

## CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

Holy Wells. Doberfela Bride:— Situated on the lane of Mr. Charles O'Farley. The annual pilgrimage day is the 15<sup>th</sup> August, when large numbers of the women visit the well. The well is open up to the 5<sup>th</sup> of September but is visited at all times during the year by pilgrims. Persons doing pilgrimage start at four of the clock and say 7 Our Fathers, 7 Hail Mary's and 7 Glories. Pilgrims then walk around the outside of the well saying any prayers pilgrims see page 74

(Signed)

J. J. Sullivan  
Surveyor.

DATE

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wishes. Having completed this the pilgrim  
 then says of Our Father, of Hail Mary's and  
 of Glories at the Gate. Pilgrim then goes  
 around each monument seven times saying one  
 Hail Mary, one Our Father and one Glory.  
 Pilgrim then comes out of the well and  
 says of Our Father, of Hail Mary's and of  
 Glories. Pilgrim then walks around well  
 saying any prayers wished. Pilgrim then  
 completes Station by kneeling at well and  
 saying of Our Father, of Hail Mary's and  
 of Glories. All circuits of the well or  
 monuments are made in the direction of the Sun.  
 Pilgrims are allowed to be granted any request  
 or doing Station, and many cases are  
 reported to have resulted from pilgrimages  
 to the well.

Prophetabide is by tradition connected  
 with Genia Uale. It is said that when  
 he was a fish he rescued a young  
 man from a shipwreck, and that he  
 fell in love with Genia. They were  
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by the priests of the station, at the Altar  
(leaba) near the well, and lived very  
happily for a number of years. But  
misfortune befell them. A feud started  
between the O'Mailles of Glina and the  
Mac Mahons of Ballycroagh. The Mac Mahons  
surprised the O'Mailles at a deer-hunt  
on Achill, and Grania's husband fell in  
an ambush. Grania made a vow of vengeance,  
and waited her time. Hearing from an  
Ereish man that the Mac Mahons were under  
a curse for killing a young man at  
Achill, and were going on pilgrimage  
to Caher Island, she manned all her  
galleys, and enclosed behind the tides.  
She waited until the Mac Mahons had landed,  
and then cut off their retreat, slew a  
great number and captured her husband's  
slaves, whom she brought to Glina  
and lodged with Seveeal of his companions.  
Not satisfied with this she sailed to  
Ballycroagh, surprised Doona Castle, killed  
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the occupants, and made it one of her residences.

The Castle: The interior is 48 feet across the eastern side, and 46 feet up the west. The gateway is 25 feet from the south-west corner, 5 feet wide, and 20 feet from the south-west angle. The north side is just under 35 feet long. Practically all the wall to the south and west appears to have been re-built, but the foundations and Set - Slabs are in position, and the northern and eastern parts are mainly ancient. On an average it is 4 1/2 feet thick and 4 feet high. The eastern side is much overgrown with bushes. In the north-west corner, about 3 feet from the wall is a clochan. It is a small structure, roundly built, like a beehive house, about 4 feet across the west base course and 8 feet in diameter. The walls are about 18 inches thick, and the outline irregular.

probably having been re-built. The interior is about 5 feet across. The interior is sunk. About 6 feet to the South is Leaba Brighde. (The Altar - sometimes so called), or St. Brigid's Bed, an almost rectangular heap of stones. On it lies a stone with a large groove round it for a rope, commonly called an "anchor stone". There is a similar stone a few of the Clochan.

The Well:- The well lies about 20 feet from the North-east corner of the Cashel, & is a semi-circular. It is a fairly regular structure, roofed with long lintels. It is oblong inside, 3 feet 8 inches long by 1 foot 6 inches wide. The water is not very clear and there are a number of leaves in it.

None of these monuments are under the lease of the Office of Public Works. They ought to be given to public.

ROBER FELAMURRY The well of Mary's Feast (or  
 St. Mary's Well). Situated on the land of Mr.  
 Ed. O'Farley, in a marshy field behind  
 the Abbey, to the north, and is in a  
 state of neglect. Despite its situation this  
 well is dry. It is covered by a shapeless  
 heap of slabs, on 10 feet to the east  
 is a rude altar a few feet in height.  
 On the east are three dedicatory slabs  
 The first is a cross of the Galtese type  
 with expanded arms, and the words "I.H.S.  
 Pray to God and the B.V.M." with the  
 date 1701. The second is indecipherable.  
 The third slab has an oblong slit  
 worn rather than cut through the yellow  
 sandstone near the top, then a Latin  
 cross and the letters I.H.S. and B.V.  
 (see sketch).

Pilgrimages to this well used to be held  
 between the 15<sup>th</sup> August and the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 September; the 15<sup>th</sup> August being the annual  
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pilgrimage day, but very few visit the  
 well now. Any pilgrim performing the  
 station, it is stated, will receive his request.  
 The station is performed by pilgrim kneeling  
 at altar and saying 7 Our Father, 7 Hail  
 Mary's and 7 Glories. Pilgrim then rises  
 and proceeds to well and kneeling says  
 7 Our Father, 7 Hail Mary's & 7 Glories.  
 Pilgrim may then go round the two  
 monuments on knees once, or else 7  
 times walking saying 7 Our Father, 7  
 Hail Mary's & 7 Glories, seven times. The  
 circuit is made in the direction of the Sun.  
 The station is finished by pilgrim saying  
 some prayer in honour of St Joseph or  
 the Blessed Virgin at the well. Not under  
 the care of the Office of Public Works.  
 Has right of way to public.

Curiosities

Legendary Story. Once upon a time the land near Pomerania ran out to a large rock in the Strand, and on its edge stood a weaver's cottage. One day the sole survivor from a shipwreck, landed at the rock. The weaver seized a weapon, and ran out to ask the stranger who he was, the stranger, unable to speak Dutch, gave no intelligible reply, so the suspicious and angry weaver struck him with all his strength on the forehead, killing him on the spot. The murdered man was a brother to the Pope and the Emperor of Rome, and by some unknown means the news reached them. The Pope laid a most severe curse, not only on the murderer, but on the island for all time.

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Customs etc. - It is considered unlucky to meet a strange woman with red hair when starting for work or on a journey.

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or to accept bait when out fishing without  
 paying for it with some object, such as a  
 stone from the ballast of or some little object  
 of no value; to give five out of a lease on  
 May Day or to take a stone from Loches  
 Island is also unlucky. For luck, compass  
 used to be lit on St. John's eve, and  
 people made the circuit of the Sun around  
 them seven times in the name of the Trinity;  
 candles were thrown into the potato fields to  
 make a good crop; a small offering of a  
 pin, button, leaf, or pebble should be  
 offered on visiting Loches Island, and all  
 preservers take of this habit as a blessing  
 themselves on passing it, in reference to  
 Saint Patrick. If a seal is seen the  
 following days are due to be stormy.  
 Blacksmiths are duties to have dangerous  
 powers of curing, especially by turning  
 the shoe. Another rite was that of putting  
 for several days and blowing a hole in a  
 coin in the name of the devil, uttering  
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a curse against a person. There is a strong  
 belief in the curative powers of Tobacco and  
 and Tobacco, also the Lead-weighing  
 Cures headaches. Sick Cattle were cured  
 by boring their ears and passing a  
 Patkin through the ear. A child  
 with whooping cough <sup>was</sup> passed three times  
 under a female ass and a drop of  
 ass's milk sprinkled on it in the  
 name of the Trinity.

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