

## 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.*

In Lelegagh townland, in the locality called Church Park, there is a well, said to have been a holy well, called Coleracune but supposed to have been dedicated to St. Cova. A few hundred yards away a high hill overlooks the road. Just underneath the hill and in the centre of the road are two stones of the roadway itself, which are approx. 9' apart. The stones are evidently fairly sizable but only a small portion of each rises above roadway level. The stones are about 100 yds. from main Bellinawish road.

Also nearby is an older graveyard called Beampull Wood. There is a legend that a new one forsake her vows and went to France and married a French general. After some years she desecrated her vow and went to Ireland to perform a station at the holy well at Beampull Wood. She came to Ireland and having performed the station she sat on the hill overlooking the road. A roving pedlar, carrying her fine jewellery, killed her, stole all the jewels and buried her in the hill. Her husband after some time, becoming alarmed, came to Ireland and he did not in search of her, but say he climbed to a neighbouring house. The pedlar had also called to the same house. He asked the noble man's fine jewellery, pulling out his gold watch the general came to go after looking at the time. He said the pedlar "ye may have

### CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Gas of the older customs survive in this parish.

Though not a custom, but a religious observance, the feast of Corpus Christi deserves mention. Due to the supervision of the Sisters of Charity - the town of Gosford is perhaps one of the best decorated towns in Ireland on this occasion. Houses, streets, walls etc. are festooned in order and yellow out fashion with moss roses, bunting, flags, garlands etc. Stubs are temporarily implanted in the roadway and in general, the adornment of the town is an example of such hard work by the people. All house fronts are painted and cleaned in addition to being decorated.

On June 23rd, Bonfire's night, fires are lighted all over the parish. On St. Martin's Eve a fowl is killed and its blood sprinkled in the four corners of the house. Custom is not widespread.

On St. Stephen's Day 'mummers' do the rounds of neighbouring houses. Hallow E'en is the night for youngsters' entertainment indoors.

Shrove Tuesday is 'Pancake night' when pancakes are made.

(Signed) Donald A. Faughan.

Surveyor.

DATE May 14th 1914

The custom of rubbing the inscribed stone in Glenduff graveyard has been noted in account of stone (curiosities).

Of cures only that of seventh row for ring-women - fruit's leavings there also - cough, soothes.

fine jewellery, but I'll best ye." So saying he opened his sack and showed the gleaming ornaments of the noble's wife. Instantly recognising them the latter knew the worst. Drawing a knife he killed the pedlar and left the district.

The neighbours, after consultation, decided to bury the body in Glaspull wood. They did so but in the night were awakened by weird cries from the cemetery. In the morning they found the pedlar's body outside the graveyard wall. And so for a second night and a third - until, knowing that the green road refused to harbour the murderer, they buried the pedlar in the roadway and the two stones mark his grave.

"St. Patrick's foot-print" On the roadside above Fourford dispensary is a boulder approx. 14" high, 4' long and perhaps 3' wide. On its rough top there is a depression which resembles the outline of a small naked foot. It is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep on average; at the heel is 2" wide and across the sole is 4". It is 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Almost indented notches give the toe impressions. There is a slight raising of the surface of the depression resembling the arch of the foot.

Beyond the fact that it was known as "St. Patrick's foot-print" there is no tradition surviving now regarding the rock-depression and only a few people in the locality, seemingly, know that it even exists.

There is also beside this road and near Peter Cummins' house, a "split rock" which is 8' at highest point, is 16' long and the two segments of the split are, the one 3' wide and the other 5'. The split portions are distant 18" from each other at their bases and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at top, the smaller portion leaning away from the larger.

No legend or tradition or name as this is a very rocky area and has large rocks and small, so that the one above attracts no notice whatsoever.