

(Map East)

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Castello

TOWN OR VILLAGE Cassacastle PARISH Cassacastle COUNTY Mayo

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish, in the south, starts at Cleenmore (which is a few miles south of Kilmore) and runs in a narrow strip for a few miles north to the tiny village of Cassacastle, having for its eastern limit the Mayo/Rosecommon county boundary. From Cassacastle the area runs almost to Charlestown, 4 miles almost west. A portion of Co. Mayo juts out north-east of Cassacastle and the parish takes up a good portion of this 'neck' - having the Sligo/Mayo boundary to the north and north-east, and meeting, on the east, a Co. Sligo parish which comes into Mayo at this point. To the south the district meets the Rosecommon/Mayo

### GEOLOGY

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

The parish is almost completely of limestone - peat or drift covered. There are a few tiny igneous granitic isolated belts which are so small as not to have any effect on the physical character of the area. In Cleenmore-land of J. Owens-Kee was a coal shaft now closed in. The shaft was sunk some hundred years ago by an enterprising Englishman who, according to tradition, abandoned it through lack of capital. Coal was obtained - of what quality is not too certain but said to be at least fair. The shaft was a vertical one. Traces of black and tiny pieces of coal are to be seen. Not far from the coal mine is an unused seam of what is said to be a good blue slate well suited for quarrying.

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

None

boundary and also a Co. Roscommon parish (Kilshinaw) which juts here into Mayo.

In scenery, the parish has little of beauty to offer. For the whole of its area it is a region of tillage land, bog and heath and pasture with here and there stunted tree growth and boulders and bare rocks. In the south-west corner the land rises up to a height of 776' and is known as Mullaghane Hill. From its peak a good view is obtained and the best route to the hill-top is from the main road west of Carracastle through Faulens Townland - 3 M. The view takes in to the north and north-west - nephin mountain and neighbouring peaks, the Foxford hills, the Slieve Gough range with the Millasser foot hills and Sreen Cam - the Ose mountains as far as Coolaney and the large level tract of bogland and fertile soil that lies between the vantage point and the mountain range. Slightly north-east and 30 miles away, the Benbulbin precipitous slopes are clearly visible beyond Sligo city. In nearer view to north-east is the Hill of Meash in Co. Sligo and the line of rents in the hill-side is predominant. Away beyond Meash are the Sligo/Leitrim mountains. To the south-east the view carries over into the plains of Roscommon - to the south is high rolling country - south-west, beyond a broad area of plain and hill, are the Partry mountains. Nearest are the slopes of Slieve Haven near Millingagh.

The main road route from Charlestown to Bellefraidereen runs through Carracastle which is 4 M. from the former town and 6 M. from the latter. This route runs through the parish for about 4 miles and gives a good idea of its scenery. Kookey area lies some 4 miles north and north-east of Carracastle the main road.