

LOUGH FOYLE IN 1601.

The following original document is printed from a transcript of a MS. tract in the State Paper Office, dated 12th April, 1601, and endorsed "THE DESCRIPTION OF LOUGH FOYLE, and the Country adjacent." At the period in question, the navigable estuary of Lough Foyle was a place of considerable political importance and interest to the governments in London and Dublin. The English nation, masters of the northern seas, intended, by means of their newly-established garrison and port of Derry, to "assault the rebel" Irish of Ulster, "in the back;" and thus, attacking the enemy in the rear, preclude them from finding shelter in the fastnesses of Glenconcan and Donegal, which for many centuries had shielded the Gaelic clans from Saxon onslaughts. Besides this, the magazines of Derry were a depôt for ammunition, and, moreover, contained good store of biscuit, salt beef, cheese, and beer, those indispensable viands without which the British soldier could not do battle, but which his active guerrilla foe had often wrested from him whilst under convoy through the defiles of Tyrone.

Among some rough isometric plans which are bound up with the above MS. "Description," are sketches of "The Lyfforde," of "The Island and forte of the Derry," and of "Donnalong." The first plan shows the size and form of the fortifications and buildings in the old fort and castle of Liffer, including "Nel Garve's house," and "*corps de gard*," within the fort, and "the Yrishmen's quartre, horse and foote," adjacent, on the larger island. This arrangement curiously shows the position of the *luchd tìghe*, i.e., people of the house, household troop, or *garde du corps* of the chieftain. Our archæologic readers are, doubtless, aware that several instances of the custom of retaining similar armed bands can be pointed out among the northern clans; a topic to which we hope to revert, since it bears upon the interesting question of the Scandinavian origin of the Scotie Gael. With regard to the designation "the Yrishmen's quartre," we conceive that it applied to that division of the government forces which, being of native extraction, encamped separately from the English; as was natural, considering the difference of language and habits. To revert to the Scandinavian question; we may remark that, the surname MacLoughlin, (that of the chieftain mentioned as dwelling at Cahir M^cEwlyn) signifies Son of the Lochlannach, or Scandinavian. In the eleventh century the chieftains of this name were rulers of the Cinel-Owen, or Clanna-Neil, and resided in the Danish fort called Oileach, now Elagh. They were deposed by the O'Neills in the year 1241. The name of the adjacent castle Garnegall, seems to be *garra-na-ngall*, i.e., the garden of the foreigners. In the same direction we see in the surname of M^cSweyne, "Son of the Swain," i.e., servant, or slave,

showing the foreign extraction of this Scandinavian sept of galloglasses. Indeed the first Scotie settlers on Lough Foyle appear to have been attracted to its banks by its piscatory wealth. It is mentioned in another "Description of Lough Foyle," (dated 19th Dec., 1600) that:—"From a little short of the Derie all along to the Liffer is an excellent good fishing for salmon, which begins in June, and ends about the end of August. But the best place, where is most abundance and best comodities for casting the nets is amongst the islands between Donnalong and the Liffer." So large was the export of salmon from the territory governed by O'Donnell, that he was known in Spain by the *sobriquet* of "the King of Fishe;" and so great was the consumption of port and sherry by him and his *convives*, that the exported fish paid for wine only. Of the few remarkable passages in the following document, the most so is as to "the Derie," which had, it seems, but a few years previously been notable merely as the dwelling-place of "the Bishope" of the clan O'Donnell: but became renowned, a century afterwards, for that siege which has recently received such life and emphasis from the pen of Macaulay.

HERBERT F. HORE.

"THE NAMES OF ALL THE CHIEF PLACES OF STRENGTH IN O'DOUGHERDIE'S COUNTRY
CALLED ENYSHOWEN, AS WELL CASTLES AS FORTES.

<p>On the south syde of the country, at the coming of the Loughe, there is an ould ruyned castle called Newcastle.^a</p>	<p>Here dwells Hugh Boy mack Caire, one of the Odougherdie sept.</p>
<p>Next unto the Newcastle, three miles to landwardes, is a church called Moyvill, with a haven before it.</p>	<p>Here dwells Shane mack Duffe, Hughe Boye's brother.</p>
<p>Next to that within four myles is a small castle called Caire MacEwlyn.</p>	<p>Here dwells Hugh Carrog M'Loughlin, chief of his sept.</p>
<p>Twoe miles above that is another small castle called Garnegall.</p>	<p>Here dwells Brien oge M'Loughlin.</p>
<p>Seven miles from Garnegall is the fort of Culmore, where Phelimy og Odougherdie did dwell.</p>	<p>Odougherdie's brother</p>
<p>Three miles above Culmore stands the Derie, where the Bishope dwelt, who is one of the sept of the Gallocars.</p>	
<p>From the Derie three miles within the land, towards Loughswillin, is the castle of Elloghe,^b O'Dougherdie's chief house.</p>	

^a Newcastle.—sometimes called Greencastle: but by the Irish, *Caislean nua*, i.e. the new castle. This once large and important fortress was built in the year 1305 by the Red Earl of Ulster.

^b Elloghe.—*Oileach*, i.e., stone fort; a name, seemingly implying that, at the period of its construction, stone was not usually employed in building. The ruins

of Oileach, the original fortress of the chiefs of the north, are near those of the castle.

Sir Henry Doerwa, in his narrative, writes of "Ellogh" a castle of O'Dogherty's, which he had (1600) "newlie abandoned and begunne to pull down." The English knight garrisoned it.

From Elloghe, five miles up into the country, at the syde of Loughswilly, is another castle of O'Dougherdie, called Birt. Here he had a ward of 40 men.

Next to that, in the Lough to the seaward, is an Ielande called Ench, five miles in length, and one mile from Birt. The chief dweller here is Doultagh O'Dougherdie.

Over against Elloghe, in O'Dougherdie's country, is a castle and a church called the Fanne, but broken down synce our aryvall. Here dwells the Bishop O'Galchar.

From the seawardes six miles, is another small castle, called Boncranagh, and a river into the Lough where samon is taken. At this place dwells Conor McGarrot O'Dougherdie.

From Boncranagh, seawardes nine miles, is another castle, and a church, called Clonmeny, by the sea syde. Here dwells a priest called Amerson.

From Clonmeny, to seawardes five miles, is another castle, called Carrickbrahey. Here dwells Phelim Brasleigh Odougherdie.

From Carrickbrahey, to landward one mile, is a small castle, called Caslane stoke. Here dwells Phelimy Brasleigh's Sonne.

From Caslane stoke to seaward is a country of nine myles in lengthe, called Mallane, wherein is a fort by the sea syde, called Don-Yrishe holde, and inhabited by O'Dougherdie. On the south syde stands another fort called Don-owen. Here dwells Phelimy Brasleigh's Sonne.

To the southward of the same island standes a church, with a woode, called Donoughmore.

From Donoughmore, a myle northwards, is a church called Caldanylie, and stands upon the sea syde. Here dwells McShane O'Dougherdie.

Theis be all the chief places rounde about Odougherdie's country called Enishowen. The midland country is most part mountanous, and hath few inhabitants.

MACK-SWYNE A FANNE'S COUNTRY,

over adjacent O'Dougherdie's country, on the west side of Lough Swilly.

From the entrie of the Lough, until you come to a poynt of land a little short of Ench, there is neither castle nor fort, but then uppon a poynt of lande is a castle and an abbey called Ramellan.^e Mac Swyn O'Fane's chief country house.

^e Maelan's Fort.

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- Fyve myles above Ramellan there is a castle of Hugh mc Hugh Duffes, called Ramaltan, standing upon the Lanan, which falleth in Lough Swilly. Hugh Duffe's owne house.
- Three miles above Ramaltan, upon the Lough syde, in a baye is the abbaye of Kil O'Donell, in Hugh mac Hugh Duffe's countrey. Here dwell onlie Fryers.
- Fyve myles above Kil O'Donnell there is a ford, passable at low water, wherein hath sometime bene a fort, called the Farcet of Soloughmore.
- Three myles from this ford, towards Birt, standes an abbey called Ballaghan, over against Kil O'Donell. Here dwell Fryars.
- Three myles from Ballaghan, towards Birt, is a point of land, which runs farr into the Loughe, where hath been a strong fort, but now broaken downe, and is called Dunboye. Here dwells Shane Mac Manus Oge.
- Dunboye and the poynt of land whereon Birt standethe maketh a baye, in the bottom whereof stands an olde fort, called Cul mac a Tryne.^d This was wont to be held by O'Donnell.
- From Cul mac a Tryne runs a bogg three myles in length, to the syde of Lough foyle; in the midst of the bogg is a standing lough, with a fort on the side of the lough called Bonneber, where Alexander M^cSurlie was slayn. At the end of this bogg to Lough foyle syde is the fort of Cargan. Here dwells O'Donnell's mother.
- Three myles above Cargan stands a fort called M^cGwyvelin, upon the ryver of Loughfoyle. O'Donnell's smother's chief house.
- Above M^cGwyvelin, four miles up the river of Loughfoyle is the Liffer. Here dwelt O'Donnell.
- Four miles above the Liffer standes Castle Fene. Nial Garve's house.
- Four miles above Castle Fene is a fryer's house, called Drumboy.
- Three miles above Drumboy stands a fort called Ballakit. Here dwells Donnell Gallocar, one of O'Donnell's chief counsellors.
- Ten miles above Ballakit is Loughfene, upon the river Fene, where the river hath his first head.
- Four miles westward from Ballakit is Barnesmore.
- From Barnesmore to the castle of Beleck, that stands upon Lough Erne, is twelve miles.

^d The corner of Mac an Treoin, now Castle-Forward.

- From Beleck to Ballashanon is three miles. Here dwells M^cO'Don-
gonrye.
- From Ballashanon to the Abbey of Asheroe, to the seawards, is one myle. Inhabited by monkes.
- From the Abbey of Asheroe to the Abbey and castle of Donagall, is nine miles. Here is a good haven, and the river Eske falls into it.
- Three miles above Donagall is Lough Eske, O'Donell's chief keeping. O'Donnell's chief store-
house for the warr.
- Over against Donagall, two myles on the other side of the water, stands O'Boyle's chief house.
- Seven miles from O'Boyle, to the seaward, is a castle called M^cSwyn O'Banc's Tower.
- From this place to the haven of Calboy is three myles. Here dwells Senechal
McGonell.
- Fower miles from there stands the castle of Bromoyle, in the lower end of the country. Here dwells Hugh Boy
M^cSwyne, O'Banc's bro-
ther.
- From thens four miles is a small haven called Cornetillen. This haven devydes M^cSwyn O'Banc's country and O'Boyle's.
- At the lower end of O'Boyle's country is a castle called Kilmirrish. Here dwells the Bishop of
O'Boyle.
- Next to that castle is the haven of Bonabbar. This haven parteth O'Boyle's country, and M^cSwyne O'Doe's.
- And next to that is the haven Conogarhen, with a castle so called. This is M^cSwyn O'Doe's
chief house.
- The next haven to this is Red haven, which parts M^cSwyn O'Doe's country, and M^cSwyn O'Fane's. By the syde of this house is the castle of Menryce, a castle of M^cSwyn O'Fanet's. Small boates maie come from the Red haven to the castle. Here dwells Alexander
M^cDonologe.
- The midland of TIRR Conell is inhabited by the sept of O'Gallocars."
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