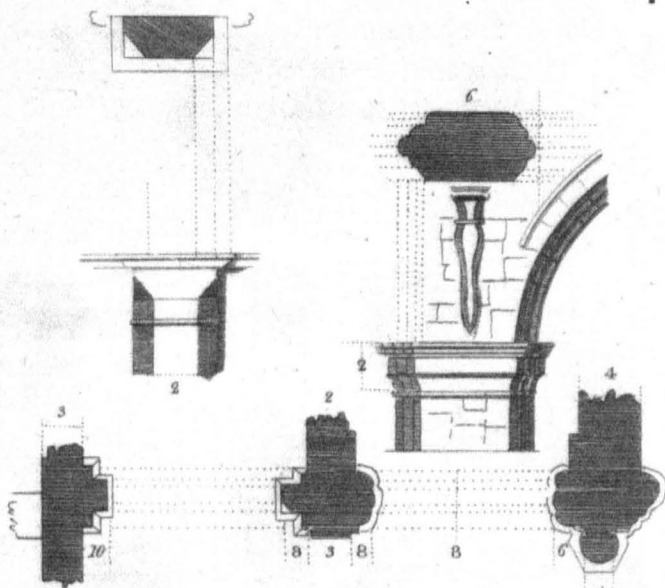
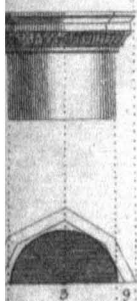


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castle. In the front of the building is another, and at the west end a round tower. In one of the rooms over the chimney-piece, under the Leinster arms, is the date 1573; this was done by Gerald, the 11th Earl of Kildare, who was wonderfully preserved after the execution of his father. In 1552, he was restored in blood and honours by Edward VI. and had that year the Lordship of Kilkea confirmed to him. He signalized himself in all the subsequent Irish wars, and was a firm support of the English Government.

THE castle of Kilkea is the property of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, and is at present inhabited.

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

BOYLE ABBEY.

MAURICE O'Dubhay founded this abbey for Cistercians, A. D. 1161; it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consecrated, A. D. 1218. In 1235 the English forces, under Lord Justice Fitz-Gerald and M'William, encamped within the abbey walls, and sacrilegiously seized all the goods, holy vestments, and chalices, and even stripped the monks. This they bitterly complained of, but do not tell the reason, which was their joining with the King of Connaught, to dispossess the English. About 1250 the abbot of Boyle was Douchard O'Daly, a celebrated poet, who excelled in the hymnal species.

THE arch rebel Tyrone had, in 1595, an army of 2300 men in Connaught, made up of Irish and Scottish Islanders, with which he besieged the abbey.

In 1603 Sir John King had a grant from the crown of this abbey, and this was confirmed by another of the 7th of January 1618, with the rights of holding courts baron and leet, and other privileges.

THIS View, which represents the south-west aspect, was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, 1791.

(PLATE II.) THE abbey was one of the finest buildings in the kingdom; it is situated at the back of the town, in the Earl of Kingston's demesne. The whole structure is uncovered, except the chancel and two side chapels; nor is it easy to examine, its parts being so encumbered with large trees, underwood, and thorns. The great arches which supported the tower were forty-five feet in height, but the ground is now so raised as to cover all the bases of the columns. One half of the arches are supported by round pillars of cut-stone, of various sizes, the rest are a group of small columns. All the spaces within these pillars are now filled up, so as to make a solid wall; this was probably done in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the abbey was converted into a place of defence. Some of the capitals are plain, others are ornamented with carving. The eastern window was grand and beautiful. The cloister has been long changed into a barrack. The stump of a round tower is near the abbey, proving it to have been an antient ecclesiastical foundation long before it came into the possession of the Cisterians.

THIS View, which represents the north-east aspect, was drawn by T. Cocking, anno 1791.

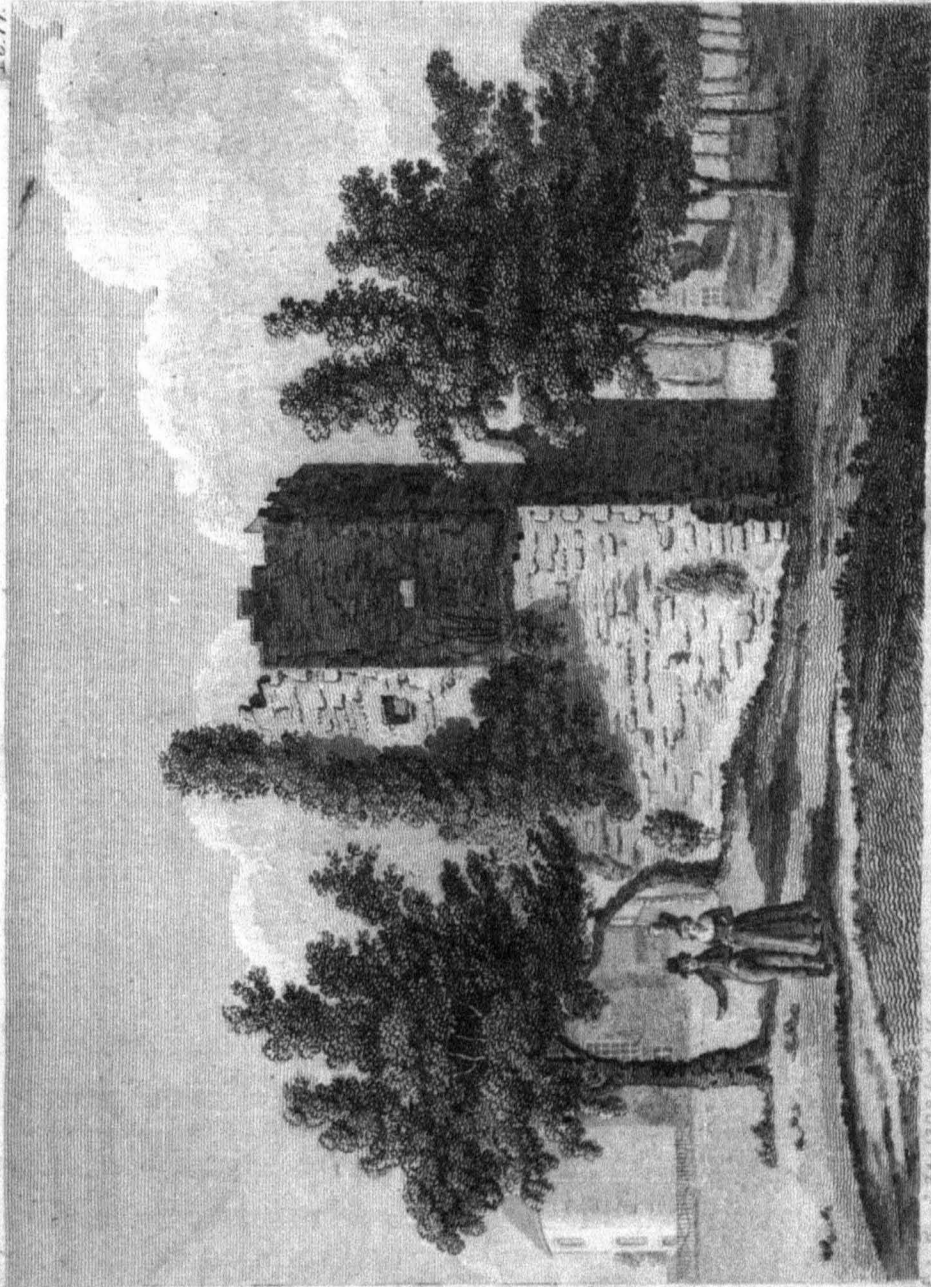
(PLATE III.) THIS represents an inside view of that beautiful structure, which was taken from an original drawing by Bigari, in the collection of the Right Honourable William Conyngham.

CASTLE COOTE.

SIR CHARLES COOTE, who had served against Tyrone and the other rebels in Ireland with distinguished reputation and success, had large possessions granted him by King James I. in Connaught, who appointed him Provost Marshal for life of that province in 1605. It was about this time he erected Castle Coote; which not only served to protect his own property, but was a curb on the sickness and risings of the natives in the County of Roscommon.

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COOTE'S CASTLE. CO. ROSCOMMON.

Engraved by J. M. 1792

IN January 1641 twelve hundred rebels, under Con O'Rourke, besieged the second Sir Charles Coote, who had succeeded to the hereditary bravery of his family, and their eminent talents for war, and also to the marshalship of Connaught; but the castle was so well provided, and the garrison so faithful and attached to their commander, that O'Rourke continued but a week before it. In March following Sir Charles took Con and most of his party, and sallying out of Castle Coote, on the camp of the rebels at Creggs, he totally defeated them, took all their baggage and provisions, and soon after seized a considerable prey at Ballynasloe, and so effectually terrified them, that he was at liberty to store his castle with corn and cattle at his pleasure.

IN 1643 the rebels, with a few ship-guns and a mortar, took Galway: elated with their success, they believed no place could long stand their attack. They immediately besieged Castle Coote, "a most painful thorn," says my author, "in their side." They had four thousand horse and foot, plenty of ammunition, and Saint Loo, an experienced Low-Country soldier, for their engineer. Galway furnished him with good, and after examining the place, he entertained no doubts of forcing it to surrender. John Burke, nick-named Shane O'Flevij, general of the rebels, sent a summons to Sir Charles, signifying that he was commanded by the Council of the Confederate Catholics to demand the delivery of the castle into his hands, for the use of his majesty; and if not given up on this summons, mercy was not to be expected, although for his part he desired not the effusion of christian blood; yet if such a paper house should be kept against him, who had such an army, such artillery, he could not, by the practice of war, be censured as cruel if no quarter was given. The enemy made a regular circumvallation about the castle; yet the garrison so nobly attacked each redoubt, as greatly disappointed the besiegers. The commander at Castle Coote had sent notice to the neighbouring forts of his situation, and requested that they would unite and extricate him. Burke having notice of this, sent out two parties; one as if going to relieve the castle, and the other to oppose it. This deception succeeded; sixty musketeers ventured out, but soon found their error; however, though attacked

by seven hundred men, they made good their retreat. While this was going forward, an assault was made on the castle, but the enemy was beat off with considerable loss; many of whom being slain, were decently laid out, and not beheaded, as was the Irish fashion; for which Burke sent the Governor of Castle Coote, a present of tobacco, then very acceptable. Soon after the rebels were driven to inaccessible bogs and woods, their usual refuge, recovering also eleven weeks pay, lately arrived. When news arrived of the cessation with the Marquis of Ormond, the enemy, more violently than before, fired at the castle; but the garrisons of Boyle, Roscommon, and other places uniting, set on Burke, who was so enraged at the conduct of his men, that he declared he would rather be captain of two hundred men in the garrison of Castle Coote, than general of the three thousand he had. The cessation was soon proclaimed, and hostilities on both sides ceased.

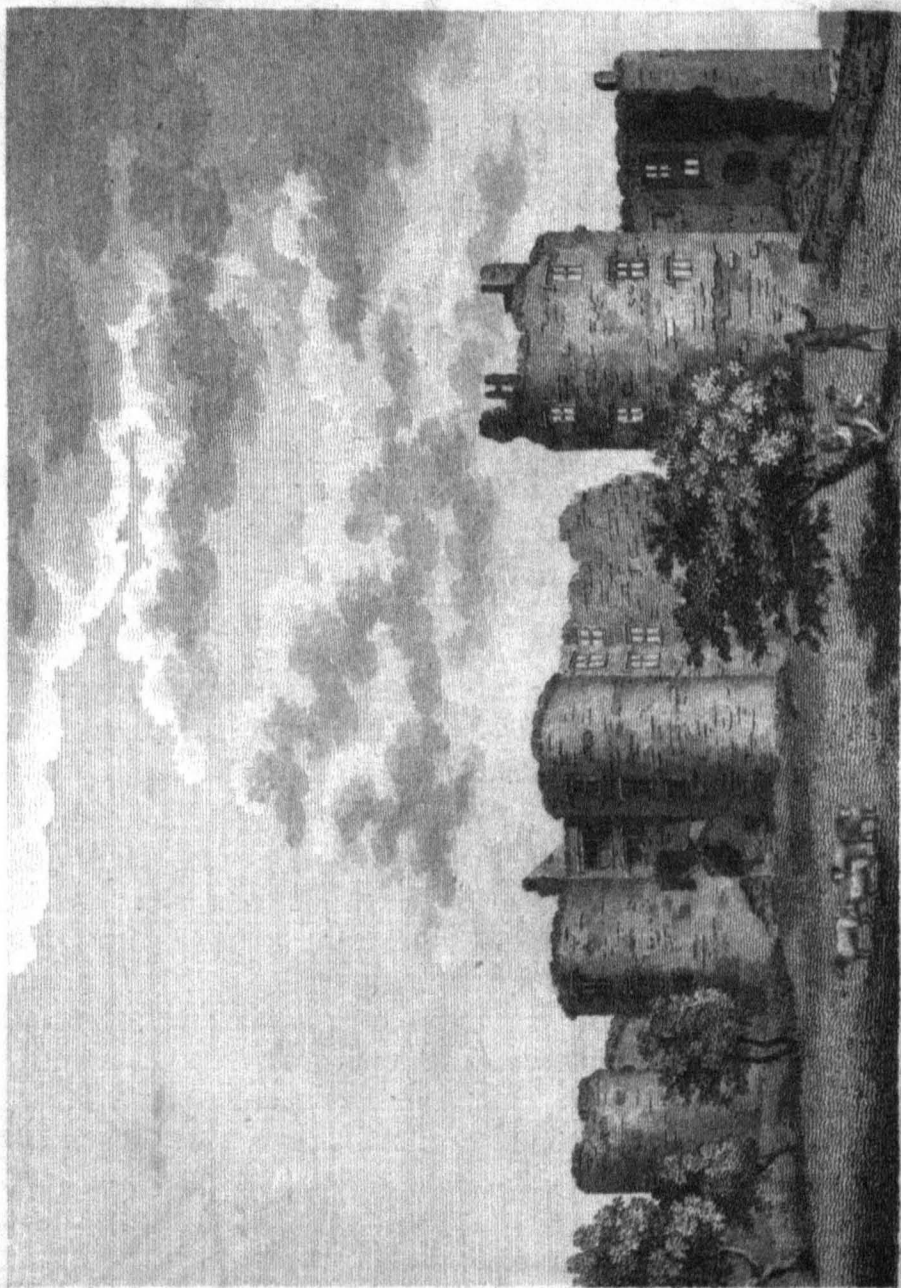
THIS View was drawn by T. Cocking, 1791.

ROSCOMMON CASTLE.

SIR Robert de Ufford, in 1268, being Lord Justice, began to build this castle; in 1277 Thomas de Clare and O'Brien Roe having contentions, the latter was taken and beheaded; yet afterwards the Irish drove de Clare and his father-in-law into the mountains of Sliew-Bloom, and kept them there so long, that for want of victuals they were constrained to feed on horse-flesh. To obtain their liberty, they were obliged to give hostages, to make satisfaction for O'Brien's death, and to surrender the Castle of Roscommon.

IN 1566 Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy, took this castle, which had been one hundred and forty years in the rebels' possession, and left Thomas Lefrange and twenty horsemen to garrison it. The rebels did not hold it so long without interruption, for the Earl of Kildare, who was Lord Lieutenant in 1498, took the castle of Roscommon in an expedition he made into Connaught, and strongly secured it.

THE English garrison of Roscommon, in 1642, bravely defended themselves against the rebels; however, it afterwards came into the hands



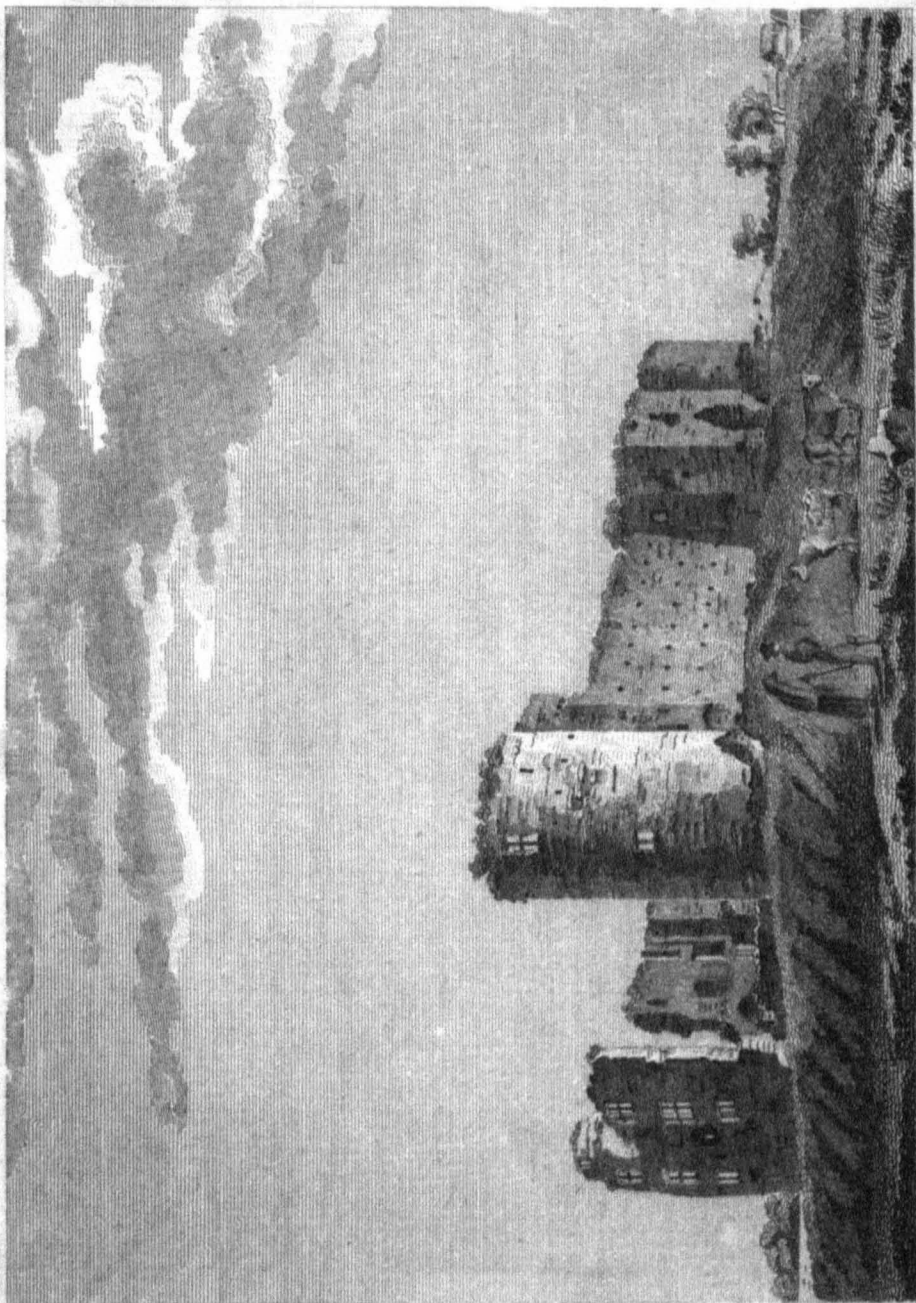
Engraved by J. Rogers Dec. 30. 1794

Printed 1794

ROSCOMON CASTLE. CO. ROSCOMMON. PL. I.

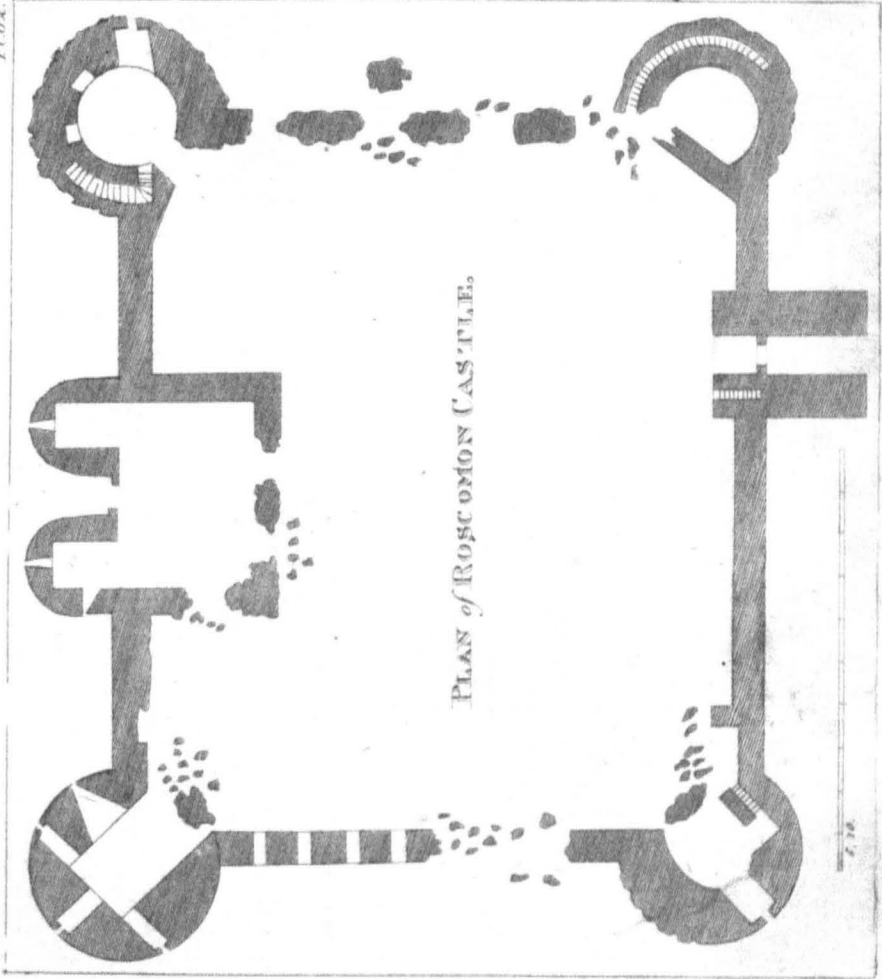
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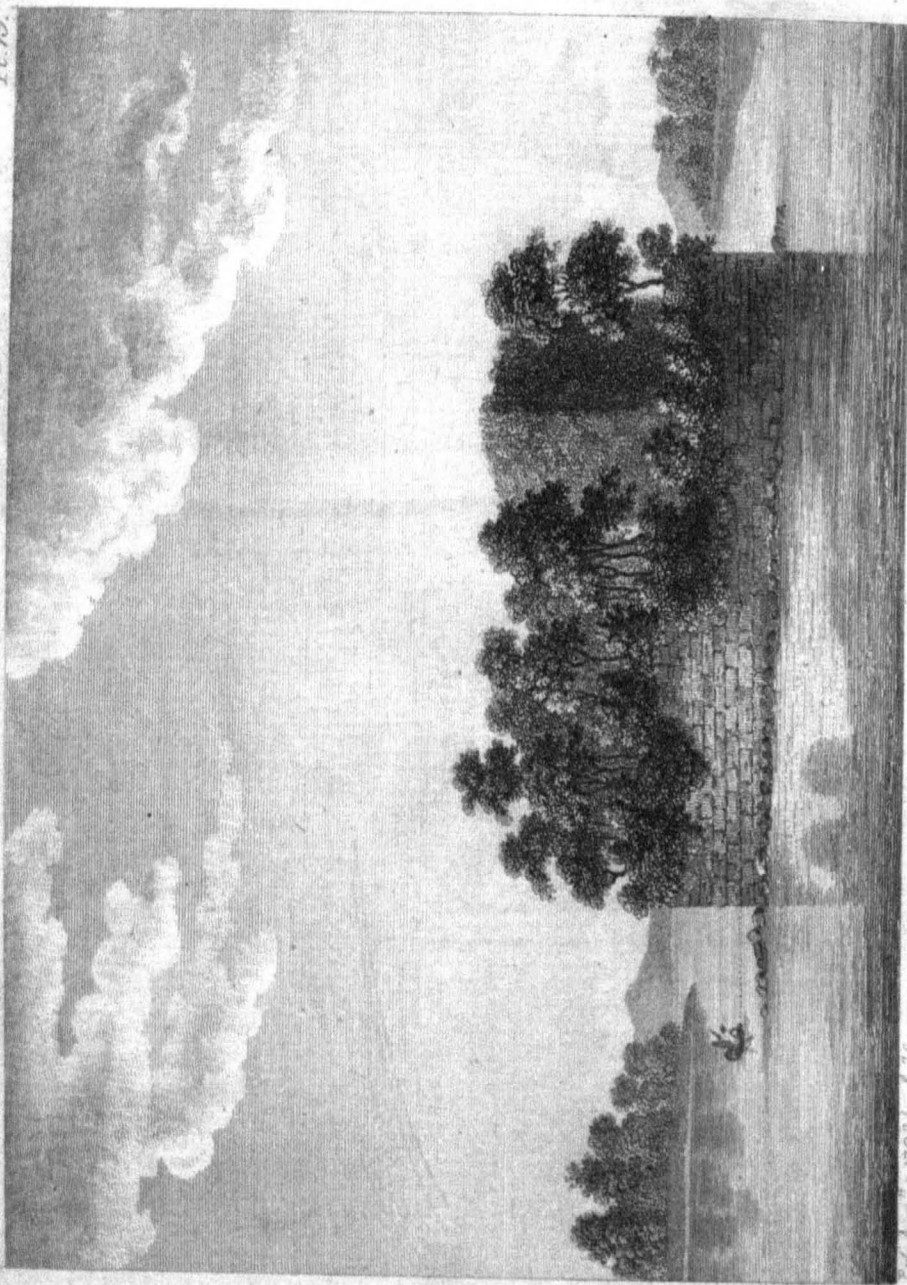
Pl. 81



ROSSCOMMON CASTLE. Pl. Co. Roscommon.

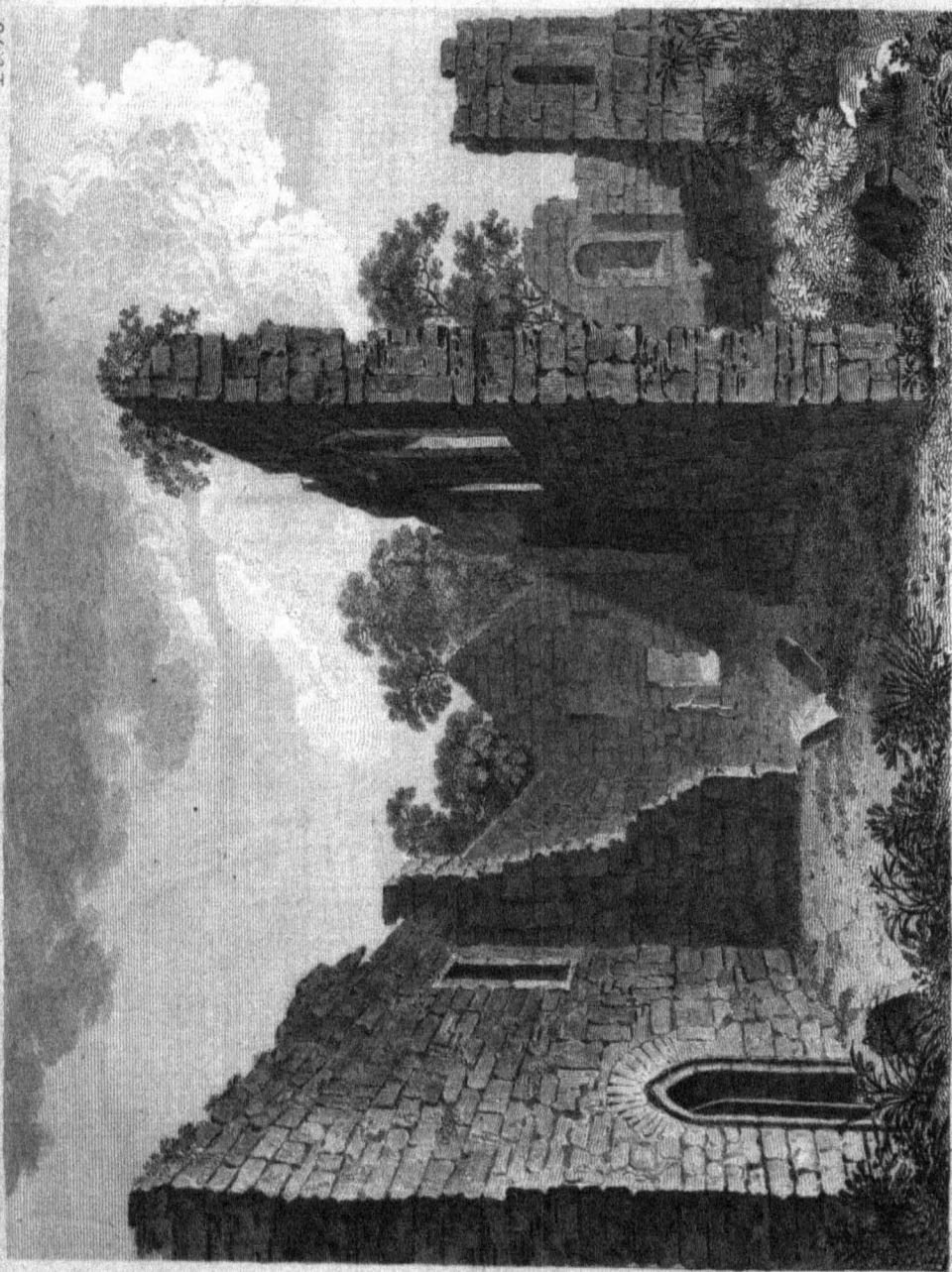
Pub. Dec. 1842 by J. H. P.





MCDERMONT'S CASTLE, CALIFORNIA.

2nd Aug. 1879 by J. Harper.



ENNIS MACREY, CO. ROSEMON.

hands of the latter, and in 1652 was delivered up to Colonel Reynolds, a parliamentary officer.

THIS View, which represents the north-east aspect, was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1791.

(PLATE II.) THIS View, which represents the north-west aspect, was drawn by T. Cocking, anno 1791.

MAC DERMOT'S CASTLE.

THIS stands in Mac Dermot's Island, in Lough Key; the island is circular and fortified with a wall fourteen or fifteen feet thick, so that there is no landing on the isle but at a breach in this wall. It contains, with much wood, a square castle, so covered with ivy that not a stone can be seen on the outside; and the inside is so ruinous, that no judgment can be formed of the mode of building or workmanship.

It obtained its present name from one of the antient Toparchs of this country, who, through jealousy, always confined his wife in this sequestered island while engaged in warlike expeditions. Her lover, however, despising every obstacle that sea and walls presented, swam frequently from the main land to visit his insular fair one.

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

ENNISMACREENY, OR ENNISMACREEY CHURCH.

THIS is situated in a small island of the same name in Lough Key. The natives call it an abbey, but the industry of the laborious Mr. Archdall was unable to discover any records of its ever having been a monastic establishment. Comparing the situation, the building, and windows with those of similar structures, it seems to me more than probable, that it was an antient abbey of Culdees.

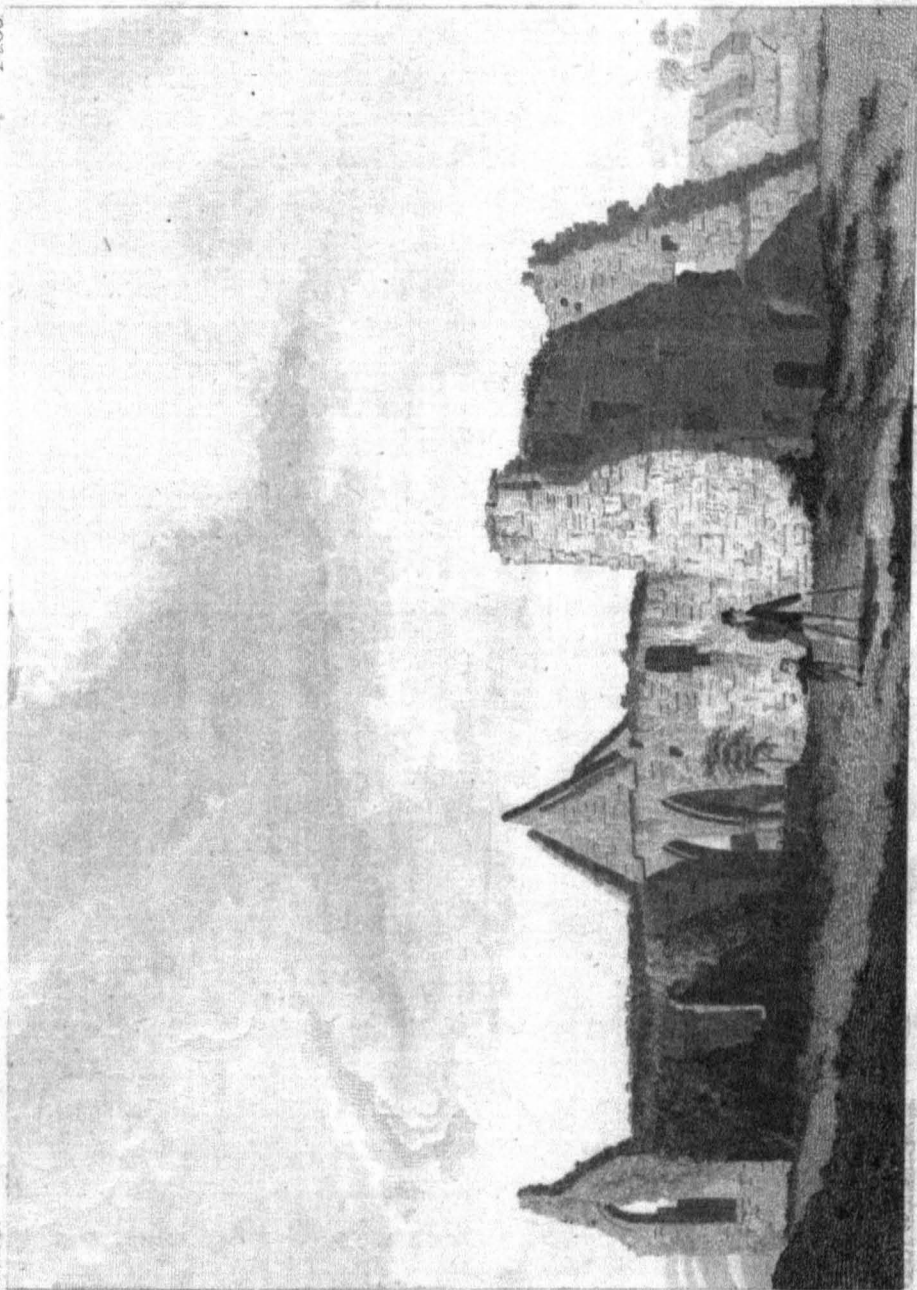
THE church is an oblong building, much ruined; it was divided into two parts, and the windows are long loop-holes. At a distance is a little chapel, with two small loop-holes to supply light. Tacitus informs us, the Batavians worshipped an island in the river Rhine. This superstition the Firbolgs, who came from these parts, introduced into Ireland; and it fell in very exactly with the practices of our Missionaries, who cultivated the ascetic life. And Gregory of Tours assures us, lakes were sacred among the old inhabitants of Gaul; insomuch that a bishop was obliged to erect a church at the head of a lake, to withdraw their affections from this peculiar error to the worship of the true God; and he concludes with the happy effect of such a procedure—" *Tunc homines compuncti & corde conversi sunt.*"—An island so early colonized, and so long possessed by northern nations, must have abounded with their civil and religious customs; and in no place are they more numerous and less adulterated than in Ireland.

AFTER the Culdees retreated from Monaincha, as is related in the Antiquities of Ireland, cited in the beginning of these papers, they constructed a small chapel, not unlike this of Ennismacreeney, and with windows exactly the same. Many other instances occur.

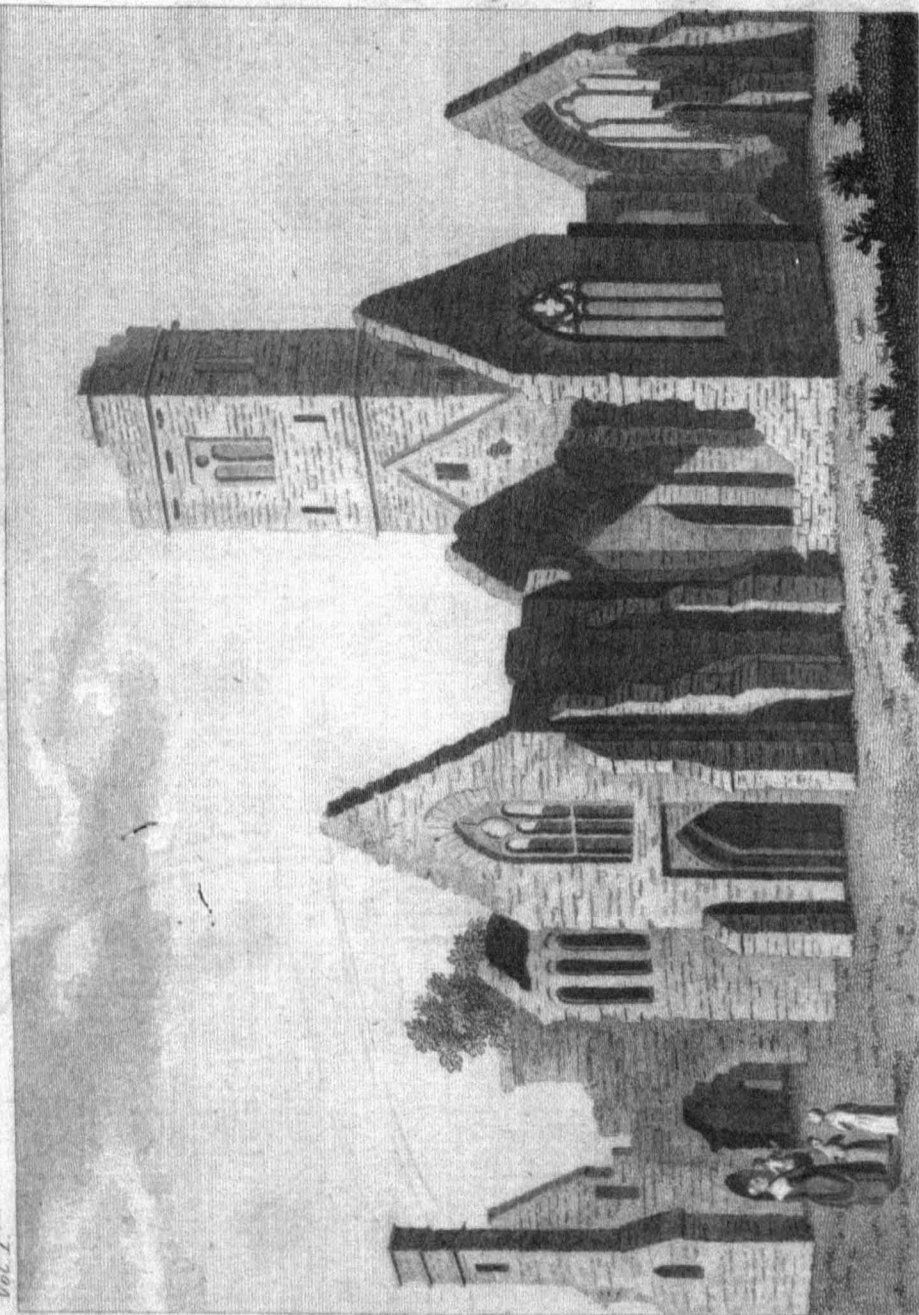
THIS View was taken from an original drawing by Bigari, in the collection of the Right Honourable William Conyngham.

TULSK ABBEY.

THE origin of this religious house is by no means clearly ascertained. Burke struggles hard to assign it to the Dominicans; and as no other order have claimed it, their right seems to be established. The Mac Dowells are said to have been the founders; but the annals of Dudley Fibus ascribe it to Phelim O'Connor, in 1448, whose kinsman built the castle of Tulske, A.D. 1406. This O'Connor was slain by a spear the same year he bestowed land for the monastery, and was interred in the church. An inquisition, of the 33d Elizabeth, finds this house in possession of certain parcels of land, part of which



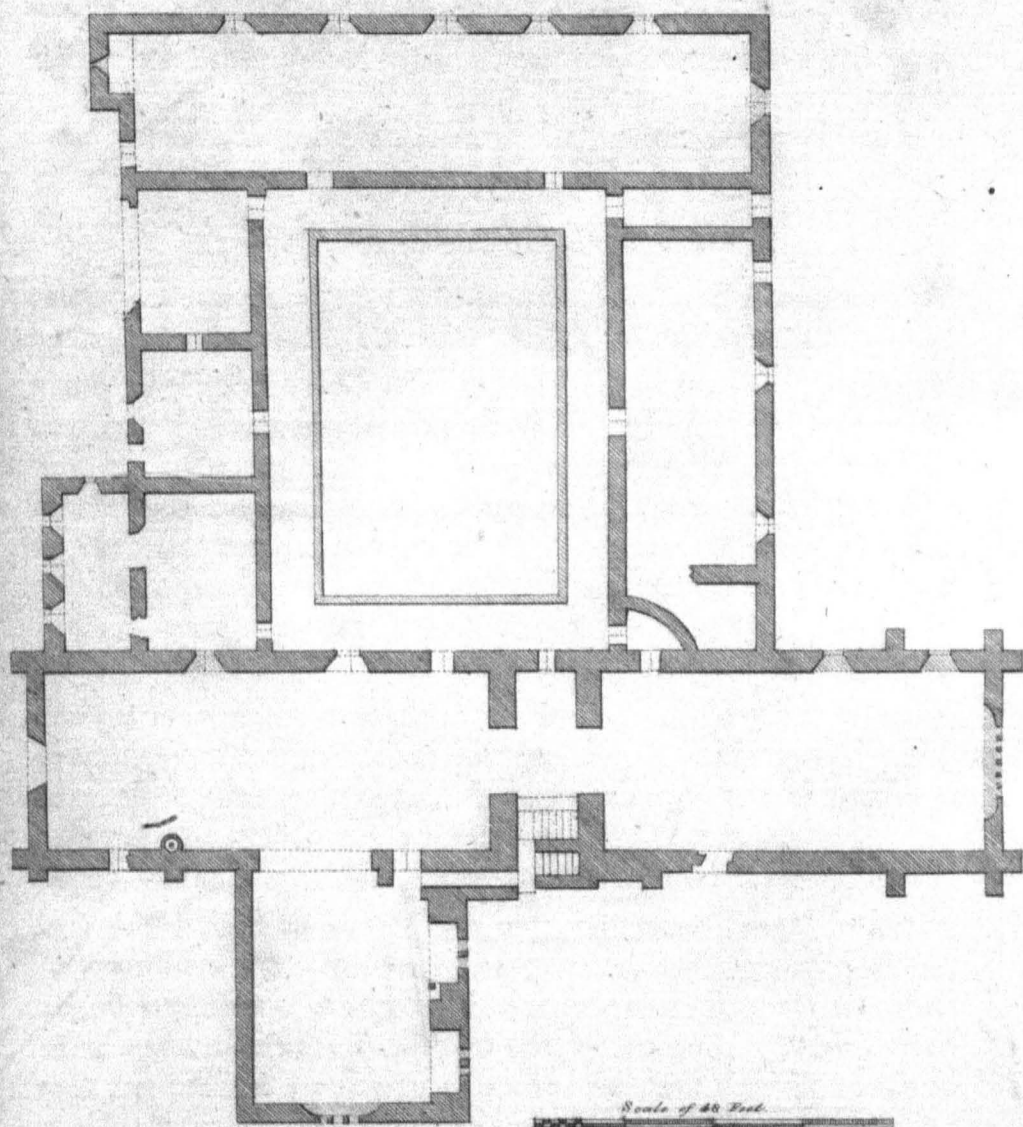
TULSKA ABBEY. COROSEMON.



Engr. by J. G. Thompson

MULLAGHMORE ABBEY, Co. Westmeath.

London.



And by Mr. Hooper N° 218 High Holborn July 16. 1798.

ABBEY of MULTIFERRIAM, Co. Westmeath.

which were in the occupation of the mayor and bailiffs of Galway, and were concealed from her majesty and her predecessors. Nothing but the walls of this monastery remains, and a strong pillar of masonry, which supports the ends of two arches which open to a chapel.

THIS View was drawn by T. Cocking, 1791.

ABBAY OF MULTIFERNAM.

A MONASTERY was founded here, A.D. 1236, by William Delamere, for Conventual Franciscans, but in 1460 it was reformed by the friars of the Strict Observance. Sir Henry Piers, who writ a description of the County of Westmeath in the last century, thus speaks of the abbey of Multifernam.

"THE frame or fabric, is rather neat and compact than sumptuous or towering, having in the midst, between the body of the church and the chancel, an handsome, strait, but very narrow steeple. After the dissolution of monasteries, it became the property of Alderman Jans, of Dublin, who, or his successors, permitted the friars to enter again and here settle, in as great splendour as ever: here, at and before 1641, they had their church, not only in very good repair, but adorned with images, pictures, reliques, &c. In the choir, or chancel, they had their organs and choristers; they had apartments, not only sufficient for their own number, but for the reception of many horse and foot at the time; here they had also all houses of offices fit to make preparation for entertainment of such as came, at all times, to visit, or otherwise to consult or debate their concerns; and here it was that the fatal rebellion, that broke out with so much fury and havock in 1641, was hatched and contrived. This abbey is at this time altogether out of repair."

HENRY VIII. granted this abbey and its possessions to Edmund Field, Patrick Clynch, and Philip Penteny, at the fine of 80l. and 4l. annually. However, by a record in the auditor general's office, we find Thomas Cusack, of Lismollin, in the County of Meath, was seized of it in the 3d James I.

THE building, as tradition reports, was committed to the flames by the Rochforts, a powerful family in this country; but the noble ruins still remaining prove it to have been of excellent workmanship, being constructed of a handsome black stone. The foundations of the cloisters may be traced; the steeple is about sixty feet high, with offsets between the stories. The east window is entire, but quite plain.

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

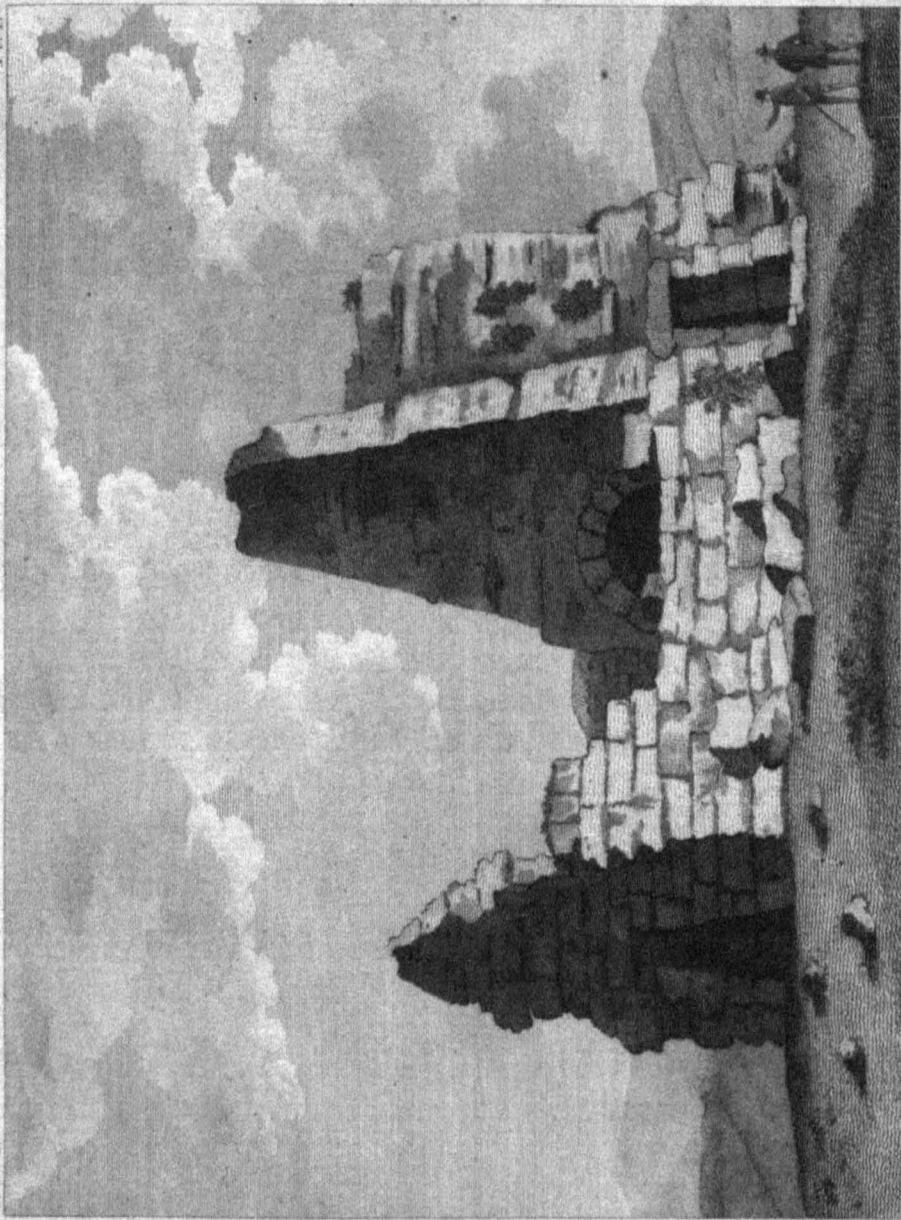
ORATORY NEAR KILLALOE.

THE Oistmen, on their conversion to christianity, in the 9th century, erected the first ecclesiastical structures with lime and stone; these were stone-roofed chapels or oratories for reliques. They are the oldest and most curious monuments in Ireland. They are to be seen at Glendaloch, in the county of Wicklow; at St. Doulach's, near Dublin; at Cashel, in the County of Tipperary; and at Portaferry, in the County of Down; and are similar to the undercroft at Canterbury, to Grymbald's crypt at Oxford, and to that of St. Wilfrid at Rippon. This at Killaloe forms a small room, and was designed for the separate admission of those who came to make their prayers and offerings to the patron Saint, St. Molua.

THIS View was taken from an original drawing, by — Gandon, Esq.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.





ORATORY NEAR KILLALUE, CO. CLARE.