

THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF CONNAUGHT[1]

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Roderick O'Conor, the last Milesian monarch of Ireland, after having reigned twenty years, abdicated the throne, A.D. 1186, and, after a religious seclusion of thirteen years in the monastery of Cong, in the County Mayo, died, A.D. 1198, in the 82nd year of his age ; and was buried in Clonmacnoise, in the same sepulchre with his father, Torlogh O'Conor, the 181st monarch of Ireland. In the chronological poem on the Christian kings of Ireland, written in the twelfth century, is the following stanza : —

“ Ocht m-Bliadhna agus deich Ruadri an Ri,
Mac Toirdhealbhaidh an t-Ard Ri,
Flaith na n-Eirend : gan fhell,
Ri deighneach deig Eirenn. “

Anglicised —

“ Eighteen years the monarch Roderick,
Son of Torlogh, supreme sovereign,
Ireland's undisputed ruler,
Was fair Erin's latest king.” —
Connellan.

According to the *Four Masters*, Roderick O'Conor reigned as monarch for twenty years : from A.D. 1166 to A.D.1186.

1. MAYO AND SLIGO.

(a) The Irish Chiefs and Clans.

The following chiefs and clans and the territories they possessed in the twelfth century, in the present Counties of Sligo and Mayo, have been collected from O'Dugan and , other authorities: — 1. O'Maolcluiche or Mulclohy (clock: Irish, *a stone*), chief of Cairbre, now the barony of Carbery, in the County Sligo. This name has been Anglicised “ Stone” and “ Stoney.” 2. MacDiarmada or MacDermott, chief of Tir Oliolla, now the barony of “ Tিরerill” in the County Sligo. The MacDermotts were also princes of Moylurg, in the County Roscommon, in South Connaught. They afterwards became princes of Coolavin, as successors to the O'Garas, lords of Coolavin; and to the present day, as the only family of the Milesian Clans who have preserved their ancient titles, retain the title of “ Prince of Coolavin.” 3. MacDonchaidh or MacDonogh, a branch of the MacDermotts, afterwards chiefs of Tিরerill and of Corran, now the barony of “ Corran” in Sligo. O'Donchathaigh is given by O'Dugan as a chief in Corran ; this name has been Anglicised O'Donagh. 4. O'Dubhalen or O'Devlin, another chief in Corran. 5. O'Headhra or O'Hara, chief of Luighne, now the barony of “ Lieney” in the County Sligo ; but Lieney anciently comprised part of the baronies of Costello and Gallen in Mayo. The O'Haras were descended from Olioll Olum, King of Munster in the third century. In the reigns of Queen Anne and George the First, the O'Haras were created “ Barons of Tirawley and Kilmain,” in the County Mayo. 6. O'Gadhra or O'Gara, given by O'Dugan as chief of Lieney, but in after times Lord of Cuil-O'bh-fionn, now the barony of “ Coolavin,” was of the same stock as the O'Haras and O'Briens, kings of Thomond. 7. O'Ciernachain or Kernigan, and O'Huathmharain or O'Haran, other chiefs in Lieney. 8. O'Muiredhaigh or

O'Murray, chief of Ceara, now the barony of “Carra” in the County Mayo ; and also chief of the Lagan, a district in the northern part of the barony of Tirawley, in Mayo. 9. O'Tighearnaigh or O'Tierney a chief in Carra. 10. O'Gormog, another chief in Carra. 11. O'Maille or O'Malley, chief of Umhall, which O'Dugan states was divided into two territories. This territory, whose name is sometimes mentioned as Umalia and Hy-Maha, comprised the present baronies of Murrisk and “Burrishoole,” in the County Mayo. The O'Malleys are of the same descent as the O'Conors, kings of Connaught; and seem to have been great mariners. Of them O'Dugan says : —

“A good man yet there never was
Of the O'Malleys, who was not a *mariner* ;
Of every weather ye are prophets ;
A tribe of brotherly affection and of friendship. ”

Of this family was the celebrated heroine Graine-Ui-Mhaille [Grana Wale] or Grace O'Malley, daughter of Mac William Burke, and wife of the chief “O'Malley” ; who, in the reign of Elizabeth, commanding her fleet in person, performed many remarkable exploits against the English. 12. O'Talcharain, chief of Conmaicne Cuile, now the barony of Kilmain, County Mayo. The following chiefs and clans, not given in O'Dugan, have been collected from other sources :— 1. O'Caithniadh, chief of Iorras, now the barony of “Erris,” in Mayo. 2. O'Ceallachain or O'Callaghan, chiefs in Erris ; this family was not of the O'Callaghans of Munster. 3. O'Caomhain (O'Comyn, or O'Commins), a senior branch of the O'Dowd family, and chiefs of some districts on the borders of Sligo and Mayo in the baronies of Tireragh, Corran, and Costello. 4. O'Gaibhtheachain or O'Gaughan (by some Anglicised O'Vaughan) ; and O'Maoilfhiona or O'Maloney, chiefs of Calraighe Moy Heleog— a district comprising the parish of Crossmolina (in Irish “Crosmaoilfhiona”), in the barony of Tyrawley, and County Mayo. 5. O'Gairmiallaigh or O'Garvaly, and O'Dorchaidhe or O'Dorchy, chiefs of Partraighe or Partry ; an ancient territory at the Partry mountains in Mayo, the situation of which the present parish of “Partry” determines. Many of this family in Mayo and Galway have Anglicised the name “Darcey” or “D'Arcy” ; and have been supposed to be some of the D'Arcys of Meath, who claim to be of English descent. 6. O'Lachtnain or Loughnan (by some of the family Anglicised “Loftus”), chiefs of the territory called “The Two Bacs,” now the parish of *Backs*, situated between Lough Conn and the river Moy, in Mayo. 7. O'Maolfogh-mair, Anglicised “Milford” ; and O'Maolbrennuin, Anglicised “Mulrennin,” chiefs of Hy-Eachach Muaidhe, a district extending along the western bank of the river “Moy,” between Ballina and Killala. 8. The O'Mongans or O'Mangans, chiefs of Breach Magh — a district in the parish of Kilmoye Moy, on the eastern bank of the Moy, in the County Sligo. O'Conniallain or O'Connellan, chief of Bun-ui-Conniellan, now “Bonnyconnellan” — a district in the barony of Gallen, County Mayo ; and also of Cloonconnellan, in the barony of Kilmain. 10. O'Ceirin, O'Kieran, or O'Kearns, chiefs of Ciarraighe Loch-na-Nairneadh — a territory in the barony of Costello, County Mayo, comprising the parishes of Aghamore, Began, and Knock.

The other clans in Mayo and Sligo were : — The O'Bannens, O'Brogans, MacConbains or MacConvys ; O'Beans (ban: Irish, *white*), some of whom have Anglicised the name “White” and “Whyte” ; O'Beolans or O'Bolands ; O'Beirnes, some of whom have Anglicised their name “Barnes” ; O'Flatellys, O'Creans, O'Careys, O'Conachtains or O'Conatys of Cabrach or Cabra in Tireragh ; O'Flanellys, O'Coolaghans, O'Burns, O'Hughes ; O'Huada or Heady, O'Fuada or Fodey (*fuadach* : Irish, *an elopement*), and O'Tapa or Tappy (*tapadh*, Irish, *haste*) — these three last surnames have been Anglicised “Swift” ; O'Loingsys or O'Lynches ; O'Maolmoicheirghe (*moch* : Irish, *early*). Anglicised “Early” and “Eardley” ; O'Mulrooneys or Rooneys, O'Morans, O'Muldoons or Meldons, O'Meehans, O'Craffreys or Caffreys, O'Finnegans, O'Morriseys, O'Morrisses, or O'Morrisons ; MacGeraghty, Anglicised “Garrett ;” O'Spillanes, O'Donels, and MacSwineys.

(b). The Anglo-Norman Settlers in Mayo and Sligo.

In the twelfth century, John de Courcy made some attempts with his Anglo-Norman forces towards the conquest of Connaught, but did not succeed to any extent. The De Burgos or Burkes, in the reign of King John, obtained grants in various parts of Connaught ; and, for a long period, carried on fierce contests with the O'Conors, Kings of Connaught, and various chiefs. They made considerable conquests in the country, and were styled lords of Connaught ; but it appears that, in the fourteenth century, several chiefs of the Burkes renounced their allegiance to the English government, and some of them took the surname of " Mac-William" ; and, adopting the Irish language and dress, identified themselves with the ancient Irish in customs and manners. One of them, namely, Edmund de Burgo, took the name of Mac William Oughter or Mac William the Upper, who was located in Galway, the *upper* part of Connaught ; and another, Mac William Eigher, or Mac William the Lower, who was located in Mayo, or the lower part. Some branches of the Burkes took the surnames of Mac-David, MacPhilbin, MacGibbon, from their respective ancestors.

From Richard or Rickard de Burgo, a great portion of the County Galway got the name of Clanrickard, which, according to Ware, comprised the baronies of Clare, Dunkellin, Loughrea, Kiltartan, Athenry, and Leitrim. The De Bugos became the most powerful family in Connaught, and were its chief governors under the kings of England. They were styled lords of Connaught, and also became earls of Ulster ; but, on the death of William de Burgo, earl of Ulster, in the fourteenth century, and the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth, to Lionel, Duke of Clarence, son of King Edward the Third, his titles passed into the Royal Family of England.

Ulick Burke, the progenitor of the marquises of Clanrickard, had great possessions in Galway and Roscommon ; and Sir Edmund Burke, called " Albanach," had large possessions in Mayo, and was ancestor of the earls of Mayo.

Mayo: — The other Anglo-Norman or English families who settled in Mayo, were the following : — The De Angulos or Nangles, who took the Irish surname " MacCostello," and from whom the barony of " Costello" derived its name. The De Exeters, who took the name of " MacJordan," and were styled lords of Ath-leathan, in the barony of Gallen. The Barretts, some of whom took the surname of " MacWatten," and " MacAndrew." The Stauntons, in Carra — some of whom took the name of " MacAveely." The Lawlesses, Cusacks, Lynots, Prendergasts, and Fitzmaurices ; the Berminghams, who changed their name to " Mac-Feorais" ; the Blakes, Dillons, Bingham, etc. The MacPhillips are placed on the map of Ortelius in the barony of Costello ; their principal seat is at Cloonmore, and they are a branch of the Burkes who took the name of " MacPhilip."

Mayo, according to some accounts, was formed into a county, as early as the reign of Edward the Third ; but not altogether reduced to English rule till the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In Speed's " Theatre of Great Britain," published, A.D. 1676, Mayo is stated to be " replenished both with pleasure and fertility, abundantly rich in cattle, deer, hawks, and plenty of honey." Mayo derives its name from " magh," *a plain*, and " eo," *a yew tree*, signifying the Plain of the Yew Trees.

In Sligo, the Anglo-Normans under the Burkes and the Fitzgeralds (earls of Kildare) made some settlements, and had frequent contests with the O'Conors, and with the O'Donels (princes of Tirconnell) ; who had extended their power over a great part of Sligo. Sligo derives its name from the river Sligeach (" Slig," *a shell*), and was formed into a county, A.D. 1565, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the lord deputy Sir Henry Sydney.

(c). Modern Nobility in Mayo and Sligo.

The following have been the noble families in Mayo and Sligo since the reign of King James the First.

Mayo : — The Burkes, viscounts Clanmorris and earls of Mayo. The Brownes, barons of Kilmain, barons of Westport, and barons of Oranmore. The Bingham, barons of Castlebar ; and the Savilles, barons of Castlebar. The Dillons, barons of Costello-Gallen, and viscounts Dillon. The O'Haras, barons of Tyrawley and Kilmain.

Sligo : The Taaffes, barons of Ballymote, and viscounts of Corran. The Cootes, barons of Collooney. The Scudamores, viscounts of Sligo. And the Brownes, marquises of Sligo.

ROSCOMMON AND GALWAY.

(a). The Irish Chiefs and Clans.

The following chiefs and clans in Roscommon and Galway, and the territories possessed by them in the twelfth century, have been collected from O'Dugan's Topography and other sources: — 1. MacDiarmada or MacDermott, princes of Moylurg, Tir-Oilill, Tir-Tuathail, Airteach, and Clan Cuain. Moylurg comprised the plains of Boyle, in the County Roscommon; Tir-Oilill, now the barony of “Tirerill” in Sligo ; Airteach, a district in Roscommon near Lough Gara, on the borders of Sligo and Mayo ; Clan Cuain was a district in the barony of Carra, near Castlebar, comprising the present parishes of Islandeady, Turlough, and Breaffy. The MacDermotts were hereditary marshals of Connaught, the duties attached to which were to raise and regulate the military forces, and to prepare them for battle, as commanders in chief ; also to preside at the inauguration of the O'Conors as kings of Connaught, and to proclaim their election. The MacDermotts derive their descent from Teige of the White Steed, King of Connaught in the eleventh century ; and are a branch of the O'Conors. This Teige had a son named Maolruanaidh, the progenitor of the MacDermotts : hence their tribe-name was Clan Maolruanaidh or Clan Mulrooney. Diarmaid (*dia* : Irish, *a god*, and *armaid*, of *arms*, signifying a great warrior), grandson of Mulrooney, who died, A.D. 1165, was the head of the clan ; and from him they took the name of “ MacDermott.” The MacDermotts had their chief fortress at the Rock of Lough Key, on an island in Lough Key, near Boyle ; and are the only Milesian family who have preserved their title, namely that of “ Hereditary Prince of Coolavin :” a title by which the MacDermott is to this day recognised in the County Sligo. The principal families of the MacDermotts in Connaught are — The MacDermott of Coolavin, and MacDermott Roe of Alderford in the County Roscommon. The following were, according to O'Dugan, the ancient chiefs of Moylurg before the time of the MacDermotts: —

“ The ancient chiefs of Moylurg of abundance:
MacEoach (or MacKeogh); MacMaoin (or MacMaine),
the great.
And MacEiabhaidh (or Magreevy) the efficient forces.”

2. O'Ceallaigh or O'Kelly. This name is derived from Ceallach, a celebrated chief in the ninth century, who is the ancestor of the O'Kellys, princes of Hy-Maine. These O'Kellys are a branch of the Clan Colla of Orgiall in Ulster, and of the same descent as the MacMahons, lords of Monaghan ; Maguires, lords of Fermanagh ; O'Hanlons, lords of Orior in Armagh, etc. In the fourth century, Maine Mor or Maine the Great, a chief of the Clan Colla, conquered a colony of the Firbolgs in Connaught ; and the territory so conquered, which was

possessed by his posterity, was after him called Hy-Maine (signifying the territory possessed by the descendants of Maine), which has been Latinized “Hy-Mania” and “I-Mania.” This extensive territory comprised, according to O’Flaherty and others, a great part of South Connaught in the present County Galway, and was afterwards extended beyond the river Suck to the Shannon, in the south of Roscommon. It included the baronies of Ballymoe, Tiaquin, Killian, and Kilconnel, with part of Clonmacnoon, in Galway ; and the barony of Athlone in Roscommon. The O’Kellys were styled princes of Hy-Maine, and their territory was called “O’Kelly’s Country.”

According to the “Dissertations” of Charles O’Conor, the O’Kellys held the office of high treasurers of Connaught, and the MacDermotts that of marshals. Tadhg or Teige O’Kelly, one of the commanders of the Connaught contingent of Brian Boru’s army at the battle of Clontarf, was of this ancient family. The O’Kellys had castles at Aughrim, Garbally, Gallagher, Monivea, Moylough, Mullaghmore, and Aghrane, now Castlekelly in the County Galway ; and at Athlone, Athleague, Corbeg, Galy, and Skrine, in the County Roscommon. The chiefs of the O’Kellys, according to some accounts, were inaugurated at Clontuskert, about five miles from Eyrecourt in the County Galway ; and held their rank as princes of Hy-Maine down to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. 3. Mac-Oireaohtaigh or MacGeraghty, of the same stock as the O’Conors of Connaught. In the *Annals of the Four Masters*, at A.D. 1278, Mac-Oiraghty is mentioned as head chief of Siol Murray, a term applied to the central parts of the County Roscommon ; and, in the sixteenth century, when deprived of their territories, some of the clan Geraghty, settled in Mayo and Sligo, and gave name to the island of “Inis Murray,” off the coast of Sligo, on account of their former title as head chiefs of Siol Murray, as in the Annals above mentioned. 4. O’Fionnachta or O’Finaghty, chiefs of Clan Conmaigh, and of Clan Murchada, districts in the two half baronies of Ballymoe in the Counties of Galway and Roscommon, in O’Kellys principality of Hy-Maine. The O’Finaghtys here mentioned were of the Clan Colla ; and two distinct chiefs of them are given by O’Dugan : one of them, Finaghty of “Clan Murrogh of the Champions;” and the other, Finaghty of the “Clan Conway.” O’Finaghty, chiefs of Clan Conway, had their castle at Dunamon, near the river Suck in the County Roscommon. It is stated in some old authorities, that the O’Finaghtys had the privilege of drinking the first cup at every royal feast. 5. O’Fallamhain or O’Fallon were chiefs of Clan Uadach, a district in the barony of Athlone, County Roscommon, comprising the parishes of Cam and Dysart ; and had a castle at Miltown. The O’Fallons were originally chiefs in Westmeath near Athlone. 6. O’Birn or O’Beirnes, chiefs of Muintir O’Mannachain or O’Monaghan, a territory along the Shannon, in the parish of Ballintobber, in Roscommon, extending nearly to Elphin. 7. O’Mannachain or O’Monaghan, was also chief on the same territory as O’Beirne. These O’Beirnes are of a distinct race from the O’Byrnes of Wicklow. 8. O’Hainlidhe, O’Hanley, or O’Henley, chiefs of Kinel Dobhtha, a large district in the barony of Ballintobber, along the Shannon. It formed part of the Three Tuatha or The Three Districts. 9. MacBranain or MacBrennan, sometimes Anglicised O’Brennan ; and O’Mailmichil, Anglicised “Mitchell.” The O’Brennans and Mitchells were chiefs of Corca Achlann, a large district adjoining Kinel-Dobhtha, in the barony of Roscommon. This district formed part of the “Tuatha” in which was situated the Slieve Baun Mountain. 10. O’Flannagain or O’Flanagan, chiefs of Clan Cathail, a territory in the barony of Roscommon, north of Elphin. O’Maolmordha, O’Morra or O’Moore, O’Carthaidh or O’Carthy, and O’Mughroin or O’Moran, were also subordinate chiefs of Clan Cathail (*Cathal* : Irish, *Charles*), or Clan Charles. 11. O’Maolbrenuain or Mulbrennan, Anglicised “Mulrenan,” chiefs of Clan Conchobhair or Clan Conor, a district near Cruachan or Croaghan, in the barony and County of Roscommon. 12. O’Cathalain, chief of Clan Fogartaigh [Fogarty] ; and O’Maonaigh or O’Mooney, chiefs of Clan Murthuile. Clan Fogarty and Clan Murthuile were districts in Ballintubber, County Roscommon. 13. O’Conceannain or O’Concannon, chiefs of Hy-Diarmada, a district on the borders of Roscommon and Galway, in the baronies of Athlone and Ballymoe. 14. Mac-Murchada, MacMurrogh, or MacMorrow, chiefs of Tomaltaigh in Roscommon, of which

MacOiraghty was head chief. 15. O'Floinn or O'Flynn, chiefs of Siol Maolruain, a large district in the barony of Ballintubber, County Roscommon; in which lay Slieve Ui Fhloinn or O'Flynn's Mountain, which comprised the parishes of Kilkeeran and Kiltullagh, and part of the parish of Ballynakill, in the barony of Ballymoe, County Galway. O'Maolmuaidh, or O'Mulmay, was a subordinate chief over Clan Taidhg or Clan Teige, in the same district. 16. O'Rothlain (O'Rowland, O'Roland, and O'Rollin), chiefs of Coill Fothaidh, a district on the borders of Roscommon and Mayo. 17. O'Sgaithgil, MacSgaithgil, or Scahil, chiefs of Corca Mogha, a district which comprised the parish of Kilkeeran, in the barony of Killian, County Galway. O'Broin, Anglicised "Burns," was chief of Lough Gealgosa, a district adjoining Corca Mogha. 18. O'Talcharain (Taleran or Taleyrand), chiefs of Conmaicne Cuile, a district in the barony of Clare, County Galway. 19. O'Cadhlá or O'Cawley, chiefs of Conmaicne Mara (or Connemara), now the barony of Ballynahinch, in the County Galway. 20. Mac-Conroi, Anglicised "King," chiefs of Gno Mor; and O'Haidhnidh or O'Heany, chiefs of Gno Beag : districts which lay along the western banks of Lough Corrib, in the barony of Moycullen, and County of Galway, in the direction of Galway Bay. 21. MacAodha or MacHugh, chiefs of Clan Cosgraidh, a district on the eastern side of Lough Corrib. 22. O'Flaithbheartaigh or O'Flaherty, chiefs of Muintir Murchadha, now the barony of Clare, County Galway. In the thirteenth century the O'Flahertys were expelled from this territory by the English ; and, having settled on the other side of Lough Corrib, they got extensive possessions there in the barony of Moycullen, and were styled lords of Iar Conacht or West Conn-aught. They also had the chief naval command about Lough Corrib, on some of the islands of which they had castles. 23. O'Heidhin or O'Heyne, Anglicised "Hynes," was styled Prince of South Hy-Fiachra, a district co-extensive with the diocese of Kilmacduagh ; and comprised the barony of Kiltartan, and parts of the baronies of Dunkellin and Loughrea in the County Galway. 24. O'Seachnasaigh, O'Shaughnessey, or O'Shannesy, chiefs of Kinel-Aodha or Kinel-Hugh, a district in the barony of Kiltartan, County Galway. Kinel-Hugh was some-times called Kinel-Hugh of Eghty, a mountainous district on the borders of Galway and Clare. O'Cathail or O'Cahil was also a chief of Kinel-Hugh. 25. MacGiolla Ceallaigh or MacGilkelly, Anglicised "Kilkelly," chiefs in South Fiachra. 26. O'Cleirigh or O'Clery, Anglicised "Clarke," chiefs in Hy-Fiachra Aidhne, same. as MacGilkelly. This family took the name "Cleirigh" from Cleireach, one of their celebrated chiefs in the tenth century ; and a branch of them having settled in Donegal, became bards and historians to the O'Donels, princes of Tirconnell, and were the authors of the *Annals of the Four Masters*, etc. Other branches of the O'Clerys settled in Brefney O'Reilly or the County Cavan. 27. O'Duibhgiolla or O'Diffely, chiefs of Kinel-Cinngamhna [Cean Gamhna] ; MacFiachra, (Anglicised MacFetridge), chiefs of Oga Beathra ; O'Cathain, O'Cahan, or O'Cane, chiefs of Kenel-Sedna ; and O'Maghna, chiefs of Ceanridhe, all chiefs in Aidhne or South Hy-Fiachra : all these chiefs were descended from Gauire Aidhne, a king of Connaught in the seventh century. 28. O'Madagain or O'Madadhain, Anglicised "Madden," chief of Siol Anmchadha or Silancha : a name derived from "Anmchadh," a descendant of Colla-da-Chrioch. This territory com-prise the present barony of Longford in the County Galway, and the parish of Lusmagh, on the Leinster side of the river Shannon, in the King's County. The O'Maddens are a branch of the Clan Colla, and of the same descent as the O'Kellys, princes of Hy-Maine ; and took their name from Madudan Mor, one of their ancient chiefs. 29. O'Huallachain or O'Hoolaghan, sometimes Anglicised "O'Coolaghan" and "MacCoolaghan," chiefs of Siol Anmchadha. 30. O'Maolalaidh or O'Mullally, Anglicised "Lally." 31 . O'Neachtain or O'Naghten, Anglicised "Norton." The O'Naghtens and O'Mullallys are given by O'Dugan as the two chiefs of Maonmuighe or Maenmoy : an extensive plain comprising a great part of the present baronies of Loughrea and Leitrim in the County Galway. The O'Naghtens and O'Mullallys are branches of the Clan Colla. When dispossessed of their territories, the O'Mullallys settled at Tullach-na-Dala near Tuam, where they had a castle : and the head of the family having afterwards removed to France, a descendant of his became celebrated as an orator and a statesman at the time of the French Revolution, and was known as "Count Lally Tollendal : " taking his title from his

ancient territory in Ireland, “Tullach-na-Dala,” above mentioned. Several of the O'Lallys were celebrated commanders in the Irish Brigade in France ; and one of them was created “Marquis de Lally Tollendal,” and a peer of France, by Napoleon the First. 32. O'Conaill or O'Connell, chiefs of the territory from the river Grian, on the borders of Clare, to the plain of Maenmoy ; comprising parts of the barony of Leitrim in Galway, and of Tullagh in Clare. These O'Connells and the MacEgans were marshals of the forces to the O'Kellys, princes of Hy-Maine ; and of the same descent as the O'Kellys, namely that of the Clan Colla. 33. MacEideadhain or MacAodhagain (Anglicised “O'Higgin” and “MacEgan”) were chiefs of Clan Diarmada, a district in the barony of Leitrim, County Galway; and had a castle at Dun Doighre, now “Duniry.” The MacEgans were Brehons in Connaught, and also in Ormond; and many of them eminent literary men. 34. MacGiolla Fionnagain or O'Finn-egans,, sometimes rendered “Finnucane ;” and O'Cionaoith or O'Kenny, chiefs of Clan Iaitheamhaim or Fhlaitheamhain [or Fleming] , called also Muintir Cionaith, a district in the barony of Moycarnon, County Roscommon. Of the O'Finnegan family was Mathias Finnucane, one of the Judges of the Common Pleas in Ireland, who died, A.D. 1814. 35. O'Domhnallain or O'Donnelans, chiefs of Clan Breasail, a district in the barony of Leitrim, and County Galway. 36. O'Donchada or O'Donoghoe, chiefs of Clan Cormaic, a district in Maenmoy in Galway, already defined. 37. O'Duibhghind, chiefs of the Twelve Ballys or Townlands of Duibhghind, a district near Longhrea, in the County Galway. 38. O'Docomlain, chiefs of Eidhnigh ; and O'Gabhraín or O'Gauran, chiefs of Dal Druithne, districts about Loughrea. 39. O'Maolbrighde, O'Mulbride, or MacBride, chiefs of Magh Finn and of Bredagh, a district in the barony of Athlone, County Roscommon, east of the river Suck. 40. O'Mainnin, O'Manninn, O'Mannion, or O'Manning, chiefs of Sodhan : a large territory in the barony of Tiaquin, made into six divisions, called “The Six Sodhans.” The O'Mannins or O'Mannings had their chief residence at the castle of Clogher, barony of Tiaquin, County Galway ; and afterwards, at Menlough, in the parish of Killascobe, in the same barony. The other chiefs given by O'Dugan on the “Six Sodhans” were Mac-an-Bhaird, MacWard or Ward, O'Sgurra or Scurry, O'Lennain or Lennon, O'Casain or Cashin, O'Gialla or O'Giallain, rendered Gealan, Gilly, and Gill ; and O'Maigins or Magin. 41. O'Cathail or Cahill, O'Mughroin or Moran, O'Maolruanaidh, Mulrooney, or Rooney, the three chiefs of Crumthan or Cruffan, a district comprising the barony of Killian, and part of Ballymoe in the County Galway. 42. O'Laodog or O'Laodhaigh, Anglicised “O'Leahy,” chiefs of Caladh, a district in the barony of Kilconnell, County Galway.

The following chiefs and clans not given by O'Dugan are collected from other sources: — 43. The O'Dalys, (who, according to some accounts, were a branch of the O'Donels, princes of Tirconnell, whose tribe name was Clan Dalaigh or Clan Daly) had large possessions in the Counties of Galway and Roscommon. According to the *Four Masters*, the ancestor of the O'Dalys of Leath Cuinn, was Adam, brother of Fargal, the 156th Milesian monarch of Ireland, No. 95, page 120. The O'Dalys, it appears, settled in Connaught as early as the twelfth century. 44. O'Coindealbhain, O'Conghiollain, O'Conniallain, O'Conallain, or O'Connellan, princes of Hy-Leary in the tenth, and eleventh centuries ; but branches of this family in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, settled in the Counties of Roscommon, Galway, and Mayo. Pedigrees of this ancient clan are given in the “Books” of Leacan and Ballymote ; and also in the “Genealogical Book” of the O'Clerys. 45. The O'Hallorans, chiefs of Clan Fargal, a large district on the east side of the river of Galway, near Lough Corrib. 46. The O'Callanans and O'Canavans, whom O'Dugan mentions as hereditary physicians in Galway. 47. The O'Dubhthaighs or O'Duffys, families of note in Galway and Roscommon. 48. The O'Briens, a branch of the O'Briens of Thomond in the County Clare, and lords of the Isles of Arran, off the coast of Galway. 49. MacCnaimhin or MacNevin, according to the “Book of Leacan,” chiefs of a district called Crannog MacCnaimhin or Crannagh MacNevin, in the parish of Tynagh, barony of Leitrim, and County of Galway. This name “MacCnaimhin” (*cnaimh* : L:ish, *a bone*), has been Anglicised “Bone” and “Bonas.” 50. MacEochaidh,

MacKeogh, or Keogh (a branch of the O'Kellys, princes of Hy-Maine), chiefs of Omhanach, now "Onagh," in the parish of Taghmaconnell, in the barony of Athlone, County Roscommon. 51. MacGiolladuibh or MacGillduff, Anglicised "Kilduff," chiefs of Caladh, along with the O'Leahys, in the barony of Kilconnell, County Galway. 62. The O'Loircans or O'Larkins, O'Gebenaighs, Gevennys, Gebneys, and Gibneys ; O'Aireachtains, Anglicised "Harrington ;" O'Fahys, O'Fay or O'Foy ; O'Laidins or Laydons, and O'Horans or Horan, all clans in Hy-Maine, in the County Galway. 53. O'Cobthaigh or O'Coffey, a branch of the O'Kellys, princes of Hy-Maine ; and chiefs of a large district in the barony of Clonmacnoon, County Galway. 54. The MacManuses ; Keons, MacKeons, or MacEwens ; O'Commis or Cummins, and O'Ronans or Ronaynes, clans in the County Roscommon.

(6). The Anglo-Norman and English Families in Galway.

In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries several families from England and Wales settled in the town of Galway and other parts of that County ; the principal of whom were the Athys, Berminghams, Blakes, Bodkins, Brownes, Blundels, Deanes, Dillons, Darcys, Frenches, De Jorses, Kirwans, Lynches, Lawlesses, Morrisises, Martins, Whites, etc. Some of these names, however, are shown to be of Irish extraction, viz.: the Lynches are from the O'Loinsighs mentioned in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, in the tenth and eleventh centuries, as chiefs of Ulidia, now the County Down ; the Darcys, chiefs in Partry, are descended from the MacDorchys, or O'Dorchys, and were considered to be of English descent ; the Martins of Galway were considered by O'Brien, Vallancey, and others, to be of Firbolg or Firvolgian origin, descended from the old race of the Firdomnians in Connaught, whom the old annalists so frequently mention under the name of Mairtineigh, Anglicised "Martineans." The De Jorses came from Wales to Galway in the reign of Edward the First, and having formed an alliance with the O'Flahertys, chiefs of West Connaught, got large possessions in Connemara in the barony of Ross ; and towards the borders of Mayo a large territory which is called "Joyces' Country." These De Jorses changed their name to "Joyce." The Joyces of Joyces' Country were remarkable for great physical strength and gigantic stature.

(c). Modern Nobility in Galway and Roscommon.

The following have been the noble families in Galway and Roscommon since the reign of King James the First:—

In Galway : The DeBurgs or Burkes, earls and marquises of Clanrickard ; the Burkes, viscounts of Galway, and barons of Brittas ; the Berminghams, barons of Athenry ; the Butlers and Gores, earls of Arran ; the De Massues and Monctons, viscounts of Galway ; the Le Poer Trenches, earls of Clancarty, viscounts Dunloe, and barons of Kilconnell ; the Verekers, viscounts of Gort ; the Dillons, barons of Clonbrock ; the Frenches, barons French ; the Brownes, barons of Oranmore ; the Blakes, barons of Wallscourt ; the Trenches, barons of Ashtown.

In Roscommon : The Dillons, earls of Roscommon ; the Wilmots and De Ginkles, earls of Athlone ; the Kings, viscounts Lorton ; the Cootes, barons of Castlecoote ; the Croftons, barons Crofton ; the Mahons, barons Hartland ; and the Sandfords, barons of Mountsandford.

In the reign of Elizabeth, the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sydney, A.D. 1565, formed Galway into a County ; which took its name from the chief town, called in Irish Gaillimh [Galliv] , Anglicised "Galway." And in the same reign the same Lord Deputy formed Roscommon into a County ; which took its name from the town of "Roscommon, which in Irish is "Ros Coman" (signifying the "Wood of Coman) , and was so called from St. Coman, who founded an abbey there in the sixth century.

[1] Connaught : According to Keating and O'Flaherty, Connaught derived its name either from "Con," one of the chief Druids of the Tua-de-Danans, or from Conn Ceadcatha (or Conn of the Hundred Battles), Monarch of Ireland in the second century, and of the line of Heremon (see No. 80, page 109), whose posterity possessed the country: the word "iacht" or "iocht," signifying children or posterity, and hence "Coniacht," the ancient name of Connaught, means the territory possessed by the posterity of Conn.

The ancient kingdom of Connaught comprised the present Counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, and Leitrim, together with Clare, now in Munster, and Cavan, now a part of Ulster ; and was divided into Tuaisceart Conacht or North Connaught, Deisceart Conacht or South Connaught, and Iar Conacht or West Connaught. North Connaught was also called Iachtar Conacht or Lower Connaught ; as was South Connaught called Uachtar Conacht or Upper Connaught.

North Connaught is connected with some of the earliest events in Irish history : according to our ancient annalists, it was in the time of Bartholinus, who planted the first colony in Ireland, that the lakes called Lough Conn and Lough Mask in Mayo, and Lough Gara in Sligo, on the borders of Roscommon, suddenly burst forth; and in South Connaught, according to O'Flaherty, the lakes called Lough Cime (now Lough Hackett,) Lough Riadh or Loughrea, and some other lakes in the County Galway, and also the river Suck between Roscommon and Galway, first began to flow in the time of Heremon, Monarch of Ireland, No. 37, page 101; and Lough Key in Moylurg, near Boyle in the County Roscommon, first sprang out in the reign of the Monarch Tigern Masius or Tiernmas, No. 41, page 102. On the arrival of the colony of the Firvolgians in Ireland, a division of them landed on the north-western coast of Connaught, in one of the bays, now called Blacksod or the Broadhaven. These Firvolgians were named Fir-Domhnan or Damnonians; and the country where they landed was called Iarras, or Iarras-Domhnan, (from "Iar," the *west* and "ros," a *promontory* or peninsula, signifying the western promontory or peninsula of the Damnonians) : a term exactly corresponding with the topographical features of the country; and to the present day the name has been retained in that of the half barony of "Erris," in the County Mayo. When the Tua-de-Danans, who conquered the Firvolgians, first invaded Ireland, they landed in Ulster and proceeded thence to SUEve-an-Iarain (or the Iron Mountain) in Brefney, and thence forward into the territory of Connaught. The Firvolgians having collected their forces to oppose their progress, a desperate battle was fought between them at a place called Magh Tuireadh or the Plain of the Tower, in which the Firvolgians were totally defeated — ten thousand of them being slain, together with Eochad, son of Eirc their king, who was buried on the sea-shore : a cairn of large stones being erected over him as a sepulchral monument, which remains to this day. This place is on the strand, near Ballysodare in the county of Sligo, and was called Traigh-an-Chairn or The Strand of the Cairn. After a few more battles, the De-Danans became possessors of Ireland, which they ruled until the arrival of the Milesians, who conquered them ; and, in their turn, became masters of Ireland. The Fir-volgians, having assisted the Milesians in the conquest of the Tua-de-Danans, were, in consequence, restored by the Milesians to a great part of their former possessions, particularly in Connaught ; in which province they were ruled by their own kings of the Firvolgian race down to the third century, when the monarch Cormac Mac Art, of the Heremon line, brought them under subjection, and annexed Connaught to his kingdom.

The Firvolgians appear to have been an athletic race ; and the "Clan-na-Morua" of Connaught, under their Firvolgian chief, Goll, son of Morna, are celebrated in the Ossianic poems and ancient annals as famous warriors in the third century. Many of the Firvolgian race are still to be found in Connaught, but blended by blood and intermarriages with the Milesians. The Tua-de-Danans were originally Scythians, who had settled some time in Greece, and afterwards migrated to Scandinavia or the countries now forming Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. From Scandinavia (the "Fomorians" of the ancient Irish) the De-Danans came to North Britain where they settled colonies, and thence passed into Ireland. It appears that the Danans were a highly civilized people, skilled in the arts and sciences : hence they were considered as *magicians*. O'Brien, in his learned work on the "Round Towers of Ireland," considers that these beautiful structures were built by the Tua-de-Danans, for purposes connected with pagan worship and astronomical observations: an opinion very probable when it is considered that they were highly skilled in architecture and other arts, from their long residence in Greece and intercourse with the Phoenicians. It is stated, that Orbsen, a chief descended from the Danans and Fomorians, was a

famous merchant, and carried on a com-mercial intercourse between. Ireland and Britain ; and that he was killed by Uillinn of the Red Brows, another De-Danan chief, in a battle called, from that circumstance, Magh Uillinn or the Plain of Uillinn, now the barony of “ Moycullen,” in the County Galway. In South Connaught, the territory which forms the present County Clare was taken from Connaught in the latter part of the third century, and added to part of Limerick, under the name of Tuadh-Mumhain or North Munster (a word Anglicised “ Thomond”); of which the O'Briens, of the Dalcassian race, became kings.

Cormac Mac Art, the celebrated monarch of Ireland in the second century, was born in Corran at the place called Ath-Cormac or the Ford of Cormac, near Keis-Corran (now “ Keash”) in the County Sligo ; and hence he was called “ Cormac of Corran.”

The territory of North Connaught is connected in a remarkable manner with the mission of St. Patrick to Ireland : Mullagh Farry, now “ Mullafarry,” near Killala, in the barony of Tyrawley, and County Mayo, is the place where St. Patrick converted to Christianity the king or prince of that territory (Enda Crom) and his seven sons ; and baptised twelve thousand persons in the water of a well called Tobar Enadharc. And Croagh Patrick mountain, also in Mayo, was long celebrated for the miracles it is said the saint performed there. The See of Killala was founded by St. Patrick.

At Carn Amhalgaidh or “ Carnawley,” supposed to be the hill of Mullaghcarn (where King Awley was buried), the chiefs of the O'Dowds were inaugurated as princes of Hy-Fiachra ; while, according to other accounts they were inaugurated on the hill of Ardnaree, near Ballina. This principality of Northern Hy Fiachra comprised the present counties of Mayo and Sligo, and a portion of Galway ; while the territory of Hy-Fiachra in the County Galway was called the Southern Hy Fiachra or Hy-Fiachra Aidhne: so named after Eogan Aidhne, son of Dathi, the last pagan monarch of Ireland, who was killed by lightning at the foot of the Alps, A.D. 429. This territory of Hy Fiachra Aidhne was co-extensive with the present diocese of Kilmacduagh ; and was possessed by the descendants of Eogan Aidhne, the principal of whom were — the O'Heynes or Hyneses, O'Clerys, and O'Shaughnessys. According to O'Dugan and MacFirbis, fourteen of the race of Hy Fiachra were kings of Connaught: some of whom had their chief residence in Aidhne, in Galway; others at Ceara, now the barony of “ Carra,” in Mayo; and some on the plain of the Muaidhe or the (river) Moy, in Sligo. O'Dubhda or O'Dowd were head chiefs of the northern Hy Fiachra, and their territory comprised nearly the whole of the present County Sligo, with the greater part of Mayo. Many of the O'Dowds, even down to modern times, were remarkable for their great strength and stature. The O'Dowds, according to some annalists, are descended from Fiachra Ealgach, son of Dathi, above mentioned ; and took their name from Dubhda (*dubh* ; Irish, *black*, and “ dath” or “ da,” *a colour*), one of their ancient chiefs. [Others derive the name “ Dowd” from No. 94, page 144.]

Cruaghan or Croaghan, near Elphin in the County Roscommon, became the capital of Connaught and the residence of its ancient kings; and the estates of Connaught held conventions there to make laws and inaugurate their kings. At Cruaghan was the burial place of the pagan kings of Connaught, called Reilig na Riogh or The Cemetery of the kings ; here Dathi, the last pagan monarch of Ireland, was buried; and a large red pillar-stone erected over his grave remains to this day. A poem, giving an account of the kings and queens buried at Cruaghan, was composed by Torna Eigeas or Torna the Learned, chief bard to the monarch Niall of the Nine Hostages, in the fourth century, of the commencement of which the following is a translation:

“ Under thee lies the fair king of the men of Fail,
Dathi, son of Fiachra, man of fame;
O! Cruacha (Cruaghan), thou hast this concealed
From the Galls and the Gaels.”

The “ Gaels” here mean the Irish themselves; and the “ Galls” mean all foreigners, as the Danes, the Britons, etc. In the first line of the quotation Ireland is called Fail, as Inis Fail (signifying *Insula Fatalis* or the Island of Destiny) : a name given to Ireland by the Tua-de-Danans, from a remarkable stone called the Lia Fail (signifying *Lapis Fatalis*, *Saxum Fatale*) or Stone of Destiny, which they brought with them into Ireland. This Lia Fail is believed to be the stone or pillar on which Jacob rested; and sitting on which the ancient kings, both of the De Danan and Milesian race in Ireland, were crowned at Tara. This stone was sent to Scotland in the sixth century by the

Monarch Murchatus Magnus MacEarca, for the coronation purpose of his brother Fergus Mor MacEarca, the founder of the Scottish Monarchy in Scotland; and was used for many centuries at the coronation of the Scottish kings, and kept at the Abbey of Scone. When King Edward the First invaded Scotland, he brought with him that Lia Fail to England, and placed it under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, where it still remains ; though it has been erroneously stated in some modern publications, that the large pillar stone which stands on the mound or rath at Tara is the Stone of Destiny : an assertion at variance with the statements of O'Flaherty, the O'Conors, and all other learned antiquarians. Three of the De Danan queens, who gave their names to Ireland, namely, Eire (from which the name " Eirin" or " Erin" is derived), Fodhla, and Banba, together with their husbands, Mac Coill, Mao Ceht, and Mac Greine, the three Tuade-Danan Kings slain at the time of the Milesian conquest of Ireland, were buried at Cruachan in Connaught. Among the Milesian kings and queens interred there, were Hugony the Great, monarch of Ireland, No. 59, page 104 ; his daughter, the princess Muireasc ; and his son, Cobthach Caolbhreagh ; Bresnar Lothar, No. 73, page 105 ; Maud (the famous queen of Connaught), Deirbhre, and Clothra — all sisters of Bresnar Lothar, and daughters of Eochy Feidlioch ; Conn of the Hundred Battles and the other sons of Felim Rachtmar, the 108th monarch of Ireland ; and other kings, descendants of Conn of the Hundred Battles, with the exception of his son Airt, the 112th monarch (who directed that he should be buried at Trevet in Meath), and of Airt's, son Cormac, the famous monarch of Ireland in the third century, who was buried at Ros-na-Riogh (now Rosnaree or Rosnari), near Slane in the County Meath. According to the " Book of Ballymote," this King Cormac, who had some knowledge of Christianity, gave orders that he, too, should not be buried at Brugh Boine (which was the cemetery of most of the pagan kings of Meath), but at "Ros-na-Riogh ; and that his face should be towards the rising sun ! Brugh Boine (which signifies the " town or fortress of the Boyne") was a great cemetery of the pagan kings of Ireland, and, according to some antiquaries, was situated near Trim ; but, according to others, more probably at the place now called Stackallen, between Navau and Slane in Meath. In various parts of the ancient kingdom of Meath, in the counties of Meath, Westmeath, and Dublin, are many sepulchral mounds (usually called "moats"), of a circular form, and having the appearance of hillocks : these are the sepulchres of kings, queens, and warriors, of the pagan times. There are several of these mounds of great size, particularly on the banks of the Boyne, between Drogheda and Slane ; and one of them, at Newgrange, is of immense extent, covering an area of two acres ; is about eighty feet in height ; and was surrounded by a circle of huge stones standing upright, many of which still remain. The interior of this mound is formed of a vast heap of stones of various sizes ; and a passage, vaulted over with great flags, leads to the interior, where there is a large chamber or dome, and in it have been found sepulchral urns, and remains of human bones. Cairns or huge heaps of stones, many of which still remain on hills and mountains in various parts of Ireland, were also in pagan times erected as sepulchres over kings and chiefs.

In the " Books" of Armagh and Ballymote, and other ancient records, are given some curious accounts of the customs used in the interment of the ancient kings and chiefs : Laoghair (or Leary), monarch of Ireland in the fifth century, was buried in the rampart or rath called Rath Leary, at Tara, with his military weapons and armour on him; his face turned southwards, bidding defiance, as it were, to his enemies the men of Leinster. And Owen Beul, a king of Connaught in the sixth century, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Sligeach (or Sligo), fought with the people of Ulster, gave directions that he should be buried with his red javelin in his hand, and his face towards Ulster, as in defiance of his enemies ; but the Ulstermen came with a strong force raised the body of the king, and buried it near Lough Gill, with the face downwards, that it might not be the cause of making them " fly" before the Conacians. Near Lough Gill in Sligo are two great cairns still remaining, at which place was probably an ancient cemetery of some of the kings of Connaught ; and another large one, near Cong, in the County Mayo. There are still some remains of Rellig-na-Riogh at Cruachan or Croaghan in the County Roscommon, consisting of a circular area of about two hundred feet in diameter, surrounded with some remains of an ancient stone ditch; and in the interior are heaps of rude stones piled upon each other, as stated in "Weld's Survey of Roscommon." Dun Aengus or the Fortress of Aengus, erected on the largest of the Arran Islands, off the coast of Galway, and situated on a tremendous cliff overhanging the sea, consists of a stone work of immense strength of Cyclopean architecture, composed of large stones without mortar or cement. It is of a circular form, and capable of containing within its area two hundred cows. According to O'Flaherty, it was erected by Aengus and Conchobhar, two of the

Firvolgian kings of Coimaught before the Christian era ; and was also called the Dun of Concovar or Conor.

After the introduction of Christianity, the Irish kings and chiefs were buried in the abbeys, churches, and cathedrals : the monarch Brian Boru, killed at the Battle of Clontarf, was, for instance, buried in the cathedral of Armagh ; the kings of Connaught, in the abbeys of Clonmacnoise, Cong, Knockmoy, Roscommon, etc.

It is stated by O'Flaherty, that six of the sons of Bryan, king of Connaught, the ancestor of the Hy Briuin, were converted and baptized by St. Patrick, together with many of the people, on the plain of Moyseola in Roscommon ; and that the saint erected a church, called Domhnach Mor or the " great church," on the banks of Lough Sealga, now Lough Hacket ; and that on three pillar stones which, for the purpose of pagan worship, had been raised there in the ages of idolatry, he had the name of Christ inscribed in three languages: on one of them, " Jesus" ; on another, " Soter" ; and on the third, " Salvator." Ono, a grandson of Bryan, king of Connaught, made a present to Saint Patrick of his palace, called Imleach Ona, where the saint founded the episcopal see of Oilfnn or " Elphin" ; which obtained the name from a spring well the saint had sunk there, and on the margin of which was erected a large stone : thus, from " Oil," which means a *stone* or rock, and "finn," which signifies fair or clear, the name Oilfinn or Elphin was derived, and which meant the rock of the limpid water. O'Flaherty states that this stone continued there till his own time, A.D. 1675.

A king of Connaught in the latter end of the seventh century, named Muireadhach Muilleathan, who died, a.d. 700, and a descendant of the above named Bryan, son of Eochy Moy-vone, was the ancestor of the Siol Muireadiaigh or Siol Murray ; which became the chief branch of the Hy Briune race, and possessed the greater part of Connaught, but were chiefly located in the territory now forming the County Roscommon : hence the term " Siol Murray" was applied to that territory. The O'Conors who became kings of Connaught were the head chiefs of Siol Murray ; and took their name from Conohobhar or Conor, who was a king of Connaught in the tenth century. The grandson of this Conohobhar, Tadhg an Eich Ghal or Teige of the White Steed, who was king of Connaught in the beginning of the eleventh century, and who died, A. D. 1030, was the first who took the surname of " O'Conor." In the tenth century, as mentioned in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, two or three of the O'Rourkes are styled kings of Connaught; but, with these exceptions, the ancestors of the O'Conors of the race of Hy Briune and Siol Murray, and the O'Conors themselves, held the sovereignty of Connaught from the fifth to the fifteenth century ; and two of them became monarchs of Ireland in the twelfth century, namely, Torlogh O'Conor, called Toirdhealbhach Mor or Torlogh the Great, who is called by the annalists the " Augustus of Western Europe" ; and his son, Roderick O'Conor, who was the last Milesian monarch of Ireland. This Torlogh O'Conor died at Dunmore in Galway, a.d. 1156, in the 68th year of his age, and was buried at Clonmacnoise. And Roderick O'Conor, after having reigned eighteen years, abdicated the throne, A.D. 1184, in consequence of the Anglo-Norman invasion ; and, after a religious seclusion of thirteen years in Cong Abbey, in Mayo, died A.D. 1198, in the 82nd year of his age, and was buried in Clonmacnoise in the same sepulchre with his father. In the " Memoirs" of Charles O'Conor of Belenagar, it is said, that in the latter end of the fourteenth century the two head chiefs of the O'Conors, namely Torlogh Roe and Torlogh Don, having contended for the lordship of Siol Murray, agreed to divide the territory between them. The families descended from Torlogh Don called themselves the O'Conors " Don" or the Brown O'Conors; while the descendants of Torlogh Roe called themselves the O'Conors " Roe" or the Red O'Conors. Another branch of the O'Conors got great possessions in the County Sligo, and were styled the O'Conors " Sligo." — *Connellan*.

Irish pedigrees ; or, The origin and stem of the Irish nation (1880)

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