

4 No. 8

Moylegrove

St. Andrew's Church

5309

We observed that the good vicar had provided his congregation with spittoons in lieu of hassocks, showing thereby that he was well acquainted with their wants. This was the only matter of interest we noted. The Church is new, or modernized, and well kept. According to Fenton, p.586, Moyle Grove should be read Malt's Grove, for so he found it written in old Latin deeds. Malt may have simply meant Matilda (see Owen's Pembrokeshire I. 288) but Mallt was an evil genius, also called "Y Mwci Mallt" or Mallt of the mist. Wometimes mortals saw her washing her hands in a woodland stream: when this occurred, the mortal died. Can Moylegrove be named from the above legend? The Welsh however call the place TREF-GWYDDEL - the Irishman's town. Was it then a last stronghold of the Goidel inhabitants of Wales, or named from some comparatively recent immigrants from Hireland? But Gwyddel means "a brake" as well as an Irishman.