



W. VICK. PHOTO.

CHAPEL HOUSE, CLARE.

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This small, and now ruined Chapel, is about a mile from Clare. It was formerly one of those wayside chapels which were by no means uncommon in pre-Reformation times. They were often, like this one, built at the junction of roads for the convenience of pilgrims on their way to



NORMAN DOOR, CHAPEL HOUSE, CLARE.

some shrine. No records have yet been found relating to this particular oratory, nor is it known to what saint it was dedicated. We must look to the building itself to tell its own story; and the tongue of its architecture tells us that it was built about 1190, because it is in the Transition

style, between the Norman and Early English orders. The materials employed are flint, with free-stone dressings. Its length externally is 50 ft., and width 20 ft. 6 in. There are two Norman windows on the East side, and one Early English on the North side. This gives us evidence of its Transitional character. Its chief object of interest is a Norman door on the North side, where again we observe the two styles of architecture gracefully blended. This is probably the building thus referred to by Dr. Tanner (ms. at Norwich, f. 1228):—"S^r Rob. Wincop sometime Priest of ye Free Chapel in Clare lately dissolved 1555, W. M. 36. had a pension of 24^s viij^d."

Another feature is a fine block of octagonal chimneys. After its desecration it was converted into a private residence, and according to tradition served as a powder magazine during the Civil wars.

Until quite recently it was occupied as a cottage, but being deemed too dilapidated for a dwelling, it has been further desecrated by being used as a tool house. It was a satisfaction to members to explore the building before the hand of time makes further ravages.

Upon leaving Chapel House the journey by road was renewed along the high table-land to Poslingford Church, which was described by the Vicar.