

COLMAN'S WELL PARISH.

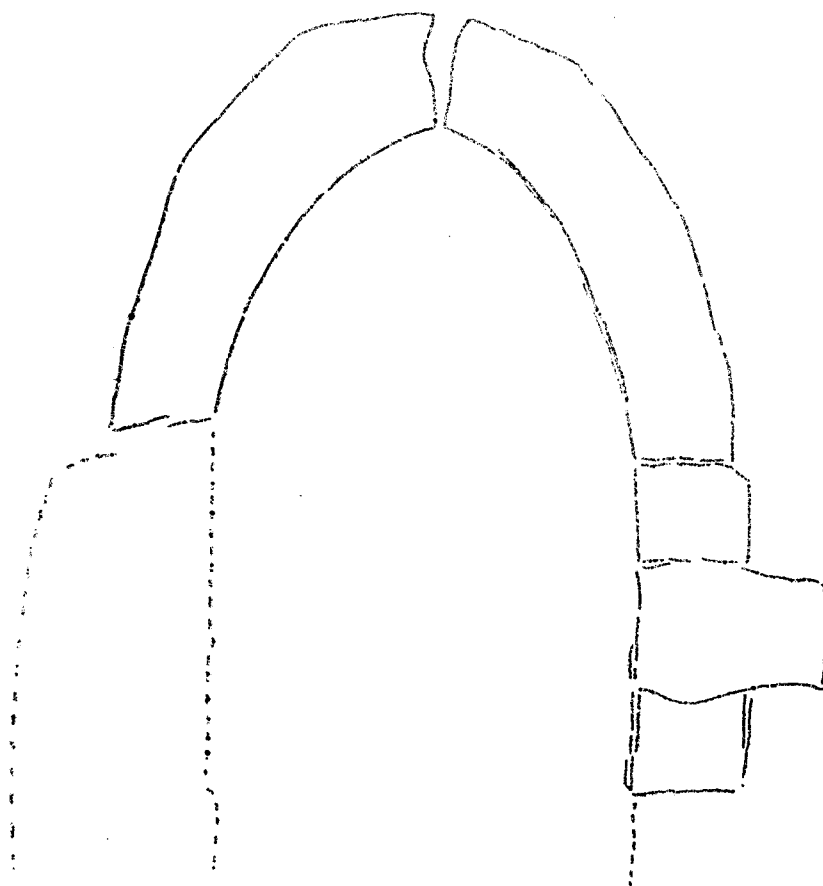
SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Connello Upper and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Bruree; on the west by the Parish of Castletown; on the south by Co. Cork; on the east by the Parish of Hackmays.

NAME. The Irish name of this Parish is Tobar Cholmain, which means St. Colman's Well. Thus the Saint's name and well compose the name of the Parish. About this Saint, who must have been the founder of a Church originally here, or to whom the Church first erected in it must have been dedicated, no local information could be obtained; it is not even remembered exactly on what day his festival was usually celebrated. It was heretofore kept as a holiday in the Parish, and fell, as well as could be learned by enquiry, on the 28th, 29th or 30th of October.

288

His well, which is situated about one hundred yards south of the old Church in ruins in this Parish, is much more frequented at this period (namely in October) of the year than at any other. It is at present impossible and till some leisure offer itself, to point out among the number of Saints known by the name of Colman in the Irish Calendar who this St. Colman was, and what day his festival was celebrated. At this well stands a willow tree, covering it with the shade of its wide

289



Outside form of Doorway
old Church, Colman'swell

spreading branches. The foot of this tree is twenty feet in circumference. It divides into three branches at the height of four feet from the ground. There are numberless rags to be seen on this tree, which testify to the great number of persons that frequent the well. Saturday is the day of the week on which people go to this well.

290

The old Church in ruins stands on level ground; the east gable has been entirely destroyed. The length from east to west inside the Church is fifty one feet and the breadth from south to north is twenty one and a half feet. Eight feet in length of the south wall is broken down to the east end. It is likely a window was here. At the distance of eleven feet three inches from the west gable on the south side wall is the doorway, seven and a half feet by four feet three inches on the inside. On this side is a flat arch (which is a small segment of a large circle). The arch is pointed on the outside, where only it and three stones at the east side remain. Height of the door on this side is six feet eleven inches; breadth where the arch rests is three and a half feet. Form outside.

291

See sketch opposite.

This doorway was built with well chiselled lime stone. The side walls of the building are about ten feet high, two and a half feet thick. The materials are large lime stones irregularly laid and cement of lime and sand mortar. There is here a large grave yard which is much in use.

292

This Parish was traversed by Mr. A. Curry and his notes put into the above form by Mr. T. O'Connor.

J.O'D.

293