

ROSCREA CASTLE, Co. Tipperary.

Pub. Oct. 21, 1792, by J. Hooper

CASTLE OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS, IN
THURLES.

THIS castle is ascribed to this military order on no better authority than that of tradition. Mr. Archdall mentions this castle as belonging to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, but could find no record to throw the smallest light on the time of its erection, or its subsequent possessors.

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

CASTLE OF ROSCREA.

THIS is a large inland trading town, in the barony of Kerrin. The Danes received here a great defeat in the tenth century. Hoping to surprize the Irish, who assembled at a celebrated fair held here annually on the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul, and to acquire vast plunder, their enterprising General, Olfin, made a sortie from the garrison of Limerick, but without success; the Irish were armed; what they wanted in discipline, they made up in numbers; the Danes were routed, and a great slaughter ensued.

IN 1170, Donald More, King of Munster, had several engagements with Roderic O'Connor, King of Connaught, in which the former was assisted by a party of English adventurers under Robert Fitz Stephen. This was the first introduction of the English into Munster. Murtoth, who succeeded his father Donal in the principality of North Munster, bestowed lands on the English, and in 1213 they built the castle of Roscrea. This was a very strong fortress, and served to defend Leinster from the incursions of the Momonians.

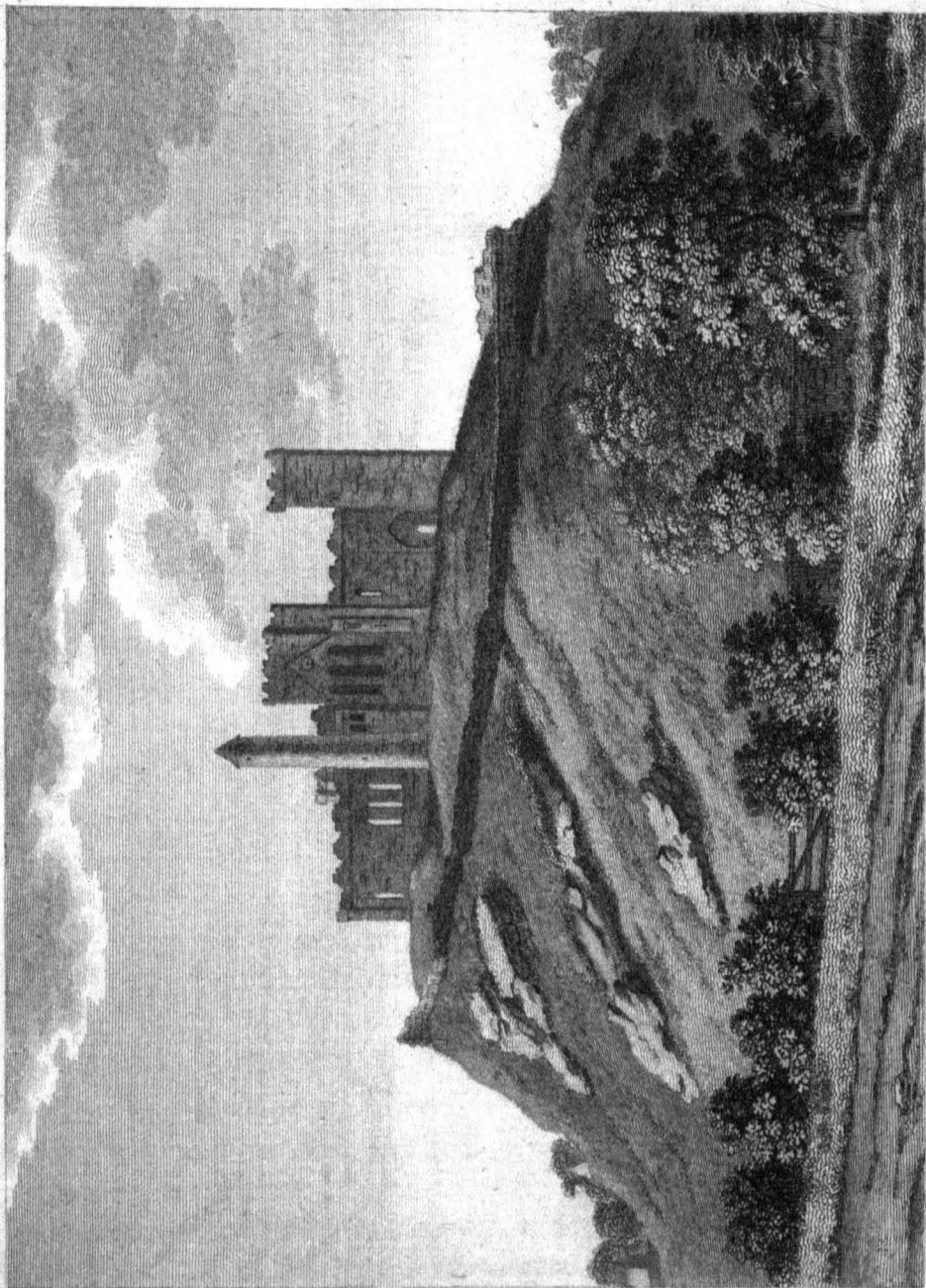
THIS View was taken from an original drawing by Fisher, in the collection of the Right Honourable William Conyngham.

CATHEDRAL AND CHAPEL, AT CASHEL.

THE rock of Cashel is considerably elevated, and in uncivilized ages was a place of great strength. As such it was chosen for the residence of the princes of North Munster, who had a palace here, and received inauguration on a stone seat or a chair; a practice introduced by the Belgic colonies, and adopted by the Irish; O'Neil, in Ulster, having such a chair at Tallaghoge, and Manus O'Donel, Lord of Tyrconnel, being solemnly enthroned on a rock near Kilmacreenan church, in 1537. The rock of Cashel was surrounded by a strong high wall, and during the reign of monachism was a fit residence for ascetics. Cormac's chapel was the first building of lime and stone on it, and was a crypt for the bones of the patron, commonly esteemed to be Cormac M'Cuillenan, Bishop of Cashel, and King of Munster; a warlike ecclesiastic, who measured his sword frequently with the other Irish princes, but at length fell on the plain of Moyailbhe, A. D. 908.

THE time certainly agrees very well with the period in which our crypts and round towers were constructed, and this church is undoubtedly one of the most curious fabricks in this kingdom. Other crypts are small: but on the outside fifty-three feet long, and the breadth within eighteen. It is divided into a nave and choir; the latter narrowing in breadth, and separated from the former by a wide arch, nine feet broad. This crypt is arched, and the columns supporting it are short and massy. Over one of the doors is an archer mounted on some ideal quadruped. Under the altar the canonized bones of St. Cormac are supposed to be laid.

IN 1134 the cathedral church was erected; but in thirty five years after it was rebuilt by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick; when Cormac's chapel was used as a chapter-house, being on the south side of the choir. This church was a good structure, for it wanted but little repairs till the time of Archbishop O'Hedian, two hundred years after, who modernized the whole. Archbishop Price, about half a century ago, thought proper to unroof this venerable edifice, and

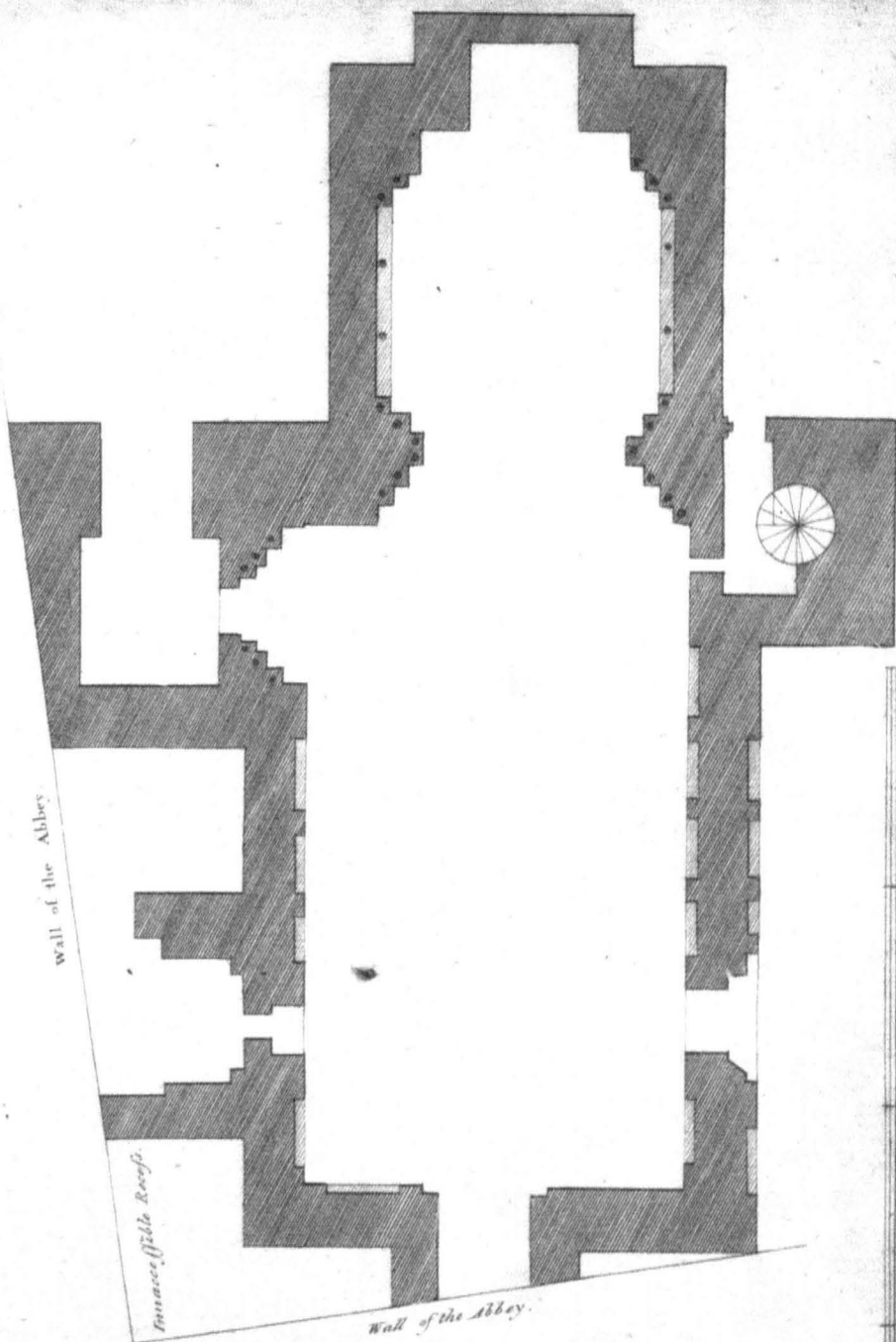


Pub. April 18 1793 by J. Cooper

CASHEL CATHEDRAL. & ROCK. Co. Tipperary.

PLAN of CORBIAC'S CHAPEL, at CASHEL CATHEDRAL.

PL. III.



and thereby precipitated its ruin. The principal monument in the cathedral is that of Miler Magrath, who was made Archbishop of Cashel in 1570. It is on an high basis, on the south side of the choir, between the episcopal throne and the altar, on which is his effigies in stone, in high relief. He has his mitre on his head and his pastoral staff in his hand. On one side of his head is carved the image of an angel, and on the other side was the same. Above his head are his arms, and at his feet the image of Christ on the cross; over which are the letters I. N. R. I. At his right elbow is St. Patrick, and on a plate is this epitaph, written by himself:

Mileri Magrath Archiepiscopi Cashelienfis ad
viatorem, Carmen.

Venerat in Dunum primo sanctissimus olim
Patricius, nostri gloria magna foli.

Huic ego succedens, utinam tam sanctus ut ille,
Sic Duni primo tempore Præful eram.

Anglia, lustra decem sed post tua sceptræ colebam,
Principibus placui, Marte tonante, tuis.

Hic ubi sum positus, non sum, sum ubi non sum;
Sum nec in ambobus, sum sed utroque loco. 1621.

Dominus est qui me judicat. 1. Cor. 4.

Qui stat, caveat ne cadat.

UNDERNEATH, on the verge of the monument, is the name of the architect—

Patricus Kearin fecerat illud opus.

THIS View was taken from an original drawing by Dr. Wynne.

LISLAGHTIN ABBEY

Is in the barony of Iraghticonnor. St. Lactan, to whom this church was dedicated, was the companion and disciple of St. Furse, and flourished in the 7th century. His memory was revived by O'Connor, Prince of Kerry, who founded here a monastery for Observantine Franciscans, in 1464. At the dissolution, this friary was granted in fee to James Scolls, at the yearly rent of 3l. 16s. 8d. He assigned his interest to Thomas Law; but they neglecting to pay the rent, the premises were seized by the crown, being twelve acres of arable land, and the collector of the county not being able to let the land for the yearly value of the rent, the premises became greatly in arrear, were set up to auction, and sold for forty shillings *per annum*. The lease being expired, Henry Rose, of the city of Dublin, having lands contiguous, proposed to give four pounds a year for it, and had a lease of ninety-nine years made to him, at that rent. The steeple, choir, and other parts of the building may still be seen.

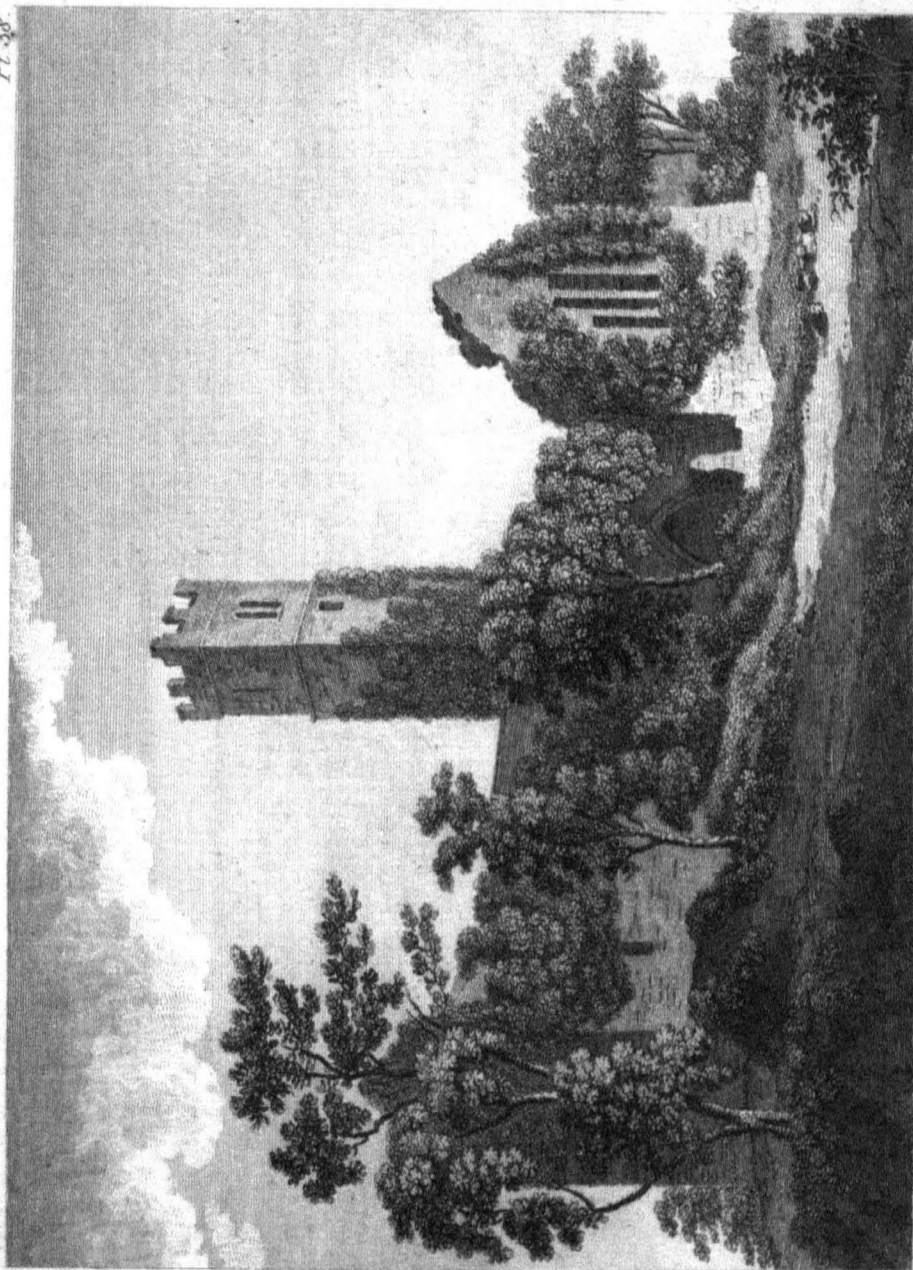
LANESBOROUGH ABBEY, COUNTY OF LONGFORD.

THIS church is commonly styled the abbey of Lanesborough, though no such monastic foundation appears in our monasticon or records. It stands at a small distance, south-east, from the town, and about four hundred yards from the river Shannon, which at the town divides the counties of Roscommon and Longford, as well as the provinces of Leinster and Connaught.

THERE are but little remains of the original building now to be seen: the belfry is standing, and part of the walls of the chapel, which some time ago were roofed, and at present serve for a church.

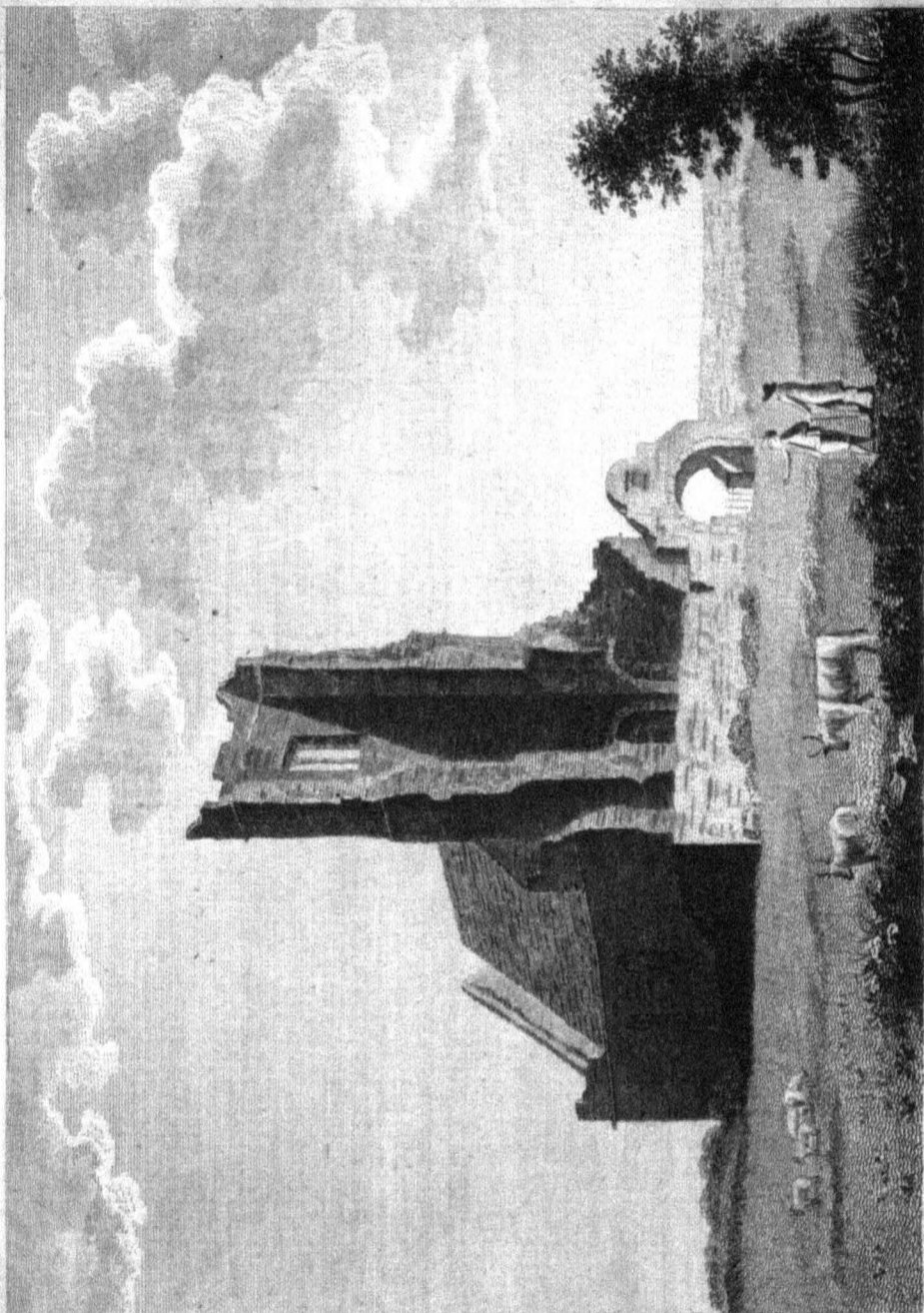
THE town gave the title of viscount to the noble family of Lane,

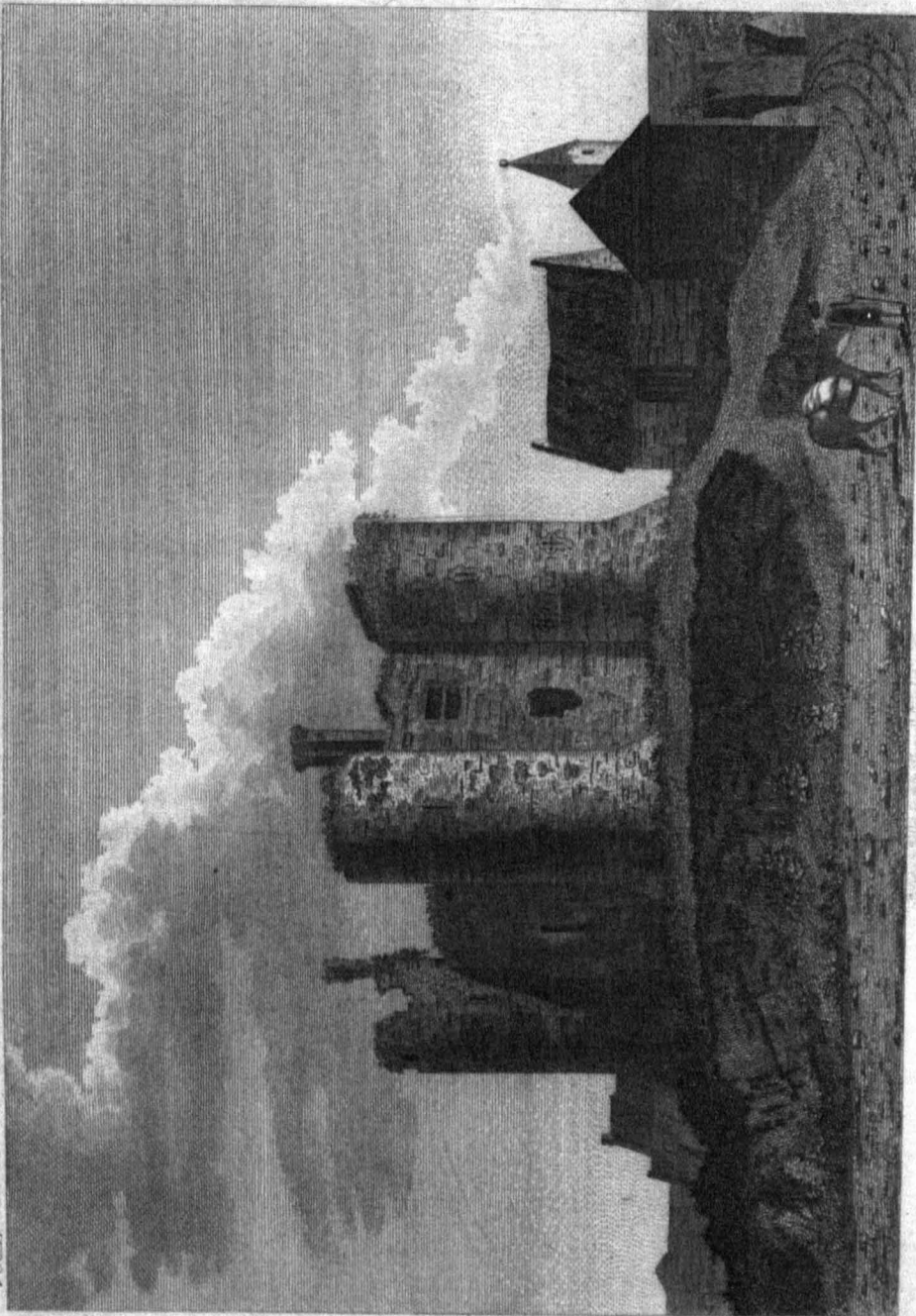
as



LISSACHTINGIN ABBEY. C. O'KEEFE.

Engraved by J. S. Kebley.





CARLISLE CASTLE. CO. CARLOW.

as it does now that of earl to Butler. It is a borough, returning two members to parliament; the patronage is in the Dillon family.

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

CARLOW CASTLE.

CARLOW is a handsome inland town, seated on the Barrow; it carries on a considerable trade in coals, and a coarse woollen manufacture; and owes its beginning to the castle erected there, A. D. 1180, by Lord Justice Lacy. None of the English adventurers seemed to have entered so much into the designs of his sovereign in constructing fortresses to secure the English possessions, as Lacy. He completely castellated the province of Meath, as Giraldus Cambrensis informs us, and he built seven large castles in Kildare and the neighbouring counties.

THE English with difficulty retained their remote forts, and an order appears in our records of the 37th Edward III.—“*Pro barrio amovendo a Catherlogh usque ad Dublin*”—For removing the barrier from Carlow to Dublin; that is, the pale was given up on that side, the officers of justice and the inhabitants were withdrawn.

IN 1494 the earl of Kildare was attainted for corresponding with O'Hanlon, a rebel, for extorting Coyn and Livery, and for seizing the castle of Carlow: however, it seems to have continued in the family; for Thomas Fitz Gerald, son of the Earl of Kildare, held it in 1534. Robert Hartpole was Governor of it in 1577; he sallied out with part of the garrison in pursuit of O'More, who was pillaging the country; and coming up with his party, he slew many of them. In 1604 Donogh, the fourth Earl of Thomond, and his second son, were appointed constables of the castle of Carlow for life.

AT the beginning of the rebellion, the Irish besieged Carlow. Part of the Earl of Ormond's army, under the command of Sir Patrick Wemys, was sent, in 1642, to relieve it; on their approach

the rebels, though 700 strong, burnt the town and fled; but with the loss of 50 men killed in the pursuit. The castle was succoured, and in it 500 English almost starved. After this the rebels possessed themselves of it; but in 1650 it was blocked up by Ireton, and surrendered; since which it has been suffered to decay.

It is a very strong, noble fortress, situated on a small eminence over the river Barrow, on the west side of the town; the angles are defended by round towers, and the walls almost entire. As the circumference is occupied by cabins, which form part of the suburbs, it is impossible to trace its outworks. The view from its top is enchanting, the country being rich and well wooded on each side of the river for some miles.

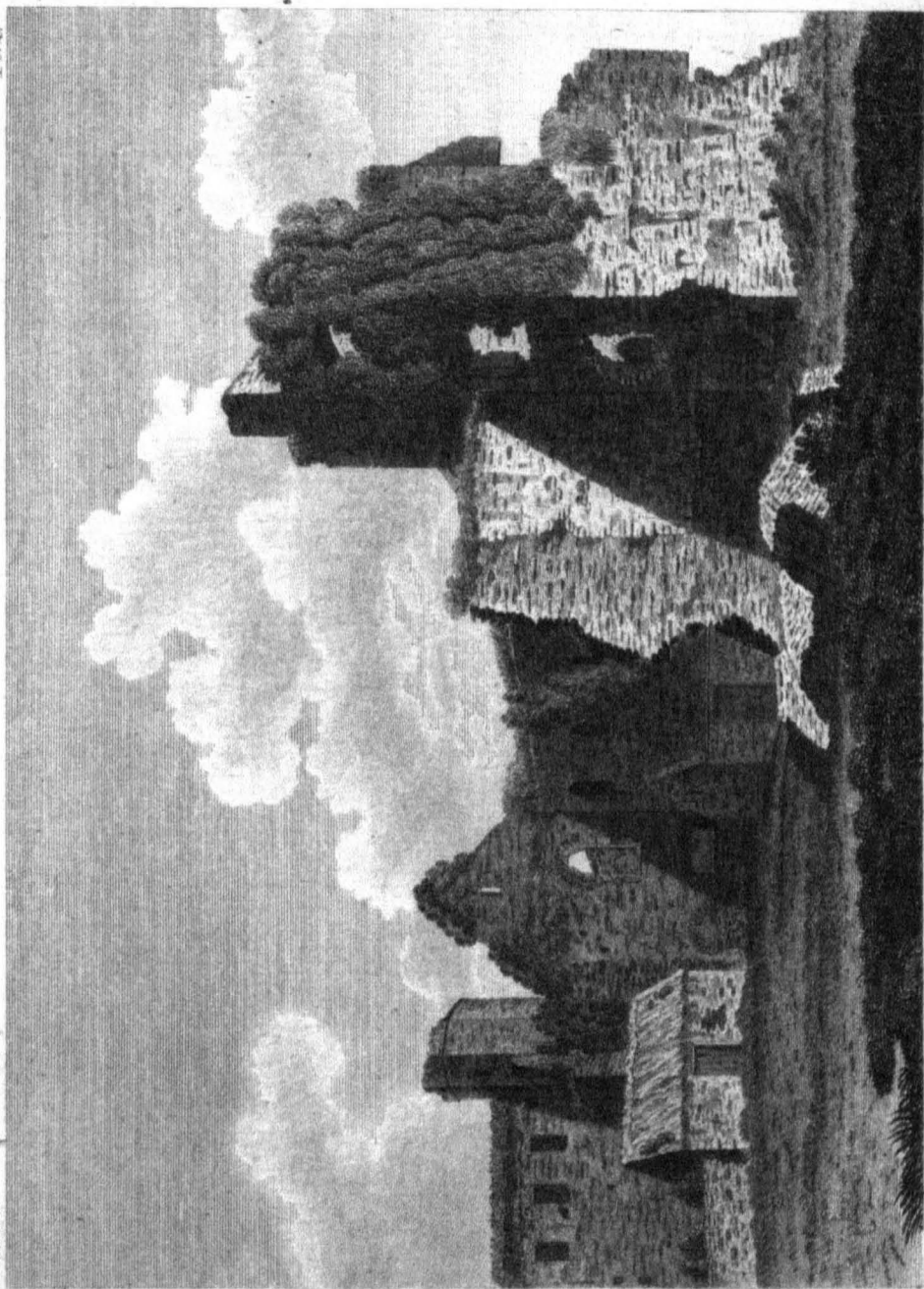
THIS View, which represents the south-west aspect, was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

CLONMORE CASTLE.

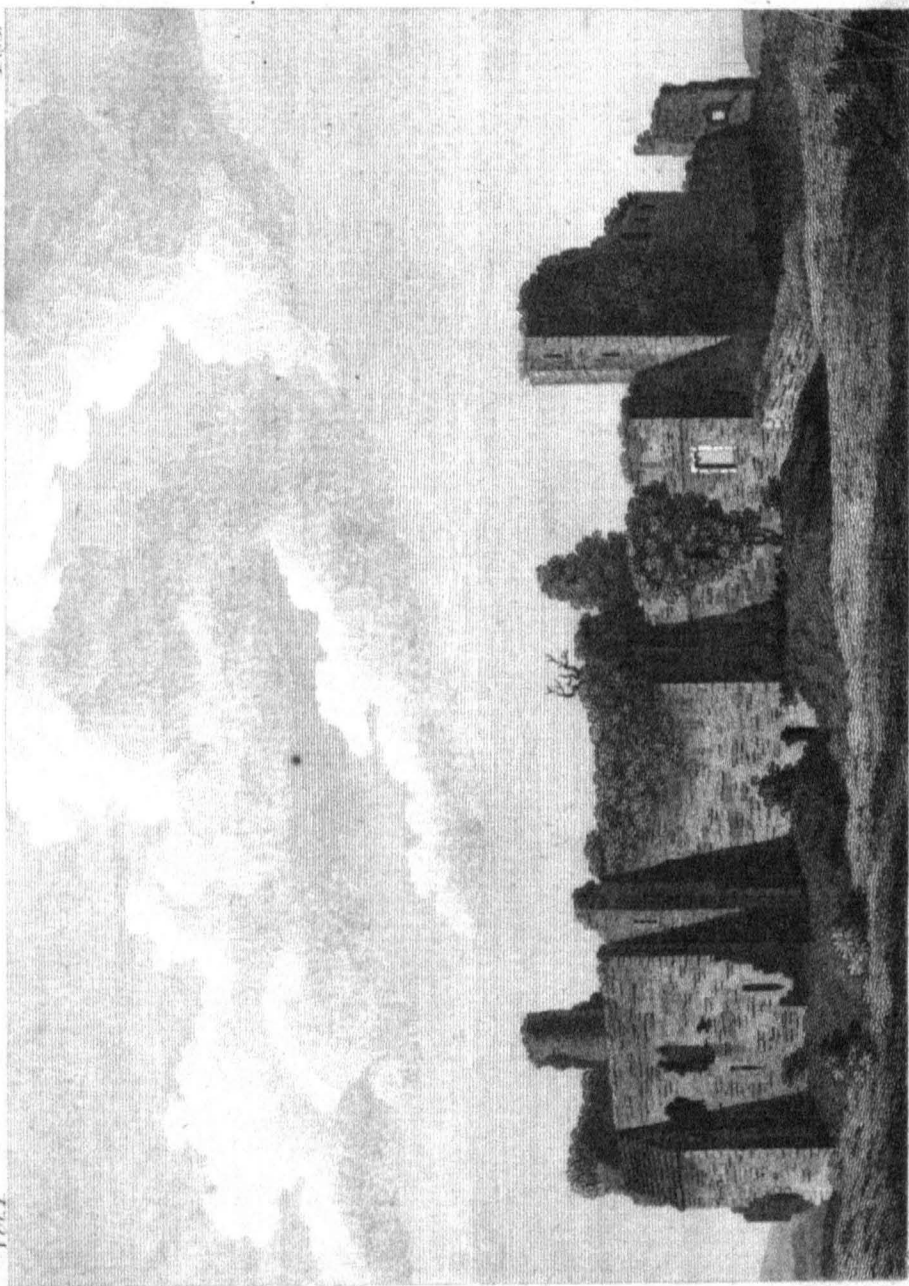
THIS is a square castle, the south and north sides of which are defended by towers. The walls are of great thickness, but fast hastening to decay. Ivy covers the breaches in the walls, and the windows are quite in ruins. It seems to have been strongly protected by a wet ditch which surrounds it.

THIS View, which represents the inside of the castle, was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

(PLATE II.) THIS View, which represents the north-east aspect of the castle, was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

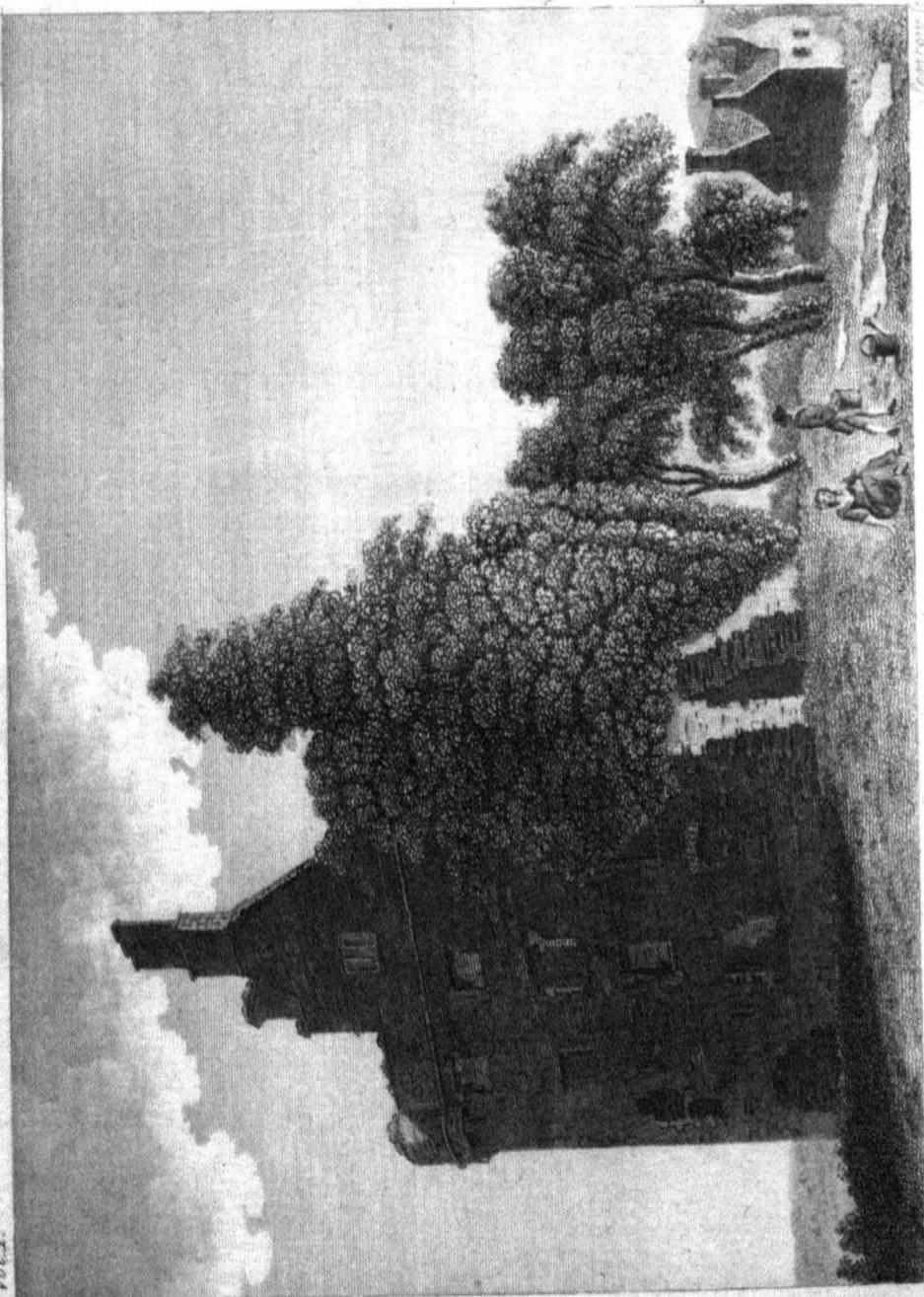


CLONMORE CASTLE, CO. CARLOW.



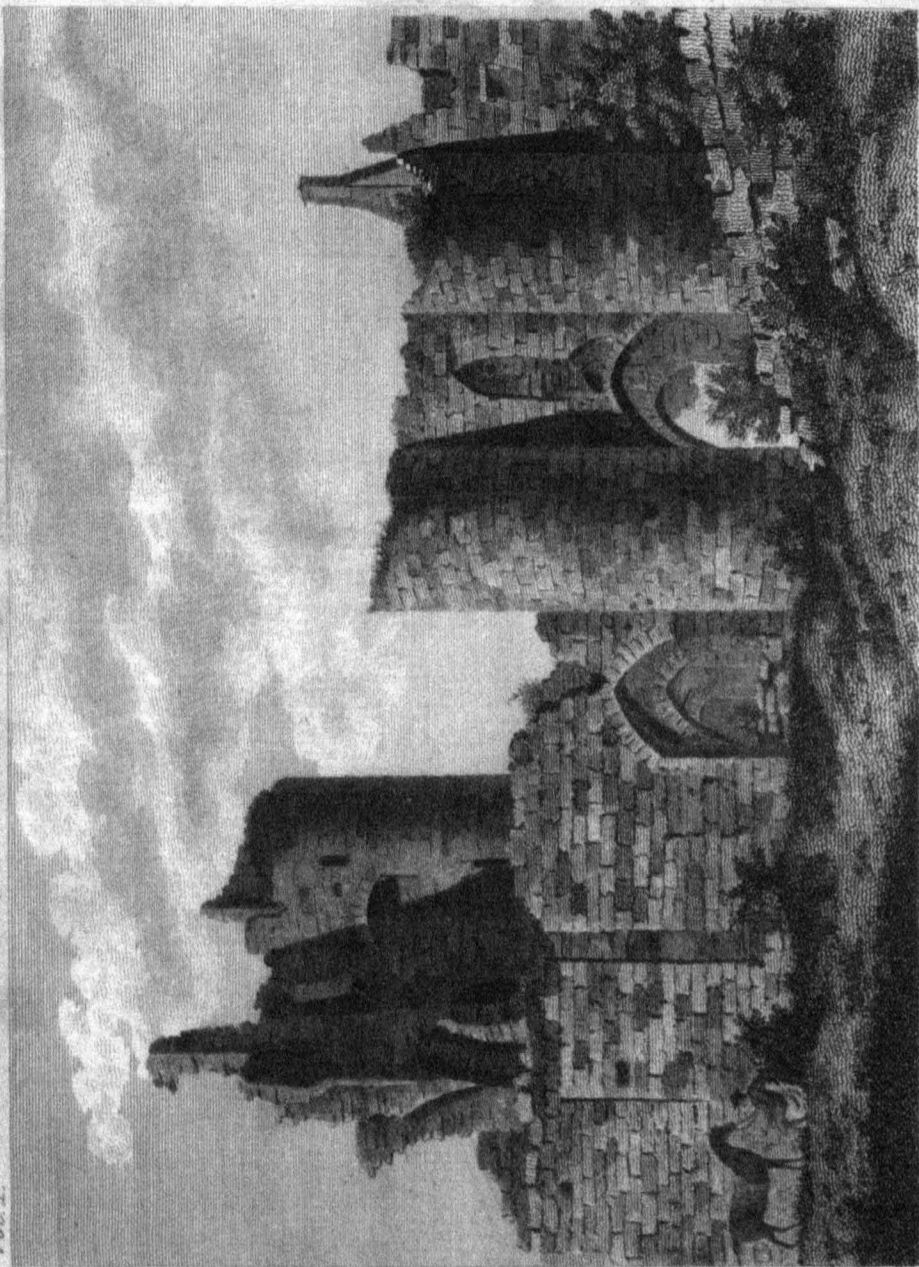
CLONMORE CASTLE. CO. CARLOW. PL. 2.

Engraved from 1854 by W. H. Sturt



Pub. Oct. 10/1792 by J. Neuber

MORET CASTLE. ORRIS CO.



Engraved by H. P. 1842

Engraved by H. P.

LEA CASTLE, Queens Co.

MORETT CASTLE.

MORETT Castle is about five miles east of Maryborough, near the high road leading from Dublin to that town. It is one of those castellated houses which, in rude and perturbed times, were necessary for security from danger. It is on a small rising ground, with a stack of chimnies in each side wall and gable end. What the internal arrangement of the rooms was cannot be conjectured, as no remains of them exist. A turret, supported by consoles, is at one angle. About two hundred yards to the south is a small building, perhaps a chapel; between this and the castle a rivulet runs through a valley.

THE earls of Kildare were formerly the scourges of the O'Mores of Leix, who for centuries harassed the English pale. The latter lost most of their possessions, and among others this of Morett. In 1585, we find the Earl of Kildare left his natural son, Gerald Fitz-Gerald, the lands of Tymoge, Morett, and others, containing 2745 acres; these remained in his family till they were forfeited in 1641. However, in February 1660, they were granted to Robert Fitz-Gerald, Esq. grandfather of James, duke of Leinster, at the yearly rent of 36l. 6s. 3d. English money.

THEY are now the property of one of that name.

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

LEA CASTLE.

THIS is a strong, well-built fortress, constructed by one of the Fitz-Geralds, then Lord of Ophaley. The de Burgos and Geraldines quarrelling about some lands in Connaught, in 1264, a meeting of the parties was held at Castledermot; when the Earl of Kildare seized Capella, the Lord Justice, the Red Earl of Ulster, Miles Cogan, and others, and imprisoned them in his castle of Ley.

A parliament

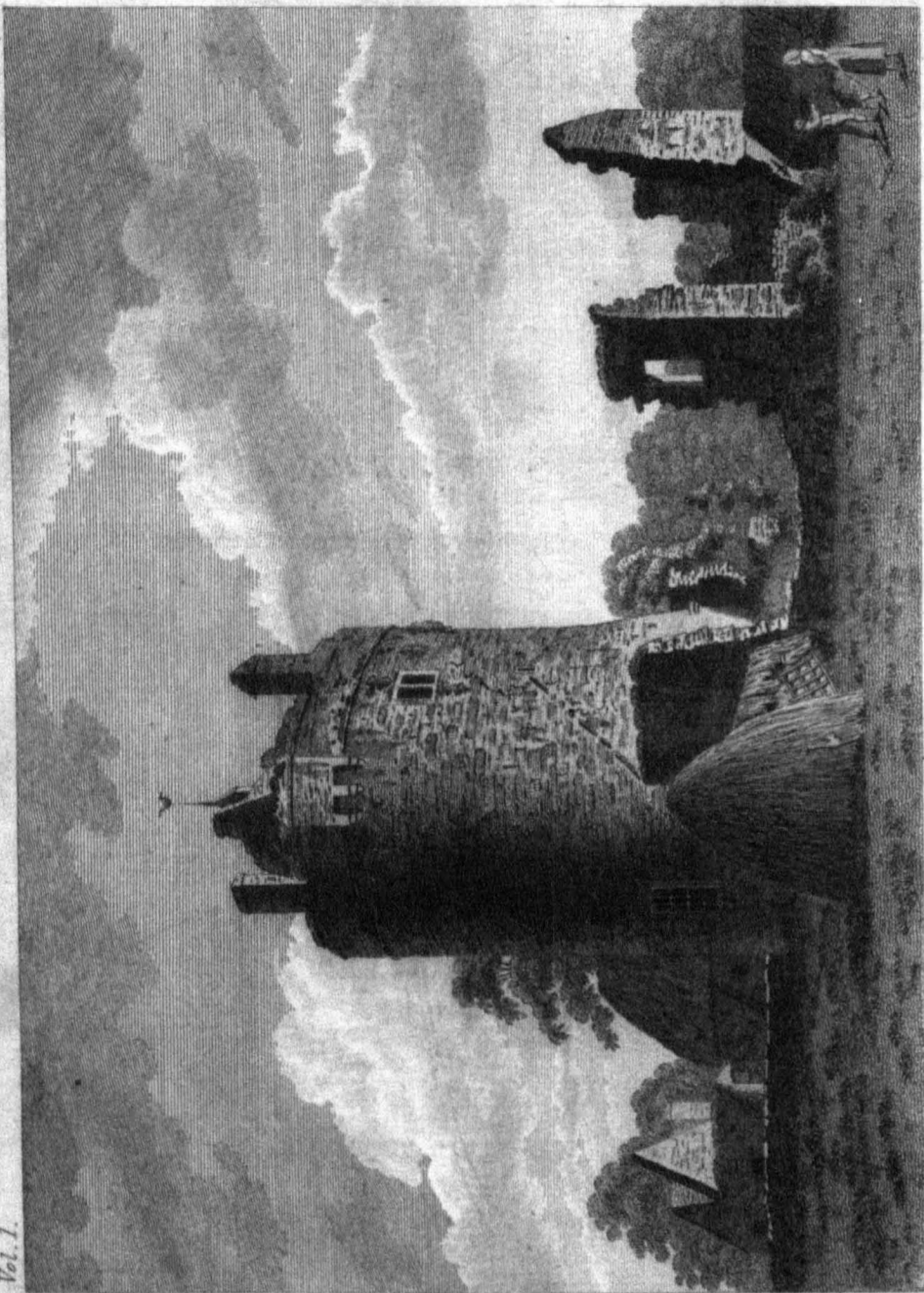
A parliament soon after met at Kilkenny, and they were ordered to be released.

IN 1284 this castle was taken and burnt. Theobald Verdun, going to revenge this injury, lost both his men and horses. In 1307 the tories of Ophaley set fire to the town of Ley, and besieged the castle; but were dispersed by John Fitz Thomas Fitz Gerald and Edmund le Botiler.

BRUCE, in his wild attempt to reduce Ireland, came to Ley, in 1315, and burnt the castle and church. The O'Dempseys, antient proprietaries of these parts, got possession of Ley, but it was taken from them in 1329 by Lord Justice Darcy. In 1345 the O'Mores burnt Ley. The castle must have received no injury, notwithstanding its change of masters, for in 1534 it was reckoned one of the six best castles belonging to the Earl of Kildare. The year before the earl furnished it with guns and ammunition out of the king's stores, though his majesty expressly commanded the contrary; as the Master of the Rolls told him in the presence of the Bishop of Meath.

IN 1690 the gentlemen of the Queen's County proposed to King William, that a number of foot and dragoons, should be stationed in different parts of the county, to protect it against rapparees; and particularly that ten footmen should be placed in Lea, which evinces the castle was then in repair.

THE outworks to this fortress made it extremely difficult of access, if not impregnable. A wet ditch, which could be readily filled from the river Barrow, defended by a low battlemented wall, is its first defence. Its second line of circumvallation was equally strong; through this the passage is by a port in a square tower, divided into apartments. This was the principal place of guard. The third line surrounds the body of the castle, and is flanked by round towers. The outer ballium, from east to west, is 410 feet; and from north to south, including the bawn, 350 in diameter. The inner ballium, from north to south, is 140; and from east to west 130 feet.



CASTLE OF GRANTS TOWN, QUEENS CO.

THE west side of the castle has been blown up, and huge masses of the towers lie mixt with broken arches and stacks of chimnies. The inside of the two remaining towers is divided into four square apartments, and one deeper, which was probably the prison. The square part of the castle was built upon arches. Before the vacancy formed by the projection of the flanking towers, is a wall of seven feet eight inches thick, which stretches across, and joins the face of each angle. This protects the side walls of the square, which were the weakest part. The thickness of the tower walls is twelve feet eight inches, and those of the prison a foot more. Stairs led to the interior parts; a few of these remain.

THE writer confesses it requires more knowledge of military architecture than he possesses to do justice to this amazingly strong and magnificent structure. Its little history before given, its noble ruins and mouldering walls, now protected by the humble ivy, demonstrate the vicissitude of human affairs:

*Laudit in humanis divina potentia rebus,
Et certam præsens vix habet hora fidem.*

THIS castle is the property of Hampden Evans, Esq. of Portrane, in the County of Dublin.

THIS View was taken from an original drawing by Dr. Wynne.

CASTLE OF GRANTSTOWN.

THIS castle is situated about two miles east of Rathdowny, and is of a singular construction. It is a large round tower, erected at the bottom of a hill, and looks on a spacious lake beneath; there are no vestiges of buildings with which it was formerly connected. It seems to me to be one of the *Nidi*, or Norwegian round towers, mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis, and very common in Scotland; where they were greatly multiplied by the same people. There is another of them at Seskin, in the county of Kilkenny, within a mile
of

of Ballyragget, and a third at Clomanty, near Freshford, all of the same shape; and probably there are more, of which I have no information. A round tower standing by itself, I should have conjectured to be intended as the entrance or angle of some large castle, interrupted in its completion by some unforeseen occurrence; but where so many of those insulated round castles appear, they must have had another origin. They are certainly curious objects, and deserve farther examination.

GRANTSTOWN castle is of considerable thickness in its walls, they are battlemented and turretted; it is in the centre of a well-wooded demesne, and from the opposite side of the lake has an appearance beautifully picturesque. It is the property of Peter Latouche, Esq.

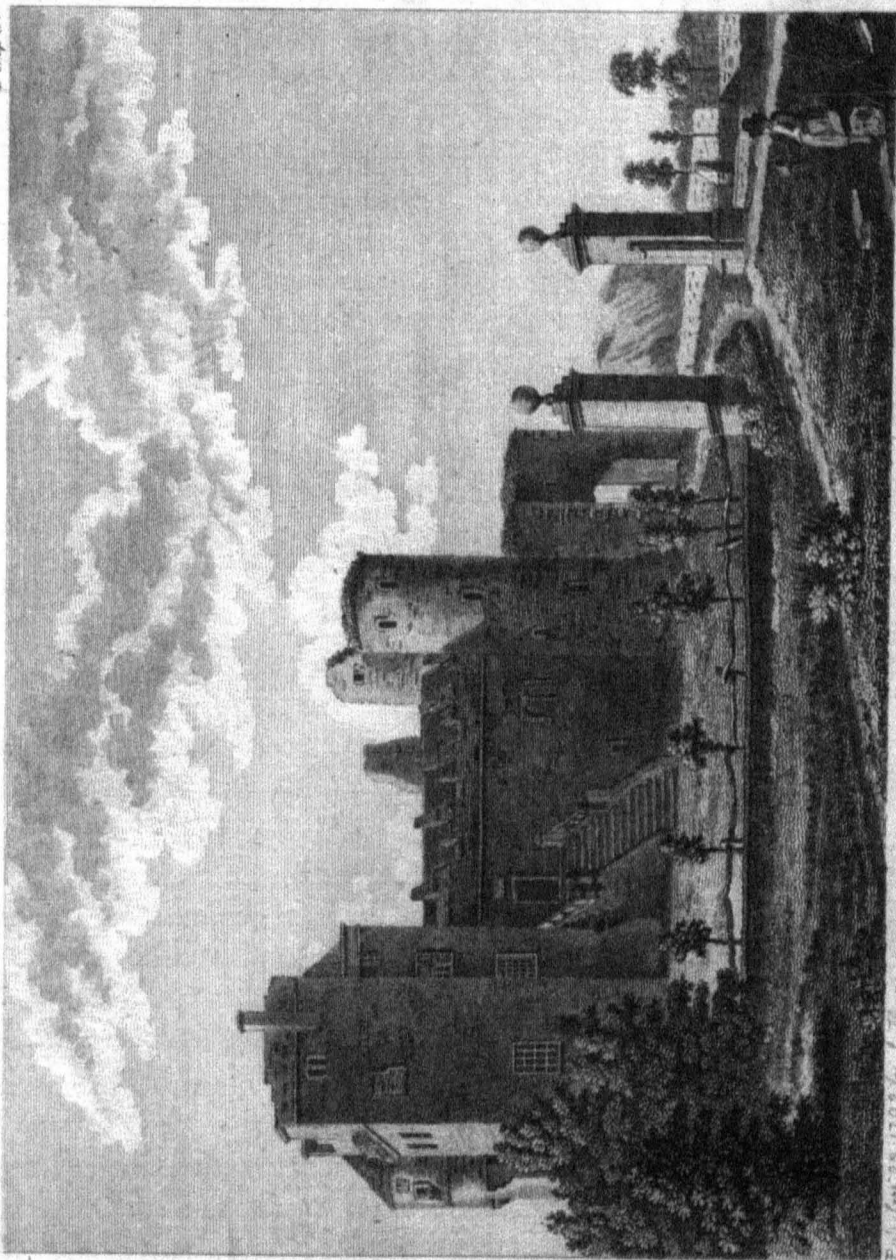
THIS View was drawn by Lieutenant Daniel Grose, anno 1792.

KILKEA CASTLE.

THIS was one of the castles which Lacy erected in Leinster in 1180, and is, like the rest of them, of great strength. In 1414 the O'Mores and O'Dempseys wasted the English pale; to curb their outrages, Thomas Crawley, Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Justice, set out from Dublin, but proceeded no farther than Castledermot; the troops went forward under military leaders, he remaining engaged in processions and prayers for their success. The event answered his expectation, for the enemy were defeated with great slaughter at Kilkea.

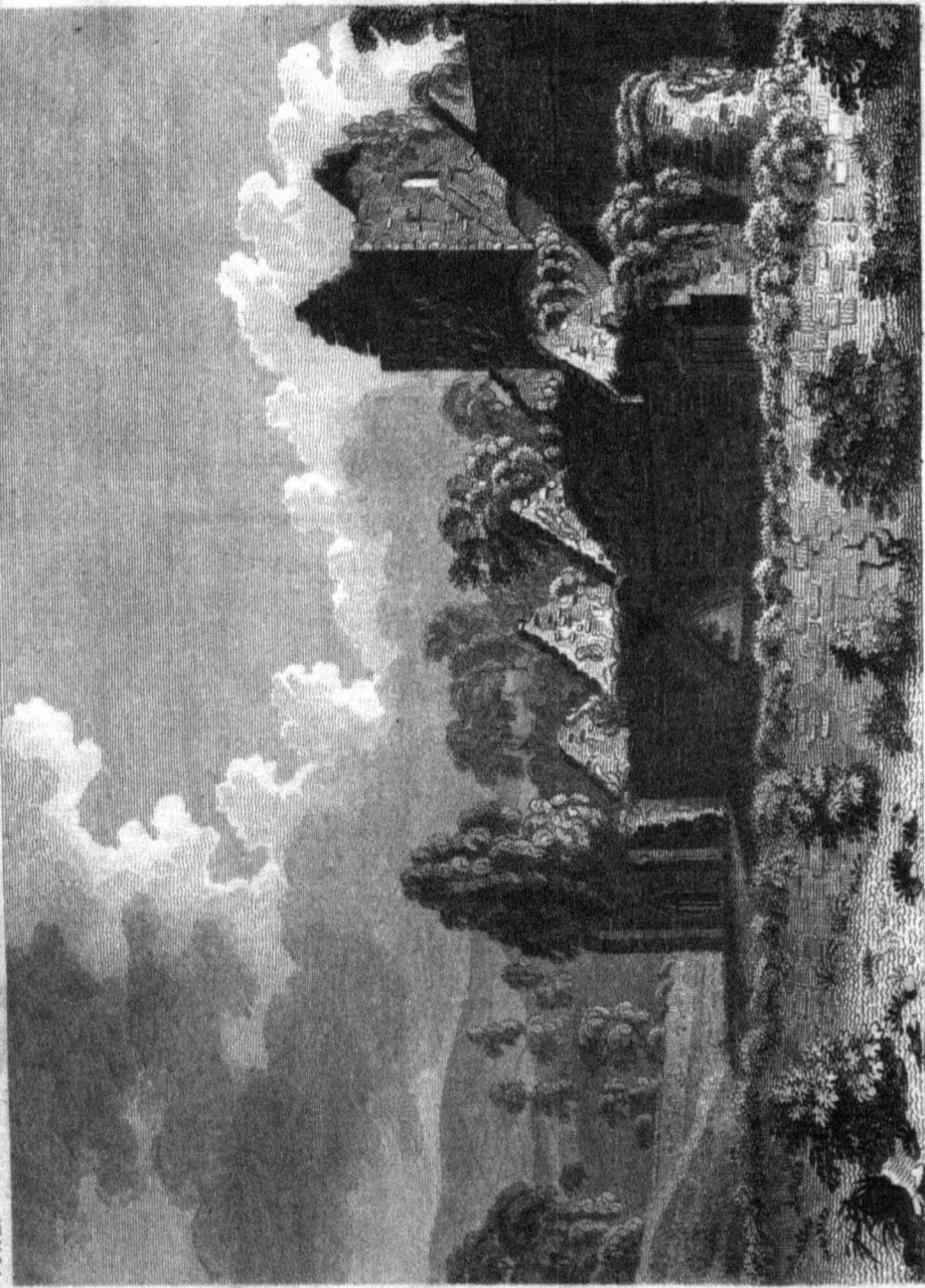
In 1426 John, the sixth Earl of Kildare, strengthened Kilkea with so many new works, that he might be said almost to have new built it. It is situated on a rising ground, and commands an extensive prospect; the river Griffo runs at a small distance, and to the eastward is a church, the resting place of the Kildares and St. Legers.

You enter the bawn, which is behind the castle, by an arch; this entrance is defended by a round tower projecting from the
castle.

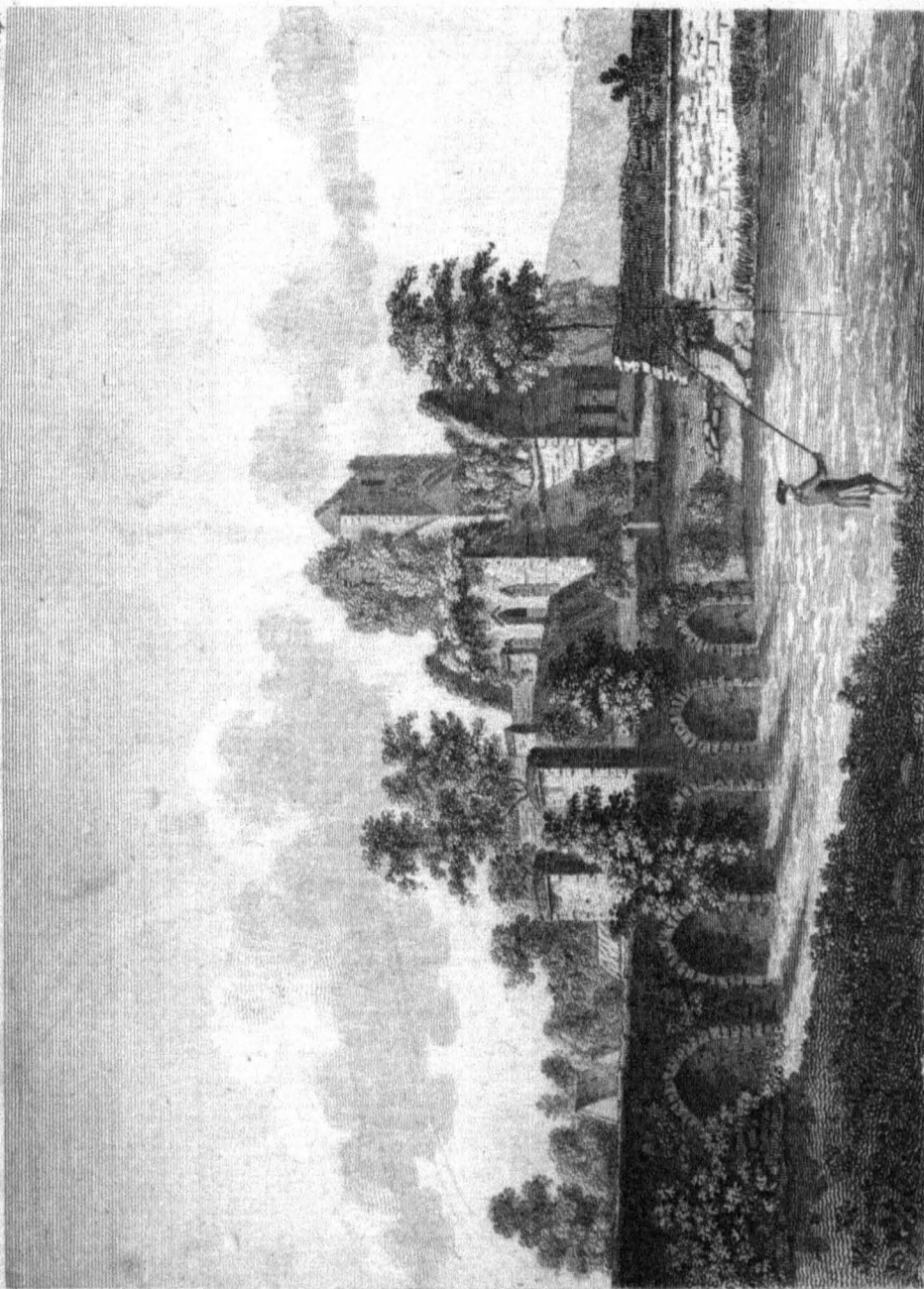


Pub. Apr. 22. 1792 by J. Cooper

KILLEA CASTLE. Co. Kildare.



ARMEN BOYLE PL. Co. Roscommon.



Engraved by J. Rogers

Agency of Boyle Pl. Co. Roscommon.

Spencer's

