

## 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.

how.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Loughkeeran station: This is a marshy, boggy place near the main Ballyvaughan/Bohola road. There are three flattened mounds—each approx. 14' diameter. The station begins at one of these. The pilgrim takes off shoes and stockings, kneels, and says the Creed, then the Paten hostia, Ave, and Gloria, five times. Pilgrim then walks around the mounds on the beaten track made by countless people through the years. At the next mound the same ritual is observed except that the Creed and five Patens, etc. are recited. Similarly at the third mound—the Creed and seven Patens etc. being said. Next the pilgrim follows a path of almost 50 yds. length—on bare knees: before starting the Creed, and 15 Patens, etc. must be said—and again at the end of the path. Then there is a small circular ring around which the pilgrim walks twice—praying the while. There is a part of the 'loc' where the feet are to be dipped in the blessed water: Before dipping however—knees must be rinsed in ~~the~~ unblessed water—and again after dipping—to avoid desecration of the holy water.

Inside the last small circle can be seen many animal excrements. Sometimes butter is taken to be left here. At one time it was customary

(Signed) Donald A. Vaughan.

Surveyor.

DATE April 22 - 1911

Customs etc. Page 9.

for farmers to bring livestock with them - especially cows that had been cured as a result of a fever pilgrimage by their owners.

The pilgrimage is made solely for cure and prevention of sickness in animals. Formerly the pilgrimage was held on Sept. 9th. nowadays it may be made between the last Sunday in July and Sept. 9th. said to have been extremely well known to farmers in Co. Galway. now almost extinct.

A pseudo-pattern is held beside the Loughkeeran location, on last Sunday in July. Pre-war various stalls attended and it was mostly a children's day. At present there is just a jacking of youngsters, without any set games etc.

January 1st: Many people will not pay out money or throw out ashes or water.... There are many in houses who will not pay out money on Mondays.

Stone Tues: "Pancake night"... they are made and eaten for tea.

May Day: Many people will not sell or give out milk on this day. Now with a coal fire the fire is kept to light that of a neighbour.

June 23rd: "Bonfire's night" - fires lighted in the open air, often at cross-roads.

St. Martin's night: A fowl is killed and its blood sprinkled in the four corners of the house. (not widespread).

St. Brigid's Eve: "Bonning the bidden". youngsters dress up and go from house to house and play music and entertain.

On November's night there is "kicking the cabbage".

On St. Stephen's Day the women boys or men - youths dressed-up who visit the houses and entertain with music and song.