

## 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.

- ① Hoof marks of St Patrick's horse - On the S.E. side of the Corraun peninsula and on the N. side of the road  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mls west of the little village of Dooaghbeg are large areas of smooth surfaced red sandstone rock outcrop. On these rocks are numerous horse-shoe-like markings. These are quite natural but local legend explains them otherwise. When St Patrick was on the Reek on the southern side of Clew Bay, he and his band of followers wanted to cross rapidly to the north shore. At a word from the Saint, all horses on which they were seated, jumped together and cleared the wide bay in one sweep landing on these rocks which now bear the imprints of the hoofs.
- ② Gardens at Corraun House - Corraun House stands at the S.W. corner of the Corraun peninsula. It is 7 mls by road from Achill Sound. Surrounding the house are magnificent displays of blue and pink hydrangias. As well, there are many sub-tropical plants which grow here in the open. The gardens are however most noteworthy for the extensive avenues of hydrangias. Visitors are admitted free on application.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

- ① St Colman's Well. - This is on the S. side of Slievemore Mt. at the east end of Slievemore village and is 2 mls by road north of Keel. Style at the road leads in to it. It has been dry for over 100 yrs but its stone surround is still preserved. It is enclosed by a stone wall surmounted by a cross on the base of which is "Tobler Naoin Coluim". Rounds are still made to it by people praying for special intentions.
- ② St Brendan's Well. - This is at the east end of Keel strand just before the Cathedral cliffs are reached. It also is now dry and the following story is related of it. A man from the Protestant settlement of Dugout came to this well and desecrated it. Whereupon the well went dry immediately and has never held water since. The site of the well is still visible and is protected by a dry stone wall.

(Signed)

H. J. B. O'Kelly.

Surveyor.

DATE 31/8/42