



Cahir Castle

Orion



Technical Schools

Cahier

O'Brien



Cahoon Property
Ruins

O'Brien
Cahoon, Co. Lipp.



Cahir psh
Redrough Castle
Ruins

O'Brien

(Lipp North)

9

FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF Offa & Offa West.TOWN OR VILLAGE bahir PARISH bahir COUNTY Liffenny

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

The modern parish of bahir comprises the old parishes of bahir, Mooltstown & Outrath. Stretching out from the woods, South-eastern shoulder of the Galtee range, the parish runs along the southern verge of the "Golden Vale." The Suir flows (gently) slowly through the centre and on either side we find a gently-sloping country of fertile land, well sheltered and dotted with ornamental trees. The general appearance of houses, with their orchards and gardens and flowers bespeak the comfortableness of living on this good rich land. The many square towers scattered throughout the district are stern reminders of the lawlessness of Anglo-norman, feudal Ireland. Their gaunt ugly appearance is out of (harmony) harmony with the quiet peaceful countryside.

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

noneMANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES
OF IMPOSING CHARACTERLocation and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?bahir abbey.

a Georgian Mansion situated in an extensive, ~~new~~ park, on the western side of the town off the Liffenny road. A large, highly cultivated fruit and vegetable garden is attached. Built a family named Lyndal, former owners of the bahir House, it is now owned by Miss Young & Smith. The House, called 'bahir'. It is at present loaned to the Irish Army, and is ~~occupied~~ occupied by them.

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Baths, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

The Priory of Bahr.

Founded by a Norman knight - Geoffrey de Candvil about 1220 this was a house of the Augustinian Canons Regular. It is evident from the scale of its buildings and the list of possessions, ^{granted to one Mrs Browne} ~~to the community~~ by Henry VIII that it was a place of considerable importance. The ruins are extensive though badly preserved, all except the church tower & choir being sadly dilapidated. The monastery church, which had neither aisles nor transepts, was large and had a square tower of extensive dimensions at the junction of the nave and choir. On its south side this tower connected with the eastern cloister wing. On its ground floor the tower had a pointed doorway which gave entrance to the church from the north. On the inner face of the arch there are two beautifully carved panels of interlacing, "more Hibernics." Hardly anything remains of the Refectory, but the vaulted Chapter Room still survives. It is recorded that the then Prior Edmund Olongone surrendered the abbey to Henry the VIII and received by way of compensation a pension of £3-6-8 per annum.

Bahr Castle.

Situated on the eastern bank of the river, alongside the modern bridge and highway, stands the Castle of Bahr. Built in 1442 by Honor Brian, Prince of Thomond, this fortress passed to the Butlers when James the Third Earl was granted the territory around Bahr in 1375. The same James had an illegitimate son by Catherine, daughter of the Earl of Desmond, named James Galdy (Gallidha) on whom he settled the Bahr estate, the latter thus becoming founder of the Butler house of Bahr. His descendant Thomas became the first

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

BROOK LYNN.

ROSBRIEN.

LIMERICK.

A. Barry, Esq.,
Secretary, D.D.A.

Dear Mr Barry,

Recently excavations were
carried out at Cahin, under the
guidance of Mr DUKHMAN, N.H.I.
and some very interesting
discoveries were made.

If you have not already
heard from him, it would I am
sure be worth while to inquire
into the matter.

Very faithfully yours,
P. J. Lynch.

29: IX: 44.

Antiquities bair castle.

baron of bair in 1543.

Throughout the following centuries the castle had indeed a chequered history. The lords of bair sided with the Irish in the Elizabethan wars, and in 1599 the castle was besieged, and after a bloody struggle captured, by Essex. Thos. Butler, the then lord bair, continued the struggle, however, and we find that after the fall of Cork in 1602 he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. That the lord of bair at this time was a scholar and a patron of scholars and poets, is evidenced by being in his well known 'Lament on the death of lord bair'. (Thos. died in 1628). The lines apostrophising the castle are worth quoting:—

"Lonely art thou O Fortness of noble chiefs,
O hill, bright, blessing and protective;
A time there was when your numbers were not few,
Though tonight thou art without many of the nobility,"
Keating then goes on to describe the castle as "the usual summer bower of poets and peers" and refers to the company of "the learned and skilful in poetry" who gathered there.

James, brother of Thomas, the defender of 1599, took an active part in the rebellion of 1641, and we find elaborate details of his two sieges of Rochestown Castle in 1642, in the deposition of the English owner, one Thomas Grove.

Three years later we find that the Governor was George Matthew of Thuness, Guardian of the young Lord bair who was a minor. Thus in Sept 1647 when Inchiquin appeared before the castle, we find it defended by Ulster men. However, owing to the treachery of Matthews, the castle was

Antiquities of the castle

surrendered after a short siege. Again in 1650, Matthew acted traitorously and surrendered the castle to Cromwell. The fall of the castle was regarded with consternation by the Confederates. The Ulstermen had fallen back to it from Bushel. It was considered well nigh impregnable. Furthermore its position of importance, commanding the pass over the Suir, would serve the double purpose of (1) covering Ormonde's expected advance from Limerick to the relief of Blinnet (2) dividing the Cromwellian Army into two groups in its attempt to reduce both the castle and Blinnet at once. For it was known, that there were momentous preparations for war in Scotland which necessitated Cromwell's immediate return to England. This thought the brave Hugh O'Neill and the heroes of Blinnet. The measure of the great Soldier's disgust at the surrender can be gleaned from the following sentence of one of his many letters to Ormonde, soliciting aid.

"Since my last letter to your Excie I have not to pitymate more than that the castle was yielded without shot or blowe upon what conditions I knowe not, which I believe your Excie knowes ere now."

Matthew had deserved well of the Cromwellians. They left him his lands and gave him some new ones.

1652 saw the official ending of the disastrous, eleven-years war when articles were signed at the castle.

The butlers of the castle were also staunch Jacobites, and Theobald, for his part in the 1691 Stuart campaign was outlawed and his property confiscated. However he was restored in 1693.

The castle is the property of the castle estates co and is in a very good state of repair. Admission

Form A continued. 4

Antiquities. bahr bottle.

can be obtained free by calling to the bahr's estate
to office at bhahel St. The visitor should not fail to see
the cannon formerly used in the castle's defence
and the cannon ball embedded in one of the
walls.

Kedragh Castle

Situated on a hill on the western side of the main
bahr - boshel road about two miles from bahr's.
Only a small portion remains, of what was once ~~a~~ a
typical Anglo-norman castle. I can find no account of its
former owners, but it was apparently ^{the time of} ~~the time of~~ the
Lords of bahr's. The bottle was in ruins at the Down
Survey in 1654, and was possibly destroyed during the
Wars of 1641-49. The only architectural remains of note
is a carved limestone mantelpiece, (see also Lincroft's - Out
and Two Tails.). Permission to visit the ruin will be given
by Mr. Meagher whose residence is erected on portion
of the old site.

Shoptcastle.

Situated about 2 miles from bahr and about 1 mile along the
byroad running from the main bahr - boshel road
to Montedown. The structure is similar to that of
Kedragh and Bostlecoyne. Only portion of what appears to
be the western gable-tower remains. He who is ^{on} ~~only~~ the
lands of farmers named Bostengast who will gladly
allow inspection. It was in ruins at the time of the
Down Survey.

Bostlecoyne

Situated on the lands of farmers named Bostegan. about
300 yards to the east of Shoptcastle. Similar in type to
Kedragh and Shoptcastle, it probably shared their fate.
At any rate we know that it was in ruins in 1654.

Antiquities Loughloher Castle.

Situated on a height about 2 miles south of Bahr on the lands of Mrs. Hauressey. An Anglo-Norman structure, it was burned during the Cromwellian wars. It belonged to a branch of the Keatings or De Ketings, sub-chiefs to the original ^{Norman} feudal lords of this area i.e. the ~~March~~ Worcesters. After the signing of the Articles at Bahr Castle in 1652 concluding the Confederate wars, the last of the Keatings of Loughloher - Maurice Keating - was sentenced to transplantation and his estates confiscated.

All that remains of the Castle is the square tower or keep standing at its original height.

Historic Sites, continued

Rian ~~BD~~ Phadraig.

Which local legend associates with a cow belonging to St. Patrick's appears to have been an ancient roadway connecting perhaps Bachel with Lisamore and Endmore. The story told to me locally was that a ^{calf} ~~cow~~ belonging to St. Patrick's cow ran away and was followed by its mother along the Rian until it captured. (Slide Journal, Royal Society Antiquarians, Vol XXXV). Though it is now much overgrown, it was used as late as 40 years ago by ^{school} children etc.

Historic Houses.

Signor Gali.

his last visit to Galis, he sang in as many as sixty operas and also excelled in oratorio. As a concert singer he was also prominent. He popularized Rimant's 'Bedouin Love Song', and Father O'Hynes and 'Philadelphia' were also great favourites of his.

Galey died at Southport on October 20th 1899^{and} is buried here. A Celtic cross over his grave bears the following inscription. In memoriam.

Allan James Galey.

Signor Gali.

Born at Galis Ireland 1835.

Died October 20th 1899

"Here let him rest
God knoweth best"

William McLyrtter S.J.

Born at Galis in 1590. Became a Jesuit and was for many years Professor of Philosophy & Theology at Lisbon. He is described as a brilliant ~~the~~ preacher and a man of great virtue and learning. I have been unable to locate the exact site of his birth.

Richard Butler Earl of Glengall.

The second and last Earl of Glengall was born at Galis Castle in 1794. He was the writer of some of the outstanding political essays of his time, and also earned fame as a dramatic author. He died at Bowes, Isle of Wight in the year 1858.

In or about 1820 he earned much publicity, on account of a duel which he fought at Bowes Castle, the other participant being Lord William Lennox. Butler accused Lennox of being the author of articles, scandalising the upper classes, which appeared in the London publication called "The Age". Lennox denied the charge and demanded an explanation. The duel ensued. Neither party was injured. Lennox then declared himself satisfied, and so the matter ended.

Curiosities 'Cat and Two Tails'

the lion was known. In earlier MSS, such as the Book of Kells, there is a fair representation. However as the centuries went by, the scribes and sculptors, (~~begin~~) not having a living model began to use their imaginations until we see the climax in the 12th century MSS the Annals of St Malaise's Gospel, where what is supposed to represent the head of a ~~man~~ lion has the legs of a man attached to it, (Vide MSS Stokes' 'Celtic Art'). These symbols were belonging to religious establishments, and there is no information as to how this one came to be at Kedragh. The castle is an old Anglo-Norman structure, and it is likely that in former days some curious inhabitant, acquired the symbol from some ~~old~~ ancient church ruin. As a matter of fact, O'Donovan writing about the ruins of Donoughmore, says "A stone inscribed with ~~with~~ Cat and Two Tails was said to be put over the door by the Goblaan Sadr, and the stone was stolen by Basil Carmichael and brought to Holy Cross." (Vide Ord. Papers, R.I.A.) Kedragh is distant only about 10 miles from Donoughmore, and it is quite possible that the stone here is the original Donoughmore one.

St Patrick's Stone, Grougemore.

South of Balin, about a mile on the Ardara road we find the 'limestone boulder known as St Patrick's Stone. This stone is treated with much veneration locally, and tradition has it that St Patrick on his way to the Sees knelt on it. The imprint of his knees can still be seen in it. Canon Power, however suggests that it was a termen stone marking the boundary of the old Augustinian Priory at this point. Some years ago it was mysteriously removed, and was missing for some time. However, it transpired, that a nearby lady with an overwhelming desire for collection of the hizarre, and had spirited it away. The people of Balin insisted on its

Form A continued. 8

Curiosities St Patrick's Stone.

return, and when it come back had it properly secured

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)

BARONY OF

Iffa & Offa West.

TOWN OR VILLAGE

balin

PARISH

balin

COUNTY

Wicklow

Location and brief description.

Population 1638.

balin. 10 miles W. west of Blarney & 12 S. East of Wicklow,
on Waterford - Limerick & Bora - Dublin Road.

You come upon balin unexpectedly, situated as it is in a very
wooded hollow, charmingly divided by the river. It is a
bright, clean, well-laid-out little town, with modern houses
and shops which belie its age. For balin, as a city, - Cathair-

balin - Iascaig - was ancient ~~and~~ when its great castle, which you see by
the river, was built in 1142.

Is there a Town Hall?

No

Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

balin Park. on banks of river, this Park covers an
area of 1000 acres, and it is open to the public every day.
There are some lovely walks, ~~bordered~~ bordered by
ornamental trees & shrubs.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Excellent modern water supply & sewerage.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station

balin

Distance

in town

Bus?

Dublin - Bore
Waterford - Limerick
Bore - Bore service
Now through balin

Public lighting by—Electricity?

Gas?

DANCING

Dance hall

balin, Castle

Proprietor

balin Estates Co.

balin House Ballroom

balin House Hotel.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas

Lucky Cinema

Pictures shown
(nights)

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday
& Friday

Theatre

None

Kind of shows

(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries..... *Carnegie Library, Technical Schools.*

Private Lending Libraries..... *Toyle & Walsh, Church St.*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church..... *Catholic*..... Services (Sundays) *8, 10, 11.30 am.*
Church of Ireland..... *10.30 & 12 Alternate Sundays.*
Presbyterian..... *3 pm.*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office..... *Church St. Bahir.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)..... *yes.*

BANKING

Banks..... *National Bank.*
Windsor & Leinster Bank.

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers..... *Bradleys Chapel St.*

Photographic Stores..... *P. Boudon. Photographers Church St.*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... *4 Pools*..... Location..... *Bahir Pool, The Mall, Railway Bridge*
Swanville.

Public Baths?..... *none*

Location.....

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

British Legion Club. Chapel St.

Cultural Societies

None.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

W. J. Young & Smiths Ltd Flour Mills. Employ. 200 hands.
Baker Co-operative Society, Creamery, & Butter Factory.
Haltermore Industries Co. (a concern owned by Mrs Walsh
draper Blanch St for the manufacture of ladies frocks etc from
material, employs about 20 girls)

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

Monument to men of Balir & surrounding district who fought and
died during 1914-18 war, at Castle St Balir. Consists of a plain
celtic cross on a broad square base. The inscription reads:-
"This cross was erected to the memory of the officers and men of Balir and
the surrounding district who gave their lives in the great war and whose
names are graven hereon. Their name liveth for evermore."

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

Modern Technical School in Blanch St.

Built to modern low, one-storied design, with the maximum amount
of glass. The dark tiled roof shows up in fine contrast
to the near-whiteness of the cemented walls. Very
pleasing appearance.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Christ-the-King National & Secondary (Boarding) Schools
run by Sisters of Mercy.
Boys National Schools.
Technical Schools.

HOSPITALS

Private Nursing Home.

Controlled by Dr Mc. Heffernan
The Wall Balir

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets Monthly Fairs, last Wednesday in each month

Weekly market day Friday Half-holiday Wednesday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Baker's House Hotel Garage & Filling Station
G. Reimer, Filling Station

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis	2	Baker's House Garage.
	1	Mr. Peter Wellington St.
	2	Mr. O'Sullivan Blunck St.
	1	J. Butler Barrack St.
	1	P. Bondon Blunck St.
	<u>7</u>	

Motors (Touring)

Boats (State type)

none

Bicycles

none

Caravans

none

Horses

none

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location Landowner

no special camping sites

Local Improvements Committee none

Secretary

DATE 22/8/42

(Signed)

W. O'Brien

Surveyor.

BARONY OF *Tha kaffa West.*

TOWN OR VILLAGE Baker PARISH Baker COUNTY Jefferson

Bahir House Hotel, The Square	42	4	yes
Kennedy's Hotel Church St.	12	1	yes

Guest or Boarding Houses

none

Restaurants and Cafés

none

DATE 92/8/42.

(Signed) William
Surveyor.

(Plain sheet of foolscap to be used if space here is not adequate)

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

Gha roffa West

TOWN OR VILLAGE

bahis

PARISH

bahis

COUNTY

Yipperry

ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE

Lair

Nearest point to town (distance)

Runs through town

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Trout - Salmon,

8lbs 1938

5½ lbs 1939

14½ lbs 1940

16½ lbs 1941

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon

Sea trout

none

Brown trout

½ lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon

Feb - April

Sea trout

Brown trout

March - April - May Wet fly

June to Aug Dry fly.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Jock Scot, Thunder & Lightning,

Sea trout

Brown trout

Greenwell's fly, & March Brown (Hackle fly's), Iron Blue Dun, Red Spinner, Various olives, Black knot.

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

Free except on preserved stretches.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Salmon 1 Knockgraffon, 2 Ballydrehid, 3 bahis Rock, 4 Neddins

i.e. 4 stretches of approximately one mile each.

Proprietors - bahis estates & bahis.

N.B. Remaining salmon waters and all trout waters from Ballycarra Bridge to Shorttostle (about 9 miles) under control of bahis Anglers' Association.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

no boats available, all fishing can be done from banks.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

bahis

bahis House Hotel.

do

Kennedy's Hotel.

Local Angling Club

bahis & District Anglers' Association.

Membership Fee

Secretary (and Address)

J. Y. McBarthy.

The Mall bahis.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

none

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

none

Bait available locally ? Fishing tackle ?

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.

GOLFING

Name of Club Bahir Golf Club. No. of holes 9

Situation and brief description of course :

Alongside the main Lifford Road one mile from Bahir,
nicely laid out on a breezy-upland. Sandy surface.
Holes slightly short but very tricky. General situation very
picturesque with magnificent views of the Devils Bit, the Rock
of basel & the 'Vee's' Slievenaman.

Name of Professional none

Is there a clubhouse on course ? Yes Licensed ? no

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day 2/- Per week 10/-

RACING

(Including "Point-to-Point" and "Flapper" meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year.....

Under which rules?..... none

Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds.....

Harriers..... none

Beagles.....

COURSING

Name of Club..... none Meeting held annually?.....

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company.....

Races on (nights)..... none

SHOOTING

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available:

There is no free shooting of any consequence, unless visitor wishes to try his luck over the ordinary agricultural land. Then, all that is required is permission from the local farmer which is given freely & without charge. This shooting, however, is not good.

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses:

Seacroft Wood on southern slope of Galtres 1½ miles from
baker's Proprietors baker's estate Co.

(west) Duck (Duck pond) grouse, Pheasant Woodcock Partridge.)
4 miles, Scaunaglorane Wood mountain - grouse - 4000 acres - West of Monasterevin.
Shooting Club..... none Secy.....

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club..... none Competitions held?.....

ROWING AND SAILING

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.

none

GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following:
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football Bahir G.A.A. Club, grounds Looky's field Bogueen Road

Hurling none

Handball none Handball alley? yes

Soccer none

Rugby none

Cricket none

Hockey none

Bowls none

Bowling (on public roads) none

Lawn Tennis Bahir Tennis Club 2 courts, fee 10/-
Bahir Tennis Club 4 courts fee 12/6 Kinds of courts Grass

Croquet none

Billiards British Legion Club, Chapel Road

Badminton none

Table Tennis none

Bridge Club none

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)

Cross Roads dancing Sunday night at Loughloher Cross
3 miles south of Bahir & Roulmea Cross 3 miles east of Bahir.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club Bahir Cycling Club Events held under rules of _____

do. _____

ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.)
in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

Annual Angling Competition Promoters Bahir & District Anglers
Association
Grophies - Charteris Cup - experienced anglers
O'Dwyer Cup - novices

DATE 22/2/42

(Signed)

Ho'Brien

Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

Situated on the lands of Mrs. Hickey of Knockagh two miles east of Bahr is an old 'fort' which has been identified by O'Donovan as the 'An' Gairchio or residence of Gairchio (Gergus Macboman) the poet who killed Lughaidh son of Conn the Hundred Fighter (vide Leabhar Gabhala) at Neasby Derrygrath in the Parish of Ardquinan. (See Ardquinan Parish report for further details).

Rian Bó Phadraig.

on the lands of Mrs. Wm. Walsh in the townland of Moorstown can be seen a section of this legendary "Road or Track of St. Patrick's cow." This earthwork known as a 'double ditch' (see sheet 5)

HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities.

Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

Signor Toli. Famous Singer.

Allan James Toley was born at Bahr in the year 1835. The house of his birth in Chapel St. has since been pulled down to make way for the Schools belonging to the Sisters of Mercy, Bahr, which now stand on the site. Toley's father was a trooper in a Cavalry Regiment then stationed in Bahr. The boy was baptised James, but in later years he adopted the name Allan, in honour of Bobi Allan, Commander of his (James) father's Regiment who had taken an interest in him. At the age of eighteen he emigrated to the U.S.A. with his mother. at Hartford Conn. he worked as a Joiner for six years. Possessing a fine bass voice he went to Naples in 1859 to study singing under Bisaccia. Three years later he made his debut in 'Otello' at Catania. So began the career of the most distinguished 'Basso' of the ~~nineteenth~~ century. Successful appearances followed at Turin, Modena, Milan, London, Dublin, Paris, Vienna, St. Petersburg (as it was then called) and Moscow, and finally in America. During one of his visits to Ireland he sang at Blommel, following which he paid

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

(continued sheet 6)

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?

Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

none

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.

Cat and Two Tails.

At the residence of Mrs. Meagher of Kednagh, ^{last} mile from Balin on the left of the Main Doshel, Dublin road, can be seen this curious object which long baffled research. On the rectangular face of a stone $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 1 foot is inscribed a Cat with two tails (see photo). Believed for long to be the trade mark of the legendary ^{he} ~~Yolban~~ ^{be} ~~Laor~~, it is now known to be a debasement of the symbol of the Resurrection in early Christian art. The symbol was, of course, the emblematic lion, who according to tradition is born dead, and remains so for three days, when its father gives it life by breathing on it. Hence the connexion with the Resurrection. The tail of the lion being bifurcated and each end tied, in Celtic fashion, into a knot the popular Cat and Two Tails is explained. The original came from North Italy, where

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC. (continued sheet 1)

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

Holy Well. Lobar Lora.

about a mile out

Situated in Balin abbey townland, on the western side of the town, this well is still in some repute although there is no fixed annual pilgrimage. The traditional Gaelic prayer to be recited at the well runs:—

"Go m-beannuidhe Dia Dhuit, a Lora Naomhtha,
tána mé go dté thú a' ghearaí mo seil dhuit,
a D'iarraidh cabhais, i gcúntas dé uait,
go m-beannuidhe Dia mise,
Lora & Beannuidhe Naomhtha."

I could get no definite local history regarding this well. It consists of two parts, one, the drinking well, enclosed by a circular wall, and the second, the washing well, rectangular in shape & enclosed by four walls. There are also two shrines containing numerous statues, and directions as to how to carry out the pilgrimage.

(Signed)

W. J. O'Brien

Surveyor.

DATE

25/8/42.