



Irish Folklore Relating to Churches

Edward Peacock

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There are besides several shorter pieces: "The Tale of the Wren," "The Legend of the Dardaol" (which is said to have assisted the Jews in the taking of Our Lord), &c., and many riddles and charms. The whole has been gathered in *Iar-Connacht*, and on p. 140 is a list of the persons from whom the various tales, &c., were obtained. The book is printed in Irish character, and contains a short vocabulary giving the English of uncommon words.

LELAND L. DUNCAN.

IRISH FOLKLORE RELATING TO CHURCHES.

About a quarter of a century ago I was walking in the nave of York Minster, when a respectably dressed Irish working-man came up to me and entered into conversation. He had probably ascertained by some means with which I am unacquainted that I am a Catholic. After making some remarks which have left no impression on my mind, he said: "I have been told, sir, that there is one old door in this church that is always kept shut, because nobody except one of our priests can open it—do you know anything about it?" I said I had never heard the story before, but that I would make inquiries. I have mentioned the subject to several of my Yorkshire friends. The tale was, however, quite new to them.

An Irish peasant woman who now lives in England told me some four or five years ago, in a manner which indicated that she felt well assured of the truth of what she reported, that in one of the old churches in Dublin, now in the hands of Protestants, there is preserved a Catholic holy-water stoup. "The ministers of the church," she said, "had long been anxious to get rid of it, and had had it many times carried out of the church, but it was always found back again in its old place the next morning."

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