

Augustinian Monasteries of Cork

MONASTICON HIBERNICUM:

OR,

A HISTORY

OF THE

ABBEYS, PRIORIES, AND OTHER RELIGIOUS HOUSES
IN IRELAND;

INTERSPERSED WITH

*Memoirs of their several Founders and Benefactors, and of their
Abbots and other Superiors,*

TO THE TIME OF THEIR FINAL SUPPRESSION.

LIKEWISE,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE POSSESSIONS BELONGING TO THOSE
FOUNDATIONS WERE DISPOSED OF, AND THE PRESENT STATE OF THEIR RUINS,

COLLECTED FROM

*English, Irish, and Foreign Historians, Records, and other Authentic Documents,
and from many Curious and Valuable Manuscripts.*

WITH

ENGRAVINGS IN GOLD AND COLORS OF THE SEVERAL RELIGIOUS
AND MILITARY ORDERS,

And Maps and Views Illustrating the History.

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COUNTY OF CORK.

Abbey Mahon,¹ near Timoleague, in the barony of Barryroe, and close to the shore of the bay of Court M'Sherrie; the monks of the Cistercian order founded an abbey here at their own expense; the Lord Barry endowed it with eighteen plowlands, which constitute the parish of Abbey Mahon; but the building was never finished, for the suppression of monasteries taking place, those lands were seized by the crown. The walls of the church are yet standing. This house has been mistaken for that of de Sancto Mauro, alias de Fonte vivo.¹

Abbey Shrowry,² To the west of Skibbereen, in the barony of Carbury. Here are the ruins of a parish church, which is said to have been a religious house, but nothing appears of it in our authors.^m

Ballybeg,³ a small walk from Buttevant, in the barony of Orrery and Kilmore. Philip de Barry founded a priory here for regular canons following the rule of **St. Augustin**, and dedicated it to St. Thomas, the favourite saint of that age; he endowed it in the year 1229, in remembrance of which, his equestrian statue in brass was erected in the church. David, his grandson, enlarged the revenues belonging to the priory in the year 1235, and was made a Knight, but was killed in the year 1262.ⁿ

David de Cardigan was prior in the reign of King Henry III. and John de Barry in the following reign.^o

The possessions belonging to this house were, in the 16th year of Queen Elizabeth, granted for the term of 21 years to

¹ *Smith's Cork*, vol. 1., p. 253. ^m *Smith's Cork*, vol. 1., p. 281. ⁿ *Lodge*, vol. 1, p. 194, 195. ^o *King*, p. 218.

¹ Abbey Mahon—The ruins of Abbey Mahon are close to the bay of Court Mac Sherry, in the parish of Abbey Mahon, in the barony of Ibane and Barryroe, to which it gives name. It is one mile and a half E. S. E. from Timoleague, in the County of Cork. This parish is situated on the north-west side of Court Mac Sherry bay on the south coast. It formerly constituted part of the parish of Lisle, from which it was separated on the erection of an abbey by some Cistercian monks, which stood close to the shore, and was endowed by Lord Barry with eighteen ploughlands, but was not entirely complete at the general suppression of monasteries when its possessions were seized by the crown and granted to the Boyle family, and are still the property of the Earl of Shannon.

² Abbey Shrewry was situated in the parish of Abbey Shrewry, on the northern bank of the river Ilen, one mile west of Skibbereen, in the eastern division of the barony of West Carbery, in the county of Cork. This parish is situated near the southern coast on the road from Cork to Baltimore, and is intersected by the river Ilen, on the north of which may be seen the ruins of this religious house from which it took its name.

³ Ballybeg—The venerable remains of this monastery, known as the Abbey of St. Thomas, are situated on the river Awbeg, about one mile from Buttevant, in the parish of Ballybeg, in the barony of Orrery and Kilmore, county of Cork.

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MATTEO MARINO

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Mary, XXXV. Henry VIII., the abbot was found seized of his priory with a cemetery and certain buildings on the site, containing one acre, annual value besides reprises, 6s. 8d., also sixty acres of arable land, of the small measure, and forty of pasture, being the demesne lands of the priory, annual value, besides reprises, 40s.; one hundred and twenty acres in the said townland, annual value, besides reprises, 60s.; and the following rectories appropriated to the said prior:—Ballybeg, annual value, besides reprises, £4; Kilkerran, Ardsyoll, and Rathbarry, annual value, besides reprises, 100s.; Ballycloghie and Ballycastell, annual value, besides reprises, £7; Drusemallyny, in MacWilliam's country, annual value, besides reprises, £6; Carryketwohill, annual value, besides reprises, £6; Castlebegnan, annual value, besides reprises, £6; Kylcarryhyn, annual value, besides reprises, 20s.; Killnemalaghe, annual value, besides reprises, £8; and Rossaghe, Downeraghill, and Cahirdowgan, annual value, £6; all sterling money. The said lands and rectories lie in the county of Cork.

Inquisition, 5th February, III. James I., finds that, 28th April, XVI. Elizabeth, a grant for a term of years was made to George Bourcher, Esq., of this priory and the demesne thereof, with certain lands in the town of Ballybeg; as also the rectories of Ballybeg, Ballikeran, Ardhoile, and Rathbarry, Ballyclogh and Ballycastell, Crustmalyny in MacWilliam's country, Carricktwohill, Castlebechin, Kill . . . Kilnemalagh, Rossegne, Downeragill, and Chairdowgan, in the counties of Cork and Mayo. To hold the same at the annual rent of £41 10s. Irish money.

David de Cardigan was prior in the reign of King Henry III. and John de Barry in the following reign.^o

The possessions belonging to this house were, in the 16th year of Queen Elizabeth, granted for the term of 21 years to George Bouchier, Esq., who forfeited the same by non-payment of the rent;^p those lands and tithes were granted in trust to Sir Daniel Norton, for the wife of Sir Thomas Norris, president of Munster, and were found, in the year 1622, to be of the yearly value of £260.^q

Of this abbey there yet remain the east window and the steeple, which is a strong building, and by the holes in the vaulted roof it appears that they had a chime of bells; the traces of the foundation, with an high tower a considerable way to the southwest, prove it to have been a truly magnificent structure.^r

Ballymacadane,^s four miles from the city of Cork, on the

^o *King*, p. 218. ^p *King*, p. 218. ^q *Smith*, vol. 1, pp. 323, 324. ^r *Id.*

^s *Ballymacadane*.—"Inquisition 1st June, XXX. Queen Elizabeth, finds that the two carrucates of land called Ballimackedane and Bally Ildy, adjacent to this abbey