

"The sons of John Burke then went to Tirconnell to O'Donnell and the sons of the Earl returned to their own country and houses, and upon their return they found their father on the point of death. After making his will and bidding farewell to his earthly friends and concluding his worldly covenants, the Earl (Ulick the son of Richard, who was son of Ulick na gCeann) died in the month of May at Loughreagh and was interred at Athenry with great honour. His death was one of the lamentable occurrences of the time in Ireland. He was a mighty and justly judging Lord, of a mild and august countenance, as becoming a chief, affable in conversation, gentle towards his friends, fierce to his neighbouring enemies and impartial in all his decisions, and a man who had never been known to act a feeble or imbecile part on the field of danger from the period when he had first taken up arms to the day of his death. His son Richard was appointed to his place."

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At the Town of Loughrea are still visible the ruins of a small but neat Abbey which, according to Archdall from War. Mon., "Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, founded about the year A.D. 1300 for Carmelites or White Friars under the invocation of the Virgin Mary".

It happened that I could not have made time when at Loughrea to take the dimensions of this Abbey and its architectural features in particular. I have taken, however, a general view of it on the morning of the day we removed to Gort. It appears to be in very good preservation; the tower remains still; the door on the west end and the several windows (as many of them as came at the time under my observation) are in the pointed style.

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Near the end of the town, to the left of the road leading from it to Ballinasloe, stand the ruins of an old Church which is called St. Brigid's.

Its extent inside is forty nine feet long and twenty five feet broad; the west gable is down, near which is a breach on the south side wall, now nine feet broad at the ground and eight feet high. The upper part retains its original form, being mason work of small rude stones.

Near east gable on this wall there is a window place now opened at top and battered on both sides.

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On the east gable there is a window of ornamentedly chiselled stones which was originally on the inside about five feet from the ground, the wall being now battered under it, and is three and a half feet broad in the lower part and no less apparently than eight feet high.