

THE PARISH OF LOUGHEL.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Shanid and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon; on the east by the Parishes of Shanagolden and Robertstown; on the south by Kilmoylan and part of Shanagolden, and on the west by the Parish of Kilfergus.

NAME. This name is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from the Townland in which the original Church was built, which Townland took its name from a wood of elms. The name occurs very frequently in the north and west of Ireland, and we have the authority of Augustin Mac Raidin for spelling it Leamhchoill. See my letter on the Great Island of Aran.

The old Church of this Parish is situated on the brink of a valley in the Townland of Loughel and about half a mile south of the River Shannon. This is a primitive Irish Church but the antiquary has forever to lament that all its features are destroyed. It was divided into nave and choir but both are nearly destroyed, 161 only fragments of the east and middle gables and thirteen feet of the south wall of the nave remaining. The length of the nave cannot be ascertained but its breadth was fifteen feet. The choir arch is all destroyed. The choir is seven feet ten inches from west to east and nine feet eight inches from north to south, but no window or fragment of one is observable on it. The fragment remaining of the south wall is eight feet high and three feet thick and built of large long stones cemented with lime and sand mortar.

About one hundred yards to the north of this Church there is a holy well called St. Colmog's Well, which is still resorted to for the cure of sore eyes, but St. Colmog's Day is not remembered.

There is nothing else of antiquarian interest in this Parish.

The antiquities of this Parish were examined by Mr. A. Curry.