

Mr. O'Flaherty's boat will arrive in Galway this evening and we go by it to Arran tomorrow. Please to send the other half notes to Galway, care of James Hardiman, Esq., Taylor's Hill, for me.

I shall be back in about six days but Mr. Wakeman will remain to sketch all the curious remains on the three islands. I shall take all the historical references to the Arrans to have them compared with the present remains on the spot. When this comparison is finished I shall furnish Mr. Wakeman with a list of the monuments to be drawn and measured and leave him to finish them. I shall then return hither and finish my letters.

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I trust O'Connor will take the proper step to recover his health. I am very uneasy about him.

Your obedient servant,
John O'Donovan.

OF THE PARISH OF OMEY.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballynakill; on the east by the Parishes of Ballynakill and Moyrus; on the south by Moyrus and Ballindoon and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

NAME. The name of this Parish is written in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1017 Iomaith; in Pope Nicholas's Taxation 1291; Immagia by Colgan; Umy in the Inquisitions taken in the reigns of James I and Charles I; Imay by O'Flaherty and Omev in all modern authorities. The meaning of the name has not been explained by any of the Irish writers ancient or modern, nor can any certain interpretation of it be now given. The name is properly that of an island on which the great St. Fechin of Fore erected an Abbey in the seventh century and the etymological speculatist who will stop at nothing but guess away, rightly and wrongly, is very apt to come to the conclusion that the word is compounded of I, an island and maith, good, i.e., insula bona; but this is at best a mere conjecture though it is acknowledged that its soil is good.

I shall here transcribe what the learned O'Flaherty wrote about this Parish in 1684:-

"Between Innistuirk (a) and Imay Islands, an arm of the sea 74

(a) Now Inishturk lying to the south of Omev.