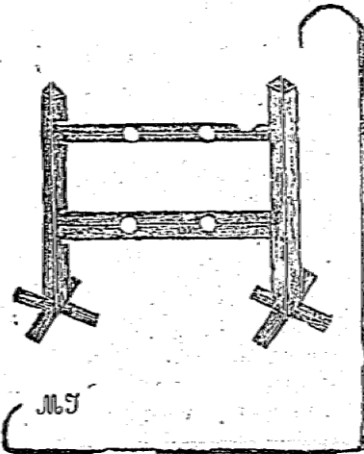


Ballinrobe Stocks

The Ballinrobe Chronicle

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The above is an illustration of the Stocks, once a recognized instrument of punishment in this country, but long since abolished as such. To a good many it will be a matter of much surprise to learn that up to quite recently an excellent specimen of this description of the Pillory existed on the premises of the Ballinrobe Courthouse, which is itself, comparatively speaking, a very old structure and one with an eventful history. How long the stocks had been there cannot now be exactly ascertained, but its construction must certainly have preceded the present century. The Irish oak, of which every part of it was composed, nobly sustained its character for great durability, as the various tests it was subjected to proved the soundness of its timbers and its preservation from the ravages of, perhaps, one hundred years. Some of the oldest inhabitants of Ballinrobe distinctly recollect when the stocks was a permanent fixture outside the Courthouse, occupying a prominent position in what was then called, and is still known as, the Market-square. Punishment in the stocks was confined to minor crimes, the delinquents being condemned to expiate their offences by spending a certain time in its secure custody. As may be perceived by the above sketch, which presents in accuracy of proportions the main outlines of the stocks, the cross-bars, each of which consisted of two separate pieces, the upper moveable and secured by padlocks, had holes cut in them to secure the wrists and ankles of the unfortunate culprit, while a form attached to the framework accommodated the "prisoner."

