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I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Tirawley.

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Moegownagh COUNTY Mayo (North).

Nearest/Crossmolina (5 miles)

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

Moegownagh parish possesses few attractions for the tourist other than varied and in some places, very pretty scenery, and fishing and shooting. The area around Owenmore estate and for some miles on either side of that locality, holds many delightful views; the green pasture lands and many acres of tillage indicate the rural nature of the district and the wooded demesnes and swift-running streams add a splash of colour and a ripple of vivacity to complete the peaceful beauty of this secluded spot.

The view from one of the many elevations, shows a fertile plain, ringed by hills and featured in the west by rougher, more broken country and vast moor and bogland.

There is no village in this parish and the distances from the parish church at Ballyglass to the nearest towns is rated as follows:- Crossmolina 5 miles, Ballina 11 mls., Killala 11 mls., Castlebar 28 miles.

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

~~There are no unusual geological features in this parish.~~

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections? Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

Owenmore Estate.

This, the residence of the Misses Knox, is amongst the most charming for many miles around. The house is large and of attractive appearance and was erected about 1830 by the Orme family. The splendid ceilings and marble fireplaces reveal the superb skill and artistry of the Italian masters who were introduced for this work.

A large walled garden at the rere of the house contains many splendid fruit trees, flowers, plants and vegetables and the glasshouse vinery produces a profusion of grapes.

The Owenmore River runs for a few miles through the lands of the demesne and on the banks of this small river and adjacent to the house are some very pleasant walks. Owenmore is a thickly wooded demesne possessing some magnificent trees.

The Misses Knox will not refuse admission (free) to the estate to any well conducted visitors who seek permission. The house has no interesting past associations and is situated about five miles from Crossmolina on the Ballycastle road.

Glenmore Estate.

This estate, which is within a mile of Owenmore, was taken over by the Land Commission in recent years and the house and portion of the lands passed to Mr John Hegarty, the present owner; the previous owner was a Mr Featherstonhaugh

Mansions and Estates: Glenmore (cont'd).

The house is large but plain and unimposing. A large garden is devoted mainly to apples and vegetables and the grounds in the neighbourhood are well wooded.

Visitors will obtain permission to visit the estate but there is little of interest here.

Belville House.

Belville, a large house near the church at Ballyglass, was formerly owned by the Orme family and was purchased some few years ago by Mr Macdonald, Kilfian.

The house has remained unoccupied for years and among the local people is a very popular belief that the building is haunted. It is said that the present owner slept in the house for one night only but, having been visited by the ghostly form of a woman during the night, he left the house very hurriedly in the early morning. During the execution of repairs to the floors a few years ago, the bones of a number of illegitimate children were discovered.

*Copied
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