

- <sup>22</sup>E. C. Rae, *The Sculpture of the Cloister of Jerpoint Abbey*, J.R.S.A.I. 96 (1966) p. 64, n. 17.  
<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 88, note 77.  
<sup>24</sup>Hunt, *op. cit.* Vol. 1, p. 230.  
<sup>25</sup>Leask, *op. cit.* p. 149—151.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

J.R.S.A.I.—The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.  
O.K.R.—Old Kilkenny Review.



## Burials at Killaree, Threecastles

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ON October 16th, 1971, a large number of burials were discovered at Killaree, Threecastles, on the lands of Mr. Michael Dalton.

It is an area of limestone out-crop on rising ground and over-looking the Nore Valley. A firm of monumental sculptors were engaged in quarrying for limestone when the burials were turned up by the machinery. They consisted of about nine or ten extended skeletons buried about 18 inches below the surface. They were laid in rows roughly in an east-west direction.

The site was inspected by Miss Nell Prendergast of the National Museum. Though many of the burials were disturbed by the machinery a selection of bones sent to Professor C. H. Erskine, T.C.D., for examination revealed that the skeletons of at least five adults (three female and two male) and one child of eight or nine years were among the remains. An iron knife found by the writer close to the hip-bone of one skeleton and a slate whetstone found near-by are not closely dateable except they indicate the medieval period.

The grave-yard of Killaree is about half a mile east of the site. Local tradition says that three kings are buried there. The site of the great battle between Strongbow's men and the Ossorians of 1170 was a few miles north-east of Killaree, near Freshford, and the presence of female burials does not seem to point to a battle.