Both Protestant and Catholic, In Lovely Longford-Its Loughs and Isles and Monastic Ruins.Then and Now. In continuation of my ecclesiastical articles as brothers wither by their side in all tranquility. I can be chief monastic institutions which formerly flourished here and whose ruins are now points of interest for the archæologist and how true an effigy:

The principal monastic ruins are Lerha, Inchmore, Ardagh, Abboydeorg, Abbeyshruie, All Saints' Island, Inchboffin and Injectothram

The principal monastic ruins are Lerha, Inchmore. Ardagh, Abbeydeorg, Abbeyshruie, All Saints' Island, Inchboffin and Inisclothraun.

The Abbey of Lerha.

There are few places in the County of Longford which possess such interest forthe student of ecclesiastical history as the neighborhood of Granard, in which was erected the great Abbey of Lerha, which gave its name to the parish of Abbeylara, It is told by the ancient annalists that one of the first places in Leinster which St. Patrick visited after leaving Tara was Granard, one of the chief seats of pagan worship. St. Patrick preached about the year 400, and his preaching produced such abundant fruit that in 450 he founded the Monastery of Lerha, and appointed St. Greasacht, the son of St. Melucho, his old master, to be its first abbott. A large number of the chief tanns of Annaly, the ancient name of Longford, were-buried here.

Later, in 1205, an abbey of the Cistercian order was founded here by Richard Tuite, which was plundered in the next century by Edward Bruce. The monks fied to Athlone on the approach of his army and did not zeturn till after his departure. In 1544 Richard Tuite, which was plundered in the next century by Edward Bruce. The monks fied to Athlone on the approach of his army and did not zeturn till after his departure. In 1544 Richard O'Farrell, who was also chieftain of Annaly, and had been abbot of this monastery, was appointed Bishop of Ardagh, and soon after the monastery was suppressed. The remains consist of a large square tower, in the middle of which is an arched door leading into what would probably be the dormitory. There is also a round chamber with sarrow cell window. Adjoining the ruins, which are covered with ivy, is the Protestent

The Church on the Lough.

The Church on the Lough.

On the Island of Inchmore in Lough Gownagh are the truins of an ancient church agh are the truins of an ancient church and monastery of large proportions. No part of the County Longford possesses more romantic scenery. It is recorded that when St. Columb determined to undertake the conversion of the Picts and Scots he retired to Inchmore, where he spent a long time in prayer and fasting preparatory to his journey to Iona. The Danes plundered and burned the abbey, which was restored and again spoiled in 1543. The ruins are extensive.

The Abbey of Longford.

Contemporary with the foundation of the see of Ardagh an abbey was founded in Longford by St. Idus, one of the disciples of St. Patrick.

The foundation of a Dominican abbey in 1400 by O'Farrell, Prince of Annaly, for Friars of the Order of St. Dominick, is supposed to have been the origin of the town of Longford. In 1429 the monastery was destroyed by fire, the monks being left homeless, and such was the distress to which they were reduced that Pope Martin V issued a Papai Bull, granting a plenary indulgence to all persons who would aid the monks in rebuilding it.

The present Protestant church at Longford is built on the site of the old monastery and the ruins of the abbey church are to be seen in the glebo.

The Ruins On the Shannon Isles.

Next in importance to Longford, as the capital of the county, are the monastic ruins. on the Shannon Isles. Those of Inch-Cloth raun or the Quakers' Island are said to b the finest in the country. There are no less the finest in the country. There are no less than the ruins of seven churches here. According to the local historian Farrell the monks were very strict. No woman on any account was allowed inside the wall that enclosed five of the churches. If she came in the was left in one of the churches till she died, and the church was accordingly called "The Dying Church." About 100 yards south is a gate belonging to a church which lay outside the prescribed circle and where all corpses for interment on the island were brought. It was called "The Lady's Church." The island is full of bones and skulls.

Inchboffin is an island in Lough Ree, in the Shannon. There are many islands in this lough, which extends almost from Lanesborough to Athlone, and in some parts is from six to nine miles broad. The name Inchboffin is Gaelic for "The White Cow." An abbey was founded here by the nephew of St. Patrick. It had its usual vicissitudes of fire and plunder. It was finally destroyed by the Danes.

All Saints' Island, Inch Aughin and other islands have their monastic history and possess ruins of bygone days.

Distant about five miles south of Longford is the cemetery of Abbey Dearg, in which stand the crumbling ruins of a priory of St. Augustine.

Then and Now.

The first part of the churches here. According physicians. For sale by leading drugists or sent by mail; 25 cts, a vial. Address Hobbs of surgists or sent by leading drugists or sent by leading physicians. For sale by leading drugists or sent by leading drugists or sent

Next to the ruins in Lough Ree the best reserved of all the county monastic ruins is Abbey Shrule, situated agar the River Inny. The original abbey was destroyed by the Danes, who came up the Shannon from Limerick. Its successor the Shannon from Limerick. Its successor continued till the suppression of the monasteries by Queen Elizabeth, who granted it and all its lands to Robert Dillon, Earl of Roscommon, and his heirs male forever.

The Abbey of Shrule has a commanding position. At its foot the inny flows down to Tenelick. The existing ruins show it to have been one of the finest and largest in Leinster.

Cloistered monics once met to dine
Where, unchecked, now tourists gaze;
Cool and dewy iry twine
Where the lagots used to blaze.
Through the rete arch, werm and red,
Freely flows the sunlight in,
Gliding, laughing maidens' head,
Where to name a maid were sin,

Conflict has been here together.
Battled foes till one has sunk;
Nature's forces, time and weather,
Triumph over cowl. vow, monk,
And the lvy stundy waving
Freely through the ruined hall,
Tells of art, but vainly braving,
Nature's doomed to vanquish all.

The Reformers and Ballymacormack Church. In the Cemetery of Ballymacormack, dis tant one mile from the town of Longford, are the remains of an old church which was once a chapel of ease for Longford. The once a chapel of ease for Longtord. The northern, southern and western walls stand in good condition at a height of 16 or 20 feet. In the middle of the southern wall there is a low-arched doorway and several well-preserved windows of ancient pattern. The church was built in the 12th century by O'Farrell of Longford and existed until the 15th century.

O'Farrell of Longford and existed until the 15th century.

A story told me about this old church was that the Reformers thought to make a church out of the chapel and roofed it for this purpose. The next morning the roof was found in the river, and the Reformers did not again attempt to meddle with Ballymasermack Church.

In the days of the pestilence of 1852 the parish priest of Longford used to go out to this old ruin and say mass in it, the congregation kneeling away from each other for fear of contagion.

So far, I have been dealing with the Roman Catholics, especially the monks. Here are some verses composed by a Longford man, which are apposite here, though I know that the opinions of the readers of The World will be divided respecting their sentiment.

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