

**A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY
DUBLIN: THE PEOPLE, PARISHES AND
ANTIQUITIES FROM THE EARLIEST
TIMES TO THE CLOSE OF THE
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. PART THIRD**

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A History of the County Dublin: The People, Parishes and Antiquities from the Earliest Times to the Close of the Eighteenth Century. Part Third by Francis Elrington Ball

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FRANCIS ELRINGTON BALL

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OF THE
COUNTY DUBLIN:

THE PEOPLE, PARISHES AND ANTIQUITIES FROM THE EARLIEST
TIMES TO THE CLOSE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

PART THIRD

Being a History of that portion of the County comprised within
the Parishes of

TALLAGHT, CRUAGH, WHITECHURCH, KILGOBBIN,
KILTIERNAN, RATHMICHAEL,
OLD CONNAUGHT, SAGGART, RATHCOOLE,
AND NEWCASTLE.

BY

FRANCIS ELRINGTON BALL.

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD PART.

To the readers who have shown so gratifying an interest in the progress of my history there is due an apology for the time which has elapsed since, in the preface to the second part, a hope was expressed that a further instalment would soon appear. The postponement of its publication has been caused by the exceptional difficulty of obtaining information of historical interest as to the district of which it was proposed to treat, and even now it is not without hesitation that this part has been sent to press.

Its pages will be found to deal with a portion of the metropolitan county in which the population has been at no time great, and in which residences of importance have always been few. Such annals of the district as exist relate in most cases to some of the saddest passages in Irish history, and tell of fire and sword and of destruction and desolation. To invest such scanty records with life would require a more skilful pen than mine, and I can only commit the pages which follow to the forbearance of my readers as necessary to the completion of the history of the county as a whole.

Considerable material for the fourth part has been already collected, and its publication may be expected next year.

It is again my pleasing duty to acknowledge assistance kindly and generously given. The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, in the pages of whose *Journal* some of the information in this part has already appeared in a paper on "Rathmichael and its Neighbourhood," and in the itineraries for two excursions made by its members, has not ceased its help and encouragement. The Council of the Royal Irish

Academy has given its permission in this, as in the previous parts, for the reproduction of drawings in its possession. The Deputy Keeper of the Records, Mr. James Mills, and Mr. C. Litton Falkiner have read the proof sheets and have once more given me the benefit of their historical knowledge; Mr. Thomas J. Westropp has lent me the aid of his pen and pencil in describing the little known objects of archaeological interest in the district; Dr. P. W. Joyce has supplied me with the derivation of place names; Mr. Tenison Groves and the Rev. William Reynell have continued to furnish me with transcripts of ancient documents and references to authorities; and amongst others who have aided me in this part I must especially mention the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, Mr. M. J. M'Enery, Mr. G. D. Burtchaell, Rev. P. Dineen, Mr. E. Clarke, Mrs. Knox, and Mr. W. H. Robinson.

The records in Ulster's Office have been placed at my service by the kindness of Sir Arthur Vicars, and research has been made pleasant in Trinity College Library by Mr. Alfred de Burgh; in the National Library by Mr. T. W. Lyster; and in the Royal Irish Academy by Mr. J. J. M'Sweeney. To the officials in the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries my thanks are also due. The Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office has permitted me to make use of the Ordnance Map for the purposes of the frontispiece, and the blocks from which some of the illustrations have been produced have been lent me by the Council of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

F. ELRINGTON BALL.

Dublin,

December, 1904.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE THIRD PART.

THE parishes included in this part of the history form the southern border of the metropolitan county. They are situated in the baronies of Rathdown, Uppercross, and Newcastle, and are bounded to the east by the sea, to the south and west by the Counties of Wicklow and Kildare, and to the north by the parishes of Killiney, Tully, Taney, Rathfarnham, Crumlin, Drimnagh, Clondalkin, Kilbride, and Kilmactalway. Within their limits lies the range of hills known as the Dublin mountains, and owing to their situation they differ in their circumstances from the parishes already treated of in this history. A great extent of the lands which they contain is unprofitable or of little value. In the remainder, instead of a vast increase of population, there has been a diminution in the number of the inhabitants, and, instead of advancing prosperity, a loss of importance in the villages and country residences.

When our history opens this district, then portion of the country of the people of Cualann, was held in much veneration and was chosen as the burial place of chiefs and warriors whose deeds were commemorated by the cromlechs, cairns and pillar stones which are still to be found in exceptional numbers in the Dublin mountains. Later, under the Celtic Church, sacred edifices began to be built and monastic establishments, like that of Tallaght, were founded. The Scandinavian invasions with their devastating effects next ensued, and left their traces on a large tract in the south-eastern portion of the district, which became the possession of Scandinavian proprietors known as the sons of Thorkil.