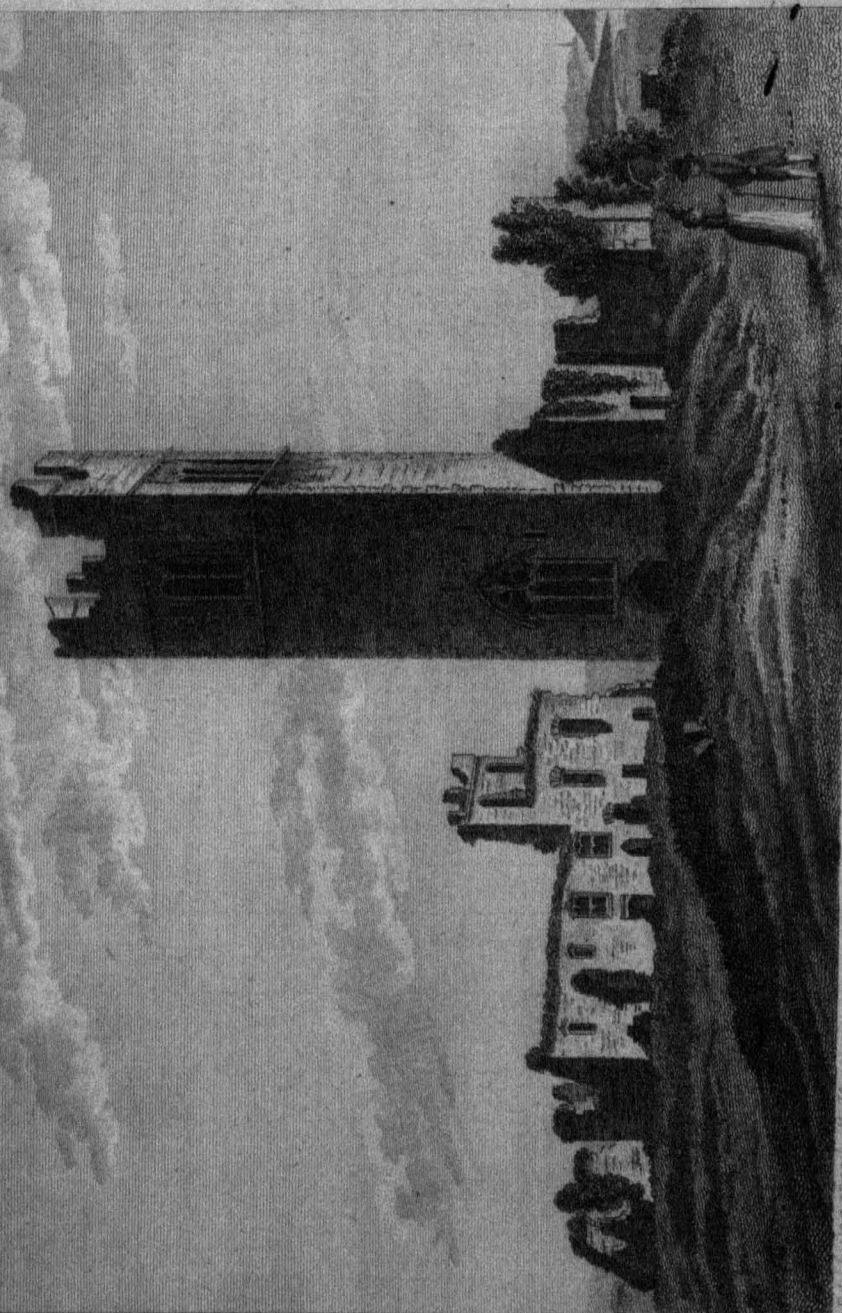


and part of the archivolt of the old church of Kilcullen, in the county of Kildare. Time has unfortunately destroyed every literary memorial of these venerable fabricks. They are both beautiful Saxon arches, enriched with Saxon ornaments. The O'Briens, Princes of Limerick and Thomond, founded many religious houses before and after the arrival of the English, in the county of Clare, and were the only Irish family that warmly promoted ecclesiastical architecture: of this the Monasticon Hibernicon bears witness. This was at the latter end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th century. Disert Church was probably erected about this time, before the Gothic style became fashionable. I am of opinion that the arch at Kilcullen is of the same date—because in 1319, Maurice Jakis, a Canon of the Church of Kildare, built a bridge over the Liffey, about a mile north-west of the old town, which soon gave rise to a new town, and the decay of the old.



DESCRIPTION OF PLATE IV.

- Fig. 1. Difert Church, Co. Clare.
- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Doors, windows, and capitals in the Abbey of Cong, Co. Mayo.
- 8, 9, 10, 11. Doors, windows, and consoles in the Abbey of Ballintubber, Co. Mayo.
- 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. Pillars, consoles, and capitals in the Castle of Ferns, Co. Wexford.
- 18, 19. Door and window in the Abbey of Clonmines, Co. Wexford.
20. Great window in Boyle Abbey, Co. Roscommon.
21. Arches of the cloysters of Sligo Abbey, of mountain stone. The pillars are all of the form of A, except three of the form of B. and two of C.
- 22, 23. Door and window of the Abbey of Rosserick, Co. Mayo.
- 24, 25. Windows in the Abbey of Dromahaire, Co. of Leitrim.
- 26, 27. West window and door of Dunbrody Abbey, Co. Wexford.



SLANES ABBEY. Co. Meath.

Engraved by J. G. H. 1793

ANTIQUITIES OF IRELAND, &c.

SLANE ABBEY, COUNTY OF MEATH,

THIS abbey, which is situated six miles west of Drogheda, on the north side of the Boyne, was, in the time of Hugh de Lacy, a considerable town, being one of the boroughs in his palatinate of Meath. Regular canons of St. Austin were settled here in the 7th century. Here, if we believe tradition, Dagobert, king of Austrasia, was educated. Henault says,—*Sigebert laissant un fils nommé Dagobert, qui il recommande à Grimoald, celui-ci fait couper les cheveux à Dagobert, & le fait conduire en Irlande.*—This country, as I have elsewhere shown, was then the mart of literature to the western world, and held intercourse with France.

THIS abbey was frequently pillaged during the Ostman power in this kingdom; but in the year 946 they received a signal defeat in this town, in which Blacar and 1600 of his best troops fell. The English, with Mac Morrogh, king of Leinster, burnt and sacked the town, A. D. 1170.

IN 1512 the abbey was re-founded by Christopher Fleming, lord of Slane, and Elizabeth Stuckle, his wife, for friars of the third order of St. Francis, as his charter evinces, which is here adduced as a matter of curiosity:

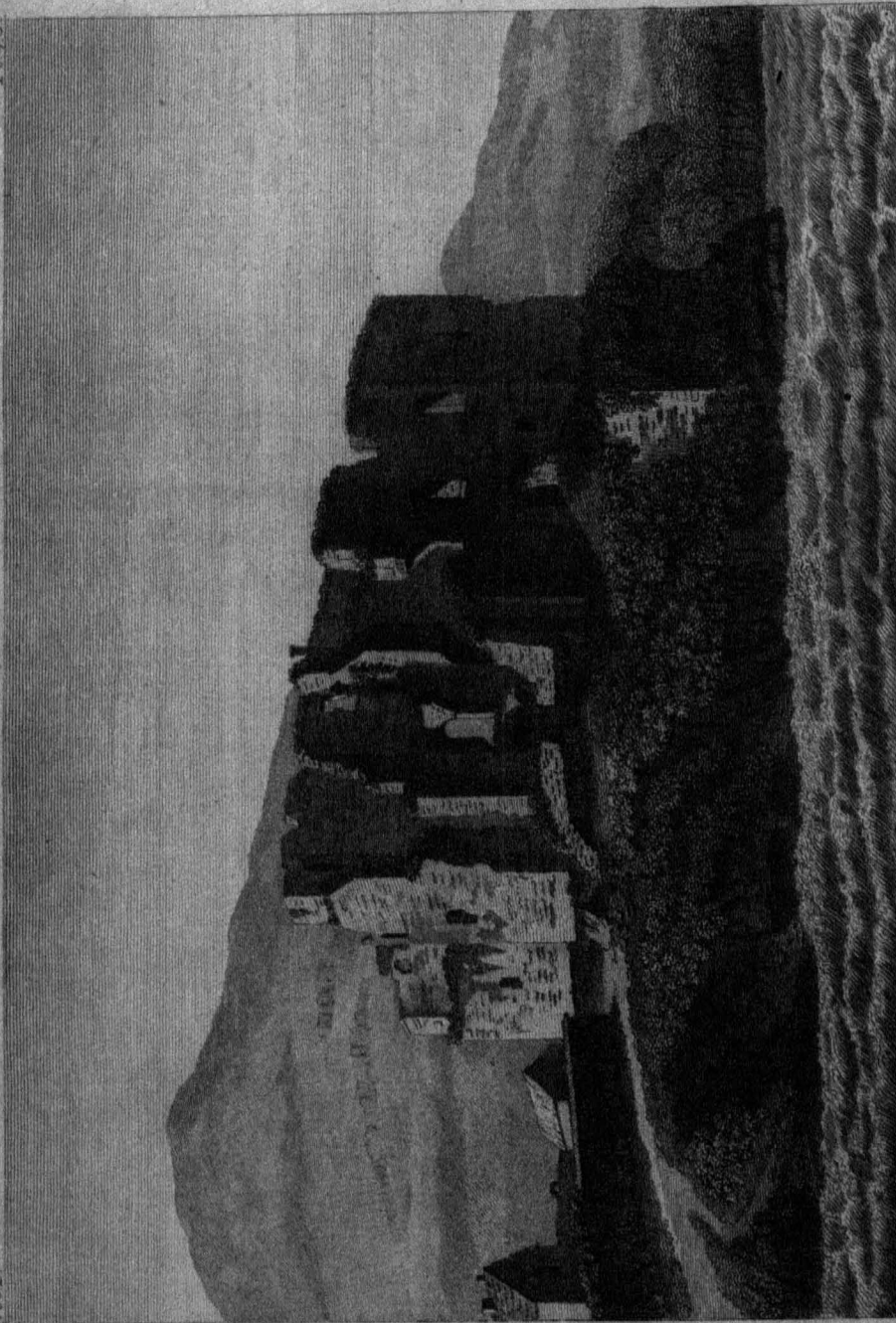
"Omnibus Christi-fidelibus ad quos præfens scriptum pervenerit Salutem. Sciatis quod nos Christopherus Fleming, Miles ac Baro de Slane, & uxor mea Elizabetha Stuckle intuitu præ charitatis intendentes salutem animarum mearum nostrorum parentum, omnium antecessorum & successorum & omnium fidelium defunctorum salubriter providere, fratribus tertii ordinis Sti Francisci, vid. patri Maluchie O'Bryen ac fratri Donato ejusdem nationis commemorantibus, Hermitorio Sti Erci Confessoris ac Pontificis, quod jam mortificabimus & cum fratribus in puram & perpetuam elemosinam habita & requisita licentia Dom. Midie, cæterorumque quorum intereret, pro præfenti dedi & concessi fratribus præfatis unum annualem redditum 40 solidorum, durante vita eorum & vel alterius eorundem de dominio nostro in villa quæ dicitur Balfetrick, et Canlogbra, habendum & tenendum, percipiendum & levandum dictum annualem redditum 40 solidorum, viz. ad festum Sti Michaelis Archangeli & Paschæ per æquales portiones. Et ego vero prædictus Christopherus & Elizabetha & heredes nostri prædictis fratribus contra omnes gentes & suis successoribus ejusdem ordinis warrantizabimus & in perpetuam defendemus. In cujus rei testimonium sig. illa nostra posuimus. Datum ultima die Augusti, Anno Domini 1512, & Anno regis Henrici octavi 4to."

IN 32 Henry VIII. the prior of Slane was seized of a church, belfry, dormitory, garden, and two closes, containing one acre, of the annual value of 18s. And in three years after, the same king granted to James Fleming, knight, this friary, at the annual rent of one penny Irish; and in three years after it was re-granted to James, lord Slane, at the same rent.

THE ruins at present consist of a large chapel and a lofty belfry at the west end; there is also a handsome ramified window.

THE hermitage of St. Erc lies at the south of the town, and takes its name from the first bishop of Slane; who, the Legend says, was consecrated by St. Patrick, and died A.D. 514. In 1512 Malachy and Donat O'Brien were two hermits who resided here; but they were removed from the antient hermitage to the new friary, as appears by the foregoing charter.

THE Right Honourable William Conyngham has here a beautiful
seat;



Engr. July 18 1793 by M. Hooper. N. 212 High St. London.

CARLISLE CASTLE. CO. LOUTH.

Sparrow

seat, in improving which no expence has been spared. He has happily united elegance, taste, and magnificence in his designs.

THIS View was drawn by T. Cocking, anno 1791; and that of the hermitage from an original drawing by Barralet, in the collection of the Right Honourable William Conyngham.

KING JOHN'S CASTLE, CARLINGFORD.

CARLINGFORD was made up of old castles strongly garrisoned in antient times, to protect the pale against the northern insurgents. The construction of this castle is ascribed by tradition to king John, about the year 1210; but it seems rather to have been erected by Lacy or de Courcy, to defend a narrow pass at the foot of the mountains, close by the sea, where but a few men can march a-breast, dangerous rocks and a deep sea being below on one side, and very high mountains on the other, the least 700 yards perpendicular.

THE foundations are on a solid rock, the walls of the castle are eleven feet thick, and its base is washed by the sea. Its figure is triangular. A wall divides it in the centre, and the divisions of the apartments in the south end are still standing. On one side seems to have been a platform or battery, for the defence of the harbour.

In 1596 Tyrone, though he had made his submission, and given pledges, attempted to surprize the English garrisons. His son-in-law, Henry Oge, made incursions into the English pale, and endeavoured to surprize Carlingford castle.

In 1649 Lord Inchequin, after taking Dundalk, advanced to Carlingford; which surrendered, and with it many neighbouring castles. The next year it was delivered up to Sir Charles Coote and Colonel Venables.

THE bay of Carlingford, remarkable for the finest green-finned oysters, is three miles long and as many broad, and capable of receiving the largest vessels; but so full of rocks, as make the navigation dangerous, and of course is not much frequented.

THE prospect from this magnificent castle is grand; to the south-

east the bay and ocean present themselves, and on the north-east the stupendous mountains of Mourne raise their lofty heads.

THIS View was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

ABBAY OF CARLINGFORD.

A MONASTERY for Dominicans was founded here in 1305, by Richard de Burgh, the red earl of Ulster, and dedicated to St. Malachy, whose festival is celebrated the third of November.

IN 1671 contests had arisen between the Dominicans and Franciscans, about their convents and the limits attached to them, which were submitted to Oliver Plunket, the titular primate; who decreed, that the friars of Carlingford monastery should freely beg and procure alms throughout the diocese of Armagh.

34 Henry VIII. the prior was seized of a church, belfry, chapter-house, dormitory, and other buildings; a park, close, seven messuages, a water-mill, in the vill of Carlingford, of the annual value of 4l. 6s. 8d. This friary and its appurtenances were granted to Nicholas Bagnel without rent.

THIS church is at the south side of the town; and consists of two long chapels, divided by a square belfry, supported by a lofty arch. South is a small ruin, probably a chapel. The west end of the monastery has two square towers on each side, and a small turret in the centre. On the summit of a neighbouring hill is a spacious burying-ground, and a church adjoining it. Ivy, which covers these ruins, gives them a romantic wildness.

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



CARLINC FORD ABBEY, CO. LOUTH.



S.W. VIEW of DILLIFONT ABBEY, CO. LOUTH PL.

ABBAY OF MELLIFONT

Is built in a valley five miles from Drogheda, and one and a half from the river-Boyne. It was founded in 1142 by O'Carrol, prince of Uriel, for Cistercians; St. Bernard furnishing monks from his own abbey of Clairvaux, in France. The fame of St. Bernard and the sanctity of the monks soon procured it ample possessions and a seat for the abbot in parliament. In 1192 Dervorgilla, wife of Tigernach O'Rourke, died and was interred here. She was daughter of O'Malaghlin, king of Meath, and had been basely ravished by Mac Murrough, king of Leinster; for which he was expelled his kingdom, and obliged to fly to Henry II. for protection; who, under show of assisting him, invaded Ireland, and it at length became subject to the British crown.

IN 1351 Edward III. finding that almost the whole wealth of the kingdom coming into the hands of ecclesiastics, and that it was sent abroad to the pope, and to aggrandize foreign seminaries, forbid the clergy not to depart Ireland, or carry any sums of money with them. Reginald, abbot of Mellifont, was, by a jury, found guilty of collecting money, and sending 332 florins to the abbey of Clairvaux.

RICHARD Conter, the last abbot, surrendered the 10 Sep. 1540, and had a pension of 40*l.* granted for life. He had 16 fishing corraghs or skin-boats at Oldbridge, which produced him annually 13*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The whole possessions of the abbey, which were very great, amounted yearly to 315*l.* 19*s.* and were granted to Sir Edward Moore, who fixed his residence here, and made it a noble seat; it was surrounded by a high wall. The grant of the privy council to Sir Edward Moore, of Mellifont, runs thus:

“FORASMUCH as the house and lands of Mellifont are situated near unto the borders of Ulster, and hath, in all times of rebellion, been subject to the invasion of the enemy, and is not in such times defended from burning and spoil but with such an excessive charge, as in a manner the whole commodity doth no more than bear the
expences

expences of such a force as may defend it; and that in all such times the said Edward Moore hath not shunned that place, but maintained hospitality plentifully, whereby he hath not only relieved many of her majesty's servants and subjects, but defended the same lands, and thereby given an example to others, and a relief to the whole county of Louth. And forasmuch, further as in the same instruction her majesty's express pleasure is, that consideration be had to the situation of the place, adding these words—'that the house standeth upon the Irish country, and is chargeable to defend,'—— we have condescended, and by authority of the said instruction agreed, that the said Edward Moore shall pay to her majesty for a fine of his said lease in reversion, the sum of 45*l.* current money of this realm, the same to be paid at the feast of Easter, which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1570; for payment whereof the said Edward shall, with one sufficient surety, enter into bond, in the Chancery, for the due answering thereof to her majesty's use. Given at Dublin, 1 June 1566, in the 8th year of her highness's reign.

H. Miden,

Francis Agarde.

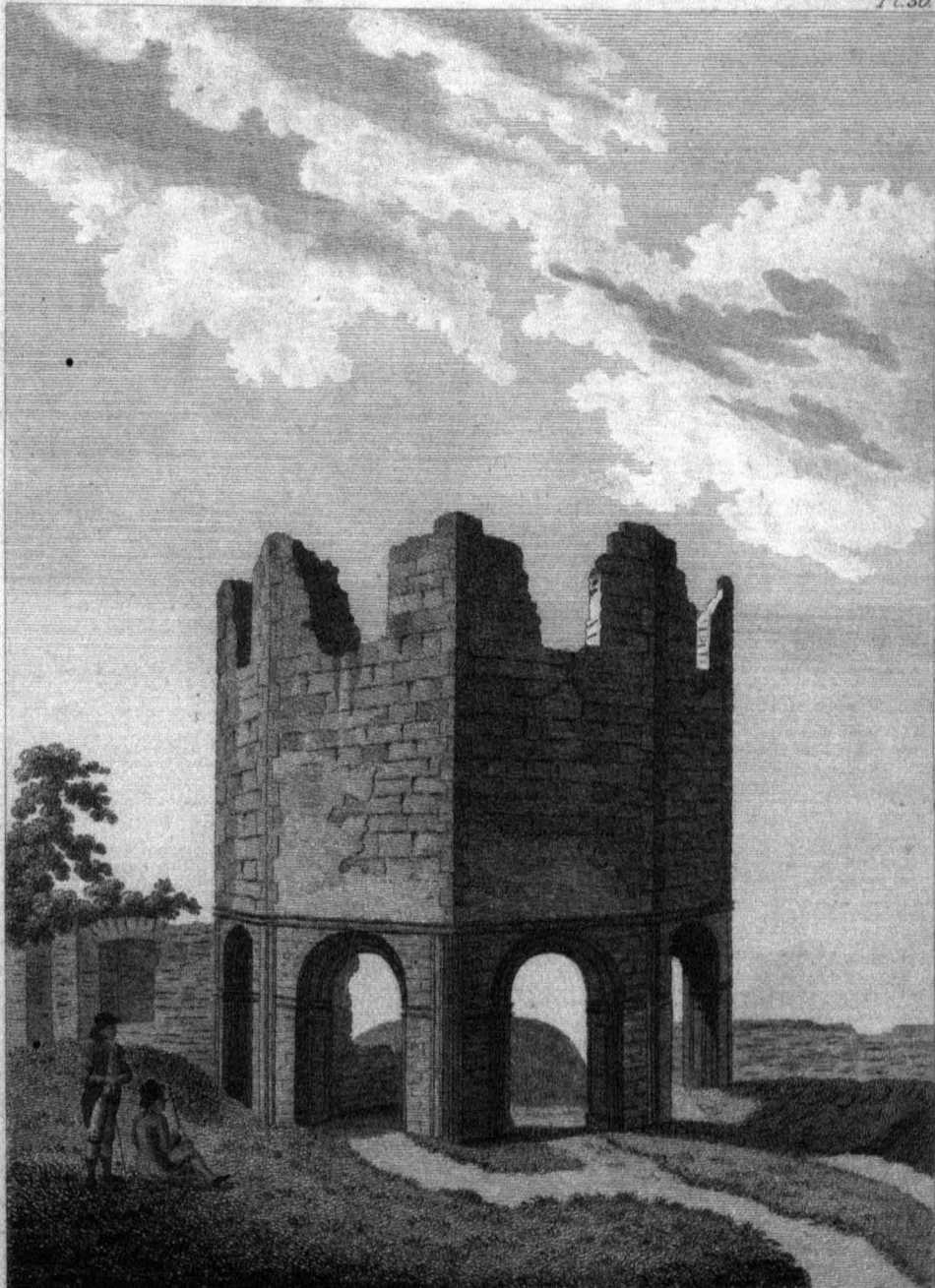
N. Bagnel.

James Bathe."

THIS View, which represents the north-west aspect, was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

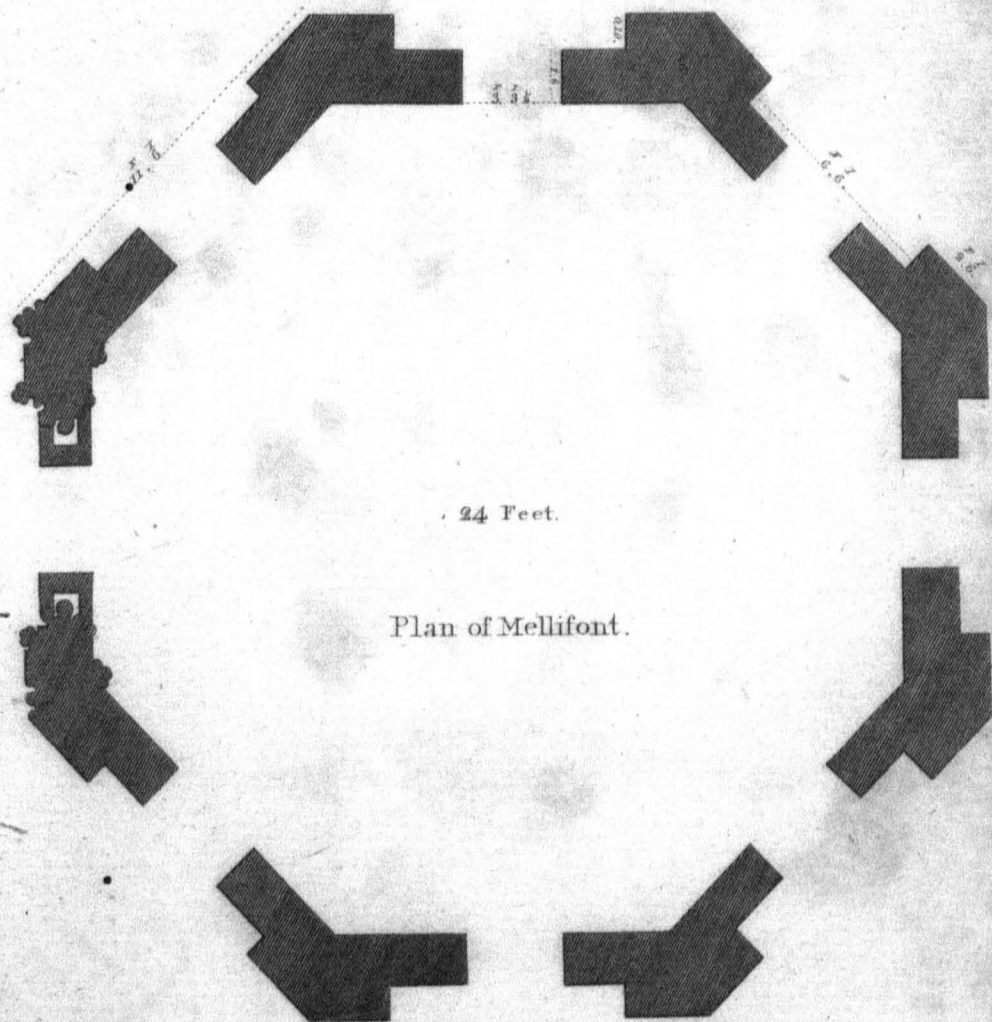
(PLATE II.) THE place, seated on the borders of the pale, was strongly fortified, though little is to be seen in what now remains; it frequently resisted the enemy in the Irish wars. In 1641 the Irish sat down before Mellifont with 1300 foot; but lord Moore stationed there 24 musketeers and 15 horsemen, who bravely defended it as long as their ammunition lasted. The foot surrendered; but the horse charged vigorously through the enemy, and arrived safe at Drogheda. Even since Wright described Mellifont in 1758, the Gothic door-way of blue marble, its gilding and ornaments, and the octagonal baptistery are not now to be seen; only four sides of the latter remain. Some chapels, a few arches, and pillars convey a faint idea of the original state of this magnificent pile.

THIS

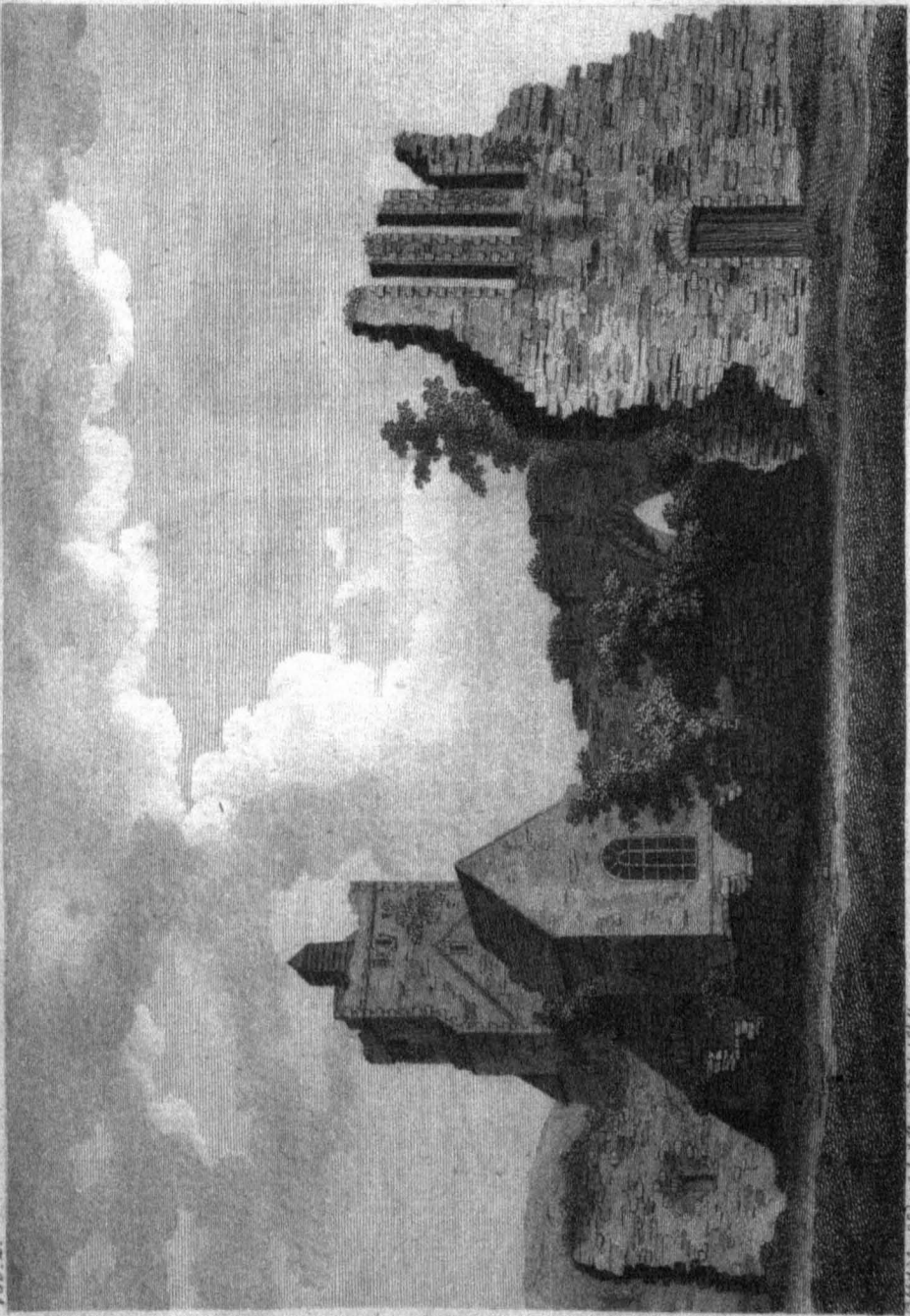


Engr. by Stoopor in 1790.

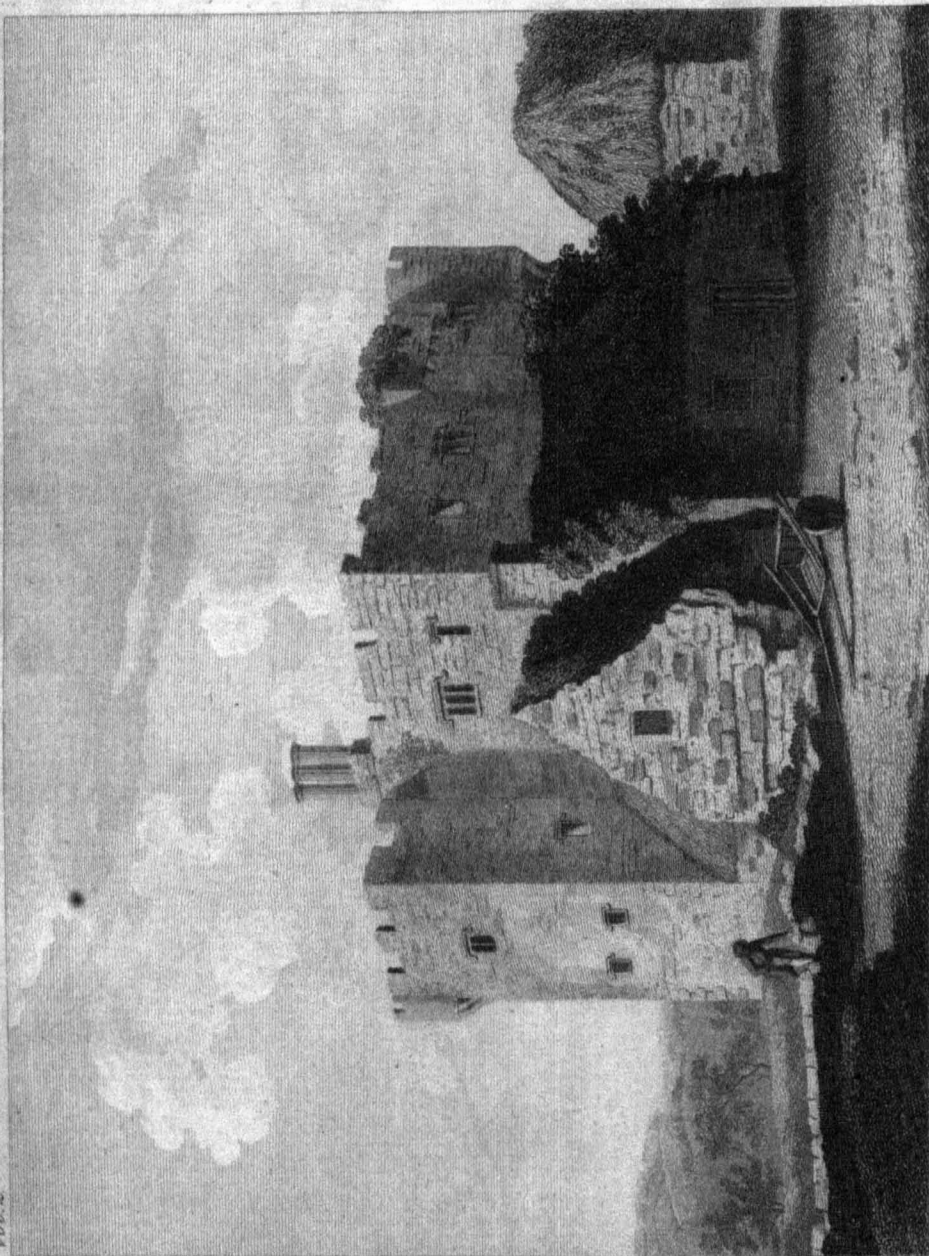
MELLIFONT ABBEY Co. Louth. Pl. 2.



Plan of Mellifont.



Engraved from a drawing by J. G. Thompson, 1852, by J. G. Thompson



CARNEW CASTLE, COWICKLOW.

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

ABBAY OF BALTINGLAS.

DERMOD Mac Murrough, king of Leinster, founded this abbey for Cisterians in 1148 or 1151. The abbot was mitred, and sat in parliament. King John confirmed its lands, and granted others, and particularly a salt-pit at Arklow. In 1185 Albin O'Molloy was abbot; in a sermon which he preached in Christ Church, Dublin, he inveighed bitterly against the debauched Norman clergy, had vitiated the probity and innocence of Irish ecclesiastics. He was after bishop of Ferns.

JOHN GALBALLY, the last abbot, surrendered the 15th of December, 1537, and had a pension. A grant was made the 33d Henry VIII. to Thomas Eustace, viscount Baltinglas, of the abbey and its possessions; and another, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Henry Harrington, knight. The abbey stood on the banks of the river Slaney, which runs in front about 100 yards from it. There are a long ruined chapel, a belfry, and a lofty plain east window. Not far is Baltinglas castle, in good repair and inhabited.

THIS View was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792

CARNEW CASTLE

Is situated in the town of Carnew, and belonged to the O'Tooles, a powerful sept; who, secured in their fastnesses, defied for many centuries the power of the English.

THE castle is built of a bluish stone and good workmanship. At present there is nothing but its walls. There are turrets, on consoles, on two of the angles. In digging near the walls, the skeletons of several men were discovered, with musket-barrels near them, some loaded

loaded, the balls of which were of the common size; also a spur, with a rowel as large as a crown piece.

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

ROCHE CASTLE

STANDS on the summit of a rocky hill, and was formerly one of the frontier castles of the English pale. It commands a view of the neighbouring country to a great extent. The area within the rampart walls resembles the form of a triangle, but rather inclining to that of a semicircle; following the irregular shape of the hill, and taking advantage of the rock on which it is placed.

THE great chord, which is the front and longest side, is about eighty yards, and the versed sine is about forty. At the opposite corner to that of the main dwelling has formerly been a tower of defence, but now demolished, and under it is a sally-port.

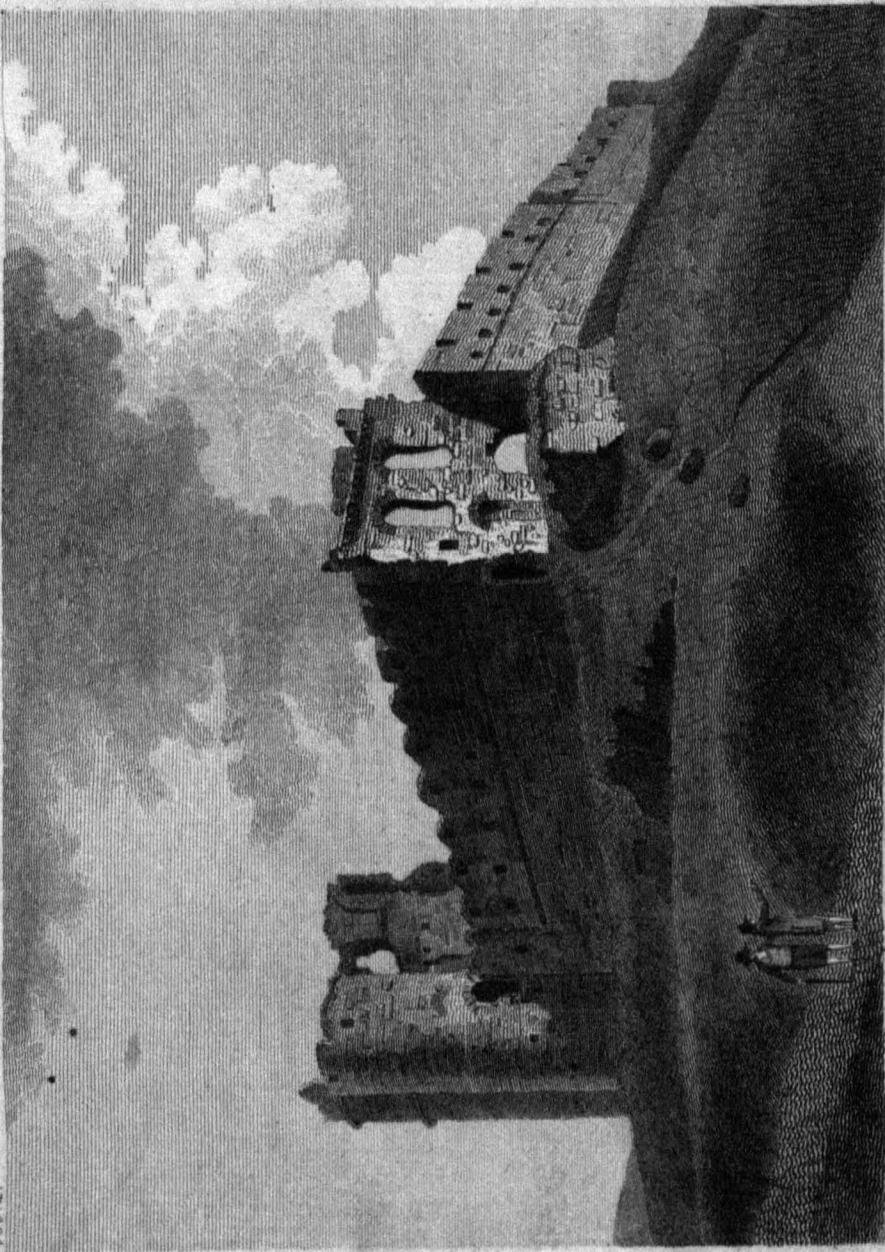
TRADITION reports, that it was constructed by a Rose Verdun, an antient English family of large property; and from her was called Rose castle, corrupted into Roche castle. In the year 1649 it held out for king Charles, and was demolished by Oliver Cromwell.

THIS View was drawn by Francis Grose, Esq. anno 1789.

CASTLE OF BALLYMOON, CARLOW.

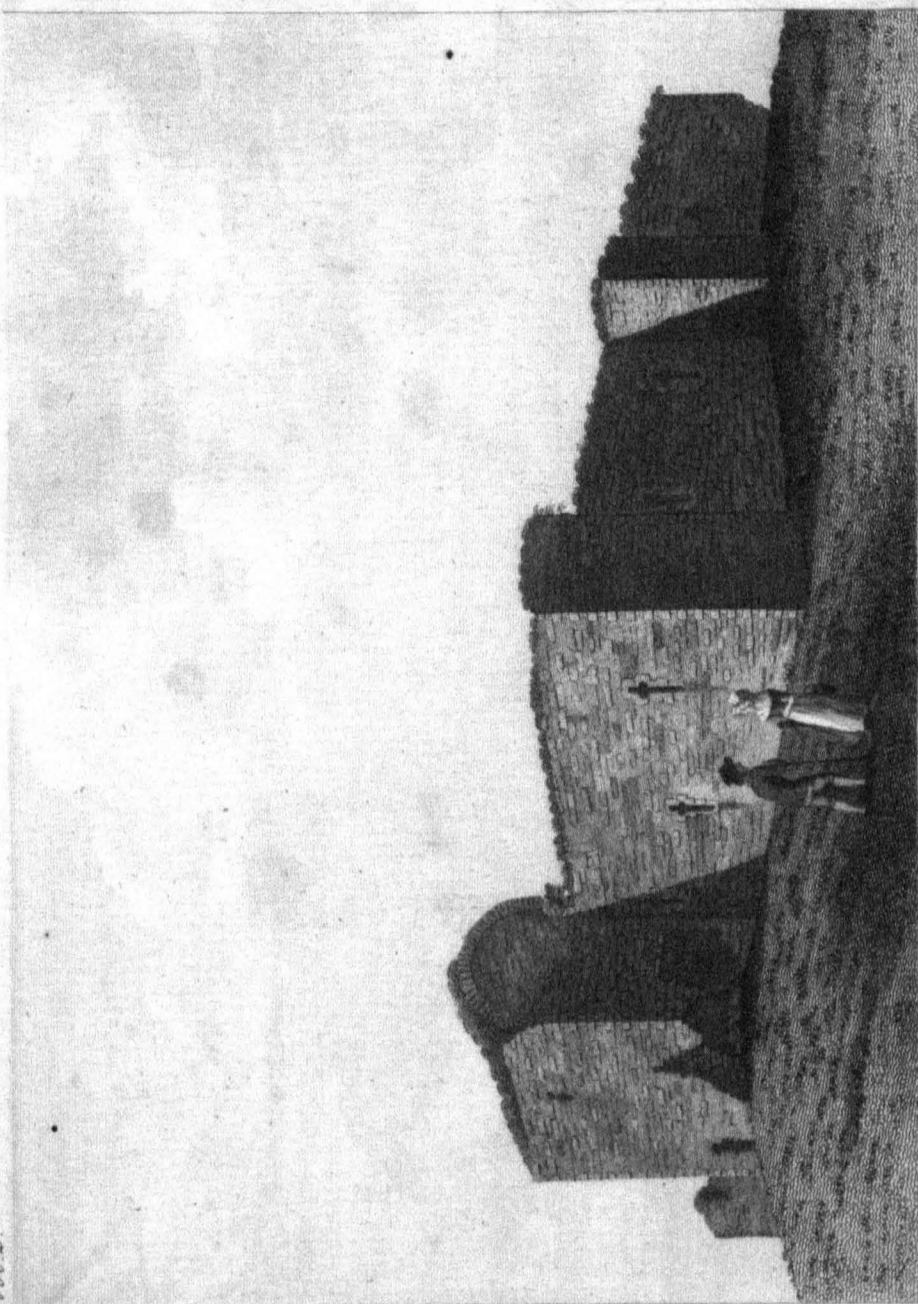
THIS castle stands in a hollow, commanded by all the adjacent hills, except on the south, where you see the mountains rise above them. The exterior walls of the bawn, and part of a square tower, in the centre of the south side, remain. The east and north sides are strengthened by a thick square abutment. The only entrance is at the west.

THE



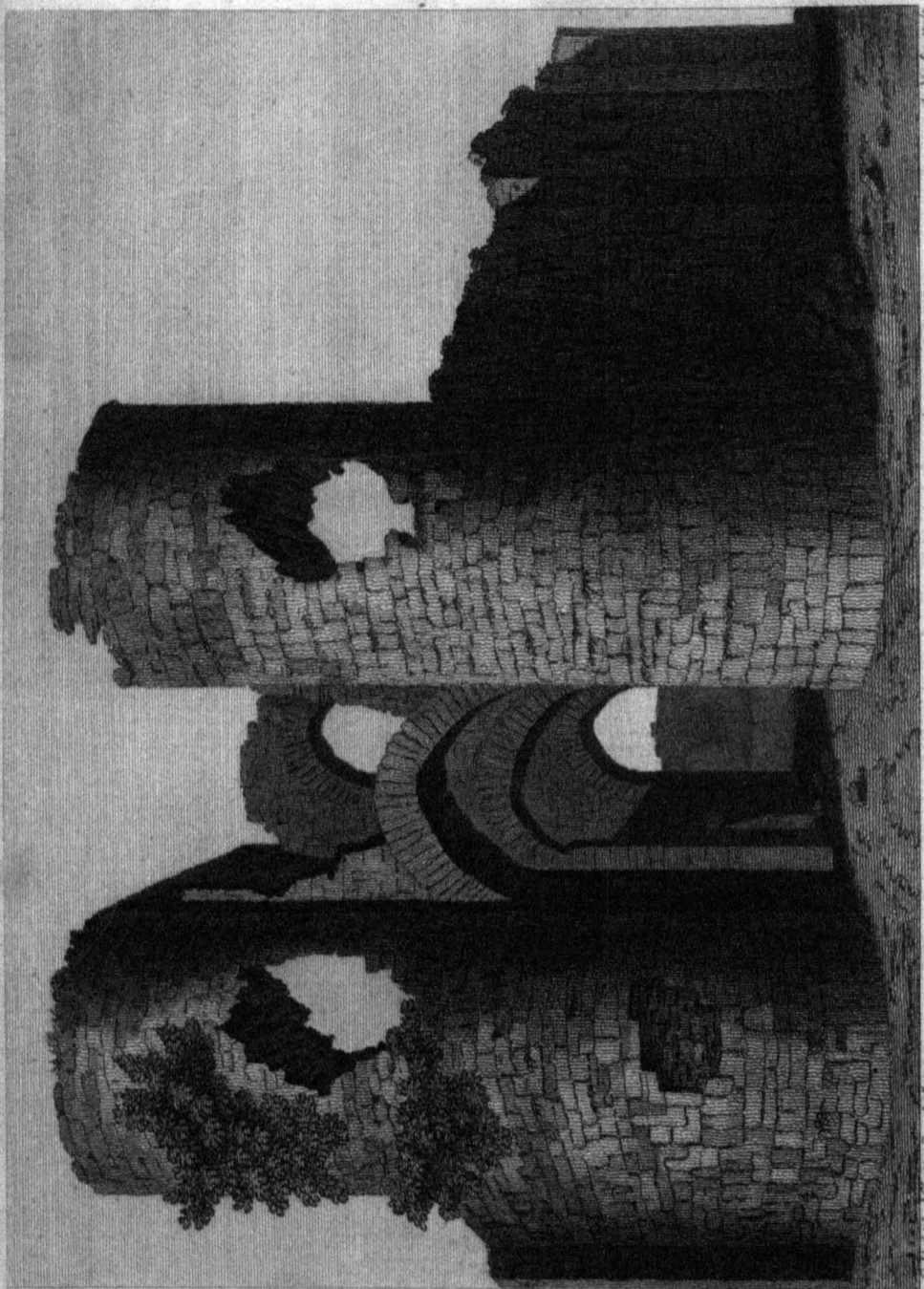
ROCHE CASTLE, Co. Louth.

Engraved from a drawing by J. J. Conboy.



BALLYMOON CASTLE, CO. CARLOW

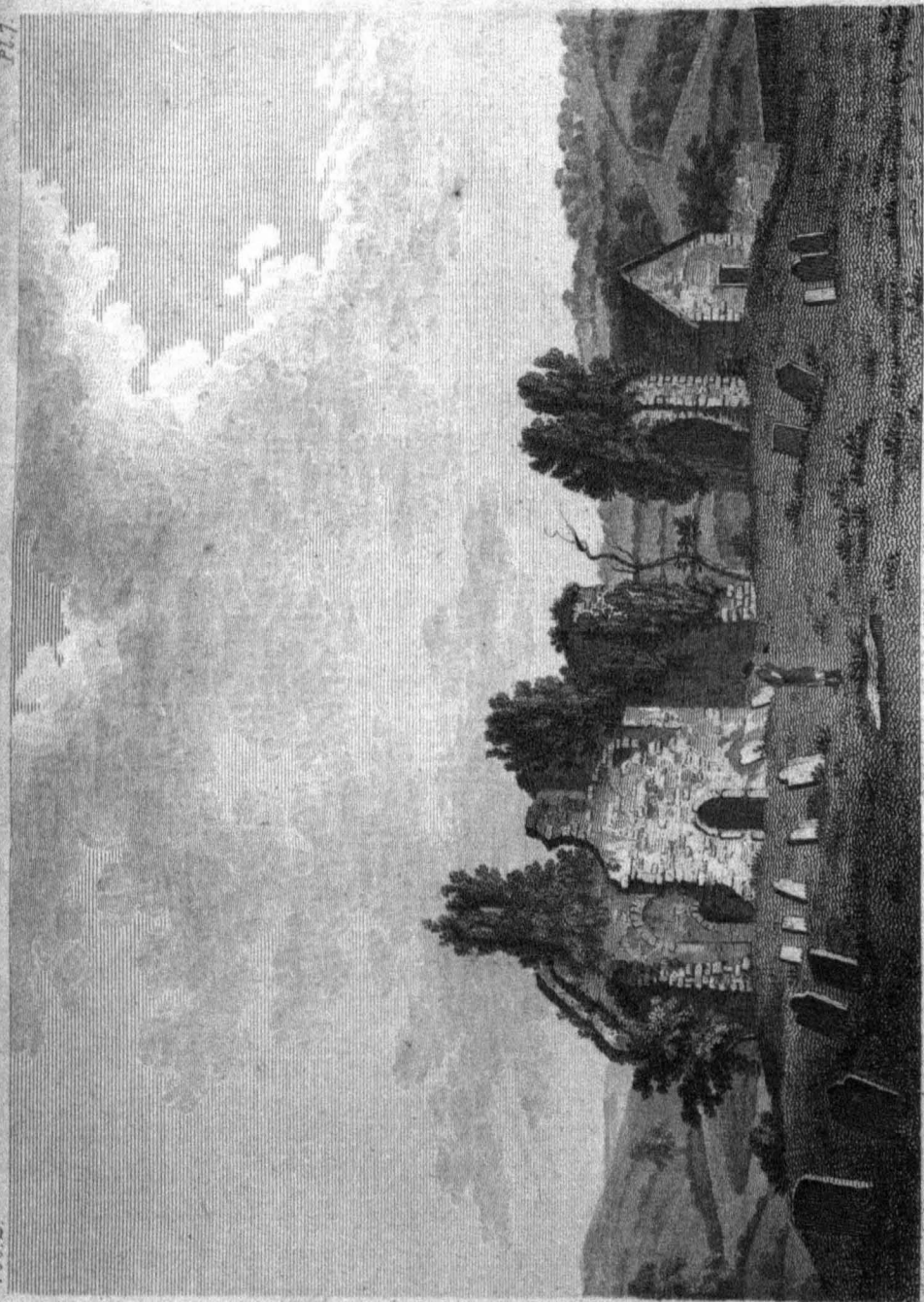
Engr. by J. Thompson del. 1794.



By James Smith

Engraved by J. Smith, August 5, 1848

BALLYLUGHAN CASTLE. CO. CARLOW.



Published Nov. 1. 1832 by W. J. Cooper Dublin.

London, 20.

CHURCH of ST. MULLIN'S, Co. Carlow.

THE walls of the bawn are hollowed into a kind of gallery, to which the light is admitted from without by loop-holes, and from within by large Gothic windows, now quite in ruins.

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

CASTLE OF BALLYLAGHAN.

THOUGH this castle is built in a low situation, it commands an extensive prospect to the westward. It is a square construction, defended at the south side by two round towers. The walls are in good preservation, as well as the divisions of the apartments, being four in number; to these you ascend by stairs.

A FEW yards to the west is a square tower, and at an equal distance at the east is another; these probably defended the angles of the bawn, which surrounded the castle.

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

ST. MULLIN'S CHURCH.

THIS is a small village on the Barrow, which gives name to the barony. This was anciently called Teighmolín, or St. Mullin's house, he having founded a monastery here, according to tradition, in 632; in which year he was made bishop of Ferns, and died in 697; his body was laid in his own church.

THE legend of his life tells us, that he was born in Hy Kensfallagh part of the county of Wexford; that he spent most of his life between Glendaloch, in the recesses of the Wicklow mountains, and Teighmolín; that he was a signal benefactor to his country, by persuading Finachta, monarch of Ireland, to remit the tribute of oxen which had been imposed on Leinster by Tuathal Techmar, A.D. 134; and finally, that he delivered prophecies, in which he

foretold many things of the kings of Ireland, their battles, and deaths, to the end of time.—*Credat Judæus apella*—

THE church was plundered in 951, and destroyed by fire in 1138. The Augustinians obtained an establishment here, and erected an abbey, which is on a hill over the Barrow; hills and mountains narrow the view from it on every side. The north part of this ruin consists of two chapels, very much decayed. At a short distance to the south is another chapel, with masses of ruins extending down to the river, not more than an hundred yards from them. Graves and sepulchral stones cover a large space of ground, the place being, by the superstitious, held in the utmost veneration, from the supposed sanctity of its patron, St. Mullin.

It was the burial place of the Cavenaghs, at present a very old and respectable family, who derive themselves from Dermot Mac Murrough, king of Leinster.

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

CLOGHGRENNAN CASTLE.

THIS castle formerly belonged to the Ormond family, but is now the property of John Rochfort, esq. In 1562 there was a Sir Edmund Butler, of Cloghgreennan, baronet; he was brother to the earl of Ormond, and his seneschal. In six years after he joined in the rebellion of Desmond; but the lord deputy proclaimed him a traitor, and took his castle.

THE Castle came into the possession of the earl of Ormond: for we are told, that in the year 1649 the earl appointed a rendezvous at Cloghgreennan, a house of his, near Carlow; where he made a junction of all the forces, Protestant and Irish, who, by the wisdom and temper of the principal officers, mingled well enough together; and towards the end of May made a body of 3,700 horse and 14,500 foot, with four pieces of cannon. About the beginning of June they marched from Cloghgreennan.



And Oct. 31. 1793. by H. Hooper. W. & A. English. Dublin.

Midland. 30.

(LOUGHRENNAN CASTLE. QUEENS CO.)