

Churchtown or Bruhenny Parish.

Sheet 164, six-inch O.S.; and Sheet 16, one-inch O.S.

Baronies of Duhallow and Orrery and Kilmore.

In 1881, the area of parish is given as 8,047a. 1r. 5p., statute; 213 houses; pop. 1,177; families, 211; R.C's, 1,166; Prots., 11; val., £6,168. (Guy).

The townland of same name—164a. 2r. 26p.; val., £397 15s. (Guy).

With regard to the meaning of Bruhenny, Cole says, "perhaps the plural of 'Brugh, a habitation.'"

Rev. Canon J. F. Lynch states: Bruhenny is a diminutive form of bruach, border or edge, and is named Brochoyn and Bruchane in the Pipe Roll of Cloyne. Brohane, i.e., Bruachan, occurs in Glenbrohane, the name of a village in the parish of Ballingarry, Co. Limerick. The Irish bruachan also means fawn.

The following notes are taken from the "Egmont MSS." :—

Churchtown formed part of the manor of Burton, on an "agreement (dated 28 July, 1637) between the Lord Deputy and other Commissioners for the remedy of defective titles of the one part, and Sir Philip Percivall of the other part, granting the said Sir Philip a good and sufficient estate of his lands (as per schedule prewritten) by new letters patents from the King," &c.

A schedule of the lands and hereditaments for which Sir Philip Percivall compounded is given (vol. i., 95).

In a letter from Sir William St. Leger, Lord President in Munster, to Sir Philip Percivall, dated 1 November, 1841, writing on the state of the country, he states: "I must tell you that if I should stir from hence or make any show of danger, there would be but a few tenants left in Bruheny or in Downerayle, for you cannot imagine in what a fright the people are in. One twenty men in Duallo or in Roche's (country) would make everybody leave their dwellings," &c. (vol. i., 143).

Letter from Thomas Bettesworth to Sir Philip Percivall.

1641, Nov. 22. Moall(ow). I have nothing to add to my former letter, save that Mr. Hodder and I, being appointed to Muster the English about Buttevaunt and Bruhenny, find that there are about sixty men furnished with arms, whom we have enrolled, and authorised Serjeant Ryman (Reymond) (whom I hope you will find an active and honest man in your service) to exercise them. There are about forty other able men who want arms, &c. (vol. i., 150).

SIR PHILIP PERCIVALLS'S LOSSES.

1642, May 17. Deposition by John Hodder, late of Ballymacow, parish of Bruhenny, Barony of Orrery, Co. Cork, that about the 30th of December last, Sir Philip Percivall lost and hath been robbed of his goods to the values following, viz.: Cows, horses, mares and sheep to the value of £2,866 sterling; and rents in the said county worth in ordinary years £2,587 14s. per annum; whereof deponent says the said Sir Philip has been despoiled "by means of this rebellion and especially by the hands or procurement of Edmond Fitz Gerrald of Clenles, co. Limerick, gent;

Garrauld McEnery of Rustinhouse, and the Lacyes, their tenants and followers in co. Limerick, whose names he knoweth not" (vol. i., 177).

1643 (-4), March 11. Mallow. Depositions of witnesses taken at the town of Moallowe, before the English Commissioners in Munster.

Thomas Raymond deposes (with other evidence) that "the ward of Annagh, and the lands of Ballyaddam, Churchtown, Rath, Cargeene, Caher, Cnogher, Ahaghbourn, Ballyn Roe, Ballybane, Garregott and Lisnegreene, all of which were in Sir Philip's possession on September 16 (1648) are since occupied by several intruders, by reason of the rising of Lombard, Barry, the Stapletons, and the rest, who, until the said 16th September, had ever carried themselves fairly towards all the garrisons" (vol. i., 206).

Again, John Fisher and William Young depose that Ballyaddam, Churchtown, Cargene and Rath, Cahier Cnogher, and Bally Roe, were all in quiet and actual possession of the wards of Annagh and Liscarrol on Sept. 15, examinants "being continually up and down on the said lands, hunting and otherwise," and that on the 16th, it being "whispered amongst the Irish that there was a cabin built on the bog to challenge a kind of possession" they searched diligently, but could find no trace of one (vol. i., 207).

On 13 November, 1643, in a letter to Mr. Sall, Sir Philip Percivalle complains of the great injuries done him since the Cessation, and that the Commissions strive to put prejudice upon him, &c. Amongst other grievances, he complains that "Ellen Lacy, alias Barry, took possession, after the Cessation of Ballyadam, Churchtown, Ballintemple and Cargeene, alleging them to be her jointure," "though she passed a fine and recovery thereof ten yēars ago, and never since pretended any possession therein" (vol. i., 193).

In a letter from John Hodder to Lady Percivall, 16 August, 1650, Cork, he writes (with other news): "Col. Barry is dead, and his lands at Liscarroll, Buttevant and Brahenye are waste also" (vol. i., 496).

On 3 Aug., 1665, Wm. Kenn from Liscarroll writes to Sir John Percival on the subject of building a house for him at Churchtown (ii., 22).

27 Sept., 1670, a contract (giving details) for building a house in the manor of Burton, near Churchtown, is entered into by Robert Southwell, Esq. (brother of Lady Percival) and William Kenn of Cahernary of Co. Limerick, architect (ii., 22).

Sir Robert Southwell, in giving an account of the management of the estate of Sir John Percival, Bart., and also of of his son Edward's, states that after the forces of King James were beaten at the Boyne and the seat of war removed to Munster, Burton House and 50 substantial houses and small habitations of tenants, as also the villages of Kanturk and Churchtown, were laid in ashes and much wood on estate destroyed, and a great quantity of sound oak timber destroyed (ii., 187).

Lewis (pub. 1837) states: Churchtown is a parish and also a town in the barony of Orrery, county of Cork, and province of Munster, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from Buttevant, containing 2,795 inhabitants. This parish is situated on the road from Buttevant to Liscarroll, and contains $7029\frac{1}{2}$ statute acres rated to the county cess, and valued at £6,334 16s. 11d. per annum. The land is generally good, and mostly in pasture, and agriculture is improving. Some bog, limestone, and a reddish-

coloured marble are found here. The principal seats are Burton House, originally built by Sir Philip Perceval, destroyed in the war of 1641, rebuilt by the late Earl of Egmont, and now the residence of the Rev. Matthew Purcell, and Churchtown House, the residence of the Rev. F. W. Crofts. The village contains several neat slated houses, a good inn, and a constabulary police station. A court for the manor of Burton, which includes several parishes, is held once in three weeks, in which debts not exceeding 40s. late currency are recoverable.

The greater part of the parish is the property of the Earl of Egmont, who takes his title from the townland of Egmont within its limits.

I shall give an account of the "Old Barn" in this parish under "Egmont."

The dallen in this parish will be described under "Walshestown."

A friend writes: In the farm of William Murphy, of Walshestown, there is a large cave called Poul-na-brian. It is said there is a secret passage way between this cave and Churchtown House. Several people in the district tell me that it is possible to go at least several hundred yards underground in this passage. There is also (it is believed) a secret passage between Burton House and the New Barns, i.e., Old Barn—at any rate this is the popular belief. The late Mr. Purcell used to say that he was convinced there was a secret passage between his residence and Kilcolman Castle. Indeed, if one were to credit the statements that are made, Churchtown should be a regular network of secret underground passages.

CHURCHTOWN (BRUHENNY) PARISH (R.C.).

(Brady, vol. ii., p. 72). 1291. "Ecca de Brucuny, xiimr. unde decia xvis." (Tax P. Nic.)

12—? Robert Cheusner was presented by Odo de Barry to the Vicarage of Bruytoyng, in County Cork.

1311. Thomas O'Holan, Clerk, was presented by Odo de Barry, who established his right to the advowson. He was seized of Lisboyne, County Cork. (Placita Com. Banci Hib.)

1384. Vide Cahirultan. Was the Rectory of Brothing there mentioned Bruhenney?

The following are the references in the Pipe Roll of Cloyne to Bruhenney.

Nicholas Barry held of Bishop of Cloyne the manor of Kylbrogan in parish of Brochoyn (Bruhenney).

In 40 year of reign of Edward III. (? 1367), James, son and heir of Nicholas Barry, did homage to John de Swafham, Bishop of Cloyne, for lands of Kylbrogan and Brochoyn, &c., &c.

William, Bishop of Cloyne, visited the church of Bruchane and demanded the rent of Kilbrogan from Dominus James, son of Nicholas, son of Philip James de Barry, Dominus of Bruchane, who had taken oath to William Roche, Bishop of Cloyne in 1481.

Lewis (pub. 1837) gives: In the R. C. divisions this parish forms part of the union or district of Liscarrol; the chapel is a neat cruciform building, and is about to be improved. There are two private schools, in which are about 80 boys and 30 girls; and the Earl of Egmont intends to build one at Churchtown, capable of accommodating 700 children, which will be placed under the National Board. (Under Churchtown).

Journal gives: Churchtown Parish. No Popish Masshouse. One reputed officiating priest. No Convent of Fryars or Nuns. No Popish schools. 6th Novr., 1731. (1893, p. 61).

A list of the Popish Parish Priests as they were registered the eleventh day of July, 1704, &c.

Daniel Daly, residing at Lisgriffin, aged 80 years, belonged to the parishes of Churchtown and Liscarrol. Received Orders in 1650 at Rosse, from Richard Connel, Bishop of Ahaddo and Ardfert. His sureties were Timothy Sullivan of Churchtown, £50, and Denis Callaghan of Lismealcanning, £50. (Journal, p. 57, 1900).

In 1766 it is recorded that Maurice Hallahan, a reputed popish priest, is resident in this parish; also Denis McAuliffe, a reputed friar. (Journal for 1909, page 38).

The Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths commence in the year 1812 A.D.

Windele, writing in 1851, says: Churchtown has one of the few thatched chapels now in the diocese. (Windele MSS., 12 L. 10., R.I.A)

The patron saint of Churchtown is St. Nicholas (Brady i., lxix.).

In the church is a monument to Rev. William Tuomey, P.P., died 1872.

At the main entrance there is a holy water font, "presented by Mr. and Mrs. David Creedon."

A friend contributes the following:—

List of Parish Priests of the Parish of Churchtown, from the year 1812—the earliest date of which there is any authentic record—down to the present day—

Rev. David O'Brien, 1812 to 1833.

Rev. David O'Leary, 1833 to 1859.

Rev. William Twomey, 1859 to 1872.

Rev. Charles MacCarthy, 1872 to 1878.

Rev. James Barry, 1878 to 1891.

Rev. Timothy O'Keeffe, 1891 to 1901.

Rev. Eugene O'Connell, 1901 to 1902.

Rev. Peter MacSweeney, 1912 to date (1912).

List of Curates:—

Rev. David Sheahan, 1838 to 1862.

Rev. David Cashman, 1862 to 1867.

Rev. Cornelius Cahill, 1867 to 1877.

Rev. Timothy Lenihan, 1877 to 1878.

Rev. Philip Cogan, 1878.

Rev. Father Savage, 1878 to 1884.

Rev. David Williams, 1884 to 1887.

Rev. Patrick Murphy, 1887 to 1889.

Rev. Bartholomew O'Keeffe, D.D., 1889 to 1891.

¹Rev. Michael Ellard, 1891 to 1896.

¹Rev. Timothy O'Callaghan, 1891 to 1904.

¹ A second curate was appointed in the year 1891. He resides in the Liscarroll portion of the parish.

N.B.—There is no authentic information of the exact period or stay of some of the curates in the parish; however, before inserting the dates, some of the principal inhabitants of the parish have been consulted, and the dates inserted as given by them.

Rev. Eugene MacCarthy, 1904 to
Rev. M. Whelan.

The remains of an old Catholic church may still be traced in Annagh. It was the parish church of Bruheny long before the one now demolished in Churchtown was built. It is believed to have been erected sometime in the 17th century.

CHURCHTOWN (BRUHENNY) PARISH (C. OF I.).

Brady gives roll of incumbents, &c.—

1545. James Roche is presented to R. Ballintemple, als. Broghenny, als. Churchtown devolved to the crown “pleno jure.” (Pat. Rot. 36 Hen. VIII.)

1591. “Lucas Brady, laicus, Rector de Bruheny. Vicar, Thomas Prendergaste, desunt litterae ordinum.” (MS., T.C.D., E. 3. 14).

1610. William Holiday.

1615. R. and V. Bruheny, William Holiday. Valent 10 li. per annum. Ecclesia repata. Cancellata ruinata. Ipse inservit curae. R. V., R.I.A.)

1615. John Hull.

1625. William Burley.

1661. E. Bruheny, Mr. Packington.

1662. John Veasy appears as R. Bruheny.

1668. Christopher Vowell institutus fuit ad R. de Bruheny, als. Ballytemple, per cessionem Johis Veasy et per presentationem philippi percivall, militis.

1671. “Dominus monuit Vowell ad exhib. lit. ordinum.”

1694. R. integ. Bruheny, alias Ballintemple; val. £35. Olim James Barry nunc vero Johes Percivall, Baronet, est patronus. Nulla ecclia. Mr. Vowell, Incumbent. (Palliser).

1700. Kerry Fitzmaurice, in presentatione Johis Perceval. Baronetti (a minor), et Roberti Southwell, militis, tutoris: vice Christopher Vowell, deprived. (F.F. and D.R.)

1710. An Act of Parliament sanctions the change of the site of the parish church² of Bruheny. (Lib. Mun.)

1713. Sir John Perceval founds a charitable institution at Burton, and endows it with £42 per annum. (Smith's Cork, vol. i., p. 393).

1715. Bruheny church was consecrated.³ (D.R.) On the silver flagon, chalice, and paten now (1863) in use in the church is this inscription—“Ex dono viri honorabilis Johannis Percival equitis aurati in usum Ecclesiae Parochialis de Browheny.”

1717. November 13. “Resolved, that Rev. Mr. Kerry Fitzmaurice be discharged by the Chapter of all arrears of the tithes of Kilbrogan

² Changed to townland of Maryfield, situated half a mile to the west of Churchtown, two hundred yards off the road to Liscarroll. The Rev. Dr. W. H. Cotter, LL.D., Rector of Buttevant and Churchtown, adds:—“The date on the dedication stone is 1792, probably the building was not entered upon for years after 1710, and even then only nave and body of church was built, and subsequently a chancel and tower added in 1792.”

The church mentioned in 1615 was the old one in Churchtown village. The ruins can still be seen (1912).

³ The dedication slab gives 1792; but that, no doubt, denotes the date of its enlargement and building of tower and chancel.

parish, and that the Chapter resume it, to be set by the Oeconomus to the best advantage." (Cloyne C. B.)

1728. Downes Conron.

1735. Robert Brereton.

1762. Value of Bruhenney and Kilbrin, £200. (A. Hayman).

Robert Brereton (second son of George Brereton, esq., of Carrigslaney, county Carlow, by Catherine, dau. of George Perceval and Mary Crofton) held Bruhenney from 1735 to 1764, and Kilbrin from 1742 to 1764.

1764. Charles Perceval, on presentation of John, Earl of Egmont.

1765. The Dean and Chapter of Cloyne lease the tithes of Kilbrogan to Mr. Charles Perceval at £3 yearly during his incumbency in the parish of Churchtown. He obtains a fresh lease in 1780 and 1781 of same lands for £1 10s. per annum. (C.B.)

1774. Bruhenney, otherwise Ballintemple, or Churchtown, rect. in the barony of Orrery and Kilmore; value £200 per annum. Church in repair at Churchtown, the site being changed by Act of Parliament, 9 Ann. c. 12. Bruhenney church in ruins. Patron, the Earl of Egmont. Glebe, 11a. 1r. 35p. English. Another glebe, 3a. 34p. English. Incumbent, Charles Perceval, A.M.; Curate, Marmaduke Grove, A.B. (Hingston).

1780, April 6. Charles Perceval, A.M., junior.

1795. Matthew Purcell.

In 1805, Bruhenney contained but one Protestant family. (Arch. Brod.)

1827. £3 was voted at vestry for a stone font.⁴ (Par. Reg.)

Note.—Font is preserved in Buttevant church, whither it was taken on the demolition of the church of Churchtown in 1894.

1830. Protestant population, no return.

1837. Bruhenney, an entire rectory, with cure, 4 miles long by 2 broad, containing 7,996a. 2r. 35p. Gross population, 2,795. One curate employed, at an annual stipend of £69 4s. 7½d., British. Tithe composition, £550. 11a. 1r. 14½p. of glebe, valued at 50s. per plantation acre. Subject to visitation fees, £1 14s. 10d.; diocesan schoolmaster, 16s. 6d. No glebe house. Incumbent is resident, and considers £60 per annum a reasonable rent for the house he occupies, exclusive of the land belonging to it. One church capable of accommodating 300 person, built about 120 years, but at what cost unknown. No charge on the parish in 1832 on account of the church. The benefice is a rectory. (Parl. Rep.)

1845. Lucius George, R. Bruhenney. Sir Edward Tierney, patron. (D.R.)

1860. Matthew Tierney, A.M., R. Bruhenney, on presentation of Rev. Sir Lionel Darell, Baronet, of Fretherne House, in Somersetshire.

1860. Church in good order. No glebe house. Divine service once on Sundays and chief feasts, &c. Sacrament monthly and at the three great festivals; average of communicants, 6. No school. Protestant population, 27. Rent charge, £412 10s. Land, 11 acres, worth £17. Total value, £429 10s. per an. without residence (ii., 72).

(Cole, p. 164) continues. He resigned Bruhenney in 1872, and that parish was then united to Buttevant (q.v.)

Rev. Matthew Tierney went to England, where he became Curate of

⁴ The Rev. W. H. Cotter, LL.D., writes:—"No doubt for pillar and base, which are modern. The bowl of it is ancient and probably brought from the old church. The old pillar and base is missing."

Hemel-Hempstead from 1873 to 1877; Curate of Westbury-on-Trym, near Bristol, 1878-80.

The Holy Communion plate of Churchtown consists of a cup, paten and flagon; they are of perfectly plain silver; the chalice stands high on its stem; it would contain about the same amount as an ordinary breakfast cup; there is written on it the following inscription in Latin, but without any date: "*Ex dono viri honorabilis Johannis Percivall Equitis auratj, in usum Ecclesiae Parochialis de Brøwheny*" (i.e., Churchtown).

The paten is a plain smooth plate, with broad eaves, without inscription.

The flagon stands a little higher than the cup, straight-sided, flat-topped, and broad-based, and without spout. It has the same dedication as the chalice.

Bruheny, alias Churchtown, an entire vic. Ch. in repair. Pat. the Earl of Egmont (circa 1663). Smith, i., 50).

Smith (pub. 1750) writes: In the village of Churchtown are "the ruins of the old church, called Bruhenny, in which is a small monument to the memory of Deborah, the wife of William Taylor, esq., and daughter of Mr. Anselm Fowler, of Gloucestershire, in England. She died June 29th, 1697. In the 9th of Queen Anne an Act of Parliament was obtained by the late Earl of Egmont for removing the site of this church. The new church is a good building, in form of a cross. The chancel is paved with black and white marble, the produce of this country. In this chancel⁵ is a vault, where several of the house of Egmont are interred. On the silver flagon, chalice, and other plate is this inscription:—"Ex dono viri honorabilis Johannis Perceval, equitis aurati, in usum ecclesiae parochialis de Bruhenny." (Vol. i., p. 289).

Lewis (pub. 1837). The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Cloyne, and in the patronage of the Bishop: the tithes amount to £550. The church is a plain building with a square tower; and the spire, which was thrown down about three years since, has been rebuilt by a grant of £258 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. There is no glebe house, but a glebe of 12 acres. (Under Churchtown).

On a slab of limestone, 1½ foot square and 3 inches thick, which was the dedication stone of Churchtown Parish Church, Co. Cork, is the following inscription:—

Cumf: Beat: & Sp: S. Deo. Opt. Max: Anno 1792. Domus Orationis. "Cum filio beato et spiritu sancto, Deo Optimo Maximo. Anno 1792. Domus Orationis (Sacratu est)." The Rev. Dr. Cotter renders the translation as follows:—"Together with the blessed Son and the Holy Spirit: This House of Prayer was dedicated to the Best and Greatest God, in the year 1792."

He also states that the first line of this inscription christianizes a form of dedication that would otherwise be heathen.

This church was demolished in 1894.

The Rev. W. H. Cotter, M.A., LL.D., Rector of Buttevant Parish, informs me that the above-mentioned stone was formerly fixed in a recess on the west inside wall of Churchtown church.

He brought it to Buttevant Parish Church, and it is now in the vestry.

⁵ The Rev. Dr. Cotter, LL.D., writes:—"I never heard, as mentioned by Smith, that several members of the Egmont family were buried under this chancel. I don't think the chancel existed before 1792."



CHURCHTOWN VILLAGE.
(Photo by Col. Grove White, 23th July, 1909.)



CHURCHTOWN HOUSE.
(Photo by Col. Grove White, Sept., 1906.)

Churchtown Parish Church was known as the "New Church," there having been an earlier one.

The remains of Sir John Percival, Bart., of Burton Manor, were buried in Churchtown church, Sept., 1680. (Egmont MSS., ii., 100).

I noticed in the churchyard of old church of Bruhenny a tombstone to father and mother of James Casey, of Ballynamuck, erected 1776.

Thos. Quin, died 1797; Jas. Cooke, died 1737; Ellen, wife of John Ellard, died 1803; Walter Tobin, died 1800. Inside ruins of church—Edmund Glover, died 1742; his son, Edmund, died 1833.

At east end of church is a fine arch, the remains of a window on south side, the remains of a doorway on south-west corner. A fine ash tree grows inside ruins at south-east corner.

There is a vault at west end of ruins dated 1722—rest illegible.

In the enclosure where the church stood that was demolished in 1894 I noticed a vault of the Purcell family of Burton Park, also an altar tomb to memory of Rev. Lucius George, who died 1859.

I was told locally that this church was originally built as a coffee house by Sir Edward Tierney; then a tower and belfry was added and it was consecrated as a church.

The Field Book of 1840 gives: "Churchtown. Old church and graveyard at Churchtown, now a ruin. Churchtown new Church—Protestant parochial place of worship." (Ord. Sur. Off., Dub.)

The Parochial Records of Churchtown (Bruhenny) Parish are in the Public Record Office, Dublin.

Baptisms, 1806—1865.

Marriages, 1808—1845.

Burials, 1826—1872.

Mr. Langley Brasier-Creagh, J.P., of Streamhill, writes: "The new church is now demolished. The stones were sold to a road contractor. The beech timber on the glebe lands were also sold and cut down, and with the proceeds the walls round the burial ground (or old graveyard) in the village were repaired in 1898.

CHURCHTOWN VILLAGE.

Sir Richard Cox, Bart., Lord Chancellor of Ireland, writing in 1688, describes Churchtown village as follows: "Burton Hall, alias Churchtown, a small market towne, near which is a large, noble park, and in it a stately new house belonging to Sir Richard Percevall, Baronet." (Journal, 1902, p. 177).

Smith (pub. 1750) makes a brief mention of this village: "Churchtown is a small village prettily situated" (i., 289).

Lewis (pub 1837) states: "The village contains several neat slated houses, a good inn, and a constabulary police station. A court for the manor of Burton, which includes several parishes, is held once in three weeks, in which debts not exceeding 40s. late currency are recoverable." (Under Churchtown).

In 1905 the population of this village was 210. There were four public houses.

Guy gives:—Churchtown has a post, money order and telegraph office. A sergeant is in charge of Churchtown station. There is a national school. Buttevant, G. S. and W. R., is the nearest station.

Mr. James Byrne, J.P., informs me that at the time of the Whiteboys

the police barrack at Churchtown was burnt down and all the police were slaughtered except one who feigned death. The barracks was thatched.

"All the houses in the village of Churchtown are now held in fee simple, mostly by their respective occupiers, under the sale of the Egmont estate by the insurance company who were mortgagees; those with land attached, under the Ashbourne Act of 1887; and those without lands, for cash. The only place not sold at that sale was the police barracks, and that was since sold in year 1906." (Mr. Langley Brasier-Creagh, J.P.)

I noticed, when passing through the village, a stone in the wall of the schoolhouse bearing the following inscription: "Erected by Sir Edward Tierney, Bart., A.D. 1846."

Adjacent is a fine market house, now used as a store, all of dressed stone.

A friend furnishes the following: The Churchtown creamery was built in the year 1889. It is owned and worked by a number of farmers called the Churchtown Creamery Co. The supply of milk in the season exceeds 3,000 gallons daily. In its early years it had many difficulties to contend with, and for a time, and more than once, it was believed it would have to be closed. However, it has successfully weathered the storm, and is now regarded as one of the most successful and prosperous creameries in the South of Ireland. This success is largely due to the painstaking care and zeal of the present (1907) capable manager, Mr. W. O'Connor. Under his managership the creamery has prospered exceedingly.

Churchtown School. The present school was built by Sir Edward Tierney, Bart., in the year 1846. It is a solid substantial structure of cut-stone, and is capable of accommodating 200 children. A clause in the deed of assignment states that the principal teachers (both male and female) were to receive a sum of £5 annually⁶ for teaching the poor children of the parish. The male teacher was also to receive an additional sum of £5 for his services in assisting the agents to collect the rents for the Earl of Egmont. This sum was paid annually until the sale of the estate in the year 1887.

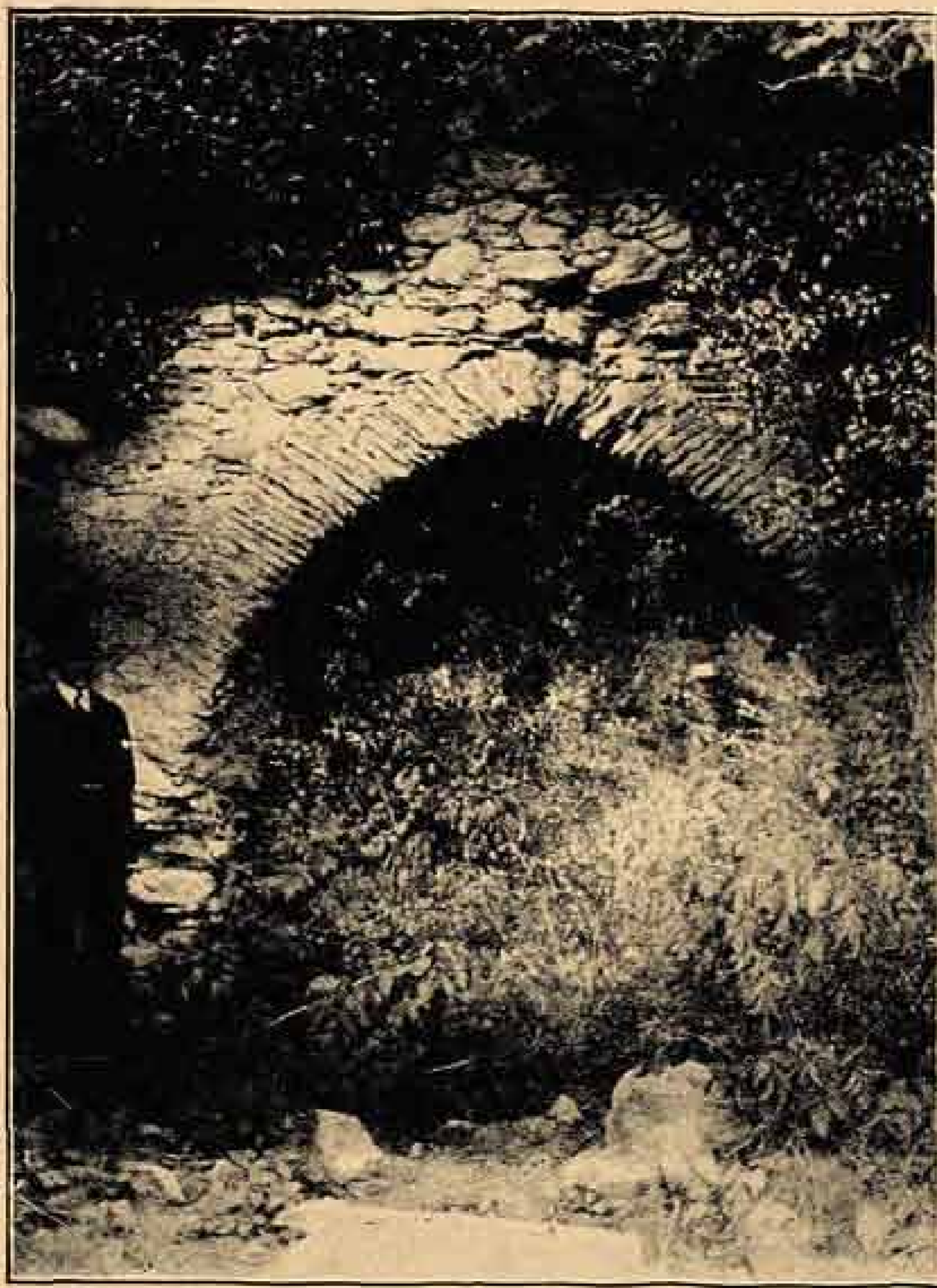
CHURCHTOWN HOUSE.

George Crofts, of Churchtown, M.P. for Charleville, 1692, said to have been son of George Crofts of Velvetstown, was admitted a freeman of Cork, 1669; was expelled from the House of Commons, 11th October, 1692, "for his services to King James"; attainted by William III., but restored by patent. His wife's name was Sarah, and by her he had issue: ancestor of Crofts of Churchtown.

His niece, Dorcas Crofts, married Edmund Knapp, M.P. He died 1698. Crofts and Bowerman were the two first members for Charleville, which was incorporated a borough by charter dated 29th May, 1671, but does not appear to have elected a member for some years thereafter. (Cork M.P.'s, by C. M. Tenison, B.L., Journal, 1895, p. 278).

Gibson gives similar information regarding George Crofts: "Charleville, incorporated May 29th, 1671. George Crofts, Esq., of Churchtown, member for Charleville, with Henry Bowerman, jun., Esq., Sept. 19th, 1692" (ii., 277).

⁶This money was given by the Patron, the Earl of Egmont.



INSIDE OF OLD CHURCHTOWN CHURCH.
CHANCEL.

(Pre-Reformation.)

(Photo by Col. Grove White, October, 1906.)



OLD CHURCHTOWN CHURCH. SOUTH SIDE.
(Pre-Reformation)

(Photo by Col. Grove White, Sept., 1905.)

Wills Crofts, Esq. (of Churchtown) was a J.P. for Co. Cork 1773 (Smith, i., 34).

The Rev. Freeman Crofts, Churchtown, was a member of the Duhallow Hunt in 1801. (Duhallow Hunt Minute Book, Journal, 1896, p. 51).

In 1814, George Crofts, Esq., lived here. (D.N.P.)

Wills George Crofts, Esq., was High Sheriff for Co. Cork in 1822. (Smith, i., 465).

In the "Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier" is this announcement:—Married, 25th January, 1830, George Spread Crofts, of Churchtown House, Esq., to Eliza, eldest daughter of the Revd. Matthew Purcell, Rector of Churchtown and Dungourney.

Lewis (pub. 1837) mentions Churchtown House, the residence of the Rev. F. W. Crofts. (Under Churchtown).

The Field Book of 1840 gives Freeman Crofts, Esq., of Churchtown House. (Ord. Sur. Off., Dub.)

In 1867, the Rev. Sir William Lionel Darrell, Bart., appears to have been living at Churchtown House. He was a J.P. for Co. Cork. (Munster Directory).

Mr. Langley Brasier-Creagh, J.P., of Streamhill, adds: The Crofts family sold their interest in Churchtown House and lands, which they held from Earl of Egmont, to Sir William Lionel Darrell, who was then agent for the Egmont estate. It was during his agency that all the good stone farmhouses and offices were built on the Churchtown property, Sir Lionel taking mortgages over the estate for the outlay. This was during the minority of one of the Earls of Egmont. When he came of age, he appointed Major Trench agent, who occasionally occupied Churchtown House, which, with lands attached, was afterwards sold to the late John Cowhey. Between the years 1880–87, when the Plan of Campaign was in existence, the insurance company which held mortgages on the Egmont property pressed for their interest. Lord Egmont being unable to collect his rents, handed over the security to the company, who sold the estate to the tenants under the Ashbourne Act.

CROFTS (LATE) OF CHURCHTOWN.

(B.L.G., 1886., with a few additions).

Lineage.⁷ The immediate ancestor of the Churchtown branch of the Crofts family was a brother of George Crofts, of Velvetstown. His eldest son,

GEORGE CROFTS, Esq., of Churchtown, M.P. for Charleville,⁸ d. 1698, leaving by Sarah his wife a son and heir,

GEORGE CROFTS, Esq., of Churchtown, High Sheriff 1712, who m. Mary, dau. and eventual co-heir of Thomas Wills, Esq., of Wills Grove, and d. 1741, leaving issue. The eldest son,

GEORGE CROFTS, Esq., of Churchtown, Capt. in Col. Hargrave's Regt., d. unm., and was s. by his only surviving brother,

WILLS CROFTS, Esq., of Churchtown, J.P., b. 24 Dec., 1713; m. 1743, Eleanor, 2nd dau. of John Freeman, Esq., of Ballinguile, Co. Cork, 2nd son of Richard Freeman, Esq., of Kilbarry and Ballinguile, and by her (who d. 1792) had issue,

I. GEORGE, his heir.

⁷ Crofts (late of Churchtown House) is descended from the Noble Family of Crofts of Saxham-Parva and Westow, England. (Lord Crofts, Baron of Saxham, d.s.p. 1677.)

The full pedigree will appear later under "Crofts of Velvetstown."

⁸ Became M.P. for Charleville 19 Sept., 1692; expelled 11 Oct., for his services to King James. (Gibson, ii., 277).

II. Freeman (Rev.), b. 11 Aug., 1748; m. Aug., 1781, Anna, eldest dau. of John Spread, Esq., of Forest, Cō. Cork, and by her, who d. 1827, had issue,

1. Freeman Wills, of whom hereafter.

2. John Spread, Lieut. 37th Regt., b. 1790; d. at Trinidad, 1807.

3. George Spread (Rev.), m. 25 January, 1830 (Kilworth), Elizabeth, eldest surviving dau. of Rev. Mathew Purcell, of Burton, Churchtown, Co. Cork, and d.s.p.

1. Anastasia Earbury, d. young. 2. Hannah, d. young, 1809. 3. Elena, d. unm.

4. Alicia, m. 1818, Thomas Milward, Esq., and d. 1832, leaving a dau., m. in 1839 to George Wood, Barrister-at-law.

III. Wills, b. 1750, Capt. 34th Regt.; m. Mary, dau. of Richard Gason, Esq., of Killeshallagh, Co. Tipperary, and left an only dau. and heiress, Mary, m. John Bennett, Esq., eldest son of the Hon. Judge Bennēt.

I. Alicia, m. 1770, Richard Gason, Esq., of Richmond, Co. Tipperary, and had issue. The eldest son and heir.

GEORGE CROFTS, Esq., of Churchtown, b. 22 April, 1745; m. Mary, eldest dau. of Francis Greene, Esq., of Greenmount, Co. Limerick, and by her (who d. 1787) left at his decease, 1801, an only son and heir,

WILLS GEORGE CROFTS, Esq., of Churchtown, of St. John's Coll., Cambridge, Barrister-at-law, High Sheriff Co. Cork 1822; d. unm. 10 Nov., 1826, and was s. by his first cousin,

The REV. FREEMAN WILLS CROFTS, of Churchtown, b. 22 Sept., 1785; m. 1st, 16 May, 1810, Mary Marten, eldest dau. of the late Rev. William Gorman, Rector of Kilmore and Ballyglassin, Co. Meath, by Elizabeth, his wife, sister of Sir Charles Kendal Bushe, Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench in Ireland, and by her (who d. 16 June, 1838) had issue,

1. FREEMAN, of whom hereafter.

II. Wills George, of Templemary, near Buttevant, b. 17 April, 1818; m. 16 Feb., 1843, Elizabeth (b. 26 August, 1824), only dau. of James Grove White, Esq., of Kilburne (Kilbyrne), near Doneraile. She d. 16 Mar., 1892. He d. 22 March, 1857 (buried at Churchtown), leaving issue,

1. Freeman Wills, bur. 15 Ap., 1846 (Churchtown).

2. James Grove White, b. 18 January, 1857, Lieut.-Colonel, R.A.M.C. He m. 1st, Isabella, second dau. of Dr. Chas. Caulfield Tuckey of Kew. She d. at Raniket, India, s.p., 6 April, 1886. He m. 2ndly, 14 Oct., 1891, Maud, only dau. of William Ayres, Esq., of Chawley Manor, West Wycombe, Bucks, at Feltham Parish Church. He d. 6 Mar., 1901, leaving issue by his second wife an only child, Guinevere Madi Grove, b. 7 July, 1897. His widow m. 2ndly, 29 July, 1903, Capt. G. Masterson, Army Service Corps.

1. Phoebe Mary, m. 1st, Rev. Walter Sidney W. Croker, Rector of Feigheullen, who d.s.p. on. She m. 2ndly, on 14 Oct., 1884, William Mollan, Esq., of Dublin, who d. 1911.

2. Mary Jane, d. unm. 22 April, 1901.

3. Anna Spread, m. 21 Oct., 1903, Rev. Henry Ruthe Wilson, Vicar of Kilmoody and Tullynakill, Co. Down.

III. William Fortescue, b. 28 April, 1822.

I. Elizabeth Bushe, b. 9 June, 1812 (Churchtown).

II. Anne Spread, bur. 1865 (Churchtown).

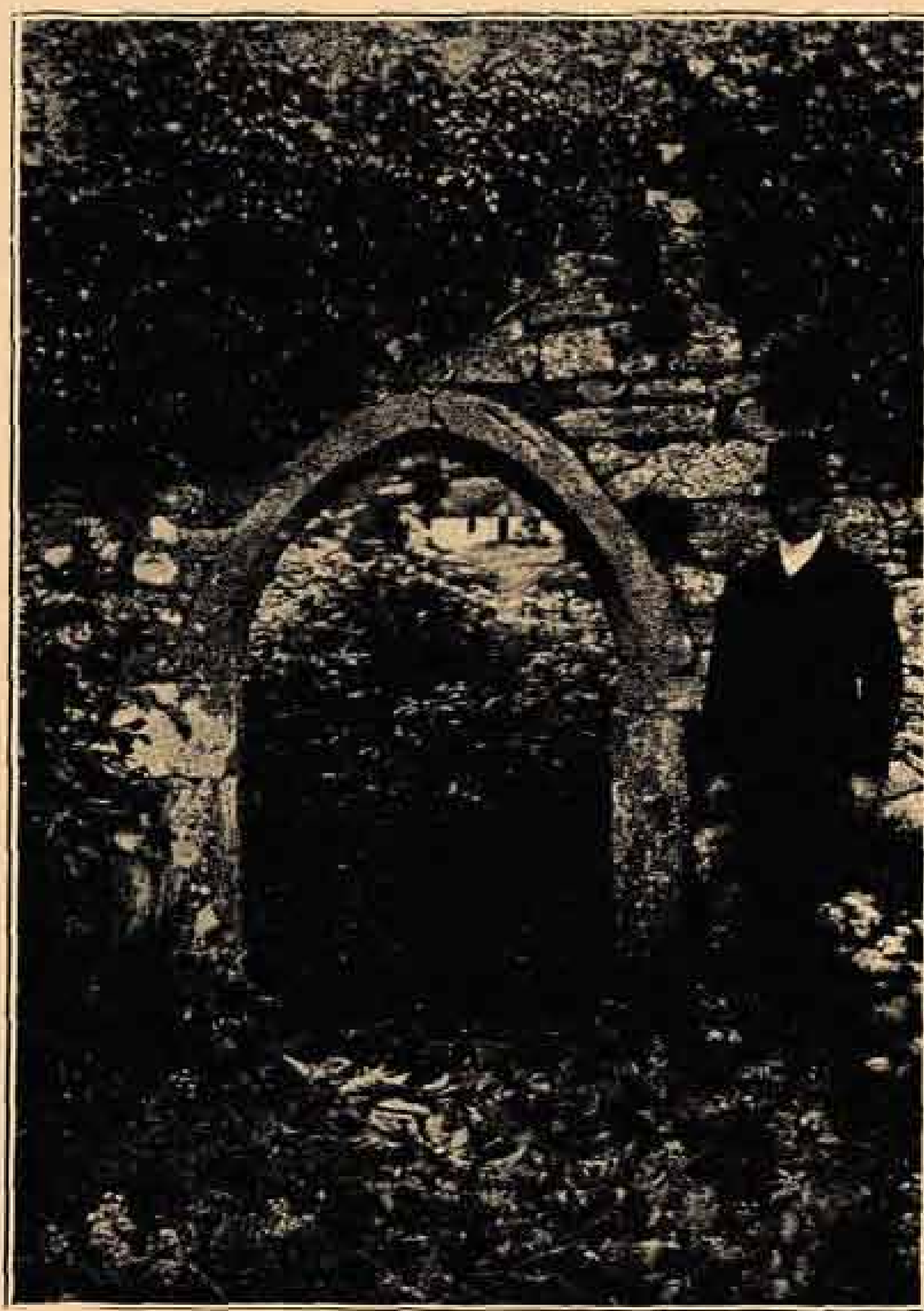
III. Catherine Doyle, m. 1st, 1 Oct., 1845, Richard Gason, Esq., of Richmond, Co. Tipperary, and had issue by him, who d. 1861; and 2ndly, 1869, William Finch, Esq., of Kilcoleman, Co. Tipperary (as his second wife).

IV. Maria Marten, m. May, 1853, Justin Deane Freeman, Esq., of Kilnaborris, Co. Galway, fifth son of Joseph Deane Freeman, Esq., of Castle Cor.

The REV. FREEMAN WILLS CROFTS m. secondly, Jane Hannah, relict of William Jameson, Esq., and dau. of Henry Milward, Esq., but by her (who d. 31 May, 1854) had no issue. He d. 9 Aug., 1849, and was s. by his son,

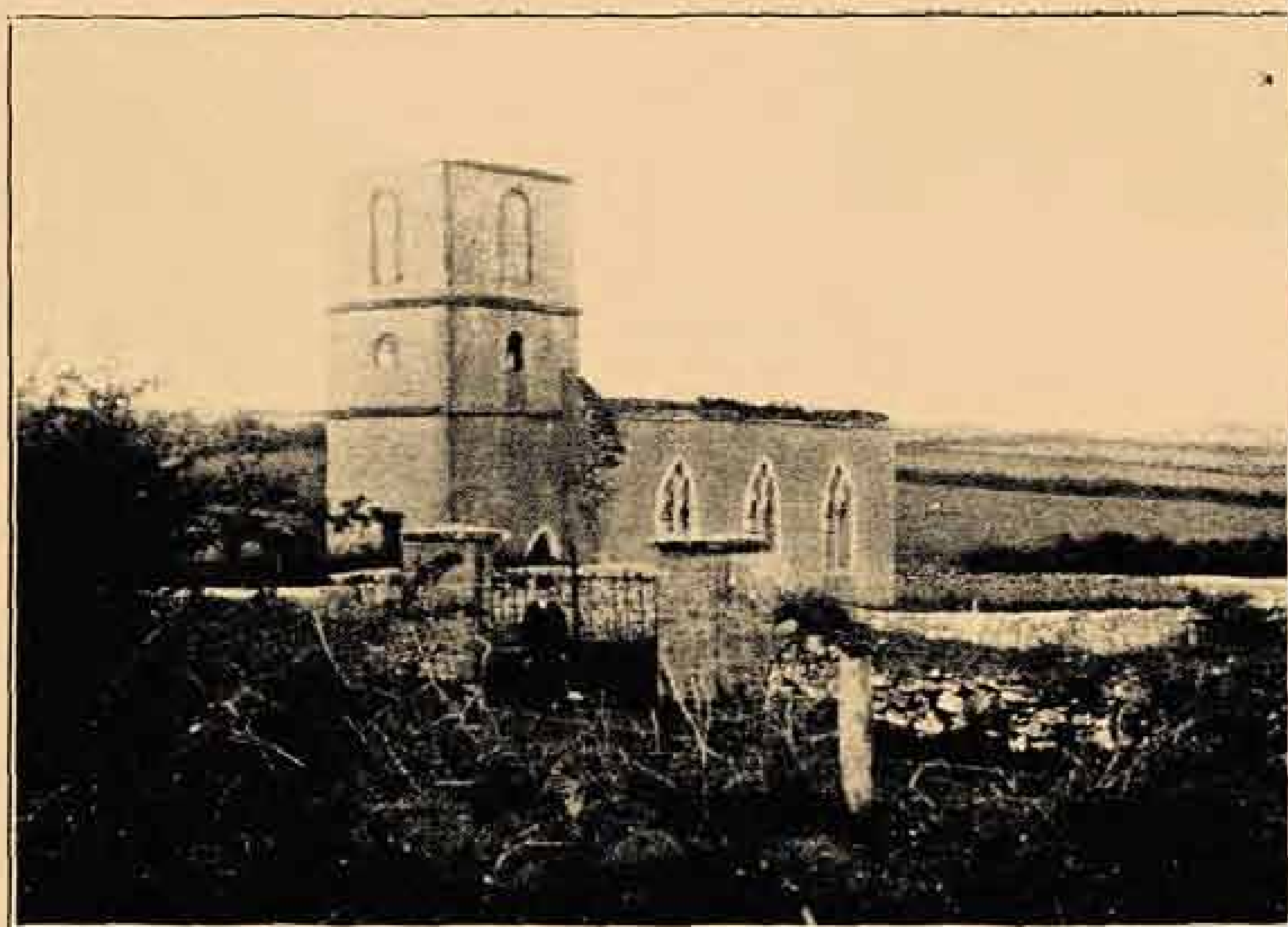
FREEMAN CROFTS, Esq., of Cloheen House, near Buttevant, J.P., Barrister-at-law, b. 3 July, 1816; m. 14 Dec., 1851, Ellen, youngest dau. of Joseph Deane-Freeman, Esq., of Castle Cor, Co. Cork, J.P. and D.L. He d. 6 Feb., 1869, having had issue,

1. FREEMAN WILLS, b. 15 May, 1853 (Buttevant P. R.), Surgeon-Lieut. A.M. Dept.; m. Cecilia, dau. of James Laurence Wise, Esq. (by his wife, Elizabeth, dau.



DOORWAY IN RUINS OF THE PRE-REFORMATION
CHURCH OF CLENOR.

(Photo by Col. Grove White, June, 1912.)



CLENOR PARISH CHURCH.

Closed for Divine Service in 1880.

(Photo by Col. Grove White, June, 1912.)

of John Deane, Esq., of Berkley Forest, Co. Wexford). He d. in British Honduras, 1879 (shortly after his marr.) His widow m. 2ndly Ven. Archdeacon Harding, leaving issue,

(a) Freeman Wills, Esq., C.E.

1. Elizabeth MacCartie, b. 1855 (Buttevant P. R.); m. as his first wife in 1879, Rev. Freeman Crofts Gason, Rector of Maynooth. She d. 13 Dec., 1890, leaving issue,

(a) Freeman Wills Crofts.

(a) Eileen Elizabeth, d. 19 Sept., 1910.

(b) Muriel Mary.

The Rev. F. C. Gason m. 2ndly, Deborah, third dau. of Dr. Charles Caulfield Tuckey, of Kew, Surrey.

(2) Mary Gorman.

Arms—Or, three bulls' heads, cabossed, sa.

Crest—A bull's head, cabossed, sa, armed or.

Motto—"Virtute et fidelitate."

(Burke's "Encyclopædia of Heraldry," 1851).

Clenor Parish.

Sheet 25, six-inch O.S.; Sheet 175, one-inch O.S.

Barony of Fermoy. Parish of Clenor.

It is situated about two miles south of Doneraile.

Clenore is the Irish for "a golden slope."

In 1881 the area of the parish was 4,289a. or. 38p.; houses 104; pop. 556; families 101; R.C.'s 550; Prots. 6; val. £3,178 15s. od.

Clenor North townland, 306a. 1r. 3p.; pop. 33; val. £191 5s. od.

Clenor South townland, 220a. 3r. 7p.; pop 35; val. £151 5s. od.

Rev. Canon J. F. Lynch writes:—In the "Fermoy Topography" Clenor is written Claenuir, which means moist incline, and is stated to be the burial place of Hi nGeibennain,¹ Hi Cailte, and O n-Gormain, and is on the plain of Magh Nale, out of which are Hi Gormain. On Magh Nale were also the Brugh, or royal residence; Flaithneim, Tulach Finnleithid, Magh Lis an Ibhair, Cill O'n Geibennain, Rathán, and Baile Hi Mulghuala or Ballymagooly; and in article on Ballymagooly will be found description of Magh Nale, which may be for Magh na h-aille, or Magh na faille, i.e., "plain of the cliff," perhaps at Clifford; and Cill O'Geibennain may be Killavullen.

In the Ecclesiastical Taxation of the year 1302, it is stated that the Prebend of the Chancellor, Richard de Barri, is the Church of Glennowyr (Glanworth), valued at 28½ marks, and that the Prebend of the Archdeacon, Master Maurice O'Sullivan, is the Church de Atheros Neynan, and a small portion of Clenor, valued at 50 shillings. According to Windele, the church of Clenor was dedicated to St. Cranit, a name which

¹The Canon adds: In the "Fermoy Topography," Claenuir, besides being the burying place of Hi n-Geibennain, Hi Cailte, and O n-Gormain, is also stated to be the burying place of Hi Domhnaill of Madh O'Cathail, or "plain of O'Cathail," which included Messignighe and Carraig Leme Laeghaire; of Hi Fearghala of Cill Cuile; of Hi Fiachain of Baile Hi Fiachain; of Hi Annadha of Cluain Caisil and Daire na Teide; of Hi Gnimh of Garran O n-Gnima, of Hi Finn of Cuil-Baile Hi Finn. The Comarbship of Claenuir is stated to be the hereditary privilege of the Hi Annadha, and the Hi Cennagain are stated to be the Mac Cleireachs of Claenuir. O'Donovan, in his Supplement to O'Reilly's Irish Dictionary," states that Mac Cleireach is an ecclesiastical student from the time that he received his first degree until he was ordained a priest, and Mac Leighin, he says, is a student before he received any ecclesiastical degree. In "Lives of Saints from Book of Lismore," the term mac cleireach is rendered "young cleric," by Dr. Whitley Stokes. "Triar maccleirech di fhearuibh Eirenn dochotar dia n-aillithre"—"three young clerics of the men of Ireland went on their pilgrimage." Carraig Leme Laeghaire, or "rock of the leap of Laeghaire," has preserved its old name, written Carrigleamleary by Lewis, the leap of Laeghaire being from the top of the rock into the Blackwater, just as we have the rock of the lovers' leap overhanging the Blackwater near Mallow Castle. Hi Laeghaire are stated to have been chieftains of Hi Bece Abha, not far from Carrigleamleary, and so I presume they were named from the hero of the leap.