

OF THE PARISH OF KILCOLMAN.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Shanid and is bounded on the north and west by the Parish of Dunmoylin and part of Shanagolden, on the east by the Parish of Kilbradran and on the south by the second division of Rathronan.

NAME. The name of this Parish is of ecclesiastical origin, being derived from Cill, a Church or Cell, and the genitive case of Colman, the name of a Saint. There were several hundreds of Saints of this name, according to a list of Saints given in the Book of Ballymote, but I could not determine exactly which of them gave name to this Parish. St. Colman of Temple Shanbo at the foot of Mount Leinster seems to me to be the Patron of this place also, as his 72 day comes the nearest to the Patron Day of this Parish, as I shall presently remark when treating of St. Colman's Well.

The old Church of this Parish was forty five feet long and eighteen feet nine inches broad, but its east and west gables are destroyed to the very foundations. The south wall is all up except about nine feet of a breach extending from the east jamb of the doorway towards the west gable, and thirty feet of the north wall remain. The south wall contains a window placed within four feet of the east end, but it is destroyed except four chiselled lime stones of its east side. There was another window on the north wall placed four feet from the west gable but it is now reduced to a shapeless breach. The walls of this building are about ten feet in height and four feet in thickness and built of hammered lime stones of a regular size and regularly laid in courses and cemented with lime and sand mortar.

At the distance of about one furlong to the north of this Church there is a holy well dedicated to Saint Colman at which Stations are still performed in honor of the Saint on the 29th of October, which is kept a holiday in the Parish. I do not however find any Saint Colman who was revered on that day in the Irish Calendars; the nearest to it is St. Colman of Shanbotha (Templeshanbo) at the foot of Mount Leinster, whose festival was celebrated on the 27th of October.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry.

J.O'D.
