County Louth Archaeological and History Society

Notes and Queries

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Blessed Oliver Plunkett Church at Ballybarrack.

The first photograph was taken of the eastern end of the ruined church before restoration, but after it was cleared by Mr. Coleman, who went to very great trouble and expense in the matter.

The stones are piled up in the centre. This debris had originally filled the space to the height of the walls, about four feet. The clearing was commenced by Mr. Coleman early in 1920 and disclosed the side doorway, the chancel cross-wall or flag lintel and altar. The restoration was carried out by Canon Donnellan and Mr. Coleman. On Sunday, 21st May, 1920 (the date of the beatification at Rome) the Very Rev. A. Macardle, S.J., Rector of St. Francis Xavier's, Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin, celebrated Mass in the restored chapel.

The second photograph is a picture of the lid of the bronze (?) (brass or latten) thurible found in the ruin during excavation. It was quite near the surface, and in the photograph is placed in the little niche in the wall which most probably was used for holding ecclesiastical vessels.

P. L. MACARDLE.

Notes and Queries.

CLOGHAFARMORE PILLAR STONE, KNOCKBRIDGE.

On 14th July, 1920, I visited the so-called stone of Cuchullain at Knockbridge. I was led to do so primarily by an appearance as of Ogham scoring in a picture post card of the monument. But I found no Ogham on the stone itself, the marks represented on the post card begin merely weather-marks.

I have no doubt in my own mind, however, that the stone once bore an Ogham inscription. The left hand angle of the northern face has been most carefully chamfered away, clearly with intention, to within about a foot of the top. The extent of stone removed is just of the average breadth and length of an ordinary Ogham inscription; and the angle which has been thus treated is the most likely angle to be so inscribed. There is no other reason for cutting off the angle so likely as the desire to destroy an Ogham; some zealous early Christian iconoclast may have wished to efface the name of a Pagan. One McKenna has seen fit to immortalise his insignificance by cutting his name in deep letters on the new surface.

Whether the stone had any connexion or not with Cuchullain I express no opinion. But it was either erected or adapted as a monument of some person of importance, as the great size of the monument testifies, and for a while it bore his name.

R. A. S. MACALISTER.

MR. GARSTIN'S MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS.

Miss Garstin has thoughtfully presented to the Louth Archæological Society a very valuable collection of Mr. Garstin's historical manuscripts of local and family history, including many of Major General Stubbs' extracts and compilations, and a transcript of the old Minute Book of the Corporation of Dunleer. Some of these are published in this number, and others of great interest will be given in succeeding issues.

DROGHEDA PICTURES (p. 340).

The Colleen Bawn Steamer, in the stateroom of which these pictures were set, was built about 1856, and was broken up about 1902.