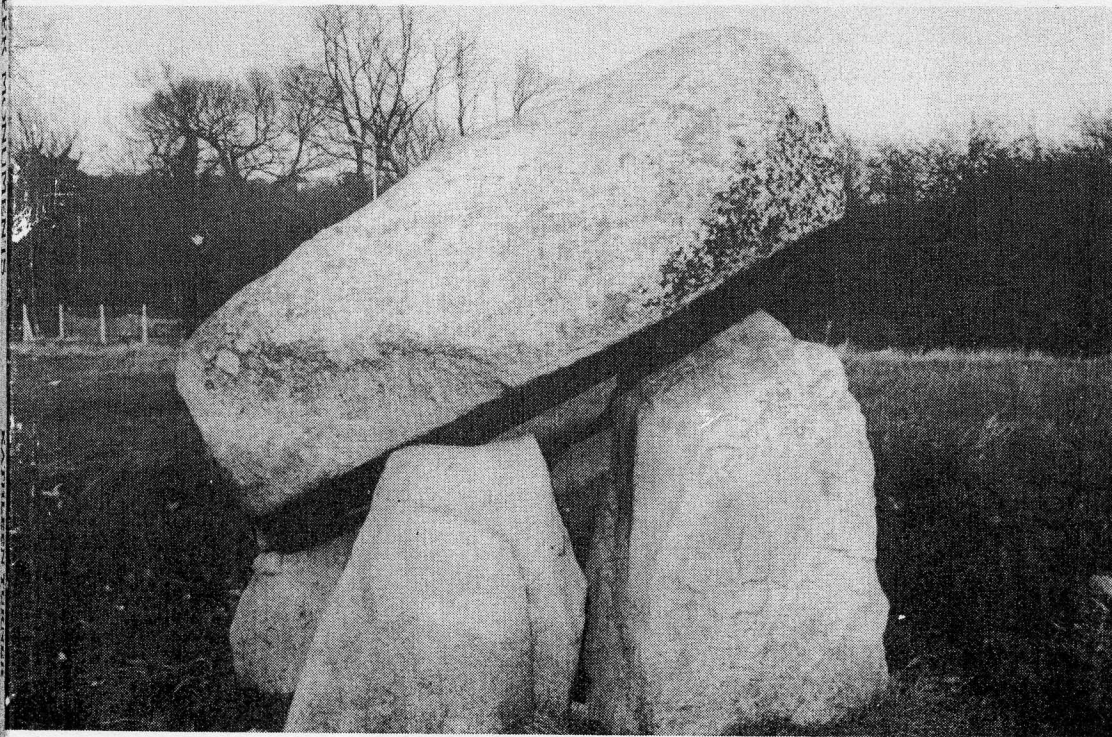


IF YOU SEEK MONUMENTS



*a guide to the antiquities of the
BARONY of RATHDOWN*

KATHLEEN TURNER

way in a modern wall. In the middle lie the small remains of an early Celtic church — only the N and S walls of the chancel about 2.14m high and covered in ivy. The E. wall has gone and all the body of the church.

Killegar is first mentioned in 1172 in Strongbow's charter (see Ballyman) where it is spelt 'Celladgair'. The origin and meaning of the name (pronounced Killaygar) is not known. The foundation, however, must be very ancient. A recently discovered reference in the Book of Leinster to a 5th century St Breachan of Shankill in Ui Briuin Cualann, states that he was a relative of St Finbar of Killegar.

In early medieval times Killegar was always associated with Ballyman, which, some believe, was a dependent chapel. In 1225 it formed a prebend in St Patrick's Cathedral, the tithes going to the Chancellor, but in only a few years he gave it up as being "among the Irish", and, therefore, little good to him. He may have struck a bad patch, for the valuation of Killegar, like that of so many other parishes, varied greatly. In 1280, it was worth nothing, although recorded that it had been £13.6s.8d. which was good compared with others in safer places. In 1300, it was worth £10. It is not surprising that Killegar, like Ballyman, is not mentioned after 1530.

Four of the Early Christian gravestones (see Rathmichael) have been found here, only two of which are there today. These have been described by P. Healy in JRSAI and all but one missing since 1913, illustrated with his own drawings. Healy's No.14, "a circular cross-head ... with on one face a figure in relief, on the other a cup-mark surrounded by two concentric circles," has been removed for safety to the Museum. The two remaining are: No. 12, "a tapered slab bearing a Latin cross" and No. 13, a slab with two sets of concentric circles with cup-marks, *etc.*¹ Quite recently a hitherto unrecorded granite slab about 49cm x 28cm in the shape of a rough cross was found on top of the N. wall. It bears two circles and a boss instead of the usual cup-mark in the centre.

Outside the chancel, about 3m to the S. stands a cross-base unornamented, measuring 54cm square by 30cm high, with a mortice 25cm x 23cm.

Reference

1. JRSAI vol. lxxxvii Part 1, 1957 p. 81.

36. Killiney (Nat. Mon.)

OS 6" 26 Dublin

Situated in the townland and parish of the same name, on Marino road leading E. off Killiney Hill road.

Among the many interesting things about this church is its dedication. Cellingena-lenin, the name by which it is first mentioned in 1179, means the church of the daughters of Leinin, and Father Myles Ronan draws an intriguing conclusion from this. Pointing out that the word 'inghen' means an unmarried woman or a nun, he suggests that this may have been a nun's church attached to the community at Tully, as *e.g.* the Nun's Church at Clonmacnoise. In this connection it may be noted that the only other church with a cross on the under side of the lintel of the W. doorway, as we have here, is Our

Lady's Church, Glendalough, quite possibly also dedicated to nuns, as suggested by Dr Leask.

Canon Scott considered Killiney church to be "architecturally the most interesting of all the old churches in Ui Briuin Cualann", and, indeed, like Dalkey church, its mixture of periods provides the antiquary with plenty of scope for speculation. George Petrie, our great 19th century scholar, artist and musician, described it as 'in ruinous perfection', and he expressed a wish to be buried near it where the first beams of the morning sun would rest on his grave. He would be disappointed if he could see it today when progress has removed so much of its romantic remoteness, when trees and houses have grown up all around it so that the rath or enclosure by which it was once encircled is no longer to be seen. The ancient thorn tree and the cairn or altar which Wakeman found here have also vanished.

As well as its unusual dedication to the five daughters of Leinin¹ who lived in the last half of the 6th century, there are a number of things to be noted in this church. First is the original chancel, the arch of which, in perfect condition, has inclined jambs; a typical doorway in the W. end is 10cm wider at the base and has, carved on the soffit of the lintel, a Greek cross 41cm x 41cm. On the N. side of the church an aisle was added, and in the S. wall is a stone-mullioned window. Inside is a font 46cm in outer diameter; and two small crosses attached to the wall.

The most important members of the congregation before the Reformation were the Goodmans of Loughlinstown Castle. In 1575 James Goodman "perfect of mynde do make my last will - my bodie to be buried in the church of Killeninge". Goodmans would continue to be interred in the old churchyard although in the next century, they were vigorous opponents of the Reformed doctrines and would certainly not have worshipped in the church. In 1640 James Goodman gave a house in Killiney for a school in which children could be taught the old Faith, and he kept a priest in the castle.

In 1630 church and chancel were reported to be without roof or ornaments.

Reference

1. *JRSAI* vol. xxxi part 2, 1901 O'Reilly "Christian Sepulchral Leacs, etc." p. 155-6. The names of the 5 sisters were Druigen, Luigen, Luicoll, Macha and Rintach.

37. Kilmacanogue

OS 6" Wicklow 7

The village of Kilmacanogue is just three miles from Bray on the road to Wicklow. Turning right here for the Rocky Valley, the entrance to the graveyard will be found almost immediately on the left. The ancient church is picturesquely situated at the foot of the Sugarloaf Mountain facing the Little Sugarloaf. A little stream rushing down from the mountain splashes its way past the wall of the graveyard. The old coach road from Enniskerry, before the present road was made through the Glen of the Downs, skirts its W. wall.

2. F. E. Ball "History of Co. Dublin" part 2 p 95
3. Dalton "History of Co. Dublin"

50. Tully (Nat. Mon.)

OS 6" 26 Dublin

Situated in the townland of Lehaunestown. It is best reached by taking the Carrickmines road from Cabinteely for about ½ mile when a turn to the left is signposted. The churchyard lies beside the road on high ground sloping down to the east. From very early times this place was known as Tulaghnanepsco or the Hill of the Bishops from the story told in the Book of Lismore of seven Bishops setting out from here to visit St Brigid in Kildare.

The ruins consist of a roofless chancel with its fine round arch in perfect order. The nave is completely down, but its outline is well defined and it can be seen that the chancel was wider than the body of the church, to which it is clear that it was added. The original little E. window of the church may still be seen high up in the W. wall. A 2-light, round-arched E. window and two other windows also round-arched, one each in the N. & S. walls, indicate an 11th or early 12th century date for the chancel.

In some ways Tully is one of the most interesting of all the churches under discussion here. Legend tells us that it was founded by, or at least, closely associated with St Brigid of Kildare whose name it bears. Besides the legend already mentioned in the Book of Lismore (and it is not always wise to discount legends), one of its well-known crosses depicts what has been taken to be a female figure holding a crozier, reminding us that St Brigid is said to have been consecrated, whether by accident or design remains obscure. Some say that Bishop Mel, when asked about this act reputed to have been done by him, replied somewhat evasively, that he had no power in the matter — that God had given Brigid that dignity! ¹ Sceptics might consider that this idea is not confined to Brigid's own country. In the ancient Irish monastery of St Martin at Cologne there is a statue of her holding a Bishop's crozier — and it is certainly an emblem always associated with her.

To add to all this we have what Dean Lewis-Crosby, one-time Rector of Stillorgan (also a St Brigid church) has to say: "We have the remarkable record that for centuries the incumbent of St Brigid's, Stillorgan, was ex-officio Treasurer of Kildare Cathedral . . . these things lead to the conclusion that St Brigid's, Stillorgan and St Brigid's, Tully were neighbouring outposts of St Brigid's Monastery, Kildare."

Further support for a connection between Kildare and Tully is supplied by K. Hughes who states that "Armagh recognised Central Leinster as under Brigid's authority and exempt from Patrick's universal claims "a statement echoed by Daphne Pochin-Mould. If indeed founded by St Brigid of Kildare, this church must go back to the early 6th century as St Brigid died in 523 AD.

Having presented the case for St Brigid of Kildare, it must be mentioned that there is a rival candidate for the honour of being patroness of Tully. This is a Brigid commemorated in the Martyrology of Donegal on March 6th, "Brigid, daughter of Leinin at Cill Ingen-Leinin in Ui Briuin Cualann" and, therefore, sister of the five holy ladies of Killiney church.³

Tully church is first mentioned in 1179 as Tullaghnanepscop, granted to the Priory of the Holy Trinity. In 1615 it is recorded as "in ruins, completely waste — thrown down". In 1630, having presumably, been repaired, it was said to be "only somewhat ruined by the late storm — the chancel roof almost down". After the 1641 Rebellion the church was not used again, and an illustration of it in Grose's "Antiquities" in 1790 shows it just as it is today.

The Two Crosses (Nat. Mon.)

The West cross stands in a field on the other side of the road from the church. As well as the controversial figure on the E. face, it bears a 'head' at the intersection of the arms on the W. face. The East cross stands high up on a plinth or pedestal in the roadway. It is a plain wheel cross, undecorated but for a 'shrine' cap badly weathered. Drawings of these two crosses by du Noyer may be seen in Ball's "History of Co. Dublin" part 1, giving more detail than can be seen today. Both have a small incised cross similar to one seen on a stone in the N. wall of Dalkey church and also on the Wartstone at Whitechurch.

In the drawing mentioned above in Grose's "Antiquities", with these two crosses is shown a third, small and quite plain, which I have never seen recorded since. They are all placed together, probably for convenience, in the roadway in front of the church.

As regards the age of these crosses, opinions vary, and one can only suggest from the 8th century to the 12th.

Early Christian Gravestones

Two of the Rathdown leacs discovered here many years ago are now placed in the chancel — one a shapely, tapered slab with embryo arms and design of concentric circles, the other bearing a Latin cross with bosses under the arms, and cupmarks. To these has very recently been added a third, newly discovered by Mr Patrick Healy. It, too, shows concentric circles. Outside, to the west of the chancel and half hidden in the grass, is an almost square stone with a wheel cross sculptured in low relief, but with no other visible markings.

At the beginning of the century, O'Reilly noted a stone lying beneath the chancel arch but which has since disappeared. He described it as "a small oval-shaped fragment of stone 5" long by 5.7" thick, bearing a cup-mark 3¾" wide and 1" deep, and an equal-armed incised cross 3" wide."⁴

References

1. D. Pochin-Mould "*St Brigid*" p.49.
2. K. Hughes "*The Church in Early Irish Society*" p.113/4.
3. *JRSAI* vol. xxxi part 2 1901 p.155 O'Reilly "*Sepulchral Leacs and Free-Standing Crosses in the Dublin Half-Barony of Rathdown*".
4. *Ibid* p.142. *Illustration* p.141.

51. Whitechurch — Alba — Kilhunsin or the church of Balgeeth

OS 6" 22 Dublin

Situated in the townland of Whitechurch, ½ mile north of the present C. of I. church

MARTELLO TOWERS

Writing of the new harbour of Dun Laoghaire in 1820, one of our tourists damned them with faint praise, "The white Martello towers which line the whole southern sweep of Killiney Bay, are not unpleasing objects".¹

The Martello towers were built in the early years of the 19th century when, following on the French Revolution, England was at war with France under Napoleon and was in almost hourly fear of a French invasion. To counter this threat, it was decided to build towers of great strength similar in construction to one situated in Corsica on a point of land known as Mortella point (hence the name slightly changed) which had defied the might of the British Navy some years before.

Ireland had already proved to be a likely landing place for an invading force, and Killiney Bay was a particularly vulnerable spot. In 1804, the first towers were built in Ireland – the very first in Garnish Island, Bantry Bay – a year before they were erected in England.

Not all Martello towers were the same in design, nor were they all sited in the same way, *e.g.*, in England they were sometimes placed together in twos or threes. Not even all the Irish towers were the same shape, but we are only concerned here with those built on the E. coast between Bray and Dublin, and these are all similar.

Sixteen sites or towers are numbered in this group, a distance of twelve miles by road, starting at Bray with No. 1 and ending with No. 16 at Sandymount. Fourteen towers materialized, sites 5 and 8 being only batteries. Of these fourteen towers only nine remain today. Some owe their fall to coast erosion, some to the advent of the railway line and one, No. 4, had to be blown up as dangerous early in this century. These towers, strung out like beads on a chain, roughly 1 mile apart and closely following the coast (with the exception of No. 7), are all the same shape, like a child's sandcastle, wide at the base and narrowing to the top. Short and squat, 12m in height, they are immensely strong with walls 2.45m thick, *i.e.*, twice as thick as those of our medieval castles. In this connection it is interesting to note what V. Enoch has to say about the mortar used in the building of these towers. His words echo what E. R. McC. Dix said in his description of the castles built in the 15th century, 400 years earlier, "the mortar is as strong today as the granite blocks it holds together". Tradition, according to Mr Enoch, has it that this mortar was made of "a mixture of ground granite, lime, ash, hot wax and ox-blood!"

At first sight so unlike our tall, graceful round towers, there are points in common – the round shape, the narrow slits for windows and the door, always placed 3m or more above the ground. Like our castles they often have a 'bartizan' or machicolated gallery which, supported by corbels, projects from the parapet above the door, to permit of firing down on an intruder trying to enter – the defender himself being protected.

Note that our tourist, mentioned at the beginning, described the Martello towers as white. Unlike the English towers built of brick and cemented, these towers were built of granite quarried locally and when seen sparkling in the sun, are a very interesting addition to our land/seascape. They are said to have cost from £1,800 to £2,000.

Inside, the arrangements were very simple. There were three floors. The ground

floor was the magazine, the 1st or middle floor provided accommodation for the garrison, and the flat roof was the gun platform.

Anyone who would like to know more about the Martello towers, here as in many other parts of the world where they were built, should read Mr Victor Enoch's "Martello Towers of Ireland" 1974, a most informative little book with many fascinating illustrations. Mr Enoch knows his towers – he is the owner of one, No. 6. When Mrs Sheila Sutcliffe's book "Martello Towers" appeared in 1972, it was described as the first comprehensive book on the subject. It has a very wide scope, covering towers in all parts of the world where they were built, but it is obviously difficult to be accurate when dealing with towers that have disappeared and with ground that is unfamiliar and Mrs Sutcliffe is all out of focus when trying to place towers 1–8, Killiney Bay. As a Guide needs to be accurate, I hope that the following list will be that as well as clear.

No. 1

This tower stood on the sea-shore at Bray. The exact date of its disappearance is not recorded as far as I know; but, as the development of the foreshore started in 1881, it may in all probability be placed some time in that decade. Duncan's map of 1821 marks it as a tower without a battery.

65. No. 2

OS 6" 8 Wicklow

This tower is still standing in Bray. Going E. along the Seapoint Road, it is clearly visible on the right just before the railway arch. It has been converted into a house and is inhabited. Duncan's map shows a tower and battery here.

No. 3

OS 6" 26 Dublin

Now vanished, this tower was situated in the townland of Corke adjoining 'Ravenswell' and is given in Duncan's map as a tower only. Mention of it occurs in the "Dublin Builder" of November 18th 1864, under the title "Building Accidents – A Martello Tower shaken. No. 3 Martello tower near Bray has been found shaken in the foundation, having been sapped by the seas running along the coast during the recent gales . . . and is in an unsafe state".

No. 4

OS 6" 26 Dublin

This tower stood in the townland of Shanganagh a little to the north of the old railway arch at the end of Quinn's road, Shankill. General Sir George Cockburn of Shanganagh Castle, refers to the "tower in my North sea field" in a letter written in 1818 and left in a bottle sealed up in one of the turrets with which he was then adorning his house, to be discovered by workmen in the course of reconstruction work in 1954. Duncan's map gives a tower and battery here.

A local resident tells me that it stood 150 yards east of the old railway line (itself abandoned in 1916 and moved inland to where it is today), and that it was blown up by Army Engineers in about 1906–7 as, owing to coast erosion, it was becoming dangerous. Some of the larger stones were conveyed by a mini-railway to the railway proper, thence to Greystones and Kilcoole for transport to Ballygannon to be used as a breakwater against rough tides which washed over the rails at that part.

No. 5

In lists of towers No. 5 is ignored. Although there was never a tower here, one was certainly under consideration, and the remains of a battery are still to be seen. The site is on the townland of Shanganagh, on top of the cliffs, a little south of the mouth of the Loughlinstown river. A tree-lined path known as Battery Wood leads to it from the railway line through a new township of Council houses. The remains of the battery seem to be as they were in Joyce's time when he considered the position "very ill-chosen . . . as no portion of the structure, owing to rising ground in front, commands a view of the shore, etc. Remains of the dwelling for the accommodation of the garrison may still be seen, and underneath is a vaulted chamber probably the ammunition store".² In 1815, when Napoleon was safely out of the way, the officers of H.M. Ordnance advertised for "proposals from persons willing to purchase the materials of the Battery No. 5 . . . together with one acre on which the same stands. The Battery consists of 3 apartments, one 14.88m x 6.40m fitted up as an Officer's Guard Room. The road to the Battery is along the strand at low water".

66. No. 6

OS 6" 26 Dublin

This is now known as Enoch's Tower, having been elaborately converted by Mr Victor Enoch into a luxurious dwelling. Originally it seems to have been called the Loughlinstown tower, although it stands in the townland of Killiney, a little to the north of the mouth of the Loughlinstown river. It is reached by crossing a bridge over the railway at the junction of the Military Road and the Sea Road, Killiney, and turning right along this cul-de-sac. This tower had a battery.

67. No. 7

OS 6" 26 Dublin

This has a rather unusual situation, some distance from the sea, and high above it on the Killiney Hill Road, just before its junction with Killiney Avenue. It belongs to the Dun Laoghaire Corporation who have the key. It can be climbed to the top by the stairs inside.

No. 8

The remains of a battery at the south end of the Vico road suggest that a tower may have been planned for this site, although it was never built. It was generally intended

to site these towers so that an enemy ship might find itself under cross fire from two or more of them. A glance at the map will show that they also took advantage of any local obstructions, *e.g.*, half submerged rocks, *etc.*

68. No. 9

OS 6" 23 Dublin

Stands high on Dalkey Island, clearly seen with its attendant battery, from the mainland. It may be reached by boat from Coliemore Harbour during the season. The men engaged in building the tower unfortunately made use of the little Celtic church on the island as a residence, thereby spoiling a hitherto untouched relic of our past, adding to it a fireplace, windows and a door.

Originally this tower had its entrance at the top, but a door has since been made at the usual height.

69. No. 10

OS 6" 23 Dublin

Is sited a little to the south of Bullock Harbour, in the grounds of a private house. It may be glimpsed from the coast road to Dalkey under a large stone archway.

70. No. 11

OS 6" 23 Dublin

Stands on rocky Sandycove Point near the well-known Forty-Foot men's bathing place. This is the famous Joyce Tower, so-called because it is mentioned in "Ulysses" and is now a museum of Joyciana.

No. 12

Long ago demolished, this tower stood at Glasthule where Martello Avenue marks the site to the west of the railway line. Weston St John Joyce says that the rock on which the battery stood was removed by blasting 'some 50 years ago' (his "Neighbourhood of Dublin" was published in 1912) and he adds that traffic was warned by a bell rung on the road some minutes before firing. A drawing of the tower is reproduced in Mr. Enoch's book.

No. 13

The Dun Laoghaire tower was demolished about 1834. Its site was somewhat to the north of the bridge leading over the railway line to the Coal Harbour and the Irish Lights Depot – the exact site of the original 'dun' of Dun Laoghaire.

About 1930 two stones of the local granite were found at places close to the dun where the tower had stood and it is suggested that these stones had probably once been at the exact site and had later been thrown away with other debris when the tower was demolished only to be dug up again 100 years later, and by chance recognised as unusual by a gardener to whom they had been given for the purpose of edging flower beds. The stones are decorated with a variety of motifs, and one of them also bears an inscription in Ogham writing. Both are now in the National Museum.³

71. No. 14

OS 6" 23 Dublin

This tower is to be seen near the railway station at Seapoint. It stands on a rocky promontory jutting out into the sea, its base washed and slapped by the waves even in mild weather. The tower was the scene of a terrible tragedy many years ago when only just built. In 1807 in November a transport vessel, the "Rochdale" left the Pigeon-house Harbour in company with others, among them the "Prince of Wales". Both ships were wrecked on this coast in a snowstorm and gale. The "Rochdale" was driven on to the rocks under the tower and all the 265 on board, including troops with their families, officers and crew, were dashed to death against the rocks. Joyce, who tells the story in his "Neighbourhood of Dublin" 1912, says that a contemporary print of the disaster showing the tower existed then.

72. No. 15

OS 6" 23 Dublin

Williamstown tower is reached by a side road — Seafort Parade — off the road from Dublin to Blackrock, on the Dublin side of Blackrock Park and Merrion Avenue.

This is the only tower that really looks shabby. It is blackened as if fires had been lighted round it.

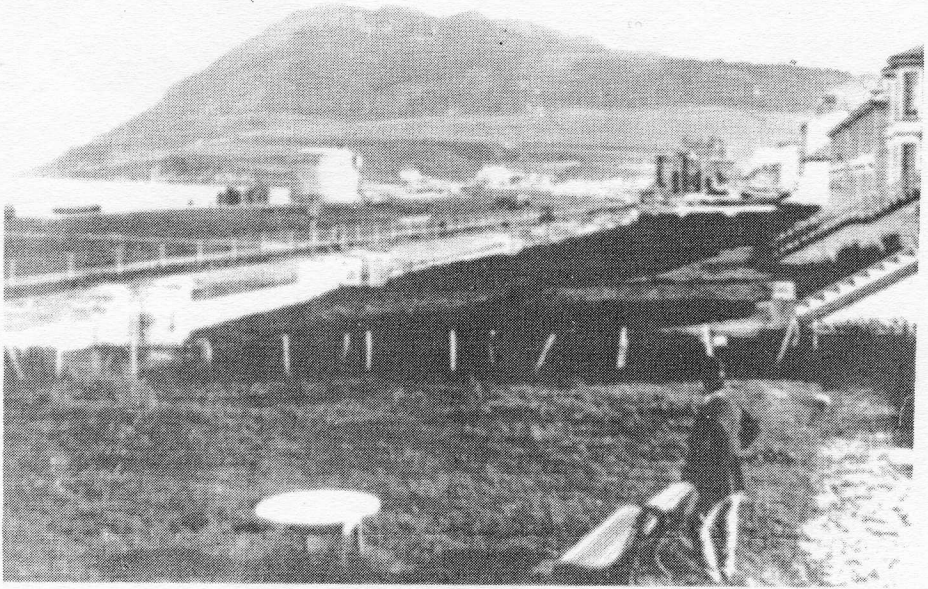
73. No. 16

OS 6" 23 Dublin

Sandymount, the last tower on our list, stands on the coast road beside the sea shore. It has been a sweet and cigarette shop for a long time.

References

1. *T. Cromwell "Excursions Through Ireland" 1820*
2. *W. St J. Joyce "Neighbourhood of Dublin" 1912*
3. *Fr Myles Ronan, JRSAI 1932*



Martello Tower No. 1



Martello Tower No. 4